

All signed letters to the editor should be 500 words or less and will be considered for publication if submitted by 1 pm the Friday prior to publication. Letters to the Editor are subject to editing. We reserve the right to not publish any letter.

# Women roar to life in fight for job equality



"This cartoon reflects the attitude of the interviewer towards me. This is not how I perceive myself."  
-Salena De La Cruz

If sex discrimination is sugar-coated with pretty compliments, is it acceptable?

I am woman, hear me roar! GRRRRRR! I am capable of anything! But these affirmations mean nothing in a man's world.

I never had any problems with sexist attitudes until recently, while I was looking for something more in an employment position. I had been in customer service and clerical work for over nine years and was getting bored with those day-to-day dealings.

I began my search and discovered a sawmill had just what I was looking for. Yes, this female wanted to do hard labor. The sawmill offered good benefits, hard work and good pay.

Now all I had to do was fill out the application and go in for an interview. When I called one of the local mills to see if they were hiring, the first thing the secretary said was, "They don't typically hire women." But she said I was welcome to come fill out an application.

When I got off the phone, I thought, 'this doesn't look very promising.' One thing that sets me apart from others is my drive and

determination. I knew if I wanted a position in a sawmill I had to work for it—one because it was hard work; and two because I

ment. Oh, by the way you'll be hearing from the Equal Opportunity Labor Board as well as a lawyer," then get up, turn on my heel to leave, and leave the interviewer speechless. Or I could keep that smile plastered and thank him for his time.

I hate to disappoint you, but I chose option two because I decided that wasn't a place

## Make a statement, be heard...



Salena De La Cruz  
Opinion Editor

was a female. I went out to the mill and signed in to wait for my interview, which everyone gets upon returning his or her application.

They called my name, I went into an office and sat down. The interviewer looked at me, then at my application and said, "How's school?" "Fine," I said. As I plastered a smile on my face, he said, "I don't have anything open in the office for evenings." I looked at him and said, "I don't want to work in the office. I want to work in the mill." He looked at me again, and my smile never wavered. "I don't have any evening positions available that I could give you," he said. "To be honest," he added, "I think if I put you in an evening position you would be open to a lot of harassment."

"Oh," I said. I kept smiling, taking it all in. He then continued, "I don't want the situation to look bleak, but you're a pretty young woman and I don't want to put you in a position without supervision."

Well, I thought, first I have to weigh my options and I need to determine if this job is worth it. Here were my two possibilities: I could stand up and say, "Well, thank you for the compliment in thinking I'm pretty enough to warrant harass-

I wanted to work at if they had that kind of attitude. Plus, I still had another mill to look into. I went to a temporary-employment agency to apply for the opening at the other mill—Floragon Forest Products. I was ready to go off if they said anything about my being a woman.

A couple weeks later, I was placed in the mill as a Lug Loader and have been there almost two weeks now. I've got to say I have never met a more welcoming group of men. From the first day, I felt a certain camaraderie among the people there. Not only have they helped to restore my faith in the male sex in the world, but they have also helped me realize that not everyone believes women are inferior.

If you're a female and "can't" isn't in your vocabulary, or if you've been discriminated against because of your sex but it's been sugar-coated with pretty compliments—then I urge you to ROAR when put in this situation. An equal right is not equal if it is shuffled aside with compliments.

Floragon Forest Products, I applaud you! In your world, men are men and women are their equals. Special thanks to Willy, Marvin, Troy, Eric, Marty, "T", Jeff, John, Chris and the rest of swing shift.

## Letters to the Editor...

### Needs of disabled students not being met

I am writing this letter to inform you how I feel that my needs are not being met. I feel that the college needs to put more money into helping the disabled students. I have informed the college about the special equipment that I need for two terms now. And still have not received any assistance in getting the stuff I requested. If, by the end of this term, I do not receive assistance in getting my needs met I will be switching colleges to get my educational needs.

I am a disabled person who is trying to get through college like any other normal student... but there seems to be more roadblocks in the way than should be for a person with my disabilities. Colleges are meant to serve not only the masses, but also more importantly, individuals.

And if the need is present to have

services for disabled individuals, then why are those issues not addressed, those needs satisfied or those services available not implemented in resolving or working towards resolving said issues? Or to put it simply, Why am I prevented from gaining an education like any other person going to college to better him or herself. And pay their way through life with gainful employment similar to all so-called free Americans?

Forgive me for being blunt but I am frustrated with the system. And I hope that, in writing this letter to the paper, someone will be motivated to act. And make the needed changes to happen.

Lisa Ganoung  
Student

### Berne accredited and St. Kitts standards after Darris' degree

Thank you for the coverage of Dean Darris' case and the status of Berne University in the *Clackamas Print*. It is important that the campus community understand that not all college degrees are legal for use in Oregon. I'd appreciate it if you could find space for this letter in a future issue to help clarify a couple issues.

The question of bad degree use is not limited to Clackamas or to Mr. Darris. My investigation found several other people with degrees that do not meet Oregon standards. ODA's (Office of Degree Authorization) jurisdiction over degree use is indeed limited to the user, but since Mr. Darris cannot legally

use his degree, Clackamas has nothing to recognize. Mr. Darris was teaching at Clackamas long before he acquired a Berne degree, and his Berne degree is not, to my knowledge, necessary for him to keep teaching there. ODA has made no evaluation or judgement about the quality of his teaching or his employment status. We are concerned only with his use of one of his three degrees.

Mr. Darris acquired a Berne degree in July of 1998. Berne University achieved provisional Title IV authorization in March of 1999. Thus the institution's Title IV status is not relevant to his case--he was gone before Berne had that status.

Is Berne accredited by the World Association of Universities and Colleges Accrediting Commission International? Does the Accrediting Commission International accredit Berne? It doesn't matter. These entities, whatever they are, are unrecognized by the U.S. Department of Education--one glance at a list of U.S. recognized accreditors on the web or in appropriate publications shows that. As for St. Kitts, its accrediting 'standards'--also applied to Berne after Mr. Darris left--fill half of a page. They are standards in name only.

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