

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.

## Awareness key in preventing hate crimes

*From cat calling to tearing down banners, crimes happen more than you may be aware*

As I write this, MTV has just begun its tribute to victims of hate crimes in America. For the next 17 hours, they will tell the first name of the victim, the date of the crime, and the place. A brief description of the offense is posted on the screen and read aloud. The crimes run from catcalling and bottle throwing, to beatings, muggings and murder. One young Philippine man was beaten so badly that every organ in his body burst. His

mother could identify him only by a mangled tattoo on his arm. These horrific stories tell a chilling tale of America - one we don't like to think about and too often ignore. These things don't happen to us. If they do not directly affect us, we go on as we always have. But hate crimes don't just happen in big cities to other people. They happen everywhere. On our own campus, we've had posters for the Rainbow

Club - a club for gay, lesbian and bisexual students and their advocates - defaced and torn down.

generation has the power to turn the tide on hate crimes. We have the ability to kill this virus and stop the spread of this cultural disease.



Corinne Rupp  
Opinion Editor

Now as MTV kicks off its Hate Crimes

### Take a stand!!

While this may seem minor in comparison to the slaying of Matthew Shepard, it still begins to breed an atmosphere of intolerance. Every time a white person calls a black person nigger; every time you hear a girl called bitch; every time someone calls another person faggot; every time someone says they Jewed down the price; with every Mexican joke or retard joke or Polish joke, little viruses of hate are spread. Hate is like a virus. It needs a suitable environment to grow and thrive. This

Awareness campaign, let us here at Clackamas do the same within us. The simplest thing you can do to help is to monitor your own tongue. Stop using offensive or derogatory language, and don't be complacent when your friends use it. Contact your senator or congressman. Attend meetings, write to newspapers and speak up when you see things happen. Get involved. The most important thing to do is to take a firm stand against hate. Like the bumper sticker says, "Silence = Death."

## If at first you don't succeed try try again

Did you ever wonder why so many people resolve to lose weight after the holidays? It could be because the average American gains 12 pounds between Thanksgiving and New Years.

But honestly, how many people really keep their New Year's resolutions? How many times have you said,

"This year I will not procrastinate in my classes," or, "I resolve to exercise on a regular basis." Or here's a good one, "This year I will not be lazy." I think the reason most resolutions go bad is because people don't set realistic resolutions, or they just plain give up or forget. So I'm going to tell you a few ways that I think you can keep your resolutions in the year 2001.

First, set up steps to meet your goals. If you resolve to stop procrastinating with schoolwork, take the first step by starting your homework by 5 p.m. every night, or by doing your homework during breaks between classes. Your second step could be to go to the library and work on your assignments to prevent distractions from friends. Another

helpful step could be to use a day planner to keep track of time. What I am trying to say is, you can't do it all in one day. It takes baby steps to meet your goals.



Diana Scrivner  
Editor-in-Chief

### That's just the way it is

Second, find a friend to help you keep your new resolutions. Maybe you have a friend that is in the same boat as you. You can keep one another accountable for your resolutions. It's always easier to accomplish goals when you have someone on your back pushing you to meet them. You are more likely to meet your goals if you tell someone else about them.

My last step for you is NEVER GIVE UP! Remember the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed try, try again." This is a good time to apply it. It takes three to four weeks to develop a habit and only a few days of not doing it to break the habit. So keep it up! If it is truly a goal you want to meet, you will stick with it and not give up.

## BackTalk

Welcome to a new column here in The Print. BackTalk is a student discussion forum. Each week a question will be asked for our readers to respond to. Replies can either be e-mailed to us at [cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us](mailto:cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us) or dropped by The Print office in B104. Please include your name to be considered for publication.

### Question

*The State of Oregon has passed hate crime legislation making it an offense to attack anyone based on race, religion, nationality, or sexual orientation. However, there is no federal legislation for hate crimes. Many lawmakers do not see the need to pass hate crime laws, as laws already exist for murder, rape, arson, etc. They feel that legislation that addresses a person's motive for a crime is one step away from prosecuting thought crimes, which is a First Amendment violation. What do you think?*

## Student Poll New Year's resolutions: How are you going to keep them?



"I want to quit smoking. I try to keep it by chewing a lot of tobacco."

Davin Gaffney



"I want to switch to a less pleasing brand of cigarettes so I will smoke less. I don't think it will work out; I always say this is what I'm going to do by then I never do it."

Alicia Carrier



"I want to stop drinking so much. I try to keep it by not putting myself in situations where I drink a lot."

Greg Bakanoff



"My resolution is to go to the gym 5 out of 7 days. So far I have kept it. I just go to the gym. I motivate myself."

Denise Bean

Photos by Gilbert Barrett  
Quotes collected by Maggie Jirasek

### Letter to the editor

#### Cartoon 'racially motivated'

Upon waiting for a class to start the other day so I picked up a copy of the Clackamas print for a leisurely read. I often read the Clackamas Print to unwind after a long day, but NOT that day. I flipped through the paper and found the comics. I must say that I was HIGHLY offended that you allowed a comic with racial slurs into your fine newspaper. If you do not know what I'm talking about, I refer to the "Cracker Community College" comic. Being a white male, I find the term cracker offensive and I think it was VERY poor taste allowing such a comic into your newspaper.

I hope in the future that you do not allow such obviously racially motivated comics in your fine newspaper.

It ruins the reputation of your fine newspaper, and my afternoon. Please keep this in mind next time anything on the same level as this "trash" comes across your desk.

Offended In Oregon City



The comic in question, reprinted above, ran November 16, 2000.

#### Artist responds to criticism

To begin with, the intention of this cartoon was not necessarily to target any specific group, racial or otherwise, but rather to point out an observation in a manner which would make people take notice. Clearly my method was a success.

Furthermore, even if it had been my goal to attack the white population, I have every right to do so as a member of that population. Common practice has shown us that making fun of one's own group is perfectly acceptable. For instance, comedian Chris Rock does not offend the African American community at large despite his frequent use of racial slurs towards them. My ethnic make-up is primarily composed of Swedes and Danes. Why would I not be justified in using a term like

"cracker" to describe my own kind? Skin just doesn't get much whiter than mine.

In addition, what right does a white person have to such indignation? Clearly we enjoy considerable advantages (which we can not even begin to understand) over minorities every day. A little humor at our own expense hardly offsets this inequity.

To conclude, I would like to thank Mr. Baker for sending his letter, thereby giving me a chance to add my commentary. Also, I would like to commend him for his astute observation; indeed we do publish a "fine newspaper."

Christopher Lundgren  
Staff Cartoonist

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