

## Pros, cons: were parking tickets justified?

### Rich shouldn't get special privileges

MATT SHERPERT  
Staff Writer

I recently heard about an incident at this college that went like this: a party is being held for some people who had donated some large sums of money to the college, and a public safety officer was in the parking lot giving tickets to cars which were illegally parked. One of the cars ticketed belonged to the Fine Host people who were delivering food. Someone found out and proceeded to persuade the officer to not give them tickets. The officer eventually removed the tickets.

I had a problem with that. If cars are blocking a fire lane or a loading zone, that could become an actual problem. But then, the person who told me this said something that I've been thinking about for the last couple of days. She justified the people who were illegally parked by the fact that they had donated thousands of dollars to the college. This bothers me because it equates money with justice. It says, "Well, if they donated a lot of money to us, it's ok for them to park illegally."

Why is the fact that they gave money to the college justification for their parking illegally? If money can be used to justify injustice, then more money can be used to justify a "greater" injustice. The rich can justify any wrong they commit based on the money given to "worthy causes."

Is that justice? Is justice merely the "interest of the stronger," as Thrasymachus puts forth in Plato's *Republic*? Is there really no such thing as a principle of justice that overrides all behaviors? Is justice only a tool for the strong to impose their wishes on the weak? If so, then I suppose that

since the individual was persuaded against ticketing the vehicles, then they are just in doing so, since they have the strength of money on their side.

Or are large corporations like Microsoft justified in manipulating tax laws to completely avoid federal income tax. Because, after all, money dominates this world. Therefore, justice is in the interest of the wealthy, and those with money are justified in using that money to circumvent responsibility for their actions.

Perhaps I am overreacting, after all, it isn't as if the well-off in question here are necessarily using their money for this purpose, or even knew that the money they had donated was cited as a reason to let them off. I'm objecting, not to the fact that they were let off, but for the reasoning that was used to justify it. It was not justice that removed the ticket, but mercy. I want to make myself perfectly clear, however. I do not decry mercy, for I am not worthy of Heaven, but because of the mercy of God, I am going there. I am simply objecting to the concept that because someone has money, they should follow a different code of justice.

### Sometimes the law allows for grace

JENNY CHAVEZ  
Copy Editor

I agree with Matt that the rich shouldn't be able to buy their way through the justice system in order to dodge repercussions of lawbreaking. But this wasn't what was happening in this situation and I would have to disagree with his outrage.

The people who had their cars ticketed didn't wave their donation check stubs in order to avoid a ticket. They were innocently participating in a dedication ceremony for a childcare center, which they generously donated to out of care and belief in the program. There was a celebration happening, and those people were our guests. Some participants were donors, others were not, but everybody there had been invited to a hospitable occasion.

If anyone has ever been to the center on an average day, they would notice that the front parking area is small and usually full. And, sidewalks leading to the center from the expanded parking lot are still under construction. Whenever construction and a big celebration are

combined at the same location, parking in undesignated areas would be predictable.

I am reminded about an incident that happened to me not long ago. I openly confess that I was driving 45-mph in a 25-mph zone. Shame on me- I know better. I was caught too. The officer did the routine license and registration check and followed the procedure of the law, except he didn't give me a ticket. I didn't give him an excuse or wave a bribe in front of him, he merely chose to give me grace. Was he doing wrong by not giving me a ticket? I'll be the last to tell you that. With a short reproof, he sent me on my way and I was thankful that the law allowed for human error without judgement.

I want to say thank you to those guests of the college who care about what's happening here. And thank you to the officer who removed those tickets while guests of the college were inside being entertained by Mother Goose. And thank you Matt for reminding us that the law is the law, but in this case, grace prevailed, and rightly so.

### Student Poll How do you feel about animal testing?



"I think it's good. It's better than scratching our heads trying to figure out what else we could do."

James Hundtoft



"I never really thought about it. It's ok if it helps people."

Sarah Hollin



"I'm against cruelty."

Casey Kinney



"I think it's a good thing. I would like to see human testing."

Matt Tabisz

PHOTOS BY GILBERT BARRETT  
QUOTES GATHERED BY MAGGIE JIRASEK

### Back Talk Reply

e-mail replies to us at [ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us](mailto:ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us) or in B104.

Do you believe that one's personal beliefs should be taken into account when applying for a job? For example, former Senator John Ashcroft is awaiting confirmation for the position of U.S. attorney general, a position requiring him to maintain laws such as abortion rights and affirmative action he has fought against for years in his home state of Missouri. The senate has scrutinized his record heavily during his confirmation hearings. Is this fair? Should it be legal? What do you think?

Well, I think they should definitely put their personal beliefs into consideration, but only to a certain extent though. Because after all, qualifications should be the most important factor in considering whether or not that person is fit for the job or position. For example, everyone knows that marijuana is illegal here in the states, except for medical treatment. Anyway, if an officer found a bag of marijuana on someone, they have to fulfill their duties as an officer, which is to confiscate the marijuana whether or not they feel it's alright to use marijuana, on a personal level that is. Heck, they might even use a little on their own personal time, but that should have nothing to do with the decisions they make while on duty. I feel that as long as one can perform their duties to the fullest, who cares what their personal beliefs are, that's their business.

## World's stupidest criminal an easy bust

Have you ever heard the phrase, "the world's stupidest criminal?" I believe I met him last week.

I was at work when a co-worker came to me and said that a strange man was in my car - in broad daylight. Naturally, I freaked and ran to my car. I was lucky that my manager overheard the conversation and ran out after me.

I found a thief in the back seat of my car bagging all of my belongings. We demanded he step out of the car and put all of my stuff back. His response was, "My brother bought this car and I am

supposed to clean it out for him." I responded, "Yeah, right!" We threatened to call the police and he took off.



Daisy Bain  
Staff Writer

### Some people!!!

It was a surprisingly short, three-minute wait from the time I talked to the dispatcher's office to the time the police came and took my statement. While they were taking my statement, the perp was caught about a mile away trying to hot-wire another car.

The police took me to identify the man, but they couldn't charge him for stealing anything from me because I made him give everything back. Then the police found my work nametag in his pocket and he was charged with theft - all for a measly little \$2 nametag. He also had in his possession stolen checks, someone else's mail and car insurance and registrations from many other victims. According to the police, he had just been released from jail three days prior for forgery.

I did learn a valuable lesson after everything - I could have been easily hurt. What if he had a gun or had a tendency towards violence? I should have called the police first, and then asked my manager to walk out with me.

I have some advice, especially to all of the women out there. Always have someone walk with you to your car at night, even if it is close to the front door. If you absolutely have to walk out by yourself, then carry a defensive device such as mace, a whistle or a panic alarm, all of which come in compact sizes that can fit on your keychain. If you have a phone, have it ready to call 911 in case of an emergency.

Here at Clackamas, there are Public Safety officers who offer courtesy services to students and staff, which include an evening escort service. In December, 46 people took advantage of the service. Call 503-657-6958, ext.2234 or dial 0 from any campus phone for assistance.

### Look for representatives from *The Print* on campus this week to be a part of next week's poll

19800 S. Molalla Ave. Oregon City, Oregon 97045  
(503) 657-6958 ext. 2309  
[ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us](mailto:ccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us)

Editor-in-Chief:	Diana Scrivner (x2447)	Business Manager:	Daisy Bain (x2578)
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