

GUEST COLUMN...

Stand united for Clackamas, the nation, the world

I proudly stood in a moment of silence with hundreds of students and faculty on Sept. 14 in the Randall Gymnasium. Faculty member Bill Zulkie and ASG president Stefan Meyer led this silent occasion, we proudly stood with one hand over our hearts while honoring our country and victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy.

This was a national moment of silence on the 14th day of September, as requested by our president of the United States of America. All who could join, did. Since, I have witnessed and participated on and off campus with hundreds of people during different events showing their support as a nation; I know that many other Clackamas students and faculty have done and will continue to do the same. I am proud to be an American and I am as equally proud to be a part of the reflection of Clackamas Community College.

After reading the letter to the editor, "Where was Clackamas?" I listened as some students re-

sponded with confusion, stating they did not know the event was taking place. One student said, "...the part about the students not caring about what happened on September 11, it affected me deeply...I took the time and had a moment of silence in my own heart about what happened." There have been many different dates and times that our president has called us to

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Yvonne Ingram
ASG Vice-President

stand united, and each student participates in their own way, whenever and where ever they can. Everyone I have talked to says, "they are sad that they were not made aware of the event and missed it." I started thinking that if all the people that I talked to were unaware of the event, then how many more

events might go unheard of on campus? This is why I decided to write this letter. I wanted to help support our nation at this time and bring unity by informing people how they can get involved. I also want to encourage students and faculty to continue to support our nation. I stay focused on what I can do and what I have done, because of the fact that even though I am only one person, the little bit I do is far better than doing nothing at all. Please make a note that *The Clackamas Print* has a listing of primary goals in the Oct. 10, 2001 edition, which speaks of support efforts in effect to help aid those in the tragedy of Sept. 11. Everyone is welcome to help. Here are a few of the events supporting our nation that are, or will be on campus. Public Affairs officers and senators are putting on a dance on Nov. 30, where all revenue generated by students will go to the Red Cross Relief Funding; Also, the vice-president, executive director, senators to child care and Campus Activities (in ASG), have created a relief fund box for students to be able to get involved.

Furthermore, faculty, students and staff have been wearing patriotic red, white, and blue ribbons in honor of those killed in the tragedy. These ribbons and pins (to make your own) are available in the ASG office. There are many more supportive events that you should watch for via e-mail, posters or by contacting ASG and *The Print*. The same resources to get information are great sources for getting your own information out to the students and staff. Therefore, I encourage anyone who wants to speak out to do it! Clackamas has many different ways to be creative and send messages that will bring people together. Please feel free to stop by your ASG office, we would be more than happy to help in any way we can. We have poster making materials, e-mail access and a great word-of-mouth location for

anyone to use freely. I have also heard it being said by our president of the school, Joe Johnson, "I have an open door policy." Although we have all done many things to show our support, we can still do more. I can do more! In response to the article, I am proud of all the one person stands in the same way I am proud of the united we stand! As quoted by Edmund Burke, "Nobody could make a greater mistake then he who did nothing because he could only do a little."



Thank You,
Yvonne Ingram
ASG-Vice President

Note: Submitted work must be 300 words or less. This was a one time occurrence. All work must be submitted with a disk in person, or e-mailed to cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us.

Job market's bad pickins'

The employment available to us sucks; the jobs are stupid and mind-destroyingly boring. It doesn't have to be this way.

It isn't easy going to college without a job, but I think that we should be able to concentrate on our studies. Furthermore, the jobs available suck. Why should we have to work in jobs that we don't like for bad pay?

Has it ever occurred to you that the majority of jobs done in our society are useless? A job in retail for instance, serves no useful purpose in society. Instead it serves to make the rich richer and the consequences are the destruction of the world's resources and sustainability.

I encourage you to step back for a minute and see just how screwed up the system of work is. While some people are starving and unable to find work, others are sick from being overworked. While everyone is busy doing useless work, the work that needs to be done, like building communities, switching to sustainable resources and rebuilding the world's ecosystem, is neglected.

The way we're taught to see the system is that everyone working is doing his or her part to keep society working. That "part" is maintaining the division between the rich and the poor and maintaining a system which places a few in position to exploit the many.

According to Multinational Monitor, in the 1990s corporate

CEO salaries rose by an average of 535%. If the minimum-wage rose by the same percent, it would be at \$24.31 per hour today.

By giving all of our time to work, we're exchanging our lives for money, which means that money is like a life token. Five dollars? That's about an



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Be Human.

hour of life for a minimum-wage worker. Next time you buy something, think about how much of your life you're spending on it. *Is it worth it?*

Now comes the real catch: we've been convinced that the only way to live is to spend money. We're trained from childhood that the only way to have fun is with "toys." Says a Toys 'R' Us ad, "Where do kids go when they dream? Toys 'R' Us." Only if they've been brainwashed by advertising. Of course we know that marketing is a business with high moral standards, as is proven by a marketing consultant at a 1994 Florida seminar who said "Anti-social behavior in pursuit of a product is a good thing."

In the foreword to Molly Scott Cato's book *Seven Myths about Work*, Chris Busby wrote the following: "I would like to see people refusing to work in any job they felt was wrong. I would like to see work-dodgers, honorable and brave people who refuse to continue to feed this monstrous culture." That means don't get trapped in wage-slavery, or work in a business that exploits others. And you might not need so much money if you just consider what you really need, instead of thinking you need all those products touted to you with a false promise of happiness.

America: A land in need of love

JOEL SHERPERT

Contributing Writer

It is not particularly penetrating of me to point out that there is great injustice in the world; nor is it tremendously insightful to suggest that the behavior of human beings must change if this is to be rectified. But I just can't help meditating on this problem as I observe the world around me.

Particularly, I am pondering the trend of factionalism and divisiveness in our nation. The first murmurings may seem small and benign, but their successors, bigotry and hate, are surely monstrous and cancerous things. And so it is now, rather than at the swastika-bearing time when it is too late, that I would sound the cry against this danger.

There have been dissenters in America against our government's overseas actions for some time. But with the bombing of Afghanistan, and the accompanying promise of long and bloody war, those protests gained new urgency and perhaps a larger voice. Now while that protest is laudable, and while I count myself among its heralds, I believe we must look closer for the cure of our national disease.

It is easy to merely speak of compassion, or any other ideal; it is doubly easy when its object is a hemisphere away. G.K. Chesterton, writing in the early 20th century, declared that any lover of humanity "shall always be very much pleased when his barber tries to talk to him. His barber is humanity: let him love that. If he is not pleased at this, I will not accept any substitute in the way of interest in the Congo or the future of Japan. If a man cannot love his barber whom he has seen, how shall he love the Japanese whom he has not

seen?" Put aside for a moment bombed Afghans or starving Iraqis: do we have any kindness to spare for those within our own borders? Already a blind racism is creeping across the land, as Muslim or merely Muslim-appearing people (such as turban-wearing Sikhs, whose 15th century religion contains no Islamic connection) are

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Joel Shempert
Contributing Writer

threatened, beaten or even shot to death. Are these merely the actions of cranks, or extreme symptoms of a subtler but larger societal disease?

I believe we are in trouble because we will not talk to our barber. We won't give the time of day to the beleaguered supermarket cashier, or the poor slob trying to merge onto the freeway, or the kid who just needs a quarter to call home or catch a bus. And that doesn't begin to address those in serious, even desperate need, be it financial, emotional or spiritual. How can we reach out to the homeless and downtrodden when we don't even know our neighbors? Our society is breaking down at every level: individuals, families, communities, cities...and soon, perhaps, our nation itself.

We have a national mask of tolerance, but it is fragile. George W. Bush reassures us that Arab-Americans are fully valued and

not to be persecuted, while his administration expands the government's power to detain immigrants suspected of crimes indefinitely, without charges, during a "national emergency." Public awareness of Middle East and Muslim issues is seemingly on the rise, while young men are eager to go overseas and "kill some duncoons." Could it be that this double-face stems from our own lack of compassion at home?

I propose that we strive to break free of this pattern. I propose that we get to know our next door neighbor, that we let that driver who's in such a hurry into our lane, that we talk to that strange, lonely person on the bus-that we give a smile, a few bucks, or even a meal to the homeless person who we always pass by.

We need to make friends with someone who is different. We need to re-forge the bonds of our own families. Chesterton, again, wrote, "The first man one meets is always man." When we truly love mankind in this way, we can wholeheartedly sing the lyric: *America, America, God shed His Grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.*

