

Student's rights enforced

The Print fights for access to public safety logs



Daisy Bain
Editor in Chief

In attempt to cover crime at Clackamas, I went to the school's public safety office to look at the crime logs. I was refused, and instead the officer read the log to me. While he was doing so, I knew in the back of my head about a crime that occurred on campus not more than a week prior. Funny thing is, that one crime was left out. Suddenly I knew *The Clackamas Print* needed access to these logs.

After about six long weeks of meetings, phone calls and letters with college officials, all the way up to the dean of college services and the president of the college, our request for full access to the daily logs has finally been granted.

What I thought was a wide-known fact is that police records are public records. Both journalists and the average Joe should be able to drop by during normal business hours and take a look at their logs.

However, this right to just drop by and look at the logs has not always been. In 1986, Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old college freshman at Lehigh University, was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered by a fellow student she didn't know. Previous to her attack, there were several reports of violent crime on the Lehigh campus that students were generally unaware of.

Students who had not known about this history of campus violence had left security doors propped open and

unlocked, which was how Jeanne's murderer had gained access to her room.

One year later, Clery's family started a non-profit organization called Security on Campus Inc. It was formed to assist other victims and to end cover-up of crime on college campuses all over the nation.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill enforcing The Federal Campus Police Logs Law, also known as the Clery Act, named after Jeanne Clery. This law, combined with the existing state laws, provided student journalists the right to obtain campus security logs.

When *The Print* made a formal request for access to the logs, we thought it would be a quick process. The law was on our side. However, college officials were unsure of their responsibilities under the Clery Act.

Frustrations form...

At times, we were frustrated and didn't know what to do next. All *The Print* wanted to do was report the truth and provide information to our readers.

Chief of Public Safety Larry Dexheimer was unaware of this new act, and requested more time to do research. The college had never been formally asked this question before. Should the logs be available for student journalists to look at? *The Print* sent a letter to Dean of College Services Al Erdman requesting access to the logs under the Clery Act. In response to that letter, Erdman contacted the college's lawyer to go over the Clery Act and advise him of the law. *The Print* contacted the Student Press Law Center, which handles cases like these every day. As it turned out, the college's lawyer had one interpretation of the law, and The Student Press Law Center had a very different one.

Most community college newspa-

pers don't have to cover murders on their campuses, but crime does happen. Information about small crimes, such as how many car break-ins happen on campus, to larger crimes such as the recent bomb threat here at Clackamas, should be available to any person on campus, so they can use the information to make more informed decisions about how to safeguard themselves.

The Print's responsibility...

The Clackamas Print believes it is our responsibility to provide this information to our readers. Unfortunately, this was a task that hasn't been carried out to its fullest potential in *The Print's* previous years, but not for lack of trying.

I received strong support for *The Print* from Janet Paulsen, marketing/media specialist for Clackamas Community College, who spent a great deal of her time both listening to me vent my frustration, and for her doing intensive research to make sure the college was doing the right thing according to the law.

It is not my belief that college officials were trying to interfere with the rights and responsibilities of our paper. They were just uneducated about the Clery Act and students access to public information. In this situation, we believe that we have taught the educators at this public institution a little more about their responsibilities to students.

Students, you should know that if you have a cause you believe in, and the law is on your side, don't lose hope. Continue to fight for what you believe in and get as many people involved as you can. It's surprising sometimes who will support your efforts, and don't forget to let *The Print* know about your struggles. We are your newspaper, and we may be able to help.

In response to *The Print's* efforts, the Dean of College Services wrote this letter to the advisor, Linda Vogt, granting access to the Public Safety logs.

Dear Linda,

Thank you very much for working with us to better understand the many issues involved with public records access. We have greatly appreciated your patience as we've reviewed college policies and procedures regarding these issues.

Please accept this response to your recent letter requesting reporters from *The Clackamas Print* timely access to Clackamas Community College's Public Safety logs.

The Public Safety Department will provide reporters daily access to shift service logs between the normal business hours of 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Public Safety Department's duty is to protect students, faculty and staff. It is our belief that full cooperation with the student newspaper staff only enhances our efforts. Student and staff awareness is one of the most effective deterrents to criminal activity.

It has historically been, and will continue to be, the administration's goal to perform our jobs in a way that fosters personal growth and academic excellence. This project has been a learning experience for all of us!

If you have any questions regarding this policy, or would like to discuss any related issues, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Al Erdman
Dean College Services

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To submit your letter to the editor, e-mail cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us, or drop by B-104. All letters must be saved in Word 6.0/95 on a 3.5" disk. *The Print* reserves the right to edit for content, space and style.

Is war on Iraq worth the price?

During Operation Desert Storm in 1990-1991, the U.S. was continually dropping bombs made of depleted uranium shells, napalm, fuel-air (nuclear-scale) explosives and conventional bombs on Iraq. This tremendous attack caused more than 400,000 Iraqi casualties (U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency) and 158,000 of the casualties were civilians (U.S. Census Bureau). Article 52 of the 1977 addition to the Geneva Convention, written in 1949 states that 1. Civilians shall not be the objects of attack... and 2. Attacks shall be limited strictly to military objectives...

The U.S. is manipulating the U.N.'s resolutions on Iraq and causing devastating effects. For example, the U.N. says no bombs or chemical agents are to be brought into Iraq, so we are banning essentials like baby food, tooth paste, water purifiers, making it impossible for 70 percent of the population to be healthy (The Scourge of Iraq, by Geoff Simmons). This is in heavy violation of the Geneva Convention's Article 54, because it

clearly states that "starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited." 5,000 children die every year and 250 people a day die in Iraq because of the sanctions that we imposed (UNICEF and W.H.O.). In 1996 567,000 children had died from malnourishment and this was addressed in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview between Leslie Stahl and Madeline Albright (then U.S. Secretary of State) on May 12, 1996. Stahl asked Albright if all of the death, disease and trauma we were causing on Iraq was worth it and Albright stated: "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price, we think the price is worth it." As reported by former U.S. Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, in his book *The Children Are Dying*: "The people of Iraq are angry. Everywhere we went people made it clear that they held the United States government responsible for the sanctions and the misery they cause." Which renders all the more absurd Bush Sr's statement: "Our beef is with Saddam, not the Iraqi people."

Most recently, Resolution 1441 was proposed on Nov. 8, 2002 and was accepted on Nov. 13, 2002. The reso-

lution states that Saddam Hussein must allow weapons inspectors into the country in a plan to disarm him. This proposal is meant to promote peace, but even against the U.N.'s wishes and warnings, Bush II wants to invade and attack. Iraq is believed to have weapons of mass destruction, so then what do we have? Weapons of mass destruction? Iraq is being forced to give up their weapons, shouldn't we have to make the same sacrifice? Doesn't this make you wonder why we are really in Iraq? "War on Terrorism?" We think not. Bush is promoting terrorism with his recent actions. Here's the truth- we are hunting the Taliban for two reasons: oil and money. There is much evidence that points to some U.S. involvement with the 9/11 attacks, but certainly the facts show at best, systemic incompetence. After 9/11, Condoleezza Rice (National Security Advisor) accidentally let it slip that there was a war plan on Bush's desk on 9/9, that's two days prior to 9/11. The Taliban put an embargo on the heroin trade which crashed the stock market and they weren't allowing us to continue building the oil pipes in Pipelineastan

(Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan), so you can understand why they were of national interest. The Halliburton Corp., which Vice President Dick Cheney was the CEO for, owns the rights to the pipe lines in Pipelineastan. Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state, owns the exit rights in Pakistan and the entrance rights in Burma, and lastly Standard Oil, owns the tankers that deliver the oil, whom they have cleverly named the Condolizza Rice.

So, again, what's the national interest? Hmm... You decide from this point on what the war is really about, who is really suffering and what's it worth to you?

Verena Morrill
Breanna McLean
CCC Students

Thank you cafeteria staff

Just a word of thanks to the cooks and cafeteria staff. I really like all of the yummy dishes and appreciate all of your help and patience!

Thanks,
The crazy lady on the scooter

Campus Incidents



All reports are taken from CCC's public safety incident logs. They will continue to run on a weekly basis on page 2.

- A female student at the OIT campus informed Public Safety that her neighbor was stalking her and he was following her to school. Public safety was unable to locate the male she described. Reported 11-21-02.

- Hispanic male waved at a female student during the evening. Unsure if she knew him, she waved back. She drove her friend from the McLaughlin parking lot to the Barlow lot. He followed her in a Blue 4-door Chrysler. She left campus and he still followed her to a Chevron station. When she got home, her suspicions grew heavier when she noticed the news advising that the Sheriff's department was looking for a Hispanic rapist. Campus Public Safety advised the student to call for a walkout after her evening classes. Reported 11-14-02.

- A student's vehicle was stolen from the lot between Harmony and OIT during the day. The vehicle was used in a crime. Reported 11-14-02.

- There was a burglary at the Wilsonville Campus. Unknown person[s] pried open room 100. Scuffmarks were on the door. Once inside the burglar pried open two metal storage cabinets, from one, a drill was stolen. Drill was the property of PacifiCorp. Reported 11-12-02.

- A female was reported sleeping in upper Barlow. It was reported that she "has set up quite a nest." Reported 11-08-02.

- A Coffman Construction worker reported a male and a female "doing stuff," in the Barlow parking lot. Reported 11-08-02.

- A white male in his 20's, wearing a black jacket, was seen in the FRC area. She seemed to be looking at the children and acted funny when the observer saw her. Reported 11-08-02.

- A female student reported that she had befriended a male on campus. She knows him as Steve, and provided his phone number and she did the same. Since then he calls her residence constantly and follows her around the campus demanding to know why she has not returned his calls and wanting to know where she has been. No crime has been committed at this point. Reported 11-04-02.

- A custodian found a threatening note on a vehicle. It read, "Quit while you still can." It remains unknown who placed the note or what it means. Reported 11-04-02.

- An orange cone was found attached to a red Honda Civic's exhaust pipe. It had apparently been there for a while because the small opening of the cone was burned and melted. Reported 11-04-02.