

# Airport Security flies over the top

ALL RIGHT BUB, DROP EM! SHOES, PANTS, BELT... I AIN'T GOT ALL DAY!



**Pete Ford**  
OPINION EDITOR

Remember what it was like to be able to greet loved ones right as they were getting off of the airplane?

With the heightened security following the tragic events of 9/11, such an occasion is only a memory.

Nowadays, visitors can't even roam the airport and watch planes when they have a little extra time.

Passengers must have a boarding pass just to be able to have their carry-on bag scanned and move through the metal detector. Airports have become almost prison-like.

A suspicious-looking character at the airport has no freedom, and suspicion has many prejudices. One may be deemed suspicious based on race, age, sex and even one's clothing.

The airport folk also have these random searches in which they can make passengers take off belts, pants, shoes and even socks. Airport personnel say that there is some structure to these random investigations and that the searches are all indiscriminate but what they mean by that is they get to choose the victims.

One day I was standing in line

to get on a plane and the person directly behind me was pulled out of line and patted down like he was smuggling guns. I thought to myself, "Thank God that wasn't me!"

After they searched this man, however, the airport employee began to search the man's little daughter, who looked to be maybe three years old. This is crossing the line. The look on the little girl's face showed obvious fear. She might as well have been a criminal for the way they were treating her. The man did nothing while they searched his daughter because airport employees explained to him that this was procedure.

What kind of concentration camp are we creating for ourselves? It is



absurd to think that actions at the airport can get any worse. I understand that we are doing our best to protect our country against terrorists, but harassing the general public based on personal assumptions is completely wrong.

About a month ago, I attended the annual gun show at the Portland Expo Center and saw weapons that were labeled "airport safe." What that meant is that these weapons could not be detected by security at the airport. Vendors actually had razor sharp plastic and ceramic knives for sale that were intentionally made to clear the metal detectors.

A terrorist will go to any means necessary to beat the system because they do not want to be searched either. Their intent is to terrorize helpless people, not to get caught.

They have a point to make and feel that violence is the only way to go about it. Most terrorists have probably thought through their options as well as the obstacles they must overcome. They most likely do not want to get caught so they will find a way around all of the ridiculous procedures.

Until the government comes up with some sort of detection system that can read every material on a person's body and in someone's luggage, we need to formulate a procedure that doesn't make airplane passengers feel like prisoners.

## Chiefs' Weekly Column

### Counselors lend an unbiased ear



**Cyndee Mady**  
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With midterms a memory and finals fast approaching, it is easy to get overwhelmed with the balancing act of maintaining a healthy mind, body and soul.

The good news is that CCC provides on-site counseling for the woes of the weary.

Whether you are simply having a bad day or have a childhood experience you're trying to overcome, the Counseling and Advising Center is at your service.

I found out about these services when I mistakenly asked to see a counselor, but what I really meant was academic advisor.

I was informed about emotional counseling offered at the college and decided to give it a try. After all, I'd been in an unshakable funk for about a week, and

what the heck—it was free.

I was referred to Jean DeVenney, the counselor on duty, and preceded to ramble on about my problems while she listened intently, offering advice when asked. A mere 15 minutes later, I genuinely felt better! I just needed a friendly, unbiased ear to bend and that's exactly what I got.

"We have six professionally-trained counselors and they work with the more emotional side of student life," said De Venney. "The counseling side is more the support for the students' decision-making, clarifying their values, setting their goals and ideas on how to manage the things that are creating barriers for them."

Sometimes seeing someone who is a professional and impartial to the situation can offer fresh solutions that may not have occurred to you before.

It also helps to hear kind and reassuring words, providing a boost of support necessary to overcome the day's afflictions.

According to DeVenney, she helps people with a wide variety

of problems, from stress management, relationship problems and communication problems to substance abuse, domestic violence and eating disorders.

"What is said in our offices doesn't go outside these doors unless there is a potential threat to self or others," said DeVenney.

Popularized by television shows such as "Ally McBeal" and "The Sopranos," and movies like "Analyze This" and "Analyze That," counseling no longer adheres to the "crazy" stigma formerly attached to it. In its place is the desire for individuals to manage their lives more effectively, even if that means asking someone else for help.

Though appointments are recommended, students' moods don't always cooperate with schedules, so drop-ins are also welcome.

If you have something you would like to get off your chest, dial ext. 2213 to schedule an appointment, or simply drop by the Counseling and Advising Center.

I was certainly glad I did.

## Students make the grade

**Pete Ford**  
OPINION EDITOR

Every living human being has an opinion on the way they are treated by others; [www.ratemyteachers.com](http://www.ratemyteachers.com) lets students post their thoughts about teachers anonymously online.

For those that haven't heard of this site, it lets students rate their teachers on a scale of one to five on subjects of clarity, helpfulness and easiness. It also provides a section for comments that are first reviewed by the website creators to make sure people are not being slanderous or profane.

This site has caused a major controversy all over the United States. Some schools have even gone as far as banning the entire site from their computers. Why is this?

Are people afraid of being evaluated on their performance? Or do they want to hide the fact that their teaching or behavior towards some students may be unsatisfactory? Maybe they have just been rated poorly and have a new personal insecurity.

At any rate, teachers should have nothing to worry about if they feel comfortable in their environment and believe that they are doing their job to the best of their ability. Negative remarks should bounce right off and teachers should realize that they know the real truth. They should take these negative comments and see them as

constructive criticism, even if comments might not be so positive.

This website, unlike student report cards, is just words and numbers. It doesn't affect the careers of people, only their feelings. Most people wouldn't write anything negative about a person that they didn't think deserved it.

Also, in comparing the negative remarks to those of the positive variety, one can see that not all teachers rated on this site are disliked. In fact, there are many perfect scores and positive comments that emphasize all the help certain teachers have provided.

This site is an avenue for students to give feedback about their teachers, without having to suffer the wrath of an angry teacher. It allows students to reveal the emotions they are truly feeling—good and bad, which they probably would not be able to express in normal conversation.

Besides, no true administrator would look to this site to evaluate a teacher's performance. They would go about it in a much more professional way, by observing the teacher's classroom and following it up with a formal evaluation based on facts, not opinions.

Those who let this site affect them in a negative way choose to let it affect them negatively. It is merely an opportunity for students to grade the graders and one's true character stands out simply by the way they react to this site.

## What are your feelings on airport security?



**Josh Spirlin**

"It's weird because they get to choose who they want to put down and check out, giving them the power to discriminate against whoever they want."



**Trevor Coffee**

"I haven't had a problem with it. I think they are a little tighter than they have been, but I don't notice it being over the top. I think it's getting better."



**Kamie Thrall**

"I think it's pretty excessive. It's kind of scaring people more than they want."



**Melissa Summerton**

"It's alright because since 9/11, it's necessary to have more protection to make sure we're safe."



**Nokita Myers**

"I think they're a little excessive, but I'd rather not have someone with a bomb on the plane I'm on."

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