

'Master debater' strokes ego

Michael McCormack
The Clackamas Print

I was sitting in class one morning when I heard that voice begin to speak, the voice of my nemesis, and by the reaction of my fellow classmates they seemed to have the same sentiment.

This voice is that of the student who interrupts my class time to give their own lengthy opinion on a topic, or ask multiple questions to try and outsmart the instructor.

By the time the term is halfway through, I would assume that the "know-it-all" would have caught on to the hint given by the moans and expletives whispered by fellow students to simmer down, but they just keep jibber-jabbering away.

There are many of these "student professors" here on campus and maybe you haven't had the pleasure to observe one of them, but there are some students who seem to know exactly what I am talking about.

Sophomore Blake Benny gave his input on these students by saying, "When they raise their hand, the rest of the class will flop their heads onto their desks."

Now I don't want to sound like a hypocrite, because I ask questions and express my own opinions in lecture, but there is a difference between what I do and what "they" do.

When I ask a question it's because I need clarification on something that was obviously over mine and other students' heads.

On the other hand, when one of the super-students asks a question, it will be followed up by another question pertaining to the previous answer, and while doing this, their question or opinion goes so in-depth that the lecture topic has been disintegrated.

We as students are to ask questions to help each other learn, but not in a manner that takes up valuable minutes from class lecture; I pay my tuition to learn from the professor, not the student.

If you have an opinion you would like to bring up in class, let it be heard, but remember there are 25 other students in the class who have opinions too. Instructors urge students to come and speak with them during their office hours. These designated times are when you can have your own personal class with your professor.

I am not quite sure why these students continue to interrupt lectures, but as it persists it only gets more frustrating, yet at times it can be downright hilarious.

In class one morning, the instructor had the students involved in one of the many group discussions that had been going on throughout the term.

The instructor clearly knew, like the rest of us, that there is that one student who is on top of everybody's

personal pet peeve list. As students, it's not our responsibility to tell that know-it-all to shut up; but this certain teacher knew it was on the tip of everybody's tongue.

When the instructor asked the class for insight on the topic of discussion, a few hands went up, but one stood above the rest. All eyes were on him, for this guy was a marked target.

As the whole class sighed and looked at this ignorant fool waiting to be called on, the instructor said, "We've heard plenty from you, is there anyone else who has something to say?"

Subsequently the class uproared in laughter; finally someone had put this kid in his place. I felt bad for the student—he had been shut down—but at the same time it had to be done, the class was tired of his antics.

To those students who are, "that guy," don't take this column the wrong way; let your opinion be known, but try to keep it at a minimum. As for the rest of us who have been so patient with the never-ending voice of opinion, if we spoke up more often, maybe that one voice would disappear into the crowd.

One last piece of advice I must give you before heading into your

next class discussion involving what I refer to as "The Master Debater." Let them speak their opinion, but don't rebut, it will just give them more food for thought to speak on. If by chance you do have to respond to their inquiry, agree with them, because who is going to disagree with their own opinion?



Valentine's Day: not just for girls anymore

Amanda Polopolus
The Clackamas Print

It's that time of year, the day is coming when people everywhere are giving and receiving tokens of affection; or in the single person's case, dating a gallon of ice cream and watching "Love Story" at home—alone. Yes, I am referring to Valentine's Day. The one day of the year dedicated to expressing one's love for another. Why is it, though, that this holiday seems to be somewhat feminine, when it's supposed to be a holiday for everyone to feel loved?

How Valentine's Day began is a blurry mystery. There are many theories; the most well-known theory is that of Saint Valentine, believed to be a priest who conducted secret wedding ceremonies for lovers during the 3rd century in Europe. The priest conducted these ceremonies in direct violation of Emperor Claudius' II rules. The emperor didn't want young men to marry because he wanted them to join his army. When the priest's insubordination was discovered, he was sentenced to death and on the day of his execution (Feb. 14, A.D. 270), he sent a love note to the jailer's daughter signed, "From your Valentine," a common expression used to this day.

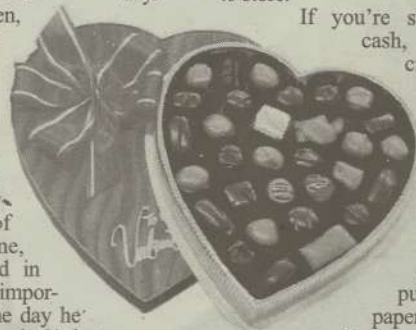
Since then, lovers have celebrated their affection and admiration for each other unknowingly in honor of St. Valentine, who believed in love's strong importance until the day he died. So why is it that Valentine's Day seems to be more of a feminine holiday? It seems that everyone should get the same treatment. I think that the reason Valentine's Day is considered a woman's holiday is because women generally don't know what to get men as romantic gifts. Sure, you guys out there might need

some new socks or a new sweatshirt, but a girl can only buy you so many bottles of cologne.

I decided to help you romantic ladies out there and give you a few Valentine's Day gift ideas for your sweetheart: Believe it or not, guys do like flowers, especially if they get you tons throughout the year. I'm sure they would appreciate some in return. Check out www.valentinesgifts.com, where you can find tons of cool gifts that can be personalized with your names or pictures, such as picture frames with your names burned into the wood, bottled messages, nickname boxers, and even heart-shaped puzzles with a picture of you and your guy or a special message on it.

Another great guy gift idea is a money clip. Dress one up a little and get it engraved; that way he will be frequently reminded of you. Money clips come in stainless steel, gold, silver, practically anything you can think of; the price can vary greatly, but no matter how much you decide to spend, it makes a very nice gift and is available at most jewelry stores. Some money clips also are sold with matching key chains and cuff links. Then of course there is the obvious gift of the watch, ring or bracelet, which can also be found at jewelry stores everywhere; prices vary from store to store.

If you're strapped for cash, hand-made crafts are always sincere and meaningful, no matter what. Write a sweet poem and put it on fancy paper in a frame. Or frame your favorite picture of the two of you and use puff paint to decorate it. The point is, girls, there are some things you can do for him to show him he's appreciated and that you care. Don't let Valentine's Day be all about "me" this year; make it about "us." The end result will be far more rewarding.



Student Poll

What was your most memorable Valentine's Day experience?



"Taking my fiancée out to dinner."

Will Sando



"When I got flowers from cute boy."

Christina Kaady



"When my girlfriend dumped me on Valentine's Day."

Kevin Ellingson



"My crush asked me out on Valentine's Day."

Cory Dukasinovich



"When I took a girl to the View House and enjoyed a beautiful view of the Cascades."

Jacob Heimer



"Parents delivered flowers to school."

Kimmy Carrier

This week's poll compiled by Monica Gizowski and Norma Martinez.



Brie Daykin Clackamas Print

Ivana Jongic smokes in front of the Pauling Center door.

Smokey entrances suffocate students

Jacob Ray
The Clackamas Print

Is there anything lovelier than to walk outside, take a deep breath and inhale a bunch of smoke?

Well, that's what seems to happen every time I walk out of any building on campus. It seems like all the smokers just love to hang out and smoke right in front of the doors.

Now, I'm not saying that people shouldn't smoke (that's another issue), but I think it would be better if smokers had respect for the people that want to live longer. According to the American Lung Association, secondhand smoke causes about 3,000 deaths each year from lung cancer in people who don't smoke. That's a lot of people, and I surely don't want to be one of them.

Yes, college is very stressful and people do need to step outside for a smoke to help temporarily relax. That's all right, but there needs to be designated smoking areas on campus.

I know that there is no smoking permitted within 25 feet of any entrance, and there are little orange cones set up to establish exactly where 25 feet is. Somehow people get confused and think that they

have to stand between the cone and the door, sorry, but that's not right.

A designated smoking area, or areas for that matter, would create a win-win situation. Smokers could still smoke on campus and non-smokers wouldn't have to deal with having their lungs contaminated.

Yes, smokers would be dictated where to smoke, but sometimes certain pleasures come with a catch. I mean, restaurants used to have smoking sections, so what's wrong with giving smokers their own section to smoke in?

Heck, it's against the law in Oregon to smoke inside of restaurants now, so smokers on campus should feel fortunate to be able to smoke.

The designated smoking area could be in the lower area by Barlow Hall, behind Rook Hall, and on the side of the Niemeyer Center. These are locations where it is very open and not that close to entrances.

Next time, when you need a break from studying, you're outside and you catch yourself smoking by a building entrance, think about others and take a few steps (big steps) to the side and get out of the way. You'd be doing a lot of people a favor, I'm sure of this.