



Obscene gas prices cramp students' style
Style Slate

In America, 240 million vehicles consume 5.8 billion gallons of fuel each week. Gas prices have made a tremendous leap since February of this year, especially on the west coast and upper east point of the United States.

Gasoline fuels roughly 17 percent of the United States' energy. What is paid at the pump is a cost that gets the crude oil to refiners, primary processing costs, marketing and distribution costs, and the retail station costs and taxes.

These taxes help pay for street and highway maintenance and construction. Oregon is currently considering numerous alternatives to this gas-tax system.

According to the website PortlandGasPrices.com, the Flying Saucer in Troutdale and the Fred Meyer in Cornelius has gas for \$2.28 per gallon, the lowest in the Portland-metro area. An Astro on Baseline & 4th Hillsboro has gas for \$2.31 per gallon and a Safeway on the corner of Teal & Murray in Beaverton is selling gas for \$2.32 per gallon (with discount card).

Some Portland and Tigard gas prices in the city were as high as \$2.51 per gallon, with Oregon City and Clackamas having no listing on the website.

It is normal for gas prices to spike just before Memorial Day weekend, but at this time last year the statewide average was \$1.85, compared to \$2.33 now. New Jersey has the nation's cheapest gas, but it still costs \$2.02 a gallon.

So why are gas prices up so high? Oil and gas industry analysts say they don't see any indication that the industry is manipulating prices. They note that demand is higher than production, so retailers have to compete for the limited supply. Such competition inevitably generates higher prices. U.S. demand for oil is up 2 percent over last year, and global demand is also increasing. Producers simply have been unable to crank out enough oil to provide any slack in price.

There are ways to deal with high gas prices. Going the speed limit can help decrease unnecessary gas waste. Gas mileage increases rapidly above 60 mph. Every 5 mph over 60 is the equivalent of paying an extra 10 cents per gallon.

Avoiding excessive idling, using cruise control and overdrive can also lower gluttonous gas use. Things like replacing your air filter regularly, filling tires properly, and using the recommended grade of motor oil are also ways to avoid waste of gas and are necessities in keeping a vehicle maintained.

To avoid excess fuel consumption, some try alternatives such as: biking, car pooling, or switching to more fuel efficient vehicles, which includes alternative fuel sources such as hybrid and biodiesel.

These alternatives will become more valuable with time, as gas prices are showing no signs of decreasing.



Ben Maras Clackamas Print

After a bomb threat and response by Campus Safety which resulted in a full search by staff of the campus' 17 buildings, the college was declared safe and reopened last Thursday, although many students opted to take the day off to enjoy the sunny weather.

WE DIDN'T BLOW UP!

Thursday's scare provides real experience for college

**Hilliary Ferguson
Ben Maras**

The Clackamas Print

It was 6:48 a.m. last Thursday at Clackamas when the phone call came in. A muffled male voice said that there were five bombs planted on campus, set to detonate at 4:15 p.m.

The secretary who received the message alerted campus safety, who in turn alerted Interim Dean of College Services Brenda Tank. Tank received the voice mail when she arrived at the college just before 8 a.m. and shortly after, Oregon City Police Department was notified and the decision was made to evacuate the campus.

Many students were unaware of the threat when they arrived on campus, but the unusual atmosphere tipped them off that something was askew.

"I got [to Clackamas] kind of late, and found a good parking space, and thought: 'Hey ... that's odd,'" said Clackamas student Bob Alsman the day of the scare.

An estimated 500-600 students and staff filled parking lots as staff, under the instruction of Campus Safety Supervisor Dick Ashbaugh, began a thorough search of the campus' 17 buildings.

According to a memo released by Tank, it is a matter of policy that police do not conduct building sweeps, but staff, who are more familiar with the

building, are relied on to search for any out-of-place or unusual items.

Staff who were not comfortable with this practice were not expected to participate in the searches. Students were also asked to assist in the search by removing their personal belongings from the buildings so that they would not be searched.

Searchers were instructed not to touch anything they found, but to report its location to OCPD. In all, three suspicious items were uncovered, but all tested negative for explosives.

Around 10:30 a.m. the buildings were cleared and reopened one by one as no explosives were found and classes began again as usual.

"Unfortunately, large public

agencies infrequently receive an unfounded bomb threat. However, we must take all such threats seriously and put the safety of our students and staff first," said President Joe Johnson. "I was happy that we were able to resume full operations by late morning."

Despite this false alarm, the administration still takes the possibility of future threats very seriously, being very careful not to become a victim to the boy who cried wolf.

"I think it's important to mention that nine times out of 10 [bomb threats are] hoaxes, but you never want to be that 10th one," said Brenda Tank. "We will err on the side of safety for the staff and the community."

Campus speeders face extracurricular consequences

Jadon Triplett

The Clackamas Print

Campus Safety Officer Peter Kandratieff is serious when he says that 20 miles per hour is not just a suggested speed limit.

There may be the perception that the 20 mph speed limit is more suggest-

ed than strictly true, however Kandratieff says that if you travel over 20 mph, you are at risk for a citation.

Furthermore, Kandratieff stresses that the implied speed limit in the parking lots is 10 mph, and he says that they enforce that speed limit as well.

For college students, it is easy to scoff at or flat out ignore such a low speed limit, especially when running late to class. However, not many realize that getting a ticket on campus from a Campus Safety Officer means the same thing as getting a ticket from a police officer off campus, because the college's roads

are all city streets, and Campus Safety Officers are deputized by the Oregon City Police Department.

"We do have police authority on campus, and [those driving on the college campus] need to be aware of the fact that there will be consequences, just like if you were off campus and a police officer stopped you," says Kandratieff.

Kandratieff also says, "In some cases, the consequences may be more severe [on campus] ... because of the fact that we have [Oregon City High School] nearby us; students cross between their high school campus and us to get to the bus mall ... we have

the day care center ... we have a lot of foot traffic."

The only difference in receiving any kind of ticket on campus versus a ticket anywhere else is in the fashion in which parking violations on campus are processed. Parking violations are dealt with here at the college, unlike traffic citations.

"Citations issued for traffic are [in the jurisdiction of] the circuit court," says Kandratieff. This means that they will go on your record just like a ticket issued by a police officer.

"This campus is just like anywhere else," says Kandratieff, "the traffic laws apply ... we will enforce those laws."



Jadon Triplett Clackamas Print

"In some cases, the consequences are more severe [on campus]."

Peter Kandratieff
Campus Safety Officer



KANDRATIEFF

Today: ASG candidate debate from noon to 1 p.m. in the Community Center.