



Illustrations by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

*Ninjas are too hardcore for pirates to handle*  
 Laura Cameron  
 Commentary Editor

have nothing against pirates. Pirates are awesome. They sail cool ships; they fight; they plunder, and get drunk; and they always get the girl. Let's be honest here. If you have a fight between a pirate and a ninja, the ninja is going to win. Let's look at this logically to begin with, ninjas are sneaky by definition. They can't actually turn invisible, but they are quite good at not being seen. On the other hand,

# Ninjas or pirates?

## The greatest question of our time

are loud. They tend to advertise their presence to everyone around them. All the ninja has to do is sneak up behind the pirate, and it's game over.

Secondly, ninjas have much better training than pirates when it comes to fighting. A ninja will have had years of intense, focused training for one-on-one combat; a pirate has maybe had a couple of informal sword-fighting lessons.

Further compounding the problem for the pirate is that he's probably never seen the ninja's style of fighting before, so he doesn't know how to defend against it.

Now, don't try to tell me that the pirate has an advantage because he has a gun. Do you have any idea how difficult it is to fire a flintlock pistol accurately?

Health is also working against the pirate. Pirates don't exactly get the best food in the world. If he's on a particularly poor ship, he probably has scurvy. He may have old battle wounds

that slow him down. Even if he's never been in a battle before, working a sailing ship is dangerous. You catch your hand in a pulley or get hit by a falling spar in a storm, well then you have problems.

On the other hand, the ninja doesn't spend most of his time at sea, he's better fed and still has all his limbs. A ninja in the prime of health makes a pirate look like a particularly uncoordinated cow.

For the sake of argument, let's say the pirate manages to disarm the ninja. This would be a rather bad move on the pirate's part, because ninjas know a lot more about hand-to-hand fighting; a pirate probably barely knows how to throw an affective punch. Now, instead of a single weapon the pirate has to keep track of four weapons: the ninja's hands and feet. This does not bode well for the pirate.

If you set an armed pirate against a ninja, the pirate will fail. If you set an unarmed pirate against a ninja, the pirate will fail that much worse. After all, in Navy SEAL training they teach you ninjitsu; they don't teach you pirate-fu.

### Pirates are more fun than stuffy old ninjas

Matt Olson  
 The Clackamas Print

Flying a jolly roger, marauding the seas for booty, shouting and singing dirty limericks and drinking your fill. It may be swill, but it'll sure get you drunk. If that sounds fun, "it's a pirate's life for you!"

Some stuffy and uptight people naysay the pirate lifestyle in favor of something a little more cut and dry. Why limit freedom and be stuck on dry land when you could be out there sailing in the salty wind, hunting for the gold of defenseless traders?

Ninjas were the assassins of feudal Japanese culture. They were stealthy, deadly, clad in black and stalked their prey for glory and power. It may sound ok, but wait until the 12 hour days of training, the rigorous and fruitless years of painful conditioning, and being called "young grasshopper;" then where is the glory of the ninja?

The difference between ninjas and pirates is what you want in life. Ask yourself if you are an A or B type personality. If you like to spend all your time working hard to make ends meet, a ninja's humble lifestyle might be appealing.

On the other hand, examine the life of a pirate. They are intimidating, swash-buckling, and they always get the booty. And don't forget, chicks dig pirates. Just look at Johnny Depp in "Pirates of the Caribbean."

Depp's scraggly goatee and mustache, drunken swagger, and slurred speech are all unattractive traits in the average person. Make that person a pirate and instantly they're a sex symbol and worthy of women's adoration.

Women, drinks, riches and freedom aren't the only part of a pirate's life. They are fierce fighters armed with the latest weapons and ships. They may have to steal all this, but when you have a 35-pound cannon



ball versus a two foot long piece of iron, who do you think will win? Anyone have weapon envy?

Admittedly, any good ninja won't expose himself enough to get hit with a deadly cannonball, but I'd like to see the god-like ninja who can sneak across waves. Out on the sea the pirate is king; he's the lord of his domain and is as stealthy as the shadow of a shark. No "landlubber" could sneak up on a pirate out in open water.

Violence doesn't solve anything, but the threat of violence can get you everything. A ninja may be able to kill well enough, but a pirate lives well. After all, how great are ninjas when Mr. Miyagi can teach a 13-year-old boy to kick their asses?

# Parking: the daily bane of every student's existence

Courtney O'Byrne  
 Clackamas Print

At 10 a.m. and your first class is in 15 minutes. You pull into your favorite parking lot - the one that is a short distance from all your classes, with the wide spaces - in the words, the parking lot of your dreams. The wide spaces that are all. Wait - not that one. That one looks good! But alas, as you wait your turn, you see the horrendous teal-colored Geo Metro that is parked only the front of the spot. "Bastards!" you mutter, cursing all the commuter cars that lack the ability to pull forward, if only for the demonic purpose of deceiving the eyes of drivers in cars larger than refrigerators. The man, and the big car. Yet another spot is not available to you. If not for the hulking brute of a diesel engine directly over the parking line. Do they need two spots, or are their hogging be

avoided if they backed up again and straightened out?

You cruise the other lots, finally settling for the third from last spot in the second from last row of a parking lot that is nowhere near any of your classes. Does that sound familiar to anyone? That's how my day starts off.



Photo illustration by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

From there, I hike to my class, which I am either late to, or close to late to. I am soaking wet and my shoes are making the most annoying squeaking noise possible, which discourages my teacher from ignoring the fact that I came in late.

Unfortunately, "I had to park really far away" is not an acceptable excuse for being tardy, though muttering, "parking sucks!" will reward you with many nods and groans of agreement from your classmates. And that, my friends, is because parking at Clackamas does, in fact, suck.

There are so many suggestions to fix the undeniable parking problem, but none really sound promising. Maybe the college could create a new parking lot somewhere else and provide shuttles every 10 minutes.

Students should try to carpool with a buddy, or better yet, ride the bus! While some students do trust the mighty Tri-Met to transport them safely to the classrooms of Clackamas, others, like myself, are bus-illiterate

and would get off at a stop in the middle of nowhere and probably end up dead.

As for carpooling, sometimes none of your friends start school at the same time you do and there's absolutely no reason for you to sacrifice another hour of sleep just to catch a ride with someone who starts before you.

Criticizing a solution is a lot easier than suggesting one. There

are just too many cars for too few spaces. Some days, I wish I was a cripple just so I could get a really good spot. But then again, I would be a cripple, so I'd probably have worse problems than parking.

I wish I could say that less people should go to our college, but that would be wrong for so many reasons, including the fact that if not for school, I would be much more than bus-illiterate.

## Letter to the editor

Just a short note to thank the CCC Print for the article about the Music Department in the October 19 issue.

I need to make a few corrections. Your reporter incorrectly stated that I feel "the Music Department gets the proverbial shaft a lot of the time." Not even close.

I told your reporter that over the past decade or so, and in the current environment in the US and in Oregon, the arts and arts education have been devalued. When there are cuts to be made, so many times the cuts begin with the arts. This has not been the case at CCC, where the arts are held to be equally as important as the other disciplines.

The Niemeyer Center is evidence that the college has put their money where their mouth is in terms of support for the arts.

Further, I stated that our being allowed such a huge voice in the planning and construction of the Niemeyer Center, and that it came out so well, is a testament to the health of the college. Your reporter seems to have transposed some of my comments around this.

Thanks again for an otherwise accurate article.

Tom Wakeling  
 Chair, Music Department

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