

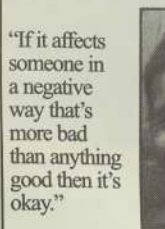
Student Poll

When is it OK to "narc" on a friend?



Melissa Summerton

"If they committed a really bad crime. It's just part of being a really good friend."



Justin Harlo

"If it affects someone in a negative way that's more bad than anything good then it's okay."



Neal Benjamin

"Never."



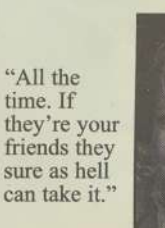
Bryan Danielson

"I would do it if I had time."



Justin Goe

"You just don't do that. You don't want to be known as a 'narc.'"



Sarah Tomlin

"All the time. If they're your friends they sure as hell can take it."

This week's poll compiled by Sam Krause and Kimberly Maier

One reason we hate math

The college's latest math text, under review, should be dropped

Elizabeth Hitz

The Clackamas Print

Last year Clackamas Community College switched from Jim Streeter's math textbooks to the "Mathematics in Action" series. Now the new texts are up for review by the math department and the question has risen: will the books stay in use, or will they be tossed out like last year's phonebook?

If a company wants to know if there is a problem with a product they sometimes ask the consumers. The textbook's consumers are the math teachers, students and tutors who are required to use the curriculum on a daily basis.

With the exception of an eternally optimistic few, who almost certainly color code their socks, the overwhelming majority of "consumers" intensely disliked the "Mathematics in Action" text-

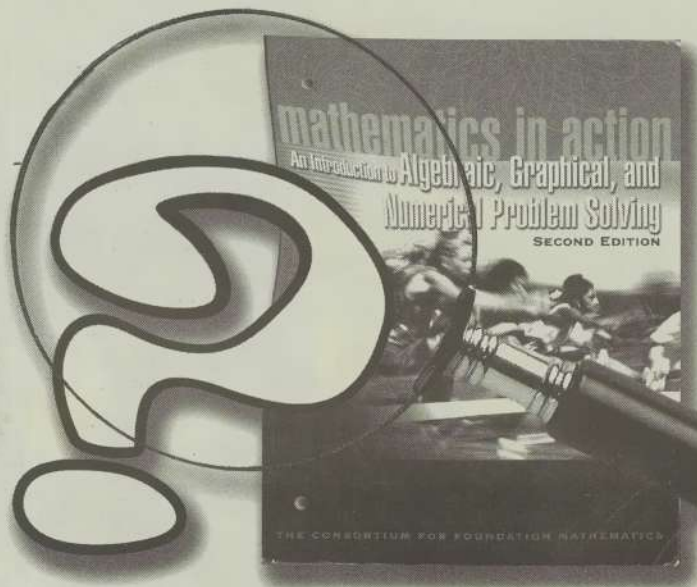


Photo illustration by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

books.

When asked what kind of impact he thought the new math textbooks were having, Math Tutor Chris Howe declared, "The math 65 through 95 textbook is the worst textbook the college has ever assigned."

An array of math students provided a hodgepodge of varied attitudes. Kim LaRoche

offered the semi-positive assertion that, "the book taught you real life concepts, instead of just numbers ... but ... I could see how the book would be difficult without all the support I received."

On a more definite note, another student, Kent Kline, stated, "The 'Math in Action'

textbooks are poorly written and counter intuitive ... were it not for highly competent math instructors, tutor staff, and the fact I bought one of the textbooks, I would have been able to decipher the incomprehensible activities in the Mathematics in Action series."

So where does the trouble lie? Why are these books so bad? Larry Emme, a part-time math instructor at Clackamas, pointed out that the problem with the books is that they were written on the premise that the greater number of students are active or group learners. This idea has obviously proved untrue simply because of the vast unpopularity of the textbooks.

No offense to the math teachers, most of whom followings that rival Mal X's, but in which galaxy were these books actually written? Einsteinian Utopia? So the sanity of all math students and tutors, present and future who are in charge, please change the math books.

When entertainment masquerades as news

Laura Cameron

Commentary Editor

As a member of the news media, I find myself increasingly exasperated by the rest of the profession.

Well, that's not precisely true. I'm not annoyed by all of the news media, just by the subset of it on the television. All too often, television news shows are replacing the news with entertainment.

I first noticed this several years ago when, as happens every year around December, the weather started going foul. Why is it, I wondered, that TV reporters feel it necessary to stand out in the rain and sleet when reporting on winter storms? We don't need to see some guy in a parka slowly turning into an icicle to know that there's freezing rain falling; we can find that out by looking out the window or listening to the radio. What reason is there, other than entertainment, to show some poor reporter slipping and sliding across a frozen overpass?

Once I had become aware of this facet of TV journalism, it kept jumping out at me like an excited Jack Russell Terrier. I have always found this rather insulting. After all, we already know that snow falls during a blizzard and that the wind blows during a hurricane. Not only does showing the reporter out in the middle of the storm imply that we don't know anything about weather, but the wind invariably blows directly

into the microphone, muffling any pertinent information the reporter might actually give us.

Of course, this strange need to entertain the viewer extends beyond the weather desk. Most news stories, it seems, contain some absurd observation or useless fact that serves no purpose other than to titillate or shock us. Telling us that the Columbus Day Storm in 1961 knocked down more trees than the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens is a ridiculous observation, because the storm front covered a much wider area

than the eruption.

What annoys me the most, however, is when gossip is passed off as news. Matt Damon getting engaged is not news. Gwyneth Paltrow naming her daughter "Apple" is not news. These types of things don't belong on the news, they belong on shows like "Entertainment Tonight" and "Access Hollywood" - which are on right after the news, so it's not like they're in an awkward time slot.

I was watching the local news the other night. Now, when I

watch the local news, I expect to hear things that will affect me personally, that will have some impact on my life. So what is the main story on the local news that night?

Britney Spears's bra for sale on eBay.

What does it say about our news media that they feel they have to entertain us in order to hold our attention? What does it say about us, the audience, that they've reached this conclusion?

Either way, I'm disgusted.

Letters to the editor

I object to Ms. Averill's accusation that detainees are classified as "unlawful combatants" rather than "prisoners of war" simply to justify torture. Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention affords POW protections only to those resistance fighters who (a) are commanded by a supervisor who is responsible for their behavior, (b) carry arms openly, and (c) act within the laws & customs of war. Terrorists (or "insurgents" if you prefer) who wear no uniform, conceal their weapons, target civilians, and behead journalists do not - and should not - qualify for "prisoner of war" protections. POWs may not be "threatened, insulted or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any

kind." (Article 17) If detainees were to be given this status, they could not be subjected to any coercive methods whatsoever.

This is not to say, of course, that they shouldn't be treated humanely or afforded a review of their detention. But neither should we tie the hands of our military by granting prisoners "rights" that they do not deserve.

Nathan Dahlin
Student

Note: Dahlin's letter is in response to a letter published in the last issue. Averill's letter at right is not the one being responded to.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales talks of "acceptable methods of torture." This moves the discussion from whether or not there should be torture to a discourse on acceptable methods. Torture is neither a Christian value nor an American value. Contact Amnesty International. Write letters of protest to your senators and legislators. Make your voice heard!

Diane Averill
English Instructor

The Clackamas Print

19600 S. Molalla Ave.
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 657-6958 ex. 2309

The Clackamas Print is a weekly student publication and is distributed every Wednesday except finals week.

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Ben Maras, James Tombe
COPY EDITORS: Katie Weinberg, E. E. West
NEWS EDITOR: Katie Wilson
COMMENTARY EDITOR: Laura Cameron
FEATURE EDITOR: C.J. Ciaramella
SPORTS EDITOR: N. P. Delzell
A&E EDITOR: Jadon Triplett
PHOTO EDITOR: Jeff Sorensen

AD MANAGER: Sam Krause
AD ASSISTANT: Megan Cline
STAFF WRITERS: Frank Jordan, Matthew Olson, Tayo Stalnakker, Courtney O'Byrne, Mike Guidice, Jimi McDonnell, Gabe Stone, Joe Piazzisi, Megan Koler, Kimberly Maier, Elizabeth Hitz, Adam J. Manley

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: Megan Koler, Tayo Stalnakker, Kyle Steele, Jesse Arguello

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Andy Zehring
DEPARTMENT ADVISOR: Linda Vogt
DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT: Pat Lichen

GOALS: The Clackamas Print aims to report the news in an honest, unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the student body, college administration, its faculty or The Print. E-mail comments to chiefed@clackamas.edu.