

Conquering boredom with ease

Andrea Simpson

The Clackamas Print

Ten weeks is a long time, especially in the dead of winter, when it seems like Spring Break will never come. Everyone has his or her own ways of trudging through the long term. For some, focusing on classes helps the time pass. Others turn to outside distractions, such as entertainment and food.

Personally, I have had to learn all new study habits in college. I recently discovered the joys of a planner. If I need to do something, it goes in the planner. If I need to remind myself to do something, it goes in the planner. Almost nothing goes unscheduled. This is a very effective time-management skill. I never forget a due date, and it makes classes a lot easier when

I set aside time to study.

A way to relax after classes and homework is to watch some television. My main news source is the *Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Although it is hailed as a fake news show, it is real news, just with a humorous twist. I also cannot function without watching *The Office* every week. Something about its blunt, witty satire, based on the daily grind of working in a mundane office, appeals to me; that and the ever-evolving sexual tension between Pam and Jim keeps me enthralled every Thursday night.

Another addiction I have is the product of a Seattle-based coffee company by the name of Starbucks. My poison of choice? A Grande Coffee Frappuccino – or more recently, since I am trying to cut back on the caffeine, a Vanilla Steamer. When I need

to study for a big test, I am always equipped with my coffee cup.

Clackamas student Amy Friday says coffee helps her get through school as well. “Quiet time in the library helps with studying – and coffee; that’s what gets me through the term.”

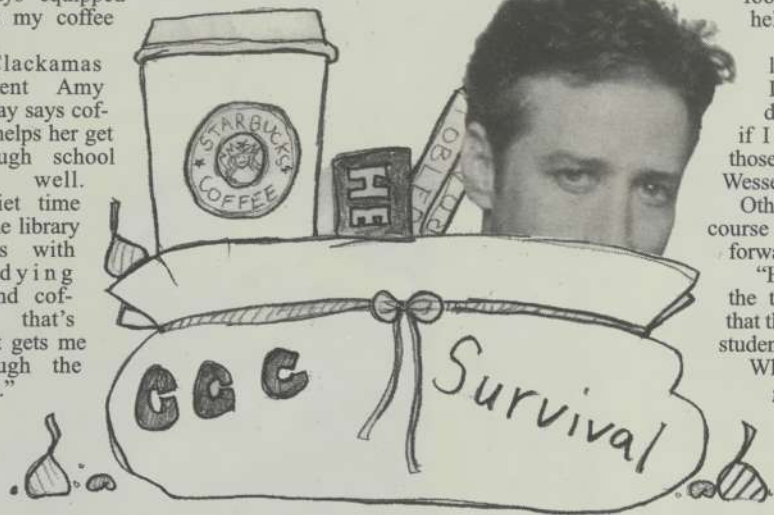


Photo Illustration by Megan Koler *Clackamas Print*

Some have multiple food addictions that help them cope.

“Tea and chocolate, or salty foods; I seriously don’t do my homework if I don’t have one of those,” said student Erin Wessels.

Others deal with a full course load by looking forward.

“How do I get through the term? By knowing that the end is near,” said student Megan Handy.

Whatever your way of getting through the term, just know that there are only eight and a half weeks left until Spring Break.

One farce of a debate

David Stark

Co-Commentary Editor

Do you know what goes on in the mind of President George W. Bush? How about Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi?

If you don’t, then why were the representatives of the Clackamas Community College Republicans Club and the Democrat Club asked to defend the national level decisions of their respective parties?

Give up? The answer is, of course, no. It was a particularly funny one.

There is no reason to think that Tim Lussier could know the inner workings of the Republican Party, or that Jason Thomas would be privy to the thought processes behind the actions of the Democratic Party.

The better question is, why were they asked to?

I have nothing against the two clubs facing off in a debate; in fact, I think it was a fabulous

idea. And I understand people being curious about the nature of the national leadership. But that doesn’t explain the fact that there were community college club representatives defending the leadership of the entire nation.

The debate itself was interesting; on one side, there was a trained debater, and on the other side, there was a politician. What it was not, however, was even. The debate itself could be likened to a fight between an Imperial Star Destroyer and an 18th century frigate.

While both sides brought up good points, Thomas managed to play to the crowd, whereas Lussier had the problem often tripping over his own statements and bringing up statistics that seemed to have been pulled out of thin air.

In the end, though, what we had were two college boys doing the best they could.

So, you want the real answer? Truth be told, I couldn’t think of one either.

Living in a PC world, I’m a PC girl

Liz Travers

The Clackamas Print

In society, it is a constant battle not to offend someone, so much so that we are now starting to live in fear of our speech. I, for one, am.

Everyone has heard about the infamous Michael Richards incident. Since his tirade, Richards has been spending his time cleaning up for his actions and speaking out against the big “N” word. It was reported on www.wikipedia.com that the comedy club at which he was performing, The Laugh Factory, has since then banned use of the taboo word.

The actual definition, found on dictionary.reference.com, of being politically correct is: “marked by or adhering to a typically progressive orthodoxy on issues involving especially race, gender, sexual affinity, or ecology.”

Okay, what is ‘that supposed to mean? Obviously we shouldn’t use words that we know are going to offend, but what happens from there? Everything can have some kind of negative connotation.

For example, on www.languagemonitor.com, they have created a list of top politically incorrect terms for 2006. Some of these words include, and I kid you not, “flip chart.” This phrase could be considered offensive to Filipinos. They prefer the phrase “writing block.”

On the same Web site, there are the ever-popular politically correct colors. Staff at a coffee shop in Glasgow will no longer serve coffee when someone asks for it “black.” They believe this reference to be racist and now ask patrons to use the phrase “coffee without milk.”

Feel free to search the site, and anyone can find the ever

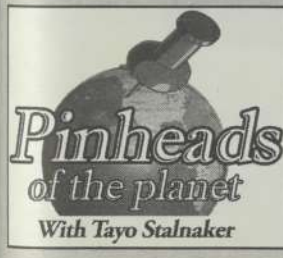
favorite “herstory.” Because “history” has the word “his” in it, some may consider it a sexist term.

The list goes on, and so does the audacity.

Hurting peoples’ feelings is not the aim of most, but they can’t help it if the other person is being a pansy. It is coming to the point of pure disgust, how we have to tip-toe around speech. In a world where one person can be offended by anything, how can we possibly function?

Maybe we should just go back to the basics: avoid racial and other generally offensive words, despite their growing numbers. Or, maybe people should suck it up and remember that if you don’t let the word have meaning behind it, there is nothing left to hurt you.

The moral to the story is simple: be wary of your words, and learn not to take things too personally.



Pinheads of the planet
With Tayo Stalnaker

So, I was browsing YouTube and came across a series of Creation Science lecture videos done by “Dr.” Kent Hovind. Upon viewing most of his seven lecture videos, I have come to the conclusion that “Dr.” Hovind is a pinhead.

Kent Hovind’s agenda is to

ban evolution from school textbooks because he thinks evolution is a religion and religion shouldn’t be taught in schools. Instead, he wants Creation Science to be taught – funny, since Creation Science is based on the Bible, which is part of not one, but two religions.

Mr. Hovind believes that:

1. Evolution is a lie.
2. The Earth is only 6,000 years old and was created in six actual days by God.
3. Humans and dinosaurs have always lived together; they were originally called dragons.
4. Dinosaurs are still alive today; i.e. The Loch Ness Monster.
5. Evolution was invented

by the New World Order in an attempt to destroy Christianity and bring the coming of the Anti-Christ.

Personally, I disagree with the first two, but numbers four, five and six move Mr. Hovind way up on the pinhead scale.

“Dr.” Hovind attempts to prove all of these things, and more, by using “science” from the Bible. At times during his lectures, he’s actually making sense (a little), but then he completely undermines his argument by saying “God did it.” That is not science, thus making him even more of a pinhead.

Hovind says that he has nothing against evolution, just various parts of it that he calls “bad sci-

ence” and “flat out lies,” like The Big Bang Theory (which actually has nothing to do with evolution), the layers of the Earth showing the different ages, the thousands of fossils found in the Earth’s layers as evidence for evolution and that humans evolved from apes. Okay, so I guess he is against evolution.

Upon further research into “Dr.” Hovind, I found that he’s not a real doctor (hence the quotes). Apparently he graduated from an unaccredited university called The Patriot Bible College, which is a well-known diploma mill. He also says that he taught high school science classes for 15 years. Well, he did, but it was at a school he created, and it was

Creation “Science,” not actual science. More pinhead points for Hovind.

Aside from the lecture series, Hovind has also released a few videos of him debating with scientists at various colleges throughout the U.S. Hovind loses every debate, but pretends that he is victorious. He loves using lame jokes to win over the audience and imply that his opponents are working for Satan and should find Jesus.

“Dr.” Kent Hovind definitely is one of the world’s biggest pinheads.

Kent Hovind’s pinhead score: 5/5 (It would’ve been a 3 or a 4, but only the grandest of pinheads believe in the New World Order.)

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