

# Local author's message universal

**Mike Guidice**

*The Clackamas Print*

He's been called Osama Bin Laden, the Unabomber and, perhaps worst of all, Lars Larson.

He is esteemed local author Jeffrey St. Clair, and he spoke at the college last Wednesday as part of the Sustainability Project here at Clackamas.

St. Clair also works as an investigatory journalist who specializes in environmental issues and co-edits the political online publication *CounterPunch*. He attended American University in Washington DC, where he majored in English and was exposed to high levels of political unrest.

Also growing up in Indiana, he cites the satirical science fiction author Kurt Vonnegut as a favorite writer and is a firm believer that a person's bookshelf is the real window to his or her soul.

Speaking of books, St. Clair is responsible for his fair share. His first came in 1998, entitled *Whiteout: The CIA, drugs and the press*. It is a history of the CIA's involvement with drug gangs from WWII on.

Since then, he has written a variety of books packed with essays and articles that cover everything from religion, environmental issues, politics, sex and music. Several of his works are collaborative projects with Alexander Cockburn, a nationally syndicated columnist who writes for *The Nation* and

*Los Angeles Times*. Cockburn also co-edits the aforementioned online political publication, *CounterPunch*, with St. Clair.

While he may be eclectic in his writing topics, St. Clair is first and foremost an environmentalist who advocates the preservation of nature and all the components involved. From an early age, he has respected and embraced the majestic beauty of the natural world.

"I was always into wilderness; I spent most of my summers hiking in the Smokey Mountains. When I was 15, I went to Northern Canada on an expedition ... we floated the Churchill River for 1500 miles, we saw polar bears, grizzly bears, salmon ... that kind of sparked an interest," said St. Clair.

While he was studying at American University, the Three Mile Island accident occurred just upriver in Pennsylvania, triggering his passion to help protect the environment and spread awareness.

To synopsise the incident, on March 28, 1979, the Unit 2 Nuclear Power Plant suffered a partial core meltdown. This was a potentially catastrophic scenario, as highly radioactive chemicals could have been released into the environment and surrounding community.

Luckily, no one was injured, but the risk of nuclear energy plants completely decimating a population was now abundantly evident. Being so close to the extremely volatile situation, St. Clair was directly affected by

the event.

"After that, I began working with the environmental group called 'Friends of the Earth,' and haven't stopped since," he said.

St. Clair has adamantly opposed decisions made by presidents, past and future, and believes that the government is truly the real proprietor behind the destruction of the environment.

"It all comes down to budget. I'm kind of a heretic in some environmental communities," he said. "A lot of liberals think we need a raise of taxes [and] give more money to the federal government. The way I read the history of the west is that the subsidies have always gone to industry, and they are the driving force for extinction."

St. Clair may originally hail from Indianapolis, but it's clear that he is an Oregonian at heart. He strives to open people's eyes and educate the public as to how they can help save nature and protect all that is beautiful, not only here in the Pacific Northwest, but worldwide.

"Our awareness is all that is alive and maybe sacred in any of us. Everything else about us is dead machinery" — wise words from Vonnegut, and Jeffrey St. Clair would probably agree.



ST. CLAIR

## International Day May 2 - Gregory Forum

- 11 - 11:15 a.m. -- Original Spanish play written by Instructor Irma Bjerre and performed by Spanish students.
- 11:15 a.m. -- 12:15 p.m. -- Cuba Che band to play latino music; also free.  
- Cha Cha and Salsa lessons.
- 12:15 -- 1 p.m. -- French Club performs
  - Tunisian belly dance
  - Puppet play
  - Solo: "Un Jour Tu Verras"
  - "Dejeuner du Martin"
  - "Rappelle-toi Barbara": a multi-media presentation of Jacques Prevert's romantic poem
- 1 - 1:30 p.m. -- German Club presents scenes of travel.
- 1:30 - 2 p.m. -- ASL students perform.

## campus SAFETY

All reports are taken from CCC's campus safety incident logs. Summaries are edited for clarity, not content.



- 4-16-07  
9:25 a.m.  
Staff member reported a possible act of vandalism.
- 4-17-07  
10 a.m.  
McLoughlin staff reported student struck by a table malfunction in classroom. There were no injuries.
- 4-19-07  
4:35 p.m.  
Verbal argument reported between a visitor and a staff member. Visitor escorted off campus.
- 4-20-07  
11:35 a.m.  
Officer contacted three white male juvenile non-students playing online games in the library. Officer identified them and told them to leave campus.
- 2:50 p.m.  
Tri-met driver reported a white male adult, possibly mentally handicapped. Officer made contact, and the white male adult appeared okay and was waiting for a shuttle.
- 5:35 p.m.  
A red Volkswagen was parked in the quad next to Randall. Officer contacted driver as he was leaving.
- 8:05 p.m.  
A white male adult riding a motorized scooter the through quad. Officer made contact at the rock pile and told trespasser to leave campus. The white male adult returned to Kingsberry Apartments.
- 7:38 p.m.  
A red Toyota was driving in the quad. Officer contacted driver, who was lost and looking for the gym. Officer told the driver where to park and directed him to Randall.
- 4-22-07  
12:10 a.m.  
Officer found a white male adult in the far edge of the Barlow lot under the hood of a vehicle. He was the owner of the vehicle. He was fixing a loose battery cable. He left within five minutes.

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