

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students respond to "Lone gun defends Second Amendment"

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to you regarding the recent article titled "Lone gun defends Second Amendment."

Shirley Katz believes she needs a firearm to protect herself from her abusive husband. I disagree.

At the high school, her husband is not likely to be able to get near her and harm her. He's abusive, not murderous, so if by chance he finds her in the parking lot, can't she use a taser or mace to defend herself?

One could argue that he could overpower her, but in a public place like a crowded high school, she shouldn't have much to fear. Allowing her to carry a weapon into a high school, where we are trying to help our youth develop, sends them the wrong message.

I have no problem with guns on a college campus, but at the high school level they only cause more problems than they solve.

Agustin Torres

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to start off by saying that the article titled "Lone gun defends Second Amendment" was really well-written.

I listened to my class debate about this topic and found that most of them wanted guns to be banned!

I for one would not give up my rights just to feel safe. My rights are my safety.

Now, let's look at how many rights we have lost all to enforce some sense of safety.

The government can tap into phone lines, torture is now permitted, religious freedoms are slowly being taken away. (Do you have kids? Do they know the Pledge of Allegiance?) What amendment goes next?

The amendments are there to protect us. Laws cannot stop a crazy person from being crazy! Laws cannot prevent people from going on campus and going on a killing spree.

Now, all I have left to ask is, why are our rights there? To protect us or to protect the government? Why are our amendments, our rights being threatened?

Is it because we are failing as a society, or is it because our government is failing as an institution?

Rachel Turc

Dear Editor,

Referring to "Lone gun defends Second Amendment":

While reading this article, a million thoughts run through my head. I am concerned knowing that the students I sit in class with are carrying or could be concealing a gun. However, it is also reassuring knowing that if an incident like Virginia Tech happened, I would be protected by my fellow peers.

However, no law, no restriction, is going to stop a person with the intention to kill.

Alicia Tallman

Dear Editor,

The article that I am referring to is the "Lone gun defends Second Amendment."

I feel that guns are not necessary, and I feel that they should not be allowed on campus. I don't think that anyone should be allowed the right without proper gun safety. Just having a permit doesn't make you Mr. know-it-all about guns.

I personally don't feel safe knowing that the idiot next to me possibly has a gun on them. It's just not right.

Erika Townsend

Anyone is welcome to respond to any and all content published in *The Clackamas Print*.

Send letters by e-mail to chiefed@clackamas.edu or deliver them to Roger Rook Hall, room 135.

NOTE: Letters may have been edited for clarity and space.

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to your article regarding concealed weapons allowed on campus property.

I would like to write this letter in support of this policy. In the wake of incidents such as Columbine and Virginia Tech, it is refreshing to see that CCC is taking a stance against such incidents occurring. I feel that allowing a current CHL holder to carry a concealed handgun on campus is a deterrent against school shooting incidents in itself.

Thank you for addressing this issue.

Robert Stewart

Dear Editor,

I recently read your article "lone gun defends second amendment." I find this to be a very interesting topic with many different viewpoints.

My personal opinion is that I think the teacher being able to bring a gun to school is just slightly excessive. I would think that a taser or a weapon that shoots rubber bullets would send the same message across without killing the guy.

I also tend to think about the students in this scenario. If the man was to come to the class and the teacher was to shoot the person, this could scar some of the students for life. Another thought is, what is going to stop students from bringing weapons to school if the teachers can have them?

Do we want to have a learning environment where guns are drawn to settle an argument?

Ryan Inahara

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LONE GUN DEFENDS SECOND AMENDMENT

Ben Caldwell
The Clackamas Print

South Medford High School teacher Shirley Katz maintains a need to carry a firearm to school in order to protect herself from her abusive husband.

The school district policy forbids this out of concern for students' safety.

The main issue in Medford is the district ban on weapons. State law allows that Katz may have her gun as long as she has the proper license.

Katz went to court Thursday, Oct. 11, to argue that her Second Amendment rights, according to Oregon state and federal law, are being violated by the ban.

Clackamas County Circuit Judge G. Philip Arnold makes his final decision, she will be allowed to bring her pistol to class.

Depending on what Arnold decides, wholesale changes to the current administrative regulations may occur not only at the high school level.

but also at the community college level.

The rules and regulations for Clackamas state that the following persons may be armed at the college: sheriffs, police officers, any person summoned to assist a peace officer - provided that they are assisting and officer - any member of the military engaged in the performance of duty, any valid Concealed Handgun License holder and campus safety officers. The policy parallels state law.

According to Oregon Revised Statutes 166.370, on condition that individuals have a license under ORS 166.291, they can legally carry a gun anywhere that does not have a no-weapon policy.

The former Clackamas policy did not permit any weapons whatsoever.

After examining state law, the school board chose to enforce concealed weapons. The board then voted up the current administrative



Clackamas is the only school in Oregon to arm its campus safety officers, who are issued Sig 226 pistols.



According to policy, students at Clackamas are allowed to carry firearms if they have a concealed handgun license.

that a Columbine-like incident would be handled properly so there wouldn't be as many student deaths.

Clackamas' safety's stance regarding weapons is that they are permitted only if they are not of night, provided the student has a CHL. Flipping rifles in gun racks, open carry or visibly visible weapons are not acceptable.

Although would prefer to see as few weapons on campus as possible, he would support a policy that restricts them to qualified persons only, he said.

Although agrees that the current policy is the only legal way to go about weapons on campus.

Oregon is one of 12 states that allows people to carry weapons to school.

Dear Editor,

There is a saying, albeit one out of many variations, stating, "Guns don't kill people; people kill people."

While reading "Lone gun," I found myself torn between two critical points. In sanctioning the carrying of guns at school, are you encouraging or helping prevent any firearm incidents?

I think that perhaps the process of obtaining a concealed handgun license is so intense and elaborate that it's almost safe to assume it's a good thing the firearm is in their hands over someone else's.

In the event of a Virginia Tech occurrence, I posit someone with a concealed handgun license would have been much more useful inside Virginia Tech than the legions of law enforcement that anyone could have posted outside.

Ryan Mathisen

Dear Editor,

Due to the fact that your paper has an article on guns covering the front page, I was writing to give you my personal point of view.

This article was truly unnecessary! Perhaps the reason was valid, but this was just an invitation for more people to bring them with or without a concealed handgun license.

Also, if the college wants to allow it, that's their choice, but let's not give crazy people the option.

We haven't had any problems yet. There is no reason to make it pronounced and give it the opportunity.

Shannon Mullicon

The Clackamas Print

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