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ASG president's ethics questioned

Lydia Emily Bashaw

News Editor

All is fair in love and war, but are there rules to political spying?

Associated Student Government President Tim Lussier is accused of misrepresenting himself in order to get information about Jeff Merkley's campaign for United States Senate.

According to Russ Kelley, a spokesman for Merkley's campaign, Lussier, along with a camera, attended a Merkley campaign event in Roseburg as a "tracker."

"It's a relatively new development in modern campaigning," Kelley said. "Basically, it's someone who follows the candidate around with a video camera, trying to catch them in some contradictory statement or something embarrassing."

Kelley shared that it was not Lussier's attendance at the event that bothered the Merkley campaign but rather the deceitful strategies he used to gather information, including using a false name and identifying himself as a Democratic supporter.

Lussier's MySpace page portrays him as a conservative Republican, complete with a photo of Lussier with presidential candidate Mitt Romney. He is also an employee of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, according to Rebecca Fisher, a committee spokeswoman. The NRSC supports Gordon Smith for the Oregon Senate seat for which Merkley is running.

"We recognize that trackers are part of the business, and we understand that he is going to be here," Kelley said. "We don't object to him being here; we just object to him not being honest."

... After that event, he started little, underhanded tactics aimed at misrepresenting his identity to get information we might not give out to the opposition," he said, "and information that was not publicly available."

In an article published by the *Eugene Register-Guard*, Lussier is referred to as a spy who "crossed the line."

When asked for his opinion on the matter, Lussier said, "Espionage? Isn't that a little dramatic?"

The Merkley campaign said it received an e-mail from a Tim Lussier on Thursday, Jan. 17 at the e-mail address "Merkster2008@yahoo.com." In the e-mail Lussier wrote that he was a fan of Merkley and he was wondering when he could see him speak.

Later that evening the campaign said it received a phone call from someone named "Tim Thompson" asking about a private fundraiser. He left a phone number that turned out to be the number of a landscaping business belonging to his father, Bob Lussier.

After some digging online, the Merkley campaign found that the "Tim" at the event was the same Tim who posted a photo with Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney on his MySpace page. Romney and Merkley are not ideologically similar candidates. Along with the MySpace information, the campaign also learned that Lussier was the president of the ASG at Clackamas and an active member of the Young Republican organization.

Kelley, having had a similar job in the past, sympathizes with "trackers," but not with Lussier.

Kelley said, "This is the worst job in politics. You have to show up at an event where people don't like you and don't like the guy you are working for ... I've been in this position; I get it."

"But there's an honest way to do it, and there's a dishonest way to do it," he added. "You don't all and misrepresent yourself, and you especially can't do that and get caught."

When questioned about his part in tracking Merkley, Lussier said, "This is a game; it's politics, unfortunately. I admire Senator Smith. I think he's a fantastic public servant. He has my complete support."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Robert Crawford Clackamas Print

Think before you ink

Andrea Simpson

The Clackamas Print

Perhaps the great philosopher Jimmy Buffet summed up tattoos best when he sang, "It's a permanent reminder of a temporary feeling."

Despite the apparent downfalls of this, tattoos have a rich history dating back to 5,000 B.C. In 1991 scientists discovered "tattoos" on a caveman from the Copper Age. Scientists found a series of small lines on the remains, made by rubbing powdered charcoal into vertical cuts.

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College human relations director retires after 30 years

Lydia Emily Bashaw

Associate News Editor

After 30 years at Clackamas, Karen Stubblefield announced her retirement over the winter break.

In an e-mail addressed to her "CCC Family" Stubblefield summarized her reasons for leaving.

"I've taken some time off of work to deal with some personal health issues over the past couple of weeks," she said, "and have quickly come to the conclusion that it is best to retire now ..."

Stubblefield started working at Clackamas in 1977 as a personnel secretary, and later became the director of human resources. This past December, B.J. Rinearson took over that position while Stubblefield remained on staff to help

with the shift.

"While I was very much looking forward to working with Courtney (Wilton) and BJ, and helping them transition into the Clackamas culture," Stubblefield said to fellow faculty members in the before-mentioned e-mail. "I'm confident that you will give them a warm welcome and assist them however you can in my absence."

According to Rinearson, the new director of human resources, retirement will provide Stubblefield with time to tend to her personal life.

"... She is taking time to enjoy her grandchildren, be the general contractor on the remodel of their home and manage the affairs of their household," Rinearson said. "... She thoroughly enjoyed working here. The time was right for her to make some changes, and she wishes everyone a happy and successful 2008."

Financial aid and scholarship help on the way

Matt Garrison

Associate News Editor

Clackamas will be there for you — that is, for students who need help filling out their Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) or determining their transfer college of choice.

On Saturday, Jan. 26, Clackamas will hold an event to assist students with FAFSA.

"Financial Aid Department employees will be on hand to help students fill out the FAFSA form," said Darcie Iven, scholarship coordinator and financial aid adviser. "Any student planning on attending college at any college in the country should attend this event."

FAFSA is the only way for students to learn whether they can receive federal dollars, Iven said. She recommends that it be filled out every year, as the amount of money an individual qualifies for can change.



Megan Koler Clackamas Print

Darcie Iven, one of the college's scholarship coordinators and financial aid advisers, helps a student discover new ways to finance school.

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