

Clackamas Print

Inside: President addresses Student of Concern issues See Page 2

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Student brought into custody after malicious MySpace blogs

Ben Hurlburt

Clackamas Print

Clackamas student Tom Caldwell, 23, was taken into custody Friday, Feb. 15, following and unarmed for making comments on his MySpace page, according to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. He was held by a police officer and transported to a local hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Earlier this month, a student advised Clackamas staff with concerns about remarks on Caldwell's MySpace profile, college officials. After a school found additional information, school officials advised that the circumstances involved to the point where calling the sheriff's office was necessary.

Caldwell was banned from campus pending disciplinary procedures, said Dean of Student Services Bill Zuelke. The college is unsure when he will be released from the men- tual health evaluation. The Director of Campus Services Leach feels that the campus is handling the risk. Since the Oregon City police increased patrols on cam-

"We have a really good security team here," Leach said. "It's like a city here, and things happen. We get issues come up about students off campus, and we look into all of them."

Caldwell was a member of the Clackamas Print from 2007 through fall of the year. Among his questionable remarks on MySpace were threats targeting the staff of the Clackamas Print. Zuelke warned Caldwell's name had been

mentioned in Caldwell's writings.

Over the weekend, students discovered a threat targeting *The Print*, written in December, on another MySpace page. On Monday, Zuelke formally alerted *The Print's* full staff that they had been threatened.

The post stated: "i think i will go on a shooting spree and start with the print."

Caldwell's other comments that led to police involvement include:

"It's getting harder to not just start breaking things. It's getting harder to not just start shooting."

"ave maria ... this is the song that would be my soundtrack for a killing spree it just inspires creativity."

"i don't want to think that the world is worth saving. i want to destroy it i want to take my hate for this for this world out of everybody."

Caldwell is an admitted gun rights advocate. In November, he wrote a front-page news story about gun rights for *The Print*. In 2006, he was issued a concealed weapons permit, which was revoked upon the onset of his police officer hold.

On Feb. 15, views were posted on Caldwell's blog page about the Northern Illinois University shootings, stating, "An armed society is a polite society. The only reason that people go around killing others is that they think they can get away with it."

Student Sean Huggins sees the actions taken against Caldwell as a flagrant example of overreaction due to the fact that the only evidence presented is a few phrases written on Caldwell's profile.

"We have freedom of speech in this nation, which means absolute freedom of speech,"



CALDWELL

File Photo/2007

Huggins said.

Tom Caldwell, Ben Caldwell's father, did not return *The Print's* calls for comment.

Many members of the college staff criticized how the school handled the lack of information released about Caldwell. At 4 p.m. Friday, Leach notified the staff that there was a "student of concern" and that the sheriff's department was involved. The college said that because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, regulations, it could say little.

In a series of e-mails exchanged among staff concerning Leach's notification, some individuals on staff voiced the opinion that they

should have been informed of Caldwell's identity by the college. Others said that when the police released the information to the public, the press could have permanently scarred his reputation on campus.

English Instructor Kate Gray has extended an open invitation for faculty to participate in a Faculty Senate meeting, which will address the current situation's impact on the college and its staff.

The meeting will be held Thursday at noon in the McLoughlin Auditorium.

College President Joanne Truesdell will talk to the campus community today at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

President Truesdell asks for \$5 increase in tuition

Lydia E. Bashaw

News Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, President Joanne Truesdell asked the board of education to increase tuition \$5 per credit hour by summer 2008.

The recommendation was made after a survey of the college suggested that students lack resources and services. The increase will help to cover the projected budget deficit for the next school year.

"We are not asking students to fund the gap," Truesdell said. "We are all trying to figure out where the frame is."

Questions regarding the effect on enrollment and how to remain at a reasonable cost were at the forefront of conversation. A rise in tuition could impact distance learning enrollment and community education, a large group of the student body.

"... Our tuition increases have not affected enrollment ..." Truesdell said. "It's about our services, it's about course offerings and it's about what's happening in terms of employment."

The college has always been a leader when it comes to cheap education, but a tuition boost does not mean that Clackamas would skyrocket above other colleges.

"When you look at taking 13 credits at Clackamas in the fall, it would cost one of our students \$857, and (for) students at Chemeketa, it would have cost \$939," Truesdell said. "If they would have gone to Mt. Hood, it would have cost \$1,031, and at Portland Community College, it would have cost \$986."

Please see TUITION, Page 2

"We burn them to ashes and then burn the ashes..."

Fire lit up the night Feb. 18 as Art Instructor Rick True set a Giant Handbuilt book to flame. The book was built by the theatre department as part of "The Big Read" events held on campus. Names of banned books were written on the giant display. Before the book burning, a portion of Ray Bradbury's book "Fahrenheit 451" was performed by actor Tobias Andersen. As flames lit up the sky, the crowd witnessed the transformation: The book changed from a ball of fire to a work of art. The frame of the book held a quote from Bradbury's book: "Remember Montag; the public itself stopped reading of its own accord."



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