

## The secrets of campus lovers

John Hurlburt

The Clackamas Print

In the wake of Valentine's Day, people may still have the image embedded in their minds of two individuals trying to inhale each other's souls through their mouths.

The scene is likely familiar to those who have stepped foot in public: a couple passionately clinging to one another while passersby are forced to either witness the display or find a new interest in the way they tie their shoes.

At what point does a show of affection become an annoyance?

In the eyes of student Michaela Carlson, it's when holding hands or a quick hug and a kiss develop into more than just that.

"I wish people would keep their personal relationships a bit more personal," Carlson said. "Any place where there is a lot of student traffic, in my opinion, would not be an appropriate place for people to be making out."

Some free expressions of fondness appall Alexander Costa. His most memorable observation of such a sight involves a pregnant woman smoking a cigarette and embracing her partner, just outside the cafeteria.

"Kissing is fine in public," Costa said, "but using tongue and sexual gestures I find unclassy and sort of disgusting."

Many wish not to see unrestricted exhibits of liking and love, and at the same time, those who are kissing often do not wish to be watched.

One exception is student Brandon Buss, who doesn't mind an audience but prefers a quieter place.

"It's a natural thing," Buss said.

Buss' opinion is that as long as people are not making a scene or getting in anyone's way, their conduct shouldn't matter.

Cassie Wellington doesn't care whether or not couples make out providing that it is not out in the open.

"After a certain point ... it becomes a get-a-room type of thing," Wellington said.

Although getting a room on campus isn't an option, a few areas are out of the view of the general populace.

For example, near the Environmental Learning Center, northeast of Clairmont Hall, a network of paths runs through a lightly forested region in a circle around a pond.

Student Stephen Ragsdale believes the spot is a suitable place for a romantic moment alone.

"Anywhere outside should be OK," he added.

However, there is one notable downside to the paths — they are fairly primitive, and much of the ground is typically muddy, so it would be wise to put on an inexpensive pair of shoes before taking to the trails.

Another perhaps-appropriate location for somewhat intimate relations is the forest just east of the Pauling Center. Although there is not a lot of cover, some spaces in between the trees provide opportunities to lie back and relax.

According to Buss, one problem with the site is the lack of seats.

"The ground's just too hard," he said.

For individuals who are uncomfortable watching others polish their partner's teeth, the good news is that open public displays of affection on campus do not appear to be the norm.

Costa says that he only sees people making out about once a month at the college. Carlson confirms this; thankfully, she doesn't observe the scenario very often.

So, to anyone feeling the desire to engorge someone else's face, just remember to do so courteously and keep innocent bystanders in mind.

# Instructor talks fairness

*Burnell and her partner finally receive rights that only heterosexual couples have enjoyed*

Kyle Steele

Feature Editor

On Feb. 4 gay couples lined up in front of Oregon courthouses, awaiting their chance to sign up for the opportunity that would allow them to receive some of the rights that many heterosexual couples take for granted.

The legalization of domestic partnerships in Oregon passed through a federal judge Friday, Feb. 1, taking effect the following Monday.

Clackamas' own Carol Burnell, an English instructor at the college for the past four years and the adviser of the Gay Straight Alliance, decided along with her partner to wait until Valentine's Day to register.

"We joke about getting domesticated," Burnell said.

The couple has been together for six and a half years, and had a formal ceremony with friends and family five years ago. Even though, in their eyes, they have been married since that time, Oregon law did not recognize them as such. This left them without vari-

ous basic rights that married couples have.

The law "gives us certain legal benefits through which we had to pay a lot of money to try to get even part of those on our own, by doing wills and power of attorneys and all kinds of stuff," Burnell said.

The court's opinion was a big success for gay rights advocates. The domestic partnership bill was originally signed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski on May 9, 2007, to be effective at the beginning of 2008, but a court challenge postponed the outcome of the legislation until recently, when the judge ruled in the favor of the state.

"Not only did we win on the merits of the case; we really won new rights," said Jeana Frazzini, executive director of Basic Rights Oregon, to *The Oregonian* after the ruling Feb. 1.

Some of the privileges that gay couples can now enjoy through the bill, known as the Oregon Family Fairness Act, are property rights, the ability to make decisions for one's partner in the case of

a medical emergency and rights concerning a deceased partner.

"You really want to have families and people to be protected under the law and

they were annulled, never happened in sense."

As far as the partnership goes, for it was all about ob-



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Carol Burnell recounts her string of attempts to gain marriage equality rights for her and her partner.

be safe," Burnell said.

This isn't the first time that Burnell has attempted to get fair representation for her family by means of Oregon law. In 2005, when Multnomah County was briefly offering gay marriage, they signed up.

"We got our \$60 check back in the mail," Burnell said. "They were basically canceled. I don't even think

paper that would provide family with a little of mind. She committed and then she held five years a important than an afterward.

"... Actually burned to someone, the private, personal the opinion, and the other the legal part," Burnell said.

## Welcoming a new United States citizen

Kenton Benfield

The Clackamas Print

wrong.

Additionally, Ljucevic has a unique backstory.

He and his family traveled from former Yugoslavia — now Bosnia and Herzegovina — to the United States Feb. 7, 2002.

"Since that time, I am here in Portland with my family," he said.

Upon arriving in the States, Ljucevic worked to expand his knowledge of the English language and began the naturalization process to become a United States citizen.

Getting to this point was not easy.

"We were a little bit under depression," Ljucevic said. "It is not really easy coming from another continent, another war. Every day you are not sure what is going on; the (United States) government could change the requirements (for registration) ... or change something. We came here legally ... all of this had scary moments."

One fear was that the government would delay the registration process to becoming a citizen, which would have made it more difficult for Ljucevic to find work. Citizenship is a requirement for many jobs, and this resulted in him initially missing out on opportunities for which he was otherwise eligible.

He was finally able to get a position here at Clackamas.

Ljucevic was originally hired as a high voltage integrated circuit control technician. Among other things, this qualifies him for maintenance work and to control much of the campus utility infrastructure, including water, power, gas consumption for the heating boilers and temperature control.

Upon receiving his citizenship, Ljucevic was asked

to define his goals. He joked that the mayor of Portland not be so bad, reflecting a new sense of optimism that was now open.

He has since been employed to engineering or head control engineering.

One example of day task Ljucevic performs is the operating temperature control for the college.

From within his office, or anywhere in the world, the entire can be monitored by a computer system that constantly updates information about the temperature in every room. Most of the system is automated by a chart of his design. Ever, custom alterations be implemented in through the Web interface.

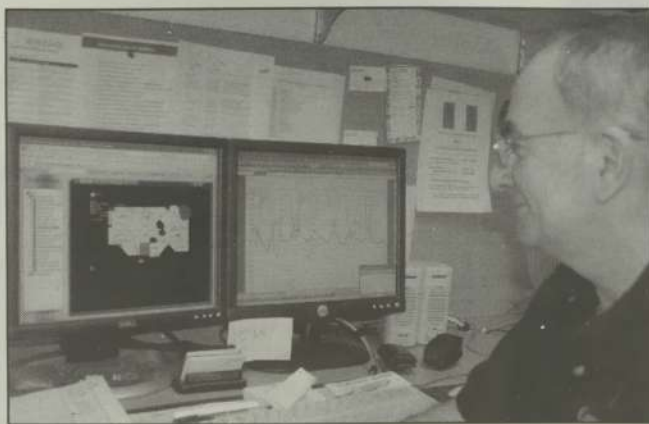
In one instance, Ljucevic jokingly implied that he would have been able to connect through the system and alter some settings. Staying in Europe, the changes would have occurred almost immediately in Oregon.

It is so flexible that anyone on campus can request to adjust the temperature of any room. They need only contact Ljucevic and request the change.

The next time they don't notice the temperature of a room on campus or she can thank Ljucevic for a job well-done.

It seems that "behind the scenes" is all the rage — bands offer backstage passes, DVD movies have "making of" commentary and news junkies want insider information on politics and the latest gossip.

Engineering Team Leader Hilmo Ljucevic is familiar with the unseen operations of the college. His job is one that, when done right, no



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Hilmo Ljucevic monitors the school's temperature control for each building. The system allows him to adjust it from anywhere.

one likely notices and, thus, is taken for granted, but it is significant in that it would most definitely be a topic of discussion if something went

wrong. He was sworn in as a citizen after scoring an impressive 100 percent on his citizenship exam Jan. 9.

water, power, gas consumption for the heating boilers and temperature control.