

Clackamas Print

independent, student-run newspaper

Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008

Volume 41, Issue 14

Student of Concern' released, speaks up

Student Benjamin Caldwell was taken into custody Feb. 15 after Clackamas Community College received threatening messages toward students written on his MySpace page. Caldwell was held by Clackamas County Mental Health for a mental evaluation until Feb. 20. On Monday, Editor Lydia E. Bashaw interviewed Caldwell about the events of the last two weeks and his experience with the college. Caldwell and Caldwell were colleagues on *The Clackamas Print* for two terms. She was the only individual with whom he agreed to speak. The interview has been edited for space and clarity.

(Clackamas County Sheriff's Office) lied to me about the reason they needed to speak with me. Then, when I showed up, within 30 seconds there were six officers pointing Tasers at me. In all, it was a really bad day.

The Print: What happened while you were in custody?

Caldwell: Nothing really happened while I was in custody. A few other inmates really scared me, but there is nothing like spending a week knowing at any moment you could be shanked with a toothbrush. They took my shoes and belt and wouldn't let me have my iPod.

The Print: How do you think the situation should have been handled?

Caldwell: The school really let this balloon into something it wasn't. They (school officials) needed to handle this internally.

The Print: What was your experience like?

Caldwell: This has definitely been a learning experience. I don't think I will do it again anytime soon. Next time, I will not try to piss off so many people.

The Print: Do you feel that your rights were violated?

Caldwell: Of course I feel my rights were violated. The school thinks they are McCarthy, and can suspend your civil rights just because you are a student there. I wonder what will be next - random bag searches? Oh, but wait - it is perfectly fine to talk about illegal activities like smoking pot, but write something and you're going down.

The Print: What's going to happen now?

Caldwell: I haven't a clue as to

An e-mail was sent to the campus community Feb. 20 at 5:47 p.m. sharing the information that Benjamin T. Caldwell had been released from Clackamas County Mental Health. The e-mail, sent by William Leach, dean of campus services, stated that there was no "further reason" to hold Caldwell.

A "no trespass order" has been issued to ban Caldwell from all college-owned property. His concealed weapon permit will also remain revoked.

In response to the incidents of the past two weeks, the campus expanded security and offered employee assistance and campus counseling to students and staff. The college is also communicating with local mental health and law enforcement agencies to keep updated on the situation.

A photo of Caldwell was attached to the e-mail. If anyone sees Caldwell on campus, he or she should call 911 or contact Campus Safety at ext. 6650.

- Compiled by Lydia E. Bashaw



CALDWELL

The Print: What were you thinking when you wrote those things?

Caldwell: I don't believe I need to explain myself to anyone what I was thinking when I wrote those things. It doesn't matter.

The Print: What was your reaction when you were pulled into custody?

Caldwell: Basically, C.C.S.O.

what will happen from here. I do know that I no longer wish to have anything to do with CCC.

The Print: What kind of communication have you had with the college regarding your suspension?

Caldwell: I tried to talk to the school and straighten this out, but they are morons. They want me to admit guilt as if I had done something wrong.

The Print: Will any of this go on your record?

Caldwell: That is the funniest part; nothing will go on my record, and I was never charged with anything. They never even asked me to lock up my guns or take them out of the house.

The Print: How did the (mental) evaluation go?

Caldwell: The evaluation never really happened. A lot of my old friends were called by the county, and I only talked to them (Clackamas County Health officials) for about 15 minutes.

The Print: What will happen with your concealed handgun license?

Caldwell: I don't know what will happen with my C.H.L. As of now, it has been revoked. I don't really know if I can get it back or not.

The Print: How will this affect your future?

Caldwell: Well, I can never be a cop in Oregon, so I don't know yet how this will affect my future. It is too early to tell what will happen in the future, but I don't think it will stop me from achieving any long-term goals.

The Print: What are you going to do now?

Caldwell: I have no idea what I will do now. I guess I will catch up on some work I need to get done at the house for the time being.

The Print: How are your family and friends dealing with everything that happened?

Caldwell: My family and friends seem to be more upset about this than I am. But I can't really get upset right now.

Instructor accidentally shoots his foot in campus bathroom

Kyle Steele

The Clackamas Print

Oregon City Police responded to an unintentional discharge of a firearm in the Clairmont Hall restrooms Feb.

An unidentified male Clackamas instructor dropped a firearm onto the floor, causing the bad firing pin in the handgun to set it off. The discharged bullet struck the instructor in the leg but didn't cause him serious harm; the individual was able to drive himself to the hospital to tend the wound, according to police.

"We took a statement from him at the hospital," said Lieutenant Mike Conrad of the Oregon City Police Department.

At the hospital, Oregon City Police became aware of the incident and investigated the Clairmont restroom where the instructor was fired. The instructor, who has a concealed weapon permit, was in his right to carry the firearm on campus under the rules of the college, so no criminal charges were filed by the officers.

Dick Ashbaugh, criminal justice department chair and supervisor of campus security, would not comment regarding the incident.

Oregon City Police Department confiscated the firearm due to the faulty firing pin. Campus security filed an incident report, which was sent to the Environmental Health and Safety Office and to College President Joanne Mesdell.

Jensen overcomes a life of trial to triumph on the mat

After years of bad choices and wrong turns, Richard Jensen has turned his life around by rediscovering a familiar pastime

Armondo Borboa

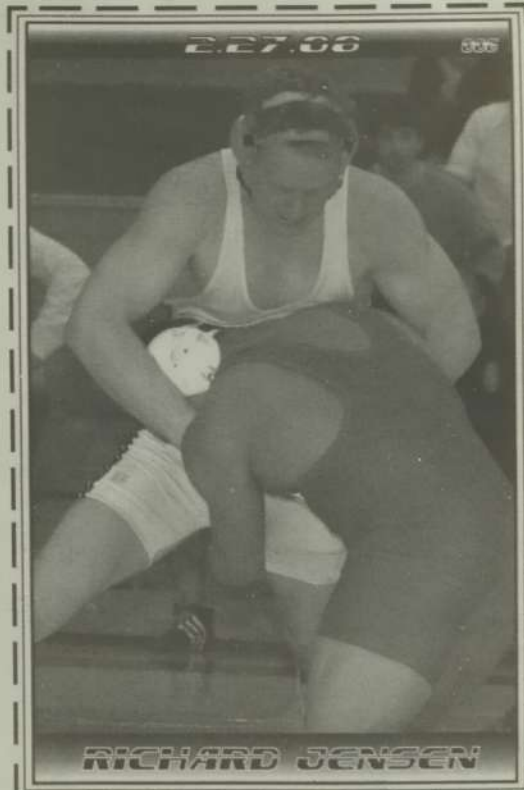
The Clackamas Print

The most remarkable characteristic that all great athletes share isn't how often they win. Rather, it is how often they pick themselves up after each fall.

Clackamas wrestler Richard Jensen knows how to lose, and he has lost big-time. He lost 17 hazy years of his life to alcohol and meth addiction, as well as 13 months spent in prison for drug-related crimes.

"I just can't believe I'm here (on the team)," said Jensen about making a spot for himself on the Clackamas wrestling team. "I used to wrestle in high school; I loved it. But then I just threw it all away."

Jensen has been clean and sober for approximately four years, and he plans to remain that way. He has enrolled in a certification course and is now learning a legitimate trade in the college's automotive program.



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Photo contributed by Tracy Swisher - fotozoneonline.com