

TransActive: lone voice for transgender youth

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Although TransActive works with youth as old as 18, most of the children who are part of the organization realize they are transgender when they are very young. Consequently, one might think it's the kids themselves who are confused, but Burleton strongly disagrees.

"These kids understand who they are absolutely perfectly, but our culture presumes they are confused simply because their internal sense of gender identity is in conflict with their anatomical sex," she said, "or their gender expression falls outside what others may consider to be an acceptable range in relation to their assigned male or female gender."

TransActive also seeks to educate social-service agencies and programs for domestic violence.

"A source of conflict within the family that can lead to violence can often be a child that is not gender-conforming," Burleton said, "and one or the other parent is very opposed to it"

Burleton wants the public to comprehend the difference between being gay and transsexual.

"Being transgender is not a matter of one's sexuality," she said. "It is about the individual's gender identity. We all have a sense of our gender many years before we even develop a sexual orientation. We do not identify as female as a result of being attracted to men, or vice-versa; who we are is completely different from who we like romantically."

According to Burleton, statistically speaking, as many as 50 percent of trans-identified youth do not even reach their college and adult years.

"They have the highest suicide rate of any at-risk population you can measure," she explained.

"That isn't due to their gender-nonidentity issues," she continued. "It's primarily a result of the intolerance and indifference of our culture, and of the medical profession, to their situation."

This applies specifically to taking action to block or delay the onset of puberty and to administer cross-gender hormones so the child can develop and mature physically in a way that is congruent with his or her gender identity.

TransActive attempts to inform health-care providers of the challenges faced by transgender kids and their families.

"Trans kids are pretty much the most underserved and neglected segment of the community," said Hayley Klug, a close friend and co-worker of Burleton.

"Really, what it comes down to is, no one else is speaking for these kids," Klug said in reference to the importance of Burleton's work. "There aren't many other organizations out there that target the needs of trans youth, and it makes such a difference in these kids' lives."

Public buses may hold key to more money

Rising fuel costs have left a bitter taste in drivers' wallets, but a solution may be as simple as riding the bus

Matt Garrison

The Clackamas Print

The smell of stale tobacco, strong aftershave or even cat litter may scare people away from using public transportation, but it is a less expensive way to get where you need to go.

While drivers complain about rising gas prices, a car requires more than fuel. What if it breaks down? Even if that day never comes, oil changes, maintenance and trips through the car wash are still necessary.

Although public transportation may be a slower means of travel, and it does run the risk of being late, it is cheaper and doesn't require a license to ride.

"Trip planners are offered at TriMet's Web site," said Peggy LaPoint, public information officer for the organization.

At www.trimet.org, toward the top left portion of the screen are the words "Trip Planner." There are several options: type an address, intersection, landmark or the stop identification number.

From there, enter when you want to leave your starting point or the desired arrival time. Then, confirm the date and click on the green "plan trip" button to see a list of different ways of reaching the destination.

"Don't throw away transfers," said Jeff Jones, a TriMet bus driver, as passengers receive one when they pay their fare. "Any TriMet fee can be inspected by any TriMet employee."

"Month passes are available at most Safeway, Albertsons and Fred Meyer stores," Jones added.

In addition to prohibiting "disruptive, threatening or offensive behavior," the rules of conduct posted at the front of every bus request that passengers present their fare receipt when asked, keep their feet on the floor — not on the seats — and "make front seats available to senior and disabled citizens."

Anyone who rides is also asked not to

smoke, use any music devices without headphones, carry food that is not in a closed container or have an animal that is not in a carrier, with the exception of a guide dog.

And it may not be a rule, but bus drivers appreciate and suggest having your fare ready before getting on the bus.

"Between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., you can ask the bus driver to get dropped off at an undesignated bus stop," said LaPoint. "Whenever you exit the bus, exit the back door so people boarding on the bus can get on easier, and make sure before getting on the bus (that) it's the right one by checking the top of the front of the bus."

Youth and high school student fare is \$1.40, all-zone adult is \$2.05, adult 2 zone is \$1.75 and for senior and disabled citizens, the cost is 85 cents. All-day tickets are \$4.25.

Clackamas students who are interested in public transportation have it easy — the college has a TriMet stop where buses 32, 33 and 99 stop during rush hour, going to Portland in the morning and from Portland in the late afternoon. Also, the South Clackamas Transportation District serves trans-

portation to Molalla from Clackamas for \$1 per ride.

Tri-Met bus 33 — McLoughlin — will take passengers as far as downtown Portland, where the line will usually turn into 33 — Fremont — which goes through Northeast Portland to the Gateway District.

Bus 32 — Oatfield — will travel as far as the Milwaukie Transit Center, except for in

the morning and during rush hour.

At the Oregon City Transit Center, can transfer to bus lines 32, 33, 99, 153, 154 and the Canby Area Transit which goes to Canby.

Bus 34 travels River Road into Bus 35 — Macadam — takes passengers Highway 43 through West Linn, Linn and part of Southwest Portland to Portland.

Bus 79 can eliminate a trek to the Town Center, while number 153 South End Road and the 154 travel Linn.

Transit centers are located around the area, and will connect to other routes as far as Hillsboro, Troutdale, Sherwood, Janzen Beach, where those interested in the C-TRAN into Vancouver

For more information on bus prices, instructions on how to ride or rules, go to www.trimet.org or call 7433.



Riders go about their day while riding the 33 bus near the in the bus transit area. For times and locations, www.trimet.org offers a trip planner found on the top left of its homepage.

Class explores the mysterious world of film

Series offers students a hands-on experience with the skills needed for the film industry

Kenton Benfield

The Clackamas Print

Future famous people may walk among us.

Thanks to Advanced Screenwriting and Production, taught by Andy Mingo with the support of Sue Mach, the college is helping to cultivate the next wave of movie direc-

tors and screenwriters.

Advanced Screenwriting and Production is in its fourth year and provides the opportunity for budding filmmakers and writers to make short films to be produced for exhibition at an end-of-the-term public film festival on campus.

The course is the culmination of a sequence of classes that begins with Introduction to Screenwriting, taught by Mach in the fall, in which students learn the process of writing an original screenplay.

In the winter, that knowledge can be applied in Screenwriting and Production, which is taught jointly between Mach and Mingo. After writ-

ing a screenplay, those who wish to convert it into an actual film must submit their work for consideration by Mingo.

If approved, the true work begins — the movie is then constructed, complete with real actors, sets and crew.

Student Roxanne Clingman is among the filmmakers currently enrolled in Mingo's class.

"When I put out my casting call on the Internet, I got a lot of responses," Clingman said. "They (the actors) are pros; they just got back from Universal Studios accepting an award ... I am impressed with the quality."

Clingman's film, based in the 1950s, is about two kids — a boy with a disability and a dislocated girl who befriends him — as they care for each other while dealing with the inadvertently harmful interference of their parents.

Former film student Brandon Victor, who produced a piece titled "Kaddish" last spring, is familiar with the hard work involved in the course.

"If you take the class, don't go into it thinking that you

know everything."

"Blood, sweat and tears. But the payoff is entirely well worth it."

"If you take the class, don't go into it thinking that you know everything."

Brandon Victor
Former film student



Former film student Brandon Victor sits next to one of the many Mac computers the film class use to edit the films in Rook Hall.

that is the best instruction that ever happened to me. Clingman said she exceeded her expectations of the class. And she's both just

classes are set up in order they do not have to in order.

"You don't even take all three of them are interested in one than another," Mach said. "If you are a screenwriter, you have to take all three."

Many former filmmakers at Clackamas have worked in the short film festival scene to catch the eye of studios.

The festival this year is June 9, featuring films currently in production by Mingo's class and to the public.