

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students respond to ASG action, transgender issue, underage smoking

Dear Editor:

ASG is proving once again to be a biased organization.

Without concern for the student body, they have made a biased decision – not that that is the first time I have seen something like this from them.

The Associated Student Government is exactly what it is: associated with the student body, but concerned seemingly more with their own desires, so much so that they would pull up charges against Jayc Izso, who wants to be ASG president, and has a desire to connect with students here.

Rather than just saying he is a threat to them, Izso has made a connection with students, and it seems to make him a target of false accusations. I believe Izso to be highly uncalled for, and it just proves that the leadership here needs some serious work.

Sincerely,
Greg Stein, Writers' Club President
Phi Theta Kappa Vice President of Scholarship

Dear Editor:

I just read "Advocate opens doors for transgender youth," and I have a few opinions.

For one, I believe the article was one-sided. For it to be truly objective, the article should have presented views from opposing sides or transgender beliefs.

Being a Christian, I believe that people are created purposefully and gender is not a choice.

Presenting the article from one view is irresponsible and not fair to people who believe they are transgender.

Don't take this wrong.

I agree that everybody, from all walks of life, including transgender youth, should be helped through their situation, but TransActive is not the only source they have.

Thank you for bringing attention to an important subject, but also consider being less subjective next time.

—Gideon Hawkins

Dear Editor:

I think that transgender is sad and wrong. I wish that parents would become more involved in their children's lives so that they could help them before it's too late.

I know that my parents have always had a big influence on my life, and it has kept me from getting into trouble.

I always felt that I could talk to my parents about anything. I would ask the "hard questions," and I wouldn't feel belittled. My cousin, however, was raised with a working dad and mom. She never talked to them, and they never talked to her. She has been in jail and has had her license taken away for drunk driving. I know that she would be different had she been close to her parents.

Parents need to make a stand for their kids. I know that it may be awkward at times and you would like to leave it to someone else, but it's your job. Think of your children before yourself and you will be amazed at the outcome.

—Hannah Hunt

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the Helen Conley article entitled, "Advocate opens doors for transgender youth."

I was surprised and delighted to read an article that deals with a subject often overlooked in the smaller-town news publications, and was very pleased with the objectivity and encouraging ending tone present in it.

Having known quite a few transgender individuals in my lifetime, it's wonderful to see an advocacy group get some press. There is a transgender woman who helps out in my church, and I've heard her tell of dating men who, when they have found out her original gender, have shunned and even beaten her.

I'm delighted to see that there are others around fighting for the rights of women and men in the alternative lifestyle. Kudos to you.

—Sam Tongue



Transgender advocate Jenn Burleton performs with her band, Uncommon Women, at the Take Back the Night event last month.

Letter by Jayc Izso

At 4:50 p.m., the Associated Student Government called for my immediate removal and, thus, cancellation of my candidacy for president of our student body here on campus.

This action was made immediately after I requested the advisor/facilitator of the "student" government, as well as the vice president, to step down from their positions on the elections committee to an unethical procedure. Both the representative and I were lied to – about the very student constitution that is supposedly being held – as well as prevented from campaigning due to the fact that I, like the rest of the students, have to work to survive.

This leaves one presidential candidate for students to vote for, who admittedly is "under the thumb" of Tim Lussier – you may remember him as the die-hard Republican who broke the law by coming out about his identity in order to get into a Democratic convention.

I know what this says to me; it says that ASG has now become a puppet for the administration at this college and, more importantly, a corrupt institution that no longer serves the students, but rather the college's pocket books. This is a sad day, as we're watching democracy be destroyed on even the smallest of levels. You are forced to vote for Michael

Is that not a dictatorship? If anything, I can admittedly state that this course of action has strengthened my resolve and, if anything, brought me closer to every student I have promised to represent. Perhaps it's time to elect a Representative Student Government, one that represents the students, not one that is simply "associated" with them.

There will be available for questions from any and all students from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, Tuesday and Friday, in the Community Center for two weeks of the publication of this paper.

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading your column called "Underage smokers light up despite laws." I very much agree with the statement that we have to take the step to help students before the age of 15 to 17.

I think that before we can help the young children, there has to be a change in home environment. Most children learn from example, and if Mom and Dad are smokers, then it makes it much harder to help the students. I think that it confuses students and kids to get one message from the school – say, not to smoke – but to go home and it is an OK thing.

Thank you for bringing attention to this issue.

—Hannah Schreindl

Dear Editor:

I am responding to "Underage smokers light up despite laws." I agree with most of it, but not all of it.

I agree with how it's estimated that 90 percent of smokers started before the age of 21. I started at the age of 14, and most people I know started young. Most of them are under 21.

I don't know if I disagree, but I don't believe that Lisa Nielson has never had a non-student start smoking in her class. When I was in school, usually all the new kids started smoking at my school because everyone else was doing it.

I believe that people should be educated, not punished. It only makes people angry, and they rebel against it. For me, I hate being told what to do, so I will do the exact opposite. But if somebody truly cares and wants to help, I will listen.

—Shannon Shay

Dear Editor:

I am responding to the "underage smokers law" column.

Smoking cigarettes in today's society is considered a social norm. Virtually every workplace will give at least one smoke break. Most children will recognize Camel Joe before our president. These kids aren't dumb; we tell them, "smoking is bad," yet as a nation we all light up.

I believe if parents do not want underage kids to smoke, they need to set an example! You know the old saying, "Do as I say, not as I do"? Well, it only works for so long.

—Alexis Dalling

Dear Editor:

Underage smoking is a huge problem everywhere. Lots of people start smoking for different reasons.

In my opinion, "being stressed out" isn't a valid reason to start smoking and possibly put your life in danger. Just because someone got a bad grade on a paper doesn't mean they should start smoking.

Smoking doesn't only harm the smoker, but also the nonsmokers who happen to be standing around the smoker.

Every day I see young smokers smoking outside of the buildings. There is always at least one person standing five feet from the door smoking.

I thought there was an "at least 25 feet from the doorway" smoking rule. In my opinion, the campus security guards should be enforcing the 25-foot rule, as well as the underage smoker rule.

I think that any underage smoker should pay a fine, whether it be their first time being caught or any other time after that.

No one can really stop someone else from smoking, but they can make more rules to make it harder for smokers to smoke, underage or not.

In conclusion, this article was a good article, and I am looking forward to reading more about the underage smoking problem.

—Sidra Popma

Anyone is welcome to respond to any and all content published in *The Clackamas Print*.

Send letters by e-mail to chiefed@clackamas.edu or deliver them to Roger Rook Hall, room 135.

NOTE: Letters may have been edited for clarity and space.