

Clubs: Interclub meeting brings no end to issues

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The final decision of the forum concluded that the clubs required additional time to discuss and collaborate on events occurring on campus, in order to create a more unified front.

"We have literally wanted this to be a forum because this is not about me; this is literally an opportunity for

clubs to get together," Izso said. "This is more about clubs to get together to do something."

The United Club Forum will continue to meet over the summer. For more information about the UCF or the SRA, contact Jayc Izso at 503-487-7244.



Left: Writers' Club President Greg Stein and Jonathan Mersereau, a member of the French Club, discuss future relations between ASG and campus clubs.

Lydia E. Bashaw Clackamas Print

Bold thieves strike campus in a daring daytime muffler theft

Justin Hokanson

Contributing Writer

According to a report filed May 9 by Officer Brian Azule of campus security, a catalytic converter was brazenly stolen from a Toyota Pickup in the Barlow parking lot. The incident took place between 5:10 and 5:15 p.m.

The unnamed victim reportedly saw a white male in his mid-thirties, approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall and 160 pounds, with light brown hair. The man was wearing jeans and a T-shirt, and was standing next to another pickup in the parking lot, looking suspicious. Another white male was working under the victim's truck.

When the two men were spotted, they reportedly jumped into what another witness called "a red vehicle that looked like a Dodge Neon" and sped away.

The victim started her truck, noticed a loud noise that sounded like it was coming from her exhaust system and looked under her truck to find loose exhaust parts. She then called 911 and notified campus security.

The incident is "the only one that we've heard of, of its kind, that's been reported to us," said Officer Pete Kandratieff.

The recent increase in metal prices, along with perceived economic hardship, has prompted a rise in catalytic converter theft.

A catalytic converter is a key component of a vehicle's exhaust system. On modern vehicles, catalytic converters are responsible for removing environment-polluting carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons from a car's exhaust.

The chemical action inside the catalytic

converter changes objectionable chemicals to carbon dioxide and water vapor.

One major problem with catalytic converters is that they are packed with precious metal platinum. Platinum is a rare metal that is well-known for its strength and durability, but it is also valuable.

Stores selling tools such as saws and torches have seen a dramatic boost in sales. Such tools can be used to cut through front and rear exhaust pipes connected to the catalytic converter to other components of the exhaust system.

While there are no absolute solutions to the problem, some companies are offering help.

Several Meineke car care centers in the area are offering a free service to help prevent the thefts.

Justin Sparks, the manager of store number 272, at 145 SE 82nd Ave., described the motivation for the free procedure as "to help the community."

"I'm a family guy who pays bills, I know what it's like to have something stolen from me," Sparks said.

The free procedure entails putting a weld on the bolts and a bead on the metal to harden the metal, making it more difficult to cut through," he explained.

Anyone interested in the procedure should contact a professional for more information.

Clackamas students' overall response to the theft has been shock. However, many feel safe leaving their cars in the parking lots.

"I have not heard about that, but it's kinda surprised," said Kyle Mills, a student and employee of the college, "but I might change my driving or parking habits."

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