



Greg Stoltz
The Clackamas Print

wanted to know what people on campus were talking about.

Since news gathering, as you understand it, is basically inquiring about things that are none of your business, I felt it made the perfect excuse for the otherwise generally unacceptable behavior I had in mind.

So, on a recent noon hour, I walked around campus and talked to people - who were engaged in perfectly respectable and private conversations - what they were talking about when the "journalist" showed up.

Momentarily flustered and seeing no other way out, everyone answered me warmly and at length. Whether this was an affirmation of basic human kindness, or a calculated effort to appease the crazy man, it did yield the following information.

Eating lunch in the Cougar Café, Linda Starr and Cliff Jones were easily trapped in their booth by my arrival. Starr, the cooperative Work Experience assistant, and Jones, a student in the WorkSource Clackamas program, were discussing whether to buy their drinks in the cafeteria, or in the student government office next door where they are cheaper.

Starr confessed she always gets her water and other goodies from Associate Student Government, both to save money and because the proceeds go to a good cause. "The thing a lot of people don't know," Starr said, "is that the money that they col-

lect from the things they sell goes towards grants, like the textbook grant and the child-care grant."

Hanging out in the quad were Montana Brinkerhoff, Ryan Hatch and Zach Jenkins, students in the Gateway to College program, with Adrienne Scheehan, a student from Central Catholic High School.

Brinkerhoff said, "We were discussing whether or not people are aware what marijuana is. Like if people know what it is. Like if they were to see a sign that had a marijuana leaf on it, if they were to know what that sign was, or if they would think it was just another plant. That's what we were talking about."

"We were discussing whether or not people are aware what marijuana is."

Montana Brinkerhoff
Student

Harmless intellectual speculation? Perhaps - but remember boys and girls, according to the billboard across the highway from campus, talking about marijuana is a gateway to talking about meth.

Homework was the topic as Roy Urns and Victor Garrison shared stories in the smoking shelter between the Community Center and McLoughlin Hall. Urns, who plans to be a drug and alcohol counselor, is taking five classes in his first term at Clackamas. He said school and homework are about all he does now. Garrison, who is pursuing his Associate of General Studies degree, nodded in agreement.

Sounding overwhelmed but upbeat, Urns said, "I'm falling behind in two classes, so I gotta try to make up for it. Oh my goodness gracious. I haven't been to school in 30 years."

Over in the library, Tommy Egger, major undecided, was helping business major Adrienne Duwe with math. Duwe said it was going well, and that she was getting pretty much all of the fraction and least-common-multiple problems done. That, in spite of my showing not the least common courtesy by disrupting her studies.

Chatting at a table outside the gym, softball players Samie Genskay, Renae Stockwell, and Mallory Callahan told me they were discussing the Associated Student Government Easter egg hunt, candy, and the next new episode of Grey's Anatomy, which airs Thursday, April 23. (Oh God, please don't let Izzie choke to death on that French fry!)

Seeing as they had a double-header against Mt. Hood that afternoon, Callahan was quick to add, "Oh and we have a game today."

Lurking and lurching in the lounge at the back of Barlow Hall, Automotive Service Technology bad boys Taylor Stipe, Tyler Bates and Charles Wuerpel were talking about Wuerpel's chances of success on his latest class project.

A student in General Auto Repair, Wuerpel was trying to turn the brake drums from a fire truck he was working on. The question was whether the machine was big enough to do the job.

Did the group believe Wuerpel would triumph over the brakes? "We don't think so," said Stipe. "They're pretty massive."

You know what else is pretty massive? My relief that no one yelled at me or made threats against my person as I approached and encroached.

My sincere thanks to everyone for being so nice. It was great to meet you and feel all that Cougar love.

That's what I'm talking about.

Lindsey Hurlburt
NLO officer and Clackamas student

Opinion

Clackamas Interrupted: A columnist butts in and takes notes



Jaycob Izso
The Clackamas Print

So, I received a few complaints about my last column. These complaints were so jarring I thought about quitting the column biz all together. Much to those selected few readers' chagrin however, I am still here. As it turns out, fighting fire with fire actually doesn't make the fire smaller. Weird huh? Needless to say, I've subsequently decided to tackle these complaints head on because the truth will set you free or cause you to lock yourself in a closet. Both are good in my book.

Complaint 1: "The column is just a way to say 'look at me'"

So is your comment moron. Otherwise why say it? In fact, why open your mouth at all, unless you want someone to pay attention to you? And, look who answered the call, none other than The Jerk, your friendly neighborhood columnist. See, the big flaw I see is that if we talk to other people with this crazy expectation that they pay attention to us, then you're really just vilifying every aspect of communication. Keep this in mind, the next time you tell Grandma you love her, what you really mean to say is "Hey Grandma, look at me!"

Complaint 2: "The column is like something right out of high school."

Now wait just a minute here. Last time I checked, we're in college. Doesn't the American education system typically promote being OUT of high school before you go to college? Of course I'm being facetious; I realize what you meant to say was that my column sounds like something you would read IN high school. It's okay. Word choice is tough, certainly, so when the only other choice you have to make in life is what TV din-

Opinion

The Jerk: Shifting through hate mail

ner will go best with your Jerry Springer season four DVD. Even if that is what you meant, you're still an idiot. You know how I know that? Because I couldn't call you that in a high school newspaper without the PTA complaining that I was a bad influence, unless, of course you're trying to form a PTA here on campus. Are you a parent? If so, I sure hope you're out of high school.

Complaint 3: "Why should I care what you write?"

I loved this one because my response is just as simple, "Why should I care what you read?"

Complaint 4: "All you're doing is saying what everyone else thinks."

I had a hard time with this one because I fail to see the insult. Hypothetically, if everyone thinks like me, and I think everyone is an idiot, then the world thinks they're idiots. Bravo. Don't buy that one? Try this on for size: I go by The Jerk, which means that if you're thinking what I'm thinking, then you're just as big of an asshole as I am. The real difference is that I'm openly admitting it, which raises a question - if you think this stuff, why haven't you said it? If you were smart, you would say it's because you're tactful, but you're not smart, so the next best answer is that you're scared. I'm reminded of a line from Shakespeare's "As You Like It": "All the world is a stage and all the men and women merely players." So basically, you're a crappy person trying to trick others into thinking you're nice. Then I'll make the argument that you're actually worse than me, and that's pretty damn bad.

All in all, thank you for the comments. You people demonstrated to me that when life gives you lemons, you squeeze them in your goddamn eyes, which means I might have to start writing this in Braille.

Letter to the Editor: Student leaders snub club event for leaders

The Clackamas Print,

We, the members of the Clackamas Community College Leadership Oregon Club (L.O.C.), are extremely disappointed by the absence of members of the Associate Student Government (ASG) during last Wednesday's "Women in Public Leadership Forum." This event has been planned for several months, and the serious nature of the affair, as well as the quality of the speakers, more than warranted attendance of some members of the ASG. We, the officers of the L.O.C. leadership, went out of our way to personally invite members of the ASG. Therefore, ASG's absence from this important stu-

dent-driven event demonstrates a less than serious interest in events created by, and for, students here on campus. Also, ASG's conspicuous absence displays fundamental misunderstanding of the basic protocols and courtesies one would expect of those who present themselves as "student leaders."

ASG claims to be representatives of the student body, but current trends indicate that they are only representative of a few very select members of their inner circle. From less than democratic elections, to tuition waivers, to flying to Washington D.C. in the midst of a budget crisis, ASG paints a picture that indicates these leaders need some reminder

that they serve the student body, and not the other way around.

This insult is not only petty in its nature, ASG's absence constituted a lack of basic leadership skills, such as prioritizing their schedule so they would have some presence at this event. This ASG snub has a particular bite since we have more than willingly assisted them when asked. Thus it is clear Clackamas' student leadership has become so self-interested that they apparently determine it unimportant to attend a leadership event, merely because they did not host it.

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Send letters by e-mail to Chiefed@clackamas.edu or deliver them to Roger Rook 135.

Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

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