

# Instructors weigh in on plagiarism

It's easy to plagiarize an essay but it is just as easy to get caught

By Erik Andersen  
Associate News Editor

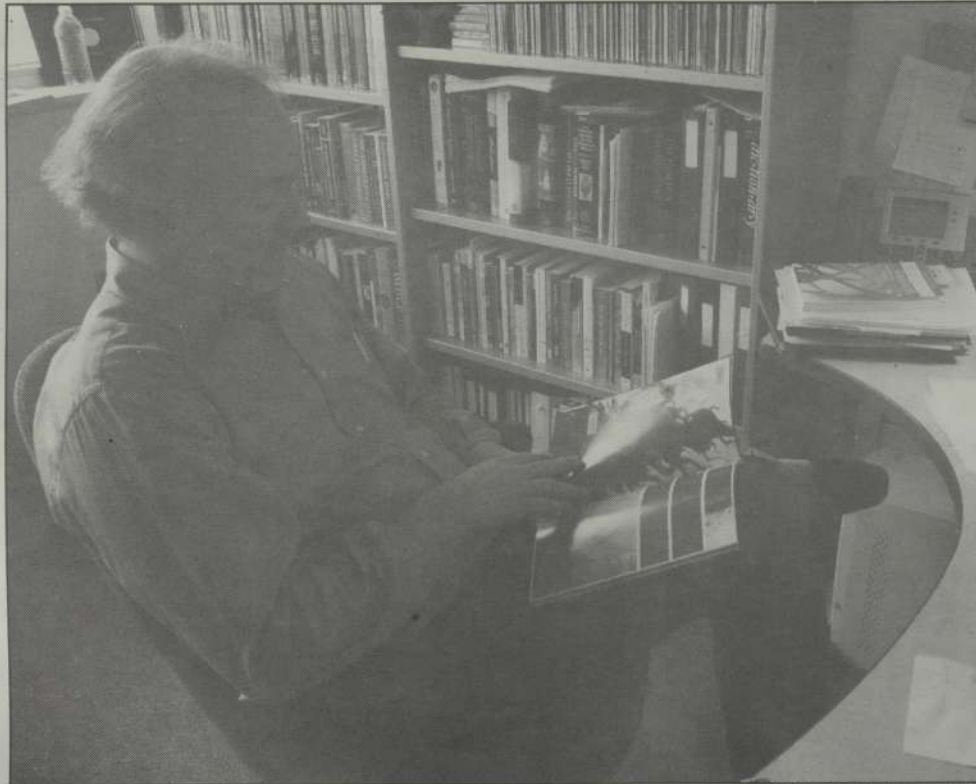
"Plagiarism: the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work," according to Dictionary.com

Although there are a lot of Web sites on the Internet that say they will write any term paper, essay, book report and anything else one may need to write about all for a price, the reward may not be worth the risk.

Aside from a possible failing grade, suspension or expulsion if caught, it also "shows a total lack of integrity," said Ryan Davis, a writing teacher at Clackamas Community College.

There are many forms of plagiarism. When you purchase a "paper" from someone else, you put your grade at risk. Whether it's from the Net or someone you know, there is always the possibility of that person botching up the paper worse than it would have been had you just wrote it yourself.

"One of the things I would



James Bryant-Trerise, an instructor at Clackamas, reads many students' papers and can usually tell when something sounds recycled.

Erik Andersen Clackamas Print

worry about is, how do you know if what you're purchasing is any good?" said Davis.

Although, yes it may be slightly harder for a teacher

to tell if the work was plagiarized if you pay someone else to write it for you, it's important to remember that usually the people you are turning

these papers into are writing or English teachers.

"I'm an English teacher; I have read thousands and thousands of student papers. When

I read something that sounds like I can tell," said James Bryant-Trerise, an English professor at Clackamas.

Aside from papers that are paid for, the other and common form of plagiarism would be to simply "copy and paste" work you have found on the Internet or write what you have read in a book, magazine or anything that someone has written before you.

This form of plagiarism could be considered below the level of education. Teachers, especially writing and English teachers, are no dummies. They know, they do a lot of reading and they have done a lot of writing where they're at and they can spot the difference in writing quickly. There are also programs that teachers use to identify plagiarism in writing, making the "copy and paste" method almost impossible.

"I don't think it's fair," said Corrine Stone, a student at CCC, when asked how she feels about plagiarism.

At a college level, students are expected to do their own work. Plagiarizing is a quick way to end a student's school career.

As said by Richard Hall, a student at CCC, "You're stealing from yourself." The potential a student can produce at college level can produce

## Sustainability club for students coming to Clackamas

By Abigail Neet  
News Editor

Marlo Smith is heading up a new sustainability club on campus.

The Associated Student Government plans to ratify the club on Thursday, Jan. 28.

The club does not yet have officers but plans on voting officers in within the first couple meetings.

The Student Sustainability Initiative is a new club on campus that will focus on sustainability initiatives and educating students about a sustainable lifestyle.

Smith does not want students to feel like they cannot join the club because they do not have time for club meetings or events that are a part of being in a club. Smith says the club is just as much about education and information and will be exchanging information via Facebook and Google Wave.

Smith decided to take action and make a sustainability group for students after realizing that Clackamas had resources for teachers and faculty (Sustainability Committee) and no way for students to be involved (beyond sustainability classes).

The club already has 15 people interested in becoming members and has been spreading the word person to person.

Club member Jessie Dissel said, "I'm thrilled to be involved. To have a voice and an impact on such an impor-

tant issue. It's wonderful to see that it is truly within reach. That the ripple in the pond can have an effect. That's empowering, and it gives me hope for the future of our world."

The club is already interested in getting involved on campus and hopes to help Phi Theta Kappa with their Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism beach cleanup. The SOLV beach cleanup involves members of the honor society going to different areas of the beach and physically cleaning up the beach.

The club already has some fund raising ideas and has talked about possibly hosting a free movie night in Niemeyer and charging for concessions as well as maybe doing a Coldstone Creamery fundraiser where the club would run the store for four hours and get a percentage of the profit. The club is also looking into being sponsored, possibly by a local sustainability friendly business.

Smith already has ideas for changes she would like to see at Clackamas. She would like to see a better recycling system in the cafeteria, maybe reusable utensils and plates as well as better food options.

"For people who are trying to eat healthy, it's tough when you don't know which soup is healthier since none of them have nutrition facts," Smith said.

"There is more to sustainability than the environment. It's also about sustaining your body," she added.

Smith also thinks that, since the school is in the works of banning smoking, they should also ban bottled water.

"Bottled water is by far worse for the environment as

whole," Smith stated.

She is also hoping the club will get others involved in projects such as a community compost or things such as cork renewing center and then donating them to businesses that can reuse them.

### Sustainability tips:

- Do not drink bottled water. Bring a reusable bottle.
- Unplug your appliances, and use the battery until it dies as it contributes to a longer battery life for the appliance as well using less energy.
- Keep your refrigerator full. Refrigerators use energy more efficiently when full.
- Car pool or ride public transportation as much as possible.
- Recycle! Take the extra step and put your trash in the specified recycle bins.
- Do not be swayed by advertising. Question if you need it and if it will last.
- Shop at a food co-op that supports local farmers.

[thelackamasprint.com](http://thelackamasprint.com)

**Correction:** In last week's blood drive story, Brenden Bradach's name was misspelled. We apologize for the mistake.

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