

CCC pays thousands for virus protection

By Nora Goodman
The Clackamas Print

I can access porn on the Clackamas Community College campus.

Despite the fact that CCC shells out hundreds of dollars every month to keep our computers 'secure' with a web filter contracted out to Barracuda Networks, you can still weedle your way through their filter and get a little XXX action.

According to Kim Carey, head of ITS, viruses are the main reason that the college installed the web filter.

"Viruses from the web have become just as big an issue as viruses from email. We become vulnerable to spyware and malware which can make our users computers nonfunctional; log our key strokes to obtain passwords and other sensitive information that compromise our security not just on the local PC, but also on our network," said Carey.

The college has set up a three-year contract with Barracuda Networks, paying \$834 a month plus hardware cost. By the end of the third year CCC, will have spent at least \$30,000 on the web filter, which seems to have some pretty wide gaps.

The college, however, has a very positive opinion of the filter. Although the cost might seem like a lot, Carey believes that the cost is balanced by reducing the frequency ITS will need to repair and restore networks and computers.

"There is also the impact to the user who is unable to use their computer once it has been infected, resulting in lost productivity and interruption to work," said Carey.

If the main purpose of the filter is to prevent viruses from sinking their teeth into the computers on campus, rather than stopping onlookers from enjoying a little afternoon,

and very public, delight, maybe it's doing its job.

"It's preventing viruses to enter and since students search YouTube and other free streaming media sites all the time. Those sites are full of malware and viruses, so spending \$834 a month to save hundreds of computers from failure seems viable and a smart thing to do," said Paul Rios, a computer science student and Excel tutor.

CCC doesn't recommend using the computers on campus for social media, which could lead to viruses.

"CCC values the use and sees the effect of social media in the world and as a part of our learning community," said Rick Sparks, director of technical services.

Most of the time we don't realize that our computer has been compromised until our bankcard is reporting irregular activity, our email account is spewing spam or our web browser is hijacked. Setting things straight after such an intrusion can take days, months or years to recover. The college's hope is that this layer of protection is transparent in such a way that our users would say, "Nope, that didn't happen to me, just lucky, I guess."

CCC filters for known malicious sites whose purpose is phishing and fraud, illegal distribution of copy written materials, spyware, malware and pornography at levels that cross legal, statutory or regulatory boundaries.

"If for any reason our service provider returns a 'false positive' on a website requested on our campus, please ask your instructor to call the IT Helpdesk at [extension] 3500 and we can add the website to the priority list and override the protection layer," said Sparks.

For about \$10,000 per year, computer uses on campus may be assured that personal information is safe, but porn can still occupy the computers here.

You are a racist; believe it or not!



By James Duncan
Design Editor

Everyone is a little bit racist. That includes you. No matter how hard you have tried to be the epitome of political correctness, you are a racist and that is exactly why.

As February ends we find ourselves drifting farther away from what seems to be the greatest affront to the equalization in our society: Black History Month.

While history is important, it seems to me that BHM does a great deal more to discourage the acceptance of others than it does to inform people about the tribulations that African Americans went through from the founding of America to today.

Slavery is still, relatively, fresh in our culture. 150 years ago slaves were 'freed,' but well into the '50s, '60s and '70s the black community suffered through segregation and a society that was unwilling to give them a chance due to the stereotypes and generational hatred that had permeated American culture, but that isn't the topic at hand.

The problem that people here are facing is over-compensation. As a whole people feel so bad about the way 'minorities' have been treated over the years that now they need to be treated special. We need to have BHM or Latino History Month or any other variation of 'Insert Racial Identity' History Month. It feels like we are creating a gap between people. By labeling it black history or Arab history or anything other than history! People are just begging to keep everyone separate, but equal. There aren't black people and tan people and white people there are just people. Everyone is the same and we all share a common history.

History is the record of

past events and times, especially in connection with the human race. (Webster's Dictionary)

That's right. The *human race*: all history pertains to everyone equally. By saying that there is such a thing as black history, people are making it seem special and separate from the whole of human history.

Maybe next year we can all recognize 'History Month,' acknowledging all the people who have championed the cause of acceptance in our country and overcome adversity in the face of overwhelming odds.

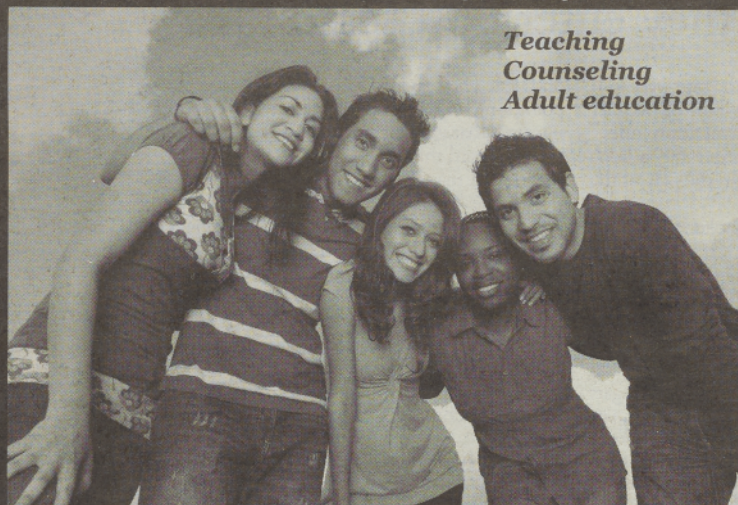
There has been a hard fight in America for the rights of people other than white-men and that needs to be part of our collective history because the most important thing about rights is that everyone has them. Because the simple truth is no one is special. No one group is special. We are the human race, nothing more and certainly not less. To treat human history with more reverence than a certain group just because it is the history of a specific race is racism. Be it BHM or the Ku Klux Klan it's all the same. The harder people try the more racist they are.

One of many things that has made race relations in this country difficult was the introduction of affirmative action. At one point in history it helped to allow the persecuted minorities of our country to be treated with some degree of equality, but it is a system gone mad. It makes the hiring process more difficult for businesses by forcing them to have a quota of 'minorities.' By doing this employers over look better or equally qualified people in favor of somebody because of their race.

The thing that bothers me is that it doesn't seem like people understand that over compensating by treating 'minorities' special is still racism and persecution. So long as there are people who are being treated special because of the color of their skin, ethnic identity or anything else there will be racism and persecution. A lack of persecution is not preferential treatment; it is the continuation of discrimination through over-compensation.

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