

Losing control — the power of being offended



By James Duncan
Design Editor

This article may not be suited for all audiences

If you have no sense of self worth and can easily be insulted or offended please enjoy the less colorful parts of the newspaper.

Once not that long ago one of the greatest saterical and observational minds of our generation, George Carlin said "Sh*t, p*ss, f*ck, c*nt, cocks*cker, motherf*cker and t*ts." Carlin was always one of the loudest voices about not letting

people be censored. So in the spirit of Carlin; Ta da! You are letting me use magic words to make you upset or at least get your attention.

Last week my column became slightly controversial when we decided to use an offensive word that, in all fairness, was not needed to bring the point across. That said, I still support the use of that language despite the things people said. "The profanity in this column was absolutely unnecessary and was only included for the sake of having profanity in print," stated user John on *The Clackamas Print* forums. That might very well be true, but in this day and age, the fact that an exclamation can still cause people to get up in arms is actually really sad.

People let themselves be offended. It isn't like a gag reflex that can't be avoided. The act of being offended is a choice. When you choose to be offended and let something ruin your day, or make your heckles rise, you are giving it power over you. If you want to willingly give over the

power to control you be my guest, feel offended and distressed, but just so you know you are letting someone you have never met control you. Think how sad that sounds.

Hint: You can stop reading if you don't like it.

Ultimately it comes down to censorship, do you want to be the censor? Do you have the right? Are you so proud to feel like you are the final authority on what should and shouldn't be seen by others? It is one thing to not want to see something for you. There are plenty of things that people do not want to see. Although to say that because you don't approve, it shouldn't be seen is very childish. Where is the line in the sand going to be drawn next? Will new words be invented or old ones just added to the list?

I was very confused when I found out that calling someone a shower-sack was now offensive. We are the shapers of our world and need to do our best to make it the one we want to live in. Who are we as a people?

Do we want to be the generation that decided to bring back a more extreme form of censorship? Maybe one day in a flat gray world with flat gray people someone will look into a blank gray sky and say "Thank the gray that we will never be offended." Without diversity of ideas and an endless barrage of color that challenge the spirit of human kind, we will never change or grow. Just lay back into our little gray box in the cold gray ground.

It has often been the place of college newspapers to print stories that push the boundaries of what is okay and what isn't. In fact you could call it a long and rich tradition. College newspapers are encouraged to talk about drugs, sex and touchy political points. Where better, right? We publish to a diverse group of adults, who we should be able to treat like adults. campuses are often the breeding ground of new ideas. In America most publications are written to be enjoyed by someone who has a sixth grade education.

On a college campus the newspaper shouldn't have to tiptoe around the leftover's of sixth grade attitudes about language and its use.

Remember this, every time you stand up and say "This is offensive, I don't want to see things like this anymore," You might as well be banning a book or saying, "We only get sick because that's what god wants. Antibiotics are work of the devil."

There is a place for every voice to be heard. If you don't like what people say or are saying or want to change what is being said, you have to be part of the system to change it! Do you want to say something? Join *The Clackamas Print*. Through the power of being in the media you will suddenly get to have your own ideas heard. You will not be censored ... much.

"He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery." - Edmund Wilson

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I can certainly understand Mr. Duncan's frustration (having learned to drive in L.A.) but found the title and the use of profanity completely unnecessary in order to get his point across. If indeed his rules were rules his point was missed by the angry tone of his article. Better time would have been spent trying to coordinate with the county on getting the road closed during spring break ~~not to mention the fact that the closure is after finals week and the target audience of his article (CCC) won't be on the road during this time.~~ Perhaps Mr. Duncan didn't follow his own advice and "Read your drivers manuals"! The proper distance between any moving vehicles is 2-4 seconds and 4 seconds for vehicles going over 30 mph, that pretty much covers almost every road in Oregon

with the exception of school zones and other areas where indicated. In fact it seems his whole article is based on assumptions and this is purely how Mr. Duncan's perceptions cloud his own judgment behind the wheel and the keyboard. Certainly this could lead to a first amendment debate but really — is this how we want CCC represented in the community?

It is my hope that in the future a more thoughtful, less biased and professional manner as your mission statement says will be adhered to.

Best regards,
Michael Modica

This letter may have been edited for brevity and clarity.



Branden McFarland, Kenny Hartil and Stephen Cassista appear in the one act "4 a.m. Open all night" in the student performance showcase on March 7.

KONYMANIA takes over social networking



By Patty Salazar
News Editor

Social media blew up last Thursday with KONY 2012; even the Clackamas Community College Facebook page posted the video and asked for our thoughts on the situation in Africa. How would any of us at the college, 10,000 miles away from Uganda,

know what's really going on after a 30 minute video? The short documentary racked up 71,242,675 views on YouTube in less than a week. Let's face it; do you even know where Uganda is?

The Invisible Children Inc. made the KONY 2012 video, which is trying to bring Joseph Kony's war crimes to light. Now, I am not saying what Kony, leader of Lord's Resistance in Army, has done in Uganda the last 26 years isn't horrible. The video states that he has taken 30,000 children from their parents and turned the boys into soldiers and the girls into sex slaves. That alone is despicable, but the oversimplified video is just as bad. It leads whoever is watching to believe that simply making Kony "famous" is going

to save Africa and all will be fine and dandy.

In October, America sent 100 "advisers" to Uganda to assist the military there, find Kony and arrest him. When was the last time America sent "advisers" anywhere? It seems as if America always needs an enemy. Last year it was Gaddafi, now that he is dead Kony comes into play; when the Invisible Children crew read the letter from Barack Obama saying that "advisers" were being sent out the crew cheered as if the problem is solved. As if American military is Kony's antidote. Why is it that after 26 years of stealing children and killing an unknown amount of people now everybody is going to start buying the bracelets so that all of their peers

can know that they want Kony arrested?

As of now it is said that Kony is no longer in Uganda. His army was whittled down to 100 people. The video itself states that the international criminal court has a list of "the worlds most dangerous criminals" and Kony is number 1. If he is caught this year, then there is still 26 other criminals who are going to be hunted down by the next social activist group. The group is going to "cover the night" with their "redefined propaganda" on April 20. Putting up posters and passing out flyers is not going to make Kony surrender and that is not what is going to happen.

It's as if my generation is so lazy that by buying a bracelet, we

consider ourselves social activists. It takes more than a bracelet, it takes more then one person to get arrested to fix what has happened over 26 years. Even after Kony is caught there is going to be another evil somewhere else in the world.



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