

How not to be 'That Guy'

by Liz Gomes

Welcome to Clackamas Community College, a beautiful campus full of wonder and opportunity. Some of you are returning students and quite seasoned in the ways of adult education. For those of you just joining us, I have some knowledge and perhaps a dose of self-awareness to bestow before we get the school year underway.

Nobody cares who you were before you came here. Prom queens don't get VIP status in the cafeteria. Employees of the month don't have a secret lounge. If you pooped your pants in high school, chances are nobody here will know. Consider this your fresh start. You can step out of your pigeon hole and take advantage of this newfound anonymity to find a new or improved identity. College is, after all, a temple of self-betterment.

That being said, there are some guidelines you should follow to make your time here a success. Try to make sure you don't become 'that guy' without realizing it. Who is 'that guy' you ask? Whether male or female, 'that guy' is the person who slips into a pattern of behavior that evokes irritation, deep sighs and buried rage in fellow schoolmates and teachers.

Occurring commonly but not exclusively in those fresh out of high school, the 'Raised-in-a-barn Guy' is a person who shows a general lack of respect for their peers and surroundings. They leave their chairs pulled out, they leave garbage everywhere, they stick gum under desks, and they spit on sidewalks. This school is for grownups, so act like one and you should be fine.

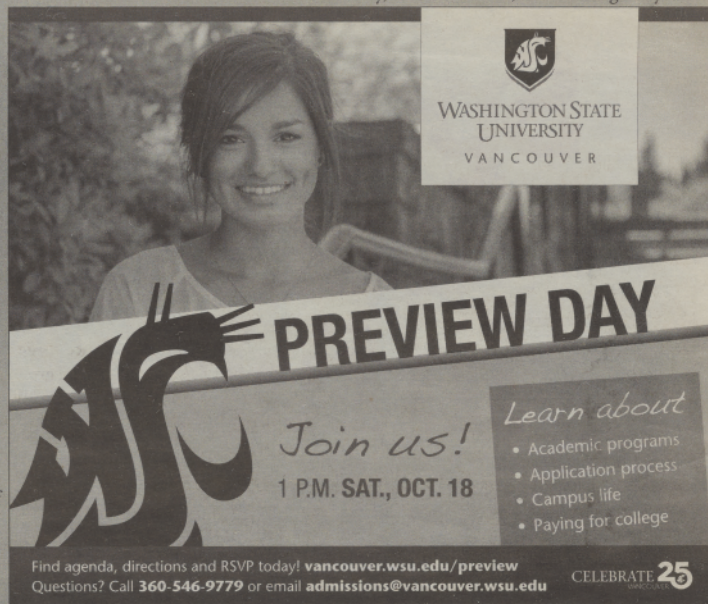
You may know the 'Fresh-out-of-the-gym Guy' by the trail of stink that follows behind. CCC has wonderful athletic programs, and while athleticism is encouraged and respected by most, so is showering. When 'that guy' comes straight from practice to class wearing saturated sweat bands and pajamas for some reason, it's a bit distracting. Sports bras may be an acceptable uniform for sports, but please put on a shirt, and perhaps some deodorant, when entering a classroom where the windows don't open.

Hand raised for 40 percent of the class, the 'Expert Guy' knows more than you, the teacher, and the author of the text book you're reading. The incessant contradictions disrupt the class, and irritate and distract the teacher. This almost combatively unyielding quest for 'truth' should be handled in a private discussion outside of class.

The most important

'guy' to avoid becoming is the 'I-don't-want-to-be-here Guy'. These guys show up unapologetically late to class, almost always with a cup of coffee. They constantly check their phones, play on their laptops, and hold conversations over the teacher's lecture in a laughably full-volume whisper. They ask for breaks, leave class early and sometimes even sleep. What they're forgetting is that college success is optional, but it isn't free for them or the people they distract.

You can avoid these labels by just being respectful. Go boldly, fellow students, and have a great year.



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