

Editorial: A reminder on the rape epidemic

Sometimes it takes a horrible event to happen to make us realize what issues may exist that we push out of the forefront of our minds.

Take, for example, the Donald Sterling incident: He is the owner of the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team who was recorded making repeated racist comments. Before this information was released, chances are that many of us didn't think racism still existed to that extent. Yet, it does.

The same goes for the alleged gang rape of a University of Oregon student by three basketball players: It raises fears about sexual attacks on or near a college campus, something many of us don't think much about very often.

Mt. Hood is a relatively safe campus. There have been no reported cases

of sexual assault since at least 2009, according to the 2013 Clery Report (required by federal law) issued by the Public Safety department.

No matter how safe our campus is at Mt. Hood, sexual assault continues to occur all around us.

This is a drastic contrast when you turn your attention to Oregon's campus in Eugene, which had 70 reported sexual assaults in 2010-12. Yes, we acknowledge there is a big difference between a community college (especially one without

housing) and a large, four-year university. Even so, Oregon State University in Corvallis had 50 fewer assault reports during the same time period. Portland State, in downtown Portland, had 30 fewer.

On-site housing is not the source of the problem, we note. We examined the Clery report data from Southwestern Community College, one of the few Oregon community colleges with on-site housing, and found it had just one sexual assault on their Coos Bay campus during the same time period.

Our main point is this: Sexual assault isn't something we should sweep under the rug. It should not be downplayed or hidden to save the reputation of the college (or its star athletes). Too often, officials' treatment of reported

incidents is botched, however. The U.S. Department of Education recently released a list of 55 schools that are currently under investigation for handling sexual assaults incorrectly.

Oregon schools are off that hook — none of them made the list, released on May 1. This is a relief for those of us at The Advocate heading to an Oregon university this fall.

Still, we feel an urgency to see that our educational institutions keep student safety foremost in their minds. It is more important to handle any suspected case of sexual assault immediately, and with full transparency. If a college administration learns of a reported assault, it should be common sense to report it as is expected under Title IX requirements (which focus on gender equity).

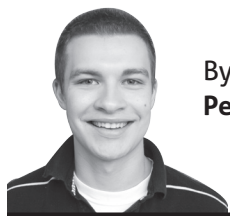
No matter how safe our campus is at Mt. Hood, sexual assault continues to occur all around us.

We must stay aware, both as a group and as individuals. Keep an eye out for yourself and others. We're not in elementary school anymore, but the buddy system still applies. Men and women alike, be cautious of your surroundings.

If you're transferring to a larger university, do your homework. Each college submits a Clery Report each year that details the number and nature of all crimes that took place.

If the university you're thinking about transferring to has a high rate of violent crimes or made the new DOE list, pause and ask: Is that the kind of environment you want to be in, or would send your children to?

Just let go – chase your dream



By Danny Perez-Crouse

A few years ago, I watched a speech that motivated me like no other. I've seen it multiple times since then, and it was one of the driving forces that helped me realize just how to obtain my dream.

If you haven't already, I implore you go watch Steve Jobs' commencement speech for Stanford University, given in 2005. It's a phenomenally moving address and will shake the apathy right out of you.

There is a particular quote in the speech that resonates with me to this day: "Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do."

Those words have haunted me in my pursuit for a career. You see, I'd given up on all of my loftier ambitions and couldn't find anything more grounded that appealed to me. Because everything I looked into didn't fit for me, I was afraid that I'd end up with a dead-end job, living in a trailer eating discount lunchables for the rest of my life. I kept picturing Steve shaking his head in disappointment at me.

After a while, I came to a realization that I wanted. I love movies and am enamored with visual storytelling. The idea of being transported to a new world in a one-to-three hour sitting is magical. My moment of clarity came when I realized how much joy and enlightenment films bring me, and how I want to bring that kind of joy to someone else. Ergo, I want to be a filmmaker — specifically, a director/writer.

However, I still couldn't truly see myself going for it. I found that letting

go is the hardest part. There is a certain stigma to how we divide careers, passion and happiness. It's not easy to accept the fact that you actually can do something you love for a living.

It's also hard to face the social opposition. When I decided to go forward with my plans, I could picture all the restrained grimaces of people reacting to such an ambitious goal. If your dream isn't among the vanilla blend of "acceptable" careers like business or medicine, then it's deemed unimpressive or illogical. But, who cares?

If you have people who support you and think you're making the right decision, that's great. And if they don't, they can have a word with the bird. This is how I look at it: You shouldn't measure something as obtainable by other peo-

ple's standards. Just picture your road to obtaining the dream. How are you going to do it? Can you do it? And most importantly, would it make you happy?

Ever since I accepted my calling, my thoughts are dominated by all things film. I've been writing screenplays, reading screenplays, picturing shots, evaluating movies, and learning about directing — all with a childish glee. Never before has my mind been so focused on one thing, and so excited for my future.

I'm telling you, if there is some kind of inkling towards a greater passion that you've been burying, just go for it. Why spend the rest of your life regretting what you never dared to fulfill? And, it's never too late to turn back.

I just have one caveat: You should dive into your dream headfirst, but you

should also have something concrete to fall back on. I could very well crash and burn in the filmmaking industry. Nothing would bring me greater disappointment, but not having a degree (such as the bachelor's degree in communications I'll have) and a backup plan would only make the pain more severe. Shoot for the stars, but make sure you have a safe place to land.

Steve Jobs' words hold so much merit because he was living proof of what can happen if you follow your heart. He put all his energy into what he believed was important. I'll leave you with another one of his many nuggets of wisdom: "If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."



(A sabbatical)
Eye on Nature

Globalization is not new

by Wally Shriner
Guest Columnist

A vast and deep ocean separates the continents of North America and Europe, but after seven months of travel through exotic Oceania, Asia and Africa, the flora and fauna seems utterly familiar. Here are deciduous trees in bloom or already in full spring leaf. At higher elevations, pines appear and higher still, mountain meadows are beginning to peak out through melting snow.

There are differences, of course, and closer investigation reveals that the species are not the same on both sides of the sea. The morning chorus is louder than in Oregon, and the voices of the birds are as foreign to my ear as the multitude of languages spoken by the local human inhabitants. Birds that are familiar — European Starlings and House Sparrows — are natives, not invasives, here, and occur in smaller numbers, natural parts of communities established long ago.

Interestingly, there are North American invasives on this side of the Atlantic. Prickly pear cactus line the roads of Spain, just as they did in Africa, reportedly brought to Europe by Columbus on his return from the New World and spreading on their own or with human help. Other biogeographic patterns reflect journeys taken well before explorations on sailing ships as plants and animals dispersed across Palearctic longitudes over land and ice bridges, or were blown or flown on the wind.

All of this is evidence that globalization is nothing new.



Here are a few blurbs from our ONPA judge critiques.

"Your veteran issue demonstrated outstanding design -- better than many professional publications. The intergration of design, text, along with the strong illustration was the best we saw in any other single issue of a paper we reviewed."

"The Advocate's Veterans Day coverage was the best package of stories we read in any college paper this year. It was merely the highlight off a stellar section that featured strong writing, creative design and an amazing breadth of coverage"

the Advocate

Editor-in-Chief
Katelyn Hilsenbeck

Living Arts Editor
Rebecca Gaulke

News Editor
Katelyn Hilsenbeck

Assistant News Editor
Greg Leonov

Sports Editor
Aaron Marshall

Copy Editor
Rebecca Gaulke

Photo Editor
Carole Riggs

Ad Manager
Cameron Miller

Opinion Editor
Danny Perez-Crouse

Video Team
Melissa Casey
Tyler Cornelison
Jared Lichtenberg

Graphic Designer
Heather Golan

Reporters

Teela Bergen
Madeline Boyce
Hayden Hunter
Brandon Raleigh
Edgar Valencia
Emily Wintringham

Photographer
Mindy Clark

Advisers

Howard Buck, Dan Ernst
Bob Watkins
E-mail: advocatt@mhcc.edu
Phone: 503-491-7250
www.advocate-online.net
#mhccadvocate
Mt. Hood Community College
26000 SE Stark Street
Gresham, Oregon 97030

Submissions

The Advocate encourages readers to share their opinion by letters to the editor and guest columns for publication. All submissions must be typed and include the writer's name and contact information. Contact information will not be printed unless requested. Original copies will not be returned to the author. The Advocate will not print any unsigned submission.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and guest columns should not exceed 600. The decision to publish is at the discretion of the editorial board. The Advocate reserves the right to edit for style, punctuation, grammar and length.

Please bring submissions to The Advocate in Room 1369, or e-mail them to advocatt@mhcc.edu. Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Monday the week of publication to be considered for print.

Opinions expressed in columns, letters to the editor or advertisements are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Advocate or MHCC.