

New printing policy credit causes concerns, but works

JENNIFER SITTON

Staff Reporter

When students returned to school on Monday, Sept. 27, most were shocked to find an e-mail in their inbox explaining a new program put into place in order to restrict printing activity by giving each student a printing

the privilege of unrestricted printer access, but is that really a good enough reason to take away those privileges from the entire student body, most of whom are respectful in how they use the school printers?

Most of us have reasonable, legitimate reasons for printing

instigated in order to try to be the best "green" school we can be. The issue isn't restriction, its sustainability. The printer balance policy is simply an alternative to the No Print Wednesdays.

At the end of each month, students and staff alike will receive an e-mail to tell them what their printing balance is. Everyone started with 200 printer credits and as large as that number sounds, they disappear fast. The e-mail is meant to get people thinking of ways to eliminate the amount of pages they print each month.

Another worry students have is what will happen to them once they run out of credits? Angie Hammond, Information Technology Coordinator, has the ability to reset the printing balance of anyone who has run out of credits, as long as they have legitimate reasons for using the printer as much as they did.

"Friday I asked economics students to create graphs, compare them, and identify trends and correlations. They chastised me for asking them to print the graphs and do their comparisons in the room. 'We can sit next to each other in the computer lab and compare graphs on screen,' they said. 'Don't you know this ups our print count!' They were right, and I learned something. This is having an impact on all of us, staff and students," Todd Jones, social studies teacher, said.

You see, it isn't really possible to judge the new printing policy until you've been given all of the information. As exasperating as this policy seems, once you look at all the facts, it isn't really all that bad. Who knows, if worst comes to worst you can always have your balance reset.

against the deplorable conditions for children in Uganda. They are inspiring others to help. Standing up against an immense injustice takes guts, strong minds and big hearts.

Don't think we don't pass judgement here too, we all know the nicknames for our surrounding cities. Part of breaking our stereotype is to cut everyone else some slack. Take a look around. We're all human. Why should we think we are better than anyone else?

Let's adapt a new, positive way of looking at others. Let's show our best. Let's be thankful for what we have. Let's strive to be radical, to be a change in the world and to make a positive difference.



Francesca Varela and Tess Reid, sophomores, retrieve their homework from the printer in the library. The recently instituted printer credit program keeps track of how many printouts students and staff use.

Photo by Hannah Zaayer

balance. Most of the initial e-mails had little information except the individual student's printer credits balance and the announcement that each page printed to a black and white printer was worth one credit, while each page printed to a color printer counted as five credits.

Most students reacted to the new restriction the same way I did; fear, dismay and frustration. My first thought was, what am I going to do if I run out of credits? Will the computer simply block me from printing anything else for the rest of the year? I was initially outraged that the school was putting these outlandish restrictions on our academic needs. Part of being a student in 2008 is using computers and printing out assignments! I understand there are students who abuse and take for granted

the amount of pages we do. Some teachers put all of their homework and notes online, leaving their students to individually print out some 15 pages of notes every few weeks. When you really think about it, we will still print the same amount of pages whether we print them at home or at school because we don't have any other choice; we either print out our homework or we get a zero.

Even though the basis for the new printer policy may seem frustrating, that is because we didn't have nearly enough information. All we knew was that we had a printer balance and how many credits each printer counted as. As it turns out, the printer balance program is mainly meant to raise awareness in the school. It isn't a way of keeping tabs on students and staff. The policy was

Break stereotypes: prove them wrong

TAMRA SCHELOT

Staff Reporter

From cheerleaders and football players to stoners and gamers, West Linn has them all. When meeting new people, the question, "Where are you from?" usually always pops up and the reply is usually accompanied with a comment like, "Oh, are you rich?"

The assumption that being from West Linn means you are wealthy is obnoxious and for many of us, undeserved. How have we gotten this reputation of being snotty, rich people? Well... in some cases it is true, but there are some amazing students, staff and families in West Linn who do not deserve to be associated with this

stereotype—and some of them are very wealthy. WLHS has students who have traveled the world, saved lives and helped out an incredible amount. These are the people that have made a huge difference in this school and community.

We need to change this misperception my fellow students. Let people who don't live in our area see the good things that we do. Like our Save Darfur campaign last year, the formation of GATA and so many other things we have done. Most recently there was an Invisible Children video shown, thanks to the Schools for Schools club here. These amazing students are really delving deep into a worthy cause and taking a stand

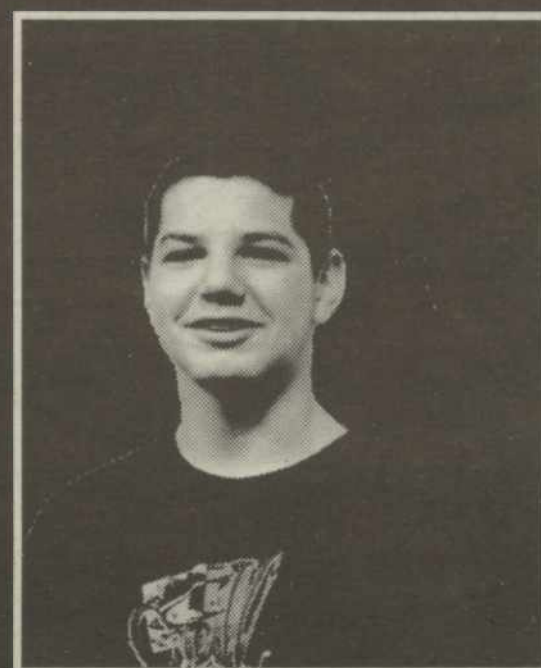


"I think it sucks. It's kind of inevitable because our country is spending so much money on the war that our economy cannot possibly benefit."

—Ailish Duff, freshman

"It's affecting everybody. It will affect future education costs such as college and community college if it's not fixed."

—Kevin Tremaine, sophomore



STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

What are your feelings on the current economic situation?

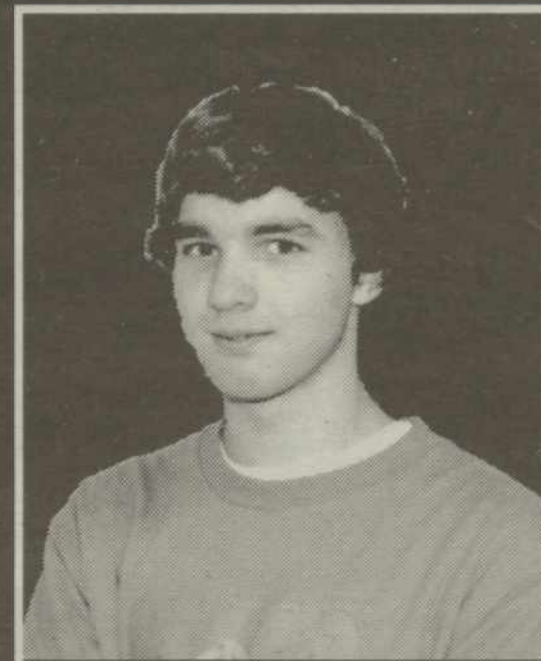
"I'm worried about my future such as paying for college and I hope that we can have people that are not Bush or like Bush controlling our economy and the future of mankind."

—Monet Meyer, junior



"I'm really glad I'm going into the medical field, not the business field."

—Eric Binswanger, senior



Photos by Avery Breyne-Cartwright and Mary Wood