

# Communique

## Handicaps

### A lifelong battle

It's about time something is done to expose the difficulties of a handicapped person. Handicap Awareness Week was a step in that direction.

Probably the biggest problem faced by most handicapped individuals is that people generally have a tendency to underestimate them. It can be a never-ending problem, even after the handicapped person has proven himself. It's like "great, you've made an accomplishment, but that's only one thing you can do." So it becomes a lifelong battle. No matter what's been accomplished, there always needs to be more.

President Franklin Roosevelt had polio, and to keep this from disrupting his presidential duties, he only allowed himself to be photographed from the waist up out of his wheelchair.

FDR was a president who served for 12 years, being elected for the fourth term just before he died in 1945. He was, of course, the only president in the history of the U.S. presidency to accomplish such a feat. It was also during one of the hardest times in our government's history to be a president, during a world war. Roosevelt may not have been so successful in his original bid for the oval office had he let his disability be publicized. And perhaps no other president could have accomplished so much while in office. It's not that handicapped people make better presidents, but generally speaking, they try harder because they're always having to prove themselves.

The abilities of the handicapped were

typically exemplified in the past week at the College. They were shown in things from wheelchair basketball to art displays. It shows that with most handicapped people there is no handicap. It's just a matter of finding their own way of doing things.

It's something I generally just ignore, and do the things I need to, but in order to get some things out in the open about handicapped people I will bring it out for the sake of example.

I have cerebral palsy and (do, did have) epilepsy (four months ago, I was taken off the medication that kept my seizures under control after 16 years, since it's no longer necessary).

The biggest thing I don't like about the disorder is that it's called CEREBRAL palsy. The Cerebral part tends to signify that it's a mental disorder, which it is, to a certain extent. It's a brain disorder, but only as much as telling various body parts what to do.

Epilepsy can also be misunderstood. In looking for a job you never put it on an application if the seizures are under control. If you were to do this your chances of getting a job would fade away. Once many employers see epilepsy on an application, they immediately think, "Can't hire this guy, he'll have seizures all the time."

These are only the two cases I'm familiar with, but most likely this type of misconception goes with all ailments termed "handicap." So before you go jumping to a conclusion about someone who is handicapped, find out what their capabilities are; you might be surprised.



## Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas

## Readers write

### Headline Misconstrued

To the Editor:

In the November 25 edition of **The Print**, your staff committed a grave injustice to the foreign language department, and Mrs. Ladd. Your headline implies that Mrs. Ladd considers the establishing of a

sister school with the Republic of China as a mistake. Your title is mis-leading. In the opening statement, Mrs. Ladd asserts that she believes establishing ties as a positive gesture, yet...your staff insinuates exactly the opposite and misled the total aim of her draft.

Mrs. Ladd believes there exists in the United States a serious gap in understanding

and interpreting basic geography and history. To support her claims, Mrs. Ladd proceeded to introduce a series of disturbing evidence which tends to reveal the shallowness of American education. Instead of exploiting a golden opportunity to expand upon this growing problem, you staff convicts itself of the supposed felony by revealing your inability to comprehend and grasp the impact of her letter. There is a serious problem infecting American education, and unless inoculated this threat of reaching the highest level of incompetence may contaminate the American society.

It is ironic that the second letter dealt with the use of profanity by **The Print**. The use of obscenity was quite vogue during the chaotic 60s but today appears more juvenile. Succinctly, the need to describe a bull's excrement or a human's anal discharging device is the only outlet open than Mrs. Ladd's description of our American malady has found a home.

This is no intent to curb the right to freedom of speech, but for all rights there exists a responsibility. It appears **The Print** extends their rights even

beyond the limits of the **Oregonian** and the **Journal**.

The legacy of the printed word extends from the beginning of our Republic and that standard has always been high. The English language is a rich, colorful, and descriptive vernacular and we, as Americans, have had the advantage of absorbing and incorporating many foreign tongues into our native dialect. **The Print** should set a level of excellence and exhort the students to match or better that standard. If unattainable, I suggest you should divorce yourself from the College paper and return to writing for those hapless individuals that inhabit the ground between the earth and a rock.

E. Matthew Coyne

### Just who is Jim Adams?

To the Editor:

I am an avid and loyal reader of **The Print**. I find the articles very informative and interesting. I especially enjoy the cartoons by J. Dana Haynes.

Which is why I must ask, who is Jim Adams?

He has first billing in the staff box under "cartoonist" and I've never seen any of his work. I suggest you delete his name and give Mr. Haynes the full credit he deserves, or I will cancel my subscription.

### Very truly yours, Mrs. J. Dana Haynes 'Thank you' to teachers

To the Editor:

I am a full-time, first-year student at Clackamas Community College; however, this is my last term here, for I am moving to Ohio and will continue my education there.

Before I leave, I'd like to give special thanks to the English Department. I have a literature class and a writing class here, and they have both had a great impact on me. Before this term, I had relatively very little interest in English, but yet, in less than three months I've come to love and appreciate it. This change wouldn't have been made without the guidance of my teachers. I thank the English Department for such a fine job at introducing me to a wonderful subject.

Mark Domann page 2

## staff

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