

Writer clarifies position

Paul Ulmen
Staff Writer

About a year ago, because of health problems, I found myself in a situation where I could no longer do my regular job. As the doctor told me, "You're not 16 anymore." That meant I had to learn a new skill and that is why I am here.

Personally, I like CCC and enjoy being here. This is a fine campus with fantastic natural surroundings, in the country. Away from big crowded cities. Most of the students and staff seem friendly and easy to get along with. The instructors are doing a good job, though I may not always receive the grade I feel I deserve. It is a privilege to be here, not an inherited right.

Most students seem happy here. Some however appear to have nothing better to do than complain and stir up dissension. Some of their complaints seem to be aimed at campus administrative staff and the student newspaper.

For people who have a great deal of criticism against *The Clackamas Print*, not once have any of these individuals bothered to come into our office and say anything to us in person. We are always looking for ways to improve or gear the paper to subjects that are relative to the students' interests and to make it livelier and more interesting.

The paper is here for the students and not just to give us at *The Print* something to do with our spare time. We welcome your ideas and comments plus any contributing articles you may wish to submit. If you, the student, want to see some changes,

we won't know unless you tell us. This is your paper.

Another one of their jibes was that the student reporters were simply lap dogs for the administration. Never has College President John Keyser or Dean of College Services Gary Dirrim, ever stormed in and demanded we only run certain articles or write things their way.

We are given freedom of the press and the freedom to choose what we write about. But with that freedom comes the responsibility to write our articles accurately and fairly.

Apparently some feel we are to be Sherlock Holmes late at night snooping through staff garbage cans at their homes, hoping to find some incriminating evidence. Or, disguised as janitors, rummaging through wastebaskets in their offices on campus.

If there are improprieties among the staff then prove it, don't just gossip about it. Have you bothered talking to the individual in person or are you not brave enough?

Most of the newspaper staff spend long hours trying to get their articles in on time and the newspaper ready to print. This can mean taking time away from our families, other studies or even work when we could really use the extra money. We are not professionals but some day hope to be. You may not like what we do, or the way we do it but so far no one has volunteered to take our place. Like the Marines, "We are always looking for a few good writers."

We are not here just for the staff nor are we here only for the students. We are here to be fair

See **FREEDOM** page 3

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Holiday ignored by college

Karin Redston
Staff Writer

The decision-making process of when to keep the college open has again gone beneath this student.

We can close the college for Martin Luther King but not to celebrate Washington and Lincoln's birthdays. Never mind that we combined the two presidents for one holiday instead of two. No, we don't even warrant the one day off.

I have nothing against Martin Luther King. He was a very great man who did much for civil rights, but he was not a president.

We should also ignore, I guess, the fact most of the elementary, junior high and high schools were off Monday. That means that those students with families are forced to find babysitters or bring their children with them to classes.

Let's also not forget those student's whose families took a three day holiday and will most likely be penalized for not attending class Monday.

Yes, that decision-making process upstairs definitely stumps this writer. I guess that's why I'm not an administrator.



Right to Free Speech in jeopardy

Ryan Humphris
Assistant Opinion Editor

Knock Knock- Who's there? No More- No More Who? No more free speech.

Thanks to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 it is now a felony crime to send a private e-mail message with an indecent or filthy word, even if you were responding in kind to an e-mail message you received.

Online discussions of safe sex practices, birth control methods, abortion, and of AIDS prevention will also be subject to prosecution.

This is just purely another act to deprive us of our rights as citizens of the United States of America.

This bill will punish with two-year jail terms any Internet user who uses one of the "seven dirty words" in a message to a minor. It will impose felony penalties for using an indecent four-letter word or discussing material deemed to be indecent, on electronic bulletin boards or Internet chat areas accessible to children.

Basically, once this bill becomes law, no longer will Internet users be able to engage in free-wheeling discussions in news groups and other areas of the Internet accessible to minors. They will have to limit all language used and topics discussed to that appropriate for kindergartners.

No literary quotes from racy parts of *Catcher in the Rye* or *Ulysses* will be allowed. Any user who crosses the vague and undefined line of "indecency" will be subject to two years in jail and fines.

"This law restructures the entire telecommunications industry and places the free speech and privacy rights of all internet users in permanent jeopardy," said Ira Glasser, Executive Director of the ACLU. "It will criminalize otherwise protected speech in cyberspace, impose new censor-



ship controls on television and destroy the diversity of media ownership. For a congress that says it wants to get big government out of people's lives this law represents the most extreme hypocrisy."

Over 100,000 Internet users signed a petition against the Act; 20,000 of them, in one day, flooded congress with phone calls, faxes and e-mail. Because of this the Internet community has become a very powerful force.

Our very own Senator Ron Wyden showed Internet users sup-

port by working to support enlightened alternatives to government content restrictions.

Don't think this is the last time congress will consider issues concerning Internet users across the U.S. Take a stand; let the President know what you think.

This is a horrible abuse of legislative power against the American people, and we can do something about it. Please, write the president

at President@whitehouse.gov, and let him know that you are outraged about this bill passing.

The Clackamas Print Staff

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- Secretary: Joanne Gale (Ext. 2309)
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All signed letters to the editor will be considered for publication and must be submitted by 1 p.m. the Friday prior to publication.

Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon, 97045; Barlow 104; (503) 657-6958, ext. 2309.

E-mail: cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us

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