

## Students triumph in Writers' Contest

Amy K. Hanson  
Managing Editor

The winners of this year's Writers' Contest, sponsored by the CCC's Writers' Club, are now in.

First place winners are guaranteed to be in *Synesthesia*, Clackamas' literary magazine, which will be published in late May.

Cash prizes and certificates will be awarded at the Annual CCC Writers' Contest Awards Ceremony to be held the first week of May.

And the winners are...

### POETRY DIVISION:

First: Christy Hurt  
Second: Jennifer Gibson  
Third: Neal Martin  
Honorable Mention:  
Cindy Hines-Kurfman

### FICTION DIVISION:

First: Karen Leblanc  
Second: Nichola Vest  
Third: Esther Esson

### CREATIVE NON-FICTION DIVISION:

First: Nichola Vest  
Second: Rosalee Bihl  
Third:  
Robert Bossaberger  
Honorable Mention:  
Mary Ren Lundblad

## Staff writer upset with editing styles

Joel P. Shempert  
Staff Writer

Upon picking up Issue 14 of *the Print*, close examination of an article I wrote has prompted me to speak out regarding the editing and proofreading policies here at Print Central. I object to undisciplined retooling of my articles which has at times destroyed sentence structure, eradicated language flow, and even occasionally ruined word spelling.

This is something that has been bothering me for some time. I'm not entirely certain who is at fault, for a number of people are involved in the editing process. However, while the finger in me wants someone to blame, I'd rather I didn't know. My object is not to find fault in individuals; I simply want the problem resolved.

These errors are cause for great concern. I don't write like that. My parents know I don't write like that. My friends know I don't write like that. My former writing instructors know I don't write like that. I am building on the foundation of all those who have taught and encouraged me throughout my life, and I owe it to them to push my writing to the highest standard of quality that I can achieve. I shudder when I think of CCC Writing instructors Mike Kepler or Emily Orlando

reading some of these glaring mistakes and thinking that I must have made them.

To me, writing is an exacting craft, and one at which I happen to be quite good. When my work appears in print, I feel I have a responsibility for every word on the page. With that in mind, I would like the words on that page to be my own.

I realize that there are times in the publishing of a newspaper when, for various reasons, editing must occur. While sometimes I wonder at the reasoning behind the editing, I can accept its necessity. I simply ask that, when editing must take place, greater care be taken to preserve correct grammar and meaning. Also, if some of the editing is taking place to correct perceived grammatical errors, I would caution the staff to look before they leap. Most of the errors to which I am objecting transformed correct sentences into incorrect ones.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not trying to be antagonistic. The men and women here at the Publications Lab are my friends. Nevertheless, I must put friendship aside and take them to task on this matter, for it is important to me not only that my writing come across with its full effect, but that we achieve the highest standard of excellence that we can as a newspaper.

**Editor's Note:** The above article was not initially printed because the problem had not been addressed internally. We feel this issue could have been resolved with communication between staff members. Unfortunately, there were misunderstandings about the channels of communication.

This term we are under reorganization. Several positions have changed hands and we will address these types of issues more efficiently.

Following the guidelines of journalism, we strive for good communication through editing for accuracy, including grammar, spelling, punctuation and content.

## Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: All letters are printed as submitted.)

### To the Editor:

As a concerned student I have been quite disturbed in the Journalism department's handling of the Clackamas students' newspaper, *The Print*.

During the past nearly two years at CCC I have been dissatisfied with the quality of *The Clackamas Print*. I have found the writing quality to be poor, not only in the area of grammar, but also in their handling of subject matter, an issue which has most recently been manifested in the controversy between John Garvison and the CCC Faculty.

Recently I have become aware of an incident involving a friend who writes for *The Clackamas Print*. Last term he submitted an opinion article that addressed certain problems he had encountered regarding the handling of submitted material by *Print* editors.

This article was immediately rejected not on the basis of quality or timeliness, but because it was felt to be inappropriate subject matter. The submission was greeted by such comments as, "Self-criticism is self-destructive" . . . "It's airing our dirty laundry for everyone to see" . . . "It's not appropriate for *The Print*."

These statements are outrageous and unjust for any publication institution, or public figure, to make. You have a right — nay, an obligation — to offer constructive criticism toward any public figure or group in the hope that you may improve and refine the quality of work produced. While *The Print* staff maintained that these problems should not be aired in public, I contend that it is just such a person (one who is on the staff) who is in a unique position to make such observations and attempt to deal with such problems. And it must be

noted that since the errors in question were committed in a public forum, therefore they must be resolved in a public forum.

In fact, in the process of their rejecting said article they have denied the highest duty that they as journalists must uphold — freedom of speech.

Apparently, the notion of freedom of speech was lost in the pursuit of "journalism". The Constitution isn't a newspaper article, where anyone can cut and paste parts that they consider inconsequential, or dismiss because of convenience. The Founding Fathers of the Constitution wrote the First Amendment to ensure that all voices, especially the grievances, and concerns people have about those that hold positions of authority, are heard. We must not silence those among us whose opinions and concerns might reveal the imperfections that we all possess, for only through this analysis of our shortcomings can we hope to advance beyond them.

While some people argue that it is inappropriate to criticize the *Print*, I feel that, much like it is *The Prints'* duty to report the news truthfully and accurately, it is our duty as readers and students to hold *The Print*, and Administrators, accountable for their words and actions. I hope that this accountability will create a higher degree of standards that maybe attributed to their work, and that this incident of unprofessionalism that my friend encountered concerning his article will never be committed again.

Lee Eby

### To the Editor:

"The press may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think but it is stunningly successful in telling them what to think about." Bernard Cohen

Hey you guys really need to start setting the agenda instead of being told the agenda. Do you realize how much power you have if you would just use it. The Underground has now become the voice of the students. Your paper is known as the one that kowtows to the faculty and administration. Why don't you try to change things instead of believing the old company line.

Where is the outrage concerning students being threatened with being graded down for comments outside of the classroom? I know what he said but you do not know that he said a lot more than what was printed. No matter what you say I have never had a class that factual errors in E-mail was part of my grade. Remember my comments were made outside of the classroom! But I guess it is ok with you as long as it isn't your grade.

Furthermore I am personally appalled that you are not up in arms about the comment made by the instructor that threatened me with a public flogging. I am scared for my safety because of this. Is this type of behavior condoned by *The Print*, faculty, and the administration?

J. Mike Garvison

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