



## Editorial

# The fine art of learning professional journalism

Cindy Hines Kurfman  
Copy Editor

Covering the story about student-on-student violence was not an easy task for *The Print* staff. At first there was a lot of self-righteous enthusiasm. Who would not want to report about the athletes who beat up a gay, minority student? It seemed clearly to be a hate crime.

But as the different angles of the story were covered, the motives for the altercation seemed less clear. Was it still important to cover the story of one student being injured off-campus by two others if the injured student was the first one to become angry?

Debates raged between editors for days. Some wanted to drop the story; others found it still newsworthy. I wondered at one point whether we would have an incident of our own over the controversy.

One needs to understand that we are not a homogeneous group at *The Print*. The staff is made up of men and women who are traditional and nontraditional students, white and minority, straight and gay, athletic and physically challenged. We each brought our own biases to the story.

We had a serious lesson about fair reporting. Did we pass the test? Some may say "yes"; others, "no."

What we attempted to do was to cover all the angles of the story, bring the information together and report just the facts. All the editors contributed transcripts from interviews with the athletes, the alleged victim, the director of athletics, the administration and the police. This material was then compiled into a cohesive news story by our Editor-in-Chief, Laney Fouse.

Additionally, we assigned our Managing Editor, Brad Zimmerman,

the difficult task of writing an opinion on violence. He wrote four versions before one passed the criteria of most of the other editors.

This opinion piece was intended to give voice to some of the concerns expressed during *The Print's* staff meetings. However, it was not intended to cover all the concerns or to represent the opinion of the entire *Print* staff. It was simply meant to get readers to think about the issue of societal violence.

In my decade of reporting experience, this is the most difficult assignment I have covered. The assignment stretched all *The Print* staff.

Our motivation was not sensationalism nor truth-concealment. We wanted to do "an honest, unbiased, professional" job and to serve well the Clackamas readership. We will continue to strive to do so.

## Letter to Editor: Student expresses concern about controversial story

I recently read your article "Off-campus fight controversy." I was shocked to hear of the incident, and more importantly, what followed.

First, it is apparent that there is a misunderstanding on what really happened, considering that the two individuals that were quoted have two different stories. I find it hard to believe that someone could get that upset over moaning on the answering machine. On the other hand, I find it hard to believe the three wrestlers would have started beating up Charlie if he went into his room to cool down. I've encountered people with quick tempers that will "just go off" after drinking and it is not a comfortable situation. It is frightening because you don't know what they'll do next. So I imagine that asking Charlie to leave was not an easy task and wouldn't have even been attempted unless they felt it was necessary. But this is all speculation on my behalf.

What I can't seem to

understand from this article even more so, is the school's involvement in this incident. If this happened off campus in the individuals' home, then where does C.C.C. fit in the picture? I can see that because they are wrestlers, they have an obligation to the wrestling team. But how big is that obligation? Are they receiving a stipend so big that it is covering the rent on that apartment? When they signed up to be a wrestler at C.C.C. did they sign a moral contract? David said that he was not drinking because it is against the rules for anyone on the wrestling team to drink. Is it fair for the wrestling coaches to dictate a rule like that for personal time? If the wrestler has a drinking "problem" during their (sic) personal time, then it will obviously be noticed in their performance and this could be grounds for being kicked off the team or whatever the current consequence is for drinking. However, if someone wants to have a beer to help them relax

during a stressful week of midterms, why not? If these wrestlers are underage, then it is the lack of the law being enforced. Even if they get caught, then they should be old enough to take responsibility for the consequence.

It is also disappointing to me, that *The Print* is now turning into a tabloid. Granted it was one of the most interesting articles I've read all year, the fact is that there aren't any facts in this article. It was vague and full of speculation (even the people involved don't know what happened). If *The Print* wrote about every "off-campus fight" there would be novels to write every week. I'd hate to think that if I was drinking in the privacy of my own home, that I am risking being involved any activities at Clackamas and being exploited on the front page of *The Print*.

Sincerely,  
Bonita Daniels  
C.C.C. student

## Marine archeology, book group slated for seasoned adults

Marine Archeologist Alison Stenger presents "Local Marine Archeology on the Columbia River and Oregon Coast" at today's morning session of the Seasoned Adult Enrichment Program.

The afternoon session kicks off the book group's winter term with book *Snow Falling On Cedars* by David Guterson.

The sessions are from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 2:30 p.m. at Harmony Center. The cost is \$4. For more information call ext. 3230.

## Ceramics art exhibit opens in Pauling

An exhibit featuring the recent works of ceramics artist Connie Earnshaw opens today in the Pauling Gallery.

She will discuss her work during an open reception set for noon to 2 p.m. in the gallery.

Earnshaw's work is known for its elegance in use of color and line, and it borrows an Eastern feel. The Portland resident teaches Asian Art history and ceramics at Portland Community College. Her show will run through March 6.

The gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday. For more information call ext. 2386.

## Enjoy close-up view of stars, planets

Stargazers who would like to learn more about using telescopes and enjoy Venus, Mars and Jupiter are invited to attend a three-week "Winter Astronomy" course being offered at the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center.

The course will cover the principles, design and uses of reflectors, refractors and combination-type telescope instruments. Participants will be able to view plants, constellations and astronomical activity.

The course is being offered from 7 to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays, from Feb. 26 to March 12. A \$35 fee will be charged for the course. Pre-registration is necessary by Feb. 19. To register call ext. 2770.

## Free session offered dealing with anger

A free session on understanding and handling anger is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 17, as part of the ongoing series of sessions organized by Focus on Women.

Anne Pardington, a counselor and instructor in the Life and Career Options Program, will conduct the workshop. She will help participants understand the process and function of their own anger and help them deal better with their angry reactions.

The session is scheduled from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Center. Call ext. 2268 for more information.

## Focus on legislative session to be held

An update on the legislative session will be the focus of the Feb. 19 Seasoned Adult Enrichment Program. The presentation and discussion will be directed by Burton Weast, who has extensive background as a lobbyist.

The steering committee has scheduled a Town Hall Meeting following the legislative discussion, in order to discuss issues and planning for the group.

The legislative briefing runs from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The planning session will follow from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost of the event is \$4. It will be held at Harmony Center. More information is available by calling ext. 3212.

## Writers' Club Contest deadline approaching

The Writers' Club Contest deadline is Thursday, Feb. 20. Submissions of poems, essays or fiction pieces can be dropped off at Allen Widerberg's office in M253 or with English Department Secretary Rita Dale, currently in S132.

Writers may submit up to three poems, one essay and one piece of fiction.

All entries will be considered for the literary magazine, *Synesthesia*.

Call ext. 2359 for information.

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