

14 year old excels at Clackamas

JEREMY STALLWOOD
Feature Editor

Most students who choose to skip High School are dropping out of the educational race, but fourteen-year-old James Edwards "Jet" Tracy is racing ahead.

Why is he at Clackamas?
"I'm getting an education," said Tracy.

Tracy, a resident of Colton, OR, is here to receive a transfer degree, which he plans on taking to Embry Riddle College in Arizona. His major will then be aeronautical science—his dream, to become a commercial airline pilot.

Tracy finished the seventh grade at Colton Middle School, but found public school to be troubling in many ways.

"The teachers were great," he said "but the kids were nuts!" His peers, he reported, carried knives, guns and drugs on campus regularly, which did not make for a comfortable setting. In addition, the classes were too easy.

"I wanted to challenge my-

self," Tracy said. "There were students there who didn't even know how to read, and they [the school district] were going to pass them onto the next grade anyway." Tracy was an advanced student in a un-supportive educational system.

Tracy's mother, Inger Easton, asked the Colton School District if her son could move onto high school. They declined any opportunity to encourage the advanced student.

Easton described her son as an "enthusiastic learner," but added that he "hated going to school." She said she wanted to move her son "away from an environment where kids were disrespectful. It's not popular to be smart."

At only fourteen years old, Tracy is collecting credits in such courses as political science, mathematics, geography and French. He has already taken biology from Bob Misley. Tracy has excelled himself.

"I'm too young to get my GED," Tracy explained, yet if he earns his transfer degree, it will be unnecessary to have a GED. He is also studying to take his

SAT's in December.

Tracy describes the instructors here as "very welcoming and supportive," which is refreshing and encouraging.

Tracy loves learning, and at the college, Easton said, "they treat him as one of the bunch." Tracy, she stressed, is no different than any other student.

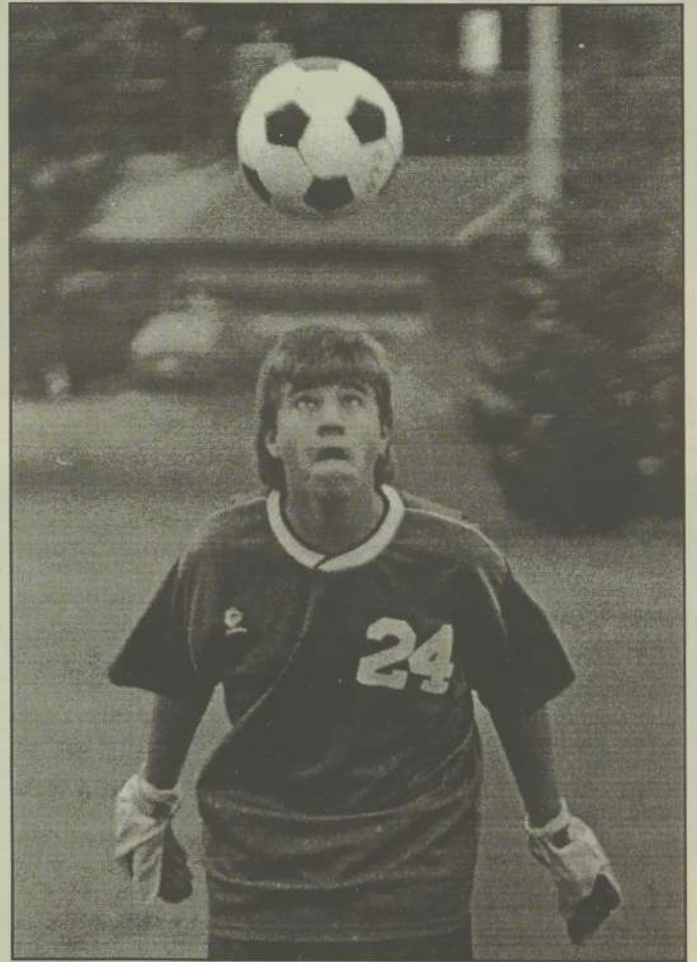
"People here," said Tracy, "treat me as one of the peers."

Besides academic education, Tracy is also physically active. He plays soccer for the Colton varsity team, the Vikings, and has taken bowling and tennis from Clackamas' PE Department.

Last spring, he was a part of ASG President David LeDoux's election campaign team.

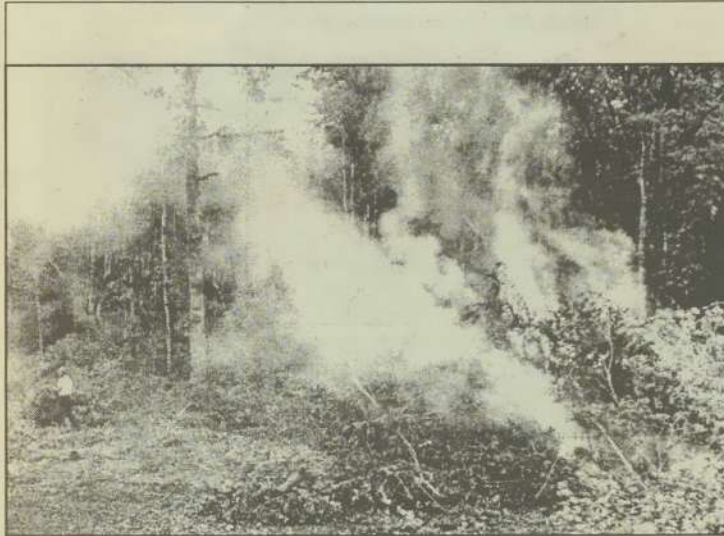
"He helped me to collect signatures for my campaign last year," said LeDoux. "He also aids in my intramural soccer program. He's a great help."

Tracy said he is here to add to his education and appreciates the opportunity. "My instructors," he said, "know me by my knowledge, not my age."



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Tracy heads the ball during practice. Tracy is a Viking for Colton's varsity soccer team and practices both in Colton and on campus (above). In class with his mother, Inger Easton, he concentrates intently on a Dean Darris lecture.



TIMOTHY BELL / Clackamas Print

Smoke billowing through the campus this week and last week was caused by field burning on private land by a man with a permit to do so. Some individuals complained of the smoke, but according to the fire department, because of wind conditions and recent amount of rain, conditions were within code.



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Visit: Trip changes lives

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goals in education and spoke about President Clinton. As we were leaving we stumbled right out into the middle of a media frenzy. Later we found out we had walked right into the middle of the deliberation of the judiciary committee releasing the testimony of President Clinton. It was quite amazing that we walked into the middle of such a history-making day!

"Next we attended the CEF dinner where many inspirational legislators spoke as they accepted their awards for outstanding citizenship. David and I got the chance to personally meet with Richard Riley, Secretary of Education, and Louis Stokes, from the US House of Representatives."

Sept. 18: "Our second day started with an appointment with Senator Ron Wyden's staff. Ron Wyden highly supports education,

so it was encouraging to hear good news.

"We then toured with Senator Wyden's scheduler, starting at the capitol building and went through underground walkways to the main floor, looking at all the art and statues. From the capital we headed to the statue of Einstein..... and then to the Washington Monument. We also saw the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial, along with the Wall of Names. I don't know if it was the Lincoln Memorial or the Wall of Names that made me so moved, but after seeing both of these, I could not even find the words to speak."

Sept. 20: "I feel so thankful that I got the opportunity to go to Washington DC and meet a lot of people and learn so much from an amazing city. Just a couple of days in a city like Washington DC can change your life...."

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