

# Not an excuse

Print staff: Suppose you have to have to be [sic] a real-world journalist. You are required to be professional, and reoccurring [sic] spelling and grammar

The Print lacks something that we communication majors deem very valuable called ethos. Ethos is credibility, something well-respected papers have. When the Print becomes known for its carelessness, including the frequent misspelling of days of the week (see your copy editor's picture caption in the last issue), respect is lost.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**  
**TARA JENKINS**  
*Student*

[sic] errors are unacceptable. This is why college papers exist as an educational tool. However, when the student body recognizes that the Print is obviously lacking, the advisor herself jumps to the defense of the paper's mediocrity. The articles make ridiculous claims, such as "The name of the Dye Learning Center is misleading," implying that people "dye" things there. This so-called educational experience is doing everything but "preparing students for life" which is what the Print staff apparently thinks the cafeteria's waffles achieve. In my experiences alone, there has not been one accurate speech team article, and just yesterday in class, Dr. Epstein made comments to your editor-in-chief about the Print's latest inaccuracies.

It is unfair to compare the Print and its unfulfilled journalistic standards to that of students' papers. The content of the Print is designed to be read 1500 copies at a time, and the readers are not unreasonable to expect the "basics". M.E.S., a CCC employee who would like to stay reasonably anonymous said, "Confidence without competence is a false coinage, the minter of which is a deceiver as unsound as that he purports to be true." It's true that the Print takes responsibility for its level of reporting and stop trying to shift the blame. Regardless, we're still reading it. Isn't journalism a standard to strive toward and not an excuse to hide behind?

Jeremy and Toni,

Thank you for the labyrinth article. I enjoyed working with you both. I was pleased with the photo. Jeremy, I especially appreciated your statement about the candle passing and what it represents.

Good work,  
Jane Rickenbaugh

**Going to college?  
Want help with  
Your Tuition?**

**work part-time  
with us & we'll  
pay!**

**GYROS GYROS** helps pay tuition for part-time employees.

**APPLY TODAY** at area shopping centers:

Clackamas Town Center  
Washington Square  
Lloyd Center  
Jantzen Beach Center  
Vancouver Mall

(Bring this ad with your application - get a **FREE** 16 oz soft drink)

**GYROS GYROS**

# What are Print's priorities?

After reading through this week's issue of The Print and realizing that the staff welcomed both comments and constructive criticism, I felt prompted to write this. You had a story about two holocaust survivors coming to Clackamas in February to tell their stories.

In fact you said these two women "... are two of the last few remaining survivors from the Holocaust available to tell their stories." I feel that this was one of the

most important stories in this week's issue, yet it was buried on the last page, after a 3-page layout of print propaganda.

My question is, if the print is really a vehicle for Clackamas students and staff to find out about im-

portant events, or just information, why wasn't this article in a place where more people would be likely to see it? This article stressed the fact that for a lot of people this might be their last opportunity to find out about the atrocities of World War II first hand.

One thing I know many instructors here at Clackamas stress is, "if we do not know the past we are doomed to repeat it." With the same kind of atrocities occurring right now in Kosovo and other parts of the world, shouldn't the students and staff here be aware of the horrors of ethnic cleansing?

I would hope in the future that the Print is more aware of their responsibility to their readers and chose to put more pertinent articles before your own propaganda. If the Print is trying to achieve a way for students and staff to become more knowledgeable, I recommend you closely examine your priorities.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**  
**MELISSA STIVERS**  
*Student*

# Response to 'Excuse'

**JOHN THORBURN**  
*Sports Editor*

From student to student, Ms. Jenkins, I find it very difficult to respect someone whose letter questioning my credibility contains errors in its first two sentences.

From editor to reader, I find many of your comments well-spoken and sadly, well-justified. Clackamas demands excellence. This year, more than any other, *The Print* has had inaccuracies and "typos." The inaccuracies are something that any young writer encounters, and rightly so, the writer should be called on their mistakes. Point taken, every reader has a right to voice his or her own opinion.

*The Clackamas Print* staff views the letters sent in by our readers as part of our educational experience. We, as a group, value our readers' input.

Ryan Frank, editor-in-chief of the *University of Oregon Daily Emerald* put it best, "Any newspaper worth its weight in newsprint strives to be a reflection of its community. Newspapers are, or at least should be, sympathetic to complaints and suggestions from community members regarding the issues covered and the way they are covered. By ignoring those letters, phone calls

and e-mails, newspapers are ignoring their most important critic: the readers. Without a newspaper's community, which is made up of newspaper readers, there would be no newspaper."

With that said, I'd like to clear up some issues with *The Print* that you discussed in your letter.

You said, "The articles make ridiculous claims, such as 'The name of the Dye Learning Center is misleading,' implying that people 'dye' things there." The piece written by Leah Chapin in *The Print's* October 7 edition, was published as an opinion, much like your letter and my response. It was simply one student's reflection on the college campus. Surely, we are all entitled to that. With that in mind, does that degrade *The Print's* name?

Also, I question why you remarked that "This so-called educational experience is doing everything but 'preparing students for life.'" Who are you to make this judgment? *The Print* is not an educational tool for you nor any other student that is not involved in the journalism program.

Finally, you mention that journalism should be something to strive toward. I agree. The standards of journalism are set higher than that of a student's book review or short

story. The staff has openly acknowledged its errors. It feels both the need and the pressure to publish a better newspaper. But if you say it "is unfair to compare *The Print* and its unfulfilled journalistic standards to that of students' papers," doesn't that imply that a students' paper for class should be no more than mediocre? Doesn't that mean you're hiding behind that same door of journalism, only on the other side?

As a student and editor, I demand excellence from *The Clackamas Print* just like you. Your point is well-taken on that issue, and I appreciate your input.

As far as credibility goes, the whole campus has now seen our work and yours.

**The Print welcomes SIGNED letters to the editor from STUDENTS AND STAFF. Please submit letters of 300 words or less to the Print's office in Barlow Hall, by mail, or by Email at: cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us. Letters are due by noon the Friday prior to publication. WE CAN NOT PRINT UNSIGNED LETTERS OR LETTERS SIGNED UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME.**

<p>Blue Plate Special for <b>\$3.29</b></p> <p>Expires February 3, 1999</p>	<p><b>CHARTWELLS</b></p> <p>Check out the exciting new features!</p> <p>M-Th 7am-8pm • Sat 10:30am-1:30pm</p>
<p>Sunrise Sandwich for <b>\$1.39</b></p> <p>Expires February 3, 1999</p>	<p><b>Free</b> Super Size after 4 pm</p> <p>Expires February 3, 1999</p>