

Editor-in-Chief sets *Print* standards for the new year

Welcome to the 1999-2000 school year, and welcome to our first edition of *The Clackamas Print*. For returning students, wel-

Print's history. This year, we hope to add to that number, but our focus isn't to put out the best newspaper for the judges, but to put out the best newspaper for this campus- for you.



John Thorburn
Editor-in-Chief

From the editor's desk...

come back. I hope the year ahead is as productive and rewarding as our year looks to be here at the *Print*. Over the summer, we made some adjustments to the design of the paper so that it would be Y2K compliant and, we hope, more pleasing to you. If you like our "new look," let us know! We're confident you'll let us know if you don't like it, as well.

This year we are lucky to have a strong group of editors, writers and photographers returning from last year. The 1998-99 year proved to be our most successful year of production, as we brought home ten awards from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association [ONPA] last spring—the most ever in the

again, welcome. Whether you are returning to college after a long absence, or just out of high school, we hope to provide you the best news, information and entertainment this college offers. A lot of pride comes with the Clackamas Community College name. Here at the *Print*, we feel that same pride and hold ourselves to a high standard of quality journalism.

What can you get from this newspaper every week?

Our #1 job is to get the news to all of you. We find that news by digging deep into all the dark corners of the campus. However, we can't know everything going on at Clackamas, so if you think of something we should write about, drop by Barlow 104, and

let us know. Our #2 job is to entertain. Whether we do that in our opinion, feature, arts & entertainment or sports section, you will be entertained this year. We have an awesome team of writers, so don't be scared, shocked or surprised if some of the things we write or display get in your face a bit.

I promise you, we will work as hard as possible to produce the best possible newspaper. If, however, we stumble, or you don't like what we're doing, tell us with a letter-to-the-editor. But I ask you to remember one fact: every writer, editor and photographer on this newspaper is a student just like you, with the same deadlines you have, as well. So the next time you decide to yell across the campus at one of us, "Hey, you suck," why not give us a helpful note instead? This hasn't happened yet, but then again, there are some students from Molalla at this school.

This is the student newspaper, your newspaper, for your school. If we don't print something you want to see, tell us. If you see something you don't like, tell us. OK?

I wish you all the best of luck this year.

Think wisely before you drink

Summer break is the time for parties and alcohol. I would like to offer a word to the wise when the drinking begins and partying is at its best—

at fault as peer pressure for turning these underage kids into drinkers.

Granted, this would have been hellu cool when I was in high school, but now I see it happening more often, and more easily—the clerks sell-

ing liquor without proper identification. Five years ago I would not have complained, to be able to purchase a fifth of my favorite vodka, but now I understand why there is a 21-year age limit.

People under 21 are still so impressionable, and see alcohol as a social drug. At a party, everyone is expected to get drunk. It's easier to become addicted at the

I didn't feel it until I stood up, but then my world came crashing down. For more than ten hours, I was stuck in a world of darkness and numbness. I remember nothing of that night, but when I woke, I hurt all over and my head was still spinning. I don't drink like that anymore. I have a couple drinks with friends occasionally, but I don't go overboard because I never want to feel like that again.

I started out as a real lightweight, but the more I partied, the more liquor I needed to get my buzz. I was on the fast road to becoming an alcoholic, and I didn't know it. Some people drink to relax, while some drink to be part of the "in" crowd. Others drink to get away from real life- and then there are those who drink for the first time— and do not live to tell about it.

I want to sound a note of caution as school progresses and holidays and parties are underway: think before you drink, and please learn your own, safe limits. If you don't, it won't be long before alcohol sets the limits, and just might destroy you.

impressionable age.

Older people become hooked too- I have lived that myself. I once thought alcohol would take away all my worries and cares, and help me forget. It did, for a time. I had

to hit rock bottom to realize my problem.

I hit bottom hard! A year ago, on my way to a party, I drank a whole fifth of 100-proof vodka.

Make a statement, be heard...

Salena De La Cruz
Sports Co-Editor



think before you drink. I'm 22 and have no cause to complain, because I'm legal and can buy alcohol whenever I want it. What scares me is how easy it is for people under the age of 21 to obtain alcohol. I have younger brothers and sisters who could probably get it as easily as I do.

Today, a liquor store clerk no longer requires picture identification, but merely asks, "Are you 21 or older?" and then takes your word for it. The transaction will continue, and the underage person will walk out with a smile.

Either these people look older than their age, or the clerks don't really care. This concerns me greatly, because these stores and employees are just as much

I was on the fast road to becoming an alcoholic, and I didn't even know it.



Stuck on being single

During summer break, I toyed with an amazing number of topics for opinion pieces for the "Clackamas Print." I kept coming back to the same one: I'm single, and I know it. (If you're single and you

time I strike up an interesting conversation with an appealing member of the opposite sex, I get to the age-old question, "What did you do last weekend?" Invariably, the answer has started with

"Well, my boyfriend and I..."

If you'd like to find where on campus this happened, just keep an eye out for twin skid marks apparently left by

I'm too young to be this cynical



Karl Katzke
Business Manger

know it, clap your hands, oh yeah.)

It might be good to talk about this. You see, I have an idea that could make our campus an easier place for singles: if you're single, stick a label to your forehead, or shirt or somewhere, which SAYS you are single. You might use a post-it note for easy removal and re-attachment.

Why would we do this? Well, I feel the need to protect other unsuspecting singles from the same fate I have suffered the past year. It seems that every

Doc Martens.

Now, Docs are expensive, and I don't want to have to buy another pair soon because I've left patches of the sole all over campus. We have a symbol for married couples, the wedding ring, but today's unmarried relationships are almost as heavy - you merely avoid the formality of a divorce when you break up. So, let's save my Docs, and my sanity, and wear those labels.

Oh, by the way, did I mention I just bought stock in Avery Labels, Inc.?



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