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Goals:

The Clackamas Print aims to report the news in an honest, unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed in The Clackamas Print do not necessarily reflect those of the student body, college administration, its faculty, or The Clackamas Print advertisers. Products and services advertised in The Clackamas Print are not necessarily endorsed by anyone associated with The Clackamas Print.

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Opinion

Between the lines, behind the scenes

It's amazing - I've been involved with three different journalism-related organizations, and the one thing I've noticed is consistent between them is the criticism.

Many of our readers are well-in-

I'm too young to be this cynical



Karl Katzke
Business Manager

formed on the issues they speak out about. They've done research, and quite possibly, they've had access to sources that the journalistic establishment has not had.

Thank you, to those well-informed writers and anyone else who has written a letter to a newspaper.

One thing that we as journalists can honestly say we're experts in is what goes on in the newsroom.

The Print has received several letters of criticism in the recent weeks, dealing with the opinion page, the comics page, and our journalistic integrity.

As the Business Manager of the newspaper, I'm privy to all the decisions that go on behind the pages and between the lines of the newspaper, but I'm not typically involved with actual story-writing. This gives me a unique perspective to comment on the activities of this newspaper and how it is perceived. As part of a newspaper's responsibility to its readers, I'd like to give you a peek into what I get to see between the lines and address a few of these things.

First of all, we are a student news-

paper. The administration and staff have no say in what we print. We do have a staff advisor, but in the end, the students decide what goes into the paper.

Several students who are not involved with the paper have witnessed or overheard our sometimes heated... discussions... about how we should say things, what stories we should run, and how the newspaper should look. Also, no outside members of the college see the paper before it goes to press - typically, it leaves for the press after most sane people have gone home for the day.

The cartoons on our comics page are the responsibility of the author. We publish them because students enjoy them. While cartoonists may lampoon campus events, well, has anyone read Doonesbury recently?

The opinion section is occasionally referred to as the soul of a paper, and the front page or news sec-

tion is the heart. We always have more things to print than we have space available, and we make compromises to pack as much as we can into that space. We'd prefer to run one more letter, even if we have to reduce the font size a smidgen.

An unsigned letter, typically labeled "Editorial," is the opinion of the newspaper as a whole. The Print rarely takes advantage of a newspaper's ability to do this; we typically prefer to leave opinions up to the readers. Other newspapers, such as The Oregonian, run a minimum of one editorial a day in the same place.

All of that being said, any newspaper likes receiving feedback of any sort. It doesn't matter if it's a question, a comment, a criticism, or a lead on a hot story about a scandal... Part of being on a newspaper staff is continually re-examining yourself and your environment, and occasionally getting involved to make it a better place.

Letters to the Editor...

Comics should be held to same standards as stories

I am writing this letter, that I should have written many months ago, regarding the comics in this newspaper (*The Print*). This is my fourth term at this college and I have read every newspaper that has come out since I started school here. I find that the comics regarding the former ASG president, Jennifer Rankin, and other students at this school are mocking. Is it the intent of the comics to insult and make others afraid to stand up for themselves and the students of this campus or to start a student newsletter that isn't supported financially by the college? If the Print is to make comics about things going on and around campus, then the coverage in the other part of the newspaper should pertain to the specific issue being addressed in the comic(s), so the students can fully understand the complete issue (all sides of the issue). Also the comics should be held to the same "honest, unbiased, professional" standards that the articles are held to.

Katherine Meece-Smith
Student

'Paper merely a piece of propaganda for administration'

To The Members of *The Print*:

We would like you to understand that many students feel *The Print* is not adequately representing the opinions of the CCC student body. As this is as student paper, we feel disappointed in your harassment and misrepresentation of students' voices.

Many of us feel this paper is merely a piece of propaganda for the administration.

To Sam & Timothy; we can provide you with pictures of us so that your "comics" can represent us more accurately.

Contact us at:

studentsfordemocracy@egroups.com
Luke Precourt Julie Smith
Matthew Coleman Sara Winder
Josh Anderson Brian Keller
Caleb Gandy

Editorial slanted in favor of oppressive administration

I am appalled at the blatant lack of fairness shown in the April 6 edition of *The Print*. The "editorial" piece is clearly slanted in the favor of the oppressive administration of this school. One, No one has signed this piece, indicating to me a lack of confidence in it. Two, the letters to the editor all had 'students for democracy'

noted at the bottom. Those notations were deleted in the printed version. The editorial article written by the mysterious person refutes itself.

For example, The author makes a statement that Saying no on Bond 2000 because the administration overspends, is like saying no to education and health care because there is a national deficit. That is fallacious reasoning. I would promote Bond 2000 if it were to be spent on education; however, it is not going to be spent on education. It is going to spent on repaying debt or, as the article states paying back our own bank account (I will leave that one for you to contemplate) rather than education. Do we want tax payers to incur more debt to repay the debt of the administration?

The student body and others who care about a good education and a socially just school to attend need to unite. I for one cannot stand idly by and let my tax dollars and my education go to waste. Please take these issues into consideration.

Matthew Coleman
Students for Democracy

Allegations against ASG have no substance

As a student on campus I have seen many allegations made this past year. Political science students have made almost all of these allegations towards our student government under no direction or guidance from their instructors. Throughout the winter term they have claimed that the student government was responsible for a political science student being removed from ASG office; and that money has been mismanaged and/or embezzled by the student government and its advisor. When *The Print* would no longer print these students' personal opinions, because of liability issues, newsletters were passed around campus furthering more rumors. These especially concern the need for the removal of Norm Berney from his office.

The problem I have with all of these accusations is that if they do hold the smallest bit of merit, why did an independent auditing firm find nothing wrong with ASG's use of money? Why no one from the group that is distributing newsletters has come to talk, or will come, is because their claims are completely and un-

equivocally unsubstantiated. They are not interested in discussing the facts because the facts are not in their favor. Instead they have resorted to leaving messages on tables and running away.

I have seen personally the lives that ASG has helped and the money that they've saved students on campus. I've seen them personally saving me money with the Book Exchange and they've helped my sister continue her education through childcare grants.

During this entire time I have not seen any students against ASG helping the students in any way. Where are they at the blood drives? Where are they during the fundraising for childcare? Where are they during the student government meeting to discuss these issues aloud? I have heard over and over from certain people that they're just trying to serve the students' needs. How exactly are they doing that? Maybe it's time for these people to stop whining about what is not right on this campus and begin to make it a better place.

Mike Lewis
Student

We must work together to accommodate students' needs

I am responding to the April 19 edition of *The Print* where student Lisa Ganoung wrote stating the needs of the disabled students were not being met. As a disabled student, I wanted to clear up a few issues raised by this letter.

I do not question the fact Lisa may be frustrated with the system, yet I question how much is directly related to CCC. The ADA is unclear on issues around accommodation such as a page turner. If the student can turn pages, the school is not required to supply the requested accommodation for the student. On the other hand, VOC Rehab would be required to provide the adaptation to maximize the person's potential. This is the barrier many disabled students face. Knowing which agency is required to provide the necessary equipment, and getting the proper people to admit it is their responsibility slows things greatly.

I have been fortunate in my experience at CCC due to the high level of cooperation among the instructors. If I need a note taker, the instructors have

all been willing to make the request at the start of class. The college provides NCR paper (carbon) so that whoever takes notes can simply use this, then after class simply pull the two sheets apart and both student and note taker have a copy. This method costs the college very little and offers the students control and responsibility for their own education.

Clackamas Community College has been the most supportive and encouraging campus I have experienced. When something cannot be accommodated directly, the faculty and students have worked to solve it as a team.

No one can deny the fact that barriers exist at CCC. The sad truth is barriers exist all over the state, all over the world, and often-times the biggest barriers exist in the minds of the individuals. Helping people to see how they can assist one another, and being willing to reach out to fellow citizens/students is the only true way to overcome the problems which may exist.

I believe the letter from Lisa validates the importance of passing the Bond measure in the upcoming vote. CCC does not have the funds necessary to make the campus fully accessible, much less provide the needed equipment to students with special needs. It is not a matter of choosing one student over another, able-bodied vs. disabled, it is a matter of spending what little they have to accommodate the most people they can. CCC has proven its dedication to offer everything possible to students regardless of need. The sad truth is that often the heart is bigger than the pocketbook.

I encourage all CCC students to reach out and offer assistance when they see someone in need. Offer to be a note taker for someone who has difficulty hearing or writing; volunteer to tutor or be a study partner. If everyone on campus gave one hour a week to assist someone else, there would be no shortage of tutors or note takers. The student body can make a difference. If we all become solution-oriented and find ways to succeed together, we will have fewer problems to hinder our progress. It will also help students like Lisa get the education they sincerely desire.

Teryl Hoffmann-Figgins
Student