

Shelter the children from the storm

SALENA DE LA CRUZ

Opinion Editor

A cry echoes through the alleyway. A dark, damp dumpster hugs the wall with a secret. It holds an infant, a child who has been abandoned.

Every day children are left alone and helpless. They have been thrown into a situation in which they have no control. Parents are careless in their concern for their children. In recent abandonment cases, the parents have been no more than children themselves.

Babies are found in bathrooms, dumpsters and on railroad tracks. They have been left alone because their parents are too young and naive to fully understand their actions, actions that alter their lives, and ultimately destroy that of a child.

Recently, I was watching the news. It was reported that a 15 year-old girl had left her baby on railroad tracks. The baby was only a few weeks old.

I went through several emotions. First, I experienced disgust; then revulsion, sadness, anger; and finally, heartache. These feelings were not only for

the baby, but for the parents as well. I couldn't understand why the father and mother would feel the only way out was to abandon the child who was part of them.

I don't condone their actions, nor do I condemn them. I don't know these people, nor do I know the circumstances behind their actions. I don't even pretend to understand their actions. However, I do know we need an answer to the onslaught of children who die abandoned.

Finally, my prayers were answered.

Recently, I heard that answers to these problems are coming. I heard that a person could give up a child at a specified location, with the strictest confidentiality and anonymity. The news report said that upon a child's birth a parent has 30 days to give it up for adoption without legal recriminations.

I think that is a good idea. In

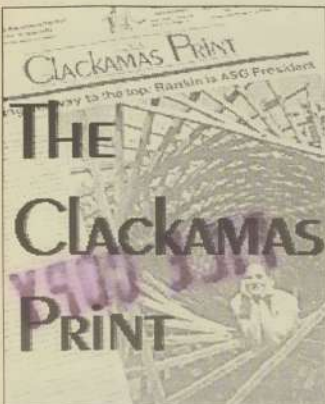
the long run this will benefit the children who suffer from neglect, or abandonment, because their parents didn't want them or couldn't deal with being parents.

Hopefully, more children will face love and comfort instead of heartache and pain. I encourage you, as citizens, as parents, to

help end the heartache. Persuade the government to take action and give children a safe place to be left in caring hands.

End the abandonment of children to the elements and the streets, where they may be hurt or killed.

Questions or comments: cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us



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19600 S. Molalla Ave.
OREGON CITY, OREGON
97045
(503) 657-6958 EXT 2309
cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us

Letter to the Editor...

'Academic freedom thrown around, but not discussed at the colloquium'

Although the word was thrown around a lot, academic freedom was not discussed at the colloquium on academic freedom earlier this month. Contrary to what some faculty and counselors would have you think, academic freedom and students' rights are not contentious to one another. Academic freedom is a student's right and this college, with its current trade school mentality, has shown that it is not capable of a productive discussion on academic freedom. I am grateful to Dr. Flowers for conducting discussions on this matter in her history classes but this issue needs to be confronted by all students and instructors. Academic freedom is the right of both students and instructors to speak freely without worrying about "offending" anyone or being persecuted

by our misguided school newspaper or any other source of media. How are students going to form opinions of their own if tolerance for opposing points of view is not practiced in the classroom?

Some people are of the opinion that words are dangerous. There is no such thing as a dangerous comment, only dangerous actions. The most dangerous action of all is censorship, which is why freedom of speech and religion are listed first in our Bill of Rights. If there is such a thing as a dangerous comment we should start our inquisition with *The Print*.

The Print handled Dr. Epstein's story with reckless abandonment of journalistic decorum. I am currently attending Linda Vogt's mass media class, which has informed my con-

clusion. Some current as well as former members of *The Print* also feel there was spurious journalism involved but Linda Vogt, advisor to *The Print*, used our "colloquium" to defend *The Print*. The false analogy she used regarding Antebellum African-Americans had nothing to do with the Bible or academic freedom. There is no recognized academic work that can support racial inferiority. Dr. Epstein's opinion of homosexuality is well founded in fact which is nothing more than a widely accepted theory. I cannot think of any book that is more widely accepted than the Bible. Another fact is that our "colloquium" concerned who is right and who is wrong and many people involved should be ashamed for dragging the students to this "colloquium" under false pre-

tenses and for holding us hostage while they rationalized their inadequacies. This is just another demonstration of the lack of respect for students at this college. Nothing was solved and those of you who think that the students bought into this farce should check your tokenism or this issue will escalate as others have. In addition, I believe the faculty members who have attacked Dr. Epstein owe him an apology. A difference of opinion should not negate what Dr. Epstein has done for our community. I hope that all faculty members who are guilty of jumping to conclusions based on the solecisms in our campus rag are treated with more respect when it is time for them to retire.

Glenn McCarthy.

Students for Democracy



Correction

In last week's issue, the "Graduations set for June 8, 9 in Randall Gym" story contained the wrong information regarding the Student's profile at graduation. The correct information is as follows: Irene L. Carillo, 30, Oregon City, 3.5 GPA, (CCC employee) Cert. of Completion, Office Assistant.

The Clackamas Print strives for accuracy and completeness in all of its coverage. The newspaper will correct significant errors of fact that are brought to the attention of the editors. If you see an error in the newspaper, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at (503) 657-6958 Ext. 2247 or send email to cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us

TC P