

Freedom, a new reason to stand tall, proud

On Sept. 11, 2001, Americans were struck down with terror and pain, but as the tragedy gripped our hearts and the death toll rose, Americans discovered a new reason to stand tall and proud and a renewed reason to fight: freedom.

Our forefathers fought hard for this great nation. They struggled to free us from fear of tyranny and persecution while enabling our rights to speak freely, to assemble and to bear arms. Many know of the Civil War and World War I and II, where Americans fought to free those who those who could not wage their own war because they were too afraid of an enemy

too great. Today, we find ourselves faced with the same great burden. Today, we will not only be fighting for the freedoms of all Americans and their way of life, but also for those who cannot stand with us, those who were silenced when the mighty towers fell.

I am proud, proud because as an American and as a woman, I have the right to learn, to speak, to write, and most importantly to live. As for the terrorists, I am saddened that the regime they consider themselves a part of, the Taliban, has managed to skewer their beliefs and made them fol-

low its beliefs rather than their own. I am sad because many died for their cause, but I am glad, for many more will live. You see, I don't hate the Taliban or al-Qaida. I pity them. I pity them because each person involved in these groups strongly believed what they were doing was right. They believed in their cause and in the people they followed. I blame their leaders for forcing their views on people that wanted a strong hand to guide them to righteousness, but in return only found a hand of

and religions to join us and unite for freedom and peace. Now, the peace I refer to is one that may only come about once we show the terrorists we will not sit idly by while our families are used in sick, twisted plans of vengeance. We will fight back, heads held high, shouting for freedom, not only for ourselves, but also for those that have been silenced through death or fear.

Terrorists, I would not want to be you right now for you are not fully aware of fight you have brought upon yourself. On Sept. 11, 2001, you chose the wrong country and the wrong people. The military will stand against you with guns and bombs, yes. But you have yet to see us the people, and our resolve, for we will be standing closely behind with heads held high and flags pointed towards the sky. You have not broken us, merely strengthened our resolve. For here in the United States, we are one. We stand united.

We are Americans. We are one country, one cause.



Say It Loud & Proud!



Salena De La Cruz
Opinion Editor

destruction.

As President Bush stated in his address to the nation on the tragic day of Sept. 11, "America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining." I think he about sums up the reason for attacks in this one statement. Many people in many countries see America as the "Land of the Free," and many can only dream of some day making it here and raising their children in a nation they consider a far better one than their own. I welcome everyone of all races, colors, creeds

Check out our world

Welcome to the 2001-2002 school year and welcome to a new edition of *The Clackamas Print*.

I hope all of you had a nice summer vacation and are ready for a productive and rewarding year ahead.

Our goal here at *The Print* is to provide you the best news, information and entertainment this college offers. We know you are a very diverse student body and we hope to reach all of you.

We also want to inform you about what is going on outside of this campus, in our neighborhood, our community and our world. The recent events of Sept. 11 have impacted all of our lives and we feel it's important to keep you posted on how this is affecting you as a student and our college.

This year, we have a strong group of editors, writers and photographers whose number one job it is to dig deep into all the dark corners of the campus, find the news and get it out to all of you. However, it is impossible for us to know everything that's going on at Clackamas, so if you feel there is something we should know or write about, drop by Barlow 104 and let us know.

By entertaining you with our

opinion, feature, arts & entertainment and sports sections, we hope to keep you from getting bored. We want to hear all your comments, good or bad. Write us a "Letter to the Editor." Our general e-mail address is cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us. All letters must be under 500 words, signed, and delivered to *The Print* office (B 104) by Friday 1 p.m., prefer-



Maggie Jirasek
Editor-in-Chief

Take a risk!

ably on a 3-1/2" floppy disk and saved as Word 6.0/95. All letters are considered for publication, although we reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and brevity.

If you are a writer, artist or photographer and want your work published, you may submit that for consideration as well. This is the student newspaper, your newspaper, and if there is something you don't like about us, or if you have any suggestions, don't hesitate to stop by in our office and tell us so. We promise we won't bite! We are students just like you are and we have deadlines to keep as well. We do our best and work as hard as possible to produce a quality newspaper.

I wish the best to all of you and I hope you have a wonderful year.

America at a crossroads: where do we go from here?

JOEL SHEMPERT

Contributing Writer

On Sept. 11, 2001, the world was forever changed, or so goes popular opinion. In fact the world at large remained fundamentally unaltered, while the United States was initiated into a global cycle of bloodshed and suffering—and it is we for once who must cope with and come to an understanding of this calamity.

As we watched our own die on live television in the collapsing towers of the World Trade Center, the tragedy of their deaths was felt by each of us. Did we feel such an empathic pang on Aug. 1 when a suicide bomber unleashed his final message on a Sbarro eatery in Jerusalem, killing 14 people and hurling bodies as far as across the street? Or when Israeli heli-

copters fired missiles into a Palestinian office building nine days earlier, killing eight, including two children hit by debris?

"It is time to practice such virtues as love, compassion and understanding"

-Joel Shempert

Do we grieve for Macedonia, or Ireland, or Iraq or, yes, Afghanistan? For the truth is that this disaster on the East Coast is not the first tremor. Indeed, it is the latest and largest link in a long chain of deadly quakes that

has shaken the rest of the world and now returned home.

In the wake of the "Attack on America," it may be easy to forget that others go through such carnage daily, sometimes directly or indirectly at our hands. And now that we have begun to reap that grim harvest, we are faced with a choice—every one of us. For lest we forget, ours is a government of the people; we all bear the responsibility for this country's virtue and vice.

And so, I propose that it is not our vice but our virtue that should be celebrated. It may well be that al-Qaida, or the Taliban, or any number of other bogeymen, must be stopped, even destroyed. It may well be that America must go to war. Perhaps. But such an action, to be a truly virtuous response to this horror, must be unstained

by the bigotry, malice, and ideological isolationism that already are creeping across our land.

It is time to practice such virtues as love, compassion and understanding. It is time to realize that many people have been given reason to hate the United States—and to begin to truly understand those reasons. It is time to recognize, as a people, that we have often played a sinister role on the international stage—and to maybe, just maybe, finally begin to atone for those sins. It is time to recognize that being a great nation bears great responsibility with its power—and to exercise that power to love.

Patriotism is a wonderful thing. Pride in our identity, and in the ideals that founded our country, is essential to our national well-being. But if with this

patriotism comes the exclusion of respect and concern for others, then I want no part of it. Whether it is the persecution of Arab-Americans, or ignorance and intolerance toward Arabs abroad, a patriotism tempered with hate is as great an evil as that which struck on Sept. 11. A patriotism expressed in vengeance and eagerness to kill is merely evil clothed in a different name.

Sometimes a tragedy is the first necessary step on the road to a greater good. If we as Americans, as *human beings*, can grow toward love instead of hate, then perhaps this could be such a tragedy. I do not hold out hope for an end to war—not today, or tomorrow, or even in this generation. But the first step must be taken, and once it is, who can say where the long road may lead?



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

Editor-in-Chief: Maggie Jirasek (x2447)
Opinion Editor/Production Coordinator: Salena De La Cruz
Copy Editor: Allison Gerfin
Sports Editor: Elena Boryska
Managing Editor: Liesl Muggli
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