

Letters

All signed letters to the editor should be 500 words or less and will be considered for publication if submitted by 1 p.m. the Friday prior to publication. Letters to the Editor are subject to editing. We reserve the right to not publish any letter.



Editor-in-Chief:
Maggie Jirasek (x2447)

**Opinion Editor/
Production Coordinator**
Salena De La Cruz

Copy Editor:
Allison Gerfin

A & E Editor:
Daisy Bain

News Editor:
Frank Jordan

Sports Editor:
Elena Boryska

Business Manager:
Nick Barron (x2578)

Webmaster:
Luke Mahan

Staff:

Jennifer Kane
Jeff Heilman
Amanda Hughart
Crystal Castleman
Liesl Muggli
Jesse Gurzynski
Erinn Lerten
Elisabeth Meyer

Secretary:
JoAnne Gale

Advisor:
Patty Mamula (x2310)

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*.
The Clackamas Print is a weekly publication and is distributed every Wednesday except during Finals week. *The Clackamas Print* Copyright 2002.

Advertising:
The advertising rate is \$4.75 per column inch.



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

Patriot Act: The power of the police is profound

On Oct. 26 of 2001, President Bush signed the USA Patriot Act into law, giving federal secret police immense power to legally investigate any citizen or noncitizen they want. Of course, the secret police (FBI, CIA, Secret Service) have been doing this for decades illegally, but now that it's legal, this activity is increasing greatly.

"The USA Patriot Act gives law enforcement agencies, nationwide, extraordinary new powers unchecked by meaningful judicial review," said Laura W. Murphy of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"Section 215 authorizes the FBI to acquire any business records whatsoever by order of a secret U.S. court," said Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter, R-Idaho. "The recipient of such a search order is forbidden from telling any person that he has received such a request. This is a violation of the First Amendment right to free speech and the Fourth Amendment protection of private property."

This is our fault, of course. We let the United States get away with too much for too long, like the Espionage and Sedition Acts (which make what I'm writing here illegal). The FBI and CIA were both heavily involved in spying on and destroying political activists during the 1960s, going so far as to carry out the assassination of probably well

over 1,000 political activists. Clinton, while in office, supported the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). President Bush now supports the Free Trade Area of the

Americas (FTAA). Such free trade agreements prevent communities from deciding for themselves how business will operate in their area by allowing corporations to override local environmental and labor laws.

These barely scratch the surface of the intolerable things that the United States does — that we tolerate. The result is that the government is free to create laws that establish itself as a legal police state — meanwhile still pushing meaningless propaganda about the freedom, liberty and democracy that we never really had. If you don't believe this claim, then speak — as I have — with the people who were really involved in political activism in the 1960s.

In a sense there is democracy, but it does not take place in prescribed places at prescribed times. Democracy is a lifestyle; you must "vote with your life," as Henry David Thoreau suggested. Democracy

demands that you discover just what it is that you believe in, and live by what you think is right.

Which brings me back to the Patriot Act, which is drafted for the purposes of tightening control over the American people rather than combating terrorism, as it claims to do.

Following the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing in 1995, the Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) was created under the pretense of anti-terrorism. This act makes it nearly impossible for a death sentence to be overturned by a federal court. Elliot Grossman is co-council in the defense case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was sentenced to death for the murder of Daniel Faulkner. Under AEDPA, Arnold Beverly's confession to the murder is not allowed as evidence, because it came after the year allowed for the admission of new evidence.

"The AEDPA wouldn't have stopped Oklahoma. If this [current] legislation had been in place before September 11, it wouldn't have stopped it. It's not dealing with the problem it's supposed to solve. The people who pulled off 9-11 were not deterred by the death penalty; it is not an effective deterrent against those kind of people. Obviously [the legislation] is not designed to stop terrorism," said Grossman.

Even some people within the government fear the implications of

such legislation. "The insult is to call this a 'patriot bill' and suggest I'm not patriotic because I insist on finding out what is in it and voting no," said Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas. "I thought it was undermining the constitution, so I didn't vote for it — and therefore I'm somehow not a patriot. That's insulting."

"Why don't we say what we are doing here? We are going to amend our wiretap laws so we can look into anybody's computers," said Sen. Leahy, D-Vermont, who voted yes on the act. "We do not define terrorism, but we say we are adding that. I guess some kid who is scaring you with his computer could be a terrorist and you could go through the kid's house, his parents business or anything else under this language. It is that broad."

This law also allows activists and activist organizations to be labeled terrorists. As we can see from police actions against nonviolent protesters (and even non-protesting bystanders) in Seattle in 1999 during the massive protest of the WTO, police violence is already extreme. Now that such protesters are not merely protesters but "terrorists," we have yet to see how extreme police violence may become.

If you are a terrorist or are just curious about the implications of the USA Patriot Act, you can learn more at <www.aclu.org>, or type USA Patriot Act into your favorite search engine and see what you come up with.

Be Human.



Jesse Gurzynski
Staff Writer

The new face in terrorism

By Eric Johnson



Do you want to go head to head with one of our writers?
Bring it on!
Send your opinions to
cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us 300-500 words or stop by B-104 with it saved on a disk.



Be strong, survive in 2002

In the year 2001, we Americans experienced heartache and pain of catastrophic proportions when the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and all of America were hit by hatred. I'm here to say wherever 2002 takes us, we will always be taken care of, whether it is by family, friends, angels or God himself, we will survive. I know this because when my will withers and my strength fades and there seems to be nothing left of me and who I was to become, I know I'll be taken care of. When the world seems no longer our own, take heart, there is a plan, a purpose, for you and me both. You see, I am no stranger to heartbreak. I know pain. I've felt hatred. I've cried. I've bled. When that drink calls my name or yours and the drug wishes to inhale and overtake us for just a brief moment of happiness, we survive. Though some have given into the temptation and not made it back alive, those stories are told to teach others of survival, of love and loss.

Life deals us hands that sometimes we cannot control, and



Salena De La Cruz
Opinion Editor

Say It Loud
&
Proud!

those days seem like they will never end and we will never live through them, but we do because we have people who want us to survive, to persevere and continue with our lives.

There are some who have no one to turn to and no one to comfort them in their time of pain. So, if you see a stranger who's seen better days, smile and wave; you may have just saved a life.

When the bills are piling up and the money's not enough for food on the table or a roof over your head, and your sanity, like mine, has days that it may be slipping, look up, look around; people care about you. You make a difference.

Be strong in these times because all we can do is survive or be defeated.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!