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Lip balm: can't live without it



"Where logic and order go to die"

Erinn Lerten
Opinion Editor

Comedienne Paula Poundstone has a routine about Carmex addicts, she jokes that there is a secret wing at the Betty Ford Clinic for such people, and that they roam the halls begging for "just one little dip of their finger into a pot." To most people this seems silly and ridiculous, but to a true lip balm addict, it is the stuff of nightmares.

My name is Erinn and I am addicted to lip balm. Yes, I admit it. After years of denying the truth, it has finally come to light.

While surfing the Internet one day I came across a web site called Lip Balm Anonymous (I later found that searching Google for "lip balm addiction" will yield 5,630 matches.) Intriguing, I thought, being particularly fond of the glorious substance myself. The site claims their primary mission is to "stay free from lip balm and help others achieve

the same freedom."

I eventually found myself at the Self Test for Lip Balm addiction.

Question 1: *Do you ever use more lip balm than you planned?* No, of course not, I always keep several (ok, ok, a dozen or so) lip balms stashed in various places. Who knows when the need for lip balm will strike, in the car, in class, the middle of the night, one never wants to be without. So, the answer is no, right? I know my lip balm needs and plan accordingly.

Moving on to Question 2: *Has the use of lip balm interfered with your job?* Hmm, no job, answer no. Two down and I am well on my way to a healthy, normal, non-lip balm addicted life. Or so I think, but disaster strikes.

The questions become more difficult and probing. *Do you have an obsession to get lip balm when you don't have it?* Oh, most definitely, hence the plan to keep lip balm in every conceivable place. *Are you absorbed with the thought of getting coated even while interacting with friend or loved one?* Well, I have on occasion been brought up short in mid-sentence while searching for my lip balm. *Do you use lip balm in your car, at work, in the bathroom, on airplanes, or other public places?* Of course, doesn't everyone, except for the bathroom, how unsanitary. Well, after 43 questions and 28 yes answers, I'm

thinking I'm home free. Only 65% addicted, I think to myself. And then I read the horrible truth, the last line: "If you have answered yes to any of these questions, you may have a lip balm dependency problem."

Any of these questions? Any? What kind of sick joke is this? Despite my obvious addiction, some comfort came from reading the "testimonials" of other lip balm addicts. I don't cry about my lip balm, I don't steal it from other people, I don't claim that I love lip balm more than life itself and I don't write poetry about my obsession with Chap Stick. The line must be

drawn somewhere.

If you suspect that you or a loved one may suffer from Lip Balm Addiction encourage them to visit Lip Balm Anonymous and seek help (www.kevdo.com/lipbalm/home.html.) Besides the self-evaluation they also offer a 12-step recovery plan for addicts. Granted there are more important issues facing the world today than lip balm addiction, but you know what they say, "think globally, act locally." Start as local as you can get- your mouth.

To reach Erinn Lerten e-mail goawayrocks@hotmail.com or drop by B-104.



INTERNET PHOTO

Spring brings exciting changes to The Print



"Say it loud and proud!"

Salena De La Cruz
Design Editor

Spring is a time of rebirth and renewal and with the beginning of Spring Term it will be no different for The Clackamas Print newspaper.

During the weekend of March 1, some of the newspaper staff attended the Associated College Press newspaper conven-

tion which included sessions on how to make our writing and other various aspects of our paper better. Well I'm happy to say we walked away with some great ideas and will be implementing some of them in upcoming issues.

Spring term will begin with flowers blooming and new ideas to make a phenomenal paper. Some ideas we will be trying are new headline fonts. You may notice one will be bold while another is standard. This should show you which is the most important or dominant story on the page. Our flag or title at the top of the front page that says The Clackamas Print may be getting a total overhaul to its page template. Our pulled quotes may not be boxed up like you are used to. The Opin-

ion, Sports and Feature columns may have a different look. These are just a few ideas we will be trying for Spring Term.

Other changes involve my own editorial responsibilities. Winter Term I was the Production Coordinator/Opinion Editor, but this term I will work as Design Editor. As Design Editor, I will oversee the production of our paper on Tuesdays. This includes helping the staff create a design for their designated pages and sections. It also includes working with the Editor-in-Chief Maggie Jirasek in laying out the front page. My duties will also include those of the Photo Editor. I will be taking a majority of the photos you will see in the paper or assigning them to various staff members. However, I will no

longer be responsible for the Opinion pages. I will however, still be "Saying it loud and proud," with my opinion writing.

Once all of the pages are laid out, I will look at the end result to make sure we are being consistent with our pages, headlines, photos, stories and alignment and ensure details compliments each other.

Please keep in mind this is a learning experience for all of us on this staff, and if you think something doesn't work, or you love something and you think we should continue to use it, don't hesitate to let us know. We appreciate all feedback, good or bad.

To reach Salena De La Cruz e-mail wonderwoman41477@yahoo.com or drop by B-104.

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.