

★THE CLACKAMAS PRINT★

**Editor-in-Chief**
Daisy Bain**Copy Editor**
Frank Jordan**Opinion/Design Editor**
Erinn Lerten**A&E Editor**
Jen Kane**News Editor**
Shadra Beesley**Sports Editor**
Elena Boryska**Feature Editor**
Elisabeth Meyer**Photo Editor**
Luke Mahan**Advertising Manager**
Michael Choe
ext. 2578**Staff Writers:**Robb Egan
Megan Cobb
Isaiah Creel
Pete Ford
Jason Bonadurer**Columnist:**Marvin Baker
Joel Gaynor
JoAnne Gale**Webmaster:**

JoAnne Gale

Secretary:**Adviser:**

Linda Vogt

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. 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 X2309
cccprint@clackamas.cc.or.us
http://depts.clackamas.cc.or.us/print

To tip or not to tip? That is the question

Pro

A few weeks ago I had dinner with a friend who said he wasn't going to tip the waitress. "It's her job to wait on me," he said. I was in an outrage. This is true; our job is to wait on the customer. But before you decided to stop tipping too, consider the aches and pains your server goes through, just to make a five-table section happy.

In a typical section, each server waits on about 15-20 people at a time.

If a customer isn't greeted within 60 seconds, the poor server can suddenly become the customer's vital enemy. The drink tastes a little weaker, the food a little colder, if the server seems a little rushed, she needs an attitude check. I have seen this all firsthand. It wouldn't matter how much the server smiles. She is done for before she even reaches the table.

How about at the bar. Imagine being a female bartender at a sports bar. I get the luxury of waiting on middle-aged men who think they have a chance at taking me home. A short one-liner here, a comment there. They can spend two hours talking about my chest, not admitting to them that I can hear every word they are saying. I am expected to smile and bring them their next round of drinks so they can continue their drunken talk about how they can take me home. Then they can leave me that 50-cent tip on their credit card, and go home.

The argument has been brought to my attention that a lot of people work for minimum wage and put up with a lot of gruff. They don't get tipped, so why should servers? As soon as the McDonald's worker gets taxed on every burger they sell, I will tip them.

The way Oregon's tax system is set up, people in the industry actually live on the tips they make per night. The government assumes that every customer is going to tip us according to the price of his or her bill, not the quality of service. They assume that for every 40-dollar check, the customer will leave four dollars. For every person that leaves four dollars, there is a person who leaves two, or none at all, because they think I am just doing my job. Did they know my check for two weeks is only seventy dollars? The government takes it all because they think I made five hundred dollars a week in tips.

Everyone should remind himself or herself we have feelings and there is a limit to how much a person can take. If your server truly does need an attitude check, by simply not tipping them, you just make them believe that customers suck even more. Try talking to them. Let them know why you are considering not tipping them. This way they can let you know why something has happened. Maybe they had an accident and dropped your food. Maybe that's why your food took 25 minutes instead of 20. If there is no excuse, go to the manager. If the service was that bad, this person shouldn't be in the industry.

But if the service was good, why not let them know as well. The average service worker is a single parent, or a starving college student. We should all take care of our own. If you can't bring yourself to tip, don't go out to eat. Make your own dinner at home.

Chivalry isn't dead but it must be sleeping

**Jen Kane**
A&E Editor

Problem: Boy and girl come to a closed door. How do they get through to the other side? Answer: Boy extends arm, grabs handle, pulls door open and lets girl through first. It's not rocket science.

I realize that it's the 21st century and chivalry is supposed to be dead. But that's just it; it's the 21st century, guys should know these rules by now!

Recently, I went out on a date with a guy that I met at a restaurant. I left him my number, and a few days later he called and asked me out. He seemed really nice, and besides the tiny bit of awkwardness, it seemed like maybe something could work out between the two of us. What happened, you ask?

Well, on the evening of the date, he called at about 5:30 p.m. Turns out this

guy does not even have a car (28 and doesn't have a car?!?!), so he asked if I wouldn't mind driving. Now, he asked me out; I do sort of have a problem driving on a first date, but I had to nonetheless.

We head out to go to dinner at a little Chinese place. We arrive at the door of this fine establishment, and he makes absolutely no move to open it for me. Now seriously, it's the smallest, simplest thing a guy can do for a girl. It should honestly be second nature. But all too often I come across guys that don't even think about it. This is horrible. My brother even opens doors for me! So this is strike number two.

Conversation throughout dinner is fairly sporadic, but there's still a bit there. Finally the check comes. Now keep in mind that he called and asked me out. Well, the check sits there for a few minutes, and I feel like he's waiting for me to offer up some money. Finally he puts the money down, looks at me and says "Uhm, so, I'll get the dinner and you can pay for the movie." Strike number three buddy. You're out!

So let's recap. First off, guys need to drive on at least the first couple of dates. It makes a girl feel less like a girl

Con

**Frank Jordan**
Copy Editor

So there I was, sitting in my favorite restaurant on a Wednesday night after work, enjoying a meal and a few adult beverages, when my waitress saunters over and asks if everything is all right. I tell her that everything is perfect except for one thing. She forgot the salad that was supposed to go with my meal. Embarrassed, she apologizes for this obvious blunder on her part, asks me if I would now like my salad, and I proceed to politely tell her no. I have already eaten my

entrée and have had my plates cleared. I ask her for my bill and she lays it on the table without saying a word.

My dilemma is this: The food, as always, is excellent. The drinks were as they always are, satisfying and a little strong. The restaurant is bustling with activity, yet the service was not quite up to par. The dilemma is what kind of tip to leave?

The American dining-out culture is one of the things that make this country what it is. We are a nation of doers and thinkers, and we have grown accustomed to our got-to-have-it-now-and-will-do-whatever-it-takes mentality. This is why the service industry is the fastest-growing sector of the economy in the United States today. Americans don't have time to go to the grocery store and grab food to fix for the family, like 20 and 30 years ago. Many Americans, rich and poor, go to their favorite restaurant and eat, because it is quick, simple and doesn't require setting the table and washing the dishes.

Having worked in the restaurant industry for most of the last 13 years, I have seen both sides of the fence. I have been a waiter and a bartender, have worked at a fast-food counter on several occasions, and have managed in both full-service and quick-service (fast-food) restaurants. I have also eaten at many fine dining establishments and taken many, many trips to the local fast-food joint. So, I have intimate knowledge of this facet of American society.

Tipping is as commonplace as the meal itself. We, as Americans, have had it ground into our psyche that in order to get good, if not great, service, we have to tip in order to get it. This is wrong. Good service begets tipping, not the other way around. Many servers and bartenders that I know, including the bartender writing the other opinion on this page, will tell you that, yes, if a person tips well, they will receive better service. They won't admit this to their employer, but this is basic American human nature. We are all out for the almighty buck, so if you want everything that your heart desires, from the salad that goes with your meal, to a little bit more alcohol in your adult beverage, then you had better show him/her the money. Sad, isn't it.

Owners of small businesses will tell you that word-of-mouth advertising is, the most powerful form of advertising in the marketplace. If one customer gives a bad review of a business, that person may be so upset that they tell their friends not to frequent this particular business. The mouth can be a very powerful tool.

To resolve my dilemma, I left a tip to the cook who prepared my meal. The steak was excellent, the potato was cooked just right. I had to leave the tip with the floor manager to make sure it went to the right person. I'm positive that the server cursed me out of the door, but I didn't care. She may even wait on me in the future, but she needs to realize that it is my money, and I should be the one who decides who receives the tip, if any at all.

LOVE LETTERS

OR

HATE MAIL

**WE'LL TAKE THEM ALL.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ALWAYS WELCOME.

SEND LETTERS TO
CCCPRINT@
CLACKAMAS.CC.OR.US
OR DROP THEM BY
BARLOW 104.