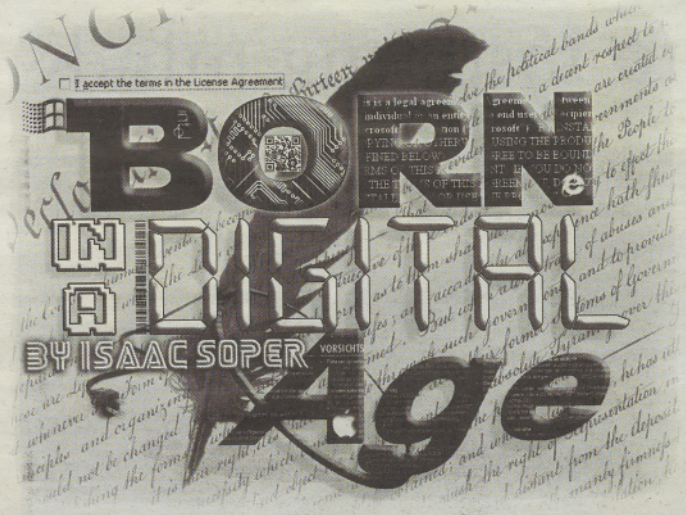
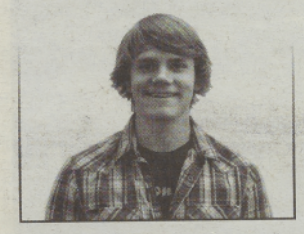


Photo illustration by Anna Axelson *The Clackamas Print*

E-books less green than paper



By Isaac Soper
Arts & Culture Editor

I've never wanted to smell an iPad or a Kindle.

I miss books, I honestly do. Being able to read something on a computer or e-reader is much faster and more accessible in most ways, but I miss the feel of paper. You don't get that with the clicking of a plastic mouse, tapping your fingers on a plastic keyboard; I want something real. I miss the smell of a book. I really do, and I can't ever imagine myself smelling a keyboard and having a nostalgic feeling, like "Ooh, that smells good. I love the smell of plastic and aluminum."

Whether a book is new or old, the pages have a very memorable smell. I can't explain it, but I love that smell. Though I do consider myself somewhat of an environmentalist, when I want to read a book, I want to hold it in my hands, turn the pages and read.

We can save the trees by recycling old newspapers, phonebooks and textbooks to make new books. What a novel idea (no pun intended, okay, mild pun intended). Some may argue that we are "saving" the rain forest by using electronic media opposed to printed materials.

I'm sure that the Earth isn't too happy about the plastics and bauxite mines that we use to create e-book readers.

We make our iPads "green" by making them out of more aluminum than plastic. Where does that aluminum come from? We don't find it lying around. I guarantee that iPads aren't made out of [expletive deleted] recycled pop cans. I mean, sure we'll save all of those trees, the ones that aren't blown off the face of the Earth by dynamite when we blast open a hole in the ground to mine aluminum ore.

Wait, you say, we can make plastic out of other materials, like food! Now why would we use food to make something that isn't edible? Because we are idiots who use food to create pseudo-biodegradable plastic. Did you know that under "normal conditions" biodegradable plastics break down in about the same amount of time as paper? Let me remind you "normal conditions" means a constant temperature of about 250 degrees Fahrenheit, so normal conditions for, let's say the dead of winter on the planet Venus.

Everything is getting more and more finely tuned to ease of access. We rarely use libraries anymore, because we have to drive to the library. We have to walk to the library. But our computer is in our backpack; our smartphone is in our hand. Our iPad is in our lap, propped up on its little protective screen cover that's so damn cute.

There are certain things that no matter what medium they are printed on, they will not be read by today's society. Did you read the End-User License Agreement when you installed Windows 7? Unless you're a lawyer, no one is going out reading the Constitution. Good or bad, that's for you to decide. The reason behind that is because it has no entertainment value. It's the same reason no one reads the rules to Monopoly prior to playing or reading your syllabus for biology before coming to class. It is because in this day and age, we are addicted to the black-tar heroin that is instant gratification.

What brings more instant gratification, a book, or my Kindle Fire, with the Internet! Now that's what I call a book! What if I told you that that same Kindle Fire is made out of food? "I can't eat it," you say. "It's too hot."

Paper, I would like to introduce you to my good friend plastic, he is made out of food and oil, instead of trees, and we've got plenty of that.

Give me a book any day, if you hand me an iPad I'll turn on the Geto Boys and go "Office Space" on it.

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High school student is first writer laureate

By Chris Taylor
The Clackamas Print

If only you could get experience in a working environment by simply being a creative writer for the school. Oh wait, you can. Say hello to your new Writer Laureate, Abby Johnson.

The Writer Laureate is a newly created position that the Clackamas Community College English department developed last term. The position requires you to promote upcoming events, write for special occasions (i.e. open mics) and participate in meetings. The writer laureate also contributes to the Clackamas Literary Review and is president of the Writer's Club on campus.

Johnson finds the work to be great experience for her future career. "I really like this job a lot. I like the office and love working with the faculty and staff. The tuition waiver is a great plus." Johnson attends CCC through a program at Alliance Charter Academy that allows you to take classes at CCC while also going through high school. She is working on her high school diploma as well as an Associates of General Studies or an AAOT. She hopes to transfer to OSU and major in English.

Geology instructor Sarah Hoover told Johnson of the new position, and she thought that it sounded interesting. After the English department read the applications that were submitted they made their decision. On Dec. 5, four days after the applications were due; her hopes were answered. "I was very excited to hear that I got the job," said Johnson. "To be the first one is kind of an honor."

If anyone has earned the title of the writer laureate, Johnson certainly did. The application process included submitting a letter of recommendation from an instructor, a one-page letter describing their interest in writing and literature, their vision for the position and 10 - 15 work samples like poems or short stories. It was a pretty substantial process.

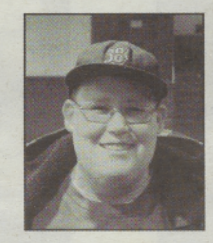
Indeed, attaining this position is an honor in itself that comes with responsibility. Johnson represents the English Dept., the Writer's Club and CCC. Her writings can be seen in future English and creative writing events to come.

The Print asks: What classes do you wish were offered at CCC?

"Two classes I wish were offered at CCC are a wedding planning course, because I want to be a wedding planner and horseback riding. I absolutely love horses." — Nakkita Warrilow

"I wish CCC offered a budgeting and money management class. Too many college students get into debt early and have too much debt to handle once they get out of college." — Nick Miller

"Japanese. The culture is really interesting, and it would add some more diversity to the foreign languages that are currently offered." — Lisa Rogelstad



"Video gaming, you know? Design it, test it, play it or just play games. Maybe even beta test some new ones." — Bryce Pierson

"That's easy: basic combat training. It'd be really helpful if the world actually ends in 2012 or just useful in general." — Greg Morgan

- Compiled by Chris Taylor