

Clackamas graduate Dana Haynes wears many hats: journalist, mayoral spokesman, published author

by ERIN CAREY
news & culture editor

From writing the mayor of Portland's speeches to writing his own fiction novels, Dana Haynes is a busy guy. Having gone to Clackamas Community College and traveled on to Lewis & Clark College, Haynes sat down with *The Clackamas Print*, his old turf, to tell us some stories about the shenanigans so many years ago.

The Clackamas Print: What years did you go to CCC?

Dana Haynes: I graduated from Lewis & Clark College in '87, which meant I was at CCC from '81 to '85.

TCP: What is it that you do now?

Haynes: With the mayor, I'm communications director, which means I work with the media, I do my own interviews, prepare the mayor for interviews, write speeches, I do social media and I do talking points on policies. I also write mysteries and thriller novels, and I'm currently being published by St. Martin's Press, so I get to write fiction novels too.

TCP: You were a part of The Clackamas Print. What did you do and what was it like then?

Haynes: I was editor in chief. I was the editor for most of four years that I was there. I was working my way rather slowly through college because I was spending time in theater, so it took me quite awhile to get enough credits so I could go to Lewis & Clark.

I spent most of my time as the editor in chief. I went to a high school in Spokane that had a really strong journalism program, and I graduated from high school with stronger Associate Press skills than anyone else in college had. So I was the editor almost immediately.

TCP: What was the biggest story you covered?

Haynes: At the time there was a big controversy going on with a religious group called the Rajneesh here in Oregon. There was a debate about whether or not to allow this group of people to testify or come speak on campus. And it was a pretty big issue for lots of campuses who had invited or not invited Rajneesh to come speak.

They ended up being labeled more as a criminal organization than a religious organization, including some attempted homicides. As fate would have it, they ended up looking like someone that shouldn't be speaking on campuses, but at the time it was pretty controversial.

I also got to interview Linus Pauling, for whom the Pauling Science Center was named. He is a two-time Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and peace, and came damn close to winning a third time.

He was weeks away from unraveling the double-helix. So being involved in a newspaper for a community college and getting to interview a guy who was a regular recipient of Nobel prizes was pretty cool.

TCP: What is your favorite memory from CCC or The Print?

Haynes: One of my memories that is kind of funny is of the guy who was president at the time, John Hakanson. He was kind of a cranky older fellow, who really treated us like we were actual media.

So if I called saying, 'I need to come talk to the president' he'd say 'of course, get up here' and he'd give us interviews. And I didn't think anything of it at the time until years as a professional I realized lots of school journalists aren't treated as real media by school administration, and just as a class.

If you're taking journalism at some college, you could no more get an interview with the president than you could fly to the moon. But Hakanson got that 'you're a journalist, just come on by and talk to me' and that was one of my dominant favorite memories. If he disagreed with what I wrote he'd call and say, 'hey, you got that wrong,' but that meant he'd read what I wrote, and thought of me as media, and not just some kid he could pat on top of the head.

TCP: I remember when I talked to you previously you explained what The Print room was back in the day. What was it again?

Haynes: We were in a trailer. It was trailer that had been set up just for us; it had two offices and then a commons area. It was a crappy old trailer, at one point one of my sports editors stepped through the floor; there was enough rot that the

floor gave out from under him. It was a pretty bad place to work, and we went over to Clairmont Hall to build our papers, over by the observatory.

There were no flash drives in 1980-whatever it was, so you had to pick up your entire newspaper and walk from the trailer over to Clairmont and put out the pages and do your own layout using waxers and razors and that was your paper.

One of us would drive it to the press in Salem to get them printed up and drive them back. It was a workhorse operation.

It was true too that you'd start the year off with 15 or 20 people and you always ended up with three or four left through everything, it was the iron law of oligarchy, always ended up that way. It was a good boot camp. You learned to be fast, you learned to be good and you listened. You learned to do a little bit of everything - except sports writing, I never did sports writing, but I did everything else.

TCP: What advice do you have for future journalists about the big, scary world?

Haynes: Newsprint and ink are going away. There's just no question about it. You can see that when The Boston Globe is in trouble, or The Oregonian's no longer a daily, and the Chicago Sun Times is barely hanging on.

But the world will always need storytellers, and the world will always need watchdogs. So while the medium that I've spent my life learning of - newsprint and ink - looks like it's changing forever, there's always going to be

someone generating stories that are both watchdog and entertaining, in some medium. I don't know what it is, but don't worry about it. Journalism is not going to go away.

There are going to be different jobs, there might be fewer jobs, there might be more jobs. They might have a vastly different skill set, but we're always going to need storytellers, and we're always going to need watchdogs.

The two different skill sets that journalists have, which is the input of data and the output of stories, you'll find somebody who will pay you a crappy little living which is what I made to do those things. You'll find someone.



Above: A photo of Dana Haynes hangs in CCC's Barlow Hall. It was taken during his time as editor-in-chief for *The Clackamas Print*.

Below: Dana Haynes during a press conference for the mayor of Portland.



Get to know your future chief editors

by DENEÉ SHELTON
photo editor

Extend a warm welcome to the new co-chief editors of *The Clackamas Print*, Erin Carey and Zak Laster.

New things can be scary and people can be resistant to change, but do not fear! Carey and Laster are no frightening matter. They're quite the entertaining duo. Carey knows more facts than you can think of about musicians Matt Healy and One Direction. Laster has a strange affinity for the Oregon Ducks; he's never without a sign of U of O school spirit... traitor.

Don't let that fool you though; he makes up for that failure by being well versed in the art of sarcasm. Without further ado, here's a peek into the amusing minds of Carey and Laster, *The Clackamas Print*'s new co-chief editors.

What did you want to be when you were 5 years old?

Laster: I wanted to be a sports broadcaster for ESPN. College football specifically. Go Ducks!

Carey: I wanted to be Ariel because of her hair and Prince Eric's dog. I wanted to be a mermaid and a princess, so why not Ariel?

Who is your movie alter-personality?

Laster: I've been told at least 20 times I look like Leo. I ran my face through those face recognition things and it came back 80% Leo.

Who is your music alter-personality?

Carey: Beyoncé. She has tons of confidence in herself and what she does. She's a total babe and I've got a major woman-crush on her.

Favorite adult drink?

Laster: Jack and coke. Extra Jack.

Favorite dessert to make?

Carey: Tiramisu. I had to make it once when I interned for a bakery, and I ate over half of it. It's coffee and dessert, what could be better than that?

Most important thing you learned this year? Best advice to give.

Laster: Communication. Saying what you actually mean.

Carey: Keep calm. Getting upset and yelling and flipping out won't help anyone or anything.

Proudest accomplishment of your life so far?

Laster: Actually sticking through college and making it to where I am now.

Carey: Learning to type without looking at the keys and using a

right-handed can opener correctly.

Favorite sarcastic comeback?

Laster: 'Your mom.' No, really though I don't have a comeback. I say things and people laugh. People just assume that I'm funny.

Carey: When anyone says 'that's what she said,' respond with, 'not to you she didn't.'

How do you deal with Print struggles?

Laster: Please refer back to my "favorite adult drink" answer.

Carey: Exercise classes!

What do you want students to associate with The Print?

Laster: We're not socially awkward. Everyone assumes we're socially uncomfortable, but we're not.

Carey: We are a hardworking group of friends.



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