

IN THE YEAR 2044



NATHAN COOK, WARRENTON HIGH SCHOOL

BY STUDENTS OF CLATSOP COUNTY

Remind you of a '60s song? *In the Year....If (homo sapiens sapiens) is still alive?* That was the future then, deep in a Cold War with nuclear obliteration the probable outcome. Today's future perceptions reflect a '90s cachet. The projections on these pages are from children who will spend most of their lives in not only the next century but the next Millennium.

They are from the *Clatsop County Student Book of Essays & Art*, which was published in commemoration of the county's 150th anniversary last year and buried at the Astoria Column, to be opened in the year 2044. More than 600 students from the county's schools responded to their perceptions of life in Clatsop County now and at its bicentennial in 2044, and what they think their contributions will be. The responses on these pages are about the future.

~MPMc

In 2044 I see that the forests are going to be very ugly. Men will be chopping down trees every day. I think stumps will be everywhere. Forests are going to be highways in 2044. Highways are going to be put in instead of trees. Forests will be hotels and motels instead of trees. There will be no more animals because trees will be destroyed. I think that when something is destroyed, it stays like that. I also think that there will be buildings and skyscrapers. So when you go to a forest always use RESPECT!!

~AMBER EVANSEN
Cannon Beach School

I think Clatsop County in 2044 will have a lot more buildings. In Clatsop County 50 years from now there will be a lot more houses. I think there will be houses on the rocks and beaches of the ocean. The hills will be filled with houses and highways. The animals will lose their homes because of the people's houses.

~TASHA REIDLINGER
Cannon Beach School

I think in the year 2044, Clatsop County will double its population. More houses will cover the hills. The fighting will stop, no one will act against the law. Houses and cars would be sun powered. The word "litter" would not even exist, because no one would litter. Everyone would pick up after themselves. The towns would be clean and nice, with no garbage.

~HOLLY SNAIR
Seaside Heights Elementary

They will probably have dehydrated food. They will probably have jet cars. When you push a button it turns into a boat. When you go to school you would go to school in a vegetable powered UFO. Your TV can show 62 channels at one time. To get into your house you will have to press your thumb on a glass square. Instead of glasses the words on your paper would be humongous. Instead of scooters you will have jet powered skateboards. There wouldn't be guns. When you wanted to sign your signature you just said your name.

~CASSIE BERG
Seaside Heights Elementary

I think that there will be more people because more people are being born almost everyday in Clatsop County. And even more people will come in the summer. Plus more people will be attracted to the beach.

I also think that there will be less air pollution. I think that we will have solar cars that run on something other than gas. We think about stuff like that everyday.

I also think that there will be less beach pollution. People are trying harder not to pollute our beaches. We have scouts that clean beaches.

I also think that there will be more trees on the hills. Every time that there are trees that get cut new ones get planted.

~JACOB LEAR
Seaside Heights Elementary

In the year 2044 life could be either of two ways. Life in the year 2044 could be like this:

Railways controlled by solar power that take you around.
Instead of cars, more bicycles.
Earthquake safe buildings.
No drugs or alcohol or cigarettes.
Good jobs.
No gangs or mobs.
Cure for AIDS.
No diseases.
Less fattening foods.
Better school systems.
Less crime.
More recycling.
No killing.
No prejudice.
No poverty.

Or it could be the other way:

Ongoing wars.
Disease, races dying out.
Destruction.
Pollution.
Killings.
Robberies.
Gangs.
Hate.

We have a choice. We could live in Clatsop County Number 1 or we could live in Clatsop County Number 2.

~CHRIS MONROE
Broadway Middle School (Seaside)

In the future, 50 years from now, I would be 61. All the things would have changed. The food would be in capsules, the workers at restaurants would be robots, and nobody at restaurants would have to worry about smoke because they would set off the smoke detector if they did. Animals would be special because they are potty trained. They could also take themselves out for a walk.

Cars and buses would be solar powered and they would run on gasoline made by dead leaves and wood. The cars wouldn't make any pollution because the cars wouldn't have exhaust pipes.

The technology would be new and different. There would be CD Rom for TV, the TVs would be big. They wouldn't have to worry about losing the remote because I would invent a remote control detector. The computer would have advanced in many ways. I would have new and different things for it.

The future may be only 50 years away, but it seems like a lifetime. So I hope that everything comes true because it would be cool to have potty trained pets.

~MEGAN HUBIK
Broadway Middle School

What do I think Clatsop County will be like in the year 2044? I don't know, so much has changed in the past couple of years. The whole economy of Astoria has been about shot down with the lack of fish and the old growth timber extravaganza. Seaside has tried to welcome a McDonald's along Highway 101. This is 50 years from now. I will be 64 years old, nearly an old man. I wonder what I will be doing or what I might have done. The focus is not on me, although this provokes a lot of thought about a different subject. Clatsop County, eh?

I could go with the *Back to the Future Part 2* approach where kids would travel places on hover boards or flying cars or whatever, but I don't think things will be that high-tech at this time. School will be quite different I guess with the loss of diplomas from high school with this Katz plan. The forests of Clatsop County might be different due to the disastrous effects of clear-cut, but some of the land and trees will grow back. No beach? It could happen. It might happen. Some of the buildings in Clatsop County will be new and different or the same old buildings we see here in 1994. Clatsop Community College maybe different will be aging just a little. My grandpa built much of "Harvard on the Hill." I wonder if anything else built by my grandfather will be left standing in Clatsop County.

This place, this area, I don't know. When I was growing up in my early years no houses were around my elementary school except for a couple of duplexes. Now, already, about four years later, apartments and automobiles line up and down Spruce Drive. I love the time I spent with my friends in the forest behind my house. Will this forest exist or will it just be the plot for more houses? I love all the great memories I have about my dad and I building "the fort" in our backyard out of alder timbers from that forest. But change. Change is what you get all the time, most unexpectedly. I find myself many times talking to my friends; what do we usually talk about? The past. I don't like to think about the future, it scares the hell out of me.

HEAVEN OR HELL

The colonies of India: famed for their malevolent beauty, subplots whispered in shadowed courtyards, and the silvery flash of a rebel's knife blade before it connects with the flesh of hapless victims. It may seem rather histrionic to use the colonies of India as a metaphor of a much smaller and insignificant place. But, I cannot help but see numerous similarities between the turbulent India of earlier centuries and the present day Clatsop County: facetious as it may seem at first.

Clatsop County radiates a beauty that is inescapable to most. It swims in a sea of trees, and boasts a dreary, rainy atmosphere that transforms the land in spring to that of an Eden; to Utopia. People from other states, and even other parts of Oregon, can appreciate the expansive beaches which hug the land, and the small town quaintness. Apple pies on windowsills, children sauntering along the road toting cattails, friendly waves and hellos from everyone. Clatsop County sports all this to the wandering eye who digs no deeper than the surface, or to the big city tourist desperate for the familiarity and closeness of smaller communities.

But hidden in the shadows of the ostensibly good natured folk, there grows a festering plague of ignorance and intolerance. Clatsop County has a disease more contagious and more fatal than any other: prejudice in the form of a malignant growth known as the OCA.

Life in Clatsop County is a dream for those whose sexual preference is embraced by enough to make the list of the accepted elite, created by a few unbalanced people who have chosen to play God. But if one is homosexual, life in Clatsop County cannot be anything but the scorching lands of Hades. Their lives must be governed by constant secrecy. They must become the ultimate survivors.

There is no beauty for a tortured people. They will not be able to look on their childhood years here in a positive light. The high voodoo priest has pointed the witch finger, and the rest of us become silent witnesses to the holocaust of the 1990s.

For me life in Clatsop County was a sheltered one: the kind of childhood one always reads about in autobiographies and such. I climbed trees, I trick-or-treated without constant fear of what lurked in the shadows, I walked to school. However, I cannot ignore the festering hate; it burns my ears to hear it, and burns my soul to think of it.

My life is one unmarked by the trials of anguish and heartbreaking decisions. I have often felt lucky to have grown up amid such beauty. But I know that others suffer, and I know that the fight to keep their spirits and physical well-being intact is a daily one. It seems as though we always have to be persecuting in order to be human.

Sooner or later the hate will scar these lands, and that is the day we should all be dreading. We are living in a fool's paradise.

~MEGAN McLAUGHLIN
Warrenton High School