

Surviving Journalism

A Letter from the Editor

After much deliberation and careful consideration of the plethora of mediums available, I came to the conclusion that *Survivor* is not only the quintessential model for studying the human psyche but provides wonderful lessons in the complex science of group dynamics in the workforce. Who knew?!

Seriously folks, I know what you're thinking: I saw one of the last episodes of *Survivor Africa* and couldn't help criticizing it for being an extremely trivial cross between a Hollywood game show and "real life" programming. Yet, I have never been more attached to a television program in my life (Perhaps due to my not having cable anymore!). As a competitive person, I find myself getting very involved in strategies to win the game. I am (or rather, I should say I *was*) thoroughly convinced that as long as you kept a positive attitude, don't play games, pulled your own weight, are in good physical shape, and could stand eating just about *anything*, you could win *Survivor*! Oh how wrong I was! This strategy *might* have worked if the judges weren't competing also!

Then I saw the beginning episode of *Survivor Marquesas* and began to understand what makes us watch this "drivel." The viewer's perspective is definitely unique

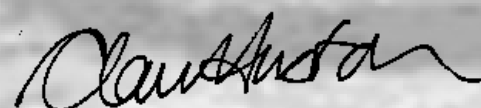
etc. magazine Mission Statement

The primary goal of etc. magazine is to entertain the campus community at City College of San Francisco, with human interest and light-hearted feature stories about people and places. Much of the content falls into four specific areas: General Features, Profiles, Opinion Pieces, and the Photo Gallery. We are committed to publishing stories that are relevant and informative to our readers. Although our main reporting focus is on the college and its satellite campuses, relevant off-campus stories will be considered. Additionally, etc. magazine serves as a in-the-field training ground for students in the Department of Journalism who work as editors, writers, photographers, copy editors, illustrators, and page designers. But, overall, our mission is to produce a high quality publication each semester that meets the information and entertainment needs of our campus community.

since we can see everything: The contestants are like lab rats, stuck on an island with cameras watching their every move so that we can see humankind at its very best, and at its very, very worst! We hear what the contestants say to each other, behind each other's backs and alone to the camera. Each and every "contestant" is desperately trying to get their own needs met while grappling with longings for acceptance in the tribe. They laugh, they cry, they pray, they fight, they cooperate, they stab each other in the back: What *pathos*!

Tousles aside, each contestant emerges having learned a few lessons in "Group Dynamics." Regretfully, most of us will never get the chance to experience such a profoundly enlightening phenomenon. However, for the rest of us who didn't make the final cut for the next season, there's always CCSF's JOUR 29 class! "Magazine Editing and Production" class! Yes folks, JOUR 29 is what every journalism student *must* experience before entering the workforce! Like the contestants of *Survivor* you too can watch how your original "game plans" will need to accommodate those of your co-workers. Learn how to work with classmates whose grades and capabilities suddenly impact your own. If nothing else, this class teaches you how to balance your own intentions with the variety of ideas and personalities around you. No other class can accomplish this essential preparation.

A final caveat (and thanks) to those of you who are still reading my blurb: This class is not for the weak stomached, you need to attend class *and* do some work! Now that we have *survived* the production of this magazine, I now realize that I learned an incalculably valuable lesson in "Playing Nice."



Clare Huston