



DANIELLE HICKEY | PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman Josh Gordon reads his comic poetry at the Invention of Metaphor reading last Thursday.

# invention of metaphor

*A freshman seminar encourages students to create new imagery in poetry and perform their works in public*

BY RYAN NYBURG  
PULSE EDITOR

The EMU's ground floor coffee shop, the Buzz, is awash in red and yellow light. Abstract art is scattered over the walls, mics are set up in a spotlight area, and a crowd of black-clad freshmen wait with nervous anticipation. Rhythmic beats are pounded out on conga drums as an older man takes the "stage," firing out a stream of complex verbiage as he introduces himself. The man is Dr. George Moore, the black-clad freshmen are his students and the event is the Invention of Metaphor freshman seminar poetry reading.

In its second year of existence, Invention of Metaphor is a class that, according to Moore, is designed to help students come up with new forms of imagery in poetry. The freshmen read a wide range of poets, write and critique poetry and perform in front of each other. The culmination of

the class, which took place March 3 this term, is a public performance the students put together themselves, creating their own advertising and preparing their best work.

"In the class, students write a great deal of poetry, which I severely line edit so that only the most powerful images remain," Moore said. "We also work on performance and stage presence in preparation for the public reading."

Moore has plenty of experience in public performance, having been a part of or visitor of poetry scenes all over the world, as well as performing as a bass player for Allen Ginsberg.

According to his students, the class has been a positive experience.

"I never wrote poetry before I took this seminar," freshman history major Caitlin Kilcourse said. "Now I've written poems five pages long. It has really helped me learn to express myself

through images."

For the final public performance, the 11 seminar members wore variations on all-black dress. Congas and audience participation that was "short of tackling the reader" added to the 1950s Beat poetry feel. Moore introduced the poets by reading individual poems he wrote about them and their work. Readings were accompanied by random conga taps and even finger-snapping in place of applause. Some students said that, despite the theatrics, the performance still made them nervous.

"I do classical singing, so I'm used to performing," Kilcourse said before the reading. "But I'm still a little nervous about reading my own stuff."

Freshman Josh Gordon feels differently about performing.

"I stopped caring, since we're all comfortable with each other," he said. "It helps that I write comically, so I get to say 'boobies' a lot and make people laugh."

ryannyburg@dailyemerald.com

## Make a Difference! Mentor.

*Committed Partners For Youth*

Volunteer with an at-risk youth age 7 to 15

PLEASE CALL  
344-0833

EARN CREDITS BY MENTORING!



One year commitment needed. Average time spent is 15 hrs/month or meeting with youth 1x week.

[www.committedpartners.org](http://www.committedpartners.org)

## McDONALD THEATRE



ON SALE NOW!

SAT MARCH 12  
ALL AGES 7 PM DOORS RESERVED SEATING

THIS SATURDAY!  
THE ACOUSTIC BAND TOUR 2005  
**JONNY LANG**

**moe.** with **RAILROAD EARTH**

SAT APR 9  
ALL AGES 7 PM DRS

ON SALE NOW!

Limited Seating

### MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER



FRI MAY 6  
ALL AGES 7 PM DRS

**TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS**  
WITH **ALO**

TUE APR 19  
ALL AGES 7 PM DRS

ON SALE NOW!

OPENING



ON SALE SATURDAY MARCH 12!

Event Info and FREE TICKETS at [www.mcdonaldtheatre.com](http://www.mcdonaldtheatre.com)  
General Admission WILL CALL Tickets Now ONLINE from [mcdonaldtheatre.com](http://mcdonaldtheatre.com)  
All Concert Tickets Available at **TicketsWest** outlets (800) 992-TIXX. Service charges may apply.

UO Bookstore Book Buyback Online

**CHECK CURRENT PRICES OF YOUR TEXTBOOKS, BEFORE YOU SELL THEM**

<http://uobookstore.com/coursebooks/CCRA>

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
**BOOKSTORE**