

Cast and hammer; metalsmithing class offered

By Alison Hull
Of the Print

How would you like to make something out of say, silver or gold?

Les Tipton, an art instructor at the College, teaches a Jewelry/Metalsmithing class Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon.

"The jewelry students at the College basically are beginners and have no approach in jewelry equipment and methods such as sawing, filing,

and casting," Tipton said. "There's three main areas I cover. Starting fall term is the construction phase, winter term is the casting phase and spring term the forming and hammering phase.

"The construction phase is basically focused around the soldering bench. Students learn the various surfaced skills and large and small scale soldering techniques," Tipton said.

"Starting winter term is the casting phase. Our heaviest concentration is on casting and in spring term it is the forming

and hammering," Tipton continued. "This term involves more understanding of what metals can do. The student learns how to change the shape of metals like making a thick piece of metal into a thin piece or a long piece of metal into a short one."

"I usually assign the first project or two and after that the students can make what they want," Tipton said. "There's a variety of materials we use to make certain things. The class is based on metals, but we use a lot of different materials like

hardwood, gold, clay, and plastic."

Robert Waller, a student in the class commented, "This is a great class and I like Les. I learned the basic skills of jewelry making in high school and when I came here there were more knowledgeable instructors and my talent grew. This class also stimulates creativity."

Another student in the class, Duane Smith said, "I had some experience in jewelry making before I took this class.

It's more of a hobby for me and I really like the class. Tipton is an excellent teacher and he's really knowledgeable."

A variety of methods in making jewelry or containers are used. Students will learn basic skills in using things like a torch, polishing machines, tools, and a sheet metal cutter.

Tipton holds a masters degree in art education and a masters degree in sculpture from the University of Oregon. He has been teaching the class at the College since 1975.



IN THE MAKING. Gordon Reeves prepares his belt buckle.



Staff Photos by Duane Hiersche
UP IN SMOKE, Jewelry instructor Les Tipton helps Betty Tribe in her project.

Playwright Barr completes cycle at College

By J. Dana Haynes
Of The Print

"All cycles must be completed. Once you have any given interest placed in your life it becomes necessary to complete that cycle by following through with it." So says Elaine, one of the characters in Linda Barr's **Not Any More**.

And true to form, Barr's cycle has come full circle. Her first lead role was as Mary in **Mary, Mary**, performed here at the College. "It's good to see this cycle complete," she said, "I wouldn't want this show to be premiered anywhere else."

Barr's theatrical career did not begin at the College. Like many actors and actresses, she started in grade school and continued on through high school. She wrote her first play in sixth grade, but "...it was never published," she admitted.

Her first play to be produced was **The Importance of Being Frank**, which was a one-act co-written with Warren Pickett. **Not Any More** is Barr's first full length play.

"I've always loved writing," Barr said, "I like doing dialogue, that's why I wrote a play. I couldn't write a novel, because I don't know enough about grammar. Someday, I'd like to try though."

Not Any More is the story of Jane Smith, a woman who allows others to dominate her life. Jane is, in the words of the playwright, a "fish."

"I think I used to be a fish until recently," Barr said. "Jane is me, as well as my sister Elaine, who was a bankteller like Jane. Almost all of the most offensive lines in the play were really said to one of us."

Those offensive lines come mostly from Jane's macho ex-husband Curt and two of the blind dates her shrewish sister, Barbara, sets up for her, Tygh and Spiro.

The former date, Tygh Tragg, is a polyester clad clod with an open fly and a taste in clothes that went into a tailspin in the early seventies. "Tygh is a combination of quite a few people," Barr said. "But I'd rather not name names."

Spiro, Jane's space cadet computer date, is more a product of Barr's imagination. "I think everybody would like to be a 'Spiro' once in a while. I think he's very likable and refreshing, although insane. I don't know exactly where he came from," she said.

Alex the TV repairman and male lead, is fashioned after Barr's husband, Alan Batdorf. "There aren't many nice,

regular guys like Alex and Alan in the world of dating," she said.

Barbara, the over-bearing big sister, is also a fictitious character. "My three sisters aren't like that. You have to have an antagonist in a play, and it's fun to play a character like that," Barr said.

Writing a play with strong female roles was part of the original goal, Barr explained. "There was a time when I would do any show at any time. But there are so few good female roles and I got tired of character stuff. I don't know how many southern belles I've been."

And Jane's role? "I've always wanted to write a play about what single women go through. However, I don't think I did a very good job of it here. I got a little too funny about it, and the 'singles scene' can be truly tragic."

Despite these self-doubts, Barr is excited about **Not Any More**. Last week she observed a "run-through" of the production. "It's real exciting to see a run-through," she said. "I've created something; now I get to see some one else go on with it. I don't think a play is complete until it's been performed."

Many people in theater attempt to write their own plays, but few actually finish the project. "Most people don't have

anything to do with their shows after it's done. But I was still on Act II when Jack (Shields) offered to direct it, and that was the incentive I needed to finish."

Barr graduated from the College in 1976, and was quite active on the stage here before that. "It felt so weird walking in here. I parked in the same old spot. The only difference was the trees; they're so much bigger than when I was going here," she reminisced.

"I'm very excited about this show. My family and all the people I work with are coming to the opening night," she said. "When you have your own show, you think it's going to be good. But...what if it's not?" ...

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