

The Arts

Crime Fiction

Myers presents sleuths and brigands

By J. Dana Haynes
Of The Print

There are many layers to good fiction. Beneath the Tom Sawyers and Portnoys, Shakespeares and Hemmingways, "Illiads" and "Wuthering Heighths" lurks Poirots and Continental Ops, Christies and Poes, "Affair's of the Blood-stained Egg Cosy's" and "List of Adrian Messenger's".

Marcia Myers, English instructor at the College, is delving into these realms in a crime fiction class this term as a way to "offer a different kind of fiction to students who might otherwise not be interested in literature."

The class was organized by Myers, who taught a similar class in the spring of 1980. The class has been designed to study storytelling techniques as well as the puzzles and mysteries of detective fiction.

Myers is an obvious choice to teach the class. "I'm addicted to crime fiction," she said. "I started reading crime fiction while studying for my masters' orals (at the University of California, Santa Barbara) and needed something to take my mind off everything."

Myers said she started with John McDonald (creator of Travis McGee), who she said just barely fits into the genre, and eventually graduated on to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes).

There are 35 students in the class, a full house by College standards, and Myers is serving a well-rounded menu of crime, including Edgar Allen Poe (often referred to as "The Father of Detective Fiction"), Agatha Christie, the grand dame of whodunits, Jacques Futrelle (creator of "The Thinking Machine" stories) and Dorothy Sayers (and her famous hero Lord Peter Wimsey).

WHO DUN IT?



"The syllabus (for the class) reflects my tastes in fiction," Myers said, admitting to a partiality for the proper English detective over the hard-boiled American types. However, to be fair she is also presenting yankees Rex Stout (Nero Wolfe), Ed McBain (87th Precinct) and Ellery Queen, as well as short stories by Raymond Chandler (Phillip Marlow), Ross McDonald (Lew Archer) and Dashiell Hammett (probably the foremost American whodunit author of the century and about whom John D. McDonald once said "He took crime stories out of the rose garden and put them back in the streets where they belong").

The project for which she is most excited is a lecture by Pierce Brooks, scheduled for the latter part of the term. Brooks is a "reclusive, retired private investigator who only takes on consulting cases," Myers said.

Brooks lives outside Eugene and describes himself as a criminal investigative consultant. He was called in on several famous cases including the Los Angeles "Onion Field" police murders and the rash of child murders in Atlanta. Myers said she didn't think he would accept her request for a lecture, but, "he seemed excited about it," she said. Brooks will present a couple mysteries, at least one of which will be factual, and quiz the students on how they would have solved them.

Other projects include several movies she may present to the class and a video tape of the College theater department's fall production, Agatha Christie's "The Hollow."

Myers said the class won't be offered spring term, but may be repeated in up-coming years. "I defend detective fiction," Myers said, "It's a different kind of literature, and always fun."

Jazz Band to swing for benefit

By J. Dana Haynes
Of The Print

The Instrumental Jazz Ensemble of Clackamas Community College will present the annual Big Band Ball on Friday, Feb. 3. The proceeds will go toward the music department.

LeRoy Anderson, music department chairperson and Stage Band conductor, said the Ball will feature hits of the swing era. The show will run from 9-midnight. Admission will be \$5 general and \$4 for students.

This year the music department will also hold a silent auction, run simultaneously with the Ball. Anderson said the objects to be bid upon include Bulova Acutron watches, sterling silver chains, free video movie rentals and a print of the "Jazz Fish" by artist Stuart Moskowitz, all donated by area businesses.

The Big Band Ball is a yearly event. This is the first year for the auction, Anderson said. The proceeds will go toward the music department's traveling expenses.

The musical offerings will include such classics as "In the Mood For Love," "Embraceable You," "Dances in the Dark," "Fly Me To the Moon," a bevy of Glen Miller hits such as "In the Mood" along with "Satin Doll" and "Pennsylvania-6-5000."

Student Michelle Marshall will be featured as solo

vocalist and will perform "The Man I love" and "Foggy Night," among others. The band will also dish out some Duke Ellington numbers and a selection of latin pieces, including rumbas and a Bossanova number, Anderson said.

Anderson is no stranger to jazz. As a trombonist, he has played professionally with many "name" bands. After a stint in the Marines (where he had a weekly radio show and a USO comedy routine), Anderson hooked up with Tex Beneke's Orchestra and did work in theaters, television, radio and one-nighters. He also worked with such names as Charlie Barnett, Maynard Ferguson and others.

in Las Vegas' Sands Hotel as first trombone in the house orchestra and played on the same bills with Donald O'Connor, Lena Horne, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Eddie Fisher.

Anderson has been at the College since 1968. He received his B.A. in music from Lewis and Clark College and his masters' in Music Education from the University of Oregon.

The Instrumental Jazz Ensemble, also known as the Stage Band, will feature student Steve Andrusko on trumpet, Judd Laidlaw on trombone and saxophone work by Bill Hoshol (tenor sax and soloist) and Hank Petrich (alto sax). In past years,

Anderson has invited professional and amateur swing groups from the metropolitan area for the Ball. This is the first year for the all-student production, he said.

Local artist focus of show

By Kristen Tonole
Of The Print

An art exhibit by Northwest sculptor Paul Buckner will be held from Feb. 2-16 at Clackamas Community College's Pauling Science Center.

Buckner, who taught sculpting for twenty years at the University of Oregon, specializes in anatomy and the human form. "The exhibit isn't just for sculptors, because he (Buckner) discusses form and expression of the human form, which should prove interesting to other artists such as painters and drawers," MaryAnn Pierson, art department secretary said.

Where many artists have considered the human body too time-consuming and its use as subject matter too limited for their creativity, Buckner has continued to offer life studies and anatomy classes.

An opportunity to meet Buckner will be provided at a reception Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Pauling Center lobby. An informal lecture will follow in McLoughlin Theater. Both events are free.



College Band Instructor LeRoy Anderson

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