

The Arts

ELC's recycling wizard shares resourceful tips

By Amy LaBare
Of The Print

The sign read "No Smoking," but a cigarette hung out of the side of his mouth as he bent over his work. His denim jacket and overalls were stained with oil. A pair of lenses covered his eyes for protection; they were secured with red wire and hidden by his light blue cap.

The small shop area he works in is cluttered with his work: racks, rebuilt machinery, garbage cans and light stands. An assortment of used metal parts are stacked in corners awaiting transformation--old chairs, buckets, light fixtures. Outside of the shop sits more of his work and more metal waiting to be transformed by his rugged hands into some kind of useful product.

Steve Edwards has worked in the shop at the John Inskoop Environmental Learning Center (ELC) for more than two years. He used to fabricate metal at a foundry before he suffered back injuries and a heart attack in

1979. Now Edwards said he is not able to work full-time, but he does work 20 hours a week at the ELC.

Edwards explained that he got his job through the national, non-profit Green Thumb organization. Green Thumb develops jobs for qualifying low-income citizens aged 55 years old and over.

Jerry Herrmann, ELC director said Edwards is "a prime example of an older person still being productive." He said he does some incredible things at little or no cost.

Around the ELC site are Edwards' many projects. His work ranges from barbecues scattered along the paths at the ELC to rebuilding a small pick-up truck.

With the help of Herrmann, Edwards constructed two salmon hatchery tanks which are now used at the ELC. Last year 35,000 salmon and steelhead were hatched in one of the tanks and released into Newell Creek, which runs through the ELC, Herrmann said.

When Clackamas Community College's lighting



Part-time employee at the ELC, Steve Edwards, has become a valuable asset to the ELC by recycling the College's abandoned materials into useful items. For example, Edwards uses wasted light fixtures to make trash receptacles.

system was replaced two years ago, the light fixtures were thrown out. Edward's has

since turned those into garbage cans which are also being used at the ELC. He also

transformed these fixtures into lights which are now being installed along the unlit roadway to the ELC.

Edwards' projects don't stop at the ELC though. Herrmann said part of ELC's purpose is to provide landscaping and land renewal projects, and much of Edward's work is used in this program. One useful project is the truck Edwards rebuilt. It now has a lift bed which is used for landscaping, agricultural classes and the recycling program.

Edwards said metal fabrication is all he has ever done, and he enjoys it. But he said "I can hardly make it on these wages." He said it would be impossible to make the payments on his mobile home in Estacada by himself without splitting them with a friend he lives with.

Most of the materials Edwards uses for his projects come from the recycling bin at the ELC. Herrmann said using the thrown-away articles before they are taken to be recycled saves more money than would be saved if they were recycled. Edwards also remodeled the inside of the recycling trailer to accommodate the collection of recyclables.



Ralph Wells from the Portland Opera Association speaks with Lonnie Cline after the workshop at the College Feb. 21.

Music review Survivor

By J. Jason
Of The Print

The group Survivor has finally lived up to their name. After one lone hit, way back in 1982 with "Eye Of The Tiger," this five-member group seemed to drift into obscurity. The group based itself on a superb middle to hard rock sound with somewhat average vocals.

Enter Jimi Jamison, the savior of this surviving group. The former lead vocalist for the defunct heavy metal outfit Cobra, Jamison has also helped out Krokus with background vocals.

Jamison's vocals are featured on Survivor's latest release, "Vital Signs."

The ballad "The Search Is Over" is the best song on the album, due mainly to Jamison's smooth vocals and the songwriting talents of Keyboardist Jim Peterik and guitarist Frankie Sullivan.

The songwriting duo of

Peterik and Sullivan wrote every song on the album, including the second ballad "Everlasting." Jefferson Starship lead vocalist Mickey Thomas helps out with background vocals and his high voice helps create the illusion of a seemingly unlimited vocal range in this song.

The album ends with two rock and roll hits "I See You In Everyone" and "It's The Singer, Not The Song." I guess Jamison proves the last song's point fairly well, but we have to remember that even Jimi Jamison needed a good band to back him up before he could shine. To make my point, quick, can you name off one song that Cobra was famous for..?

John Parr

Yes, John Parr sounds like a cross between Eric ("Sucker For A Pretty Face") Martin and Sammy Hagar. This combo seems to work; at least on side one of this debut album called "John Parr."

The songs were all written by Parr with a little help from his friends. Meatloaf helped him write "Magical," another of the potential hits on side one.

Parr's voice is at it's peak on the song "Love Grammar" although the lyrics are somewhat lacking in originality. The song starts out as a ballad, but reaches the hardest rocking point on the entire album.

Percussionist Graham G.B. Broad is another surprise on this nine-cut album. His drum sound has the tightest beat since the invention of the drum machine. He also gets credit on the album jacket for helping Parr create the "African sounds."

The rest of the album is listenable and imaginative, yet falls short of being a masterpiece. Bassist Brad Lang, Keyboardist John Cook and guitarist Chris Marra round out Parr's band. Parr himself does much of the guitar work and should be commended for an above-average debut album.

