

Returning students to perform in fall-term play

by Cori Kargel
Staff Writer

Two students from several years ago have returned to Clackamas Community College and are now participating in the Theater Department's production of Valentine Kataev's "Squaring the Circle."

William M. "Mitch" Newton, Sr. portrays Emilian Tonkonogov, a poet in the 1920s Soviet Union. Newton attended Clackamas for five terms in 1977-78, when he obtained a degree in general speech communications and philosophy. He competed on the Forensics Squad and "trophied eight times" in one year. However, he did not participate in any theater activities during that time.

Newton spent several years as the Resource Developer/Coordinator for the North Coast Emergency Housing Project, which has developed shelters and food banks for the homeless.

"I got into theater while I was attending Clatsop Community College in a welding program," Newton said. He auditioned for "Fiddler on the Roof." "I figured I'd be a rock or a tree or something," he said. Newton had no knowledge of the play. He was unaware of the importance of his role when he told a friend the character he had been cast as. "I told her I'd gotten the role of some guy named Tevye," a main character in the play, Newton said.

His experience with the play got him hooked. "It was wonderful -- one of the greatest experiences of my life," Newton has since been in several plays and films, including "Come see the Paradise" and the soon-to-be-released "The Devil's Keep."

Newton, who works through Wilson Entertainment in Portland, says of his current character, Emilian: "He's the rebel-type poet who's trying to endure the system he must live in. He's

bigger than life and at the same time, ingratiating.

"Clackamas Community College helped me tremendously in communications skills, without which I wouldn't have been able to get any of it," Newton concluded.

David M. Burnett, Jr., the other returning student, portrays Vasya. Burnett attended Clackamas from 1988 to 1991. He went to Western Oregon State College in the hopes of obtaining a bachelor's degree in theater. However, Burnett found the WOSC Theater program inadequate for his needs. "There wasn't enough opportunity to do the things I wanted to do," he said.

Burnett is only back at Clackamas for one term, but he is still happy to be back. "I was glad to get to come back and see people," he said. After this term, Burnett plans to attend Portland State University, where he hopes to receive his bachelor's degree in theater.

Burnett, whose interests

include reading, writing and directing, would not mind staying at Clackamas. "My parents would kill me. I suppose I do need to move on," he stated.

Burnett is happy with his decision to come to Clackamas. "I think that just about everything I learned about acting, I learned here," he said.

When Burnett originally attended Clackamas, he received every role that he auditioned for.

Concerning his current character, Burnett said, "Vasya is a fun-loving person to a point, but he is still, in his own opinion, a good communist."

"Squaring the Circle" is a comedy written by Russian satirist Valentine Kataev, and directed by Merrill Lynn Taylor. It runs Dec. 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 at 8 p.m., and Dec. 12 at 2:30 p.m. in the McLoughlin Hall Theater. For more information, call ext. 2356.

Staff Writers review Pearl Jam CD

by Christopher Haberman
and Tyson Morrow
Staff Writers

Pearl Jam vs. Nirvana. Isn't that what everyone in the various worlds of pop music culture have been debating since both bands broke into the mainstream in 1991. Who cares? As individual bands, both have their merits.

"Art should never be pitted against other art," Eddie Vedder, lead singer for Pearl Jam, commented at the MTV Video Music Awards. He's right.

Pearl Jam's newest release, regardless of what name is on your album is titled Vs., and is

one of the most solid sounding albums to ever come out of the Pacific Northwest. To compare this against *Ten* would be like comparing U2's *War* to U2's *Zooropa*. This is a different band than we saw two years ago. Sure, the energy and the angst is still there, as well as the impressionable Vedder emotion. But still, they are different.

This album is stripped down, devoid of typical studio effects, redubs and over-samples. There are no façades here. As a matter of fact, it almost feels like they recorded a rehearsal, as perfect as any rehearsal may be.

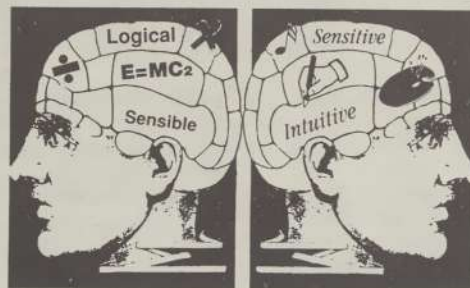
While listening to the album, we were unable to find a

"favorite" song, nor were we able to find a top-40 hit. The whole thing is, like *Ten*, subversely delightful -- at least it is to those of us who have sweated in mosh pits and stared in great awe at the ensemble unfolding on stage. Vedder growls, pleads, screams and rejoices, his voice showing its gritty nature all over this album.

A good lead vocalist does not make a band, however, and Stone Gossard, Jeff Ament and Mike McReady make up one of the best rhythm sections in music history. Dave Abruzzese takes up the drum slot himself for this album, and fills the position quite ably.

**** Pearl Jam Vs.

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Photo by Khanh Pham

Community vendors, including churches, banks, the Navy and the Army Reserve, provided information to students about their services at the Community Fair held on campus Jan. 5.

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