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Auto Troubleshoot held at College

The best auto repair students in Oregon test their skills against each other on May 2 when Clackamas hosts the state's annual auto troubleshoot.

The Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills National Quality Care Challenge is the competition's more cumbersome name. This traditional competition pits teams of students from the top 10 high school automotive programs in Oregon in a race to find and fix malfunctions deliberately planted in 10 identical new automobiles. The 10 schools are selected based on written exams previously taken by students. One of the participating teams will be from Canby High School. The teams supply their own tools and the college arranges the contest.

Clackamas first hosted the competition in the early 1970s. The competition is held in the quad between Barlow Hall, the automotive department and the Community Center.

Though the competition was won last year by Mountain View High School from Bend, most teams aim to compete against Vale High School, led by instructor Merle Saunders. Vale High School has won the competition in six of the last eight years and won the national title in 1992.

Winners of the Oregon competition



CHRISTINA MUELLER / Clackamas Print

Student Fredrick Pruitt works on a vehicle in the automotive department.

will compete this June in the national competition in Washington, DC. The winners of both state and national competitions receive tools, scholarships and cash prizes.

The competition began 40 years ago as the Plymouth Troubleshooting Contest.

Sponsorship shifted from Plymouth to Chrysler. The American Automobile Association of Oregon joined Chrysler later, then stayed with the program three years ago when Ford signed on as the new title sponsor.

The cars for the competition are brand new Escorts donated by Ford. After

the contest, the cars will be taken to Hertz Rent-a-Car, where they will be used as rental cars.

The cars are shipped to Clackamas and then the college installs the bugs, which are typically bugs that cause the engine to run badly and cause electrical system problems.

When the teams think they have all of the

bugs removed, they are allowed to take the car for a test-drive around the Barlow parking lot. If there are still problems, the team goes back to work. If there are not problems, the team waits to be judged on whether or not they found all of the bugs.

This year's competition will also include a mini-classic Ford hot rod show that will feature up to 10 classic, high-performance or special interest automobiles.

The contest will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday.

Estonia: Veljo Tormis visits

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prano. ... so I'll have the youth involved ... and then we'll have high school students. And then you've got community college and you've got university. And then you've got the adults. So you've got this full range involved with celebrating Estonia, which is what Estonia does," explained Cline.

With this many stops being pulled out, to accommodate the music of one man, one might imagine that this music is truly unique. Lonnie Cline believes so and elaborates in detail.

"In almost all of his music, there's this constant narrative going on in some section or another ... so to all the other parts he assigns the image. So his music is

incredibly poetic," "which makes sense because a lot of poetry is dealing either with an image or a narrative. And most of the lyrics to his music are poems," he said.

There are more technical aspects, too, that contribute to the overall effect of Tormis' compositions.

"Of course, his treatment of harmony—there's a lot of tension and release in it and the chords are beautiful his sense of harmony and rhythm are unique," stated Cline.

Perhaps Tormis' compositions are so compelling because of the vision of the man behind them. Tormis has stated that he never writes for music's sake.

"I have always had some other reason—an *idée fixe*—a wish to speak up, to express an idea, even a political idea, but not a musical one," said Tormis.

And so, the musical beauty of his work is an extension of the profound message

of each piece.

Lonnie Cline appreciates that and is very excited about the coming week.

"The whole third is, this is a once in a lifetime thing ... and that makes us unique—nobody else is going to get this opportunity unless they go to Estonia and work with him there," Cline proclaimed.

Cline wishes to thank Judy Hylton and Kay Davis for their administrative support, and Helle and Kalle Merilo, the Estonian couple who will be boarding Tormis, for their efforts in making this possible.

This is sure to be a landmark in the Clackamas music program.

Cline puts it this way: "It's really something when you get to work with one of the most famous composers of a country, especially a of a country that is this involved in choral music. I don't think it gets any better."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dave Arter, physical science instructor (right front), received the Distinguished Regional Coordinator Award during Phi Theta Kappa's International Conference at the Wyndham-Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Seated next to Arter is Vice President Tanya Leikam. Standing are James Harrison, PTK advisor at Portland Community College Cascade, and Club President Meriwether Mersereau.