

Poet-in-residence Diane Frank shares ideas

CINDY HINES KURFMAN
Copy Editor

Poet, screenwriter and dancer Diane Frank read from her upcoming book, *The Winter Life of Shooting Stars*, and her last book of poetry, *The All Night Yemenite Cafe*, to an audience of about 40 people in the McLoughlin Theater last Thursday evening.

Frank came as a part of the continuing poet-in-residence series that began at Clackamas five years ago. In addition to the poetry reading, she led a writing workshop for ten people on Friday morning and a "brown-bag" poetry discussion on Friday at noon.

She describes her poetry style as "nonlinear," "imagistic" and full of "magical realism."

"I owe this [imagistic poems] to the language poets. But they don't go far enough," Frank insisted. "There needs to be some sort of transformation before you get off the page."

Rather than conforming to a linear style of poetry, Frank said, "I think we have to work with what's in us."

In her "dreamlike" poem "Parachute," Frank's narrator says "the erotic is in the shadows." So it is with

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CHRISTINA MUELLER / Clackamas Print

her poetry. Many of the poems she read had lovers as the main characters.

"I have a problem with attachment to people, explained Frank, who is a Buddhist. (Buddhists believe in letting go of all attachments.)

Even in her poem, "Inseminating the Cows," that the San Francisco transplant said she wrote to shock her fellow Iowans, has this erotic shadow. The poem seems to be about the love life of cows and bulls until the very end. Then, suddenly, the narrator is wondering whether the farmer who artificially inseminates the cows "would make as good a father for human babies." The farmer, in turn, is wondering about the

narrator and "the shapes of everything inside my white Victoria's Secret nightgown."

Frank says that "with every poem, there's text and subtext." In this case, the relationship between the cows and the farmer forms the text and the narrator forms the subtext. Frank achieves her necessary transformation by the end of the poem.

Another technique Frank uses in her poetry is the repetition of words and phrases.

For instance, "The Winter Life of Shooting Stars" repeats the image of sunflowers.

"Black and White Photograph" also repeats this image, describing "sunflowers lit from within."

During the question-and-answer period at the end of the reading, English Instructor Diane Averill asked Frank about this repetition.

"Do you find that the sunflowers yield up different meanings each time you write about them?" she inquired.

"Yes," Frank replied. "William Carlos Williams said, 'We're writing the same poem all our life.'"

One of the same poems Frank said she continues to write every winter is "a crazy poem." She said that these more dreamlike poems help her get through the dreary Iowa winters. They are her transformation.

In "The Winter Life of Shooting Stars," written in five parts, one of Frank's dreamlike images is "teaching children how to swim in the belly of a whale with a glass window."

In addition to Iowa imagery, Frank uses images from her travels to the Middle East, Nepal and Ireland. She calls her work "ecumenical" since she draws from different cultures and religions in her writing.

"The word I resent the most is 'only,'" she concluded.

Diane Frank visits Clackamas

• In addition to Diane Frank's reading on Thursday night, she led a writing workshop Friday morning and a presentation on "The Cross-Fertilization of the Arts."

• Diane Frank's book, *The Winter Life of Shooting Stars* will be available soon through Blue Light Press, PO Box 642, Fairfield, Iowa 52556 for \$10, plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling.

English Class attends theatrical presentation

BECKY BIGGS
Contributing Writer

So what does the theme song from Gilligan's Island and William Shakespeare have in common?

A lot when it comes to the Tygre's Heart production of the "Comedy of Errors," now running through June 1 at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts.

Last week, David Mount's Shakespeare class took a "field trip" to see the "Comedy of Errors" on stage.

This wonderful rendition of the "Comedy of Errors" puts a modern twist on the classic play. Instead of "Ephesus" being far off in the Middle East, it is a New England fishing village.

One set of twin brothers, Antipholus and Dromio, have been separated at birth and are now looking for their father. Their father, Egeon, has been sentenced to die for being a Syracusan in Ephesus. He must obtain a large sum of money as ransom or meet his end. Meanwhile, Antipholus and Dromio of Ephesus are

being mixed up by the townspeople as Antipholus and Dromio of Syracuse. These identity mix-ups are what the "Comedy of Errors" is all about.

This production takes the confusion out of Shakespeare and adds even more surprises and laughs than the original text offers. Although the Shakespearean purist might find that the production sways from the text slightly, this play is a must see for the novice and the expert alike.

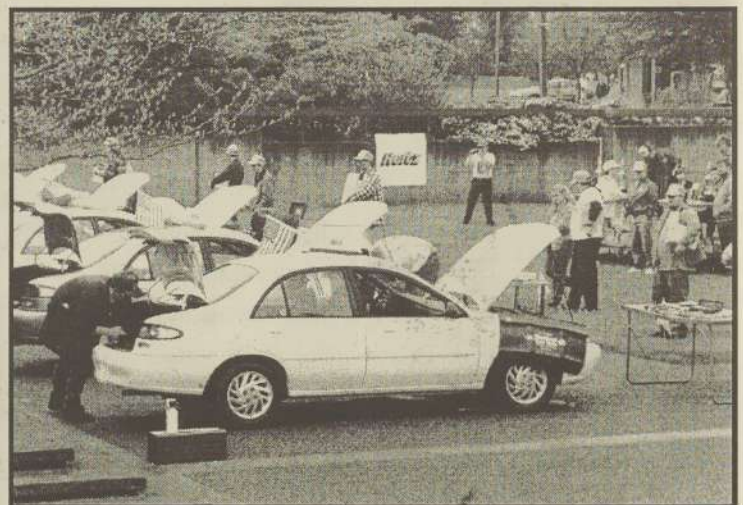
For more information call the Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company at (503) 202-9220 or any Fastixx.

Happy Mothers'
Day from the
Clackamas
Print!

EAT A FAJITA PITA

Fajita Style Chicken Or Beef In Tasty Pita Bread!

Jitters/CCC Cafeteria



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Last Friday ten teams competed in the Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills National Quality Care Challenge, better known as the annual Auto Troubleshoot. The competition was held in the courtyard between the Community Center and Barlow Hall. Nine schools competed. They attempted to find ten bugs, which represent automotive problems, in each of the ten 1997 Ford Escorts within 90 minutes. Vale High School won the contest and will compete in the national level contest in Washington DC in June. The two-member team from Canby High School came in second place. Canby students Chris Storlie and Justin Steeves, both 17, will receive a second place trophy, a one-term Clackamas Automotive Scholarship (valued at \$500), wrench sets, flashlights and T-shirts. Mountain View High School came in third. Over 100 spectators cheered the teams on and looked at the unique Ford cars on display.