

Sue Mach brings a playwright's touch to English Department

MIKE GARCIA
Staff Writer

It's a good thing Sue Mach didn't pursue her physical therapy career.

Mach has been teaching part-time at Clackamas for a couple years and has been hired this term as a full-time English instructor. She teaches drama as literature, playwriting and composition.

It wouldn't have been easy to foresee her ending up at Clackamas, looking at her childhood. Her father was in the Air Force and raised Mach in the town of Chewelah, Washington. She had a normal high school life and enrolled at Pacific University in Forest Grove.

She was still intending to be a physical therapist when she began writing extensively in school and becoming involved in the theater department. Her work gained recognition and earned her a scholarship at Boston University.

Her best-known work is *Mono-grams*, a play about Hazel Hall, a poet from the Portland area. The Portland Repertory Theater was the first to notice and produce it, and from there the play moved on to New York and Penn-

sylvania.

Another popular work of Mach's is *Angle of View*, which is based on camera crews who work for a *Cops*-like TV show.

Mach found a perfect job in teaching the playwriting class at Clackamas. Though she is now an instructor for a broader range of English classes, she wouldn't think of keeping her playwriting separate from any of her classes. To her and her students, it adds something important.

"I'd never consider [playwriting] a hobby," Mach said. "There's too much blood to consider it a hobby."

Mach wants the intensity she has in writing to carry over into her teaching and to have the students respond with equal intensity. She's excited about the new play she's writing (based on the activities of a Corvallis cult) but she's even more eager to make a difference in the English department.

One of her goals as a playwriting instructor is "to merge the academic part with the professional world." This includes the idea of having professional actors come to Clackamas and read

through the students' scripts, to give them a feel of what it would be like to have it performed onstage.

Mach thinks the Theater instructors at Clackamas are "fabulous" and plans to connect the Theater Department with her classes as much as possible. She thinks this will make improve English and Theater even further.

Mach suggested that more student internship opportunities in theater might increase the program's popularity.

She also has joined the growing number of students and staff who realize the college needs better theater facilities. The small McLoughlin Theater is one of the "poorest in all the community colleges around" and is more or less invisible to most students on campus, she said.

As the college supports the department's growth, it will prosper, she said. The demand is there and student productions have shown that the talent is there as well.

It may be Sue Mach's first full-time term, but she already has her sights set on what is yet to be done and how she can get involved.



TIMOTHY BELL / Clackamas Print

Sue Mach's playwriting career integrates smoothly with her role as an instructor.

Clackamas Collegiate Review seeks writers

JOEL P. SHEMPERT
Feature Editor

The Clackamas Collegiate Review, which is now accepting submissions for the winter issue, has been a powerful, if understated, force in the academic community this past year. The journal, assembled and run by Clackamas students, is devoted to the maintenance of a local forum for intelligent, quality, scholarly essays.

Perhaps they're a bit too scholarly, it could be argued. The publication's two issues to date, featuring such lofty topics as "The New World Order: Perspectives on International Issues," have garnered a substantial proportion of entries from professors and precious few submissions from actual students.

The Clackamas Collegiate Review's '97-'98 editorial board hopes to rectify that. The paramount goal of the Review from its inception has been to create a forum for students to produce actual published essays and thus gain recognition. It is hoped that the upcoming issue will hail the return of that focus.

Editor-in-Chief Justin "Jay" Clark explains that Dean Darris, the Review's faculty advisor, "wanted a vehicle for students to write for." The lack of student participation so far has been frustrating to the Review staff, and by opening submissions up to a wider variety of topics rather than a narrow theme, they are attempting to bring student writers out of the woodwork.

"We want to be totally open so people will be encouraged to submit," says Clark. Any essay related to political, social, or economic issues is welcome. The only requirement is that it be good.

Nancy Hungerford-Levine, also on the editorial board, agrees with Clark. "Not too many students seem to know that we even have this publication, much less what it's all about. We're looking for more student submissions," explains Bruegman. The board's concept is to promote outstanding talent at Clackamas.

"There's no ideological litmus test on this. It does have a political bent," says Hungerford-Levine, and is quick to add, "But that's so wide-ranging."

Clark continues this emphasis, calling the Review "a wonderful opportunity for students to get published." The entire endeavor is focused on student success.

Submissions for the upcoming issue, slated for an early 1998 release, are due by the end of fall term. The Editorial Board consists of Jay Clark, Shawn Read, Johnny Silva, and Nancy Bruegman, and is looking for two more student editors. Editors must be enrolled in either a Clackamas Honors course or one of Darris' courses.

Whether you are submitting for a shot at prime resume material, for the purpose of arguing a vital issue, or for the sheer joy of writing, the Clackamas Collegiate Review wants you. By submitting their scholarly essays Clackamas students will contribute to the success of the Review, which will in turn contribute to the success of Clackamas students.

"This is an opportunity you can't pass up," Jay Clark concludes.

Lonnie Cline leads choir to excel

ROBERT SCHOENBERG
Staff Writer

In a tiny closet of an office there is a colorful poster depicting a scene from Estonia. Another pictures the opera house in Sydney Australia. Both countries have been destinations for Clackamas' chamber choir, and Lonnie Cline, music and choir director, is the man who took them there.

Amid the clutter on the top floor of Randall Hall, with cassette tapes, CD's, reams of sheet music, books packed on surrounding shelves, a full size piano keyboard perched on his desk, and recording equipment strewn about, stood Cline. He made a phone call, gathered up an armful of papers and books, then we left the office for coffee at the cafeteria. He gave a nod to the jazz ensemble in the rehearsal hall outside his office, they were playing a song by Sonny Rollins. Once outside in the cool afternoon air, Cline hurriedly lit a cigarette.

"Got to quit some day," he said.

Cline has been a music instructor at various schools for 27 years and a choir director since his first opportunity to lead a church choir at the age of thirteen. He was educated in music at Boise State and the University of Oregon. He has been an instructor at Clackamas for the last 16 years.

"Much of what the choral groups are

doing now is as demanding as a professional choir," said the 48 year old Cline, as we sat comfortably at a table in the quiet and darkened campus cafeteria late in the afternoon. He was referring to an upcoming event on Dec. 7, when the Clackamas Chamber Choir performs with conductor Stefan Minde at the First United Methodist Church for a Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach with the Sinfonia Concertante Orchestra. "The choir is functioning now in the role of a professional choir."

Cline's journey at Clackamas has not always been smooth, but it serves as a counterpoint to his accomplishments with the choir. He gives a lot of credit to the other instructors in the music department and really appreciates some of the things other departments have done to help. The drama department once donated the proceeds from one of their events to the choir to help with some financing.

"Much of what I have been able to accomplish here could not have been done without the support of the school and everyone who is involved here. I can't say that about some of the other institutions I have worked at where I had to fight for everything I wanted to do. We function as a team to get it all done, working with each other," said Cline.

One of the events that looms large in Cline's career is the Clackamas Chamber Singers trip to Estonia in 1996.

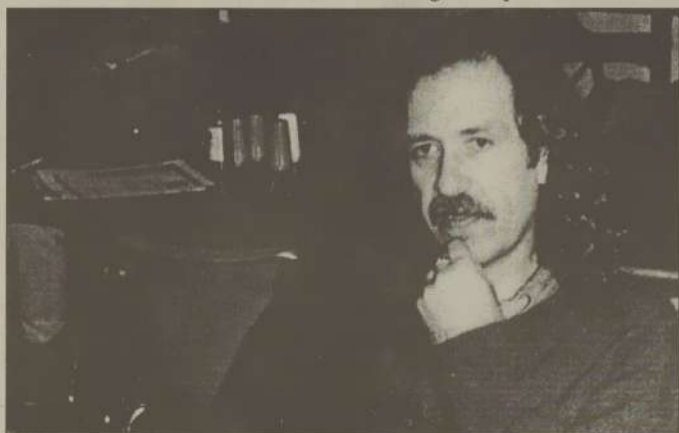
Estonians are unique in that they concentrate on arts and music like no other country. Notable people honored throughout the country with statues and memorials are not military in nature but are of the country's singers, musicians and artists, recalled Cline. The idea that people relate more to art and music than war impressed Cline to a great degree. After learning about Estonia's character, Cline began giving the choir Estonian music to sing using the language of Estonia. After attending various events this effort culminated in the choir being invited to sing in Estonia.

"Going there we were totally immersed in another culture. They treated us like family. Every student on the trip had their life changed. Not one student, despite the sometimes difficult conditions and the sacrifices that our host made to make us feel welcome, wanted to come home when our trip was over. The whole country is saturated in music, singing and art. And because we were singing in their native tongue they accepted us completely. They believed in our sincerity and opened up their homes to us, despite the obvious hardship of taking us in. It was a very moving experience for each of us, we were all crying at the airport as we said goodbye to the people we had become friends with. I have been on many trips with students to a lot of countries and this was unique in that no one really wanted to go home," said Cline.

Cline drank up his coffee and looked at the time. He had another appointment somewhere, darkness had settled down firmly on the campus, it was getting late.

"It is terribly rewarding to do what I do here. It feels great to inspire young people to become involved in art and music instead of drugs. For people who like to give, music is an incredible way to accomplish that," he said. "The most important thing I've done is to stand in front of the students and watch that light bulb come on."

That is what Lonnie Cline does so well; he gives and gives until that light comes on.



TIMOTHY BELL / Clackamas Print

His love for great music and culture has driven Lonnie Cline to take his choir to Vancouver, B.C and as far as Estonia.