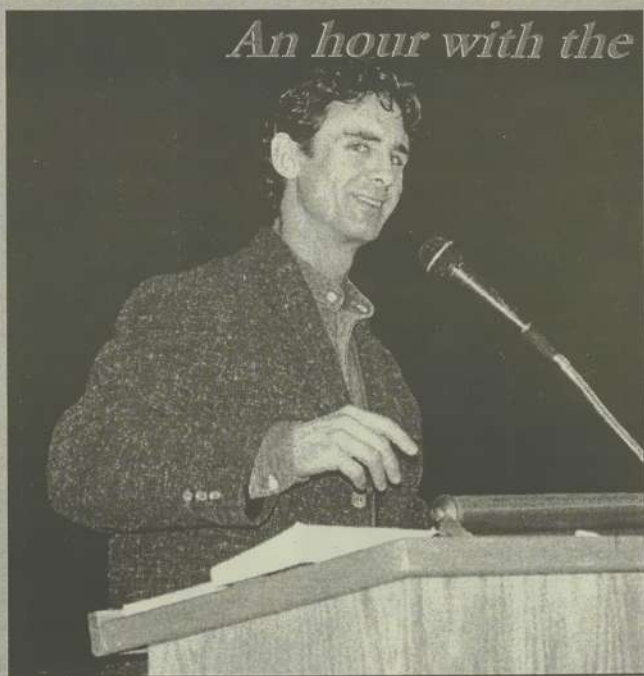


An hour with the man behind

# Fight Club

ANGIE DASCHEL  
A&E Editor



TIMOTHY A. BELL / Clackamas Print

Local author Chuck Palahniuk read from his most recent book *Invisible Monsters*, as well as his previous novels. He stayed to answer questions from the audience and sign books after the reading.

When *Fight Club* author Chuck Palahniuk read at the campus last Wednesday in Gregory Forum, he seemed to have jumped right from the pages of his novel. Ironically, the quick-witted author spent the entire reading slightly hunched over in pain from broken ribs obtained in a brawl with friends.

Known for his self-described offensiveness, Palahniuk read chapters from *Fight Club*, *Survivor*, his new book *Invisible Monsters* and his yet-unfinished work tentatively titled *Choke*.

"I don't write *Bridges of Madison County*," he joked, referring to the sometimes indecent nature of his books. Before reading from *Invisible Monsters*, Palahniuk described the chapter as "possibly the most offensive thing I have ever written."

"Sometimes you write these things, and they are published, and then you realize, 'my parents read that!'" joked Palahniuk. "After that, you can't really look them in the eye again."

*Invisible Monsters*, following in the success of *Fight Club*, is in the process of being picked up by an independent production company. At the reading, Palahniuk talked briefly about the screen version of *Fight Club* and its star, Brad Pitt. He also explained how ideas come to fruition in his books.

"Each of the books really starts as a short story," said Palahniuk. "I always think, this time I'm going to do a collection of short stories. Then I realize that all the stories are all about someone named Tyler, and I realize it's another book."

The *New Yorker* listed Palahniuk as one of the ten best novelists of the year; he is also the winner of the Pacific Northwest Book Award and the Oregon Book Award. Palahniuk,

a local writer who lives on Sauvie Island, was also a member of the Dangerous Writers' Club, who appeared last year at Authors' Night. At the reading on Wednesday, Palahniuk offered some insight into the writing process.

"You don't just write at your computer," said Palahniuk. "You write every moment you are awake. I don't know how many times I've gotten out of the shower to write something down."

Palahniuk said his ideas come not only from personal experiences, but also from subjects that require a deeper understanding.

"I always try to find something I can't stand, then I try to write about that," explained Palahniuk. "I had a real difficulty with violence, so I wrote *Fight Club*."

Palahniuk answered questions from the audience and signed books after the reading, which drew about 100 people.

## Authors' Night: Women of Courage

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captured by a terrorist group.

Martin also included the story of an 18-year-old woman's struggle to create a national environmental group to clean up toxic waste dumps.

"There are stories in here that are great for college-age people," said

Martin. The positive feedback that she has received from readers since the book was published in September was enormous, according to Martin.

"I've had women write me and say 'I was in a horrible depression today and I read your book and it's given me some hope,'" said Martin. "It really seems to move people."

## Connections program sponsors opera workshop

MATT SHERPERT  
Staff Writer

Students and staff were given a preview of the Portland Opera's next performances, *Pagliacci* and *Carmina Burana*, yesterday in a lunch and listen session sponsored by the Connections program.

Diane Syrcle, director of education for Portland opera, and Carol Lucas, Chorus Master, talked about the coming performances to help prepare listeners for the dress rehearsal Feb. 10 at the Civic Auditorium. The AAWCC/Connections program has organized a trip to the dress rehearsal as part of their winter quarter offerings. Tickets to the dress rehearsal are sold out, but the

opera will also play Feb. 12, 14, 16 and 19 at the Civic Auditorium.

*Pagliacci* is a one-act opera about a woman named Nedda. Nedda's abusive husband regularly threatens to kill her if he ever catches her cheating. Her husband, Canio, is the leader of a troupe of traveling clowns, and in the next town they come to, Nedda finds her lover, Silvio. They agree to meet at night, but are overheard by Tonio, who is a member of the troupe and infatuated with Nedda.

The chorus of the opera consists of 40 union singers, eight substitutes, and 25 or 26 unpaid chorus singers, for a total of 73 or 74 people singing, accompanied by an orchestra including two pianos, five sets of timpani, three glockenspiels, and five cymbals.

## Clackamas instructor shares poems

Jeff Knorr reads excerpts from his new book *Standing Up to the Day*

KRISTEN WISER  
Staff Writer

Jeff Knorr, an English instructor at Clackamas, will be reading excerpts from his new book of poems titled *Standing Up to the Day* tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. in Gregory Forum.

The book, published in October 1999, was Knorr's first published work.

"I started working on them six or seven years ago," states Knorr of the poems included in his book.

The book is dedicated to his late grandfather, who died when Knorr was just 11 years old.

"From the time I was three to the time I was 11, we were very close."

The two spent a lot of time camping, fishing, and hunting in Yosemite National Park. This is the reason, he commented, "A lot of the poems are rooted in the outdoors."

Knorr, originally from San Leandro, California, is a multi-talented writer. He is a co-editor of the *Clackamas Literary Review*. His poetry has appeared in such literary journals as the *Connecticut Review*, *Red Rock Review* and the *Oxford Magazine*. In 1998 he was



Jeff Knorr

MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print

nominated for a Pushcart Prize, a literary award, by the *Red Rock Review*.

Knorr and fellow English faculty member Tim Shell co-wrote *Moor-ing Against the Tide: Writing Fiction and Poetry*, an English textbook set to be out this next fall.

All this from someone who confesses, "In college I actually wrote more short stories."

He went on to say, "I never really felt comfortable in them (poems) until I got to write about fishing, hunting, nature."

Aside from writing and teaching, Knorr is also the father of an active three-year-old boy. The only time he gets time to write is in the mornings.

"I write from about 6:30 to 9 every morning."

## Portland International Film Festival

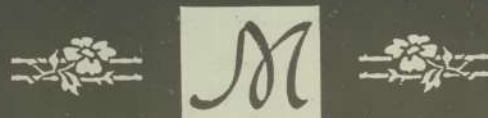
The 23rd Annual Portland International Film Festival begins on Feb. 11 and runs through Feb. 27. The Festival features 88 films from 32 countries, which will all be shown in their original language with English subtitles. Admission is \$4-7 and the films will be shown at the following theaters:

- ♦ Guild Theatre, SW 9th & Taylor
  - ♦ Broadway Metroplex, SW Main & Broadway
  - ♦ The Movie House, SW 12th & Taylor
- For more information, call 221-1156.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NORTHWEST FILM CENTER

Gong Li plays Lady Zhao in Sony Pictures Classics' *The Emperor and the Assassin*, featured in the Portland International Film Festival, beginning on Feb. 11.



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