

Tai chi instructor earns his chop

Instructor Wayne Keller explores many fields from martial arts to horsemanship.

Cyrus Cross
The Clackamas Print

When you think of a martial artist, you generally envision a small wiry Asian man gracefully flipping over and punching holes through wave after wave of generic ninja.

It's hard to remove the stigma of the stereotypical martial artist from one's mind, which can lead to bruise after bruise, class after painful tai chi class.

Don't be mistaken, Tai chi Instructor Wayne Keller isn't out there

beating up the students in his classes.

When first encountering this rather nice, complacent-looking, easily over six-foot, generally large man, one may or may not think much of him.

However, arrogance and overconfidence could lead to a painful discovery of the true meaning behind

never underestimating one's opponent—or in this case, one's instructor.

Born June 25, 36 years ago, Keller is the type of person that everyone notices when he saunters into a room.

Not because of some supernatural power that everyone feels tingling in their spines, but because of his

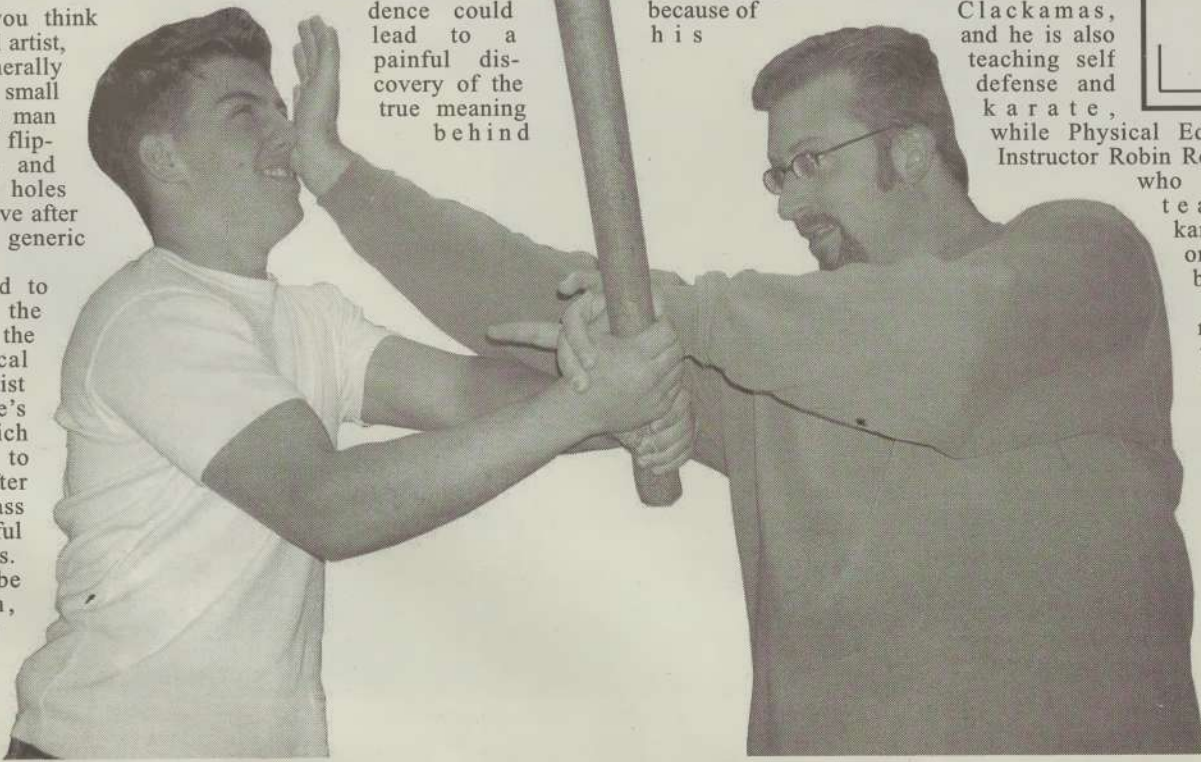
above-average stature and the constant smile no one would expect from someone with two decades of martial arts background.

Keller is our very own tai chi instructor here at Clackamas, and he is also teaching self defense and karate,

chi and karate, but Keller's background in literally

"I'm the only kung fu cowboy preacher you'll ever meet."

Wayne Keller
Tai chi Instructor



only kung fu cowboy you'll ever meet," says

In addition to teaching Clackamas, Keller has worked in Hawaii and sage therapy for approximately five years, using the art of Lomi Lomi.

In his free time, he enjoys the fine arts and gaming. His current projects are "Fable" and "Morrowind."

For video game enthusiasts, Keller is wondering, "Can you teach to play on the side of the game 'Fable'?"

Photo by ISIAH CREEL Clackamas Print

During Karate class, offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Keller (from left) student Tim Turner as "the attacker" as P.E. Instructor Wayne Keller demonstrates how to defend yourself from an attacker using the art of karate.

Theater department excited to use 'amazing' new space

Karlin Johnson
Feature Editor

For the first time in over three decades, the theater department at Clackamas will have a new home.

The current "theater" in McLoughlin Hall was designed as a lecture hall, having only 10 foot ceilings, no back stage or dressing rooms, hardly any room for storage or set construction and only 147 seats.

The new Communication Arts building, though shared with music and speech departments, will give the theater department space to do many things they could not do before.

Lobbies in the new theater are spacious and are surrounded by large windows. Small balconies will provide a place to mingle before and after shows.

The theater will have 257 fixed seats and a back row,

which is designed for wheelchair access and viewing. There are also two sets of theater chairs that can be moved in or out to provide about 200 more seats.

"The new theater is unique in so many ways, it's structurally built different than other theaters around here," said theater student John Mituniewicz.

In the new performance area, audience members will always have a good view—the seats are constructed stadium style.

Instead of having the stage raised, the floor of the theater will be the stage, which will give audiences a different feel.

However, backstage areas may be what students will enjoy the most.

Technical crews will have all new equipment for their new sound and lighting box, and permanent walkways built below the ceiling of the theater.

At the back of the stage are

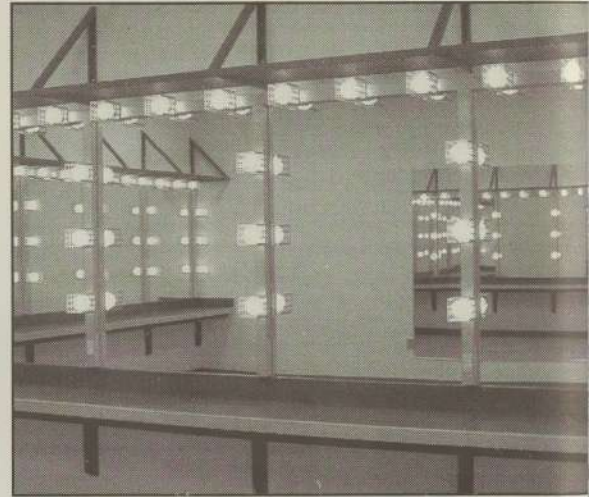
huge doors, that will allow students to move large sets in and out easily.

Behind the 2000-pound soundproof doors is a "shop" with high ceilings where students will be able to construct and paint sets.

Also in the new backstage area are real dressing rooms, with lighted makeup mirrors going all the way around the room, and a wall sized mirror at one end.

There are all new offices, a new ticket box with a wet bar area for concession, and a new green room. The green room will be a place for students to have down time, and will also hold classes.

"I'm very melancholy and have mixed feelings," said Smith-English of moving from the old to the new theater. "There are lots of shows and experiences in this theater that I



KARLIN JOHNSON Clackamas Print

Dressing rooms in the new building will have mirrors with different lighting options that will allow students to simply flip a switch to see what their faces will look like under the lights of the stage.

remember very fondly."

Students will also miss the old theater that they had grown to love.

"It's been like a second home to me. There's lots of memories attached to this little space," said theater student Krisiti McKenzie.

Theater student Bekah Finch shares this feeling. "This theater has been a classroom as well as a sanctuary. It's really been a place to explore the theater and

yourself," she said.

However, everyone with the theater department recognizes that moving into the new space will be a change.

"The word we like [for the old theater] is 'mate' which means, 'to be around but look how far away are to the actors!'" laughs theater student Matt Strickland. "The idea of having a new theater is pretty neat."



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The new theater in the Communication Arts building is currently under construction. The theater department will get their certificate of occupancy sometime before November.

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