

Mingo mixes writing, technology wor

Elizabeth Tobey
Contributing Writer

"Language is everywhere," explained English Instructor Andy Mingo, who just began his first year as a full-time teacher here at Clackamas.

Mingo is interested in exploring ways to "integrate writing, art and technology."

However, being a writer was not always a clear goal for him.

"I think I didn't know what I wanted to do," said Mingo of how he stumbled upon writing. "But then I read some authors that changed the way I looked at the world."

Specifically Ken Kesey and his band of Merry Pranksters, Neal Cassady, Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac were great influences on his view of the world and of writing.

At this point, his interests go beyond fiction into screenwriting and film-making, and he has a clearer idea of what his goals are.

"I want to bring writing into the 21st century," he said.

To do this he employs a variety of media. He works with Chiasma Productions, an independent film company that defines itself as being "the crossover (or chiasma) between contemporary literature and its visual representation." He uses Final Cut Pro™ to create short films that combine written text with visual images and sound.

Mingo, who also designed the English department website for both Clackamas and Mt. Hood community colleges, feels that the Internet is a very powerful tool for communication.

"My theory is that within the next five years the Internet will replace television," he said. "Because it is so readily available to so many people, 'it will be the medium for sharing information and ideas,'" he added.

He has also written a novel, "East of Elko," which was published by Chiasma Press.

"It's about a man," said Mingo, "who takes a job in the Basque land of northern Spain and loses himself in the culture."

The novel comes from personal experience. Mingo lived in San

Sebastian for six months while going to school at the University de Paise de Vasquos. He saw a lot of anti-American sentiment, mostly from the ETA, the Basque Liberation Front, while he was there. It was the first time he came face-to-

face with wide-scale rioting.

"They actually bombed our bus once," he said. "It was all very exciting."

When he returned to the States he got his BA in English from the University of Reno, Nevada, his hometown.

"I grew up learning to gamble in a 24-hour town," declares Mingo.

With his BA in hand, Mingo left for Italy to pursue his dream of

becoming a writer. But after three years living in Sardinia, "it got too slow and boring." So once again he returned to the states, and to school. He was accepted, and got his MFA, at San Diego State University.

"The MFA gave me a free ticket up to Oregon," he said. Once here he worked for a little while at Mt. Hood Community College, and then started work as an adjunct instructor at Clackamas.

"CCC, I saw right away, put an emphasis on non-traditional ways of learning," Mingo said.

Now a full-time instructor, Mingo is excited about the job.

"I love it," he said, "I'm really jazzed about the diversity of the students."

Although he's currently teaching mostly basic English composition courses, he is looking forward to spring term, when he will be teaching screen writing production, a class which lets students take a script and translate it into visual medium. Students will go through all the steps to "move away from just a piece of writing," he said, "and create a concrete film."

Mingo will also be taking on Clackamas' small press literary journal, *synesthesia*.

"My favorite part of teaching," Mingo said, "is to see students learn something new, see something in a way they've never seen it before."

His approach to teaching is "firmly based on an old, stable notion of critical inquiry." It is an idea that began with Socrates and his method of questioning everything in order to find truth.

"I try to bridge that gap between ancient philosophy and modern culture," Mingo said, "to try and help students see the world for what it really is. Then I try to empower students to take

"[In writing] you work with people ... who can create something out of nothing."

Andy Mingo
English Instructor



MINGO

Matt Hanrahan Clackamas Print

control of their own realities."

In keeping with the idea of taking control of his reality, Mingo recently co-edited "Northwest Edge: Fictions of Mass Destruction," with his wife Lidia Yuknavitch who is the founder of Chiasma Press, and fellow Clackamas English Instructor, Trevor Dodge.

The anthology of works by Northwest writers focuses on a variety of current, controversial political issues. Published by Chiasma Press, the book uses a lot of experimental forms of fiction, which Mingo explains as being "cut up, fragmented text."

Working with Dodge and

Yuknavitch on that project as getting to know many other writers in aspects of being a writer finds most rewarding.

"My favorite thing about writing is becoming a world," he said. "It's a glittery world. You work with interesting people with interesting things out of nothing."

Mingo encourages students in becoming "never stop writing."

"To be a great student," he said, "you have to see the same to be a great writer. You have to write every day."

English instructor seeks a better Amer

Nick Peters
Contributing Writer

New English Instructor Trevor Dodge takes his citizenship seriously and prefers his entertainment substantial.

A graduate of Twin Falls High in southern Idaho, Dodge's small-town upbringing may have been similar to any Willamette Valley kid's, but probably not as wet.

Dodge went on to the University of Idaho where he originally intended to become a journalist, but eventually switched his major to creative writing.

"In college I read things I never would have had my hands on if I hadn't had been there ...," Dodge said, "and the professors there blew my mind".

Dodge continues to learn and keep his mind sharp with books, the Internet, and more talk radio than music. Movies that portray themselves as art hold more value to Dodge than those strictly for the purpose of entertainment.

Dodge men-

tioned "Adaptation" and "Being John Malkovich" as some movies he enjoyed.

As for citizenship, Dodge thinks with a cause-and-effect point of view, and looks at the bigger picture.

"We need to understand we live in a global economy ... and what

we do will have ripple effects on other countries" said Dodge, who believes our presence in Iraq is not justified and wonders if our motives in Iraq are imperialistic or concerned only with our economy.

"We need to ask ourselves, 'How did we get where we are?'" he said.

"Americans aren't ready to realize that."

"Our consumerist habits expect cheap oil, as cheap as possible" said Dodge. When asked what kind of car he would prefer to be driving, he said he wished we "lived in a society that doesn't need cars" and a more efficient idea would be "mass community transit."

Dodge said it's sad that the "working-class people believe in the American dream," but these are the same Americans that "have to turn to the National Guard to pay for an education" while at the same time, NBA players like Ron Artest who, according to Dodge, "embodies things that are wrong by the way he conducts himself," get millions

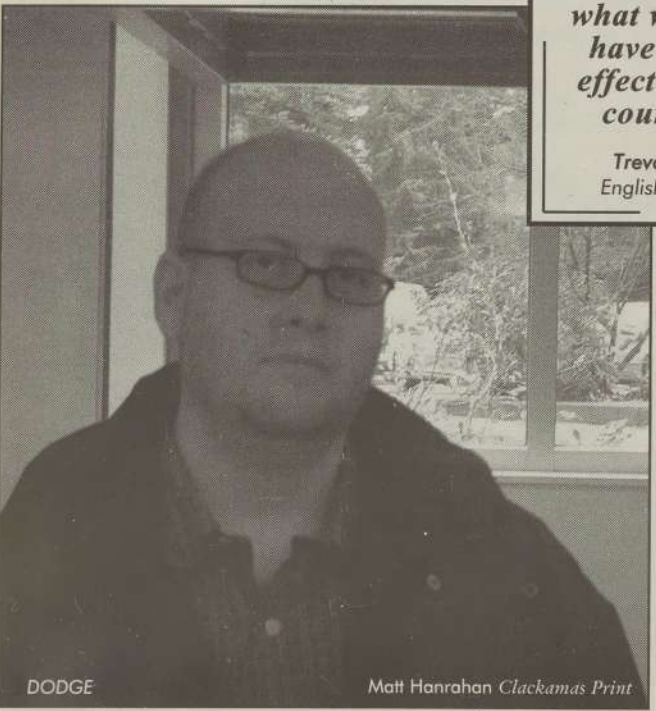
of dollars and all the breaks.

So is this treason talk, or is this the kind of thinking that will save

an FCC-regulated country run by a few by mass ignorance?

"We need to understand we live in a global economy ... and what we do will have a ripple effect on other countries."

Trevor Dodge
English Instructor




DODGE

Matt Hanrahan Clackamas Print

Finish

your college degree

- Bachelor's degrees for working adults
 - 16-month degree-completion program
 - Multiple bachelor's degree options
 - Class one night a week
 - Credit for life experience
- Information meetings at 6:30 p.m.
 - December 2 and 8, January 11
 - Portland Center
 - 12753 S.W. 68th Ave., Portland



GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY

dps.georgefox.edu • 888-888-0100

George Fox University is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a regional university based on academic reputation and overall quality.