

Extraordinary author begs: please don't feed the freshman

Sissie Mathieson
Clackamas Print

or extraordinary Zoe Trope visited Clackamas last week and wowed students and faculty with her inimitable wit to the written word. One who has ever been awkward and humbling, Trope is now a life known as adolescent. You may find they are all too familiar with 18-year-old Trope's "Please Don't Kill the Freshman."

den minefield that is youth.

Before she stood to read Wednesday night in the Literary Arts Center in Rook Hall, Zoe Trope was seated in the audience along with the rest of her attendant listeners, looking no more like a published and accredited young author than any one of the many other audience members.

While at the podium, she commented on how she didn't like them much because they made her feel so official. Her casual and humorous nature



Michaele Cooper Clackamas Print

Trope, who prefers not to show her face, instead reveals the cover of her latest work.

such a loyal following at such a young age.

Zoe Trope authored the brutally honest and heartfelt "Please Don't Kill the Freshman" roughly four years ago, a fact that is quite unbelievable given its wise, insightful character.

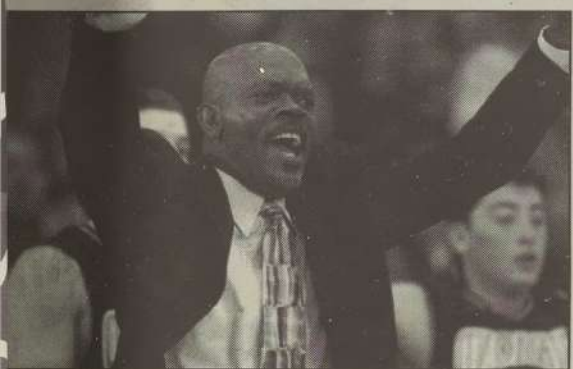
As part of her reading Wednesday night she also shared a few more recent pieces of her writing, a lot of which had to do with her admitted infatuation with domesticity. In one of these pieces in particular, Trope likened some people's envy of another's car or physical looks

to her envy of other people's houses and coffee table literature.

When asked whether or not we will get to see another published work anytime soon, Trope is not hesitant to tell that another full-size book isn't planned for the near future.

She does however publish an online journal at www.zoe-trope.com to properly sustain her loyal fans while she is completing her freshman year of college in Oberlin, Ohio. Perhaps we can all look forward to a college edition of "Please Don't Kill the Freshman" in the time to come, which will surely demonstrate, in perfect imperfection, all of the humiliating splendor of college life.

Coach Carter' a game winner



JACKSON Internet Photo

Jason Pirtle
The Clackamas Print

If you don't have anything to do this weekend, head over to the movie theater, because "Coach Carter" is heating up the big screen.

This movie was hot, and it had all of the ingredients to be one of the best films of the year. No doubt, I'd put this one on the "movies to see" list right now.

"Coach Carter" is a true and inspirational movie about how the Richmond Oilers head coach, played by Samuel L. Jackson, morphs a losing basketball team into a winning team.

Samuel L. Jackson does a superb job of playing the part of Coach Carter. Coach Carter is a hard-nosed, "my way or the highway" coach who wants his players to succeed both on the gym floor and in the classroom.

The "tough-guy coach" attitude from Jackson came across well, since he's played other tough-guy parts such as Jules, the scripture-spitting hit-man in "Pulp Fiction."

The chemistry of Jackson and his players gels somewhat nicely, since some of the players have never acted in a movie before. The players either joke around with Jackson or clash with him. The players also provide comedy throughout the

movie and issues outside of basketball. Promising student Kenyon (Rob Brown) gets his girlfriend Kyra (R&B singer Ashanti) pregnant and is forced to make a decision: baby or basketball.

The on-the-court scenes are fine, if overdone (every game has to be determined by a buzzer-beating shot), but that's expected in a Hollywood movie.

In fact, it's the lockout that's the climatic hook in this movie. Jackson puts the chains around the gym after finding out that some of his players are doing poorly in the classroom, even when his team was undefeated.

The controversial decision by Carter made national headlines and sparked anger in a gang-banging Northern California town, Richmond.

"Coach Carter" is in the same pool as "Friday Night Lights" and "Remember the Titans," because it's more about what happens outside the game than what happens in the game. The only difference is that "Coach Carter" is in the arena of California high school basketball, and not in the arena of high school football in Texas and Virginia.

Either way, the movie teaches an important lesson about high school sports today. Sometimes teachers, parents, and play-



Internet Photo

ers forget that high school is more about getting an education than being a successful athlete. Some players never realize this and end up on the streets.

None of the players in the movie went on to play for big universities or in the NBA, but they did go on to college and graduated, and that's a victory of its own.

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CULTURAL EVENT

Have the feeling of being *scattered* every direction?

Attending a meditation group is a great way to center yourself while breaking cultural boundaries. It is a way of preparation, relaxation and healing.

Fellow student Michael Tang is a practicing Buddhist. He explains the basics of meditation.

The meditation is led by a teacher, whose soothing voice guides the students through the ritual. After assuming a cross-legged position atop either a pillow or meditation bench, the eyes close while taking deep, cleansing breaths. The teacher begins to speak.

The speech is a reminder of the Buddhist *dharma*: not to kill one another, no stealing, no sexual misconduct of any kind, no crime, no drinking or drug use and so forth.

"All of the speech during the meditation is for cleansing your heart and head, and sometimes you might have to do it alone if you want," said Tang of the teachings.

Meditation has been in practice for centuries, and is used in many other activities, such as yoga, sweats and prayer.

Many do find participating in meditation very relaxing, noting a sense of spiritual cleanliness afterward. Going to meditation is a great way to center yourself and let go of the bad.

There is the Buddha, who is the doctor, the Dhamma, who has the medicine and Samgha who is the nurse and gives out medicine. Buddhists have the

medicine within the temple.

Meditation is a great way of escaping the world that surrounds us.

If relaxation through meditation interests you, Portland is home to many temples, such as the Beaverton Kadampa Buddhist Center. For more information, contact them at www.meditationinoregon.org or call (503) 233-6747.

-Compiled by
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