

Art takes center stage

A Midwinter Night's Dream' is a successful celebration

Katie Wilson
The Clackamas Print

Approximately 330 people gathered to help the college celebrate music, art, theater and the completion of the Niemyer Center for the Communication Arts.

The event held in the Niemyer center was titled "A Midwinter Night's Dream," but felt more like mid-Spring, with a warm wind and gorgeous sunset.

Student Travis Nordurft—wearing a jester costume and his face painted white—entertained the line of guests waiting to be let into the building by juggling while balanced atop a large purple ball.

Guests entered the Coffman lobby of the Niemyer Center around tables, art, and music student Jonathan Butler on the balcony above the LeRoy Anderson Band Room with his flute providing background music.

The evening kicked off with a silent auction and hors



Angela Gerhart Clackamas Print

d'oeuvres in the band room. Art pieces by faculty, tickets to one concert of the Portland Baroque Orchestra, and dinner with Oregonian columnist Jonathan Nicholas were just some of the items up for auction.

Those not immediately interested in the auction got a preview of the first art exhibit to come to the Alexander Gallery. The exhibit was composed of art by faculty artists David Andersen, Rick True, Christopher Dreger, Junko Iijima, Una Kim, Smith Eliot, Marlene Bauer, Heidi Schwegler, Katy McFadden, Nora Brodnicki, Anothony Bernert, Gene Flores and David Reese.

The auction closed with a trumpet blast from student Jessicah Hodson, and dinner followed close behind.

The guests enjoyed roasted pork loin with mushroom cream sauce, grilled apple over spinach with blue cheese topping and a raspberry vinaigrette dressing, French petite baguettes, baked chive duchess potatoes and grilled asparagus.

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Laura Cameron Clackamas Print

LEFT: A painting by Clackamas Art Instructor Yuna Kim was on display on Saturday night.

BELOW: After a performance of the play 'Twelfth Night' put on by the drama department, CCC President Joe Johnson thanks those who donated money to the Niemyer Center.

Target: Meth

The fourth in a series focusing on local meth use

On the road to recovery

Ben Maras
News Editor

Editor's Note: Although in the world of 12-step meetings, only first names are used for identification, for the purpose of this article, all names used herein are pseudonyms. This article contains language which some readers may find offensive.

"Hi, I'm Jenny, and I'm an addict," says a short woman wearing glasses sitting in front of a brightly lit room somewhere in Clackamas County. The room is surrounded on three sides by floor-to-ceiling windows, the blinds open, showing the darkness outside. Seated in a circle are 30-something people of various races, ages, and lifestyles, all sipping coffee, and until now chattering amongst themselves.

"Hi, Jenny," they all say in unison. This isn't scripted, but they all know what to say—they've been through it before. Sitting around these tables, they are all drawn together by one common theme: they are all recovering users of methamphetamine.

The group has no membership fee, no secret handshake, and only one requirement to be a member: the want to stop using crystal meth. Like clockwork, the group recites the 12 steps to recovery, and the 12 traditions of the meetings, and joins together for the "serenity prayer," which is meant to evoke the protection of any greater power in



Photo Illustration by Joel Gaynor Clackamas Print

their fight against addiction.

A black-haired, tattooed woman, who identifies herself as "Alice," begins to speak, telling her story of where her battle with drugs got her. After running away from home at 14, her drug use spiraled out of control. She then began moving across the United States, keeping one step ahead of warrants and enemies from coast to coast.

After overdosing in New York, Alice found herself rolled in a carpet and thrown in a dumpster by her friends, wanting to avoid New York's criminal charges of being with someone who has O.D.'d.

Alice's use left her alone with her husband, living in a subway with bags of drugs, stockpiles of guns, and a stack of encyclopedias.

"I figured if anybody wanted to be around

my crazy ass, they wanted in my panties, or in my pocket, or in my dope," Alice said. "So it was me and my husband against the world."

Alice continued life on the streets, punctuated by time in jail for drug possession charges. During her first trip she experienced her first taste of recovery, something which would drive her later on.

"I just got real tired of going to jail," she said. "I went to the treatment part of the jail to kiss a little ass ... but when I was there, I accidentally got some recovery going on."

After many more times in and out of prison, in different states, she was forced with the realization that her husband was being kept in for life on burglary charges. Alice tried to commit suicide by shooting a gram of heroin into her femoral veins—the only ones she has left after years of intravenous drug use—and she felt no effect.

She soon began to have painful swelling in her leg that no prescription drugs to treat. Constrained to a wheel chair, she convinced a needle exchange to give her treatment, and upon operation it was discovered that she had a blood clot in her leg from the top of her thigh to her knee, one inch in diameter.

After many trips to jail, she made her first successful attempt to stay clean.

"I didn't mean to get clarity," she explains. "I was perfectly happy not giving a fuck. Please see **METH**, Page 3

Program helps people back to work

Shannon Armstead
The Clackamas Print

The Workforce Development department, with its new, convenient location and connections with local employers and human services resources, is working hard to help participants find their place in the world of work.

The workforce development program is funded by the federal government through the Workforce Investment Act, which was designed with the focus of putting people to work and using strategies to create and sustain a highly skilled and well-educated workforce.

"We open doors for people and start them on the career ladder," said Program Director Dave Griffiths.

The program works in conjunction with the Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Department of Human Resources, and Job Corps as part of the government's efforts for a better workforce.

"We all work together to make the best use of our resources," said Roni Wilhelm, compliance and operations officer for the program.

Resources are used differently for each individual participant who enters the program, depending on their personal needs, barriers and skills.

The program helps participants find a job suited to their needs by providing job search and resume assistance, career assessment and planning, internships, skills assessment, funding for short-term employment training, and supportive services such as childcare and transportation.

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