

METH: users find savior in others on their quest to sobriety

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about anything. When I was clean, I found that I didn't need that bullshit ... plain old life made me happy."

Now, she looks back on her experience with a certain amount of triumph, and shares it with other users in her situation.

"I was the last person I thought could possibly get clean and stay clean," she said. "I thought I was one of those people who would die high."

Another former user, named "James," shared his feelings on his battle against addiction, one which is shared by all recovering drug users.

"Recovery for me is recovery from myself ... 'sobriety' in Greek means 'clear thinking,' and I try to have that," he said. "I don't even know if

I'm doing the program right—I'm damn sure not doing it how the book says, but it works for me."

For many of the members, this group is their solitary treatment against an entity which destroyed their life, and may still haunt them to this day, although the members try to avoid focusing undue attention on such a terrible past. Instead they focus their discussions around the positive aspects of their recovery,

and any problems they are having.

The positive peer-pressure of the group also provides a motivational tool for those members who are tempted to relapse, driving some addicts to stay clean for the group in moments of trial.

"One of the things that kept me going was knowing that every Friday night I couldn't have fucked up ... in between the meetings, I had to get better," said a middle-aged addict named

"Tony." "I've been a Buddhist since the '60s, and this is the first time I'm living my spiritual faith."

"[To go] get high ... that would be easy, rather than sit here and do work," added another man named "Scott." "If I went and got high, it would be a cop-out ... and all it takes is reaching out and asking for help and asking for forgiveness."

Each member also discussed why they stayed clean today. Each day is viewed as the most important step—and more important than the one before it—to the group, focusing on the challenge of overcoming each day as individuals, in hopes that it will lead to a change in life as a whole.

"Today, I stayed clean for myself, and everybody else second," said a young man in the corner of the room.

"It's my life, and if I can't stay clean for me, than why do it?"

"I stayed clean today because that's who I want to be," added a woman in her late 30s, who had had a run-in with an ex-dealer just that day.

Ending the meeting, the group joined hands to once again recite the "Serenity Prayer," evoking the power of each other and their respective greater powers to help guide them until the next meeting.

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference," they began.

"I don't know where I'm going," a man said regarding what his future held for him, "but I know there's bigger plans for me ... or else I'd be dead."

"I was the last person I thought would get clean and stay clean ... I thought I was one of those people who would die high."

"Alice"
Recovering meth user

WORKFORCE: students get free training

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"If we have a person who comes in here and they have been making minimum wage, and they need to make more money to support their family, we make a goal and may help them with resources they cannot afford, such as books, transportation," said Griffiths. "We are always making sure that the goal is achievable."

The workforce development program keeps close contact with other social and business services, such as the Business EDGE program located at the Harmony campus, designed to help employers find suitable employees.

"[This program] is about partnerships between businesses, social services and education, so that individuals can come to an organization and get what they need," said Wilhelm.

Participants are accepted into the program on a needs-basis, are 18 years old or over and members of Clackamas County; they may or may not be students and range from skilled to unskilled.

To become a participant, individuals apply at the One-Stop Resource Center in Oregon City or come to one of the program's weekly orientations held in B240 every Tuesday at noon, where they may speak directly with a workforce specialist.

A relatively new program, workforce development began at Clackamas in January of 2004 and moved into the Community Center in September, where staff enjoy the close proximity to resources the college offers.

"It's a good fit for us to have the other programs here so that we can refer participants to them," said Wilhelm.

Staff measure their success in getting people jobs, helping them keep them, and increasing earnings, and they find the results fulfilling.

"It is very rewarding [to the staff] when we find someone who has had trouble finding jobs and helping them find their niche," said Griffiths.

Awarded authors attending

This evening's Authors' Night will feature Oregon authors "Prize Winning Fiction"

Elizabeth Tobey
The Clackamas Print

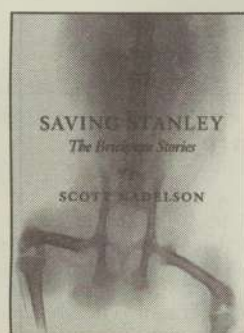
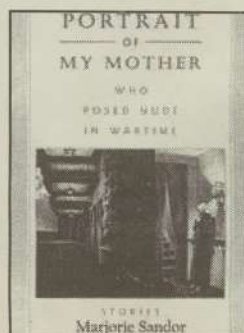
is the theme of what will be read and discussed tonight during the Winter Term Authors' Night.

Writers Scott Nadelson, Tracy Daugherty, and Marjorie Sandor will read tonight in the Literary Arts Center, room 220 of Roger Rook Hall. The event will take place from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. and is free, although a \$2 contribution to the Friends of the Library will be appreciated.

This trio of award-winning writers comes from a variety of backgrounds, but have all found their place at Oregon colleges.

To begin with Daugherty is the director of the MFA Program for Creative Writing at OSU as well as a member of the MFA faculty in the Warren Wilson Program for Writers. He has six published works, and has appeared in such publications as the New Yorker, Georgia Review, Southern Review, and Chelsea. Twice Daugherty has won the Oregon Book Award and in 1998 he was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

Tonight Daugherty will be reading from his latest work of fiction, the novel "Axeman's Jazz." The story explores how race, class and economics affect



FROM LEFT: "Axeman's Jazz" by Tracy Daugherty, "Portrait of My Mother, Who Posed Nude in Wartime" by Marjorie Sandor, and "Saving Stanley: The Brickman Stories" by Scott Nadelson

three generations of a Houston, Texas family.

Also an instructor at OSU, Sandor teaches creative writing and literature. Her stories have been seen in "The Best American Short Stories 1985" and "1988," "The Pushcart Prize XIII" and "The Best of Beacon 1999." In 1998 she received the Rona Jaffe Foundation Award for Fiction and in 2000 the Oregon Book Award for Literary Nonfiction.

Sandor will be sharing excerpts from her most recent work "Portrait of My Mother, Who Posed Nude in Wartime." The collection of short stories intertwines to slowly reveal the secrets of Rachel Gershon's family and look at the strangeness in the heart of every family.

The third writer in the trio, Nadelson is a former student of both Daugherty and Sandor. He graduated from OSU and now lives in Portland, teaching writing at the Art Institute

of Portland. He is also part of the Writers in Schools program. His work has appeared in the *American Literary Review*, *Carve Magazine*, and "The Best of Carve, Volume Three."

readings. The event is free and audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions and hear from the authors about their work and their lives as "Prize Winning Fiction" writers.

Theater troupe Teatro Milagro makes encore visit to college

The national bilingual touring group Teatro Milagro will again visit the CCC campus with one of their original plays entitled "Cuéntame Coyote," performed in both Spanish and English. Folktales of the Southwest will be brought to life with original music in an adventurous tale of two orphan girls lost in the desert of the borderlands.

The performance will be presented Wednesday, March 30, noon-1 p.m. in the Osterman Theatre located in the Niemeyer Center. Admission is \$3 general and students free. For more information, please contact Irma Bjerre at 503-657-6958, ext. 2381 or Robin Danchock at ext. 2813.

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