

# Filmmaker visits campus

## Authors' night boasts award winner McCormick

**Ben Maras**  
News Editor

Award-winning Portland filmmaker and head of the PDX Film Festival Matt McCormick will be appearing at Clackamas next Wednesday, April 27, in the Gregory Forum. Headlining will be award-winning author Charles D'Ambrosio, also a Portland native. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, D'Ambrosio's work commonly appears in *The New Yorker*.

After three screenings at the famous Sundance Film Festival, and having won awards including Best Experimental Film from the New York Underground Film Fest, Best Short Film from San Francisco Film Fest, and Grand Prize at the Media City Film Fest, McCormick will be visiting as part of authors' night, which is put on by English instructor Allen Widerburg.

Born in November of 1972 in Washington, D.C., McCormick was initially interested in photography and journalism before getting hooked on the film world after he began shooting and editing his own films as an experiment. Now his work is said to "blur the line between documentary and experimental," although he says he doesn't choose what he films.

"I hope people realize that there are more avenues for a filmmaker than simply going to L.A. and selling your soul to Hollywood."

"I think the topics pretty much choose me," McCormick said. "I have always been a sucker for the underdog, and every now and then a subject will present itself and I'll realize it would make great subject matter for a film."

In his most recent film, an experimental documentary entitled "Towlines," he pays homage to the tugboat in

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**Matt McCormick**  
Portland Film Maker



Photo courtesy of www.rodefilmco.com

A still from McCormick's 1999 short, "The Vyrotonin Decision," described as "a post-modern disaster epic featuring 36 appropriated television commercials from 1971." The film, which was created using a hole punch, a cheap film splicer, tape and glue, mocks the stock formula of the modern big-screen Hollywood movie.

America's harbors, showing its important duty in the world of the seaport. Blending artistic style with an original sound by James Mercer of The Shins, the film is truly an example of pulling for the little person.

His work includes the music video for "The Past and the Pending" by The Shins.

In another work, "American Nutria" he explores the furry pest that is the nutria, a large rodent

originally from Argentina which was introduced more than 60 years ago as a way to help save the beaver population, and has now grown out of control. His film details the problems and possible solutions (he makes it known that nutria has more protein and less fat and cholesterol than turkey, chicken or beef).

In a mockumentary, "The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal," he latches onto the irony of the fact that funding for anti-graffiti campaigns often outweigh the funding for the arts, and shows what he calls (tongue-in-cheek) "the most important art movements of the 21st century." This film alone won five awards and was named in several magazines' "Top 10" lists.

But out of his more than 10 short films, he says that the experiment "Sincerely, Joe P. Bear" is his favorite.

"It's older and really short and only took me a few days to make," he says. "I think that maybe since it was such a short and spontaneous project I never got the chance to totally get sick of it while I was making it."

McCormack hopes ultimately that his visit will help budding college filmmakers, show them the wide variety of opportunities open in the field, and dissolve people's prejudices about the film world.

"I hope people realize that there are more avenues for a filmmaker than simply going to L.A. and selling your soul to Hollywood," he said.

# Cartoonist's Clackamas visit to draw crowds

**Elizabeth Toby**  
The Clackamas Print

Cartoonist and novelist Lynda Barry will delight Clackamas audiences this Thursday when she reads from a variety of her works during an event cosponsored by the English Department and Marylhurst University.

Barry, who grew up in a working-class Seattle neighborhood, was the first person in her family to go to college, attending Evergreen State University.

There she met her good friend Matt Groening, the creator of "The Simpsons" and the "Life in Hell" comic strips. It was Groening who first published her work in the school newspaper without her consent.

Now, as she says, her work appears "all over tarnation." She is a regular contributor to "Salon," an online magazine, and her alternative comic strip "Ernie Pooks Comeek" is nationally syndicated.

She has written several illustrated novels including "The Good Times Are Killing Me," which won the Washington State Governor's Award, and is also a successful playwright.

Her second novel, "Cruddy," tells

the story of sixteen-year-old Roberta Rohbeson's life, and of growing up in a not so everyday life.

She reflects on her own life in "One Hundred Demons." A collection of autobiographical comic strip stories, they were published in the anthology "Mothers Who Think."

Through the characters in her comic strips and stories, Barry discusses important issues of war, young love, gays and lesbians, growing up, depression, abuse and relationships with adults.

Marlys is perhaps the most popular of Barry's characters and in 2000 Barry published "The! Greatest! Of! Marlys!" "The! Greatest! Of! Marlys!" featuring the freckle faced,

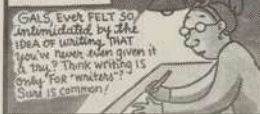
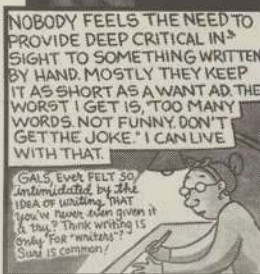
pigtailed character as she finds her way through life.

Barry will read from a variety of her work, including novels as well as comic strips on April 21. The

evening will begin at 7 p.m. in the new Osterman Theatre and is free to students. It will also offer an opportunity for students to ask questions and discuss Barry's life and work.



Photos courtesy of <http://depts.clackamas.edu/english/>



## campus SAFETY logs

All reports are taken from CCC's campus safety incident logs. Summaries are edited for clarity, not content.

**4-15-05**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
Staff requested standby during student expulsion.

**10:20 a.m.**  
Staff requested standby as bus turn around. Students left without incident.

**4-14-05**  
**10:35 a.m.**  
Reported white male adult carrying three large bags filled with unknown contents in ELC area.

**5:58 p.m.**  
Student turned in billfold found in Barlow parking lot. Checked billfold and found current student I.D. at Oregon City High School. Met with high school staff and turned over billfold.

**8:10 p.m.**  
Student reported theft of vehicle from Barlow parking lot. Checked all parking lots and notified Oregon City Police Department to take report.

**4-12-05**  
**9:55 a.m.**  
Reported white male adult panhandling in Community Center building.

**6:40 p.m.**  
Received calls of possible road rage/hit-and-run at Clairmont.

## (not so) Big Box o' Briefs

Campus news: 75% learner, 25% meaner, and 100% unprofessional.

**"Los Desaparecidos"**  
John Lujan, who was involved in the production of the film "Los Desaparecidos" (The Disappeared Ones), will be at CCC today. It will be held in CC127 from noon p.m., and is open to anybody. Come see it before it too disappears.



**ASG Elections**  
The race for ASG President and VP is under way. Read on for important events and dates in the race.  
**April 26 and 27:** Candidate debate and Q&A.  
**May 2, 3 and 4:** Absentee ballots accepted in CC152.  
**May 5 and 6:** Elections online at [www.clackamas.edu](http://www.clackamas.edu) in CC152 or any computer with internet access.