

Little known literary cache in LAC

Megan Koler
Clackamas Print

The Literary Arts Center has a wide assortment of Erin Cunningham's personal books in the "Lending Library." Cunningham was a student at PSU in the '80s. Following graduation she attended PSU and made full-circle back to Clackamas to teach composition and literature part-time. She has a profound impression on students and colleagues. In April 2003, Cunningham was honored by the English Department. Judy Steele, donated Cunningham's personal library to the English department. Friends and students were then to choose mementos from

the collection. However, Emily Orlando, chairperson for the English department, decided she wanted to do something special in Cunningham's memory. She filled the shelves of the LAC with the remainder of Cunningham's collection.

Anyone is more than welcome to keep a book – if it is replaced with another – or borrow one of interest. There are a wide variety of books to browse through. They range from contemporary and ancient fiction to Cunningham's old textbooks.

"This is not even all of it!" laughed Orlando as she surveyed the dozens of books in the LAC.

There is a leaf of paper in each book for borrowers to jot down a few comments prior to returning the book. Even Cunningham's

own notes can be found in some of the books.

The significant idea of the "Lending Library" is to keep in mind that these books are being shared and enjoyed in memory of someone who loved them very much.

"It is a fitting legacy for a lover of literature," Orlando explained of her colleague's memorial.

The "Lending Library" invites literature buffs to browse the shelves, as Cunningham once did in her own library.



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English Department Chair Emily Orlando peruses the selection of the Lending Library, an easy-to-miss feature of the LAC.

'Jarhead' portrays Marine's experience in first Gulf War

Don Triplett
Editor

"Jarhead," a self-imposed name of the Marines, opened theaters on Nov. 5.

The film is based on the memoirs of former Marine Anthony Swofford, "During Operations Desert Shield and Desert

Storm" acting in this film is top-billed starring Jake Gyllenhaal as Swofford, Jamie Foxx as Staff Sergeant Sykes and Peter Krause as Allen Troy.

Some things about this film that stand out at the viewer's eye are its humor, its killer soundtrack, and the cinematography.

Gyllenhaal is far removed from his role as "Donnie Darko" in the film of the same name (a film that bombed in theaters, but gave him cult status after its release on DVD).

There is one similarity between the two roles however, and that similarity is that the story is told in first person, from Swofford's perspective, from

time to time. This first person narration is made use of most memorably in the beginning and end of the film.

The film is directed by Sam Mendes and anyone who has seen "American Beauty" will recognize his touch here. There

are some very powerful emotions that Mendes does an excellent job of conveying, without always having to rely on so many words (if any, in certain places).

In contrast to its smarter moments, the dialogue can feel a little pretentious and jaded at

times.

The film's teaser trailer is a little deceiving! For example, it suggests that the movie is a little more political than it actually is. The political messages are used symbolically, and don't preach a message of morality through

words.

Although this movie has some things in common with "Apocalypse Now" and "Full Metal Jacket," it is lacking any actual scenes of combat involving Swofford or his platoon (another thing the teaser hinted at but didn't deliver upon). Although they were shot at by their own planes in a barrage of friendly fire, Swofford didn't participate in any battles.

One of the most heart-wrenching scenes of the movie is a scene in which Swofford throws up after seeing what the armed forces then (and still do in the current Iraq war) refer to as "crispy critters." These are people left charred after being hit by military munitions. In this case, the crispy critters were people trying to escape, and looked like non-combatants.

Despite the lack of action "Jarhead" is a success in its very real portrayal of life as a Marine scout/sniper during the first Gulf War. This film is one of the few worth paying \$8.50 for, even worth putting up with local Regal Cinema's high prices and crappy service. And these days, that's saying something.



Internet Photo

Staff Sergeant Sykes (Jamie Foxx) disciplines Private Anthony Swofford (Jake Gyllenhaal) for an incident involving an "unauthorized beverage," and a fire that set off live rounds.

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