

Wear and tear will break you down

College students rely on vehicles to get back and forth to school, but some don't even know proper car care to keep their vehicles on the road

Dale Balbi

The Clackamas Print

A vehicle is more than just a way to get from point A to point B.

"It takes basic maintenance, a little money and willingness to repair or do it yourself," said former Clackamas student Nick Miller, who teaches various automotive service technology courses at the college.

The "a little money" part is what causes some students difficulty.

"I change my oil every 3,000 miles, and I rotate my tires every month," said student Teea Newberg. "There are other things I should do, like check my transmission fluids and check anything else every 10,000 miles, but I can't afford it."

In addition to regularly checking and changing the oil, there are greater factors to consider, Miller says. It doesn't hurt to think into the future.

"Other things that need to be checked are brakes every 30,000 miles, transmission, windshield, tire inflation once a month, and have your car clean because it increases fuel economy, makes the car last longer and the resale value higher," he explained.

But not all information applies to all cars, Automotive Instructor Steve Goloback points out.

"Each vehicle is different as far as sched-

uled maintenance and types of oils for oil change," Goloback said.

Goloback will teach a Fix Your Own Car class that will run every other Saturday during spring term from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is a five-week class that covers one topic each week.

The first week is dedicated to gathering the information necessary to know before fixing a car. Week 2 addresses oil change and filters, and week 3 tackles what is under the hood of the car, such as spark plugs, the radiators and all fluids. Week 4 covers brake suspension, and in the final week, students will learn about basic diagnostic, which includes trouble code, battery, electrical and light problems.

But while the terminology and maintenance rules may make car care seem difficult, it has become less so over time.

"Car maintenance is easier to maintain today than in the past," Goloback said.



Full-time student Alan Shufelt takes apart assembly on a 1969 Volkswagen Beetle.

- Headlights
- Blinkers
- Brake fluid

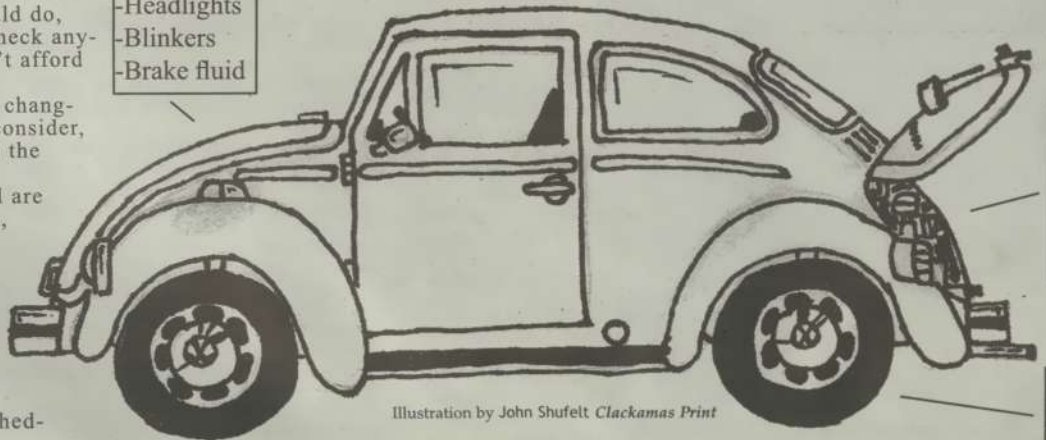


Illustration by John Shufelt Clackamas Print

- Oil
- Air f
- Oil f
- Spark
- Fuel
- Tire p
- Tread

Walch: making pictures 3-D

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At the time, Walch wasn't so optimistic about his life.

"I didn't know I was going to have much of a future," he said.

Things started to shape up when then-teachers David Campbell and Dave Simkins gave him the confidence to graduate from high school, which he did in 1988.

From there, he transferred to Western Oregon University but found that it wasn't a good fit. He took a break from his education and worked, before enrolling at Marylhurst University in 1992.

At Marylhurst, Walch studied visual arts.

"I was always into art," he said. "I was trying to find out how art fit into my life and world."

His family, on the other hand, did not support his creative endeavors.

"They didn't value photography as a profession," he said.

Regardless, Walch followed his heart and, in 1994, graduated from Marylhurst with a Bachelor of Arts degree in visual arts.

He started taking photos for profit but soon realized that he was shooting pictures of scenes he thought others would like. He was even a wedding photographer, which in his opinion "wasn't worth the money."

He then pursued stereo photography, which involves taking two pictures side by side and joining them so that the resulting single picture is three-dimensional.

But unfortunately, Walch wasn't able to spend time developing his passion initially. Instead, he temporarily directed all of his energy to remodeling his historic Oregon City home.

During the remodeling process he grew curious about historic architecture, which is now one of the main subjects of his photographs.

Beforehand, he researched the history of his house and discovered that it was originally built as servants' quarters, although it was never used for that purpose. When it was first sold, it was disconnected from the larger main building and moved to be built on a foundation. It has been lived in by seven other families and was in the possession of one family for three generations.

"A house is more than four walls and a roof," he said.

Walch finally returned to his camerawork when he adopted his son Carlos from Guatemala. He took some time off work in order to bond with his new son, and recognized that photography was something they could do together. Every day they would go on a walk, and Walch would take pictures around the neighborhood.

Thus, his passion for the art form was sparked again.

Walch currently has 3-D photography collections – the technical term is anaglyphic photography – in four galleries. The nearest is in Oregon City, while the others are located in Astoria, Tacoma and Seattle.

When preparing for a gallery show, Walch dedicates up to 20 to 30 hours to his photos.

After much experimentation, he has developed systems for taking pictures and making them 3-D. He has created a device in which he can attach two "pen cameras" – small cameras a little larger than a package of gum – to a self-made, wooden stand that holds them approximately eye-distance from one another. The two photographs that the cameras capture are opened in Photoshop and meshed together to form one three-dimensional image.

Walch's current shows include photos of Pike Place Market, in Seattle, as well as historic Astoria and Oregon City.

He is working on a collection of 3-D toy pictures.

Though anaglyphic photography is only a part-time job for Walch, it is – and will always be – a full-time infatuation. The galleries displaying his artwork have request-

ed his photos in art-o-mat machines, which are venting machines for art, he said. Even Microsoft has shown interest in his work.

More than anything, Walch wants his audience to be impacted by his art.

"Wearing glasses engages the viewer in the image," he said.

His hope is that onlookers can become just as emotionally invested in his photos as he is in the practice of producing them.



WALCH

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