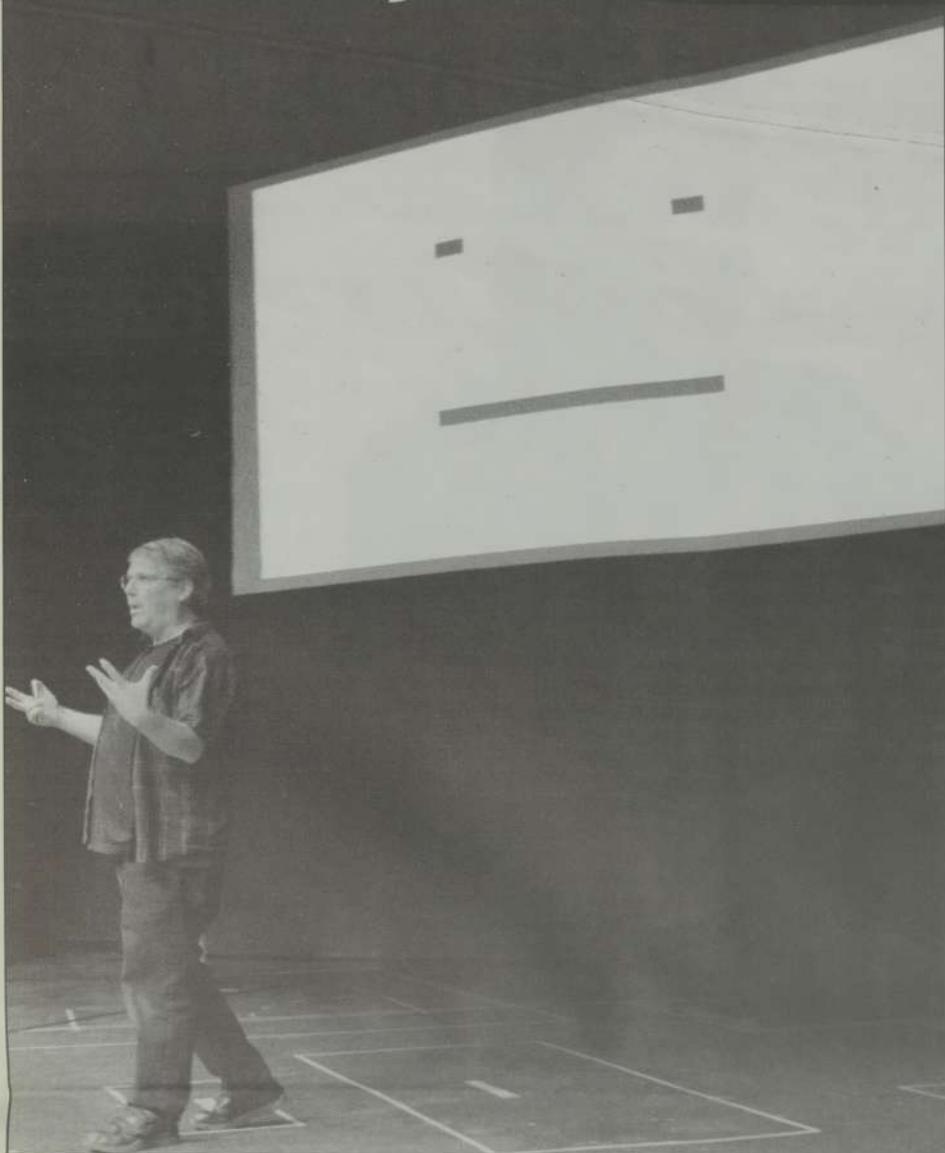


Comics jam at CCC



John Petty Clackamas Print

Comic book artist Scott McCloud explains to the audience how three lines can be perceived as a face, even if it is made of a 2x4 and two cupcakes.

By Kyle Smith
The Clackamas Print

The future of comics is what we make of it. This seems to be the principle lesson of comic book artist Scott McCloud's talk last Friday, kicking off the 24-Hour Story Jam. McCloud spoke in the Niemeyer Center Auditorium on the past, present and especially the future of comics as literature and their interpretation by readers.

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You can give me a book on an e-reader, or a Kindle and I'll read it ... but I won't enjoy it as much as I would if I had the book in front of me.

Jesse Corey
Clackamas student

McCloud's main focus was the parallel evolution of comics and the media in which they are displayed. He cited cave paintings as the earliest possible example and worked his way up through hieroglyphs, stained glass cathedral windows and eventually to the Web-based comics so prevalent today. As the media grew more complex, so could the ideas portrayed in the comics themselves and so could the format those ideas took.

McCloud postulated that early on in the coming of computers and the Web that there were far more possibilities opening up for comics than ever before.

“Maybe the computer screen was just another shape,” McCloud said. “Maybe it was just as limited a thing as the printed page ... Unless we didn't look at the screen as a page, but we looked at the screen instead as a window.”

More than 50 people attended McCloud's presentation Friday night and roughly half came back on Saturday for the workshops in letterpressing and comic production offered by the English department.

One participant from the comics workshop, Clackamas Community College student Eamon Dixon, produced an eight-page mini-comic with a story from his own life experiences.

“It's sort of going to be about an argument that I had with my girlfriend recently that will hopefully come across as humorous,” he said. “A very poorly drawn autobiographical comic.”

Another Clackamas student, Jesse Corey, elected to join the letterpressing workshop. Those who attended that workshop were able to use antique mechanical letterpresses for their projects.

When asked his opinion on the notion that electronic gadgetry will one day soon replace such antiquated physical formats, Corey was adamant that digital media will never fully replace physical print as long as people want it in the old format. “You can give me a book on an e-reader, or a Kindle, and I'll read it,” he said, “but I won't enjoy it as much as I would if I had the book in front of me. I like the feel of the pages and the old-book smell.”

Trevor Dodge of the English department sees McCloud's presentation and the 24-Hour Story Jam as a stepping stone for Clackamas toward offering more advanced curriculum around comics as literary devices. Dodge, who will teach two comic-intensive classes this spring, acknowledges that most two-year schools don't tend to focus on creativity, instead operating more like refineries tailoring people to fill jobs, but, Dodge said, the “job track should not override the marketplace of ideals.”

Those looking for more information on the Story Jam or the course offerings involving comics should contact Dodge or Kate Gray in the English department.

21+: Calm your spirits with late night grub



By Joshua Baird
Arts & Culture Editor

This week's emphasis is on the after-party munchies. I am actually convinced that alcohol companies are in cahoots with fast food companies. I say this because everybody I have ever met at a bar or tavern always seems to leave starving. In fact, the first words I muttered on my 21st birthday when my driver came to get me through my drunken stupor were, “Taco Bell.”

Late night restaurants make a killing with the bar crowd, most notable is Taco Bell and Shari's, though that doesn't mean that those are the only choices. Recently Subway has been catering to those of us who have a late night hunger for something not so greasy. They are open 24 hours a day at several locations, the closest to the college is on Molalla Avenue.

The problem with late night restaurants is that people have to drive to get there and most times have already imbibed copious quantities of the sauce. This is a bad idea in not just my opinion but in the eyes of the law.

To avoid this problem, I suggest either having a designated driver in your group who is willing to baby-sit you after a couple hours of drinking, playing pool, dancing or singing your heart out to “Don't Stop Believing” by Journey, or call Designated Driver at 503 722-4042.

If you make the choice to call “DD,” it is probably best to either eat a bowl of cereal or have something pre-made that will satisfy your hunger since operating a stove can lead to nasty burns, overcooked food, a trip to the hospital or a kitchen fire.

Some simple ideas that you can make prior to getting your drink on are listed as follows.



Illustration by Jaime

Toasted Ham and Cheese Sandwich

This is an easy recipe that requires very little attention to detail. Start with two slices of bread and your favorite cheese (use the pre-sliced stuff if you want you to cut your hand off). Add ham. Make a sandwich and place it in a toaster oven for a couple minutes, usually 2-3, depending on the toaster you use.

Turkey Wrap

Best prepared in advance when you have the finger dexterity to slice your toes. Fill the center of your tortilla with turkey, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes (pickles if you like 'em) and mayo/mustard. Roll the tortilla like a burrito and wrap in plastic wrap, these will usually hold for 24 hours in your fridge when you get home the only thing you have to worry about is taking that stic off of your healthy burrito.

Mom's (or your friend's) leftovers

Everyone knows that parents try to make sure that their kid is not getting hungry, and if they can help, they usually do when you go home from school in the form of leftovers. These treasure chests are typically microwave safe and are filled with the home-cooked lunch bags that we all remember from

Also a quick tip for the next morning is to eat something with a little sauce; something about the acidity of tomatoes does the trick for reducing the queasy stomach from a hangover. In fact, if you are going to drink, you go out to party it will help to have a glass of water for every drink you have, this will help you stay hydrated and avoid the dreaded headache the morning during chem lab.

what is my next move?

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