

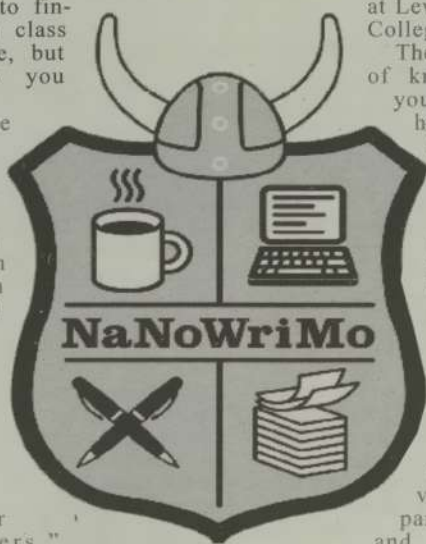
On your mark, get set, type!

By Joshua Baird
Arts & Culture Editor

November 1 is a dread-
some, exciting and
breaking day for thou-
sands of people worldwide.
It's the dawn of National
Writing Month, or
NaNoWriMo as it is often
called. NaNoWriMo is a 30 day
challenge to get you into the heart of what
it means to be a novelist,
and in this case it is more
about being a novelist with a
word count kit wired to your
fingers. The point
of this event is to produce a
50,000 word novel in 30 days.
Is this even possible?
According to Duncan Ellis,
he has challenged him-
self times in the past and
victoriously at the fin-
ish every year. "Yes, all

six times. Since I've overshot
the 50k goal a few times,
that means about 350,000
words written in the last six
Novembers. This year I want
to make it to eighty or ninety
thousand (words)," he said.
You may be wondering if
it is possible to finish a task
this daunting while you're a
student? The answer is yes. It
is possible, however it may be
painful.
Side effects include: caf-
feine addiction, grogginess,
possible social awkwardness,
fear of places that aren't your
desk, and scrambling for every
spare minute to achieve your
word count goal of the day.
The most effective way to
complete a NaNoWriMo project
is to break it down into
smaller chunks. By writing
1667 words per day over the
course of 30 days, you will

be able to fin-
ish with class
and style, but
how do you
prepare?
"I've
kept a
note-
book
with
me to
jot down
ideas, in
addition
to cre-
ating
sum-
maries
of plot
points
and
bios
of major
characters,"
said Taylor Herbert, a
two-time winner and student



at Lewis & Clark
College.
The excitement
of knowing that
you too could
have a novel
of your own
out in the
market is
enough to
get anyone
started writ-
ing. Last
year one of
the prizes
for com-
pleting
the con-
test was a
code that
allowed the
victorious
party to print
and receive a
proof copy of their book
from an online publisher.

Jonathan Hester-
McCullough, a Portland State
University student, said, "I'm
really excited to get writing.
I angst all day, rereading my
plots and characters, and go
over the general storyline in
my head at least once a day.
But I'll be sticking to the start
and end times; I don't want to
cheat myself out of the full
month of writing!"
Do you think that you can
write a 50,000 word novel in
a month? If you are going to
take on this task you should
go to www.nanowrimo.org
and register today.
Locate Joshua Baird
on www.nanowrimo.org by
searching for "JoshTheDJ" to
keep up with his word count for
the month of November. If you
send him a message to add,
you he will do so happily.

'Conviction' impresses audiences

By Christina Pearl
The Clackamas Print

the film "Conviction,"
Anne Waters (Hilary
Swank) would've liked to have
noticed in her classes
at Williams University
of Law. However,
Anne stands out as older,
and unaccustomed to
rigor. Only one of
her classmates, Abra Smith
(Minnie Driver), discovers
the reason Waters is in
school. A friendship is
born by the spunky and per-
ky Abra, who is thrilled to
classmate her own age.
Waters, "We're gonna be
cuz we're the only
in class who've been
in puberty."

and adversity, "Conviction" is
the true story of Betty Anne
Waters' 18-year battle to free
her innocent brother from pris-
on. In 1983, Kenny Waters
(Sam Rockwell) was sentenced
to life behind bars for a brutal
murder. His sister Betty
Anne — a high-school dropout
— earned her GED, her bachel-
or's degree, and her juris
doctorate with only one goal
in mind — to become the only
attorney willing to represent
her brother against his wrong-
ful conviction.
Director Tony Goldwyn and
writer Pamela Gray find an
eloquent balance with the film,
tying scenes from the Waters'
tough younger years together
with their present situation.
The movie's tone is set at the
opening, where viewers are
beset with images from the

murder scene.
The filmmakers portray
Kenny Waters as the violent-
tempered, rough-and-tumble
individual that he was — prone
to vice, but not to murder. I
found myself doubting Waters'
innocence as the storyline
began to drag two-thirds into
the film, but a few turns brought
the story — and his innocence
— to life again for me.
By far the most memorable
performance in "Conviction"
takes place during one of
these turns, and I would rec-
ommend running out to see
the film if only for Juliette
Lewis' three-minute appear-
ance as Kenny Waters' aged
ex-girlfriend Roseanna Perry.
Lewis' portrayal is all at once
candid, humorous and disturb-
ing. This role that had at first
seemed insignificant became
paramount.
I found some of the other
performances predictable;
other than donning a Boston
accent, Swank seems to vary
little in scope from many of
her other performances. Also,
Driver puts on her standard
bubbly, hearty, and witty
characterization. In contrast,
Rockwell, whom I had forgot-
ten about since "Frost/Nixon,"
gave a gritty performance as
Kenny Waters that is impos-
sible to dismiss.
I have to say that
"Conviction" is worth hopping
the MAX and heading down-
town to watch in the theater.
While the film tended to drag
in a few spots, the performanc-
es were strong and the story
is memorable. The movie is
currently running at the Fox
Tower Stadium 10 in down-
town Portland.

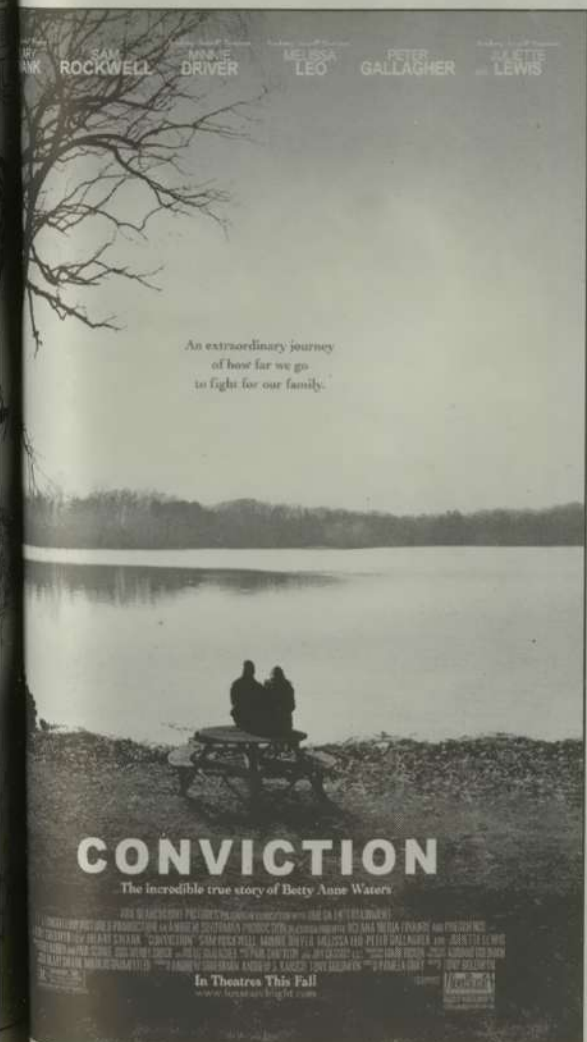
21+: Beer brewing 101



By Joshua Baird
Arts & Culture Editor

Beer — is there anything
more simple and basic in the
world of adult beverages? The
answer is actually yes.
Ale, lager, nut brown, or
brew is one of the most com-
plex subjects this side of wine.
Many wine connoisseurs will
tell you that wine is the only
thing to pair with food. This
idea is being tested more
and more by the increasing
number of breweries in the
United States and the rest of
the world.
Brewing is more than just
a hobby; it is a way of life
for many since prohibition
laws were repealed, and has
flourished in a less scrutinized
environment.
The process of making this
delicious beverage has existed
in one way or another for
thousands of years. The old-
est recorded instance of this
bubbly drink is from approxi-
mately 4000 B.C. in Samaria,
according to Birmingham
Beverage Company's website
www.alabev.com.
"The best thing about mak-
ing your own beer is having
complete control of what goes
into it, being able to make
exactly what you want, and
experimenting with new crazy
ideas," said Jason Erceg, an
employee of Let's Brew, a
beer and wine supply store in
Portland.
"The best way to get started
is either to ... jump right into
it with a starter kit, or take one
of our classes or have a friend
who already brews teach you,"
Erceg said.
The process of brewing beer
is similar to being a chemist,
and the most important thing
to keep in mind cleanliness
of your tools and your work-
area.
"For most extract and grain
recipes you'll be in the kitchen
for a couple hours, then they

usually take a couple weeks to
ferment depending on your origi-
nal gravity and the type of yeast
you use. Then if you're bottling
it, it will take another week or
two to carbonate," said Erceg.
As a disclosure I should inform
you I have been brewing my own
beer for nearly a year now, and
every batch has been awesome.
Well, not every batch; I made
an Orange Vanilla beer that was
so horrible I dumped the whole
batch. Though my first try turned
out amazing, especially after it
aged for about three months (this
aging is not required but it does
lend some great flavor to the
beer).
The equipment required for
brewing your own beer is avail-
able at several retailers in the
Portland area.
"Our basic kit goes for about
\$100, which gets you all the
basics," said Erceg.
Though the initial price tag
may seem daunting for some col-
lege students living off of ramen
and leftovers from mom's house,
after you have brewed a few
batches of your home brew the
costs will be much lower than the
price of buying an equal quantity
of this alcoholic nectar.
For information on brewing
your own beer you can find books
at Barnes & Nobel or at Let's
Brew, located at 8235 SE Stark
St. in Portland.
Erceg also informed me of the
strangest beer he has tried. "Bacon
Stout! Yes! Bacon beer, someone
made Homer Simpson's dream
come true. I found the recipe in
a magazine and a couple of my
customers made it and brought
me a bottle. It was actually really
good; the bacon wasn't overpower-
ing, but it definitely had a good
bacon flavor," he said.
Is it just me, or does it seem
like bacon is becoming a recur-
ring cast member in the comedy
that I call life?



Conviction (R)

Oct. 22 | 107 minutes

Genre: Drama

Cast: Hilary Swank, Sam
Rockwell, Minnie Driver

Summary: A high school
dropout spends nearly
two decades to put herself
through law school, trying
to overturn her brother's un-
just murder conviction.

Rating: ★★★★★

