



The Clackamas Print

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A shadowy past recalled

By John Simmons
Copy Editor

The most shocking part of "The Shadow Testament" is that it tells the story of a insane cult right here in Oregon, nor is it that the play is a scene of full-frontal nudity (however brief it is). No, the most shocking aspect of this play is that it is based on the true tale of "Love Cult" started in Astoria, in 1903.

This darkly fascinating tale is brought to life this weekend at Performance Works Northwest in Southeast Portland in the premiere of "The Shadow Testament." Three scenes from the play were presented on Jan. 10. Director Roger Rook at Clackamas Community College's Oregon City campus, with directors, producers and playwright Susan Mach, present to answer any questions. Mach, who has a Ph.D. in playwriting from the University of Oregon and is also an English instructor at CCC, was inspired to write the script years ago after reading an account of Joshua Creffield's cult in Stewart Holbrook's novel, *Wobblies & Whistles*.

It is easy to talk about the cult in a tongue-in-cheek kind of way," said Mach, "but what she found really was tragic. I decided when I sat down to write it to shape the play like a comedy. I decided to take a look at the play from the point of view of this woman, Ester Bell, called Jane in the play. There was a big trial in the play because there were two women and Jane, who was one of the major players in the cult, ends up in an insane asylum. So she's trying to figure out... if she's crazy or not... whether she has been chosen or not chosen.

I tried to unearth the story of why someone who wasn't crazy would get involved in a group such as Creffield's group. She's trying to figure out 'Why did I do it?' It's her coming to terms with what she's done and that's the arch of the play. She's figuring it out in the asylum as we look back on the story unfold," said Mach.

Although in the play production the actors only performed three scenes, all were very powerful. The actors easily slipped into their roles and beautifully performed Mach's play. What impressed me was that the relationships between the characters seemed so real; during the full performance an actor had the chance to establish relationships over the course of the play, but these actors had to do it in a short scene.



Nathan Sturgess Associate Photo Editor

Jeff Schwab delivers a rousing sermon to his congregation during a preview of "The Shadow Testament" at Clackamas Community College on Jan. 10 as director Angie Davis looks on. The play will be performed Jan. 20-22 and 27-29 at Performance Works Northwest in Portland.

College seeks more funds from tax payers

By Brian Baldwin
News Editor

In a unanimous vote, the Clackamas County Board of Education voted to place a \$130 million bond measure on the May 2011 ballot. If passed, Clackamas Community College will receive \$130 million to spend on expanding classrooms, upgrading rapidly aging and deteriorating equipment, paying off \$20 million in building debts, renovating older buildings and acquiring new property for CCC to expand upon.

During the summer of 2010 the college hired Davis, Hibbits & Midghall, Inc. to survey and gauge the community's position for a possible bond measure.

"We got very favorable responses in August that helped the planning process," said Marketing Project Coordinator Janet Paulson. "It indicated that there was a lot of support for the college from the community and for our key missions."

On Jan. 12 the Board of Education gave the go-ahead of CCC's bond request with the caption: "Clackamas Community College bonds to update local educational facilities, equipment." Now the taxpayers of Clackamas County will vote on May 17 to grant if CCC will receive the bond issue that will add another \$40 a year in property tax according to Courtney Wilton, Vice President of College Services.

"We are looking to allow (the students) that we serve to train on equipment that they will face when they enter the workforce (and) that they will be doing so in a safe environment," said board member Chuck Clemans.

Clemans also commented that after the both the executive board and Board of Education evaluated the needs of CCC there was an estimated total of \$250 million worth of legitimate needs that existed.

"Yet out of consideration of the economy and the state of our taxpayers, we dwindled that down to a ... (reasonable \$130 million.)"

The plans for the bond money are still in the preliminary phase but part of the focus is to upgrade aging technologies in the classroom. According to college president Joanne Truesdell, some of the main areas that were found to be in dire need were in the automotive, manufacturing and science labs.

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Cougars wrestling plays host to the Montana State-Northern team. See page 6



Out with the old, in with the new; ASG gets a new vice president. See page 2

