

The Lady
Cougars tear their
way to the top
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Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011

Volume 44, Issue 14



The Clackamas Print

First copy FREE; additional copies 1¢

An independent, student-run newspaper since 1966

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Hoopty dreams

By Joshua Baird
Arts & Culture Editor

Is your car an ugly hunk of metal that would make Adam Sandler's car from "Ode to My Car" look like a masterpiece? What can you do with it besides scrap it or keep driving that ugly hoopty? You should always sign up for the auto restoration class at Clackamas Community College and fix it up yourself.

The restoration class is part of an integral program for modern students. In fact, without these future mechanics being trained here on campus, many of our vehicles would be unable to move over the years. If all of these men and women didn't pursue a career doing what they love, the nation could stop running. What is the driving force for these dirty, oil-covered grease monkeys? At Clackamas, the answer is clear: the instructors.

"The teachers are really awesome, (they give you) instruction to do what you need to do to get ahead in the career," said Darren Spain, a Clackamas student who is currently painting a 1988 Mustang LX.

According to instructor Russ Peterson, the college is one of the most advanced training facilities in the area for auto restoration classes, with students returning every term to help out in the action.

But what is auto restoration? Is it just about painting cars to make them look cool? Not by any means; restoration also includes cutting, welding and Bondo, in which you use a lot of Bondo.

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Hard at work, Brian Beldin cleans the surface in preparation to paint a Mini Cooper in one of the college's new state-of-the-art paint booths.

John Shufelt/Clackamas Print

Get your 'Flu' fix with theater this winter season

By Nathan Sturgess
Associate Photo Editor

When Michael Gerber, Clackamas Community College's theater director, first pitched the play this term to his latest crop of students, the reaction was mixed. In some of the actors, being dramatic types, were quite disturbed.

"When we first did our reading, I wanted to slap Michael. I was like,

"What is this? This is like Swahili," said Dylan Marchek, one of Gerber's assistant directors for the play.

But, along with the other actors, Marchek soon came to appreciate the play for its depth and complexity. Written by William Eno, the play is titled "The Flu Season" and was first published in 2005. According to Gerber, a play written within the last decade means it's a fairly new work. In a nutshell, the play is a tragic comedy surrounding the romantic

relationship of a man and woman in an insane asylum.

Gerber came across the play several years ago, and it quickly went on his short list of plays he would like to one day direct. When this term came around it just seemed to fit.

"We brought it in and had a reading. Their initial reaction was, 'I don't know what to make of this.' But they were intrigued by it, and by the end of the two-and-a-half-hour reading session they were just fired

up about it," said Gerber.

Eno is an American playwright that, in many of his plays, pushes the boundaries on what is commonly understood as theater, or as Gerber puts it, he is "meta-theatrical." In "The Flu Season," Eno explicitly explores what it means to be an audience observing a production. The characters Prologue and Epilogue, played by Branden McFarland and Heather Ovalle, respectively, actually talk to the audience and com-

ment on the action in the scenes, even making remarks about how the author could have done a better job.

"The constructs we use in (the play) kind of stretch what people think of as theater, but most importantly it speaks about things that people don't like to speak about... in a very graceful way," said Donovan Eilert, who plays a character named Doctor in the play.

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