

Play set in past making history



Emily Rask
 Co-Arts & Culture Editor

During the year 1885, Bulgaria was going through a hard time—the Serbo-Bulgarian War. In spite of the war, Raina Petkoff sat on her balcony overlooking her small Bulgarian town. Little did she know that soon there would be a Swiss mercenary soldier from the Serbian Army in her bedroom. She would spend a suspenseful evening with this strange soldier and find herself in a whirlwind of excitement. This included hiding him from the

Bulgarian Army and then sending him on his way the next morning, hiding beneath her father's coat. The war would come to an end, but will the Serbian soldier return? The CCC drama department will be showing the play "Arms and the Man" to tell the story of the soldier and if he will indeed return.

Thommie Olson, plays Captain Bluntschli, the Serbian soldier. He defines his character as thoroughly practical and contrasts himself with the other characters.

"They all view war romantically whereas Bluntschli is a pragmatist," said Olson.

This is Olson's second term at CCC. He knows he wants to be an actor for his

future career. Heavily involved in drama during high school, he continued to pursue it after his graduation. Although Olson did land a lead role in the play, he did not know about the auditions until the day before.

"I asked a friend for a monologue and went to the audition with the script in hand rather than having it memorized," said Olson.

The play's stage manager, Athena Ruhl, has been a part of CCC's drama department for four years and is currently in the Artist-in-Residence program at CCC. The program allows Ruhl to work as an intern, work with students and help with theater classes. Ruhl has also been a part of the

Clackamas Repertory Theatre for two and a half years.

As stage manager, Ruhl has many responsibilities.

"I set the stage, you set props. When the show finally opens I'll be calling queues that run the show. So up until then it's really just making sure the students or the actors learn their lines," she said. "Helping them learn their lines and helping them learn their blocking. Just if they need help in general I'm there for that. Just making sure that things are going as smooth as physically possible."

Please see **PLAY**, Page 4

Brad Heinke The Clackamas Print

In the second act of the play "Arms and the Man," Raina and Catherine Petkoff consult Major Petkoff after he gets back from war. He also finds out about the Serbian soldier who was hidden away in his daughter's bedroom and wore his coat as a disguise to flee the next morning. The play runs Feb. 28-March 10 at the college.

Basketball alumni shoot for the stars, land overseas

Andrew Millbrooke
 Sports Editor

Three former CCC men's basketball players are making quite a name for themselves on the other side of the world by playing professional basketball.

While not quite realizing their dream and playing in the NBA, these players are living the dream by getting paid to play the game they love, while living comfortably and traveling all over Europe.

Chehales Tapscott, Brian Freeman and Michael Kuebler are all playing professionally in different European countries. In addition, all three players went on to successful Division I careers after they left Clackamas; Tapscott at Portland State, Freeman at Long Beach State and Kuebler at Hawaii. All three first made a name for

themselves at the Oregon prep level, Tapscott at Century High School in Hillsboro, Freeman at West Albany and Kuebler at South Salem.

Tapscott, 2010 Clackamas alum, is playing overseas in Luxembourg's Diekirch League for AS Soleuvre. Tapscott joined the team midway through the first stage of the season, providing an immediate impact. Tapscott averaged 22 points and over 10 rebounds per game while shooting 60 percent from the field.

Tapscott was a two-time NWAACC Player of the Year (2009, 2010) for the Cougars and went on to average 14 points and nine rebounds per game as a senior last season at Portland State. Tapscott was named All Big Sky Conference after leading the league in rebounding, blocked shots and double-doubles.

Tapscott's coach at Century,

Scott Kellar, had nothing but praise for his former star player in a phone interview.

"Between his sophomore and junior years he physically and fundamentally just exploded," said Kellar. "Even more impressive to me is what a great teammate he was and how much he was respected by his teammates. He had a gift for relating to people."

Tapscott played in the International Basketball League last year for the Salem Soldiers and is planning on playing for the Portland Chinooks when they start at the end of April this year. Tapscott was sensational for the Soldiers, averaging 28.6 points and 12.7 rebounds while shooting 48-percent on 3-pointers. Tapscott, at only 6-foot-5, is undersized to play on the inside, but he makes up for it with tremendous hustle and athleticism.

"He's got unbelievable tim-

ing, especially rebounding and he just has a nose for the ball," said Kellar. "With his jumping ability and his wingspan, he plays a lot bigger than he is."

Tapscott, who was in town in early December for an alumni scrimmage against the current Clackamas team, said his goal is to play in the NBA. Tapscott is willing to do whatever it takes to get there, even if it means travelling halfway across the world to do it. Kellar is sure that Tapscott will eventually get a shot at the NBA.

"He's such a versatile offensive player and he's gotten better every year," said Kellar. "That has been his dream since high school and I wouldn't put anything past him."

Please see **EUROPE**, Page 8



Photo illustration by Brad Heinke The Clackamas Print

TAPSCOTT