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JANUARY 14
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Clowning ... Seriously

by Jackie Barry

Photograph by David Stein.

You can learn a lot of things at Lane Community College, including how to clown around—professional speaking, of course.

LCC's Adult Education Program will offer a course in the basics of clownology this winter term which started the week of January 7. Master clown Steve—Stefie T. Clown—Jones will teach the course.

Students will study the history of clowning and learn the different types of clowns as well as more practical skills like how to apply makeup and juggling. ("We'll start out juggling scarves the first night. I think I can have everyone juggling scarves, because they float—especially silk—I think I can get everyone to juggle by the second or third week.")

Stefie, a native Eugenean, got interested in clowning as an elementary school teacher in Salt Lake City trying to have greater impact in the classroom. He took some performing arts and clownology classes at the University of Utah and eventually took a 12-week master clown course taught by Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus in Venice, Fla.

He came back to Eugene this past August and tried to form associations with clowns like he'd had in Salt Lake. He went to the Saturday Market and met regularly with a group of jugglers in Alton Baker Park and Skinner's Butte Park. He eventually met and began clowning with Jeff Greenwald and Dan Fite of The Clown Company. ("I had a lot of the technical and marketing know-how and they had the territory.")

The business of clowning appears to be largely a labor of love. Clowns may be likened to public servants who are supposed to entertain and make people laugh. Not many make it to the rich and famous category like Charlie Chaplin or the Marx Bros. did.

Practicing clowns must then be motivated by factors other than greed. Stefie likes entertaining kids. ("That's what it's all about.") And Ringling Bros. makes applicants fill out a thick application. ("Almost a complete psychological profile.")

Clowns frequently entertain the young and/or the infirm, and toward this end, students in Stefie's class will be required to perform 12 hours of community service at places like Sacred Heart and McKenzie Willamette Hospitals. Students will also make guest appearances in The Clown Company's Saturday Matinee at the McDonald Theatre and perform a final exam on the LCC main campus.

Students will leave the class with their own clown persona. Stefie says students usually have their names and faces by the fourth or fifth week of class. Other classmates sometimes help brainstorm for appropriate names and each budding clown experiments with makeup to figure out the right combination for their facial features and the type of clown they want to portray.

Stefie masquerades during the day as the director of a Eugene Latchkey Program, working from Harris Elementary School. He also entertains at parties for ages three to adult ("I can adapt my illusions and balloons to almost any age"), entertains diners at Papa's Pizza, and makes a regular appearance with The Clown Company on Saturday mornings at 11 am at the McDonald Theatre.

Two sections of the clownology class will be offered—one on Monday evenings for seniors from 6:30-9:30, and one on Wednesdays from 7-10 pm. Cost is $27 plus an $18 fee which purchases a makeup kit. Classes will be held at Emerald Park off River Road, 1400 Lake Drive. Potential students who've missed the first class can still sign up. For more information, call 484-2126.

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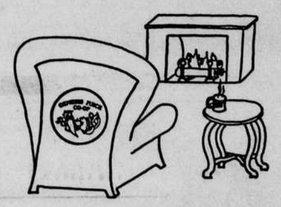
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CALENDAR

Thursday 10

Sunrise 7:47 am *Avg. High 45*
Sunset 4:54 pm *Avg. Low 33*

Video/TV

Gestaltorama communication technique on Channel 11, cable access, one in a series. 9:30 pm.

Speakers

Deborah Holmes speaks on "Marketing Principles that Apply to Personal Development." 7 pm in the Community Room, Far West Federal Bank, Oak & Broadway, $2. Call for reservations, 687-5581.

Jerry Curtis, a psychologist, will discuss "The Brain" at the Save a Mind Inc. meeting, 7:30 pm at Far West Federal Bank, 96 E Broadway, free.

Sports/Rec

General Registration begins for Parks & Rec classes

Art

Open Life Drawing, U of O at 275 Lawrence Hall, 6:30-9:30 pm, $1.50.

Etc.

Growers Market, pick-up between 4:30-7:30 pm, 454 Willamette St, extra food on sale at 5:30.

Lane Literary Guild offers an open reading at 8-10:30 pm at the Laurelwood Golf Course Lodge, 2700 Columbia St, more info, 343-5101.

Forestry in the Philippines, a slide-talk show by Phil Hahn at Lane Extension Auditorium, 950 W 13th at 7:30 pm, free.

Friday 11

Sunrise 7:47 am *Avg. High 45*
Sunset 4:55 pm *Avg. Low 33*

Concert Music

Faculty Artist Series, Charles Dowd, classical percussion with Dean Kramer and Victor Steinhardt, piano, at Beall Concert Hall at 8 pm, $3 general.

Radio

Lord of the Rings on KWAX FM 91 at 7:30 pm.

Art

Betty Field Haley teaches brush painting techniques on Channel 11, 7:30 pm. 10 weeks.

Saturday 12

Sunrise 7:46 am *Avg. High 45*
Sunset 4:57 pm *Avg. Low 33*

Concert Music

Oregon Mozarf Players perform Rossini Overture to "Il Signor Bruschino," Arthur Foote, Suite for Strings, Soreng Tneater in the Hult Center, 8:30 pm, $6-$8.50.

Radio

The Pride of the Yankees with Gary Cooper, on KRVM 91.9 FM at 11 am.

Etc.

Slide Show about Wrangell-St. Elias National park in Alaska, sponsored by the U of O Outdoor Program, 7:30 pm at 177 Lawrence Hall, U of O. Free.

Dance Music

The Crazy 8's and The Hoodlums perform in the EMU Ballroom at the U of O. 9 pm, $3.

Eugene Folklore Society sponsors a Waltz Workshop at 7 pm at Willard School. Beginners and singles welcome. $3.50 general.

Art

Opening Reception for *Exchange of Ideas*, New Zone Gallery's current show. 7:30 pm. 411 High St.

The Crazy 8's play in the EMU Ballroom on Saturday, Jan. 12.

Monday 14

Sunrise 7:45 am *Avg. High 45*
Sunset 4:59 pm *Avg. Low 33*

Radio

An Oregon Evening, a call in series "All in the Family" on KWAX FM 91 at 6:30 pm.

Concert Music

Faculty Artist Series, the Oregon String Quartet performs in Beall Concert Hall at U of O, 8 pm, $3 general.

Etc.

Auditions for the Eugene Concert Choir's spring performances of Stravinsky's Les Noces. 5-7 pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 13th & Pearl. Men and women!

Oregon Outdoor Program offers a 2-day workshop on telemark skiing and cross country skiing at 7:30 pm in the Outdoor Program Room, in the Erb Memorial Union at U of O, more info, 686-4365.

Video/TV

The Best of Cable Access is a selection of some of the best of '84. 8:30-10 pm, Cable Channel 11.

Tuesday 15

Sunrise 7:45 am *Avg. High 45*
Sunset 5 pm *Avg. Low 33*

Theater

Dracula performed at the Silva Hall in the Hult Center at 8 pm, $11-$17.

Sports/Recreation

UO Women's Basketball vs. Nebraska. Play by play. Cable Channel 11, 8:30 pm.

Speakers

Three Guest Speakers with Whole Health Institute will be speaking on People's Health: Health Care in China at the Eugene Clinic Conference Room 3.

Art

Open Life Drawing at U of O, 275 Lawrence Hall, 6:30-9:30 pm, $1.50.

Etc.

Birthday Celebration for Martin Luther King, Jr. at 631 E 19th and Patterson. Sponsored by Committee to Celebrate MLK's Birthday. Various events throughout the day starting at 3 pm through 11 pm.

Sierra Club Potluck with slide shows on Western Europe and the Alps. Bring a dish to share. Ida Patterson School, starts at 7 pm.

Wednesday 16

Sunrise 7:44 am *Avg. High 45*
Sunset 5:01 pm *Avg. Low 35*

Children

Storytimes for ages 3-5 years. 10-10:30 am at the Eugene Library. Free.

Etc.

Grower's Market food co-op, phone in orders 4-7:30 pm, 687-1145.

Harmony, a women's choral group rehearses under Dan Sachs, at Choral Rehearsal Room, Performing Arts 122, LCC. 7:30-9:30.

Eugene Folklore Society offers Sukay, music from the Andes, at the WOW Hall, 8th & Lincoln.

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