

History of masking tape's roles jokingly exhibited at WISTEC

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

You don't expect anybody to make a big deal about masking tape. But Robert Thompson and cohort Andrew LaGow get a kick out of doing the unexpected — historical examination of masking tape.

Thompson and LaGow are the two University students responsible for "Masking Tape Through The Ages," an exhibit at the Willamette Science and Technology Center. The WISTEC press release says the exhibit takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the development of civilization by exploring the unique applications of masking tape technology.

The "tongue-in-cheek" warning had to be used so people wouldn't take the exhibit too seriously and get confused, Thompson says.

It seems that most people don't go to WISTEC expecting a joke; they go there looking for scientific enlightenment. That has been one of the problems for the exhibit in its beginning days.

In spite of some minor difficulties, the exhibit has reached people and it has entertained them. "Everyone wants to be entertained," LaGow says. "And masking tape can be entertaining."

People have a natural affinity towards masking tape, say LaGow and Thompson. "Everybody has it. Everybody has done something useful where masking tape helped them," Thompson says.

But it becomes quite clear that Thompson and LaGow view masking tape with a reverence only they themselves can truly understand.

It all began in high school, or so the story goes. They are both from Sherwood High School, and that might explain it. One day, years ago in class, a teacher had a broken podium. So Thompson and LaGow repaired it with masking tape. It was the beginning of Andrew and Bob's Professional Podium Repair.

"It would have been a great business," LaGow says, "but we only did one job. They didn't appreciate it either."

But masking tape became the binding force that held the two friends together. When they met up again here at the University, they recalled the masking tape days, and Thompson decided to use masking tape as the theme for his visual design class project.

Alice Carnes, the director of WISTEC, saw the pamphlet on the history of making tape that Thompson made in visual design class. She asked him to construct a display for WISTEC. So he enlisted the help of LaGow, received a stipend for materials from WISTEC, and with a couple months of free time, the pair completed their vision of the past — and a glimpse into the future — in terms of masking tape.

"It really starts to seem kind of silly," Thompson says.

"It is silly," LaGow agrees. "It's a joke, but it's a good joke."

The exhibit looks at the various stages and roles that masking tape has assumed throughout history. Is it hard to find factual records of masking tape in history? Don't be serious.

"There is no 'history of masking tape,'" LaGow says. "And if there was it probably wouldn't be very interesting. What we came up with is better."

"Masking Tape Through the Ages" will be on display at WISTEC through June 29.



Photo by Allan Lazo

Robert Thompson and Andrew LaGow think masking tape is so funny they made a historical display of it at WISTEC.

Et al.

MEETINGS

A meeting for all students interested in a telecommunication and film association tonight at 6 p.m. in Room 202 Villard Hall.

Green Garter meets tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Fishbowl.

Golden Key National Honor Society meets today at 5 p.m. in Century Room F EMU.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

Women and language in the American expatriate literary circle of Paris is the topic of a lecture by Anita Helle, a University GTF, today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 101 EMU.

Marilyn Farwell, a University English professor, will discuss new concepts of women as heroes at 8 p.m. tonight at the Eugene Conference Center adjacent to the Eugene Hilton.

Career Planning and Placement Service will hold a resume workshop today at 1:30 p.m. in Room 12 Hendricks Hall.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once, with the exception of interviews. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date, and campus-oriented events, will be given priority.

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requirements.

"Even if a student doesn't pick up the progress report from the institution, they are considered to be informed and just haven't paid attention," Strange said. Admittedly the requirements are complex and difficult to monitor, she said, but students are being informed about their progress.

"A lot of students don't know about the progress reports and apply for graduation," Strange said. "Then they find they've made a disastrous mistake and don't graduate."

The University has been providing progress reports for two years, she said. Before that, Plan II requirements were

evaluated by computer and reported on student transcripts. Plan I hasn't been computerized because of its complexity, Strange said.

She said the progress reports also help avoid conflicts between major requirements and cluster requirements. Fulfilling cluster requirements as early as possible also helps avoid scheduling conflicts, Strange said. Many students expect a course to be offered every term and wait to take a class spring term senior year when it isn't offered, she said.

A student who hasn't completed Plan I requirements in time to graduate can file a petition with the Registrar's office,

but the chances of gaining approval are small, Strange said.

"What you're really asking for (by filing a petition) is an exception to University requirements," said University Registrar Herb Chereck.

Strange said the petitions most likely to gain approval involve institutional errors such as a mistake on a transcript or an incorrect evaluation of transfer credits.

"If a student is asking for special privileges, there's really no reason to pass a petition," Strange said. "We can't offer one set of requirements for people who meet University requirements and one set for people who petition," she said.

Lecturer to examine female literary roles

The changing roles of women heroes in literature will be the topic of a lecture tonight by University English Professor Marilyn Farwell.

Farwell distinguishes between traditional heroines and the new female heroes. While the former went on quests, she said, they "inevitably marry or die because the author can find no other way to end the story of a woman discovering herself without a man."

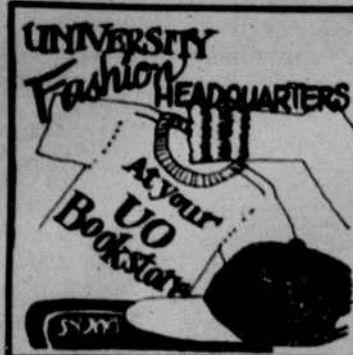
The new female heroes are notable for the solidarity they achieve with one another rather than by the obstacles they overcome, she said. She cited Alice Walker and Adrienne Rich as examples of writers who present this kind of hero.

Farwell, on leave from the University, is working on a study of critical metaphors for female creativity.

Tonight's lecture will be given at 8 p.m. at the Eugene Conference Center at 66 E. Sixth Ave.

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