

Assistant professor finishes novel on immigration

Author: Chang-rae Lee's book *Native Speaker* deals with issues of immigrant life

Ben Moebius

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

When Chang-rae Lee began his first novel, he was struggling with a feeling that many other immigrant Americans experience.

"I consider myself American," said Lee, a first-year assistant professor at the University. "But I rarely feel like one."

Lee's book, *Native Speaker*, deals with issues of immigrant life in the United States.

"It explores how immigrants can make a life that is

their own," Lee said. "It's about isolation, hope, work and all those things that immigrants experience."

Lee, who was born in Seoul, South Korea, has just signed a major contract with Riverhead Books, an imprint of Putnam, to publish his book in the spring of next year. He said he was thrilled at the amount of interest the book has generated. Four major publishers bid on the novel, including Anchor Doubleday, Simon and Schuster, and Algonquin.

Lee started the novel as a thesis project while pursuing a master of fine arts in the University's creative writing department. He was awarded the prestigious Jacob K. Javits fellowship by the U.S. Department of Education, which he used to support his graduate

studies at the University.

Lee said his writing experience helps him to teach his creative writing courses. "Being a writer makes you a better reader," Lee said. "It also helps you to show others how to read their own work critically." Lee said that a mature writer should be able to read his or her work objectively.

"We all know what sounds good at about the ninth grade," Lee said. "We just don't know why."

Lee's parents immigrated to the United States from South Korea when he was three years old. They settled in New York State, where Lee grew up. He attended

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Grindin' on the Grass



The Strangers performed to a packed lawn during The Grind concert outside the EMU Monday. It's been a busy week for the EMU lawn, which also played host to the Willamette Valley Folk Festival last weekend.

MICHAEL SHINDLER/Emerald

UNIVERSITY

Myles Brand gives awards for teaching

Faculty: Dickman, Wood and Alley honored for outstanding teaching, leadership skills

By Jim Davis

Oregon Daily Emerald

When Alan Dickman saw President Myles Brand surrounded by journalists and television cameras on the ground floor of Willamette Hall Monday morning, he simply thought someone had given the University a bunch of money.

"That's when I usually see him on campus," said Dickman, a biology professor at the University.

Fortunately for Dickman, Brand was about to give away a bunch of money.

Moments after Dickman left Brand and his entourage, Brand entered a biology department faculty meeting to present Dickman with one of two Ersted Awards for Distinguished Teaching for young faculty members.

"We take these awards very seriously at the University," Brand said.

The recipients of the award receive a crystal apple and \$2,000, which will be added to their salaries in subsequent years.

"It was a surprise, a shock," Dickman said. "I'm kind of happy about it now that I've had time to think about it."

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Survey finds Americans embracing technology

Computers: Can be found in one in three American households

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly one in three American households has a personal computer and almost half of all Americans have an automatic teller machine card, two signs that Americans in the 90s are increasingly comfortable with technology.

A large survey by the Times Mirror Center for The People and The Press found that more and more Americans are using technology — bank machines,

VCRs, personal computers, cable television and fax machines — and that they are generally friendly toward it.

Consider:

- About 23 million adults use a home computer nearly every day. At work, 55 percent of the people use a computer.

- About 47 percent of Americans have an ATM card and at least 13 million pay at least some of their bills electronically.

- Fully 85 percent of all households have a VCR. And 64 percent are hooked to a cable TV system.

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GOOD MORNING

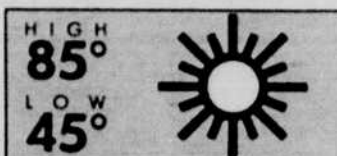
► **ANGELS CAMP, Calif. (AP)** — A 3-year-old boy with a knack for tickling and giggling had the winning entry in the county's annual frog jumping championship.

Cody Shilts of Roseville won \$750 and a trophy taller than he is at Sunday's Calaveras County Jumping Frog Jubilee.

The frog, named Free Willy for the movie whale, totaled 19 feet, 1/2 inch in three hops to win first place, 3/4 inch longer than the second-place finisher.

► **PORTLAND (AP)** — Around the globe, millions of trees are growing because of Frank Lockyear.

The 80-year-old retired Wilsonville nursery owner has



planted 3 million trees in 50 countries so far — and he hopes to plant thousands more before age forces him to slow down.

Lockyear works the white-tie circuit, promoting reforestation projects. But he loves nothing better than to kneel on the ground and plant a tree with his own hands.

In 1932, Lockyear was hired by Lambert Gardens, a popular Portland tourist attraction and nursery.

A year later, a boss told Lockyear to destroy 500 small western red cedars the nursery didn't need.

"I had raised them and couldn't accept the idea of burning them," he said. So he recruited 40 Boy Scouts to plant the seedlings in the Mount Hood National Forest. Some of those trees still are standing — survivors of logger saws and forest fires.

Lockyear started his own nursery business in 1939 and ran it until he retired in 1977. That same year, Lockyear founded ReTree International as a nonprofit organization.

Since then ReTree has done much to reforest stretches of the planet abused by others.