

Feature

Success: J. Dana Haynes

by Marie Stoppelmoor
Features Editor

"I really love my job," J. Dana Haynes says. "Journalism is so much fun, but mystery-writing has been a kick too."

Professional journalist, Dana Haynes, began his career here at Clackamas Community College. From 1980-84, Dana was an editor of The Print. He is now a writer for the Lake Oswego Review and West Linn Tidings, and soon will have his first mystery novel published.

"Well, I consider all my college work to be professional journalism," Haynes said, "so I tell

people I've been at it for seven years, but I've only been paid for three months."

"The work I did here was probably more valuable than the work I did on the Lewis and Clark newspaper, because I learned some skills here that are incredibly valuable," Haynes said.

Haynes' first "staffer" job out of school is on "two terrific papers; The Lake Oswego Review and The West Linn Tidings."

Two jobs? "Well actually we are one newspaper cleverly disguised as two (owned by the same press). I write education for

Haynes' second novel turned out to be a contemporary murder mystery which he spent about four and a half months writing.

"As soon as I completed my second book, I got a book called 'The Writers Market' and got a list of agents and their addresses. After months and months of trying, I got an agent, Eileen Fallon. She had the book four weeks and I had offers from more than one publisher. Bantam was the best offer. It's a mysterious magical thing (agents). It's like a burnt offering to the god of publishing and they smile on you.

"Where do I get my ideas? I steal them," Haynes jokes. "It



Photos by Von Daniel

Smile of success: Clackamas alumnus and professional journalist J. Dana Haynes anticipates publication of his first novel.

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the Tidings and entertainment and business for the Review," Haynes explained.

How does a career in journalism begin? It took Haynes seven months to get a staff job though he was doing independent work in the meantime. Three years ago Haynes wrote a novel as "a typing exercise." In the effort to get it published himself he discovered that "selling a book is as much or more of an art form than writing one. Some (publishers) were real polite...with others it was like throwing a rock through your window with a note saying 'kiss off kid.' I decided I needed a change of tack, so I went back and reread the book. It stank. You could have fired a high caliber bullet into the manuscript and not hit a single thing worth saving."

simply seemed easier to use other people's material. I really don't have any idea. My wife, Peggy, and I talk about it a lot. I read lots and lots of murder mysteries and I like them on T.V. too."

Of the two book series, "Bishops' Gambit Declined" is the first. The second of the Harry Bishop series is in third draft form in New York and "it's likely to come back for a fourth draft."

My editor at Bantam, Kate Miciak, is harder than heck, she's just great, she has made me a much better writer than I would otherwise be," Haynes said. "I implement about 90% of her revisions, cause she's right. She's put as much work into the bloody thing as I have and she gets no credit."

"The story takes place in a

small liberal arts college in Portland, OR, so I'm writing about stuff I know," Haynes added. "I don't plan on writing anything but murder mysteries and maybe nothing else but the Harry Bishop series."

Which type of writing is Haynes' favorite?

"Journalism...I get to be creative, I'm designing information; you mold it, and squeeze it

and put a nice lead graph on it and you design a news story," Haynes said. "It's a function of society, and interface between government and the people, it's the thing that keeps government honest. I regret that there are not better checks on journalists, there should be a better system. We screw up as much as government screws up," he said.

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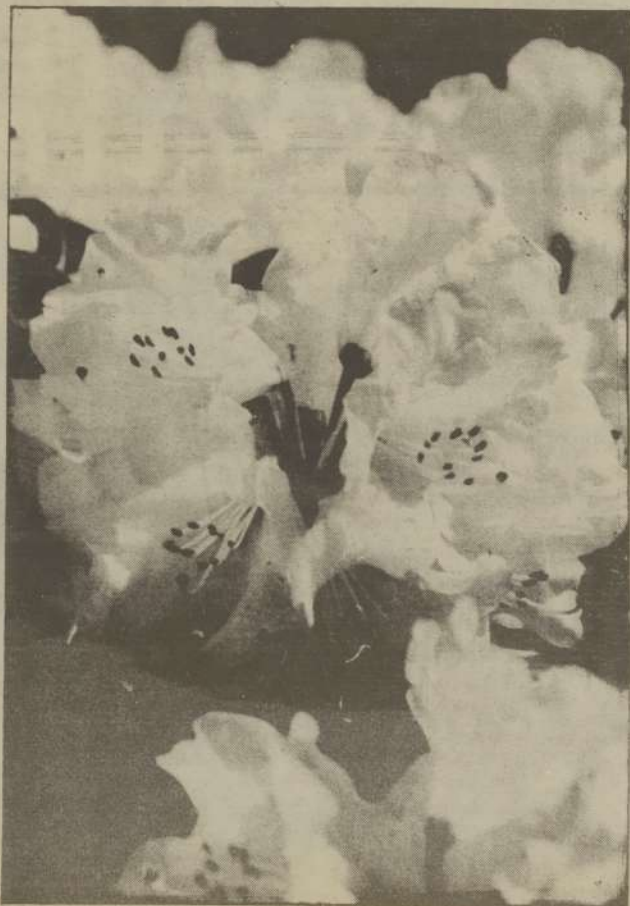


Photo by Bob Givney

Hike Into Spring New class combines fitness and botany

by Sherri Michaels
Staff Writer

"Spring is a popular time for hiking class," said Nancy Mikelton co-instructor of the new class "Hike into Spring."

The class is co-taught by Mikelton and Bob Misley. Mikelton teaches the physical fitness and Misley instructs the science.

The physical fitness part requires that you participate in a 12

minute walk/run. Mikelton said

survival and is now covering natural history and ecology and some botany.

Their first hike was April 23 to Cascade Head north of Lincoln City. There they saw several things in bloom like Wild Ginger, Candy Flower and Violets. They are not collecting any specimens due to the regulations in state and federal parks. They had a "beautiful day" plus an "excellent time" according to

"They hike rain or shine"

"I always thought that there was more to just hiking. I wanted to incorporate plant identification."

Misley got into the "Hike into Spring" because "I had an interest in field biology and had been in field taxonomy." The science part of this class covered the basics first like first aid and

Misley.

There are three more hikes left. Columbia Gorge, Mt. Hood National Park and "somewhere" in Eastern Oregon are the proposed areas. They hike rain or shine.

"It is a definite thing for next spring," said Misley enthusiastically.