

Local author reaches for the sky with new book

Brendon Neal
Opinion Editor

The *Sky Fisherman* by Craig Lesley is a book that is great throughout but leaves you with many questions unanswered.

Lesley is a lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest; he was born in the Dalles. He is an instructor in the English Department here at CCC, currently on sabbatical leave. He lives in Portland, Oregon with two daughters and his wife. His M.A. in English comes from the University of Kansas, and he received an M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He enjoys the outdoors and spent eight years with the Deschutes River Guide Service in Oregon.

Sky Fisherman is a combination of humor, drama and adventure in the outdoors. It is set in Central Oregon near what is now the Kah-nee-ta Resort.

The main character in Culver. He is a teen-ager who is just finding out who he is and what secrets his family keeps hidden.

As the story begins Culver and his mother run away from his stepfather who is a railroad worker, whose job is going downhill and causes them to move from one railroad siding after another, each one being worse than the previous.

They move into Gateway near his uncle's home. His uncle

Jake basically adopts Culver. Culver's father died in a boating accident while rafting down a flooded river with Jake. Culver learns more about his father, Jake and their friends as the book goes on providing the backbone to the story.

Much of the book takes place in Jake's store or on the river. Jake runs an outdoor store as well as guiding fishermen on the Lost River.

Overlying the story is the problems between whites and Indians. The nearby reservation is improving, but there is still a feeling of inequality between the two races.

Murder and arson add to the story, but play an unusual role as the background rather than the main theme. The burning down of a mill causes the Indians to have a chance to build their own, giving them seniority and causing white workers to lose their jobs and face lower wages or unemployment.

The mill fire along with the mysterious deaths by fire of two whites is really never explained in the story. The hints give suggestions but leave the reader wondering.

The title of the book comes from the constellations. Culver's grandfather described to his father and uncle various constellations as he saw them, all of which were

related to the outdoors: *The Sky Fisherman*, Chinook Salmon, the Leaky Boat, etc. Jake shows Culver these constellations on their first overnight boating trip together.

While I am not normally a reader of straight fiction, preferring science-fi and fantasy, I found this book interesting, entertaining and engrossing. The characters are well developed. Also, they and their lives are general so that we can all relate to them. Especially people who live in towns like Briggs, or Gateway.

I rate *Sky Fisherman* as three stars. The book becomes dark and gloomy as the story goes on, however the overall experience is excellent. The book flows so that you really don't notice the lack of any traditional flow until the end. If you enjoy fiction and/or liked Lesley's previous novels you will really like *Sky Fisherman*.



'SE7EN' is a hit with its suspenseful terror!

Lora Wahrgren
Staff Writer

"Seven" has a recipe for terror. It's a dark, sad, suspenseful movie. It really makes you think about life, death and the things we experience daily.

Brad Pitt plays detective Mills, a rookie to the fast-paced city life, but not to working Homicide. Pitt's experience is no match for the veteran detective Sommerset, played by Morgan Freeman. Sommerset tries to guide Mills through all of the confusing brutal homicides that are taking place day after day.

The movie's plot has great flow and never stops being suspenseful. I felt out of breath at the end of the movie. It was every bit horrifying and more than I had expected. As the movie progressed and the climax came to a raging end, I had realized that the killers reasoning made some sense in a twisted psychotic way. There was a lot that had to be said to explain sin and mankind and punishment. I don't think it matters if you agree with him or not, but if you left the theater with a question in your head, it says a lot about the impact of the movie.

The seven deadly sins are: GLUTTONY- the act of eating too much; ENVY- ill will over another's advantages, possessions, etc.; WRATH- intense anger, rage, fury, any action of vengeance; GREED- excessive desire, especially for wealth - ava-

rice; SLOTH- disinclination to work or exert oneself - laziness; PRIDE- an over high opinion of oneself and LUST- bodily appetite - especially excessive sexual desire. These were the seven sins from which the movie got its name.

"Seven" is more intense than "Pulp Fiction," more psychotic than "Natural Born Killers" and more disturbing than "Silence of the Lambs." It took a combination of all of these great movies to create this awesome array of sight and sound.

I definitely got a lot more out of the movie than just drooling over Brad Pitt's new hair cut. I got a lot to think about. I also had a chance to hear Nine Inch Nails opening in the beginning of the movie. It was great because it set up the psycho thrilling theme. The movie is rated "R" for violence, nudity, and language, which I felt is very appropriate. Even if you don't like the sight of dead, stinky, rotting bodies it doesn't matter because Brad Pitt is worth watching all of that for. Pitt and Freeman's relationship even has a humorous side to it that makes up for the darkness throughout the movie. Being scared \$#!*less makes it all worth while. The movie was written by Andrew Kevin Malker and directed by David Fincher. It is playing at most movie theaters, you can find the times in the Oregonian.

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