

Tim Schell: a man of teaching and learning

JANOS J. PLESKO
Staff Writer

Tim Schell, Clackamas English instructor and writer, recently honored in the *Who's Who—the Best Teachers in America*, shared recently many priceless, thought-provoking, ideas about teaching and learning.

After graduating from University of Oregon in 1978, Schell went to Africa with the Peace Corps. There he was drawn into teaching.

"I didn't have any technical skills, so they appointed me as an English teacher. There were no textbooks; I had to write everything on the board, so the children could copy it down," Schell said.

"There I found out how important education is, because it is one way to escape from poverty," he added.

Schell related that he prepares himself for every class; he is teaching with the Socratic method, "which is not just to lecture, but let the student discover what you are trying to teach."

Schell makes the lectures more interesting and stimulates the stu-



Clackamas Instructor Tim Schell enjoys his career as a writer and a teacher.

SARAH WELCH / Clackamas Print

dents.

"I use a metaphor: I draw a picture of the heart on the board and put an onion around the heart, then I say, 'after every piece of literature... we are taking one layer of the onion off, getting closer what it means to be human; and the ability to care about human beings is the most important thing in the world,'" he said.

To lift students out of their low self-esteem, and to motivate them, the observant teacher will discover their good ideas and values, and gives them encouragement, asserts Schell.

"We have classrooms full of students with intellectual curiosity in this campus—not everyone, but a lot of our students are sincerely motivated by desire to learn."

Though Schell teaches full time at the college, he still makes time for his writing.

"Teaching, I figure, effectively is a marriage of these two jobs of writing and teaching at the same time. We create a journal, called the *Clackamas Literary Review*, containing poetry and essays from all over the country," he said. "Jeff Knorr and I are the editors."

There is a theory by A. Maslow called "Self-actualization" - becoming the best you can be. The first step is to provide the basic needs for yourself and for your family, which is food and shelter. In our times, Schell observes, most people stop right there.

"I know people at my age, 42 years old, who are like that, and their only concern is their basic need: their job, and having things, material things. They don't have any spiritual or intellectual growth, and that to me is terribly sad," Schell said.

Is there a point in life when one could say, "I am done with education?"

"No, we don't want to make that huge mistake. I said before, as a teacher I am still learning, and will continue to learn, because if I don't, then I am intellectually dead," Schell declared.

"As we grow older, our curiosity wanes," Schell continued. "Therefore, education must be a lifelong journey. It doesn't stop when you are 18, or 22; it is continuous throughout your life. Once we recognize that, we continue to be curious!"

Conifers provide beauty, healthful remedies

SLADE SAPORA
Contributing Writer

Conifers are defined as evergreen cone-bearing trees, and they date back to early Permian times, some 280 million years ago.

In contrast, flowering plants, now the most common plant group on earth, did not evolve until 120 million years ago. This is cause for reflection, for Oregon is dominated by conifers, truly pre-historic beings.

Lodge-pole Pine or Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta*) is one of our most common pines and is the only pine growing in the Native Garden. Be it a blessing or a curse though, this tree is not very big. On average it stands anywhere from 20 to 40 feet in height, and it is the easiest pine in Oregon to identify, because it is the only pine that has its needles in bundles of two. Simply look at where the needles fasten to the

stem, and you will see what I mean.

Lodge-Pole Pine is the common name for the variety that grows east of the Cascade Mountains. Shore Pine is the common name for the tree that we see growing directly along the coast. The Latin name *Pinus contorta* applies to both pines but comes from the later variety. Marine winds often twist and contort the trunk of the Shore Pine, giving it a sculptured look.

Both Lodge-pole and Shore Pines are considered the same tree though; habitat is really the only difference between the two varieties. In eastern and central Oregon, Lodge-poles can grow so closely together and in such appreciable numbers they have earned the nickname "dog-hair".

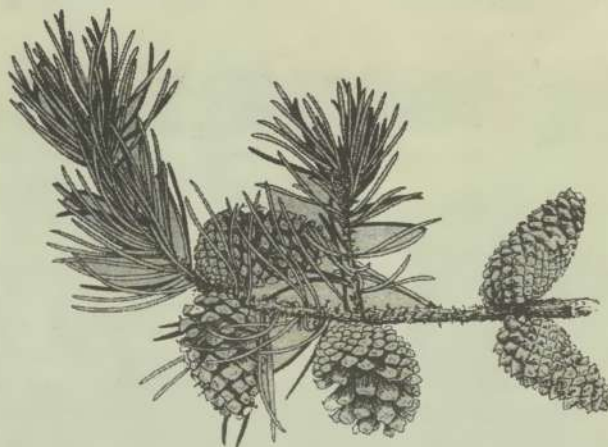
Historical uses for Lodge-pole Pines are numerous. Na-

tive Americans used the pitch to help seal cuts and on splinters to help draw them out.

Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon, in their book *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*, state that Native Americans split and twisted the roots of the Lodge-pole for rope, and the pitch was used in the waterproofing of canoes and baskets.

Herbalist Michael Moore also claims that the fresh spring needles contain high amounts of vitamin C, and the pitch/resin can be chewed to help with lung and bronchial congestion.

Although winter may be dark, damp, and dreary, we are still fortunate enough to live where all is not barren. Conifers provide us with a backdrop that is both ancient and lively. Enjoy.



Lodge-Pole Pines grow east of the Cascade Mountains.

Portland journalists revive Oregon's political past for Authors' Night

JEREMY STALLWOOD
Feature Editor

Authors Night, into its second decade, will host two long-time Oregon journalists/novelists to read their work in the Gregory Forum Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.

Fred Leeson, 26-year newspaper reporter, will read from his book *Rose City Justice: A Legal History of Portland, Oregon*. It is a narrative of Portland's legal history, covering C.E.S. Wood, an accomplished poet, philosopher, art-

ist and Portland attorney, the 1850 murder trial of five Cayuse Indians accused of murdering pioneer missionary Marcus Whitman, the international dispute involving the small town of Antelope and the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. His book also includes anecdotes about such contemporary figures as Neil Goldschmidt, Betty Roberts, Bob Packwood and Mark Hatfield.

Fire at Eden's Gate: Tom McCall and the Oregon Story will be shared by author Brent Walth. It is the biography of governor Tom McCall, whose

legacy includes Oregon's famous land use laws, his fight to protect Oregon beaches, clear its rivers and conserve land. President Bill Clinton used an amusing anecdote from the book in his last speech given in Portland, praising the book as a "remarkable biography of a remarkable Oregon Governor."

The reading is free to the public, but a \$2 donation to co-sponsor Friends of the Library will be accepted.

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