

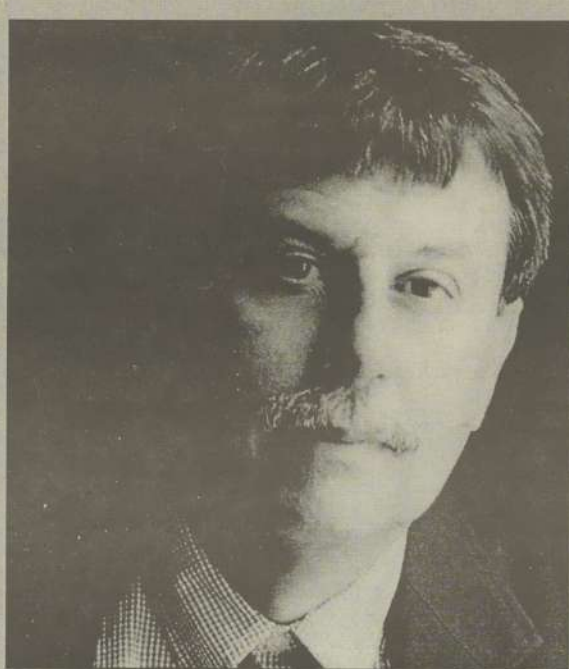
Instructor will read from his book on campus

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Staff Writer

For people in New York or L.A., it's pretty commonplace to read a book about the area they live in. But readers have to look a little harder to find books set in the vicinity of Portland. Craig Lesley, an English instructor at Clackamas, has not only written a book set in Portland, but also one that describes the areas that surround this college.

On Wednesday, May 24 at noon, and Wednesday June 7 at 7pm, Craig Lesley will read from his latest book *Storm Riders* in the Gregory Forum. Lesley has written four books and recently sold the screenplay rights to his book *Winterkill*.

Storm Riders is the story of Clark Woods and his son Wade. It starts out at the University of Massachusetts, where Woods is a college instructor. In the opening scenes, Wade, the hyperactive Tlinget Indian foster son, is under suspicion in the accidental drowning of a young girl. The story then flashes back through Clark's life and his first marriage. As Lesley moves the story past Clark's time at UMass, he traces the difficult relationship between Clark and his son. Wade has many problems besides hyperactivity, including fetal alcohol syndrome and other behavioral problems that Clark feels are just labels made by psychologists, doctors, and so-called experts who can't explain what's going on in-



Craig Lesley

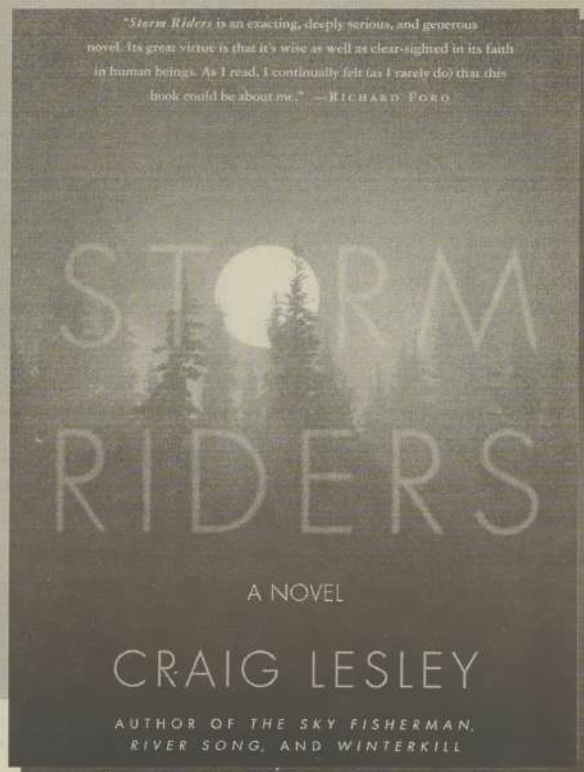
side his son. Clark struggles to help Wade, but Wade seems to have a talent for finding the best ways to cause the most trouble in any given situation.

Storm Riders is the story of a troubled young man and a father who is trying desperately to help him survive in the world. In the end, Wade benefits most from living among his own Tlinget tribesmen.

Storm Riders is filled with references to the Portland area. He talks

about "The Oregonian", Sellwood, the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, Oregon City and a free elevator next to the paper mill and Portland's recently demolished Greyhound Bus Station.

Lesley's fictional Two Rivers Community College bears more than a passing resemblance to Clackamas. The book's main character, Woods, even encounters a prison inmate named Knorr, and talks about a school newspaper that



misreports a series of book readings on peace as readings on peaches.

Craig Lesley grew up in The Dalles and Madras and presently lives with his wife and two daughters in Portland. Lesley teaches advanced fiction writing at Clackamas and holds the Hallie Ford Chair (for

creative writing) at Willamette University in Salem.

"Craig Lesley is a writer who takes us to the edge of working people's lives with the dignity and compassion found only in the best storytelling. In his work, Lesley teaches us to live our lives better," says colleague Jeff Knorr.

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