

SHELFIES: THOMAS WASSON, ANIMATION ARTIST

by ERIN CAREY
news & culture editor

Animation instructor Thomas Wasson takes much of his motivation from both past and present – the people who have perfected the art he teaches for the future generations, and also the many adventures of pirates that sailed the oceans a very long time ago. The Clackamas Print sat down with Wasson to discuss some of his favorites from his bookshelf and more.

The Clackamas Print: What is your favorite book from your bookshelf and why?

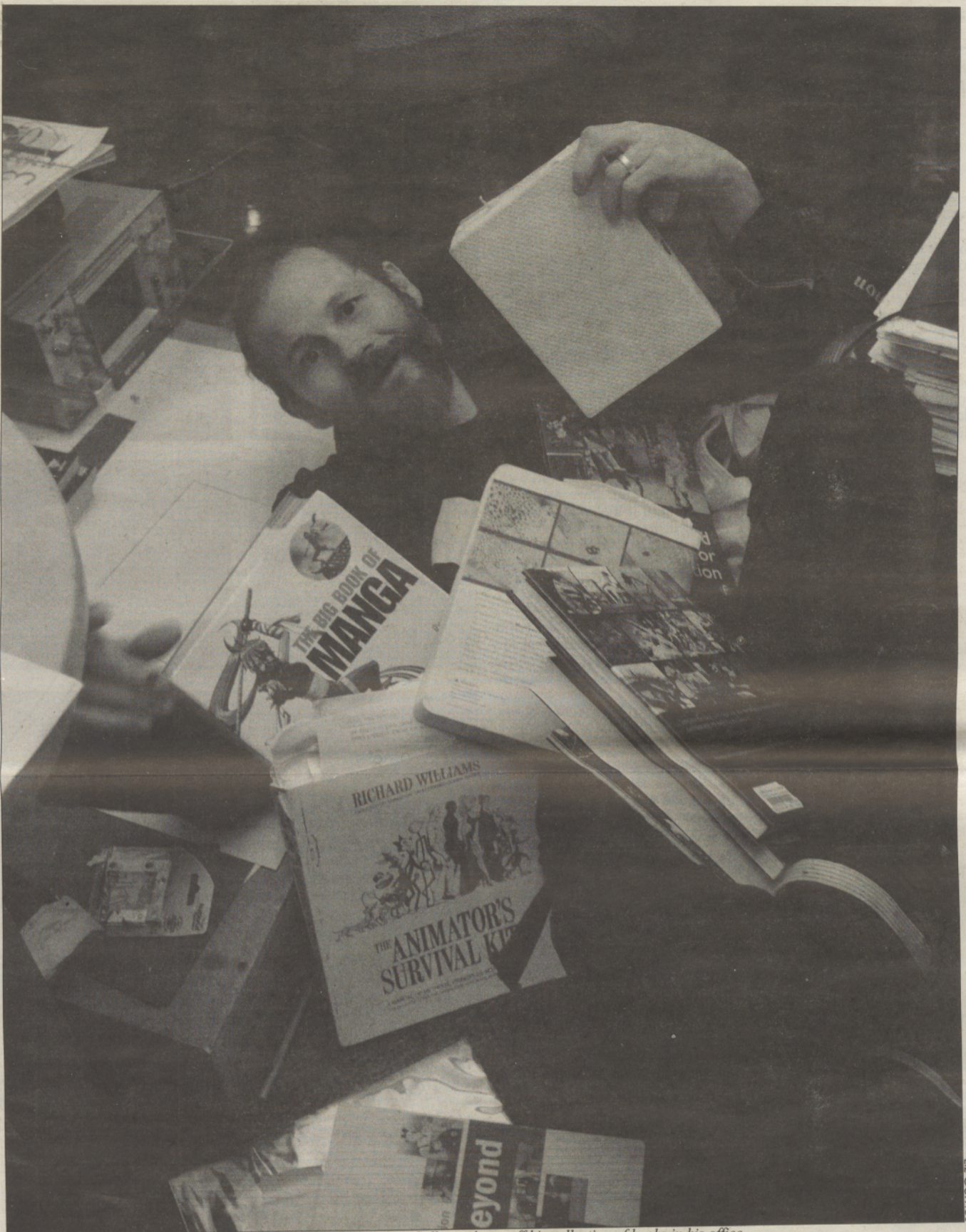
Thomas Wasson: The Animator's Survival Kit by Richard Williams, who was the director of animation for "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" The reason that I love it so much is because Richard Williams learned everything he knows about animation from all the old masters, and it's a balance between the science of animation and the art of animation. So it has just about every important trick that the animator needs to understand, synthesized down into its essential components. So it's a wealth of knowledge. It's years of the history of animation, and it just tells you everything you need to know. So in that sense it's so informative for the practitioner, and it's very informative for the students as well, the content is kind of a bottomless abyss of information. I also have a thing for Herman Melville's "Moby Dick," I remember reading that over and over.

The Print: What writers have influenced you?

Wasson: William Burroughs and David Foster Wallace. Those two just really got me.

The Print: What have you been reading lately?

Wasson: Lots of technical books about my field. I tend to go back and forth between really focusing on gathering knowledge and getting out of fiction for awhile and getting back into it. I tend to read a lot more fiction in the summer when I'm not working. I'm really into historical books about pirates, and I've just been re-reading a book about the foundation of Jamaica and the piracy surrounding the Caribbean during the lawless times of the privateers. It's called "Empire of Blue Water" by Stephan Talty. It's probably my third time through this book, but that's the one that's lying by the bed right now. Especially with historical fiction, it's packed with information and it's written in such a great way that you get into it as a story, but there's also just tons of history there, it's really interesting. Basically anything



Thomas Wasson, animation instructor for Clackamas Community College, shows off his collection of books in his office.

that has to do with ships and the sea and piracy, I'm pretty into.

The Print: What was your favorite book as a kid?

Wasson: It sounds kind of cheesy now, but I was really into the "Lord of the Rings,"

"The Hobbit" and J.R.R. Tolkien as a kid. I suppose I read those quite a bit.

The Print: Name one book you'd love or hate to see be made into a movie.

Wasson: I would love to see "Infinite Jest" by David Foster

Wallace made into a movie, or any of his short stories would make really good, crazy little short films. You could probably get a film out of any one of his short stories, too. It's the density of content, and there's tons of layers that you could add. There would never be a filmmaker that

could do it right, but if they did it, they could do it really well, I think.

ARTS & CULTURE CALENDAR

Wednesday
4/30

-Lucky Number
Bring your student ID card CC152 to participate in a fun prize giveaway!

Thursday
5/1

-May Day patio grand opening!
The cougar court is located outside of the bookstore.
12pm-3pm

Friday
5/2

-Pioneer Family Festival
Clackamette Park
2pm-10pm
Food, Skate comp, lazer tag arena, rock climbing, pony rides, and go karts!

Saturday
5/3

-Farmers market
2051 Kaen Rd.
-Teddy Bear Parade
Downtown OC, Main St from 10th to Clackamette Park
10:30am

Sunday
5/4

-Last day of Pioneer Family Festival.
Clackamette Park
2pm-10pm

Monday
5/5

-ASG elections Q&A
10am Community Center

Tuesday
5/6

-\$5 Tuesday at Regal
Hill Top Stadium 9.