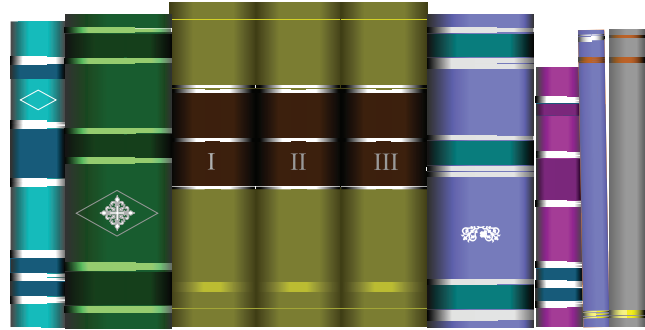


BOOKS

WHAT ARE THEY READING?



The Daily Astorian invites people to submit titles of books they are reading and share a few thoughts about the work. This week, Jean Hooge, who worked as a nurse, taught nursing, and was a psychotherapist for many years, shares some of her favorites. To submit, send to news@dailyastorian.com

I got rid of giant stacks of books on moving to Astoria a little less than year ago from San Antonio, Texas.

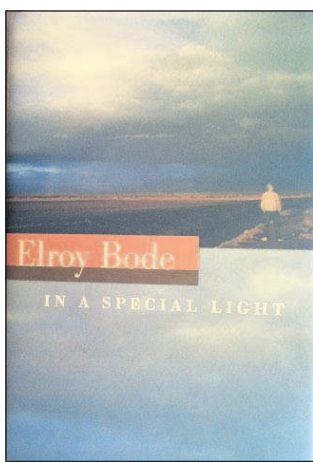
I love books and even with the best of intentions the books are piling up again.

'The Wright Brothers'

I just finished reading "The Wright Brothers" by David McCullough. We all know the story of the invention of the first airplane but this tells so much more. The brothers were so dedicated to the precise science of their work. They went about everything so methodically and never seemed to get discouraged no matter what happened.

They were never self-glorifying. They were honored and celebrated on two continents but never let it go to their heads. There was never a hint of scandal associated with their name. They took off what time they needed to work in their bicycle shop to support themselves. They never quarreled with each other or their sister.

It is a fascinating story about a great invention and a study of two beautiful American heroes.



"In a Special Light"

'A Common Struggle'

"A Common Struggle" by Patrick J. Kennedy is one of the most enlightening books I have read on mental health and addiction and I have a masters in psychiatric and mental health. According to Kennedy we have wasted so much money, time, and lives imprisoning the addicted instead of realizing that addiction is a mental health problem and we need to put the needed resources into treatment.

Kennedy, a former congressman and son of the late U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, knows about the problem first-



Jean Hooge

hand as he admits to belonging to a family of addicts and how the sickness is handed down because of the denial.

He explains how he worked 16 years in the U.S. House of Representatives trying to get the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act passed.

It is a story of a family and a prescription of how we can get out of this serious public health problem.

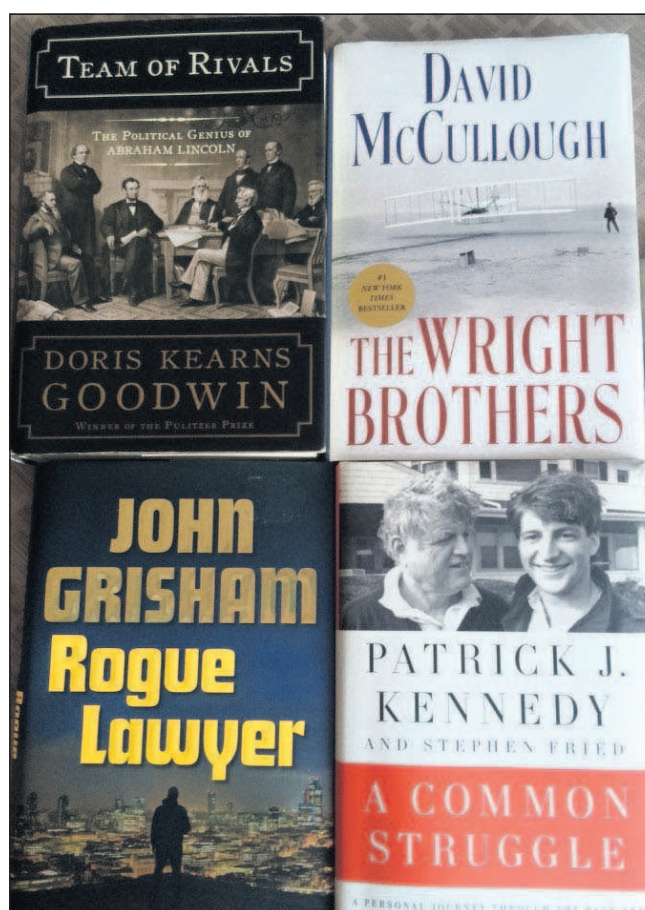
'Rogue Lawyer'

"Rogue Lawyer" by John Grisham is just another one of his books that I have to gobble up immediately like a chocolate donut. They are not necessarily nourishing but they are real entertainment. Grisham's books make me feel

good because they seem to advocate against our system of punishing the poor more than the wealthy for the same crimes. Sebastian Rudd, the rogue lawyer in this book, does things very differently from the standard lawyers and accepts clients they would not take. All told in the easy reading Grisham style.

'In a Special Light'

"In a Special Light" is written by Elroy Bode, who is a longtime friend living in El Paso. This is the last of the eight books he has written. He writes about where he lives and the hill country where he was born. As an avid observer of his world — and the art with which he describes the sim-



Some of Hooge's favorite books.

ple world around him — has obtained him many followers.

In this book he describes searching for his son, what it was like teaching high school for 48 years, and his experiences as an intellectual protester to bigotry and the Vietnam War in Texas in the '60s.

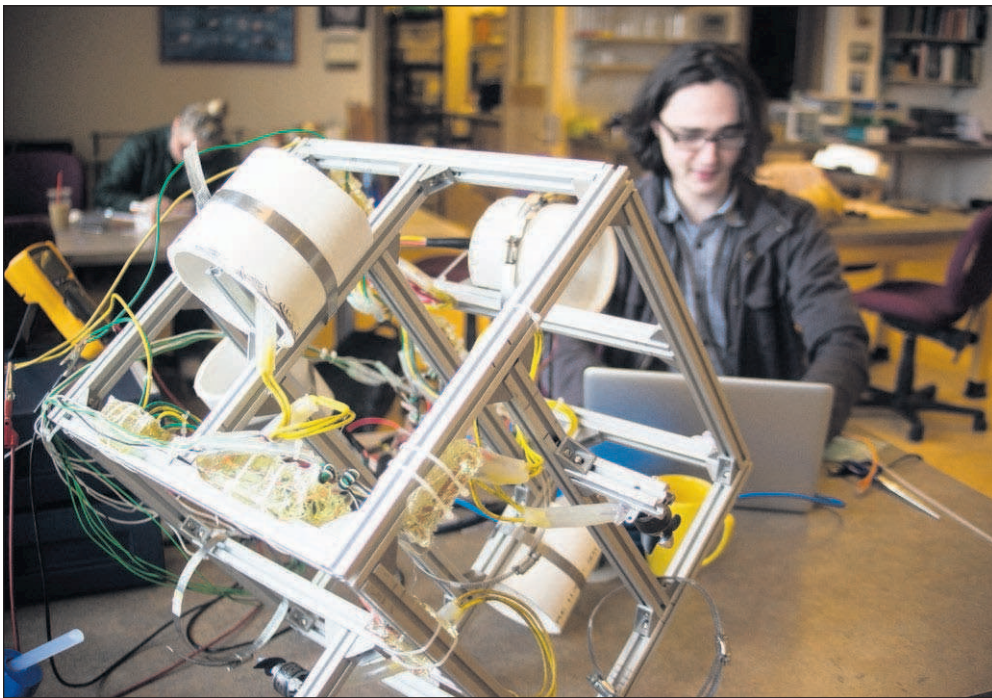
'Team of Rivals'

"Team of Rivals," by one of my favorite writers Doris Kearns Goodwin, doesn't need me to sing its praises. It is the

definitive book on Abraham Lincoln.

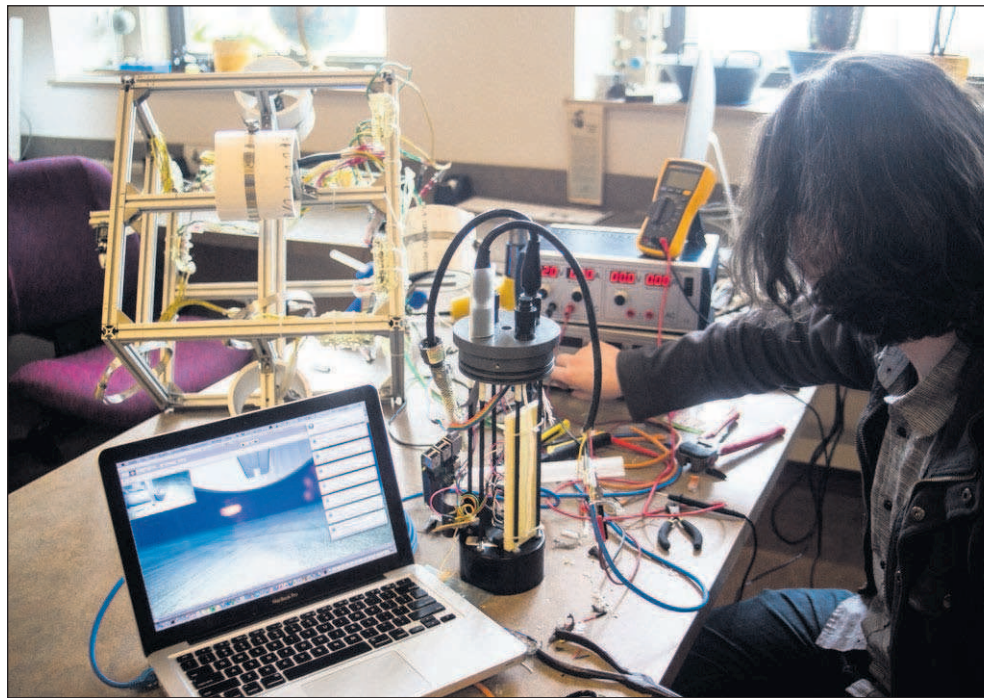
Goodwin explains how Lincoln put his rivals in his Cabinet and learned to govern with their wealth of opinions. She so beautifully tells how this humble man guided this nation through its most turbulent time.

There are a host of books on Lincoln but none so well researched. Another goal of Goodwin's was to show that there can be decency and compassion in politics.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The underwater robot is shown on a table in the Clatsop Community College physics lab.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Georges Oates Larsen activates the robot simulator on his computer.

Robot: Success at regionals could lead to spot in international competition

Continued from Page 1C

by their interest in mathematics and engineering. Pat Keefe is a focal point for the technically minded students through his physics in calculus course.

Budget robotics

The competition challenges students to become entrepreneurs who develop a robot on their own dime to perform simulated real-world tasks underwater and in outer space.

The college, which has at times outperformed larger research universities on a shoestring budget, has been in the competition for at least a decade. The college students were recently joined

by several more teams from Warrenton High School taking part in the lower levels of the competition.

Two months before last year's competition, Larsen said, the college decided to overhaul its robot, dropping out of the competition in order to perfect its design.

"I was just mucking programming with a little video game, and I was like, 'You know, I wonder if I could come up with a way to control a whole bunch of thrusters on a space ship,'" Larsen said during a robotics club meeting last month, pausing for a self-deprecating laugh, "automatically so it moved the way I wanted it to move."

For less than \$2,000, the college's team has built a sparse, cubical metallic frame ringed by six converted RC airplane motors. In the middle is the enclosure holding the submersible's control module, the brain translating commands from the team above water through a power and Ethernet tether to the robot below.

Real-life video game

Pool time is a premium for the college. But Larsen, drawing on his programming skills, needs only to plug the robot into his MacBook through a USB cord and fire up a virtual environment he programmed to simulate the underwater oil well

the robot needs to explore for the competition.

Using a game controller, he pilots the robot on his computer screen, while the submersible's engines — high and dry — whirl on a workbench in the background.

"Once we're done, then it's just a matter of going to the pool to calibrate it, then we're good" he said. "That's quite useful. It's also useful for giving people something tangible to actually play with, other than motors spinning, which is cool to me, but — you know — not necessarily the coolest thing in the world."

Larsen handles the electronics and programming. As captain, he also assigns tasks,

from soldering and waterproofing the robot's components and building the claw to fundraising to buy parts.

Darby Cullen, from Astoria, and Jonathan Kaminski from Jewell, engineering students who joined the team this year, focus largely on another submersible the college is building to dive for shipwrecks this summer in support of the Maritime Archaeological Society.

From the Gulf to Jupiter

NASA has called for a robot able to survive in both deep space and ocean environments on Europa, one of at least 67 moons orbiting Jupiter and on which scientists

believe exists a large ocean underneath a sheet of ice.

Hypothetically, the college's robot needs to be able to survive transport to Europa and deploy instrumentation underneath the ice sheet. The competition also has the robot simulating a damage assessment in the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and turning a wellhead into an artificial reef.

Another prospect that gets Larsen and other local robot-builders giddy is the possibility that, if they succeed at regionals, they can earn a spot in the international competition at the neutral buoyancy lab at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

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