Not The Last of Us

During an interview regarding the Uncharted Nathan Drake collection, Naughty Dog writer Josh Scherr might have just accidentally dropped the fact that there will be a sequel to The Last of Us. Uh, I think I just said the first The Last of Us. Uh, was led up by Eric, here,” followed by sequel to The Last of Us.

The book explores the rugged history of Oregon’s legal system and the factors, such as race, gender, and religion, that molded it into becoming what it is today.

In May, the book received an honorable mention at the New York Book Festival and was later named the first-runner-up in the history category at the Hollywood Book Festival.

We asked Scherr about his memories of his time at Othlone and his advice for aspiring writers.

Q. What do you remember about your time at Othlone College?

A. I remember writing, writing and more writing. I was news editor of the Monitor my first semester, then editor in my second.

Q. Do you think historical influence events such as, for example, the Great Depression, had an impact on the Monitor’s reporting style?

A. I always have been fascinated by the history of where I happen to be. I have a talk I deliver called “Finding History Beneath Your Feet.” My premise is that if you can uncover the history of an event that happened at or near where you happen to be, you can start working outward, eventually tying into national and world history. Our first history book, CreekWithNoName, emerged from tracing the history of a little creek that runs through our property. Among other things, I tracked the amazing Native American history of the area, and discovered that in 1977 a young San Francisco woman named Margo Compton and her six-year-old twin were murdered in a famous gangland killing, and it happened just down the hill from our house, along the little creek, with no name.

History certainly shaped events, but even more to the point, I think history should be our guide for the future. We as a society tend to keep making the same economic and civil rights mistakes over and over again, because we don’t remember our past.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for those who wish to become better writers? If so, what are they?

A. My advice is two-fold.

1. When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?

A. I became a writer almost by default. I pursued a journalism degree, and a journalism degree is something an editor at the San Jose Mercury held in front of me while I was at Othlone. I read it and said, “This is gobbledegook. If you want to be a writer, you have to write. Start writing every day. Write and rewrite and rewrite.”

2. How do you advise students to see the world and have a broader perspective on the world that we live in?”

A. I want (my students) to see the world and have a broader perspective on the world that we live in,” said Michael Navarra Smith, the assistant professor of acting and directing for the Theater and Dance Department, who is going on the trip. "I want them to learn more about theater and literature, and to get to see theater in other countries just brings a new perspective back so that when we work on stuff here we have more to choose from.”

Excursion heading to London, Dublin

Sam Campbell

One of the most amazing programs that Othlone faculty are the enriching study abroad trips.

The Theatre and Dance department is offering a theater appreciation class in the form of a trip to London and Dublin for students from Jan. 2 to 13.

The course will meet twice in December at Othlone before traveling to London and Dublin for 12 days. The trip will include visits to cultural and historical sites, including Shakespeare’s birthplace, Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, and the National and Abbey theaters with backstage tours.

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This three-unit class is UC, and CSU transferable, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Students will have the opportunity to make strong friendships and learn that the world is at their fingertips.

The deadline to sign up for the trip is Sept. 28; a $95 deposit is required to hold a spot. The estimated total cost of the trip is about $3,533, which includes airfare, hotels, and some meals.

For more information, attend a meeting in the Green Room at the Smith Center from 3 to 4 p.m. Sept. 24, or email Michael Navarra Smith at mnavrarrasmit@ othlone.edu.

Q&A with former Monitor editor, author

BriAnne O’Sullivan

Ken Bilderback, editor of the Monitor in 1976, recently co-authored “Law and Order at the End of the Oregon Trail.”

The book explores the rugged history of Oregon’s legal system and the factors, such as race, gender and religion, that molded it into becoming what it is today.

In May, the book received an honorable mention at the New York Book Festival and was later named the first-runner-up in the history category at the Hollywood Book Festival.

We asked Bilderback about his memories of his time at Othlone and his advice for aspiring writers.

Q. What do you remember about your time at Othlone College?

A. I remember writing, writing and more writing. I was news editor of the Monitor my first semester, then editor in my second. I also reported for the San Jose Mercury and did other freelance work. That was all in addition to papers for class. I also fondly remember my criminal justice classes, which were taught by a retired San Francisco police officer, William Osterloh. At the time, Osterloh was a lawyer and Osterloh had a great way of humanizing the criminal justice system. He was warm, funny and caring; the epitome of what a cop should be.

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