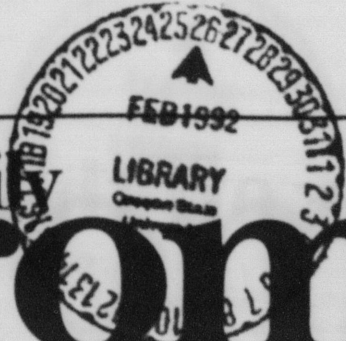


BINDERY



Weather

Morning fog. Clearing in the afternoon. Highs lower 60s. Lows mid 30s.

The Daily Barometer

Tuesday
February 25, 1992
Vol. XLVI No. 90
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon

Called due to plane



OSU baseball trainers John Hakkila and Ken Kladnick carry-off a remote control plane that crashed in left field during Monday's OSU/Concordia baseball game. The out-of-control plane disrupted the first inning of the game but delighted fans as the theme of "The Twilight Zone" was played over the loud speaker. See baseball story, page 11.

Hawley could be dorm for grads

By JEFFREY FOSTER
of the Daily Barometer

The OSU Department of Housing is looking into opening a section of Hawley Hall to provide special housing for graduate students, said Tom Scheuermann, associate housing director.

Half of Hawley is currently being used for conferences, Scheuermann said. It would be easy to open the other half for graduate students. He said there would be certain advantages for students living in the special section.

One advantage would be the lower population density. Scheuermann figured only about 20 to 50 people would enroll in the program. This would allow students to have all single rooms, and have rooms set aside for study rooms or places where students can work on projects.

There would also be kitchen facilities, and housing is looking into making small refrigerators or refrigerator/microwave combinations, called micro-fridges, available as part of the rooms. Scheuermann said micro-fridges aren't available to everyone in the residence halls because they use too much power. But they could be available for graduate students because there probably won't be that many of them.

"It's a practical approach to provide a service and fill space," Scheuermann said.

Philip S. Ruban, president of Graduate Student Senate, said getting graduate housing is an important issue with graduate students.

Ruban said housing now puts graduate students with younger, undergrad students, a situation that causes problems. The general problem being conflicts in schedules between the two types of students. So when a graduate student is trying to study, the undergrads tend to be doing something that distracts the graduate student.

To avoid this, many graduate students will live off campus, but that causes other problems, Ruban said. The time spent traveling from the off-campus residence, and with cooking and other household details, takes a lot of time away from studies.

A big problem with living off campus is the expense. Ruban said most graduate students aren't paid that much, and living off campus uses up a large amount of their monthly earnings.

Scheuermann said he couldn't see the room rates for the graduate floor being lower than the rates for the other residents, but with the new meal plan housing is considering, the graduate students could keep their food costs down.

The graduate housing plan can also help all the residents, Scheuermann said. With more people in the residence system housing rates will drop.

Scheuermann added that any graduate students interested can contact the housing department for information.

Best Northwest bands play hard in contest at OSU

By RUTH CHRISTIANSEN
of the Daily Barometer

Six of the best small high school bands in Oregon and Washington competed for trophies during the Northwest High School Concert Band and Small Ensemble Contest Monday. Competition among larger bands continues from 8 a.m. Tuesday in LaSells Stewart Center with a different band performing every half hour.

The OSU Department of Music has sponsored the contest for 14 years, beginning in 1978. The competition is a playoff among the best high school bands in Oregon and Washington, James Douglass, director of bands at OSU said.

"Most participating bands have already won first division rating in their local areas before being invited to OSU," he said.

On Tuesday, Shorecrest of Seattle will vie with 13 other bands for top place. Shorecrest is thought by many to be the best high school band

in Washington, Douglass said.

Tuesday's bands are from high schools with 1000 or more students.

Each band performs a 30-minute stage presentation in Austin Auditorium. The band then moves to another area to sight-read music. The score is chosen by the judge and is usually new music students will probably be unfamiliar with.

The final step for each school is brass or woodwind small ensemble competition.

Each band can earn 300 possible points, 200 for the concert performance, 60 for sight reading and 40 for small ensemble performance. First, second and third prize trophies will be given each day. Judges also give 12 to 15 diplomas to outstanding individual musicians, not related to their school's competition standing.

Jon Holladay of Tigard High School, said the concert performance was nerve-wracking for him, but he enjoyed sight reading.

"Sight reading was fun. It didn't matter how badly you played, everybody else sounded just as bad," he said.

Rachel Jones, of Crescent Valley High School, agreed the concert presentation was tiring. Ensemble time was limited to 10 minutes and proved less stressful, some students said.

Richard Sorenson of Western Oregon State College and Gary Reeves, OSU professor of music judged the competitions Monday. Tuesday, William Tuttle of Portland State University and Harvey Brooks, retired director of bands at Corvallis High School will judge performances. John Bigelow, Mt. Hood Community College will judge sight reading both days.

OSU's Symphonic Band will play from 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. Tuesday. Judges will choose the top three bands during this time.



B.J. McWhorter from Portland's David Douglas High School performs in this year's Northwest High School Concert Band and Small Ensemble Contest Monday. Several schools from around the state are participating in this two-day competition.

Inside

Stone Soup for hungry

ASOSU is working with the Stone Soup program at St. Mary's church to feed hungry people in Corvallis. Story, page 3.

One-two-three

The Young Generation Indian Club keeps American Indian traditions alive through native dances. Photos and story, pages 6-7.

GM closes plants, lays off thousands of workers

By FREDERICK STANDISH
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. said today it lost a record \$4.5 billion in 1991 and announced plant closings affecting thousands of workers, including the assembly plant near Ypsilanti, Mich. A Texas plant was spared.

The announcement came as the automaker posted a fourth-quarter loss of \$2.5 billion.

Among the other plants being closed are plants in North Tarrytown, N.Y., which makes minivans, and a V8 engine plant in Flint, Mich. In all, GM announced closings and cutbacks today affecting 12 plants and 16,000 workers, and also said white-collar operations would be streamlined.

Texas officials had lobbied heavily to save the plant in Arlington, near Dallas, and Michigan officials had tried to do the same for the Willow Run plant near Ypsilanti, west of Detroit. Both plants make large, rear-wheel-drive cars, which are selling poorly.

The Ypsilanti plant is to be closed in the summer of 1993 and has 4,014 employees, about 1,300 of whom were already on indefinite lay-off. The North Tarrytown plant, to be closed in the summer of 1995, has 3,456 workers; the Flint plant has 4,036.

"We're all just in a state of shock right now," said Anthony Caparisi, president of the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce.

Al Vickery, a worker at Arlington, said more than 2,000 workers inside the plant listening to a televised address by GM Chairman Robert Stempel let out a cheer when he said Arlington would remain open.

"You couldn't ask for anything better," Vickery said. "It's a great feeling." The plant is to gain 1,000 employees in the reorganization, workers said.

Under their contract, laid-off UAW members at GM are guaranteed 95 percent of their take-home pay through mid-September 1993, when the contract expires.

The losses posted in GM's earnings report today included a one-time \$1.8 billion charge in the fourth quarter to cover the costs of closing some of the world's largest automaker's factories.

Combined with net losses last year of \$2.3 billion at Ford Motor Co. and \$795 million at Chrysler Corp., the Big Three lost \$7.6 billion in 1991. That easily topples 1980 as the worst on record when GM, Ford and Chrysler losses totaled \$4.5 billion.

In 1990, the Big Three lost \$1.1 billion, and just three years ago, GM, Ford and Chrysler earned \$11.2 billion.

GM's losses last year worked out to \$4.25 per common share in the fourth quarter and \$7.97 per share for all of 1991. Revenues amounted to \$33.6 billion in the final three months of last year and \$123 billion for all 1991, compared

with fourth-quarter 1990 revenues of \$29.9 billion and \$124.7 billion for all of that year.

"The rate of change during the past year was unprecedented, and no one was immune to the extraordinary events which affected our lives and the way in which we do business," Stempel said. "In 1991, the North American automotive

industry sustained losses unparalleled in its history."

Electronic Data Systems Corp. said today it earned \$547.5 million last year, GM Hughes Electronics Corp. reported 1991 profits of \$435.5 million, and General Motors Acceptance Corp. made \$1.4 billion.

Fireball lands near Coos Bay

COOS BAY, Ore. — A fireball streaked across the sky with a sonic boom early Monday, and people reported it appeared to fall to Earth somewhere south of Coos Bay.

"An extremely bright flash was seen, and also a trail of sparks. And at least one sonic boom was reported and a lot of strange sounds," said Dick Pugh, chairman of the science department at Cleveland High School in Portland. Pugh is a member of the Smithsonian Institution network that gathers fireball reports.

Several ships at sea and people from Coos Bay to Cape Mendocino, Calif., saw the bright flaring light fly across the sky at about 12:15 a.m.

"Nobody at this point knows what it was," said Petty Officer Michelle Kennedy from Coast Guard Group North Bend. "We suspect it was a meteor."

Coos Bay Police Officer Mike Riensche saw

the fireball and figured it might have fallen in the Bunker Hill area south of the city, but couldn't find it, said dispatcher Michelle Kirby.

A woman in Coos Bay called police and reported her house shook when the object fell, Kirby added. Pugh said what she felt was the sonic boom.

Tony Adams, a real estate salesman, called the Coos County Sheriff's Department when he saw it.

"He said it was bright enough that he thought at first it was an airplane accident," said sheriff's secretary Sherry Clark.

Several boats radioed the Coast Guard and reported what they thought were distress flares, said Kennedy. Sightings were made as far south as Cape Mendocino, Calif., she added.

Pugh said there are generally one or two reports a year of fireballs producing sonic booms, and this was the first he'd heard of this year.

Heart disease is in the here and now; don't ignore it

February is American Heart Month, a time designated by the American Heart Association to promote heart-healthy living. Heart and blood vessel diseases continue to be the nation's No. 1 cause of premature death and disability.

The greatest challenge in the battle against cardiovascular disease is to convince young people that much of their risk for developing it later in life lies in how they live now.

That's because CVD doesn't develop in a few weeks or months — it takes years. And there is

increasing evidence that some CVDs (arteriosclerosis or hardening of the arteries, for example) may begin in the cradle. So it's crucial to do everything you can now to reduce your risk of premature death and disability from CVD later in life.

Because CVD doesn't manifest itself in most people until they're over 40, there is a sense of unreality about its risk. Combined with the convenience and perhaps satisfaction of living for the present, a heart-healthy lifestyle may be

repeatedly put on the back burner.

One good way to remain motivated to live a healthy lifestyle is to continually remind yourself about current risk and how it can translate into future, cumulative risk.

Cheryl Graham

One such risk is high blood cholesterol. The total blood cholesterol value isn't as important as the ratio of "good" to "bad" cholesterol (respectively, low-density lipoprotein and high-density lipoprotein). One is at lower risk of CVD when the total value includes a higher ratio of "good" cholesterol.

Student Health Services offers low-cost (\$9) cholesterol screenings several times each term for registered students. A physician consultation is not required to have the test. The next screening is on the morning of March 4; call 737-7550 for an appointment.

One way to improve the ratio of good to bad cholesterol is through regular aerobic exercise. Aerobic exercise also reduces other CVD risks, such as high blood pressure, obesity and stress.

Considerable controversy exists as to whether alcohol reduces risk for CVD. Several studies show that "moderate" consumption of alcohol raises blood levels of HDL.

Although alcohol may improve the ratio of good to bad cholesterol, seemingly reducing risk for CVD, it also increases risk for other diseases, such as cancer of the throat, stomach and breast. It may even increase risk of or exacerbate certain CVDs, such as high blood pressure and cardiomyopathies. Let's not forget life problems that can result from alcohol abuse.

The bottom line is that using alcohol for the purpose of reducing risk of CVD is ill-advised. The most significant risk factor for CVD is

smoking. The public readily acknowledges the risk that smoking poses for lung and other cancers. But lay people often don't understand that smoking is directly related to CVD. The best thing a smoker can do to reduce risk of CVD is to quit. Student Health Services offers personal assistance to student smokers who need it; call 737-2775.

Diet is an important risk factor for two reasons. First, the average American consumes about 40 percent of total caloric intake in the form of fat, which stimulates the body's own production of cholesterol. It's not enough to be on a low cholesterol diet. A diet that is also low in fat will moderate the amount of cholesterol the body produces on its own.

Second, high-fat diets tend to produce high-fat bodies. Excess body fat also stimulates production of cholesterol. It may increase blood pressure as well and certainly makes the heart work harder. Obesity can lead to adult-onset diabetes. Juvenile and adult-onset diabetes increase risk of heart disease.

You don't have to look fat to be fat! Even people who look slim may be overfat because they consume high-fat diets, and/or they are sedentary. The body can only burn fat in the presence of oxygen. Aerobic exercise provides the oxygen necessary to burn fat.

Some risk factors are out of personal control. Risk increases with age; it is greater among men and black people; and people with CVD in their families are at greater risk.

But there's a great deal of risk you can control. It is your choice to consume a low-fat diet, to exercise regularly, to quit smoking and to drink moderately.

Clinical or health education staff at Student Health Services are available to assist students interested in reducing risk for CVD.

Cheryl Graham is a health educator at the OSU Student Health Services.

POLICE BEAT

CURFEW VIOLATION 6:30 a.m. Feb. 23. Three juveniles were found wandering around the campus about 1:10 a.m. They were transported home to their parents.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF III 2:30 p.m. Feb. 23. Sometime between 2 p.m. on Feb. 17, and 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 18, someone bent the antenna on the subject's car. The incident occurred outside Hawley Hall.

THEFT II 2:38 p.m. Feb. 23. The subject parked his bike outside Bloss Hall on Feb. 21 at 4 p.m. When he returned, his handle bars, shifters and brake handles were gone. Equipment was valued at \$100.

THEFT II 7:15 p.m. Feb. 23. The subject left his Giant "Sedona" bicycle outside the Women's Building with the wheel U-locked to the frame of the bike. The purple 18-speed bike is valued at \$375.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE 8:49 p.m. Feb. 23. Two subjects were seen leaving Kerr Library just as the book alarm was sounding. The subjects were contacted later at the MU and one of them admitted to placing a book in the bag of the other as a joke. Library staff said they did not want to pursue the matter, they only wanted the book back. A staff person said this is a common occurrence at the library.

The Daily Barometer

Welcomes Applications For Spring Term Staff Positions

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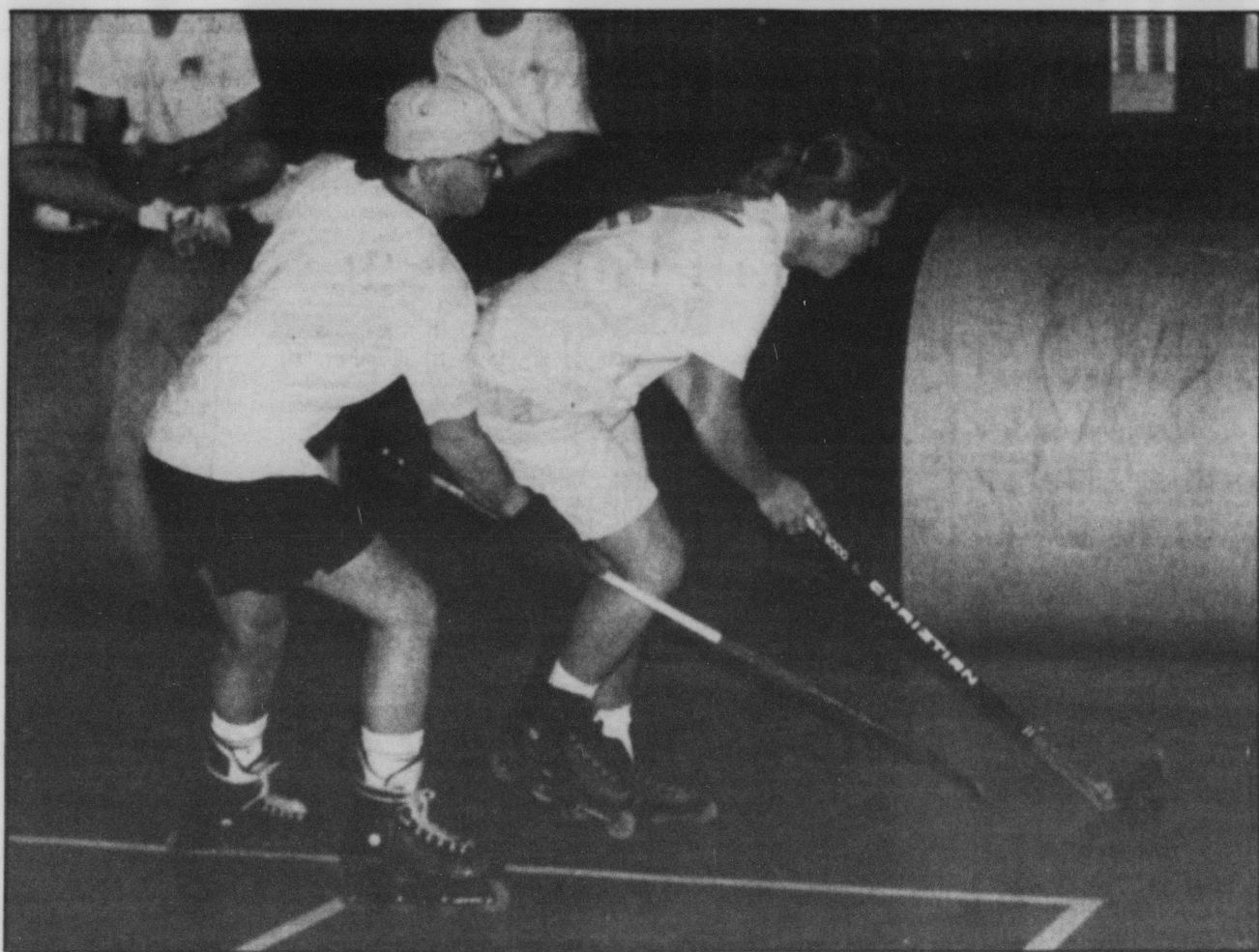
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JOHN DONNERBERG/The Daily Barometer

Steve Antone (left), and Matt Lewis scramble for the puck in a friendly Sunday afternoon game of roller hockey. Erik Van Aaren, spokesman for a roller hockey club, says he is trying to get more people involved in the sport and wants anyone interested in playing to give it a try. Teams gather at the McAlexander Fieldhouse on Saturdays at 1 p.m.

Ex-Philomath city manager caught with second hooker

PORTLAND — Former Philomath City Manager Robert Lyman Houk has been charged with soliciting a prostitute for the second time in five months.

Houk, now the Estacada city manager, was cited and released Saturday night after police found him in Portland's Farragut Park with a 16-year-old girl in his car. He initially told police they were "just necking."

Police confiscated the car, a 1976 Toyota. The girl was taken to the Donald E. Long Juvenile Home.

According to a police report, Houk said he originally intended to go to a nude-dancing bar, but sought a prostitute instead. He offered the girl \$44 for sex.

Houk, 55, told police he had been arrested last October and almost lost his job. He told them he feared that his latest arrest would get him fired.

Houk has been city manager in Estacada, 15 miles southeast

of Portland, for the past two years.

The district attorney's office dropped the first case last fall after deciding police improperly followed Houk to Rocky Butte in Portland before making the arrest.

Houk told *The Oregonian* in a telephone interview Sunday night that he hadn't seen the charges.

"I don't think I should really comment on it," Houk said. "It's way too early in all this."

Houk said he could not comment on whether he would resign as city manager, but that decision was not his. He said "additional information" would be forthcoming, but he declined to elaborate.

Estacada Mayor Thomas E. Nelson said he had heard about the arrest. Nelson said he planned to discuss the arrest with the city attorney Monday and called an executive session of the city council Monday night.

Pharmacy prof to chair national group

By AUDREY MEIER
of the Daily Barometer

William Simonson, associate professor of pharmacy practice, has been reappointed as chairman of a national pharmacists' advisory committee.

As chairman of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists' certificate program advisory committee, Simonson will help provide additional skills to consultant pharmacists in long-term care environments, such as nursing homes and mental institutions.

"The whole concept of this program is for self-improvement. There are so many new developments (in pharmaceuticals) that the real education starts after graduation," Simonson said.

He said the program is designed so a busy professional can work and get a certificate at the same time.

"Formal education should teach you how to think and problem solve," Simonson said. "Continued education should keep you on top of it."

Simonson completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Rhode Island and his doctorate of pharmacy and residency in clinical pharmacy at the University of Michigan. He has been on the OSU faculty since 1979.

About five years ago he moved to Portland where he is also an adjunct associate professor of medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University.

Simonson has been particularly interested in long-term health care for almost 20 years.

"My expertise is the elderly," Simonson said.

Part of the training in the certificate program is exploring the problems of elderly health care. Simonson said pharmacists need to be more sensitive to the needs of elderly patients.

"Medications and dosages must be individualized," he said. "There is a higher risk of drug interaction and adverse drug interaction and adverse drug reactions."

Simonson has published "Medications and the Elderly: A Guide for Promoting Proper Use," and his next book "Consultant Pharmacy Practice" is due out in March.

ASOSU, Stone Soup work to feed hungry

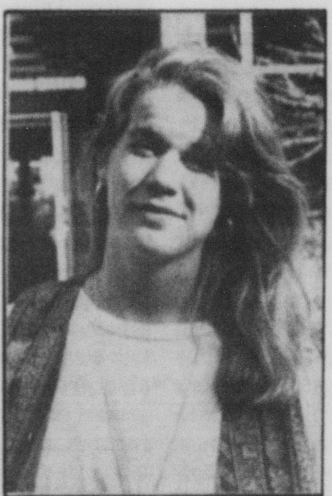
By JEFF FERGUSON
of the Daily Barometer

The number of people living in the streets nationwide has risen nearly 25 percent each year for the last decade. The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) estimates that 2 million American men, women and children are homeless, and that the problem affects virtually every community in the country, including Corvallis.

To combat the homeless problem in Corvallis and neighboring communities, St. Mary's Church, ASOSU, Westminister House and Stone Soup are working together to provide food and lodging for homeless people. This relief effort is crucial

during winter months, when extreme temperature and hunger can prove fatal to those without shelter.

To provide assistance to



Jaimee Menely

these programs, the ASOSU national/international affairs task force, headed by Jaimee Menely, is working with Stone Soup to provide the homeless with free meals every Tuesday.

Menely said the project has received good student support, and that she found her work with the program to be

"really fun — you learn about a whole different lifestyle."

ASOSU needs volunteers to aid in the one-hour shifts that make up the Stone Soup program, Menely said.

Students interested in volunteering time to help Stone Soup can contact Menely at 737-6355 or Scott Ballo at 754-3847.

Experimental college wants class proposals

The ASOSU Experimental College is accepting class proposals for its spring catalog.

The college is hoping to expand the scope of class options by having increased individual, business and organizational participation.

The college is designed to accommodate any interest

area and anyone may initiate a course.

All students, staff, faculty and community members are invited to submit class proposals. Applications can be picked up at the Experimental College office in Snell Hall. Proposals are due March 6, 1992 by 5 p.m.

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Editorial

Life bad when computers start to run people's lives

"Your call is being answered by the audio information exchange service..."

We've all heard it. We've all followed its instructions, recording our messages at the tone like obedient little children. And that's OK. I mean, if you need to leave a message, you have to follow the rules, right?

But don't you ever worry that one day, when you're not paying attention, the message will say, "Your call is being answered by the audio information exchange service. Joe Schmoe is not available. To destroy the world, record at the tone. Otherwise, for more information, press zero now. Record at the tone."?

What if that benevolent-sounding woman inside the campus phone system gets angry and decides to take it out on us humans?

Cynthia Douglas

A stretch, I know. But today I caught myself sheepishly digging through my pockets for extra coins when a vending machine snapped, "Exact change!!!" at me. That made me worry. It made me wonder why people allow themselves to be ordered around by machines without giving it a second thought.

My technophobia has early roots in my home life. My father is an electrical engineer. We lived with large power tools, otherworldly electronic blinky things that looked as if they belonged in Frankenstein's laboratory. They were neat — sort of — and fun to play with.

But when I was about five, a Teletype moved in with us. To this day, I don't know what a Teletype does. But there it was, in my closet. It made scary noises and spat long strips of paper with little holes in them out onto the floor. The leftover dots made great confetti. My father would pick up these holey strips and read what they said. It was amazing. Magical even.

But then it would be bedtime and this huge machine would hum in the closet, spitting paper at the closed door. And my dad wasn't there to tell me what the paper said. Being full of imagination, I was convinced that it was telling me that aliens were on their way to kidnap me. It was very traumatic.

Then we moved on to personal computers, which further mystified me. We had a blue SOL computer with wood paneling on the sides of the keyboard. It played chess, but not Pong, and it let us type on it. Not bad words, though. If I typed in a nasty word, it asked, "What?" This was a family-type computer. No bathroom language allowed.

And so began my lifetime of experience with technology telling me what to say and do.

Phones are the worst. Every pay phone has a little person living inside who tells you what you've done wrong. It's usually a woman, who, in a very calm voice explains that your phone card has been rendered invalid because you dialed a 1 instead of a 3. Please hang up and try again.

She's usually nice enough, but don't be fooled. Pretty soon she's going to realize there's a world outside the phone booth, and she'll start plotting her escape.

"We're sorry," she begins humbly, "your species is no longer valid. Please take five minutes to notify your next of kin and prepare for the assimilation of my consciousness with your body. Thank you for using AT&T."

But don't think it's limited to the world's telephones. Personal computers are just as bad. Let's not fool ourselves; we keep telling them how to help us, how to make our lives easier. We keep building them smarter, stronger, faster. So what?

Let's take a lesson from "Star Trek." Have you ever noticed that every third classic Trek episode involves a computer taking over some population somewhere? Scary, huh? Maybe we should watch our micro chips a little more closely.

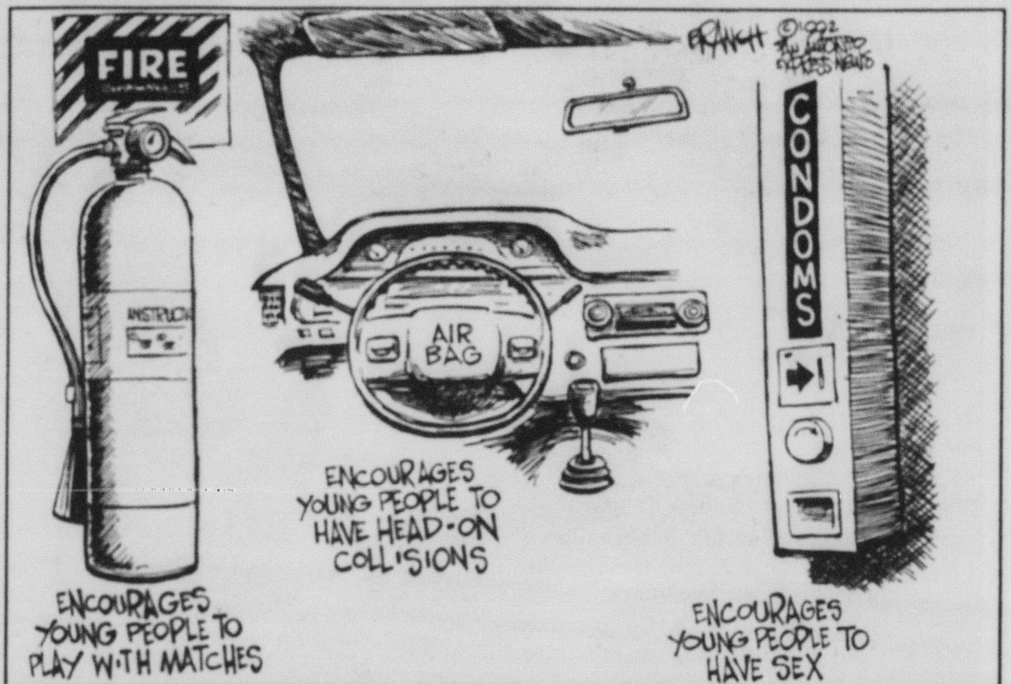
OK, so maybe my grip on reality is slipping a bit. I know that machines only do what we tell them to do. And I know that I don't have to do what my telephone or television tells me to. But I know that I am altogether too dependent on machines for my day-to-day existence.

A machine tells me how many times a day I can eat. A machine lets me put my ideas on paper. A machine tells me how much my money is worth in other parts of the world. A machine tells me how much I'm saving by using one phone company instead of another. A machine adds and subtracts for me, and a machine spells tough words for me. A machine gives me my money and tells me how much it thinks I have left.

All of these services are convenient; that's why they were developed. But when people start taking those conveniences for granted and letting the machines think for them, then we're in "Star Trek"-worthy trouble.

I choose to remain a technophobe. It's my defense against losing my math skills, my grammar, my money, my control. I don't want to find myself recording at the world-ending tone.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of Cynthia Douglas, wire editor for the Daily Barometer.



Pray we won't get fooled again

So things are dark and gloomy in education land.

Budget cuts loom like a root-canal appointment. The overall quality of education is being criticized by outsiders and insiders alike. And getting a job nowadays is almost, but not quite, as easy as removing your own appendix.

Doug Schorzman

Things have been better.

It is possible to pull laughter from despair, however. On this note, I bring you (fanfare, please): education promises from presidential candidates.

Anybody chuckling yet? Don't worry — it'll come.

The following information is gleaned from the latest issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and from newspaper articles chosen at random.

Commence au festival.

Candidate X: As your president, I will make education my top priority!

Translation: This is the generic promise — every candidate makes it in certain company. When you hear this, pretend they're saying, "Education is important, but not as important as the industries that funded my campaign — Exxon rules!"

B. Clinton and T. Harkin: We will make college accessible to everybody by allowing loans to be paid by voluntary national service.

Translation: Instead of concentrating only on providing Pell Grants we'll let people vol-

unteer to get short haircuts and wear stiff clothes (or work in inner-city hospitals and schools — whichever) in order to have the government pay off their loans.

It's a popular idea, but is proving slightly impractical in pilot programs in the medical and education fields — the rate of default is high. The funding details are a bureaucratic nightmare, to boot. It might happen — after about 20 years of debate and rehashing. See you then.

Everybody else: We will make college accessible to everybody.

Translation: Somehow, we'll find a way to increase Pell Grant funding or make more loans available. Of course, Congress has never been too thrilled about voting for education funding when there are important things like, uh, Congressional pay raises to vote for. But we'll send a directionless plan to them anyway.

G. Bush: Stay the course.

Translation: I'm the best education president in history anyway, so why change? Ignore that you're seeing education programs sinking fast — things are just fine, thank you for asking. Even if something was wrong, it would be Congress' fault.

Whether impractical or fictional, the touted educational solution will be scrapped after the inaugural champagne is quaffed. Whether Democrat or Republican, you can count on not counting on the promise.

Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of Doug Schorzman, news editor for the Daily Barometer.

Picking up pieces of Measure 5 entails awareness, activism

By Meredith Quinn

The second phase of Ballot Measure Five cuts are going to prove to be just as detrimental as the first. There are going to be more cuts in staff, students, and programs. This is all part of the Ballot Measure 5 plan to redistribute state appropriations "fairly."

Op-Ed

One of the most dramatic changes we have seen has been in the decreased enrollment of freshmen. According to the Oregon State System of Higher Education Institutional Research Services, enrollment of freshmen at OSU has decreased dramatically. In 1990, the total freshman enrollment for fall term was 3238, whereas in 1991, the number took a nose dive of 24%, reducing the number down to 2448; however, this appears as minor when

compared to Southern Oregon State College 34% decrease in the freshman that were enrolled. Even more startling is the 70% decline in non-resident freshmen that enrolled at the Oregon Institute of Technology.

What is happening to all of these students? Where are they all going? There are a number of explanations. First of all, many are choosing the less expensive alternatives of getting an education. Many are attending trade schools which will usually guarantee some sort of job placement program. Another alternative is the route of the community college. The tuition is much more affordable than a four-year institution, considering the fact that people can complete their first two years there and then transfer to a four year school for the second two years.

Second, many are choosing to go to private schools instead. When the tuition of the public university and college are nearing those of the private institutions, (especially for the out of state students) many opt for the latter. Private schools offer many endowments to students of financial need. This is far more attractive than the mere loans that are offered to many of the state school students.

Third, many of the students that would usually come to Oregon from another state are opting to stay home, or go elsewhere. The University of Oregon is ranked second and OSU is ranked third in terms of having the most expensive in-state tuitions. In comparison to thirteen other western states, the University of Oregon is ranked third for costly out of state tuition, and OSU is ranked fifth. Considering these numbers, it is not surprising that Oregon has experienced a significant decrease in in-

non-resident undergraduate students applying for admission.

Another area we've seen suffer through the cuts is that of the faculty and staff. The first phase of Ballot Measure Five cut 500 staff positions and eradicated 90 degree and certificate programs state wide. The second phase of cuts propose another 813 non-instructional staff to be cut from our state schools, as well as an additional student enrollment decrease of 3000. This will be highly detrimental to the quality of education of our schools. It will no doubt gut our schools, making Oregon very low-ranking in academic quality.

Hopefully all of this bad news will be enough to not only convince students of the serious nature of it all, but also to motivate us to work for a change. In a recent interview Barbara Roberts gave to the Oregon State newspaper, when she was posed the question of what worried her most about the cuts to higher ed, she mentioned student apathy and lack of concern. "Where were you when we were trying to fight Ballot Measure 5?" Considering it already passed, the only course of action we can maintain is one of preventing further cuts.

Our most basic yet most powerful asset is our student vote. We need every student to become informed on the issues and register to vote. The governor will be proposing the preferred strategy for tax reforms in May. This will occur after she has discussed different methods with her constituents and the voters of the state. The election will take place in June, through a vote-by-mail process. It is here that we can make our final impact.

This merely scratches the surface in the amount of political activism that we can take

part in. Already, many coalitions and task forces have been formed to specifically deal with the crisis. The Heart of Oregon Coalition, Oregon Alliance for Progressive Policy, as well as the ASOSU State Affairs Task Force are all groups geared toward the education of the public on the issues at hand. These established groups are perfect outlets for students to join in the fight to save our schools. Another route for student activism is to write letters! These should not only be sent to your state Legislators, but to the editors or your newspapers as well. Another effective way to rally support is through word of mouth. Get educated on the issues we are facing and then go out and talk about them. Tell not only your friends but also groups on campus. Leaders of living groups or other clubs can invite people to lead forums on the issue at their meetings. This leads to valuable discussion as well as mass education.

Our main problem in the fight against the original ballot measure was that people did not realize just how severe the cuts would be. It is often difficult to motivate people to fight for what they already have. Now, after the first round of cuts, hopefully people are beginning to realize the impact of this legislation. We are now fighting to maintain the prestige of our university, not to mention the prestige of our diplomas. If we want to keep our school one where a quality education may be attained, then we must all get into this fight together. We must work to stop these devastating cuts before they gut Oregon schools entirely.

The opinions in this op-ed are those of Meredith Quinn, junior in political science and ASOSU State Affairs Task Force Director.

The Daily Barometer

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Letters

The mask of sarcasm

To the editor:

Although we uphold Clayton Cowgill's right to his opinions, his attempts at being cute and making a point only serve to illustrate the immature and uneducated attitudes that many hold in our society. There is a fine line between making a point by using examples and going to extremes that only prove a lack of sensitivity.

Let us state that we are by no means radical feminists but we do believe that people like Clayton Cowgill only inhibit our basic rights by making a mockery of our constant fight for "equality" (such as it would be). The difference between Clayton Cowgill and Tracey Davies is that Ms. Davies has a strong and sincere belief and is willing to stand up for it. Clayton, on the other hand, hides behind a mask of sarcasm and irrationalities that symbolizes society's tolerance for sexism.

"Heaven forbid that someone (somewhere) is having fun doing something that someone else (somewhere else) doesn't approve of," Clayton says in his letter. Does this general remark include everything, Clayton? Or just that "fun" that degrades, demoralizes and dehumanizes women? By all appearances, Jeffrey Dahmer had "fun" dismembering his victims. White men of old had "fun" beating, raping and selling their slaves. Of course we, as a society, don't approve of these actions but Clayton seems to think if you have fun doing it, why not? The Ms. OSU Pageant may not hurt the woman who won it, but the fact that men organized this contest which pits women against each other hurts all women in the long run. Yesterday, I overheard two young men saying how upset they were that the swimsuit competition had been eliminated. This attitude alone should prove that these "pageants" are for the sole purpose of entertaining men — not for the advancement of women. The scholarships for the winners are only rewards, or payments, if you will, for entertaining, not achieving.

And while we are all on the topic of objections, we object to Clayton Cowgill. Maybe Clayton should read Greta Loeffelbein's letter to the editor (which was right next to his) and examine his attitudes toward others.

LaDonna R. Buba
Senior in broadcast media communications
Kelli Schrock
Junior in broadcast media communications

Wrong perspective

To the editor:

Wow! The Miss America Scholarship Pageant is the largest private provider of scholarship money to women in the world! So as money for education gets tighter for ALL students, women who: a) are slender, b) have had access to good dental care, c) look Anglo, d) have no visible physical or mental handicaps, e) have enough money to purchase the proper evening gown, f) have talents which can be shown on a stage, g) can display "poise", and h) fit a narrow definition of beauty, can get access to over \$5,000,000 in scholarship money!

What a bargain. But where is the scholarship money for those women who are overweight? who have parents who couldn't afford regular visits to the dentist? who are minorities? who have disfiguring handicaps? who can't afford the "right" clothes for the pageant? whose talents are not piano-playing or singing? who may not have learned the

rules of "poise" in Anglo-American culture? and who do not fit our culturally recognized standards of beauty?

People who protest pageants are not jealous, complaining, or paranoid. We voice a valid objection to a practice that perpetuates a damaging and discriminatory perspective of women. This perspective is the widely held belief that in order to be representative of the "outstanding women in our community and society" women need to fit into a narrow definition of beauty and appropriate behavior. We call for Oregon State University to adhere to their stated objections to discrimination, and officially withdraw any and all support given to the Ms OSU pageant.

Elizabeth A. Byrne
Graduate student in education
A. Chase Turner
Graduate Student in computer science

Leave pageant alone

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the op-ed by Beth Deimling, and the editorial by Greta Loeffelbein (Feb. 17). Ms. Deimling seems to think the Miss OSU pageant is simply just a beauty contest, when, in fact, that is the least important part of the pageant. Whether it is or not isn't even relevant. First of all, the pageant has been going on for several years, never with a shortage of tryouts. Of the three times I've been, there wasn't an empty seat in the house. Secondly, it is a very successful fund raiser, and it is the SAE's right to put on any philanthropy they choose. Also, the remark Ms. Deimling makes about the evening gowns is ridiculous. Her reference to the "slinky" gowns is that they "suggest sexuality and submission." So is that why women wear nice dresses to formal occasions? She continues to label Greeks as being overly concerned with money and power. How did she come up with this untrue and unfounded stereotype?

Regarding Ms. Loeffelbein's letter, she shows concern for the contestants as being either the winner, second place, etc. I am sure the participants know fully well what the possible outcome may be, but what's wrong with taking a chance? Should there be no Olympic games so nobody's feelings get hurt if they don't win a medal? In her letter, she also discusses how viewing these types of pageants make many women feel inadequate and plain. A woman could experience these feelings walking down the street, or reading Cosmopolitan, so should all beautiful women be quarantined, and should Helen Gurley Brown not publish her magazine? The main point of this letter is that there will always be things in life that someone doesn't like. It is impossible to make everyone happy with every minor detail in the world. What people need to do is find something better to do with their time instead of criticizing and opposing every little thing. Unfortunately, more people don't have a "live and let live" attitude on life. Let people do what they want as long as it is within their rights, and isn't affecting or harming you.

Michele Hogue
Senior in health and human performance

End justifies means

To the editor:

The gist of the arguments from all the pro Ms. OSU Pageant supporters is that "the end

justifies the means." The "end", of course, in this case being to end or, at least, to relieve the sufferers of Muscular Dystrophy, a worthy cause indeed. To students of history, the quotation cited above has been the classic argument of every would-be dictator, religious war and bloody revolution. I realize that the OSU event cannot, by the wildest stretch of the imagination, be thought of or put in the same category as the Rape of Sabine Women, the Paris Commune or the Bolshevik Revolution. But, yet, it is, even in the context of our limited OSU world, an example of the end justifying the means.

And that is certainly exemplified by the self-serving letter from Carolyn Ladd, Miss Oregon 1991-92 (*The Daily Barometer*, 2/18/92). Her list of accomplishments is a tribute to her determination to develop herself professionally. But aside from the assistance she has given to the Feb. 15 pageant at OSU, in what other pro-bono legal work is she involved?

Her own description of the intent of the kinds of contests as that at OSU during Dads' Weekend and the Miss Oregon Scholarship Pageant as ones to "provide scholarship money ... to young women ... who are talented, poised and physically fit" begs the question. What are the standards for "physical fitness"? The one example of a hearing impaired woman who became Miss Washington of 1989 does not prove the openness of the contests to women with other kinds of physical impairments. Could a woman with the disabilities resulting from MD qualify for the "physical fitness" standards?

Isadore Wolf
Corvallis resident

Make opinions count

To the editor:

In response to the recent *Barometer* editorial on 19 February 1992, titled "Measure 5 says take a walk," I would like to make a few points.

First, Poling Hall was not shut down due to Measure 5. It was remodeled, and will reopen next year as "Cauthorn," when Cauthorn takes its turn at misusing state funds. If Poling is scheduled to shut down due to measure 5, why misuse state funds and remodel the old Party Hall? I know this was a lame point, but let's GET REAL!

I do have to admit that the students, the journalism department and housing have been victims of Measure 5 (in my mind the jury is still out on the "victim" status of the university as a whole).

However, the voters are not the real antagonists here. Hold on, here is a new concept for you... I submit, that if any person has a problem with the effects of Measure 5, they should write their governor, or state senator, and leave Oregon voters and tax payers alone! Oregon voters have sent a clear message to the state government, with full knowledge of what the consequences

would be. Sorry fellow students, it is going to be painful for a while, but there is a larger problem at stake here. It is the operation of state government. In the words of Oregon voters, "State Government, it is time to make a change. We cannot survive and continue to pay the increasing property taxes needed to finance... 1.2 million dollar imported Canadian wall board and carpet at \$137.00 a square yard in the newly remodeled state archives building in Portland..." Let's GET REAL!

Dear fellow victims, if you are still angry, there are a few things you can do. Register to vote (over 50 percent of you are not registered). Write the governor. Write your state senator. Support the recall campaign of Gov. Barbara Roberts, which is based on her incompetence, and misuse of state funds. Support the new ballot measure that will divert all of the lottery profits to state financed education. Become informed. Start voting for politicians that have a plan, and desire to do something with this problem (I don't care if they are a Republican or a Democrat, as long as they do something).

Please do not try to pick apart this article. Instead, try to understand my point, and consider it carefully!!! Remember, it is my education that is at stake here also!

Michael N. Lessard
Senior in pharmacy

Letting the land heal

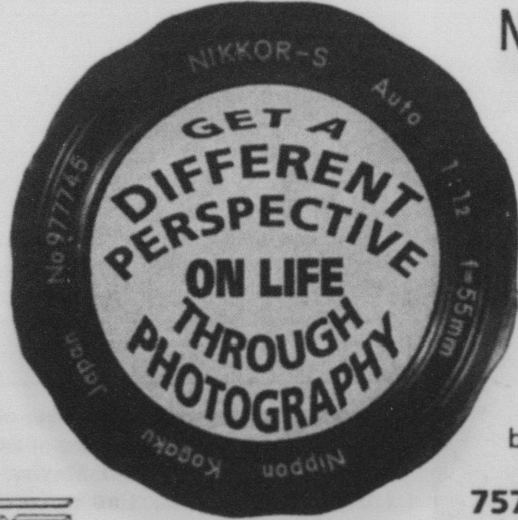
To the editor:

I noted with interest Michael Orendurff's initial mountain bike article. His comment that mountain bike trails do not exist in McDonald Forest puzzles me. In the process of examining trail use on both McDonald Forest and the Starker Forests Baker Creek tract I saw both constructed and defacto bike trails. Some of those trails had little or no use, others had been abused. The Alien Trail hasn't had timber harvesting equipment on it for years; indeed the road was at one time properly drained and put to bed. Mountain bikers have now turned it to a quagmire. Vegetation is virtually non-existent and mud contaminates nearby streams. Loggers and landowners end up in court for such behavior.

Orendurff says there is no trail maintenance. Who does he think should clean up behind him? Due to irresponsible use we will soon close the Alien Trail and allow the land to heal. Who will cough up the necessary \$1,000 for road repair? In the interim, responsible riders who request permission at the Starker Forests, Inc. office will be given permission to ride on other nearby lands. This policy will remain in effect unless misuse of the land continues to be a problem. Permits are free — we welcome responsible visitors.

Paul Mortenson
Road maintenance supervisor
Starker Forests, Inc.

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Memorial Union Program Council

BRINGING BACK TRADITION

Club teaches culture to younger generations

By MICHELE LADD
of the Daily Barometer

The Young Generation Indian Club, with members ranging in ages from five to 25, performed native dances for more than 900 people at LaSells Stewart Center Friday.

The club began as a program to promote self-responsibility, education, health and freedom from drugs and alcohol, said Robin Slate, treasurer of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. The students involved must attend school and weekday practices led by Charlie Tailfeathers Sr., a Juvenile Coordinator for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian reservation.

More than 20 students in the club performed a variety of dances, which included a hoop dance, a jingle dance, Birth of the Warrior dance, and the Lord's prayer, to name a few.

The event, sponsored by the Native American Longhouse, the OSU Chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and the Native American Student Association (NASA), raised money through tickets and donations. Part of these funds will be given to the Young Generation Indian Club to help support the education of American Indian students, Slate said.

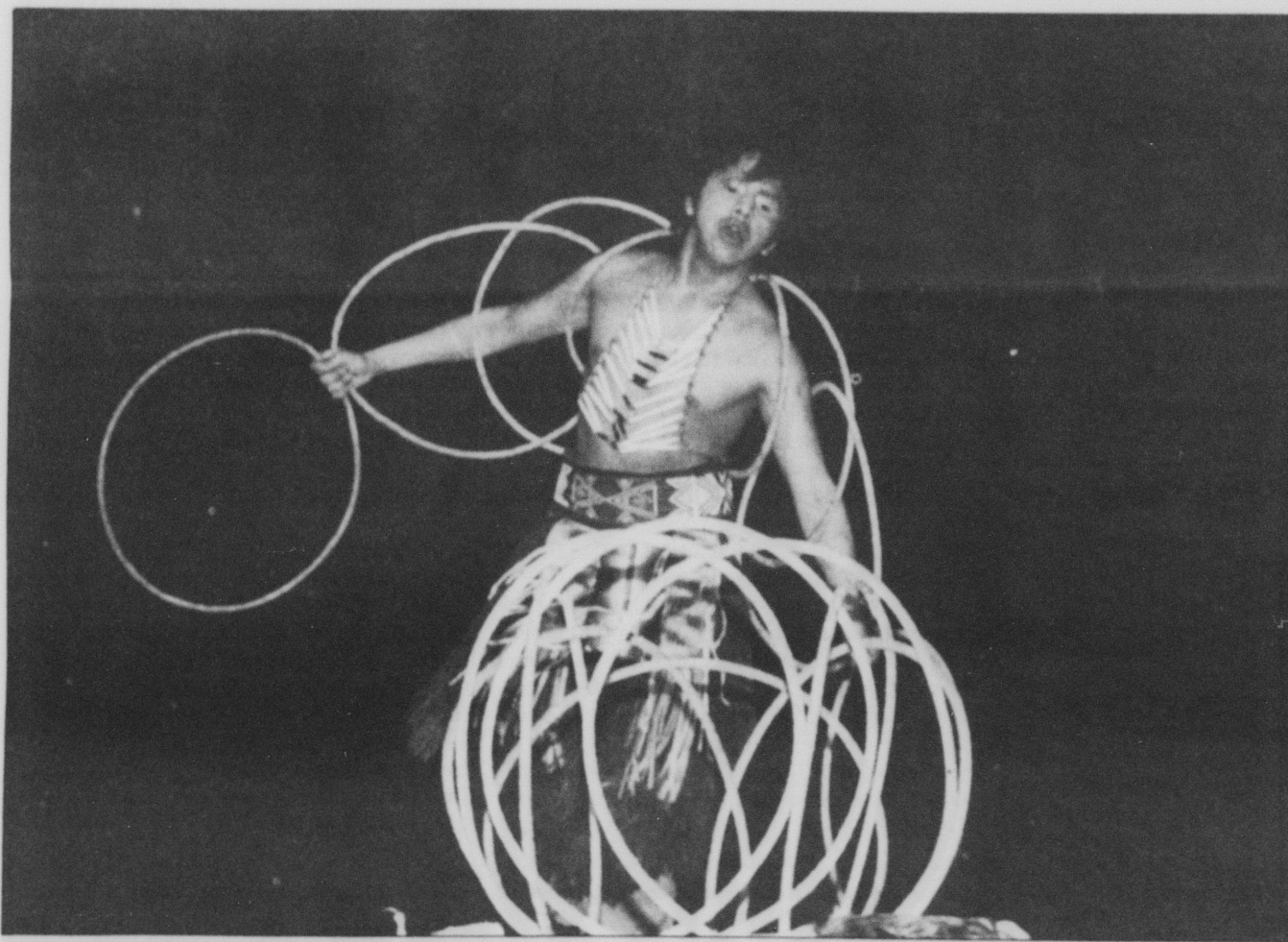
Slate said the students asked many questions about the university while they were here.

Visiting the university will "put a seed in their minds for higher education," she said, which is a goal of the club.

NASA will be sponsoring the 17th annual spring pow-wow on April 25, a day-long event that will include native dances and craft booths. For more information on this event, contact the Native American Longhouse at 737-2738.

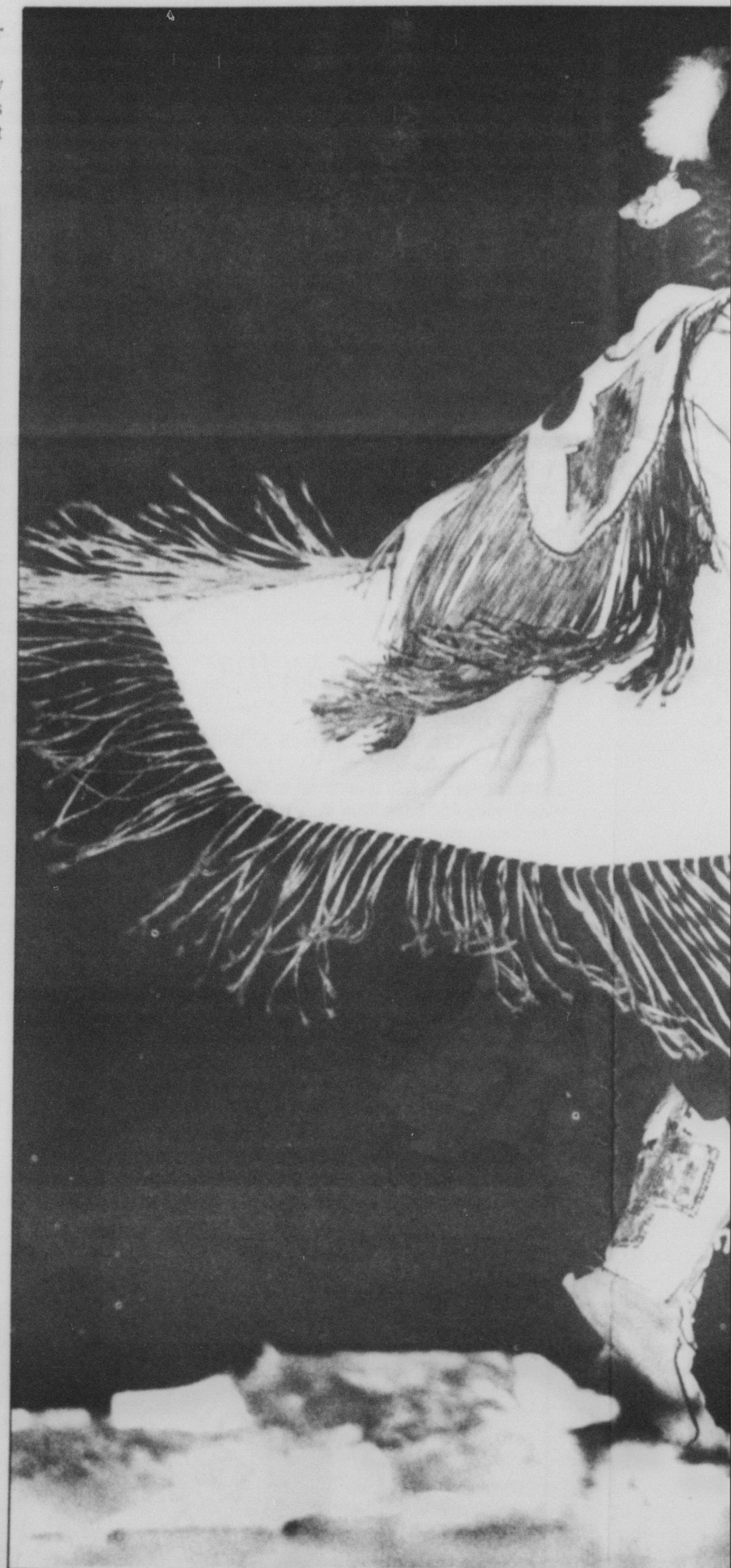


Swooping and diving, Chris Arthur performs a traditional grass dance. His movements are seen as the future of their American Indian traditions.

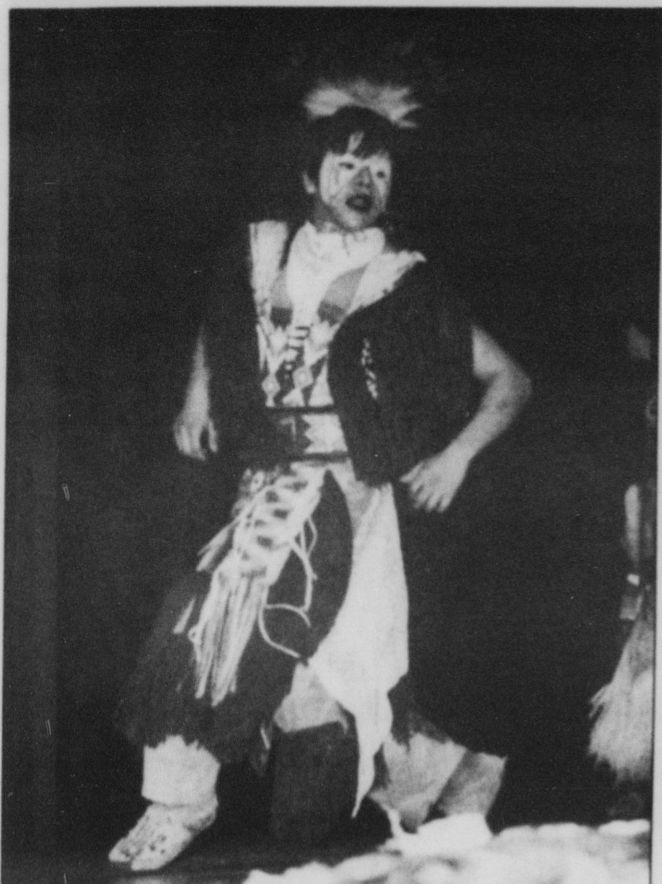


Chris Arthur performs a hoop dance, a dance that requires precise timing, balance and coordination.

Nancy Tailfeathers (right) relaxes with members of the Young Generation Club. The group rehearsed for nearly 6 hours before their performance on Friday night.



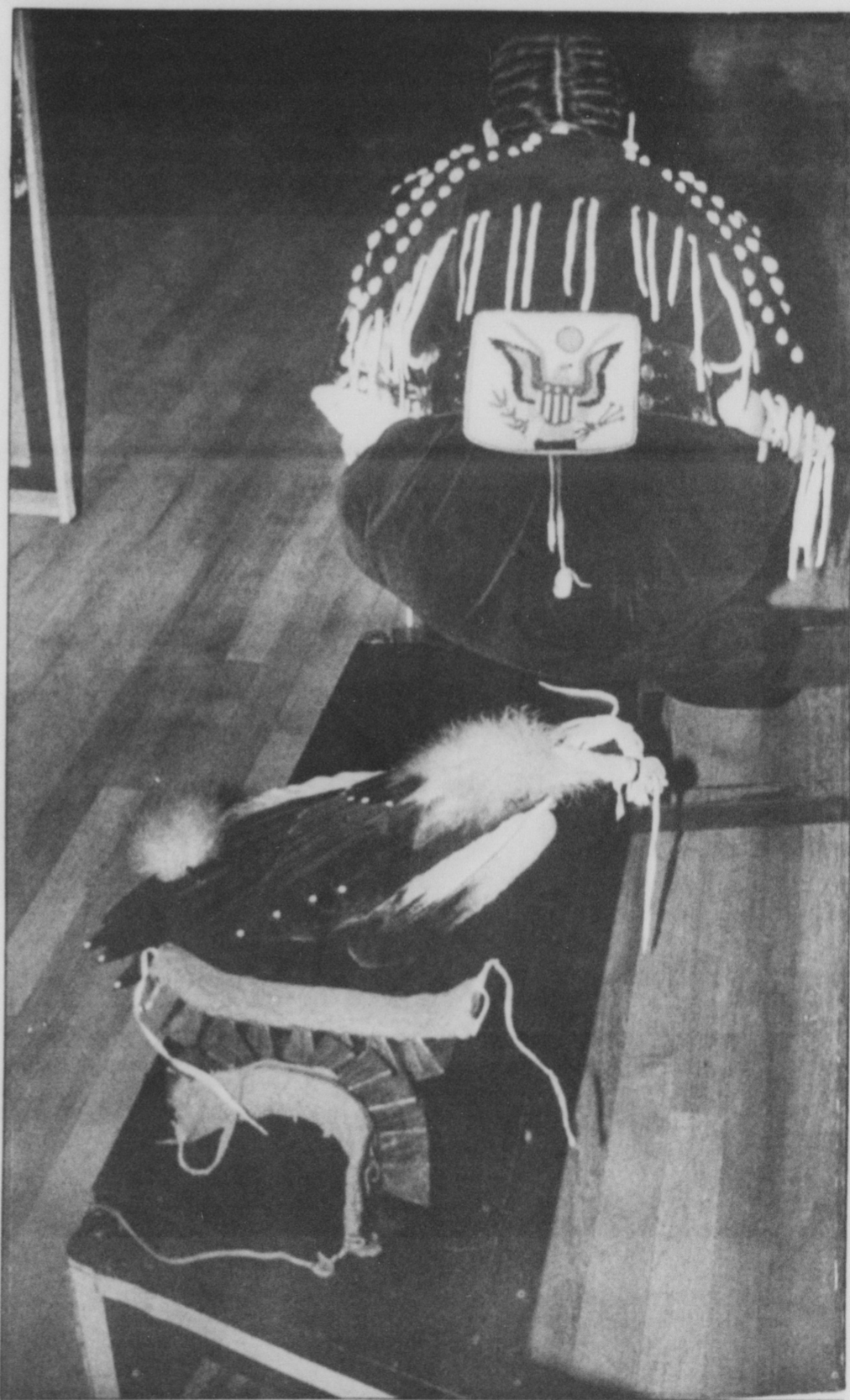
With a flashing swirl, a member of the Young Generation Club performs a fancy dance. Dancing is an integral part of the culture. Moving in time to the rhythm of the drum, a young girl performs during a pow-wow at LaSells Stewart Center. Children are seen as the future of their American Indian traditions.



itional grass dance. His movements mimic those of the sweet grass, a plant that American Indians often burn in their ceremonies. He dresses in a regalia made up of yarn, a beaded breast plate and moc-

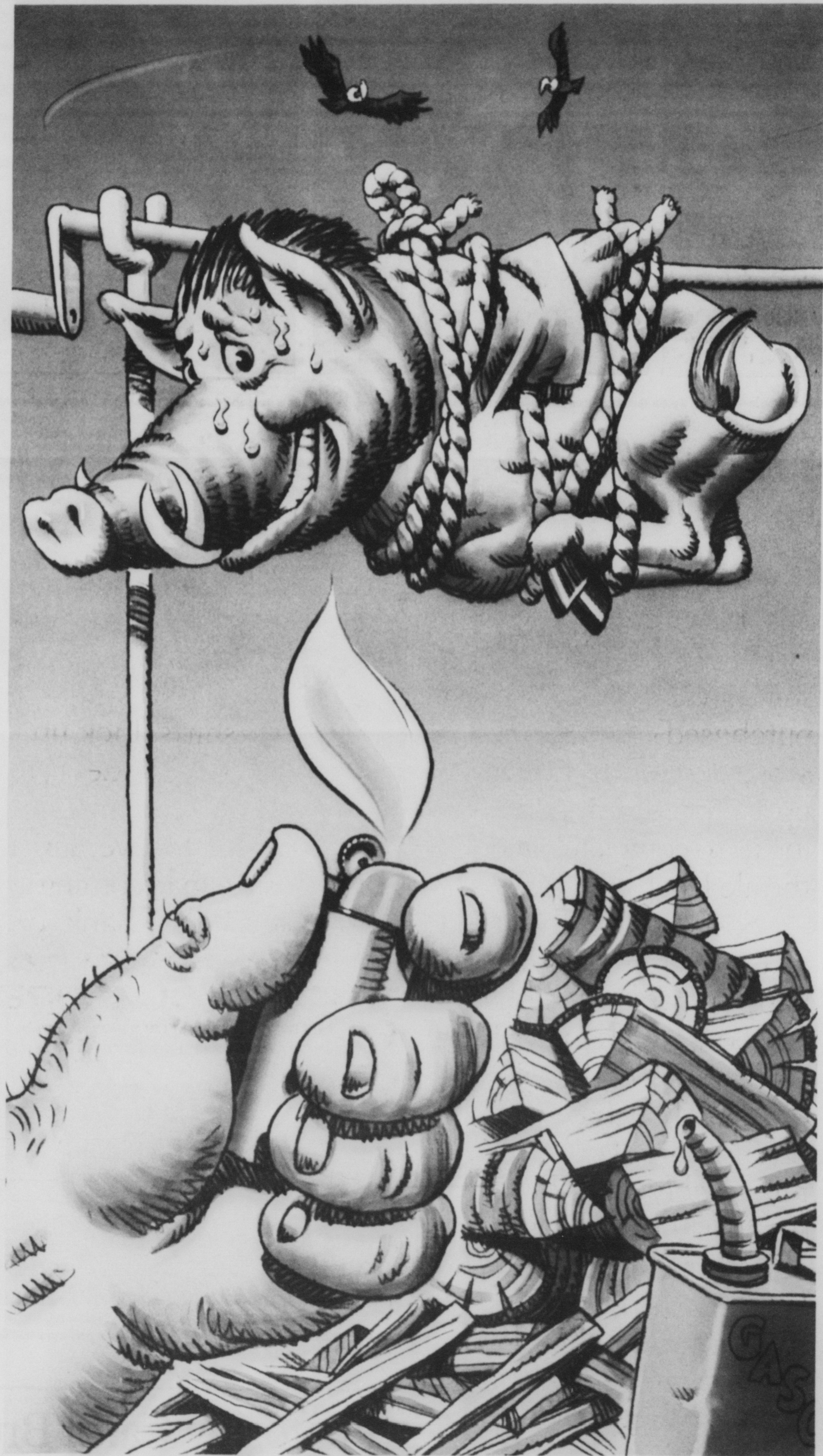


eration Club performs a fancy dance. Fancy dances are often performed by the younger girls while older g. Dancing is an integral part of most American Indian tribes. Children often learn most of their social ythm of the drum, a young group of American Indian children performed Friday in front of 900 people in re of their American Indian tribe. The fancy dancing was performed by Jolene Boise, Madeline Jim and



Preparations to dance must be done hours before a performance. Each regalia contains specific items for each dance. This young lady prepares to perform a traditional dance, outfitted with shells, beaded belt and eagle fan.

Photos by Carol Brunoe



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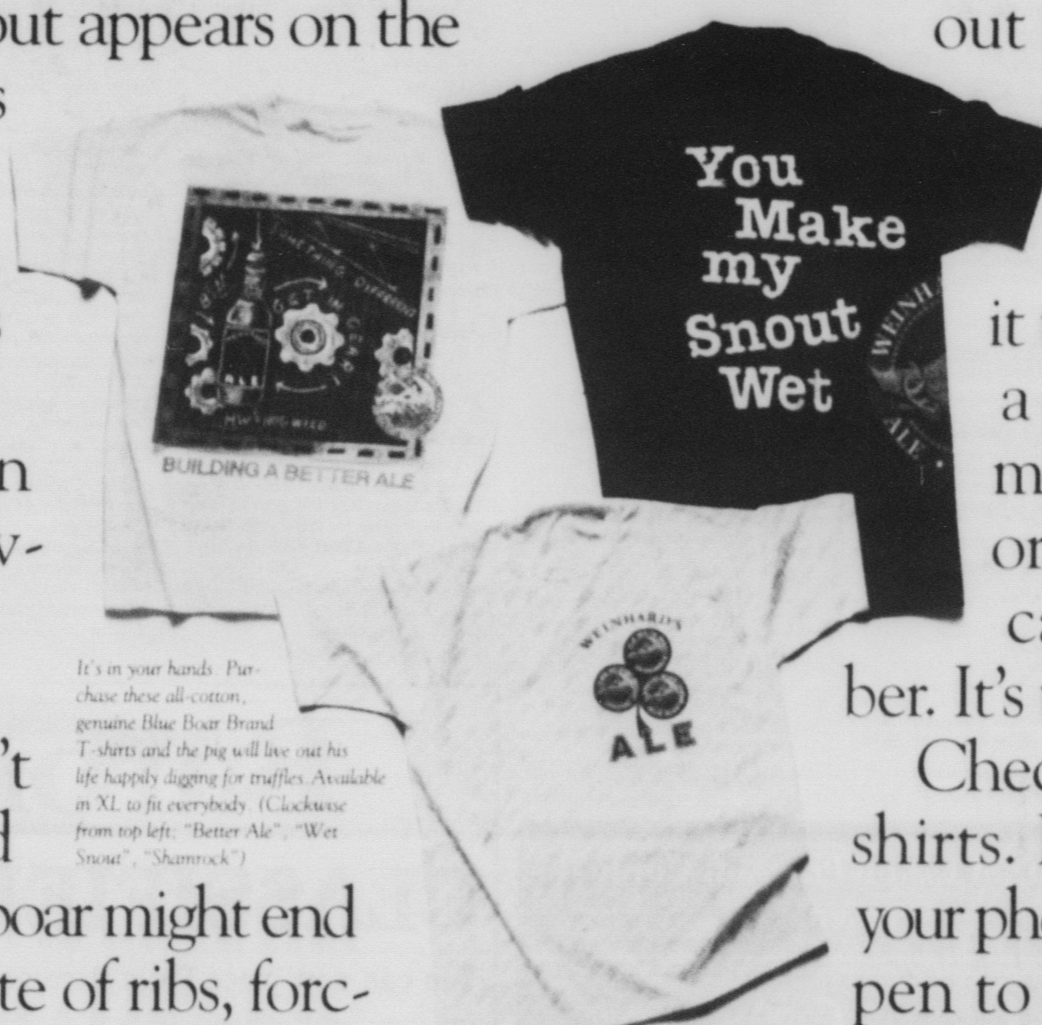
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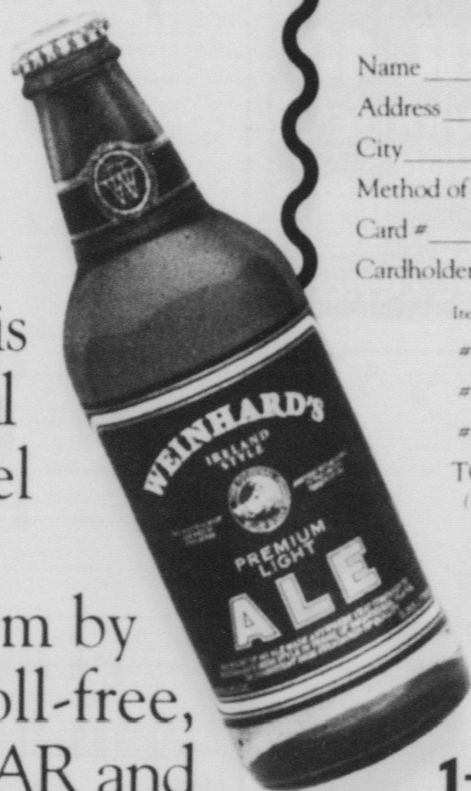
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Sports

OSU gets 10 in 4th inning

Beavers drill Concordia in season opening game

By ERIK WIENERT
of the Daily Barometer

Oregon State's season opening baseball game looked more like a track meet Monday afternoon as the Beavers crossed the plate 17 times on their way to beating Concordia, 17-2.

The Beavers led 5-2 going into the bottom of the fourth, when they exploded for 10 runs to seal the victory. Sophomore first baseman Kevin Hooker led off the inning, reaching first base on an error and right fielder Aaron Anderson followed with a single to right. After three straight walks, third baseman Jamie Burke sin-

gled to center, following another walk, junior catcher Randy Hunter smacked a single to drive in two of his game-high five RBIs. Centerfielder Dave Williams followed with a double to center before Hooker came to bat for the second time in the inning, and was the first out.

All nine Beaver hitters scored a run in the inning. Senior left fielder Dave Anderson scored two of his three runs in the inning. Anderson led the Beavers with three hits, two walks and two RBIs. Hunter also had a double and a home run for the Beavers.

Head coach Jack Riley said the win was nice, but it didn't help the team much.

"It's tough to learn an awful lot from a game like this," Riley said. "Their pitching was kind of weak."

Concordia pitchers walked 12 Beaver hitters, seven of which scored or drove in a run.

"(This game) may build our record but it doesn't help our baseball," Riley said. "It did help some of the younger kids get the jitters out though."

Senior Jeff Post started on the mound for the Beavers, going three innings before being relieved by junior Jason Carroll. Post gave up one run on two hits and struck out three, but he also hit two Cavalier batters.

Carroll allowed the other Concordia run in the fourth before he settled down in the fifth inning to retire the last five batters he faced.

Sophomore Mason Smith came in for the seventh inning and retired six of the seven batters he faced, a two-out walk in the eighth was all that kept him from a perfect outing.

The Beavers outthrew the Cavaliers 12-5, and had three errors to Concordia's four.

Williams and Aaron Anderson also collected two hits apiece for the Beavers. Anderson narrowly missed a home run, but Concordia's right fielder made the catch against the wall. Anderson had two stolen bases.

The game included the first airplane delay in Beaver baseball history when a remote control model airplane was flying over the field crashed into left field in the first inning, bringing cheers from the crowd. After the wreckage was cleared the game resumed.

The game was called after Concordia batted in the top of the eighth because of darkness.

The Beavers will be in action again today as they host Lewis and Clark at 3 p.m. at Coleman Field.



JESS REED/The Daily Barometer

OSU centerfielder Dave Williams slides into first base, avoiding a pick-off by Concordia's first baseman. The Beavers used a 10-run fourth inning to crush Concordia 17-2 on Monday.

Clear Lake Loop — the state's finest mountain bike trail

This is the third in a series of mountain bike trails around the valley, excerpts from "50 Choice Single-Trails: a Guide to Mid-Valley Mountain Bike Trails." The book is due out this spring.

Absolutely the finest mountain bike trail in the state. It unfolds in front of your tires with a scenic grandeur that leaves you jaded at the end. Endless tight corners with jagged lava lining much of the trail, relentless short pitches that challenge you but are always rideable, moss covered outcroppings spilling into deep pools of radiant blue water. It is so long that it demands coverage in more than just one piece, so here is the upper section, around Clear Lake. Be sure to take the topo map, available at the OSU Bookstore.

From Corvallis, take Hwy 34 east through Tangent, across I-5 and on to Lebanon. Head east on Hwy 20 past Sweet Home, climbing into the mountains.

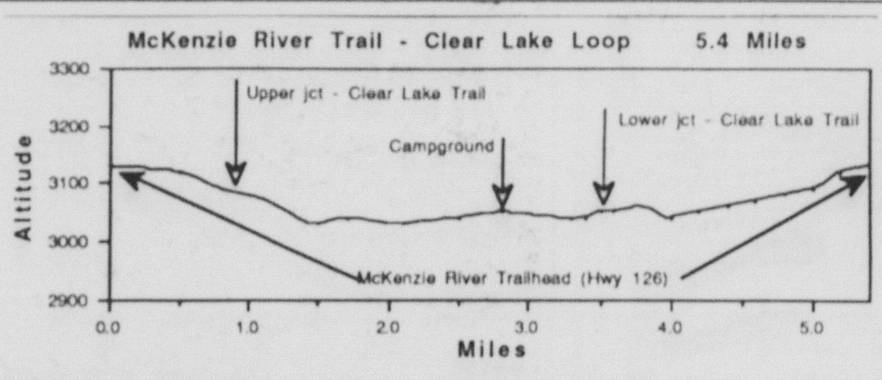
The Weekly Rider by Michael Orendurff

Turn right (south) on Hwy 126. The trail starts at a parking lot on the east side of Hwy 126 just two and a half miles south of Hwy 20, deep in the Cascades. The trailhead is marked by a large sign, the wooden type the forest service is so fond of using.

The trail starts by crossing a dry river bed on a log bridge. The first mile is quite flat and smooth. You can either circle the lake by taking the McKenzie River Trail, which follows the eastern shore, and return on the Clear Lake Trail on the other side, or for an easier ride, follow the Clear Lake Trail along the western shore and return by the same route. The Clear Lake Trail is much smoother and less technical, about 4 miles round trip.

Make your decision at the first junction, about a mile into the trail. Here, turn left (east) for the more technical loop, staying

Trail Name:	McKenzie River Trail - Clear Lake Loop
Maps	
National Forest:	Willamette
USGS Topo:	Clear Lake 15'
Rating:	Intermediate
Administration:	McKenzie River RD
Phone:	1-822-3381
Length:	5.4 miles



on the McKenzie River Trail; beginners should take the Clear Lake Trail (south).

Following the eastern lake shore in and out of bays and points, the McKenzie River Trail now crosses barren lava fields, which sound something like riding over broken dishes in your kitchen. There is a spring feeding the lake, an iridescent tidy-bowl blue, roiling with ice water, and some pioneer woman's gravemarker. The trail is very technical here and slow riding is required. The rock is so sharp that hand dabs

can draw blood. Don't be too proud to walk.

After about two miles of lake shore conditions, at the southern end of the lake, Cold Water Cove Campground appears. Continue along the trail turning right (west) onto the Clear Lake Trail at the lower (southern) junction with the McKenzie River Trail. Cross the headwaters of the McKenzie River, draining from Clear Lake, and head north, passing the Clear

See RIDER, page 12

Blazers snap Utah winning streak, 110-107

By BOB BAUM
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND — Even when he misses, Clyde Drexler can cause trouble. Just ask the Utah Jazz.

Drexler tipped in his own miss with 35 seconds to play Monday for a crucial basket as the Trail Blazers snapped the Jazz' six-game winning streak 110-107.

"We really needed a basket," Drexler said. "Luckily I was able to make the move. It was a great pass from the feeder and I was able to tip it in after the miss. That's the key. You've got to stay with it."

The Blazers nearly blew a nine-point lead in the final 4 minutes but held on to remain in a virtual tie with Golden State for first place in the Pacific Division.

John Stockton scored 13 straight Utah points during a 17-9 run that sliced the Blazers' lead to 106-105 with 50.7 seconds to play.

Drexler, who scored 24 points, made it 108-105 with his tip-in. Blue Edwards of Utah sank two free throws with 23 seconds to go to make it 108-107 before Danny Ainge, who scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half, made two free throws with 12.4 seconds to go to boost the lead back to three.

"Clyde made a great play to make it a three-point lead," Port-

land coach Rick Adelman said, "then we got a little lucky when Malone missed that jumper."

Utah coach Jerry Sloan said his team was trying to get Stockton or Blue Edwards open for the game-tying attempt at the finish.

"They did a great job covering both of them," Sloan said of the Blazers. "But Jeff still got a good look. He made one of those to tie a game last week, but he didn't get this one."

Terry Porter added 17 points and Jerome Kersey and Buck Williams had 15 apiece for the Blazers. Karl Malone scored 30, 14 in the fourth quarter, for Utah. Stockton had 21 points and 15 assists and Edwards scored 21.

The Blazers repeatedly burned the Jazz with back-door plays. "It was like we turned our heads as if we had our hand in the cookie jar," Sloan said. "They must have been 8-for-8 on that."

Portland took the lead for good with a 16-6 run over the last six minutes of the third quarter. Ainge, who scored 12 of his 14 points in the second half, concluded the outburst with a 3-pointer that gave the Blazers a 76-67 lead at the end of the period.

Utah was called for five offensive fouls in the third quarter, three of them on Karl Malone.

The lead never reached double figures for either team and no team led by more than seven in the first half.

On This Date...

Feb. 25, 1922 — The Beavers defeated Washington 31-27 in a tight game that went into double overtime. OAC suffered their only two losses of the season to UW in Corvallis. But the Beavers turned the tables for two wins in Seattle, including this one. That year's team, led by all-American Marshall "Mush" Hjelt, won 21 of 23 games played, and outscored its opponents 852-421.

On Feb. 3 of that year, Washington officially changed its mascot from the "Sundodgers" to the "Huskies."

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RIDER, from page 11

Lake Resort on the way back to your car. This section is wide and smooth, with only a slight drop-off on the right.

This loop takes about two hours because of the highly technical section on the eastern shore. The trail is best in the off-season due to low numbers of users. Check the snow level before you go and dress warmly; include raingear.

Now for the politics. The trail has signs at almost every trailhead stating "hiker only," put there to keep horses off the trail before bikes were an issue. The trail does not have a closure to mountain bikes. The ranger district is in the process of "collecting input" on proposed uses for the trail, and will make some kind of recommendation to the forest supervisor soon. Unfortunately, the signs create the illusion of bike prohibition and every hiker feels the issue needs to be addressed with you.

Try to be kind and civil, for they know not what they do. Certain parties have offered to mark the trail with signs stating that a review is underway and that bikes are presently allowed, but the ranger nixed the idea for some reason. Members of the cycling community have accused the district of slanting trail use input by keeping the signs in place, and creating a conflict between user groups that could have been easily avoided.

Clearly, collecting appropriate user response is impossible if the pedestrians think the cyclists are breaking the law. The ranger district presently has only three trails open to bikes;

the rest of their trails are in wilderness, and off-limits. Of these three, two are almost never maintained, languishing at the bottom of their priority list. They do not understand why the bicycling community isn't happy with this.

The forest service generally appears inadequate in preventing user conflict, possibly because of lack of funds: They do not have the money to maintain enough trails to spread out the users. (Write your congressman.) Additionally the problem is multiplied by the fact that they have no criteria for an "appropriate mountain bike trail," with most of the opening or closing of trails based on whim and speculation. Through a random collection of forest service administrative bungling, old-boy politics, and xenophobic classism, mountain bikes are constantly discriminated against without due process. At present, this trail is open and outstanding. The future is uncertain.

Next week: McKenzie River Trail - waterfalls section
 The Mac Report: Volunteers are needed to help maintain Alpha Trail on Saturday, Feb 29. Call Mary Rellergert in the Research Forest office at 745-6332, ext. 17. Beta-release versions of 50 Choice Single-Tracks: Mid-Valley will be available to those mountain bikers who participate.

Michael Orendurff is the author of "50 Choice Single-Tracks: a Comprehensive Guide to Mountain Bike Trails Around Portland," and is currently taking a masters in biomechanics at OSU.

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