

# Student's movie idea comes to big screen

By Joan Herman  
Of the Emerald

Brenda Mann sat conspicuously in the front row of the movie theater, watching the credits role by on the screen.

Actors, director, producer, writers, stage hands. All their names appeared. But not the one she was looking for.

Finally, at the very end, when all the credits had been given and the movie theater emptied, she saw what she'd been only half expecting.

"Special thanks to the Billy Mills Indian Youth Program."

"It was so exciting," Mann says of the special credit. "I went blind when I saw that."

Considering Mann's involvement in the recently released film "Running Brave," her excitement is not surprising. The University junior was one of 18 members of the program who conceived the idea of making a film that told the story of Bill Mills, a Sioux Indian and winner of the 10,000 meter race in the 1964 Olympics. Mills is the only American ever to have won an Olympic gold medal at that distance.

The film, now playing at the Valley River Center, stars Robby Benson in the title role.

"It was wonderful the first time we saw it. Then we thought 'Let's watch it again,' and

we did." Mann says she enjoyed the movie so much, "It seemed like it was only 15 minutes long."

Mann and 17 other members of the program acted as advisers to producer Ira Englander in helping get the movie off the ground. She and her friends came up with the film's catchy title, which plays off Mills' Indian heritage and his struggle against prejudice in a strange culture.

The group also offered suggestions about how the film should be cast and viewed some actors' auditions.

The film follows Mills' rise from an impoverished South Dakota reservation to become the undisputed star of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. His winning time was 28:24.04.

As a member of the Tringet tribe in Southeastern Alaska, Mann says she can identify specifically with Mills because of her Indian heritage. But the film, Mann says, is not just about Mills, Indians or runners. It is about human struggle and triumph.

"It's not only for Indians but for anyone who's had to struggle against a dominant pressure in society," she says.

Ironically, being an American native in a country of immigrants, the struggle for acceptance and respect is an "enduring"

lifelong struggle, Mann says.

"It's not uncommon to grow up hearing slanderous things (against Indians)," she says. "It's a paradox. If you're not successful, then they get mad at you. But they don't like you being up, being successful, either."

Mann has become fairly close friends with Mills through their involvement in the program that is named after him. The program tries to be an inspirational organization to Indian youths around the United States, and Mills is a perfect role model, says Mann, who has been involved with the group since its beginnings in 1980.

At annual Indian youth conferences, Mills will be there, telling long yarns to the kids.

"He's a great storyteller and he's inspirational. He makes a special effort to pull each child aside and say 'You can be strong. You can win.' I remember him always emphasizing patience and understanding."

His motivation for winning a gold medal, Mann says, "wasn't just a personal 'I want to run in the Olympics' kind of thing."

"His driving force was that he wanted to bring recognition to his people. Anger was his impetus to take his Indian tradition as far as he could. It was so difficult where he was living (at Kansas University) to work with prejudice, ignorance and bigoted




Brenda Mann

attitudes."

Mann hopes to attend a private law school once she graduates from the University, and ultimately defend Indians and other minorities against a criminal justice system that commonly — and prejudicially — hands unjust sentences to them because of their race, she says.

Mann knows it won't be easy to achieve her goals. Striving for them will be an enduring challenge and struggle, she says. But like Mills, she is determined to meet the challenge with patience and understanding.



**TINO'S**  
SPAGHETTI  
HOUSE  
PIZZA

## TINO'S

- Full dinner menu
- 23 varieties of Pizzas
- Whole wheat and white crust
- Pizzas to go - cooked and uncooked

**15th and Willamette**

**Hours:**  
**Mon.-Thurs. 11:00-Midnight**  
**Fri. 11:00-1:00 a.m.**  
**Sat. 5:00-1:00 a.m.**  
**Sun. 5:00-11:00 p.m.**

**342-8111**

## EUROPEAN AUTO REPAIR



☆ TUNE-UPS
☆ BRAKES

☆ FUEL INJECTION

*George Rode*

n.i.a.s.e. certified general mechanic

**PHONE 485-8226**

**1917 FRANKLIN** CLOSE TO CAMPUS

DID YOU KNOW...

**Long Island Ice Teas**  
are only

# \$1.25

on Tuesday nights at

*Callahan's*

440 Coburg Rd  
343-1221



HOW TO IMPROVE A DUCK

1.

## SPORTO..... MORE THAN JUST YOUR FAVORITE BOOT!

Just because Sporto Duck Boots and Shoes are warm and comfortable, terrific looking, and come in the newest fashion colors - don't think we've been resting on our tail feathers! Come see our unique (and giftable) Sporto Collection.



4.

1. SPORTO POSTER	1.25
2. SPORTO SLIPPERS	17.00
3. SPORTO DUCK BOOTS	36.00
4. SPORTO DUCK SHOES	28.00
5. SPORTO SKI HAT	9.00

(Not shown)

SPORTO NIGHT SHIRTS	12.00
SPORTO PONCHO	1.25



5.

# Kaufman's

CAMPUS 485-1581