

Thoughts and reflections on the Trials

Never one to avoid the quest of my life goal, "Have more fun," I recently attended the 1984 Olympic Track and Field Trials in Los Angeles. As a typical Eugene jogger, I have followed the Trials since my college days, way back in 1976 at Hayward Field. Following is my look at Life at the Trials and in L.A.

With high expectations, I arrived in Los Angeles on the first day of the Olympic Trials and was quickly chauffeured via the city's most popular form of transportation, the automobile, to the heart of Southern California — the beach.

The beach is every Eugenean's dream: sand, surf, sun... prolonged visual and physical contact. Ah, heaven. "But why are there goosebumps on my kneecaps?" I mused.

It was a brisk 65 degrees with low, ominous clouds covering the sand people — those bodies with skin the color of the Coppertone Girl.

With my plans to sunbathe shot down, my hosts and I made our way to the Los Angeles Memorial Col-

Commentary by Jerril Nilson

iseum. The science of cloning seemed to be in use as I viewed the field.

With drill team precision the blue-sport-coated, dapper white-hatted judges moved across the field, folding stools in hand, to their appointed places. The contestants, too, entered in precise formation, seeking their lanes of destiny.

The clumsy herd of clicking and buzzing media and the huge Astrovision screen made it all seem surreal. Only the absence of the perennial Chris Schenkle and the occasional mispronunciation of Team Adidas by the announcer rattled us back to reality.

The Trials commanded more attention this year than they had in Eugene. America's athletes were being promenaded in such slick publications as Vanity Fair, and their names like Lewis, Decker and Salazar are known to many more than the Eternal Sports Fan.

My companions also were long-time Oregon track fans and former Eugene residents. As we watched the Trials, we felt as if we had arranged a meeting with an

old college flame, one who had moved to the big city. We wondered if it would feel the same when we met again.

Hayward Field is home. It's our backyard, the track on which any one of us can run, walk or jump. The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is stately.

Welcome to L.A., where life is the incredulous fact that freeways were built to accommodate speeds of at least 55 mph, and that in the metropolitan area that speed may never be achieved. Life is the beach and the possible ratio of skin cancer victims to stockholders of suntan lotion companies.

My non-Trial waking hours were seldom relaxing



Graphic by Karen Mobley

yet often exciting. I was introduced to Hollywood Parties, Part One.

At the opening of a new Nike outlet in L.A., conversations revolved around the Trials and tribulations of the athletes and stars.

We ogled the great, and the soon to be greater: Chandra Cheeseborough, fresh from her 400-meter victory; Eurythmic's Dave Stewart, just in from another continent; Alberto Salazar, speculating on the last lap of an Olympic marathon.

And the excitement was more than the food, the beverage and the famous. It was the great ruby-red

swoosh that violated the roof and the Michael Jackson ("Billie Jean") lighted runway near the shoe-fitting area that made me smile, drink and think, "I luvvvv L.A."

Back at the stadium, my hosts and I began to feel more at home as the week moved on. The famed peanut

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tosser, the malt man, the extra large beers, and the likes of Henry Marsh, Craig Virgin and Mac Wilkins brought us closer to that "old feeling."

Yet it was the upsets and the names not well known that produced our most spontaneous cheers: the fab four — Earl Jones, Johnny Gray, John Marshall and James Robinson — all under 1:44 in the 800 meters; Mike Tully's American pole vault record of 19-0 $\frac{3}{4}$; the look of relief and yet of assurance as Carl Lewis kissed the track after winning the 200 meters; our inability to slight Dwight Stones' cocky attitude as he leapt to a new American high jump record of 7-8, 11 years after setting a world record in that event; and the familiar thrill-of-victory-and-agonies-of-defeat of Ruth Wysocki and Mary Decker in the 1,500 meters.

During all those hours at the track, as smog-tinted sunsets settled behind the Festive Federalism, one activity was constant: cheers for the local heroes, the names from home. Claudette Groenendaal, Don Clary, Kathy Hayes, Cory Randall, Dub Myers, Julie Brown, Marty Cooksey, Erin Forbes.

No matter the outcome, victory was achieved by all as America's best took the home court advantage at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Hayward Field never would begrudge this chance.

No, the footstomping and the name-chanting of Hayward heydays were not there. But I could swear it was August; the sun reflected gold.

Jerril Nilson is a former Emerald entertainment editor and now works as an art director in Eugene.

Craft Center offers all a 'creative outlet'

By David Carlson
Of the Emerald

Whether a working artist, a neophyte craftsman or a practical repair person, those with a creative mind may find a haven at the EMU Craft Center.

Located in Room 69 on the ground floor of the EMU, the Craft Center is an open studio area where students, staff, faculty, alumni and their spouses have access to facilities and tools in a variety of crafts. These include ceramics, film developing, wood working, jewelry and metals, stained glass and even bicycle repair.

"Our purpose is to provide a creative outlet for people who aren't fine arts majors and can't get into fine arts classes," says Mia Arends, Craft Center assistant coordinator.

This "creative outlet" costs \$6 a term or \$1 a day for current or spring term University students, faculty, staff and their spouses. University alumni must pay \$12 for a term membership or \$2 for day use. Arends says these membership dues, along with workshop income and an incidental-fee allotment support the Craft Center.

With a membership, people are free to use most of the Craft Center facilities Monday through Friday and on most weekends. Some proficiency must be shown before working in such areas as the darkroom, Arends says, but informal training is often available, and there is constant supervision in potentially hazardous areas such as the wood shop.

The interested craftsman

may also turn to the Craft Center's library, which members may use while in the center. It contains subjects from kite building to gem cutting and cabinetry. The center also sells supplies in all major craft areas.

But if the words kiln and lathe are foreign, help is available in the form of summer craft workshops.

"These are a natural outgrowth of our program because some people don't know how to use our tools," Arends says.

Upcoming one- and two-day workshops include hand-spinning wool, hand-coloring black and white photographs, woodworking with a router and wood lathe, and natural-dyeing wool. These workshops cost from \$11 to \$15 for Craft Center members. Members of the general public attending workshops will be eligible for a \$12 Craft Center membership.

These workshops can lead to a sort of addiction according to Tammerah Martin, who spends time every day in the Craft Center ceramics studio. Martin took two workshops beginning in the fall of 1983.

"I love coming here early in the morning when it is quiet and nice to work," she says.

Other members like Dave Bickford, who is building a vanity for his home, use the Craft Center only periodically.

"I come here when my tools at home won't do," he says. "It's great for their shop equipment."

For more information on the Craft Center and its workshops, visit their studios or call 686-4361.

Taft seminar probes problems of reporting political process

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

Political Science Prof. Jim Klonoski defended state political conventions Tuesday as the "fullest expression of the state of Oregon" and chastised Oregon journalists for discounting those conventions.

During a panel discussion at the Taft Seminar for Teachers, Register-Guard editorial writer Henny Willis joked that the thing he liked best about not being a reporter was: "I don't have to go to Democratic or Republican state conventions anymore."

But Klonoski was not amused.

"That (attitude) bothers the hell right out of me," Klonoski retorted, in the only emotional outburst in an otherwise sedate discussion of political journalism in Oregon. Four Oregon journalists answered questions and explained the process of covering politics to about 30 high school teachers at the seminar.

Bickering and political infighting often characterize these conventions, Klonoski admitted, but they allow the people to voice their opinions on public issues.

"Watching people try to rule themselves is not a pretty picture," Klonoski said. Democracy is a "constant struggle," but it does work despite its disorderly appearance, he said.

The panelists agreed that political journalists need to be more in touch with the average voter.

"We have to retrain ourselves to find out what's going on out there," said Terry McDermott, political reporter for The Register-Guard. "Political insiders are often the last to know what's going on."

Failure to accurately gauge the political pulse was the main reason that Bud Clark's victory in the Portland mayoral race took The Oregonian by surprise, said Foster Church, The Oregonian's political writer.

Clark, a Portland tavern owner, received 53 percent of the votes to beat incumbent Mayor Frank Ivancie in the May 15 race. Church did not cover the race, but he

apologized for his colleagues' failure to take Clark's campaign seriously.

"Most of us considered (Clark's campaign) a bit of a joke," Church said. "We did not pay much attention to it."

But deciding what campaigns are covered and how much attention is given to it is not a decision of the newspapers' editorial boards, McDermott said, but is decided by lower-level editors and reporters.

A major problem with political coverage in Oregon is the lack of manpower devoted to it, McDermott said.

"Essentially, there are two full-time political reporters in the state of Oregon Foster and me."

But newspaper readers are not always interested in political coverage, Willis said.

"The folks out there get pretty tired of politics by the time the general election rolls around," he said.

McDermott questioned the value of research to find out what people want to read in their newspapers or see on television newscasts.

"What people say they want to see on the nightly newscast may not be what they need to see," he said.

"I hope we never get to the point where we do Nielsen ratings on newspapers," Willis said. Rating TV newscasts like other television programs is "absolutely asinine," he said.

Willis said he did not know the impact of editorial endorsements on the outcome of political races, but said it was the newspaper's "sacred duty" to do them.

Klonoski, a former state Democratic chairperson, charged that most of the major newspapers in Oregon are owned by Republicans, but the panelist's maintained that the political views of the owners do not color political coverage.

The seminar, sponsored by the Robert A. Taft Institute of Government, will continue at the University until Saturday. The event is one of about 20 being held throughout the country this summer.