

MONSON

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Richard Lucas, who finished his three-year Oregon career after last season, echoed Brantley's thoughts.

"(Monson) tries to instill a lot of things that are off the court," Lucas said. "I came to campus as an 18-year-old kid and now I'm 22 years old and I can han-

dle things like an adult. He was almost like a father figure or a parent away from home. Someone you could go to."

Brantley and Lucas also said Monson stressed academics on an equal basis with basketball.

"He really stressed the academic side," Lucas said. "I came to the UO, yes, to play basketball, and I loved every minute of that. But it's also to get an education."

Some of Monson's current players also said they've learned more from their

coach than fast breaks and zone defenses.

"He tries to make you more of an adult," Oregon freshman Jeff Potter said. "He's really helped me grow up, especially coming down here as a freshman and being kind of immature. He wants us to be good citizens and get our degrees."

"Off the court he's great," said freshman Johnnie Reece. "He stresses grades a lot. Especially when we're on the road, he makes sure we make our study ta-

bles."

"A lot of people come to college on scholarships and think all they have to do is play basketball," redshirt freshman Orlando Williams said. "But coach Monson lets you know that you're here to be a student, also."

Monson's success in molding the lives of the young men he is supposed to be leading seems, then, in direct contrast to his lack of success on the court this season.

CAMPUS PH. 485-1581

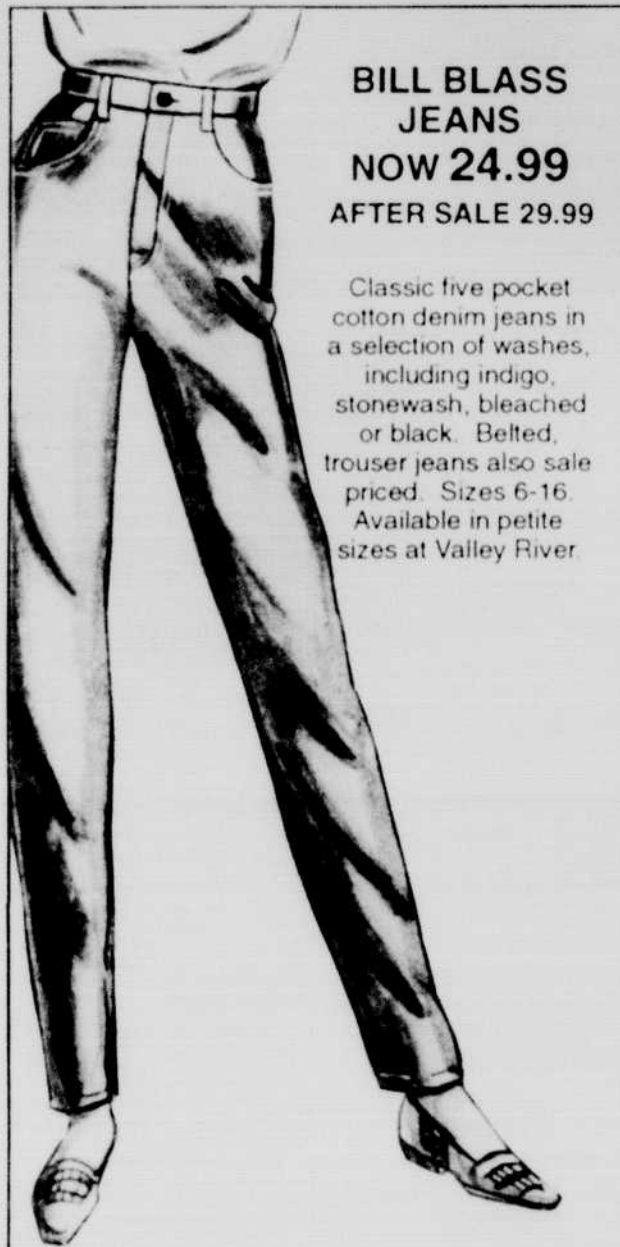
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