

UNIVERSITY

Student creates drama program for high school kids

By Pat Daly

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Three years ago, when Laurie Kash came to the University, her energy and drive made her an A student and a performer. Today that energy and drive are what keeps her going in the face of adversity.

Kash started at the University as a music major and changed in her sophomore year to drama/English. In her freshman year she was in the production of *Into the Woods*, and as a sophomore, she had a role in a musical version of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Director of that production, Jack Watson, said he remembers Kash as a strong singer and a strong woman. He added that he was impressed with her enthusiasm.

"She was a triple threat," Watson said. "She could act, dance and sing."

The real change in Kash's life came on Sept. 9, when the deck she and 12 other University students were on collapsed, sending them, and Kash's career as a performer, plummeting 30 feet.

Kash suffered fractures to her back, pelvis, tail bone and ankle, in addition to numerous internal injuries. She was confined to a bed for two months and didn't walk for about nine months. That kind of shock would ruin most people, but not Kash.

"Going from doing high impact aerobics and dancing

to laying in bed for six months watching Geraldo is really hard," she said. "So just getting back into school and doing ESCAPE was really powerful for me."

ESCAPE is a community outreach program that helps students gain experience in their field. Kash said that through ESCAPE she regained confidence in herself that she lost in her accident.

Redirecting her energy into English education, Kash found a volunteer position at Elmira High School teaching English. Kash said that the kids kept saying that they wanted a drama department. In winter term, she went back and taught a drama class every night for two hours.

"I taught them improvisational skills and the basics of acting," Kash said. "To find out if I had the material for a cast — to see if I had kids who could put on a show."

Kash said her idea was to get "her kids" involved in theater and for them to gain some skills and experience.

"I wanted to impart what I know about theater and provide some experience for them," she said.

Kash and her students will put it all together this Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings with their rendition of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Kash said she chose *Midsummer Night's Dream* because of her past experience with it, and because it's

"all about romance and fun." But she has had problems with producing this play. One of her performers was arrested, one of the roles is being filled by a parent, and one actor just recently quit, leaving her looking for a replacement while the rest of the crew is in dress-rehearsals.

Despite these difficulties, Kash expects to put on a solid performance. She stresses though that it's more important for the kids to be able to say that they were in a Shakespearean production.

Where is Kash going from here? She said she is graduating this term, even with her two changes in majors and having missed two terms due to her accident. She is enrolled in the masters of teaching program at Oregon State University, and she said she is interviewing for her placement in the fall at Philomath High School. She said she will be the youngest member of her family with a masters degree, which she said she hopes to have by age 22. That wouldn't surprise her father, her biggest fan and promotional manager. He said that she has always gone "one hundred and five percent" and is "perpetually over-committed."

"I'm glad to be getting done," she said. While the working for experience is fine with her, Kash said "I want a job. I love doing this *pro bono* stuff, but someday I'd like to bring home some money."

University teacher will represent U.S. at Olympic summit meeting

By Natasha Shepard

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

A University physical education teacher, Lani Loken-Dahle, will be one of four U.S. representatives at an Olympic summit meeting in Olympia, Greece this week. The international delegation will meet at the International Olympic Academy, located near the Olympic ruins.

Loken-Dahle was nominated by the U.S. Diving Committee to be on the U.S. Olympic Committee. She was chosen to be the team leader of the four-person delegation representing the U.S.

Loken-Dahle is a former U.S. champion diver in the 10 meter and has competed in several national competitions, including winning a bronze medal in the World Student Games in Turin, Italy in 1970.

The summit will be, "a gathering of sport representatives from all over the world," Loken-Dahle said. The group meeting will emphasize the Olympic education for youth.

Each member of the delegation was asked to prepare a 10-page research paper on some aspect of Olympic education and "Olympism," which Loken-Dahle said involves moral, as well as physical, growth and intellectual development.

Loken-Dahle's research centered around the need for a greater emphasis on morality for athletes. Her paper asserts that research should be done on the importance of morality education in sports and that more emphasis be placed on teaching young athletes to be both physically and morally fit.

"I'd advocate a more integrated approach toward morality, not just in sports, but worldwide," Loken-Dahle said.

In order to achieve this, Loken-Dahle suggests a reward system, such as awards for sportsmanship. While athletes are recognized for physical achievements, both monetarily and with different awards and recognition, athletes should be rewarded for moral behavior "to entice people to perform in those areas as well," Loken-Dahle said.

Upon returning, Loken-Dahle, who teaches activities, such as diving and trampoline classes, will continue to work toward educating young people in the attitude of "Olympism." Loken-Dahle will work with both the University and Northwest public schools to share what she has

learned at the conference.

"I hope to bring back a lot of information and have a chance to share it with people in the University as well as in the public schools," Loken-Dahle said.

The conference will also concentrate on making plans for the Atlanta Games. A variety of international delegations and representatives will present their research, many of whom are involved in the 1996 Olympic planning.

According to Loken-Dahle, the conference will emphasize the preservation of the Olympic ideal and consider cultural aspects of the Olympics. The Olympic Academy, which began in 1896 and was built at the Olympia site in the 1960s, was created to oversee the maintenance of the Olympic philosophy, said Loken-Dahle.

ET ALS

MEETING

India Association will meet today at 5 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 344-0920.

Eugene Participatory Dialogue Group will meet for a dialogue on the shared meaning between people as proposed by Dr. David Bohm, who saw physics as art, tonight at 7:15 in the EWEB Community Room. For more information, call 344-1383.

Deadline for submitting *Et Als* to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. *Et Als* run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon and is requested to be published earlier.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style.

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