

Dance

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leadership. "Coming from high school and having three coaches, it was very different," Kizer said. "I think we did pretty good [this year], considering." Because all coaching for Club Sports teams must be done on a volunteer basis, the team opted to elect a captain, someone who would act as an authority figure within the team, as well as a coordinator for all team events. This left the dance routine choreography up to the team members themselves.

Carly Spainhower, a senior and three-year veteran of the team, took on the responsibilities of captain this season.

After a stressful and frustrating year as team leader, Spainhower has insisted that in the future the group should elect at least two team members to do the job. One captain would make contacts and handle details for

performances and competitions, while the other would choreograph the routines. "It's too much for one person," Spainhower said. "It was too much for me."

Coaching isn't the only problem facing the team. Along with recruitment difficulties caused by a lack of notoriety, the team also faces monetary problems.

Because the dance team has one of the smallest budgets of the 42 Club Sports teams, most of its money is obtained through sponsors and fundraising, as well as team members paying from out of their own pockets. This money goes toward team expenses such as costumes for games and competitions, stereo equipment and other miscellaneous costs.

The bulk of the fundraising, though, goes toward funding a trip to Las Vegas, Nev., for the annual national competition. "If we had more options and more organization, we would have been able to pull a lot more money in," Kizer said.

Despite growing interest in the team, the problems with money will continue to be an issue as long as it remains a club sport. Club Sports is fairly limited in its overall budget availability because it is funded through the Erb Memorial Union.

"There are so many clubs and they can only give out so much money," Taft said. "They do as much as they can for us."

Spainhower knows that in order for her team to truly become successful, it needs to acquire a coach and have the ability to compete on a larger level. For this to happen, she said, the dance team would have to be taken under the wing of the Athletic Department.

"Other schools we've seen [at nationals] have their whole cheerleading squad and dance team perform together," Spainhower said. "They're both completely funded by their athletic department, and they root each other on at all the events."

The Oregon dancers, however, are

well aware that the possibility of this happening here is remote because they do not provide a money-making opportunity.

Yet, despite the hardships they face and the lack of notoriety they possess, the members of the team continue to work hard for something they truly enjoy doing.

"We're people who really know what we love to do, and we'll go to extreme measures to keep doing it," Taft said. "I mean, here we are, practicing three hours a day, and nobody even knows we exist."

While a few members of the Oregon team are interested in careers in dance, most of them are in it for the sheer fun of it all. "It's not all work," Taft said. "We're all good friends, too."

As of now, it is uncertain which route the dance team will take, though the team does not have many options. "Well, hopefully one day someone in a high place will say, 'Hey, we're the University of Oregon, why don't we have a dance team?'"

Spainhower said. "Until that happens, the team will never be quite where we want it to be."

For now, hard work and determination will have to do. Kizer said the most important thing is to gain recognition because with it comes more support for the team.

And until the team members can find somebody willing to coach them, they'll continue the struggle on their own. "There are a lot of forces working against us, but we'll keep trying to make a name for ourselves," Taft said.

As for all the hard work the dancers put in, the question remains: Is it worth it?

Like many student athletes, their answer is yes. The members of the Oregon dance team appreciate the stress relief, the sense of accomplishment and the opportunity to perform for crowds.

But, most of all, they do it for fun. "The most rewarding thing," Taft said, "is I get to do what I love most, and that's dance."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 5). Don't tell everyone everything. That's been your habit, but it's unwise. This year, develop a partnership you can depend upon. You provide the ideas, and your mate leads you both into action. You point out the hazards, and your mate steers you around them. Love and adventure are your reward for learning to share both your goals and the work it takes to get there.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — You may feel a little nervous if you're in unfamiliar territory. What you already know applies — or some of it, anyway. Your instincts should be good, but it won't hurt to check the map or the manual every once in a while. Heed the advice of one who's been there and done that.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — The money is coming in and going out quickly. Don't waste it on stuff you don't need. Trouble is, you may find something you've been wanting for ages. If so, you may have to finally get it before the money runs out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is an 8 — An argument is lively, and it's all in good fun. Especially now, since you know you'll win — unless you concede because of something you learn. That might also count as a win, by the way. Leave yourself open to that possibility.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 5 — You're in for more surprises in your work. Somebody wants the job done immediately but keeps changing their mind. New information comes to light, complicating matters further. It's a day full of surprises. Be flexible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Love is in the air. If you don't have a sweetheart, look around. Odds are good you already know this person well. If you're already married to each other, take your love to a new level.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 — Today and tomorrow will be the worst. Actually,

tomorrow will be better. To keep the jerks from undermining your confidence, ask questions. If you can keep them talking, you'll actually learn a lot. It's a great defense.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 9 — Remember the line about the truth setting you free? That's liable to happen again, soon. Study just as much as you can, at home, at school — everywhere. You're on a fast track when it comes to learning. Not even the sky is the limit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — There's a great deal of money to be gained — and lost. Even if you think you have the game figured out, an unexpected development makes the ending unpredictable. There's an illusion involved. Is it that you make a cheap item look like an expensive one? Perfect!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — This is a great day to hook up with a partner. He or she may find you, actually. Be wary of casual flirtations, because one of them could stick. Don't make promises you can't keep, even in jest. The good news: There'll always be more you can learn from each other.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 5 — Expect changes, and make contingency plans. If one thing doesn't work, you'll do the other, etc. You may not use all the alternatives you envision, but it's good to have them ready. You'll save precious moments. Time is money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — A fascinating conversation opens up new ideas. But growth can mean change, and change can be uncomfortable. When you present this radical theory to somebody you love, do it with joy and enthusiasm. Your attitude makes a world of difference.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 5 — Continue to watch, wait and hide as the battle rages around you. They won't listen to what you say, so why bother? Save your comments for later, when they'll be better appreciated — begged for, even.

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