



Wednesday, October 2, 2002

SINCE 1900

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

EUGENE, OREGON

Volume 104, Issue 24

Oregon icon Len Casanova dies at age 97

Former football coach and Athletic Director Len Casanova left a rich legacy at the University's sports department

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Len Casanova, one of the most successful coaches in Oregon football history and a beloved icon in Eugene, died late Monday night at a local nursing home. He was 97.

Casanova was the Ducks' football coach from 1951-66, and he stepped down as the winningest coach in Oregon history. The next year, Casanova became the second athletic director for the Ducks and served until 1970, when he retired but continued to be active in the Oregon sports community until his death.

"He brought respect, dignity and integrity to Oregon athletics," Athletic Director Bill Moos said.

Casanova was inducted into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame in 1977, and received the highest honor of the American Football Coaches Association, the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award, in 1990.

In 1991, the Oregon Athletic Department honored the former coach and athletic director by naming its brand new office and training facility after him. The facility stands today as a landmark for Oregon sports.

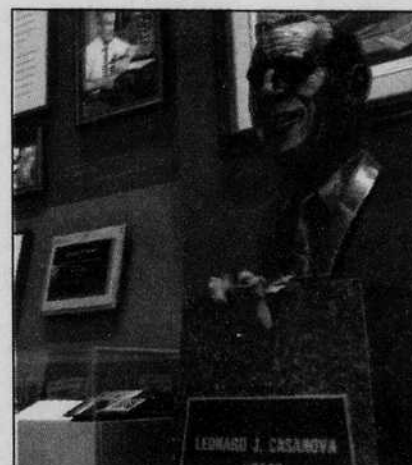
"I think of Cas every day as I drive in here," Moos said from his office in the Casanova Center on Tuesday. "I look at his picture every day before I go up the stairs; it's just a ritual. I'm glad that we built the tribute that we did in the

entryway, so that people can read and learn about this great man and what he did for the University of Oregon."

Casanova started his head coaching career at his alma mater, Santa Clara, where he coached for four seasons before moving on to Pittsburgh for one season. In 1951, he took over a 1-9 Oregon squad and slowly turned the team around, producing a 6-4 record in 1954 for the Ducks' first winning season in six years. Casanova went to his first of three bowl games in 1957. In that game, Oregon nearly upset No. 1-ranked Ohio State in the Rose Bowl, the last time the Ducks would play in the Rose Bowl until 1994.

Casanova finished his Oregon career with an 82-73-8 record, and finished his overall head

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RIOT restitution

The city of Eugene says the University is partly responsible for the weekend damage and should help pay the costs

Brad Schmidt
City/State Politics Reporter

Eugene city officials called on the University on Tuesday to shoulder some of the responsibility for the weekend's riot and said a "Party Patrol" could be reinstated to prevent future riots.

Making his first public statement since the incident, City Manager Jim Carlson said the University — and not just its students — are responsible for last week's riot that cost the Eugene Police Department upwards of \$20,000.

"This activity happened because of the University of Oregon," Carlson said. "They were getting ready to start classes again. There is a relationship between this activity and the University, and we need to work with them to make sure they help us in preventing this in the future."

Vice President and Dean of Students Anne Leavitt refused to blame the University for the actions of students off campus.

"Certainly the University would not take any responsibility at all for (the riot) occurring," she said.

To prevent future riots from occurring, however, Leavitt said the University and city need to establish a partnership.



Will Shaver for the Emerald

The University says it is n't to blame for riot-related costs, like the cleanup of a charred golf cart carcass (above).

City officials hope the University supports them so future riots can be prevented.

"I believe the administration of the University understands the importance of being a good neighbor," Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey said. "At this point, we haven't received any funds. We haven't received any commitment of funds. But I can assure you, they are going

to be working very strenuously to see how we can spread the cost of these activities."

Historically, the University hasn't accepted responsibility for riots in the past. But city officials remain optimistic.

"We intend to press for this," Torrey said.

Turn to **Riot**, page 8

Summer blazes heat up new initiative

The severity of recent fires draws attention to future forest health and the development of a controversial initiative.

Jody Burruss
Environment/Science/
Technology Reporter

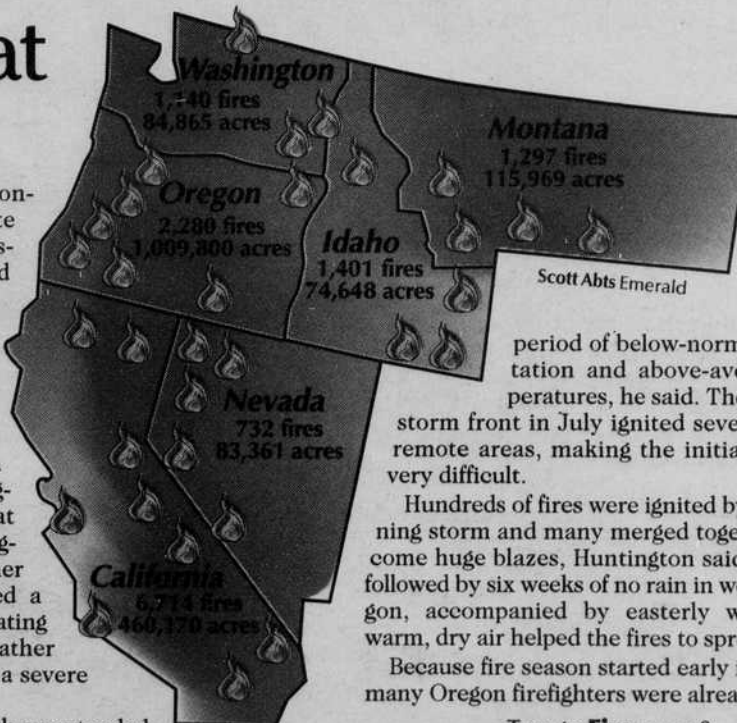
A combination of unfavorable weather conditions and forest management practices boosted the 2002 fire season to nearly double the 10-year average, burning more than 1 million Oregon acres and costing more than \$318 million, a spokesman for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center David Widmark said.

Because of the seriousness of this fire season, President George W. Bush visited Oregon in August and announced the Healthy Forests Initiative, something he says is designed to restore the health of our forests.

Under this initiative, federal agencies will

work with Congress to create and enact legislation directed at preventing extreme fire seasons.

Bureau of Land Management spokesman Doug Huntington said that short- and long-term weather patterns played a key role in creating the right weather conditions for a severe fire season. It started with an extended



period of below-normal precipitation and above-average temperatures, he said. Then a potent storm front in July ignited several fires in remote areas, making the initial response very difficult.

Hundreds of fires were ignited by one lightning storm and many merged together to become huge blazes, Huntington said. This was followed by six weeks of no rain in western Oregon, accompanied by easterly winds. The warm, dry air helped the fires to spread.

Because fire season started early in the year, many Oregon firefighters were already in other

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Tuition rates are higher in Oregon

OUS schools are graded 'F' for affordability by a leading national education group

Brook Reinhard
News Editor

Public universities in Oregon are less affordable than schools in almost every other state, a leading education group announced Tuesday.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education released a 200-page report evaluating college systems in all 50 states. The group rated states "A" through "F" in five different categories — Oregon received an "F" for affordability, but posted improved results in other areas compared with its scores two years ago.

The failing grade means Oregon University System schools are some of the most expensive in the nation when compared to the income of an average Oregonian. The news comes at a time when the University of Oregon instituted a variable rate structure, with tuition for the 2002-03 school year rising an average 3 percent but as high as 9 percent for some students.

Nancy Goldschmidt, associate vice chancellor for performance and planning for OUS, said education funding should be a priority to improve future scores.

"We need to be earning higher grades

Turn to **OUS**, page 7

WEATHER

Today: High 65, Low 43,

fog turning to clouds

Thursday: High 60, Low 45,

light rain developing

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday

Missing, lost or stolen:

Theft trends on campus

Friday

To the net for another

Civil War — volleyball-style