

features

Alumna teaches dancing

"The world can be ugly at times, but in dance class, it is always beautiful," a Reed College dance teacher once said.

Story and photos
by Ramona Isackson

Leru Bevens, former CCC student, heartily agrees.

"I'll always study dance," said Bevens, who had her first exposure to dance at the age of 26. After moving to this area from southern Oregon, Bevens enrolled at Lake Oswego School of Ballet. Her interest blossomed and she enrolled in a modern dance class at CCC.

"What ballet lacked in creativity, free form and expression, I found in modern," Bevens said.

The dance class, Bevens

said, gave her confidence and she decided to try some academic courses. Starting with one or two of them, encouraged, taking more and more, Bevens discovered an interest in psychology, English, literature, history and theater.

"I was developing, beginning to like myself," she said.

It wasn't long before Bevens started teaching dance for the Oregon City Community Education program, and as a substitute in dance class at the College, then at Reed College, the University of Portland, Northwest Dance Center, various private clubs and junior high and grade schools. She is currently involved in production and performance with various

Portland area dance groups.

Bevens is now starting her own dance school in Oregon City. She is offering classes for all ages.

One class she is particularly enthusiastic about is specifically designed to balance out the athlete in the sports program.

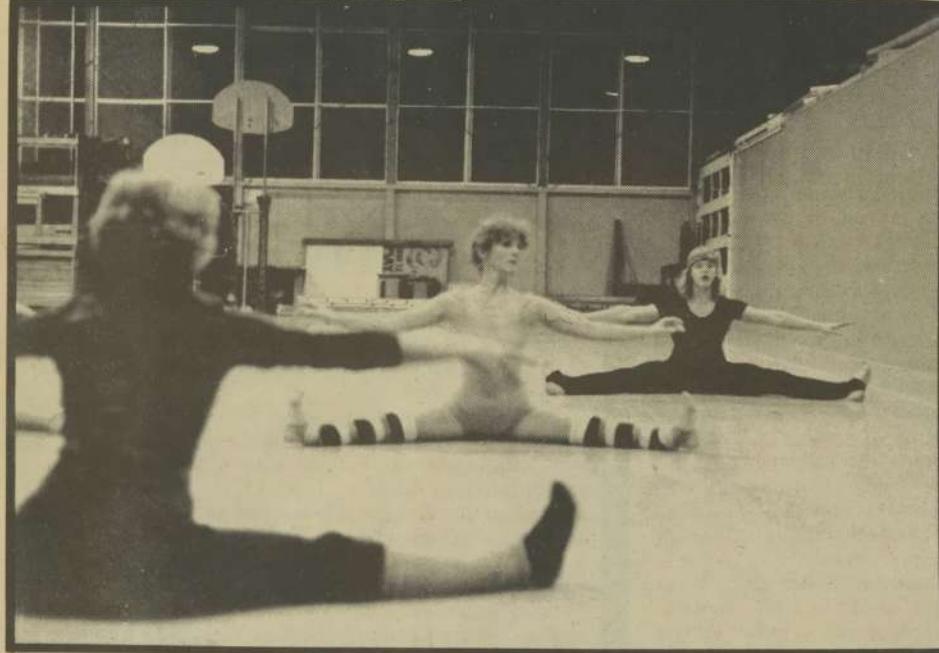
"The body," Bevens said, "is capable of over 2,000 movements. The average person uses only about 200." Dance flexes all muscles so the whole body is evenly toned. "It develops balance, strength, endurance and range, thus reducing the potential for injury," she said.

For more information about Bevens' dance program, call 657-9334 or 656-9298.



ABOVE--Leru Bevens, former CCC student is starting her own dance school.

LEFT--Leru warming-up before dancing.



Sculpture heck of an investment

By T.L. Jeffries

"They were a heck of an investment!" responded Art Department Chairperson Norm Bursheim, when asked how he felt about comments that various campus artworks were a waste of time and money. These include the "Poet's Chair," the Robert Nelson prints in the Community Center, and the various murals. According to Bursheim the College received them for "next to nothing."

The problem is misunderstanding," explained Bursheim. "Too many people look at the rust on the 'Poet's chair' and think: 'junk'."

The sculpture, constructed by Lee Kelly, one of the top sculptors in the nation, was built of a special steel that is designed to rust to predetermined depth and then stop. It was an effect that the artist and

the art advisory board wanted. The assorted colors in the special rust (greens, yellows, browns, and reds) blend in with the surroundings. The sculpture also serves a purpose. It was constructed at a time when the students were very politically-minded, to give them a place to speak out. The sculpture is designed with steps leading up to the platform, where students may speak, debate, preach, or just play a guitar. The surrounding mounds were set up to give a stadium-like appearance, and a place for listeners.

The "Poet's Chair" and the Community Center prints were purchased in a package deal. The College Art Advisory Board, which is made up of 16-17 students, artists, and citizens, approached the Oregon Art Association with their plans and were given a

grant to cover half the costs. So, for a total of \$8,000 the College bought artwork that today is valued at about \$24,000.

The assorted murals on campus cost even less. The mural decorating the cooling tower was done by students, and others were done by top artists for only the cost of materials and meals. According to Bursheim, the painting in Barlow alone would cost several thousand dollars if someone was paid to paint it.

"Some people may think that the \$8,000 we paid for the artwork was a waste, but from the standpoint of art, it was cheap, and a good investment," Bursheim said.

"It's too bad that some people are automatically prejudiced against anything rusty, but it's a beautiful color and we shouldn't deprive ourselves of it."



Clackamas Community College

