Les Tipton: from throwing to sculpting

While attending Rainier High School, he competed in baseball, potball and track. Due to his athletic abilities, he was granted the pportunity to compete in the East/West Shriner Football game, nd also earned the title of AA State High School Champion in he javelin and the discus for his track attributes.

he javelin and the discus for his track attributes. By the time he was a sophomore at the University of Oregon, e started setting his sights on Olympic competition. In his senior ear of college, he knew he had a good chance of actually making to the 1964 Olympics, being held in Tokyo, Japan. He achieved his Olympic dream as he represented the United tates in the javelin event in '64. He must be a coach now, right?

Wrong.

The person in question, Les Tipton, gave up coaching two ears ago when he resigned from the job of Clackamas head track easing when he resigned from the foor Clackamas head track oach to devote more time to his artwork and teaching. Even though Tipton gave up coaching as a job, he still unof-cially coaches College tracksters. The College art instructor also keeps in touch with his track ays by conducting track clinics at local high schools and the Col-

Even though art and athletics seem an unlikely combination, at didn't stop Tipton from taking part in both since he iscovered the two when he was in the eighth grade. "There is a lot of correspondence between the two," stated Tip-

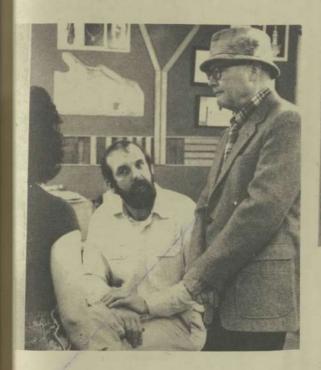
on. "Sensitivity, ability to think about an idea and then perform it, and-and-eye coordination, and both are abstract." To Tipton, "there is no financial reward (in art or athletics). hey are abstracted from the norm of life, but there's a personal

ed to participate.

eed to participate." "I consider myself more a teacher than an artist," stated Tipton, ut he has submitted some of his artwork to small group shows. Tipton works mainly in sculpting, but also shows his artisticness n ceramics and iewelru-making. In his ceramics work, Tipton doesn't usually create objects uch as cups and dishes, but instead does mostly scupture promise.

ramics The goal Tipton is working toward in his art is to gain in-vidualism.

In making his decision to give up athletics for full-time work in rt, Tipton stated, "Family was the most important thing, but it vas something I had to decide on myself." "After 20 years of athletics, I won't give it up totally," stated Tipton. "I miss the contact with the athletes," he added.



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