

Student battles homelessness along road to self discovery

LANEY from page 4
 jockeys in California. But it was news-copy writing that spawned Laney's dream to become a journalist.

For the next few years, Laney enrolled in and dropped out of college and held various jobs. She also hustled pool for awhile, and won first place and \$25,000 at a San Francisco amateur tournament.

She also married and soon divorced the father of her daughters during this time.

Despite the divorce, the ensuing years were good for Laney. She was living in Los Angeles, and had a high-paying job. People in L.A. thought she was Hispanic because of her brown skin and accepted her. And she had her kids. But L.A. was becoming increasingly violent and unsafe. She didn't want to raise her pre-teen children in that environment.

So in 1988, Laney and her kids moved to Oregon, where she had a job waiting for her. When she got to the Willamette Valley, she felt at home. It was a lot like the valley where she grew up, but without the reservation fences.

Again, people believed she was Hispanic because of her skin. But things were different this time. Laney learned that many Oregonians don't feel the same way about Hispanics that southern Californians do.

"When I'm in stores standing in line, the checker would check out people in front of me and say, 'Hi, how are you doing' - being friendly and chatty. Then when she got to me-- it was usually a woman checker-- she wouldn't look at me. She wouldn't say a word," Laney recalled.

Laney could endure that. She'd been enduring comments and looks of disgust from bigots for much of her life.

"As I leave I always say loudly and smiling, 'Have a nice day,'" Laney said. "My grandma always said if you get angry, it doesn't work. But if you kill them with kindness, it gets them every time."

While Laney had an answer for bigotry, she was unprepared to be laid off from her job after just a year.

"I didn't know about laws to protect me, or how to seek help in any way. I didn't know how to file for unemployment. I was 36 and I was totally lost," she said.

With no money to pay her rent, and without the permanent address required for public assistance, Laney and her two pre-teen daughters were soon homeless. Everything they owned fit in the back of her Datsun. For the next year, she moved 17 times, alternating between friends and homeless shelters.

For about three months of that time, she and her kids slept nights on the reclined back seat of the Datsun, with possessions and towels blocking the windows. Her children occasionally bathed in the sinks of business rest rooms.

"It still hurts," she said, her eyes watering. "I felt like the biggest failure because I let my kids down. But they tell me now that what they remember is that I was always there for them."

Finally, Laney got a job with a local transport company, which got her and her children off the streets. She worked there for four years. She also married again, but soon divorced.

Then she met Marlin.

"He's probably the person who changed my life. He believed in me and helped me pick myself back up. He taught me a very valuable lesson. I didn't need anyone to tell me I was a good person," she said.

They soon married, and Laney spent the first year at home while he worked. She'd never done that before. She also began to fear her own happiness and became agoraphobic, afraid to step outside her house.

"It was like watching myself from a distance. I was so afraid. Here I was, crazy in love, and this man just wanted me to be happy. It was new to me. I thought if I went outside, it would go away," she said.

But slowly, the anxiety disappeared, and now Laney is expanding her horizons like the ever-reaching branches of a California Redwood. Her career goal is to be a broadcast journalist. Her personal ambition is to make sure her children and other Native American children don't experience the self-doubt she experienced much of her life.

Laney believes the keys to making that happen are education and pride in one's heritage. That's why she's president of CCC's Native American Club. Her two children attend the club meetings, and her oldest daughter wants to start a club at Canby High School.

"I want their adult life to be different than mine was," Laney said. "I want them to get an education and a sense of who they are and where they come from. I want them to be proud of their heritage."

And Laney wants her daughters to know that happiness is not what you own, but who you love and who loves you.

"When I had material things, I wasn't any happier," she said. "The times when I didn't have anything but my two kids in my lap were among the happiest times in my life."

Local band ready for main stream

Matt Doran
 Staff Writer

By the time we arrived at Denny's to do the interview, I had spent two and a half hours with *Lane Action Princess*. In that time, I came to the conclusion that these are four talented individuals who enjoy their music and each other. As Lynn Kelland says, "we're just four sub-average guys, playing great music."

Lane Action Princess is the brain child of singer Lynn "Neato Bondito" Kelland, guitarist Sean Crissell, bassist John Baker and drummer Adam Nash. Each member has brought their own contribution to the band, musically and other wise. Kelland takes care of the business side of the band, getting and scheduling the shows for the band. Crissell is the perfectionist of the band (according to his associates his philosophy is, "if it doesn't play, it pays.") Everyone in the band says that Baker is the most improved musically and he also inspired them all to grow goatees (although Nash shaved his off). Nash is the most musically talented and knowledgeable (he's been playing his instrument longer than anyone in the band).

The band started at Rex Putnam High School where Kelland and Crissell met in P.E. class. One day they discovered that they both played the guitar and decided to get together and jam. Soon they recruited a drummer named Clayton Anderson. Next they need a bassist, so they went were anyone who was looking for a bassist would go, Denny's. There they met Baker



photo by Matt Doran

Lynn Kelland, Sean Crissell, John Baker and Adam Nash make up 'Lane Action Princess'.

and after coaxing him from the band he was in at the time, they finally got together to play. The only problem was that Anderson never came to practice, and in the whole time that Baker and Anderson were in the band together they never met. So now they had to find another drummer, that's where Nash comes in.

Now they have been together for two years. They have gone from playing what they describe as "crappy punk" to what they now describe as "stripped down rock and roll, with a twist." Their plans for this next year include playing at least 20 shows, maybe one at La Luna. They also want to keep progressing musically and not get stuck in a rut like most

bands do. Lane has just finished recording a demo tape and for only being together for two years, it is an impressive album. Musically their influences range from *Alice In Chains* to *Jane's Addiction*. Lyrically their topics range from being hurt, to being poor, to their family life. Even with these influences, they definitely have their own sound and in a music scene where most bands can't make more than two songs that sound different (i.e. *Bush* and *Candlebox*) that is a big achievement. With the progress they have made in the past two years, they should definitely be on their way, with a little more experience.

Coalition hopes to update Bottle Bill

Jennifer Howcroft
 ASG Legislative Senator

In 1971, Oregon was the first state to adopt a bottle bill. The bill stated that all beer and carbonated beverage containers be subject to a deposit which would be refunded upon return.

The bill reduced roadside litter by 80 percent in its first two years and also reduced the amount of landfill space taken up by recyclable material.

When Governor Tom McCall signed the bill into law, non-carbonated beverages like Snapple, Gatorade and Evian did not exist on the market.

Now a coalition led by the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group wants to add the

non-carbonated drinks to the bill.

The coalition needs to collect 73,261 signatures by July 5 to get the new bill on the November ballot.

Over 24,500 signatures have already been collected.

"I think environmental protection is a key element in Oregon's economic future. New businesses come to Oregon because of our quality of life. Expanding the Oregon Bottle Bill is not only good stewardship of the Earth, but it is good for our economy," said Senatorial Candidate Harry Lonsdale.

The problem with getting the

bill passed is that the grocers and bottling companies are opposed to it. They claim that the bill puts an "unfair economic burden" on grocers.

"In 1971, big business claimed it wouldn't work," said Ken Eschelmann of ASG's Environmental Committee. "They were wrong then and they are wrong today."

According to Eschelmann, he and many other students from the Environmental Committee have so far collected 303 signatures to expand the bottle bill and will continue to do so through Spring term.

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