

EXPERIENCE IN THE MILITARY

The military as seen through the eyes of a student.

I, PVT. Shaw, have been in the military for nearly two months now. November 25, 2002 - a day that has changed my life. It is a pretty good experience. I am in the Oregon Army National Guard. We meet one week-end a month and two weeks a year, which is usually in the summer. During our two week time period in the summer we usually go in the field to play laser tag. In the winter we usually stay home at the armory and either take classes or inspect our weapons.

I really like the military. Hey, the M.R.E.'s (Meals ready to eat) aren't that bad. The monthly physical training tests for the REPS (privates who haven't been to Boot Camp yet) are nice, but exhausting. Hey, the classes are probably the most boring part of things, but the most necessary.

I joined the military for the experience and to earn more responsibility. The reason why I chose the Oregon Army National Guard over other branches of service is because of the freedom that they give you. One thing that I don't like is all the grief that the National Guard guys get. For instance, some people call us names and degrade the Guard, when they don't know all of the facts about the Oregon ARMY National Guard. They need to get all of the facts.

Since I have not been in for that long I do not have all the information that I will obviously have when I get my honorable discharge six years from now. But then again, I just may make it a twenty-year career. I really enjoy the Guard. Their benefits suit me just fine. For instance, I will earn \$6000 after I complete my AIT (Advanced Individual Training). Six months after AIT I have the choice to stay in the Guard or go into active Army duty. I plan to go into active duty when I turn twenty.

Right now, I am earning around \$150 a month. I can purchase full medical and dental insurance for only twenty dollars a month. I get to travel. I have the choice of where to travel sometimes, but then again, sometimes they may make the choice for me in case of war. I am also eligible for the GI bill, which can provide me with another \$20,000 when I complete my 6 year assignment with the Guard. The Oregon Army National Guard pays for 75% of public college tuition, unlike the Texas Army National Guard which pays for 100% of public college tuition. Oh well, I live in Oregon. Anyone between the ages of 17 and 36 are eligible to join the Army National Guard, with a six year guard duty, and 2 years on the call list.

If you want more information call Staff Sergeant Irving: 890-3651.

PINE POINTS

By LuCynda Zartman

Don't you wish that you could skip school, just for one day, and go hang out with your friends in Medford all day long without getting in trouble? Well you can if you get enough Pine Points. Right about now you are probably asking yourself "What are Pine Points?" Pine Points are points that are awarded by Mr. Pine and the rest of the staff to go toward another fun day in Medford with Mr. Pine.

Mrs. Gorman, one of the teachers on the trip, was asked how the Pine Points work. She said, "You get points for doing work and community service. The day that Mr. Pine took everybody bowling, each student earned 100 points. The students that stayed behind were assigned 5 extra assignments, and they earned 20 points for every assignment. Referrals and not going to The After School Homework Club results in negative points. On Double Jeopardy days you get double points whether they are positive or negative. When Shannon Sizemore was asked if he agreed with the Pine Points and to explain why, he said, "No, I don't agree with it because I don't think its cool to take away certain privileges and replace with others that the students don't like."

James Grieve (Jimmer Jammer) was asked if he thought Mr. Pine should reward students for not having referrals or Friday School by taking them to Medford all day long. He said, "The way he does the point system is fine with me, but the students that can't go or choose not to go on the trip shouldn't have to go to school. So on the day that they go on the trip I don't think that we should have school at all.

Well, I learned a long time ago that if you want the answer to something you have to go to the source. I found Mr. Pine and asked him why he wanted to create the Pine Points. "So we can go someplace." He said jokingly. "It's boring around here. The Pine Points are for activities that the students can earn by doing the right thing." I asked him what the "Right Thing" was he said, "For each student to live up to his\her potential, both academically and behaviorally."

So that brings me to ask myself if the Pine Points are good or bad? I can't really say. You have two different views. So what do you think? Are the Pine Points good or bad? That is just something to slosh around in the back of your mind for a while.

8 MAN ALL STARS

By Jed Rowden

Growing up in a place like Butte Falls people know that they are expected to excel in everything they do. The class of 2003 has three individuals that redefined the meaning of hard work. Entering their senior years motivated to be the best, Isaac Stephenson, David Hoel, and Tony Beals accomplished that very goal. Football is a very demanding sport in which an individual must make full use of intellect and athletic ability. For these three seniors, that came more than easy. Being selected for 1st Team All-League as a senior automatically ensures someone a position in the Eight Man All Star, East West Shrine Game. Isaac Stephenson was able to earn his spot as a running back. Tony Beals acquired this amazing honor by giving his all as offensive end. David Hoel showed some amazing strength and intellect throughout the season and was, without surprise, elected as a defensive guard. When asked how it made them feel to be selected for the Shrine game, Mr. Hoel responded by saying, "I was very excited and happy I would be able to go, and thought it would be a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to playing one last football game with my teammates." Mr. Beals responded, "I was surprised that other coaches recognized my ability. I was especially surprised at being selected as an offensive receiver, and not as a defensive end. It will be an honor to play with the great players of the state." Congratulations to these three fine athletes, their team, coaches, our school, but most of all, to our town.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

By Kari St. George

On Monday October 21, 2002 people came to our district from the Rogue Opera, including the Artistic Director and writer of the opera, "Waters of Love", Dave Marston. This opera had three characters Rosanda, Samuel and Don Matthews (the mean giant.) The story was about a guy that gets lost in the woods. It was based on an experience that Mr. Marston had as a child. They performed for the entire student body.

I think that the Opera was very cute, funny and serious. Everyone really enjoyed it. So, all in all, the performance was appreciated.

In November Tyrone Wilson and Alicia Mandelkow from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival come to our school and performed three plays for us in shortened versions, requiring them to play a variety of roles. We enjoyed seeing them perform Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth and a very funny skit based on the Matrix.

Tyrone has traveled throughout the states and abroad doing theater. He has been performing for schools for seven years, Alicia has also for past two years. Ty has been with the Festival for eight seasons, and Alicia has been for four.