

parents concerned about Mist School

that at least one coach be paid per sport or that the district not sponsor the program. The question of what becomes of non-district sponsored programs (including track, cross country, equestrian, cheerleading and golf) has not been determined. Outdoor school has been maintained, as well as both vocal and instrumental music, and a full arts curriculum. Many districts across the state have cut all, or some, of these programs.

The final portion of Funderberg's presentation was a summary of increased expenditures that will occur because of contractual obligations with district staff, a state mandated increase in PERS and insurance increases. These requirements must be met by additional reductions in the budget, but the final amounts were not known at the time of this meeting. Funderburg said that meetings were scheduled with the unions representing teachers and classified staff, to negotiate reduced increases in contractual obligations.

Audience concerns

A lively discussion between the committee and the audience followed Funderberg's presentation. There was clearly confusion in the audience about some parts of the material Funderburg used. Priorities and strategies developed by BAT were questioned as if these changes had been ap-

proved for next year. Of particular concern to many members of the audience was keeping Mist School open. Others expressed concerns about potential changes options for kindergarten and special education. Budget Committee Chair Robyn Bassett reminded everyone that BAT is making recommendations and that, while options have been discussed, final recommendations have not been made.

Many decisions must be made by both the board and the budget committee before the budget process is complete, Funderburg said. The board scheduled a special meeting to discuss budget issues on May 1. BAT will meet the following week to develop recommendations prior to the next budget committee meeting on May 22. The budget committee will work with all of the options presented to develop an approved budget to present to the board. The board must make the final decision.

State \$\$ figures will not be available in time

Typical of the last few years, final projections of the state school fund may not be available until after the budget must be finished. Funderburg told the committee that he would like to see any increase in revenue put into the district's contingency fund in anticipation of a continued poor economic

forecast. Later, in an interview, he said that he would like to increase the contingency fund to a point that the fund could be used to keep school open in spite of dramatic reductions in revenue, such as those experienced this year.

Board member Randy Hansen summarized the feelings of many committee members when he told the audience that this is the first step in trying to make this budget work for kids. "How do you cut the already inadequate?" he asked, with an eloquent shrug. Funderburg told the audience that "making these kinds of decisions is really hard." Some people will not like some decisions, he observed, but decisions must be made. He told the audience that the committee, and the board, is trying to do what is best for all parties.

Vernonia grads on Dean's Lists

Danita Angell

Danita D. Angell of Vernonia made the Winter Quarter Dean's List at Seattle Pacific University. Students on the Dean's List have completed at least 12 credits and attained a 3.50 or higher grade point average.

Seattle Pacific University, founded in 1891, is a fully accredited Christian university of liberal arts, sciences and professional studies located in Seattle, Washington.

Rose Ann Peets

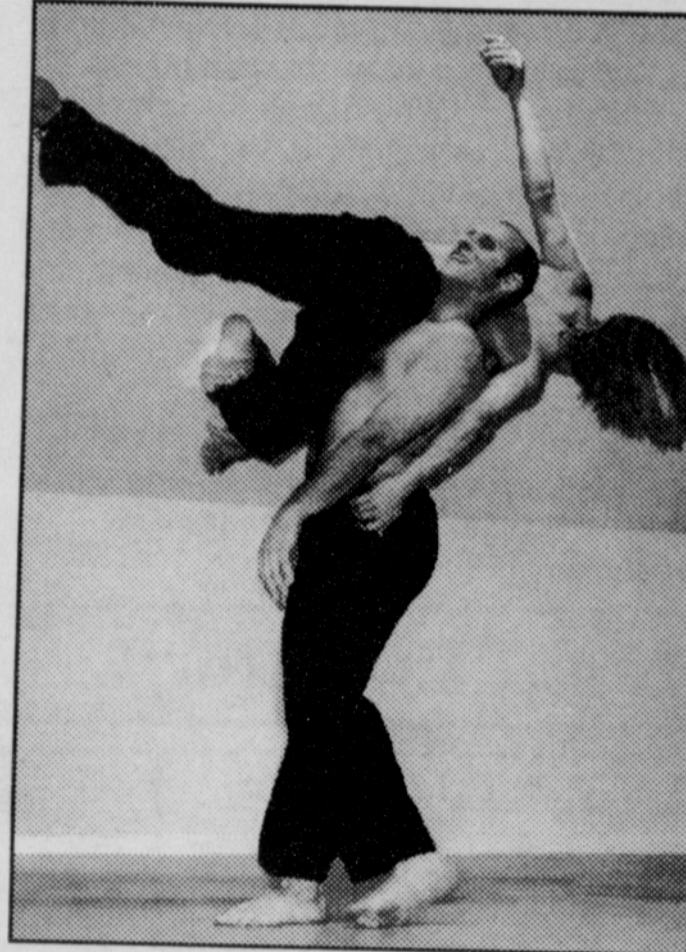
Rose Ann Peets of Vernonia made the first term Dean's List at Southern Oregon University and the National Honor Roll for the second term.

Peets, who works 32 hours weekly, recently received a letter from Governor Ted Kulongoski stating, "Oregon should have more students like you, Rose."

The 2002 Vernonia High School graduate plans to transfer to Western Oregon University for the fall term.

Professional dance team brings free workshop, performance to Vernonia

The professional modern dance team of Erik Kaiel and Layard Thompson, who are embarking on a tour of the west coast with Archeopteryx 8, will perform without charge in Vernonia on May 12.



Sponsored by Hands on Art, a local non-profit group, the pair will also offer a free workshop for children and adults, age 12 and up. Those interested in dance and drama are invited to participate. The workshop will be from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (no registration necessary) and the performance will be at 8:00 p.m.

Both will be held in the Washington Grade School gym.

String orchestra slated

Later in the week on Saturday, May 17, the Hands on Art String Orchestra, with 12 string-players and chamber music ensembles will perform at the Community Church, 957 State Avenue, Vernonia at 7:00 p.m.

Both events are free on a donation only basis.

For further information, call Madeleine Gendron at 503-429-9402, or Gina Dixon at 503-429-9243.

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