

# COLLEGIAN

Willamette University

Non-Profit Organization

900 State Street

Salem, OR 97301

October 26, 1984

## Academy award winning Watkins reloads

by Brian Higgins

The "Watkins Project," a volunteer grass-roots fund-raising organization, has nearly succeeded in financing the latest endeavour of Academy Award winning film maker Peter Watkins. While their target goal of \$400,000 has not been completely met, enough money and donations in kind have been secured to begin production.

The Salem chapter of the "Watkin's Project"—one of many world-wide—under the leadership of Willamette Professor Ken Nolley, organized several campus and community fund raisers last year including a concert by the Oregon Trio and an art auction featuring the donated works of Willamette students.

It is not surprising that Watkins could elicit the support of people world-wide. Watkins has set a lasting mark on the cinema by challenging convention and inducing viewers to question their own value assumptions. It is this style of involving the viewer which earned Watkins an Academy Award in 1965 for the film "The War Game."

His latest project, with the working title "The Peace Film," addresses the impact of the nuclear issue on the value

system of Western civilization. Watkins plans to interview twelve families in ten countries including three in the United States. Of particular interest to Watkins are families with conflicts between the nuclear issue and their livelihoods or the policies of their political leaders. Watkins feels that the

This is not limited to the nuclear question, however, for the film will attempt to show how value decisions are centralized authority structures. The film is intended to illustrate this trend, and perhaps encourage a reversal of it by reducing the nuclear issue to values we can all judge.

finished an eight day production in Utica, New York.

Interwoven with the standard family interviews in Utica, was a dramatization of civil defense policies being enacted. Watkins staged the evacuation of a local school and Utica itself. The amateur actors in the film, portraying their own roles in such a situation, were given little direction so as to illustrate the chaos that would inevitably ensue. Ignorance of Civil Defense measures, and their utter infeasibility are dramatized by simulating the billeting of Utica's nearly 200,000 inhabitants in the tiny rural community of Illion, not much larger than Stayton, Oregon.

Another sequence involves the run on a gas station by desperate citizens, after that facility had been declared an emergency fuel station. Two other sequences illustrate the disobedience of residents refusing to evacuate, and the squalid conditions in a crowded bomb shelter. None of the events were contrived, Watkins merely applied typical human reactions to Utica's actual defense plan, using authentic procedures and specified locations.

Utica, like other communities in this country, is most certainly a prime nuclear target. Nearby Bangor Air Force Base

was the first home of the new cruise missiles. Because the Utica family is black, Watkins asked them how they felt about inflated military spending when considering that the black infant mortality rate is double that of whites in this country. The family was also informed that nearly every congressional district in this country has businesses profiting from new, pro-nuclear defense contracts, thereby placing military goals over health care goals. Watkins hopes "The Peace Film" will help us re-evaluate our priorities, recognizing the consequences of an extended arms race and also awakening us to our own social obligations.

With production scheduled to continue this month in Portland and Seattle, "The Peace Film" seems to be well underway, with a projected completion date next September. This was not the only goal of the "Watkins Project," however, for their original intention was to create an ongoing dialogue about the nuclear issue and the structuralization of values in our society. Watkins shows us that there is hope in any unresolved situation and in that regard the "project" is a success.



Peter Watkins caught filming in Utica, New York, for new film.

nuclear issue has been relegated to the realm of experts, so much so that average citizens feel unqualified to render a judgment on it, thereby allowing it to become acceptable.

Production began in Leningrad this Summer, with additional sequences being shot in Norway, Scotland, and Stornoway in the British Hebrides. Closer to home, Watkins just

## Students question Supreme Court proceedings

by Mark A. Michel

"The Washington Post's" sole Supreme Court correspondent, Fred Barbash, recently spoke to Willamette students about his methods of court coverage.

The format was a light-hearted discussion, revolving around student questioning, and was prefaced by a short introduction of his position on "The Post." Barbash amused the crowd which filled Gatke's room 107 with commentary on his previous role of candidate reporting.

"After the first thirty-seconds or so, it's pretty much all the same. You've heard it all." But added, "It then develops into what can be compared to a kind of traveling summer camp for adults. After the issues are discussed, we're all stuck together with little or nothing to do. It's amazing what a group of reporters will do to relieve the tedium."

He went on to explain how he preferred Supreme Court reporting, which he said was "much more fascinating, more enjoyable, and allowed more room for individual work."

"Writing court features is my personal favorite," and went on to describe how these features seem to have a larger readership. He told of one case in which the Supreme Court upheld a lower court's decision convicting a farmer who Barbash described as "very similar to the character 'Otis' on Mayberry R. F. D.:" "It seems as if this 'Otis' had leased about

8 acres of his land to some individuals who offered to pay a substantial sum for its use. He agreed, and was 'surprised' when, in being arrested, he was told that his land had been turned to marijuana production.

After discussing additional facets of his job, Barbash asked for questions.

Q: Do you find your reporting more liberal or conservative?

A: Believe it or not, I really believe it's neutral. It takes much more work, but I try to gain responses from both sides, and represent them equally.

Q: Is the Supreme Court going to "hell in a handbasket" if President Reagan does get re-elected?

A: It's already reputed being there? But to answer your question, no. What we will see is a court more inclined to defer cases to lower courts, causing the judiciary to recede.

Q: Recently the Court has been seen as being less fragmented than in previous years. Why?

A: The arrival of Justice Sandra O'Connor is very important; because she's more of an ideologue than was Justice Stewart. She sees where she's going, and seems more easily rounded up to form the majority.

With Justice Stewart in the Court, it was much harder for Burger to "run wild" than it is now. Now we see a solid conservative courtroom yielding many more of their decisions with five, six, or even seven members in concordance.

Barbash also answered questions of the dominant role of Religion in the Court, citing a conservative 'hit list' of priorities, with Religion being the hot issue.

He concluded the hour describing the "wooing of a Supreme Court Judge," where

a reporter is able to get much material "off the record," but must not betray the trust by divulging the information to the public. "The court is the most open, and the most closed process of U. S. government," he added, "They must explain what they've done with ex-

cessive documentation, yet they are just not accessible for comment. Their decisions are disclosed very carefully in extremely large detail, but you just can't, as a member of the press, talk to them about what they're doing."

## NEWSLINE

### TUESDAY

6:30 p.m. Autzen Senate Chamber: Educator, administrator, activist Luz Villarreal. "Danger of ingoring the fact that minorities will be enrolling in higher education."

### THURSDAY

11:00 a.m. Alumni Lounge. Convocation: Professor of English poetry, Colleen McElroy. "A reading by the Author of the Ebony Isles."

7:30 p.m. Director of Training, Developmental Research Association, San Antonio, Texas, National Chairperson Mondale/Ferraro for President Campaign, and commissioner in the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights, Blandina Cardenas Ramirez, Keynote Speaker. There will be a reception following the presentation.

### FRIDAY

6:00 p.m. University Center, Hawaiian Club Slide Show.

7:30 p.m. Smith Auditorium. On Herndon. "Recognizing, Accepting, and Experiencing the Minority Impact."

9:30 p.m. Cone Field House. DANCE: 'Manteca,' a Latin-Salsa band, and 'Velvet' a Soul-Funk band, both from Portland. Admission is free for W.U. students with I.D., and \$2.00 for the general public.

—Arts and crafts from the Black, Chicano and Native-American Clubs of the Oregon

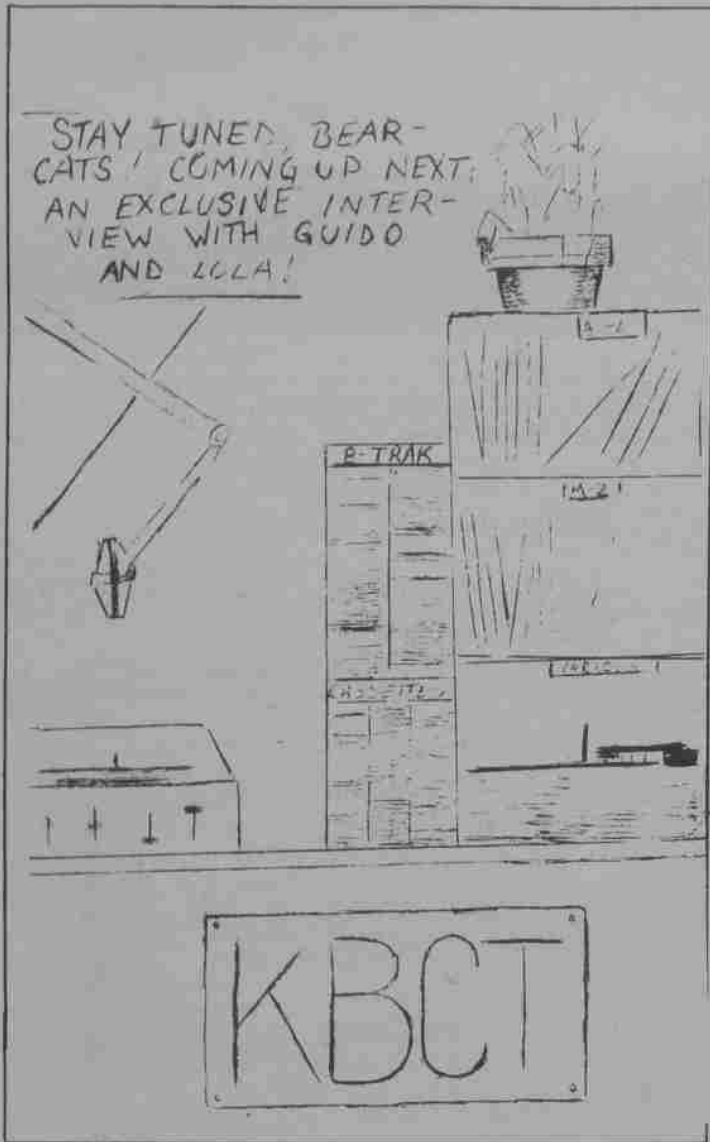
State Penitentiary shall be on display all week in the University Library and Smith Auditorium Gallery.

Students interested in doing student teaching next semester (Spring, 1985) should see Mr. Ozawa in the Education Office before November 2. Arrangements for a student teaching position in the Salem Public Schools require the completion of several forms and conferences with departmental personnel. Please contact the Education Department as soon as possible. Those interested in elementary teaching should see Dr. Cowger.

In four weeks, the Willamette community will have the opportunity of a lifetime. If you're smart, you won't miss your chance.

SENIORS: Start thinking about your Senior candid for the yearbook. If you have questions, contact Steve Fukuchi (x6664), Lynell O'Leary (x6754), or Katie Beck (x6987).

# Opinions



## Radio station realized by working, not wishing

The idea of starting a radio station at Willamette is certainly not a new one. The merits of having a campus radio station are commonly known. Better communication, enriched academic programs, new cultural awareness, and more committed feeling to the school are all real benefits that are available to the university as a whole as a result of a campus radio station.

Despite sentiment in favor of a radio station, it has remained a rather far-off-goal—and understandably so.

Cost is one factor that has kept a radio station a hop rather than a reality. It is estimated to cost close to \$20,000 to start one—certainly not cheap, but attainable. Encouragement of university co-funding and focused organization toward fund-raising could lighten the financial burden on ASWU, which is already saddled with other large commitments.

Even with manageable cost, the task of starting a radio station is not as simple as going to the store with a \$20,000 check and merely "picking up the necessary equipment." A frequency must be found, applications for permits must be filled out, and qualified personnel discovered to set up and maintain the station.

All things considered, bringing a radio station to Willamette is a time-consuming, difficult task. ASWU certainly cannot be expected to shoulder such a task by itself. Let's hope that university and individual student support will be strong enough to make a campus radio station a reality, not just an idle wish.

## SAGA still not perfect, but trying to improve

What a relief that SAGA is at least trying to improve service.

It cannot be an easy task to feed 1300 hungry young adults three times a day. Understandably, food made in such quantity may not always be hot, but with the substantial cost Willamette students or their parents pay for food service (more than \$1000 per semester), there seemed no excuse for the consistent coldness of the food.

This week Matthews diners were pleasantly surprised with a community-use microwave oven in the dining room.

SAGA deserves to be commended for listening to student complaints and actually doing something about them. Hopefully, this appreciation will encourage SAGA to continue finding ways to improve its food and service, as well as encouraging more students to try to make a difference in their community.

## Guido menaces students

If you seem to feel something around campus is out to get you, you're right. If you seem to feel that it is not safe to walk around campus at night, you're right. If you seem to feel that if you make one wrong move, one wrong step, you're dead, you're close. Why? Because Guido the killer goose is on the loose.

Apparently there are a number of students who of late harbor ill-feelings of similar nature toward Guido. In fact, they were bothered enough by Guido's presence to complain about Guido to University Registrar Buzz Yocum, and demand that Guido be deported to a farm.

Now, I'll be the first to admit that Guido has several characteristics that are extremely annoying. For instance, his voice. Guido's scream from one side of the campus to the other is not easily mistaken.

However, it isn't his fault. Guido didn't have much of a choice over how his voice would sound—that was a divine gift. As such, we should show a bit more tolerance and respect for it, even if it can shatter glasses quite a bit more effectively than Memorex.

And then there is Guido's attack instinct. Guido seems to take personal pleasure in being able to at least make students dodge and run, if he can't connect with one of his power-dives to an ankle.

Guido doesn't limit his attacks only to students, however. "Guido even tried to get me the other morning," commented Yocum. "Fortunately, I'm still quick enough to get away from him. But in a couple of years, you never

know."

Actually, there is a way to prevent a Guido attack. Guido becomes incredibly tame when fed. (I guess the way to a goose's heart is through his stomach, because Guido will never bite the hand that is feeding him.) It is even reputed on campus that someone held Guido in his arms after feeding him. Whoever he is, the man has more guts than I ever will.

Guido is obnoxious, though. I have seen Guido take on a dog in a chicken match—and, for all practical purposes, win. The dog was all set to chase after Guido until he figured out that Guido wasn't going to run. I was hoping to see a knock-down, drag-out fight between

doubt holding a grudge, cornered and murdered Guido. However, the undeniable fact that Guido is still here is proof that this distasteful event did not take place as reported. One must wonder, though, that if thought precedes action, if this rumour could become a reality. Let's hope that public opinion changes and prevents a disastrous event such as this.

Despite Guido's dominating personality, and despite his absolute dislike for some people (I count myself among those ranks), Guido is as much a part of this campus as is the Bearcat...well, maybe a little more a part of campus, seeing as how I still don't know what the hell a Bearcat is. (Maybe I'll ask



the unidentified dog and the famous Guido the killer goose, but it never materialized as the dog backed down. (Can't say I blame him.)

There is public sentiment for the removal of Guido from campus. Last weekend it was rumored that someone, no

Jerry when I graduate.)

Guido is a part of the Willamette experience, and I would hope that Guido will be allowed to stay here for the rest of his natural life, unlike the rest of us.

Nels Peterson

## Students to share problems...

*It's no secret that college students have more than their share of problems, with exams, financial worries, love-life troubles...If you think the only solution to your problems is going out and partying your brains out and possibly making matters worse, think again.*

*This year the COLLEGIAN is planning a new concept: an advice column. It will be*

*designed to help students with problems they face.*

*My name is "Terry," I'm from Salem, and I've had experience writing an advice column before. I would like you to consider me your friend and allow me to help you. Please bring all letters to the Publications room in the U.C.*

## Letter

A note about the COLLEGIAN...

During the past few weeks, I've heard people make a number of judgements about the COLLEGIAN.

Having an indirect link with the paper, I can look at it from both sides of the fence. As a community observer, I can see the paper's shortcomings and deficiencies. I too desire a comprehensive, informative, stimulating and entertaining news publication. I can visualize the ideal paper.

Unfortunately, the perfect paper simply does not exist.

Without even considering all the controversy which has beset the COLLEGIAN in months past, assuming the responsibility of editor is no simple task. The input the editor has to choose from is a direct reflection of the community's interest.

A student publication can only be as good as the students

want it to be. Anyone can find fault in something, but it takes another kind of person to ameliorate its status.

If you have an interesting idea, it's your right to exercise your freedom of speech. Extending the theme: Student in-

volvement on campus as a whole has never seemed to be adequate. Perhaps this article should instead read "A NOTE ABOUT WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY."

Steve Fukuchi

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# Features

## Bulimia upsurge alarms, kills college women

by Aimee Van Beek

As a new college freshman, Beth seemed to have it all together. Her grades testified to her intelligence. She had admirable and realistic career goals; and she was exceptionally attractive. She was also skinny. Friends complained to Beth that she was too lucky. Beth, it seemed, could eat and eat and

who could be your sister or friend. And that is exactly what the ad was trying to emphasize. Bulimia can affect anyone, and usually it is very hard to detect because the symptoms are kept secret by the suffering victim.

Basically, Bulimia is a pressure disease which usually affects women (95% of all Bulimics are women) and is

one night, and later gorge herself on large quantities of ice cream (which is easy to throw up). Then, of course, she would excuse herself from the company of others in order to vomit in private. It becomes a vicious cycle, one which becomes increasingly hard to break with each additional day.

As time goes on, food

ailments, the problem cannot be cured by treating the symptoms, for the symptoms are simply outward effects of a deeper, more complicated cause. For each individual this cause is likely to be different, reflecting the experiences and traumas that have led to the Bulimia. But in many ways, modern American values and highly competitive stereotypes of the ideal woman have contributed to this problem. Magazines tout thinness on every model-clad page. The overwhelming message seems to be clear: if you're not thin, you're simply not in.

While many of us laugh, and say that the way the media manipulate women is too obvious to influence their way of life, but in many ways media stereotypes are coercive. To be successful, control is a crucial

person. Too often slimness and success become synonymous in the mind of an impressionable factor. Similarly, self-control is crucial to a weight conscious girl.

It is a shame that people like Beth, people with outstanding abilities and character, would risk destroying their health in their pursuit of thinness. Yet it happens overwhelmingly often. The only way we can control it is to free women from metaphors such as 'thinness equals success,' stressing instead the value of the self, and friendship. This may not help a veteran Bulimic (psychiatric help and counseling are needed for this), but it would certainly be beneficial in dissuading potential Bulimics. The problem is certainly severe enough to advocate beginning such a trend immediately.

### "Have you ever been to a scarf and barf party?"

eat and never gain a pound. She ate large breakfasts, huge lunches and equally large dinners, and every night she would usually order a large pizza. Her friends often caught her finishing large bags of potato chips and crackers during the day. Yet Beth was unbelievably thin. At 5'8" she weighed a mere 115 pounds. What her friends didn't know was that Beth never allowed her system to digest what she ate. A dark secret plagued the seemingly perfect life of Beth: she was a Bulimic.

Bulimia is a food obsession characterized by repeated overeating binges followed by purges of forced vomiting, prolonged fasting, or abuse of laxatives, enemas, and diuretics. The condition is unfamiliar to many because no one talks about it. The statistics, however, show that Bulimia is a widespread and dangerous epidemic, especially on college campuses, where 25-35% of college women engage in it.

Recently THE OREGONIAN ran an advertisement that asked in big bold print, "Have you ever been to a scarf and barf party?" Underneath was a picture of three young girls sitting in pajamas eating popcorn. The girls looked like any young American girls, girls

caused by a complex mixture of childhood conflicts and cultural pressures. When the symptoms are in full swing, Bulimics often become moody and furtive. Often secret rituals and low self-esteem are associated with the condition.

Over-eating becomes a replacement for control. Obviously there are serious mental complications, but there are also equally serious physical complications. With time, the incessant vomiting creates serious physical problems. It becomes difficult for the Bulimic to keep food down, the enamel on the teeth turns grey and slowly rots away from the regurgitated stomach acid, and the skin loses color and turns greyish. Eventually, due to lack of crucial nutrients and vitamins, there can be hair loss and permanent skin discoloration. Other serious side-effects include amenorrhea, anemia, malnourishment and internal bleeding. Ultimately, the body could go into shock and the person could die from cardiac arrest, kidney failure, impaired metabolism due to electrolyte imbalance, from severe dehydration.

The behaviors of Bulimics varies, but certain factors are consistent. For instance, a former Bulimic confessed that she could eat three dinners in

becomes the only focus of a Bulimic's life. All sensed self-worth and fulfillment comes from food. It is the most important thing in the Bulimic's life. Yet, ironically, no food is allowed to stay in her system.

The more she eats the more she torments herself.

Like many other mental

## 'Teachers' a serious comedy

By Brian Higgins

Some movies create new genres, others merely recombine old ones. TEACHERS is a good example of the latter. As advertised, TEACHERS appears at first to be another high school comedy, in the same vein as FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH, exalting the socio-neurotic behavior of today's teens, and their equally mal-adjusted instructors. For example, a student attempts to bite the hand of a teacher, the school psychologist has a particularly comedic nervous breakdown following a fight over the use of a mimeograph machine, and Richard Mulligan (of SOAP fame) portrays a substitute history teacher who is actually an out-patient from the local insane asylum. There is also the predictable element of urban violence: shootings, stabbings and the like.

The plot revolves around the difficulties of an urban high school, and how various characters respond to the eminent threat of a recent graduate who is suing because he can't read or write. Jobeth Williams plays the attorney handling the suit, and Nick Nolte stars as her former

teacher and current lover. Nick Nolte's character is the stereotypical middle-aged teacher who has lost all idealism towards teaching, and has surrendered to the distractions of paper work, and the apathy of the system.

It would be misleading to suggest that this is all TEACHERS consists of. The overt comedic theme eventually gives way to a more serious tone, posing the question, "to what extent should we sacrifice principle for the sake of convention?" Jobeth Williams becomes disillusioned when she finds out that the bottom line of her lawsuit is how much the school district is willing to pay out of court, not their responsibility to rectify deficiencies in the system. Nick Nolte finds his idealism rekindled when he is able to get through to one particularly troubled student, Ralph Macchio, only to be nearly defeated by the system

again.

The moral to TEACHERS is that we needn't sacrifice our principles to the expediency of the system. To paraphrase Nolte's closing oration: "The school isn't here for teacher's unions, politics, or our paychecks—the school was built for students, and we're (teachers) here for them." In this sense, TEACHERS approaches a second-rate version of THE VERDICT for teens.

Even though TEACHERS tends to be predictable at times, and will surely not land any Oscar nominations for its mediocre performances, it has its funny moments, and to a lesser degree, its dramatic ones. The soundtrack, featuring MTV's starting line-up, is surprisingly and thankfully restrained. TEACHERS won't leave a lasting impression on its audience, but it is somewhat fun and worthy of the \$2.00 matinee price.

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## ABCD Award

This award is bestowed upon a member of the Willamette University Residence Life Staff who performs an act which is

above and beyond the call of duty. The act performed is one which is not stated in the job description nor can the expectation be found in any of Tim or Steve's imaginations.

The award for this month goes to Todd Olson. Lausanne 2nd floor R.A.

Lausanne has recently been invaded by bees and wasps. Due to popular demand by the residents, an exterminator was called in to rid the hall of the aggravating menace.

The exterminator arrived and informed Todd (the only one around) that this was a "two man job," and thus Todd was drafted. At risk to life and limb (not to mention several bee stings) Todd assisted the bee man.

Following annihilation of hordes of bee stings, Todd was heard inquiring as to whether or not there was a bee killing clause in his contract.

Todd's new role as exterminator's assistant (Bee Buster) was definitely beyond the call of duty.

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# Sports



## BLAZER MAILBAG

Blazer Mailbag will be a regular feature in the COLLEGIAN. Blazer Mailbag is featured in several papers throughout the Pacific Northwest, but the COLLEGIAN is the first and only college newspaper in Oregon to run it. Steve Jones will answer any question about the Blazers or the NBA. Just write to: Blazer Mailbag, 700 N.E. Multnomah St., Suite 950, Portland, OR 97232. If Steve uses your question, you'll receive two free tickets to a Blazer game at the Coliseum this coming season.

**Q.** Eventually, Kenny Carr will probably be coming off the bench. What do you think his reaction will be? (Bernie Alexander, Medford)

**A.** Kenny Carr is the consummate professional. If, indeed, you are correct, Kenny will react by giving 110% and continuing to be a major contributor to the team.

You're assuming that at some point this season, Sam Bowie will become a starter and Mychal Thompson will slide over to power forward. The first part, we all hope, will happen. If Sam progresses as he should, it will probably make sense for Jack to insert him into the starting lineup. Such a move would allow the Blazers much more defensive flexibility and would spark more fastbreak opportunities. With Thompson in the middle, the Blazers give up a lot of height and have to struggle to contain the likes of Jabbar and Sampson. Sam should eventually be able to contain those players more effectively.

Of course, my listeners and readers know that I'm a big Mychal Thompson fan. He has done a very credible job as center, and could become one of the NBA's best at forward. Nonetheless, Sam moving in doesn't mean that Kenny will move out.

Kenny will not give up the job easily. If he continues to play as well as he did last season, even Mychal will be hard pressed to move Kenny to the reserves. But whatever way it turns out, both Mychal and Kenny will play big minutes and will contribute equally.

Mychal has already been questioned about this possibility, and has said he would have no problem coming off the bench as long as he continues to get good minutes and the team is winning.

**Q.** Dr. Ernie Vandeweghe, (Kiki's father) is the same mentor who vehemently criticized Blazer management and medical staff during the darkest days of Bill Walton. Why would this same person stand by while his own son joins the team he once criticized so strongly? (Mike Miller, Corbett)

**A.** Hindsight, of course, is a wonderful gift that none of us possess. But in reflecting on the statements made about the Blazer organization during the Bill Walton "medical donnybrook," I'm sure Dr. Vandeweghe may have a different opinion now regarding the medical practices of the team than he did when Walton was playing.

Remember, Walton made his passionate plea of "foul play" in desperation—when it appeared that a very promising career was being cut short by injury. Since leaving Portland, Walton has suffered numerous other injuries. At the time, Dr. Vandeweghe's comments could certainly have been influenced by Bill's plea!!

**Q.** Since the Blazers have become so successful attendance-wise in Portland, what is Blazer management doing to work with the city about building a larger arena? (Frank Gimbo, Portland)

**A.** After the Blazers won the championship and a string of sell-outs began that is still going strong today, Blazer management met with representatives of the Exposition-Recreation Commission that oversees the Memorial Coliseum and Civic Stadium.

They had a series of nine meetings, in which they jointly investigated alternatives for enlarging the seating capacity at the Coliseum. Like today, the demand for seats was far greater than the availability of seats.

All possible options were explored, both from an engineering point of view and realistic economic considerations. The net result was this:

It was feasible to add 3800 seats, at a projected price of \$12 million. That price tag was 50% higher than the entire Coliseum cost to build! There simply was no possible way to justify such a project and find financing. The additional seats would have all been in mediocre locations, the current seats would have been uncomfortable after they were adjusted, and our tax

payers have a track record of voting down such projects anyway. (Although we did approve the remodeling of Civic Stadium.)

There is no question that the Blazers would like to have at least 3000 more seats, but Coliseum expansion is not, and probably will never be, feasible. Perhaps a new arena is in Portland's future. But no private financiers have stepped forward, and there has been no public call for an arena that the taxpayers would be willing to foot the bill for. For a new arena to even pencil out, Portland would have to be guaranteed a franchise in another pro league, in addition to the Blazers. If that were a football or baseball team, you're new home would probably be a domed stadium.

Have you ever seen a Sonics game in the Kingdom? It's not

pretty! For a mid-size arena, such as the Tacoma Dome, the National Hockey League is what we need. Are one of you readers ready to step forward?

**Q.** In "Blazer Notebook," a newsletter I received from the Blazers, it stated "home games will be blacked-out within a 35 mile radius of Memorial Coliseum." Why, when the Blazers sell-out and tickets are not available, do they blackout home contests? (S.L. Sunseri, Portland)

**A.** The article you're referring to said why...it is an FCC law. That means it is out of the hands of the Blazers. The "home games" you're referring to are the three games slated for WTBS that are originating from the Coliseum.

If the decision were up to the Blazers, they'd still request the blackout. Why? Because as soon as home games started showing up on television, be it cable or over-the-air, those sell-outs would be in jeopardy. For example, the N.Y. Knicks, who play in the largest city in the country, have lost a tremendous number of people at the gate since all of their games

began appearing on Madison Square Garden Network, which is a basic cable channel (just like WTBS) that is on cable systems in New York City. The Seattle Sonics' Superchannel, which costs an extra fee, has also caused a significant decrease at the gate, motivating the Sonics to move back to the smaller Seattle Coliseum rather than play before a half-empty crowd.

In the Blazer organization, the live gate is sacred, and will be protected at all costs. I think you'd agree with them, that a Blazer game wouldn't be the same if there were many empty seats. By the way, you can get tickets to the Coliseum. Season ticket holders do not fill the Coliseum. Over 800 seats per game are available, in advance, by mail order.

Steve Jones is currently the play-by-play announcer on KOIN for road games and a host of Blazer Sports Talk, in addition to his weekly mailbag. Steve finished playing for the Trail Blazers in 1976. Since then, he has become one of the most renowned commentators of the NBA and the Trail Blazers.

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