Hart was dedicated to Lincoln

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His reputation preceded him, but the first words Hal Hart, class of ‘47, spoke to me and the other aspiring members of the Lincoln Constitution team were an introduction.

“You are looking at Harold Canfield Hart. I was born August 1, 1929, in the territory of Alaska…”

This was 1994; He was 64 then, retired as a lawyer except for the pro bono work he did for children. His hair was parted on the side and slicked back. He wore a dark suit.

That conservative black suit, with a white shirt and red tie, was his calling card and he dressed that way always. Stopping by Lincoln on a lazy summer afternoon. At a student’s house on a Saturday, when he’d come by to explain the finer points of in re Gault. Even at Shari’s restaurant, home of the $7.99 dinner.

His attitude might have made him seem stuffy and old. But he was jovial and friendly, and I’d soon find out, one of the unstuffiest people I’d ever meet. He wasn’t old, either, just old-school. He was at ease with everyone, but especially with teenagers. Mr. Hart told corny jokes, but his relationships with kids were anything but superficial.

Mr. Hart was a legend at Lincoln by the time my class got there and sometimes legends can be distant, impersonal, hard to know. Mr. Hart wasn’t like that. He told us about himself and wanted to know things about us. Before class even started he’d memorized our names, full, middle and last, our parents’ names, where we lived, what our goals were.

His attitude toward law was less reverential than it was personal. Mr. Hart wanted us to feel that in a democracy, the law was a social contract between free people, not a vague set of rules written in a dusty, hardbound book.

“My mistress the law,” is how he referred to it, as if it was something Sally Hart should be jealous of. But, of course, Mrs. Hart came with us to Washington, D.C., for the national competition. Her role was less visible but just as important. She was our good-luck charm — our recognition that, now, armed with months of study and preparation, the final thing we needed to bring us strength in competition was to believe in ourselves and each other.

Mr. Hart had other loves besides law, children and his family. He was a professional musician for more than 60 years. He coached softball – youth teams like the Ainsworth Angels and Abe’s Babes, and then many of those same girls on Hal’s Angels, an adult team.

Only twice in 13 years did I see Mr. Hart not wearing a suit.

One was at the Harts’ place at Salishan, on the coast. The second time was in the spring of 2005 when he threw out the first pitch at a Portland Beavers game. I was covering the game for the Associated Press. Mr. Hart wore an Abe’s Babes T-shirt. Seventy-five years old, he wound up and threw a strike.

As it turns out, that’s my final memory of him. This spring, while vacationing in Hawaii with family, Harold Canfield Hart died of a heart attack at 77.

For the record he wasn’t in a suit, but a Hawaiian shirt.

There is a great story about another musician, George Gershwin. When Gershwin died one of his best friends and I were told about it and he just stared. “Gershwin died?” he said in disbelief. “Died?”

“I don’t have to believe that.”

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— Joel Fowlks, ’97
Here at Lincoln, we’ve had one of the most exciting school-year openings with a wide array of new courses including expanded art, technology, and theater options.

In addition, thanks to the many generous donations we received, we’re thrilled to be offering a full band program with jazz, concert band, percussion ensemble, music theory, and film and music courses. It is a real testimony to our community to be able to bring back a long-cut program that will offer so much to our students and school climate.

In addition, test scores are up, we’ve met Adequate Yearly Progress for 2007-08. Our class sizes are the smallest we’ve had in years thanks to increased staff funded by the LHS Foundation and the addition of new classrooms.

Our goals for this year are to maintain our focus on excellent instruction in every classroom (with continued emphasis on writing and numeracy), to explore research-based programs such as Advancement Via Individual Determination, to increase access to our International Baccalaureate program and support our first generation college-attending, minority and English as a Second Language students.

How can alumni continue to help? We’ll be continuing our campaign for Band donations to help us build a first class program for our students. Our goal is $300,000 in the next 3 years.

We are also continually in need of financial support for our expanded technology options. Every donation of a new MAC desktop adds 10 students per day to our tech classes. We have the classroom space and interested students but still do not have enough computers.

Donations of time are also wonderful. We can use adult volunteers as guest speakers, assistant club advisors, in the halls at lunch and at evening events such as dances and athletic contests. Lincoln alumni are one of our greatest resources!

The Lincoln Alumni Association Endowment Fund
PO Box 23756
Portland, OR 97281

Questions to the fund can be directed to committee chairwoman Carolyn Mae Jackson, 503-659-3401. Or reach the Alumni Association hotline at 503-452-2225, or by e-mail at lincolnalum@hotmail.com.

The Bulletin Board

Harry Glickman, ’41, recently gave the keynote dinner speech at the George Pasero Scholarship Golf Tournament at Langdon Farms Golf Course. The event was to raise money for a journalism scholarship to the University of Oregon. Glickman, a longtime Portland Trail Blazers executive, was a good friend of Pasero, the late sportswriter.

Edith Ottenheimer Miller, ’22, recently celebrated her 103rd birthday. A former Rose Festival princess, Miller lives in the Vista St. Clair Apartments.

Arne Westerman, ’44, has his art on display at the Attic Gallery, Northwest 10th and Hoyt.

Summer picnic a success!
More than 100 members of classes from the 1930s to the class of 2007 enjoyed food and drink, school memorabilia, good conversation and live music from the Allyn Jackson Trio at the summer picnic held August 5 at Oaks Park. The event was designed to bring alumni together to meet, mingle, share stories and catch up.

Scott Cress, ’64; Ed Erautt, ’42; Joe Erautt, ’39; Alex Stiles, ’84; and Michelle Donahue Watts, ’85, were all inducted into the PIL Sports Hall of Fame in October.

Peyton Chapman
Principal's Report

Leah Chan ('07)

Lincoln Alumni Association Endowment Fund

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Lincoln on the Park events draw nearer

If you attended “Lincoln on the Park” — that classy building at 1620 SW Park Avenue now known as Lincoln Hall of Portland State University — you will, sometime shortly after the beginning of next year, receive an invitation to a very special reunion. On Aug. 22 and 23, 2008, just a couple of weeks before the building will be closed to allow work to begin on an extensive renovation of the interior, there will be a gathering organized by nine very clever Cardinals for all alumni who had the very good fortune of attending the “old” Lincoln.

You will also get not only a chance to talk with classmates you have met at your class reunions but to meet up after all these years with friends who were sophomores when you were a lowly, worthless freshman or who were mere juniors when you were a mighty senior. You can make plans to meet these old but new friends for lunch when you were a mighty senior. You can make worthless freshman or who were mere juniors.

The committee has arranged for a block of rooms at the Doubletree at special rates for those coming from out of town.

In addition, a couple of individual classes of that era are thinking of holding a “Sunday Something” on the following day, August 24th. For example, Janet Woods Livesay is hoping to gather the class of ’52 for some sort of get-together. (Maybe a brunch cruise on the Spirit of Portland?) Contact her at gamma66@msn.com and let her know that you are interested. Other classes may also be setting aside an hour or so on the 24th for an auld lang syne time.

All of the details — exact times, costs, places, contacts, etc. — about this very special event will be in the information/registration material you will receive. In the meantime, if you have any question or comment about the event — especially about your interest in a “Sunday Something” on the 24th for your class — e-mail Tobi Moore O’Neil, ’50, at tobian@comcast.net or write her at 19095 SW Mobile Pl., Portland, 97062.

By the way, the committee can always use a bit of help with expenses. If you are so inclined, send a check to Tobi made out to “Lincoln on the Park.”

Finally, let’s have a round of applause for the committee: Vance Taylor (’50) chair, Andy Friedle Dignan (’49), Ray Johnson (’49), Tobi Moore O’Neil (’50), Art Pascuzzi (’50), Joan Clegg Banks (’51), Barbara Brewer Heidegger (’51), Janet Woods Livesay (’52) and Spencer Snow (’52).

CALLING ALL CARDINALS

• We are looking for multigenerational families for oral histories. Does your family have ties to Lincoln going back three or four generations? Even longer? We’d love to hear from you at lincolnalum@hotmail.com or the LHSAA hotline, 503-452-2225.

• For the 60th anniversary of PopCycles, theater teacher Jim Peerenboom is organizing a very special performance this year. It is set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 in the Lincoln auditorium. He’d like to celebrate by doing two things: have alumni come back and reprise an act they did in the past; and get suggestions from alumni of past acts they remember that could be re-done by current Lincoln students. He would like to get this information by Nov. 2nd to have time to prepare. E-mail him at thespian4u@aol.com or 503-916-5200 ext. 438.

• Save the date! The 2008 spring membership luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. For more information call organizer Dorothy Hart Grasle, ’75, at 503-292-3378.
Come look at our archives

The Alumni Association has a pretty extensive collection of memorabilia, photos and other interesting things in its archives. Now we are extending the invitation to you to check them out. Our archives are kept in a unit at Downtown Self-Storage, 1305 N.W. Davis St. They are open by appointment from 10:10 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Thursdays. There are several fun projects that need to be done – from identifying people in photos to cataloguing items. We also accept memorabilia if people would like to donate it. Call the Alumni Association hotline, 503-452-2225 or e-mail lincolnalum@hotmail.com to make an appointment.

From the Past . . .

I actually ate lunch in the cafeteria yesterday. I’m not joking; I actually ate lunch in the cafeteria! Some of you might be wondering how I got there, So I’ll let you in on a little secret: I had practice . . .

Here are an additional few tips:
• Always get to the cafeteria about five minutes early. That way you will get a chair – if you can find one under all the garbage . . .
• When you move from one side of the cafeteria to the other, always watch the floor with one eye, while keeping the other eye alert for flying food . . .

Four years of eating in the Lincoln cafeteria can be detrimental to one’s health. After all, why do you think the seniors have the smallest class?

— Liz Schleuning,
The Post Card,
Nov. 22, 1977