

THE COMMUTER

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Oregon's primary election: Do we have a voice?

Tim James
The Commuter

On May 20 Oregon will be the sixth to last state to vote in the presidential primary elections.

When almost all of the other states' votes have already been decided, many people feel Oregon has little influence during the primaries.

Lindsey O'Connor, a student at LBCC who just moved from California to Oregon, said she would already see the difference in the way the states are treated.

"In California, I would get tons of calls on my cell phone endorsing candidates and asking who I was going to vote for at the primaries. In Oregon it's completely different. It seems like they don't care about Oregon, but at least I don't have to deal with annoying phone calls."

On the other hand, with a variety of candidates to choose from, this election year seems to be giving citizens the chance for their vote to count.

Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, John McCain, and more; the 2008 primaries are shaping up to be a state-to-

state battle for the presidential nomination.

"I think voting makes a big difference," said Tanner Hall, LBCC student, "I just haven't registered to vote yet. I don't really know how and I don't know much about the candidates running."

To vote in Oregon's primary, one needs to register to vote by April 29 (21 days before the primary.) The Web site www.rockthevote.com offers the dates to register to vote and the dates of the primaries for each state.

Primary elections are different in every state. Oregon has a closed primary. That means Oregonians can only vote if they are party members and they must vote within that party. The Web site www.oneballot.com is an example of sites with petitioners who are fighting to change Oregon to an open primary system. In an open primary election, any registered voter can vote in any party's primary.

Oregon, like most states, has a winner takes all process. Whoever gets the most votes for each party gets Oregon's delegates to the national nominating conventions this summer.

Iowa was the first state to start

off the primary elections, with its caucuses. Brendan Koerner posted "Why Does Iowa Get to Go First?" at www.slate.com. He writes the reason they start off is because in the 1960s the Iowa Democratic Party ruled; 60 days had to pass between the primary and when Iowa's delegates are officially selected. This put Iowa before New Hampshire as the first to go in the primary process.

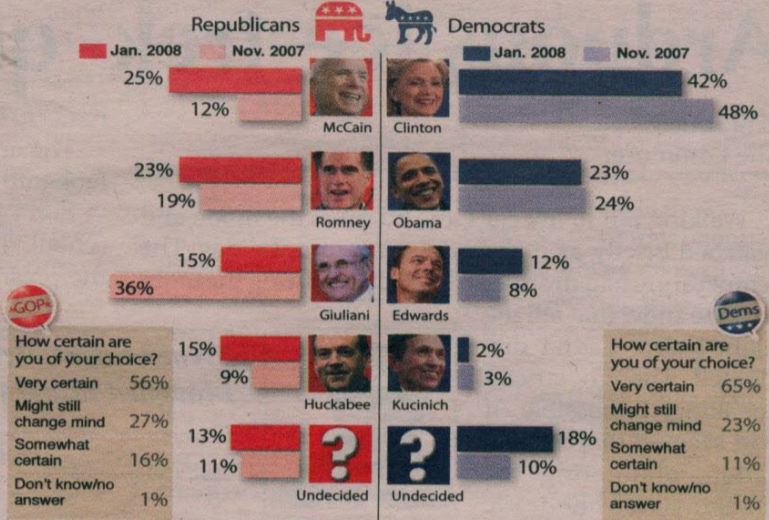
The most delegates can be won on "Super Tuesday." This term refers to a Tuesday in early February or March when most states have their primary elections.

This year "Super Tuesday" is on Feb. 5. The states vary from year to year, but this year it will include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Utah.

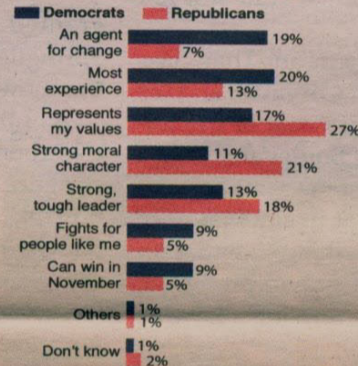
For more information about the candidates, check out <http://glassbooth.org>. The site offers a quiz that matches one's views with political candidates.

How Florida leans

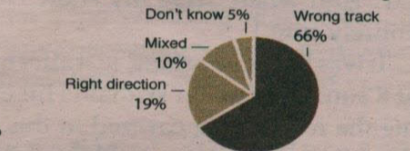
If the primary for President were today, which one do you lean more toward at this time?



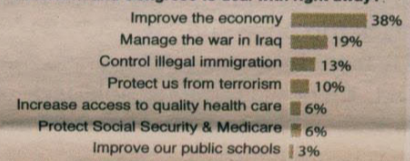
Which quality would you say influenced you most when choosing who to vote for?



Are things in the U.S. headed in the right direction, or are things seriously off on the wrong?



What should be the most important issue for the President and Congress to deal with right away?



Source: MCT Photo Service; poll conducted for The Miami Herald, The St Petersburg Times and Bay News 9 by Schroth, Eldon & Associates, Alexandria, Va., and the Polling Company/WomanTrend, Washington, D.C., of 800 likely Florida voters, Jan. 20-22, 2008; margin of error: +/- 3.5 percentage points
Graphic: Paul Cheung, Miami Herald



photo by Will Parker

The bulletin board in South Santiam Hall displays numerous postings from students on campus.

Public boards are free speech zones

Will Parker
The Commuter

A couple of weeks ago, anonymous fliers appeared on the public bulletin boards on the second floor of Takena Hall. Expressing a particularly direct anti-war sentiment, these fliers stirred up some emotion from veterans as seen in last week's letter to the editor. The question was asked, "What is the limit of what can be posted on those boards?" The answer is: Anything, mostly.

The bulletin boards that are directly tied to a specific department or organization such as the Multicultural Center are the strict domain of those organizations. But all the others scattered around campus including outside Takena Hall and on the South Santiam Hall are public.

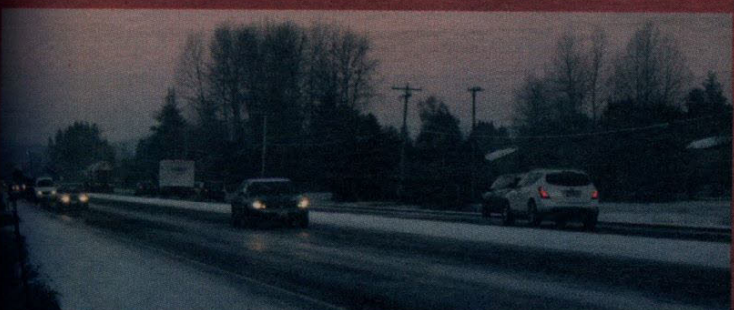
So far as the public bulletin boards are concerned, the First Amendment holds fast. Some of the most controversial 45 words in the constitution, the freedom of speech allowed by the First

Amendment through the boards can't be abridged by the administration. According to Administrative Rule number 105D and confirmed by Vice President Mike Holland, so long as it's legal and doesn't restrict access to a majority of the board, it's OK.

Even the whole process of getting a stamp from Student Life & Leadership is mostly procedural and designed more as a stop-gap to prevent over posting.

What does legal mean in this case? Anything not libelous, obscene, or otherwise not protected by the First Amendment. A really broad range of material, including sentiments against the current political administration, are permitted, even if they cause concern from some.

Justice William Brennan wrote in *New York Times vs. Sullivan* in 1964, the First Amendment provides that "debate on public issues ... [should be] ... uninhibited, robust, and wide-open."



Several days of light snow slow down LBCC.

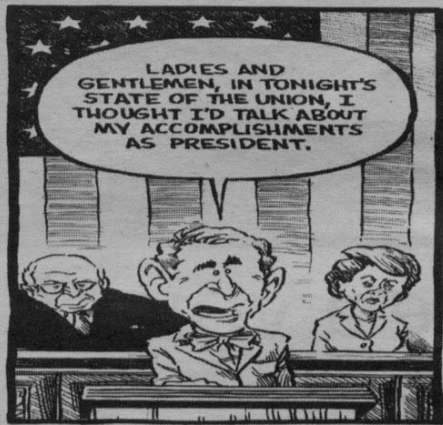
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OPINION

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Arduous ice-trek queries system

Will Parker
The Commuter

Walking out to my car I looked up at the moon and watched briefly as it chased Saturn into the day. The temperature had dropped low enough during the night that the snow that fell the night before hadn't dissipated. Though, strictly speaking, impossible, it had seemed that ice had fallen, blanketing the roads in slick white death. So why was I out at my car? And where were my snow chains? (I'm still not entirely sure.)



"When I fishtailed around corners I laughed rather than stressed."

Will Parker

It was Friday morning, just after 6 a.m. and I had class at 8 a.m. I live up on Witham Hill in Corvallis, and for me the roads were covered in this icy coat of frustration all the way down to Philomath Boulevard. That's to say that I could finally make out some semblance of black top once I hit Highway 34, not to say that once I was there it was safe or dry or anything like that. In fact, there was a noticeable lack of gravel present. I, however, had to go to class because missing a lab day was bad business.

So I plodded along at an average of 8 mph to the Albany campus of LBCC that morning, all told taking a little over the two hours I had allotted to the task and arriving at my astronomy lab 10 minutes late. It should be said that there is a good chance that I could have managed to fight any sort of negative impact it might have had on my grades by staying safe and staying at home. I didn't want to take the chance, though, because I need to keep my grades up. I also went into this horrible situation with two years of military training and experience driving in Alaska on worse roads in worse conditions.

When I fishtailed around corners I laughed rather than stressed.

When I did a 360-degree spin on 35th Street near OSU, I fondly remembered the half dozen times I had done the same while driving my old Jeep. In that way, I lost a minimal amount of time to conditions that were just plain insane.

To say that I was righteously indignant when I got to school would be to understate the sentiment much as it would be to describe a nuclear weapon as a really big firecracker. Not that we have those in Oregon (Thanks New Mexico for still preserving a teenage boy's right to blow action figures up with cherry bombs.). The question I continually asked was: "Why was LBCC still running on time? Why didn't the administration decide to at the very least give us a couple more hours for the

roads to improve?"

The answer that I got was a combination of, "We'll look into it at the next president's staff meeting." And, "I don't know why no one called in to at least delay school. The president lives in Corvallis," both from the president's secretary. As I write this, I realize the question I should have asked was, "Did the president get here on time this morning?"

I received some validation on Monday morning when LBCC closed down for the snow, granted Eugene, Sweet Home, Lebanon, Albany, Springfield and everything in between was closed for the snow, too. And it gave me some time to think.

As LBCC students, something we often hear in the classroom is that the instructors want to make our experience as close to a "real world work experience" as possible. I still had to work Monday, despite the weather. So why not go to school? In that respect, I can't really complain that LBCC expected me to attend Friday morning, except that there are some big differences between your average job and going to school. For one, if you miss three days of class in some classes it's an automatic failure, but no job will fire you for being sick for three days. And if you fail a class, it follows you in a way that quitting or even getting laid off from a job doesn't.

Though I still had some issues: Why didn't we get at least a small delay to let the city catch up with making the roads safe? I know that the Corvallis Police Department closed part of Witham Hill Drive to through traffic due to the ice. And that the buses can't physically make the climb or descent safely until there's a good coat of gravel down. I know other parts of Corvallis suffer from the same problems with icy weather. And I would have been straight up screwed if I relied on public transportation to get to class by 8 a.m.

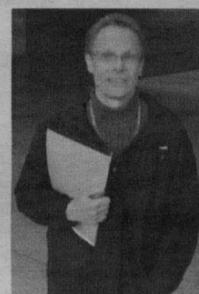
But what about the city? I mean, the ice on Witham Hill didn't significantly change from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., so where was the gravel?

Given time to reflect on the situation, there were a lot of parties that could have done better Friday morning. The LBCC administration could have at least thought about all the people living in apartments around the hilly areas of Corvallis, Corvallis could have graveled the roads way earlier, and I should have spent the extra time to dig out my snow chains.

And as the weather forecasts shift from rain to snow and back again, all of us could do to give nature a little bit more respect. And ourselves a little more time to get wherever we're going.

PERSPECTIVES

"Do you believe global warming will affect you in your lifetime?"



"I guess I fear it will"

• Lynn Trimpe •
LBCC Staff

"I don't."



• Zach Peterson •
Unknown



"I think that it will affect the climate. Times that are colder will be warmer."

• Scot Nelson •
Computer Science

"Well, I think it will affect the habitats of different animals."



• James Dearing •
Computer Networking



"I think it will affect me directly and indirectly."

• Sam Walker •
Recreation Resource Management

The Commuter

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"Correction"

Due to an error Jared Gillen's quote last week was misprinted: "I don't think it's something that needs to come into the community."

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
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 Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.

Virtual "Moby Dick" swallows game-dev's legs

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

It seems like every time I turn around one of the last bastions of independent gaming disappears into the ocean that is composed of the megalomaniacal gaming conglomerates; companies whose very backbone appears to consist of the hollowed out shells of lesser development houses. Their stomachs consistently overfilled with partially digested game programmers.

Specifically, what has my virtual knickers in a twist is Bioware selling out to Electronic Arts (EA). Bioware, who is famous for critically acclaimed hits like "Baldur's Gate" and "Star Wars Knights of the Old Republic" decided to pull the ol' merge-a-roo with Pandemic back in 2005. Now, as of Jan. 7, it is officially a member of the EA family for a cost of a whopping \$860 million.

And here is what I think is going to happen: EA purchases fancy gaming company that makes a lot of money and promises to churn out more money-making games like "Neverwinter Nights." Stocks go up. Bioware releases "Fallout 3" to commercial success, effectively making the franchise mediocre like they did with the "Elder Scrolls" with "Oblivion," but because so many people have been waiting for "Fallout 3" since 1998, it sells and makes bank. Stocks are on the rise. Bioware pushes out "Dragon Age," and another undetermined cheap sequel or MMO, both under funded and under budgeted. Gamers buy without reservation and are utterly horrified at how soul-less and "EA-fied" the new games are. EA still makes bank and stocks continue to rise. EA reads the reviews and balks at Bioware's performance. They cut the company loose and liquidate the assets. Stocks

rise once again, because of the smart business savvy of EA management, quitting while they were ahead.

Look at Maxis, in my opinion, being used up for "The Sims," and a "SimCity" title (The game franchise that made Maxis) not even being developed by them, after spitting out the ho-hum "SimCity 4." What EA doesn't seem to realize is that by cutting budgets, stripping down development schedules, swapping team members and replacing people into the development cycle effectively pull the rug out from under the game and any chance of survival it has. After swallowing Westwood Studios, "Command and Conquer Generals" was a soulless shade of its forbearers, lacking in any story or personality whatsoever. And that's what games need, just look at "Red Alert 2" and how great it was; it was the first Westwood title to be released by EA, but it was already in development. Then they churn out "Yuri's Revenge," which absolutely ruined the online multiplayer of "Red Alert 2" and quick as can be, support is dropped and no meaningful balancing patches are ever released.

It looks like as soon as these acquired studios churn out what they were working on, whatever magic they have is effectively destroyed by the larger company's management. It feels like EA's entire goal is to sell you franchises of games for people who aren't really gamers, then when a hardcore gamer comes along and picks it up, they conquer it in a few hours or are so bleeding bored they froth at the mouth until their mother comes in and turns their gaming rig off, in which case the trance is lifted.

When Activision merged with Blizzard on a quiet Sunday afternoon, I was as shocked as anyone. Vivendi Universal, French parent company of Blizzard merged with San Francisco based Activision to form

what is, as far as I know, one of the biggest gaming conglomerates to date in a deal valued at \$18.9 billion. That just makes me want to scream out "1.21 Gigawatts!" it's so large. Many of you are already familiar with "World of Warcraft" and its quick shift from an MMO for gamers to an MMO for profit, effectively killing my interest. This merger, in my opinion, will spell only one thing for the future of the "Warcraft" franchise: Cheap sequels that gamers are tricked into purchasing, milked expansion packs for "World of Warcraft," and generally, finding any way they can take your lunch money with minimal effort.

I'll be the first to say that in my opinion Blizzard was never that great of a development house, releasing outdated games with simple mechanics that were highly polished. They weren't bad, they just weren't innovative, but that was their charm to most people they were stable and balanced, requiring no brains to play. Now couple that with the blending into a large company who wishes only to make money.

What we're seeing here potentially is the rise of a second Electronic Arts. Within a few short years, the Activision-Blizzard brand will be nothing but game titles for sequels, oft overlooked as smaller, more creative development houses once again rise, only to be swallowed up by the white whales that haunt my dreams and consume my waking moments. More diabolosque mental tripe requiring absolutely no mental alacrity in any space-time continuum is what can be expected in this future's event-horizon.

False information instigates incorrect research

In Fridge
 The Commuter

I was looking through my e-mail when I came across one from a friend telling me about a Recording Industry Association of America copyright infringement lawsuit. I finished reading the e-mail, then I decided to look into it, and I came across something interesting: a post on a blog about the lawsuit filed by the RIAA against Jeffery Howell, an Arizona man they accused of copyright infringement because he had converted his personal CD collection to MP3s and stored them on his computer. It looked to me like I had found a story; "big business" was attacking the little guy again.

All across the Internet I found more people discussing "The RIAA's attempt to criminalize MP3s." Every one of them was full of assertions that based on their "research" the RIAA was making baseless accusations that wouldn't possibly hold up in court. After reading several more impassioned blogs on the subject, I decided to do a little research myself.

It turns out that the case had in fact been resolved in August of last year, when Judge Wake had ruled that Howell had indeed committed copyright infringement by placing the files in a shared directory for others to access over the Internet. The case had not been about Howell's conversion of CDs to MP3 format for personal use, but that he had been illegally sharing the music using Kazaa, a well-known Internet source for pirated music.

Sadly, I realized that this put me right back where I started. I had no story, and I had wasted several hours on a controversy that had been manufactured by the blogosphere. The Washington Post, which originally broke the story, was proven to be wrong. The reputable news media had ceased to cover the lawsuit, the judge had ruled in favor of the RIAA and the matter was over and done with. These bloggers couldn't possibly have done any research.

Looking into it a little further I discovered that the only reporting that had been done by the blogs was, it seems, reading other blogs. Finally, a glimmer of truth of some kind amid the sea of opinions and flamewars we call the Blogosphere. These bloggers have absolutely no idea what is going on in the world for the most part. It is a land of wannabe journalists without editors or verifiable facts. They work in an echo chamber where opinions masquerade as factual reports, and inflammatory statements can spark a four-month controversy over something that never occurred in the first place.

This may not be true of every blog. There are many that actually provide valuable information. But it is important to be aware that while blogs are a valuable tool in gathering information, they can also be one of the more disreputable sources of information. You should always be skeptical of anything found in the blogosphere, because you may find that what you once thought was a raging controversy is nothing more than sloppy reporting and opinionated ranting.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Information about plays, movies, books, artwork, and entertaining or artistic endeavors.

"Blood" visceral, offensive

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

"There Will Be Blood" paints a stark, cynical portrait of a burgeoning oilman and shifty, money-grubbing preacher in a desolate stretch of Southern California around the turn of the 20th century. It's a dismal story that plods along at the pace of a dried-up snail.

It opens beautifully, with a long stretch of wordless footage, and the gritty, in-your-face prospecting of Daniel Plainview (Daniel Day-Lewis) who gropes for silver in a dingy pit. The film captures the quiet desperation of one man struggling with his own two hands in the earth. Four years later in 1902, Daniel finds oil in the same area and we see him taking care of a baby who may or may not be his son. He mingles whiskey with the baby's milk.

"There Will Be Blood" does an exquisite job of depicting the raw oil as something primitive and earthy—something that almost seems to exist to tempt men to greed the same way it bubbles to the surface of the ground.

The first words of the film are ominously spoken by Daniel in 1911 (in which most of the film takes place).

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am an oilman."

His supposed son, H.W. (Dillon Freasier) eerily stands at his

side like some sort of hood ornament allowing him to claim, "I am a family man." Daniel is doing well in business, buying up land and drilling in several places, but he still is looking to make it big. He gets a tip from Paul Sunday (Paul Dano) who brags about a place where oil seeps out onto the ground from the depths.

Paul's brother, Eli (also Paul Dano), squabbles with Daniel over the price of the land and belittles his own meek father, who is pretty much willing to take any deal. Eli is an aspiring charismatic preacher, who wants to see the proceeds of the land go to the church that he is head of. This scene marks the beginning of the reciprocal struggle between the two men, who both have something the other one wants.

An elegantly crafted set up turns sour as scene after scene plods along with sparse and frivolous dialogue that tries to set the mood of the story, and let the audience fill the blanks, but leaves us hanging in some sort of lugubrious limbo for what seems to be lack of imagination. Director, Paul Thomas Anderson, does well at letting brazen images pull the story together but fails to deliver significant characterizations.

Daniel wants to promote education, build community, and stimulate business in the area while Eli frets over money for his congregation, The Church

of the Third Revelation. Daniel is a self-made man who stands in contrast with Eli who Daniel sees as a heckling mooch. Eli wants to be introduced as a faithful man, at the opening of the oil well, and be allowed to make a simple blessing, but Daniel, seeing that Eli is vying for undeserved praise, introduces and praises his younger sister instead, whom 10-year-old H. W. has been flirting with. When a man dies in the oil well, Eli attributes this to the botched blessing.

"There Will Be Blood" depicts an awkward world of semi-deranged characters who have little depth but powerful screen presence. The film hints at so much more, but fails to adequately address much of its own content. For example, Eli attempts to heal the arthritic hands of an old woman by casting out an oppressive demon, but did anything happen at all? Maybe, maybe not.

When black oil spews from the well, H. W. is injured and goes deaf. Instead of offering to heal him, Eli demands money from Daniel, as part of an informal oral agreement they make, which depended on whether how much oil was found. This sends Daniel into a fit of rage, slapping Eli into a shallow pool of oil. In turn, Eli rages against his father, calling him a stupid man for cutting a lousy deal with Daniel. Eli gets his revenge on Daniel later, forc-

ing him to join the church.

The film captures the cathartic avarice of the booming oil industry, and presents the looming dangers of shifty false-prophet evangelists, which are both prevalent in this country today. However, it presents a narrow and filthy vision. It tarnishes something beautiful, like love for God, and promotes a dismal and unilateral version of spirituality. Nominated for best picture, the Academy seems to be continuing its trend in supporting immorality among its heavyweight contenders.

Daniel Day-Lewis gives an outstanding performance in this movie, maintaining his salesman pitch manner of speaking, and delivering haunting gargoyle-esque expressions as he voices

his disgust and hatred for people.

Other performances were convincing. The music, written by Radiohead guitarist Jon Greenwood, is starkly original some points, but monotonous repetitive and strangely through most of the movie. The use of keyboards is reminiscent of the movie, "Clockwork Orange" and similarly chaotic. It's a bit for the deranged atmosphere of the film.

"There Will Be Blood" has a lot of potential, and would of course be critically acclaimed for its originality and cultural relevance, but ultimately a godless and paranoid story perpetuates a dismal negative. It's despicable.

Poetry Corner

For Emerson and Whitman:

You were a poet of epic proportion
 and I, an architect of Emotion.
 You are unscripted.
 I follow lines, albeit
 wavy, circular and broken ones,
 but lines, nevertheless.

To speak with you I need the help of Merriam and Webster

To speak
 with myself I need a
 Blood-red fist pumping wildly
 inside my chest as my
 disembodied pen sketches
 Pain, Love, and Life
 in a language
 crafted by the heart only to be
 misunderstood by the mind.

But your Moon, Sun and Stars,
 your Trees and Shrubs,
 your Waters,
 your oxygen-rich, stormy elixir,
 they speak the language of the heart.

As you said, and as I love:
 "To define is to confine".
 Neither you nor I will attempt,
 but just "witness and wait".

~Josef Westlund~

John Rambo's back... 'nuf said

Tyler Dahlgren
 The Commuter

"Rambo" is back and with him is an aged, 61-year-old Sylvester Stallone. After resurrecting "Rocky" in 2006, nearly 16 years after "Rocky V," Stallone returns as John Rambo, in the fourth installment, 20 years after "Rambo III."

If you are looking for a movie that relies not on plot but on the amount of torture, death, and destruction it can create for the viewer, this movie is for you.

Surprisingly, "Rambo" has an ending that will blow your mind and leave you with a smile on your face. This smile comes not from the death and destruction but from knowing that you didn't just pay \$7 to see possibly one of the worst films of the last decade.

If you want advice on going to this movie, I recommend that you show up at least an hour late. You will pick up the plot in less than a minute and only have to wait 20 minutes until the short, 95-minute movie reaches its astounding, death-toll rising and much-needed ending.

"Rambo" has gore surpassing that of the opening scene of "Saving Private Ryan" on Omaha Beach. The film has a total 236 kills, with an average of 2.59 kills per minute, according to firstshowing.net, giving it the most kills of the entire "Rambo" series.

In the newest installment, Rambo has become a bit of an outcast, retreating to the simple life near the Burmese border, where he earns his living catching deadly snakes for entertainers and ferrying travelers on his rickety boat.

Upon the arrival of Christian missionaries, Rambo is asked to take them up the river toward Burma, a country bordered by Thailand where Rambo lives. The missionaries hope to give medicine and food to the tribes of Burma who have been subjected to genocide due to an oppressive military they have been fighting the last 60 years. Rambo denies the missionaries a ride after being asked several times but eventually grants them one at no charge.

Rambo drops them off and then heads back to Thailand. The humanitarian mission is going well for the church crew until the village is attacked, and they are taken captive.

Rambo hears of their disappearance when the church pastor visits him at his home and tells him the missionaries have been missing for the past 10 days.

With help of no more than five soldiers, Rambo is able to strategize a plan and overtake an army of more than 150 Burmese soldiers, compiling at least 50 kills himself, while rescuing the captives.

Once again this movie had a terrible first-half story line, mostly due to the weak amount of action scenes and a dwindling plot.

However, Stallone is a genius at the end of the film, compiling probably the most gruesomely awesome kills I have ever seen. Heads were severed, stomachs were split open allowing intestines to hit the ground, and bodies were split in half—genius.

All and all, I give the film a three out of 10 for the first hour and a 10 out of 10 for the last 30 minutes.

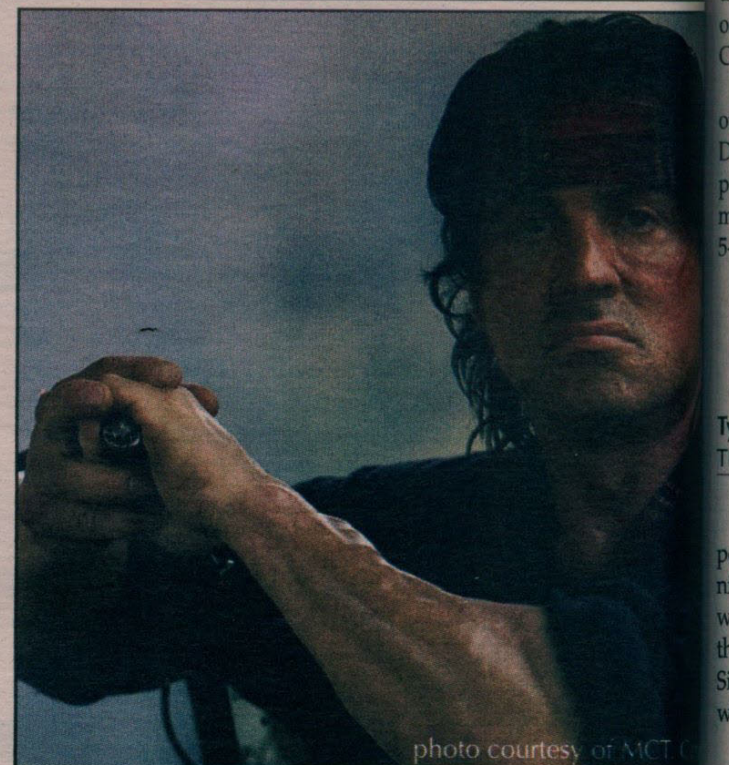


photo courtesy of MCT

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus.

No. 10 OSU gymnastics land season high 196.27

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

CORVALIS- Jami Lanz and Jen Kesler provided key event wins for the No. 11 Oregon State Gymnastic team Friday in their third annual Pink Out against No. 14 Arizona. OSU scored a season high 196.275 to Arizona's 194.050 in front of 5,063 fans at Gill Coliseum, the most since 1998.

With Tasha Smith being scratched from the line up after the second event due to an illness, the Beavers showed off their depth by adding Claire Pierce in a last second change to the beam line up and Becky Colvin to the floor routine.

"We had some adversity tonight," said head coach Tanya Chaplin. "Brook Barclay hurt her knee in the beginning and then Tasha's stomach was still bad after the bars so I made the decision to put in Claire on the beam. She went in without a warm up and did a great job!"

Mandi Rodriguez and Lanz tied for best on the vault with a 9.825. Colvin was third with 9.80.

Kesler won the uneven bars for the second straight meet, with a score of 9.825 and there was a four-way-tie for second with a 9.80 for OSU's Kera Bolen, Smith, Lanz and Arizona's Brianna Bergeson.

"She is so determined and very mentally strong," commented Chaplin on Kesler.

"We know she is a very strong athlete. She is

an amazing girl and works hard everyday in practice. She wants to be here in the line up," said Lanz

The beam event brought a win and personal best from Lanz with a 9.950. Laura-Ann Chong shared second with Kesler who tied her personal best for the beam with a 9.850.

"It was a huge relief," said Lanz on her beam performance. "I had a rough night last week on beam, and as an athlete I couldn't settle for that. I felt amazing after my beam performance tonight."

Yuki Lamb, who had a personal best, and Rodriguez took the floor title with a 9.875 while Lanz tied for second with Arizona's Karin Wurum scoring 9.85.

This was the first time Lamb competed in three events for the Beavers, adding in a tied-for-fourth place performance on the beam and tied-for-fifth on the vault.

Lanz took the all around title with 39.425 and Rodriguez was second with 39.050.

The ladies are on the road early to show off this weeks No. 10 ranked team, with a meet tonight against No. 20 Arizona State and Sunday in Berkeley, Calif. against the Golden Bears of California. They are home again Feb. 15th against Stanford and Seattle Pacific with the meet starting at 7 p.m.

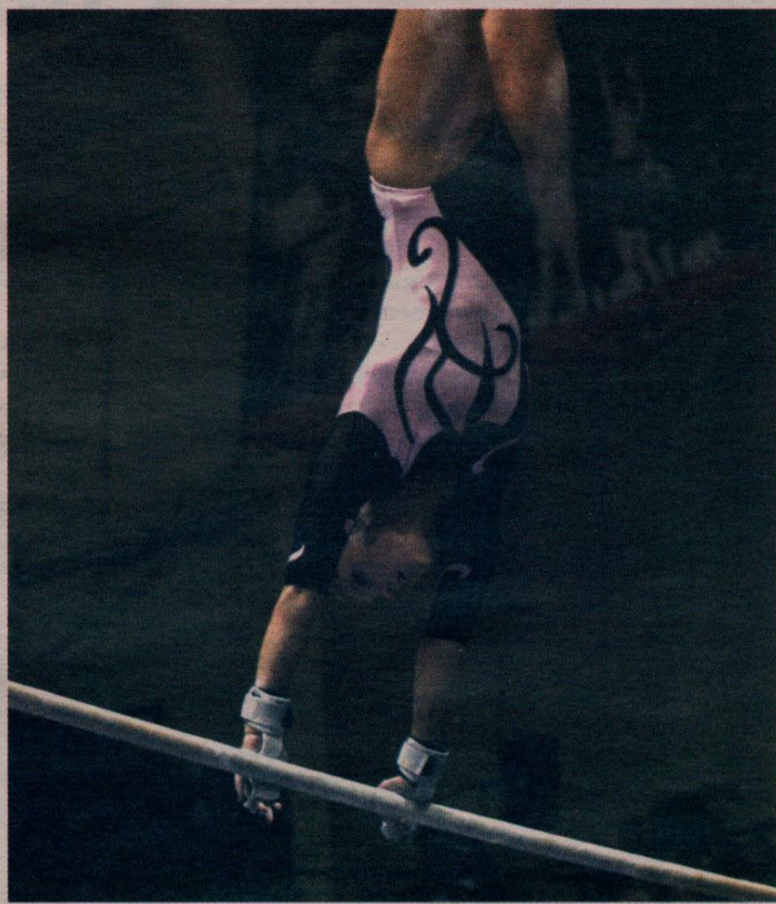


photo by Chris Kelley

Jami Lanz scored a 9.80 on the uneven bars, putting her tied for second. She won the all-around, scoring 39.425 including a personal best 9.95 on the beam.

Ladies tied for No. 2 in South

Tyler Dahlgren
 The Commuter

Wednesday afternoon the Lady Runners faced Umpqua Community College, a tough team in the NWAACCSouth and almost escaped with a victory losing 79-89.

The Runners got off to a slow start the first half, trailing as they headed into the locker room 33-47. However the second half was a different story, as the ladies seemed like a newly revamped team, outscoring the Riverhawks 46-40.

A difficult UCC team proved to be too much despite the impressive second half run as Linn Benton was defeated. The win improves the Riverhawks record to 5-2 league placing them in a three-way tie for second place with Linn Benton and Clackamas.

Despite the loss there were two outstanding performances led by Destiny Neuenschwanders 24 points. The 5-foot-6 Sophomore matched her height shooting 5-6 from three-point range, an

amazing 83% from beyond the arc. She was also 8-11 from the floor. Emily Irwin recorded an impressive 22 points adding five assists which led the team.

Saturday the ladies faced the South's 5th place team, Mt.

"I wasn't impressed with one individual but rather the entire team."

Head Coach Chuck Gibeaut

Hood. The game was back and forth throughout the contest with 13 lead changes making it a real nail biter. Despite trailing 31-35 at the half, the ladies were able to outscore Mt. Hood in the second half 34-28 escaping with a narrow 65-63 victory.

"We didn't play Linn Benton basketball the first half, we played Mt. Hood basketball," said coach Gibeaut. "I wasn't impressed with one individual but rather the entire team. Each player stepped it up at different points during the game and I was impressed with that."

Four players scored in double figures, making the victory a real team effort. Emily Irwin led all scorers with 16 points and four assists for the Roadrunners while Destiny Neuenschwander had another great night with 12 points, once again shooting impressively from the three-point line hitting 2-3 shots from downtown.

Amanda Fox had 11 points and Jessica Vorpahl added 10 as the team improved to a 5-2 league record and a three way tie for second place in the NWAACC South.

The loss, Mt. Hood's sixth in league this season, moves them into second to last place behind third place Chemeketa and fourth place SW Oregon.

The ladies visit undefeated, first place Lane Community College Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and are in action Saturday as well against Chemeketa C.C. in Salem at 4 p.m.

A Word With Cheese

Chris "Cheese" Kelley
 The Commuter

I haven't had a chance to watch TV lately, mostly recorded shows on. But the other day while I was watching SportsCenter, I was excited to see Peyton Manning in another commercial, this time with his brother Eli promoting the "DSRL-Double Stuffed Racing League" for Oreo.

It is official--there isn't anything Peyton can't market. He has commercials for Mastercard, Sony, NFL Network, Sprint, Gatorade, Reebok and the video game NFL Fever. He has also done a couple public service commercials with his family that I found on YouTube.

His marketability can't be done as efficiently by any other athlete. It would be horrible to see Charles Barkley talking about video games or Shaq advertising weight loss pills, just to name a few.

There isn't anyone in the NFL with better character than Peyton. It hurts me to see him lose a football game because no matter his performance, he will take the blame for his team. And with a win, he will never take responsibility and is always passing the credit along. That is something extremely rare in today's sports era.

If you hate Peyton, which is hard to even think about let alone say, it isn't because he is a bad role model and in trouble with the law or because he is bad mouthing his team and coaches because he does just the opposite.

During this Super Sunday I am not watching the game to see his brother Eli, and the Giants, get torn apart by the undefeated Patriots--I will be looking for the next brilliant commercial done by Peyton.

LBCC men struggle at home, lose two straight

Tyler Dahlgren
 The Commuter

Tyson Christie led all Roadrunner scorers with 15 points, missing just one shot from the floor Wednesday night against Umpqua Community College. Christie was one of five LBCC scorers in double figures with the others being Michael White with 13 points, Trevor Siefken with 11, and Trevor Thurn and Eddie Leeson with 10.

The men went into the locker room at the half, down

54-38 but Jared Childs' 24 points for the Riverhawks proved to be too much; despite a second half surge that resulted in the Runners only being outscored by eight, 45-37.

Impressive performances by a number of players weren't enough to stop a tough Umpqua team, losing 99-75. UCC is currently first place in the NWAACC South with a 7-0 league record.

Saturday night the men faced off against a struggling Mt. Hood team but couldn't manage to score consistently from the floor, losing 84-57.

No players scored in double figures as the Runners were held to 18 points in the first half, the lowest amount of points scored in the first half this season.

Tyson Christie had seven points and five assists while Kyler Kirchner, Leeson, and White contributed eight points a piece.

The losses drop the Runners to a 2-5 league, and an 8-13 overall record.

You can catch the men in action tonight as they visit Lane Community College at 7:30 p.m. or Saturday at 6 p.m. against Chemeketa Community College.

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about our local community
 including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon
 Sweet Home and Philomath

-Campus Shorts-

LBCC Holds Annual Open House

Linn-Benton Community College is hosting an open house Monday, Feb. 11 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Commons Cafeteria on the main campus, second floor College Center. Refreshments will be available from 5:30 to 6 p.m.

Prospective students can learn how to finance a college career; visit with faculty advisors to learn more about individual LBCC programs; learn about the LBCC/OSU Degree Partnership Program and find out why more than 6,000 students have enrolled in the program; meet with LBCC student ambassadors and see how LBCC is committed to students and their success.

LBCC's open house is free and open to the public. Register on the LBCC Web site at www.linnbenton.edu/go/openhouse or call the LBCC open house hotline: (541) 917-4490. For more information, contact LBCC Admissions at (541) 917-4812. For disability accommodations, call (541) 917-4789 or TDD through the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.

Periwinkle Center Sweetheart Drawing

Periwinkle Child Development Center is sponsoring its 32nd plus Sweetheart Drawing. They are asking for prize donations for the drawing. The Sweetheart Drawing is the center's biggest fundraiser each year. All proceeds are used by PCDC Parent Club to purchase much needed

children's classroom supplies, outside play equipment, and outside play structures.

Tickets will go on sale Monday, Feb. 4th. The center is also looking for volunteers to help sell tickets.

Campus Forum for Associate Dean

LBCC students and staff are invited to a Forum for the Student Services Associate Dean of Student Development candidates. The Forum will be held in the Multicultural Center as follows:

Luis Rosa, Director Health & Counseling Services, Western Oregon University, Wednesday, Jan. 30 from 3 to 3:30 p.m.

Dan Johnson, Director Student Programs & Multicultural Student Services, Lower Columbia Gorge, Friday, Feb. 1 from 3 to 3:30 p.m.

LBCC Pacific Islander Club Hosts Luau

The LBCC Pacific Islanders Club will be hosting a Luau with island food and dancing on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in the College Center Commons.

Guests will enjoy an island food menu of kalua pig (roast pork), teriyaki chicken, vegetable chop suey, rice, macaroni salad, tropical fruit salad, haupia (coconut pudding), fruit punch, tropical iced tea and coffee.

Entertainment will include dancers of all ages from Eugene's Hula Halau O Na Kaikuahine, Hula School of the Sisters,

performing both ancient and modern hula dances.

Tickets are \$10 per person. LBCC students can receive a free ticket with a current student ID card. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, Jan. 15 in the LBCC Student Life & Leadership office, at the registration counters at the LBCC Benton, Lebanon and Sweet Home Centers and at Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis and Sid Stevens Jewelers in Albany.

This event is open to the public and is made possible by the joint efforts of the LBCC Pacific Islanders Club, LBCC Student Programming Board and LBCC Associated Student Government. For more information, contact Angie Klampe, club advisor, at (541) 917-4790 or Shirley Austin, LBCC clubs coordinator, at (541) 917-4459.

Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Open House

The Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuges are hosting two open houses in February. The open houses are part of the scoping process for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for three refuges (Ankeny, Baskett Slough and William L. Finley). Information will be available on refuge programs, preliminary goals and

preliminary issues.

Meetings will be held in Corvallis and Salem and will provide the public with an opportunity to discuss the issues to be explored in the CCP process, and to learn about how the CCP process will unfold. It will also provide Refuge staff an opportunity to hear the public's interest and concerns for the Refuges.

Meeting times: Thursday, Feb. 7 at Salem First United Methodist Church Carrier Rooms, 600 State St., Salem, OR from 3 to 5 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the Corvallis Fire Station number five, Walnut Community Room, 4950 N.W. Fair Oaks Dr., Corvallis from 3 to 5 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m.

Background information on refuge resources and challenges is available at www.fws.gov/willamettevalley/ccp. The public is also invited to contact Doug Spencer, project leader, at (541) 757-7230.

Cavin delivers state of college address

Cody Cooper
 The Commuter

Making changes to better serve students was the theme of LBCC President Rita Cavin's "State of the College" talk on Friday.

The presentation in the Tripp Performance Center shed light on goals attained and those planned with an eye on the future. One such area was creating pathways with both high schools and four-year institutions in order to better serve the students both coming and going.

"We will be focusing energy to reach students who are unserved," said Cavin.

Several positions are being filled over the next few months to compensate for restructuring of job duties and retirement of current staff within the college administration. These changes are being made in order to better suit the needs of the students, she said.

One of the projects nearing completion on campus is the new library, which is scheduled for grand opening on April 30. To go along with the new building exterior pouring into the courtyard,

an assortment of trees will be planted to give the area a more natural look.

The next major project will be in the form of a new science building.

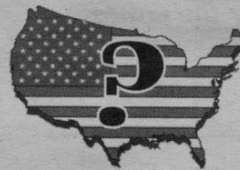
"We are developing an axis of science and technology," said Cavin. With the growing demand of science and medical professionals throughout the country, LBCC is well on its way to becoming an outlet for such individuals.

According to Cavin, LBCC also will have direct involvement with the new medical school opening in Lebanon in 2010. There will be an LBCC education center on site at that facility that will provide students with more direct communication and education opportunities.

Takena Hall will soon see a facelift as well, with a large focus on providing a more spacious environment for LB's culinary arts program.

"Culinary is one of our signature programs," said Cavin, and assured the audience that the updated facilities are more than deserved.

What's at Stake 2008



February 5, 2008
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
LBCC Albany Campus

9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Takena Hall: Voter registration, presidential primary straw poll, student government information, political interest tables

10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Forum Building, F-104:

- 10 - 11 a.m. - Open Forum
- 11 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. - Doug Clark: Security vs. Freedom & the Patriot Act
- 1-2 p.m. - Scott McAleer: Environmental Politics
- 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Robert Harrison: Media Influence on Voters

Noon - 1 p.m., Commons:

Soapbox Speeches - Politics, Student-Style. What's YOUR issue? Here's your opportunity to voice your opinion on your favorite political issue!

5 - 8 p.m., Hot Shot Coffee House: Watch the results of the presidential "super primary," free coffee & snacks

Sponsored by the Student Programming Board. For more information, contact the SL&L Office or call 917-4472. LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests 4-6 weeks before the event.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/Student-Employment to look at student & graduate jobs. For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

Summer jobs are coming in now! (#5999 & 5993) Forest Lookout in Sweet Home, deadline to apply is February. Restoration Ecology & Conservation Biology Paid Internships in Oregon, Washington & British Columbia, deadline to apply Feb. 11! Get that summer job now!

Program Staff (#6045, Albany) If you enjoy working with children & have CPR/First Aid, we need you urgently!! Part-time: 2:45-7pm, 5 days/week.

Restaurant positions (#6041, Albany) Chinese restaurant to be opening up around Feb. 18 and we need people ASAP in guest service, food prep, cooks and management.

Teacher/Child Care Staff (#5959, Albany) If you have one year experience or equivalent combination of education and experience, we are looking for you. Part-time, various hours.

MISC.

Need writing help? Have a major essay due? Need to discuss some of your ideas before you start writing? Need help brainstorming topics? Focusing? Organizing? The **Writing Center** invites you to stop by for help with these and any other writing questions. The Writing Center is in SSH-108. Drop in Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Can't stop by? Then visit our online service: lbcc.writingcenter-online.net.

Have something to sell? Want to place an ad in The Commuter? Come to The Commuter's office located at Forum 220, talk to advertising for information.

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus.

Non-traditional student of the month: Melanie Grove

Valerie Zeigler
 For The Commuter

Melanie Grove is a second-year student who expects to graduate in June with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in drafting and engineering graphics.

Being home-schooled from grade school through high school gave her the chance to experience some of the drafting world working with her father, who is a residential appraiser. Also, her mother is a drafting engineer, so Grove has had strong family support with her career

choice and is off to a running start.

Grove is working part time at Wah Chang for cooperative work experience (CWE) credit. She is thankful for this wonderful learning opportunity and is enjoying the not-so-glamorous side, like copying, as well as doing small drafting jobs. She says she likes working there, that her supervisor and co-workers are very friendly and understanding of her school schedule and they encourage her to "put school first."

In her classes at LBCC, Grove is extremely excited to learn the Solid Works

program for modeling 3D parts. She describes the process of printing the 3D files as "a glue gun depositing layers of plastic to form the final model."

Her long-range goal is to further her career and also earn her engineering degree. Although she would like to stay with Wah Chang after graduation, she will have a wide array of options and she can't wait to see what the future holds for her.

Her hobby outside of drafting is producing video slide shows for friends and family events, and would love to

incorporate that into her job someday.

Although the decision to enter the drafting and engineering world may have been an easy decision to make, Grove still cites her parents for being a great force in her life and that their constant encouragement and support has been the key to her success in school and life.

She does have a word of advice for those looking into a non-traditional career. Grove states, "Just because it's not the norm doesn't mean you can't or shouldn't do it! Don't let any social barriers limit your choices!"

Albany students, residents are still turning pages

Tyler Farmer
 The Commuter

Computers and television might be pulling more and more people away from books, but there are still those who find their entertainment in a good piece of fiction or a fascinating true story.

But what are people reading nowadays? Specifically, what are the people of Albany and the students at LBCC reading?

According to Bryan Miyagishima, LBCC librarian, students are primarily checking out books that have to do with their classes (for example, if they are taking a

Civil War class then they check out books about the Civil War); cookbooks, mysteries and science fiction/fantasy novels.

Rebecca Horlacher, manager of Waldenbooks, said people are buying books in the science fiction/fantasy and romance genres as well as any books that Oprah Winfrey mentions on television or elsewhere. Vampire-related books are also on the rise.

Among the most popular authors are Stephanie Meyer, Christine Feehan, James Patterson and Robert Jordan. And people are still reading the works of Stephen King.

The Albany Public Library draws readers with some different preferences. Ed Gallagher, library director, said people have been checking out books that have anything to do with Manga (Japanese comics) and works of fiction about animals.

The popular authors are Janet Evanovich, Nora Roberts, Dr. Seuss and J.K. Rowling, might be expected.

Albany likes James Patterson, as his books are a draw at the library, too. In fact, according to Gallagher, Patterson was the most popular author of 2007.

Focus the Nation

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30:

11:30 a.m. to Noon, F-104, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Energy Community: A Partnership with the Energy Trust of Oregon for Incentives for Renewable Energy.

Noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m., F-104, movie "Kilowatt Ours" (38 minutes).

12:40 to 12:55 p.m., F-104, John Kenneke, Pacific Power Company Blue Sky program.

THURSDAY, JAN. 31:

10:15 to 11:55 a.m., F-104, movie: "An Inconvenient Truth" (100 minutes).

11:30 to Noon, Multicultural Center, Maureen Beezhold, Northwest Earth Institute Information on the upcoming LBCC course, "Global Warming Changing CO2URSE: Strategies & Actions."

Noon to 12:30 p.m., F-104, Stefan Seiter, LBCC horticulture instructor, "Biofuels in Oregon."

12:30 to 12:40 p.m., F-104, Scottie Hurley & John Jarschke, LBCC culinary arts, "Local & Regional Foods."

12:40 to 12:55 p.m., F-104, Doug Clark, LBCC political science instructor, "The Politics of Responding to Global Warming."

1 and 3 p.m., F-104, movie: "An Inconvenient Truth"

3 to 11 p.m., University of Portland, free bus ride, an event for pre-registered students only. Meet at 3 p.m. at OSU; return at 11 p.m.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:

Art Exhibits: Students of LBCC art instructor Analee Fuentes, in the Commons.

Information Tables: Solar Energy, Allied Waste, Blue Sky, First Alternative Co-op, energy-saving tips.

Improv Guerilla Theater: Students of LBCC Theater Director Brian Newberg.

Sign-ups for ongoing activities: recycling, composting, Northwest Earth Institute classes, etc.

LBCC Library: Display of books and other resources about climate change.

Climate Change: YouTube clips by Greg Cravin in Takena Hall. Faculty will be incorporating climate change into curriculum.

Presentation meal with local and regional foods in the Commons.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

Commons

JANUARY 30TH - FEBRUARY 5TH

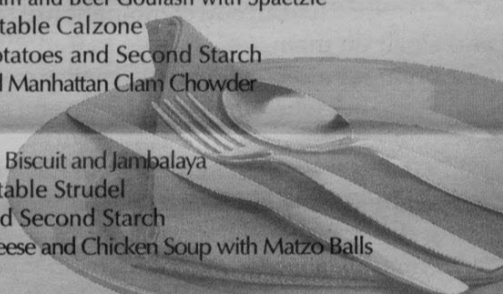
Wednesday:
 ENTREES: Reuben Sandwich with Coleslaw and Paella
 VEGETARIAN: Grilled Vegetable Pizza with Pesto and Goat Cheese
 SIDES: Potato Pancakes and Mexican Rice
 SOUPS: French Onion and Corn Chowder

Thursday:
 ENTREES: Liver with Bacon & Onions and Grilled Pork Chop with Sauce Robert
 VEGETARIAN: Thai Vegetable Curry with Steamed Rice
 SIDES: O'Brien Potatoes and Creamy Polenta
 SOUPS: Ginger Chicken & Coconut (tom Kha Gai) and Wild Rice

Friday:
 CHEF'S CHOICE

Monday:
 ENTREES: Glazed Ham and Beef Goulash with Spaetzle
 VEGETARIAN: Vegetable Calzone
 SIDES: Lyonnaise Potatoes and Second Starch
 SOUPS: Split Pea and Manhattan Clam Chowder

Tuesday:
 ENTREES: Chicken & Biscuit and Jambalaya
 VEGETARIAN: Vegetable Strudel
 SIDES: Couscous and Second Starch
 SOUPS: Cheddar Cheese and Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls





APPLY NOW LBCC SCHOLARSHIPS!

Scholarships Available for Winter Term Application!

Scholarship criteria & application online at

www.linnbenton.edu/go/scholarships

Application Deadline February 1, 2008:

AAWCC Scholarship • Caterpillar Foundation Scholarship • Collision Repair Advisory Scholarship • Corvallis Morning Rotary - Vocational Scholarship • Craig Conner Memorial Heavy Equipment/Diesel Scholarship • Doyle and Lois Marchbanks Memorial Scholarship Endowment • Due Knots Quilting Scholarship • Enduring A's Fords of 1928-31 Grant • George and Edna McDowell Memorial Scholarship • Georgia-Pacific Halsey Mill Scholarship Endowment • Glenda Sasser Tepper Scholarship • Greg Paulson Turf Management Scholarship • Hilda M. Jones business/Communications Scholarship Endowment • James F. Burnett Sr. Memorial Scholarship Endowment • John & Betty Gray Early Childhood Scholarship • Linn County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Scholarship Endowment • Marsden Chisholm Willingham Memorial Scholarship Endowment • Michael F. Klopping Memorial Scholarship • Paulson Arboriculture Scholarship • PFLAG Supporting Diversity Scholarship • Robert Dean Jones Agricultural and Mechanical/Welding Scholarship Endowment • Rod and Marty Tripp Scholarship Endowment • Susan K. Liljeberg Scholarship Endowment • Tech Scholar Program Scholarship

John and Phil's Toyota LBCC Scholarship

Five \$1,000 scholarships • Must be eligible to enroll at LBCC, one entry form per person • No purchase necessary • Scholarship will be paid directly to LBCC for student's tuition/fees and books. **Entries will be accepted at John and Phil's Toyota at 800 NW Fifth Street in Corvallis from January 1 to February 29, 2008.** Drawings will be held in March 2008.

LBCC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION



THE BACK PAGE

Snow, Slush And That Lovely Cold Damp Blah



Loren Newman
The Commuter

Being an Oregonian and a former Alaskan I am totally convinced that the second any form of frozen precipitation hits the ground the majority of Oregonians turn into complete bumbling buffoons. This last week has magically turned this hypothesis into almost undisputed fact. It's simple things that somehow are too difficult for the Oregonian to process when the rain starts to freeze.

For instance, facilities at LBCC deciding to block off all of the entrances to the courtyard with caution tape because they had an odd combination of snow, ice and slush on them. OK, just let that marinade in your brain for a second. No one carries caution tape on them, but when they saw the ice and snow they went and blocked off the stairs, successfully avoiding fixing the problem that could have been eliminated by simply shoveling off the snow and throwing down some salt, an activity that would take less time than wrapping the stairs in tape.

You people can't drive. There, I said it. When it snows here I don't drive; the problem is not that I can't drive in bad weather, it's that you can't. So for my own safety's sake here are some winter driving tips for you guys:

SLOW DOWN! The number three driving error in Oregon, according to Oregon State Police, is driving too fast for road conditions. I don't care if you have four-wheel drive and studs, a sheet of ice is still slick.

DON'T DRIVE SO CLOSE TO ME. Visibility goes to crap when it starts to snow hard; also the distance it takes to stop is much greater when the weather sucks. And finally, if you don't have to go out, don't. It will save you a lot of trouble if you simply stay inside when the roads are bad compared being stuck in a ditch waiting for the tow truck.

Don't get me wrong, I love the snow as much if not more than most people, but for some reason when it snows here people just wig out; a quarter of an inch of snow becomes an impassable blizzard that you had to walk five blocks through on the way to class almost losing a finger to frost bite.

I will have to say that the funniest thing that I see Oregonians do when it snows is the girls who wear the big down jackets with the fur brim, two or three scarves, mittens and tall Ugg Boots. Now that's normal attire for cold weather but what is funny is what is between the jacket and the Uggs. That's right, a ridiculously short mini skirt that barely covers her underwear; the greatest thing is you walk past them and they're all bundled up and shivering, and it is seriously hard not to just look them in the eye and laugh at them.

Strange attire, crappy driving and over exaggerating aside, enjoy the snow while its around it might be off the valley floor for now but you don't have to go far to find it. Build a snow man, white wash your little brother or just enjoy the beauty that can be winter. Just try to override that part of your brain that wants to shut off when you see flakes falling from the sky.



Top: Traffic slows as snow hits Highway 34. Above: LBCC student ducks under caution tape blocking main access to rest of campus. Bottom: Homeless man walks across Fourth Street after snow falls in Corvallis Wednesday. Photos by Will Parker.

