

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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Photos by Trevor Gleason

A back-hoe operator (top) tries to locate the section of pipe that burst Friday (above, right). The break spilled gallons of water and forced the campus to close for the afternoon.

Break in old water main forces campus to close, cancelling Friday afternoon classes

by Craig Hatch
of The Commuter

LBCC closed Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. due to a busted water main between the Industrial C and Science & Technology buildings.

Contracted workers from Forslund Construction began digging for a suspected leak Friday morning about 9 a.m. Facilities was notified by the Grounds Department that water was collecting behind the greenhouse near the road between the Family Resource Center and the Science/Tech building Thursday evening.

After finding the leak, they discovered that an entire section of pipe had corroded due to electrolysis, which is the breaking down of metal due to two dissimilar metals coming into contact. This causes

an acid to form and destroys the material.

The main was corroded beyond repair and had to be replaced. This necessitated the water being turned off campus-wide at 1 p.m., forcing LBCC to close.

The workers replaced the decayed pipe with a new piece and were finished by about 4 p.m. Friday. Maintenance then spent the next couple of hours slowly turning on the water to various equipment across campus.

Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Nicholson said this probably wouldn't happen anytime again in the near future. No damage was reported as a result of the water shutdown.

Brown, rusty-appearing water which had collected in the pipes still flowed from some drinking fountains on Monday morning.

\$2 tuition hike to be spread over two-year period

by Pete Petryszak
of The Commuter

The LBCC Board of Education has approved a \$2 increase in tuition to be implemented in \$1 increments over the next two years.

Tuition will be \$35 for the 1996-97 school year and \$36 for the 1997-98 year, Virginia Moskus of the Business Office said.

At its meeting last week, the board reconsidered the previously suggested \$2 increase for the 1996-97 year after the Budget Committee recommended this staggered increase.

No one spoke in opposition to the increase at the meeting. "There was no one there in the open hearing to speak," Moskus said.

Student government fills only one seat

by Dorothy Wilson
of The Commuter

Sarah Hammelman was elected President of LBCC Associated Student Government. The positions of vice president, secretary, treasurer and the 10 student representatives remain unfilled—no one applied.

And, according to Tammi Paul Bryant, coordinator of Student Activities, only three people applied for next year's nine-member Student Programming Board.

This year's Student Programming Board interviewed the three applicants Monday, May 20. They will make their announcement of whether or not the applicants were accepted on Thursday, May 23.



Hammelman

Members of the Associated Student Government and the Programming Board will have the option of waiting until the fall term to create a campaign to solicit additional applicants.

Sarah Hammelman and the new SPB members will be installed May 31.

Registration for next term begins this week

Early summer registration is May 20-24 for continuing fully admitted students on a first come, first served basis.

Open registration for summer term begins June 17; classes start June 24.

Early fall appointment forms will be available May 28-31 for fully admitted students returning from spring or summer terms. Registration for the fall term will be June 3-7. Catalogs for the 1996-97 year are available.

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LBCC celebrates Math Awareness week

Game fair, Internet scavenger hunt and math limerick contest are some of the new events added to Math Awareness Week

"Mathematics and Decision Making" is the theme for Mathematics Awareness Week 1996, taking place on campus this week.

This is the fifth year that the LBCC Mathematics Department has sponsored numerous events at the local level in conjunction with Math Awareness Week.

With this year's theme in mind, the Math Department has added some new events, including a daily game fair, an Internet scavenger hunt and a math limerick contest.

Other events include a daily food fair, a week-long individual problem-solving competition at three levels, and an estimation contest.

The week's events will culminate in the popular team competition at noon on Friday. This year each team will build a transformer using only the materials supplied by the Math Department. Tools and material for the team contest are available in the Learning Center. Teams will make "on-the-spot" decisions as they compete against other teams.

Further information about each of the other contests will be available in the Learning Center during Math Awareness Week. Prizes will be awarded to winners in each contest.

The nationwide theme of "Mathematics and Decision Making" was selected to highlight the many significant contributions mathematics makes to decisions that shape our daily lives. Mathematical areas such as statistics, optimization, probability, queuing theory, process control, game theory, modeling and operations research are routinely employed for making difficult choices in public policy, health, business, manufacturing, finance and law.

Mathematical processes and problem-solving methodologies are at the heart of a multitude of decisions, including those that economically generate electric power, make a profit in financial markets, approve effective new drugs, weigh legal evidence, fly aircraft safely, manage complex construction projects, and choose new business strategies.

Financial decision-making incorporates such techniques as portfolio optimization and option process-

ing. Risk assessment and management have significant implications in public policy-making—particularly in the areas of health and the environment.

During Mathematics Awareness Week, celebrations take place at many other colleges, universities and research laboratories across the country.

Special events this year include public lectures, mathematical games and various other competitions. Mathematics Awareness Week is coordinated nationally by the Joint Policy Board for mathematics of behalf of the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Two students roll the dice in the courtyard Monday during activities designed to celebrate Math Awareness Week. Below, students line up for hotdogs and drinks outside the Science Tech Building. The food fair will continue all week.



Photos by Trevor Gleason

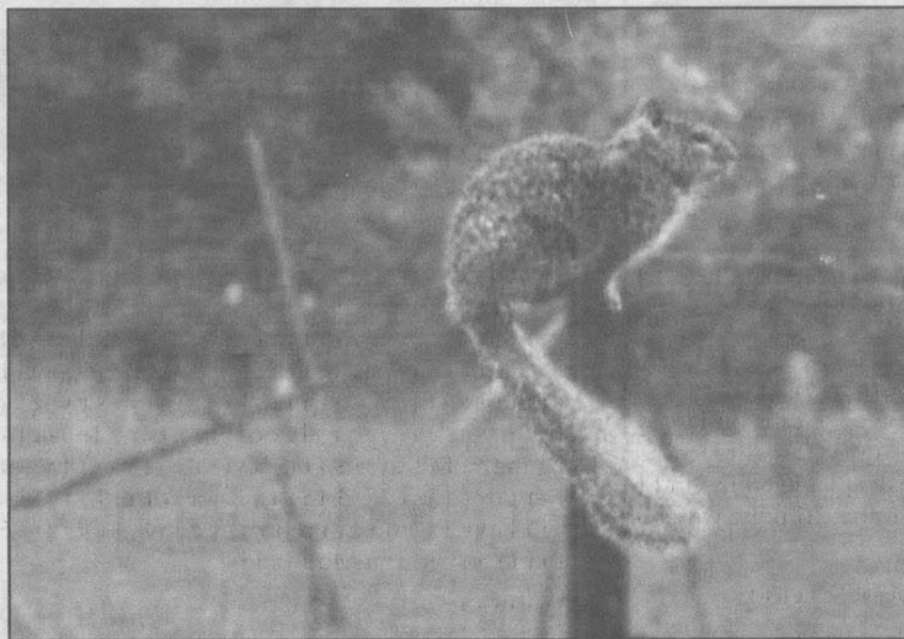
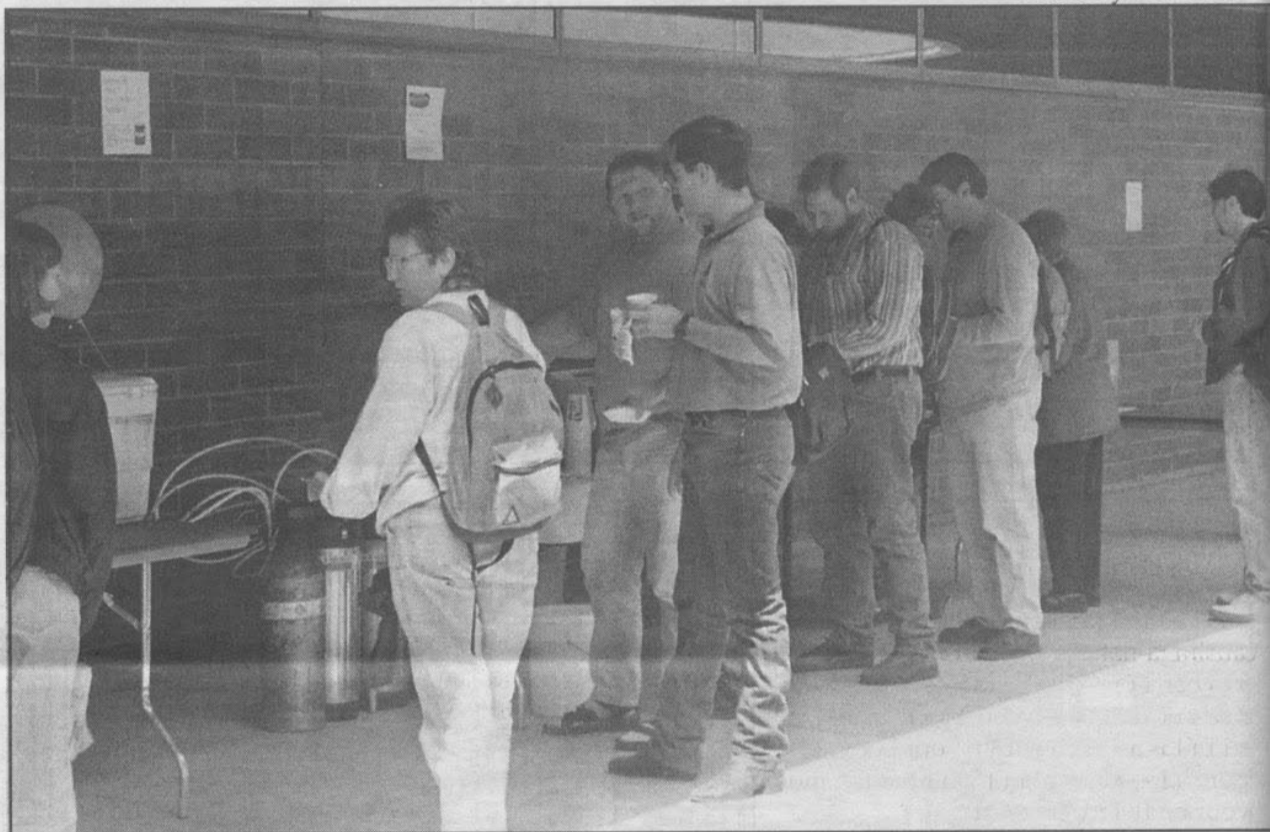


Photo by Bill Jones

On The Lookout

A curious squirrel keeps watch on a fence post along Highway 20 north of Corvallis. He seems to be waiting, like the rest of us, for summer to finally begin.

Ed Watson named VP of academics

by Pete Petryszak
of The Commuter

Liberal Arts and Human Performance Dean Ed Watson has been promoted to vice president of academic affairs, President Jon Carnahan said.

Watson was hired after a national search which yielded more than 90 applicants. Applications were taken until March 1, and the screening process lasted for 10 weeks.

Jim Lucas of the Agricultural Sciences Department chaired the screening committee, which reviewed applications and selected five applicants to interview. After one of those selected withdrew their application, Watson and Mike Durrer, a Mt. Hood Community College administrator, were selected as finalists.



Ed Watson

The two finalists then participated in an open forum discussion with concerned students, staff and faculty. The finalists were asked to answer three questions from the screening committee and spend one-hour answering questions from the audience.

As Vice President of Academic Affairs, Watson's job will be broader in scope than his job as dean of Liberal Arts and Human Performance, which he has held since 1993. Watson described his new job as "challenging" and said he is looking forward to working with Vice President of College Services Mike Holland to link the academic and service missions of the college.

In a May 15 press release, Carnahan congratulated Watson and Durrer and thanked Lucas for his leadership as screening committee chair and Jan Newton of the Academic Affairs Division for "coordinating the logistics of the entire selection process."

commuter staff

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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ROAD TRIP

South Santiam Corridor contains summer's worth of outdoor fun

by Cindi Fuller
of The Commuter

Leaving Sweet Home and driving east on Highway 20 takes you through 50 miles of wilderness of unparalleled beauty with a smorgasbord of summer activities.

There are eight campgrounds, 15 hiking trails, two reservoirs, waterfalls and the South Santiam River. You can climb, hike, fish, swim, sightsee, camp and picnic. The bountiful beauty of Oregon lies unspoiled and available for the summer fun.

The drive on Highway 20 going east through the small town of Cascadia offers a spectacular view of lush green ferns, shaded by an endless mixture of foliage. Enhanced by the seemingly endless old-growth forests thick with moss and hidden habitat. The peaceful and serene atmosphere seems to reach for the sky, erasing the worries of the day.

The South Santiam River runs along side of the two-lane winding road. You can see large boulders with blue-green pools of water circulating around them, making calm pools ideal for swimming. The swift water currents gather in particular spots of the river, forcing rapid rushes of water that look like an inner tube white-water delight.

Sparkles seem to highlight the river with rays of silver. An array of fishermen are lightly sprinkled along the river dressed in hip high boots, vests stuffed full of bobbers, flies, hooks and bait. Their fishing poles sway and dislodge like yo-yo's being tossed in the air.

The mountain air is clean and fresh, causing a natural high. Taking in deep slow breathes of air, you feel your chest rise and fall, then you begin to feel a stimulus awaken within your body. It's pure air—air without pollutants, and your body recognizes it.

The summer festival begins just east of Sweet Home at Foster Lake and continues to House Rock. The old-growth forests, mountain air, rivers, trails, waterfalls, swimming and fishing, all are waiting for you. To discover the secret of Oregon, just go east on Highway 20. The South Corridor offers a wide variety of campgrounds and hiking trails. Many of the trailheads are located near the campgrounds.

Campgrounds

Sunnyside—Foster Reservoir (County)

Located three miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20. Turning left on Quartzville Road, you will find Sunnyside Campground. It has a boat dock, showers, water, electricity, flush toilets and 164 sites without electricity at a cost of \$12 per night. There are picnic tables and fire pits at each site, including garbage collection. Wood can be purchased at the campground.

Whitcomb Creek—Green Peter Reservoir (County)

Located 15 miles up Quartzville Road, past Sunnyside campground. Whitcomb Creek has a boat dock, day picnic area and campground with 39 sites. There isn't any electricity but there is drinking water and vault toilets located throughout the park. Picnic tables and fire pits are at each site, including garbage collection, for the cost of \$9 per night.

Cascadia State Park

Located 15 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20, this shady park has a day picnic area, campground, soda springs, waterfall, hiking trail and river swimming. Both individual camping and a group camp area are located under tall evergreens, with 26 campsites, all considered tent camping. There isn't any electricity but there are restrooms and drinking water. The cost is \$12 per night.

Trout Creek Campground (Forest Service)

Located 18 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20, Trout Creek has 24 units with picnic tables and fireplaces, with five tent units, 19 trailer units and three

double-occupancy units. There are vault toilets, drinking water and garbage collection for a cost of \$8 per night.

Yukwah Campground (Forest Service)

Located 23 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20, Yukwah has 17 trailer units and three double-occupancy units. All sites have picnic tables and fireplaces. There are vault toilets and drinking water for a cost of \$8 per night.

Fernview Campground (Forest Service)

Located 22 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20, Fernview has 10 tent units and one tent-trailer unit. There are vault toilets, drinking water, fireplaces and garbage collection for the cost of \$8 per night.

House Rock Campground (Forest Service)

Located 25 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20, the campground has 17 sites with tables and fireplaces. There are vault toilets, drinking water and garbage collection.

Trails

Iron Mountain Trail

Located 34 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20, Iron Mountain is a self-guided nature walk up the remnants of an ancient volcano. They say that every kind of wildflower that grows in the western Cascades can be seen there. The trail is one mile long and is best viewed mid-June through Labor Day. You can find a xeric meadow, damp meadow, moist forest, scree, cliff face, snowbed, broadleaf thicket, recovery forest, and trail habitats and the rock outcrop of Jump-off Joe. You will end the hike at the lookout where you can see Mt.

Hood to the north and Diamond Peak to the south.

Trout Creek Trail

Located 18 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20, Trout Creek Trail is 2.8 miles long. Considered moderate to difficult to climb, it joins Rooster Rock trail one-half mile from the top. It has a second-growth forest and a smooth trail, occasionally showing you views of Rooster Rock through the tall trees.

Rooster Rock Trail

Located 20 miles east of Sweet Home, you will need to park in the area next to the state highway stockpile on the left. The trailhead begins 50 yards back across from Fernview Campground. The trail is 2.1 miles long and considered moderate to difficult. The trail has a slow upgrade for .9 miles and then becomes steep, ending at Rooster Rock. The remains of an old lookout can still be seen.

Chimney Peak

Located 22.5 miles east of Sweet Home off Highway 20, this trail is accessed by turning left on Soda Fork Road. Drive for 112 miles to Spur Road and turn right to the trailhead. Chimney Peak is 12.3 miles long and is considered difficult to climb. The first three miles of this trail takes you through second-growth forest, and the next two miles pass through an old-growth forest area. Continuing west for eight miles from Donaca Lake, the trail joins McQuade Creek Trail, which continues for .7 miles to the top. Your elevation will be 4,965 feet.

McQuade Creek Trail

Located three miles east of Sweet Home, this trail is reached by turning on Quartzville Road and going 32 miles to Forest Service Road #1142, where you turn right and go 5.5 miles to the trailhead. This trail is considered moderate to difficult. The first mile of the trail follows a contour through a short stretch of dense timber and a large clearcut. Soon you will pass through 4.7 miles of old-growth forest. There are several small creeks that can be passed without difficulty. The McQuade Creek Shelter can be found at 4.9 miles. The trail ends at the junction with Chimney Peak Trail.

Cone Peak Trail

Located 35 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20, this trail can be reached from the large paved parking area at the summit of Tombstone Pass. The trail is .2 miles east, across the highway. It is considered a moderate climb, 3.34 miles long, with a slow grade that leads you through a shaded forest and hillsides flourishing with flowers and several views of the Cascade Range. At mile 3.3 the trail joins the Iron Mountain Trail, where you can return or climb another 1.5 miles to the top of Iron Mountain.

Walton Ranch

Located 18 miles east, past Sweet Home on Highway 20, this trail is near the Trout Creek Trailhead parking area. This is considered an easy hike, beginning next to Trout Creek and going through a mature forest that is adjacent to the Menagerie Wilderness. The trail crosses Trout Creek and winds up at two viewing platforms. At the first platform you can see the Walton Ranch site, Santiam Wagon Road and the Elk refuge. The second platform overlooks the west end of the refuge where the elk concentrate in the winter months. This trail and viewing area is designed for easy walking and for people in wheelchairs.

House Rock

Drive 24 miles east on Highway 20 past Sweet Home, turn right at Squaw Creek Road (FSR-2044). Drive another .25 mile and turn right at House Rock Campground entrance road. Park in the lot before the bridge. The trailhead is at to the right. A portion of the trail follows the Old Santiam Wagon Road. House Rock falls are 40-feet high and a spectacular sight.

Additional information on hiking trails can be obtained at the Sweet Home Ranger District Office.

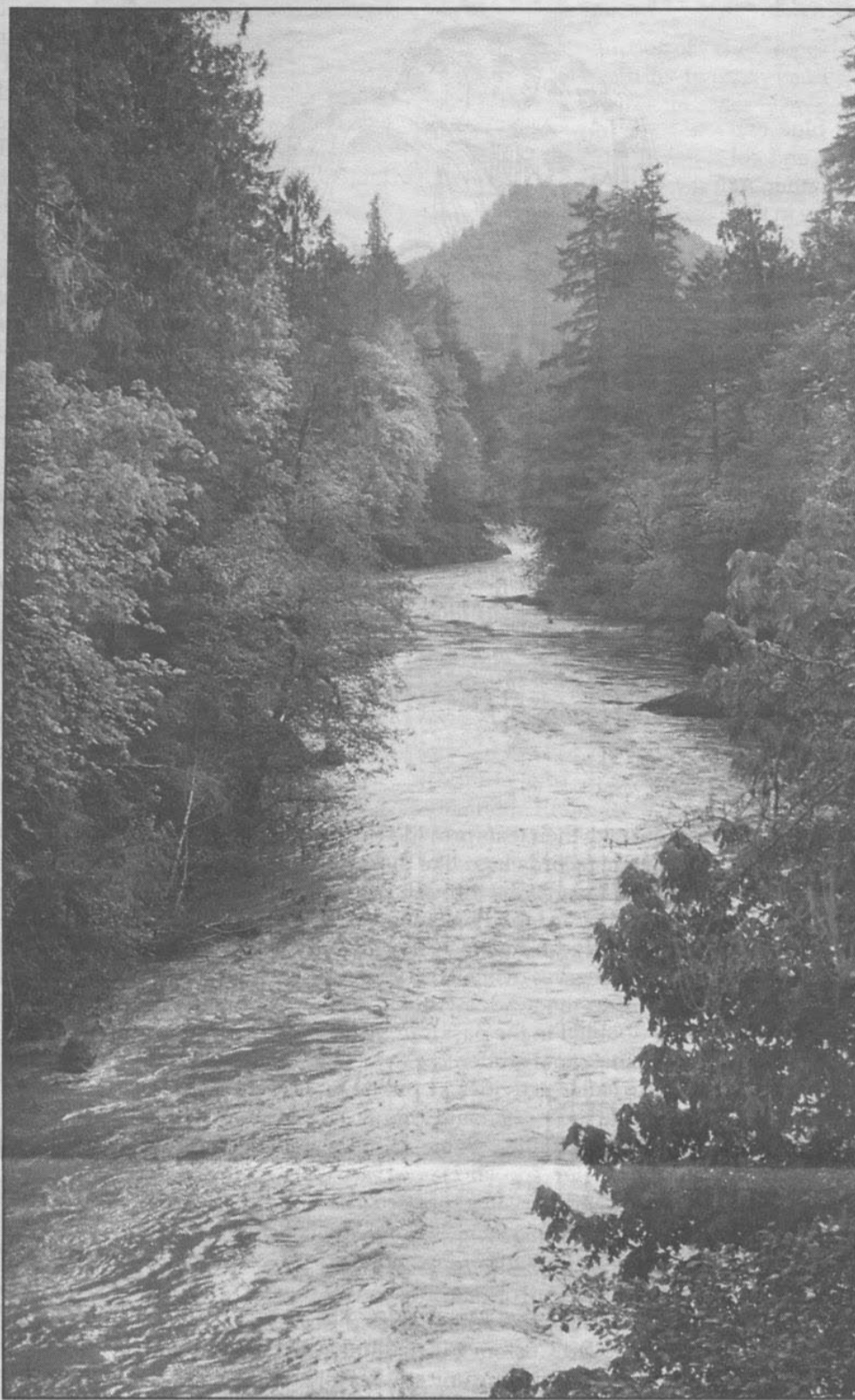


Photo by Dannie Bjornson

The South Santiam is lined with campgrounds and hiking trails as it snakes through the Cascades east of Sweet Home. If you are interested in camping or hiking in the area you can contact the Sweet Home Ranger District Office.

Homeschooling: popular phenomenon proving successful

•First in a series

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

A large yellow bookcase and a tall blue one bulge with volumes of various sizes and colors, covering topics from art to the weather. At desks on either side of the blue-framed window in this busy schoolroom sit two students, each working on her own personalized assignments.

In thousands of homes across the country scenes similar to this reflect the expanding homeschool movement. John Naisbitt, author of "Megatrends," has estimated the number of children taught at home in the United States to be as high as one million.

Modern homeschool students are learning in the same way as some of history's most successful people including, Hans Christian Anderson, Agatha Christie, Theodore Roosevelt, Margaret Mead, Douglas MacArthur, Mark Twain, Florence Nightingale, Andrew Carnegie, Pearl S. Buck, Thomas Edison, Sandra Day O'Connor and Albert Einstein. They all received at least part of their education at home.

The facts on homeschooling contradict several popularly held misconceptions. These concerns include the types of people who choose to homeschool, the challenge of getting into college and adequate socialization. Research shows that homeschoolers are not just Christian fanatics or radical hippies. They may be your neighbors, your coworkers—even public school teachers.

The Education Service District for Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties registered 1,025 homeschool students ages seven through 18 this year. Some families, however, choose not to report that they teach their children at home.

Home school support groups exist in most communities, ever ready to assist beginners and to encourage experienced home educators. Local newspapers often publish their meeting notices. Debbie Cowart (541-367-2872) and Malinda Davis (541-258-2807), two homeschool mothers, put together a monthly newsletter listing homeschool meetings and activities around the area.

Educational materials for home education, as abundant as Oregon rain, continue to increase, with some companies catering especially to homeschoolers. Families can purchase new or used texts and other books, videos, kits and games. They may also enroll in correspondence courses and a variety of educational programs.

Researchers report most homeschool parents are conservatives who desire to include their religious values with their teaching as well as to provide a solid, well-rounded education for their children. The vast majority of these are Christians, but this choice is becoming increasingly popular among Jews and Muslims.

Home educators who believe American schools are too white-oriented and not multi-cultural enough in their curricula have the freedom to incorporate their own ethnic backgrounds into their lessons.

Still others choose homeschool because they view public education as stifling to individualism and creativity. "A school without walls" enables students to explore any area of interest in whatever way they desire, supervised by the parent, of course.

Although as unique as the family running it, each home school usually has a specific study area or a room for formal learning. The styles and structures vary from hands-on experiences with no textbooks to strict schedules similar to regular classrooms. Many rely on libraries for much of their material.

Families often experiment with different methods of teaching in order to determine what works best for them. Some homeschool moms say it takes several years to develop the right homeschool plan for their children and they regularly finetune their program. In the majority of home schools, the mother is home during the day guiding her students' learning, with the father offering moral support and assisting the children in his areas of expertise.

Actual teaching does not require as much time as one would expect. For young children it may take just one-half to one hour a day, gradually building up to several hours daily for the upper grades. Teachers also need time for planning and preparation and for evaluation after.

Some homeschoolers work independently, while others families choose accountability to an umbrella



school with their texts provided by the school and their academic records kept like those of regular students. Supervision may be through a local school or via the mail. Christian Liberty Academy of Arlington Heights, Ill., the largest and fastest-growing satellite school program, serves over 50,000 students worldwide. According to the academy, their enrollment has more than doubled in the past four years.

Homeschool students may also participate in extra-curricular activities at public or private schools, taking part in sports, band, drama, field trips and other enriching activities. Some families get together on their own for special classes, activities or projects. Lebanon and Corvallis support groups have a "Friday School" with special classes for the children to give them a broader range of experiences.

Ranell Curl of Oakridge (near Eugene), a former homeschool mom, started her own business called Custom Curriculum—supplying materials and coordinating unit studies for home schools. A topic or theme, such as ancient Egypt, is covered in depth with school subjects, including math, reading, spelling, history, language arts, science and art, integrated into the course of study.

Homeschooling allows flexibility for students and parents since the school schedule can be designed to fit their lifestyles and job demands. Lessons can be part of a trip to Disneyland or even be temporarily suspended while Mom has a baby. Also, some homeschoolers do volunteer work in their communities.

Homeschool activities

Gov. John Kitzhaber recently proclaimed May 5-11 as Oregon Home Education Week. Many homeschoolers keep in touch with their state legislators, helping to inform officials about matters of concern to homeschool families.

The following home school events are open to anyone interested:

* Each February a large homeschooling workshop is held in Portland.

* The Oregon, Washington and Northwest region Leadership Symposium will be presented in Portland by the National Center for Home Education in July.

* The Oregon Christian Home Education Association Network is planning a home school convention for September 20-21, 1996.

* The 11th annual Curriculum Exhibition will be held June 14-15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

For more information about these events, call 503-288-1285.

* The Lane County curriculum fair will be held in Eugene on June 1. Contact 541-935-0443 for details.

A growing number of families include a home business as part of their school experience. Cottage industries allow children to learn job skills and to earn money working together as a family. For example, they may raise a garden and sell produce, do yardwork, make crafts, create computer programs or any number of things, enabling them to learn recordkeeping and advertising along with a good work ethic.

Homeschool students' areas of study are as limitless as their imaginations. Access to the Internet has greatly expanded the ability to explore and gain vast amounts of up-to-date knowledge. The World Wide Web contains numerous home pages put together by homeschoolers, in addition to the homeschool information and materials for sale.

Public school teachers agree that the one-on-one tutorial relationship has been proven over and over to be the best method for maximum educational results, helping each student to achieve his or her full potential. This sort of attention is impossible to provide in the standard classroom.

Parents tailor the lessons to each child, allowing as much or as little time as necessary to master the material before moving on, and are readily available to answer questions or to assist the child.

The Home School Legal Defense Association reported that a study of 4,600 randomly selected home educated children found they averaged at or above the 80th percentile on standardized achievement tests in all areas.

Studies show homeschoolers also do well on SAT and other college entrance tests. A number of students from the Valley who have been homeschooled come to LBCC for further education.

"I used to say reform the schools. Then I said start your own school. Now I say take the children out entirely."

—John Holt

One well-publicized homeschool graduate is Grant Colfax, whose parents, David and Micki Colfax, wrote the book "Homeschooling for Excellence." He received a full scholarship to Harvard and later a Fulbright scholarship to graduate school.

Hundreds of top colleges are pleased to accept homeschooled students and some actively recruit them, even offering full scholarships. Schools like Harvard and Stanford have found that homeschool graduates are better students, self-disciplined, able to succeed academically and more mature.

The National Home Research Institute cites many studies whose evidence indicates that socialization is not a problem for homeschool students. They have interaction with siblings daily and with other children and adults in diverse settings. In fact, psychological examinations have shown homeschooled children are as well-adjusted or even better adjusted than their public school contemporaries.

A study conducted by Dr. Wesley Taylor in 1986 determined that the self-concept of the homeschool students he examined was significantly higher than that of public school students. The homeschool environment also enhances communication between different age groups.

Each state sets its own laws governing home education. In Oregon students must register with their local ESD and must submit test scores from standardized achievement tests each year.

Homeschooling is a learning experience for every member of the family. It is challenging, rewarding and sometimes overwhelming, according to homeschool parents.

Just as any other important task, homeschooling requires commitment and discipline to be successful.

Homeschooling pioneer John Holt has said "I used to say reform the schools. Then I said start your own school. Now I say take the children out entirely."

Editor's Note:

Next week writer Mary Hake will tell the stories of several homeschooled students who have attended LBCC.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

review

The American Girls electrifies crowd during their Eugene tour

by Jae Dyer
of The Commuter

The sound pulsated through the air, energy rising with each beat. Six hot musicians making super-fine sounds.

Eric, a singer and guitar player, belts into the microphone, projecting his voice into even the smallest crevice. Mike backs him up, harmonizing and picking his guitar. A trumpet sings out, turning all attention to Gus.

Aaron adds to the sound with the low hum of his bass guitar. Off to the side, Scott strums his guitar, as Anthony strikes his sticks against his drums, keeping the rhythm.

This local band out of Portland, Ore., named the American Girls, put on an electrifying show April 6, at WOW Hall in Eugene, Ore. They are a Pop band, mixing together alternative, rock and jazz music.

The name The American Girls is quite ironic considering this is a band of all guys. Years before they became so popular, they took a trip to Las Vegas. They wanted to start a band, but could not think of a name. They were listening to a band named The Red House Painters, the first line they heard said, "she's an American girl."

They had found their name.

The American Girls have been together since October 1994. They used to practice in the laundry room of the dorm, that they lived in at the University of Oregon before they got a house.

The American Girls instantly had the audience in the palm of their hands. Screams ripped through the air, claiming adoration for the talented musicians. As they tuned their guitars, they threw out jokes like, "Our next album will be of us just tuning." This showed

their light-hearted spirit, that reflected in their music.

With their great looks and explosive sounds, The American Girls are destined to make it big. They have been signed by Manifesto recording company, with the release of their first CD entitled, "The American Girls; Welcome To Our Lovesick Porch."

The band tours, playing shows locally, as well as out of the area. Their next shows are May 26, at the Roseland Theater in Portland, Ore., and May 27, at the University of Oregon's outdoor festival.

With their passionate sound, it was easy to get hooked on their original, new style. If good music and fun are what you are looking for, check out The American Girls!

The American Girls instantly had the audience in the palm of their hands. Screams ripped through the air, claiming adoration for the talented musicians.

Ushers needed for LBCC play

The LBCC production of "The Grapes of Wrath" will begin its two-weekend run this Friday, May 24. In order to help students who want to see the show but can't because of ticket prices, the Performing Arts Department is letting students who are willing to usher the show in for free.

Ushers are required to be at Tadena Theater 45 minutes prior to the start of the show. Latecomers will need to be seated, and doors opened at intermissions at the end of the shows. Ushers

may take their free seat about 10 minutes into the show.

Registrations slips are available in the Performing Arts Department's box office outside Tadena Theater.

After slips are turned in, the House Manager will call and confirm the dates and describe in better detail the duties of an usher. Dates of the play are May 24, 25, 31, and June 1 at 8 p.m. and June 2 at 3 p.m.

For further questions, contact the Performing Arts Department at 917-4536.

Essayist Kathleen Dean Moore compares Northwest rivers to the currents of life

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

Kathleen Dean Moore, OSU Philosophy Department Chair, shared essays from her recently published book "Riverwalking" at the Valley Writers Series at LBCC last Wednesday at noon. Students and instructors filled the Willamette Room for her one-hour presentation.

Moore's collection covers more than rivers and streams; the reflections deal with "connections and disconnections." She often uses her own family stories, writing in an appealing style with precise details and poetic language to create

essays which "stir up the mind" like the currents of a river.

Moore said in her writing she knows where she will start and where she will end, but "the unfolding adventure getting there in between successive scenes." She likes to write outdoors, usually in their boat on her husband's weekend fishing trips.

Moore's essays have been published in such periodicals as The New York Times, "Commonweal," and various reviews. She said market research is important and challenging, but encouraged her audience to keep writing and sending out their material.

Graphic Arts students put their portfolios on display in the LBCC Art Gallery this week

Graphic Arts students at Linn-Benton Community College are showing their portfolio works from May 20 to June 7 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays in the Art Gallery in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Building.

Admission is free and open to the public. An opening reception for the

students was held Monday, May 20, 7-9 p.m.

The Portfolio Show exhibits the very best works of graduating students from instructor John D. Aikman's class; works that demonstrate the students' talents and abilities in art, illustration and graphic design.

LBCC Culinary Arts Department puts on Annual French Banquet Thursday and Friday

Here's what you've been waiting for! The Culinary Arts Department proudly presents their 23rd Annual French Banquet to be held Thursday, May 23 and Friday, May 24, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. in the Alsea/Calapooia/Santiam Rooms.

This seven-course meal will include Asparagus Souffle Appetizer; Mussel Affron Soup; Roasted Quail with

Quinoa, Pancetta and a Frangelico Reduction; Strawberry Grapefruit Cognac Sorbet; Pork Medallions with Mushroom Ragout, Roquefort, Baby Vegetables and Rhubarb Sauce; Salad of Special Greens; and Peach Bavarian with Carmelized Sugar and Raspberry Coulis.

The cost for this Culinary extravaganza is only \$21 per person. Tickets are now available in CC-214.

LBCC PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

JOHN STEINBECK'S

The Grapes of Wrath

ADAPTED BY FRANK GALATI

May 24, 25, 31 at 8 P.M.

June 1 at 8 P.M.

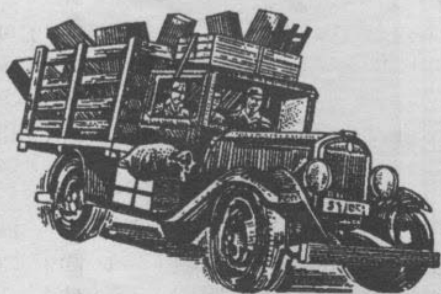
June 2 at 3 P.M.

Linn-Benton Community College
Tadena Theatre

Admission is \$7

All seating is reserved

Ticket outlets: Rice's Pharmacy in
Corvallis and the Tadena Theatre
Box Office (917-4531)



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LBI



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\$4 for adults, \$2.50 11 and under and senior citizens. Shows before 6 p.m. are \$2.50 for all ages.

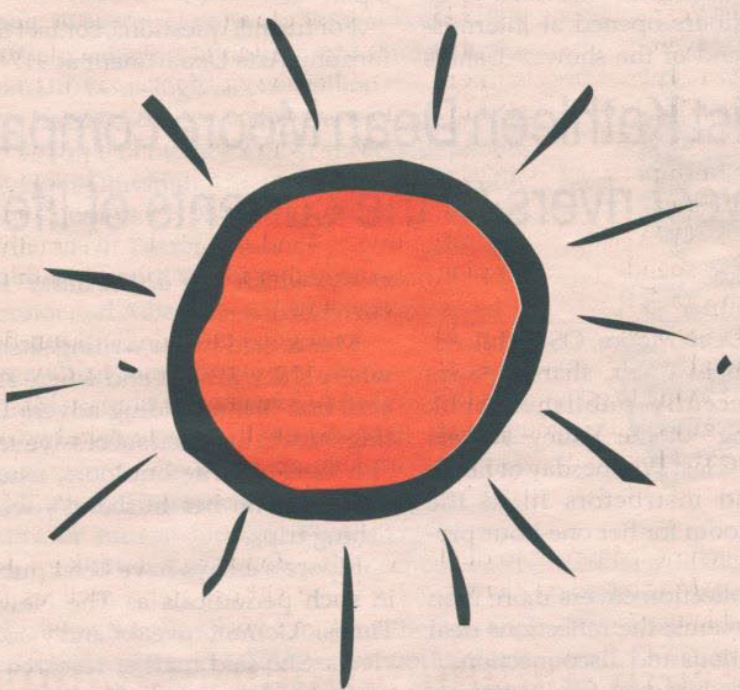
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WED, MAY 29



PEACE STUDIES BBQ
11:30 - 1

BBQ \$2.50

**ALL EVENTS ARE
IN THE
COURTYARD**

Music by Kevin Martinez

Club Booths: All Day

Wellness Team Dunk Tank

Miniature Golf

Doubles Tennis 2-4

Peace Garden Ceremony will be held at 10:00 AM on May 29th

THURS, MAY 30

STUDENT PROGRAMMING BOARD
BBQ 11:30 - 1

BBQ \$2.00

Music From J.T. and the Tourist
50's, 60's, 70's 80's and 90's
Rock, Country, Blues and Reggae 11:30 - 3:30

**All Events will be Near the
Activity Center**

Acroflight, Bunjee Run, Big Bout Boxing

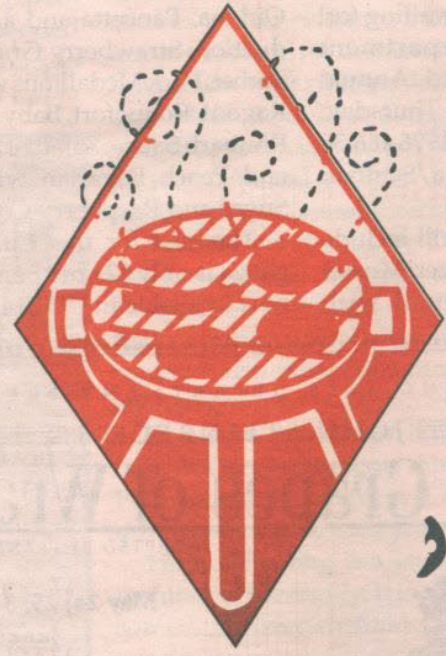
Acroflight is a bungee sport that goes in a new direction: straight up!

The Bungee Run is a safe, fun game involving bungee cords, you and a friend.

Big Bout Boxing is a safe and fun way to box.

Club Booths (All Day)

Sand Volleyball 2:30-6:00



For more information contact
CC-213 Naikia Benjamin (917-4458)
Student Programs Office

SPORTS PAGE

LB's Sami Bond loves being one-woman track team

by Jessica Sprenger
The Commuter

The heptathlon is not the world's easiest event nor the most fun for most athletes, but Linn-Benton heptathlete Sami Bond says she enjoys all the events.

"My favorites would probably be the triple jump, high jump, shot put, hurdles, 100, javelin, long jump and the 800," Bond said, enthusiastically listing all seven events, plus one. "I like them all, I really do. My least favorite would be the 100, but everything else I just love."

The heptathlon includes the long and high jumps, the javelin, shot put, hurdles and the 200 and 800 meters. The triple jump is not part of the heptathlon, but Bond enjoys the event and participates in it during scored meets.

Like everything else in college, track is not the same as it was in high school. In high school you're allowed to participate in only four events—in college if your coach wants you to do it all, you do. "I think the most Brad's (Carman, the track coach) put me in this year was six events in one meet," Bond recalled.

Bond finds that doing all the events keeps her busy and is pretty exciting, and Carman thinks she has the focus to

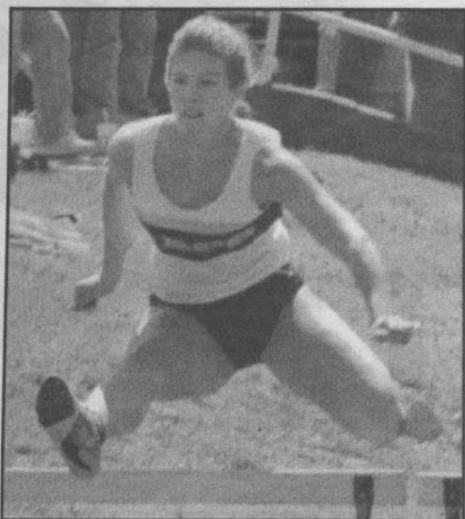


Photo by Jessica Sprenger

The hurdles is just one of seven events sophomore Sami Bond competes in during the heptathlon.

be successful at it.

"The heptathlete has to have the ability to change focus and then get concentration for whatever event she's in right then," Carman said. "Sami has that ability. Some people have a real hard time changing gears from the high jump to the javelin, but she can do that."

At the NWAACC heptathlon championships in April, Bond won the shot put and was second in the javelin.

"The throws are her best. Because of her quick last step and explosiveness she does well in the high jump," Carman said. "There are a lot of people she's beating because she works harder than they do."

This year's Roadrunner team certainly differs from last year's. During the 1995 campaign there were five women, this year there are two. There were also more sophomores than freshmen, something that is reversed this year.

During her freshman year Bond duelled daily with Paula Leslie, who eventually won the NWAACC long jump title. Bond now spends time jumping with men on the track team.

"When you see the guys going 20 feet—even though I can't go 20 feet at this point—just trying to go as far as the guys, beat the guys, gives you a real boost," Bond said. "It kind of gets your adrenaline going, event at practice."

Bond, one of three sophomores on the team, now has a new teammate to duel during practice in freshman Sara Ziemer, a fellow heptathlete.

"We're hoping some of Sami's technical skills will rub off on Sara. She's been real consistent for Sara, and Sara's made some big gains by being around Sami," Carman said. "Sami is technically very correct in almost everything she does. We're putting Sara together with Sami so that Sara will rise up to that level for next year."

This fall Bond will be heading to LaGrande to attend Eastern Oregon State College. Although she's not sure yet whether she will participate in track, she does know she will be active.

"I do know that when I go over there I'm going to be competing in something, whether it's for another school or on my own," Bond said. "I'll find something to do. Whether it's biathlons, triathlons or road runs."

Bond will conclude her Linn-Benton career tomorrow and Friday at the NWAACC championships at Mt. Hood, where she will compete in the high jump, triple jump and javelin.

"Right now I want to have my best performance and break my old personal records," Bond said. "I think if I do that I will be sitting pretty well as far as placements go."

Roadrunners miss playoffs with disappointing season-ending loss against Chemeketa

by Jessica Sprenger
The Commuter

The wet weather returned and so did the early league play of the Linn-Benton baseball team, as the Roadrunners split a doubleheader with Mt. Hood on Thursday and fell to Chemeketa on Sunday.

Following Thursday's split, the final game against Chemeketa presented a must-win situation for LB to make the playoffs. Also, the Roadrunners had to hope that Clackamas beat Mt. Hood.

Unfortunately, neither event happened, and Linn-Benton finished the season in fourth place with a 14-11 league and 20-13 overall record.

Joel Greene pitched the entire game against the Saints but a leadoff double in the seventh inning by Chemeketa's catcher, who eventually scored, gave

Chemeketa a 4-3 victory. Greene, 4-3, helped his cause by going 2 for 3 at the plate with a double.

On Thursday, Randy Crane helped the Roadrunners to a 4-1 victory over Mt. Hood in the second game of the doubleheader. Crane, 4-3, struck out 11, gave up two hits and no earned runs.

Linn-Benton picked up four runs off five hits against Saints pitcher Steve Walker. Jim Pex scored two of the Roadrunner runs. In the second inning he crossed home on Lance Haver's sacrifice fly, and scored again in the fourth inning on Joe Mansky's two-out single.

In the opening game, with the game tied at 1-1 in the third inning, Kelly Ireland hit a three-run homer to give Mt. Hood a 3-1 lead, and the Saints were able to hold the Roadrunners scoreless for the remainder of the game.

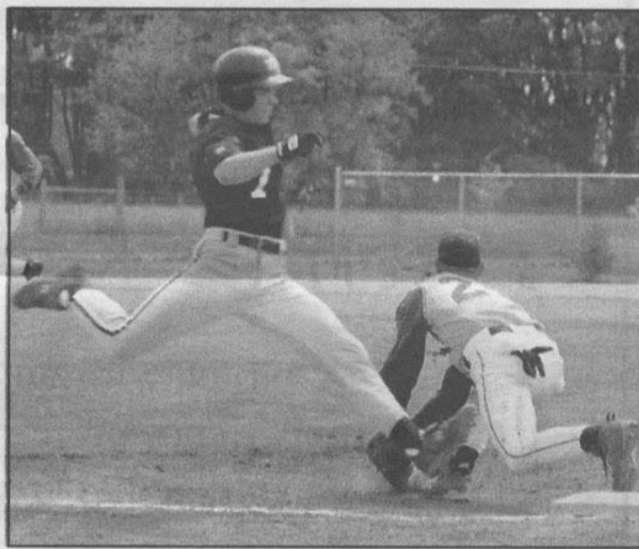


Photo by Jessica Sprenger

Joel Greene stretches to get the Mt. Hood runner. The Roadrunners split a doubleheader with the Saints before losing to Chemeketa to end the season.

scoreboard

Results

MT. HOOD 4, LINN-BENTON 1
Mt. Hood 013 000 000 — 4 12 1
Linn-Benton 001 000 000 — 1 4 3
Oyler and Topaum; Cedergreen and Aguiar.
L—Cedergreen, 5-2. HR—MH, Ireland.

LINN-BENTON 4, MT. HOOD 1
Mt. Hood 000 001 0 — 1 2 2
Linn-Benton 100 111 x — 4 5 0
Walker and Topaum; Crane and Haver. W—Crane, 4-3.

CHEMEKETA 4, LINN-BENTON 3
Linn-Benton 000 002 001 — 3 7 0
Chemeketa 000 030 10x — 4 10 1
Greene and Aguiar; Cuff and Derryberry. L—Greene, 4-3. 2B—LB, Greene; MH, McDowell, Sellers.

Standings

Chemeketa	...	16	9	.640	—
Clackamas	...	16	9	.640	—
Mt. Hood	.....	16	9	.640	—
Linn-Benton	14	11	.560	2	
SW Oregon	.....	6	18	.250	9 1/2
Lane	.....	6	18	.250	9 1/2

Schedule

Thursday, May 23
Track
at NWAACC Championships, Mt. Hood
Friday, May 24
Track
at NWAACC Championships, Mt. Hood

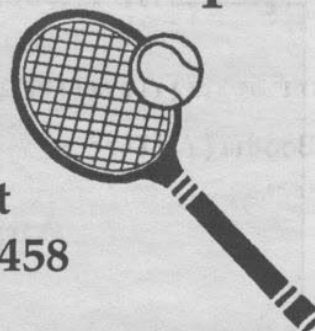
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SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

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May 30 • 6 pm
LB Sand V-ball pits
Register your team of 2 or 4 people in CC-213

May 28 • 4-7 pm
May 29 • 4-7 pm



For more info or to sign up please contact Student Programs in CC-213 or call ext. 4458



WANTED!

**The Commuter needs creative students
to fill positions on the 1996-97 staff**

Managing Editor

Students with skills in writing and/or editing are sought for this position. The appointment carries a 75% tuition grant.

Photo Editor

Applicants should have photographic experience, including film development. Familiarity with Photoshop helpful, although training in digital imaging will be provided. The appointment carries a 75% tuition grant.

Sports Editor

A writer with an interest in athletics and outdoors is needed. Journalism experience preferred, but all interested applicants with a flair for writing are encouraged to apply. The appointment carries a 50% tuition grant.

Assistant Editors

Students interested in arts, entertainment, copy editing and writing are encouraged to inquire about one of several assistant editor positions, which carry 35% tuition grants.

Production Manager

Experience in graphic design and/or journalism required; knowledge of Macintosh necessary. The appointment carries a 50% tuition grant.

Ad Manager

Experience in business, graphics and/or journalism preferred. Macintosh experience helpful. The position carries a full tuition grant.

Work Study Jobs

Positions available as assistants in the Photography, Advertising, Production and Editorial departments.

Apply as soon as possible.

Appointments made as qualified candidates apply.

**Applications are available in The Commuter Office (CC210)
or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-108)**

For additional information call ext. 130, 373, 218

PAUL TURNER

School's almost over with; maybe now you can relax a little bit

So, are you burned out yet? Are you ready for summer? Are you ready to end the term and have a son to read books which genuinely interest you? Are you ready to be done with class schedules, finals and papers being due?

God knows I am. It's getting close to the end of the school year and the nerves have about had it. I can tell because it's the stupid little things that send my skin crawling across the floor. The stupid little things. Those things I have no control over. It rains so stupid that the chore of walking in the morning could set off a whole day on a downward spiral.

When I enter the school parking lot I cruise the primo spots first—in the off chance some kind soul opens to be leaving about the time I rumble by and see their red lights coming on. If I don't score there, then I work progressively back into the spots where I need a native and an expedition party to find my way back to campus.

Something that old age and a few too many car accidents can bring on is the total lack of desire to walk farther than I have to. There are mornings I cruise a close space does open up—even if it means walking into class a half hour late, just in time to hear the instructor say, "And that's the material the midterm will be covering. If you know that, you should ace

the joy of OSU's parking situation is that the lots are segregated into staff and student parking. Nothing like missing a bitchin' spot, doin' a 180 to get back, then seeing some bozo with a staff sticker pulling into that student parking spot. They're allowed to do that, but as a student I may not park in their staff parking. I know someday, when the term-end stress has reached critical mass, I'm going to see a staff car in a student lot (when there are open spaces in the staff lot), and listen to those maniacal voices in my head that tell God wants me to blow things up.



I can tell it's close to the end of the term, because if I don't start my day by finding a good parking space, I spend the rest of it looking for someone to strangle. I even get superstitious.

Twice now when Space Hog has been on my radio; I've found great parking spaces. So, if the DJ says that my favorite extraterrestrial swine will be on the box after the break, I slam it to the floor so I can make it to the parking lot when the song is playing. Most would agree, that is a bad sign.

Weather is another uncontrollable entity which I tend to damn and praise like it makes a difference—when the term is close to an end.

If you live in Oregon, you know very well that spring isn't the time of flowers and sunshine. It's the time of hailstorms followed five minutes later by clear sky. Springtime is a manic roller-coaster ride of meteorology.

I've come to the conclusion that education doesn't make you smarter. Nope. It turns you into a workaholic.

When I exit my car from whatever quality of parking space I've found, I zip up my coat, tuck my sunglasses in my pocket, and grab my umbrella. Ya never know what you might need. I've found myself using all of them at the same time! You've seen it. The rain is coming down like there's an ark nearby, through a cloud break a ray of sun with laser-focus is reflecting off the wet concrete right into your retina, just as a gale of wind folds your umbrella inside out.

Ah, spring is in the air.

As the term ends, courtesy seems to become scarce. When someone accidentally bangs into me in the hall, they look at me like I stepped right in their way so they'd have to hit me. No exchanges of "excuse me"s. Nope. Just the old stare daring you to say something so they can blow up at you because they didn't get a very good parking space that morning, either.

People seem to get pretty rude with the service help I've noticed. I tend to be very nice to service people, having been one. I even try striking up a conversation

with them, if there is time. I ask about how their day is going or if it's been busy.

People like it when people think of them as people, and not just robots designed to serve your every whim. Recently, I was fourth in line at a food counter. The previous three all had evidently gotten really crappy parking spaces that morning. They were just plain mean. If I had had more time, I would have seen what the little voices inside my head had to suggest for these human pustules.

When I got to the counter, the woman took half a step back and wouldn't even ask for my order. I greeted her, asked her how she was. She then asked, very quickly, if there was something that I wanted. I gave her my order with a smile. She moved close enough to punch it into the register. I then told her she looked like she could use a break. She said she couldn't take one. Her relief was late... and she was new and life sucked, and people sucked, and why do they have to be so mean, and other significant observations. She basically had a minor melt-down right there in front of me. I told her to take a break. If anyone asked her about it, I said it was OK. They could just ask me. She fled to the back crying. I looked both ways, then got the heck outta there.

But, it will all be over soon. Then summer!

I plan to do a lot of sleeping in and even more watching of bad movies, reading books just for fun, and general screwing off.

But I know better. One does not go from being on the go 25 hours a day to tropical sloth without leaving skid marks. I know the first day I don't have a place to be on campus, I'll be wide awake at 7 a.m. staring at the ceiling. I won't lay around. There's all that stuff I neglected during the school year to get done. And it all has to be done before the spring term starts!

I've come to the conclusion that education doesn't make you smarter. Nope. It turns you into a workaholic. You become so accustomed to being on the go. After a few years of school you become genetically altered so you can't slow down until your first heart attack. It's a conspiracy. How else could you ever pay back the student loans?

classifieds

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are available at the Career Center in Tadena Hall unless otherwise.

Family Foundation Scholarships. Eligible applicants must be single heads of households who have custody of dependent children who will be pursuing a baccalaureate degree full-time as an undergraduate at an Oregon 2 or 4 year, non-profit college or university. Application and rest of material deadline is June 31, 1996.

Oregon Logging Conference Scholarship. Committee hopes to award 6 \$600 scholarships this year. Students need to be studying in one of the following areas: forest wood products, welding, cat skinning, diesel mechanics, choke-setting. Application deadline is June 5.

Transportation association of Portland is offering two \$1000 scholarships. Applicants

must be full-time student with a minimum 2.75 GPA. Applicant should intend to pursue a career in transportation, distribution or logistics. Applications must be postmarked by June 6. Applications must include a sealed grade transcript.

Women's Shipping Club of Portland Scholarship Fund is offering a \$1000 for applicants studying in the fields of international business or maritime affairs. Applicants must have completed 1 academic year with a minimum of 2.5 GPA. Recipients will be selected during June.

Altrusa International of Albany is offering 2 \$600 scholarships. Eligible: Students who are entering the final year of a 2 year degree program at LBCC. Must have completed 45 credits satisfactorily. Must be willing to participate with the club and its activities. Deadline is June 7.

'96-'97 Hispanic Dental Association Foundation. Eligibility: Entry level Hispanic U.S.

students majoring in dental field. Application deadline: June 17, 1996. Applications will be available in the Career Center in Tadena Hall.

Scottish Rite Foundation in Oregon for '96-'97. Eligibility: Must have 2nd year enrollment status, be a resident of the State of Oregon.

EMPLOYMENT

Local Companies seek qualified applicants for the following positions: *Quality Assurance *Shipping/Receiving *Advanced Office Support *Field Research *Janitorial *General Labor *Greenchain *Welders. Apply Monday through Friday 8:30-11:30 at SelecTemp, 375 Pacific Blvd. SW Suite C, Albany OR 967-6881

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Unique opportunity close to LBCC. Large country home converted to "rooms for rent." Double /single occupancy rooms, \$250-\$300 a person, utilities included! Horse bonding on same property. No smoking or drugs! Call 928-9363. Judy or Vern, mornings or evenings best.

WANTED

King sized waterbed with headboard & pedestal. Call Heidi @ 258-5765 eves.

Classified Ad Policy

Deadline: Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission. If you wish a particular ad to appear in successive issues, you must resubmit it.

Cost: Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

Personals: Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week; no more than 50 words per ad.

Libel/Taste: The Commuter will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner. Any advertisement judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

ATTENTION

PHI THETA KAPPANS

Important Dates: Mark your Calendars

- Activities**
Potluck Picnic
 May 25 Noon
 Thompson Shelter
 Avery Park, Corvallis
Induction
 May 31 7:30pm
 Main Forum (F-104)
Graduation
 June 13

- Meetings**
General Meeting
Elections
 May 22 & 23
 12-1pm, B-109
Executive
 Every Monday
 2-3pm, T-111

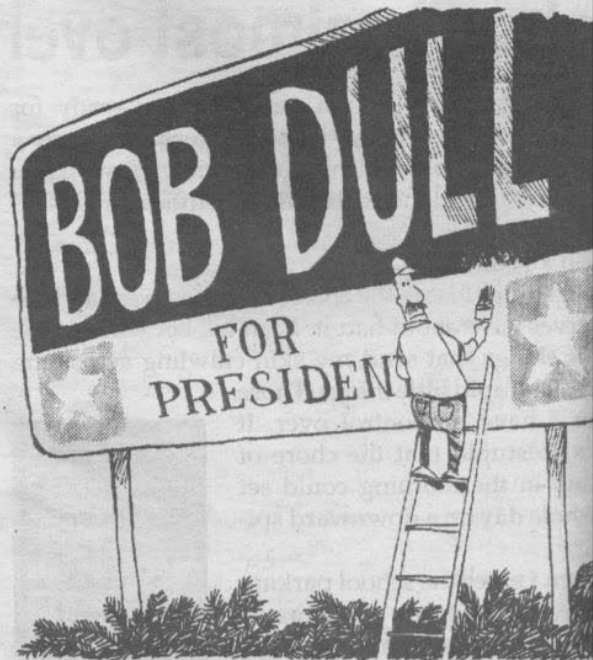
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To help place important issues on the November ballot.

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OPINION PAGE



Dole's surprising resignation may revitalize dull campaign

by Pete Petryszak
of The Commuter

Bob Dole's resignation from the Senate last week left friends and foes alike shaking their heads in confusion.

Was it a symbolic gesture to show how he's not part of the gridlock and pork-barrel pandering of the Washington establishment?

Was he so swamped with work as the Senate Majority Leader and impending Republican presidential nominee that he had to quit one to do the other?

Was he tired of working in the same building for 27 years?

Or was he just trying to do something out-of-the-ordinary to show that he still has a pulse?

I've got a feeling that Dole and the Republicans are going to use this event to demonstrate Dole's selflessness and willingness to relinquish power, thus contrasting himself to the "power-hungry," "self-serving" Clinton administration.

I expect Dole to use his resignation to emphasize term limits during the campaign. Never mind the fact that he's spent over 30 years in Washington and has a fat congressional pension waiting for him whether he wins the presidency or not, he hates the Washington power establishment, really.

It's hard to distinguish any real advantage Dole's gaining through this move, while it's easy to see what he's giving up.

If the work as majority leader was too much, then his resignation from that post is understandable, but why resign from the Senate entirely? If he is overworked campaigning and running Senate business, will he be able to effectively push for legislation from Congress which fits his goals while carrying out his duties as president?

This maneuver obviously raises more questions than it answers.

Maybe his political instinct has dulled recently, but Dole is (or was) a shrewd politician, so I can't imagine him taking a gamble like this if he didn't expect it to pay off. I find his resignation so perplexing because it came from out-of-the-blue without rhyme or reason to explain it. Why would Dole do something so un-Dole-ish? Who was he taking advice from? Was he smoking something? Did he inhale?

The idea that by resigning Dole now has more time to get his message out doesn't really hold water, because Dole has never been able to "get the message out." He prides himself on being a "doer, not a talker," so now he needs to take the last six months of the campaign to use his skills as a communicator and an orator to take his message to the

people?

I like to gamble, and I've never considered elections to be too important or respectable to be wagered upon, so I'd bet that Dole uses his resignation as a campaign ploy. He's going to stand up at the Republican convention in August and say that he quit the Senate because it's not right for someone to stay there for 30 years and use a Senate seat as a springboard to the presidency. He'll say that he's demonstrated how he doesn't seek power for its own sake. In contrast to Clinton, he only

seeks the presidency to serve, to help us little folks

Of course, we're not supposed to remember Dole was close to being a government institution himself after all his time in the Senate or find it ironic it took him over 30 years in elected office to see beauty of term limits, but the American electorate is good at forgetting things like that.

Another good subject for speculation and betting whether Dole will shed tears at the convention.

For someone toughened by the Depression and

Dole sure cries a lot. He cried at Nixon's funeral. He cried when Bush was elected in 1992. I'll bet he cried when Buchanan won the New Hampshire primary course that's understandable—lots of Republicans cried that night).

My bet is that somewhere between his reminiscences and call for all American support him Dole will describe his wrenching decision to leave the Senate and how he did it for the good of all Americans because he loves his country so much more than himself... then his will break and he'll stand up on national television and whimper like a puppy.

And the Democrats fear that scene

than an army of Kenneth Starrs and a hotel full of Paula Joneses. When Dole bawls at the convention he'll strike an emotional chord with the electors and millions of otherwise sensible voters with his emotional outpouring and decide that after his sacrifices the guy deserves a chance to be president.

Never mind all the yahoos he'll carry power in his wake. Voters vote for the guy grabs their emotions at that moment and consider the consequences of their decision.

The Democrats appear to be lulled into complacency by the polls that show Clinton to points ahead of Dole, and this trust in polls could be their undoing if they keep sleepwalking to election day.

A lot can happen in six months, and November voters will be hungry for sincerity after four years of Clinton's double-talk. Dole give them precisely the illusion they will be looking for.

Politicians are always thinking of the next election, and they do nothing without a reason.

Democrats who are laughing about Dole's "crazy" move this month are in for a rude awakening come November if they don't get off their backs and expose it as the empty political gesture it is.



I expect Dole to use his resignation to emphasize term limits during the campaign. Never mind the fact that he's spent over 30 years in Washington and has a fat congressional pension waiting for him whether he wins the presidency or not, he hates the Washington power establishment, really.



OPINION PAGE

Letters

Learning community is definitely a great idea

To the Editor:
 "Imagine having a close-knit of people working together and communication throughout the entire school year academically and socially?" On April 24, I read that LBCC will be the first college to launch a full-time learning community beginning this fall term. In many positive ways, I really think this learning community will enhance the students' commitments toward learning. By allowing students to work in a close-knit group, communication will hopefully make learning a more enjoyable experience. And when students find learning an enjoyable experience, it will motivate them to succeed in school. Also, I'd like to applaud the faculty members who are supporting this learning community. With their support, along with the participation of students, the learning community will enhance the students' commitments toward learning. Thus, this will lead to great success!

Rosemarie Sebastian

Custodians shouldn't be the butt of smokers' jokes

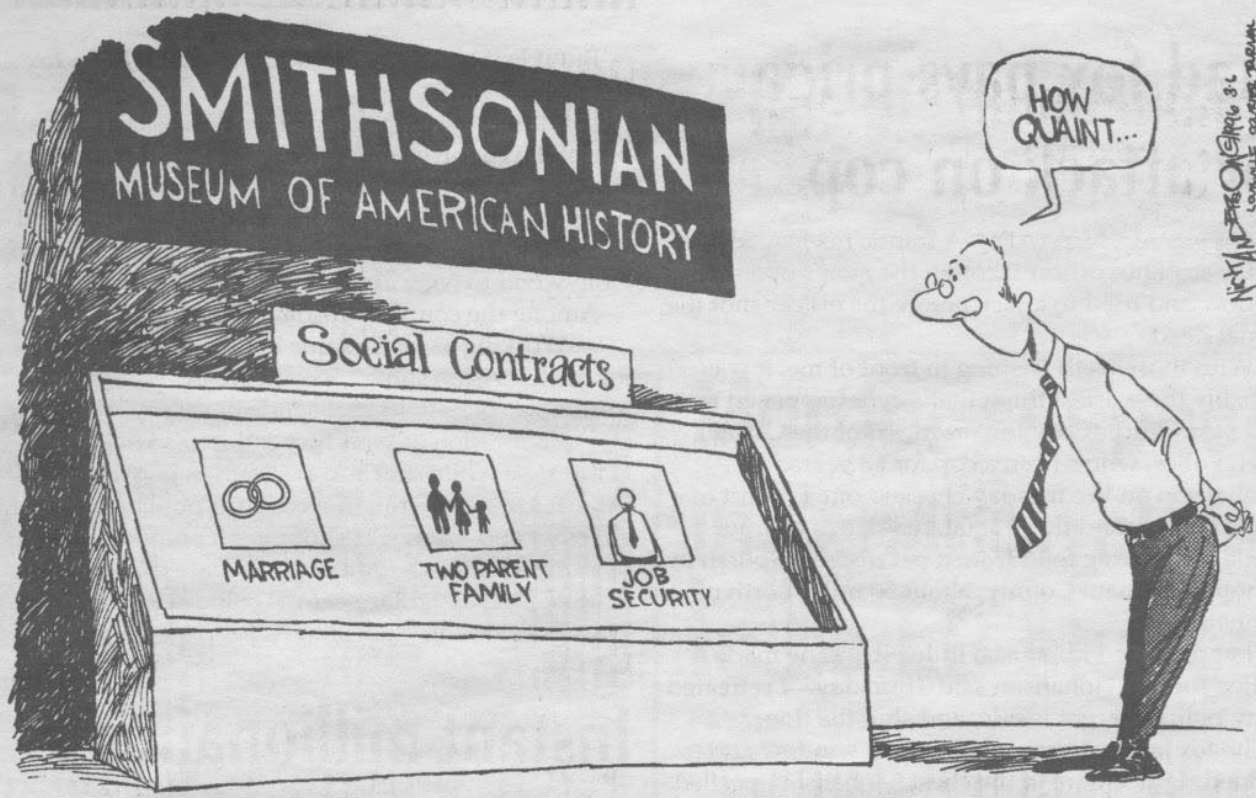
To the Editor:
 In the Commuter on April 17, 1996, I agree with Kevin Lacey, head of the custodial department on how he answered the article: "So many ashtrays, so little time." As I stroll campus, I can't help but notice lots of cigarette butts squished on the sidewalks. This leaves double work for the custodians. Those compartment-looking things hanging on the side railings and picnic tables are difficult enough to be digging in as they are. The custodians shouldn't get all the rap for this problem if they say they're doing the best they can. Smokers could put out their cigarettes where they belong and not on the ground. Hopefully, if more and taller standing ashtrays are available, the problem will decrease.

Melanie M. Agatol

Did we get the whole story or was it one-sided?

To the Editor:
 I am writing in regard to the article a couple of weeks ago, where an older gentleman attacked a security officer. At first my response was as the article intended, shocked, even angry at the old guy. But then I started thinking about a lot of the older people in our classrooms here at Linn-Benton. A lot of older people here were inches away from pensions, and now they are stuck going through school again, as a last resort late in their lives. I also started wondering, what was wrong with the man who attacked the officer? Then I thought, did anyone check to see if, mentally, he was OK? Did anyone check to see if there was more to the story than what we read in The Commuter? The media often manipulates the way we perceive things that are going on around us, and even though The Commuter is a small-time paper in a tiny community college, I just wonder how much of the story we actually got. Knowing that there are many different people here, under different circumstances in their lives, things would work better if we didn't just condemn people for their physical actions, but started asking more questions, like; Why did this happen? It is a fact of psychology that people are either totally bad, nor totally good, the way the article portrayed this was an evil old man attacking an innocent police officer. It makes a great story, but it's a little one-sided.

Joy Purdy



commentary

Many miracles abound in everyday life

by Cindi Fuller
 of The Commuter

Miracles are actively happening all the time. People are aware of miracles, but choose to dismiss their authenticity. Claims of coincidence and challenges to the credibility of the people making the claims are the most common way people account for things they don't understand.

In life many of us have experienced various forms of miracles. I know in my own life I have been fortunate to receive many small gifts of miracles for which there were no explained answers. I can remember receiving money when it was desperately needed, jobs that better-qualified people than myself should have been offered, so many small gifts of miracles have been given to me when there was little or no hope.

In the book "Miracles" written by Don Fearheiley, there are many true stories of extraordinary experiences of miracles that change human lives and the question is asked, "Is it coincidence or heavenly intervention?" Laura is feeling like a failure, and then she is touched by a miracle that turns her into the local heroine.... Wayne is sure he's a loser but he wins the most important contest of his life.... Richard's health takes a turn for the better before he even realizes he has a problem . . . "So many countless stories with amazing and inspiring miracles. Both the believers and the skeptics need to acknowledge that there are powers that can intervene when it seems impossible."

What is it that makes people want to refuse the belief of miracles? Could it be the fear of the unknown and the possibility that the unknown can have an active part in our lives and their outcomes.

Is it hard for people to comprehend or believe that there is something more powerful or more knowing than mankind? Is it so disturbing it scares us? I believe we can't let go of the hope or belief that we have total control of our lives.

There is a self-study program of spiritual psychotherapy called "A Course in Miracles". In this course they have defined the meaning of miracles, and list fifty principles. Two of my favorites are: #1—A miracle is never lost. It may touch many people you have not even

met, and produce undreamed of changes in situations of which you are not even aware. #2—Miracles are associated with fear only because of the belief that darkness can hide. You believe that what your physical eyes cannot see does not exist. This leads to a denial of spiritual insight. Miracles are wonderful blessings in life. To acknowledge them is only the beginning of seeing life in a new way. Miracles remind me of being a child and receiving an unexpected gift from an unknown person. A gift that I don't know why I received or who my benefactor is, but, because of those reasons, made that much more precious.

I enjoy watching the show "Unsolved Mysteries" because it consistently has an array of unexplained experiences that I conclude are miracles. On February 2, 1996 the show told a story that had to have baffled even the most dedicated skeptics. It was the story of an infant's birth and death, a child that was desperately

Life is full of unexplained things that are miracles. If we can be open to the possibility that all things cannot be scientifically explained, we might find the real answers.

wanted by its family. The baby was pronounced dead at birth. The grieving parents refused to let the child be taken away. They cried and prayed for their child. The child had been proclaimed legally dead for over 40 minutes. There were no forms of resuscitation used during the 40 minutes. The grandmother held the child as the child began to return to life. Six doctors and eight nurses witnessed the death. Doctors reexamined the child, and to their disbelief and amazement the child had a miraculous return to life. Members of the hospital called it the "miracle baby." This incident cannot be defined or analyzed scientifically nor can we diminish the credibility of the doctors or nurses in this case. These are all highly regarded professionals in the medical field and we need to take them seriously when they say a miracle has occurred.

It's hard to accept the facts for what they are, but miracles do happen. Life is full of unexplained things that are miracles. If we can be open to the possibility that all things cannot be scientifically explained, we might find the real answers. I want to believe that there is a force that intervenes on my behalf because I am so human. I make mistakes and need help when none can be foreseen. I want the miracles to continue in my life as well as in the lives of others. Maybe you will be the next to experience a miracle and become a believer.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter's "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, and national issues. Submissions may be in the form of letters to the editor or, for topics that require deeper analysis, guest columns. Letters should be no more than 250 words, and will be edited for grammar and spelling. In order to confirm the authorship of letters, they must be signed, with phone number and address included (phone numbers and addresses will not be published). As general policy, The Commuter will not publish anonymous letters to the editor, although the editor reserves the right to make exceptions when conditions warrant. Readers who wish to submit guest columns should contact the editor in advance. All submissions can be dropped off at The Commuter office in Room 210 of the College Center.

Mad fox pays price for attack on cop

MAHOPAC, N.Y. (AP)—A frantic fox leaped at a Mahopac police officer through the man's open car window and tried to attack before the officer shot the animal dead.

"With those teeth flashing in front of me, it was probably the scariest thing that's ever happened to me," said Officer Gary Johanson, 42, of the Carmel Town Police, who's been a cop for 18 years.

Johanson on Wednesday checked out a report of a sick fox and found the animal, the size of a large beagle, eating dog food from a pet dish on a porch in Mahopac, Putnam County, about 50 miles north of Manhattan.

"I approached him just a little bit and he made a beeline for me," Johanson said Thursday. "I retreated to my police car, got inside, and shut the door."

The fox jumped through the open window and "landed right square in the chest," Johanson recalled. He had pulled his pistol once he realized the animal was coming his way, and shot the critter as it bared its teeth.

The tussle left two paw prints on his tie.

Rabies tests on the animal won't be ready until today, but Johanson and two other men who were attacked by the fox have been started on anti-rabies shots. Although Johanson was not bitten, he may have been exposed to the animal's mucous.

"I'm betting that he was rabid; he was pretty aggressive," Johanson said.



Peppy pair promote peacock pastime

MINDEN, Iowa (AP)—Some people might say Dennis Fett and his wife, Debra Buck, are just a shade too peacock-happy.

First, there's the self-published Wacky World of Peacock series of books and newsletters.

Then there's the his 'n' hers PEACOCK and PEAHEN vanity license plates and the more than 200 noisy peafowl living on their property.

Finally, there's the song they wrote together: "Peacocks can be happy/Peacocks can be wacky/They shake their tails and display for their girls/Wacky, wacky, oh so wacky/Happy, happy, always happy."

Hearing about the couple who pen the bimonthly column "Ask Mr. Peacock" was enough to prompt Discovery Magazine contributor Jeffery Kluger to remark that "it sounded like someone had forgotten to take Mr. Prozac."

Do they just have birds on the brain, or is it the other way around?

"I guess we're nuts," admitted Fett. "Nobody in the world does what we do."

But if Fett and Buck are crazy, it's more like a fox than a loon.

In addition to being named by Writer's Digest as one of the country's top three self-publishing success stories and appearing regularly in national television programs and magazines, the couple's expertise and knack for garnering attention has opened doors from Hollywood to New York.

Among the couple's upcoming projects:

—Working as consultants to the animal trainer for the television show "Second Noah," which plans to add peacocks to its menagerie next season.

—Publication of their first children's book featuring a white peacock. Fett said Simon and Schuster is considering the book for publication, and a Hollywood agent was shopping it around as a potential children's film.

—Writing a regular peafowl column for Time-Warner Electronic Publishing's pet page on the Internet.

Instant millionaires don't last long

CHICAGO (AP)—For a brief time, the Chicago area had 826 new multimillionaires — at least according to the receipts they received at automated teller machines from the city's largest bank.

In each case, people who made withdrawals late Thursday and early Friday from the machines belonging to the First National Bank of Chicago learned from their receipts that \$924.8 million had been credited to each of their accounts.

"I showed the receipt to a friend and we just started screaming," said Sylvester Dorsey, a bill collector for the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Co.

Dorsey and most of the others who received the receipts realized quickly that their "wealth" was the result of a computer error.

The American Bankers Association said it was the largest such error in the history of U.S. banking. The total amount of money involved — \$763.8 billion — was more than six times the total assets of First Chicago NBD Corp., the bank's holding company.

But James Lancaster, senior vice president of First Chicago, said he was certain customers would not be able to use the money mistakenly credited to their accounts. "In some cases, we took the money directly out of the account," he said Friday afternoon. "In others we blocked it from being used. By Saturday morning, all the offsets will have occurred."

Lancaster conceded that a few people probably did try to withdraw some of the money, but he said such an action would be illegal and the bank would be ready to deal harshly with it.

"For those who did something, we will have to see what happens," he said. "This would be fraud against a national bank, and that's a federal crime. This isn't like seeing a million dollars on the sidewalk."

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



"I guess someone wasn't paying attention when I was talking about taking souvenirs."



Sister act still hot after 15 years

FERDINAND, Ind. (AP) —Ten years after their first flash of fame, The Combo's singing nuns are still rocking and rolling.

The eight Sisters from St. Benedict of Ferdinand have been cranking out tunes from polkas to pop for about 15 years.

"We were 'Sister Act' before Whoopie," said electric guitarist Sister Brenda Engleman, referring to actress Whoopie Goldberg and her movie about a performing nun.

The Dubois County nuns actually play in two bands. As Stillpoint, they play original compositions written during times of retreat and reflection.

As The Combo, they cut loose. "I wanted to be an entertainer all my life," Sister Engleman said. "I wanted to go to Nashville and do an album."

At 79, Sister Mary Inez Mitchell is the band's oldest member.

"I've been playing drums for years," Sister Mitchell said. "I taught drums. They're fun to play."

And fun is what the band is about, said Sister Geraldine Hedinger.

"We're not out to impress anyone with our great talent," she said.

The Combo has played on hay wagons and in nursing homes, in Arizona and New Jersey and Chicago — even on the television show 'Entertainment Tonight.'

But they don't solicit gigs or play in bars. "There's usually a sister connection," Sister Engleman said.

Sister Mitchell's connections recently led to a banquet performance at First Christian Church in Evansville, which several of her relatives attend.

Their rendition of "Wipeout" won the approval of 16-year-old Matt Clark, the pastor's son.

"That old lady is getting down," said Matt, who danced to many of the songs. "That was cool. I wasn't expecting that."

Sister Mitchell rocks in perfect posture, avoiding the head-shaking antics of other drummers.

"I would probably get dizzy," she said.

Zach Maxheimer, 12, liked the holy rock 'n' rollers: "They're old ladies that rock. They're ornery."

The sisters were a bit too mainstream for Cassandra Frank, 18, who prefers alternative Christian music.

"They're all right," she said. "But it's nothing I can stand for very long."

About 10 years ago, the sisters briefly became famous and were deluged with requests for interviews. They agreed to go on "Entertainment Tonight" on the condition that their religious side be shown, but they turned down the tabloids.

"I did radio talk shows from L.A. to Chicago, in my bedroom," Sister Engleman said. "Everyone was wanting to get us. Then it died down."

She's not complaining. After all, The Combo is just a sideline for the sisters, who serve as teacher counselors, and administrators throughout southwestern Indiana.

"We want to entertain, lift spirits, help people forget problems, just enjoy," Sister Engleman said.

"In church we're much more particular. We hope helps people pray and not distract them."