

The Commuter remembers Roadrunner All-Stars in volleyball, basketball and baseball ▶ **Pg. 10**

Hundreds of volunteers descend on a site outside Veneta to prepare for the Country Fair ▶ **Pgs. 8-9**



# The Commuter

a weekly student publication

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 36 No. 26

## Community continues search for Brooke

The Commuter

For over a week now, Eugene graduate Brooke Wilberger, 19, has been missing from an apartment where she was staying in Corvallis. Corvallis Police believe she was abducted while cleaning a lamppost at the Oak Apartment complex approximately two blocks from the OSU campus.

Wilberger has a scar on her right forearm, extending from her wrist to her elbow and has a piercing in the top of her right ear without an earring. She was last seen wearing a "BYU Soccer" T-shirt and a blue "Fresh Jive" sweatshirt, a ring engraved with the initials "CTR," small hoop earrings and a silver watch.

Wilberger's family has put up a Web site at [www.findbrooke.com](http://www.findbrooke.com). The flier is available on the Web site for volunteers to print out and post.

A reward totaling \$30 thousand is being offered for the safe return of Wilberger. Donations can be received at the Corvallis

branch of Citizens Bank.

A prayer vigil for Wilberger was held on May 31 on the Benton County Courthouse lawn in Corvallis. The vigil was organized by the Church of Latter Day Saints, which is also coordinating volunteers for the search efforts. Over 400 people were in attendance for the emotional event.

Anyone with information relating to Wilberger's abduction should call the tip lines at (541) 766-6989 or toll free at (877) 367-2270.

A tip line e-mail address has also been established at [tips@findbrooke.com](mailto:tips@findbrooke.com). All tips are being investigated by law enforcement.

Updated information on the investigation is being posted on the city of Corvallis Web site at [www.ci.corvallis.or.us/](http://www.ci.corvallis.or.us/)

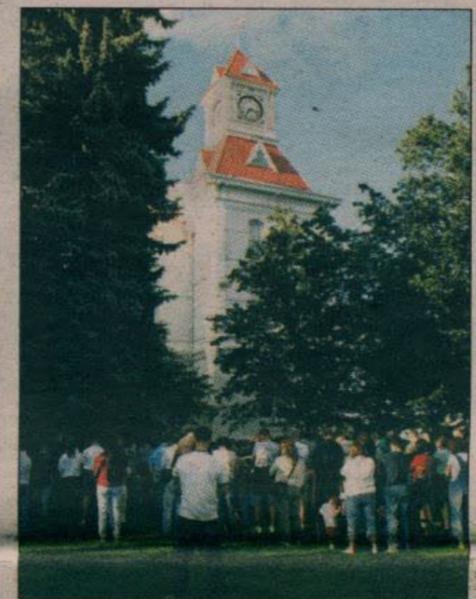


Brooke Wilberger



Cammy and Greg Wilberger, parents of the 19-year-old abducted woman Brooke, are comforted by community members at the prayer vigil last Monday in Corvallis. Over 400 people came attended in support for the friends and family.

photos by Jeremy Hennig



## June 10 creeps closer for grads

Sheena Bishop  
The Commuter

On Thursday, June 10, LBCC graduates will finally get to throw their caps.

More than 600 students applied for graduation this term and 250-300 are expected to march at commencement. The total number of graduates for the 2003-04 is about 1,000.

This year's graduation begins at 7 p.m., but students are asked to gather at 5:30 p.m. at the top of the stairwell to the Forum over the fountain.

Together they will proceed to the Activities Center, where the ceremony will be held.

Leading the processional will be the Willamette Valley Pipe Band. The posting of the colors will be conducted by the OSU ROTC, followed by the pledge of allegiance, led by Classified Association President Linda Dompier.

Welcome and introductions will be presented by LBCC President Rita Cavin. Comments from the Board of Education are being presented by Dr. Thomas D. Wogaman, chair of the Board of

▶ Turn to "Graduation" on Pg. 4

## Strawberry Festival celebrates 95th year

Colleen Jacks  
The Commuter

The 95th annual Strawberry Festival will begin Wednesday, June 2 and continue through Sunday, June 6. The festival will be held at Cheadle Lake Park, located at the intersection of Highway 20 and Weirich Rd. Nearly 100 volunteers led by the 25-member Strawberry Board put forth a Herculean effort to ensure the festival is a success. This year's theme is "Strawberry Happiness."

The first Strawberry Festival was in 1909, arranged by local businessmen Joel C. Mayer and A.M. Reeves to promote the strawberry industry and say "thank you" to the community for their patronage.

According to the Strawberry Festival Web site, in 1931, bakery owner T.W. Munyon, and David Stritmater, manager of Lebanon Mountain Power (now Pacific Power and Light office) hit upon the idea of a strawberry

shortcake. Over the years the shortcake has grown to serve the nearly 17,000 people who attend each year. The servings are free.

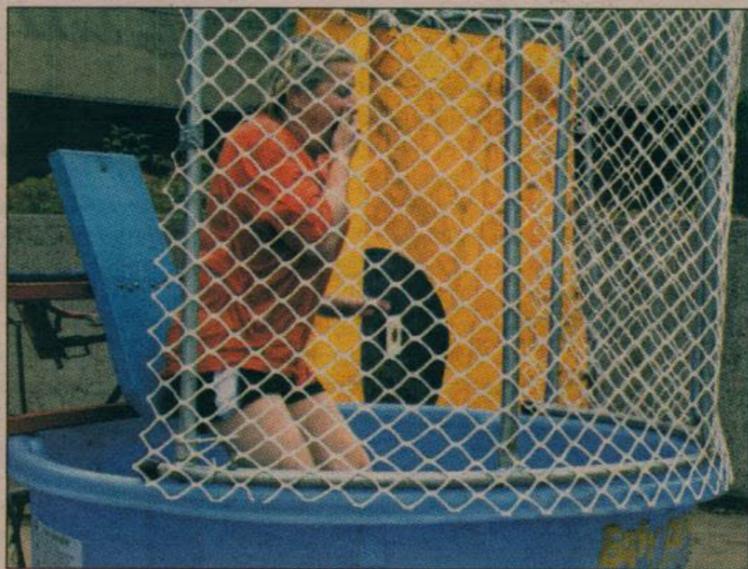
The cake is loaded on a three-tiered trailer that measures approximately 10 feet by 30 feet. The recipe calls for 350 pounds of flour, 125 pounds of shortening, 196 pounds of eggs, and gallons of other ingredients which earned it the right to be listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records."

Every three years, Safeway and Roth's IGA alternate the opportunity to bake the cake. This year Roth's has the honor.

The Grand Parade, on Saturday at 11 a.m., will be led by "The World's Largest Strawberry Shortcake." The parade route begins at Wal-Mart and proceeds up Main Street to the American legion on Rose Street.

Preceding the Grand Parade, the annual 5K Strawberry Run will begin at 7 a.m. The route

▶ Turn to "Strawberry" on Pg. 4



**Going Down**  
Debbie Zeller, registration and admissions clerk, takes a plunge in the dunk tank during last week's Spring Fling in the Courtyard. More photos about the event, which included a fundraising auction, book sales, and a sidewalk art contest, are on Page 5.

photo by Jeremy Hennig

**WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND**

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

high 74 low 50  
WEDNESDAY

high 79 low 51  
THURSDAY

high 80 low 51  
FRIDAY

high 66 low 50  
SATURDAY

high 63 low 48  
SUNDAY

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# OPINION

**Send letters to The Commuter:**  
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and  
 keep them at 250 words or less



## Point: Prisoner abuse has purpose

**Adam Swackhamer**  
 The Commuter

While the incidents at Abu Ghraib are not anything that be easily condoned, when taken in context it is possible to consider that it helped save the lives of some soldiers stationed in Iraq. The soldiers and administration perhaps went about the whole thing incorrectly.

In recent newscasts I've heard commentators whining about how these soldiers have broken the rules set forth in the Geneva Convention and other nonsense.

First off, anyone who believes we should be adhering strictly to the Geneva Convention rules is horribly disillusioned. When fighting an enemy who doesn't care about the rules, forcing your own troops to follow those rules almost always assures failure.

Secondly, failing to acknowledge that our experts use less-than-friendly tactics to extract information from prisoners means forcing yourself to be ignorant of modern warfare tactics. Any country that wishes to protect its troops and citizens must stoop to certain levels to do so. America is no exception.

In regards to Abu Ghraib, there was obvious miscommunication or sadistic intent by the prison's administration on how to deal with prisoners. Since none of them were persons of much interest, the probability that they held any useful information was minimal. Had one of these prisoners been Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden, I would have been all for this treatment. Honestly, I'm hopeful that Hussein is meeting a much worse fate at the hands of international interrogators, all while giving up mounds of vital information.

Rounding up every prisoner in the place and humiliating and degrading them may be the most effective way to get them to talk, but as Americans we cannot have our armed forces stooping to such barbaric methods. Slightly more humane methods should have been used to achieve the same ends.

Another trend I have seen among the mainstream media is how quickly they blame George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld, two men stationed worlds away who probably had no direct say over what happened in a small Iraqi prison. The only people deserving blame in this case are the over zealous or sadistic administrators who were giving orders inside Abu Ghraib.

## Counterpoint: Rules of war protect us

**Laurent L.N. Bonczijk**  
 The Commuter

The argument that we cannot win without breaking the Geneva Convention is stupid. Once we choose to not follow it, we have lost. As my commanding officer said last drill weekend, once we sink to the level of our enemy we become them. We have then lost everything that makes us better than the terrorists.

Modern military doctrine calls for overwhelming force and violence to be applied to military targets, not prisoners. The same doctrine states that the mistreatment of prisoners of war and civilians only serves to reinforce the resolve of the enemy.

Too many misinformed conservative commentators are trying to explain and justify abuse at Abu Ghraib. According to them, following the Geneva Convention while engaged in a conflict is ludicrous.

The idea underlying the Geneva Convention is that by treating our enemy prisoners in a humane manner we will encourage them to treat our P.O.W.s with humanity.

I would like to know where those "experts" gained their knowledge of modern warfare tactics. It clearly wasn't in the service, since many neo-conservatives never bothered to serve. If people don't have experience about a subject, they shouldn't waste the public's time commenting about it.

I am still serving in the Marine Corps Reserve and I have never heard any of my superiors claim or hint that not following the Geneva Convention would make it easier for us to win the war.

## A nation again divided against itself

**Hans Zeiger**  
 Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

I spent the past week driving with some friends across the country from the upper Midwest to California. It was a geographical overview of what political scientists call Red and Blue America (Republican and Democrat). Culturally and religiously, America is divided and has been for many years. As a reflection of that moral divide, in this election year, the political divisions are intense.

In this campaign season, George W. Bush must be a conservative, and John Kerry must be a liberal, for such are the disparate identities of the people from whom the candidates will respectively anticipate their victories. It is a good thing that we will finally see some contrast in our presidential candidates, but it is an awful thing that the political divisions that motivate the contrast symbolize a deeper rift in the cultural life of America.

According to the Washington Post, the political mirroring of America's cultural divide is a mostly new phenomenon. Gone is the recent year of the conservative "Reagan Democrat" or the liberal "Rockefeller Republican;" those breeds still exist but they cannot control their parties. This too is a good thing, because parties ought to stick to a single platform.

And gone is the era of the Big Tent; parties are coming to recognize that they alienate more than they attract when they are wishy-washy and watered down.

Thus, for the first time in generations, the philosophical labels of liberal and conservative correspond with near precision to Democrat and Republican. University of California Los Angeles political scientist Hans Noel points out, "It has taken 40 or 50 years to work itself out, but the ideological division in America is now lined up with the party division."

Washington Post writer David Von Drehle reports that most American voters are fiercely committed to one party or another, even this early in the election cycle. According to Drehle, 70 percent of Americans can identify themselves with a candidate already.

Far from being dominated by one party, American politics is split 50-50. It was split most certainly in 2000 when the election came down to a few hundred votes in Florida. And this year, polls consistently show a nearly equal split in support for Bush and Kerry. When one or the other candidate takes a lead in a nationwide poll, it is by a negligible percentage.

The same trend carries among young voters. According to a Newsweek poll of 351 voters aged 18 to 29, 44 percent of young Americans would vote for Kerry if the election were held today while a close 42 percent would vote for Bush.

Red and Blue America is not about to go away. Generation Next wants a political race that is cut and dry, candidates who are independently minded, in other words, a real choice. I know this from the experience of youth political activism, and statistics in the Newsweek poll seem to verify it.

I'm no political scientist, so I'm not out to wage grand academic analysis of the American political scene. But I'm intrigued by the equalizing of the left and right on the political spectrum. It is the age of conflict and controversy, something we haven't quite experienced perhaps since the Civil War.

The issues are no less critical than those of the Civil War. Abortion is our modern day slavery. Gay marriage is only in its nascent stage. Still, as in the days of the Civil War, we struggle to define the role of government in our nation. On our capacity to choose rightly in these matters, we will rise or fall.

### The Commuter

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 www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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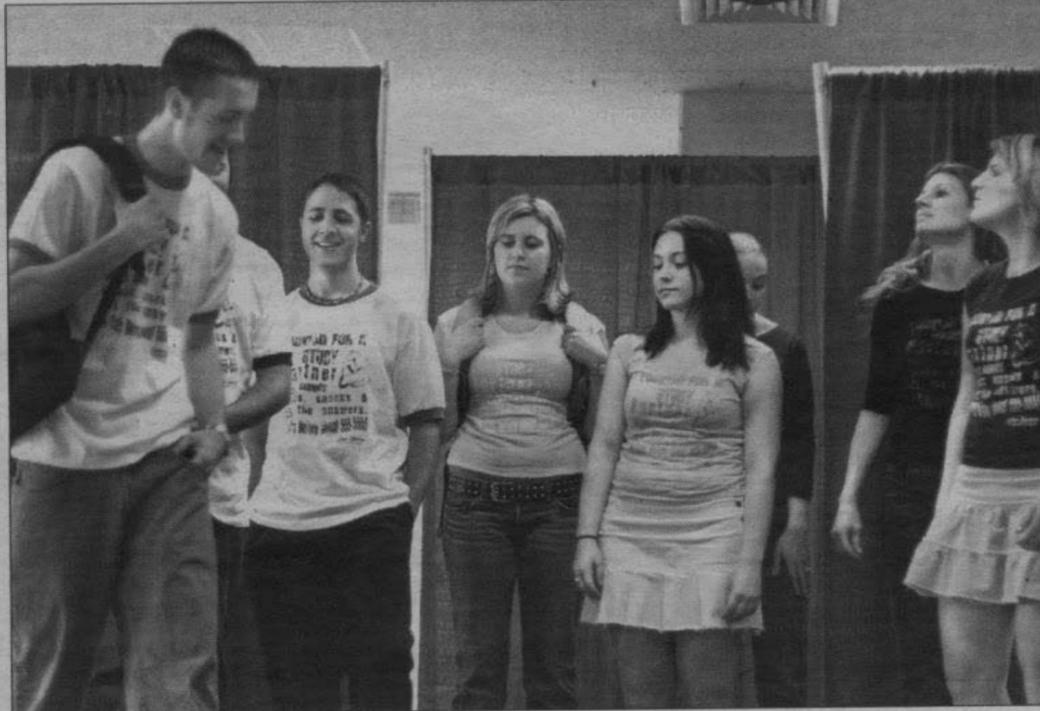
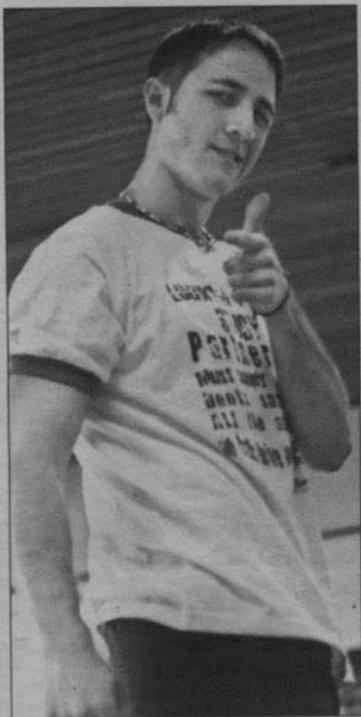
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# CAMPUS NEWS

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



## Bookstore Fashions

Employees of the LBCC Bookstore model apparel and accessories at the annual Fashion Show in the Commons on Thursday. Travis Kopacek models a novelty T-shirt (top left), while Joe Ableman shows off a Linn-Benton sweatshirt and book bag and Ashley Pace dons medical scrubs (right). At the top right are (from left) Luke Fox, Kopacek, Ellen Wenzel, Pace, Erica Hennig, Amy Locke and Melissa Benson.



photos by Jeremy Hennig

## Honored students meet with governor

LBCC News Service

Sara Haines and Dan Sheahan were named Linn-Benton Community College's outstanding student scholars in recognition of their academic and community achievements.

The pair met with Gov. Ted Kulongoski at the state capital April 6 for an Oregon Community College Association luncheon, which was held in honor of their leadership and service. Both students will receive \$1,000 scholarships when they continue their education at one of 21 colleges and universities in Oregon.

Haines, 19, lives in Lebanon. She ultimately plans to earn a Ph. D. in genetics and enter the field of medical research. She is interested in working to develop more effective treatments for long-term illnesses, as her brother was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age five. Haines is the student government public relations secretary, a volunteer Lebanon High School assistant tennis coach, Phi Theta Kappa public relations officer and a public library volunteer.

Sheahan, 45, lives in Lebanon. He is a criminal justice and psychology major who hopes to work in parole and probation. He plans to continue his education through law school. Sheahan initiated support groups for children ages 4-14 who are transitioning through the divorce of their parents, the death of someone close or other potentially traumatic experiences. He is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Thirty-eight scholars were chosen from a pool of 378,000 students from 17 Oregon community colleges. LBCC's student scholars are elected to both the All-America USA award and student scholar award.

## Peace Studies starts selection process

**Laurent L. N. Bonczijk**  
 The Commuter

The Peace Study Program, headed by instructor Doug Clark, has started the selection process for its biennial trip to the Symposium on Peace, Justice, and Human Rights being held in Szczecin, Poland, in September.

Declaration of Intent letters from students hoping to make the trip were due last Friday. The group, which is loosely tied, has between 10 and 15 students, but only five will accompany Clark to Poland.

"I hope to be selected," says Hannah Hunt, who has been involved with the group since the beginning of the term. Hunt finds it amazing how well the group has come together and worked on the different fund-raising events. She expected "a bit of a cat fight," but so far she says there has been little speculation on whom will get selected.

"Regardless if I go or not I will keep helping," said Hunt, who said the rest of the group has the same mentality.

The group doesn't have a fixed hierarchi-

cal structure, said Hunt. "Whoever has the skills ends up doing what they do best."

Mason Thompson, who became interested by the program last year and got on board during the fall, agreed, "There is no real official position," he said. He is the liaison between Clark and the rest of the students, but that doesn't give him anymore weight than the other members of the group, he said.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Thompson had to turn in his Declaration of Intent letter late. Thompson explained that the letter has to tell Clark who you are, how you will benefit from the symposium, how you will apply the information and how will Clark know that you are a better choice than other students.

Clark, who will choose the students, doesn't expect to have to cut that many. "Not many more than five will apply," he said.

Clark says that this year's crop of students compares favorably with the ones he has seen over the last 18 years, if a bit more serious, due to the current "state of the world," he said.

"This is more intense. Things are more real and many more people are involved this time," he explained.

Thompson agreed, "(It is) a really pivotal time in global politics; election are coming up in the United States... Fallujah, Abu Ghraib, the war on terrorism, make for a very charged atmosphere."

Thompson thinks that there is a lot of cynicism about the U.S. in the world and "leaving this turtle shell will expose us to these opinions."

Hunt, who finds "that there is nothing that replaces experience," is looking forward to "talking to people where its happening." Although she is prepared to field questions about the current U.S. foreign policy, when asked what she expects she said, "I have no idea." But she hopes that everyone will be willing to discuss it.

Thompson, who admits that he feels "a bit of anxiety, a bit of excitement" about the prospect of being selected, is "looking forward to unfiltered responses from other people from other nations."

"I think it will be fun, it will be an absolute kick," said Hunt.

## Publications Committee elects new editor for Commuter

**Adam Peoples**  
 The Commuter

Readers of The Commuter will see a new name at the top of the staff box next year as Nick Milhoan takes over as the newly selected editor-in-chief.

Milhoan is a 23-year-old journalism student currently attending Rogue Community College in Grants Pass, where he worked as news editor of the college's student paper, The By-Line, which published three

times a term.

When he begins his first term at LBCC next fall, he will be tasked with taking the reigns of LBCC's weekly student-run newspaper.

"I look forward to continuing a successful paper everyone can be proud of," said Milhoan.

The LBCC Publications Committee interviewed Milhoan and two other applicants on Friday, May 21.

Along with current Editor-in-Chief Michelle Bertalot, sev-

eral other current staff members will be leaving LBCC after this term.

Only four current staff members have put in applications for positions for the 2005-2006 school year. Such a high turnover rate for staff members is a product of the two-year college system and such changes are annual happenings.

Milhoan's first hurdle will be to put together a staff for next year. He said he believes the staff makeup will be crucial for

a successful publication.

"A great staff will help make a great paper," commented Milhoan. "I'm just one small piece to a large puzzle."

Milhoan said another challenge for him will be moving from a monthly publication to a weekly. "Going from a monthly to a weekly paper, deadlines are going to be the hardest thing to adhere to," said Milhoan.

The change of production rate, building a reliable staff and entering a new campus environ-

ment all pose challenges for the new editor-elect. Fall term will serve as the first glimpse as to what the newspaper staff and its readers can expect with Milhoan at the helm.

Students interested in being a part The Commuter staff next year as writers, editors, photographers, advertising designers or production specialists can pick up applications in The Commuter Office, Forum 222. Talent grants and work study positions are available.

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### SCHOLARSHIPS

American Business Women's Chintimini Scholarship - due date May 28, 2004. \$1,000 award to women who are US citizens, residents of Linn or Benton counties, GPA of 3.0 or better, and in a degree seeking major. Contact Elise Schloeder @ 758-6241 for more info. Materials are available in the kiosk next to Financial Aid, Takena Hall.

### FOR SALE

Hand's quality used furniture & more, we buy & sell. Located off pacific hwy in albany directly behind abchinese food & across from American Legion Bingo Hall @ 750 Sherman St. We carry, bedroom, living room, kitchen furniture, baby furniture, dishes, childrens section bookstore & movies and much more! Very reasonably priced! Opened from Tues. thru Sat. 10am to 6pm. 541-791-9613

### MISC.

Rock Solid Health Center - 35% off supplements. Free consultation. Downstairs next to Starbucks, 4th street, Corvallis. (541) 619-5559.

### HELP WANTED

Student Ambassador (#2534, LBCC campus) This part-time job on campus will be working with the Latino/a community. This pays \$7.48/hr and is about 15-19 hours/week. You must be bilingual in Spanish and English. See Carla in the Student Employment (T101) for more info on this wonderful opportunity!

Drafter (2531, Bend) They are looking for someone getting an AA in drafting and who has climbing experience. Please see Student Employment (T101) for more information!

Truck Driver (#2526, Albany) Full-time summer job paying \$14-15/hr plus overtime. Must have valid CDL either A or B and be available any shift. See Carla in Student Employment (T101) for your referral!

Media Specialist (#2537, Albany) If you have artistic/graphic design experience & are proficient in desktop publishing, this full-time job is looking for you. Pay is \$9.75-16.60/hr DOE. Sign up with Student Employment (T101) and find out more information!

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## Strawberry: Festival queen crowned

▲ From Pg. 1

for the run starts at the American Legion Hall and is completed in time for the Grand Parade.

This year's Grand Marshall is the B-52 National Guard unit that recently returned from active duty in Iraq.

"This will give the community a chance to see the B-52s, thank them and show support for the troops," said Bobbi Birch, chairperson for the Grand Parade.

Birch added that there are about 125 en-

trants for the parade, but many late entries are still coming in. The parade includes floats created by local businesses, horses, cars, local bands, mules and politicians.

The Strawberry Festival Board interviewed applicants for Strawberry Festival Queen from area high schools and narrowed the field to five finalists.

This year's Strawberry Festival Queen is Emily Conant, a Lebanon High School senior. Her court includes fellow students Melissa Stanley, Tanya Murphey, Samantha

Stevens and Veronica Davidson, who was awarded the title of miss congeniality. The queen and her court travel the state to various events, promoting Oregon's strawberry industry.

Other festival activities include carnival rides, entertainment by local bands, a fireworks display and a Country Fair where out-of-state craft vendors set up booths to show their wares.

The fireworks display will be Saturday night on the festival grounds.

## ASG decides to design LBCC mace as class gift

Sheena Bishop  
 The Commuter

At the end of April the Associated Student Government allocated \$2,243 for the design and fabrication of a mace for the school as a class gift from the 2003-04.

Students and staff submitted ideas on what the class gift could be, but in the end, LBCC President Rita Cavin came up with

the idea for a mace, which is an ornamental staff carried before official assemblies, such as commencement.

The ASG looked at all the options presented and decided that the mace was the most feasible, and felt it would also help to raise school spirit. ASG President Stephanie Quigley explained that a lot of interesting and unique ideas were submitted, but when it came down to

the final selection, the idea had to be within the budget as well as fit in with the atmosphere the school wishes to portray.

"We have been working with the president, Rita, on it a lot," Quigley said. Cavin has several books with pictures and descriptions of maces that she has given the ASG to use as inspiration for the project.

The graphic design students are expected to develop a design

for the top of the mace. The rest will be made of donated wood. An inscription will indicate it was donated by the ASG.

The mace is classified as an outgoing-ingoing project—in other words, the 2003-04 ASG started it and the 2004-05 ASG will finish it. They are still unsure as to where to display the mace. They are hoping it will be set up in its permanent home by the end of the 2004-05 school year.

## Graduation: Bagpipe serenade

▲ From Pg. 1  
 Education.

ASG President Ryan Kirchner will make a student address before Cavin returns to present special awards to Carol Menken-Schardt, who is being given an Honorary Degree, and to Sara Haines and Dan Sheahan, who will be receiving Phi Theta Kappa awards.

The presentation of diplomas,

degrees and certificates will be conducted by Wogaman, Cavin, Vice President of Academic Affairs Edwin Watson, Faculty President John Griffith and Dean of Students Diane Watson.

The recession will be led by the Willamette Valley Pipe Band to the Courtyard, where a formal reception will take place for graduates and their families and friends.

## Veteran visits history classes

For The Commuter

A World War II veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge will talk about his experiences Thursday (June 3) in two separate 90-minute sessions—one at 9:30 a.m. in T-207 and again at 11 a.m. in T-215.

Byron Snyder, the father of LBCC Food Services Manager Gary Snyder, joined the Army

at age 18 and was trained as a radio engineer. He landed with the 7th Army in southern France and supported the invasion of Germany toward the end of the war.

His presentations are being made at the invitation of history instructor Michael Weiss. Although Snyder will be addressing Weiss' classes, his talk is open to all students and staff.



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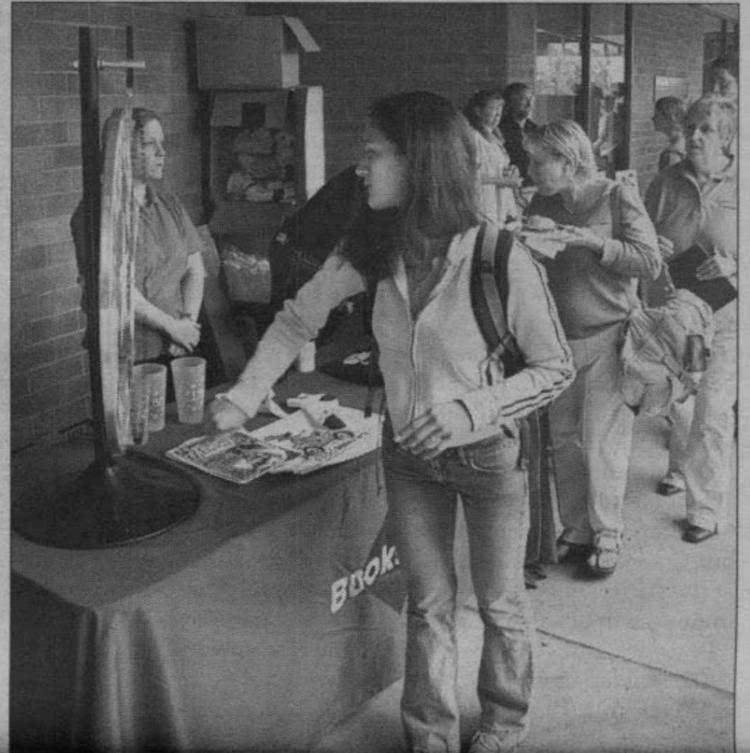
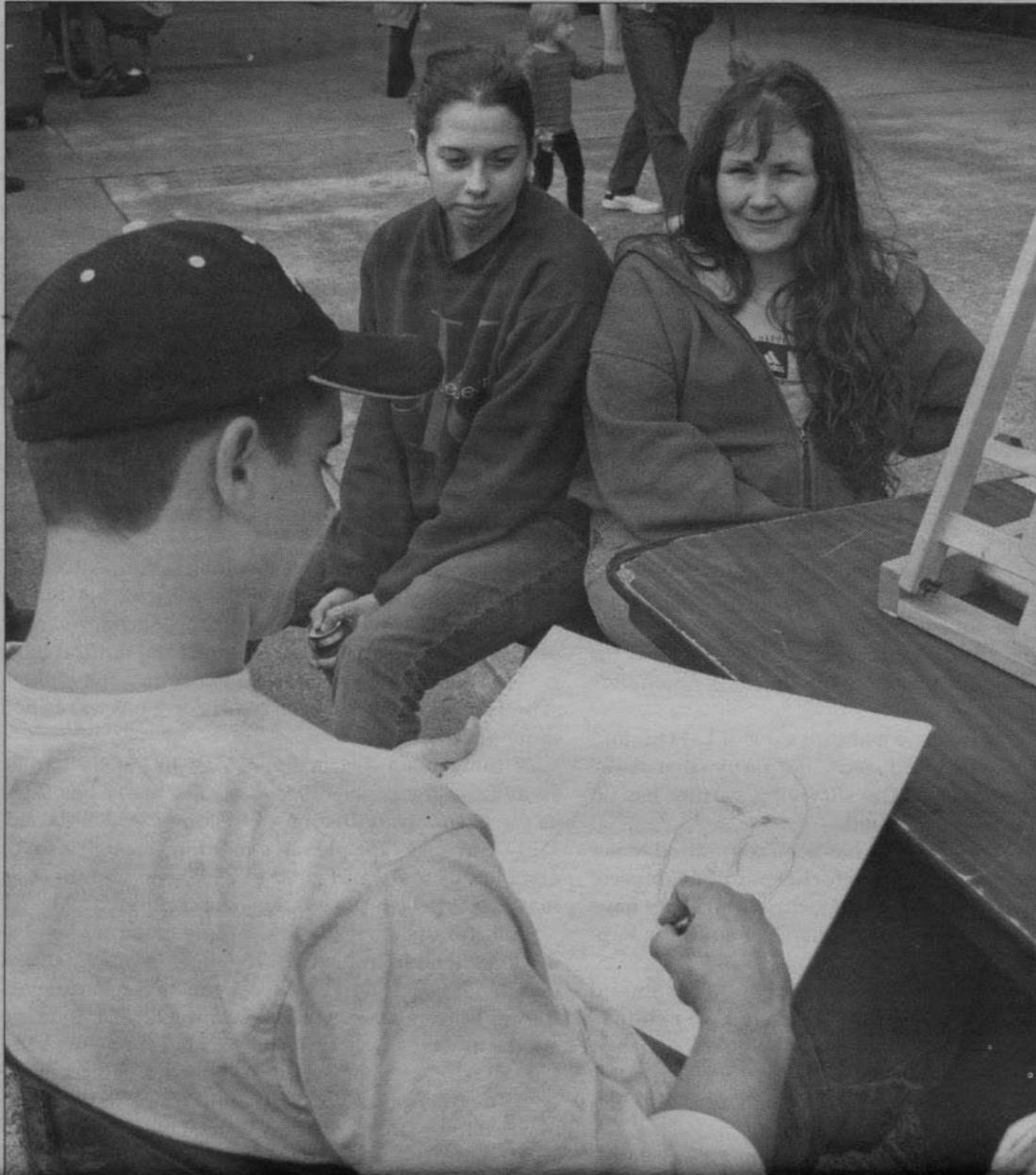
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## The annual Spring Fling signals end to another year



### Ring in Spring

The annual Spring Fling took place last Friday with festivities ranging from sidewalk chalk art to a dunk tank, there was something for every student to enjoy. Second-year graphic design student Israel Helfrich (top left) draws a caricature of Amanda Hopper and Melanie Cayell, both first year welding majors. Maria Roth (top right), a second year math student, takes a free spin for LBCC bookstore prizes. Students linger at a ticket booth to see if they won the coveted prize. Petr Horak (below left) photographs the Spring Fling for Student Life and Leadership archives. Sidewalk chalk artist Mischa Brittin (below right), a first year LB student, puts the finishing touches on her piece. "How can you lose with a naked lady," questioned Brittin. "I figure everyone loves a naked lady."

photos by Jeremy Hennig



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# LOCAL NEWS

News on happenings around the county  
 including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon,  
 Philomath, Sweet Home and Tangent

## Life's experience shows gay, straight marriage equal

Michelle Bertalot  
 The Commuter

For 23 years, Janet Converse lived a double life. Married at the ripe age of 22 Converse had three children, divorced at 45 and moved to Corvallis. After 23 years of marriage she moved from Alaska to Corvallis, where she discovered something life-changing about herself while on her own. The clues were always there, she just never identified the ultimate meaning.

"I was always a tomboy," Converse explains. "I think that I felt attractions for girls and some of my girlfriends when I was in high school and even in junior high, but I had no clue what that meant."

Currently, she works in the Marketing and Publications Department at LB, but ending up in the area didn't happen by chance. Converse had visited friends in Newport before her move and chose the area intentionally.

"Corvallis is a wonderful place to live. It's very liberal, which is one of the reasons I plan to stay there forever," said Converse. While she lived in Alaska she did some freelance writing for magazines and she wanted to go back to school at Oregon State. At the time, her youngest son was 13 years old and joined her on the move to Oregon.

Unfortunately for her son, there were times when Converse's homosexuality affected his life as well. In high school, a few of her son's conservative friends found out Converse was a lesbian and started to chip away at the friendships. "They just all of a sudden stopped inviting him places and stopped coming over; stopped having anything to do with him," she remembered.

The explanation of his friend's behavior came through the grapevine. Through mutual friends, Converse heard comments about her sexuality that severed her son's friendship with his former friends. "That was the hard-

est thing. That was harder for me than something that happened directly to me. I was so angry and upset," said Converse.

Times may have not been easy on her son, but Converse has had her share of challenges as well. Her father was in the military and although she was born in the South, they skipped up between north and south quite a bit due to her father's job.

**"People have to jump through a lot of extra hoops to try and get the same level of protection that a married couple would."**

▶ Janet Converse

couples receive through the government that same-sex couples are not eligible for.

Converse recalls a couple who had been together for years and when one passed away the family members took her belongings.

"The family members just pull up in a U-Haul and take home things that belonged to the partner that died," Converse remembers. "The surviving partner has no right to them," she continued.

For three years Converse has been committed to her current partner. As a safety net for her partner, Converse has put things in writing so her girlfriend will not have to go through a traumatic experience if anything happened to her.

Converse met her partner at church. "That should be worth a quote," she says with a laugh. Her church, which is Unitarian, she identifies as being open to their relationship. Both Converse and her partner (whom she prefers not to identify or speak on behalf of) enjoy singing in the church choir and geocaching.

"We love to find the treasure using the GPS system," she says, grinning at the thought.

Last summer the couple traveled Europe with friends. "In Belgium we could walk down the street holding hands. Other countries were very close-minded. It's a very gullible world," Converse said. Next month Converse and her partner are traveling to Tanzania with a group from the Lutheran church.

Although she and her girlfriend are not married, it's not something that hasn't crossed her mind. "It will probably happen. It just hasn't yet," she says.

On the state level, it looks as though Converse has the luxury of taking her time. In Massachusetts on May 17, same-sex marriage licenses were issued for the first time and were legal by the state's standard. There is still the threat of an amendment that President George W. Bush wants to push through Congress that would ban same-sex marriages.

"The union of a man and a woman is the most enduring human institution, honored and encouraged in all cultures and by every religious faith. Marriage cannot be severed from its cultural, religious and natural roots without weakening the good influence of society," Bush stated on Feb. 25 in a speech calling on Congress to ban same-sex marriages.

"I think it's a distraction—a way to get the public away from the problems the country really has, such as the economy, reduction of freedoms and the war," said Converse. "People have to jump through a lot of extra hoops to try and get the same level of protection that a married couple would," she continued.

Political debate aside, the couple is happy just being together and living their lives together. "We're just people. When I get cut I bleed—all those hackneyed things—I put my pants on one leg at a time. I go home and I mow the lawn. I wash the dishes. I pay my bills. I am a taxpayer. I go to church. I sing in a choir. I'm not any different from anybody else and I think having been married to a man for so many years, I can see both lives and they are the same. The only difference is the person I live with is a woman."

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**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4451  
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# LOCAL NEWS

News on happenings around the county including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Philomath, Sweet Home and Tangent

## Police academy gives students experience

**Jason Bratsouleas**  
 The Commuter

Students searching for careers in Law Enforcement can look to the Albany Police Department for opportunities. The Community Policing Programs give students experience in this exciting field. There are three programs the department offers throughout the year.

The Citizens' Police Academy program is offered three times per year. The next class begins in September and a tentative date for the 5th will coincide with fall semester. As part of a continuing commitment to develop citizen awareness and understanding of the role of law enforcement, the Albany Police Department has designed an academy course for citizens of all backgrounds and occupations. Successful applicants must be 18 years or older and pass a criminal background check. The Citizens' Academy consists of interactive classroom and "hands-on" instruction. Topics include, but are not limited to: Patrol procedures, investigation skills, K-9 unit, building searches, crime prevention and use of firearms.

Recent graduates of the Citizens' Academy commented on their experience. "I will remember this experience and talk about it forever," said Georgia Keaton. "I'm overwhelmed at the education and training required. The presentations were so polished, professional, interesting and informative," said Connie Erickson. "Now my scope of understanding

of the various functions of the Albany Police Department has been enhanced in a positive way," says Ernie Johnson. The attendees are all citizens of Albany originating from different backgrounds.

The Citizens' Academy is free. Classes are held one evening a week for eight weeks and include two Saturday classes. For additional information please call Lynn Hinrichs or Sherri Jacobson at (541) 917-7683.

The Cadet Program offers students, between 16 and 20 career opportunities. Deputy Chief of Police Steve Corder oversees all programs and shares his experiences with students as an instructor at LBCC. The Cadet Program is a cooperative extension of the Explorer Scout Program that is nationally recognized for leadership of young people. The Cadet Program educates and involves youth in police operations and teaches law enforcement functions, whether youth enter police work or not. Through involvement, the Cadet Program establishes an awareness of the complexities of police service. Cadets are given an opportunity to see firsthand the efforts of police officers. Additionally, police officers who are frequently involved with youth with criminal offenses get to experience the positive side of young America. "I started out as cadet in high school, went into the army as an MP, came back from overseas, began as reserve deputy for the Linn County Sheriff's Office and went to where I am," said Deputy Chief Corder.

The Reserve Police Officer program is another way for students, working on Criminal Justice majors to get experience as a police officer. The Reserve Police Officer is an unpaid volunteer position, which requires the same qualifications as paid positions. The Reserve Officers are trained by DPSST (Department of Public Safety Standards and Training) training center in Monmouth, Ore. Since the work is identical to paid police officers, the recruitment process favors individuals that have this experience. The basic requirements for the Reserve Police Officer are: You must be 21 years of age, possess a valid driver's license, pass a criminal background check, submit an application, and complete an agilities test and a written and oral examination.

Students that successfully pass a background check and meet the minimum qualifications for the Citizens Police Academy, Cadet Program and Reserve Police Officer will find the Albany Police Department committed to furthering their education and experience. "Our vision: An equal partnership with our community, actively addressing issues of crime, safety and livability."

For information students can contact Corder at (541) 917-3205 or scorder@ci.albany.or.us, as well as the Albany Police Department at (541) 917-7688 and in person at 1117 Jackson Street SE, Albany, Ore. 97322, or visit the City of Albany Web site department's link and click on "Police."

## Special course offered for human resource professionals

For The Commuter

Interested human resource professionals have a narrow window of opportunity to enroll in the SHRM Learning System Course offered this fall through LBCC's Training and Business Development Center.

The six-module course will prepare participants for the Professional in Human Resources and the Senior Professional in Human Resources certification examination administered by the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI).

The exams are now held at computer testing centers. The next exam window is Nov. 15 through Jan. 15. Dates for the TBDC course are Sept. 8 to Dec. 1 on Wednesday evenings 6 to 9 p.m. in room B-101.

Enrollment for the course is already at half capacity, so interested participants are encouraged to register soon.

Call TBDC at (541) 917-4923 for more information.

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# THE OREGON COUNTRY FAIR

BY PEGGY ISAACS



ABOVE: FAIRGOERS ENJOY WORLD-WIDE ENTERTAINMENT AT MAIN STAGE. BELOW: A ROCKING HORSE TROTS OUT OF STORAGE TO FIND A HOME AT THE FAIRGROUNDS.

How can you tell if you're getting near?

You find yourself in a non-stop convoy of cars, buses and vans all going in the same direction down a country road past Fern Ridge Reservoir.

You're surrounded by vehicles of all types, some pulling trailers, others packed full and yet others barely making it as they backfire around corners. Buses, Volkswagens mostly, have been modified with an extra bed welded to the top or with a little house built on it. The vans are of all shapes and sizes and have become temporary homes for the weekend.

After turning onto an even smaller country road, signs appear reminding the caravan to respect the neighbors and announce places where to camp. You know

you're there when you're waved into the parking area, past the gates and the energy starts to consume you.

Cars are parked in recently cut hay fields that smell so fresh, if you have hay fever you might want to bring an inhaler. People are everywhere. Some know where they are going.

As you walk closer to the crowds waiting to go through the security gates, the smell of hay dissipates and the smell of patchouli oil and roses fills the air. The security checkpoint seems quite harsh in the peaceful energy that is starting to make itself felt by the crowd, which looks like a flashback to the 60s.

Once past the courteous security check for glass, guns and drugs, the excitement takes you forward on a dirt road past more parked cars where a 30-foot metal sphere can be seen with 20 cloth pendants attached, making it look like a huge kite. Past the kite the crowd waits at the Dragon Entrance for the magical time to enter the Oregon Country Fair—to experience a lifetime, one more time.

This scene repeats itself thousands of times a day during the

second week-end of July. This year the excitement takes place on July 9, 10, 11 in Veneta, Ore. Every year 10,000 to 15,000 people pour in daily the Oregon Country Fair and this year marks the 34th anniversary of the fair.

There have been changes throughout the years and this year is no different. During the winter, trees fall and damage the booths and campsites. Every year the Long Tom River, which winds through the fairgrounds, takes away some riverbank and floods wear away the bottoms of booths. In the early spring, preparations start to preserve the land by seeding the ground with grass to cut down on the wear and tear of paths during the fair. By the weekend after Memorial Day, approximately 150 Fair Family, a term used to describe all types of volunteers, arrive and open "Main Camp" to clean up the flood damage and wood debris and clear the land for the fair. The kitchen opens and food is served three times a day for the volunteers. Two weeks before the fair, over 500 volunteers work daily, some around the clock, to prepare the grounds.

That's when Fair Family goes into overdrive to get all the preparations done. Communications have to be established on the property, electricity needs to be hooked up, sanitation put in place, the sauna has to be cleaned and the plants and trees need to be tied back or propped up so the crowds will not harm the vegetation.

On Wednesday more volunteers arrive for security and traffic control to handle all the booth representatives, volunteers and all other behind-the-scene crews expected before opening day. The day before the fair, there are approximately 5,000 volunteers who have

put in time or will be putting in time to create what has become a yearly pilgrimage to Veneta, Ore.

For me, it's been 24 years. Of course, just like so many in the past, I snuck past security and stayed Saturday night for the midnight show. It seems like a rite of passage now that I look back on it and hear the stories. They all start with: "Well, the first year I snuck in..."

After volunteering in various capacities since the early 80s, I've been working pre-fair for the past six years. I got on staff with QuarterMaster, who manages the pre-fair, and I became the pre-fair greeter, a volunteer position that I love, in which I greet all the volunteers coming to the fair to work before opening day. I start working the weekend before Main Camp opens. My work ends the



Photo by Jeffrey Clair

ABOVE: MUD PEOPLE CELEBRATE CULTURAL FREEDOM AND FIND COOL RELIEF FROM WARM SUMMER DAYS.

BELOW: A MORE RELAXED CROWD GATHERS FOR EASTER AT MAIN STAGE.



OVER 500 VOLUNTEERS WORK DAILY, SOME AROUND THE CLOCK, TO PREPARE THE GROUNDS.



DRAGON ENTRANCE NEEDS FAIRIES TO BRING RESTORATIVE MAGIC.

# OCUS

Expanded feature on selected topics, relating to student life and local issues.



**ABOVE:** A BOOTH ON THE UPPER-RIVER LOOP AWAITS OCCUPATION FOR ANNUAL FESTIVAL. **BELOW:** WENDY LEONA, RYAN ORGAN, SILAS MENTZER AND BOB CHIPLEY ASSEMBLE SECURITY GATES MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.



Tuesday before the fair opens, so I just get to play at the fair instead of working, one of the benefits of working pre-fair.

The rest of the week I work on the sphere that sits out in the parking lot. The project started three years ago and I have been there from the beginning. It has been a work in progress. There are 80 pendants needed for the sphere and only 20 pendants have been made. This year, I have only committed to making 10 more pendants, so I have a few more years ahead of me.

On Friday morning, when the fair opens, my excite-



A BOOTH ON THE "EIGHT" SHOWS OFF ARTISTIC TALENT THAT GOES INTO CONSTRUCTION OF THE FAIRGROUNDS.

ment is rekindled when I go through the Dragon Entrance with everyone else, even though I have a wrist band that allows me to go anywhere, except behind main stage during the midnight show on Saturdays. Once inside the dragon, Dana's cheesecake is there to say "hi." This dessert is so good that stopping to get some for the ride home should be your last stop.

The original fair layout is a figure eight that lies to the left, across the bridge from the dragon. Once across the bridge the Youth Stage is set for several performances by kids and for kids. Around to the left, some people who still know about the original entrance come flowing in. The pulse of the crowd is consistent all over the "eight." People are either enjoying the most wonderful, exquisite, one-of-a-kind craft, getting something to eat or watching the street musicians along the paths.



The stages are full of entertainment, from juggling to reggae to Baby Gramps on the piano at Blue Moon Stage. One of the claims to fame is the Flying Karamazov Brothers, an original comedy juggling act that has been seen on Seinfeld.

There is always something for everyone at the fair. Besides the good music and culinary delights, the people-watching is amazing.

There are pregnant women with their bellies painted, topless women with other parts painted and mud-covered people dancing at Main Stage. The Circus Parade marches twice a day with a march-

## LET THE MAGIC BEGIN

ing band, clowns on stilts, fairies, jugglers, a man blowing bubbles and all the freaky circus people who have come for the day. The circus invites people throughout the fair to join the parade to the Circus Stage, where a special yearly significant act is performed for fairgoers.

At the end of the day, the security crew sweeps everyone out of the fair, starting at the top of the "eight" and moving arm in arm to flush people out through the dragon entrance. If done right, this is approximately a two-hour process, so be at the top around closing time so you can enjoy the fair as you walk out. Just be sure not to be in the new

loop by the dragon entrance because they "sweep" that area first before they do the "eight" and you'll have to leave the fair sooner.

The Oregon Country Fair is more than a fair; it is a place in time that lasts forever. Shannon Thompson, pre-post security crew (the crew that shows up three days before the fair), has been coming since 1998.

"One of the best things I like about the fair is when you leave and come back—it's like you never left," she said.

This is a true statement for those of us who believe the Oregon Country Fair is not sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, but a way of life.

## GETTING THERE

### Dates and Dollars:

- The Oregon Country Fair begins July 9 and runs through July 11.
- The grounds are open from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.
- Friday entrance fees are \$14.
- Saturday entrance fees are \$17.
- Sunday entrance fees are \$14.
- Three-day passes are \$41.
- Parking permits are \$5 per day, per car.
- Tickets are available from Ticketwest at (800)-992-8499.
- Tickets are required to enter the fairgrounds.
- Neighborhood campground tickets available only through the University of Oregon tickets office (541)-346-4363.

### Directions:

- By car: Drive 12 miles directly west of Eugene on Highway 126.
- By bus: Take the bus from the Valley River Center. Buses leave every 10 to 15 minutes. The last bus returns from the fair at 7:30 p.m.
- Maps are available on Mapquest.com.

Sports Editor: Jacob Espinoza  
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453  
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# SPORTS

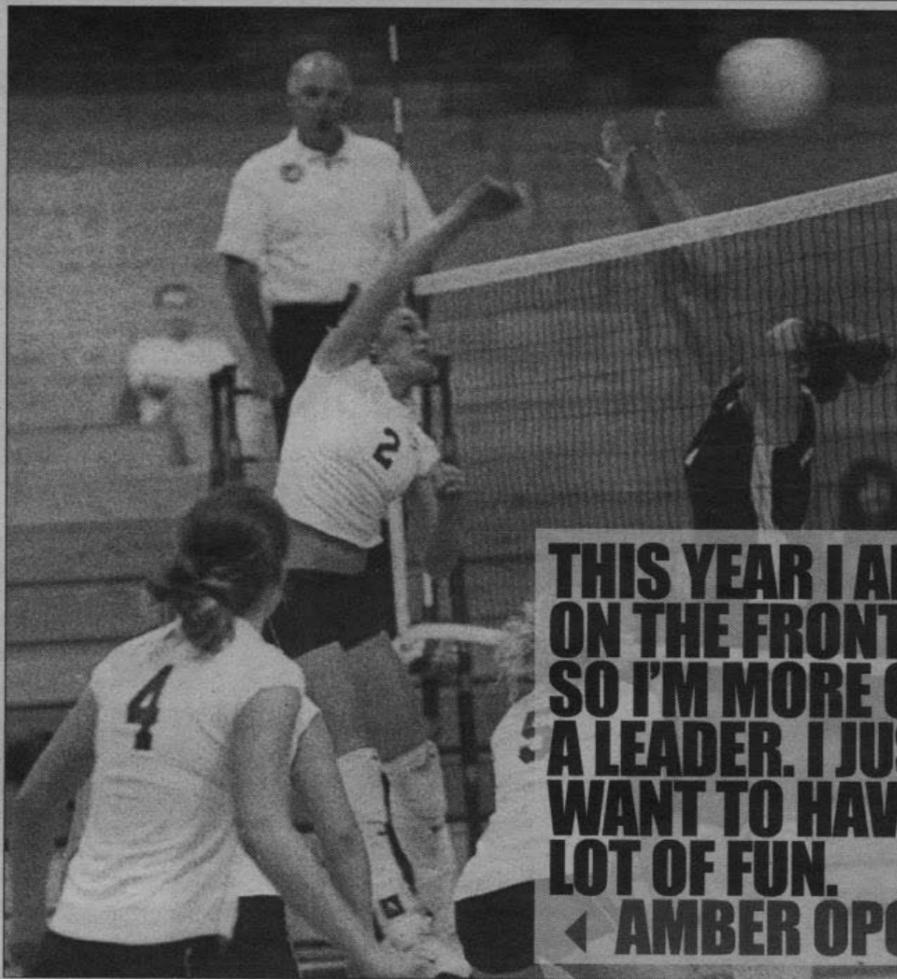
Coverage of competitive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation

# LINN-BENTON ALL-STAR



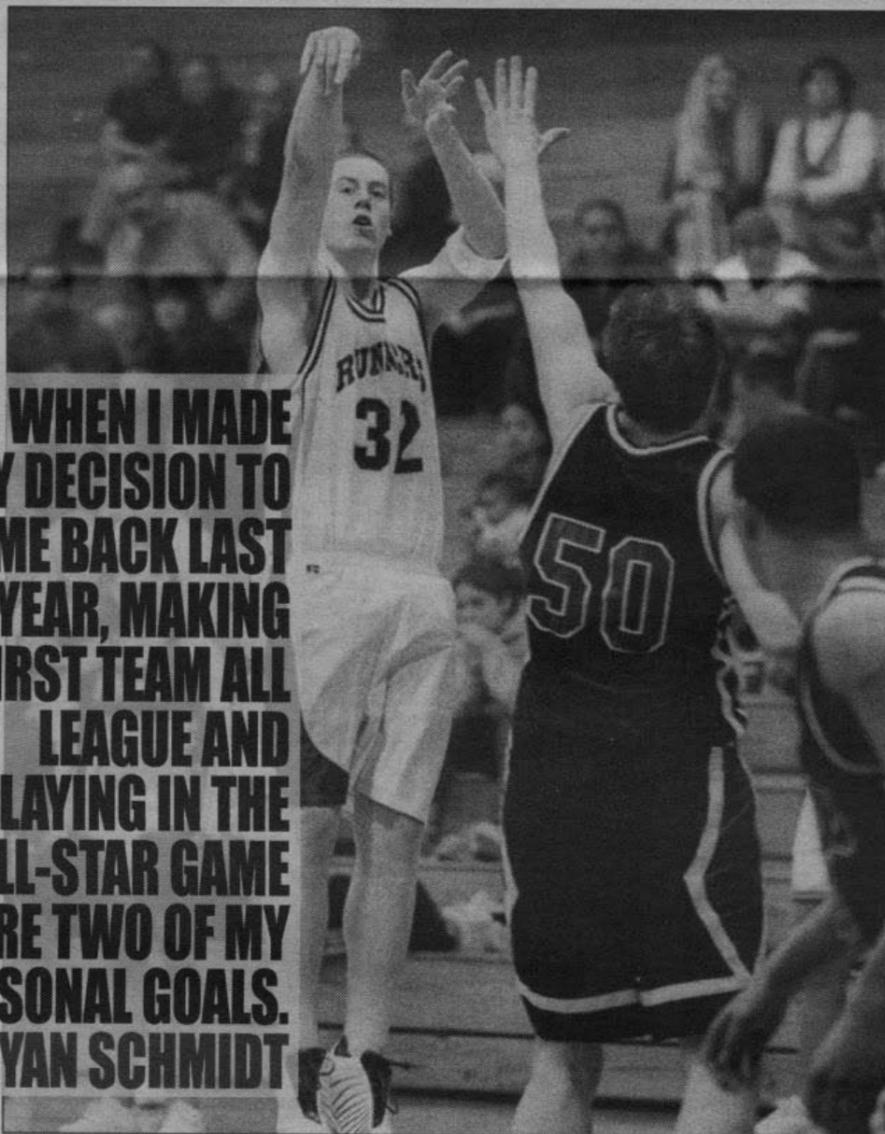
**IT WAS FUN TO PLAY WITH PEOPLE THAT WERE VERY ATHLETIC AND HAVE THE SAME MINDSET AS ME.**

▶ **MARISSA HIGGINS**



**THIS YEAR I AM ON THE FRONT, SO I'M MORE OF A LEADER. I JUST WANT TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN.**

◀ **AMBER OPOIEN**

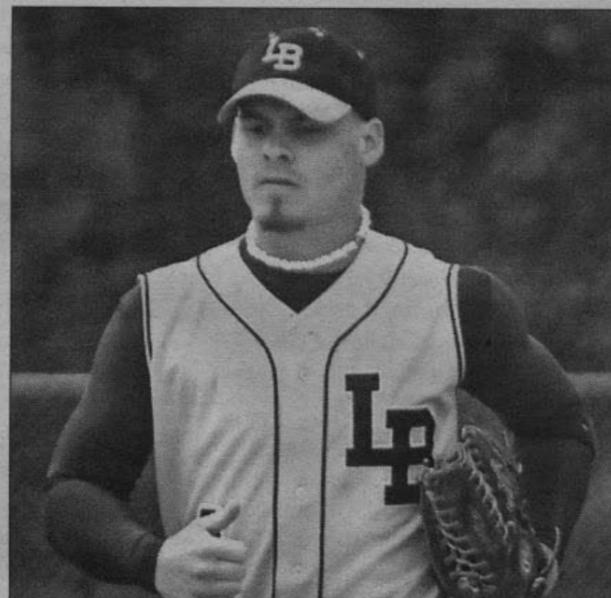


**WHEN I MADE MY DECISION TO COME BACK LAST YEAR, MAKING FIRST TEAM ALL LEAGUE AND PLAYING IN THE ALL-STAR GAME WERE TWO OF MY PERSONAL GOALS.**

▶ **RYAN SCHMIDT**

**WE HAVE A GREAT SHOT AT THE PLAYOFFS, WE JUST HAVE TO GET IT TOGETHER.**

▼ **TRAVIS RICE**



# 03-04

photos by Lewis Forquer

**Sports Editor:** Jacob Espinoza  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4453  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

# SPORTS

Coverage of competitive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation

## COMMENTARY

### Curse lives in sports editor's pen

Jacob Espinoza  
 The Commuter

I'm sorry to every team I wrote about this year. I'm convinced my writing has somehow put some kind of curse on all of my subjects.

It all started with volleyball. As The Commuter's first issue was in the process of being created, the Roadrunners were coming off a nicely played preseason and a big win at home against Chemeketa (an eventual playoff team). They even had three players selected as the Southern Division's player of the week on separate occasions. But as the first issue came out things made a turn for the worst.

Though they played well in several tournament's throughout the year, which I was not in attendance, the win against Chemeketa was their first and only during league play.

I'm sorry, ladies. At the time I didn't make the connection between my writing and the turn of events, but during the women's basketball I began to get suspicious. I played basketball as well this season, on the men's team, of course, so I was only able to watch and record the first half of the women's games. Coincidentally the women's team played well for half of the season.

Coincidence or curse? I was unable to take responsibility of the baseball team's season and had new Linn-Benton sports writer Joel Meacham cover the games. The team was playing well and had advanced to a playoff with Mt. Hood to decide the Southern Division's second NWAACC Tournament seed. Then I got the phone call, "I'm not gonna be able to cover the playoff game," my glossy-headed sidekick told me.

Iknew what would happen, but there was nothing I could do about it. I'm a journalist and my job is to bring the readers the news. No matter the cost.

Second inning, Linn-Benton's leading home run hitter Sky Manon is hit in the eye with the baseball. He's sent to the hospital. Roadrunner's lose. Season over.

My bad.



### Youth Races to the Front

Billy Workman Jr. of Canby, Ore. poses with his car last Saturday at the Willamette Speedway. Billy, age 14, is a "straight A" student and has been racing for three years. His dad said that Billy loves racing and does most of his own work on the car.

photo by Scott McClure

## Colorado coach returns after suspension

**Teddy Greenstein**  
 Chicago Tribune

Hours after being reinstated as Colorado's football coach last week, Gary Barnett refused to look back at the scandal that led to his three-month paid suspension.

"Maybe it's my football training," he said in a telephone interview. "You glean as much as you can about the situation and look ahead."

Perhaps Barnett realizes there's nothing he can say to appease his critics, who wanted to see him on the unemployment line after numerous sexual assault allegations surfaced involving his players or recruits.

Or maybe Barnett simply needs to focus all his attention on what's in front of him. He arguably now has the toughest

job in college football.

In March the university imposed strict guidelines for recruiting visits that call for a one-night stay, an 11 p.m. curfew and supervision by a parent or coach.

Using alcohol and visiting strip clubs were already against the rules, but now those rules apparently will be enforced.

The second wave of reform came Thursday when Colorado announced that the athletic department would be treated much like the math or sociology department. Provost Phil DiStefano will oversee the football program, limiting the number of recruits who fall below the university's standards for admission and ensuring academic progress along the way.

"Nobody else has these

sort of challenges," Barnett said, "but that's not inherently good or bad. It's just what it is. Everybody wants some sort of prediction on whether it will or won't work, but there's no way to know that."

Barnett said that when he started at Northwestern in 1992, taking over a program that hadn't produced a winning season in 21 years, he told his coaches: "We have this ranch inside this fence."

Said Barnett: "The same thing is true here. We will find a way to make it work."

But his competitors won't make it any easier on him. Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said last week the conference will not adopt the harsher recruiting rules implemented at Colorado. So the Buffaloes stand alone in a conference that featured four of

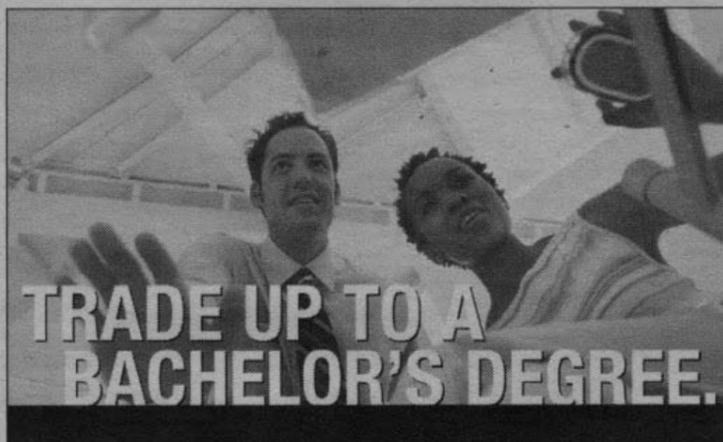
the nation's top 20 teams a year ago.

Colorado wasn't one of them. The Buffaloes were buried by a tough schedule, a porous secondary, a lousy running game and a stunning loss to Baylor. Following back-to-back Big 12 North championships, Colorado went 5-7.

But Barnett believes his team will rebound, saying the Buffaloes can "absolutely" compete for a Big 12 title.

Colorado quarterback Joel Klatt is one of the conference's best, but the Buffaloes play nine bowl teams in 2004. At least Oklahoma is off the schedule and Kansas State and Texas have to come to Boulder.

"Come out for a game," Barnett said confidently. "Come out for the Big 12 championship game."



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# LOCAL NEWS

News on happenings around the county  
 including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon,  
 Philomath, Sweet Home and Tangent

## Timberline Lodge alive with historical spirit

Mary Stone  
 The Commuter

**M**t. Hood moves stealthily amongst hills and valleys as I drive Oregon's meandering Highway 26. But when small towns and farmland give way to stands of fir and alder and the road snakes up the broad base of the mountainside, the peak goes into hiding. Farther up, where the trees begin to thin, Mt. Hood suddenly explodes into view. Indian lore tells that this mountain is the embodiment of the great high chief of the Multnomah peoples. They called it Wy'east. It stands at 11,245 feet and folded into the waistline of its snowy garment where trees cease to grow is Timberline Lodge.

Timberline Lodge is the child of Mt. Hood. It was created of mountain resources and bears its likeness. Timberline was born in the desperate years of the Great Depression, when Oregonians, along with millions of other Americans, were struggling to survive. In response to this national emergency, President Franklin Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration (WPA). This program put Americans to work building bridges, roads, public buildings, public parks and airports.

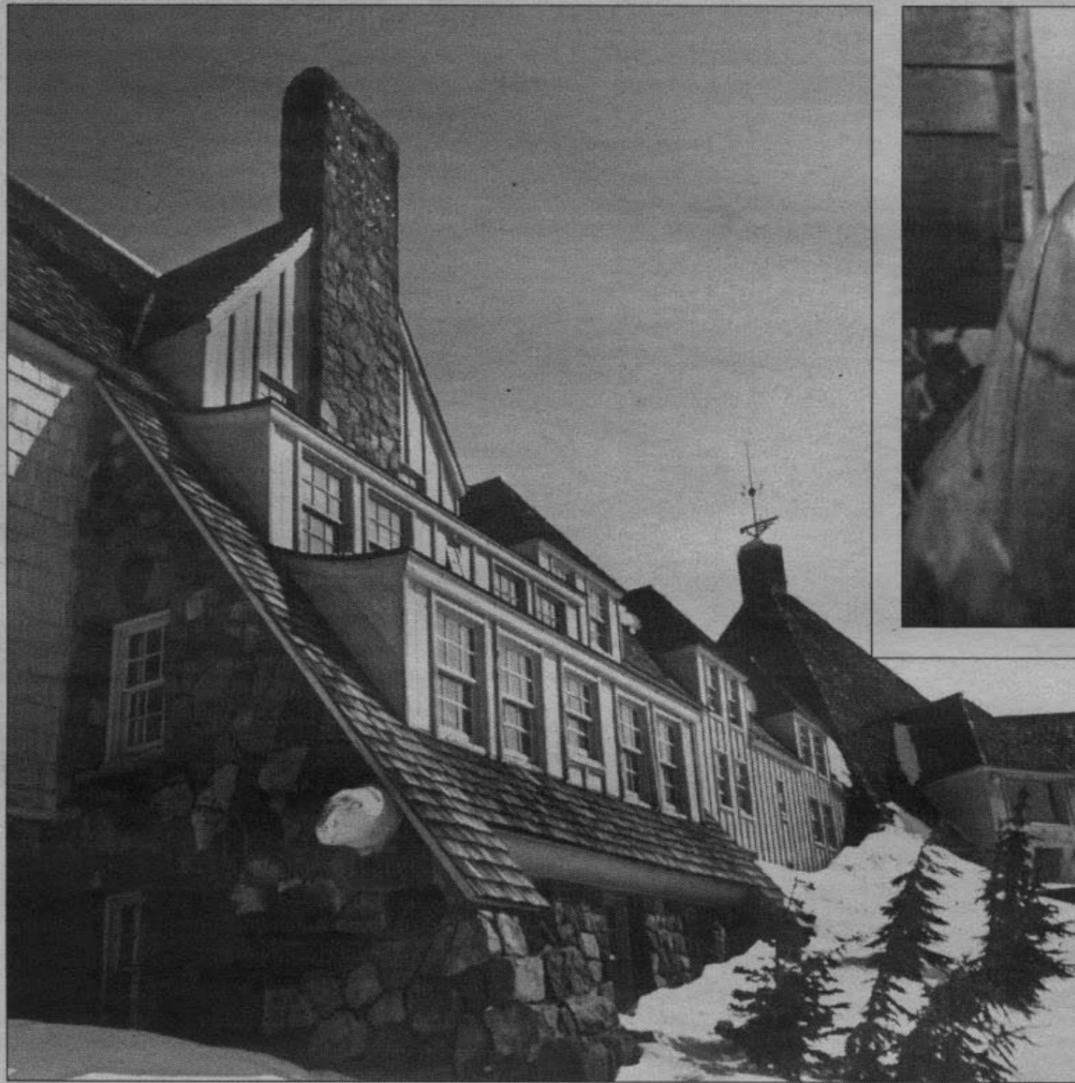
"Give a man a dole and you save his body and destroy his spirit. Give him a job and you save both body and spirit," asserted Harry Hopkins, director of the WPA. Timberline Lodge preserved the body and spirit of hundreds of Oregonians.

I expected to be awe-struck when I first saw Timberline Lodge. I had seen pictures of it. I knew that the central hexagonal portion called the head house soared to the sky, its angles reflecting the mountain peak behind it. I knew frost gray wings extended to either side and sloping shake roofs fell nearly to the ground at the corners. I knew the whole structure was anchored to the mountain with massive stone works. However, rather than awe, I felt a gracious welcome to this place.

There are winter days when Timberline is nearly obscured by snow, but now spring sun has begun the unveiling process. Through a tunneled entry of stone, skiers and tourists swoop in and out of the lower level, an area originally designed for use as a ski lounge, a place to eat up and thaw out. Increased popularity of skiing necessitated the construction of the nearby Wy'east day lodge in 1982. Now, the lower level is occupied by offices, a museum and an information desk staffed by the U.S. Forest Service. This space is abuzz with the business of the lodge. At the counter, clerks flit back and forth. They check people in and sell parking permits and ski passes.

A handrail near the entry beckons and warm pine balustrades and plank steps invite the visitor to ascend. Halfway up is a landing that has the feeling of a forest glen. Beams of sun pass through a window, casting light on warm-hued paneling. A newel post rises in the form of a tree trunk and resting atop it is a beautifully carved eagle.

The newel post and eagle finial, as well as the 11 others like it, including badger, fox, fawn, mallard, and black bear, were carved from old utility posts. The posts had been scavenged from the city of Portland, at a price of \$2.10 each. The carpenters were required to employ old methods and old-style tools and in the early years the chiseled details stood out in sharp relief.



The majestic Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood was built during the dark days of the Great Depression by local artisans hired by the Works Progress Administration. The eagle sculpture on the staircase, carved out of a utility post, is now rubbed smooth after decades of caresses from visitors.

photos by  
 David Vanderburg

Those same requirements were imposed on the blacksmiths. All of their work was done at the forge and on the anvil. At the top of the staircase, to the left, is an impressive display of their work. It is the 1,000 pound, 4 foot by 9 foot front door. Its ponderosa pine planks are strapped, hinged and decorated with 600 pounds of some of the finest wrought ironwork in the country. This is where the awe kicks in.

Opposite the door and beyond the arched entry to the lounge is the 92-foot-high hexagonal chimney of volcanic basalt. It rises like the fiery core of a volcano from the foundations of the building, up through the peaked main lounge, to belch into the skies the smoke of its six cavernous fireplaces.

Like the mountain itself, this space is soaring and powerful. Quarries below the lodge yielded the rough-textured stone in colors of coal, ash and honey. Italian immigrants were a large part of the workforce that artfully laid the pieces in the fall and winter of 1936. Though it meant living away from their families for weeks at a time, they were glad to be employed. They were lodged and fed and paid 90 cents an hour. Winter snows did not stop the work. Men pressed near potbellied stoves to keep warm in camp and to thaw frozen fingers when they worked on site.

Set in support of the six planes of the roofline are six 40-foot hexagonal pine piers. For \$25 each, WPA worker Henry Steiner shaped them with adze and axe. The marks of his tools are still evident and the power of his strokes still emanates from the wood.

From its structure to its furnishings, Timberline's style is not so much one of grace, but of strength and simplicity. Materials used were those found close at hand. Sofas framed with heavy oak sit on legs formed from scrap iron. Heavy handwoven upholstery and draperies are made from Oregon wool and flax.

Throughout the lodge are simple wrought iron lamps topped by leather-laced parchment shades.

In the guest room wing the scent of citrus oil hangs in the air as housekeepers make up rooms. Drifts of laundry lie against open doors, revealing rooms hardly changed by time. From large rooms packed with bunk beds to intimate fireplace rooms, accommodations are designed to suit varying needs.

Room 107 is called the "Eleanor Roosevelt Room." Eleanor used this room when she accompanied President Franklin Roosevelt on a trip to dedicate the lodge in September of 1937. It is decorated in a motif taken from Solomon's Seal, a native flower. For the 49 original rooms, 29 different design schemes were created. All of the designs revolve around the three themes of the lodge: Pioneers, American Indians and the natural life of the area. Motifs are played out in appliquéd draperies, bedspreads and hooked rugs.

The choice to decorate the rooms with appliquéd and hooked rugs was a resourceful one. In downtown Portland, relief workers employed by the WPA were sewing clothing for destitute families. Fabric scraps from those projects became appliquéd pieces for Timberline. Hooked rugs were made from old Civilian Conservation Corps woolen blankets. The blankets were bleached, dyed, cut into strips and then hooked into the many designs. These decorations were created by older women, many of whom offered no skills other than those they had employed in their homes.

There is a simplicity about the decorations of the rooms that is appealing. It is that simplicity that gives them a comfortable air. The rooms are lined with knotty pine and beneath the rugs are hardwood floors. Through most months of the year, snow is heaped up at mullioned windows and extra heat is cast from the room's stone fireplace. Though many of the

furniture pieces are reproductions and most of the fabrics have been replaced, all have been made according to the original designs and crafted with original methods. Each piece of furniture and each decoration exudes such a sense of belonging to their space that it seems they would be impossible to move.

Back in the head house, a balcony area overlooks the main lounge. Food and drink as colorful as an artist's palette are served at the tables here and through each of the enormous windows a masterpiece of creation is displayed.

Jim Shelton often sits at one of those windows. He, like the furniture, looks like he belongs to this place. "I don't tell my age very much," he says. "Well, I'm 82 today. I've had a lot of fun here." Jim had been skiing up on the mountain in the morning, just as he had been doing for the past 52 years. Five years ago, he broke his hip skiing. He had it replaced and came back to ski. One and a half years ago, he had a quadruple heart by-pass and came back to ski. His strength and endurance are astonishing, but what astonishes him is the strength and endurance of the lodge.

"It's fascinating to me that this darn thing stands," Jim observes. "This beautiful place was built by the WPA, you know."

The Timberline Lodge project offered hope and purpose to hundreds of WPA workers who lived in desperate times and had come from desperate situations. One of those workers was Karl Feurer, an old German artist. Before being hired by the WPA, he had been living in a piano box and eating beans soaked in cold water. While employed at Timberline, he painted over 100 botanical watercolors to decorate its walls. He was so grateful for the work he could not work hard enough or do enough for the project. That spirit, still alive within the grand assembly and its elements, is what brings Timberline alive.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## EXHIBIT REVIEW

### Art collection brings the world to LB

Charrie A. Cochran-Wilson  
 The Commuter

Do you wish you could travel to Africa or the Far East and take in some amazing artwork, but the funds just aren't there? There is a solution right under your nose.

A visit to LBCC's library is all you need. The library has in its permanent collection several prints by artists such as Matisse, Kandinsky, Monet and Haring. These prints are available for viewing year round on the walls of the library.

As exciting as these are to look at, the true treasures are in the case across from the circulation counter.

Art instructor, Gary Westford, is graciously displaying a small portion of his personal collection of art from Africa and the Far East for a limited time. He has quite a collection, which he has been amassing for 37 years.

The collection includes several African pieces procured by Westford from an African friend. There is a wedding mask from Ghana, a hair braider mask from the Ivory Coast, as well as an unidentified (but undoubtedly African) mask with two birds on top of the head. There is a shell purse from Yoruba, Nigeria. It is



photo by Jeremy Hennig

On display in the library until the end of the term is a wedding mask from Ghana, bronze temple guard dogs, a Chinese scroll painting and a Bamana antelope headdress.

incredible to think that the clan shield from Papua New Guinea was held by tribesmen. The Bamana culture's antelope figure headdress from Mali, something every student of Westford's has heard of, is also in the case.

The Chinese scroll painting "Poet in the Landscape" is on display alongside Japanese wood block prints and ink drawings. There is a pair of bronze temple guard dogs. The origin of these dogs is uncertain, but currently under investigation.

The figures are on loan to Westford from Rod Casper. They are stunning works that capture the imagination.

The pieces in the case will only be on display until the end of the term. It is possible to spend an hour or better admiring these pieces. A five-minute peek is also worthwhile. However long your dead week and finals schedules allow you to stop and breathe, take the time to pop into the library and get a taste of several interesting cultures.

### Punk bands gather to drum up the vote

Peggy Isaacs  
 The Commuter

Stompfest, a benefit for voter registration, will be held at Willamette Park on Saturday, June 19, 1-10 p.m.

The benefit will highlight local punk rocker bands.

The event is free and open to all ages. Brook Colley, an organizer, said, "This event is a way for young people to get involved with the voter's process and to let them know how important it is to register and vote."

Listening to music, enjoying the day and getting people to register is on the agenda for Colley. She added, "Young people are historically disenfranchised from political campaigns and I feel this is one of the reasons they don't participate in elections."

She feels punk rock is political and many punk rockers are politically active and want to help make information about the election process more easily obtained.

"The music will be mostly punk rock with some slants," said Colley. The local bands performing include Sumbitch, The Lo-cals, The Rock and Roll Hearts, Tirade, Blood On The Banjo, The Adequits, Civilian, The Wobblies, Tourist and The Richard Headers.

## Bettors head to the Mountain to beat the machine

Jacob Espinoza  
 The Commuter

Take a walk through the Spirit Mountain Casino on a Monday afternoon and the action is as slow paced as a retirement home recreational center.

It's hard to imagine that it is the No. 1 tourist attraction in Oregon.

Even on a Friday night, with every blackjack, roulette and poker table open, there is still a feeling that nothing is being accomplished. A few people are asleep outside the poker room, but no one seems awake. Everyone is hypnotized.

The casino is a machine. It eats time and dollars. Every now and then it will spit out a couple quarters like a pimp buying a prostitute a new dress. But unlike a pimp, the casino leaves itself vulnerable. The machine has to, it doesn't have the ability to finesse customers. Spirit Mountain relies on the myth that it can be beaten to lure new clients, new hours and new credit cards.

More people visit Spirit Mountain Casino than any other place in Oregon, but they don't walk into the game room to meet each other. They enter the machine to discover and test methods of beating it.

"I have always liked gambling," says Linn-Benton student Justin Duke. "The thought of doubling my money without really having to work hard for it attracted me."

Duke is a regular at the casino. He reads books about poker and has a blackjack strategy, which he says has failed him only a couple times. Duke also participates in Spirit Mountain's Coyote Club, which awards participants points for the amount of time and money they spend in the Casino.

Duke has spent enough time at the casino that his Coyote Club card gets him a free meal on every trip. Duke doesn't beat the system, but he plays it. "I've lost as much as \$2,000," he says. "But I've won that much too."

Duke spends most of his time at one of Spirit Mountain's 15 poker tables.

"I like playing poker because someone at your table always wins," says Duke. "It doesn't all go to the house."



Duke's game of choice is Texas Hold'em.

"I usually go on weekends because there are a lot of students from Western (Baptist) there and there is just a lot more action in the poker rooms. There are plenty of people playing poker everyday. There are pros there making a living and they just love when the college kids come in for the weekend."

Spirit Mountain is a big draw for professional poker players in the area because it offers high stakes poker games, but it also offers games with as low as a \$10 buy in for beginners just trying to get their feet wet.

"It's fun going up there when you have some extra money," says Jessie Thorpe, a member of Linn-Benton's baseball team. "I entered a tournament with 100 people and ended up getting fourth."

Spirit Mountain provides PlayWorld and an Arcade for those under 21. PlayWorld is for children 3-12, charges by an hourly rate and offers packages which include meals. The arcade is open until 2 a.m. on Friday and



Spirit Mountain Casino provides blackjack, craps, poker and roulette tables to go along with over 1,500 slot machines. They also offer six separate restaurants to choose from and a 100-room lodge with free valet parking and bell service.

photos by Jacob Espinoza

Saturday nights.

The casino has five different internal restaurants, including its popular buffet and Summit View, which offers live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. The buffet is a favorite of casino guests and Spirit Mountain's is known to draw lines up to half an hour long. Summit View requires guests to be over the age of 21, but has no cover charge. They also have hotel rooms available for \$99 a night during the week and \$110 on the weekends.

Spirit Mountain is not Sin City. There will be no Seven & Sevens served to the table, no smut peddlers handing out exotic phone numbers, no billboards of strippers, no showgirls and nobody stumbling out of the bar at 9 a.m.

Spirit Mountain is not Oregon's adult candy land—it is more like an adult arcade. People don't come for the excitement. They come ready to bet that they can beat the machine.

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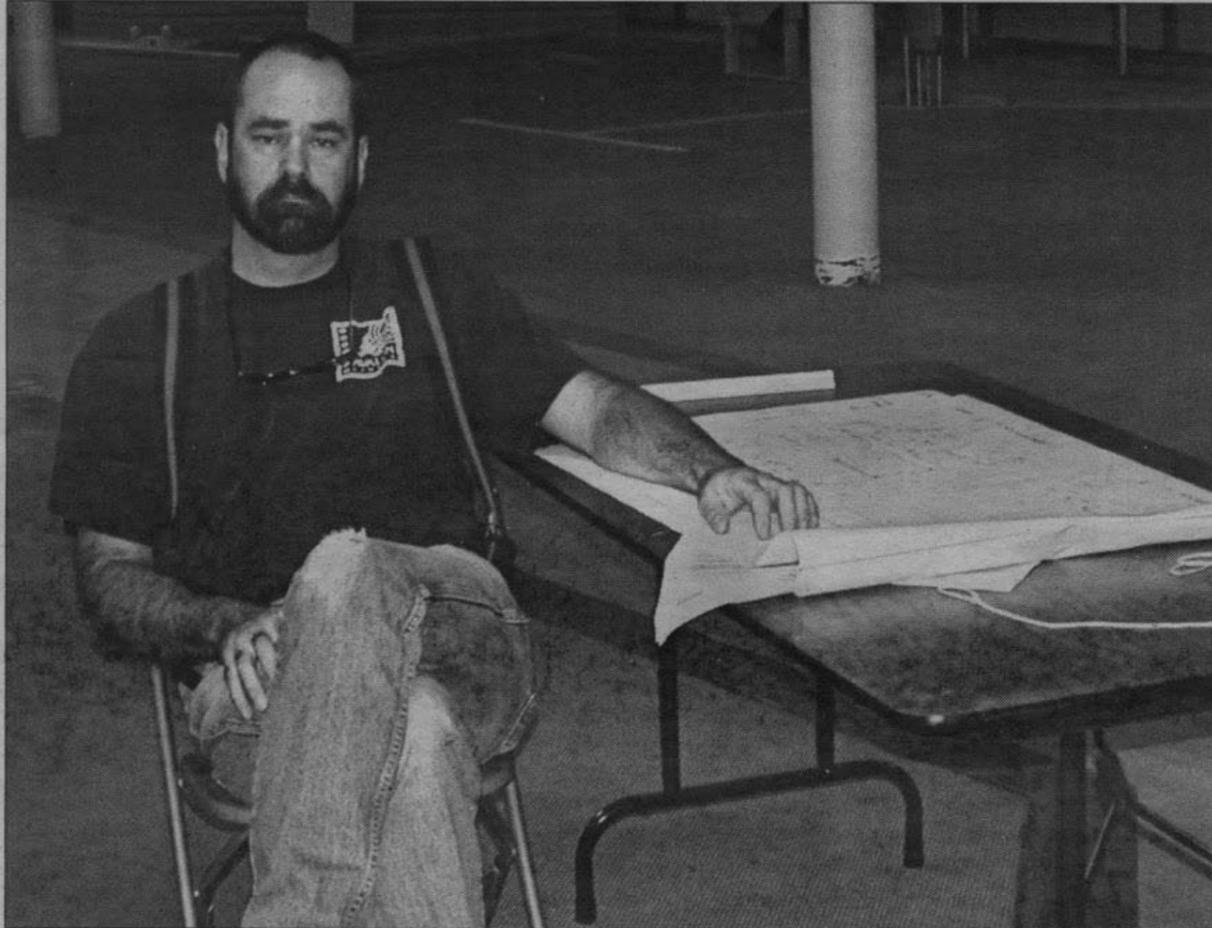


photo by Peggy Isaacs

Paul Turner, the Harley-riding owner of the Avalon Cinema in Corvallis, works over plans for his latest venture—a four-screen “intimate” theater called The Darkside, located over The Book Bin.

## Avalon branching out with four new screens above the Book Bin

**Peggy Isaacs**  
 The Commuter

“Come on over to the Darkside,” says Paul Turner, issuing an open invitation to the new four-screen “intimate” theater he’s building on the second floor of the Book Bin on the corner of Fourth and Madison in Corvallis.

The theater’s unusual name is a play on the name of the Whiteside Theater, a historic movie house located across the street from the Book Bin that was closed down more than a year ago. Turner said he wanted to pay homage to the old Whiteside, a Corvallis landmark that got its start as a vaudeville theater and is currently on the market.

Turner, a former LBCC student and operator of Kuhn Theater in Lebanon, opened the Avalon in downtown Corvallis seven years ago. As an independent theater owner, Turner has found a niche in Corvallis that he is happy to fill “for the love of the cinema.”

Turner explained the Avalon, with a seating capacity of 95, offers a more intimate place to view quality films than in a multiple movie complex like the Regal-owned Ninth Street Cinema, or the even bigger cinema complex opening soon on Circle Boulevard in Corvallis.

“People appreciate the intimacy of the theater at the Avalon and I want to carry that on in the Darkside,” Turner added.

With seating capacity of 49 in each of the four small theaters, the Darkside will be even more intimate than the Avalon. Two theaters will have Dolby surround sound, and two theaters will have stereo. Turner is having the back of the building insulated to help control the sound.

All four theaters will be run from the same centralized projection booth. Turner will be using 35 mm, which he feels is the “highest quality in this town for presentation.”

Although he still considers the Avalon as his flagship theater, movies that open at the Avalon will play out extended runs at the Darkside. Turner explained that his clientele have come to expect a high turnover of films, with something new coming in every week or so, but at the same time they don’t want to miss the more popular

films, like “The Triplets of Bellville,” before they leave town.

The contract length is another issue governing the turnover of films. “Sony Picture Classics are easy and willing to work with independents,” he explained, “but some smaller independent film companies may only print 10 copies, or there maybe only three prints distributed in Oregon.”

The new screens at the Darkside will give him a place to show the more popular films when popularity demands and the contracts allow for it.

Turner plans to make the décor in the Darkside similar to the Avalon. The décor fell into his lap by accident back when he was trying to open the Avalon.

“Everything went wrong, the seats sucked, the heating and air conditioning were wrong, and the remaining money for decorations went (for that), and new-vogue Goodwill was born” he said.

Turner was a self-described hardcore trader on eBay at the time and, lacking funds, he

“grabbed some stuff and screwed it to the walls.” He has a fetish for string lights, so they were hung “anywhere that stuck.”

Turner feels he stumbled into a funky pop culture by hanging Jimmy Swaggert records next to a 1920s condom ad.

Another popular attraction in the Avalon that he plans to replicate at The Darkside is the statue of the Virgin Mary. The statue stood below the old State Theater sign, which Turner had moved to the Avalon when the State was torn down several years ago, drawing the attention of patrons. He has since found four more Virgin Mary statues to place at each of the entrances to The Darkside theater.

The Darkside will have a separate entrance from the Book Bin with wheelchair accessibility. Book Bin owner, Bob Baird, said the addition of the Darkside over his bookstore adds “lots of synergy to this corner,” adding that “if a movie, let’s say ‘Troy’ is shown, I’ll have the ‘Iliad’ for them.”

Construction permits were issued last week and remodeling has begun. Turner hopes to be ready in three to five months, depending on sub contractors and a flawless inspection, which, he added, “almost never happens.”

**“People appreciate the intimacy of the theater at the Avalon, and I want to carry that on in the Darkside.”**

▶ Paul Turner

### SUMMER MOVIE RELEASES

#### Columbia Tri-Star Pictures

**White Chicks**

June 23, rated PG-13  
 w/ Shawn & Marlon Wayans

**Spider-Man 2**

June 30, rated PG-13  
 w/ Tobey Maguire

**Kaena: The Prophecy**

June 2004, rated PG-13  
 voice of Kirsten Dunst

**Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid**

Aug. 27, rated PG-13

**Resident Evil: Apocalypse**

Sept. 10, not yet rated  
 w/ Milla Jovovich



Catwoman is played by Halle Berry.

#### Warner Brothers

**A Cinderella Story**

July 16, rated PG-13  
 w/ Hilary Duff

**Catwoman**

July 23, not yet rated  
 w/ Halle Berry

**Exorcist: The Beginning**

Aug. 20, not yet rated

#### Disney

**Garfield: The Movie**

June 11, rated PG  
 w/ Breckin Meyer & Bill Murray

**Around the World in 80 Days**

June 16, rated PG  
 w/ Jackie Chan

**America’s Heart & Soul**

July 2, rated PG  
 w/ Dennis Quaid

**The Princess Diaries 2**

Aug. 11, not yet rated  
 w/ Julie Andrews & Anne Hathaway

#### Fox

**Dodgeball**

June 18, rated PG-13  
 w/ Ben Stiller & Vince Vaughn

**iRobot**

July 16, not yet rated  
 w/ Will Smith

**Alien vs Predator**

Aug. 13, not yet rated  
 w/ Sanaa Lathan & Raoul Bova

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## CALENDAR

# AFTER SCHOOL

## June

### Old Peak Jam

23161 Old Peak Road  
 Philomath  
 929-7742

### Squirrel's Tavern

100 SW Second St.  
 Corvallis  
 752-8057

### New Morning Bakery

219 SW Second St.  
 Corvallis  
 754-0181

### The Thyme Garden

20546 Alsea Hwy.  
 Alsea  
 (541) 487-8671

### June 4-6

#### Old Peak Jam Barter Fair & Music Fest

A festival of music, color, lights & fun  
 Friday to Sunday at noon  
 \$10 day pass  
 \$25 full event

### June 5

#### Eleven Eyes

Rock  
 9:30 p.m.  
 \$3

### June 11

#### Brad & Ethan

Indie rock  
 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
 Free

### June 19-20

#### Father's Day Celebration Outdoor BBQ

Dinner & herbal buffet  
 7 p.m. - 12 a.m.  
 \$10, 12 & under  
 \$20 adults

## July

### Corvallis Riverside Park

First St.  
 Corvallis  
 754-6624

### Oregon Country Fair

Veneta  
 (541) 343-4298

### Central Park

6th & Monroe St.  
 Corvallis  
 757-6363

### Tyee Wine Cellars

26335 Greenberry Road  
 Corvallis  
 753-8754

### July 3-4

#### Red, White, Blues Riverfront Festival

Blues & fireworks  
 noon to dark  
 \$

### July 9-11

#### Oregon Country Fair

Music & craft festival  
 11-7 p.m.  
 Fri. & Sun. \$14  
 Sat. \$17

### July 16-18

#### da Vinci Days

Fair & Celebration  
 Music, art, food  
 noon to 11 p.m.  
 Adults \$12, Children \$6

### July 31

#### 14th Annual Pinot Gladstone

Neil Gladstone and Company  
 Comedy & music  
 5:30 p.m.  
 \$8 advance  
 \$10 gate

## August

### Downtown Corvallis

Monroe Avenue  
 Corvallis  
 757-1909

### Aug. 13-14

#### Hoop Jam

Community Sports Event



photo by Jeremy Hennig

Music instructor, Hal Eastburn, conducts the Chamber Choir during a free concert in the Courtyard, Tuesday at noon as a warm-up for their joint performance with the Concert Choir and LBCC/OSU Community Chorale on Thursday in the Main Forum.

## After teaching thousands to sing, Eastburn closes career with 'Finale'

Sheena Bishop  
 The Commuter

After 25 years as LBCC's vocal music instructor, Hal Eastburn is retiring with style.

Among his last duties as a full-time faculty member is the "Finale," which will bring LBCC's Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and the new LBCC/OSU Chorale onto the same stage for a concert Thursday, June 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Forum 104. Tickets are \$8 for general admission or \$5 for students and seniors.

Eastburn's career started 11 years before his arrival at LBCC in 1979. He was a teacher in Warroad, Minn. for two years before moving to Fort Collins, Colo. for another seven years doing the same thing. He then spent two years in the Army, stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs.

The general there decided he wanted to add a choir to complement the base's band and picked Eastburn, who was one of about six music majors at the base, for the job as director.

Having safely avoided Vietnam in the choir, Eastburn took a year off after leaving the service to decide what to do next.

He could return to Fort Collins High School or take one of three community college jobs he had been offered. Eastburn knew North Dakota wasn't it, because he grew up there.

Oklahoma wasn't what he was looking for. After visiting all three colleges he decided he liked Oregon best and started his career at LBCC.

In the last 25 years a lot of changes in the music department have been made due to a succession of budget cuts. Despite less funding over the years, the Concert Choir still averages 45-50 students, the chamber averages 18-20 and the Community Chorale has an average fall enrollment of 40-60 students.

Only recently did Eastburn team up with OSU through the dual enrollment plan to form the LBCC/OSU Chorale. The combo had 210 students show up for the Beethoven performance earlier this year, 110 of them from LBCC.

Unfortunately, the budget isn't the only thing being cut for Eastburn. "Our retirement is being decimated," Eastburn said of the changes made by the state legislature to the Public Employees

Retirement System.

"It works out that I'll make no more than I would (retiring) a year ago," he said.

When asked why he is good at his job, Eastburn credits his understanding of music commenting, "I put a lot of effort into attending workshops."

A member of the American Choral Directors Association, Eastburn, has been an active part of the board for 20 years.

Eastburn is now the president-elect, a two-year term which will be followed by two years as president. He will hold the volunteer position for 2005-2007.

"In the last 10 years the Chamber Choir has won award after award," Eastburn said. Two years ago the Chamber Choir was selected as one of five schools to perform in the American Choral Directors Association Regional Conference, the first community college group to be so honored in 18 years.

The Concert Choir benefits more than just those who know music; it brings in students without any musical background as well.

"The big accomplishment for me, personally, was starting to write music," Eastburn said.

In 1999, one of his pieces was performed at Canterbury Cathedral in England and Eastburn was there to direct it. It was also performed at Carnegie Hall in 2001. He wasn't able to attend that performance, but they sent him a picture of the marquee with his name lit up.

"After 35 years of teaching, it wouldn't be hard to get tired of it," Eastburn said. "I'm still going to teach next year part-time. I'll teach the Chamber Choir and the Community Chorale."

The Chorale is in many ways Eastburn's baby. He started it 25 years ago and has been the sole director, influencing and developing it.

The Oregon Chorale and the Community Chorale performed Eastburn's "Songs of the Earth" last year at Elsinore theatre in Salem for 1,000 people and again for a smaller audience at LBCC.

Eastburn's productions were also the first to take stage in Tadena Theater when it was completed 25 years ago. With the current remodeling, however, his last performance will be in the Main Forum.

"I have a whole family of kids from the last 20 years," Eastburn said.