

THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1999

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 31 No. 7

WTO meet draws protests, local teach-in

by Lizanne Southgate
of The Commuter

The upcoming World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle Nov. 29-Dec. 3 promises to attract one of the largest and most broad-based protests in U.S. history.

Thousands of loggers, farmers, environmentalists, labor unions, human rights activists and lawyers are expected to stand side by side in Seattle to protest WTO policies and what they perceive to be the organization's growing power.

WTO, the successor to the Global Agreement on Trades and Tariffs, promotes economic globalization. While the

WTO position is that the organization serves a valuable purpose by increasing worldwide trade, opponents say that unchecked globalization comes at the cost of democracy, human rights, environmental standards and decent jobs.

To increase awareness of the WTO and the related issues, LBCC will host a WTO Teach-In on Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Alsea-Calapooia Rooms and from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The daytime session features two hourly speakers representing labor unions, environmental organizations, legal issues, and human rights groups.

Scheduled speakers include OSU

Prof. Richard Clinton, Instructor Stan Taylor of Lane Community College, author Chet Bowers, attorney Greg Kafoury, AFL-CIO representative Paul Krissler, environmentalist Chris Foster, and Jim Cook, representative of Jobs for Justice and the U.S. Steelworkers.

The evening session is an open panel discussion, with representatives from each area making brief presentations and answering audience questions. Admission is free and open to the public.

Among the most commonly expressed concerns over the WTO are the overturning of environmental laws, the
(Turn to "WTO" on Pg. 2)

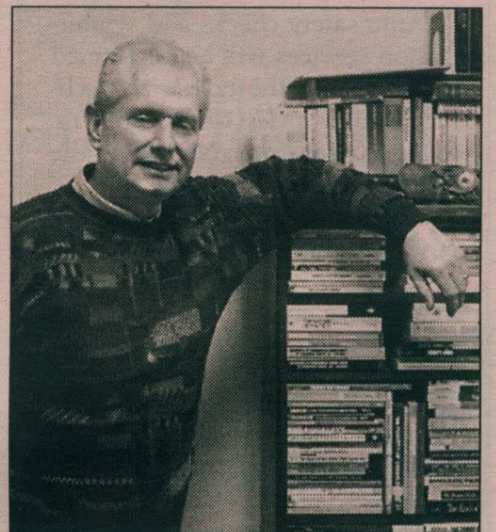


Photo by Robin Camp

OSU Prof. Richard Clinton will be one of the speakers at the WTO Teach-In.

Suspect escapes after robbing local mini-mart

by Keirsten Morris
of The Commuter

Last Wednesday, the 7-Eleven store on Pacific Boulevard east of campus was robbed by a man with a knife, according to Albany police.

The robbery occurred at approximately 12:10 a.m. when a lone male adult entered the store and took two 18-packs of Budweiser beer. When the clerk demanded payment for the beer, the suspect threatened him with a knife and then left the store, according to 7-Eleven franchise owner Barbara Roberts.

The clerk reported that the suspect left on foot. The Albany Police Department responded to the area with a K-9 unit to track him, but the suspect was not located.

No one was hurt during the incident.

Police described the suspect only as a Hispanic male adult and have asked that anyone with information concerning the incident call the Albany Police Department Detective Section at 917-7686.

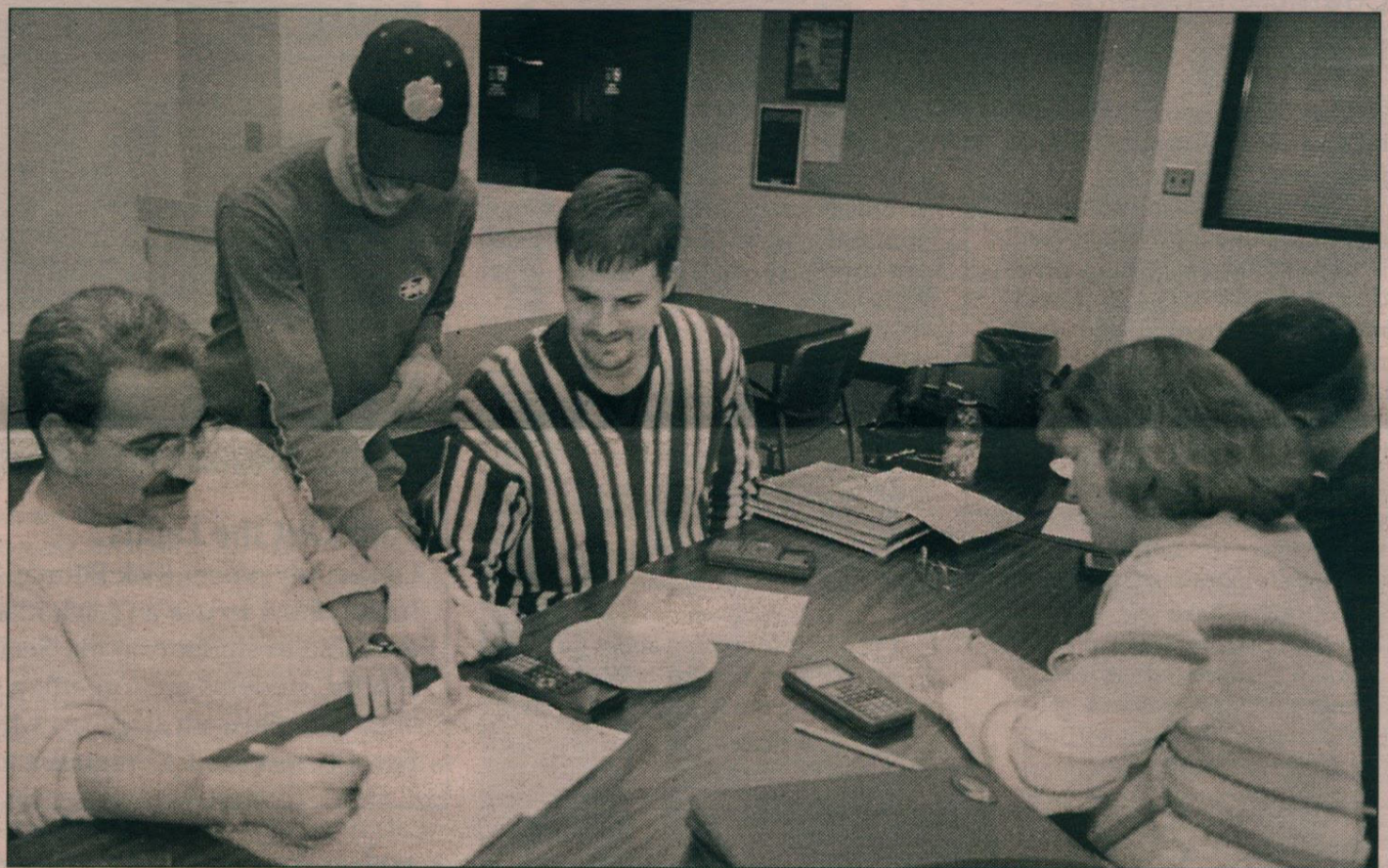


Photo by A.J. Wright

Time for Trig

Students Curtis Earhart, Tom Jones, Todd Gifford, Carmen Martin and Brent Von Cannon work on a group assignment for TIPS, a one-credit class that meets Wednesdays to help students with Math 111 and 112. More TIPS classes are planned for next term. Contact Judy de Szoeki at 917-4769.

LB cancer survivor published in national medical journal

by Leda Webster
of The Commuter

"They talked about it being a good place where positive things could happen. The best staff around. They said it was a place full of hope. The best, the only and yes, the last chance for survival."

This is how LBCC student Nick Lowrey began his emotional essay, "Inside These Walls," for Susan Maier's Writing 121 class last spring. Lowrey, a cancer survivor, decided to write about his experience as a child going through radiation therapy at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco, Calif. Maier liked it so much she read it aloud in class.

*"Cancer made me older.
... Ten-year-olds don't
usually think about
their mortality."*

—Nick Lowrey



"Not every paper is read in class," said Maier. "Nick's paper was good."

It's even more rare for a WR 121 composition to get published in a respected medical journal. Lowrey's

paper appeared in the "Viewpoint" column of Radiation Therapist, an academic journal in the field Lowrey plans to work in.

Maier liked the essay so much she encouraged Lowrey to contact OHSU to explore the possibility of getting his essay published. Lowrey e-mailed his essay to Ann Maddeford, director of the Radiation Program at OHSU and a member of the review board for Radiation Therapist. The very next day, Maddeford e-mailed back to say she had sent the essay to Katherine Ott, managing editor of the journal.

"We felt Nick's contribution, as one who went
(Turn to "Lowrey" on Pg. 2)



Graying Grove

Campus oak grove is dying and dangerous

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IN THIS ISSUE

Check This Out

Hey! Sleep in tomorrow—it's Veteran's Day and the campus is closed. Albany's annual parade starts at 10 a.m. downtown.

Acting Out

LBCC students perform improv to educate about violence

Page 5



CAMPUS NEWS

CLUB BEAT

RPM Club winterizes cars for \$10 on Nov. 17 to raise funds

Auto safety checks and winterization services will be performed by members of the Industrial/Technical Society's RPM Club from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17 in the LBCC auto shop (IA Bldg. 117).

The winterization safety check costs \$10 and covers an inspection of coolant, hoses, fluids, wipers, lights, tires and battery terminals. Replacement of worn parts and an oil change will cost extra. No appointment necessary.

The safety check service is a fundraiser for the ITS Auto Fund, which is used to pay for field trips and other club activities.

For more information, call Bryan Schiedler at 917-4597.

Equine Club holds annual bake sale today

The LBCC Equine Club is looking for a few good men and women interested in horses.

"The club was set up to promote the Equine Program," said Don Lehoullier, the club's president. "Anyone can join who is interested in horses. You don't need to own one."

The club will participate in a variety of activities, from parades to horse shows, though nothing is set in stone yet since the club has only met twice so far this year.

However, for hungry people with a little extra cash, the club is sponsoring a bake sale today in Takena Hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Anyone interested is invited to attend meetings in Room 211 in the Science and Technology Building every Wednesday at noon.

Copies are cheaper at Printing Services

by Stephanie Follett
of The Commuter

Students looking for an inexpensive way to get copies made or other publication services can go to the Printing Services Department located in the IB building, Room 110, behind the auto and welding shops.

"We can do just about anything you could imagine," said Mindy McCall, supervisor at Printing Services.

The most used services are high speed copying, novelty items, brochures,

résumés and outputting of digital files. However, they provide many other services, and for less than at a business such as Kinkos, said McCall.

Students with financial aid can have supplies billed to financial aide as long as they have their paperwork, according to McCall.

The department is run by professional staff and is assisted by several Work Study students, who help out in the office every term. Anyone interested in Work Study jobs can contact the Career

Center in Takena Hall.

Printing Services tries not compete with services provided in town, McCall said. Instead, the office works for non-profit agencies, such as Albany Public Schools, and most of their other customers are staff and students here at the college.

Students who have questions about prices or services can call Printing Services at 917-4676. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WTO: Clinton, Gates to draw crowd

From Page One

removal of countries' rights to determine their own policies and set their own standards, and the outflow of American jobs to low-wage countries, some of which use child and prison labor.

In a rare show of solidarity, more than 70,000 protestors are scheduled to mass in Seattle on Nov. 30, the second day of the WTO conference. In addition to the huge number of U.S. participants, several thousand protestors are coming from Canada, while many smaller delegations are coming from other WTO member countries.

WTO members, hosted by the two Bills (Clinton and Gates), will be faced with crowds concerned about the WTO policies, which are set behind closed doors and which stand to have an impact on the entire world.

More information about the Teach-In at LBCC is available from Doug Clark in the Social Sciences Department, who is one of the organizers.

General information about the WTO, is available by calling 1-800-Stop-WTO, or by visiting the following Web sites:
www.globalexchange.org
www.afl-cio.org
www.wto.org

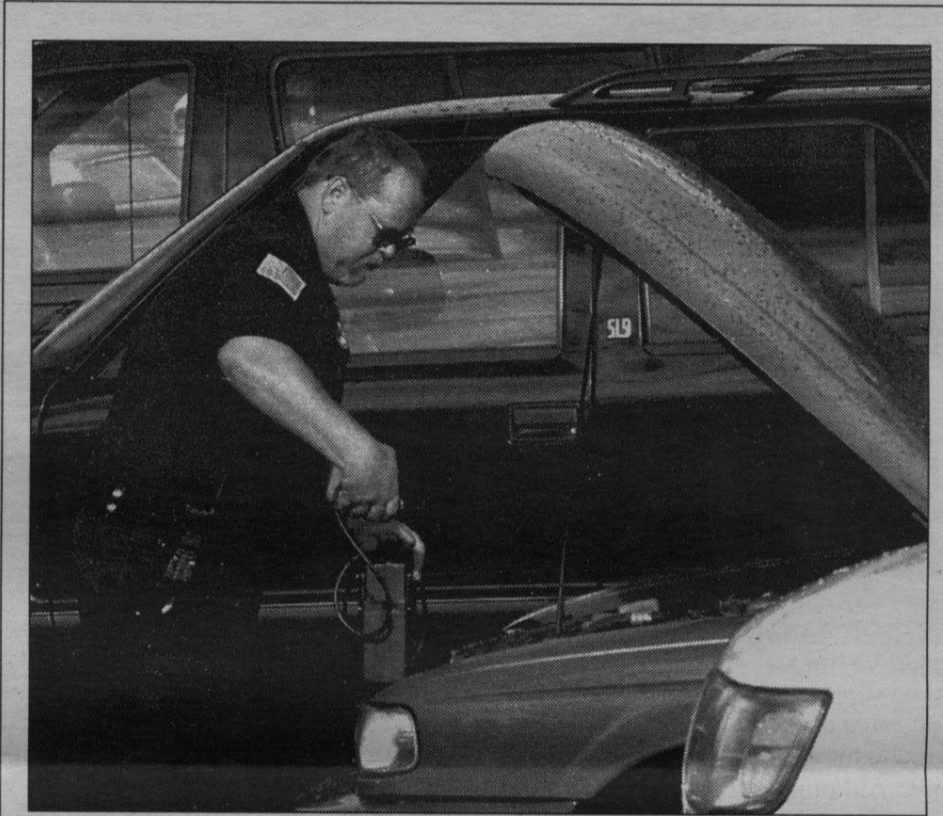


Photo by Robin Camp

Turn Out the Lights

LB security officer Rick Pittman shows a student with a dead battery how to use a Quick Kick battery recharger, which is available to students in the Security Office. As the days get shorter, students are forgetting to turn off their lights and are finding unpleasant surprises when they return to their cars. Security reported 49 requests for the Quick Kick so far this term.

Lowrey: Author plans to give back to those who helped him conquer cancer

From Page One

through the treatments, would be of special interest to our readers," Ott said.

Lowrey's essay explained what it felt like to go in for treatment for the condition he had called Wilms' tumors. Also called nephroblastoma, this childhood cancer affects kidneys, liver and lungs. Found more often in infants, it has a high mortality rate because small bodies can't take the abuse. He battled his cancer from age 6 to 16. He had recurrences every 18 months, when treatment would start all over again. After radiation therapy and five surgeries, his cancer has been in remission since 1976.

"Cancer made me older," Lowrey recalled. "I spent 10 years thinking about whether I would live or not. It brought to mind thoughts beyond my age. Ten year olds don't usually think about their mortality."

Aside from the cancer, Lowrey said he had a pretty normal childhood. He played baseball, raced motorcycles and played music. He and an older sister were raised in Northern California, where school was a challenge. During recurrences, his mother would tutor him at home and teachers would bring his work to him. The last two years in high school were the only years he was

able to participate fully with good health, he said.

Since then Lowrey has had a successful career as a drummer for the Marcey Brothers Band in Nashville. He now lives in Corvallis with his wife Marty and two daughters, ages 10 and 3.

In the five years Lowrey has lived in Oregon he worked in various "disposable jobs" before deciding to become a radiation therapist. He enrolled at LB last spring, and plans to eventually transfer OHSU.

"It is incredible that someone who went through treatment as a child would want to do this kind of work as an adult,"

said Ott about Lowrey's career choice.

That, however, was not the case with Lowrey.

"I have memories of people who worked at an almost feverish pitch to keep me alive," said Lowrey. "I wanted to give back."

Lowrey's attitude is reflected in the last paragraph of his essay.

"As we leave the building a strange thought occurs. A thought that says, when our course of treatment is done here, strangely, we will miss these people, in this place that we have come to hate. This good place, this positive place, this place full of hope."

THE 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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Photographer, Christopher Spence.

IN FOCUS



by Lori Weedmark
of The Commuter

The oak grove that adorns the southeast side of the campus along Pacific Boulevard has beauty as well as danger in its midst.

Not only are the leaves falling, but also branches and the trees themselves.

Over the past two or three years, at least three of the old giants have shuddered to the earth, as well as many large limbs. Although no one was in the grove at the time and no one has been hurt, the danger is obvious.

Standing in his office, surrounded by large picture windows that provide a picturesque view of the grove, College President Jon Carnahan has witnessed the potential danger first-hand.

"I've watched a couple of trees go over, and not necessarily at high wind times," said Carnahan, overlooking the campus landmark.

The decision to close the grove was made shortly thereafter, although Carnahan was reluctant to at first.

"I was probably the last believer to keep it open and accessible," Carnahan said. He felt the grove gave students and staff a quiet place to hang out.

Access to the grove has been blocked since the summer of 1997. Large barriers now block the north and south entrance paths to discourage people from wandering in. Since then, successive falls have left the interior paths covered with leaves and debris, making the paths virtually invisible.

Concrete benches that once beckoned students into the grove have been removed along with the lights that ran along the paths. The benches and paths were once part of a memorial garden that was constructed for student use back in the late 1970s.

The oak trees in the grove have been there for 350 years or more, according to Greg Paulson, LBCC horticulture instructor, whose students counted rings on the downed trees to determine the age of the grove. The trees were established long before the valley was settled back in the 1850s and '60s.

LBCC officials first noticed a problem with the oaks back in the early 1980s. The trees' roots were rotting, making them unstable and prone to falling over, even when there is no wind. OSU ex-

The Old Oak Grove

Once a quiet place for contemplation, the oak grove is now considered too dangerous to enter

"The idea is to do as little as possible and let the trees continue naturally. This way, we get to keep the trees for viewing and still keep the people safe."

— Greg Paulson

perts were among those who helped assess the problem.

The cause of the root problem is a common one among oaks, according to Paulson. It's a soil disease, or fungus, that oaks get naturally. A few roots may be infected by the fungus — but the tree can replace the roots if the roots are allowed to dry out in the summer months. "As long as the trees are allowed to dry out in the summer, they can co-exist with the fungus," Paulson said.

Unfortunately, a rhododendron garden was planted amongst the trees back in the 1970s and a sprinkler system was set up to water them in the summer months. Because of the extensive watering of the rhodies over the years, the roots of the oaks never had time to dry out, which allowed the fungus to spread.

"This was one of the worst places to plant the rhodies, because of the need for summer watering," Paulson said.

Some of the rhododendrons have since been moved to the garden between the Science/Technology and Health Occupations buildings. Since the watering was halted, the aging oaks are doing somewhat better, but the damage has been done.

The fungus, called Armillaria root rot, can spread from the roots to the trunk of the tree, making the branches weak as well. One oak that fell over in December of 1997 had no roots left at all, Paulson said. A large branch crashed to the ground around the same time, even though there was no wind that day.

Officials decided not to cut down a few standing dead trees because they're being used by wildlife. "There's a population of rare Acorn Woodpeckers hanging out in the grove these days," Paulson said. The woodpeckers drill holes in the dead wood and stuff the holes with acorns.

In ideal conditions, an oak tree can live up to 500 years. At this point, no intervention is planned for the oak grove by the college.

"The idea is to do as little as possible and let the trees continue naturally," Paulson said. "This way, we get to keep the trees for viewing and still keep the people safe."

Carnahan looks out his office window at the grove and remembers a tree that blew down five or six years ago. He thought it would be a neat idea to use the wood from the old oak in some way for

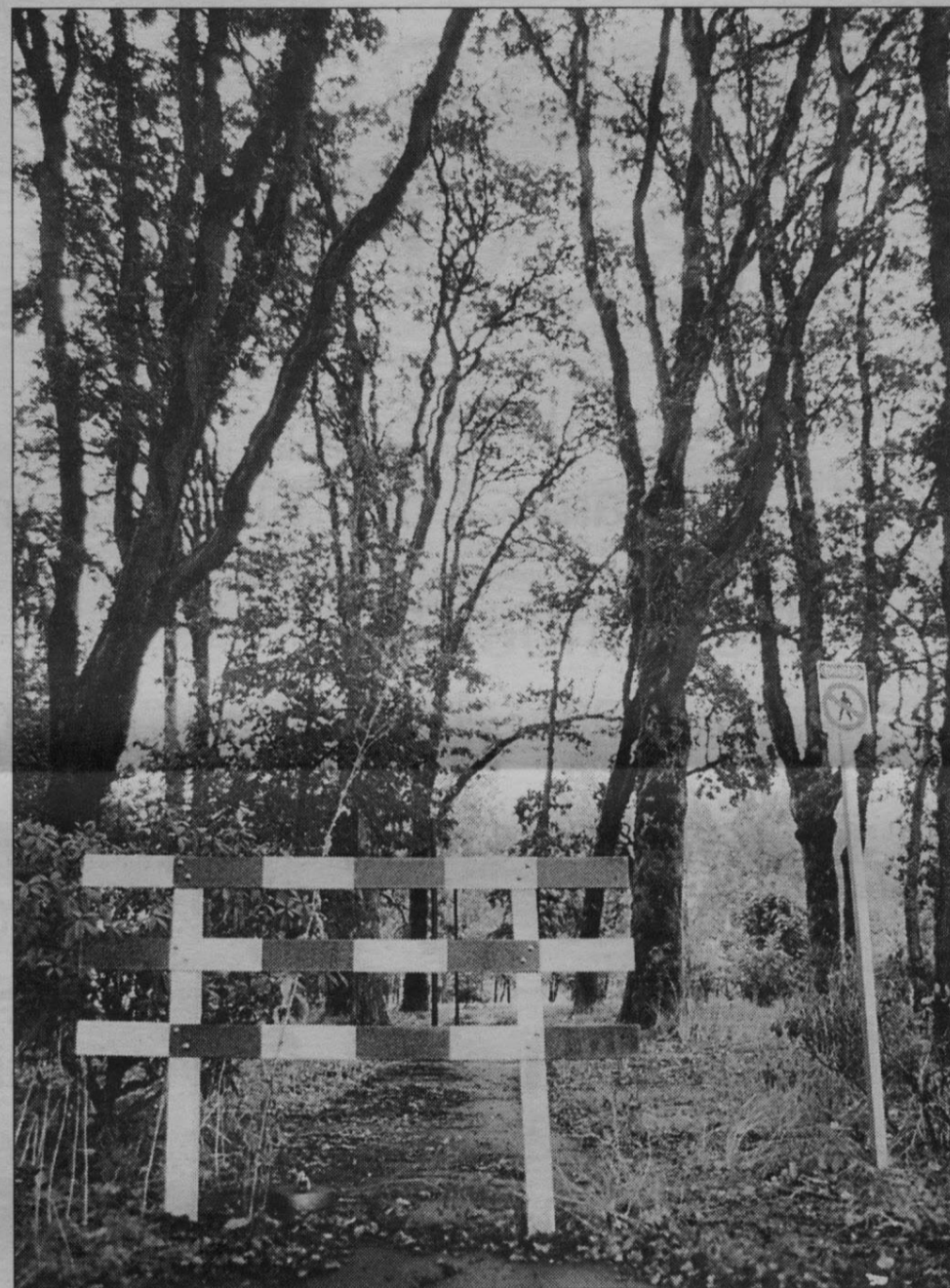


Photo by A.J. Wright

Barricades block the walkway into the campus oak grove (top) to keep students and staff from strolling under the huge trees, which are considered dangerous due to root rot. The fungus, which eats away at the roots, leaves the trees unstable and prone to toppling over, as shown at right.



Photo by Greg Paulson

the college. After about two years and much leg work on Carnahan's part, old-oak was turned into paneling for the College Center.

"From my perspective, this preserved something from the oak grove that's been here for a long time," Carnahan said.

A plaque hangs in the College Center hall to commemorate the fallen oak.

At this point the college is just work-

ing on preservation of the grove. "The steps the college has taken so far to close the grove have been very responsible," Paulson said.

With the pathways covered with leaves and the entrance blocked, the path now stops short of the grove. Carnahan would like to see the path continue around the grove, so people can still enjoy the trees from a safe distance.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Domestic violence dramatized with improvisation skits

by Schellene Pils
of The Commuter

Laughter can be a serious business for some. For Krysie Tack, Benjamin Sell, Jon Annis and Crystal Huff, the business of making people laugh to relax, or to get a point across, has become more than just a job for them.

Last month these four LBCC students entertained an audience of middle school students and their parents, while at the same time educating them on the effects of domestic violence, sexual harassment and dating violence.

"Basically through the grapevine we found these students at Linn-Benton," said Eileen McClelland, CARDV advocate.

"Occasionally, I get requests from the community for actors, and I turned this one over to Krysie," said George Lauris, director, instructor and department chair for performing arts. "Krysie, Jon and Ben had taken improv classes from me last year. I knew that they had excellent skills."

"We were planning domestic violence awareness month and we wanted to do something interactive," said McClelland.

So for the award ceremony for the Linn and Benton counties domestic violence month poster contest, McClelland came up with the idea of having performers illustrate the subject.

"They did three or four skits related to dating violence and domestic violence, and I must say they were amazing. It's a really hard subject to portray," she said. "They presented the information in a really unique way."

"They're exactly what this kind of movement needs," said McClelland. "They provide the kind of creative

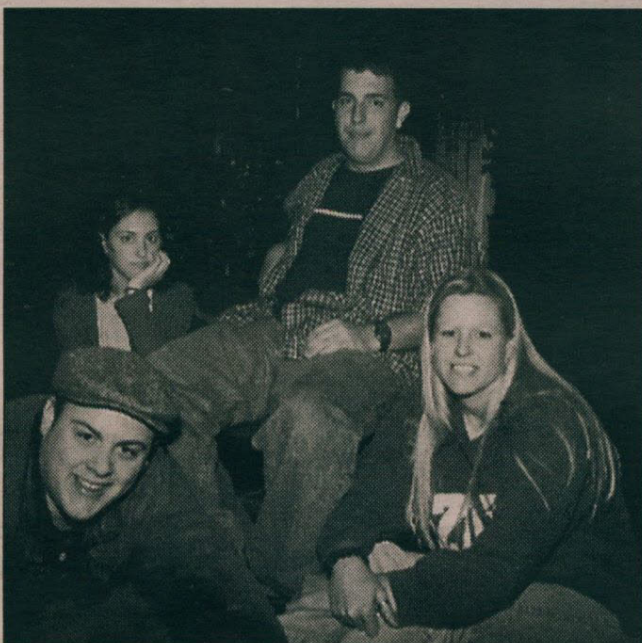


Photo by A.J. Wright

Improv performers (left to right), Jon Annis, Crystal Huff, Benjamin Sell and Krysie Tack find that making people learn through laughter is an important way to give back to the community.

energy that we need."

"I'd done something like that before," said Tack, a pre-med major who played one of the victims last year for the paramedics final. She is coordinating the group.

"I think it's important to be involved in community projects," she said, "I like the fact that we can help someone out."

"I thought it was a great way to give back to my

community," said Sell, performing arts major.

"We had three scenes that we had rehearsed. For the scenes, I had an idea, Krysie had an idea and Crystal put them together and wrote it and it worked out really well," he said. For example, one of the scenes performed involved a character that made suggestions for the right way to handle a situation, one with suggestions for the wrong way, the abuser and the neutral observer who spelled out statistics and who represented CARDV.

"CARDV was really helpful in getting us prepared," said Huff, who added that she would do it again. "You just feel like you gotta do it—it has to be something you love to do."

"I had fun doing it," said Annis. "If I don't think I'm going to have fun or I don't like the people who are in it, I won't do it."

In order to lighten things up after the performance, the group performed some pure improvisation. "I thought it would be a good way to shed the image of the abuser. I know it's acting, but it helps," said Sell.

But this group has no plans to stop with the improv performance, according to Sell. "We already have another gig in December."

Tack, who was a member of the volleyball team last year and who, along with Annis, Sell and Huff, is performing in the play "Harvey," which opens Nov. 19 in Takena Hall, said "I can't do just one thing. I get really bored."

Sell hopes to get an improv group going next term. "Improv is absolutely my favorite thing," he said. Last spring Sell, Tack, Annis and several others formed an informal improv group, and Sell would like to start up a similar group this year. He hopes to do improv and roll-playing in the Loft Theater on Wednesdays.

Actor Mike Baze uses lead role in 'Harvey' to make people laugh

by Josh Ransom
of The Commuter

Mike Baze, a former LBCC student and veteran of the local stage, plays the lead role of Elwood P. Dowd in the Performing Arts Department's production of "Harvey," which opens Nov. 19 in Takena Theatre.

Josh Ransom: What experience do you have as an actor?

Mike Baze: I've acted in 10 plays over a period of 10 years, most of them here at LBCC.

Ransom: Why did you decide to try out for "Harvey"?

Baze: After acting in "JB" last fall, I was ready to participate in a light-hearted production.

Ransom: What similarities are there, if any, between you and Elwood?

Baze: There's not many. Elwood is a complete gentleman, so that's the same. Elwood has taught me some things, such as it's not so bad to open a door for a woman.

Ransom: Elwood is the only one who

"sees" Harvey. How do you deal with the fact that you're acting with a giant rabbit that no one else can see?

Baze: It's harder than I thought it would be. I thought I would just walk in here and that would be it, but I soon realized that was not going to work. I have to think a lot about my character, where he is on stage in relation to Harvey, I also use a lot of pantomime.

Ransom: How do you keep your character fresh? That is, how do you fight off the desire to switch on auto-pilot?

Baze: I think of something new. You have to have a clear mind and walk in there like you have never done it before.

Ransom: On a lighter side, Elwood has a lot of lines; how do you memorize all of them?

Baze: I've been blessed with a good memory and so I learn them by just hearing them over and over. Just like some people have watched Monty Python so much they know the movie, I memorize my lines by hearing them over and over.



Photo by A.J. Wright

Mike Baze rehearses for his role as Elwood P. Dowd in "Harvey."

Ransom: What kind of plays have you done, and what is your favorite?

Baze: I've done all kinds, both serious dramas and comedies. My favorite kind to do is comedy because I love making people laugh.

Award-winning artist to speak on campus today

From the LBCC News Service

Nationally recognized artist Nelson Sandgren will discuss his art and life as a painter from noon-2 p.m. today in Forum Room 104.

Sandgren is a Corvallis resident and retired OSU professor who taught for 38 years. Some of his work is in permanent collections in Paris and London, as well as in various museums, corporate offices and lodges all across the Northwest. Murals are also part of his repertoire, and some murals have been executed for the Eugene Hult Center, OSU Valley Library and the Lane County Courthouse.

He excels in both oils and watercolors, and has won many awards, including Northwest Watercolor Society prize, and the Coos Bay Art Museum Expressions prize.

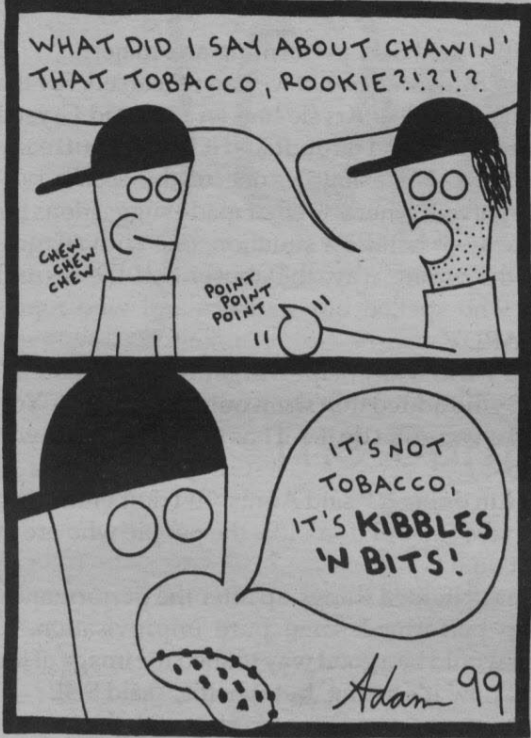
His talk is sponsored by LBCC's Student Life and Leadership office, and is free and open to the public.

COMING EVENTS

What	When	Where	Cost
Joy France Classical Piano	Fri. Nov. 12 8:30 p.m.	Boccherini's, Albany call 926-6703	free
"Room Service" play	Nov. 11,12,13 7:30 p.m.	Withycombe Theatre, OSU campus call 737-2784	varied
Three OSU Choirs-Men, Mixed, Womens	Wed. Nov. 17 7:30 p.m.	United Methodist Church, Corvallis call 737-4061	free
OSU Concert Band	Thur. Nov. 18 12 p.m.	OSU Memorial Union Lounge call 737-4061	free
"Smoke Signals" Movie	Thur. Nov. 18 2:30 p.m.	Student Lounge, LBCC	free
Writers On Writing IV	Tues. Nov. 16 at 12:15 p.m.	Corvallis Public Library call 541-753-3335 for info.	free
"Girl Trouble" Rock/Latin Rock	Sat. Nov. 13 at 9:30 p.m.	WOW Hall, Eugene call 541-687-2747 for info.	\$6
"Latyrx" Hip Hop	Sun. Nov. 14 at 9:30 p.m.	WOW Hall, Eugene call 541-687-2747 for info.	varies
"Critters Buggin" Acid Jazz	Mon. Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m.	WOW Hall, Eugene call 541-687-2747 for info.	\$7

FUNNY PAGE

IDIOT GUY JOINS THE BIG LEAGUES



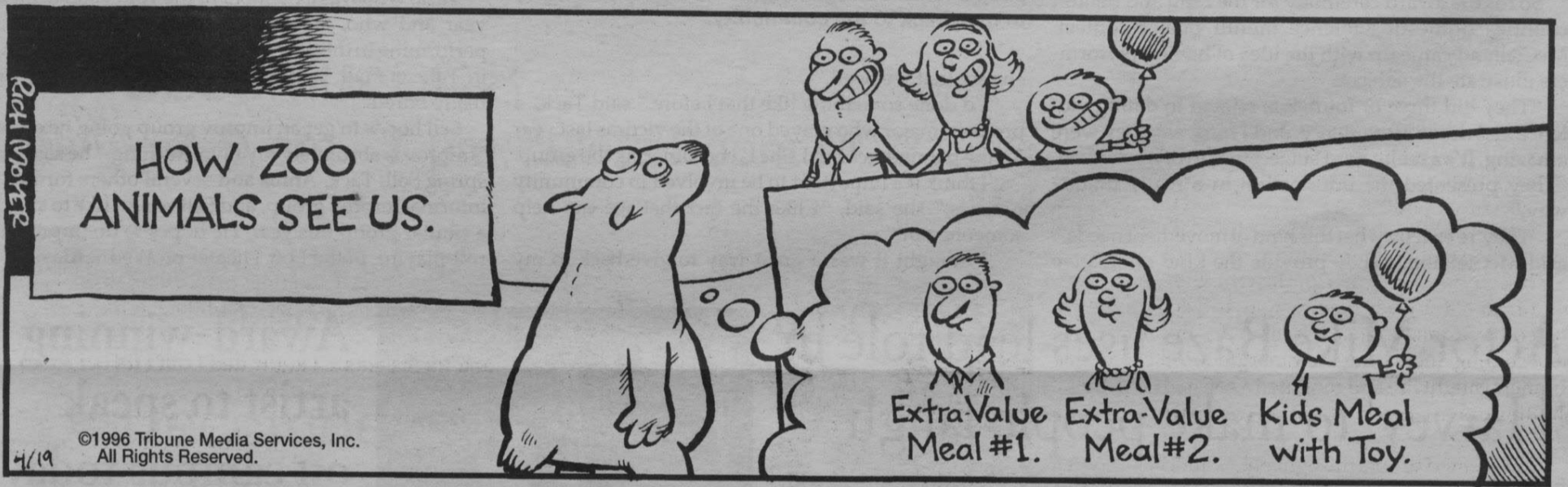
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THE ADVENTURES OF SKULY BY WILLIAM MORTON ©MCMXCIX

SECRET AGENT SKULY



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OSU is seeking Web Database & Development person. If you have skills in MS AccessSQL, Server 7.0NT Server 4.0, Internet Information Server (IIS), Active Server Pages (ASP) and/or Visual Basic and HTML, then you could make \$10/hr working 10hrs/week in a position that might evolve into a permanent position. Run, don't walk to Student Employment (T101).

Lighting Designer & Installer (Salem) If you have experience in theater & stage lighting or in installing lighting and are not afraid of heights, these full-time Salem jobs are for you! The Lighting Designer pays \$1,750/month and the Installer pays \$1,600/month. Come see Carla in the Career Center in Takena 101 for more information.

CWE Drafter (Albany) You will gain on-the-job experience & meet your degree requirements and get a great reference at the same time while working at Oremet-Wah Chang. You must be a current student and have completed two terms at LBCC to be eligible to apply. There are more jobs coming in soon with Oremet-Wah Chang so sign up today. See Carla at Student Employment (Takena 101).

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.

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SPORTS PAGE

Area ski resorts expect record snows to draw record crowds

by Andre Vriesman
of The Commuter

Another La Niña winter?

Oregon's micro-ski resorts think so. Anticipating a long, cold winter, area resorts are preparing for a record season of skiers, snowboarders and snowfall.

For those on a budget, Oregon's smaller ski resorts, like Hoodoo and Willamette Pass, balance a good variety of skiing with lower prices than the big boys of Cascade Range, Mount Hood and Mount Bachelor.

Hoodoo ski area, located 40 miles west of Bend, is scheduled to open on Nov. 26. Hoodoo features 29 runs and 806 skiable acres, with an additional 16 kilometers of cross-country trails.

Over \$1 million was spent on improvements to Hoodoo last summer, including a new 700-vertical-foot quad lift, the Hodag, which will serve the north

face of the mountain. The Hodag lift will open five new black diamond and blue square trails to skiers and boarders. Hoodoo also completed major renovations to the south lodge and is expanding the north lodge to quadruple its size by spring.

Willamette Pass ski area, located 70 miles southeast of Eugene, is scheduled to open on Nov. 17. The ski area offers 29 runs, 550 acres of skiable terrain, and over 20 kilometers of cross-country trails.

For those who enjoy the steeps, Willamette Pass boasts downhill runs such as RTS, which was featured on Ski Magazine's SkiNet Web site. According to Ski Magazine, the one-time training site for the U.S. Speed Skiing Team "tops 52 degrees, averages almost 45 degrees and has seen speeds of more than 110 miles per hour."

Skiers and snowboarders also have access to

"Kalaidoscope/Persistence," the area's longest trail at 2.1 miles. Willamette Pass also hopes to attract beginning skiers with its new ski-on, ski-off "magic carpet" lift. The lift is the first of its kind in the United States.

Willamette Pass day lift tickets are \$29 for adults. Children 10 and under can ski for \$18 a day, and kids under 5 ski for just \$1. Willamette Pass is offering the "Student 2000" season pass to students taking six college credits or more. The pass, which allows unlimited skiing for the season, costs \$200. Day tickets at Hoodoo are \$26 for adults, \$19.50 for children 12 and under, and children under 5 ski free.

For up-to-date ski conditions and information at Willamette Pass, call (541) 345-SNOW. For Hoodoo, the number is (541) 822-3337. More information can be found on the Web at www.hoodoo.com and www.willamettepass.com

Lady Runners get easy win over Lane; last game tonight

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

After learning they were shut out of the playoffs this year and before going 2-5 in a weekend tournament in Washington, the Lady Runners came home and salvaged some pride by crushing the Lane Titans in straight sets in the Activities Center last Wednesday.

In the first game of the night last week against Lane, the Lady Runners started off with a fast 4-0 start. They then increased the lead to seven at 8-1 and then jumped out to 11-1. With Lane tiring, the Runners ended the game with four straight points to win 15-1.

The second game was a lot closer, as the Lady Titans got off to a 4-2 lead, then increased it to 7-4, which forced the Runners to take a time-out. But the Titans kept coming, increasing their margin to 9-5 before the Runners caught fire and mounted a spirited comeback, shutting down Lane the rest of the way to win by a score of 15-9.

That seemed to take the fight out of the Titans, as the Lady Runners were in command the whole way in the third game, winning it 15-6.

Jamie Caster led the Runners with 14 kills, with Kristyn Kohler and Sarah Towns next with eight and five kills respectively. Kohler tied with Sherril Baga for the team lead in digs with nine, while Mandi Talbot and Jenni White tied with eight and Amy Chase had seven. Caster was the team leader with three blocked shots and Sarah Whisler had two. Baga, Kohler and Towns each had one blocked shot. White and Chase had the only service aces with five and two, respectively.

Coach Jayme Frazier believes the team came out strong and played well against a team that did not have too many strengths and were not always able to get the ball back.

"We were at about 98 percent serving and our hitting efficiency was about 40 percent, which is great," Frazier said. "We had eight blocks, which isn't bad against a team that wasn't strong. Our goals when we came out here were to eliminate errors and speed up our tempo, no matter what the other team was doing, and at times, for the most part, we did do that."

Commenting about how sluggish the team came out in the second game, Frazier said, "I changed the lineup a little bit. I do not think they got overconfident because this team never gets overconfident. But I think what they do is relax a little bit. I do not think it is a mental thing. It is more of a physical thing. We just tend to relax

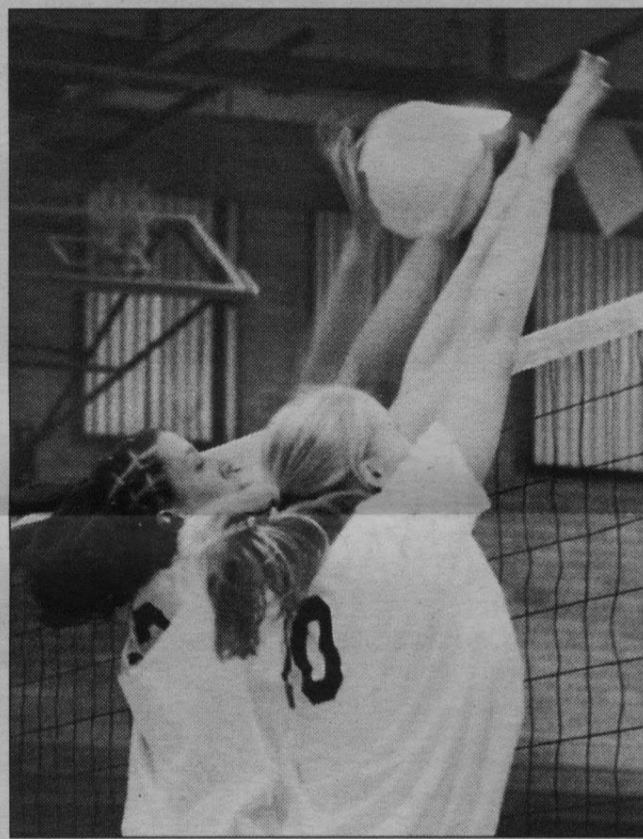


Photo by Robin Camp

LBCC's two Sarahs (Towns and Whisler) sky for a block in last Wednesday's win over Lane in the Activities Center.

and do not push, do not play our game, and do not increase the tempo even though we knew they were not going to do a whole lot."

Shannon Gerding, outside hitter for the Runners, agreed that the team let up a little bit after the first game.

"Since we beat them so bad the first time, we felt like we could (let up) because they hadn't put up a fight yet. Then they started to, so we kind of started a new game. Jayme told us that we shouldn't let them in it. We deserve to win and prove how good we are. Just show them and play our game."

Teammate Towns, an outside hitter who has stepped up following the injury to Nancy Drake, said, "We could have done a lot better. I think it is really hard when we are confident about playing them and then it didn't seem we had to step it up as much as we



"As for Towns, yeah, she is really coming along. She's really stepped in and done a great job... She is going to be great."

—Coach Jayme Frazier

normally do. We kind of take it for granted that it is too easy maybe. Overconfidence had a lot to do with it."

Commenting on her role filling in for Drake, she said: "There has been a lot of pressure trying to step up and fill her shoes. I know that I can't fill her shoes but just try to do the best that I can do for the team."

On Nov. 5-6, the Lady Runners went up to Longview, Wash., to compete in the Lower Columbia Crossover. After it was all over, Linn-Benton came home with a 2-5 record at the tournament.

They faced off with Green River on Friday, losing the only game of the match 2-15. The Runners came back with a 15-10 win over Edmonds, but proceeded to drop the next two games to Lower Columbia (4-15) and Blue Mountain (10-15). Facing Green River again in the last match, the Runners lost in four games by the scores of 17-15, 13-15, 7-15 and 11-15.

On Saturday, the Runners beat Blue Mountain 15-9 and 15-12, then lost again to Green River 11-15 and 4-15. Towns and Caster were the leading scorers for LB, finishing with 30 and 27 kills each. Katie Howell and Whisler had 31 and 30 assists apiece, while White and Baga stood out defensively for both teams, and Chase had five service aces on Friday. White and Towns were named to the all-tournament team.

Gerding and Towns both have stepped up in a big way for the Lady Runners since the Drake injury.

"Shannon has been pretty consistent all throughout the year as far as what she is doing—she has some great attacks," Frazier said. "As for Towns, yeah, she is really coming along. She's really stepped in and done a great job as far as doing a different kind of offense than Nancy did. Nancy was bombing up the middle whereas Sarah tends to come to the offside doing the flares where she has good strength. She is going to be great."

The Lady Runners finish out the season tonight against the Mt. Hood Lady Saints at 7 p.m. at the Linn-Benton Activities Center.

Busy Activities Center offers limited access to walk-in exercisers

by Adam Williams
of The Commuter

So what goes on in the Activities Center on the west side of the campus? Is a student allowed to mosey on over there to shoot a few hoops or take a stroll on the treadmill?

Not exactly.

Due to the busy schedule of classes and practices for the volleyball, baseball and basketball teams, the center is virtually booked all day, with few open times for students who want to use the facilities.

Besides the full-sized gymnasium, the Activities

Center houses a weight training room with a variety of weights and aerobic equipment for the devoted athlete or weightlifter. While the gymnasium is booked throughout the week, the weight room is available for walk-in use from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday—the only times classes are not scheduled there.

For students interested in outdoor activities, LBCC boasts sand volleyball and tennis courts, baseball and soccer fields, a track, and a nature and jogging trail that snakes throughout the campus.

The nature trail, sand volleyball, tennis courts and baseball field are available by permission from the AC

office.

If you need gear for any sport, inside or out, equipment can be borrowed from AC Equipment Manager Rick Elmore by handing over your student identification or driver's license.

If you are interested in formal training for indoor or outdoor activities, the AC offers a variety of classes that can be taken through the college, which may be the best way to use the AC.

For upcoming AC activities and classes, keep an eye out for listings and bulletins in either the Activities Center or your schedule of classes guide.

OPINION

Readers speak out on witches, counselors and journalists

Public schools shouldn't judge religious beliefs

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to Josh Ransom's opinion article on Halloween and witchcraft. I thought LBCC was a public school funded by students and public funds, which means that it shouldn't be supporting the religious discrimination of some groups like Josh did. Witchcraft is a legally recognized religion since 1985 and is protected under the freedom of religion act. I think your paper should apologize to all the people that you have offended by allowing an article like that into your paper. You wouldn't allow some hate group to spread their lies about another race so why let groups like Josh's spread religious hate?

Dulcey Schuster

Wiccans not anti-Christian, simply non-Christian

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the Wed. Oct. 27 article "Halloween celebrates Satanical holiday and promotes more tricks than treats," by Josh Ransom of The Commuter. Personally, the only "nasty odor" I detect is the garbage that seems to seep from this article. And as for the assertion that few people know the origins of Halloween, I must agree — Mr. Ransom appears to be among them.

First of all, there was no deity form among the Celtic peoples called Samhain. This is, rather, the name of the festival itself. It simply means "end of summer." Secondly, the assertion that baskets were created in the shape of animals is utter rubbish — no doubt Mr. Ransom is borrowing a page from Julius Caesar's dubious reports on the practices of Druids, a series of reports that, I might add, were met with derision from Caesar's own contemporaries as an obvious ploy at rabble rousing.

Now, animals were indeed killed on the eve of Samhain, but not for sacrificial purposes. The Celts, a herding agricultural people marked three harvests — that of the grains and crops, that of fruits and nuts, and that of the herds. Samhain was when the herds were evaluated by the herdsman, and those that weren't healthy enough to survive the brutal winters were slaughtered, their meat preserved for winter larders.

Mr. Ransom would also have us believe that Druids, for some reason sacrificed black cats, by burning, no less. Actually, the only ritualized burning of cats performed in the British Isles was the Scottish "tarbfeis" — performed by Protestant Scots intent on killing witches. The assumption was that witches were capable of turning themselves into cats. I find it highly amusing that Mr. Ransom would credit the pagan faiths with an atrocity that was really only performed by a small, deluded segment of the Christian faith. A credit to his research accuracy, once again.

Mr. Ransom goes on to insist that witches refused to celebrate some fanciful "All Halos Day", thereby creating Halloween, apparently a "spoof" of the "real name" of the festival. In truth, the Church realized that the peasants of the lands were continuing to honor their dead on this night. So, they decided to change the "reason for the season" (if you will) — rather than honoring those dead who had passed on, they would celebrate and honor only the saints.

Nov. 1 was most emphatically not named "All Halos Day" — rather it was named All Hallows Day, "Hallow" simply meaning "holy", which can be verified with a simple glance at a dictionary. If Nov. 1 was All Hallows Day, then the evening of Oct. 31 was All Hallows Evening, often shortened to Hallow Even, and, eventually, to Halloween.

Mr. Ransom continues to list a number of current Halloween practices that he maintains can be traced back to medieval times. I hate to break it to him, but they are traced much further back, if you care to do your research.

One of the few assertions that Mr. Ransom makes

that I can agree with is this: "Even today, Oct. 31 holds great meaning for witches." I agree with this because I am one of those witches—I am a Wiccan, and I celebrate the Wheel of the Year with eight (not four—shoddy research again) high holy days. The idea that Witches worship Satan—a Christian conceptualization—is ludicrous. Our belief systems far predate Christianity and its accompanying demons and devils.

Allow me to clarify—Wiccans are most emphatically not anti-Christian. We are simply non-Christian. To assume one automatically equates to the other is to make a terrible mistake, one that is all too often made.

I would like to point out that Mr. Ransom's assertion that we are responsible for animal and human sacrifice borders on libel. To a Wiccan (or any member of a religion that prides itself on being an Earth Spirituality), life is sacred. Numerous pagans are vegans and vegetarians, because they cannot in good conscience condone the actions and methods of the meat industry. How then are we going to kill animals ourselves? Again, sheer inflammatory rubbish.

In conclusion, I would like to say this: We would certainly appreciate a published apology — not just for libelous slander by a staff member of The Commuter, but also for this kind of persecutory, poorly researched clap-trap that is all too common in this day and age. If you have something genuine to say, please, by all means, do so. If you don't have the research and hard evidence to back it up, then by all means, note it as being your own opinion. But to publish this kind of garbage is the height of irresponsibility, and I think that not only pagans but all your readership should be rendered a sincere apology.

Joseph D. Carriker, Jr.

Counseling center lacks forms, info on CBEST test

To the Editor:

I am an education major here at LBCC and I had to take a trip to Monmouth to get any useful advising. For someone to get a teaching certificate in Oregon or California they must pass the CBEST test. This test should be taken during the sophomore year, a year that could occur here at LB. That being the case, I think there should at least be information and registration forms in the counseling center. The response I received today when I asked for a registration form for the test was "we don't offer the that test here." Well duh! I was referred to OSU. The excuse that the test is not offered here is like a high school saying, "we don't give the SAT's here, we can't tell you anything about (it)." How much trouble would it be to have a few of these registration forms sitting in a drawer? Anyway, that's my two cents.

Ben Davis

Commuter displays Jerry Springer-esque behavior

To the Editor:

There is nothing like stepping on the toes of someone's religion to get a true rise out of the masses. I think the true point that everyone seemed to miss in Josh Ransom's column and the subsequent responses is the lack of judgment displayed by The Commuter editorial staff. I understand that at most community colleges there is usually not a great sense of community. The only true common bond between students are that we live in the vicinity of the school and it's less

Editor's Note:

Our policy is to publish every opinion we receive from our readers, except in cases where the letters are in poor taste, libelous, or too long to fit. However, we also realize that we test all of our readers' patience when we allow a debate to drag on too long. So in the interest of moving on to other issues, additional letters addressing the Halloween issue will not be published unless they contain points of view not stated by letters already published.

expensive here than at a big state university. I understand that just like most everyone else reading this newspaper we all have homework, family life, jobs, etc. demanding part of our time.

I also understand how this lack of time can sometimes lead to a sense that we must make hasty judgments, snap decisions and second guessing. I understand that because of this fact it can often be difficult to get people involved or excited about most issues outside their immediate lives and locations. Especially to the point that they feel the need to write a letter to the editor.

I understand that this fact creates the sense at least in the minds of the newspaper staff. That if the readers are not going to write a letter to the editor, well then they'll simply have someone on the newspaper staff write a little something and throw it on the Opinion page. I understand that everyone working for our school's newspaper is an unpaid and untrained volunteer (no offense intended).

What I don't understand is how this justifies this Jerry Springer-esque behavior by The Commuter. It is one thing for some schlock TV hack to hold a crying baby over a tank of piranhas for 55 minutes, only to pull them back in the last five to benevolently provide any counseling the poor unfortunate child might need (as long as it doesn't take more than the 15-minute session that is scheduled for after the show). For the sole purpose of getting a reaction out of the audience.

I know I'm about to do some major assuming here. Based on at least two columns from last year's Commuter written by E.J. Harris, one about the Pope and one about second-hand smoke, and now the column by Josh Ransom. Please note, these are only three columns that happened to catch my eye, which simply stuck in my mind. Who knows what we might find if we intentionally went through each back issue.

I can only assume that The Commuter's editorial staff was intentionally attempting to inflame or incite its readers to write in by using opinion columns so bereft of fact, logic and simple common courtesy that they absolutely guaranty a response from the readers. Can you say yellow journalism boys and girls?

Okay, I know that term is usually reserved for hard news and not op/ed stuff, but hey inventing or manipulating public opinion falls into the same category. If you don't have something legitimate to print, leave the space blank, that will have an impact. Better yet, don't waste the paper print every other week.

Not to sound too mellow dramatic, but I did not spend eight and one half years (four of which 130 miles behind the iron curtain) of my life defending some journalist-wannabe's right to be dumber than a bucket of mud or to practice drive-by journalism. As to the response from the readers, understand that the views and opinions of the readers does not necessarily represent the views and opinions of all letters sent. What they do represent is what those who make the editorial decisions for the newspaper chose to portray the response to the original letter to be.

Based upon the three letters The Commuter selected to run there was enough conjecture, name-calling and Christian bashing (in the name of the Wiccans) to last the average citizen quite some time. Based upon the Opinion page of The Commuter I suggest we hang a sign over Takena Hall that reads "Welcome to LBCC, where intolerance will not be tolerated."

As far as I'm concerned, we've got far too many real issues like global warming, world education, overpopulation, consumerism and terminal stupidity to be concerned about what toxic venom group A is spouting this week about group B or vice versa.

In parting to The Commuter staff I give you the words of Oscar Wilde:

"There is much to be said in favor of modern journalism. By giving us the opinions of the uneducated, it keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community."

And to the Christians and Wiccans I give the words of Aldous Huxley:

"You never see animals going through the absurd and often horrible fooleries of magic and religion. Only man behaves with such gratuitous folly. It is the price he has to pay for being intelligent but not, as yet, quite intelligent enough."

Michael D. Thompson