



Basketball Woes

The Runners hit a downhill skid as the regular season winds down.
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Boarding Along

Young women are taking to longboards in greater numbers.
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THE Commuter

Wednesday,
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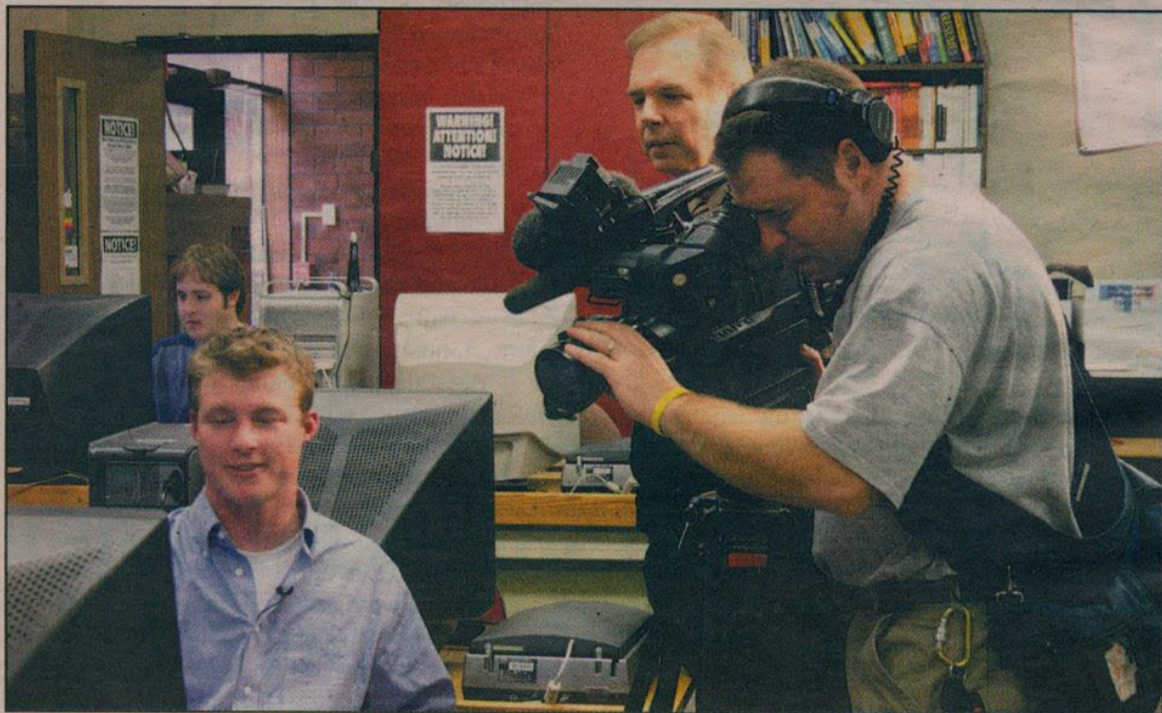


photo by Dan Wise

KOIN News 6 reporter Mike Donahue and his crew interview Matt Zedwick on campus last week after learning that the LBCC digital imagery student will be a model for a U.S. Army computer game and action figure. Zedwick received both Silver Star and Purple Heart medals while serving in Iraq.

Military honors student hero

Dan Wise
The Commuter

Thousands of miles from his Corvallis home, Matt Zedwick became a hero by doing what he says anyone else would have done. He saved his comrade's life, which earned him both a Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

In June of 2004, Zedwick was the driver of an Army Humvee on a road in Iraq 30 miles north of Baghdad when insurgents detonated an IED (improvised explosive device) underneath the vehicle, sending he and his two team members

somersaulting through the air. A secondary device also exploded, breaking the front window and causing the vehicle to burst into flames. The team's gunner, Eric McKialey of Corvallis, was killed, but Zedwick was able to pull his other teammate from the burning vehicle before it exploded.

"The Humvees we had were pretty crappy, honestly. When I looked over after the explosion and the vehicle was in flames, all I could think about was I've got to get out of here and I've got to get my buddies out."

Zedwick received shrapnel wounds in his wrist

▶ Turn to "Hero" on Pg. 4

Layoffs send staff reeling as bumping process begins

Dan Wise
The Commuter

Shock, fear and uncertainty characterize the reactions of LBCC staff members whose job positions were cut in a round of budget-balancing layoffs announced in the last two weeks.

"I was kind of stunned," said one classified staffer. While the administration did prepare the staff for the possibility of layoffs, "people did not realize they would be the one."

"I didn't expect it at all," said another worker who also preferred anonymity. "I've been here for 14 years and right now I'm overwhelmed and confused. After 14 years, I thought I had security. I wish there was a way to know who else is affected so we could offer each other mutual support."

While there have been almost 18 full-time equivalent (FTE)

positions eliminated at the college, the vast majority, 14 in all, have come from the college's classified staff, while the other four have come from faculty and administration. An FTE is equal to the hours one full-time employee works in one year.

Uncertainty over the future affects many more workers than just those who received pink slips. The classified employees' contract with the college states that any laid off worker

has the right to "bump" a less senior worker in the same grade, provided they are qualified. This has left many workers nervously looking over their shoulders as the fallout from layoffs begins to cascade across the campus.

The bumping process may occur campus wide instead of only within a particular work unit, which is different from the last contract, according to Patti Ball, a long-time depart-

▶ Turn to "Layoffs" on Pg. 4

Editor's Note: Next week The Commuter concludes its series on budget cuts with an article on the impact of the cuts on students.

Thieves hit men's locker room

Nathan Batten
The Commuter

In one of the most brazen thefts on campus this year, sometime between 11 a.m. and noon last Friday, thieves used bolt cutters to break into several lockers in the Activities Center men's locker room, stealing driver's licenses, credit cards, vehicle keys, clothing, backpacks and textbooks.

Bruce Thompson, manager of campus security, stated that the broken locks had been stolen as well, suggesting the possibility that the locks had fingerprints that may already be in the police system.

This was the latest in a rash of men's

locker room thefts over the last several weeks that mainly occur between 11 a.m. and noon, he reported. As a result, campus patrols have been stepped up around the locker room area. At this time the women's locker room has not been hit, he stated, but that does not dismiss the possibility of future thefts. Thompson warns students to pay attention to what they carry into locker rooms and to keep their valuables to a minimum.

This type of break-in is unusual, Thompson said, noting that the most common type of theft on campus is a crime of opportunity.

The 2005 Annual Campus Security Re-

▶ Turn to "Thefts" on Pg. 5



photo by Zack Wait

Love in the Air LB student Molly Peterson (in tan jacket) receives a Valentine's Day carnation Tuesday from Laura Farmer. Members of Student Life & Leadership donned tuxedos to deliver the flowers to classrooms and offices in their annual fundraiser.

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High 43
Patchy Fog
Low 23
Wednesday

High 44
Mostly Cloudy
Low 23
Thursday

High 35
Some Sun
Low 19
Friday

High 32
Cloudy Sun
Low 20
Saturday

High 40
Partly Sunny
Low 23
Sunday

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them
 and keep them at 300 words or less.

Truth: Is it unambiguously true or is it subjective?

One student announces that the Native Americans polluted the land and then another student says, "No, that's not what happened. I did a research project about that. What happened was..."

This is a hypothetical case of the sorts of disagreements that pop up all over the place. In a classroom setting, teachers and students make claims to lots of knowledge without explaining how they know it or the source of their information.

So, how do we know anything at all? We know through experience—something

amazing happened to you and you want to tell the world about it, but do you really trust your senses, what you see, smell, touch etc?

We know by reasoning—logic is used to make sense of reality and is controversial, although there are a few self-affirming truths. The statement, "nothing is true" is false because if it's true it disproves itself and if it's false, it's false. Therefore, there is truth. An agnostic might say that no one can know if anything is true, but since there is true knowledge, if someone were to know these things, they would be in the know, despite the foundation of their reasoning.

An appeal to authority involves basing your argument on such statements as: this scholar says dinosaurs lived at the same time as humankind, so this means... I read that... This document states that... etc. All claims to knowledge are an appeal to authority, whether this authority rests on our own shoulders or that of a higher power.

Finally, we know by faith—ultimately, knowing something to be true is a matter of faith, whether it's scientifically demonstrable, promised by God or right in front of your face.

If, when trying to persuade a group of people, we appeal to an authority that they don't recognize, our argument isn't going to be convincing. The next time you are confronted with a disagreement, it may be good to stop and consider how you claim to know what you know.

Sciences like archeology and macroevolution make claims about reality that are not based on demonstrable observations, but may be consistent with collected evidence, according to "some" scientists. Science is used to prove things to be true beyond reasonable doubt according to certain assumptions, not to merely prove things to absolutely true.

It's too bad that so many scientific articles treat science as though it were to assert truth in such a way.

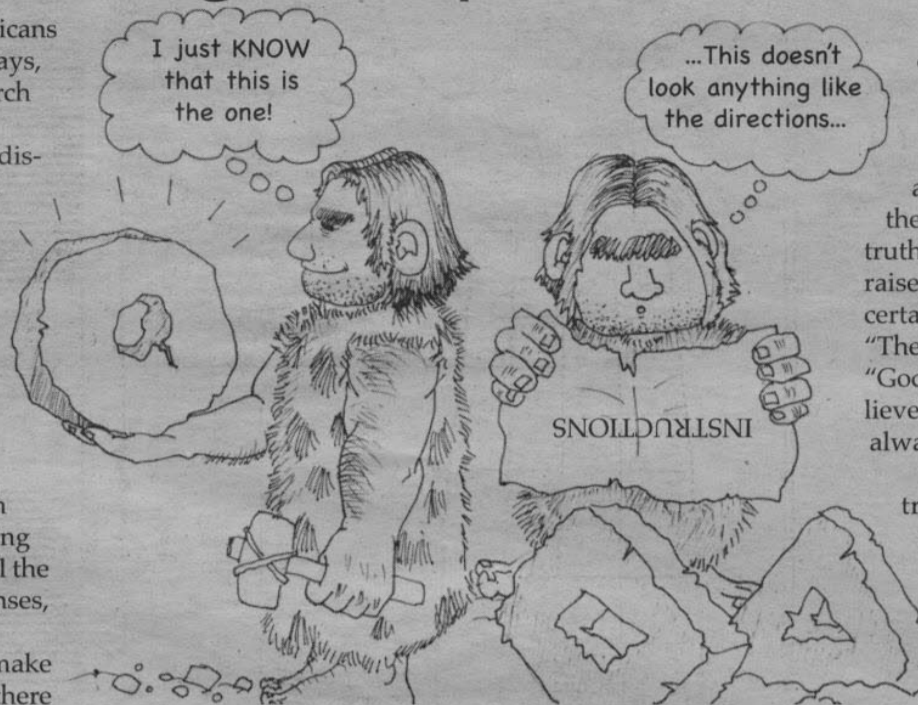


illustration by Elizabeth Beckham

Truth is subjective. It all depends on one's experience and beliefs. As such, there can be no absolute truth.

Plato tells us of a cave where people are chained to desks and made to watch as shadow puppets perform actions. Since they see only shadows, they only know these as truth. Imagine then that these people are children, raised by a society with certain beliefs, such as "The world is flat" or "God exists." People believe because they have always believed.

But belief is not truth. This is emphasized in certain

Christian writings in the non-canonical allegory such as The Gospel of Truth or The Coptic Apocalypse of Peter. In these, the greatest sin is to not look for the truth, which is knowledge, Gnosis. And Gnosis gives us Logos, the light—an understanding. As belief is not truth, neither

is understanding. It is a way that the human mind comprehends the order of the universe. It is just as rational to believe in Intelligent Falling or Gravity Gnomes, as it is to believe an explainable force that acts on objects to accelerate them. Once again, in the pursuit of a final definitive truth, faith and theory gets in our way.

For many, facts are truth. For the Greeks, the bones they discovered and assembled became the fact of Cyclops. Scientists believe those bones are dinosaurs. In all, these are our best guesses. If a fact is knowledge based on real occurrences, then it is not true, but rather it is a possibility. The only fact one really knows is their existence. Everything else could simply be a reflection on a shadow puppet wall.

The contemporary movie "The Matrix" took this theme and ran with it, integrating the Christ theory, and the idea that true knowledge (Gnosis) leads to liberation and we all have a choice. That is a possibility.

As for myself, I take what I see, other than theatre and magic shows, because in those I willingly suspend disbelief. This is, of course, just as right or wrong as faith or belief of any kind. If, as Shakespeare wrote, all the world is a stage, then everything is set up to reflect the act in which we participate. What we see is a reflection of the Grand Drama we believe ourselves in. As for history, the famous quote alleges that it is "a shared delusion" or, rather, a consensus of the multitude of beliefs and interpretations of what happened based on compromise of different versions of reality. Remember, in the Civil War, the South fought for their patriotic belief of States Rights, while the North fought namely for preservation of their patriotic belief in the founding of a Union. Both sides held these beliefs as the truth, and what emerged was a very bloody war.



AARON BROICH



HARRISON WHITE

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Limited sources in story disappoint reader

To the Editor:

I'm writing to express my concern with part of the story in the Commuter about Myspace.com and its professor ratings. I was told in passing of the story and the inclusion of an example that being of Doug Clark, who had a rating of F from the only student who rated him. My concern is that the comment from the student

explained that he dropped the class in the third week, so he couldn't possibly have a realistic view of the class. It doesn't matter what class or what teacher you take, if you drop the class in the third week, you don't have a good idea about the quality of the teacher or class. And if the comment includes, 'He's a dick,' you might want to reconsider the legitimacy and reliability of your source.

I was very disappointed with the irresponsible reporting with that article. It can be likened to walking up to a random student in the automotive mechanics program and asking them what they thought about a

teacher's class they walked past in the hall without taking it and then reporting back it was a general feeling of the entire student population that took that class.

I know it's a student-run paper, but I guess I expected at least some common sense. Also, go back and look at the ratings, at least three more people have graded Doug and none of them are F's....curiously that F was removed from the grading having been flagged as 'abuse.'

Perhaps the better examples to use would be of Terrance Millett who was rated seven times or look at the comments and see if they were at least semi-intelligent like those from the ratings of Paul Hagood, Greg Mulder or Anna Harrell. Also I'd like to point out that almost all of the teachers that were rated on MySpace received great ratings.

Again, I don't expect much from The Commuter, just some news about what is going on around campus and fairness in reporting. One random student who only went to a few class sessions shouldn't be portrayed as the majority feeling on a class, regardless of the subject, teacher, or school. Next time, ask if they actually took the class...or at least ask two.

Andrew Jones

The Commuter

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EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues.

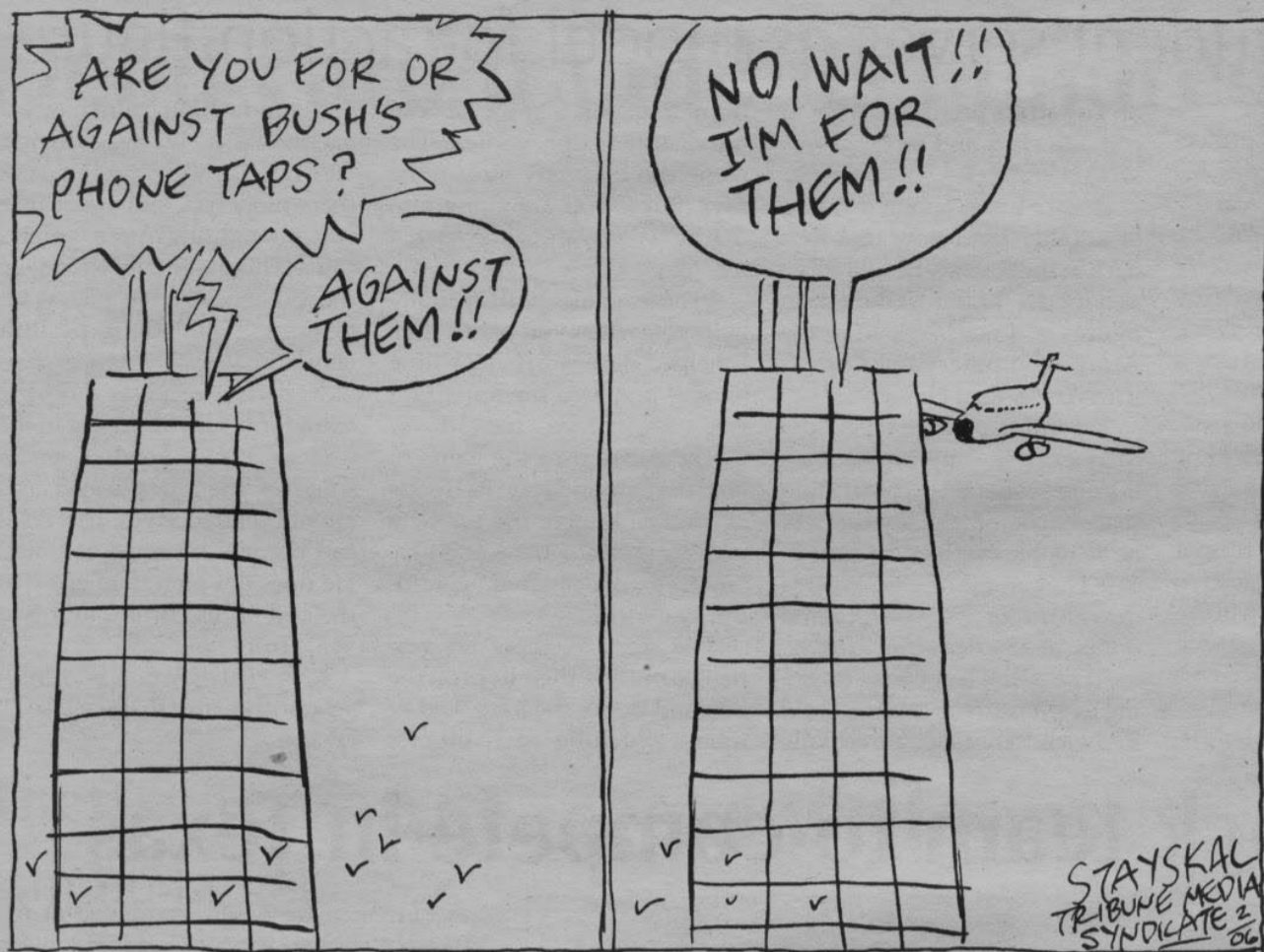
Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be limited to 250 words.

Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

Opinion Editor: Walt Hughes
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OPINION

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Opinion editor invites students to share views, debate the issues

Walt Hughes, Sr.
 The Commuter

To start off this edition with an interesting observation, I was having a slight debate about large versus small government last issue, and would you believe that while the Republican Party carries on about wanting to downsize the U.S. government, they plan on announcing Monday that 1,500 new permanent personnel will be added to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As I believe I pointed out, downsizing is an admirable idea that will never happen. Compared to the millions and billions we are dumping into the Middle East these days, a million dollars or so a week in salaries and a few more millions for office space and supplies seem like a drop in the bucket. So much for downsizing, but it's nothing new from people who seem to have some problems separating fact from fiction anyway.



like the trickle-down idea of the Reaganomics era, no matter which side of the debate you take or what your opinion, everything done in Washington, D.C. ends up coming home to Albany, Ore., sooner or later. That affects you as a student at LBCC and as a citizen in general. It affects the laws you live under, taxes you pay, your rights as a private individual and so on.

Recent news has brought out the fact that Lewis "Scooter" Libby is pointing the finger at Dick Cheney in stating that he had permission from his superiors to divulge information to reporters about a Central Intelligence Agency employee. Since Libby was the chief of staff to the vice president of the United States at the time, the only superior he could be talking about is Dick Cheney. Regardless of who gave him the permission, it is against the law to divulge classified information.

The Jack Abramoff scandal just gets more interesting all the time. It seems part of Mr. Abramoff's deal with federal prosecutors is that he point fingers at and helps to prosecute the rest of his law-breaking cronies. Even more

interesting is that they all seem to be Republicans.

Add up the fact that even Republican senators and congressmen are telling George W. Bush that without a warrant he is breaking the law by spying on American citizens, that Congressman Tom Delay has big legal problems, that a number of other Republicans have been caught up in scandal after scandal and you may reach a conclusion that where there's smoke there must be fire, as that old saying goes.

A funny fact that almost borders on pure absurdity is the statement from George W. Bush that he never met Jack Abramoff when a whole slew of pictures of the two of them clearly show that he is an outright liar. Speaking of integrity, honesty and all that happy stuff, I wonder— if he would lie about a simple thing like that what else would the man lie about? Is that Bush bashing, or just trying to make some sort of sense of the Republican circus that seems to be taking place all over this country lately? I look forward to reading your opinions and comments on it.

Writing an opinion column can get really interesting at times. Opinion is nothing more and nothing less than an idea gathered from looking around at what's happening in the world each day. If you are reading this you have an opinion. Each and every person you talk with in a day's time has their own opinion of a given subject, and everyone from the president of the United States to the bum panhandling on the street corner has an opinion one way or the other. The only real difference is that the opinion columnist, any opinion columnist, tries to express it in a way that makes sense to the reader.

So right about here, I will ask your opinion. I have a drop box just inside the front door of The Commuter, and there is always e-mail (www.linnbenton.edu/commuter) if that is more convenient. Like you, I listen to what other people have to say. Some have called me a "Bush Basher" lately because I write about Washington politics and the shenanigans going on up there. Others say "Right On!" and "Go for it!" with a big smile. Religion and politics can be volatile subjects. One thing we will do is print letters to the editor. The truth is that,

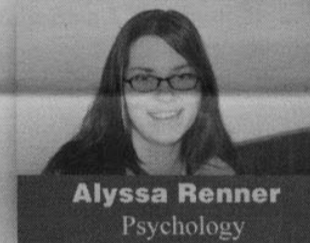
PERSPECTIVES

What do you think about wiretapping U.S. citizens without a warrant?



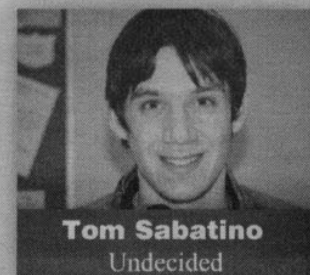
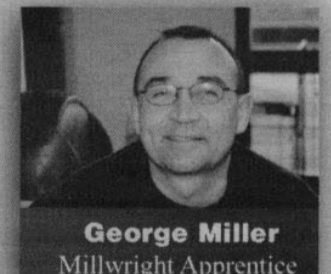
"I don't think they should do it. We have a constitutional right to privacy."

"If it's necessary to keep our country safe, then they have to do what they have to do."



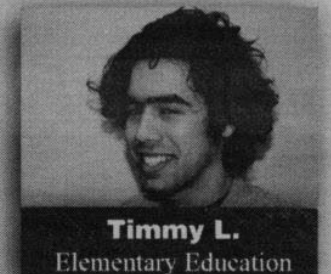
"Safety is the No. 1 priority, so to keep us safe it should be done."

"Homeland Security is important, but wiretapping is going too far."



"They shouldn't be doing anything without a warrant."

"They should get a warrant. What defines a terrorist? It's a privacy issue."



Compiled by Colleen Franzoia

Managing Editor: Jennifer Overholser
commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

The New Lake Shore Lanes is now hiring energetic, smiling faces to bartend. No experience required. Great opportunity for additional income while attending school. Apply at 5432 Pacific Blvd. SW 926-4631

*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

Bookkeeper (#4014, Albany) Growing seed company has a part-time position (20-30 hrs/week) for a student who has knowledge of accounting. They are flexible with your school schedule. Pay is \$8/hr.

ATV Service Technician (#4010, Harrisburg) This full-time job from Tue-Sat needs someone who has knowledge about small engine repair. Pay starts at \$10/hr.

Network Administrator (#4008, Tangent) If you are looking for a part-time job that is flexible with your schedule and you are really knowledgeable about networks and computers, this job is for you!

Distribution Center Warehouse Worker (#3999, Albany) This full-time (30+ hrs/week) position pays \$11.17/hr with shift differential for the 2nd shift. You work four 10-hr/days or nights a week. Work for the largest distribution center around here.

FOR SALE

FREE: 3 Vintage Couches for re-upholstering projects. Call 812-0627

SCHOLARSHIP INFO.

Oregon Assoc. of Broadcasters Foundation
More than \$6,000 in scholarships will be offered to Oregon resident students who are majoring in Broadcast Journalism, Production, Management, and/or broadcast-related studies. Application due date is 05/12/2006.

Oregon Medical Education Foundation
Three annual scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to current seniors or graduates of Linn or Benton County High Schools. Application due date is 03/01/2006.

Oregon Logging Conference
Eight scholarships will be awarded to students interested in the following areas of study: Forestry, Forest Engineering, Forest Management, and other related areas. Application due date is 03/31/2006

St. Elizabeth Health Services
A \$2,000 scholarship to a graduate of a Baker County High School or a current Baker County resident who has at least a college sophomore status by Sept. of 2006 and who is enrolled in a health care field. Application due date is 05/20/2006.

Criteria for the above scholarships and application information is located in the kiosk next to the Financial Aid office.

Oregon PTA Scholarship
A \$500 scholarship to Oregon students who are/will be attending an Oregon public college or university and will be majoring in Education. For details and an application, please go to www.oregonpta.org, deadline is March 20, 2006.

Deadline:

Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission.

Solutions

A	T	S	E	D	V	G	S	D	S	L	E	A	D
D	O	W	M	E	N	E	R	R	E	H	T	E	
S	V	L	E	R	E	D	O	O	H	O	V	M	
E	G	V	R	H	E	B	A	V	R	O	V	A	
N	O	L	A	O	M	S	H	S	F	E	A	R	
V	Z	N	L	H	P	O	S	S	S	I	K		
E	H	V	S	T	C	E	R	E	S	S	V	A	
B	O	L	G	F	E	E	B	E	T	E	V	T	E
R	E	N	I	H	S	H	S	I	S	L	U	E	
E	N	V	I	V	N	T	E	O	K	A	R	M	
E	N	U	X	O	C	I	O	T	C	O	H	M	
L	U	E	I	N	I	L	A	V	E	L	E	R	
S	P	A	S	T	A	F	L	A	T	A	D		

Hero: Student serves as model for action figure

◀ From Pg. 1
and arm, but credits his protective body armor with saving his life. "We are required to wear the vests at all times on patrol," he said.

Zedwick has been in the Army National Guard for seven years, ever since he graduated from Corvallis High School in 1999. He spent a year in Iraq from March 2004 to March 2005. He is currently enrolled as a first-year graphic design student at LBCC. He switched from his former business major at the suggestion of LB digital imaging instructor, Lewis Franklin, who served with Zedwick in Iraq and noticed his creative work around camp.

"I'm pretty much of a hands-

on guy so it's pretty cool I get to come to class and be creative," he said.

Zedwick is receiving an honor of another kind now that he's back in the States—he will serve as a model for one of the action figures in a new version of the Army's computer game "America's Army, Real Heroes."

He will also be the the model for one of a new line of plastic action figures issued in conjunction with the computer game that will be available in stores for around \$10. The game is offered as a free download or may be ordered online at americasarmy.com.

"The game is focused on being as realistic as possible," said Zedwick. "The maps are actually

from Iraq. It's a more special forces interaction game." The game can be pretty violent, he says, but if you are going into that field you want to know what it is like.

"Those games will actually help you when you get to Iraq. It helped desensitize me a little bit and prepared me for what I was going to face," he said.

The Army uses the game to help prepare and train its troops as well as to give the public a realistic idea of what war is like. "It's pretty educational," continues Zedwick.

The story is, these are real heroes putting their lives on the line and doing the job asked of them, watching each other's

backs and making sure they get back home safely, says Zedwick. "It's not like we want to be out there ourselves, but we realize we are fighting for a greater cause. This game tries to convey those concepts. We just want to present something positive about the war."

Zedwick receives nothing extra for his involvement in the project. While he does enjoy some of the extra travel and attention he receives, he says it can become tiresome at times. He does not plan to re-enlist at the end of his current tour two years from now.

"My goal right now is to finish school and after that we'll see," he says.

Livestock team to compete in Texas

Nancey West
The Commuter

The Livestock Judging team will travel to San Antonio, Texas this week to compete in its first national qualifying contest of the year.

Five members of the team will make the trip, accompanied by coach Clay Weber.

"I think we are competitive and very strong. We each bring our own assets to the team," said Marissa McDowell, sophomore.

McDowell and Sarah North are the only returning members of the team, but the team is not lacking experience. Allison Meadows, along with North, traveled to the 2003 National FFA Livestock Judging contest in Louisville, Ky. Both attended Crater High School in Central Point. Shiann

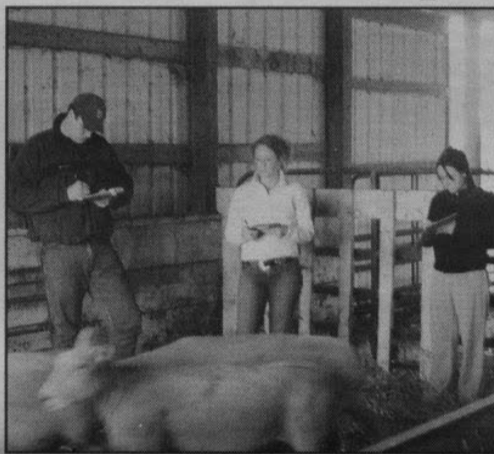


photo by Nancey West

Livestock Judging Team members Josh Grimes, Shiann Ashenbrenner and Brittany Sintek practice for their first national qualifying contest, which takes place in San Antonio this week.

Ashenbrenner, freshman, competed at the 2003 4-H National Livestock Judging contest. The team won second place.

"We know somewhat of what to expect," said North of the previous experience, "but there is a lot more competition at the college level."

Other members of the team, Brittany Sintek, Josh Grimes, Jared Collins, Cole Pritchard and Owen White all have backgrounds in 4-H, FFA or on family farms.

The team competed in three West Coast shows last fall, placing second at one. North won high point individual at Chico State and the Fall Classic in Medford.

Traveling to the San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo will be McDowell, North, Ashenbrenner, Meadows and Sintek. "It is a male-dominated field. You don't always see an all-girl team," North said.

Layoffs: Workers with seniority can bump others

◀ From Pg. 1
ment secretary whose current position has been eliminated.

"The bumping process is causing quite a bit of anxiety because they do not know who is being bumped," said Ball, who expects to find out soon who she will be eligible to bump. "The tough thing is not knowing if it is someone you know or someone with a family. They give you a specific position [to bump], and it's only one. You do not get a choice. Keeping everything confidential is another difficult thing."

Some employees have questioned the administration's choice of positions to cut. Kathy Martinak, an office coordinator in Financial Aid whose position was cut, wonders how the remaining people in her office will handle her former duties while still providing adequate service to the students.

"I didn't understand the rhyme or reason for cutting my position," said Martinak, who has 16 years of experience. "Classified people feel extremely vulnerable. Unless you have 30 years of seniority, you are not safe. The way the decisions have been made has made everyone who is concerned feel there is no security."

She feels morale has been seriously affected. And it's not just the layoffs that have dampened the mood across the campus this term. The recent deaths of two students and two staff, ongoing faculty contract negotiations in the midst of budget cuts, and the rainy winter have all combined with the bumping process to contribute to the dismal state of staff morale, according to Annie Marie Etheridge, president of the

"The bumping process is causing quite a bit of anxiety because they do not know who is being bumped."

Patti Ball, department secretary

Faculty Association.

Etheridge said the impact of the cuts on the faculty was not as great as it was the last time major budget reductions took place a few years ago. She said the only full-time faculty position eliminated was that held by history instructor Michael Weiss, who died of cancer in December. Other faculty have had their loads reduced.

Brenda Pace, president of the management bargaining group, said many of its members have been directly involved in the budget process, and therefore have been better prepared. She said the management lost the equivalent of two FTE positions.

Gary Snyder, manager of hospitality services, said his department has lost three classified staff positions. In addition, he has cut the hours of the Courtyard Cafe in the evenings, closing at 7 p.m. instead of 9. He also expects to start opening the Commons at 10 a.m., instead of 7:30, starting next term.

"Everybody's pretty upset by this," he said. "The person who is bumped is out. They can't continue the process. It takes years to get over that. You lose that sense of trust."

Most of the people whose positions have been cut have now been notified as to whom they are bumping, according to Martinak. Those people now have one week to make

their decision. This is complicated by the fact that if they decide not to bump, they probably will not be eligible for unemployment benefits, according to what the Human Resources Department has told them.

Richard Balleaux, a maintenance specialist whose position was cut, understands why it happened but wonders when it will all end. "They always seem to be behind. How come we never get even?" he said about the college's budget process. He does feel the cuts have not been as bad as they could have been because of the former reductions made by previous LB President Jon Carnahan.

Adding to the morale problem is the worry about the additional \$166,000 in cuts that remain. The administration has tried to ease the uncertainty by attempting to keep the lines of communication open and informing the employees of their rights and alternatives, according to Vice President Mike Holland. Several meetings have been held to that end, and the services of a counselor through the Employee Assistance Program are available.

The bumping process may be finished within the next one or two months, but its repercussions will reverberate for years.

"I don't think it's going to be normal around here for a long time," said one staffer, "especially with the retraining that will have to happen and working with the people who have been bumped."

The anxiety over what they are doing to others is also very hard on those in the position to bump.

"I hate what I'm doing to the next person," said Martinak.

Copy Editor: Melissa Chaney
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Debit card fraud hits hundreds in Corvallis

Robert Wong
 The Commuter

On Jan. 24 LBCC student Sarah Graves-Swall was at work and went online to log into her bank account to check on car payments.

What she found there was an unwelcome surprise. Over \$300 had been withdrawn from her account without her knowledge from an ATM in Moscow. Graves-Swall, an education major, had a total of \$685 taken from her over a two-day period. Two withdrawals were accessed from an ATM within the Novoslobodskaya subway station, and a third the next day from another ATM on Dolgorukovskaya Street.

After talking to employees at the Washington Mutual, where her account was housed, Graves-Swall eventually had her money refunded to her within a week's time.

Others like Graves-Swall have been victims as well. According to the Jan. 24 edition of the Corvallis Gazette-

Times, 1,200 members of the OSU Credit Union had their debit card information taken from them, with total losses exceeding \$10,000. Citizens Bank and U.S. Bank were among the other banks affected by the debit card fraud, Graves-Swall found out after talking to authorities. Numbers on accounts from these other banks that were affected by the fraud have not been released.

The Corvallis Police Department reported that money was withdrawn from banks in Moscow, New York, the Ukraine and South Korea. Corvallis police also said that data from debit card purchases was likely stolen from a third-party debit card authorization company after purchases at a local retail store.

Federal investigators and Corvallis police are collaborating to find out how and where the information was stolen.

"I'm probably not going to use my debit card for a little while now," Graves-Swall said, noting that she is now using cash and checks to make her daily purchases.

The Web site for the Federal Trade Commission recommends carrying your cards separately from your wallet or purse, saving all of your receipts and keeping a record of your card numbers with expiration dates. The FTC goes on to advise against lending your card to others and giving out your account number over the phone to a questionable caller.

For added protection against debit card fraud, the FTC recommends using a credit card for online purchases for added security. In the event that your credit card or debit card information is stolen, credit cards are the safer route, as you will only be charged a maximum of \$50 for liability under the terms of the Fair Credit Billing Act, according to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. PIRG also notes that with debit cards, the minimum charge is \$50-\$500 in the event that your information is misused. There is also the very real risk that all of the money in your checking account could be taken and not be reimbursed.

Thefts: Texts can be targets

◀ From Pg. 1

port states there were 20 thefts at LBCC, whereas 63 were reported the previous year. Thompson explained that the difference may reflect the numbers of students enrolled in LBCC. When there are more students, you have more reports.

Despite the drop in the numbers, thefts at LBCC are pretty consistent, Thompson said. Common items reported stolen range from tennis shoes to cell phones.

Several months ago a student left five textbooks in a classroom and stepped out for a few minutes. When he returned, the student realized his textbooks had been stolen. One textbook was worth just over \$100.

Thompson gives textbooks a high priority because of their cost. He credits the custodial staff for their efforts in checking cans around campus before they are emptied. Many items are turned into the Lost and Found located in Room 123 of the College Center building.

Students can help to protect their valuables by not storing them in unlocked lockers. Thompson suggests that if students have items they consider valuable, it is a good idea to record the serial numbers and take pictures of them. Engraving a name or a series of numbers onto the back of the items greatly helps in identifying the owner of stolen items. But the key, Thompson says, is to remain consistent in your markings of the items.

If something is stolen report it to campus security and file a police report, he urged. Once a stolen item has been filed with the police, the department will put the stolen item on a "hot sheet."

A hot sheet is a database of stolen items that is circulated among local area pawnshops. Anytime an item is brought to a pawnshop, it is checked against the hot sheet for matching serial numbers and or markings provided by the police or student.

ASG seeks write-ins

Harrison White
 The Commuter

Shawn Womack and current ASG Representative Phillip Jones have filed to run for president of the Associated Student Government in next week's elections.

Running for the position of business representative are Joe Giner and Troy Bagnall, and running unopposed for science and industry representative is Derek Durham.

No candidates have filed for the other five positions—vice president, public relations/secretary, liberal arts representative, student services and extended learning representative, and at-large representative.

Jones said he believes in promoting students' health and correcting things in the school he sees as problematic. Womack described himself as open to comments and feedback from the students, and leading ethically and creatively.

According to his election profile, Bagnall believes in responding to the concerns of others and

servicing the students by giving them greater participation in the school. Durham's profile indicated that he believes in operating the college in a business manner. If there is low demand for a class, he believes it should be cut. Tuition costs must be reduced, and after 15 credits or more, they should be free.

Students can run as write-in candidates for the five open positions, but they must file the required paperwork within five days of the election if they receive enough votes to win.

Josh Gordon, current ASG vice president, was a write-in last year, and he encourages students to run now. The opportunity is worth it, he said, but added, "You need to campaign" to win as a write-in.

The vice presidency and secretary positions offer 12-credit tuition grants over three terms, and the representative positions offer 12-credit grants for two terms. Elections are on Feb. 21 and 22, and voting is online at www.linnbenton.edu/election.

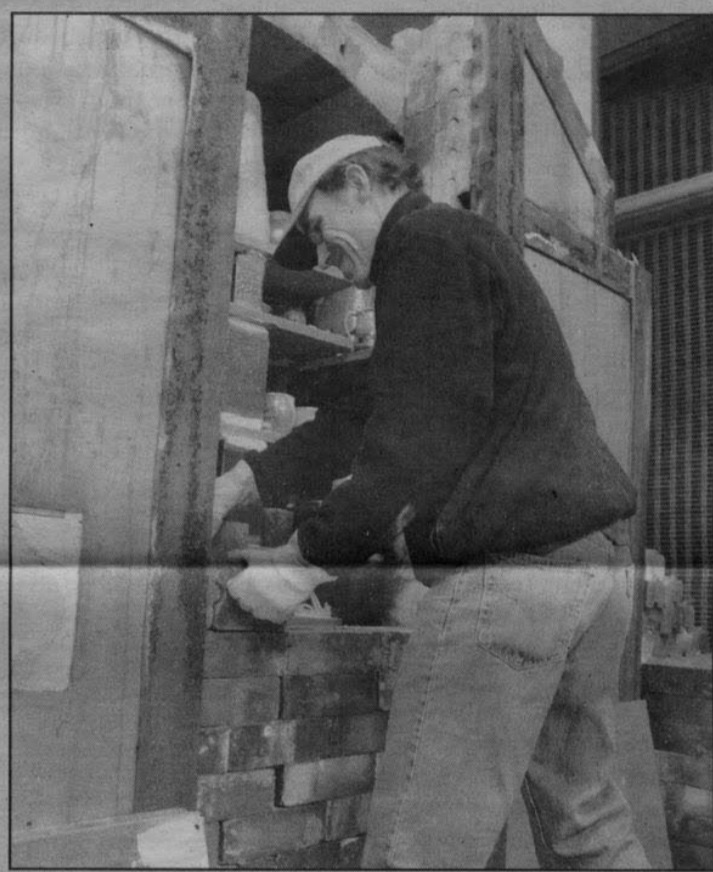



photo by Zack Wait

Fired Up

Jeff Gunn removes bricks from the wall of the Benton Center's experimental low salt kiln during a class with instructor Cynthia Spencer. This type of kiln requires careful preparation and a specific firing method.

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SPORTS

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

Young women satisfy need for speed in longboarding sport

Elizabeth Beckham
 The Commuter

More and more young women have been breaking the stereotype of a "girly girl" and have taken on skateboarding and longboarding.

No longer just a boy's sport or a roughneck activity of rebellion, girls are making boarding all their own and opening the door to a whole new kind of sport. They are seen cruising across campus from class to class, going down sidewalks through town or bombing down hills outside of town. I actually saw a girl with a gold sparkly bag boarding down the sidewalk and she appeared to know exactly what she was doing. It just goes to show there is no particular "type" of girl that enjoys this old hobby made new.

Elizabeth Hernandez, a graphic design student at LBCC, is part of a group of girls that have adopted longboarding as the new extra-curricular activity.

"I first got into it because a friend of mine was really into it. He was talking about it and said he would bring in his extra boards for us to try. It didn't matter that he was a guy—he just wanted more people to board with. I fell flat on my butt the first time but after that, I was hooked." Hernandez rides a Freeboard, which looks like a larger version of your average skateboard.

Longboarding appears to be contagious. Hernandez and her friend Beckii Brim, also a graphic design student and fellow longboarder, have joined forces with other graphic design students, Megan Dykstra and Amanda McIntyre.

"I started skating in California because of the surf scene," says McIntyre. McIntyre's daughter, Samantha, is also learning. Brim rides an Arbor board, which is geared toward cruising and sharp turns and rides much like a surfboard. Dykstra likes the speed you can get on longboards or "bomber boards." When I asked her where she liked to board she became excited and

talked about her need for speed. "I like to go anywhere there are hills and you can really get going fast."

Dykstra rides Sector 9 longboards, which are different than regular longboards. They are more aerodynamic and made for going down hills at high speeds. Downtown Corvallis is a popular choice. The long, gradual decline of the sidewalks along the waterfront provides nice scenery and a relaxing cruise with your fellow boarders. Monteith Park in downtown Albany has long winding sidewalks with steeper hills for the braver longboarder. According to Hernandez, "Longboarding is more about cruising and hanging out with other

friends who like to cruise. It's not about doing tricks as much or endangering yourself. It's like the Cadillac of skateboarding."

There aren't many board shops that carry longboards in the area. You have to go to a place like Pac Sun in Eugene or Copeland's just to find a decent board let alone anything geared toward the female boarders. Hernandez says, "We haven't been able to find any cool girl gear or girl-oriented boards. Since we are graphic designers we have been designing our own boards and graphics. We plan on selling them to local board shops eventually but right now we're too busy with school to do anything major just yet."

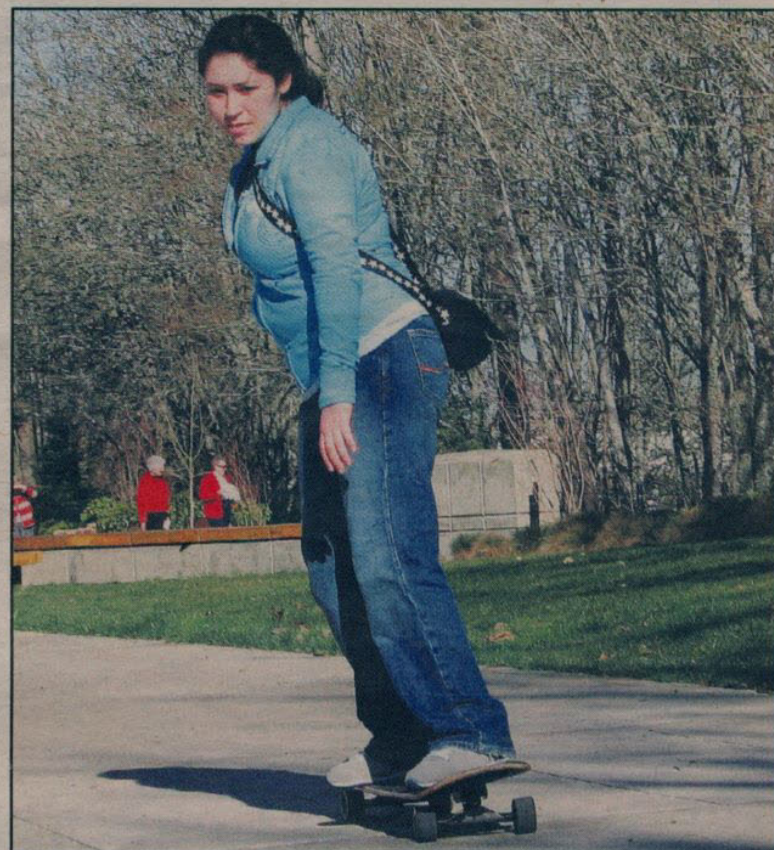


photo by Adam Ball

Graphic design student Elizabeth Hernandez rides her longboard as she enjoys a recent sunny day at Riverfront Park in Corvallis.



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Submit prints of your work to be auctioned off to raise money for the Visual Arts Club.

Pieces are DUE in the NSH RM101 by March 17. Include name and contact information on the back of the piece. Must be ready to hang (matted and/or framed).

The Show and Silent Auction will be held in the Commons Saturday, April 22nd. - starting at 3 PM. Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

For more information contact:
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SPORTS

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

Turnovers doom LB men

Caleb Hawley
 Commuter

Struggles continue for the Roadrunners (10-13, 3-6) as they dropped another league game to the Portland Panthers (12-12, 4-5) 72-60 Saturday night. Poor three-point shooting and turnovers led to the Runners' demise.

The first half was a very close contest with neither team performing well on offense. The teams combined for a total of 25 turnovers in the half. Poor shooting plagued both sides with LB shooting 34.8 percent from the field to the Panther's 27.3 percent. Despite shooting worse than the Runners, the Panthers held a first half lead of 25-23. Free throws were the difference in the first half, with PCC shooting 71 percent from the line to the Runners 45 percent.

Scoring picked up in the second half as the teams settled into their offenses. LB took the lead on a Derek Grinnel put back to go ahead 38-36, but this would be the last time the Runners would see a lead.

PCC answered with a 17-4 run that put the game out of reach. After the run, Grinnel single-handedly attempted a

comeback by stringing together 13 consecutive points, but his efforts were snubbed out with PCC answering nearly every point on their way to a 72-60 victory.

Grinnel led all scorers on the night with 22 on 8 of 13 shooting off the bench. Ryon Pool added 10 points and 10 rebounds. Dustin Vaughn also registered a solid night, pitching in nine points and nine rebounds.

"There are only two thoughts that I have" said head coach Randy Falk. "Portland worked harder from beginning to end than we did. Even though we had some spurts, we didn't have any consistency in our effort. And we have to do a better job versus pressure, taking care of the ball. Twenty-four turnovers is going to be a hard thing to overcome to win a ball game."



photo by Caleb Hawley

Runner guard Behdad Sami dashes to the hoop past a Panther defender in last Saturday's game in the Activities Center. The Runners lost the game 72-60, which dropped them to 3-6 and sixth place in league play.

scoreboard

Men		STANDINGS		Women	
	League	Overall		League	Overall
Mt. Hood	9-0	20-3	Clackamas	8-1	18-4
Chemeketa	8-1	16-6	Lane	8-1	24-1
Clackamas	5-4	16-8	Umpqua	7-2	19-5
Portland	4-5	12-12	Chemeketa	6-3	9-11
Lane	4-5	10-13	Linn-Benton	3-6	7-16
Linn-Benton	3-6	10-13	SWOCC	3-6	10-11
Umpqua	2-7	5-17	Portland	2-7	8-14
SWOCC	1-8	7-15	Mt. Hood	0-9	2-18

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Feb. 15	Coos Bay	SWOCC	W-5:30 M-7:30
Feb. 18	Oregon City	Clackamas	W-4:00 M-6:00
Feb. 22	Linn-Benton	Lane	W-5:30 M-7:30
Feb. 25	Linn-Benton	Mt. Hood	W-4:00 M-6:00



photo by Caleb Hawley

Rebekah Welch struggles to get off a shot against PCC.

Playoff hopes fading for Lady Runners

Neal Jones
 The Commuter

On Saturday the Lady Roadrunners (3-6) lost 75-65 to the PCC Panthers (2-7) at home.

The first half ended pretty well for Linn Benton with a 31-30 lead over the Panthers. It was a very tight contest with both teams nearly exchanging basket for basket. LB played a good first half but couldn't capitalize on building a bigger lead. The Roadrunners did a good job of getting to the line but only made seven of 15 of their free-throws. They also shot nine three-point shots but made just one.

In the second half the Lady Runners seemed flat and Portland took advantage of it by Kyrstal Saling scoring 35 points with three rebounds, three assists, and four steals. The Panthers didn't shoot very well in the second half but got to the line 23 times and made 17. LB actually played a really close game out-rebounding Portland 55-44. The Panthers didn't out play the Roadrunners in many categories but their lead scorer, Saling, just shot really well.

One of the top performers for the Lady Runners was

Simrin Cummings with 15 points and seven rebounds. Also, the Runners had two players with double-doubles, Sarah Long with 13 points and 10 rebounds and Emily Wood with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Lacey Ocupe led the team with four assists and Wood led the team with three steals. Whitney Bryant also had a big game with 14 points.

The Lady Roadrunners will try to make the most of the rest of the season. Coach AJ Dionne said, "As far as being in the playoffs our chances are slimming. The rest of year we will be playing for pride, try winning more games and improve so we can build on the rest of this year for next year." She also added, "It's hard because everyone comes in at the beginning of the season preparing for playoffs. We come in hoping to get that fourth spot. It's up to us to make that happen but by not winning games that should be won, we are counting on other teams to lose. I hope the girls want to play hard and finish good," said Dionne.

Linn-Benton will be on the road next week for both games. On Wednesday they play SWOCC in Coos Bay at 5:30 p.m. On Saturday they travel to Oregon City to take on Clackamas C.C. at 4 p.m.

High expectations face Beavers as baseball season opens

Adam Loghides
 The Commuter

There is a saying, "All roads lead to Rome."

The members of the 2006 Oregon State baseball team are hoping all the roads they travel this season lead to Omaha, Neb., and a second consecutive College World Series appearance.

After last season's magical run to the Beavers' first CWS appearance in over 50 years, there is a desire within the team to not only get back to Omaha, but to make some noise this time. The Beaver's left last year's CWS with a seventh-place finish. There was a feeling of an opportunity

missed with the entire team, and according to head coach Pat Casey, that missed opportunity is being used as motivation as the Beavers begin this season.

According to 2005 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, shortstop Darwin Barney, the road to Omaha seemed endless going into last season. Now, Barney says the road seems shorter. "We know what we have to do and what it takes to get there," he said last week, days prior to the opening of the 2006 campaign.

"We got a taste of Omaha last year, and we knew we were good," said 2005 All Pac-10 pitcher Kevin Gunderson of last season's club. He stressed the importance of looking forward rather than

back, saying this is a new team and a new season. Coach Casey agreed, "Our 2005 club is in the history books now."

OSU begins the 2006 season ranked eighth nationally by "Baseball America Magazine," and has been picked to repeat as conference champions in the pre-season Pac-10 coaches poll. They return 19 lettermen from last year's 46-12 club. The shoes to fill this season belong to All-American center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury and first baseman Andy Jenkins.

Coach Casey says this team is strong up the middle with Barney, senior Ryan Gipson at second base and junior center fielder Tyler Graham. Undoubtedly though, coach Casey points to the Bea-

vers' strength being on the mound.

The Beavers return its entire starting pitching rotation, led by last year's Pac-10 ERA leader, junior Dallas Buck. Closer Gunderson returns from a season in which he tied for the Pac-10 lead in saves with 14.


The returning pitching may be good enough to allow the Beavers to buy time and fill the holes vacated by Ellsbury and Jenkins, allowing OSU to re-shape the team and establish a new identity.

Coach Casey is trying to keep expectations in perspective, despite the great deal of excitement surrounding the program. "The only goal we have right now is to try to be the best team we can be."

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FUNNY BONES

Crossword, cartoons, LBCC Commons menu and some fun facts to brighten your day.



**Got Questions?
Need Answers?**

Ask Isabelle
Send your questions to
ask_isabelle@hotmail.com

Dear Isabelle,

My boyfriend and I have been seeing each other for four months. Things are going really well but I have a dilemma. I don't know what to get him for Valentines Day. Even though we have been seeing each other for awhile, I don't really know what he would like as a romantic gift. He is into football, goes to OSU and likes fishing and hanging out with his friends. Not really a lot to choose from. Got any ideas?

Valentines Dilemma

Dear Dilemma,

Honestly, I am not sure guys even care about that stuff, but I am sure they appreciate when it happens. Maybe it's that they just don't expect it. In my experience, most guys don't really like the mushy stuff early on in a relationship. It makes them feel uncomfortable and maybe a little smothered. So keep your gift lighthearted and fun. Guys usually like food, so that's always a good idea. Think heart shaped brownies with a sweet card or get tickets to an OSU game and make him a nice dinner before you go. Just think balance. A little food and sports for him, and a little romance for

Dear Isabelle,

Valentine's Day has grown into the holiday that I dislike the most, maybe just because I'm a guy. And I really don't have any good memories of February 14th. I got dumped (or rather she stopped talking to me completely for no reason whatsoever, totally out of the blue, and never gave an explanation) V-Day two years ago. Without trying to sound bitter, I have other reasons, one is that (in my opinion) it's a day completely surrounded by romancing girls, which is fine, but shouldn't it be equal? When was the last time a girl took their guy out on V-Day, bought him fancy accessories and chocolates, all for the ultimate of getting him to sleep with her that night? It's ALWAYS the other way around.

As a kid, the ultimate goal was getting the most amount of V-Day cards from your classmates. When you're 9, do you really need to be wooing the opposite of sex using valentines with likenesses of cartoon characters? My favorite discussion of this is on the Simpson's episode where Lisa gives Ralph a Valentine card out of pity with a train on it that says "I choo, choo, choose you!" SO, the question is WHAT really is Valentine's Day? I see it as a holiday skewed towards women that conspires to make us guys buy expensive jewelry, flowers, dinners, all for the purpose of getting laid and so kids can give out Valentines to their classmates. Just calling it like I see it.

Timmmmmay

Dear Timmmmay,

That's a darn good question. Valentine's Day means many things to many people. I guess it all does come down to what you associate it with. When you are young and have never been hurt, it's easy to look forward to a romanticized holiday like Valentine's Day. As you become older and more jaded, you may not feel the same way. I for one am over Valentine's Day. I don't feel a need to make a special holiday to celebrate love. Love should happen every day. So don't feel like you are missing out on something. To each their own.

FOR ADVICE...

E-mail Isabelle for anonymous, fair and unbiased advice anytime at ask_isabelle@hotmail.com or drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222, addressed to Ask Isabelle.

All names will be kept confidential and private. Isabelle will answer all letters as space allows so please be patient if we don't get to your letter right away.



"I had the dream again ... I'm walking down the hall in high school and everyone's pointing and laughing ... and that's when I realize - I'm wearing all my clothes!"

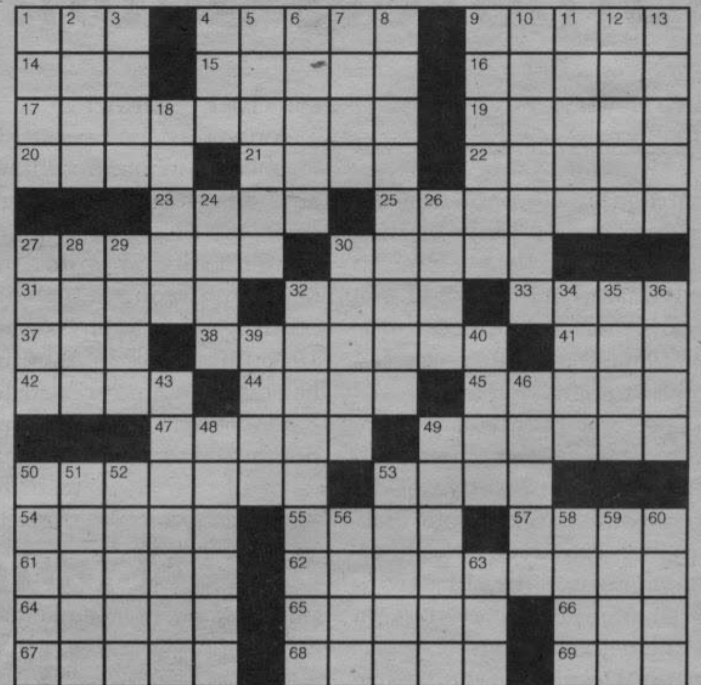


...Fun Facts...

- 15% of women send themselves flowers on Valentines Day.
- You have no sense of smell when you're sleeping!
- The average child will eat 1,500 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches by the time he/she graduates from high school.
- Women end up digesting most of the lipstick that they apply.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 June honoree
 - 4 G-sharp
 - 9 Rigging supports
 - 14 Regard with regret
 - 15 "Mule Train" singer Frankie
 - 16 Serenity
 - 17 Wild, white canine
 - 19 Excessive
 - 20 Type of shark
 - 21 Sicilian volcano
 - 22 Vacuous
 - 23 Pitcher Tiant
 - 25 Herb of early TV
 - 27 Mean-spirited to the max
 - 30 Dutch painter.
 - 31 Make happy
 - 32 Complaint
 - 33 Rounded lump
 - 37 Small batteries
 - 38 Turns down
 - 41 Exist
 - 42 Osculate
 - 44 Future jr.
 - 45 Operatic Mario
 - 47 Shapely fruits
 - 49 Continue
 - 50 Baseball blow
 - 53 Plum variety
 - 54 Bellowing
 - 55 Pugilist Max
 - 57 Current craze
 - 61 Prefix with economics
 - 62 Gilbert and Sullivan shows
 - 64 Old anesthetic
 - 65 Extend a subscription
 - 66 Broom's cousin
 - 67 Heads up
 - 68 B+ or A-
 - 69 Shifty
- DOWN**
- 1 Whiskey shot
 - 2 Distinctive air
 - 3 52 cards
 - 4 "Sting like a bee" boxer
 - 5 "Deal with the truth..."
 - 6 Cheers up
 - 7 Shortly
 - 8 Lubbock sch.
 - 9 Gallant escort
 - 10 Given to plays on words-
 - 11 Actor Quinn
 - 12 Meet with fellow alums
 - 13 Bulldogger's beast
 - 18 "Rent me" sign
 - 24 Operator
 - 26 Test for weight
 - 27 Bird's bill
 - 28 Jai
 - 29 Sauciness
 - 30 Trickles (through)
 - 32 1970s Wimbledon star
 - 34 Daily Planet reporter
 - 35 Rice-shaped pasta
 - 36 Conk on the noggin
 - 39 Genesis twin
 - 40 Trudge
 - 43 Pierced
 - 46 Deflect
 - 48 Oversights
 - 49 Spoiled
 - 50 Actress Veronica
 - 51 Pontificate
 - 52 Chocolate coffee flavor
 - 53 Actress Davis
 - 56 Unoriginal one
 - 58 24-hr. cash conveniences
 - 59 "The Ballad of Reading"
 - 60 Catch a glimpse of
 - 63 Lamb's mama



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2/18/06

**Answers
Provided
on Page
Four**

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

Commons

FEB. 15 - FEB. 21

Wednesday:
ENTREES: Baked Stuffed Snapper; Braised Lamb; Rommali Roti (flat bread) w/Curried Vegetables
SIDES: Steamed New Potatoes w/Fine Herbs; Glazed Car-rots & Turnip
SOUPS: Gazpacho; Cream of Broccoli

Thursday:
ENTREES: Lemon Chicken w/Steamed Rice; Pork Lyonnaise - Stuffed pork chop on a bed of carmelized onions; Huevos Rancheros
SIDES: Mashed Potatoes; Cauliflower w/Cheddar Cheese Sauce
SOUPS: Grilled Vegetable Beef; Beer Cheese

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday:
ENTREES: Chicken Kiev; Phad Thai; Portabella Mushrooms topped w/Spinach, a Poached Egg & Bernaise Sauce w/Rice
SIDES: Rice Pilaf; Jardiniere of Vegetables
SOUPS: Cream of Broccoli; Italian Sausage

Tuesday:
ENTREES: Hungarian Chicken; Vietnamese Steak Wraps; Vegetable Lasagna
SIDES: Roasted Red Potatoes; Batonet of Root Vegetables
SOUPS: Paysanne Marmite; Vegetarian Tomato

Weekly Menu

Managing Editor: Jennifer Overholser
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

NSH exhibit remembers history instructor Weiss

Melissa Chaney
 The Commuter

An exhibit of items owned by the late history instructor Michael Weiss is on display in the North Santiam Hall Gallery.

Weiss, an instructor at LBCC for 16 years, passed away last December of a brain tumor. According to Gary Westford, an art instructor at LBCC, "His wife Elaine was concerned that he not be forgotten."

Weiss had collected various ancient and antique items that related to history and brought many into his classrooms to show his students.

"Michael was a very good friend, so I was aware of the antique objects and that he liked to wear period clothing." He suggested an exhibit of items that Weiss had collected and worn be

put on display in the "beautiful new cases" in NSH.

On the first floor of NSH, with beams of light illuminating them, an 18th or early 19th century set of clothes is prominent in Weiss' case. From the Civil War era, a Union soldier's navy vest that students may have seen Weiss wear in class represents the interest in American History that Weiss had. Weiss collected money from his travels around the world, in addition to hats and pocket watches. A fur hat can be seen in the exhibit.

"He loved hats—had a huge collection of assorted hats from all cultures," said Westford.

Also on display is a model of a 1950s station wagon that Weiss and his wife actually owned earlier in their lives. A piece of northwest Native American artwork, three pocket watches,

foreign currency and tap shoes are among others included in the exhibit. "In the last year of his life he [Weiss] started studying tap dancing, he was attending classes. It shows his multi-varied interests."

Photographs of Weiss are also presented. He is captured as a young man with his son, traveling the globe and surrounded by faculty from the Social Science Department when they came to visit in mid-December.

Possibilities for other ways to honor Weiss are now being suggested. Thoughts of a bench with a plaque of his name and also a scholarship are being discussed.

The exhibit, located on the first floor of NSH and near NSH-110, will remain on display until at least the end of the academic year.

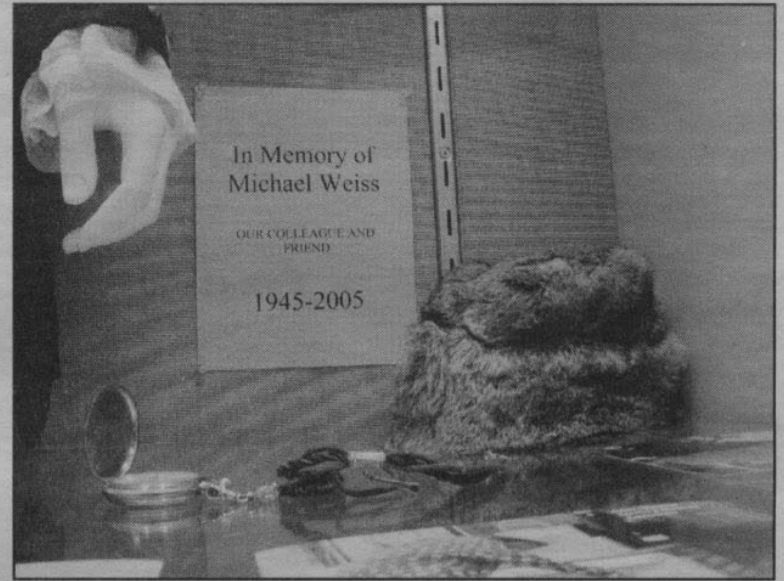


photo by Dan Wise

A memorial for Michael Weiss, an LBCC history instructor who died in December of a brain tumor, is on display on the first floor of North Santiam Hall. Organized by art instructor Gary Westford, the exhibit includes period clothing that Weiss enjoyed wearing to class, as well as memorabilia he collected on his many trips overseas.

Students invited to study abroad fall term in Florence, Italy

Ellen Purkerson
 The Commuter

Florence, Italy, home to Michelangelo's David, will become a living classroom for several LBCC students this fall. A small group of students met Wednesday in the Multicultural Center to hear how they could be included in LBCC's study abroad program.

About 35 students and two faculty members from Oregon community colleges will spend 11 weeks, beginning Sept. 24, living and studying in and around Florence. About five slots are available for LBCC students.

Those taking part in the program will spend fall term living within walking distance of some of the world's greatest works of art in historic downtown Florence. They will have the opportunity to visit world

famous attractions, learn Italian, take Italian cooking classes and practice the art of wine tasting.

Oregon community college instructors will teach classes on a variety of subjects ranging from writing to studio arts. Each participant is required to take an Italian Life and Culture class worth four credits, plus their choice of classes from those offered, for a total of 12 transferable credits. Students study four days per week, leaving three-day weekends open for field trips and travel.

Last fall, LBCC art instructor Dori Litzer went as one of the instructors and highly recommends the trip to any student. Spending time in Europe is a huge learning experience, she said. As a student herself, she spent a semester in London and as an instructor joined trips to Italy in 1995 and 1997. The ex-

perience enriches and enhances one's view of what's out there, she said.

Students must be at least 18 years old and have completed 12 credits with a 2.5 GPA. The program is open to everyone and they do not need to be art majors to be accepted.

The program fee includes round-trip airfare, housing, medical insurance, Internet access, classes, day-trips and guided tours, including one to see the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Other expenses include regular college tuition, textbooks, meals, passport and visa fees, some field trips, independent travel and personal expenses.

John Snyder, director of financial aid, said he would work with students to get the aid needed to cover the cost of the program. Students applying for the trip will need to meet with Snyder before turning in their applications in order to discuss how they plan to finance the trip. He recommended that interested students get their FAFSA applications sent in as soon as possible to insure their eligibility for financial aid.

The first step in the process is to apply to LBCC. Applicants need to include an essay, two letters of recommendation from faculty members, a copy of their transcript and an application

fee. Once accepted by LBCC, students will turn in a second application and fee to the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS). Study Abroad Coordinator Tammi Paul advised students to apply as soon as possible. The trip always fills up quickly, she said.

LBCC, a member of the Oregon International Education Consortium to which eight Oregon community colleges belong, works with AIFS to provide students with the opportunity to study overseas. The college also offers a trip to London in the spring and shorter trips to Costa Rica and Mexico over the summer.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Falls: Trails wind past 10 falls in park

▶ Continued from Pg. 12

Fork of Silver Creek pass over the rocky lip and disappear with a crash into the small pool 177 feet below. The path winds down the face of the gorge and passes directly behind the column of water.

Visitors can be buffeted by the spray of the water while standing safely behind a metal railing and watch the white foam curtain as it rushes past. The path then loops back over the creek at the foot of the falls and circles back up to the lodge. Or, if visitors are feeling more adventurous they can leave the pavement and continue down the now gravel and dirt trail as it winds its way through the rest of gorge and passes by the other nine waterfalls.

The advantage of visiting Silver Falls State Park during the winter is being able to witness the waterfalls in their full splendor. The winter rains swell Silver Creek, which surges over each fall with a force and volume that is unlike anything that can be seen during the summer.

"The water is raging right now," Sink explains. It is this, the beauty of the falls in winter, which still draws new visitors each day. On the trail between the South Falls and North Falls, two first-time hikers, Mike and Maya, stop for a moment to talk. They are celebrating their 13th anniversary. "We had a picnic by the North Falls," explains Maya. "Now we are hiking down to see the South Falls." Mike smiles, and they start on their way again. They are in no hurry. When surrounded by such overwhelming beauty, no one is.

"I am humbled by the power they possess, to know that things of such beauty are built by destructive forces, and I wonder what they will look like in another 100, 200, 1,000 years from now," Sink says, about the waterfalls, and as the afternoon darkens into evening the park begins to empty, the lights in the lodge finally go out and the roar of the falls dominates the still air, as it will for the next 1,000 years.

REVIEW

U2 creates opus in 'How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb'

Joel DeVylde
The Commuter

For the past three decades, U2 has been a dominating force in the world of music, consistently remaining one of the most popular bands in existence.

Their records have always produced explosive popularity all over the world. U2's latest effort, "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb," has created no exceptions. The album, released in November 2004, debuted at No. 1 in 32 countries, winning a total of eight Grammys to date.

Musically, this album is extremely well done, with lots of fast-moving guitar riffs on tracks like "Vertigo" and "All Because Of You," though it also has some slower songs, showing surprising depth of vocals.

They experiment with some Latin style music on "A Man and a Woman," although many fans would suggest that they stay with their genre.

Lyrical, the two songs that stand out are the single "Original of the Species," and the hit track "Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own," a Grammy winner for best song. These songs surpass much of what U2 has done in the past, providing



KRT Photo

U2 frontman Bono performs in his trademark sunglasses while The Edge plays on background melody.

analogies and relatable themes for those willing to put on some headphones and pick up the liner notes.

With the overall quality of the lyrics and the legacy of the band, it's no wonder they are so popular. This CD is one of the best that I've heard recently. It's definitely worth a test listen.

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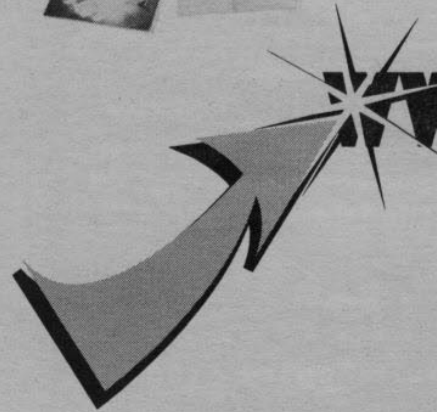
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Check It Out

"Glory Road"

Feb. 17 - 23
 Albany Pix Theatre
 321 Second Ave. S.W.
 Albany
 www.albanypix.com

"Antigone"

Feb. 16, 17, 18
 7:30 p.m.
 Withycombe Main Stage
 Theatre
 Oregon State University
 Campus
 Corvallis
 Adults \$9, Seniors over 55 \$6
 Students \$5
 (541)-737-2784

Debussy Quartet

Sponsored by
 Chamber Music Corvallis
 Feb. 21
 7:30 p.m.
 La Sells Stewart Center
 Oregon State University
 Campus
 Students K-12 Free
 All other students \$5
 www.violins.org

"The Underpants"

Feb. 24, 25
 March 3, 4, 9, 10, 11
 8 p.m.
 March 5 (m)
 2:30 p.m.
 Albany Civic Theater
 111 First Ave. S.W.
 Albany
 Adults \$9
 Seniors and students
 under 18 \$6
 Student discount
 on Thursday
 www.albanycivic.org

Calendar compiled by Colleen Franzoia, A&E Editor
 Get your event in Check it Out. Send all information to
 The Commuter Attn: commuterarts@linnbenton.edu



photos by Colleen Franzoia

Of Kids and Dragons

Lindsey Earp as Lady Kendal (above) and Tristan Meinke as The Dragon (right) greet students after the first performance of "The Reluctant Dragon" Tuesday morning. Thousands of area elementary school children are visiting campus every Tuesday and Thursday for the next three weeks to see the annual children's play in the Russell Tripp Performance Center. The play opens to the public for two Sunday matinees on Feb. 26 and March 5 at 3 p.m.

English instructor publishes heartfelt book of poetry

Hannah Cowart
 The Commuter



Sandy Jensen

Sandy Jensen, a long-time LBCC teacher, has just published her first book of poetry: "I Saw Us in a Painting."

Jensen became interested in poetry when, as a child, she found a poetry anthology of her father's and hid it in her room.

"It felt like a secret discovery," Jensen said, "this heightened way of seeing the world through beautiful language."

Jensen has always loved to write. She began in fourth grade and in fifth grade she wrote her first sonnet. Her first poem was published when she was 18. "I was beside myself with delight," Jensen said, and though she has had many things

published since, "I still get the same rush I did when I was a kid."

"I Saw Us in a Painting" is a collaborative project of her deepest thoughts and feelings. She is currently working on a book of essays, a novel and a second book of poetry.

A friend told Jensen about her book: "It's like your cooking, you've added more than the recipe calls for." Another friend, a professor at OSU, called it lovely, and said it's, "just the kind of wildness and community and hope and light that I need these dark days."

The book was published by Walking Bird Press, and is available at the LBCC Bookstore in Albany, and at the Benton Center. It is also available from Jensen or her husband, Peter, who also teaches English at LBCC. Later in the year, "I Saw Us in a Painting" will be available at Borders and at amazon.com.

Parents of peace worker to speak today in Siletz

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, at noon in the Siletz room, the parents of Rachel Corrie will make a presentation about Rachel's life and peace work. Corrie was killed by an Israeli bulldozer in 2003 while protesting the destruction of a Palestinian home. The talk will discuss her parent's efforts to continue their daughter's legacy of non-violent activism for peace.

Forums introduce VP candidates

On Friday, Feb 24, forums will be held on the Albany LBCC campus for finalists for the position of college vice president. The forums will be held in IA-231 and 232 with the first starting at 10 a.m. Rating forms will be available so that input can be added to the hiring process

Local authors hold writing workshop

Amanda Bielenberg
 The Commuter

Local authors George Estreich and Rick Borsten will discuss "The Art of Composure: Reading and Discussion" in Room 208 in North Santiam Hall Thursday. The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. as a part of the Valley Writer's series sponsored by the college and organized by former English instructor Jane White.

According to Borsten, the two will alternate with 15-minute speeches, each with their own

focus: Estreich will be reading poetry and memoirs, while Borsten will be doing fiction. The discussion at the end will focus on the process of writing, with emphasis on the differences between creating writing and creating other arts, and also composing writing in the various genres.

Borsten described many of the novels he has written, including his current creation, "Heaven in a Bottle," which is set entirely in a foster care home in Corvallis. He also has many previous works, including his first piece, "The

Great Equalizer."

This novel was a winner of the National Endowment for the Arts, the New American Writing Award, and was runner up for the Oregon Book of Fiction. Also, "The Great Equalizer" has been re-optioned numerous times as a film property, most recently capturing the interest of producers Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith.

For those students who cannot attend on Feb. 16, a second meeting will be held in Corvallis at the Public Library on Feb. 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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DISCOVERY

Community festivals, trips, treks
 and tours that readers might enjoy
 in their free time.

The Silver Falls State Park is open all year and offers most of its services during the winter months. Day passes are \$3 per vehicle and are available at GI Joe's, from merchants near the park, or at the park's registration booths between the visiting hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

For more information, call (503) 968-0707 or visit oregonstateparks.org/park_211.php

SILVER FALLS

Davis Rogers
 The Commuter

"I stood beside this river with its spray in my face and watched it thunder into foam, smooth to green glass over sunken rocks, shatter to foam again. I was fascinated by how it sped by and yet was always there; its roar shook both the earth and me." The great American writer Wallace Stegner could easily have been describing the South Falls in Oregon's Silver Falls State Park with these words. The towering 177-foot waterfall thunders down over its abrupt rock overhang and crashes into the shallow pool of water below. The crash of its wake can be heard as far away as the historic South Falls Lodge where visitors, volunteers and park employees crowd around the massive stone fireplace and warm themselves on its open fire.

This is Silver Falls in winter. Oregon's largest state park is home to over 8,500 acres of forest, creeks, wa-

terfalls and multi-use recreation trails. Roughly 20 miles east of Salem on Highway 214, Silver Falls has been attracting around a million visitors annually to enjoy its many diversions, which include horseback riding on the trails and swimming in Silver Creek during the summer, and mountain bike riding along the park's four-mile bike path or on any of its 22 miles of multi-use trails during any season. The park also offers year-round camping, hiking and has numerous day-use sites perfect for picnics, and the famous Trail of Ten Falls.

The Trail of Ten Falls is one of only three National Recreation Trails in Oregon, and it is, by far, one of the most beautiful and stunning trails in the state. The trail wraps around the northern section of the park and follows the North Fork and South Fork of Silver Creek before looping back up to traverse the rim of the gorge that they both flow through. The trail is approximately nine miles long, although many of its sec-

tions can be hiked as separate loops, and it passes by 10 waterfalls, each different in size and character.

When asked which of the waterfalls is her favorite, Vicki Sink, the Visitor Services team leader at Silver Falls, replies, "I cannot say that I really have one. They are all unique and beautiful in their own way. I stand in awe whenever I watch them, whether they are full and surging in the winter, or calm and trickling in the summer." She sits at one of the many tables in front of the fireplace in the South Falls Lodge as visitors and volunteers move in and out of the firelight, and describes the park in winter.

"We definitely see a decrease in visitors during the winter months," she admits. "During the summer we usually have a couple of thousand cars visit each weekend, but during the winter that number drops to around 150 or so."

The reasons for this decrease are obvious, and even as Sink is describing the trail conditions as sometimes being slick and muddy, more people crowd into the lodge to escape the chill and dampness of the rainy winter day. The decrease in visitations also causes the park to cut its staff during the winter, and there are fewer volunteers on site during the rainy season. However, this does not hinder the friendliness of the park workers. In fact, if anything, the smaller number of workers, volunteers and visitors adds a more familial feel to the park.

Today, volunteers Bonnie and Jack Miller are greeting people in the lodge. Bonnie is moving around the main room greeting people with a warm smile and offering directions and instructions to all who ask, while Jack is standing by the fireplace sharing stories and jokes. He offers to point out a worker in an old photograph on the lobby wall whom he suspects is none other than Clark Gable; the actor worked for the Silver Falls Timber Company during the winter of 1923.

Outside the warm lodge, the impressive South Falls crashes resonantly only a few hundred feet away. The massive waterfall is probably the park's most famous and visited waterfall. It is also the easiest one to access. A well-paved path leads from the lodge around the rim of the falls, where visitors can watch the South

► Turn to "Falls" on pg. 10

South Falls, left, running high from winter rainfall, gracefully plummets 177 feet into a turbulent pool. Lower South Falls, below, tumbles 93 feet. Nine miles of trails lined with ferns and moss-covered rocks meander throughout the park, passing behind both falls.

