

● **Juggling Writers**

Students learn to juggle words as well as racquetballs.

● **Lebanon Center Thriving.**

About 900 students attend classes in remodeled department store.

● **Rotisserie League Life**

Tongue-in-cheek game features celebrities, politicians, scandals.

THE COMMUTER

A Student Publication

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon



The Commuter/RON KENNERLY

Celebrating The Magic Of Christmas

More than 325 area youth gathered in The Commons for the "Magic of Weiss and Patricia," the grand finale of Saturday's ASLBCC children's Christmas party, the 20th annual edition of the popular event that is open free to children in Linn and Benton counties. For more pictures of the party turn to pages 8-9, where you'll also find a calendar of holiday events and commentaries by Commuter staff writers on the spirit of Christmas.

Loan recipients face more red tape next term

By Mary Beth Brassill
Of The Commuter

Financial aid recipients will have to verify attendance before receiving their checks next term as LBCC attempts to lower its 23.8 percent student loan default rate, according to Financial Aid Director Lance Popoff.

Although down from last year's rate of 31.9 percent, the high default rate has nonetheless forced changes in the student loan program, including requiring students to obtain at least one instructor's signature confirming class attendance before they can get their loans.

"Even if you take 18 credit hours, and have had a 4.0 going for the last five terms, we're still not going to disburse your aid until we get that one instructor's signature," said Popoff. He expects that students may soon be required to get signatures from all instructors on a monthly basis to maintain their eligibility.

Previously, enrollment, not attendance, has been checked before disbursing aid, but the financial aid department has found that many students enroll and then stop attending classes without officially withdrawing from school. When a student officially withdraws, a certain **Turn to "default rates," page 6**

Efforts to light Looney Lane intersection hit roadblock

College officials say poor visibility makes junction with Hwy 34 hazardous to commuters

Michael Scheiman
Of The Commuter

LBCC representatives have so far been unable to convince state and power company authorities to install lights at the Looney Lane and Highway 34 intersection, which for years has posed a threat to evening students commuting to the campus from Corvallis.

"That intersection has always been a difficult area for commuters," said LBCC President Jon Carnahan.

The highway department has long-term plans for Highway 34 that include the addition of a turning lane at Looney Lane, which, according to highway department officials, should make it a safer intersection.

In September of this year it became apparent to LBCC representatives that the reconstruction of Highway 34 at Looney Lane would not be completed before winter. With the

support of the Chamber of Commerce in Corvallis, of which he is a member, Carnahan met with Mike Gardner, the project manager for the highway department, to ask that some kind of illumination be put at the intersection as soon as possible. Carnahan and the Chamber of Commerce offered to contribute \$1,000 to aid the project. After that meeting, the highway department assured LBCC representatives that reflectors would be put up at the intersection, and that the possibility of lampposts would be looked into, Carnahan said.

Although Gardner took the proposal to Pacific Power and Light (PP&L), the company responsible for the lighting, so far PP&L has balked because of lack of funds. The project, which would require running a new power line from a school approximately 1,000 yards west of Looney Lane to the intersection, would cost around \$3,600.

Carnahan and members of the college Board of Education

then went directly to PP&L themselves, but to no avail. PP&L is still reluctant to put lights up, Carnahan said.

One way PP&L determines whether or not the intersection is, in fact, unusually dangerous, is by comparing the number of accidents to other unilluminated intersections. Its research showed that Looney Lane has had comparatively few accidents in recent years.

LBCC board members are now writing letters to the State Department of Transportation asking for assistance.

"We have also requested that Senator Mai Yee write to the Department of Transportation on LBCC's behalf indicating that the Board of Education of Linn-Benton Community College, which represents all of the constituents of Linn and Benton counties, would like to see that the Department of Transportation make the illumination of Looney Lane a higher priority," Carnahan said.

POINT OF VIEW

COMMENTARY

Racism may not be obvious at quiet LB, but prejudice demands constant vigilance

By David Rickard
Of The Commuter

In early October I set out to write a feature on racism and prejudice at Linn-Benton. I had hoped to uncover incidents of discrimination and racial harassment on campus, hoping to bring in focus, locally, a growing problem on our nation's campuses.

Six weeks later my racism feature sits quietly in my notebook with little chance of making the pages of The Commuter.

Why?

Did I encounter resistance from school administrators and students in their willingness to openly discuss racism?

Would I be adding fuel to an already volatile situation, most notably at Oregon State?

Was I putting myself and the newspaper in a libelous situation by exposing individuals who have violated the civil rights of minorities?

The answer is none of the above.

It is a basic ethics issue. I will not print a story where the facts in the case do not warrant enough basis for a story, whether the subject is racism or girl's volleyball. There was just not enough substantial evidence to support a story on racial tension at LB.

Does that mean we should all be slapping each other on the back's in honor of our harmonious racial climate on campus?

Hardly.

There are scores of bigots and hate mongers littering our campus. The difficulty lies in unmasking them. Racism can rear its ugly head more easily and readily at a school like OSU than it can at LB because of the intimacy and environment of a four-year school. The pragmatic approach to school at LB tends to lead us into an apathetic view of issues outside the realm of our own classes.

We used to assume that prejudice would go away when a more enlightened, higher-educated class of young people replaced a generation of bigots. That doesn't follow anymore. Today's youths have forgotten the past struggles concerning civil rights and World War II and do not have the empathy needed to stir the emotions involving racism and prejudice.

Sometimes we all need a lesson in role/race reversals.

Prior to moving back to Oregon this summer, I lived in Washington, D.C. A Caucasian, I often felt like a minority in a city that is 80 percent black. Yet I could never truly identify with the blacks and the social obstacles they encounter. The predominantly white Willamette Valley is a radical departure from the ethnic diversity of D.C. However, a change in environments does not necessarily mean a change in peoples' attitudes. Prejudice exists in every locale; I've witnessed it both here and in D.C.

As much as we'd like to believe that we, as individuals, are free of racism, knee-jerk reactions and name calling, that is just not the case. We are a long way from Utopia. Every one of us is guilty of committing these acts every day, whether we realize it or not.

Myself included.

Last year in D.C., I was driving with my girlfriend and two of my closest friends when a BMW cut me off, almost sending my car up a lightpole. My initial reaction was to scream a racial slur at the driver of the errant car. A knee-jerk reaction? Sure, but I didn't realize what had slipped past my lips until a few blocks later. I looked over at my friends and they were all staring at me in utter, open-mouthed disbelief.

Does yelling a racial slur at someone make me a racist?

Is it only those societal members we call bigots who, filled with a never-ending flow of hatred which they vent on minorities, can rightly be called racists? Or is there a little bit of racist buried in each of us, waiting to show up in unexpected places and at unexpected times?

I don't have the answer. I can only say that I was as shocked at my own behavior as my friends were. One minor detail was purposefully omitted in telling the car incident. Of the four people in the car that day, only one was white.

I've always considered myself color-blind when it comes to people. Sometimes it takes seeing yourself in black and white to truly see the flaws in your own gray matter.

Express Yourself

The Commuter encourages readers to use the Editorial Page to express their opinions. Commentaries and observations on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome.

Submissions may be in the form of letters to the editor or, for topics which require deeper analysis, guest columns. All letters received will be published, space permitting, unless they are considered by the editor to be potentially libelous, obscene or in poor taste. Guest columns



LETTERS

Buy live Christmas trees, save money as well as trees

To The Editor:

As I drive home from LBCC in the evening, I have started to notice cars with trees tied to the top on the way home to be decorated for Christmas. For most people this would appear as a happy occasion.

When I look at one of those trees, I think of people taking it down the day after Christmas and throwing it out in the trash, where it will finalize its death and turn brown.

I would like your readers to consider purchasing a live tree this year. After Christmas it can be left in a large pot or planted in the ground, where it will continue to grow.

I got my tree as a seedling; this year it is almost three feet tall. The perfect size for my small apartment.

Having a live tree is something the whole family can get involved with, and it adds a new tradition to the family Christmas. Each year when the family portrait is taken by the tree, you can compare the difference in the size of the tree and the growth of the circle of loved ones.

Live trees are sold at several local nurseries for only dollars more than the cost of a soon-to-be-dead tree. Other alternatives may be to talk to a tree farmer or the U.S. Forest Service about purchasing a tree.

I realize the facts show that three trees are planted for every one cut, but it still seems unfair to me to kill any tree in the first place.

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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A live tree is just as enjoyable with ornaments and lights, and is easy to care for after the holidays. Give a tree the gift of life!

Michele Warren
Corvallis, Ore.

Toys for Kids Coordinator Leaves for Desert Shield

To The Editor:

As you may already know, ASLBCC Council of Representatives has again lost a member to "Operation Desert Shield." Roger Potts, Operations Coordinator, left with his Reserve Medical Unit Nov. 30, destination unknown. Roger was working with a special Christmas project called "Toys for Kids"; the council is asking for your help to pull this off as a thank you to Roger, who contributed so much to council and LBCC.

We are collecting toys in the Student Programs Office, CC 213. They need to be new, wrapped, tagged with a boy/girl label and approximate age group, infant to 15 years. Roger's immediate concern was for the children of LBCC's student families that are having a rough time; if we collect more toys than children's names we will filter them into local families that are missing their father, mother or both this season due to Operation Desert Shield.

If you have a message you would like to send to Roger, send it to CC 213 via campus mail; periodically, we will be sending notes, updates, photos and our moral support to Roger as soon as we get an appropriate address.

ASSLBCC Council Representatives

□ Reporters: Mary Beth Brassill, Mitch Ferguson, Cory Frye, Monica Griffis, Gordan Griffith, Brian Harness, Brian Ramsey, Alix Larsen, Jamie Luckman-Dye, Carol Lysek, Mark Peterson, David Rickard, Ron Rutherford, Robin Shank, Nick Todorovich.

□ Production Staff: Timothy Leach, Brett Schneider, Alix Larsen, John Freda, Shelley
□ Typesetter, Lucy Swearingen, □ Advisor, Rich Bergeman.

Choirs to present carols

On Thursday, Dec. 6, The LBCC Concert and Chamber Choirs will be giving a free Christmas concert at 8 p.m. in the Takena Hall theater.

Called the "Christmas Gift" concert, it will feature a wide variety of music from both groups, including cannons and traditional Christmas carols from America, Austria, the West Indies, and England.

The audience will get to participate in some of the carols. The Chamber Choir will also perform jazz Christmas selections and some PDQ Bach.

Conductor Hal Eastburn says the choirs have been "great" this term, despite numerous turnovers, and he is hoping to make the choirs grow through a variety of music. He says the Christmas concert is the beginning of their success.

Employment opportunities still prevalent in forestry, at least for college graduates

By Cynthia Soper
For The Commuter

Forestry employment opportunities are in abundance for students despite recent Oregon timber industry layoffs, said Perry Brown, assistant dean for the College of Forestry at Oregon State University.

Between 25 and 35 jobs are available every year in the forestry products industry, yet only six to eight Oregon State students graduate in this field each year, Brown said.

"Prospective students are reading the lay-off numbers in the timber industry and becoming discouraged," he said. "The people being laid off are not the professionals but the skilled labor, and one thing I see happening in the forest industry is that more professionals are needed because these labor jobs are turning into technical jobs."

Brown said that employers looking for summer help have started interviewing a month early this year because for the past five years the number of students applying for summer forestry jobs has fallen short of the number needed. This has happened in spite of the fact that the number of forestry graduate students at OSU is up from 130 in 1990 to 134 in 1991, Brown said. Three out of every five jobs listed on the board for the students are for permanent

employment, Brown added.

Also, half of OSU's graduating forestry students are from 24 different countries. Most of them will be returning to their homelands for employment, which will mean less competition for jobs in the United States, Brown said.

Some students are finding forestry jobs in the Peace Corps, and some are using their forestry backgrounds to get masters degrees in business accounting, he said.

"The nature of forest management is changing in the public sector to non-timber oriented jobs like biologists and recreational specialists, but forestry jobs will continue in the private sector with the requirement for higher education because there is still going to be the need for wood products and forest management," Brown concluded.

Kelly Churchill, a graduating senior in forestry engineering, said, "Some students in my classes already have jobs but are being retrained by their employers or by the government."

He added, "In the five years that I have attended OSU in the College of Forestry, I don't know of anyone not finding summer employment. It may not be the job they want, but I see more jobs out there than students."

Proposed parking rules include \$5 fine for violations

Proposed new vehicle regulations that will increase parking fines to \$5 and make it a violation to lock a bike anywhere but in a bike racks, have been submitted to the college board by the LBCC security office.

Anyone ticketed will have the opportunity to go before a board of appeals. Fines not paid within 5 days will be automatically doubled, and the violating student's records may be withheld.

Non-profit gift store benefits needy suppliers worldwide

International, local craftspeople supply baskets, jewelry and more in unusual shop

By Michele Warren
Of The Commuter

Christmas is the time of year for giving gifts and sharing good wishes. If buying that perfect gift for family or friends also benefits someone in need, the value of that gift is even greater.

Gifts for a Better World, a non-profit gift store, opened its doors to provide customers with this choice. In its second season of business, the store represents 30 different groups ranging from local organizations such as the Association for Retarded Citizens, to countries across the globe in Africa and Central America.

"We like to call them peace and justice organizations," said Jean Townes, referring to the many local churches whose members have volunteered to work in the store. Townes said her own role in the store

can best be described as chairperson. "We worked very hard to get Haiti and Ethiopia in the store," Townes said. "These two countries were on the top of our list for needing help."

A percentage of the profits will be directly returned to the people who handcrafted the items.

Along with a beautiful selection of Christmas decorations, the shop sells handcrafted baskets and jewelry, environmental cards, T-shirts and calendars, all at reasonable prices. "Items in the store are less expensive because of the non-profit operation," Townes said.

The store is located in Avery Square on 9th street in Corvallis. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday (Fridays until 9 p.m.), and Sunday 12 p.m.-5 p.m. It will be open until December 22.

Space for the store was donated by Avery Square. Profits this year will be donated to local community organizations, according to Townes.

The majority of the 30 people who waited for the store's opening the day after Thanksgiving agreed that they were specifically shopping at Gifts for a Better World because of the benefit to needy organizations.



The Commuter/RON RUTHERFORD

After a 21 year career at LBCC, Barb Dixon, Assistant Vice President for Instruction, has announced her plans to retire December 7.

Administrator reflects on her years at LB, expects to 'ooze into retirement' Dec. 7

Robin Shank
The Commuter

"Great!" Barb Dixon, assistant vice president for instruction, exclaims when she reflects on her 21-year career at LBCC.

Dixon, who retires Dec. 7, was hired in March of 1969 as a part-time instructor. She became a full-time employee March 1972.

She has held such administrative positions as coordinator of operations, assistant dean, and assistant to the vice president. Dixon claims her job remained the same over the years but the titles changed. "LB has grown, and I've grown with it," Dixon said. "It's been a good experience for me, working with all the folks who work here."

Winning the Oregon Vocational Education Administration Award of 1990 sponsored by the State Board and being named Vocational Administrator of the year of 1990 by Oregon Council of Career and Vocational Administrators stand out as major accomplishments for her.

What about retirement? "I'm going to ooze into retirement," she said. Even though her husband and she won't "sell everything and get a motor home," they do plan to travel.

"I like the outdoors, fishing, and my bonsai collection," Dixon said.

LBCC's future looks good to her. "It's built tight. LB is a quality institution," she said. "It will deliver a good education not knowing what's down the road."

"I have contributed to the growth and the respect that LBCC has throughout the state of Oregon. We are well-respected throughout the state."

Dixon said working at LB has been "really great all through the years. Everyone has their ups and downs, but in the long run, we all work towards the same thing."

Retirement parties planned for Dixon include an all-staff going-away celebration Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Fireside Room from 9:30-11 a.m. and a retirement dinner at the Corvallis Country Club on Jan. 18.

Relief fund created for student after family's house lost in fire

The south Corvallis mobile home of LBCC student Ruth McMahan, biology major, and her family was completely destroyed by fire Sunday night.

Corvallis resident Amy Leischman has started a relief fund for the family. Contributions may be sent in Ruth's name to the First Interstate Bank in Corvallis.

The blaze was started by towels that were left too long in a clothes dryer, and had engulfed the building by the time firefighters arrived on the scene.

Among the losses of the fire were McMahan's textbooks and class notes. She is currently enrolled in Chemistry, Shakespeare and Analytical Geometry.

ONE OF US

You'd better watch out! Santa is coming to town

By Sheryl Baird
Of The Commuter

"Ho, ho, ho!"

I heard this familiar laugh everywhere I've turned the last few days.

Where does he come from? What does he do? Where is he going? I thought these were fitting questions for, you guessed it, Santa.

How to find him? Time to start tracking.

Santa really is "One of Us." Where exactly do I find him, or perhaps, her?

Deep inside all of us there lurks a Santa persona. He (please forgive my use of the old "he" to describe an entity that should have no gender) is there. Trust me.

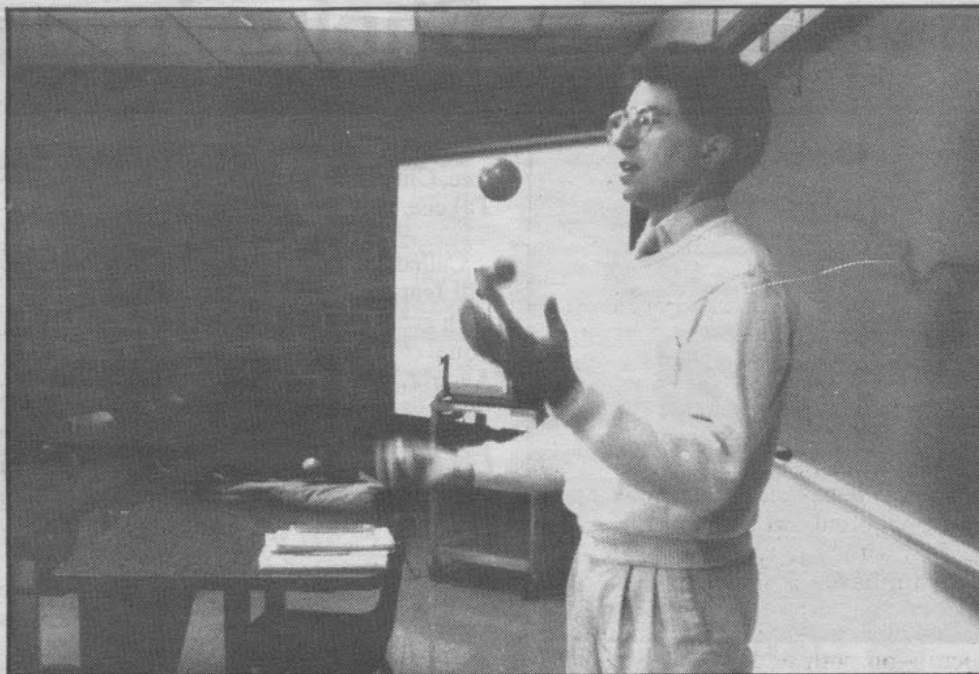
I know we have all met people in whom we in no way, shape or form could see any good or charitable qualities. Sometimes these dear souls turn out to be the best of Santas. Sometimes, in their quest to deny any good part of themselves, they remind the rest of us of the good stuff in our own lives that we may have put on the back burner in our hectic journey through life.

But on with my tracking.

I am Santa to my little girl. If she could talk, I'm sure she would tell you that Mom is Santa, playmate, mentor and the one person in the world who knows everything and can do no wrong. My daughter is four-years-old. But I think in realizing what I am to her, I am coming closer to finding that elusive old Saint Nick.

True, I buy her gifts to represent that Santa has watched her all year and knows that she has been a good girl. When my two boys were younger, I always made sure that there were the same number of presents from Mom as from Santa. Maybe even 20 years ago I was starting to realize that reality must be injected into even the most precious of all fantasies. Enjoy all that is magical and even outlandish. Don't try to make it your real world. Make your real world so full of love, understanding and caring that you live in the world of the rewards that come your way because of your being real.

So, Santa is here. He is alive and will always be a big part of me and I hope for you. If you scoff at my suggestions, please try just a couple of them and see how the rest of the world reacts to its newest Santa.



The Commuter/RON RUTHERFORD

Paul Hagood, writing instructor, demonstrates how to use juggling to chase away writing fears.

A new approach to learning to write: students overcome fears learning to juggle

By Arik Hesseldahl
Of The Commuter

Paul Hagood has a secret from his humanities department colleagues. Perhaps it was because he wanted to be the first and only writing instructor on campus to experiment with the idea. But now his students may have betrayed his secret.

Though representing a wide sampling of the students on LB's campus, Hagood's students can be easily spotted by the seemingly random placement of a matched set of three objects among the disorder of their bookbags. Objects such as racquetballs, beanbags and laundry detergent packets.

Hagood is teaching his students in Writing 121 and Personal Journal Writing to juggle, and the idea, at least with these particular students, is catching on.

"It's a fun break for me and the students at the same time," Hagood said of his new teaching technique. "It's a right-brain, spatial and physical activity. There's also something magical about it."

There is also a serious, class-related reason. "Most people look at juggling as a magical thing they could never do, and they view writing the same way. It's like it's a mystical thing — you're born able to do it or you're not. Learning to juggle is like a graphic demonstration that just because something looks magical or difficult, doesn't mean you can't do it."

The process itself serves as a demonstration of the learning process.

"You literally learn about learning. If you practice one step over and over, and learn it well, you take the next step. Once you get frustrated you go back to what you can do and try again later. My students learn to trust that process. They work at the little steps one at a time and suddenly it's there and they can juggle, and they're surprised. The same is true of writing," Hagood said.

"I think that this process can help people to see the negative voices in their mind that inhibit learning and creativity. They can learn

not to take them so seriously and not to let them have power over them," he said.

"I could tell you of several people in all the classes that are quiet, and never had much to say and they were juggling away early on. I can never really guess on day one who's going to do well and who is not," he said.

For Hagood to teach juggling, he first had to learn how. The story dates back to his college days.

A friend in college had a girlfriend who had gone to clown college with the Ringling Brother Barnum and Bailey Circus in Florida. The knowledge simply trickled down.

"I lived on the second floor, and the girls that lived below me could always tell when I was practicing because I used heavy rubber balls and they always hit the floor."

Barbara Mabe, a student in Hagood's Personal Journal Writing Class was "really scoffing at first when he told us we would be learning to juggle. Then after practicing at home and with dates, I did one cycle with three balls. I was pretty surprised," she said.

"He uses it as a relaxation technique before we get down to writing in class. It gets my blood going and I want to write about controversial things. If I try a poem or something like he has us do sometimes, forget it," Mabe said.

"For me as a teacher, it gives me a way to look at myself. I can't be responsible for everyone, and those who aren't there I have no control over. It helps me to see that it's their responsibility to hold up their end of the game," he said.

As far as taking it to the humanities department, Hagood is not sure. During the interview he was about to leave for a meeting of that committee and speculated he might talk about it.

"I got the idea from an educational abstract that went around to us all, so it's no secret technique. I just haven't spoken about it yet. It's fun and I believe it's useful in teaching writing. And it's a good break for everyone involved."

OUTDOOR OREGON

Lunker steelhead spawn in Siletz

By Bill Kremers
For The Commuter

The winter steelhead catch rate on the Siletz varies from year to year. The catch has ranged from 2,653 for the 1982-83 winter season to 9,285 during the 1979-80 season. Between 70 and 80 percent of the winter steelhead are caught in December and January.

The bigger steelhead, which spend three years in the ocean, make up an average of 21.3 percent of the steelhead caught in the Siletz. If you like to catch big steelhead, the Siletz is a good place to go.

My favorite time to fish the Siletz is a sunny day after a heavy rain. The river level is around 5 1/2 feet, and the water level will continue to drop during the day. With these river conditions, I will launch by drift boat somewhere between Moonshine Park and the town of Siletz. I primarily fish the tailouts and the three- to-six foot deep steelhead holes.

There is no magic or secret formula to catching steelhead on the Siletz. Drift fishing with good roe is hard to beat, and the green- and blue-pirate hot shot work great if you fish plugs. The Siletz River has a number of deep, slow-moving holes where you can find low-water conditions. I like fishing these holes with either a large flatfish (U20), a diver rigged with 8-pound test leader, or a small birdie and dime-sized cluster of roe.

If you are fishing the Siletz and you want to escape the ordinary, just take a short drive downriver to Siletz Bay and fish Drift Creek. Take Drift Creek Road off of highway 101 and follow the signs to the youth/church camp. Drift Creek is one of the best-kept fishing secrets in Oregon. With the exception of the area around the youth camp and a few goat trails in Drift Creek Canyon, there is no public access to Drift Creek. Limited fishing pressure has insured good native and hatchery steelhead runs year after year. Our guide service has exclusive rights on the private property on the lower three miles of Drift Creek, and the steelhead fishing is super.

Fishing with either a silver or gold number five spinner is my first choice when I fish Drift Creek. Three years ago Don Shaffer, who lives on Drift Creek, caught a female steelhead that weighed twenty pounds. With her off-spring returning every winter to the Siletz River and Drift Creek, there may be a big steelhead in your future.

LBCB business instructor asked to facilitate improvement in relations at assessor's office

Leuthold establishes trust and open communications to help resolve conflicts

By Carol Lysek
Of The Commuter

Linn County Assessor Joyce Pearson has asked her former teacher, LBCC business instructor Leigh Leuthold, to act as consultant-facilitator and to provide short-term training to the assessors' office in staff-management relations.

The goal is a supportive atmosphere with a spirit of trust and openness leading to greater job productivity.

Staff-management conflict in the assessor's office has been the subject of a number of stories in the Albany Democrat-Herald newspaper during the past two years.

So far, Leuthold has met for four hours with 13 office employees. She said she felt they were off to a really good start because the meeting was positive and open, with everyone committed to looking for a solution. She is also in the process of meeting individually with management to determine what their needs and concerns are.

Staff and management have defined a mutual goal, said Leuthold. "Everyone

would like to have the workplace atmosphere be something that people look forward to coming to—a place in which there is a spirit of trust and openness with a climate of support so that people feel they can be productive on their job."

Leuthold stressed that in a conflict situation, a mutual goal must be defined before the next step—how to achieve that goal—can be taken. For example, an issue like the spotted owl is much more difficult to deal with, she said, because everyone does not have the same goal.

Leuthold acts as a facilitator. She focuses on both sides of the issue "trying to help them resolve their own conflict by themselves." She must be careful not to take sides. "My main role in the beginning is to establish a level of trust with employees and management so they both feel comfortable with me and have a feeling that I'm working for the best interests of everyone," she said.

The process becomes harder when, at the next stage, employees and management are asked to come together and express their feelings to each other, said the soft-spoken Leuthold. The object is to help people develop empathy and understand that both sides have needs.

Role reversal can help people get a feeling for the other person's point of view, she said. Another technique is to make

sure you hear and understand what the other person said before you reply or listen to someone else. "Often, in conflict, you are trying to get your own idea forward in order to change the other person," she said, rather than really listening to what they have to say.

In order to be successful, it is crucial that the training help people look toward the future rather than the past, said Leuthold.

On Nov. 27 two members of the assessor's office staff were fired for carrying secret tape recorders into the office. These former staff members were not included in the current training.

The Albany Democrat-Herald has reported that the Oregon Public Employees Union will take the firing to arbitration and will file unfair labor practice charges against Pearson.

Leuthold is under contract to provide 20 hours of management training and 12 hours of group meetings, plus a series of two-hour follow-up sessions. The sessions are held at LBCC and provide a neutral setting, she said.

Leuthold is Program Advisor for the Supervisory Program in the Business Division. She said her students often ask her to provide presentations or training at their workplace.



The Commuter/DARIN RISCOL

Leigh Leuthold

Leuthold says she has developed her own personal guidelines for when to remove herself from a situation in which progress is not being made. She expects certain criteria to be met. Both sides should agree upon a goal and be willing to invest a certain amount of trust in Leuthold and in each other. "If we have agreed that certain things need to happen and they are not able to carry that forward, then I would be inclined to remove myself from that situation, she said.

"This is a challenging thing to do and one that I'm very optimistic about because everyone wants the same thing. It's a matter of helping them to get what they really and truly want," she said.

'Just the facts ma'am'

Local crime reports support premise that sometimes the facts are stranger than fiction

By David Rickard
Of The Commuter

Each of us has our favorite section of the newspaper, be it the comics, the sports, the editorials or the obituaries. We bypass other sections, ads and nonsense to arrive at our favorite starting point. For me that starting point is the Crime Reports. When I read the morning paper all it takes is one amusing, off the wall report to start my day off on a good note.

Considering the nature and plain down-home theme to most of these reports, the title Crime Report can be misleading. I realize that our community is on a different criminal level than say Portland or Seattle, yet these strange reports give visions of places like Hooterville and Mayberry.

Who reports on these bizarre incidents when they appear so detailed in the pages of our local newspapers? The police? The newspaper staff? Witnesses at the scene of the "crime"?

According to Sgt. Brien Forrest of the Oregon State Police, it is a combined effort between the police and the press in retelling the actual events for a detailed honest representation. "The individual officer submits his report from that day's activities. From there the report goes into the main desk log which is available to the press and public," said Forrest.

It's then up to the beat reporter to determine which of the reports are newsworthy. Marilyn Montgomery of the Democrat-Herald decides what details and descriptions are necessary in compiling the daily report. It's Montgomery's call on whether to say 48 gospel cassette tapes were stolen from the car rather than the more generic version.

"I try to provide a different side to the crimes, if you call some of them actual crimes," says Montgomery. "I know a lot of these reports are quite bizarre, even comical, and the public

might think we are making them up. I take the details from the officers' log. They are the ones who provide us with the bizarre items," adds Montgomery.

Sometimes we should just let the facts speak for themselves. That is why we have selected the "best of the Crime Reports" to illustrate that point. Here are a few of the reports as they appeared in the local newspapers.

Aug 22: Possible unlawful entry at Hawley Hall at OSU. Occupant locked room when she left on Tuesday, when she returned the closet door was open, a letter was out of its envelope and one donut had been eaten. No suspects in the case.

March 24: Several people driving on the freeway north of Albany complained to police about someone throwing kittens out of a pick-up truck. The owner of the truck told police that the cats had crawled into the engine and fell out as he drove.

Oct. 25: Noise complaint. Police were called at 10:30 p.m. for a complaint of cows constant mooing. The cows owner told police there was a new heifer driving the other cows wild. The owner of the cows was given a citation for animal noise.

April 16: A cab driver who was taking a woman from Halsey to Junction City called the sheriff's office to report a woman had taken off all her clothes in his cab, and he wasn't sure what to do next. He said the woman was intoxicated. The cabbie drove the woman to her destination and a deputy followed behind.

Oct. 29: Police received a report that a passenger in a GMC pick-up was exposing herself to other motorists. A driver told police the woman was wearing a Batman cape and nothing on underneath and exposing herself to the other drivers. Police did not find the truck.

March 16: A security guard at the Albany K-Mart called police to report she videotaped a man exposing himself in the store. A police officer responded to the call, watched the tape and said he could not identify the suspect.

Feb. 20: A 1981 Datsun was found by police on the OSU campus an hour and a half after the car was reported missing. Police detained three juveniles and arrested a 18-year-old in connection with the car theft. When the owner went to reclaim his car he found inside the car a cassette tape player and a tape "The Healing Ministry of Jesus, Parts 1 and 2. The man said the tape must belong to those who stole the car.

Nov. 2: A four-month-old Labrador Retriever was brought to the police station with its head stuck in a Thermos bottle. Firefighters freed the pet. No injuries. No patient transported to the hospital.

Oct. 24: Suspicious incident. A cook at OSU came upon a box near the railroad tracks by Gill Coliseum. Inside the box was a large, dead grey squirrel with a noose around its neck. The noose included 13 knots and shoelaces binding the animal were tied in a square knot.

Jan. 9: Albany police arrested a woman for drunken driving Saturday night after she drove her car across the lawn of the police station, ran into a curb and flattened both front tires. The woman told police she was coming to the police station to report that she had been attacked by her boyfriend with a wine bottle.

With a sharp eye and attention to detail that would make Columbo proud, the police report these crimes just the way they see them. Taking a page from Sgt. Joe Friday's book, these clever cops give new meaning to the phrase, "Just the facts ma'am."

One student's personal struggle in the financial aid jungle

By Mary Beth Brassill
Of The Commuter

I thought this financial aid stuff would be easy.

It's called a Guaranteed Student Loan, right? Right. Guaranteed to be a hassle.

I decided to apply for financial aid this year. With my income, I sure as heck didn't make enough money to pay for tuition, rent, food, and my car, not to mention cable and weekly visits to Suds'n'Suds. I figured between the \$35 in my savings account and less than 10 bucks in my checking, these people would practically pay me to go to school.

Just fill out a form, sign my name, and the money would be waiting for me before classes even started.

Boy, was I wrong.

Filling out my financial aid form in January was the beginning of a long and drawn out process about as simple and fun as a root canal.

I'm not sure which was worse—answering a million questions about my financial status from the last four years, or waiting for a response for what seemed like, four years.

Halfway through the summer I got this official-looking envelope in the mail. I had sent back my Student Aid Report, made the corrections, signed my name a million times. . . this had to be my award letter. I eagerly ripped open the envelope, dollar signs in my eyes, and out fell a letter asking for a copy of my tax forms from last year. Not being a very organized person by nature, I had to dig for it; but I got it, signed my name yet again, mailed it and waited. Supposedly this should only take another couple of weeks to process, and heck, I'd already been waiting 6 months—what's another couple of weeks? Besides, school was still two months away.

Summer progressed and finally I got my

award letter. I guess I made too much money flipping burgers last year, because all I was eligible for was a student loan. No grants, just a loan. And not a very big one at that.

So there I was, about a month and a half away from registration, and I had to start a whole different application process for the loan. (Whatever happened to "guaranteed"?)

OK, here goes. Once I got my GSL packet, they told me, it should only take 15 days to process, and then four to six weeks for the bank to approve it. So we're talking another month at least.

Meanwhile, registration came and went, the first day of classes came and went, and still

no word from my bank. I kept getting those friendly reminders from the school that tuition was due; I just piled them on my desk with the rent bill, phone bill, and that little matter of a charge card I started last year.

Did I mention that before I could even send my application for the loan I had to go through an interview? Yeah, I had to convince them that I intended to use the money for school and not run off to Reno with it. I had to declare a major, fill out this budget that would make even my mom's head spin, tell them where I thought I'd be after graduation, and probably somewhere in the fine print above my signature, offer up my first born child as collateral.

FROM PAGE ONE

High default rates bring stricter standards

percentage of tuition must be refunded to the student based on the last day they attended class, according to the school's refund and repayment regulations. The student is responsible for repaying all or part of their financial aid for that term. Without proof that a student attended at least one class, the school is responsible for the entire amount of the student's aid.

In spring term of 1990, approximately 100 students didn't complete at least one credit hour but still received aid on a full-time basis, said Popoff. The financial aid office has no way of proving those students even went to school. By the federal government's standards, LBCC gave money to "non-students," and for that one term alone, the college could have been liable for over \$300,000 in financial aid.

Congress and the Department of Education have recently imposed stricter regulations on the student aid program. New borrowers must now undergo entrance interviews, set up a budget that Popoff called, "an absolute monster," and project expected income and loan repayments after graduation. LBCC has been told to "tighten up" their requirements for satisfactory progress towards a degree, and not allow students to continue to receive aid without meeting those requirements. A new proposed federal budget calls for \$2 billion in cuts to student aid over the next five years, eliminating schools with default rates over 30 percent from being eligible for a student aid program.

Popoff commented that some students may, "get bent out of shape," by the verification process, and since two out of three full-time students at LB receive some sort of financial aid, instructors will be busy signing forms. "It's going to be inconvenient, we know that, but the school cannot put itself in a position where we can have that kind of liability."

After a year in new site, Lebanon Center thriving

By Brian Harness
Of The Commuter

Ever since opening its doors at 550 Main Street in February of 1989, the Lebanon Center has been doing well, according to Al Barrios, director.

Having a center in Lebanon makes it easier for people in that community to attend classes, as growth in the enrollment indicates, Barrios says. About 900 students attend the

center per term.

Set up to accommodate students who have full-time jobs and want to take one to two classes per term, the Lebanon Center provides a variety of different courses. These include college transfer classes, learning enrichment classes, English as a second language, and classes in living skills.

The Lebanon Center contains its own Math Lab, which consists of the same tests and

modules as LBCC's Math Lab. It covers all math from basic to trigonometry.

It also has an Accounting Lab, which comprises Accounting 1, 2 and 3, as well as Bookkeeping and Intermediate Bookkeeping.

Students using the new office technology lab have the opportunity to work with IBM-compatible computers using both hard drives and floppy disks. Other equipment available for students' use includes typewriters, transcribers, and electronic calculators.

Courses offered in the office technology lab include basic keyboarding, WordPerfect, filing, transcribing, calculator and business math, and editing skills for office work.

Terry Bohna, who is taking a WordPerfect course said, "It has helped me to understand what I'm doing and know what I'm talking about when I'm talking about computers."

"It has helped me to learn more in how to use a computer," said Kelly Van Bushirk, also taking a WordPerfect course.

Located in a remodeled building donated by JC Penny, the center has its own bookstore, its own testing area, and its own area for students to register. Volunteers show students where rooms are and answer questions.

I got this stuff to read about loans and budgeting, then they quizzed me on it. There was this video. I've got half an hour and class is out to get to work in Corvallis, and had to spend 20 minutes watching a video about the creeps who default on their loans. Heck, by the time they approve the dang loan in the first place, I won't even be eligible for it anymore. I probably will have flunked out of school because I had to work two jobs to afford it, and had no time for homework anyway.

At that point I was having a hard time keeping my cool every time they told me "you should be hearing from us any day now."

So here we are at the end of the term. Finals are coming up, I'm camping out in the machine lab, my car is in serious need of a brake job and I'm ready to quit and go home. But hey, I just found out my loan check is here!

I go to the business office, all smiles, ready for them to put my check in my hot little hand, and the lady says I can't get it until I talk to someone at the financial aid office. Uh-oh. Now what? I look at my watch—it's 4:52—can I make it to Takena hall, find out what the heck they want and get back in eight minutes? I have no pride at this point, I'll run.

Turns out I didn't sign something somewhere along the line. I find that hard to believe. I sign the form, hand it back, all smiles (I'll have the money in six minutes) and she says I'll have to wait until tomorrow to get the check.

Sure, no problem. What's another day?

So now I've got my check. I managed to pay fall term's tuition the day before I registered for winter term. Ten months after started this whole mess. I guess through all this, I learned how important going to school was to me. I mean, if you don't have to wait for something, do you really appreciate it?

OBEA selects LB's business director for administrator award

The Oregon Business Education Association (OBEA) has selected Patsy Chester of Albany as the 1990 Administrator of the Year. Chester, director of Linn-Benton Community College's Business Division since 1984, will assume the position of Assistant to the LBCC President for Academic Affairs in January.

OBEA represents over 700 business teachers in Oregon and is affiliated with the Western Business Education Association and the National Business Education Association. The award is given annually to an administrator who supports business education programs.

Chester earned a bachelor's degree in business from Idaho State University and a master's degree, also in business education, from Oregon State University. She taught high school courses for a few years before joining the instructional staff at LBCC in 1967.



Business students have an opportunity to work with computers in Lebanon Center's new Office Technology lab.

News junkies now have a game to call their very own

'Rotisserie League Life' offers new diversion for trivia experts and Jeopardy fans

David Rickard
The Commuter

Americans have always carried on a love-affair for games that test our knowledge of trivial facts. We watch Jeopardy religiously and play Trivial Pursuit to impress our peers with our prowess. We study the box scores to see how our favorite star did in last night's game. Unfortunately, there's no opportunity for well-rounded, clever people to prove in some concrete albeit immature way just where they rank in their knowledge of current event trivia. Until now.

Introducing Rotisserie League Life. Patterned after the Rotisserie League Baseball, in which participants draft real major league players to form their own teams. Invented statistics freaks and baseball aficionados who believe themselves' more shrewd than the owners who govern baseball, Rotisserie League Baseball allows fans to live their fantasies.

But let's face it—people who have an encyclopedic grasp of baseball are not always the same people we call on to solve the world's problems. That's where Rotisserie League Life comes in. Instead of putting together a roster of pitchers and

batters in baseball, you assemble a team of people, objects and concepts that make up the day's news.

For example, instead of infielders and outfielders, your "Team of Life" positions would include: Scandalized Politician, Media Concoction and Dead Celebrity. Your team is created by drafting one "player" from each of the categories, which represent a myriad of politics, music, show business, social trends, sports, and other subjects that any competitive Jeopardy contestant is fluent in.

In place of the box-scores that dictate the scoring of Rotisserie Baseball, Rotisserie Life employs USA Today as the barometer for scoring. Each time a member of your team is mentioned in a USA Today article, your team receives a point. For example if you drafted John Lennon as your Dead Celebrity, each time he is mentioned in USA Today, your team receives one point.

Your roster will consist of 12 players: nine starters and three reserves. Only starters can score points, reserves must be inserted for a lineup change. Assemble six to eight friends and determine a drafting order. Then take turns picking from among the available news-makers. Once the teams are drafted, you're ready for opening day.

The rules are simple, one point per USA Today article. Multiple mentions within one article do not rack up points. The article must be in the context of that player's category.

As a guide to assist you in drafting we've compiled the following list of possible draftees. Select one player from each category, or go off the board with a pick.

The official season begins Dec. 5. The crack staff at The Commuter has selected its "Team of the 90s" and we'll keep you abreast of the standings and how your players are doing.

The Commuter Rotisserie Team:

Scandalized Politician	Marion Barry
Fictional Annoyance	Bart Simpson
Jackson	Bo
Arrested Adolescents	Pete Rose
Scapegoat	Nike
Dead Celebrity	Elvis Presley
Media Concoction	Oat Bran
Book Review Adjective	Riveting
Scary Organization	PMRC
Near Dead Celebrity	Sonny Bono
Love/Hate Relationship	Condoms
Sex Symbol	Betty Boop

Rotisserie League Life Draft Pool

Arrested Adolescents

Todd Bridges
James Brown
Drew Barrymore
Axl Rose
Pee Wee Herman
Pete Rose
Rob Lowe
James Worthly
Sean Penn
Leona Helmsley

Media Concoction

Marla Maples
Jessica Hahn
Morton Downey Jr.
Milli Vanilli
Dr. Ruth
Oat Bran
The Monkees
Martha Quinn
New Kids on the Block
Menudo

Love/Hate Relationship

Twin Peaks
The 2 Live Crew
LA Raiders
Brussel Sprouts
The Bundy's
Geraldo Rivera
Mineral Water
Condoms
Andrew "Dice" Clay
Donald Trump

Dead Celebrity

Sammy Davis Jr.
John Belushi
Rock Hudson
John Lennon
Stevie Ray Vaughan
Elvis Presley
Liberace
Marilyn Monroe
Billy Martin
Andy Warhol

Scandalized Politician

Marion Barry
Alan Cranston
Jesse Helms
Gary Hart
Ted Kennedy
Richard Nixon
John Glenn
Jim Wright
David Duke

Jackson

Action
Andrew
Bo
Glenda
Janet
Jesse
La Toya
Michael
Reggie



Scapegoats

Crack
Disposable diapers
Nike
Pornography
Japan
MTV
Ronald Reagan
Rap Music
AIDS
Exxon

Sex Symbol

Alec Baldwin
Paulina
Tom Cruise
Uma Thurman
Betty Rubble
Julia Roberts
Mel Gibson
Diane Sawyer
Betty Boop
Jessica Rabbit

Near Dead Celebrity

Sonny Bono
Gary Shandling
Gabe Kaplan
Geraldine Ferraro
Mr. T
Abe Vigoda
Erik Estrada
Joan Rivers
Mary Lou Retton
Anson Williams

Fictional Annoyance

Batman
Freddy Krueger
Bill and Ted
Laura Palmer
Robo Cop
Bart Simpson
Dick Tracy
Dan Quayle's mettle
Rocky Balboa

Book Review Adjective

Ambitious
Arresting
Bleak
Candid
Compelling
Depressing
Explosive
Gripping
Heartfelt

Scary Organization

CIA
Catholic Church
New England Patriots
IRA
IRS
Ku Klux Klan
Mafia
Medellin Cartel
PMRC
NKOTB fan club



Mother sends Santa a list of presents not to bring

Dear Santa,

How has your year been? I hope your holiday plans are coming along nicely. I realize that this time of year is your busy season and that you have sacks of mail to read, but I'm hoping you'll take the time to read this and seriously consider what not to bring Tyler for Christmas.

He's a little bit older now, a little wiser perhaps, and thankfully a little more protective of his own body parts. I sincerely doubt that we'll have any repeats of past Christmas fiascoes, at least I truly hope not. You remember, don't you—like his first Christmas when I heard a sickening crunch and realized he had bitten off a tree lightbulb while the lights were on; or his second one, when he set his hair on fire getting too close to the candles; or his third Christmas when he grabbed a metal prong "thingamajig" and plugged it into the electrical outlet; and oh yes, last year when he stuck his chubby little index finger into an empty tree light socket, while I was reaching for a new bulb out of the box.

Oh I know, I know, those things had nothing to do with your choice of gifts for him, but I use these examples to remind you of exactly who we're dealing with here. Have you ever stopped to consider what kind of hell my life has been every day since the year you decided to bring him three sets of Legos? Or since you finally admitted he was left-handed and brought him a pair of "Lefty" scissors? And what about the fire truck with the shrieking siren which came with the only one of its kind, "the battery that wouldn't die"?

So come on Santa, do us both a big favor. Please, read carefully and try to remember to balance my wish list against his. What I hope not to see under the tree on Christmas morning is anything:

1.) Run by batteries—I'm on a student's budget this year Santa, and simply can't afford 27 packs of AA's a week.

2.) With electrical current and/or metal pronged "thingamajigs"—we already talked about that one.

3.) Indelible. I can remember when his bedroom drapes were not multi-colored.

4.) Used with coins or magnets. He's already worth 12 cents and whatever a good sized magnet is going for these days.

5.) Acrylic-red welts do not become him.

6.) That looks good enough to eat, but isn't.

7.) That whistles—I wake up cranky when they are used for reveille, three inches from my ear, usually around 5:30 am.

8.) Volatile. Like a chemistry set. The ensuing explosion would upset your reindeer, even though you are thousands of miles away.

9.) Sugared. I know this is tough for you, visions of... and all, but you know he has only two speeds as it is, full and stop. Why accelerate?

10.) Marked "handle with care-Uranium." Don't laugh, I'm sure he's got everything else he needs in his room--somewhere.

I realize this list is long and eliminates a lot of potential for exciting adventures. But I love that little boy with all my heart. He has a twinkle in his eye that would match your own and naughty or nice, I want him safe yet not sheltered, while he unfolds life's mysteries. And I want him around for a long, long time. For next Christmas and the next Christmas and the next and the next.

Merry Christmas,
Tyler's Mom

The story of the television that stole Christmas

By Tim VanSlyke
Of The Commuter

Usually after Thanksgiving I begin forming a Christmas wish-list. It is one of the legacies of my childhood enhanced by the commercialization of the holiday. The only difference is that the list gets more detailed and expensive as I grow older.

Where once I dreamed of a G.I. Joe action set, an Adam 12 lunch box, or new bicycle with a banana seat, now a less realistic—perhaps even less practical—list of cars, hi-tech cameras, personal computers and Nintendo games has replaced the lists of more innocent times. The American dream twisted by thousands of hours of exposure to TV ads.

Recently I took notice of the wish list forming up in the clouds of my consciousness. Some of the items there were simply newer versions of things I already possessed or had free access to, but for some unknown reason,

no longer found fulfilling. After a long hard look, almost all these material wants lose most of their appeal.

I don't think it's coincidental that the list starts forming after Thanksgiving, when every commercial form of media begins the Christmas blitz on consumers. I can't open a newspaper, turn on the television or the radio without being barraged with things I can't live without. Nor is it a coincidence that the day after Thanksgiving is the busiest retail shopping day of the entire year.

For many people, including myself, the tradition of Christmas is being transformed into something like a celebration of consumerism. It reminds me of an article I read by George Gerbner, a professor of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania. Before printing was invented, says Gerbner, all the stories were told face-to-face. "That is the symbolic environment in which humans grow,

learn and live like humans." Now television and, to a lesser degree, the other forms of mass media tell all the stories. The question is: how much do these story tellers define our traditions, morals and values for us?

Listen to Gerbner just once more before stringing the popcorn: "We have studied the process for nearly two decades and found that television satisfies many previously felt religious needs for participating in a common ritual and for sharing beliefs about the meaning of life and the modes of right conduct."

I'm trying to reform my wish-list into something that reflects the pre-television societal values. My list has always been comprised of unrealistic expectations, so why not wish for the stars. For instance, my new list includes the wish that my dear friend Rod comes home from Saudi Arabia to celebrate Christmas with me. I think if we all had that on our list, it would come true

Dad applauds Christmas party

By Ron Kennerly
Of The Commuter

I'd say a well deserved round of applause is in order for the ASLBCC and all the volunteers who put on the great Christmas party for our area's children last Saturday. More than 325 children visited the College Center between 1 and 3:30 p.m.

Starting off with Christmas cookies that they frosted themselves (to assure an abundance of energy for the trail ahead), groups of about 20 kids each began their trek from room to room to be delightfully entertained.

In the Alsea-Calapooia Room, juggler Rhys Thomas combined comedy and coordination to keep everyone spell-bound. Going from balls and juggling pins, to bayonets and saw blades (cautioning the audience "do not try this at home"), Thomas put on a first-rate performance. In the Fireside Room Jolly Molly the Clown kept the kids laughing making balloon animals, doing magic and just plain clowning around.

Two Santas took letters and provided warm laps and attentive ears, while Polaroid packing photographers "captured the moment" at \$1 a shot. Free face painting followed the visits to Santa, and then it was on to the Commons for the grand finale.

The magic of Weiss and Patricia provided the finishing touch to the action-packed afternoon. Swords slashed through the "assistant in the basket," slight of hand, a great escape and of course, the mysteriously appearing bunny (available for petting after the show) brought the festivities to a close. Now, my wish for all of you, is that you may find much more of that same holiday joy during the upcoming Christmas break.

Christmas Eve: A time to realize that we are genuinely blessed

By Sheryl Baird
Of The Commuter

Christmas Eve, what a time of life.

Family and friends, gathered together to celebrate at grandma's house. Then, well, we've got two hours to be at the other grandma's. Finally, the end of the visiting.

The kid's are tired, "sugared-up" from Christmas goodies and absolutely obnoxious. Haul them home, and hustle them off to bed after they fix the treat for Santa. Wait for the first pleading, "I have to go potty," or "I need a drink." Then the second, and then... hopefully, they're asleep.

Mom and Dad have to make sure the kids' sleep is deep, because it's time for Santa to make his rounds. Presents are pulled from under the bed, out of the closet, the trunk of the car and the garage, and last minute wrapping begins. If you're lucky, you've had time in days previous to at least get the

Christmas paper on most of the gifts, so that bows and tags are all that are needed.

Dad always has at least one toy or vehicle that comes "assembly required." Oh, those two words. (Why do Dad's "look at" the to-be-assembled-item for two or three hours before turning to the instructions?)

Mom starts stuffing the Christmas stockings. She doesn't forget the fresh fruit to put on top, hoping the kids will at least eat something nutritious on the coming magic morning.

Finally, the "assembly requireds" are all assembled, the stockings are all stuffed and the presents are all arranged neatly under the tree.

Dad carefully dips the soles of his shoes into the flour to make "Santa prints" from the fireplace to the tree, and eats part of the snack left for Santa.

At last, Dad turns on the lights of the tree. He sinks down

on the couch beside Mom to enjoy the beauty of the sea twinkling lights, garlands glittering, tree and stockings packed with surprises. Feelings of love, warmth, anticipation and flood their minds and drive the weariness away.

Images of the coming morning pop into their heads. Young eyes, darting from one gift to another, wonder which one holds their most desired item. And then, squeals of delight when said item is discovered.

Being together at Christmas, that's the best part.

You become thankful that you have people to love and care about, because you realize that having someone to love is more important than having someone love you.

That's why I say of Christmas, "what a time of life." Love is the most precious gift of all, and we need to always share it with each other. Christmas helps me to remember that I am genuinely blessed.



Santa's visit to LBCC kicks off busy Christmas season

Christmas calendar
packed full of fun

"Christmas Gift" Concert, 8 p.m., Main Theater, Takena Hall. Free to the public.

6-8, 13-15
"Book and Candle", 8:15 p.m., Pen Theater, NW 52nd Ave., Salem. Info and tickets, 370-7469.

7-8
"Lebanon Elkettes Christmas Bazaar", 9 a.m.-Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Elks Park and Ash streets, Lebanon.

7-9
"Russian Christmas", 6 p.m. Friday, 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 p.m. Sunday, First Presbyterian Church, 114 S.W. Eighth St. For information about tickets call 753-2228.

8
"Antique Christmas Ornament Workshop", between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at White Church 510 S.W. Fifth Ave. in Albany. For information call 928-0911.

8-9
"Best Albany High School Christmas Bazaar", 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 1130 Queen Ave. S.W. Call 67-4545 for more information.

8-9
"15th Annual Town and Country Christmas Bazaar", 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday. Linn County Fairgrounds, 2051 Oakwood Ave., Albany.



Dec. 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 and 23

Haywagon Caroling Rides, between 5 and 9 p.m., Flinn's Parlour, 222 First Ave., Albany, tickets \$3. Call 928-9638.

Dec. 9

Old-Fashioned Christmas Parlour, 2-7 p.m., A self-guided interior tour of Albany historic homes; maps and tickets \$7.50 from Rice's Pharmacy and Albany Antique Mart.

Dec. 9, 10

Baroque Christmas, 3 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Monday, First United Methodist Church, Albany. \$4 general admission and \$3 for students. Tickets are available at French's Jewelers in Albany.

Dec. 10-15 and 17-22

Flinn's Christmas Tea Time, 2-4 p.m. at Flinn's Parlour, 222 First Ave. in Albany. Tickets are \$6.95. Call 928-9638 to make reservations.

Dec. 11-16

"Amahl and the Night Visitors," 8 p.m. Majestic Theater, 115 S.W. 2nd St., Corvallis. Tickets \$9 and \$7.50 at Grass Roots Bookstore, Rice's Pharmacy, Corvallis Arts Center and Sid Stevens Jewelers.

Dec. 12

Live reindeer will be on view on the Corvallis Court House lawn, 1-4 p.m. Call 757-6908 for more information.

Dec. 15

Children's Magic Day, daytime hours at Two Rivers Market at the corners of First and Second avenues in Albany.

Christmas Lights Volkswalk, 5-7 p.m., will pass through Albany's historic Victorian neighborhoods. Preregister by calling 928-7959 or 928-3562.

Dec. 21, 22

The Golden Nativity, 4:30-9:30 p.m. at Fair Ladies and Gents, 130 S.E. Ellsworth Ave., Albany.

Dec. 31

"Broadway Tonight", 6:30 p.m. at Flinn's Parlour, 222 First Ave., Albany, limousine service, five-course gourmet dinner and champagne. Tickets \$50. Call 928-9638 for more information.



And The Kids Had Fun!

Magicians, Weiss and Patricia, performers at ASLBCC's annual Christmas party, are assisted by Brandon, Natasha and Powell, lower left photo, while performing their "Rope torture" trick. Top photo shows Tiffany Martin of Sweet Home sharing her "wish list" with Santa. Juggler Rhys Thomas, right photo displays superb skill in balance and coordination to spellbind his audience.



Photos by Ron Kennerly

COMMUTER COMICS

Thatch



This week's top ten:

By David Rickard
Of The Commuter

- From the home office in Eddyville, here is this weeks top ten list. Ten gift opening expressions sure to be heard on Christmas day.
10. You shouldn't have, no you really shouldn't have, please take it back.
 9. Even the dog gets better gifts than me!
 8. Just once I'd like a polyester-free Christmas.
 7. Gee, thanks for the 24 pairs of underwear but I stopped wearing them in 1984.
 6. Great, just what I needed, Slim Whitman's greatest hits on 8-Track.
 5. This rag has K-Mart's flashing blue light written all over it.
 4. Swell, more underwear, I need more underwear like Imelda Marcos needs more shoes.
 3. Where did you buy this at, Goodwill?
 2. Can we speed this gift opening thing up a bit, I made plans for Christmas.
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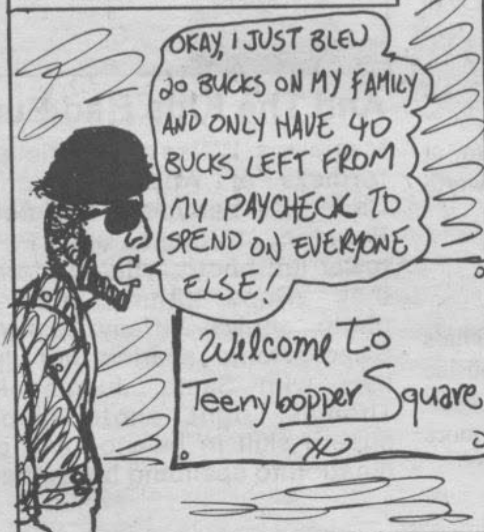
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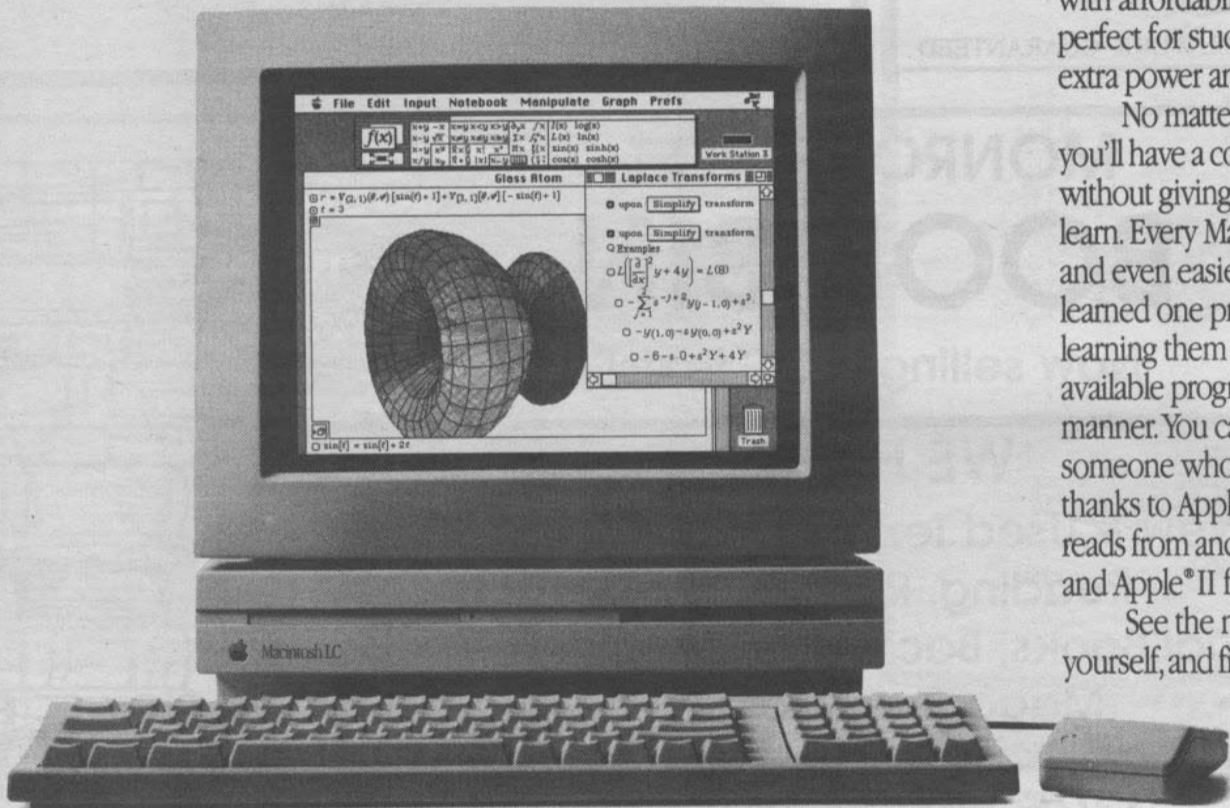
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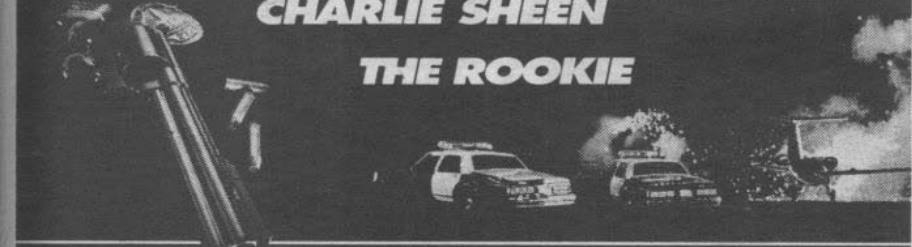
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NEWS NOTES

Library open Saturday

The LBCC library will be open on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. to assist students in preparing for finals week.

Math lab available Dec. 8

The Math lab, located in LRC 205, will be open Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Instructional assistants will be available to answer math questions, ok modules and grade tests. Tests will be issued until 3 p.m. and must be completed by 4 p.m.

Linn-Benton loop usage increases

Dave Wienecke, the college's representative on the Linn-Benton Loop Transit Commission, reports that ridership is up on the system the first three months of this fiscal year. The buses are handicapped accessible and a new feature is the installation of a bike rack that can hold two bikes. The cost is 75 cents one way and riders need to have exact fare. The following passes also are available: 10 rides for \$7, 20 rides for \$14 and a 40-ride pass for \$27. Passes are available at the Albany Center in Takena Hall.

Motorcycle safety class offered

The Team Oregon Motorcycle Safety Program is sponsoring a three-day motorcycle safety course through Linn-Benton Community College's Albany Center.

The dates and times are Friday, Dec. 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15, and Sunday, Dec. 16, from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Tuition is \$30. Enrollment is limited and students must pre-register at the Albany Center only.

For more information on the three-day workshop, call LBCC's Albany Center, 967-6108.

PTA joins toy safety effort

The Oregon Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is joining the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association to promote toy safety among parents, consumers and educators as part of the National PTA's Child Safety and Protection Month. The purpose of the campaign is to educate the public regarding the purchase and care of toys.



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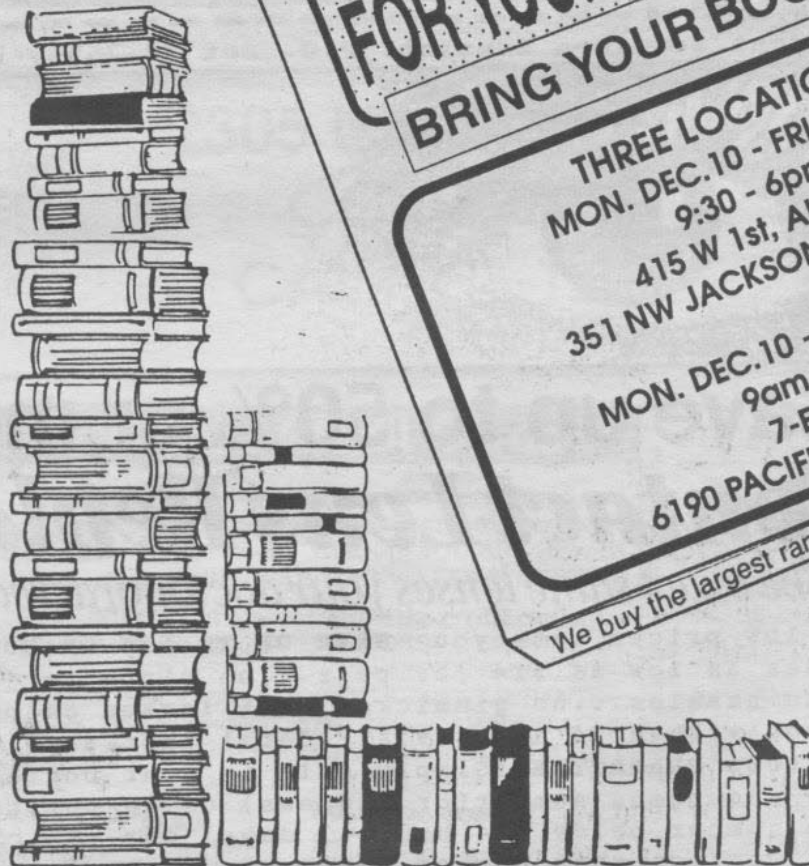
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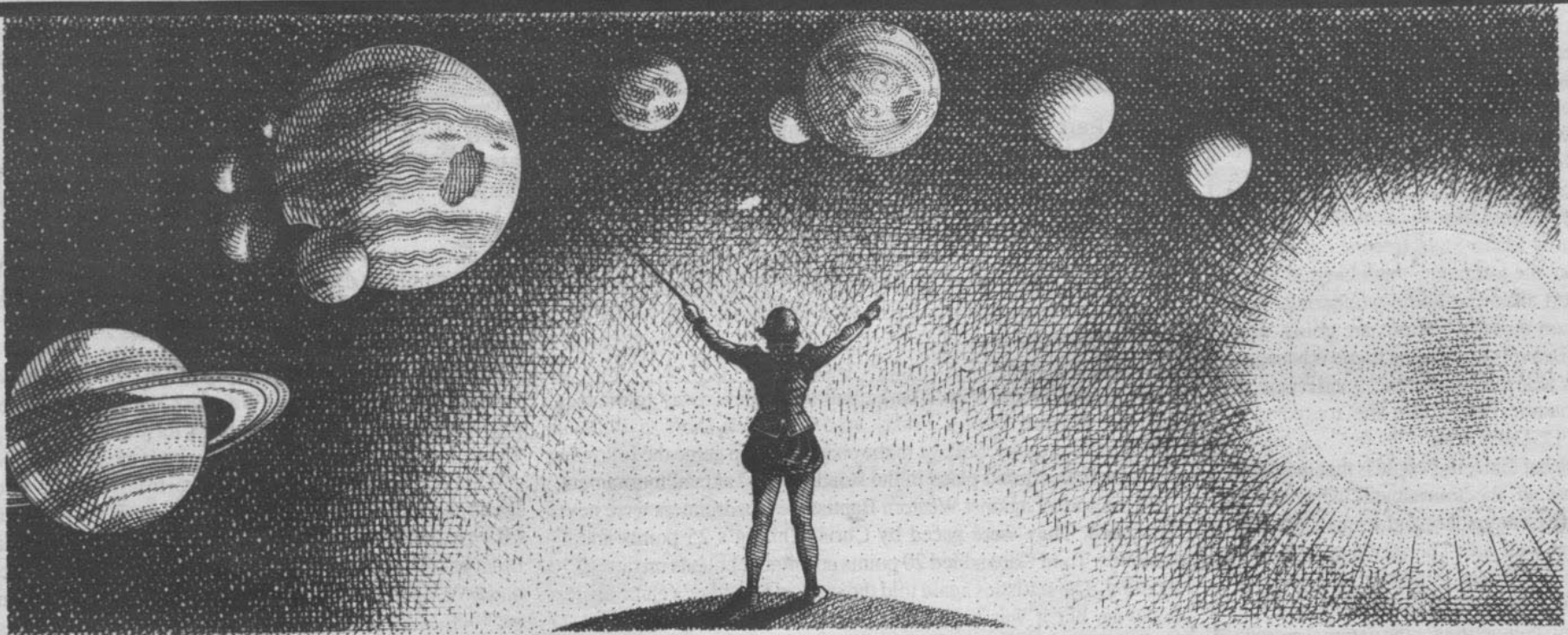
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SPORTS PAGE

KEVIN'S CORNER

OSU left out of tournament

Kevin L. Porter
Sports Editor

The volleyball season for most college teams is over, but the 32 teams who made it to post season play have a few weeks to go. Not included in the post season is Oregon State University.

After finishing third behind Stanford University and University of California, Los Angeles, the Beavers were left out of the 32-team National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament.

Last year seven Pac-10 teams made the tournament and this year only Stanford and UCLA were included in the post season. UCLA and Stanford both finished in the top ten of the nation in the end of season poll. When the Beavers played UCLA at home the Bruins were ranked number one in the nation and the Beavers lost in five sets, but all the games were close.

The Beavers finished the season with an 11-7 league record and an 23-10 overall mark. Two teams that are going to the tournament that probably shouldn't be are Texas-Arlington and Idaho State, teams the Beavers beat during the season in three games.

Something is wrong with the system when teams like Texas-Arlington (18-18), or Idaho State (record unknown), make the tournament and Oregon State is left sitting at home wondering. The reason those two teams are going and the Beavers are staying home is because they won their conferences and received automatic berths into the tournament and OSU did not.

What that tells people is that there are teams in the tournament who aren't worthy contenders and teams sitting at home who are. The problem with this type of system is that the tournament doesn't have the best 32-teams in the nation competing for the national crown. That, after all, is what it was designed for. Unfortunately however, there aren't very many tournaments that meet that design and allow the best of the best to play.

Sadly, teams like Oregon State, and probably many others like them around the nation, may just have to wonder why they are sitting at home while a team, or teams, with worse records, who they beat during the season, take a shot at the national title. The system doesn't work right when it excludes better teams and includes poorer teams, but on the other hand the tournament directors can't exclude conference champions regardless of their overall record.

Roadrunners show inexperience in loss

By Brian Ramsey
Of The Commuter

An over-matched Roadrunner squad fell victim to a superior Clark College team, 67, in non-league women's hoop action here last Tuesday night.

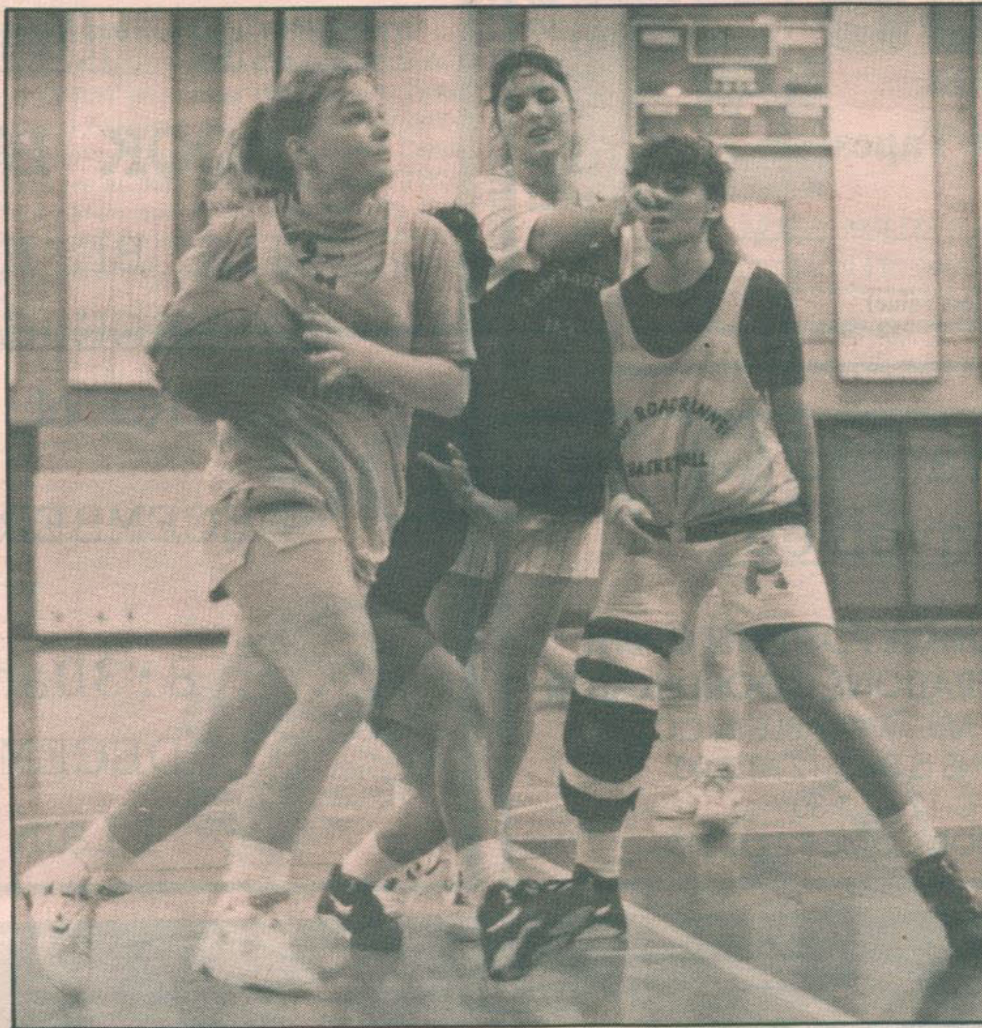
LB trailed by four, until Erin Tharp beat Clark on a 16-0 run late in the first half, enabling the Penguins to extend their lead at halftime, 48-28. Tharp burned the Roadrunners for 34 points and 11 rebounds. "She (Tharp) should be playing in Division 1 right now," commented LB coach Debbie Prince.

Clark's shooting ability and quickness doomed LB (0-3). "They only outscored us 13 in the second half and that's not bad to be able to play with probably the best team in the Northwest," Prince said.

Jennifer Tuvness tossed in 24 points for Clark and Michelle Noel contributed 19. LB was led by Tina Johnson with 20 points, including a game high 13 rebounds, while Jenny Stoullil chipped in 18 to the losing effort.

Prince believes if her young team uses every one of these games as an opportunity to learn, they are going to be fine, especially when league rolls around. Red-shirt sophomore guard Ranee Elkins agrees. Elkins is the only player on the team with college experience. She said, "the team should have no trouble getting accustomed to the college game after getting their feet wet in pre-season games."

The Roadrunners next game will be tonight at 6 p.m., as they travel to Vancouver for a match with Clark.



The Commuter/DARIN RISCOL

Shelly Percy drives past the pick set by teammate Andi Robeson while Renee Elkins switches to help out Patricia Tomez sandwiched between the three players. The Roadrunners are working hard to build intensity for tonight's match against Clark Community College.

Roadrunners finish second, Whiting named tournament MVP

By Mitch Ferguson
Of The Commuter

The Linn-Benton men's basketball team blew away tournament cupcake Western Baptist Friday 86-56, but fell short to Bellevue (Wash.) Community College in the championship game the following night to claim second place in the Roadrunners' annual tournament.

In the opener against Western Baptist the Roadrunners were never threatened. They were paced by Chris Whiting's 25 points and 14 rebounds. Todd Karo added 20 points and nine rebounds on nine of 10 shooting. The statistics again told the story in Saturday's game against Bellevue, but it was a different plot this time. LB committed 27 turnovers, gave up 16 second-chance points, and shot a paltry 9-20

from the free-throw line.

"We don't have to change anything" in the way of preparation, head coach Steve Seidler said. "We work on those things every day in practice." The Roadrunners missed forward Romero Ramirez, who was out with a sore back. "We rely on him a lot," said Seidler.

Despite the pathetic performance from the free-throw line, the Roadrunners trailed by only two going in to the locker room at halftime, but a 12-0 run by Bellevue early in the second half proved to be too much. Whiting turned in another stellar performance for LB, however, scoring 31 points and pulling down 12 rebounds. The sophomore forward averaged 28 points and 12 rebounds in the two game tournament, earning him MVP honors.

Hoop teams face tough schedules over Christmas holiday

Kevin L. Porter
Sports Editor

While most students are going home for the Christmas holiday LBCC's basketball players, both men and women, will stay behind and play in tournaments and regular non-conference games.

Today the men's and women's teams travel to Clark Community College in Washington, and then they split up and play at different places.

The men have a three-game home stand starting with Yakima Community College on Friday Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. Then Pierce Commu-

nity College comes to the Activities Center on Saturday Dec. 15 for a 7:30 p.m. match-up.

On Tuesday Dec. 18, the Roadrunners will take on Blue Mountain Community College at 8 p.m. at home, before they start a four-game road trip.

The away games include Dec. 21 against Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash.; Dec. 22 against Shoreline Community College in Seattle; and Dec. 28-29 at the four-team Lane Community College Tournament in Eugene, where the games start at 6 p.m.

The women's schedule is just as hectic, but they start with a three-game road trip. Their

first stop is at the Lane Tip-Off Tournament in Eugene this weekend, games starting at 6 and 8 p.m.

The team then returns home for a two game home stand, playing Pierce on Dec. 19 with tip off time at 5:30 p.m. and the Blue Mountain Timberwolves on Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

On Dec. 21 the Lady Roadrunners head north for a game against Shoreline starting at 6 p.m. and the following day play Bellevue Community College in Bellevue at 1 p.m.

They end the Christmas break with a tournament on Dec. 27-28 at Weed, Calif., at the College of Siskiyous Tournament.