



BEST OF THE MID-VALLEY

You voted, we tallied, The Commuter takes a look at the best the mid-valley has to offer.

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ROADRUNNER ALL-STARS

LBCC sports has seen many highs and lows over the last year. The Commuter takes a moment to reflect on the great achievements of our athletes.

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THE

COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Grads to say adios June 9

Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

The LBCC Commencement Ceremony will take place Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Activities Center on the Albany campus.

Approximately 300 students will participate in the commencement. The procession of students will be lead into the Activities Center by the Willamette Valley Pipe Band.

LBCC Board of Education Chairperson Joseph Novak will be speaking on behalf of the board. Outgoing ASG President Stephanie Quigley will give the student address.

President Dr. Rita Cavin will present the LBCC Distinguished Alumni Awards to Robert C. Harding, Annette M. Hobbs and Linda L. Modrell. This is the first year these awards will be given out. This is also the first class that Dr. Cavin has seen come from

beginning to graduation.

Phi Theta Kappa will present two awards to scholars Petr Horak and Amelia Cohn.

Those participating in graduation can pick up their caps and gowns today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Takena Hall. Graduates are meeting in the Forum the night of graduation.

Additional stories on this year's graduation, including honorary degrees and alumni awards are on Page 5.

LB student found dead in Alsea

Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

The search for a missing LBCC student was brought to a climax last Tuesday as Benton County Sheriff's deputies found his body in a home near Alsea.

Deputies reported that Jesse Dale Reesman, 22, of Albany was found near Alsea last Tuesday with an apparent single gunshot wound to the head. An autopsy on Wednesday confirmed the cause of death.

Reesman was reported missing by his family Saturday and police discovered his missing vehicle, a 1994 dark green Infinity, early that morning at Takena Landing in North Albany.

The search led to the arrest of Mitchel Ryan Miller, 19 of Albany. Miller is being held in the Benton County Jail on first-degree burglary charges. He is not charged with the death of Reesman, but is being called a "person of interest," according to Benton County Sheriff's reports. He is being held on \$100,000 bail.

Miller's family members have said that he did not have permission to be at the residence and that they are not sure why he was there.

According to an article in last week's Gazette-Times, Reesman's mother said her son and Shane D. Buckley went out to the property in Alsea because Miller owed her son some money and told them they could dig up some cash buried on the

► Turn to "Reesman" on Pg. 4



photo by Megan Pickens

Courtyard French Banquet

A broken pipe and flooding in the Commons forced the second-year culinary students to quickly move the French Banquet to the Courtyard and cafe Thursday night. The outdoor banquet was such a success, they repeated the experience Friday night.

Outdated science labs need remodel

Dan Wise
The Commuter

In 1973 Watergate and the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision were big news. A first class stamp was 8 cents, the movies of the year were "The Sting," "The Exorcist" and "American Graffiti," and George Steinbrenner bought the New York Yankees for \$12 million. There were no personal computers, few hand-held calculators, and cell phones didn't exist. That same year, the Science and Technology Building was constructed, and the classrooms, offices and labs have never been

remodeled or updated in the 33 years since.

The classrooms are designed for a smaller student body, older teaching methods and primitive technology. A tour of the facility reveals rooms used for storage because they contain unmovable, obsolete equipment, an office that an instructor shares with an old sink and lab table and another office not 20 feet long by eight feet wide houses all the Horticulture Department instructors. On the second floor, the biology prep room is a narrow maze with offices; exhibits, books and carts holding instructors' class setups packed in. Exhibits that should be displayed are hidden in corners or set on carts to be

wheeled out to classes. In one lab half the sinks have been disabled to accommodate computers that cannot get wet. An entire room formerly designed for now obsolete scales is used for temporary computer space. Most classrooms' seating is poorly designed for efficient use of modern equipment, limiting its capacity and the instructor's teaching flexibility. Some of the brick interior walls are in such bad shape that instructors have taped up hand-colored pictures to hide the discoloration seeping out. Many rooms have temporary partitions to form offices and hallways to accommodate staff.

► Turn to "Science" on Pg. 4

The Weather Through the Weekend

SOURCE: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

high 60
Showers
low 48
WEDNESDAY

high 63
Showers
low 45
THURSDAY

high 65
Partly Cloudy
low 45
FRIDAY

high 70
Mostly Sunny
low 48
SATURDAY

high 70
Partly Cloudy
low 47
SUNDAY

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Copy Editor: Brenda Ranzenbach
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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
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 and keep them at 300 words or less.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Beware of leaving dogs in cars

Dogs love to go for rides with you, but sometimes they go in unnoticed when you open your car.

It was a beautiful day out, not too hot, not too cool. My car was parked in my driveway in the sun as I was looking for my missing keys. I went back into the house, made a couple of phone calls trying to locate the last person who drove my car. I went back to my car to search again, to find it very hot inside and my little dog hiding in the back seat listless. She had snuck inside and I was too busy to notice.

My heart had skipped a beat as panic swept over me. I picked her up and laid her down. Fortunately, within a few minutes that black long-haired Chihuahua had revived. Gypsy was lucky, but two years ago, Caboose was not.

Caboose was my Australian Shepherd who would go to any length to go with me anywhere I went. He would jump in my Trooper, over the back seat and hide. He went with me everywhere, except when it was too hot for him to stay in the car. When I would tell him, "Out," he would give me those puppy dog eyes and I would cave in and take him.

To this day, I can still see those blue eyes begging to go, but now it is Gypsy who wants to ride. It was 75 degrees out, but inside my car it was much hotter.

On that fateful day in July, 2003 the outside temperature was 102 degrees, inside my air conditioned

house it was 76 degrees, downtown Scio was 100. In my car, the temperature was unthinkable. It was sitting in front of the barn in the sun. Caboose lay asleep on the floorboard. Forever.



SHERRY
MAJESKI

COMMENTARY

Inside my car was a mess, the sign of a struggle. Windows smudged with slobber and paw prints. White hair covered everything, still drifting in the air. How long was I in the house? Maybe 20 minutes?

I opened the door and slid in the driver's seat, Shoni, my 13-year-old daughter screamed, "What is Caboose doing in here?"

I looked down in horror and yelled at her to go call the vet as I jumped out and ran around the car to pull him out and laid him down. Shoni came back with the phone, but I was certain that he was lost.

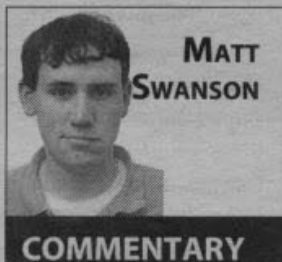
His eyes were glazed over, his tongue was purple and rigor mortis had set in. I put my ear to his chest to listen for a heartbeat, even a small one, but all I heard was my own heart pounding. No point in calling Dr. Cole.

Just a few minutes before, I had stopped at the barn to unload some feed. Just like always, Caboose had jumped in the car to go for a ride. I moved the car and signaled him out of the car and he left. I went back to my car for my wallet, but he had jumped back in unbeknownst to me and I had shut the door and trapped him inside to perish.

Challenges, uncertainty and excitement all part of a student's first move away from home to a new school in Washington

This summer I am going to be moving to Bellingham, Wash. complete my bachelor of arts in sociology finished at Western Washington University. This will be the first time I have ever moved away from home. Even though I am moving out and going to be living with my best friend, the whole thought of having to relocate myself is going to be interesting and a challenge.

The first thing that is going to have to change is my job. I have worked at my place of employment for the past five years. I have worked with some of the greatest people I have ever met and also have learned things about life, especially the do's and don'ts that are associated with life. Since the company



MATT
SWANSON

COMMENTARY

I work for doesn't have a store in Bellingham, I haven't yet decided if I want to work at the one about ten miles away, or find a different job.

Another thing I am going to have to realize is that my parents and grandparents are not going to be accessible just three miles away. Lately, I haven't seen much of them except for my mom during the past few months. I have been working many hours and have been busy at school wrapping things up. However, my parents and grandparents have a significant impact on my life. They are useful if I have problems with my car, a rip in my clothes, monetary needs and other things that cause conflict in my life. I figure though, that's why the telephone was invented and the postal service exists, for things like this.

However, I am really excited about getting to move. I am looking forward to finally finishing school, well, at least the first chapter of my college education, being

So long LBCC, thank you for everything

It is with mixed emotions that I write this final letter. You see, I am returning to my home state of California, as the Oregon weather was not for me. However, there were some good times for me here at LBCC, and I would like to say thank you to many.

When I moved to Oregon in December of 2003, I was relieved to discover that LB did not charge out-of-state tuition to those coming in from California, so my first thank you goes to the administration for this rule.

My next thank you goes to Linda Baskerville who taught me how to cope in her Lifetime Health and Fitness course. I had just been displaced from my job and moved to Oregon, away from my friends and family. Attending her lecture each week kept me going.

Another thank you goes to Lynn Bain, who's Career Life and Planning course allowed me to figure out what I am truly good at. It has always been my dream to teach and through her course I learned that teaching is what I'm supposed to do. It is a great course, and I recommend it to all college students.

Like many college students, I saved the hard classes for last. Hard was going to be science and math. I do not enjoy science, but biology instructor Steve Skarda made it enjoyable for me. Thank you Steve, your sense of humor made it fun, and I actually learned something.

Math, oh how I dreaded that first class. It had been 20 years since my last math class, and I was terrified, but it turns out waiting to take math last was the best decision I could have made. I was fortunate to have taken all my math here at LB because they have the wonderful Learning Center which includes the Math Help Desk. A big thank you goes to Roger Maurer who made math fun and taught me to believe in myself.

I have also come to appreciate Christy Stevens in the education department. I was sure I wanted to teach middle school or high school until I took her ED 216 class, and I now know neither would have been a good fit for me. Thank you, Christy for offering such an eye-opening class. I would like to teach GED/adult basic skills.

My final thank you goes to both Rich Bergeman and Nick Milhoan. Rich pushed me to write and Nick made me write weekly for The Commuter. Writing is not something that comes easily to me so being relied upon each week really made me push myself. It was good for me, and I no longer sit down at the computer with dread in my bones. I now know I can get more than 250 words on the page with little or no trepidation. Thank you both for allowing me to be a part of something so rewarding.

Thanks to the staff of LBCC for being so committed to the students. I am honored to call myself a graduate of such a fine institution.



BRENDA
RANZENBACH

COMMENTARY

able to live somewhere different and experience new situations.

Where I'm headed is close to Canada, a place I have never visited before. I guess that gives me an excuse, if I feel tired of the United States, I can go stay in Canada for a few days for a mini-vacation. Also, it's close to Seattle, which is one of my most favorite metro areas in the nation. Finally, it's a lot like here, except there is a lot more water and they have "real" winters which can help produce some great photography.

Our projected date to head north is the middle of July. I feel that I am ready to move on to a university, live elsewhere and get involved in the life and activities of an area that I don't know all that well.

Today I researched the cost of a U-Haul and I think I have decided on the right size, so step one is almost completed. Hopefully, in the coming months I will complete all the steps necessary to make my move.

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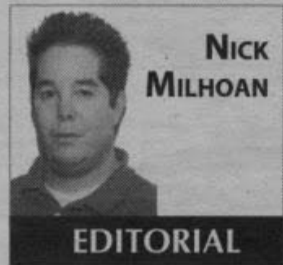
OPINION

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Editor says heartfelt thank you and goodbye

Another school year has come and gone (ok well almost, but close enough) and with that a year filled with lots of emotion is about to draw to a close here at The Commuter. I feel being the editor of this award-winning paper, that it's appropriate for me to take time for a few heartfelt thank yous and goodbyes.

This was my first (and now my last) year at LBCC. Having come from Southern Oregon, I had no idea what to expect when arriving. I knew that LBCC had a wonderful journalism program and that The Commuter had won countless awards over the years, so I had some very large shoes to fill.



Upon being named editor-in-chief I was forced to choose a staff and figure out just who could help me out with this weekly publication. I soon learned this was not an easy task. However, plenty of people were willing to help me out.

First and foremost is Rich Bergeman. I feel sorry for those never fortunate enough to take a class with Rich. He is an amazing man and I have learned so much this year. Honestly, I can't count it all on my fingers and toes. Without Rich this paper would not be what it is. LBCC is lucky to have Rich (and many other instructors) because I feel he could be at a large upscale university making a whole lot more than the pennies he makes here. Rich puts in countless extra hours to make sure this paper is what it is. For this, I (as well as the rest of the staff) say thank you Rich for all your hard work and dedication. You will never know just what it has meant to me this year to be taught by a man of your caliber.

Now my staff. I have gone through many changes, as do all editors throughout the year, and this has been tough, but I've learned a lot from it.

To those no longer on the staff I say thank you for all your hard work. Though you may have moved on to different things or to other publications, you have been missed and I couldn't have managed this paper without you.

My copy editors were Brenda Ranzenbach, Colleen Jacks (now Mrs. Colleen Franzoia) and Dan Wise. The three of you have been life savers this year. This paper would have had many mistakes (especially from me) if it was not for you. A big thanks needs to go to Brenda who is the actual (on paper) copy editor who has put in countless hours helping us out and making sure things are done. I will miss you as you move on to California, but I know you will be happy there. For Mrs. Franzoia, first off congratulations on your wed-

"I will never forget my time here at LBCC or the people I have encountered along the way. I have learned so much and a piece of me will forever be here. I can't thank everyone enough for all your hard work."

ding this past weekend. I know you and Mr. Franzoia will be very happy together and I wish you all the best, though we all despise you for being in Virginia while we work on this last issue. Thanks for your hard work and I hope you come back to help out next year; you are a great asset to this paper. Dan, well, I'll get to you later.

Contributing editors were Melissa Chaney, Sherry Majeski and Jennifer Overholser. All three of you have been a huge help this year. Sherry you are a dependable and unique writer and whenever I have needed you to write something, you have volunteered and gotten it done, which is always great. Melissa and Jennifer you joined the staff in winter term, but quickly became a part of The Commuter family. Melissa, I didn't know you well until after San Francisco, but you are a great writer and have contributed a lot to this paper. Jennifer, you have put in countless hours copy editing the pages after they have been printed time and time again and because of that, many mistakes have not been made. Sometimes I know it's tough working with me, especially when the deadline is fast approaching, so thanks for understanding.

Photography staff were Erik Swanson, Kyla Hoyt and Matt Swanson, as well as those that have taken photos throughout the year. Kyla, I wish we could have had you join the staff sooner. You are a great asset to the staff and an amazing photographer. You find a way to get the photo we need and are willing to go out of your way when I need you to. I hope you have a great time in Africa and that you hurry back to help out the staff next year. Matt, well, you have been my rock and are always there when I need you. You deal with me and humor me, taking pictures when I'm trying to pull a story out of my ass. Thanks! Finally Erik, what should I say about you? When you first started you were this quiet, shy person who sat in the corner and I wondered if you were freaked out by me. Now you are known as Gigs, who has opened up, an adult. Though at times I wanted to kill you because of you wanting the perfect photo, you do a great job and I couldn't have made it through the year without your expertise.

The sports department—what can I say about Jake Rosenberg and Neal Jones? Well Neal you have

written the crap Jake doesn't want to and never complained about it and in the process put out some good articles. Jake, I'd not have survived without being able to talk sports with you. The rest of these crazy people in here have no idea what we talk about, but it keeps me sane. You have covered a lot.

My A & E Editor Sheena Bishop, I know more about Lebanon and Lebanon High than I ever thought I would. Your upbeat and perky attitude always livened everyone up and sometimes we needed that. I hope you and Brad are happy and have a long life together.

Maria Gonzalez, well, I'd like to say something to you, but I'd get in trouble for it, though I'm sure you know what it is. Hee hee. Without you we wouldn't get paid, so thanks for making us money and thanks for the wonderful food from Alonzo. We really enjoy our Tuesday nights thanks to them.

My right-hand man (or woman in your case) and my all around guru of every job, Megan Pickens, and of course Tristan. Megan, we didn't know each other when Rich hired you and I wondered how we would work together every Monday and Tuesday, but we have done it and put out a fantastic paper. You are always willing to go the extra mile and put in the effort for what I need. This last term you have done almost everything there is to do on the staff and become the most vital member of the team. I'm going to miss our Monday and Tuesday nights together. We have laughed and cried and wanted to kill each other and Erik and every other person on the staff at one time or another, but I couldn't have done this without you. I can't thank you enough for your hard work and dedication.

Finally, Dan Wise—well, Dan may God have mercy on your soul. You have been chosen to succeed me and I know this is so hard, these are some large shoes to fill. Seriously though, you may have joined us in winter term, but you have put in a lot of time and energy since then and when it comes down to it, there aren't many people I would be comfortable handing over this paper to. I can say you are one of them and you will do a fantastic job. Like me, you will learn lots over the year and feel like jumping over the balcony a few times I'm sure, but never forget your staff and don't try to do it all at once. I wish you the best next year and I know you will make the college proud.

I will never forget my time here at LBCC or the people I have encountered along the way. I have learned so much and a piece of me will forever be here. I can't thank everyone enough for all your hard work. As I move on to Western Washington University, I know I am prepared to take on a new challenge thanks to my time here at LBCC.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



The Commuter

STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty, and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Science: Cavin seeks federal funds

◀ From Pg. 1

"We have outgrown the facilities we have," says Dean of Math and Science, Elizabeth Lundy. "The times have changed and the buildings have not. They are inappropriate now. We need to offer classes for the degrees we offer." There has been a huge increase in the need for trained personnel in the health fields stressing already overstressed facilities, Lundy points out. In 2003-2004 the labs served over 2,500 students, but because of the commitment to quality and the limitations of the facilities, access to classes has had to be curtailed. Lundy credits the instructors and staff for doing a professional job, given what they have to work with.

A major limiting factor in class size is the lack of sufficient safety hoods. The science classes use many dangerous chemicals for experiments that can only be used in a specially ventilated hood. With only a few hoods available, Lundy said, a difficult rotation system is used to give access to as many students as possible. Like everything else in the building, the hoods have never been updated and are marginal. Because of their age, the hoods are also excessively noisy, creating an annoying distraction for the students.

"The labs can only fit so many students, particularly in organic chemistry. The students hardly have a chance to do experiments," says David Hoskins, a first-year physics major and ASG science and industry representative. "There is not enough room to do what we have to so we can learn." Hoskins said he knows several people who have had to

travel to other colleges because they could not get into the classes they needed at LBCC.

Roger Leonard, an instructional specialist who prepares experiments for instructors is responsible for the chemistry storage and prep room. Aside from the cramped conditions, the room has no chemical hood, creating an unnecessary hazard and a big waste of prep time. Leonard notes they have been able to get hoods up to safety standards, but there simply are not enough of them. Additional pressure comes from a cooperative agreement with a major business to train chemists specifically for the company, straining an already overloaded facility according to Leonard.

In the biology prep room, Instructional Assistant Patty Petzel, who manages to keep order in what looks to be chaos, points out another major problem with the building. Access for people with disabilities is limited, and the staff has had to go to great lengths to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Instead of automatic doors, a bell has been installed at the entrances and a staff member must open the door for a disabled person. Rooms are so cramped people in wheelchairs must sit all the way in front or all the way in back making teaching difficult.

LBCC is sixth largest out of 17 Oregon community colleges with an enrollment of 23,000. It offers 25 degrees in health, science and engineering. In order to continue to offer the highest quality education to the maximum number, the college must upgrade its science facilities to current standards according to

Dean Lundy. Funds for this will not be forthcoming from the state Legislature however, due to current economic conditions.

A bond approved by the voters that funded the buildings under construction now at LCCC addressed several pressing overall problems. There was a critical need for more classroom space for all the departments and there were several safety and gender equity issues at the Activities Center, according to Lundy. Other sources of funding for the science building, including private and federal were viewed as possibly available.

To that end, LBCC President Dr. Rita Cavin and her administration is seeking \$2.4 million in funding from the federal Department of Education in the form of an earmarked grant.

The Science Center Project is seeking a total of \$3 million to remodel facilities. Private sources will fund the remainder of the project. The request cites LBCC's partnerships with local businesses and health institutions and the necessity of keeping current with technology to provide them with a highly trained workforce. According to Cavin, the requests have been submitted through Representatives Darlene Hooley and Peter DeFazio and Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith.

"The offices for all the legislators have shown interest and support for the proposal," said Cavin. The college's nursing program is of special interest because of the rising need for qualified health care professionals. A number of prominent local citizens have written letters of support, she added. She also

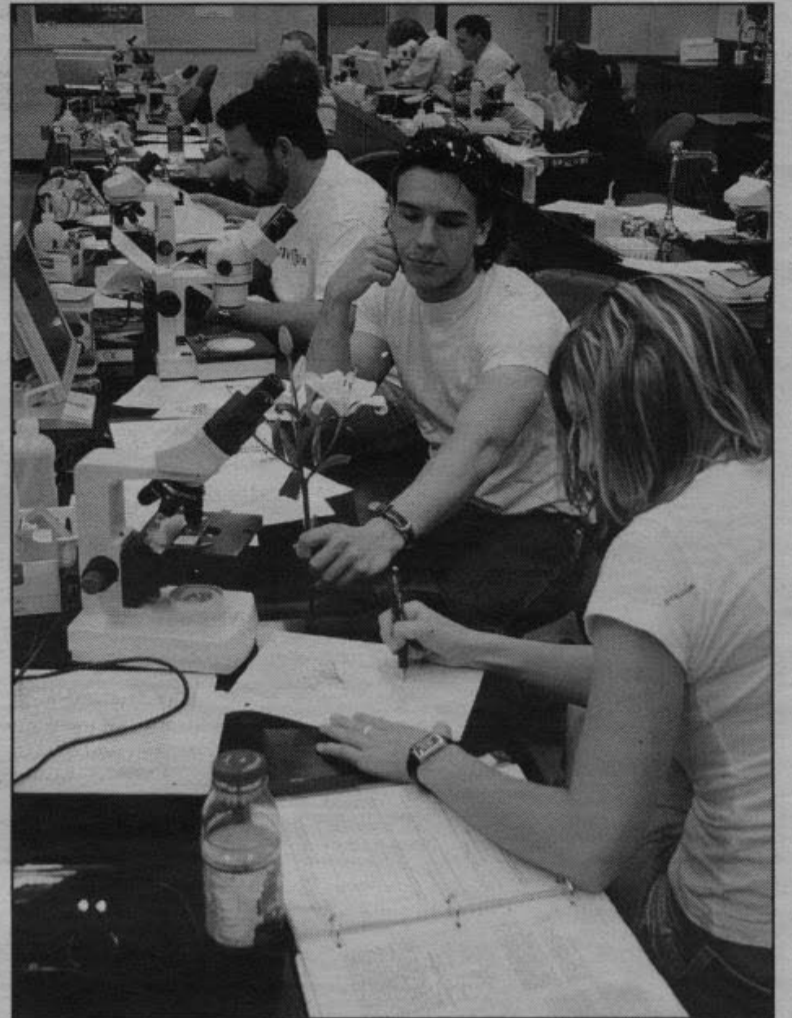


photo by Dan Wise
 Matt Lizotte, freshman in health and Ashley Greenveld, sophomore in business share a desk in an overcrowded general biology class.

stresses the importance of students, especially in the nursing program, to write letters to legislators concerning the problem.

Cavin is adamant about remedying this situation.

"We're supposed to be an area that supports science and engineering. We have absolutely outstanding teachers and students, and they deserve better," she says. Cavin hopes the answer to the request will come by August. If not, she says, "It's not going away. We are going to continue till we get this fixed."

Where to Write

To reach Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden:
www.senate.gov

To reach Representatives Darlene Hooley and Peter DeFazio:
www.house.gov

Send copies to Renee Windsor-White at:
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 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW
 Albany, 97321
Renee.Windsor-White@linnbenton.edu

Reesman: One man arrested, another still missing in Alsea case

◀ From Pg. 1

property.

Fliers seeking information on the missing Reesman were put up on campus and around Linn and Benton counties on Monday last week. A number listed on flier advised people to call with information. A call placed to that number led to a woman explaining that the missing victim was, in fact, found.

"The person you are calling about is not missing anymore," said the woman. "The police have found him and he was murdered. Please call them with any information, if you have it."

Police continue to search for Buckley, 31, of Albany, who was reported missing by his family on Sunday. Officers continue to search the 44-acre property near Alsea for information about Buckley and the death of Reesman.

The small town of Alsea was in an uproar this past week after hearing of the apparent murder and missing man.

"We don't normally see this much police activity," said 67-year-old Alsea resident James Peter. "I've lived here most of my life and this is about as exciting as it gets. It's usually pretty quite out here."

Officers went looking for the missing men after their families called, and Alsea residents reported suspicious vehicles on Fudge Loop Road, where the home is located.

"Whatever information they had shared with their families about where they were going was enough to concern them that after a day and they didn't show up, that they needed to report it to local police," Benton County Undersheriff Diana Simpson told the Gazette-Times last Wednesday.

When officers arrived at the home Monday, they said Miller had barricaded himself inside. The Benton County SWAT team was called, but Miller voluntarily came out before they arrived. He was then interviewed by officers and arrested on a first-degree burglary charge. Police are still investigating the crime and whether drugs were involved.

Buckley is described as white, 5-foot-4, 140 pounds, with brown hair and hazel eyes and was last seen with a goatee. Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Benton County Sheriff's Office at 541-766-6858.



photo by Matt Swanson

Last Curtain Call

Retiring speech and drama instructor Jane Donovan talks with well-wishers at her retirement reception Tuesday afternoon in the AHSS Building. Show posters of plays and reader's theater productions that Donovan directed in her 25-plus years at LBCC adorned the walls of the AHSS Conference Room as several faculty, staff and former students shared cake and punch while bidding her a fond farewell. Penny York, Director of the Benton Center, is having a Retirement Reception in the Benton Center Student Lounge Friday night from 4 - 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The Commuter would like to thank all the retiring staff for their hard work and dedication throughout their years at LB.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Student Voices

If you could change anything about LBCC, what would it be?



"Honestly, I don't think I would change anything. I think it's pretty cool the way it is."
Jennifer Walton
 General Studies

"The aesthetics of the school because currently it looks like a jail, and I would add on to the art gallery and make it more visually appealing."
Megan Kuntz
 Art Major



"I want it to be easier to be in the paper. I've been here for three years and this is the first time I've been in."
Scott Orsborn
 Engineering

"They (the Courtyard Cafe) needs to have Clam Chowder and Cheezy Potato Soup on more days than just Friday, and free coffee in the LRC."
Mark Conrad
 Computer Science



"The coffee machine in the LRC doesn't get it's filter changed out or fixed soon enough."
Aaron Mollahan
 Electrical Engineering

"I don't like people complaining about all the cell phone usage and they should make things more indoors because it's freezing."
Amanda Easter
 Medical Assisting



PTK project feeds body, mind

LBCC News Service

Alpha Tau Upsilon, the LBCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, will present Project Graduation: Feed a Body, Feed a Mind, during LBCC's graduation ceremony June 9 at 7 p.m. in the Activities Center.

Project Graduation encourages community college students to donate canned goods and books to local relief agencies and literacy organizations. Graduates and their families are encouraged to bring donations to their college commencement ceremonies and other commencement activi-

ties.

The program focuses on the battle against the social issue of hunger and low literacy rates. In an effort to impact communities internationally, Phi Theta Kappa chapters in over 500 community colleges in the U.S., Canada, Germany, Saipan and Guam committed to changing lives and communities last year through Project Graduation. Since the launch of Project Graduation in 2002, more than 220,000 food items and 190,000 books have been collected and distributed.

For more information, or to donate goods, contact Brandi Hereford at 541-791-1192.

Alumni selected for distinguished awards

LBCC News Service

Robert C. Harding, Annette M. Hobbs and Linda L. Modrell are the first recipients of the LBCC Distinguished Alumni Awards, and will be honored during the LBCC Commencement Ceremony held June 9.

Nominees must have completed a minimum of 36 credits at LBCC and made a significant contribution to the college, the community, the nation or education over a period of time.

Harding, who studied business administration at LBCC from 1986 to 1992, is active in his community, volunteering at youth football camps and coordinating and volunteering at community events. Harding currently serves as senior vice-president, regional sales and service manager for Pacific Continental Bank in Portland.

Hobbs received her Associate of Science in Secretarial Science from LBCC in 1975. She has been employed at Fish of Albany as executive director since 1989. Hobbs is well-known in the Albany community for her work and dedicated support of families in need.

Modrell, a Benton County commissioner since 1999, received her Associate of Arts

degree from LBCC in 1978. She has been recognized for her commitment, dedication and professional involvement in her community, and her ability to tackle challenging issues and projects.

LBCC President Rita Cavin said she was pleased to bring this award on board at LBCC, saying that so many of the college's alumni live and work in the area and are doing great things in their communities.

"I regularly meet LBCC graduates who are working and contributing in so many ways to benefit our local communities," said Cavin. "We are pleased to honor three LBCC alumni this year and look forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come."

An award committee comprised of Cavin and the LBCC Board of Education selected the recipients. Nominations for next year's Distinguished Alumni Awards can be made anytime. Forms can be found on the LBCC website at www.linnbenton.edu/, click on foundation, then LBCC Alumni. There will be a link to the form there. For more information or to receive a form by mail or fax, contact 917-4784.

LBCC students' essays earn Art Bervin Award

The Commuter

On May 9, the English Department announced Lori Hubbell, Melissa Weintraub's student, and Holly Sheehy, Jane Walker's student, as the winners of the 2004-2005 Art Bervin Award.

Hubbell and Sheehy will each receive a check for \$100 for their final essays in their Writing 121 class.

For the last five years, two students who received a double six, the highest possible grade for the final, are chosen by English Department faculty from the 39 students receiving a double six over the spring '04-'05 period. More than 1450 students take Writing 121 Composition an-

nually. The faculty met on May 4 to re-read those 39 essays and determined the Art Bervin Award recipients.

After he retired in 1999 to his home in Corvallis, Art Bervin, an English faculty instructor for over 25 years, was given an endowed award instead of the proverbial gold watch. In honor of Bervin's work, faculty contributed the money to make this possible.

For additional information on the Art Bervin award contact instructor Natalie Daley at 917-4573.

The Commuter and Daley wish to congratulate Hubbell and Sheehy for their excellent writing!

Dedication earns degree for Mullens

LBCC News Service

Dr. Larry Mullins will receive an Honorary Degree from LBCC at the commencement ceremony June 9.

Mullins is currently President and CEO of Samaritan Health Services, Inc. in Corvallis. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University, his Masters from Northern Arizona University, and his Doctor of Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Mullins has made many contributions to LBCC, providing leadership and facilitating support between the LBCC Nursing program and Samaritan Health Services. Each year he meets with nursing graduates, presenting each with a new stethoscope and words of encouragement as they enter their new profession.

Mullins has supported the growth of new medical programs through the LBCC and Samaritan Health partnership, resulting in programs such as Radiological Technology, Pharmacy Technology and Phlebotomy Training that are designed to meet the immediate needs of the health care industry.

Professionally, Mullins has achieved the special designation of Diplomate in Healthcare Administration in the American Academy of Medical Administrators. He is a fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives, and currently serves as Regent for the State of Oregon. He is also Chairman of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations and serves on the Health Systems Governance Council of the American Hospitals Association.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Annual rite of spring brightens the courtyard, signals end of school year

Melissa Chaney
 The Commuter

The last bash of Spring 2005 went off with a bang last Wednesday.

As the last big event before the term's end, Spring Fling is an opportunity for students to store up some fun before plunging into finals preparations. Hundreds of students and staff milled around the courtyard visiting the many booths, games and contests set up for their enjoyment.

Community and school groups had tables and representatives available. The Lifeline Suicide Awareness table, organized primarily by Sophie Mason of the ASG, presented information, books and brochures on suicide.

"I want to get a suicide survivors group started for the fall," she said. The Gay Straight Alliance was selling pride bracelets for \$3, entering purchasers into a contest for a poster.

The LBCC Safety Committee had a risk scenario game in which you determined your "safety" rating by dropping a metal ball into a box studded with prongs. Whatever section the ball fell into at the bottom determined the outcome of the scenario. Prizes ranging from first aid kits if you "died" to safety chocolate bars were awarded to participants.

Stations were also set up offering



The Los Angeles rock band Thornbird entertained the crowd milling about the Courtyard during the annual Spring Fling bash last Wednesday.

photo by Kyla Hoyt

help finding summer work. The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society provided applications and the Learning Center offered information regarding the many services available, such as the math and writing help desks and free tutoring.

Live entertainment, in the form of a rock band called Thornbird, pulsed from their perch on a stage in front of the Science and Technology Building. A

free miniature golf course was another popular stop for students.

Bids were accepted for items and services for sale at a silent auction in front of the IA Building next to the food table, where a meal of hamburger or garden burger, baked beans, potato salad, dessert and a beverage was provided. The proceeds from the silent auction went to support student scholarships

Traveling abroad through foreign study program broadens students' horizons

Katie Powell
 The Commuter

"Studying abroad is a great opportunity to explore other countries, broaden your horizons and get a better perspective of the United States," said Carol Wenzel, coordinator of student activities.

Two years ago there were not opportunities to study abroad at Linn-Benton but recently a few programs have been made available to provide students with an excellent opportunity to experience what other cultures are like, said Wenzel.

There is a consortium consisting of seven community colleges. Central, Chemeketa, Clackamas, Portland, Mount Hood, Rogue and now Linn Benton have come together to provide the study abroad experience. The community colleges work with AIFS, American Institute for Foreign Study. AIFS has over one million participants who take part in education, travel, and cultural exchanges.

A certain number of openings are given to these community colleges by AIFS and the schools select the students to participate. The interested student needs to apply to the school and then when selected go through an application process with AIFS, said Wenzel. The program is very competitive and students are carefully selected. "When selecting students, we look for individuals who can be plunged into a new environment and still be successful in college," said Wenzel.

There are currently two study abroad programs available at Linn-Benton. You can go to Florence, Italy in the fall or go to London, England in the spring.

The deadline for Florence 2005 has already passed but you can get a head start on your plans for next year. If London interests you, there is still plenty of time to apply. The deadline is near the end of November.

Courses are taught by faculty from the home campuses and carry academic credit from their school. Courses are specifically selected to maximize the benefit of the city you are studying in. They vary according to college program but typically will include art, architecture, history, literature, music, political and social sciences.

Participating students are expected to carry a full academic

load. Students will take classes with fellow Americans and will not be in class with natives of the country they are studying in.

Florence, Italy, in the heart of Tuscany, offers students a unique opportunity to study art, history and literature to explore a variety of museums, churches and cultures in one of the most walkable cities.

The Florence program is in the fall and runs from September 25 to December 8. The cost for this trip is \$6,725. It includes round-trip airfare, student housing, Internet and e-mail access, an Italian Life and Culture course, weekly cultural activities, guided excursions and a \$50 non-refundable application fee. Students will share housing with fellow students from America. Typically four students bunk together in a two-bedroom dwelling with cooking facilities.

London, England, known as one of the world's most beautiful capitals, is rich in art, music, theater and literary history. Students will study at the London Study Center, which is located at the University of London Union in Bloomsbury. London University has more than 50,000 students with many more enrolled at other area universities, colleges, and specialized schools.

The London program is during the spring and goes from March 31 to June 11. The trip can cost anywhere from \$6,000 to \$6,500 including round-trip flights, round-trip airport transfers, classes at the University of London Union, access to the computer lab, and many other amenities.

Don't let the costs discourage you. financial aid is available for students, but you need to apply early, said Wenzel. Loans are available to help pay for studying abroad but there are some up-front costs that financial aid will not cover, Wenzel explained.

Four Linn-Benton students were selected to enrich their lives and participate in the Florence, Italy study abroad trip in the fall. Faculties from the seven schools are specially selected to bring their teaching and experiences along on the study abroad program. Dori Litzer, who is among the faculty in the Linn Benton Art Department, was selected to go along this fall to Florence.

For further information stop by the Student Life and Leadership Office or contact Tammi Paul at 917-4457.

Wise named Commuter editor for 2005-06

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

Dan Wise, father of three daughters, has been selected as the new editor-in-chief for The Commuter serving for the 2005-06 school year.

Wise was born in Fort Belvoir, Va. and grew up on the north coast of Massachusetts. Living in the Northeast, he played hockey and tennis and learned to swim and sail.

"In the fall of 1973 I started a long, checkered and somewhat forgettable stint at OSU until 1979 when I decided school was not for me," said Wise. During those six years, in addition to attending school, he worked in the swamps of South Carolina and split cedar on the Olympic Peninsula. He also traveled back and forth across the country several times.

He married in 1979 and began a career working with plants. "After seven years at a retail nursery he took a job with a local landscape business. "I had worked summer jobs during my youth doing yard work and seemed to be suited to it," elaborated Wise.

"After 19 years and for a number of reasons, I finally decided to do something I have wanted to for a long time, chuck it all and go back to school," he said. Wise, who has always been interested in writing and photojournalism, has returned to school here at LB. "As it turns out, I have found college to be a much better experience the second time around and really enjoy the direction I have taken," he commented.

His daughters are all in school; his oldest in community college in San Diego, another at Portland State University and his youngest is headed to Corvallis High School next year.

Journalism will be his second career. "I am interested in learning as much as possible about all aspects of the business, hence the plunge into being editor next year," said Wise. He has taken several courses here at LB that have prepared him for the editor position, including feature writing, news reporting and photo journalism.

Wise has his work cut out for him. As editor, he will begin by selecting staff for the paper. He has already received several applications from interested students and he plans to schedule interviews right away.

"The editor position is a bit intimidating, especially considering the great reputation the paper has. Luckily there is a lot of support available, including the advisor, Rich Bergeman," Wise acknowledged.

Applications for staff positions are available in The Commuter office on the second floor in F222.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Cavin settles into tackling challenges

Jennifer Overholser
 The Commuter

Rita Cavin sits at her desk in her large office, preparing for an important evening Board of Education meeting before going on a two-week vacation. After only two years as president of LBCC and not much longer than that as a resident of Oregon, Cavin appears to have settled into her new life. Despite struggles to increase funding for the college and a busy schedule attending meetings, reaching out for community support and keeping on top of college issues, Cavin seems comfortable with the workload.

"Everything's pretty much the way I thought it was going to be, maybe a little bit better," she says. Her years of experience in community colleges have prepared her for her responsibilities. She was a community college vice president in California for 11 years before coming to LBCC and held several other positions going back to 1973.

She admits with a laugh that she wasn't always confident enough to speak to politicians and in public forums, however. "I was really shy. If you told me I was going to do this I wouldn't have believed you," she said. "Nothing prepared me for this. I never would've thought I would be doing this, even ten years ago. I liked being a faculty member and I liked being a department chair and I liked being a dean, but even when I was a dean I didn't think I would be a president. That's a surprise that I'm doing it. But, it's fun."

Things started to turn around for Cavin her freshman year in college when an English teacher helped her turn into a good student. She admits that she wasn't an outstanding student in high school. "A lot of students—I think it's a maturity thing—just don't get serious in high school. Sometimes you just grow up."

Entering college, Cavin had a very different career choice in mind. "I thought I wanted to be a nurse, but that didn't work out," she says. "Once I started taking science classes I liked English classes better."

Cavin ended up earning a doctorate in higher education and started out working at a university before quitting to have a baby. "In those days when you had a baby you stopped working. You didn't have maternity leave. And so then when I went back, the next job that I found was at a community college," she explains, and has stayed with community colleges ever since.

After being a vice president for 11 years, Cavin wasn't interested in retiring. "I thought I had some things to contribute as a president, and I was looking for the right college and the right match," she says. "I felt this was where I could really be helpful. This is exactly the kind of college I was looking for."

Cavin has had a positive experience since she started her presidency in September 2003 after the retirement of Jon Carnahan. "I'm really blessed. I've got really good staff. The vice presidents and the deans and the directors are all really, really good," she says, which allows her to focus on the things she needs to. "Because they're so good I don't have to think about detail very much."

She has directed much of her focus into increasing community involvement and partnerships. "The partnerships we have are being better supported. We're inviting more people on campus to see what a nice job we do," Cavin says. "I thought we needed to sort of open the windows and let people know who we were."

A lot of Cavin's energy has also gone into meeting with the Oregon Legislature and Gov. Ted Kulongoski to stress the importance of increasing school funding and the hardships budget cuts have placed on students and education. She has also tried to increase community awareness about the budget issues the school is facing by submitting letters to numerous newspapers.

According to Cavin, community colleges had a combined total of \$410 million for this biennium. However, with increased costs beyond their control, she says that \$440 million is the amount that is actually needed. The debate for the allocation for state funds has continued in Salem and with lobbying support from students and the community the allocation estimate ranges from \$416 million to \$433 million at this point.

Although the Legislature is still deciding on the budget, Cavin is optimistic. "I think we're going to do better than we did this last biennium, so that's improvement."

She is looking forward to a year when it's not the biennium, because the lobbying has taken time away from other issues. "It takes me away from the campus more than I like to be," she says.

Cavin is concerned that even after the allocation is resolved, LBCC may not receive a fair share out of the 17 community colleges. The colleges don't tend to get equal funding, and LBCC usually ends up on the low end. This has prompted Cavin

to discuss the issue with the other colleges and now the State Board of Education.

To offset the lack of state funding, a \$6 per credit tuition increase to be voted on by the board in June, is unappealing to Cavin. She feels that it is unfortunate that "students have an additional burden of increased tuition along with the increases that are out of control, such as gas and textbooks."

Another issue that Cavin considers a top priority is improving and expanding the science labs. They fill up so fast that a lot of students are not able to get into classes. She and members of the Science Department have been trying to get federal funding and have met with all four federal offices, but won't know if they will be approved until they go through the process in Washington, D.C., in the fall. She has been asking community leaders to send letters of advocacy and is working to solicit gifts for the project.

Cavin and the LBCC Board of Education have also been preparing for the next accreditation visit. She felt the Mission Statement needed to be revised, since it had been 13 years since it had been looked at. The revision started with a survey of 100 community leaders and the entire college staff. Community responses will be incorporated in the college's Strategic Plan. They have gotten down to the final drafts of the Mission Statement and will need to do a self-study to get ready for the accreditation visit.

Mike Holland, along with Ed Watson, is one of LBCC's two vice presidents. He was hired as executive assistant to former president Jon Carnahan 10 years ago, when the college was starting to address some organizational issues. Holland was running for the seat of president at the same time as Cavin. Though it was difficult at first for him, he has bounced back and finds working with Cavin enjoyable.

After serving alongside Carnahan for so long, Holland observes differences between Carnahan and Cavin's leadership styles. He says that while Carnahan was a very detail-oriented, hands-on president, Cavin tends to be result-oriented, focusing on the big picture. He believes that both presidents are very different, but both very good.

Carnahan was involved with LBCC for 30 years, so the school was as familiar as his own back yard, Holland says. Faculty wanted to know what he thought about issues. However, he thinks that a positive result of Cavin's style is that the staff has become more self-reliant.

Holland believes that Cavin's experience and desire to do the right thing help her be an effective president. "Rita has really good instincts and values," he said. Holland says that a common trait Carnahan and Cavin have is that they are both gracious and straightforward.

Current president of the Faculty Association Ann Marie Etheridge, a counselor at LBCC since 1974, will meet with the president and administration in Budget Committee, College Council and board meetings over the next year. Etheridge believes that Cavin brings ideas from her experience, while respecting the current culture of LBCC. "I believe she's a very competent, well-informed president, especially for her short time here," Etheridge says.

"While Rita is very professional she's also the type of president that I would have no qualms about saying 'let's catch a movie together'," she adds.

Joseph Novak, owner of Novak's Restaurant and longest-running LBCC Board of Education member, first became involved with the board in 1981, but has been involved with LBCC since the beginning. Cavin is the fourth president that Novak has worked with and the first woman to be president at the school.

Novak believes that Cavin is a sincere and helpful person who knows how to win people over to her views with her frankness. "She's a person who has an interest in the community," he explained.



photo by Dan Wise

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Climbing text prices strain student budgets

Melissa Chaney
 The Commuter

In a line that snakes back and forth between ropes and stretches out as the tail end unwinds, students wait both patiently and impatiently for their turn. It's Monday in the last week of September, the beginning of fall term for LBCC students, and bundled against the chilly morning air with schedule in hand, they're dreading the search for their class textbooks.

If they are ahead of the game, they've reserved their books online and can bypass the daunting lines for the book station set up outside the Bookstore especially for them. However, most college students are aware that they're extremely proficient in the art of procrastination.

Ushered inside the store in small groups, they make their way toward the back, where stacks upon stacks of colorful books are neatly and alphabetically organized. There's the MTH 111 book for that required class you're not looking forward to for \$77.60, and you debate over whether to purchase a book that is only optional—it's \$28.50.

On one of the top shelves you match up the CRN from the label on the shelf to the one for the Biology 101 class on your schedule—another \$94.90 for the text and a packet.

Next you get the two required Writing 121 books, each used, for \$38.45 and \$33.30.

Finally, you pick up the book for Speech 112, the class that you want to get out of the way—\$72.30.

After you've maneuvered your way around other students intent on their own searches and clerks politely pointing confused shoppers in the right direction, you stand in yet another line to pay for the books necessary for your education this term.

As the clerk at the register rings them up, your pupils dilate and with every beep your heart races faster. The grand total glares at you from the screen—\$345.05!

Why do textbooks cost so much? And where on earth is this money going?

Students around the country have similar thoughts when buying textbooks each term. Many are under the

"I try to keep the price (of textbooks) below \$50 or \$60 if I can. You think about cost and whether they [students] will be able to sell it back, but you want them to have information in an accessible format."

Jennifer Duncan, history instructor

impression that the college bookstores are the ones that select the textbooks. Most assume that the bookstores are hiking up the prices so that they can increase their profits.

Contrary to popular belief, however, most of the money students pay for textbooks goes to the publisher. According to the National Association of College Stores, about 64.8 percent of the price of new books goes to the publisher to pay for development of the book and business expenses, and the author gets 11.6 percent in royalties.

Although 22.4 cents of every dollar goes to the bookstore, on average only 4.5 cents represents profit before taxes. The NACS also states that college bookstores use most of that money to pay the salaries of their clerks and overhead costs such as insurance, building and equipment rent, and accounting and data processing.

Handling many textbook transactions is Denise Richards, the textbook buyer for the LBCC Bookstore. She explains that college instructors pick books "all on their own. They just tell me what to buy." There are approximately six major companies that publish most college textbooks—McGraw-Hill, Prentice Hall, Houghton Mifflin, Harper Collins, Brown & Benchmark Publishers and W.W. Norton.

Richards also buys books from wholesalers, who sell used textbooks. "I always try to obtain used books," said Richards, "because of their lower costs."

In addition to used books, another way faculty can cut the costs for students is to request spiral bound versions of texts. Although they're not in color, they are almost always available from publishers and they're cheaper.

Using less expensive novels for textbooks is another

inventive way to cut expenses, she said. For example, several instructors at LB have used the recently published book *The Davinci Code* as a textbook for the Writing 104 class, which only costs around \$20.

The book buyback process at LB, which usually takes place the last week of the term, is another way to see part of your money again, although you're out of luck if a newer edition is coming out for the next term, because the Bookstore will not have a use for the older editions.

Although instructors choose the books, examining them can sometimes be expensive, according to Jennifer Duncan, a history instructor at LBCC. She can usually get "desk copies" of books, which she either requests or gets sent from larger publishing companies. However, smaller companies sometimes require the instructor to pay for the textbook.

"I try to keep the price below \$50 or \$60 if I can," said Duncan. "You think about cost and whether they [students] will be able to sell it back, but you want them to have information in an accessible format." Duncan is currently considering compiling a custom book for some of her future classes, which involves taking only those chapters or segments of a text that are pertinent to her class and combining it into a much smaller and less expensive book.

Purchasing books online is fast becoming a popular method of acquiring textbooks. Students can often buy their textbooks at a much smaller cost. For example, the biology book that is only available new at the bookstore for \$90.95 is available used for \$67.67 on *ecampus.com* or \$43.75 on *ebay.com*, including shipping and handling. However, students usually have to wait a couple of weeks to receive their books, and they might not be able to get a refund if they change their classes at the last minute.

Online textbooks would also bring down the cost considerably if they ever catch on, since there would be no paper, ink, binding, or shipping costs for the publishing companies. Recently, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer proposed a federal income tax deduction of up to \$1,000 for textbook costs, which would relieve a lot of stress for students if it passes.

Student interns get political experience in Salem

Sherry Majeski
 The Commuter

LB political science students are getting first-hand experience in the political arena through instructor Doug Clark's cooperative work experience program, working directly with legislators in Salem.

Andrew Jones, Dan Snyder, Danae Burke and Ryan Richards have had the opportunity to see the legislative system from different perspectives.

Snyder, a political science major with a minor in psychology, has served as an intern for Sen. Bates. His duties included interacting with and responding to constituents within District 3. Snyder graduates this spring and will attend the University of Oregon. He plans to attend law school at either Willamette or University of Oregon.

Snyder said he was surprised by the amount of paper the office receives everyday—tons of e-mails and letters, from sincere support to angry dissent over issues such as civil unions, Measure 37 and education. Snyder said that all letters get answered, mostly by him. He is also working on creating a piece



photo by Erik Swanson
 Danae Burke sorts incoming letters from Rep. Alan Brown constituents whom she works for as an intern in Salem.

of legislation regarding land-use issues and wineries.

"It's been really neat going through the entire process of creating a bill, from the initial problem to writing a proposal to actually finding a bill to add or 'stuff' it into," he said. He has also written articles on Measure 37 and the education budget for Sen. Bates' newsletter.

"I think that the biggest thing I've learned is how influential lobbyists and money are in Salem. It's unfortunate, but where legislators get their money is

what comes first: whether it is their issues or his/her time," Snyder said. "I really enjoy the experience. There are opportunities opening up to me for the summer, from working with initiative groups to helping run campaigns. Unfortunately, money is an issue to me also, and government positions in Oregon don't pay well. So I have some decisions to weigh about whether or not I wish to continue in the political arena in our state."

Burke is dual enrolled at

LBCC and OSU as a political science major. She works for 10th District Rep. Alan Brown, where she does mostly office work—pulling and filing bills for session and committees, talking with constituents, running errands, e-mailing people and scheduling.

She said it inspires her to see people in Oregon legislative positions who really care about what they do, representing their constituents and doing what they believe is right for Oregon. She states that these are the people who make our state a better place, and students look up to them when they are thinking about stepping into political roles.

"CWE was a great experience and I would recommend it to any student in any field," she said. "It really lets you step into the role you could have with your degree and lets you see if that is really the place for you. I made great connections with people I really respect. I think I really learned a lot about the legislative process."

Burke said she is having lots of fun even though she is working hard. "Often the staff members and reps are really stressed out,

yet there's a really fun attitude around the place. Everyone gets along pretty good and is genuinely friendly."

She said that she worked 100 hours as an intern last term and wasn't planning on returning for the rest of session, but Rep. Brown asked her to come back on staff as an assistant.

Richards is an undecided major in his third term at LB and plans to transfer to Western Oregon University in the fall, where he is considering majoring in education and becoming a secondary teacher. He works for the office of Sen. Rick Metsger, District 26.

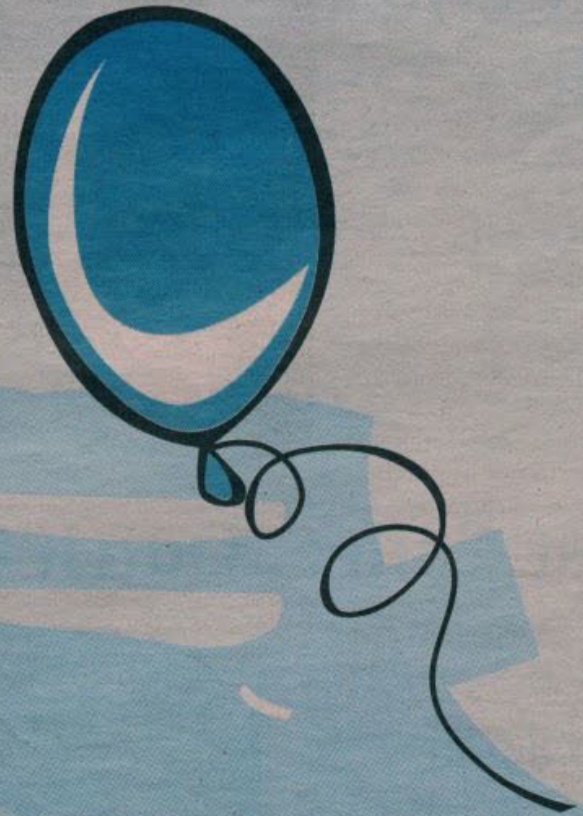
Instructor Clark said that being a political science major is not a requirement for interning at the Capitol, but students interested in becoming interns must register through CWE and follow the program requirements. Students should be enrolled at LBCC for at least one quarter and be in good academic standing.

"Interns at the Legislature usually hear about the opportunity in my classes, and I work out a placement with each of them. These internships earn students transferable college credits through CWE."

CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2005!

woohoo!

YOU DID IT!
- YEAH!



From your
friends at the



LBCCC Bookstore

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IN FO




Best of Honors 2005

With another school year about to draw to a close, we at The Commuter decided to look at the Mid-Valley and what great things it has to offer. After pondering this since February, we decided to put it to a vote and over the last month you, our wonderful readers have sent in e-mails to tell us what you think is the best in our area. After tallying all the votes, this is what you voted as the "Best of" in this place we call home. We hope (as free time becomes available) you will take the time to visit some of these places and experience your choices of the best in the Mid-Valley.

Best Bar: Fox & Firkin

Corvallis

Other Choices:
Platinum
Squirrels



Best Park: Avedon

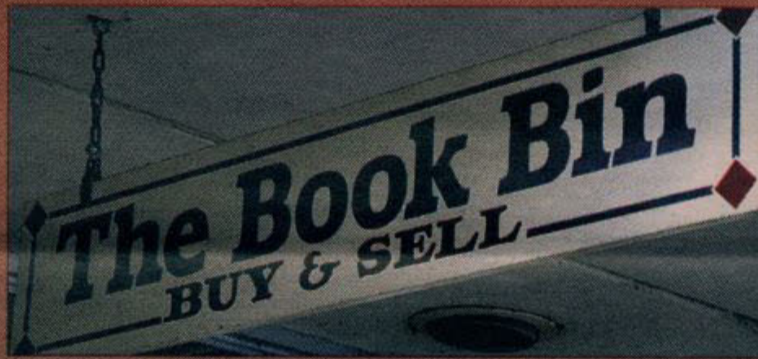
Corvallis

Other Choices:
Silver Creek Falls
Monteith
Wild Cat
Lexington

Best Book Store/Library: Book Bin

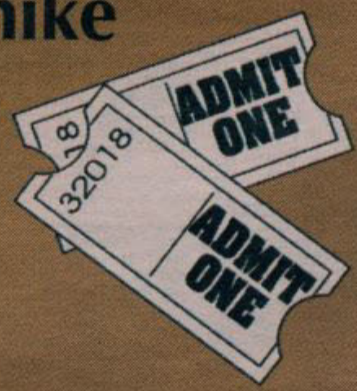
Corvallis

Other Choices:
Grass Roots
Corvallis Library
Borders



**Best Theatre: Avalon/
Darkside
& Carmike
(tie)**

Corvallis



**Best Golf Course:
Golf City/Par 3**

Corvallis

Other Choices:
Mallard Creek
Trysting Tree



Best Park: Albany

Other Choices:
American D
Cirello


Best...

Phi
Oth
McN
Ruby

Best Coffee: Dutch Bros.

Corvallis, Albany
& Lebanon

Other choices:
Starbucks
The Beanery
Creekside



Best Taco: Taco Time

Corvallis, Albany,
Lebanon & Sweet Home

Other choices:
Taco Bell, Tacos Uruapan
Baja Fresh & Taqueria Alonzo

FOCUS

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

Best Music Store: Borders

Corvallis

Other Choices:
Happy Trails
Grass Roots
Target



Best Restaurant: Novak's

Albany

Other Choices:
Big River
Michael's Landing
The Gables
Sybaris



Delivery



Best Grocery Store: Richie's

Corvallis

Other Choices:
WinCo
Safeway
First Alternative Co-op



Pizza: Ciddici's

Other Choices:
an Dream



Best Bakery/Deli: New Morning

Corvallis

Other Choices:
Old World Deli
Great Harvest Bread Co.
Roth's



Best Burger: Paul's Place

Philomath

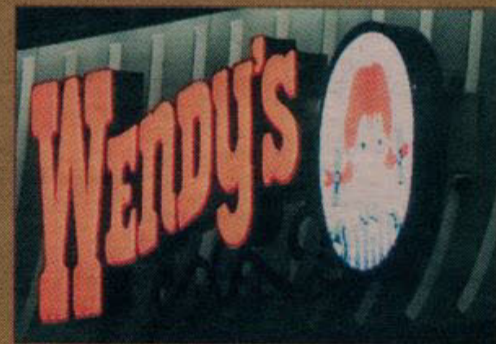
Other choices:
McMenamins,
Ruby Tuesday & Jamie's



Best Cheap Meal: Wendy's

Corvallis, Albany

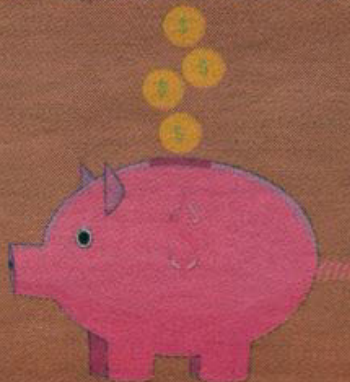
Other choices:
La Conga
Del Taco



Best Cheap Date: Movies 12

Springfield

Other Choices:
Blockbuster
Oregon Coast
The Beanery



Photos by
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Swanson

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ON THE ROAD

An in-depth look at exciting
 travel destinations
 for summer vacation



photo by Kurt Norlin

Winds whip up dust on the dry bed of Summer Lake in this view from Fremont Point atop Winter Ridge, one of many scenic spots in Oregon's Lake County.

Get off the beaten path in Oregon High Desert

Jens Odegaard
 Feature Writer

Next time you want to "get away" take the road less traveled. Head east over the Cascades towards Highway 97; turn north for a brief 15 miles and take a right onto a desolate stretch of road known as Oregon State Highway 31. Traveling 60 miles south of the 97/31 junction will bring you to Silver Lake.

Strangely enough there is no lake; rather the town lies in a high-desert valley surrounded by juniper enshrouded hills and strikingly harsh rim rock. It came to be known as Silver Lake because in the spring, winter runoff from the hills creates a series of shallow ponds in the lower parts of the valley. When the sunlight strikes the ponds it creates a shimmering reflection of the image of a silver lake.

A town surrounded by miles of desert on every side became known for its nonexistent lake; the product of man's innate need for water in a dry land. Yet, though its name speaks of refreshment and possibly the lure of riches, the town of Silver Lake is little more than a dried up watering post.

Officially listed as a town of 432 persons, a closer examination reveals that this number encompasses 364 square miles of land, leaving a population density of 1.1 people per square mile.

Even its most prominent structure, the old Silver Lake School building, lies empty despite its commanding height of three stories. Made of cut stone, the Silver Lake School is a solid structure amidst its surroundings of diminutive houses and mobile homes. Years have passed since any children walked its halls in the joyful drudgery of daily education.

The future of this forgotten outpost must be loaded like cattle onto the yellow bus and travel 27 miles one way to North Lake School in Christmas Valley. Today, the lawn that surrounds the school is dead and a billboard-sized sign reading, "For Sale: Action Realty, Lakeview, OR," sits boldly by the road hoping to entice a buyer with its sheer size and presence.

When you come to Silver Lake it's rare to see anyone outside. Unless you wander into the Silver Lake Cafe you could pass through thinking it was already a ghost town. The Silver Lake Cafe is fully capable of awakening your senses with small town, good tasting high fat and cholesterol food. For dessert get a cinnamon roll, a fresh baked treat that will send your taste buds into highest heaven. A bar also occupies one half of the building. But, bring a tent to sleep off the after effects because the nearest motel is 30 miles southeast in Summer Lake, whereas a tent could be pitched nearly anywhere off the side of the road, as soon as you have left Silver Lake.

In fact, camp for a few days around Silver Lake. Near it there are three campgrounds and two forest camps (camping areas that are more rustic and less developed than a campground). The three campgrounds within a 30-mile radius of Silver Lake are Thompson Reservoir Campground, East Bay Campground (just across the reservoir from Thompson Reservoir Campground) and Silver Creek Marsh Campground. Forest camps in the same radius are Trapper Spring Forest Camp and Upper Buck Creek Forest Camp. The Silver Lake Ranger District of the Fremont National Forest is the hub of



photo by Rich Bergeman

Ancient petroglyphs adorn a rock at Picture Rock Pass on Highway 31 between Silver Lake and Summer Lake.

camping activity for the Silver Lake region. They can be reached by phone 541-576-2107. Another source of information is found at the Fremont National Forest web site www.fs.fed.us/r6/fremont/rog.htm.

BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands that are open to public camping also surround Silver Lake and this wide open space is perhaps the greatest attraction to the area. It offers almost utter solitude. Unless you go out of your way to meet up with someone, the high desert could be enjoyed all by yourself.

A good place to start would be Picture Rock Pass fifteen miles southeast of Silver Lake. A gravel area at the summit of the pass is capable of accommodating several cars or even a motor home. Just over the pass on the eastern side is a dirt road that branches off the highway and opens up into a hidden clearing behind juniper trees. Either one of these places provides a good base for unhindered exploration of the northern tip of Winter Rim.

Just to the north side of the highway is a vast rock slide; broken shards from the rim-rock that caps the summit. On several of the larger rock fragments are the Native American petroglyphs that give the pass its name. Half an hour will give you enough time to find these ancient works of art.

Roughly three miles further south on Highway 31 is the junction with Forest Road 2901. Taking this gravel road for 18 miles will bring you to Forest Road 2901-034. Left and 2 miles further on is a parking area. A trail heads up the ridge from here. It leads to Fremont Point, the highest peak for miles. An old lookout cabin

used to stand upon this point.

In July and August of 2001 a fire ravished all 30 miles of Winter Rim. At the height of the fire the base camp, responsible for putting it out, held 1,200 people, working in shifts around the clock. Despite the efforts of those fighting it, the winter fire burnt from the southern end of Winter Rim to northernmost Fremont Point. Along its path it consumed 70,000 acres of the Fremont National Forest and the Fremont lookout cabin. All that is left of the cabin is its foundation.

The natural features of the land itself remain, salving the eyes with vistas, muted tones of rusty ridges in the distance, gentle valleys left over from ancient inland seas and harshly up-thrust ridges of lava rock. Peppered across the landscape are majestic ponderosa pines that survived the fire. Standing watch like sentinels they guard clusters of bush-like juniper trees. Lying untouched on the eastern side of Winter Rim is the marshy region of Summer Lake.

When Captain John C. Fremont first discovered Summer Lake he entered it from the northeastern side, coming over Winter Rim. Exploring the region in the fall he was caught in a bitter blizzard on the top of Winter Rim. After fighting his way off the rim he stumbled down it into the sunlit valley of Summer Lake. The contrast in climates from the top of the rim to the lake valley below led him to declare, "It was winter on the rim and summer at the lake." The names stuck.

The warm climate that exists in the Summer Lake

► Turn to "Silver Lake" on Pg. 13

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ON THE ROAD

An in-depth look at exciting
 travel destinations
 for summer vacation

Clear Lake provides clues to Oregon's past

Jennifer Overholser
 The Commuter

Around 3,000 years ago, a volcanic eruption in the Cascades Wilderness area released lava that flowed for miles, covering the landscape and filling the McKenzie River Valley. A nearly 200-foot high lava dam blocked the river, which gradually filled the forested valley to form a lake. Water from melting snow filtered through miles of volcanic rock.

The cold, mineral-free water preserved parts of the submerged trees, protecting them from the air. The McKenzie River flowed from this, falling over lava cliffs where the basaltic andesite lava had buried parts of the river. All around, the landscape bears witness to the massive lava flows, frozen in place as if they cooled only last year.

An ancient ash-covered river valley lies deep below the surface of Clear Lake. The petrified trees are all that is left behind. They hover just below the surface with some barely sticking out of the water. They are two to three feet across and go down to 40 feet in some places. Through the clear blue-green water, the lakebed appears very distant, creating an odd, disorienting sensation, as if you're suspended between the ground and the sky. Beneath the water, ripples of light reflect off of the pale sediment. You wish you could see what it was like before, when the valley was covered with trees, a river winding its way through the middle.

What was the landscape like before it was covered with lava? Maybe it was like the forests we now see along the banks of the McKenzie or along Highway 20, between Sweet Home and Santiam Pass.

These familiar greener regions are part of the older Western Cascades, formerly dramatic peaks like those in the High Cascades. Over millions of years they have eroded into the rolling foothills that we see today.

The High Cascades, though also millions of years old, are much younger in geologic time. Several volcanoes in the region erupted a few thousand years ago and as recently as 1,500. Among Oregon's volcanoes, Mount Hood has erupted most recently, estimated to be around the year 1790. In the Santiam and McKenzie pass areas, the landscape is covered with about 65 square miles of lava from several vol-



The McKenzie River cascades below Sahalie Falls before reaching Koosah Falls. photo by Jennifer Overholser

For more information about Clear Lake, Clear Lake Resort or for links about the surrounding areas go to clearlakeresort-oregon.org. The resort was founded by the Santiam Fish and Game Association in the 1920s. They regularly stock the lake with trout. The resort offers rustic rental cabins, a restaurant and lodge, groceries, fishing supplies and life vest and rowboat rentals. No motors are allowed on the lake and there is no phone, Internet or cell service.

canoes erupting within a period of 2,000 years.

From Sweet Home, Highway 20 winds through miles of green forests to Santiam Pass, where the landscape changes to expansive areas covered with dark gray

mounds of sharp, crumbled volcanic rock. Vegetation becomes sparse, with only a few trees here and there, often just snags. Turning right on Highway 126, you are surrounded by volcanic landscape alternating with evergreen forests. Where

the Lava Lake and Fish Lake lava flows meet, a dramatic viewpoint looks out over Mount Jefferson, Three Fingered Jack, the Sand Mountain Cones, Mount Washington and the Three Sisters. About three miles down, a turnoff on the left leads through the trees to Clear Lake. Along its shores are Cold Water Creek Campground and Clear Lake Resort.

A five-mile trail surrounds Clear Lake, leading through the forest, the lava beds and the McKenzie headwaters. Taking a rowboat across or hiking around the north end of the lake brings you to a cold spring where water flows from the ground into the lake. Also fed by several mountain streams, the lake stays between 35 and 43 degrees, depending on the time of the year. One reason it stays so clear is algae doesn't thrive very well when the water is so close to freezing. On a hot day the air is cooled from the lake, providing relief from the heat, especially when you take a rowboat out.

Clear Lake was formed from the eruption of Little Nash Crater on Sand Mountain. After lava formed Clear Lake's natural dam, it traveled a couple more miles, where it terminated to form the cliffs of Sahalie and Koosah Falls. Sahalie Falls cascades over 100 feet down a lava cliff, where it crashes into a pool of water below. The spray from the waterfall leaves the bank and the huge surrounding boulders covered with bright green moss and grass. The turbulent water then rushes through a narrow channel between the trees before flowing a half mile to Koosah Falls, where it pours over a 73-foot ledge. From there, the McKenzie River continues its course to the Willamette Valley and Eugene.

Clear Lake is a place where you can reflect on the mysterious history of Oregon's landscape. It sparks the imagination with its ancient relics that provide clues about a past concealed by the effects of eruptions on a scale that is hard to imagine in our quiet landscape. Whether you want to fish for rainbow or native cutthroat trout, go scuba diving, hike to the Great Spring or McKenzie headwaters or take a rowboat out to the middle of the lake, Clear Lake is a cool oasis away from the summer heat. And just down the road, Sahalie and Koosah Falls, with their cool mists and surrounding trees, also provide relief from the muggy valley heat.

Silver Lake: Marshy land helps create wildlife haven

◀ From Pg. 1

basin, coupled with the marshy land makes it an ideal habitat for a myriad of birds. A major Pacific flyway crosses directly over Summer Lake bringing bird species as divergent as the Canadian goose and the hummingbird to it throughout the year. The northern part of the Summer Lake Basin has been set-aside as a wildlife refuge and developed gravel roads and walk paths make the area easily accessible.

Great hunting opportunities are also available around the wildlife refuge. Each year scores of hunters flock to Summer Lake. Many of them stay at the Summer Lake Inn (541-943-3988, www.summerlakeinn.com).

Located 15 miles south of the town of Summer Lake and 45 miles southeast of Silver Lake, the Inn is directly off highway 31. It sits on a small section of flat land that joins Winter Rim and Summer Lake. The Summer Lake Inn has three rooms. But its most attractive units are 10 hand-built cabins fashioned from rustic wood. These cabins feature cedar interiors, Jacuzzi tubs in the bathrooms, and some fireplaces. Each cabin looks di-

rectly onto Summer Lake with Winter Rim looming in the back; the eastward facing orientation provides the opportunity to witness beautiful sunrises over Summer Lake.

Driving to the top of Winter Rim allows you to witness sunsets that can only be fashioned in the clear skies of south central Oregon.

Five miles north of the Summer Lake Inn on Highway 31 is the turnoff to Government Harvey Pass. A 10-mile drive on gravel FS Rd. 29 takes you in switch back fashion 2,000 feet above the valley floor, to the summit. On a clear day you can see north as far as the Three Sisters near Bend, south to Mt. Shasta, east to the Nevada desert, and west into the sun dipping behind the Cascade mountains.

From this point the Fremont National Recreation Trail is also accessible via the Winter Rim Trail. Over 60 miles of back country trails are open to horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking. Meandering along the crest of Winter Rim the high desert is presented in its variation; from flowing trout streams, to the burnt

out husks of old growth trees destroyed in the Winter Fire.

If you ever have the desire to return from the wilds of Winter Rim it is well worth it to pass once more through Silver Lake. One of the areas most interesting places: The Cowboy Dinner Tree is just north of town, easily found by following the signs.

Something of a legend, The Cowboy Dinner Tree is a quirky restaurant that serves more than just a meal. Eating there is an experience. The Cowboy Dinner Tree's food is served chuck wagon style. Occupying a small juniper log cabin it lies on the site of an old cowboy camp for the cattle drives that took place between Silver Lake and the Sycan Marsh. Oil lanterns light your steps back into the mythical old west. The tables are made of roughhewn timber planks and the seating is equally as rustic.

The intoxication of clear blue skies and wide-open spaces remains. The lake region should be experienced so jump in; swim in the beauty and quirkiness of the Oregon high desert.

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SPORTS

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

2004 - 2005 A Look Back at Runners' Sports

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

LB had another year of exciting sports action during 2004 and 2005 with all four programs showing promise for 2005-06. In this issue, the Commuter staff would like to thank those fine athletes that worked so hard during the year to give us entertainment and allow us to display our blue and gold with so much pride.

Fall term began with Women's volleyball, and thanks to a team effort and expert coaching from Jayme Frazier, the Lady Runners were able to finish in fourth place in the NWAACC Southern Division with a 21-21 overall record. Four players were honored with awards during the regular season; Chelsea Nay, Marcy Drake and Kathy Gellatly all were chosen as

players of the week while those three and hoopster Kelly Meredith were voted to NWAACC All-Star teams.

When students returned from winter break, they were treated with a late Christmas present as basketball season began. Coach Randy Falk struggled with his men's team but still managed to finish sixth in the strong Southern Division with a 10-17 record and a 4-10 divisional record. Tommy Bain was a dominating inside presence all season while averaging over 13 points and five rebounds per game. Keith Hoffman and Michael Braziel were an imposing back-court tandem leading the team in minutes played. Braziel's 14 points per game while accumulating more than 30 steals and 80 assists persuaded voters to name him to the Southern All-Star team.

LB's women hoops squad had a season of similar fortunes. A.J. Dionne's Lady Runners finished with a 13-16 overall record, 5-9 in divisional play, and finished fifth in the South. Kendall Dionne was among the team leaders in nearly every single statistical category by averaging over 12 points and seven rebounds a game while dishing out more than 70 assists and stealing over 50 balls. She was voted to the Southern All-Star team as was Kelsey Richards, whose 12 points and six boards per game helped the runners in the paint.

41-year-old Mary George was another interesting story as she joined organized basketball after a 22-year hiatus. The 1981 graduate of Crater High School was a welcome addition coming off of the Runners' bench.

The only thing that fell harder than the valley rains during the spring was LB baseball's luck. As they fought their tough Southern Division competition with moderate success, they lost severely to the injury bug. Coach Greg Hawk struggled with attrition all season



photo by Erik Swanson



photo by Erik Swanson

Brittany Howell (above) was a welcome addition to lady hoops. Ian Opsal (below) was one of four freshman phenom pitchers for LB.

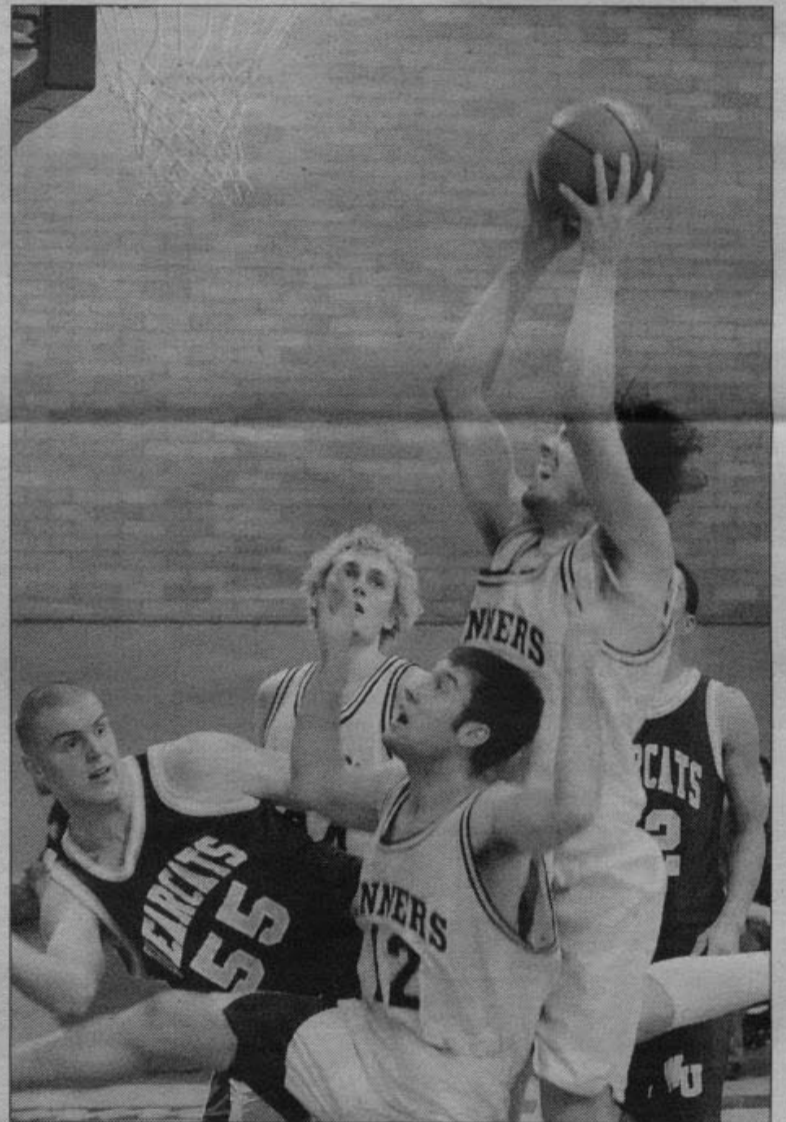


photo by Erik Swanson

Women's volleyball was the only program among all four of the LB sports squads to make it into the post-season this school year. Chelsea Nay (top) was a key contributor to their success, while Tommy Bain (with ball) and Michael Braziel were a terrific tandem and led the way for Runners basketball all season long.



photo by Erik Swanson

long while sometimes playing with as little as 15 players in a game. That heavily affected their offensive output and put a heavy strain on the Runners' young crop of pitchers. Freshmen Ian Opsal, Robert Stevens and Kenny McCullers proved to be great recruits, but none was more spectacular than First Team all-star Kyle Atchley. His 1.23 earned run average and 67 strike outs provided a dominant hurler for LB. Tim Puckett's .316 batting average and 16 runs batted in had him voted to the second team while Ryan Savage also made it with his five

doubles and nine RBI's. It was too little too late in the end for the Runners after a late season run that allowed them to finish in fourth place in the South with a 17-23 overall record and 13-17 in divisional play, just three games out of a playoff spot.

With the coaches working hard in the off-season to recruit and add talent to some already impressive teams, LB's athletics programs will certainly be in contention for post-season play next year and we at Commuter Sports look forward to the upcoming play.

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SPORTS

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

Woodburn Dragstrip offers fun for everybody

Jake Rosenberg
The Commuter

Woodburn Dragstrip's racing season is now under way after its season opener event, and while the weather scared away a few spectators, the hard-core ones remained to watch the 260-mile-per-hour dragsters fly down the 1/4 mile strip in five seconds.

Every year, Woodburn hosts a plethora of championship series and specialty events that brings thousands of fans to fill the grandstands. As the track's general manager and long-time spectator, Jonathan Adams finds that it's the perfect place for any race fan, novice or enthusiast, to enjoy drag racing. "If you

come out here once, you are going to enjoy yourself and you may even get hooked," says Adams.

The strip is host to more than 40 events from March through October and has feature races ranging from motorcycles to flame-throwing jet-cars. "Whether you have a Honda Civic or a '55 Chevy, there is something for everybody so you'll definitely find a home here."

While everybody is allowed to watch the fast paced action from the bleachers or in the pit area, just as many are welcome to race on the asphalt and experience the action first-hand. Junior Dragster events give aspiring youngsters between the ages of 8 and 17 the opportunity to compete.

Most Friday nights are reserved for test-and-tuners to bring out their street legal rides to race against their buddies. "If you have a car and want to know how fast it goes, we invite you try it out here instead of the streets," Adams says. "Racing on the roads is asking for a headache, that's why we service our community by providing an outlet."

Woodburn's concern for safety is rooted in the main reasons why the National Hot Rod Association was founded back in 1951. Ten years later, Woodburn Dragstrip was opened and has continued to exceed NHRA safety standards ever since owner Jim Livingston began running operations in 1963.

Even the NHRA's highest ranking

classes come out to the first-class facility to race. Every July, the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series and the Pro-Stock division come for two of the Northwest's marquee sporting events of the year that showcases the world's fastest alcohol-burning, supercharged machines and naturally aspirated production cars.

Adding to the track's rich history, its consistent scheduling giving multiple generations of racers the chance to compete at the same place that their fathers did. "People come from all over the country to race at this track," Adams said. "It means something to them to win here."

For more information and schedule dates, go to www.woodburndragstrip.com or call 503-982-4461.

Rice still has passion to play ball

Jake Rosenberg
The Commuter

Watching Michael Jordan give his farewell waves in a blue Washington uniform after a regular season game wasn't exactly the way sports fans had always pictured the moment. It was supposed to be us watching in awe as his final jumper to sink Utah clinched a sixth Bulls title, only to follow with him walking off the court triumphantly and into the sunset, holding up six fingers with confident conviction for the cherry on top. His career was truly remarkable and just because he didn't top the hot fudge sundae with the desired finish doesn't mean that it wasn't the best it could've been.

In similar fashion, Jerry Rice signed with the Denver Broncos last week and sports fans once again shuddered to watch yet another dominant athlete add more to their playing wardrobe instead of their legacy. As Rice enters his 21st season in the league at 42-years old, he is obviously no longer the triple-

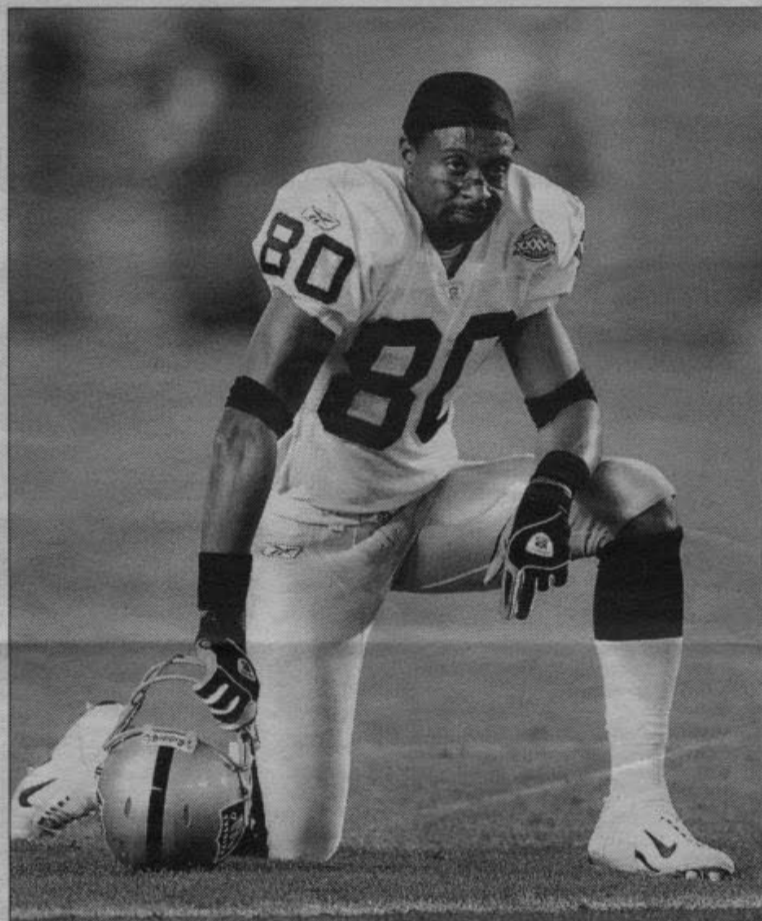
COMMENTARY

teamed threat he once was but he still manages to stay in peak form in order to play with and against the best.

Many are now saying that Rice is greedy for not retiring and is only playing another year for the sake of padding his statistical records while he occupies a crucial roster spot. Nothing could be further from the truth. Rice is known by many as a genuine person, consummate pro and the hardest worker in sports. He has been doing it for over two decades and it is a big reason why he was a dominant player for longer than anybody in sports history. His records in every category dwarf second place so bad that absolutely nobody has a chance to break them, especially in this greedy era of fragile bodied and minded football players that can't even play all 16 games, let alone do it for 12 consecutive seasons like Rice did. I know people once said this about Babe Ruth's records, but trust me; Rice's records are ab-

solutely unreachable by a modern day player. Even if the NFL added regular season contests to their schedule like baseball did after Ruth was gone, it would still take a steroided combination of Jesus Christ, Randy Moss and the Terminator to come within arms reach of threatening.

While Rice's accomplishments may be the reason why he is so respected, they are not the reason why he makes a team every year. He earns the right to qualify as one of 53 men to suit up to play and will continue to work hard to do so until he decides that he doesn't want to play anymore. He was quoted after his third Super Bowl title with San Francisco in 1995 as saying, "I will retire the day that I feel I can no longer play this game." Isn't this competitive nature the reason why we cheer for every great hero? I know it's the reason why I do, and the fact that I am the world's biggest 49ers fan doesn't change anything. While he has donned Raiders, Seahawks and now a Broncos jersey, it hasn't negated any-




KRT photo by Karl Mondon

Jerry Rice still has plenty left in the tank after two decades in the NFL.

thing that he did in the red and gold of the 49ers. Fans nowadays seem to be worried more than the players about how they will be remembered. While ignorant

spectators think that playing past their prime will forever tarnish an athlete's legacy, Rice's competitive fire proves that it only makes it shine brighter.

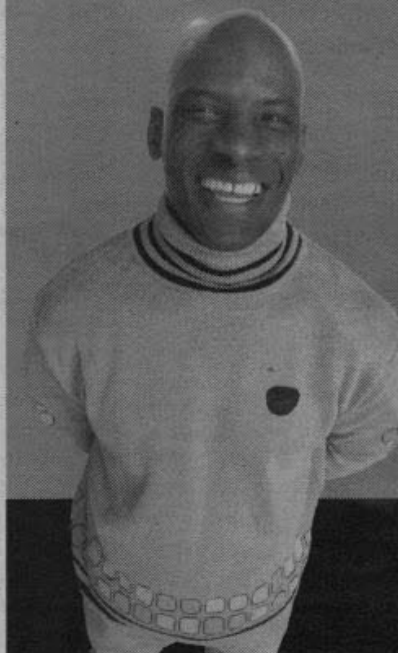
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SPORTS

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COMMENTARY

Are injuries a cover-up for steroid misuse?

Steve Farrens
 The Commuter

My favorite thing about the professional baseball season this year is the amount of injuries. Don't get me wrong, I'm not rooting for anyone to get hurt. In my opinion, many of the injuries are flukes. Here, let me explain.

The most significant part about the season is obviously the steroid policy and the chaos caused by Jose Canseco's book and the involvement with Congress in March. Very few professional athletes have admitted to using anabolic steroids or other substances. Other than the retired Canseco, deceased Ken Caminiti, and struggling Jason Giambi, most athletes have kept their mouths shut. Mark McGwire avoided question after question in Congress, while other players denied, denied and denied.

So, what does this have to do with injuries? Here's my answer—rather than embarrass themselves athletically after coming off steroids; athletes can claim injuries to avoid the media and the fans, still earning a paycheck! I mean, look at Barry Bonds. Yes, he has the media all over him making him a mental wreck, unless it's all show, and he doesn't want to prove how much steroids really work when he falls off his feet at SBC Park.

Another example, Sammy Sosa's convenient injury after only hitting four home runs through May! In fact, he's only hit eleven extra-base hits this year, not even offsetting his eighteen singles.

Finally, Jason Giambi. I'm proud of the man for at least admitting his use of steroids. But, out of 26 hits this year, don't you think a powerhouse like this man could hit more than six extra base hits with or without steroids.

Is this season a true testament to the problem baseball has with steroids or an even better example of how powerful anabolic steroids really are? After seeing the hitting power and success drop dramatically this year, I'll choose a third option—most of 21st century baseball players obviously have forgotten where the weight room is and spend entirely too much time and money injecting performance enhancers.

And I'm sure I'm not the only one rooting against Bonds' chase for the most home-runs record. Hank Aaron earned his total and a cheater doesn't deserve to be in the same league, much less the same sentence.

Work curtails summer Weight Room use

Neal Jones
 The Commuter

This summer there is going to be a lot of construction on the new weight room, but according to Physical Education Department Chairman Brad Carman, there will still be two five-week courses of body conditioning available.

The first course will start on June 21 and the second on July 26. Both will be from 10 to 11:50 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

An inconvenience for students taking the classes will be the lack of locker room space. Carman recommends students come dressed for class and shower at home after class. If students aren't dressed for class,



photo by Matt Swanson

The Weight Room will be open on a limited basis during construction. However, no free-weights or treadmills will be available.

the restrooms will be available for changing.

Students may want to bring their own water for drinking,

as construction may interrupt availability, said Carman.

Also, body conditioning will be done mostly with selected

machines in the gym, he continued.

There will be no free-weights available because there will be no faculty supervision to prevent theft or damage to floors. While treadmills won't be available, there will be bikes and other ways to exercise for cardio workouts. When weather permits, there will be outside activities such as walking and jogging.

Carman said that the faculty was discussing a possible open weight room from noon to 1 p.m. for students. If it happens it would be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Carman said that LB is hoping that the new weight room will be complete before volleyball or at least for the 2005 fall term.

Pistons, Pacers brawl top highlight of sports year

Neal Jones
 The Commuter

Well the spring term is coming to an end and I figured I would finish with a wrap-up of what happened in national sports since I've been on the staff.

The big story before I got on the staff was the battle in the Palace in Auburn Hills. On one play, Ron Artest fouled Ben Wallace with 45 seconds left. After Wallace's temper got the best of him, he punched Artest and a melee erupted. After Artest tried to calm himself down on the scorer's table, some idiot fan decided to throw his beer at him. In a rage Artest got up and ran into the crowd, picking a fight with some fan. Stephen Jackson then entered the fray, throwing blows at fans. Fred Jones unfairly got tossed around by some fans when he wasn't even trying to fight. The fans then started crowding the court to attack the Pacers. A couple of fans tried to fight Artest, and Jermaine O'Neal came to his rescue, delivering a blow that floored one of the idiots. After that, it was pretty much Pacers getting escorted out while Pistons fans threw everything they had at Artest, O'Neal and Jackson. Artest

then got suspended for the year by David Stern and O'Neal and Jackson received some hefty suspensions. Some Piston players got minor suspensions.

In the National Football League, in my opinion the best sport ever, the New England Patriots won their third Super Bowl in four years after defeating the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21. It was the last hoorah for the Patriots coaching staff because their offensive coordinator Charlie Weis accepted the head coaching job for Notre Dame and their defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel was given the head coaching job for the Cleveland Browns. Super Bowl XXXIX will be remembered always because it put the Patriots in the dynasty category.

March Madness brought us an exciting tournament with a great title game as the North Carolina Tarheels defeated the Illinois Fighting Illini 75-70. That game will always be remembered as Roy Williams' first ever national championship.

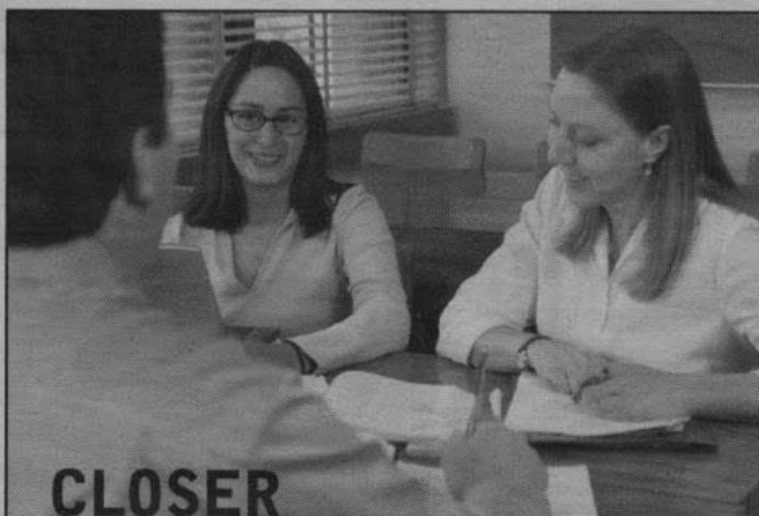
Williams is one of the most celebrated coaches in college basketball and the national championship had evaded him several times in the past. Sean May also had a terrific performance, missing only

one shot and scoring 26 points and collecting 10 rebounds. His play during the tournament was fantastic and his play in the Final Four earned him the outstanding player designation.

Shortly after, the Masters brought us an exciting, sudden death win by Tiger Woods. It was his first major victory after being winless in his previous 10. Chris DiMarco came so close to winning his first ever major but in the end Woods displayed the skills that make him one of the greatest golfers of all time. Tiger has nine majors and four Masters victories. His shot on the par-three sixteenth hole will be the one that makes this year's Masters memorable.

Last month the big stories were in the NBA playoffs. Now it's down to four teams. In the west, the Spurs need only one more win to advance to the Championship. In the east, unless the Miami Heat won Tuesday night there would be no favorite to advance to the championship.

This pretty much covers national sports since I've been on the staff. I've had a lot of fun writing and I hope the readers had a good time reading. Until next year, have a good summer and keep tuned into sports.



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JUNE 1 - JUNE 7

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• **MONDAY:**
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• **TUESDAY:**
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• **WEDNESDAY:**
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WEEKLY MENU

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Search for real Aslan begins as enemy invades

Editor's Note: This is the final installment in a series of reviews of the Chronicles of Narnia books by C.S. Lewis.

Sheena Bishop
 The Commuter

Narnia has entered a dark time, a time where the only truth must be found among the stars, for beasts and men tell lies.

King Tirian, the last King of Narnia, is enjoying time away from the pressures at Cair Paravel, a trip he makes annually to his hunting lodge. With him is his dear friend, a Unicorn named Jewel with whom he has fought many battles.

The young King and his companion are startled by Centaur's grave news, followed by a Dryad with a similar story. A false Aslan is killing trees in Lantern Waste, murdering the Dryads.

Infuriated with the murders, Tirian leaps up, sending the Centaur to Cair Paravel for an army while he and Jewel make their way to Lantern Waste to confront the culprit.

Using emotions instead of reason, Tirian and Jewel charge forward incautiously and are captured by the enemy. While bound, Tirian thinks of the stories of the past, when Aslan and the children from the other world would come in to rescue Narnia.

He remembers that they always came at the same time, Aslan and the children. He wailed into the night, pleading with Aslan to send the children to help as they had done before.

Not long after, Jill Pole and Eustace Scrubb appear and unbind the King. Now the question is how to save Jewel and get to the bottom of this false Aslan. With the help of the children, Tirian begins to form a plan.

Days go by and still no reinforcements arrive from



Cair Paravel. Time is running out for all true Narnians, all talking beasts who still believe in the power of Aslan. The Calormenes are now everywhere, saying that their Tash and Aslan are the same, even going so far as to combine the names and call him Tashlan.

Something must be done. The small group of seven, having never received reinforcements from the palace, go forward to the last battle they will ever fight, up on Stable Hill. In the midst of the chaos, all of them manage to be thrown into the stable, one at a time.

As Tirian is locked inside, he realizes that the stable is not dark and cold, but warm and bright. Before him stand seven strangers. Soon he realizes that they are not strangers at all, but High King Peter, King Edmund, Queen Lucy, the Lord Digory Kirke and Lady Polly Plummer. And with them, although they look quite different, are Eustace and Jill.

But how can this be? Clearly they are all in Narnia, but Aslan had said that none of the Pevensies would ever return, and how young the Lord and Lady look! How could these two, witnesses of the beginning of Narnia, still be alive and young?

These questions only Aslan can answer, but who is the real Aslan?

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is scheduled to open in theaters December 9, 2005. To view the movie trailer, visit www.movies-list.com.

- Other books by C.S. Lewis**
- *Perelandra*
 - *The Chronicles of Narnia*
 - *Screwtape Letters*
 - *A Grief Observed*

WANTED

Creative students to fill positions on The Commuter staff for 2005-06

Assistant Editors

Appointments carry quarterly tuition grants that vary from 4 to 9 credits per term, depending on the position. Some journalism experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointments made by the editor.

- Managing Editor**
- Copy Editor**
- Sports Editor**
- Graphics Editor**
- Opinion Editor**
- A & E Editor**
- Photo Editor**
- Online Editor**

Ad Manager

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant. Individuals with career goals in business, graphics or journalism are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Experience with Macintosh, InDesign and Photoshop helpful, but will train.

Hourly Wage Jobs

These positions are open to work-study eligible students only. If you have a work-study grant and are majoring in a communications field, we want to talk to you.

- Advertising Assistant** **Editorial Assistant**
- Photography Assistant** **Production Assistant**

Digital Page Designer

Pays \$9+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mondays and Tuesdays. Good English skills and experience with Macintosh, InDesign and Photoshop preferred.

This is your chance to get involved in your school paper.

Applications are available in The Commuter Office (F-222) or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-112)
 For additional information call 917-4563 or 917-4451

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

Out & About

June

Linn-Benton College Courtyard	Wed, June 1 Polynesian Party 12 - 1 p.m.
Russell Tripp Performance Center 917-4531	Thur, June 2 Coda: A Final Passage 7:30 p.m. \$5
Linn-Benton College Activities Center	Thur, June 9 LBCC Graduation 7 - 9 p.m.
Oregon State University Corvallis	Sun, June 12 OSU Graduation 2 p.m.
Strawberry Festival Lebanon	June 2 - 5
Portland Rose Festival Waterfront Park	June 2 - 18 www.rosefestival.org
Queen's Coronation	Thur, June 2
Starlight Parade Downtown	Sat, June 4 8:30 p.m.
Grand Floral Parade Coliseum to Downtown	Sat, June 11 10 a.m.
Oregon Shakespeare Festival Ashland	February 18 - October 30 www.osfashland.org
Richard III	February 18 - October 30
The Philanderer	February - 19 - July 10
Room Service	February 20 - October 29
By the Waters of Babylon	February 24 - June 24
Ma Rainey's Black Bottom	March 30 - October 30
Napoli Millionaria!	April 19 - October 30
Twelfth Night	June 7 - October 9
Love's Labor's Lost	June 9 - October 8
The Tragical History of Dr. Foustus	June 8 - October 7
Gibraltar	July 5 - October 30
The Belle's Stratagem	July 27 - October 29
Linn County Pioneer Picnic Brownsville	June 17 - 19
Northwest String Summit North Ridge	June 24 - 26 www.stringsummit.com

July

St. Paul Rodeo St. Paul	July 1 - 4 www.stpaulrodeo.com
Oregon Garden Concert Series Silverton	Thursday nights 7 p.m. www.oregongarden.org
Lauren Lucas & The Drew Davis Band	July 3
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band	July 14
Tracy Lawrence	July 21
Norton Buffalo & The Knock Outs and Pepe and the Bottle Blondes	July 28
Clint Black	August 4
Jonny Lang	August 11

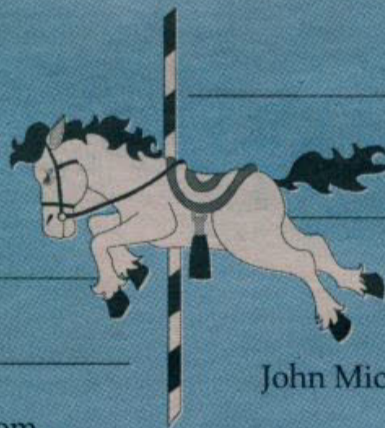
Foreigner	August 18
The Oregon Symphony	August 25 8 p.m.
Sportsman Holiday & Calapooia Roundup & Rodeo Sweet Home	July 6 - 10
River Rhythms Monteith Riverpark Albany	Thursday nights 7 p.m. www.cityofalbany.net/parks/riverrhythms
Chubby Carries	July 7
Sugarland	July 14
Starship featuring Mickey Thomas at the Fair	July 21
The Coats	July 28
Kinship	August 4
Alseep at the Wheel	August 11
Rider in the Sky	August 18
Salem Art Fair & Festival Bush's Pasture Park Salem	July 15 - 17 www.salemart.org
Linn County Fair Albany	July 21 - 24 www.linncountyfair.com
Aaron Tippin	Fri, July 22
Hot Summer Night Concert on the Lawn & Car Show Willamette Valley Vineyards	July 24 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. www.willamettevalleyvineyards.com
Jefferson Mint Festival Jefferson	July 29 - 31 www.mintfestival.com
Oregon Jamboree Sweet Home	July 29 - 31 www.oregonjamboree.com
SheDaisy & Travis Tritt	Fri, July 29
Merle Haggard & Lone Star	Sat, July 30
Neal McCoy & Sawyer Brown	Sun, July 31

August

Benton County Fair Corvallis	August 2 - 6 www.bentoncountyfair.com
Terri Clark	Tues, August 2
Scandinavian Festival Junction City	August 11 - 14 www.scandinavianfestival.com
Lane County Fair Eugene	August 16 - 21 www.atthefair.com
Hoobastank	Tues, August 16
John Michael Montgomery	Wed, August 17
Diamond Rio	Thur, August 18
David Lee Roth	Fri, August 19
Tracy Byrd	Sat, August 20
Oregon State Fair Salem	August 25 - Sept. 5 www.oregonstatefair.org
Northwest Art & Air Festival Albany	August 26 - 28 www.nwartandair.org
Los Lobos Oregon Amphitheater	Sat, August 27

September

Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire Philomath	September 10-11 www.shrewfaire.com
Oktoberfest Mt. Angel	September 15 - 18 www.oktoberfest.org
Corvallis Fall Festival Corvallis	September 24 & 25 www.corvallisfallfestival.com

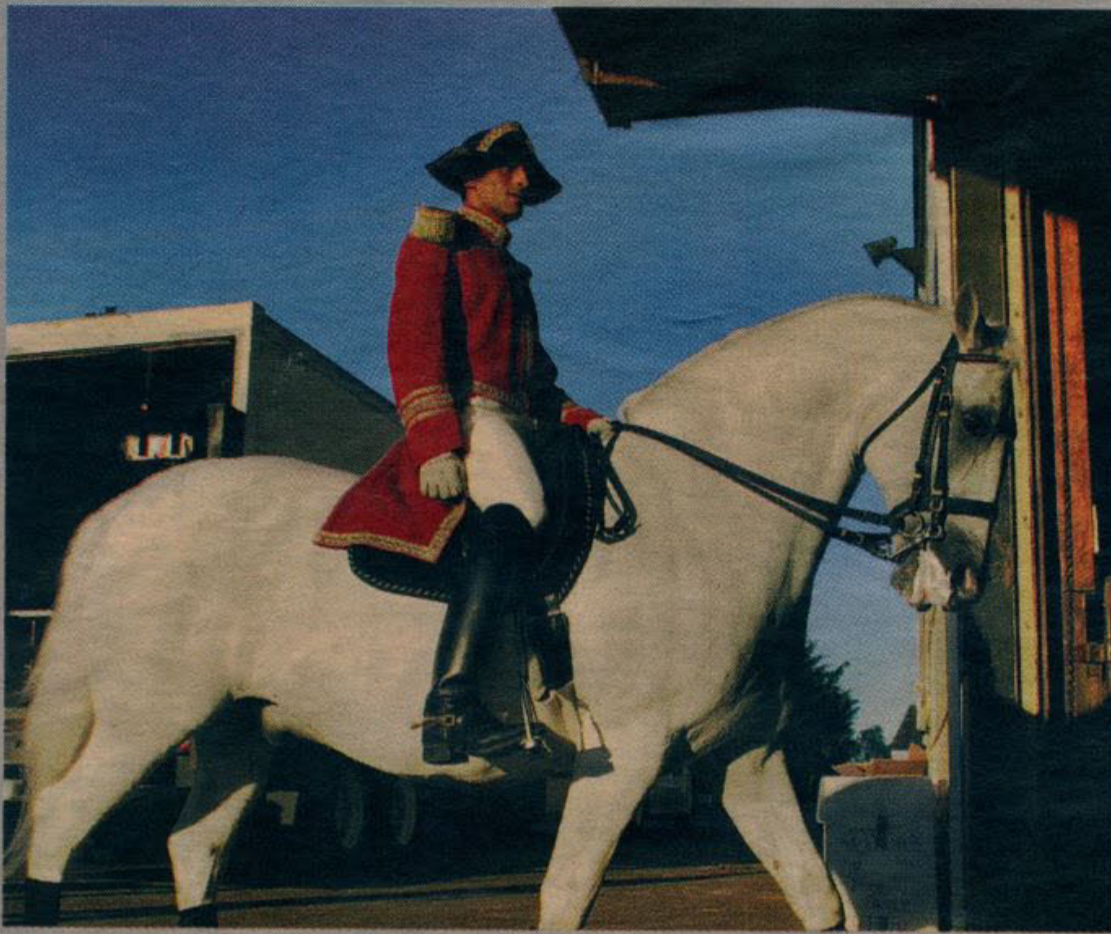


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Lippizzaners wow crowds at fairgrounds



All The Pretty Horses in a Row

The "World Famous" Lippizzaner stallions entertained capacity crowds at the Benton County Fairgrounds last Tuesday and Wednesday nights as part of their 35th anniversary tour. This is the only Lippizzaner troupe outside of the original Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Austria. Redha Gharse (left) is the head rider in a group of 8-10 that tour with 12 horses for 11 months a year. General George Patton saved the breed from destruction during World War II. Demonstration of equestrian skill and precision are hallmarks of the show.

photos by Dan Wise



Coffee table book shows off artists' work

Megan Pickens
 The Commuter

For Leta Brown, her work in Printing Services is just her day job. For the last year she has been working on a 224 page artists' profile book featuring over 150 artists, mostly from around the Northwest. Although the book does not feature any artists from LB, a second book is in the planning stage and many have expressed interest.

Cameron Blagg and his son, also Cameron, contacted many of the artists and many more heard about the book through the grapevine. Artists were given the option of how many pages they wanted. The majority purchased one or two pages at \$501 each, with the most purchased being six.

Brown has been working with the elder Blagg for about the last 10 years, working on web sites and newspapers. His son had the original idea for the book and had been trying to get Brown to work on it for several years.

Brown admits she was a little pessimistic about the success of the venture in the beginning. Once she agreed to design the book, Blagg began contacting artists to pre-sell pages.

Once the pages were pur-

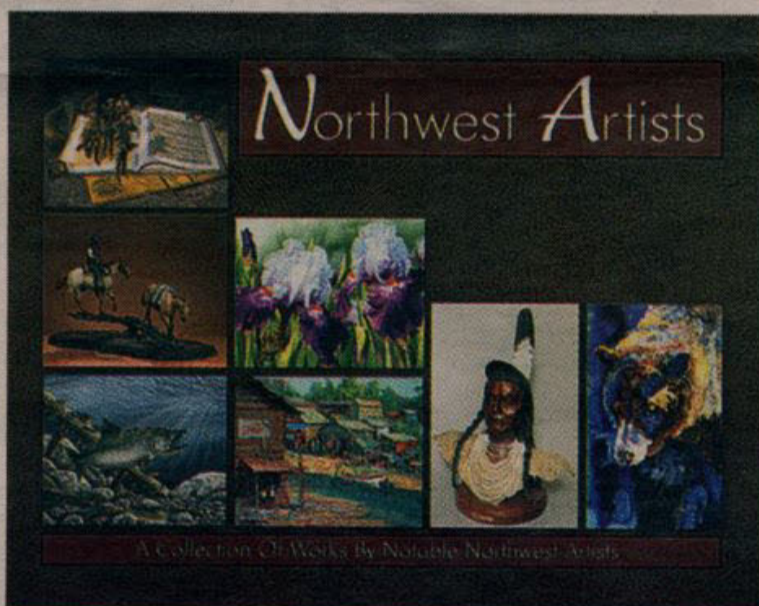


image contributed by Leta Brown

Leta Brown has compiled the work of many Northwest artists.

chased, the artists were asked to send in their artwork and information including whatever biography information they wanted.

One of the biggest challenges was keeping in contact with the artists, making sure they sent in their information and artwork and color matching. Brown did not have a high-end printer, so when she sent proof sheets to the artists, they were hesitant to sign off because of the color difference.

The book was sent to Hong

Kong to be printed through the Artful Dragon Press in Seattle, Washington, as it was more cost effective to send the book overseas. It would have been too expensive for the artists to print the book here in the states. They were also able to get color proofs to reassure the artists of the final print quality before the first book was printed.

Over 11,000 books were printed and each artist received 50 books per page they purchased. The books sell for \$29.95 and each artist will make

a minimum of \$1,000 in profits from the sales.

"This book represents a year of my life that I sacrificed family time and household chore time to complete. I am honored to have been selected to help create this project and I know that it will be a legacy that many people will get enjoyment out of," said Brown. "Artists who would not normally have had the opportunity to be in a book may now use this as a marketing tool and really be able to show off their work. There are big name artists in this book as well as fairly unknown artists and together they form this wonderful fabric of Northwest talent that was a true honor to show off."

Brown received 10 copies of the book and one is on display in Printing Services in the Luckiamute Building behind Family Resources. She plans on donating one copy to the LBCC Library for the entire campus to enjoy.

Another book has been planned, but Brown has asked for six months to recover from this project before she tackles the next. For more information about purchasing a book or pages in the next one, contact Cameron Blagg III at 503-932-2324.

ART BRIEFS

Graphic Students Show Portfolio

Graduating graphic design students will hold their annual presentation at 1 p.m. June 6 in forum Room 104. Students will show examples of their work and explain the planning behind them. The event is free and open to the public.

Benton Center Hosts Last Showcase

The LBCC Benton Center final Acoustic Showcase features the local singer-songwriter duo of Brad & Ethan.

The event will be held on Thursday, June 2 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Benton Center Student Lounge, 757 NW Polk Ave., Corvallis.

The duo hails from the local band "Husquarna" and plays a brand of music best described as eclectic-indie-folk.

The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Benton Center at 757-8944.

Chorus ends fourth season with 'Diversity' concerts

Press Release

Come join Confluence: Willamette Valley Mixed GALA Chorus as we end our fourth season with an exciting concert dedicated to celebrating our diverse lives. Appropriately titled "Diversity," the concert features songs chosen by chorus members to reflect their

personal life journeys, as well as a ten-song work by Seattle composer David Maddux, "Boys & Girls With Stories." Maddux is often referred to as "the gay Gilbert & Sullivan," and his work is noted for its witty lyrics and catchy melodies. Come join Confluence for this tribute to diversity.

• SALEM: Saturday, June 4, 7:30pm, Chemeketa

Community College, 4000 Lancaster Dr. NE, Building 6 auditorium.

• CORVALLIS: Sunday, June 5, 4:00pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd.

Tickets: \$10-15, available from chorus members or at the door. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.