

## ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

Despite population growth, Oregon remains below national average for traffic accidents. **Pg. 6-7**

## KEEP HOPE ALIVE

Roadrunner basketball teams still in the hunt for NWACC playoff berths. **Pg. 9**



# The Commuter

a weekly student publication

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 36 No. 15

## LB dialing up new policy on cell phones

**Shelly Murray**  
The Commuter

LBCC students may soon be faced with new guidelines limiting the use of cell phones on campus.

Dean of Health and Human Services, Jim Bell, said that so far, there have been no reported incidents of cheating or inappropriate picture taking on campus, but that the staff decided to take a proactive stance on the issue before it became a legitimate concern.

"We don't have any major problems here at this time," said Bell, but added that cell phones became a concern during the summer of 2004 when other colleges started reporting cases of their inappropriate use on campus.

The Academic Affairs Council has

appointed a committee that will develop guidelines on the use of cell phones in classrooms, locker rooms and in the Learning Resource Center. The committee, which will consist of students, faculty, and staff, has just started meeting this week.

According to Bell, the three major areas of concern regarding cell phone misuse on campus are students' privacy in locker rooms, cheating during tests and disruptions during class time.

Even though there have been no



photo illustration by Kyla Hoyt

reported privacy violations, steps have been taken to ensure that students are protected. Athletic Director Greg Hawk said signs were put up last fall in both locker rooms as a precaution to prohibit the use of video cell phones.

For the last two years, the Learning Resource Center has prohibited the use of cell phones inside the building because they may disrupt other students. Anne Green, program assistant in the LRC, said the staff has eased up on that a little bit by allowing cell phones if they are being

used unobtrusively.

The LRC has wireless Internet access, which allows students with wireless-enabled devices to do research between classes. Green noted that the high-tech gadgets are still not allowed in the testing area because some cell phones with wireless capabilities can enable students to cheat on exams or photograph and upload exams to the net.

The current policy on cell phone use during class lectures leaves it up to the individual instructors, said Vice President of Instruction Ed Watson. But he added that could change depending on what new guidelines the Academic Affairs Committee comes up with.

Opinions on cell phone use vary from one instructor to another. "I just haven't

► Turn to "Cell Phone" on Pg. 4

## Two write-in candidates join meager ASG ballot

**Melissa Chaney**  
The Commuter

LBCC students may be sans a complete Student Government come next year, if no more students run for the open offices.

Currently there are only two official candidates available for students to choose from. Bill Hand is running for president and Erin Hisaw for public relations. The two write-in candidates running for the office of vice president are Phillip C. Jones and Josh Gordon. The other positions available for potential candidates to run for include the at-large representative and four divisional representatives.

Jones said that he was not aware that applications for positions were being accepted

until it was too late, and suggests putting up a notice of deadline in Tadena Hall weeks in advance. He was surprised at the low candidate turn-out and said, "I would think that there would be more people running for office because of incentives and grants."

Those who take positions as president, vice president and public relations secretary normally receive full tuition grants, equal to 12 credits, for the fall, winter and spring terms while in office. Representatives and the at-large representative usually receive full tuition grants for the winter and spring terms. Tuition grants are not the only benefits of participation in the ASG. Applications for jobs and

► Turn to "Elections" on Pg. 4



photo by Erik Swanson

### Pizza Welcomes Future Students

Kathy Duttlinger and Isaac Kratzer dish up pizza at last night's 4th annual LBCC Open House. The event gives prospective students a chance to see what LBCC has to offer.

## Students charge ahead despite credit pitfalls

**Dan Wise**  
The Commuter

Stop, look and listen. This is good advice before crossing the street, and even better, if you're in school, before signing up and using a credit card.

"I get two to three offers a week," said Jocelyn Haas, the clubs coordinator at LBCC and a former student.

Her first credit card was cosigned by her parents when she was just out of high school. She has two cards

now and is aware of their pitfalls, she said.

Many credit cards charge an annual fee. In addition, most charge large fees, commonly \$25 to \$30, for paying late or going over the card's credit limit. In addition, initial low monthly interest rates can be raised to 25 percent or more for the same reasons.

"You have to read this whole huge agreement," said Haas. "I think that's why so many people are in debt. All my roommates had problems with too much debt."

Younger students always have problems with credit,

according to Jan Amling, executive director of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Linn-Benton, Inc. Being careful of debt is not what they want to hear. They think, "Wow, I have access to money," she said.

Managing credit is not a required subject in the schools anymore. It is very difficult for her counselors to get into the classrooms because of the time constraints the teachers have, said Amling.

While her counseling service does not get a lot of

► Turn to "Credit" on Pg. 4

### WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND


SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM



high 65 low 34  
WEDNESDAY



high 63 low 35  
THURSDAY



high 61 low 33  
FRIDAY



high 62 low 36  
SATURDAY



high 61 low 39  
SUNDAY

Opinion.....	2-3
Local News.....	4-5
In Focus.....	6-7
Campus News.....	8
Sports.....	9
A & E.....	11-12

### INDEX



Commuter

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# OPINION

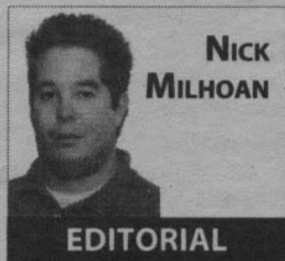
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 keep them at 300 words or less

## Fast-paced, prudish society needs new attitude

Consider sex and profanity on television, gambling, gay marriage, sport utility vehicles, customer service, marijuana and more.

In this day and age of the world "supposedly" being tolerant of all things and of fast-paced lives, Americans have become way too uptight about some things and way too lazy about other things. We also feel that we are the superior country in the world and, well, basically, that our "shit doesn't stink."

America is by far the largest, biggest player in the world today and does have a hand in almost everything that happens in the world. However, when it comes to being tolerant of things and of taking time to slow down, smell the roses and think about our actions before we leap, America lags so far behind other countries in the world, it's insane.



**NICK  
MILHOAN**

**EDITORIAL**

Take two of the biggest issues facing the world today: gay marriage and marijuana. How many civilized countries in the world have legalized gay marriage and have either legalized marijuana, or treat it as a slap on the wrist when it's a small amount? Yet here in America we think the fathoms of hell will wreak havoc upon us if we allow love, regardless of sexual orientation, to be legalized. The government would make millions of dollars if they allowed homosexuals to be married or even unionized.

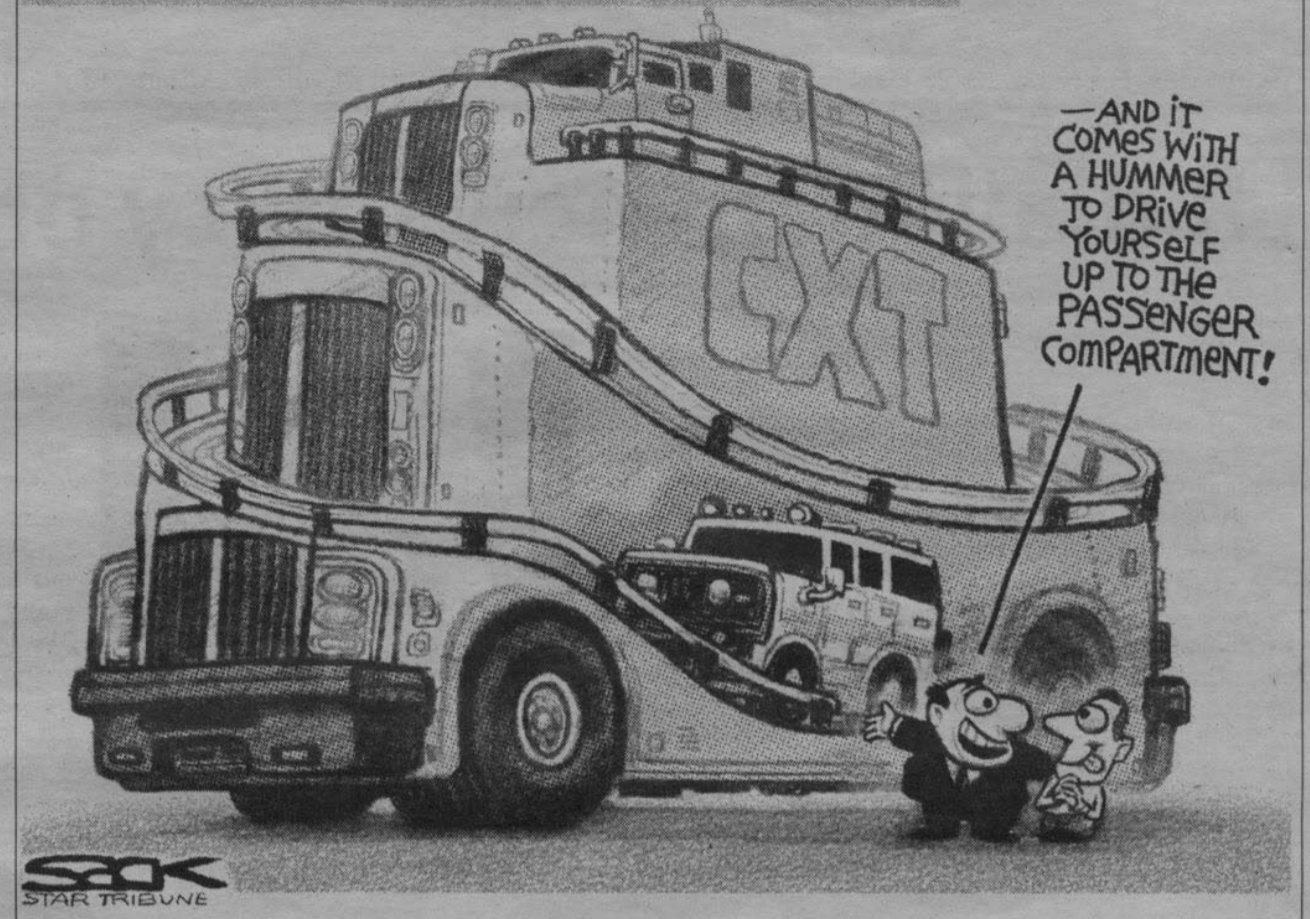
What about marijuana? Sure it's a drug and it impairs someone's reaction time, but last I checked, so does alcohol, and we allow that in the world. I know if I had a choice of getting behind the wheel with someone that has smoked a joint or had a six-pack, I'd choose the guy who's stoned. Americans think that it will lead to everyone using every drug available. I just think it would lead to 7-11 making more money on snacks at 3 a.m.

Now what about sex and profanity on TV? Let's look at last year's Super Bowl: Was it really the end of the world because we saw Janet Jackson's breast on TV? We didn't even see her full breast—she had the tassel covering part of it. Go to other countries and you see breasts on TV, you hear actors saying "shit" or calling each other a "son of a bitch." I think the human body is a beautiful thing and, yeah, it shouldn't be shown on TV at 2 p.m., but why not allow shows at 10 or 11 p.m. to have such things?

Even imported shows have to be toned down to meet the FCC's moral ethics code. Oxygen's "Talk Sex" is a much more subdued version than that of our neighbors to the north where it originates. I've seen it in Canada, where they even have demonstrations during the show. I think we can all learn something from them about sex and maybe, just maybe, be able to bring down the rate

**I think Americans need to realize that we are not superior to other countries in the world. We actually are quite inferior to everyone.**

### WORLD'S LARGEST S.U.V. NOW ON SALE...



**SBK  
STAR TRIBUNE**

on teenage pregnancies, which funny enough is highest in America, which doesn't allow sex on TV, and lowest in countries that do, I find that rather hilarious.

Let's talk about gambling in America. Recently in Corvallis, the city council outlawed casual poker playing in local establishments. Now it wasn't like these people wanted to play high stakes poker, like those we will be watching tomorrow on ESPN in the "World Series of Poker." It was casual poker amongst friends. In Sunday's Gazette Times it profiled this problem

in Corvallis, and as one OSU student said "if it wasn't for us spending an occasional 20 bucks playing poker, we would be drinking." Allowing an occasional poker game in a bar isn't a bad thing and it keeps people out of trouble.

Americans are also too fast-paced and lazy at the same time, and we want the biggest vehicles we can get. It seems every year a bigger, better and faster SUV is coming out, and that some form of convenience is making it easier to get food faster and make our lives easier.

According to a piece recently aired on ABC News, 86 percent of the SUVs in the world are located right here in America. In other countries people drive Hondas

or Toyotas or maybe small pickups, but not large gas guzzling vehicles.

Now I know I'm guilty of being a bit lazy at times, looking for the easiest form of food. However, if we are going to eat Taco Bell, why not get out of the car and walk inside to get our meal? It might not be the best exercise, but it's more than one would get sitting in the drive-thru in their Hummer.

I think if we slowed down every so often, maybe parked our cars in the back corner of the mall, fixed dinner at home once in a while or ordered a salad, maybe we could realize life isn't always rush, rush, rush and might even lose a couple of pounds. God knows many of us would like to lose a bit of weight and why not start with an easy way to do it.

In the end, I think Americans need to realize that we are not superior to other countries in the world. We actually are quite inferior to everyone.

Truly legalizing marijuana or gay marriage won't bring the end of the world to us. An occasional breast on TV, might bring to light that sex, if talked about more, might become less of a problem in this country. Also, maybe if we drive a small car and take time to walk once in a while, we could slow down and enjoy life.

Maybe, just maybe if we did loosen up a bit and stop to smell the roses, other countries wouldn't hate us as much as they do now.

## Overseas friendships bring new perspectives on world affairs

I have had many friends throughout my lifetime. Some of them I have been friends with for a long time, others I have only been friends with for a short time.

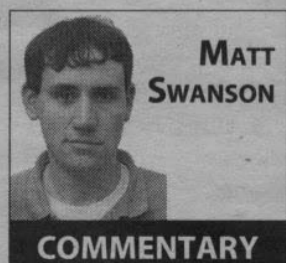
They are like a brother or a sister, yet there is that special connection with them that doesn't exist with family. My social network consists of many different personalities, yet there is one friend that sticks out in particular.

I was a junior in high school when I met Claudia, and she was a foreign exchange student from Germany. We first talked about the Beatles and have been friends ever since.

However, we can't do normal things together like go to the movies, go out to eat at our favorite restaurant or just simply go over to each other's house and make a quilt. I live here in the states and she is residing back home in Germany.

This may sound like a bleak friendship, however, it's a great one. Having an international friendship with someone has its own category. For those people who do have them, they'll know what I am talking about.

Claudia and I talk on the phone about every two to three months, but most of our communication is through e-mail. During Christmas and birthdays, we send each other care packages. For Christmas this year, I received two Milka chocolate bars, a pair of the most comfortable socks in the world and a two pound bag of gummi bears. I never know what to expect when I get the little pink slip in my



**MATT  
SWANSON**

**COMMENTARY**

post office box saying "I have an awaiting package."

Nearly three years ago, I took a trip over to Germany after my high school graduation. I spent five weeks with her family where we got to reminisce and finally do those friends things again.

Having my international connection, I had a nice bed, excellent food and a great family who made sure I was comfortable. Everyday we went somewhere dif-

ferent, either to a castle or to one of the many different towns around her city. We never established a favorite restaurant, but every other day or so, we made a dash to the Italian Ice Cream shop by her house. Oh, I do miss that place!

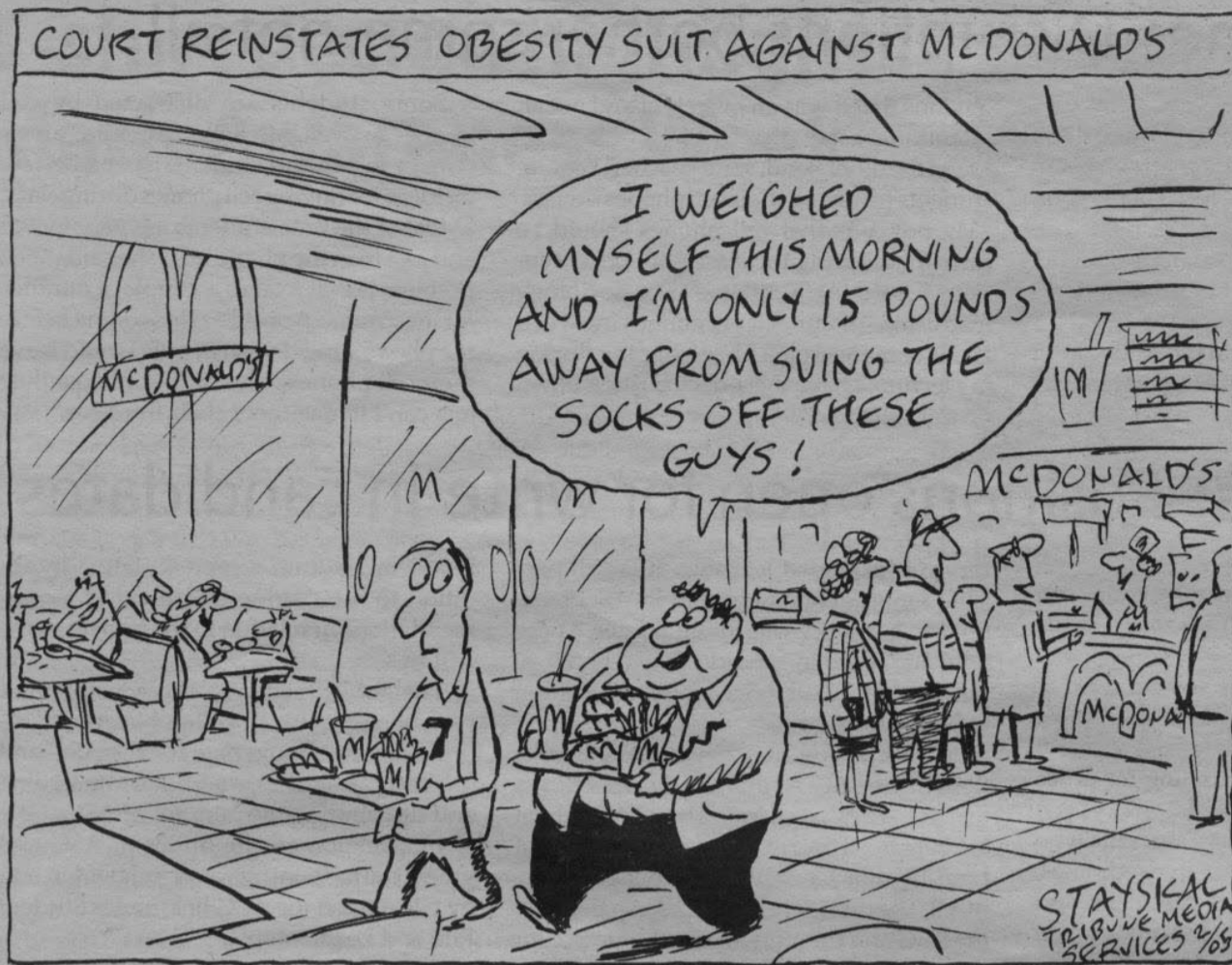
One thing that I value about our friendship is that we enhance each other's cultural perspectives. Since I have been friends with her, I look at world issues much differently than before. Issues such as the war in Iraq, political foreign affairs, personal independence and rights for individuals. Claudia talks about how nice we Americans are and how fortunate we are to have the option to purchase products in bulk when she can only buy individually packaged goods.

It's hard to imagine that we have been friends for almost five years. The last time we had any contact, I received an e-mail about her trip to Paris and some pictures along with it as well. Though we live 6,000 miles apart, our friendship is still going strong. I can't wait until we get to hang out again and socialize over some spaghetti ice cream.

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# OPINION

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## Is justice blind? One in seven inmates put to death, later found not guilty

Wouldn't it be great if a machine existed that was able to tell us when a person is guilty of committing a crime?

Unfortunately, no such machine is available right now and until it is, I think that we should all take a good look at the death penalty and how it affects us.

We have all heard about Ted Bundy, the Unabomber, and terrorists like Osama bin Ladin. Our first thoughts are that they are monsters who deserve to die, and they probably do.

However, what we do not think about are the many innocent people who are put to death.

One out of every seven people executed is found to be innocent. I find that statistic to be horrifying, especially when considering that there have been around 486 executions since 1976.



We are all so proud of our justice system; it's hard to believe that such huge mistakes could be made.

Of course, humans run the justice system, and we humans are notorious for not being perfect. If an innocent person is killed, human error is not a good enough excuse; in fact, I don't think that there is a good excuse for innocent people being killed.

When a doctor accidentally sews up a pair of shiny scissors inside his patient's body, do we let it slide and say, "It was an honest mistake?" Heck no! He would be slapped with a malpractice suit in the blink of an eye.

So, why is it that we allow executions to continue when we know that there is a good chance that some of those executed will be innocent?

Another thing about the death penalty—it is incredibly expensive. Those sentenced to death don't just sit back and resign themselves to death. No, like any living being they fight for life, and carry the appeals process as far as they possibly can.

This can cause hundreds of thousands of dollars in fees and man-hours and will cost the American public more money than sentencing those same criminals to a lifetime in prison.

No matter how justified it would be to execute serial killers and terrorists, the pros would never outweigh the cons, because the value of innocent life should always be much greater than the value of wiping murderers off the face of the earth.

I know that many people may not agree with me but hey, everyone is entitled to their opinion and I don't really care whether people agree with me, as long as they are open-minded and put a little thought into the subject of the death penalty.

## Oscars takes 'Housewives' timeslot

The biggest night of entertainment is upon us, the 77th Annual Academy Awards, Sunday, Feb. 27. Do we really care?

It seems that every year, I sit through the awards and have not seen more than half of the films nominated for best picture. That's just sad.

This year, I at least know who most of the actors are. I wonder if this has something to do with me being "older." Ha Ha. Maybe I've been around so long that I have almost seen it all.

Chris Rock is hosting the awards ceremony this year, and I hope he gives us his all and doesn't hold back. I like his comedy and don't want to see him censored because then he will just fall flat, kind of like the Super Bowl halftime show. I saw him last Sunday on "60 Minutes" where he was asked if he was worried about misbehaving at the Oscars. He said he wasn't worried but was sure the network was terrified that he might slip up with some foul language.

For best actor this year, we have Don Cheadle, Johnny Depp, Leonardo DiCaprio, Clint Eastwood and Jamie Foxx. Each one is in a movie that I have not yet seen but if I go with my gut I would have to choose Eastwood. In my opinion, he can do no wrong. He's also up for directing, both nominations for the movie "Million Dollar Baby."

Jamie Foxx deserves a nod. When a comedian can take on such a large role and do well, he deserves some kudos.

For best actress, we have Annette Bening, Catalina

Sandino Moreno, Imelda Staunton, Hilary Swank and Kate Winslet. Again, I have not seen the movies but would have to go with Swank. She is amazing in her ability to portray any character she plays. She just digs down deep and pulls it off.

Thomas Haden Church is up for an award for supporting actor. I remember him from the television show, "Wings." He was great as the dense aircraft mechanic. He later played in the sitcom, "Ned and Stacey," where he played against Debra Messing. He was some rich playboy and was good in that role as well. I hear from those who have seen "Sideways" that it is very funny and a must-see.

For animated picture, we have "The Incredibles," "Shark Tale" and "Shrek 2"—I have seen two of these. That's a funny commentary on my life. I've not seen any good serious dramas but I have seen animated children's films. I'm almost out of this stage as my children are tiring of cartoons. "Shrek 2" has my vote because it appeals to adults and children alike.

Best picture is an important category. We have "The Aviator," "Finding Neverland," "Million Dollar Baby," "Ray" and "Sideways." Again, I must go with Eastwood's picture. He just seems to get it. He knows what us regular folks want to see or knows what gets to us, in the heart. I bet he takes it.

So, this Sunday I am hoping for some beautiful gowns, some really good jokes and maybe some weird acceptance speeches. It had better be good because "Desperate Housewives" won't be on. I love that show.



## The Commuter

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[www.linnbenton.edu/commuter](http://www.linnbenton.edu/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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**Change is good.**

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Help Wanted

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

### Accounting Assistant

**(#3095, Corvallis)** If you are familiar with Excel, Word & Access and are familiar with accounting, this part-time, flexible job is just right for you. If you are an accounting student, you could get CWE credit also. If interested, please see me now!

### Media Services Lead

**(#3094, Albany)** With 2 years college or equiv. experience working with various media and troubleshooting skills, this full-time job might be yours. Pay is \$12.32-13.35/hr with a comprehensive benefit package.

### Scheduling Technician

**(#3106, Albany)** This wonderful job coordinates the movement of inbound and outbound trailers at a large distribution center. If you have 3 years business/administrative support experience and some transportation/warehouse experience, this full-time position is for you! It pays \$11.82-20.12/hr DOE.

### Sign up for Student

#### Employment now!

Are you a student & looking for work? Make it easy on yourself by signing up online. You can keep an eye on student jobs & receive e-mails about potential jobs. Check out [www.linnbenton.edu](http://www.linnbenton.edu), click "Student Resources," click "Career/Counseling," click "Student Employment," and finally "Student Employment Database".

## CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

### Deadline:

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

### Cost:

Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

### Libel/Taste:

The Commuter will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner. Any advertisement judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

## CORRECTION

An article from the KRT News Service that appeared on Page 3 in last week's Commuter carried an incorrect date for the deadline to file the 2005-2006 FAFSA form. The correct date is June 30, 2006.

## Cell Phone: Disruptions bother some, not all

◀ From Pg. 1

experienced it as a major problem and don't feel a need to monitor it beyond what's in place now," said Dr. Greg Jones, a psychology instructor at LBCC. "If a student willfully disrupted class by taking calls, that would be another matter, but so far students have been good at self-enforcing."

Criminal justice instructor Rod Carter agrees. "On the few occasions when cell phones have rung during class, it has been

obvious that it was an oversight and not an intentional act of disrespect."

On the other hand, some teachers require students to turn off their cell phones in class. "My policy is that cell phones should be turned off during the class with no exceptions," said Arfa Aflatooni, a sociology instructor. "To me, it is very annoying when I hear someone's cell phone ringing during my lecture. I have this policy written down on my syllabus."

Some students are distracted by cell phones as well. Michelle Laughlin, a veterinary technician student, has had a few incidents of ringing cell phones during class. "Most of the time students are very polite and just turn the phone off," she said. "The problem is that it takes a couple of minutes for me to refocus on what I was doing before the phone rang. I wish people would leave their cell phones at home, but I know they just can't live without their third ear."

## Elections: Positions open for write-in candidates

◀ From Pg. 1

also transfer to four-year universities can always be enhanced with a position in the student government.

Gordon, who is in his second term at LBCC, feels that the students need to be represented and have their voices heard. When asked why he is running for office he said, "I want to help lead."

ASG would welcome any students who wish to campaign as write-in candidates. Other than president, vice president, and public relations/secretary, the offices open are for representatives: at-large, business and health occupations, liberal arts/human performance, science/industry and student

services/extended learning. It is still possible for students interested in ASG positions to become write-in candidates. Those who are write-in candidates need only 40 percent of the ballots cast for each position to be elected.

Most students are unaware of the functions of the ASG. As a whole the ASG serves to make sure that all issues brought to them are beneficial to the Associated Students of Linn-Benton Community College (ASLBCC). The president is the spokesperson for the ASG and the student representative for the College Council and the Oregon Community College Student Association.

The vice president serves as the LBCC

Board of Education representative in addition to monitoring and making recommendations in relation to the budget of the ASLBCC.

The public relations officer maintains a relationship with LBCC publications, coordinates press coverage for the ASG and mascot appearances in addition to recording and distributing the minutes of ASG.

Information on the duties of ASG and grants can be found at [www.linnbenton.edu](http://www.linnbenton.edu) by clicking on the ASG link under Student Life and Leadership.

The online voting at [www.linnbenton.edu/election](http://www.linnbenton.edu/election) began yesterday at 7:30 a.m. and continues today until 11:30 p.m.

## Credit: Making only minimum payments traps some

◀ From Pg. 1

students, they do see quite a few after graduation. Students are able to juggle their cards for a while but eventually they must start paying them off, she said. People starting the program at CCCS have an average of \$10,000 debt and take four to five years to pay it off. This does not include student loans, said Amling.

Joel Halter, a second-year computer user support student at LBCC, knows his credit limit, but he does not know his exact interest rate or the penalties for not paying on time or exceeding that limit. He plans to use the card mostly for fun, including a trip to Las Vegas soon, he said.

Halter earns a lot of money during the summer and feels he can afford to have a card.

"I might use it for school or a beer," he said.

Proper use of credit cards can be beneficial. Good credit history facilitates future purchases of larger items such as cars or a home. Keeping a card's limit low and paying on time are signs to a bank that a student is a good risk. There are few other methods for a student to establish good credit.

After 18, students are bombarded with opportunities for a credit card.

The growth of credit card use on campus is the result of retail banking deregulation in the late 1970s, according to Robert D. Manning and Ray Kirshak in their paper "Credit Cards on Campus: Academic Inquiry, Objective Empiricism, or Advocacy Research?" By the early 1990s, credit card companies had dropped their former requirement of parental cosigners and they started to aggressively pursue the lucrative student credit market.

"We set up auto-pay for our two kids," said Robyn Wise, financial aid department secretary. She has two children, one at the University of Oregon, and one with a job.

"The whole point was to not let them get bad credit," said Wise. "Setting up the auto-pay for the minimum payment has kept them out of trouble."

The Wises spent a long time shopping for the best deal and ended up with cards with no annual fee and low interest rates. They also have low limits, and this combination has worked well, according to Wise.

"The more students understand debt and its consequences, the more likely they are able to regulate how much debt they take on and the less likely they are to default," said Bruce Clemetsen, associate dean, enrollment management at LBCC.

To that end, the financial aid office has formed a committee to look into better debt education for students, said Clemetsen. OSU Federal Credit Union has created a position to work on this issue with LBCC and the local community. The credit union's involvement is not aimed at gaining customers, Clemetsen added. They also are involved with the GED classes at LBCC. Those students come from a variety of backgrounds and age groups and are not in college yet. It helps to educate them before they start accumulating college debt, he said.

Many universities and colleges have, in the past, accepted money from credit card companies for access to their student body. LBCC does not accept any money from those companies, said Clemetsen. Names and addresses of students are available only within the parameters

of public information. The college can choose what is available within those parameters.

"We reserve the right to decide if we are going to give it up," he said. "We have not been asked, knowingly, by any credit card companies."

"Most universities have policies concerning directory information we can relate without student consent," said Barbara Balz, registrar at Oregon State University.

The best advice for students with a credit card is to think about what you are buying, according to Jan Amling.

"Make sure the things you buy are durable," she said. If you cannot remember what the

debt is for, it is not a good sign.

"Come up with a strategy. Try to pay off your card every month," she added.

It is not unusual for a student to graduate with over \$4,000 in student loan debt, according to John Snyder, director of student aid. They need to realize the debt they incur from credit cards is not deferrable.

Stop before you apply for a credit card. Do you really need it?

Look at what you are getting into. What are the fees? Read the fine print.

Listen to what others have to say. Learn from other's mistakes. Seek out advice from professionals that can help.

## LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons

FEB 23 - MAR 1

### •WEDNESDAY:

ENTREES: Roast Chicken w/Pan Gravy, Pork Enchiladas, Pasta Bar  
 SIDES: Potatoes Anna, Mexican Rice, Glazed Carrots  
 SOUPS: Cream of Broccoli, Beef Noodle

### •THURSDAY:

ENTREES: French Dip, Almond Chicken, Vegetable Calazone  
 SIDES: Steak Fries, Steamed Rice, Garlic Mushrooms  
 SOUPS: Creamy Roasted Chicken

### •FRIDAY:

Chef's choice

### •MONDAY:

ENTREES: Grilled Pork Chop w/Sauce Robert, Chicken Gumbo, Sweet & Sour Tempah  
 SIDES: Cheese Potato Croquettes, Rice Pilaf, Carrots & Turnips Etivee  
 SOUPS: Chicken Noodle, Split Pea

### •TUESDAY:

ENTREES: Reuben Sandwich, Irish Lamb Stew, Vegetarian Thai Curry  
 SIDES: Twice Baked Potatoes, Creamy Pesto Pasta, Green Beans  
 SOUPS: Shrimp Bisque

WEEKLY MENU

**Editor-In-Chief:** Nick Milhoan  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4451  
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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## T-shirt design highlights Math Awareness Week

**Sherry Majeski**  
 The Commuter

Every year, part of the activities of Math Awareness Week (MAW), which is held May 2-6, is a T-shirt design contest to commemorate math awareness.

The winning T-shirt design will be sold before and during MAW. The design should be limited to three colors and be approximately 8 by 11 inches, reflecting this year's theme, "Math and Physics," because 2005 celebrates 100 years of Einstein's work.

Last year's winner was Peter Hume. His design consisted of nine images of the world's greatest mathematicians and a blank silhouette labeled "your photo here," with an equation beneath the images stating "LBC2 + (Math) = The Future."

Designs must be submitted on a CD along with a completed entry form, which can be picked up at the Learning Center. Submit entries to Jeff Crabill in IA-216, or

to the Learning Center staff on or before March 11 by 12 p.m.

MAW demonstrates that math can be fun with games, activities, competitions, prizes and food in front of the Math and Science Building throughout the week.

Math Awareness Week is set aside to increase public understanding and appreciation of mathematics. It began in 1986 with a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan, who said in part: "Despite the increasing importance of mathematics to the progress of our economy and society, enrollment in mathematics programs has been declining at all levels of the American educational system. Yet the application of mathematics is indispensable in such diverse fields as medicine, computer sciences, space exploration, skilled trades, business, defense, and government. To help encourage the study and utilization of mathematics, it is appropriate that all Americans be reminded of the importance of this basic branch of science to our daily lives."



photo by Kyla Hoyt

### Lining It Up

Construction workers take advantage of the recent dry weather to make progress on the North Santiam Hall, which will house several large classrooms as well as some faculty offices, and is expected to be ready by winter term 2006.

## LB one of two Oregon community colleges with ASCET clubs

*Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles highlighting the activities of clubs at LBCC.*

**Jennifer Overholser**  
 The Commuter

LBCC is one of two Oregon community colleges with a student chapter of the American Society of Certified Engineering Technicians, according to advisor Sandy March.

ASCET also sponsors a student chapter at Mount Hood Community College. Of the two, LBCC has the oldest chapter, which was formed in the 1970s, March said. ASCET is a professional organization, which annually awards two memorial grants of \$750 and \$500 and several smaller cash awards of \$100 each. According to March, three or four students have received awards at LBCC in the past six years. Two engineering students have also received Kleinschmidt scholarships worth \$250 each. This is the first time since 1994 a Kleinschmidt award has been given at LBCC, she said.

The LBCC engineering program offers three disciplines: mechanical engineering, civil engineering and architectural design. At LB, engineering students are required to take more broad-based educational requirements than Chemeketa, which allows students to focus on engineering from the beginning, March said. The

reason, she said, is that LB doesn't have the tax base or population that would allow them to specialize.

The campus ASCET raises funds by recycling pop cans and printer cartridges. They also have a 3-D prototype machine and will print prototypes for \$35 per hour. With the funds they have raised, they have been able to attend professional conferences in Portland, buy lab equipment, a refrigerator and a coffee pot.

They are also able to aid students in the engineering program. For example, they have helped pay for five students' Phi Theta Kappa memberships and have bought books and supplies for a student whose car was vandalized. They also participate in activities together, such as pizza parties and an end of the year picnic. In the fall they helped put together Thanksgiving baskets.

Campus ASCET President Heather Baird, a student in the architectural engineering program, chose to study engineering because it allows her to use her artistic abilities and a computer while providing stability in a structured discipline. After trying several programs of study, she said that this is the first degree or discipline that's not too discouraging or too simple. Another thing she likes about it is that it always provides new learning opportunities. "There's always going to be something new," she said.

Secretary Charlotte Gilbert had previously received an associate degree in metallurgy, a field that has had

a decrease in career opportunities. She was eligible for retraining because of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and received an engineering program grant. She said she enjoys engineering and finds it is something she is able to do despite the challenges presented by her vision limitations.

Engineers with a drafting degree or civil certificate are currently in demand in Oregon, March said. The Department of Transportation has 10 years worth of funds set aside to replace Oregon bridges, she said, which makes the job outlook for engineering majors positive.

March has been at LBCC for nine years. She described her position as computer lab specialist, tutor, mentor and advisor. She and Baird are both involved with outreach and retention. She said her social work background helps her with her current responsibilities. Her engineering background includes electrical, piping and light gauge structural metal.

During spring term, engineering students will have the opportunity to experience another side of the construction process. They will be working with the local Habitat for Humanity, getting hands-on experience building houses. March believes it is valuable for students to get away from the computer to see how the designs they create are applied to actual building projects.

## Livestock team chalks up both wins and mileage

**Christy Harshman**  
 The Commuter

While many students were busy watching football or hanging out with friends this fall, the LB livestock judging team was busy traveling around the country to compete with other schools in the evaluation livestock.

According to the team's coach, Clay Weber, he and his students missed approximately 15 days of school last fall while they were at competitions, in addition to days they were on the road during breaks and weekends.

"It's tough to be gone that much, but it really teaches you about dedication and commitment," said team member Crystal Alley, adding that competing students are given regular grade

checks to ensure that they keep on top of their school work while on the road.

Livestock judging involves the evaluation and placement of beef cattle, sheep and swine. It includes both market animals and animals meant for breeding, said Clay Weber, coach and instructor of animal science.

In fall of 2003, approximately 25 students tried for the chance to compete for LB, said Tony Brumbach, one of six who made the final cut.

The six members included Brumbach, Kyle Kaufman, Crystal Alley, Lacey McReynolds, Elias Eiguren and Lacie Hoffman.

Following the initial selection, members started immediately, attending a winter workout

and multiple weekly practices. In April of 2004, the team traveled to Kewanee, Illinois for the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) contest, said Alley.

After NACTA, the team had a full practice schedule, then traveled to national contests late in 2004, including the American Royal in Kansas City, the National Western Stock Show in Denver, the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, the Arizona National Livestock Show in Phoenix and the Grand National Stock Show at Cow Palace in San Francisco, according to Brumbach.

The team also competed regionally, with wins at the Great Western Livestock Contest in

Tulare, Calif. and the Fall Classic Contest in Medford, Ore., said Weber.

At the contests, LB competes with other community colleges, where teams evaluate 12 classes consisting of four sheep, cattle or hogs.

There is then 15 minutes to place and evaluate the animals and make notes on each class. Later in the competition, each member is required to verbally justify their placing in under two minutes. Participants must give their oral reasons for six to eight classes per contest, said Alley.

According to Weber, students take more than judging skills away from this experience. "It's really about the team aspect. Personalities don't always thrive together so they have to

learn to coexist," said Weber.

Students agree and feel that there is much more to be learned than how to judge livestock.

"It's more than just cows, plows and sows, but rather a plethora of opportunities," said Alley.

With Weber as coach, the team learned to work effectively with others and present themselves in a professional manner, said Brumbach.

"Clay is incredible. To us, he's not only a coach but a mentor," stated Brumbach. "He's always there to help us, definitely one of the best coaches in the nation."

Alley feels the same. "Clay is an extremely talented coach," she said. "We've been lucky to work with such a knowledgeable individual."

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# IN FOCUS

## Common sense reduces accidents



Having your vehicle towed for whatever reason can often be very costly and inconvenient.

The very first vehicle to cruise into the state of Oregon came 106 years ago in 1899. In 1905, the Department of Motor Vehicle Services (DMV) first started registering vehicles. In the 1930s DMV took up the responsibility of testing and licensing drivers.

Today, there are about 4 million registered vehicles in the state, piloted by roughly 2.7 million licensed drivers, according to information published by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Together, local and state law enforcement cooperates with both the DMV and ODOT to keep Oregon roads maintained, protected and keep our drivers educated. Yet each year, DMV files nearly 160,000 accident report forms.

The purpose of this edition of In Focus is to keep your name off those reports, if possible, and help raise awareness to one the top reasons these organizations will always have their work cut out for them.

**Sheena Bishop**  
The Commuter

Raise your hand if you have been stuck in traffic due to an accident within the last year. Did you finish your journey and tell someone all about what you saw when you finally passed it or what you heard from the patrol officer?

We've all done it or been the one to hear the tale. What we don't always hear is why. While the story of a wreck may invoke a number of emotions, it doesn't mean much for our personal benefit if we don't know the cause.

Did someone fall asleep at the wheel? Could a life have been saved by a seat belt or child restraint system? Was alcohol a factor in the disaster? How about speed?

We can all learn from our own mistakes. We can also learn from the mistakes of others. While not wearing seat belts and drinking and driving may be things we recognize as unwise and against the law, people still get behind the wheel and make these and many other mistakes on the road everyday.



It may be worth it to you to sleep in an extra five minutes. However, someone else may prefer you not crash into them at 75 miles per hour while trying to beat a yellow light, only being three minutes late instead of four. Speeding is a big deal.

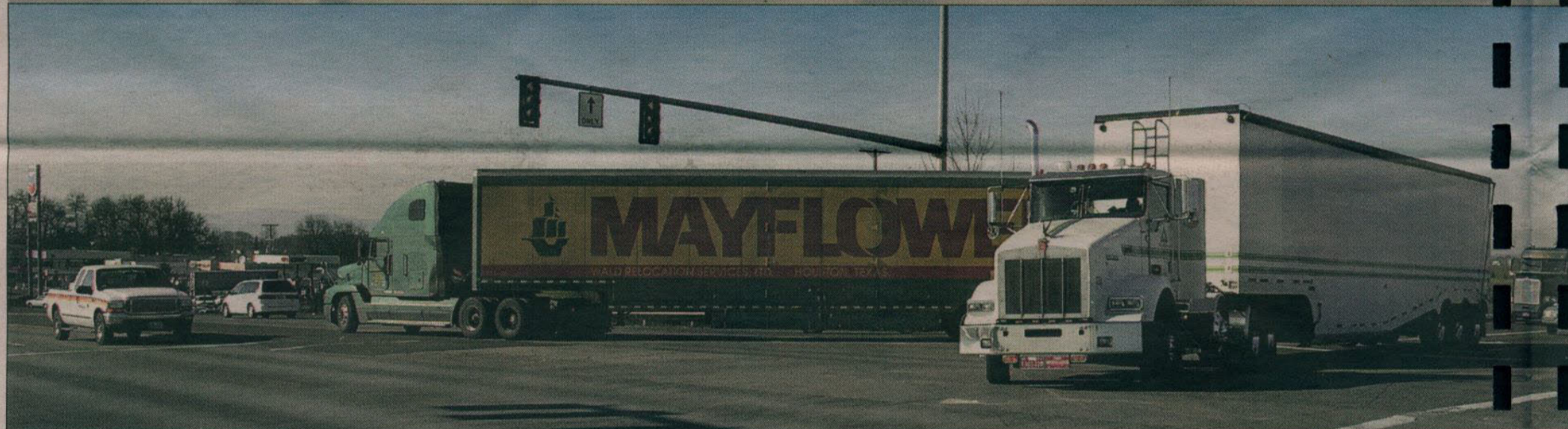
The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) reported 436 fatalities

on state roads in 2002, represented as 1.26 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. This rate is about 15 percent less than the national average, but as the 2004 Transportation Plan says, "we can do better".

Efforts to include boating well as those on the asphalt. Efforts to include boating well as those on the asphalt. Efforts to include boating well as those on the asphalt. Efforts to include boating well as those on the asphalt.



In 2002, alcohol and/or other drugs were involved



Eventually all motorists go their own way. It is important to remember no matter how long or short your trip is, practicing road safety and defensive driving gets us all to our destination safely.

## Here are a few typical signs seen on national, state and local roadways. Can you identify what each one means?

For the answers visit [www.OregonDMV.com](http://www.OregonDMV.com)

- PROHIBITIVE
- WARNING
- REGULATORY
- ROAD WORK
- MOTORIST SERVICES
- GUIDANCE OR INFORMATIONAL
- HISTORIC, CULTURAL RECREATIONAL



Disclaimer: If you can't identify any of these signs, stop driving and read the manual before returning to the road.



# FOCUS

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



Right: The hand signals bicyclists (and motorists with malfunctioning taillights) use are as follows; right turn, left turn and slow down or stop.

in 45.6 percent of fatal crashes in Oregon. Seat belts and child restraint systems were not used in 50 percent and speed was a factor in 51.6 percent as well. These factors are a huge part of the deaths we see on our roads every day.

You know that jerk behind you on Interstate 5 that won't get off your back bumper? Are you the jerk that won't stay off of the back bumper of other motorists? While you may be either or both, the Oregon Driver Manual lists



many sure-fire ways to keep you a safe distance from the guy in front and warn the guy behind you to back off.

Safe following distance is 2-4 seconds. Look for a road sign up ahead and start counting after the back bumper of the car in front of you passes it, "one one thousand, two one thousand" until the nose of your car reaches the sign. If you don't make it to two, ease off the gas. If you are being followed too closely, gently tap on your breaks to tell the driver behind you that you need more space.

These preventative measures will help with adequate reaction and stopping

time, if you do need to break for an emergency situation by maintaining enough distance between yourself and the other vehicles on the road.

The Basic Rule law simply states that motorists follow all speed limits, but to take into consideration other conditions like how heavy the traffic is, the condition of the road you are on, and weather. How fast you are going compared to other traffic should give you a clue to slow down, speed up a little, or stick to your speed.

The Basic Rule does not allow you to drive over the speed limit. Even if you are driving under the speed limit you may receive a speeding ticket if you are driv-

ing in poor weather. Remember that anytime it is foggy, your lights should be on so other motorists can see you sooner.

Remember that the faster you drive, the less time you have to respond to poor choices by other drivers and any hazards you may come across. It also makes it harder to judge the speed of the other traffic.

While we have progressed with leaps and bounds in the last 20 years, traffic accidents are still the leading cause of death for those under the age of 35. While drivers under the age of 21 are only 8 percent of the driving population, they are about 18.5 percent of the drivers in fatal and injury crashes. These types of statistics are what brought about the Teen Driving Law previously mentioned.

This new law for drivers under 18 was put into effect in 2000. Using strict passenger guidelines and curfews, the Teen Driving Law has already shown great reduction in teen fatalities and injury due to crashes.

Encourage young drivers under penalty of this law to obey it. They are free to drive like the rest of the state after their first year of driving or their eighteenth birthday, whichever comes first. Teens are also more likely to get in an accident during their first six months on the road.

The most important thing you can do to keep yourself and the others in your vehicle safe is to wear seat belts. The new "Click it or Ticket" campaign was specially designed to enforce this law with a hefty fine of \$94 for each passenger not buckled up.

Seat belts and safety restraints are your first defense against injury in an accident, so make sure you and your passengers are belted in properly. A belt should go over your thighs, never your abdomen. In an accident, a lap belt across the stomach can cause internal bleeding among other life threatening complications. Shoulder straps should go across the middle of the chest. Never tuck a shoulder belt behind your back or under your arm.

Children also have to be buckled in properly. Children

from birth to one year or up to 35 lbs. should be in a rear facing infant only or convertible child seat with a harness system. Straps should be at or below shoulder level on infants. Children over one year and 20-40 lbs. should be in a convertible or front facing seat. Harness straps should be at or above the shoulder level. In these two seat styles, only one finger should slip under the strap at the collarbone.

As of 2002, children 40-100 lbs. and between the ages of four and six years need to be in a booster seat until they are old enough and are a minimum of 60 lbs. If the child can not sit without a booster and have the safety belt lying in the proper place across the lap and center of the chest, it is recommended that they stay in a booster until they exceed the weight limit.

Always make sure the U.S. Department of Transportation approves any child safety seat you use or purchase.

We have discussed speed, seat belts, following distances and young driver laws. The topic that now needs to be addressed is driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or other substances. This includes any medicine you may be taking, prescription or otherwise. Read the label carefully of anything you are taking or are about to take. If it recommends



Not practicing safe driving habits may cause your vehicle to leave the freeway like this.

not operating any heavy equipment or machinery, that includes driving a car.

As for alcohol, don't take your keys if you know you will be drinking or designate a driver. Carpooling, designating a driver or calling a taxi are the only options if you feel the need to become intoxicated. Remember, as a drunk driver you may still walk away while an entire vehicle full of people you crunched into may leave the scene of impact in body bags.

If you have any questions about driving rules, you can always check with local law enforcement. Together, we can all make Oregon a safer place to drive and ride.



Leaving your vehicle unattended on the side of the road for a length of time often leads to an expensive towing bill that you will have to pay before you can retrieve your wheels from the impound lot.

Information provided by  
ODOT and the DMV  
Stories and layout by  
Sheena Bishop  
Photos by Erik Swanson

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# LOCAL NEWS

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

## Country Club offers full nuptial package

**Colleen Jacks**  
The Commuter

The Corvallis Country Club, situated on rolling hills and tree-lined fairways, offers a picturesque location for a garden or indoor wedding and reception. Located in southwest Corvallis, the atmosphere is one of grace and elegance.

Kristen Wilson, director of sales and marketing for the CCC, is helpful in explaining the many options available to you, and your occasion can be simple or elaborate depending on your individual wishes. The entire event can take place there, or just the reception, if you prefer.

"We can tailor any of our packages to suit your needs," Wilson said. CCC offers a varied menu, but if you find a particular dish you'd like to have, they can customize a banquet around that and figure the costs for you, she added. Dinner can be anything from an assortment of hors d'oeuvres, to a bridal buffet, to a seated service. The banquet room will accommodate up to 240 guests.

The prices range from about \$20 to \$40 per person, depending on what you choose—plus facility rental (the room fee is waived for members).

The outdoor ceremony site is just outside the club house in a grassy area, separated from the golf course by a small copse of trees. You can have the natural greenery be the backdrop for the service, or you can rent an arch from a local supply store. If you prefer, the wedding can be held indoors with the reception immediately following.

The banquet packages include table linens, in your choice of color, mirrored centerpieces with candles, poured champagne service and coffee.

The banquet room also has a dance floor for the happy couple to begin their new life together swaying to their favorite music. An in-house sound system is available if you want to provide recorded music, or you may wish to have a live band. A piano can be provided if someone wishes to play for you.

For more information, contact Wilson at (541)752-3471.

## Seminar gives keys to home ownership

**Lydia Nelson**  
The Commuter

Wanting to look into buying a new house, but don't know where to start? Still renting, and tired of paying someone else for something you don't own? Have questions about purchasing a new home, but don't know who to ask?

Pac First Mortgage, and associates, will hold an informed home buyers class March 3 at 7 p.m. The class will be held at 315 Lyons St., inside LaCoste Investments.

Presenters will be Heather Efraimson, Van Melick, and Jennifer Webber, all loan officers with Pac First Mortgage, real estate agents Lori Blomberg from Coldwell Banker and Carla Allen from ReMax, and Nancy Bell from Titor Title.

According to Efraimson, this team will provide information on everything from looking for a dream house, how interest rates are directly affected by your credit rating, where payments go, and more. "Knowledge is power, and that's why we have these classes," said Efraimson. Some things that will be discussed are how to get prequalified, what credit is made up

of, and what mortgage terms mean for the buyer, Efraimson added.

Save money, advised Efraimson. Many lenders require two months worth of house payments to be saved for at least 60 days. Also, be patient. Home buying isn't an overnight experience, and often home-buyers don't get to move in the day the house loan closes.

Credit affects the cost of your house in extreme ways. Bad credit can raise your interest rates, and even cause lenders to decline your loan application. According to Efraimson, to raise your credit score, pay down credit card bills. Applying for too many credit cards or other forms of charge cards, even if declined, will show up and affect credit.

Some ways to improve your credit rating are to keep any credit card balances 50 percent or lower than the total credit line amount, and pay off as many credit bills as possible.

Attending this seminar will not obligate anyone to use these specific companies in future home purchases, said Efraimson.

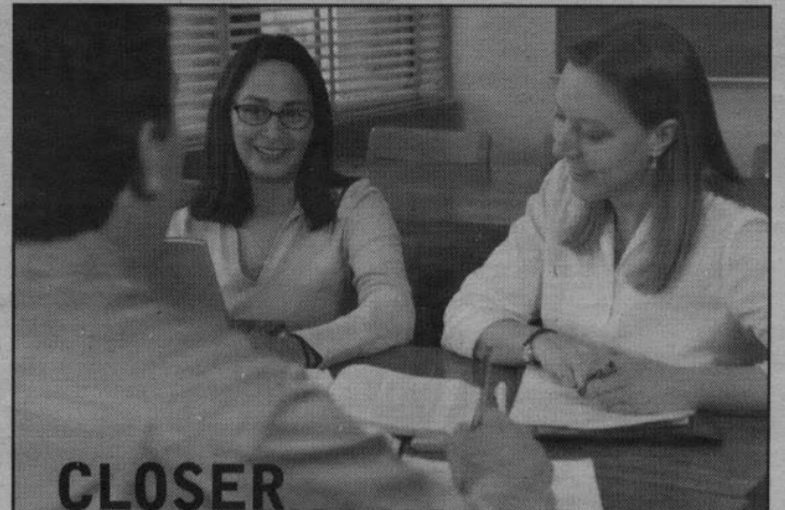
According to Efraimson, Pac First Mortgage supports home-ownership not only by holding

these seminars, but also by donating money to charities. For each house that one of these three loan officers close this year, a total of \$500 will be donated to a charity of the borrower's choice.

Charities can be anything

from a national organization to a local school, explained Efraimson. Oak Elementary PTA got the most recent donation.

Students interested in attending this meeting, or who would like more information, can reach Efraimson at (541) 990-6057.



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# SPORTS

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

## Runners need a win and lots of luck

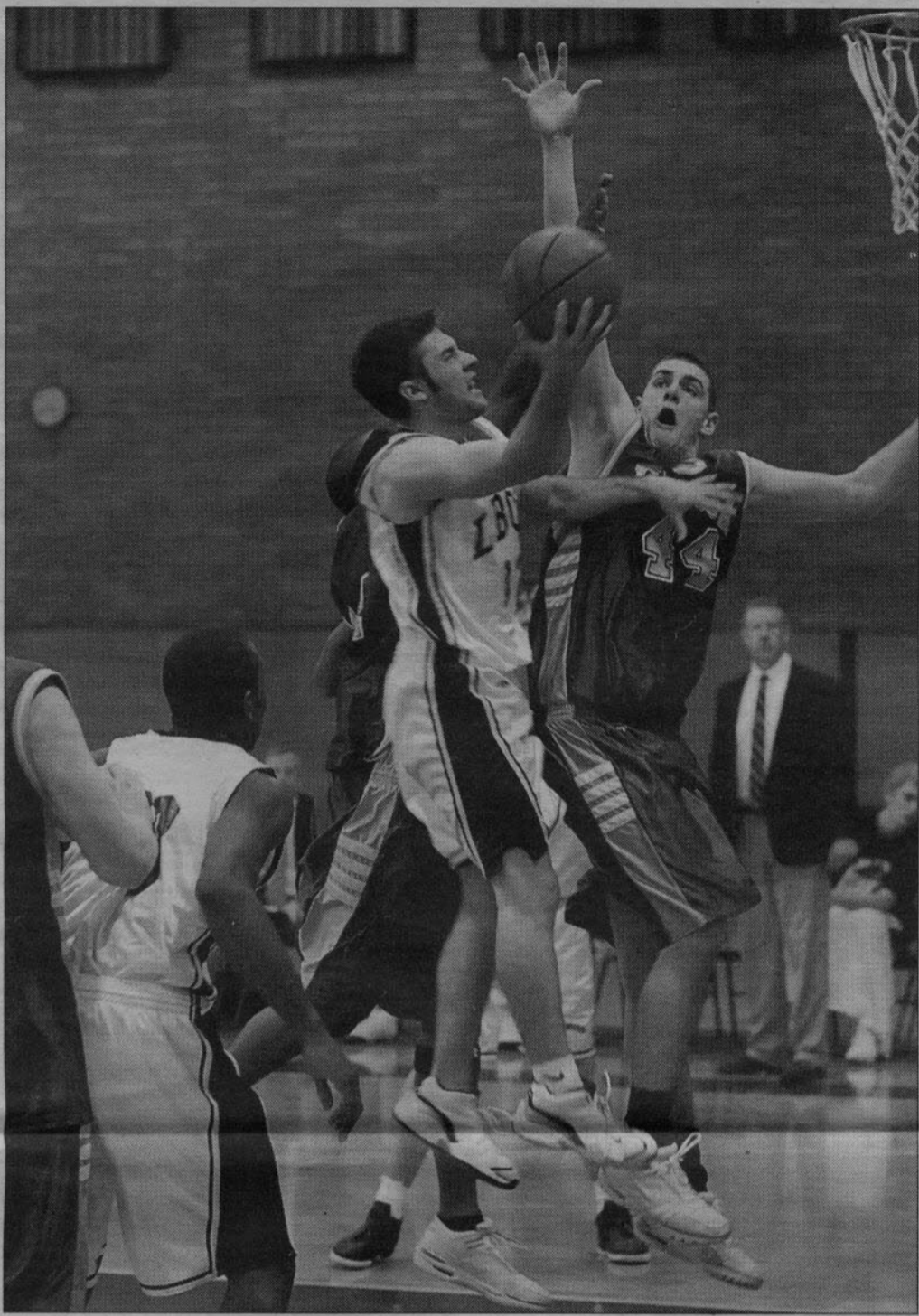


photo by Erik Swanson

Mike Braziel finds the going a bit tough against Umpqua in last Wednesday's game.

Jake Rosenberg  
 The Commuter

LB's hoops teams have struggled lately, playing a tough schedule and dropping most of their late-season contests. The Lady Runners had a chance to turn things around last Wednesday against second-place Umpqua, but it wasn't to be.

Kendall Dionne, Brittany Howell and Kelsey Richards provided 42 of the Runners' 57 total points, but it wasn't nearly enough to match the 91 points Umpqua scored after severely out-rebounding LB.

Following their fifth straight loss, LB faced a must-win situation on Saturday in Gresham, and with Dionne leading the way with 16 points, LB came through with a 72-53 victory over Mt. Hood. Kelsey Richards scored 10 points, while 41-year-old freshman Mary George snagged seven boards in the game.

The men dropped both of their games last week, but still remain in playoff contention. On Wednesday, they failed to capitalize on 25 Umpqua turnovers and lost 74-59. Bobby Schindler scored 14 while Tommy Bain and Michael Braziel had 12 each. On Saturday the men kept it close till the very end thanks to 31 points and eight assists from Braziel, but narrowly missed their chance at an upset, losing 100-97.

The regular season finale is tonight in Coos Bay against SWOCC. Both teams need wins and a combination of losses from other teams to keep their playoff hopes alive. The men are in fifth place with a 4-9 record, behind SWOCC, which is 5-8. The Lady Runners have a 5-8 league record and also occupy fifth place. The top four teams in the Southern Division make the playoffs.

## NBA playoff scene begins to take shape

Jake Rosenberg  
 The Commuter

The National Basketball Association held its annual all-star game in Denver, Colo. this weekend ending in a 125-115 Eastern Conference victory, the first loss for the West in four years.

After a five-year championship run for the West, the Detroit Pistons shocked the Lakers last June to take the NBA finals and break the streak. The reigning champs got off to a slow start, including the famed brawl with the Pacers earlier in the year, but have managed to win nine of their last 10 in an effort to keep pace with Miami for the top two seeds in the East.

Miami has benefitted greatly from the new inside presence of Shaquille O'Neal, teaming up with super-sophomore Dwyane Wade for more than 46 points-per-contest resulting in 40 Heat victories.

San Antonio and Phoenix are battling for the title of "Best in the West" and remain the mid-season favorites with 41 wins each. Tim Duncan and the Spurs' league leading defense has propelled them past Amare Stoudemire's Suns and their super-scoring offense for the NBA's best record.

Others in contention for Western Conference supremacy include Northwest Division leading Seattle, led by Ray Allen and his 24 points-per-game. Their 35 wins are matched by Dallas, whose Dirk Nowitzki ranks third in the league with a 27 point average.

Sacramento is now trying to hold on to the fifth seed as Tracy McGrady, Yao Ming and Houston have rocketed to eight straight wins and a 32-21 record.

Memphis and Kevin Garnett's Minnesota Timberwolves round out the rest of the Western teams in playoff position as they will try to fend off late season runs from Kobe Bryant and the turnover-happy Lakers.

While Paul Pierce's Celtics and Allen Iverson's 76ers struggle to stay above the .500 mark, they still rank at the top of the Atlantic division and will battle the Wizards and Magic for the middle seeds in the East.

LeBron James continues to develop into the second-coming of Michael Jordan and has put the Cavaliers in good shape for a strong playoff push as well as Central Division foe Chicago, who hasn't made the playoffs since the original No. 23 retired from the Bulls six years ago.

Many teams of past prominence have been resurgent in their rebuilding processes, while the Blazers continue their steady decline. It looks as if Coach Maurice Cheeks will be looking for a new job at the end of the regular season, joining the rest of Portland and their fans in watching the playoffs on television for the second year in a row.

## Sunny weather warms up baseball preseason

Brian Moore  
 The Commuter

The start of the baseball season for the Roadrunners is less than two weeks away and Head Coach Greg Hawk is getting very excited.

His team has had an earlier start practicing outdoors this year thanks to the warm and unseasonably dry weather that the valley has received.

"It has been nice to get two weeks of scrimmage in," said Hawk. "We can work on more things outdoors and the players get a better feel of what the games will be like." The team practiced some baseball this past fall up until the later part of October. They started practicing indoors on Jan. 3. Some of the things the team worked on during indoor practice were batters hitting baseballs into nets, pitchers throwing from the mound and infield taking some ground balls. They did some two-ball infield drills, worked on pickoff plays, did some bunting drills and the team worked on its offensive and defensive signal system.

Hawk thinks that his team will be competitive in the NWAACC Southern Division this year. "Offensively we will be pretty good, power is a concern." LBCC was 18-12 last year and finished third in the Southern Division. They lost a one game playoff to Mt. Hood 6-2, which had

a spot in the NWAACC tournament on the line.

Hawk feels very good about his outfield. "I feel like we have a solid outfield core," he said. The outfield has two returning starters, Marcus Simone (.302 batting average, all-state sophomore) and Bryan Boal (.270 avg., one home run).

Hawk believes that there are some bright spots with the pitching rotation. "I feel that we have a few very good collegiate pitchers," he said. "We need more depth with the pitchers, and the lack of returning innings pitched by returnees is a concern." Sophomore pitchers Michael Myhre and Brent Randall (5.03 ERA, 19K, all-state sophomore) will pitch a majority of the innings. Freshmen Robert Stevens, Kyle Atchley, and Ian Opsal should be able to strike up some time on the mound as well.

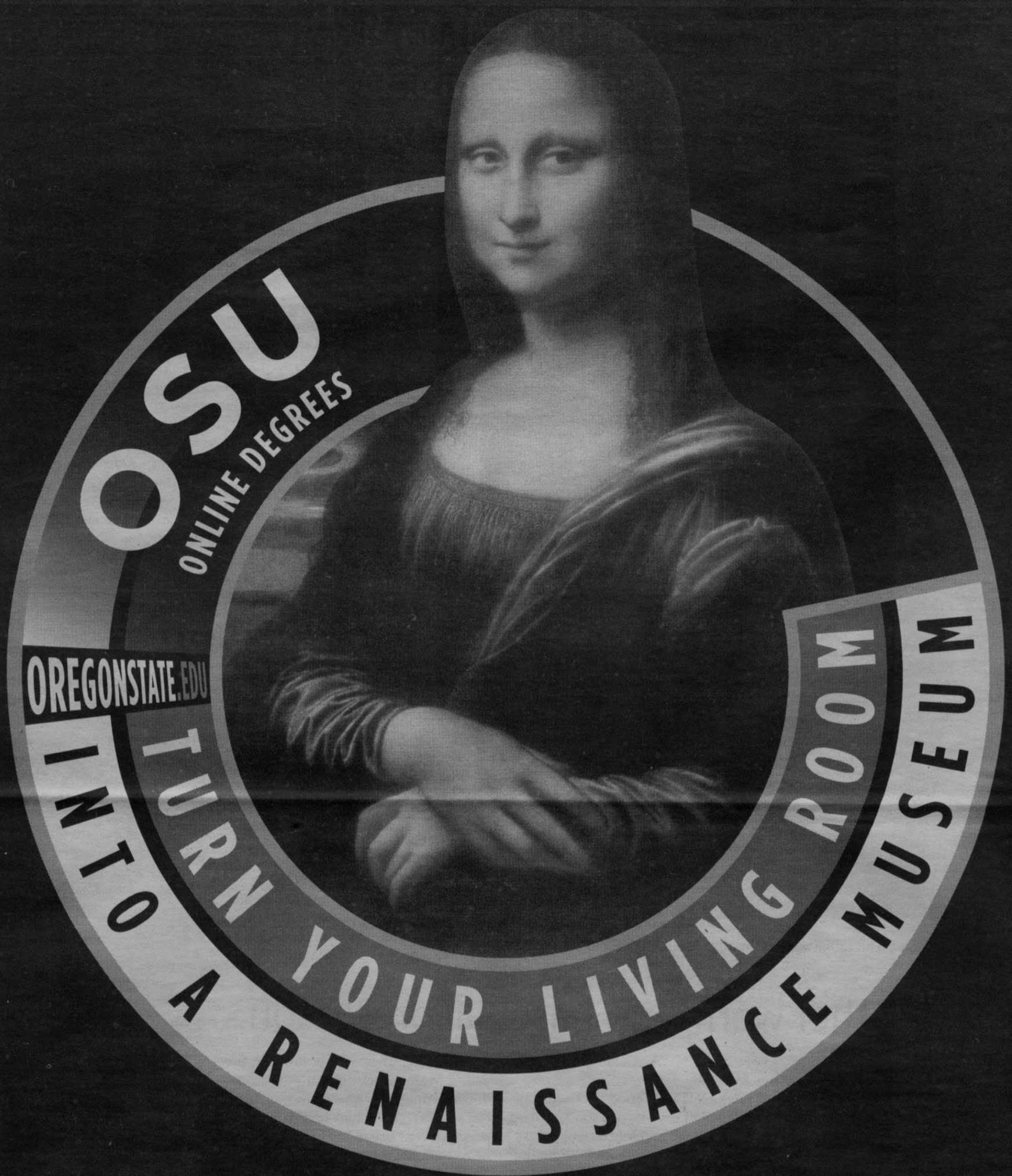
The middle of the infield will remain intact with returning shortstop Jon James (.255 avg.) and second baseman Ryan Savage (.294 avg., one home run). Sophomore catcher Chris Price (.228 avg., one home run) adds some experience and guidance to the infield. "These guys will provide great infield leadership," said Hawk. "Up the middle our defensive core is very solid."

The team welcomes 18 new freshmen to the team. "I really don't know how good they will be," said Hawk.

"There is definitely a lot of talent in this year's freshmen class, and our success depends upon how quickly they mature." Lebanon's Kyle Atchley had an excellent prep career at Lebanon High School and he was one of the top pitchers in the state. Kenny McCullers, pitcher from Douglas High School in Winston, Ore. was an undefeated in high school and in American Legion baseball. Kenny Strate, outfielder from Medford, Ore. was an all-state baseball player in 2001.

Hawk, who has been the LBCC men's baseball coach since 1983, expects the Southern Division to be very competitive this year. "I think Mt. Hood is the most talented team in the league," Hawk said. "Right now, I would give them the nod to be the favorites in league." Lane Community College is the defending NWAACC champions, which they should be very tough. Hawk believes that Chemeketa should be very tough as well. "Chemeketa had a very good recruiting class." During the last seven years, a majority of the NWAACC champions have come from the Southern Division.

LBCC starts the season on the road Saturday, March 5 against Centralia Community College in a double-header in The Dalles. Their first two home games of the year are double-headers, will take place on Friday March 25 at 12 p.m. against Pierce Community College.



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**Managing Editor:** Sheena Bishop  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4451  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## 'Aviator' and 'Baby' top contenders for Oscar gold

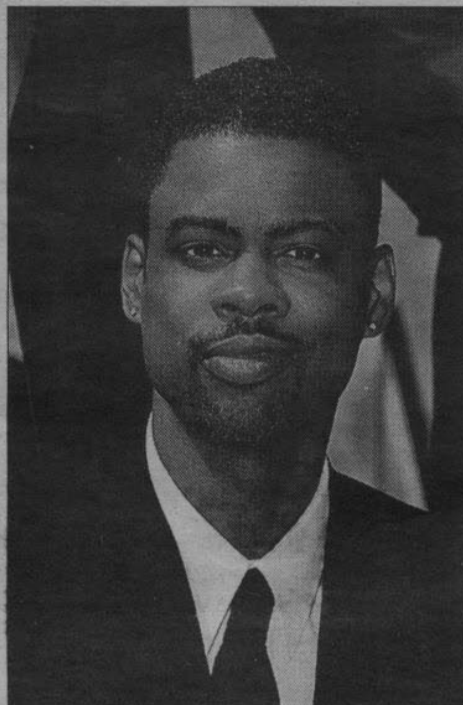
**Nick Milhoan**  
The Commuter

This Sunday night, Americans will sit in front of their TVs to see which actor will bag the coveted gold statue that everyone in Hollywood dreams of. Yes, that means it's once again time for Oscar to shine.

Chris Rock hosts the 77th Annual Academy Awards, which will be broadcast live (yes, even to those of us here on the West Coast) Sunday. This year's Oscars seem to be up in the air. Predictions are being made, but most don't seem to be in line with others.

"Million Dollar Baby" and "The Aviator" seem to be the biggest contenders for Best Picture. Those two movies also seem to be the front-runners for Best Director with Martin Scorsese for "The Aviator" and Clint Eastwood (also up for Best Actor) for "Million Dollar Baby."

Scorsese is the sentimental favorite as he has never won before; however, Eastwood is always a contender when up



Oscar host Chris Rock.

for any award.

Jamie Foxx seems to be in the drivers seat for Best Actor, though Leonardo DiCaprio is deemed to be a prefavorite. Foxx has won every other award prior to the Oscars and has won rave reviews for his portrayal of Ray Charles in the movie "Ray."

In the Best Actress category it's a rematch from 1999, as Hil-

ary Swank (Million Dollar Baby) and Annette Bening (Being Julia) look to battle once again. In 1999, Swank took home the Oscar in a surprise win, as Bening was the front-runner. Swank looks to take home her second golden man, as she is the perennial favorite going into Sunday.

Animated Feature Film will make its fourth appearance this year. "Shrek 2" looks to take home an Oscar, as it won the first statue given out in this category in 2001. This award is up in the air, though "The Incredibles" and "Shrek 2" are looking to give "Shrek 2" a run for its money.

So it looks as though there is no run away with the awards as we saw last year with "The Lord of The Rings: Return of The King." That should add some excitement to this year's show and with Chris Rock as host—one has no idea what to expect with him.

So get your costumes, jewelry and make-up ready, put the champagne on ice and start popping the cork, it's Oscar time, baby!

## The Envelope Please...

- Best Picture:**
- The Aviator
  - Ray
  - Million Dollar Baby
  - Sideways
  - Finding Neverland
- Best Director:**
- Martin Scorsese - The Aviator
  - Clint Eastwood - Million Dollar Baby
  - Taylor Hackford - Ray
  - Alexander Payne - Sideways
  - Mike Leigh - Vera Drake
- Best Actor:**
- Don Cheadle - Hotel Rwanda
  - Johnny Depp - Finding Neverland
  - Leonardo DiCaprio - The Aviator
  - Clint Eastwood - Million Dollar Baby
  - Jamie Foxx - Ray
- Best Supporting Actor:**
- Alan Alda - The Aviator
  - Thomas Haden Church - Sideways
  - Jamie Foxx - Collateral
  - Morgan Freeman - Million Dollar Baby
  - Clive Owen - Closer
- Best Actress:**
- Annette Bening - Being Julia
  - Catalina Sandino Moreno - Maria Full of Grace
  - Imelda Staunton - Vera Drake
  - Hillary Swank - Million Dollar Baby
- Best Supporting Actress:**
- Kate Winslet - Eternal Sunshine
  - Cate Blanchett - The Aviator
  - Laura Linney - Kinsey
  - Virginia Madsen - Sideways
  - Sophie Okonedo - Hotel Rwanda
  - Natalie Portman - Closer
- Best Animated Feature Film:**
- The Incredibles
  - Shark Tale
  - Shrek 2
- Best Original Score:**
- Jan A.P. Kaczmarek - Finding Neverland
  - John Williams - Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban
  - Thomas Newman - Lemony Snicket
  - John Debney - The Passion of The Christ
  - James Newton Howard - The Village
- Best Original Song:**
- "Accidentally In Love" - Shrek 2
  - "Al Otro Lado Del Rio" - The Motorcycle Diaries
  - "Believe" - The Polar Express
  - "Learn To Be Lonely" - The Phantom of The Opera
  - "Look To Your Path" - The Chorus

## Multicultural Center to host Celtic Celebration

**Nick Milhoan**  
The Commuter

LBCC will host a traditional Celtic Celebration in honor of Irish American Month on Wednesday, Mar. 2 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Multicultural Center.

Special guests Bob Teter and Greg Downs will be on hand and dressed in traditional Celtic attire. Downs is an actual chieftain that belongs to a Celtic clan. They host the annual Celtic games

in Sweet Home every summer.

Both will bring awareness of the Celtic culture, its history and help celebrate all the community has to offer.

There will be free Celtic food available including, Culcannon, a typical Irish potato dish, as well as Irish cheese and corned beef.

For more information on the Celtic Celebration call the LBCC Multicultural Center at 917-4461 or visit them in Forum 220.

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**LINFIELD**  
Adult Degree Program

Linn-Benton Community College Department of Performing Arts  
Presents its 30th Annual Children's Show

# PUSS IN BOOTS

**Sundays at 3p.m.**  
**FEB 20 & 27\***

**Tickets**  
\$7 adults  
\$4 children under 18  
Reserved Seating

Directed by **Jane Donovan**

Linn-Benton Community College  
Russell Tripp Performance Center  
formerly Takena Theater  
6500 Pacific Boulevard SW  
Albany, Oregon

Tickets go on sale Jan. 24 at: Sid Stevens Jewelers in Albany, Gracewinds Music in Corvallis, LBCC Box Office (8 a.m.-noon; 1-2 p.m.), or at the door two hours prior to curtain. 24-hour message line: (541) 917-4531. 15% discount on groups of 10 or more. Credit card transactions are available only at the Takena Box Office. Transactions at Sid Stevens or Gracewinds Music must be cash or check.

\*The February 27th performance is provided with American Sign Language Interpreters and is also the benefit performance for the Performing Arts Scholarship. LBCC is an Equal Opportunity Institution. If you require disability accommodations in order to attend or participate in this event please contact the Performing Arts Department, at (541) 917-4530, at least one week in advance.

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## CALENDAR

# THE VIBE

<p><b>Albany Civic Theater</b>                  111 1st Ave. SW                  Albany                  928-4603</p>	<p><b>Feb. 24, 25, 26</b>  <b>Sylvia</b>                  A modern romantic comedy about a man, a woman and the dog that comes between them.                  8 p.m.                  \$9 General                  \$6 Seniors and Under 18</p>
<p><b>The Book Bin</b>                  215 SW 14th St.                  Corvallis                  752-0040</p>	<p><b>Sat, Feb. 26</b>  <b>338th &amp; an Eye</b>                  Eccentric, humorous &amp; Confusing                  1-2 p.m.                  Free</p>
<p><b>Bombs Away Cafe</b>                  2527 NW Monroe Ave.                  Corvallis                  754-3601</p>	<p><b>Thur, Feb. 24</b>  <b>John Bliss Xtet</b>                  Jazz originals                  7:30 p.m.                  Free</p> <p><b>Fri, Feb. 25</b>  <b>Brody Lowe Band</b>                  9:30 p.m.                  \$3</p>
<p><b>Chinook Winds Casino Resort</b>                  1777 NW 44th St.                  Lincoln City                  1-541-996-5825                  1-888-CHINOOK</p>	<p><b>March 4 - 5</b>  <b>Joe Cocker</b>                  \$20 - \$40</p>
<p><b>Benton County Fairgrounds</b>                  110 SW 53rd St.                  Corvallis                  766-6521</p>	<p><b>Feb. 25-27</b>  <b>Friends of the Corvallis-Benton County Library Used Book Sale</b>                  5-9 p.m. Fri.                  10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat.                  11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sun.</p>
<p><b>Linn-Benton College Multicultural Center</b>                  6500 Pacific Blvd. SW                  Albany                  917-4461</p>	<p><b>Wed, March 2</b>  <b>Celtic Celebration</b>                  Special guests in traditional kilts, Celtic games and free Celtic food.                  12 - 1 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Linn-Benton College Forum</b>                  6500 Pacific Blvd. SW                  Albany                  917-7777</p>	<p><b>Sat, Feb. 26</b>  <b>Children's Performing Art Series</b>  <b>"Sword in the Stone"</b>                  11 a.m.                  Free</p>
<p><b>Linn-Benton College Russell Tripp Center</b>                  6500 Pacific Blvd. SW                  Albany                  917-4531</p>	<p><b>Sun, Feb. 27</b>  <b>Puss In Boots</b>                  30th annual children's play                  3 p.m.                  \$7 Adults                  \$4 Children under 18</p>
<p><b>New Morning Bakery</b>                  219 SW 2nd. St.                  Corvallis                  758-1393</p>	<p><b>Sat, Feb. 26</b>  <b>Bluegrass Jam</b>                  Open to all Pickers and Grinners.                  7:30 p.m.</p>



photo by Erik Swanson

**Puss In Boots (Eric Nepom) talks with Princess Pam (Jaclyn Brown) during last Sunday's production of 'Puss In Boots', the 30th Annual Children's Play at LBCC. The production continues through Sunday in the Russell Tripp Performance Center (formerly Takena Theater). Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children under 18 and are available at the theater box office in Takena Hall.**

## 'Puss In Boots' enthralls viewers with quality performances

**Steven Dulin**  
 Contributing Writer

### PLAY REVIEW

Puss in Boots, played by Eric Nepom in LBCC's children's play, is fabulous in character. He is funny, charming and has complete control over his audience.

Nepom is one cat that does not stray from his character. The costumes for this show are great, lively and colorful. Nepom's costume and character brought this talking cat to life. He has the children who made up over 90 percent of the audience, eating from his paw.

The peasant woman played by Rachel Pike is very cute and a welcome face to the Russell Tripp Performance Theater. She is well-mannered in character and adds a polite and comfortable atmosphere to the show.

The ogre is pleasantly mean and nasty and adds a wonderful mix of comedy to his (by default) mean and controlling character. His role is well played and was enjoyed by those in attendance.

The stage was set in a beautifully aesthetic paper forest. Although I felt more cheerful color might have been in order, the set was well constructed and added a setting appropriate for a wonderful performance.

The cook, played by Cody Mikhail Palmer-Furman, really takes you to a place where you feel the magic of the theater come alive. He was both funny and sincere in his character as the cook to the mean and terribly controlling ogre.

The director of this play was long-time veteran of LBCC, Jane Donovan. I hear she is talking of retiring next year so this may be her last performance at this theater. As she exits the stage I would encourage you to bid her farewell by enjoying this fabulously directed play she has put together.

The entire cast, crew, director and classes involved deserve a well earned round of applause for all their time and effort.

The last performance open to the public is Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Performance Center. Tickets are on sale now.

### MOVIE REVIEW

## 'Hitch' shows audiences that laughter and love are a match made in heaven

**Melissa Chaney**  
 The Commuter

The recently released movie "Hitch" with Will Smith is a funny and original story about a confirmed bachelor, Alex "Hitch" Hitchens, who helps his fellow men woo the women they love and would normally have no chance with.

As Hitch, Smith plays a suave, debonair kind of guy who never lets himself get too attached to women because of a betrayal in the past.

Enter Sarah Melas, played by Eva Mendes, a work-oriented gossip columnist. She causes Hitch to break stride in his normal love-free existence and



break out in reaction to a bad food allergy.

Kevin James, who most of us recognize from the TV show "King of Queens," plays

Albert Brennaman, Hitch's newest client. He's a little bit nerdy and cute, in a teddy bear kind of way, and is desperately in love with the supremely unattainable Allegra Cole. Played by Amber Valletta, Cole is a famous, gorgeous and lonely star.

This movie was hilarious and had myself and the rest of the theater audience laughing the entire length of the film.

The movie's ending was unsurprising and somewhat predictable but very appropriate for the Valentine holiday release.

This is a great romantic comedy for all you girls out there, and guys, this movie contains some great ideas on how-to and how not-to win a girl's heart.