

RUNNERS STUMBLE

LB loses emotional playoff game against Mt. Hood and fails to advance to the NWAACC Tournament ▶ Pg. 11

RETRACING THE TRAIL

Museums and interpretive centers bring Oregon Trail back to life for modern travelers ▶ Pgs. 6-7

The Commuter

a weekly student publication

Wednesday, May 26, 2004

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, OR

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Volume 35 No. 25

New classroom building expected by 2006

Michelle Bertalot
The Commuter

"It's time we expand and upgrade our instructional facilities," asserts Vice President Ed Watson. In the next four months expect to see the campus invaded by hard hats, orange cones and yellow tape as a new building goes up on the main campus.

The Capital Planning Task Force has had plans drawn up by architect Don Johnson for a multipurpose academic building. The plan is to construct a 20,000

square-foot building north of the AHSS Building containing 10 new classrooms, that should seat up to 50 students, more than most existing classrooms.

"This will give us a lot more flexibility and the school will be able to offer more classes during peak times," explained Watson.

The new building will be connected to the AHSS Building's second floor with a causeway for easy access for students.

The estimated cost is projected at \$2.6 million. The money for the new building is from a \$19.1 million bond measure that

was approved by Linn and Benton counties on Nov. 7, 2000.

Conveniently, the land is ready for building and Watson hopes to begin construction by fall term. "Hopefully we can complete it by summer term next year. The goal is to have it opened by fall 2006," said Watson.

"We are going to have student gathering spaces, a room for art displays—we're hoping to have kind of a gallery effect there," explained Watson. The "gallery effect" entails an atrium with student sculptural art to add to the aesthetics of

the new building.

The new space has particularly enthused the Art Department.

"We are all really excited about the possibility of a new space designated for art," commented Analee Fuentes, Art Department chairperson. The Art Department has looked over the plans for the building and made recommendations for the designers and architects.

"I imagine once it gets going there will be a lot of grant writing," joked Fuentes.

▶ Turn to "Building" on Pg. 4

Spring Fling carries on without a mechanical bull

Sheena Bishop
The Commuter

This year's annual Spring Fling is today from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The event is planned around a mechanical bull, setting a country theme.

Unfortunately, after receiving approval for the bull in early March and the planning continuing in theme of the attraction, last Friday morning the school decided against the previous approval, removing the mechanical bull from the event.

The school is concerned that the device is a safety hazard that they can not be liable for, despite the specific design of the bull to provide plenty of cushion for riders who take a voluntary crash landing.

The event is free to students. The funding for the event comes from student fees. The Associated Student Government is responsible for planning and budgeting Spring Fling.

This year about \$600 was initially budgeted, a small cost compared to past years. However, when the mechanical bull fell through it dropped costs below \$100, which was used for advertising.

KRKT country radio will be in the courtyard from noon to 1 p.m. with their giant boombox often seen at local events and parades.

▶ Turn to "Spring Fling" on Pg. 4



photo by Erik Swanson

Faculty Dive

Math instructor Arlie Bell dives for the ball while student Chantell Abbott reacts during Wednesday's 2-on-2 volleyball tournament held as part of the annual Health Fair. A story on the other events held during the fair, including a talk on sleep disorders, is on Page 3

College tightens financial aid eligibility rules for 2006

Adam Swackhamer
The Commuter

Starting at the end of summer term, students utilizing financial aid may have to work harder to keep it coming under LBCC's new Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.

The new SAP policy being adopted has much stricter guidelines and requires students to complete a degree within a

smaller time frame.

The first change to the financial aid program comes in how progress is measured. Currently, progress is measured by how many credits a student has left to complete. With the new system, progress is measured by how many credits a student has completed each term. Students receiving financial aid must complete at least 70 percent of their credits listed after the add/drop

deadline or they may be placed in Probation 1 status.

Second, the Financial Aid Office will be measuring the maximum time frame allowed to complete a degree by counting credits, not terms. For example, if a student's degree will take 80 credits to complete, they will be able to take up to 120 credits to finish it.

Since this is such a large change to policy, students re-

ceiving aid for summer term will be evaluated and switched to the program that benefits them the most. This policy will also be effective for students receiving aid for the first term of the 2004-05 year, after which all students receiving financial aid will be evaluated using the new policy only.

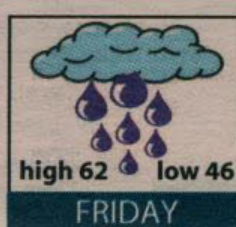
The new SAP policy has appeal provisions for students who have a GPA of less than 1.5 or

for those who fail to complete 70 percent of their credit hours. It also allows for students to be placed on probation two times without the loss of aid. The third unsatisfactory term will result in the loss of the student's aid eligibility.

More information regarding the changes to financial aid policy are available at the Financial Aid Office in Takena Hall, Room 117.

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM



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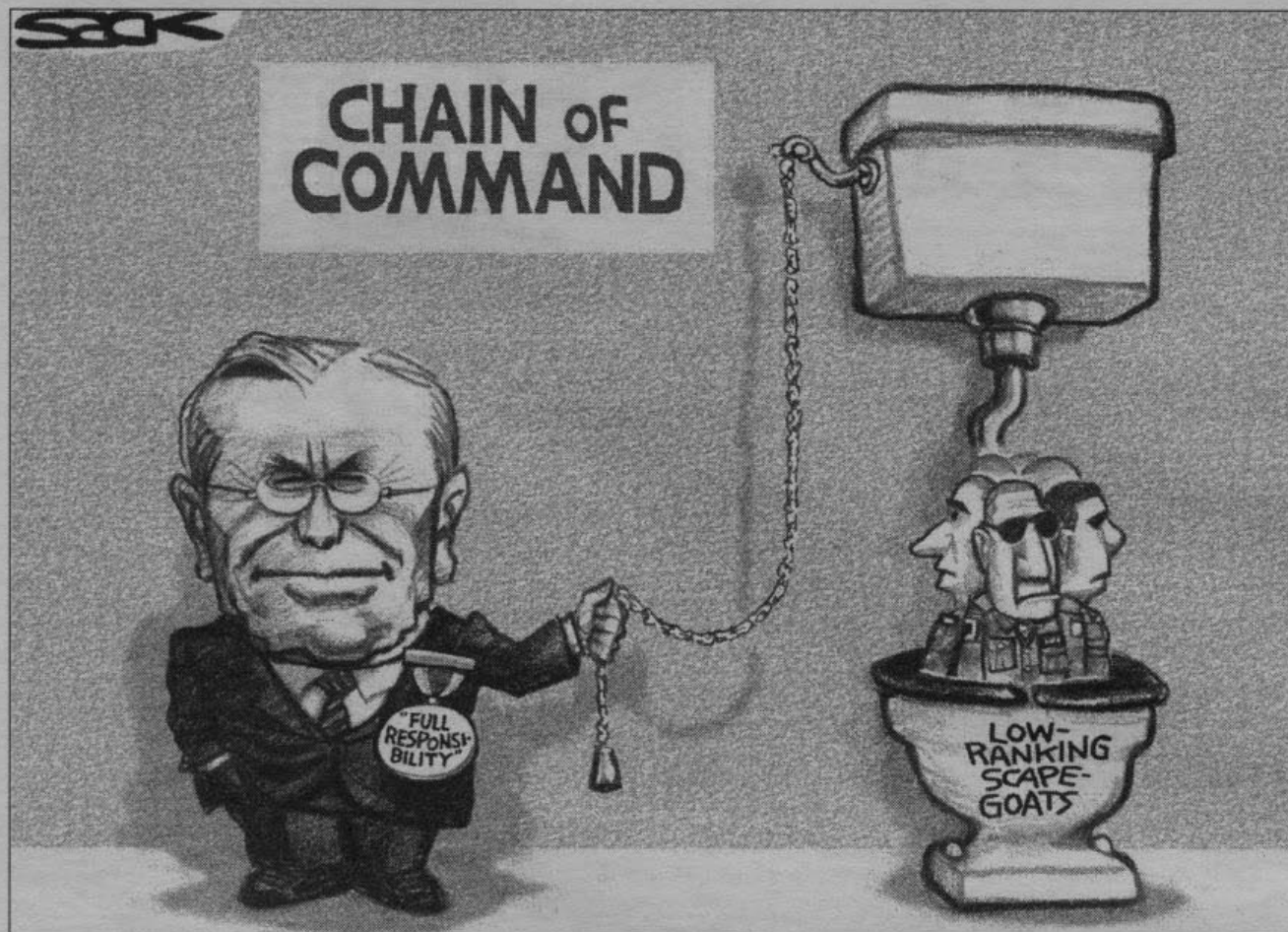
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Commuter

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and
 keep them at 250 words or less



Rising cost of college education results in conservative vote

Laurent L.N. Bonczijk
 The Commuter

I hate to say "I told you so," but I think I have the right to do it on the issue of tuition increases.

In support of Measure 30, I argued that a student or the parents of a prospective student should have gotten off their butts and voted yes on 30 or be categorized as morons.

LB just proved me right. The \$6 per credit tuition hike for next term will effectively cancel the \$81 that the typical household "saved" by voting no or not bothering to go to the booths, according to the Oregon Center for Public Policy.

Granted, as conservatives said, the world didn't end after Measure 30 failed. What is more alarming is the rising cost of education.

I believe, unlike conservatives, that an educated population is better for the country as a whole.

The last time I debated this with a conservative friend of mine he said that low-cost education makes for "homosexual gas attendants with bachelor degrees."

Considering that he reads the books and columns of Ann "Dominatrix" Coulter I am not surprised that he is so misguided about the benefits of an educated population.

The first beneficiaries of better-educated people are companies, because those new hires will require less training than their uneducated counterparts. Imagine having to hire a high school grad and then train him to become an engineer, for example.

Even with the conservative ideology that people are poor because they want to be poor, their children didn't choose to be born in poverty, right? So why should they bear an extra burden on their way to higher education?

Conservatives seem to forget that the public education system was created out of a need to have a better-educated population. For centuries, only the rich were able to afford education, even in its most primal form, such as grade or middle school.

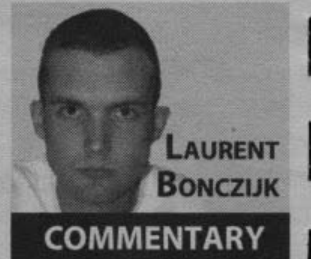
Now they call for the godsend of privatization, claiming that it will fix all wrongs, and ignoring, in their selfishness, that it will leave the bottom earners' offspring out of it.

It is not so much selfishness and ignorance on the part of the conservatives that drive their goal of privatizing schools by constantly chipping away at the funding than the fact that better-educated people tend to be liberals.

I can already hear some hissing from the religious right, but what I say is not snobbism, but fact. The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press conducted a poll earlier this month on the Iraq war. Clearly this is a partisan issue, since 80 percent of Republicans still support it, vs. 48 percent of independents and only 30 percent of Democrats.

What is most interesting about the poll is the breakdown of people's opinion of the war according to their level of education. The higher the education of those polled, the lower their view on how wise the war is. Clearly that demographic does not support conservative views.

And this is where it all makes sense: By constantly reducing the number of people able to afford college, conservatives guarantee themselves an ever larger number of uneducated people ready to buy into their bull and blindly vote for them.



LAURENT BONCZIK

COMMENTARY

Draft bill used for propaganda

Adam Swackhamer
 The Commuter

Some of you may have been getting the e-mails regarding the draft legislation that is currently pending in Congress, instructing you to write your congressmen and pass the word on to every single person you know. Sadly, those of you doing this are only inciting panic over a non-issue.

I had heard of the pending legislation before, but it didn't bother me much until this week when checking my e-mail I had received no fewer than five e-mails about the same subject, all filled with hatred for Bush, America and everyone but the politicians throwing their weight behind these bills.

Currently the House and Senate both have bills regarding conscription to bolster the ranks of our armed forces. Senate Bill S89, backed by Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina, who is (surprise, surprise) a Democrat, was introduced in January of 2003. After its introduction, it was referred to a committee, where it was once again referred to committee. It is there that this bill has languished, dead and forgotten by everyone but those looking to rile up the draft-age population and their parents.

The exact same bill is also present in the House as HR163, backed by Charles Rangel, a New York Democrat, and co-sponsored by 13 other Democrats and one Republican. What amazed me when gathering information on all these members of the House was how well

they hid their party affiliation. Some of them did not even include HR163 on their list of pending legislation. It seems like they want to support it, but don't want people to know they support it. Like its brother in the Senate, this bill is currently in legislative limbo.

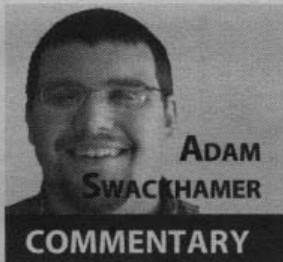
Both bills are dead now, only useful as propaganda for writers with no integrity.

Those of us who chose to research these happily misinformed and incendiary articles at face value and do some research were unaffected by the brouhaha quickly spreading across the Internet and into college campuses across the nation.

Should you receive an e-mail telling you to write to your congressmen or discouraging you from voting for Bush, remember what I've written. Bush has not come out in support of either of these bills. They are leftist propaganda and are being sponsored by some very unscrupulous representatives, namely Neil Abercrombie, Donna M. Christensen, John Conyers Jr., Alcee L. Hastings, John Lewis, James P. Moran, Fortney Pete Stark, Corrine Brown, William "Lacy" Clay, Elijah E. Commings, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Jim McDermott, Eleanor Holmes Norton and Nydia M. Velazquez.

These are the people you should be writing to. Let them know how disgusted you are with their performance. Let them know how they have let American citizens of conscription age down with their backing of this bill. Let them know they can't hide the fact they were willing to begin forcefully sending men and women overseas to fight and die.

I invite anyone who desires to research this more to visit www.congress.gov and get more facts. Arm yourself, your family and your friends with the truth and aid others in dispelling garbage like this.



ADAM SWACKHAMER
COMMENTARY

The Commuter

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www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Healthy living explored at fair

Laurent L.N. Bonczijk
 The Commuter

Health and fitness organizations turned out on campus last Wednesday for the annual Health Fair.

About a dozen local organizations, including the American Red Cross, the Albany Boys and Girls Club and local fitness firms, put up displays in the Activities Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ten more were scheduled to come but didn't show, according to Student Life & Leadership.

Brenda Spinney, a certified personal trainer, represented Gold's Gyms of Albany. Spinney is a personal trainer of six years and fit enough to inspire confidence in prospective clients.

She described her typical customer as 30 to 40 years old, overweight, tired or just not able to keep up with the kids anymore and wanting to drop a little weight. There are slightly more women, she said: "moms who want to lose their baby fat."

Spinney typically coaches her clients for an hour a week. They usually will choose to attend anywhere from three to 50 of these sessions. She creates workout programs destined to strengthen core muscle groups and personal weaknesses. Her programs also include cardio-

vascular exercises and nutrition education. In her experience it is better for people to start with a coach: "If we get a hold of people from the get-go they stay a long time," she said.

Dr. Mari Goldner, who has been working at the Corvallis Clinic sleep lab since last August, lectured on the effects of sleep disorders. Americans, she said, get on average 20 percent less sleep than 100 years ago. Forty-three percent of adults trace the problem directly to the Internet, television and gaming.

Too little sleep is the most common disorder facing Americans, she added. It results in lesser quality and quantity of work, and impairs stress management, problem-solving skills and interpersonal relationships.

Driving after pulling an "all-nighter" may not seem like much, but it is the equivalent

of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.1, she said, which is considered legally drunk. Countermeasures are a 15-20 minute nap and caffeine. However, she added it takes 30 minutes for caffeine to start acting.

Having your circadian rhythm off is also considered a disease, affecting the night owls in our society.

Apnea, a breathing disorder characterized by snoring, is also a common sleep disorder. Ten percent of men reportedly suffer from it and 2 to 4 percent of women, although doctors believe that it is under-reported in women.

A more unusual disorder is narcolepsy, a condition in which the boundaries between sleep and wakefulness are altered. It leads to sleepwalking or sleep eating and in some cases people will enact violent dreams.



photo by Erik Swanson

Jean Adamson (right) explains the benefits of Super Blue-Green Algae supplement to Mike Brawn during the Health Fair last Wednesday. About a dozen companies and organizations set up information booths in the Activities Center gym for the event.





chef's choice

All Week Long!

COMMONS

May 26 - June 1



WANTED!

The Commuter needs creative students to fill positions on the 2004-2005 staff

Digital Page Designer

Part-time position pays \$8.75+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mon.-Tues. Use InDesign to paginate tabloid pages under direction of the editor. Prefer Mac experience and good English skills; familiarity with InDesign or Pagemaker helpful. Good experience for majors in graphics or pre-press.

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. Macintosh experience preferred.

Assistant Editors

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

- Photo Editor
- Managing Editor
- Sports Editor
- Graphics Editor

- Copy Editor
- A&E Editor
- Opinion Editor
- Online Editor

Work Study Jobs

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

These positions open to work-study eligible students only. Information on work study eligibility is available from the Financial Aid Office.

Applications 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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CAMPUS NEWS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

SCHOLARSHIPS

American Business Women's Chintimini Scholarship - due date May 28, 2004. \$1,000 award to women who: are US citizens, residents of Linn or Benton counties, GPA of 3.0 or better, and in a degree seeking major. Contact Elise Schloeder @ 758-6241 for more info. Materials are available in the kiosk next to Financial Aid, Takena Hall.

The Sallie Mae Fund is offering a \$1,000 - \$3,000 scholarship for the 2004/2005 academic year. To qualify for the scholarship students must provide the following items and complete the application by May 31st. Criteria: U.S. citizen, family adjusted gross income for calendar year 2003 of \$30,000 or less, demonstrate unmet financial need of at least \$1,000 AFTER Financial Aid award packaging is completed, have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 - 3.0, enroll as a full-time student. For application materials, please go to the website listed: www.salliemae.org

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MISC.

Rock Solid Health Center - 35% off supplements. Free consultation. Downstairs next to Starbucks, 4th street, Corvallis. (541) 619-5559.

HELP WANTED

Accounting Assistant (#2511, Albany) This part-time job at the Courthouse would provide wonderful experience for an accounting student. See Carla in the Student Employment (T101) for more info on this wonderful opportunity!

CWE Student Lab Tech (2517, Wah Chang, Albany) If you want on the job work experience in the chemistry/lab field, here is the job! You must be in a related degree, completed 2 terms & be a current student to apply. Please see Student Employment (T101) for more information!

Student Landscape Maintenance Worker (#2514, Corvallis) If you have experience or education landscape maintenance, this full-time, summer job is for you! See Carla in Student Employment (T101) for your referral!

Intern Laborer (#2505-Local area) This full-time, summer job would like to see horticulture students or those experienced in landscape & irrigation construction. Sign up with Student Employment (T101) and find out more information!

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Deadline:

Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in next Wednesday's issue.

Cost:

Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word.

Building: Activities Center next in line

▲ From Pg. 1

The school has the concept plans ready, which are basic sketches of what the new building should look like, and is now working on completing the final construction plans.

Over the next couple of months the school will have to get approval for the various permits needed to build on campus, and solicit for bids from contractors and architects.

The new campus building is the first part of a three-phase plan of campus expansion and improvement.

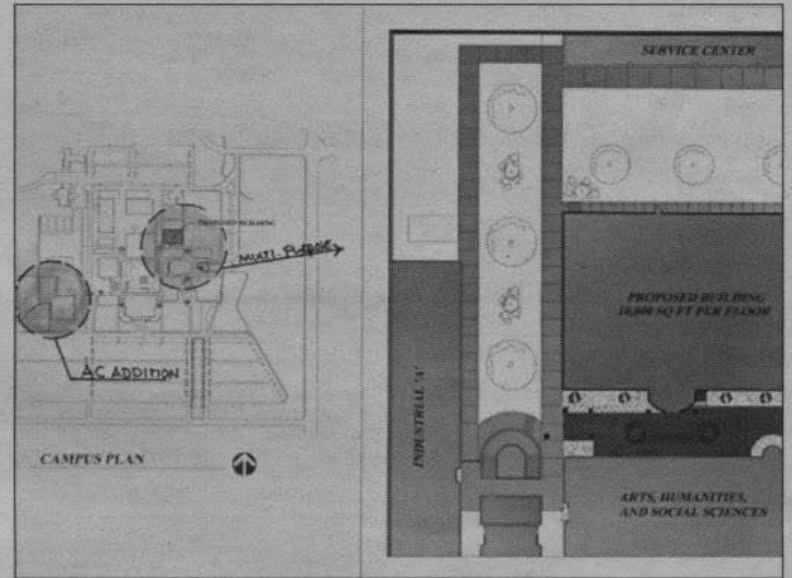
A second piece of the first phase is adding on 4,000 square feet to the Activities Center, extending southward from the existing weight room. The plan is to convert the existing weight room into an aerobics classroom, and add on a new weight room with new equipment so that

more time will be available for drop-in students who want to work out.

"We really have an excellent Human Performance Department, but students don't really have much of an opportunity to go in and use the facilities," said Watson.

Other improvements include renovation of the women's locker room, doubling the number of lockers by 50 percent and adding nine private showers.

Phase 2 and 3 include tentative plans to improve the science facilities and expanding support services. These projects are in their developmental stages. Watson listed several proposals under consideration: "Remodeling and updating the science building and LRC in the library, also renovation and expansion of the bookstore, student services area and even some things in the



Concept plans show the proposed design for the new multipurpose building to be constructed between the AHSS and SC buildings.

industrial area."

These new additions aren't the only project the Capital Planning Task Force has been working on. The Lebanon Center was

added two years ago; the Benton Center was just opened last term and the Sweet Home Center is being finished for a September 2004 opening.

Spring Fling: Sidewalk chalk art brightens annual event

▲ From Pg. 1

In true country music fashion, there will be a raffle for two sets of Oregon Jamboree tickets.

The tickets are good for one day only, all day. Winners have the option of using the tickets to attend two days themselves or taking a friend along for one day.

This year's Jamboree will feature Brad Paisley, Neal McCoy, Pam Tillis, Pat Green, Cleudus T. Judd, Brian McComas, McQueen and others yet to be announced.

The American Association for Women in Community Colleges is having a silent auction. The AAWCC is an attraction that is returning from previous Flings.

Auction items include books, paintings, riding lessons, gift baskets, 18 holes of golf, and lunch with LBCC's president. Auction proceeds support two \$500 scholarships given to LBCC students annually.

For those who have an appetite to settle, culinary services on campus will be serving up burgers, potato salad, baked beans, apple pie and a drink, all for \$3 per student and \$4 for others.

A sidewalk chalk art competition will brighten things up a bit. The deadline to sign up was May 14.

Prizes for the competition come in baskets full of goodies, including gift certificates, dinner for two, event passes and more.

The competition is being put on by the Multicultural Center.

Student Ambassadors will have a dunk tank set up. There is no word on who will be in it, but you know whoever they are, they'll be wet before they leave today.

Books Are Fun will have a booth, a good place to find a paperback or small gift. They will be set up next to campus clubs and organizations, who are hoping to raise awareness

of their clubs.

Representatives from AAWCC, the Security and Safety Committee, Foundation, Admissions, LBCC Bookstore, Phi Theta Kappa, the Business Office, Gay-Straight Alliance and the Student Vote Coalition will all be in attendance.

The Spring Fling is not a fundraising event, but an event put on every year for the entertainment of the students prior to the stresses of finals week.

The ASG begins planning for the Spring Fling a term in advance.

Even without the bull, the Spring Fling has plenty to offer.

Hit up the dunk tank and the information stations on your way to a great deal on lunch. While you eat you can watch the sidewalk artists attack the walkways. There is plenty of fun to be found in the courtyard today.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Adventure accounted for with Chambers in charge

Mary Stone
 The Commuter

Maynard Chambers knows that his students think he's just a nerdy accountant and he chuckles at the thought.

Unbeknownst to most of his students, beneath that slim black costume and behind that steady gaze pulses the blood of an adventurer who has sailed the South Pacific, scaled Mt. Everest, and boated up the Amazon. Chambers is passionate about discovering nature through extreme adventure.

Chambers had plans for a career with a big worldwide construction firm after college, but a chance opportunity to teach a class for LBCC changed all that.

"I was just curious about it," Chambers says. So he took the part-time job. The next year he was offered a full-time position. Chambers recalls a little joke that had been going around campus: "There are three reasons to become a teacher and the three reasons are: June, July and August. I thought that was pretty good logic." That logic has led him to a 35-year teaching career from which he will retire this spring.

Chambers has taken advantage of those three reasons to teach. He has spent many summers sailing and scuba diving in the South Pacific. He has twice crossed the Pacific Ocean in a sailboat as one of two crew members. He describes the experience of scuba diving as if in a trance: "You go down 50 feet to see thousands of fish, to see what their life is like; to see the beauty and the peace and even the violence. You are in a whole different world, you are experiencing nature at its best."

The opportunity to teach in India for two months in 1975 provided a chance for him to try extreme mountain climbing. He hired three Sherpa in Nepal, who loaded up two yaks and guided him on a trek to Base Camp 1 at the 17,231-foot mark of Mt. Everest.

In 1985 he joined a group of eleven men for a week of heli-skiing near Banff, Alberta. A helicopter dropped the group off on a mountain peak. "It's just pure ice at the top. You look down and it's almost so steep you can't see down the slope. When you jump off there, you have to perform." At the end of the ice was a 10 to 15 mile run of waist deep powder.

Chambers spent six weeks in the Serengeti Desert of Africa in 1993. With a guide and a jeep, he tent-camped among lions,

elephants and wildebeests. He followed up that experience by scaling Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain, which rises to 19,340 feet.

Swimming in the Amazon River in 1994 was a bit unnerving for Chambers however, he was assured there wouldn't be more than one or two piranhas and "they won't eat very much." He took the 2,700-mile river trip on freighters, which are the only available transportation in the area. In addition to the rare tourist, these freighters transport chickens, fish, fruit and up to 400 local passengers. Chambers did allow himself the luxury of renting a small cabin on the freighter while the locals slept in hammocks suspended from hooks.

Although it's not legal to go to Cuba as a tourist, Chambers added that destination to his photo album in 2001. Getting there involved Canada, "Cabo," and "a special man with a plane." Chambers said he discovered Havana to be one of the most wonderful cities of the world. "There is wonderful music there, great art and great food."

Interesting adventures have led to interesting relationships. Twenty years ago, when he sailed into a harbor in the Kingdom of Tonga, Chambers presented the customary gift of kava to the chief. He was then invited to visit with the chief and village elders and partake of a narcotic drink, which had been made from the kava root. Though Chambers' ears and tongue went numb from the narcotic during the visit, the chief and elders were pleased with him and welcomed him into the village.

The new relationships were often symbiotic. "You have stuff on the sailboat that the people in the village don't have and the people in the village know it," he says. "You have medicines, and you have duct tape. Duct tape they think is great because they can use it to solve so many problems. In exchange, they would invite us to their huts in the evening and they would play their music and serve us their food. It was a great experience." After a week or so, Chambers says he would leave the island "with a tear in his eye" because he knew he would never again

see these friends.

Chambers makes a distinction between being a world tourist and a world traveler. "The world tourist gets a taste of the country, but they don't get very deep in the culture of a country." As a world traveler, his goal is to interact with the peoples of the world and to gain a greater understanding of them. "It makes you more aware of the fact that the American

culture is not the only culture in the world," he asserts. "It makes you a better citizen of the world to see that there is more than one way of doing things."

He enjoys high adventure experiences because they challenge him both physically and mentally. "There is inherent danger in climbing mountains and crossing oceans," Chambers explains. "When you're at a dangerous point, then you can kind of see what you're made out of and see if you have the skills to handle whatever the danger is. You learn how well you handle yourself and how well you think on your feet."

Chambers sees himself as a man who likes challenges—to be confronted with problems, to get his hands around those problems and to find solutions. His interest in business lies in discovering what actions will drive the profit of a business. In his management consulting practice, he analyzes the problems of businesses and develops strategic plans. It can make the difference between life and death for a company in trouble.

A lot of people would have questioned his logic when he joined LBCC. Back in 1969, before the campus was built, students met in 28 different locations throughout Linn and Benton counties and the future of the new community college was uncertain. "When I started teaching, I taught in a trailer down by the pool in downtown Albany and I also taught courses in the Baptist church," says Chambers. "High school students didn't want to go here because we didn't have a campus and didn't have prestige. Everyone wanted to go to OSU."

He taught during the day and in the evening he stayed up late preparing. "When you're starting out, you just stay one day ahead of the students," he admits.

Patsy Chester, who now works part-time in the Staff Development and Educational Partnership Office, taught alongside Chambers in the Business Division in those early days. "He came to LBCC as a part-time

"There are three reasons to become a teacher, and the three reasons are: June, July and August. I thought that was pretty good logic."

► Maynard Chambers

"He relates what we are learning in the classroom to real life, he prepares us for the tough things out there."

► Beckey Lewis

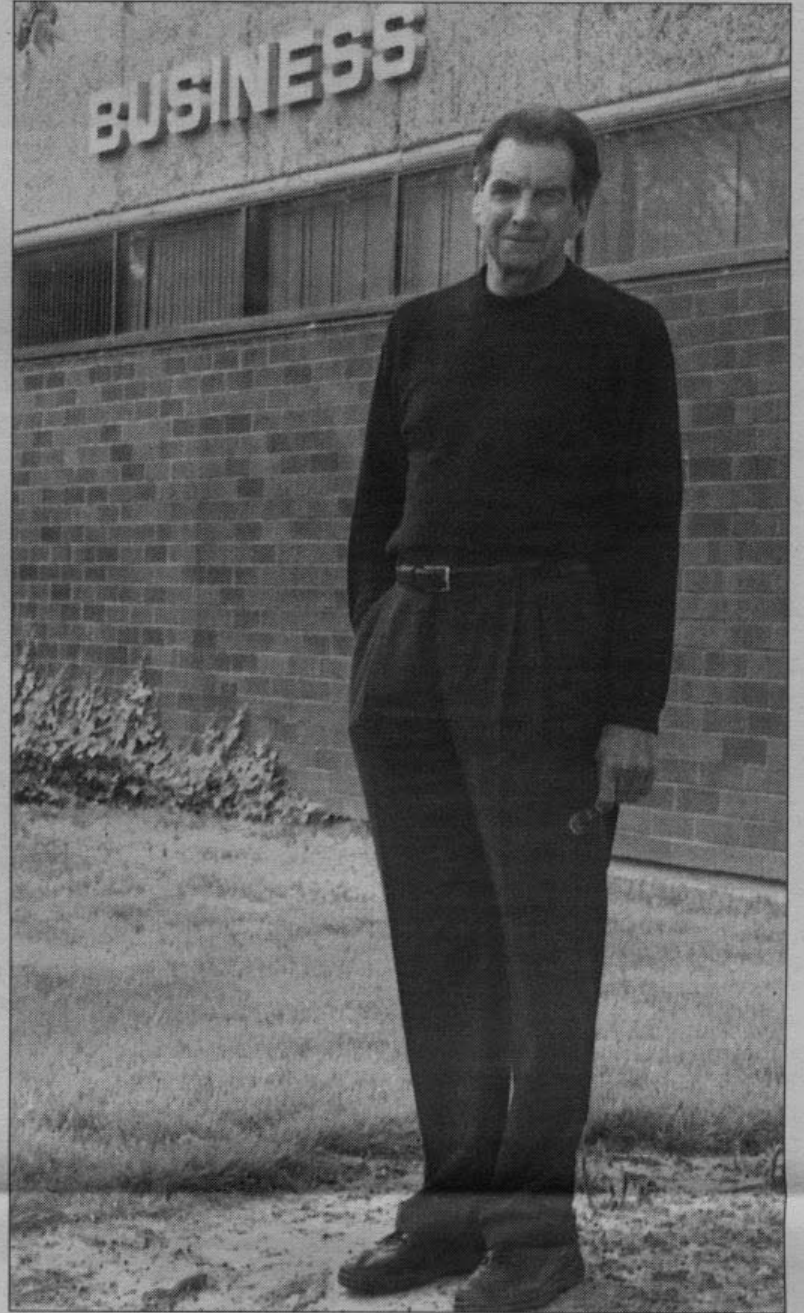


photo by Mary Stone

After 34 years accounting instructor Maynard Chambers is calling it quits. Chambers was chosen by students in a school wide vote as Faculty of the Year. Although he is retiring, Chambers won't have to look far to keep busy with his adventurous activities.

faculty member determined to be a great teacher," she recalls. He achieved that and has maintained it throughout his career."

When he teaches his last class in June, he says he will miss the students most. He will miss challenging them and facilitating their dreams. As he thinks back through his years at LBCC, the highlights revolve around students who come back to "shake your hand or give you a hug and thank you for their experience here."

It's not hard to find students who want to thank Chambers for his contribution to their education and their life. Beckey Lewis, a current student working on two business degrees at LBCC, calls herself "an expert on Maynard." She has had him for five classes this year. "He relates what we are learning in the classroom to real life," she explains, "He prepares us for the tough things out there."

Linda Long, also a current student, said she appreciates Chambers for his patience. "He cares. He wants to make sure we get it. We ask him the same questions over and over in different forms and he never

gets tired of us. We haven't even scratched the surface of what he knows."

Terry Ware, who graduated with a degree in accounting technology in 2001, thinks of Chambers as her mentor. Though she knows not every student feels the same way. "Students who do things slipshod, who try to get away with things, don't get along with him," she says. "That's not what he's there for." In her work as foundation systems accountant for Good Samaritan Foundation, she says that Chambers "continues to be a source of support for me when I need help. I adore him."

Chester, who has observed Chambers' life and career throughout his LBCC years, says with certainty, "He has touched the lives of thousands of students in a very positive way. Maynard has always had many great connections in the community through various civic organizations and businesses, which has resulted in a stronger base of support for the College."

Chambers plans to continue his interests and consulting practice, at least for now. He may sail across the oceans again and will definitely climb more mountains.

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LOCAL NEWS

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

Travelers still find adventure on Oregon Trail

State's rich heritage unfolds as tourists retrace historic route

Colleen Jacks
 The Commuter

An estimated 400,000 people traveled the Oregon Trail during the mid-1800s, leaving behind their families and friends in hopes of finding a better life. The reasons for making the journey to Oregon and California were as diverse as the people who made the trip.

They were in search of land, freedom and a new way of life. All eyes were focused west, to the shimmering jewel of the Oregon Territory—the Willamette Valley. Tales of the mild climate and rich, fertile soil sparked hope for those who had suffered through religious persecution, poor farming conditions and the U.S. economic depression of the 1830s.

To make the cross-country journey, they had to be well-prepared and pack all essential items into a wagon box that measured 4 feet wide, 11 feet long, and 2 feet deep. Oxen were the animals of choice to pull the wagons because horses were too expensive and required special feed and mules were too stubborn. The oxen were strong, docile and rarely stampeded.

Each person making the trip had to pack nearly 2,000 pounds of provisions, including flour, bacon, coffee, sugar and beans. Because the wagons were heavily loaded and very uncomfortable to ride in, most of the emigrants walked the entire 2,000 miles of the Oregon Trail.

In fact, the wagons were so full there was little room for treasured family heirlooms such as grandma's china or Aunt Kate's spinet. Many of those items had to be left behind.

Like a lot of other people, I've always been curious about the Oregon Trail pioneers, so a few weeks ago I traveled the Oregon section of the trail, visiting the museums and interpretive centers that have been dedicated to the hardy souls who braved that arduous journey 150 years ago.

The trail entered Oregon just over the Idaho border near Baker City. Five miles east of Baker City, atop Flagstaff Hill, is the National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center maintained by the Bureau of Land Management. The center has dioramas (staged scenes), with recorded voices that offer a glimpse of what life was like on the trail, including the scene of a young boy wondering if he would go to school in Oregon and another depicting a young woman weeping over her child's grave.

In front of the National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center are covered wagons known as "Prairie Schooners" encircling a small area, as though they were camped for the night. Most of the wagons are replicas, but one is an original that actually made the trek across the country.

Winding down Flagstaff Hill behind the center is a paved pathway that leads to original wagon ruts, still visible, which you are allowed to walk on. The incline is quite steep, so a stout heart and good walking-shoes are recommended. A round trip venture up and down the hill takes about two hours.

However, my eagle-eyed traveling companion discovered a shorter route to the ruts—a graveled parking area just before the entrance to Flagstaff Hill is marked with a sign showing the way and it was a very brief stroll through the sage brush to reach them.

It was surprising to see how well-defined the ruts still are after 150 years of being exposed to the elements—the ground was packed so hard by wagon wheels and animals that no vegetation could take root. It was quite poignant to walk the path as the emigrants did and appreciate the sacrifices it took to reach their dream of a better life.

From Flagstaff Hill, the travelers saw the Blue Mountains looming before them. Some were discouraged to see the craggy, snow-topped peaks. They thought they'd seen the last of mountains once they had crossed the Rocky Mountains.



Prairie schooners, like those that made the trek across the country 150 years ago, can be seen in front of the National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center outside Baker City, Ore. The center, located on Flagstaff Hill near the site of well-defined ruts made by the wagons (right), contains a variety of dioramas depicting the lives of the pioneers. The view from Flagstaff Hill takes in the scenic Blue Mountains, which represented the next hurdle for the wagon trains as they made their way to the Columbia River.

photos by Colleen Jacks



Also in Baker City is the Oregon Trail Regional Museum, which is housed in a building that was once the natatorium. It features many original artifacts from the trail and interesting historical information about the local area.

Back on the trail, we took I-84 from Baker City north to exit 248 and traveled 12 miles west of LaGrande to the Blue Mountain Crossing at Oregon Trail Interpretive Park.

According to the available literature, the pioneers sent trail blazers ahead of the train to hack a path through the trees for the wagons to cross over the top. This area is known for some of the best-preserved sections of the Old Emigrant Road. The sweeping views of the mountains from the flower-strewn meadows at the top of the ridge are much as they were as the emigrants saw them 150 years ago.

For a view of the emigrant trains' impact on the natives already living here, stop at The Tamastlikt Cultural Institute next to the Wildhorse Resort and Casino one mile off I-84 at exit 216 near Pendleton. Many exhibits display native arts and tell stories about the short and long-term effects the Oregon Trail travelers had on the indigenous people, which included the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes.

When the emigrants reached the Columbia River Gorge at The Dalles, they faced a tough decision: Whether to travel down the Columbia River to Oregon City or take the overland route around the south side of Mt. Hood via the Barlow Road.

What they saw at the Columbia Gorge must have been breathtaking. After traveling across endless prairies, and sometimes arid deserts, this area must have looked like heaven on earth.

The gorge is simply one of the most stunning sights in the world. The sheer cliffs of the basalt rocks and the wide, shining blue river make this an experience that

should be seen by everyone.

However, for the emigrants, the river represented an extremely dangerous route. There were swift currents and dangerous rapids and they ran the risk of losing everything if the raft overturned or came apart. It was also expensive, but it was the fastest way to reach Oregon City.

The Barlow Road was the alternative, but it had its own set of dangers. To get the wagons up the steep incline of Laurel Hill, they had to double team the oxen and push the wagons from behind. When they reached the crest of the hill, they faced a near-vertical drop to the bottom. Ropes were tied around the wagons, with the other end secured to a tree. To slow down the descent of the wagon, logs were tied to the rear. Every 100 feet they had to retie the wagon to another tree and continue the slow process down the slope. The pioneers said that this was the most arduous part of the entire trip.

At The Dalles is The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center/Wasco County Historical Museum on I-84. It has information about the local area and a spectacular view the Columbia River, as well as exhibits on the travels of Lewis and Clark, the first to blaze a trail across America to the West Coast. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark made their first journey 200 years ago and inspired the migration to the West for people who wanted a better life. A three-year celebration from 2003-2006 commemorates their accomplishments.

At journey's end, the emigrants reached Abernathy Green in Oregon City. Here they could rest, replenish their supplies and file their claims with the federal land office. The Donation Act allowed white men over the age of 21 to claim 320 acres. If they were married, the award was doubled to 640 acres. Most people didn't stay long in Oregon City. They were eager to make the

▶ Turn to "On the Oregon Trail" on Pg. 7

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LOCAL NEWS

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

On the Oregon Trail: Pioneers' trip can now be completed in two days

◀ From Pg. 6

final leg of the trip to their own land to build a home, plant crops and establish farms and ranches.

Sitting on the site of Abernathy Green is The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center off I-205 at exit 10. The exhibits and multi-media theater are housed in three 50-foot buildings shaped like covered wagons. A costumed interpreter leads visitors on a guided tour of the center. The show begins in a room that resembles what a provisional depot would have looked like back in Independence, Mo. Included in the exhibit are a fiddle and a Bible that made it across the Oregon Trail.

From this room you move to a multi-media theater for a 30-minute movie depicting the lives of four actual pioneers, using the text from the diaries they kept along the way. Personally, I felt the movie was a bit too long, and I expected the artifact collection to be more extensive.

During the summer months, live interpretive shows with re-enactors dressed in period clothes demonstrate cooking and farming techniques typical of the mid-1800s.

The entire journey took me two full days to complete, with an overnight stay in Baker City. There are many motels and campgrounds along the way.

The trip helped me understand what these emigrants endured and appreciate the legacy they left behind. The Willamette Valley's rich heritage began when the first wagons rolled over the soft, undulating green hills and those first pioneers took root in their new homes. It took a lot of guts to leave behind family and friends, knowing they may never see them again, but the desire to find a better life was strong. The emigrants stayed and carved homes out the wilderness: Maybe that's where Oregonians get their spirit of adventure.

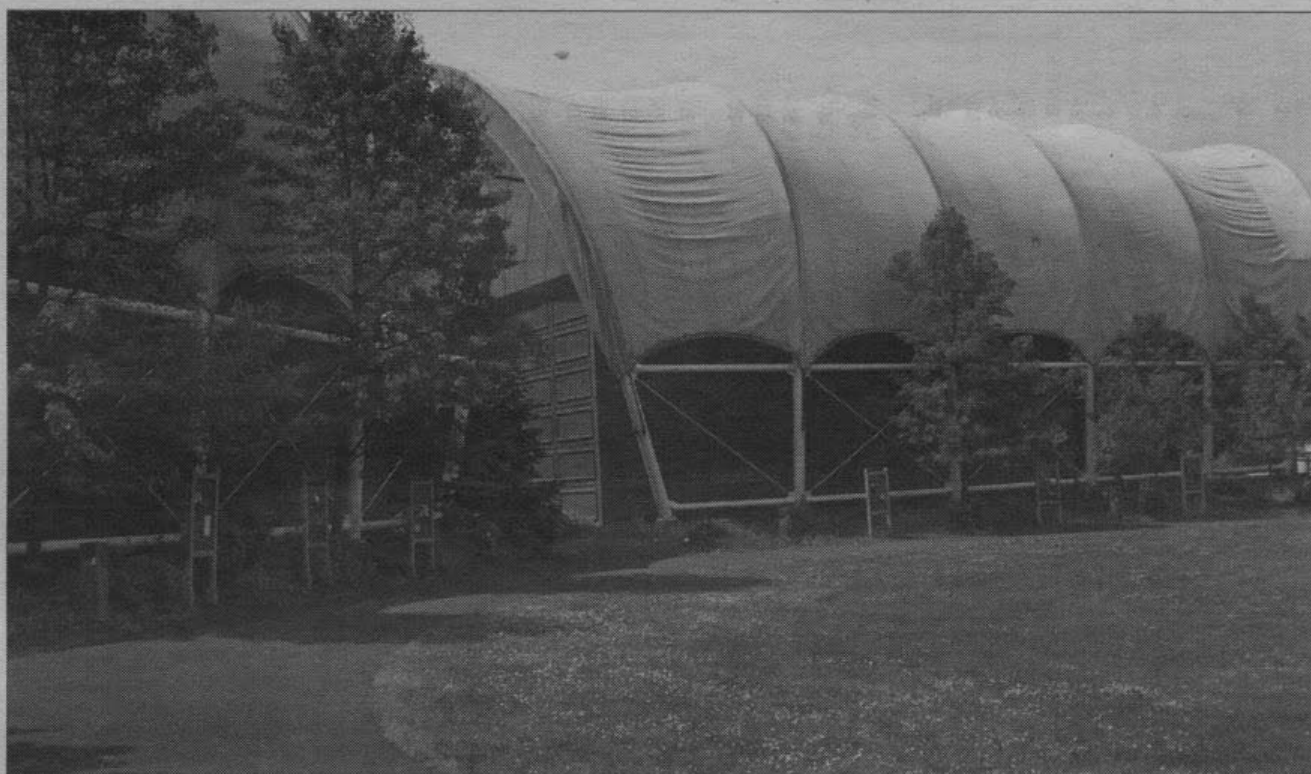


photo by Colleen Jacks

The End of The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City features buildings designed to look like the covered wagons that followed the trail to the promised land of the Willamette Valley from Missouri in the mid-1800s.

Six museums show the way it was

National Oregon Trail Interpretive Center :

Open all year, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for students and seniors

The Oregon Trail Regional Museum:

Open daily through the summer 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$5 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors

Blue Mountain Crossing at Oregon Trail Interpretive Park:

Open daily May through September; \$5 for adults \$4 for students and seniors

The Tamastlikt Cultural Institute:

Open seven days a week 9 a.m. to 5p.m. \$5 for adults and \$4 for youths and seniors

The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center/ Wasco County Historical Museum:

Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5p.m. \$6.50 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors and \$3 for children 6-16

The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center:

Open seven days a week 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$7.50 for adults, \$6.50 for students and seniors

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IN FO



ARCHERY SUMMIT



SOKOL BLOSER



ARGYLE WINERY

A Sip of Oregon

THE YAMHILL COUNTY WIN

WINERY PHOTOS BY SCOTT MCCLURE - I

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

What could be better than a nice relaxing day spent sipping wine and meeting new people. This is what you can expect from a trip to Yamhill County.

I took a relaxing drive up Highway 99W recently, north of Monmouth and McMinnville. I was lulled into mellowness with the gently rolling hills, painted gold, red and several shades of green due to the agriculture throughout the area.

I found hazelnut orchards where farmers offer fresh filberts at their

roadside stands and pastures with cattle just lying around chewing their cud. The rows and rows of vineyards are what brought me to the region, striving to sample the many delicious wines.

My first stop took me east off of Highway 99W onto Highway 18, up what seemed like an endless gravel road to **Archery Summit Winery**. The gravel road is so long and windy, you almost wonder if you've taken a wrong turn.

Eventually, after about a mile, you reach the gate and a beautiful building that has an expansive view of the valley. The building and its

open air courtyard are surrounded by a well-maintained floral garden in full bloom. The tasting room, albeit quite small, has a comfortable atmosphere. The warmly painted walls and the wooden bar help the room feel intimate.

The two servers were very friendly. I opened the door to a cheery greeting and an invitation to come in out of the rain.

I learned that one server had come to Oregon from North Carolina and worked as a grape harvester for a year before being promoted to the tasting room. The tasting, which consisted of three wines, was \$10 per person, but the wine was certainly worth it. They offered only red wines, including a pinot noir and a blend, which was outstanding.

The next winery I visited was **Sokol Blosser**, a fully organic winery with a breathtaking view of the valley from vast picture windows inside a tasting room that is quite large. This tasting room was full of people—the benefit of being right off Highway 18, just west of Archery Summit. The staff is very friendly, but did not have as much time to chat, due to the crowd.

The tasting, which included several white wines, was free and their dessert wines exquisite. Their reis-

ling was delicious and gorgeously bottled.

Just south of Dundee, Highway 18 becomes Highway 99W. Back on 99W, I continued north and stopped

in to visit the **Duck Pond** tasting room. It was a surprise when this family-owned winery did not feel as welcoming. Although the room is beautiful, it does resemble a

larger commercial business. Their gourmet marketplace is designed for unsuspecting tourists, with trinkets selling at inflated prices.

The wines offered were free, but primarily made from Washington state varieties. The atmosphere and the wine ranked low and the price just felt indifferent, lacking sentiment.

My final stop was a quaint Victorian house just off Highway 99W in Dundee, the home of **Argyle Winery**. As I walked on the stepping stones, through the garden and under the porch adorned with wisteria, I felt an instant invitation to come in.

The wines are just as charming and a nice surprise. Sparkling wines can be tasted for \$4. Their reds were available free of charge. This location was crowded with conversation all around as they are located footsteps from the highway.



A Quaint Flavor: Wine enthusiasts pour into Argyle Winery to taste their sparkling selections. The proximity to the highway brings in thirsty crowds.

FOCUS

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



DUCK POND

OREGON WINERIES

ILLUSTRATION PHOTO BY JEREMY HENNIG

Perhaps my next sojourn will include those wineries in Gaston or Carlton, northwest of Dundee on Highway 47 or I could make a day out of the wineries farther north on Highway 219. Those wineries require an appointment, but I'm sure it would be worth it as I have made several delightful discoveries today.

For those days when you do not have time to wander into Yamhill County, you can always visit the Oregon Wine Shop, which represents over 70 wineries with a knowledgeable and friendly staff.

To get there, make a left off of Highway 99W at the small town of Unity. Follow that all the way to its end. Just across the road, which is Highway 18, you find the building. The tasting room is located inside an adobe-like structure, which also offers gourmet food and cheese.

Unfortunately, my day had to end before such excursions. Sampling at four wineries in one day is my limit for safe sipping and driving. I wish I could continue on and visit each of the 100 wineries in Yamhill County.

A list of wineries and their hours of operation is available at the Yamhill County Wineries Association Web site, www.yamhillwine.com or call (503) 646-2985. A printed brochure is available upon request.



Tasteful etiquette for wine sampling

Brenda Ranzenbach
The Commuter

Wine tasting does not need to be intimidating.

For the beginner, you need only your curiosity and willingness to learn. Just walk into the tasting room and tell the server this is your first time.

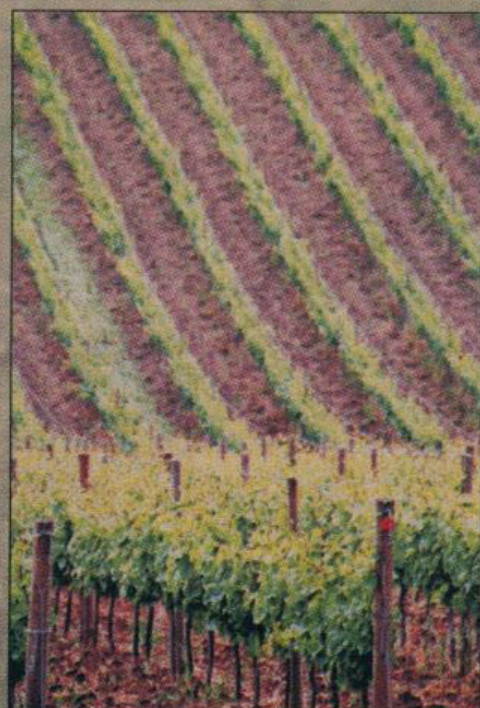
Be cooperative in answering any questions as the server will try to determine what you might like and offer several tastes.

It is common to start with the whites and graduate into the reds, following the server's lead. You may find that you like only one type. I prefer cabernet sauvignon as a full-bodied red. I dislike chardonnay. So when I visit tasting rooms, I always sample the "Cab Sav."

While tasting what your server has to offer, ask questions. These experts love what they do and enjoy interacting with people. Let them help you.

Finally, if you are pleased with the service, buy a bottle of wine. Decide which one you like and take it home for later.

The expert deserves a sale if they were attentive, helping you find something you appreciate. Oregon wines can be found in the range of \$10 to \$38, so enjoy!



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SPORTS

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



Gentlemen, Start Your Engines

Riders from all over the United States converged on the Albany Motorsports Park this past weekend for the USA 4-stroke Nationals. A group of riders (left) navigate the often treacherous "whoops" section of the track. Tiger Lacey, #221 of Wolf Creek, Ore. (above left) battles Shawn Cauanaugh #737 of Corona, Calif. (above right) for his place in the race.

photos by Scott McClure

Volcanoes erupt with affordable family fun

Jacob Espinoza
 The Commuter

There is always that final step between a dream and reality.

For professional baseball players fresh out of baseball's 50-round draft, that step often leads to the minor leagues. Teams such as the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes are a Delorean with a flux capacitor away from their Major League affiliates, but it is on these teams that players begin making their final steps toward their childhood dreams of game-winning home runs at Wrigley Field and World Series glory.

Players on the Volcanoes, the San Francisco Giant's Class-A short-season team, go through a hectic schedule between being drafted and opening their season just 12 days later with a team filled with strangers.

After the June 6-7 draft teams sign players as quickly as they can, send them to a brief training camp, divide teams and try to work in some practice time before opening day on June 18. This is a lot to get done in 12 days, especially considering the majority of players entering the draft are only weeks removed from their college seasons.

"The biggest adjustments are on the field," said Volcano GM Jerry Walker. "They go from the aluminum (bat) game in college to the wooden in the pros. Sometimes it takes them most of the year to get adjusted. What we do at this level is prepare."

Walker has been a general manager for 16 years. This season will be his eighth with the Volcanoes.

"I was the one that helped design the stadium," he jokes.

Volcanoes Stadium has been nationally recognized for its excellence by Baseball America.

"It's a low-key chill environment," said OSU/LBCC student Brian Zielenski. "You get to see people you know, shoot the breeze and watch baseball at the same

time."

Zielenski's family owns a farm in Brooks, a town five minutes away from Salem. They purchase Volcanoes season tickets every year and share them with the family and employees. Brian attends five games a year on average.

"I'll usually go with my girlfriend and her brother. Sometimes I'll take a couple friends or go with my mom. My mom really likes to go," he added. "It's a good atmosphere for parents because they take the family. The kids could run around and play with Crater while the parents sit down and have some time to themselves." Crater is the team's multi-species mascot.

The Salem-Keizer Volcanoes' three main goals every year are to make the ballpark experience fun, family-friendly and affordable. Because only 10 percent of their tickets are sold to walk-up buyers, they do limited amounts of advertising in local papers or television stations. Instead, they focus their attention on making phone calls, visits and writing letters to previous season ticket holders and sponsors.

Entering each season with a new roster, they are unable to advertise returning players like Major League teams or even universities.

The Volcanoes pride themselves in community involvement. This season the team launched its "Kid Gloves" program. The team is accepting donated gloves and will store them for kids who are unable to afford their own glove. On the weekend of May 1, the team hosted a camp for youth baseball players in the community. On Sunday, June 20, the team will host a Father's Day celebration with a breakfast, dinner and an opportunity for fathers and sons to play catch on the field.

"(We) want to be viewed as an organization with strong community outreach," said Director of Broadcasting Pat Lafferty. "Last year we did a children's toy drive.

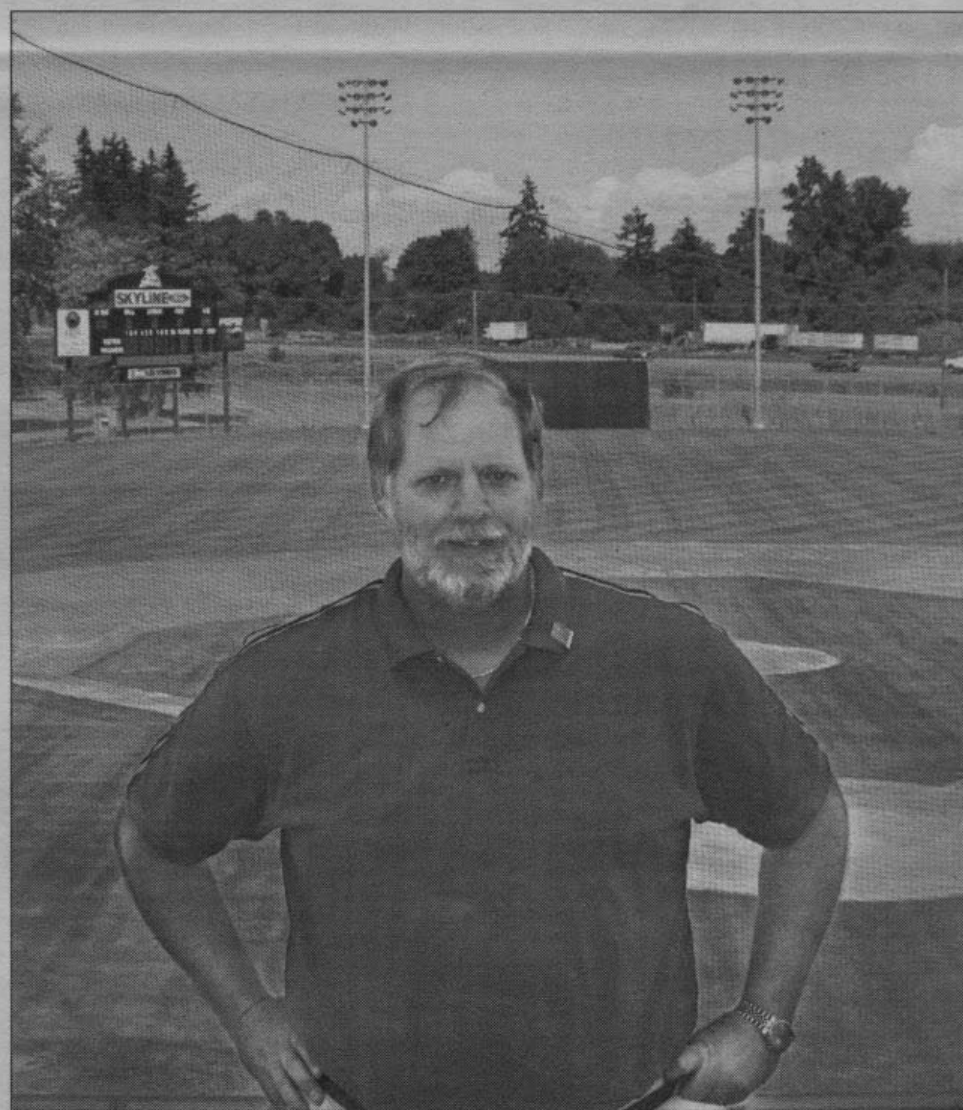


photo by Scott McClure

Manager Jerry Walker has been with the Volcanoes since their founding in 1997.

We called it Crater's Birthday. People gave Crater presents and we turned around and donated them to needy organizations throughout the community."

The Volcanoes schedule family-fun activities for all of their home games, including an appearance by The Blue Brothers on Aug. 18 and Spiderman on July 16.

Historically, the Volcanoes have been a competitive team. They have won their division three years (1998, 2001 and 2002)

and won their league twice (1998 and 2001) since being established in 1997. Sixty-six players from Volcano rosters of past have been placed on other minor league rosters within the San Francisco Giants system. Former Volcano pitcher Nate Bump won a World Series as a member of the Florida Marlins last season.

Volcanoes Stadium may be the first stop for professional baseball players, but it also helps many create a reality out of their dreams.

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SPORTS

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

Roadrunners' short playoff run ends with injury

Jacob Espinoza
 The Commuter

The Linn-Benton Roadrunner's baseball team ended a well-played season on Sunday with a playoff loss against Mt. Hood. The Roadrunners had defeated Mt. Hood in five of their six match ups against Mt. Hood, but were without second-team all-league first baseman Sky Manon after the second inning.

Manon, the team's leading home run hitter, was sent to the hospital after being hit by a baseball as he slid into second base.

"Sky slid, popped up and as he was popping up the second baseman threw the baseball and about the time it got out of his hand it hit Sky right in the eye," said head coach Greg Hawk.

Manon will have reconstructive surgery on his right eye socket later this week.

"That took our leading home run hitter out of the game and he's a guy that really is a lot of the emotion of our team," Hawk commented.

The Runners lost 6-2 in the playoff game against Mt. Hood first-team all-league pitcher Nate Fogal.

"He throws down under submarine, the balls rising to the

plate and he throws 88-90 mph," said Hawk. "It's very hard to hit. He'll be a professional baseball player. He's that good."

The playoff loss erased Linn-Benton's NWAACCTournament hopes, but they would not have been in the game if it wasn't for their victory at home against Mt. Hood last Thursday.

The Southern Division sends two teams to the NWAACC Tournament, the champions and the winner of the playoff between the second and third place teams. If there are co-champions, however, no playoff game is played and both champions enter the playoffs. Mt. Hood would have become co-champions with a sweep of Runners because Lane, the Southern Division champion, split games with SWOCC.

Down 5-1 in the bottom of the eighth inning, with the bases loaded, Manon hit a triple, putting the tying run on third base. Bryan Boal got a clutch RBI to finish off the inning and Marcus Simone scored the game-winning run, after advancing to second on a sacrifice bunt by Jesse Thorpe, on a game-winning RBI single by Ryan Lancaster.

"We felt like we were able to steal one from them." Thorpe continued, "We were hoping to



photo by Lewis Forquer

Sky Manon is helped off of the field after being hit by a baseball during the second inning of Linn-Benton's playoff game against Mt. Hood last Sunday. The Runners lost the game 6-2.

be able to get a win in the second game and enter Saturday on a winning streak and with a lot of confidence."

Because game two had no significance in the playoff race, both teams played a significant number of players. The Runners scored on an in the park home run by Travis Rice in the first in-

ning to take a 1-0 lead, but fell behind as Mt. Hood scored three runs in both the third and fourth innings. They lost the game 7-3. Eric Kessler batted 1-1 in the game with a double.

Four Roadrunners were named as Southern Division all-league selections. Rice was selected as a first-team all-league

outfielder. Manon and Neal Glynn were named as second-team all-league infielder, and Jeremy Robinson as a second-team all-league pitcher. All were sophomores.

"I'm very impressed with all the guys efforts and the time they've spent here," Hawk said.

Hard work makes a Wildcat of former Roadrunner baseball star Cody Smith

Joel Meacham
 The Commuter

Most of the time when you read a profile on a baseball player it starts out with how the individual grew up playing ball in the backyard with their dad, but this was not the case with former Linn-Benton Roadrunner Cody Smith.

Unlike most players, Smith remembers it starting by playing catch in the backyard with his mom at their home in San Francisco, Calif.

When Smith was eight years old he and his family moved to Dallas, Ore. and he started to play Babe Ruth, where he played All-Stars every year up until high school. He says that the highlight of that time in his life was being able to advance to the state tournament when he was 13 and then again at age 15.

In high school Smith spent three years on the Dallas High School varsity team. The last two years he played legion ball for Keizer Sand and Gravel. After high school, Smith went to OSU and decided to go back to legion ball that summer because he still had a year of eligibility, thanks to that final summer stint with Keizer he decided that he wanted to play baseball at the college level.

After a less than successful tryout with OSU, Smith talked to coach Greg Hawk at Linn-Benton about dual enrollment. Through hard work and dedication that included overhauling his workout philosophy Smith went on to play two years with the Runners baseball team. He spent those three years rotating at all three outfield positions. He said the most memorable moment of his career at Linn-Benton was his first at bat. During that moment, he smashed a double off the right field wall, thus starting his college

career with a loud bang.

After those two years at LBCC Smith transferred to Chico State University in Chico, Calif. where he is in his first year playing for the Wildcats baseball team. Smith has hit a blistering .341 batting average on his way to helping his team to win their fifth Western Regional Championship in eight years.

Their regional victory has led them to Montgomery, Ala. to play in the NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament that started on May 22 and runs through the 29th. The school has been to the National Championship tournament in six of the last eight years and has won it two times. Unfortunately for Smith that victory has a bittersweet taste because thanks to an ankle injury he may have to sit out the entire tournament.

Smith has one more year of eligibility and then would love to have the opportunity to further his career and play professional baseball. Smith credits his younger brother Jerrod who plays football at Akron University in Akron, Ohio, as his inspiration. Smith said that Jerrod has used hard work and determination to get where he is today and that observing his strong work ethics and never give up attitude has help drive Smith to the level that he has achieved today.

Smith also credits coach Hawk for helping him achieve success. He said coach Hawk has a saying: "Life is too short to go half speed," and those words stick out in Smith's mind as motivation to keep going. He said you want to have no regrets in life so you have to keep going no matter what you face in life and in baseball.

Smith has some advice for anyone seeking to achieve their goals, "Hard work pays off. If you want it bad enough you can do it."

ESPN provides out-of-the-box competitive reality TV series

Jacob Espinoza
 The Commuter

Without the collegiate sports that ESPN heavily relies on for nine months out of the year, ESPN does a good job providing unorthodox sports entertainment for the hottest three months of the year.

After beginning the extreme sports trend in the 90s, ESPN has drawn cult followings to programs such as "The World Series of Poker" and "Streetball." Both shows have given semi-celebrity status to the shows stars.

Both series showcased the tales of unknowns becoming champions. In "The World Series of Poker," Chris MoneyMaker became an overnight millionaire after winning the tournament. Interestingly enough, he won the entry fee playing in an online poker tournament.

Oregon's own Grayson Boucher became The Professor and won an And1 contract after proving his streetball abilities to fans in over 20 cities across the country. Since winning the contract, Boucher has become one of And1's most popular players. He has his own shoe and jersey being released to Footlockers across the country early this June.

ESPN was the first to jump in and capitalize on growing trends with both of their programs. And1 is an athletic apparel line which uses a team of street

ball players as a form of advertisement. They release mix tapes of the players annually, which have grown in popularity since they were released throughout the nation in 1998. The campaign has been so successful that And1 is now a multi-hundred million dollar corporation.

Poker began growing in popularity since Matt Damon starred in the movie "Rounders." The game has become even more popular because of ESPN's series. Texas Hold'Em is the game played in both the movie and show. It

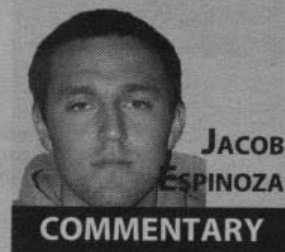
is also the poker game of choice for most newcomers.

The appeal of series such as these is they show people who can be easily related to exceling on high platforms.

Millions of people play poker online, just like the 2003 WSOP champion MoneyMaker.

Not many would ever imagine becoming the world champion. But the dream suddenly seems possible after seeing a fellow online junkie do the impossible.

The Professor did the same thing for "Streetball." White kids all over America began imitating the all-black team of And1 streetballers after the mix tapes began circulating. Sometimes they would be mocked, but since Boucher broke down the barrier and became the first white person—from the Salem suburbs no less—it is now more acceptable to join in on the And1 movement.



JACOB ESPINOZA COMMENTARY

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SPORTS

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

Schmidt leaves community college for paradise

Jacob Espinoza
 The Commuter

After leading Linn-Benton to its first NWAACC Tournament berth last season, Ryan Schmidt will play for the University of Hawaii next season.

"I don't think it's even hit me yet, honestly," Schmidt admits.

It's been a long season of ups and downs for Schmidt, learning to deal with defenses trying to stop him on the court and recruiters trying to sign him off of it. People who know him can recognize the look of relief on his face now that his decision has been made. Playing Division I basketball has been his dream since he was in grade school, and the years of hard work have finally paid off.

Schmidt finished a successful career at McNary High School in 2002, but was only recruited by schools in his area. After growing up playing at the wing, he was forced to play post during his two seasons on McNary's varsity team because he was one of the team's tallest players at 6 feet 4 inches. He adapted well to the position, however, and raised his average from 4.4 points per game his junior year to 13.3 as a senior. But those numbers were not exactly impressive by Division I standards.

Like many high school graduates with Division I dreams, Schmidt signed with a community college out of high school with the hopes it would prepare him for college basketball's highest level.

During his freshman year at Linn-Benton, Schmidt moved back to the wing. His two years at the post, along with countless summers of hard work, helped him adapt quickly to the more physical collegiate game. He stepped in as a leader during his freshman year on a team that was in the NWAACC's Southern Division playoff race until the last weeks of the season.

Schmidt finished his freshman year averaging 17.1 points, 3.2 assists and five rebounds a game. His year was so impressive that he began drawing attention from Division I schools such as Sacramento State and Portland State. Both teams asked Schmidt to join their programs as a walk-on with promises of



photo by Jacob Espinoza

Ryan Schmidt has committed to the University of Hawaii after a successful sophomore season with the Runners. He decided against several small college offers to pursue his dream of playing D-I basketball.

scholarships the following years of his eligibility.

He instead returned to Linn-Benton and showed improvement in every aspect of his game (finishing with a 21.4 points, six rebounds and 3.7 assists per game average). But with his team struggling through the beginning of

the season he was only being contacted by smaller colleges.

"I had a good year, I didn't regret the year, and we had a good year as a team, but for awhile I was kind of regretting coming back," he continued. "It was just kind of weird to be turning down

offers to go to D-I schools and then to come back and only be contacted by smaller schools."

Schmidt was being offered scholarships to play at Southern Oregon and Western Oregon, teams he would also be able to step in and play big minutes with—if not move into the starting lineup. But his dream of playing for a D-I program had him examining options of walking on for Oregon and Oregon State.

Fortunately for Schmidt, Hawaii's coaching staff stayed in contact with Clackamas Community College's head coach Cliff Wegner. Hawaii recruited Michael Kuebler (who played high school ball in the same league as Schmidt) from Clackamas' 2002 team. When

Hawaii heard about Schmidt, they gave coach Wegner a call to ask about him. Wegner most likely didn't have much negative to say about Schmidt considering he scored 34 points and dropped six dimes in a game against Clackamas late in the season. Hawaii was impressed enough by what they heard that they took a trip to watch Schmidt play at the NWAACC Tournament last April.

Schmidt played extremely well in the tournament, averaging over 26 points and seven rebounds, but was still only getting occasional calls from various D-I schools, and no serious offers.

"Sometimes it got so frustrating that I wished I was an All-American and I knew I could

play a Division I level or that I wasn't good enough. The in-between stuff was really hard." Schmidt continued. "I had the smaller schools that were telling me that I could play a lot, but then I still had some Division I schools who were telling me I could come in and earn a chance to play. It was just kind of a roller-coaster the whole time. There were times I was just ready to drop the whole Division I thing."

After taking a few recruiting trips to Southern Oregon, Schmidt seemed ready to make his decision. But a trip to Hawaii changed everything.

"I met the head coach and after the first five minutes we were talking I knew I was gonna go there," Schmidt said. "Oregon and Oregon State told me straight up, when I sat down in their office, that I wasn't going to play. But when I went (to Hawaii) he sat down and told me that it wouldn't matter if I was a walk-on or a scholarship player—the best player plays."

Schmidt may have known he was going to Hawaii midway into the island conversation, but he didn't share it with family or friends until Tuesday.

"My family's really excited for me. They know how hard I've worked at it," Schmidt continued, "My mom's obviously a little upset that I'll be in Hawaii, but as far as basketball goes this is probably the best situation for me living my dream."

Luckily Schmidt's family will get a chance to watch some games on TV, thanks to ESPN's coverage of college basketball on ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN College Fullcourt.

"Just playing on ESPN, and getting national exposure, this whole thing is still kind of a trip," he said. "Out of high school I wasn't expecting this at all."

"Just playing on ESPN, and getting national exposure, this whole thing is still kind of a trip."

▶ Ryan Schmidt

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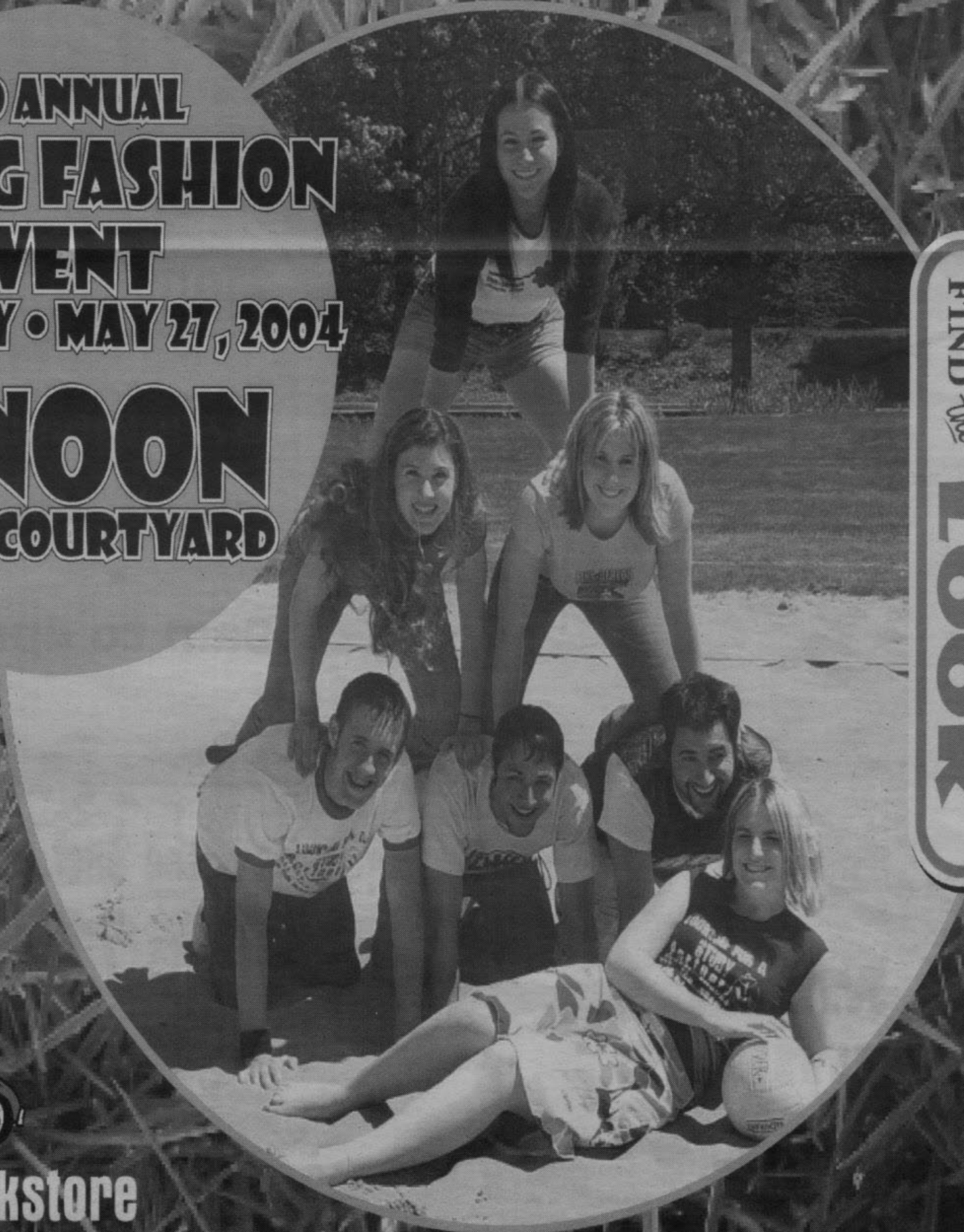


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Crazy vision spawns Free World Music Festival

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

It's time for the Second Annual Free World Music Festival. That's right free.

The Memorial Union Programming Council (MUPC), in association with Door to Door Entertainment, is bringing the festival to OSU's MU Quad June 3, starting at noon. Neil Chapman, concert director at OSU said the festival was "Tim's crazy vision. He's the No. 1 reggae fan in the world."

Tim Morrisette from Door to Door Entertainment and Promotions said, "I wanted to have a festival like I've seen in California and Neil didn't know what it meant." Morrisette said he wanted to see an "outdoor, peaceful music scene."

Chapman said, "He had a spark in his eyes. Tim makes shows happen." Chapman added that OSU's "open door, open mind" helps to get the support from the community.

"A lot of people made sacrifices and pooled resources



photo courtesy of Earl Zero

Earl Zero (middle) with the River Jordan Band plays June 3 at the Free World Music Festival in the OSU MU Quad.

to pull it off," he said. "It's a chance for community, students, professors, and families to be together. It doesn't isolate anyone—everyone can enjoy."

Morrisette said that the organizers "are providing

world-class entertainment with serious music for serious music lovers."

Starting at 4 p.m., Nan Knama will be performing West African drumming and dancing, State of Jefferson, folk rock, will perform at 5 p.m., followed by Amadan, an Irish Celtic punk band, Earl Zero which is Jamaican roots reggae and to close the show at 11 p.m. will be the exceptional performer Yellowman with Sagitarius, the number one backing band in Jamaica playing their own style of dance hall reggae.

Chapman feels that the more people they have, the more justification to have another event next year. He wants people to feel safe. There is "plenty of security, five state troopers will be on hand, so everyone should come and feel safe." He wants to encourage everyone to "Get there early and get involved. This is a time and place to do it."

That shouldn't be too hard to do. Along with the all-day entertainment, Rogue Brewery will once again offer beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks in the beer gardens and food will be available.

'Red Dead Revolver' fires blanks at high gamer expectations

Adam Peoples
 The Commuter

Rockstar has finally delivered their oft-delayed gun slinging game, but "Red Dead Revolver" should have hung up its guns years ago. The title has been left in the dust by advancements in technology and excelled standards of production.

"Revolver" relies heavily on tried-and-true Spaghetti Western themes, branded with names like Leone and Eastwood.

An introduction level teaches a young Red the ropes of gun fighting just in time for a traumatic showdown, resulting in the death of his parents.

No matter how skilled one's thumbs are, players are inevitably forced to witness Red's parents' demise.

The terrified youth fires a shot at his parents' murderer, leaving the assailant recognizably maimed for a reunion

scheduled by fate.

The game proper begins years later with our dark hero, Red, full grown and no doubt harboring a grudge. Red's story speeds along as new skills and weapons are added to his deadly repertoire.

This aspect provides replay value to a game that would be otherwise quickly finished.

By achieving top ratings in a level, extras are unlocked, including enhanced abilities and new characters for multiplayer mode.

Unfortunately, the multiplayer portions of "Revolver" feel tacked on as an afterthought.

"Red Dead Revolver" began as a Capcom project and was later picked up by Rockstar's San Diego studio.

Rockstar published the Grand Theft Auto series which has earned it fame (or

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

infamy, if one were to ask outraged parents and lobbying politicians like Joseph Lieberman).

Advertising directors would like gamers to associate "Revolver" with the popular series and most casual gamers fall into the assumption that they are buying "Grand Theft Auto: The Wild West."

The best-selling games were in fact developed by a different branch of the company and shared no direct role in the production of the Western title.

There is a distinct flavor in the presentation with an old film approach to the menus and cut-scenes.

Film grain and simulated aging techniques create a visual flair not found in many titles. This Western style is a natural fit, but the design borders on over-kill with annoying gunshots firing off as the menus are navigated.

Graphics are sub-par and the lengthy production process could be to blame. On a whole, the game seems to be a generation behind current titles. The intentional worn-down mask hides low-quality character models and bland level designs.

Red is thrown into messy gunfights and finds himself in the habit of running in circles and shooting anything that moves, seemingly not as skilled as Eastwood's "Man With No Name" character.

Our hero fires off a barrage of bullets at all things animate while players hope to see a cut-scene confirming a virtual bandit has met his end.

Final word: If there's a hankering for the "Old West" in video game form, Red and his gun-toting posse are ready for action. Gamers with twitching trigger fingers may find "Red Dead Revolver" fulfilling of their justice-inflicting desires. Be prepared for a messy game that fails to be good and is more so bad and ugly.

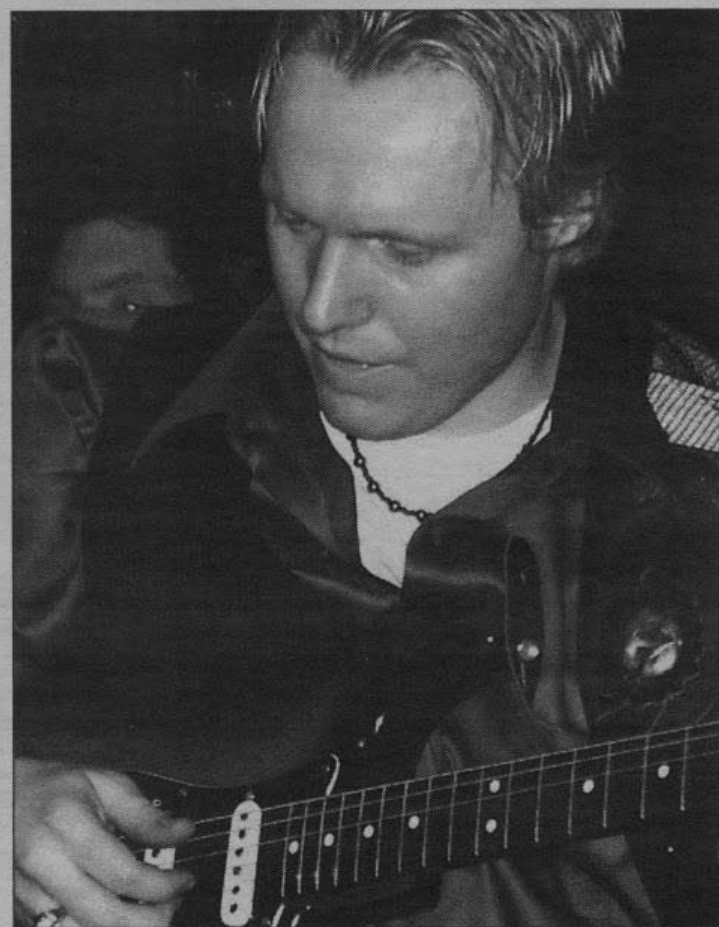


photo by Peggy Isaacs

Late Nite Sweet Tooth

David Samuels from the Vanilla Sugar Blues Project tickles the strings at Platinum. Last night he joined Nick Curran and the Nitelives from Blind Pig Records for their second concert at Platinum in the last three months, helping to revive the blues scene in Corvallis.

Battle of the Bands follows World Music Festival to kick start summer

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

On June 4, the day after the Free World Music Festival, the stage will remain standing for a bout between the Battle of the Bands in the MU Quad 5:30 p.m. till 11 p.m.

If you can't make the show, the battle can be seen and heard in multiple places at one time. This will be the first time to broadcast live on KBVR TV 26 and simulcast on KBVR 88.7 FM while the battle is going on.

Brandon Manely, director for the Battle of the Bands, said "It's a place to come together and see a huge showcase of talent. Also it's for other students to get to know each other, see a show and for players to demonstrate they're musicians."

The bands this year includes Enterleave, The Coffee Romance, Rhetoric Tuesday, The Runaway Game, The Lo-Cals, Sweater Club, The Andy Richter Scalez, Between Lines, Midnight Violation, JP West and last year's winner, Jah Bong, will be the featured band.

Auditions were in February with 40 bands trying out for 10 positions. Each band played one or two songs and a committee of four judges gave them scores. The winner with the highest cumulative score won.

The judges gave scores on professionalism, stage presence and musicianship. "They look at strong and weak points and at the overall package" said Manely. Three winners were awarded a prize package that included cash and gift certificates. He also stated that the only major requirement was

someone in the band had to be an OSU student.

Last year's third place winner was The Coffee Romance, the only returning band this year. Another group who made it this year is Sweater Club, which already has stirred up a buzz on the OSU campus. Sweater Club was featured on the front of the Diversions section last week. Robin Canfield from The Daily Barometer, OSU's newspaper, reported on how popular the band was even before they played publicly anywhere.

Matt Jager, founder of the band, plays guitar and is lead vocalist. Evan Churchill is the trumpet player and Alex Kretchun plays bass and sings back-up vocals. Other members include Guy Cappiccie on drums and Grant Thomas on trombone.

Starting out as The Subterranean and then Jason McFeely Weather Report, the band wasn't officially known as Sweater Club until April 16 this year.

In the Canfield report Jager said, "The main point I want to make is love the music, that's all it is. Two, the message and three, the satirical social component."

Taking the satirical social component seriously, Churchill went out one evening and wrote the band's name on campus and people got mad because they didn't know what it meant.

If you missed them at the barbecue on campus last weekend, you can check them out at the battle. Now everyone will get a chance to see and hear them at the Battle of the Bands, the day after the Free World Music Festival on the OSU campus in the MU quad.

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Big Screen Beefcake

Brad Pitt as Achilles cuts a heroic figure in "Troy" Wolfgang Petersen's adaptation of Homer's "Iliad." The three-hour epic story chronicling the rescue of Helen of Troy features massive battle scenes with thousands soldiers. Filled with blood-soaked battles, the rated R movie is not for the squeamish.

photos courtesy of Warner Brothers



Pitt dazzles with spectacle of flesh and steel in Homer's epic

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

REVIEW

"Troy," the new movie by Warner Brothers produced and directed by Wolfgang Petersen, is a movie with appeal to both men and women, and is definitely one to see on the big screen.

For the men, the movie opens up with two large opposing armies waiting to go into battle. The Greek leader Agamemnon (Brian Cox) calls on Achilles (Brad Pitt), to single handedly win for the Greeks.

Absent from the battlefield, Achilles is sent for by a young boy who finds him in bed with a woman. This part is for the women, at least those who have a crush on Pitt—who is shown with his back toward the audience in his birthday suit, from his neck down to his knees.

For me, this is not so impressive, but Pitt's acting is a different story. Pitt plays a convincing Achilles with just a slight cocky attitude, which helps to make this a great role for Pitt.

In Homer's "Iliad," Helen of Troy, Queen of Sparta, is abducted by the Trojans. In Petersen's version Helen (Diane Kruger) of Troy, goes willingly with Prince Paris (Orlando Bloom), who has wooed her to come with him back to Troy. She leaves with him to release her from her marriage to Menelaus (Brendan Gleeson).

This launches an almost three-hour epic of grand battle scenes. Fifty-thousand Grecians fall

onto the shores of Troy to find Helen and bring her home.

The Trojans fight back the first attack and the Grecians are forced back to the shores, unable to penetrate the palace's walls to Troy. After several small attacks, the Grecians come up with the idea of having a large horse presented to the Trojans as a gift.

Once the gift is received, the Grecians, who are waiting inside the horse, spring forth to attack the Trojans once they have settled down for the night. In the end, however, Prince Paris and Helen of Troy escape through secret tunnels under the palace.

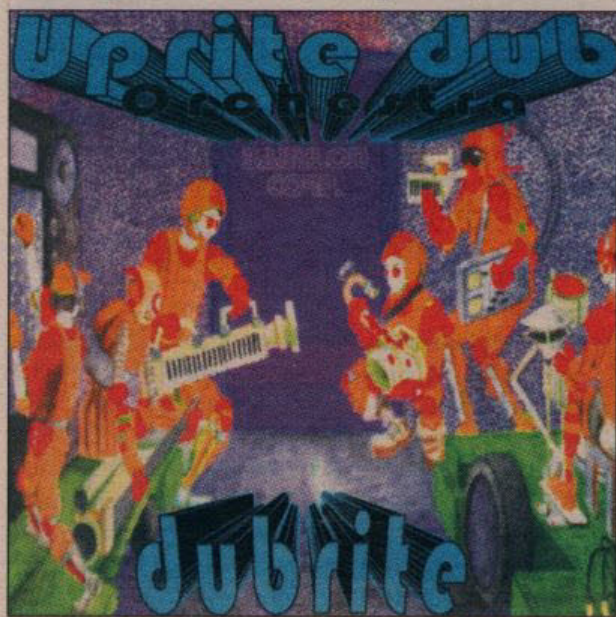
This is a great movie for the big screen. The battle scenes are exciting and intense, with lots of slaughtering among the men engaged in hand-to-hand combat. Heads get severed from bodies and men get swords twisted into their guts.

'Hulk' star Eric Bana plays Hector, a role that has the once-green comic hero back in battle against Pitt's Achilles.

Peter O'Toole portrays King Priam. The veteran actor has received praise for his portrayal as the father of Hector and Paris.

Be sure to get to the movie early to see the previews. It looks like the summer movies are going to be blockbusters, such as the new "Superman" movie, "Cat Woman" with Halle Berry and "Ocean's Twelve," a sequel to 2001's star-studded remake of Rat-pack classic "Oceans Eleven."

Eugene's Upright blends ska, reggae, modern dub, hip-hop



Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

"Dubrite," recorded in the spring of 2004, is Upright Dub Orchestra's newest CD release, an easy listening reggae sound with horns. The CD has 10 tracks and is very relaxing.

The "Orchestra" members are: Taylor Aglipay on tenor sax, Ryan Bley playing bass, Brandon Hutson on trombone, keyboard and melodica, Jeremy Javchiv on lead guitar, Mike Montgomery playing a mean set of drums and Justin Partney blowing the trumpet.

Upright has opened for groups such as the Warsaw Poland Brothers, The NYC Toasters, Pepper, and more re-

cently for the Itals at the Platinum in downtown Corvallis.

Radio stations such as KBOO and KPSU in Portland play their music regularly.

They also get booked for many benefits like the Dignity Village's Land and Freedom benefit, Street Roots benefit, and the PSU Domestic Violence Prevention benefit to name a few.

Their influences that helped to create the Upright Dub Orchestra came from Augustus Pablo, King Tubby and Lee 'Scratch' Perry and rockers of Jamaican reggae. Their music is a mix of ska, modern dub, hip-hop, and dance hall. They have finely crafted down-tempo beats and high-energy

party music to be enjoyed by all reggae fans.

Augustus Pablo was responsible for using the melodica and putting in on the reggae map. He shaped reggae music in the 70s to what it is today.

King Tubby is known for his influence on the development of dub in the 60s and gave remixes popularity in Jamaica.

Lee 'Scratch' Perry was one of the first reggae music producers in Jamaica in the 70s, recording music in various alias' such as Super Ape, Ringo, Small Axe and many others.

Their next performance will be May 29 at the Trask Brewery in McMinnville, Ore. For more information call: (503) 435-2382.