



The Commuter

a weekly student publication

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 35 No. 23

Caleb Brown takes first in welding competition

Sheena Bishop
The Commuter

The fourth week of June took on a whole new meaning for LBCC welding student Caleb Brown on April 17 when he took first place in the state VICA welding competition, qualifying him for the national contest next month.

One national seat is reserved for the first-place winner of each state. This year is being held in Kansas City, Kan., on June 21-25. Those who place in the top 12 at nationals go on to the world competition later this year.

Brown got his start in welding his freshman year at Lebanon High School. He participated in the annual Skills Day LBCC puts

on for the area high schools both his junior and senior year.

"My junior year I placed seventh and my senior year I placed second," Brown said.

He came to LBCC to earn his two-year welding certification. After he has completed his studies, he hopes to find work someplace not too far from here.

The Industrial Technical Society Welding Club on campus, has raised a few funds to help send Brown to Kansas City this summer with the help of additional funds provided by the school.

"I'm working with metal because I don't like working with wood," Brown said. "I'm not the greatest, but I can do it."

Brown confessed he was a little surprised when he learned

he had won the state contest. It takes a lot of time, dedication and practice to make it to the national level. State competition is hardcore welding judged by industry standards, he said.

In order to participate at the state level, Brown had to demonstrate various cutting and welding skills, including gas metal arc, shielded metal arc and gas tungsten arc welding.

There is also oxygen settling cutting, used mainly on large pieces of metal that one either wants to make smaller or cut holes into. This technique can be used instead of a saw, the only other way to effectively dissect large pieces to be fabricated.

Participants must do three to

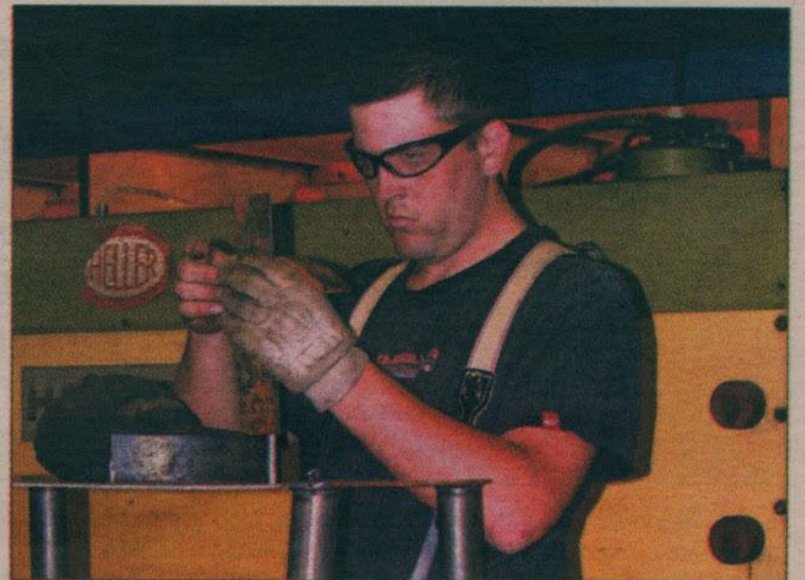


photo by Bonnie Quinones

Caleb Brown works on a project in his welding class Monday night. He will attend the national VICA Welding Competition June 21-25 in Kansas City after winning the Oregon Competition.

▶ Turn to "Brown" on Pg. 4

\$6 tuition increase to add \$750,000 to budget

Adam Swackhamer
The Commuter

Students attending Linn-Benton after this term will be paying a little bit more for each credit they take. LBCC's administration has decided on a \$6 total increase in tuition and fees per credit, beginning this summer.

Opinion forums on the tuition increase proposal are being held in the Multicultural Center today May 12 from 11 a.m. to noon and 1 - 2 p.m.

The forums are open to any student who wishes to attend. LBCC administrators will be available to take student questions regarding the \$5 per credit tuition increase and the additional \$1 technology fee, which will raise the cost per credit hour at Linn-Benton to \$56 from the current \$50, a 12 percent increase.

Students taking a full load of 15 credits would pay \$840 per term, up from \$750 per term this year. A student entering LBCC next fall with plans to graduate in two years with the minimum 90 credits would expect to spend a total of \$5,040, assuming the college does not raise tuition again during that time.

Over the past five years, since tuition was \$37 per credit in 1999-2000, students have seen their tuition bills grow by 35 percent.

According to Jim Huckestein, LBCC's director of fiscal affairs, next year's proposed tuition increase will add \$750,000 to the college budget. Of this, \$500,000 will go toward instructional services, such as adding staff to the writing, psychology, history, biology, math and other departments that teach general education courses. This added staff will allow for more classes and more

students in their respective departments. The remainder of the \$750,000 will go toward support costs around campus.

Even though some programs cost the school much more than others, the LBCC board has decided on a universal per-credit tuition. The board wants to make sure that students choose their courses based on desire not because it's cheaper than another, Huckestein said. Currently the nursing program is the most expensive per-student, because of the low student to teacher ratio, which, according to Huckestein, is about 10 to 1.

Those students who have noticed all the recent construction may be concerned about the costs of these projects carrying over into another tuition increase after summer term. Huckestein said that tax payers picked up

▶ Turn to "Tuition" on Pg. 4



¡Fiesta!

Dancers from Baila con Mexico of OSU perform native dances during last Friday's Cinco de Mayo celebration on campus. Other groups that performed were Fiesta Mexicana 4-H of Corvallis and St. Mary's Mexican Dancers from St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albany. The event was sponsored by the multicultural center and free to all including the food: Enchiladas, chips, salsa and rice. About 100 people attended the event, which included a piñata for children to break open and collect candy.

photo by Erik Swanson

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

high 68 low 43
WEDNESDAY

high 75 low 43
THURSDAY

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FRIDAY

high 74 low 46
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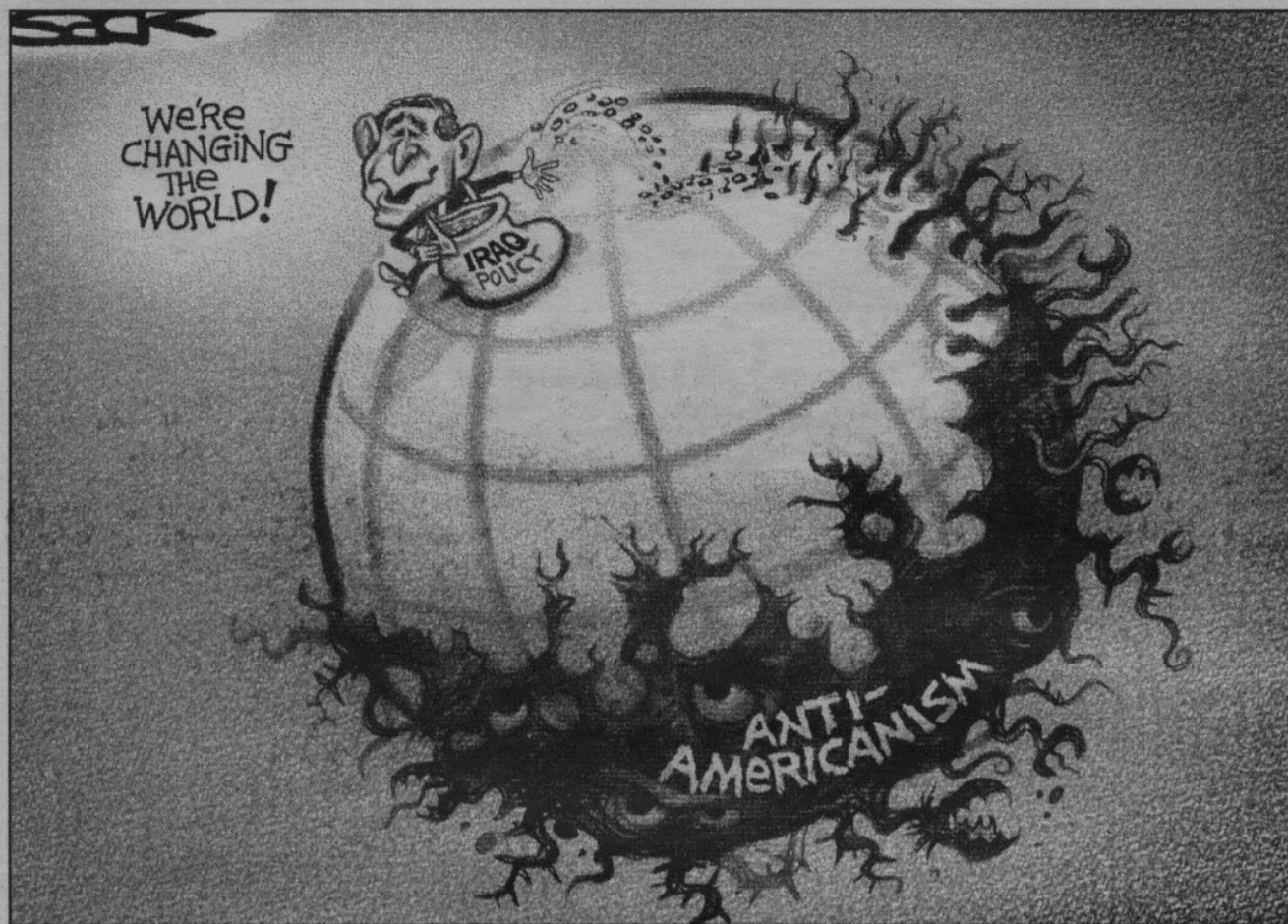
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Editor-in-Chief: Michelle Bertalot
Telephone: 917-4452

OPINION

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



Nationwide memorial for soldiers shows respect, not propaganda

Laurent L.N. Bonczijk
 The Commuter

I don't want to start debating whether showing pictures of flag-draped caskets is supportive of military operations in Iraq. What I am interested in this week is paying respect to those who deserve it.

A couple weeks ago, Nightline, an ABC show, decided to show the faces of all those who have died in Iraq while reading their names. Numerous voices in the conservative ranks spoke against it. I heard comments at school that it was just a clever way to promote anti-war feelings.

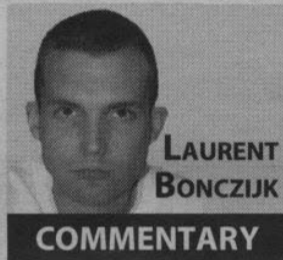
With Memorial Day coming up, those comments sadden me, but I am not surprised. The right wing isn't known for putting its money where its mouth is.

I wish I could claim as mine the quote Secretary of State Colin Powell wrote in a recent essay for USA Weekend Magazine: "Paying homage to the fallen holds a deeply personal meaning for me and for anyone who ever wore a uniform."

Those people who decried the showing of pictures and reading of names are the same that on Memorial Day and Sept. 11 will wrap themselves in the flag to gather a few more votes come November. They disgust me.

For many reasons they can never be what us service members are, but especially because to us paying respect to the fallen is an unconditional value.

To them it is conditional to the pursuit of an agenda. In this case some public relations think tank decided that reminding the American public of the death of its defenders would undermine the war effort, so they bashed the program.



I took part in that conflict and am still serving in the military. I never felt threatened by the idea of a nationwide memorial. I never thought that it undermined what I did.

Those people who decry public memorials to the fallen are the ones who talk the ideological talk but when walking time comes they are all AWOL.

I don't pretend to mourn every single man and woman who died in Iraq, but I realize that they were real people and not just numbers.

Those men and women made the timeless decision that through the pain and suffering of their service they could ensure that the rest of you can lead fairly happy and painless lives.

The least you can do is to pay proper respect come Memorial Day. It is only a day of your life and it is not the first camping trip of the year.

Semper Fidelis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Peace Studies invites students to discuss conflict

To the Editor:

Seven hundred Americans and untold thousands of Iraqis have died since our war with Iraq began. This war is a serious matter which deserves serious, thoughtful, in-depth examination—not just simple slogans like "No war for oil," or "Support our troops!"

The problems stemming from this war can't be viewed and solved in black and white terms. Rather than shouting each other down, both sides of this debate need to think critically about their own opinions and try to really discover and understand the historical background and the facts of the matter.

Most of us feel strongly about this issue, but it's exactly the things we feel strongly about that we should be most thoughtful about. We should be asking ourselves why we're in Iraq, what our goals are there, whether we can achieve them and what is a proper use of our nation's power. We should also be asking and thinking about the world situation in general. We shouldn't settle for glib, easy answers.

LBCC Peace Studies is a group that looks at the motivations for war and ways to achieve peace worldwide. We'd like to hear students' questions, concerns and opinions about war, peace and the world climate. You can post comments and info on our two bulletin boards upstairs in Takena Hall (by T-215 and by the second floor exit). If there's interest, we'll also be happy to arrange a public meeting for people to express their beliefs about these issues. We can be reached at: peace_studiesLBCC@hotmail.com. Thanks.

Callan Sullivan
 LBCC Peace Studies group

Parking lot break-in traumatizes pooch

To the Editor:

Henry loves to come to work each day. He dances at the front door each morning and looks pathetic when left home. Henry is spoiled, so he comes with me most days. When the weather is warm, but not hot, I leave the windows in our car cracked or even wide open so he has some air circulation.

On Tuesday May 4th, Henry was sound asleep when his den was invaded. An unknown person unlocked the doors to the car and proceeded to ransack it. I realize that entering a strange car containing a dog is stupid, but Henry only weighs 22 pounds and maybe doesn't appear that threatening.

The intruder took the face (plate) to my stereo and an am/fm cassette player, no less. Not the stereo itself, but not for the want of trying. A box of granola bars were removed from under the front seat. My empty glasses case was taken and also Henry's leash. The leash cost \$1, but Henry's treats were attached along with his poo bags.

Tell me, was this worth the trauma experienced by my little dog? Was the effort worth the gain? Do I stop bringing Henry to work? Do I get a guard dog for my dog? What was the use?

If you have any information on this senseless act, I would appreciate being notified. You can drop me a line at suzanne@hereticalgeeks.org or come by my office.

Suzanne Randall
 Computer Lab Specialist

The Commuter

STAFF

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE
www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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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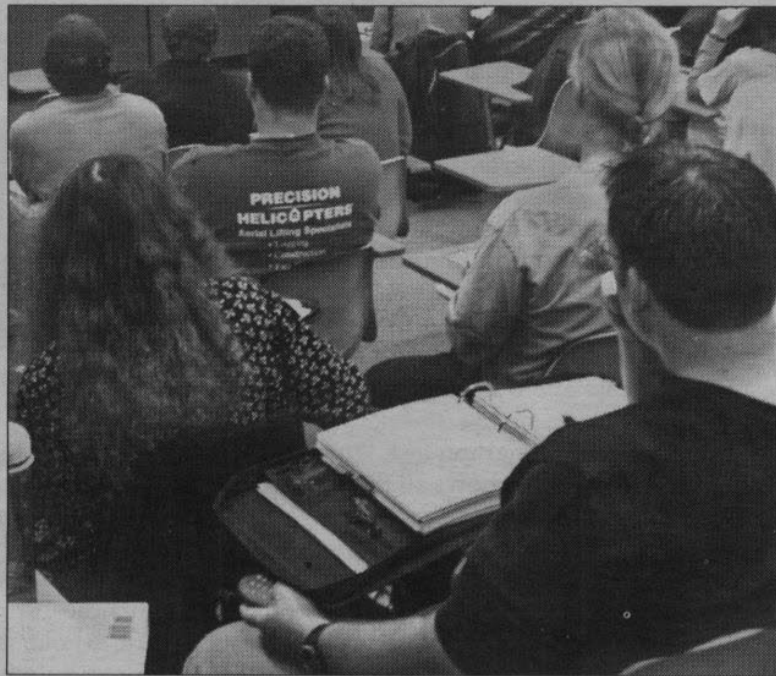
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CAMPUS NEWS

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



John Griffith's Physics 213 class prepares to use above device to answer short quizzes. The class responder's work like Who Wants To Be A Millionaire's "Ask the Audience."



photos by Bonnie Quinones

Remote responders increase student feedback in class

Adam Swackhamer
 The Commuter

Be careful the next time you venture into the Science and Technology building or you may find yourself part of one of their experiments. One of them, conducted by John Griffith on his Physics 213 class, is trying to get students more involved during class.

With money donated from the LBCC Foundation, the Science Department purchased one set of receivers and remotes that work using, "The same idea as a remote control for your television," although, in this application, it expands your mind rather than rots it.

Griffith has been using the system to ask random questions during class. Since the system works similar to students raising their hands, with a box lighting up to indicate that a student

has chimed in with their answer, Griffith assigned all the remotes in random order to ensure anonymity. Once the timed answer period runs out, a histogram of students' answers is displayed, similar to the graph used during Who Wants To Be A Millionaire's, "Ask the Audience."

While this is the first time a community college in Oregon has used this system, it is by no means foreign to larger universities. Griffith said he passed on the idea until he saw it in action. Instead of viewing it as a tool used by large universities to keep classes of hundreds of students listening, he decided that "if it's useful it doesn't matter the class size."

Griffith has also been using this technology to give short quizzes on certain portions of the daily reading. He is also able to use it to assess how well certain students are doing in his

class. Since this is the first time any class at LBCC has used this system it is a little early to say whether or not it will improve grades overall, but it does improve participation during class.

Since the system used in Griffith's classroom can't easily be moved around the building, LBCC is asking for money to purchase two mobile workstations that could be ferried around the Science and Technology building. The system doesn't only work with science classes. During a recent break the Science department demonstrated the system to much of the faculty and got a favorable response.

Because the responders are fairly cheap, only costing the school about \$35 each, in the coming year you may begin seeing this system appearing in classrooms across campus.

Kindergarten class will be offered in the Family Resource Center fall 2004

Erica Hennig
 The Commuter

Why have a kindergarten at LBCC? For parents, the answer is obvious.

This fall, a kindergarten will be available for the first time at LBCC's Family Resource Center on the main campus. Students who are looking for full-day care for their little ones will only have a short walk to visit their kids.

"Having a child close by on campus is not only convenient for student and staff families, it provides a wonderful opportunity for parents to be involved in their children's education in way that they would not be able to if their kids were off campus," explained Jennifer Knapp Beudert, Family Resource Center coordinator.

Children will enjoy daily experiences in science, math, literacy, art and music. Indoor and outdoor play are encouraged. Campus field trips are also incorporated in the program.

Kindergarten teacher Monica Turkisher is state certified, holds a masters degree and meets the "No Child Left Behind" criteria. She will be supported in the classroom by students from the LBCC Education/ Child and Family Studies program.

The first day of kindergarten will be Sept. 7, 2004. Children need to be 5 years old by Sept. 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Parents are advised

that no special education services are available.

Cost of enrollment is \$280 per month for families residing in the Greater Albany Public School District (GAPS). GAPS pays for morning kindergarten, which makes the fee less expensive for Albany residents. The \$280 fee covers afternoon kindergarten, before and after school care and public school closure days. Non-residents of Albany may enroll, however they will be charged the full fee of \$475 per month.

LBCC students can apply for Foundation Child Care Assistance grants, which are awarded to 24 families after evaluating financial need. Grants pay \$2,100 per school year toward child care fees.

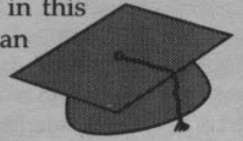
The kindergarten will follow the GAPS kindergarten calendar. The FRC closes for GAPS winter and spring breaks, although child care is available for some of those times at an additional charge. Kindergarten will remain open on other public school closure days, but closes for major holidays. Summer care costs \$440 a month.

The FRC is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The kindergarten portion is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but children may receive care for the entire day.

Applications are now available and parents are encouraged to visit the FRC for a tour. Interested parents may call Sharon Wall, FRC secretary at (541) 917-4898 or Beudert, FRC coordinator at (541) 917-4961.

Guide to spring graduation

Whether you are planning to march in this spring's commencement ceremonies or plan to graduate but not march, here are some facts you'll need to know:



If you are marching:

- Graduation ceremonies are scheduled June 10 at 7 p.m. in the Activities Center. A reception will be held in the Courtyard afterward. The ceremony lasts about 30 minutes.
- Arrive at 5:30 and meet at the upstairs door of the Forum, above the fountain.
- Official caps and gowns are required and cost about \$12. The deadline to order caps and gowns is May 18. Order them from Royal T by following the link at: www.linnbenton.edu/graduation.html
- Caps and gowns can be picked up June 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or June 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Takena Hall. The cap and gown are yours to keep.

If you do not attend:

- Diplomas will be mailed six to eight weeks after graduation.
- If you are moving or are unsure if your address information is correct, update your address at Admissions. Be sure to say you are going to receive a diploma so that the address is changed in the correct place.
- Note to financial aid recipients: Diplomas will not be sent to students who have a financial aid exit hold. This may be corrected online to indicate that you are graduating and will begin making payments.

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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.

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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

On-Call Security Officers (#2489, LBCC Campus) If you have an ODL, 2 years of experience in security-related education or employment or military and DPSST private security certification, you will want to apply

for this. \$9.35/hr to start. See Carla in the Student Employment (T101) for more info on this wonderful opportunity!

Summer Jobs (Albany & Corvallis) We have jobs with Corvallis Parks, Albany Parks, OSU Housing, Girl Scout Camp program in Philomath, etc. Companies are hiring for summer NOW!! Please see Student Employment (T101) for more information!

Veterinary Assistant (#2493--Albany) If you have experience or education as a vet assistant, this full-time job is for you! See Carla in Student Employment (T101) for your referral!

Asset Protection Specialist (#2483--Heritage Mall in Albany) Part-time, 32 hrs/week, will work with your schedule. Experience preferred, but not required. See Carla in Student Employment (T101)!

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CLASSIFIED POLICY

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.

Brown: Welding takes dedication

▲ From Pg. 1

five welds with each style.

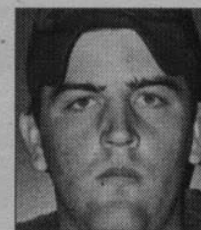
Judges do one of three tests on the welds and cuts. The first style of testing is a dye penetrate test. This test is done by putting a developer down to penetrate. The developer finds holes, cracks and other defects in the weld that one can not see with the naked eye. This test is often used to test bridges, cars and buildings as well as many others.

There is also a radiograph test, which is basically an X-ray. The test shows all the flaws in the weld similar to the dye test.

Lastly, there is an ultrasound test.

All three of these tests are non-destructive, so if the process was completed properly, the structure is still usable after being tested. Other types of tests destroy the fabrication, which is why those tests aren't usually used, since ruining the piece defeats the purpose of creating it in the first place.

Participants can have only so many flaws or



"I'm working with metal because I don't like working with wood," Brown said. "I'm not the greatest, but I can do it."

▶ Caleb Brown

defects in their craftsmanship before it fails.

"I just like to fabricate really," Brown said. "To make anything, complicated or easy."

His opportunity at nationals opens Brown up to many career options. Participants who place high at nationals often go on to work for major companies. Brown could also win welding equipment, scholarships and national recognition.

How do you prepare for a national welding competition?

"More practice," Brown says. "All you can do is practice."

Tuition: More teachers, classes

▲ From Pg. 1

the tab for all the recent construction through property taxes.

In January, Oregon voters overturned Measure 30, which would have provided money to LBCC's general fund. Luckily, LBCC administration constructed the budget assuming Measure 30 would fail. Even if the measure had passed, the money given to LB would not have been enough to prevent this tuition increase, officials said.

It may seem like the revenue from the tuition increase would be offset by lower enrollment due to the loss of those students who couldn't afford to attend. However, Huckestein said that the administration is still expecting an additional 256 full-time equivalent students.

Besides student fees and tuition, LB receives revenue from local property taxes, state enrollment reimbursement and state and federal grants. The

largest portion comes from state reimbursement based on enrollment.

When compared to other colleges across the state, Linn-Benton's \$56 tuition is not high. Chemeketa Community College in Salem charges \$56 plus a \$4 universal fee. Central Oregon Community College costs students \$55 plus fees for classes and Lane Community College in Eugene charges \$63 with additional fees for certain classes.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Commuter earns 17 awards in state-wide competition

The Commuter

The Commuter, Linn-Benton Community College's student newspaper, won 17 awards, including seven first place honors, in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association annual state-wide college newspaper competition for 2004.

The awards were presented Friday, May 7 at the ONPA's Collegiate Day Conference at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. Seventeen college dailies and weeklies competed in three divisions, with judging performed by professional journalists from around the state.

The Commuter, competing in a field of seven community college weeklies, took home more first place awards than any other paper in its division, including best overall design, best section, best news series, best sports photography, best graphic, best house ad and best cartoonist.

In addition, staff members won six second-place awards and four honorable mentions, including an honorable mention in the general excellence category.

Individual awards went to:

•Photographer Lewis Forquer of Lebanon: First and second in best sports photo, and second in

best photography overall.

•Managing Editor Adam Peoples of Lebanon: First and second in best graphic, honorable mention in best review, and first in best section for In Focus, which he edits and designs.

•Sports Editor Jacob Espinoza of Keizer: Second place in best news story and second in best columnist.

•A&E Editor Peggy Isaacs of Corvallis: Second in best headline writing and honorable mention in best section for the Arts & Entertainment, which she edits.

•Former Contributing Editor Thomas Linn: First in best news series for a two-part series on LBCC budget cuts that appeared last spring term. Linn is now the online editor of the Indianapolis Star in Indiana.

•Thomas Benham of Corvallis: First in best cartoonist.

•Israel Helfrich of Sweet Home: First in best house ad

•Jolleen Bartell of Corvallis: Honorable mention in best house ad

Editor-in-chief Michelle Bertalot of Albany thanked the staff for all their hard work this past year. "I hope we can continue our excellence."

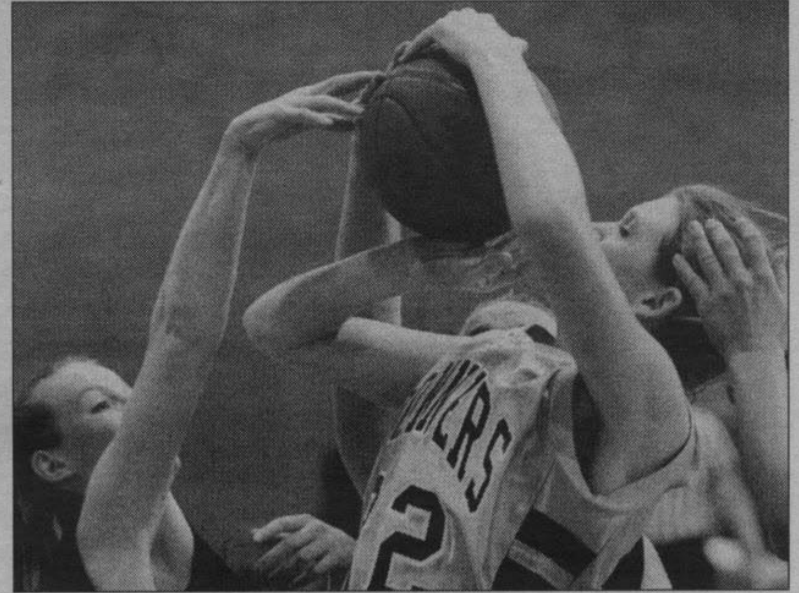


photo by Lewis Forquer

Lewis Forquer's photo of a women's basketball game won best sports photo award at the ONPA conference.



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WANTED!

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

Editor

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant. Students with course work and/or experience in journalism preferred. Appointment made by the LBCC Publications Committee.

**DEADLINE IS MAY 14
 (for this position only)**

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 | Copy Editor |
| Managing Editor | A&E Editor |
| Sports Editor | Opinion Editor |
| Graphics Editor | Online Editor |

Hourly Wage Jobs

Advertising Assistant	Editorial Assistant
Photography Assistant	Production Assistant

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

Digital Page Designer
 Pays \$8.50+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mon.-Tues. Good English skills and experience with Macintosh InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark preferred.

Deadline for Editor is May 14.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222) or from adviser Rich Bergeman (F-112)

For additional information call 917-4563 or 917-4451

Managing Editor: Adam Peoples
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commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu



Discover cultural gem of the Pacific

"Can I help you, ma'am?" the Shell gas station attendant asked. I thought, "Finally, some help." It was the first stop my exhausted car made across the Oregon border.

"Fill it up with premium," I commanded, but only received a sideways glance back.

"This is Washington, ma'am. You pump your own gas," replied the attendant as he walked away.

This was my first trip to Seattle. After three and a half hours, 40 ounces of French roast coffee and one tank of premium gas, Seattle's bright city lights welcomed me. School, work and homework were left 242 miles in the dust so we Oregonians can focus on a weekend of sightseeing and fun.

There are books upon books written about Seattle's culture, history, art museums and other activities, but three attractions really shine through the city lights for me: Pike Street Place, the Experience Music Project (EMP) and Capitol Hill.

A trip to Seattle is not complete for a coffee-lover without visiting the birthplace of the world's coffee mega-chain: Starbucks. The very first shop is located on the busy waterfront market known as Pike Street Place. The first coffeehouse looks like none of the other shops—its very first woodcut logo graces the front window instead of the mermaid customers recognize worldwide.

The market itself is graced by its unofficial mascot, "Rachel"—a life-size bronze pig. Rachel is actually a giant piggy bank with its contents be-

ing donated to local charities. Like Rachel, the market is full of character and originality. Its feel is almost like a Saturday market in Eugene or Portland, but what makes it different is its permanence.

School, work and homework were left **242 miles** in the dust so we Oregonians can focus on a weekend of sightseeing and fun.

The stores hold regular hours rather than setting up and tearing down in one short day. Compared to a mall the stores are personalized—you won't find a Gap or Old Navy here. Fresh fish and organic produce, Moroccan imports, antique bookstores and dozens of crafts and artisans make Pike Street something authentic, with items that don't flood your local mall.

One of the most popular and peculiar scenes at the market is the Pure Food Fish Market. When a customer purchases a 10-pound salmon from the fish market, an employee pitches it about 6 feet across the shop to a co-worker for wrapping. With the fish gracefully arcing through the air, clearly out of its natural element, dozens of flashes fire as tourists attempt to get the perfect shot, while chattering excitedly in various languages.

For a more formal view on the market, tours are available and cost \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children under 18. For more information on tours visit the market's official Web site: www.pikeplacemarket.org.

The market is especially busy during the summer, when pickpocketing is at its prime. I advise men to move their wallet to the front pocket and women to keep their purse close.

Four blocks from the market is the Seattle Center Monorail, which is a cheap and convenient way to get from one side of town to the other. The cost for the three-minute ride is \$3 round trip and it takes you to the Seattle Center. This area is has over a dozen different attractions to check out. Out of that dozen, one stands out above all: The EMP.

A tourist's natural instinct will direct you to step off the monorail and beeline to the Space Needle. The cost for adults is an outrageous \$12.50 for a ride to the Observation Deck and a look through the windows.



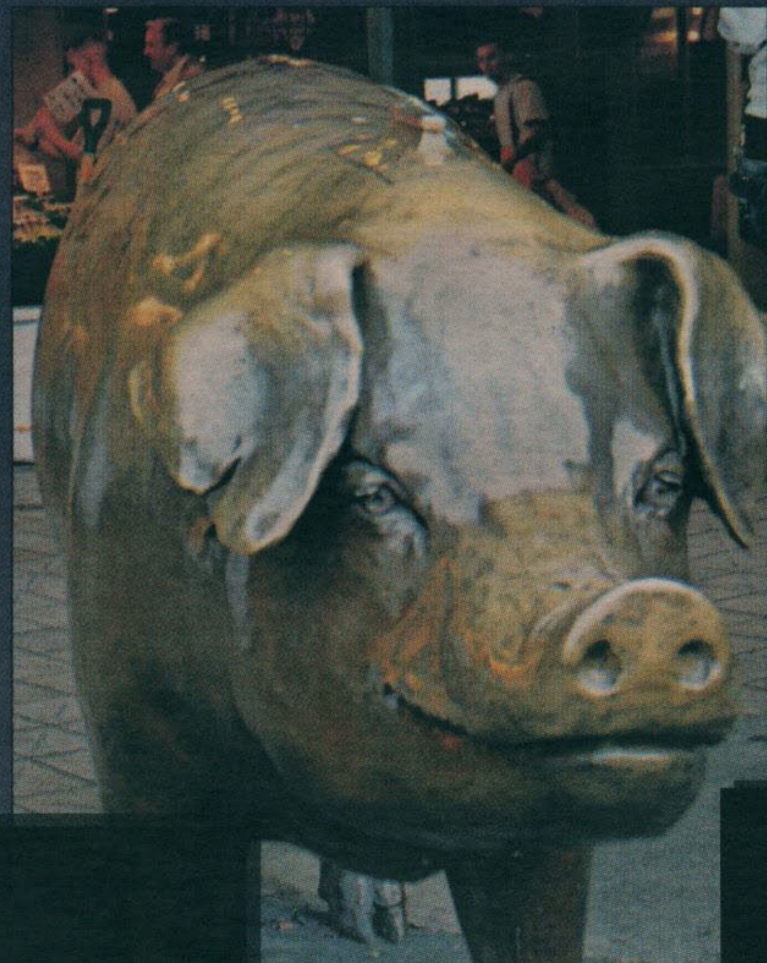
In the restaurant at the top, you can pay an excruciating amount for steak and salmon. Snap some pictures and move on. The real fun lingers across the way in the EMP.

The EMP building was modeled after the electric guitar look. The architect, Frank O. Gehry bought several electric guitars and cut them into pieces to use as building blocks of inspiration for the unique design. The museum was funded by the co-founder of Microsoft, Paul Allen, and provides visitors with a history of Seattle's grunge rock phase, guitar legend Jimi Hendrix, as well as blues country, classical . . . You name it, the EMP has at least a small section to entice even the pickiest music lover. Filled with over 80,000 artifacts, the one-of-a-kind museum can easily consume four hours of a visitor's time.

Filled with over **80,000 artifacts**, the one-of-a-kind museum can easily consume four hours of a visitor's time.

Highlighted at the EMP is a large exhibit on the Beatles, entitled "Beatlemania! America Meets The Beatles, 1964." The collection of artifacts is extensive, including many items that have never been displayed before. A set list written by John Lennon for the first Amer-

ican concert in Washington, D.C., in 1964 is showcased for the first time atop a guitar amplifier. The most valuable pieces of the collection are signed; self-drawn caricatures of each of the fab four from their first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show. The section is filled with relics



ON THE ROAD

Seattle

Northwest with weekend excursion

of the past and is a must-have addition to the four-year-old building.

The second highlight exhibit currently is "Springsteen: Troubadour of the Highway," which tracks the all-American rocker's 40-year music career through video, photography, artifacts, concert posters and, of course, music. A map of the New Jersey Turnpike winds around the walls of the exhibit, which fits with The Boss' lyrical fascination with roads and travel ("The Ghost of Tom Joad", "Thunder Road", "Two for the Road", "Born to Run"). Springsteen fans will leave the room revved up for the superstar's next tour.

Rather than having a tour guide lead you through each exhibit, visitors are given a set of headphones and a little black electronic box called a Museum Exhibit Guide (MEG). This little technological doodle sends a laser to the piece you want to hear more about and through your headphones a historian explains the artifact. It makes it more convenient, for example, to skip that blues exhibit and head straight to the Hendrix memorial.

Tickets for the EMP aren't cheap, but they're worth the money. Prices are \$19.95 for adults, but \$15.95 for seniors, youth and those with military ID cards. Additional information on the EMP can be found at the building's official Web site: www.emplive.com.

Other attractions in the Seattle Center area include the Pacific Science Center, Fun Forest Amusement Park, The Children's Museum, the International Fountain and a few other minor league attractions. Some are worth checking out if you have the extra time and money.

After all the walking around the Seattle Center and EMP, it'll be nice to use that roundtrip Seattle Center Monorail ticket to return to 5th and Pike downtown Seattle. Here you will find Old Navy, Gap, Nordstrom's and designer stores, but these are stores you can catch at Eugene or Port-

land malls—avoid them. Why travel over 240 miles away to get the same shopping experience as Valley River Center or Lloyd Center?

Instead, flag down a cab and ask for Seattle Central Community College; this will bring you at the south end of Broadway Street in the Capitol Hill District. Expect the cab ride to cost you \$10 and up, depending on how much

traffic you may get stuck in.

Cabbies give you the creeps? Walking all the way up the hill on Pine Street takes you right to Broadway. The walk to Capitol Hill may not be easy, but what you'll find along the way is an alternative to department store giants downtown.

Located at 401 E. Pine St., Area 51 is the coolest furniture store in Seattle. Its 70s mod style just screams "one-of-a-kind." With that originality comes a very unrealistic price tag for college students, but a egg-shaped cocoon chair or a stainless steel coffee table is worth saving your money. The weirdest thing I saw was a bowling ball drilled with rods that supported a glass tabletop for an end table. With an \$800 price tag, it's good to know that browsing is free.

Two blocks up from Area 51, stop to wet your whistle at Aurafice, an Internet coffee shop. Be prepared to see red—the inside of this shop is painted blood red and weird abstract paintings adorn the walls. Although it may be a little intimidating for some, the coffee is surprisingly delicious.

Once you reach Broadway, you'll be in second-hand and thrift store shopping heaven. Crossroads Trading, Red Light and Sunshine Thrift Shop can be great places to buy your recycled fashion. Thrift stores are the Gap of Capitol Hill. Every block seems to have another vintage T-shirt shop or an all-organic coffee stand. I found a Christian Brothers Champagne T-shirt for \$14 plus tax. It was just like the T-shirts Old Navy mass produces that everyone has, but it was authentic and true to its time.



If you really want to feel like fitting in, a store called Metro can help you blend into the Seattle environment. This goth/punk store is filled with pleather, high platform vinyl boots, skulls and iron crosses to fit in with the clinging grunge scene of Capitol Hill.

The Nirvana heyday is still alive in Capitol Hill. A sea of Converse shoes and mohawks crowd the busy sidewalks. It's not uncommon to see two men or two women holding hands. Even with this anti-preppy stereotype, the people are extraordinarily friendly and welcoming to all walks of life.

A visitor could easily spend days exploring the entire city. Seattle is home to many art museums, theater houses and unique bars and clubs. There are so many attractions in the area, but these three hotspots stand out the most and give visitors a taste of what Seattle is really like. Just remember to pump your own gas.



— WRITING BY MICHELLE BERTALOT —
PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON KIERSKY AND RICH BERGEMAN

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SPORTS

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

Sweep helps as Runners make push toward playoffs

Joel Meacham
 The Commuter

After splitting a two-game series with the Southwestern Oregon Lakers, the Roadrunners baseball team may have felt like a prizefighter backed into a corner.

But like a champion fighter always does, the Runners came out swinging. They bounced back with a much-needed sweep of the league's current second place team, the Mt. Hood Saints on the road Saturday.

Game one was a hard-fought 6-5 victory. Starting pitcher Sean Mascolo pitched six and two-thirds innings, giving up three runs on eight hits and stuck out seven without walking a batter. The Runners were up 4-3 going into the ninth inning. After adding two insurance runs, they led the Saints by three going into the bottom half of the inning. The Saints scored two runs on a two-run homer by IF Blair Wilkins, but came up short as Runners relief pitcher Brit Boydston was able to induce the last two batters Mike Allen and Pat Burris into consecutive fly outs to right and center field and the Runners were able to hang on in the end.

Game two featured what Runners head coach Greg Hawk referred to as an "excellent seven hit, one run complete game performance," by Jeremy



Sky Manon (18), above, celebrates a run scored earlier this season. Manon has played a major role in this year's playoff run. Jeremy Robinson, right, gave up only one run in a complete game against Mt. Hood last Saturday. Linn-Benton will host Clackamas Community College on Thursday at 1 p.m.



photos by Lewis Forquer

Robinson.

"He was able to keep their hitters off balance all day by changing speeds." The Runners offense provided just enough run support as they won the game 3-1.

With six games left in their season, the Runners now have the opportunity to finish the season strong and improve their

position for the playoffs. With four games against Clackamas, and two against Mt. Hood the table is set for the Runners to feast.

"We felt that we should have won some of the games we lost last week," said Hawk. "We started this season 7-3 and then went in reverse going 3-7 over the next ten games. Now we feel

like we are getting back to where we started," he continued. "This game, like others, is a game of attitude. If you come ready to play, you win. If you're not, teams that you're supposed to beat will beat you."

The playoff format is that the team that finishes first gets an automatic bid to the eight-team tournament held at the end of

the season, the second and third place teams then square off in a playoff series to see which team will accompany the first place team to the tourney. If the second place team wins the first game, they win the spot. If they lose, then the two teams will face off in a winner-takes-all second game to decide who goes and who stays.

Hockey no stranger to violent acts; fights have been part of the game for a century

The Dallas Morning News

Violence has gone hand and hand with hockey for the past 100 years. Here's a historical rundown:

February 1905

In a game between two town teams in Ontario, Alexandria's Alcide Laurin, 24, died on the ice after being hit in the head with a stick by Maxville's Allan Loney, 19. Loney was jailed on a murder charge and acquitted.

March 1907

Cornwall's Owen McCourt died in a hospital after being hit over the head by Charles Masson of the Ottawa Victorias in a Federal Amateur Hockey League game. Masson was charged with murder, the charge later reduced to manslaughter, and was acquitted after numerous witnesses said Masson was hit by Ottawa players first.

December 1933

Toronto's Garnet "Ace" Bailey suffered a fractured skull after being hit by Boston's Eddie Shore, who believed the referee had failed to call a penalty committed by another Toronto player against him. Bailey was hospitalized for five weeks and never played again. Shore was suspended for 16 games.

March 1955

Montreal's Maurice "Rocket" Richard pole-axed Boston's Hal Laycoe and punched linesman Cliff Thompson. Richard was suspended for the Canadiens' remaining three regular-season games and the playoffs. At Montreal's next home game, NHL president Clarence Campbell was punched by a fan, slapped by others and pelted with rotten eggs and tomatoes. A policeman set off a tear-gas bomb in Campbell's defense, forcing the Montreal Forum to be evacuated and the game forfeited to Detroit. Canadiens fans stormed from the arena and damaged cars and businesses, looted stores and threw stones at people.

September 1969

St. Louis' Wayne Maki (a former Dallas Black Hawk) fractured the skull of Boston's "Terrible" Teddy Green when the players hit each other with their sticks during a preseason game in Ottawa. Green underwent three operations and had a steel plate inserted in his head. Maki was suspended for 30 days. Green served a 12-game suspension when he was next able to play, a year later. Both players were charged with assault causing bodily harm but acquitted on the grounds of self-defense.

February 1973

Barrie Ross Cobby died after being beaten by opponents after a game in junior hockey's midget division in Toronto. Paul Smithers had fought Cobby during the game, and he, along with some teammates, confronted Cobby afterward. Cobby was beaten, and he then choked to death on his own vomit. Smithers was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to six months in jail.

April 1976

Quebec's Marc Tardif was beaten unconscious by Calgary's Rick Jodzio during a first-round series and sidelined for the rest of the World Hockey Association playoffs. Jodzio was charged with causing bodily harm with intent to wound. He pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and was fined \$3,000.

January 1988

Minnesota's Dino Ciccarelli clubbed Toronto's Luke Richardson with his stick and was suspended for 10 games and fined \$1,000. He also was booked into jail for a few hours, but Richardson declined to press charges.

April 1993

Washington's Dale Hunter cross-checked the New York Islanders' Pierre Turgeon after Turgeon scored in the third period of a New York victory that ended the series. Turgeon suffered a concussion and separated shoulder and was sidelined for the rest of the playoffs. Hunter was suspended for 21 games beginning the following season.

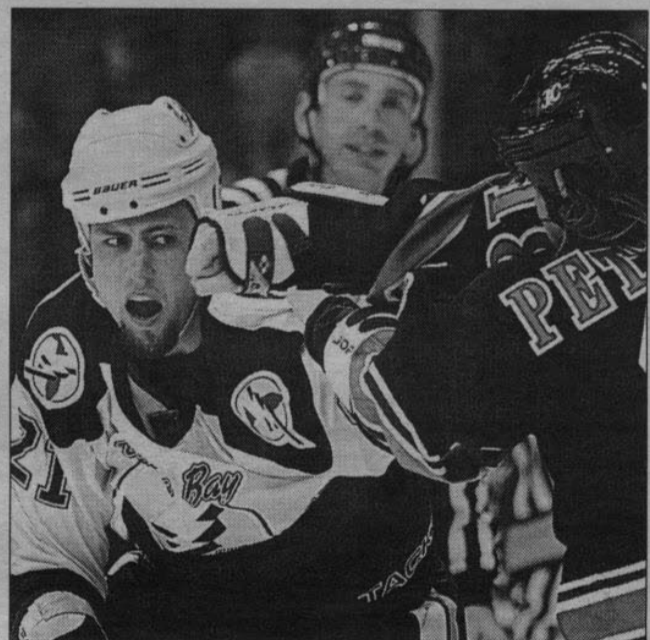


photo by KRT News Service

Tampa Bay Lightning Cory Sarich (21) and Washington Capitals Matt Pettinger (18) engage in a fist fight.

February 2000

Boston's Marty McSorley was charged with assault with a deadly weapon after hitting Vancouver's Donald Brashear in the side of the head with his stick. McSorley was convicted in provincial court and given an 18-month conditional discharge. He was initially suspended by the NHL for the rest of the season, later extended to a full calendar year.

March 2004

Vancouver's Todd Bertuzzi punched Colorado's Steve Moore from behind and drove him face-first into the ice, causing two fractured neck vertebrae, a concussion and facial cuts. Bertuzzi was suspended from the Canucks' 13 remaining regular-season games and any playoff games. The suspension is open-ended and will be reviewed before the next NHL season. Vancouver police have completed an investigation into whether charges should be filed against Bertuzzi but haven't announced the result.

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SPORTS

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

Long road to OSU-attended streetball tournament in Corvallis last weekend

Jacob Espinoza
 The Commuter

I'm usually a fan of anarchy, but the Arco station in Corvallis had been taken over by a majority of cars with gas tanks on their driver's side. Every line moved against our 2004 Saturn Sedan and its passenger side gas tank.

We were on our way back from our trip to the first annual OSU-attended streetball tournament presented by the Lonnie B. Harris Cultural Center. It was supposed to be held on Oregon State's campus last Saturday. "Right outside of the Bloss Hall," said the tournament's organizer, Mary Dyton. "There will be a DJ, Nike donations and free food."

There were some early morning showers in my hometown (Salem) which had me questioning whether or not the tournament would be cancelled. I called the Lonnie B. Harris Cultural Center, but there was no answer.

"This is streetball," I thought to myself, "This isn't baseball—they will play through the rain."

I made the trip from my home in Salem to the OSU campus with confidence and a female friend of mine, let's call her "Jennifer." Jennifer sat in the driver's seat and we arrived in Corvallis at 12:30. I was sure that once we entered Corvallis we would come across a local kid with knowledge of the event, but this was not the case. In fact, no matter where we were at, Bloss Hall was on the other side of the campus.

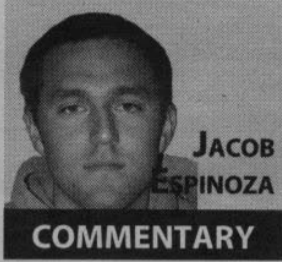
Ultimate frisbee was being played everywhere, but no basketball. We drove with our windows down, hoping to hear some ruckus—a DJ spinning, a crowd's roar, anything that would lead us toward our destination.

Our 50th attempt at getting directions proved to be a semi success. We found a basketball court outside of Bloss Hall, but nobody was there. No noise was heard. No ruckus was being made. No food was being eaten. No DJ

was spinning. No Nike stuff was being given away. Nobody was playing basketball.

The directions we were given by the locals were not completely the reason we were forced to ask directions on 50 different occasions.

My friend Jennifer seemed to forget she could turn right every now and then. We drove around games of Ultimate Frisbee so many times I began thinking the city had become infested with



JACOB ESPINOZA
COMMENTARY

them.

"Bloss Hall is right across the street from the stadium," we were told by numerous strangers. For some reason, however, we drove past the stadium and our destination across the street. Time after time again.

"I think we should turn here," I would humbly suggest.

"No, I think its right up here," she repeatedly replied from behind the wheel.

I was happy to have her company for the journey and even happier to not have to drive, so I did not feel the time was right for satire. I sat silent, politely laughing at the situation until we were, 45 minutes later, greeted by nothing.

"The rain must have been too much," I thought as I watched a court greeted by only the sun. I left disappointed that there was no tournament, but satisfied that we had made it with a single tank of gas.

I entered The Commuter office on Monday and was told, "It didn't rain in Corvallis on Saturday," by our photographer Scott McClure who had been assigned to take pictures of

We found a basketball court outside of Bloss Hall, but nobody was there. No noise was heard. No ruckus was being made. No food was being eaten. No DJ was spinning. No Nike stuff was being given away. Nobody was playing basketball.

the tournament.

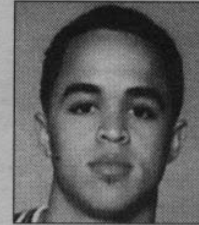
McClure and myself both tried to contact the Lonnie B. Harris Cultural Center numerous times, but were only able to contact an answering machine, and didn't receive a returned phone call until 2 p.m. on Monday.

I finally got through to Mrs. Mary Dyton. "The tournament was canceled due to the weather," she said. "It's been rescheduled for May 30, which is Memorial Day weekend."

Runners sign former H.S. player of the year

Jacob Espinoza
 The Commuter

Last week, former Valley-League boy's basketball player of the year, Sean Lake, signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Linn-Benton next season.



Sean Lake

As a senior at North Salem High School, Lake averaged 19 points, six rebounds, and seven assists per game. He was recruited by both University of Cal-Berkley and Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. He decided, however, that playing for Bakersfield Community College his freshman year was the best option for him financially.

But, luckily for Linn-Benton, Lake decided to return to Oregon after his freshman year in California. He spent the last school year working out and attending Portland Community College. With only one year of eligibility behind him, he began having discussions with his friend, Linn-Benton all-star Ryan Schmidt, about places he could play next season.

Schmidt informed assistant coach Phil Hartman that Lake was looking for a team, and

Hartman, who coached against Lake in high school, began calling him.

"He's too good to not be playing college basketball," Hartman explained. "He can break people down off of the dribble and can lock somebody up defensively when he really wants to."

As a freshman at Bakersfield, Lake averaged 12 points and six assists per game. He has only one year of eligibility remaining at the community college level, but both coach Falk and Hartman expect him to step in and make an immediate impact.

"He has a year of experience, which in any case is a good thing," Falk said.

With point guard Mike Brazier returning to Linn-Benton next year, Lake will be able to take advantage of his scoring abilities as a shooting guard. But because of Lake's splendid ball handling and ability to create for others, he will also get a run at the point.

"Next year I just want to help LBCC get back to the playoffs and earn a spot on a university team," Lake said.

Both goals are within his reach. Next year LB will begin its season with six returning players, all of whom contributed major minutes in last year's playoff run. They will have some big shoes to fill in the loss of Schmidt, but Lake has some big feet for a 6-2 point guard.

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 Phad Thai
 Tofu Stir-fry w/ Broccoli
 Baked Potato
 Chile Zucchini
 Billy-Bi
 Beef Vegetable

Thursday
 Jamaican Jerk Chicken
 w/ Mango Chutney
 Sushi/Sashimi
 Spanakopita
 Garlic Ginger Coconut Rice
 Ratatouille
 Chili Mac
 Curried Cream of Carrot

Friday
Chef's Choice!

Monday
 BBQ Spare Ribs/Country Ribs
 Moroccan Chicken
 Omelet Bar
 Rice Pilaf
 Home Fries
 Spicy Carrots
 Saffron Chicken
 Vegetarian Vegetable

Tuesday
 Spice Rubbed Tri Tip
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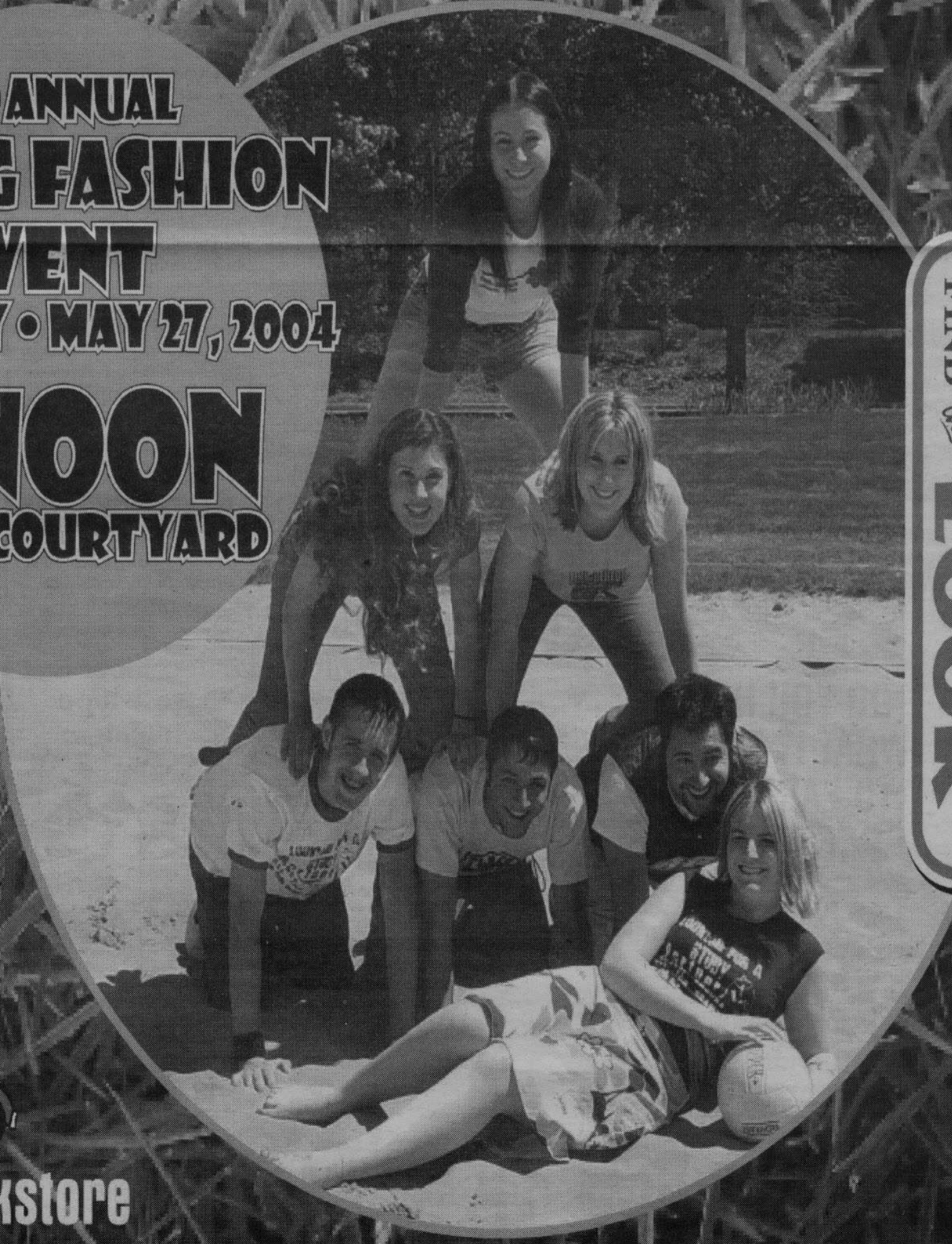
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Dedicated 'Fiddler' cast leaves audience spellbound

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

Bravo! Bravo! to all 53 cast members of "Fiddler on the Roof," which continues May 12-16 and 14-23 at the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis.

They are added to the list of thespians who have performed the musical, based on short stories by Yiddish fiction writer Sholem Aleichem, since 1965.

Mazel tov to each actor and actress, young and old who perform with such touching emotion throughout the play. Each one is able to pull you onto the stage with them and become that character.

Director Mary Jeanne Reynales said that about 160 people auditioned for the show, giving her a strong pool of talent to draw on. "I could really choose my cast, especially Robert Olin, who plays Tevye (the Dairyman)." Reynales said Olin led the cast by being prepared and staying in character during rehearsals. "He is incredible talented," she added.

"The whole production—lighting and all the musicians, as well as the cast—are



photo by Peggy Isaacs

Tevye, played by Robert Olin (left), sells cheese to villagers during the Corvallis Community Theatre's spring production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

all dedicated theater lovers and it made for a wonderful playhouse," Reynales commented.

As soon as the curtain rises and Tevye tells how, without tradition in their lives, he and the villagers would find life "as shaky as a fiddler on the roof," you know

you are in for an entertaining evening. This is true from the first musical performance to the last. The singing and dancing is powerful and spell-binding at times. The choreography is splendid, especially the scene where Tevye is in the bar having a rowdy celebration about his

daughter's upcoming marriage to the butcher and the Russian army wants to join in. This is just heart-thumping excitement.

The show pulls you into man's plight during 1905 in a small Jewish village of Anatevka, Russia, coping with the cruel existence under the Tsarist rule.

Before the curtain falls one gets caught up in the trials and tribulations of the community that has to move because of demonstrations against the Jews.

Variety magazine called the original production "one of the unforgettable stage musical creations of modern Broadway history." The performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Majestic by the Corvallis Community Theatre, can be added to this list.

If you haven't purchased tickets yet, do so quickly. "We are just about sold out, but don't worry there are always a few tickets at the box-office and there may be a no-show line," Reynales explained.

Tickets are \$12 at ValleyTix, (541) 758-9393. For information visit www.corvalliscommunitytheatre.org.

Sidewalks brace for Chalk Attack during annual Spring Fling

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

"The chalk is in," said Brook Colley, a work study student in the Multicultural Center. Several pounds of chalk will be on hand for the first Spring Chalk Attack during the 2004 Spring Fling May 26.

"We got an idea to put color into the college and have fun doing it," said Julie Martin, a

student staff member at the Multicultural Center. What came out was the idea for sidewalk art. "This is a great opportunity for anyone to present their artistic talent and to help people see their creativity," remarked Martin.

Three prize baskets will be awarded to the best artwork. Dinner for two, silver earrings, two Avalon movie passes, one \$5 gift certificate from Happy Trails and two tambourines are

included in the first place basket alone. The prizes have been donated by local businesses around the valley.

Students are encouraged to come to the Multicultural Center to check out the additional prizes and sign-up for the walk. The deadline is May 14 to reserve your space.

They want as many artists as possible and are expecting 25 students, but would like 50

students. Rhiannon Orizaga, Multicultural Center assistant, said "We want students to sign up early so they can have time to think about what they want to do."

Besides the deadline, students need to know the guidelines for Sidewalk Art. Article two of the Multicultural Center's Statement of Human Dignity states: "Every person . . . is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless

of race, color, nation of origin, religion, sexual or gender orientation, ability, political persuasion, occupation, social class or appearance."

They expect all participants to refrain from creating art that does not show respect for others or is not in alignment with the concept of a hate-free zone.

For more information contact Martin in the Multicultural Center at (541) 917-4461.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Blues legend Montoya kills 'em at Platinum

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

Last Saturday at Platinum, world-renowned guitarist, Coco Montoya played blues for an appreciative crowd, thanks to DeLynn Anderson, of Eventful Promotions and Platinum in downtown Corvallis.

"This man is a killer guitar player and can connect with his audience. He has a special quality that some performers have with their audience and Coco Montoya has it," said Anderson.

Montoya played the blues, as well as a montage of rock-n-roll and boogie. Montoya showed his special quality by talking with the audience after the show and signing autographs. I sat down with Montoya after the show and talked with him about his life and his music.

Peggy Isaacs: First of all I'd like to know how you got your name?

Coco Montoya: I was with Albert Collins and met this girl I went out with for about a month and she dubbed me "Coco." That was pretty much it and it kinda stuck.

She just came up with it.

Yeah, because I don't have a nickname or a middle name and she just said, 'I'll give you one' and she did.

What is your real name?

Henry Montoya

You were with the Bluesbreakers for 10 years?

Yes, I was with John Mayall.

What did you learn about music in those 10 years?

Oh! A lot. A lot about the business, a lot about playing. A lot of blues people that I never have experienced before, was John bringing all that to me. I learned how to organize a band and also how to persevere and not let people bring you down and allow yourself to make mistakes. That was a big lesson I learned from John is to be able to make mistakes and move on. A mistake is an opportunity to do something good.

Right, a mistake is always better to learn from.

Yeah, I didn't know that for many years. Watching John do what he does and watching how things roll off his back, like water off a duck's back. It was very impressive and it taught me a lot.

How would you classify your music?

Probably a mutt, miss-mosh of all kinds of things and I know in the business of music, especially in the record business, it's not well received. People tend to want to pigeon hole you and decide what you are, give you a name, you know, and I'm a blue-based person. I love blues, I learned from a lot of great blues bands, a lot of them are friends of mine and I learned

how to play. I love that genre. I love that music.

Who influenced you?

Everything. Everything influences me. I'm going to be 53 in October, you know. I've been through the Beatles.

I've been through the Rolling Stones. All those influences are there, how they interpreted the blues and also growing up listening to oldies. I had two older sisters and an older brother, so I listened to 50s oldies-

but-good-ies and I love that stuff.

I came from the Motown era, all that stuff and all the rock-n-roll and everything else.

I also read you were transformed after you heard Albert King at a Creedence Clearwater Revival concert. What did that mean, what kind of transformation took place?

Previous to that point, I heard the Beano album with John Mayall that had Eric Clapton on it, the incredible playing Clapton had done, and then I heard Cream. So, you know, at that point I was pretty much like any uninformed musician of the day, a young kid trying to learn. I thought what Eric Clapton was doing was his stuff. I didn't know it belonged to Albert King and all these other influences. I didn't know anything about them—I had no clue. When I went to see Creedence Clearwater and Iron Butterfly, in between was Albert King. I had no clue as to who Albert King was, all I know is I was sitting on the floor. They used to set up on each end of the theater, with two stages. You were sitting on the floor and when one band ended, you just spun around to look at the other stage.

Where was this concert?

At Shriners Exhibition Hall, so that was just a revelation because here's this man with patent leather shoes and a suit on, and a big black man.

Had you ever encountered this before?

The only thing I experienced like this was with my mother going to lounges, so I thought someone really screwed up the booking here. I was a long-hair, reeking of patchouli oil, you know, thought I was really cool, and this old man just came up there and tore my head off. The most incredible playing. It was everything Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix and all

those people were doing and it was the same emotional thing I got out of Eric's music, is that real

have never had that kind of effect. I knew something had happened to me. I didn't know what the hell had happened, but it was incredible and I knew that's where I wanted to go. That kind of emotion was involved, involved in music, that's where I wanted to be, you know, it was just tremendous. That was the change in it all.

I also read, you toured constantly?

Oh, that's a lot of hype. I tour as much as I can get. We try to get as much work as possible. It hasn't been great lately, but we keep working at it. We just hope we can make a living going up and down the highway. I'm proud of the band I have with

me, they're great guys, I want to keep them working.

Is it hard to tour?

I do it enough, I've spent a lot of time with my band, as much as I can—five, six weeks straight sometimes, come home for three weeks, then go out again. It's a love-hate situation. I can't sit home for too long without wanting to get out there and do it—to be in places like this and playing. If I

sat home too long, I'd go nuts. It's my last drug. I don't drink anymore, got 11 years no drinking, no drugs. It will be 12 years in November. I had fun. I don't regret anything. It was my decision to change things in my life that were killing me and I don't believe that everyone should stop drinking because I did.

Before I let you go, do you have a message you want to give to the Linn-Benton students.

A hokey message—if you're thinking about blues or music, it doesn't have to be blues, you don't have to carry a half-pint flask in your back pocket, it's just not necessary. Stay away from drugs and the drink. It doesn't make you a great musician. Don't ever forget why you do it in the first place, the love of the music. Don't let the people like record executives and the label owners mess with your head, 'cause they will. They seem to find someone they think is really talented and start dissecting them, start to change them and that bothers me. If they are into the artist, let the artist be who they are.



photo by Peggy Isaacs

Coco Montoya mixed in a little rock-n-roll and boogie with his signature blues licks at the Platinum Saturday.

something Eric was doing with his playing, it didn't affect me here (pointing to his head), but it affected me in my heart and Albert King did, he had me crying.

What effect did he have on you?

He was just playing so beautiful and it was so amazing and I was just going, it was a discovery, it was like seeing God. Oh! He does exist, oh my God and as soon as he was done there was pretty much nothing else I wanted to see, no offense to John Fogerty, it just wasn't relevant anymore. I went home and just tried to figure out what just happened to me.

Did you experience anything else at the concert?

Yes, I went around to the side and he (Albert King) was walking to his dressing room with his guitar and I was a little guy, 16 or 17 years old, and I walked up to him and I said, 'Mr. King I never heard of you before, but someday I'm going to play your music.' And he laughed and he leaned over and grabbed me and said 'Alright, alright son, you gonna play my music' and hugged me and then went on. I

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