

# THE COMMUTER

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 30 No. 26

## LB students win 6 awards at skills meet

From the LBCC News Service

Students in LBCC's industrial programs won six first place awards in the 1999 Skills U.S.A.-Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) State Championship in Salem earlier this month.

LBCC students in welding technology, refrigeration-heating-air conditioning, automotive technology and collision repair technology programs competed against other Oregon community colleges and vocational schools.

Danny Wittekind of Harrisburg and Anthony Lenart of Sweet Home took first and second place respectively in general welding. Wittekind will compete in the national contest to be held in Kansas City, Mo. in June.

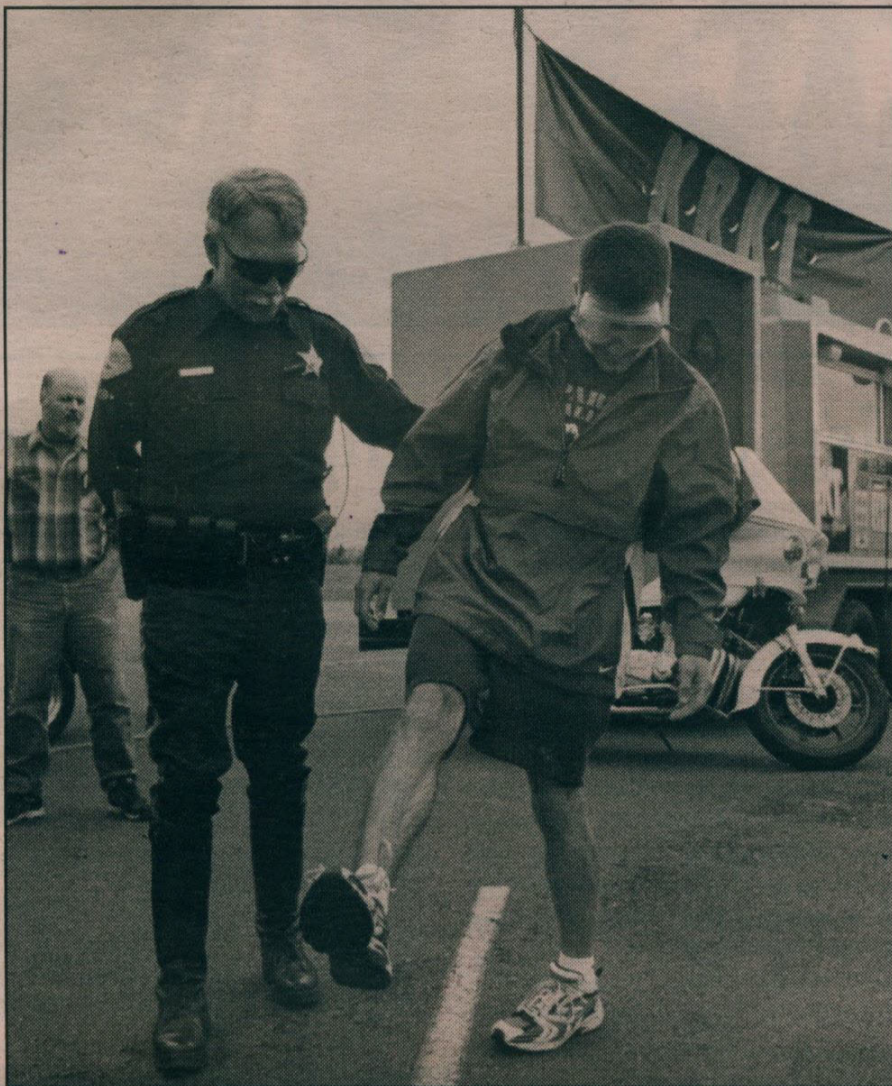
Jason Klinkner, Wittekind and Lenart took first, second and third place respectively in gas tungsten arc welding (TIG).

Joe Kirk of Lebanon and Tim Falk of Harrisburg took first and second place respectively in gas metal arc welding (MIG).

Travis Luttmer of Sweet Home and Dylan Shocky of Monmouth took first and second place respectively in shielded metal arc welding (stick arc). Robert Knight of Corvallis took first place in oxy-acetylene welding. Jeff Spencer of Corvallis took first place in sheet metal work.

Robert Louis of Brownsville and Troy Lawson of Sweet Home took third and fifth place respectively in auto technology, while Stephen Lewis of Lebanon took second.

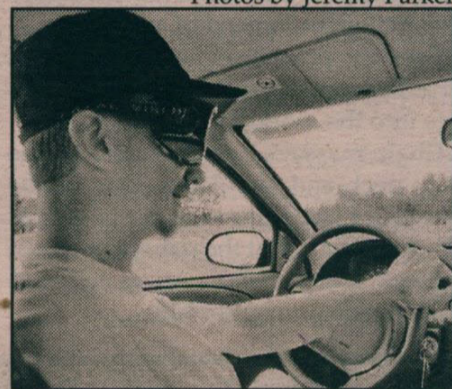
Three Albany companies donated prizes to the top three winners: Automotive Paint Specialties, Hollywood Auto Supply and Albany Auto Parts.



## Walking the Line

Jon Cooke has some trouble walking a straight line as he wears the "fatal vision" goggles at last Friday's Drugs, Drinking, Driving, Don't. event. Mike Grell, below, attempts to drive around the parking lot while wearing similar goggles, which are designed to distort vision to simulate inebriation. Organized by Student Life & Leadership, the event featured information and presentations by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Oregon State Police and music by local radio stations KRKT, KGAL and KFLY.

Photos by Jeremy Parker



## Open house attracts students to new Student Union

by Sean Leveque  
of The Commuter

The Student Union in the newly remodelled West Forum welcomed students with a variety of food at open houses last Wednesday.

The Multicultural Center, located on the second floor, offered ethnic food from haupia (coconut pudding) to Irish shortbread, while the Student Life and Leadership office on the ground floor celebrated with less exotic fare--hot dogs.

Health food and ice cream were avail-

able in the second floor lounge. Even the Courtyard Cafe in Takena Hall joined in by offering free coffee all day.

"It's fun," said Stacy Hartstock, one of the students who helped serve ice cream outside the lounge. "It's great to see everyone get involved."

Getting involved was what the day was all about. Multicultural Center Coordinator Kathay Green said she was surprised and pleased that about 150 people showed up, while an estimated 250-325 people visited the SL&L office.

Green feels that most visitors quickly warmed up to the Multicultural Center.

"I think everyone was surprised at what was here. I hope that once people come in, they'll continue to use the Multicultural Center. I feel the center has the ability to bring issues of diversity to the community and to educate and provide understanding."

The Student Union was completed earlier this year and houses the SL&L, recreation room, lounge, Multicultural Center and The Commuter Office.

## New Commuter editor looks forward to next year

by Schellene Pils  
of The Commuter

From the very beginning Keirsten Morris knew that eventually she wanted to be the editor of The Commuter.

"It was just an inkling; you kind of picture it and think about it," she said.

Last Friday Morris got her wish when she was appointed editor for the 1999-2000 edition of The Commuter by the LBCC Student Publications Committee.

Morris began writing for The Commuter as an editorial assistant this fall and was recently promoted to managing editor. Already she feels comfortable taking the reigns for the award-winning

paper. As editor Morris plans to "maintain a steady level of greatness and to produce a quality paper that hopefully everybody likes."

She would like to keep The Ticket, the arts and entertainment supplement, "It's a good section; there's proof, it won an award at ONPA. I think people like it," Morris said.

She feels that she'll have no problem with her new job, "My classes won't be as hectic as they have been, so I'll have more time to devote to the paper."

One of her biggest challenges of the year will begin soon, when she chooses her staff for the coming year.

There have been several applicants for positions on the photo staff as well as graphics editor position, but so far she has chosen only former editor Schellene Pils to be her managing editor and current advertising manager Cindy Lewis to continue in that position. Lewis, who was the only other applicant for the editor position, has been on the paper since the beginning of the year and rose from the position of ad assistant to ad manager in her first term at The Commuter.

One of Morris' goals for the coming year is to learn to compromise and be deliberate, and she hopes that by the end

(Turn to "Editor" on Pg. 2)



Photo by Jeremy Parker

New Commuter editor Keirsten Morris.



### ✓ A New Craft

Single mom makes herself at home in metals field

Page 3

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Check This Out

Keep your fingers crossed for sun on Monday. It's Memorial Day and that means no classes. Sleep in!

### ✓ Phantom Frenzy

Star Wars fans can find the force in The Ticket

Pages 5-8



## CAMPUS NEWS

**Heck of a Hula**

Hundreds of people stood in line to sample South Pacific fare at the SL&L Luau on Friday. As they ate, they enjoyed music and dance. OSU performers were (back row, left to right) Charlie TalaTaina, Toalei Talataina, Robert Sykes and Sefa O'Reilly; (back row, left to right) are Robin Filita and Tricia Filita. They presented dances from New Zealand, Hawaii, Tabiti, Touge and Saurote.

Photo by Jeremy Parker

## Massage therapists offer relaxing rub downs for \$11 at LB

by Robin Camp  
of The Commuter

People come to Pat Pendley unable to walk, with migraines, stomach pains and other ailments. They leave pain free, able to walk and even able to leave surgery prep no longer in need of surgery.

Pendley practices chair massage, a corporate creation that has brought massage into the workplace.

Chair massage concentrates on the back, neck and shoulders. One of the benefits of chair massage is the lack of oils. Another is that the patient need not undress, which Pendley says tends to make people uncomfortable.

Further differentiating chair massage from other forms of massage is the fact that the therapist comes to the client's work place. In some larger corporations the company even picks up the tab for the employees.

Pendley has been practicing chair massage for five years. After starting to get massages, she learned she could not afford as many massages as she wanted. So she worked out a deal with her massage therapist. Her therapist taught her chair massage, and Pendley gave her a massage for a massage.

After six months of this, her teacher encouraged her to go to massage school.

The school offers a one-year program, with classes in kinesiology, anatomy, and massage. There were two finals with 200 questions, and a demonstration in front of a state licencing board.

Pendley lectures for Richard Gibbs, a massage instructor at LBCC and gives massages to LBCC employees.

A 15 minute massage costs \$11. Any students interested in this should contact Glenda or Richard Gibbs in the Physical Ed Department at LBCC.

Pendley finds her work rewarding, and enjoys introducing the health benefits of massage to her clients. "It's becoming a much more medical profes-

sion. Every person is different," she says. "It's not boring."

Anna Blair, another massage therapist at LBCC also enjoys her work. She looks at chair massage as a "less intimidating" form of massage and encourages people with muscle tension, stress or who are just looking for a relaxing experience to try chair massage.

A mother of two, Blair worked with children in occupational therapy for 20 years before she decided it was time for a change. She "enjoys helping people," and decided to find another health care profession. Massage presented itself and the rest is history.

## Potter sale benefits Ceramics Foundation

From the LBCC News Service

The students and instructors of the Benton Center ceramic studio are holding their annual pottery sale from 4 to 7 p.m. June 4, at the center, 630 NW Seventh St. in Corvallis.

Instructors and students will be present to answer questions and visit with customers. Sales proceeds go to the Ceramics Foundation to help purchase kiln materials, glazing equipment, and studio supplies. The sale features hundreds of functional and sculptural ceramic pots made by instructors and students at the center.

Pottery will include mugs, platters, bowls, fountains, casseroles, teapots, cups, candle holders, and other serving ware, as well as a few sculptural pieces. Pots range from high-fire stoneware and salt-glazed pieces, to wood-fired anagama ware. All pieces are dishwasher and microwave safe, and all glazes are lead-free.

Along with ceramic faculty member Jay Widmer, works will feature new instructors Keith Moses and Laurie Childers, continuing instructors Teresa Duncan, Jason Saunders, firing master Hank Grzeskowiak, and past instructor Cynthia Spencer.

## Company awards engineering scholarships

From the LBCC News Service

TriAxis Engineering, a Corvallis-based electrical-mechanical company, has donated \$1,000 in scholarship funds to help LBCC engineering students pursue their studies.

In a brief presentation at the college yesterday, TriAxis Vice President Joe Mackey awarded \$500 checks to Lebanon residents Tim M. Davis and Adam Z. Wilson, both second-year engineering students.

"We wanted to support some of the educational organizations in our community," said Mackey, who arranged the scholarships with the LBCC Foundation.

Davis, an eight-year Navy veteran, is majoring in computer engineering and plans to transfer to Oregon

State University after graduation from LBCC. After completing his studies, he wants to start his own consulting business. Davis's wife also attends LBCC.

Wilson is a construction engineering student and a graduate of East Linn Christian Academy. He currently works part-time for Foothills Farm and Ranch Supply and plans to attend OSU after LBCC.

TriAxis Engineering founders Mackey, Paul Hazel and Gordon Ormsby, all former CH2M Hill employees, formed the company three years ago to design transmission lines, power generation stations and substations. Now with 13 employees, including two LBCC graduates, the company has projects in the Northwest and Pacific Rim islands of Guam, Saipan and Kwajalein.

## Editor: Keirsten Morris takes pride in quality journalism

✓ From Page 1

of her stint as editor "to know how to set a goal and then realize it."

"I want to keep the the quantity and quality of photos and I would like to have a stronger opinion page," adding that, "I'm going to try to solicit opinions and encourage writers on staff to write for it."

Morris said that although she "wants to have a firm handle on what's going on," she also wants to try to not micromanage since she's so interested in all aspects of the paper.

The Commuter banner, with the little graphics that change every week, may have to go. "I love that damn

banner," she said, and although she'd like to keep it, the current graphics editor, Adrian Wallace is giving up his job to make way for someone new. Morris will have to choose another banner. "I don't think it's going to be a real smooth ride," she said.

Morris said that her biggest worry is how she'll handle the stress. "I have a tendency to let things build up; I'm going to take thinks one step at a time and keep it in perspective," adding that she wants to present herself well as an editor.

Political Science teacher Doug Clark said of Morris that "She takes her education seriously and she takes pride in developing herself."

## commuter staff

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

Address correspondence to The Commuter, 6500 S.W. Pacific Blvd., Albany, Ore. 97321; Telephone (541) 917-4451, 917-4452 or 917-4453; Fax (541) 917-4454; E-mail [commuter@gw.lbcc.cc.or.us](mailto:commuter@gw.lbcc.cc.or.us). The newsroom is located in Room 222 of the Forum.

### The Commuter Staff:

**Editor**, Schellene Pils; **Managing Editor**, Keirsten Morris; **Chief Copy Editor**, Barry Greer; **Contributing Editor**, Benjamin Sell; **News Editor**, Justin Dalton; **Sports Editor**, David Thayer; **A&E Editor**, Sarah Crauder; **Photo Editor**, Jeremy Parker; **Photo Assistant**, E.J. Harris; **Advertising Manager**, Cindy Lewis; **Advertising Assistant**, Michele Dardis; **Graphics Editor**, Adrian Wallace; **Production Manager**, Chris Bryant; **Production Assistants**, Randy Arrowsmith; **Advisor**, Rich Bergeman.

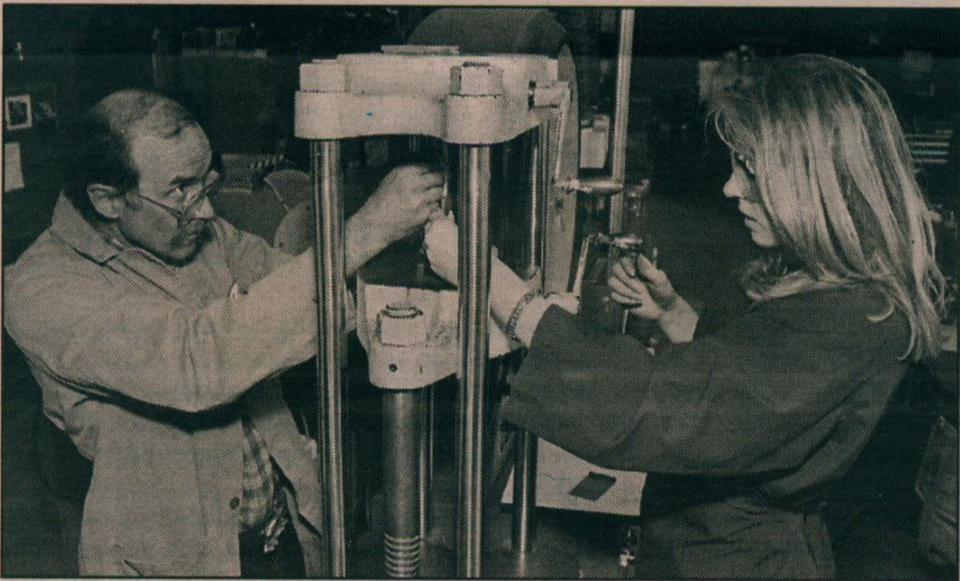
**Reporters**, Brock Jacks, Amber McNamara, Lizanne Southgate, Robin Camp, Sean Leveque, Travis Hawes, Alexandriana Lyons, James Rivera, Lori Weedmark, Christy Weigel; **Photographers**, A.J. Wright, Joey Blount.

## IN FOCUS



Photos by Jeremy Parker

Lisa Craft leads a busy life, combining her studies in Metallurgy and Materials Technology with two jobs and a 6-year-old son. Below, Craft works with a fellow student. She is undaunted about entering a field that has historically been dominated by men. "I just wanted a career where I would be challenged and be able to do a wide variety of things. This is something different, something I think I can enjoy."



## Metallurgy student learns her craft in typically male field

by Brock Jacks  
of The Commuter

Metallurgist, magnet particle technician and macro-etchist aren't often touted as typical jobs for women.

Then again, Lisa Craft isn't your typical woman.

A 30-year-old Albany resident, Craft, a single mother, balances a 6-year-old son, her LBCC classes and two jobs.

Craft is earning her Applied Science degree in Metallurgy and Materials Technology from LBCC by taking courses, as well as working a CWE (cooperative work experience) with OreMet/Wah Chang. On top of all this she she also works for Marriott in OSU's Stadium Club with her alcohol server's license.

Before she came to LB, Craft had several jobs including bagging groceries, gas station attendant/cashier at a truck stop, making golf clubs, working security, road watch for a logging crew, receptionist and photographer for Olan Mills.

"I enjoyed all my work," she laughs, "but they were all dead end jobs! The people and companies I worked for either went out of business or went bankrupt."

Craft decided on this field because, "I looked around and saw that Albany was one of the biggest producers of exotic metals in the world and there were a wide variety of jobs available to me."

Her degree, which includes courses in metallography and welding, will open her up to numerous careers in the metals industry.

"I just wanted a career where I would be challenged and be able to do a wide variety of things," she says, "this is something different, something I think I'll enjoy."

Seaton McLennan, one of Craft's instructors in the metallurgy program who helped her set up her program, says that Craft has really been a good example of what he likes to see in students.

"As a general practice I try go above and beyond the call of duty to work with students to improve the overall quality of their life and not just provide them with technical training—I want to help them develop a good self-image," he

says. "Lisa is a particularly good example of someone who came into the program and turned her life around to good self-esteem and self-motivation. She wasn't sure at first about a career but I think her CWE as well as instructors' and peers' encouragement helped her focus and develop her goals."

Currently at her CWE program she is working in quality assurance at OreMet/Wah Chang in both the north and south plants.

Working 20 to 30 hours a week, Craft is earning valuable experience and college credit. Although she enjoys this work, she said her ideal career would be in research and design because the employment opportunities are great.

"I'm not money hungry," she says. "I just want enough to live comfortably."

While Craft does consider herself a "science person" she also has many other interests, such as bike riding, bead working, real estate, gardening, enjoying an occasional romantic movie (alone so she can cry) and studying Chinese astrology, which she is more than happy to discuss.

"I've been studying it for 10 years. It really fascinates me."

She recommends Theodora Lau's "The Chinese Astrology Handbook" for those interested in learning more. Her sign is the monkey and while she says she doesn't base everything on astrology, she does "feel it it's important to be compatible because I believe people do carry some of the traits of their sign."

Now that she has chosen a career, Craft is searching for a real estate deal that could put her and her son in a home of their own that they could afford. Right now, Craft plans to take her time with her schooling and work a bit more. Eventually her goal is to get a job where she can work more normal hours (instead of the dinner hour and weekends she works now) so she can spend more time with her son biking, gardening and fishing, which he is excited about.

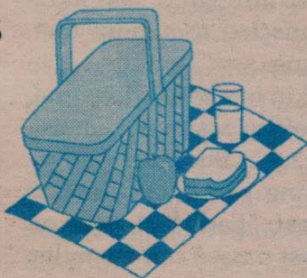
As an encouragement to other single mothers like herself, Craft says "Keep going, don't stop. There's days when you wanna stop, but you just gotta keep going."

### Book Buyback

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9a.m.-7p.m.

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- (A) the entire balance.
- (B) a good portion of what I owe.
- (C) only the minimum payment.

How much of the credit line on your credit cards do you owe?

- (A) none, I pay my entire balance each month.
- (B) less than one-half.
- (C) I have charged to the maximum on most of my cards.

Do you know your credit card debt?

- (A) yes.
- (B) rough estimate.
- (C) afraid to add it up.



If you answered "C" to any of the above questions, you could be in financial difficulty. Re-examine your priorities, budget and credit obligations.

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# Horses make outdoor recreation possible for the disabled

Rosen and Knaus start H.O.R.S.E.S. both for therapy and for wilderness exploration

by Amber McNamara  
of The Commuter

Two girls, one eight and one nine, live on a small farm in Colorado. One girl is disabled and always watches her sister wistfully as she rides the farm horse around the yard. One day the able-bodied sister ties a kitchen chair to the farm horse using an old kitchen towel in order for her sister to ride.

These two sisters have come a long way to create H.O.R.S.E.S. (Horseback Outdoor Recreation, Scenic Experiences and Services) a non-profit adaptive riding program for people with disabilities. Kerry Knaus, who was born with a severe spinal disorder, was determined to get on a horse in a safe manner. For years Kerry and her sister Sue Rosen have contacted many organizations dealing with riding for people with disabilities, only to be turned away because Kerry had a disability that was deemed too severe for her to ride.

After seven years of Rosen's and Knaus' research including contacting nine different countries, they discovered that there was not an organization in any country that offered recreational riding to people with any degree of disability.

H.O.R.S.E.S. was started in the small town of Scotts Mills located in the foothills of the Cascade mountains in 1987, after Rosen and Knaus received numerous requests from many people in the disabled community.

"The relationship between horse and rider has proven beneficial in developing personal confidence, improving so-

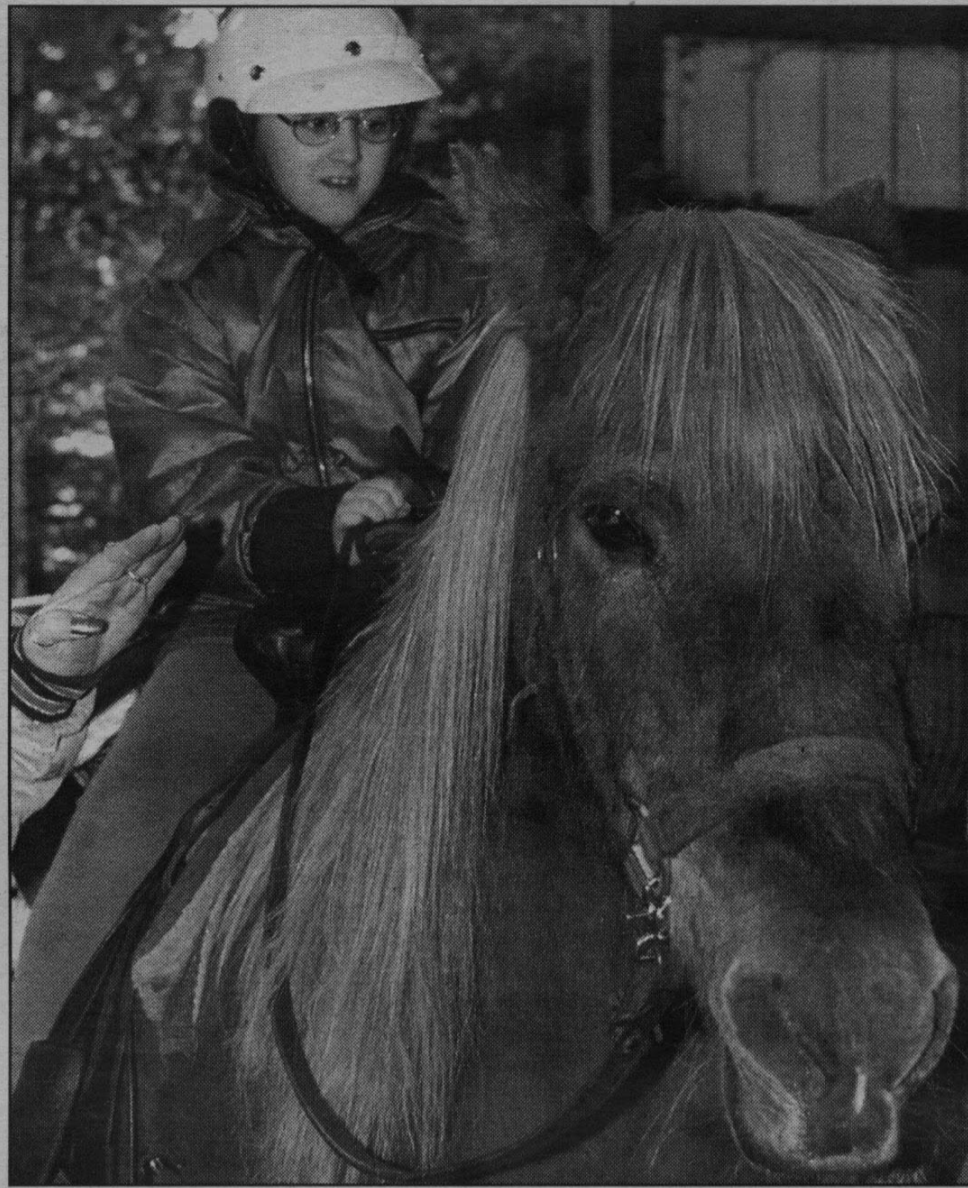


Photo by Jeremy Parker

Seven-year-old Jo Anne Huffaker takes a ride at H.O.R.S.E.S.

cial skills and increasing self esteem," Knaus said. "Horseback riding also provides a therapeutic three dimensional movement which enhances the rider's balance, posture and stamina,"

The program owns 35 donated horses that are tested and selected on the basis of their health, experience and temperament before they are accepted.

"The horses must all go through the

rigid evaluation to ensure the safety of the riders and handlers," said equestrian director, Sue Rosen.

The program is operated by a small group of very hardworking and dedicated volunteers who feed, train, do public relations and much more. The ultimate goal is to enable any physically disabled child or adult to experience wilderness exploration, which would be impossible without the help of their four-legged friends.

"Many therapeutic riding programs look at us as witches or think that we are crazy for taking disabled people riding in the outdoors," Knaus said. Amazingly, the safety of these riders out on the trail is far superior to traditional arena riding. The trails are always pre-ridden by volunteers, and only trails with natural barriers of trees and brush along the side are chosen to keep the horses on a straight and narrow path with no opportunity for detour.

"All of the riders are accompanied by an able-bodied rider in front and another behind them to insure maximum safety," Rosen said. Many riders must use custom-made adaptive riding equipment with built in safety features such as a quick release cinches so that a rider and saddle can be quickly removed from a horse in an emergency. All riders are also required to wear a safety helmet while riding for their own protection.

The program that the two sisters started with three riders 12 years ago now serves over 300 riders a year from countries such as Japan and Korea, and has received over 100 donated horses.

While these seem like large numbers for something that had such a small start but the amount of happiness, self-satisfaction and confidence that riding has instilled in many riders is irreplaceable.

## Deaf LB student faces life with positive attitude and self-reliance

by Alyx Lyons  
of The Commuter

Kristine Pitkin has a ready smile as she sees classmates pass her between classes. Her blue eyes seem to catch the sun and reflect it back.

She is a hard-working, full-time student attending LBCC to earn an Associate's Degree in graphic design, and she hopes to one day earn a Bachelor's Degree in cellular biology or immunology, since she loves, in her words, "yucky diseases."

And she is completely deaf.

Pitkin was born with a birth defect that left her with more than 95 decibel loss in both ears. This is considered a profound hearing loss, and means that Pitkin is more likely to feel vibrations from very loud sounds, like that of a jet plane, than she would be of hearing any sound. She adds, "No one else in my family has any level of hearing loss."

Yet, Pitkin seems less affected by her disability than those around her. She is fluent in a system called total communication, which combines speaking, lip-reading, and sign language.

Pitkin's mom, Susie, was a sign language interpreter in the Boise, Idaho, area for many years, and is still very impressed with Pitkin's ability to lip-read. "She's phenomenal," says Susie.

Lip-reading is hard, Pitkin says, but not in the way most people think. "People do not seem to realize that each pair of lips are as individual as fingerprints. It's hard to read everybody, but some people are easier to read than others. Some days are good, some days are bad."

This final statement seems to sum up Pitkin's attitude in general. Though some people might expect undercurrents of hostility from someone having to live without sound, Pitkin has none. Though she expresses a little disappointment over the fact that she no longer has her own convenient apartment that she had while living in Boise, she seems to appreciate the convenience of living with her parents and younger brother while

*"People do not seem to realize that each pair of lips are as individual as fingerprints."*

—Kristine Pitkin

she works toward her degree.

Surprisingly, Pitkin explains, being deaf can be expensive. The phone that she must use, which is called a TTY, cost \$350 and allows Pitkin to type in her end of the conversation and transmit to the other party. If the person she's calling doesn't have a TTY, she must call a relay service which acts as a translator for both parties. The phone is also hooked into a system which causes the lights to blink when the phone is ringing.

Instead of a ringing alarm clock, Pitkin has a very strong vibrating pad between her mattress and box spring to shake her awake. The security system and smoke detector have to be connected to a very powerful strobe light that, "You can't sleep through..." as Pitkin says. The doorbell is also connected to a lamp that flashes when the doorbell is rung.

With all these expenses, Pitkin has worked several different jobs which include office assistant, library page, insurance adjuster and teacher. She taught a sign language class for adult hearing people. When her students found out she was deaf, "Each first week of class, I had students that almost passed out from the shock!" Pitkin laughs.

When she's speaking with someone who doesn't know sign language or whose lip movements are unfamiliar, Pitkin can converse through the computer screen. To conduct this interview, we sat in the computer lab and "chatted" using a word processor.

Although there are language barriers between most hearing people and Pitkin, she hasn't encountered a great deal of prejudice in her lifetime. "After people get over that initial shock, I find that they are much easier to talk with. When I was growing up, I didn't have

many problems. I suppose it's because kids are more open-minded than adults," she says.

"She was probably teased more about her blond hair than about her deafness," adds Susie, "She got into trouble quite a few times on the playground for that as a child."

Like most people, Pitkin has a list of likes, which include old movies, and dislikes, which include jocks who wear baseball hats constantly. She is driven to try and find a way that makes closed-caption television a better and regular medium for deaf and hearing-impaired individuals. Susie remembers when they would sit together in front of Saturday morning cartoons and interpret them for her daughter.

Her parents have always been supportive, as Pitkin says, "I was raised to think that I could do anything. It's just a matter of getting the people to understand my deafness and teaching them how to handle it."

Though she is probably entitled to a share in the financial aid disbursement, Pitkin pays for her education out of her own pocket. In fact, the reason she is studying graphic design is so that she can get a career started so she can pay her way while earning her four-year degree in biology.

She doesn't rely on her parents' income for support either. Though she doesn't state it outright, she leaves the impression that she feels she might be described as a burden to society, something her fiery and independent personality would revolt against.

Pitkin doesn't whine about her disability, nor does she ask for sympathy from others. She treats her deafness much the same way one would treat a cold, it may be a bother at times, but it's no big deal. In fact, to see Pitkin walking somewhere would give you no impression of deafness or self-doubt. Her confident stride carries her forward, perhaps because she is so optimistic and happy about her future.

"I'm a late bloomer. I'm 27 and I've just really started my life," she says with a toss of her honey-blond hair, and a sparkle in her eye.

# The Ticket

## Arts & Entertainment

### Dueling Reviews

'Phantom Menace'  
leaves one reviewer  
disappointed but fulfills  
lifelong expectations of another  
Page 6



### Tangled Webs

Personal web sites  
prove ever more popular,  
but putting your life on line can  
become more than you bargained for  
Page 7



# 'Phantom Menace' gives fan new hope

by Sarah Crauder  
of The Commuter

There was a party in Corvallis on the night of May 18. There were hundreds of partygoers along Fourth Street. Most people passing by may have thought it was just a bunch of fanatics wasting a whole day waiting for a movie starting at an ungodly hour. It may have started that way, but by the time I showed up the party was in full swing.

People played "Star Wars" Monopoly, drank "Star Wars" Pepsi and Mountain Dew, listened to the "Star Wars" soundtracks, and watched the "Star Wars" movies on TVs wired to Volkswagon vans. We wore "Star Wars" T-shirts and carried lightsabers, played with "Star Wars" Legos and "Star Wars" roleplaying games. We had all bought our tickets for the movie a week before and wouldn't sell them for all the money in the world—or at least the \$30 that a desperate few were offering for tickets.

I met my brother's friends in line. They had excellent spots—the first one had come to wait at 10 a.m. They were, for the most part, 16-year-old, very hyper boys. It occurred to me then as I looked at the accumulated crowd that probably 90% of us waiting in line that day hadn't even been born in 1977 when the first movie had premiered.

"It's like Woodstock II," moviegoer Hayden Muhl said. We had all come out to relive an event that our parents had lived through. Our parents had raised us on these movies. That much was in evidence from how we played "Star Wars" Trivial Pursuit.

It took a while for all of us to warm up, but after a few minutes we were pulling incredible "Star Wars" trivia out of our brains. I have no idea how I knew how many shots Han had to shoot at the Sarlacc to save Lando. (It was one.) I went on an uninterrupted run of about 20 questions. How do I know this stuff? Or more importantly, what did I know that I don't anymore because the trivia has taken its place?

I think it's the multiplication tables. At this moment I have no idea what eight times six is. I'm starting to get the feeling that any information I need for my finals has been replaced with the final Luke/Darth Vader dialogue.

I initiated a lightsaber duel with my brother's friend Jared Pieterick. I think the Corvallis Gazette-Times and OSU's Daily Barometer have some excellent pictures of Pieterick beating me over the head with his lightsaber. The fight was pretty lopsided, but I did get in a few hits—at least until his \$20 lightsaber got the better of my \$3 lightsaber and sent the top half of my blade skittering across the sidewalk. I decided it was a sign that I should surrender. The Force was not with me.

After repairing my weapon, I went on a candy run to the nearest drugstore. By the time I got back with my bag full of M & Ms and Skittles, I was informed that I had missed the greatest event of the night: a truck had driven by with a young



Photo by Jeremy Parker

**Anxious "Star Wars" fans await their turn to buy tickets and make their triumphant march into Regal Cinema in Albany last week for the opening of "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace."**

man standing in the back. As the man passed the line, he dropped his pants. The "Star Wars" fans were treated to a view of his rear end—Y-O painted on one cheek and D-A on the other. The Yoda Mooner was never identified, although rumors flew. I suppose I should have shown some journalistic investigative skills and gotten to the bottom of the mystery, but I was laughing too hard. I mean, really, only in America and only while waiting for "Star Wars" would something like this happen.

12:01 a.m. started drawing closer. The Mountain Dew was really starting to affect the brains of the boys. Pieterick stood on the corner with a sign that said "I'm a 'Star Wars' fan. Honk if you R2," and began to collect honks. We cheered loudly for every horn and waved our lightsabers and action figures in thanks. Our antics started to draw the ire of people further back in line. They soon took a spot on the street corner next to us with their own sign. It had an arrow pointing in our direction and said, "Honk if you think they're retards." We cheered wildly. After that much caffeine we agreed with everybody.

Cooper Bombadil and I drove to Taco Bell. He sprinted into the restaurant and nearly skidded into the counter as he demanded "Give me every 'Star Wars' thing you have!" The poor woman working at the counter looked at him like he was an escaped mental patient, but calmly displayed

all the toys and cups available for purchase. He bought one of everything.

The last few hours passed in a rush. They let us in the theater at about 11 p.m. We did the wave. We screamed and clapped and pounded our feet on the floor. We sang the "Star Wars" theme. We sang Weird Al's "Yoda." The manager announced the movie would be starting soon. The response was deafening. I'm sure the manager had never expected to get an ovation like that when he first took his job.

My heart raced as the previews started, my hands shook. I've never felt so excited. When the Fox logo appeared on the screen I screamed. When "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..." showed up, I burst into tears. Some of the guys were crying too.

Sure, you can say it's just a movie if you want. You can say we wasted a day in line, but I wouldn't change that day for anything.

Our parents raised us on "Star Wars" and regaled us of tales about what it was like when that ship came over the audience in "A New Hope." I'll tell my kids of the time I waited in line for 9 hours with 800 people, just to see a movie.

In 2002 Episode 2 will come out. Those of us in line will be scattered all over the country at colleges and jobs, but I'll come back and be waiting at the Whiteside, guys. I'll save you a place in line.

We'll have another story to tell our kids about.



# 'Phantom Menace'—Force or Farce?

'Episode I' lives up to the standard of the 'Star Wars' franchise

by Brock Jacks  
of The Commuter

"A Long Time Ago . . ."

I still remember the first time I saw those words scroll across the screen. To the wide-eyed wonderment of a 5-year-old this was simply epic. The swelling music drew me in heart and soul and I took in the entire film with bated breath.

Unfortunately, "Return of the Jedi" came out about 15 years ago.

Lucas' latest installment (though it is the first episode and "Return of the Jedi" was the sixth) is now endowed with tremendous leaps in special effects and a budget that allowed it to surpass "The Lost World" in opening earnings.

However, this was really the only change that "Phantom Menace" brought to our galaxy. Unfortunately the acting wasn't all that great, the story line was murky and there were a few unbelievable moments.

But guess what? It's "Star Wars!" It's supposed to be like this. I know that a lot of fans that loved the originals may be a bit disappointed — how could they not be with all the hype surrounding the film?

It's important to remember that most big fans now were young, if even born, like myself when the first three movies came out. There's been a lot going on since then. Things change and people change and that's something people forget.

Lucas didn't intend this film to be so much a nostalgic event as a new epic for a new generation. The key word here being new. My generation had great fun with this space-faring, swashbuckling legacy, and now it's time to pass it on to a new generation. I'm actually content with the fact that I didn't like it as much as I did the first; maybe this means I've actually grown up a bit since then.

I'm sure that by now you know how the movie goes, so I'll spare you the in-depth reporting in this area and cut to the chase. Liam Neeson does an excellent job as Qui-Gon Jinn, Obi-Wan's teacher. Obi-Wan is played by Ewan McGregor who does an excellent and very convincing job. Young Anakin, who truly did seem to have the potential for evil, was well portayed by Jake Lloyd. Darth Maul's short part in the movie was my personal highlight, but I must confess that Queen Amadal

(Natalie Portman) stole my heart just like Leia did a long time ago in. Well, you catch my drift.

One of the new things "Phantom" introduced was a computer-animated character named Jar-Jar. He was a trite and rather superficial character it would seem at first, but then again how can you judge him against human standards when he's not human? He's definitely a triumph of computer animation and really fun to watch.

The panoramic views and huge, rich landscapes were not only dazzling eye-candy but also served to create another place and time—exactly what Lucas dreamed of. Massive armies collide in colossal battles over a lush green plain leaving you feeling like maybe, just maybe NASA is keeping something from us that only Lucas knows.

The fights are awesome and much better than the originals with sparks flying as lightsabers collide and much more stunt work done by the characters. It's great to see this integral part of the film done well for yet another generation of flashlight duelers.

Music has always been done well in the "Star Wars" films and "Phantom" is no exception. The music is perfect for each and every frame that it's matched to. I'm glad someone didn't sell out to another pop music soundtrack filled with top 40 hits.

Remember this is only the first of three movies to come over the next few years. Kept in the proper perspective, this is bound to be a great classic just as all the other films were.

Would it have been worth waiting several days in line for? Probably not. Was it worth seeing again? Definitely. In fact I plan to see it several more times.

But I won't be buying any of those silly toys because I'm too old for that, right?

The Force was not with George Lucas in the new 'Star Wars' prequel

by Jeremy Parker  
of The Commuter

The lights started to dim in the crowded theater at 12:01 a.m. last Wednesday. As they did, the crowd started to cheer and scream.

After years of waiting, the time had finally come. "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace" was about to start. Could this movie possibly live up to all the hype of the past few months?

Sorry, but I have to say NO WAY.

This movie is a big disappointment. Will you take my word for it? I doubt it.

The story goes like this: Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson) and his apprentice Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), hoping to settle a dispute between the flabby Republic and an insurgent Trade Federation, find Queen Amidala (Natalie Portman) on the planet Naboo. Diverted to Tatooine, they meet the boy Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd), who has a mysterious force—perhaps The Force. They amass for a fierce face-off against battle droids and the malefic Darth Maul (Ray Park) in the biggest battle scene of the movie.

Sounds good huh? No again.

The Anakin role (the eventual Darth Vader) was full of holes. First of all, the boy can't act—but neither could anyone else in the movie so I guess he fit. He is entered in a pod-race—a great scene I'd have to say—by Qui-Gon Jinn, who hopes to win so he can afford to fix his ship. It's a race Anakin has run many times but never even finished. Jabba the Hutt makes a humorous cameo appearance from the stands (just what this movie needs, more humor). So little Anakin wins the big race against the best pod-racer, who has won every pod-race in the past. Yeah, that's realistic.

Speaking of bad acting, Samuel L. Jackson, who plays Mace Windu, a Jedi knight on the Jedi Council, did his best to play his part, but I just don't see him as a Jedi.

My problems with this movie are two-fold: one, the computer graphics and two, the misguided attempt at humor. The character Jar-Jar Binks was an annoyance. His accent was mumbled and hard to understand. I saw no reason for this computer-generated creature.

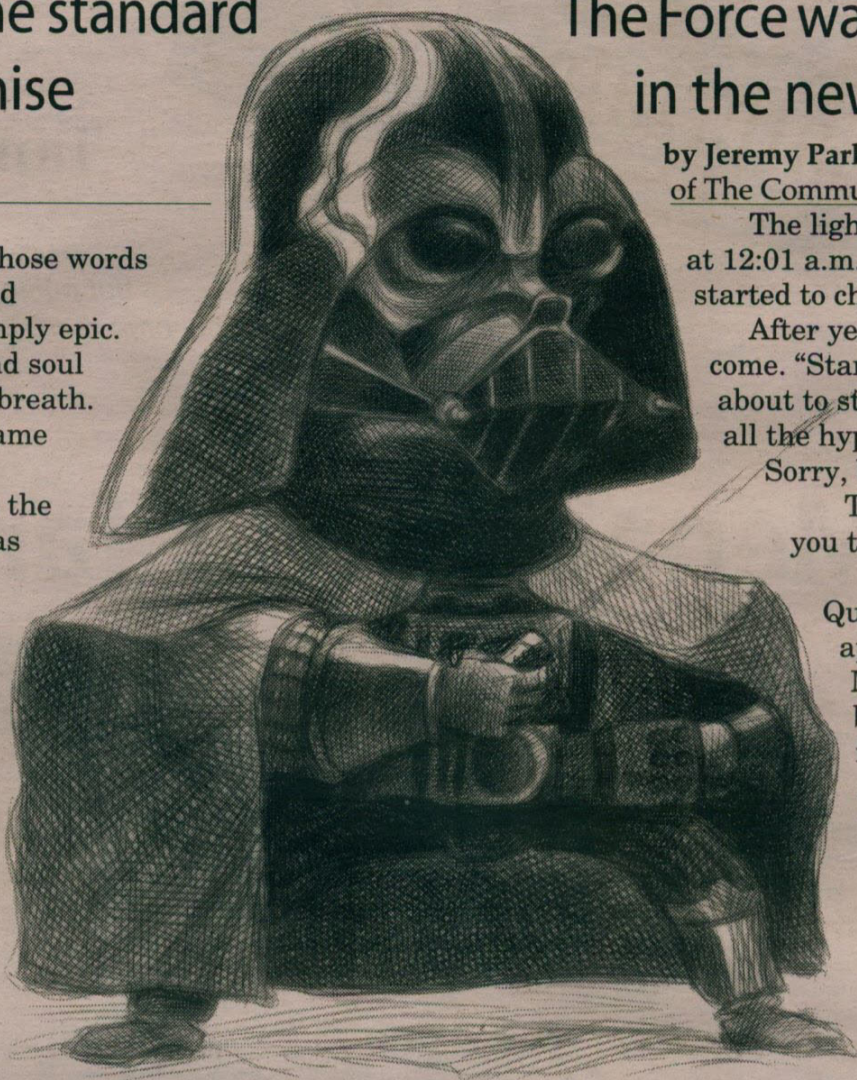
Which brings me to my next point, why couldn't they just make a life-like costume of Jar-Jar and stick someone in it? Oh heaven forbid Lucas spend any more money on this movie. But if he only realized that with spending just a few more million (with his budget this isn't very much) he could have made these computer-generated characters at least look real by making costumes or puppets. The first "Star Wars" had GREAT space characters and, believe it or not, not one of them was made on a computer.

Even Jabba the Hutt was made from a hard drive. In "Return of the Jedi," he was a puppet and a great one—okay not a great one, but a more believable one than the dumb looking digital version in "The Phantom Menace." I just don't understand why movies today have to rely on computers so much. "The Phantom Menace" uses more computer-generated shots than any movie in history (95 percent of the frames employ some digital work).

Oh and we can't forget Darth Maul. Yes, he is a great villain but with all the hype about him I didn't expect to see him in only a 15 minute part.

I could go on and on about the faults of this movie, but I won't. I'll just end with one more point. At the end, I got the feeling that Lucas had spent as much money as he had and said, "Okay, let's just end the movie today, I'm tired." I don't want to ruin the end for anyone who hasn't seen it yet, so if you haven't seen it, stop reading this now.

In a matter of 15 minutes, Anakin saves the whole planet of Naboo by accident in a space ship that he is hiding in and has no idea how to fly. Then Darth Maul kills Qui-Gon and is cut in half by an angry Obi-Wan Kenobi. I'm sorry but I was left thinking to myself, "Is that the end? It can't be." But it was. I just hope the next two are better than this one, maybe much better.



# Personal Web pages connect people to wired world

by Christy Weigel  
of The Commuter

"Don't do it," warns Katia, "It becomes all-consuming."

And Katia should know. As creator of her own personal Web page, she knows first-hand how seductive a trap the Web can be when you decide to go on line with your own page. But trends indicate that no one is heeding her warning.

Those with personal Web sites are finding a mass anonymous audience on the Internet that continues to grow each week. Studies done last year by various companies showed that the number of Americans with regular access to the Internet has grown to nearly one-third of the population. As the number of Internet users grows, so do the number of Internet publishers.

Many people find a certain satisfaction in creating Web pages. Just about everything is game on the Internet. Any information you feel like providing, any subject you feel like discussing, any artwork you feel like showing is all just a few keystrokes away from being exposed to the world.

## Getting Started

All you really need is a way to access the Internet and you're on your way. Aside from the computer itself, no expensive software or products are necessary.

Dozens of sites allow users many megabytes of Web space for publishing their pages and uploading graphics, fonts, programs and more. Xoom.com, geocities.com, angelfire.com, tripod.com, fortunecity.com, and freeyellow.com are examples of such sites. Subscribers to national services such as America Online also get free Web space as part of their monthly membership.

Programs such as CuteFTP and WS-FTP95 are available to download for free on the Internet and allow you to upload files onto your established Web space. This means that if you create a graphic on your computer and would like to use it on your homepage, one of these programs will send it from your computer to your Web space on the Internet.

Creating the actual Web pages may be a little trickier, especially for someone completely unfamiliar with the process. Software like Microsoft Front Page, Netscape Communicator, AOL Press, and Hot Dog Pro will let you create and modify Web pages on your computer until they are ready to be uploaded onto the Internet.

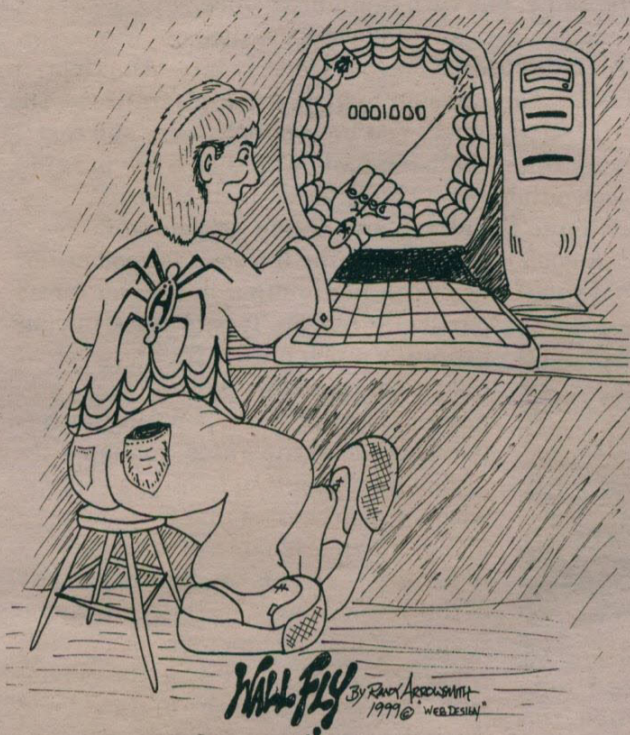
Many graphic utilities that can be used to create art for your Web pages are available to download free of charge. However, if you don't feel like making your own artwork, many sites feature free graphics and fonts. Some companies that provide Web space also provide free graphics and help with other aspects of creating your pages.

On one of Katia's pages, [freespeech.org/katia/rant2.html](http://freespeech.org/katia/rant2.html), she lists reasons for not using many graphics on her pages. "I am not a graphic designer," she states, "nor do I have any interest in becoming one." Filled with lots of writing, her site's overall quality is not compromised by the lack of flashy artwork.

A few sites that are useful in teaching Web basics are Johnny's HTML Headquarters ([www.Webhelp.org](http://www.Webhelp.org)), HTML Goodies ([www.htmlgoodies.com](http://www.htmlgoodies.com)), and JavaScript Resource Guide ([javascript.internet.com](http://javascript.internet.com)).

Many books are also available on Web publishing. Though "HTML for Dummies" is probably the most well known beginners' book, "HTML for the World Wide Web: Visual Quickstart Guide" by Elizabeth Castro, and "Creating Web Pages Simplified" are also great starting points. More intermediate and advanced titles include "HTML: The Definitive Guide," "HTML Artistry: More Than Just Code," and "Mastering HTML." For more ideas on creative and user-friendly page layout, try "The Web Design Wow! Book."

After publishing your new pages, should you get tired of having a ridiculously long Web address



*"Just keep in mind that unless you are being paid to create web pages, it should be a fun experience, not a tiresome chore."*

such as "<http://members.Website.com/memberpages/username/index.html>," go to "<http://come.to>" and sign up for a free address redirector. You can then have a Web address that looks more like: <http://come.to/MyWebsite>, while still keeping your pages on your free Web space.

## Beyond The Basics

Once you know where and how to get started, the next problem is figuring out what kind of site you would like to have and what content you'd like to place there.

If you want to start a fan club for a local band, advertise your budding business, publish your resume, or even just showcase some of your poems, the Web is a great place to start. Audiences will make their way toward your information at a much faster rate than most other forms of media.

Once you decide what you would like to publish, choosing a layout or format is the next step and arguably the most difficult.

Many people make the dreaded mistake of putting all their text & graphics on one long page. Not only does it make your site uninteresting and unappealing to the eye, it also takes most browsers a really long time to load. Don't use too many graphics, period. If you'd like to have a page all about your artwork, make sure you allow the user to click on a tiny version of the art (known as a "thumbnail") to load the large version. This omits both a slow-loading time and a navigational problem. Also be careful of using background graphics that make text hard to read.

The basic idea behind a really good Web site, regardless of content, is to make navigation as easy and least annoying to the viewer as possible. If you place your pages in categories, use a menu system, and cut down on the use of frames, your site will be much easier to navigate. Although sites that use frames are typically well organized, and many do look very neat and pleasing, some Web masters warn against them because different viewing sizes on computers make them awkward and harder to browse. Framed pages can appear messy and the content can be hard to see if they are cut off by the sides of the screen.

Jennifer, [mypage.studentcenter.org/mafia\\_girl](http://mypage.studentcenter.org/mafia_girl), although admitting her page needs some cleaning up, says, "I think that excessive info about [Web page creators] is really annoying. I also think if you can avoid advertising banners and pop-up windows, you should." She also says, "I like a catchy title! If the title [of a page] catches my attention, I am more apt to actually read the

page."

Try to link your pages together in a manner that makes finding your way around simple. This does not mean to put as little information as you can on your pages, but rather, as much information as you can, found as easily as possible by your visitors.

If you supply links to other sites on your pages, be sure to keep them updated. No one likes broken links.

Also keep in mind that anyone in the world will be able to read anything you post on the Internet. Do not put any information on the Web that you wouldn't want anyone else to read or see.

Angela, Web site developer of [www.girlsonfilm.com](http://www.girlsonfilm.com), also has a personal homepage, [www.bway.net/~angela](http://www.bway.net/~angela), which has brought her unexpected attention. "I live in New York, but once I was in Philadelphia at a Morrissey concert. After the show was over, a girl ran up to me shouting, 'Slug, Slug!' (my nickname on my Web site.) It turns out that she recognized me from my picture on my Web page... At first it seemed eerie but it was nice to know that someone out there was visiting and appreciating my page."

Although many people post more information about themselves than necessary, some say that sharing personal information is refreshing. "FarieGrl3" had this to say: "I like the freedom of knowing I can say pretty much whatever I want, and that I can make people think and feel stuff by just looking at my page." On her site, [www.shards.com](http://www.shards.com), she has, "a page about me, my journal, my Web-zine, a music section, quotes... stuff like that."

Some other personal homepages worth looking at for inspiration are:

[fly.to/nickhaswings](http://fly.to/nickhaswings)

[surf.to/ca](http://surf.to/ca)

[www.angelfire.com/ny2/LuckyDay](http://www.angelfire.com/ny2/LuckyDay)

[www.angelfire.com/ma/FlyingFire/](http://www.angelfire.com/ma/FlyingFire/)

## Getting Noticed

Now that you have your Web pages and graphics uploaded, the next step is to get your site noticed. If you're looking for a bigger audience than just people you know with Internet service, a search engine may be appropriate advertising.

A search engine is a Web site that lists links to other Web sites after a few keywords are entered. The most well known search engines are Yahoo.com, Altavista.com, excite.com, Webcrawler.com, Hotbot.com and Snap.com. By entering some HTML into your Web pages known as "META tags," submitting your Web address to these search engines will allow visitors to search specifically for your site, or search for keywords that your site contains. For example, if you have a Web page about the easiest way to play a banjo, and someone enters, "banjo playing" your site will be among others in a list. The visitor can then click on a link of their choice. There are also Websites that tailor to specific kinds of searches, such as the Ultimate Band List, [www.ubl.com](http://www.ubl.com), where only music-related pages are listed.

Asking other people to exchange links with you, especially if their site contains similar content to yours, is another popular way of advertising. Sites such as [www.linkexchange.com](http://www.linkexchange.com) are yet another way of advertising for free, by showing your link and graphic on other member's pages.

Linkexchange also offers other services, such as mailing lists and Web counters, which keep track of exactly how many visitors your page receives.

Just keep in mind that unless you are being paid to create Web pages, it should be a fun experience, not a tiresome chore. Learning exactly what to do takes patience, but once you do learn, the number of people you can reach seems almost infinite. If you make a homepage with a layout that's easy to navigate, graphics that don't cause computers to slow down to 35 percent of their normal speed, and content you're genuinely interested in, your pages will most likely be a success.



## cd review

## Williams wins with new 'Star Wars' tunes

by Sarah Crauder  
of The Commuter

Everyone knows the music from "Star Wars." Ask a random person and chances are good they can hum you the "Star Wars Theme" or the "Imperial March."

But can John Williams recapture that same kind of music 16 years after "Return of the Jedi?"

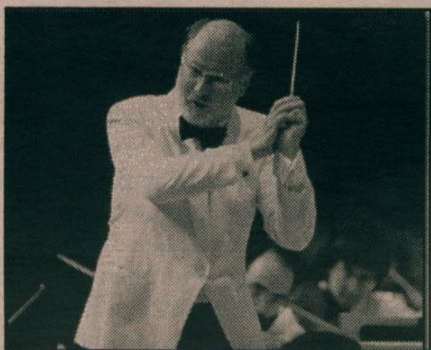
Sure he can. He's John Williams. He's probably the only gray, balding old guy ever with an MTV video, and "Duel of the Fates" is arguably the best song in MTV's rotation.

The rest of the album is just as good. The thing that's so great about Williams is that he takes movie music seriously. He orchestrates a movie like it's a ballet or an opera—every character gets a theme and then he weaves those themes

together to tell the story of the movie.

"Anakin's Theme" is the third song on the CD, but you'll hear snippets of it in the other songs on the album. With his first introduction the theme is played by soft woodwinds and strings, later on, when the character does something adventurous the theme is taken by the horn section. He tells a story like it was a modern day "Peter and the Wolf."

Another great thing about the album are the little allusions to the original trilogy he has included. George Lucas included visual references and familiar lines in the movie and Williams does



John Williams composed and conducted the soundtrack for "Phantom Menace," performed by the London Symphony Orchestra.

the same, but with familiar themes.

Sharp ears should be able to pick out the "Imperial March" woven cleverly into "Anakin's Theme," an allusion to little Anakin's future as the evil Darth Vader. You hear a little more sub text every time you listen to it. Was that a few bars of Yoda's theme in "The High Council Meeting?" Listen to the album and decide for yourself.

A good way to determine if a song is good or not is if you find yourself humming it days later for no particular reason. It gets stuck in your head. It's much harder for an instrumental to occupy your gray matter than it is for a pop song with lyrics. "Duel of the Fates" manages it, although attempting to hum a song with a full orchestra and 80-person, four-part choir is more of an exercise in futility than is an approximation of the actual song. You'll keep trying though. "Duel of the Fates" is a great song, and, once you've seen the movie, will bring you right back to the climactic lightsaber duel between the forces of good and evil from the movie. Don't bother trying to rid your mind of

it, "Anakin's Theme" will just slip in and take its place.

Unless you're a fan of instrumentals, you probably won't find this as entertaining as a pop album with lyrics. It won't sell as well as N'Sync or Britney Spears over the next few months, but it will still be sold in 20 years, just like the original albums are today.

It will grow on you, and "Duel of the Fates" is worth the price of the album.

Too bad we have to wait until 2002 and the next movie to find out the next themes Williams has to share with us.

## LB singers present two concerts

## Concert performance celebrates heroic themes

Heroic Choruses and Choruses of Heroes, a concert performance by the LBCC Chorale conducted by Hal Eastburn, will be presented at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 6, in Takena Theatre. Featured in the concert will be the trio of soprano Evelyn Smith, tenor Fred Adams and baritone Ken Gryte.

The choir has chosen music that exemplifies the hero in human nature or reflects a majestic and heroic scene. "Missa Brevis Sti. Joannis de Deo" by Joseph Haydn; and "Dirge for Two Veterans" from "Dona Nobis Pacem" by R. Vaughan Williams are motivated by the heroic acts of people in time of war.

Two selections from Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem":

"Sanctus" and "Libera Me," and three selections from Joseph Haydn's "The Creation": "In Fairest Raiment Now," "The Lord is Good," and the chorus in "Fulfilled at Last the Glorious Work," express the heroic theme in nature.

Also included in the concert are "The Toreadors Song" from "Carmen" by Georges Bizet, four operetta choruses by William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, and "Tarragon of Virtue is Full" from "The Seasonings" by P.D.Q. Bach.

Admission is \$5. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling the Takena Theatre box office, 917-4531, Monday through Friday, noon-3 p.m.

## Choir concert funds LB performing arts scholarships

LBCC's Concert and Chamber choir will perform a scholarship concert at 8 p.m., Sunday, June 3, in Takena Theatre. Both choirs are conducted by Hal Eastburn and will feature solos by David Dominy, Delaney Deaver, Molly Cooper Heather Heart, Mandi Clark, Jonathan Lafky and Bryan Haws.

The Concert Choir will perform a variety of a cappella choral music including, "A Cappella" by Don McAfee; "Agnus Dei" by Sherri Porterfield; "All the Pretty Little Horses," arranged by Hal Eastburn; "I Hear the Lord Sayin' Wake Up" by Vijay Singh; and "I Stood on the River of Jordan," arranged by Moses Hogan. In addition, the choir, accompanied by Lucy Watts, will perform selections from the musical "Godspell" by Steven Schwartz.

The Chamber Choir will perform "Mentre il Cuculo," an Italian madrigal by Giuseppe Caimo;

"Largo," an adaptation and arrangement of an instrumental piece by J.S. Bach and arranged by Hal Eastburn; "It Was a Lover and His Lass," with text by William Shakespeare and music by Hal Eastburn; "She's Like the Swallow," a Newfoundland folk song by Steven Chatman; "O, David," a southern spiritual arranged by Hal Eastburn; "Lazy River" by Hoagy Carmichael and arranged by Kirby Shaw; "Shenandoah," an American folk song arranged by James Erb; "Let Me Fly," a spiritual arranged by Robert DeComier; "Cantec de Pace," a Romanian song of peace by Adrian Pop; "From This House," an African song of peace by Ben Allaway; and "Mouth Music," a Celtic diddling song by Dolores Keane and John Faulkner.

Admission is \$3. Tickets are available at the door or by calling the Takena Theatre box office, 917-4531. All proceeds will be used to fund LBCC performing arts student scholarships.

## ask annie

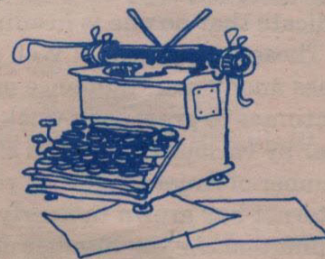
Dear Ask Annie,

I have toy figures of Obi-Wan Kenobi and Darth Maul. Every night I think I hear them fighting. Am I insane or do you think it is because "Star Wars" rocked so much it had an effect on me?

Insane in the Jedi-lovin' membrane

Dear Insane,

I think it's safe to assume that "Star Wars" did have a definite effect on you. I too replay the incredible battle between Obi-Wan and Darth Maul in my head. Maybe you should try and act out the fighting with your figures before you go to bed. They'll probably get tired and sleep through the night.



Dear Ask Annie,

I am ten years old and just was freed from a life of servitude. Unfortunately, my mom is still a slave. I miss her terribly and want to free her. What should I do?

Signed, Missing my Mom

Dear Missing,

I know it's hard, but things are as they should be for know. Your mom will be waiting for you when you come back to free her, but for now just try and focus on the learning experience that you are about to undertake. You can't FORCE the future to divert from its predestined path.

Dear Ask Annie,

We all know that "Star Wars" is better than "Titanic," but the critics are saying that there's no way "Star Wars" could make more money than "Titanic." I've seen "Star Wars" 10 times, but I'm starting to run out of money. What can I do to make sure "Star Wars" becomes the undisputed box office champ?

Signed, Addicted to Anakin

Dear Addicted,

The key here is to keep them coming back again and again. "Titanic" boasted computer graphics AND a great love story. Well, that's what they said anyway. So since you've run out of funds, it's key now to persuade others. I suggest distributing fliers in mass quantities describing A) subliminal messages in the pod race, B) an appearance by Boba Fett as a member of the Jedi council and C) Leonardo DiCaprio's "Star Wars" debut as Obi-Wan's troubled and disturbingly cute younger cousin.

Dear Ask Annie,

Recently I saved this weird guy with floppy ears from getting run over. Now he says he owes a life debt to me. This would be cool, but he smells like a fish. How do I get rid of him?

Signed, Nose-Plugging in Naboo

Dear Nose-Plugging,

I think that having this guy around could work out well, even if he is rather stinky. Don't burn your bridges too fast, you never know when he will come in handy. You can always get one of those fragrant pine trees to hang around his neck.

Lightsaber looking dim? Is the Force not with you? LBCC's own advice columnist is here to help. Write to Ask Annie c/o The Commuter, 6500 SW Pacific, Albany, Ore. 97321, or e-mail at commuter@lbcc.cc.or.us.



## SPORTS PAGE

# Start your Engines

It's loud, it's obnoxious, it's not socially redeeming, but drag racing can be fun.

Photos and story by Robin Camp  
of The Commuter

Taching your engine up to 10,000 rpm, burning 130 octane race fuel and smoking a set of perfectly good tires may not sound wise given the cost of tickets and of insurance (especially if you're male and under 25).

But with only a few cheap modifications (cheaper than that huge cam and carb) racers can and do race legally at the local dragstrip. Unfortunately, most hot rodders believe that drag racing is for only the rich, or the sponsored. Yet lead feet who visit the strip will see plenty of racers on a budget unwinding their tweaked engines for quarter mile blasts.

Insurance is not that expensive. The track will cover insurance if you damage another vehicle up to the tune of \$250,000 (Woodburn Strip, amount varies track to track) and a \$59 membership to the NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) will cover another \$235,000. However, you are not covered for your vehicle, only for medical. Contact the NHRA at 1-360-698-4858 (or by e-mail at nhra6@silverlink.net) for breakdown of insurance coverage.

Visiting a drag strip you will hear racers talking about ET's (Event Times or Elapsed Times) the time it takes for a car to cover 1/4 (or on some tracks 1/8 mile) is measured in seconds, 1/10ths and 1/100ths of a second. Reaction time, the time it takes for you to leave the starting line, is measured in 100ths of a second.

You will also hear reference to the "Christmas Tree" the lighting device used at all tracks to launch cars. The top light on the tree is called a pre stage light, and will tell you when you are approaching the starting line. The second light is the stage light, and indicates that you are in position, and ready to go. Three amber lights, will then flash in succession, followed by the green which is your signal to go. If you feel lucky, floor it when the bottom amber light comes on. If you are jumpy and launch before the green light, a red light will flash and you will be disqualified. This is called redlighting.

After you have tripped the sensors at the end of the track, the board will light up and tell you three things; your top speed, your ET and your reaction time.

Four NHRA classes are open to most hot rodders: Pro Street (12-13.99 ETs), Sportsman (14 or slower ETs), and Street Legal. For major buildups, Super Pro is also open (7.5-11.99ETs). For a little perspective, a brand new Corvette runs 13's, and a Porsche runs 12's. EZ street, a NMCA (National Muscle Car Association) class targeted at street legal vehicles is also open. Check out track rules before racing, some tracks don't allow

EFI (Electronic Fuel Injection) for example, and one phone call can save you the embarrassment of being disqualified before you even run. Also, if you drive an import you are going to have to wait for the import drag races. For technical questions call (1-360-698-4858 or nhra6@silverlink.net)

All classes require a valid drivers license and a seatbelt. For anybody who plans on getting serious or is concerned about their own safety, a five point harness (\$56+) is recommended. They are much more effective than normal shoulder harness's. If you only have a lap belt, the five point harness is the way to go. Helmets, nomex suits, and neck braces are optional. Neck braces are recommended for those running extreme nitrous setups to prevent whiplash.

All cars in any of these classes that run a 13.99ET or 134.99+mph in the quarter mile requires a driveshaft loop (NHRA rules); a simple device that costs around \$35. The loop prevents your driveshaft from digging into the ground if it breaks, and preventing you from going through the windshield.

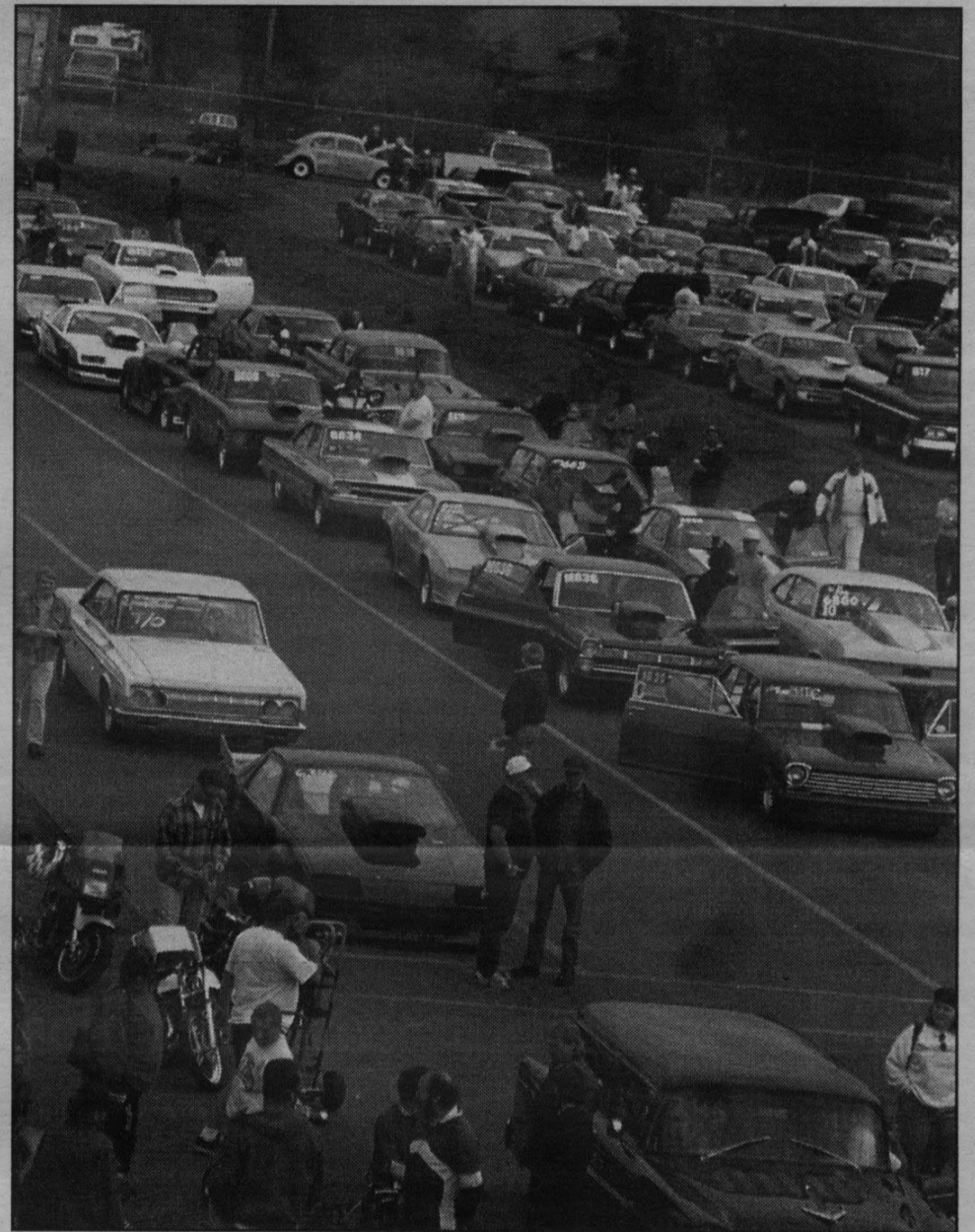
Overflow tanks are required (\$12.50, Summit Racing Equipment) to prevent fluids from spilling onto the track if your radiator boils over. This prevents the track from becoming slick which is dangerous to you and other racers. You will not be allowed to race if your car has any fluid leaks. Most dragsters run slicks. Because they have no tread slicks require a dry surface for safety.

For those of you who can afford slicks right off the bat, remember that these are for racing only! They are **not** street legal, and are dangerous on the street both to the driver and other drivers on the road.

Sources for parts are easy to come by, but typically mail order warehouses such as Summit Racing Equipment (1-800-230-3030), PAW (1-818-678-3000) and MAS (1-612-644-6811) are much cheaper to get your parts from. Recently, the Schucks, Kragers and Knecht's alliance has begun to be competitive too, so shop around and get the best deal.

For some parts, such as manifolds, cast iron heads, rear ends, wheels (check for damage beforehand) and carburetors (just rebuild them) you can search junkyards. Swap meets are also an excellent source for parts and as well as contacts for hard to find parts.

However, avoid used pistons, or rods unless you want to be pulling that engine apart again. Speaking of rods and pistons, if you are going to be running Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O, a mixture of Nitrogen and Oxygen used as a power booster) you will need to use forged pistons and rods. Note, for Pro, Super Pro, Street Legal, and Sportsman, only a single stage of nitrous is allowed. Forged pistons are a good idea in general because they won't



explode and cause you to pull your engine apart after every race. Most standard pistons will only stand up to 6,000 RPM, so if you will be doing above that or using nitrous, don't use stock pistons or rods. Always have used parts magnafluxed by a shop when possible, to prevent future headaches.

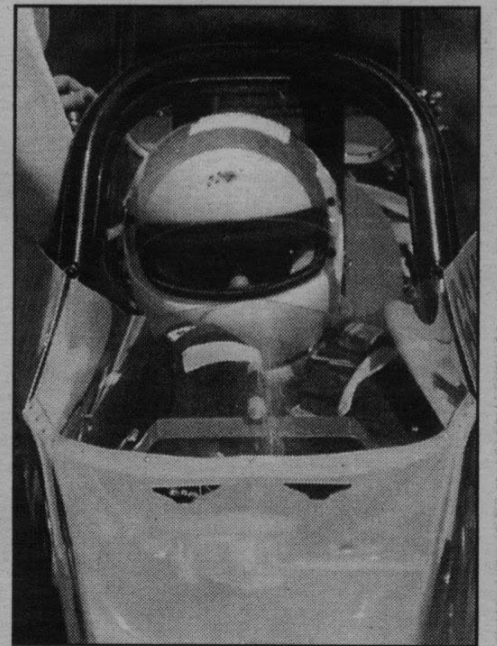
If you are running on street tires (radials) do not attempt burnouts like the race cars running on slicks; it will not help and will just increase treadwear. The only time you will want to spin your tires is if you were not able to pull around the water hole and if your tires have gravel and dirt on them. In this case, spin them just long enough to clean them off.

A stash of backup money is suggested; if your engine blows or you drop a tranny you probably don't want to be pushing your ride home.

Most importantly, have fun. Talking to experienced racers you will find that this is the most often heard advice. Another bit of guidance is to keep your car streetable (capable of sustained driving) so that you don't have it overheating in idle and are able to drive it elsewhere, other than the track.

Mod's such as Posi-traction or minispools may be great on the track, but they really can screw up handling. Don't forget to go to the track and watch before you try racing, it'll teach you a lot and prevent some mishaps such as

A '65 Mustang (top) races a '86 Corvette at the Woodburn speedway. Racers range from VW Bugs to Super Pro Camaros (center). Below, a dragster prepares to deep stage.



redlighting.

If you want to be able to run with open exhaust, use cutouts (JC Whitney \$35) that will allow you to use mufflers on the street.

So, anytime you have the desire to put the pedal to the metal and unwind that ground pounder, remember you can do it legally—at the track.

# Championship track meet could bring out best in 'Runners

by The Commuter Staff

About 15 Roadrunner track and field athletes are expected to do well at the NWAACC Championships this weekend at Lane Community College in Eugene.

Pole vaulter Melisa Clements enters the meet as the leading vaulter, and April Waters is ranked No. 5. Unfortunately, the pole vault will be a non-scored exhibition event this year due to a lack of qualifying competitors.

Coach Brad Carman is confident that several other women athletes will place high in the competition, based on their ranking this season. Heather Carpenter and Janice Hallyburton are ranked seventh and 11th, respectively, in the hammer; Jolene Neufeld is ranked ninth in the long jump and 11th in the triple jump; Tiffany Sweat and Dawn Habelt are ranked fifth and 10th in the triple jump; and the women's 4x100m relay

*"Keep an eye on Jolene Vandehey who has struggled with illness all spring but who has had here best workouts at Linn-Benton the last week and who will impact the form charts if she has similar success this week."*

—Brad Carman

team is ranked sixth. Carman said the 4x100m team could "move up to third or fourth with must a few tenths of a second improvement."

Carman added that Jolene Vandehey and Helen Rarick could make a mark in the races. He said Vandehey has struggled with illness all spring, but she "has had her best workouts at Linn-Benton the last week and

will impact the form charts if she has similar success this week." Rarick has been running personal best times in the last two meets, he added, and "she could be a surprise from her 10th place ranking."

Among the men competing in the championships, Carman singled out Ryan Parmenter, who had "an impressive third place finish at the southern regional meet."

He enters the championships as the sixth fastest 10k runner, but expects tough competition from Spokane and Highline athletes.

Other top competitors for the men include Branden Whitney, ranked eighth in the triple jump and Isaac Presley, ranked eighth in the shot and the hammer and ninth in the discus. Also competing will be Casey Clithero in the 400m hurdles, Luke Bjornstadt in the hammer, and Ray Dandeneau in the 400m race.

## Three straight losses ends LB's baseball season on sour note

by David Thayer  
of The Commuter

The Roadrunners were on a mission during their last three games of the season, determined to finish strong after being knocked out of the playoff hunt the week before.

But good intentions did not lead to victories. The three losses, two to Chemeketa (8-6 and 1-0) last Thursday and one to Mt. Hood (6-0) last Friday, gave the 'Runners their second non-winning season under Coach Greg Hawk in

his 16 years.

On May 20, the 'Runners were facing the Storm of Chemeketa CC in a double-header in Salem. Jake Stickley had the nod for the 'Runners and pitched well into the eighth inning.

The Roadrunners lead 6-4 until things came apart in the bottom of the eighth inning. Corey Scott and Byron Shinkle pitched the eighth inning and gave up four runs, leading to an 8-6 Chemeketa win.

Travis Kundert, Josh Thompson and

Ryan Borde each went 2 for 4 in the game, while Kundert scored two runs and drove in three, and Thompson scored one run.

In the second game, Nick Renault pitched a strong game, giving up only three hits and one run in seven innings while striking out nine.

Unfortunately, that one run, which came in the first inning, was all the Storm needed. The 'Runners could manage only three hits themselves—to Borde, Brian Puncohar and Thompson—and could

not push across any runs.

The last day of the 'Runners' season was May 21 when they faced the Saints of Mt. Hood CC. The game was originally scheduled on May 18, but had been postponed because of rain. The 'Runners were unable to mount any offense and lost the game 6-0. Travis Haima, Shawn Lilley and Brandon Newman had the three 'Runner hits.

The three losses gave the 'Runners a 16-20 overall record and a 10-15 record in league play.

### classifieds

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Poultry and Food Dist. Association (NPFDA) Scholarship Foundation is awarding four \$1,500 scholarships to students in the field of poultry science, poultry industry. Additional information and applications are available at the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Deadline is May 31, 1999.

The Oregon Logging Conference will be possibly awarding 8 scholarships for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants need to be studying forest and wood-related areas, welding, cat scanning, diesel mechanics, choker-setting, etc. Applications may be faxed at 541-686-0176. For more information and applications, contact the Career Center in Tadena Hall.

Leaders wanted! \$700 pay, 6 credit hours, scholarships available. 5 week course in Leadership Skills available to sophmores this summer. All expenses paid. Be a future leader of America! Open to any major. Call Tom Trossen at 541-737-6905. America needs you!

#### FOR SALE

1986 RX7 Mazda with a 20,000 mile engine, new gear box, cruise control, stickshift, convertible, \$3,500 O.B.O Call 757-3143 You'll Love It!!!

#### HELP WANTED

Several full-time jobs for a RV manufacturer in Junction City! These jobs include Chassis Assembly, Steel Fabrication, Paint Prep, Automotive Painter, and General Labor. Starting pay is \$8 & \$9 per hour. Sign up with us and get working this summer (T101).

Medical Office Specialist & Medical Assistant jobs (Corvallis & Lebanon) We have full-time and part-time positions along with CNA opportunities in Corvallis. Ask us in the Career Center (T101).

Receptionist & Commercial Lines Processor (Corvallis) These full-time jobs don't require a lot other than good computer skills and office skills. They pay \$7.21-8.65 an hour. See us in the Student Employment office in the Career Center (T101).

Summer Jobs are bursting on the scene!!-Some employers are willing to have part-time now and full-time later, some just have full-time summer jobs. Some examples are; Painter/Helper, Program Aide & Program Coordinator helping children with disabili-

ties, Stall Workers at OSU Veterinary Program, Tractor/Loaders, etc. See us in T101 for more info.

Southwestern Co. has 5 positions available \$2,200 mo.+ credit +experience in business & marketing management for info call 752-5869.

We have over 200 jobs so you just might find the perfect one. Sign up with us and get working this summer (Student Employment office in the Career Center, T 101)!

Manager-type jobs--We have full-time or part-time positions at the YMCA, Bob's Pizza Plus, Stahlbush Island Farms, Meldisco Shoe Store, Service Master and team lead in security at HP. Check out our jobs in the Career Center (T 101).

Be a nanny for three girls (9, 11 and 14) at home right by LBCC. Full-time in the summer and possibly part-time during the school year. Pays \$50 a day this summer. See us for this summer opportunity (T 101)!

Lots of full-time office jobs in the medical field and others--With various names as Marketing Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Office Assistant, Medical Office Assistant, etc. See us in the Student Employment in the Career Center (T 101) before they just disappear!

#### Classified Ad Policy

**Deadline:** Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission. If you wish an ad to appear in successive issues, you must resubmit it.

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

**Personals:** Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week; no more than 50 words per ad.

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

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Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving. Our drivers carry less than \$20.00. Cash value 1/20c.



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Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving. Our drivers carry less than \$20.00. Cash value 1/20c.

OPINION PAGE

letter

Protestant feels Christians should exhibit religious tolerance towards others

To the Editor:

It seems to me that an air of intolerance has come to light here at LBCC.

It has become difficult for one to find a corner of the world to practice their own religion without being interrupted by someone who feels sorry for you and all members of your denomination. Holding your own beliefs to be the absolute truth, so absolute that other people cannot practice their own beliefs is a self-righteous act. I hope I need not put any "Christian" through the indignity of a lecture of God's word on self-righteousness.

It is wrong for the protestant evangelist Christian to belittle any person's beliefs based on the mistakes of its ancient past. This goes double for us Protestants whose ancestors saw it fit to burn people at the stake for "witchcraft" in the 1700s (ring a bell?). A true Christian's duty is not to evangelize those who are "lost", but to lead by example and hope others will follow.

As a Protestant myself, I have noticed many Christian brothers' and sisters' acts of evangelism not unifying any Christian community but dividing and causing conflict. We all need to understand as Christians that religion is merely the external element in your relationship with Jesus. What is important is in your heart, where your true spiritual connection with Jesus lies. Mormons, Catholics and other commonly persecuted religions encourage a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. It is one thing we Christians have in common. Petty difference in practice are subject to speculation based on one's interpretation of the holy word of God.

One thing we need to grant each other is a little elbowroom, as suffocation is not one of the ideals of Christianity. Religious disagreements rarely end in conversion, so variations in belief should be treated with great caution. Intolerance is what divides us as Christians and telling someone their religion is wrong only makes it worse. Know that an offended person is not going to be open-minded if you don't give them the same courtesy. If my beliefs conflict with yours, understand that I respect your First Amendment rights and expects the same. Understand that your denomination and mine were created by men and only one supreme being knows and hold the absolute truth.

"The one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes. For he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts and then everyone will receive praise from God." (1 Corinthians 4:5)

—Casey Clithero

EXPRESS YOURSELF

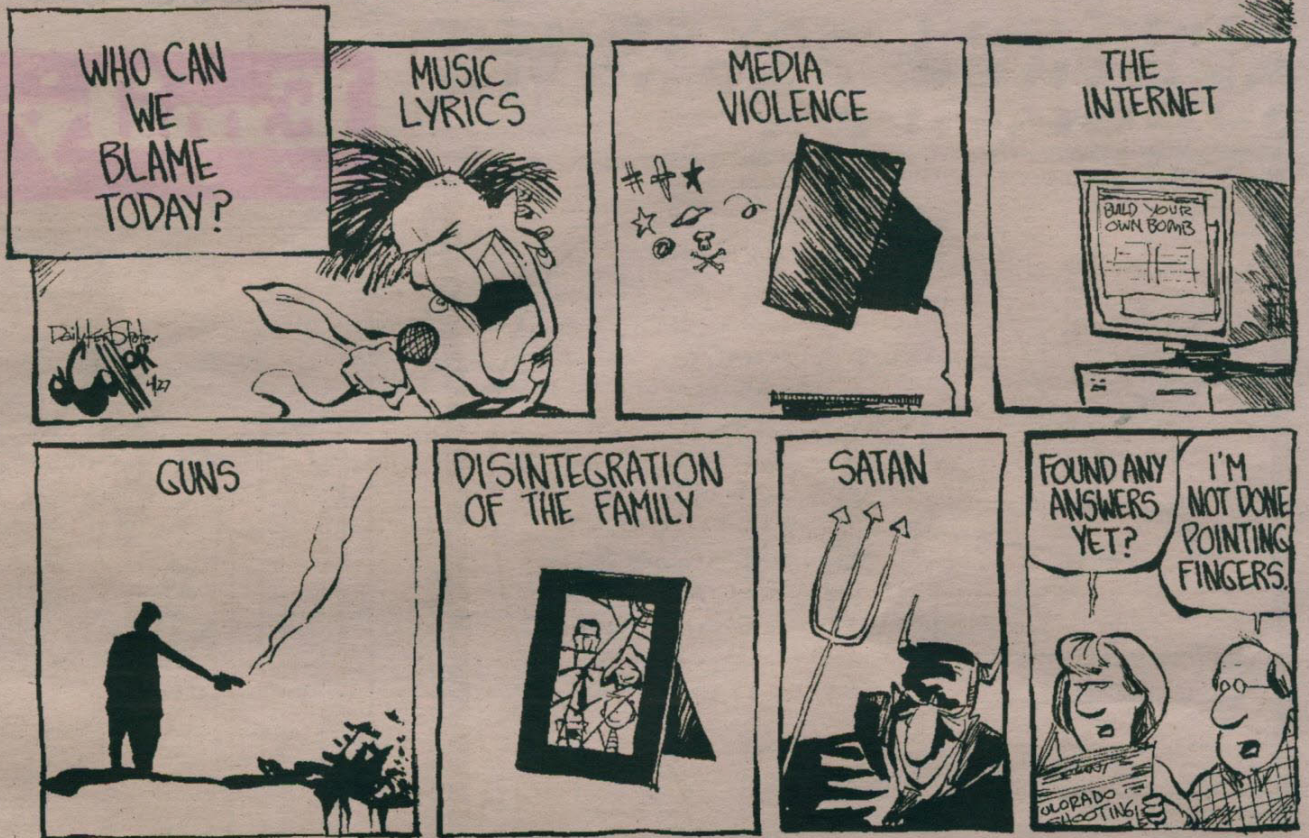
The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express themselves. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome.

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

Guest columns should be approved in advance by the editor. Readers wishing to submit a guest column are asked to first discuss their idea with the editor.

Letters should be limited to 250 words or less, and will be edited for length, grammar and spelling. In order to confirm the authenticity of letters, they must be signed, with phone number and address included.

As general policy, The Commuter will not publish anonymous letters to the editor, although the editor reserves the right to make exceptions when conditions warrant.



commentary

Ex-smoker rides down road to recovery

by Edmund J. Harris  
of The Commuter

After 10 years of smoking, believe me when I say I don't know exactly what came over me but, I decided that now was the time for me to quit.

I know that in past articles I have been adamantly outspoken on the topic of smoker's rights, and why shouldn't I? We seem to live in a culture that places peoples rights behind the personal interests of others. So I have no problem speaking out for those without a voice. Even if the reason that they have no voice is because they've smoked three packs-a-day for their whole lives and now they have no vocal cords.



One of the first things that I did was to prepare myself for a long, wild ride. Before getting rid of the remainder of my cigarettes: I smoked one, then another, and then one more for the road and I was ready to quit (at least for an hour).

After crushing each of my remaining cigarettes individually, I looked down at my waste and thought of all of the Deadheads out there jonesing for a smoke and it made me smile. Then, I looked at the same pile of broken smokes and I had to fight off the urge to go and buy another pack.

It had been hardly two hours before panic set in. "What the hell am I doing?" I thought. It was as though the urge to smoke, as I had known it, had never really existed and this new form of the beast emerged rearing its ugly head and sticking out its tongue at me. NANANANANANA!

It was at this precise moment that I realized the daunting nature of my task. After coming to my senses,

I reaffirmed that this is really what I want to do. There has to be some benefits to quitting, I thought. It can't be all withdrawal, but it is and worse.

Yeah, there are the cold sweats, the constant nervous energy, the inability to think about anything other than smoking a tasty, flavor-filled stick of smoky goodness but what I experienced next I could have never imagined.

In a matter of days I found that the repercussions of my withdrawal were even more serious than I originally thought they would be.

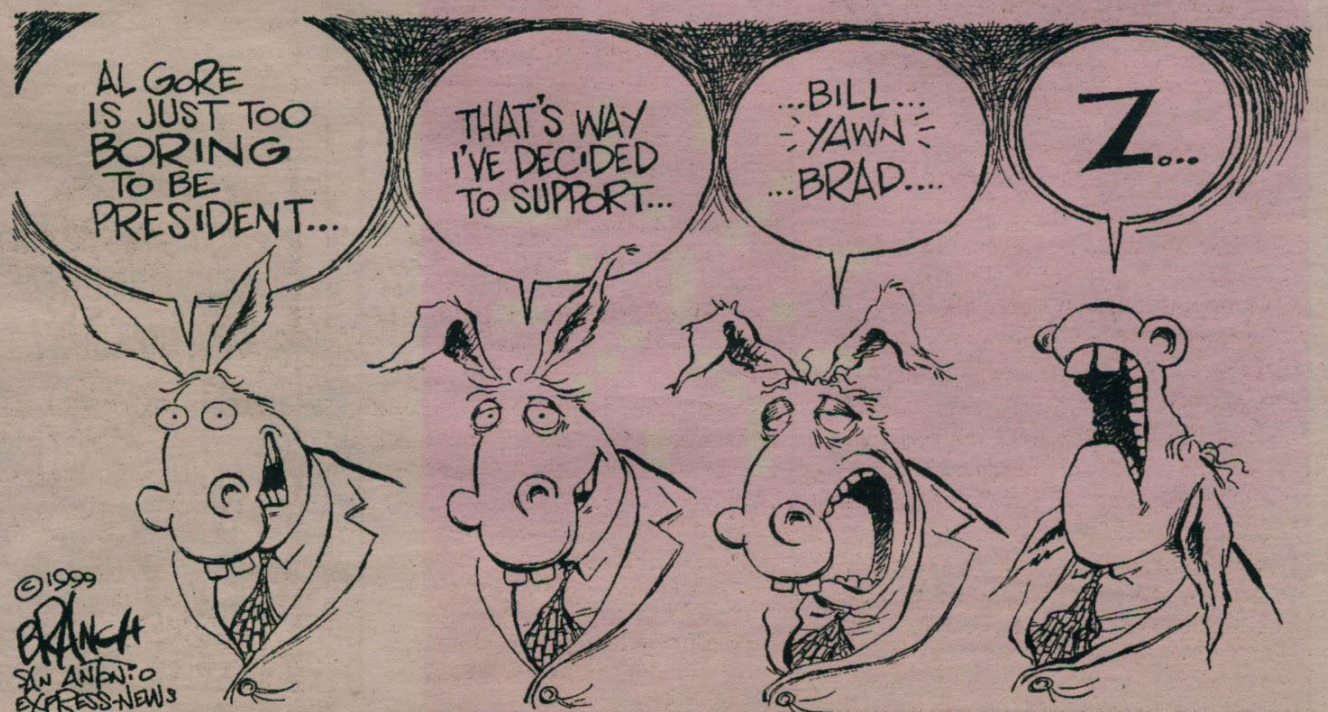
I guess when you quit smoking your sense of smell returns. I didn't know this. I thought that the world smelled like an ashtray, but it doesn't. Actually, it smells much worse than that.

The very first thing that I noticed with my newfound olfactory senses was that the cat litter box needed to be changed, like about a month or so ago.

On top of that, your sense of taste comes back right after your sense of smell. This would have been good to know before I went down to McDonald's for their thirty-nine cent cheeseburger Sunday. I swear that those things tasted a whole lot better before, when I couldn't actually taste them.

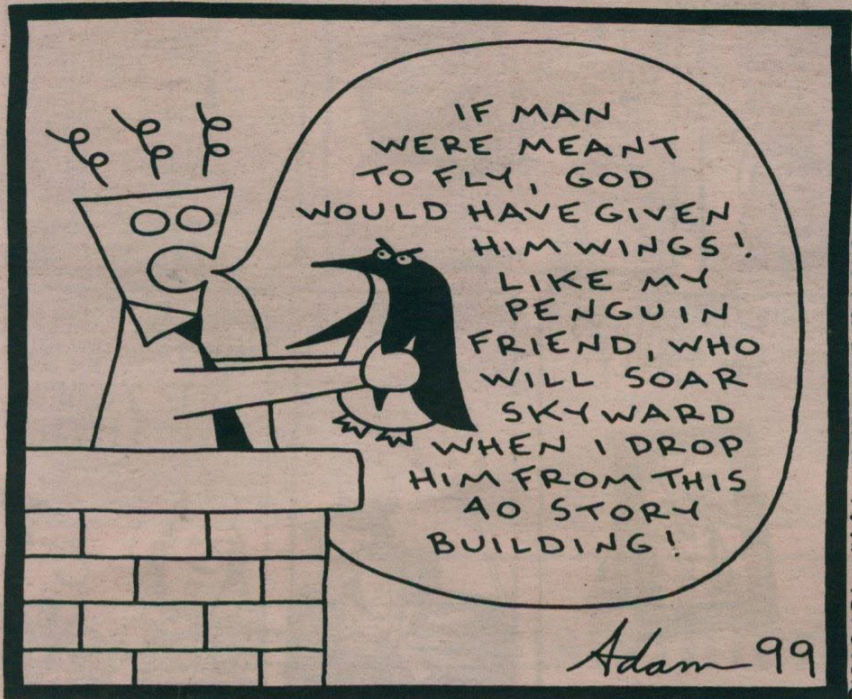
Who would have ever thought that withdrawal symptoms would include 3 a.m. cleanings of my entire house or long walks at all hours of the day. I mean, I'm a lazy guy. I didn't quit smoking to become a high-strung clean-freak health-nut!

It's bad enough that I'm nauseous all the time and my head feels like a soccer ball after a World Cup match, but I thought that when you quit smoking you're supposed to start feeling better. Instead, I feel like I've been pulled inside out, thrown to the ground and trampled by a herd of stampeding Camels (cigarettes that is).



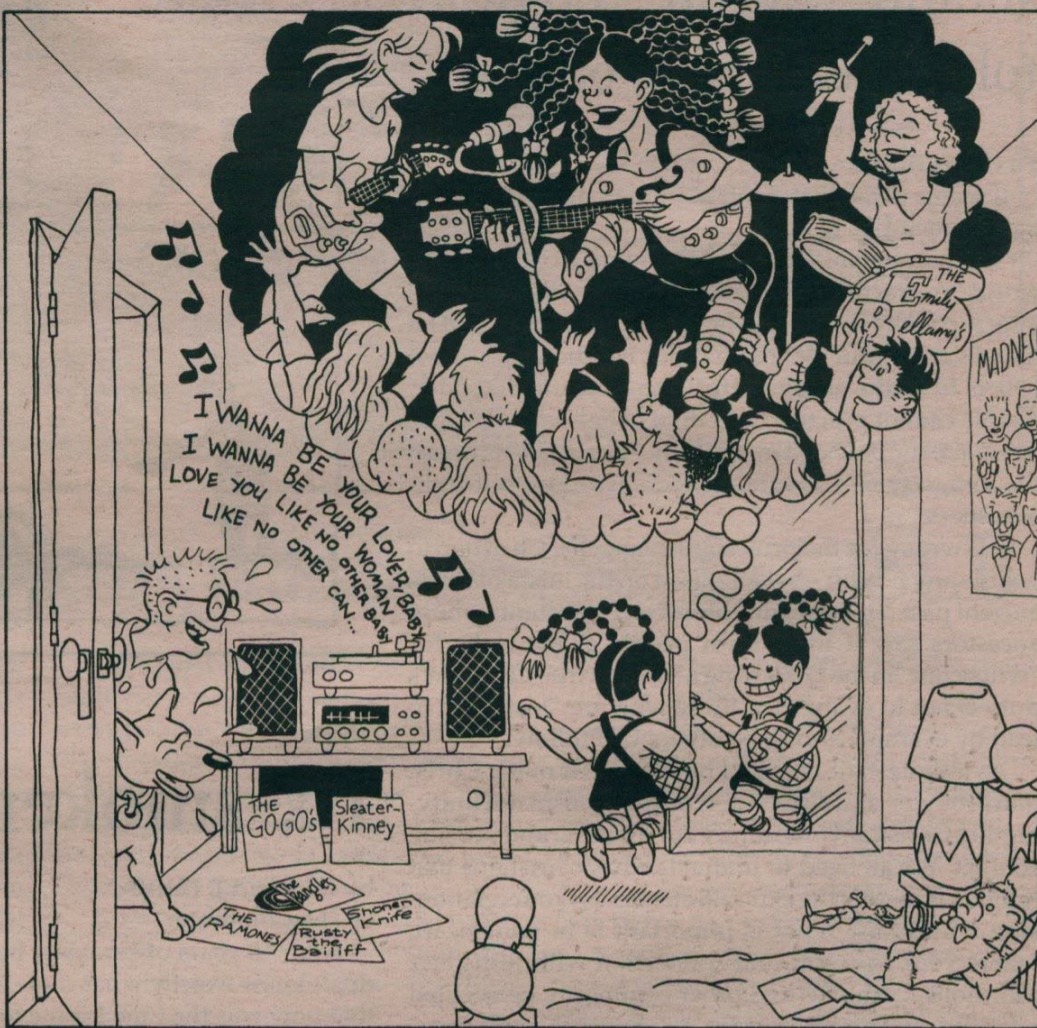
LOONEY LANE

IDIOT GUY MAKES YET ANOTHER ERROR IN JUDGMENT...



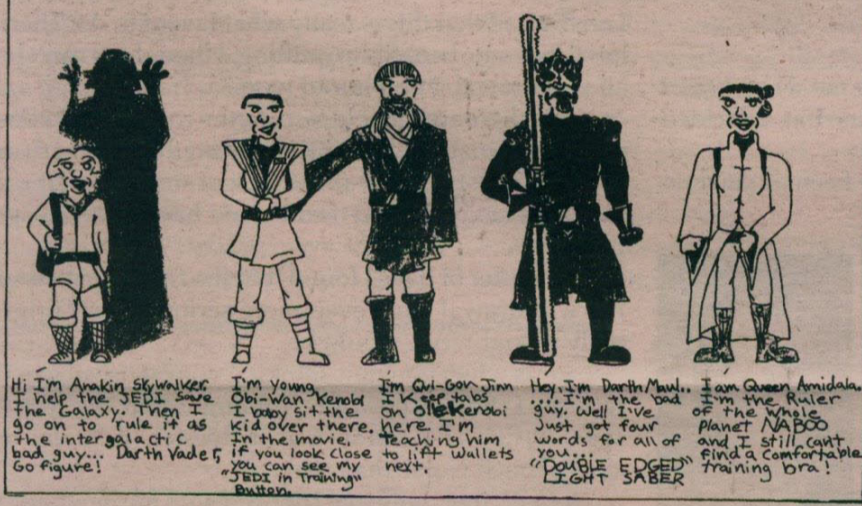
©1999 ADAM "AS ALWAYS, DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME" GREEN

Emily Bellamy © 1999 by Adrian Wallace



inspired by "Jedi Knight" Matt-scott Tedisch

STAR BORES • GHOSTLY ANNOYANCE EPISODE I



Hi I'm Anakin Skywalker help the JEDI save the Galaxy. They I go on to rule it as the intergalactic bad guy... Darth Vader, Go figure!

I'm young Obi-Wan Kenobi I keep tabs on the kid over there. In the movie, if you look close you can see my "box in Training" button.

I'm Qui-Gon Jinn I keep tabs on Obi-Wan here. I'm teaching him to lift wallets next.

Hey, I'm Darth Maul... I'm the bad guy. Well I've just got four words for all of you... "DOUBLE EDGED LIGHT SABER"

I am Queen Amidala. I'm the ruler of the planet NABOO and I still can't find a comfortable training bra!

©1999 KEITH KNIGHT

ACROSS

- Dexterous
- Exactly suitable
- As well
- Oddball
- Red or Yellow, e.g.
- Hammered on a slant
- "Patriot Games" co-star
- Moving air
- Trucker's truck
- Razor sharpener
- Charges
- Beaver projects
- Knights title
- Act dovish
- Louvers
- Decapitating
- Hindu title
- Want
- Cambridge sch.
- Actor Erik
- Quiet and stealthy
- Actor Marvin
- Pursue tenaciously
- Yellow-banded black snake
- Cruel
- Abrupt transitions
- Core and Smith
- Tooth topper
- Stoop element
- Frightening
- Wooden peg
- Nest-egg \$
- Nat or Natalie
- Obliterated
- Fruity quaffs
- Feedbag morsel
- Danish seaport
- One of the Trumans
- "Nova" network
- Mouths off

DOWN

- Performance prizes
- Reputation
- Circus host
- Raw mineral
- Lupino and Tarbell
- Wrongful acts
- Off the boat
- Barest sound
- Old salt
- "Alias Grace" writer
- Lane of the "Daily Planet"
- Dispatched
- Bettor's figures
- Card-and-board game
- Of the seashore
- Headliner
- Fragrant wood
- Dubiously
- Metal cutters
- Fakes
- Beat follower?
- Phone co.
- Images of gods
- "A Nightmare on Street"
- Behold
- Manufactures baloney?
- Affectionate
- touch
- Gets a move on
- Examine
- Sudden
- Monterey money
- Sign of healing
- Encryption
- Pub preferences
- Dreary
- Clytemnestra's mother
- Flatfoot
- Some Fr.

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NOW PLAYING NATIONWIDE!!

THE BROADWAY SMASH!!

GRAVESTONES & NIGHTSTICKS

BY KEITH KNIGHT

THE PLAY HAS BEEN A MAJOR HIT IN NEW YORK FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW... AND, EXCEPT FOR A FEW PESTY PROTESTS, SHOWS NO SIGN OF SLOWING DOWN...

BUT IT WOULD BE A CRIME TO DISMISS ANY OF THE RELATIVELY SMALLER PRODUCTIONS CURRENTLY PLAYING IN CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY...

BLAM!! BLAM!! BLAM!! BLAM!!

THEY'RE SLAYIN' EM IN PLACES LIKE RIVERSIDE CALIFORNIA FOR INSTANCE.

JUST LISTEN TO WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING:

IN SAN FRANCISCO: "IT'S A HIT!!"

IN DETROIT: "ANOTHER SMASH!"

IN PHILLY: "THEY'RE BLOWIN' 'em AWAY!!"

GRAVESTONES & NIGHTSTICKS IS ONE OF THOSE EVENTS THAT ARE POPULAR WITH MANY WHITE PEOPLE & FEW OTHERS... KINDA LIKE SLAVERY & A JOHN TESH CONCERT...

THE PRODUCERS CLAIM THAT THE PLAY ISN'T JUST FOR WHITE PEOPLE.. THEY SAY THAT THERE ARE PLENTY OF MINORITIES DYING TO BE A PART OF THE PRODUCTION...

Brilliant!!

BRAVO!!

WHO'S NEXT?

STOP