

Commuter kicks off a special series on state ballot measures with medical marijuana ▶ Pg. 3

Kevin Mannix voices concerns about November's state and national election issues ▶ Pg. 4



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The Commuter

a weekly student publication

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 36 No. 1

St. Helens' hiccups lure curious throngs

Sherry Majeski
The Commuter

CASTLE ROCK, Wash.—After a week of dramatic activity, Mt. St. Helens finally ruptured her gut and spewed a plume of gray-white steam and black ash 10,000 feet up into the southwest Washington skies. The dramatic steam eruption, which scientists called a "hiccup", posed no real threat, but caused a lot of excitement for the residents and thrill seekers from far and near.

Washington highway 504 moved at a normal rate of speed, when suddenly traffic came to an abrupt halt not far from Toutle, Wa. The U.S. Forest Service up-graded the volcano alert to its highest level—three—and evacuated thousands of people from Johnston Ridge Observatory, which is Mt. St. Helens' closest structure, about five miles from the crater. By 2 p.m., all motorists were turned around at the 504 and 505 junction and only local residents and the media were allowed to proceed any closer to the grouchy volcano.

Scientists said harmonic trem-

ors (a sustained, deep movement of the earth within the volcano), were occurring, indicating how active the volcano really is. Signs of magma near the surface, that weren't detected earlier because there was too much water in the crater, is evidence of a possible lava flow. The US Geographical Service (USGS) scientists said this could mean that an eruption was imminent within 24 hours.

This prudent urging did not scare eager revelers in the least; in fact it aroused them all the more. They camped out along the roadsides with picnic lunches and cameras, hoping for a glimpse of the seething volcano, waiting for the imminent moment.

Gerald and Sandy Mills from Eugene made a weekend of it. They packed a large ice chest with food and drinks, brought lawn chairs, sleeping bags, a deck of cards and a lap top to document everything. He set his camera on a tripod on top of his car hood as his wife tended to the baby and made sandwiches.

The local businesses flourished from the rush of lava lusting volcano enthusiasts, fu-



photo by Steve Ringman of the Seattle Times

The crowd at Johnston Ridge erupts in cheers Friday as Mount St. Helens burps a burst of steam and ash. The mountain blew out more steam Tuesday, and scientists expect a bigger eruption in the days to come.

eling their vehicles, purchasing food and supplies, and flooded the restaurants. A waitress from the Toutle Diner said they were so busy they didn't even have

time to write the daily special on the black board.

Carolyn Gould and Jeremy Miller were at their wits end when they encountered the un-

expected roadblock at the Toutle Junction. It was early Saturday afternoon, and they had a 5 p.m. wedding planned at Hoffsta dt-

▶ Turn to "Hiccups" on Pg. 10

Campus rally brings new high in vote registration

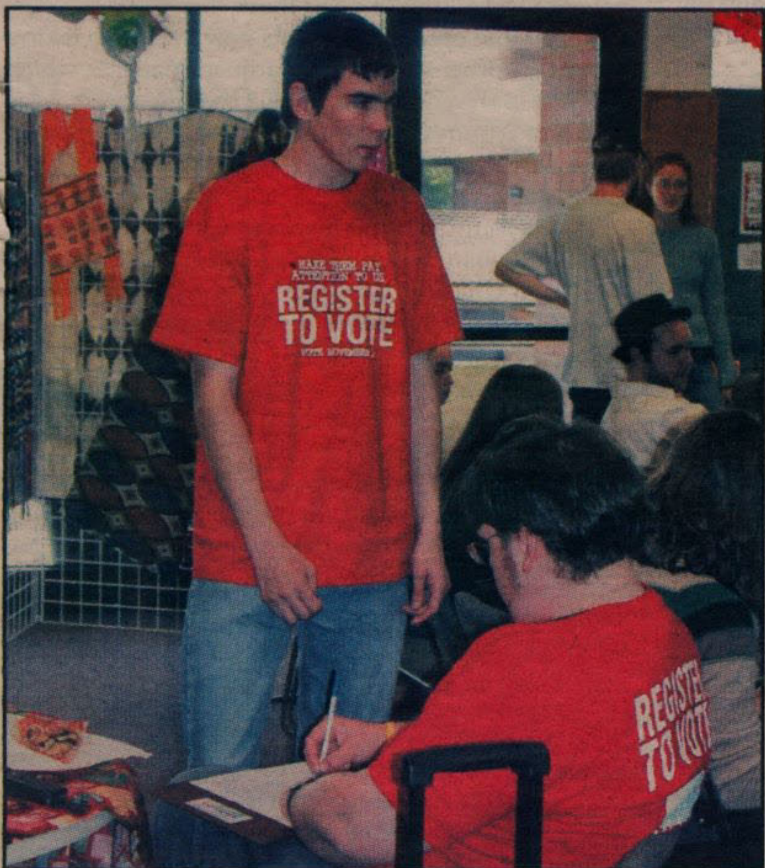


photo by Peggy Isaacs

Alex Wheeler of the New Voters Project registers a new voter at rally.

Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

Four Years ago, the presidential election took center stage and forced us to take a new look at the process we use to elect our leader. Yet only a handful of young voters went to the polls, in what was the lowest turn out of voters aged 18-20 since they were given the opportunity to vote in 1972. This has prompted LBCC to go into full gear for this years election, striving to get students to vote and let their voice be heard.

"We want to mobilize young voters," said ASG President Stephanie Quigley. "There are lots of issues that concern young voters, we do have voices that need to be heard."

State election officials say registrations for young voters are coming in at levels not seen in years. Polls taken in late spring and throughout the summer by the Harvard Institute of Poli-

"We want to mobilize young voters. There are lots of issues that concern young voters, we do have voices that need to be heard."

▶ ASG President Stephanie Quigley.

tics, the Pew Research Center and MTV found young people saying they plan to vote in much greater numbers than four years ago.

A rally cosponsored by Student Life and Leadership and the New Voters Project was held on Monday, Oct. 4 in the Multicultural Center to promote voting this fall.

"This is a very crucial election," said Dan Boatwright of the New Voters Project. "We only had 36% of youth under 24 vote in 2000, while senior citizens nearly doubled that amount. It's vital that young voters turn out for this election."

The New Voters Project is the largest Non-Partisan campaign in history. The goal is to get nearly a half million young voters registered across the nation and around 1,450 at LBCC. So far in one week, LBCC has registered just over 500 new voters.

"None of the candidates are focusing on what effect us," said Vicki Kaplan Chair of the New Voters Project. "With tuition increasing, young people need to make their voices heard."

All over campus the effort is out to get everyone, regardless of age, to vote and this will continue through the November 2 election.

Student Life and Leadership chose to get involved because as they do every year, they urge everyone to vote. In 2000 Oregon was divided by less than 1% in the presidential election.

"It's such an important election year and we want to show everyone that LBCC and Oregon students care," said Quigley.

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

high 71 low 49
WEDNESDAY

high 75 low 49
THURSDAY

high 70 low 51
FRIDAY

high 66 low 45
SATURDAY

high 69 low 45
SUNDAY

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Commuter

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OPINION

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

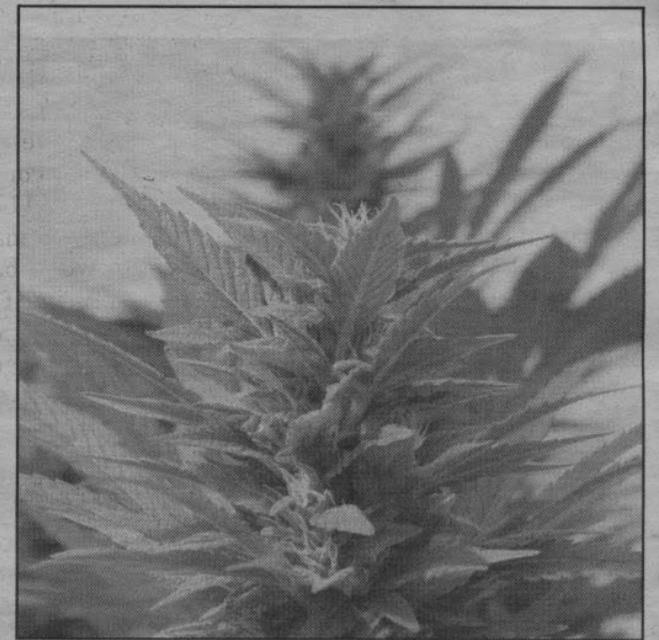
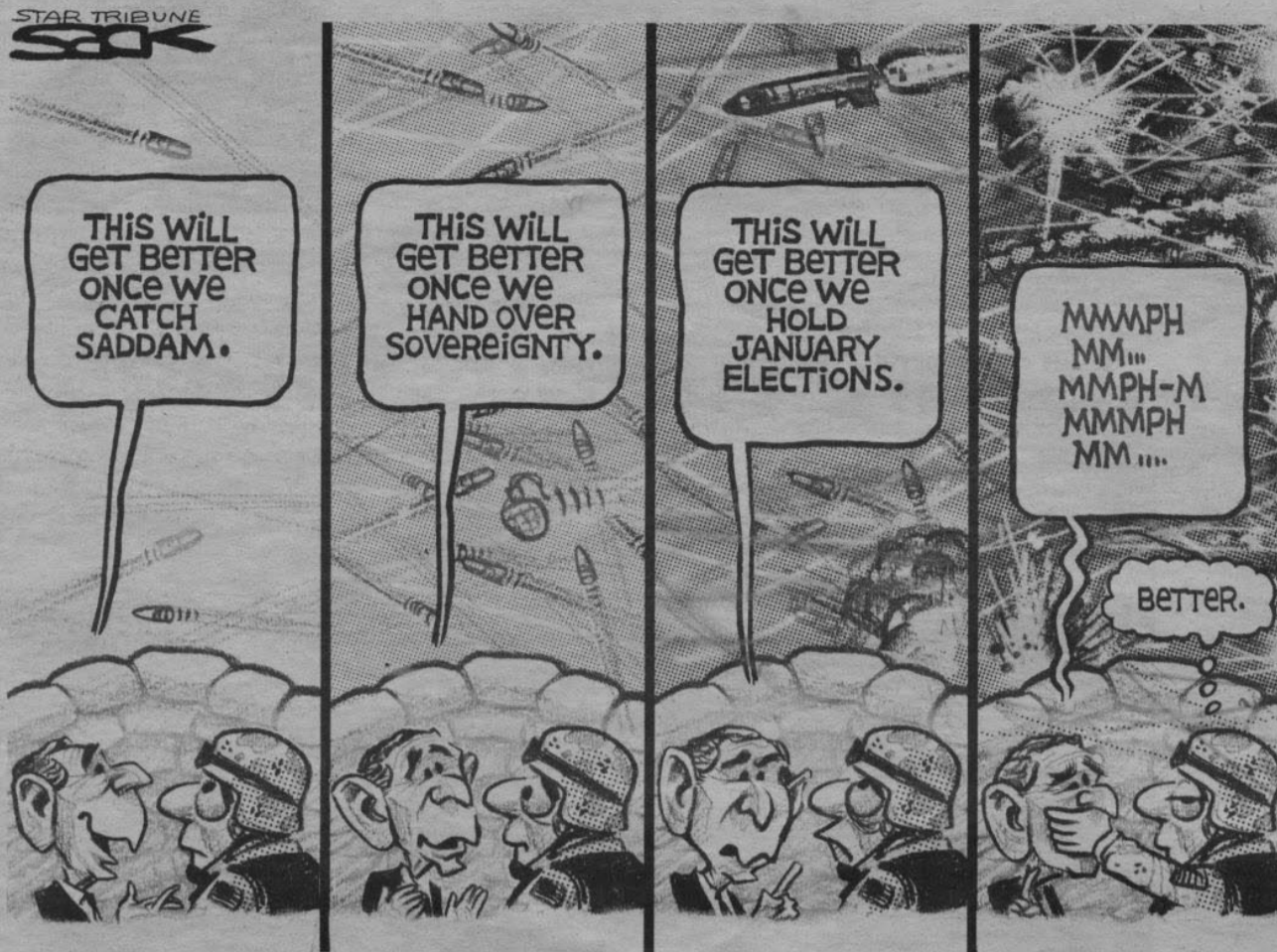


photo by Peggy Isaacs

Don't get smoked by Measure 33

It would be truly amazing to me if Ballot Measure 33 actually passed. Would it help medical marijuana patients? Yes, but they're helped already. They already can grow pot; to get medical quality is not that hard.

Having been closely associated with a medical marijuana patient and watching the plants grow over the summer with I might add, only water, some good fertilizer and very little money, I can only say "WOW! Three plants produce that much!"

Really, it is more than enough to accommodate a patients' needs, and if it's grown indoors, it can be harvested every three months.

Unfortunately, not every one can grow indoors, and all that means is a space and some good hardware store grow lights; not some fancy light spectrum lamp that goes around on a timed schedule. Yeah! I've seen it all, even music piped into the room for the plants to enjoy. Does a medical marijuana patient need all this? I don't think so.

I think the organizers of this new ballot are taking advantage of actual medical marijuana patients, which I believe in the end if passed, will backfire and make it harder to acquire a medical card when using marijuana is the only way to get some AIDS and cancer patients to eat, and to aid in pain and nausea with others.

The measure has some good points, like being able to have more than three ounces at all times. If one grows outside, it will take more than three plants to harvest enough medicinal quality marijuana to last until the next's year harvest. Although this measure is doing its job by sucking you in and brainwashing you into thinking it's a good measure, in my opinion it seems most of the measures have this approach.

I also know of a local story in which the patient had the plants stolen, called the police and reported the plants stolen. Along with the patients' help in locating the alleged criminals, the police found the medical plants, apprehended the criminals and returned the plants to the owner. The criminals were charged with four felonies.

Stories like this are not often in the paper, so it is difficult to see the current law working for the patients. Mostly the stories are about growing over the limit, and guess what, "that's against the law."

I would like to see the marijuana advocates educate people who want to use medical marijuana on how to use the law to their advantage if their primary care physician won't sign the papers. There are loopholes in the current law, look for them and jump through if you need help.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm a child of the sixties, graduated in 1973 and I'm all for the "cause," but not this way. Not by letting the greedy growers get their hands involved and becoming legal drug dealers. My question, and one that I hope everyone will think about before they vote, "How does the price get controlled and whose pockets are being padded?"

New editor takes charge and welcomes students to new year

A new year is upon us once again and with that comes the satisfaction (and dissatisfaction for some) of being a college student. For those of you who are returning, I say welcome back and to those new to LBCC (myself included) I would like to extend a vigorous welcome.

By now I'm sure you have all suffered through registration, finding your classes, paying for outrageously priced text books that our pockets can't afford and our education demands, meeting instructors, praying you get financial aid and so much more.

We here at the Commuter look forward to another exciting year and hope to keep you informed of news, not only on campus, but locally, state wide and around the world.

I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself; I'm the 2004-05 Editor-in-Chief, Nick Milhoan. This is my first year here at LBCC. I spent the last year at Rogue Community College in Medford.

As editor, I am working to make everyone proud of our award winning newspaper. I also would like to invite everyone to please let me know how you feel. This is not only a publication for those of us trying to become journalists, but also a voice for the entire college. Our opinion page is always more than willing to let your

voices be heard. My hope is that you will feel welcome to express your thoughts, feelings, and opinions. I want this to truly be a "student" newspaper.

Now with all of that out of the way, I want to inform you of a few things. This school is so much more than a college. The courtyard is a wonderful place to let lose and take in some liquid sunshine.

Also the student lounge is a great place to unwind after a hard days (or nights) work. There are many other ways to relax as well. We are fortunate to have three wonderful restaurants on campus, the Commons Cafeteria (east end of campus, second floor), the Courtyard Café (in Takena Hall), and the Santiam Restaurant (east end of campus, second floor behind the Commons).

We have so many fun activities and clubs all over campus and I invite you to take advantage of these.

This fall, as many of you know, is a very important election. The school is striving to get us all registered and remind us of how important it is (and how fortunate we are) to get out and vote. We here at the Commuter plan to keep you informed of the candidates and issues at hand. We also will be taking some time to explain some of the more relevant issues we are faced with this fall.

I again invite you to write in and take advantage of "your" newspaper. We are here for you and I want each of you to know that. I thank you for taking the time to read our paper and wish you all the best of luck in the upcoming year.



EDITORIAL

The Commuter

STAFF

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

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ELECTION NEWS

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

Pot-for-pain measure 'splifs' student vote

Nick Milhoan
 The Commuter

Ballot Measure 33 would allow the creation of licensed non-profit dispensaries regulated by the Oregon Department of Human Services to produce, possess, and sell marijuana to registered patients and/or caregivers. These dispensaries would be able to supply up to six pounds of medical marijuana yearly, per patient. In counties

that do not have registered dispensaries, the county health department would be required to distribute marijuana. Licensed dispensaries would be subject to felony prosecution if they were to be found out of compliance with department regulations.

If Measure 33 were to pass the state would require expenditures of \$340,000 to \$560,000 per year on a recurring basis, with an additional one-time start up cost of \$135,000. All but \$75,000 of these

costs may be offset by fees to be established by the Department of Human Services as provided in the measure. It's unclear what the financial impact (if any) would be on local government revenues and expenditures.

Result of a Yes vote: This would amend the current medical marijuana act and create marijuana dispensaries in each county to supply patients and caregivers. Also the amount a patient or caregiver may pos-

sess would be increased to 10 plants or one pound of useable marijuana at any time. Also the number of patients would be limited to ten per caregiver. More medical conditions would be allowed under new law.

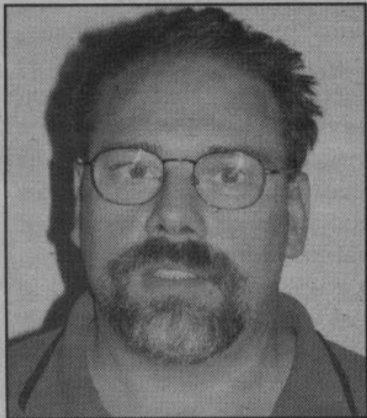
Result of a No vote: This would retain the current Medical Marijuana Act, Ballot Measure 67, passed in November of 1998. Measure 67 allows registered patients and caregivers to possess up to three ounces of marijuana

for medical purposes, allows patients to carry up to one ounce at a time, and prohibits the sale of marijuana. Currently a caregiver can serve an unlimited number of patients. Only "debilitating medical conditions" are allowed, these are determined by the state. Regardless of a yes or no vote, the state will engage in scientific research on the safety and efficacy of marijuana for medicinal uses and will publish a report annually.

STUDENT VOICES

Last week The Commuter asked random students the following questions:

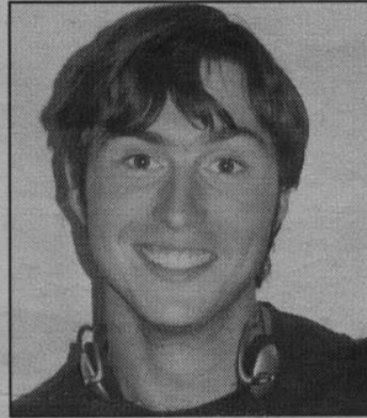
Are you a registered voter? Do you know what Measure 33 states? How do you feel about Measure 33?



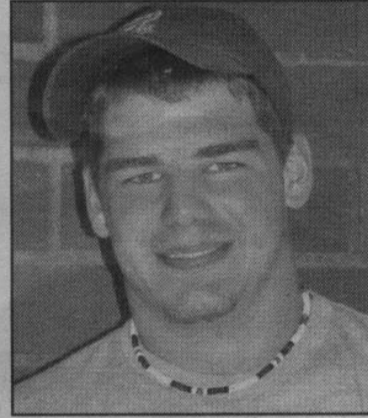
Kent Gross
 Psychology major
 2nd year
 "Yes"
 "No"
 "I don't necessarily like it to much, I feel it opens people in the community to other drug problems."



Tara Dernard
 Zoology major
 1st year
 "Yes"
 "No"
 "I am against medical marijuana. There are other medications that will work just as good anyway."



Kolby Phelps
 Business major
 2nd year
 "Yes"
 "No"
 "I don't like marijuana. It's dumb and there is no point to use it. However, for medical purposes, under extreme circumstances, it's a good pain killer to help ease someone's transition."



JR Toelle
 Undecided
 1st year
 "Yes"
 "No"
 "I would like to extend the current law."



Becky Polman
 Nursing
 1st year
 "Yes"
 "No"
 "For medical marijuana purposes, it's great. I had an uncle who died of cancer, so I'm probably for this, but still a bit undecided."

November election vital on local, state and federal level

Colleen Jacks
 The Commuter

With the general election less than a month away, it's time to make sure you're prepared to fill out your ballot.

Ballots will be mailed to registered voters 14 to 18 days before the election, and must be mailed to the county elections office by 8 pm, Nov 2.

Ballots can be dropped off at the county elections office, library or other designated drop locations.

Each county elections office offers privacy booths for those who want to vote in person, and also for voters who need assistance.

Oct 12 is the last date to register to vote.

Voter pamphlets, with details about the national, state and local candidates plus information about the eight ballot measures before Oregon voters this fall, will be mailed about three weeks before the election.

Many voters study the pamphlet, and mark their choices ahead of time to make filling out

the ballot quicker and easier.

The Commuter will profile several ballot measures that may impact students. Ballot Measure 33, which amends the medical marijuana law, will be covered in today's issue followed by Measures 34, 36 and 38 in the coming weeks.

Up for grabs are offices on the local, state and federal level. Among the federal offices open to election are president, vice-president, U.S. senator, and U.S. congressman.

Elections for the state of Oregon are secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, sev-

eral senate congressional seats and positions on the Circuit Court of Appeals.

For more information call 1-866-ORE-VOTES or visit www.oregonvotes.org.

NEED CASH?



The Commuter is looking for a work study eligible LBCC student for an advertising assistant position. Contact Rich at 917-4563 or The Commuter at 917-4451 in Forum 222.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons WEEKLY MENU

•MONDAY:

ENTREES: Roast pork, shrimp fried rice, macaroni & cheese
 SIDES: Roasted potatoes, herbed pasta, green beans
 SOUPS: Chicken noodle, cream of broccoli

•TUESDAY:

ENTREES: Chicken chasseur, Cajun fish sandwich, Greek omelet
 SIDES: Potatoes O'Brien, creole rice, corn & peppers
 SOUPS: Beef vegetable, lentil

•WEDNESDAY:

ENTREES: Chicken fried steak, Thai pork noodles, lasagna Florentine
 SIDES: Mashed potatoes, barley pilaf, peas
 SOUPS: Tortilla, navy bean

•THURSDAY:

ENTREES: BBQ pork sandwich, grilled chicken, stuffed baked potato
 SIDES: Steak fries, rice pilaf, broccoli and carrots
 SOUPS: Beef barley, corn chowder

•Friday:
 Chef's choice

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ELECTION NEWS

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

Mannix is 'the main man' for state GOP

Sheena Bishop
 The Commuter

Many may remember Kevin Mannix as the candidate who ran against Governor Kulongoski in the last election. What some may not know is that Mannix is now the Chairman of the Republican party for the state of Oregon, a position he was elected to by the state central committee in January of 2003.

The two year, voluntary term is one he must balance with his law practice and his family, wife Susanna and their three children; Nicholas, a graduate of engineering from the University of Washington in Seattle, Gabriel who is spending a year abroad studying at the Kobe University in Japan, and Emily, a high school senior in Salem.

Mannix's wife is a nurse and manager of the intensive care unit at the Salem Hospital. She supervises 120 nurses, and therefore is absent at many daytime functions, even when Laura Bush was in town.

Last week, Mannix gave The Commuter some of his time to explain what Republicans in Oregon are thinking about, and what they are looking for in their next leader. He also shared with us some of his personal beliefs on current ballot measures and what is happening in Washington DC that is pertinent to Oregonians.

One of the first topics explored was ballot Measure 33 regarding medical marijuana. While the party has not taken a position on the issue, some county central committees have taken positions opposing the measure.

"Have you ever seen six pounds of Marijuana?" he asked seriously. "It's more than a years supply."

"This measure is really an attempt to load up on everyone being able to have access to marijuana without being subject to what is already a very light law, which is a civil penalty of \$100 for possession of up to an ounce of marijuana," Mannix explained. "This is now an aggressive movement to create a larger marijuana culture in Oregon, and people need to recognize that and vote no."

Mannix also pointed out that in 1999 the current policies about medical marijuana were modified to work better, which has actually worked fine for those who legitimately want to use it.

A discussion about the medical community in this state can not be breached without mention of the current insurance problems and gross amounts of people suing for pain and suffering.

When a patient goes through some kind of trauma that affects the way they will function from

then on, insurance will assess how much they will actually be able to do on their own and therefore what kind of income they will be able to generate. The insurance company will then give them a settlement of, lets say \$10 million, that will be dispersed to them monthly until they die.

With pain and suffering added in, these patients can sue and get extra money on top of that, depending on how sympathetic the jury is. Since there is currently no cap on how much you can get out of these law suits, insurance premiums for pain and suffering are ridiculously high in Oregon, driving good doctors away to practice in cheaper conditions were they can make a living.

The ballot measure to put a cap on how much you can get out of pain and suffering will, "stop the bleeding," as Mannix put it. He also believes that the cap will bring back some of the quality in care and reduce unnecessary tests being ordered from the fear of being sued, which makes it cheaper on the patients.

On a more national level, a lot of people, including the media, have been questioning President Bush and his decision making skills. So we ask, what are Republicans looking for in a President?

"I think we are looking for vision and we're looking for decisiveness. We are also looking for sensitivity to the needs of Oregonians and Americans and the two are not always exactly the same," Mannix says about the upcoming election. "We are westerners; we've got a natural resources culture and environment. This state grew up with ranching and farming and fishing and logging, and we've certainly moved beyond that in some ways, but it still is an important part of our economy."

"We are also a state where 54 percent of the land is owned by the federal government, and we are very affected by federal policies," he explained. "We are looking for a president who is sensitive to the impact of those policies on our people and our economy, and we think we've got one right now."

This brings us to our next question. Does the next president really have an effect on anything that will impact our state? The answer is yes.

"I think the implementation of the Healthy Forests Act will be affected by who the next president is. We can either be aggressive about taking a solemn interest to help the forest or we can be passive and I think President Bush will be aggressive," says Mannix. "He'll make sure that we are cutting down diseased trees; that we are providing treatment to other areas to prevent the spread of disease; that we are thinning forests so

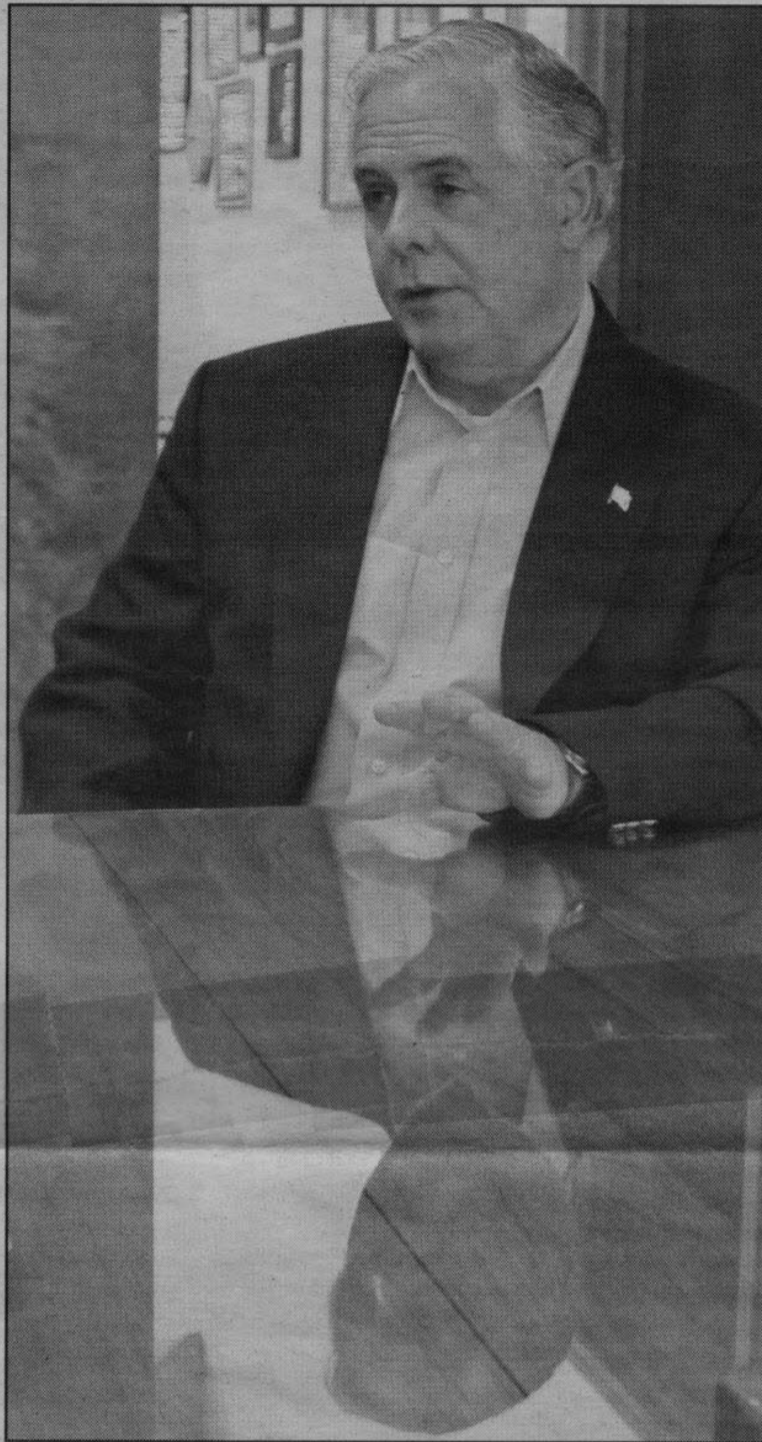


photo by Peggy Isaacs

Republican Party Chairman Kevin Mannix talks candidly about the issues facing Oregonians.

they can grow in a healthy fashion to reduce the prospects of fire; and that we are engaged in salvage logging to make positive use of burned wood before it rots. I think President Kerry, if he is elected, will be much more passive in implementing that law, and as a result there will be a lot more waste of all those natural resources."

When asked what Kerry may bring to Oregon Republicans if elected, Mannix responded with, "I don't think Senator Kerry has anything special to offer Oregonians other than increasing their taxes. He would probably say he has a different plan for dealing with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. I'm still waiting to see any real difference."

"We will always support the President of the United States whoever that person may be so long as that person is doing his or her job," he added.

Several "media" groups have been broadcasting ads about how little big business pays in taxes and how unfair that is to small businesses that end up shelling out money that could

be going to new jobs.

"I think it's laughable that they are running those ads because President Bush himself has said that we need to simplify the tax code," Mannix said. "The reason major corporations end up paying minimal taxes is because they have the resources to play games with the tax code. Small businesses can't afford to do that; they just end up paying the taxes."

"By simplifying the tax code we are going to make sure that those big businesses pay their fair share in taxes. The people running those ads don't get it. They are attacking the wrong candidate here."

Another television add depicts a little girl in a pink ballet costume attempting to dance with a ball and chain around her ankle, signifying that she will be the one to pay for the Iraq war.

"When we fought WWII we had deficit spending. When we are fighting the war on terrorism, we will have deficit spending," Mannix said. "This is an extraordinary activity and while we are fighting in Afghanistan and

fighting in Iraq instead of fighting in New York or Oregon...it's going to cost money and it's going to cost more than we are raising in taxes."

"The democrats answer supposedly will be to raise taxes, which will hurt the economy, reduce jobs, and in the end reduce tax income. The irony is that by reducing taxes President Bush has given the economy a boost, and as businesses expand and jobs are created, the ordinary reduced taxes people pay are more than the taxes that were actually paid before," he explained.

"President Reagan understood this with the Reagan tax cuts of the 80's and we saw a real economic boom as a result. Deficit spending as a permanent structure of government is not a good thing. That means you are spending more than you are bringing in and Republicans have traditionally been the ones who are most concerned about that spending. But when you are in a war situation you need to deal with the need of that war situation and you need to be willing to borrow short term."

As seen across campus, Get Out the Vote has been working hard to register voters for the upcoming election, and Mannix said that political groups are no different.

"Operationally, we're still in the voter registration phase and we are acutely aware that during the summer Democrat phantom groups had 160 full time paid people in this state registering voters, focusing on Democratic precincts," said Mannix.

"Technically they were non-partisan, but the majority of the people that they registered were Democrats. We've had a long term registration effort and we are now aggressively in the middle of a registration effort ourselves; we are out-registering the Democrats as I speak."

The problem with organizations like Get Out the Vote, while their intentions are good, is they sign up everybody who will take the time to fill out a card."

"We are trying to get committed voters, folks who will actually turn out to vote, and of course we will turn in any voter registrations we receive," Mannix said.

"But where we go of course has synthesized more Republican registration. People who tend to go to a republican to register tends to register as a Republican."

Mannix will be running for re-election as party chairman in January. "I'm not announcing anything about any further plans at this time, but folks mention my name as a contender for the governorship," he said. "We came so close last time. We'll pay attention to that after this November election."

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Grand Opening

Doors open at new Benton Center

Sherry Majeski
 The Commuter

Although Washington Elementary School has come and gone the building still remains an educational institution today. It has recently brought new life for the students and staff of the LBCC Benton Center located in Corvallis on 9th Street behind Borders Bookstore. The original structure was first erected in 1924 as an eight-classroom school for the first through seventh grades.

The newly remodeled Benton Center opened its doors on Wednesday, September 15 with a grand opening welcoming visitors to tour the center. The renovation included a new administrative building and the gym was replaced with a nicer and more convenient fitness center with a maple floor, windows and showers. A piece of the old floor displaying LBCC was saved and used for a tabletop in the new conference room.

In the early to mid 70's, Linn Benton Community College purchased the facility to accommodate the community with a localized education center focusing on adult education including Spanish, art and fitness along with general education classes.

As the needs of the community grew, the Benton Center was not going to be left behind. In November of 2000, LBCC asked voters to vote for a 19.1 million-dollar bond measure for the institution. The initiative passed and they used \$5 million to give the Benton Center its new facelift, which included new furniture and equipment.

On December 2, 2003 minor construction began opening new halls to the school. The groundbreaking ceremony



photo by Erik Swanson

Board Member Joe Novak cuts ribbon at the Benton Center opening last month as President Rita Cavin applauds. The center features a new student lounge, below.



photo by Sherry Majeski

was on April 3, 2004 digging its way into major construction where 23,000 square feet was added.

Seven new classrooms were added, varying in size and additional services to accommodate the students needs, from work force training to a long over-due learning and career center with testing rooms, a student lounge and a bookstore with a coffee cart on wheels selling drinks and snacks.

A ceramics studio now enhances the

college and the hall displays the ceramic art made by students and offered for sale. The studio was dedicated to O. Robert Adams who was dedicated to the community and loved art and education.

Dual-enrolled students will greatly benefit by having more classes available to them with its convenient location close to OSU.

With the new changes, more students will be able to dual enroll and save money on tuition.

Summer thefts spark new lock-up policy for rooms

Sheena Bishop
 The Commuter

Over the summer Linn Benton Community College was at a loss, literally. During the month of August, hi-tech equipment was stolen from eight locations across the main campus.

Because the theft was spread through four or five different departments, Campus Security Manager Vern Jackson does not believe that it was a targeted attack on any particular campus group.

Among the missing items are several projectors, a couple of monitors and a VCR.

Jackson, in an effort to keep from encouraging others to start a new spree of disappearing acts in the classrooms, was limited in the amount of information he shared. He did say that the thefts cost the school about \$24,000.

Efforts to prevent a repeat of this summer's losses include changing the mechanisms in the locks so that, even after you unlock it to enter a room, the door will automatically lock behind someone when they enter or exit any of the classrooms.

They also had to change the mechanism in the doors that forces them to close all the way and latch.

These efforts were brought on by the fact that there were no signs of forced entry in any of the eight locations hit. This suggests that the rooms were entered while open or unlocked.

The new policies on keeping doors locked at all times, in addition to the frequent checks around campus and the parking lot security already conducts, will hopefully deter any additional problems.

Jackson asks that anyone who notices any suspicious actions or events around campus report it to campus security immediately.

Reservations still open for Make A Difference Paver Project

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

"Linn-Benton Community College employees are great

supporters of the Foundation," said Marlene Propst of the Linn-Benton Community College Foundation.

Employees of LBCC donated

just over \$55,000 to the Foundation in 2003. Many of the faculty and staff do so through payroll deductions, contributing 1 percent of their gross salary.

The Foundation began the Make a Difference Paver Project last year in an effort to replace the concrete steps and walkway at the north College Center entrance as well as raise funds.

"We couldn't have started the project without the support of two very special local companies, Forslund Construction and Morse Brothers," says Propst. Forslund Construction of Albany donated the entire demolition, taking all of the cement out. Morse Brothers allowed the cement to be discarded at their site. Don Johnson of DJ Architecture was the designer of the new walkway. Construction was completed by Gerding Construction of Corvallis. The project was

Dedication Ceremony

The Foundation invites the LBCC community to help dedicate the new donor pavers. A ceremony is planned for Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. at the new paver entryway.

completed over the summer.

Out of 1,440 pavers, there are 176 reserved. Pavers are still available. To reserve a paver, donors can drop by the Foundation Office located in the College,

Center or visit their site online at linnbenton.edu/foundation pavers. Pavers are available for prices ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. All funds donated are tax deductible.

It is the goal of the Foundation to have all the pavers reserved, which would generate a total of \$209,000 raised in its support.

College officials say the generous contributions of all those involved can and will change the lives of students.



photo by Sherry Majeski

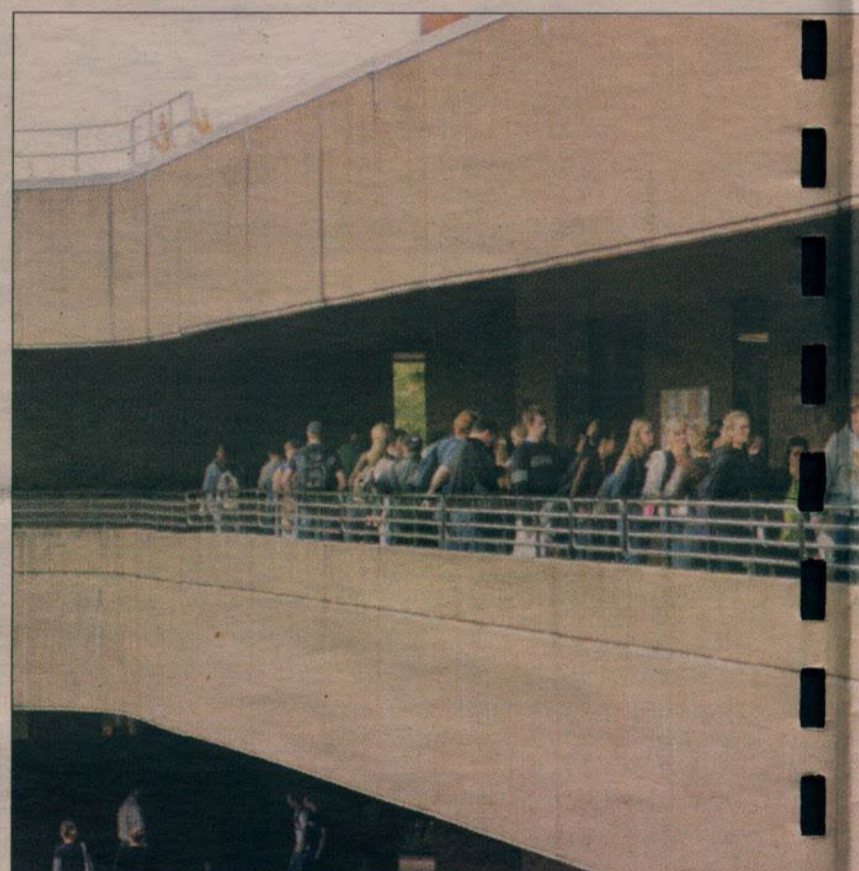
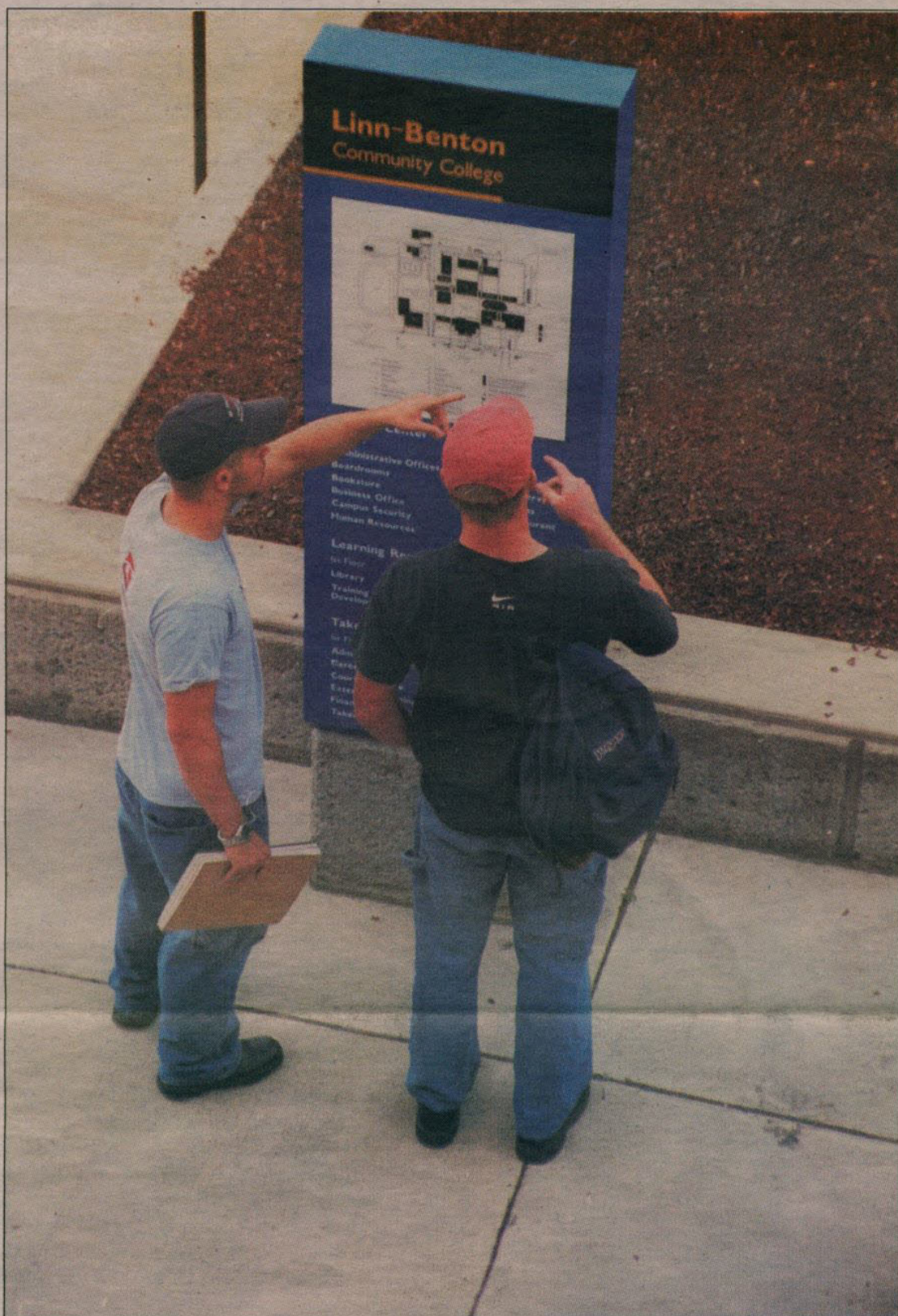
LBCC students venture across the new personalized pavers, installed over the summer months.

Editor-in-Chief: Nick Milhoan
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

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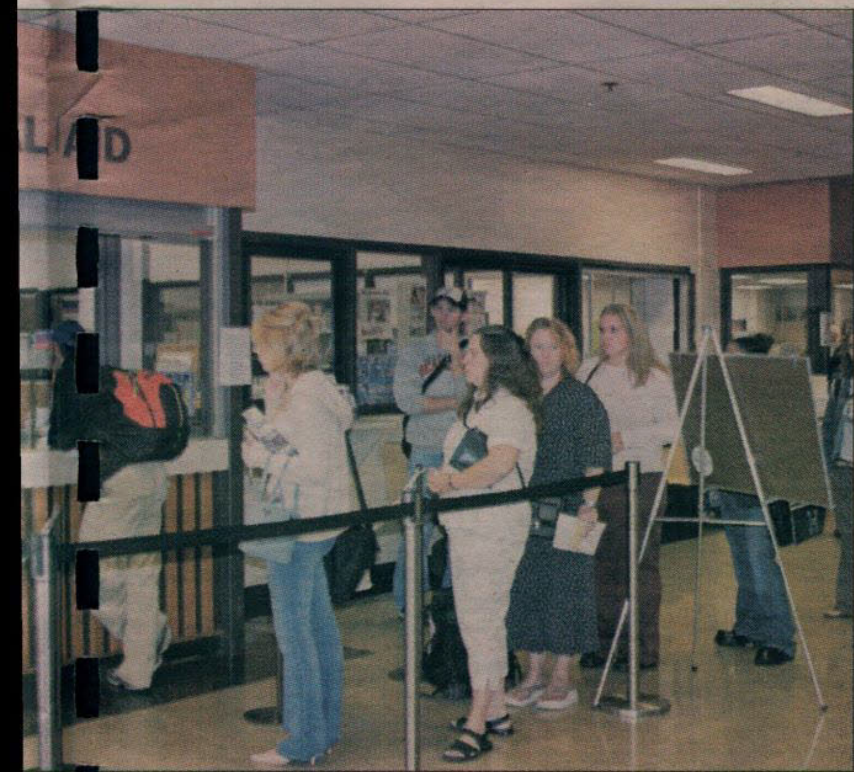
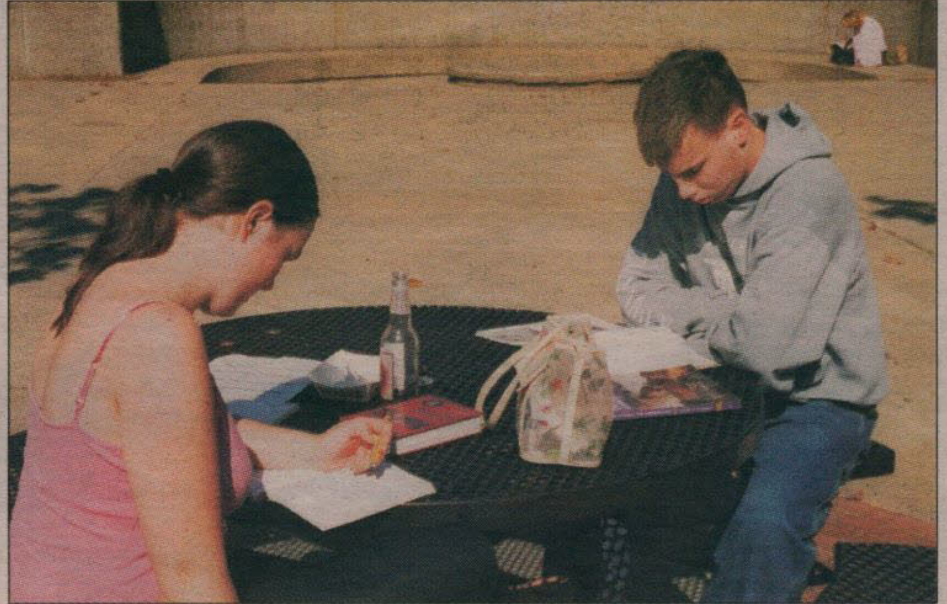
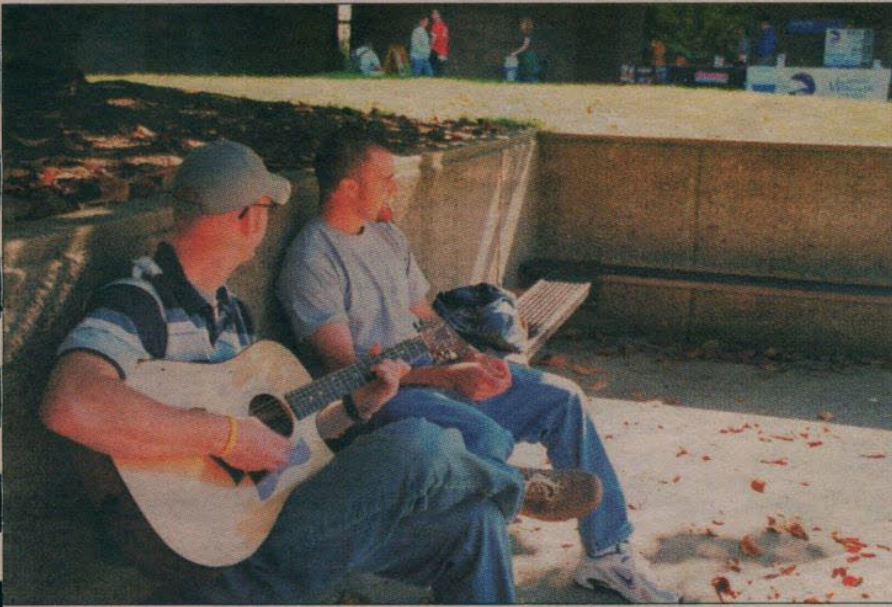
New year, new life!

As summer gives way to fall, we take time to look at the world of LBCC as it once again is flooded with students, faculty, and staff. With wonderful weather upon us, this has kept the courtyard abuzz— a scene that should repeat itself today when the annual Welcome Back Picnic is held from 11:30 to 1 p.m. sponsored by Student Life and Leadership.



OCUS

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



Photos by Sherry Majeski and Aubrie Miller

Sports Editor: Will Quirk
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

Beavs fall short of high hopes

David Rickels
 The Commuter

The Beavers are having a tough season this year with four losses in five games. Expectations were high coming into the season; coach Mike Riley is in his second year and the Beavers were forecast by most major sports publications to contend for second in the Pac-10. However, that hasn't been the case thus far.

The Cal Bears were the most recent team to claim a victory over the 1-4 team with a painful final score of 49-7.

"It did start very fast for them," Riley said. "They absolutely beat us in every phase of the game. We came back and scored that touchdown, but it was their game."

Despite passing a total of 1,511 yards to their opponents 897 yards, this season the Beavers have been out scored 158 to 93—not the start predicted.

Fans seemed to be hopeful about the season after the Beavers first game, which left them one point short in a 22-21 overtime loss to then third ranked LSU. There was still hope for OSU fans when the Beavs defeated New Mexico in their home opener 17-7 after losing their second game to Boise State 53-34.

Unfortunately, that has been the only glimmer of hope so far for the Beavers, who went on to lose at Arizona State to the 22nd ranked Sun Devils and again on Saturday to the 10th ranked Cal Bears, who looked very good despite a 20-day stop in play.

On the up side, there are still six more games left in the season for OSU. But the next games will not be easy, looking at the teams they must face in the weeks to follow.

The Beavers will be facing such teams as Arizona and both Washington teams. They are also going to have to face the No. 1 ranked Trojans and Stanford as well before the civil war.

It may be a long road ahead for the Beavers, but hopefully that road will smooth out in the weeks to come.

Portland goes down swinging in bid for Expos

Nick Milhoan
 The Commuter

Major League Baseball has struck out Portland and thrown a grand slam to Washington D.C. It was announced this past Wednesday that Washington D.C. and not Portland would be the new home to the Montreal Expos, bringing baseball back to our nation's capital for the first time in 33 years. The team will begin play in the 2005 season at RFK stadium.

Portland, along with Las Vegas, NV; Norfolk, Virg. and Monterrey, Mexico, were trying to lure the troubled franchise from Canada to their fair cities, but Washington D.C. took the lead in negotiations in recent weeks.

"After 30 years of waiting and waiting and lots of hard work and more than a few prayers, there will be baseball in Washington in 2005!" said Mayor Williams, donning a Washington Senators Cap, at a news conference at the city museum.

There was no immediate reaction from either the Oregon Sports Authority or the Oregon Stadium Campaign, which both had lobbied to bring the team to Portland.

This was the second blow to the Rose City regarding professional sports. As it was announced last Tuesday, Portland would not



photo by KRT News

D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams and other officials sign home plate for relocated Expos.

be receiving a new NASCAR track. Instead it will be built near Marysville, Wash.

This will be the the third baseball team to call Washington D.C. home. The first was the Original Washington Senators, which played in D.C. from 1901-60 before moving to become the Minnesota Twins. The expansion Senators began in 1961 and lasted through 1971, before moving to Texas and becoming the Rangers.

"This is the best option for everyone,"

said baseball commissioner Bud Selig. "There is equity on all sides and everyone has been treated fairly. The relocation process has been very, very arduous and difficult."

Baseball had been looking for a new home for the Expos since the financially troubled team was bought by the 29 other major league teams in 2002.

Montreal's last home game was Wednesday night against the Florida Marlins.

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Student Life & Leadership is hiring for 2 positions!

The Associated Student Government is hiring for the **Liberal Arts and Human Performance Representative** position. Interviews will be held on Wed. 10/20 at 3:30 pm. You must be able to attend the weekly meeting from 3:30 to 5:00 pm on Wednesdays to qualify for this position. For more information contact **Stephanie** at 917-4475 or stop by SL&L.

The Student Programming Board is hiring for the **Campus & Recreation Specialist** position. Interviews will be held on Wed. 10/20 at 2:00 pm. You must be able to attend the weekly meeting from 2:00 to 3:30 pm on Wednesdays to qualify for this position. For more information contact **Tamara** at 917-4472 or stop by SL&L.

Applications for all positions can be picked up at the Student Life and Leadership office and must be returned no later than noon on Friday, October 15th.

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SPORTS

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

Roadrunners' scrappy effort falls short

Will Quirk
 The Commuter

The Roadrunners dug in Wednesday night against the Chemeketa Storm in a fantastically entertaining and clamatic game. From the start, Chemeketa was on the offensive with well-placed spikes and sets.

The solid offensive helped them jump in front with a 10-4 lead. The Runner's defensive seemed to be struggling at first, but soon found their wind and started taking the attack on Chemeketa. Beginning with a deafening spike from freshman Kathy Gellatly that sent her shoe flying, the Runner's brought the game within three points at 13-16. The Storm answered back, taking advantage of poor serving and outscoring Linn Benton 14-5 to win the first game.

Chemeketa's momentum was shut down in true Runner fashion as soon as the teams took the court for Game 2. The service game that was struggling earlier disappeared as Linn Benton pounded serve after serve into the Chemeketa back court. Tara Messner let the Storm know that they were in for a tough match by slamming a spike across the net to bring the score to 8-3.

A diving save by Hannah Jackson shifted the momentum and sapped the strength of the Storm, who had just taken the lead at 15-14. Chemeketa errors and solid play from our girls lead to a 20-16 lead for LB, but it seemed as if a switch had been turned on and Chemeketa stepped up their play. The score

was quickly neck and neck. The high level of play sent a current of electricity throughout the crowd and support for both teams was emphatic. From 20-20, neither team could gain any kind of distance on the other. The next 10 points were a see-saw that showcased great defensive skill.

With an acrobatics sliding save, Chelsea Nay saved game point and brought the score to 30-30. Smelling victory and maybe a little fear in the opposing team, the Roadrunners showed no mercy in an offensive barrage that sealed Game 2 as a win at 33-31.

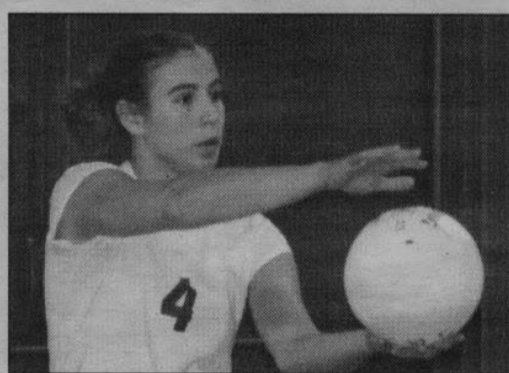
Going into Game 3, the Storm sprinted forward to a 5-2 lead. LB countered and once again the game was too close for comfort. The ball was back and forth, always in motion. Every dig, set, and spike was answered with an equally impressive laid-out save and return. It was obvious that both teams wanted this win badly and were ready for a knock-down-drag-em-out fight to the finish. The blocking duo of Monica Samsa and Kelly Meredith rejected spike after spike right back into Chemeketa territory.

Despite the finesse of Storm player Amanda Allen at the net, the Roadrunners pulled away to a 24-16 lead. It seemed as if game three was in the bag for LB, but Chemeketa staged a comeback that left the score tied at 26-26. Chemeketa pulled it out down the stretch to take game three 27-30.

Do or die time for our Road-



photos by Sherry Majeski



The Roadrunner volleyball team hones its skills during practice last week as it prepares for the league matches coming up in the weeks ahead. At left, freshman Kathy Gellatly lines up her serve at last Wednesday's match against Chemeketa at the Activities Center. The Lady Runners came up only two points short of taking NWAACC powerhouse Chemeketa to a deciding fifth game before losing that match. The team's next home match is next Friday, Oct. 15, against the SWOCC Lakers out of Coos Bay.

runners, they started off in exemplary fashion. Up to the challenge, the Storm kept the score close. A down-the-line spike from Marcy Drake tied the score at 5-5, and it appeared as though the LB team was in control, if only barely. As the score inched forward after seemingly longer and longer rallies, the excitement in the crowd and players was obvious. Loud cheers from the Linn Benton baseball team and Newport's high school volleyball team boomed across the gym.

The scoreboard reflected the

grit and determination of both teams as it read 24 all, then 25: the suspense silenced the crowd during points and made them erupt in between. LB pulled out ahead to 29-27 after a foul on Chemeketa for lifting.

It seemed like the match would be decided in a fifth game, but Chemeketa came up with some phenomenal points to win the deciding fourth game 32-30.

Although the Roadrunners have endured some tough losses recently, their confidence is high. Encouraged by the progress they

have already made this year, they are looking forward to a stretch of away games including a tournament this weekend in Oregon City.

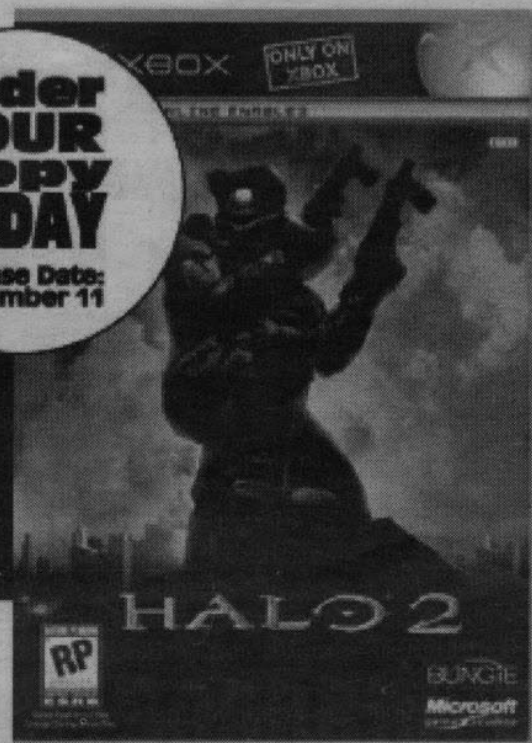
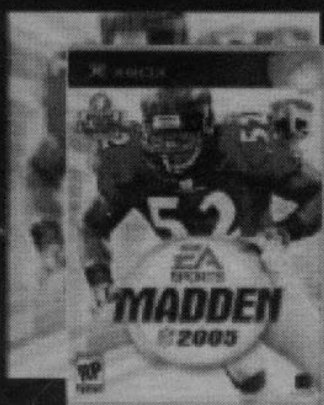
When asked about the upcoming tournament, sophomore Chelsea Nay carefully replied, "They will be close but we will fight hard and see what happens."

Although the team isn't predicting any easy wins just yet, it's obvious that Coach Jayme Frazier has a young team filled with talent and drive that will be hard to stop this year.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Hiccups: Visitors await 'the big one' at Johnston Ridge

▲ From Pg. 1

Bluffs Restaurant and Lodge. Sitting in his car, stopped at the roadblock, Miller watched cars being sent back, one at a time wondering if they going to be turned back as well.

Miller said that last week, their biggest fear was of their outdoor wedding being rained out. On this day, being bright and sunny, they were stressing a volcanic eruption.

When Johnston Ridge Observatory was evacuated everyone moved further down the mountain to Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center, which was soon evacuated as well.

In the meantime up on Castle Lake View Point (nine and a half miles from the crater), a media moose mash had completely consumed the viewpoint. CNN, ABC, NBC, Associated Press, even World News had all staked out their little space with their crew and cameras pointed at the chewed up dome of Mt. St. Helens crater. All were waiting and hoping for some livid action.

Associated Press photographer, Ted Warren was looking for someone who was willing to leave the mountain to run his files into town and send them off, because he wasn't willing to lose his spot or miss the expected eruption.

Hanna Lagler, a 9-year-old from Dallas, was stimulated by the press activity and carried her own pad and pen around asking questions, taking notes and pretending to be a reporter and news anchor-woman as she posed in front of the churning volcano and media equipment. She is planning on writing a short story for her school's newsletter.

Sunday morning yielded a small steam eruption followed by a more violent burst of steam Monday morning, beginning at 9:42. And the largest blast to date was on Tuesday afternoon, as she once again released her fury and belled a studendous display of steam and ash thousands of feet above. The volcanic storm dimmed the blue skies to dark gray as the wind carried the cloud northeast for several miles.

According to Jake Lowenstern, USGS volcanologist, the material was coming up from several different vents in the crater, so that could mean things are starting to break up.

Greg Mulder, a physicist/instructor at LB planned an airplane flight close to the volcano Tuesday afternoon to see what has changed. Just three weeks before Helen's last eruption, Mulder hiked St. Helens with a group and took dozens of photos which he shared with his earth science class.

He stated that he suspects that the small eruptions she is currently releasing is relieving pressure, which should prevent a huge full forced eruption.

"What we do know is that the steam eruptions that happened last week did enough to shake things up down below that magma is now free to move around," said Mulder.

"And as this magma is moving around, we have a higher probably of another different kind of event happening, an event with lava."

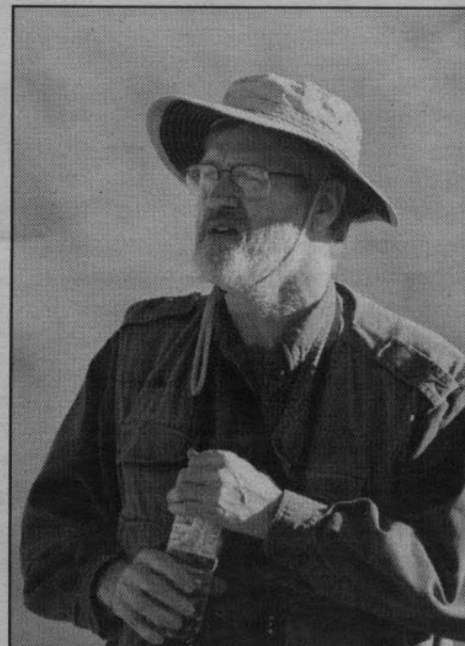


photo by Sherry Majeski

Dan Dzurisin, USGS geologist, talks to visitors watching St. Helens at Johnston Ridge Observatory on Sunday.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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



photo by Erik Swanson

Technical Theater Director Bruce Peterson shows the new lighting control system in the newly remodeled Russell Tripp Performance Center to Ann Adams, director of Information Services, during a tour held the week before classes began.

Curtain goes back up for Pink Martini concert to debut the Russell Tripp Performance Center

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

After opening in 1978, Takena theater closed forever with the Spring performance of "Alice in Wonderland." LBCC's performing arts department will be hosting a gala event rededicating the theater as the Russell Tripp Performance Center on Nov. 22.

Russell and Duffy Tripp donated \$500,000 to the LBCC

Foundation for repairs that began in March. The Tripp's remained behind the scenes during the project, but did participate in the new color scheme.

New carpeting, paint, refurbishing and reupholstering seats, and new drapes on stage are some of the improvements that theater enthusiasts will see. What they won't see is a newly spectacular computer-controlled lighting system, which will en-

hance performances. Also, a standard intercom system for theater production was installed and to accommodate this system, the theater was rewired.

Technical director, Bruce Peterson is excited about the renovations. He has been quoted saying that "The goal is to make reasonable, standard choices that will carry the theater forward another 25 years."

Before the dedication in No-

vember, the theater will have an early debut on Oct. 16 hosting Pink Martini, a sold-out event.

Pink Martini is comprised of 10 musicians based out of Portland, Oregon. Their music explores the nexus of jazz, classical and Latin traditions. The group's album, "Sympathique" has sold over 600,000 copies worldwide. They regularly tour in the U.S., Europe and have performed in Taiwan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Documentary photographer presents slide show on war

For The Commuter

Documentary photographer Cheryl Hatch, who has spent more than a decade chronicling the impact of war on indigenous people in Third World countries, will present a slide show of her work on Friday Oct. 8 from 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Forum 113.

Hatch, who has worked for a variety of newspapers, including the Corvallis Gazette-Times and the Associated Press Seattle bureau, is best known for her freelance photography in the Middle East, Somalia, Liberia and other countries. Her most recent photo essay on conditions in Eritrea has been published by the San Francisco Chronicle, The Washington Times and the Christian Science Monitor. Over the past decade or more, Hatch has financed her own overseas trips to strife-torn regions in a quest to document the plight of ordinary people caught in the middle of civil wars.

Currently living near Blodgett, Hatch is working on a book of her work and "decompressing" from her most recent assignment. Her talk is being hosted by Rich Bergeman's Introduction to Photography class and is open to the campus community.

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CAMPUS GROUPS:

LBCC~LUG: Open to public. Linux Users Group meeting last Wednesday of each month. Meetings are in The Commons at noon.

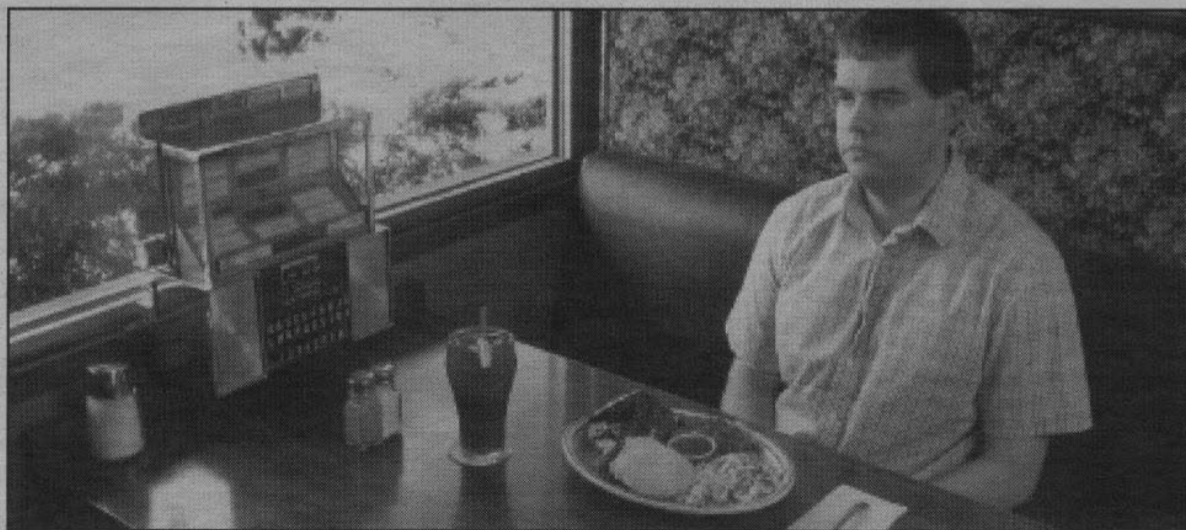
SCHOLARSHIPS:

Willamette Chapter of IAAP (International Association of Administrative Professionals) is offering a scholarship for two students in any Business Technology program at LBCC winter and spring terms of 2004-2005. Deadline is Monday, November 8, 2004. Please see Carol Raymundo in the Career Center, T-101, for an application or visit <http://www.orgsites.com/or/iaapwillamette/index.html>.

ADVERTISEMENT

Area college student dating self

THINGS ARE REALLY STARTING TO HEAT UP



Eric Peterson, top, has one of many romantic dinners with himself at their favorite restaurant.

By LISA CHENEY

Local college student Eric Peterson recently announced that he's entered a committed relationship—with himself. Peterson vehemently denied rumors that the two were dating other people. "We're totally committed to each other. We've never been happier." When asked what prompted the campus heartthrob to take himself off the market, he chalked it up in large part to his current financial situation, claiming that monthly fees from his checking account were making it too expensive for him to date around. "It was partly a cost-

effective decision on my part, but it's been really nice for us to spend more time together." Peterson was apparently unaware of Free Checking from Washington Mutual. It's an account with no monthly fees and the option to add Deluxe services like free online bill pay. And he could have gotten Free Checking just by visiting a Washington Mutual Financial Center, then signed up for online bill pay at wamu.com. "Dang," said Peterson, "if I had known about Free Checking Deluxe, my current dating situation would be different. I probably wouldn't have settled down with someone so soon."

"We've never been happier."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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CALENDAR

THE VIBE

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Oct. 9th
Debo O'Conner
 Hammered Dulcimer
 1 - 2 pm
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Chinook Winds
Casino & Convention Center
 801 SW Highway 101
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 1-888-CHINOOK

Oct. 8 & 9
Michael Bolton
 Music Concert
 8 p.m.
 \$45 & \$65

New Morning Bakery
 219 SW 2nd St.
 Corvallis
 541-754-0181

Oct. 8
Ian Priestman
 Music and Comedy
 7:30 p.m.
 Free

Platinum
 126 SW 4th St.
 Corvallis
 541-738-6996

Oct. 6
BeerZone
w/ The Detonators and The
Wooblies
 Punk
 8 p.m.
 \$5 Advance
 \$7 Door



Oct. 8
Caliente
 Salsa
 10 p.m.
 \$10 Door

Oct. 9
Big Boy and the Toys
 Classic Rock
 8 p.m.
 \$6 Door

WOW Hall
 291 W 8th St.
 Eugene
 541-687-2746

Oct. 9
Sabjilar
 Throat Singers
 8:30 p.m.
 \$12 Advance
 \$14 Door

Fall term brings pumped up excitement to the Platinum

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

Platinum is gold again. Tim Morrisette, from Door To Door Entertainment said the Platinum is "pumping up for the school season with some real hot bands."

Last Tuesday the season was kicked off with Midnite, a soft sounding reggae band straight up from the Virgin Islands and Clumsy Lovers, a Celtic band last Thursday.

The rest of the month continues to entertain the students with international roots reggae band Groundation, who are making a stop in Corvallis while on their national tour on Oct. 16.

Legendary roots reggae Clinton Fearon will return to Corvallis from his European tour with the Boogie Brown Band on Oct. 22 to support his new cd "Give and Take." Opening for Fearon will be Jahbong, Corvallis' own reggae band.

Reggae is not the only musical style coming to the Platinum. Dj Hes spins the hottest hip-hop beats on Full Throttle Thursday with \$2 drink specials and \$1 pints of Bud and Bud light.

Friday is salsa and merengue night with DJ's Ivan and Lupe, pumping out a festive night of highenergy dancing. If you don't know how to salsa, don't worry, lessons are given every Friday at 10:00 p.m. Every other Friday Platinum hosts a Football After Party immediately after the OSU Beaver games. Lead doorman Murphy Smith says that "Salsa is consistently our hottest night during the school year."

Also, if you have extra time early in the week, don't forget to have fun with karaoke Mondays. Relax from studying or jump with excitement on Wednesdays with punk night.

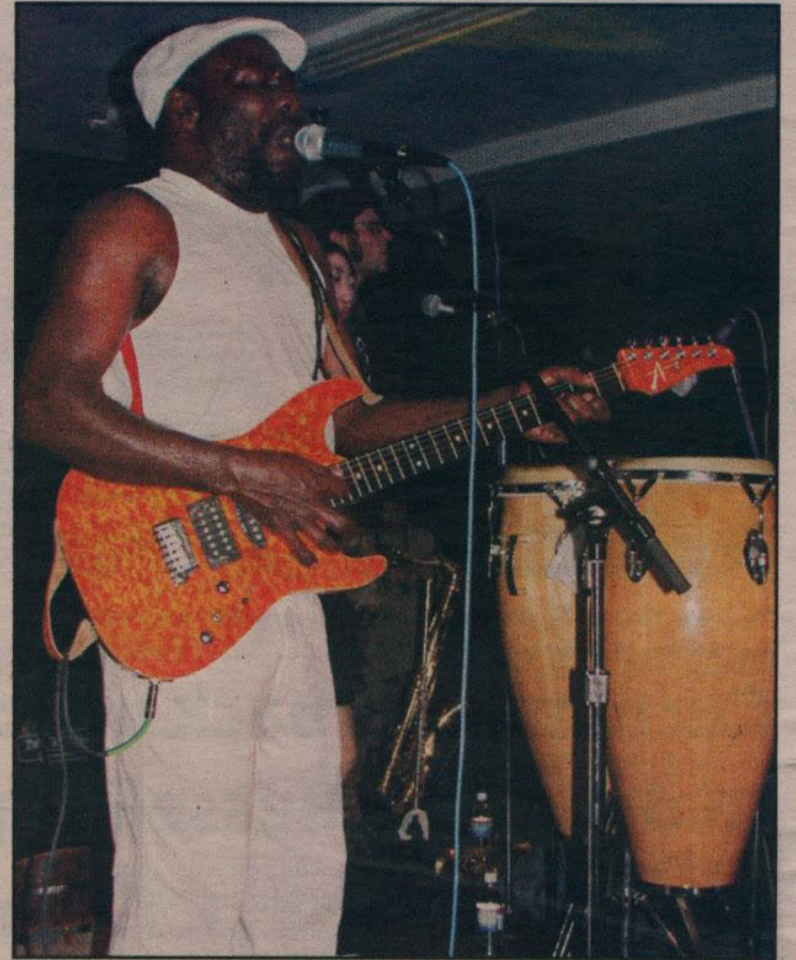


photo by Peggy Isaacs

Clinton Fearon and the Boogie Brown Band, who performed at Platinum in February, will once again be performing for the students on Friday Oct. 22.

The Platinum has been updated with a new sound system for cleaner acoustics, a fully functioning air conditioning unit, an expanded stage and elevated private booths for intimate dates. Rino, the famous local Italian, is now cooking up some new delicious dishes for your dining pleasure on the upgraded menu.

If hosting a private party, reception, or special event, look to the Platinum for all your entertainment needs.

The Platinum is located at 126 SW 4th St. in downtown Corvallis. For more informa-

tion call 738-6996, or go to www.platinumvenue.com. Tickets can be purchased at the Platinum, Happy Trails, The Cut and Sacred Art Tattoo.

The VIP lounge is a private room that's perfect for groups of 50 people or less. The lounge is also equipped with a private bar and a big screen TV with surround sound.

Extra security can also be provided, as well as, catering.

Upcoming events will be posted in the school's calendar, so keep tuned in, take a break from studying and dance the night away at the Platinum.

Faculty Art Exhibit features raffle to raise funds for students



photo by Peggy Isaacs

"Surprise" by Dori Bartholomew Litzer, a charcoal on paper, is among several works by LBCC art faculty being displayed in the Art Gallery this month.

Peggy Isaacs
 The Commuter

The event everyone has been waiting for all year has finally arrived.

The art faculty at Linn-Benton Community College is hosting its annual Faculty Art Exhibit and Raffle from now until Oct. 29 in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Building Art Gallery.

This year's exhibits will include works by Rich Bergeman and Kurt Norlin in photography; Analee Fuentes, Dori Bartholomew Litzer, Gary Westford, and Rebecca Chance in painting and drawing; Jay Widmer in ceramics; and Erik Land in sculpture.

Most of the exhibiting artists are donating one piece of art to be raffled off, with the proceeds going to the Foundation Art Fund, which pays for extra curricular events, awards and scholarships for art students.

Artwork for the raffle can be viewed

at: www.linnbenton.edu/araffle/

Tickets for the raffle will be sold for \$3 each or four for \$10 and are available in the Linn-Benton Community College Art Department or at the Benton Center in Corvallis.

Tickets may be purchased by mail. They will be sold separately to allow bidding on each specific artwork. Purchasers may designate which piece they would like to win when buying their tickets. The raffle will be held on Oct. 29 at noon in AHSS, Room 108. Winners need not be present to win.

To purchase a piece of art, contact Tammi Wright at 917-4577 or send checks to Art Raffle/ Art Dept., c/o Linn-Benton Community College, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany, Ore. 97321.

The art gallery is opened Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information contact Analee Fuentes at 917-4540 or Tammi Wright at 917-4530.