

LAST SUPPERS

OSU professor Julie Green paints the last meals requested by death-row inmates from around the country. Pg. 11

VALENTINE'S DAY LORE

Two legends are believed to have spawned the day of flowers, chocolates and love. Pg. 6



The Commuter

a weekly student publication

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 36 No. 13

Injured vets fight for Bravo Co. homecoming

Jennifer Settlemeyer
The Commuter

They call themselves the "Blasted Bastards" and they have a mission.

A group of combat wounded NCOs from the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry based in Corvallis, are home and have made the welfare of their brothers in arms still in Iraq their No. 1 priority.

"A Blasted Bastard" is someone

who lives through something that should have killed them," explains Sgt. 1st Class Philip (Vince) Jacques in an interview last week.

Jacques was wounded July 28 in Al Taji, about 16 miles north of Baghdad, when his vehicle was blown up by an improvised explosive device, killing his driver, Pvt. 1st Class Kenny Leisten. The device was meant to take out a tank, but "they got bored and blew my vehicle up instead," he said.

He suffered puncture wounds in the left leg from shrapnel or a bolt, frayed ligaments in his knee

and shoulder, bone contusions, third-degree burns on his back, and a compressed vertebrae in his lower neck.

"Our main duty right now is to heal, do physical therapy and stuff," explained Sgt. Shane Ward and Staff Sgt. Andrew Hellman in the interview.

But they all chose to take on an additional task — "to make the community aware that our brothers are coming home."

Ward was injured on June 13 when the vehicle in front of his blew up, killing Spc. Eric McKinley. Ward was running toward McKinley's vehicle when another explosive went off, sending him through the air. "It picked me up, threw me 15 feet to the left, and tore a really big hole in my back," Ward said.

Hellman was shot through his right knee by a sniper on Aug. 8 while ambushing insurgents on the southern border of Sadr City, outside of Baghdad.

There is a sense of humility surrounding these guys as they speak. "I never dreamt I would be doing this, talking with the

"We are proud of them, and you all need to be proud of them. They need to get a welcome home parade or something like that."

▶ Sgt. Shane Ward



photo by Erik Swanson

Staff Sgt. Andrew Hellman, Sgt. 1st Class Philip (Vince) Jacques, and Sgt. Shane Ward, three local injured veterans of the Iraq War are trying to organize a homecoming for Bravo Company.

mayor, the Chamber of Commerce. I didn't want to talk to anyone," explained Ward.

But things have changed. The wounded NCOs are trying to organize a homecoming event, working through city and county officials, and the local media.

"We had a very strong distaste for the media," explained

Jacques. "You think they will twist your words and make you look like an asshole, but we are doing this for the guys over there. It's for them."

Bravo Company should be returning sometime in the next 60 days, and the "Blasted Bastards" want them welcomed home with open arms. "We don't care if you support the war, just support

the troops, because it was not our choice to go over there," explained Ward, the unofficial spokesman of the group.

The NCOs carefully avoided speaking about politics, but did want the community to understand.

"We didn't wage this war. Even if we didn't want to go,

▶ Turn to "Veteran" on Pg. 5

Candidates face Friday deadline to file for Feb. 22-23 ASG elections

Jennifer Overholser
The Commuter

Students who would like to get more involved with school activities have the opportunity to apply for positions in the Associated Student Government.

Friday, Feb. 11, is the last day students can turn in applications for President, Vice President, Public Relations Secretary and several Representative positions. Students can pick up applications in the Student Life and Leadership Office.

Representatives are needed for Science and Industries, Business and Health Occupations, Student Services and Extended Centers, and Liberal Arts and Human Performance. Also needed is an At-Large Representative, who helps with incoming students and new student orientation. Representatives for the academic areas must be majors in that division or they must get written permission from the dean to represent the divi-

sion they choose.

Applications must have a completed cover form, two letters of recommendation, a hard copy of the answers to the questions as well as a copy saved to a disk, which must also include a photograph of the applicant.

On Feb. 16, candidates will participate in a Candidate Forum at noon in the Commons, where the first 100 students will get soup and rolls. One question will be drawn from a hat for all of the candidates to answer. Following that, students will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Elections start via the web on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 a.m. on the LBCC web site at www.linnbenton.edu/elections, and continue until 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 23. Students can also vote on whether or not to change the LBCC Constitution. The names and responsibilities of the ASG positions would undergo slight changes. According to Stephanie Quigley, ▶ Turn to "ASG" on Pg. 5

LB ushers in Lunar New Year with moon cakes

Katie Powell
The Commuter

The Multicultural Center celebrates the Lunar New Year today from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. with a taste of moon cake and displays of calligraphy and Chinese collections, including LBCC's authentic Chinese Dragon.

The Lunar New Year is an important celebration all over the world. It originated in Asia, specifically in China, Vietnam and Singapore, where it is said to be a combination of Western Thanksgiving, Christmas and

New Year's.

The celebration is so old that its origins are lost in the mists of time. The holiday is in celebration of the starting of the Chinese calendar and the cycle of the moon. 2005 is the year of the rooster, and celebrations began all across Asia on Feb. 4.

Preparations for this event begin about a month in advance. Presents are bought, decorations are put up, and most importantly, the cleaning begins. Houses in Asia are cleaned from top to bottom to ▶ Turn to "Lunar" on Pg. 5

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

high 54 low 32
WEDNESDAY

high 55 low 35
THURSDAY

high 57 low 38
FRIDAY

high 52 low 36
SATURDAY

high 51 low 34
SUNDAY

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and
 keep them at 300 words or less

Brown vs. the Board of Education revisited for Black History month

Lewis W. Diuguid
 Knight Ridder Newspapers

People put a high premium on success in this country.

It is a measure of how well they are living the American dream. But that success and achievement are tied to hard work and the well-worn ideal of individualism.

"But what if you work hard, play by the rules and you don't succeed?" Harvard University law professor Lani Guinier asked during a fall lecture in Kansas City, "What is the explanation for failure?"

That's where race has played a historical role in the United States, letting individuals use it as a scapegoat for their woes. People fail to see, however, that everyone's success or failure is the result of the community's investment in the individual, she said.

Guinier's talk was billed as, "Continuing the Dialogue: Thurgood Marshall + the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka." What Guinier said is worth reviewing for Black History Month.

Guinier explained that one of the failures of the Brown decision was that it ended only legal segregation. However, she said the practice has continued without the sanction of law. Despite Brown, public schools remain separate and unequal.

"Brown promised more than it could give," Guinier said. But part of the problem lies in race and people continuing the historical practice of using it to explain away their failures.

Guinier cited the 1957 integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., as an example of how race has conveniently served to disable blacks and whites. Black students integrated the schools in hopes of getting the best education available.

Whites expressed their outrage, and federal troops were required to protect the black students. But Guinier said each side was duped by the promise of receiving the best public education at Central High because another all-white school had opened across town for the children of the city's elite.

Racism, Guinier said, is a trap. It causes many people to not recognize the damaging, enduring effects of classism.

Guinier said people are witnessing that dominance and oppression today in the number of new prisons being constructed instead of schools and new college campuses. Public funding is being poured into incarceration instead of beefing up education.

A disproportionate number of blacks and Hispanics are getting caught in the criminal justice and penal systems, but more whites also are getting snared in those matrices.

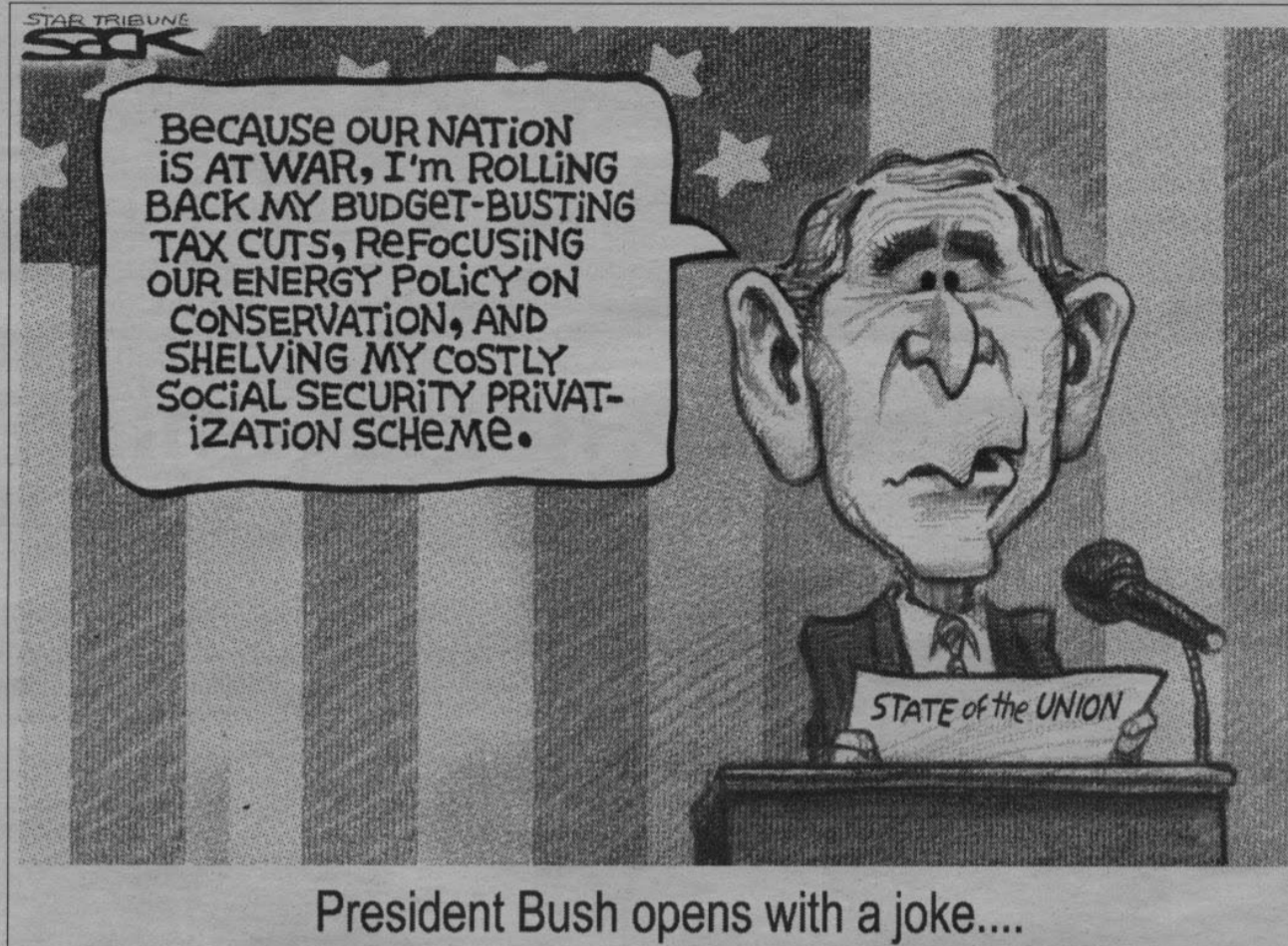
"Education has to remain as the way up and the way out for everyone in the mine," she said. The atmosphere for everyone must be changed so all can live, benefit from the community's support and be successful.

Guinier said black students today in mostly white schools have to contend with others' bigotry. She explained how her son received a low score on a math test, but when he checked his answers against a white student's who received a perfect score he found their answers were identical. Guinier's son challenged his grade, and the teacher changed it to match the white student's.

Teachers inflict racial stereotypes on students of color, which affects achievement. Students have to have the support of the community and each other to challenge that system and work toward equality.

"Community involvement is essential to have students with a high level of achievement," Guinier said. "Teachers can't do it alone. We need to create a partnership."

That union of involvement in the education of all young people would help eradicate racism as an excuse for failure, elevate academic achievement and enable students of all colors to succeed. That has to be the legacy of the next 50 years of the Supreme Court's Brown decision.



President Bush opens with a joke....

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Blue states say goodbye to U.S.A. and hello to the United States of California

To the Editor:

An open letter to President Bush:

Congratulations on your victory. Actually we're a bit ticked off here in California, so we're leaving. We will now be our own country and we are taking all the Blue states with us. In case you are not aware, that includes Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and all of the Northeast.

We spoke to God and she agrees that this split will be beneficial to almost everybody, and especially to us in the new country of California. In fact, God is so excited about it, she's going to shift the whole country at 4:30 p.m. EST this Friday. Therefore, please let everyone know they need to be back in their states by then.

So you get Texas and all the former slave states. We get the Governor, stem cell research and the best beaches. We get Elliot Spitzer. You get Ken Lay. (Okay, we have to keep Martha Stewart, we can live with that.)

We get the Statue of Liberty. You get Opryland. We get Intel and Microsoft. You get Worldcom. We get Harvard. You get Old Miss'.

We get 85 percent of America's venture capital and entrepreneurs. You get all the technological innovation in Alabama.

We get about two-thirds of the tax revenue and you

get to make the red states pay their fair share. Since our divorce rate is 22 percent lower than the Christian Coalition's, we get a bunch of happy families. You get a bunch of single moms to support and we know how much you like that.

So you get Texas and all the former slave states. We get the Governor, stem cell research and the best beaches. We get Elliot Spitzer. You get Ken Lay.

Did I mention we produce about 70 percent of the nation's veggies? But heck, the only greens the Bible-thumpers eat are the pickles on their Big Macs.

Oh yeah, another thing, don't plan on serving California wine at your state dinners. From now on it's imported French wine for you. (Ouch, bet that hurts!)

Just so we're clear, the country of California will be pro-choice

and anti-war. Speaking of war, we're going to want all the blue states citizens back from Iraq. If you need people to fight, just ask your evangelicals. They have tons of kids they're willing to send to their deaths for absolutely no purpose, and they don't care if you don't show pictures of their kids' caskets coming home.

Anyway, we wish you all the best in the next four years and we hope, really we hope, you find those missing weapons of mass destruction. Seriously, find 'em soon.

Sincerely,
 California and the other blue states,
 Kim Davis

The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE
 www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Equestrian team gallops to success at event

Christy Harshman
 The Commuter

LB horse enthusiasts have banded together, compiling the largest and most successful equestrian team to date at Linn Benton. Riders compete at a series of events starting in October and ending with the regional competition at Oregon State University on March 6.

The region that LB competes in consists of seven schools from Oregon and Washington, with LB being the only two-year school. Thus far, the team has traveled to Bellingham, Wash., Corvallis, Eugene, and recently hosted a show in Salem for the first time.

Riders can compete in either western or hunt seat (English) disciplines, or both, with some riders being able to compete in reining and jumping classes if their status approves.

In the western discipline, riders compete in horsemanship classes where they are judged on their riding ability and presence, and ability to navigate an unfamiliar horse. The riders who have advanced into the open division are able to participate in reining, where they execute a predetermined pattern of fast-paced circles, spins, and sliding stops.

In the English division, also referred to as hunt seat discipline, riders are again judged on their presence and ability to maneuver their mount about the arena. Riders who have gained enough points to advance up in divisions are able to participate in over fences classes where they take a horse over a series of jumps.

Part of the challenge of competing in the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) is the fact that



contributed photo

Members of the LBCC Equestrian Team hosted their first horse show on Jan. 23 in Salem, which raised \$1,500 for their upcoming events in Washington.

riders are placed on unfamiliar horses that they have never ridden before. Riders draw their horse at the location of the show and are not given an opportunity to ride the horse before entering the show pen. This is done in order to test the rider's ability to perform on any horse, not just their own.

Upon initial participation in the IHSA riders are given a questionnaire about their previous riding experience and are evaluated on their abilities, thus providing their IHSA status. At competitions, riders compete with a number of exhibitors from other schools with the same riding ability and are placed from first to sixth.

As exhibitors receive 35 cumulative points they qualify for the regional competition and advance into

the next highest division. Once riders reach the highest division of each discipline, they start each year with no points and have to obtain 28 points in order to qualify for regional competition.

This year, LB has about "15 active members on the roster," according to English coach, Jenny Strooband of the animal science department at Linn Benton. At the end of the season last year, there were only three people. Alongside Strooband, Cindy Gooch, instructor at the LB horse center, coaches the western team and has been instrumental in keeping the team going.

According to Strooband, Jim Lucas established the team around 6 years ago, but Cindy Gooch kept it on it's feet for the first four years or so of its life.

Both Strooband and Gooch facilitate practice every week, travel with the team to away shows and helped to host the horse show on Jan. 23.

The show on Jan. 23 was a first for the LB equestrian team and they were able to raise almost \$1,500 toward travel expenses for upcoming shows in Washington.

"We had a lot of help from the local community in providing horses and leg work," said Strooband. The team was able to organize over 30 horses to participate in the function with horses traveling from as far as Central Oregon, and riders coming from as far as Bellingham, Wash.

For those interested in learning more about the equestrian team, check out the IHSA web site at www.ihsainc.com, the region web site at www.region8zone4.com, or email coach Jenny Strooband at jenny.strooband@linnbenton.edu or coach Cindy Gooch at goochc@linnbenton.edu.

Want to know what a spherical cow is? Join the club

Editors Note: This is the second in a series on campus clubs.

Jennifer Overholser
 The Commuter

The Spherical Cow and Ultimate Frisbee Clubs both provide unique opportunities for student involvement.

The Spherical Cow is a science-focused club. According to club advisor Greg Mulder, who teaches astronomy, physics and general science, the name comes from a joke that is understood in the scientific community. It's based on the responses of a biologist, an engineer and a physicist

when they come across a cow.

The club has been active between five and six years. They have climbed Mount St. Helens six times, culminating in a hike into the crater last summer, prior to the increased eruptive activity. They regularly attend scientific lectures, which are part of a monthly lecture series in Portland.

According to Mulder, Nobel Prize winning physicist Carl Wieman, a Corvallis native, will speak at LBCC on Feb. 14, giving a noon and evening lecture to discuss his application of the Bose-Einstein Condensate, which had previously only been a theory. It is considered the fifth state of matter, in which particles lose

their individual identity when cooled to near absolute zero.

The club is discussing a possible trip to Hawaii this summer, to study Mount Kilauea, one of Hawaii's shield volcanoes, which is continuously erupting. Mulder also said that some of the best space observatories in the world are in Hawaii, giving students an opportunity to study astronomy as well.

Currently, the club is researching the feasibility of using hydrogen as an energy source, what the cost would be and what would need to occur to make it happen. Mulder said that hydrogen is a clean-burning fuel. The only by-product

is water.

Mulder is also the advisor for the Ultimate Frisbee Club, which plays in tournaments against other colleges like OSU, University of Oregon, Reed, Linfield and Western Washington. He said that a couple of years ago they competed in Hawaii. In addition, they have rented Reser Stadium several times, which wasn't an option this year with the renovation in progress, he said.

A sign up sheet is posted on Mulder's office door at ST-103. There is no limit to how many people can sign up, and all skill levels, backgrounds and genders are welcome to play.

Annual Family Resource Fair offers helpful workshops for parents of young children

LBCC News Service

The 22nd Annual Family Resource Fair will be held in the Commons cafeteria on Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This year's theme, "Raising Creative Children in a Hurried World," will focus on celebrating families by offering over 20 workshops on a variety of family topics.

Author and educator Nancy Blakey will serve as keynote speaker. Blakey's address will blend the latest research on the creative process with anecdotes and the ingredients for a creative home.

The workshops include such topics as positive guidance,

single parenting, couples communication, parenting middle schoolers and family problem solving.

During lunch, families can learn about the community support available to them through the resource booths that provide information each year.

Cost for the workshops is \$1 per adult and lunch is \$2. Childcare is available for ages 6 months to 10 years through the LBCC Family Resource Center at a cost of \$2 per child.

Pre-registration is required for lunch and childcare by March 9, but may close sooner as the childcare fills up.

For more information, contact LBCC Family Resources and Education at 917-4897.

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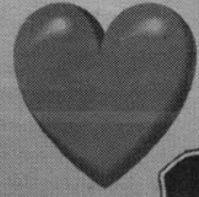
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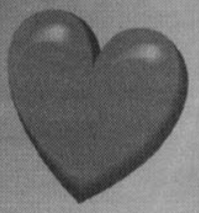
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Hot
Stuff



LBC Bookstore

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

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

CWE Student Technician

(Albany) If you completed 2 terms in engineering or science-related degree, are a LBCC student, this job may be for you! Need some experience with spreadsheet & database applications. 12-24 hrs/wk and pays \$8.50-\$9.50/hr. If interested, please see me now!

Security Officer (#3057,

Philomath) Work in a mill as a Firewatch. Work is 27 hrs/wk; Mon: 11pm-6am, Sat: 12midnight-12noon and Sun: 11pm-6am. You get your DPSST certificate after being employed.

Bank Jobs (several levels &

types at a local credit union, Albany) Full-time & part-time, some wanting degrees & experience and some just customer service & 10-key skills. Check with us in Student Employment for more information.

Bookkeeper (#3061, Albany) If

you have some experience with Outlook, Excel & Quickbooks software, this part-time, flexible, job is for you! Work 2-3 days/week and get paid \$9/hour!

SCHOLARSHIPS

OSAC Scholarships

March 1st is coming up! Don't miss out on the opportunity to apply for OSAC Scholarships. Last year, 79 LBCC students applied and 21 were awarded over \$51,000! YOU could be one of those students! Simply go to: www.GetCollegeFunds.org Application deadline is March 1st...so get started now!

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 2 issue The Commuter mistakenly gave Nick Marsh the first name of David in the Kinetic Sculpture Club story. In the "Hollywood's little sister to the North" article, we misspelled Billy Bob Thornton, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Kevin Costner.



photo by Erik Swanson

Child's Play

Elementary school children pour out of the Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall after seeing the opening performance of "Puss in Boots," produced by the LBCC Performing Arts Department. An estimated 6,000 area school children are expected to see the play during its three-week run, with performances on Tuesdays and Thursdays reserved for organized children bused in from throughout Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties. The public performances will be on Sunday Feb. 20 and 27, with curtain time at 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Takena Hall box office for \$7 (adults) and \$4 (under 18).

Veterans: 'Blasted Bastards' support returnees

◀ From Pg. 1

we went anyway, because that's what we signed up to do. It's not about the ultimate cause of the war. We go because of these guys, the guy on my left, and the guy on my right."

Because the National Guard is structured differently than the other armed forces, all of Bravo Company's roughly 130 troops that were deployed last April came from this region.

"These guys are from the community. They are cops, firemen, even the guy bagging your groceries. We worked together, went to school together, we party together, we even know each other's families," explained Hellman. Bravo Company included four sets of brothers when they went to Iraq.

It is because of this closeness that they are working so hard to

get the troops recognition. "We are proud of them, and you all need to be proud of them. They need to get a welcome home parade or something like that," said Ward. "These guys are going to need jobs, places to live, some may need counseling and legal services."

Ward is motivated by an incident in which a friend of his was called names at the Portland Airport. "In Dallas, they had flags, fire hoses and presents," he said. "You get into Portland, and no one is here to welcome you except to call you a baby killer."

Bravo Company will face many challenges upon their homecoming. There are the relationships left behind that will need repair from the damages of extended absence, fear and stress. There are also those rela-

tionships that were accelerated, in the same sort of phenomenon that created the baby boomers.

"We had guys get married all of a sudden right before leaving because they wanted someone waiting when they got home, and also because they get more money while they are there," said Hellman. "I hope the marriages survive."

Jacques explained what it was like coming home.

"I cannot say enough good about my little wife, but after two months, the shit hits the fan. You get two months of euphoria and then you give your wife a hug, a kiss on the cheek and very gently drive down the road for awhile before you say something stupid. Words are like an arrow; once they leave you can never take them back."

Regardless of the relation-

ships that may endure, or those that may fail, the "Blasted Bastards" are sure of a few things. The first is that they will be okay, and their brothers will be too.

"We got each other and that's it. Vietnam vets had saliva on their face from someone spitting on them, a boot in their ass, and a bottle of alcohol," stated Jacques earnestly. "We won't let that happen. We can't"

The second thing is that this company from Corvallis is convinced it is simply the best in Iraq. Bravo Company went on more than 40 combat missions in their first month in Iraq.

"Our legacy as NCOs is that our guys are over there doing an amazing job because of how well trained they were," Ward stated. "They are the best battalion in Iraq, period. The Pentagon knows who they are."

ASG: Shortage of applicants may restrict training time

◀ From Pg. 1

change would provide the Lebanon, Sweet Home and Benton Centers with a representative from the main campus.

Students who would like to know more about this and other changes can click on "What's Changing" on the elections page of the LBCC web site or stop by the Student Life and Leadership Office.

If there aren't enough applicants, the ASG will need to interview applicants individually as applications come in instead of doing it all at once, which decreases the amount of time

available for students to learn their new positions.

Quigley said that in the last year the ASG has prepared and served food at soup kitchens and was involved with the Hunger Banquet.

In Portland, she said, they served 247 meals in a room that seated 40 people. In the fall, they worked on getting students to register to vote. They surpassed their goal of 1000, which was up from around 200 in a previous year.

Quigley said this is a great opportunity for students. "It's definitely worth it," she said.

Lunar: New Year wipes out grudges

◀ From Pg. 1

sweep away any traces of bad luck, and the doors and windows are decorated with the theme of happiness and wealth.

Taiwan student Yu-Ping commented on another traditional part of the New Year, an ancient custom called "Hung Pa," which means "red packet." This involves married couples giving children and unmarried adults money in red envelopes, and then afterward the family spreads greetings from door to door, first to relatives and then

their neighbors. At the Lunar New Year, it is said that grudges are easily cast aside and a new beginning starts.

LBCC's celebration is being coordinated by Jason Miller, head of the Multicultural Center. He said it is being held to celebrate diversity on campus and show appreciation for students with an Asian background.

The Chinese dragon that hangs in the Multicultural Center will also be a big part of the celebration, he said. The colorful dragon was imported from

China to LBCC in December of 2001 and is a unique symbol to the Chinese tradition. In the past students and staff would dance through the campus with the dragon, but this year in place of that will be moon-cake tasting.

Moon cakes are tiny cakes that are usually filled with sweet red bean paste, but they could be filled with other things such as hazelnuts.

Anyone who wants to be part of the moon cake tasting is welcome, Miller said.

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ARMY RESERVE



AN ARMY OF ONE.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Culinary students cook up gourmet Winter Banquet

Dan Wise
 The Commuter

LBCC culinary students will work together on March 4 to produce a gourmet meal for up to 350 under the watchful eyes of Chef Scott Anselm, department chairman of the Culinary Arts program.

Teaching and experience are the goals for thirty to thirty-five students involved in presenting the Winter Banquet, a part of the banquets and buffets class in the two year Culinary Arts curriculum, said Anselm. All students are required to participate in at least four banquets, he added.

150 to 200 diners are normally served at any one function. "This year we made a decision to go from 200 to 350," said Anselm. "We wanted students to see a much larger banquet." Many restaurants cater to large groups on a regular basis making this a good experience, he added.

At least six weeks planning and preparation are usually required for one of these functions, Anselm said. The first year students do much of the basic food preparation and cooking while second-year students are sous chefs. Sous chefs do most of the planning and see to the quality and taste of the food and have specific areas for which they are responsible, said Anselm. Hot foods, salads, pastries and desserts, as well as portion size, presentation, management of setup and waiters are all areas overseen by sous chefs.

At different banquets, students vary their responsibilities to gain a more rounded experience, he continued. "We try to follow a mentoring model in

our instruction," said Anselm. Charity Howorth, a second-year culinary student, agrees. "Chef Scott is really brilliant," said Howorth. "He and the rest of the instructors are always so patient. We really learn a lot," she added.

Howorth participated in last fall's banquet. "We really worked hard and had a blast," she said.

"I had a good time," said Eric Bloomberg, a first-year culinary student. "It's stressful, but you learn a lot," he added, characterizing his first-year role at the fall banquet. "We do most of the cooking. We go where we are needed and do what we are told."

The dinners seem to go fairly smoothly. "Something always happens, but the chefs are so good it doesn't matter," said Bloomberg. "Efficiency will be more important for this type of banquet," said Justin Grell, a second year student. The menu is not too complicated, he added.

"The banquets are just as educational as class work," said Angie Tack. A full-time student in fermentation science at Oregon State University, Tack finished a degree in culinary arts from LBCC and cooks in the Courtyard Cafe. "The instructors made it fun. There was not a question they did not know," said Tack.

She does remember a cheesecake unintentionally produced without sugar for several hundred people. A sweet topping was made and no one was the wiser, she said.

This winter's banquet will feature traditional prime rib, a seasonal vegetable, green salad, dessert and a beverage,



photo by Erik Swanson

Second-year culinary student Charity Howorth is one of several students involved in planning, preparing and serving the annual Winter Banquet March 5. Tickets are available in CC-214 for \$14.50.

all for \$14.50. "A terrific value," said Chef Anselm. In order to increase the numbers of diners, the price was lowered this time, he added.

The profits from this and other special activities go to the Culinary Arts Club. They use the funds to pay for student field trips to restaurants and suppliers, according to Cindy Roach, a culinary student.

Last year 10 to 15 students went to Seattle with everything paid for except transportation. A trip to the Oregon Oyster Company and Intaba's restaurant are planned. The students also oc-

asionally like to use expensive ingredients in their cooking that cost extra, said Anselm.

The Spring Banquet will be French and somewhat more complicated, according to Anselm. It is scheduled for May 26 and 27. Tickets usually sell out very quickly he said.

The Winter Banquet will be held on Friday, March 4 at 6:30 in the College Center Commons.

There are still tickets available by calling 541-917-4391 or in room CC-214 at LBCC according to Lori Chang, program assistant with the Culinary Arts department.

History of Valentine's Day a story of love and death

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

Do you ever wonder why red roses, chocolates and songs are traditional on Feb. 14?

Valentine's Day, as we know it, has many supposed origins. The Romans are said to be involved as well as the Catholics.

History tells a story of love and death.

It is said that the Romans celebrated Lupercalia, a fertility festival in February. It is the month that they set about cleansing and purifying their homes in preparation for spring. The festival was dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Faunas.

The event included animal sacrifices with the blood being slapped onto the women and crops of the village. This practice was supposed to increase fertility for both. Then the unattached men of the village would compete in a lottery for the uncommitted women. These one year relationships often resulted in marriage.

Before long, the Christians deemed the lottery to be non Christian. Pope Gelasius deemed February 14 to be Valentine's Day. It was also known that February was the month that birds began to mate. For this reason, both the French and English thought the 14th should be a day for romance.

In another legend, Valentine, a priest, was secretly marrying couples after marriage was outlawed by Roman Emperor Claudius II. It was in the third century that Claudius forbade marriage

because he believed that unmarried men made better soldiers. In this story, Valentine was put to death for breaking the law, becoming a martyr for his people, hence the name St. Valentine.

Stories are told of Valentine sending a note to his love before being put to death on Feb. 14. This may have been the very first Valentine, as he is said to have signed it "from your Valentine."

Whatever the legend, the Catholic Church has named Valentine the patron saint of affianced couples, greetings and lovers. This might explain why the holiday is celebrated with flowers, sweets and love notes.



LB graduates first Rad Tech degree students

Editors Note: The following story, which originally appeared in the Jan. 26 Commuter, is being reprinted because of incorrect information in the original version.

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

LBCC has graduated its first cohort of Radiology Technologists and sent them out into the working world.

"It is an intense program for these students," explained Jennifer Fraga, a Career and Employment Specialist for LBCC working with the program. The first group of students began their journey back in June of 2003.

The Rad Tech Program was developed due to a great need for Radiology Technologists in Oregon. Samaritan Health Services and Lebanon Community Hospital Foundation have partnered with LBCC for the program.

The first step for those interested in the program involves an application process.

Applications can be found on the LBCC web site at www.linnbenton.edu/admissions. The application checklist details the prerequisites, all of which are offered through LBCC. Selection is based upon a points system in addition to proof of Oregon residency status. Applications are taken in the Spring of each year.

The selection process is completed in July. A maximum of 25 students are selected each year. After attending a mandatory orientation, they begin their training in September, in the classroom.

"They are in their clinical which is conducted in the field by mentors," elaborated Fraga. Hospitals, clinics and doctor's offices all over the state allow students to learn within a clinical environment. "This means students have to arrange their schedules to accommodate a changing clinical schedule," Fraga added.

The entire program spans 18 months. The students work through summer and graduate in March, receiving their two-year Certificate of Completion in Radiology

Technology in addition to an Associates Degree. Each student must pass the National Registry examination given by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) and then apply for a license from the Oregon Board of Radiological Technologists.

A newly graduated certified Radiology Technologist can expect to make anywhere from \$18 to \$20 per hour.

Jobs are available in hospitals, clinics and doctors offices. The program has become very popular. Last year 72 students applied and 25 were selected. Those not selected are encouraged to apply again the following year.

"There is a vast need for radiological technologists and it is a fantastic career field. This program opens the door and is the foundation to an amazing medical world," explained Stacy Mallory, Radiological Sciences Program coordinator for LBCC. "This career allows students to set their sights on a vast number of employment opportunities nationwide."

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SPORTS

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



photo by Erik Swanson

Kendall Dionne races up court against a pressing defense in last Saturday's game against the Clackamas Cougars. The Roadrunners lost 70-52. Dionne scored 15 points in the game.

Cougars sweep 4 straight from LB

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

There was little to cheer about for Runners' hoops fans this week as both the men's and women's basketball teams lost twice in four days against Clackamas.

The first set of games was at

home on Wednesday when LB hosted the Cougars in a thriller. Kelsey Richards had 13 points and seven rebounds to lead the way for the Lady Runners and help them rally after a 43-33 deficit in the second half. A 22-7 run gave LB a 55-50 lead late in the game after not allowing Clackamas any bench scoring.

But LB was unable to hold on, losing 59-57.

After the exciting women's game, the men took the court, looking for revenge in the evening's late match-up. LB put points on the board early thanks to Shaun Lake's 16 points, but that would be the only bright spot as Clackamas shot 64 percent from the field and kept pouring it on till the final buzzer ended the 98-56 blow-out.

Saturday offered the Roadrunners a chance for a rematch on the Clackamas hardwood in Oregon City. After the Lady Runners blew a late lead just three days earlier, they couldn't manage to find a lead at all in this one. Richards contributed 16 points while Kendall Dionne had 15, but LB shot only 32 percent to go along with 24 turnovers as a team on their way to a lopsided 70-52 defeat.

The Runners had one last shot at respectability when the men faced the same team that had scored 98 points on them three days earlier. Tommy Bain had 20 points and seven rebounds to go with Michael Braziel's 20 points, six rebounds and five steals as LB made a late run at the Cougars. After trailing 51-39, LB made a final effort down the stretch but came up short of a redeeming victory by a final of 78-75.

Both LB squads rank fifth in the NWAACC Southern Division and will look for victories over Lane in Eugene on Wednesday and Chemeketa in the Activities Center on Saturday in order to keep in playoff contention.

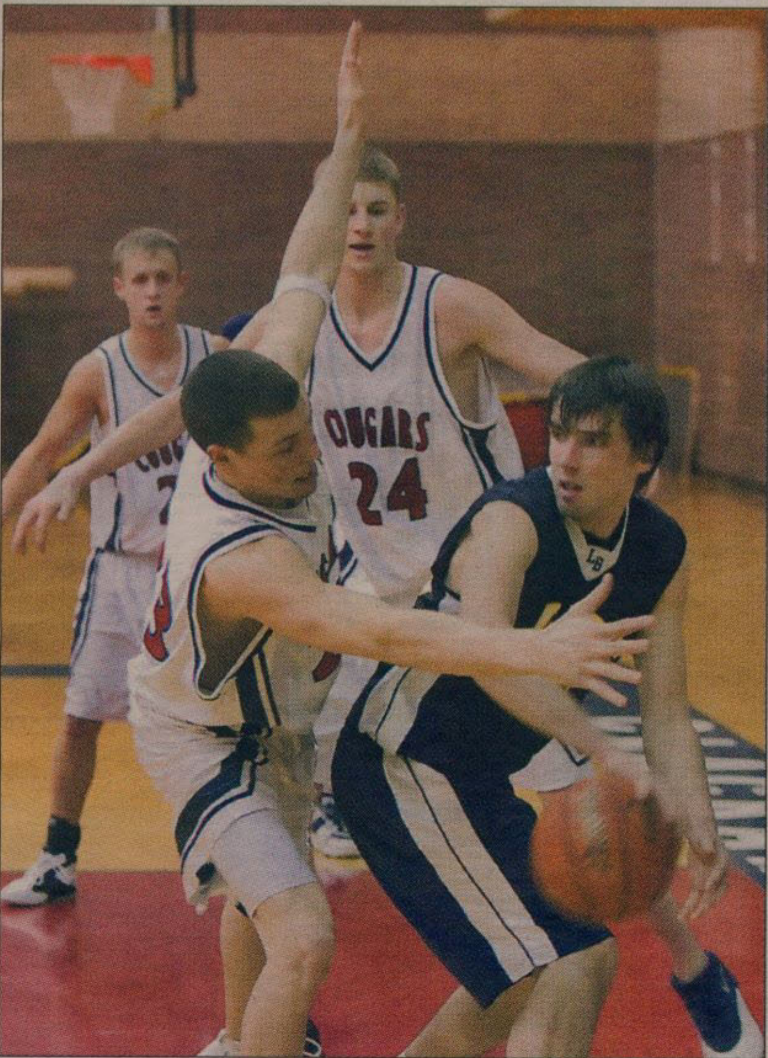


photo by Erik Swanson

Tommy Bain looks for an outlet pass against Clackamas defenders in a tightly played game last Saturday in Oregon City. Bain led the team with 20 points and seven rebounds.

COMMENTARY

With no cap agreement lights may go out in NHL

Nick Milhoan
 The Commuter

The finger is sitting on the switch once again and it looks as though the lights across North America are about to be turned off on the 2004-2005 National Hockey League season.

Now I know the world has countless issues that are more prevalent right now than hockey, but sports truly unite people and helps them to forget about the other crap going on throughout the world.

I lived in Canada for close to a year and well if you have never been, you do not know how BIG the NHL is to the neighbors north of us. Combine the enthusiasm for NASCAR, NFL, NBA, and MLB and that is how BIG hockey is to the Canadians.

Both sides are more concerned about the politics of the sport and neither seems willing to stop this lockout anytime soon.

The players union originally wanted no salary cap, which is retarded. If you look at the NFL, they have flourished with a cap. Take the Patriots for example. No one ever thought we would see a team dominate again thanks to a cap, yet Coach Belichick and owner Bob Kraft have found a way to succeed with one.

Players in all sports are paid way too much, no player deserves to be paid \$50 million a year to play any sport. Yet the players feel it's appropriate to make that and they say "they can't afford to live with a cap."

How can a player not be able to live on \$50 million a year? I mean 85 percent of the world's population lives in poverty, yet these players can't bear the thought of surviving on a measly \$2 million a year.

The owners in this situation really don't seem to care about things either. If I was an owner I'd be concerned with the situation of not making money right now because there are no games being played. Aren't they losing money? Isn't it more important to please the players, make a few compromises and make money by playing games? I would think

that is the case, but apparently I'm wrong.

The president of the owners and the NHL commissioner are wanting to have a cap of (as of the latest proposal) about \$39 million per team. I don't think that is fair, though I do agree they need a cap. No team in this day and age can function for that meager amount of money. I know that might sound contradictory from what I said earlier, but again I do agree with a cap. If a team was able to set a cap of around \$60 to \$70 million, I think everyone in the league would be happy and the teams in smaller markets (San Jose, Ottawa, Carolina, Vancouver etc...) would have a better chance to compete against the juggernauts (Detroit, Boston, New York, Toronto etc..) of the NHL.

Also the owners don't want to let the players have any say in the way a team and the league is run. I would see that like being at any job and your boss saying to you "It's my world, you just live in it and work for me, so I really could care less about anything you have to say." Essentially I'd be upset as a player over this as well.

Both sides have met countless times over the last year to no avail. We have already gone through roughly 80 percent of the regular season being canceled right now, as well as the All-Star Game.

I will say one thing—the players are finally willing to submit to a compromise, which is showing some good will on their part. They last proposed an annual cap of \$55 million, something I feel is fair. They also are willing to listen to other proposals being submitted by the owners. Yet the owners don't want to budge over anything.

Sadly it looks as though for the first time in professional sports history, a full season will be canceled. It's sad that everyone is so concerned over the politics of the sport and not for the fans. In the end, when (and if) hockey ever does decide to begin play, we will see if fans go back, if they're lucky.

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Associated Student Government: Applications are available now for all positions on the 05-06 ASG team. Positions and compensation include:

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(12 credits for Fall, Winter & Spring terms)
- **Public Relations Secretary**
(12 credits for Fall, Winter & Spring terms)
- **Science & Industries Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)
- **Business & Health Occupations Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)
- **Student Services & Extended Centers Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)
- **Liberal Arts & Human Performance Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)
- **At-Large Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)

Applications are due Friday, February 11 at noon in the Student Life & Leadership office. There will be a candidate forum on February 16 and applicants should come prepared to answer questions from the audience. Elections will start via the web on Tuesday February 22 at 7:30 a.m. and end on February 23 at 11:30 p.m. Any questions should be directed toward Stephanie Quigley at 917-4475.

The **Student Programming Board** is seeking applicants for next year's leaders. The following positions will be filled:

- **Team Coordinator**
- **Multicultural Activities Coordinator**
- **Intramural Sports Specialist**
- **Health and Recreation Specialist**
- **Campus and Recreation Specialist**
- **Community Events Specialist**
- **Series Events Specialist**
- **Political Activities Specialist**

Applications are available in the Student Life & Leadership office in the Student Union. Applications are due by noon on Friday, February 11. Interviews will be held on Wednesday, February 23 at 2 p.m. If appointed, individuals will serve one year and earn tuition talent grants that pay for up to 12 credits per term for two or three terms, depending on the position. If interested, or for more information, please stop by the Student Life & Leadership office or call Tamara Britton, '04-'05 Team Coordinator, at 917-4472.

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LOCAL NEWS

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

Quaint B & B offers beautiful wedding backdrop

Editors Note: Part One of a series on wedding venues in and around the Willamette Valley.

Colleen Jacks
 The Commuter

With spring swiftly approaching, we're entering what I call "The Wedding Season."

Newly engaged myself, the first thought that came to mind, after I composed myself following the surprise engagement ring my fiance gave me on Christmas Day was, okay, where will we have the ceremony?

Knowing there must be other brides-to-be facing a similar situation, I set off on my quest to find the perfect wedding venue. The first stop was the Internet, and I also asked friends about their experiences. This is not my first wedding, so that comes with its own set of parameters.

I'd attended a few weddings at The Hanson Country Inn, a quaint bed and breakfast in Corvallis, so it seemed like a good place to start.

The inn rests atop a gently sloping hill at the end of a tree-lined drive, in southwest Corvallis. The home was originally built by J.A. Hanson, in 1928, who ran a successful poultry-breeding ranch for many years.

When Pat Covey bought the five-acre estate, in 1987, it had been empty for 13 years. She lovingly restored it to its previous charm and beauty. All the woodwork is original, including the hardwood floors and staircase.

Covey, and the resident event planner, Gwyn Newcombe sat down with me to cover what they have to offer for a wedding.



The Hanson Country Inn at 795 S.W. Hanson St. in Corvallis is a popular venue for couples to hold wedding and receptions. The inn sits on a small hill in southwest Corvallis and occupies a historic home originally built by J.A. Hanson, who operated a poultry business on the site.

"Every single wedding is different," said Covey. "You see one wedding and think it's perfect, and then we do another one that's even better."

Newcombe likes to focus on the bride to make sure everything goes smoothly for her. She also enjoys the full cycle of the wedding process. If the couple reserves the inn for the entire weekend, Newcombe oversees the entire event, from the rehearsal on Friday evening, to their departure Sunday morning.

"I like to cook a special breakfast for

them when they come down the stairs. We get them first thing on Friday, and afterward, carrying out their things on Sunday," she said.

Many times they've had couples return to show off their children and have their anniversary parties there.

They have many plans to suit the individual needs of a couple. Most of the weddings take place in the beautifully landscaped garden, where they can seat up to 300 guests, with the couple exchanging vows in the gazebo. An inside

ceremony can accommodate up to 50 guests, with the nuptials performed in front of the classically carved fireplace.

When preparing for a wedding, there's always a Plan A and a Plan B. If it rains, they can quickly tent the garden area, or if the group is small enough, the ceremony can be moved indoors.

Covey says the inn is "blessed" because many times it has rained the entire week before the wedding and when the day comes, the sun will shine. She can recall it sprinkling once or twice on a wedding day, "but this is Oregon and you have to expect things like that can happen."

Hanson Inn does not cater the events themselves, but offers a list of local vendors that can tailor a meal to your specifications.

The inn can host many types of events including birthday parties, anniversaries or business meetings.

A one-day rental begins at approximately \$1750, with the day beginning at 11:00 and ending at 9:00 p.m. However, they recommend reserving the inn for the entire weekend, giving you exclusive use of the facility including the four guest rooms. A complete weekend package is \$2500 (not including catering). However, if you have your wedding in their off-season, January through March, you can save quite a bit of money.

The proprietors at The Hanson Country Inn are very helpful and can take care of all the details to ensure your special day is everything you've dreamt about and more, even if it's not your first wedding.

Now, on to my next stop.

For more information, you can reach them at (541)752-2919 or see their web site at www.hcinn.com.

Evidence no longer links Kim to Wilberger case

Nick Milhoan
 The Commuter

A Multnomah County judge announced on Monday that Sung Koo Kim is no longer a suspect in the suspected abduction of Brooke Wilberger.

Judge Frank L. Bearden became the second judge in less than a week to reduce bail amounts for Kim. Bearden ordered the bail be reduced from \$10 million to \$800,000, citing that Kim has no criminal



Brooke Wilberger

history and is only facing burglary in Multnomah County.

Bearden's ruling marked a reversal of a prior assertion by Multnomah County Chief Deputy District Attorney Norm Frink. He announced last year that Kim was a "suspect" in the May disappearance of Wilberger, a 19-year-old BYU student that vanished while visiting her sister in Corvallis.

"It is now known that the defendant is not a suspect in that (Wilberger) case, so that reason has been removed as a consideration for the high secu-

rity amount," Bearden said.

Last week, a Washington County judge made a similar finding and slashed Kim's bail for roughly one-third to \$480,000.

Corvallis Police Lt. Ron Noble acknowledged Monday that detectives have found no evidence that would link Kim to the abduction of Wilberger. He said Kim was removed from a list of so-called "persons of interest" on Friday.

Kim is charged in Multnomah, Washington, Benton and Yamhill counties with stealing thousands of pairs of women's underwear from university residence halls. He also faces possession of child pornography charges in Washington County. Kim has pleaded not guilty to all counts.

Lawyers for Kim have continuously argued that prosecutors were to quick to blame Kim as a suspect in the Wilberger case, and that there was no connection between that case and the party thefts. They even offered up an alibi.


"We take a position that he

is not a danger to the community. Mr. Kim has absolutely no criminal history," said Shannon Connell, a defense attorney for Kim.

Wilberger disappeared on May, 24 2004, from outside her sister's apartment. Corvallis police believe she was abducted outside the Oak Park Apart-

ments, which is approximately two blocks from OSU. If you have information on the case, you are advised to call 1-800-843-5678 or visit www.findbrooke.com.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

OSU artist paints meals to die for

Cynthia King
 The Commuter

Popcorn shrimp, chicken fried steak, peach cobbler, pomegranates. What would you eat for dinner tonight if you knew it would be your last?

That is the question posed to death row inmates before their executions, and a subject that local artist Julie Green explores in her work.

OSU professor Green gave a slide show and lecture last week entitled "Famous Last Suppers: Final meal requests of US death row inmates," as part of a lecture series sponsored by the OSU Philosophy Department. More than 75 people attended the talk, which was free and open to the public.

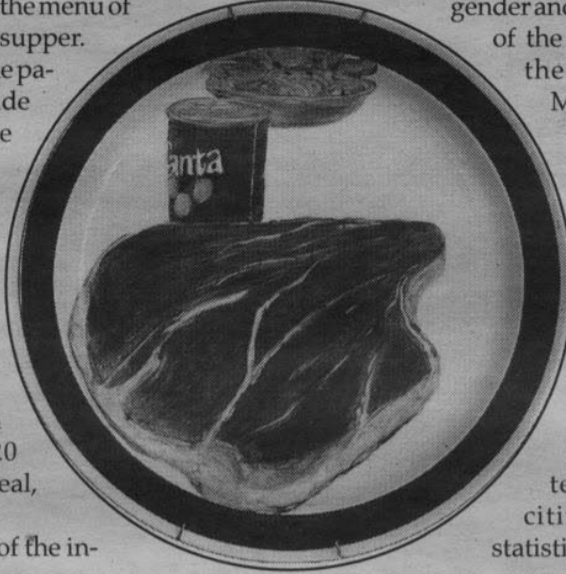
The theme of the series, "The Examined Meal," took on a rather grim tone as the speaker examined capital punishment from this unusual angle. Green said that she opposes the death penalty, primarily due to its margin of error, and makes sociopolitical art to encourage dialogue about the issue.

"Texas, 9 May 2002: 2 pieces of fried chicken, 2 Coca-Colas," Green narrated, as a slide of a white ceramic plate painted with the meal appeared on the screen. "Texas, 10 April 2002: 12 pieces of fried chicken, mashed potatoes with brown gravy, 2 rolls with butter, 2 Pepsi Colas, 1 pint of strawberry ice cream, and 1 pint of vanilla ice cream." Green has painted 180 plates, each detailing the final meal of a death row inmate. Each plate is unique, like the meals they commemorate. Green works in the medium of mineral painting, generally considered a folk art in the West. She uses primarily blue paint, the same color used to paint traditional china.

Texas, where one third of the 948 U.S. executions since 1973 have taken place, appeared repeatedly in the show, as did images of fried chicken, French fries and ice cream. One plate showed a bag of individually wrapped, assorted flavored Jolly Ranchers. Another showed a chocolate cake with chocolate frosting, execution date inscribed in white icing on top.

Green got the idea to paint the plates in 1999. Oklahoma, where she lived at the time, had executed a prisoner the night before, and the local paper covered the event, including the menu of the inmate's last supper. Surprised that the paper would provide such detail, she called the state prison ward to find out more about the final meal ritual. The ward asked if she was calling to complain about the \$20 spent on the meal, Green said.

Fifty percent of the in-



"Ohio; 19 Feb. 2002; steak rare, salad, grape pop" a painting by Julie Green was one of the images shown during her talk last week as part of the Examined Meal Series.

mates on death row are racial minorities, Green noted.

She explained that she was drawn to the project in part because of the race, gender and class dimensions of the death penalty in the United States. Most death row inmates, she explained, are poor Southern minorities. She remarked that "it is not so much what you do, but who you are" that determines if you get sentenced to death, citing numerous statistics to support her

assertion.

Green became sensitive to minority issues after living in Japan as one in the 1990s. The plates often reflect the backgrounds of the inmates, she said, noting that the majority of the Missouri meals she documented included steak, whereas plates in Texas tended to be of chicken and burgers.

Spending so much time with this macabre subject has led Green to wonder why the "Last Supper" tradition exists. She remarked that, to her knowledge, each of the 38 states with the death penalty has the tradition.

"Is it truly a last act of kindness?" she mused. Or could it be intended to alleviate the guilt of those who oversee the inmate's death? More than 90 percent of inmates accept the final meal request, less than 5 percent decline the final meal, and 5 percent choose to eat a regular prison meal, Green said.

One of the Oregon inmates whose final meal she painted, a plate of fried eggs and bacon, wrote in his request that he "would appreciate the food hot."

A Washington inmate requested salmon, which Green rendered as a whole fish, mouth agape. A few of Green's plates suggested spiritual or ethical themes. One Texas inmate requested "truth, justice, and world peace." Another plate displayed the Eucharist, with a thin wafer and goblet of wine.

When asked by an audience member if she was ever tempted to walk away from the project due to its morbid nature, Green smiled and admitted that she has considered it. However, she said, it is important to carry on because people are reevaluating the death penalty nationwide, it's being addressed by movies and books, and DNA evidence is exonerating people all the time.

The lecture series is being recorded, and will begin airing on Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. on Oregon Public Affairs Network, Channel 27 in Corvallis. More information on the series can be found on the OSU Philosophy Department web site at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/philosophy/>.

"The Examined Meal" Lecture Series

Lectures are on Thursdays at 4 p.m. in Weniger Hall Room 149 on the OSU campus, unless stated otherwise.

Feb. 10

"Bread and God, Spirit and Justice, in the Bible"

Marc Borg, OSU Philosophy

Feb. 17

"American Philosophy of Agriculture: A Guide Tour from Thomas Jefferson to Wendell Berry" Paul Thompson, Michigan State, Philosophy & Agriculture

Feb. 24

"Feasting and Fasting in a Globalized Market Place"

Gary Nabhan, Northern Arizona U. Center for Sustainable Environments (In Weniger 151; sponsored by the Spring Creek Project)

March 3

"Beliefs About Food: What Can Food Do for You?"

Melinda Manore, OSU Nutrition

March 10

"The Unexamined Meal is Not Worth Eating"

Lisa Heldke, Gustavus Adolphus College, Philosophy

Annual Valley Writers series kicks off with poems and stories of love

LBCC News Service

The Valley Writers Series at LBCC begins with an open reading titled "Loving Literature" on Monday, Feb. 14, from noon to 1 p.m. in the newly named "Hot Shot" coffee house in the Student Union.

Everyone is invited to join in commemorating Valentine's Day by reading favorite poems or short stories celebrating the art of loving.

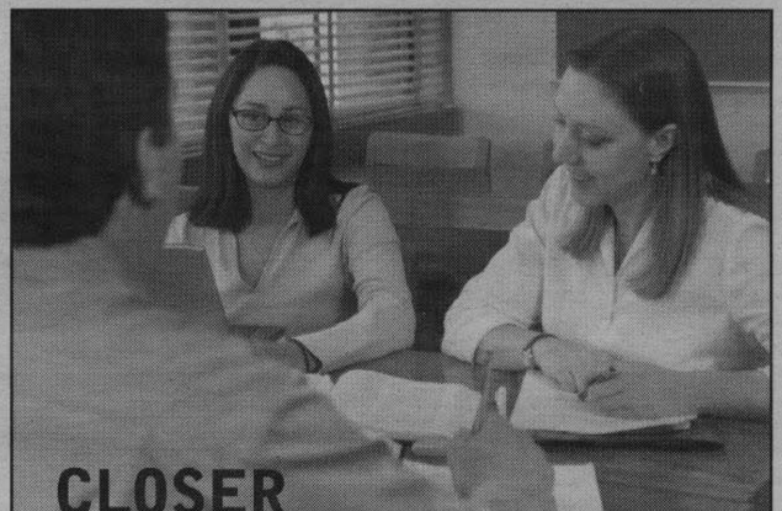
Second in the series is "Writing for a Living," a panel discussion, on Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. in the College Center Board rooms, CC-103. Three local technical writers, Evelyn Lee, Carl English-Young and Marcia Chapman, will discuss their work. Lee has a masters in ecology and several years of experience working for a local technical writing and translation company. English-Young is a sales process manager at CH2M HILL who collaborates with teams of engineers and production specialists to collect information and shape it into persuasive proposals. Chapman founded Datawrite, a technical writing and editing service, in 1985, and co-founded the Mid-Valley Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication in 1986.

Last in the series is poet Maxine Scates with a reading and discussion of her works on Thursday, March 3 from 1 to 2:20 p.m. in the Board rooms.

Scates is the author of "Black Loam," which received the Lyre Prize and will be published in February 2005, and "Toluca Street" (University of Pittsburgh Press), which received the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize and the Oregon Book Award for Poetry. She is co-editor, with David Trinidad, of "Holding Our Own: The Selected Poems of Ann Stanford," published by Copper Canyon Press.

Scates has been the recipient of fellowships in poetry from MacDowell Colony, Caldera, the Oregon Arts Commission, and Literary Arts, Inc.; she has also received a fellowship in literary nonfiction from Literary Arts, Inc. Originally from Los Angeles, she has lived in Eugene since 1973.

The Valley Writers Series is sponsored by LBCC's English Department and the Student Programming Board. For more information or if you need disability accommodations to attend, contact the LBCC English Department at 917-4530.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

CALENDAR

THE VIBE

Albany Public Library Main Branch 1390 Waverly Dr. SE Albany 917-7580	Wed, Feb. 16 Self-Defense of the Whole Family w/ Peter Cooke 6:30-8 p.m. Free
The Book Bin 215 SW 14th St. Corvallis 752-0040	Sat, Feb. 12 Sharon Thormahlen Original "Pastoral" Harp 1-2 p.m. Free
Bombs Away Cafe 2527 NW Monroe Ave. Corvallis 754-3601	Fri, Feb. 11 David Samuel Project 9:30 p.m. \$3
Linn-Benton College Multicultural Center 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany 917-4561	Wed, Feb. 9 Lunar New Year Celebrating the Chinese New Year 12 - 2 p.m.
Linn-Benton College 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany 917-4561	Wed, Feb. 9 3x3 Basketball Tournament 5 - 10 p.m.
New Morning Bakery 219 SW Second St. Corvallis 754-0181	Fri, Feb. 11 Two Easy Acoustic guitar 7:30 p.m.
	Sat, Feb. 12 Emerald Chamber Player 6:30 p.m.
Platinum 126 SW 4th St. Corvallis 541-738-6996	Fri, Feb. 11 Bob Marley Birthday Celebration Roots Reggae 9 p.m. \$6 Advance \$8 Door
Willamette Valley Vineyards 8800 Enchanted Way Turner 800-344-9463	Feb. 12-13 Pinot Noir & Chocolate Celebration Wine, music, chocolate and candy \$5 Admission includes free wine glass



photo by Erik Swanson

KBVR DJ Alexis Melville selects the next track at the OSU radio station where Kyle Mydoch also works.

KBVR shuns Top 40 for the off-beat

Lydia Nelson
The Commuter

From Latin hip-hop to reggae, Japanese rock to butt rock, you can hear it all on 88.7 FM, OSU's student-run radio station KBVR. What you won't hear is your typical top 40 countdown.

According to its mission statement, "KBVR-FM is here to expose the community to non-commercial music and programming not available in our broadcast area. Our goal is to educate through new artists, genres, and musical styles, as well as keep our listening audience up to date on newsworthy events and potent social topics, while simultaneously refraining from propaganda and narrow-minded opinionative media tactics."

Station manager Nick Lawrence is excited with the direction the station is going. With a collection of over 75 DJs regularly on the air, and 20 more trained on campus, the station strives to promote lesser-known music. Lawrence is proud of the team that just received a first-place College Broadcast award.

"It was the first year we entered," said Lawrence, "and we got first place." The BCI award was given in the category for the Best Regularly Aired Program and was awarded by the advisors of all the college radio stations across the nation.

The award-winning program was called "Kung-Pow Fries," which is no longer on the air. KBVR now has a series called "Cheat Sheet," which airs Friday afternoons between 2 and 6. The "Cheat Sheet" is a program that discusses video games, and often gives prizes away, such as free video games and gaming systems.

Lawrence, a speech communication major, has been the station manager for almost a year. Lawrence has been with KBVR for three years, working in various positions. His term as manager will end in March, when KBVR's staff rotates positions. "I stuck around because of the people," said Lawrence.

KBVR is a completely student-run radio station, with one faculty advisor. The DJ's all volunteer for their positions, and only 12 members of the staff are reimbursed with school credit or a check for their work.

The DJs pretty much have complete freedom to play what they want, said Lawrence. When they volunteer, they choose a genre of music they would like to play, and choose songs from that category. Lawrence prefers that they stay with the same genre of music in their time slots so listeners can better understand the schedule, but said that he doesn't mind if they dabble in other genres once in a while.

According to Lawrence, OSU's radio station is comparable to commercial radio station, in terms of technology. "The most exciting thing is we just got an automation player," said Lawrence, which he described as a huge MP3 list that the DJs can access on touch-screen computers. It allows them to program the computer to play music selected from a specific genre of music, or play a variety of music. This usually occurs in the early morning.

All OSU students are invited to apply to be DJs or technicians, as long as they are enrolled for at least six credit hours, and have a GPA of at least 2.0. LBCC students who are dual enrolled at OSU are eligible to work at KBVR if they choose. Training consists of a term as an intern, participating in classes that go through the layout of the station, and working with a DJ mentor.

KBVR has been on the air since 1967, though it originally only aired for one hour a day, Monday through Friday, and could be heard on 99.1. It was also broadcast from the basement of Shepherd Hall, which was an all-female dorm at the time, but moved to its current location in Snell Hall in 1977. The station also expanded its listening area from around a five-mile radius, to a 40-mile radius, its current listening area.

Students interested in apprenticeships, and other information, can visit the web site at www.KBVR.org.

'The Wedding Date' offers perfect fit for Valentine's Day

Brenda Ranzenbach
The Commuter

Have you ever been to a wedding where it seems everyone is attached and you are all alone? That's how Kat feels when her half-sister, Amy, plans a wedding in London in the movie "The Wedding Date." Kat, played by Debra Messing, can only dread the wedding because her ex-fiancé is the best man. So, being desperate to keep her mother and her English relatives off her back, she hires a male escort for the entire weekend. Nick, played by Dermot Mulroney, is just what she needed, although he comes at a very high price.

MOVIE REVIEW

It was a nice movie, not too serious and not too over the top. I had suspicions that the movie might try too hard with Messing and physical comedy. Thankfully it did not. I liked Messing in this role; her character seemed real. She's just a young woman with normal insecurities and a bitchy little sister. I'm sure many can relate.

Mulroney was excellent, with his deep voice and seductive demeanor. I might pay him to escort me to school each day. His character was very in tune with the women in the movie, which was not lost on the men, who were in awe of his talents.

Messing and Mulroney are believable together. Their chemistry was good but not over done.

The wedding itself takes place in the English country outside London. The hills were green and lush, a perfect setting for any wedding. The Brits in this film are great with their blunt honesty. Kat's cousin is outrageous, getting most of the laughs.

The movie is perfectly timed for Valentine's Day, as it is a definite "chick flick." The theater was filled with women and just a few folks who appeared to be on dates.

I recommend seeing the movie if you want some mildly amusing, comedy that's not too serious.