

THE COMMUTER

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a weekly student publication

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wyden: War, taxes, grant reform top agenda

Davis LaMuerta
The Commuter

Linn-Benton was visited last Tuesday by Sen. Ron Wyden for the annual "Our Town Hall" meeting. In an open forum, citizens from the area gathered to ask questions and discuss serious political issues with the senator.

The war in Iraq was a major recurrent theme of the discussion, both from audience members and from Wyden himself.

"I was one of the 23 senators who voted against going to war," said Wyden, "I sure wish my point of view had prevailed." He added that the U.S. soldiers' current role in the war was ineffective.

"I think the Iraqis are using our courageous soldiers as a crutch," said Wyden, and added that troops should no longer be responsible for "refereeing a civil war."

Though not many LB students

were present at the meeting, one student from Clackamas Community College asked about solutions to what he called "a broken system" with the Federal Pell grant. He complained that because his income was slightly over the limit, he was not eligible to receive a grant.

Wyden agreed that the system had flaws, and expressed hopes that the newly passed legislation to increase grants would begin to show some positive effects.

"A country that can spend hundreds of billions of dollars on the war in Iraq is in effect saying to a student who wants to work hard and wants to pull himself up in terms of advancing himself, that we just aren't going to be much help in this," Wyden said.

LB instructor Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia had questions about taxes, and the alternative minimum tax. Wyden responded by explaining about the Fair Flat Tax Act, about which he

said, "I permanently abolish the alternative minimum tax, because it has completely lost its moorings." Wyden called the alternative minimum tax "bureaucratic water torture," and said his new Fair Flat Tax Act would ease the tax strain on middle-class Americans by raising deductions and lowering the time it takes to file.

Wyden also stressed the importance of the health care crisis in the U.S. He described another effort, the Healthy Americans Act, which would help provide affordable health care to every American. He said this health care system would not only be cost effective, but would also be portable.

"We must modernize the employer/employee relationship in health care," said Wyden.

Issues of science and technology in schools were also touched on in the discussion. Wyden was

▶ Turn to "Wyden" on Pg. 5



photo by Will Parker
Sen. Wyden tours LBCC as part of his townhall meeting on Tuesday, January 8th with LBCC staff and students.

Pending domestic partnership law hinges on district judge's decision

Davis LaMuerta
The Commuter

The passage of Oregon's domestic partnership law was delayed days before it was to take effect. House Bill 2007, the Oregon Family Fairness Act, would grant same-sex partners the right to enter into legal partnerships, and give couples some of the legal rights granted to heterosexual married couples.

On Dec. 28, 2007, U.S. District Judge Michael Mosman ordered a temporary restraining order on the law due to opposition by Arizona's Alliance Defense Fund, an out-of-state conservative legal interest group, according to Basic Rights Oregon. The basis for the opposition is that the Alliance Defense Fund allegedly had enough signatures to bring the bill to the ballot. A hearing is scheduled for

Feb. 1, 2008; the domestic partnership law is on hold at least until that date, at which time a federal court will decide whether to pass the law as scheduled, or to send it to vote on the Nov. 2008 ballot.

Activists with Basic Rights Oregon are not giving up, and plan to fight back on the issue, stating, "This delay tactic results in real harm to countless Oregonians and their families, and is absolutely unnecessary." BRO has filed an Amicus brief with the court, asking for consideration of these three points:

"Same-sex domestic partners would be irreparably harmed if the domestic partnership law were enjoined."

"Committed same-sex partners should have the opportunity to have their relationship legally recognized and receive rights and responsibilities

comparable to those afforded opposite-sex couples who legally marry."

"An injunction at this late date will disrupt both the private and public sector that have taken steps and expended resources to comply with the new law."

According to BRO, over 1,500 people in seven Oregon cities held candlelight vigils on Jan. 2, the day many same-sex couples would have been seeking domestic partnerships had the restraining order not been filed. In Corvallis, over 200 people marched that night, according to the Gazette-Times.

The Oregon Equality Act, a separate bill that went into effect Jan. 1, was not affected by the restraining order. This law prohibits discrimination based on sexual and gender orientation.

Social issues get trumped



White evangelical Protestants are the only group with a majority saying social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage, will be important in their choice for president.

	Percent saying subject is important in vote for president		
	Iraq	Social issues	Domestic issues
All polled	72%	38%	78%
Republican	63%	45%	65%
Democrat	80%	36%	88%
Independent	70%	36%	78%
White Protestant	67%	43%	74%
Evangelical	66%	56%	72%
Mainline	68%	28%	76%
Black Protestant	78%	42%	88%
Catholic	76%	31%	82%
White non-Hispanic	76%	28%	81%
Unaffiliated	76%	33%	77%

Source: Pew Research Center for People and the Press/Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life poll of 3,002 adults, Aug. 1-18, 2007; margin of error: +/- 2 percentage points
Graphic: Angela Smith, Judy Treible

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter
commuter@linnbenton.edu (F-22)
Please sign and keep to 300 words or less

Students in the dark on Wyden visit

Will Parker
The Commuter

The sparsely filled Russell Tripp auditorium held last Tuesday's Town Hall meeting with Sen. Ron Wyden. The meeting was part of Wyden's initial campaign pledge to visit with each Oregon county he represented at least once a year. The format and tone of the meeting was initially set to be casual. Wyden wanted to have a conversation, not a lecture. Yet despite a fairly diverse, if small, crowd, oddly absent were LBCC students.

While there was student representation in the form of both LBCC and Clackamas Community College student body presidents, there were maybe three students that had chosen to come on their own rather than as part of a student organization. Outside the auditorium, hundreds of students passed, getting on and off the bus in front of Takena Hall. When asked, all but one student out of 35 had no idea what was going on inside the auditorium.

A smaller group of students were then interviewed. Most expressed that had they known they would have been interested in attending the Town Hall meeting. Some, such as Phoebe Kraus-Scherer, said that she "had a bunch of other stuff to do at the same time." Shaun Dickinson said that he "Doesn't trust politicians." As part of the interviews, students were asked where they got their news on local current events. All of the students mentioned the Internet and more than three-fourths of them said local newspapers.

A search of the Albany Democrat-Herald's Web site turned up one article published the Friday before announcing the meeting. The meeting held in Corvallis was announced the day before, at the bottom of a longer article on Wyden's logging plans. The Corvallis newspaper made no mention of Albany's meeting and Albany's said nothing about Corvallis'.

Student interest was certainly present, but where was

the notification? There were no flyers posted around campus, nothing in the activities calendar, nothing announced. Not even one of the ever present sandwich boards that dot the campus were on hand for the event.

"How does it go? Seeing politics is like seeing sausage being made," said Ellen Mattison.



photo by Will Parker
Senator Ron Wyden hosts a town hall meeting at LBCC on Friday January 11

Welcome back to arctic caves of LBCC

Davis LaMuerta
The Commuter

The coldness has set in, and we have entered the dread winter term; the time at LB where it feels like you're passing through an Arctic cave every time you walk in the outside corridors. And you can expect to miss at least a few days of class due to icy roads and random snow flurries.

I wanted to make a couple of announcements for the student body and regular Commuter readers. First, we have a new ad coordinator, Minda Trulove, and this should help alleviate the issues we had last term with getting ads in. I'd also like to apologize to everyone who tried to submit an ad last term and didn't get it in because of confusion in our office. I'm very sorry for this, and we will do everything



To all those who were hoping that that bitchy Uriarte person had been replaced finally: sorry, not yet.

DAVIS LAMUERTA

we can to get ALL ads in this term.

Second, you may have noticed that a new name appears underneath my picture in this article (as well as on the top of each page of this paper where it says "Editor-in-Chief." This is not a misprint. I have changed my name from Elizabeth Uriarte to Davis LaMuerta.

To all those who were hoping that that bitchy Uriarte person had been replaced finally: sorry, not yet. I'm still here, just under a new persona. I'm announcing this because I wish to clear up any confusion with readers, and

let everyone know that it's the same person.

Now, what do I have to bitch about this week? Quite a bit, actually, but I'll save it for future issues. So, enjoy this temporary reprieve, and welcome back.

The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE

STAFF

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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

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PERSPECTIVES

"What did you think of senator Wyden holding a town hall meeting at LBCC?"



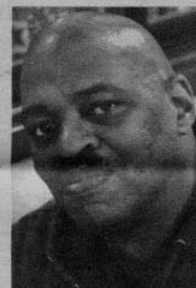
"Might have been interesting to see a senator"

• Alex Kassavetis •
Undecided

"Seeing politics is like seeing sausage being made."



• Ellen Mattison •
AAOT



"I would have liked to hear what he had to say."

• Lance Dickson •
Education

"I had a bunch of other stuff to do at the same time."



• Phoebe Kraus-Scherer •
Undecided



"They are boring and I don't trust politicians"

• Shaun Dickinson •
Pre-med

"It's hard to keep up with current events."



• Kris Paul •
Computer Science

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
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 Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.

Dude, where's my trade show? Technology in the doldrums

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

So, this is my first official opinion column ever. And if you aren't angry about something by the end of it, there's always next week.

Bigger is better. Or at least, that's what the technology companies want you to believe, judging from CNET's coverage of the event this year (<http://ces.cnet.com/>). Sometimes I wonder if I'm the only person who sees this. Going over the coverage of this year's CES (Consumer Electronics Show, for you neophytes) I can't help but notice that there was a severe lack of innovation. Not the regular lack of innovation where they reinvent the wheel but add in an MP3 player that only plays one Sting song and sell it for double the price. No, what I was noticing this year was that things were mostly just bigger. And not mostly just bigger, mostly just screens.

Panasonic released a 150" Plasma T.V. Read that. 150" inches. Do you have that much free wall space? What are you going to watch on 150" inches of T.V.? What could possibly be

so amazing that it would require you to sacrifice an entire wall just to watch it on? I know Halo 3 isn't that good, so what are you going to output to it? Crisis from your PC? If Peter Griffin isn't at least 3' tall, you are wrong! This T.V. is so huge they had to fly it in the nose of a plane, only one of which fits per plane. Luckily, some things got smaller, with the 9mm thin Plasma from Pioneer. But why aren't things getting better? Why do they just get smaller or bigger *AND* more expensive?

I was absolutely disgusted to see that Nvidia was introducing a new SLI interface that could handle 3 graphics cards simultaneously. In an industry that gets more expensive by the day, we're expected to buy more of the same products repetitiously.

For the most part, ATI's Crossfire and Nvidia's SLI have been a dire disappointment in the cost/performance category. It's more of a status symbol than an actual benefit. We're talking about laying down \$300 (or more) twice to run dual Graphics cards leaving you with a \$600+ dollar graphics subsystem. You'll need a 600-Watt or Higher Power

Supply Unit, which is pretty spendy, a big enough case to house it all, the motherboard to support it with additional slots, and if you're going this far, why not have multi-core processors? AMD has released an architecture to run dual quad-core CPUs in an 8 Core setup.

Some part of me wonders if the computer parts industry is simply trying to fill the shoes of these massive power supplies. As if they were children, greedily stuffing their bags with candy at then nice lady's house when she mentions they can have as much as they wish.

Perhaps the biggest shocker this year was Bill Gates' formal retirement with a slew of celebrity cameos. Talk about innovative! It'll still be years before he's gone, so maybe not so innovative. And how much did those celebrities cost?

No, this year it just feels like CES was a waste of time. Who are the sorts of people who actually buy this stuff? Do they cruise down to Best Buy in their Ferraris they earned through sweat and blood and buy one of everything, to go, please? Or are they just trust-fund babies with egos to

feed?

In an economy forshadowed by rumours of recession, a switch from analog to digital signals for TVs in 2009 rendering many obsolete, and the growing popularity of budget entertainment, as evidenced by the Wii and a cheap T.V. from Wal-Mart, I have got to wonder where this bloated extravaganza of self-important crap gets off actually existing? Do I have to say it? That there are starving children somewhere that your \$15,000 T.V. could've fed for who knows how long? And people were shocked that Gizmodo bloggers ran around firing off TV-B-Gone remotes at screens, effectively shutting off any that had an IR-Port, being displayed at press conferences.

There was only one good thing to come out of this year's CES that was a \$200 Blu-Ray Player. Oh wait (Don't you love these turn-arounds? Last one, promise!), digital distribution, hard drives and solid-state storage will win the war as Blu-Ray wins this battle. By the time Blu-Ray finishes off HD-DVD and saturates the market, will people still care? Or will you download the latest blockbuster

in 60 seconds before transferring it wirelessly to your 500" TV so astronauts can observe from a low orbit.

The masses are the biggest market, yet they're the ones that can't afford half of the stuff shown at CES, it's like it exists solely to remind you that you need to make more money and then spend it.

Oh, and did I mention Darth Vader will be in the PS3 version and Yoda in the X-box 360 version of Soul Calibur IV. Shock me, shock me, with that rebellious attitude, George, here's to the new Indiana Jones film and your MacGuffins.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takana 101). 917-4788

Customer Service Rep Recruitment (#5874, Albany) File a claim by verbally collecting pertinent information for the customer over the phone. \$8.50/hr, 20 hrs/week (weekends & 2 evenings/week) Major recruitment will be conducted by local employer on Wed, Jan. 23 from 10am-2pm in the Willamette Room at LBCC (CC 210). Will hand out applications and do a short interview.

OSU Nonprofit Career Day (Jan. 24, 2-5 pm, MU Ballroom, OSU) Meet local, state & national nonprofit organizations looking for interns, volunteers & employees in fields including: healthcare, social sciences, environmental science, engineering, vet medicine, public relations, education, design and business.

Volunteer Basketball Coaches (#5784, Corvallis) 100 volunteers needed to coach teams of 8-10 players between 8-14 years in basketball. Must have a general knowledge of basketball and enjoy working with kids. Be available 5 hours a week in the afternoon and one hour for games on Saturdays.

Youth Basketball Gym Supervisor/Official (#5785, Corvallis) Supervise gym during basketball games & practices & assist coaches as needed (20 openings). Pay is \$8.84-9.72/hr.

MISC.

Need writing help? Have a major essay due? Need to discuss some of your ideas before you start writing? Need help brainstorming topics? Focusing? Organizing? The **Writing Center** invites you to stop by for help with these and any other writing questions. The Writing Center is in SSH-108. Drop in Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Can't stop by? Then visit our online service: lbcc.writingcenter-online.net. You can submit work to the **Online Writing Lab** up to Wednesday, Dec. 5 (expect 1-2 days turnaround).

New year, new life for WoW; LoTRO continues to contend

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

This is the second part of a rundown of Massively Multiplayer Online games, WoW (World of Warcraft) was being discussed from a PvP standpoint onward. Refer to the Nov. 7th Issue of The Commuter for the first half.

The arena PvP grind essentially replaced the old-school Rank 14 grind and most gamers passed it by, even though its mild-mannered intention was to appeal to the casual gamer (someone who has limited time to invest on a daily basis). PvE (Player Vs. Enemy/Environment) included a lot more grinding.

With such a massive user-base, one begins to wonder if it will top out, as the game is now three years old, or if breaking into the scene will be difficult. WoW requires a lot of time input and grinding to achieve anything worth mentioning here.

Another annoying factor is that most of the high-quality pre-Burning Crusade content is skipped by a lot of players as it's kind of irrelevant to the gear you can get in Outland, and you'll have a lot of trouble finding anyone to do it, as most people just level to 58 and cross through the Dark Portal.

Of course it's not all bad, you have a rich fantasy world, stuffed to the brim with other players (it grows everyday) and

more content on the horizon, not to mention that it's easy to get into for casual gamers, but provides a certain depth for the hardcore players.

This is one of the MMOs I recommend with a large +/- factor, simply due to the fact that because Blizzard wants to keep your subscription, they will put mundane, yet eye-bleedingly long tasks in your way to keep you hooked.

It's just my opinion that it's been slowly going downhill with every new content update since somewhere around Patch 1.8.

Promised this year in the "Wrath of the Lich King" expansion (which looks great) is a new class, death knight, if you achieve the maximum level of 80 and jump through a bunch of hoops similar to the warlock epic mount quest they'll let you start over as the new class somewhere around level 60 or 70, according to www.wowinsider.com.

However, accessing the continent of Northrend and finally facing off with Arthas should prove a tasty treat that even a retired old hunter like me won't be able to resist. And with every expansion comes an equalization of gear, so you can take a long vacation and come right back.

WoW costs \$39.99 to buy in a battle chest (combination pack) with the Original Game and The Burning Crusade, and strategy guides for both with \$14.99/month basic subscrip-

tion.

Lord of the Rings Online (LoTRO), my current fetish. Based entirely on Tolkein's world, it tries its best not to offend hardcore fans and for the most part does a grand job while still appealing to newcomers. It's gaining popularity, even in the face of Warhammer Online and Tabula Rasa.

The world is extremely RP (Role-Playing), features a plethora of emotes, three different dances, smokable pipe-weed, drinkable beer, and many characters from Tolkein's novels (Aragorn, Gandalf, you name it).

With a large number of quest-givers, voice-acted cut-scenes from a story-driven plot, and the implementation of player housing (Something WoW sorely lacked) you begin to wonder who's really leading the way. LoTRO also had voice chat support before WoW.

You play as an adventurer, set in the same time period as Tolkein's Fellowship of the Ring novel. You are the one fending off the Witch King and fighting evil where need be in the background, enabling the Fellowship to do its thing.

Backgrounds are realistic but can be bland as the same rolling hills/forest never seem to end or add any flare to zones, however, when you think about it, Middle Earth doesn't necessarily have purple trees or prehistoric craters like WoW.

Another minor concern is that character appearance can be

really boring with armor and clothing appearing in earthy tones in nearly everything without much spice, even on maximum level characters.

PvP is handled by the way of fighting the Forces of Mordor (Bad Guys).

After leveling to 10 with a Free Peoples character, you may remake a maximum level character that's either an Orc, Uruk-Hai, Spider, or Warg and duke it out with the Free Peoples (Good Guys, who must level and gain gear the old-fashioned way) for fame and fortune as you advance that character through PvP experience.

Siege engines, heroes, and zerg tactics (just charging and attacking whatever's closest in a helter-skelter combat dog-pile are all part of Mordor's Forces.

This MMO is extremely newbie (New player) and casual player friendly, that said, hardcore players may find it lacking.

The PvP, while a welcome break, will have a hard time satisfying the people who play for it.

Recently, it released a mid-level content update patch which was of a very high quality, and bugs in my experience have been minimal.

It was made by Turbine, the makers of Asheron's Call 2 and Dungeons and Dragons: Online. Costs \$29.99 to buy and \$14.99/month for the basic subscription. Look for free MMOs reviewed next week!

Managing Editor: Jamie Wilson
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Campus Shorts

SSH Gallery Photo Exhibit

"Our Town: Photographs of Where We Live," an exhibit of 40 images by 13 local photographers, is on view this month at the South Santiam Hall Gallery. Organized by the Willamette Valley PhotoArts Guild, the exhibit focuses on images that the photographers found close to home, including views of familiar landmarks and festivals as well as parks, gardens and architecture, all done in a variety of photographic media, including color, black-and-white and alternative processes.

The exhibit is the latest edition of the PhotoArts Guild's biennial project to inspire the community with artistic interpretations of the region's visual heritage. Previous exhibits have celebrated Mary's Peak in 2001, the Willamette Basin in 2003, and the Oregon Coast in 2005.

The exhibiting photographers include Corvallis residents Owen Bentley, Mike Bergen, Jean Burba, Rich Bergeman, Joe Crockett, Allan Doerksen, Anna Ellendman, Marjorie Kinch, Greg May, Dave McIntire, and Harold Wood; Albany resident Dave Smith and Eugene resident Herman Krieger.

Financial Aid Info Session

Students can learn how to finance college careers at one of two free financial aid informational sessions offered through LBCC's Lebanon and Sweet Home centers this month.

Identical sessions will be offered on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at LBCC's Lebanon Center, and again on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at LBCC's Sweet Home Center.

Topics covered include the different types of financial aid available and how students may qualify, along with how to

apply for financial aid. For more information, contact the Lebanon Center at (541) 259-5801 or the Sweet Home Center at (541) 367-6901.

LBCC Pacific Islander Club Hosts Luau

The LBCC Pacific Islanders Club will be hosting a Luau with island food and dancing on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in the College Center Commons, Albany main campus.

Guests will enjoy an island food menu of kalua pig (roast pork), teriyaki chicken, vegetable chop suey, rice, macaroni salad, tropical fruit salad, haupia (coconut pudding), fruit punch, tropical iced tea and coffee.

Entertainment will include dancers of all ages from Eugene's Hula Halau O Na Kaikuaehine, Hula School of the Sisters, performing both ancient and modern hula dances.

Tickets are \$10 per person. LBCC students can receive a free ticket with a current student ID card. Tickets are on sale now in the LBCC Student Life & Leadership office, at the registration counters at the LBCC Benton, Lebanon and Sweet Home centers and at Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis and Sid Stevens Jewelers in Albany.

This event is made possible by the joint efforts of the LBCC Pacific Islanders Club, LBCC Student Programming Board and LBCC Associated Student Government. For more information, contact Angie Klampe, club advisor, at (541) 917-4790 or Shirley Austin, LBCC clubs coordinator, at (541) 917-4459.

LBCC and Chemeketa CC Team Up for European Tour

Linn-Benton Community College Arts and Communications Division, in partnership

with Chemeketa Community College, is planning a potential June 2008 European Tour.

The two-week tour will include visits to Rome, Florence, Paris, Venice, Slazburg, Oberammergau, Engelberg, Interlaken, and London. Lee Jacobson of CCC and Dori Litzer of LBCC will serve as tour guides.

If interested, please plan to attend one of the following information sessions for specific details, including cost. For more information, contact Litzer at (541) 917-4541 or by e-mail at litzerd@linnbenton.edu.

Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., LBCC Benton Center, BC-205, Corvallis.

Thursday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m., LBCC Albany Campus College Center, Boardroom, first floor.

Tuesday, Jan. 29, noon, LBCC Albany Campus, College Center Boardroom, first floor. Friday, Feb. 8, noon, LBCC Willamette Room, College Center, second floor. Thursday, Feb. 21, 7 pm., LBCC Albany Campus College Center, Boardroom, first floor. Saturday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m. BCC Benton Center, BC-205, Corvallis.

LBCC Offers "Getting Paid to Talk" Workshop

An introduction to voice acting class, "Getting Paid to Talk," will be offered through LBCC Business and Employer Services on Thursday, Feb. 7 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on the Albany campus.

"Getting Paid to Talk" is an adult education class taught by the voice acting professionals from Voice Coaches, an industry leader in voice acting training with students all over the country. Objective is to learn how to use voice professionally for commercials, audio books, training videos, educational material, the Internet and more.

This non-credit class will focus on the basics of getting started to working in the studio, recording a demo and landing jobs. Students will have an opportunity to record a mock commercial under the direction of a Voice Coaches producer.

Instructor Paul Greenberg, producer of Voice Development for Voice Coaches, is a career broadcast and voice acting professional who has voiced work for a broad range of clients including CNBC and the Financial News Network.

Voice Coaches provides industry-leading educational resources, training and professional development to individuals pursuing professional voice acting.

Cost for the class is \$39. For more information or to register for the class, contact LBCC Business and Employer Services at (541) 917-4738.

LBCC Offers Free Tutor Training Workshop

A free tutor training workshop is being offered at LBCC for anyone who would like to help adults improve their reading, writing, or English language skills.

The workshop will be offered on two Saturdays, Feb. 2 and 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Luckiamute Center, Room 116, on the LBCC Albany campus. You must attend both sessions.

This intense and lively workshop covers such topics as The Adult Learner, Cultural Differences, Learning and Teaching Styles, and techniques for teaching reading, writing, and the English language. LBCC tutors assist students that may be enrolled in the GED program, English for Speakers of Other Languages classes, or that come

from local communities but are not otherwise enrolled at the college. Tutors may work at Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon or Sweet Home.

For more information or to register, contact Diane Goudriann, LBCC literacy coordinator, at (541) 917-4713, or by e-mail at diane.goudriann@linnbenton.edu. Pre-registration is required. Campus maps are accessible online at www.linnbenton.edu.

Time's Running Out!

Creative Highway

LBCC's 2008-2009 ezine wants your great work!

Send your original

prose

poetry

art

photography

music

films

to:

ezine@linnbenton.edu

Follow the easy directions at the website.

January 20 is the deadline!

Questions?

Natalie Daley

daley@linnbenton.edu

917-4573

Campus Clubs

The Commuter

Gay/Straight Alliance

When: Wednesday, Jan. 16 @ 12 p.m.

Where: Multicultural Center.

Contact: Matt Hamel, studentambassador@linnbenton.edu.

Video Production Club

When: Friday, Jan. 18 @ 2:15 p.m.

Where: Theater Main Stage, T-106.

Contact: Sean Brown, onlythestarsknow@hotmail.com.

Poetry Club

When: Tuesday, Jan. 22 @ 3 p.m.

Where: The Choir Room, SSH-213.

Contact: Robin Havenick, havenir@linnbenton.edu.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

Commons

JANUARY 16TH - JANUARY 22ND

<p>Wednesday: ENTREES: Pork Schnitzel and Paella VEGETARIAN: Carey Pocket SIDES: JoJo Potatoes SOUPS: Albondigas and Corn Chowder</p>	
<p>Thursday: ENTREES: Comed Beef Hash and Monte Cristo VEGETARIAN: Tempura Vegetables SIDES: Buttered Noodles SOUPS: Spanish Chicken and Split Pea</p>	
<p>Friday: CHEF'S CHOICE</p>	
<p>Monday: ENTREES: Roast Pork Jus Lie and Shrimp Fried Rice VEGETARIAN: Macaroni & Cheese SIDES: Oven Browned Yukon Potatoes and Herbed Pasta SOUPS: Chicken Noodle and Cream of Broccoli</p>	
<p>Tuesday: ENTREES: Chicken Chasseur and Cajun Fish Sandwich VEGETARIAN: Spinach & Feta Omelet SIDES: Potatoes O'Brien and Creole Style Rice SOUPS: Tomato Florentine and Lentil</p>	

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Feb. 6, 13 & 20

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Sign up in the SL&L Office or call Mercedes at 917-4466.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

U.S. Civil Air Patrol is now recruiting

2Lt. Christopher H. Johnson
For The Commuter

A new squadron of the United States Civil Air Patrol is forming in Benton County. The Civil Air Patrol is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives, teaching leadership, improving the wellbeing of local communities, and spreading the joy of aviation.

It serves communities around the U.S. in the areas of aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services. Through its aerospace education program CAP offers curriculum and classes about aviation to local schools and youth organizations.

Young people from ages 12 to 18 have the opportunity to join CAP as cadets and gain

valuable leadership training and aeronautical education. This includes opportunities to experience orientation flights in

"[CAP] serves communities around the U.S. in areas of aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services."

2Lt. Christopher H. Johnson

CAP's aircraft and to participate in emergency services.

Scholarships for college are available for cadets who excel in CAP. Persons over the age of 18 are welcome to join CAP as officer senior members, parent committee members, or cadet sponsor members.

Within the realm of emergency services, CAP participates in missions in search and rescue, disaster relief, homeland secu-

rity, and the war on drugs. As the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, CAP performs approximately 90 percent of inland search and rescue missions tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, searching for emergency locator beacons and missing aircraft with both air crews

and ground teams.

The new squadron is actively recruiting cadets, senior members, and parents or legal guardians of young persons interested in joining. No previous experience is necessary to join. The squadron meets Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Adair Village Main City Office Building at 6030 N.E. William R Carr St.

Although anyone interested

in joining CAP is invited to consider joining, the squadron encourages educators, members of the clergy, emergency service workers, active and retired military service personnel, aviators, radio operators, parents or legal guardians, and persons with experience in administration, record keeping, fund raising, or public affairs to consider becoming involved.

More information about the Civil Air Patrol can be found at www.cap.gov. Information about the CAP in the western U.S. can be found at www.pcr.cap.gov, and information about the CAP in Oregon can be found at <http://orwg.uscap.us>. To contact the new squadron call (541) 917-3370 or write to: U.S. Civil Air Patrol, PO Box 3370, Albany, OR, 97321.

Wyden: Speaks at LB


particularly passionate about the lack of women in the science industry. "I think this country is really muffing it in terms of not creating enough opportunities for women in the hard sciences," Wyden said. He suggested using Title IX as a starting point in female advancement in academic science. "We sure can't address the national security challenge and the economic challenge in this country if we're not giving half the population opportunities to excel in the fields that are cutting edge and at the center of innovation." Wyden, in conjunction with Sen. Gordon Smith and Reps. Darlene Hooley and Peter DeFazio, recently secured \$526,000 in federal funds for the LBCC Science/Health Center Project, which is scheduled to begin construction this summer.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

'I Am Legend' achieves visual resonance

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

A doctor's attempt to cure cancer with an altered measles virus backfires, killing most of the human race in "I Am Legend." Who's left? Will Smith... Yes, it's Smith against the world again, or what's left of it. He plays Robert Neville, a once prestigious military scientist, in this movie adaptation of Richard Matheson's classic sci-fi novel.

If one catches the previews for this movie, many of its surprises are spoiled. The prologue of the movie briefly touches on the devastation of the deadly virus, but the story picks up with Neville driving a sweet sports car through the desolate overgrown streets of Manhattan on a hunt for roaming elk. He is alone in an empty world except for his trusted sidekick, a German Shepard named Samantha. He has plenty of food and supplies, so it is not out of necessity that he hunts but rather to exercise his primal urges.

The film skillfully depicts Neville's loneliness and isolation, with intermittent nightmarish flashbacks. "I Am Legend" is like "The Stand" meets "Cast Away" meets "Mad Max." Samantha may be Neville's only source of fellowship, but he does have a daily routine involving colloquial chattiness with video store manikins and an AM radio broadcast searching for any survivors of the super virus. He waits at a designated spot at high noon to meet with anyone who might respond to his "message in a bottle."

All known survivors of the virus have

been transformed into hairless, quasi-zombie "dark seekers" who only come out at night due to their fatal sensitivity to UV sunlight. Neville turns out to be a survivalist of a different kind. He's cleverly booby-trapped his home to repel



any attacks, but thank God none of the baddies know where he lives yet.

Visual effects artist Francis Lawrence has achieved a stunning vision with his post-apocalyptic depiction of Manhattan. Time Square is overgrown with weeds and military vehicles stand abandoned

in eerie stillness. Tasteful flashbacks unravel the haunting story of Neville. The sickness started in the world's financial capital and then spread to every corner of the earth. Neville makes his stand in Manhattan—what he calls Ground Zero.

The world has disintegrated all around him, but he catches "dark seekers" to research in order to find a cure for their rabid condition.

The real beauty of "I Am Legend" is its peripheral message, which is noteworthy, but also plot spoiling (to whom it may

concern).

In his darkest hour, Neville is saved by a Portuguese cutie named Anna (Alice Braga). She believes her timely intervention is more than coincidence. Anna also informs Neville that there is a remnant of survivors, a notion that he wholeheartedly rejects. Anna explains that God is calling her to the hidden refuge of humanity. All of Neville's pent-up suffering is released as he angrily denies the possibility of any remnant, much less the existence of a Creator God. How could God allow the things to get so bad? Neville has been up against an impossible situation like Jesus' disciplines were when He sent them out as sheep among wolves—as food! Zombies ate all of Neville's neighbors.

Just when Neville has discovered the cure for the virus, the "dark seekers" close in on his underground lab led by the Alpha Male (Dash Mihok). Neville can heal them if they only give him a chance. Dead in their transgressions, they only live for carnal pleasures.

"I Am Legend" explores the basic emotions that shape our lives. It eerily depicts how empty life is without relationships. It shows how we are all made for relationships. Smith does a fine job acting, but the cheesy "dark seekers" are reminiscent of the silly undead of the "Mummy" movies with Brendan Fraser. They would have been more frightening and realistic without all the jaw dropping screaming. "I Am Legend" is far from didactic, and leaves much to the imagination, which is what a good sci-fi movie should do. There is probably a little something for everyone here.

Uwe Boll's latest videogame inspired movie opens and the crowds go mild

Will Parker
 The Commuter

"In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale" starring Jason Statham ("War," "Crank") opened on Friday to theaters nationwide and garnered a miserable \$3 million gross compared to the \$60 million budget of the movie. Why? Well, if you enjoy an almost campy blend of western fantasy ala "Lord of the Rings" and "Eragon" mixed with Hong Kong "wire-fu" fight scenes, then this movie may be for you.

Without spoiling anything this movie contains: dueling wizards, Chinese rope acrobats, elves with magical stop-motion vines, ninjas, hordes of b-movie armored monster people, wire-fu, "Gladiator" inspired high contrast, high saturation colors, giant sweeping views of the countryside that serve no purpose, boomerangs, swords, sorcery, Burt Reynolds as the titular King, and a protagonist named "Farmer," who is, in fact, a farmer.

Viewed in a vacuum, ItNotK is a movie that is 45 minutes too long (the DVD edition will actually be 45 minutes longer) with flat dialog and decent, if out of place fight scenes; and lots of them. But as you can tell in the above list of stuff, it is hard to escape comparisons to other movies.

First and foremost, after "Striptease" I will never be able to take Burt Reynolds as a serious actor. Every time I see him, I picture the scene where he's walking around in nothing but boxers, cowboy boots and a cowboy hat, covered in Vaseline. That scene, for me, branded him a comedic actor. And ItNotK just doesn't have enough comedy to carry him without it feeling awkward. Whenever Reynolds was on the screen, I expected a punch line. And I never got it.

Continuing with the idea of this movie unable to escape the past, I couldn't help but see this movie as a mishmash of other movies, thrown together as if the director had just watched his favorites and cherry-picked the stuff he liked. And maybe he had, for the director is Uwe Boll.

The German director is far from average by any means, though. All of his movies have been flops at the box office. And in 2003 Boll decided to only do videogame adaptations. And mediocre videogames at that. But Boll is more than just his movies. In 2006, he challenged his harshest critics to get in the ring with him and box it out. Among certain circles, it was quite the sensation, and to his credit he won all five fights. He's also used the commentary on his DVDs to fight, calling two critics "retards" for not liking one of his movies.

"In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale" is far from the worst movie ever, but more so than the movie could ever be, the director is unforgettable. Boll doesn't seem to be going anywhere anytime soon, and neither do the Ed Wood comparisons.

Poetry Corner

Crushed

I am rock.
 I am confident. I am strong.
 Failure's waves crush me over and over.
 Sorrow. Salty tears.
 Hurt pushes me to the ground.
 Waves crush, crush, crush me.
 I am broken. I am shattered.
 I am sand.

By Amy Krueger

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Marilyn Manson mellow's out

Jim Abbott
 The Orlando Sentinel (MCT)

When it comes to shock value, Marilyn Manson isn't the lightning rod that he was 10 years ago.

Yet, in a mannered, articulate phone conversation, the man whose "Antichrist Superstar" act has been frequently—and perhaps unfairly—invoked in reaction to pretty much every instance of senseless violence since Columbine still relishes his capacity to stun.

When he talks about his current tour, the descriptions are loaded with boasts about how the show will "completely blow things up. Like it used to be, but worse for everyone. I wouldn't even go to the show. Stay at home. It's gonna be a nightmare."

In a good way, presumably. At the same time, Manson, 38, projects a more sensitive side. His new album, "Eat Me, Drink Me," was inspired both by his divorce from burlesque queen Dita Von Teese and his subsequent relationship with actress Evan Rachel Wood, who is about half his age. Combine that relationship with his recent reunion with band mate Twiggy Ramirez and Marilyn Manson is, dare one say it, happy.

"Do you mean Disneyland?" he responds to a question about being in a happy place. "You can't have any art without suffering, but it doesn't mean you have to be a miserable person. As much as my relationship now is positive, that doesn't cure the things I can never fix about myself."

"It's always surprising when someone can love me at all, so having Evan in my life is a salvation. As for Twiggy, it's not even about the music. Just to be friends with him is the most important thing."

The renewal of that friendship and creative relationship severed Manson's ties with collaborator Tim Skold, who was responsible for the more melodic approach to the "Eat

Me" songs.

"There's too much tension there," Manson says. "Those two couldn't be on stage with each other, so out of respect for both of them I decided to split with Tim for this tour. It doesn't mean that it's forever, but Twiggy's back forever. Of course, forever is a very loose term when you talk about Marilyn Manson."

For example, as recently as 2004, Manson intimated that he would retire from the music business to concentrate on art, film and other projects.

What happened?

"It had a lot to do with the relationship I was in," he says. "People are only inspired by their surroundings and what's around them. I won't put the blame on anyone else; it's how I felt."

"I felt like it was bad to be me, and I took it out on myself in terms of running away from music. It could've been the worst mistake I ever made."

"Eat Me" reflected that soul searching.

"It wasn't a choice as much as a necessity. I was at a place where I didn't really know who I wanted to be anymore. No one could save me from that except myself, and the album was written like I've never written music before."

That introspective approach means that Manson no longer gravitates to material about the intersection between violence and society as readily as he once did. He is unhappy about being "objectified as a product":

"You can't mention 'school shooting' without mentioning Marilyn Manson," he says. "If there's a thesaurus of pain, I'm in there. At this point, I didn't ask for it."

Yet, as he warms to the topic, there's still a sense of pride about his image.

"Anyone can sell records. Marilyn Manson now is about death toll. How many more things can I be blamed for? If you wanna shoot people, just join the Army. That's the message that

America sends you anyway."

When people invoke his name in conversations about, say, the Virginia Tech massacre, he's wary of the context.

"I've been talking about the hypocrisy of how America looks at violence when it creates so much violence. When there's some recent act I don't know how that can be more violent than me growing up when my dad was in Vietnam."

"It's all the same, there's just more channels now."

On stage, however, Manson's theatrical tendencies remain intact. Although playing smaller venues, he promises to offer some bang for the buck.

"As much as can be fit in there, starting with our egos," he says. "At this point, Twiggy and I could just look at each other, set ourselves on fire, bow and be done."

In reality, the plan is to do a lot of songs that fans haven't heard in a while, although Manson doesn't know yet exactly which ones.

"This tour is really about the attitude that he and I had in the beginning when we used to walk on stage and play whatever we wanted. We didn't care about playing the single."

And the shock value? He's realistic about it.

"The world is unbelievable and there's nothing that anyone could do, let alone me, that would shock you more than when you turn on TV."

It looks like Manson will continue to make the effort, seeing his future work as a combination of music, art and films such as "Phantasmagoria—The Visions of Lewis Carroll," tentatively set for summer release.

"It's a matter of putting my energy in the right places at the right times," he says. "When I was unhappy with what people were doing with my music, I needed to be reminded that I'm here to make people unhappy, not to be unhappy."



Above: Marilyn Manson attends the premiere of "The Rules of Attraction" at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., Thursday, Oct. 3, 2003.

Below: Manson performing on stage at a concert. Many find his violent lyrics and his odd appearance disturbing. Manson has evoked much controversy during his career.



'Persepolis' animates Islamic womens' issues

Roger Moore
 The Orlando Sentinel (MCT)

As a girl, she was as close to a non-person as a human being can be. Ignored, or threatened by religious fanatic teachers, spied on by neighbors, in 1984 she was living through "1984." The veil she and her peers must wear on pain of death "symbolizes freedom."

But Marjane Satrapi, Iranian teenager, wasn't buying that. She clung to her Adidas sneakers. She snickered at the propaganda that preached "Our martyrs' blood irrigates our land." And she made darned sure her Iron Maiden T-shirt didn't show under all those black clothes she had to wear, in public, growing up in Islamo-fascist Iran.

"Persepolis," the best animated film of 2007, expands the possibilities of animated storytelling. It's an adaptation of a French autobiographical comic book, a first-person account of one woman's life, from an uneasy

childhood under the Shah of Iran to a repressed adolescence under the mullahs, followed by college rebellion and adult discrimination and re-connection with her roots in France. Animated by hand, often in glorious black and white, this French classic has the pathos, wit and intellectual sting of great political filmmaking.

And it's a cartoon. Co-directed by Satrapi and Vincent Parannoud, "Persepolis" follows the girl Marjane as she recalls her 1970s childhood, her ambitions to become a prophet of Islam, her family's contempt for the Shah.

Then, just as her communist uncle promises, comes the revolution.

"It can't be worse than the Shah," her father reasons. "Trust the people," her uncle answers back. That's before he is arrested and murdered by the Ayatollah's henchmen. Satrapi takes us through her sullen, rebellious teens, her family's sacrifices to get her out of a country where her rights and her future were equally limited, a place where her rebel streak was going to get her killed. We

go to Austria for her wild college years, falling in with punk nihilists, sampling all the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll that were so hard to come by in Iran.

"The family memory must live on," she is told. "Never forget who you are or where you're from."

Eventually, she doesn't.

"Persepolis," in French with English subtitles, tells Satrapi's story with great humor and humanity. It touches on all manner of issues, including why women whose families have fled Islamic countries would reach back to those cultures to find their (sometimes veiled) identity in defiance of the norm in their new land.

Perhaps all we have seen of Iran for decades on TV is chanting mobs of fanatics and crackpot leaders, religious and political. But the folks living in that world are the ones, like Marjane's mother (voiced by Catherine Deneuve) or grandmother, suffering, enduring, quietly and comically rebelling at what must seem like living in a cartoon.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Stamping out the obscene : Think before you post

Will Parker
 The Commuter

"Proud Parent of a son Smart enough to NOT join the Army and die for Bush's Stupidity and Arrogance!" Reads a simple black and white notice posted on the two courtyard facing bulletin boards on the second floor of Takena Hall, seen Friday.

Those two bulletin boards and many like them are under the control of LBCC's Student Life & Leadership office. SL&L is responsible for dating all bulletin board postings with a stamp and for removing those notices that are either past their one-month life span or unstamped. In terms of content, only those items that, "violate college policy, state / federal law, EEO guidelines, are libelous or obscene," are subject to censorship or rejection.

While the guidelines may seem simple enough, not even the U.S. Supreme Court has been consistent in determining what constitutes obscenity. And the student's code of conduct and responsibilities handbook available online states that, "students have a right to free speech so long as it does not interfere with the normal operation of classes or the institution."

In any case, the one certainty is that unstamped postings will be removed on a weekly basis. For more information on public bulletin board postings contact the SL&L office.



A flyer posted on the second floor of Takena Hall seen Tuesday expresses one mother's feelings about the war in Iraq. photo by Will Parker

University of Pennsylvania blamed in student death

Will Bunch
 Philadelphia Daily News
 (MCT)

PHILADELPHIA--The death of a 19-year-old University of Pennsylvania sophomore from bacterial meningitis in early September has prompted a lawsuit and a war of words between the family's lawyer and the university hospital where she died.

The suit filed Friday by the family of Anne Ryan, a promising student from near Erie, Pa., accuses the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania of ignoring clear signs of the deadly bacterial illness when it failed to admit her after an emergency-room visit on Sept. 6 of last year.

It seeks unspecified damages.

The family's attorney, widely known trial lawyer Tom Kline, leveled a new allegation Friday—that doctors at HUP performed an unnecessary procedure that contributed to her death on Sept. 9, after she returned to the ER the night before.

"This was a young lady who had a life of promise ahead of her, and she ended up tragically dying after two visits to the Penn emergency room," Kline said Friday. University as well as hospital officials said Friday that they were limited in discussing all of the specifics of Ryan's death, but insisted that the care she received during her emergency-room trips was appropriate.

Dr. P.J. Brennan, chief medical officer for the Penn Health System and a specialist in treating infectious diseases, did say without details that the allegations by attorney Kline "are shamefully inaccurate." The one thing that both sides seemed to agree on Friday was that the sudden death of the vivacious Ivy Leaguer with a passion for modeling, music and exotic languages, was an unthinkable tragedy for her parents, her brother—a Penn grad living in Philadelphia—and her

three sisters from Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Kline said that when Ryan went to the emergency room at the Penn hospital on the second day of classes in September, she reported classic meningitis symptoms including neck pain and a fever of 103 degrees. What's more, he said, blood tests showed two signs of a bacterial infection.

However, Ryan was sent home and told she had a less serious viral infection after a test of fluid

from a spinal tap; Kline insists that a negative result on a test—a Gram stain—does not conclusively prove that meningitis was not present.

Also, Kline alleged that a second spinal tap performed when a more severely ill Ryan returned to the ER two days later was unnecessary and, because of brain swelling from the bacteria, caused her brain to shift and to a hernia that along with advanced meningitis led to her death.

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- **Student Services & Education Representative**

Applications are due Friday February 15 at noon in the Student Life & Leadership office. There will be a candidate forum on February 25 at noon in the Cafeteria. Applicants should come prepared to answer questions from the audience. Elections will start via the web on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 am and end on February 28 at 11:30 pm. If elected, 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. Any questions should be directed to J.J. Quinlivan at 917-4464 or asgpres@linnbenton.edu.

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**
- **Center Events Specialist**
- **Series Events Specialist**
- **Political Activities Specialist**

Applications are available in the Student Life and leadership office. Applications are due by noon on Friday, February 15. Interviews will be held on Wednesday, February 27 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 contact Naomi Andersen at 917-4963 or spbteam@linnbenton.edu.

Student Services & Education Representative
Applications are due Friday February 15 at noon in the Student Life & Leadership office. There will be a candidate forum on February 25 at noon in the Cafeteria. Applicants should come prepared to answer questions from the audience. Elections will start via the web on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 am and end on February 28 at 11:30 pm. Any questions should be directed to J.J. Quinlivan at 917-4464 or asgpres@linnbenton.edu.

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 Chris LaMuerta
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

NATIONAL NEWS

News about issues and events from around the nation and the world of interest to Commuter readers.

Cloned foods don't settle well with consumers

Stephen J. Hedges
 Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON - Frank Regan, a dairy farmer in northeast Iowa, had a cow named Dellia who was, in the cow world, a rock star, prized for her health and strength and milk production. In 2005 she was even named Global Cow of the Year by Holstein International magazine.

So when a friend suggested that Regan consider cloning Dellia, he decided to spend the \$25,000. Dellia died recently at age 15, but Regan has her clone, Debra, and four offspring of cloned cows now giving milk among his prized line of dairy cattle.

It's unclear what Regan, of Waukon, Iowa, can do with his clones or their milk. But that could soon change.

The Food and Drug Administration is expected to issue a final ruling soon on whether food from cloned animals is safe to eat. A year ago it issued a "draft risk assessment" that concluded there was no difference between food from cloned animals and ordinary food.

But the draft risk assessment caused such a stir that the agency immediately announced it would study the matter further. It imposed a "voluntary moratorium" on the sale of food products from cloned animals and invited the public to submit comments on the issue.

The FDA has been reviewing the matter for a year, but those following the debate in the U.S. don't expect the agency to deviate from its risk assessment in a final ruling. Many food safety groups expect the FDA to shape a decision that will al-

low the sale of meat and dairy products from cloned animals.

A lot of consumer groups are upset the agency is even considering allowing the sale of food from cloned animals, and the FDA has been flooded with letters against it. People have been waiting for the final verdict ever since, and it may occur shortly.

"I think they're just trying to get this off their plate when it gets right down to it—getting it off their plate and putting it on ours," said Jaydee Hanson, a policy analyst for the Center for Food Safety, a non-profit public interest group that challenges food production technologies it considers harmful.

Only three small companies perform animal cloning at the moment. They've been waiting months for the FDA's final approval of cloned products, which could mean a rapid expansion of their businesses. But it's not clear how lucrative the cloning business will be, because no one is sure whether consumers, who in surveys express concerns about cloning, will buy food made from cloned animals.

Even Regan, who has already invested in cloning, doesn't think it will be an easy sell.

"The big issue is, what does the public think?" Regan said. "If they don't want it, they want everything organic or natural, then we're not going to do it. We're lucky to have the market we have for dairy products."

Consumer acceptance, though, is just one of many issues in the cloning debate. Others include safety, animal health, labeling and the FDA's ability to police the practice.

Since the 1997 announcement by Scottish scientists that they had cloned a sheep named Dolly, it was only a matter of time before cloning joined the already advanced practices of farmyard genetics. Defining how that would work in the U.S. fell to the FDA.

But so far, the agency's conclusions in the cloning debate have provided more confusion than clarity. And the agency declined to discuss its upcoming ruling, or the work that has gone into it.

The FDA's earlier risk assessment had found that "edible products derived from adult bovine clones pose no additional risk(s)."

A similar study released Friday by the European Food Safety Authority agreed that "it is very unlikely that any difference exists in terms of food safety between food products originating from clones and their progeny compared with those derived from conventionally bred animals."

But cloning opponents say there is no reason for the FDA to approve the sale of meat and milk from cloned animals.

"Cloning is not a technique that's needed," said Hanson, the policy analyst. "No one is asking for cloned meat. No one is asking for cloned milk from cloned animals. I think at this point people are generally becoming more wary about what they're putting in themselves."

Some food associations have offered only selective support for livestock cloning. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, for instance, supports cloning but isn't aggressively pursuing its approval. The companies that now conduct cloning are clearly hoping for the FDA's approval,

though they are reluctant to discuss it.

"What we've decided is that we're just going to wait for the FDA before we make any comments," said Steve Mower, marketing director for Cyagra Inc. of Elizabethtown, Pa.

In Congress, provisions in the recently passed omnibus spending bill and the 2007 farm bill, which still is not in final form, require more study before the FDA could give its approval to food from cloned animals. Hanson and others said they expect the FDA to issue its decision before that law takes effect, to avoid the additional testing.

The FDA's review of cloning's safety is flawed, Hanson added, in part because it relies on studies conducted by individuals with a vested interest in cloning. The agency has failed to develop a thorough system for tracking cloned animals and products, he said. And cloning itself is hard on animals, he added, because some clones do not survive very long.

"It is the most brutal animal-breeding technology that anyone's come up with," Hanson said. "That's because some animals live a year and then suddenly die. The FDA's assurances that only healthy animals will go to the marketplace just (aren't) true."

But Mower, of Cyagra, said cloning has proven safe for animals, and Regan and others in the livestock industry agree. They said their cloned animals have been healthy and productive.

Debra, Dellia's clone, is now 6 years old and has been healthy, Regan said, as have the four other cloned cows milking on his farm.

Honda Motor Co. to unveil new hybrid vehicle in 2009

Joe Guy Collier
 Detroit Free Press

DETROIT—Toyota Motor Corp. may be dominating the U.S. hybrid market so far with the Prius, but Honda Motor Co. has ambitious plans for its hybrid lineup, adding two new hybrid-only vehicles and an upgrade of an existing hybrid in the next three years.

Honda executives at the North American International Auto Show said Monday that for 2009 the company was on track to deliver a new dedicated hybrid priced below the Civic hybrid, which starts at \$22,600. It expects to sell 200,000 of the new hybrid-only vehicles worldwide in the first full year, including 100,000 in the United States.

In addition, Honda President Takeo Fukui said, the next-generation Civic hybrid and the CR-Z, a hybrid sports car on display at this year's Detroit show, are expected by 2011. Honda has not said whether the CR-Z will be available in

the United States.

"Around 2011, all those three models are ready to go, so we'll be achieving 400,000 to 500,000 global production" of hybrids, said Fukui, speaking through an interpreter.

Honda did not give pricing details, but Fukui said the new models should be more affordable than current hybrids.

"These models, we worked on the cost—to reduce their costs—because MSRP is very important to customers, so we think these vehicles will be very appealing," Fukui said, referring to manufacturers' suggested retail price.

Honda took an early lead with hybrids in the United States. It brought in the Insight, a hybrid-only model, in 1999, a year before the Toyota Prius arrived.

But the Prius quickly surpassed the Insight to become the automotive symbol of the green movement. In 2007, sales of Prius were 181,221, accounting for about half of all U.S. hybrid sales.

The Insight, meanwhile, has been phased out. Honda is taking a new approach.

The Insight, a small two-seater, failed to hit high volumes because it was not practical, said Tetsuo Iwamura, president and chief executive of American Honda Motor Co. Hybrid variations of mainstream models, such as the hybrid Civic, have not sold in large numbers because many hybrid buyers want to stand out, he said.

"Sometimes people wish to have an exclusive styling enough to demonstrate 'I am driving an eco-car,'" he said.

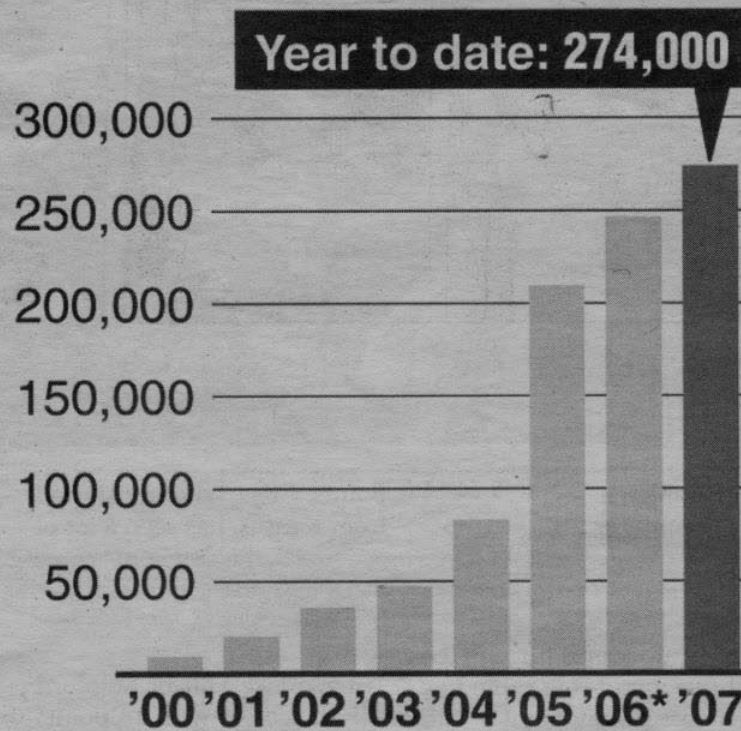
Honda is not launching its upcoming hybrids to take back the market from Toyota and the Prius, Iwamura said. Instead, the U.S. market has room for more hybrids, he said.

With more people concerned about fuel efficiency and environmental issues, Iwamura said, the time is right for hybrids as long as they're affordable and practical.

Demand still rising

More people are buying hybrids as new models and increased production cut waiting times.

Hybrid electric vehicles sold



*Excludes one month of Camry hybrid sales and three months of Lexus GS450H sales

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SPORTS

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

Men's basketball rally around hospitalized Head Coach Falk

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

The season has started off emotional for Linn Benton's men's basketball team who are currently 5-9 (1-2). After a scare that hospitalized head Coach Randy Falk two weeks ago due to heart complications, Assistant Coach Jim Boutin, who is in his third year as an assistant under Falk, was handed the reigns, and has since showed his 35 years of collegiate coaching leaves his team not missing a stride.

In the first league match-up a week ago against Chemeketa, the men found themselves down 5-16 with 10 minutes left to go in the first half. Trevor Thurn and Tyson Christie provided key scores to cut Chemeketa's lead at half, 32-33.

The second half brought two lead changes for LBCC and kept them battling with their "No quit mentality," commented Boutin. Down the stretch, lack of experience in the paint allowed the lead to slip 69-71 in the loss.

"It is a big step from high school to NWAACC play," said Boutin on his freshman post Tyson Christie, who had 20 points and 10 rebounds. "He is our leading scorer this season and is handling the rougher and quicker level of play well."

Wednesday at Mt. Hood showed the men had no sour taste in their mouths, as they cruised late in the game, making a nine point swing in the last two minutes to earn the 66-63 win.

Trevor Thurn had 12 points and Christie had 21 and 7 rebounds in the win.

"I'm very proud to see them fight," said Boutin after the win. "Thurn, Ryan Vargas and Eddie Leeson are our three sophomore leaders and make our backcourt successful."

Saturday brought a trip to Clackamas and despite being ahead 48-43 at halftime, they fell behind by 16 points in the second half before losing 79-89 to the Cougars.

Trevor Siefken had 11 points and 6 rebounds, Christie had 23 points and Leeson had 18 points.

The Lady Roadrunners bring experience over the whole floor, and are currently 10-7 (2-1) and have a hold of the third place position in league.

The first two league games showed off their quickness and conditioning for the 74-68 win against Chemeketa and 69-64 win against Mt. Hood.

In Gresham against Mt. Hood Wednesday, it took a late second half come back and impressive plays by Destiny Neuenschwander to seal the win.

Neuenschwander had 10 points and Kateyln White had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Saturday against Clackamas saw LBCC down eight at half and pulling back from a 16-point deficit in the 71-77 loss.

Jessica Vorpahl had 19 points and 7 rebounds, Irwin had 16 points and Amanda Fox had 12 points and 7 rebounds.

Both teams are away at SWOCC in Coos Bay today and have Portland at home Saturday. Come support the women at 4 p.m. and the men at 6 p.m.

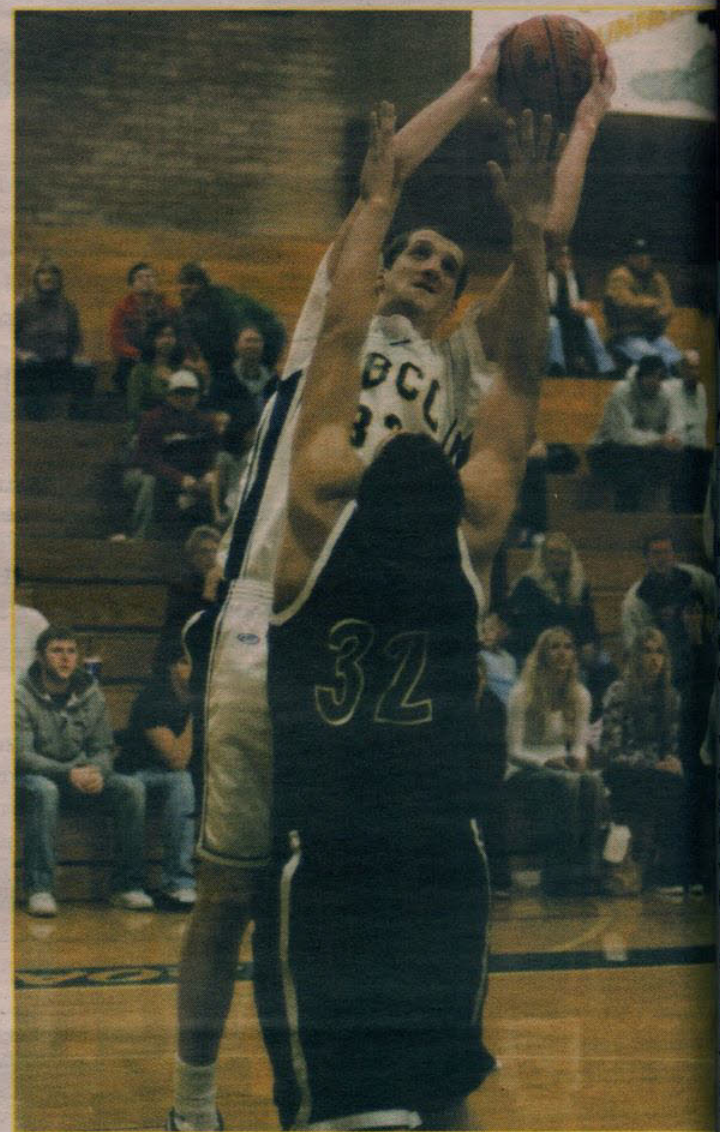


photo by Chris Kelley
 Freshman Tyson Christie scores over Chemeketa's Kenneth Rice in a 69-71 loss. Christie is praised by Assistant Coach Boutin for being the leading scorer and handling the inside post roll well.

OSU men's hoops fall to Stanford, California



Tyler Dahlgren
 The Commuter

The Beavers fail to make a three-point field goal while No. 23 Stanford scores three in the first five minutes in route to a 66-46 loss Friday night at Gill Coliseum.

Omari Johnson led all Oregon State scorers with 11 points while C.J. Giles and Seth Tarver each contributed seven

points. Giles, who transferred from Kansas, has seen a lot of action since his first appearance on Dec. 8 and the Beavers have high expectations for him this season.

Lawrence Hill of Stanford led all scorers with 13 points while Anthony Goods and Brook Lopez, who also came down with nine rebounds, scored 12 points for the Cardinals.

photo by Will Parker
 Hitting their first five three point attempts, Stanford was up 21-6 with 12 minutes remaining in the first half but Oregon State managed to hang in and went to the locker room at half down 20-39 despite shooting 8-28 from the floor.

The second half showed why the Cardinals are among the top 10 defensive teams in the nation (allowing 56.8 ppg) as they held the Beavers to 24 points.

"It wasn't pretty," said Or-

"We never stopped fighting. It was deflating; but, we never stopped fighting." Oregon State Sophomore guard, Seth Tarver

California's Devon Hardin gets blocked by Oregon State's Omari Johnson Saturday; in the Beavers 59-69 loss.

Oregon State head coach Jay Johnson after the game. "We gave great effort against a team that without question was the best team we have played. I wish we could play them tomorrow again, because if this is what it's going to take to get this group to continue to learn what it is like to play at this level and not get knocked in the mouth then we learned something today. It just highlights the areas we have to get better at."

Saturday's game was no different for the Beavers who fell to the California Bears 59-69, extending their losing streak to 6 games, despite impressive outings from Marcel Jones who

had 12 points and Seth Tarver who had 11.

The Beavers looked to be blown out early falling behind 4-14 but they managed to pull a 13-2 run to take the lead early in the first half. California responded right back by compiling a 15-0 run, giving the 10-point lead, 36-26, going into half time.

California came out during the second half on fire leading by as many as 18 points solidifying the victory as Oregon State could only get within points the rest of the game.

"Anytime we miss easy shots it's deflating," said Tarver. "We never stopped fighting. It was deflating; but, we never stopped fighting."

Jerome Randle and Patrick Christopher each had 11 points for Cal while the forward was the fifth highest scorer in the Pac-10 conference Ryan Anderson had 17 points and 17 rebounds lead the team.

"Their four big guys are outstanding," said Coach Johnson. "We did get twenty offensive rebounds; but, with the statistics chart that we had, it led to some run outs for them and they had wonderful shooting team."

The Beavers are in action against at nationally ranked Washington State on Thursday at 7 p.m. and at Washington State Saturday, which will be televised on FSN with tip off at 3 p.m.