



Laughter the only "Noise" at Shakespeare Festival

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Hatcheries lure locals to weekend recreation

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A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE COMMUTER

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 33 No. 24

Noxious ivy discovered in new center's landscaping

by D.D. Malloy
of the Commuter

When LBCC student Jason Melkvik arrived at his work study job at the East Linn Center last week, he saw something that made him recall a lecture earlier in the term by botany instructional assistant Nora Baker.

He had spotted a recent commercial planting of one of Oregon's most predatory noxious weeds, English ivy, in the redwood grove in the south parking lot. He pulled out one of the plant identification tags, which read "Hedra Helix," the botanical name for English ivy, which is quarantined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As of Jan. 1, 2002, it became illegal to plant the ivy commercially.

Melkvik, a student in BIO101 Oregon Ecology, decided to take action. He went to the USDA web site and downloaded the "Quarantine Noxious Weed List," and then met with East Linn Center Director Don Stangel, who was unaware that the ivy was classified by the government as a noxious weed.

He also gained approval to do an extra credit project for his ecology class on how this species came to be selected for planting in the Pacific Coast redwood grove, which is a main feature of the landscaping at the new center. The redwood grove was specifically preserved during construction because landscape architects consid-

ered it a main attraction to the site.

Melkvik also called the story to the attention of The Commuter.

Exactly how the noxious weed was selected, sold and planted remains a mystery. The process
(Turn to "Ivy" on Pg. 2)



Photos by James Bauerle

A variety of English ivy recently planted at the new East Linn Center will be torn out after a biology student alerted college officials that it is a quarantined noxious weed and could be a threat to the redwood trees.



Photo by James Bauerle

Plants for Mom

The Horticulture Club's annual Mother's Day plant sale drew scores of students and staff to the greenhouse last Friday looking for bargains on everything from fuchsia baskets to bedding plants.

Students facing a boring summer might find an exciting alternative online

by Twila Skelley
of The Commuter

Summer is fast approaching and what on earth are you going to do? Here's an idea, how about getting online and checking out your world wide options.

At www.coolworks.com you'll find a variety of seasonal, part-time, and full time job opportunities. This site also has a very high rate of hiring.

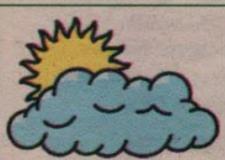
The range of jobs are for work in national parks, jobs on water, camps, ski resorts, amusement parks, resorts, lodges, and even internships are offered. There is also a link to post your resume online.

One way of job searching on coolworks is to click on the "search by state" link. Feel like working in the Everglades? Flamingo Lodge Marina and Outpost Resort has a listing for summer employment, and several similar jobs are also available.

Maybe you would prefer Alaska rather than the Southeast United States? Several cruise lines and lodges in Alaska offer work. Glacier Bay cruise line and lodges has numerous positions available from deck hand and front desk clerk, to mechanic.

Internships are divided up by region. The regions go as
(Turn to "Jobs" on Pg. 3)

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND



High: 63° Low: 37°

Wednesday



High: 72° Low: 42°

Thursday



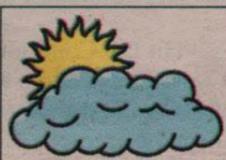
High: 68° Low: 38°

Friday



High: 67° Low: 40°

Saturday



High: 65° Low: 42°

Sunday

Spring weather is like a child's face, changing three times a day.

-Chinese Proverb

Source: Weather.com

OFF BEAT

What gave me away?

A Florida jail inmate stole his orange prison jumpsuit when he was released and then, a few months later, wore it to a rock concert where many sheriff's deputies were providing security. After they grabbed him, the cops found out he wasn't even supposed to be there because he was sentenced to house arrest as a condition of his parole. He is back behind bars.

Night Shift

A young woman in Sweden who is studying to be a police officer was found also to be working as a prostitute. She advertised her services on the Internet using police academy computers, and arranged to meet clients for trysts on her way home. A police spokesman said this was "unethical."

Make mine a double

An armed couple robbed the Starbucks in Monroe, Wash., as it was opening for business, and then, disappointed with the small amount of money in the safe, served customers at the drive-through window to get more loot. They filled about two dozen orders for various expensive coffee drinks for about a half-hour before fleeing.

Loving Portrayal

A California man has made a full-length movie about the messy breakup of his second marriage, and the film features a cast of 60 and cost him \$1.5 million. Though the movie is being shown near his ex-wife's home, it is unlikely that she will go see it because she is portrayed as having the face of a lizard.

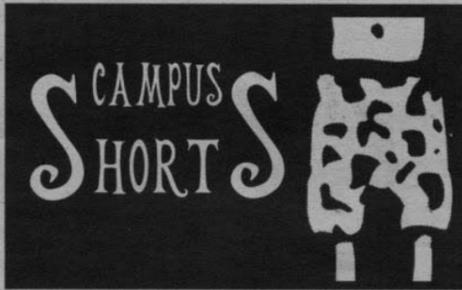
Today, cloudy and...

One trailer truck rear-ended another on Interstate 80 in Green River, Wyo., spilling a load of Hormel chili all over the highway. A snowplow was called in to clean it up.

Double duty

An Aborigine who killed his best friend in a drunken brawl was sentenced to only five years in jail because Australian authorities took into account that his tribe had also punished him by spearing him 12 times in the legs.

—From KRT News



Schedules Online

Both the Summer Term 2002 Schedule and the credit classes for Fall Term 2002 are now online at the college's class schedule web page (www.linnbenton.edu/schedule). The printed year-long planning schedule will no longer be published; instead course information for future terms will be available online.

Phi Theta Kappa Auction

The Phi Theta Kappa honor society will hold an old-fashioned auction in cooperation with the LBCC Oregon Agriculture Day event on campus May 29. The bidding will be on box lunches put together by various LBCC departments. Also to be auctioned are gift certificates to local restaurants like the Fox and Firkin, the Gables and many others.

The auction will be held from 12:30-1 p.m. in the LBCC Courtyard.

Eloquent Umbrella Reading

On Friday, May 17, 12-12:50 p.m. writers whose work is published in this year's Eloquent Umbrella will read their prose and poetry at the Fireside Room. A second EU contributors' reading will take place at the Benton Center next Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Valley Writers Series.

Kenetic Roadrunner

Carol Wenzel and Jeremy Euken give LB's kenetic sculpture a spin in the parking lot while Jeremy Euken works on the contraption. The vehicle is getting fitted with a Roadrunner frame and will race at DaVinci Days in Corvallis.

Photos by James Bauerle



Ivy: Nicholson decides to eradicate infestation

From Page One

was complex—the lead architect subcontracted a landscape architect, the landscape architect then subcontracted a landscape company. Melkvik spoke with several vendors involved in the landscaping, but has been unable to get the identity of the nursery that supplied the ivy. He said one Oregon nursery he contacted that he thought might have been the supplier told him that they do not deal in English ivy.

Within days of learning of the planting, Director of Facilities Services Kevin Nicholson decided that the ivy will be pulled out and go to a Dumpster. This also includes ivy planted on a berm around a vault elsewhere on the site.

Nicholson said workers would also remove some English ivy from the trees on the site before the center was constructed, which is now beginning to infest the redwood grove. "We're going to get a landscape contractor on board," Nicholson told The Commuter Tuesday. "A part of that contract will be removing ivy from the trees and controlling the older ivy that was on the site when the college purchased the property."

Gary McAninich, a nursery inspector for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, said that at this time his department has not issued penalties to nurseries that stock the weed. Instead, nursery inspectors are notifying propagators that selling the plants is illegal and hoping to receive volunteer compliance with the law.

The "ODA Noxious Weed Rating System" designates English ivy as a class "B" designated weed, describing it as "a weed of economic importance which is region-

ally abundant, but which may have limited distribution in some counties. Where implementation of a fully-integrated statewide management plan is infeasible, biological control shall be the main approach."

Two area locations seriously infested are Takena Landing in North Albany and Gills Landing in east Lebanon.

Many communities have volunteer groups committed to eradicating the ivy in their area. A group in Portland, called the Ivy Removal Project, which is a partnership between Portland Parks and Recreation and Friends of Forest Park, maintains an Internet web site, www.noivyleague.com, that has extensive information about how the ivy kills trees. The organization lists the following objections to the plant:

- Ivy vines grow into a dense cover on the bark of the tree's trunk, depriving the bark of the normal contact with air and microorganisms.

- Mature ivy grows in a spiral pattern as opposed to the horizontal-vertical pattern of the immature plant, thus it "furls" out around the branches and trunk, further reducing the ability of the tree to perform photosynthesis.

- When ivy grows up the tree seeking the light it needs to mature and propagate, it eventually covers the apical stem or apex of the tree. The tree reacts as if it has been topped: experiencing biologic stress and sending messages of its distress out to the types of microorganisms whose purpose is to hasten the demise of the tree.

- The ivy growing around the tree supplants the deciduous plants that have a growth and decay cycle that replenishes the nutrients in the soil.



THE COMMUTER STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising.

Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty, Associated Students of LBCC or the Warren Commission. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them.

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CAMPUS NEWS



FOCUS ON 4-POINT

As another school year draws to a close, a number of students can look back with pride on an unblemished record of straight A grades. Maintaining a four-point G.P.A. is no easy task, and to find out what drives students to maintain this level of success, Commuter contributing editor D.D. Malloy interviewed a selection of straight-A students this term. Two of those profiles—one on art major Donna Webster and the other on education major Cherish Baughman—appear today. Two more students will be profiled in next week's paper.



Photos by James Bauerle

Mother gets on college track

by D.D. Malloy
of The Commuter

When Donna Webster's daughter learned about the disability services available at LBCC, she went home to her mother and announced: "It's time for you to go to college."

As an amateur artist and mother, Donna had never attended college. With juvenile macular degeneration affecting the retinas of her eyes, she has only peripheral vision. However, by using magnifiers she has been able to paint striking oil paintings.

Feeling like "The Little Engine that Could," she began her admissions testing last year and ran into her first challenge. "The entry tests were on a computer and I knew nothing about them. It was nerve wracking," she said. After completing her registration, Donna, at the age of 48, was on her way to art classes. "I was amazed that I wasn't the oldest student on campus," she noted.

Classes she has taken are black-and-white drawing, oil painting and art history. "I painted landscapes for years on my own. College has given me the knowledge to express myself artistically the way I want to," Donna explained.

Two of her recent paintings were selected for display in the juried student art show at the AHSS art gallery. When asked where she was going next she exclaimed, "I want the whole enchilada! But I'll be happy with an Associate of Arts Degree." Donna hopes to complete it in the next two years and then become a freelance painter.

"I was most impressed with the support of the staff at LBCC. Both the admin-

istration and the instructors have been very helpful. The instructional assistants in the Takena Support Lab are just great!" After earning a 4.0 GPA her first term, Donna realized, "I really can do well in college. I was so surprised!" The Office of Disability Services provides her with textbooks on cassette tapes and other items that assist her in learning her subjects.

Sometimes the strain of painting with magnifiers and having her eyes too close to the canvas for extended periods of time increases the occurrence of migraine headaches. Donna sees this as the most difficult obstacle in attaining her goals.

Unable to drive and living in Philomath, she credits the Philomath Connection bus with making commuting to LB possible. She takes the Philomath bus to the Linn-Benton loop bus daily.

She joined Phi Theta Kappa. It encouraged her to maintain her four-point GPA. "It's a support system, you are there for them and they are there for you," she said. "The friendliness and openness of the students has been great."

Donna's daughter, Stacy McNelly, will be graduating from LB with a major in business and human resources.

Webster cherishes the support she receives from her entire family in this mid-life journey. "I know this may sound a little silly," she said, "But I feel like the little train that could. I'm the engine, my daughter stokes my engine, my parents and sister are the tracks, and my husband, well, he runs the roundhouse with open arms. He keeps me in good repair and chugging down the tracks."

Teaching kids inspires student

by D.D. Malloy
of The Commuter

Honor student Cherish Baughman loves children and loves teaching them how to explore their world.

Cherish discovered her interest in early childhood education when she was a first-grade student tutor in high school. Now, as an LBCC pre-elementary education major, she assists teachers at the Mountain View Elementary School Kindergarten in Corvallis.

She prepares lesson plans and teaches them to 5-year-olds. The main focus of her lessons are math, science and reading skills.

"I teach the children to learn math concepts by having them measure things with thumbs and hands," Cherish said.

"In terms of measuring, we will have the students measure a cup with thumbs and count the number of thumbs. Next we have them measure a door or a table with their hands," Cherish explained. "Then we ask them which is the better way to measure an object, in thumbs or hands. This exercise develops the concept of units and measures." Students weigh themselves on a scale to learn about weight and gravity.

She also helps the children construct a model volcano. The teacher mixes a solution of vinegar and soda to create a chemical reaction, and a smoke-like mist floats out of the mountain. Students are then taught about geological concepts and about how mountains are formed.

Cherish especially likes the reading station in her classroom. She uses flash cards with words and pictures to teach children to read.

"I enjoy reading a book to them by an author such as Dr. Seuss, and then ask them what they think and feel about the story."

—Cherish Baughman

"I enjoy reading a book to them by an author such as Dr. Seuss, and then ask them what they think and feel about the story," she said.

When asked what she likes best about LBCC she said, "What I like most about it is that you can have personal interaction with your professors. They are willing to meet with you during office hours. I haven't had one professor who was not helpful."

As a public relations officer for the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Cherish is in charge of editing the newsletter and documenting special events.

She has been busy organizing the upcoming Phi Theta Kappa fund-raising auction. She also participates in the fraternity's Shadow Program, in which high school students are matched with LB students to introduce them to their intended LB program.

After she completes her studies at LB she plans to transfer to Oregon State University where she will enroll in the College of Education.

In her studies, she said she wants to focus on children in kindergarten through second grade. To help pay for her education, Cherish said she will be applying for scholarships to assist her in continuing her education.

Jobs: Internships feature outdoor jobs

From Page One

follows, the Northeast U.S., Midwest U.S., Western U.S., and Southeast U.S. The internships tend to follow an outdoor theme, as well. Rafting and golf companies, outdoor centers, and a campaign to save the environment are a few examples of the internships offered.

So if you were planning on sitting at home this summer and being lazy, or working your tail off at the local burger joint, consider hopping online and checking out other options.

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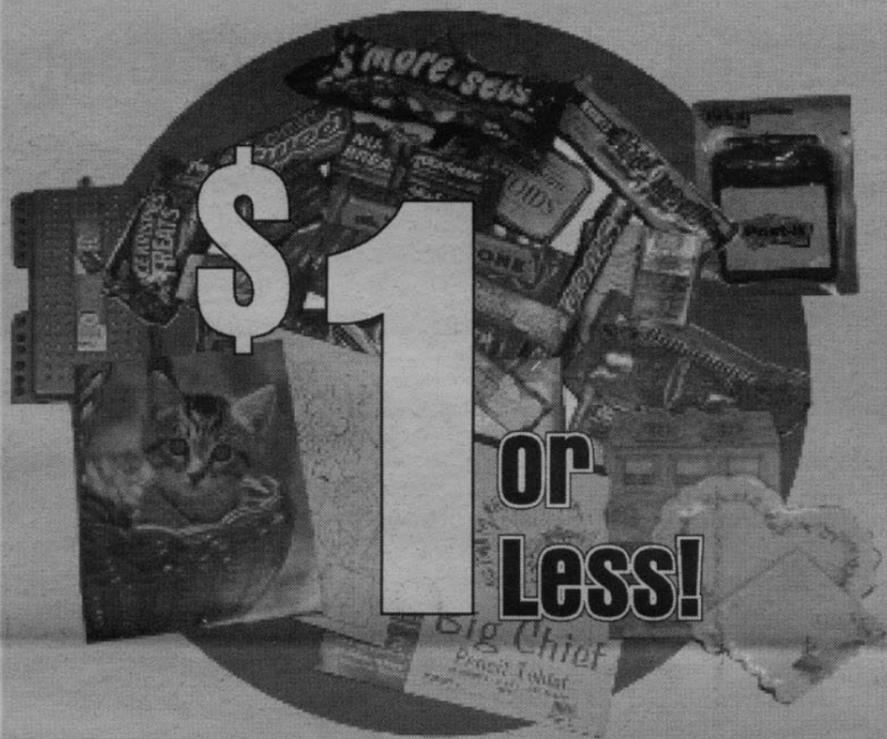


FIGARO'S PIZZA



May
22

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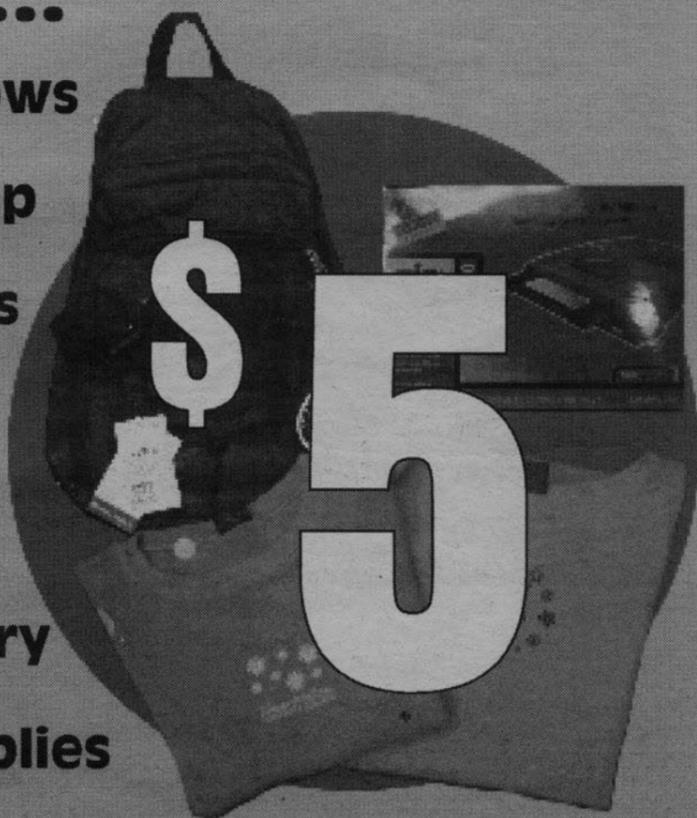
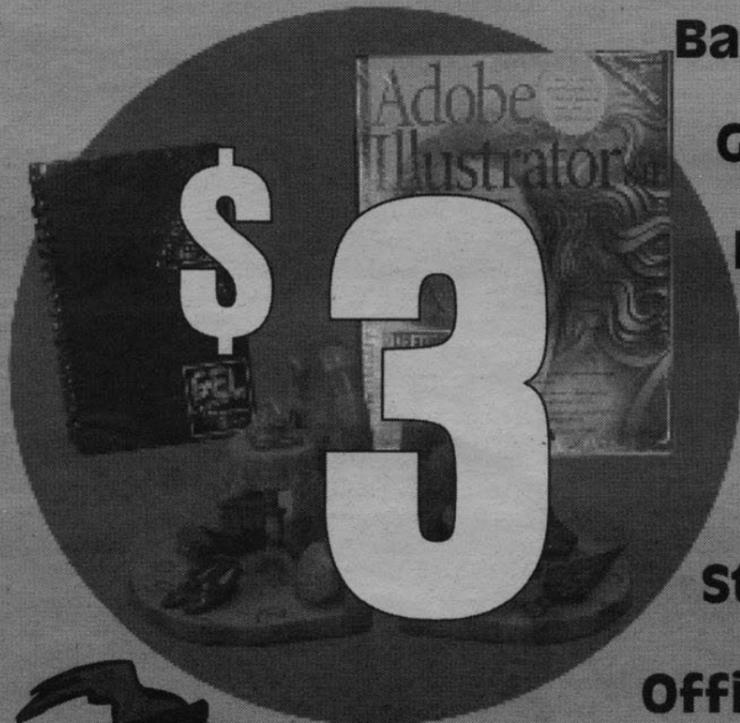
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LOCAL NEWS

Lebanon YouthBuild gives teens a second chance

by Susie Ford
for The Commuter

Clusters of red, white, and blue balloons levitate against the wooden walls on stage underneath a crisp, white banner emblazoned with big black letters: "YouthBuild."

On the platform, groups of chairs await their occupants. Members of the audience fidget and talk, casting occasional glances toward the back of the auditorium in Lebanon's Nazarene Church, where excited family and friends have gathered to celebrate a milestone in the lives of those who will occupy the spotlight this April evening.

At the building's entrance stand 11 young sweaty-palmed, smiling men and women. Crimson robes conceal their ordinary street clothes; matching mortarboards with gold tassels perch atop their heads. They are ready—ready for graduation, ready for the future.

Not too many months previous, these 11 people walked through the door of a modest, nondescript structure in Lebanon wanting to escape their past. Some had families; most were high school dropouts. They all had one thing in common: poverty. YouthBuild, they heard, could teach them how to better their lives.

There were requirements. To get into the program, each person had to write an essay on why they wanted to attend, obtain a voter's card, library card, doctor's release, two letters of recommendation, and a drug test.

In return, they could acquire construction skills, complete a high school education, and receive leadership training while building or rehabilitating housing for other low-income people in their community.

Addressing those assembled for graduation ceremonies, Justin Knutson explained what the program meant to him. "In high school, I had my own desk in the principal's office. As a sopho-

more, I became a father. YouthBuild helped me set goals I could reach, budget my money, improve my working skills and develop my leadership skills." Choking back tears he continued, "Thank you for being here when I needed help." His goal: acceptance into a carpenter's apprenticeship program.

Virginia Whisman, another student speaker, also spoke of her challenges when she entered the program. "I came out of a bad situation. I have three children—one set of twins. I wasn't being a great mom. Now, I see things differently. I was mouthy. I now see others opinions. It has helped me control my mouth. Now, we are all there for each other."

The venture was begun in 1978 in New York City, when a group of teens expressed a desire to renovate some abandoned tenements. Dorothy Stoneman, who was the director of the Youth Action Program in East Harlem, assisted them in raising funds, choosing a building, and hiring adult trainers. Their efforts were so successful that a coalition was formed to replicate the program. In 1988 the coalition expanded nationwide and renamed itself YouthBuild.

Lebanon's YouthBuild has been around for two years. The first graduating class saw 14 complete the year-long course that begins in May and ends in April. Participants, ages 16-24, spend half of their time on a construction site earning an hourly wage, the other half in a classroom. All are expected to give volunteer time for community projects.

"Find a cause that's bigger than yourselves. It's what you do for other people that matters," challenges Tony Frazier, the program's construction site trainer. This year, the students donated a combined 973 hours to organizations such as Camp Attitude, Boys and Girls Club and Habitat For Humanity. Local schools such as LBCC, businesses and individuals in turn give to YouthBuild by provid-

"Thank you for being here when I needed help."

—Justin Knutson

ing additional program funding, materials for housing projects and jobs for the graduates.

This year's local graduating class, three women and eight men spent a combined 4,459 hours in a classroom and 7,083 combined hours building two houses in Lebanon on Cypress Street. The group boasts six who are now employed and six who earned their GED, with two pending. Of these, four were eligible for national honors.

"YouthBuild has given me experience in the construction field, courage to choose my dreams, knowledge to go out and find jobs to support my family. It's an excellent program. I hate to see [my participation in it] end," declared Sarah Garlough, one of the recent graduates.

Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch and offer support to future YouthBuild participants. A video containing information about job hunting, keys to success in the program, and inspirational thoughts, has been produced to inspire new entrants.

Patty Wachs, YouthBuild's program manager for Lebanon, envisions working with Habitat For Humanity more closely on

future construction.

"It's a smarter approach for our program, as our grants are for the training portions of our program. It will help us focus more on the youth, and bring us together as a community." She recently met with members of Sweet Home's Habitat project to discuss possible involvement.

As this year's graduation ceremony came to an end, keynote speaker Claudine Oriani, spokesperson for OSU Credit

Union, reminded graduates and audience members alike: "Obstacles are what we see when we take our eyes off our goals."

Eleven red-gowned students nodded. Their eyes were focused on the future, on their recent successful completion of YouthBuild's program. Thanks in part to youthful vision over 20 years ago, the current staff at the Lebanon YouthBuild center, and their own determination, they were indeed ready.

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COMMONS

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

MAY 15th - 21st

Wednesday

Prime Rib Poppers
Yorkshire Pudding
Pork Enchiladas
Spinach Lasagna
Billy Bi
Beef Vegetable Soup

Thursday

Chicken Ballotine
Sushi
Penne with Roasted Vegetables
Chili Macaroni
Cuban Black Bean Soup
Chicken Taco Salad

Friday

Chef's Choice!



Monday

BBQ Ribs
Moroccan Chicken
Omelet Bar
Saffron Chicken Soup
Vegetarian Vegetable
Chef Salad

Tuesday

Swiss Steak
Snapper en Papillote
Kolokopita
Chicken Consomme
Roasted Garlic Soup
Shrimp Louis Armstrong

What are you doing next year?

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LOCAL NEWS

Corvallis report focuses on Willamette water treatment

by Chad Richins
of The Commuter

If you have ever wondered what is in the water that comes out of your tap, you are not alone. People today are more health conscious than ever before and are willing to spend extra money for bottled water or home filtration systems that make them feel more secure about the water their family consumes.

On a larger scale, the amount and quality of water available can limit the growth of communities, cause controversy and conflict—such as recent problems in the Klamath Basin—and necessitate the spending of millions of dollars to remedy them. A controversy has surfaced recently over the safety of water drawn from the Willamette River near Wilsonville where a new plant has begun operation to supply that city with the water it needs to grow.

Concerns over possible contaminants from upstream industry or agriculture, as well as concerns over some deformed fish that have been found in the river near Wilsonville have some worried about the quality of the raw water.

The City of Corvallis also relies on Willamette River water, which makes up about two-thirds of the water it supplies to homes. Treatment processes vary slightly at different locations but most rely on a combination of time-tested processes like coagulation, flocculation, filtration and disinfection.

Recently, city employee John Kelker took The Commuter on a tour of the Taylor plant in South Corvallis and explained the process by which water is treated. Kelker is a graduate of the LBCC Water/Wastewater program.

Water that leaves the Taylor plant has a chlorine content of about .8 or .9 milligrams per liter, or about 1 part per million. As the water makes its way to homes, it naturally loses some of its chlorine so that homes farther from the plant have less chlorinated water.

According to the Corvallis Public Works Department 2001 Water Quality Report, the water in Corvallis is tested every three years for synthetic organic chemicals and every two years for dioxin, which has not been detected in any samples. Other pollutants not detected

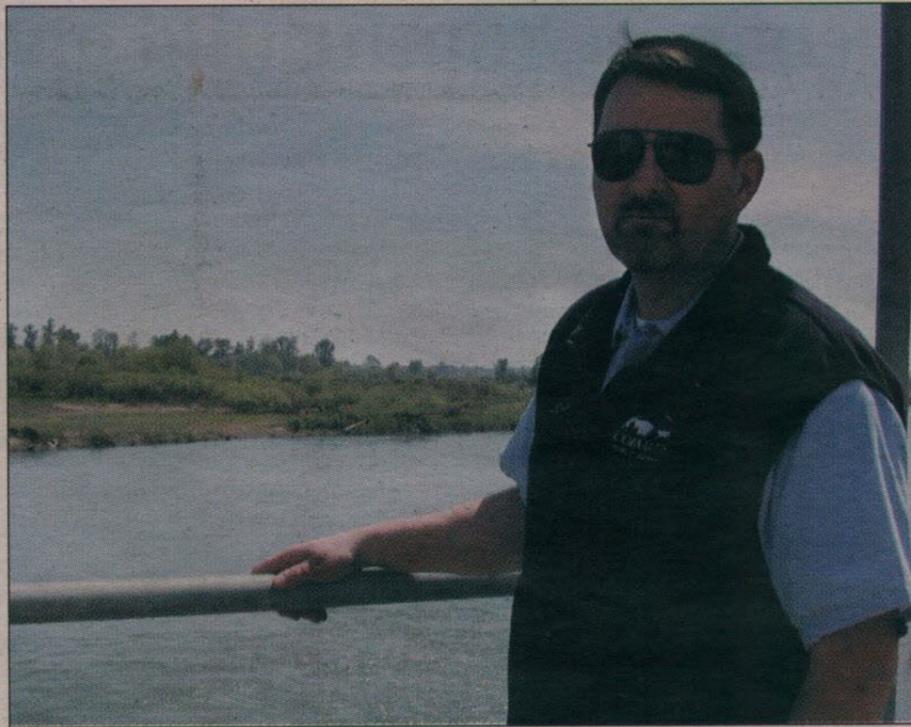


Photo by Chad Richins

LBCC graduate and plant operator John Kelker stands at the intake point of the Taylor Water Treatment Plant on the Willamette River South of Corvallis.

included cyanide, toluene, chlordane, benzene, mercury and a host of other chemical and microbiological pollutants.

Corvallis water met all federal regulations during the reporting period. Lead and copper were detected in the system due to older plumbing fixtures, but have

never been detected in raw water sources.

Trihalomethanes, which are by products of the chlorination process were detected in low levels, 13 to 37 parts per billion. Regulations allow up to 100 ppb. Coliform bacteria was also found to be present in low, acceptable levels.

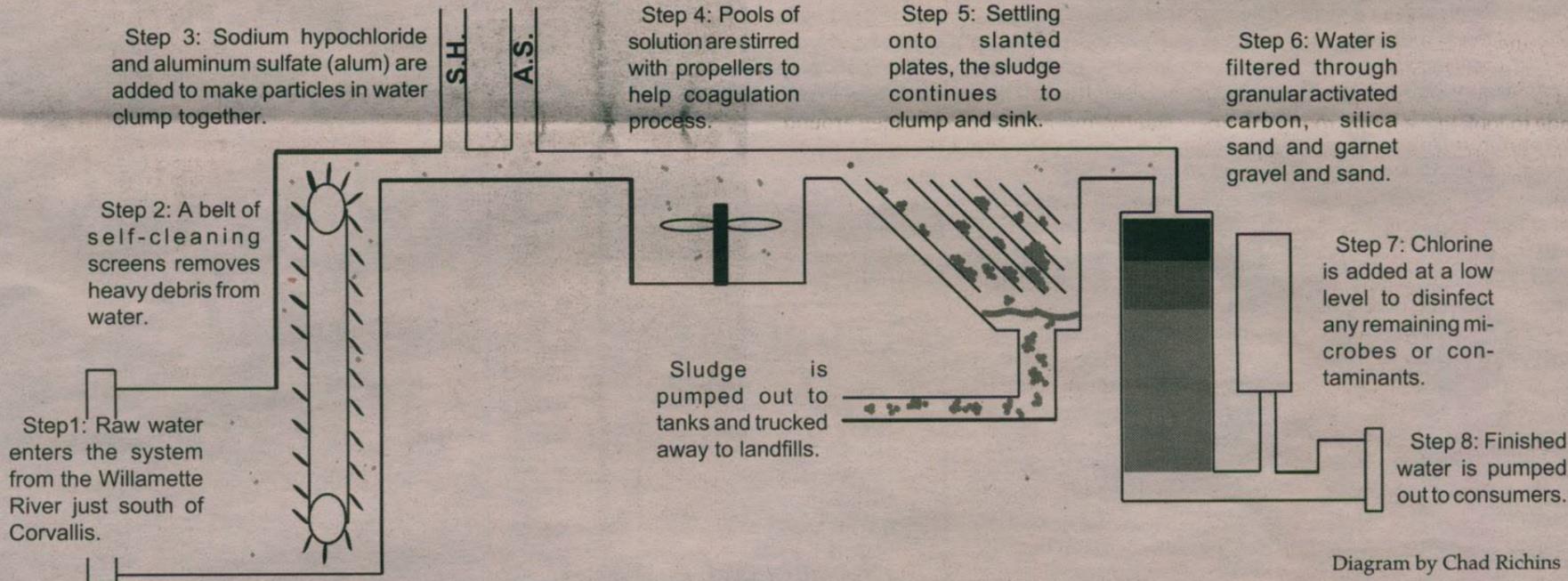


Diagram by Chad Richins

To clarify water, the Egyptians reportedly used the chemical alum as early as 1500 B.C. to cause suspended particles to settle out of water. The same process that is part of water treatment today.

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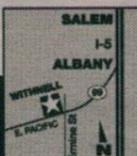
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Art Awards

Ten students received jurors awards from Art Department chair Dori Litzer last Wednesday in the Annual Art Student Juried Exhibit in the AHSS Gallery. Foundation Purchase Scholarships went to Marcella Henkels, Cody Acevedo and Dawn Jones. Cash awards went to Bob Daley, Robert Story and Eric Steen (painting/drawing); Mary Rounds and Trina Johanson (photography); and Eliza Pandolfi and Tyler Lunceforth (ceramics).



Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

German dancers stage benefit for peace group

by Thomas McGeary
for The Commuter

The LBCC Peace Studies Program and The Friendship Force of Albany are sponsoring the Jever Folkdancers of Germany in a fundraising performance at LBCC this Friday.

There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted at the event to help send LBCC delegates to the 11th Biennial Symposium on Peace, Justice and Human Rights in York, England, this June.

The dancers from Varel, Germany, will start "Dancing for Friendship" Friday May 17, at 7 p.m. in the Forum. They will be performing a variety of German and European dances in handmade costumes.

If you enjoy bold music and dance you will really like this group, according to Patrick Niedermeyer, a Peace Studies member who is helping organize the event. Be ready to enjoy the fast-paced, colorful, foot-tapping music and dance, he said.

The co-sponsor, Friendship Force, is a private, non-profit international organization that brings people of all ages and backgrounds together. Their goal is to learn more about our common interests and cultural diversity.

The dancers will also be on stage in Monmouth on May 19, at 3 p.m. in the Western Oregon University Center in a performance co-sponsored by the WOU German Club.

Shakespeare Fest raises curtain on clever play within a play

by Twila Skelley
of The Commuter

"Noises Off," a play within a play put on by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, is absolutely hilarious.

The setting for the play is a house made to look like a living room and upstairs, with seven doors. Since the play is about a play, the staging can be seen from both sides as the entire stage swings around like a Lazy-Susan.

The talented actors enthusiastically portrayed each mentally unstable, lush, or jealous character.

Dottie Otley is the "real name" of the actress who portrays the housekeeper in "Noises Off." Otley really doesn't give a rip about much except Garry Lejeune. The character of Lejeune is in love with Otley in real life. Brooke Ashton is the stereotypical trophy-blond having a fling with the powerful businessman, Lejeune. Poppy Norton-Taylor is a set director who is in love with the play's director, Lloyd Dallas. However, Dallas is having a romance with Ashton. In the play Frederick Fellows and Belinda Blair are married.

Meanwhile, backstage, while everyone is having love quarrels, Fellows gets a nose bleed every time there is some sort

of violence and Blair is always mediating between the battles, which there are many. Seldson Mowbray is eldest of all the characters. He plays a burglar that never gets his cue right because he is always drunk. The other actors are constantly finding his booze hidden around stage. Tim Algood is an understudy who is used by Dallas to try and win back Ashton after she thinks she catches him cheating. Algood also ends up playing the part of Fellows after he falls down the stairs and Mowbray when he is too drunk and lost to even show up for the performance.

As you can see the plot of this play twists and turns in on itself. I personally laughed so hard my face hurt from smiling for 3 hours.

Yep, three hours, it's a long play with two, ten minute intermissions. The drive to Ashland from Albany can take anywhere from three and one-half hours to five hours, depending on how heavy of a lead foot a person has.

During the 2002 Oregon Shakespeare Festival season, actors will be performing 11 different plays.

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival can be reached at www.osfashland.org. The number for ticket sales is (541)482-4331.

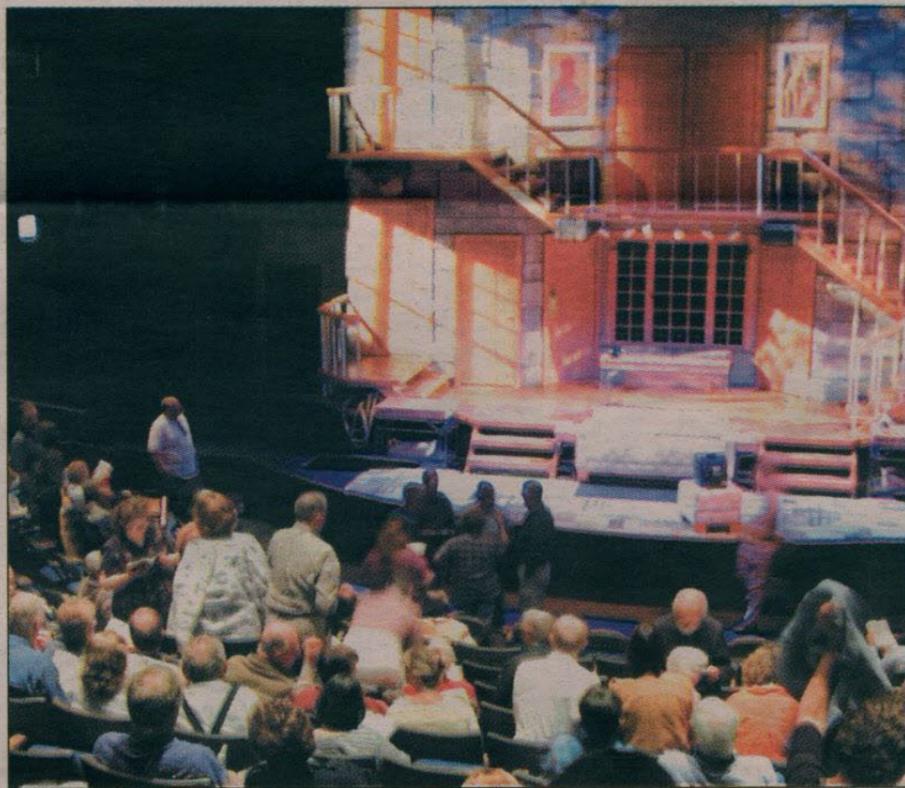


Photo by James Bauerle

The crowd files into the Bowmer Theater to see "Noises Off" at the Ashland Shakespearean Festival. Although the play lasted 3 hours the packed house seemed to love every minute of it.

REVIEW

Local comedian performs for moms

by Sherry Majeski
of The Commuter

Joe Stoddard, a musician/comedian, starred at Wrangler's in Salem on Saturday May 11, for a Mother's Day dinner show. His lyrical antics and steady stream of jokes engulfed the audience, constantly pulling the audience into his act.

Stoddard, a California transplant to Scio, has become a national performer, but often entertains locals. Stoddard has performed with such greats as Ricky Nelson and The Beach Boys.

At Saturday night's show, he got to know his crowd and used them in his act. One thing that

he wouldn't let you get away with, was not paying attention to him. He would shout out, "Hey, Sherry, you're not paying attention to me!"

His style of music, intertwined with comedy, varied from the 50s and 60s to country/western. He sang songs inviting participation, and if someone wasn't singing along he yelled, "Hey, you! In the red shirt. You weren't singing!" and everyone poked fun at him.

He delighted the crowd with humorous impersonations of Elvis Presley, John Denver and Fats Domino, without completely disrespecting the dead.

He also gets you when you go to the restroom. He prompted the crowd to yell at one audience member, "Hurry up Jim, we're waiting!"

During break, Stoddard mingled with the audience and answered their questions. He is a real crowd-pleaser and genuinely enjoys people.

Stoddard will be performing at the 10th Annual Oregon Jamboree in Sweet Home Aug. 2 through Aug. 4. The jamboree will also feature such well-known performers like Martina McBride, Clay Walker, Montgomery Gentry, Sara Evans and Sammy Kershaw.

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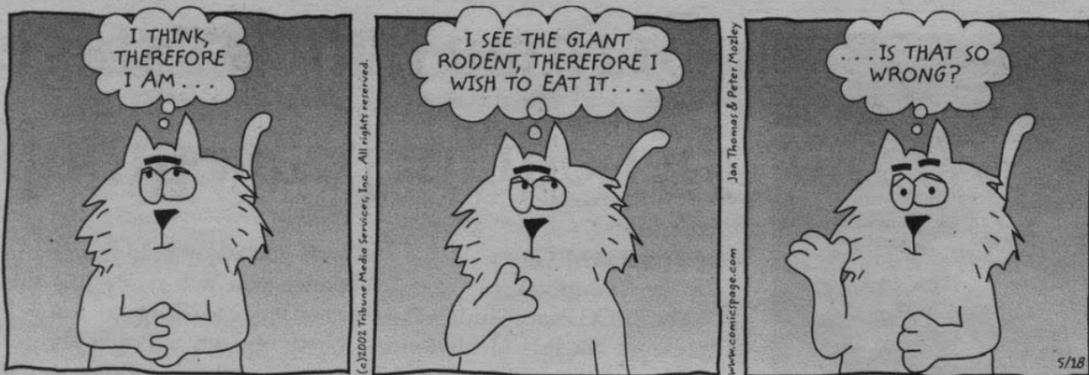
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FUNNY PAGE



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Summer Jobs are coming in! Have you started looking? If not, why are you waiting? Jobs got fast as there are many people looking right now. There might not be much to pick from by the time summer comes. See Carla in Student Employment (Takena 101) for more details and to get signed up!

Dental Assistant #1379 (Siletz, Oregon) If you have your certification in dental assisting, this full-time position is for you. It pays \$14.14/hour. See Carla in the Career Center (Takena 101) for more information!

Bookkeeper Jobs #1378 & 1375 (Corvallis) Both bookkeeper jobs are part-time and in Corvallis. For requirements, see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (T101) to get your referral!

Chef #1380 (Corvallis) Prepare lunch and dinner Monday through Friday for a sorority. Full-time position pays \$1500-1800 for 9 months. See Carla in Student Employment at the Career Center (T101)!

FOR RENT

Roommate wanted for easy going atmosphere, four-bedroom, one bath house in Corvallis near

Albertson's/Winco. Pets considered. Smoking ok. Responsible bill payers only. Large yard, garden space, den, patio. \$260/mth, \$260/dep. Call 752-9984 for an appointment.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial assistance offered: A total of \$2000 is available which will be distributed to one applicant. **Altrusa Alliance:** A mentor/scholarship program. Individuals selected to receive funds will be eligible not only for financial assistance, but will enjoy a great mauldering and networking opportunity. Eligibility: *students entering the final year of a two year degree program at LBCC, *have completed one satisfactory year of their program, *must be willing to participate with the club and its fund raising activities, *must complete the application form and provide a letter of support from an instructor, advisor or personal reference, *consideration may be given to need and displaced worker status. Applications are available in the LRC and the Foundation Office (917-4209) Deadline: May 31, 2002. Recipients will be notified by June 2002.

FOR SALE

Nickel/Silver mix Evett closed hole flute. Excellent condition, great beginning student flute. Nice tone. \$195. Contact Lydia Eaton, 929-5368

1990 Honda Accord LX, \$4100/OBO, bought for \$4900 in '00. 4-door, 165K, burgandy. All power, sun roof. Clarion CD player, bonus speakers, alarm, new alternator, brakes & battery. Great Condition, runs like steel. Caitlin 738-6880

Storage Depot. 111 NE Davidson St. 5x5's, \$24. 5x10's as low as \$32, prepay 6 mths, receive 10% discount. Secure Sight. Call Denise at 928-7777.

'72 Datsun Pickup. Project car, runs, but needs brakes & license. No major body damage. Interior needs TLC. \$300/OBO. Call 754-6144, ask for Susan.

Must sell Moving! '96 Dodge Neon, 4 dr., cd/air/cruise, 65k, excellent cond., \$5300/OBO, 738-6147

MISCELLANEOUS

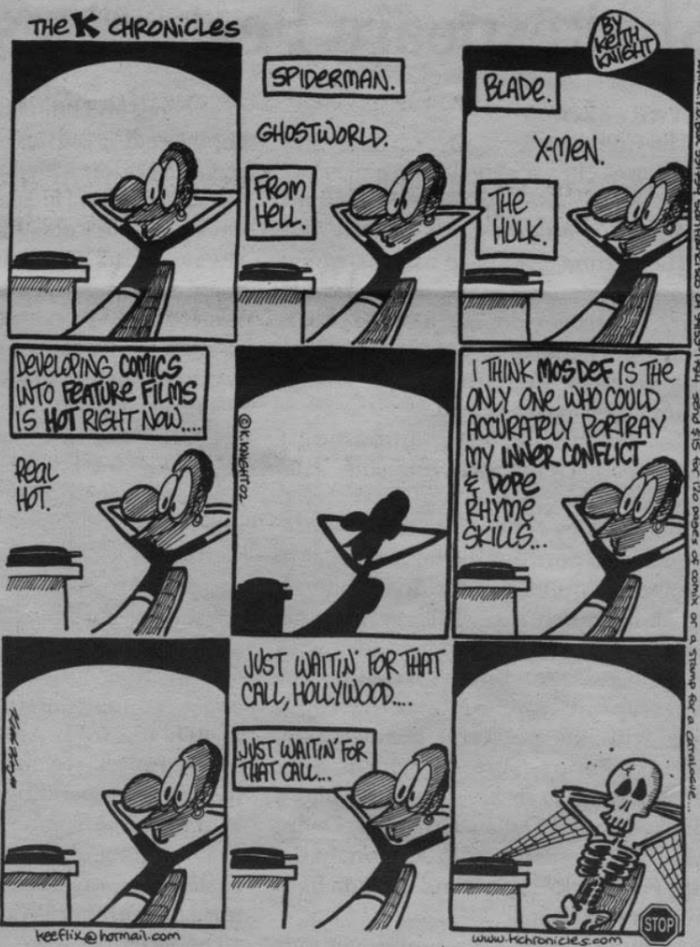
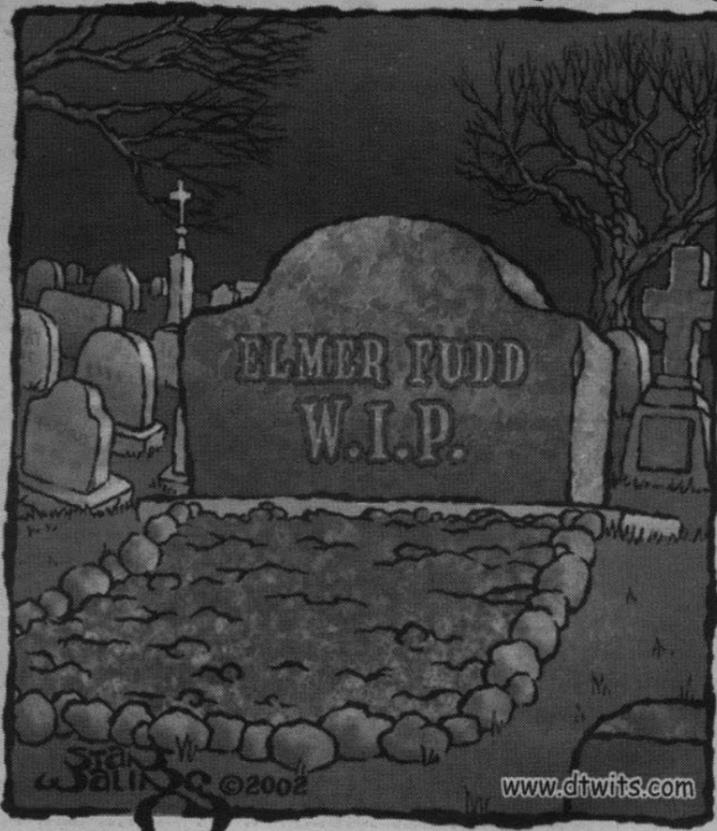
Do you need tutoring help with writing assignments? Call me...35 years writing/editing experience. Reasonable rates. Karen Randolph 757-9013

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

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

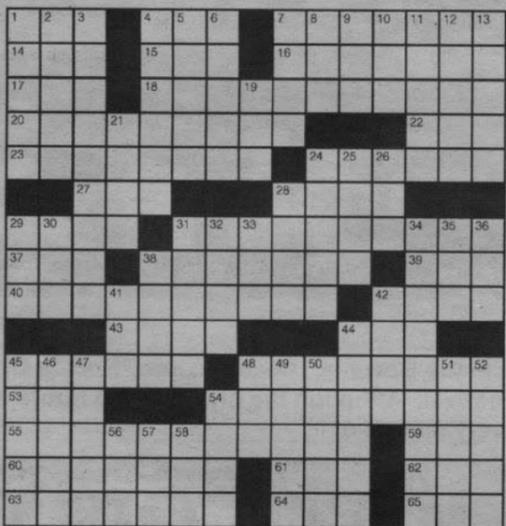
Cost: Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling

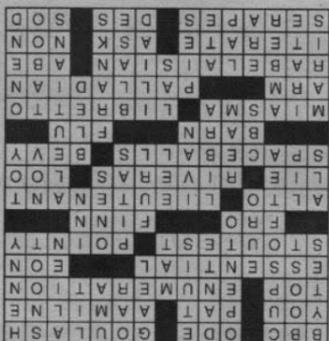


Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Eng. channel
 - Lofty poem
 - Hungarian dish
 - Face in the mirror
 - Buchanan or Riley
 - Pooh's creator
 - Zenith
 - Counting
 - Necessary
 - Long period
 - Most stalwart
 - Having a tapering end
 - To's companion
 - Sawyer's pal
 - Choral voice
 - Commissioned officer
 - Stretch the truth
 - Geraldo and Chita
 - London lav.
 - Brooks/Candy comedy
 - Group of larks
 - Farm building
 - Viral infection
 - Noxious swamp gases
 - Opera text
 - Limb
 - Of Athena
 - Characterized by coarse humor
 - Justice Fortas
 - Say again
 - Request
 - sequitur
 - Mexican shawls
 - Plaines, IL
 - Turf piece
- DOWN**
- Memory units
 - Push upward
 - Fortes
 - Not close-minded about
 - "Divine Comedy" poet
 - Needle boxes
 - Highlander
 - Rower
 - Thurman of film
 - Coll. course
 - Little green man, e.g.
 - Proboscis
 - Comic Youngman
 - Gym padding
 - Continental currency
 - Pocket breads
 - Individuals
 - Travelers' stopover
 - Roll up
 - Molinaro and Martino
 - Cup rim
 - Zodiac sign
 - Reitman or Lendl
 - Marine shocker
 - Alaskan chain
 - LCD month
 - Trifle
 - 500 sheets of paper
 - Natl. TV network
 - Ran in the wash
 - Hot dogs
 - Sluggo Roger
 - Enraged
 - Dark yellow
 - Notes of scales
 - Trojan War story
 - Too
 - sophisticated
 - Societal no-no
 - Upright
 - Slapstick ammo
 - Time period
 - Track circuit
 - Had a bite



Solutions



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THE **COMMUTER**
A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

The Commuter needs creative students to fill positions on the 2002-2003 staff

Editor

Individuals interested in journalism and communications careers are encouraged to apply. Appointment carries a 12-credit quarterly tuition grant and provides practical experience for aspiring writers and editors. Students with coursework and/or experience in journalism are preferred. Applicants must be enrolled throughout the 2002-03 academic year. Appointment made by the LBCC Publications Committee.

DEADLINE IS MAY 17
(for this position only)

Photo Editor

Students with an interest and skills in photography are sought for this position, which offers valuable experience for anyone planning to pursue a career in photography. Several past Commuter photo editors have gone on to work at professional newspapers in Oregon and elsewhere. Applicants must have knowledge of conventional lab work. Familiarity with digital imaging is a plus, but we will provide training in Photoshop. The appointment carries a 75% annual tuition grant.

Sports Editor

An energetic writer with an interest in athletics and outdoors is sought for this position. Students with some journalism or writing experience preferred, but anyone with a flair for writing and a passion for sports is encouraged to apply. The appointment carries a 6-credit tuition grant and provides on-the-job training and experience covering a wide variety of intercollegiate athletics.

Graphics Editor

The Commuter is seeking an individual with experience in graphics and/or journalism to coordinate the graphic design and production aspects of the weekly newspaper. This position involves helping develop the overall design of the paper, creating illustration and info graphics for publication, and coordinating production. Macintosh experience preferred. The appointment carries a 6-credit tuition grant.

Assistant Editors

Applicants sought for several assistant editor positions, including Managing Editor, Copy Editor, A&E Editor, Online Editor. Some journalism or writing experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointment to Managing Editor carries a 6-credit tuition grant, while other positions carry 4-credit tuition grants.

Digital Page Designer

This part-time position pays \$8+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mon.-Tues. Involves using Macintosh and Pagemaker to paginate tabloid pages under direction of the graphics editor. Mac experience and good English skills required; familiarity with Pagemaker helpful. Provides valuable experience for majors in journalism, graphics and pre-press technology.

Ad Manager

Individuals with career goals in business, graphics or journalism are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Macintosh experience preferred. The position carries a 12-credit quarterly tuition grant. Applicant must be enrolled for the 2002-03 academic year.

Work Study Jobs

Editorial Assistant
Production Assistant
Advertising Assistant
Photography Assistant

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

Deadline for Editor is May 17.

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222)

or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-112)

For additional information call ext. 4563 or 4451

ON THE ROAD

Oregon hatcheries spawn family curiosity

by Wendy Geist
of The Commuter

Ever since Oregon's first fish hatchery was established in 1877 at the mouth of Clear Creek on the Clackamas River, parents and kids have found the hatcheries to be more than a fish nursery—they are a fun place to visit.

Today, the state's 33 fish hatcheries not only provide recreation for an estimated 750,000 anglers but also entertainment for thousands of kids and families.

Six hatcheries are located within a drive of an hour or two from Albany. The hatcheries are open to the public and free of charge, making for an inexpensive, educational family excursion. So lure the family together for a drive to any of these local hatcheries, and be sure to bring a picnic lunch because there are plenty of waysides and park benches near picturesque streams along the way.

Breeding Rainbows

The drive to Roaring River Fish Hatchery is a pleasant 18-mile jaunt past expansive emerald-green grass-seed fields east of Albany, along Highway 226 and down Fish Hatchery Drive. An unexpected treat appears when the drive comes upon Larwood Covered Bridge, built in 1939. The sound of Crabtree Creek rushing beneath the bridge in the springtime, as Roaring River joins it, is just as breathtaking as its scenery.

Roaring River Fish Hatchery is best known for its annual production of three to five million rainbow trout eggs. Broodstock fish are held for egg production in two separate ponds, one for fish ages two to three and the other for fish ages four to five. Visitors can peer into the ponds to watch the almost 2-foot-long rainbow trout swim around. Albino cutthroat, considered an oddity, and "Stewart", a 4-foot long sturgeon, are also on view in display ponds.

Below the Dam

South Santiam Fish Hatchery is five miles east of Sweet Home on the north side of Foster Dam, off Highway 20. A sunny day reveals a scenic view of the snow-capped Cascades to visitors as they drive across the top of the dam. The hatchery, located beneath the dam, rears and releases 144,000 summer steelhead and one million spring chinook smolts annually into South Santiam River. Wild winter steelhead also return to the hatchery's adult trapping facility.

Michael Price, assistant manager of the hatchery, explains that unlike the native winter steelhead, summer steel-



Photo by Wendy Geist

An interpretive sign at South Fish Hatchery located five miles east of Sweet Home informs visitors on the processes of fish propagation.

head were introduced to the South Santiam from Skamania County, Wash. The original hatchery was built five miles upstream in 1925 to replace fish populations that were lost due to logging and then rebuilt in 1968 after the construction of Foster Dam. The trapping facility at the dam, where the fish are sorted upon their return, is currently closed to visitors because Foster Dam is under lock down after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Adult fish are either brought to the hatchery or released above the dam, explains Price, and excess summer steelhead are released down river for anglers while spring chinook are taken to Crabtree Creek and Thomas Creek.

Price says the best time for fish viewing at the hatchery, which is open to the public year round, is during summer months when adults fish are in the ponds. Visitors can picnic right along the riverbank, which is also one of the better bank fishing spots along this stretch of the South Santiam, he says. Anglers with a drift boat have it even better, because they can cover from below the dam all the way down river to Sweet Home.

"Right now we are seeing the return of summer steelhead," which occurs between March and October, said Price. Spring chinook return to the hatchery May through September. Price says group tours of South Santiam Hatchery, which you need to call ahead for (541-367-3437), are great for schools, churches or family-get-togethers. Personnel are available to answer questions about the hatchery from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Visitors can also come before and after these hours,

he said. South Santiam Hatchery's phone number is equipped with an option for anglers who want to hear the fish counts.

Lessons on the McKenzie

South of Albany and about 22 miles east of Springfield are two hatcheries located within five miles of each other. Highway 126 takes drivers along the McKenzie River, past the Trout House Bed & Breakfast, the McKenzie River Tea Trader and the River Run Gallery to the McKenzie Salmon Hatchery located two miles east of Leaburg.

One million spring chinook are raised at the McKenzie hatchery annually for release into the river. These juvenile salmon will migrate down the McKenzie, Willamette and Columbia Rivers to reach the Pacific Ocean 310 river miles away. They return three to five years later by instinct to reach the hatchery between mid-May and late September.

McKenzie Salmon Hatchery offers visitors a unique look into the spawning and incubation rooms through large glass windows. The hatchery encourages visitors to watch these processes during spawning time in September.

Five miles farther east on Highway 126 is Leaburg Fish Hatchery—the only one that is not signed from the road, so getting there can be tricky. Turn right at the EWEB (Eugene Water and Electric Board) Water Board Park sign and drive across the roaring McKenzie River on the Green Dam to reach the hatchery, which is now part of the Lloyd Knox Water Board Park. Children flock to the hatchery's viewing pond, situated in a

Japanese garden setting. There is a display of the life of a river by a local middle school and a 1996 flood marker. "Free-Fishing Day" at Leaburg Fish Hatchery is June 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., when children can get lessons on fly fishing, how dams generate power and how to be safe around water. Call 541-896-3294 for more information.

Coastal Fish and Falls

Located west of the Coast Range and southwest of Albany on State Route 34 are two more hatcheries worth a family excursion.

Alsea Trout Hatchery, 15 miles southwest of Philomath, is nestled in a little valley of the North Fork of Alsea River. The hatchery raises coastal cutthroat trout and winter steelhead to be released into the river. It saw a return of 5,832 winter steelhead between December 2001 and the end of March 2002. Alsea Trout Hatchery also rears 213,000 rainbow trout annually, which will be stocked in Coastal and Willamette Valley lakes. Some of the trout will be released as trophy-size fish at 13 to 15 inches in length.

At Alsea, adults need to lift little children to see into many of the rearing ponds because they are seated about four feet above ground. But as soon as you hear a slight buzzing sound, look across the ponds to see the still water suddenly break out into a flurry of flapping fish tails as the automatic feeder kicks in. Other treats at Alsea Trout Hatchery are a six-foot white sturgeon, a natural stream bed display, and a good view of a fish ladder that leads straight from the river.

Fifteen miles farther west on State Route 34, and past two Benton County parks for picnickers, is Fall Creek Fish Hatchery. Visitors drive two-and-a-half miles to the hatchery along the gravel Fall Creek Road. The creek is full of springtime rapids and little falls. Halfway there, be on the lookout for a fish ladder on the opposite side of the creek. There aren't many fish to see at the hatchery because there are only 10 holding ponds, but the drive along Fall Creek is definitely worth the trip.

Don't think that once you've seen one, you've seen them all. Every hatchery is unique in its own way in regard to location and purpose. Visitors leave with a new understanding of one of Oregon's valued natural resources and some good views of the fish themselves.

Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife web site provides phone numbers and directions to the hatcheries listed above at www.dfw.state.or.us on its main fish page, or call 503-872-5268.

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SPORTS PAGE

Dionne launches javelin to first regional title

LB Track team comes home with one first, two seconds and two thirds in regional meet

by the LB Athletic Department
of The Commuter

The Linn-Benton Track & Field team competed in the Southern Region Championships last weekend at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. The team went home with one title, two second places, and two third-place finishes.

In the first day of competition, freshman Jennifer Dionne once again proved

to be the region's best at the javelin. Her throw of 135 feet 11 inches gave Dionne her first Southern Region Championship win.

The lady's team also did well in the shot put competition. Heidi Van Dam came up with a personal best throw of 41 feet, one and a quarter inches but was bested by Jesse Salmela of Mt. Hood. Sicily Hotrum was right behind Van Dam with a third place finish after a throw of 36 feet, one half inch.

On the men's side, TJ Vetkos, Noah Winningham and Kevin Silbernagel were in action. Vetkos again managed to clear

14 feet and showed definite improvement, but was disappointed with his eighth place finish. Winningham improved his hammer best to 138-10 but managed only eighth place in the competitive field. Silbernagel ran a respectable 1 minute 57.18 seconds in the 800-meter dash and easily qualified for the next day's finals.

On the second day of the meet, Silbernagel ran a smart, tactical 800 meters for the men, upsetting the form chart and finishing third in the final.

Van Dam was disappointed in her fourth place finish in the discus, where

she threw 118-7, but came back strong in the hammer with a four-foot improvement to her personal best. Van Dam's throw of 134-8 was good enough for second overall.

Missy Beach had the best day of any of the Roadrunners, improving her hammer best by over eight feet with a mark of 120-2 and finishing fourth. Beach was ranked seventh going into the competition.

The next meet will be at Willamette University May 18 to prepare for the NWAACC Championships at Mt. Hood Community College on May 23 and 24.

Roadrunners, Cougars hold strong at home in last meetings of year

by Jered Reid
of The Commuter

The Roadrunners went 3-2 last week, winning three straight games before clashing with Clackamas and losing the doubleheader on Saturday. LB is now 12-16 in league and 17-20 overall.

The Linn-Benton offense was held at bay by the Clackamas pitchers, as LB was able to manage only five hits and only one run as the Roadrunners went down 1-2 and 0-7 in the doubleheader.

Jeremy Robinson had a fine performance in the first game on the mound, allowing only four hits, but unfortunately was credited with the lost.

Last Wednesday, LB went to Corvallis to play in a non-league game at Gross Stadium against the Oregon State junior varsity team.

Head Coach Greg Hawk used five different pitchers in the game, and starter Andrew Larson earned the victory after pitching the first two innings. The LB pitching staff allowed only one run off seven hits to secure a 5-1 Roadrunner

victory.

Freshman Mychal Wagner, had the only LB extra base hit with a double. He also had two RBIs, a run scored, and a stolen base, while going 2-for-4 on the day.

Catchers Ben Anderson and Brady Henderson both hit 1-for-1 with an RBI for Linn-Benton. The win against the Beavers made it three in a row for the Runners.

Last Tuesday, the Roadrunners made a come back during the game to beat Clackamas 5-4 in 11 innings in the first game, and then finished them off in the night cap 3-0.

In the first game, the Roadrunners found themselves trailing 1-4 with two outs. First baseman Jeff Frost came up to the plate with the bases loaded and sent a fly ball to left-center field. At first, it looked like one of the Cougar outfielders was going to make the catch, but they ended up colliding, and LB scored three runs.

The Roadrunners once again had the bases loaded in the 11th inning. With no outs, Tanner Abel hit a single through the



Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

Kai Therrien tries to beat out an infield hit in last Tuesday's game against Clackamas.

shortstop and third baseman to secure the Roadrunner victory. Colin Kaneshiro contributed a double and went 3-for-5 on the day, and Abel was 2-for-5. Robinson picked up the win for the Runners on the mound.

In the second game, pitcher

John Best threw all seven innings, allowing only four hits and getting the shutout to record his first win of the season. Robinson got the run support he needed in the first and sixth innings.

Travis Rood went 2-for-2,

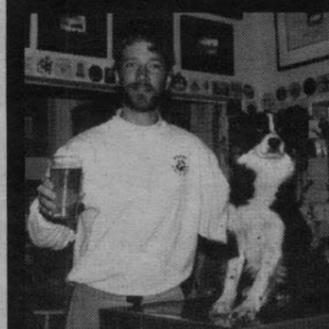
with two doubles and an RBI. Nick Peterson also had a two-hit performance, going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

The Roadrunners finished out their season Tuesday against Mt. Hood. The results of that game will run in next week's paper.

STANDINGS

NWAACC Southern
Region

Mt. Hood	24-4
Lane	22-6
Linn-Benton	12-16
Chemeketa	10-18
Clackamas	8-20
SW Oregon	8-20



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Oregon Shakespearean Festival Trip

This trip is open to all students and includes transportation to Ashland, tickets to *Handler* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, and overnight accommodations.

Cost: \$20, plus cost of food

When?

Leave Sunday May
26, 8 am

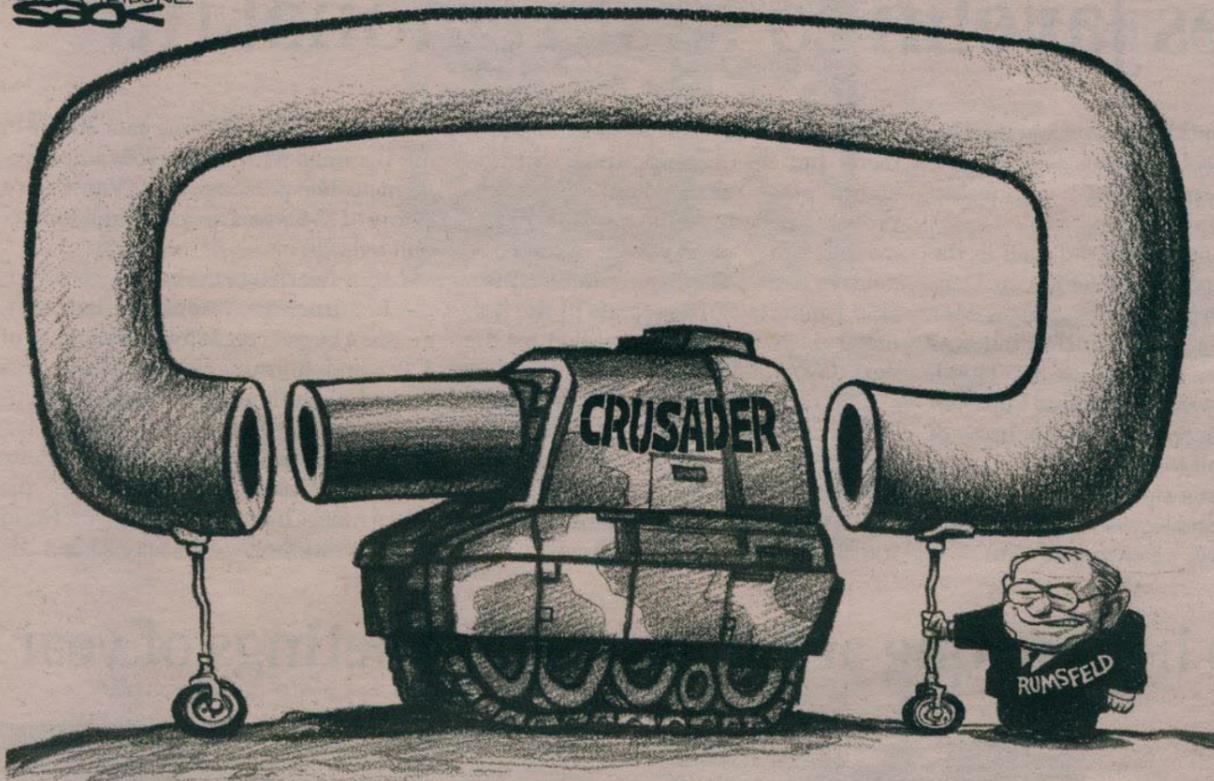
Return Monday
May 27, 1 pm



This trip is available to the first 11 students who sign up.

OPINION

STAR TRIBUNE
BOOK



COMMENTARY

Mail-in on the minds of Oregonians

by Chad Richins
of The Commuter

With the mail-in period for the primary election almost over, the Benton County recorder's office is reporting that 5,328 ballots have been turned in as of May 13, which breaks down to about 12.5% of registered voters. With a week to go, it doesn't look like the turnout is going to be very high. Once again, an important election is passing by and the general public is watching it go with barely a yawn to mark it's passing.

I know all the arguments and excuses. "My vote won't count anyway." "There are no real choices...it's just puppet A or puppet B." "It takes too much time to research who to vote for."

The thing is, these choices are important. Your vote does, in fact, count. Especially when so few people are voting, every vote counts. Just ask the Corvallis city councilor who won by less than a hundred votes last election, or ask Al Gore, for that matter.

And it doesn't take that much time to find out who represents your values and which measures to vote for. Politics are all about who gets what. Voting is a chance to say what you think, to raise your voice for what you believe in. Do you want lower taxes for the working class or do you want to give tax breaks to business? Do you want strict enforcement of laws to deter crime or do you want money to go to prevention programs? By not voting, you are saying, "I don't care. Just take my money and do whatever."

The American public is a very diverse stew of people with differing approaches, ideas and needs. Some people want to subvert the process and pull the reins of power right or left to serve their own needs. In Oregon with the initiative process being what it is, this is even more of a problem. Take Measure 5, passed in 1990, which changed the way schools are funded. A popular measure that lifted the tax burden off land-owning taxpayers and placed it squarely on the shoulders of the working class by using primarily income taxes to fund education. Another initiative, Measure 7, would have had disastrous consequences for public funds had it not been held up in the courts.

So the idea here is that unless you know what is going on and are part of the process, you are likely to get screwed to the wall financially. Also, depending on whom you choose to represent you in congress and in the courts, you may also end up losing some of your freedoms.

Personally, I like to vote for Democrats unless there is a strikingly original republican better suited for the job. Unlike my grandfather, who voted a straight Democratic ticket his whole life, I can occasionally be con-



Chad Richins

vinced to cross party lines. But to me the Republican Party is the party of I Got Mine, You Go Get Yours, which is the kind of mentality that people left behind in Europe when they came to America for a better deal. Not that the Democrats don't have their own problems, but Republicans don't seem to want to pay their fair share. A huge company like Enron that didn't pay taxes for three years is a good example. Is there any doubt what party Ken Lay and the boys registered with?

I don't believe in a free lunch anymore than I believe in subsidizing pork barrel projects for the wealthy, but you'd have to be daft to think that selfishness will get us anything but class warfare and the decay and decline evident in all such societies.

So when you vote, you can either vote for your own interests, or you can vote for your country. You can vote for a future for everybody, or you can vote for short-term greed. You can vote for punishment, or you can vote for rehabilitation and redemption.

As far as primaries go, you have to look at subtleties. The little differences between two candidates who belong to the same party but could have different ideas about where the party is going or why it should go there. My picks for the current election are:

Bill Bradbury for US senator since he has the experience and name recognition to go the distance, and he is very Old School Oregon, so you have to respect that.

Ted Kulongoski for Governor since he respects labor and he just seems like one of the boys and not trying too hard to seem down to earth. I think he also has the personality required to help guide the various interests in the state down a path to a common goal.

Joe Novak has his work cut out for him in the race for the 15th district and I predict Larry Johnson will probably win that race by a good margin, although Novak would be my personal choice since he is a businessman but also gives back to the community.

The big game this May seems to be the contest for Benton County District Attorney between incumbent Scott Heiser and local attorney Steven Black. Heiser seems to be on the same page with the local police who take a pretty hard line on crime and see it as their job to prosecute everything to their fullest power, while Black seems to represent a voice of a community that is overwhelmed by an oppressive police presence that in the absence of a serious crime problem has nothing better to do than hassle the locals. Steven Black represents a sane choice for the community and would do his best to prosecute real crime while spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

So unless you want to vote just to write in your vote for Gandalf or Han Solo—unless you don't care about anything or aren't able to understand the world around you—get your vote in by 8 p.m. on May 21. Postmarks are not accepted and ballots must physically be turned in by that time.

WHAT PEOPLE THINK

Who is your favorite super-hero and why?

"Superwoman, because she's a woman."

—Kirsten Majoy, art



"Superman, because he can fly and Wonder Woman prefers him over the other super heroes"

—Jason Savedra, business administration

"Wolverine, of the X-Men. Because he can heal in a matter of hours or minutes and he has a metal alloy in his bones."

—Jordan Sandau, photography



"Spiderman. I've always liked Spiderman's sense of humor. He has these great human qualities along with these

superhuman talents. I've always liked his kind of love relationship."

—Doug Clark, political science instructor

"Batman, I like his car and his outfit."

—Wendy Marcum, office specialist



"Spiderman, always has been. Probably, the first comic book I ever owned."

—Randy Sandland, philosophy

"Superman, cause he's super."

—Matt Martin, international studies



Compiled by Thomas M'Geary and Mariana Schatte