



Need for Speed
Dirt track enthusiasts gather at Willamette
Speedway every weekend from April to September
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LB Hitting Stride
Linn-Benton gets their first sweep in two
weeks after a series with Clackamas.
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THE Commuter

Wednesday,
April 26, 2006
Volume 37 No. 18

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter



photo by Lori Fluge Brunker

Jackie Freeman, an LB nursing student practices her skills on a mannequin during class.

LB trains health care pros, prepares for state shortage

Walt Hughes, Sr.
The Commuter

If you live in the Central Willamette Valley or along the Pacific Coast, chances are you will come into contact with the Samaritan Health Services at some point. With a capacity of 388 beds between five modern hospital facilities located in Lebanon, Albany, Corvallis, Lincoln City, and Newport, Samaritan is a well-established medical provider in this area.

Based on a principle of integrated treatment, integrative medicine is the bringing together of all parts to make a healthy whole. It's recognizing the connections among a person's mind, body, spirit and environment and realizing that what's good for one part is good for all parts. It's creating a "healing environment" that will facilitate each person's well being. The Samaritan system provides high-quality care at all of their facilities with specialized cardiac and cancer centers located at the Samaritan Regional Center in Corvallis.

Samaritan Health Services was formed in 1997 when two longtime, highly respected health care organizations decided they could accomplish more by working together than they could separately. The consolidation of Lebanon's Mid-Valley Health Care, Inc. and Corvallis' Samaritan, Inc. set in motion a

"The number of jobs available in the long-term direct care occupations will grow 45 percent between 2004 and 2010."

OLMIS

collaboration unprecedented in the region. Since then, Albany's FirstCare Health (a physician/hospital organization) has joined SHS, as has Heart of the Valley Health Care Center (a senior care and rehabilitation facility) in Corvallis.

Many parts of the country lack qualified professionals in the health care industry and it is not uncommon to see television commercials extolling the need for registered nurses these days.

According to the Oregon Labor Market Information System (OLMIS), "the number of jobs available in the long-term direct care occupations will grow 45 percent between 2004 and 2010."

To help offset some of that problem in this area, Samaritan entered into a partnership with Linn-Benton Community College to train highly qualified health care professionals.

Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital (SLCH) is the home of a new Health Career and Training Center. The Lebanon hospital's foundation provided \$250,000 seed money to start the project and Samaritan Health Services worked with LBCC to provide the physical space and classroom training.

Samaritan Health Services offers more than 150 affiliated medical providers including doctors and other care specialists in clinics and offices serving roughly 250,000 residents of Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties. The system is a comprehensive physician network centered in primary care, including fam-

► Turn to "Samaritan" on Pg. 3

Career fair highlights over 73 job opportunities

Stephen Whitener
The Commuter

Are any of the over 650 visitors to last Wednesday's LBCC Career Fair still unemployed? Don't blame Marci Johnston and the Career Center staff for not trying. With 73 employers and eight LBCC departments available for advice and information, job seekers had ample opportunity to at least come up with some positive leads.

But what about those who only make it as far as the job interview? In addition to the Career Center's own assistance in the communication skills department, this year's Career Fair brought in the big guns Toastmasters International.

Founded in 1924 by Dr. Ralph C. Smedley, Toastmasters currently helps over

200,000 members worldwide improve their speaking skills. Weekly Toastmasters meetings allow one to sharpen one's skills in a supportive, friendly environment.

Dottie Ferral, Toastmasters governor for the Linn-Benton area, remembers one newcomer in particular. "This gal was so nervous she shook from head to toe and burst into tears" after her first Toastmasters speech. After two years of the Toastmasters treatment, said Ferral, the young woman had been transformed into a confident speaker.

Along with all the success one may achieve with a newfound public speaking prowess comes the call of leadership. Toastmasters have added leadership skills to their program, with an emphasis

► Turn to "Career Day" on Pg. 4



photo by Dan Wise

Tec Labs was one of many area companies available for students to submit job applications to at last week's Career Fair. There were 650 job seekers/students attending the event.

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High 62
Mostly Sunny
Low 44
Wednesday

High 70
Still Sunny
Low 46
Thursday

High 73
Another Beautiful Day
Low 46
Friday

High 68
Still Goin'
Low 45
Saturday

High 64
Can You Believe This!
Low 45
Sunday

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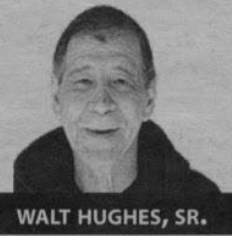
OPINION

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



Nuclear high noon: Bush, bin Laden and the bomb

As the world turns, the days grow longer and warmer and another term at Linn-Benton slowly works its way toward the end, the world around us seems to continue its downhill slide toward even more examples of man's inhumanity to his fellow man.



WALT HUGHES, SR.

For most, Oklahoma City and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were a wake-up call to the hate and discontent that seems to lurk around almost every corner in this modern-day world of computers, cell phones and hedonistic self-gratification.

Five years later Osama bin Laden is still spouting off and vilifying those of us fortunate enough to live in a country where we can express our feelings and say what we think most days. Funny thing is that while he can spew hate and discontent he doesn't seem to provide many answers that do not involve murder and mayhem. Anyone doubting that he would push the button on an atomic weapon if he had the chance has to be blind.

And now we have Iran belligerently proclaiming they have managed to enrich uranium and plan on continuing to make more. According to almost every indication and spy service around, Iran has been a major sponsor of terrorist organizations for years. One of the biggest problems seems to be that unlike Iraq, Iran has a solid system of covert operatives who are already entrenched and operating all around the world, and they are more or less daring the free world to try and stop them from producing more atomic materials.

Is there any workable solution to head off the possibility of World War III? Re-enter Osama bin Laden after almost a year of silence and the situation seems to take on the aspect of high noon at the OK Corral. Three years ago George Bush & Co. were bound and determined to get us into a war. Now it seems if they are not very careful they may get more than they ever bargained for.

The Commuter VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE
 www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

STAFF

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

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The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be limited to 250 words. Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welfare system ills supported by government dominance

There are people in this country who believe that illegal immigration presents an imminent threat to the health and well-being of our social welfare system. Yet I see no indication that these same people realize that this "drain" on society is part of a much larger problem.

The political elites (who, in this Bush administration are together one and the same as the business elites) have effectively declared war against American civil society, social programs and working people who pay their taxes. Big business is profiting off immigrant slave labor, since they can get away with paying these workers pennies on the dollar without benefits. And we (the People) end up having to subsidize this slavery by picking up the slack; supporting immigrants and their families with our tax dollars because the business moguls dominating the political landscape today refuse to adequately compensate their employees with livable wages.

And this is a symptom, not the disease. The fact

that half of every dollar that each of us pays in federal taxes is going to military spending is a symptom of this disease. "Free Trade" and the war in Iraq are also both symptoms of this disease.

The disease is the political dominance of big businesses, namely arms manufacturers and rightist (dare I say "Counter-Revolutionary") ideologues in our country's halls of power. The cure is for citizens (you) to begin holding this government accountable for every penny of our taxes it spends.

If politics is the economy articulated, Americans, as a nation, as a family of human beings, need to begin questioning how the problems we're facing as a society are "super-structural," and directly related to the capitalist model (the "sub-structural") and how capitalism sustains itself.

Nicolas McGovern

Diverse student population adds perspective

I just read a copy of the most recent Commuter—Good job! However, I noticed that I had been misquoted by Joel DeVylde in his article about the international dinner. Mr. DeVylde quoted me as saying that we plan the international dinners "...for our foreign exchange students." The correct term for a student who is a non-resident of the United States is "international student" not "foreign exchange" students.

In this time of increasing xenophobia and heated discussion about immigration and border security, I think it is very important to acknowledge that LBCC students come from a variety of backgrounds and locations from across not only the state but also the continent and globe. In the same way that we would not refer to a student from Idaho as "foreign" we should not consider a student from China or Uzbekistan "foreign." Indeed, all international students at LBCC undertake a long and

expensive process to acquire a student visa and complete their education—international student tuition is over three times more expensive than in-state tuition. In our culture, the term "foreign" often implies that the object receiving the "foreign" label is somehow bad, wrong or undesired. LBCC is committed to being a place that supports all types of students and values students perspectives. Campus activities and resources are available to all students at LBCC.

I encourage all of the members of the campus community to get to know some of the 40-plus international students at LBCC each year. They bring a unique perspective and voice to our campus and truly help to foster an educational experience that prepares all students for life in the 21st century.

Jason Miller

U.S. not alone in calls to end Iran nuke program

I am a veteran and served nine years in the Navy. People keep making the statement that the "U.S. is the one telling Iran not to have nuclear weapons." That statement is false.

The U.S. is voicing its opinion, but it is the U.N. that

is also stating the same opinion and they are the ones pushing it. I wish that people would take all of the facts into consideration before they voice their opinions.

Brian Cooke

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LOCAL NEWS

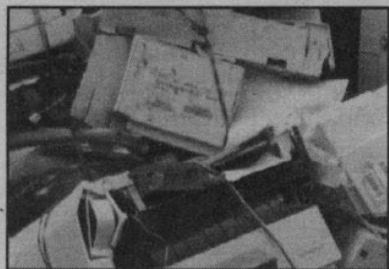
News about our local community including Albany, Corvallis, Sweet Home, and Philomouth.

Reduce, Recycle and Reuse Dropping off electronics saves the environment

Jennifer Overholser
 The Commuter

With increasing advancements in computer and electronics technology, consumers are faced with the problem of what to do with their old stuff when they decide to upgrade.

Old computers, stereos, TVs and VCRs end up buried in closets or thrown in the garbage. Consumers in the United States are estimated to have an average of three outdated or unwanted computer components stored away, according to Allied Waste Services.



KRT Photo

E-waste awaits processing in China.

The rapid technological growth has increased the amount of electronic waste in the environment. Many electronic items contain toxic materials that can be dangerous to the environment and health.

Cathode ray tubes in TVs and monitors contain several pounds of lead, which can harm kidneys, nervous systems and reproductive systems, and can impair children's mental development. Flat panel screens and printed wiring boards contain mercury, which can damage the brain and kidneys and can pass through breast milk. Other chemicals that are dangerous to human health include barium, cadmium and beryllium.

Several local companies are taking steps to get a handle on the e-waste problem. Allied Waste Services began taking computer equipment on a full-time basis last year. They will take the equipment for free during business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is then taken by Computer Connections, located in Cornelius, Ore., where 80 percent is disassembled and recycled and 20 percent is refurbished, according to Julie Jackson, local Allied Waste Services recycling analyst and promotion specialist.

The Albany company was able to take in 10.2 tons of computer equipment and the Corvallis AWS recycled 28.5 tons last year, according to Jackson. She explained that the company is only taking computer electronics at this point because there is a good market for them.

"We have some place for those to go. We know what will happen to them," she said, but added that televisions will probably become an important issue in the near future because of digital conversion. "We need to come up with an outlet for those to go to," she said.

What about TVs, VCRs, DVD players, video game units and phone-related equipment? Those go in the landfill, right? Maybe not. Not so far from

here, in Eugene, the Lane County e-waste recycling program and the Computer Reuse and Recycling Center will take these items and more.

Lane County has a collection program available by appointment every Thursday and two Saturdays out of the month. Laptops and CPUs have a fee of \$5, monitors \$8, copy machines \$35 and TV fees between \$5 and \$25 are based on size. Everything else will be accepted for free. Stereo equipment is also accepted, according to Sarah Grimm, Lane County master recyclers coordinator.

The Lane County e-waste recycling program puts an emphasis on environmental consciousness to prevent inappropriate disposal of potentially hazardous items. "All of our materials are processed in the United States," said Grimm, pointing out the health hazards of unregulated disposal overseas.

The Computer Reuse and Recycling Center, a non-profit organization, takes computers and computer peripherals, refurbishing for donation and for resale in their computer thrift store. Metals and plastics left over from refurbishing and disassembly are recycled with Northwest recycling vendors.

The CRRC works with local businesses to assist in recycling electronic equipment and has placed refurbished computers in around 20 U.S. states and several international rural communities. Volunteers give free assistance to computer recipients and offer technical support to the community for \$30 per hour.

The organization accepts much more than just computer equipment though. The list of acceptable donation items includes hair dryers, clocks, CD-Rs, metal scrap, circuit boards, Styrofoam, digital cameras, plastic film, software and memory chips, to name a few.

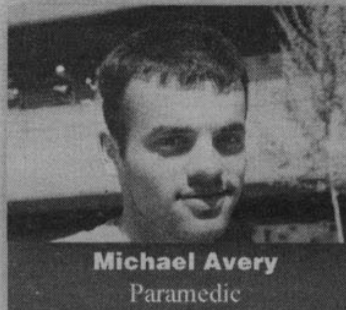
They only charge fees for monitors, UPS backup batteries, Styrofoam, fluorescent lamps, items over 50 pounds and those that contain toxic materials. Although the CRRC doesn't charge for other items, cash donations are accepted.

Allied Waste Services is located at 1214 Montgomery St. SE in Albany, phone 928-2551. They will also pick up major appliances and large furniture items for \$15 to \$30 as well as tires for a small fee.

For more information about the Computer Reuse and Recycling Center, visit their Web site at <http://www.lanecrrc.org>. For questions about the Lane County e-waste recycling program call (541) 682-3111.

PERSPECTIVES

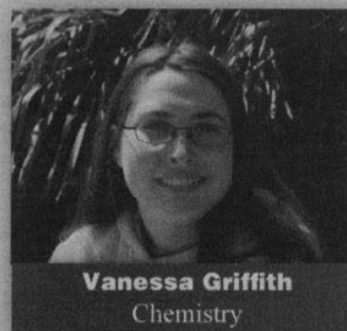
How will the proposed \$3 per credit tuition increase affect you?



Michael Avery
 Paramedic

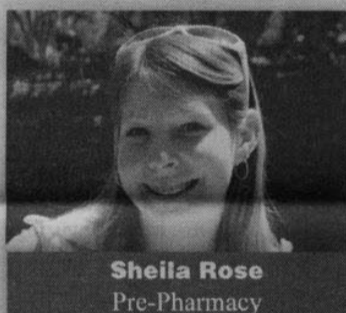
"Well, my tuition gets paid by the army. More of the dollars going into the system will have to come out to support me."

"It would dramatically impact my spending budget seeing as how I don't have enough to pay for full-time this term."



Vanessa Griffith
 Chemistry

"I don't know how it would affect me personally. Community college is supposed to be for the community. I think that less people will be able to afford the increase."



Sheila Rose
 Pre-Pharmacy

"Well, currently I'm taking nineteen credits, so it's more expensive and I don't get financial aid. It's just expensive having to pay for it all by myself."



Tiffany Lebow
 Education

Compiled by Aaron Broich and Colleen Franzoia

Samaritan: Health services improve community wellness

◀ From Pg. 1

ily physicians, pediatricians, internal medicine specialists, obstetrician-gynecologists and certified nurse midwives.

Other Samaritan services include orthopedics, sports medicine, hand therapy, mental health, emergency and urgent care, occupational health/personnel screening, certified lactation specialists and clinics around the state, along with senior care facilities in Corvallis and Sweet Home.

In the seven years since its inception Samaritan Health Care has employed 4,300 individuals and even more qualified medical professionals will be necessary to meet the needs of a growing population.

Along with the established health care programs at Linn-

Benton's Albany Campus, a new Health Career and Training Center was constructed to allow teaching of the nursing assistant, sterile processing, phlebotomy, and pharmacy technician courses at the new center.

A radiology technology program (only the third program in the entire state) began its first class of 25 students at the Health Career Center in June of 2003.

The students train in energized rooms that allow them to take real x-rays, and the rooms are so well equipped that they can be used for clinical cases in case of an actual emergency.

The radiology technology training is an intensive 18-month program, which includes both classroom and clinical-site work.

Graduates of this program

receive education that prepares them to apply for and successfully complete the national ARRT certification examination.

According to Nancy Bell, director of SHS Professional Development and educational coordinator of the center, "It's exciting how this career center is growing and expanding. With SHS and LBCC working together, we can provide our communities with unprecedented access to wonderful career opportunities."

Students at both facilities also have access to "phantoms," such as mock forearms with hands attached and other simulated body parts to give them lifelike training experience.

Phase two of the HCTC project, completed in 2005, added six classrooms, a simulation lab

and advanced technological equipment and resources.

The space can accommodate diverse and changing training needs from local high school classes to college courses and continuing education for Samaritan Health Services staff.

According to Tamara Van Ras of Linn-Benton's Nursing Department, the LBCC Nursing Program admits 54 students in the fall term of each academic year.

Approximately 35 to 45 of them will complete the two-year program to earn an Associate of Applied Science degree and become eligible to take the NCLEX exam for RN licensure by the Oregon State Board of Nursing.

"The majority of our students stay in the area and are hired

by one of the Samaritan Health Services' facilities in the valley or on the coast," Van Ras said.

"Samaritan Health Services has been a wonderful advocate for our students by providing student loans, internships, preceptorships and jobs. They promote our community's economy by hiring our graduates and provide training and programs that support our community; and SHS has staunchly supported the LBCC Nursing Program by generously sharing their resources, including training, equipment and grants.

Their commitment to LBCC and nursing students has been invaluable to helping us educate and nurture nurses who are dedicated to providing excellent care and who act as advocates for their patients."

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Vow of silence helps fight hate Livestock team judged 'solid'

Elizabeth Uriarte
 The Commuter

In fighting hate and discrimination toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgender individuals, violence is not the answer. However, silence just may be.

Today, as many as 500,000 students from approximately 4,000 schools will participate in the 10th annual National Day of Silence; a day devoted to the support of making anti-LGBTQ discrimination and harassment unacceptable in schools. Students, staff and faculty proclaim their message against hate by taking a daylong vow of silence, which in effect recognizes the silencing of LGBTQ students.

The event began in 1996 at the University of Virginia, with a student named Maria Pulzetti. According to an article in Oasis Magazine by Beverly Greene, Pulzetti formed the idea while writing a history paper. A member of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Union at her school, Pulzetti took the idea to the officers of the group, who helped her develop it into a real plan of action.

That year, over 150 students at UVA, half of whom were heterosexual allies, participated in the first ever Day of Silence. The event picked up media coverage, and that, coupled with a lot of hard work from Pulzetti and co-chair Jessie Gilliam, worked to launch the project on the national level.

In 2001, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) became the official organizational sponsors of the

National Day of Silence, and the following year over 1,900 schools took part in the event.

This is LBCC's first year participating in the National Day of Silence. Petr Horak, student ambassador, and Matt Hamel, political activities specialist for the Student Programming Board, worked together to or-

"If it were a perfect world, I'd expect everyone to participate, and in a way, I'm sure each and every LBCC student and faculty member will."

Matt Hamel

ganize the project. "We came up with this idea and decided that our campus needs it," said Horak.

Hamel commented, "We hope that all goes well and it continues to be an annual project for LBCC."

Participating students, staff and faculty wear T-shirts in support of the National Day of Silence. Red shirts are for those who take part fully and remain silent for the day; white shirts are for people who wish to show support, but for practical reasons cannot stay silent (faculty and staff members for example). T-shirts are on sale in the Student Life & Leadership office for only \$2, until 4 p.m. today.

In addition to the vow of silence, the day features a number of related events in the Multicultural Center, beginning at 10 a.m. with "The Matthew Shepard Story." The video is of the life of Matthew Shepard, a gay youth who was murdered

in a hate crime. From 12 to 1 p.m., Chicora Martin, director of LGBT Educational and Support Services at the University of Oregon, joins "Soup with Substance" for a conversation about hate crimes on campus and how they can be stopped. From 1:30 to 2 p.m. is another video, "As if it Matters," and then from 3 to 4 p.m. activities move out to the courtyard for a "Breaking the Silence" discussion. Leading the discussion are counselors from the Career and Counseling Center, and PFLAG representative Lois Kenagy, who will speak about the National Day of Silence and hate crimes in Linn and Benton counties.

Ironically, an evacuation drill is also scheduled to happen on campus today, which will certainly break the silence. Horak doesn't see it as a problem, however. "I think it's actually going to help get the word out. During the second movie we're going to be showing, the alarm is going to go off. For students, faculty and staff members who will not participate (in the Day of Silence), it will show the mass of students wearing the white and red shirts, and it may hopefully raise some questions."

Horak encourages those who are not participating in the National Day of Silence to speak out during the "Breaking the Silence" discussion. All views are welcome as long as they are presented in a courteous and respectful manner.

Hamel said, "If it were a perfect world, I'd expect everyone to participate, and in a way, I'm sure each and every LBCC student, staff and faculty member will."

Nancey West
 The Commuter

LBCC's livestock judging team traveled to the Cow Palace in San Francisco for a regional competition on Friday, April 14. They placed fourth overall among the community colleges.

Individually, Sarah North placed eighth overall and second in beef. Marissa McDowell placed 10th overall, fourth in reasons and fifth in beef. Britteny Sintek placed fourth in sheep and fifth in reasons.

The team placed second in beef, third in sheep, fourth in

swine and third in oral reasons. "We need to improve swine judging," said Clay Weber, advisor. "But I think they did well, it gives us a gauge to where we are. We are in a good position to be competitive this fall."

Others attending were Allison Meadows, Shiann Ashenbrenner, Owen White and Jared Collins. "We placed solid for being so early for us," said McDowell. This was their third competition compared to many other teams who were finishing up a year of eligibility. "I'm excited for next fall. We will be competitive. We'll have a lot of experience under our belt then."

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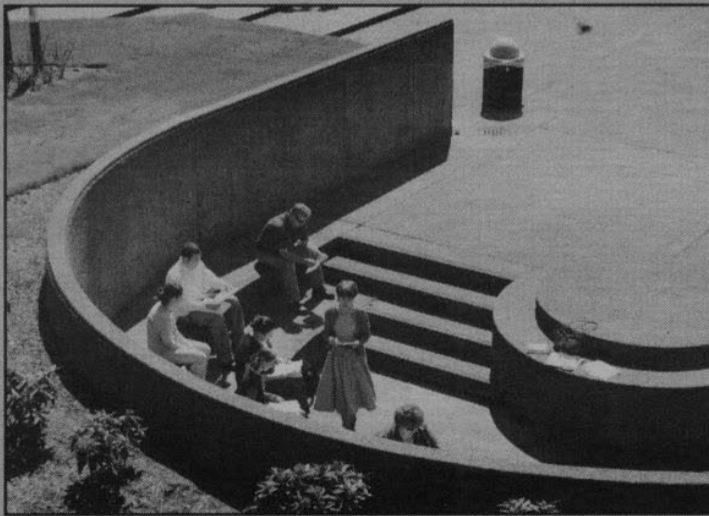


photo by Dan Wise

The way class should be

Instructor Linda Spain teaches her Writing 123 class outside on a recent sunny day.

Career Day: Boost skills

◀ From Pg. 1

on conducting meetings.

"Most people lose interest after 90 minutes," explained Ferral. Meetings can become long-winded, disorganized affairs. However Toastmasters meetings provide not only constructive criticism for speaking but also opportunities to learn how to wield the gavel and take charge.

There are three Toastmasters groups in Corvallis and an Albany group is in the works. Information is available at www.toastmasters.org. Dottie Ferral can be reached at (541)-929-2374.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Campus Shorts...

Silent Auction

The AAWCC's sixth annual silent auction will be held in conjunction with "Spring Days" Wednesday, May 24, 2006. The proceeds from this event allow a \$500 scholarship to be given out in the spring to three LBCC students. Donation items for the auction should be delivered to Tammi Drury at NSH-101. A receipt will be given for donations. The deadline for donations is Wednesday, May 17, 2006. For questions, call Gail Wise ext. 4354 or Tammi Drury ext. 4530.

Rita Cavin Scholarship

This scholarship is to assist a married, custodial mother. Applicants must be a Linn or Benton county resident and must be a second year, degree/certificate student seeking full-time enrollment in any major. The recipient may be an international student. Recipients must show financial need and have a GPA of 2.50 or better. Preference may be given to under-represented minorities/disabled students. For a complete scholarship description and to apply for the Rita Cavin scholarship go online to www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships. The LBCC Financial Aid Office must receive completed applications by Friday, May 5.

Spring Scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for the LBCC Scholarship and Awards Committee spring scholarship process. Over \$60,000 in scholarship opportunities is available for LBCC students! Applications and a listing of available scholarships are online at www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships. The LBCC Financial Aid Office must receive completed applications by Friday, May 5.

Family Connections

Family Connections has achieved national quality assurance certification through Child Care Aware Quality Assurance, a national voluntary certification program. The quality assurance program is designed to ensure that families have access to consistent, high-quality services that support them in making informed childcare choices. Child Care Aware is an initiative of NACCRRA, the nation's network of childcare resource and referrals. The program also operates a national hotline and Web site which connects families to their local childcare resource and referral centers, and provides parenting, early childcare and education information.

Starting new campus clubs not always easy

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

There are a number of benefits to chartering a club on campus. Some include using the college's name and facilities without charge, access campus publications, receive advisory support, and get plugged into opportunities for fundraising.

According to a college hand-out, "becoming an officially recognized club at Linn Benton Community College is fairly easy."

Steps to chartering a club include, but are not limited to filling out a petition, appointing an advisor who is a contracted campus staff member, and providing information from eight other people interested in an active club membership. It is also important to address the purpose and structure of the club.

About two years ago, Rocky Gavin had the idea for a Native American student club. He asked Jason Miller, Multicultural Center coordinator, when a club

would be formed and after Gavin was hired as the Native American program assistant, the job of starting the club fell to him.

Gavin said, "I didn't want to be a leader, I just wanted to be in the club." Gavin has been trying to get the club started since last term. He is having trouble "getting people interested..."

"Getting people interested...some people think that you have to be a Native American to be in it and other people think that only so many people can be in it."

Rocky Gavin

some people think that you have to be a Native American to be in it and other people think that only so many people can be in it."

The upcoming club has a wooden totem pole made by Gavin's father that stands about a foot and a half tall and is on display in the Multicultural Center.

Before they may become official all potential clubs are voted on by the student government.

"It's just part of the red tape that they have to go through," Gavin said.

Some clubs have catchy names, like Golden Z Club, and Spherical Cow, that may cause a person to wonder what they are all about. With a little support, any student or staff member can start a new club.

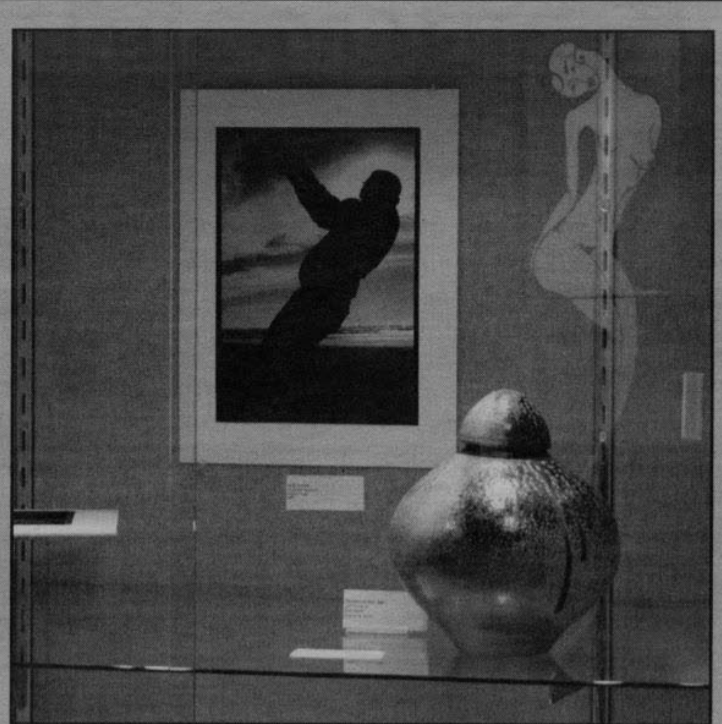


photo by Erik Swanson

Student creativity displayed

Juror's Choice winner for ceramics by Jeff Richards joins other artworks in the North Santiam Hall.

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Tuition Hearings

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There will be Question and Answer Session regarding a tuition increase at LBCC

Please Join us at the Hot Shot which is next door to the Student Union

- April 26, 2006 from 1-2 p.m.
- April 27, 2006 from noon-1 p.m.
- April 28, 2006 at noon-1 p.m.



Sports Editor: Jake Rosenberg
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

LB bats coming around at right time

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

Jordan Sim had six total RBI's for Linn-Benton in their twinbill split with Southwestern Oregon on Thursday in Albany.

Lead off men Ethan Robbins and Jake Roy started the slugfest trend early, getting two doubles to open the game as LB compiled seven extra-base hits in the 14-8 win.

With a combined three RBI's from Sim and Roy in the fourth, LBCC was two innings away from a sweep before losing the lead. Freshman pitcher Tyler Pickett started on the mound instead of taking his regular closer duties and pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings before giving up three in the fifth to tie the game at 3-3.

Two wild pitches in the final frame cost LB the tie and eventually the game as the Runners were unable to capitalize with two baserunners in scoring position and no outs. Sim's one-out sacrifice fly to right field wasn't deep enough as Roy was thrown out at home to end the game 4-3.

"I feel are bats are really coming around but we're still not playing complete ball games," said Sim. "In the first game, we scored in almost every inning, then we are only able to score in one inning in the second game. We have just got to start doing the little things better."

Coach Greg Hawk shares his concern with his slugger about the lack of ability to execute.

"We just handed that last ball game away," says Hawk. "We aren't getting things done out there the way we need to. Luckily we'll live to see another day."

LB then traveled to Mt. Hood over the weekend and opened the series with a 6-0 victory. Robert Stevens pitched a complete game six-hit shutout as the Runners looked to sweep the Saints, but the LB offense turned anemic, compiling only four hits in the 7-2 loss. Tim Puckett hit was a rare bright spot as he hit his third home run in as many weeks.

It had been two weeks since LB had swept a double-header, but with help from the usual suspects, the Runners took both

games from Clackamas on Tuesday.

Puckett had four walks in the opener, allowing LB many opportunities with men on the paths to drive home. Two doubles by Justin Harris led the offense, setting the table consistently and driving them home. Kenny McCullers pitched 6 2/3 strong innings while compiling eight strike outs in his 10-4 victory.

It was more of the same in the late game. LB put four runs on the board in the first and held on late thanks to strong relief work from Matt Alexander and Toby Thomas and a clutch two-run double in the sixth by Bryant Kraus to pad the lead. The Runners hold on 7-6.

LB (9-9, 16-14) host the Willamette JV's on Thursday then it's back to league action as they play at third place Chemeketa on Saturday.

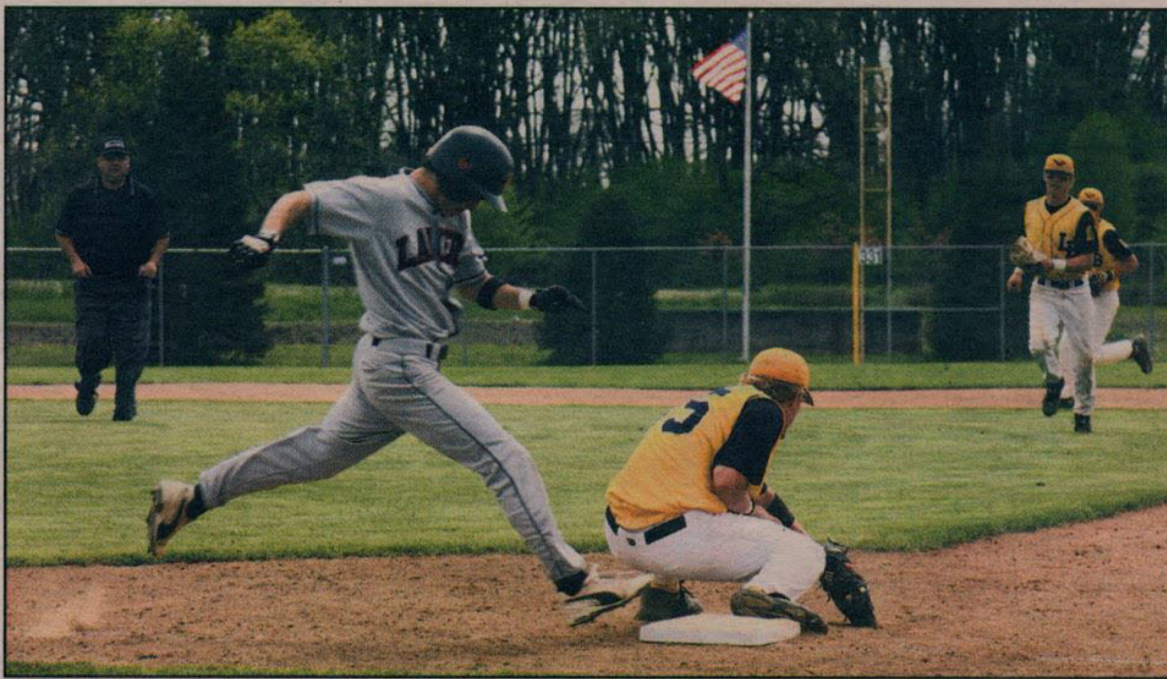


photo by Dan Wise

LB first baseman Bryant Kraus scoops a low throw in last Thursday's make-up game against SWOCC.



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scoreboard

Standings	League	Overall
Mt. Hood	10-4	22-7
Lane	9-5	15-11
Chemeketa	8-6	16-13
LBCC	9-9	16-14
SWOCC	6-7	10-14
Clackamas	4-12	16-16

Schedule:

April 27 vs. Willamette JV
 April 29 at Chemeketa

Sports Editor: Jake Rosenberg
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SPORTS

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

NFL draft spurs fan predictions

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

To many sports fans around the country, the final weekend of April means clarity in the basketball and hockey playoff pictures. For the diehard football fanatic it is a time to kick back for 16 hours and make up for lost time with the pigskin during the NFL Draft weekend.

Here are a few notable players to look for in the upcoming 2006 NFL Draft, taking place at Radio City Music Hall in New York April 29-30 at 9 a.m. on ESPN.

In seven of the previous eight college entry drafts, a quarterback has been taken in order to jump-start a struggling franchise back into a contender. Don't expect that trend to continue, as Reggie Bush will be the first running back to be chosen first overall since Ki-Jana Carter was by Cincinnati back in 1995.

While rushing for nearly nine yards per carry as a junior for USC last year, Bush frustrated PAC-10 defensive coordinators and dazzled NFL scouts with his Heisman winning performance. There hasn't been a more coveted or electrifying athlete coming into the professional ranks since Michael Vick in 2001 or maybe even Bo Jackson in 1986.

Whether Bush goes to the Texans or to another team willing to trade into the first slot for the franchise back's services, a \$40 million contract will be well in the works before Commissioner Paul Tagliabue makes his final trip to the podium.

2004 Heisman winner Matt Leinart is expected to be the second Trojan taken, maybe in as many picks, as an equal amount of suitors crave a franchise signal-caller to take their snaps for the

next decade.

Although Texas quarterback Vince Young out-duled Leinart in the National Championship, many front offices began to question his intelligence as well as his mechanics following his failing pre-combine Wonderlic score. Regardless of his few shortcomings, two Rose Bowl MVP's and a highlight reel career distract any other doubters from letting him slip out of the top seven picks.

While Jay Cutler of Vanderbilt has made himself an easy early first rounder, no quarterback has bettered his status in the past month more than Oregon's Kellen Clemens. Despite a season-ending ankle injury in October, Clemens has propelled himself into a possible second round selection thanks to a quick recovery and a reputation for being an intelligent leader.

Clemens' two favorite targets, wide receiver Demetrius Williams and tight end Tim Day, are other possible second round selections while Biltnikoff winner Mike Hass of Oregon State battles the three Ducks to be the second Oregon school representative taken on Saturday. The first will undoubtedly be U of O lineman Haloti Ngata. The 336-pounder has established himself as the top defensive tackle in the draft and is likely to go within the top 15 picks.

Despite a productive career in the Ducks' backfield, tailback Terrence Whitehead is only projected as a fourth round selection at best. There are not many Beavers expecting to have their names called over the weekend, but linebackers Keith Ellison and Trent Bray, as well as punter Sam Paulescu could be a few OSU Sunday steals in the later rounds. Lake Oswego native and Linfield quarterback Brett Elliott hopes to be a rare Division III selection late in day two.



KRT photo

Texas QB Vince Young led the Longhorns to a national championship in the Rose Bowl in January. He is expected to be drafted in the top seven picks of this Saturday's NFL draft.

Beavers fall short at nationals

Adam Loghides
 The Commuter

The Oregon State gymnastics team fulfilled one team goal by competing for a national championship on its home floor last week. Unfortunately, the Beavers did not have enough to win it all, finishing fifth in session II on April 20. The top three teams from the two sessions advanced to the "Super Six" national championship competition on April 21. The University of Georgia, ranked number one nationally going into the competition, won its second national championship by winning the "Super Six."

While falling short of winning their first national championship, the Beavers still impressed head coach Tanya Chaplin with their effort. "I was really proud of them that they fought and hung in there. They continued to try to make things happen," Chaplin said. This was the first time competing at nationals for many Beavers, so this year's experience is something Chaplin is hoping will have a rollover effect on the team's success in 2007. "They came off a little tight, which doesn't surprise me being that this is the first national championship for so many of them. But, they didn't give up at any point. Hopefully, we can build off of this competition and really make something even big-



photo contributed by OSU Sports Information

OSU gymnasts prepare to compete at the National Championships held in Gill Coliseum on the OSU campus last weekend.

ger and better happen next year."

Senior Angela Morales finished her career at Oregon State participating in nationals for the first and only time. Despite not reaching the "Super Six," Morales is proud of her team, and says her teammates should not hang their heads in any way. "Our big goal was to make it to nationals, but it would've been great to make


the Super Six.

We need to hold our heads up high and be proud of Oregon State gymnastics."


Senior Chrissy Lamun, team captain, also called it a career after the Beavers were eliminated. She had vowed to shave her head if Oregon State was able to pull off the upset and win it all. Unfortunately for Beaver fans, that wasn't necessary. After the competition, Lamun was able to reflect on her team's effort and commented that, unlike other team competitions such as football and basketball, gymnastics is a sport where you have no control over what your opposition is able to accomplish. "What the other teams do and what the judges give us is out of our control."

As she has done throughout her career, Lamun's positive attitude continued to shine. "All we really wanted was to do our best. I couldn't have asked for a better way to go out."

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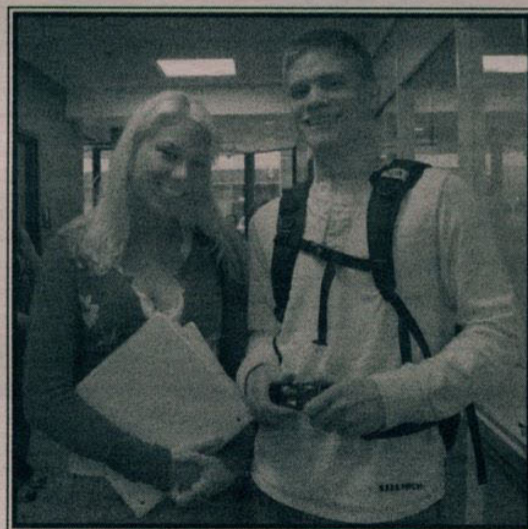
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 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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SPORTS

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

Commuter's sports staff NFL Draft Predictions



#	Team-Player-Position-College
1.	Houston
2.	New Orleans
3.	Tennessee
4.	N.Y. Jets
5.	Green Bay
6.	San Francisco
7.	Oakland
8.	Buffalo
9.	Detroit
10.	Arizona
11.	St. Louis
12.	Cleveland
13.	Baltimore
14.	Philadelphia
15.	Denver
16.	Miami
17.	Minnesota
18.	Dallas
19.	San Diego
20.	Kansas City
21.	New England
22.	San Francisco
23.	Tampa Bay
24.	Cincinnati
25.	N.Y. Giants
26.	Chicago
27.	Carolina
28.	Jacksonville
29.	N.Y. Jets
30.	Indianapolis
31.	Seattle
32.	Pittsburgh

Jake
Reggie Bush - HB - USC
D. Ferguson - OT - Virginia
Matt Leinart - QB - USC
Mario Williams - DE - N.C. St.
A.J. Hawk - OLB - Ohio St.
Vernon Davis - TE - Maryland
Vince Young - QB - Texas
Brodrick Bunkley - DT - Fla. St.
Michael Huff - CB/S - Texas
Jay Cutler - QB - Vanderbilt
Jimmy Williams - DB - Va. Tech
Haloti Ngata - DT - Oregon
Donte Whitner - S - Ohio St.
Ernie Sims - OLB - Florida St.
Chad Jackson - WR - Florida
Tye Hill - CB - Clemson
Winston Justice - OT - USC
Chad Greenway - OLB - Iowa
Ashton Youboty - CB - Ohio St.
Santonio Holmes - WR - Ohio St.
Bobby Carpenter - LB - Ohio St.
Manny Lawson - DE/LB - NC St.
Eric Winston - OT - Miami
Gabe Watson - DT - Michigan
Kameron Wimbley - DE - FSU
Mercedes Lewis - TE - UCLA
LenDale White - RB - USC
Davin Joseph - OG - Oklahoma
DeAngelo Williams - HB - Memp.
Laurence Maroney - HB - Minn.
Richard Marshall - CB - Fresno St.
Nick Mangold - C - Ohio St.

Caleb
Reggie Bush - HB - USC
Mario Williams - DE - N.C. St.
Vince Young - QB - Texas
D. Ferguson - OT - Virginia
A.J. Hawk - OLB - Ohio St.
Vernon Davis - TE - Maryland
Matt Leinart - QB - USC
Haloti Ngata - DT - Oregon
Michael Huff - CB/S - Texas
Jay Cutler - QB - Vanderbilt
Jimmy Williams - DB - Va. Tech
Kameron Wimbley - DE - FSU
Broderick Bunkley - DT - FSU
Chad Greenway - OLB - Iowa
Chad Jackson - WR - Florida
Santonio Holmes - WR - Ohio St.
Ernie Sims - OLB - Florida St.
Manny Lawson - DE/LB - N.C. St.
Antonio Cromartie - CB - Fla. St.
Tye Hill - CB - Clemson
Richard Marshall - CB - Fresno St.
Donte Whitner - S - Ohio St.
Johnathan Joseph - CB - Sou. Car.
Daniel Bullocks - S - Nebraska
DeMeco Ryans - OLB - Alabama
Sinorice Moss - WR - Miami
Jason Allen - S - Tennessee
DeAngelo Williams - HB - Memp.
Bobby Carpenter - OLB - Ohio St.
Laurence Maroney - HB - Minn.
Kelly Jennings - CB - Miami
LenDale White - RB - USC

Adam
Reggie Bush - HB - USC
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Michael Huff - CB/S - Texas
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Winston Justice - OT - USC
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Chad Jackson - WR - Florida
Kameron Wimbley - DE - FSU
Ernie Sims - OLB - Florida St.
Chad Greenway - OLB - Iowa
Antonio Cromartie - CB - FSU
Johnathan Joseph - CB - Sou. Car.
Tye Hill - CB - Clemson
DeAngelo Williams - HB - Memp.
Marcus McNeil - OT - Auburn
Tamba Hali - DE - Penn St.
DeMeco Ryans - OLB - Alabama
Leonard Pope - TE - Georgia
LenDale White - RB - USC
Santonio Holmes - WR - Ohio St.
Joseph Addai - HB - LSU
Laurence Maroney - HB - Minn.
Sinorice Moss - WR - Miami
Jason Allen - S - Tennessee
Sinorice Moss - WR - Miami

Neal
Reggie Bush - HB - USC
Mario Williams - DE - N.C. St.
Matt Leinart - QB - USC
Vince Young - QB - Texas
A.J. Hawk - OLB - Ohio St.
Vernon Davis - TE - Maryland
Jay Cutler - QB - Vanderbilt
D. Ferguson - OT - Virginia
Michael Huff - CB/S - Texas
Winston Justice - OT - USC
Antonio Cromartie - CB - Fla. St.
Kameron Wimbley - DE - FSU
Haloti Ngata - DT - Oregon
Chad Jackson - WR - Florida
Santonio Holmes - WR - Ohio St.
Jimmy Williams - DB - Va. Tech
Ernie Sims - OLB - Florida St.
Donte Whitner - S - Ohio St.
Tye Hill - CB - Clemson
Broderick Bunkley - DT - FSU
Ashton Youboty - CB - Ohio St.
Chad Greenway - OLB - Iowa
Sinorice Moss - WR - Miami
Mathias Kiwanuka - DE - BCU
Kelly Jennings - CB - Miami
Mercedes Lewis - TE - UCLA
Laurence Maroney - HB - Minn.
Davin Joseph - OG - Oklahoma
DeAngelo Williams - HB - Memp.
Max Jean-Grilles - OG - Georgia
Richard Marshall - CB - Fresno St.
LenDale White - RB - USC

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Design Editor: Elizabeth Beckham
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

FUNNY BONES

Crossword, cartoons, and some fun stuff to brighten your day.

MEN'S RULES

We always hear "the rules" from the femaleside. Now here are the rules from the male side. These are our rules!

1. Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us complaining about you leaving it down.

2. Sunday sports. It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides. Let it be.

3. Crying is blackmail.

4. Ask for what you want. Let us be clear on this one: Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints do not work! Obvious hints do not work! Just say it!

5. Yes and No are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.

6. Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. That's what we do. Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.

7. A headache that lasts for 17 months is a problem. See a doctor.

8. Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 days.

9. If you won't dress like the Victoria's Secret girls, don't expect us to act like soap opera guys.

10. If you think you're fat, you probably are. Don't ask us. We love you anyway.

11. If something we said can be interpreted two ways and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one.

12. You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done. Not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.

12. Whenever possible, please say whatever you have to say during commercials.

13. Christopher Columbus did not need directions and neither do we.

14. ALL men see in only 16 colors, like Windows default settings. Peach, for example, is a fruit, not a color. Pumpkin is also a fruit. We have no idea what mauve is.

15. If we ask what is wrong and you say "nothing," we will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.

16. If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, Expect an answer you don't want to hear.

17. When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine...Really.

18. Don't ask us what we're thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as baseball, the shotgun formation, or fishing.

19. I am in shape. Round is a shape.

(MySpace Bulletin)

Crossword

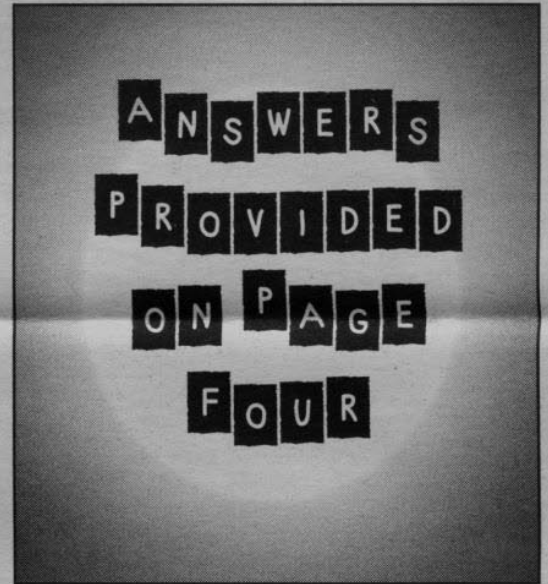
- ACROSS**
 1 Spill the beans
 5 Hacks
 9 Get outta here!
 14 Ms. Moreno
 15 Chills and fever
 16 ___ Loa volcano
 17 Unsightly fruit?
 18 Lay down some cards
 19 Oneness
 20 Dare
 22 Units of force
 23 UFO crew
 24 Other self
 26 Bother
 27 Seller (alt)
 31 Office aides
 37 5th or Lex.
 38 Powdery substance
 39 Director Howard
 40 Part of a plan
 41 Dos Passos opus
 42 Game officials
 46 Pockmarked
 48 Actor Aldo
 49 Nuclear power sources
 53 City near Bayonne
 56 Poppy product
 59 Sites
 61 "Mama's Family" character
 62 The last word
 63 Sound of relief
 64 Giant
 65 Lake near Las Vegas
 66 Wight or Pines
 67 Borneo ape, briefly
 68 Attaches temporarily
 69 Fortuneteller
- DOWN**
 1 Actor Willis
 2 Fire up
 3 Map collection
 4 Security for freedom
 5 King Arthur's court
 6 Emissary
 7 Protuberance
 8 Passover feast

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4/19/06

- 9 Dirty spots
 10 Grand gorge
 11 Bankruptcy
 12 Chip in a chip
 13 Willie of baseball
 21 Put on cargo
 25 Adam's mate
 26 Circle part
 28 See socially
 29 In perpetuity
 30 D.C. bigwigs
 31 Sort of poker
 32 Let off steam
 33 Extended family
 34 Provide weaponry
 35 Fish eggs
 36 Squid defense
 40 Mata Hari or 007
 42 Abounding
 43 Mrs. Cantor
 44 Some honey-dos
 45 River of NYC
 47 "In Cold Blood" author Capote



- 50 Holding device
 51 "My Cousin Vinny" Oscar-winner
 52 Watery expanse
 53 Composure
 54 Slant
 55 Theater worker
 56 Not bamboozled by
 57 Tango team
 58 Greek letter
 60 Osiris' wife/sister

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons

APRIL 26 - MAY 2

Wednesday:

ENTREES: Pot roast & chicken burrito w/pinto beans
 VEGETARIAN: Tofu satay w/spicy peanut sauce & jasmine rice
 SOUPS: Tomato rice & corn chowder

Thursday:

ENTREES: Liver w/bacon & onions & spicy Korean beef
 VEGETARIAN: Vegetable grilled pizza w/pesto & goat cheese
 SOUPS: Ginger chicken & coconut & split pea

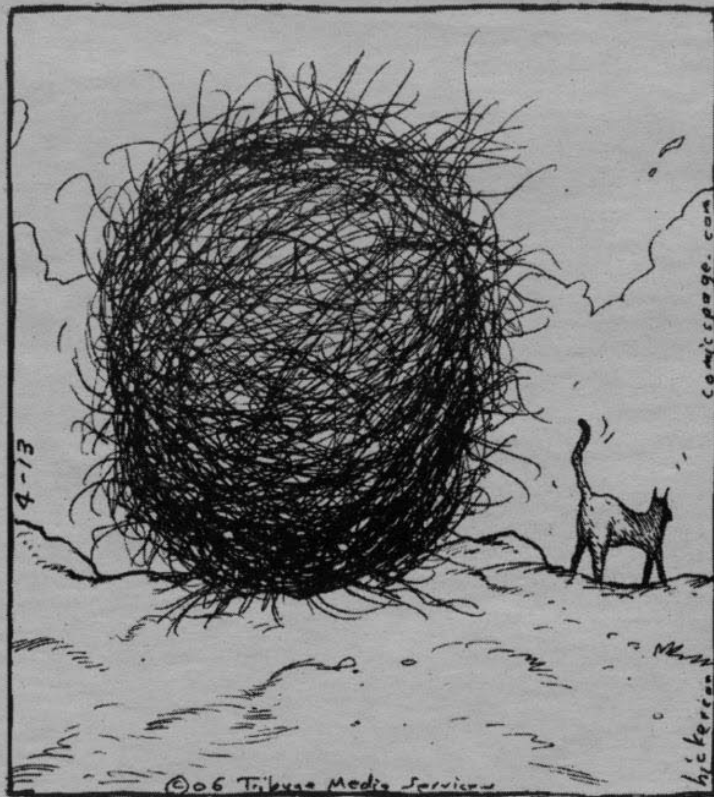
Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday:

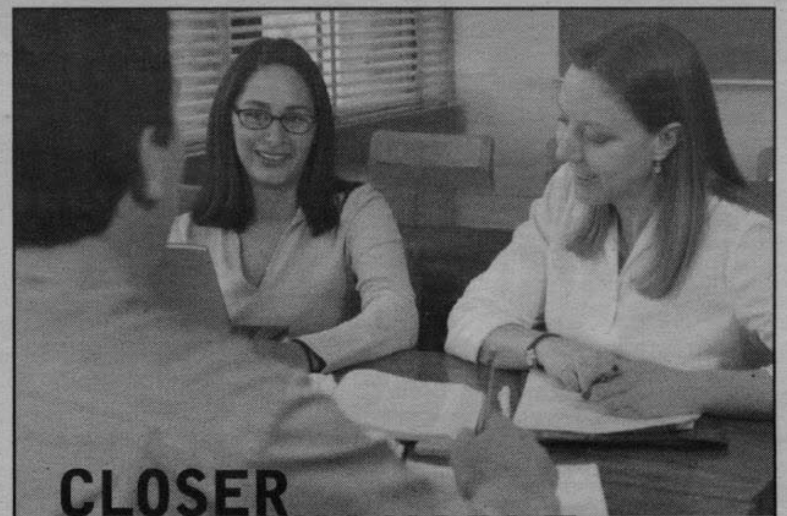
ENTREES: Glazed ham & beef goulash with spaetzle
 VEGETARIAN: Thai vegetarian stirfry
 SOUPS: Wild rice & chicken soup w/ matzo balls

Tuesday:

ENTREES: Chicken & dumplings with Brazilian seafood stew
 VEGETARIAN: Vegetable strudel
 SOUPS: Cheddar cheese & Manhattan clam chowder



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A&E Editor: Colleen Franzoia
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Check It Out

ROCKIE LYNNE
 with
 DEREK CATE
 Wednesday, April 26
 8 p.m.
 \$7 at the door
 Platinum
 126 S.W. Fourth St.
 Corvallis

ELEVEN EYES
 Friday, April 28
 9 p.m.
 \$5 at the door
 Platinum
 126 S.W. Fourth St.
 Corvallis

RAY AND NEAL'S BLUES
 JAM
 Wednesday, April 26
 9 p.m.
 Tom's Peacock
 125 S.W. Second St.
 Corvallis

"Under the Garden Gate"
 Friday, April 28
 6:15 p.m. Dinner
 7:00 p.m. Show
 Flinn's Living History
 Theater
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 \$27.50 Dinner and Show
 \$10 Show only
 Reservations required
 541-928-5008

Calendar compiled by Colleen Franzoia, A&E Editor
 Get your event in Check it Out. Send all information to
 The Commuter Attn: commuterarts@linnbenton.edu

Juried Art Show winners chosen

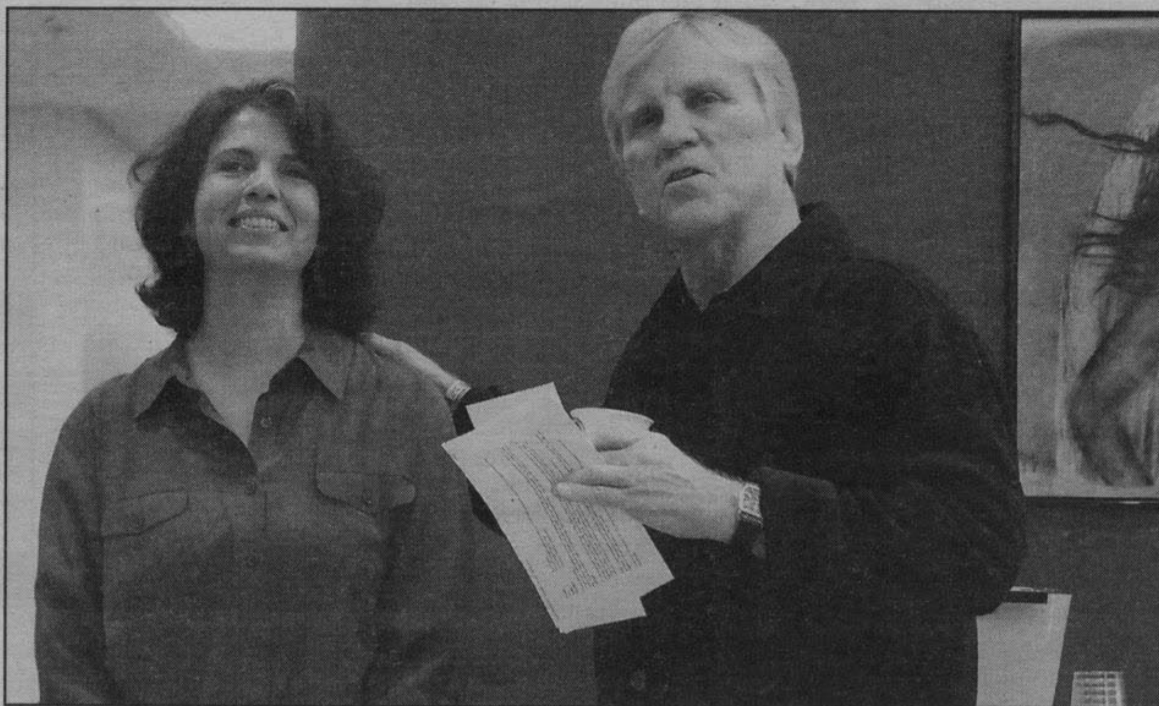


photo by Erik Swanson

Suzanne Campbell and Gary Westford help present awards to Juried Art Show winners last Thursday.

Elizabeth Uriarte
 The Commuter

The judging for the 2006 Juried Student Art Exhibit was held last Thursday, April 20, in the North Santiam Hall lobby. Judging the show was Gary Rawlins, art instructor at Chemeketa Community College.

Winner for Best of Show is "Squint" by Charlie Folkes, and honorable mention is "Bent Sense" by Ben Estens. Juror's Choice: Drawing/Painting winners are "By Invitation Only" by Elisa Pandolfi and "Two Stars" by Kitty Simer. Juror's Choice:

Photography winners are "Suislaw Morning" by Dan Wise and "Basement Blues" by Heidi Lewis. Juror's Choice: Ceramics winners are "Green Lidded Jar" by Jeff Richards and "Tall Raku Vase" by Steve Aulerich.

The exhibit features work from LBCC art students, and will be on display from April 18 to June 9 in North Santiam Hall.

LBCC wishes to thank the following contributors for their support: The Art Dept., Inc. in Salem; Art Media, Portland; Oregon Camera, Corvallis; Heritage Mall Marketing Dept., Albany; and Mr. Jay Widmer, LBCC art instructor.

Folk twins on the rise

Stephen Whitener
 The Commuter

When the Severin Sisters announced their final selection would be the "White House Blues," the lunchtime crowd at last Thursday's OSU MU Lounge Music Ala Carte concert fell silent, wondering just which side of the spectrum these girls were coming from. It turns out the song was topical—in 1901. It's an old-time mountain ballad about the assassination of President William McKinley.

The twin sisters, who appear tonight at 7:30 at the Bombs Away Café in Corvallis, enjoy playing a mixture of old and new, blues, bluegrass and folk. If they sound professional, it's because they are. Their career has already taken them to Seattle's Bumbershoot Festival, Nashville's legendary Ryman Auditorium, and Salem's Elsinore Theatre. They have opened for Lee Ann Womack and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and collaborated on a song with Roger Miller's son,

Dean.

Lead singer Amy Severin plays banjo, guitar and cello while harmony singer Heidi plays mandolin and fiddle. Performers since the age of nine, the now 22-year-old sisters currently attend OSU, where they major in composition, recording and editing.

At their MU show, local musicians Neal Grandstaff accompanied the Severins on drums and Ray Brassfield on standup bass. Grandstaff, who also instructs the sisters at OSU, marvels at their professionalism.

"They're totally organized," said Brassfield. "Most people their age can't find their way to the car. These girls have charts for every song." These non-identical twins, who differ in everything from dress down to their choice in bottled water, create the warm, pleasant blend of voice that can come about when singers share the same DNA.

Information on Severin Sisters concerts and albums is available at www.severinsisters.com.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Political thriller combines suspense, high energy

Colleen Franzoia
 The Commuter

"The Sentinel" opened this weekend in third place with a box office of 14.6 million. The taught political thriller stars Michael Douglas (Pete Garrison) and Kiefer Sutherland (David Breckenridge) as Secret Service agents assigned to the president (David Rasche) and the first lady (Kim Basinger.) This the second feature film for director Clark Johnson (S.W.A.T.).

Garrison is a legend among his peers as the man who took a bullet for President Ronald Reagan in the 1982 assassination attempt by John Hinckley.

Breckenridge and Garrison were quite close at one time until something came between them. Sutherland, as Breckenridge,

is outstanding; his television show "24" has brought him true stardom. Equally as strong as the veteran agent, Douglas brings his wisdom and experience in the role as the former mentor for Breckenridge, and even at 61, he is still handsome and in excellent physical shape.

Basinger doesn't have much to do here except to smile prettily and look vulnerable at the appropriate moments. A clever twist shows how close the first lady is to her protector (Garrison).

Blackmail photos are mailed to Garrison just before a plot to assassinate the president is uncovered. He is believed to part of the conspiracy and is arrested for treason at the direction of the Secret Service director. Breckenridge is quick to assume that Garrison is guilty and is quite happy to take him into custody;

however, Garrison does manage to escape and leads the Secret Service on a chase that keeps your focus riveted on the screen.

Eva Longoria (Desperate Housewives) plays a rookie Secret Service agent assigned to work with Breckenridge—which he is not too happy about. Longoria doesn't do much in this film except show up for work wearing a completely inappropriate outfit.

"The Sentinel" is well-acted and has enough energy, suspense and ex-KGB agents to keep you engaged to the end.



KRT photo
 Pete Garrison (Michael Douglas), right, confronts David Breckenridge (Kiefer Sutherland) in "The Sentinel."

Speedway: Cars roar to life



photo by Nancy West

Mike Cronk gives a thumbs up by his 550 HP Sportsman race car. Cronk comes to the Speedway every weekend and is the grandfather of Brian Cronk, the rookie of the year in 2005.

◀ From pg. 12
 Arnold said.

The drivers, owners and pit crew can also be a family affair, as is the Cronk family from Portland. Brian Cronk, 13, was the 2005 Rookie of the Year at the speedway. He started out with go-carts and learned to race from his father, David, and grandfather, Mike. David Cronk was the 2005 Super Sport champion. Brian also has an uncle who races.

Brian is unimpressed about being the youngest driver on


the track, but admits, "The adrenalin kicks in as soon as I pull out from here [the pit]."

Not all drivers come up through the ranks of the go-carts. Leo Brown, Molalla, was racing for the first time, but explained, "my pit-crew is experienced." Other drivers have been coming to the track for years, like Glen Hackney, Lebanon, who has been racing here since 1967.

The stock car races have four classes of cars: Classic, Sportsman or J-cars, Super Sport or S-

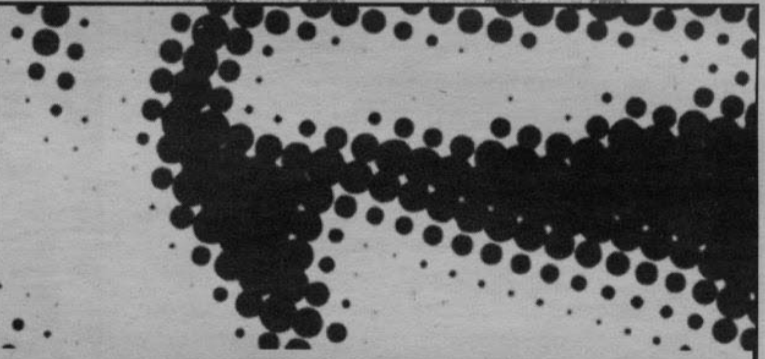
cars and the Outlaw. Each class is faster and has more modifications. The Outlaws, built strictly for dirt racing, have up to 800 horsepower engines, compared to the 400-600 horsepower of the other classes. None of them have speedometers but Mike Cronk estimated the Outlaws reach speeds of 85 mph. Other types of racing at the speedway include sprint cars, modified's, go-carts, tough trucks and trash cars.

For information on schedules, call 541-258-8503.



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DISCOVERY

Community festivals, tours, far off treks, trips and interesting places that readers might enjoy visiting in their free time.

Willamette Speedway drives competition 'Mom and pop' business delivers speed, style and family entertainment



Nancey West
 The Commuter

Dirt flies and the ground shakes as 800 horsepower stockcars travel three-eighths of a mile in 13 seconds. Waves of excitement sweep through the crowd as their favorite car competes for the front of the pack.

If you have been to the Willamette Speedway in Lebanon on a Saturday summer night, you have felt the vibrant air filled with the adrenaline of racing and you have heard the unmistakable sound of modified engines coming to life.

Willamette Speedway is the premiere stock car dirt track in the Pacific Northwest, according to Bill Arnold, part of the family-owned business. "The reason for that is the commitment made years ago. We do our work. You can't con spectators into believing you have a good show. You have to show them you do. They rely on that."

The speedway has stock car racing every Saturday night from the first of April until the end of September, weather permitting.

"Willamette Speedway is the most well-known dirt track on the West Coast," Arnold said. "We have the largest average car count in the nation and a large crowd participation." Saturday night had over 100 cars but that number generally increases throughout the summer. The 120-car average is double that of the national average. Each week the stands fill with nearly 2,500 spectators.

"We are known for our style and speed. This is the one most drivers will say they want to win. To win at this race track, you've done something," Arnold said.



Tom Conway, driver of car #72, accepts a Supersport Trophy at the speedway last weekend.



photos by Nancey West

Willamette Speedway in Lebanon features stock car racing on a dirt track every Saturday. On the April 22 over 100 cars lined up, fastest last, and flew around the track at speeds of up to 85 mph.

"But if you don't do your homework, you won't win. There are too many good, talented drivers."

"This is the track to go to, to go fast," said Shawn Hand of Cottage Grove, who has been racing for four years.

Willamette Speedway offers a couple of differences from other tracks. One is that the pit is on the inside of the track. "It is more exciting for the spectators to have the pit on the inside. They get to watch the crew work on cars," Arnold said.

The other is in the lineup. The fastest cars start last. "There is no race involved when the fastest starts in front," Arnold said. "Drivers want to start in back. When they pass cars to win, they have done something, and it's more exciting for the spectators."

Stock car racing has been in Lebanon for 45 years, 40 of them at the present site. Many changes have been made over the years. "It's a completely new track and stands than it was 40 years ago," Arnold said, explaining that one of the needs for change was the increased speeds. Top speeds used to be 17 seconds, now they are 13 to 14 seconds. Crash walls used to be wood but have been improved; they are now concrete with a

steel cap. Cars reflect off of the steel, causing less damage. Tire barriers were also added for pit protection.

Celebrating the 40th anniversary will be highlighted at the Strawberry Cup in June. "The Strawberry Cup is the biggest race of the year," said Arnold. T-shirts for the event are available all summer.

Arnold contributes the popularity of the Willamette Speedway to being a "mom and pop" business, literally. Clair Arnold, Bill's father, has owned and operated the speedway with his wife, Evelyn, since 1965. "We are the longest operating speedway owned by the same person in the country," said Arnold. "Dad is still the power and brains behind this place." Arnold said his mother does the books while his sister, Connie, wife, Lori, and daughter, Ashley, operate the concession and beer stands.

"We are a family-oriented track." And he doesn't mean just in the management. "We want families to come with their kids and leave here with a good time." Beer is sold on the grounds but excessive drinking isn't tolerated. "We aren't afraid to throw someone out who has had too much to drink or is using foul language."

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