

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 27 No. 18

Students express frustrations with tuition hikes

Josh Burk

The Commuter

The proposed 6 percent tuition increase slated to take effect this summer is already starting to make some students a bit nervous.

Two hearings are scheduled today for students to officially register their opinions on the increase, which will make the total credit charge \$36, or \$540 for credits. The unofficial word

on the street, to no one's surprise, is overwhelmingly negative.

One student who's not happy with the increase is Jason Barrett, a science major. "I researched before the start of this school year and found out that LBCC is one of the most expensive community colleges around, and now it is getting even more expensive. What a bunch of crap."

Christine Kelly-Smith, an undecided major, said "I don't see why the tuition needs to go up. I think that it is pretty high already."

Marie Starr, a science major, doesn't agree with the proposal

either. "The reason that I am going to Linn-Benton is because community colleges are supposed to be cheaper than regular state schools. I live in Corvallis and, with the money it costs to drive to and from school every day plus the rising tuition, I could probably get off cheaper going to OSU."

"I want to go to the hearings so that I can listen to the school's reasons on why the tuition should be raised," said Marge McKeon, a culinary arts student. "I don't think that they

will have a decent excuse or one strong enough to govern this raise."

"It is outrageous how a community college can charge so much for tuition. I don't know what I am going to do if it keeps going up. I can just barely pay to go to school now," said Aaron Ingles.

Sandy MacGregor, an English major, doesn't know if she is going to continue matriculating at LBCC. "I think that if the tuition cost raises then I will go to a different school next year.

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Administration seeks student opinion in hearings set for today

by Craig Hatch
of The Commuter

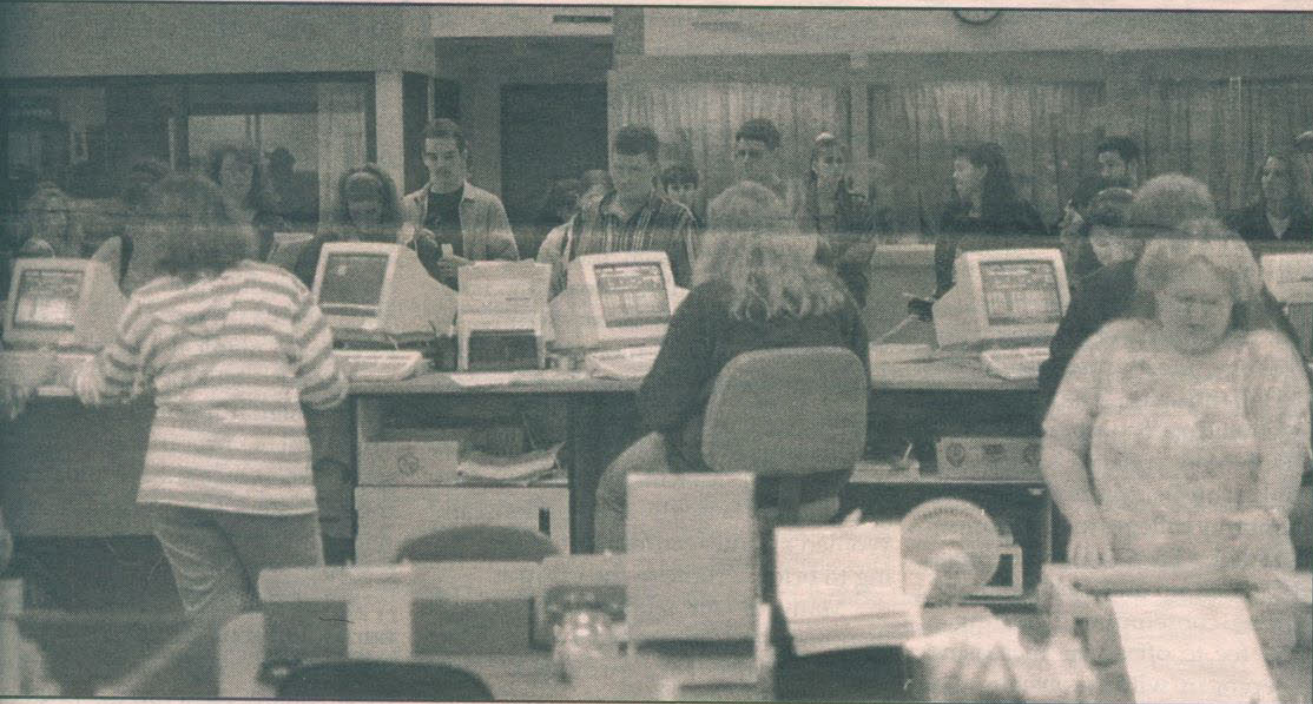
The LBCC board of education will be holding hearings today to determine the possible effects of a \$2 per credit increase in tuition.

These hearings, which will be held in the Alsea/Calapooia Rooms from 12-1 p.m. and in the Board Rooms on the first floor of the College Center from 3-4 p.m., are open to the student body.

"The board will be interested in the

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what students think



Time to Line Up Again

Takena Hall is filling up with students as registration for spring term gets underway this week. At left, clerks are kept busy behind the registration window signing up students for their spring term classes.



Photos by Jason Andrus

Commuter named best two-year student paper in state

The Commuter was named the best community college student newspaper in the state at the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Collegiate Day conference in Portland last week.

The Commuter took first place in 10 out of 17 categories—including General Excellence—in the annual competition, which is judged by professional journalists and journalism educators.

This was the third time in the last four years that the Commuter won the top award among community college papers. Coming in second was The Torch of Lane Community College in Eugene. The University of Oregon Daily Emerald was named best college daily and the Infield Review won in the weekly division for two-year colleges.

In all, The Commuter won 18 awards, including first

place in news writing, feature writing, editorial writing, headline writing, news photography, feature photography, sports photography, best columnist and best section (Arts and Entertainment). The tabloid-sized weekly came in second in best overall design.

Seven current and former staff members received individual awards:

- Sports Editor Jessica Sprenger of Shedd, first in spot news photo, second in sports photo and honorable mention in sports writing;

- Melodie Mills of Albany, first in news writing;

- Dannie Bjornson of Lebanon, second in College Ad of the Year and honorable mention in ad series;

- Trevor Gleason of Albany, first in sports photography;

- Paul Turner of Lebanon, best columnist and first in

feature writing. Turner is now a student at Oregon State University, where he writes for the Daily Barometer.

- Marie Oliver of Corvallis, first in editorial writing and honorable mentions in editorial writing and feature writing. Oliver was editor of last year's Commuter and is now a student at OSU.

- Carol Rich, formerly of Albany, first in feature photography. Rich, the former photo editor, is now working at Yellowstone National Park.

"I'm very proud of what The Commuter was able to accomplish this year," said Commuter Editor Craig Hatch. "One of my goals when I was named editor was to win this award again, and I have to congratulate everybody on the staff for making the paper the best in the state." Hatch, who served as managing editor of last year's paper, is a resident of Scio.

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Tuition will make up 23 percent of general fund budget after increase

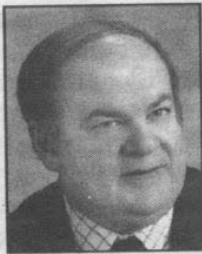
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impact an increase will have on financial resources (of students)," said Mike Holland, vice president for administrative and student affairs. "It's never an easy decision."

Currently, LBCC students pay \$34 per credit hour, of which \$1.60 goes to the Student Activities Program budget. The increase would mean students would be paying \$36 per credit.

"We serve students who are very often hard-pressed financially," Holland explained. "I don't think a dollar or so is a deciding point for most students."

In deciding whether to increase tuition, the Board of Education has established the Fair Share principle. This principle was established to determine how much of the cost of each student's education should be paid for by the students themselves and how much should be provided for by other sources. The board agreed that the students' contribution should fall in between 20-25 percent of the the cost of their education.



"We serve students who are very often hard-pressed financially. I don't think a dollar or so is a deciding point for most students."

—Mike Holland

As of this year, students contributed 22.06 percent of the cost of their education. The proposed increase would raise the students' portion to 22.97 percent.

"I don't think it is unreasonable to expect a student to pay 22, 23, 25 percent of the cost of their education," said Holland. "It's still the best bargain in higher education in the Willamete Valley."

LBCC isn't the only community college facing a tuition increase for the coming year. Chemeketa, Clackamas, Mt. Hood and Lane are also planning a \$2 per credit increase in tuition.

"We look at the marketplace before we plan a tuition increase," said LBCC president Jon Carnahan. "We try to stay well within the current market."

LBCC's tuition is currently about \$2 per credit more expensive than most other community colleges. The college, however, does not charge separate student activity or lab fees for taking certain classes or for taking advantage of other campus resources.

"We don't have any course fees," said Carnahan. "The board wanted to provide equal access to all programs."

This lack of fees results in many programs which have higher equipment costs being averaged with programs that cost less to run. What results is a slightly higher tuition that is constant for all students.

"It's really difficult when you try to attach the true cost to a student's program," explained Holland. "We've made an institutional choice not to chase all of the thousands of various programs and give everyone the cheapest overall value. If a student gets below the superficial level, they will see they are getting a very good deal."

LBCC has been faced with a decreasing amount of government money over the past few years due to the property tax reduction initiative passed several years ago. Due to a fund reserve that LBCC had accumulated up until that point, LBCC was able to continue functioning at the same level.

"It's allowed us to spend more money than we brought in," said Carnahan. "We have essentially been spending our savings account."

However, as the campus nears the end of the reserve, they must begin to look to different sources of income.

"The state is required to make up for lost property tax," explained Carnahan, "but they no longer contribute the money they used to give us in addition to property taxes."

All of this leads to only one remaining

source of income: tuition.

"Tuition is something the board really struggles with," said Carnahan.

"This board is very protective of the students and what the students must bear," added Holland.

Approximately 75 percent of the costs of running the campus are personnel costs. These costs cannot be paid for by the maintenance bond levy that passed last year to finance roof repairs, building upgrades and technology increases.

"I think LBCC is a very strong community college, mostly because of the faculty," Holland said. "The strength of the instructional staff compares very favorably with other colleges."

"I think Linn-Benton is better than most community colleges for programs," Holland added. "There are some things we need to catch up on in technology."

LBCC has contemplated adding a technology fee to offset the increasing costs of keeping up with the onslaught of new technology that continually bombards the workplace which students will enter.

"We spend a lot of money on technology," said Carnahan. "We have more requests than we can possibly meet."

With or without this fee, students can expect tuition to continue to increase because of the rising costs of providing education.

"You can assume that the administrative staff will recommend that the students will continue to contribute 22-25 percent of the cost of their education," said Holland. "The board couldn't hold tuition constant for a long period of time."

Students who have something to say about the proposed tuition increase are encouraged to attend the tuition hear-



Photo by Trevor Gleason

Judging the Results

Three members of the LB chapter of the American Welding Society judge the work of 126 students from six Linn, Benton and Lincoln county high schools who competed in four different welding contests at LBCC last week.

Health clinic proposed for LBCC

by Bill Jones
of The Commuter

Four-and-a-half minutes doesn't sound like that much time.

According to Miriam Kuipers, security office secretary, that's how long it takes an ambulance from Albany General Hospital to reach the campus. If you're having trouble breathing, however, 4.5 minutes can be an eternity.

Currently Linn-Benton doesn't have a student health clinic or even a school nurse.

This could change if Heidi McKinney is successful. McKinney, Student Programs Board Series Events Specialist and Women's Center coordinator, is attempting to bring a clinic to the campus.

"Many of our students lack health insurance and do not have any contact with a health care provider," said McKinney. "Full-time students who may otherwise qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, are ineligible because of their full-time status. Part-time students are eli-

gible for the Oregon Health Plan, but not eligible for full financial aid."

McKinney also feels that LBCC's visions for first-aid or emergency are inadequate, even though many programs, such as refrigeration, welding and culinary arts, have some risk associated with them. Also, students with chronic health problems or disabilities often need a private area to take care of hygiene or medical needs.

So far, McKinney has gathered student signatures in support of a clinic. To submit her proposal she will need signatures. Once she has the signatures, the next step is to present them, along with a proposed budget to the College Council.

According to Kuipers, LB had a school nurse until about 18 years ago, but due to budget cuts and the short response time from Albany General, the position was cut. She pointed out, however, that security personnel are CPR-certified and are trained in first-aid.

Students find tuition increase outrageous

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tuition cost raises then I will go to a different school next year. I have a brother that is planning on coming here next fall, but I don't know if he will come either."

Even though most LBCC students feel this latest tuition hike is unneeded, a minority out there say they can handle it.

Michelle Miner, an undecided major, doesn't mind the increase. "I think that another couple of dollars isn't going to put that big of a damper in my pocket. I

think that for a decent education it's worth paying the extra money. Linn-Benton Community College is one of the best around, and it is definitely worth paying for the quality."

Douglas Monroe, a criminal justice major, couldn't care less about the raise. "My parents pay for my schooling, so it doesn't matter how much it costs. My tuition could go up 50 percent and it wouldn't affect me. When your parents pay for it, you don't care."

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 or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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CAMPUS NEWS

Student-sponsored activities fail to activate students

by Dannie Bjornson
of The Commuter

Students aren't coming back to campus. At least not to participate in student-sponsored activities, that is. According to campus officials, student involvement in extracurricular events is too low.

Less than fifty people turned out for the Northwest Film Festival sponsored by the Peace Studies Program last Saturday despite the group's efforts to promote the event. Most in attendance were not LBCC students.

At a recent Phi Theta Kappa meeting, only three students showed up and, of those, all were executive officers. PTK has over 200 members, many of whom have only attended the induction.

PTK member and student government Operations Coordinator, Kathy Rousseau said that, without support from the members, they don't have any way to carry out projects. She also said "Students who aren't involved are losing their college experience. I met an engineering student at one PTK meeting. I'd have never met an engineering student because I'm a business major. We are in two different worlds," she said. Rousseau attributed her involvement in the club to meeting a myriad of people. "I've met people from (age) 18-40. You can meet so many diverse people."

A country dance organized by the Student Program-

"Some people don't give a flying leap about school-sponsored activities. Some excuses they give are 'we don't have time to or it doesn't interest us.'"

—Naika Benjamin

ming Board last month was attended by only a handful of students.

"We can hardly get anyone to a dance," said Charlene Fella, Director of Student Programs.

"Clearly some programs we need to take a look at to see if they are viable," said Vice President of Administrative and Student Services, Mike Holland. "It's always problematical. We don't have the students attending that four-year schools have."

The overall consensus is that student involvement is minimal because LBCC is a commuter school.

"It seems obvious we are having difficulties bringing students back to campus," said Holland.

According to Fella, the number of clubs on campus has decreased from about 30 to only 17. She said that the clubs are worthwhile, but only a few people on campus are interested in each specific activity. She feels that students who are taking 15-18 credits and

working to support themselves don't have time to become involved in group activities.

Holland cited jobs and families as the reasons it's hard to bring students back to campus for after-hours activities. "We need to schedule more activities during the times students are on campus."

"Some people don't give a flying leap about school sponsored activities. Some excuses they give are 'we don't have time to or it doesn't interest us,'" said Naika Benjamin, the Campus Recreation Specialist and Interim Intramural Recreation Specialist. He emphasized that "most programs are meant for having fun."

Several members of the Peace Studies Program voiced their disappointment because so few LBCC students came to their film fest. "It's so discouraging. So many people would have enjoyed it," said PSP member Kim Hale. She added, "(Clubs) are another place to network with friends. Also, they help you become more well-rounded. It would never happen if you don't participate in a group."

Fella said "Students from this community don't know a lot about other cultures. Lecture series on campus and other activities give them an opportunity to expand their information about other people and other ideas. Students who don't take advantage at LBCC or OSU lose out about learning other cultures."

LBCC Animal Science Department to oversee OSU hog farm

by Jeff Green
of The Commuter

LBCC has gone to the hogs.

As of July 1, LBCC instructor Bruce Moos and the animal science department will be overseeing the OSU hog unit in a cooperative effort with OSU staff.

Last spring, Moos heard a rumor that the hogs barns at OSU might be closed down. Moos and fellow instructors Rick Klampe and Jim Lucas talked to Dr. Jim Fitzgerald, director of the animal science department at OSU, about the unit's future. As it turned out, the question wasn't whether, but when to close," said Moos.

In the following weeks, Dr. Fitzgerald's office was flooded by area farmers and members of the Oregon Pork Producers Association with concerns about the impending closure. Even though there was community support, the program was deemed by OSU officials to be too costly to continue.

Moos had mentioned to a local farmer that it might be possible for OSU to turn operation of the hog barns over to LBCC. The wheels started to turn and, after several meetings in September and November, a contract was agreed upon.

The barns will be run on a cooperative basis by both OSU and LBCC. LBCC will pay the yearly expenses and take over management of the 15 sow herd.

LBCC will also have the authority to make improvements or increase the number of animals. OSU will be responsible for repairs and upkeep of the barns and facilities.

If any profits are made at the end of the year, they will be divided equally between OSU and LBCC. The contract will run for three years with an option to renew or to terminate.

"It will be a true cooperative effort," said Moos. Tom

Hill, the current director at OSU, will still be in charge, and Moos will act as his partner or assistant.

Moos worked out a budget and predicted a nice profit for the hog unit. "That was before feed prices went crazy," he admitted. He added that a profit can still be made and the endeavor is a "real opportunity for our students to get involved that we haven't had before."

Historically, LBCC has had an agreement with OSU which stipulated that the community college would not start a student farm but would instead work cooperatively with OSU labs. Moos said, "Unless you have someone like Tom Hill who is willing to cooperate, it [the opportunity] doesn't exist."

LBCC has successfully relied on people in the community to provide opportunities for students to participate in activities that they merely learn about in classroom settings. This is beneficial, but can't take the place of actual hands-on involvement, said Moos.

Moos said he is excited and has many plans for his students to make use of the hog unit.

The feeds class can formulate rations to feed the pigs; the genetics class can track and manage genetics by witnessing actual choices they have made; and the swine production class can develop a computerized system to keep track of production, as well as partake in basic skills such as castration and vaccinations. One requirement of his swine production class is to care for sow while they farrow and then breed them back through artificial insemination.

OSU instructors will also be using the facilities at the same time to conduct their classes, although the complete details haven't been worked out yet.

Moos said he doesn't want complete control over the barns. "We didn't want to lose a resource, so we just helped to save it," he said.

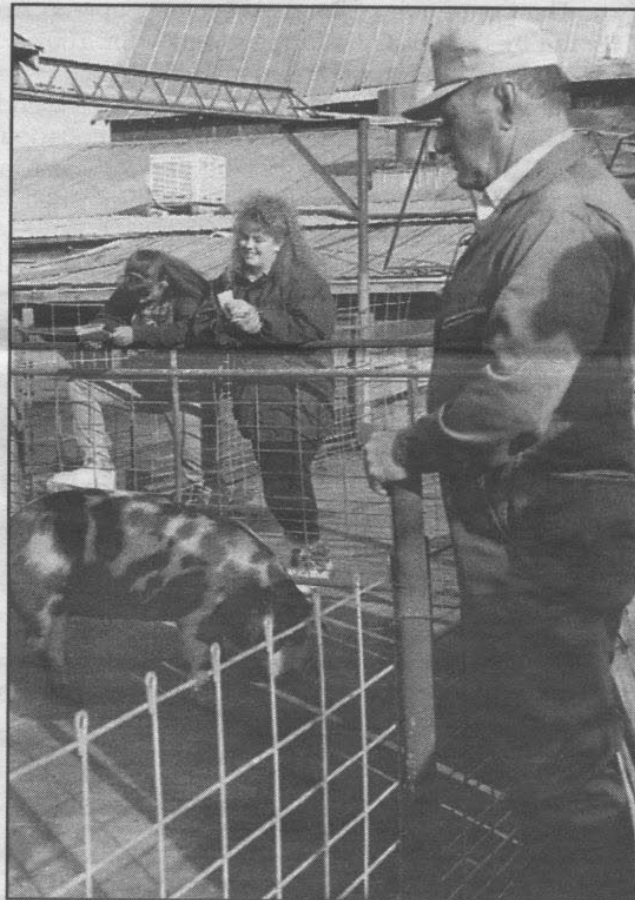


Photo by Betty Hodges

Bruce Moos watches his students evaluate hogs at a local Linn County farm. With the new cooperative arrangement between LBCC and OSU, the animal science students will have more opportunities to get hands on training by using the hog barns on the OSU campus.

ATTENTION STUDENTS: TUITION HEARINGS!

"We need your opinion on a possible tuition increase."

March 13, 1996

Noon-1 p.m. in the Alsea/Calapooia Room

•AND•

3 - 4 p.m. in the Board Rooms

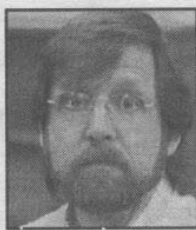
For more information please call Jon Carnahan, LBCC President, at 917-4200; Virginia Moskus, LBCC Director of Fiscal Affairs, 917-4309; Mike Holland, LBCC Vice President, 917-4211; or the Associated Students of Linn-Benton Community College, 917-4457

CAMPUS NEWS

Concert and chamber choirs perform

The LBCC Concert and Chamber Choirs will perform Thursday at 8 p.m. in Takena Theater.

Tickets are \$3 at the door. The concert, sponsored by the LBCC Performing Arts Department, will be conducted by Hal Eastburn. The program features a wide variety of choral music representing many cultures and countries. Music from 19th century Germany with Brahms' folk songs, 17th century church music in Latin; music of the Sephardic Jews, who trace their ancestry to medieval Spain, "Adijo, Kerida," as well as two different compositions based on the writings of



Hal Eastburn

Shakespeare.

The Chamber Choir, noted for its a cappella singing, will offer a wide international perspective with music from Brazil, Ghana and Mexico. The Chamber Choir also will perform several pieces by Hal Eastburn: "Some People's Lives," "I See His Blood Upon the Rose" and "The Guinea Pig."

The concert choir, accompanied by Diane Hawkins on piano, will perform "O Filii et Filiae" by Volckman Leising; "O Children Let Your Voices Ring!" arranged by Dick Thompson; "Praise Ye the Lord, Our Heavenly King!"; "Alleluia!"; and six folk songs by Johannes Brahms: "I'd Enter Your Garden," "The Fiddler," "How Sad Flow the Streams," "At Night," "Awake, Awake!," and "A House Stands 'neath the Willows' Shade."

Community chorale to sing 'Elijah'

"Elijah," an oratorio by Felix Mendelssohn, will be performed by the LBCC Community Chorale Sunday March 17 at 8 p.m. at the United Presbyterian church, 330 Fifth Ave. S.W. in Albany.

Admission is \$5 at the door.

The Community Chorale is sponsored by the LBCC Performing Arts Department and is conducted by Hal Eastburn.

The oratorio, composed by Mendelssohn in 1846, tells the biblical story of "Elijah" and is one of the great pictorial and dramatic oratorios of the 19th century. Mendelssohn's music

captures the spirit and drama of the words as few composers have, according to Eastburn.

The Community Chorale will be accompanied by organist Mary Ann Guenther of Corvallis. Soloists include Lebanon residents Patricia Feltmann, soprano; Anna Marie Butler, alto; Martin Tobias, tenor; and Peter Butler, bass.

A second quartet of soloists for the famous double quartet will be soprano Valerie King of Albany, alto Nancy Ramsdell of Corvallis, tenor Dave White of Albany and bass Joseph Hayes of Albany.

Holland prepares new draft of constitution for LBCC students

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

A new constitution is in the works for the Associated Students of LBCC.

Vice President Mike Holland went over the first draft Monday afternoon, discussing his proposed changes with representatives from Associated Student Government, the Student Programming Board, the Women's Center, the Director of Student Programs and the Coordinator of Student Activities.

Holland began by asking "What's wrong with it?"

Discussion grew heated as various issues were addressed, but Holland cautioned the participants: "Don't confuse the current status with where we're going." He said the fundamentals of stu-



Angela Rivera

dent government are in the constitution.

Moderator Angela Rivera said A wants specific duties of officers spelled out, along with guidelines for club and co-curricular activities. She said it's important for accountability also. She thinks control of the SAP budget should return to the students.

She said these issues should be included in the student constitution rather than in the bylaws so that it requires a vote of the student body to change them. "We're trying to protect our future."

Holland said the constitution cannot prescribe everything; He will consider student suggestions and redraft the constitution before the next meeting.

After further input as to why the current one is defective, Holland said he will prepare a third draft.

When the student leaders are satisfied with the document, it will be presented to the student body for a vote.

Former dean of students relocated

by Craig Hatch
of The Commuter

Former Dean of Students David Bezayiff has been unexpectedly removed from his position and replaced by former assistant to the president, Mike Holland.

Bezayiff, who was Dean of Students for about two years, has been moved to another position. He is currently "on

special duty out of the office of the president of the college," according to Holland. Holland, who is now vice president for administrative and student affairs, was unable to give any further details of the move due to "state law and the policy of the college."

Bezayiff could not be reached for comment.

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Dept/Course #	CRN#	Section #	Professor
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

If you find a text is not required you may return it immediately for a full refund. When you come by to pick up your textbooks, browse through our school supplies, backpacks, clothing and general book departments.

Remember to pick up your books by 4pm on March 31st

(Return this form to the Book Bin by March 29th)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday workshops encourage writers to 'fool around with words'

by Mary Hake
The Commuter

Do you want to "fool around?" Well, two Saturday workshops for aspiring authors can quell your creative urges and get you writing, too!

"Fooling Around With Words," a two day gathering of professional writers offering their expertise and knowledge to up-and-coming literary types will be held at the Benton Center April 6 and 13.

Participants will be able to select from six sessions which will be held April 6, offered from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, then repeated from 1 to 4 p.m.:

"Writing and Illustrating Children's Books" by Margaret J. Anderson, who has written 17 books for 8- to 14-year-olds during the past 20 years, will explore thinking visually and offer tips for getting published.

"Fooling Around With Genre" by Sara Backer, a poet and award-winning fiction writer who has taught in Japan and at UCLA-Davis, will cover various genres from romance to religious along with a personality test to indicate which genre each writer is best suited.

"Getting Your Words into Print" by Richard Lutz, president of Dimi Press in Salem, will provide direction for getting published in magazines or books.

"Writing the Spiritual Journey" by Dorothy Blackcrow Mack, an award-winning poet and fiction writer who has taught at several colleges and universities, will assist writers in recording their spiritual journeys in various ways.

"Screenwriting" by Barbara Slade, who has written for popular children's shows and a feature film, will present the basics of screenwriting from idea to final draft.

"Writing from the Heart: The Personal Essay" by Anne Warren Smith, author of novels for young adults, short stories for adults and children and creative nonfiction, will teach how to write brief pieces of personal experience, humor, opinion, inspiration and miniprofile.

Two all-day workshops in poetry and fiction will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 13.

Peter Sears, whose poems have been widely pub-

lished in both periodicals and books, will lead the poetry session. Poets should bring 10 copies of five poems to share and get feedback on. Strategies for producing a chapbook or full-length manuscript will also be discussed.

Jennifer C. Cornell, award-winning author and assistant professor of English at OSU, will guide writers through exercises to develop the skill of specificity while focusing on the larger craft, such as character development and point of view, in order to generate workable story ideas.

Registration is requested by the Wednesday preceding each workshop. Class size is limited to 25 participants.

The April 6 course number is 42757 and costs \$11.40. The April 13 course number is 42758 and costs \$20. Checks may be mailed to LBCC Benton Center, 630 N.W. 7th, Corvallis, Ore. 97330.

For more information, call Linda Varsell Smith, workshop coordinator, at 753-3335 or the Benton Center at 757-8944.

Community spirit keeps Albany theater going for nearly half a century

by Melani Whisler
The Commuter

The magic of the Albany Civic Theater isn't that such a small theater has survived all these years on only ticket sales and donations.

It's the community support and involvement that has made ACT a Linn County landmark.

Red and green velvet couches and chairs are strewn throughout the lobby, which also serves as an alternate rehearsal room when there's already a play on stage. Walls are covered with posters from the many plays that have been performed at ACT throughout the past 45 years.

There's always at least two plays going on at the same time—sometimes three. Currently "The Cocoanuts," directed by John Bauer is on stage, and "Jake's Women," directed by Ross Jackson is rehearsing in the lobby. At the same time, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," directed by Robert Moore is holding rehearsals.

"Kiss Me Kate" was Jackson's first play that he directed at ACT, "Jake's Women" marks his fifth. He's also produced a few plays at The Majestic Theater in Corvallis. Jackson started his acting

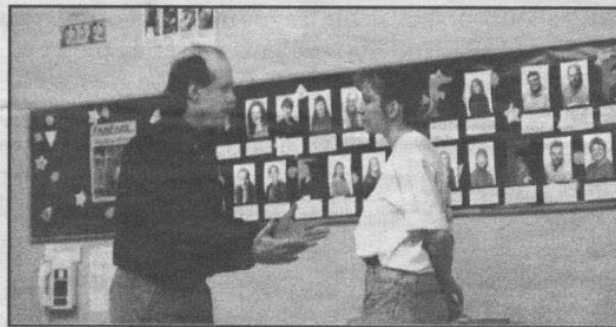


Photo by Bill Jones

Robert Hirsch (left), a former LBCC drama instructor, works with a cast member in the lobby in the Albany Civic Theater. He is one of many volunteers who help put on shows at ACT.

career in 1984 at LBCC when he performed in the musical "Fiddler on the Roof."

Mildred Gonzalez of Albany has been involved with ACT since its beginning in 1951. As co-founder, she has dedicated many years of her life to running the theater.

"The heart of the theater is the people involved. It's the hard work and loyalty that volunteers have put

into it that has made it last," said Gonzalez.

Marty Calson, owner and operator of "The Costume Loft" in Albany was active with ACT as a board member for 20 years. During those years, she was involved in about 30 plays.

"There's so much time and effort that goes into each play, I can't remember how many there've been," said Calson.

Owning and operating a private business has occupied most of Calson's time, so she is no longer active with the theater. But she made it clear that she remains a very strong supporter.

ACT has no problems finding new members.

"We're always getting new people," said Jackson, "We turned away 28 people for 'Jake's Women.' Only half of our cast has been involved with ACT plays before.

You can catch "The Cocoanuts" on March 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 at 8:15 p.m. and 2:20 matinees on March 10 and 17.

Future shows will be "Jake's Women" starting April 21 and lasting through the 27. "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" will follow beginning May 17 and continuing through the 27.

Dinner theatre musical presented by LB

LBCC's Student Programs presents the dinner theatre musical "In the Mood," Thursday, March 14, in the Commons Cafeteria, second floor College Center.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 (\$16 for students and seniors).

"In the Mood" is a rousing musical tribute to the 50th anniversary of the United States Service Organization (USO) that recreates the energy and excitement of a war time USO camp radio broadcast.

The national touring company from Bravo Productions of Texas performs

music and skits, jokes and gags taken from USO shows, including such high-powered classics as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," "In the Mood," and the romantic favorites "Always" and "It Had to be You."

The USO was formed in 1941 to boost the morale of servicemen and women stationed around the world and at work in U.S. war plants. Through the efforts of the YMCA, YWCA, the National Travelers Aid Association, the National Jewish Welfare Board and the Salvation Army, over 2,500 USO clubs were established.

For more information and for reservations, call 917-4457.

Corvallis youth awarded for outstanding progress

by Jacob Schmid
The Commuter

The daughter of an LBCC business instructor is rapidly establishing herself as a star in Portland's Youth Philharmonic Orchestra.

The PYP recently honored Robin Yu, daughter of Kitson and Mabel Yu of Corvallis with the Gershkovitch Award for outstanding progress. Kitson, the proud father, is LBCC's business computer teacher and his daughter's biggest fan.

Robin, a freshman at Corvallis' Crescent Valley High School, earned the early award after advancing 34 places in the combined violin sections of the orchestra, more than doubling the old

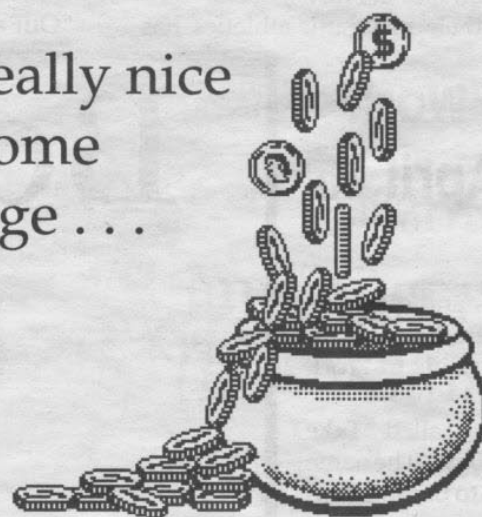
record of 14 chairs, and putting Robin in the eighth seat of the total 44 violins.

"I practice a lot," Yu explained. She has been playing eight-and-a-half of her 15 years, and plans to go on to become a music major in college. She thanks her parents and teacher, Carol Sindell, for nurturing her talent.

The award, named after the founder and original conductor of the PYP, will grant Yu a \$50 per month scholarship to fund her violin lessons in the year to come.

Robin is planning to perform at Willamette University sometime in July, but hasn't scheduled the date yet. She is currently practicing a solo from "Introduction—Rondo and Capriccioso."

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Student activities struggle to cut budgets without hurting program

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

Whether due to lower enrollment, past overspending or both, the Student Activities Programs (SAP) budget has suffered cuts.

SAP funds come from LBCC student tuition, \$1.60 from each credit hour. This money is used to support student government, The Commuter, athletics, the Women's Center, culinary arts, child care resources, industrial/technical students, livestock judging and a variety of smaller programs.

In January, the current year's SAP budget was reduced \$12,000, with wide-reaching effects. In addition to this cutback, the 1996-97 SAP budget will be 10 percent less than originally projected.

ASLBCC Moderator Angela Rivera, who is also a member of the SAP budget committee, said cutting co-curricular programs is "like cutting off our noses to spite our faces." She does not believe that any education budget items should be cut.

The administration deems SAP budget cuts necessary in order to restore the \$14,428 shortfall in receipts for the 1995 fiscal year. This is part of the expected cash carryover which is kept as backup funds.

Student fees were raised 9 cents per credit hour for the 1995-96 school year, the first increase in seven years. However, this additional revenue has added less than \$200 per term—not enough to make any difference in the SAP budget.

Trying to understand and deal with the budget has been frustrating according to SAP committee members. The 1996-97 budget was to be completed the first part of March, but delays in response from some departments has slowed the process.

Before finishing the budget for next year, the SAP committee addressed the needs for emergency funds to help complete the current year. Only two requests for additional funding were submitted and were approved by the committee at their Feb. 27 meeting.

The Eloquent Umbrella, LBCC's annual literary journal, received \$505, and the Valley Writers Series was awarded \$492. Both are small budget items compared to other activities, making the 7.89 percent reduction a real hardship, said Linda Smith, writing instructor.

Ed Watson, dean of Liberal Arts and Human Performance, said he sees the SAP budget, but doesn't help plan or OK it. His concern is that each department maintain its individual budget appropriately and not overspend.

Watson confirmed that everybody's budget was cut. Regarding the athletic department's budget, which covers volleyball, basketball, baseball and track, he said they feel the reduction like the rest.

"In order to sustain their program, athletics has

raised additional money to make up the difference," he said, adding that they must raise \$30,000 annually in order to be viable because student fees do not cover all expenses.

One-third of the athletics budget is based on fundraising, which includes gate receipts, sponsors and LBCC Foundation gifts, said Watson. "Our athletic program couldn't run on what we get from students."

Watson explained that the athletics department is responsible for maintaining their facilities and that expenses, such as transportation cost, have increased. They have stayed within their approximately \$100,000 annual budget.

"Maybe we've done a better job of managing our budget," Watson said, adding that athletics did not and will not go into debt. He said he would be happy to sit down and go over the athletics budget with anyone—it's public information.

Vice President Mike Holland said athletics did take a budget cut in appropriations, but kept the overall expenditures the same by making up the difference with fundraising.

Coach Greg Hawk said "We've had to tighten our belts from Day 1," explaining that sports use their limited funds efficiently. He said student athletes receive about one-half of the league maximum allotment of talent grants, and that students must buy their own jackets.

Director of Student Programs Charlene Fella, who oversees their \$70,000 annual budget, said in order to cut expenditures they reviewed all the contracts for upcoming activities and considered eliminating all they could, adding that there are often penalties for canceling.

Fella said they also canceled a planned training session for the student leadership team. They usually go to Silver Falls in the fall for orientation.

Traditional events like Saturday's dinner theatre are popular, she explained, adding that they try to keep the costs down for students and plan to break even, not make money from it.

All co-curricular programs are expected to earn at least 20 percent of their budget. Rick Klampe, adviser for the livestock judging team, which receives about \$15,000 annually, said these budget cuts mean they'll have to raise more money. He added that fund-raising takes time away from preparing for competition.

Klampe explained that there are not many ways to cut corners short of decreasing student involvement. He said they try to get the best prices for transportation, fees and motels, and students pay part of their own meals.

"Our ag-science department numbers have grown

steadily the last two to three years," Klampe said, therefore for recruiting more students, we're getting cut. Somehow, it doesn't seem right. It seems like more numbers you have, the less money."

Klampe said the livestock judging team draws more students to LBCC. Their fund raising activities include selling Christmas wreaths, baseball concession stands and a summer judging clinic for 4-H and FFA.

Dennis Wood, Industrial Technical Society adviser said "We didn't have enough money in the beginning. Six different departments compete for the ITS funds."

He said funds are used to stimulate student involvement in national trade associations, like the American Welding Society student chapter. They also assist with members' travel to meetings and bringing speakers to a workshop or presentation of special interest.

ITS tries to encourage ways of networking at meetings, said Wood. It's an opportunity to meet with employers and expand knowledge.

Their fund raising has involved cutting wood, mostly building projects such as the tank fabrication that recently brought in \$700.

Doug Clark, Peace Studies adviser, said they usually raise 75 percent of their costs. The Peace Studies program has a unique character, he explained. Their budget is for the purpose helping the U.S. delegation travel to Europe for a symposium every other year.

Peace Studies uses student fees for equipment material for fund raising. "I don't want to say everything will be as usual," Clark said. "It means more work, but we're going to do this."

The Commuter had an \$1,100 carryover from 95, said adviser Rich Bergeman. "This was more than expected and offset the current year's budget, so a request was made for emergency funds." The budget is tight since paper and production costs have increased.

Ed Watson suggested that any department which has overspent needs "to take an internal budget cut out of the red and reestablish contingency."

The SAP budget committee authorizes requests for funds above the base budget from which every department receives their allotted portion. Student chair Sara Griffiths said that there is really no extra money available this year.

Three requests have been approved by the committee for additional funding to return some of the percent budget cut. They are meeting this week to finalize recommendations which will be presented to the dean of student services and finally to the Board of Education for approval.

If 95-96 fees exceed projections, the excess will be available to cover special needs requests and to provide for possible future shortages.

Take kids to work day set for April 25

by Bill Jones
of The Commuter

On April 25 both boys and girls will get a chance to see "non-traditional" careers during "Take Your Kids to Work Day" at LBCC.

Last year the event was called "Take Your Daughters to Work Day." The name was changed in response to parents' concerns that limiting the opportunity to girls discriminated against their sons.

According to Christina Salter of the Counseling Center, organizers are expecting approximately 30 girls and five boys to attend this year's event.

The day will start with career-related activities directed at both genders, such as a career interest inventory and a video on career choices.

The next step will be touring the departments. Girls will tour two or three industrial departments, including metallurgy, auto technology, water/wastewater management and refrigeration/heating/air-conditioning. Possible departments for the boys to tour include nursing, early childhood education and business technology.

Individuals interested in participating can contact Salter in the Counseling Center in Takena Hall.

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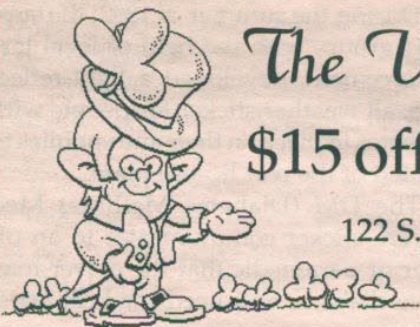
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Through March 20, 1996

LOCAL NEWS

Government's role still evolving, Clark tells forum

by Pete Petryszak
of The Commuter

Participants discussed the government's role in business and explored the possibility of a third party at the third in a series of five public forums hosted by the Mid-Valley Committees of Correspondence on Saturday.

"Promoting the General Welfare: What Role for Government?" featured LBCC Political Science Instructor Doug Clark and author and political activist Carl Geiser as its principle speakers.

Clark explained that Congress derived its powers to "promote the general welfare" in the first paragraph of Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, pointing out that it is known as the "elastic clause" because of the many different ways in which it can be interpreted.

Not long after the Constitution was adopted and the federal government established, debate began over how the government was to promote the welfare of its citizens. Different leaders have used

different interpretations and ideas over the years and the debate continues in Congress today.

For much of the country's history, promoting the general welfare was interpreted to mean encouraging and assisting economic growth, Clark said.

The idea that the government should be used to promote the social rather than economic welfare of its citizens first emerged in the late 19th century but was not put into practice until the Great Depression of the 1930s.

By the end of World War II, a consensus had emerged about the role of government, Clark said. "The perspective that develops is that full employment can be pursued by letting the economic system function on its own with the government as a fine tuner, or a junior partner."

Now, however, that consensus has broken down, and there is a lack of clarity among our leaders over what role the government should have in our

economy.

Geiser spoke of the formation of a third party, the "Eighty Percent Party," to represent the 80 percent of the population with incomes below \$70,000 per year. Among other things, Geiser called for the elimination of the CIA, doubling the minimum wage and capital gains taxes, ending tobacco subsidies and for the U.S. to take a leading role in environmental reforms.

The two speakers then answered questions and heard comments from the 30 or so people in attendance, most of them expressing their frustration with the two-party system and asking about a third party's chances to win elections on the local, state, and national levels.

The Committees for Correspondence will hold its next forum: "Should Employers be Free to Replace Striking Workers?" on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to noon. The group will meet at Westminster House, 101 NW 23rd St., Corvallis.

Former LBCC student develops region-wide program for helping police to recognize diabetes patients on the road

by Dorothy Wilson
of The Commuter

Former LBCC business major and OSU Communications graduate, Mike Antrim, now public relations advisor for Albany General Hospital, helped develop a program for people with diabetes who are at risk from misunderstanding by law enforcement officers.

For people with diabetes, low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) can have dramatic consequences. The symptoms of hypoglycemia can include nervousness, blurred vision, dizziness, seizures and unconsciousness. Personality changes can occur, such as irritable, irrational behavior and combativeness.

What happens if the individual is driving when an insulin reaction occurs? Hypoglycemia can mimic the erratic behavior of a drunken driver.

"When stopped by a police officer, the driver with hypoglycemia may, in rare instances, come out of the car swinging," said Antrim.

After an incident involving Albany Police and LBCC instructional assistant LeRoy Heaton in March of 1992, Antrim and the diabetes support group at Albany General wanted to do something

about the danger people with diabetes were facing.

Subsequent to subduing and arresting Heaton, Linn County sheriffs deputies learned he had diabetes and was suffering from low blood sugar. Heaton's law suit against Linn County for the use of excessive force was settled for \$13,000 in September of 1993.

"We wanted to create awareness of the potential problems. Together we came up with a solution," said Antrim.

During the summer of 1992, the support group, with the help of local law enforcement, developed a light-reflective, all weather sticker for people with diabetes to place on their automobiles to the left of the rear license plate.

The DM (Diabetes Mellitus) Med Aware sticker communicates to an officer or paramedic that the driver may have diabetes and need medical assistance.

The use of the sticker is voluntary and is recognized in Oregon and now in Washington.

Before the stickers could be released to those with diabetes, each law enforcement agency was notified by certified mail regarding the program. According

to Antrim, the response from law enforcement officials has been very positive.

"It's a win-win situation for law enforcement and people with diabetes," said Antrim. "Our goal is to have this system recognized by every state in the union."

So far, Oregon and Washington are subscribing to the Med Aware program. "California is next," said Antrim. "California is more like a country than a state." After California, Antrim says they will have the "whole West Coast" on board.

At this point, the Albany General Hospital Foundation is providing support in the form of postage and labor costs. But Antrim says he hopes the program will perpetuate itself from the sale of the stickers, and that eventually money from the sales will go toward additional programs that support people with diabetes, like the support group and educational scholarships for people with diabetes who do not have the funds to attend the educational forums at the hospital.

Donations to the foundation for the stickers are \$2.50 each. For additional information, call 1-503-928-2704.

Target not playing by rules of nature

by Jacob Schmid
of The Commuter

Target Stores, Inc., is missing the mark when it comes to waste disposal, according to The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

According to a DEQ press release, the department inspected the Target Distribution Center being constructed southwest of LBCC on Highway 99 last October, and discovered that the construction crew was ordered to pump more than 30,000 cubic feet of sediment contaminated water into an unnamed tributary of Oak Creek.

The turbid water had been stored in a retention pond to prevent sediment-laden runoff from reaching surface water. The inspection also revealed that in fact the reservoir did not comply with Target's erosion control plan to prevent sediment pollution from leaving the construction site.

Target was issued a civil penalty and a fine of \$9,000. According to the DEQ, the inspector warned the construction company to come up with a plan to prevent further pollution, but a reinspection on Nov. 8 showed that wastewater continued to leave the site and contaminate surface water. The DEQ also observed that more wastewater was being held in a place where it was likely to drain into the creek during rainstorms. In addition to the civil penalty, Target was given a Notice of Permit Violation requiring the company to take immediate action to correct the problem.

DEQ Director Langdon Marshall noted that "Surface runoff water is the largest source of water pollution in Oregon. The erosion control plan is designed to help prevent sediment and other pollutants from reaching surface waters and harming aquatic life, and the DEQ expects erosion control plans to be fully implemented."

Target has appealed the fine and is continuing construction on the new Distribution Center. It is expected to open sometime this July.

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SPORTS PAGE

Athletics opens new opportunities for full-time mom

by Tricia LaFrance
The Commuter

About eight years ago, LBCC student Kodi Waite graduated from Crescent Valley High School in Corvallis and got a full-ride scholarship to play basketball at Portland State University.

But practice schedules, studies and lack of sleep piled up. Kodi quit school, got married and started a family. Her college basketball days were over.

Or so she thought.

On a warm July day, about two years ago, Kodi met Bill Wold, who'd been the freshman girl's basketball coach at her high school, walking his dog down her street. He remembered her and asked if she would play basketball at LBCC, where he'd just been offered the position of head coach for women's basketball. It didn't take Kodi long to say "yes" to a second chance at going to college and playing her favorite sport.

"Sports are fun," Kodi said. "It is a high to be able to play and to know that you have done something better than someone else—especially when you win."

For as long as she can remember, sports have been a part of Kodi's life. While she was growing up, her father was a baseball coach and her brother was an all-stater in four sports. By the time she was in third grade, Kodi was mimicking her big brother.

"I wanted to be just like him," she said. "He was my idol. I looked up to him in hero worship, I guess."

In high school, Kodi was an all-stater, and played in the all-star game.

After high school, Kodi worked at Athletic Circle, in produce at Albertson's market, and in Alaska. Then she got married, had two children (Samantha, 10, is now four, and Taylor, 2 1/2 years old) and became a stay-at-home mom. "Basketball was why I came to school," Kodi said. "I had really regretted giving up my scholarship at Portland State, and I looked back. Yes, basketball was a motivating factor to getting back to school."

But she still had "pregnancy weight" and her youngest daughter was only nine-and-a-half months old at the time. Kodi started riding her mountain bike a couple hours each day to get ready for the games. Now even though it's the season, she works out, doing aerobic exercise and lifting, to keep physically fit.

"My aerobic endurance is really good," Kodi said. "I could play a whole season."

But then there's the opposite," she said. "I do have a lot more aches and pains eight years later than I did when I was in high school. I'm not as limber. I just get out and play anymore like

Roadrunner track team lets first meet slip through their fingers

by Jessica Sprenger
The Commuter

Although good weather conditions prevailed, the Linn-Benton track team failed to show their true colors.

Freshman Josh Harpole finished fourth in the triple jump with a mark of 38.5 feet.

Senior Moeler also finished eighth for roadrunners in the 100 meters with a time of 11.3 seconds.

Moeler just missed finishing in the 200 meters with a time of 23.2 in the 200 meters.



The gym is home to Taylor and Samantha Waite, whose mom, Kodi, has been the Linn-Benton's starting point guard the past two years.

Photo by Tricia LaFrance

I used to. I have to do the stretching and after-stretching."

Kodi, a full-time student majoring in education, keeps up academically by doing her homework while her children are in bed at night and in the early morning. Her husband Darin works the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. shift at Hewlett-Packard on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and stays home with the children Monday through Thursday so Kodi can go to school during the week.

"I would not have gone back to school if I had had to put my kids in any kind of day-care situation," Kodi said. "I very much feel that the parents should be at home with them, at least while they are young. They are with their dad when they are not with me. It works out all right."

In addition to a full load of class work, Kodi practiced basketball every day during the season for two hours and traveled to many games. Despite their best planning efforts, there were times when Darin and Kodi's schedules clashed.

During those times, Kodi brought her daughters to practice with her. The coach, assistant coach and the players sitting out at the time helped keep an eye on them and played with them during practice, she said.

"The other girls on the team have adopted both of my kids as a mascot, practically," she said. "I couldn't have gotten a better bunch of girls as teammates. And they have included me as part of the team. It's been really fun."

On the women's side, Sami Bond cleared 4-foot-8 in the high jump, a mark good enough to qualify for the NWAACC tournament.

In her first meet wearing the blue and gold, Sara Ziemer finished second in her heat in the 200 with a time of 28.4.

"It was a huge meet," Roadrunner coach Brad Carman said. "It took forever. They started warming up well before they competed."

Linn-Benton will compete at the Western Oregon Open Friday and then host the Multi-Event on March 25 and 26.

Most of the girls on the team have accepted her even though she is about seven years older and not into the boy's scene around campus, she said.

"I'm on a different level than they are in many respects," Kodi said. "I have different priorities. But we laugh and joke. They call me 'Mom.' And a couple of them have called me 'Old Lady,' and we've laughed about that."

"And my children have adapted to seeing mom in sports. My little one called me 'basketball mommy.'"

Kodi is an example of how sports can draw students to school and provide a support system for them, said Ed Watson, dean of Liberal Arts and Human Performance.

"It has been my experience in athletics that teams are sometimes families and are in many ways supportive, even though it is in a competitive environ-

ment. It's the ultimate in collaboration in traits that bring people together," he said.

"You make sacrifices for others. They make sacrifices for you. You give up some of your independence and individuality when you are on a team. On the other hand, you do that so things will work. You are working toward this common goal or task."

Watson added that the real value of an athletics program in college comes not from winning, losing or entertainment, but from the "values learned from participating in sports within the educational context."

LBCC English Instructor Tom Chase agrees.

"A lot of learning takes place on the basketball court or the soccer field, and that is why athletics is an important part of the academic experience," he said. "Students learn to cooperate, be part of a team, have leadership responsibilities, and to study and know a subject—whether it be sports, English or math."

Chase has had Kodi in class since the fall term in American Literature.

"Besides being an 'A' student, what's remarkable about Kodi and students like her is that they have a lot of other responsibilities and are still able to handle the full-time work of being a student. Being a parent, a student athlete and a student is very demanding. Kodi is handling all those responsibilities well."

Kodi played in the NWAAC all-star game at Chemeketa Community College on March 10 and received an honorable mention award in the league.

Next year Kodi will take classes part-time at LBCC to finish work for her Associates degree. And she has been offered the junior varsity assistant coaching job at Crescent Valley High School, which is a part-time position.

"Now my college career is over," Kodi said. "It's sad. I'm going to miss it. I was definitely excited to get a second chance at playing collegiate sports again."

"I'll look back at it, I know, and it will probably be one of my fondest memories. Now I guess I'll have to look at it as I'm moving on to the next stage."

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U.S. Cuban policy puts Americans on wrong side in Canada

"It'll be fun!" my sister said.

These are three words (actually, two words and a contraction) which should send up red flags in any language. What she was trying to con me into doing was attending a pro-Cuban demonstration. Usually that wouldn't be a problem, but today I was in Canada and this little protest was sure to be rapt with anti-Americanism.

When Jesse Helms opened his mouth and proved, once again, that he rarely burdens himself with the need to be right, he isolated the U.S. from our northern neighbors. Canadian TV was beyond saturation and oozing with Jesse telling the world, "Canada should be ashamed" for not standing behind the U.S. embargo of Cuba. And I sat there watching this on TV, sporting U. S. citizenship, surrounded by unsmiling Canadians.

"It'll be fun!"

I've covered my share of demonstrations, but this was the first time I could possibly be the object of the mob's angst.

Still I found myself amongst about 100 angry picketers. They were complete with the obligatory banners and pickets: "USA hands off Cuba," "Respect our rights," "The right is on Our Side," and that time-honored jewel: "Yankee Go Home."

I whipped out my news reporter pad and moved in on the nearest demonstrator, asking "What do you hope to accomplish with this demonstration?"

He told me they were trying to make sure the American passengers of the ferry boat "Coho" knew they thought the American policy on Cuba sucks, though maybe not with those precise words. The ferry was due in no time, but as a preview the protesters sang, yelled and showed their picket signs to passing traffic. Passing traffic honked, gave thumbs up or told them to get a life.

When the ferryboat came into the harbor, small sailing banners like "Cuba Si" rushed out to greet the lumbering car carrier. They looked like birds sitting in the jaws of a crocodile, but the jaws never closed. After

the boat docked the passengers started walking down the gangplank and the demonstrators started their chanting and singing. Most of the Yanks just looked surprised. Some laughed; some waved; one even showed how he counts to one—with a very special finger.

Now, my sister's sense of humor is often one fry short of a Happy Meal. She knew many of the mob, and would introduce me to them as "This is my brother. He's an American." I felt like a country western singer opening for White Zombie. One woman actually said, "You are from a bad place." I didn't tell her that at that moment, I wished I was there.

The highlight of the demonstration was a troop of life-experienced women known far and wide as the "Raging Grannies." They dressed with feather boa flamboyance, complete with velvet hats and loud voices. They sang for the entering U.S. citizens: "Sing hallelujah for our friends in Cuba, who stand up to Uncle Sam. We're glad to send some goods and handouts when our friends are in a jam. If there are orders to close our borders; we won't take it like a lamb. If we can't choose who to send our goods to, then free trade's not worth a damn."

One of these grannies came up to me between sets and asked where I was from. With the least projected voice I could muster, I told her I was from Oregon. She wanted specifics. I told her I was from the Valley, and she lit up. She herself had lived in Corvallis and has a son in Ashland. I can't say I expected a raging granny to be mean to me, even if I was a Yank.

Even after the U.S. tourists had been properly informed, the party continued. An amplified voice filled the dock, and I looked over to see a power speaker atop an old Datsun pickup. A rather eloquent man pontificated on what a huge ass Helms made of himself. He continued with a description of the troubles Pastors for Peace is having getting computers from Canada and the U.S. to Cuba. Seems Cuban medical facilities need these computers to link up with some of that medical info on the Internet to benefit the Cuban people. The U.S. Treasury Department seized these computers at the border at San Diego. Currently, there are five people

putting on a bit of a hunger strike at that crossing draw attention to the seized computers. The man with the mike pointed out how bad we Yanks were stopping the shipment on its way to Havana via Tijuana.

It was a bad thing for the American government to stop the computers, for sure. But, I have to say most of the American people think stopping the the computers wasn't a great idea. It was compounded when I noticed that a conspicuously absent bit of information in the guy's diatribe was the fact that four out of five of the hunger strikers happened to be U.S. citizens. Most of everything else he said was hard to argue with, and I forced myself not to let his pointed omissions fade into truths he spoke.

If you have a slow weekend, try hanging out in a country which has just been affected by some legislation. Never a dull moment. The passage of the Helms-Burton bill was like butting out a cigarette (the Havana cigar) on the forehead over every Canadian. The bill tells Canadians who they may and may not trade with—specifically Cuba.

We showed a country not too enamored with the first place, how easily we put their sovereignty in second place. The rest of the world thinks our tiff with Cuba is as asinine as, say, trading with China while their recent human rights violations make Cuba look like a quiet tropical island.

After the demonstration, we went to hang out with my uncle, who happens to be a Franciscan monk. While making a respectable dent in a bottle of Shmirinoff, he told him of our day. He listened and nodded and smiled. While watching the news report about our little gathering. He leaned over and asked, "Do you know any priests wear aprons in the shower?" We didn't. With a dry profundity he said, "So we don't look down on the unemployed."

It had nothing to do with Cuba, but it wasn't proposed to. My uncle has always done that. When a conversation is getting too serious, he'll take a drink and tells a joke. Kinda the same effect as the "Raging Grannies" on a very serious event. Never get up on things getting better, but it's just as important to lose your sense of humor, or you lose the game.



classifieds

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OPINION PAGE

commentary

Battling with student programs office is a no-win situation

Erik Bootsma
The Commuter

In the past few weeks the Commuter has published several articles about our student government and the Student Programs office. Some of you may be a bit confused about what is going on and what exactly the problem is. I don't mean to sound as if I know it all, but after watching that particular office for the last three years, I think I know what I am talking about.

The first question that comes to mind is what is the difference between student government and Student Programs? After much study and much thought, I came to the conclusion that there is none. Well, officially student government is part of a larger organization, Student Programs, as is the Student Programming Board.

Student Government (ASG) and Student Programming Board (SPB) are in theory independent from each other and only administered by Student Programs. In practice the whole office is run by one person, the director of Student Programs. It just so happens that the director of Student Programs is also, by their own institution, the adviser of ASG. Two for the price of one or one for the price of two?

The office pays the adviser, I mean director, and the SPB adviser and one secretary as full-time staff. No other adviser of any student group is paid for duties as an adviser, and no other adviser has bargaining rights in the capacity of an adviser.

But I digress. The main point is that paid staff does not, as stated, "promote student involvement." In fact, every action that I have seen by the director and her staff have been against the involvement of myself and others, particularly against Angela Rivera.

Over the past three years I have been systematically excluded from the system, simply because I disagree with the lofty and lefty goals of that particular office. And, contrary to what my detractors would like to claim, I have proof.

I had been trying to get a conservative student group going on campus for quite some time. Much to the agrin of some, I met up with Bill Hollingsworth, and we formed the College Conservatives Association.

Immediately we were attacked by Student Programs being "intimidating." The unfounded charge was leveled after we had the audacity to sit at the table in the commons we signed up for. The charge was dropped by the dean of students but with the warning that we needed an adviser. Too bad we couldn't hire one. The dean said he would help us find one, but nothing was done.

Later, as that group was moving along we were attacked by the director for being "unofficial," the same attack that Jack Josewski made in a letter some weeks ago. You see we couldn't be "official" because we didn't have an adviser yet and therefore we were not "approved."

As time rolled on, I decided that the only way to get the student program's attention was to write about it. The editor of the paper at the time turned out to be accepting to even reporting on the dealings of that office, so I started an alternative paper.

It was soon found in trash cans everywhere. She didn't seem too keen on protecting free speech when she was not left wing.

My run to be in ASG was my next attempt at balance. My effort soon turned out to be the most frustrating of my life due to the wranglings of the student government. It turned out that ASG had acquired my GPA here at LBCC and then decided to change the rules so that my admittedly low GPA would make me ineligible to run.

I have no problems with high standards, but this is not what they had in mind. Angela tells me that ASG got wind of my bid and decided to change the rules before the election. Angela apologized that she got one of the students to vote to keep me out, but I still have to wonder, how did these students come up with such grades? The only people I know that can get a student's grades are administrators. Did the director of Student Programs request my grades at that point? I don't know.

I think that a pattern of corruption has been shown in the office of Student Programs—a corruption of power. You don't believe me? Go ask anyone who has fought against that office and you will see, or you can try it yourself. You'll see.



commentary

Many factors—from the victim syndrome to loss of spirituality—breed violence in U.S.

by Jeremy Bunch
for The Commuter

We've heard that violence is the disease of the 20th century. Some say it'll be a larger problem in the 21st.

What causes violence? What sociological, psychological, emotional, mental, or spiritual factors would cause somebody to act violently? What about the victims? Who are the victims of violence? Is a violent offender a "victim of society?" Is that a valid excuse for that person's acts? Does TV glamorize violence?

In my opinion there is no excuse for violence. Sure, people in tough economical hardships may be prone to act angrily to society. Some may act violently on emotions which are fleeting, and aren't worth the consequences of the violence.

A "victim of society" is not an excuse for violence. Clearly, some come into this world with worse odds than others. And while the numbers of violent crimes seem too high (which they are, unarguably), the numbers of those success stories of young men and women who have overcome great odds against them, sociologically and economically, and even racially, are high enough that they can be used as role models.

TV does show too much violence. Sometimes it glamorizes it and sometimes it doesn't. Can some violent crimes be attributed to this glamorization? Yes.

Tightening sanctions against Cuba will do little to dislodge its dictator from office

by Pete Petryszak
of The Commuter

Cuba's downing of civilian aircraft in international waters was a sick and cowardly act by a dictator desperately trying to hold onto his power which the United States and all other civilized nations were right to condemn.

Unfortunately, the new sanctions imposed on Cuba will be as ineffective in breaking his hold on the island as the 30-year-old economic embargo currently in place.

Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba has been the target of sanctions for nearly half a century, but it is no secret that sanctions against his government do not affect him or high Cuban officials, but are felt the hardest by the poorest citizens of Cuba, the very people we aim to help by imposing them.

Furthermore, by imposing sanctions, we are not only hurting the people we seek to help, we may be propping up the dictator as well. By denying Cuba access to adequate food, building materials, and medical supplies we are giving Castro ammunition for his anti-American rhetoric and propaganda. I've never seen Castro speak, but I'm certain he doesn't talk about his violations of international law or human rights abuses when he explains why the Cuban people are

There have been some cases when it is clear that a violent crime has been committed, just like one right off of the tube.

Solutions?

This nation was built on absolute laws to maintain order in society. These absolutes like "thou shalt not murder" are not found just anywhere. I think that a decline in the spirituality of America has affected the increase in violent crime. Even statistics prove that when prayer and the Ten Commandments, and other religious teachings, were eliminated from public schools in the early 1960s, violent crimes, unwanted pregnancies, abortions STD's, etc. increased. I think that a spiritual decline has contributed to high rates of violence.

I also think that there is an attitude out there telling youth that they can't make life on their own. That they need help to make it through. They're victims of a society.

I think this mentality gets kids down emotionally, psychologically and leaves them empty. It's time to teach kids that through hard work, diligence, and a willing desire to learn, that they can be self-sufficient, and build successful lives.

They can do it. That encouragement needs to be there.

starving. He blames the U.S., telling the Cubans that it is the American embargo which keeps them from being able to feed and clothe their children or get decent medical care.

As much as we despise Castro, we can't call him a liar when he says that. It's generally accepted that sanctions don't work. If they did, we would have never had to fight Iraq. The fact is sanctions are good politics but useless as policy.

A plan to dislodge Castro should involve humanitarian aid as a fundamental part of its strategy. Right now Castro can present himself as the great protector of the Cuban people as the Yankee imperialists try to starve them into submission. Humanitarian shipments would turn the tables on him if he tries to keep them out. By helping the Cuban people to obtain food, clothing, shelter and medicine, we would prove to them that America is not an imperialist tyrant, and Castro would be without his favorite punching bag.

Instead, we rely on sanctions which are doomed to fail, and attack our own citizens when they attempt to provide some equipment for Cuban hospitals. It is ludicrous for Americans to condemn Castro for causing suffering among his people when our policy of economic isolation does exactly the same thing.



Hi ho. Hi ho. Where did Dopey go?

FRANKLIN, Ind. (AP)—One of the seven dwarfs is missing.

While Sleepy slept, Happy smiled and Bashful looked away, Dopey disappeared.

The 2-foot concrete figure, which weighed close to 100 pounds, disappeared recently from the front yard of 77-year-old Ocie Swalm.

And now Dopey, who with his concrete six brethren and black-haired beauty Snow White have captivated passers-by for years, is the subject of a dwarf hunt.

"Actually, we've called in the reserves," said Franklin Police Chief Harry Furrer, chuckling. "But if Dopey were to reappear in the yard, we'd probably consider the case closed."

If you ask the statuery's owner, the whole sad affair has her, well, grumpy.

"I've been upset, with a headache for two days," said Swalm, who bought the statues for \$75 each over a period of years. She said they're irreplaceable because the manufacturer "broke the molds."

To be sure, there have been other incidents with the dwarfs. Doc got whacked in the head by a tree branch once—the paint on his hat is still chipped. And when the group of statues was closer to the street, Swalm said, she actually had them bound together with cables like a dwarf chain gang. The idea? If you tried to steal one, you'd have to steal them all.

But once she and her 47-year-old son, Phillip Haag, moved the figures closer to the house, Swalm said, she thought it would be safe to unshackle them. It seems she was wrong. Swalm has protected the remaining brood by moving them to her basement.

"We plan to put them back outside," Swalm said. "But the cables are going back on."

So far, police are checking out leads as they would in any other theft case.

"We're hoping they might have a change of heart and return Dopey," Furrer said. "It just doesn't sound right, Snow White and the Six Dwarfs."

Future thug gets early taste of judicial system.

BOSTON (AP)—Three-year-old Jonathan had better not make little Stacy cry anymore.

Drawing a line in the sandbox, a judge has issued a court order to make the little boy play nice.

"Maybe it's a little emotional, maybe it's overprotective, but you do what you can," said Stacy's mother, Antonina Pevnev, who filed for the restraining order, claiming Jonathan kicked her daughter in the head.

The incident took place while the 3-year-olds were playing in the Charles River Park playground on the Charles River. Jonathan had bullied Stacy before, Pevnev said.

Pevnev went to court, asking that Jonathan—and his mother, Margareth Inge—not even be allowed in the playground while her daughter was there.

"I fear that both these people are violent and she applauds and encourages Jonathan to be violent, to fight and kick and to behave in a manner not becoming a responsible child," Pevnev wrote in her complaint.

On Monday, Superior Court Judge Charles Spurlock decided that the mothers must keep the children supervised and separated while at the playground.

Violators can be held in contempt, fined or even jailed—in theory, at least. But since it would be tough to prove a 3-year-old knowingly violated a court order, chances are that only the grown-ups would get punished.

Howard Speicher, the boy's lawyer, called the whole thing ludicrous and said it should never have left the playground.

He added: "Maybe it's a sign, and this is coming from a lawyer, of how people are starting to rely too much on the courts to solve problems that just don't belong there." Inge did not return a telephone message seeking comment.

Where did Pevnev get the idea of the restraining order?

"The police," she said. "They said their hands were tied."

Pevnev has followed up the restraining order with an assault and battery complaint against Jonathan. Why? Again an officer suggested it, saying it would be a good idea to have something on file in case of future trouble.

Pevnev said she would have dropped legal action—which has cost her more than \$800—if Jonathan and his mother had apologized or maybe if Inge had just told her son not to pick on Stacy anymore. Instead, she said, Inge shouted at her after she scolded the boy.

"My daughter was bawling. ... (Inge was) screaming and yelling, 'How dare you talk to my child like that,'" Pevnev said. "I'm not a vindictive person. I'm not a vengeful person. ... This was the only way you could send this woman a message."

Are your cable rates too high? Call a cab

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—You can't take a cab from Algeria to France—but a piece of a cab can get you a little bit of French culture.

Some crafty Algerians have figured out a way to hook up electronic taxi fare counters to television sets to unscramble the signal for France's popular pay TV channel, Canal Plus.

Algerian media reported the phenomenon Sunday, along with the drawbacks:

The "price" of a cab fare appears on TV screens when the devices are hooked to television sets as decoders—and, naturally, cabbies are furious that their counters are being stolen.

Canal Plus, an entertainment channel, also is widely unscrambled illegally across Europe and southeast Asia.

It has an appreciative audience in Algeria, wracked for more than four years by a bloody Islamic insurgency that began in 1992. More than 40,000 people have been killed.

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



"I don't think we need to see any more of this house. You see, my husband and I throw a lot of stones."



Tibet's little lost Lama is on the lamb

BEIJING (AP)—The 6-year-old boy the Chinese government says is the reincarnated Panchen Lama is playing with toys and studying Buddhism and arithmetic, the China Daily reported Friday. But it did not say where he is. Chinese officials have refused to say whether the boy returned to Tibet after meeting with Chinese leaders in Beijing in January. Tibetan sources say the government plan to keep him in Beijing because many Tibetans do accept him.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's highest spiritual leader, recognized another 6-year-old in May as the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, who died in 1989. The Panchen Lama is Tibet's second highest spiritual leader.

The Chinese government accused the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile, of using his choice to press for independent Tibet and forced Tibetan monks to follow another child. The communist government claims only it has the authority to recognize the reincarnation, and the Dalai Lama does not.

The boy "is living amid an atmosphere alive with Tibetan culture," the man who looks after him was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

He did not disclose whether the boy was in Tibet. The seat of the Panchen Lama and the place where he traditionally is educated is the Tashilhunpo Monastery in Tibet. He studies the Tibetan language, arithmetic and Buddhist scriptures for about five to six hours every day, said Senqin, who is in charge of the boy's daily life and studies.

"The little Living Buddha is extraordinarily smart and cute, and he is doing well in his studies," Senqin said. "Nevertheless, he is still a child who should be overworked. He has to play games and needs some time for rest, and he often goes for a walk and is fond of toys."

Large-scale moving

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A 7-foot boa constrictor found in a rental van has been turned over to the Tennessee Tech biology department.

An unidentified couple moving from Port Orange, Fla., to Cookeville found the snake Wednesday inside the dashboard.

"We got a call from a house near here saying they had a U-Haul truck they had moved here in and they wanted us to come over and get the truck," said Jeff Null, who works at a service station that rents the vehicles.

"They had unloaded the truck and saw a snake up inside the dashboard," he said. "They hadn't noticed the snake inside the dash until they got home and got the truck unloaded. And they wanted the snake out of there."

Null called Jimmy Shock of Cookeville, who has experience working in pet stores and who owns some unusual pets himself, who pulled the snake out.

It was not clear how the snake got in the vehicle.