

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE COMMUTER

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2002

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 33 No. 13

Lease up on lounge?

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Playoff potential?

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Is that you John Wayne?

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Signs of Peace

Marchers protest Cold War logic

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WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND



High: 48° Low: 40°

Wednesday



High: 48° Low: 40°

Thursday



High: 51° Low: 37°

Friday



High: 49° Low: 38°

Saturday



High: 47° Low: 35°

Sunday

"The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco."
—Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

Source: Weather.com

PAGE TWO

OFF BEAT

Prisoner of love

A 34-year-old woman who counsels the convicts in Pennsylvania's prisons was giving one of them a lot more than advice. She engaged in some steamy lovin' with a convicted killer, six years her junior, which resulted in a child. Such activity with a prisoner is illegal, and she has been convicted. By way of explanation, her attorney said, "The inmate is a very compelling young man."

Don't you walk away

A man had a ferocious argument with his girlfriend in his car, which was parked at the entrance of the emergency room of a Portland, Ore., hospital. She ended the discussion by getting out of the vehicle and walking into the building. He followed. In the car. The vehicle smashed through the glass doors and went 30 feet down a hall before crashing into some vending machines. She escaped serious injury. He was arrested.

Don't just lie there

An Australian government agency has released guidelines aimed at improving working conditions for prostitutes. The watchdog group warned the ladies to guard against problems associated with repetitive movement.

Congratulations!

Due to a computer error, the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital in England sent letters to six elderly men informing them that they are pregnant.

Shortcomings

A man was found guilty of stealing \$102,000 from the Arkansas trucking company he worked at, and a court ordered him to pay it back at a rate of \$100 per month. The man is 56. It will take 85 years.

Did I miss anything?

Wildlife officials have placed a camera in the den of a bear and her cubs in Orsa, Sweden. Pictures will be broadcast on the Internet, so people can log on and watch them. The bears are currently hibernating.

—From KRT News

Buy tickets now to win prizes in annual Sweetheart Drawing

You have one more week to purchase tickets for the Family Resource Center's annual Sweetheart Drawing, which raises funds to support the center's activities. The prizes include something for everyone—skiing, flowers, candy, desserts, food, cruises, trips to the coast.

One ticket is \$1; six tickets go for \$5.

Various college staffers are selling tickets across the campus: Lynette Wynkoop (WEB); Brad Carman (Activities Center); Vern Smith (Computer Center); Leta Brown (Printing); Angie Klampe (Counseling); Rick Klampe (Science & Technology); Theo Montgomery (Math); Sharon Abbes (Math); Carol Raymundo (Counseling).

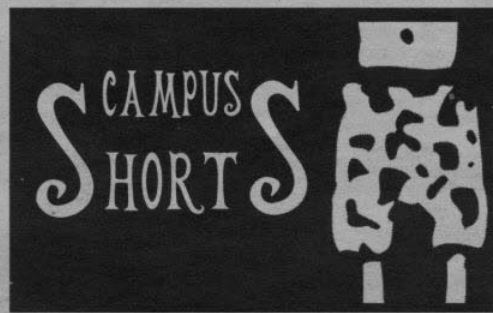
The drawing will be Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.

LB Loop driver faces tough times after delivering baby

Connie Kesterson, a regular driver on the LB Loop bus, has been experiencing health problems since delivering her baby, Dakota, last month. She is suffering from liver problems and has to travel to Eugene every day to get treatment and visit Dakota, her newborn, who is doing well and might be released to come home by March 14. Connie and her husband have not been able to work because of the travel and treatments. For those who know Connie and want to help out, donations can be made at the Courtyard Cafe, the Commons Cafeteria, and at local Washington Mutual banks.

LB faculty member making progress at Sacred Heart

Craig Hosterman, director of the Secondary Wood Products program at LBCC, is continuing to recover from the car accident that critically injured him and killed his wife, Cecile. Craig is now conscious, he has short-term memory loss and is making daily progress. He is still in ICU so cannot have visitors or flowers, but you can send cards to Sacred Heart Hospital, 1255 Hilyard Street, Eugene, OR 97401.



LB providing a one-day class to focus on aging family members

Changing Faces of Our Parents, a one-day class, will be presented Saturday, Feb. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. at the Albany Senior Center. It is taught by Donna Peterson, and discusses the challenges associated with longer lives and complex issues concerning specific aging family members. The class description is on page 49 of the Winter Term Schedule under Health and First Aid.

Hours reduced at Benton Center's counter and bookstore

Beginning Feb. 4, the Benton Center will be closing its registration counter at 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 4 p.m. on Friday. The bookstore will be open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday. A staff member is available for instructor assistance until 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Sign up in SL&L office for a ride to the Gingrich/Nader debate

On Feb. 21, the Student Programming Board will be sponsoring bus transportation to Portland for the debate between former Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and former Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The trip is open to all students and staff. Signup is in the Student Life & Leadership office. Cost is \$5 for students and \$15 for staff. "We see this event as an exciting educational oppor-

tunity for the students at LBCC," said Brett Furtwangler, who is coordinating the event for the Student Programming Board. For more information, contact Furtwangler at 917-4963 or come by the Student Union.

Armchair tour visits 10 top European theaters today

English instructor Peter Jensen will present a slide show and talk titled "Ten Theaters: From the Acropolis in Athens to the New Globe in London" at noon today (Feb. 6) in IA 232.

The slide show will take participants through Greek, Roman, medieval, Renaissance and modern theaters, with comments about their cultural uses and settings.

The free presentation is part of the Valley Writers Series. It is the result of an 11-week, seven country trip that Jensen and his wife Sandy, also an LBCC English instructor, took to Europe this past summer.

Randomology

A baby eel is called an elver, a baby oyster is called a spat.

A coward was originally a boy who took care of cows.

A group of crows is called a murder.

A group of officers is called a mess.

Chevrolet tried marketing a Chevrolet Nova in Spanish speaking countries—it didn't sell well because NOVA means doesn't go in Spanish.

Dr. Seuss coined the word nerd in his 1950 book *If I Ran The Zoo*.

Hairy people are called hirsute.



Photo by Jenn Geiger

Trolling for Students

Representatives from 13 colleges and universities set up tables in the Commons Wednesday afternoon to give advice to transfer students. The annual event is coordinated by the Career Center.

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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

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

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Advisor, Rich Bergeman.

CAMPUS NEWS

ASG seeks to maximize use of Student Union

Multicultural Center needs more space, lounge users want TV room

by Amanda Humphreys
of The Commuter

The Associated Student Government is investigating concerns from students that the Student Lounge and the Multicultural Center aren't able to meet student needs because of space and facility limitation.

According to Tammi Paul-Bryant students want a separate TV room in the lounge, a larger Multicultural Center and a computer room for campus clubs.

Bryant said the students using the lounge want a separate TV because they do not want to bother the other students who might be studying or sleeping. The students also want to be able to watch when and what they want on the television.

Susan Prock, Multicultural Center coordinator, said that she has checked the Student Lounge, and sometimes the television programs being watched would make it almost impossible for some students to study.

Paul-Bryant said that with the growing number of students at LBCC the computer labs cannot accommodate the needs of clubs and organizations, therefore



Students relax in the Student Lounge, which some say is not adequately meeting their needs.

they need a place with computer availability. The clubs and organizations need to be able to print what they need, and at this point it is a very difficult task, she said.

The Multicultural Center Coordinator, Susan Prock, explained that with the small

amount of space in the center it cannot fulfill its purpose. Students are having to abandon the center because of the overcrowding. She sees the center as "the living room of the world," and "it is like trying to crowd all of your extended family in your living room. It simply doesn't

work."

A frequent user of the center said, "The center just breathes relaxation. The atmosphere is open and nobody is there to judge me. It would be nice if the center was bigger because it is a shame that people are having to leave the center because of the

"It is like trying to crowd all of your extended family in your living room. It simple doesn't work."

—Susan Prock

small space."

At one point the center was adequate, but the Multicultural Center has grown dramatically in this year alone, said Prock.

Bryant said that this quarter would be a discovery period in which the ASG will investigate the concerns.

The lounge is being checked three times a day to see how the students are using it. A survey has been placed in the lounge for the students to fill out and help the ASG make decisions as to what is needed.

Bryant said so far no solutions to the space issues exist. She said that the Student Union is only four years old, so it would not be likely that another one would be built. Although an additional building on the campus is being considered, it may not be for the use of the Student Union. She said that she is looking over small spaces elsewhere on the campus, but it is not clear what solutions are possible.

Photo by Jenn Geiger

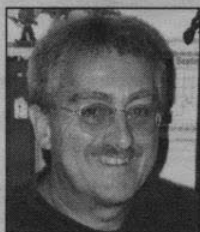
New Peace and Conflict course offered after 9-11

by Ellen Stark
of The Commuter

Students interested in alternatives to conflict on the national and international scale now have a class to turn to for instruction and insight. PS211 Peace and Conflict is a peace studies class designed to address the complicated issues of achieving peace in a conflict ridden world.

The class covers topics like current world-wide conflicts, the evolution of democratic societies, and the different aspects of positive and negative peace issues. Basically the class is meant to "encourage and support the discussion of non-violent means of pursuing justice in the face of oppression..."

Leading the discussion is Doug Clark, who decided it was time to teach a class specifically on Peace and



This is an interesting package because it addresses some of the more pressing problems, such as international relations."

—Doug Clark

Conflict after reading an article in the Oregonian about the growing interest in Peace Studies after 9-11. Although, for Clark the idea had started nearly 15 years ago in the Netherlands where he began studying Peace Education.

"The study of human behavior has many different approaches. This (Peace Studies) is an interesting pack-

age because it addresses some of the more pressing problems, such as international relations," commented Clark.

Students of every discipline are welcome to take the class. Clark encourages his students to participate actively in the daily discussions; sharing and hearing different perspectives is one of the main objectives of the class curriculum. As a result the classroom has become a forum for lively debates.

"I joined the class after participating in the Peace Studies club. As an English teacher in Thailand I have had the experience of seeing the aftermath of war. I've seen people living in mansions and, next to them, people living in boxes, and I'd like to do something about that before I check-out," commented Matt Martin, current Peace and Conflict student.

Speaker tells first Peace Forum that U.S. culture deals poorly with violence

by Thomas McGeary
of The Commuter

The first in a series of Peace Forums was held at the Multicultural Center Friday when student activist Ellen O'Shea spoke on violence in our culture.

O'Shea organized and participated in civil rights protests of the 1960s, trained with the Quakers and learned the art of peaceful protests.

Currently, she is working on her Ph.D., leading a study on the high rates of teen suicide in Yamhill County, Ore. Last Friday, O'Shea covered topics such as lack of health care for women, corruption in the prison systems, abuse of elders and cultural myths about poverty.

According to O'Shea, corruption in

the prison systems is an example of how violence is propagated in our culture because inmates are likely to commit more acts of violence after leaving the system, rather than being rehabilitated.

She argued that instead of dealing with violence in our culture, we have historically pushed it aside. The discussion focused on the recognition of violence and finding a productive way to deal with it.

The Peace Forum series will be held on consecutive Fridays until March 8. This coming Friday, the discussion will be led by local peace activists Ed Epley and Gene Russel, part of the daily peace vigil at the Benton County Courthouse that happens every night from 5 to 6.

Student guardsmen in Salt Lake City to serve on Olympic security force

by Mark Mackey
of the Commuter

An LBCC student has joined approximately 140 other Oregon Army National Guardsmen who are providing security for the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City this month.

Caven Hasley found out that he might be going to the Olympics during the second week of school. "I am disappointed about having to drop out," he said, "but I plan on returning for the spring term."

John Butterworth of the Corvallis Gazette-Times interviewed Hasley the day before he was to fly out on Jan. 25 and quoted the 21-year-old as saying,

"As far as we know, we will be pulling security for two buildings where they have the ice skating and hockey."

Hasley will join approximately 2,000 other guardsmen from across the United States to take part in Joint Olympic Security Task Force. Major General Alex Burgin, who is the adjutant general for the Oregon National Guard, told the soldiers in a letter to maintain a professional attitude, be courteous at all times, and to take pride in their personal appearance.

Hasley is single and is working on his associate's degree. He is a gunner in a M1 Abrams tank crew out of Hermiston.



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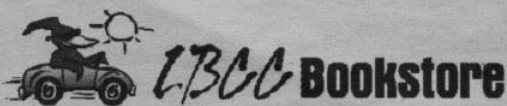
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LBCC Bookstore

LOCAL NEWS



TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Hundreds gather in Salem to march for peace and justice

Protesters marched on the State Capitol in Salem last Saturday, the culmination of the Oregon Peace Festival 2, organized by members of Oregon Peaceworks, Causa and other organizations working for peace and economic justice. Speaker Nadia Sindi, shown at right being introduced on the steps of the Capitol where the rally was held, works with Arab detainees since 9-11. She detailed stories of people whose lives have been affected by suspicion and racism.



Photos by Chad Richins

Coalition calls for saving Arctic Refuge from oil drilling

by Wendy Geist
of The Commuter

The U.S. Senate is going to vote on an energy bill in mid-February that could open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling and development.

"The next two weeks are crucial," Patrick Shannon, of the Alaska Coalition of Oregon, told about 15 people gathered to see a movie on the issue in Corvallis last Thursday. The Corvallis Environmental Center, WRENCH and ASOSU Environmental Affairs Task Force hosted the event.

The movie, called "Arctic Refuge: A Wilderness in Peril" which was produced by The Wilderness Society, focused on the fragile ecosystem of the coastal plain. The area is filled with permafrost in the winter, but it provides nesting grounds and food for animals in the spring, summer and fall. Grizzly bears and musk oxen also inhabit the plain. One hundred species of birds and 300,000 geese come to the area. About 130,000 to 200,000 Porcupine Caribou depend on the coastal plain for their lively hood.

Every year the caribou are born on the coastal plain and then the herd journeys hundreds of miles away to Canada's Porcupine River Region. When the females are ready to give birth in the spring, they migrate back to the coastal plain, where they have their calves within two weeks. This area offers them specific vegetation

"If we get Sen. Smith to vote for protection, it would help a lot."

—Patrick Shannon

that they need after their long journey. There are also fewer predators on the coastal plain during this period in early summer.

The movie explained that the opening of the coastal plain to oil drilling and development would endanger the lives of all of these animals. Physical disturbances by bulldozer tracks and the building of gravel roads would damage the delicate vegetation the caribou depend on. Drilling produces wastes of lead, diesel fuel and oil spills.

Oil drilling is already occurring on Alaska's North Slope. This last bit of coastal plain that has remained untouched is only 125 miles long and would represent only 5 percent of the length of the North Slope that is already being drilled. After the movie, Shannon presented some information. Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey have indicated that the amount of oil in this coastal region would supply America with only enough oil for six months. It would take 50 years to extract it and it would satisfy only 1 percent of projected U.S. demand. According to Shannon, the legislation of opening up the coastal plain to leasing for oil drilling and development has previously been attached to various

bills that didn't pass. Although now it is being discussed openly as part of the energy bill.

This is part of the energy bill that has already been accepted by the U.S. House of Representatives. The Senate will vote on the National Energy Security Act of 2001, Senate Bill 388 in mid- or late February.

Shannon said a recent polling of Oregonians stated that 60 percent are for protection of the coastal plain and 34 percent are for open drilling. Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden has already said he will support protection, but Republican Sen. Gordon Smith has not said yet which way he will vote.

"If we get Sen. Smith to vote for protection, it would help a lot," said Shannon, but he added that Smith is under a lot of pressure from President Bush.

Shannon said the best way to contact Sen. Smith is through a handwritten letter addressed to Sen. Gordon Smith, World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon, Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204; (503)326-3386.

Tina Empol, an LB political science major, who interned on State Rep. Barbara Ross' staff, agreed. "The more personalized letters get to the top of the pile," she said. Shannon said other ways to let the Senator know you want to protect the refuge are phone calls, letters to the editor and faxes or emails.

There will also be a phone bank. Contact Tracy Noel of the Corvallis Environmental Center at 753-9419 or Tracy_Noel@Corvallis.K12.OR.US.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tuesday nights are rockin' at Old World Deli



Open mic night at the Old World Deli brings newcomers and old favorites to the stage.

Story and Photos
by Chad Richins
of The Commuter

Open mic nights are a tradition in communities that have thriving music cultures.

Known for their wild range of content and unpredictability, open mic nights can sometimes be as entertaining as a train wreck and other times they can be moving, unforgettable expe-

riences, often in the same night. Sometimes you are surprised by the talent of the amateur performers and sometimes the lack of vocal or musical talent is made up for by other things, like humor, earnestness or emotion.

At the Old World Deli last Tuesday night, those present for their weekly open mic night got a little taste of all of that, with a good range of personalities, styles and material. From two young girls stumbling merrily through some old Beatles tunes, to the heartfelt strummings of a man playing a teary solo Clapton number, the musicians took their turns on the stage while people ate deli food, drank beer, socialized and even danced a bit.

The players sometimes seemed a little nervous. They

don't have the brash confidence of some professional musicians, or the cocky air of aspiring rock gods, but they often play songs that have meaning to the player and the audience, and they are able to express their feelings and ideas in song.

Sam Holmes, a professional musician who also plays Thursdays at Bomb's Away Cafe in Corvallis, said, "You're always going to hear some Neil Young, some Bob Dylan, but one night in here we heard some German folk songs, so you never know what you're going to get." Giving advice to would-be open mic players, Holmes said, "You can pretty much count on not being the best, or the worst, when you come in here."

Holmes shares hosting duties with two other players who are interested in keeping open mic night going at the Deli. Mark Taratoot is the improbable name of one of the musical hobbyists who enjoys the anxious thrill of getting up and playing in front of people and hosting.

According to Taratoot, you never know what to expect. "We've had accordions, piano players, poetry, flutes, comedians,"

"You're always going to hear some Neil Young, some Bob Dylan, but one night in here we heard some German folk songs, so you never know what you're going to get."
—Sam Holmes

said Taratoot. The styles of music played vary widely as well, including classical, improv, country, reggae and more.

The atmosphere of open mic night is supportive and non-judgmental, and anyone who feels up to it can come and play a 20-minute set, more or less, and try their hand at entertaining the crowd.

One of the hosts said that a high school girl came in one time to sing a song she had written for a friend that had died, and it was an emotional experience for everyone, so for some people who just have to express things, open mic night can be a good venue for that.

The deli has a casual atmosphere and serves some great soup and sandwiches. It is also the location of the Oregon Trail Brewery, so a good pint of beer is always available (for those of drinking age, of course).

Open Mic Night at the Old World Deli is Tuesday night from 7 to 9 p.m.



Scott Rullman (above) strums out an Eric Clapton tune at Tuesday's Open Mic night, which is hosted by Sam Holmes and friends (left).

Local brewery sponsors art and beer fest

by Megan Bates
of The Commuter

Oregon Trail Brewery is sponsoring the Art Crawl, a new event that features art and refreshments at several venues in downtown Corvallis on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 7.

The event gets underway at 5:30 p.m. at the Old World Deli, 341 S.W. Second St., where a variety of performers will keep the stage busy until 10 p.m.

In addition, the brewery, which is housed in the Old World Center, will host beer tasting downstairs and an exhibit of local artists on the third floor.

Among the downtown businesses participating in the Art

Crawl with exhibits of local artists are Pegasus Gallery, the New Morning Bakery, Squirrel's Tavern, the Majestic Theater, Herbs 'n Thyme, and the Beanery, which will also serve coffee samples. In addition, Corvallis Brewing Supply will serve free root beer floats.

Grer Martin of Oregon Trail Brewery is the one who put the event together in appreciation of local artists. Martin said she got this idea because many of her friends are artists in the Corvallis area. If all goes well, she hopes to make this a yearly event. "I just hope that a lot of people come to this first Art Crawl and have a good time at

this free event," Martin said.

The schedule for the stage at the Old World Deli includes:

- 5:30 to 6 p.m.—Sam Holmes on guitar.
- 6 to 6:30 p.m.—Johanna Beekman, playing original songs.
- 7 to 7:30 p.m.—Melanie Arid singing rock and blues.
- 7:30 to 8 p.m.—Janie's Fashion Show, featuring a local designer and belly dancer.
- 8 to 8:30 p.m.—Skarlet9 on the electric piano.
- 8:30 to 10 p.m.—Southtown Hounds, a well known local band that describes its music as "funked up, jammed out, aerobic groove blues."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Chamber Choir selected to perform in Tacoma

by Karalynn Arkills
of The Commuter

This spring the LBCC Chamber Choir has been invited to an event no community college has been to in 19 years.

Hal Eastburn, LBCC choir instructor, and his 21-member Chamber Choir have been invited to perform at the regional American Choral Directors Association, ACDA Convention, which is held every two years.

The Chamber Choir is one of seven choirs performing at the convention on March 8 in Tacoma, Wash.

This association invites only choirs of "real high quality," so it is an honor to be invited, said Eastburn. Because this is an invitation-only occasion, directors must send audition tapes as well as copies of the programs to the ACDA to be considered, said Eastburn, who has been sending audition tapes of the Chamber Choir for the past three years.

Eastburn said he is very proud of the Chamber Choir, pointing out that it is rare for a community college to be invited and that it has been 19 years since the last community college was invited.

Eastburn has chosen music related to birds and flight as the choir's theme for the performance. He says he has "always been fascinated by birds and the sounds they make."

Fascinating indeed are the songs he has selected—one is a 16-century French poem-style song titled "Le Chant Des Oyseaux" (The Song of the Birds).

He said the choir has been working hard and has even had weekend retreats to get in more practice.

"They are very focused and excited," Eastburn said.

The Chamber Choir will make a free performance in Takena Hall on March 4, as part of the two-week Humanities Festival.

After the convention the choir will perform the pro-

gram one last time at the end-of-the-quarter concert on March 14 at 8 p.m. in Takena Theater. The admission for the concert is \$4.

Members of the Chamber Choir are:

Sopranos—Melodie Carter of Adair Village; Michele Edminster of Albany; Danielle Palmer of Oregon City; Lucy Watts of Corvallis; Chelsea Westerfield of Albany.

Alto—Gwendolyn Angellford of Sheridan; Katherine Formen of Salem; Jeanine Gibeaut of Tangent; Yvonne Mortensen of Philomath; Sarah Wiebenson of Corvallis.

Tenor—Adam Grieve of Salem; Aaron Luckman of Albany; Seth McLagan of Corvallis; Paul Powell of Albany; Byran Smucker of Harrisburg;

Bass—Scott Ingham of Corvallis; Glen Kitelinger of Klamath Falls; Robyn McLeod of Peoria; Aaron Rumerfield of Lebanon; Chris Simpson of Salem; Tom Troyer of Brownsville.

Thousands to see world premiere of 'Twelfth Night for Kids'

by Twila Skelley
of The Commuter

Prepare to hear the laughter of children fill Takena Hall as LBCC hosts the 27th annual children's play next week.

More than 5,000 elementary school kids from all corners of the Mid-Valley will be bused to campus for four shows a week, from Feb. 12 through March 7.

This year's world premiere play has been developed from a series of internationally known children's books, originally written by Canadian elementary school teacher Lois Burdett. Her book was based on Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and is called "Shakespeare Can Be Fun: 'Twelfth Night' for kids."

Jean Bonifas, a part-time faculty member at LBCC and this year's guest director, approached Burdett about adapting her book into play format after having read the book. Bonifas spent about a year collaborating with Burdett and is excited about what this play has to offer.

"Twelfth Night" is a comedy about mistaken identities. "It can be easily thought of as a soap-opera in excess," said cast member San Dinkowitz, who plays the parts of Sebastian and Malvolio.

As Bonifas adapted the book for the stage she had to change a few words in the process. The book Burdett wrote rhymes the entire way through, as does



Photo by James Bauerle

Director Jean Bonifas coaches elementary school children during a rehearsal Saturday of "Shakespeare Can Be Fun: 'Twelfth Night' for Kids."

the play. However, where the book has "he said" and "she said," Bonifas had to do some clever rewording to make the dialog work on stage.

The play will feature limited scripted parts for the children in attendance. The children will be notified and instructed

about this feature before the performance begins. The cast members hope to get the children as involved as possible.

"The idea is for the children to experience the play on a whole other level," stated actress Catherine Salter, who is playing the part of Olivia.

There are eight cast members, most of whom play multiple parts. Besides Salter Dinkowitz, the cast includes Loreli Gutelius, who plays Viola and Cesario; Jolene Neufeld, who plays Maria and a sailor; Scott Kingston, who plays four parts: Sir Andrew, Servane-Orsino, Feste and a sailor; Patrick Fitzmorris, who plays Antonio and a sailor; Matt Helget, playing the part of Orsino; and Morgan Alexander, who plays the Captain and Sir Toby.

"We want for the children to see how each cast member can play several different parts," said Bonifas. The goal of this year's director and cast members is to introduce as many children as possible to drama.

"Drama is an art form that many kids might have not had the chance to experience yet, said Alexander. "I know it has helped me to express myself, and I hope the kids can walk away with an understanding and excitement about drama."

Director Bonifas has personal goals as well; she hopes as a director to always be fun and entertaining for her cast members. Ticket sales begin Feb. 4 for the public performances, which are Sunday, Feb. 24 and Sunday March 3, at 3 p.m. Performances for the children will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Feb. 12 to March 7.

Dragon Dance, trip to Asian Fest planned next week

by Heather Bristol
of The Commuter

The Multicultural Center and the Student Life and Leadership will be sponsoring a Dragon Dance across campus and a trip to the upcoming Asian Festival in Eugene. This traditional dance will be at noon on Feb. 12.

Weighing approximately 130 lbs, the brightly colored paper mache', fabric dragon will be held up by eight people as they prance and shout good fortunes. The Dragon Dance started centuries ago in China to celebrate the lunar new years. Most

dragons were decorated with the Chinese colors that symbolize good luck: gold and red.

Following the dance, a free Asian theme lunch will be provided to the first 50 people. It will be held in the Board Room of the College Center.

On Feb. 16, a van will be going to Eugene for the Asian Festival. It will be leaving Takena Hall at 10:30 a.m. and returning at 4:30 p.m.

The festival will include food demonstrations, folk dance, pottery, basketry, fish printing, origami, a Chinese Lion Dance, martial arts exhibits and the Dragon Dance.

For more information or to sign up, stop by the Student Life and Leadership building. Currently there are 13 open seats left in the van.



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Student Life and Leadership
Office, 917-4472,
for more information



FUNNY PAGE

THE GONGFARMER

BY RANDY REGIER



CLASSIFIEDS

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Inclusion Assts. (Albany) #1226. If you are in the education program and would like to work with children, these jobs are perfect! You need to have some experience with preschool children. \$8/hr/20hr/wk. You can indicate which county or city you are most interested in. Contact Carla in Student Employment (Takena 101) to get more information.

Administrative Asst. (Albany) #1219. If you have good secretarial, management & communication skills and an expertise in QuickBooks, this 30-hour a week job is for you. Located in Tangent, pays \$9/hr, or more DOE. See Student Employment (T101) for your referral on this great opportunity!

Loan Processor and Teller Positions (Corvallis) #1216 & 1227. These full-time positions are in Corvallis at two different branches. Jobs are hard to come by, so don't wait! See Carla in the Career Center (T101) before these jobs are filled!

LBCC CWE Intern (Hewlett-Packard) #1217. This great part-time, flexible job is 20hr/wk. and provides great work experience in the corporate world. If you have completed one term at LBCC, can commit to the job for one year (including summer) and are interested in working in a library environment, see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (T101) to get your referral!

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention Students: Located in the Learning Resource Center are many different scholarships. Some of the latest available applications which have just recently come in are: • Order of the Eastern Star • Essay contest - Atlas Shrugged • National Italian Foundation • St. Elizabeth Health Services • Southern Oregon University • Meridian Park Hospital Auxiliary - Geraldine Stephenson • Oregon Logging Conference • American Water Works Association/ Pacific Northwest Division • Oregon Fire Chief's Association - Neil Hamilton Memorial • Pre-nursing and Nursing Scholarship • To find out if you are eligible and what the requirements are for each of these and others which are available, visit the LRC 212 today.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

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

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



Horrific nightmares haunted young Medusa. Particularly troubling was the recurring 'Duck, Duck, Mongoose' dream.

GIVE THANKS FOR

#1255: YOU CLEAN YOUR ROOM AFTER MONTHS OF NEGLECT--
I CAN SEE FLOOR!!
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Why, thank you, I'm kind of a neat freak.
Yes!!

#1256: YOU SKILLFULLY PARALLEL PARK INTO A REALLY TIGHT SPOT IN FRONT OF A LARGE CROWD.. ON THE VERY FIRST TRY!!
Nicky don, bro.
YES!!

#1257: YOU ROLL INTO A PIZZA SHOP JUST BEFORE IT CLOSES--
WHY? WHA? YES!!
- & THEY GIVE YOU 3 SLICES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE JUST TO GET RID OF IT.

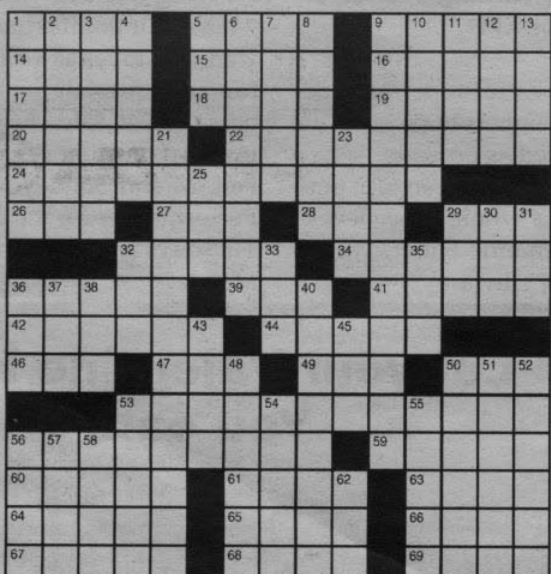
#1258: THAT STUPID CAR PARKED OUTSIDE YOUR BEDROOM WINDOW WITH THE SENSITIVE ALARM--
Boop Boop Boop Boop
EH EH EH EH

-- GETS NATURALLY TAKEN CARE OF...
ZOT CRASH

#1259: YOU SIT THRU A 2 1/2 HOUR FILM SURROUNDED BY LITTLE KIDS--
Whoa, this Harry Potter stuff is like Ritain!!
-- & THEY DON'T MAKE A SOUND!!

Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Regarding
5 McKinley and Cantor
9 Ready to swing
14 Wait a minute!
15 Coarse sea weed
16 Actress Shearer
17 Male parent
18 Wicked
19 Heartbreak
20 Unable to act
22 Degradation
24 Movie mouse
26 AOL, e.g.
27 Debtor's letters
28 Caspian
29 Education-minded grp.
32 Fencer's foils
34 Impatient interjections
36 Total
39 Sleepy's pal
41 Cars
42 Time to be home by



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02/04/02

- 44 Outmoded
46 & so forth
47 Can opener
49 humbug!
50 Pitcher's stat
53 Jacketless state
56 Will Hutchins TV Western
59 Rain on a winter parade?
60 Angry
61 Authorize
63 Poop
64 New Guinea
65 Force unit
66 Doe or stag
67 Snoozed
68 Pop
69 Messes up

- DOWN
1 St. Francis' birthplace
2 Work shifts
3 Ripped
4 Musical drama
5 Likable '50s candidate?
6 Depreciated
7 Excuse

- 8 Flattens on impact
9 McCourt's Pulitzer Prize winner
10 Crooner Mel
11 Soft French cheese
12 Prayer ending
13 Roosevelt follower
21 One who can hit, field and run
23 One of a flight
25 Punter's digit
29 Light touch
30 A pair
31 Nincompoop
32 Pixie
33 Concession
35 Coloration
36 Cool down
37 Pecan or cashew
38 Stretch of a circle
40 Taxi rank
43 Homeless child
45 Actor Mineo

Solutions



- 48 Ponders moodily
50 More level
51 Sailor's jacket
52 John Jacob and Mary
53 Stopped slouching
54 City on Honshu Island
55 Slur over
56 Mini drinks
57 Caspian feeder
58 Gawky
62 Truly

THE ADVENTURES OF SKULY BY WILLIAM MORTON ©MMI A FIST FULL OF SKULYS

SPAGHETTI WESTERN.

THE SKULL WITH NO NAME.

THE GOOD.

THE BAD.

THE UGLY.

PALE RIDER.

UNFORGIVEN.

THEY HUNG 'IM HIGH.

CAMPUS NEWS

Henderson ends five years in student government next month

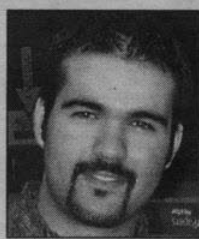
by Alexis Urhausen
of The Commuter

John Henderson is sad to end his year as Associate Student Government (ASG) president.

Henderson has been involved in student governments for the past five years, but his term as ASG president comes to an end this spring. In high school he was sophomore class president, junior class president and student body president his senior year. Henderson was also LBCC's ASG vice-president two years ago and ASG president this past year.

Learning how politics are run in a school setting as well as a government setting was Henderson's greatest benefit. He also liked being a voice for all students and getting their problems and opinions out to the school administration.

The most rewarding parts of the presidency for Henderson were getting the students involved, meeting influential people in the community and seeing the



"The leadership experience . . . will further my abilities to be a more valuable person in the real world."

—John Henderson

changes the ASG board made to make school easier for students. Henderson said the elections seemed to draw in more students when well publicized. Twenty to 30 applications are usually given out, but fewer than half come back. It was because of the year he spent as ASG vice-president that Henderson decided to run for president. Being vice-president helped him gain valuable experiences. He learned how to run the ASG office and felt well qualified for the position of president.

The overall experience has been great for Henderson,

although he wishes he could have one more term to get more done. He thinks the ASG board got a lot accomplished this year. It built a relationship between the other clubs and co-curricular programs, sponsored many events (like the World Affairs Series) and began the process of getting a 9-11 memorial put up on campus.

If Henderson could change one thing about his year as president, it would be to be more involved in ASG activities. He also would have liked to see more student involvement in general.

"The leadership experience and the experience of working with people have been more educational than what I've learned in college," he said. "And it will further my abilities to be a more valuable person in the real world."

All ASG and SPB positions offer a six-credit scholarship for students taking at least six credits, or a 12-credit scholarship for student taking 12 or more credits.

Valentine flowers on sale in Tadena Hall

by Lydia Eaton
of The Commuter

It's that time of year again, time for the annual Valentine flower sale organized by Student Life & Leadership (SL&L) for students to buy flowers, and have them delivered to their sweethearts on Valentines Day.

This is an LBCC tradition for more than 20 years. SL&L students dress up in tuxedos and deliver flowers to your sweetheart on Valentines Day from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Amy Alexander, coordinator

of the flower sale, LBCC student said, "This is an opportunity for students to buy flowers for their sweetheart and have them delivered here on campus." Alexander also said that this event is something that staff and students really enjoy.

Not only do staff and students get involved, but the surrounding community helps out as well. This year, flowers were purchased at a reduced rate from Lovelace Floral and the Tuxedos are donated by Mr. Tuxedo, both of Albany.

Flowers are now on sale, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Tadena Hall. Carnations are being sold for \$1.50 each or six for \$7.00. This year roses are being offered as well. Roses are available for \$2.00 each with a limit of six per person.

SL&L expects to sell 750 carnations and eight-dozen roses. Flowers will be delivered only on campus. So don't forget your sweetheart and stop by Tadena Hall to purchase flowers and help support your school.

Culinary Arts serves Sweetheart Dinner

by Tracie Love
of The Commuter

Treat that special someone to a full course meal on the day of love, which comes but once a year.

Valentine's Day is fast approaching, and once again as usual, some will be left scattering to find the perfect gift for their special person. Though this may not get you out of the dog house, it could be a good start.

On Thursday, Feb. 14, a Sweetheart's Dinner will be held in the Alsea/Calapooia Room of the College Center at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be \$20 per person and includes mushroom bisque and mesclun greens with kiwi-poppo dressing, and your choice of quail with wild rice pilaf and artichoke, or lobster stuffed beef tenderloin with black-and-blue

potatoes, snow peas and carrots. A red wine or sparkling cider is also offered. For dessert, have your choice of lemon cheesecake or chocolate mousse in a choco-

late tuxedo cup.

Tickets are available in the Conference Services Office, CC-214. For further information, call 917-4391.

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SPORTS PAGE

3-on-3 tournament lights up LB gym

by Greg Cero
of The Commuter

In what was said would be the most exciting 3-on-3 tournament ever at Linn-Benton, coordinator Josh Johnson lived up to his words.

The tournament featured high-flying dunks, good shooting, and a hard-nosed nature that can only come through competitive play.

Six teams were featured in all, but one was scratched right at tip-off due to identification problems.

The tourney was double elimination with games played to 21.

The eventual winners went straight through the bracket never losing and finishing with an impressive 4-0 record. That team consisted of sophomores Levi Hutchings, Norm Grock, Shawn Bowlin and potential OSU walk-on JR Brusseau.

"All in all, it was pretty good competition, but hopefully more players will turn out next time around," said Brusseau.

The winners won 21-13 in the final game and beat the same team 21-3 in an earlier round handing them both losses. Hutchings and Brusseau kept the games energized with emphatic alley-oop dunks, while Grock and "Nasty Spin" Bowlin

were able to keep things under control inside the paint.

"I thought it was a good tournament and Josh did a great job of keeping things together for us players," said Hutchings, "Hopefully, some more people will get involved next time, but we still had a lot of fun."

At one point things seemed to get out of hand as one of the teams needed to be restrained and were eventually disqualified. They and some fans had been jawing at each other during games.

As one fan points out, some players just need to play the game and worry about themselves.

"What we had here today was a case of three players who were not good at basketball," says Dominic Robertson, sophomore, "Deep inside though, they thought they were."

Athletes who play the game know how to be mentally tough and can deal with adversity. They know how to block out remarks from fans and other players, but there are many non-players out there who can't do that."

Those interested in participating next year should talk to the Student Life and Leadership office early in Winter Term next year to get signed up.

Super Sunday tradition carries on

by Jered Reid
of The Commuter

Every year on the last Sunday of January, (not counting this one), millions of Americans and people from around the world gather around a television to celebrate America's unofficial holiday: Super Bowl Sunday.

The championship game of the National Football League (NFL) is played by the winners of the league's two conferences.

But the Super Bowl has become more than just a game, it has become arguably the largest sporting event in the world.

It is estimated that over half of all Americans watch the Super Bowl, and some three-quarters of a billion people watch the game worldwide. Among televised sports events this game dominates the ratings, listing 21 times as a top-50 rated broadcast.

Super Bowl Sunday not only offers a competition on the field, but also in the worlds of advertising, television and entertainment. Companies paid an average of \$2.5 million for a 30-second commercial during Super Bowl XXXVI. Television stations that are not airing the game use the Super Bowl as a gimmick, airing Super Sunday movie marathons and some stations even competing with the Super Bowl for halftime entertainment. Did you watch U2's live performance in the Louisiana Superdome or did you watch Playboy playmates compete on NBC's Fear Factor?

The Super Bowl generates millions of dollars not only for the league, teams, and players, but also for businesses, bars, and the host city. New Orleans hosted last Sunday's game for the record ninth time and its yearly economic income is guaranteed to go up at least \$50 million.

The NFL and AFL were originally two separate leagues, and amidst some controversy, finally merged in 1966 eventually becoming

the NFL in 1970 with two conferences: the NFC and the AFC. The two leagues established a style similar to today's Major League Baseball: both leagues were separate, but would play for a world title at the end of the regular season. The game was first referred to as "The World Championship." The second year brought the name Super Bowl into use, along with many pregame festivities.

The third year officially adopted the title "Super Bowl," setting the stage for the unique sports spectacle we have today. The numbering of the games centered some confusion, as the regular season and the Super Bowl were played in different years. Roman numerals answered this question, bringing this great sport through the years culminating into Super Bowl XXXVI, played on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2002.

On this Super Bowl Sunday, The AFC New England Patriots upset the St. Louis Rams. With this victory the score between the two conferences now stands at 20-16, in favor of the NFC. Last Sunday's game turned out to be a great battle, the Patriots demonstrating surprising ability against the heartily favored NFC Rams. The first three quarters developed slowly in the Patriots favor. The fourth quarter brought fans to the edge of their seats, however, as the Rams surged to tie the game and with seven seconds left, the Patriots' Adam Vinatieri made the game winning field goal from 48 yards out. This is the first time in Super Bowl history a kick has decided the game. But the close score was an anomaly. Out of the 36 Super Bowls, only 10 have been decided by a touchdown or less. So why is the game such a big deal?

Because it is a great excuse to party with family and friends, to eat food, watch football, and go find which person in your life has the largest television set.

Toa wins billiards tournament

by Eric Berggren
of The Commuter

Jimmy Toa won first place in last Wednesday's annual billiards tournament in the LBCC Recreation Room. Finishing second was Scott McKinnon. Thirteen LB students competed in the tournament in single-round elimination matches. Toa won a

pool cue and the Student Life & Leadership office will cover his \$20 entry fee for the Region 14 finals at OSU's Memorial Union on Feb. 15-16. McKinnon also won a pool cue. Along with Toa, college students from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Canada will also participate in the finals.

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February 21, 2002

COMMONS
Menu

Feb. 6 - Feb. 12

Wednesday

Meatloaf w/ Mushroom Gravy
Fish & Chips
Penne Pasta w/Sundried Tomatoes
Dilled Potato Chowder Soup
Chicken and Wild Rice Soup
Vegetarian Delight Salad

Thursday

Pork Piccata
Coq au Vin
Falafel Sandwich/Pita Bread
Oxtail Soup
Beef Vegetable Soup
Chicken Taco Salad

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Turkey Cutlet
Flemish Beef Stew w/Buttered Noodles
White Spinach Lasagna
Roasted Vegetable Chowder Soup
Borscht Soup
Chef's Special Salad

Tuesday

Garlic Chicken
Vietnamese Steak Wraps
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Won Ton Soup
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January 24th & 31st

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CORVALLIS LOCATION ONLY

SPORTS PAGE

LB in running for playoff spot

Lady Runners collect 19 steals and get 34 bench points in win

by Jered Reid
of The Commuter

For the second time this season, the Linn-Benton Lady Roadrunners beat Southern Division opponent Portland on Saturday

The host Lady Runners stole the ball 19 times from the visiting Panthers to help them edge out the game 59-56.

Coach A.J. Dionne got 34 points off her bench, while Portland only had two. The Runners also scored 11 points of second chances, while limiting the Panthers to only three points. The 21 turnovers that PCC committed also gave the LB women 17 points.

The Lady Runners were led by sophomore Christin Pass, who scored 16 points, in her 28 minutes of play. 5-foot-4 guard Christy Rickert, scored 13 points while coming up with a season-high seven steals. Freshman forward Robyn Ward lead the Runners on the glass with nine, and also came up with 13 points.

The Runners are now 7-14 overall, with a 4-4 record in their division. That puts them into a three-way tie for fourth place, which is the cutoff position for the playoffs. LB goes on the road to face Mt. Hood and Lane before coming home for a four-game home-stand to finish the season.

Women shoot 48 percent but still fall hard to league-leader Umpqua

by Jered Reid
of The Commuter

The Lady Runners committed 32 turnovers that led to 46 Umpqua points in last Wednesday's NWAACC Southern Region women's basketball action, which saw LB fall to the top team in the region, 107-69.

Linn-Benton shot 48 percent from the field and 5-of-14 from behind the arc, but it was not enough to overcome the Timberwomen. Umpqua had three of its players combine for 79 points and shot over 50 percent from the floor, making 11 three-point field goals. They were also able to out-rebound the Lady Runners 34-24, resulting in 17 second-chance points to the Runners' three. Umpqua also stole the ball from LB 18 times.

The Timberwomen went into halftime leading 47-31 and then blew the game open in the second half, scoring 60 points to secure the victory.

Coach A.J. Dionne had three players finish in double figures. Breanna Johnson scored a team-high 13 to go with her five rebounds.

Sophomores Christy Rickert and Rebecca Torresdal also had double figure games—Rickert scored 12 points and Torresdal came up with 10. Rickert also had six assists to lead the Roadrunners in that category.

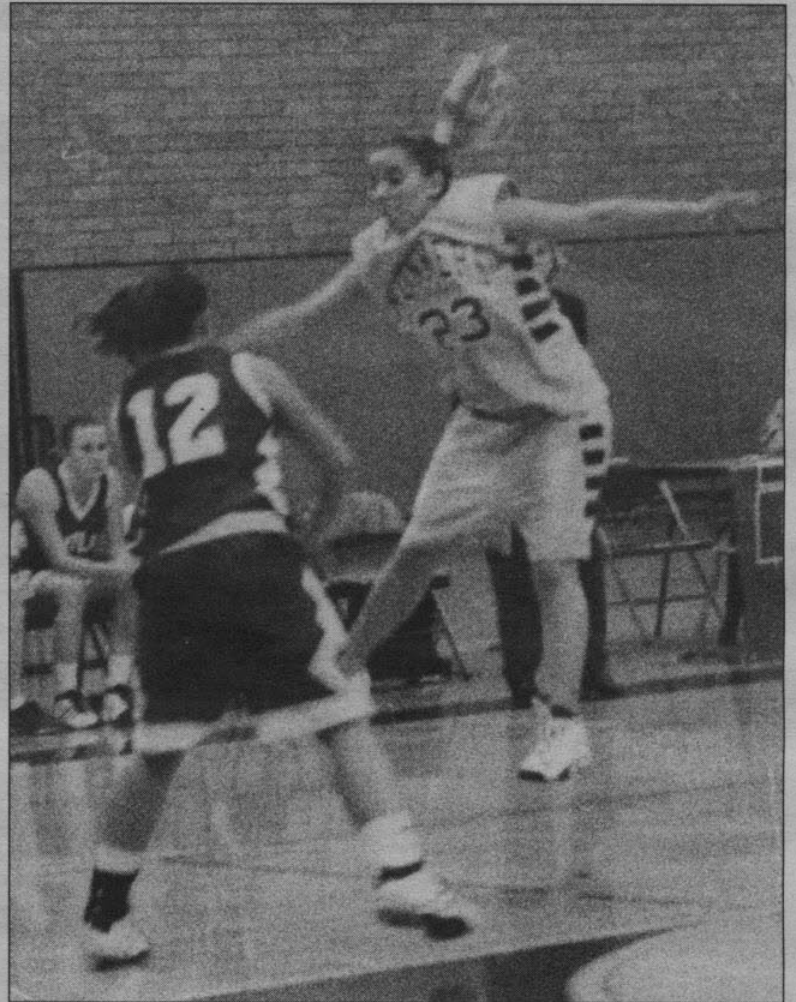


Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

Mandi Turner applies defensive pressure in the Lady Runners' victory over PCC Saturday in the Activities Center.

Men tied for third after back-to-back victories

LB puts up a fight down to the wire to win in last two minutes

by Jered Reid
of The Commuter

Nate Marks went six-for-six from the free-throw line in the closing minutes of last Saturday's game to help the Roadrunners to a victory over Portland, 84-80.

In the final portions of the second half, the teams were only four points or less apart. The Roadrunners were beating the Panthers by 13 mid-way through the second half, but Portland climbed back and was within two with 2:30 left to play. But with four seconds remaining, 6-foot-6 David Michaelis went to the line and calmly sank two free throws to secure the game for his team.

Both teams had 44 rebounds, but it was the Roadrunners who used them to their advantage. LB got 16 points off second-chance efforts, while Portland came away with only two. Three LB players had 24 rebounds—Michaelis had nine, Kraig Schuler eight and Paul Grock seven.

Linn-Benton's bench also came up big for the second game in a row, out-scoring the opposing bench 36-10. Michaelis came off the bench to lead the team in scoring with 20, rebounds with nine and assists with seven. Garret Hollen added 12 points.

All together, Coach Randy Falk had six of his players score in double figures: Schuler scored 14 points on the night, while Junction City graduate Peter Nunn,

scored 12. Both Grock and Marks finished the game with 11.

Linn-Benton is now 10-11 overall, and 5-3 in their division, putting them in a tie for third place.

LB bench pours in 61 points as Runners race past Umpqua

by Jered Reid
of The Commuter

Garrett Hollen and David Michaelis drained a combined eight 3-point field goals to lead Linn-Benton over Umpqua 86-79 in Wednesday's NWAACC Southern Division men's basketball contest.

The Roadrunners had a great night shooting from behind the arc, going 11

for 18, for a total of 33 points. LB ended up shooting 52 percent from the field, while Umpqua only shot 39 percent.

Hollen led the team in scoring with 27 points, while Michaelis added 21 points and eight rebounds.

Both players came off the Roadrunner bench for their effort, a bench that was red-hot during the game and proved crucial in the LB victory. Head Coach Randy Falk saw his bench out-score Umpqua's bench 61-8.

Blayne Watkins also came off the bench to make two 3-point field goals and score 13 points. LB also had stellar performances from starters Kraig Schuller, who had 12 points, and Paul Grock, who grabbed a team-high 16 rebounds and blocked five shots.

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around Asian
culture

This annual event is one of the largest Asian Festivals in the United States. Transportation and lunch provided for the first 12 students who sign up in the Student Life and Leadership office, in the Student Union Building.



It's time for the 'big' question

by Patrick Berry
of The Commuter

Ah, tribulation in the year 2001; say it isn't so. A presidential scandal, a terrorist attack; all on our beloved American homeland! And the response of our country? Billboards along major highways proclaiming "In God We Trust" and "God bless America." As a member of the "Logical Freethought Fellowship," a secular student club on LBCC campus, I am compelled to provide a response.

The more appropriate question to ask is; why are they asking God to help them?

Seriously, the radical Islamic terrorists claim godly inspiration, and in response American western religion goes right back to the same god to ask for salvation. Yes, the same god! Both Islam and Judeo-Christian morals, ethics, and source material stem from one pivotal figure in their tradition--Abraham; more precisely Abraham's estranged sons Isaac and Ishmael. Basically we have a religious sibling rivalry. Islam is breaking Christian's toys and they both are asking the "Parent in the Sky" for support of their cause.

Today, however, I want to go even further back and present an opinion--the fable of Adam and Eve as progenitors of humanism.

It works like this. Humanists propose to explore humanity in all its worth, while questioning authority to avoid abuse. I consider the Adam and Eve fable as presenting those humanist qualities.

They explored their boundaries and refused to accept blind doctrine. They took a chance to see if they could be better. They questioned the ideas of authority in their maturing nature, and this is a natural part of human maturity.

The biblical narrative provides Adam and Eve a wonderful opportunity, yet they are not to accept it: "Do not eat fruit from the tree of knowledge lest you actually learn something and think for yourself!" They are to stay servile and attendant to authorities wishes. So in essence they are oppressed from the outset of their creation.

The Authority/Creator intends them to be nothing more than simple-minded hominids picking the weeds of his garden. This is a common theme throughout the collection of short stories edited into what is now called "The Bible."

I would ask where in any of that does it signify a fall of humanity? It demonstrates not a fall but a new beginning, a rise of self-awareness, independence, the proper and natural progression of a child-parent environment.

Yes, there will be challenges when you leave home for the wild yonder, yet the reward of self-sufficiency is far better than the alternative, oppressive complacency. Religiosity needs to shake free from those bonds of misery still enshrined in the "Garden of Eden" myth. They need to embrace the opportunity to be free-thinking people, to question their environment, even questioning their creator, whoever that may be.

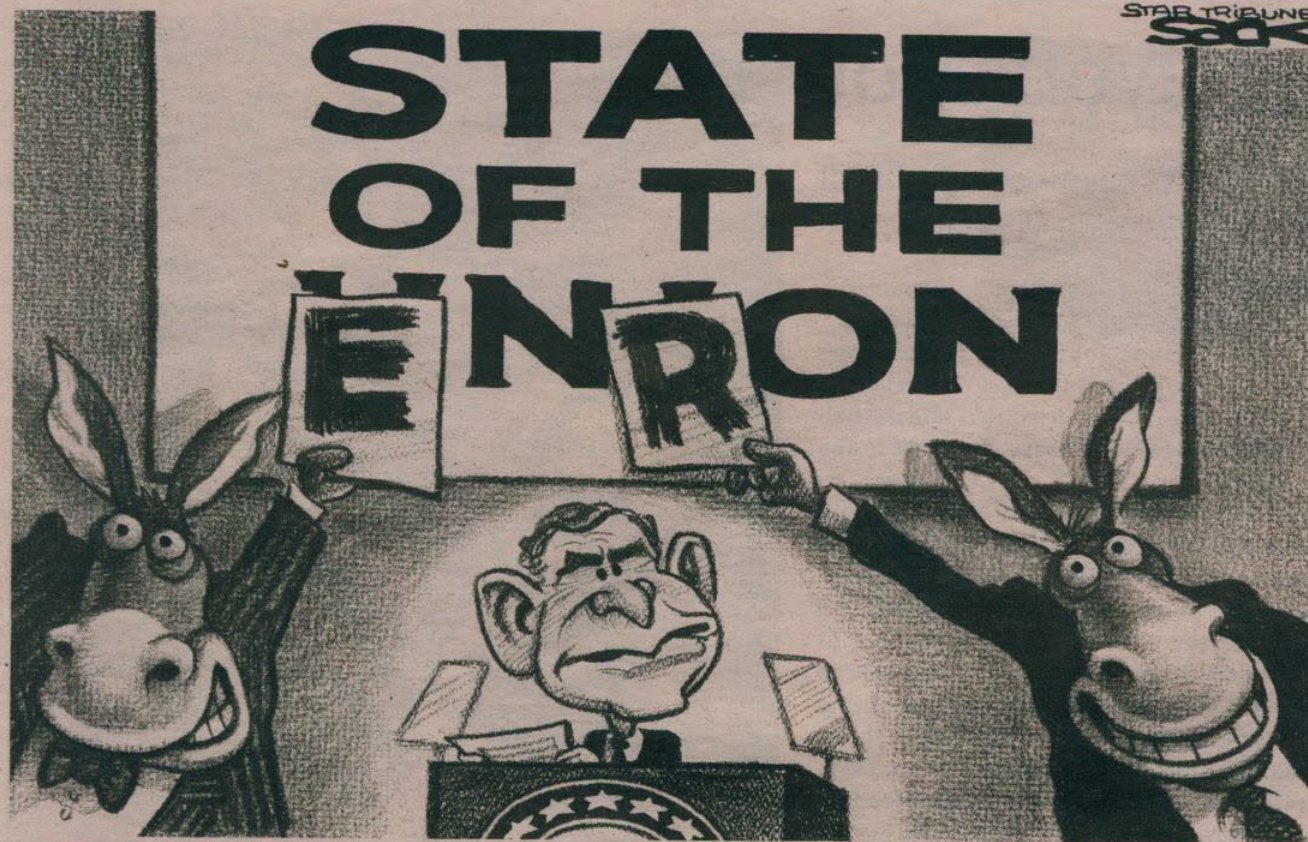
The Logical Freethought Fellowship welcomes any and all students, staff and associates of LBCC. For more information and discussion, please visit the LFF during our meeting times in the Industrial Arts building, room IA212, Mondays at 10 a.m. and Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their opinions. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome.

All letters received will be published, space permitting, unless they are considered by the editor to be potentially libelous or in poor taste.

Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.lbcc.cc.or.us



'MILKING THIS ISSUE TO DEATH, ARE WE, FELLAS?..'

COMMENTARY

Bush draws from Reagan play book to paint dangerous picture of the world

by Chad Richins
of The Commuter

The reaction to President Bush's recent State of the Union address has been mixed, with some applauding his characterization of North Korea, Iran and Iraq as an "Evil Axis," and others who condemn the speech as irresponsible and dangerous.

Personally, I think he wants to be like his dad's old boss, Ronnie Reagan. He wants to be remembered when he's gone by misty-eyed defense contractors and nostalgic multi-billionaires as the goodest good ole boy whoever came down the pike.

Is he feeble in the head? I don't know. I do know he doesn't write his own speeches, but doesn't he read them before he speaks? In all my years of listening to what presidents say and watching what they do, I have never before heard a more perplexing speech. Or, for that matter, a more confusing explanation as the one offered by Donald Rumsfeld at a press briefing the night after the president's speech. According to Rumsfeld, "He said exactly what he said. He said it well. He didn't suggest anything. If there was anything about last night's speech, it was that it had near perfect clarity."

Like I said, I have never heard anything like this, and I remember Ronald Reagan.

Ronald Wilson Reagan, who coincidentally or apocalyptically, had six letters in each of his names (666). Reagan called Russia an "Evil Empire," much as Bush has just called several quite un-allied nations, an "Evil Axis."

Why Bush feels the need at this point in our nation's history to wag his finger at North Korea and Iran saying they are evil, is beyond me. Iraq, sure, they're begging for it, but these other two countries have been making overtures of peace and cooperation recently. Iran wants trade status, and the leader of North Korea, judging by his outfit, wants to be Elvis--so why alienate them?

The similarities to Reagan are many and well documented. The two men, viewed at the peak of their power, seem to be charismatic, likeable and easy going: quintessential 'good ole boys' who just want America to be the best we can be.

As good as Reagan was and as good as Bush is at telling America what we want to hear, their actions have been irresponsible, their policies counterproductive and their values completely un-American. Reagan's

administration was bad for the American farmer, bad for blue collar workers, bad for small business, bad for the deficit, terrible for foreign policy and now the current president seems to be working from the same play book.

If Bush has problems with repressive regimes like North Korea, he needs to take a look at our own government, which in 2000 had almost 6.5 million people under some form of correctional supervision including probation, prison, jail, and parole (Department of Justice statistics.) If Bush has a problem with countries that sponsor terrorism, take a look at our buddies in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

It is just too much for me. It is like being in the back of a limo driven by a chimpanzee toward a cliff. That this great country should trust its operation to such a gaggle of self-aggrandizing, smugly ignorant, chuckle-headed rubes is disgusting to me. This country is becoming a sideshow. A tent full of circus freaks strutting across the world stage.

Aren't you all just sick of this crap? Don't you want good government, good legislation, a stable

economy? Don't you want your tax money to be spent wisely? Wouldn't it be nice to have a leader we can all look up to again?

I know what I want. I want food without E. coli and water without dioxin. I want for no more mothers and daughters to get breast cancer, and no more kids to die in cars. I want technology to work for people and I want a world without anthrax and depleted uranium shells and the fear of dying when I get on a plane. And, while I'm at it, I want MTV to show music videos damn it!

What I don't want is to have to go fight in North Korea because Bush was feeling especially punchy one day and declared war. He doesn't have to be Thomas Jefferson, but anyone could tell you that it's not a good idea to piss off dictators who have nothing to lose.

It could be that our country has just taken too many wrong turns, we're too off the ball, we've gotten too fat, slow and blind. Once upon a time we had character and heart, we had the moral high ground of being a colony breaking away from oppressive rule, but now we have become just as bad as the King of England back then, pushing everybody around.

George W. Bush and his John Wayne talk aren't the answer. Sure we need to stand up for ourselves, but we also need to become world citizens, helping everyone see that our values are good, and that we can share the wealth, and build a better world through cooperation, not mutual fear and the threat of horrible destruction.



Chad Richins

It is like being in the back of a limo driven by a chimpanzee toward a cliff.