

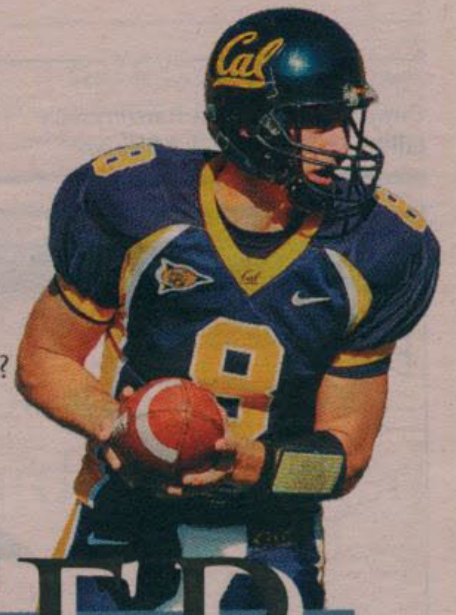


REMEMBER EARTH DAY?

As Earth Day reaches it's 35th year, The commuter takes a moment to reflect on 35 years of festivities, this years happenings & what you can do to help out.
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WHO WILL GO #1?

The 49er's are on the clock for this years draft, but who will they take with the first selection?
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THE COMMUTER

Wednesday, April 20, 2005
A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Volume 36 No. 20

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Cancer claims life of LB's Kirk

Sherry Majeski
The Commuter

After a long battle with cancer, Marv Kirk, an LBCC math instructor, passed away on April 10.

According to many, Marv Kirk was worth knowing, and many students did. If you didn't know him, it was probably because you didn't have him as a math teacher or you had a good grasp on math and didn't need much help at the Math Help Desk in the Learning Resource Center.

Marv's colleagues and friends knew him as a warm, jovial sort of guy with a good sense of humor and a sharp mind—a man who not only knew numbers, but knew words as well.

A master of the crossword puzzle, he didn't need a pencil, he used a pen. Eyeballing a white board full of numbers, he could spy an error without a calculator. Marv was a private man and did not complain about his troubles, but listened to yours. He always had an answer if it regarded math.

Some of the newer students recall his doing a good job while being quiet and very serious. He didn't have much to say, unless it regarded math. He had a son in Iraq and a terminal illness, which finally called his name.

As a math help desk instructor, he was quick to show how the

problem was to be done, no matter how simple or hard. For some, it was fractions or negatives and for others a quadratic equation or logarithm. No matter what the problem, Marv was there to help and always encouraged without criticism. Marv never thought you were dumb and was dedicated to sharing his knowledge. That is why he was here for 13 years.

One of Marv's hallmarks was his humor and diversity.

Carlena Weeks, learning center staff, recalls getting to know Marv was different. "I have always admired Marv, but I didn't really feel a connection with him until I got a copy of The 'Ultimate Hitchhikers Guide' and brought it to work to read. We had

some interesting conversations about the story, the movie that will be released soon, and the cult following that Douglas Adams' stories generated. I was so happy to find that I'm not the only really 'weird' person here. Thanks in great part to Marv, the answer in the Learning Center will always be 42," said Weeks. Marv hitchhiked across the United States.

Vikki Maurer, math instructor, remembered, "One day, I was reviewing with my students for an exam. I had been taking lots of questions, and the white boards were packed with solved problems. I noticed Marv pause

▶ Turn to "Kirk" on Pg. 4



Marv Kirk



photos by Kyla Hoyt

The Ukrainian Cantus Chamber Choir performs at LBCC April 12.

Choir sings duo with Cantus

Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

Over the past few weeks the LBCC Chamber Choir has been busy logging performance hours, mostly right here on campus.

On April 12, the choir performed in the Russell Tripp Center for the Performing Arts (formerly Takena Theater) along with the Cantus Chamber Choir from Uzhgorod, Ukraine. The songs chosen for the night's performance were in the theme of cultures in concert.

One of the night's songs was a beautiful song written by an American composer that fit the whole night well.

Another of the night's numbers was "Mirage on the Gobi Desert." The song is a representation of the rise and fall of the Mongolian empire. During this



Cantus Director Emil Sokach

particular song, LBCC Choir Instructor Hal Eastburn asked the audience to close their eyes to get a better feel for the song. The majority chose to partake in the exercise, and it did help to give a better perspective on the music. With eyes closed, listeners could sense the feelings in the song and really hear the sound of the wind through the sand.

Chamber Choir member

Brittney Conn did a solo performance during this song that was enthusiastically received by the audience. Conn was also chosen to perform a solo later that night with the Cantus Chamber Choir.

Soon after the LBCC choir left the stage, those in attendance were treated to the wonderful voices of the Cantus Choir. The musical abilities of these talented Ukrainians seemed to impress all in attendance.

"It was an amazing experience," said Conn. "It was an honor to be performing with them."

The professional Ukrainian choir arrived in the United States in early April. They performed in the Seattle area and arrived in the mid-valley on April 11. The choir was brought here as part of the Corvallis Sister Associa-

▶ Turn to "Cantus" on Pg. 4

The Weather Through the Weekend

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

high 66
Partly Cloudy
low 43
WEDNESDAY

high 63
Showers
low 43
THURSDAY

high 69
Partly Cloudy
low 46
FRIDAY

high 70
Partly Cloudy
low 46
SATURDAY

high 61
Showers
low 44
SUNDAY

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OPINION

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Term gets off on wrong foot, again

I'm getting married! Well, next summer I am getting married. It's the best thing that has happened to me all term . . . literally.

My spring term started off on the wrong foot. Now for most people it would have just been the wrong time. For me, I was expecting it. I have yet to start a term of college where my car doesn't break down, my roommate doesn't leave me packing boxes, or a family member doesn't vacation in a hospital bed for at least a week.

This term was no different. The Saturday before it began I blew a tire just south of Portland heading home. Since Les Schwab isn't open Sundays, this meant that my first day of the new term began there.

Now this really wasn't the bad part. Wednesday morning I stumbled downstairs, grabbed my keys and headed out the door.

Having been awake a mere 15 minutes, it was quite surprising when I didn't see my car in the spot I left it. I looked up and down the row of cars before deciding in my sleepy haze that I MUST have parked on the other side and forgotten again. When I didn't see the car there either, I went back to where I normally park only to realize that it was gone! I slowly turned around and walked back to my front door and up the stairs.

I had both of my nice leather jackets in my car. It had been raining so hard I had left them in the back seat because I didn't want them getting wet. My goddaughter's car seat, two pictures that I show for my business—basically a lot of irreplaceable things that I simply hadn't had the time to take out since the weekend.

Car insurance, I later learned, wouldn't cover it, because it was personal property. My renter's insurance would, but by the time the deductible was figured in I would have gotten a whopping \$5.

After talking to the police, I learned that car theft in Lebanon since Jan. 1 has sky rocketed. The reason? Most likely meth users trying to find something to sell to feed their addiction.

I got my car back that same day, but I missed all my classes by the time I was done talking to the police, insurance people, family members offering me rides, and my boyfriend who called repeatedly to see how I was.

Now I have a car, but no music to play in it. They didn't get the CD player because I had it bracketed in three ways when it was installed. They cracked the edge, but

it still works. The only CD left is the one that was in the stereo that night.

So now I am going to send a question out into the wide world that I don't expect an answer to: Why?

What happened to this place? Maybe having matured to adulthood has opened my eyes, but I just don't remember my little town being that way 10 years ago.

On April 4, my boyfriend, who I have known since middle school, asked me to marry him. This reconfirms my belief that good, loving people still exist. I happen to have been lucky enough to fall in love with the right one.

So to end this gibberish, if you find a lovely pink suede jacket lined with fur and fur cuffs and a fur collar and little silver buckles on the sides, please call me. I really miss it.



SHEENA BISHOP

COMMENTARY

The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

STAFF

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

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cavin outlines frustrations with legislative priorities

To The Editor:

It is often assumed that LBCC is doing well within our current resources. We serve 23,000 students each year, we have an enviable student retention rate, an amazing transfer rate thanks to our dual enrollment program, and our programs win national awards. We just awarded a Federal TRIO grant and our application had a perfect score—this is a very competitive grant and we were pleased to be recognized.

Oregon community colleges are currently facing some difficult program and staffing issues. We are dealing with the continued disinvestment in community colleges by the State of Oregon that has made it necessary to cut classes, reduce staff and raise tuition. But these changes are not the only result of reduced resources. Here are some of the things that eat away at our morale, erode our mission and make us go a little crazy:

1. Educational Partnerships. Our 2.5 staff members knock their socks off trying to serve all of our K-12 districts. LBCC serves over 2,000 high school students a year—probably close to 3,000. Our district superintendents want us to do more—they want a middle college, expanded alternative options for juniors and seniors, expanded professional technical classes offered on their campuses, and a regional technical education coordinator to eliminate redundancy. We don't have the funds or the staff to increase our services to high schools.

2. Veterans. God bless them one and all. More than 120 veterans have returned to our community from their tour in Iraq. They've met with us to ask for special classes, career education, tuition waivers and counseling. They need, deserve and expect everything they've asked for. A cohort of 120 is a big gulp for us to swallow. We can provide them limited services, nothing like they should have. Their veterans benefits help them pay for college; the federal government does not help the college expand to serve them.

3. Business and Industry. Almost every week I'm faced with a business leader wanting the college to provide ESL, skilled worker training, high tech vocational training, customer service training, and displaced worker training. Yes, there are some special funds—but not nearly enough. Right now we are helping our business partners as much as possible—they are a very high priority for us. But we're painfully aware that our businesses are hiring from outside the state and out-sourcing outside the country because there are not enough skilled workers in our district. In effect, Oregon is out sourcing its education to Asia—letting under-developed countries outstrip us in educating workers.

4. Methamphetamine. This is a crisis of growing proportions. If not controlled, it will devastate future budgets. LBCC would like to step up to the plate—to be a full partner with our courts and health partners to provide community education about methamphetamine use. We really want to be part of the solution. Our participation costs money we don't have. Not a lot of money—just enough to keep us out of the picture.

So, yes, we do a great job with the resources we have—and that's part of the problem in communicating about our resource crisis. To be blunt, the Governor's proposed budget was a slap in the face. It was humiliating. We're not talking about Cadillac education—I believe the four needs identified above are basic to the State of Oregon. Community colleges need the influence, the vision, and the empowerment that only our Legislature can give us.

It is clear to everyone that students benefit financially from completing their degrees. It is not as clear any more how our community benefits from the fruits of higher education. Educated citizens vote more; pay more taxes; are engaged in their churches, schools, and service organizations; do not depend on public support; and are better parents. The effect in your community of the investment in our students is ten-fold.

I encourage members of the community to support LBCC by contacting your local legislators.

Rita Cavin
 LBCC President

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



COMMENTARY

'The Dragon' proves salvation to the keyboard challenged

Walt Hughes
 The Commuter

Somewhere in the future a few of us may have the opportunity to meet HAL 9000, that futuristic machine capable of out-thinking most people of today. Until then, most of us will continue to muddle along relentlessly banging away on the keyboards of our desktop computers.

While we've come a long way from the day of ENIAC and the room-sized computers, we still need to be proficient with the manual dexterity of manipulating the keyboard to accomplish most tasks. This means that those who are slow or unable to type usually find themselves left behind.

But now software developers have managed to come up with an assistant to solve this problem—voice recognition software that allows you to "type" with the spoken word. The leading tool on the market today is Scansoft's Dragon Naturally Speaking, and you will probably get a kick out of the Dragon when you first meet it.

Like any child, it wants to talk, or in this case type and talk to you, and it can chatter on in gibberish if you are not careful. You might say that you think your friend is a "sweetheart" but will come up with "sweet tart." You might even smile on finding Bill Clinton and George Bush demoted from "presidents" to "residents." Like any child, the more you talk to it the more it learns and pretty soon it is mimicking everything you say like most children will.

On a different plane it may seem to be a great technological advance to most of us but Dragon is the Neanderthal ancestor of Arthur C. Clarke's HAL 9000 as portrayed in "2001: A Space Odyssey." Just another of the tiny steps toward a world where ever smaller and compact electronic wizardry assumes the everyday menial and humdrum tasks that we can find highly time consuming. There are different thoughts on the subject, but perhaps in 10 or 15 years we will be wearing a wristwatch computer akin to the timepiece worn by Dick Tracy, that old comic strip detective of the 40s and 50s.

One of the great advantages of Dragon is its benefit to people with arm and wrist injuries and clerical and other office workers who have carpal tunnel syndrome. Even paraplegic and quadriplegic individuals can turn out good work with Dragon's assistance. It levels the playing field and brings new opportunities for people with disabilities.

Like the child, it learns as you tell it stories and is capable of formatting and typing grammatically correct forms, letters and articles as fast as you can talk when it reaches maturity. You can go from 60 or 70 words a minute manually to as much as 130 or more with the assistance of your user friendly Dragon companion. It even gives you gender preference when giving you feedback in your choice of male or female voice.

There are a few voice recognition systems on the market besides Dragon Naturally Speaking, such as Microsoft Office Professional 2003, but Scansoft's DNS is probably the best. It is designed to work with Microsoft XP in everything from e-mail to Web design and virtually every other Windows based program. The preferred edition is also tailored to work with all of the Microsoft Office programs like Word, Excel, Access, Power Point, Outlook, Publisher, FrontPage, Photo Editor, etc.

The standard edition retails for around \$89 and the preferred edition can be obtained for \$149 from most software supply stores.

For those contemplating a career in the business world the use of Dragon is a step toward a successful future. LBCC has Dragon installed in the computers in B-209 and Nancy Noe teaches the voice recognition class that will show you how to use it. Knowing how to make the best use of your Dragon can give you an edge when applying for that good job.

This article was assembled with the use of Dragon Naturally Speaking.

Bush mishandling everything from Schiavo to filibusters

Over the last few months the Bush Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress have taken full advantage of their situation and abused the power they have.

Now, I understand that any administration might do the same thing, and this is the mandate of a president being re-elected. But haven't they gone a little far in trying to basically run the country their way or no way at all?

I'm very much a left-leaning voter, though I do agree with the right on rare occasions, but even my parents, who voted for Bush in the last election, have expressed their disgust over the administration lately.

During the recent happenings involving the Terry Schiavo case, I happened to be visiting my parents. My mom was watching CNN during the last few days of Mrs. Schiavo's life, and she was furious with the administration.

"I can't believe that Congress and Bush are stepping in on this," she said. "It's ridiculous, and I can't believe I ever voted to re-elect that asshole." Now I come from a predominately Republican background and was not surprised to learn of my family voting for Bush in November, but I was surprised to hear those words come out of my mother's mouth.

Our president is currently at his lowest approval ratings since he took office. Just over 44 percent of Americans polled recently thought he was doing a good job and 38 percent of those polled said he handled the Schiavo case badly. 36 percent said he should stop traveling the country on our money trying to promote his restructuring plan for Social Security.

Again, I'm not saying any president wouldn't abuse his power when really, he doesn't have anything to lose since he won't be around in four years to care anyway. But come on, at least focus on important things and stop worrying about one life.

Whether you agree with what happened to Mrs. Schiavo or not, the Bush Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress had no right to step in and play the role of God.

By telling her family what to do, Bush has basically taken every American's life into his life and said "I'm in charge and will tell you when I want you to die." That is total B.S. Never should he or any politician have the right to say when we are to die.

Also, Congress voted recently to send \$20 million to a television station that is run by Americans and broadcast to Cuba. Why on earth are we spending money on something that will in no way affect anyone in this

country? We have so many more problems to worry about and yet we're not addressing them.

Bush talks about cutting Amtrak's funding and taking them from just over 400 routes across the country, to around 60. Amtrak was started by the government and is still a government owned and funded company. Why cut funding from this and give \$20 million to a Cuban TV station? It totally just baffles me.

Also, the Republicans are considering a power play and taking away the right to filibuster votes on judicial nominees. Now sometimes the filibusters do backfire and bills sit on the floor of the house way too long and never do get looked at. But we live in a democracy, and the point of this is so that no one party can ever have total control. If you are a Republican and Congress and the White House were controlled by the Democrats, would you want them to be able to do whatever they wanted?

Even a few Republicans have come forward and asked why they are doing this.

"Someday there will be a liberal Democrat President and a liberal Democrat Congress," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. told MSNBC last week. "Do we want a bunch of liberal judges approved by the Senate with only 51 votes, if Democrats are the majority?"

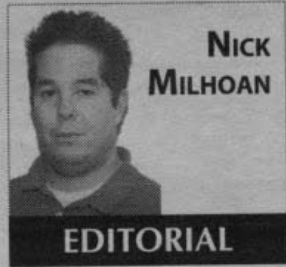
I have to agree with Sen. McCain.

Regardless of political affiliation, do any of us want things to be forced on the minority party without any checks and balances? Do we want the other political party that we don't agree with to have total control of things? I'm sure most of you can agree you want there to be a democratic process.

I personally think Bush is one of the worst presidents in history. He has done nothing, outside of his handling of the aftermath of 9/11, to prove he is a good leader. He has killed thousands of American soldiers and thousands of Iraqis. Whether you want to admit it or not, he chose to send us to Iraq, so the blood of those soldiers is on his hands. He has shown a blatant disregard for America and allows Church and State to mix more than any other president in history.

Now I know there is nothing we can do about it, and if by now you Republicans and Bible thumpers are still reading this, I'm sure you are wanting to rip my head off and spit down my neck. But really, are you happy with how he is running the country?

All I can say is "I didn't vote for him and he is not MY PRESIDENT," and as my favorite bumper sticker says, "No one died when Clinton lied."



NICK MILHOAN

EDITORIAL

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CAMPUS NEWS

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



photo by Kyla Hoyt

Conductor Hal Eastburn and his Chamber Choir take a bow at last week's concert with the Uzhgorod choir.

Cantus: LB Choir's future uncertain

◀ From Pg. 1

tion. The choir's hometown of Uzhgorod, Ukraine, is Corvallis' sister city.

"The performance with Cantus was an opportunity of a lifetime," said Eastburn. "We all felt we came away from this wonderful experience changed."

While in the U.S. the choir has been praised for its level of per-

fection, presentation, style and arrangement. The choir will be in Oregon through April 24 and will offer five more local performances in Eugene, Salem and Portland.

LBCC's choir also competed in the Oregon ACDA Ensemble Festival on April 9 at LB and took home top honors.

Despite its successes, LB's

choir faces an uncertain future. With the official retirement of long-time instructor Hal Eastburn, there is no director for next year, and with the recent cuts in state funding, the choir's status may be threatened. Some sort of a choir will exist next fall, but it is still not known how it will be funded and what type it will be.

Kirk: Faculty remembers

◀ From Pg. 1

outside my class. A moment later, he stepped through the door, got my attention, and gestured to the white board saying, 'There's a mistake...on your board.' Sure enough, I had transposed two numbers in the approximation of a logarithm. He caught it in a moment and without a calculator. Later he asked if I minded him watching my class. I told him he could come catch my mistakes anytime. Marv was gentle, intelligent, and had such a neat sense of humor. I'll miss him."

Marv had a quiet way of offering encouragement, even to fellow math instructors. As Matt Haugen, a fellow math instructor, said, "I will always treasure the great gifts he gave of himself so freely."

For the LBCC faculty who worked with Marv, he left a legacy of treasures and memories. While her grief is still so fresh in her heart and emotions are overwhelming, Mary Borman shares her feelings about Marv.

With great difficulty she expressed herself saying, "I guess one of the most important things to be said about Marv is what a terrible loss his passing is to our community."

Behind his quiet, humble and unassuming manner is a brilliance of both intellect and humor that occasionally burst forth. Only his twinkling eyes gave us a glimpse of what was inside. He loved music and limericks, so a partial lyric may be appropriate: "You don't know what you got 'til it's gone."

When Marv discovered that his cancer was terminal, he went on medical leave to spend more time with his first love, his family. Some thought it was also his way of making it easier on his coworkers by quietly distancing himself from the LBCC community, his second love.

Marv was willing to sit with students at the help desk and never demonstrated irritation or impatience for those who did not understand. He would sit tolerantly waiting for students to get it. He never exploded after being asked the same question over and over again.

Marv Kirk had courage and strength that we cannot comprehend. So much so that he even wrote his own obituary with his family and Rob Lewis, a math instructor, here at LBCC. Even at that, he kept his wits about himself and kicked in some humor while writing it.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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



photo by Erik Swanson

Highway 34 Fatality

Rescue workers look over the remains of a Chevy pickup, after an accident on Highway 34 and Columbus Street Tuesday afternoon. The driver of the pickup was pinned underneath a semi-truck that had been struck by a Ford pickup. The driver of the Chevy was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Oregon State Police.

Dinner celebrates diversity at LBCC

Sherry Majeski
 The Commuter

The Multicultural Center had their fifth annual International Dinner in the Commons on Tuesday, April 12.

This year's theme was Eastern Europe, featuring guests from Oregon State's International Cultural Speakers Program and cuisine from across Eastern Europe.

Nearly 100 people attended the dinner and listened to two guest speakers share information and a slide show about their countries. Petr Horak, an LB student from the Czech Republic is a health occupation major. He stated that health care was good in his country, but America is ahead on many health issues. One issue he noted was the difference between America and Czech is that America practices preventative medicine, such as self examinations and Czech does not. He wishes to make a difference in health care and education when he returns home.

Miroslav Garaj is a graphic design student at OSU from Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. He shared that in 1989, he lived under communism and independence. Coming to America, he faced challenges of making a transition into democracy. He also commented on politics, economy and education of Slovakia.

An international hors d'oeuvres buffet was

served at 4:30 p.m. during the welcoming address and was followed by a dinner with chicken paprika, vegetarian cabbage rolls, spaetzle, roasted root vegetables, salad and dinner rolls.

After dinner, the focus switched to the Ukrainian Cantus Choir, a professional acappella choir with a rich cultural exchange tradition between the Corvallis Sister Cities Association and the Uzhgorod Sister Cities Association. The choir is touring the Corvallis and Albany area for two weeks. Their "Cultures in Concert" tour is offering 15 concerts in the Pacific Northwest from Eugene to Seattle.

The choir combines an array of sacred music by numerous famous composers with a rich selection of liturgical and folk songs representing life, love and work in the mountain region of Transcarpathia. They have achieved European acclaim and this is their first tour to the United States. Some of their works include music from Bortniansky, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff; music of the European renaissance including compositions by Palestrina and Monteverdi; 18th- and 19th-century European choral music by Bach, Mozart, Brahms and Schumann; and 20th-century masters such as Poulenc, Stravinsky and Penderecki. The group has performed at festivals in Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Austria, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, France and Switzerland.

Alumnus award honors student contributions

Jennifer Overholser
 The Commuter

The LBCC Board of Education has established a Distinguished Alumnus Award this year to honor former students who have made a significant contribution to society or have had outstanding professional accomplishments.

The award will be presented at Spring commencement. Students, staff, faculty, Board of Education members and community members may submit applications until April 29 at 5 p.m.

Nominees must have made a notable contribution to the com-

munity, the nation, education or LBCC and must have completed at least 36 credits at LBCC.

The nominee does not need to have graduated from LBCC.

After this school year, nominations may be submitted throughout the entire year, with a deadline of March 31 and a review of nominations during April.

According to Marlene Propst, executive director of the LBCC Foundation, no nominations have been submitted so far for this year.

Several newspaper ads have been placed to let community members know about the nominations.

Propst said the hope is that employers, instructors and students will think of people they know who have contributed to the community in important ways and nominate them for the award.

A nomination form is available on the LBCC Web site at www.linnbenton.edu/foundation.

Click on LBCC Alumni to find out more and access the writable PDF form.

In addition to the nomination form, a copy of the nominee's most recent resume or vitae must be included.

Nominations must also include honors and awards re-

Online degree offer benefits, pitfalls to today's students

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

Online education has bloomed like a well-cared for daffodil bulb.

It can be a beautiful thing when used by legitimate institutions of higher education.

Colleges and universities across the country have begun to offer many courses and even degree programs in an online environment, including Linn-Benton and Oregon State.

Here at LBCC, online courses ranging from math to mass media are available, and plans are in the works for more. Many consider this a good thing for Americans because we lead such busy lives. Balancing work, family and education can be tricky if a person is required to attend traditional classes.

By taking advantage of online classes, students are now allowed to take college credit courses without ever stepping foot into a classroom. All they need is a computer with Internet access and the self-discipline to organize their time, and they can sit at home in their pajamas to complete course work.

Unfortunately, there are few regulations governing what can be posted on the web, which has led to fraudulent organizations offering diplomas for little or no work. These organizations need only to be paid in return for creating an authentic-looking diploma.

These so-called diploma mills are popping up all over the United States and in other countries. Some charge a small fee for a bogus diploma, while others charge large amounts of money, requiring actual work from students. After spending the money and completing the work, the students discover that the organization was never ac-

credited.

Consequently, it is important that students who are looking for an online education source take the time to verify accreditation before paying for anything. Accredited organizations have complete lists of their sanctioned programs. The Better Business Bureau and the attorney general are good sources to use when checking into a prospective school.

The Oregon Office of Degree Authorization has a web site specifically geared for those checking on school accreditation.

It can be found at www.osac.state.or.us/. This site offers a list of accredited online educators as well as a list of known unaccredited colleges.

Oregon State has laws against individuals using degrees or diplomas from unaccredited schools to obtain public or licensed employment. Not all unaccredited colleges are degree mills, as they may offer actual course work. However, because these colleges have not been reviewed by an outside agency, they cannot be accredited.

The state warns against assuming that all web sites whose URL ends in .edu are accredited institutions. Many of the unaccredited colleges and the diploma mills have been able to obtain a web site with the .edu designation in order to appear legitimate.

Another tactic used, say experts, is taking the name of an institution of higher learning that no longer exists.

Fraud is prevalent on the Internet, so students should be wary. Remember the old advice: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't legitimate. Check it out. Use the research tools available before spending any money.

Business student to be honored with tree

The LBCC Student Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold a tree planting Thursday as a tribute to Jackie Berry, who died March 10.

She was a student and friend of many at LBCC.

Those who want to attend are asked to meet in front of B-209 at 1:45 p.m.

Editor-In-Chief: Nick Milhoan
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

For more info about the opportunities listed, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

Restaurant Jobs

(#3242-3245, Albany) The new Oak Creek Restaurant is looking for PT and FT cooks, prep cooks, hosts/hostesses, dish washers and servers. Various hours. Must love to work with the elderly.

Chemical Plant Operator

(#3229, Albany) 2 openings that require familiarity with pumps, chemical processing systems, chemical safety & handling, and forklift operation. Pay is \$40,750 plus overtime & benefits.

Recycling Analyst & Promotion Specialist

(#3232 in Albany & Corvallis) This shared, support staff position is 20hrs/week in Albany and 20hrs/week in Corvallis. Requires strong public speaking skills and outstanding customer ethics, Excel & Word. If you enjoy giving presentations, coordinating events & workshops, this well-paid job is for you!

Make Job Hunting easier!

If you have taken a class at LBCC and want a job that works with your classes or are graduating and want a full-time career, Student Employment is your tool for success! It's easy to sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/careerservices; just register using your x-number and last name. You will be approved to search online and also receive e-mails about jobs.

Child Care Providers Needed

Have fun caring for children in the comfort of your own home and earn extra income at the same time. Be your own boss and create your own schedule. To find out more, call Family Connections (541) 917-4899.

Wanted

The Central Oregonian...

a bi-weekly publication, has an immediate openings for a general assignment reporter. Duties include: Writing compelling news stories, taking eye-catching photos, and page design. Knowledge of QuarkXpress & Adobe Photoshop preferred. Position requires bachelor's degree and 1 or 2 yrs related experience & candidates should be prepared to live in Prineville. FT positions carry a benefits package. Send resumes to: Vance W. Tong, 558 N Main St., Prineville, OR 97754, or e-mail to: cojobs@eaglenewspapers.com.

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.

Cost:

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

Personals:

Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week. Advertising content is limited to no more than 50 words per ad.

Libel/Taste:

The Commuter will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner. Any advertisement judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Scholarships

For more information on the Scholarships available below visit www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships.

LBCC Awards Committee Scholarship

No matter what your major, the LBCC Scholarship process has something to offer. Applications are being accepted now through April 22 for the LBCC Spring Scholarship process. One easy scholarship application opens the door to over 30 scholarship opportunities! Complete scholarship description and LBCC Scholarship and Awards Application are available online at www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships.

Founders Circle/LBCC-OSU Dual Enrollment Scholarship

Eligible applicants must be currently enrolled in the Dual Enrollment program leading toward a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree from OSU. Must have completed 36 credits toward the Associates degree and have a minimum GPA of 2.75. Complete scholarship information and application is available online at www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships.

Shirley Davis Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Brand new scholarship, available to female graduates of Sweet Home High School with a declared major of Business. Must have a GPA of 2.75 or better, and be enrolled full-time (12 credits or more). Complete scholarship information and application is available online at www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships.

Attention Criminal Justice Majors!

Applications are now being accepted for the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriff's Association scholarships. Eligible applicants must have declared majors in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, or Corrections and a GPA of 2.0 or better. Complete information on both scholarships and applications are available online at www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships. Completed applications must be received by the LBCC Financial Aid Office, Takena 117, on/or before April 22.

Colleges make pitch in Salem

Melissa Chaney
The Commuter

Lack of funding for community colleges and other relevant issues were discussed between college advocates and state legislators earlier this month.

This year's Community College Day, which was hosted by the Oregon Council for Marketing and Public Relations and the Oregon Community College Association, took place on April 5, in Salem.

In addition to meeting with legislators, representatives from community colleges around the state set up displays illustrating and highlighting just a few of the many notable programs and focuses of each.

These were available for viewing by both legislators and the general public, in order to inform them of how community colleges train professionals in health care, technology and many other service oriented fields.

According to Marlene Propst, Director of College Advancement and Foundation Executive Director, one of the particularly interesting offerings was from Rogue Community College, some "little, tiny robots that ran around the table." She also said that the pastries offered by Lane Community College's Culinary Arts program were greatly appreciated.

LBCC's contribution was Annie, a radiology dummy representing the body of a 110-pound woman with a full skeleton.

The "Sim" man brought by Mt. Hood Community College had a pulse that you could check. Propst said, "It breathes--you see the chest go in and out."

A few of the other community college programs represented, according to the OCCA Pacesetter, were Marine Fire Science from Clatsop Community College, Veterinarian Science from Portland Community College, Graphics and Computer Assisted Manufacturing from Clackamas Community College, Fine Arts from Chemeketa Community College and Aquarium Science from Oregon Coast Community College.

During their visit with state legislators, college advocates were able to discuss the needs and wants of their colleges and the importance of the budget.

Because the Joint Committee on Ways and Means had produced two budgets the day before, one from the Oregon House Republicans and one from the Oregon State Democrats, there was plenty to talk about.

The budgets suggested by both groups were well below the \$440 million that will prevent large jumps in tuition and more cutbacks on programs, \$420 million and \$416 million respectively.

Campus hosts blood drive Tuesday

Dan Wise
The Commuter

American Red Cross Pacific Northwest Regional Blood Services is asking LBCC students and staff to donate blood on Tuesday, April 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sign up sheets for an appointment are on a table inside the front door of Takena Hall, and drop-ins are welcome.

"Last fall 56 donors, mostly students and staff, gave enough blood for 168 people," said Hope Bakker, pre-nursing student and coordinator of the blood drive. "This time, we are hoping for at least 50."

The drive is held twice per year during the fall and spring terms.

Donors must be at least 16-years-old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and have positive identification.

The Red Cross suggests donors get a good nights sleep, have a good breakfast and drink



photo by Dan Wise
Tiara Keller, a phlebotomist from Good Samaritan Hospital, draws blood from Nick Cotter, a criminal justice major, at a cholesterol screening earlier this month in the Activities Center. More blood will be drawn next Tuesday, but this time for a different cause, when the Red Cross visits campus as part of its blood drive.

extra water or other fluids, before their session, avoiding products containing caffeine.

They also suggest eating iron-rich foods like potatoes or oat

meal, and avoiding fatty foods such as burgers and fries.

For further information or to sign up after Thursday, contact Bakker at 917-4963

Staff discuss values at Inservice

Colleen Jacks
The Commuter

LBCC students got a long weekend when all campuses closed on for the annual spring Inservice day last Friday.

Faculty, managers and staff met with President Dr. Rita Cavin to discuss the budget, LBCC's Vision and Values and to remind everyone that even though LBCC is spread over many campuses, they are all one college.

Attendees went to workshops designed to enhance team building, and to find ways to increase

personal enrichment in their own lives.

This is the second such activity of the year. Faculty and staff attended a similar workshop in the the days before fall term began.

The day began at 8 a.m. with breakfast in the Commons with Dr. Cavin, then broke into departmental workshops in the afternoon.

The day ended with an ice cream social which included entertainment by business instructor Ian Priestman, prizes and an appearance by the LBCC Roadrunner.

LBCC Vision and Values

Vision:

LBCC...where learning changes lives.

Core Values:

Believing in the potential of everyone
 Pursuing excellence
 Creating opportunities for success
 Serving our community with integrity
 Igniting creativity
 Awakening the teacher and learner in all of us

Editor-In-Chief: Nick Milhoan
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LOCAL NEWS

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

Gottschalks re-emerges at Heritage Mall

Colleen Jacks
 The Commuter

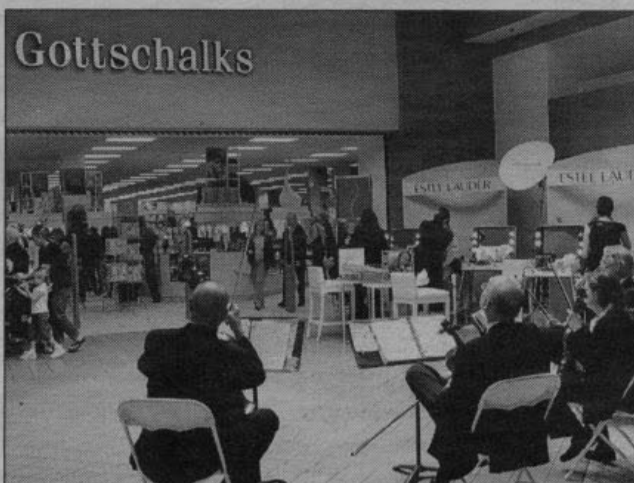
Early morning shoppers invaded Heritage Mall last Friday, destined for the Gottschalks grand opening. People were lined up outside the store well before the doors opened at 8:45 a.m.

The eager customers swarmed over the store, curious to see what Gottschalks had to offer. However, the biggest hit was free food catered by Novak's restaurant. The caterers were surprised by the response to the food because even though they planned to serve both Friday and Saturday, everything was gone by Friday afternoon. Another attraction was radio station KRKT's live broadcast.

The atmosphere seemed like a festive reunion. Many people greeted friends they had not seen in a long time and seemed to have a good time just visiting with each other.

This is the 66th store for the Fresno, Calif. based retail chain founded by German immigrant Emil Gottschalk, who originally opened a dry goods store in 1904. According to their Web site, Gottschalk described the business as "the store that cares," which remains the company's motto.

Lawrence Lajoie, manager for the new store, said he interviewed a lot of people who wanted to work for Gottschalks. "I wanted to hire people who enjoy what



The Dover String Quartet performs during Gottschalks grand opening last Friday at Heritage Mall.

they do, and not just work for a paycheck." "We want to project a good store personality," he added. "We pride ourselves on customer service," said Lajoie, "and want our customers to have a good overall experience. We want them to feel good about what happened." The new employees attended a one-day orientation

and one day of register training. Lajoie said it was information overload for them, and a few mistakes were made once the store opened, but overall the opening was successful.

Currently, the store has 55 employees, but will add temporary help for the holidays starting in November. Lajoie added they may keep a few good people after the holidays are over. He expects there to be a natural attrition, so employment opportunities will open up as time goes on.

Gottschalks is not new to this area. They occupied a building in downtown Corvallis, now home to The Bookbin. According to Lajoie, who managed that store, the building needed over \$1 million in renovations to bring it up to Gottschalks standards. Combined with the lack of available parking, management decided to close the store. When space became available at Heritage Mall, Gottschalk's was happy to move back into the area.

Gottschalks has traditionally appealed to customers over 55; however, they are now increasing their focus to young shoppers. The cosmetic counter was a favorite stop for female customers. Clinique and Estee Lauder offered free makeovers, and many mothers and daughters enjoyed that experience together.

Lajoie said they have many other special events planned in the future and will be advertising them in the store.

Author outlines land use debate at Corvallis library

Sherry Majeski
 The Commuter

Oregon has a long and contentious history concerning land use laws. William G. Robbins, author of *Landscapes of Conflict*, the book used in Doug Clark's State and Local Government Class, gave a presentation on *Land Use and the Public Good: An Oregon Dilemma* to a full house at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, on Thursday.

Clark's class is expected to complete a report this term based on an active experience with state and local government. Robbins' lecture offered a great opportunity for this:

Robbins' topic covered land use planning in Oregon over the last 130 years and more specifically from WWII to the present. He began his presentation by saying that personal property rights and the public good have had a tug of war for the last 200 years in America.

He noted that the public good and personal property rights have gone back and forth in Oregon, based on personalities and timing.

Robbins noted that after World War II, there was explosive growth in Oregon's population, which created problems. Starting in 1870, he stated that property rights favored big business. Robbins said, "Smoke emissions, which blew across private lands were ruled by the Supreme Court as just part of business."

Robbins noted that after WWII, land use planning started to swing toward the common good and the Oregon Department of Agriculture Secretary stated that we needed to do something about the unregu-

lated growth.

Senate Bill 10, Robbins continued, was the first land use planning legislation and was grounded in common sense. It led to landmark legislation in 1973's Senate Bill 100, which created local and regional districts to deal with comprehensive land use planning. This legislation created the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), which dealt with local control and enforcement of state land use laws.

Robbins said there were personalities also affecting land development laws. No figure stood out more than Governor Tom McCall, famous for his quote, "Please come visit, but

for heaven's sake don't stay," McCall was instrumental along with Ted Hellack, for passing landmark developmental land use planning laws in 1973.

Bill Moshofsky was a major opponent of land use planning laws. He advocated the free market and the use of the Fifth Amendment, which said that private land was not subjected to public use.

Support materialized to repeal Senate Bill 100 in 1976, 1978, and 1982. In 1982, Moshofsky and a wide array of big business backed a repeal that would make the LCDC advisory only.

In 2000, Robbins went on to say, "Oregon voters passed Bal-

lot Measure 7, which stipulated that private land owners would be compensated if land use laws devalued their property." The Oregon Supreme Court struck down the measure as unconstitutional, because it had two constitutional questions.

Robbins said that land use opponents brought Ballot Measure 37 to the voters in 2004. Once again, the voters passed a measure, which compensates homeowners if their land was devalued by land use laws. This opened the floodgates for private landowners to seek compensation from the government.

The issue's relevance to state and local government is the ongoing control of land use.

Officials at the state and local levels have had a big impact on which level has the most control. The public has also influenced measures concerning state and local land use regulation.

Robbins is Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History, Oregon State University, author of several books: *Landscapes of Conflicts*, *The Oregon Story, 1940-2000*, *Landscapes of Promise: The Oregon Story, 1800-1940*, also authored *Hard Times in Paradise: Coos Bay, Oregon, 1850-1896*, *Lumberjacks and Legislators: Political Economy of the U.S. Lumber Industry, 1890-1941*, and *American Forestry: A History of National, State, and Private Cooperation*.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS **Commons** APRIL 20 - APRIL 26

- WEDNESDAY:**
 ENTREES: Pot Roast, Chicken Burrito, Tofu Satay w/ Spicy Peanut Dipping Sauce
 SIDES: Potato Pancakes, Mexican Rice, Stuffed Tomatoes
 SOUPS: Tomato Rice, Corn Chowder
- THURSDAY:**
 ENTREES: Liver w/Bacon & Onions, Monte Cristo Sandwich, Grilled Vegetable Pizza
 SIDES: Potatoes O'Brien, Creamy Polenta, Broccoli and Cauliflower
 SOUPS: Tom Kha Gai, Cream of Tomato
- FRIDAY:**
 Chef's choice
- MONDAY:**
 ENTREES: Glazed Ham, Beef Goulash, Vegetarian Chili
 SIDES: Lyonnaise Potatoes, Broccoli Hollandaise
 SOUPS: Wild Rice, Avgolemono
- TUESDAY:**
 ENTREES: Chicken & Dumplings, Seafood Stew, Vegetable Strudel
 SIDES: Couscous, Green Beans Amadine
 SOUPS: Cheddar Cheese, Manhattan Clam Chowder

WEEKLY MENU

WORKSHOP:

Translating Gender- What do transgender concerns have to do with diversity?

April 27th
at noon till 1pm
in the Multicultural Center

Chicora Martin, Director of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Educational and Support Services in the Student Life Program at the University of Oregon, will discuss gender and transgender issues as a gateway to diversity and ending oppression of all types.

Free Pizzal & Refreshmentel

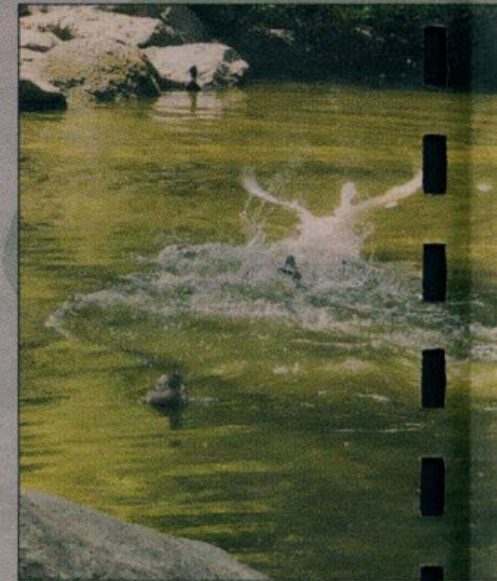
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Local Earth Day Events

Oregon State University People's Park SW Campus Way & Memorial Place Corvallis, Oregon	Fri, April 22 People's Park Opening Ceremony 12 p.m.	Ground blessing by Native American Longhouse Free ice cream
Oregon State University Organic Growers Club Farm Corvallis, Oregon	Fri, April 22 Earth Week 3 - 5 p.m. Kid's planting, farm tours 5-7 p.m. Free food, live music 7 p.m. to dark - Bonfire, hoe-down, moon viewing, music	Sponsored by OSU Organic Growers Club. Food provided by First Alt. Co-Op. Food, music, and an organic planting party. Free transportation leaving from the OSU Bookstore every 15 minutes from 4-7.
First Alternative Co-Op 1007 SE 3rd St. Corvallis, Oregon 541-753-3115	Fri, April 22 Earth Day Celebration All Day	10% off all produce. Free packet of seeds w/ \$25 purchase. Free canvas bag w/\$40 purchase. Prize give aways, kid's activities, food sampling, local organizations' info tables.
Tom's Garden Center 410 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany, Oregon 541-928-2521	Sat, April 23 Kid's Planting Day 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	
Silver Falls Park 20024 Silver Falls Hwy. SE Sublimity, Oregon 503-874-0201	Sat, April 23 Earth Day Celebration 8-11 a.m. Bird Walk w/ Steve Dowlan 11 a.m. Animal tracking w/ Peter & Susan Kelly 2 p.m. - Nature Recycles w/ Jim Bader	Build a nesting box (\$5), paper making, recycle tins & wrapping paper to make treasure boxes, kids make their own vests, learn about water & water shed At noon, make a mud pie or edible nest.
Millennium Plaza Park 200 1st St. Lake Oswego, Oregon 503-675-3983	Sat, April 23 Earth Day Celebration & Marketplace First 50 kids receive a free Earth Day shirt. 1 - 4 p.m.	Learn about water quality & conservation. Earth friendly vendors, informational exhibitors, live entertainment, food & giveaways, fun activities for kids
Alton Baker Park 1820 Roosevelt Blvd. Eugene, Oregon 541-682-4800	Sat, April 23 Earth Day Celebration 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. An environmental education event that highlights the relationship of individuals & our community to our earth and its resources.	A Native American opening ceremony. Local musical entertainment. Procession of All Species at 2p.m. Educational booths & displays. Hands-on activities & demonstrations.
Downtown Corvallis 1st & Jackson Corvallis, Oregon 541-753-9211	Sat, April 23 Earthfaire 2005 Procession of the Species 12:30 p.m.	A festive parade of art, music and dance for all ages & abilities, in celebration of the Earth & the life it supports. Participants will wear masks, costumes & carry flags, banners & streamers & playing musical instruments. (No written words, motorized vehicles, live pets.)
Squirrel's Tavern 2nd. St. & Monroe Corvallis, Oregon 541-753-8057	Sat, April 23 Corvallis Environmental Center Benefit 12:30 p.m.	10% of the day's proceeds will go directly to the Corvallis Environmental Center. Enjoy music, food & drink after the EarthFaire.
Jackson-Frazier Wetlands 2nd St. & Monroe Corvallis, Oregon 541-753-8057	Sat, April 23 Moonlight Night Hike 9 - 10 p.m.	Moon gazing & wildlife watching for all ages. Meet in the parking area near the entrance of the wetland at the end of Lancaster St. near Cheldelin Middle School.
Mt. Pisgah Arboretum 34901 Frank Parrish Rd. Eugene, Oregon 541-747-1504	Sun, April 24 Wildflower Folklore Walk 12 - 2 p.m. \$3 suggested donation	Learn about folk tales associated with wildflowers as well as food & medicinal uses.
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2945 NW Circle Blvd. Corvallis, Oregon 541-752-5218	Tues, April 26 Alternative Energy Forum 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free	Solar Power: Mr. Christopher Dymond Electricity from Wind: Mr. Philip Barbour Electricity from Ocean Waves: Prof. Alan Wallace Nuclear Power Option: Brian G. Woods, PhD
Mt. Pisgah Arboretum 34901 Frank Parrish Rd. Eugene, Oregon 541-747-1504	Sun, April 30 Earth Friendly Gardening 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$20/15 fee	Learn how to garden with Mother Nature in mind by effectively using your space and resources.

IN FO

Earth 200



The duck pond at Lithia Park in Ashland has a island. This is designed so that park employees filter cleans the water twice a day, creating a

Earth Day starts

Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

Each year the people of our country pause from their everyday fast-paced lifestyles, SUV's and societal of convenience to salute our planet and think of ways we can help to preserve her. But how did this day come about? What was the purpose of starting Earth Day? The Commuter and its staff decided to investigate these questions and more as we take time to remember the original grassroots movement that started 35 years ago.

Earth Day was first established on April 22, 1970. However, the idea for it evolved over a period of several years that began in 1962.

In November 1962, then Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin had an idea to put the environment into the political "limelight" once and for all. His idea was to persuade presi



photo by Kyla
These children remove the flowers from original nursery pots in preparation for planting in their yard.

Expanded feature on selected topics, relating to student life and local issues.

OCUS

h Day 05



photo by Matt Swanson
It has a self cleaning filter in the form of an... employees do not have to clean the water. The... a healthy habitat for the ducks.

Horticulture Club hosts workshop on bare root tree planting

Megan Pickens
The Commuter

As part of Arbor week (April 3-7) and Earth Week (April 18-22), LBCC and the Horticulture Club hosted a workshop about bare-root tree planting. The workshop and demonstration featured Jim Flott, a Certified Arborist with the international Society of Arboriculture. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Arboriculture from Iowa State University and a Master's Degree in Forest Pathology from the University of Arizona, as well as 25 years of field experience.

Bare root planting is the new way to plant trees and plants to help prevent root problems after transplanting from nursery stock. To start, the root ball

is soaked in warm water over night to loosen the dirt ball around the roots. Once all the dirt is removed, it is possible to examine the roots for any signs of disease or other problems. With bare root planting, the root collar, the bottom few inches of the tree trunk where the trunk meets the roots, is right at the soil line and not below as was once common practice.

Several members of the horticulture club attended along with various people from around the Willamette Valley. The tree was planted behind the greenhouse, in the flower bed along the West Way road that connects the back parking lots to the front. The tree was a 10 year old Norway Maple that was donated by a local nursery.



photo by Kyla Hoyt
Jim Flott and assistant, show workshop attendees how to plant a bare root tree at last Friday's workshop hosted by the Horticulture Club.

started as grassroots movement

dent Kennedy to go on a national conservation tour. So he flew to Washington to discuss his proposal with Attorney General Robert Kennedy. He loved the idea and so did the President.

Soon after, President Kennedy began a five-day, eleven-state tour across the country. This idea failed to bloom into Nelson's original plan, but he continued to go across the country and speak on environmental issues in an effort to get his word out.

Six years later, Nelson was on a conservation tour when a group of anti-Vietnam War demonstrators caught his eye. He thought to himself, "Why not organize a huge grassroots protest over what is happening to our environment?"

So Nelson began to work with the Vietnam protesters to generate a demonstration that would force this issue onto the political agenda.

It was a big gamble, but he felt it was worth a shot.

At a conference in September 1969 in Seattle, Nelson announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment and invited everyone to participate.

Soon the wire services from all over the country were carrying the story and the response was incredible. The idea took off like a rocket. Telegrams, letters, and telephone inquiries poured in from coast to coast. People wanted to know what this was all about and many Americans were finally happy to have a forum to express their concerns over the environment.

It was in an article published on Sunday, Nov. 30, 1969 in The New York Times that was the

final straw to break the camel's back.

This made it obvious that the efforts of Sen. Nelson and his team were headed for a spectacular success. Soon he had so much paperwork, telephone calls etc. that they needed more space. In mid-January 1970, John Gardner, founder of Common Cause, provided temporary work space for a Washington headquarters. Nelson worked with college students to coordinate activities for the upcoming event.

So in a year that saw the final Beatles album, Apollo 13, the death of Jimi Hendrix, the height of the Vietnam War and shootings at Kent State, America developed a day to celebrate our Mother Earth in hopes to preserve her for future generations.

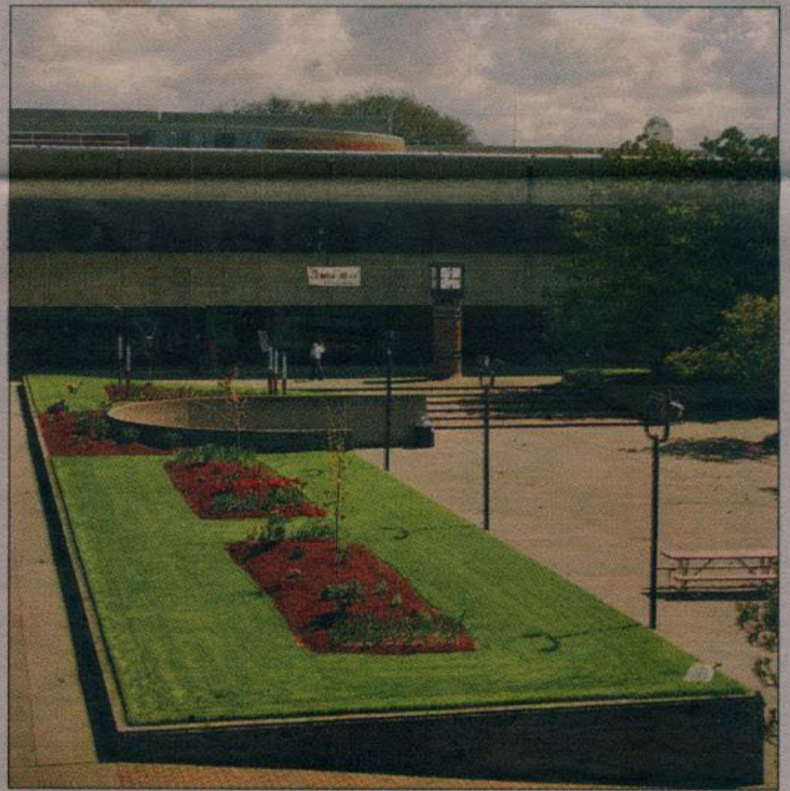


photo by Dan Wise

Start your garden with some of these vegetable plants

	Beans	Broccoli	Carrots	Corn	Cucumbers	Garlic	Lettuce	Onions	Peas	Peppers	Potatoes	Pumpkins	Spinach	Tomatoes
When to Plant	May/July	Transplant March-July	March-July 15	April-June	June	Fall or February	April-August	April-June		May-June	March 17th	May-early June	March-August	May-June
How to Plant	Sow seeds 1-in. deep, 3-4 in. apart. Space rows 12-24 in. apart	Space 12-20 in. apart	Sow seeds 1/4 in. deep, 1/4 in. apart. Thin to 2 in.	Sow seeds 1 in. deep, 4-6 in. apart. Thin to 8-12 in.	Sow seeds 2 in. apart. Thin to 12 in.	Place cloves 2 in. deep, point up, 4-6 in. apart	Sow seeds 1/8 in. deep, 1 in. apart.	Sow seeds 1/4 in. deep, 1/2 in. apart	Sow seeds 1 in. deep, 1 in. apart	Plant transplants 12-18 in. apart.	Plant spuds spaced 10-12 in. 2ft. apart	Plant transplants 4ft. apart.	Sow seeds 1/2 in. deep, 1 in. apart. Thin to 6-12 in.	Sow seeds 1 1/2 in. deep and 2-6 in. apart.
Sun/Water	Full sun	Full sun, consistent watering	Full sun to light shade. Keep soil moist.	Full Sun	Full sun. Consistent moisture.	Full sun. Moist soil.	Full sun to partial shade. Moist soil.	Full sun. Consistent watering	Full sun to light shade.	Full sun. Moist soil	Full sun. Moist soil	Full sun. Moist soil.	Full to partial sun. Moist soil.	Full sun. Moist soil



photo by Kyla Hoyt from their workshop

Don't Miss Out!

LBCC

Semi-Annual

**Clearance
SALE!**

Bookstore

EVERYTHING

1/2 off

the marked price

clearance price will ring at register

**Wednesday,
May 4th
9am to 2pm**



LBCC Bookstore

Editor-In-Chief: Nick Milhoan
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NATIONAL NEWS

Current events from across the United States and pertinent international news

Victims of Oklahoma City bombing struggle to get along 10 years later

Howard Witt
 Chicago Tribune (KRT)

OKLAHOMACITY - What is the value of an American life claimed by terrorists? The answer, it turns out, depends on where and when you die.

Congress gave the families of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks generous federal compensation payments. Most ended up millionaires.

Congress gave the families of victims of the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing a two-year reprieve on their federal income taxes. Some ended up losing their homes.

The families of victims of future terrorist attacks may get nothing at all.

For all the nation's focus on homeland security and the probability that the United States could someday be struck again by terrorists, the vexing question of what would happen afterward and whom the government should try to make whole remains unasked.

And the lesson of Oklahoma City remains unlearned.

"Everybody thought that all the people from the bombing were taken care of," said Tim Hearn, who quit a promising college basketball career to return home and care for his four younger siblings after his mother was killed in the bombing. "That's how the media made it look. But it wasn't nothing like that. We're living day by day."

The site where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood was long ago covered over by a striking memorial. A modernistic and blast-resistant new federal building stands defiantly across the way and the downtown core, once devastated by the blast, has finally started to become vibrant and full of life again.

But 10 years after the Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 168 people and injured 842 others, the shock waves are still radiating outward.

Despite more than \$40 million in donations that streamed into Oklahoma City in the days after the bombing to help the victims, more than 60 families of modest means were thrown into such poverty as a result of deaths or injuries that they must still rely on charities to meet their basic needs. Another 70 victims are still receiving psychiatric care.

Theirs are not the stories most likely to be heard this week as the nation momentarily returns its attention to this heartland city in solemn commemoration of the bombing. Instead, the ceremonies at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, titled a National Week of Hope, will focus on "stories of life moving forward."

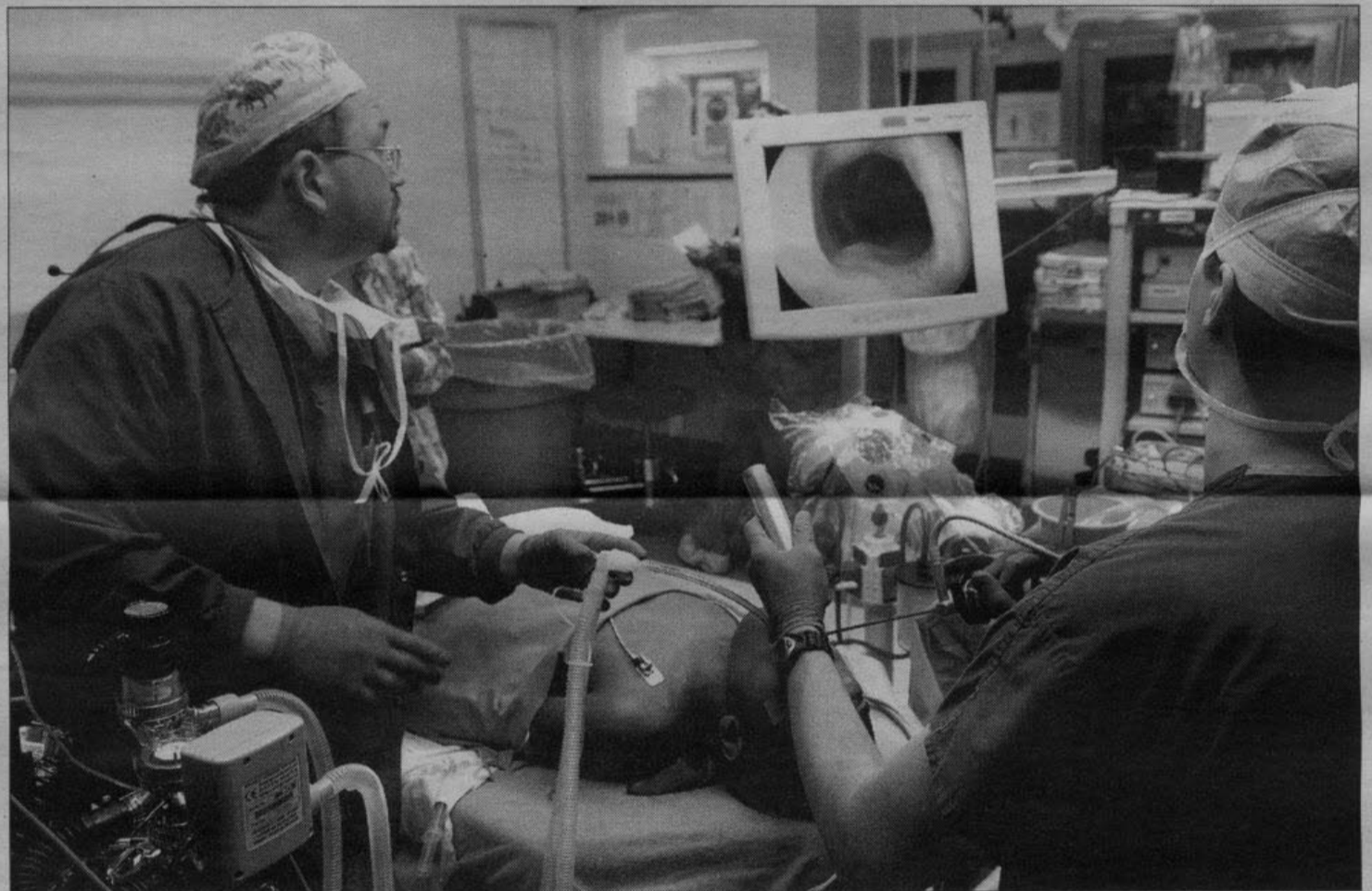
It turns out, though, that while the Sept. 11 attacks were vastly more devastating in both human and economic terms, the Oklahoma City bombing was a more intimate crime. Officials here estimate that more than one-third of the 1 million people in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area knew someone who was killed or injured in the bombing.

Yet in a state buffeted throughout its history by oil booms and economic busts and Dust Bowl droughts and killer tornadoes, deep religious faith and unblinking middle American values seem to have guided many Oklahoma City bombing

P.J. Allen (right) age 11, waits for doctors to examine his ear passage on March 14, 2005. He is one of the few children in the Murrah Building daycare center to survive the blast. Doctors (below) examine P.J. Allen's esophagus at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.



photo by Pete Souza/Chicago Tribune (KRT)



victims to a quiet acceptance of their fates.

How else to explain the equanimity of a man like Hearn, 37, whose life was upended by the death of his mother, Castine Deveroux, 49, an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"I think the reason why we went through the situation is to get close to God," he said. "We had a lot of evil in our life. The devil was in this house a lot of times. But we always found something positive out of everything."

Concerned about what would happen to his siblings, Hearn gave up his basketball scholarship at the University of New Mexico to move back home to raise them.

Hearn has accomplished his main goal keeping his family together. But he's not sure how much longer he can provide for everyone. He believes, like many here, that Congress should compensate the Oklahoma City families just as it did the Sept. 11 families.

"I felt like my mom worked for the government and she died for the government and they should have stepped in and helped her kids," he said.

It is a faint hope.

In the weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress swiftly approved a \$7 billion

compensation package for the victims, whose families received an average of \$2.1 million each. But every time the issue of compensation for other terrorism victims has been raised since then, lawmakers have ducked.

In 2002 and 2003, Congress declined to reopen the question of compensating victims of past terrorist attacks such as the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Lawmakers have refused to provide any budget funding for a terror victims' compensation fund that Congress itself voted to establish.

A Senate committee conducted one hearing to examine a Bush administration proposal to set a standard compensation award for future victims of terrorism. Then it promptly dropped the matter.

The lingering equity questions have embittered many Oklahoma City families, who wonder why Congress left them to rely on charities or struggle with insurance claims.

"You don't count," is how Randy Ledger, an Oklahoma City survivor, says he and other victims of the attack interpreted the snub from Congress. "You're just a bunch of redneck hicks down in Oklahoma."

Ledger, 48, a custodian in the Murrah building, suffered multiple skull fractures, brain damage and hearing loss,

and has two chunks of glass embedded so near his spine that surgeons are reluctant to operate. Other shards periodically still work their way out through his skin.

After 10 years, he is still battling the federal Department of Labor over a worker's compensation claim.

"Vengeful philanthropy" is the description used by Kenneth Feinberg, the special master of the Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund, to describe the compensation package.

"I completely agree with the victims in Oklahoma City, or the USS Cole, or the Kenya bombing: 'Why not us?'" Feinberg said. "If you're looking at the victims, I don't know why not you. If you're looking at the impact of the tragedy on the American psyche, I think 9/11 stands in a very unique category with Pearl Harbor, the American Civil War and the assassination of President Kennedy."

Some \$18 million of the charitable funds donated to Oklahoma City victims remain, including enough money to fulfill a promise to provide a college education for each of the 219 children who lost one or both parents in the bombing.

Most of the rest was distributed directly to bombing victims like the Hearn family, whose cases were assessed by a committee of charities that weighed each individual request for help.

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SPORTS

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



Photo by Kyla Hoyt

Runners break losing streak

LB catcher Chris Price breaks his bat in two during his two-hit performance in Tuesday's early game against Lane. The Titans won the opener 3-1, but the Runners retaliated in game two with a 4-0, two-hit shutout win from pitching ace Kyle Atchley. In that game, outfielder Eric Kessler hit a solo home run, his second of the year, while Robby Newbill contributed with another RBI. The win ended a four game losing streak and put the struggling Runners at 3-9 in league play, and 7-15 overall. Although LB remains in last place in the Southern Region, coach Greg Hawk is confident his squad can fight the injury bug that has bitten so often and start winning some games to put them into playoff contention. A key contributor to that goal could be Ryan Savage, who was recently voted the NWAACC player of the month after driving in 7 RBI's with a .309 batting average and stealing 3 bases during March. LB plays next on Thursday against SWOCC in Salem then returns home for another double-header against first place Mt. Hood.

Regular seasons over. Let the NBA playoffs begin!

Neal Jones
 The Commuter

After tonight, the NBA playoff picture will be settled for the games that start on Sunday, April 24.

For now, here is a playoff preview after Monday night's games:

In the Western Conference the picture is complete for the first round of playoffs. The first place Phoenix Suns (62-19), who had the best record in the NBA, will take on the Memphis Grizzlies (45-36). The two teams split the regular season series at 2-2. Memphis may feel it has a good shot at defeating the Suns because of how they played Phoenix in the season.

However, in one of those games the Suns were without Steve Nash, who very well could be MVP. Don't bet against the Suns whose mid-season additions Jim Jackson and Walter McCarty helped to improve a team that was already best in the NBA.

The San Antonio Spurs (59-22) will take on the Denver Nuggets (48-33) who have won 24 of their last 27 games. During the regular season they split the series 2-2. In both games the Nuggets won, the Spurs were without their best player, Tim Duncan. George Karl has the Nuggets headed in the right direction after taking over the team during the season. This time around though, the Spurs will have Duncan making for a great matchup.

The Seattle SuperSonics (52-28) will play the Sacramento Kings (49-32). The Sonics took the regular season series 3-1 but have been struggling as of late due to injuries. The Kings' best chance at beating the Sonics is now. The Sonics are going to need a healthy squad with a big series from their star players to win.

The Dallas Mavericks (56-24), who have won nine of their last 10, will take on the Houston Rockets (50-31). They split the regular season series 2-2, with the Rockets winning

the last two. Both teams come into this in good shape, with the Rockets winning their last six games. Dirk Nowitzki and Michael Finley are going to need good contribution from the rest of the team for the Mavericks to win. Tracy McGrady, Yao Ming and coach Jeff Van Gundy are going to need to be on the same page in order for the Rockets to win.

The Eastern Conference isn't quite settled but as of Monday, here is how it stands.

The Miami Heat (57-23) will be playing the New Jersey Nets (40-40). The season series was a sweep by the Heat 3-0. The Shaq and Dwayne Wade combo looks nearly impossible to stop. Vince Carter and Jason Kidd are going to have to be on top of their game the chance of a return by Richard Jefferson gives some hope to Nets fans.

This series could also possibly be the Heat versus the Cleveland Cavaliers. If that's the case, LeBron's teammates aren't ready for the Heat in a seven game series.

The defending champion Detroit Pistons (53-27) will be playing the Philadelphia 76ers (42-39). The regular season series was dominated by the Pistons 3-1. One thing's a given, Larry Brown will have his team ready to play. A match-up against his ex-team might bring out the best in the Pistons. The 76ers did have the win in the regular season but their post may not be able to handle Rasheed and Ben Wallace in a seven game series.

This match-up might possibly be between the Pistons and Indiana Pacers. Jermaine O'Neal and the Pacers have a better chance at beating the Pistons and it could make for a great series. Let's just hope the Detroit fans don't start another brawl if this series happens.

The Boston Celtics (45-35) will be playing the Indiana Pacers (43-38). The regular season series was 2-1, the Pacers with a slight edge. With the return of Antoine Walker, the Celtics have been on a tear and they will need to use

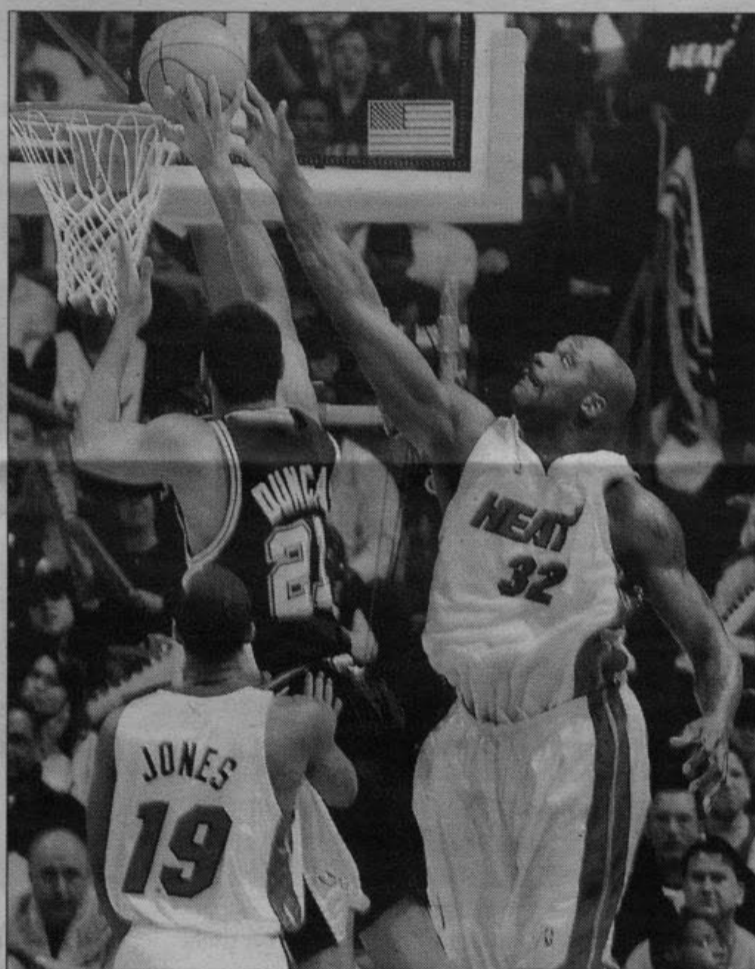


photo courtesy of KRT

It may all come down to Tim Duncan's San Antonio Spurs (left) and Shaquille O'Neal's Miami Heat in the NBA finals this June. The two teams are the projected favorites from each conference.

their home court advantage to win the series. Reggie Miller and Stephen Jackson held the Pacers together during rough stretches this year and will be tough to stop if they carry that over into the playoffs.

This series could actually end up being the Celtics and 76ers. If that's the case it would be a good match-up, because they are both scoring teams without a dominant post presence.

The Chicago Bulls (46-34) and the Washington Wizards (45-35) will be playing the first round. The season series was led by the Wizards 2-1. This series is a lock-the only difference might be the Wizards getting the fourth seed and home court advantage.

The Bulls are a young team and will be without Eddy Curry. They will have to play with a lot of energy and use their youth to their advantage. The Wizards have a more experienced core of players in Antawn Jamison, Larry Hughes and Gilbert Arenas. Those three players are the highest scoring trio in the NBA this year and will be tough to stop.

So get ready for 40 days and 40 nights of NBA playoffs and don't miss out on the action.

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SPORTS

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

Beavers, Ducks stars join NFL ranks

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

It's that time of year again, where football fans can brush the February dust off of their favorite jersey and enjoy 16 hours of sitting on a lazy-boy in order to catch up on the National Football League's off-season action.

Every April the NFL holds its annual college entry draft in New York where teams fill roster needs by drafting promising young athletes with the hope of finding the ultimate blue-chipper or diamond in the rough.

While anticipating your favorite team's next draft choice, here is a position-by-position analysis of the top college prospects that are soon likely to join the ranks of professional football during the 2005 NFL Draft Saturday at 9 a.m. on ESPN.

There is no better position to start-off with than quarterback, especially since it's usually the primary need of the mediocre teams picking near the top of the draft board. Owners of the first overall pick are the San Francisco 49ers, who are desperately in need of a leader to carry the once proud franchise back to the glory days of the 1980s. Aaron Rodgers of California and Alex Smith of Utah are the two front-runners hoping to be the top choice and recipient of a hefty \$40 million contract.

Few quarterbacks are expected to be taken soon after, but Charlie Frye of Akron and Kyle Orton of Purdue are hoping to be amongst the next crop chosen. At six-feet, six-inches, Oregon State's Derek Anderson and Arizona State's Andrew Walter hope to stand tall and represent the PAC-10 as first day selections. Meanwhile former Heisman winner Jason White from Oklahoma and NCAA all-time passing leader Timmy Chang of Hawaii are just hoping to be drafted.

A quarterback's job is useless unless he has a wide receiver to throw to, and this year's draft class has many top-tier targets to choose from. Michigan's Braylon Edwards and Southern California's Mike Williams can snag anything in their sites,

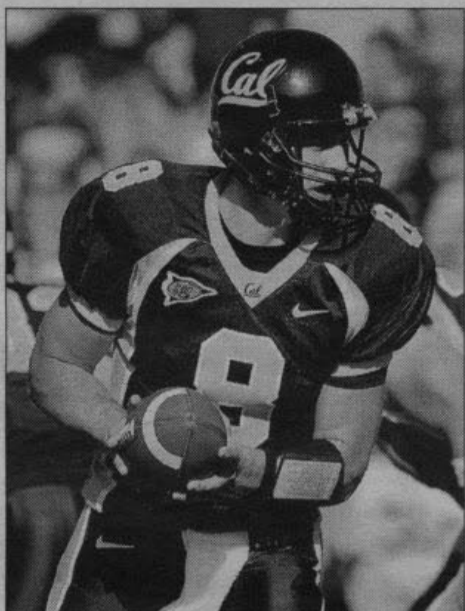


photo courtesy of KRT
California Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is hoping to be the first selection by the San Francisco 49ers in the 2005 NFL Draft.

including a trip to the podium as top ten selections. Mark Clayton of Oklahoma and Troy Williamson from South Carolina round-out the best pass-catchers ready to step up to the next level while Heath Miller of Virginia is listed as the top tight end.

Wide receiver is a very strong position in this year's draft class, but perhaps no position is as loaded with gems than running back. Ronnie Brown and Carnell "Cadillac" Williams proved to be a torching tandem at Auburn and will likely burn up NFL defenses for years to come. Cedric Benson was a four-year phenom at Texas and will push teams to be one of the three backs selected early in the draft. Cal's J.J. Arrington and Florida's Ciaticrick Fason hope to be early-round selections while former Ohio State Buckeye and National Champion Maurice Clarett's stock dropped to second-day status after a sub-par combine workout. Washington fullback Zach Tuiasopopo may be taken soon after to clear the way for one of those stellar runners and by a team looking for a backfield bruiser.

Also clearing the way is fellow Husky

Khalif Barnes. He is one of the top offensive linemen that draft experts project to be gone in the first two rounds after Alex Barron of Florida State and Jammal Brown of Oklahoma are taken. Look for a few Beavers and Ducks to be taken from the pool of maulers later in the draft, most notably Doug Nienhuis and Matt Brock from OSU and guards Adam Snyder and Nick Steitz from Oregon.

Those men may soon have the task of blocking speedy pass-rushers like Erasmus James of Wisconsin, David Pollack of Georgia and Dan Cody of Oklahoma. Louisiana State's Marcus Spears, USC's Shaun Cody and Oregon State's Bill Swancutt are a few of the more well-rounded ends looking to be selected early to man a defensive front while Travis Johnson of Florida State and Mike Patterson of USC remain the top men in the middle at tackle. Aiding in the pass-rush department is outside linebackers Derrick Johnson from Texas and Shawne Merriman from Maryland while inside help can always be found from Channing Crowder of Florida and Odell Thurman of Georgia.

Beaver Jonathan Pollard and Duck Jerry Matson are also linebackers likely to be taken, but probably on day two. Another top prospect at linebacker is another Georgia Bulldog, Thomas Davis. He made himself a first-round projection after playing behind Thurman at Safety while Brodney Pool and Donte Nicholson of Oklahoma is another tandem that may go early.

Beaver-great Mitch Meeuwssen is hoping to join teammate Aric Williams as a late-round pick in the secondary while lanky OSU cornerback Brandon Browner will likely go in the first-round despite a short career in Corvallis. Auburn's Carlos Rodgers and LSU's Corey Webster may also be first-rounders, but the cream-of-the-crop corners remain Antrel Rolle of Miami and Adam "Pac-Man" Jones of West Virginia, who is also good on special teams.

Oregon kicker Jared Siegel, who if picked will likely be so in the seventh and final round at about 4 p.m. Sunday.

Jake Rosenberg's projected NFL Draft Picks

#.	Team - Player - Position - College
1.	49ers- Aaron Rodgers-QB-Cal.
2.	Dolphins- R. Brown-HB-Auburn
3.	Browns- Alex Smith - QB - Utah
4.	Bears- B. Edwards -WR-Michigan
5.	Buccaneers- Carnell "Cadillac" Williams - HB - Auburn
6.	Titans- Antrel Rolle - CB - Miami
7.	Vikings (from Oak.) - Mike Williams - WR - Southern California
8.	Cardinals- C. Benson - HB- Texas
9.	Redskins- Adam "Pac Man" Jones- CB- West Virginia
10.	Lions- David Pollack-DE-Georgia
11.	Cowboys-D. Johnson -OLB-Texas
12.	Chargers (from Dal.) - Erasmus James - DE - Wisconsin
13.	Texans-A. Barron - OT- Florida St.
14.	Panthers-T.Williamson - WR- S.C.
15.	Chiefs-S. Merriman-OLB-Maryld.
16.	Saints- Thomas Davis -S -Georgia
17.	Bengals-T. Johnson-DT-Florida St.
18.	Vikings- Marcus Spears -DE- LSU
19.	Rams- Dan Cody -DE- Oklahoma
20.	Cowboys (from Buf.)- Carlos Rodgers - CB - Auburn
21.	Jaguars- Corey Webster -CB- LSU
22.	Ravens-M.Clayton-WR-Oklahom.
23.	Seahawks-Shaun Cody -DT- USC
24.	Packers- Matt Roth - DE - Iowa
25.	Redskins (from Den.) - R. White - WR - Alabama-Birmingham
26.	Jets- J. Brown - OT - Oklahoma
27.	Falcons- J. Miller - CB - Clemson
28.	Chargers- B. Browner - CB - OSU
29.	Colts- Brodney Pool-S-Oklahoma
30.	Steelers-Heath Miller-TE- Virginia
31.	Eagles- C. Crowder - ILB - Florida
32.	Patriots-M. Jackson-CB-Michigan

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Chronicles of Narnia delight children and adults

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of reviews of the Chronicles of Narnia books.

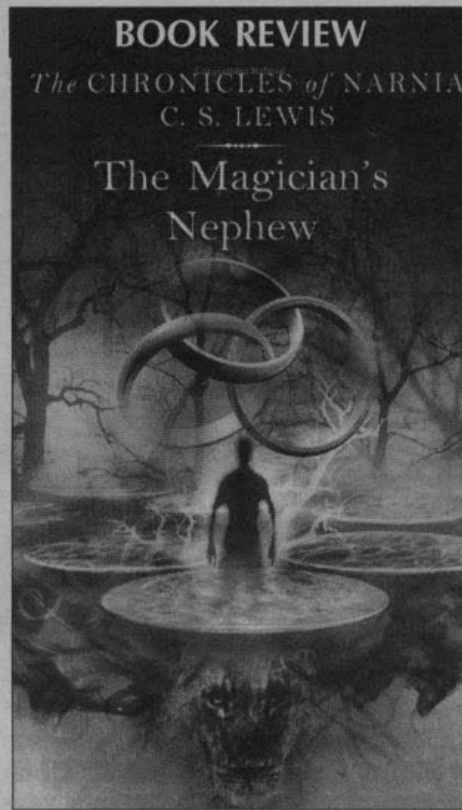
Sheena Bishop
 The Commuter

As a kid, I was never very interested in science fiction. When my favorite uncle sent me all seven of the Chronicles of Narnia for Christmas one year, I was anxious to read them, for he had never before sent me in the wrong direction with literary adventures.

The first Chronicle to be made into a motion picture is "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." It is expected to pop onto the big screen Dec. 9, 2005. While this is also the most popular book, it is not where the adventure will start.

To explain how Narnia came to be, author C.S. Lewis later wrote "The Magician's Nephew," where you meet Digory Kirke and Polly Plumber, two youngsters tricked by Digory's wicked Uncle Andrew into taking the journey of a lifetime.

I love all the Chronicles, but perhaps this one I love the most because everything has to have a beginning. A fortunate accident is what makes this story so



intriguing and allows our world to visit Narnia time and time again. The book is well written both for children and adults, making the young feel wise and the older feel young and silly.

The time is 1900 and our young hero and heroine are living in one of the long strings of flats in London. Digory's father is off in India on business while Digory and his frail mother stay with Aunt Letty and Uncle Andrew. Digory misses his country home, but finds an exciting companion in Polly, who lives next door. Having been an exceedingly wet summer, the children are often indoors.

One particularly rainy day, Polly shows Digory her little attic hideaway. It is through a little door in the attic. The cavernous area actually leads to a hollow space that stretches the length of the connected flats.

The empty house on the opposite side of Digory's becomes a goal to reach, and the children try to estimate how many rafters they must go to get in, assuming that all the flats had a little door into the small tunnel at the pitch of the roof.

Counting rafters, the children enter what they think is the empty attic, only to find they have landed themselves inside Uncle Andrew's forbidden study.

Eager to leave, Uncle Andrew promises not to tell and even offers Polly a pretty gold ring for being a good girl. Before Digory can stop her, Polly chooses one of the gold rings and vanishes into thin air.

Uncle Andrew may be one of the worst magicians in history, but he has definitely done it now!

In order to save Polly, Digory must also slip on a ring with the special green rings in his pocket that Uncle Andrew thinks will bring them home.

Discovering more than Uncle Andrew ever could have hoped for, Digory, with Polly by his side, decides to do a little exploring and accidental brings back to England the evil Queen Jadis from the land of Charn.

In order to restore the chaos Jadis has created with her debut in London, Digory and Polly must once again use their special rings to travel to another world and leave the evil witch.

This is where they first meet Aslan, the mighty Lion who created Narnia right before their eyes with nothing but song. After witnessing the birth of the new world, Aslan sends Digory on a mission to protect Narnia from the evil witch who threatens to destroy it.

Once home, Digory and Polly destroy the rings and the birth of a special wardrobe is revealed. This is where our story ends, a strong beginning to the Chronicle we will explore next week, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."

WANTED!

Creative students to fill positions on The Commuter staff for 2005-06

Editor-in-Chief

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant and provides great experience for aspiring writers and editors. Students with courses and/or experience in journalism preferred. Applicants must be enrolled as students throughout the 2005-06 academic year.

DEADLINE IS MAY 13
 (for this position only)

Ad Manager

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant. Individuals with career goals in business, graphics or journalism are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Experience with Macintosh, Indesign and Photoshop helpful, but will train.

Assistant Editors

Appointments carry quarterly tuition grants that vary from 4 to 9 credits per term, depending on the position. Some journalism experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointments made by the editor.

Photo Editor	Copy Editor
Managing Editor	A&E Editor
Sports Editor	Opinion Editor
Graphics Editor	Online Editor

Hourly Wage Jobs

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Photography Assistant	Production Assistant

These positions open to work-study eligible students only. If you have a work study grant and are majoring in a communications field, we want to talk with you.

Digital Page Designer

Pays \$9+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mondays and Tuesdays. Good English skills and experience with Macintosh InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark preferred.

Application Deadline for Editor-in-Chief is May 13

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222) or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-112)

For additional information call 917-4563 or 917-4451

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Local rapper cultivates fans & groupies

Sheena Bishop
 The Commuter

People dream of being rock stars all the time. For a guy right here in Albany that dream has been a strong force in his life, even if it hasn't been in the way he expected.

Chris Poindexter realized after a crash course in rock 'n' roll reality, that perhaps a band wasn't the way to go, but music didn't have to go with it.

"Originally I wanted to be a rock star," Poindexter said, "but then I realized it's really hard to get five people to organize their lives around each other without killing each other."

The band, called Brokin, lasted one week before quitting. Still very much in love with the gig, Poindexter went on solo. The band name was kept, but changed to Brokin Records, the label he created and operates himself out of his spare bedroom.

After falling into the music scene in 1999, he has come a long way. Going by Pdextro-phetamine, or Pdex, he put out a single in 2001 that "we don't talk about," he says. At only 18, Pdex has realized his potential on the local rap scene.

"We are working on a free sample CD," Pdex says. ("We" refers to himself and pal Josh Sterling.)

"It's supposed to be full length, but free," he said. "I'd



Aspiring local rap artist Chris Poindexter 'blows on the mike' in his apartment/recording studio. photo by Sheena Bishop

rather take a piece of their time than their money."

Pdex has produced several random mix tapes over the years, but for the most part has passed them on to friends supporting his style. He even produced a techno CD once with six or seven songs on it. Some of his friends still have it around, but he has moved on to what he calls "Northwest Stylee."

Northwest Stylee is the way people rap in this area. In every

area of the country there is a local way of expression. The southern area sounds different than New England and they sound different than California. The Northwest has now developed its own way of putting out their messages.

"Hip Hop is usually a regular thing for your area, about the things that are happening in the community," Pdex said. Location is key, especially in your lyrics. Pdex talks about

"Originally I wanted to be a rock star, but then I realized it's really hard to get five people to organize their lives around each other without killing each other."

Chris Poindexter

the Northwest meth problem, gas wars, the bad economy and any other local issues that catch his ear.

Anything goes, and sometimes you discover inspiration in the strangest places, like on top of your head. Pdex has rapped about how puffy his hair is, about Kung Pao Chicken, and everything in between.

"I like working with all the other people in town," he said. He even handed me a stack of another artist's promos before I left.

"Fans are key," Pdex said, then added with a laugh, "and groupies, too."

Pdex is expecting to get an EP ready to distribute in about a month's time. Developments in the works include a Web site for fans to visit in the future.

He isn't entirely sure where he will be leaving his CD's for potential fans to pick up, but convenience stores and small locally owned businesses are being considered.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Teppanyaki delivers artful cuisine

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

Good food and entertainment made for an excellent evening last Friday at Aomatsu Japanese Restaurant in downtown Corvallis.

My husband and I love Teppanyaki and were excited to see that the restaurant had expanded its square footage to put in Teppanyaki tables.

In this style of Japanese cooking, the chef prepares your meal with the customer as his audience. Josh, our chef, is a local who graduated from a Corvallis high school. For his Teppanyaki training, he worked at a restaurant in Salem, and now he says he's happy to be back home doing what he loves.

We thought we would wander in with some friends and see what they could do for us, even though we had no reservations. The four of us arrived at 6 p.m. and luckily were promptly seated. Each table seats eight, and we joined a family of four who had also just arrived.

My husband and I both ordered New York steak and shrimp, one of our friends had shrimp, and her husband had sukiyaki. Our meal began with the traditional soup and salad, and before the main course we were served noodles, vegetables and rice.

The food was excellent; the steak was very tender and perfectly cooked. Chef Josh knew what he was doing as he prepared the meal right before our eyes. He's very good with his tools and has a great sense of humor. The two children at our table really enjoyed his show.

If you would like to try Teppanyaki at Aomatsu, you might want to make a reservation in advance. When we left at 7:30 p.m. there were people standing around the lobby area and outside, hoping to get a table. It was a popular place that night, and I'm sure it will stay so as the food and service are excellent.

Aomatsu can be reached at 752-1410 and is located at 122 N.W. Third St. in Corvallis.

Organic wine infused with local music

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

The First Alternative Natural Co-op of Corvallis hosted a wine tasting event last Friday night.

On hand was Ernie Denogon of Mountain Peoples Organic Wine & Beer Distributors. He was offering four organic wines, two white and two reds.

The tasting began with a 2003 Sauvignon Blanc from the Frey Vineyards out of Mendocino, California. The wine was nicely chilled with a sweetness that was well balanced by the peppery finish.

The second white was a 2004 Torrentes from the Pircas Negras Vineyards of Argentina. The Torrentes grape is indigenous to the Famatina Valley which is at an elevation of 3,500 feet. "I drink this wine while sitting on my deck, watching the sun go down over the coastal mountains," explained Denogon. It had a hint of citrus and would be thirst quenching on a warm afternoon.

The tasting continued with the third wine, a 2001 Tempranillo Crianza from Spain. The tempranillo grape is often used to blend with harsher grapes. Denogon said the Iranzo family has the oldest state chartered winery in Spain. This wine would be appreciated by those who prefer a dry red.

The final wine, a 2003 Zinfandel from La Rocca Vineyards of Sutter County, California, has a generous finish and was not at all dry. This wine was sulfite free. Many people have adverse reactions to sulfites, which



Ernie Denogon discusses wine sulfites with Tracy Kamara of Corvallis at the main store of the First Alternative Co-op in south Corvallis. The wine tasting is offered every Friday. photo by Kyla Hoyt

are primarily used as preservatives.

The evening was a success, as many came to taste the wines. Entertainment was provided by Pete Ballerstedt, who played the hammered dulcimer. His musical talent was wonderful, a nice accompaniment to four pleasant wines.

For questions regarding these wines,

Denogon may be reached by calling (541) 683-3968. Ballerstedt can be contacted using his Web site www.peteballerstedt.com.

The Co-op offers wine tasting every Friday evening from 4 to 6 p.m. at 1007 SE 3rd Street in Corvallis. They can be reached by calling 753-3115 or information is available on their Web site at www.firstalt.coop.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

CALENDAR

Out & About

Albany Civic Theater 111 1st Ave. SW Albany 928-4603	April 21 & 23 22 - Midnight Show Rocky Horror Show 8 p.m. \$11 General \$8 Seniors and Under 18
Benton County Fairgrounds 110 SW 53rd. St. Corvallis 541-766-6521	Sun, April 24 39th Antique Auto Swap & Sale 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$2, 16 & older
Iris Hill Winery 82110 Territorial Rd. Eugene 541-686-6136	April 23 & 24 8th Annual Celtic Bealltuinn Festival Parades, live music, dancing, storytelling, foods & drinks, crafts. Sat, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sun, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. \$8 per day \$15 two-day pass
Linn-Benton College Multicultural Center 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany 917-4461	Wed, April 20 Islam & Culture in N. Africa: A Reappraisal 12 - 1 p.m. Free
	Thur, April 21 Movie: Life is Beautiful 1 - 3 p.m. Free
Linn-Benton College Courtyard 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany	Wed, April 20 PeacePole Re-dedication 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
	Wed, April 20 Courtyard Lunch: Far East 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$4 Staff \$3 Students
Linn-Benton College Hot Shot Coffee Shop 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany 917-7777	Thur, April 21 Dulcimer Music with Pete Ballerstedt 12 - 1 p.m. Free, first 25 students receive free 12oz. drink
Linn-Benton College Gym 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany 917-7777	Sat, April 23 Children's Performing Art Series: Chinese Acrobats 11 a.m. Free
Oregon Garden 879 W. Main St. Silverton 503-874-8100 1-877-674-2733	April 22 - 23 Oregon Garden Brew Fest: "Blooms & Brews" 1st annual event features local brewers Fri, 5 - 11 p.m. Sat, 12 - 10 p.m. \$10 includes admission, commemorative glass & 4 tickets to sample beer.

Calendar compiled by Megan Pickens, Calendar Editor
 Get your event in Out & About. Send all information to The Commuter, Attn: Events Editor at least one week in advance.



photos by Matt Swanson

Men of Rock (pictured above) from Las Vegas performs at 7-Feathers in the Cabaret Lounge. Bob, a member of the group (right) belts out tunes to the crowd and he serenades to an audience member with a country hit (below).



Men rock at Seven Feathers

Nick Milhoan
 The Commuter

Driving down I-5 to visit my parents recently I needed a break and decided to stop by Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort in Canyonville. Having grown up in Southern Oregon, I know a lot about the casino and know they put on a fantastic (and free, though a two drink minimum is required) show in their Cabaret Lounge.

I decided to watch the show and was glad that I did. The Men of Rock was a fantastic production and really did "rock."

The show had four men performing rock music from several decades, though they tossed in a few country rock songs as well.

The show started off with the men singing "We Will Rock You" and continued on through time with songs ranging from "Welcome to the Jungle," "Louie, Louie," "Takin' Care of Business," and the "Boys are Back in Town."

Shortly into the performance they pulled an audience member on stage and dressed her in a blue dress and began to sing "Devil With a Blue Dress." This was fantastic and drew much applause and cheers from those in attendance. Before the night was over, three more women were pulled on stage and all were very into it, dancing much better than the majority of audience members who get pulled on stage.

Throughout the show, the performers came out into the audience to sing and brought some up on stage to either dance or sing to them.

Two of the performers, Jeff Hutson and Paul Bradley, have their own CD's out and each gave us a taste of what their own talents have to offer. Both songs, "Good Love" by Jeff, and "Come to Me" by Paul were very well performed and

sounded great.

At one point, the entertainers even got my photographer involved in the song "Disco Inferno."

At the end of the night the men asked for a salute to our men and women fighting overseas and for our veterans and everyone cheered.

The performance overall was outstanding and everyone in attendance left with a smile on their face and was singing as they left the bar. I've attended five Cabaret performances and all have been great, but this was one of the better performances.

The show was written especially for Seven Feathers and opened March 9. The men had two and a half weeks to prepare and practice the show before it opened.

Other shows that will play this year are Rhinestone Cowgirls from May 11-July 5; Let the Good Times Roll from July 8 to Sept. 11; Body & Soul from Sept. 14 to Nov. 27; and Rhythm & Blues Christmas from Nov. 30 to Dec. 25. All shows play Tuesday through Saturday at 7 and 9 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. The shows are smoke free on Tuesdays and also at the 2 p.m. Sunday shows.

The shows are free, though they do require a two drink minimum, and you can choose from alcohol, soda, coffee or tea. Because it is in the bar you must be 21 to attend. Reservations are recommended, though as the shows play longer, attendance is minimal.

Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort is located just off of I-5 at exit 99 in Canyonville between Roseburg and Grants Pass. For more information about the show you can visit their Web site at www.sevenfeathers.com or call 1-800-548-8461.