

GOING BACK IN TIME

The Commuter rewinds the clock with a look back at the year that was: 2004. **▶ Pg. 6-7**

HOOPSTERS SPLIT

Men's and Women's Basketball open league play with 1-1 records after Week 1. **▶ Pg. 9**



The Commuter

a weekly student publication

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 36 No. 9

Cozy coffee house helps warm up winter term



Colleen Jacks
The Commuter

A few changes were made to the Student Union over the Winter Break. The Multi-Cultural Center, on the second floor, was expanded and the student lounge was eliminated. In place of the student lounge, is a new coffee house located next to the Student Life and Leadership office on the first floor, which had its grand opening last Monday.

The coffee house decor includes bistro style, high tables and chairs along the windows, new over-stuffed chairs arranged in cozy conversation areas, a big-screen television and brightly-colored area rugs on the floor. A coffee cart is available where you can purchase your favorite cup of java. They hope to eventually hang student and faculty artwork on the walls. The attractive, comfortable furnishings and relaxing atmosphere would rival any coffee house in Portland.

"The coffee cart is run by students and all the money goes to student activities," said Amelia Cohn, student ambassador from Student Life and Leadership. "We

photo by Erik Swanson

A handful of students enjoy the ambiance of the new lounge in the former rec room. The lounge (which opened Monday) includes a coffee cart that will be open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a pool table that is now available for free.

▶ Turn to "Coffee House" on Pg. 10

Hunger, equality, justice focus of MLK week at LB

Melissa Chaney
The Commuter

School's out for students on Monday, Jan. 17, as the U.S. closes banks, schools, and federal buildings to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., the most well known civil rights activists in American history.

Legislation for this holiday was first introduced by Congressman John Conyers just days after King's assassination in 1968, and petitions with an estimated six million names were submitted in an effort to facilitate its survival. Finally, in 1983, the legislation was passed by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan.

Now, 19 years after the first

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on Jan. 20, 1986, we will celebrate yet again the tremendous social and political changes brought about through non-violent means by King. The MLK, Jr. holiday is now celebrated on the third Monday of January; a compromise to satisfy those who thought Jan. 15, the date of Martin Luther King's birthday, was too close to the Christmas holiday and New Year's Day.

According to the Student Life and Leadership Office, LBCC is working with Oxfam International to host a Hunger Banquet on Thursday, Jan. 20, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the LBCC Commons. At this event, those who attend will be given names and life

▶ Turn to "MLK" on Pg. 10

SL&L reaches out to BC students

Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

With the beginning of a new term, comes new students. Many of those students are not quite sure what all LB has to offer. Unfortunately, many students attend other campuses and are often overlooked. That is why Student Life and Leadership, along with the Student Programming Board, held a welcome back get together at the Benton Center last week.

"We wanted students at the Benton Center to feel involved," said Community Events Specialist Yu Ping Hung. "We need to get information to all LB stu-



photo by Matt Swanson

Student Life & Leadership members pass out information at Benton Center Welcome Back this past Thursday evening.

dents."

The event was held last Thursday evening in the lobby of the Benton Center. There was information, snacks, beverages, and of course free pizza for all.

"There were 15 pizzas and they were all gone in the first hour," said Student Programming Board member Mike Clair.

The Benton Center, in the former Washington Elementary School building near Borders in Corvallis, was remodeled last year and expanded from its original size. The funding for this renovation came from a bond measure passed in November of 2001. The center cost upwards of \$5 million to refurbish.

There will also be more of the Benton Center Acoustic Showcase this term. This features local musicians who perform for free at the center. The first per-


▶ Turn to "Welcome" on Pg. 10

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM


high 47 low 35
WEDNESDAY


high 43 low 25
THURSDAY


high 39 low 29
FRIDAY

Think Snow!

high 34 low 31
SATURDAY


high 46 low 33
SUNDAY

Opinion.....	2
Local News.....	5
Campus News.....	3&10
In Focus.....	6-7
World News.....	8
Sports.....	9
A & E.....	11-12

INDEX

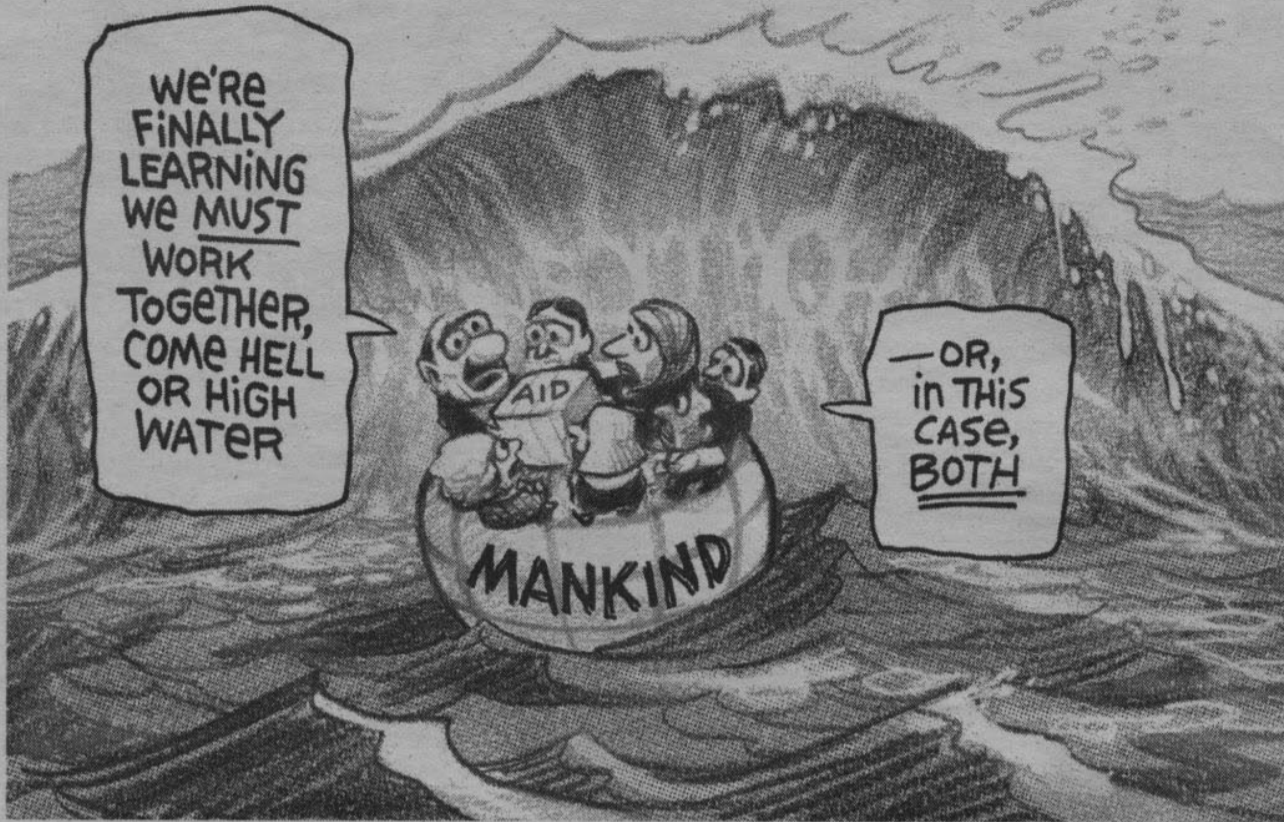

Commuter

Opinion Editor: Brenda Razenbach
Editor-in-Chief: Nick Milhoan
Telephone: 917-4452

OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and
 keep them at 250 words or less

STAR TRIBUNE
SOCK



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Passage of Measure 36 ban on same-sex marriage does not violate civil rights

To the Editor:

As an American citizen, registered voter, and college student, I represent the very fabric that holds this nation together: a citizen with equal rights, a voice through which democracy is heard, and one who is in pursuit of life, liberty and a college education.

In response to the Dec. 1 article "Gay Marriage Ban Scars Constitution", I find no evidence to suggest that the passing of Ballot Measure 36 takes away the liberty of an individual. The Constitution grants the citizens of the United States the right to enforce its own laws in a democratic and civilized way. Ballot Measure 36 was voted on by the citizens and we the people established that marriage is between one man and one woman. This democratic process enables us to invoke a moral belief into law by a means that was handed down by our forefathers.

Contesting that the implementation of Measure 36 segregates same-sex individuals is without reasonable argument. This measure defines the interpretation of marriage and the genders of sex involved. In no way does it infringe on the civil rights of any person living in this free country.

Marriage between a man and a woman constitutes a relationship in which life may be sustained. Contrary to homosexuality, this practice enables life. For homosexuals, it is biologically impossible for the reproduction of human life and that truly defines this matter.

To single out Christians as "poor examples of Christ's teachings" by not accepting homosexuals is contrary to

the Word of God. By grace, salvation is given (Ephesians 2:8-9). Yes, we are all sinners and do not deserve this gift, but through Jesus we can obtain this gift (John 3:16). The Apostle Peter said in Acts chapter two, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Notice he said "repent". Repentance means to turn away from your sins.

Immoral behavior is forgivable as any sin. But forgiveness takes place when the individual stops the behavior. The Prophet Isaiah wrote, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy on him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

When a person asks for forgiveness, we are inclined to grant it. However, if that person continued to trespass, we would know (by their actions) they did not mean it. Repentance is an apology put into action. We all fail and need God's grace to cover our sins, but we need to receive salvation first. Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, then ye are my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31-32)."

Ballot Measure 36 was passed by the majority of voters. Our Constitution gives us the privilege to rule ourselves by this due process.

Passing judgment on another distinct social group because the outcome may be displeasing does not solve the root of the problem; it harbors tension that can lead to hate.

Josh Gordon

COMMENTARY

Circling cars create morning mayhem

Let's talk about parking. Brother! Have you ever seen so many cars? I honestly do not remember the parking lots being this full at the beginning of last term. So, many of us agree, there are too many cars in the parking lot.

Many classes adjourn at 50 minutes past the hour. Those students who are leaving generally wander out to the parking lot at least five minutes after this. If you want a really good spot, you can arrive late and stalk those who are leaving the building in search of their cars. However, this may cause you to be late to class. If you make this choice and are running late, don't be rude to others.

I applaud those who arrive early, knowing it will take time to obtain any parking spot. They've planned ahead and have come prepared.

Now, arriving early does allow you to be selective but why not just park your car and get to class. Is it necessary to drive around over and over again? The news media keeps telling us Americans that we are grossly out of shape. A little walking might not hurt.

So if you are one who runs late or one who starts searching early, remember that common courtesy is necessary as we all circle the parking lot, looking for a wonderful spot to park our supreme chariot. Thankfully, this daily adventure known as parking, is free. It could be worse.

Happy hunting!



BRENDA
 RAZENBACH
 COMMENTARY

Divisions should not obscure debt to soldiers

The Friday after fall term ended I picked up a soldier from the airport. We were close friends in high school, a friendship I knew he would need when he was stationed in Germany immediately following last Christmas. He hasn't been home in a year.

A year in a foreign country can do amazing things to a human. My friend has toured Italy, Spain, Germany, stopped in London and when the government sees fit, he goes into a battle zone where there is no guarantee he will not return home inside of a box, draped with the flag he proudly defends.

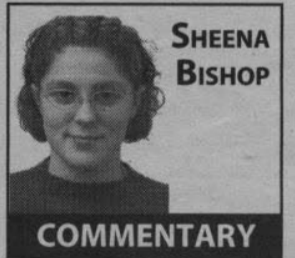
I am not angry that his life could be taken in a snap, that the mini break home for the holidays may be the last time I get to run around and act like an idiot with him.

I am angry because he was forced to become a man the wrong way. I am in college, I get to grow up through learning and trial and error. He can not make an error. An error will not leave room for another trial.

He told me stories about children in Iraq. Some of them smile at him, some even walk up to him. The children are not afraid; their parents and grandparents are in many cases, but not the youth. Their innocence unscathed, their spirits lifting with hope, to them these big guys in funny looking green costumes are just visitors, potential playmates.

I know that all good is coupled with some bad, otherwise no one would appreciate what they have. Through the eyes of a soldier, I am learning the good and the bad almost half a world away. More importantly, I am learning to accept, as he has, that sometimes risk, no matter how debated it may be, is worth taking for a chance to make more good in the world, whatever the consequences.

I am not a fan of war, and will not pretend to be, but I am still proud of our soldiers for not backing down. I am, like the nation, divided on Operation Iraqi Freedom. But perhaps this little insight will answer a question or two you may have.



SHEENA
 BISHOP
 COMMENTARY

The Commuter

STAFF

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE
www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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.

Editor-in-Chief:
 Nick Milhoan

Managing Editor:
 Sheena Bishop

Copy Editor:
 Brenda Ranzbach

Sports Editor:
 Jake Rosenberg

Contributing Editors:
 Sheena Bishop
 Melissa Chaney
 Jennifer Overholser

Photo Editor:
 Erik Swanson

Photographers:
 Matt Swanson
 Aubri Martin

Advertising Manager:
 Adam Peoples

Assistant Ad. Manager:
 Devan Edwards

Paginator/Graphics Editor:
 Megan Pickens

On-Line Editor:
 Silas Cruse

Advisor:
 Rich Bergeman

Reporting Staff:
 Rob Gibson, J.R. Griffith, Christy Harshman, Luke Hayes, Neal Jones, Briam Moore, Shelly Murray, Lydia Nelson, Katie Powell, Jennifer Settlemeyer, Dan Wise.

Editor-In-Chief: Nick Milhoan
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Campus Briefs

Surviving Math topic of Survival Seminar

"So Much Math...So Little Time," a seminar on how to reduce math anxiety, will be presented Tuesday, January 18, from 12:00-12:45 in the Multicultural Center. Presenter is math instructor Rob Lewis.

Info on LB/OSU dual enrollment available

Students interested in information on how the LBCC/OSU Dual Enrollment Program works can find out Wednesday, Jan. 19, in the Commons from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Students can find out about financial aid and talk with OSU and LBCC advisors. Free pizza will be served.

College Transfer Day set for Feb. 3

An information fair for students interested in transferring to four-year institutions will be held on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Takena Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Information and representatives will be available from 21 public and private four-year colleges in Oregon. For more information, contact Nancy Morrill at 917-4816.

Winter grads face Jan. 14 deadline

Students who plan on finishing their degree this term must have their graduation application and signed graduation worksheet to the Admissions Office by Friday Jan. 14. They also recommend that students who will be graduating spring term should turn in their paperwork now so the office can return their credit evaluation before they register for classes spring term.

Albany publisher speaks to AAWCC

The LBCC chapter of American Association of Women in Community Colleges will present Martha Wells, publisher of the Albany Democrat-Herald, on Thursday, Jan. 13, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the College Center Boardrooms. The topic is "Women, Publishing & The Newspaper Business: Personal Reflections." Soup, beverages and other refreshments are provided: \$1.75 for members of AAWCC and \$2 for non-members.

Writing Desk expands hours on Wednesday

The Writing Desk in the Learning Resource Center is extending its hours on Wednesdays this term, staying open until 7 p.m. In addition, branch offices of the Writing Desk have been opened at the Benton and East Linn centers.



Hard Hats Required!

Workers are busy preparing to pour the foundation for North Santiam Hall. The new multi-purpose classroom building is located between the AHSS Building and the Service Center. The \$2.5 million structure will contain several large multi-media-equipped lecture halls and space for student exhibits, and will be tied in to the AHSS Building with a second-floor skywalk. Completion is expected in early 2006.

photo by Erik Swanson

Multicultural Center opens new doors

Sherry Majeski
 The Commuter

The Multicultural Center greeted the New Year with a spacious new addition designed to accommodate more programs and students.

A reopening was held last Wednesday to showcase the new accommodations. Cookies and punch were served.

New to the Multicultural Center, besides approximately one third more space acquired from the old student lounge, is an information desk, comfy sofas and chairs for a relaxed study environment and quiet social time. The area has also been expanded for academic programs.

Also new to the center is the creation of dedicated space for students in non-traditional career programs. Kelly Donegan, who was hired in September of last year as the Outreach and Retention Specialist for Non-traditional Careers, is very pleased to have this space available for the students she serves.

"We want to make sure students get the resources they need to be successful,"

Donegan added.

Non-traditional careers are ones in which 25 percent or less of the workers are of one gender. LBCC has over 400 students that are enrolled in non-traditional career programs. Examples include male students in the Nursing, Child and Family Studies, and Office Specialist Programs and female students in the Automotive Technology, Welding Technology, and Drafting and Engineering Graphics Technology Programs.

In today's society, careers are not segregated by gender. Training at LBCC is available for numerous non-traditional careers. Donegan encourages students to drop by and find out about the many services and resources available to non-traditional students, including mentoring, job shadowing, apprenticeships, books and videos and the student club "Women in the Trades."

Jason Miller, the MC director, stated that the center is coming up on its sixth birthday and the population has increased from 2500 students a year in 1999 to 2200 students per quarter.

"The Multicultural Center is a safe place for all students to come to study and hang

out," he affirmed.

The Multicultural Center offers many services. These include educational programs, a full resource library, computers with Internet access, scholarship information, study-abroad information, language assistance and workshops. Students may gather for conversation or to study.

Programs offered include the Children's Winter Festival, Dia de los Muertos Ofrendas, Diversity Training and Hate Reduction Workshops, Eastern European Heritage Events, International Night, Latino/a Day and Cinco De Mayo, Lunar New Year Celebration with Our Dragon, Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Powwow and Native American Salmon Dinner, Spanish/English and Russian/Language Hours, Soup with Substance and the Hunger Banquet. The center also schedules various guest speakers during the year.

For more information about the Multicultural Center and the Non-Traditional Careers program, call or visit the Center located on the second floor of the Student Union building. Hours are daily 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. You can also call 917-4461.

Hunger Banquet feeds awareness of poverty

LBCC News Service

The Multicultural Center and Oxfam International will host the 2005 LBCC Hunger Banquet on Thursday, Jan. 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Commons Cafeteria.

The goal of the banquet is to help foster a greater understand-

ing of global hunger and poverty

on a firsthand level. In 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture ranked Oregon as the second worst state in the nation for the prevalence of outright hunger, with one of every six families in Linn and Benton counties dependent on food from an emergency food pantry at least once each

year.

Guests to the Hunger Banquet will be given a ticket containing a name and a short life story of an individual from across the globe. Throughout the night, banquet participants live the life of their individual--meal included--to give them a greater understanding of the problems

of global hunger and poverty, and to show them simple ways they can do something about it.

The event is free. Those interested in participating should contact Jason Miller, Multicultural Center coordinator, at 541-917-4299, or any Student Ambassador at 541-917-4467.

Winter scholarships ready for students

LBCC News Service

The Financial Aid Office has announced several scholarship opportunities coming up in the weeks ahead:

- On Jan. 14, from 12 - 1 p.m. in the Forum Auditorium, a representative from Oregon Student Assistance Commission will be available to help students learn how to fill out a "winning application" to the OSAC. Those applications are now available at www.GetCollegeFunds.org. This

one application allows Oregon students to apply for over 250 scholarships with one application.

- The process for awarding scholarships made available through the LBCC Foundation is also now underway. For detailed information and for applications, go to www.linnbenton.edu/scholarship. Completed applications for this process are due prior to 5 p.m. on Jan. 28.

- On Jan. 25, from 12-1 p.m. a Survival Seminar will be offered on "The In's and

Out's of Applying for Scholarships" in the Multicultural Center.

- The free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2005-2006 academic year is now available. The sooner students can submit this application the better chance they have at receiving federal student aid next year. Booklets are available in the kiosk outside the Financial Aid office in Takena Hall, or students may file electronically, which is much faster, by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov



ADVANCE YOUR CAREER WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES FROM ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS. ALL WITHOUT QUITTING YOUR JOB OR MOVING. IF YOU PLAN ON TRANSFERRING TO OSU, WHY NOT GET A HEAD START ON UPPER-LEVEL CLASSES NOW? SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN GO FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR COUCH. OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY. BE AMAZING.



Winter term open registration begins December 3rd. Classes start January 3rd. Call 800-667-1465 or email us at ecampus@oregonstate.edu for more info.

15 ONLINE Programs Including: Liberal Studies (B.A./B.S.), Environmental Sciences (B.S.), Natural Resources (B.S.), General Agriculture (B.S.)

Editor-In-Chief: Nick Milhoan
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

LOCAL NEWS

News on happenings around the country including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Philomath, Sweet Home and Tangent

Minimum wage increase causes mixed feelings

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

On Jan. 1, those earning minimum wage here in Oregon were given a raise of 20 cents. The state has increased the amount from \$7.05 to \$7.25 per hour.

The state of Oregon has a law that requires annual adjustments based on inflation and the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index.

"I am worried that I will have to pay more for things I need," said David Rickels, a student at LBCC.

There are concerns that the minimum wage increase will cause a rise in prices for goods and services. If business owners have to increase prices to accommodate the new wage, consumers could expect to pay more for dining, movie tickets, groceries

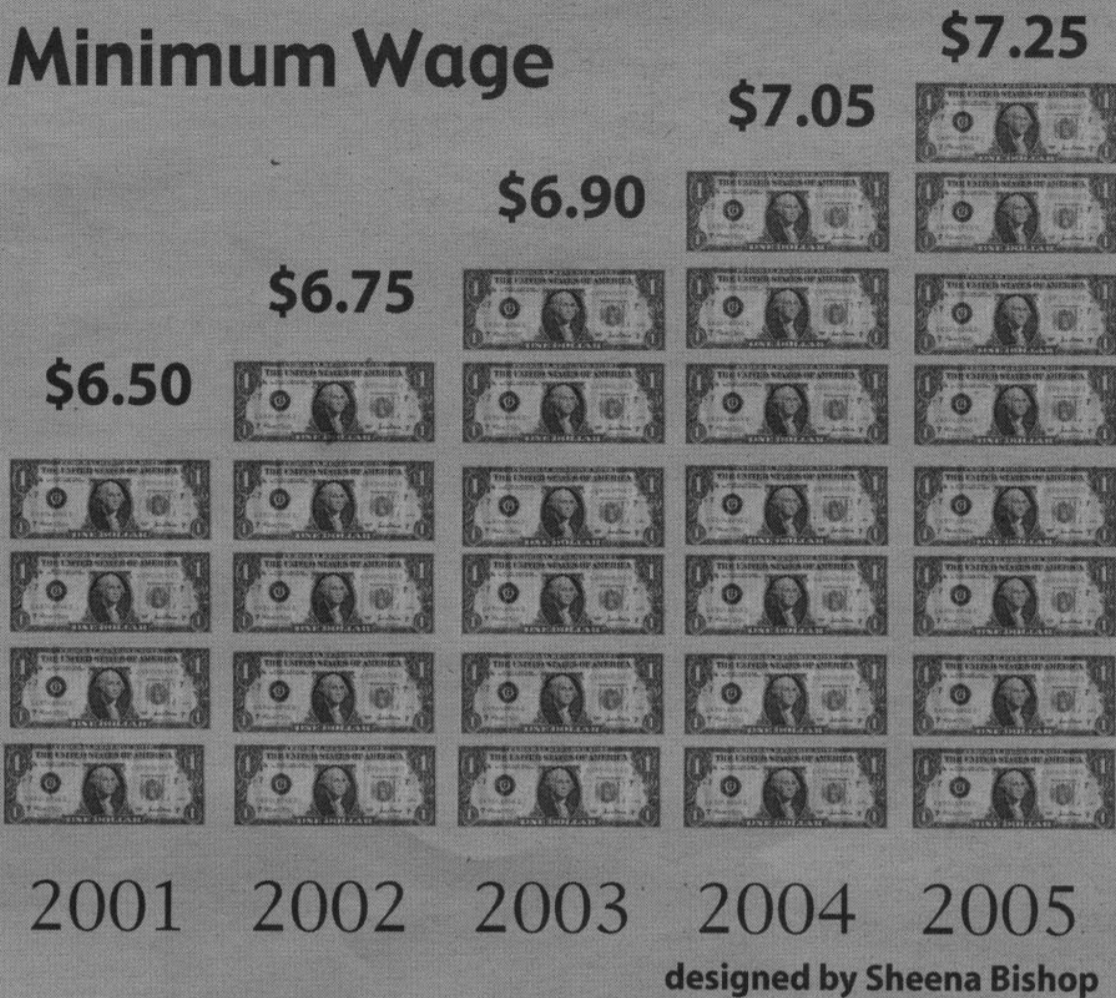
and retail merchandise.

"I think it's great, considering I don't have a job," voiced Sarah McClanahan, another student. "It's like the Robin Hood theory," adds Mark Miller, another LB student. "Business owners are forced to pay more to the minimum wage earner."

Misty Hays, a work study student in the LB Tutoring Center, received her raise last November, in anticipation of the minimum wage increase. "I was quite happy because it was my very first raise ever," she said.

Many of the part-time jobs available to students pay minimum wage. An employee working 20 hours each week could expect to earn \$145, up from the previous \$141. This may not seem like much but it does amount to an extra \$208 for the year.

Five Year Review of Oregon Minimum Wage



State budget leaves schools concerned

Nick Milhoan
 The Commuter

It seems, as much as times change, times remain the same. Just as it was in 2003, the Oregon State Legislature opened up its 2005 session amid budget cuts that are not expected to meet the concerns of schools, state troopers and social services.

Though the economy has shown some signs of rebounding, the state is still fragile and senators across the state are wary of the future.

With the beginning of the 2005 biennial legislative session that began Monday, Gov. Ted Kulongoski delivered his annual State of the State Address and urged lawmakers to help fix the wounds caused during the 2003 session, while at the same time work with each other across party lines and help tackle the issues facing the state.

"If you feel giving \$5 billion to K-12 is adequate, the answer is no," Kulongoski said. "But it's all we can afford given our current situation."

The governor urged the Legislature to find an investment strategy to help fund education. He also used the address to stump for initiatives he unveiled last year in his proposed budget, in which Kulongoski has proposed about \$5 billion for K-12 schools. Though this has already drawn fire from some advocates.

If the state budgets itself wisely, the education investment plan could easily stash away half-a-billion per biennium by the end of the decade, assuming projected revenues

hold up.

Kulongoski also proposes a large increase in the Oregon Opportunity Grant money to be set aside, that will be raising from \$44.8 million to \$91.6 million, this helps Oregon's neediest students.

University and college officials will continue to watch for the fate of the proposed \$102 million in bonds and energy loans that they hope will offset the losses seen over the last two sessions.

At the current forecast all colleges (including LB) will be losing roughly three to seven percent of their funding from two years ago and be forced yet again to raise tuition.

The governor also proposed setting aside 4 percent of rev-

enues into a rainy day fund. These two sources could help in the event of another economic downturn.

"The budget either is a tool for fiscal sanity and economic growth, or it will be, as it has been in the past, a political shell game for borrowing money we don't have," said Kulongoski.

The proposed \$12 billion budget by Kulongoski doesn't call for new taxes, as he expects the state and its agencies to live within their means and not borrow from future funds.

The governor also urged the legislature to pass a transportation package that he has proposed will improve railway, air and waterway lines. This is similar to a package he proposed on roads and bridges in the 2003

session, that later passed.

"In 2005, we need to think differently, we need to act differently," said Kulongoski. "For starters, we need to act like the Oregon families we represent. They know they have to come up with a budget, and not a wish list."

Gov. Kulongoski also urged legislators to pass a bill outlawing discrimination against homosexuals during his speech.

"This is a moral challenge because if we do not defend social justice, tolerance, and diversity--then the progress we make on the

economic front will be bought with compromised principles and a weakened human spirit," said Kulongoski. "This is not a trade off I can accept."

The Legislature is expected to consider creating civil unions to give gay couples many of the rights married couples receive. Kulongoski favors civil unions.

Oregon's Legislature convenes every two years and meets for roughly six months, though they can go longer if need be. The legislature consists of 30 Senate members and 60 members of the House of Representatives.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons

JAN. 12 - JAN. 18

•WEDNESDAY:

ENTREES: Beef stew, chicken cordon bleu, kolokopita triangles
 SIDES: Baked pesto pasta, raisin rice pilaf, peas & mushrooms
 SOUPS: Moroccan lentil, chicken & rice

•THURSDAY:

ENTREES: Turkey club w/pasta salad, chili verde, eggplant parmesan
 SIDES: Potato Gaufrettes, Mexican rice, stuffed zucchini
 SOUPS: Turkey vegetable, split pea

•FRIDAY:

Chef's choice

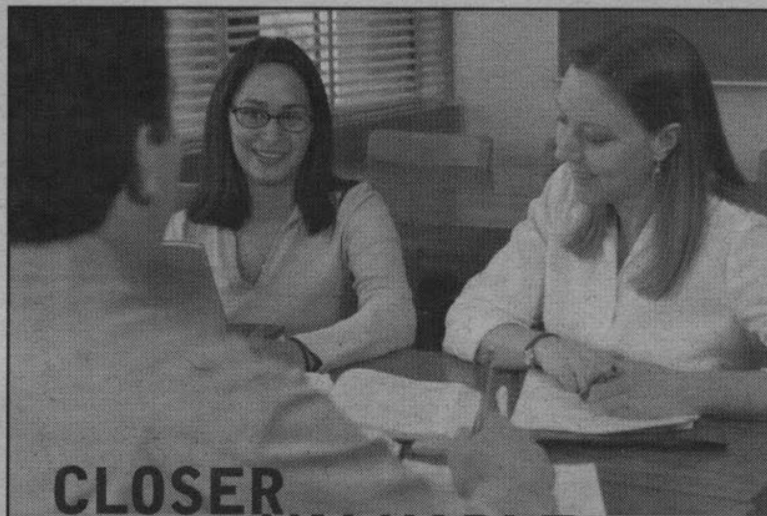
•MONDAY:

No School (Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observed)

•TUESDAY:

ENTREES: Beef stroganoff, seafood Risotto, stuffed Portabella sandwich
 SIDES: Penne w/sundried tomatoes, spaetzle, broccoli a la Polonaise
 SOUPS: Mulligatawny, vegetarian vegetable

WEEKLY MENU



CLOSER and more VALUABLE than ever

Portland State University has been serving Salem and the Mid-Willamette Valley for the past 15 years. Earn your bachelor's or master's degree or a certificate at Portland State University's Salem Center evenings, weekends, or online.

Visit us online at www.pdx.edu/statewide or call 503-315-4281.

DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM

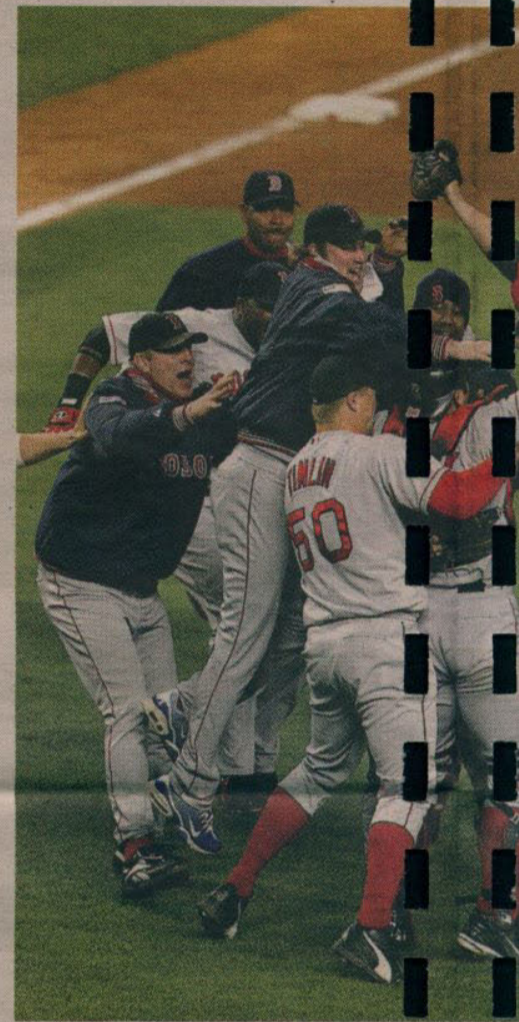
SALEM | EVENINGS | WEEKENDS | ONLINE

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Editor-in-Chief: Nick Milhoan
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
commuter@mlinnbenton.edu

IN FOCUS

What we remember ~A Year in



Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

Oh, what a year it was!

2004 was one of those years that many of us will remember forever, but one with some events we also hope we might soon forget.

The year started off with one of the biggest snow and ice storms to hit the Willamette Valley in recent memory. This virtually brought life to a halt in the area. Not only was LB shut down for the first week of the winter term, but schools and businesses from Portland to Eugene were closed.

February started off with life as normal, at least at first. We soon began to see Sen. John Kerry pull away with the Democratic nomination in the race for the White House and watched pre-favorite Gov. Howard Dean drop out as he failed to win all but one of the states needed.

The city of San Francisco soon made news world wide when its mayor, Gavin Newsome, decided to issue marriage licenses to homosexual couples. This brought forth controversy across the country, and soon other states and cities began to issue licenses as well, including Portland, and eventually the Benton County Commissioners voted to legalize it as well, but never did issue a license. This led President Bush to push for a constitutional amendment to ban



same sex marriages across the country, but his efforts on a national level failed.

Soon spring was in full bloom and the Roadrunner basketball teams were battling for a playoff spot.

The men's team made it into the NWAACC playoffs, defeating Big Bend Community College in their first game (the tournament's No. 1 seed), but then lost the next two games to Tacoma and Edmonds Community College.

Sen. Kerry eventually locked up the Democratic nomination and forced a showdown in November with President Bush. Americans soon began worrying how many people would have to die in Iraq and wondering what ever happened to the WMDs President Bush warned were such a threat at the beginning of the war.

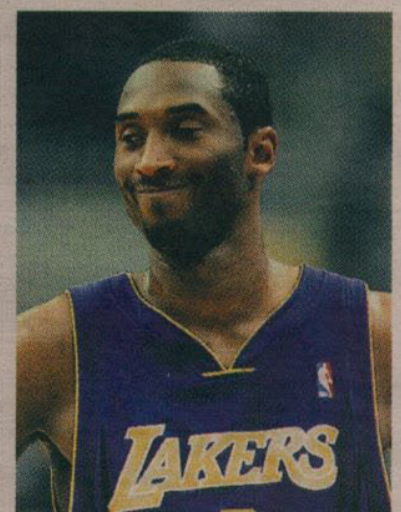
In the meantime, domestic diva Martha Stewart was found guilty in her insider trading case and forced to serve four months in federal prison, where she still is today.

In the world of sports, the

Detroit Pistons pulled off one of the biggest upsets in recent sports history to defeat the powerhouse Lakers four games to one to win the 2003-2004 NBA championship.

As the school year wound down, LBCC President Rita Cavin ended her first year at the college, and the mid-valley was thrust into the national spotlight with the disappearance of Brooke Willberger from her sister's apartment in Corvallis. To this day her family still prays for her safe return.

With the warm weather and sunny skies upon us, the summer was the one rather quite period of the year. The search for Brooke continued, the sexual assault case against Kobe Bryant hogged the headlines, and Kerry and Bush began flying around the country in an effort to woo those many undecided voters to cast their ballot for them on Nov. 2.



Photos courtesy of KRT Campus, Erik Swanson, Jeremey Hennig, and the Wilberger Family.



Photos: (Top Left) Mid-valley snow storm. (Upper Middle) New LBCC President, Rita Cavin. (Lower Middle) Brooke Wilberger and her family coming together. (Bottom Left) New Sweet Home Center. (Top Center) The Boston Red Sox win the World Series. (Bottom Center) Kobe Bryant of the L.A. Lakers. (Upper Right) Re-elected President Bush and Senator Kerry at Presidential debate. (Middle Right) LBCC Concert Choir perform in newly remodeled Russel Tripp Performance Center. (Middle Left) Mount St. Helen's vents steam as excited onlookers watch. (Bottom Right) Relief workers help remove victims of the massive December 26 tsunami that struck countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

OCUS

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

er most about 2004 n Review~



Winter sports soon began a new season. We watched Shaq begin play for the Miami Heat and Kobe had his wish, a team in L.A. to call his own. Others across North America cried and wondered how we would survive as the NHL locked out its players and put the fate of the 2004-2005 season in jeopardy.

Here at LB the new Sweet Home Center and expanded Benton centers officially opened to help students in the outlying communities out with their educational needs. Student government voted to re-do the college constitution to better suit our current needs.

As the leaves began falling, the election was at the center of America's attention, both candidates were at each other's throats, and it was not known who would win the highest power in our country. Kobe Bryant had his case dismissed when the defendant decided not to testify.

The Boston Red Sox and their supposed "Curse of the Bambino" were laid to rest as the Red Sox ended 86 years of frustration by winning the 2004 World Series,



New Tripp Center for the Performing Arts to rave reviews.

We finally ended our year with

but not before coming back from a next-to-impossible three games down to beat the juggernaut New York Yankees in the American League Championship.

November was hot right from the beginning, as elections took place on just

one of the most devastating events in recorded history—a powerful Tsunami rocked Sri-Lanka, Indonesia and many other countries in the area, killing nearly 150,000 people at last count. People from around the world poured out their hearts



The new school year was soon upon us and the Northwest was once again thrust into the national spotlight with the rumbles at Mount St. Helens. Though it did burp a bit, it never did live up to its hype.



the second day of the month. We again went to bed on election night, not knowing who would be our president. As we awoke the next morning we discovered that President Bush had done what his father could not—he won re-election. In other election news, 11 states (including Oregon) passed constitutional amendments to ban same sex marriage.

The year began to wind down with President Bush trying to re-organize his cabinet as member after member resigned. Closer to home, LB officially opened the

and promised support to help the people of these countries in their time of need.

So with this ends another year and with it a new one upon us. What will this year bring and where will we end up? No one knows what will happen, but with the war still in Iraq, a Tsunami still to be cleaned up, a president to be inaugurated once again and a half a school year still to come, it seems as though we will be talking about the events of 2005 at the same time next year.



Story by Nick Milhoan
Design by Sheena Bishop
Production by Megan Pickens

Sports Editor: Jake Rosenberg
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

NFL opens playoffs with three upsets

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

The National Football League's second season got under way this weekend. Four wild-card match-ups between seeds 3-6 faced off in the American and National Football Conferences to kick-off the 2004-05 playoffs.

In the thirty-eight year history of the super bowl, the quality of regular season records between the two conferences has never been more different. In the AFC, ten wins was almost mandatory just to make it into the playoffs, where in the NFC two 8-8 teams managed to grab a seat when the regular season song stopped.

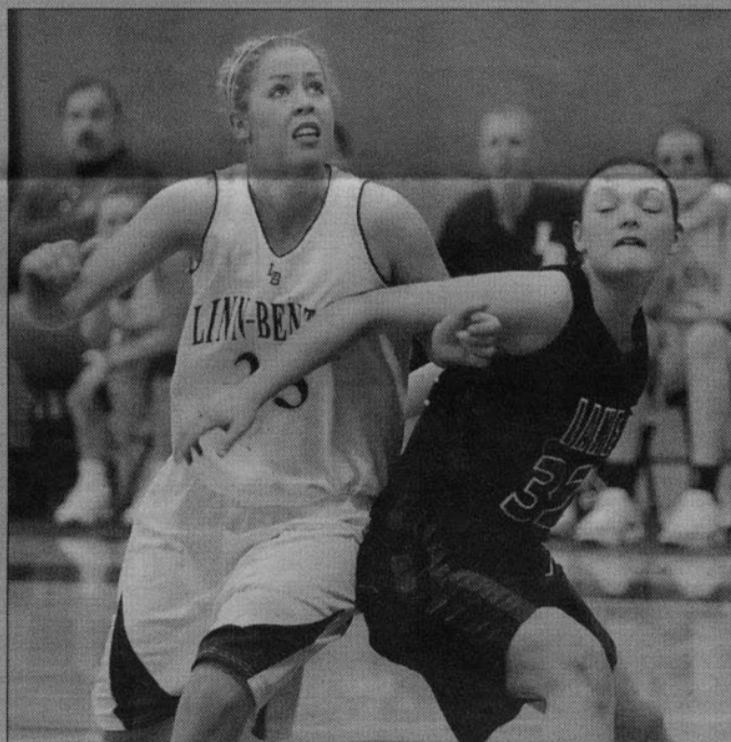
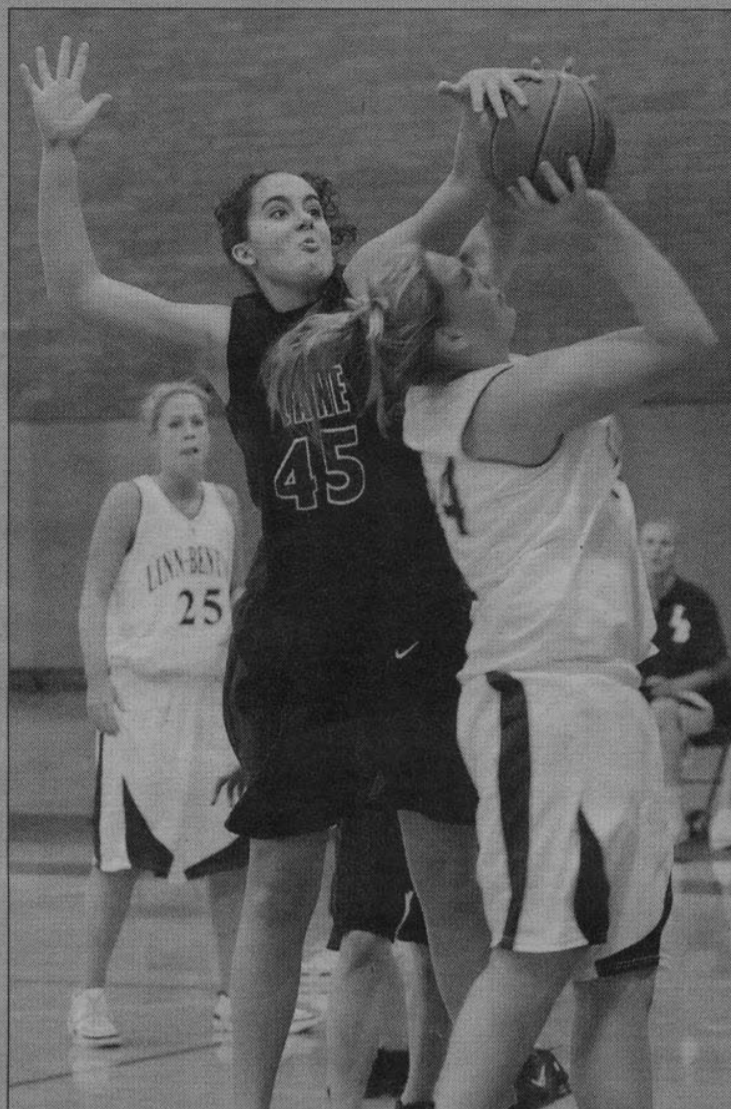
Those two teams of mediocrity proved too much for the home teams they faced. The St. Louis Rams traveled to Seattle to take on the same Seahawks which they handed two of their seven losses to. On Saturday, things were no different as the Rams held off a second-half rally by Matt Hasselbeck and the Seahawks drop-ridden receiving core 28-20. St. Louis will make the cross-country flight to Atlanta to face Michael Vick and the Falcons this weekend.

The Minnesota Vikings traveled to the frozen tundra of Green Bay on Sunday and brought some defensive firepower to the game for a change. The Vikings tasted bitter 3-point losses twice during the regular season versus the Packers, giving up 34 points in each contest. The Terrell Owens-less Philadelphia Eagles will nervously await a Minnesota team that intercepted Brett Favre four times on their way to a 31-17 playoff win.

In the AFC, the 12-4 San Diego Chargers hosted 10-6 New York in a four-hour-long Saturday night treat. The teams exchanged touchdowns and missed field goals through much of the ball-control paced game, leading to sudden death. It ended with a kick through the goalposts by Doug Brien in the final minute of overtime to send the Jets to face the top seeded Pittsburgh Steelers on Saturday.

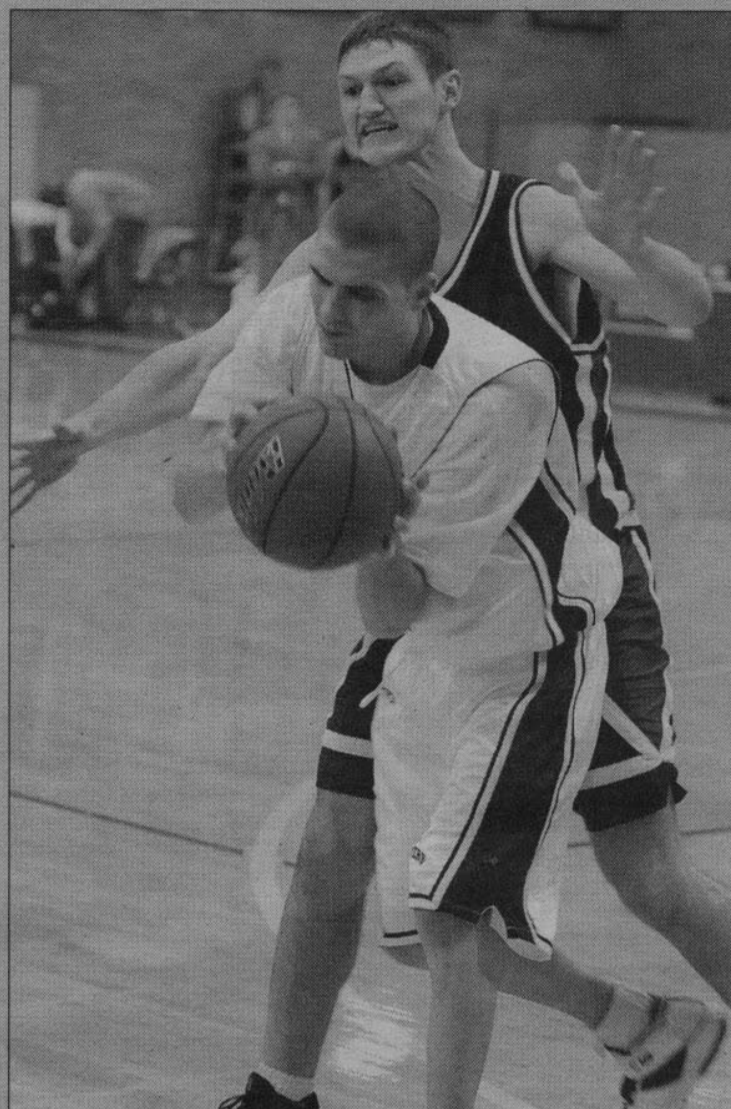
The Sunday game featured NFL MVP Peyton Manning and the Colts, as they hosted Denver in a rematch of last years wild-card match-up. Super-Manning bested his previous year's effort by contributing five touchdowns as Indianapolis tamed the Broncos 49-24.

The Colts will travel to New England on Sunday to avenge the loss dealt to them by the eventual champion Patriots a year ago in a divisional playoff game that many herald as the real super bowl.



LBCC men's and women's hoops opened league play last Wednesday at home vs. Lane, with the men victorious and the women losing. At top left, Kelsey Richards is blocked from behind while Sarah Long (bottom left) battles for a rebound. At top right, Josh Irish looks for room against a Lane defender during the men's game.

photos by Erik Swanson



Basketball teams open league season with split against Lane

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

The NWAACC Southern Division is two games in as both the LB men and women split their league contests.

The women were beat by Lane 85-73 Wednesday despite 30 points and 9 rebounds by Kendall Dionne and 12 points and 7 rebounds by Kelsey Richards.

The Lady Runners traveled to Portland on Saturday and beat PCC 74-66 thanks to Brittany Howell's 27 points, Richards' 14 points and Dionne's 11 points and 7 boards.

The LB men got off to a hot start as they took on Lane and won 69-64. Micheal Braziel's

14 points aided Bobby Schindler's game-high 18 and Keith Hoffman's 15 rebounds en route to victory in the Southern Division opener.

On Saturday, the men fell a point short as Josh Irish's 11 points along with Schindler's 10 points and 8 rebounds were not enough to start an LB winning streak.

The 7-8 men's team and the 9-7 women travel to Roseburg today to take on Umpqua. The No. 2 Umpqua Timberwomen are undefeated at 17-0, while both men's teams will battle for their shots at winning records. The runners next home game is Saturday, where they face Clackamas.

Former Beaver coach Erickson fired by 49ers

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

San Francisco 49ers owner John York fired Head Coach Dennis Erickson and General Manager Terry Donohue last Wednesday. The news comes only three days after the five-time super bowl champs finished their season with a league worst 2-14 record.

The decision was an expensive one as Erickson will get all of the \$7.5 million owed to him for the three years remaining on his contract, thus receiving almost \$1.5 million for every one of his nine victories during his two-year stint.

"I just thanked them for the opportunity," Erickson said. "They wanted to go their direction, I've got to go my direction.

It's a divorce. It's final now."

York fired fan-favorite Steve Mariucci following the 2002 season and bated Erickson away to the bay area from Oregon State after he compiled a 31-17 record and a Fiesta Bowl victory with the Beavers.

The hiring ended up being a mirror image of the Seahawks' disappointments that resulted in a 31-33 record and zero playoff appearances during his four years in Seattle after a 63-9 record with two national titles at the University of Miami. Expectations remain high, but college credentials may no longer apply in the search for the new head coach.

York said that his first priority is to find a winning coach with professional experience, but finding one who can win with a budget-

friendly roster is something that has never been done before in the National Football League. The first duty of whoever fills the vacancies will be scouting the college combines to find the first selection in this April's draft.

York has hinted that the top candidates include Patriots defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel, Titans offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger as well as former Niners assistant Pete Carroll, whom clinched his second college national title in as many years with Southern California last week.

"Sometimes, even when everyone works very hard, the formula for winning just isn't there," York said. "We're going to use the extreme disappointment that we all have felt as our turning point."

Editor-In-Chief: Nick Milhoan
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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



photo by Erik Swanson

Sophie Maron (right) waits for Student Ambassador, Amelia Cohn to finish her coffee Monday morning in the new Student Union Coffee Lounge located next to the Student Government offices.

Lounge: Naming contest underway

▲ From Pg. 1
 hope to eventually add a pastry cart and a copy machine," she said. "The menu and coffee cart prices are the same as the Courtyard Cafe," Cohn added. A pool table, free of charge is also available.

"The main reason to move the student lounge was because the old furniture got demolished and the TV broke down. The new

area is more secure," said student ambassador Peter Horak. Horak added the student phone that was in the old lounge is now in the Multi-Cultural Center. "It's available for students to make local or toll free (800) number calls," he added.

Student Life and Leadership, which runs the coffee house, is conducting a "Name The Coffee House Contest". The winning

entry will win a free cup of coffee, each day for one week; all entries should be into the Student Life and Leadership office by Monday, Jan. 31.

Monday-Friday
 Coffee House:
 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Coffee Cart:
 8 a.m. to 1p.m.

MLK: OSU offers annual Peace Breakfast as part of King week celebration

▲ From Pg. 1
 stories of people from around the world. They will then be seated according to social status; most will be seated on the floor eating rice, while a few will be partaking of a five-course meal. This banquet is designed to allow the participants to experience the problems of poverty and to give them an understanding of global hunger and how to deal with it. Those who wish to attend need to call 917-4461 and RSVP by Jan. 18.

A photo contest is also being held as a part of the Martin Luther King Campus Celebration and is open to the students, staff and faculty of LBCC. The theme of the contest is, "Social Justice and Equality", which is open to interpretation by contestants, who are encouraged to be creative.

As stated on posters around LBCC, prints can be made on 8x10-inch photo paper or 8.5x11-inch photo quality inkjet

paper and should be put in a manila envelope labeled with your name and the title of your photo.

All submissions must be turned into the Multicultural Center by noon on Jan. 18, 2005. Three prizes in the form of LBCC Book Store certificates will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners. They are \$75, \$50, and \$25 respectively.

In recognition of Martin Luther King Jr., a series of events entitled The Dream: The Power, The Price and The Promise, that began Jan. 6 and continues through Jan. 21, is taking place on OSU's campus. One of the main events is the 23rd Annual Peace Breakfast from 7:30-9 a.m., on Jan. 20, in the Memorial Union Ballroom. Tickets are \$10 for non-students and \$6 for students. This will feature the MLK, Jr. Readers Theatre, music by the Willamette Valley Mixed Gala Choir and an awards presentation.

BC Welcome: Free pizza a big hit

▲ From Pg. 1
 formance this year will include Maria E. Olaya, a classical guitarist and Pete Ballerstedt, who plays hammered dulcimer. This will take place on Friday, Jan. 21 from noon to 1 p.m.

"I like the free pizza," said LB student Andrew Radke. "It's nice

that they get the students at this center involved."

Benton Center is beneficial to dual-enrolled students as it is convenient and in close proximity to OSU.

"The event was a success," said Hung.

It's estimated that 75 students

attended the event and sponsors hope, learned a lot more about what LB has to offer.

Student Life and Leadership hopes to continue hosting events not only at the Benton Center, but Sweet Home and Lebanon as well, in order to get more students involved.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

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

CWE On-Line Testing

Technician (#2968, Albany) If you are a recent graduate or currently enrolled in a 2-year assoc degree program in electrical OR working toward any engineering 4-year BS degree, you can apply for this part-time job.

gree and get paid \$9.60/hr. If interested, please see me now!

Management Trainee (#2975, Corvallis) This full-time position in a sports equipment store would like a college graduate and are looking for flexibility in work hours and there's a possibility of relocating. Do you want to get experience in management?

Kennel Person (#2980, by LBCC) If you are dependable, early morning person and are

comfortable around small and large animals, this vet wants you! Hours are 6-9 or 11am several days a week and possible weekends.

Bank jobs available

(Corvallis & Philomath) Full-time jobs in Corvallis and part-time Teller (10am-2pm) in Philomath. If you have some office skills, customer service and cash handling, one of these could be a good fit.

Contest seeks photos on justice, equality

LBCC News Service

The Student Programming Board and the Multicultural Center invite the LBCC community to participate in a photo contest celebrating the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The theme of the contest is "Social Justice and Equality."

Deadline for submission is noon on Tuesday Jan. 18 in the Multicultural Center.

Prints must be on 8x10-inch photo paper or 8.5x11-inch photo quality inkjet paper. Put the print in an envelope with your name, title of the picture, and your phone number or email address.

Winners will be announced at an award ceremony on Jan. 19, at noon in the Multicultural Center.

Refreshments will be provided.

Prizes for the winners are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place, all in the form of LBCC Bookstore gift certificates.

The criteria will be the creative exploration of the theme, sharpness, exposure and print quality.

For more information contact Jorge Alvarez at the Student Life & Leadership office, 917-4963 or email jorge.alvarez@linnbenton.edu.

Photos will be on display in the Multicultural Center Jan. 18 - 21.

The Albany Democrat-Herald, an award-winning daily in the center of the Willamette Valley, is looking for a sports editor to guide its daily sports section, published five afternoons a week, Saturday mornings, and Sundays jointly with the Corvallis-Gazette-Times. Requirements include demonstrated skills in planning, writing, editing and design, along with enthusiasm for community and high school sports and an ability to sense and deliver what readers want. Two to five years writing or editing experience in sports preferred. Send a resume along with a section you have edited to: HR Dept., Albany Democrat-Herald, P.O. Box 130, Albany, OR 97321.

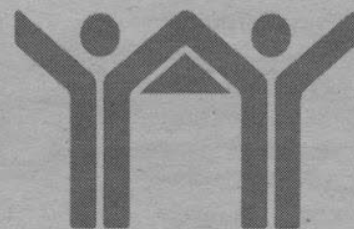
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Asks you to participate in the Alternative Spring Break Experience

Be part of an LBCC team and **RAISE THE ROOF** in Olympia, Washington.

Applications are available in the Student Life & Leadership Office **DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JANUARY 14**

Questions can be dedicated to 541-917-4666 or stop by the SL&L Office.



MARCH 19-26

Managing Editor: Sheena Bishop
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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



This view of Summer Lake from Fremont Point on Winter Ridge is one of more than 60 photographs on display in The Art Gallery in the AHSS Building this month. The panoramic image is by LBCC photo instructor Kurt Norlin, who is one of five local photographers who have been traveling to Eastern Oregon over the past several years to photograph landscapes, ghost towns, abandoned ranches and wildlife.

contributed photo

Eastern Oregon perspectives on exhibit at LB

LBCC News Service

Five local photographers offer their personal interpretations of the Eastern Oregon landscape in an exhibit at the Art Gallery at Linn-Benton Community College during the month of January.

"Five Photographers: Perspectives on Eastern Oregon" explores how the same subject is perceived through different eyes. The show, which contains more than 60 prints in various photographic media, will be on view from Jan. 3-28. A public reception will be held at the gallery on Thursday Jan. 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Photographers Owen Bentley, Rich Bergeman and Allan Doerksen, all of Corvallis; and Kurt Norlin and Bob Ross, both of Albany, have been traveling together and separately to various locations in Eastern Oregon

over the past several years. The show includes scenes from Steens Mountain, Summer Lake, the Painted Hills, Catlow Valley, Malheur Refuge, Harney Basin, Warner Valley and the Alvord Desert, among others.

Although they sometimes photographed in exactly the same places, such as the abandoned Shirk Ranch at Guano Lake, the petroglyphs at the base of Hart Mountain, and the rustic town of Hardman, they came back with different views that interpret their subjects in their own personal styles.

Doerksen and Bergeman offer classic black-and-white studies of weathered wood-plank buildings, abandoned interiors and other scenes taken with large-format cameras. While Doerksen uses the traditional silver-gelatin papers to print his work, Bergeman prints in the historic platinum process and also shows some small manipu-

lated color Polaroid prints.

Ross, a well-known nature photographer, presents color photographs made with a digital camera. His work reveals a fascination with the land and a wide-ranging interest in subject matter.

Norlin is showing two distinct styles of work—a selection of panoramic color prints that reveal the breadth of the Eastern Oregon landscape, and a set of photographs made with a toy camera, whose soft focus and distortion add a dream-like quality to the images.

Bentley presents large-format black-and-white prints that find the ironic and playful in the small towns and deserted homesteads that dot the desert landscape.

The LBCC Art Gallery is located in the AHSS Building on the main Albany campus, and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

'Pride and Prejudice' receives praise

Sheena Bishop
The Commuter

Jane Austen's classic "Pride and Prejudice" caught my eye last April at Powell's Books in Portland. Determined to do some serious, deep-thinking reading over the summer between work and classes, I snatched it up. At the end of Fall term, I discovered the book in a box it had lived in since its purchase, while I moved twice.

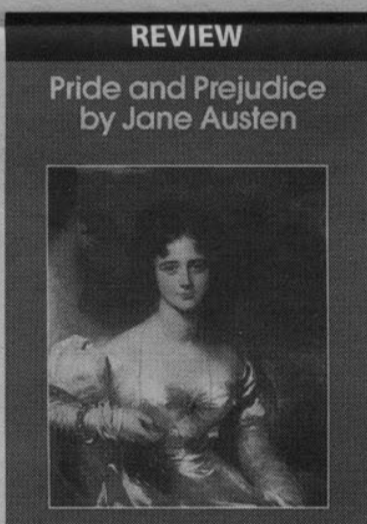
Ah, ha! Just in time for winter break, too. A little behind schedule, I cuddled up with Austen's book, originally published in 1813, and couldn't put it down until the last page had been turned.

I stopped long enough for a couple of naps, snacks and showers, but found myself so entrenched in the language and grammar that I didn't even get out of my pajama's for two days as I read and reread, examining every syllable.

This may sound nerdy, but try to understand. The book was written nearly 200 years ago. The fact that it is remembered so fondly and has even been turned into a motion picture, to any nerdy little book worm, makes it worth the crick in the neck from constant examination.

For those unfamiliar with the story, our dear heroine is Elizabeth Bennett, the second of five daughters and her father's favorite by far. She is handsome, but differently from her older sister Jane. Elizabeth is an intelligent, thought provoking beauty.

Her nemesis in the beginning, Mr. Darcy, is a tart and ruddy



man visiting a gentleman near by, Mr. Bingley, and his two snotty sisters. Bingley becomes enchanted with Jane at their first meeting, the same evening that Mr. Darcy snubs Elizabeth as a plain, poorly looking girl he wants nothing to do with.

The title of the book has much to do with the pride and prejudices that immediately wedged between Elizabeth and Darcy, but there is much more you will catch in the text. A lot of the title you will find in the battle of rank between those in the -shire and London, where Darcy's rich aunt and cousin live.

While at Bingley's estate for an afternoon visit, Jane falls ill, and Elizabeth stays there to care for her. Elizabeth finds herself wanting to escape with Jane back home not long after her arrival. Bingley's sisters and their false affection towards her sister are annoying, in addition to the discomfort she finds constantly being in the presence of Darcy.

Darcy's one true devotion is to his younger sister, Georgiana.

She is shy and quiet, but beautiful. It isn't until Elizabeth sees their more than generous estate, Pemberly, left to them by their late father, and Darcy's interactions with Georgiana at home, that she realizes there is more to him than the shire allowed him to express.

The battle for Mr. Darcy's affections is strongly waged by Bingley's spoiled and selfish younger sister, Caroline, who makes a fool of herself flirting to no avail. Also rushing in to claim him is his aunt, Lady Catherine, arguing her agreement with the Old Mr. Darcy for his marriage to her daughter, Anne de Bourgh.

I found myself on the last page, sad it was over, reluctant to put it down and wishing there was a sequel with all my heart and soul. How could Austen tease generations by not telling us how Elizabeth and Darcy went on after they settled their differences?

The story is romantic, but more so. I believe it is a wonderful depiction of how the importance of marrying well is viewed in a time where tea was still served in the parlor at the same time every day.

The details in Austen's characters make you think of people in your own life. The need to better oneself has been a human trait for generations, driven by self-preservation and distrust of lower statuses.

Most importantly, this novel proves that we are all human and capable of making mistakes, yet capable of discovering the truth beyond our Pride and Prejudice.

Benton Center's acoustic series continues Jan. 21

LBCC News Service

The Benton Center Acoustic Showcase continues in 2005 with a performance by Maria E. Olaya, classical guitarist, and Pete Ballerstedt, who plays hammer dulcimer, on Friday, Jan. 21 from noon-1 p.m. The concert takes place in the Benton Center Student Lounge.

Olaya was one of the founders of the acoustic ensemble "Madera y Canto" and has performed as a soloist and as a member of numerous ensembles in the United States

and Colombia. Her repertoire includes a wide variety of classical and folk Latin American music.

A long-time fan of bluegrass, Celtic and old-time American folk music, Ballerstedt plays primarily from the Celtic and old-time tradition, although his repertoire also includes folk tunes from France, Germany, Mexico and the Caribbean, as well as hymns and gospel tunes.

The Acoustic Showcase is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the center at 757-8944.

STUDENT ELECTIONS!

Completed applications for Student Government positions are due at **NOON ON FEBRUARY 11** at the Student Life And Leadership Office.

Candidate forum will be **FEBRUARY 16 AT NOON IN THE LBCC COMMONS**. Applicants need to be prepared to answer questions from the audience.

Online voting will begin on **FEBRUARY 22ND AT 7:30 AM AND LAST UNTIL 11:30 PM**.

Students with questions can contact Stephanie Quigley at 917-4475.

Managing Editor: Sheena Bishop
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

CALENDAR

THE VIBE

Albany Public Library Main Branch 1390 Waverly Dr. SE Albany 917-7580	Jan. 20 Sharon Newman, author Author of "The Real History Behind the da Vinci Code speaks about the book. 7:00 p.m. Free
Linn-Benton College Benton Center 757 NW Polk Avenue Corvallis 757-8944	Jan. 21 Maria E. Oloya (Classical Guitar) & Pete Ballerstedt (hammered dulcimer) 11:30 - 1 p.m. Free
OSU Women's Center, Benton Annex Corvallis 757-8944	Jan. 14 Voice From Africa A panel of OSU students share their perspective on a variety of topics 5 - 7 p.m. Free
Platinum 126 SW 4th St. Corvallis 738-6996	Jan. 14 Amadan Irish/Celtic/Punk style Blackout Radio Rockabilly Punk 9 p.m. \$5 Jan. 15 Ala Nar Middle Eastern Music & Dance 8-11 p.m. \$6
W.O.W. Hall 291 W. 8th St. Eugene 541-687-2746	Jan. 15 GLITCH, Kenzie, Pirate Radio Heavy Metal, Rock & Punk 8:30 p.m. \$7



This oil painting by LB art instructor Dori Litzer is among the work in the Faculty Art Exhibit on display this month at Pegasus Gallery in Corvallis.

contributed photo

LBCC art faculty display their talents at Corvallis gallery

LBCC News Service

A group show of paintings, ceramics and photography by the Art Department faculty at Linn-Benton Community College will be on display at Pegasus Gallery from Jan. 4 to Jan. 29.

A reception for the artists will be held at Pegasus' newly enlarged and remodeled gallery space on Thursday, Jan. 13 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

The exhibit includes paintings by Analee Fuentes, Dori Litzer and Gary Westford; ceramics by Erik Land and Jay Widmer; and photography by Rich Bergeman and Kurt Norlin.

Fuentes, who is chair of the Art Department, will exhibit large-scale oil paintings from her most recent series on the native trout of Oregon. The 56-by-48-inch paintings give the viewer a larger-than-life experience of the intricate patterns of color and texture characteristic of each species.

Litzer will also be exhibiting large oils. Her work delves into personal experiences that have a relationship with such basic elements as air, water, wind and place. The vigorous and elegant brushwork of her paintings interpret that emotional energy as color and form.

Westford explores the world of wrestling in his paintings. Noting that he competed as a wrestler

in his youth, Westford said that, as an artist in later life, "it took me 35 years to figure out what I knew at age 15—I want to do paintings of a sport that has been recorded dating back to relief drawings on the walls of Egyptian temples and the sides of Greek amphoras: real wrestling."

Widmer presents raku and wood-fired anagama ceramic pieces that tell a story about his relationships with food rituals and his life in the Oregon Coast Range. A respected instructor of ceramics in the local area since the 1970s, he has taught for the last 20 years at the Benton Center in Corvallis. Land, a long-time Eugene area artist, is showing a selection of pit-fired ceramic bowls and metal sculptures.

Bergeman and Norlin are exhibiting photography, though of widely varying media and styles. Norlin's prints are made from toy camera negatives of scenes in Eastern Oregon, creating a dream-like interpretation of the landscape. Bergeman is showing large-format platinum prints of the Coast Range tidal region and hand-worked SX-70 Polaroid views of Nova Scotia.

Pegasus Frame Studio and Gallery is located at 341 SW Second St. in Corvallis and is open 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

'Ocean's 12' gang surfs across Europe in hilarious sequel

Sheena Bishop
The Commuter

The gang is back and sizzling hot. Danny Ocean's 11 come back in 12, happily living the life of luxury at Terry Benedict's expense.

Three years after their great casino job, Danny and Tess have a house, while Rusty's hotel investments are proving foolish. A quick view of the 11 and their various degrees of happiness rolls as Terry Benedict arrives to individually burst all of their bubbles.

They flee to New York to discuss their ensuing problem: Benedict wants his money back, with interest. The price is now \$190 million, due in two weeks time.

Of course the only way to get

back what they spent, in the past three years, plus interest, is to do another job, but the US is too hot.

Amsterdam, Rome and Paris are all on the hit list, but not without Rusty's old fling from many moons ago catching up, a Europol by the name of Isabel Lehiri.

Engrossed in her line of work and completely taken by the villain la Marque, an irony she will later discover, we first meet her arguing that while Europe's most infamous thief is the Night Fox, he is no comparison to la Marque, whom for all the authorities know, is dead or living in Tahiti.

She remembers Rusty and is in hot pursuit, but she is not the only one who knows something is happening. The Night Fox has



discovered Ocean's 11, and is now challenging them.

If the gang can pull off the biggest heist in Europe before he does, they will win the title

of best in the world, a title that he feels is rightly his. Their problem with Benedict will be erased if they can do it.

But how can you fool a fox in his own territory? The answers are sketchy and involve breaking a few promises to Tess, but if that is what it takes, Danny Ocean will do it.

Tess can be very offensive to people mistaking her for the actress Julia Roberts, which becomes a hysterical charade that will make your side ache with laughter.

A surprise visit by Bruce Willis gives another twist, but you will never guess how the entire group, including Tess, escapes from jail.

Lehiri wants to hate Rusty, but in the long run she just

can't do it. If you want to know why, you'll have to see the movie. I'm not giving away the ending.

I give kudos to Julia Roberts for mimicking herself, fake pregnancy and all, on the big screen. You can tell they had to do a lot of retakes to stop laughing long enough to get it right. And same for Catherine Zeta-Jones, who put an immense amount of passion into the role of Isabel.

As for the characters of Danny, Rusty, and Linus, I highly doubt it hurt too many people to watch George, Brad and Matt slink across the screen in all their glory. Good show, gentlemen.

The only thing left to ask is when will we see previews to Ocean's 13? If Danny can get Tess mangled up in the madness, I'm sure Rusty can convince Isabel, or worse. With this team, you never know what the heist is.