

THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2000

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 32 No. 4

LB proposes bond measure to fund new facilities

by Leon Tovey
of The Commuter

In addition to a record number of ballot initiatives and a presidential election, residents of Linn and Benton counties will be faced with a decision on whether or not to approve LBCC's \$19.1 million general obligation bond measure this November.

The proposed bond would replace an existing bond passed by voters in 1994. According to Mike Holland, vice president of Administrative and Student Services, the bond would be a deferred interest bond—meaning

that the money would be available immediately, while payments on the interest would not begin until 2004 when the old bond is paid off.

If the bond is passed, it is estimated that it would take 16 years to repay at a cost to taxpayers of 21 cents per thousand dollars of assessed property value—the same rate as the current bond.

The new bond would not be used to fund programs or day-to-day operation of LB, Holland says, but would be used exclusively for improvements to on and off-campus facilities.

"Under prior law, some of the money (from the bond) could have been used for buying new computers and technology, but recent changes in laws regarding bond measures have tied our hand to an extent," Holland says. "Most of our operating and programming funding will be dependent on the ballot initiatives—the bond measure is a separate issue."

Projects to be funded by the bond would include:

- Construction of a new East Linn One Stop training and education center in Lebanon. This project would

(Turn to "Bond Measure" on Pg. 2)



Photo by Mary Jova

Mike the anarchist holds up a sign denouncing corporate dominance at a protest in front of McDonald's in Corvallis on Monday. The protesters criticized McDonald's for using meat from corporate feed lots, selling toys made in Asian sweatshops, using unethical advertising and engaging in anti-union tactics.

Corvallis protesters denounce McDonald's

by Mary Jova
of The Commuter

Sunny weather helped to draw a group of protesters in front of the Ninth Street McDonald's in Corvallis on Monday to denounce corporate practices.

The group claimed to stand in solidarity with people around the world who are fighting against animal mistreatment and unhealthy food.

Spencer Godard, a resident of Newport, grew up on a farm and says that he does not like the way animals used for food are treated.

"They are not placed out to pasture," he said. "They eat feed out of the stall until they are sent to a slaughter house or shot in their stalls."

Another protester, Brook Colley, stated that rainforests are cut down for space to raise cows in third world countries.

"We have a responsibility to speak out against McDonald's, who are against trade unions, and unethical advertising targeting our children," she said. "These children grow up eating unhealthy foods and playing with toys that are mass produced by young Chinese women who work under harsh conditions."

Protesters Tanya Cheeke and Chris Dixon stated that they stand in solidarity with Canadian workers in British Columbia who tried unsuccessfully to unionize their McDonald's. "They won't let their workers unionize or get better wages," said Dixon.

A self-proclaimed anarchist who referred to himself only as Mike held a sign protesting corporate dominance. Mike is a founding member of Corvallis Action on Globalization (CAG) and attended the 1999 World Trade Organization protest.

The group distributed "What's Wrong With Ronald McDonald" fliers stating that "when we stop eating McDonald's unhealthy food we help stop the abuse of the environment and cruelty to animals."

Women's groups encourage voters to take a stand

by Lisa Paolo
of The Commuter

A small group of faculty and students turned out Thursday to hear representatives from the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women discuss the importance of women voting, the struggle they went through to earn the right, and the impact they could have on the Oregon ballot.

Both of the groups are non-partisan volunteer organizations who formed to give women a unified voice about the issues that are important to them. They were invited to LBCC by the Gender Equity Committee to encourage women to vote and to share their stand on some of the issues.

Corrine Gobli from the LWV explained how women have impacted poli-

tics in America since the ratification of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. She gave historical information on Susan B. Anthony, Lucricia Mott and many other advocates for women's rights whose work helped to pass the 19th Amendment in 1868.

Gobli said that the turnout for women voters is not what it could be, and although the amendment passed in 1868,

the number of women voting did not match the men until 1980.

She then went on to discuss the LWV stand on some of the issues on the Oregon ballot this November. They oppose many issues that would take any funding away from schools, such as Measure 91. Other measures the league opposes include 88, 91, 92, 93, 98, 2, 7, 8, and 9. (Turn to "Women Voters" on Pg. 2)



Picked Clean

Volunteers flood coast in annual litter cleanup.

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Check This Out

Stop in the Commons Monday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for free pizza and a chance to volunteer for community service.

Hidden Treasure

Fine dining available in out-of-the-way campus bistro

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CAMPUS NEWS

OFF BEAT

Sailing into trouble

A man who had sailed down the Marco River with his girlfriend and three male friends and pulled in at the popular Snook Inn, in Naples, Fla., was somewhat taken aback when a woman there informed him that his girlfriend had gone into the ladies room and was having sex with one of his friends. He rushed in and heard the unmistakable sounds of passion in one of the stalls. He pounded on the door, threatening mayhem and bodily harm, but they continued undeterred. The situation was resolved soon afterward back on the dock outside, in an ugly scene featuring the expected screaming match and fist fight. Alcohol may have been involved.

In-Law relations cut deep

Gary Farmer, who had met his daughter's new husband at their wedding only three days earlier, found that he just didn't like the groom, Mark Erlandson, one little bit. He felt that the man just wasn't good enough for his daughter. So, while visiting the couple in their mobile home, he came around in back of the groom, pulled his head back by his hair and cut his throat with a kitchen knife. Erlandson survived. Farmer, 53, has been charged with attempted murder, and his attorney has requested a psychological evaluation.

Air tight alibi

A young street thug in Spain testified at his trial that he could not possibly have beaten and robbed a taxi driver at knifepoint in Madrid, as he is accused of doing. This is because, he said, he was miles away at the time picking pockets at a street fair in Seville.

—From the TMS News Service

CORRECTIONS

In an Oct. 4 story about student survival seminars, Sandy Fichtner's name was spelled incorrectly. The Commuter regrets the mistake.

Students Volunteer for Into the Street Community projects

by Gelina Inches
of The Commuter

The Student Ambassadors found plenty of willing volunteers for their Into the Streets program among the students who turned out for last month's Welcome Back Barbecue.

The Into the Streets program is a project sponsored by LBCC's Student Ambassadors to recruit LBCC students to volunteer at soup kitchens in local churches, and provide community services. The program covers Corvallis, Lebanon and Albany.

Among their activities was a reading project in which the ambassadors raised money and bought books from Benton County's Friends of the Library and distributed them to each of the first and second graders of Central Elementary School in Albany.

Last year Into the Streets program took a week in January to help build a house in celebration of Martin Luther King Day for the Habitat for Humanity program.

In the past, Martin Luther King Day was the only time the volunteer group was active in a project.

But this year the ambassadors want to be involved in a service project each term, as well as help out at a soup kitchen at the end of each month.

"We went to Signs of Victory, a church in Albany, to help cook and serve food to less fortunate people. On the 26th we're going to the soup kitchen at St. Mary's in Corvallis and on Nov. 27 we're going to First Christ Church in Lebanon," stated LBCC's Student Activities coordinator, Carol M. Wenzel.

Women Voters: Groups oppose tax-cutting ballot measures

However, she said the group strongly supports Measure 5, making it mandatory for Oregon State Police to conduct criminal background checks for the purchase of handguns, rifles and shotguns at gun shows. In fact, not only does the LWV support it, but it also carried petitions to help get it on the ballot. Other Measures the league supports are Measures 1 and 6 on school funding and campaign finance reform.

Collen Keller of the AAUW said her organization also opposes many of the same ballot measures. "A strong public education system is important in a demo-

cratic society and, therefore, we oppose any measure taking funding away from that," she said.

The AAUW takes a position on the issues at a state level but does not choose candidates. The organization opposes 17 issues on the Oregon ballot and supports only four because of their impact on schools and health care, she said. The AAUW is also concerned with Social Security. She stated that right now women are only eligible for two-thirds of their husband's Social Security money, and that needs to be reformed. The AAUW also takes the position of pro-

choice on abortion.

Both groups hope that by educating voters on the issues and how they can impact them, they will be able to encourage them to vote.

"The League of Women Voters believe that the more education people have, the higher the percentage of voter turnout," Gobli said. "We spend our time and energy doing this because we really do believe it makes a difference."

The next event conducted by the AAUW and LWV is a ballot measure forum held at the Albany Public Library on Oct. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Bond Measure: Funds would build new centers in Sweet Home and Lebanon

be largely funded by the bond, but according to Holland, the need for the facility would force administrators to look for funding elsewhere if the measure fails to pass. If the bond passes, Holland says it would likely be up and running by March of 2002.

•Construction of a new Sweet Home Center. LBCC president Jon Carnahan has discussed the expansion of the existing East Linn Center with the Sweet Home school district and has drawn up

a tentative plan that would include constructing a new building next to Sweet Home High School. This project would rely on both the LB bond and a local bond measure proposed by the Sweet Home school district for its funding.

•Improvements to the Benton Center in Corvallis. Planned improvements to the Benton Center would include renovation of the current facilities and the construction of a new two-floor, 20,000 square foot annex. The new building

would be devoted to classroom and lab space.

•Construction of a new 40,000 square foot multi-purpose building to be located in front of Takena Hall and the LRC. This building would offer space for offices, classrooms, meeting and seminar rooms, as well as plenty of space for student gatherings and activities.

•Improvements to campus facilities, including upgrading old science labs, service facilities, electrical systems, and

industrial training facilities, and constructing replacement facilities for maintenance and printing services.

•Construction of facilities for the agricultural and animal science programs. These programs currently lease facilities near Corvallis—facilities which Holland calls inadequate to the program's needs. The new facilities would offer individual stalls and adequate turn-out space for the program's animals, and would be located much closer to campus.

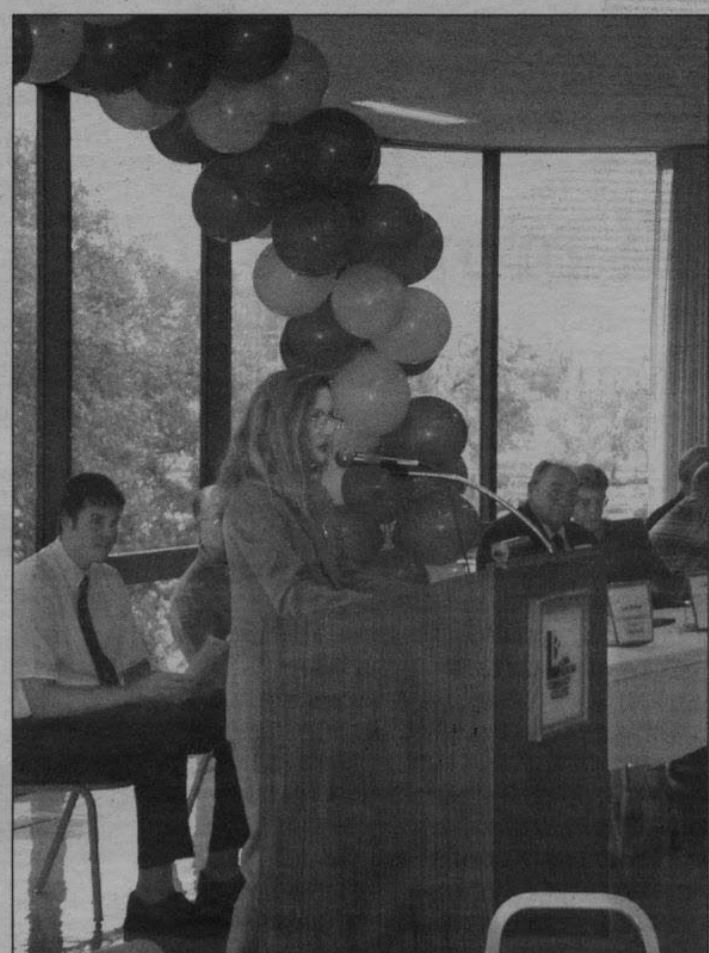


Photo by Chris Spence

Airing the Issues

Local candidates for county commissioner and state offices gathered in the Commons last week to stake out their positions in the Nov. 7 election. Four of the candidates for Linn County Commissioner said they had attended LBCC at one time. ASLBCC President Todd Gifford (left), who moderated the event, said he was pleased with the turnout.

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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

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

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IN FOCUS

Beach Sweep

Thousands scour Oregon beaches in annual litter cleanup drive

by Lori Weedmark
of The Commuter

SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) hosted its 17th annual Fall Beach Cleanup last Saturday along the Oregon Coast.

Each spring and fall, thousands of volunteers give their time and might to help clean up trash on Oregon's beaches, with last spring's cleanup drawing a record 7,200 people.

This year's fall cleanup attracted approximately 6,000 volunteers who collected 17.8 tons of garbage along the coast, according to Jack McGowan, SOLV executive director.

Oregon was the first state to start the beach cleanup in 1984. Since then, cleanups have been organized in every state and more than 100 countries around the world.

In 1999, more than 168,000 volunteers picked up over three million pounds of trash from 7,284 miles of coastline nationwide.

People found everything from plastic bags, rubber tires, and army dolls to huge chunks of styrofoam, pallet boards and a few "unidentified" objects. The volunteers seemed to be in good spirits, partly due to the great weather at the coast on Saturday.



Albany residents Gail Brunner and daughter Katelyn (top) check out the trash they found at Southbeach State Park, south of Newport during the 17th annual Fall Beach Cleanup. The pair were among the more than 6,000 people who combed the coastline from the Washington border to the California state line. At left, volunteers sign-in and get trash bags, gloves and check-off sheets provided by Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV) before heading to the beach. The check-off sheets help SOLV track the types of trash found. Volunteers collected 17.8 tons of litter and debris, which included tires like the one being rolled along by another group of volunteers (below left). Among other unusual items found were a fiberglass tub, a sink, two hot water heaters, tarps, ropes, styrofoam, bottles, pallet boards and lumber. Below right, Kelly Huckestein (left) and Chii-Hui Sunowen, students at West Albany High School, carry "the motherload" back to the drop site.

Photos by Lori Weedmark



LOCAL NEWS

Popular environmentalist author packs house at OSU

Population biologist Paul Ehrlich is first in this year's Starker lecture series at OSU

by Lori Weedmark
of The Commuter

Dr. Paul Ehrlich, Stanford University College of Forestry professor since 1959, lectured to a full house Thursday at LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis.

A colorful speaker with an ironic sense of humor, Dr. Ehrlich covered issues such as human nature, the environment, genetics and culture and how they are intertwined in our society.

According to Ehrlich, we as humans are clueless as to what our nature is. We don't know who we are or why we are here.

"We became upright before we became smart," Ehrlich said.

Dr. Ehrlich believes that genes and the environment and genes and structure are closely related and that the human race cannot have one without the other.

He went on to talk about differences in human beings and how they are perceived by us. One example he gave was how we tend to group people by skin color. According to Ehrlich, most genetic variations in humans is not in the skin, but in individuality.

He went on to say that if you blindfolded yourself and went out and tasted 200 people and grouped them strictly by taste, you would find that skin color had nothing to do with how each individual tasted and your groups would be quite diverse.

"Human beings are products of genetic and cultural evolution," Ehrlich said. "Grouping people by skin color is not an accurate portrait of the human species."

Ehrlich believes that we cannot change society through genetic manipulation. Society can only be changed through social interactions. Citing an example from the 1840's of identical twins from Asia that were joined at the hip their whole lives, Dr. Ehrlich went on to explain how the twins had the exact same genetics. The environment they grew up in was the same, since they were connected, they didn't have a choice but be

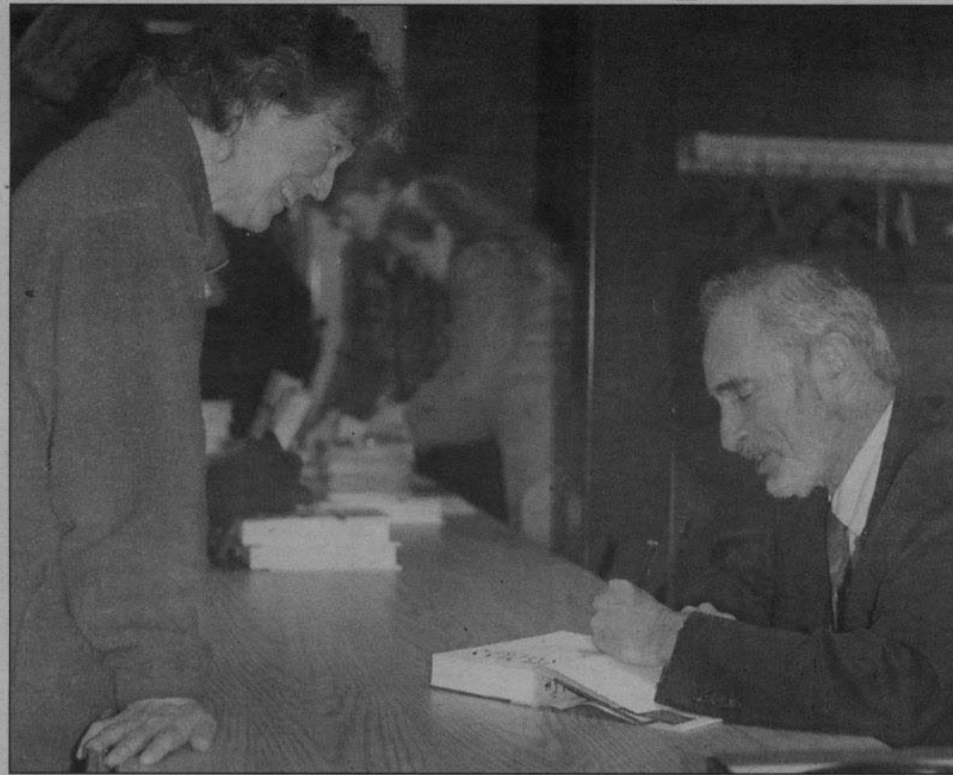


Photo by Lori Weedmark

Stanford University professor and world renowned author Dr. Paul Ehrlich autographs copies of his latest book "Human Natures; Genes, Cultures and the Human Prospect" after his lecture at LaSells Stewart Center last Thursday.

exposed to the same things daily. They grew to adulthood, got married, had children and lived their lives while being connected at the hip.

What was amazing about this situation, according to Ehrlich, was that one twin was dominant, the other passive. One drank, the other didn't. They had different tastes in food and the things they liked to do. Despite their environmental and genetic similarities, they were individuals through and through.

Artifacts tell a story of our cultural evolution from a different perspective. Stone tools that have been found at different sites throughout the world show advancement in human thinking. From the time humans started making stone tools, those tools have progressed into more and more advanced tools. Some animals have evolved to use tools, but humans are the only animals to actually make them.

Our cultural evolution is moving at a much faster rate today because of the advancement of communications, Ehrlich said. We can get information to people around the world more quickly, which has an influence on the way we

think and can change how we look at the world around us. Before phones, newspapers, telegraphs and the Internet, information came slowly—if at all—and people held the same beliefs and mind sets for generations.

Society today allows for people to change their minds daily, with influences from marketing and big business as well as the scientific community and the religious community.

All these things, according to Ehrlich, leaves us with a dilemma of environmental ethics.

Ehrlich went on to discuss the way social engineering, or manipulating our culture, is a way to try and change the way humans behave.

"Social ethics are constantly changing," Ehrlich said. "If you had a horse 150 years ago and you beat it because it wasn't pulling its weight, you were dealing with your property. But if you did that today, you would be jailed for animal abuse."

He went on to use another example of the Inuit people from central and eastern Arctic. They hunted seal for food, and when they acquired rifle power, the seal

"Human beings are products of genetic and cultural evolution. Grouping people by skin color is not an accurate portrait of the human species."

— Dr. Paul Ehrlich

population drastically decreased. "It wasn't because they got greedy and killed for the hell of it," Ehrlich said. "They hunted with spears before the rifle, and the spears allowed them to retrieve almost all the seals they killed."

With rifles, the Inuit could only retrieve a few seals because the seals would sink before they could get to them, causing the Inuit to have to hunt more to survive.

Ehrlich's point was that the Inuit, like most humans and animals, we're not naturally environmentally conscious. They had to learn to be environmentally aware.

Currently, in our society today, we are learning to do the same.

Another issue Dr. Ehrlich touched on was the medical community and what he called evolutionary medicine. Our ability as humans to fight off disease naturally has been overridden by the widespread use of antibiotics. We have reached the point where antibiotics have been so widely used that disease is becoming resistant to them. Ehrlich cited a case in New York where a strain of Tuberculosis has cropped up that is resistant to all known antibiotics.

With all the issues out there, the main message that Dr. Ehrlich seemed to be conveying is that we are ultimately in control of our own destinies. Society as a whole can make a difference environmentally as well as culturally, and that genetics has little to do with it.

Ehrlich left the audience with a few questions to ponder.

How much is ethical for humans to consume? Is it ethical for humans to exterminate a species? Should humans have more than two children? Should humans do things like harvest organs from other humans that are being executed for resale to the medical community? Should we clone organisms or genetically alter them for our benefit?

As popularity of kick scooters grows, so do concerns over safety

by Kate Sundstrom
of The Commuter

While the kickboard scooter has taken the Willamette Valley by storm, its popularity has not led to a major rise in injuries.

Health experts here and elsewhere, however, are concerned that the light-weight, aluminum-framed scooters are ridden too fast and without proper protective gear. Some areas of New Jersey are seeking change in the way the scooters are ridden, and that state's Legislature is considering requiring the use of helmets after the death of a 6-year-old boy in the city of Elizabeth.

Local emergency rooms have seen some scooter accidents, according to area trauma team spokesperson, Bobbie O'Connell, who added that they were "mostly orthopedic with few head traumas." The Oregon State Health Division has no compiled statistics at this point because its coding system is not set up to bring up that data.

Nationally, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has documented 11,300 scooter-related injuries to date, with almost 90 percent involving children

"If you use them fast, they can be dangerous. If you hit a crack in the concrete deep enough, you'll come to a sudden stop. That's where you endo."

— Casey Scharf

under the age of 15—6,000 in August alone.

The scooters, referred to as "kickboards" and "handlebar" scooters, are ridden for speed and jumping. Among the tricks are a spin kick and flip, which fascinate youngsters.

"If you use them fast, they can be dangerous," admits 11-year-old Casey Scharf of Salem. "If you hit a crack in the concrete deep enough, you'll come to a sudden stop. That's where you endo."

Scharf, who obtained his scooter last month for his birthday, said he has been hurt when riding, but he continues to ride without a helmet. Once he tripped and sailed straight over the handlebars, he said.

Spokespersons at area stores said sales of the scoot-

ers started off strong at the beginning of the summer but have now dropped off. According to the Sept. 30 Albany Democrat-Herald, GI Joe's sold approximately 800 over the summer.

Kathy Aevermann, from the Salem Lancaster Bi-Mart, said sales have been pretty good. She had stocked the shelves with about two dozen scooters two weeks ago and when she came back three days later, there were only five left. Marti Walker of Fred Meyer in Salem stated sales slowed to around 40 within a few weeks.

Most said the craze began in California and spread through advertisements and word-of-mouth on the Internet. Aevermann adds that people do a lot of walking in that state and may have wanted a new way to get around. She states she saw an ad showing a lady in a three-piece suit and heels riding a scooter to work.

Salespersons said that if scooters are not used properly, they could be dangerous. GI Joe's in Albany handed out pamphlets reflecting safety recommendations. Most said helmets and protective gear should be worn when riding scooters just as with bicycles and inline skates.

CAMPUS NEWS

Free health services offered Wednesdays in Takena Hall

Service moves from old location in AHSS to more visible location, offers services to student body

by Mary Jova
of The Commuter

The Linn County Health Department began offering health related services to LB students in Takena Hall Oct. 4.

A nurse practitioner will offer services ranging from immunizations to sports injury treatment and medical referrals every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

According to Supervisor of Public Health Pat Crozier, the decision to move the services to Takena Hall this year from the Health Occupations building was based on last year's low numbers. Approximately 90-100 students were served last fall, but the numbers during winter term dropped to less than 60 students. And while numbers did increase during spring term, a decision was made to move to a more visible place this year.

"Hopefully, with us being in a more visible place numbers will increase," said Crozier. "It is all about helping students find resources to meet their health needs."

Last September, Dean of Student Services Diane Watson submitted a grant proposal to the Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation. The focus of this

"Hopefully, with us being in a more visible place numbers will increase."

— Pat Crozier

grant, she says, is to create a self-care wellness station on campus for students to utilize.

"General wellness information will be provided along with a focus on drug and alcohol prevention," Watson says. "National statistics show that everyone in this country on some level has been affected or knows someone who uses drugs and alcohol. If the grant is accepted the plan is to hire a part-time health educator."

An additional health service that can be accessed is the Oregon Family Planning Expansion Project. This project offers free pregnancy testing, birth control supplies and related medical services to eligible men, women and teens.

The program also offers Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECPs) but points out that with the exception of abstinence, no method of birth control is 100 percent effective.

Nurse Practitioner Mary Jones, Registered Nurse Leta Friedt, Medical Assistant and recent LBCC graduate April Humphrey will be available every Wednesday.

Students who do not want to wait in line are encouraged to call the Linn County Public Health Department at 967-3888 for an appointment.

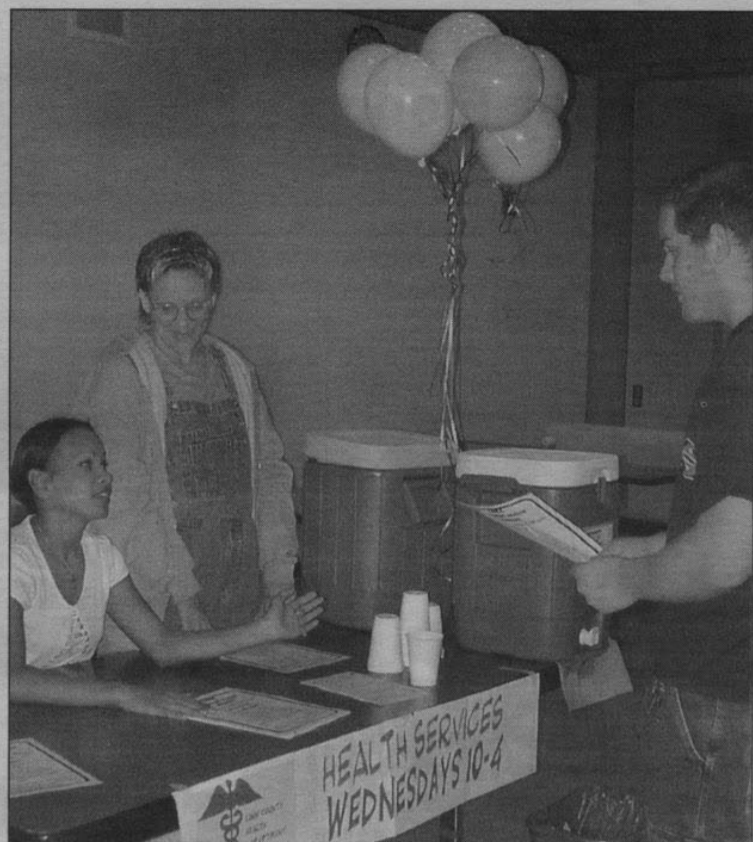


Photo by Lisa Jimenez

Jon Bidwell talks to Sheri Schubert (left) and Jami Hamilton at the new Health Services Clinic in Takena Hall, which began seeing patients on Oct. 4.

Religious Sites Tour to visit Temple Beth Israel and Mt. Angel Abbey

by Allen Garner
of The Commuter

Although last Friday's Religious Sites Tour to the Corvallis Mosque was cancelled due to a low turnout, two more tours to the Temple Beth Israel in Portland and the Mt. Angel Abbey in Mt. Angel will still be held later this term.

The Temple Beth Israel trip will be held Oct 27, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Students will learn about Jewish religious symbolism and objects, as well as the history of the congregation there. They will also attend a service and have dinner afterward.

The Mt. Angel Abbey trip will be held Saturday, Nov. 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students will tour the grounds of the Benedictine Abbey, which was founded

in 1882. Lunch will be provided.

The tours are a collaborative program between the Student Ambassadors and the Multicultural Center.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about religions other than their own," commented Susan Prock, the Multicultural Center director. Prock wants students to come away from the tours with "a better understanding of other cultures." She also wants them to have fun.

Prock said "we had a blast" on last month's tour of the Zen Center in Portland, which was the first in the Religious Sites Tours series.

The tours are free of charge, you just have to have a student body card to sign up.

Culinary Arts students cook up regional favorites for American Harvest Buffet

by Nicole Scott
of the Commuter

The LBCC Culinary Arts department will present An American Harvest buffet in The Commons at 6 p.m. on Friday Nov. 3.

The department has held the buffet for the past several years. The proceeds go to the Culinary Arts Club, which uses the money for special equipment, dinner trips and ingredients.

Tickets cost \$19.50 and went on sale Wednesday Oct. 11, at 8 a.m. in the College Center. There are 200 tickets available and over 100 tickets have been sold.

The students create the menu and pick foods from across the United States. From the West Coast they have halibut with blueberry chutney, squash cakes, Oregon bleu cheese, Bartlett pear and walnut salad. From the Deep South they will have crayfish appetizer, jambalaya,


and sweet potato pie. Finally, from the East Coast, they will have carved ham with dried cherry, Manhattan clam chowder, and a three layer Vermont maple cake.

"It's a learning experience," said Evan Fransted, a culinary arts student who participated in last year's event. "That's what it's all about."

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Collect one 10% off validation sticker for every \$50.00 in purchases, for a maximum of 50% off one imprinted item.

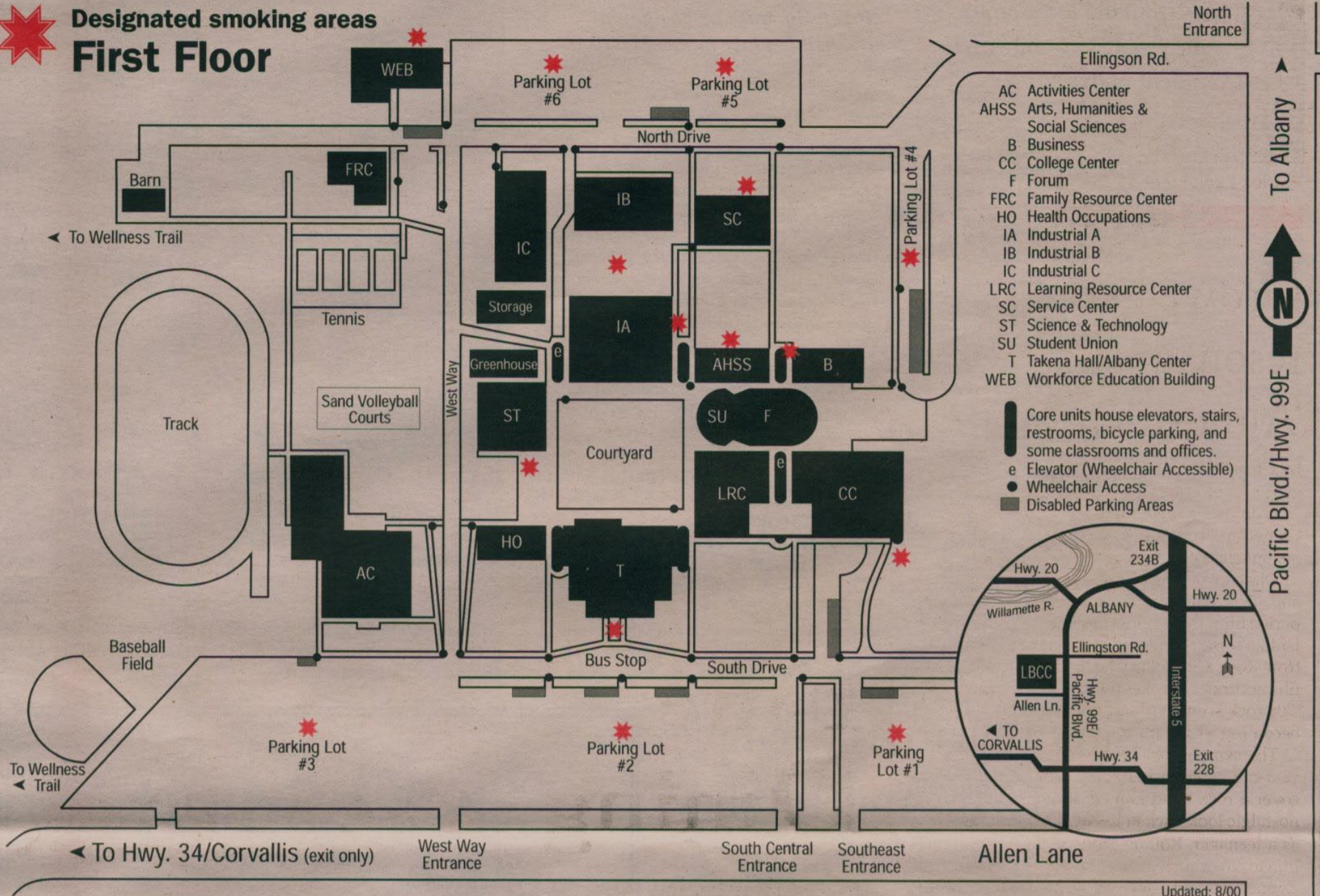
Spirit Card expires June 30th, 2001

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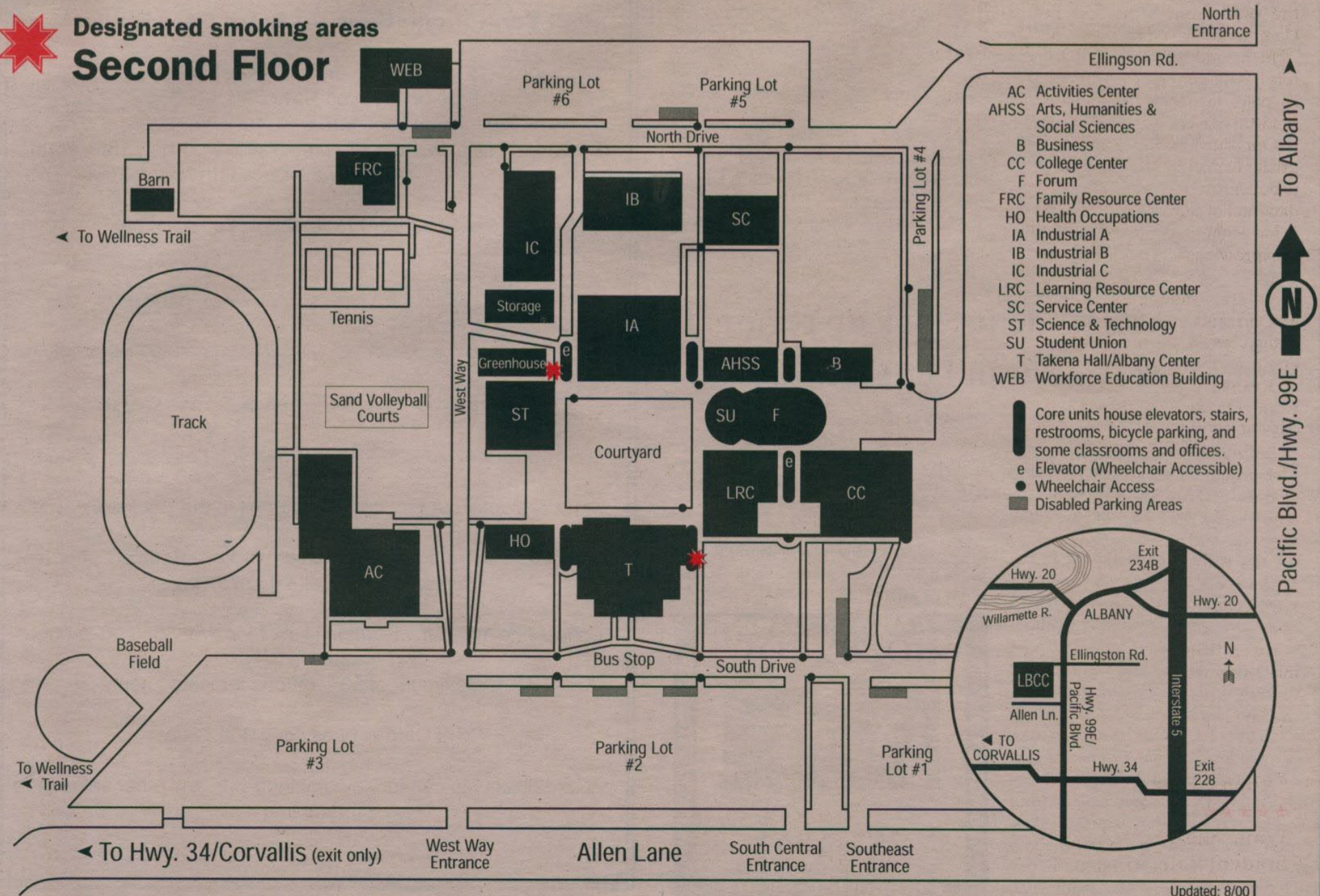
CAMPUS NEWS

Campus designated smoking areas reduced and relocated

★ Designated smoking areas First Floor



★ Designated smoking areas Second Floor



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Patrick Fugit (center) with Stillwater

REVIEW

Crowe strikes a resonant chord with 'Almost Famous'

by Chad Richins
of The Commuter

"Almost Famous," the new film from director Cameron Crowe, lives up to its billing as an instant classic.

Director of "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" and "Say Anything," Crowe is no stranger to period films that explore the lives of young people. Unlike some recent films set in the '70s era, ("Detroit Rock City," "Dazed and Confused"), this film accurately evokes the look and attitude of the '70s rock scene without going over the top and becoming a caricature.

The semi-autobiographical storyline of a 15-year-old aspiring journalist sent on the road to cover a rock band named Stillwater is Crowe's nostalgic look back at his own beginnings when as a teenager, Rolling Stone magazine assigned him to cover such giants of the rock arenas as Led Zeppelin, Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers.

Along the way, the young writer, played by newcomer Patrick Fugit, confronts the dark side of show business and gets a lecture on the code of the road from Stillwater guitarist Russell Hammond, played by Billy Crudup.

In the understated way that Crudup plays his role lies the genius of the film and the salvation of its place in history as something more than a send-up of a crazy time in American history.

Opposite Crudup, Kate Hudson gives a surprisingly deep performance as "band date" (not to be confused with "groupie") Penny Lane. The daughter of actress Goldie Hawn, Hudson seems to have inherited more than the impressive array of expressions that made her mother the Queen of Cute.

Veteran independent film stars Frances McDormand and Jason Lee bring weight and authenticity to the film, while newcomer Patrick Fugit, as the young journalist William Miller, adds a naive perspective that lends a sense of wonder to this behind-the-scenes look at the last days of the Age of Rock.

"Almost Famous" sports two Oscar winners—McDormand as Miller's mom, who won for " Fargo," and Anna Paquin as "band date" Pollexia, who won for "The Piano." The movie moves well, keeps the audience interested from titles to credits, and employs a well-blended mix of humor, action and gravity. It raises the bar for '70s era retrospective films and stands on its own merits as an exposition of the human condition. Unless you were there, it leaves you with the feeling you missed something big.

Rock is dead.
Long live rock.

"Almost Famous"

★★★★★

Whiteside Theater, Corvallis
Student Rate, \$5 with student ID

Corvallis Art Center has new director

by Chad Richins
of The Commuter

Steve Rothermund is still settling into his new role as the director of the Corvallis Art Center, but has the experience and the vision to take the center in new and exciting directions.

Taking over on Sept. 1, Rothermund jumped right in and began to get an idea of what he was getting into. The center he now heads offers classes at their location at 700 SW Madison St., adjacent to Central Park, that include art, dance and sculpting. The center also houses three galleries and is available for rent to anyone wanting to put on presentations or hold meetings.

Perhaps even more goes on outside the center in the community. The center employs up to 50 part-time artists who go to schools to take part in inter-agency programs such as Super Time for Arts, Academics, Recreation and Sports (STARS), which allows kids to spend time after school in a variety of activities. Other participants in the program include the United Way, Corvallis Boys & Girls Club, LBCC and the City of



Steve Rothermund

Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department.

Another program sponsored by the center is the Arts in Education program, which places artists in schools on a short-term basis to work with students, since most schools have cut back on art programs due to a lack of funding.

Rothermund, who has a degree in speech communication from OSU, sees himself as a facilitator, according to the center's own publication, ARTSPIRIT, of which he is the new editor.

Rothermund says he is interested in expanding the center's existing presence in the community. One possibility is an art program in hospitals.

"We're looking at doing some art, going into a hospital setting and providing an arts component for patients with long term hospital stays, or even terminal patients," says Rothermund.

Amiable and energetic, Rothermund, who spent 12 years with the Corvallis Boys & Girls Club, enjoys working with children and is a father of two. He says that children really need extra-curricular activities.

"I don't see them as extra-curricular," he says. "I see art and sports as an opportunity to expand the kids' horizons, but also to slip in some learning at the same time."

Fine Dining

Tucked away behind the Commons cafeteria is an inexpensive restaurant with good food and a relaxing atmosphere

by Chad Richins
Of The Commuter

Fine dining at LBCC?

You mean besides the Commons and the Courtyard Café there is another option for lunchtime dining?

Yes, lunch fans, it's true. There are well trained, eager culinary staffers waiting to serve you the best meal you've ever had within the confines of a college campus.

O.K. maybe if you've been to the Sorbonne, also known as Paris U., you might have had better meals. But if you don't want to go to the expense of a trip to France, you might want to check out the upscale food available here on campus.

The Santiam Room is located just down the hall from the Commons and is a great location for the view provided. Looking down through the glass walls of the second floor you see grass, trees, and on a clear day you may catch a glimpse of the Cascades. (Not to mention the irrigation lines being installed down there on the grounds.)

The service is the first thing you will notice, because it's good.

First-year culinary students make up the wait staff and second-year students do the cooking. The new students learn all about setting up the dining room, operating it throughout the lunch meal, and breaking it down at the end. They also learn about customer service, and eventually have to give a ten-minute speech about what they have learned. This is only one of over 20 stations around campus they may be assigned to. Not an easy gig, but it's good experience to have for people who will someday be working in the back of the restaurant to know what the servers go through up front.

The place settings in the dining room are thoughtfully laid out with linen napkins and once your water is poured and your order taken, they offer fresh wheat



Photo by James Bauerle

bread rolls and butter to clear your palate and start your meal off right.

Then if you want a salad—and trust me you WANT a salad—they will bring you a tasty mix of fresh greens with your choice of regular salad dressings or a special dressing du jour. The day I went to the Santiam Room, the dressing special was a dijon vinaigrette that was something special indeed.

The main course came in good time and the entrees were well presented.

I have to say in the spirit of impartial journalism that my pasta had sat awhile while my friend's steak was finishing grilling. I knew this from the temperature of the pasta and the way it was beginning to stick together.

This was a little off-putting, since I had eagerly awaited it, but it is the most basic mistake that I myself made as a rookie cook many moons ago. Timing is absolutely THE most essential aspect of meal presentation because you want the dishes to come out as close to simultaneously as possible. I know that if the chef is reading this they are saying that was the ONE time that happened all day.

The roasted vegetable pesto that went on the pasta and the vegetable chunks in it were great; very savory and well done with a buttery flavor. The steak my friend had was really something to rave about apparently, and if it tasted as good as it looked, it must have been good.

The price was the last best thing about our meal at the Santiam Room. The check for both meals was less than fifteen dollars. It was a great deal and I plan on going back often.

If you are planning to try it out, reservations are expected and if you make them between 11:00 and 11:30, they will take ten percent off of an already cheap meal.

Bon Appetit.

WORLD NEWS

Ship saved, but probe will take time, U.S. officials say

by William Neikirk
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON—U.S. officials have made it clear that their investigation into the attack on the guided missile destroyer USS Cole could be long and difficult.

The challenges posed by Thursday's apparent suicide attack on the ship by a small mooring craft laden with explosives include finding not only those responsible but also how the Navy might avoid similar incidents when it refuels ships in high-risk ports.

U.S. officials, concerned that Yemeni port officials would not fully cooperate with investigators in Aden, took heart that President Ali Abdullah Saleh reversed himself in a conversation with U.S. Ambassador Barbara Bodine, agreeing that the ship had been attacked by terrorists. Previously he had called the explosion an accident.

Investigators from a number of agencies, including the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency, are on the scene painstakingly gathering forensic evidence. That would include residue of any explosive material and fragments from the small craft—said by some to be a rubber dinghy—which might shed light on the attack.

Affixing blame may be the biggest challenge of all. Defense Secretary William Cohen said on several Sunday television interview programs that the government would be "relentless" in pursuing the perpetrators, but added that they could belong to any of several terrorist groups, including that headed by Osama bin Laden. He likened the probe to putting together pieces of a puzzle.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said on ABC's "This Week" program

that such a probe to ferret out the culprits "takes a long time. This is very, very hard."

But she said there is "no statute of limitations" on seeking those guilty for the attack, which killed 17 sailors.

Although President Saleh has promised his help, some U.S. officials have reservations about how much cooperation will be forthcoming when they try to question Yemenis, one administration official said.

Cohen emphasized on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the U.S. government wants full access to personnel at the site and those responsible for going out for the refueling.

As for Saleh, the secretary said, "He is doing what we ask of him."

Although at least two obscure groups have claimed responsibility for the attack, Cohen said such claims are frequently made after terrorist attacks, adding that the government would try to "screen out those that are real and those that are false."

At the heart of the investigation is how those responsible penetrated port security. According to Newsweek magazine, the U.S. is eager to get its hands on four port cameras that might have recorded events before the attack. These cameras have been seized by Yemeni secret police, the magazine said.

Newsweek also reported that the U.S. had thwarted two other terrorist plots directed at ships around the Arabian

peninsula in the last two years.

Navy spokeswoman Lt. Meghan Mariman said she could not confirm the report, although Cohen said American warships must refuel in high-risk ports as they patrol the volatile Middle East.

"For the time being, there will be no more refueling [at Aden] until we clear up the circumstances" of the blast, Cohen said.

The use of the Yemeni port for refueling has become controversial since the attack. The decision to do so was made by Gen. Anthony Zinni as a way of preventing Yemen from becoming a hotbed of terrorist activity. Zinni recently retired as the Pentagon's regional commander for the Middle East.

Yet the State Department's own reports name Yemen as a country that harbors terrorists.

Since the refueling began some 20 months ago, Cohen said, "We have refueled two dozen or so ships in Aden."

When the USS Cole was docking, the ship's captain, Cmdr. Kirk Lippold, saw small craft approaching as part of the mooring operation, said Adm. Vern Clark, head of Naval Operations.

"That's how it got close to the ship," Clark said on "Face the Nation."

The ship pulled into the port with its tanks about half full. The next closest refueling station is in the East African nation of Djibouti. Mariman said the Navy never lets its tanks get much lower than half full because it affects the stabil-

ity of the ship.

She said the explosion at the waterline was so powerful that it propelled the Cole's deck upward and caused major structural damage inside. The explosion struck at midday, when many crew members were eating lunch.

She said the hole was 40 feet by 30 feet, though some reports had estimated it larger.

Commons Menu

Oct. 18 - Oct. 24



Wednesday

Roast Chicken w/ Pan Gravy
Pork Enchiladas
Pasta Bar
Soups: Navy Bean & Beef Noodle
Salamagundy Salad

Thursday

French Dip
Almond Chicken w/ Steamed Rice
Vegetable Calzone
Creamy Roasted Chicken
Soup: Minestrone
Taco Salad

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Sausage Stuffed Pork Loin Roast
Chicken Gumbo, Quesadilla
Soups: Hot and Sour & Split Pea
Tarragon Chicken Salad

Tuesday

Reuben w/ Cole Slaw
Greek Style Lamb Stew
Vegetarian Thai Curry w/ Steamed Rice
Soups: Shrimp Bisque & Tomato Rice
Tuscan Tuna Salad

PREGNANT? FREE pregnancy testing & help



corvallis
pregnancy
care center

24-hour confidential helpline:

757-9645

- Individual attention
- Strictly confidential
- Information on options
- Information on abortion procedures & risks
- Community referrals
- No abortion referrals

867 NW 23rd (behind Kinko's)
www.cpccOnline.org

Look'n Ahead
"Put Your Heart Into It"
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
November 8th, 2000
Look for sign ups in
Takena Hall
October
25th

60 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Children's Winter Festival

Annual L.B.C.C. free holiday party for children under 12 in both Linn & Benton Counties

December 2nd, 2000

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Volunteers needed to help with room decorating, cookie decorating, performers & registration.

(No Experience Necessary)

Free Lunch & T-shirt

To sign up, Contact the L.B.C.C.
Student Life & Leadership (541) 917-4457

A Great Way to Serve Your Community

Family Connections Seminar

October 25th, 2000

12 - 1 p.m.

"Are Men really from Mars & Women from Venus"

Location: Alesa/Calapooia Room - Upstairs

Free: Soup lunch w/ roll

Presented by: Family Connections / SPB

PHOTO GALLERY



Photo by Julie Gaines

It's all a matter of perspective

The perspective that a photographer brings to a subject is often what sets his or her picture apart from the ordinary. When students in ART261 Intro to Photography were asked to explore variations in perspective, they came back with both clever and classic views. At top, Julie Gaines gets a opossum's

eye view of the Shimanek Bridge over Thomas Creek in Linn County, while Brandie Kuhn emphasizes the diagonal with her shot of a footbridge (right). Below, Rio Cormaduran and Crystal Huff get up close to show a sun-dappled bench and a laundromat, while Tyler Jones shows off a 1951 Chevy Truck.

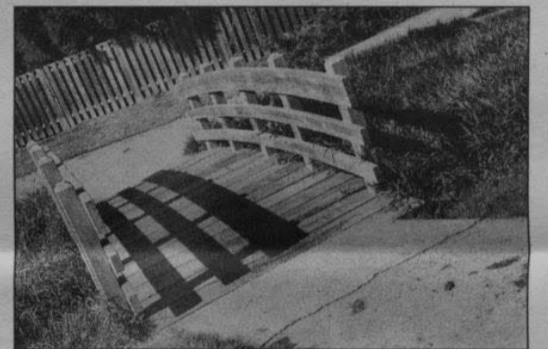


Photo by Brandie Kuhn



Photo by Rio Comaduran



Photo by Crystal Huff

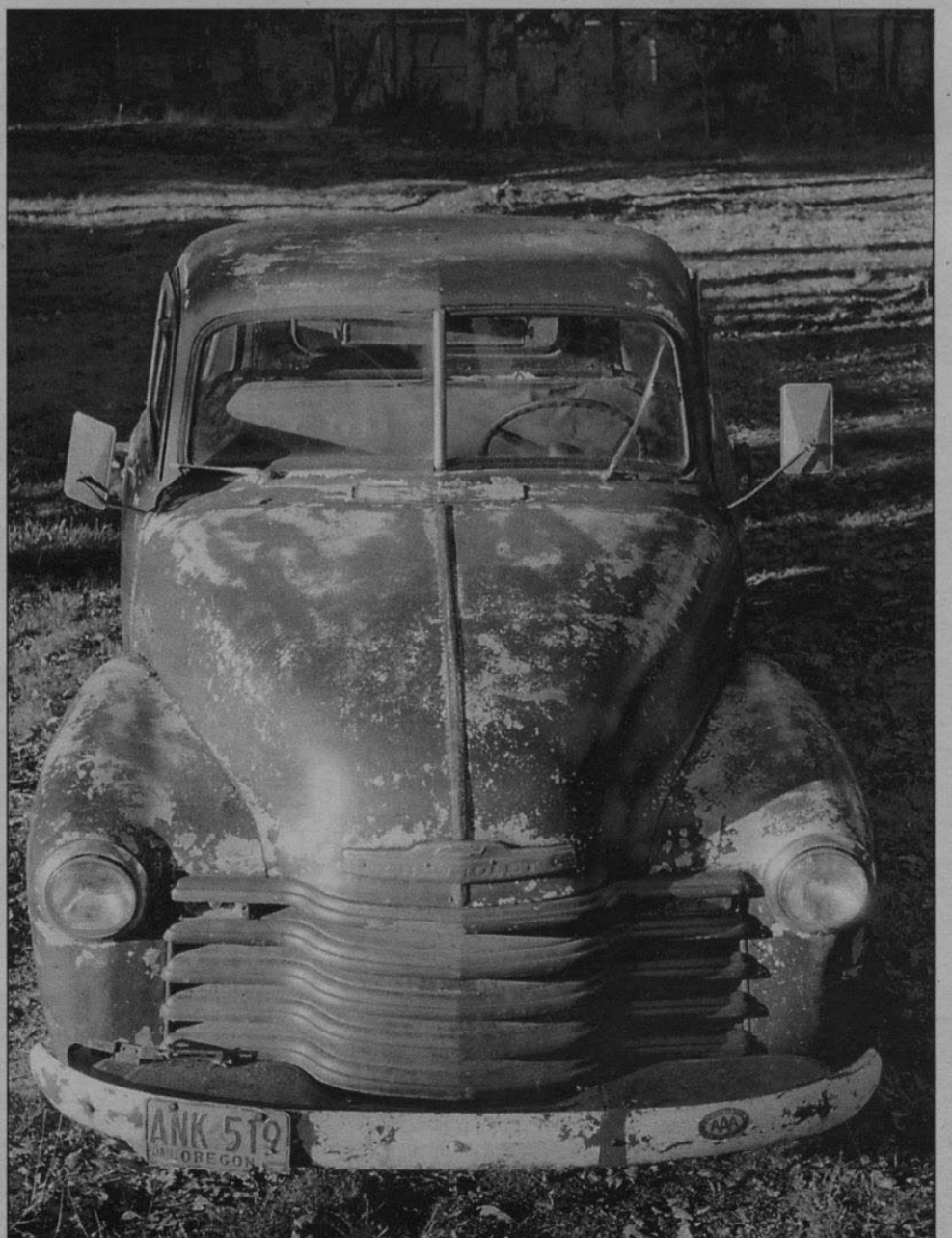


Photo by Tyler Jones

FUNNY PAGE

THE GONGFARMER

BY RANDY REGIER



DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



"I don't know, Doc. I just feel like a million bucks."

CAPTAIN RIBMAN in Bi-Polar Disorder

by John Sprengelmeyer & Rich Davis

CAPTAIN RIBMAN ALWAYS ANSWERS E-MAIL FROM HIS LOYAL FANS...

Dear CR,

Earth's POLAR BEARS face extinction! Superheroes ought to help protect endangered species!!

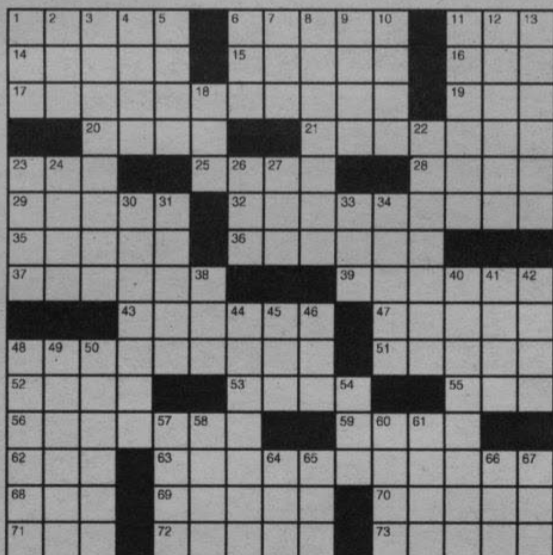
Sincerely,
>Alec :(



captainribman@supercomics.com

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- African river
 - Spaghetti
 - Letters on graves
 - Bathsheba's husband
 - Vegetable to cry over
 - John's Yoko
 - DNA
 - Tenth mo.
 - Otherwise
 - Camper's set of utensils
 - On the contrary
 - Duration
 - Issue a ticket
 - Dexterous
 - Hemorrhage in one's honker
 - Dream time
 - Implement with an eye
 - Affectionate greetings
 - Fruit ice
 - Swabby
 - Kind of lily
 - "God Bless America" singer
 - Sports play replay, often
 - Algerian port
 - Jodie Foster film
 - Mayday!
 - "William Tell" composer
 - Notable times
 - Municipal ride
 - Nine-time champion at Wimbledon
 - Exploit
 - Struck with a bent leg
 - Constant traveler
 - Part of AT&T
 - Golf lengths
 - "Beau"
- DOWN**
- Mongrel dog
 - Mine yield
 - Fine points
 - Brit's slammer
 - Resistance units
 - Luau fare
 - Raggedy doll
 - Type of cat
 - Pitch of a phrase
 - Picnic pests
 - Newbie
 - Stir up
 - Intoxicated
 - Gambler's risk
 - Of part of the eye
 - Soak in the sun
 - Jamaican citrus fruit
 - Quaint hotel
 - One Stooze
 - Decreases
 - Dueling swords
 - Wood and Wynn
 - Political units
 - Detective Spade
 - Flowers
 - Polister Roper
 - City north of Santa Fe
 - "Cheevy"
 - Devoured
 - Org. of Flames
 - Gymnast Olga
 - Incite
 - Dangling frill
 - Permit to
 - Very black
 - Wendy's dog
 - Wedding token
 - vera
 - Blushing
 - Madison Ave. output
 - Large vessel
 - Fruit cooler



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Solutions



CLASSIFIEDS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention **HISPANIC TRANSFER STUDENTS**: Scholarship Management Services is now accepting applications for EMI/Selena Scholarships Program. Additional information and applications are available at the Learning Center. Applications must be postmarked by **December 1, 2000.**

Attention **ALL STUDENTS**: The ESA (Epsilon Sigma Alpha) Foundation International has scholarships available to ALL students. International, graduate, undergraduate, technical or trade school of any age are eligible. Additional information and applications are available in the Learning Center and on the internet at www.esaint.com/esaf - click on the scholarship application link. Applications and official transcripts must be received by **February 1, 2001**

WANTED

Nude Figure Model
Needed for Art Dept. Drawing/ Painting classes. Comfortable environment. \$10/hr. Contact Christina at (541) 737-4745.

Waterbed - Queen size, good condition, light woods preferred will pay up to \$150 for bed & as many linens as possible. Also looking for living room furniture in lighter shades, i.e., tan beige, sand, etc. No Leather Please !!! Willing to negotiate price.

CWE Stockroom Clerk (Albany) Immediate opening for a Stockroom Clerk at Wah Chang. You must have completed 2 terms in business or inventory

management. This job is either 6 hour swing or graveyard shift on the weekends and occasional relief during the week. If hired, you must sign up for CWE credit, but you get on-the-job experience and school credit! If interested please bring your resumé to Carla in Student Employment in Takena 101 to be immediately faxed to the company!

Computer Technician (Corvallis) If you are available 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and want to build and service PC-compatible systems, here is a part-time job for you. They would prefer experience, but are willing to train the right person. See Student Employment (Takena 101) for information on this opportunity.

Departmental Computer Administrator (O.S.U.) This full-time wants 3 yrs. experience in installation & maintenance of computer hardware, network systems, software & Web applications. This position pays \$31-36,000/year. See us in Student Employment for your referral and to find out if you qualify.

Tis the Season to get those retail positions!! (Albany) These part-time jobs are opening up now at Sears, Ross Dress for Less and Fred Meyer's.

PTK is looking for a Membership Coordinator. Come to the Career Center to inquire about this position. Blockbuster, Scoop City, etc.. If you're interested, get out there and apply! One web site for Heritage Mall: www.heritagemall.com For other websites, ask Carla at Student Employment in the Career Center (T101).

Holiday Staff Needed Heritage Mall hiring Santas, Photo Booth Assistants, Customer Service Reps for busy holi-

day season. Must enjoy working with public, have computer experience, able to work day, evening, weekend hours. Apply at the Heritage Mall Management office, 14th and Geary St., Albany.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sweet, adorable, affectionate spayed female tabby. Good with dogs and other cats. Free to good home only. Sweet loving mastiff cross. Good with kids, cats, dogs. Free to a good home only. For info call (541) 466-5353.

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

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

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; 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.

SPORTS PAGE

Runners dominate first Crossover Tournament at LB

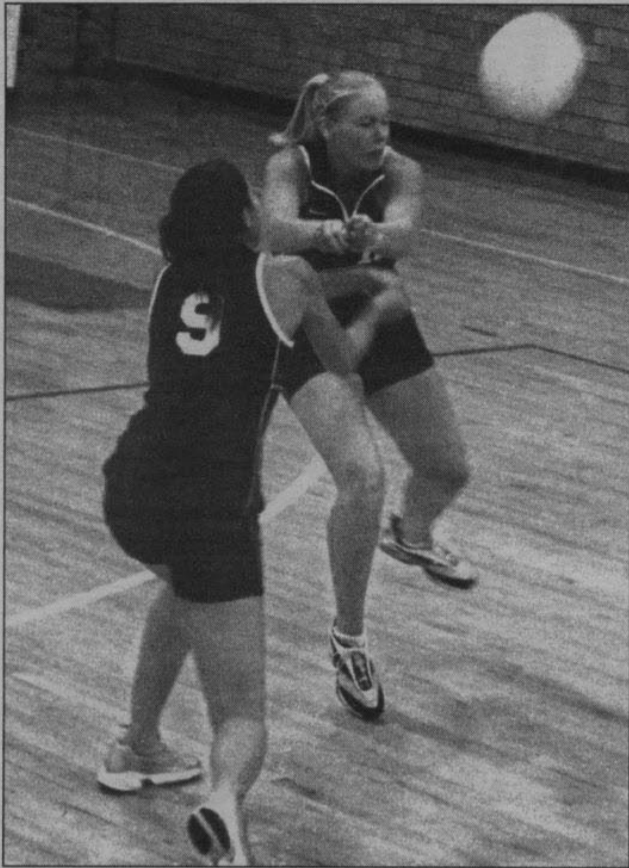


Photo by James Bauerle

Sheryl Baga and Sarah Whisler collide while going for a dig in last weekend's tournament. Baga was selected for the All-Star Tournament team. LBCC dominated the tournament two-day tournament winning nine games without a loss.

by Christina Laramore
of The Commuter

The Roadrunner volleyball team took first place at the NWAACC crossover tournament held here at LB with a weekend of solid play.

Throughout the two-day tournament, the Roadrunners went undefeated in rally play.

According to rally rules, teams face off for a one game match, with points awarded for the winner of each volley regardless of who serves, and play to a total of 25 points with a 50-minute time limit.

LBCC swept the games at the Activities Center, beating Tacoma 25-19, Shoreline 25-23, Everett 25-12, Olympic 25-12 and 25-9, Umpqua 25-22 and 25-21, and Blue Mountain 26-24 and 25-19.

The Roadrunners' first match was against the Tacoma Titans and lasted only 15 minutes thanks in part to Jamie Caster, whose numerous kills helped sink the Titans.

LBCC's second match on Friday was the most intense, with the Shoreline Dolphins returning every spike the Roadrunners hit at them. LB fell behind in the first three rallies with an 0-3 score, but after a timeout, the women stepped up and tied the game. The game stayed heated, with big digs and solid blocks coming from both teams, but ended with an LBCC victory and a score of 25-23.

The Roadrunners last match of the day was against the Everett Trojans, and was much more relaxed than the other games. The Roadrunners never lost the lead, and shut Everett down 25-12.

The Roadrunners went into Saturday the No. 1 seed, and stayed No. 1 for the rest of the day.

LBCC must have eaten their Wheaties, because they

started out their day right, dominating the Olympic Rangers 25-12 in the first game and finishing them off 25-9 in Game 2.

LBCC faced a little more of a challenge in their second match. The Umpqua Timberwomen gave them a fight to the finish. But the Roadrunners emerged on top, outscoring Umpqua 25-22 and 25-21, and coming one game closer to their championship.

The last match of the day was for the tournament Championship against the Blue Mountain Timberwolves.

Game 1 was full of long rallies and intense communication from both teams. The match ended with a 26-24 victory over the Timberwolves, and the Roadrunners had the momentum going into the last game of the match. LBCC's team playing and communication helped them take the last game against the Timberwolves 25-19 and sweep the tournament.

The Roadrunners not only went undefeated, taking the Championship, but they also had three of their players selected for the All-Star Tournament team. The three selected were Sophomore Middle Hitter Jamie Caster, Sophomore Right Hitter Sheryl Baga, and Freshman Setter Dani Arlyn.

"This was a definite confidence builder, it gets us focused on winning. It's not like we aren't now, it just gives us more of a taste for it," says Roadrunner coach Seth Elliott.

It's a taste the Roadrunners hope to get more often, as the fight for a playoff spot intensifies with the second half of the season starting tonight at Clackamas Community College. LBCC will then play their last two home games of the year on Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21 at the Activities Center.

LB falls to Mt. Hood in three straight sets to go 3-2 league

by Jason Amberg
of the Commuter

Coming off of their come-from-behind victory against Chemeketa two weeks ago, the Lady Roadrunners didn't have enough to keep up with the Mt. Hood last Wednesday night, dropping three straight games to the Saints.

The Saints, who entered the game with an undefeated record of 7-0, had the game under control nearly from the outset and easily defeated the Runners 15-7, 15-10, 15-10.

Although LB lost, coach Seth Elliott saw something positive in the result. "The game gives us confidence and shows that they were beatable," he said. "We have the skills and abilities. They won on intimidation."

The Roadrunners jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the first

game behind the serving of Shannon Gerding and Dani Arlyn, before the Saints came back to score the next eight points. From then on the Roadrunners only managed to score one more point before the Saints finally finished them off 15-7.

In the second game, the Runners again started ahead 1-0 before dropping the next six points. It was then that the Roadrunners came alive, scoring the next eight points—seven on Arlyn's serving, including an ace to tie the score at 6-6. By the time Arlyn finished her service, the Runners were up 9-6 and had the momentum.

But the Saints managed to gather themselves and ran off a string of their own to tie the game at nine, and later took control of the game, winning 15-10 on two successive service aces.

In Game 3 Mt. Hood rolled out to a 13-6 lead before LB tried to mount a comeback and duplicate last week's spirited upset over Chemeketa. The Runners rallied to make it close at 13-10, but the Saints eventually got the side out and finished off the Runners 15-10.

Sophomore Jamie Caster led the Runners with 10 kills from the middle-hitter position. Also leading the team was freshman Dani Arlyn with 24 assists and sophomore Sheryl Baga with nine digs.

The Roadrunners are now halfway through their season and in fourth place which would be the final playoff spot. Elliott said he wants the team to "keep doing what we're doing, building confidence and mental toughness to finish games."

The next league match is Wednesday Oct. 18 against Clackamas Community College in Oregon City.

LB's new Ultimate Frisbee team plays first match on Saturday

by David Miller
of The Commuter

LBCC's new Ultimate Frisbee team plays its first tournament this Saturday in Eugene, just a month after the sport was spotlighted in Sydney in its first Olympic exhibition.

Ultimate Frisbee has been around for 30 years is a fast-paced sport that requires lots of hand-eye coordination.

Science Instructor Greg Mulder, the man who is responsible for putting together LBCC's team, said "Ultimate Frisbee is a fun game but also a way of life."

The team plays in a regional college league that involves several of the four-year colleges and community colleges along the West Coast.

The game is a combination of soccer and football which is played on a similar-sized field. There are two teams and each is allowed to have seven players on the field at one time. The squad is al-

lowed an unlimited number of people on the roster, but generally each team has about 15 to 20 players. LBCC has 20 players on their team.

During a play, three handlers move the Frisbee up the field, while two players set up in the end zone to catch a long pass. The other two mid-fielders hang around in the middle of the field and wait to receive a pass.

This non-contact, self-refereed game runs a football-style offense and defense.

Mulder says that LBCC runs a man-to-man defense since it is a less complicated than a zone for a young group of players.

Mulder is optimistic on how his team will play this weekend.

"We can hold our own against the smaller colleges such as the University of Portland, but we are still a little inexperienced to beat colleges like OSU," he said. "In a couple of years I predict that we will be major contenders."

FREE PIZZA
IN THE
COMMONS!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2000

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

While You're eating your free pizza visit with local agencies, and find out how you can make a difference in your community.

Agencies Involved:

CASA, American Red Cross, Community Outreach, HomeLife, Corvallis Police Department, Equitopia, Meals on Wheels, PEP, Mentoring Works, Interfaith Caregivers, Y Mentoring, SMART, Corvallis Volunteer Fire Fighters

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

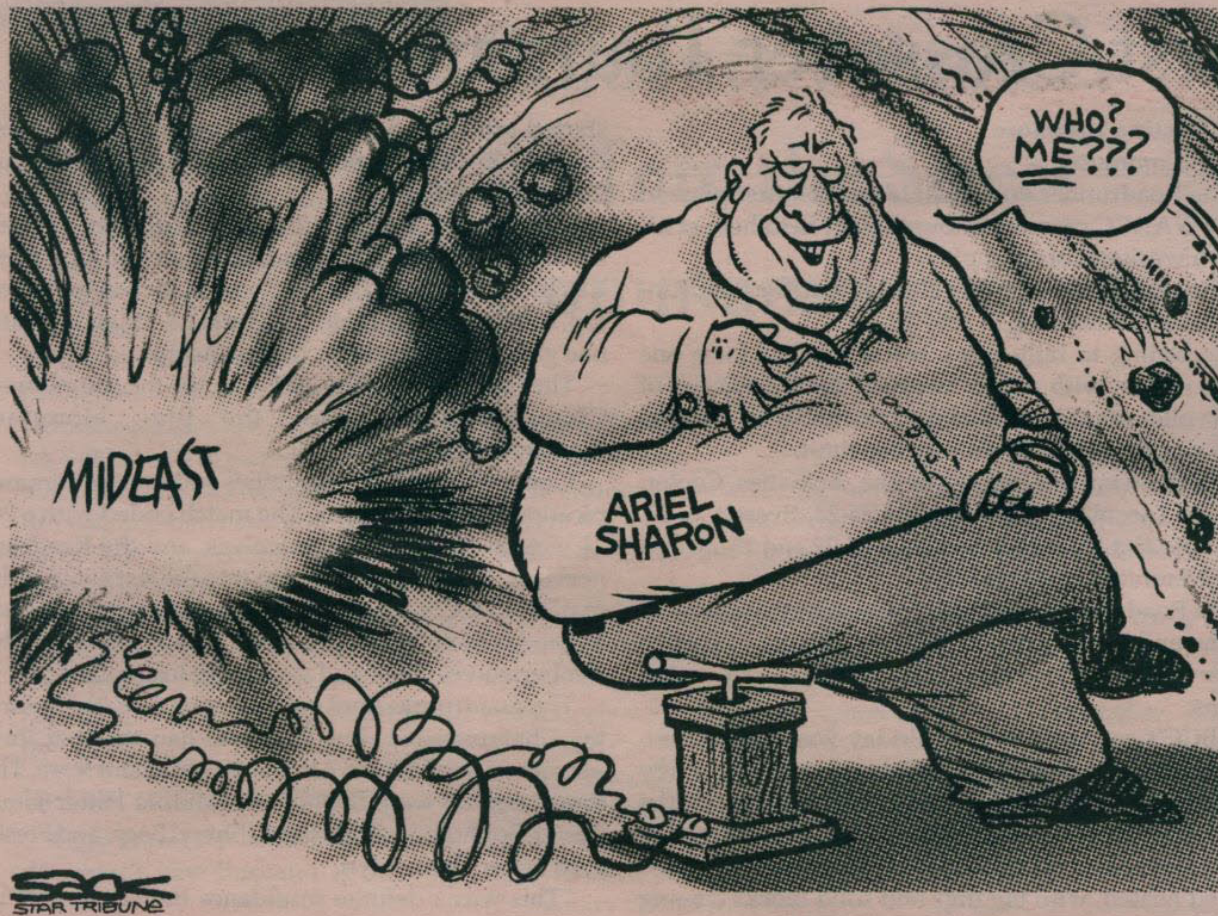


DOING GOOD

In partnership with POINTS OF LIGHT

USA WEEKEND

OPINION



I AM NOT A LIBERAL

Measure 7 proposes profits over people

by Angus McBrian
of The Commuter

There's been a change of plan. This week's column was going to be about the ongoing threat that corporate power poses to the world. I was going to write about the undue authority corporations wield in writing legislation, determining the allocation of vital resources and the general havoc they play with the environment and social welfare.

Then I got my phone book-sized voter's pamphlet in the mail. Buried deep within this tome is an important measure that hasn't received enough attention. My intended subject is manifested perfectly in the pages of this manual.

Lucky come up 7 is the one I'm talking about. If the dice come up 7 on election day, it will amount to a jackpot for corporations and a gutting of democracy in Oregon.

Ballot Measure 7 proposes that state and local governments be required to compensate property owners when laws or regulations reduce the value of the owner's land. That concept doesn't seem too threatening at first glance. But this is part of the measure's danger. Many voters will do just that—glance at the one-line explanation and make their decision based on it alone.

In the corporate world the law that Measure 7 proposes is called a "takings" law. The term "takings" stems from the argument that when a government regulation in any way reduces the value of land or property, that value is in effect being taken away from the property owner by the government. Corporations



Angus McBrian

also use the term "expropriation of profit."

An easy illustration is one that should be familiar to Oregonians. Imagine that state-employed scientists discover that clearcut logging on the slopes of a particular watershed has devastating effects on the habitat of a river downstream and greatly increased the severity of annual floods. A reasonable solution might be to regulate the amount of logging that can be done on the slopes of this watershed. But from the land owner's perspective, reduction in the amount of allowable logging is a reduction of the value of his or her private property.

Under Measure 7, in order to regulate such logging practices for the public interest, the state government would have to pay the property owner for the difference between the property's value before and after the regulation took effect.

This just isn't sane. Should we pay polluting industries because regulations prevent them from using the air and rivers to maximum profit?

And neither is it speculation. Under the takings provision of NAFTA, the Ethyl Corporation successfully sued the government of Canada for banning the sale and transport of a gasoline additive that Ethyl produced. Canadian scientists had determined the additive to be highly toxic and carcinogenic. Ethyl won millions because the Canadian government took future profits from it.

Advocates of takings legislation would suggest profit, or the right to it, supersedes society's interests. Also, experience has shown that such laws produce a chill effect on pursuit of legislation aimed at preserving natural resources and limiting environmental degradation. Measure 7 is the ultimate expression of the idea that the "laws" of the marketplace are a preferable alternative to democracy.

Don't be fooled by the simple language. Takings laws are the Holy Grail of large corporations. Passage of Measure 7 would quickly lead to a situation where Oregon's communities would have to pay private property owners for the right to manage public health and natural resources.

Vote no on Measure 7.
Don't roll the dice on Oregon's future.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their opinions. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome. Submissions can be dropped off at The Commuter office, Forum 222, second floor of the Student Union.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK

What is a liberal?

The Commuter's roving reporters hit the streets Tuesday to pose a question to unsuspecting students that has plagued the nation since the Reagan administration. What defines a liberal?

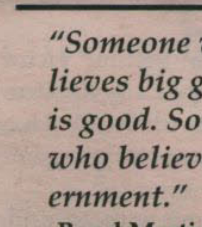
"Someone who's stuck on believing one thing, their way or no way."

-Misty Steele, Veterinary



"A liberal is someone whose views on political issues are not cut and dry."

-Brian Leary, Engineering



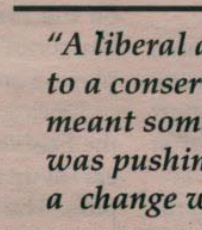
"Someone who believes big government is good. Someone who believes in government."

-Bond Martin, Associative Arts



"Would be someone who is open minded to a variety of opinions and situations, and not afraid to express their feelings."

-Kevin Riker, FineArts



"A liberal as opposed to a conservative, meant somebody who was pushing towards a change within the government."

-Becky Schoening, Nursing



"Someone like, more easy going...not restricted."

-Linnea Smetana, Accounting

Compiled by Gelina Inches and Chad Richins

Download on Us.

The Commuter is now accepting e-mail submissions to its letters-to-the-editor column. So if you've got something to say send it to commuter@gw.lbcc.cc.or.us

Please put your real name and phone number at the bottom (so we can verify that you are a real person- phone numbers will not be published).