

The Commuter

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LB staff remembered for life lessons

Minda Trulove
The Commuter

In the past few of months Linn-Benton has lost some big players in its family. The loss of a member of the LB family reaches far and deep. Though they are no longer with us in the physical, the spirit and life lessons continue to live on.

On Dec. 6, 2007, Scott Zimbrick passed away. In 2006 Zimbrick had been awarded the Linn-Benton Community College Distinguished Alumnus Award. Zimbrick graduated from LBCC in 1975 with an Associate of General Studies degree, which allowed him to move on to University of Oregon and then to University of Washington, where he eventually earned his graduate degree in banking. In 2006-2007, Zimbrick served on the LBCC Foundation board of trustees. Zimbrick was focused on contributing to better the community and being a strong parent to his children.

Jan. 28, 2008, LBCC retired faculty member James "Jim" Tolbert died at home. Tolbert taught at LBCC for

20 years, teaching graphic arts and printing technology. Tolbert left lasting impressions on many people. Pete Porter wrote an article in the August 2007 edition of the Best of Times stating, "One individual I will always hold in high esteem and regard is Jim Tolbert. I met Jim at a very pivotal and uncertain time in my life. After my brain surgery in 1973, I was... nervous and emotional and uncertain of my abilities. Once, I broke down in the dark room and began crying. Jim knew I had recently had brain surgery [for a blood clot] and assured me I was doing just fine in my schooling. I became the sports editor and a feature writer for The Commuter, the college's newspaper. This kept my interest in printing and journalism very high."

Doris "Dorie" (Veal) Nelson passed away Feb. 10, surrounded by her family. Nelson was an art instructor at LB and had been the director of the Benton Center in Corvallis. In addition to her dedication to LBCC, Nelson was also a gifted artist. Her work has been shown all over the world ranging from the Smithsonian Institute to Ueno Royal Museum in Tokyo. Nelson helped the Chamber Music Corvallis by



Jim Tolbert



Scott Zimbrick

serving as the membership coordinator. Her commitment to community was strong and true. Part of her tenacity for life included serving as a draft counselor during the Kuwait War. Someone will always feel the passing of any LBCC family member, leaving an impression that far surpasses the lifespan of a person. Each member of the LBCC family is valuable in their own way. Each of these individuals will be missed and appreciated for everything they have done and the life lessons that have been taught along the way.

Family Resource Fair spotlights literacy

LBCC News Service

The 25th annual Family Resource Fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the LBCC Commons.

This year's theme is literacy with keynote speaker Renae Arnold, Multnomah County Library Early Literacy program director. Arnold is well known for her engaging presentations and premier literacy programs. Her talk, "Why Reading With Your Kids Will Change Their Lives Forever," will focus on the relationship aspects of reading with one's child, with emphasis on the social and emotional development that occurs while reading with our children.

In addition to the keynote, more than 25 workshops will be offered on a variety of topics including picky eaters, baby massage, learning disabilities, couples' communication, getting out of power struggles, step-parenting, appropriate discipline, parents' self-care, and many others.

Literacy workshops will also be held on topics such

as developing literacy skills in young children, choosing books for children of different ages, and how parents can help their beginning readers as well as older children who are reluctant readers. All presenters are highly qualified in their fields.

Parents can also visit many resource booths, where local agencies and institutions provide information about their services. This year there is a special workshop on safety and conflict avoidance, taught by Aurora Martial Arts, for 6 to 10-year-olds attending childcare.

Registration is \$1 for adults. Childcare for children 6 months to 10 years is \$2 per child and lunch is \$3.50. Families may bring their own sack lunches. Preregistration is required by March 4 for childcare and lunch.

For more information, contact LBCC Family Resources at 917-4897. For information on the workshops or to download the preregistration form, visit our Web site at www.linnbenton.edu/familyresources.



Early Spring
Plants go in out front of the Albany campus library as it nears completion Tuesday.

(Photo by Will Parker)

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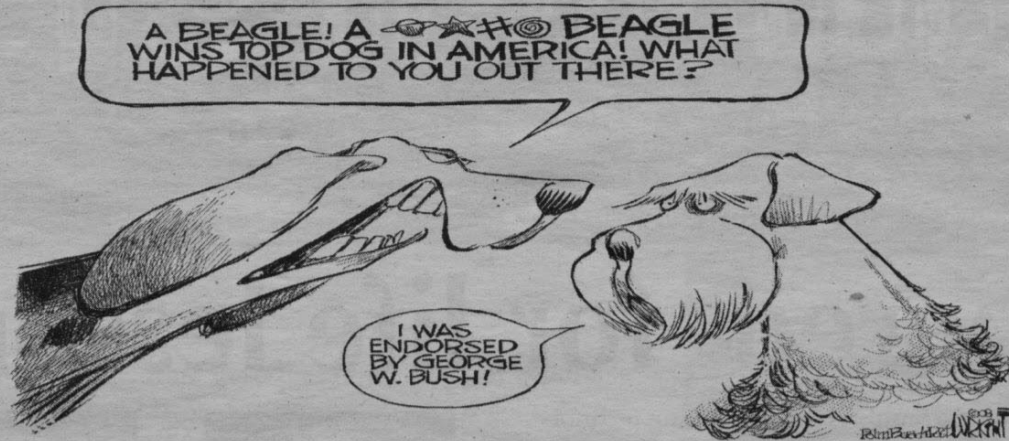
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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter
commuter@linnbenton.edu (F-2)
Please sign and keep to 300 words or less



Small town suffers big time

Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

You think you know a place. You think you know people. I have lived in Brownsville my entire life, all 23 years of it. Brownsville is a sleepy little town of 1,630 people, dating back to the 1840s. It has no stoplight. It has no fast food influences. It is comprised mostly of antique shops and adorable businesses. It's the sort of place you retire to. It's the sort of place where you raise your kids, in a bubble outside of the harsh, real, cold realities of the world. And it has been a very peaceful place in the time I've known it.

Until its "quaintness" was discovered by the outside world and the sleepy, blue-collar workforce of long-time residents slowly began to disappear and in filed a steady stream of city-escapists. The now bedroom community was sapped of its small-town charm and the streets, once filled with beat up jalopies and old rigs now purred with brand new SUVs and luxury cars. Buildings that had stood empty for years bustled to life as actual commerce poured into the town. With the invasion of the outside world's workforce into our hamlet, we lost our innocence somewhere along the way.

The Democrat-Herald reported grim news recently; of course in a town like this, you are already beyond aware of everyone's shapenstance. A deranged gunman rolled up to one of my town's two gas stations (located within a block on the same street) demanding \$10 in gas with a shotgun. He then took a 16-year-old girl hostage, who had stopped at the station along Highway-228 to refuel her car and pushed the shotgun to her back. When an officer arrived on the scene, he was armed with an

AR-15 "Patrol rifle," firing 5.56MM ammunition. The man fired shots at the officer and was wounded in return; he continued to fire and was shot to death. The 16-year-old girl escaped across the street to a church.

I know the clerk who was working the gas station at the time it happened, I know her daughter who was waiting for her mother to get off work outside at the time of the incident. I know the Sheriff's Deputy who shot and killed a man at a gas station I fuel up at every week.

People die everyday all over the world. But not in Brownsville, not like this. This is the sort of incident that happens in a town that people can point to on a map. So who do you blame? How does the tone of my story shift from one accusing the outside world, to one with the sad realization: A place like Brownsville cannot stay hidden forever. It isn't the influx of immigrants. It isn't the fact that many of them are well off. Statistics and probability say that at some point in Brownsville's history, someone would go insane and do something completely idiotic endangering the lives of innocent bystanders. This is the first police shooting in Linn County since 2004.

What I am thankful for is that our police force was well-enough armed with powerful rifles, that they had had the training to take down an armed civilian with little to no hesitation. This is the sort of thing that police officers in L.A. never get used to. I can only imagine how that Sheriff's Deputy must feel, having to kill someone over \$10 in gas. I just hope he realizes it wasn't his fault he had to save that girl's life; it was the gunman's. And thus our eyes open skyward, as the gaping maw of the world at large swoops down to snatch us up and prove that nowhere is safe from needless violence.

Campus safe despite hype over violence

To The Editor,

With the recent shooting at Northern Illinois University, I thought I'd write to offer a little perspective. As awful as an event like this is, it is important to remember that it is just one event, on one campus, in a country that has thousands of colleges and universities. Because news programs many times show details of an incident like this, and because TV dramas many times show similar, fictional stories, we can come to feel that this sort of thing is going on daily, but it is not. We can also come to feel that we are at constant risk, but we are not.

LBCC has been a safe campus for 40 years now. We have never had a critical incident of any type. Of course this sort of thing could happen at any time, and precautions must be taken, but so far, our plans and precautions have been successful 100 percent of the time.

An example: As most readers will remember, there was a verbal threat made toward LBCC just a couple of weeks ago: This was an excellent example of a well thought out system working as it should. Student services works closely with security. Our security office has an unusually good working relationship with the local police, and students are encouraged to come forward (to security, counseling, teachers, anyone) with any threatening language they overhear. The result two weeks ago was that a potential incident was nipped in the bud, and completely taken care of without the person of interest even setting foot on campus, once he'd made the threat. Now that's a safety system that works.

I do think it's important to know that winter tends to bring a little more trouble to any community, not just colleges. Many people who suffer from mental illnesses are affected by the diminished amount of light, the harsher weather, the larger bills for power, greater amounts of illness, and other things that occur during winter. It is a time when people become a little more isolated from one another. Even neighbors see less of each other, and for a person already on the edge, this can be just enough to take them over.

One of the greatest tools any of us have in helping to stop violence (on campus or anywhere else) is communication. One of the reasons that LBCC has stayed safe all these years is that students and staff interact with one another so easily, that we trust each other and consult with one another. There is a comfortable, informality to our relationships that leads naturally toward a sharing of concerns, including concerns for and about others.

Let's please hang on to the mutual trust and willingness to communicate that we have developed. Our continued success in avoiding critical incidents will not be because of the great work of any one department, or person, but from being the kind of community in which every person, student or staff member, takes responsibility for our mutual wellbeing. We can't ever predict the future, but we do know that responsive relationships (not living in fear) will help us in creating the kind of community we need for the future.

Mark J. Weiss
LBCC Dept. Chair of Counseling

PERSPECTIVES

"With the weather being cold and wet, where would you rather be?"



"I'm moving to Las Vegas in a couple months."

• Jared Flohr •
Business Admin.

"Disney World."

• Sami Rowe •
Transfer Degree



"On the beach in L.A."

• Blaise McEwen •
Business Admin

"In my house next to the heater."

• Ashley Geil •
Pre-Nursing



"I would stay in my basement hole, programming instead of going to class."

• Walter Neary •
Engineering

"Sleeping."

• Haley Sullivan •
Pre-Nursing

Compiled By Lief VanAtta
Pictures By Elliott Duke

CAMPUS NEWS

News about our local community, including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Sweet Home and Philomath.

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Actor turned farmer turned LBCC filmmaker

Will Parker
 The Commuter

Sean Brown carries a bit of New York with him wherever he goes. Watching him operate out of a family run coffee shop in Corvallis, taking calls and working on his Mac laptop, it's easy to see. It's hard to imagine he came out west from Long Island to pursue natural farming cooperative living. Even with friends like Oak, who gushed about Brown's status as a Corvallis-ite celebrity." Brown describes Oak as a regular volunteer around Corvallis, a graying older man who bicycles everywhere. "His bike is huge." And sure enough outside, Oak's bike's handlebars are right on eye level with Brown.

Brown is probably best known for his film, "Home Where The Heart Is," a documentary about the culture of small businesses in Corvallis. The film was played at the Darkside theater and recently played at the Independent Film Festival held at Odd Fellows Hall in downtown Corvallis on Saturday. Brown hopes to have the film play at the upcoming Da Vinci Days celebration in Corvallis. "The judges are the people who run the Darkside, and they love me, so I think I've got a good shot," remarks Brown on the topic. He also starred in a variety of roles in the LBCC production of Stuart Little.

Born in Huntington, N.Y. on Long Island, Brown grew up acting. "I think I got my first real gig at 7 or 8." He did print ads and had a part in an off-Broadway play, 'Lenin: A Life,' as well as other work.

Four years ago he ventured west with nine of his friends and family to start up an organic farm and natural building community.

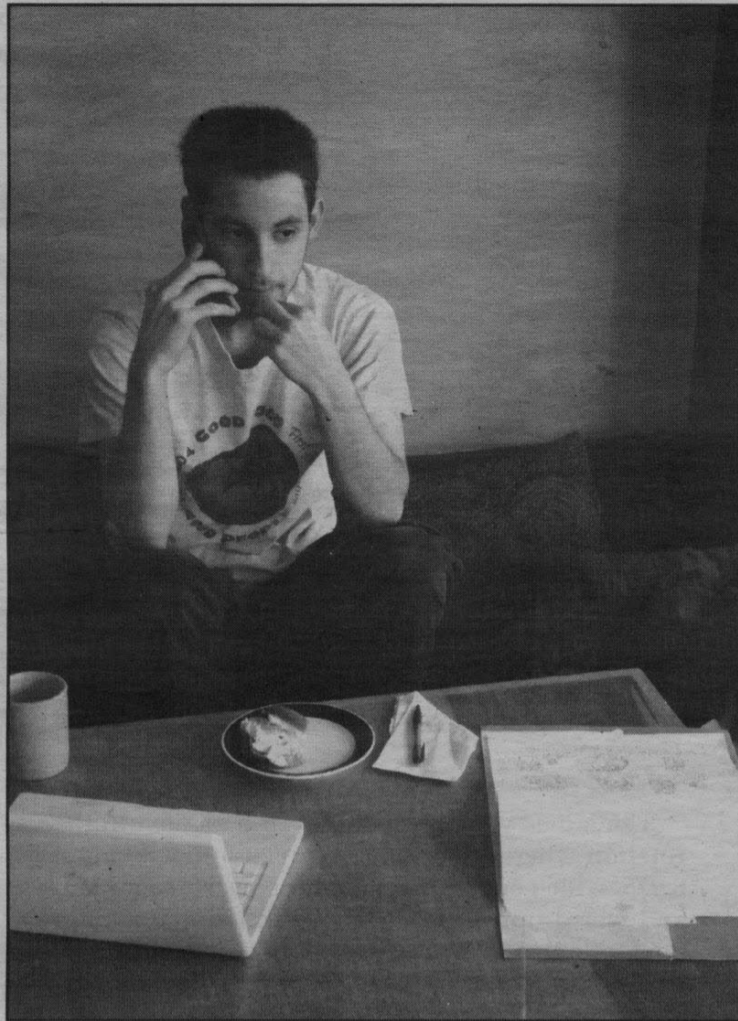


photo by Will Parker
 Sean Brown seen working at local café, 'Sunny-side Up' on Monday, complete with laptop, storyboards and coffee.

"It didn't work out," Brown said. "It just sort of fell apart, so I went back to doing what I love." Which for Brown was filmmaking.

Starting with a volunteer position at Salem's CCTV, Brown eventually got a job as a media instructor at the North Portland Multimedia Training Center, an affiliate of 'The Scanner.' According to their website, "The Scanner News Group has advanced the cause of the Black Press in the North Western United States."

"It was the first real thing I've done. I mean to be in a boardroom with all these professionals. The president of the paper, local group representatives, it was pretty intimidating." Brown laughs, "Plus I was like the only white guy there."

His current project is a short film for the LBCC Video Production Club. "We're doing a three to five minute short feature film. Mostly close-ups, and not a lot of dialogue."

"We're filming in high definition. I was able to borrow a camera from Corvallis CCTV," adds Brown.

As for his future, Brown seems uncertain. "I used to tell myself that I was never going to go to college. Never. I didn't even take the SATs."

In his sixth term at LBCC, he seems more comfortable with the idea. "I think I want to complete my general education so I can go to film school if I decide to later." For the moment he seems content with Corvallis and the opportunities.

"I will say this - I'm going to see where opportunity takes me. Five years ago, I didn't see myself being where I am, so who knows what will happen."

Rock school trains real 'Guitar Heroes'

Evan Fridge
 The Commuter

Millions of people across the world are playing "Guitar Hero" every day, with people dedicating long spans of time to learning to perform many of their favorite songs on a plastic guitar with five plastic button "frets" and a small plastic bar that acts as the strings.

The popularity of this game being what it is, has the popularity of the guitar increased? Public opinion is unclear on the subject, but few deny the game's popularity. Chris Arellano and Lisa Landucci, owners of the Musicafe Rock School in Corvallis located above Gracewind's Music, were optimistic about the effect of the game on the guitar.

"Anything that gets people interested in it is great, and anyone who comes to me and wants to learn to play guitar is going to stick with it," Arellano said.

His students agreed, many of them saying they had played "Guitar Hero." However, a few of them were uncertain if "Guitar Hero" was good for the guitar overall.

"It's had a positive effect overall, but it's kind of

demoted the guitar to the point where everyone thinks they can play," one student commented.

"It's made people think it's really easy and kind of lazy," another student said.

The Musicafe Rock School can be reached at (541) 738-ROCK, or go to the "'80s in '08" concert on March 1, at the Corvallis High School Theater, 1400 N.W. Buchanan Ave. Tickets are \$5 for children and \$10 for adults.

Kurt Dietrich at Bullfrog Music had a different view of "Guitar Hero." He said it was going to have no real effect on the guitar.

"I think if there was any kind of effect on guitar as a result of 'Guitar Hero,' it would be transient," Dietrich said.

He does not feel there is much crossover between the two, and does not think what little crossover that happens is going to matter.

Robbie Wilson, a local guitarist, generally agreed with Dietrich. "I think 'Guitar Hero' might make the guitar a bit more popular, but 'Guitar Hero' is going to make more 'Guitar Hero' players, not guitarists," he said.

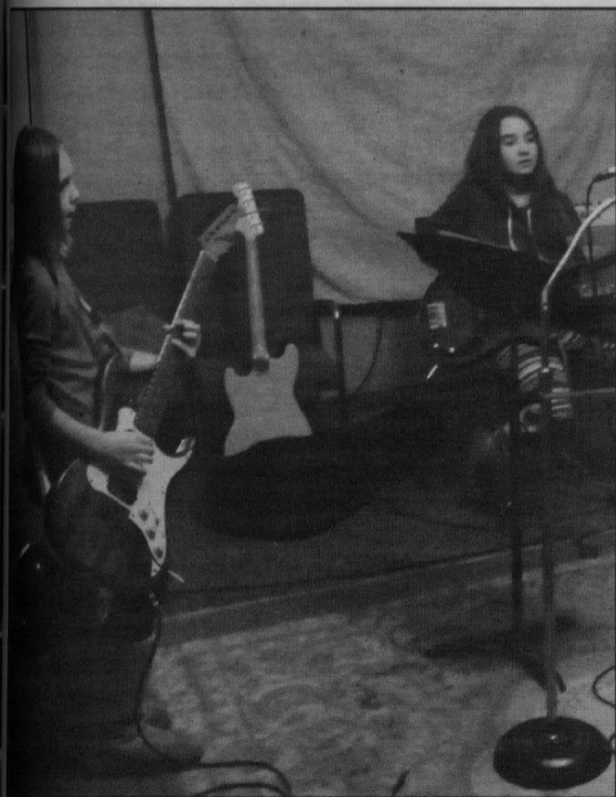


photo by Will Parker

Haven Burnett, 11, and Jayden Arellano, 10, of Albany and Natalie Smith, 9, of Corvallis practice Joan Jett's, 'Bad Reputation' with Musicafe instructor Lisa Landucci. The kids perform under the name, '6789 Converse Club.'

Poetry club celebrates Black

Chris Negahbani
 The Commuter

The LBCC Poetry Club incorporated the theme of Black History Month into its meeting last week.

A combination of 14 students and teachers read their favorite poems out of books dedicated to the subject, and some members of the club shared their own poetry. One student created a song,

both music and lyrics, in about three minutes and performed it for the rest of the group.

"It's a diverse group, but everyone who comes here comes here to share. We give and get positive feedback, and it's nice to get other people's perspectives," said Kiah, a student and actress at LBCC.

The Poetry Club was established spring term last year, and has offered a variety of different

artists and writers a place to come together and share their work. Last Tuesday's gathering started out with a few short and inspirational biographies about black poets and writers. This lesson was followed by a mixed performance of songs, lyrics, verses, sonnets, and slams that offered a diverse taste of everything.

"Poetry Club is about the celebration of the creative spirit,"

said Robin Havenick, a writing instructor at LBCC and head of the club.

"Everyone who shares has a different style because our individual inspiration comes from so many different places. We find our own unique sources of inspiration, then we come together and inspire each other," she added.

After taking the stage, Nick, 22, a student at LBCC said,

"When I sit down to pen a poem, I look forward to the next Poetry Club meeting because you can't just go around and spill it on the street. I genuinely appreciate having a place where I can share my poetry."

Nick has been an active member of the Poetry Club and has a knack for capturing an audience's attention with an aggressive and passionate form of poetry called "slamming."

see "Poetry Club" pg. 5

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SPORTS

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

No. 11 OSU sweeps triangular

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

CORVALLIS--The No. 11 Oregon State Gymnastics team started out with a bang from the beginning with two 9.9 scores from Tasha Smith and Mandi Rodriguez on the vault in their sweep of No. 8 Stanford and Division II Seattle Pacific.

The 196.7 final score for the Beavers improves them to 5-0 in Pac-10 and 7-1 overall. Stanford was second with a 196.375 and Seattle Pacific came in last with 188.350.

OSU seemed unaffected by the meet having one less judge than expected, which caused the vault event to have a pause until the bars were done.

"We started warming up in vault after the fourth person went on the uneven bars for Stanford," said Coach Tanya Chaplin. "In the post-season everyone gets a bye and it was a good way to prepare for that."

Megan Devencenzi was first to compete on the vault and nailed her landing to score a 9.825. Yuki Lamb and Jami Lanz were next, both scoring 9.850 before Smith and Rodriguez had the top team scores of 9.9.

"If you look back at Megan's freshman year, she was one of our highest performers on vault," said Chaplin. "It was great to see her get back in that groove again."



photo by Elliott Duke
Jami Lanz concentrates on the finish of her uneven bars routine. She took the all-around title for the third straight home meet.

The ladies were on the uneven bars next in the rotation where Kara Bolen struggled first with an 8.925, which ended up being the lowest team score and was dropped. Whitney Watson scored a 9.725 next followed by a 9.775 by Laura-Ann Chong. Rodriguez and Lanz both had great landings having a

9.75 and 9.80 scores respectively. Jen Kessler finished off the rotation with a personal best 9.875 to tie for the top score with Stanford's Tabitha Yim and Liz Tricase.

Lanz's 9.9 on the beam awarded her first followed by Kessler in second with a 9.875. Smith stumbled during her routine falling off for a brief time but still regained her composure to finish with a 9.30.

"When I feel off I still had a turn, dismount and bonus points to earn," said Smith. "I couldn't throw it away. I had to finish strong because we still needed to count my score."

"The team did a great job starting on vault," said Chaplin on their season high 49.325 vault score. "We had to nail more landings and we tested our mental toughness early. I am really proud how they fought and competed all the way through the night."

OSU capped off the night on the floor rotation with a second place 9.925 from Rodriguez followed by 9.975 from Smith, including one of the two judges scoring a 10.0. Smith's electrifying 9.975 routine earned her first place.

"After the performance I was really excited and thought maybe, maybe," said Smith on looking for a perfect score of a 10.0. "Next week I'm going to be more determined to get that 10!"

OSU gymnastics hosts BYU Friday at 7 p.m. It will be the last time to catch them at home until March 13.

Beavers claim last Civil War wrestling victory

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

CORVALLIS--In what was the 107th and last Civil War wrestling match-up ever for Oregon State versus Oregon, OSU came out with the 22-13 win Sunday.

In a series that has four times ended in a tie and three times had to go into criteria to end a tie, it was fitting that the last match-up between the in-state rivals come down to the last match to decide the winner.

OSU's 174-pounder, Chris Platt, came to the mat with the team up three points with his being the final match. A win by less than eight points for Oregon's Ron Lee would end the match with a tie-going down to criteria to decide the meet champion. A win by eight or more points, or a pin from Lee would give Oregon their second Pac-10 win and first win in the rivalry in three years.

Platt was behind early in the match but in the start of the second period turned Lee and held him in a cradle before pinning Lee in 4:16 to give OSU the win.

"It was a great finish," said OSU's head coach Jim Zalesky. "It could have gone any way. Emotions play a big part in a meet like this."

The win gives the Beavers the all-time 107-24-4 career advantage and improves their season record to 10-8, 7-3 Pac-10 with Oregon left 10-13, 1-9 Pac-10.

OSU dominated the first three matches of the afternoon starting off with 184-pounder Neal Beaudry's 16-5 major decision over Marcus Meyers. At 197, Kyle Bressler won 5-3 over Shaun Dee and in the 285 heavyweight match, Travis Gardner won 5-2 over Charlie Alexander, whom he beat Gardner in their duel earlier this season.

The first Beaver loss came from Oregon's Joey Locus in the 6-1 win over Jake Gonzalez. Oregon had the momentum going into the next match at 133 where Ryan Dunn major decisioned OSU's Clifton Ivanoff 18-8.

After the 133 match, all Oregon and Oregon State wrestling alumni were asked to come to the side of the mat and were introduced with their accomplishments.

In 141 and 149 match, OSU's Heinrich Barnes and Kyle Larson earned decisions to put the team scores OSU 16 - ORE 7.

Kyle Bounds and Zack Frazier of Oregon beat OSU's Dan Brascetta and Keegan Davis to set up the final match between Platt and Lee with the score 16-13 in favor of the Beavers.

"It is sad to see a rivalry like this end," said Zalesky. "It did great things for the state and west coast having Oregon wrestling be so competitive."

The Beavers will look to defend their 2007 Pac-10 championship Mar. 2 in Eugene during the two-day tournament.

LBCC Basketball

Women's season finale to decide tournament seed

Tyler Dahlgren
 The Commuter

The Lady Runners visited 9-3, 23-4 Umpqua this past Wednesday, Feb. 13. Emily Irwin compiled 23 points, nine of them coming from three-point range. Despite Irwin's scoring performance the Ladies weren't able to hold off Umpqua's Deanna Tupai's 30-point performance, losing 100-88.

Katelyn White scored 14 points, finishing with 7 rebounds, Destiny Neuenschwander added 14 points, and Kati Quigley finished with 13 points.

Four Linn-Benton Ladies scoring in double-figures weren't enough to outlast the South's second place team. The Lady Runners got off to a slow start and it showed as first half ended and they found themselves down 54-40. The second half was neck and neck, but first half woes still

lingered and the Ladies couldn't overcome the Riverhawk's lead despite outscoring Umpqua 48-46.

Jessica Vorpahl led all scorers Saturday, Feb. 16 as the Lady Runners faced off against a winless Portland Panthers team. Vorpahl was a dominant force in the paint-grabbing 17 rebounds while also scoring 33 points, 13 of those coming from the foul line.

Kati Quigley added 15 points dishing out seven assists and Katelyn White recorded 10 points and seven rebounds as the Lady Runners improved to 8-5, 16-11 and a tie for third place in the South.

The Ladies play their final game of the season this Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. against undefeated, 13-0 LCC. A Ladies win will secure their third place spot in the South, an important victory as the Basketball Championships begin Feb. 28 in Kennewick, WA.

Men come back strong for win Saturday after loss

Tyler Dahlgren
 The Commuter

Eddie Leeson was 11/16 from the floor, scoring 23 points while recording five steals as the Runners were unable to defeat Umpqua last Wednesday, Feb. 13 losing, 71-58.

Trevor Siefken added 14 points for the Runners who weren't able to get much done during the game, struggling offensively. The men were outscored both halves 31-27, 39-31 and scored only 10 points off the bench. Umpqua's bench scored 22 points in rally to a win and a first place, 10-1 record in the South.

Tyson Christie had 15 points and 10 rebounds, recording a double double in route to a 60-49 victory over the 2-11, 4-21 Portland Panther's last Saturday, Feb. 16.

Eddie Leeson led all scorers in the game with 18 points, while Trevor Siefken contributed 10

points, and Trevor Thurn dished out 6 assists.

The Runners struggled to score points throughout the game as did Portland who trailed going into the half, 29-18.

In the second half both teams still continued to have difficulty putting the ball in the basket as Portland shot only 32 percent, around 20 percent lower than the Runner's 54.

Despite Linn-Benton's offensive performance, their defense looked extremely impressive, holding the Panthers to only 49 points and a poor shooting night, hitting just 16/50 from field goal range and shooting 18 percent from the three point line.

Saturday's win is the fourth for the 4-9, 8-16 Runners this season as they continue to improve as a team. The Runners final game of the year takes place this Wednesday at home against undefeated LCC at 7:30 p.m.

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College campus events.

Campus Shorts

LBCC 33rd Annual Children's Play Stuart Little

LBCC's Performing Arts Department presents the 33rd annual children's play "Stuart Little" on two Sundays, Feb. 24 and March 2 at 3 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Performance Center.

Directed by LBCC Theater Director Brian Newberg and based on the book by E.B. White with adaptation by Joseph Robinett, "Stuart Little" is the endearing classic story about a mouse that is born into an ordinary New York family.

The mouse, Stuart Little, goes on many adventures both big and small.

Actors play many human and animal roles in a series of delightful scenes that make up the maneuverings of a mild-mannered mouse trying to survive in a "real people's world."

This play is a timeless tale for all ages. The March 2 performance is ASL interpreted and a benefit performance for the LBCC Performing Arts Department.

Admission is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children under 18. Tickets can be purchased at the Russell Tripp Performance

Center box office Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2 p.m. or beginning two hours prior to the performance, or by phone 24-hours a day at (541) 917-4531, or online via the theater Web site at www.linnbenton.edu/go/theater and click on Buy Tickets.

Blood:Water Mission: 1,000 Wells Campaign

LBCC student group, Campus Ambassadors, is raising awareness among students about the water situations in Africa and is calling students to action with the Blood:Water Mission 1,000 Wells Campaign. They will be challenging students to make water their only beverage for two

weeks, saving the money that would have been spent on other beverages to help build wells in Africa.

The Blood:Water Mission will have an information and registration table in Takena Hall today. Cost for the event is free.

Blood:Water Mission exists to promote clean blood and clean water efforts in Africa, tangibly reducing the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic while addressing the underlying issues of poverty, injustice and oppression. Blood:Water Mission is building clean water wells, supporting medical facilities, and focusing on community and worldview transformation, both in the U.S. and in Africa.

This event is sponsored by Campus Ambassadors Christian Fellowship & Blood:Water Mission.

Poetry

from page 3

"My first experience with slamming came from the Black Poet Society. One of my friends was a Black Poet back when the group was still active in Corvallis. It's a very different, very political form of poetry," he said.

"My first brush with slamming was last spring when the Black Poet Society actually came out to LBCC and performed in the courtyard," Havenick added. "It drew the largest crowd I have ever seen at an LB event. It was one of the most impressive things to happen on campus."

OSU summer session '08



this summer...

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- Work ahead on degree requirements
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- Need a flexible schedule? Explore the variety of courses offered online

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OSU Degree Partnership Program

To learn about the benefits of being co-enrolled at your community college and OSU through the Degree Partnership Program, visit oregonstate.edu/partnerships/students



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Poetry Corner

You and Me

Yo, check it out
 How we've given into doubt
 I can't feel what you feel, nor see
 what you see
 But unfortunately, I am still me
 What I wouldn't give to take your
 place
 Just for a day, to wear your face
 I don't have prejudice against me
 At least not yet
 You think I don't care to see
 What it is that you get
 But like I said before
 I would see through your eyes
 If it would open that door
 So I can see past the lies
 I want to understand
 And have that knowledge to gain
 What was I banned?
 So I wouldn't feel the pain?
 Just give me a clue
 I want to understand you
 I don't really care
 Bout who else is there
 Just don't give into doubt
 And just get it all out
 I am here for you
 What I speak is true
 Ah, to take your place for a day
 To understand why you feel that
 way
 I may be white and not quite get it
 But believe me when I say I won't
 forget it
 Check it out
 How we've given into doubt
 Now we need to be proud and
 loud and make sure we get it all
 That way they know we haven't
 given into doubt
 Cuz it's only you and me, baby
 To make this world see

By Kiah Frenock

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Too much infidelity in 'Maybe'

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Maybe it can only be appreciated by those who can relate. "Definitely, Maybe" is a consolatory flick for victims of divorce, and is too careless in its treatment of fidelity to be a charming romantic comedy appropriate for a Valentine's Day release. For all its clever 1990s moments and plot spins, the movie buckles because its lack of chemistry and substance.

"Definitely, Maybe" begins with Will (Ryan Reynolds) being slapped with divorce papers. After Will's 10-year-old daughter, Maya (Abigail Breslin), is unexpectedly exposed to explicit sex in school, she nags him until he agrees to tell her about how he met mommy. However, he has to include two additional love interests and decides to change most of the names in the story, so that Maya and the audience will be kept guessing who mommy really is.

Suspension of disbelief is worn

thin in this movie. How does Maya know so little about her mother's past that she has no idea whose who in the story? It seems unlikely for a 10-year-old, but is worth looking past to enjoy an innovative plot.

The back-story jumps to the year 1992. Will's amiable college sweetheart, Emily (Elizabeth Banks) is afraid that once Will goes to New York City, he will never come back. She gives him an old friend's diary to be delivered in person. Emily gives a playful caveat—a bunch of college guys fell for her—is Emily testing him?

In N.Y., Will goes to work at the Bill Clinton presidential campaign headquarters and it is there that he meets the capricious April (Isla Fisher), who seems to lack direction but excels in innovative charm—of course they don't hit it off at first.

Before delivering the diary to Summer (Rachel Weisz) he cracks it open and discovers that his girlfriend, Emily, had intimate relations with her.

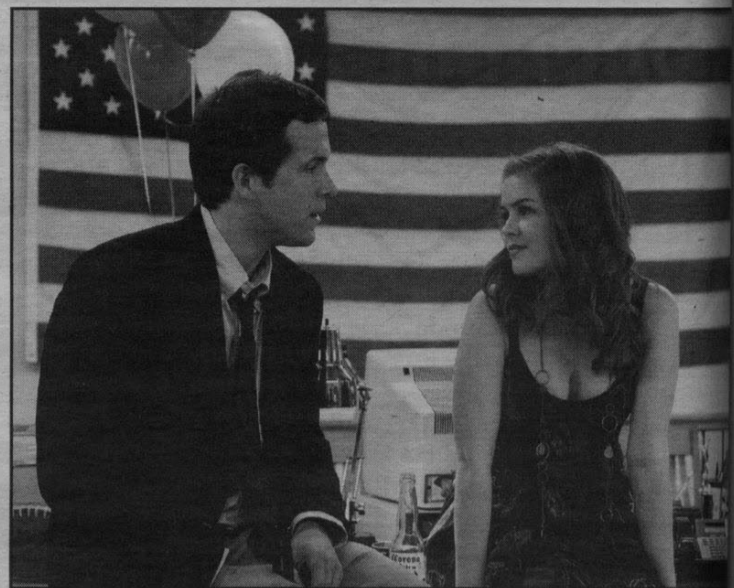
Summer turns out to be a dark-haired, wily intellectual, who sells out for her career, opting to romance her thesis advisor (played by Kevin Kline). Summer kisses Will on the lips after he delivers the diary. It's because he kisses back that makes him a lousy protagonist, and it's not the last time he does this.

On the verge of proposing to Emily, he ends up kissing April, but quickly flees. Upon delivering the weakest proposal of marriage ever viewed in a romantic comedy, Emily confesses that she slept with Will's former roommate.

The movie takes us through a series of unfortunate shenanigans and dismal romantic letdowns without presenting someone to root for, save little Maya, who we already know has become a child of divorce.

Will is at the center of events, but it's the girls of this movie that take the center stage, including Maya.

Mr. Reynolds depicts Will has decent and strong enough



Will Hayes (Ryan Reynolds) flirts with free-spirited but ambitious journalist Summer (Rachel Weisz) in the new film "Definitely, Maybe" from Universal Pictures.

to avoid self-pity, but his performance lacks passion and so we see few scenes of sparkling chemistry.

The plot itself, although lacking in romance, is original and "Definitely, Maybe" includes such charming details as a loaf sized cellular phone and the smoky singing of Kurt Cobain, who is so notable amidst the 90s. Following the Clinton campaign trail is ironic, considering the

timing of the movie's release, making mention of Bill Clinton's sexual exploits only further confirms the movie's theme of infidelity, and this washes away any romantic charm.

"Definitely, Maybe" definitely had potential to be a real good, even intelligent, romantic comedy, but should have had a stronger connection between characters, and included relationship baggage.

Vietnam War veterans lacked support system

Chris Jordan
 For The Commuter

"No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now. Rarely have so many people been so wrong about so much. Never have the consequences of their misunderstanding been so tragic." —President Richard Nixon

There have been many articles written, books published, and movies made about the conflict in Vietnam. Sadly, many of them have misrepresented what happened in Vietnam, and the effects it had afterwards. Many veterans of this war suffered much because of these misrepresentations; a support system for them was almost nonexistent for many years. Only recently have these veterans been receiving the support they earned, and only recently has the truth about Vietnam begun to be known.

Dennis Gronich, 59, of Newberg, is one of these veterans. He served for 11 years in the military, and spent one year in the jungles of Vietnam as a combat medic (1st Infantry Division). He knows first hand about the lack of support.

"Support on the home front was nonexistent when we returned," he told me.

Many of the mental problems that veterans had, while manageable, were due to this very fact.

"Veterans were forced to turn their problems in on themselves, because there was nowhere to let them out."

Despite this, most veterans came home to lead relatively normal lives, a fact not widely known.

"There was a strong misconception that everyone came back from Vietnam stark-raving mad," Gronich said. "When the truth of the matter is that more people went insane after the Korean War or WWII."

Indeed, it seemed that while many veterans were later diagnosed with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), the condition itself is rather misunderstood. Many people assume it causes complete mental breakdown, criminal behavior, and a "separation from reality," if you will. In truth, the effects, while they might be inherent in many veterans lives, are much more subtle, and far from insanity.

Dennis shared an example, "When a helicopter flies by or I hear a loud bang, I jump and sometimes get flashbacks, but that doesn't make me insane." In fact, after looking into the subject, it turns out that "85 percent of Vietnam Veterans made a successful transition to civilian life" (Westmoreland), a fact that stands in stark contrast to the facts reported during, and following the conflict. After hearing

about a rather frightening encounter during the war, I had no doubt that Dennis had seen, and survived, the worst of the war, and having known him for two years, I can attest to the fact that he is certainly not insane.

On Jan. 15, 1969, his platoon was on a patrol 10 miles southwest of Lai Khe, and was hit hard. The Vietcong had placed a claymore mine in a tree, and as his platoon was passing under it, they detonated it.

"It was chaos; four men died on the spot and another eleven were wounded," Dennis recalled the details with startling clarity. He was able to keep the wounded alive long enough to get them to a hospital, and all ultimately survived. (Dennis would receive a Bronze Star for Valor for his actions on this occasion.) He told me that occurrences like this were rather rare, and that it was usually the Vietcong who were suffering the casualties, another point that was not accurately represented.

American losses in the conflict were 58,156, tragic numbers no doubt, but what was never reported was the number of enemy losses. "The Department of Defense statistics on enemy forces Killed in Action total at 715,000" (William A. Williams), which leads us to another common misunderstanding about this conflict; that the war was lost militarily.

Any Vietnam Veteran will tell you that the war was not lost on the military front, but on the political one. "The American military was not defeated in Vietnam. The American military did not lose a battle of any consequence; from a military standpoint, it was almost an unprecedented performance" (Douglas Pike, Professor, Univ. of Cal., Berkeley). Many other historians have corroborated this report, and yet it is still taught in many classrooms that the American military was defeated in Vietnam.

It seems almost disgraceful that the veterans of this war should be discredited in such a fashion. Dennis re-affirmed this fact, "In my year of service, never was a single battle or engagement lost, and never was an encampment, fort, or hill that the Vietcong won not retaken or recaptured." It would seem that history may need to be rewritten, and the honor that these brave men earned finally be given.

President Nixon's words, quoted at the beginning of this article, were thrust to the forefront of my mind as I considered Dennis'

thoughts about returning home. "You just didn't mention the war; not that you were in it, not that you had seen it."

It is truly tragic that a country whose existence is kept secure by brave men like this could mistreat them so. The final question to Dennis, and the most important, was what he wanted his words to portray; what purpose he wanted them to serve?

His answer, given quickly and with no hesitation, seemed as though it was one that had been simply waiting for the question. I decided, as I thought about how to conclude that leaving you with his words, and no one else's, would be a good way to begin correcting the misconceptions and to start promoting the truth.

"Veterans of this war don't want glory or recognition; we just want people to understand the facts. The hatred experienced when returning home will never be forgotten, but if people can begin to understand the truth, maybe the scars can begin to heal." —Dennis Gronich

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons

FEBRUARY 20TH - FEBRUARY 26TH

Wednesday:

ENTREES: Prime Rib with Popovers and Garlic Shrimp Tacos
 VEGETARIAN: Tofu Stir-Fry with Broccoli over Rice
 SIDES: Baked Potato and Second Starch
 SOUPS: Billy-Bi and Beef Vegetable

Thursday:

ENTREES: Hungarian Chicken and Sushi/Sahimi
 VEGETARIAN: Sanakopita
 SIDES: Garlic Ginger Coconut Rice and Second Starch
 SOUPS: Chili Mac and Cream of Broccoli

Friday:

CHEF'S CHOICE

Monday:

ENTREES: BBQ Spare Ribs and Moroccan Chicken
 VEGETARIAN: Omelet Bar
 SIDES: Home Fries and Second Starch
 SOUPS: Saffron Chicken and Vegetarian Vegetable

Tuesday:

ENTREES: Spice Rubbed Tri Tip and Coulis
 VEGETARIAN: Portabella Polenta with Vegetables
 SIDES: Brabant Potatoes and Santa Maria Pinto Beans
 SOUPS: Chicken Consomme and Roasted Garlic Pesto



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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community
 College campus events.

Snowboarding season is on

Anna Conrad
 The Commuter

For some, the winter season is one that goes by unappreciated and untouched. For others, there is nothing better than standing at the top of a snowy mountain and looking down at all the fresh powder just waiting to be torn up.

Over the years, skiing and snowboarding have grown tremendously in popularity. Between 2000 and 2005, the number of snowboarders rose 50 percent, according to [snowtrays.com](http://www.snowtrays.com).

But that's not the only thing that has been growing. With ticket prices averaging \$50-\$60 a day, how do college students continue to pay to play this sport? Or is it more than just a sport to some?

Asked if it was worth all of the money, student Joe Popovich responded, "It is ridiculous. But now that I know what I would be missing, I can't go without it, so I find ways to make it work."

Christian Amaya, another student and a frequent boarder, said his favorite part about snowboarding was "the ride. The cold, the snow, the girls, everything. I love it all."

In addition to lift tickets, there are other expenses to think about. Gas prices are high and one can easily spend \$15 on a meal at the lodge. It is not hard to spend over \$100 a day at the mountain.

But there are ways around this. Every ski resort has a Web site where one can look at ticket prices and special deals. Most resorts have special discounts to take advantage of, especially for students. With a valid ID card at Mount Hood students can get \$10 off of a daily lift ticket. There are also deals on season passes prior to the start of the season. For example, a season pass to

Mount Hood early in the season costs \$300, which is \$200 off the regular price of a season pass.

Other helpful tips on saving money on the mountain:

—Always carpool. Find a group of friends to go with and split up the gas money.

—Bring your own food! Pack a sandwich or some granola bars. A candy bar is a good idea for when you are low on blood sugar.

—Look into nearby shuttles to the mountain. There is a shuttle that leaves from Dixon Recreation Center at OSU and for just a ride it is \$20, which is what you would probably end up paying in gas prices. A ride and lift ticket together for non-members is \$69.

Some of the nearby popular places to ski and snowboard are Mount Hood, Mount Bachelor, Willamette Pass and Hoodoo.

At a glance:

—Mount Hood is great for day and night skiing. Its hours are Monday-Tuesday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Day skiing ends at 4 p.m. and night skiing begins at 3 p.m. Tickets range from \$54-\$64, depending on peak season times. You can find more information on Mount Hood by visiting its Web site at www.skihood.com/default.aspx.

—Mount Bachelor is also a great choice, with great terrain and beautiful scenery. Passes range from \$56-\$66, depending on holiday schedules. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Covering nearly 3,700 acres of terrain, it is a fantastic mountain for both skiers and snowboarders.

For more on Mount Bachelor, visit www.mtbachelor.com/winter/index.html.



photo by MCT

Timberline is also a major ski area. With lifts reaching as high as Mount Hood's 8,500-foot Palmer Snowfield, visitors ski or snowboard almost year-round.

com/winter/index.html.

—Willamette Pass is great if you're looking for shorter lines and a less crowded day of skiing. Its hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with night skiing starting at 4 p.m. The pass runs Thursday through Sunday and holidays with night skiing on Fridays and Saturdays. A daily pass is \$40, and just \$44 for both day and night skiing. For more information, go to www.willamettepassresort.com.

Hoodoo is smaller, but it is a great destination for night skiing. It is open Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday offers night skiing from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Every day of the week it has some special deals; normal prices are \$39 for a day pass and \$20 for night skiing. For more information on Hoodoo, check out www.hoodoo.com.

Mini class stages Shakespeare

Brandon Goldner
 For The Commuter

Shakespeare took center stage last week as part of one of 40 mini-courses offered to mark the college's 40th year of service to the Willamette Valley.

In honor of the occasion, faculty offered a range of courses free to everyone who wanted to attend.

Organized by College Advancement director Marlene Propst and made possible by participating faculty members, the courses were Linn-Benton's way of providing both a service to the community and recognition of the college's 40th year.

English instructor Peter Jensen's mini-course, "Shakespeare's

Four Joyous Comedies," was offered on Valentine's Day.

Those who remain unfamiliar with William Shakespeare may have dismissed his work as archaic and linear, but it becomes clear, even after the hour allotted to the mini-class, that there's much going on below the surface of his writing.

Jensen drew attention to the restrictions placed upon playwrights by England's rulers and how they danced around those confinements in their stories.

Forexample, production companies at the time in England were only allowed to use male cast members, though Shakespeare arguably wrote the best female characters of the day. The actors, young boys who played

women, were sometimes heckled during the performances of their characters because their attempts at femininity were absurd or poorly played.

One way Shakespeare addressed this problem, while poking fun at his predicament at the same time, was by scripting strong, brilliant female characters that were quick of wit and tongue, Jensen said.

Even more ridiculously, he wrote the character Rosalind in "As You Like It" to disguise herself as a man, so you had a male actor playing a female character who was acting as a male. This made the character seem more believable, and thus successfully evaded the chance of a poor audience reception.

Author Morrel kicks off Valley Writers Series

Lief VanAtta
 The Commuter

On Monday, Feb. 11, the Valley Writers Series kicked off in the Siletz Room with Jessica Page Morrel's workshop, where she discussed her book, "Between the Lines," and talked about various tips for writing better fiction.

"It was packed with useful information," said Jerry Luger, who attended the workshop, "She shows her passion and is meticulous with her subject."

Morrel opened the workshop by describing good fiction as, "balanced, unified, and intimate." She then described many subtle ways to improve fiction writing, describing elements of character development, subplots, and setting. Every element of storytelling should be, "a symphony where every note adds to the whole," Morrel said.

On the subject of characters, Morrel stressed the importance of making them as human as possible. She alluded to movie characters such as Indiana Jones, who was brave and heroic despite being

afraid of snakes, as characters that are interesting. Characters in conflict were more likely to resonate with the reader, she said.

Morrel conveyed the importance of including sensory details in fiction writing. These details help to set the mood and scene, and helped to connect the readers to the fictional world, she said.

The technical aspects of fiction writing were discussed, also. Morell discussed techniques about paragraph structure, knowing when to speed up or slow down the plot, and balancing subtlety and subtext in dialogue.

The turnout for the event was high. Around 20 to 25 people attended the workshop.

Morrel is a developmental editor who also teaches at Evergreen College in Olympia, Wash. She is also a freelance editor, corporate trainer, writing coach, and columnist. She is the author of other books on the topic of writing, such as, "Writing Out the Storm" and "The Writer's I Ching."

"These are the stories that haunt us and seep through our veins," said Morrel.

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Help Wanted

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. For more information about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center in Takana Hall. (541) 917-4788

ASTTiWW Wastewater & Compliance Tech (#6084, Albany)

Ideal hands-on training experience for students in engineering/science who want to work part-time during school & full-time during summer, get paid \$10.45/hour to start and you'll have a job until you graduate from OSU.

Network Administrator 1 (#6069, Albany)

Are you a network guru with a degree in a computer-related field? If you have 3 years experience and/or education, this full-time job with benefits can be yours!

Civil/Structural Drafter (#6070, Newport)

Do you have a degree in Drafting or will soon have one and always wanted to work and live on the coast? Live your dream and work at the beach.

Paid Internships working with the 2008 Oregon State Fair (#6061, Salem)

These are full-time, summer internships in various fields as Sports Health & Recreation, Special Events, Marketing/Promotions, Home & Fine Arts, Photography, Science & Technology, Livestock & Small Animals, and much more.

Misc. Info.

Need writing help? Have a major essay due? Need to discuss some of your ideas before you start writing? Need help brainstorming topics? Focusing? Organizing? The **Writing Center** invites you to stop by for help with these and any other writing questions. The Writing Center is in SSH-108. Drop in Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Can't stop by? Then visit our online service: lbcc.writingcenteronline.net.

Want to place an ad in The Commuter? Come to The Commuter's office located at Forum 220, talk to advertising for information.

THE BACK PAGE



Carl Gurney, a welding major, drives his three-wheeled go-kart around an obstacle course Thursday. Gurney was well ahead of fellow welder Don Wagner until Wagner switched on his other engine.

Go, Go Go-Karts!

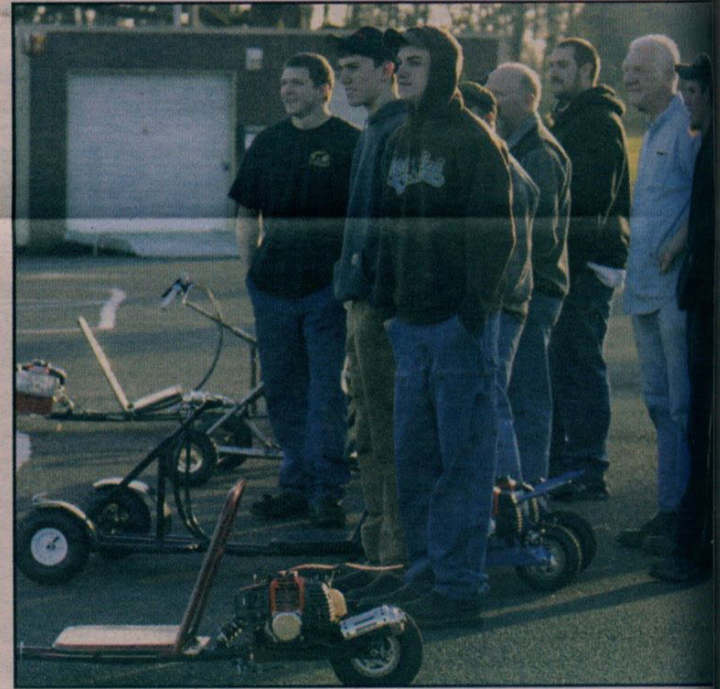
Will Parker
The Commuter

Fabrication and Repair is an ungainly title for a class that transformed stand-up scooter sections into high speed vehicles. The project for this year's class were the go-karts. They had to use available materials and a 49cc gas engine from a scooter. "We use whatever we have," said David Schmitke, the instructor, "Whatever materials."

Thursday, the class took to the parking lot near the baseball field at the LBCC Albany campus to test their creations in a series of races and obstacle course runs.

"You know, these karts can get up to 80 miles per gallon," said Schmitke. "Too bad a guy couldn't drive 'em on the street."

"But maybe someday."



Above: David Schmitke watches the races with his fabrication and repair class. This year's class project were the go-karts, last year was trebuchets.



Above left: Performance discussions were common place during downtime. Left: Tammy Anderson takes the lead around a corner of the obstacle course.

photos by: Will Parker