

•**'Author! Author!'**
Valley Writer series brings literature to LB campus

•**Goodbye, IBM:**
New computer packs more power in smaller package

•**High student loan default rate means federal red tape for college, students**

THE COMMUTER

A Student Publication

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

VOLUME 22 • NUMBER 14 Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1990

Tougher admissions rules at OSU affect LB budget

By Tim VanSlyke
Of The Commuter

OSU and Western Oregon State College raised their admissions requirements recently, standards which may further escalate the enrollment and budget pressures faced by LBCC.

The new standards, which will require a 3.00 GPA for entering freshmen up from 2.75 at OSU, and to 2.75 from 2.50 at WOSC, are part of an enrollment reduction policy for Oregon's state-funded four-year colleges and universities.

The State Board of Higher Education voted last year to implement minor reductions for all state-funded four-year colleges and universities. The reduction would amount to four-percent across the board, or about 2500 students, said Jim Sellers, director of communications for the State System of Higher Education.

"These were students for which there was no state support," said Sellers, who explained that the enrollment at the state's four-year colleges had exceeded the amount for which there was funding. Currently the state system provides 75 percent of the cost of an in-state student's education.

"It's a losing proposition to try to educate these students for which there is no state support," Sellers stated.

What happens to these students is uncertain, "What's happening at the state level as it relates to enrollment caps, admissions standards and a third factor, which I think is having an impact on community colleges, is the increased cost of tuition to attend four-year colleges," said LBCC President Jon Carnahan. "When they make decisions like those, students

make other choices...now I can't tell you the direct correlation between those two (enrollment caps for state colleges and enrollment at community colleges) but when the state funds the system of higher education at a level either the same or higher than they fund the community colleges, and they are getting the same or greater increases in their budgets while serving fewer students, and we're getting the same or less resources serving more students, that's unequal. What that does is put the burden back on the local community," he said.

In the last ten years the property tax burden has steadily increased while the state share of funding has decreased, said Carnahan. "Ten years ago the state supported about 43 percent of our total operating budget, and about 30 percent came from the local property tax payers. Today the proposed budget for 1990-91 would be 43.5 percent property tax supported and 30.4 percent in state F.T.E. Over the last ten years there has been a reversal in the ratio of support between the state and the local property tax payers."

For two years after LBCC promised voters it would live within the 1986 tax base until 1990, the amount of state funding actually decreased. Since then LBCC has experienced major increases in enrollment, and has found itself with a \$590,000 budget deficit.

"No one is going to get well until the state decides to somehow provide for a third major source of revenue. Until we resolve the revenue and resource issue in the state of Oregon, we are not going to resolve the problems related to school finance," said Carnahan.



The Commuter/JESS REED

Not A Bad Tailwind

Albany resident Mark Elder glides through the LBCC parking lot in his wind sailer during Tuesday's blustery weather. Elder and his friend, OSU student Dave Duncan, found a little time to cruise the lot between snow flurries, which have been falling off and on early in the week. Warmer temperatures are in the forecast as snow turns to rain later in the week.

College may seek new tax base in November

By Arik Hesseldahl
Of The Commuter

The LBCC Budget Committee decided last week to recommend that the Board of Education seek a new tax base in the May 15 election.

Although the proposal must still be ratified by the Board at its Feb. 21 meeting, five board members on the committee joined in the unanimous vote that

recommended the increase.

If approved, LBCC will ask voters in Linn and Benton counties to increase the current property tax rate of \$1.97 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$2.55 next year. Such an increase would raise college taxes by \$34 per year--to roughly \$153--for the owner of a \$60,000 home.

The decision to ask for the increase comes on the heels of an 8 percent enroll-

ment jump in 1989, followed by an additional 10 percent this year. Drops in state funding and inflation have added to the strains, leading to a projected \$600,000 deficit for fiscal year 1990-91.

In his message to the Budget Committee, college President Jon Carnahan cited several unmet needs such as instructional equipment, maintenance, and "many needed new programs and services that

have been shelved that would better meet the educational needs of individuals, business, industry, and the community."

Vice-President of Business Affairs George Kurtz cited several examples of those needs, including new galvanized plumbing pipe that has deteriorated, new ventilation systems in several areas of the campus, and electric door openers to increase access for handicapped students.

STREET BEAT

What's your reaction to OSU's new 3.0 GPA requirement?

Michael Holland
Commissioner of Community Colleges



"For me, the larger question is one that applies to the whole system of higher education. You can't have a series of institution by institution decisions on GPA that in the long run deny access to Oregon students. If OSU has a 3.0 GPA for entering freshman students then what does it mean for high school students who graduate with a 2.8 or 2.9 GPA? Where will these students go?"



Chuime Laber
Liberal Arts

"I don't think OSU should raise their minimum GPA because they will keep people that got a 2.8 in high school out of college, even if these students could do better than they did in high school. I don't think it's a good idea because the people that goofed off in high school might work harder in college. These people need a chance at college too."

Jennifer Wimetalek
Elementary Education



"I think it's great for LBCC because it increases our enrollment. On the other hand I think it makes it a lot harder for the under privileged people to get an education at OSU. When you are working with minority people that are doing their best at 2.8, that is probably as far as they go in school because they can't continue into a higher college. I think overall it excludes a lot of people. I think I would be against it, mainly because it is so exclusive. Only the smartest, brightest and white people will get in at OSU."

Compiled by James O'Guinn

'Coffee Break' offers invitation to talk

By Katie Whiteis
Of The Commuter

Instructors are here not only to grade papers, hand out tests, and to lecture students. They are also here to educate, encourage, and help students become successful.

Unfortunately, most students see them only as the person who outlines the course, but English Instructor Paul Hagood would like to change that attitude.

"Instructors are a real resource in many ways, they can help the student be confident, spunk their enthusiasm," said Hagood, who has proposed a coupon program designed to get students and instruc-

tors together over coffee.

"Most students come to their class then leave right after it's over. Hopefully these coupons will give them the incentive to stay and get to know the instructor outside of class," said Hagood.

The coupons are for a Coffee Break With a Teacher, a program Hagood, "hopes will catch on."

The program's main purpose is to get the student to come talk to the instructor during their office hours. The talk does not necessarily have to be strictly about the last lecture or assignment, Hagood said.

"The student can come and discuss career possibilities in that area of study or just discuss mutual interests," he explained.

Hagood got the idea from an English instructor from another college. When the program was discussed, ASLBCC offered to donate \$100 to help pay for coffee for the student. The faculty association, though it also supports it, worried about what would happen when the money ran out.

"If the instructor wants to pay for a drink for the student they can, but they don't have to — it's their choice," said Hagood.

The coupons have been sent out to all full-time faculty members and they may use them now if they wish.

"I've sent them out, we'll see how they do and if it works the program should stay," said Hagood.

4th annual folk dance festival welcomes all

By Jacque Johnson
Of The Commuter

The 4th Annual All-Oregon Folkdance Festival will be held on Feb. 10 in Corvallis at the Senior Center Ballroom, 2601 NW Tyler.

A workshop will be held from 2-5 p.m. to acquaint beginners with some of the dances selected for the party held from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Children are encouraged to attend and dances suitable for all ages

will be included. The cost for each event is \$2 for adult, \$1 for children. Spectators are free.

An Afterparty will be held following the festival for sharing refreshments and folkdancing information as well as continued dancing.

The Hoolyeh Folkdancers of Corvallis Parks and Recreation are hosting this year's festival. Mary Bucy, the festival founder, developed the beginners' festival in 1987 to give beginning folkdancers a

feeling of what fun a festival can be. Last year's event drew 150 people of all ages.

Everyone is invited to attend the Beginners Folkdance Festival, single or with a partner. The program will include dances from many countries, suitable for all ages. Dance formations vary from line to closed and open circles and groups of two, three, or more people so no partner is needed. For more information, contact Karla McMechan at 753-4886.

Lebanon Center plans to 'open house' next week

Area residents are invited to the dedication and open house at LBCC's new Lebanon Downtown Center on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

The center, including administrative offices, moved from its Stoltz Hill Road site to the new downtown location over the weekend. The new center is located in the

10,000-square-foot building at 550 Main Street, formerly the Penney's Building which was donated to the college. The new center includes three labs for office technology, art and math; two general classrooms; an Adult Basic Education/General Education Development (ABE/GED) classroom; a space for first

and CPR classes; and the administrative offices.

The open house begins at 10 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting and tours. Art instructors will provide demonstrations throughout the day, and brown-bag talks will be held at noon. Mini-class sessions will be held throughout the afternoon until 8 p.m.



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Women's Center presents weekly lunch-hour series

The LBCC Women's Center will present a series of brown-bag discussions at noon beginning Feb. 15.

The schedule includes the following topics and speakers. They will be held in Boardroom B of the College Center, unless otherwise noted.

—Feb. 15, Latchkey Children, with Louise Morse.

—Feb. 22, Your Aging Parents, with Linda Prater (held in the Willamette Room).

—March 8, Handling Guilt and Anger, with Gloria Shibley (held in the Willamette Room).

—April 3, Assertiveness, with Marilyn Karsh.

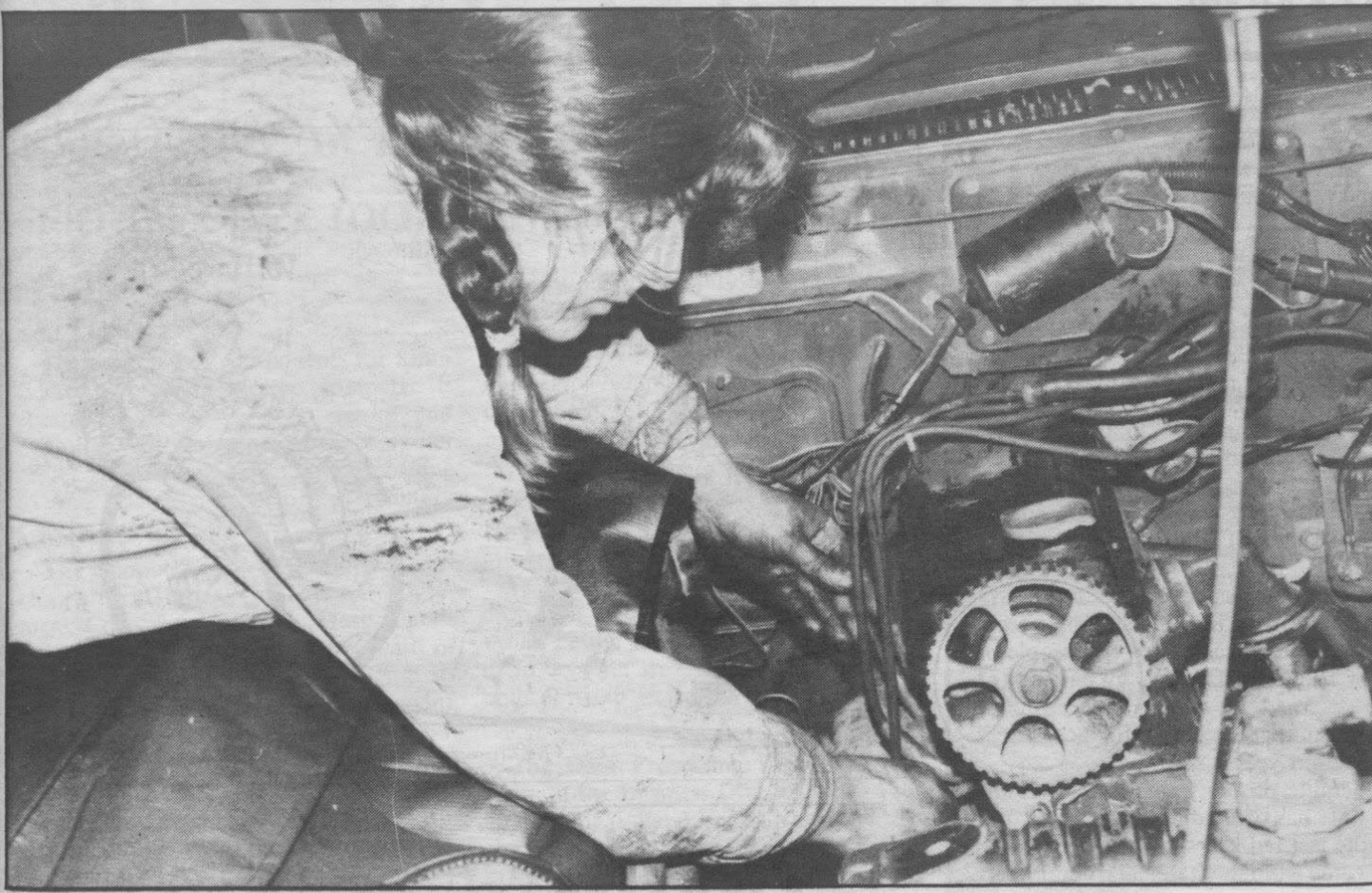
—April 10, Coping Skills to Reduce Stress, with Maryanne Dengler.

—April 17, Self-Esteem, with Christie Conrad.

—April 24, Parenting, with Maryanne Dengler.

—May 1, Time Management, with Linda Prater.

The center is holding an open house today at its location in HO201 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Door prizes, films and refreshments will be available, and the winning name in the "Name the Women's Center" contest will be announced.



The Commuter/JESS REED

Engine Education

Industrial Education student Joni Proctor of Corvallis rebuilds an engine in auto shop lab. The shop, located in the Industrial A building, is used by all students in the automotive field.

Noted author to open LB's Valley Writer series

Al Young, an internationally recognized writer of poems, scripts, plays and music, kicks off this year's Valley Writers Series, which is celebrating its second anniversary at LBCC.

The series was organized to promote readings by creative writers at the college and in the community. This year's series features five respected writers and concludes with an "Open Mike" on May 17 to encourage local writers to share their works.

Young, who currently is a lecturer in literature and creative writing at the University of California at Santa Cruz, will read from his current work in progress and from his recently published book, "Heaven: Poems 1958 - 1988," from noon - 1 p.m. on Feb. 12 in Room 104 of LBCC's Forum Building.

All presentations in the series are free

and open to the public, although donations to help defray costs are accepted.

Young was born in Mississippi in 1939 and spent his first decade in the rural South. He began college at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor then completed his bachelor of arts degree in 1969 at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating with honors. He has lived most of his life in the San Francisco Bay area.

Widely anthologized, Young's poetry, fiction and essays have been translated into more than a dozen languages and have been published in "Harper's," "The New York Times," "Rolling Stone," "Essence," "Paris Review," "Ploughshares," "The Chicago Sun-Times" and "Iowa Review."

He has won much recognition, including a Wallace Stegner Writing

Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, NEA writing fellowships, the American Book Award, the San Francisco Arts Commission Outstanding Artists Award and "Ploughshares" magazine's Rita and Mel Cohen Award for poetry. As a screen writer, Young has written scripts for Sidney Poitier, Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor. With poet-novelist Ishmael Reed, he was a founding editor of "Yardbird Reader."

The next reader in the Valley Writers Series is Alice Ann Bagley, a Corvallis poet. Bagley is scheduled for two readings on Tuesday, Feb. 20. She will be in Forum Room 104 from noon to 1 p.m. That evening, she will be at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave, from 7:30 to 8:30.

The rest of the series features Sallie Tisdale, who currently writes essays for

"Harper's" and "The New Yorker" and is working on a book about the Pacific Northwest, on Tuesday, April 3; Maxine Scates, former poetry editor of the "Northwest Review" and a visiting assistant professor of literature at Lewis and Clark College, on Friday, April 27; and Dale Willey, poet and Oregon native who is retired from the English faculty at Oregon State University, on Tuesday, May 8.

The Valley Writers Series is sponsored by grants from LBCC's Student Activities Program, the LBCC Foundation, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and Friends of the Library.

For more information about the series or to participate in the Open Mike on May 17, contact English instructors Beth Camp, ext. 208, or Lin Eastburn, ext. 201.



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POINT OF VIEW

COMMUTER EDITORIAL

Tax bite heavy, but LB needs levy

LBCC has kept its promise, and now it's time for the locals to ante up. In his message to the LBCC Budget Committee, college president Jon Carnahan presented figures that showed that unless an increase in local property taxes is passed, the college will face a budget shortfall of \$821,567 in fiscal 1991-92 that will increase to over \$1.6 million by fiscal 1993-94.

When its 1986 budget finally passed, the college promised not to ask taxpayers for more money until 1990. That promise has been fulfilled.

Last year, the college managed to trim over \$100,000 to balance the budget, and \$343,000 this year. Those cuts were made by leaving vacant positions among the faculty and classified staff. In addition, purchases of new equipment to train students for the workplace have been delayed.

Over 25,000 students per year pass through the college with at least one class. With such numbers and considering that the majority of the students come from the surrounding communities, there is definitely justification for the people of Linn and Benton counties to give us at least another four years by passing the proposed levy.

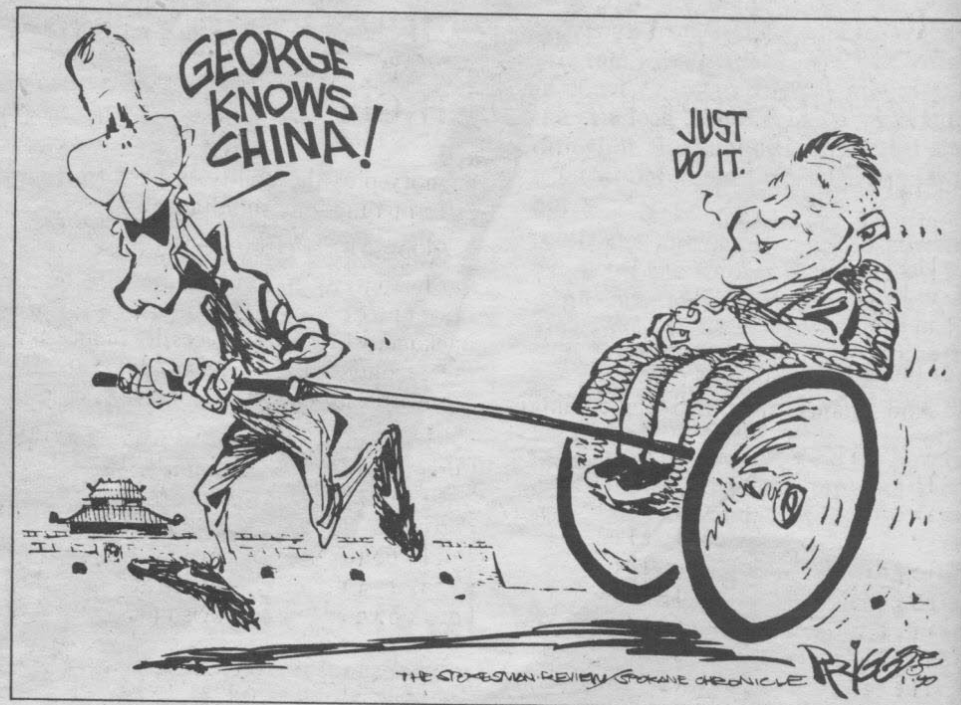
If the voters approve the levy, the doesn't mean that the school finance issue is solved, but that it's merely tabled for another four years.

There is no question that there is considerable property tax burden on the citizens of Albany and Corvallis. And the state has offered no help. State funding of the college has reversed itself over the last ten years.

In 1980, 40 percent of the college funding came from the state, 30 from property taxes paid by us all.

Today, it's the reverse. 30.4 percent comes from the state, and 43.5 from taxes. Tuition and fees cover 18.2 percent, with federal and other local sources covering 2.9. What's wrong with this picture?

Local taxpayers are eventually going to tire of digging into their pockets every four years. But the college must be funded. What do we need? Another funding resource and fast.



Health Works

L.B.C.C. WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Aerobic exercise is great way to improve self-esteem, inner beauty

By Bevely Thomas
Of The Commuter

All of us, at least once in our lives, have looked into the mirror and said, "Yuk, I don't like the way I look and I don't like the way I feel."

On a bad day, you share your physical criticisms with an optimist, maybe your mother, and she'll tell you that inner beauty is much more important than external features.

And you ask, "So who cares about inner beauty when I feel like a turnip? How is that supposed to improve my feelings of self-esteem? The optimist tells you that being good to others is what inner beauty is all about. It doesn't matter if you feel like a turnip.

What the optimist doesn't tell you is that to be beautiful inside you must be good to yourself.

Aerobic exercise is one way to be nice to yourself, improve your insides and feel better about your outside! Aerobic exercise, such as a brisk walking, running or cycling will improve cardiovascular fitness. It will also stimulate your brain to release endorphins and enkephalins, your body's own feel-good compounds.

Exercise a minimum of three days per week for 20 minutes or more per session at 70-80 percent of your maximum heart-rate. To determine this training heart-rate compute the following:

Begin with: 220
subtract your age: - 20
maximum heart-rate equal 200
multiply by .70 or x .80
training heart-rate equal 140-180

This indicates a training heart-rate of 140-180 beats per minute for a 20-year-old.

Several minutes into an exercise sessions, find your pulse and count for 10 seconds. Multiply the number by six to determine your heart-rate. Try to keep it within 70-80 percent of your maximum.

Aerobic exercise will make your heart stronger, beating fewer times to push the same amount of blood around your body. Your lung capacity will increase and your blood will become more efficient at absorbing and carrying oxygen to tissue and muscle.

Exercise promotes mental fitness as well as physical fitness. Not only will your cardiovascular system improve, but so will your attitude toward yourself. That is inner beauty.

Oops!

Due to typesetting errors and proofreading lapses, two separate stories contained misleading information in the Jan. 31 issue of The Commuter.

In the Street Beat column on page two, Wynn Johnson actually said: "If a woman can handle the action on the front

line, then she should be able to go off to fight on the front line, but I do think women should have an option."

In a story on page 11 about the College Bowl competition, Prudence Miles actually said: The college bowl tournament is a free weekend trip for students who are interested, and the competitors give recognition to LBCC.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed through 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 and letters reflect the opinions of those who sign them.

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College purchases state-of-the-art computer

\$314,000 VAX replacing big IBM;
said to offer more efficiency

By Ron Kennerly
Of The Commuter

The assembly of components for Linn-Benton's new mainframe computer is complete, and a six-week set up and operating orientation period by computer center staff is now underway, according to Ann Adams, director of the computer center.

The computer, a VAX 6310, was purchased for \$314,000 from Digital Equipment Corp. of Maynard, Mass. Funds were provided through the first award of a potential \$2.3 million federal Title III grant, a program targeted at "improving self-sufficiency in colleges."

The grant, spread over a five-year period, must be reapplied for each year, Adams said, and requires funds to be used in two major areas. The first is the improvement of computer systems, and according to Adams that requirement is easily met in the purchase of the new VAX.

"Our IBM that we have now is not state-of-the-art technology, and it's just getting more and more expensive to support," she said. The new VAX uses one-sixth the electricity, floor space, and air-conditioning of the current system.

In addition, said Adams, the current IBM system is at its maximum potential for memory and is able to perform only one function at a time. While the new system is equal in these areas, VAX has the potential for the addition of up to three more processing units, she explained, which would allow great increases in

memory plus the ability to perform four different functions simultaneously.

Along with these potential increases in hardware, Adams said the new system is best suited for running a new software package, which was a necessity in meeting the second requirement of the Title III grant—to improve student services.

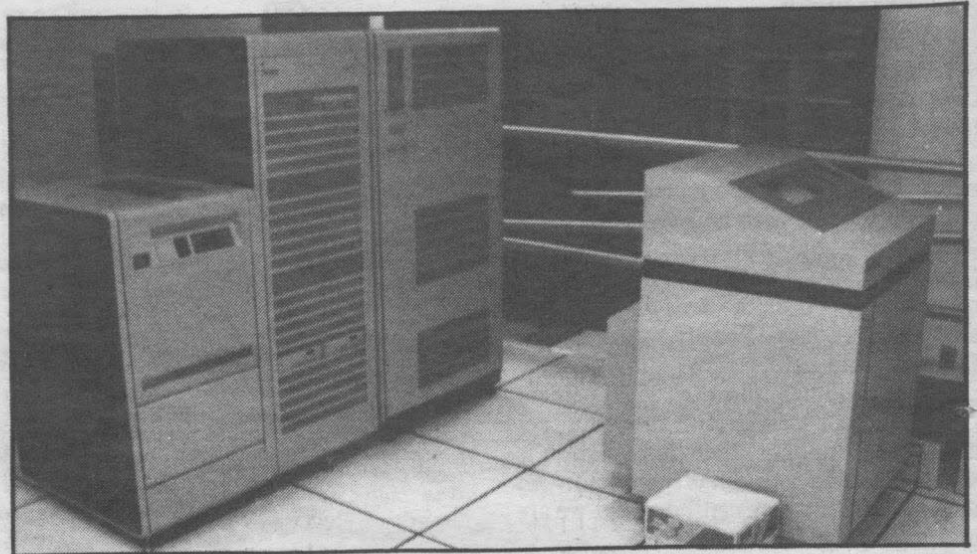
"It's been a long process leading to the purchase of this system," she said. "We've looked at a lot of software, and narrowed it down to what we thought would be the tool that would best enable us to do what we wanted to do. It really boils down to service for students. That's the reason we're here."

The Data Processing vocational program in the Business Division will be the first instructional program to profit from the new system. "We'll be ready to have students actually use the computer for that by fall of 1990," Adams said.

The system will also offer great improvements in assessment and advising, she said. Plans include the development of a life skills management program, aimed at helping students deal with problems not related to their academic abilities, such as transportation or child care difficulties.

The long-term goal, Adams added, is basically to put more information into the hands of management personnel so students can be better served.

"We're in the midst of what is really a five-year project," said Adams. "Installing the computer hardware is just the first phase of the project."



The Commuter/TIM VANSLYKE

The new VAX computer in the College Center Computer Services Department takes up one sixth the space of the old IBM computer. It was purchased earlier this year with Title III funds, a federal grant program designed to upgrade LBCC's ability to serve its students. LB was one of only five community colleges in the country to get the grant.



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Defaults require college to monitor loans

By Kathe Nielsen
Of The Commuter

LBCC is in the federal doghouse, and until student loan default rates are lowered, it will be kept on a short leash.

At the urging of Congress, the Department of Education conducted a study to pinpoint schools with high Stafford Loan default rates. Based on repayment records from 1986-87, LBCC is one of those schools, "as far as the feds are concerned," said Lance Popoff, director of Financial Aid here.

Those findings show a 31.9 percent LBCC student loan default rate. But, according to Popoff, "their information is suspect, their findings difficult to reconstruct. Since we can't do that, we are in a high default bracket."

All institutions determined to be in the high default bracket are required to adhere to the new Default Reduction Initiative Procedures, which require the college to:

—Cancel Supplemental Loans, currently used by only six students at LBCC.

—Put a 30-day hold on Stafford Loan checks for new borrowers.

—Test new borrowers' understanding of repayment terms.

—Require reapplying students to view a government video to review loan repayment conditions.

—Conduct exit interviews with departing students to restate loan repayment procedures.

—Contact students during the six-month "grace period" to urge repayment.

—Trace students who are in default to persuade them to repay.

Unfortunately, said Popoff, "there is no research that any of these will have an impact on reducing default rates, and yet, they will have tremendous impacts on people and costs" at the college.

The regulations will affect all students on any financial aid program, said Popoff, even if they do not use government secured loans.

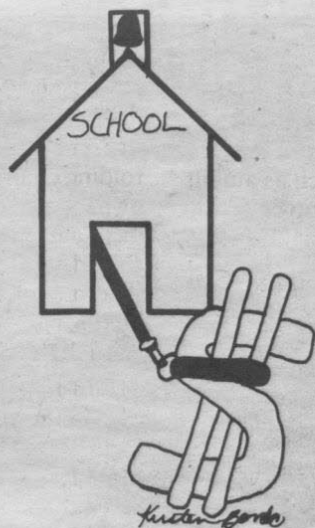
"At \$2.1 million a year, it (financial aid) is our largest program," he said. Between 2,000 and 2,100 LBCC students receive one form or another of financial aid, 1,000 of whom take out Stafford Loans.

Because of the increase in enrollment this year, Popoff said his office has faced a 198 percent increase in appointments with students. He had hoped to hire an additional advisor to help deal with the increased workload, but because of the "huge administrative burden" created by the new regulations, he said, "any additional resources will be used for compliance with the government program."

Consequently, Popoff expects the application and approval process for financial aid to take more time.

Besides creating more work for his office and more delays for students, he said, the high default rate also creates "bad press—it just doesn't look good."

While 12 out of 13 Oregon community colleges fall under the new rules, community college defaults constitute only 10 percent of the total unpaid dollars. "Some studies show as little as 4 percent," said Popoff. "We're certainly not the foundation of the problem. We're just the tip of the iceberg."



Trade or "proprietary" schools ranked highest in percentage of loan defaults, and community colleges ranked second. Four-year colleges and universities ranked third, followed by private schools, which had the lowest default rate.

According to Popoff, the community colleges do have a significant high default rate by percentage, if not by dollar amount. "We're dealing with a high-risk student population," he said, "compared to the student attending a four-year public or private college."

Many community college students dropped out of high school, didn't do well in school when they were there, and still need developmental coursework, Popoff said.

"We don't have a lot of control over our student population. We do have an open door policy, and no authority to refuse a student education even if we have a bad feeling about them. But if we can get them through, over a lifetime it is in the best interest of the country. That's part of our mission." Under those conditions, Popoff asked: "Why should a high default rate be such a shock?"

The college will make a "good faith effort" to follow the program outlined by the federal government, he said, even though it will be a "monumental effort" and a "tax on resources." In Popoff's opinion, "the answer lies someplace

else," with tools LBCC already has.

"What we need to lower the student loan default rate is to get away from reliance on the Stafford Loans themselves," he said. During the past 10 years, students have shifted from a ratio of 70:30 grants-to-loans to the current 50:50 ratio. Stafford loans constitute the largest dollar volume of aid at the college. And although Pell Grants have increased a little in amount, he said "they are not keeping up with the inflation rate."

Adding to the reliance on loans is the fact that students often opt for loans over work study because they are more convenient, he said.

However, Popoff said he urges students to consider work study instead of loans because if they attend LBCC for the average three years, they face approximately \$8,000 in loans to repay. By taking a work study job, that figure can be cut in half. "And we will help you find a job," he added. He also pointed out that a recent government study showed that students working 10-15 hours a week actually get better grades. "They become better students because they learn how to budget their time," he said.

In the meantime, Popoff and school officials across the state are trying to get the Default Reduction Initiative Procedures revamped. "It's a bad law," he said, adding that aid officials are seeking congressional approval to "get the schools off the hook," to reassess the school's role of responsibility for the default rate, and to encourage increased funding in the form of more and higher grants.

"If all this sounds like gloom and doom," he said, "it really doesn't have to be. We'd like to find a way to get more student input, ways in which they can affect the lowering of student loan default rates. We'd like to hear from students. They're welcome to come and talk about it, anytime."

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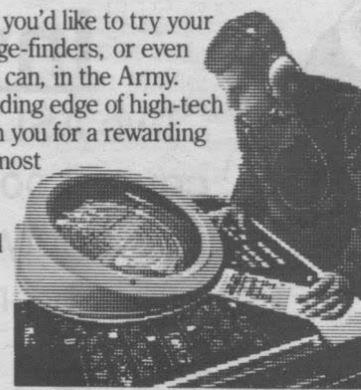
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NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPANISH TABLE: Join us in the cafeteria to chat in Spanish. Look for the table with a flower—Every Wednesday at 12:00.

SUPPORT FOR EX-SMOKERS

The LBCC Women's Center is hosting a Smoker's Anonymous Group. The open discussion meetings are being held on Fridays at 12:00 noon for ex-smokers and those with a desire to stop smoking. Both men and women are invited to join us. Room HO 201A.

Diets Control your life?

Overeating compulsively? OA is for you — Meets every Wednesday on the main campus from 12-1 in B 101. For information call x 327.

The LBCC Women's Center will hold its annual Open House — HO201 — on Wednesday, February 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be prizes, films and refreshments. A door prize (trip to the coast, dinners for two, flowers, etc.) will be awarded every hour during the day. Come share in the celebration!

Bodacious bake sale sponsored by DECA. Free coffee with purchase. Thurs. 8th Friday 9th 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the commons lobby

PERSONALS

Lonely? Need a Date? meet that special someone today! Call Datetime (405) 366-6335

Suzie,

Family Ties in the Heritage Mall has free delivery on gifts and balloons for Valentines Day. Sing the string of my heart.

love, Hot-Lips

Loving Oregonian an Swedish couple searches for a caucasian baby to adopt. Grandparents and cousins are eagerly awaiting a new addition to our happy families. We will love and cherish a child. Please call us to find out more. Legal, Medical and Pregnancy related expenses paid. Portland attorney involved. Call collect or direct 503-294-0775. Sara and Sten.

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Driveway Regatta only way to go

The reason we bought a motorboat is, we needed a new kitchen. Our current kitchen has a lot of problems, such as a built-in Colonial-era microwave that we think might not be totally safe because it can cook food that is sitting as far as 15 feet away. We had spent months striding around our current kitchen, making sweeping gestures and saying things like "We'll move the sink over there!"

What a pair of goobers. As you experienced renovators know, it's easier to construct a major suspension bridge than to move a residential sink. Thousands of homeowners who embarked on sink-relocation projects during the Eisenhower administration still are washing their dishes in the bathtub. My wife and I kept running into people like this, people with plaster dust in their hair and hollow eyes from spending their wretched nights sleeping in the garage and their bleak days waiting desperately for workmen who inevitably made things WORSE. "We have no telephone or electricity or water," the Renovation People would say, "and on Monday a man is supposed to come and take all our oxygen."

This was discouraging, but we really needed a new kitchen. Finally we said, OK if we don't do it now, we're never going to do it, so we decided to bite the bullet and: buy a motorboat. Our reasoning was, "Hey, if we have a motorboat, we'll have Family Outings where we can experience Togetherness and possibly crash into a reef and sink, and then it won't matter about our kitchen."

But reefs were not our immediate problem. Our immediate problem was something worse, a daunting nautical challenge that has tested the courage of mariners since ancient times, namely: backing the boat into the carport. The trick to remember here is, if you turn your car wheels to the right ("star-board,") the boat trailer will actually go to the LEFT ("forecastle") until your wife ("Beth") announces that you ran over a sprinkler head ("\$12.95"). Using this procedure I was able to get the boat into the carport in no more time than it took for Magellan to reach Guam.

We kept the boat moored in the carport for several weeks, after which we decided — call us bold adventures — to try it on actual water. We met at the marina with our salesperson, Dale, who showed us how to launch the boat via a terrifying procedure wherein I had to back the trailer down a scary ramp RIGHT INTO THE BAY. I have since learned that, here in Miami, on

weekends, amusement-seekers will come to the marina, set up folding chairs and spend a highly entertaining day watching boat owners perform comical maneuvers such as forgetting to set their parking brakes and having their cars roll down the ramp and disappear, burbling gaily, below the surface. In the generous nautical tradition of rendering assistance to those in need Miami boat owners sometimes — this is all true — get into gunfights over whose turn it is to use the ramp.

Fortunately we had Dale with us, so we had no trouble getting out on the water, where he taught me the basics of seamanship. Here's how it went:

DALE: OK, you see that shoal over there?

ME: No.

DALE: OK, you see that marker over there?

ME: No.

DALE: Do you want to take the wheel for a while?

ME: No.

Finally, when I was fully confident that, if necessary, I could take the boat out myself and get everyone killed, we returned home to spend a carefree evening washing our hull. You have to do this because it turns out — get ready for a fascinating nautical fact — SEA WATER IS VERY BAD FOR BOATS. I'm serious. Ask any boat owner. Sea water contains large quantities of barnacle and corrosion, which will rapidly turn your boat into a giant piece of maritime crud.

So while I was scrubbing my hull, I had this blinding insight: The smart thing to do, clearly, is NEVER PUT THE BOAT INTO THE WATER. I shared this insight with some other boat owners, and they all agreed that, definitely, putting your boat into the water is asking for trouble. Most of them have had their boats sitting in their driveways long enough to be registered historical landmarks.

A group of us boat owners were discussing this one evening at a party featuring beer, which is how we decided to hold a Driveway Regatta. Really. I have the whole thing on videotape. We had it on our driveway, and we had four boats, on trailers, secured via anchors in the lawn, trees, etc. The judges awarded First Prize to a dentist named Olin, whose boat not only contained golf clubs and a croquet set, but also had a spider web containing a certified spider that had apparently died of old age. It was a fine afternoon, and nobody got seasick, and we even — try this at sea — had pizza delivered. I would have cooked, but we really need a new kitchen.

Seattle activist to speak out on hunger today

By Tim VanSlyke
Of The Commuter

Kieth Blume, an activist from Seattle, will be on campus today to speak about world hunger at noon in the Forum Room 104.

Blume said the specific focus of the speech would be the relationship between hunger, poverty, overpopulation and war and peace issues, "when you talk about hunger, you're talking about all the issues of global survival," said Blume.

He would like to see college students

become more socially active, "there are things they can do as individuals, and mainly I'd like to see them be responsible citizens. Historically it has been college students who have instigated major social changes."

"This generation of college students may have the last shot at determining whether or not we make it into the next century."

Blume, who has produced two documentaries, written a book and founded the

Planet Earth Foundation, an organization devoted to fighting world hunger, is now working on a novel and a screenplay, "it is a fictional approach to these issues."

Blume is also working with "Citizens for a Hunger Free Washington," a state program which is hoping to provide a model for the rest of America in the fight against hunger. Oregon, California and Minnesota have initiated task-force reports on hunger in their own states which is the same approach first taken by Washington.

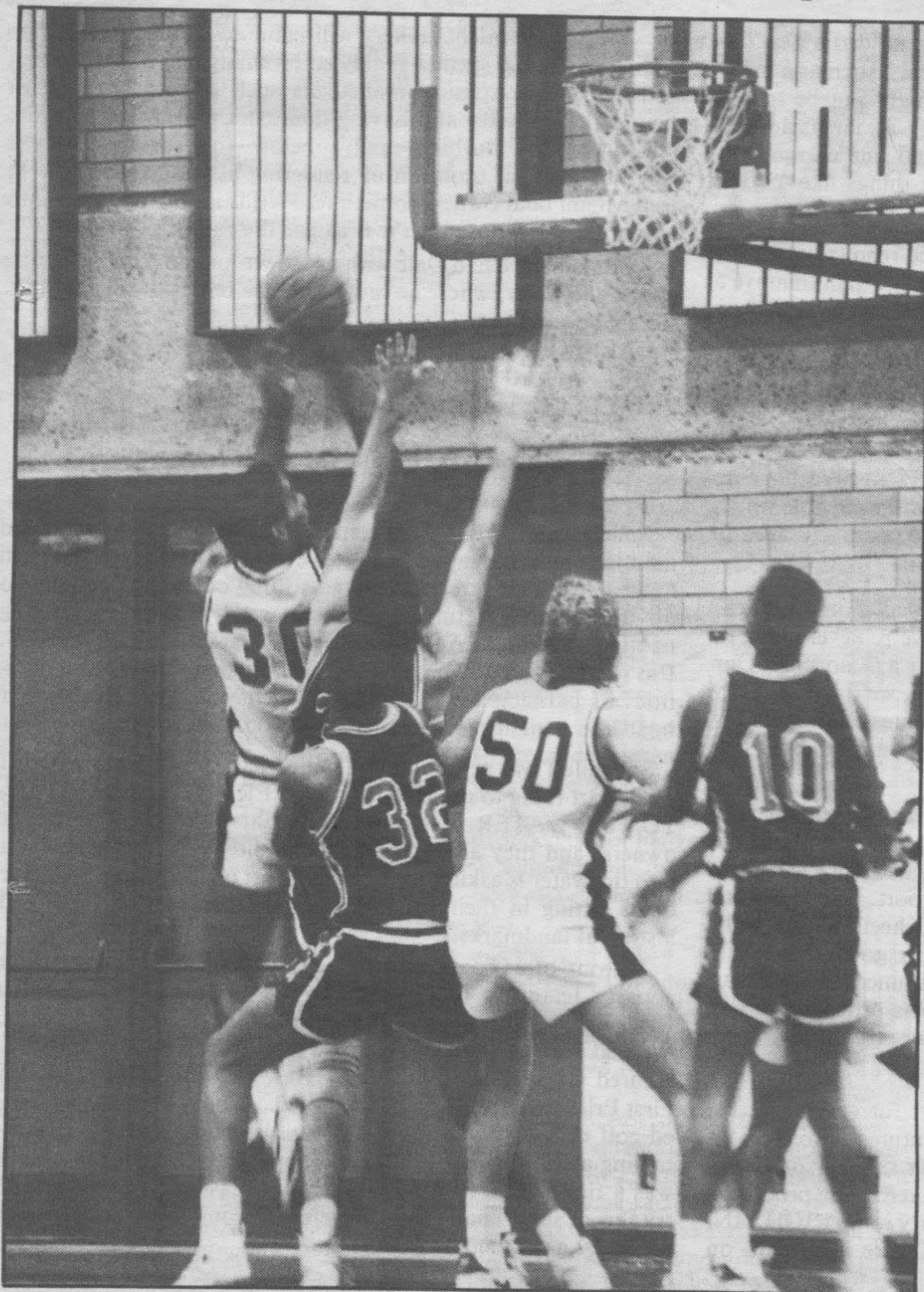


MISTER BOFFO
by Joe Martin



SPORTS PAGE

Roadrunners fall under 3-point barrage



The Commuter/DARIN RISCOL

Forward Chris Whiting (No. 30) shoots over Umpqua defenders while freshman center Todd Karo fights for position. Whiting scored 12 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Roadrunners. Karo scored 16 points in the 80-61 loss last Wednesday. The Roadrunners play at Southwestern Oregon Community College tonight and return Saturday to play Mt. Hood in one of their last two home games of the season. Both the men's and women's teams are encouraging students and staff to turn out and support the teams in the final home games.

By Keven Porter
Of The Commuter

LBCC's men's basketball team dropped two league games last week, first to Umpqua Community College Wednesday and then to Portland Community College on Saturday.

With the Roadrunners down by only 10 at the half, it was the three-point shooting that spelled defeat for LBCC. Both teams shot 52 percent from the field, but the ability of PCC to shoot the three-pointer — the Cougars hit 11 of 18 — made it a close game all the way.

"We've had to start playing a zone defense because most teams are quicker than we are and they have just been making the shots," said Roadrunner assistant coach Tom Ketelsen.

Chris Whiting led LBCC with 29 points and 12 rebounds and Mike Hall and Todd Karo added 24 and 19 respectively.

With the loss LBCC drops to 2-8 in league and 9-14 overall.

On Wednesday Umpqua came to town to face a must win Roadrunner team.

The Roadrunner committed 12 of their 21 turnovers in the first half which enabled the Timbermen to pull ahead by 15 at the half 47-32.

Ketelsen said turnovers have been killing the team all year long because of the opposing team's pressure, and that LBCC is trying to force the ball to much.

Karo and Hall led the way with 16 points each and Whiting crashed the glass for 11 rebounds.

"Todd played his best two-game weekend of the season," Ketelsen said. Ketelsen added that if Karo keeps playing the way he has been he will be real tough next year.

The Roadrunners next action will be tonight against South Western Oregon Community College at Coos Bay. They return home on Saturday to play Mt. Hood Community College.

Umpqua 80, LBCC 61

Umpqua (80) — Cowan 18, VanLier 11, Hargett 2, Briscoe 4, Franklin, Richard 11, Loiler 8, Westbrook 12, Smith 6, Wagner 8. LBCC (61) — Henderson 2, Ecker 6, Allen, Whiting 12, Hall 16, Anderson 4, Wechter 2, Karo 16, Badger 3. 3-point goals: Umpqua (9-19) — Cowan 4-9, VanLier 2-2, Richard 1-6, Wagner 2-2. LBCC (3-6) — Allen 0-1, Hall 2-3, Wechter 0-1, Badger 1-1.

Portland 87, LBCC 84

LBCC (84) — Ecker 4, Whiting 29, Hall 24, Karo 19, Badger, Henderson 3, Allen 2, Anderson 3. Portland (87) — Terry 6, Smith 20, Scott 13, Gill 14, Odenthal 4, Payne 20, Sillett, King 10. 3-point goals: LBCC (7-15) Ecker 1-1, Hall 4-7, Karo 1-1, Henderson 1-3, Allen 0-1.

Hoops need crowd support

It was an important game. The second of two tough ones, back to back, that would test the LBCC women's basketball team.

But this time, the crowd was no help.

Less than a week before, a crowd of 200 may have made the difference as top-ranked Clackamas left Albany with a 74-69 defeat at the hands of the Roadrunners.

"Without the crowd our chances would have been far less. The Clackamas game would have been closer," coach Debbie Prince said of the unusually large crowd.

Attendance at athletic events, particularly men's and women's basketball games, is notoriously low. "I sometimes think that either students are unaware of us or they don't care," star forward Kim Downie said. "But it's always more fun to play for a big crowd than for none at all."

Two home games remain for both teams. Feb. 10 they will host Mt. Hood with Lane due to pay a visit Feb. 14. Both women's games tip-off at 6 p.m. with the men following at 8 p.m.

Women split pair with UCC, PCC

The Lady Roadrunners downed the hurting panthers of Portland Community College 78-42 Saturday in Portland and improved their record to 6-4 in league and 13-9 overall.

Leading the charge was Michelle Derry with 29 points and 12 rebounds. Aiding this effort was Jennifer DeJong with 14 points, Angie Orchard with 11 rebounds and Patricia Torrez with 9 points and 9 assists.

Earlier in the week LB lost a close battle to Umpqua Community College 75-69.

The Roadrunners had an off night, hitting only 35 percent of their shots from the field compared to Umpqua's 57 percent.

In this losing effort Derry managed 21 points and 12 rebounds and Torrez and Monica Straws had 6 assists each and scored 15 and 17 points respectively.



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play's start at 8 p.m.

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