

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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Photo by Tricia LaFrance

Tom Chase assumes the role of Henry David Thoreau for his American Literature class.

Instructor steps back in time to show students how great American writers lived and worked

by Tricia LaFrance
of The Commuter

Henry David Thoreau strode confidently into the classroom, wearing jeans, denim shirt, colonial hat and work boots, tapping a long yew branch walking stick. He paused and puzzled over the television, video-camera and overhead projector in the LBCC classroom, which weren't around in the 19th century.

Then, he turned and talked in a gentle voice to the group of American Literature students gathered in A-242 about his life, his philosophy and his book, "Walden Pond," which tells of his years of solitude in nature.

Thoreau, who died more than 100 years ago, returned to life in the form of LBCC English instructor Tom Chase, who has collected information and background about various American authors over the past 10 years. After doing research, Chase has created about a half dozen impersonations of American literature authors, which he calls "first person lectures."

"They are a hybrid impersonation of a famous author, combining biography, autobiography and characters that these authors created," he said. "And to have to add, there's probably a little bit of myself in

each one of these sketches that I do."

In many ways, teachers are like ministers, Chase said. "I see literature as a way of awakening one's spiritual side, as well as giving information and knowledge. Henry David Thoreau asked us to look inside and to examine our values and principles and to make our own set of principles, rather than just following what somebody else tells us."

"The first person lectures are an enjoyable and, I think, worthwhile experience for the students," said Chase. "They seem to like it. I get applause for it. And they seem to be involved with the questioning. It's been a rewarding thing for all concerned."

LBCC American Literature student Nina Gergen agrees. "I like it when a professor puts effort into his classes," she said, explaining that it's a lot more fun learning about authors and their books this way than listening to some dry lecture.

Rebecca Atkison, an LBCC English major, said "Tom Chase loves what he is doing, and is good at his job. He fits the part of Henry David Thoreau. You could put him in the 19th century and he would fare very well. Tom has always supported me in my efforts. I feel very positive, and I think that goes for all students in his class."

(Turn to 'Chase' on Page 2)

Full winter term parking lots draw more car prowlers

by Tricia LaFrance
of The Commuter

Winter term classes are well under way at LBCC and so are the car thefts and break-ins in the parking lot.

In the past three weeks, an auto break-in, including theft of a firearm, and a broken car window have occurred during the daylight hours on the South Central Parking lot, said Doug Shaeffer, security and safety officer.

Mick Cook, head of security and safety, has responded to the recent rash of car thefts at LBCC by working under cover on the parking lot and by assigning a part-time officer to also patrol the lot.

"The South Central Parking lot has been a trouble spot," Shaeffer said, "and that's why we're working out there undercover this term. Hopefully, we can catch the thief in action. If someone is out there in uniform, they will just see us and go away."

Shaeffer, who works part-time, averages about 30 hours per week, working on the parking lot and helping to take care of other security matters.

Most of the incidents occur during the day, from late morning to early mid-afternoon, when the lot is packed and students are in class, Shaeffer said.

"The hot time is from about 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the hot items are stereos, CD players and CDs."

On Jan. 16, a Magnavox portable stereo and a .22 caliber Remington rifle, valued together at \$530, were taken from a student's car, which was parked in the front section of the South Central lot, according to the incident report.

The student had a lot of miscellaneous items piled over and around the stereo and rifle, said Shaeffer, who surmised that seeing a lot of clutter in the car may have piqued the thief's curiosity.

He added that college policy requires that anyone who brings a weapon onto the campus must check in with the security office in the College Center.

"Students are supposed to report that they have a weapon," Shaeffer said. "Weapons are to be logged in at the security and safety office. Then we will lock them in the office and hold them here for the student."

(Turn to 'Thefts' on Page 2)

LBCC graduates return Friday to give advice to transfer students

by Matt Wade
of The Commuter

Students who have any questions about transferring to a four-year college or university can get them answered on College Transfer Day this Friday and College Tour Day on Monday.

Two one-hour seminars will be held in Board Rooms A and B in the College Center at 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. for students who are planning on transferring either this year or next.

The seminars will be led by a three-person panel of former Linn-Benton stu-

dents: Jack Josewski, the former Commuter editor and now editor of the OSU Barometer; Kelly Noble who will be graduating from Willamette this year; and Debra Deveraux who attends OSU. All three will speak, followed by a question-and-answer period. Among the issues to be discussed will be the pitfalls, procedures, and instructions on how to prepare when transferring.

Marthajane Christiansen, an LBCC counselor, is the organizer for this year's event, which has been going on for the past 10 years. "It is probably one of the

most valuable hours a student can take," she said.

On College Tour Day, Monday, Feb. 5, representatives from 16 different colleges and universities will assemble in the Commons from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to talk to students and provide them with information on academic requirements, social life, housing and other issues.

The event gives the student a chance to shop around to find out which school best fits his or her personal needs, said Admissions Director Diane Watson. College Tour Day is convenient because so

many college representatives are in one place, she said, so you don't have to go to admissions offices all over the state. Application forms will be available.

The Friday and Monday programs are designed back-to-back so that students can use the Transfer Day seminars to be informed enough to ask the right questions on Tour Day. Both Christiansen and Watson encourage all students to come. In the past, Transfer Day has attracted anywhere from 4-6 students to as many as 40-60, while Tour Day has drawn larger numbers.

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Campus restaurant remains undiscovered by student

by Gabe Pallastrini
of The Commuter

What if I told you you could get either pan-roasted scallops, bay shrimp, or red snapper with sea shell pasta, sauteed spinach and a sherry cream sauce for \$5.35?

Well, you can, right here on campus, Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and students can get an additional 20 percent off if they come in between 11-11:30 a.m. to make reservations.

Not many students know about the Santiam Room, a small sit-down restaurant, complete with fine settings and cloth napkins. It's on the second floor of the College Center in the southeast corner of campus.

Most students don't realize it's there because its only advertising is by word of mouth, said Alexis Chambers, Santiam Room manager. The restaurant averages about

30 diners a day, mostly people from the community and college staff, but few students.

Students working their Associate of Applied Science in Culinary Arts learn through lectures, demonstration and—the part that benefits those of us looking for a good inexpensive meal—hands-on training.

First-year students rotate between waiting tables in the Santiam Room and cooking for the cafeteria. The second-year students run the line for the restaurant and refine their skills, learning to cook to order.

"It's not like anywhere else on campus," says Scott Anselm, department chairman for Culinary Arts. Students come to class at 8 a.m. to receive instruction and prepare to open the restaurant at 11 a.m., when they begin filling orders for the Santiam Room's customers. After the restaurant closes at 12:30 p.m., the students continue instruction until their day ends at 2 p.m.

The goal of the instructors in the Santiam Room is to train the wait staff to serve properly in an upscale establishment and for the chefs to prepare quality cuisine quickly and efficiently, said Chambers. The program readies graduates for entry-level supervisory positions in upscale hospitality industries.

There are six entrees on the menu, including delicacies as Chicken Florentine—boneless breast of chicken with mushroom and spinach stuffing, served with penne pasta and sun-dried tomato veloute sauce. Also served are daily specials, appetizers, soups and a variety of exotic desserts.

Due to the small capacity of the restaurant, students should make reservations. Bring your student I.D. between 11-11:30 a.m. to receive 20 percent off. Reservations are appreciated and go into a general fund to help support scholarships, field trips of the culinary arts students.

Chase uses extensive research to bring literary figures to life in his classroom

✓ From Page One

The idea for these presentations came from one of Chase's brothers who told him about an anatomy professor who would dramatize the symptoms of the disease or malady about which he was lecturing. If the professor was speaking about heart ailments or appendicitis, then he'd fake having a heart attack or an attack of appendicitis. And his students loved it.

Chase admitted that his first-person lectures are not only exciting, but also scary to do. At first, he didn't even announce them to his students because he wasn't sure that he'd have "the guts to go through with it when it would come up to that particular day." Now they're announced on the class syllabus.

"But still, every time I do this, I have to say a little prayer before I walk through the door," Chase said. "That gives me courage."

Another influence on Chase's classroom characterizations came from a sabbatical last spring to New England, where he worked at the Old Manse in Concord, which was the home of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ralph Waldo Emerson and other notable persons from American history.

The Old Manse, built in 1770, has been turned into a living history author's home and museum. Chase led tours, participated in some of the living history productions and learned "the dark secrets and charm" about that house and others in nearby Boston and Amherst.

"Concord's a town village steeped in history," Chase said. "It's been wonderfully preserved. There's not a fast food restaurant in the town and the architecture is the way it looked back in the 19th century."

While in New England, Chase had access to Harvard's Houghton library with its rich literary archives, where he had the opportunity to hold manuscripts written by Hawthorne, Emerson and Emily Dickinson and to see the illustration of the white whale that was on the first Moby Dick book. He translated some

of these manuscripts from the original handwriting and helped start a collection at the Old Manse library.

Chase was the first teacher to have applied for work at the Old Manse. Following his sabbatical in the spring of 1995, a chair was created for further visitations from other teachers around the country. It's called the Thomas Chase chair.

Chase kept a journal of his experiences, which includes a notebook and videotapes of various authors' gardens, houses, rooms and writing desks that he uses in his first-person lectures. Chase has also presented his video recordings and first-person lectures at LBCC's 25th celebration and for its Even Start program.

"I'll never forget a question that came up after a Thoreau personification at the Even Start program several years ago," Chase said. "One rather uninhibited student who was sitting in the front asked, 'Did you ever have sex? And if you did, with whom—was it a man or a woman?' I laughed. It took me a while to get my composure back. Then I think I blushed a bit too."

"After hemming and hawing, I said, 'Writers are all human beings. We all have human desires and I feel rather uncomfortable in talking about this in public,' which is probably the way that Thoreau would have responded. Or he would have reacted in pure shock by that kind of question."

But it is a good question, Chase said. "Students often wonder if Thoreau ever had any close relationship with anybody." Chase said there is record of a proposal of marriage to a woman in Concord. And that's the only record that Chase knows about that shows any kind of relationship that Thoreau had with sex.

"Sometimes the questions surprise me," Chase said. "I always enter them with a great deal of excitement as well as fear. 'What are they going to ask me today?' But I think that's part of the fun and the adventure of this whole thing."



Photo by Adam Carpenter

Nontraditional Dessert

Students pursuing nontraditional careers enjoy a dessert in their honor in the Santiam Room Restaurant. The event was sponsored by LBCC's Gender Equity Committee last week. Seated on the left side of the table (from top to bottom) are Sheila Bates, Corvallis wastewater operator; Christina Salter, LBCC counselor; and students Carol Larson and Dawn Huston. On the right (from the top) are Holly Ploetz, wastewater instructor; Bill Knapp, 1995 nursing graduate; and Jeanette Haller, water/wastewater student. On Saturday, the Gender Equity Committee is helping support a regional career conference for women in grades 6-12 in LaSells Stewart Center.

Thieves take gun, stereo from parked

✓ From Page One

When security officers spot weapons inside parked vehicles on campus, they can have the car towed away.

"One night, we had an incident where the graveyard security person saw a firearm in a pick-up parked in the southwest parking lot," Shaeffer said. After contacting the Albany Police Department, the security officer had the pick-up towed off campus.

"It's highly unusual when there's a break-in that involves a weapon, but it happens," he said. "In fact, it has happened before this school year."

The security office, along with the

College Services Division deal with maintenance equipment technicians working to create a better system for students and staff to report emergencies. Currently, when a person calls the security office, he might reach voice mail or office personnel, if the officers are on patrol. And at night, they may reach one at all.

Soon, however, students will be able to dial 4-1-1 from any campus phone and be immediately transferred to the security officer on duty. 926-6855 will be used to report urgent needs from any phone, including on and off campus phones.

commuter staff

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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CAMPUS NEWS

Candidates sought for ASLBCC elections

Melani Whisler
The Commuter

If you haven't noticed the many signs posted throughout campus, applications are due soon for students wanting to run for a position in LBCC's student government. Applications are due in by noon on Feb. 21 and elections will take place on Feb. 27 and 28. Every year, all positions are cleared and opened up to anyone taking at least six credits. Those elected take office in Spring '96 and serve through Winter '97. The positions open are: moderator (i.e. president), operations officer (i.e. vice president) and nine representatives from the various campus divisions. Each student government officer also attends major

college committee meetings. For example, the current operations officer attends meetings of the LBCC Board of Education.

Those elected as moderator and operations officer have their full tuition paid by a grant. Elected representatives receive a one-term grant.

But be warned: holding a student government position is a lot of work. "I wouldn't recommend running just because your tuition cost is cut," said Charlene Ferra, Director of Student Programs. "It is a lot of work and a lot of time is involved."

Among the student government projects this year has been the make-over of Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy earlier in the fall and the "Get Out the Vote" campaign to encourage students to register.

Business/Health Division gets new dean

Dr. John C. Berg was appointed the new dean of the Business, Training and Health Occupations division at LBCC by the college's board of education on Jan. 17. Berg replaces Dr. Mary Spilde, who left last year to take up duties as Vice President for Instructional Services at Lane Community College in Eugene. He assumes his duties this week. "I'm excited about the challenge ahead," said Berg. "I look forward to working with the faculty and staff of the community, and better serving all their educational needs."

Berg's extensive experience in academic administration and teaching includes six years with the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C., four years at Lt. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, and several years at Idaho State University in Pocatello. He also was campus dean of the West Charleston campus, where he was in charge of general administration, college faculty practice clinics and student services personnel. Most recently, he was the college's dean of economic and work force development, responsible for developing certificate and degree programs, short-term employee training programs and a "weekend college" to meet the needs of business and industry.

Berg served four years as dean of the Math, Health and Human Services Division at the Community College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas and was respon-

Got a song in your heart? Idea sought for school song

Pat Petryszak
The Commuter

The Associated Students of LBCC is looking for someone to compose a school song for the college. At its meeting last Wednesday, ASLBCC appointed Kathy Rousseau to chair a committee to choose what the song will be. The committee's goal is to adopt a song which promotes the spirit and community of

LBCC. Rousseau said that she hopes the song will be written and approved by the end of the year.

The committee has yet to decide how to choose the song. A contest among students or an adjudication of songs submitted are two possibilities.

Students with ideas for a school song can submit music and/or lyrics to Kathy Rousseau of Student Programs at CC 213.

Freshmen ready to take the reins of livestock judging team

Jeff Green
The Commuter

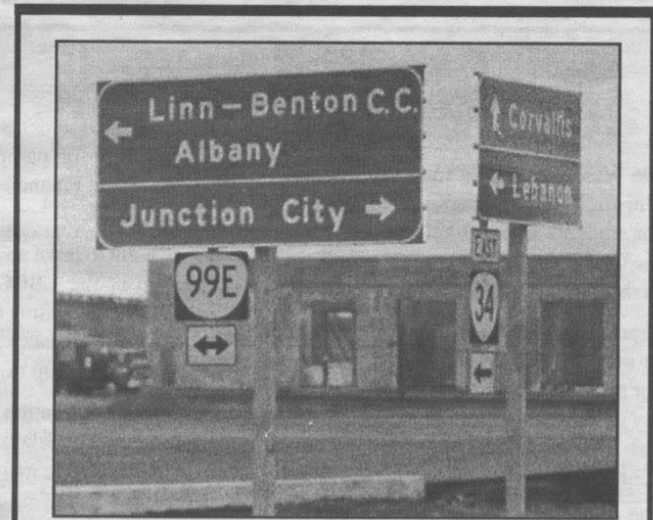
After watching the sophomores grab the spotlight all last year, LBCC's freshmen livestock judges are ready to establish themselves as the team to beat. Their time will come on March 9, when the six agriculture majors travel to Tulare, Calif. to compete at the Great Western Stock Show. This year's freshmen team includes Kay Stadel, Sara Traci Dulany, M.T. Anderson, Jason Blogett and Andy McHugh. Coaches Rick Klampe and Bruce Moos have been building up the team since the beginning of fall term. The students and the coaches have been putting in

long hours visiting local farms and practicing four to five hours a day, two to three days a week. The freshmen feel they are coming into their own.

"We are no longer chasing the rabbit," said Andy McHugh, referring to waiting in the shadow of the sophomores. The sophomores finished 12th in sheep last month at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Their season will come to a close at the Southwestern Exposition in Fort Worth, Texas, later this term.

Then it will be the freshmen's turn, and they can't wait to prove themselves at Tulare.

At Tulare and other contests, the team will judge 10-12 classes of livestock consisting of four animals



Inconsistencies plague signs identifying LB.

What's in a name?

by Bill Jones
of The Commuter

Variety may be the spice of life, but when it comes to highway signs identifying Linn-Benton Community College, it's a real pain in the neck.

Brian Brown, dean of College Services, has been working with the Oregon Department of Transportation to get both clarity and consistency in the signs identifying LBCC to motorists.

Currently there are four different types of signs pointing the way here. The sign for I-5 northbound traffic reads "Linn-Benton C. College." However, travelers looking for the campus may be somewhat confused when they get to the top of the I-5 exit ramp and read "C. College."

What is a C. College? One step lower than a B. College?

Both Highway 34 east and Highway 34 west sport signs reading "Linn-Benton C.C." which is a welcome change from the original "L.B.C. College," which many people found confusing, Brown said. A fourth variation can be found on Highway 99 where the signs read "Linn-Benton Comm. Coll."

Ironically, it was the old signs' inconsistency with the I-5 sign that convinced ODOT that a change was needed.

Valentine Flower Sale

LET YOUR VALENTINE KNOW YOU CARE... SEND FLOWERS!!

Red, white and pink carnations ...\$1.25 each or 6 for \$6.00. Free Delivery on campus 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 14.

Orders taken Monday through Friday, January 29 to February 9 in the Commons Lobby from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sponsored by Student Programs, if you have any questions contact them in CC-213 or call ext. 4457.

Let your Valentine know you care...

Flowers won't last forever, but words will. Give your valentine a gift that will be cherished. A token of affection from the heart.

We present a special offer guaranteed to please... Valentine Messages!

Stop by The Commuter office in CC-210 to fill out a form or call ext-4452 for more information. The cost is only \$5. Space is limited, so reserve your spot soon.

Dorothy loves Harold

example

classifieds

SCHOLARSHIPS

'96 Washington Pulp and Paper foundation at the University of Washington announces scholarships for students in paper science and engineering at the U of W for '96-'97. Applications are available in the Career Center. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1.

Transfer students planning to pursue a bachelor's or master's degree in accounting may be eligible for scholarships provided by the American Society of Women Accountants. Deadline to apply is Feb. 13. Applications are available in the Career Center.

'96 Minority Scholarship Program: American Chemical Society announces scholarships for minority students majoring in chemical sciences. Must be full-time, U.S. citizens or permanent residents and demonstrate need according to federal aid application. Pick up apps at the Career Center. Deadline to apply is Feb. 15.

NAWIC scholarships are available whose major is construction, construction management, architecture, civil, mechanical or electrical engineering for 1996-97 year. Applications are available in the Career Center.

HELP WANTED

ALASKA EMPLOYMENT- Students Needed! Fishing Industry. Earn up to \$3,000 - \$6,000+ per month. Room and board! Transportation! Male or female. No experience necessary. Call (206) 971-3510 ext. A60651

NATIONAL PARKS HIRING- Positions are now available at National Parks, Forests & wildlife preserves. Excellent benefits + bonuses! Call: 1-206-971-3620 ext. N60651.

CRUISE SHIPS NOW HIRING- Earn up to \$2,000+/month working on Cruise Ships or Land-Tour companies. World travel. Seasonal & full-time employment available. No experience necessary. For more information call 1-206-971-3550 ext. C60651.

Need money for college? Earn it with UPS! United Parcel Service will be on campus Thursday, Feb. 1 between 8-11 a.m. in IA-224. Orientation session starts promptly at 8 a.m., interviews to immediately follow orientation session. Additional interview times will be scheduled for Friday, February 2 between 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. if necessary. Future sessions scheduled for March 7th and 8th. Pay ranges between \$8-\$9/hour; 20 hours/wk; full benefits available. Visit the LBCC Student Employment Center, Takena Hall if you have any questions.

Volunteers needed- Valley AIDS Info. Network hotline/booth training. Thursday, Jan. 25, 7-9:30 p.m. and Sat., Feb. 3, 9-4:30. For information call (541) 752-6322 or (800) 588-AIDS.

Summer Employment: Crater Lake Lodge, Inc. will be on campus Monday, Feb 12 recruiting for summer help. Jobs are available in retail, maintenance, administration, housekeeping, food service, lodging, and boat and cave tours. To sign up for an interview visit the LBCC Student Employment Center in the Career Center, first floor of Takena Hall.

UMPIRES NEEDED! Earn \$\$: Hundreds to thousands per year. Umpire only when you are available! Fast-pitch softball. Game fees: \$17.50 to \$34 per game. Baseball game fees: \$19 to \$39 per game. Games start 4-4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri; mid-March through mid-May. Meeting on Sunday, 2/4 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Wilson Elementary School's gym.(2701 NW Satinwood, Corvallis). For info call Marcus Eng at (541)754-9734.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed." Are you a good listener who would want a rewarding experience? Volunteer for Linn-Benton Crisis Hotline. 757-2299.

Looking for work? Visit the LBCC Student Employment Center located on the first floor of Takena Hall in the Career Center. Part-time, full-time, temporary and permanent positions are available. If you are eligible for the Federal Work Study through Financial Aid, a few jobs are still available on campus as well as at the Extended Learning Center in Lebanon. For a complete list of jobs come to the Career Center, T-101. Visit us today!!!

MISCELLANEOUS

Free Financial Aid! Over \$6 Billion in public and private sector grants & scholarships is now avail-

able. All students are eligible regardless of grades, income or parent's income. Let us help. Call Student Financial Services: 1-800-263-6495 ext. F60651.

Want to learn about the former Yugoslavia? Sign up at the LBCC Albany Center for my class, "Understanding the Bosnian War." This is a non-credit, 4-week class meeting on Mondays from 6:30 to 9:20p.m. beginning Jan 22, Takena 213.

Interested in the Spanish club? Come to the cafeteria Thursdays at noon and find the table with the scrabble game and meet interesting people.

FOR SALE

The LBCC Electronics Engineering Technology Program will be selling surplus oscilloscopes, power supplies, signal generators, logic analyzers, computers, peripherals and much more in room IA-237 on Saturday, January 27th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information, check the brochure holder outside of room IA-237B

For sale: Eighteen 6 ft. (\$20) and 8 ft. (\$30) fluorescent fixtures for shop, greenhouse or horse arena. Call 745-5628.

1.3 cubic ft. mini-refrigerators, 11 to choose from \$40 each. 2 stainless steel pony keg refrigerators complete with tap assembly, wood top, nice looking units \$375 each. 1 full keg refrigerator with door mount tap \$325. Contact Mary Schmaltz at the refrigeration, heating and air conditioning department (541) 917-4942.

Car for sale, under \$450. 1982 Ford Escort Station Wagon. Good tires. Call Bill at 752-4258 leave message.



Jumper cables for the heart.

If you need to jump start a romance, call and order flowers today.



The White Rose
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(541) 924-9697

Local seniors win essay contest

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

Two area high school students have been named winners of an essay contest sponsored by the Alpha Tau Upsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, LBCC's Honor Society.

PTK sponsored the contest as part of its project which was titled "Mental Health: Youth in Focus." Student essayists addressed the topic "What is mental health and how do you enhance yours?"

First place winner, Nwamaka Anadu, a senior at Corvallis High School, received a gift certificate for Sadie's in Corvallis and a scholarship of three credits at LBCC.

Second place winner, Amanda Fuston, a senior at West Albany High School, was awarded an LBCC sweatshirt.

Anadu's essay explained that "mentally healthy people have the ability to face and adapt to the realities of life in constructive ways (such as) building self-esteem, understanding and controlling emotions and learning to solve problems and make decisions."

Fuston's suggestions for enhancing mental health included "have a continuing relationship with God, have healthy relationships with your peers and be strong in yourself."

The contest was judged by a panel of three PTK members.

Carnahan proposes budget plan for LBCC

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

LBCC President Jon Carnahan has proposed a long range plan for developing the general fund budget, that includes several themes.

These budget themes have been proposed:

- to ensure that LBCC has the technology and equipment necessary to fulfill its mission and objectives, along with a well-trained staff;
- to utilize its staff in the most efficient means possible;
- to make curricula "responsive and accessible to learners;"
- to maintain a "customer focus" supporting student success; and
- to examine the administrative systems in order to become more efficient.

General Fund requests submitted for the coming school year total \$1,422,870. These include \$50,000 for equipment replacement and a \$300,000 technology depreciation, which covers computers that must be replaced every four to five years. This year alone, LBCC has spent nearly \$1 million on computers using

money provided by the bond measure. However, these funds will eventually be used up and other sources of financing will be required.

Dr. Michael Holland, vice president for Administration and Student Affairs, said, "We are still trying to determine what our state appropriation is going to be." LBCC should receive some funding from the state of Oregon, possibly \$400,000 to be used next year.

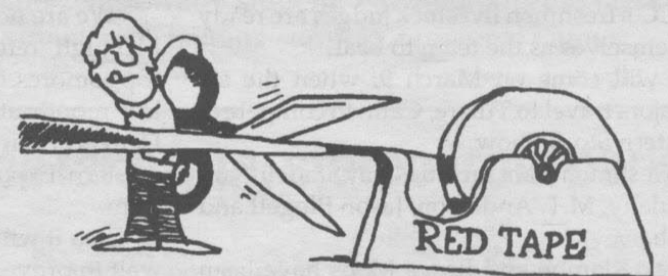
State reimbursement amount is based upon full-time enrollment equivalent to 45 credits per student per year. The fall FTE figures were slightly down from last year, so the total reimbursable was about the same as fall 1995.

Total winter term enrollment, as of Jan. 19, was 8,581 students, up from 8,311 at the end of the second week of winter term 1995. Of those, 2,181 are full-time, compared to 2,156 at this time last year.

Because of increasing costs, a \$200 credit hour tuition increase has been proposed for the 96-97 school year according to Holland.

The budget committee will be meeting in February.

COLLEGE TRANSFER DAY



Cut through the red tape when transferring from a two-year college to a four-year college or university. Join us and the institutions below on College Transfer Day to find ways to ease the transition process.

Monday, February 5, 1996 • Linn-Benton Community College • College Center Commons • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bassett
City University
Concordia
Eastern Oregon State College
George Fox
Linfield
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University

Oregon School of Arts
Portland State University
Southern Oregon State College
University of Oregon
University of Portland
Warner Pacific
Western Baptist College
Western Oregon State College

ALSO

Join us for a Transfer Seminar for more detailed information to help you in the transition process of transferring from a two-year college to a four-year educational institution.

Transfer Seminar

February 2, 1996
Linn-Benton Community College
Board Rooms A & B

One Hour Presentation
noon to 1 p.m.
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Writers invited to gather at LBCC for readings and workshops

Christina Bondurant
The Commuter

Many beginning writers say they feel shy about their work—afraid to share what they have written. The Writers Series is a series of events designed to create an atmosphere that supports and nurtures writers. This is the 7th year the series has come to the LBCC campus. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The series fosters a community of writers and gives a way to connect together and provide support," Jane White, an instructor at LBCC. White also said that the program provides inspiration and motivation for aspiring and established community writers and helps support the creative efforts of

local, regional and national literary artists. The first event, a reading by Ann Staley, will take place here on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 1-2 p.m., in Takena Hall, Room 213. There is no charge. The next event is a writing workshop with Ann Staley on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m.-12 noon. It will be here on campus in Board Rooms A and B. The cost to attend is \$5 for students and seniors and \$10 for others. This is a two-hour workshop in which participants will share responses to poems, essays and visual text. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 12 noon there will be an open mike in Board Rooms A and B. This is a chance for people to come and share their poems and short stories with other writers.

The last of the series includes two poetry readings from four Ashland poets whose work explores the male experience. From relationships to feelings about loss, the poets will move through various themes. One reading takes place at Blackberry Books in Corvallis on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m., the other reading will be on Campus Thursday, Feb. 22, from 1-2 p.m., in Takena Hall, Room 205. Both readings are free of charge. The series is financed by student funds with support from the English department. Occasionally, the Oregon Arts Commission and the Linn-Benton Council for the Arts provide grants that help support the series. For more information contact Jane White at 917-4555, or come to her office in Room 208, Takena Hall.



Photo by Seth Myers

an instructor **George Lauris** and his colleagues in the Performing Arts Department want students to help them fill these seats in Takena Theater by acting as ushers for the upcoming children's musical "Really Rosie."

Students sought as ushers for play in return for free admission

Bob Schmid
The Commuter

Students wishing to see a play but unable to afford it may be interested in becoming an usher. The Performing Arts Department is giving students a chance to see plays free if they're willing to usher the play. Five or six ushers are currently needed to host this term's production, "Really Rosie." Written by Maurice Sendak, author of "Where the Wild Things Are," the play will be shown at Sunday matinees on Feb. 11, 18 and 25 at 3 p.m., and for three evenings on Feb. 18, 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. The regular admission price is \$3 for children (under 18) and \$5 for adults. Ushers must arrive 45 minutes before performance to seat ticket-holders and then take a free seat about 10 minutes into the show. They are also needed to seat late-comers and open doors at intermission and the end of the play. "Really Rosie" runs approximately

one hour. Originally produced as a highly acclaimed CBS television special in 1975, the lively musical is described as "a jewel for children and adults." The music was written by Grammy Award winner Carole King. "The play takes a rambunctious, realistic look at how kids interact and engage in make believe," said Director Jane Donovan, LBCC drama and speech instructor. Several previews will be performed in February on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., when the play will be put on for hundreds of local elementary school children, who will be bused to the campus. Ushers are needed for these shows as well. "The Grapes of Wrath," by John Steinbeck, is the scheduled play for the Spring Season, beginning May 24. The regular admission price is \$7. Students interested in becoming an usher should contact Jayne Kief at 917-4536, or at the Takena Theatre Box Office in T-104A.

review

New Tarantino flick, 'From Dusk Till Dawn' features vampires, violence

by **Ben Cole**
of The Commuter

Blood, guts and a quick game of kick the severed head; all of these things are featured in the new film by Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez. "From Dusk Till Dawn" stars Tarantino (Richard) and George Clooney (Seth) as two brothers wanted as thieves who are trying to get across the Mexican border to make a rendezvous with their business partner.

Along their way to the border, they kill a Texas ranger and blow up a liquor store. Shortly after they take a former preacher, Jacob (Harvey Kietel), and his children, Scott (played by a newcomer) and Kate (Juliette Lewis) hostage and get across the border by hiding in the ex-preacher's R.V. They finally make it to their rendezvous point, a sleazy trucker bar.



The two brothers and their three hostages enter the bar and soon find out the bar is overrun by vampires (some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed!). The five of them, and a couple of the other non-vampires that don't immediately get killed, fight back against the vampires.

Richard is taken out early in the goings, and Seth is forced to kill his own brother who is now a vampire. The group's numbers slowly dwindle, and it becomes a struggle to survive until dawn.

Seth asks Jacob to become a ser-

vant of God once again to help the group's chances of surviving the night. They leave the main bar and the four of them head for a storage room where they make some anti-vampire weapons. The group then goes out to the main bar for the final showdown!

"From Dusk Till Dawn" could almost be considered two movies with the same characters. The first half of the film is a road trip picture with criminals, slightly similar to the first hour of "Natural Born Killers." The next hour is an all-out gore-filled kill-fest with vampires.

And these vampires are the ugliest I've ever seen in the movies. Also, they seem to be weak and stupid. Seth, Jacob and his two kids kill dozens of these blood suckers. It's probably a good thing that these vampires are dumb, because our heroes wouldn't have stood a chance against a room full of Lestats or Draculas.

The violence in this film is extremely graphic. A vampire band plays guitar made of three quarters of a human, vampires ooze and melt and the humans bleed gallons of the red stuff. This is not a film for the weak at heart.

The first hour is extremely interesting and I almost wished Tarantino would have written the whole film as the road trip picture. I liked the second half also, but there isn't a smooth transition from the first part, which is a fault with Tarantino's screenplay.

I recommend seeing "From Dusk Till Dawn", although it's not nearly as good as Tarantino's earlier "Pulp Fiction" or "Reservoir Dogs." I give the movie seven out of 10 stars.

CARPE CINEMA

KUHN THEATER
668 S. Main, Lebanon • 451-5846
Call for times and prices

scoreboard

Women's Results

UMPQUA 83, LINN-BENTON 62
 LINN-BENTON (62): Waite 4-14-4-13, Hein 0-1-0-0, Worden 1-2-0-0-2, Blem 1-5-0-0-2, Sprenger 2-12-3-4-7, MacLean 4-8-0-1-8, Ziegler 2-5-0-0-4, Knudsen 3-7-0-0-6, Olson 9-24-0-0-18, Surmon 1-4-0-2-2, Falk 0-1-0-0-0. Totals: 27-82 7-11 62.

UMPQUA (83): Sething, Combs 3-3-0-0-9, Lechmann 2-8-3-4-8, Smith, Hill 4-9-0-0-9, Shumway 0-4-0-0-0, Burgess 3-17-0-0-6, Magee 12-34-11-16-35, Tamamasui 5-15-6-11-16. Totals: 27-90 20-31 83.

Halftime—Umpqua 36, Linn-Benton 36. 3-point goals—LB 1-8 (Waite 1-6, Olson 0-1, Falk 0-1), Umpqua 2-7 (Lechmann 1-3, Hill 1-2, Magee 0-1). Rebounds—LB 29 (Olson 11), Umpqua 63 (Magee 21). Total fouls—LB 21, Umpqua 16. Fouled out—LB, Olson. Assists—LB 19 (MacLean 4), Umpqua 18 (Magee 4). Turnovers—LB 8, Umpqua 15. Blocked shots—LB 1 (Waite), Umpqua 5 (Burgess 3).

LINN-BENTON 96, PORTLAND 31
 PORTLAND (31): A. Laughter 0-1-0-0, Green 0-8-0-0, S. Laughter 0-3-0-0, Peterson 6-21-1-2-13, Johnson 0-2-0-0-0, Downs 1-5-1-2-3, Gellatly 1-19-0-0-2, Sholtz 4-16-4-5-13. Totals: 12-77 6-9 31.

LINN-BENTON (96): Waite 2-9-2-2-6, Hein 2-5-1-3-5, Worden 2-8-6-7-10, Blem 2-14-3-3-7, Sprenger 4-9-3-5-11, MacLean 4-5-0-0-8, Ziegler 4-7-0-1-8, Knudsen 1-2-0-0-2, Olson 7-10-2-2-16, Surmon 7-13-5-19, Falk 2-6-0-1-4. Totals 37-88 22-29 96.

Halftime—LB 54, Portland 13. 3-point goals—Portland 1-11 (A. Laughter 0-1, Green 0-1, Peterson 0-5, Johnson 0-1, Gellatly 0-1, Sholtz 1-2), LB 0-5 (Woden 0-1, Blem 0-3, Falk 0-1). Rebounds 29 (Peterson 10), LB 54 (Ziegler 9, Surmon 9). Total fouls—Portland 23, LB—15. Fouled out—Portland, S. Laughter, Gellatly. Assists—Portland 3 (Peterson 3), LB 29 (Waite 9). Turnovers—Portland 18, LB 10. Blocked shots—Portland 1 (Peterson), LB 7 (Hein 3). Steals—Portland 2 (Peterson 2), LB 12 (Blem 3, Falk 3).

Standings

Clackamas	.....	8	0	1.000	—
Chemeketa	.....	6	2	.750	2
Umpqua	.....	5	3	.625	2
SW Oregon	.....	5	3	.625	2
Linn-Benton	..	3	5	.375	5
Mt. Hood	.....	3	5	.375	5
Lane	.....	2	6	.250	6
Portland	.....	0	8	.000	8

Men's Results

UMPQUA 69, LINN-BENTON 64
 LINN-BENTON (64): Roberts 2-18-5-8-10, Graves 1-4-0-0-2, Cloud 0-3-0-0-0, Clark 1-3-0-0-2, Heron, Swallow 8-16-4-4-26, McCabe 1-7-2-2-4, Wonderly 6-19-5-17, Sexton 0-3-3-4-3. Totals: 19-73 19-23 64.

UMPQUA (69): Conner 4-8-2-4-11, Wilson 1-8-2-4, Blakley 1-7-0-0-2, Kirkham 5-14-9-12-19, Shipley 7-14-0-14, Scott 5-14-4-10-14, Lais 1-4-3-5-5. Totals: 24-69 20-35 69.

Halftime—Umpqua 28, LB 27. 3-point goals—LB 7-22 (Roberts 18, Graves 0-2, Clark 0-1, Swallow 6-11), Umpqua 1-15 (Conner 1-5, Wilson 0-6, Blakley 0-2, Kirkham 0-1, Shipley 0-1). Rebounds—LB 29 (Wonderly 10), Umpqua 41 (Scott 13). Total fouls—LB 22, Umpqua 16. Fouled out—Umpqua, Scott. Assists—LB 13 (Roberts 5), Umpqua 14 (Conner 6). Turnovers—LB 11, Umpqua 17. Blocked shots—LB 2 (Cloud, Wonderly), Umpqua 5 (Lais 3). Steals—LB 8 (Roberts 2, Clark 2, Swallow 2), Umpqua 9 (Conner 2, Blakley 2, Kirkham 2, Shipley 2).

LINN-BENTON 93, PORTLAND 79
 PORTLAND (79): Prather 5-18-2-2-15, Grey 0-0-2-2, Mitchell 2-8-4-8, Ellis 1-5-0-0-2, Billings 3-6-2-8, Curtiss 2-8-2-2-6, Hagger 1-4-1-2-3, Ofori 1-1-0-0-2, Reynolds 6-16-2-3-16, Boe 5-25-0-1-11, Witherspoon 3-8-0-0-6. Totals: 30-99 15-18 79.

LINN-BENTON (93): Roberts 3-9-4-5-12, Graves 2-5-5-6-9, Cloud 1-4-1-3-4, Clark 3-3-3-4-9, Swallow 4-11-8-12-19, McCabe 8-11-4-8-20, Wonderly 8-14-4-20, Sexton 0-1-0-0-0. Totals: 29-57 29-42 93.

Halftime—LB 45, Portland 44. 3-point goals—Portland 4-24 (Prather 1-4, Mitchell 0-2, Ellis 0-1, Billings 0-1, Curtiss 0-2, Hagger 0-1, Reynolds 2-5, Boe 1-8), LB 6-15 (Roberts 2-5, Graves 0-3, Cloud 1-1, Swallow 3-6). Rebounds—Portland 31 (Witherspoon 8), LB 40 (Swallow 12). Total fouls—Portland 29, LB 12. Assists—Portland 12 (Prather 3, Reynolds 3), LB 17 (Roberts 7). Turnovers—Portland 15, LB 16. Blocked shots—Portland 2 (Boe, Witherspoon), LB 2 (Swallow, McCabe). Steals—Portland 10 (Curtiss 2, Hagger 2, Boe 2), LB 4 (Graves 2).

Standings

Chemeketa	.....	8	0	1.000	—
Clackamas	.....	7	1	.875	1
Lane	.....	4	4	.500	4
Linn-Benton	..	3	5	.375	5
Mt. Hood	.....	3	5	.375	5
SW Oregon	.....	3	5	.375	5
Umpqua	.....	3	5	.375	5
Portland	.....	1	7	.125	7

Schedule

Wednesday, Jan. 31
 SW Oregon
 Saturday, Feb. 3
 at Mt. Hood
 Wednesday, Feb. 7
 at Lane

Surmon's 19 points lead LB in rout of Portland



Photo by Deborah Shelby
 Sarah Worden (21) passes the ball to Amber Hein (14) in LB's 96-31 win.

by Dustin Kendall
 of the Commuter

It was over before they even got here. The Portland Community College Lady Panthers were half an hour late arriving for Monday's game at LBCC, but they never really showed up to play.

Linn-Benton, 3-5 and 14-5, defeated Portland 96-31.

The Lady Roadrunners jumped out to an early 8-0 lead and never looked back. Nine minutes into the game LBCC had established a 23-5 lead. In fact, it took a wild circus shot by PCC's Amy Minor to put the Panthers in double digits before halftime.

"They just don't have any people. We could have played our third team and beat them," said Linn-Benton head coach

Bill Wold following the game.

Carrie Surmon came off the bench to lead the way with 19 points followed by Melissa Olson and Jessica Sprenger had 16 and 11 points respectively, chipping in for the Roadrunners Sarah Worden with 10 and both MacLean and Kari Ziegler with 8 apiece.

The only blemish on an impressive victory was the apparent injury to Sarah Worden who seemed to hurt her right arm on a last second three point attempt at the end of the game.

There was no official word on Worden's condition after the game.

Next up for the Roadrunners is Saturday night at 6 p.m. in the Activities Center

Men defeat Panthers 93-79

by Dustin Kendall
 of the Commuter

Unlike the Linn-Benton women's team, the men would have to fight for the win against Portland Community College Monday night.

It would be a rough physical game most of the way as the Panthers of PCC jumped out to an early lead. The Roadrunners would need a late first half run to go into the locker room with a slim one point lead.

The momentum seemed to swing when a technical foul was called on PCC's Geoff Reynolds in the first half. After hitting the free throw, LBCC's Chris Swallow hit a three pointer on the Roadrunner's next possession and LBCC was back in it.

After having problems in the first half

with PCC's full court press, the Roadrunners came out in the second half and consistently beat the press, building an 11 point lead.

The Panthers would narrow the lead to five twice, but that was as close as it would get as LBCC went on to win 93-79.

Doing the damage down low for LB was Kyle Wonderly with 20 points, 11 rebounds and Andy McCabe with 20 points and 10 boards. From outside it was Swallow and Steve Roberts combining to go 5 for 11 from the three point line, scoring 19 and 12 respectively.

Also helping out for the Roadrunners were Mike Graves and Chris Clark who each had nine points.

With the victory Linn-Benton improved to 3-5 in league and 9-11 overall and host SW Oregon tonight at 8 p.m.



Photo by Deborah Shelby
 Mike Graves pushes the ball up the floor in LB's victory over Portland.

Student Programs seek to expand club sports

by C. Sandoval
 of The Commuter

Do you miss the thrills of playing your favorite sport? Is your morale low because the sport you love is not offered at Linn-Benton?

Well, feel sorry no longer. The Linn-Benton Club Sports program is looking for you.

Presently, soccer is the only club sport on campus, but the Student Activities Committee is holding a pizza feed for those interested in starting up their own club team in the sport of their choice.

All you need to do is attend and back up your sport. The meeting will be held

Employee Appreciation Day features halftime drawing at tonight's game

A variety of prizes will be given away to LBCC staff at the halftime of the men's basketball game against SW Oregon Community College in the LBCC Activities Center tonight.

The event, which recognizes the contribution that LBCC's employees have made to the college, was postponed from last Saturday because the games were cancelled due to inclement weather, which prevented Portland Community College from traveling to Albany.

A drawing will be held for all employees present, during which prizes ranging from T-shirts and sweatshirts to a free lunch will be given away.

The halftime ceremony is expected to occur between 8:15 and 8:45. All employees are encouraged to attend tonight's games for the event, said athletic director Greg Hawk.

Thursday, Feb. 1, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Willamette Room.

"Playing soccer against other colleges was a great experience and a lot of fun," said Jen Broxson, who is in charge of club sports. But she also said that even though

soccer was a success for the fall term, she would like to have something for students to get involved in each term.

For more information attend the pizza feed, or call Jen Broxson at Student Activities, ext. 4457.

Preview Day!

Attention Community College Students: So, what are your plans for 1996?

You've heard the question, but do you know the answer? If college is in your game plan, now is the perfect time to explore your options.

Saturday, Feb. 3, Western Oregon State College will hold its annual open house, called Preview Day. It is your opportunity to learn about the quality academic programs and small, personalized atmosphere that make Western Oregon such a special place.

Stroll through an activities fair and discover college life outside the classroom. Stop by a special booth just for community college transfers. Learn about admissions, housing, and financial aid. A current student will guide you around campus. Finally, talk with representatives from academic programs and mingle with prospective students.

There is no time like the present to make decisions about your college career. Improve your future now and attend Preview Day! **At noon, Saturday, Feb. 3** at Western Oregon State College, located in Monmouth, just 20 minutes west of Salem. For more registration information, call **503/838-8211**.

What a bright idea!

WESTERN OREGON STATE COLLEGE • MONMOUTH, OREGON

OPINION PAGE

commentary

Jockeying for primary positions will prove futile for Oregon

Pete Petryszak
The Commuter

Get ready, Oregon voters. If you haven't been efficiently sickened by the negative campaigning of the senate election this year, you're in luck. Our state legislature has seen fit to allow the country's presidential hopefuls to barrage us with their lies, innuendoes and smear tactics two months earlier this time around.

That's right. Oregon—along with Arizona, Louisiana, North Dakota and a host of other states that felt left out of the process because of their late primaries—has moved its presidential primary election forward in order to compete with Iowa and New Hampshire and attract candidates to its state.

While I can understand the desire of the state legislature to increase the standing of Oregon in the national political scene (what makes Iowa and New Hampshire so important, anyway?), there must be a better, more civilized way of organizing the primaries than having all the states set their own dates without consulting with the other states. These primaries will be held at the same time. The inter-state squabbling and bickering the process has caused reminds me of a bunch of first-graders all pushing and shoving to try and get to the front of the ice cream line.

The irony of the situation is that with so many states trying to score brownie points with the presidential contenders by moving their primaries forward, Oregon is still likely to be lost in the shuffle again this year. Oregon's primary will be the 18th overall, and it will fall on the same day as Texas and Florida's, two states sure to draw more attention from the candidates because of their larger delegate counts.

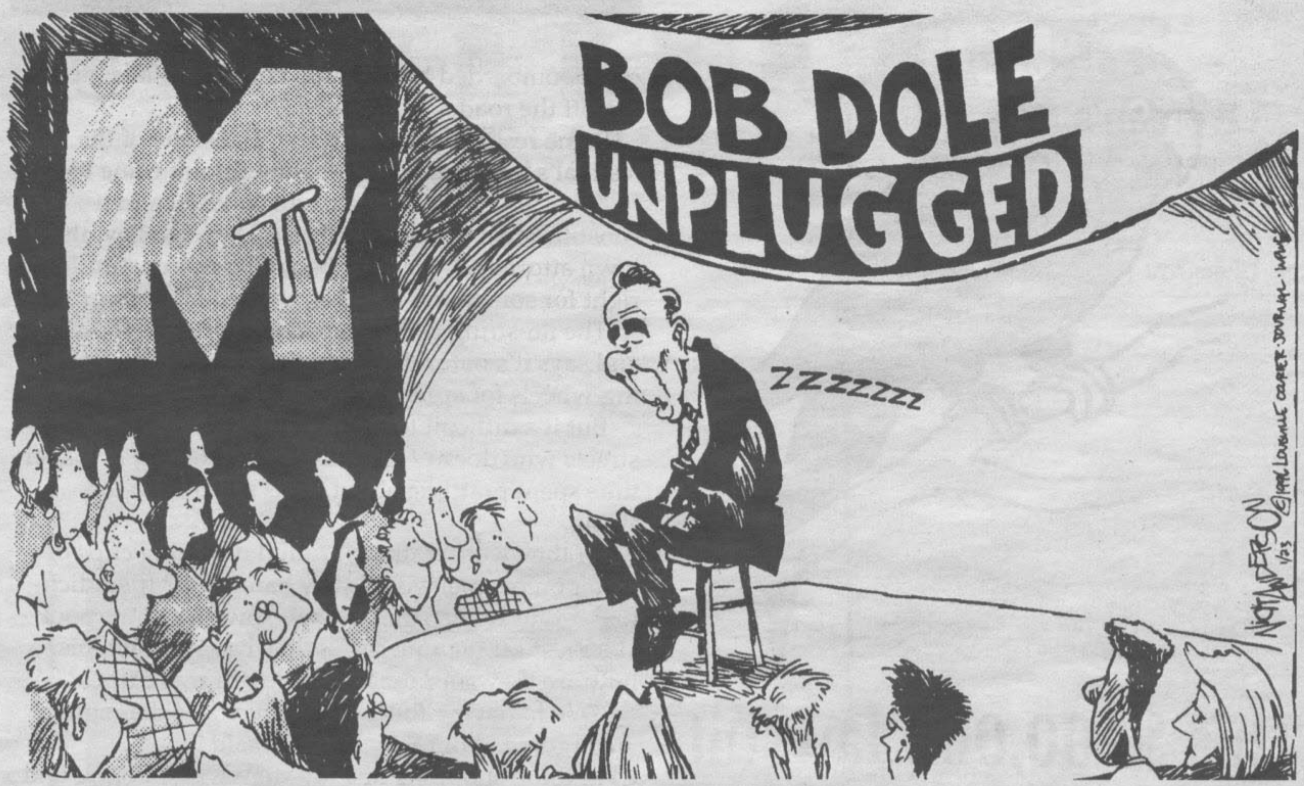
It also seems curious that almost all of the states that are moving their primaries forward have public-controlled legislatures, and the primary action happens to be on the Republican side of the ballot. Would these legislators be as eager to increase their states' visibility in the selection process if the incumbent president were a Republican, and the primary elections were to determine who the Democratic challenger would be? All this jockeying for position among the states seems unnecessary as it is infantile. If Oregon, Arizona or any other state wanted to have a primary date all its own, the state legislators need only call each other to coordinate an election system that provides each state with its own time in the limelight. Primaries could be arranged with smaller states first and then the larger states and their numerous delegates in order to provide a dramatic finish to the campaign.

If that doesn't work (and in all honesty, I believe the egos of the states would still get in the way) the order of the primaries could always be decided at random through a lottery.

Either of those approaches would be preferable to the jumbled mess we'll experience this year, with so many states vying for an early, influential election that the candidates will blow most of the states that moved their primaries forward to attract them in the first place.

PRESS YOURSELF

Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter's "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, and national issues. Submissions may be in the form of letters to the editor or, for topics that require deeper analysis, guest columns. Letters should be no more than 250 words, and will be edited for grammar and spelling. In order to confirm the ownership of letters, they must be signed, with phone number and address included (phone numbers and addresses will not be published). As general policy, The Commuter will not publish anonymous letters to the editor, although the editor reserves the right to make exceptions when conditions warrant. Readers who wish to submit guest columns should contact the editor in advance. All submissions can be dropped off at the Commuter office in Room 210 of the College Center.



paul turner

Sticky questions about theater-land answered

Theaters are cool. For two hours you can share an emotional reaction to someone's vision with total strangers while stuffing your face with food that has a fat content so high it should come with a warning sticker. It just doesn't get better than that.

This is what makes me a lucky guy. I've been working in theaters half of my life. The stories I could tell—maybe in another column. What I'm gonna do instead is answer some of the common questions about theaters people ask. First off, there are no little trolls that come in every night and spray the floor with adhesive. It's just the spilled pop that makes 'em sticky. Honest.

When I'm loitering behind the box office, trying to look like I'm still excited to have "Toy Story" after it's fourth week, people ask the darnedest things.

"Why does it cost so much to get in?" is a common refrain, especially from the older set who can remember when cars cost what bicycles do now. To most people I just say, "How do you think we pay for the trolls that come in at night and make the floors sticky?" In the odd event I give a straight answer, I let them in on the real reason: It costs a lot to show the movie.

Most theaters pay a percentage of their ticket sales back to the movie companies to rent the movie. So if you buy a four-dollar ticket, the theater only keeps part of that. For a lot of the newer movies, theaters often only keep ten-percent. That's right, folks. If you pay four-bucks to see a popular movie during the opening week, chances are \$3.60 of that money is going back to the guys in Hollywood that make stars out of idiots like Jim Carey and Adam Sandler. After the first week the rent generally goes down, but not often below 50 percent. Also, the percentage is against what is called a guarantee. That means the theater has to put up thousands of dollars against hoped-for income. So that means if there is a storm and power is lost, or the projector breaks, or phantoms ooze from the walls, and the theater can't run—the theater has still paid lots and lots of bucks that they have to get back, somehow. Which leads nicely to the next oft asked question:

"Why does the candy and food cost so much?" Is it that we have you trapped in the walls of our theater and can charge whatever the hell we want? I'm sure there's a little of that. But, mostly it has to do with the above paragraph. If most of the ticket money is going back to the land of fruits and nuts, how are the bills supposed to get paid? Much of the candy sold is in what is called a "concession package," which is specifically designed to be sold at theaters and such. Do you think the candy companies charge less to give theaters their own special box? At theaters, sales of food and drink are sporadic. The doors are not opened as long as supermarkets and convenience stores so they don't move the volume that these places do—which means they pay more for it. Do remember, when you buy a box of Milk Duds from Wal-Mart, they don't have to worry about you tossing the box onto their floors and then having to clean up the ones that melt into the carpet. When you buy candy from a theater, most people eat it there, toss the box on the floor, then leave. If Wal-Mart had to pay to dispose of every package of everything they sold, they'd charge a heck of a lot more than a theater.

"Why don't you offer free refills? You know, like

Arby's does." Because when people eat at Arby's, they don't pour their pop out onto the floor when it gets warm so they can get it refilled with fresh soda. Few theaters offer refills on popcorn because it takes a snow shovel to get it all up between shows. People honestly will dump half a tub of popcorn on the floor if they don't have to pay to get it refilled with warm stuff.



I just love it when mom brings the little rug-rat to the Disney movie and asks, "Do I have to pay for her if she sits on my lap? She won't take up a seat." First off, would she be at "Pocahontas" if it wasn't for the kid? Actually, the real reason we're going to charge you is that movie companies don't trust movie theaters. So what they do is they send in these people

called checkers whose job it is to, well, check and see if theaters are reporting the "real" number of people who attend. Most checkers don't tell the theater that they are there. They stand in a corner with a clicker in their pocket counting heads—not seats. If they report a different number than what the theater does, guess who gets in trouble? For those and other reasons, you can bet you're gonna pay for that kid.

Did you know that movie companies consider movie posters their property? So theaters cannot sell, donate, or even GIVE away posters. Theaters are supposed to destroy or return all promotional materials after the run of the movie. If a checker tells the movie company that he or she watched the theater exchange a poster for a couple of bucks, it will be a very long time till that theater will see ANY posters from that company.

The fact is, most movie theaters are big business. With eight screens and spiffy uniforms for the help, they have to squeeze every dime they can from you. The independent theaters have it worse. Not only are they operating in the shadow of the cinematic giants, they get the films later. If you have just made a movie, would you rather have the 90 percent of a 300 seat house, or the two screens and 1,200 seats of the big movie house? If there is only a few prints of the movie, guess who gets the print?

But, hey, you can always just wait till it comes out in video! You can pause it if you need to go and Free Willie. If the phone rings, you can rewind and hear the last one-liner you missed when lying to your boss about why you're sitting there and not at work. Why go to a theater?

Because, it's a chance to be part of something bigger than you. There has never been a comedy that wasn't funnier when 300 people laugh at the same time—rather than three. The subtle expressions of Anthony Hopkins are alive on the silver screen, and almost lost on the glass screen. You haven't lived till you've seen a couple hundred people yell, "Oh, Shit" and toss their popcorn into the air when the raptor comes through the wall in "Jurassic Park." It is an art meant to be shared. Video will always be the lonely masturbation compared to the true social intercourse of cinema.

There still remains the best reason to attend: I need the job.



This \$100,000 lawsuit is really for the birds

CARLISLE, N.Y. (AP)—One person has been arrested, a civil suit has been filed seeking \$100,000 and there's even a request for a court order to make sure no one skips town. And all this because of a blue parakeet named Felix.

According to court papers, Felix flitted into the garden of Victor and Karen Putnam of Carlisle, about 36 miles west of Albany, in August. They tried to find the bird's owner. But, no luck.

About a month later, Anthony and Catharine Buonacore of nearby Sharon Springs heard about Felix, who matched the description of the parakeet that escaped from their home at about the same time.

The Putnams, meanwhile, had given Felix to a 75-year-old friend and they refused to return the bird or identify the friend.

On Sept. 27, Victor Putnam was arrested on a charge of possessing stolen property. The charge was dismissed, but the Buonacores then filed a \$100,000 lawsuit. They also want a court order to make sure no one tries to take Felix out of the state.

"This has been a nightmare that I can't wake up from," Karen Putnam told The Daily Gazette of Schenectady.

Lawyers for both sides would not discuss the case Friday. No court date has been set.

Strung out authorities threaten juveniles with Silly String sting

SOUTHINGTON, Conn. (AP)—By most accounts, the aftermath resembled an explosion in a Play-Doh factory—hardened goo in hues of orange, pink and blue that was stuck fast to everything that makes Southington's town square a perfect New England snapshot.

Kids of many ages wreaked havoc at the Apple Harvest Festival one weekend four months ago with Silly String, a non-toxic, chemical toy twine launched from aerosol cans.

Now Southington figures that if you can't beat 'em, enjoin 'em. It's ready to outlaw the stuff under most circumstances and smack a \$99 fine on anyone, kid or adult, caught with it.

"This product has no legitimate use," Police Chief William Perry, who requested the ban, said sternly. "It's being manufactured and sold with one purpose in mind—to annoy other people."

Last week, after a town meeting ended with citizens arguing Silly String's virtues, the council kicked back the original "Objectionable Products Ordinance" for revision to avoid making petty criminals of people who use it in their homes.

It wasn't just the sprayed shop windows and the shellacked sidewalks that rankled anti-stringers. Classic cars left the festival's parade with corroded paint. Marching band members—and their uniforms and instruments—got spritzed. Two motorcycle

cops, bombarded by a neon-colored fusillade, nearly ran off the road.

Some residents say they fear that some of the festival's hundreds of visitors might not come back.

"This isn't like firearms," said David Kelley, the town attorney. "There is absolutely no constitutional right for something like this."

The no-string contingent claims broad support and says it's natural to ban what amounts to training-wheels for spray-painting vandals.

But it's difficult to find anyone on Southington's streets who doesn't think the law—and the taxpayer time spent prattling about it—is sillier than the string.

"If they were walking around dumping cups of water on people, would they ban water? It's ridiculous," said Kevin Brunetti, who owns a comic book store just off the square. "If they can't handle this, how are they supposed to deal with real crimes?"

"We're paying for town services and these guys are arguing about Silly String?" said Doug Charamut, shopping at a toy store with his wife and four young children.

The original ordinance would have made Silly String a controlled substance anywhere in town. That posed certain problems, such as how to handle truckloads of canned string passing through on Interstate 84.

"There could be a black market before you know it," said a disgusted Brendan Duff, 18. "You'll have people on the street whispering, 'I got the stuff.'"

The council ordered Kelley to rework the law for a Feb. 12 vote. As written, now it bars canned string and smoke bombs from all public areas and on days of carnivals or parades. On other days, Kelley says, it "probably" wouldn't be illegal.

And the law authorizes Southington's 58 officers to "take any and all actions reasonable and neces-



sary" to ferret out Silly String, including searching stores.

All of this is quite preposterous to Bob D'Agostino, whose Waterbury distributorship wholesales the product to Southington and much of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York.

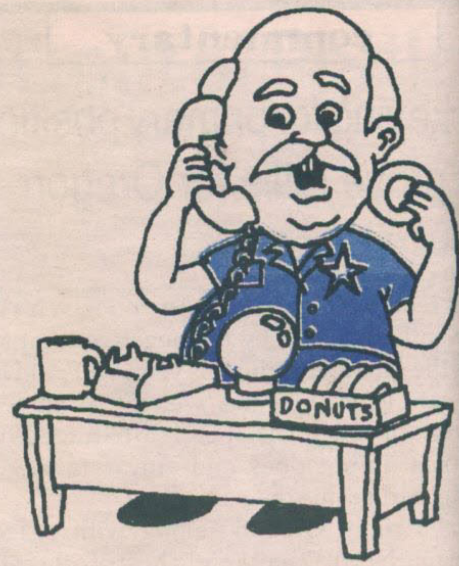
D'Agostino unloads 30,000 cans each year under the brand name Fun String, many to vendors at the Apple Harvest Festival, and he's adamant: String doesn't spray people—people spray people.

"Americans don't take responsibility for anything anymore," D'Agostino said. "If kids aren't disciplined by parents to know you're not supposed to squirt someone driving a motorcycle, it's not the product's fault."

To be sure, the ordinance has its supporters. Ardelle Pelletier, who belongs to a local beautification association, came home from the parade with sprayed shoes and pants. She backs the ban and says her friends do, too.

"It's an invasion of space," she said. "We take pride here in keeping things clean."

NewsLite illustrations by Jacob Schmid



I see a huge phone bill in your future..

CAMDEN POINT, Mo. (AP)—Hundreds of phone calls to a psychic hotline were billed to the small Missouri town, resulting in a criminal charge against the police chief who told authorities he was experiencing personal problems.

Thomas J. Tobin, 35, allegedly made as many as 280 calls to the hotline from September through December of last year, said Maj. Greg Crader, deputy at the Platte County Sheriff's Department. The city has been billed about \$20,000 for the calls.

Tobin, who has moved and does not have a listed telephone number, could not be reached for comment. But his attorney, John R. Humphrey, claims authorities have the wrong person.

"My client is innocent of any allegations that he stole over \$20,000 worth of 900 number telephone services," Humphrey said.

Camden Point Mayor Tom Schnelle said authorities were first tipped off to the problem when the 900 numbers started showing up on city telephone bills. Those records show the calls range in length from four to 40 minutes, Schnelle said.

The sheriff's department investigated and Tobin was arrested on Jan. 3 and charged with stealing, deceit, a felony. He submitted his resignation to the city council following his arrest.

After being jailed briefly, Tobin posted a \$50,000 bond and was released, Crader said. A statement of probable cause prepared by Assistant Platte County Prosecutor David M. Ketchmark says Tobin claims to have made two calls in his official capacity as police chief to find out to where the calls were being placed. Tobin also said he made about 10 calls "because he was having problems in his life," according to the document.

Humphrey said his client kept those calls under a two-minute hotline limit, so there would be no charge. Schnelle said the city is contesting the bill.

"We are the victim of telephone fraud," he said. "I just don't see the city as liable."

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



"Well, I'll see that bet and raise you with, . . . well, with this guy's soul."