



Beyond the Fair

Fairgrounds are changing with the times, mixing traditional uses with a more modern role.

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Good Dirty Fun

Four-wheel drives from all over the West gather near Sweet Home to play in the mud.

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THE *Commuter*

Wednesday,
March 8, 2006

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Volume 37 No. 15

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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photo by Erik Swanson

Poker Faces

Bo Gridley, left, and Ian Opsal, right, face off during the SL&L's first ever No-Limit Hold Em' Tournament last Wednesday night, while Max Lizotte looks on. Forty-one hopefuls gathered in the Cafeteria to play the tournament, which was organized by Intramural Sports Specialist Shawn Hayward. First place went to Gridley, who was awarded an MP3 player, and second went to Opsal who won a set of poker chips. The top five players won prizes furnished by SL&L.

First Class Top scholars named

Colleen Franzoia
The Commuter

Jennifer Bergh, second-year technical communications major and Max Lizotte, second-year psychology major, will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to continue their education.

They have been named All-USA Community and Junior College Academic Team Scholars for 2006. Bergh has been active in LBCC and her community and is an honor roll student. She currently resides in Corvallis and plans to attend OSU to receive a bachelor's degree in Horticulture Communications.

"I just got a really great internship with Avery House Nature Center," Bergh said. "I'll be working on graphic design, posters and educational material." Bergh found out about the scholarship through Linda Spain, English Department



"I just got a really great internship with Avery House Nature Center."

Jennifer Bergh

chair, Linda Spain.

Lizotte, a Sweet Home resident, is vice-president of Alpha Tau Upsilon, Phi Theta Kappa at LBCC and plans to continue in social or health psychology either at OSU or the University of Washington.

"I wasn't surprised because the school doesn't get a lot of applications," said Lizotte.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski will present the awards along with a plaque in April at the Capitol.

Red-light cameras may get green light

Nathan Batten
The Commuter

Although it's been four or five months since Albany began investigating the feasibility of installing cameras at some intersections to catch motorists running red lights, the police department says it's still at least six months away.

Patrick Hurley, the analyst for the police department, said the city of Salem is also experimenting with the idea at the moment and Albany is waiting to see how Salem does. Once the results from Salem are reported, Albany will follow suit, Hurley said.

Since Oct. 10 of last year, the city of Albany has authorized the police department to start requesting proposals from vendors of red-light cameras. The cameras would be capable of taking pictures and recording the violation, according to Hurley. In addition the event can be uploaded onto a website so that violators can log in and view their offense.

The project started in the summer of 2004 in response to citizens worried about safety at many of the city's intersections, according to Hurley. He coordinated a work group that included a traffic engineer, city attorney

and a citizen from the Public Safety Council to study the plan. Part of the process included the mailing out of 20,000 questionnaires last March, which received 1,751 responses.

The data showed the eight most problematic intersections are Pacific and Queen, Ninth and Lyon, Highway 20 and Spring Hill Drive, Santiam and Waverly, Queen and Geary, Ninth and Geary, Pacific and Geary, and Pacific and 34th Avenue.

The police department is authorized to install cameras in at least 12 intersections but Hurley will recommend starting with only two and gauging their effectiveness.

Chief of Police Edward Boyd stated that installation of cameras would not mean officers would have less of a presence in those areas. However, he said it would leave many officers open to investigate more serious incidents. Boyd also assured that the cameras are not meant to be a revenue-generating machine, but instead a safety measure.

In response to some critic's opinions that the cameras would be used as a surveillance tool, Boyd explained, "The only time a person is captured on camera is when

Turn to "Cameras" on Pg. 4

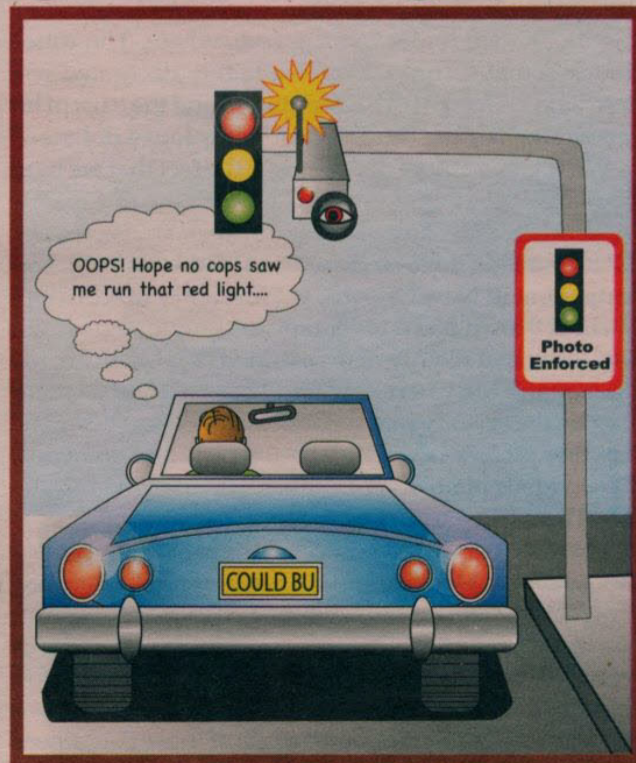


Illustration by Elizabeth Beckham

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High 50
Rain...
definitely
rain... Low 36
Wednesday

High 46
Rain
AND
showers Low 33
Thursday

High 45
Rain/
chance
snow Low 33
Friday

High 47
Cloudy/
chance
meatballs Low 30
Saturday

High 45
Partly
sunny Low 30
Sunday

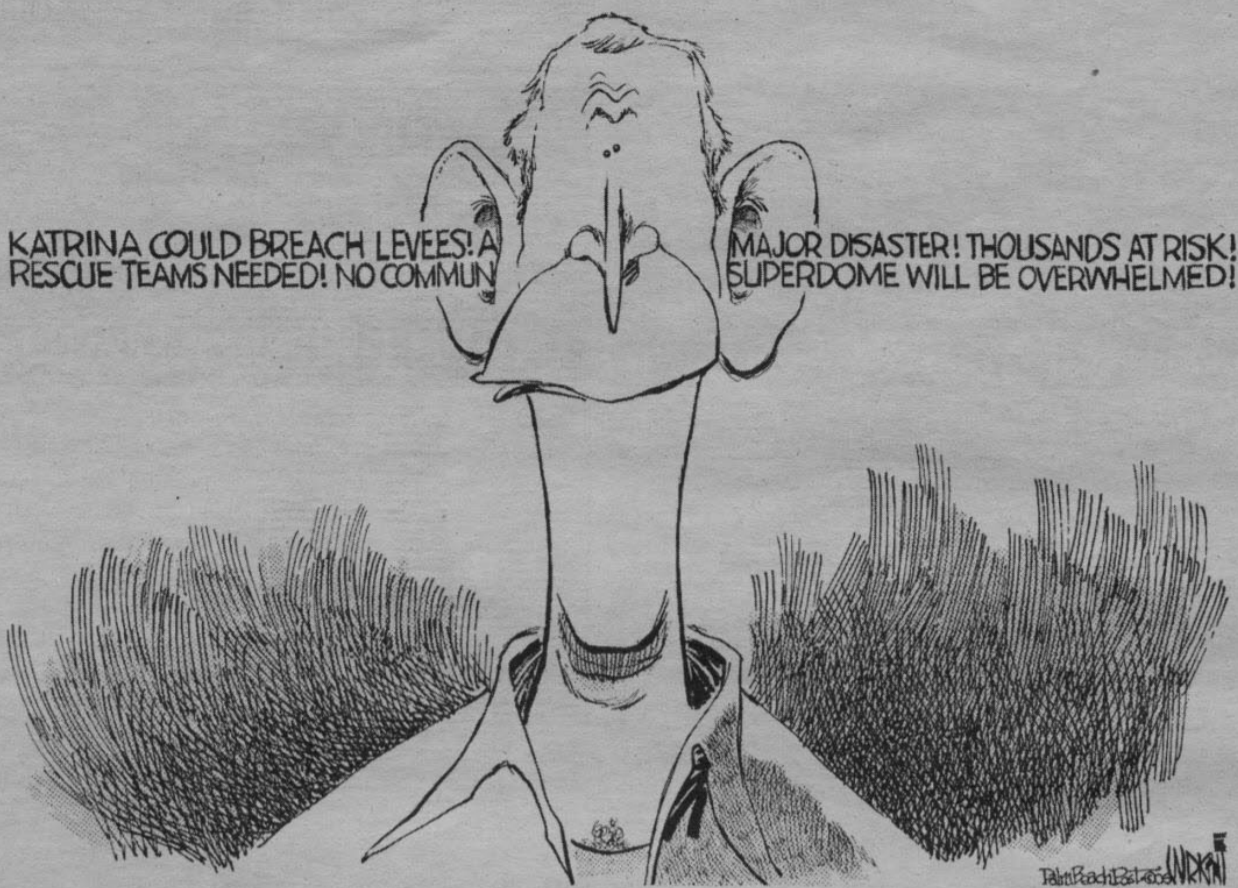
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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them
 and keep them at 300 words or less.



Republicans embezzle funds while Democratic minorities go without

Former San Diego Republican Congressman Randy Cunningham managed to get himself eight years and 40 days for accepting bribes this week. Congressman Tom Delay seems to suffer setback after setback in his attempt to weasel out of the charges against him and former Cheney aide Scooter Libby who is under the gun in the federal courts at the moment. From the way things look, the new Republican uniform will consist of jackets and trousers marked with heavy black and white stripes for the foreseeable future, and their elephant will soon mimic a zebra.

When it comes to simple mathematics, eight years traded for two and one half million dollars amounts to a whole lot more than the average Joe is going to make. And more than likely that amount is just the outstanding balance that he couldn't shove under the rug somewhere. The rotten shame is that Cunningham is a highly decorated war hero who flushed both his reputation and the trust of his constituents down the drain for a few lousy dollars.

What is even more disturbing is the fact that we have a president who does not seem to be able to separate fact from fiction. Any number of times Mr. George W. Bush claimed he was not aware of the serious damage happening in New Orleans, yet former FEMA director Michael Brown had a videotape to show Congress this past week that plainly demonstrated that Mr. Bush, Mr. Cheney and Mr. Chertoff were all briefed right from the start on the seriousness of the situation. It has been said that one picture is worth 10,000 words and somehow those videos plainly verify that all three men are bald-faced liars.

Then we come to the ports and illegal immigration deals. While Mr. George W. Bush & Co. constantly preach terror this and terror that, they don't seem to be too interested in closing our southern borders or worrying too much about who might bring in a whole shipload of poison gas, explosives, or maybe even a pre-assembled atomic bomb in one of those containers. But then, the normal everyday Joe Blow slaving away to pay taxes that the rich in this country get a big break on doesn't have the luxury of those swanky high-class bomb shelters either.

What is sadly pathetic about things is that Bill and Hillary Clinton were harassed and harangued the entire time Bill was in office. First it was Whitewater, and then the Monica Lewinsky affair. If Clinton was impeached, the Republicans would have run him completely out of town on a rail for just getting a little lip service, but they don't seem to think much of lying, doing their best to

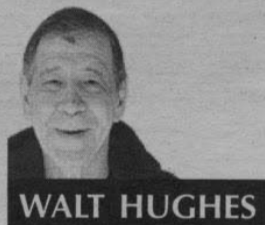
hide their secret goings-on from the public, watching jobs go out the window to other countries by the boatload, or driving the country further and further into debt for the sake of the God almighty dollar and corporate profits.

Even worse than that is the Katrina scandal; George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Michael Chertoff all claimed they didn't know anything about the seriousness of the hurricane until at least the next day, yet recent video tapes of conferences show that Michael Brown, the former director of FEMA notified them well in advance that it was going to be a very bad storm. Don't know where you come from, but most people would say that denying

they were notified would be an outright barefaced lie. Think that is all? Ever really wonder why? Just yesterday Amy Gardner of the Washington Post penned an enlightening article about people in a small town not far out of Washington who have been patiently waiting for a sewage plant for over seven years.

Less than a mile down the road from a million-dollar emblem of greater Washington's housing boom, Emma G. Howard and her son, Bishop, tote drinking water from neighbors or buy it at the Safeway eight miles away. They scrape their plates into a slop bucket on the kitchen floor and wash them in a basin of boiled water. And they relieve themselves in a wood-planked outhouse across the back yard, according to Gardner's story. "The Howards and 15 other people live in the western Loudoun County hamlet of Willisville. Surrounded by rolling pastures, horse-country manors and new mansions—many with four or more bathrooms—most of Willisville has existed without indoor plumbing since it was founded just after the Civil War, when freed slave Heuson Willis bought a cabin on three acres for \$100."

What do the people at Willisville have in common with the citizens of New Orleans? Is it that they are black? Is it that they are poor? Is it possible that they are all Democrats? Maybe it's all three. Interestingly enough, 11,000 trailers sit empty and idle in Arkansas while hurricane victims are being thrown in the street with nowhere to go, the people of Willisville trot to the outhouse and the chief executive officer of the United States of America, supposedly the most important and powerful man in the world, could probably care less. None of those people have any oil to sell, money to buy seaports or influence to peddle.



WALT HUGHES

Opportunities for student involvement abound at LBCC

Brace yourselves for the mediocre! Prepare for the general lack of anything at all, for the great clash of our legacy of mediocrity and our continued maintenance of it.

Our student elections for next year bombed out, as students continue the trend of conspicuous absence in school events and activism. The tendency continues with full newspaper stands, and empty bulletin boards.

There's nothing like 10,000 students who actually have the freedom to make a difference in their school and their communities, yet choose not to out of laziness.

I went on a student trip recently, which included a tour of the science museum, a free meal and a movie at the OMNI Theater. The limit was about twelve people, but the student leadership, even after spending hundreds of dollars in advertising, didn't even get that many.

Similarly, a carpool meeting, designed to help students save money on gas, drew in one visitor and the student elections attracted six too few candidates, as well as 9,800 too few voters. It's time for change.

Some people would argue that the events and programs don't appeal to the majority of the student body. My answer is simple. The student government is short of leaders, so become one. Also, the leaders that are in place, many of which I have talked with about this problem, are definitely open to your ideas. Recently, in the commons, the student government was giving away pizza in exchange for ideas relating to events and student services.

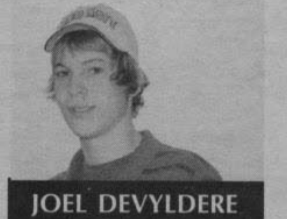
The next popular argument is that people don't know what to do to get involved.

Randomly Assorted List of Things That You Can Do to Get Involved:

1. Vote. It's simple and anyone can do it.
2. Student Trips. Molly Nelson from the student Programming Board is planning a trip to the Cinco de Mayo celebration in Portland. This trip will include tons of entertainment including music, dance, art, and a meal at a Mexican restaurant and is completely free. To find out about this and other student trips, you can go to the Student Life and Leadership Office.
3. Join the Student Programming Board. This choice has the added bonus of two terms of paid tuition. The student programmers plan events around campus and field trips around Oregon. To join, come into the Student Life and Leadership Office, downstairs in the Forum building.
4. Complain. Well, not really, but get your ideas out; let your voice be heard by someone other than your TV set every time the Seahawks lose. There are several opportunities for this option, including a bulletin board entitled "Pass the Buck" where you can freely express your ideas. It might be hard to attract attention on this one so you could...
5. Write an opinion column. This is a sure way to reach people. Lots of people read the newspaper. You're reading it right now. You can drop your opinion story by the Commuter Office (F-222). Submissions are limited to three hundred words.
6. Join the Associated Student Government. There are four positions still available, with a minimum of two terms of paid tuition.
7. There are lots of events put out by the Student Programming Board, and funded by your tuition dollars. They range from discussions over soup in the Multicultural Center, to a Comedy Night in the Commons. You can find out more by picking up a Student Activities Calendar, found in the coffee shop on the first floor of the Forum Building.

CORRECTION

In an article about the Turning Point Transitions class on Page 5 of last week's Commuter, Sandra Lovelady's name was misspelled.



JOEL DEVYLDERE

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OPINION

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Healthy doesn't always mean thin

The Chicago Tribune

Is there anyone more exalted and sometimes resented in America today than someone who is stunningly fit? You know the type. The person who's thin as a blade, exercises every day and really enjoys it, happily gorges on a full pyramid of fruits and vegetables and doesn't smoke?

Many of us aspire to that exalted station in life. We dutifully join the health club and buy the diet books, inspired by those "before" and "after" pictures.

But the truth is, very few of us measure up and that can be aggravating. How few? A recent study led by a Michigan State University researcher put the figure at only 3 in 100 about twice as many women as men. That's the number that maintained an ideal weight; ate the minimum recommended amount of five daily servings of fruits and vegetables; exercised for at least 30 minutes, five times a week; and didn't smoke. Mathew J. Reeves, lead researcher, said he was "shocked" by the result. "It's really just a basic lifestyle pattern," he told a reporter. "We aren't asking anyone to climb Mount Everest here."

We're shocked too. Three in 100? That's it?

Anyone who fits this profile must feel like an endangered species in America. We've seen such creatures lurking around the office. They run four miles at 6 a.m. or seem to always be lugging a gym bag around. They take the stairs. They don't smoke and can't understand why anyone else would. They ditch a lively party at 10 p.m. to get some sleep. When the rest of the lunch group is gorging on pizza, the svelte one is stealthily nibbling a grilled salmon sandwich, albeit sheepishly.

As such, they take a lot of chiding from the other 97 percent who aspire but fail to make the grade in those four categories.

The tiny minority of the fit remain under constant surveillance by regular Americans. Some in the majority seek to emulate them, politely inquiring about the personal habits that yield such a result, and professing admiration and a touch of envy for the discipline required. Often, that envy curdles into something darker.

That's one way to explain the glee with which many Americans greeted a recent federal study that said people who were overweight, but not obese, had a lower risk of death than those at so-called normal weight. And the coup de grace: Being very thin, even when it was long-standing and not likely to be caused by disease, nevertheless caused a slight increase in the risk of death.

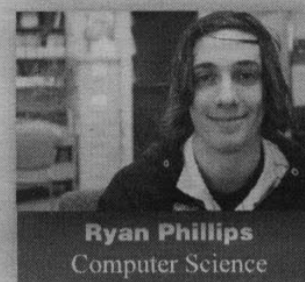
You could almost hear the cackling: You think you're going to cheat death by eating right and exercising? Well, think again!

The government's rolling out the big guns now to battle obesity. Former President Bill Clinton promises to jawbone against childhood obesity. We wish him well, but we're not too optimistic. On the same day that the American Heart Association welcomed Clinton into the fray, came news that a restaurant in Pennsylvania was offering a new 15-pound hamburger. Many fast-food chains apparently have rediscovered the joy of gargantuan servings laden with fat and calories.

Yes, it's lonely at the top of Mount Everest. And it looks like it's going to get a lot lonelier.

PERSPECTIVES

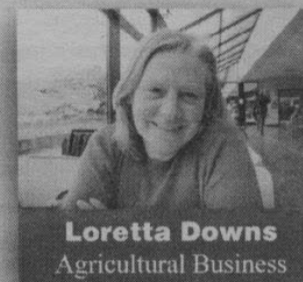
What should the government do about the growing health problem of obesity?



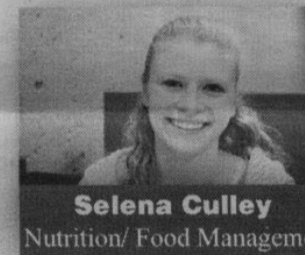
Ryan Phillips
Computer Science

"I don't know if it's something the government can enforce because it's the people's choice on what they eat."

"That's really difficult because you can't make people get off the couch. They have to take responsibility, but I think they [government] should keep educating people."



Loretta Downs
Agricultural Business



Selena Culley
Nutrition/ Food Management

"I think they should limit the amount of processed foods they put in stores and vending machines."

"I think they should do more education on nutrition in elementary schools and they should limit non-nutritious foods in vending machines and schools or even get rid of them."



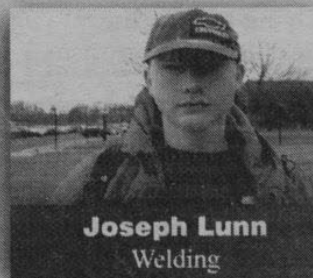
Jamie Robertson
Medical Assistant



Brad Grim
Collision Repair

"I have no idea."

"Have more natural foods and have fast foods produce more healthy stuff instead of fat."



Joseph Lunn
Welding

The Commuter

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www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Japanese internment noted in exhibit

Maria Gonzalez
The Commuter

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Japanese-Americans living in the United States were viewed as a threat to national security and to the safety of other American citizens. According to instructor Michele Wilson, through a series of executive orders and the passing of congressional acts, many Japanese citizens were forcibly removed from

their homes and imprisoned in internment camps. The story of Japanese internment is chronologically short and overshadowed by the Jewish Holocaust and other racially motivated historical events. It is a story, however, that is also filled with hatred, misconceptions, international strong-arming, injustice, untold stories and survivors. It is a story worth retelling and remembering, says Wilson.

Two groups of students in Introduction to

Cultural Anthropology have been working on a project about Japanese culture and traditions from historic times to the present. Wilson has been supervising the students with their projects. One group is creating posters, and the other group make the accompanying brochures. This exhibition will be in Takena Hall during the month of May. Jason Miller, Multicultural Center coordinator, will be helping the students as well as instructor Wilson.

Cameras: Light runners caught in act

From Pg. 1

they commit a violation." If a person doesn't commit a violation then the person has nothing to worry about, Boyd added.

Hurley said the cameras would only be active during the red-light cycle. Hurley explained that the camera would capture a 12 second motion video clip showing a view of the intersection six seconds before and six seconds after the red-light violation.

Hurley added that the cameras would pay for themselves if they catch between 40 and 60 violators per month. Currently the fine for running a red light in Albany is \$247.

Portland, Beaverton and Medford are among cities that use red-light cameras with Newberg considering the idea.



photo by Dan Wise

Geese Galore

Hundreds of Canada geese take flight at Finley Wildlife Refuge, marking the beginning of spring in Oregon.

Campus Shorts...

Word Power

Christy Stevens and Alice Sperling will discuss the role that privilege and power play in western culture today in the Multicultural Center from noon to 1 p.m. This is the second in a three-part series about the power words contain.

Terrorism Topic

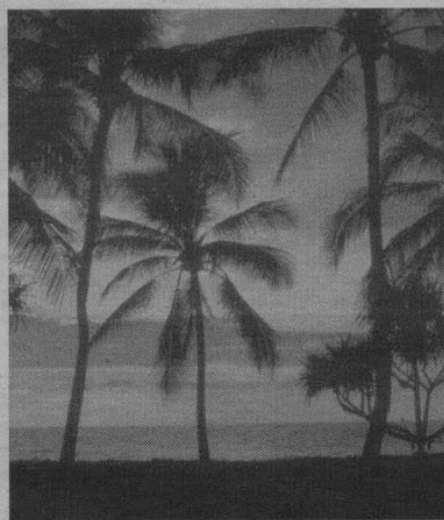
The public is invited to hear Dr. Robert A. Pape, a University of Chicago professor of political science and director of the Chicago Project on Terrorism, speak on March 9 at 2 p.m. at the First Methodist Church on 12th and Monroe in Corvallis. His topic is "Dying to Win: the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism."

Working Day Tea

AAWCC is sponsoring an International Women's Working Day Tea on Wednesday, March 8, at noon in the Multicultural Center. Uzma Ahmed, a Corvallis international working woman, will speak, and the LBCC Concert Choir will sing a few numbers from Germany, South America and Africa.

Finals Week Massage Therapy for Students

March 17, 20 & 21
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Reduce your stress before, during or after finals!
LMT Briana Moore will give LBCC students
a FREE 15-minute massage.

Sign up in Student Life & Leadership beginning March 1.

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

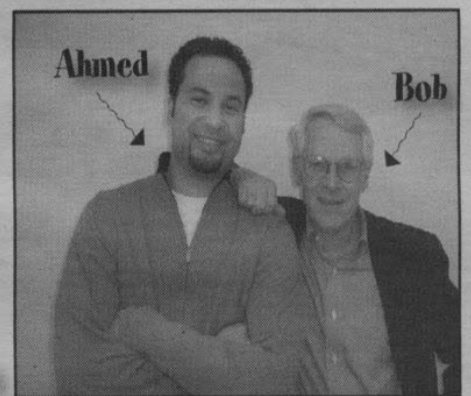
Sponsored by the Student Programming Board.
Questions? Call Alena Purkerson at 917-4472
or e-mail purkera@linnbenton.edu.

LBCC is an Equal Opportunity Institution. For disability accommodations call 917-4789 or TDD 917-4703.
Please submit your request 4 to 6 weeks before the event, where possible.

COMEDY NIGHT

Join Bob (the Rabbi)
and his buddy Ahmed (the Muslim)
for a fun filled comedy night.

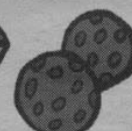
"The world's only practicing clergyman doing stand-up comedy... intentionally!"



March 8, 2006

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

LBCC Commons Albany - College Center 2nd Floor



Delicious desserts will be served in addition to some good clean comedy.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Admission is \$5 at the door

Children under age 11 are not permitted



Check out: www.bobalper.com
for reviews and other cool stuff!

For more information or to ask questions contact the Political Activities Specialist Matthew Hamel at (541)917-4463.

Sponsored by the LBCC Student Programming Board

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Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

6500 Pacific Blvd.
Albany, OR 97321-3755

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101). Just sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment. You will have access to lots of jobs and you will also receive e-mails about jobs.

Security Officer (#4060, Philomath) Great weekend, part-time job—Saturday: 11pm to 11am on Sunday and from Sunday: 11pm to 7am on Monday.

Management Trainee (#4062, Corvallis) Want a full-time trainee position selling sporting goods? College graduate preferred.

Living Skills Technician (#4063, Albany) These hands-on jobs promote and enhance the development of each client enabling skill acquisition to occur & for assuring the overall health & safety of all clients. One job is full-time: M-F 6am-2pm and the other is part-time as relief on Wed. 10pm-6am.

CWE Corrosion Lab Technician (#3902, Wah Chang, Albany) Get experience and CWE credit at the same time. Part-time during school & full-time in the summer—will work with your school schedule. If you have a chemistry or metallurgy background and are an LBCC student, this is for you!

WANTED

REFRIGERATOR, USED. Will pay \$\$.

Contact: Elizabeth Beckham
541-753-4025 or
e-mail lizzo_beacham@hotmail.com

Solutions

L	A	S	S	E	R	S	L	I	E	R	S	P	A	W
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Support Lab encourages productivity, initiative

Ellen Purkerson
 The Commuter

Students needing help with math or writing assignments could find help and a quiet place to study in the Support Lab tucked away in HO-114.

"It's a lot quieter than the LRC," said LBCC student Amber Provost, "It's not so rushed; a place to slow down and get to work." Provost, graduating spring term, has found the assistance and the calm atmosphere of the lab to be "really helpful."

Open to all LBCC students, the Support Lab offers many services including:

- Math assistance for students enrolled in MTH 20-MTH 95
- Writing with help developmental writing classes
- Help with time management, organizational and study skills
- Adaptive software and assistive technology
- Testing accommodations
- Student computers
- Quiet study space

"One of the goals of the Support Lab is to encourage students to learn to advocate for themselves by helping them to learn how to take action, how to solve problems, learn where the resources are," said Lab

Coordinator Kathy Knecht-Miner.

One of the adaptive programs available in the Support Lab is Dragon Naturally Speaking, a speech-recognition writing program that can help students who may have difficulties with typing. The college offers a five-week class spring term teaching students how to use the Dragon program.

Kurzweil, another adaptive program, will read aloud any scanned page, whether textbook pages or a student's own typed text.

Formerly known as the Takena Support Lab, the lab moved to its new location at the beginning of fall term.

"It took people awhile to find us," said Knecht-Miner. She hopes more students will make use of the lab's services next term. An open house is planned for early spring term to show off the new facility and present the lab's services. "The support lab is open to all students," she emphasized, adding that many students were unaware of that fact.

Instructional Assistant Kris Brown encourages students to come in and try out the lab. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. "The lab is less crowded early and late in the day," said Brown, "Those are good times to come in for one-on-one assistance."

Fly-fishing class teaches more than just catching fish

Hannah Cowart
 The Commuter

This spring term in a six-week, non-credit class students can learn the basics of fly fishing, including how to cast, where to fish, what flies to use, and what equipment you need and why.

The class will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9:20 p.m. beginning April 4. Students will learn about fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, how to fly-cast, where to fish, what flies to use and why. Students will practice fly-casting on the lawn. There will be a field trip to a lake within an hour drive of the campus. The lake will be chosen later depending on conditions.

A lot of people take the class because

they just want to try fly fishing, said instructor Bill Kremers. Some people learn that it isn't what they expected and drop the class. After a couple of weeks, however, people begin to get to know and help each other, making the class a lot of fun. People "usually find somebody they can fish with," he said. "Some of these people make lifelong friends."

Everyone is welcome to take the class, including responsible children who are with a parent. Oftentimes, women take the class with their boyfriends or husbands, said Kremers.

"It's low key, it's not intense. It's just meant for people to get together and have fun," he said.

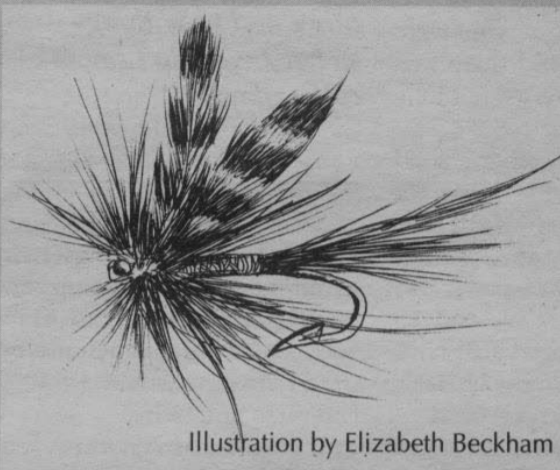


Illustration by Elizabeth Beckham

'Shushing librarians' let students enjoy the sound of silence

Stephen Whitener
 The Commuter

You have the right to remain silent. Though you won't find it in the Library Bill of Rights, Scott Keeney wants you to know that silence is still golden at the Albany Public Library's main branch.

"Now that movie theaters have become cesspools of noise," said Keeney, "the only quiet buildings are churches and libraries."

It isn't hard to determine where the LBCC Library stands on the noise issue. The front door has an anti-cell phone decal, and signs inside read: "Please Be Quiet!" Complimentary bookmarks found at the circulation counter remind patrons to "Respect other library users. Talk quietly. Turn off cell phones and pagers. When you're working in a group, use one of the tables under the lower ceiling."

While it may reinforce the "shushing librarian" stereotype, this "Silence Please!" policy remains here by popular demand.

In a recent library survey, LBCC students preferred silence by an "overwhelming percentage," recalled Reference Assistant Candice Watkins. "We enforce those rules because the students want them."

But silence isn't what it used to be. "Background noise is now so pervasive people don't even think about it," said Public Services Librarian Charles Weyant. In these "plugged-in" times "it's

important to have a place for quiet reflection; a place where you have the ability to think rather than just sense information."

For LBCC Librarian Jorry Rolfe, it's a matter of balance.

"It's nearly impossible to avoid cell phones," said Rolfe. "Some don't mind. I've heard that Umpqua Community College's library is pretty noisy." According to Rolfe, a library's noise policy depends on such factors as its staff, culture and even architecture. Hence LBCC's

"lower ceiling" stipulation.

It seems the larger the library, the louder its patrons. The six-floor OSU Valley Library provides two "quiet" zones, but the quiet is not enforced. Over at the bustling Corvallis-Benton County Public Library "we're pretty casual," admitted Elizabeth Solmon of the circulation department.

But back at Albany's main branch, Scott Keeney isn't worried about perpetuating a stereotype.

"I shushed a couple of little

girls just this morning," he confessed. "In a gentle way, I like to enforce civility. I like to hear children being quiet. A lot of

people still come to the library for a quiet refuge. Of course it's probably not as quiet as it was back in the 1920s."

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SPORTS

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

Fillion twins promise playoff berth next year for women

Neal Jones
The Commuter

Linn-Benton had some promising freshmen on the women's basketball team. Sometimes you might have thought you were seeing double. In fact there was a set of twins on the team, Molly and Jennifer Fillion.

The pair put together a solid season and provide hope for next season. In games with stats on www.nwaacc.org, Jennifer averaged 13.6 points per game, 4.4 rebounds, 1.1 steals and 1.3 assists. Molly averaged 10.3 points per game, 7.3 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 1.3 assists.

The Fillion twins are from Silverton, and played basketball at Silverton High School. Molly said, "We decided to come to LB because it's close to home and we liked the coach. We sent A.J. (Dionne) some stuff and she contacted us."

"Going to school at LB is kind of like high school. We know most of the people," Jennifer said. A lot of learning takes place freshman year of college, especially for athletes. A freshman athlete gains experience and a better understanding of their sport. "Don't underestimate any teams."

"You need to condition during the summer," said Molly. On playing for A.J., Jennifer said, "It's been an overall good experience."

The twins have played basketball on the same team since the fourth grade. Someone without a twin can only wonder what that experience might be like.

Molly said, "It's been a positive experience. Jennifer added, "We would never change it and it's easier having someone to talk to about stuff. Only I don't want to hear Molly complain about having a bad game. We don't like hearing complaints from each other about each other's performance."

One would assume there might also be problems. Molly said, "We don't guard each other during practice. Jennifer added, "We are harder on each other and I say things to her I wouldn't say to other players. "They also said, it gets pretty physical when they guard each other.

The twins don't spend much

time away from each other. Molly explained, "We don't spend time apart unless one of us has a boyfriend."

"We are harder on each other and I say things to her I wouldn't say to other players."

Jennifer Fillion

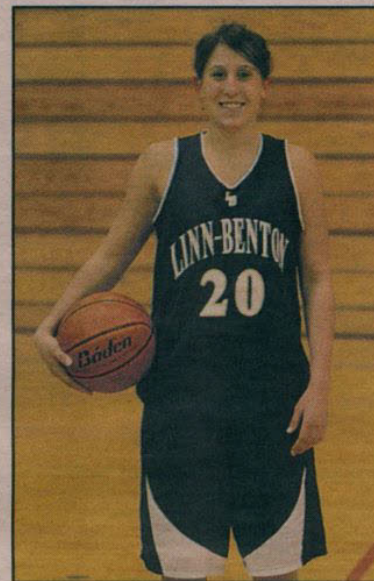
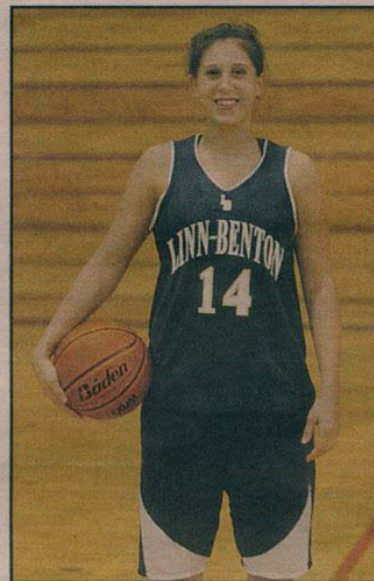
On what it's like being a twin, Jennifer said, "It has its ups and downs. We argue a lot." Molly added, "It's hard sometimes being a twin but I would definitely choose to be a twin."

If anyone hasn't noticed, they take all their classes together. Jen-

nifer explained, "We share a car and that is the reason we take the same classes. We wouldn't want to have to work around each other's schedule for using the car. Plus we always have someone to talk to."

When asked about the differences in their personalities, Jennifer said, "Molly is a homebody." Molly added, "Jennifer is a social butterfly. Jen snaps more and is sassy. "They said, Molly was born first by two minutes.

Jennifer's major is Business Management, while Molly's is Family and Human Studies. Molly said, "I can't answer what my career goals are at this point in time." While Jennifer said, "I want to own a business but I have



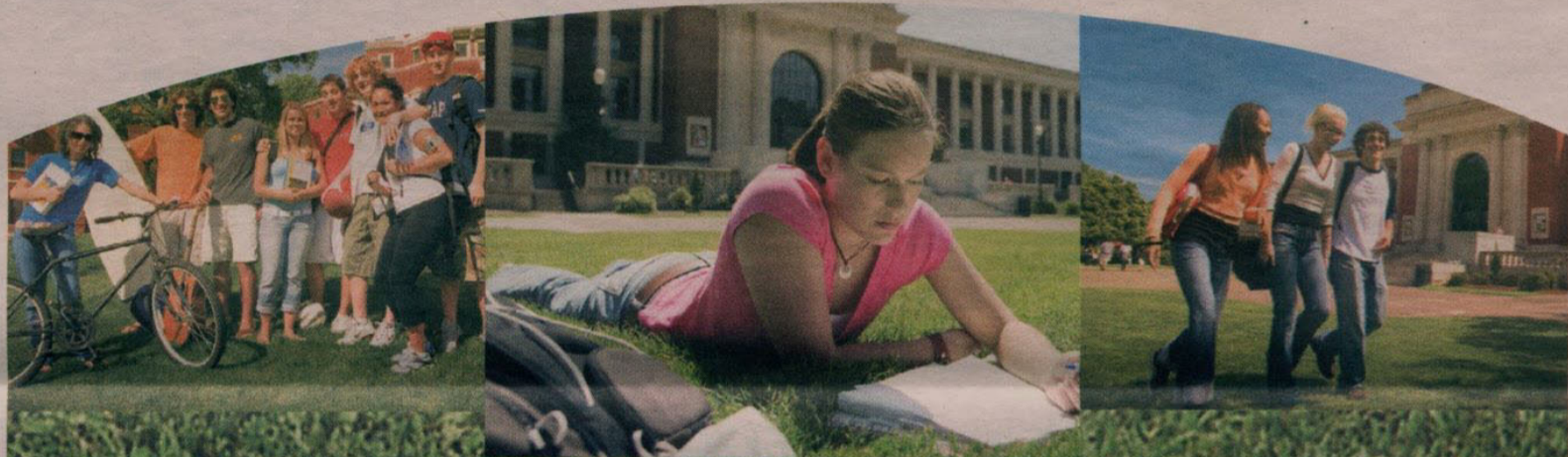
contributed photos

Molly (left) and Jenny Fillion had successful freshman seasons for the Lady Runners and are optimistic about their sophomore year.

no idea what."

They plan to return to LB. Jennifer said, "Mark our words, we will be in the playoffs next year." As this season progressed, the twins said team chemistry got bet-

ter. Everyone got along. Although the team record wasn't what they hoped for, there is always next year. They encouraged fans to come watch the team play next year.



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SPORTS

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

Super Sunday rises above life and sports

The best sporting event of the year is the Super Bowl. There is no way around it. On Super Bowl Sunday everyone and their dog watches the game with a group of friends, or family members or both to watch a game that is captivating, even if they are not a fan of either participating team.

The Super Bowl creates the biggest hype of the year out of any sport. From the beginning of the regular season into the playoffs, Super Bowl discussion is a regular Sunday conversation.

Things really heat up in early January when the wild-card race begins. Once the AFC and NFC champions have been crowned, a two-week party ensues for the respective teams in the host

city of the Super Bowl. This creates an economic boom for that community. Host cities of the Super Bowl average an estimated \$350 to 400 million economic addition during the festivities for the event. That is a nice chunk of change just for hosting one event.

The television hype on ESPN, news shows or in Sports Illustrated draws in every football fan. Everyone makes their expert predictions of who will flourish in the ultimate game. Sports gamblers are in a frenzy placing bets on every part of the game from the point spread to the coin toss.

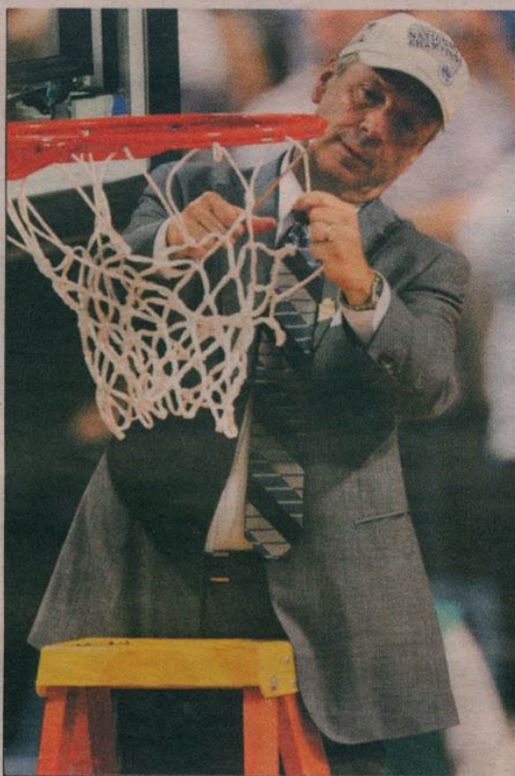
No other competition during the year compares to the viewing audience that the Super Bowl receives. Not only is the Super Bowl an amazing sporting event where the world's finest athletes compete against each other for the ultimate prize, it is marketing genius at its finest.

People who don't know the first thing about football watch the game. The commercials and top-notch entertainment before the game, at half time and after the game have made the top 10 most watched events in TV history Super Bowls. Last Year 133.7 million people watched the Super Bowl. That is millions more than any other event drew for a viewing audience.

The Super Bowl is the greatest sporting event of the year not just because of sheer numbers, but also because of the atmosphere and emotions that it brings. Two phenomenal teams with strength, skill and speed squaring off for the coveted Lombardi Trophy captivate the world on one special Sunday every year.

CALEB HAWLEY

FACE OFF



North Carolina basketball coach Roy Williams celebrates his first National Championship by cutting down the net following last year's March Madness.

KRT photo

March Madness is king of all sporting events

March is the best month of the year for sports fans. There is baseball's spring training; the NBA is kicking into high gear and most of all, it's time for the madness to begin. That's right, get out your excuse book out and start calling in sick, it's time for March Madness. Is there a better way to spend four days than watching wall-to-wall continuous coverage of the NCAA basketball tournament? For me, there is no better event all year.

Although it can be argued that the college bowl season is a great time of year for sports fans, those games that are NOT the BCS Championship Game are meaningless. Not so in the NCAA hoops tournament where every single game can be the one that propels a team, any team, to a national championship. How great is it to see small schools, like Kent State, make a run at the Final Four as they did in 2002? Or, to see perennial powerhouse Kansas upset in the first round by Bucknell last year? The drama that is provided during the first 96-hour marathon of the tournament is unmatched, not only by any other college sport, but by any sport, period.

Statistics have shown that the first weekend of the NCAA tournament is the weekend with the highest number of "sick callers" each year. Any sports fan will admit to doing it. In fact, they don't have to admit it, they are proud of it. Every man in a testosterone-laced tirade has, at some point, berated another fellow man for not being a "real sports fan," because they haven't called in sick that weekend. To be honest, it is a right of passage for young men nationwide.

This past college football season we all waited as Texas and USC blew out teams on the path to the Rose Bowl. Starting next weekend, you will see fans of Southern Illinois, Bradley University and UNC Wilmington cheer on their teams in an attempt to ruin the seasons of the Duke's and the North Carolinas of the college basketball world. Where else will you get huge games that include teams with names like the Salukis or the Bison?

Men and women alike, next Thursday, sit and watch. There is nothing more grand and you will see drama during that awesome four-day period to hold you over until football season. If you are scheduled to work, well, you know what to do. In fact, I think I feel a cold coming on.

ADAM LOGHIDES

Young Runners end season, hope for better in '07

Caleb Hawley and Neal Jones
 The Commuter

The Roadrunner men (11-17, 4-10) finished their season on a high note last week, with an 85-81 victory in Roseburg over the Umpqua Timbermen (5-22, 2-12).

The win brought a little sunshine through a cloudy season of misfortunes, in which the Runners lost a lot of close contests or only played one good half.

Ryon Pool had a team high 23 points and a game high 12 rebounds to lead to the Runners in the victory over Umpqua.

Three other LB players scored in double digits, with Alex Stockner scoring 19, Kyle Masten with 15 and Cory Hull with 13. Behdad Sami also pulled down eight rebounds for the Runners.

The LB men are looking forward to next season, when they will return. All but one player, Derek Grinnel, who is the lone sophomore on the roster.

The Lady Runners (4-9) finished their season last Wednesday as well, but not on a happy note, as they lost 88-59 to Umpqua (9-4).

The key players for the Roadrunners were Molly Fillion

with 24 points and 10 rebounds, Whitney Hubbard with 10 points and Whitney Bryant with seven rebounds.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams had difficult seasons. Neither team was able to amass a winning record overall or in league play. The women finished with an overall record of 8-20 and had a league record of 4-10, while the men finished 11-17 overall and also had a 4-10 league record.

However, the 2007 season is looking bright for both teams, as a lot of returning experience may help lift the teams to a higher

level. The Lady Runners will return seven players and the men will return eight, includ-

ing their high scorers—Bryant for the women and Pool for the men.

scoreboard

	Men		STANDINGS		Women	
	League	Overall	League	Overall	League	Overall
Mt. Hood	14-0	25-3	Clackamas	13-1	23-4	
Chemeketa	11-3	19-8	Lane	13-1	29-1	
Clackamas	8-6	19-10	Umpqua	10-4	22-7	
Lane	8-6	14-14	Chemeketa	6-8	9-16	
Portland	6-8	14-15	Portland	5-9	11-16	
Linn-Benton	4-10	11-17	Linn-Benton	4-10	8-20	
SWOCC	3-11	9-18	SWOCC	4-10	11-15	
Umpqua	2-12	5-22	Mt. Hood	1-13	3-22	

Beavers send seven wrestlers to nationals next week

Adam Loghides
 The Commuter

The OSU Beavers will send seven wrestlers to the NCAA championship meet later this month after the team finished in fourth place at the Pac-10 Conference Championships Feb. 25-27 in Palo Alto.

It is the first time in five years that OSU has sent this many wrestlers to nationals. Assistant Coach Jeff Cardwell thought more would have qualified if the Beavers had not lost some critical matches. "We thought if we wrestled well, we would send seven," he said. "If we wrestled

great, we would have sent eight. It just didn't work out for us."

Cardwell is cautiously optimistic about the wrestlers' chances at nationals, which take place March 16-18 at Oklahoma City's Ford Center. Although the prospects of an individual national champion seem unlikely, he hopes the Beavers return to Corvallis with some hardware. "Our goal for these guys, realistically, is to get All-American." Those who finish in the top eight of their 32-man bracket, will have earned All-American status.

Cardwell anticipates some nervousness on the Beavers' part, as it will be

the first time on a national stage for three of the wrestlers. That stage is the Ford Center, a 20,817-seat arena that easily dwarfs Gill Coliseum's 10,400-seat capacity. "The most important thing we can stress to our guys is to not be in awe of their surroundings and just wrestle to the best of their abilities," Cardwell said last week.

Kyle Larson, a 141-pound sophomore who qualified for nationals by finishing third at the Pac-10 championships, agrees and is not trying to put too much pressure on himself. "It's all about the draw," he said, adding that he doesn't yet know

his first opponent. Larson's overall goal is to compete in the final, but the most important thing to him, "is to get into that top eight and get All-American."

While Larson would like to seize this opportunity now, he has two more years ahead of him. "This is definitely a big chance, but these are just stepping stones for the future," Larson said last week.

Come March 16, Larson will go through his normal "game day" ritual of "getting a good warm-up, getting some sweat going, getting my head on right and visualizing myself winning my match."

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SPORTS

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

Record snowfall blankets slopes with skiers

Jens Odegaard
 The Commuter

Last year ski resorts near LBCC experienced some of the lower snowfall averages since 1940-41.

Mt. Hood Meadows, Skibowl and Hoodoo were forced to close for lengthy intervals during the season. Timberline at Mount Hood and Mt. Bachelor were the only Oregon resorts to stay open throughout the season, though Mt. Bachelor closed in mid-May, two weeks earlier than usual.

This year, however, record-breaking rainfall in the valley has meant great skiing in the Cascades. Annual snowfall is 130 to 180 percent of normal at most measurement sites according to Amar Andalkar, author of the Cascade Snow Depth Report.

Mt. Hood Meadows has received more than 504 inches of cumulative snowfall

this year, with 150 inches settled at the base and 240 inches mid-mountain. Bachelor, with 159 inches at the base and 181 inches mid-mountain, has also enjoyed a similarly blessed snow year. Timberline has 177 inches at the base, and, as always, the glacier snow pack is solid. Both Hoodoo and Skibowl, which normally have problems with rain and warm temperatures due to lower elevations, have more than 80 inches of snow.

Good snow has drawn some students to the slopes.

"There's really no comparison between this year and last year," said 21-year-old LBCC student Rosalie Rodgers, "cause last year there was very little snowfall." Rodgers, who has gone skiing three times this year compared to none last year, added that other students should take advantage of the skiing and boarding opportunities because, "this year is incredible."



photo by Jens Odegaard

After last year's snowfall averages fell to their lowest levels in more than 60 years, Mt. Hood Skibowl has received more than 80 inches of snow in 2006, well above normal.

New query surfaces in shooting of Pat Tillman

Steven Farrens
 The Commuter

Nearly two years ago this April, former NFL player Pat Tillman was killed in Afghanistan causing an emotional low on the playing fields for the 2004-2005 season.

Now the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has promised a deeper investigation into the incident. The Army Ranger was killed by friendly fire, and according to an anonymous Pentagon official, the scrutiny will focus on negligent homicide as a charge.

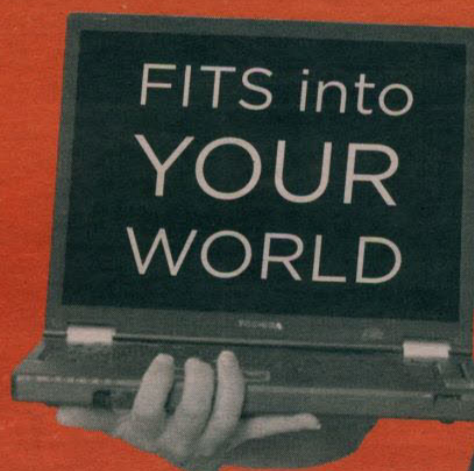
Tillman left the Arizona Cardinals following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. His bravery was represented on the field by the No. 40 decal on every NFL helmet during opening week, and on the Cardinal's uniform for the remainder of the season.

Jake Plummer stirred controversy in the following weeks by continuing to sport the decal against NFL regulations. A year later, the opening of a criminal investigation is sure to remind the off-season NFL fans about the courageous athlete.

Army officials waited more than a month following the shooting to publicly claim friendly fire as the cause of the death. Yet reports show that top Army officials were aware of "gross negligence" involved in the death, and destroyed evidence to conceal the truth from Tillman's brother and fellow Army Ranger.

This is the fifth investigation into Tillman's death, but the first to focus on a criminal probe.

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LOCAL NEWS

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



photo by Nancey West

Melisa Ralke, Kaitlyn Townsend, Dawnita Anderson and Sandy Gunther, members of an LBCC Community Education class, use the Linn County Fair and Expo Center to sharpen their horsemanship skills.

Nancey West
The Commuter

Going to the Fair

County fairgrounds have traditionally been associated with an annual county fair and a long history of community values. The Willamette Valley was once based on agriculture, and county fairs were the social gathering of the year where the best of farm produce, livestock and homemade crafts were shown. Times have changed. Today only a small percentage of the community exhibits items at the fair.

Linn and Benton counties have histories rich in community fairs. That tradition remains the center of planning activities at both fairgrounds while different events are scheduled year-round. Varying demands for use prompted Linn County to change the name to Fair and Expo Center when a new facility was built in 1997.

The Linn County Fair remains popular, with traditional agriculture and livestock exhibits and the addition of big-name entertainment, car and tractor shows, bull riding, monster trucks and a local talent contest.

"The fair is growing and getting better," said Diane Bishop, event support coordinator. "People come for different reasons. Grandpas come to see the grandkids. The twenty-somethings come for the entertainment. Younger kids enjoy activities such as building birdhouses or dressing in costumes and acting on stage." Ground acts and stage shows perform throughout the day, she explained.

Over the years the Expo Center has seen an increase in nearly every area of use. Many of the big events such as Storybook Land, NW Horse Fair, AKC dog shows, bull riding and the Ag show are booked three years in advance. The smaller conference rooms are available on shorter notice for meetings, weddings, receptions or private parties.

LBCC Community Education has held two classes at the Expo Center for many years: Basic Horse Care and Equine Skills, both taught by Gail Mann. The safe and proper handling of horses, care and training are taught in Basic Horse Care.

In the Equine Skills class riders work on advanced maneuvers. Both programs work with the individual's ability. Students provide their own horse and transportation. The classes usually have 20-25 students.

LBCC's graduation ceremony will be held at the Expo Center for the first time this spring.

Students from LB have worked in the office at the Expo Center on the JOBS program. "That has been great," said Bishop.

Planning more and larger events is part of the job of the new marketing and events sales manager, Jan Taylor. "There are so many possibilities," she said. "People don't realize what is here." There are more weddings taking place at the Expo Center, Taylor explained, as only two churches in town can handle a big wedding and reception.

The facilities at the Benton County Fairgrounds "have always had a huge demand," according to Nancy Swain, business assistant. "We will always be a resource for the community," she said.

Besides the county fair, they have many cattle and horse shows. LBCC and OSU's Equestrian teams recently hosted a show at the facilities. OSU's polo team practices there regularly, as do many 4-H clubs and the Sheriff's Mounted Posse.

There is a floral courtyard for weddings and other outdoor events. A large oak grove lines the north side of the property next to the Benton Oaks Campground, an RV park and campground that is part of the fairground facilities. It provides showers, restrooms, laundry room and Internet access, and it's near the Bald Hill Trail for hiking, biking or walking. Reservations are needed only during OSU home football games.

Both facilities encourage community use of the buildings and participation in events.

Carousel Carvers



photo by Rich Bergeman

Larry Halversen and Helene Becker are among several volunteers who help carve and paint animals for the Brass Ring Carousel in Albany. The group's carving studio is open to the public daily at 131 Montgomery St. Volunteers for the multi-year project are welcome as the group continues to create animals for a carousel to be installed downtown.

WORK STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

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In anticipation of making some additional Work Study Awards for Spring Term, the Financial Aid Office will accept Work Study requests Monday, March 13, from 8am-5pm, on a **FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED** basis (NO EXCEPTIONS).

Work Study requests can be picked up in advance at the Financial Aid Office or completed in person on March 13. A list of available Work Study Positions is available at the Financial Aid Office.

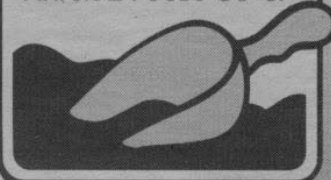
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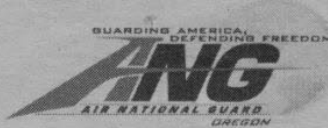
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**Got Questions?
Need Answers?**

Ask Isabelle

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since you and the guy are on good terms. There is no law that says you cannot be friends with the mother after things don't "work out." It sounds like you have already answered your own question as far as whether or not this situation would be uncomfortable for you. If it is not uncomfortable for your ex (which it shouldn't be if you two are friends) and it's not uncomfortable for his mother, then there shouldn't be anything holding you back from developing a long and lasting friendship. As far as God goes, I can't claim to know his will, but I can't see him disapproving of a new friendship developing out of pure interests. It is not as if you are trying to stay friends with the mother to get back together with the son. So go ahead, call her up and just let things be as they should and be happy for your new friendship.

Dear Isabelle,

A few months ago I was very close to becoming more than friends with a good guy friend of mine. I talked a lot with his mother and became very close to her. She treated me as if I were her daughter, which was a little weird for me because I had not been in that situation before. I enjoyed it. We talked about anything and everything and when we talked it was for about an hour or so at a time.

It turned out though that her son and I were not going to work. She sent me a card saying that she was sorry it did not work and that she was going to miss me and our talks and that she felt like she was losing a daughter.

I felt so terrible about the situation. I thought it best not to talk to her for awhile considering what happened between her son and I (by the way her son and I are back to being good friends but that's all). I know that she is having a hard time and is struggling in a motherly way about how her son is living his life. I know that I can't do anything to help her out in that situation.

But the other day I was thinking about her and wished that I could talk to her. I miss her tremendously and wish that I could talk to her. So my question to you is whether you think that it is a good idea to still be friends with her and talk to her every once in awhile or should I just let her go and try not to think about her? Her son and I will never be more than friends and that will never bother me if I did talk to her, it would not be a problem. I just miss her as a friend. I don't know quite what to do.

Do you have any advice for me? What should I do? I don't know if you are a religious person or not but I have also wondered what God would want me to do. So any advice at all would be helpful.

Wonderment

Dear Wonderment,

It's hard to know what to do when a relationship doesn't work out, especially when you become close to family members. I truly believe that there is nothing that should hold back a relationship between you and your now guy friend's mother. Especially



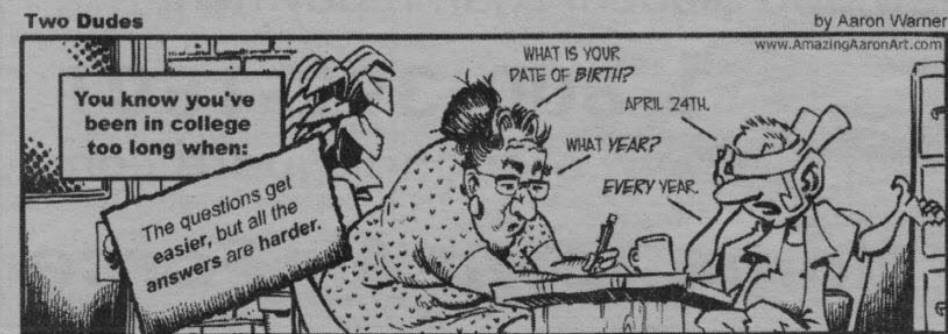
UPS branches into fashion



"Could you take this back?
I ordered the chocolate MOUSE."

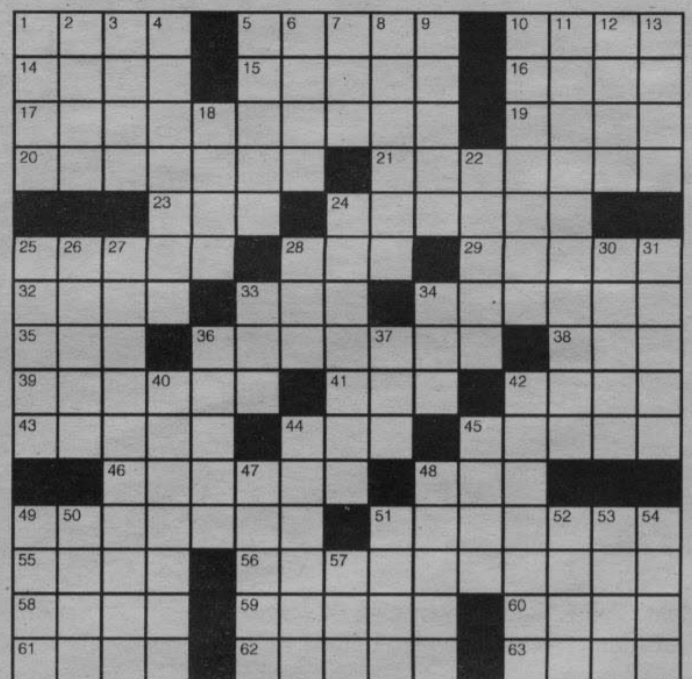
...Fun Facts...

- A cough releases an explosive charge of air that moves at speeds up to 60 mph.
- A fingernail or toenail takes about 6 months to grow from base to tip.
- A human being loses an average of 40 to 100 strands of hair a day.



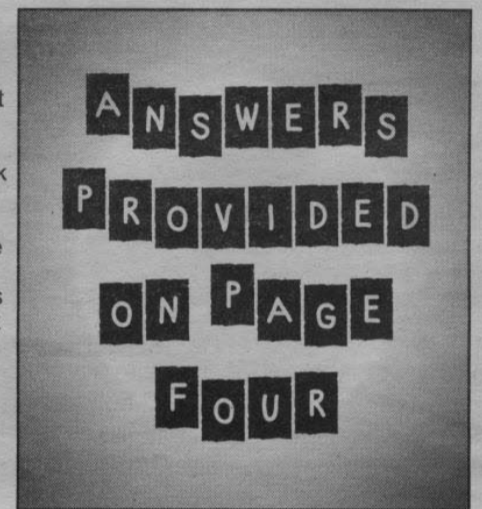
Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Little bit
 - 5 Jazz singer Carmen
 - 10 Ice melter
 - 14 Christmas song
 - 15 Large antelope
 - 16 Court entreaty
 - 17 Committee head, perhaps
 - 19 Paper tidbit
 - 20 Violent attack
 - 21 Quadrille dance
 - 23 Bro's sib
 - 24 More optimistic
 - 25 Mr. Universe contestants
 - 28 Cribbage piece
 - 29 "___ Din"
 - 32 God of love
 - 33 Piece of the action
 - 34 Go
 - 35 Turn informer
 - 36 One archangel
 - 38 Bill at the bar
 - 39 E-flat
 - 41 Flow out
 - 42 Actress Rowlands
 - 43 Note from the boss
 - 44 Singer Tillis
 - 45 Pal
 - 46 Greet like a lion
 - 48 Family men
 - 49 Honors formally
 - 51 Frankfurter's cousin
 - 55 Teheran land
 - 56 Junkyard collection
 - 58 Easter season
 - 59 Restaurant unit
 - 60 Enameled metalware
 - 61 Men-to-be
 - 62 Twice as cunning
 - 63 PC junk mail
- DOWN**
- 1 Old Peruvian
 - 2 Circus-goers' cries
 - 3 Brewed drinks
 - 4 Assumed names
 - 5 Whimpers
 - 6 Congeal
 - 7 Ewe's mate
 - 8 Computer type
 - 9 Ferber and Best
 - 10 Enliven
 - 11 Took turns
 - 12 Provocative look
 - 13 Scottish berets
 - 18 Downfall
 - 22 Patrick or Bruce
 - 24 Backpedal
 - 25 Buffalo bunches
 - 26 Re-create blank tape
 - 27 Country of origin
 - 28 Alehouse
 - 30 Stately
 - 31 Cornered
 - 33 Upper limit
 - 34 Gal at the ball
 - 36 Extensive
 - 37 Original PC maker
 - 40 Quantities
 - 42 Seam inserts
 - 44 Mathematician Blaise
 - 45 Creator of Oz
 - 47 Takes five
 - 48 Writing sheet
 - 49 Pie-cooling ledge
 - 50 Surface measure
 - 51 Store lure
 - 52 On the summit of
 - 53 Fancy party
 - 54 First sch.
 - 57 Baseball player's stat



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3/11/06



LBCC MAIN CAMPUS
Commons

MAR. 08 - MAR. 14

Wednesday, March 8

A Taste of Tuscany

Pollo in Salsa Piccante
(Chicken in piquant sauce)

Pappardelle con la lepre
(A traditional Hare Sauce over pappardelle)

U ova alla Fiorentina
(Florentine egg and spinach pastry)

VEGETABLES:

Carciofi Fritti
(Marinated, pan-fried artichokes)

Fungi Trippati
(Mushrooms cooked like tripe)

STARCHES:

Saffron Risotto Gnocchi di polentap
(Polenta pie)

SOUPS:

Acquacotta
(Tomato and sweet pepper soup)

Minestrone alla Fiorentina
(A traditional soup of Florence with pork)

Weekly Menu

Thursday, March 9

Sweet and Sour Chicken
Veal Saltimbocca
Vegetable Donburi
Pasta Pomodoro
Ratatouille
Soups: Hot & Sour, Mulligatawny

Friday, March 10

Chef's Choice

Monday, March 13

Beriani Chicken
Roast Beef
Eggplant Parmesan
Basmati Rice
Mashed Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Seasonal Vegetables
Soups: Italian Sausage, Cream of Broccoli

Tuesday, March 14

Chicken Kiev
Pork Phad Thai
Pasta Bar
Seasonal Vegetable
Soups: Billy-Bi, Vegetarian Vegetable

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 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Check It Out

"The Underpants"

March 9, 10, 11
 8 p.m.
 Albany Civic Theatre
 111 First Ave. S.W.
 Albany
 Adults \$9
 Seniors and students
 under 18 \$6
www.albanycivic.org

"Pygmalion"

Majestic Theatre
 115 S.W. Second St.
 Corvallis
 March 10, 11,
 16**, 17, 18, 19
 8 p.m.
 *2:30 p.m. matinee
 Adults \$10
 Students and Seniors \$8
 **Bargain Thursday
 all seats \$8
www.corvalliscommunitytheatr.org

Auditions

"The Silent Woman"

Withycombe Theatre
 Main Stage
 Oregon State University
 March 9, 10,
 Callbacks March 11
 6 - 9 p.m.
<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/theatre>

FLOATER

March 11
 8 p.m.
 McMenam's Crystal Ballroom
 1332 W. Burnside
 Portland
 \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door
www.ticketmaster.com

Northwest Art Collection

Valley Library
 Oregon State University
 Jefferson and Waldo Way
 Open seven days a week
 Free

Aaron Tippin

March 24 & 25
 8 p.m.
 Chinook Winds Casino & Resort
 1777 N.W. 44th St.
 Lincoln City
 \$15 - \$30
 1-888-MAIN ACT

Calendar compiled by Colleen Franzoia, A&E Editor
 Get your event in Check it Out. Send all information to
 The Commuter Attn: commuterarts@linnbenton.edu

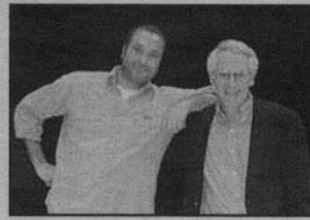
A Muslim and a Rabbi walk into LB . . . and do standup

Arlen Proctor
 The Commuter

Imagine a top-notch, professional comedy team consisting of two seasoned performers, one stage, and a night of clean and unique humor. "The Odd Couple," as they like to be called, Rabbi Bob Alper (the Jew) and Ahmed Ahmed (the Muslim) are veteran comedians who both had successful solo careers before joining forces to produce a very formidable comedic team. Since they started working together in 2002, the duo has performed more than 100 shows at venues around the nation.

The world's only practicing clergyman doing stand-up comedy, Alper is a nationally acclaimed comedian who has performed at such venues as the IMPROV Club, Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" and "The Tonight Show." Alper has built a career around funny G-rated stories about children, pets, marriage and the trials of family life.

Far from being a weakness in a world of increasingly crude and over-the-top comedy, Alper says his style "gives me a tremendous advantage over other comedians." Using his faith has become part of his act, but never in an offensive manner. In a line from his act, Alper comments, "You know, there are just a handful of Jews up here (in Vermont). I was taking a hike one day, feeling just a bit lonely and isolated. Then suddenly a wind came across the mountains and I heard a voice saying, 'If you



contributed photo

build a deli, they will come."

Both an experienced actor and comedian, Ahmed has been in several feature-length films and was recently a guest on Comedy Central's "Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn." His unique brand of edgy, but fun, political humor won him

the first annual Richard Pryor Award for ethnic comedy at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival in Scotland in the summer of 2004. "Our original concept was to have three comedians: a Muslim, a Jew and a Christian. But we couldn't find any Christian comedians," Ahmed joked.

Political Affairs Coordinator Matt Hamel brought "The Odd Couple" to campus. "They came highly recommended and our comedy night last year was very successful," he said. Alper is often asked to perform at synagogues and other religious venues because of his background but he has worked before all kinds of crowds. Both he and Ahmed are experienced entertainers with impressive skills. "The advisors were really impressed with Ahmed and Bob and I think it's really cool to have a show that is funny and educational. It's cool for students to have fun while learning," said Hamel.

"The Odd Couple" will be in the LBCC Commons tonight, March 8, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This event is open to the public. Admission is \$5 per person at the door. Children under 11 are not permitted.

REVIEW

Film takes amusing approach to gender, life-altering choices

Harrison White
 The Commuter

"Transamerica" is a humorous look at the effects of a final realization of the goal of one woman as she is in the process of fulfilling herself.

The movie revolves around the surprise arrival of a son from a "lesbian" affair the main character romanced in college.

The film is an excellent story, told in witty dialogue, not just of the experience of the father (now living as a woman) or her ex-hustler son, but of the American experience.

Even a dysfunctional family can, and does experience the joys of being on the road a la Kerouac and Neil Cassidy, and getting on the bus with Kesey. This is the same story that has been truly American for generations: even the Muppets made a road movie.

With cinematography that aptly portrays the places, ranging from the gritty Alphabet City of New York to a lonesome desert in California, the movie shows America.

And this America is not a place, as one would suspect, of intolerance. In fact, an old Native American cowboy falls in love with the main character, and asks few questions, because everyone has a past and they don't have to be proud of it.

The movie succeeds, really,

because it is human. It shows that it is OK to question, to transcend what is accepted and force a new place to fit in.

The truth of the American dream lies not in a forced anything.

Forexample, in the movie, the transgender father finds herself religiously while pretending to work for a church, and accepts a personal spirituality for herself.

As America should be, the love of the land, the space, the dream of making it is always there, plain to see.



photo by KRT

"Transamerica" lead actress Felicity Huffman and her husband William H. Macy pose for the press after the Academy Awards last Sunday. Huffman was nominated in the best actress category.

ONLY WHEN WE APPRECIATE OUR

individuality

CAN WE STAND STRONG AS A COMMUNITY

...AND BEGIN...

TO FIND OUR OWN *unique* VOICE.

DIVERSITY

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DISCOVERY

Community festivals, trips, treks
 and tours that readers might enjoy
 in their free time.



Four-wheelers from all over the West Coast come to the Mountain Mud Festival in Sweet Home to display their rigs' finest attributes. Many trucks arrive in show conditions but few depart the 80 acres of muddy terrain without getting stuck in the mud or putting their 4x4 on its roof.

MUD!

Nancey West
 The Commuter

Mud! It's the main ingredient for fun at the Mountain Mud Festival in Sweet Home.

The festival began 30 years ago at Foster Reservoir, with four-wheel drive trucks playing in the lake bottom when the water had been drained for the winter. It was known as the Foster Mud Flat Races and became an event in demand by those enjoying the sport of four-wheeling. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers refused to grant a permit for the event, a new location was needed. Without missing a year, in 2001 the Mountain Mud Festival began in its new location on private property.

The muddy play day is

sponsored by the Santiam Four Wheel Drive Association and is held on the first Saturday of March on 80 acres along Berlin Rd. north of Sweet Home. The 2,500 available tickets were sold out in six hours this year, according to SFWDA member Nancy Frick. "Participants come from Washington, California and all over Oregon."

The line waiting to get onto the grounds can extend for miles along a curvy road. "They are discouraged from camping all night in line. The road needs to be kept clear," Frick said. To accommodate the crowd, the gates are opened at 6 a.m. for the 9 a.m. starting time. Trailers may be brought in the day before to unload vehicles.

The Mud Fest offers a drag strip, obstacle course, rock crawl, hill climb, bog holes, pits and acres of muddy terrain. When the weather doesn't provide the necessary moisture, water is brought in to assure adequate challenges in the soupy mud. Also available is a Cat, a large tractor and a backhoe, to rescue vehicles unsuccessful in meeting the challenges.

The 1,000 participating vehicles range from stock to fully customized, with big blocks, 20 inches of lift, 44-inch tires and many variations. Some arrive new and shiny but few leave that way if they have joined in any of the fun. Numbers of participants, judges and prizes vary from year to year, and there are no awards, except for the bragging rights challenging next year's drivers.

The festival has been rela-

tively safe over the years. "There has never been a serious accident," Frick said. Roll-overs and fires do occur, so there are emergency personnel available on the grounds just in case. Extra fire trucks are there to provide water to keep hills slippery and to wash vehicles before they re-enter the county road.

The Mud Fest itself does not have a theme but each year t-shirts are offered for sale with a theme. This year's is "Stuck, Broken & Muddy..." with the back adding "...I wouldn't have it any other way."

Some vehicles are brought in on trailers and many more are hauled off that way. "Run it 'til it breaks," explained Matt West as he loaded his Chevy on a trailer.

As the day goes on, the number of disabled vehicles increases, exciting stories get repeated and plans are made for next year.

There are 40 to 50 volunteers that work to prepare the obstacles, operate the event and return the ground to its original state.

The SFWDA is a non-profit organization that donates time and money to help many charities and local causes such as: Search and Rescue, emergency transport of individuals or medical personnel, U.S.A. Troops, March of Dimes, Toys for Tots, Boy and Girl Scouts, Sweet Home High School sports, Sweet Home and Lebanon S.A.F.E., and many cleanup and beautification projects among others.



photos by Nancey West