



THE COMMUTER

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 33 No. 22



Marking May Day

Local revelers gather in a clearing outside Philomath over the weekend to celebrate the beginning of spring. The annual event, which is loosely tied to Celtic traditions, features an all-weekend festival of local music and art.

Photo by Chad Richins

LB team jumps into Kinetic Sculpture Race

by Twila Skelley of The Commuter

LBCC will be represented at da Vinci Days this year when it enters the Kinetic Sculpture Race. Da Vinci Days is held in Corvallis from July 19 to July 21.

The race spans all three days. The racer's kinetic sculpture must be man-powered, and be able to navigate down two miles of the Willamette River, through 100 feet of mud and sand, and 10 miles of city streets.

Carol Wenzel, student activities coordinator at LB, physics instructor Greg Mulder, welding instructor Dave Ketler, and horticulture student Jeremy Eucken are also participating on the sculpture team.

Marketing and Publications Director Marlene Propst offered to provide enough funds for T-shirts and some building materials.

The design of the kinetic sculpture is still being developed, Wenzel said, but most likely will resemble a roadrunner. The team of racers have developed some direction, with the help of David Schmitke, who provided some engineering instruction.

At the moment the sculpture is behind the welding shop and looks like two bikes welded together. The frame is bare bones

and needs to be structured. However, since none of the LB team has ever built anything like this or raced in da Vinci Days, the sculpture team could use some additional help. The technical team needs artistically inclined persons who can help mold the sculpture, waterproof it and paint it.

In past years, other teams that have participated in the race have built kinetic sculptures that resembled such figures as the Flintstone's car, a roaring dragon and a black, quacking duck.



Photo by James Bauerle

LB's entry to the Kinetic Sculpture Race is awaiting volunteers to help design its costume.

It is expected that the final artistic touches will be put on the sculpture during LBCC's all-campus picnic, called the Spring Fling, which will be held on Wednesday, May 22. Interested persons should contact Carol

(Turn to "Kinetic" on Pg. 3)

Former LB student to serve in Egypt

by Beth Lyall of The Commuter

It's 9 o'clock and there's a knock on the door. I open it clenching a mastiff and a husky desperate to greet the two familiar faces from way back in the high school days.

Returning from drill made up in National Guard uniforms, both prance on in with Joe's overweight rottweiler frantically greeting his fellow K-9 buddies.

The two soldiers take seat, and our attention immediately springs to the TV—ironically, Arafat's face is on Fox News. Automatically, both shake their heads—"That man needs to be shot."

"Yeah," John snaps back, "that's a great idea. Then for sure we've got a war just in time for us to go there."

John Chase is a former LBCC student and the son of Tom Chase, a veteran English instructor who will be retiring at the end of this term.

John was called to active duty for the Military Police on April 29, and his life-long buddy, Joe Sult, was called to infantry platoon.

"Our overall objective of the task force is to observe any violations of the peace treaty formed in 1979 between Egypt and Israel," John explains. "As an MP, I will be patrolling the base, dealing with soldiers and civilians, searching vehicles

(Turn to "Egypt" on Pg. 2)

Four-point student awarded 10-year scholarship

by D.D. Malloy of The Commuter

"When I was younger I went to so many high schools I can't even remember them all," LBCC student Nora Webb told the Commuter during a recent interview.

Now at the age of 37, she is grateful for the assistance she has received from the Community Services Consortium (CSC) and LBCC. After three years attending the college she has accumulated 111 hours of straight-"A" credits. Now she finds herself

on her way to Oregon State University's School of Education with a 10-year Ford Family Foundation Scholarship that will cover 90 percent of tuition, books and living costs.

Webb explained that she was laid off as a radiographer at an Albany-area metalurgy plant. She turned to the CSC for job development training. After testing, the CSC enrolled her in a certified supervisory and management training program at LBCC. "I fell in love with the educational process,"

she explained, "When I attended my classes I had positive feedback. You do the work, you get the grade. I realized that I was getting older and retirement was coming, my degrees will help me plan for retirement."

Webb started at LBCC in Math 60 and Writing 95 and other lower division courses. When she received her first straight-"A" report she knew she could succeed in college. "I just want people to know that I am


(Turn to "Scholarship" on Pg. 3)



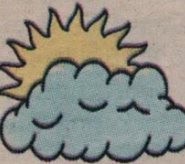
Photo by James Bauerle

Nora Webb is the winner of the Ford Family Scholarship.

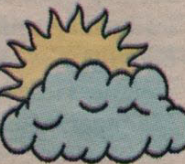
WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND



High: 69° Low: 42°
Wednesday




High: 67° Low: 38°
Thursday



High: 62° Low: 37°
Friday



High: 58° Low: 38°
Saturday



High: 57° Low: 35°
Sunday

Source: Weather.com

An optimist is the human personification of spring.

—Susan J. Bissonette

PAGE TWO

OFF BEAT

Burning sensation

While surgeons in a hospital in Kjellerups, Denmark, were removing a mole from a man's rear end, he unexpectedly broke wind, igniting a spark from the electric knife being used in the operation. To make matters worse, the man's genitals had been swabbed with antiseptic, so they were singed by the resulting flare-up.

Test drive

A young man and his girlfriend hid inside a furniture store in Porta Westfalica, Germany, until after closing so they could try out the waterbeds undisturbed. After several hours of vigorous bed bouncing, they left, thoroughly satisfied, through an emergency door at midnight and setting off an alarm. The police let them go with a warning after hearing their explanation.

Odd bird

A wild turkey, apparently in heat, smashed through the front window of a video store in Batavia, N.Y., and befouled the films on hunting before being apprehended by an animal control officer.

Nothing to hide

A woman carrying \$2 million worth of heroin in a secret compartment in her minivan was arrested on the Pennsylvania Turnpike for several reasons: She was doing 68 mph in a 55-mph zone, the vehicle had no registration because the insurance was canceled and she consented to a search of the van by a drug-sniffing dog. Bail has been set at \$6 million.

I failed?!?!

People seeking to obtain a drivers license in France now have to wait 24 hours after taking the road test before finding out if they passed. They were previously given results on the spot, but those who failed often responded by attacking the examiners.

Smile for the camera

Police have installed 50 cameras in Tokyo's red light district to curb skyrocketing crime. Shopkeepers are glad, but proprietors of houses of prostitution are not. "It could have a negative effect on our customers," one said.

—From KRT News



Photo courtesy John Chase

Former LBCC student John Chase tries out the seat of a HUMV during training prior to leaving Oregon for a tour of duty in the Sinai Peninsula as an MP.

Egypt: John Chase prepares for service

From Page One

going in and out of base. I will also be patrolling the Red Sea. Troops from Italy and New Zealand will be stationed there also. That's about all the facts I got; we only get what they want to tell us."

The schedule consists of training 530 Oregonian National Guardsmen starting at Fort Carson, Colo. In early July they will head off to the South Camp in the Sinai Peninsula to replace the Arkansas National Guard, which was called up right after the Sept. 11 attack. The National Guard has been filling in for active Army components now on the front lines in Afghanistan.

The South Camp is one of the two bases on the peninsula, only a few hundred miles from the suicide bombing activity. The Multinational Force of Observers (MFO) includes 11 nations. Each platoon will be serving in six-month intervals. The weather is a complete 360 compared to the Willamette Valley—it is a dry, sandy, windy desert with temperatures up to 130 degrees. As far from comfort the base seems to be, there will be some familiar sights, including a barbershop, hairdresser, bank, convenience store and even some nightclubs, all surrounded by a barbed wire fence. The base is set on a bluff over the Red Sea that includes a private beach.

Their deployment presents "opportunities and difficulties wrapped together," John says. "Getting used to the new life-style will be one of the hardest parts for me. The language also could be a potential danger when patrolling cars and asking questions. That is why the two months of Arabic classes in Colorado will be important. The training also includes navigation techniques, map reading and communication procedures."

John was shocked when he first heard of his possible deployment through the local news. Being in the National Guard, he never thought he would be called to active duty, especially overseas near potential danger. But over the months he has gained confi-

dence about the mission, along with an anxious excitement over the experience.

"Experience, smerience" Joe adds. "To me it's just an easy way to pull myself out of here. I just want to get the hell outta Dodge, make some money and have nine months to figure myself out. Seven years I have been waiting for deployment. The mission itself was secondary. As soon as I heard about it I signed up."

John is not quite as excited with the deployment. It is a complete halt of his regular life, a new and uncontrollable turn in the road. "Ever since 9-11, I have gained a new sense of pride for involvement with our military," he says. "Not just anyone can do it."

"Ever since 9-11 I have gained a new sense of pride for involvement with our military."

—John Chase

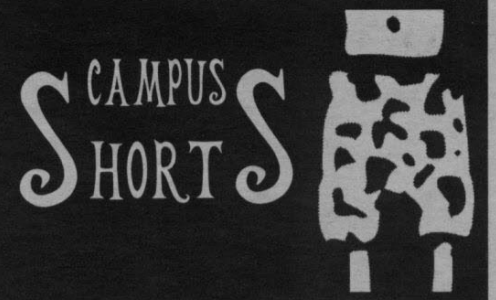
"What?" Joe replies with a chuckle and a sarcastic MP salute. Joe will be out in the desert doing the "dirty work"—living in bunkers for two weeks on and one week off.

"It could drive you little stir-crazy," Joe says. "Fifteen days, a 12-man facility, in the middle of desert with nothing to see. There's a basketball hoop, a small TV and a VCR. I'll be bringing some Play Station 2 and assorted games—some very time-consuming games."

The families of the two young men are supportive, they say, but it is a long time to be so far from home near possible danger.

John adds that it doesn't help to see the anti-war protesters who have been in front of the Benton County Courthouse since the Afghan war started. "Those damn liberals holding up signs—a man even pointed his finger at me and shook his head while I was driving by in uniform. That insults me. I am a citizen too, 95 percent of the time."

"We are both proud to be a part of our country," Joe adds. "We disagree with some policies, as many do. We like to look at the brighter side of things. Our country is a great place to live. We have so much freedom here, and it respects all cultures and beliefs. I think that is worth giving some time and dedication."



Mange Au France

The 2002 LBCC French Banquet will be on Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Alsea/Calapooia rooms. Tickets are on sale at the window counter in CC214. The price this year is \$28 per person. Cash, checks, Visa or Mastercard are accepted. Tickets may also be purchased by phone. You may call 917-4391 beginning at 8:30 a.m. on May 1.

Seating for Thursday evening will be in both the Alsea/Calapooia and the Santiam Room. There is no limit to the number of tickets you may purchase, but remember there are only 110 total available.

Mom's Day Plant Sale

The LBCC Horticulture Club will hold the annual Mothers' Day Plant Sale on Friday, May 10, in the greenhouse from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featured plants are hanging baskets of fuchsias, geraniums, begonias, and impatiens.

Student Art Awards

A closing reception and awards presentation will be held May 8 at noon in the Art Gallery for annual Art Student Juried Exhibit now on view. Six cash awards and three Foundation Awards will be presented.

Math Awareness Week

LB's annual Math Awareness Week will be held May 6-10. Food, games and a variety of contests will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the West Courtyard.

The Limerick Contest and the Catenary Estimation Contest will run all week long. On Friday at noon the spontaneous team problem-solving contest will take place in the Courtyard. Teams of two to four students are encouraged to sign up ahead of time in the Learning Center, as the number of teams competing will be limited.

A commemorative Math Awareness Week T-shirt depicting a visual proof of the Pythagorean Theorem will be for sale in the Learning Center.

ASG Swear-In Today

Today at 3pm in the Student Life & Leadership office the newly elected Associated Student Government officers and Student Programming Board members will be sworn into office. The event is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

SOU visit

Students interested in transferring to Southern Oregon University will be able to meet with a representative from SOU in Takena Hall, Wednesday, May 8, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to answer any questions.

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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

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

Address correspondence to The Commuter, 6500 S.W. Pacific Blvd., Albany, Ore. 97321; Telephone (541) 917-4451, 917-4452 or 917-4453; Fax (541) 917-4454; E-mail commuteml@ml.lbcc.cc.or.us. The newsroom is located in Room 222 of the Forum.

The Commuter Staff:

Editor-in-Chief, Chad Richins; **Contributing Editors**, Twila Skelley, Sherry Majeski, and Donald Downing; **Copy Editor**, Wendy Geist; **A&E Editor**, Mariana Schatte; **Editorial Assistant**, Thomas McGeary; **Photo Editor**, James Bauerle; **Assistant Photo Editor**, Jenn Geiger; **Photo Assistant**, Stefanie Hessenkemper; **Sports Editor**, Jered Reid; **Advertising Manager**, Mikki Love; **Marketing Director**, Heather Shearer; **Pagination Coordinator**, Nicole Halverson.

Writers: Allen Garner, David Miller

Advisor, Rich Bergeman.

CAMPUS NEWS

Portland's Chinese Garden: A pearl of age, beauty and perfection

by Jon Fitchett
for The Commuter

An oyster may not look like much on the outside, but to those willing to look beyond the rough exterior enticing treasures await. The city of Portland is much like an oyster, with something precious within one of its less prestigious areas of town: Lan Su Yuan. Translated as "Garden of Awakening Orchids," the Portland Classical Chinese Garden has been open for over a year and has drawn twice as many people as projected when it first opened its doors in September of 2000.

The Garden of the Awakening Orchid was painstakingly created in the style of Suzhou gardens, which have their origins in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The gardens of Suzhou, Portland's sister city in China, have long been admired for their complexity and beauty, and Lan Su Yuan is no exception. More than 60 craftsmen and artisans were flown from China to assist American workers and volunteers in the construction of the garden over a period of 10 months. The result is the largest Suzhou garden in the world outside of Suzhou, China.

The garden occupies an entire city block, with the entrance at Northwest Third and Everett. The land was donated by Northwest Natural Gas, thanks to the fundraising team of Mayor Vera Katz and businessman Bill Naito, who died before seeing his efforts reach fruition. The regular dimensions for a city block are 200 by 200 feet, but because these numbers do not signify good luck to the Chinese, the original space was stretched to 200 by 210 feet.

The numbers do not do the garden justice, for in this single city block the garden contains 11 buildings, an 8,000-square-foot pond complete with bridges and waterfalls, and more than 500 types of plants, rivaling even the oldest of Chinese gardens in horticultural content. Interestingly, due to strict quarantines and importation laws, none of the plants came from China, but instead were found in the United States and a few approved foreign countries. More than 50 different local nurseries and scores of individual gardeners donated the majority of the plants.

The benefit to using plants that had already reached maturity in the Northwest environment is that even on opening day the garden and its plant life appeared to

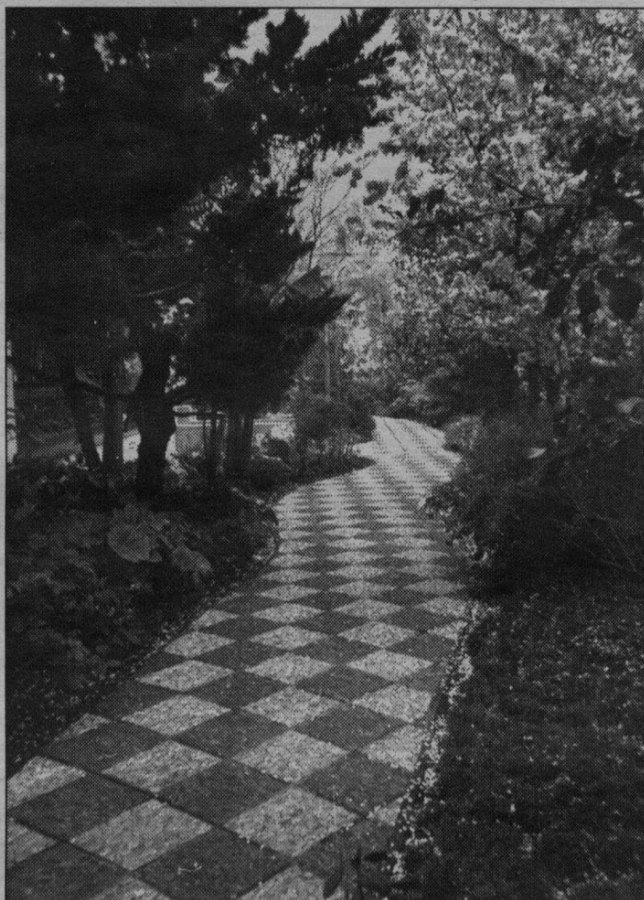


Photo by Jon Fitchett

A carefully designed stone path winds its way through the Portland Classical Chinese Garden.

have been there for decades. Indeed, it's almost as if by stepping across the small plaza at the entrance one emerges into China itself, surrounded by buildings many times older than the viewer.

The sense of age and perfection continues as one wanders among the variety of paths, whether alone, with friends or in one of several free daily tours (after paying the admission, of course). The attention to detail is astounding. The thousands of small stones that make up the walkways underfoot subtly change shape and design as one progresses from room to room.

The inclusion of so much architecture at first causes one to wonder where the garden really is, but this is a

GARDEN TRIP

SL&L offers free garden tour

A free trip to the Portland Classical Chinese Garden is being offered by Student Life & Leadership on Saturday, May 11.

There is room for only nine students, however, so the first nine to sign up in the SL&L Office will be eligible to go.

The van will leave campus at 8:30 a.m. from the Southeast Parking Lot and return about 5 p.m. Students must provide their own lunch.

common indicator of Asian gardens, where space in large cities is at a premium and great lengths are taken to merge nature and metropolis. The final product is truly amazing and gives the place the feel of an outdoor museum. There are stands of poetry, colorful kites suspended from ceilings, and a myriad of other pieces of Chinese tradition to entertain the intellect as well as the senses.

All of the senses are put to full use in the garden, all of the time. Banana plants are purposefully planted under the eaves to catch the drops on their broad leaves and provide a percussive backdrop as visitors study the normally placid pond's surface during mild storms. And because nearly all of the walkways are sheltered, visitors can be comfortable even during Oregon's wet winter days.

Visitors can seek further shelter in the two-story teahouse in the garden, which offers a variety of Chinese snacks and pastries as well as hot, traditional Chinese teas.

A small gift shop gives patrons the chance to take a small piece of the garden with them, selling calendars, posters, wooden Chinese toys and other items whose sale supports the garden. For those particularly moved by their visit, the garden often has excess plants for sale, ranging from \$12 for a potted flower to \$40 for a small tree.

The garden is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. From November to March 31, the hours are shortened to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$6, but students and seniors get in for \$5, and children under age 5 are free.

Scholarship: Webb plans to earn teaching credentials with her award

From Page One

so appreciative of this opportunity. Every day when I come to school and look at the campus, I just think, wow! I am so lucky and so thankful," she says.

As a student ambassador at LBCC, she won the National Orientation Directors Association Outstanding Student Leadership Award for 2001. The award is designed to give recognition to students for their cre-

ativity, energy, enthusiasm and outstanding abilities, which are the backbone of successful and dynamic orientation programs.

LBCC has opened the door of opportunity for her and she feels that by becoming a teacher she can best return to society the future it is offering her. "I want to teach kids before they get negative concepts and self images," said Webb.

When asked what advice an

honor student has for her classmates, she advised. "You have got to have a work ethic and that translates into seeing college as a job. You show up at college every day and study to the best of your ability. Turn all of your work in on time and study for your tests. Maintain a calendar and know what's due and when. Seize every opportunity to get extra credit. Extra credit enhances your educational experi-

ence because by doing extra credit you learn more."

Webb plans on attending OSU in the fall to study to be an elementary teacher. Under the terms of the scholarship, as long as she maintains a minimum of a 3.6 GPA she can continue through her bachelor's and master's degree then on to a Ph.D. Many scholarships are available to LBCC students and to students going on to universi-

ties. Webb attended a seminar sponsored by the Financial Aid Office and presented by the Oregon Students Assistance Commission (OSAC), and found it to be of great assistance to her. A video tape of that seminar is available at the Financial Aid Office and may be checked out. Students may call 917-4840 to find out if it is available or stop by the office. The OSAC web page is, www.osac.state.or.us.

Kinetic: Team asks for help

From Page One

Wenzel in Student Life and Leadership at 917-4457 if they can help out.

It is uncertain so far who will actually pilot the craft and compete in the race. It's a two-person vehicle, and Wenzel said Eucken will most likely be one of the riders, while Wenzel and Mulder may decide to flip a coin to determine the second rider.

"This is going to be a lot of fun and a great way to put the LB name in the community for the math, science, welding and art departments," said Wenzel.

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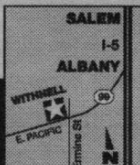
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CAMPUS NEWS

Monks dismantle mandala

by Wendy Geist
of The Commuter

Over 200 people crowded eight-deep around the sand mandala in the entrance to Takena Hall last Wednesday to see the Mystical Arts of Tibet's closing ceremony.

The crowd became quiet and still as the eight Buddhist monks, dressed in their orange ceremonial costumes, entered and stood behind the mandala.

A spokesperson for the monks explained that even though the creation of the mandala is usually used as a rite of passage or to welcome new monks, they were still "strictly observant" of the guidelines for creating this mandala at LBCC. Over the past three days, the monks meticulously placed millions of brightly colored grains of sand into an intricate circular design. The creation of the mandala invokes the presence of the healing Buddha for a longer life and "to purify the environment and the removal of negativity," said their spokesperson.

Chanting, multiphonic singing, and the sounds of drums, cymbals and horns filled Takena Hall as the monks ceremoniously began the deconstruction of the mandala.

One monk rang a bell as he walked around it and then started sweeping swaths across the delicate design. The dismantling symbolized the impermanence of life.

Children and parents then lined up for a spoonfull of the sand to take home with them to spread inside or outside their home for its healing properties. The rest of the sand was gathered into an urn and placed in Oak Creek at LBCC's Peace Garden. The goal was to send its healing energies into the oceans and spread all over the world. According to the spokesperson, the monks were grateful for the friendly climate provided by LBCC.

A highly ranked lama in the Tibetan Buddhist world, Ven. Geshe Sopa Rinpoche, will teach the three basic principals of Buddhism, which include abandoning attachments, altruistic compassion and wisdom. The teachings will take place on two nights, Tuesday May 7 and Wednesday May 8 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd., Corvallis. A donation is suggested in the amount of \$10 for the general public and \$3 to \$5 for students.

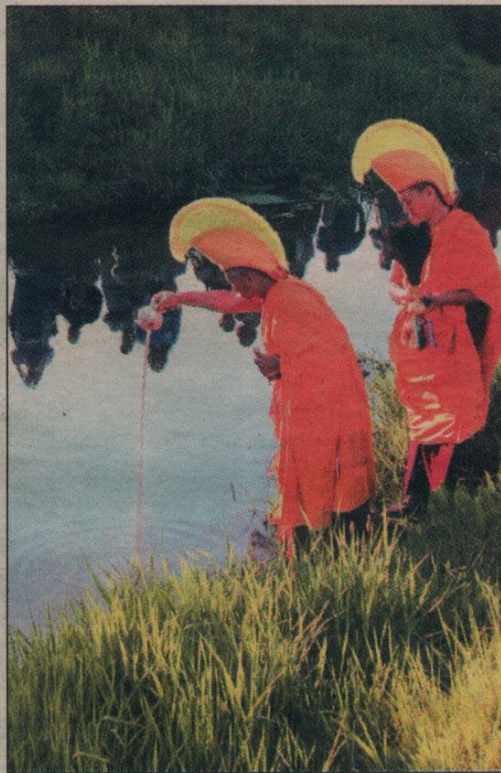


Photo by Heather Hybarger

Buddhist monks pour sand from the mandala they constructed last week into Oak Creek at the campus Memorial Peace Garden as part of the closing ceremonies of the Mystical Arts of Tibet tour.

Peace students raise funds at I-5 rest area this weekend

by Thomas McGeary
of The Commuter

This weekend the LBCC Peace Studies group is participating in the "free coffee" program sponsored by the Department of Transportation at the southbound rest area on I-5 north of Albany.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help staff the booth can sign up outside instructor Doug Clark's office in T-212.

Any students and staff who plan to be traveling I-5 between 5 p.m. Friday May 3 and 4 p.m. Sunday May 5 is invited to stop, have coffee and a cookie, and make a donation to the Peace

Studies delegation.

All proceeds will be used to help send eight students to the 11th Biennial Symposium on Peace, Justice and Human Rights in York, England, this June.

In addition, the Peace Studies group and Albany's Friendship Force are cosponsoring a benefit performance of a German dance group May 17 on campus. The Friendship Force is a private, non-profit international organization that brings people of all ages and nationalities together. Their goal is to learn more about common interests and cultural diversity, and thereby contribute to world peace.

The Dancing Ambassadors of Varel, Germany, will be touring the United States this month, and will stop in Albany for a performance on LBCC's Main Forum stage on Friday May 17 at 7:30 p.m. The group performs a variety of German and European dances in hand-made costumes. Donations will be accepted at the performance and will benefit the Peace Studies delegation.

The dancers and community members of the friendship force will be on hand after the performance to talk to the public and answer any questions.

The Peace Studies group is

also organizing a fundraising dance on Thursday May 23 from 8 to 11 p.m. in the Old World Deli in Corvallis, and is also continuing with their fundraising T-shirt sales in Takena Hall this week.

COMMONS

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

May 1-May 5

Wednesday

Meatloaf with Mushroom Gravy
English-Style Fish & Chips
Pasta w/Sundried Tomatoes
Dilled Potato Chowder Soup
Chicken with Wild Rice
Vegetarian Delight

Thursday

Sherried Mushroom Soup
Pork Piccata
Coq au Vin
Falafel Sandwich
Ox Tail Soup
Chicken Taco Salad

Friday

Chef's Choice!



Monday

White Spinach Lasagna
Roasted Vegetable Chowder
Turkey Cutlet
Flemish Beef Stew
Borscht
Chef's salad

Tuesday

Shrimp Louis Salad
Garlic Chicken
Vietnamese Steak Wraps
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Vegetarian Chili
Won-Ton Soup

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LB math 'wizard' changes roles for Oz

by Mariana Schatte
of The Commuter

The Corvallis Community Theatre's upcoming production of "The Wizard of Oz" will feature a number of LBCC students and faculty, both onstage and off.

LBCC math instructor Bob Ulrich plays three key roles—Professor Marvel, the guardian of the Emerald City, and the Wizard of Oz.

Students Heather Howell, a music major, and Anne Travous, a business major, are part of the singing staff. Ahna Neal, an English major, and Rachell Carlisle, LBCC's special events coordinator, are working together as makeup artists.

Ulrich has performed with the Corvallis Community Theatre in the past, playing small parts in "Oliver" and "Magdalena."

"I wanted my daughter to audition for 'Oliver,' so I did it, too, but I got a part and she didn't," said Ulrich, referring to his start in local show business.

Carlisle works as the makeup designer in this production. She has been volunteering for CCT for five years, and has done makeup for the Seattle Opera. She moved to Corvallis to get her master's in Human Development and Family Science at OSU and soon found herself involved in local theater.

"The Wizard of Oz" is a classic American musical. It is directed by Mary Jeanne Reynales and Wolfgang Dengler, who also

did "Magdalena" and "Oliver." "The Wizard of Oz" will be opening on May 1 at the Majestic Theater located on Second Street in downtown Corvallis.

The play stars Sarah Edminster, a 17-year-old West Albany High School student, as the beloved Dorothy. Edminster also played the lead role in CCT's production of "Annie." Sarah won the role of Dorothy after competing with more than 25 other teens in auditions held in January.

"She is still an orphan with a dog!" says Reynales, pointing out the similarities between the roles of Annie and Dorothy. Reynales said she is confident that Sarah will do an excellent job in this demanding role.

Toto is played by Teddy, a pedigreed cairn terrier who beat out seven other contenders for the role. Teddy is owned and trained by Diane Eatherton of Philomath.

The Scarecrow is played by Relan Colley, the Tinman by Brian Watkins and the Cowardly Lion by CCT newcomer David Huang, an ophthalmologist at the Corvallis Clinic.

All the work that it takes to get this show on stage is done voluntarily—no one gets paid. The money collected by the selling of the tickets is used to buy all the necessary materials to stage each production.

The tickets are \$10 general admission and \$7 for seniors and those under 18.



LB math instructor Bob Ulrich plays three roles in the Corvallis Community Theatre's production of "The Wizard of Oz"—the Wizard (right), the gatekeeper of the Emerald City (above), and Prof. Marvel (top), where he poses with LB students Heather Howell, Anne Travous and Ahna Neal, who are also part of the show. Not shown is LB staffer Rachell Carlisle, who is a makeup designer.

Photos by Dave Taylor

Cultural significance of Cinco de Mayo too often overlooked

by Chad Richins
of The Commuter

Cinco de Mayo, that festive holiday of Mexican heritage that is so successfully commercialized here in the Estados Unidos, means a lot more to some people than margaritas and Polaroid pictures of people wearing sombreros.

For the Mexican community, Cinco de Mayo is a date of significance; marking the victory of the Mexican army over the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

Although the Mexican army eventually lost the war, the "Batalla de Puebla" became a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism, and demonstrated to the world that the people of Mexico were willing to fight to defend themselves against foreign powers.

Five thousand ill-equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians defeated the French army, which had been considered the premier force in the world.

In the United States, the "Batalla de Puebla" has come to be known as simply "Cinco de Mayo" and, unfortunately, many people wrongly equate it

with Mexican Independence, which was achieved on Sept. 16, 1810—a difference of over 50 years.

Of late, Cinco de Mayo has become very commercialized, with bars and beer companies exploiting the day as a reason to celebrate but rarely paying attention to the origins of the day.

Many people in the United States see Cinco de Mayo as a time for fun and dance.

Oddly enough, Cinco de Mayo has become more of an American holiday than a Mexican one; it is celebrated on a much larger scale here in the United States than it is in Mexico.

People of Mexican descent in

the United States celebrate this significant day by having parades, mariachi music, folkloric dancing and other types of festive activities.

This Saturday, May 4, the Hispanic Student Union is sponsoring a free celebration at the Memorial Union Ballroom from 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. with Mexi-

can food, mariachis, door prizes and a dance. Erica Sala, a HDFS major at Oregon State University, said, "A lot of people try to make it a big Central American event when it is a Mexican holiday. People that put on these events should try to educate, not just entertain and make people have a good time."

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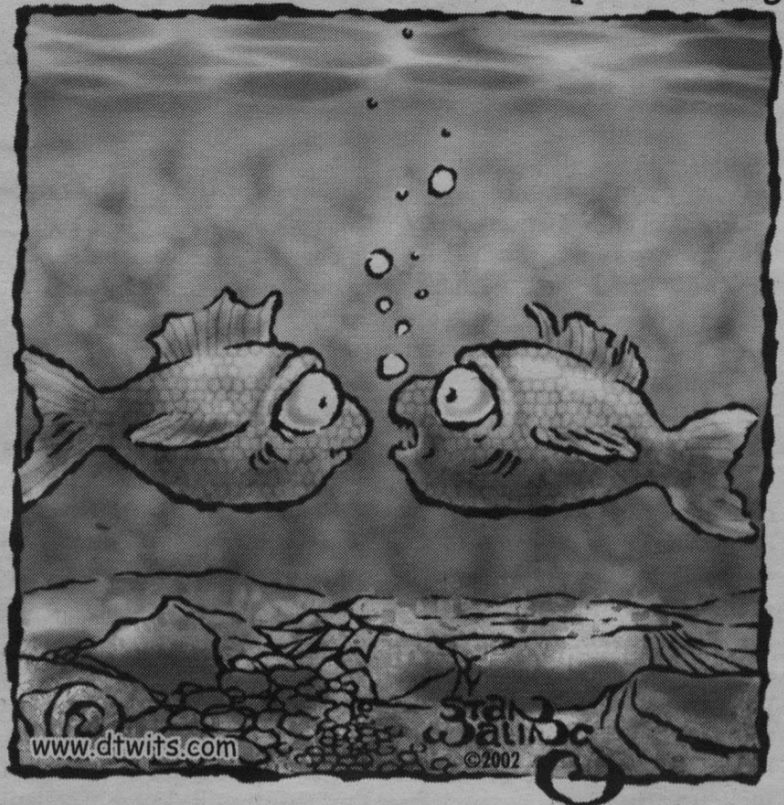
FIGARO'S PIZZA



FUNNY PAGE



DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

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Summer Jobs are coming in! Have you started looking? If not, why are you waiting? Jobs go fast as there are many people looking right now. There might not be much to pick from by the time summer comes. See Carla in Student Employment (Takena 101) for more details and to get signed up!

Irrigation Design & Product Sales (Pocatello, ID) #1348. If you have or are getting an AA or BS degree in an agricultural-related field or an agriculture background with a degree in computers, this job is for you! This position designs irrigation systems, provides customer service support and does some product sales. See Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (T101) to get your referral!

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MISCELLANEOUS

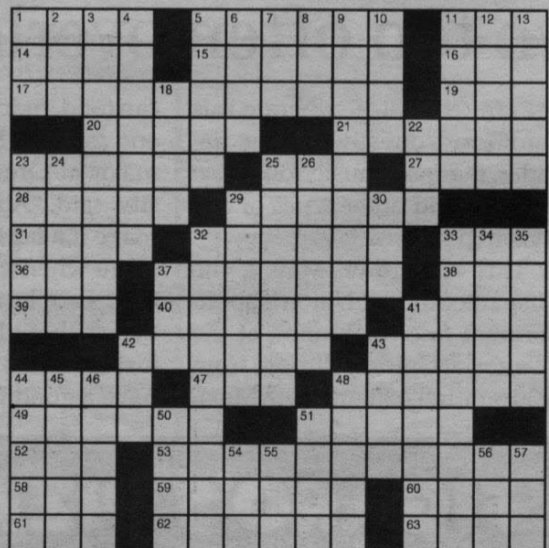
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"It's not the heat, it's the humidity."



Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Perched on
 5 Like a hillside
 11 Black goo
 14 Gloomy
 15 In good order
 16 The Greatest
 17 Go from bad to worse
 19 Forbid
 20 Goody dollups
 21 Bean and Welles
 23 Correspond
 25 Winter mo.
 27 Stance
 28 Family members
 29 Radio station employee
 31 Dancer Kelly
 32 "Imagine" singer
 33 Haul
 36 Spike or Pinky
 37 Brian of "Cocoon"
 38 Simple card game
 39 Conclusion
 40 Sea off Corfu
 41 Quick meal
 42 Potts and Lennox
 43 Support-line employees
 44 Tel. Jaffa
 47 Buffoon
 48 Superlatively achy
 49 "Ecstasy" star Hedy
 51 Railroad switch
 52 Lofty mountain
 53 Compositions in new forms
 58 Have regrets
 59 Spode or Wedgwood
 60 Hoofbeat
 61 Director Brooks
 62 Quaking trees
 63 Writer Buchanan
- DOWN**
 1 Annex
 2 Lower digit
 3 Used more firepower
 4 Bishop
 5 Shoot from cover



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Solutions

6 Tolstoy and Gorcey
 7 Rower's need
 8 School org.
 9 "Your Song" singer
 10 Color changer
 11 Prohibition
 12 King and Ladd
 13 Wash off
 18 Spoils
 22 Secret agent
 23 Philly player
 24 Bee leader
 25 Female donkeys
 26 Virgil's hero
 29 Actor Franz
 30 Some
 32 DiCaprio and da Vinci
 33 Repeated
 34 Curses
 35 Wrench
 37 Racket
 41 "The Elected Member" author
 42 Ms. Gardner
 43 Racetrack figure
 44 Lookout's warning
 45 Worth
 46 Drive
 48 Persian rulers
 50 Indian prince
 51 Musial or Mikita
 54 Egyptian cobra
 55 a la mode
 56 Sine qua
 57 Mineral spring

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SPORTS PAGE

FROM LEFT FIELD

It's hard for fans to do homework during May

by Jered Reid
of The Commuter

April showers may bring May flowers, but they also usher in the busiest month for professional sports. May has something for everyone in the sports world.

The National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, Major League Baseball, Professional Golfer's Association, World Tennis Association, Major League Soccer, NASCAR, Indy Racing League, professional boxing and horse racing all have events taking place this month. On the weekends, you can switch from ABC to FOX to NBC to CBS and to ESPN, with some form of sport on every channel.

The most notable of sporting events going on this month are the playoffs in the NBA and the NHL. The NBA playoffs will go on all month and end with the Finals on NBC. The Stanley Cup Playoffs, my personal favorite, will also go on all month and end with the Stanley Cup Finals on ABC and ESPN.

But if you're not a giant fan of the winter sports, you can try baseball or soccer.

Baseball is back and in full bloom. Bonds and Sosa are already starting to blast bombs over fences and the Mariners are already winning games at their record-setting pace of last year. My pick for the World Series: The Minnesota Twins over the Montreal Expos; screw contraction.

In professional soccer, the national teams are getting ready for the 2002 World Cup.

And if you need a faster pace, there is plenty of racing this month.

NASCAR has a full month of racing, normally found on FOX on the weekends, and let's not forget the Memorial Day tradition of the Indianapolis 500.

And speaking of tradition, this weekend will be the Kentucky Derby with the Preakness Stakes to follow on May 18.

If you want a little slower pace, there's always golf and tennis. The PGA tour will be going all month, primarily on CBS.

Tennis' second grand slam of the year, the French Open, will also take place this month, being aired on both the USA Network and NBC—and everybody should be cheering for Anna Kournikova.

Boxing will also be taking place this month on HBO, Showtime and ESPN. But the real action in boxing will not be a fight, but the hype. Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson will be touching gloves on June 8, so the hype will be tremendous this month.

Double Trouble

Jeremy Robinson delivers a pitch during his four-hit shutout of Chemeketa during the second game of last Saturday's doubleheader. Nate Pendley had already won the first game with a shutout of his own, giving LB the sweep and a lock on third place in the standings.

Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper



Doubleheader leaves Storm with double zeros

by Jered Reid
of The Commuter

Two splendid pitching performances gave the Roadrunners the sweep they desperately needed last Saturday, in a doubleheader against Southern-division foe Chemeketa.

Both Nate Pendley and Jeremy Robinson had complete-game shutouts on the mound. Pendley allowed 10 hits and scored the only run of the day to get the win 1-0 in the first game, and Robinson allowed only four hits in the nightcap to beat the Storm 3-0 and improve his record to 3-1.

Linn-Benton had only four hits in the first game, but it proved to be enough. Catcher Ben Anderson knocked in Pendley in the first inning to get the game-winning RBI. Anderson also drove in a run in the second game and ended the day with a 4-for-6 performance at the plate. Anderson is leading the team with a .349 batting average. The other two RBIs in the second game came off the bats

of freshmen Eric Beasley and Kai Therrien. The Roadrunners got seven hits in the nightcap with two extra-base hits, Beasley tripled and Thomas Gullede doubled. Gullede went 2-for-2 in the game.

The sweep of Chemeketa improves LB to 8-10 in league and 12-14 overall, good for third in the Southern division. The Roadrunners had fallen earlier in the week in the standings, but the two wins now bring them back in contention for the postseason. The cause of the fall in the standings was a loss to SW Oregon.

Linn-Benton traveled down to Coos Bay last Tuesday to play the Lakers in a doubleheader. SWOCC silenced the LB offense to get the sweep, despite solid pitching from Coach Greg Hawk's staff.

In the first game, LB outthit their opponents 11-to-7, but two late runs by the Lakers gave the Runners the loss, 3-4. Sophomore Andrew Larson pitched all nine innings in the game, al-

lowing seven hits while striking out nine and allowing only one walk. Despite his efforts, Larson was credited with the loss (2-4). Anderson and Neal Glynn accounted for six of LB's 11 hits. Glynn batted 3-for-3 with a double and a run scored, while Anderson batted 3-for-4 and also scored a run.

In the second game, pitcher Nick Newmann (2-1) gave up only three runs off five hits. However, his pitching was not enough to get the win, as Laker pitching shutout the Roadrunners for the win 3-0.

The Roadrunner schedule is dwindling down to the end, and this week's schedule will most likely determine if the Runners will make the postseason. With seven games this week, the Runners will be playing the number-one ranked Lower Columbia Red Devils in a non-league, make-up game today at 1 p.m. on the LB baseball field. Linn-Benton will also play four games against eighth-ranked Mt. Hood. The Saints hold the second posi-

tion in the South and are six games ahead of the Runners. The top two teams will move on to the postseason.

ON DECK

Wednesday May 1

Who: Lower Columbia CC
When: 1 p.m.
make-up game
Where: LB Baseball Field

Thursday May 2

Who: Mt. Hood Saints
When: 1 p.m.
doubleheader
Where: LB Baseball Field

Saturday May 4

Who: Mt. Hood Saints
When: 1 p.m.
doubleheader
Where: Gresham, Ore.

Tuesday May 7

Who: Clackamas Cougars
When: 1 p.m.
doubleheader
Where: LB Baseball Field

OPPORTUNITIES!

The Commuter is seeking applicants
for positions on its staff for 2002-2003

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Copy Editor

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Graphics Editor

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All appointments to staff positions carry
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In addition, four work study positions will
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OPINION



COMMENTARY

American Muslims find their country can be an intolerant place these days

by Rafi Farooqui
for The Commuter

America is a great place to live—unless you are of a race of people that we currently are at war with. Americans have the tendency to let fear and distrust overwhelm their sensibility during times of conflict.

In the 1940s it was the Japanese that we seemed unable to trust. One's family could have lived here for three generations and felt more American than Japanese, but they were still forced to sell almost all their belongings and move into a camp because they were of the same race as their country's enemy. The attack at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii by the Japanese led most Americans to believe that all people of Japanese descent could not be trusted.

Our new enemies to national security are people of Middle-Eastern or South-Asian descent, specifically Arabs and Pakistanis. Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 of this past year, Muslims in America have been having a hard time gaining acceptance by non-Muslims. Some are even scared to wear their traditional Muslim clothing due to fear of being singled out and confronted about their loyalties.

"We are constantly being persecuted for our religious beliefs, but since Sept. 11 things have gotten out of hand," says Portland resident Mustahsan Farooqui. "Due to all the threats to Muslims, even in the Portland area, our mosque had to have plain-clothes police officers on the premises to prevent a possible attack on the Muslims attending their weekly prayers."

For me the best way to describe how Americans are treating Muslims of late would be to compare how some women respond to men after being raped or attacked—they distrust almost every man they do not know and may even begin to distrust men they do know.

The treatment of Muslims after the terrorist attacks this past fall could also be partially due to media influence. In a country that millions of Muslims call home, not very many non-Muslims know very much about Islam. Most people's knowledge of Muslims and Islam is based on what they hear in the news, and most of what they see and hear in the media involves terrorism and bombings. Without telling the full story of how and why these people do what they do, the news media further perpetuates the stereotype that Muslims are terrorists. The media rarely interview the majority of Muslims who are disappointed and disgusted by those who use our religion to justify their killing of innocent

people; instead, they interview or show footage of distraught people cheering and holding up signs with hateful messages, and interview someone from that small percentage of Muslims who encourage violence. This is similar to the claims made by African Americans about how they are presented by the media.

"Islam in no way says that killing the innocent is an acceptable way to make your opinion known," says an Imam at prayer in a Northwest mosque. "The acts or terrorists are not those of Muslims, but of desperation and cowardice from disturbed individuals."

The problem of persecution is not affecting all Muslims, however.

"I haven't received any negative looks or comments since the Sept. 11 attacks," says Saad Illias, a student at Portland State University who visits Corvallis frequently. He said he notices that people in Corvallis, in general, seem to be more accepting of Muslims than people in Portland. This may be due in part to the fact that Corvallis has a much smaller population than Portland; and the number of Muslims make up a noticeable portion of the population.

"I haven't experienced any backlash personally, but have friends who have been harassed in Portland since 9-11," Saad says. An X-factor in this might be that Corvallis is a small town where many non-Muslims interact with Muslims on a daily basis; so they learn about Islam from "real" Muslims, not from some analyst or the ranting of some fundamentalist. Corvallis being a small college town may also be a big factor—many people become more open-minded in college, where they are exposed to new people, experiences and knowledge. Portland has no shortage of educated people, but since it has a larger population it also has a great deal of more uninformed or misinformed people, which can lead to intolerance.

For America to really show how strong we are, Americans must learn to accept all people regardless of race and religion; to view everyone as Americans instead of black, white, Christian, Muslim, etc. Something that a lot of the population forgets is that a number of Muslims died in the attacks on the World Trade Center towers on 9-11. Not only do Muslims mourn those they lost in that attack, but they also have to be on the lookout for people who may confront them about being one of the people responsible for their own loved one's death.

This country will always bounce back from terrorism, and hopefully in the future we can endure threats to us without starting to distrust our own people.

COMMENTARY

Is it time to retire the loaded, abused term 'politically correct'?

by Susan Prock
for The Commuter

Just what does the term "politically correct" mean? It is used in conversations for everything from a gentle reminder to someone to have care and concern for others, to a sneered response to such a request.

Personally, I attempt to avoid the use of this term because it is now so loaded with conflicting meaning that it is as likely to blow up in my face as it is to gently remind folks to be considerate of people's feelings.

In his book, "The Color of Words," author Philip Herbst helps clarify the history of this term and how it came to be such a loaded phrase.



Susan Prock

Originally, political activists on college campuses in the early 90s coined the term to describe their efforts to address a variety of social injustices and environmental concerns. Their goal was to work politically toward eliminating inequities targeting domestic minorities, people with disabilities, women, and generally anybody whose religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity drew hateful speech or actions, hiring and admission biases, and exclusion from educative curriculum and the media.

Essentially, the term as it was originally intended encompasses the entire spectrum of political activities that push for equality and justice for all peoples, regardless of differences.

Herbst also explains that one of the major criticisms of the movement is that it can be perceived as repressive because it puts the needs of the group over the needs of the individual and it denies the individual's right to free speech.

It also is portrayed in such a way, as in "you're just being politically correct," to indicate orthodoxy and trivialization of the movement. And, as I have pointed out in previous columns, just using politically correct terms can hide biases from even ourselves.

Does this mean that the politically correct movement was a bad idea? I don't think so. In fact, the movement continued a long-standing tradition in the United States of discussing and expanding the concept that all men are created equal, including African Americans, women, indigenous peoples and a host of other minority or "different" people.

Although the dialogue may get uncomfortable at times, reviewing and expanding the inclusivity of our nation is an important part of being a citizen. However, my feeling is that the term, "politically correct," is past due for retirement.

I might suggest instead that we begin to think about our language and policies in terms of common courtesy, or, as Dr. Lani Roberts notes in her Ethics of Diversity class at OSU, "PC means plain courteousness."

And, the next time someone tries to silence me with "you're just being politically correct," my response will be no, I'm just trying to be plain courteous. Try it.

"Just using politically-correct terms can hide biases from even our - selves."

—Susan Prock

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their opinions. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome.

All letters received will be published, space permitting, unless they are considered by the editor to be potentially libelous or in poor taste.

Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.lbcc.cc.or.us