

Words and Wisdom

Writing instructor combines love of words and teaching to create entertaining classroom atmosphere.

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Playoff Bound?

Lady Runners remain in the thick of the NWAACC playoff race after splitting games with divisional foes.

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THE

COMMUTER

Wednesday,
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Volume 38 No. 11

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Faculty, board agree to 5-year contract

Loren Newman
The Commuter

LBCC faculty are no longer going to be the lowest paid teachers among Oregon's community colleges as a result of a vote by the board to approve a ratification of the faculty's new five-year contract.

The new contract affects only full-time faculty and not part-time teachers. Negotiations began in the fall of 2005, over a year before the new contract was put in place.

"I think the main concern to faculty was a pay increase because we have been the lowest paid faculty among all of Oregon's community colleges," said Alice Sperling, president of Faculty Association. "What we were asking for was to be somewhere in the middle range of all

Oregon's community colleges. We didn't want to be at the top, but we were tired of being at the bottom."

The previous three-year contract expired in the fall of 2006, but it remained in effect until the new contract was ratified on Dec. 13. The new five-year contract is retroactive to Sept. 2006.

"One of the biggest points of contention between the administration and the Faculty Association was about the trial service faculty," said Sperling. "All new faculty are on trial for three years. The administration wanted more leeway in terms of letting trial service faculty go in case of budget crunches, whereas the faculty association was pretty determined they should have the same protection as regular faculty."

▶ Turn to "Labor" on Pg. 4



photo by Jesse Skoubo

Tooth Be Told

Periwinkle Center student Megan Carroll helps Spot the Giraffe brush his teeth as dental student Sarah Buck gives advice. The teeth-brushing demonstration was just one of several events planned out for the students. Displays included face-painting, dental chair rides, a video and visiting with the Tooth Fairy.



photo by Will Parker

Culinary Arts major Alison Pickerel prepares place settings on Monday in the student-run Santiam Restaurant. Students are eligible for a 10 percent discount for early lunch seating, with a reservation.

Santiam Restaurant serves gourmet meals on campus at affordable prices

Delilah Calhoun
The Commuter

The kitchen inside the Santiam Restaurant is ablaze with activity as the second-year culinary arts crew prepares lunch orders. While a student watches carefully over a pot of soup, another rushes to finish his masterpiece.

The students who run the Santiam Restaurant make sure it features meals that touch every spectrum of cooking, including baked, poached, sautéed and grilled foods. It is located in the College Center on the second floor in the southeast corner, with a view that extends from the campus oak grove to The Cascades.

It's days of operation are Monday through Thursday, opening at 9:30 a.m. for pastries and coffee and serving lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The student-run kitchen has two to three different specials everyday, along with a long list of regular entrees that change each term.

The daily specials include a soup, specialty salad dressing, and at least two desserts.

Among the new menu items this term are smoked mushroom spaghetti carbonara, grilled pork loin with apple-gingersnap sauce, and a seared beef sirloin steak topped with a tomato marsala sauce.

Prices range from \$2.50 for appetizers, such as scallop in hot and sour Thai broth, to \$8.50 for entrees like last Wednesday's meals of Japanese grilled clams and Italian beef stew brasato al Barolo.

Student discounts are available at 10 percent from 11 to 11:30 a.m. if the student makes a reservation in advance with the restaurant.

Customers from off campus, students, and their friends and family are all welcome, encourages Laurie Chang, who is a part-time instructor of the Santiam Restaurant. She called the Santiam "the best place in Albany" because it gives students a hands-on experience and is very affordable.

The Weather Through the Week

Source: Yahoo! Weather Service

High 50

Sunny



Low 29

Wednesday

High 51

Sunny



Low 29

Thursday

High 49

Sunny



Low 32

Friday

High 45

Cloudy



Low 39

Saturday

High 52

Showers



Low 40

Sunday

High 58

Partly cloudy



Low 40

Monday

High 52

Cloudy



Low 39

Tuesday

Opinion Editor: Elizabeth Uriarte
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 commuter@linnbenton.edu

OPINION

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



HB 2333 proposes exceptions for current lifetime registration of sex offenders

Elizabeth Uriarte
 The Commuter

In Oregon, as in many states, registering as a sex offender is mandatory for those convicted of a sex crime of any type. I think most people would agree that this is a good idea, myself included.

But what if the convicted individual is an 18-year-old who had consensual sex with his slightly younger girlfriend? Such individuals are not exempt from sex offender registration, even though they most likely pose no threat to society as a sexual predator.

A recent case came up and was reported in a number of news publications this weekend. This is a case where a kid who had just turned 18 had consensual sex with his almost 15-year-old girlfriend, a school counselor found out about it and was required by law to report the incident, and the kid was sentenced to three years probation for third-degree sexual abuse. This sentence carries a lifetime requirement of registering as a sex offender.

This is a bit ridiculous for someone who obviously is not a violent offender, but because of state law, which is blind to such circumstances, this kid's life is potentially destroyed.

I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse, and I am

all for prosecuting rapists and child molesters to the fullest extent. In fact, I think we should go further and castrate them and then allow them to be sodomized in prison for the rest of their pathetic lives. But for someone in a case like this kid, there should be exceptions.

This case is actually the precursor to a new bill, HB 2333, which would exempt such individuals from having to register if they meet certain criteria, such as it being the offender's first conviction, and if they were involved with a partner between the ages of 12 and 17 and who is within nine years of the offender's own age. It would also allow those who fit the criteria to apply to have the registry requirement lifted after 10 years.

This law would also hopefully add leniency to those who had been lied to about a minor's age. Currently, if one engages in consensual sex with someone who lies about

their age, it makes no difference in prosecution. The adult is expected to be, well, the adult, regardless of the deception.

I think this bill is reasonable, though perhaps the parameters should be tightened a bit. Under the rule, a 20-year-old could potentially have consensual sex with a 12-year-old and not suffer any consequences. So while HB 2333 is a good idea, I think it should be looked at more carefully.



I think we should go further and castrate them [sex offenders] and then allow them to be sodomized in prison for the rest of their pathetic lives.

ELIZABETH URIARTE

The Commuter

STAFF

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www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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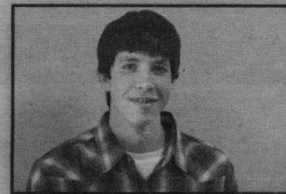
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PERSPECTIVES

"What classes would you like to see offered at LB that currently are not?"



• Brian Bender •
Undecided

"Not really sure. Do they have a Fire Science program here?"

"They need to bring the flying program over here."



• Tim Wguyen •
History/ Arts



• Thomas Blampied •
Fine Arts

"Animation. Or a class that helps build social skills."

"Personal finances as a core requirement for incoming freshman."



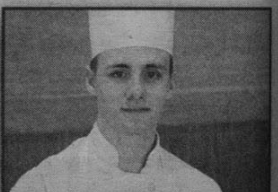
• Bridget Sheffler •
Biology/ Pre-Pharmacy



• Breanna Dalquist •
Culinary Arts

"Plumbing."

"More advanced philosophy courses."



• Jon Jones •
Culinary Arts

Compiled By Michelle Turner
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OPINION

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Global warming, the 'silent killer,' stalks the future

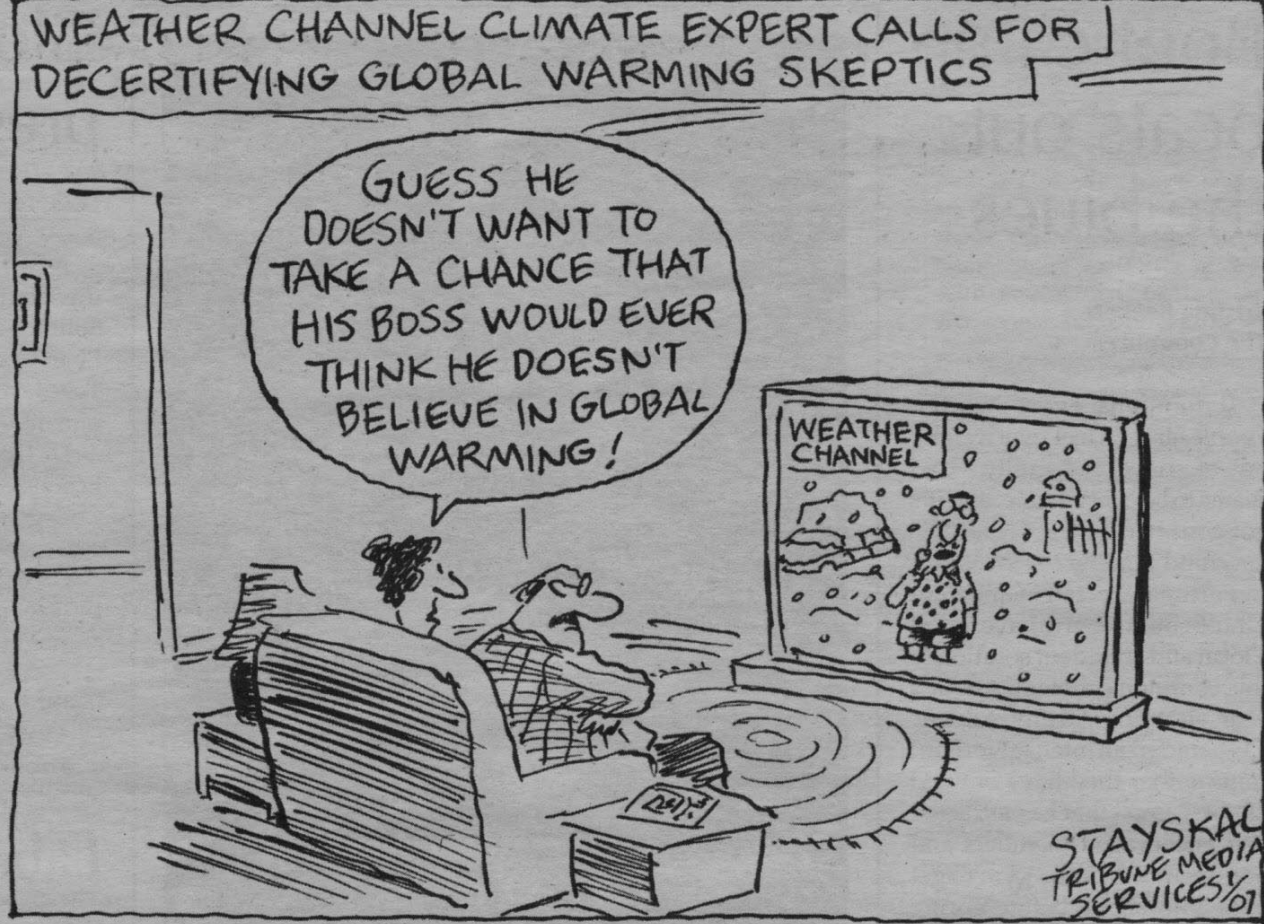
Walt Hughes, Sr.
 The Commuter

As 2035 looms on the horizon you look around and discover that you're forty-something. A cloudless gray sky outside offers little relief from the 75 degree temperature of the midwinter day as you sift through the brochures advertising places to go for that long-awaited vacation. The one on Disney's Water World in Orlando with its vivid pictures of the sites to be seen in the submerged realm catches your eye one more time. Diving into the ruins of what was once the premier attraction in the South has become a popular destination. In the background the television news channel says that Anchorage, Alaska is suffering a cold spell today with high temperatures only in the 50 degree range. Your time at LB and the cold winter winds that whip around the forum to chill you to the bone are just fond memories from the past.

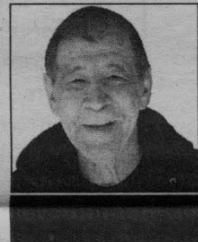
Sound far-fetched? It was recently noted that 2006 will go down in history as the warmest year in recorded history. The polar ice caps are melting. A 25 square-mile chunk of Arctic ice just broke away from the main northern ice pack last week. A number of other large masses of frozen water have separated themselves from the Antarctic shelf in the past few years. El Niño and La Niña weather patterns over the South Pacific have caused dynamic changes in the North American climate, and temperatures seem to be rising as time goes by.

According to scientists and geologists the sea levels will rise between 20 and 40 feet by the year 2050 if things continue the way they are going. The state of Louisiana will virtually disappear along with most of Florida and coastlines from Nova Scotia to Seattle, Wash. will move several miles inland. New Orleans, which is already below sea level, and all of our other major international sea ports like Long Beach, New York, Philadelphia and Seattle will become historical footnotes on maps of times gone by.

Perhaps you could compare global warming to high blood pressure. Known as the "silent killer" because it sneaks up on you, high blood pressure gives little warning until it is too late. Global warming is a gradual process much the same. How many of you pay a lot of attention to the fact that it was one degree warmer last month than it was in the same period a year ago? How



many actually notice that the winters seem to be getting constantly warmer and summers seem to consistently produce temperatures over one hundred degrees in most of the country?



How many of you pay a lot of attention to the fact that it was one degree warmer last month than it was in the same period a year ago?

WALT HUGHES

Why is this happening? Like high blood pressure and old age, global warming and climate change are slowly but steadily creeping up on us. One of the main reasons is because we love our automobiles, (the bigger the better), to fly in big luxurious airplanes, computers, iPods, cell phones and all of the fancy electrical appliances we can afford. The energy to power our modern way of life produces tons of carbon dioxide every day and contributes significantly to what we call the greenhouse effect.

Can it be stopped? Almost anything can be stopped, but like a ship in the ocean, it won't happen overnight. In fact it will probably get even worse in the next few

years as the world's developing countries put more and more automobiles on the road and build even more power plants to put electricity in homes. In fact part of the reason the price of oil has risen so steeply during the past few years is because China and other developing countries are trying to ensure that they have a steady supply of gasoline for their vastly expanding automobile market.

What can we do about it? The answers to that question can be very elusive but perhaps a good place to start would be right here at Linn-Benton. All staff and students are invited to multiple showings of Al Gore's award-winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." Admission is free and popcorn will be provided. Whether skeptical or convinced that global warming is the most significant challenge facing our global civilization during the next decade, this film is guaranteed to inform your perspective and generate thoughtful conversation and hopefully action.

On Feb. 6 from noon to 1 p.m., there will be a presentation by Professor Eban Goodstein, from Lewis and Clark College, project director of Focus the Nation on Global Warming Solutions.

For further info feel free to e-mail or call Sherry Rosen, CWE/Service-Learning Coordinator at 917-4778. She would love to hear from you, particularly if you are interested in becoming involved in this project.

U.S. must invest more to fund education

By Yolanda Chavez Leyva
 McClatchy-Tribune News Service

College affordability is a big deal. Just ask my students.

I teach at a university where 75 percent of the students work to put themselves through school. The majority of students are the first generation in their families to attend college and, each day, many of them juggle school, work and family obligations.

They come to the university with the profound hope that higher education will provide them knowledge, stable employment, financial security and a better life—the dreams of college students all over the United States.

In recent days, the dreams and hopes of America's youth have been the subject of debate among lawmakers. The U.S. House recently voted to decrease the interest rate on federally subsidized loans to college students from 6.8 percent to 3.4 gradually over the next five years.

Recently, both Democrats and Republicans have proposed ways to make college accessible to students, ranging from the cuts in interest rates to increased financial aid. They have also called on universities to lower their tuitions.

Between 1994 and 2004, the average price for undergraduate tuition, room, and board at public colleges

increased by 30 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The increase was even higher at private institutions.

Students considering higher education can face many obstacles. Paying for college is often high on the list. Last fall the Commission on the Future of Higher Education issued a report that said that rising costs discourage students from entering college. The fear of high debt inhibits others from considering college.

But a college degree is directly correlated with higher earnings, and, in the past two decades, the difference has grown. In 1980, males with a college degree earned 19 percent more than males with a high school diploma, according to the Department of Education. By 2004, they earned 67 percent more. While the earnings of those with college degrees have increased over time, the earning of those with only a high school diploma has dropped.

Making college accessible to students is one of the best ways to invest in our nation's future. Entering the 21st century, students' access to an affordable college education must be a national priority. Democrats and Republicans must continue to work together to find creative solutions to the increasing cost of a college education.

At the beginning of each semester, when I look out at the faces looking back at me, I can't help but think about the dreams they bring with them. For our nation's sake, let's help make their dreams a reality.

SECURITY BRIEFS

Campus security urges safety this Super Bowl

In January, the LBCC Security Department received two new Advanced Electronic Defibrillators (AED), giving them a total of three on hand. They plan to have one at each center on campus as soon as possible. All security officers are trained and certified on AEDs, CPR and first aid.

Security urges all students to read the student rights and responsibilities posted around campus. A copy is also available in the Security Office (HO-119).

As far as Super Bowl weekend goes, security is urging all students to watch out for each other and not to drink and drive. Thank you for doing your part in making LBCC a safe and friendly campus.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues.

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be limited to 300 words.

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

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Boot camp beats out the blues

Kristina Bennett
The Commuter

It happens every winter. People start to feel overweight, out of shape and guilty. Food seems to be everywhere, and it's got your name on it.

Sound familiar?

Fortunately, staff members at Linn-Benton seem to have found a local and confident solution to this common problem. About a year ago, The Albany Athletic Club started an intense workout routine that they have entitled "Boot Camp" that has attracted and encouraged members and non-members of the gym to get back into shape before spring arrives.

Although the name sounds scary, there is no need to worry. This workout regimen is perfectly okay for beginners or those who have recently been reintroduced to the idea of working out.

Although the average workout calls for exercise three or four times a week rotating weights and cardio, this high intensity program suggests that you participate at least five times a week.

However, three out of the five-day workouts must be in a class, such as the titled Boot Camp class, and not on your own. Tracy Stinson, manager of The Albany Athletic Club, is one of the instructors that initiate Boot Camp.

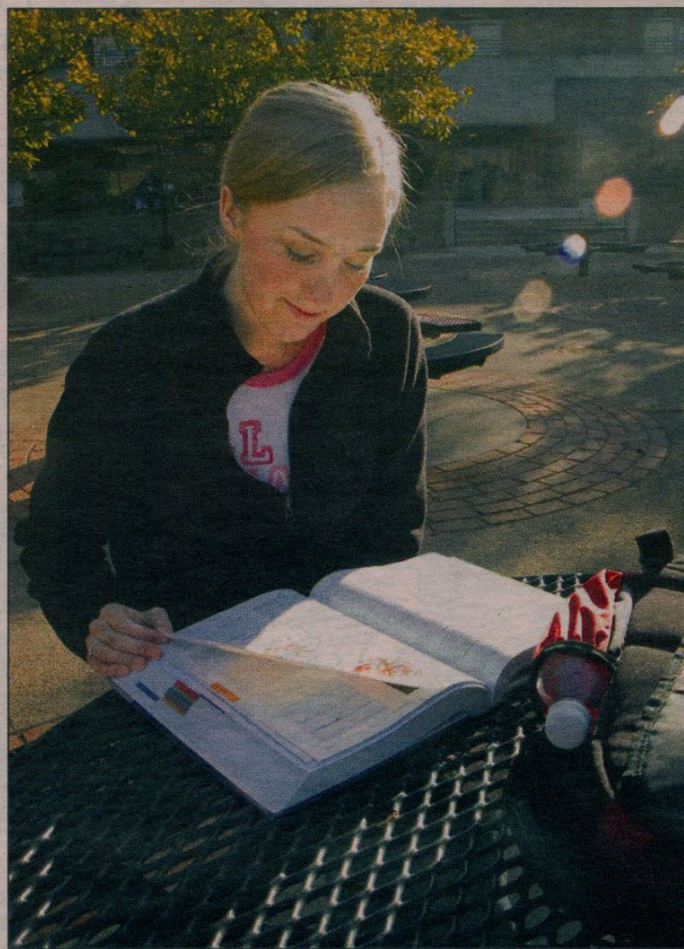
Taking a class with an instructor is a good way to get more motivated when working out, as well as getting the benefit of meeting new and interesting people.

Working out is also a great way to help a person feeling out of shape feel a little happier during this painful time of the year.

There are many other classes available at The Albany Athletic Club. Some of these include cycling, treadmill and weights.

According to Katie Ashley, a staff member at the Albany Athletic Club, "There are currently three people enrolled in this term's Boot Camp, which started this Jan. 22, but there are a total of eleven spots available. The cost of the Boot Camp is \$150 for non-members and \$125 for members, but you will see results. The first time that we tried this program there were ten people enrolled and all together they lost around 62 inches."

Staff members are always available to answer any exercise questions that you may have. The Albany Athletic Club offers many different activities that can increase your confidence in the way you look and feel during this cold season.



Light Reading

Pre-nursing major Erika Vye takes advantage of a sunny afternoon this past Monday to study for her anatomy and physiology test.

photo by Jesse Skoubo

Latino/Latina Club forms on campus

Adam Loghides
The Commuter

Through the leadership of art instructor Annalee Fuentes and Student Life and Leadership Latino/Latina Outreach and Retention Student Ambassador Mercedes Gutierrez, LBCC's Latino/Latina Club is going to kick into high gear this term.

Although the club presently has 10 members, Fuentes is hoping that as many students as possible will join.

According to Fuentes, although all Hispanics are encouraged to join it is not necessary to be Latino in heritage to be a member.

"Our hope is to reflect the demographics of our state," Fuentes commented. In 2006, eleven percent of the state's population was Hispanic.

That number is expected to

increase nearly four times over the next 14 years, reaching 40 percent by 2020.

Fuentes feels it is important for students to be educated about their own culture as well as others.

The club was granted club "status" last term, but the club is growing from the ground up.

"Our intention, this term, is to build the club," Gutierrez stated.

The first event that club members will be attending will be the Students of Color Coalition Conference on Feb. 3 at Western Oregon University.

Fuentes would like to see as many members as possible attend.

Meetings are planned for every other Wednesday, beginning today, from 12 to 1 p.m. in the North Santiam Hall conference room.

Valentines Day

Flower Sale

Stop by Takena Hall from January 29th through February 12th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and order flowers for that special someone. Flowers will be delivered to classrooms on Valentines Day, February 14th.

\$2.00 per carnation
and \$10.00 per bouquet of six



Global warming solutions presented at LB Feb. 6

LBCC News Service

A free presentation on Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions by Project Director Dr. Eban Goodstein will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 6 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Forum, F-104.

Dr. Goodstein is a professor of Economics from Lewis and Clark College and environmental researcher, author and activist.

Focus the Nation is an initiative coordinating faculty, students, staff, employees and civic leaders at thousands of institutions across the country to focus national attention on a serious discussion of climate

stabilization and global warming solutions.

The project will culminate next year in a one-day national symposia held simultaneously on campuses across the country. The project aims to be a catalyzing event, helping to turn the national conversation about global warming from fatalism toward finding solutions.

The LBCC event is sponsored by the college and the Oregon Campus Compact.

For more information, contact Sherry Rosen at (541) 917-4778. For information on Dr. Goodstein or the Focus the Nation, visit www.focusthenation.org.

Labor: Deal inked last month

◀ From Pg. 1

One of the other changes to the new contract was the creation of a workload committee to decide whether faculty in smaller departments who have to take on a larger workload should get extra compensation.

"Some departments only have one or two faculty members, so they have to serve as department

chair and do all of the administration on top of teaching. So, they have fewer people to share in the workload."

Also added was a change in professional development compensation, in which faculty on leave will receive full pay instead of three-quarter pay for the year they are on professional development leave.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Robin Havenick: Passion for teaching

Kristina Bennett
 The Commuter

When you get the chance to take a class with a teacher who is just as inspiring as she is pleasurable, the last thing on your mind is skipping the experience. As an instructor of such classes as Children's Literature and Literature of American Minorities, Robin Havenick is passionate about more than just teaching.

Tell us about your family:

I am very happily married and have two kids, both fresh out of high school. They are currently both taking time off from school, so it is like we have a household full of four adults. My husband loves to play jazz saxophone and he is a pathologist. My daughter is 20, and my son is 17, and things are really good, life is so rich. We just enjoy spending time with each other and we all like doing the same things. Just the other day my son and I went to go see a Chekhov play. He is an aspiring actor, always has been. I really like to write. I love my writing actually, it pleases me a lot. Essays, poetry, and stories are probably my favorite.

Where were you born?

I was born in Indiana, but I didn't live there for very long. My dad was in the army so we moved around a lot. But I did grow up in the Boston area. I love it there. As a matter of fact when my husband and I were deciding where we wanted to live we were choosing between the Northwest and that area.

What is your favorite thing to do when not in a classroom?

Listen to music. I think that it keeps me plugged into the world unlike anything else.

Did you always know that you wanted to teach?

No I didn't. I went to the University of Florida, and I also met my husband there. I graduated with a Degree in Literature and I have always loved literature and writing. When I was in college

OFFICE HOURS

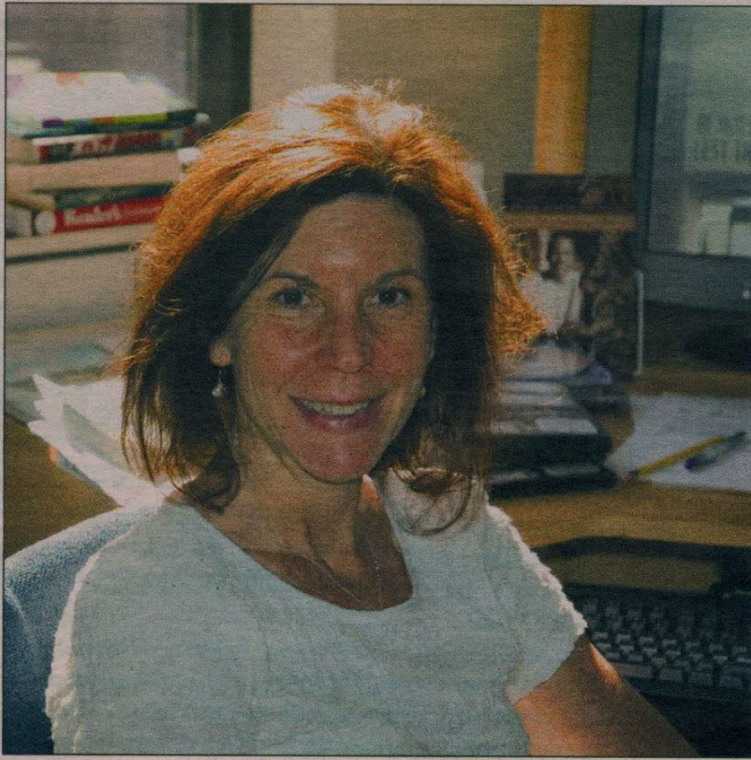


photo by Kristina Bennett

Writing instructor Robin Havenick finds that teaching "is always a discovery."

I always thought about what interests I had about Literature just in case it ended up being my profession. I just kind of arrived in this area that has to do with diversity, but when I did I felt like I came home somewhere in a natural way. There have been many other jobs prior to the 10 years that I have taught at Linn Benton. I started a bookstore in Portland, and I also worked for a publishing company in Portland. I worked as a book review editor and in an art store for a little while. When I started to teach I realized that there is nothing else I would rather be doing. It is always a discovery.

Out of all the classes you teach, which are you most passionate about?

This sounds funny but it is always the newest one that I get to teach. I just started teaching Literature of American Minorities last term and I know that I learn just as much from my stu-

dents as they learn from me. That is why I love the experience that community colleges offer. There are so many different people in every class and it is a great thing. Now, don't quote me on this but Henry David Thoreau once said, "What you should really be paying for when you pay college tuition is what you are learning from your peers."

From what I have heard, the Learning Center Writing Help Desk has recently developed a bit?

Yes! I am the representative of the English department and the Writing Help Desk has grown to become such a collaborative writing center for everyone. We are currently starting a way for students to get help on the internet, so I am very excited about that. I think that it is increasing our sense of community around campus. Our writing department has also been invited to do collaboration with the art

department. It is called Poetry and Paintings and they are all going to center around Spring. I didn't think that I had anything to contribute but I went back through my book and found a poem about Spring that I wrote with one of my classes.

What is the best compliment that anyone has ever given you?

Well I remember one comment that a student had given me on those evaluations you fill out from term to term. They said that I was, "Laid back with passion." I really liked that one.

What has been one of the most interesting things that has happened in one of your classes?

It is really hard to pick just one! I have had so many extraordinary things happen. Most of them appear when we do group presentations and that is why I love to include them in my curriculum. It is a place and time where students let their own understanding come out, as well as their passions and talents. I have this experience a lot. I do remember one group in particular, though. There were three men, who all played a musical instrument, a trumpet, cello, and a guitar, but they played their music to the words of Emily Dickenson and Walt Whitman. It was very enriching. There have been many times when I have just thought "This is the best."

Who is your hero and why?

I think about this question all the time. It is really hard to find an appropriate answer for it. The only person that I can think of is Martin Luther King, Jr. He stands for everything that matters to me. Serving your community, the human family, and all of us embracing each other. We all make each other strong. One of my favorite quotes from him is this, "Again and again we must meet physical force with soul force," and that is the power we carry as humans, soul force.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. For more information about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101) x4788

Drafters (#4926, Albany) If you have AutoCAD skills and want to work in subdivision design, this company wants to hire you! This can be full-time or part-time until you graduate.

Cooperative Work Experience Jobs (Wah Chang in Albany) Various job opportunities for science and/or engineering transfer majors. Great pay and experience and you don't have to look for another job until you get your bachelors at OSU! Part-time during school & full-time during breaks. Employers want experience and a degree and you can have it.

Office Manager (#4919, Albany) If you have a working knowledge of accounting, good leadership skills, and a knack for solving problems, this full-time job is for you!

Cooks, Servers & Bartenders (#4921, Albany) Part-time and full-time positions for a new bar restaurant that will be opening soon. They are willing to work with students. Go for it!!

HELP AVAILABLE

Call Valley AIDS Information Network for information, support and referrals on AIDS/HIV, STD's and Hepatitis. 757-6322 or 800-588-AIDS.

MISCELLANEOUS

We are starting a LBCC Veterans Group on campus. Our next meeting will be February 6th at 3:00 p.m. in the Siletz room on campus. We will discuss tuition assistance, membership possibilities, and tuition waivers available to Veterans. Hope to see you there. For questions, please contact fgaidanowicz@yahoo.com

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Deadline:

Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission.

Who's in? Texas Hold 'Em tournament set for Friday

Hailey Ediger
 The Commuter

Student Life and Leadership is putting on its third free Texas Hold 'Em tournament this Friday, Feb. 2.

The tournament will be held in The Commons cafeteria from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Last year's tournament drew a large turnout, filling the 50 seats available, as well as a great response from students who attended, according to SL&L member Hannah Gzik, organizer of this event.

Because of the positive stu-

dent involvement, they continue to host this tournament, Gzik said.

This year, prizes given to the top five winners will include two passes to Hoodoo ski resort, two poker sets, a poker DVD, and a poker book. All prizes were purchased with the SL&L activities funds.

Forty-nine seats are available to students who sign up in the SL&L office.

Students who would still like to play can visit the SL&L office in the Student Union on the first floor to see if seats are still available.

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

ALBUM REVIEW

Switchfoot's 'Oh! Gravity' falls just short of excellent

Aaron Broich
The Commuter

★★★★☆

Switchfoot's new album, "Oh! Gravity," opens with the clanging song, "Oh! Gravity." Mistake No. 1. Never name an album after one of its songs, much less an annoying one. The sum of the album can't be represented by one song, because collectively, an album is more.

"Oh! Gravity" does have a number of original sounding songs, but much of it sounds like their past work, particularly vocalist Jon Foreman's singing melodies. He is a great singer and he sings well on the album, but he ought to press on into uncharted territory.

The songs have been well produced by Tim Palmer, known for his work with Tears For Fears, and Steve Lillywhite, known for his work with U2 and Coldplay.

The music is essentially rock with a couple of ballads, which Foreman seems to do frequently and quite well, as he does on this album. "Yesterdays" is a sad ballad about remembering a deceased friend—Foreman sings, "The ache I feel inside is where the life has left your eyes. I'm alone for our last goodbye, but you're free." It's as though the song's lyrics are truly felt by the singer. The song has a smooth bass line that is decent. Good bass lines were missing from their last album, "Nothing Is Sound," but not this one. The album ends with a beautiful ballad called, "Let Your Love Be Strong"—Fore-

man sings of God, "When my world explodes, when my stars touch the ground, falling down like broken satellites, all of my world resting on your love."

The last half of the album is quite good. Although the songs are lacking in solos, the overall structures of the songs are hip and digestible. Foreman's lyrics are good and poetic for the most part, dealing with big choices in life and being awakened to a deeper spiritual reality.

"Last week found me living for nothing but deadlines, with my dead beat sky, but this town doesn't look the same tonight. These dreams started singing to me out of nowhere, and in all my life I don't know if I've ever felt so alive, alive," sings Foreman in "Awakening."

Perhaps the highlight of the album is the multi-layered, "Faust, Midas, And Myself." In it Foreman writes about having a dream of success—he desires not to sell out, but experiences everything turning to gold and is offered a multitude of worldly things. Foreman sings, "A heart that is made of gold can't really beat at all," and "Life begins at the intersection." The song questions him about what direction he's going to take in life after finding his own voice. Foreman again attacks materialism in "4:12," singing, "Souls aren't made of stone—sticks and bones."

Although some fans will be disappointed, "Oh! Gravity" is still a good buy, expressing a wide range of feelings.

Eastwood's 'Letters from Iwo Jima' portrays powerful view of battle

Aaron Broich
The Commuter

★★★★☆

Recently nominated for a Best Picture Oscar, "Letters from Iwo Jima" is the second part of Clint Eastwood's cinematic retelling of the battle on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II in 1945. This time the story is told from the Japanese perspective and is largely based on a series of undelivered letters found many years later on the island.

This well-fashioned story is more elegant than the first part, "Flags of Our Fathers," which focused on heroic themes. Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe) is called to serve on the island, taking control of the army and navy to prepare for the inevitable American attack. Iwo Jima is of critical significance in the war, because it has airstrips that would enable the Americans to send warplanes against the main lands.

The story builds from the General having spent time living in the U.S. and having formed close friendships with Americans. Some think this gives him an edge in the planning strategy while others suspect that he is an American sympathizer. Kuribayashi scraps the previous command strategy of building beach trenches in favor of defending from a network of tunnels, running 18 miles around underneath the surface of the island.

"Letters" is a resonant piece that looks at ideas of honor and conviction. The movie follows a soldier, Saigo (Kazonari Ninomiya), who was a baker before being drafted. His business was ruined by the brutal police force known as Kempeitai, who took his foods and then his equipment to be melted down for iron. He makes a promise to his wife that he will live to return and care for his then-unborn child. This would later cause him to avoid

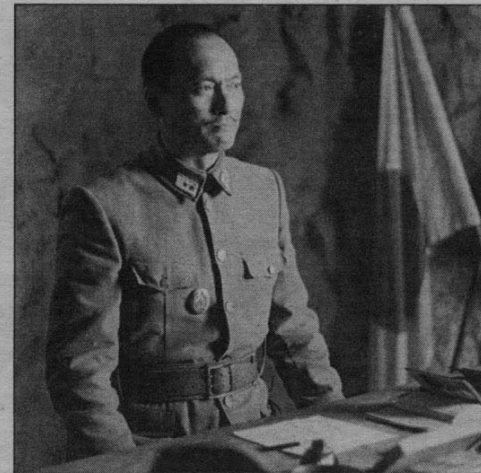


photo courtesy of Warner Brothers

Ken Watanabe as Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi in "Letters from Iwo Jima."

an order to commit suicide and make plans to desert his post. Saigo's conviction runs a counter course to the Japanese idea of honor. At times, he puts his desires to be reunited with his family above that of his country. All things considered, what is the right way to feel?

Perhaps because Kuribayashi does not have time to forge loyalty among the commanders, one of them disregards his order to hold the stronghold and then prepare to retreat to the north cave. Instead he opts for suicide for himself and his men.

Respecting authority is seen as the right thing to do, but with personal honor at stake, many choose suicide over retreat—retreat being somewhat dishonorable. The General knows the situation is hopeless from the get go, because the combined Japanese fleet had recently been sunk, unbeknownst to the public and most of the military. Although he has the sense that surrendering to live on is the right choice, he is bound by national honor, repeatedly saying to his troops that, "I will always be in front of you." He is to embody the perfect example. The valiant Baron Nishi (Tsuyoshi Ihara) says in the movie, "Do what is right because it is right."

Although both the Japanese and Americans show brutality to captured prisoners, there is a touching scene where Kuribayashi helps a wounded American soldier by treating him with the last of the medicine.

"Letters" is visually impressive and superbly acted, although slow going at times. The emotional scenes are realistic and powerful, having a heaviness that stays with you. Although "Letters" may not be all that entertaining to mainstream viewers, it offers more than food for thought.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons

JAN. 31ST - FEB. 6TH

Wednesday:

ENTREES: Pot Roast and Chicken Burrito with Pinto Beans
VEGETARIAN: Three Cheese Stuffed Shells
SOUPS: Tomato Rice and Corn Chowder

Thursday:

ENTREES: Liver with Bacon and Onions and Almond Chicken with Steamed Rice
VEGETARIAN: Grilled Vegetable Pizza with Pesto and Goat Cheese
SOUPS: Tom Kha Gai (Ginger Chicken and Coconut) and Split Pea

Friday:

CHEF'S CHOICE

Monday:

ENTREES: Glazed Ham (Carved on Display) and Beef Goulash with Spaetzle (Paprika beef stew with tiny dumplings)
VEGETARIAN: Thai Vegetarian Stir-Fry
SOUPS: Wild Rice and Manhattan Clam Chowder

Tuesday:

ENTREES: Chicken & Dumplings and Brazilian Seafood Stew
VEGETARIAN: Vegetable Strudel
SOUPS: Cheddar Cheese and Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls

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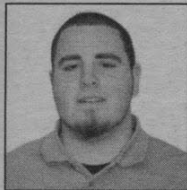
Coverage of competitive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation.

A WORD WITH 'CHEESE'

Coaching minorities emerging

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

Super Bowl XLI will forever in history be remembered as the first time an African American represented a team as a head coach. It is even more special, because of the fact that both head coaches, Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears and Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts, are African American.



Chris Kelley

In the 41 years of the Super Bowl, how can it be that not one head coach has been black? Considering the first black head coach was Art Shell in 1989, the NFL is finally emerging.

If we look past just football for a moment, minority coaches in championship games have emerged over 30 years before. Bill Russell was the first minority head coach to win an NBA title in 1968 with the Boston Celtics.

K.C. Jones, of the Golden State Warriors, and Al Attles, of the Washington Bullets met in 1975 NBA Finals. This was the first meeting of African American coaches in a Championship game, 32 years before the Dungy-Smith meeting.

There hasn't been another face-off between black coaches for a major sports championship since then. Still, in all, black coaches have led teams to the NBA Finals 12 times, the NCAA men's basketball championship game eight times and the World Series three times.

In 1992, while coaching the Toronto Blue Jays, Cito Gaston became the first black manager to win the World Series. In the 2005 World Series, Ozzie Guillen, from Venezuela, led the Chicago White Sox to their win. The number of minorities in the championship doesn't always point toward winners. Dusty Baker, an African American coach for the San Francisco Giants, led them to the World Series in 2002, but was beaten by the Anaheim Angels. Avery Johnson coached the Dallas Mavericks in their 2006 NBA Finals loss to the Miami Heat.

Currently there are six African American coaches in the NFL, which makes up less than 20%. Dungy or Smith will share a special spot in history with Bill Russell and Cito Gaston. Maybe, in 32 years, minority coaches in football will be caught up with the other major sports.

Clash on the Slopes



photo by Sherry Majeski

Pete Sherwood
 The Commuter

The recent collisions between skiers and snowboarders at Mt. Hood Meadows have sparked debates over reasonable speeds on the slopes.

Sixty-seven season passes have been pulled from reckless riders so far, and just as many day passes have been taken. The sudden imposition of harsh penalties by the ski patrol at Mt. Hood Meadows is due to two accidents that have involved downed skiers being run over by snowboarders.

On Jan. 5, 45-year-old Geoffry Bradeen was killed while getting up from falling, supposedly by an out of control snowboarder, according to Mt. Hood Meadows General Manager Dave Riley. In an interview with The Oregonian, Riley said the person responsible for Bradeen's death left the scene, and, although there were no witnesses to the collision, a snowboarder was seen riding away. One week later Chris Morris was struck the same way Bradeen was killed. Morris suffered a serious skull fracture and spent six days in the hospital but is expected to recover fully.

Reactions range from upset at the new restrictions on speed, to relief from people like Marco Calvo, an OSU student and devoted skier, who is thankful for a safer family atmosphere.

"Sure I love to go fast, but when it's crowded and kids are everywhere you have to slow down," he said. Local riders and employees of Meadows resort were happy to see a change in the penalties as well.

"Hopefully this zero-tolerance the ski patrol has adopted will stop riders from being reckless and showing off for their buddies," said lift

operator and snowboarder Chris Thompson. Varying levels of experience and unspecified runs are also to blame, Thompson said, "I have heard plans floating around while working the lifts that Meadows plans to have separate runs devoted to skiers and snowboarders."

Megan Sullivan, a student at LBCC, said she is hesitant to go up and ride due to recent events. "I'm not good at all so I get run off the trails by faster more experienced riders all the time. What happened to those skiers makes me want to stay home and save my money."

Meadows General Manager Riley is actively brainstorming new ideas for increased safety while continuing to keep his ski patrol on high alert for potentially dangerous riders, according to a statement he gave to The Oregonian. He is hoping that if more people exercise the rules and stay within their skill level there will be a lot fewer accidents.

Those who don't follow the responsibility code have their passes confiscated from weeks to months, depending on the severity of the offense, Riley told The Oregonian. Once seized the reckless rider is logged into a database to prevent repeat violations. Then offenders are required to take a safety class and to collect five signatures of individuals that received ski safety information from the offenders. Only after these steps are complete are careless rides able to re-instate their season passes.

Riley, the ski patrol, and local riders urge mountain goers to abide by the responsibility code, which includes always staying under control, yielding the right of way to people ahead of you, stopping in a safe place, keeping your eyes uphill, using devices to help prevent runaway equipment, observing signs and warnings, and keeping off closed trails.

LB men win one, lose one

Ken Salt
 The Commuter

The LB men's basketball team controlled the tempo and played solid defense against Lane last Wednesday for a 75-69 win, but then lost their next game Saturday against league-leading Clackamas.

"Lane was very competitive, and they played very hard to the end," Coach Randy Falk said.

Key players for the Roadrunners were Ryon Pool, who had 21 points and seven rebounds, and Kyle Mathew, who pitched in 17 points.

The Roadrunners managed to hold Lane to 41 percent shooting and forced 23 turnovers, turning them into 21 points and capitalizing on Lane's mistakes.

Unfortunately, the Roadrunners' next opponent proved to be one of the toughest in the league—the Clackamas Cougars, who are undefeated atop the NWAAC Southern Division.

The Saturday matchup on the Cougars' home court ended in a lopsided 95-66 loss. The Runners were challenged in every aspect of the game, getting out-rebounded 44-23 and turning the ball over 24 times.

Although LB shot just under 50 percent from the field, it was not enough to counter Clackamas' 23 offensive rebounds. Pool again led the way with 17 points and 7 rebounds. Dustin Vaughn scored 13 and Ryan Vargas hit for 12.

LBCC is now 11-11 overall this season and 2-5 in the conference.

The Roadrunners' next game is tonight in the Activities Center against SWOCC. Tip-off time is 7:30 p.m.

Beavers road show ends with two more defeats

Joe Bryan
 The Commuter

It was a disappointing week for the Oregon State Men's Basketball team.

Big losses on the road to Washington State and the University of Washington, while not unexpected, were still disappointing.

The Beavers inability to put together consistent play on offense, coupled with poor free-throw shooting, have both been a factor in their 1-8 start in conference play.

Against Washington State last Thursday the Beavers rallied from a 30-23 half-time deficit to close within two at 32-30. Then the offense cooled and WSU put together a 14-5 run from which the Beavers never recovered. OSU shot 6-19 for 32 percent from the charity stripe and an

anemic 36 percent from the field.

After the game Coach Jay John said, "Our guys played hard and our guys played well. In my view, without any hesitation, we blew a wonderful opportunity to beat a ranked team on the road in Pac-10 play."

Against the Washington Huskies who have had the best home record in the Pac-10 the last two seasons, inspired play by Kyle Jeffers kept the Beavers close in the first half, but Sasa Cuic was unable to stop UW's star forward John Brockman, who scored a career-high 25 points.

It was a rough game for Cuic, who got beat by Brockman on both ends of the court.

Cuic made only four out of 12 attempted shots from the field and shot 33 percent at the free-throw line.

Despite Cuic's poor perfor-

mance, the Beavers were able to build a six-point lead in the first half, but could not keep pace with the Huskies, who led by three at the intermission.

The Beavers were outscored 51-36 in the second half and

trailed by as many as 25 points, finally losing 91-74.

Next week the Beavers travel to Los Angeles to play USC and the fifth-ranked UCLA Bruins, who are coming off an upset loss to the Stanford Cardinals.

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SPORTS

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

Lady Runners on track to playoffs

Chris Kelley
The Commuter

The Lady Roadrunners are in the midst of a heated race to obtain the top position in league standings. Last week was crucial in determining which of the top four seeds they would claim in order to be playoff bound.

They faced off against the top two teams in the NWAACC South Conference, with both games on the road, and came home with a split.

Last Wednesday's match-up against first-place Lane had LBCC down by as many as 13 in the first half before bringing it to within two at halftime. Chelsea Hartman had 17 points and 11 rebounds in the 63-55 loss.

Lane had 11 more shots and made four fewer baskets than LB, which made Coach A.J. Dionne stress to her team the importance of offensive rebounds and winning the turnover battle, if they

are to be serious contenders for the league championship. The one main adjustment she wanted them to make was to "learn to finish games."

The trip north to Clackamas on Saturday was key in proving that LB is making a run at the top spot, as they not only beat the second-place team and split with them for the year, but also ended a two-game losing streak.

After a 17-2 run to start the game for the Roadrunners, they kept the momentum and led wire-to-wire in the 65-57 win.

"Emily Irwin played one of her best games," said Coach Dionne, having 12 points, six rebounds and three steals.

"When she has a great game, it allows Jenny [Fillion] and Whitney [Bryant] to scrap inside and gain second chance scores from rebounds," Dionne said. LB dominated the boards, out rebounding Clackamas 61-39.



photo courtesy The Torch

Molly Fillian dribbles into trouble during last Wednesday's game at Lane, which the Runners lost 63-55.

Bryant finished with 13 points and 15 rebounds and Fillion had 13 points, seven rebounds and three steals.

"The playoffs look definite," said Dionne. "We are in the po-

sition where we only can focus on how we play, and just have to count on other teams to beat Lane."

Looking ahead to today when South Western Oregon CC comes

to LB, Coach Dionne said, "It will be a perfect chance to gain momentum and capitalize after a big win at Clackamas." Saturday will send the ladies north to battle Mt. Hood.



SUPER BOWL XLI PREDICTIONS

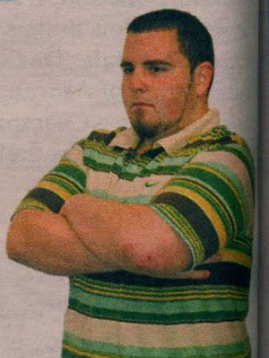
Ken Salt Bears 34-28 MVP: Rex Grossman	Joe Bryan Colts 35-3 MVP: Peyton Manning	Caleb Hawley Bears 24-20 MVP: Thomas Jones	Adam Loghides Bears 19-14 MVP: Brian Urlacher	'Cheese' Kelley Colts 37-21 MVP: Joseph Addai
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Caleb Hawley
The Commuter

FACE OFF

With the Bears-D or the Colts-O prevail in Super Bowl XLI?



Chris Kelley
The Commuter

The Chicago Bears will win Super Bowl XLI. Defense, turnovers along with ball control will decide the football game. If memory serves, the Bears have an outstanding defense and two capable running backs.

The hard-hitting Bears defense is going to give Peyton Manning and the rest of the Indianapolis Colts' offense fits. Manning gets flustered when he gets hit and the Bears have arguably the best front seven in the NFL. That spells disaster for the Colts. With Manning on his back, the Bears defense will have a heyday.

The Bears forced an NFL-leading 44 turnovers during the regular season. That is nearly three turnovers a game. The defense is led by middle linebacker Brian Urlacher, last year's defensive MVP, who had 144 tackles this season and three interceptions. Fellow linebacker Lance Briggs had a big year as well with 134 tackles and four forced fumbles. Look out Indy.

Everyone knows that Indianapolis has a suspect rush defense. Chicago will expose that with their tandem rushing attack of Thomas Jones and Cedric Benson. Each of the backs average more than four yards a carry and combined for an

allotment of 1,857 yards on the ground, 1,210 of which was Jones.

Jones and Benson will march all over the Colts' defense and take pressure off Rex Grossman and the air attack, which takes me to my next point.

So many people want to crucify Grossman this season. Granted, he has had a fantastic defense to accompany him, but the quarterback is the leader of the team and all Grossman did this year was lead his team to a 13-3 regular season record, two playoff victories and a trip to the Super Bowl. If Grossman was so detrimental to his team, they wouldn't be where they are right now.

With the rushing attack's ability to control the clock and a defense that gives the offense ample opportunities with the ball, Grossman will be just fine.

It's hard for anyone to say that it's not Manning's year to win the "big one" after the playoff run he has had. The rally against the New England Patriots and beating Tom Brady has gotten some people talking that it's fate. I say Manning had a nice run, but in Miami when the Bears come to town they will be doing the Super Bowl Shuffle all over the Colts.

This Super Bowl isn't just special because of the coaches who are representing the teams, but it gives the Colts' Peyton Manning the chance to win a Super Bowl and not be stuck with the dreaded title "best quarterback to not win the big one."

The Colts are my favorite to win, because after nine seasons in the NFL it is Peyton's time!

His quarterback foe of the 90's was Hall-of-Famer, Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins. He is arguably one of the best quarterbacks in the history of football. He is also arguably one of the best quarterbacks to not win a Super Bowl.

Other than the leadership of Manning, the Colts will win the Super Bowl due to these four key facts:

First of all the Colts know how to win!

They have the most wins over the last two seasons, not counting the playoffs, with 26. They started out the 2005 season with 13 wins in a row. And not to be outdone, they started this year 9-0 before losing to the Dallas Cowboys in week 11.

Secondly, they beat the New England Patriots and bucked their "playoff tradi-

tion."

The Patriots, for the past five years, have been predicted Super Bowl champs by many. Tom Brady was an unheard of 12-1 in the playoffs before they played the Colts in January.

Any team who beats the Patriots in the playoffs, is an automatic favorite to win the Super Bowl.

My third point is that it is Rex Grossman's turn to choke.

Each playoff game, the media and football fans keep wondering "is this the week Rex will lose the game for the Bears?" He is about as reliable as Enron is for handling finances.

Last, but not least, is kicker Adam Vinatieri!

With his right leg alone, he wins games. He had five field goals against the Baltimore Ravens and scored the only points in the Colts' 15-6 divisional playoff win.

Vinatieri had two Super Bowl winning kicks while with the Patriots and is the equivalent of a Tom Brady in the playoffs.

This off-season pick-up will prove key in the Colts 37-21 victory over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI!