

THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Photo by Chris Spence

A youngster casts a big shadow as he practices at the new Albany Skate Park which opened last week.

Albany Skatepark offers local boarders, bladers and bikers a place to surf the cement

by Stephanie Follett
of The Commuter

The Albany Skatepark, located behind Eleanor Hackleman Park at 1375 Sixth Ave. S.E., is now open to boarders, bikers and bladers of all ages.

A grand opening ceremony was held last Thursday for the 12-acre concrete course, and local boarders wasted little time in checking it out.

The course measures 133 feet by 90 feet around, and is enclosed by quarter-pipes and features a large bowl, grind rails, pyramids, ledges and other freestyle elements.

It was designed by Eric Kawkins of Talent, Ore. with the help of local skateboarders, who raised \$90,000 of the \$230,000 total construction costs themselves. The rest came from contributors and the city budget.

"Albany Parks and Recreation built the park over five years of planning and preparation," said Sarah

Giboney, administrative assistant for Albany Parks and Recreation. "Skateboarders asked about a park about 10 years ago. They started fund raising last year."

The local skaters raised money through garage sales, T-shirt sales, car washes and parking at the River Rhythms concerts. All together, 77 companies and individuals contributed to the project, including an anonymous donor who bought and donated the property next to the park, Giboney said.

Lights will be added to the park to allow skating at night. Though most parks close at 10 p.m., as long as users are respectful, there shouldn't be any problems with skating past that time, Giboney said.

Helmets, knee and elbow pads and wrist guards are recommended, but not required. The park is not supervised, so skaters are asked to be respectful to each other and to park across the street. All rules are posted in front of the park.

Supreme Court case weighs legality of student fees

by Lizanne Southgate
of The Commuter

The case of Southworth vs. The State of Wisconsin, now before the Supreme Court, is being closely watched by colleges, political groups and free speech advocates.

At issue is the constitutionality of using student fees to subsidize groups that some students might disagree with. The case involves a group of law students, led by Scott Southworth, who objected to using student fees to support 18 groups at the University of Wisconsin that they were politically opposed to, including a gay/lesbian organization, the Green Party and Amnesty International.

Whatever decision the court reaches will impact areas beyond academia.

In 1995, the Supreme Court ruled that by creating a "public forum," colleges could not refuse to subsidize one group (in that case, a Christian newspaper) while supporting others. While that ruling was widely believed to encourage a wider base of support for all groups, others see it as having a reverse effect. Following that ruling, the 7th Circuit Court said that students shouldn't be forced to pay for political and ideological organizations they object to.

Attorneys on both sides of the Southworth case invoke different interpretations of the First Amendment as the justification for their stand.

On one side, the argument is that the freedom of speech amendment expressly protects against being forced to "speak for" (have one's dues used to support) organizations in which one does not believe. Opposing counsel argues that the amendment guarantees freedom for all speech, and if universities support only certain groups with student fees, freedom of speech is essentially crippled.

Here at LBCC, student fees support co-curricular programs, the Associated Student Government, the Student Programming Board, intercollegiate athletics and extra-curricular clubs.

Co-curricular programs are run in conjunction with a school curriculum and advised by an instructor of the related department. They include Livestock Judging, (Turn to "Student Fees" on Pg. 2)



Lance Popoff

Great American Smokeout hopes to kick the butt habit

by Keirsten Morris
of The Commuter

StudentLife and Leadership will have a table set up Thursday in honor of the American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smokeout.

The Linn County Tobacco-Free Coalition has provided prizes and pledge cards for students to sign saying they will not use tobacco. The ACS hosts the Smokeout every November to help smokers quit

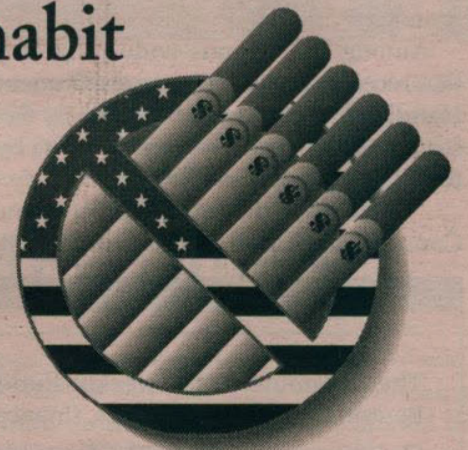
for just one day, which is the first step to showing smokers that they might eventually quit for good. A 1997 Oregon Health Division survey reported said that 82 percent of Linn County smokers said they would like to quit.

"More people try to quit on that day than any other day," said Jennifer Jones, a Linn County temporary health education assistant.

Quit-smoking kits that contain tips

for success in quitting will be available at the Albany and Lebanon general hospitals, Linn County Public Health clinics and local doctors' offices around Linn County.

Area middle schools were given prizes and pledge cards by the Tobacco-Free Coalition to use for contests, drawing and giveaways for participating students. Some schools are planning assemblies (Turn to "Smokeout" on Pg. 2)



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Salute

All sorts of area residents turn out for Veteran's Day parade

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Check This Out

Catch the "Sacred Landscapes" slide show and lecture with Kurt Peters today from noon-1 p.m. in the Boardrooms.

Hoop Time

Roadrunners retool for upcoming basketball season

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CAMPUS NEWS

LOCAL BEAT

WTO's influence topic of Teach-in today

A series of speakers will be on campus today and this evening to discuss the impact and influence of the World Trade Organization.

The following events will be in the Alsea-Calapooia Room on the second floor of the College Center:

- 10 a.m.—"WTO Impact on Labor" with Paul Krissel of the AFL-CIO, and "Non-Regulation of Labor Standards" with LB business instructor Larry Schuetz.

- 11 a.m.—"WTO Overview" with OSU Prof. Richard Clinton.

- Noon—"Human Rights and the WTO" with attorney Greg Kafoury, and "Students, Sweatshops and the WTO" with Jim Cook of Jobs with Justice.

- 1 p.m.—Information

- 2 p.m.—"Non-Democratic Aspects of the WTO" with Stan Taylor of Lane Community College, and "Impact of Globalization on Third World Countries" with Yajnesa Yaju Dharmarajah, U of O student.

- 4 p.m.—"The Mindset of Economic and Technical Globalization" with author Chet Bowers.

From 7-9 p.m. speakers from various organizations will discuss these issues in the Fireside Room.

Novak's offers free Thanksgiving dinners

Novak's Hungarian Restaurant in Albany, which is owned by LBCC board member Joseph Novak, is again offering free Thanksgiving dinners to those who are not financially able to provide their own or who have no one to share it with.

Reservations must be made by noon Tuesday Nov. 23 by calling 967-9488.

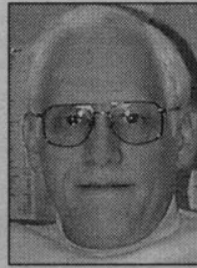
Local inventors try to organize at LB

by Andre Vriesman
of The Commuter

Students interested in "building a better mousetrap" will soon have a place to discuss their ideas—in strict confidentiality. The Inventor's Group, LBCC's new forum for aspiring inventors, has scheduled its first meeting for Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Siletz Room, CC-213.

"New inventors are welcome," said group founder Craig Hosterman. "We're certainly looking for anybody who is interested." Hosterman founded the group so that new inventors could have a forum for sharing ideas and networking. Inventors will have the opportunity to show and tell about their inventions, get feedback and work with other inventors. Hosterman said that the response has been excellent so far, and that over a dozen inventors are planning to attend the group. "It would be great if we could be the genesis of somebody getting a new product into the marketplace," said Hosterman.

With over a dozen patents to his name, Hosterman has invented products ranging from a blood tubing sealer for the



Hosterman

medical industry to an energy-efficient and CFC-free refrigeration system. With his engineering background, Hosterman hopes to help new inventors bring their ideas to the marketplace. Hosterman currently directs the Secondary Wood Products Consortium on the LBCC campus.

"There's a lot of these advertisements on radio and TV. Most of them are pretty dubious as to what they will really do for you," said Hosterman, who has dealt with companies that promise inventors notoriety and wealth. He said that it isn't uncommon to pay up to \$1,000 for materials that are available at a public library.

The LBCC group will be modeled on the success of other inventor groups. Southwestern Oregon Community College's inventors group, which meets monthly, has seen attendance of 80 to 90 inventors per meeting.

Meetings will be informal, with no officers, dues or bylaws. Participants will be asked to sign an agreement not to use, discuss or capitalize on the ideas of others.

"History has shown that we'll have to turn the lights off to send everybody home," Hosterman said enthusiastically.

Inventors interested in the group should register by calling Craig Hosterman at 917-4766 or Joanne Secrest at 917-4929.

Thanksgiving food drive collects cans and cash for needy

by Shannah Gallagher
of The Commuter

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and the independent Association of LBCC Classified Employees is sponsoring the 11th-annual food drive to help people who need food for the holiday.

Food has already started to be collected, but donations of non-perishable food items and cash for turkey certificates will continue through Friday, where they can be dropped off at the Human Resource Office in CC-113.

The number of dinners produced has grown from four in 1989 to 48 in 1998, thanks to LBCC students and staff. Anyone who is in need of a Thanksgiving food box can call Mary Kay Hernandez at 917-4433 or Kathy Withrow at 917-4426; all names will be kept confidential.



Photo by Schellene Pils

Mercury Rising

Physics instructors Greg Mulder and Jim Ketter use the Celestron 175-mm telescope with a mylar filter to watch Mercury move in front of the sun in the Courtyard Monday.

Student Fees: Ruling could affect LBCC

From Page One

Culinary Arts, Peace Studies, the Eloquent Umbrella and The Commuter. Extra-curricular clubs, such as the Visual Arts Club and the International Students Club, receive only \$50 "seed money," according to Lance Popoff, director of Financial Aid and Student Programs.

Among the campus-wide programs that receive student fees are the Student Handbook, child care at the Family Resource Center and the weekly visits by the Linn County Health Van.

Whatever decision the Supreme Court makes, Popoff said he doesn't think

it will affect LBCC much. "I'm not aware of our funding any 'political hot potatoes,'" he said.

However, if the ruling is in favor of Southworth, schools may have to implement ways to direct the fees of each student into programs that he/she approves—a potential paperwork nightmare. While the ruling is not due until June, interested parties have a lot to think about until then.

"If a college is trying to promote diversity, and finds itself in a situation where it can't fund programs that are controversial, it severely limits the university's effectiveness," Popoff said.

Smokeout: Smokers asked to drop habit

From Page One

and other activities to educate youth about the dangers of tobacco.

"We're getting the materials and resources out there," said Jones.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, smoking kills more Americans than alcohol, car accidents, suicides, AIDS, homicides, illegal drugs and fires combined. The ACS states

that smoking is the single most preventable cause of death in our society, responsible for about one in five deaths.

Local restaurants were approached by the coalition to discourage smoking in honor of the Smokeout. The Sizzler in Albany pledged to be smoke-free for the day and will hand out items from the ACS such as key chains, balloons, magnets and buttons to customers.

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 or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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 commuter@gw.lbcc.cc.or.us. The newsroom is located in Room 222 of the Forum.

The Commuter Staff:

Editor, Keirsten Morris; **Managing Editor**, Schellene Pils; **Chief Copy Editor**, Barry Greer; **Contributing Editor**, Lori Weedmark; **Editorial Assistant**, Lizanne Southgate; **Sports Editor**, David Thayer; **A&E Editor**, Joshua Ransom; **Photo Editor**, Kevin Blount; **Assistant Photo Editor**, A.J. Wright; **Photo Assistant**, Robin Camp; **Advertising Manager**, Cindy Lewis; **Advertising Assistant**, Jared Corcoran; **Production Manager**, Chris Bryant; **Graphics Editor**, Joe Ellingson; **Advisor**, Rich Bergeman.

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Photographer, Christopher Spence.

IN FOCUS

LB's greenhouse provides cutting-edge gardening

by Lori Weedmark
of The Commuter

Greg Paulson, LBCC horticulture instructor, has nothing but good to say about the new state-of-the-art greenhouse that was constructed last spring between the Industrial Arts and Science/Technology buildings.

"The old greenhouse was a small, glass structure constructed 30 years ago and was state-of-the-art for its time," Paulson said.

The new 30-by-96-foot greenhouse is not only much bigger, it is equipped for in-class instruction as well as plant propagation. Inside students find tables and stools set up classroom-style in the front half of the greenhouse, with the back half set up with benches for propagating plants.

Although the greenhouse is used primarily for horticulture classes, it really has dual purposes, holding the biology department's plant collection as well. The biology department has to keep different examples of botanical specimens for use in their lab projects.

"It's nice to have a large enough greenhouse to store several different specimens," said Patty Petzel, instructional assistant in the Biology Department. "The greenhouse has lots of potential for future use and we are still coming up with new ways to use it."

The greenhouse walls are made from a product called Lexan, which is a clear plastic that provides a double insulating effect and should last up to 30 years, according to Paulson. The top is constructed of a double layer of polyvinyl with an airspace in between the layers for air flow.

Inside, the greenhouse is extremely up-to-date.

"The windows are set up on thermostats," Paulson explains. "As the temperature rises, the shutters open on the windows on the east end to let air flow through. The windows at the west end have large fans, so as the temperature rises more, they open and the fans kick on, drawing the air through the building."

In the summer months, a large shade cloth is drawn over the top to further control temperature. The cloth reduces the amount of light entering the greenhouse by about 50 percent.

"Plants are stored here in the summer, so it's important to maintain the temperature even though there are no classes then," Paulson said.

"The irrigation is really cool as well," he added. The greenhouse is split down the middle, with half being more tropical, and the other more desert. The tropical side is set up on timers with water lines on some benches going directly to the plants, and others lines spraying water from above. The desert side is set up for hand watering for plants that require less water.

"The greenhouse is really great to have because it's so up to date that the plants just thrive there," said Gaylee Goodrich, horticulture instructional assistant. "Also, the classroom area is great for hands-on training."

The plant science class uses the greenhouse to start plants from seed, studying the plants through their growth cycle. One of the benches is set up with heat cables in the bottom to help the plants take root.

Work study student Stacy Cook, who is working toward her degree in horticulture, is enthusiastic about the new greenhouse.

"It's awesome! It's too bad we didn't have it last



Photos by Kevin Blount

Janelle Jones and horticulture lab assistant Patty Petzel help Stacy Cook in the greenhouse (above). Instructor Greg Paulson joins the discussion (below) while Stacy's daughter helps cleanup.

year," said Cook.

The students helped do a lot of the work on the greenhouse. They sealed floors, painted walls, and put in the irrigation systems. "It was a good learning tool for horticulture class," said John Mendes, a second-year horticulture student. "We learned how to set up a greenhouse with all the equipment and costs involved."

One class was actually changed from a propagation class to a greenhouse management class.

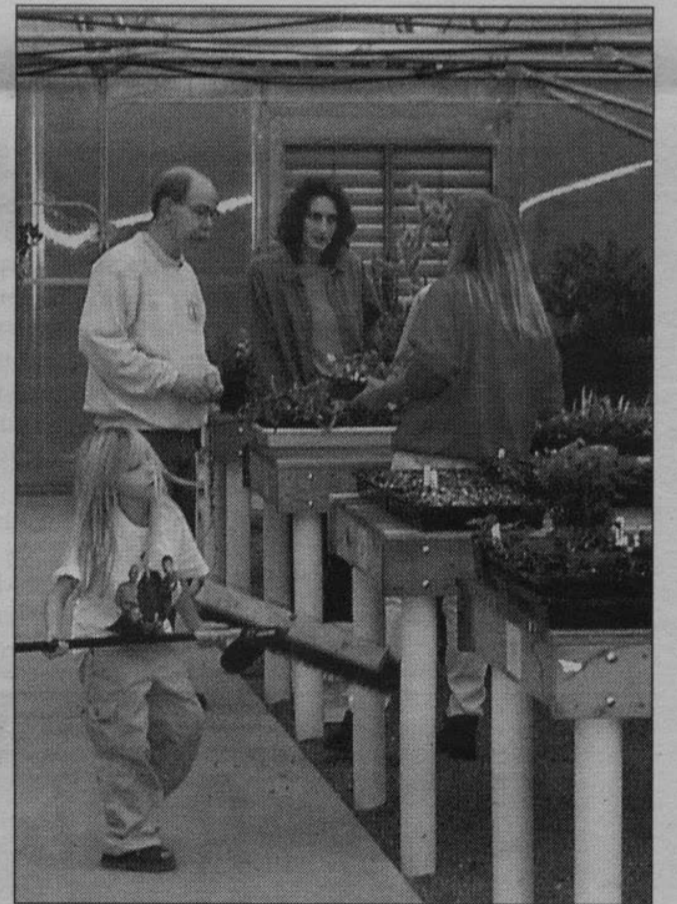
"I was in the class that helped set up the greenhouse," said Adam Cooley, second-year horticulture student. "We got to do the landscaping around the greenhouse, which covered everything from ordering the plants to planting them."

Paulson showed off some of the landscaping, noting that the area where the greenhouse is now used to be an ornamental garden. They saved some of the plants from that garden, including the 25-year-old Japanese Lace Leaf Maple that is now in front of the greenhouse.

The greenhouse was constructed at this site because it is close to the horticulture and biology departments. Students can earn a one-year certificate or a two-year Associate of Science degree in horticulture. The courses are set up to prepare students for work in the plant industry, in nurseries or retail garden departments.

"Students in our program learn the basics of plant care and get involved with the technical skills of plant production," Paulson said.

One former student eventually started his own nursery. Larry Jordan of Jordans' Nursery in Lebanon graduated from the two-year degree program in 1986. "The course was great, giving a good, well-rounded starting point for horticulture," he said.



Some of the plants grown by the students in the greenhouse during the year are sold in the annual Mother's Day plant sale in May. Proceeds from the sale go toward things like supplies and student expenses.

Even in winter, gardens still need tender loving tilling

by Mary Jova
of The Commuter

Just because it is winter doesn't mean gardeners can forget about their gardening projects until spring.

Horticulture nursery management student Mike Claffy notes that we are well into November, and while this autumn has been beautifully disguised as summer, there are many areas in the lawn and garden that still need attention.

"Certain times of the year there is gardening that needs to be done at any given time," he said.

While many may think winter puts an end to chores in the garden, Claffy points out there's still lots to do:

*Plant tulips and daffodils in masses.

*Prune rose bushes to about knee high to prevent wind damage. Remember to keep the leaves on the bushes as long as possible to strengthen the plant for next year's blooms.

*Plant garlic cloves for harvest next year.

*Mulch over tender perennials to keep the soil around their roots warm.

Claffy said this will help prevent the ground from heaving up and exposing the tender roots.

*Till in organic materials, compost and manure in your vegetable garden areas. This will properly decay and add much needed humus to your soil and allow you to plant earlier in the spring.

*Allow leaves on the ground to remain for awhile. It

is best to compost or recycle at a later time, Claffy said.

Claffy also pointed out that slugs are flourishing now that the rains are back. So gardeners should be sure to put out bait. The more you control them now the fewer you'll have in the spring.

The Horticulture Department has an active club of approximately 30 members that meets every Thursday from 12 to 1 p.m. in the greenhouse. The club-elected president is Robin Wynn. "You don't have to be enrolled in a horticulture program to be an active participant of the club," Claffy said, explaining that there is a diverse group of people whose opinions are important. The club encourages anyone with questions or suggestions to e-mail lbccgreencorner@mail.com

CAMPUS NEWS

Winter Children's Fest celebrates with games and stories

by Schellene Pils
of The Commuter

The cool crisp days of fall are coming to a close and LBCC's Student Programming Board will be hosting its annual Winter Children's Festival Dec. 4, from 1-3:45 p.m. on the second floor of the college center.

For the 29th year, children will swarm onto campus ready to play international games, decorate cookies and meet Santa or Father Claus for a gift and get their picture taken with him.

Sasha Azajova, SPB's community events specialist, along with Calvin Yeung, multicultural specialist with the SPB, will be coordinating the event and have planned a more mixed-culture type celebration than has been celebrated in the past.

Dee Curwen, multicultural center coordinator, will

read holiday stories collected from many different countries. Children will also listen to and play musical instruments, sing and play songs.

"We're getting a lot of support from the student programming board," said Azajova. SPB volunteers are already wrapping gifts and collecting costumes for the festival, she said adding that "we usually have different things every year."

SPB has been allocated \$2000 from student fees to pay for the festival, which they hope will attract as many as 500 children from the community.

Between 50 and 60 volunteers are needed to help with the festival, with jobs such as cleaning up, decorating cookies and moving the kids from one area to another. SPB members will be on hand to help organize volunteers.

Decorating and preparations for the event will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday morning and the SPB will be providing lunch for all volunteers, "we don't want them to be hungry," said Azajova. Volunteers will also receive a T-shirt.

The Grande Finale, a circus and magic performance, will begin at 3 p.m.

Photos with Santa or Father Claus are \$1. The event is free to all Linn and Benton County children 12 and under. All children must have an adult with them and a donation of two cans of food is welcome.

As part of the Winter Festival week at LBCC, on Dec. 1, a Christmas tree will be erected in the courtyard and children from the Family Resource Center will be caroling.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Highway 34 construction expected to be completed next summer

by Kathy Hansen
of The Commuter

LBCC commuters traveling along Highway 34 between Albany and Lebanon should not expect to see any changes to the road until summer of 2000.

Construction on the highway, which has slowed traffic for more than a year, has been halted due to the wet winter weather, according to Paul Meyers, assistant Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), project manager.

The \$11 million dollar project is a joint effort with ODOT and Linn County to straighten and widen the dangerous and well-traveled 7.2-mile stretch of highway.

Meyers said the project was necessary because traffic flow was too heavy to maintain safe driving conditions. ODOT obtained approval for the reconstruction in 1996 but groundbreaking did not occur until summer of 1998 due to funding problems.

"Linn County contributed \$2.75 million dollars to help get the project underway," said Meyers. "The remaining \$8.25

million came exclusively from the state of Oregon gas tax."

Morse Bros. of Lebanon bid \$9,964,000 to win the contract and is expected to complete it on time, according to Meyers. There is a penalty for each day they go over the Sept. 2000 deadline.

According to Meyers, ODOT has decided not to cut corners on this project.

They are using a new product called durable striping that is different from the striping used in

the past because it is an epoxy rather than paint. The epoxy is five times more expensive but will last an estimated 10 years longer than paint, he said. It is thicker and requires favorable weather conditions to apply. Temporary paint striping has been applied to the road for now but will be replaced with the durable striping when warm weather returns.

"We really appreciate the patience of the motorists and the Lebanon merchants," said Meyers. "There have been a few fender benders, but otherwise it has gone smoothly."

"There have been a few fender benders, but otherwise it has gone smoothly."

—Paul Meyers



Photo by Chris Spence

Commuters to LBCC from east Linn County have another winter of weaving through construction barriers ahead of them as the widening and straightening project along Highway 34 east of Interstate 5 goes into hibernation for the winter. Work is expected to continue in the spring, with completion of the 7.2-mile stretch expected by the time classes start in the fall of 2000.

Portland State University

First American Education Series

Location: Chemawa Indian School, 3700 Chemawa Road, Salem, OR 97305

WS399 - The Family

This section explores various family roles within American Indian Tribes. Traditional roles are studied from a historical perspective and are compared to how they have changed over time. Also included are discussions on women's issues, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and parenting practices of yesterday and today.

Topics

Dec. 1 - Traditional Structure and Role

Dec. 15 - Women's Roles

Jan. 12 - Indian Child Welfare

Jan. 26 - Parenting: Then and Now

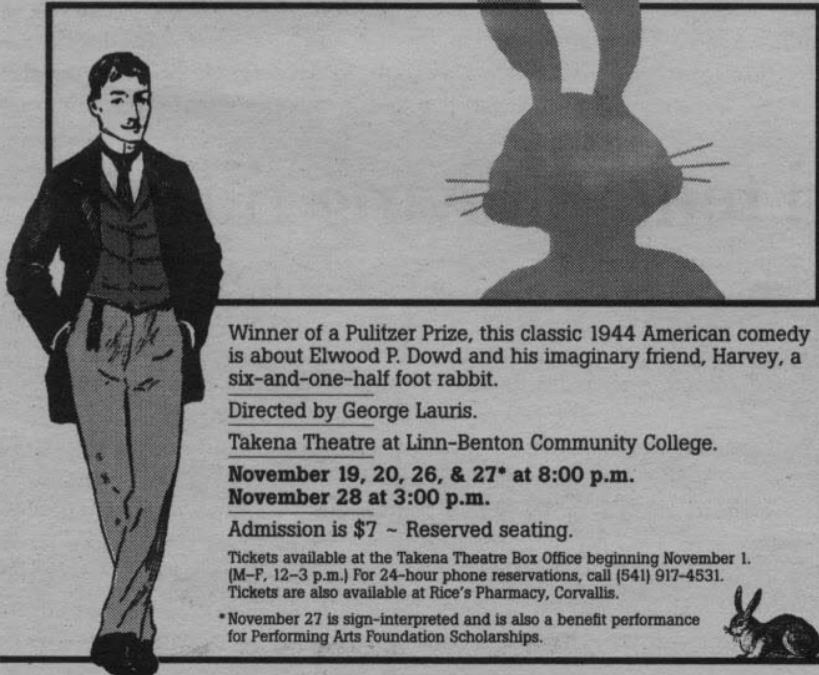
Register for credit or non-credit

For more information,
contact Brenda Garcia at (503) 315-4281
or bgarcia@chemeketa.edu

School of Extended Studies
Salem Center

THE LBCC PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
A Comedy by Mary Chase

HARVEY



Winner of a Pulitzer Prize, this classic 1944 American comedy is about Elwood P. Dowd and his imaginary friend, Harvey, a six-and-one-half foot rabbit.

Directed by George Lauris.

Takena Theatre at Linn-Benton Community College.

November 19, 20, 26, & 27* at 8:00 p.m.

November 28 at 3:00 p.m.

Admission is \$7 - Reserved seating.

Tickets available at the Takena Theatre Box Office beginning November 1. (M-F, 12-3 p.m.) For 24-hour phone reservations, call (541) 917-4531. Tickets are also available at Rice's Pharmacy, Corvallis.

*November 27 is sign-interpreted and is also a benefit performance for Performing Arts Foundation Scholarships.

If you need disability accommodations, please call 917-4536 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) at least one week in advance.

CAMPUS NEWS

Single father juggles family life, school work, Boy Scouts

by Schellene Pils
of The Commuter

Days begin early for Mike Elliott. He rolls out of bed at 6:30 a.m. to prepare for school and have some quiet time to watch the morning news or gather his thoughts before he wakes his 9-year-old son Cory for school.

They're both out the door by 7:15 a.m., Cory, so he can be at school at Lebanon Elementary for breakfast and Elliott so he can make his LBCC weight class at 8 a.m. By 3:30 p.m. he finishes his classes then goes home to take care of Cory and spend time visiting friends.

Elliott is a single dad as well as a full-time student, one of the many single parents attending LBCC. Although the overwhelming majority of single parent

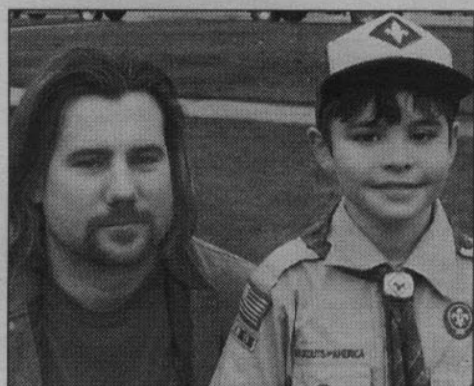


Photo by Lizanne Southgate

Mike and Cory Elliott participate in the Albany Veterans Day Parade.

students are moms, Elliott's life is not much different—he still has to juggle time between family, jobs and school-

work.

But Elliott doesn't stop there. He is also one of two Cub Scout leaders for Pack 88. Every Tuesday Elliott and Cory do things together as part of a group of Scouts. For instance, this week they are learning how to change a tire and check the oil in a car.

"I try to do a lot of activities with him," said Elliott. The pair go hiking, hunting and rock-climbing, which they've been doing for four years.

Elliott has a 2-year-old son, Colton, who lives with his mother in Lebanon. Elliott spends as much time with his little boy as he can and hopes to spend more if he gains partial custody, an issue he hopes will be decided this year.

According to Elliott, the most difficult

part of being a single parent is not having two people to be there and help with raising a child. On the other hand there is the advantage of being the only parent giving instructions, since there isn't the play-off that usually happens in two-parent households. Elliott feels that he and Cory have to depend on each other.

He begins a job with the Venetian Theater in Albany next month as a security officer. Elliott was discharged from the Navy with a disability in 1994 and is being retrained in computer user support, though he would like to get into private investigating and use his degree to assist him with investigations.

He'd also like to study drafting, but the big goal is private investigations because "I like to help people," said Elliott.

Donations sought to help LB student's daughter battle leukemia

by Angie Bishop
of The Commuter

"I feel like I'm on a road that's going towards a cliff."

Jeff Spencer's life has been turned upside down since he found out his 7-year-old daughter has leukemia. His wife Claudia said the family has been riding "different emotions each day."

Spencer, a refrigeration/heating/air-conditioning student at LB for one quarter, said that since finding out his daughter Lindsay had leukemia in September, he has had to put his education "on hold" and pour all his time and resources into helping Lindsay.

His daughter's medical saga began last May, when Spencer and his wife Claudia took their daughter Lindsay to the emergency room with the chicken pox after she complained she couldn't breathe, Spencer recalled.

The doctors, however, weren't worried about the chickenpox. They were more concerned about the tumor, roughly the size of a golf ball, that they found developing in Lindsay's brain.

Although the tumor was non-cancerous and removed promptly during a stay at Doernbecher Hospital, subsequent blood tests showed Lindsay had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL).

Spencer said doctors told him the leu-

kemia was treatable and that Lindsay had an 85-95 percent chance of being cured and living a long life. So he set out to do everything he could to see to it that his little girl got well again.

However, yet another complication was in store for this family. Spencer said that while he was gone on emergency leave from his work to help care for Lindsay, the business where he worked closed and he didn't have a job to go back to.

His wife Claudia said that she had had to quit her job to take care of Lindsay as well. Their financial state wasn't looking good, so Spencer began working for the Linn-Benton Food Share program as well as receiving food stamps.

He also has started a fund drive for donations that can be used to help pay the expenses of Lindsay's chemotherapy due to the financial strain the trips to Portland were putting on the family.

The Spencer's started by sending out help request letters to friends and family, and then began broadening their appeal for help. In a letter sent to The Commuter, Spencer wrote that he wanted to spread the word to "others who might be inclined to help."

A fund in Lindsay's name was started, Spencer said, and since then, about \$200 has been donated, half of it from

Lindsay's doctor.

Anyone interested in helping can send checks to the Lindsay Spencer Fund, PO Box 2095, Corvallis, Ore., 97339-2095. Checks must say "Lindsay Spencer" or the credit union will have trouble depositing it properly, said Spencer, who added that his family of four is being supported by his monthly pay of \$1,999

from his 30-hours-a-week job, and that any donations, no matter the amount would be greatly appreciated.

He still plans to return to classes at LBCC, he said, explaining that it's only a matter of "how soon and when." When he returns to LB, Spencer said that he plans to finish the program with an associates degree.



The LBCC 29th Annual

Children's Winter Festival

Saturday, December 4, 1999

1:00-3:45PM • LBCC College Center, 2nd Floor

Circus & Magic Performance Grande Finale at 3 P.M.

- Cookie Decorating
- Sing-A-Long
- Father Claus
- Storytelling
- Santa Claus
- Free Gift for Every Child
- International Games

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Sponsored by the LBCC Student Programming Board

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. If you need accommodation for disability in order to attend, please contact the Student Life and Leadership Office, (541)-917-4457, at least one week prior to the event.

Two canned food donations are appreciated

Photo with Santa or Father Claus \$1



CORRECTIONS

LBCC's Printing Services Department does not necessarily offer lower prices than off-campus print shops, and the Albany Public School System is not one

of its regular customers, contrary to information in a story in last week's edition of The Commuter.

The Commuter regrets the error.

WANTED!

The Commuter is seeking to fill two positions beginning Winter Term

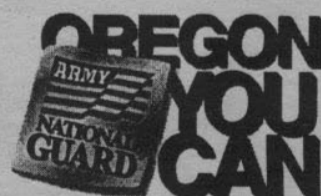
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Graphics Editor

Applications and information available in The Commuter Office, F-222.

Contact Editor-in-Chief Keirsten Morris 917-4451

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LOCAL NEWS

A Veterans' Salute

Glowering skies didn't dampen the spirits of hundreds of area residents who turned out to watch the 48th annual Veterans Day Parade snake through downtown Albany last Thursday. Organizers called this year's event the biggest ever, with 230 entrants, including a float put together by the LBCC Collision Repair Program that won a second-place ribbon.



Photo by David Thayer

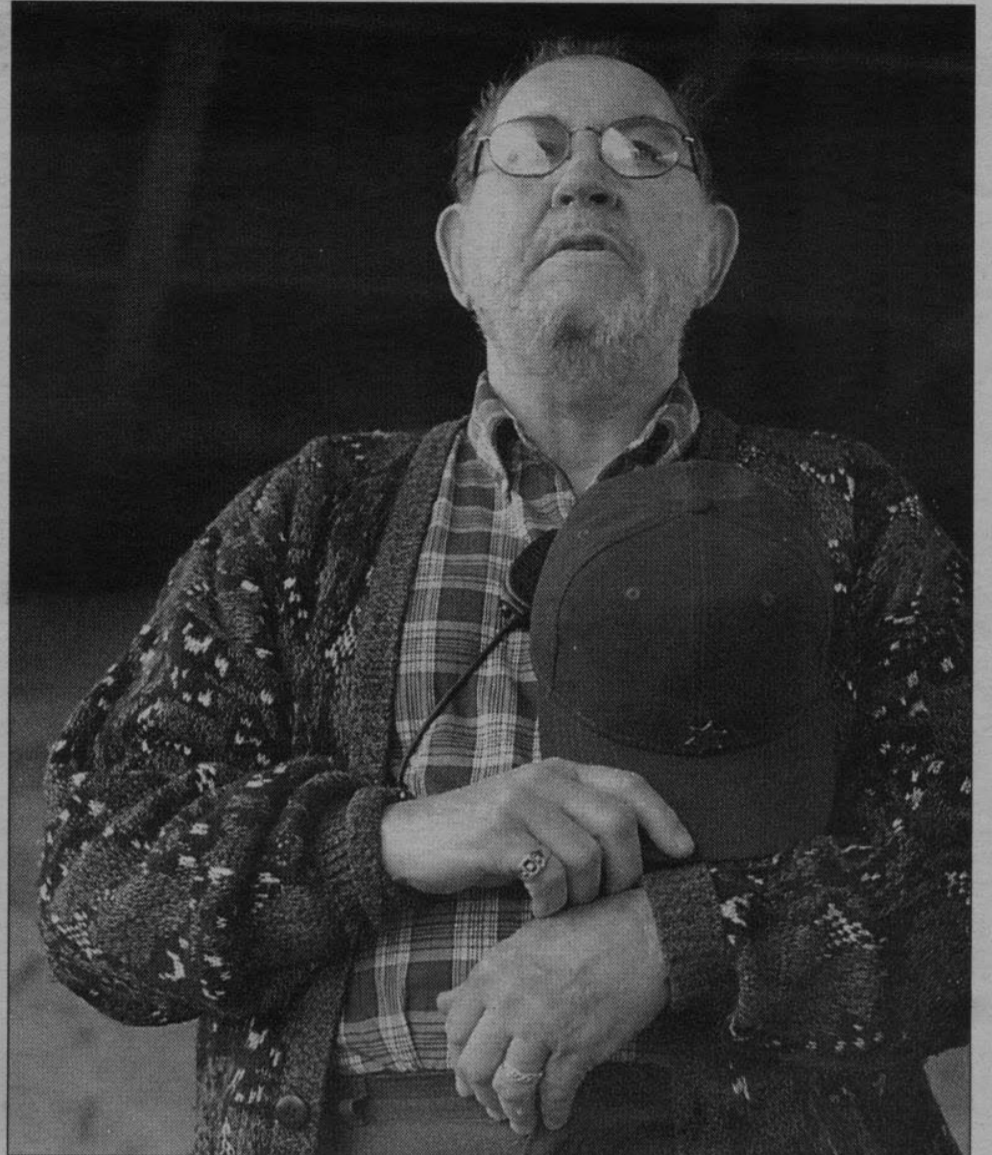


Photo by Lizanne Southgate



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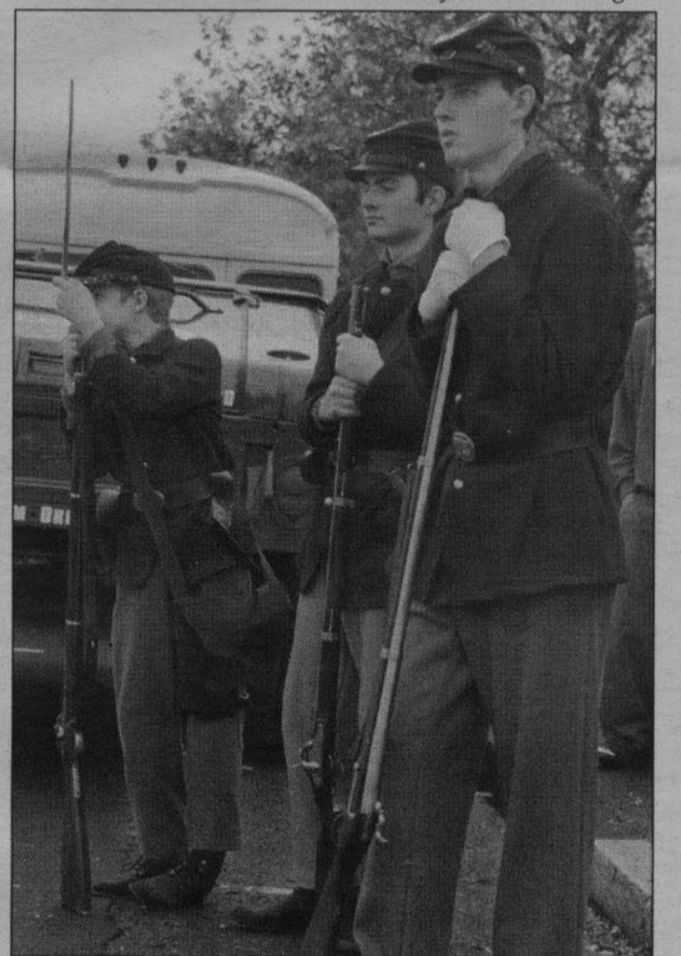


Photo by Chris Spence



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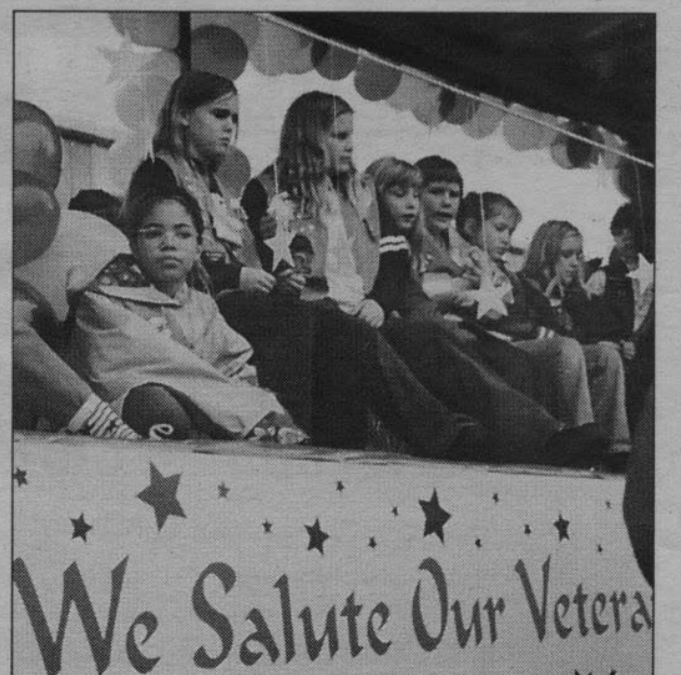


Photo by Lizanne Southgate

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

TV Trivia Time

Test your knowledge of the 'Seinfeld' show

Last week Jerry Seinfeld, announced his engagement to Jessica Sklar. In honor of that announcement, test your Seinfeld knowledge.

1. What did Elaine and Puddy call the man they sat next to on the plane back from Europe?
2. Who gave Jerry the "Astronaut Pen?"
3. Who does Jerry talk to on the phone when he stays in Kramer's apartment?
4. What food does George say you can eat like apples?
5. What brand was the golf ball that Kramer hit in the whale?
6. What is the name of the library detective?
7. When Kramer and Newman were playing Risk, what was Newman's last stronghold?
8. What was the name of the movie Kramer watched that made him want Jerry to pull the plug on him if he was ever in a coma?
9. What flavor of shaved ice did Bette Midler ask for?
10. What supermodel did Kramer get a phone call from after meeting her in the Bahamas?
11. Which of the characters discovered that abstinence made them smarter?
12. What was the name of Kramer's wacky attorney?
13. Name the coffee shop that the gang hangs out at?
14. Who picked out the invitation envelopes that ended up poisoning Susan Ross?
15. What does Kramer name his cock fighting rooster that he thought was a chicken?

Answers:

1. Vegetable Lasagna
2. Jack Clompas
3. Bob Sacamano
4. Hapton Tomatoes
5. "Titleist"
6. Mr. Bookman
7. Vietnam
8. "The Other Side of Darkness"
9. Pineapple
10. Elle McPherson
11. George
12. Jackie
13. "Monk's"
14. George
15. Little Jerry Seinfeld

Compiled by Josh Ransom

Pulitzer Prize-winning 'Harvey' takes stage

by Josh Ransom
of The Commuter

When you combine an invisible white rabbit, a friendly drunk and a concerned sister and gently shake, what do you get? You get "Harvey," a classic Pulitzer Prize-winning play that opens in LBCC's Takena Theatre Friday.

"Harvey," written by Mary Chase, was first performed first in 1944, and since then has been staged hundreds of times, literally around the world.

The play first gained critical acclaim when it was made into a movie starring Jimmy Stewart that won several Academy Awards in 1950. In the following years Stewart continued his role as Elwood P. Dowd on stage both on Broadway and in England.

"Harvey" tells the story of Dowd and his experiences with his invisible and imaginary friend, a six-and-a-half foot tall white rabbit.

Dowd's sister, Veta, who is tired of his eccentric behavior, tries to have him committed to a sanitarium. Through a series of strange circumstances Veta is committed instead when she grudgingly admits she sees Harvey herself.

LBCC's production of "Harvey" is directed by George Lauris, the Drama Department head. According to Lauris, "Harvey" was chosen because "at the end of the millennium, we are presenting 'Harvey' as a perfect example of one of the best comedies America has produced in the 20th Century."

Albany resident Mike Baze stars as Dowd, the friendly drunk who meets Harvey next to a lamppost. Victoria Baur stars as Veta Louise Simmons, the long-suffering sister who tries to commit Dowd to a sanitarium. Robert M. Carlson appears as Dr. William Chumley, the director of the sanitarium, Devin A. Robertson plays Dr. Lyman Sanderson, and Thomas A. Whitlatch has the role of Judge Omar Gaffney. Corvallis residents

Art students can sell their creations at Art Gallery holiday sale

From the LBCC News Service

The LBCC Art Gallery is offering its space to art students who want to display their work for sale for the holiday season. Any student enrolled in any LBCC art class is eligible for the show



Mike Baze, who plays Elwood, and Victoria Baur, who plays his sister Vita, "pose" with Harvey the invisible rabbit in this photo illustration created by Kurt Norlin, Deanna Peters and Bruce Peterson.

Jon Annis makes an appearance as E.J. Lofgren, a cab driver who helps Dowd; and Julianne Loftus is Mrs. Betty Chumley, the wife of the sanitarium director.

Rounding out the cast are Crystal Huff of Brownsville as Myrtle Mae Simmons, Lynell Littke of Salem as Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet, Krysie Tack of Corvallis playing Ruth Kelly, R.N., and Benjamin Sell of Lebanon as Duane Wilson.

The production staff includes Bruce Peterson as technical director, Jonathan Pedersen as the stage manager, and

Elaine Murphy as costumer.

"Harvey" opens Friday at 8 p.m. with additional performances at 8 p.m. on Nov. 20, 26, 27. A Sunday matinee will be performed on Nov. 28 at 3 p.m. All performances will be in Takena Theatre, seating is reserved, and tickets are \$7.

Tickets are available at Takena Theatre Box office Monday through Friday, noon to 3 p.m. and two hours prior to curtain. They are also available at Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis. Reservations can be made by calling LBCC's 24-hour ticket line at 917-4531.

and sale, which will be held from Nov. 20 to Dec. 17.

Deliver artwork to the AHSS gallery on Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. or Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon. Two-dimensional work must be matted. All work must

have a identification labels attached. Labels will be available at the gallery.

Students should be aware that the gallery takes 20 percent commission on sales and should price their work with that in mind.

COMING EVENTS

What	When	Where	Cost
"Sandgren in Mexico" watercolor show	Through Dec. 31	Benton County Museum call 541-929-6230	free
Student Christmas Show	Through Dec. 17 M-F 8-5	LBCC Gallery, AHSS 100	free
Open Mike Readings	Nov. 17, 18 12:15 p.m.	LBCC campus, CC 210 call 917-4555	free
"Room Service" play	Nov 18, 19, 20, 7:30 p.m.	Withycombe Theatre, OSU campus call 737-2784	varied
Piano by Prokofiev	Nov. 18 7 p.m.	OSU campus, Benton Hall 303 call 737-4061	free
OSU Concert Band	Thurs. Nov. 18, 12 p.m.	OSU Memorial Union Lounge call 737-4061	free
"Smoke Signals" movie	Thurs. Nov. 18, 2:30 p.m.	Student Lounge, LBCC	free
Chuck Holst original guitar and vocal	Fri. Nov. 19 at 8:30 p.m.	Boccherini's Coffee House, Albany call 926-6700	free
OSU Symphony Autumn Concert	Sun. Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m.	LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis call 737-4061	varies
OSU Brass Ensemble Concert	Tues. Nov. 23 at 7 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis call 737-5592	free
The Karelin Folk Ensemble	Fri. Nov 26 at 8 p.m.	First United Methodist, Corvallis call 754-7668	\$12/15
Edson Olivera Brazilian Guitar	Fri. Nov. 26 at 8:30 p.m.	Boccherini's Coffee House, Albany call 926-6703	free

FUNNY PAGE

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Stockroom Clerk & Metallurgy Lab Technician (CWE). Apply now for these part-time (about 20 hours/week) positions. You must be a current student, completed 2 terms in your degree field relating to business or industry & sign up for CWE credits. These positions with Oremet-Wah Chang look great on your résumé and pay well also. If you want to be considered for these jobs, come sign up with us in Student Employment. (T101).

Medical Assistant, Nurse, Medical Office Specialist & Medical Transcriptionsist (Corvallis). If you are looking for work in the health field, these part-time and full-time positions are waiting for you to apply. See Carla in Student Employment (T101).

Darkroom Attendant, Investor Helper, X-Ray Reader II, & Welder B (Albany). These full-time positions are with a growing company near LBCC. Some are swing shift. All have very short application deadlines so see Carla now for information today in T101.

Mailing Services Assistant: 10-15 flexible hrs./wk; \$6.50/hr. Seeking meticulous team worker with mechanical ability and strong work ethic. Duties: Use folding and sealing machines, prepare mailings, run errands, etc. Send or deliver resume: COMCOA, Inc. 101 SW Western Blvd. PO Box Q, Corvallis Ore., 97339.

CWE Drafter (Albany). You will gain on-the-job experience & meet your degree requirements and get a great reference at the same time while working at Oremet-Wah Chang. You must be a current student and have completed two terms at LBCC to be eligible to apply. There are more jobs coming in soon with Oremet-Wah Chang so sign up today. See Carla at Student Employment (Takena 101).

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FOR SALE

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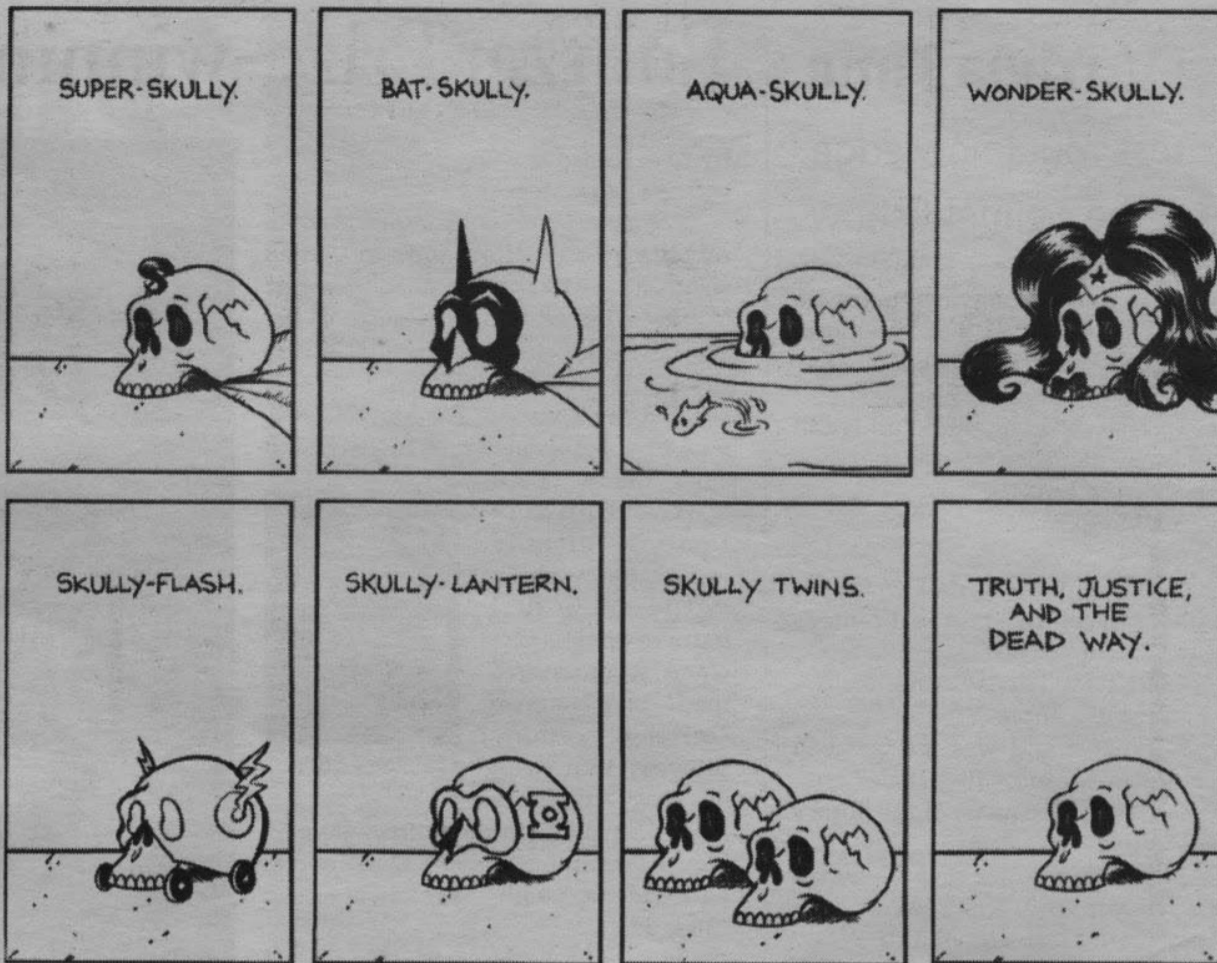
SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention students with **ANY DECLARED MAJOR**. ESA Foundation is accepting applications until Feb. 1, 2000. Students may apply for one scholarship **only**. Applications and the complete listing of scholarships offered are available at the Career Center in Takena Hall.

Attention **BUSINESS STUDENTS**: The Ayn Rand Institute is conducting their second annual essay contest on Ayn Rand's novel *Atlas Shrugged*. First Prize is \$5,000, Second Prize is \$3,000 and Third Prize is \$1,000. An informational cover sheet, 1,000-1,200 words typewritten, double-spaced essay must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2000. Mail essay and cover sheet to *Atlas Shrugged* Essay Contest, The Ayn Rand Institute, 4640 Admiralty Way, Suite 406, Marina del Rey, Calif. 90292. Copies of the informational flyer are available at the Career Center in Takena Hall.

The American Chemical Society will award about 100 scholarships valued at up to \$2,500. This program is designed to encourage African-American, Hispanic and American Indian students to pursue undergraduate degrees in the chemical sciences. The application's informational flyer is available at the Career Center in Takena Hall. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2000.

THE ADVENTURES OF SKULLY BY WILLIAM MORTON ©MCMXCVIII
SKULLY'S SUPER-FRIENDS



#17

CHILDHOOD METEOROLOGICAL THEORIES #698:



The annual Turkey Trot will be held on Thursday, Nov. 18th from 12 - 1p.m. at the LBCC Track. You can participate as an individual or a team of three. Prizes are given for the best poker hands. This event is a fun run or walk. All participants will be entered in a drawing to win turkeys, pies, T-shirts and more. This event is sponsored by LBCC Intramurals.



For more information, please contact Tim Artoff, ext. 4463.



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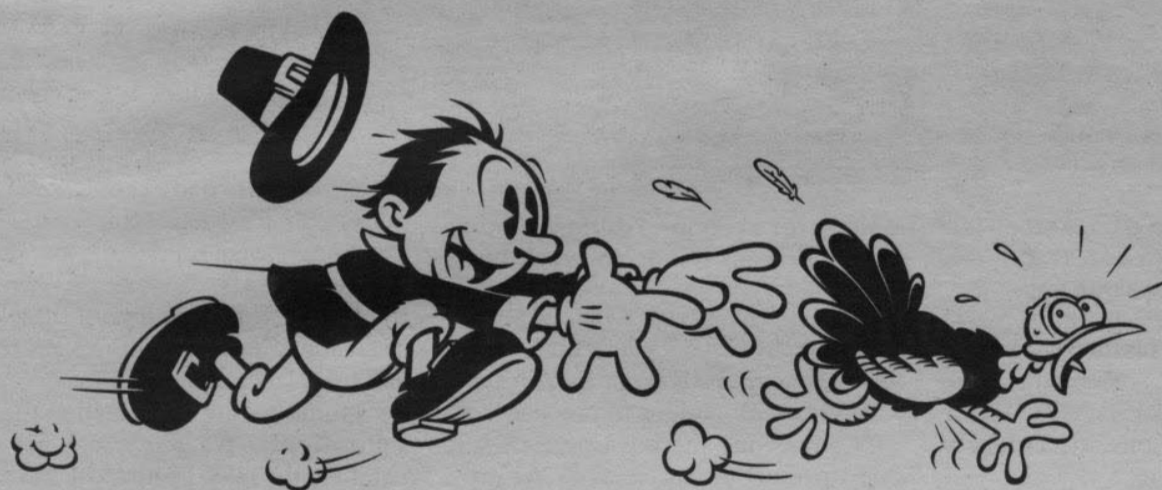
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2nd Prize:

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3rd Prize:

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SPORTS PAGE

Falk stresses intensity, team play as men prep for opener

Roadrunners face rebuilding year after losing four leaders from last year's starting five

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

Losing four-fifths of your starting lineup can be tough on a basketball coach, but Randy Falk sees people in preseason practices who can fill those holes.

The men's team is coming off a season in which they only won 11 games overall and three in league play, and hopes are high for a better season this year.

The eight players lost from last season included starters Marc Cordle (leading scorer and three-point shooter, now at Southern Oregon), Mike Aitchison (leader in field-goal percentage, rebounds and blocked shots, now at Western Baptist), Jon Fussell (leader in free throw-percentage, taking year off from school) and Dustin Hamann (now in California).

"Anytime you lose four of your starting five, that is a huge thing to have to replace. I know we have Hamilton coming back and he is an improving player for us. But we need to fill out really quick with the other guys."

—Randy Falk

The team returns five players from last season, including two redshirts, and gets seven new recruits. Returning to the team are sophomores Hamilton Barnes (5-9 from South Albany), who was the team leader last season in assists and steals; Chris Livermore (6-0 from Glide); Andy Ross (6-4 from West Albany); JR Brusseau (6-4 from LaPine), who red-shirted last year; and Branden Whitney (6-8 from Marist), another redshirt from last season.

Incoming are post players Nick Phillipi (6-7 from Glide), Kraig Schuler (6-6 from Beaverton) and Vann Lanz (6-6 from Mercer Island, Wash.); and wings Mark Chocktoot (6-1 from Klamath Union), Matt Brown (6-2 from Crater High), Kyle Johnson (6-2 from Klamath Union) and Nick Donaldson (6-4 from Halsey).

"We've been battling some small injuries and some big injuries," said Falk. "Right now we have just eight guys to practice with, so our biggest goal is to get



Photo by Kevin Blount

Members of the men's basketball team position for a rebound during practice earlier this week. Coach Randy Falk says the team needs to work in its intensity and defense this year.

healthy and get ready for that first game."

Beyond that, Falk's two main goals are to "get intense consistently and to understand that no one individual is going to win this for us."

Falk said the greatest difference between last year's team and this year's is that this team is quicker and deeper.

"Anytime you lose four of your starting five, that is a huge thing to have to replace," he said. "I know we have Hamilton coming back and he is an improving player for us. But we need to fill out really quick with the other guys. Our practices to this point have been competitive."

He said he has not yet figured out his starting lineup and is experimenting with different combinations in practice.

"I am asking the guys right now to step up their intensity level. We trust that in the next few weeks that we will be more clear on where the guys should fit in the rotation. We feel that we have a luxury this year that a lot of guys could be starters. Unfortunately, only five can be, but what that does is increase the level of the depth on our bench."

As for things that the team needs to work on, Falk sees a few.

"It is still pretty early in the season, so finding things that they need to work on

is not hard. We definitely need to work on our execution. Sometimes we have a tendency to let our intensity factor become a roller-coaster for us. Defensively, we're still missing some assignments. Those are things that I feel we can work on, and we are going to get better on as the season goes on. I look at those things as becoming eventual strengths."

He sees another weakness in the team being so young.

"Youth is always a challenge for any team. The problem in a two-year situation is not having the luxury for them to take awhile to develop. They are going to have to learn rather quickly about what it means to come together, to play as a team and to be able to compete at college level."

Coach Falk doesn't see just one person stepping up for this team.

"You know, I could go through each of the guys on the roster right now and say each and every one of these guys is someone people can watch for. We still believe that it is a team game. We count on everybody on our roster to make some kind of contribution."

His predictions for teams to watch out for in the NWAACC Southern Division are Chemeketa and Southwestern Oregon.

"These teams might jump out of the gate ahead of the pack. But, we are in a very competitive league, a very tough league. Anybody in this league can make a go at it and I think it is going to be very competitive again this year."

Barnes added his thoughts on the team this season.

"Yeah, I think we are definitely more athletic this year than last year," Barnes said. "We have a little better chemistry too. We have a bunch of guys that are working well together, which is something we kind of had a problem with last season. So, this year, I think we will be more aggressive on defense because of our quickness."

He also adds that some of these guys can come in and replace the players they lost from last year.

"I think we are going to definitely be a lot deeper. We might not have the height or the same talent level. But we do have a lot of guys who can step in and work pretty hard to fill the positions. I think we will be stronger because of that. We have a lot more players that can step in and be a starter at any time."

The Runners play their first games of the season at the Edmonds Tournament in Lynnwood, Wash., Nov. 26-28. The first game at the Activities Center is against Cascade Junior Varsity at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 1.

Frisbee enthusiast organizes 'ultimate' team on campus

Physics instructor Greg Mulder is looking for a few good men and women who like to play with flying plastic discs

by Adam Williams
of The Commuter

"Frisbee's not just a game, it's a way of life," says ultimate Frisbee enthusiast Greg Mulder.

Ever since college, physics teacher Greg Mulder has developed a passion for the game of ultimate Frisbee, whether it be traveling to play in Paris or organizing practices at LBCC to develop interest in new players.

This fall Mulder hung posters around the campus to attract players to the sport and began practices in hopes

of establishing a team next spring. The group has been practicing near the track every Tuesday and Thursday at 4 p.m. and on Friday's at noon.

Ultimate Frisbee was first developed as an official game in 1968 by a group of high school students in Maplewood, N.J. It is a game that combines both soccer and football aspects. In order to score, one team throws from one player to another in hopes of reaching the other team's goal. The other team plays defense by trying to knock down or intercept the other team's passes. There is one catch to the game—a player must pass or throw the Frisbee standing in place.

There are only 10 rules to the game, according to the official Web site (www.upa.com), and the most important rule is to have spirit and sportmanship. Most games are played on a 65-meter field, with two 20-

meter end zones (just about the size of a soccer field). Most games are played to the first 15 points, awarding one goal or score for every pass completed in the end zone by a single team. Ultimate Frisbee is a growing international sport which boasts its own organization, the Ultimate Players Association, which is responsible for 25,000 members in over 35 countries worldwide. The 2002 Olympic officials have even granted that ultimate Frisbee be introduced as a co-ed experimental sport, which is the first of its kind.

Mulder said if he can attract enough players to form a team it will enter the co-ed Ultimate Frisbee League in Corvallis sometime next spring quarter. Students interested in playing are welcome to come to the practices or call him at 917-4744. He said the team still needs both men and women players.

SPORTS PAGE

Women's basketball team plans to hit the floor running

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

Last year, the Lady Roadrunners went 2-12 in league and 6-15 overall in A.J. Dionne's first year as head coach.

This year, Dionne hopes that a balanced team of seven sophomores and seven freshman can get Linn-Benton into the playoffs.

The Runners head into the new season losing six players to graduation and other circumstances from last season. They lost leading scorer Tiffany Sweat (not at LB), Opal DePue (working), Leslie Boer (playing basketball at Linfield), Krysie Tack (still at LBCC), Beth Nelson (not at LB) and Sally Aiello (married).

The team does return five players from last season's team, however—post Evie Larsen (6-3 from Twin Falls, Idaho), forward Jana Sissom (5-9 from Yakima, Wash.), wings McKenzie Fauth (5-9 from Albany), Janine Balsbaugh (5-7 from Corvallis) and Mindy Klinkebiel (5-4 from Halsey). In addition, Karen Bryan, a 5-11 inside player from Lebanon, returns from the 97-98 team.

Sissom comes back from a season in which she tied DePue for the team lead in free-throw percentage, while Fauth led the team in three-point field goal percentage.

Incoming talent includes post player Mandi Talbot (5-11 from Culver, Ore.); forwards Shanna Freeman (6-0 from Albany), Kelley Dexter (5-11 from Corvallis), and Carrie Wilson (6-0 from Lebanon); and wings Summer Wright (5-5 from Albany), Michelle Miller (5-7 from Keizer), Melanie Hodel (5-7 from Klamath Falls) and Kelly Wallace (5-7 from Gold Beach). Wilson was with Chemeketa last year, but transferred to Linn-Benton last spring.

Coach Dionne sees many differences as well as many similarities compared to last season.

"We're younger," Dionne said. "I think the biggest difference, though, is the returnees understand my system and how I do things. So, I think it is a big difference in how fast we got things going, and just the overall attitude of the team because they know what to expect from me."

She said the team's strength may be in its perimeter play.

"We have some good perimeter players. We've got some good post players, but I think we are going to be able to shoot a little more consistently than we did last year. We still have the run-and-gun type of team and pressure defense that we played last year."

Although this year's team may not be able to execute as well in the half-court,

"I think we are going to be able to shoot a little more consistently than we did last year. We still have the run-and-gun type of team and pressure defense that we played last year."

—A.J. Dionne

at least at first, Dionne said she has "better shooters, better decision-making and more guards." As a result, she expects the squad to be able to pressure opponents into turnovers and run the fast break well.

"We can handle the ball consistently with our guards. We leaned on Leslie a lot last year to hold down the fort (last year) and Mindy was new. Now we have Mindy, Kelly (Wallace) and Summer (Wright)."

But she also notices some weaknesses on the team.

"I think we just got to get real aggressive in rebounding and in post play. That was one of our weaknesses last year and I think that is something that we really have to stress. I feel if we can mentally get the girls focused on that; it is going to help us on our fast break, so we can put our pressure defense on and then get a quick rebound and a quick outlet."

Dionne has noticed some players that could stand out during the season.

"I think Summer Wright is going to be really effective at the guard position and the two-guard position. She can really shoot well. Mindy Klinkebiel, I think, is going to be tough for people to stop because she is really fast and she can handle the ball when anyone tries to put a full-court press. Evie Larsen has come a long way from last year. Karen Bryan is kind of like a Dennis Rodman player who likes to bang it up inside. Jana Sissom is a returnee who is kind of like a WWF

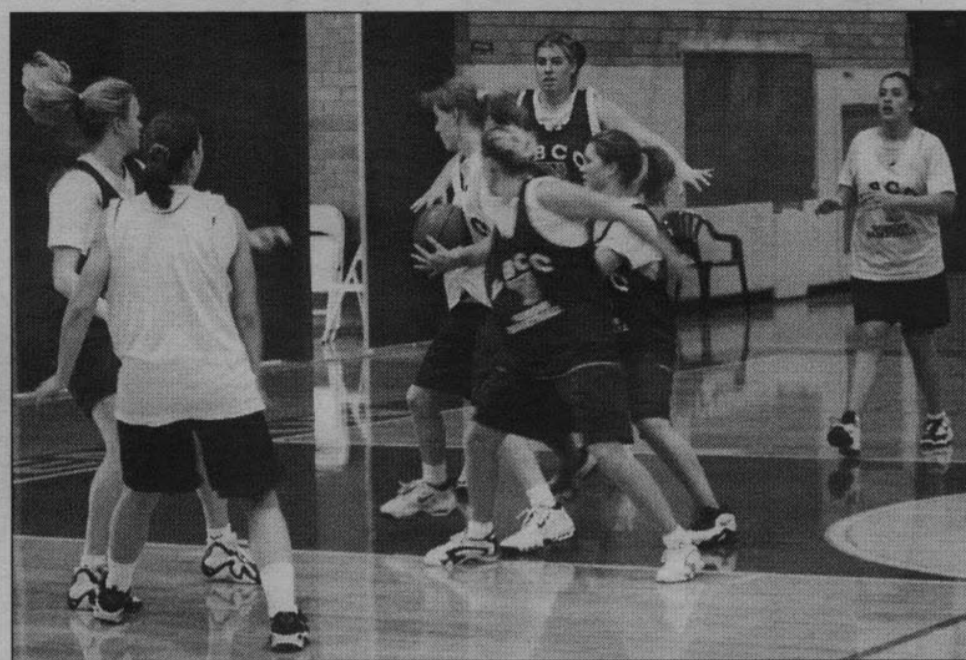


Photo by Robin Camp

The Lady Roadrunners practice in the Activities Center for their season opener at the Shasta Tournament in California over the Thanksgiving weekend.

player who is die-hard."

Dionne sees three teams competing for the top spot in the NWAACC Southern Division. "I picked Umpqua, Chemeketa and Clackamas when they asked us to predict who could win. As for us, I see this group being in the top half of the league this season. I think we could have been there last year, but we lost games in the final minutes."

She said her main goal is to "get the whole group to play 40 minutes a game and to go out everyday and practice. I think if everyone on our team does that, we are going to be tough to beat. People will be surprised how intense we are."

Last year, Dionne said that the team struggled at times because there was no team leader. She doesn't yet see the total team leader in this year's group, but does see some potential leaders. "Mindy can do it. She can verbally do it and play it. She just has to be a little more consistent in that."

Sissom, a forward returning from last year's team, said that they have to mesh together to be successful.

"It is hard when you are coming in from playing in high school for four years to playing (here) for just two years—you don't know anything about anyone you play with."

But Bryan believes that the team is in

the process. "It has come a long way, but it still has a way to go. That is what all these scrimmages and pre-season games are for."

Returning forward Sissom says this year's team will be scrappier and more defensive-minded.

"We have more shooters than we had last year even though we are not all that tall. Our defense should be better," said Sissom. "Everyone on our team has some kind of strength or something to contribute. So if we all come together like we have in practice, we are going to be pretty unstoppable."

Newcomer Wright, who played high school ball at West Albany, said the sophomores have helped here make the transition to college ball.

"At first, it was kind of weird because I didn't know how anybody plays on the team, but now that the season is starting, I am starting to learn how to play with the other people on the team. The sophomores are pretty good leaders. They like to voice what is supposed to happen very loudly."

The Lady Runners open the pre-season in Redding, Calif., at the Shasta Tourney over the Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 26-28. They come home on Nov. 30 and Dec. 2 to face Lower Columbia at 5:30 p.m. and Wenatchee at 8 p.m.

Runners end season on losing note

Jamie Caster named second team all-league; Nancy Drake, Sarah Towns get HM award

by Adam Williams
of The Commuter

On Wednesday night the Lady RoadRunners ended their lackluster season with a tough loss to Mt. Hood Community College in front of a large home crowd at the Activities Center.

Losing in three straight sets, (15-5, 15-11, 15-11), the Lady Roadrunners, finished their season with four wins and eight losses in the NWAACC Southern Region. Led by middle-hitters Jamie Caster and Sarah Towns, the Runners played poorly in the first game, but then came back with consistent hitting in the second and third games, only to slip away at the end of the sets.

Coach Jayme Frazier singled out Caster and Towns for executing and being effective in their middle-hitting positions. The pair combined for 20 kills.

"The girls just didn't serve and execute well enough to win this game," said Coach Frazier.

Ending the season on a high note, Caster was named as a second-team league all-star. Towns and Nancy Drake, who has been sidelined with an injury in recent weeks, received honorable mention awards.

Now that the season is over, coach Frazier hopes to let her young team rest for a while in the off-season, regain some confidence, and come back next year prepared to improve on this year. The team expects to bring back most of the players, as only one sophomore is expected to graduate while 12 freshmen are eligible to return, giving the team much more experience.



Photo by A.J. Wright

Amy Chase goes for the dig while Jamie Caster and Mandi Talbot wait to make a play on the ball in last week's season-ending loss to Mt. Hood.

OPINION



Euthanasia is death with no dignity

by Katie Botkin
of The Commuter

Once there was a little boy who couldn't walk and could barely speak. But he could draw clumsily, and every day he would express his thoughts with the bright colors of his crayons. His family loved him and the things he drew were joyful. One day he had a seizure and hit his head and his parents took him in to the hospital where they lived in Holland. In the middle of the night his doctor saw the child huddled in bed, his eyelashes lying against his thin cheeks and the doctor shook his head and added something to the IV drip.

The next morning the doctor showed the boy's parents a falsified certificate of death. It was falsified so the doctor wouldn't have to report the "Mercy Killing" to the local authorities.

This story is fictional. But it could be true. According to the Dutch government's official 1991 study, the Rummelink Report, quoted in "Euthanasia in the Netherlands," the decision to terminate a patient's life is often made exclusively by a physician. And in 61 percent of deliberate overdoses, "the intentional overdose was given without the patient's consent."

One of the most cited reasons doctors gave, in their death reports regarding patients who they did not consult before they killed, was "low quality of life"—as perceived by the doctor, of course. When cost containment is the main aim, doctors probably don't know their patients well, because every visible money. It is possible that, given the choice of killing a patient or keeping them alive under expensive circumstances, the doctor would choose the cheaper option.

But that's just in the Netherlands. Maybe they don't care about consent and education and dignity over there. Here in Oregon, we're smarter.



Katie Botkin

Or are we? Some of the guidelines Dutch physicians are supposed to follow are: "The death request must be voluntary" and "The patient must have been given alternatives to euthanasia and time to consider them." It sounds reasonable, but the meanings get broadened and circumvented. Doctors now label death without the patient's consent "life-terminating treatment." Now, there's a treatment I really wouldn't want to receive.

Some people labeled as having low quality of life because of disabilities are the most cheerful I've ever seen. They should be inspiring to the rest of us instead of being thought of as belonging away from us. I think that once a society accepts the "right" of a group of people to be killed, it may expect the group to follow through and stop wasting money for treatment and special equipment. Society may begin to think that because people are disabled, they are better off dead.

Did you know that most of the people who received lethal prescriptions (as of Jan. 1, 1999) under Oregon's death with dignity act were concerned with loss of autonomy? The New England Journal of Medicine reported that only one of the 23 people who got the prescription expressed concern about control of pain. Most were concerned about becoming disabled in their illnesses. When one is disabled, one relies very much on other people. Dr. Gregory Botkin states that "people that resort to that are usually without friends."

Why, instead of being true heroes and helping people enjoy and savor their last days on earth, do we dismiss them with a large dose of medication? Perhaps it is easier to give in to the mysticism of death rather than seek help.

Perhaps it is easier to destroy than to sustain. In any case, euthanasia and assisted suicide exist to put people disabled mentally, emotionally and physically out of the picture—by their own request or the decree of their doctor.

Euthanasia is too dehumanizing and slippery for me to ever agree with.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Turning Point Transitions helps student find direction

To the Editor:

I recently attended a class at LBCC in Albany this past month, and I hear that funding possibly may not be available to them again. I want to say if this is so, it is a shame to do away with the program that has helped people like me come out into life much better off than we were before.

This program gave me self-confidence and self-esteem, which is something I had not had for a long time, believe me. I was at the point of wondering what reason there was for life. After attending that class and completing it, I have changed my views. I now feel I am a person worth something in life and I am proud of myself, which has not happened in a long time. To not

enable this program to continue is a shame and will hurt a lot of people like me. There are a lot of people that could use this program. It affected the lives of everyone in the class I attended.

I am now going to go back to school for a two year associates degree, and I can go knowing that I can do it. Before I figured "why bother," what good would it do me at my age. I got the courage to take the college tests and am now ready to enroll in the winter term and go for it. I am also working full-time but at the same time, I know I can do it. I have goals in my life again, where before I had none and saw no future for myself.

This class called Turning Point Transitions is what helped me realize that I am a person worth it all and I can do it. Without it (the class), I would not even be trying. Please try to support this program in any way that you can. Please consider it, there are a lot of people that need it as I did.

Thank you.

Karen R. Palmer

COMMENTARY

Parent is stranger in Pokemon country

by Nick Gillespie
of Knight-Ridder Newspapers

The release of the first Pokemon movie occasions from me—and, I suspect, many parents—a difficult confession. Though still young by most counts, I'm now officially an old man. Allow me to elaborate. For some months now my 6-year-old son, like every other child on Earth, if not throughout the solar system, has been obsessed with Pokemon, the odd little fictional life forms imported from Japan that fight each other and "evolve" through some vague but brutal Darwinian competition.



From left to right are Pikachu, Psyduck (behind), Togepi (front) and Squirtle.

My son has, to the limit of my and my wife's disposable income, luxuriated in Pokemon cards, Pokemon video games, Pokemon figures, Pokemon books, Pokemon shirts, even Pokemon underwear. Just last week, in fact, he had a Pokemon birthday party, featuring Pokemon plates, Pokemon cups and, of course, Pokemon cake. Through sheer cultural osmosis, I can probably identify half of the 150 or so distinct species of Pokemon, ranging from Alakazam (a "psychic" Pokemon rumored to have an IQ of 5,000!) to Zubat (a "poison" Pokemon whose "Leech Life" technique sucks the very energy out of opponents). Not to brag, but put "seed" Pokemon Bulbasaur and its two evolved forms, Ivysaur and Venusaur, in a lineup and I'll be able to tell them apart just as easily as I can distinguish among the "lizard" Pokemon Charmander, Charmeleon and Charizard.

So how does any of this make me old? On most Saturday mornings, my son and I watch the Pokemon TV show and, on more evenings than I care to count, we watch a couple of Pokemon videotapes. As we sit there, father and son, I stare at the screen and realize that I have absolutely no idea why my child loves this phenomenon so much. Its massive and obvious appeal to him and to millions of other kids completely escapes me. I can't follow the plots—if there are any—and I have no clue as to why Pokemon are constantly fighting one another or why they hang out with human "trainers" who are forever squeezing them into cramped, uncomfortable-looking contraptions known as Pokeballs.

In such moments, I realize that youth culture is beginning to baffle me, the surest sign of old age there is. And suddenly I have a lot more sympathy for my own father, who gamely suffered through my childhood attachments to the likes of Gumby and Scooby-Doo and, later, glam and punk rock. Those enthusiasms must have struck my old man as every bit as odd and mystifying as my son's current obsession with the likes of Pikachu, Geodude and Diglett. Anthropologist Margaret Mead once said that parents are always foreigners in their children's native country. I always had a sense of what she was getting at. But I never dreamed it would take an extended trip to the world of Pokemon for me to understand fully the truth of her insight.