



WEIRD WEATHER REIGNS OVER OREGON

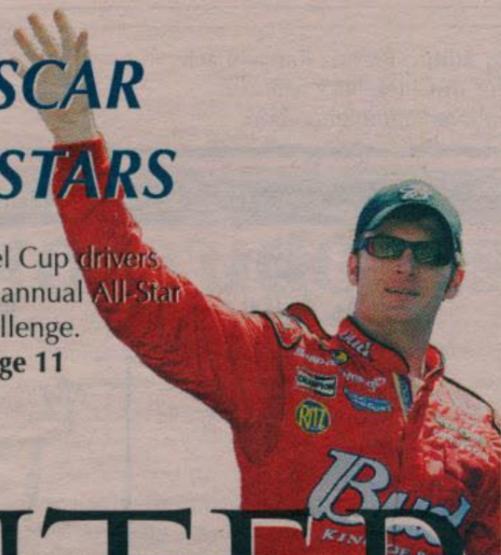
Oregon has seen plenty of the unusual when it comes to weather this year, with winter being unseasonably dry and spring being cold and wet.

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NASCAR ALL-STARS

The Nextel Cup drivers compete in annual All-Star challenge.

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THE

COMMUTER

Wednesday,
May 25, 2005

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Volume 36 No. 25

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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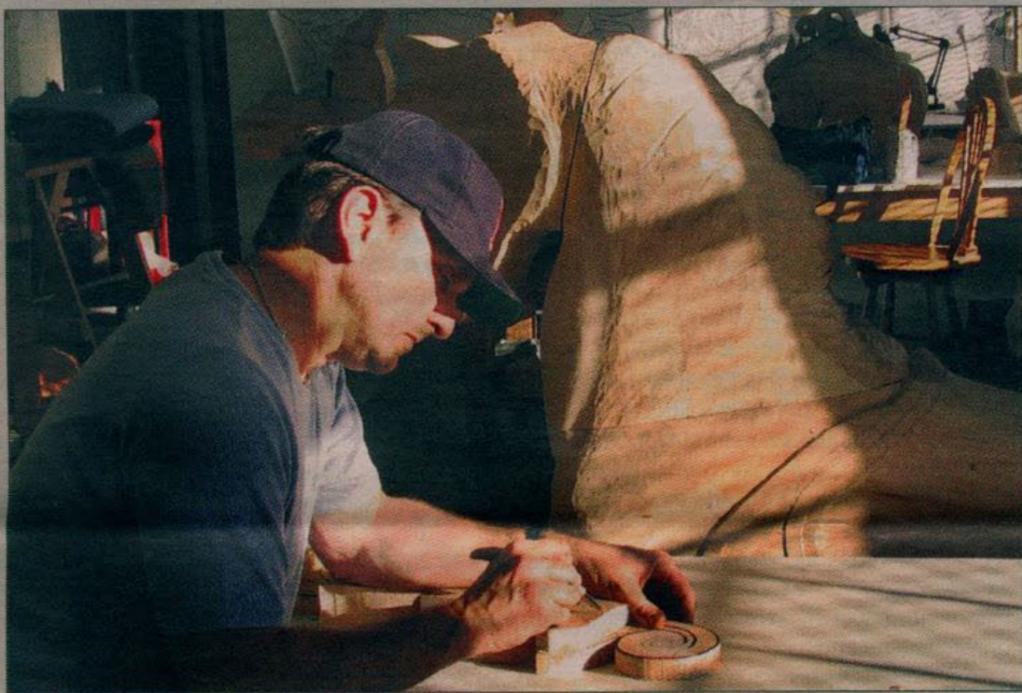


photo by Kyla Hoyt

Horsing Around

Volunteer carver Gary Richards works on one of the 60 carousel animals being carved for the Brass Ring Carousel Project in Albany. LBCC software technician Jack Giles is the lead carver on the project. The carousel is expected to open in 2010.

LB considers hike in tuition to offset lack of state funds

Katie Powell
The Commuter

Students need to be prepared to spend a little extra money on school next year, because if the proposed tuition raise goes through as expected, students can expect to see an 11 percent increase in tuition.

The Budget Committee has already approved the increase and the Board of Education will meet in June to decide the issue. If approved, the increase will be \$6 for each credit hour, making the new cost of tuition \$62 per credit, effective summer term. The original request was

for an \$8 increase, but because of efforts in Salem to increase the college's budget, the tuition hike was scaled back.

Tuition has gone up every year for quite some time now. Last year, tuition and fees were also raised by \$6, a 12 percent increase. The reasoning behind the increase last year was to add classes and faculty to make up for the budget cuts that had been done earlier.

If approved, this latest increase will put tuition 63 percent higher than it was in 2000, when tuition was \$38 a credit. Still, college officials say LBCC's tuition

► Turn to "Tuition" on Pg. 4

Soggy weather fails to dampen Amazing Race

Dan Wise
The Commuter

The wet conditions last week didn't stop the staff of Media Services from cheering for one of their own in LBCC's version of the "Amazing Race."

Casey Holdahl, media technician, and Ken Long, video systems specialist, braved soggy conditions and stiff competition to win the week-long series of races.

There was a wide range of activities, according to Long, including grabbing goldfish, eating marshmallows covered with candy, and drinking cups of lemon juice.

"Walking the egg around the courtyard was kind of neat," said Long. "I liked the tennis better than the golf." Running was a big part of each race, and those who could run the fastest had the advantage. There was also a good deal of luck

involved, Long said.

The various races also gave staff an opportunity to get to know one another.

"I'm newer to the college so it was a good chance to meet some LB people," said Holdahl. "The people who put it together put a lot of effort into it and did a really good job. We had a good time."

Julie Richardson, student loan specialist, teamed with custodian Mike Washington and Math Department secretary Michelle Malloy to organize the races for the LBCC Wellness Team. The team is made up of staff and faculty and promotes health and fitness by organizing activities over the school year.

"We had a really good turnout," said Holdahl about the 15 teams who competed. He and Long each won a \$25 gift certificate from Michael's Landing and a \$50 gift certificate from Heritage Mall.

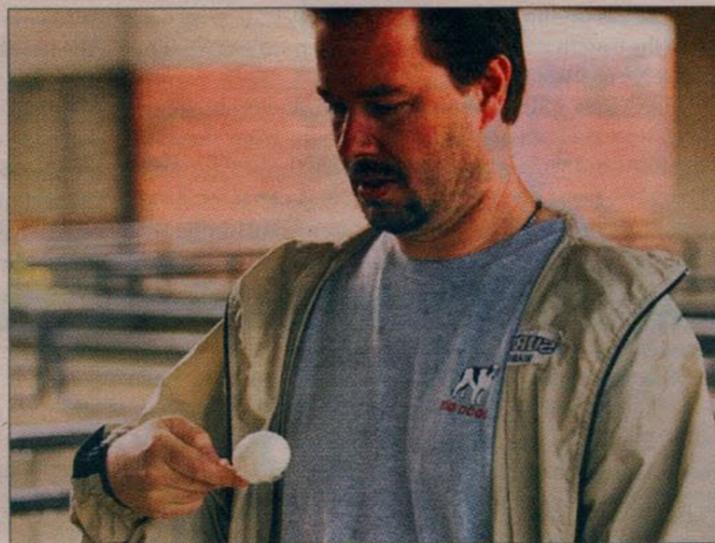


photo by Erik Swanson

Ken Long balances an egg as he circles the Courtyard during last week's Amazing Race, which he won with his partner Casey Holdahl.

The Weather Through the Weekend

SOURCE: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

high 87
Sunny
low 52
WEDNESDAY

high 87
Sunny
low 54
THURSDAY

high 78
Partly Sunny
low 51
FRIDAY

high 69
Chance of Showers
low 50
SATURDAY

high 67
Partly Sunny
low 50
SUNDAY

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
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 and keep them at 300 words or less.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



The Oregon Trail Card: A necessity for some, abused by others

As a checker for a local grocery store, I process several transactions in a normal, eight-hour day. Some of these transactions are paid with cash, gift card, credit or debit cards, and often with a personal check. However, there is one other method of payment I see.

It is the Oregon Trail card or otherwise known as the modern form of food stamps. I have nothing personally against this type of payment, but what really pisses me off is when those who use it, abuse the privilege.

For example, two people will walk up to the check stand and place down seven candy bars, two packs of soda and four bags of chips. I watch them as they slide out the card, process the transaction and walk away with \$15 worth of junk food that my income taxes paid for. To counteract this issue, the state could put into place restrictions, similar to that of the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program currently used.

Those who don't use it often generalize or stereotype people who do use the card. For example, a typical stereotype is a young mother of three bratty kids, pregnant with the fourth who reeks of stale, cigarette smoke. This is often not the case.

Many look like normal, working folk who make the money to survive, yet need some help from the state to make final ends meet. Yet there are those who drive the BMW, wear designer clothing, and carry the Louis

Vuitton purse. It's when it comes to this, I don't understand. Common sense tells me, if you can afford the other amenities, then you shouldn't take away help from those who truly need it. I mean if you can afford to drive a 2005 BMW and buy a \$500 Louis Vuitton purse why do you need food stamps?

However, there are flaws in the system. At the beginning of this year, my best friend who is a student and has a very busy job on campus tried to apply for the program. He was denied because he wasn't a full-time student, meaning he was taking less than

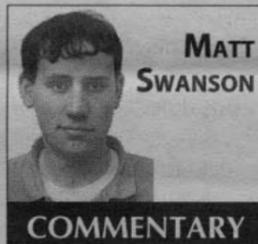
twelve credits, yet had a job that required him to be on campus at least 40 hours a week.

However, the job he had paid him in credits, not in any monetary value, so he didn't have any income for him to get the necessities like food.

There are also people who show too much money on paper, yet the money they make is not enough. Again, these people are denied the help. This is often the case for those who are married, yet have no children.

I just wish people who used this system, would take into consideration what is being provided for them as the news is constantly filled with stories of people who go hungry, yet we live in a modern society with good medical care and opportunities for many under privileged people.

These people are fortunate that our country can provide the basic necessities needed for survival.



MATT SWANSON

COMMENTARY

Schools struggle with grad inflation

Silvio Laccetti
 (KRT)

The college year has drawn to a close. Soon the high school year will finish.

Tests are taken, papers submitted and final grades are reported. As has been the case for many years now, 40-50 percent of the grades will be in the A range. Excellent - or maybe not. So many A's are a result of grade inflation, and all is not well in the academic universe.

Just a few examples serve to define the problem. According to news reports, in one of my state's best high schools, 48 percent of final grades given last year to juniors were A's. At another top northern New Jersey high school, a straight B average resulted in a class ranking of 194 out of 225. According to a recent UCLA survey, 47.5 percent of all college freshmen had an A average while they were in high school. (In 1968, that percentage was just 17.6.)

In contrast, SAT scores have bounced around in a very narrow range from 1976 to 2002. Verbal scores averaged 514 in 1976 and 506 in 2002; math scores came in at 507 and 516 for these years. As the frosh say, "What's up with that, anyway?"

Well, here's what's up. In determining excellence, our educational system has devolved from a holistic-organic view to a mechanistic one. In the ancient past - before the early 1980s - excellence was special: it stood out and it stood apart. Its attributes included, among others, uncompromised high quality, clarity, power, efficiency and - especially - grace. Excellence is always pleasing to the mind's eye.

When students would ask me how to get an A, I would reply, "Submit level 'A' work."

Nowadays, excellence is broken down into various components parts. Each is given a weighted value and all are somehow combined into a finished piece. For example, many classes assign a percentage of the grade, perhaps 10-20 percent, for class participation. What this usually does is to impede learning because students are forced to make inane points just to get credit. In high school, because of different schemes and weights, excellence can turn out to be a grade-point average of 5.2 on a scale of 4.

At the end of each semester, I am faced with the sometimes-daunting task of determining final grades. I can remember very well the time I came face to face with the issue of grade inflation. It was in 1992 when a bright student asked me to reconsider his final grade. He had received a B, but was hoping for an A.

Now in those dark days, my school issued only simple letter grades without a plus or a minus distinction. The student had an average of 88.86, close to an A-, but not an A. The student was one in a freshman class of 22. In studying the matter, I was uneasy at noting that only 1 student had obtained an A, but I wasn't moved - yet.

Then I looked at the grade postings of my colleagues. To my horror, I found that other instructors with classes ranging from 15 to 22 students were giving five, six, and even seven A grades in a class. Holy Cow!

I quickly began formulating arguments in favor of changing the student's grade.

Corporations considered GPA in their hiring; graduate schools and professional schools like law, medicine, and dentistry were very competitive and each grade counted toward admission. Our own awards for graduates were determined by GPA.

By being such a hard grader I might be hurting my students' life opportunities.

The arguments were just, and compelling, but I knew they were irrelevant. I had suddenly and very belatedly come face to face with grade inflation. I changed the grade to an A.

Fortunately, my school has since instituted plus and minus grades, but we are still much behind other prestige colleges and universities whose average grade is about a 3.45 out of 4. Our average GPA is about 3.1.

This semester, I can report that in a group of 26 students, there were two A's and three A-minus grades. This is still not in line with current grade inflation, but I believe my assessment to be accurate and fair.

Do our schools suffer from an excess of excellence? Make no mistake. America needs excellence; it doesn't need grade inflation.

The Commuter

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STAFF

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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

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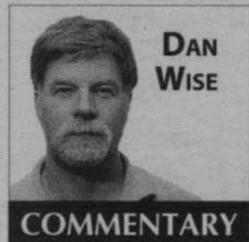
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OPINION

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New technologies no excuse for rudeness

I'm going to date myself. I first went to college in 1973. George Lucas probably hadn't even imagined the "Star Wars" saga, although I like to think he drew his inspiration for The Dark Lord and Darth Vader from Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger. The country was still involved in a little "conflict" called Vietnam and calculators were still made more from wood (slide rules) than microchips.



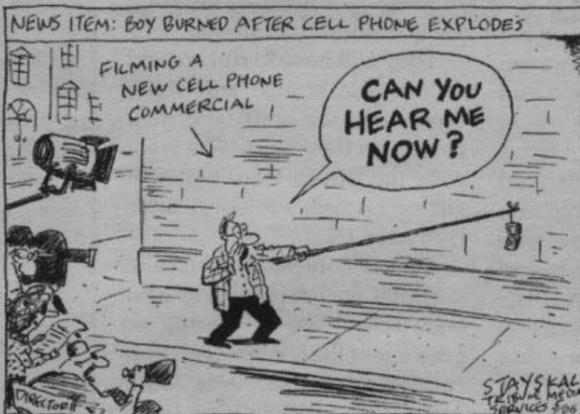
DAN WISE

COMMENTARY

Six "Star Wars" episodes and several "conflicts" later, the Dark Lord has fallen, Vader has grown old, and we have entered the electronic age.

I now own a computer and numerous other devices unavailable in those days, including two cell phones. Despite these changes, I feel basic concepts of human conduct remain the same.

While in class a couple of weeks ago, I was bracketed by two students who seemed to not understand the concept of rudeness. On my left, one student was busily text messaging someone and waiting for a reply.



This was on the desk in front of her in plain sight of the instructor. On my right another student was playing a video game on his cell phone. He had it below the level of the desk, but the sound of multiple beeps could plainly be heard.

I do not pretend to be a model student, and in 1973 I certainly was not. Doing homework for the next class, doodling and daydreaming are par for the course for

most people at times. If you want to waste \$56 a credit, it's your business, and I know I've done it. However, you do not have the right to bug other people or put them in the position of having to tell you to cease and desist. I also feel you do not have the right to be disrespectful to the instructor. It's hard enough facing 15-20 half asleep students at 8 a.m. without electronic devices interfering with teaching.

In high school I had an English teacher who had a system. If someone was sleeping or disrupting the class he picked up an eraser (a primitive device used to remove chalk from a blackboard--look up chalk and blackboard for yourself) and beamed him. He was very accurate and very effective. I think instructors should be issued some modern form of the eraser, perhaps a nerf cannon or squirt gun for use on rude students. Liability be damned.

Disrespect is not a hard concept to grasp. It's modern form is called dissing--new word, same meaning. While this is hardly an earthshaking issue, it is important. It touches on one of the basics of human interaction. Bob Dylan wrote once "The times they are a changing." Respect for others should not.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Commuter missed story on Latino/a Day events

To The Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the incredibly hard working students and staff who made the "Latino/a Day" events so successful this year.

Student Ambassadors Mercedes Gutierrez and Trina Williams were just awesome in their efforts to organize, entertain and recruit the middle and high school students who so beautifully graced our campus with an energy not often enough experienced in our daily campus lives. The ghetto blaster accompaniment to the salsa dancers in the courtyard was a joy to see!

Also to be congratulated for their undying dedication to students are the beloved Carol Wenzel and MC Director Jason Miller, who coordinated the high school visit.

These are our people out there, doing the grunge work of outreach and recruitment that will most directly have an impact on campus diversity and growth. With Hispanics now at 11 percent of Oregon's population, these types of programs will ensure that LB retains a positive reputation with a broad definition of "community" and is seen as truly engaged in programs that promote diversity from a proactive stance.

It is unfortunate that this was not covered in The Commuter, as it was a missed opportunity to cover an important college event.

Thank you all for your huge effort! With much warmth and regard,

Analee Fuentes
 Art Department

Editorial recalls memory of oppressive agents

To The Editor:

In perusing the latest edition of The Commuter I found Nick Milhoan's story of woe concerning our friendly northern border and customs agents. Pausing to take a long look at the picture accompanying the column, I seriously tried to discern if he looked or even vaguely resembled the stereotypical terrorist. Knowing Nick, I can envision the terror he might like to impart on journalism students at times when it is getting late and press time draws near. Beyond that he looks pretty innocent to me, but what do I know.

His story brought back memory of an incident that happened to me at the same border crossing in 1978. Instead of terrorists they were looking for drug smugglers and dope dealers back then, and I encountered

the full treatment one day.

I owned a trucking company based out of Los Angeles at the time and a cardinal rule for my drivers was simple. No drugs on, in, or around my trucks. A driver found violating that rule was in the unemployment line in short order.

I had been in Vancouver, B.C., on business and decided to ride home on one of the trucks with the only long-haired driver who worked for us at that time. He wore his hair in a ponytail that fell almost to his waist.

Clearing Canadian Customs was a breeze, but then came U.S. Customs. They took one look at the driver, directed us to pull off into the inspection lane, and the fun started. We waited for what seemed endless hours while they ran checks on my Interstate Commerce Commission (now DOT) authority, tractor and trailer serial numbers and registrations, driver's licenses, insurance policies and about everything else they could think of. We were headed into Seattle empty, so there was no freight manifest for them to deal with, or we may have ended up living there.

That accomplished, and after finding everything in good order, the real insult came. It was raining pretty hard that day and a customs agent in a raincoat came walking up to the truck with probably the biggest black and tan German Shepard I have ever seen. The dog was dripping wet by the time they got there, and the agent looked at me and said, "Are you sure there are no drugs in this truck?"

I said, "No sir. There are no drugs here," and he opened the door and said, "Let's find out." When I objected to that he said, "Well ... We can get a warrant."

The driver and I stood watching as the dog jumped up into the cab, shook the water from his wet fur all over all the windshield and walls of the cab, and proceeded to leave wet muddy paw prints all over the upholstery and sheets in the sleeper. Finding nothing, the agent and his dog left and a few minutes later another agent came out to tell me we could leave. Having had about all I was prepared to take at that point, I told the agent what I thought of putting the dog in to track up what had been a clean set of sheets when we arrived. His comment was pretty simple. "Tell your driver to get a haircut next time you come through here."

Perhaps the lessons of 1930s Germany; the Brown Shirts, the SS and Gestapo tactics were omitted in the manuals and educational criteria for being a U.S. Customs Agent. The war on terrorism is all well and good, but what happened to all those other rights we went to other wars and fought for? They seem to be going the way of the dinosaurs as we beat the bushes and look under rocks and into closets while more and more freedoms are lost to rules and regulations almost daily.

Walt Hughes,
 LBCC Student

Graphic design students deserve more attention

To The Editor.

I was delighted to see the lead story in the May 18 Commuter regarding the Graphic Design Show and John Aikman's 25th Anniversary Party. The Graphic Design students never seem to get the recognition they deserve.

I am not sure who Mr. Milhoan actually spoke with at the party, and the truth is, the people he should have spoken with were probably too busy actually working to get the party started and keep it going to do much talking at all.

While it is true that many of the students who planned and put on the party were, in fact, members of the Visual Arts Club, the VAC did not put on or pay for the party.

While it is true that the basic idea for an anniversary party was mentioned earlier in the year, nothing had been planned for or prepared until one second year student took charge and made it happen in only twelve days.

While it is true that Graphic Design students put on the party, it was exclusively first and second year students who planned the party, created and collected the decorations, as well as put them up, created the scrapbook, contacted past graduates, provided food and refreshments, set-up and provided music, and a few things I'm sure I am forgetting.

While it is true that there were a few of last year's graduates, there were many more from several past graduating classes going back many years.

I would like to personally thank everyone who helped and contributed to making this 25th year celebration happen. It was done out of respect and admiration for the man who has shaped and molded many aspiring graphic designers. He has pushed us to our limits and we can never thank him strongly enough for making us the people and designers we are today.

Thank you to the following 1st year students; Patty Fisher, Jena Harkins, Jody Hawkins, Liz Keith, Leslie Oaks, Ashley Spence, Joyea & Shalene Warren, Tonya Norton, Erik Keith, Stephen Way, Lindsey Whittemore, Blaine Witter, Li Zhang.

Thank you to the following 2nd year students; Jodie Cossack, Megan Dykstra, Elizabeth Hernandez, Kala Otta, Becky Brim, Wayne Gill, Alicia Shelton, Renay Waddell.

Thank you to Gary Westford for the use of your office.

Thank you, John. Without you none of this would have been possible.

Michael D. Thompson
 Graphic Design Faculty

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

For more info about the opportunities listed, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

Legal Secretary/Assistant (#3353, Lebanon) If you are wanting to work in a legal office part-time (8:30 am-12, Mon-Thurs.), this job is for you. It pays \$9-10/hr DOE.

CWE Student Laboratory Technician (#3352, Albany) This summer job if from June to September, part-time (16-20 hrs/week). Your major needs to be related and you must have one year of Chemistry either in high school or college. Pay is \$9-13/hr DOE.

Bookkeeper (#3354, Corvallis) If you have strong knowledge in QuickBooks, payroll and computer skills in Word & Excel, this job is for you! This job is part-time (20 hrs/week).

Summer is coming up fast!! You need to look for summer jobs now! Just sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/careerservices. You will have access to lots of jobs and you will also receive emails about jobs.

Tropics come to LB

Melissa Chaney
 The Commuter

Breakout the gaudy Hawaiian shirt, Bermuda shorts, socks and sandals that you secretly love to wear. Polynesian Party Day is coming to the LBCC courtyard on June 1, next Wednesday. From noon to 1 p.m., the Polynesian Courtyard Lunch will be served by a student organization.

It will be a typical Polynesian style lunch, consisting of either Kahlua pork or tofu (your choice), rice, fresh fruit, coconut pudding, chips and your choice of beverage. The cost is \$3 for students and \$4 for college employees. This event is made possible by Food Services, Student Life and Leadership and the Student Activity Programs Committee.

Entertainment will be provided by Alberta Shubert, located in Albany, and her Micronesian Dancers. Two other events planned for the party are the "Tacky Tourist" game and a hula contest.

According to Shirley Austin, who is helping to organize the event, the "Tacky Tourist" game will have four teams of three in the competition. They will be dressed up in large Hawaiian

shirts, Bermuda shorts and huge sunglasses, with cameras hung slung around their necks.

They will have to run around an obstacle course and trade their costume with the next person on their team. The team with the fastest time will win gift certificates for Local Boyz Hawaiian Café.

A hula contest between the students and faculty will also take place. "We're hoping to get some of the favorite teachers, employees and students," said Austin, "so we can watch them on stage." Business instructor Ian Priestman has already said that he will participate.

They are hoping to get three faculty members and three students, who will be taught a dance and given a grass skirt to wear. "They'll receive a small token," said Austin.

They encourage those who attend the party to wear Hawaiian shirts or anything tropical. If you want to be sure of a spot for the relay, you can contact Kristina Howard at the MC.

Also, to submit suggestions for faculty or students that you would like to see in a grass skirt, swishing their hips on stage, see Austin in the MC or e-mail her at austin221@centurytel.net.

Tuition: School tries to avoid making cuts

◀ From Pg. 1
 is less than the average for the state's community colleges.

Director of Enrollment Management Bruce Clemetson said the reason behind the increase this year is that the costs of running the school have gone up and money received from the state has gone down significantly.

"The funding that comes from the state has been reduced by double digits," said Clemetson.

Among the rising costs is PERS (the Public Employee Retirees System), which has increased the district's contributions this year. PERS is a mandatory retirement program and very expensive to keep up, said Clemetson. "Cutting positions doesn't save on PERS, but it would save on health care," said Clemetson.

There are few other ways to get this extra money. The administration has done everything it can, said Clemetson. The only other solution to raising tuition is to lay people

off and start cutting programs. But when programs start getting cut, enrollment declines and that means the college gets even less money from the state, he said.

"It's a real balancing act to manage all this," said Clemetson.

Other things are being done around campus to try and save students money, said Clemetson. Teachers are being educated about how to alleviate the rising cost of textbooks by choosing ones that are least expensive.

Another strategy students can use to help pay for college is scholarships, said Clemetson.

"There is a bunch of money out there that goes unclaimed because students don't apply," he said.

Getting a scholarship usually only requires about an hour of a student's time to write an essay and they could get \$1,000 for it.

It is definitely worth applying for if you are interested in scholarships, he said.

WANTED

Creative students to fill positions on The Commuter staff for 2005-06

Assistant Editors

Appointments carry quarterly tuition grants that vary from 4 to 9 credits per term, depending on the position. Some journalism experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointments made by the editor.

Managing Editor
Copy Editor
Sports Editor
Graphics Editor
Opinion Editor
A & E Editor
Photo Editor
Online Editor

Ad Manager

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant. Individuals with career goals in business, graphics or journalism are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Experience with Macintosh, InDesign and Photoshop helpful, but will train.

Hourly Wage Jobs

These positions are open to work-study eligible students only. If you have a work-study grant and are majoring in a communications field, we want to talk to you.

Advertising Assistant *Editorial Assistant*
Photography Assistant *Production Assistant*

Digital Page Designer

Pays \$9+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mondays and Tuesdays. Good English skills and experience with Macintosh, InDesign and Photoshop preferred.

This is your chance to get involved in your school paper.

Applications are available in The Commuter Office (F-222) or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-112)
 For additional information call 917-4563 or 917-4451

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Student Voices

What has been the best or worst thing about your spring term?



"The best thing is that I am almost done with my one-year certificate and then I'm going to apply to the two-year AAS."

Joyea Warren
Graphic Arts

"It's been very interactive. They (LBCC) try to make school fun."

Ginny Roberts
Culinary Arts



"The best thing is that I'm only taking 10 credits and the sun that we have had. The worst is the rain we did have."

Tom Laird
Undecided

"The worst thing is the juggling act with my business and my son and school."

Beth Shook
AAOT



"Homework is the worst part. The best part is watching all the flowers bloom in all their glory."

Bryan Wells
Photography

"The sun has been the best and the worst is that summer is so close and yet so far."

Danika Allen
Photography



compiled by Kyla Hoyt

Award-winning Commuter writer recovering from injury

Colleen Jacks
The Commuter

When Jim and Kathy White of Salem took a 5 a.m. call on April 30, what they heard was every parent's nightmare—their son, LBCC student Brad White, had been seriously injured in an accident.

Brad and his friends were riding ATVs on property owned by a friend late on the evening of April 29. According to his sister, Candice White of Salem, Brad was following another vehicle back to the campsite when he became separated from the group.

"They were riding fairly slow down the hill because it was dark," Candice said. "They lost sight of his headlights, so they went looking for him."

Brad was found minutes later lying unconscious on the ground near the ATV, which was upright and still running. Blood was coming from his nose, but he had no other obvious injuries. He was placed on the back of another ATV and taken to the campsite. At the time, he was not wearing a helmet.

An ambulance from the Spirit Mountain casino arrived within 11 minutes and transported Brad to the casino parking lot where a Life-Flight helicopter arrived four minutes later. He was flown to Emanuel Hospital in Portland, where he's being treated for a

"He has no memory of the accident, and has trouble with short-term memory, but the doctors say that this may improve over time."

Candice White, sister

serious head injury.

According to Candice, doctors had to drill a "flap" into his skull to relieve the swelling. They later performed brain surgery to remove blood clots and discovered Brad had suffered three minor strokes and had swelling above the left side of his brain stem.

It was not clear if the strokes occurred at the time of the accident or sometime later.

Brad wrote for The Commuter last fall, and was awarded first place in the Best Sports Story category from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association at an awards ceremony held May 6 at Western Oregon University.

While his injuries were quite severe, Brad has made good progress in his recovery. By Friday of the second week, he had regained consciousness and recognized friends and family. He was later moved out of ICU to a regular room.

He has movement in all his extremities, but has lingering weakness on his right side. Initially, he could not speak

due to the tracheotomy tube inserted into his throat, but that has recently been replaced by a different tube that allows him to speak.

"He has no memory of the accident, and has trouble with short-term memory, but the doctors say this may improve over time," Candice said. "He's making progress everyday," she added.

Brad lives in an apartment complex in Corvallis, and when his father contacted the landlords about the situation, they were reluctant to let Brad out of his lease. They wanted \$1,500 to end the contract early and the May rent. They later acquiesced and reduced the dollar amount.

Both Brad and Candice work for Applebee's at Lancaster Mall in Salem. Fellow employees took up a collection for Brad and donated some of the money to Candice.

"She missed a lot of work during the two weeks following the accident," said Jeff Franzonia, general manager of Applebee's. "She wasn't going to make her rent, so everyone wanted to help her out." Brad will have a job waiting for him when he's ready to return to work, he added.

A special bank account was opened to assist with medical costs. Donations can be made, in his name at any branch of Washington Mutual.

Fun, games, music highlight LBCC's annual Spring Fling

Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

Another school year is about to end, but not before one last bash. The annual Spring Fling will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today in the courtyard.

This is a highlight for many students at LB. Some look forward to the event all year long, while others see it as a sign that another year is about to end.

"I love it," said LBCC student Joe Galenta. "It's a nice way to relax and forget about everything else going on with school and life."

One of this year's big attractions will be Thornbird, a live three-piece rock band that is based in Los Angeles. In the past, Spring Fling has always had a DJ, but the Student Programming Board wanted to change that.

"Originally we wanted Amadan, a local Irish band," said Spring Fling coordinator Tamara Britton. "However they were unavailable, so we called around and Thornbird actually reduced their price so that we could afford them."

Thornbird was discovered when members of Student Government attended the National Association of College Activities Conference earlier this year.

"We got a copy of their CD at the conference," said Britton. "We listened to it all the way home and liked their music."

As always the event is free to students and

staff with funding coming from student fees. The Associated Student Government is responsible for planning and budgeting Spring Fling.

A miniature golf course will be set up for those wanting to take a swing, as well as a table where those with a sweet tooth can make "Sandie Candy" which is an edible sugar candy made using sand style formations.

For those wanting to fill their gut, culinary services will be flipping burgers or garden burgers with all the fixings as well as baked beans, potato salad, desert and beverages.

Cost for lunch is \$3 per student and \$4 for staff and others.

LBCC's own Roadrunner will be on hand to give out free samples of the new blended iced coffee from the Hot Shot, the student run coffee house.

The American Association for Women is having a silent auction, something that has become an annual attraction during Spring Fling.

Representatives from various clubs and organizations will also be on hand to give students information.

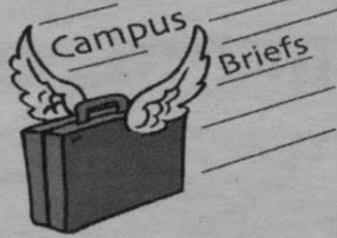
The Spring Fling is designed to get students' minds off of the stress of finals week. Organizers hope for a repeat of this weeks summer-like weather.

"We want to get students out to relax more," said Britton. "Many don't get involved and just come to school and go to class, this gives them a chance to meet others and have a good time."

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CAMPUS NEWS

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



Business students, alums honored

The Business and Computer Systems Division has announced the winners of the 32nd Annual Business Awards given at its annual banquet held May 13 on campus.

•LBCC student winners were announced for the following categories:

•Fastest Typist—Lindsey Nordyke (93 w.p.m.)

•OSU/LBCC Outstanding Business Graduate—Derek Holland

•Outstanding Alumni/Business Technology—Delma Savage

•Outstanding Alumni/Computer Systems—Clara Swearingin

•First-Year Business Technology—Julie White

•Administrative Assistant—Anna Arndt

•Accounting Technology—Laura Dalton

•Administrative Medical Assistant—Elizabeth Shaarawi

•Business Administration—Dustin Keller

•Business & Supervisory Management—Dan Leard

•Business Computer Systems—Chris Lyons

•Computer Science—Jeff Neufeld

•Computer User Support—Laura Bunsen

•Legal Administrative Assistant—Rhea Graham

•Medical Assistant—Elizabeth Shaarawi

•Principles of Accounting—Cheryl Cowgill

•Principles of Economics—Jeanine Howell

Nuclear series features speaker

The Institute for Peace and Justice will hold its fifth discussion as part of the Video Salon series "WMD in the Age of Terror—A Discussion on Nuclear Proliferation," on Thursday, May 26 from 6-8 p.m. in Takena Room 207. Doug Clark, institute coordinator, will facilitate this week's discussion, which will focus on the possible development of a new non-proliferation regime. Special guest Richard Raymond from Physicians for Social Responsibility will discuss the organization's Smart Security proposal.

The series is open to the public free-of-charge, courtesy of the Institute for Peace and Justice. For more information, contact Clark at clarkd@linnbenton.edu

The series will conclude on June 9 with a discussion and related video clips on the topic: "Strategies for a Post-Nuclear World Order."

Volunteer groundskeeper finds his niche within campus landscape

Dan Wise
 The Commuter

The white clock face hovers over the courtyard watching the ebb and flow of campus life, the streams of students making their way through the day, the term, the seasons and the year.

Jake Pratt can identify with the clock. He is part of the scene, yet invisible, camouflaged by the students' everyday worries. For over eight years Pratt has been part of the team at LBCC that maintains the school's grounds. Most of the time, only four people take care of the 105-acre campus. The lush, green lawns and bright reds, yellows and purples of spring that soften the harsh concrete and red brick buildings are part of his responsibilities. There is concentration in his face as he goes about his duties. It's easy to see that he cares.

"Spring and fall are my favorite seasons. I really like the flowers," says Pratt with a smile. Munching a hot dog, he surveys the courtyard as students hurry past the bright, blooming rhododendrons. He knows people don't really see him as he goes about his duties. "Sometimes I'll be mowing and people will just sit in the grass and I'll have to ask them to move," he says, shaking his head in wonderment. Students don't talk to him much. A few say hi. Some ask why he is mowing in the rain. He knows the grass keeps growing even in the rain and he volunteers to keep it looking good.

Pratt's family moved to Oregon soon after his birth in Arizona 29 years ago. He grew up in the Lebanon area with his mom and dad and a brother eight years his senior. "We didn't hang out too much when we were younger. We get along fine now, but when we were younger, no. I was hard on him," says Pratt. He attended Lebanon High School and loved roller-skating. He still works at the Lebanon rink, skating often and even playing roller hockey.

Pratt remembers going on many driving vacations with his family. He liked one trip to San Diego, especially the zoo, and he recalls going to Disneyland. "I liked the rides, but we couldn't get on the 'Indiana Jones' ride because the line was too long." The family also likes to go camping, but last year's trip was not a success. "We got a trailer and were going down south a long ways. Before we got to where we were going the trailer started sliding and the wheel broke and the trailer tipped over. It was wrecked. Not a fun vacation," he says with a wry smile.

A strong interest in cars comes from his dad, and his favorite shows on TV are on the Discovery channel about motorcycles and restoring cars. Pratt loves to go to the drag races in Woodburn and recently started going to the sprint car races in Lebanon. A neighbor, whose mother works at the track, gets him in free.

"I like how fast they go. I saw a car with a broken axle crash, but it didn't do any damage to the cars," again with the big smile.

Pratt smiles a lot. His expressive face, with its dark, deep-set eyes, has a glow when he talks about his family and the good things in his life. He shows deep concentration when he answers questions. He doesn't respond quickly or with many words, but with conviction and almost always with a smile.

"He's pretty quiet but fun to joke around



photo by Dan Wise

Jake Pratt has been happily tending to the lawns, shrubs and trees of the LBCC Albany campus for the past eight years.

with," says Jerry Boaz, a fellow worker. "He's very methodical and very smart mechanically." Pratt has a magical ability to know when there's ice cream to be had, Boaz comments. "He likes his ice cream and always seems to know when it's around."

Jake loves movies, especially action like 'Indiana Jones' and 'Die-Hard.'" He has a cousin who is an actor and was in the "Addams Family" movies. "I think he drove a car."

Pratt also enjoys volunteering at the LBCC theater building and painting sets, although he has never seen one of the plays he worked on. "I would like to someday," he says.

Pratt rides the bus from Lebanon the three days a week he works on campus. He knows most of the people that ride with him and likes to "talk sports and stuff with them." Football (Raiders) and baseball (Yankees) are his favorites. Another cousin was in the Yankee minor league organization as a catcher and coach. "He was on TV before." He used to like basketball and the Blazers, "but there were too many people getting in trouble."

Volunteer is the operative word in Jake Pratt's life right now. He is not paid for his work at LBCC or any other of his activities. His parents help him out while he gains work experience with the idea of getting a paying job in the future.

"Jake has come a long way," says George van Keulen, Pratt's supervisor and head groundskeeper at LBCC. "He has picked up using the equipment very quickly and works very safely and methodically. We trust him with a lot of stuff. He was the first one to use our new big mower."

Van Keulen hired Pratt at the request of Pratt's mom and Greg Paulson, an LBCC horticulture instructor of one of Pratt's classes at LBCC. It was originally a cooperative work experience and then he started working summers and volunteering while taking classes the rest of the year, according to van Keulen. "He (Pratt) hardly ever has any problems. The summer crowd (workers) is sometimes a mess, but he is always steady," he said, "Jake has really progressed, but I would like to see him boost his confidence. I would like to see him put on at LBCC."

Pratt likes his work and the people he works with. The close-knit group takes pride in their work and has a lot of fun. He likes seeing the bright blooms of spring and he likes watching the students walking by in the sun. He doesn't easily talk about himself, but his broad smile and intelligent eyes speak to what is inside.

He has dreams and goals, maybe working in construction someday, but for now he is content with his life, content with being invisible.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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



photo by Matt Swanson

Free Samples, Yeah!!

Justin Homer of the First Alternative Co-op in Corvallis talks to Sue Bewely of Facilities and Linda McKinney from Mail Services during last Wednesday's Health Fair in the Courtyard. The fair offered free samples, health advice and other info.

New BC director hails from Skagit

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

Colleen Clancy, the new Benton Center Director, begins her career with LBCC in August.

"I wanted a job that suited my skills, at a community college that shared my educational values, in a community that offered rich cultural opportunities," said Clancy. She comes from Skagit Valley College of Washington where she served as the San Juan Center Director for over six years.

Before Washington, she served as director of program development in Ecuador at the Centro Cultural Ecuatoriano-Norte Americano Abraham Lincoln. There she worked on a one-year contract to plan the English department for the Agrarian University of Ecuador.

Her teaching experience includes a one-year appointment as Professor for the Universidad Nacional de Cuenca in Ecuador, where she taught ESL, an instructor position of English composition for Broward Community College Pan American Center in Ecuador and Staff Attorney position for continuing education of the State Bar at the University of California, Berkeley.

"I am a community college graduate and a huge proponent

of community college. I had neither the grades or the money to go away to college out of high school so I stayed home, worked and went to community college. I went on to graduate with two degrees from Berkeley so I know first hand the value of our community college system," explained Clancy.

Clancy's community college was De Anza of Cupertino, Calif., where she received her associate of arts, graduating magna cum laude. From there she went to Berkeley and earned a bachelor of arts in sociology and a juris doctor.

Before entering the field of education, she practiced law and served as the Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for San Juan County. She is a member of both the California and Washington Bar Associations.

Clancy will miss her students and colleagues at Skagit. Her son has just graduated from college and her daughter has just completed her first year at Washington State University.

"I spent two years in Ecuador teaching in the public higher education system and saw the limitations of a culture in which education is not generally available. I came back with more appreciation than ever for the open door to education that community college represents," Clancy elaborated.

PTK plans three events this term

LBCC News Service

The Alpha Tau Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is hosting three events in the next two weeks—a community garage sale and car show on May 28, as well as a food and book drive during graduation ceremonies on June 9.

The Community Garage Sale and Cruise-In will be held this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the main parking lot in front of Takena Hall.

Staff, students, and community members can rent 10-by-10-foot vendor spaces to participate in this event for \$20 without a table or \$25 with a table.

The Cruise-In will begin at noon and last all afternoon. Car owners are invited to bring down their cars and show them off to the community.

"Our chapter officers thought that this would be a great college project for the community to participate in and for our students to sell extra items they may have before summer," said Alpha Tau Upsilon Chapter President Brandi Hereford. "We hope to see a huge crowd and make this an annual project."

Admission is free for both events. All proceeds from the garage sale will be used to support chapter activities. For further information, contact Hereford at 541-791-1192.

The chapter is also organizing "Project Graduation: Feed a Body, Feed a Mind" during LBCC's graduation ceremony June 9 at 7 p.m. in the Activities Center.

Project Graduation encourages community college students to donate canned goods and books to local relief agencies and literacy organizations. Graduates and their families are encouraged to bring their donations to the college commencement ceremonies and other commencement activities.

The program focuses on the battle against the social issues of hunger and low literacy rates. In an effort to impact communities internationally, Phi Theta Kappa chapters in over 500 community colleges in the United States, Canada, Germany, Saipan and Guam are committed to changing lives and communities last year through Project Graduation. Since the launch of Project Graduation in 2002, more than 220,000 food items and 190,000 books have been collected and distributed.

For more information, or to donate goods prior to the event, contact Hereford at 541-791-1192.

The Alpha Tau Upsilon chapter hosts many projects throughout the year encouraging service, fellowship, scholarship and leadership. They also work closely with the American Cancer Society educating students and staff of preventive measures and fundraising for the ACS.



Commuter Staff

The staff of the Commuter wishes to send out our best wishes and congratulations to our very own Colleen Anne Sweeney and her fiance Jeffrey Paul Franzonia as they celebrate the start of a new life together. Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Franzonia will say their vows this Friday before heading off to Virginia on their honeymoon.

We wish them all the best and hope the two have a very long and happy life together!

Read the Commuter

...because that dude on the bus wants to talk about his drywall project...

again.

2005

LBCC SPRING FLING

LAST BASH!

A GREAT AFTERNOON OF FUN ◀ GAMES ◀ FOOD ◀ MUSIC

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH

ALBANY CAMPUS COURTYARD

11:30 am to 1:00 pm

<p>LUNCH</p> <p>\$3 STUDENTS \$4 EMPLOYEES Hamburger or Gardenburger Baked Beans Potato Salad Dessert Beverage</p>	<p>MUSIC</p> <p>Music by THORNBIRD, a 3-piece rock band based in L.A.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>FREE Mini-Golf Souvenirs Clubs & Organizations</p>
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Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sponsored by the Student Programming Board. For more information, contact Tamara Britton at 917-4472.

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

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IN FOCUS

Extreme weather has wide-ranging impacts

Jennifer Overholser
 The Commuter

When school let out for spring break last March, students hurried home to plan fun ways to spend their vacation. They laughed when art history instructor Gary Westford made a bet that it would rain the entire spring break.

When that's exactly what it did, suddenly their plans to pitch tents, try out new trails, walk barefoot on the beach and dig in the back yard were not such appealing options.

The dry winter had already put a damper on skiing. But even though the change in the weather came at an inconvenient time, you couldn't help but admit you were a little relieved for the parched

flowers. After an early bloom, the daffodils had withered from lack of rain. Everything was oddly dry this winter, dry enough for a several early brushfires. This sort of thing didn't usually happen until at least late spring. Eastern Oregon was doing especially badly, with several counties seeking drought declarations, state officials considering drought preparedness plans. Thoughts turned toward the possibility of large-scale wildfires and water shortages in the summer, with a very low snowpack in the mountains and near record-low winter precipitation.

Then, when the weather suddenly got very wet this spring, concerns about wildfires and drought were eased, replaced with confusion over the unusual shift in the weather. Why was the normally wet

winter so dry and why did it get so wet this spring? What does it mean for the rest of the year?

Some of the answers to these questions can be derived from the snowpack data, stream levels, Oregon weather patterns between 1971 and 2000, and even certain global events. For example, according to Oregon state climatologist George Taylor, within the last two decades scientists determined that a "conveyor belt" of ocean current has a huge effect on the weather.

The ocean temperature changes as it moves around the world; which explains that the phenomenon known as El Ninos happen when much of the eastern and central Pacific Ocean, between the coasts of the Americas and the area below Ha-

ving an El Nino, however, the tradewinds subside, causing the normally cold water to warm. El Ninos tend to cause warmer winters in the Pacific Northwest, with average to below average rainfall.

In a La Nina, however, the ocean in the same area gets colder, leading to strong, concentrated storm and cloud areas in the Pacific Northwest. La Ninas tend to cause torrential rain and flooding in Oregon in the winter. These events have different effects in different parts of the world, causing droughts in some places and monsoons in others at the same time.

According to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, this winter's weather conditions were related to a weak El Nino event. The jet stream split away from the West Coast, causing storms in

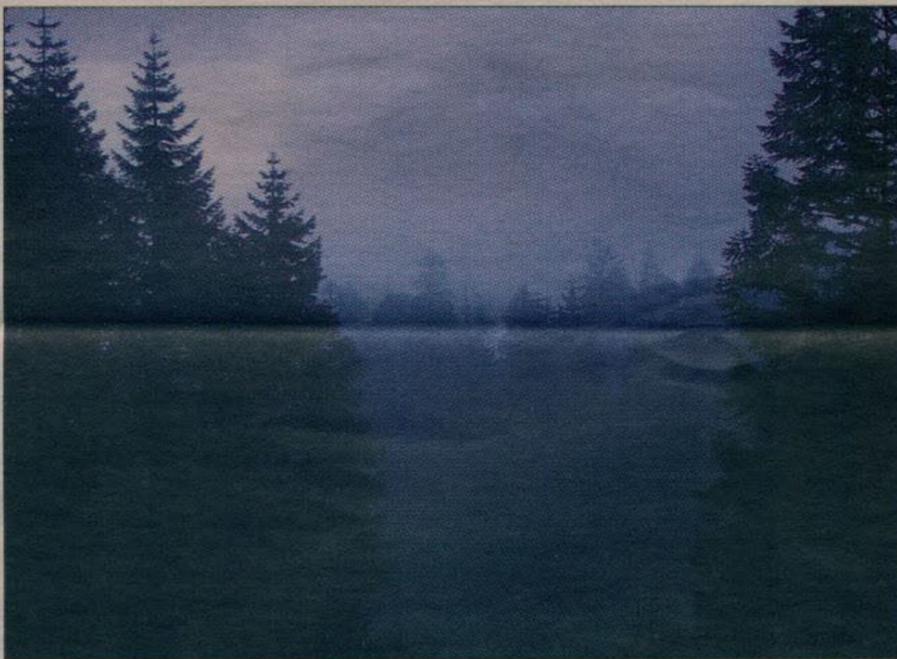
California and British Columbia, but left most of Oregon dry, with a persistent area of high pressure.

Scientists have also discovered data that suggests that the clearing of the land over the centuries might have an effect on climate. According to LBCC biology instructor Bob Ross, this data indicates that about 8,000 years ago, when people started large-scale agriculture, a correlation occurred

with the beginning of a gradual drying cycle on the earth.

Climatologists discovered another pattern by looking at weather cycles over the last century. An Oregon Climate Service report describes 20-year cycles in which the majority of the years were either wet or dry. They found that these cycles alternated back and forth, one 20-year cycle being mainly dry, the next being mainly wet. However, the drought conditions this year don't neatly fit into that pattern, though scientists admit that not all years in a cycle do. For example, the mid-1990s appeared to be the end of a dry cycle, with 1996 seeming to set off a new wet cycle, with extensive flooding in the Northwest.

In the past few years, though, we have had several drier than usual years. This winter was considered the second driest in Northwest Oregon in the last 100 years. 1976 to 1977 was considered the driest, with record lows of snow accumulation. The low snow levels this year were close to those from 1976 to 1977, so low that several resorts had to close skiing and let employees go. Concerns over droughts were especially high as it remained dry through the first part of March. But with the rain and cooler temperatures in late March, more snow fell in the mountains,



The snow on Mary's Peak, often lasting into June, melted early this year.

photo by Kyla Hoyt



The spring rain brought reservoir levels up, improving the outlook for the year.

photo by Megan Pickens



The Three Sisters lose their snow pack earlier in a low precipitation year.

increasing optimism about stream flow in late spring and early summer. Still, as of April 25, the snowpack for Oregon was at about 42 percent of normal, according to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

April ended up having higher than average precipitation, but the overall amount from October through much of April was below normal. According to the National Weather Service, the Willamette Valley had 122 percent of average precipitation from April 1 to 18, but only 61 percent from October to April 18. The spring rain improved stream conditions and brought reservoir levels up to near normal towards the end of April. Green Peter Reservoir northeast of Sweet Home was several feet above the normal level for the end of April, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Detroit Lake also rose more than 70 feet after the April rains, giving the option of releasing more water for fish. The rain also raised moisture levels in forests, which reduced the possibility of wildfires this spring. In fact, the spring rains have improved the outlook for many things, including migrating fish, farm irrigation, hydropower and recreational activities.

Eastern Oregon, however, hasn't recovered as well from the lack of snow and rain in the winter, despite the higher than average spring rain. Gov. Kulon-goski declared drought emergencies in Baker, Crook, Gilliam, Hood River, Klamath, Morrow, Sherman and Uma-



Recent spring rains have returned the Willamette River to near normal levels.

FOCUS

Expanded feature on selected topics, relating to student life and local issues.



photo by Dan Wise

a low precipitation year, contributing to lower stream levels.



photo by Erik Swanson

Bend received some snow this winter but levels were much lower than usual.

tilla counties. In addition, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has asked wastewater plants to reduce the amount of waste and chlorine they release into the streams, because the low water levels don't dilute the wastes well, which pollutes the water, threatening fish habitat, fishing and recreation.

Based on observations of the precipitation and snowpack since October, the National Weather Service predicts that in the spring and summer the water level in most Oregon river basins will be below normal. However, the estimates are not as low as they had been, previously ranging from 67 to 76 percent. The South Santiam River at Waterloo is expected to be at 90 percent of average. The North Santiam at Mehama is expected to be at 74 percent and the Willamette River at Salem is expected to be at 82 percent. These numbers reflect the optimism the continued rain has given climatologists. Water supply shortages are still expected for some, though, according to the NWS, especially east of the Cascades. Compounding the problem is the increased possibility of above normal temperatures this summer.

Lower stream levels and higher temperatures can also create problems for cold-water fish like salmon and trout. According to Ross, these conditions adversely affect fish reproduction. Bacteria and mold attack the eggs, and if there's low water and there hasn't been flooding, gravel beds fill up with silt and algae,

smothering the eggs from lack of oxygen. When there are floods, the algae and scum are scoured off of the rocks, which allows the water to move through the gravel to aerate the eggs.

Paul Luhrs, an Albany resident who has a passion for fishing, remembers the drought in 2001, a year that had similar conditions to this year. According to Luhrs, there weren't many winter steelhead on the North Coast this winter due to the dry conditions, and the spring chinook salmon season is bad right now. According to an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife news release, fish biologists predict the number of spring chinook headed upstream of Bonneville Dam will only be 78,800, less than one-third of the pre-season forecast of 254,100. The Columbia is closed to salmon fishing between Buoy 10 and McNary Dam and fishery managers decided to postpone opening shad and steelhead seasons on the Columbia in order to protect the spring chinook.

If low water levels prompt Bonneville Dam to reduce spillage in order to generate more power this summer, the reduced flow will make it difficult for the smelt to find their way out to the ocean. Luhrs also points out that when the stream water gets low and warm in the summer it stresses the fish and makes them more susceptible to disease and to predation from birds. In the fall following a long dry summer, he says, "The fall runs of salmon have a hard time migrating and some don't make it up the river. They die in the bays."

People's activities are also affected when the water is low in the summer. We are urged to conserve water by taking shorter showers, running only full loads of laundry and turning off the water when we brush our teeth. It's hard for us to imagine that altering our individual

habits will have much of an impact, but Ross argues that humans waste a lot of water that otherwise would be flowing down streams, helping fish spawn and keeping water cooler and less polluted.

Something else we may have to deal with this summer is forest fire. The lack of snow in the mountains, combined with high heat and more frequent thunderstorms in the summer, leave forests vulnerable. Fallen timber, dry grasses and

The sunlight, now able to reach the ground, has helped these plants flourish and spread. Ross hopes that maybe in a couple years, when the dead trees fall to the ground, snow will not melt so fast and maybe those mountain streams will start to flow again.

Ross believes that fires would not be as devastating now if it weren't for the Smokey the Bear campaign. He believes that if those fires years ago had been

allowed to burn the forest duff and burn themselves out, nature would have taken care of itself. He explains that fire scientists have found evidence of lightning-caused fires in the Cascades in the past that would follow the same pathways over and over again, repeatedly burning some areas but never touching others. This creates diversity, he said, and is evidence of fires being beneficial, a part of nature's cycle, with long-term positive effects.



photo contributed by Bob Ross

After the B & B burn in High Cascades, streams that flowed 12 months a year have dried up.

Just as natural forest fires once created diversity, Ross says that water cycles can also create diversity. Drought has a negative effect on trout and salmon, but warm-water fish like perch and bass may do really well this year, he says.

"We have to just keep in mind that nature is a set of resources that's constantly changing," Ross says, adding that "any set of conditions is going to bless some organisms and be a curse to other organisms, but you know in the full cycle of life you'll get your turn at being blessed."

Though the lack of rain and snow this winter were somewhat alarming, the rain finally came, maybe at an inopportune time, but it did. And it helped with a lot of things, maybe not enough to make up for the low snowpack, but enough to make a big difference to fish and to forests. While we may regret the timing of all the rain that affected our spring break plans, we have to admit that the weather ended up taking us on a different kind of adventure.

branches provide fuel for spreading fires. According to a recent Oregonian article, the latest federal forecast predicts an active fire season in Oregon and Washington. The low snowpack is expected to melt a month earlier than usual, which gives the forests more time to dry out, similar to conditions in 1994 and 2001, both years with active fire seasons.

Ross has been studying the effects of the 2003 Bear Butte and Booth Lake fires, which combined and burned near 100,000 acres. He's noticed that snow melts quickly because there's no shade from the trees. Some small mountain streams that used to run 12 months a year are actually completely gone, he said. Trickles of melted snow travel 15 to 20 feet and disappear into the ground. Nonetheless, Ross, who has returned periodically to the B & B fire area, sees a regeneration going on. "I grieve over the loss until I see the lily blooming," he says. Bracken ferns, lilies, fireweed and bear grass are among the plants that have started to grow here and there on the blackened forest floor.



photo by Erik Swanson

River to higher levels.

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SPORTS

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

The Pistons and Heat vie for the East title while it's the Spurs and Suns in the West

Neal Jones
 The Commuter

The playoff bracket has once again eliminated half the teams playing for the coveted Larry O'Brien trophy.

In the Eastern Conference, the defending champion Detroit Pistons (54-28) will take on the Miami Heat (59-23). The Heat once again swept their opponent, the Washington Wizards, taking them out in four straight games, and they did it without Shaquille O'Neal for the last two games. It took the Pistons six games to do away with the Indiana Pacers.

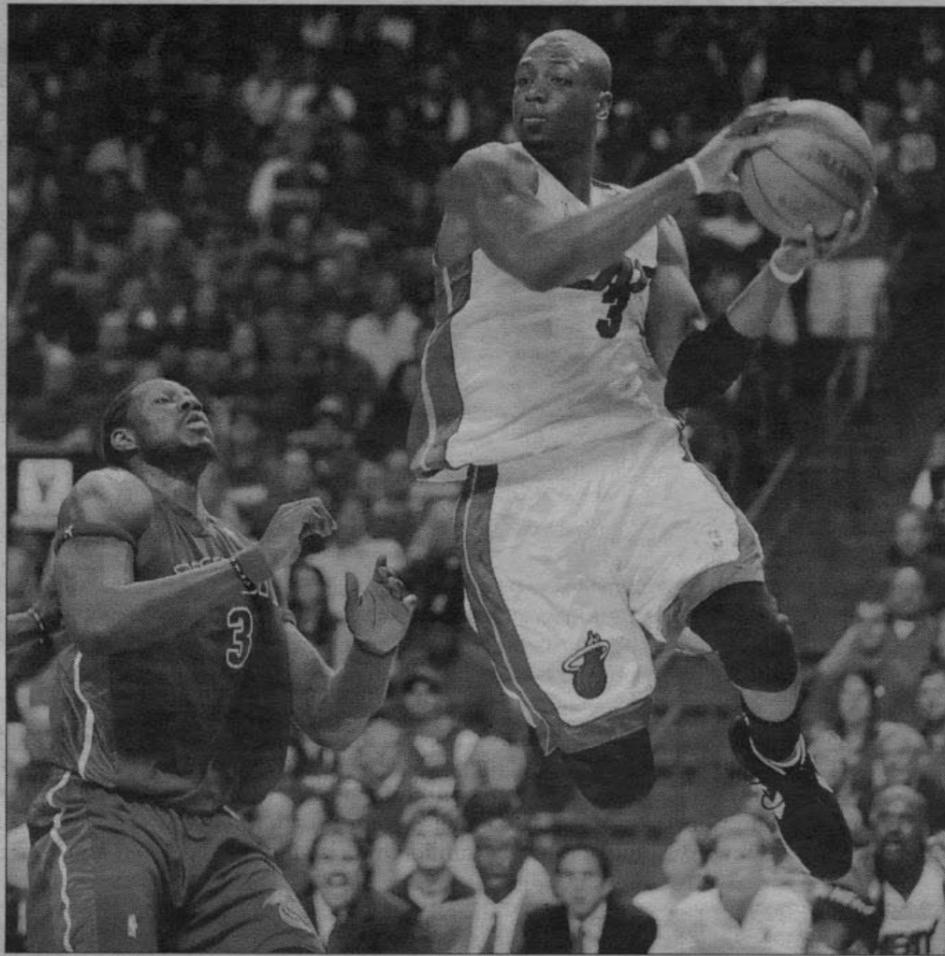
That series will always be remembered as Reggie Miller's last time playing in the NBA. He will be forever remembered as one of the greatest shooting guards of all time, one of the most-clutch free-throw shooters of all time and the greatest three-point shooter of all time. Reggie Miller is the league's all-time leader in three-pointers made and attempted and 12th in all-time scoring. He's third all-time in scoring for guards behind only Michael Jordan and Oscar Robertson.

During the regular season series, the Pistons won two of the three games they played against the Heat.

In Monday night's game one, the Pistons handed the Heat their first loss in this year's playoffs, winning 90-81.

For the Heat to advance, they need Shaq to be healthy and back at full strength or close to full strength. In last year's finals Shaq was very successful against the Pistons and the Heat need a similar performance from him to advance. Dwayne Wade and the rest of the supporting cast need to be able to play at a high level like they did without Shaq.

If the Pistons want the chance to defend their title they are going to need to play smart, disciplined basketball. Also Ben Wallace, Rasheed Wallace and Antonio McDyess are going to need to play tough defense on Shaq and keep the big man from controlling the games. Tayshaun Prince did a great job on Monday defending Wade and if Prince is able to pressure him and keep him at bay throughout the series, the Pistons have a great chance of winning the series.



KRT photo by Kirthmon F. Dozer
 Miami's Dwyane Wade (right) found it tough to maneuver around the Pistons' aggressive defense during Monday night's 90-81 Detroit victory. It was the Heat's first loss of the 2005 playoffs.

In the Western Conference, the Phoenix Suns (62-20) will play the San Antonio Spurs (59-23). San Antonio put away the Seattle SuperSonics in six games. After a sixth game that went into overtime the Suns eliminated the Dallas Mavericks.

During the regular season series, the Spurs won two of the three games against the Suns.

Sunday night, game one left the Suns dazed as the Spurs scored at will, winning 121-114, with 43 points coming in the fourth quarter.

For the Suns to win the series they need Joe Johnson back for some of the games because they need all their scoring threats

to attack the regular season's number one defensive team. Also, Amare Stoudemire needs to pressure Tim Duncan on defense and go at him on offense to wear him out. Steve Nash needs to outplay Tony Parker and keep him from being a part of the offensive attack.

The Spurs looked great Sunday night and if they can keep up that offense throughout the series they might be a lock for the finals. They need their bench to play well for them like Brent Barry did in game one. Another key will be to have a solid series from their key players Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker, and Tim Duncan. If they are all on the same page, it will really help put away the Suns.

LB finishes season with a victory

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

The LB baseball season came to a close last week as the Runners finished league play with a 13-17 record to place fourth in the NWAACC Southern Division.

After a few divisional games didn't fall in their favor, LB finished off the season with a doubleheader at Chemeketa with only pride at stake. It looked promising at the beginning as Kyle Atchley took the mound in the opener, but the LB offense looked uninspired at the plate. Atchley didn't have his best performance by any means, but he still held the Storm to three runs and pitched the full nine innings as usual. With only five batters getting a hit, LB fell 3-0 to Chemeketa and another game back of the third place seed in the division.

The late game was the last of the season and provided one final chance to cap the up and down season on a high note and split the series. Sophomore Brent Randall stepped to the rubber for the last time at LB and he made sure to make the most of it. He tossed a three-hitter through his final seven-innings of donning the gold and blue while his teammates drove in three runs on seven hits to give Randall the complete-game shutout victory.

"I really appreciate the effort that these 15 guys gave me," Coach Greg Hawk said of his injury riddled squad after the game. "I never could have imagined having a season like we did this year, it was the hardest I've ever had, but I'll ride the guys in this dugout till the end."



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 Best Burger
 Best Pizza
 Best Coffee/Mocha
 Best Good & Cheap Meal
 Best Movie Theater
 Best Park/Playground
 Best Bar/Club
 Best Swimming Hole

Best Place for a Haircut
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 Best Golf Course
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 Best Restaurant
 Best 'Cheap Date' Place

To cast your vote either e-mail us at commuter@linnbenton.edu; Attn. Best Of or submit your nominations in writing to the Commuter office located on the second floor, Forum 222, next to the Multicultural Center.

Deadline for nominations is Sun, May 22, no exceptions. Winners will be announced in the Wednesday, May 25 issue In Focus section.

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SPORTS

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

Martin wins All-Star race in 'final' try

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

The NASCAR Nextel Cup season is now at full throttle as the All-Star Challenge took place on Saturday in Charlotte, N.C. While other sports wait for mid-season or the end of the year to hold all-star festivities, NASCAR holds its pro bowl after only 11 of 36 points-races. The exhibition race serves as a practice for the annual Memorial Day weekend's Coca-Cola 600, a 400-lap race held at the same Lowe's Charlotte Motor Speedway.

It may have been a non-points event, but you couldn't tell by watching. During the Nextel Opener qualifying race, Milwaukie, Oregon's Mike Bliss looked as if he would power his NetZero Chevrolet to an easy victory before a hard-charging Brian Vickers spun him sideways at the final tri-oval to take the victory and advance to the main-event. Martin Truex, Jr. was also invited to race against the



Ryan Newman (No. 12) overtakes Kasey Kahne (No. 9) on the inside of turn four at Lowe's Motor Speedway during the October 2004 race. Last week's All-Star Challenge and Memorial Day weekend's Coca-Cola 600 take place at the 1.5 mile tri-oval located in Charlotte, North Carolina.

KRT photo by Davie Hinshaw

20 latest NASCAR victors as the fan-favorite vote winner. Kasey Kahne of Enumclaw, Wash. managed to qualify a week earlier by winning his first Cup race at Richmond following six runner-

up efforts last year as a rookie. Once the smoke from the pre-race fireworks and Bliss' tires dissipated, the final 22 drivers started their engines to battle for \$1.1 million in prize money.

Ryan Newman won the first of three competition rounds before the running order was inverted for the final two runs. After Tony Stewart caused a wreck that involved almost half of the field,

only a few remained in contention to win the final heat.

In his farewell season, 46-year old Mark Martin out-dueled Elliott Sadler to take the victory in his final all-star appearance. He took the checkered flag in his No. 6 Viagra Ford that looked so similar to the Valvoline car he raced successfully a decade earlier. Martin's teammate Greg Biffle of Vancouver, Wash., finished a disappointing 14th after winning three points events earlier in the season to rank second in the Nextel Cup standings.

In his final race with Crew Chief Pete Rondeau, Dale Earnhardt, Jr. finished in tenth place. Rondeau was replaced yesterday by Martin's former Crew Chief, Steve Hmiel. Points leader Jimmie Johnson finished fifth while teammate Jeff Gordon was 4th. Kahne finished 16th.

Race coverage of the lone 600-mile race of the season begins at 2 p.m. on Fox. The circuit returns in two weeks to Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, Calif. on June 26 for one of two road-course events.

COMMENTARY

Smith is what's wrong with football

For the few lucky individuals that are blessed with enough athletic ability to play sports professionally, the long and hard path to stardom is reached by only the finest and most dedicated. This especially applies to the game of football, where the window to step in and play is shrinking every year.



The University of Oregon has produced many fine professional athletes since the PAC-10 has gained recognition as one of the NCAA's best conferences.

Onterio Smith is one of those products to use the program as a vehicle to the NFL, but after last month's reports of Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport police finding a drug test fooling device, he may have had his third strike.

Like his counterparts, Smith has yet to become an every-down tailback because of injuries incurred on the field, but has still managed to rank near the top of the Vikings' depth chart because of his playmaking abilities. As many injuries have kept him from becoming the marquee player that he was with the Ducks, he has many other reasons on top of his endurance issues that have hindered his progress.

Smith transferred to Oregon from the University of Tennessee after testing positive for marijuana and has already been suspended twice for breaking the NFL's substance abuse policy. So when Smith was confronted by league officials following the airport's discovery, he claimed that the \$150 device known as "The Original Whizzinator" was his cousin's and that he had no plans to use it for himself.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue rightly became suspicious and has moved for a year suspension following Smith's third offense, but there have been reports from Vikings officials that his two-year tenure with the team is in serious jeopardy. Minnesota Head Coach Mike Tice told reporters,

"It's in the league's hands now."

Less than 1 percent of all eligible collegiate football players is drafted into the NFL, let alone make a spot on a roster. It is obvious that within that scant number of drafted prospects, that many make more of their opportunities than others.

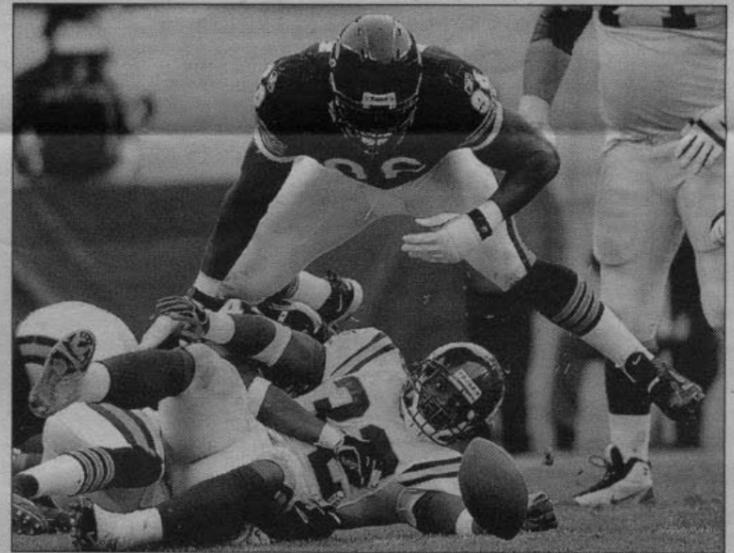
Take another former Ducks tailback for example. Rueben Droughns has struggled through four "no-name status" seasons as a thankless fullback and special teams grunt in order to be one of 53 men to suit up for a professional football game. His hard work and team-first attitude finally paid off in 2004 when he stepped in to fill the void in the Denver Broncos' depleted backfield to gain 1,240 yards. He was rewarded like many veterans who enter their prime so late are; by being dealt to the lovely confides of Cleveland.

Denver feels that his best days are behind him and now look to younger, more promising players for similar results at the same bargain price while Droughns holds out for a more fruitful contract and the same opportunity to produce with the Browns.

As of 2004, every running back that is drafted into the National Football League has an average career spanning only 3.5 seasons long. This position has always had the shortest life span within all of the big four pro sports and that small number has continued to shrink since the likes of Walter Payton retired in 1987 after 13 years with Chicago. The primary reasons for this stem from nagging injuries that come with multiple carries and the increasing amount of top-level competition, not failed drug tests.

While Droughns and others fight for a chance to follow their dream and do what they love for a living, Smith is slowly flushing his opportunity down the toilet, or at least through the Whizzinator. If released after his suspension, Smith will likely be picked-up by another team for the sake of his natural abilities while somebody else, who is just as deserving, will lose their roster spot because of his presence.

Sadly, for every Walter Payton there is an Onterio Smith. Luckily though, for every Onterio Smith there is a Rueben Droughns.



KRT photo by Sherri Larose
 Vikings' running back Onterio Smith (bottom) is fumbling the ball on his career after a third violation of the NFL's substance abuse policy.



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LOCAL NEWS

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

Annual lamb festival draws hundreds to Scio

Sherry Majeski
 The Commuter

Festival goers flocked to Scio for the Lamb and Wool Fair in spite of rain. "70 Years of Lambs and Ewe" was the theme of this year's fair.

The Linn County Lamb and Wool Fair, held the third weekend in May, is often rainy, and this year was no exception. Every year the fair begins at 3 p.m. with the opening of carnival rides across the street from Centennial Elementary School.

The Cruise-In, a parade of classic cars started at 5 p.m. followed by a street dance at 8 with people of all ages dancing to the music of the Jefferson Jammers. Evening showers dampened the street dance some, but did not discourage the kids from dancing in the streets.

Scio is the home of the longest running Sheep Dog Trials in the United States. It is held on the property of Virgil Brown and dog handlers from Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho come to compete.

"This is one sport that women have a competitive edge to because you have to rely on communication and not on

muscle," says Raven OKeefe, event co-organizer. "Also, age doesn't matter. We have very old compete and the very young. The youngest was under 20 and some are over 60."

The sheep dog trials involve one dog, five sheep and five gates in a large field, guided by a handler using whistles and commands for the dog. The object is to direct the dog to herd the sheep through gates and into a pen while their master is across the field.

There were a total of 55 experienced handlers and dogs competing in the Open Class competitions both Saturday and Sunday. Competition on Friday was for the less experienced.

The winner with the most combined points from both days receives both money and points toward the national finals.

The aroma of bacon, sausage and eggs drew spectators into the IOOF Hall for a Shepherd's Breakfast, both Saturday and Sunday.

The Flower Show started at 8 a.m. and judging began an hour later. The Friends of the Library held a book sale and the Fleece Show and Sale started at 9 a.m. in the New Play Shed. The quilt

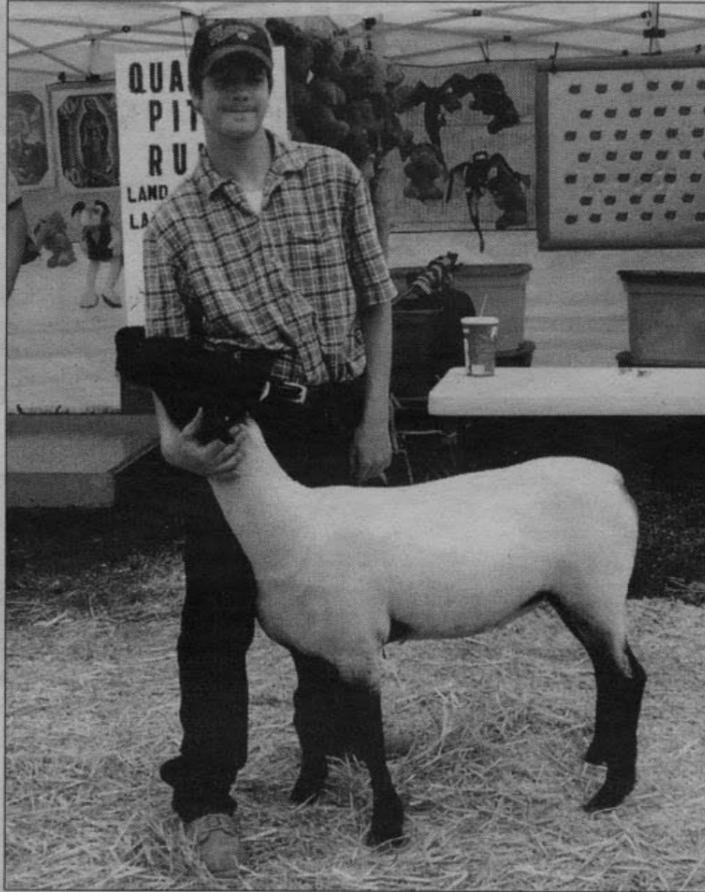


photo by Megan Pickens
 Jason Gould and his one-year-old ewe, Star, won first in both Showmanship and in the Jackpot Showmanship. Along with Jason, 12 other competitors and their sheep participated this year. This was Jason's first year competing.

show was open all day and the parade started at 11 a.m.

Directly after the parade was the much loved pet show at the fairgrounds, where children and adults showed their pets.

For lunch people flocked to the Chicken BBQ and the Fiber Arts Show.

The Forestry Competition starting at 4 p.m. where high school boys demonstrated their forestry skills. Throughout the day there was musical entertainment and finally some karaoke.

The Sheepskin Revue gave a performance in the ZCBJ Hall. This Revue is a local theatrical group that performs skits revolving around Scio history.

Music was performed by the Hearthside Singers, which is historical as well with the performers playing guitars, fiddles, harmonica, bass, accordion and piano.

The Stick Dressing Competition was a new attraction. The Lamb Show started at 10 a.m. involving lambs and their owners vying for the blue ribbon for best of show.

The fair and its nice weather drew a record crowd from all over the valley.

Hope still remains for Brooke one year later

Nick Milhoan
 The Commuter

Torn up fliers on utility poles around the city, signs asking for a safe return, pink bracelets adorning people's arms from Oregon to Utah—these are just a few powerful reminders of what has plagued the mid-valley and the Wilberger family for a year.

One year ago yesterday, Corvallis and the Wilberger family were thrust into the national spotlight with the disappearance of Brooke Carol Wilberger, the BYU student who was visiting her sister and brother-in-law at their Corvallis apartment.

Since that day, thousands of people have volunteered their time through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, manning the phones at the "Find Brooke" hot-line, scouring the area in hopes they might find evidence that could lead to finding Brooke.

Even the national news and information programs have gotten involved in trying to find Brooke. Information has appeared twice on America's Most Wanted, most recently in March. ABC News did a national spot about missing persons, high-



photo by Matt Swanson
 A large yellow banner at the First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis is a reminder of the continuing search for Brooke Wilberger, keeping hope alive that she will be found and returned safely to her family.

lighting the Wilberger case and speaking to Brooke's parents.

In the first two weeks of her disappearance, investigators covered around 3,800 acres, beginning at the site of her supposed abduction, the Oak Park Apartments on 26th Street in Corvallis, and branching out in all directions.

"We have covered almost every square inch of Benton County," said Capt. Ron Noble of the Corvallis Police Department, who is heading up the investigation. "I don't think there is rock left unturned that someone hasn't checked."

Corvallis police continue to work closely with the Benton County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, the Benton County District Attorney's office and the FBI. Unfortunately, little

evidence has been found, and despite many different "persons of interest," Wilberger's disappearance remains a mystery.

"Though we have had leads, nothing has panned out," said Noble. "We continue to look into everything, but we remain in the same position."

Throughout the last year over 50 men have become "persons of interest" in the case, all but two have been eliminated.

Today things are much more serene than they were a year ago. The calls to the tip line average only one per week and only a half dozen people are working on the investigation.

"We expect things to pick up over the next week because of the media coverage," said Noble. "But we hope people will respect the family and only call in real

tips." Corvallis and Benton County officials say they will not rest until every possible lead is looked into and the case is closed. People are ready to jump on any lead brought to their attention.

No new searches are planned at this time. The last one occurred in February; a crew drove up to the Mary's Peak area and looked along an old logging road.

Still, investigators and the family remain hopeful.

"Even though we have little information, everyone has a positive outlook on things," said Noble. "We are all hopeful that this will come to an end soon."

Pink bracelets are still available on request at Peak Sports and Timberhill Athletic Club.

Information can be called into the national hot-line at 1-800-843-5678 or www.findbrooke.com.

Student reported missing

The Commuter

Fliers from the Dean of Students office went up Monday afternoon to report a missing LBCC student.

Jesse D. Reesman was last seen on Friday, but has not been heard from since.

Little information has been released as of press time Tuesday, though news organizations reported a body was found late Tuesday afternoon near Alsea, where Benton County Sheriffs Deputies were looking for Reesman and a friend.

No ID on the body was released. An autopsy was scheduled for early today.

Reesman was last seen wearing khaki pants, a dark blue denim jacket, a white New York Yankees hat and white shoes with blue stripes.

Reesman's green Infinity Q45T was found at Takana Landing early Saturday morning.

If you have information please call 541-928-9557.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Salem resident's years behind music scene provide life of accomplishments, associates

Walt Hughes
 The Commuter

Though the average individual is unaware of it, the music business is a \$100 billion a year industry employing songwriters, musicians, publishers, audio technicians, producers, promoters, singers and a vast worldwide marketing apparatus.

While the general public may like a song by a well-known entertainer or the sound of a particular band, the thousands of songwriters, publishers and studio technicians involved often go unnoticed.

Little known outside the industry for many of his accomplishments, James L. (Jimmy) Moore of Salem is one of the songwriters, publishers, producers and promoters who has helped develop some of that music over the years.

Standing about 5 foot 7 and wearing a black stocking cap to cover the hair loss from recent chemotherapy treatments, those who know him can see that Moore has become as skinny as a rail during the past few months. With a quick smile and a cup of coffee in hand, he enjoys telling stories of his years in the music business.

At a casual glance most would never suspect that he is a member of the Harry Fox Music Licensing Agency in New York, was a voting member of the Country Music Association from 1978 until 1984, or that he was the president of Western Star Music Inc. for a long time.

Born and raised in Minnesota, he moved to Tennessee after graduating from high school and attended classes at Nashville's Belmont College of Music to learn the nuts and bolts of songwriting and music publishing.

Jim Hall Productions of North Fork, Neb. bought Dynamite Records and changed the name to K-Tel Records around the time Moore finished his education at Belmont, and he became Oregon branch manager for K-Tel and moved to Salem in 1970.

K-Tel Records was one of the early pioneers of late night television. They used what came to be known as infomercials to sell the tapes and records of many of the popular artists of the day, and Moore had the opportunity to study the marketing side of the music industry until he accepted a job as a staff songwriter with RCA Records in Nashville in 1974.

Dusty Rhodes, K-Tel's Washington branch manager, (best known for his hit song 'The Object of My Affections', a record released around 1949) introduced Moore to some of the more influential people in

Jimmy Moore has spent years in all phases of the music business including writing, publishing, producing and promoting. He is unable to continue working as much as he used to after being diagnosed with cancer. Now, while recovering from cancer, he remembers fondly his experiences with many of the industry's well-known personalities.

photo by Walt Hughes



the industry. He also had the opportunity to work with RCA's vice president Mike Sheppard as a representative of the Nashville Songwriters Association at the same time. RCA turned out many hit records during those years, and he became acquainted with many of the big-name artists who were recording there.

In the early days when K-Tel was getting started they would sell a large number of records to a branch manager in another district and buy the same number of records from another branch manager so that it looked like they were selling a lot of records and doing great business. Then they came up with the idea of using television for what today is known as infomercial marketing and the rest is history. K-Tel's late-night marketing strategy paid off and in a big way, and by the 1970s K-Tel records was a household word.

In the years since his time with K-Tel, Moore has worked with other well known people like B.J. Fontana (who was with Elvis Presley for over 15 years) and Mike Valvano of Motown records. Among the many songs he has written or

co-written and published over the years are 'Don't You Care', Omega Records, "You Took My World", Ripcord Records, "Me and My Truck" released on World Records. His song "When True Love Was There All Alone" (recorded by Elsie Anderson for Omega Records) started off by hitting No.1 on the charts in Poland when that country was still under Communist rule.

Moore has had songs recorded on many different labels. Rio Records, Brightwood Records, the CCS label and Jody Pat Records to name a few, and he is currently in the process of releasing the recordings of new artists that he is promoting to marketers like CD Baby, a worldwide Internet marketing firm based in Portland. He says he believes that Internet marketing of music is the wave of the future, because it gives the new vocal artist and musician a worldwide 24 hour a day marketing opportunity. There are those who believe Internet marketing of music is somewhat like K-Tel's infomercials were to the television market.

Suffering from serious medical problems, Moore has fought

leukemia and vision problems for years and recently discovered that he has both fibromyalgia and cancer. After 11 surgeries to repair his vision, the doctors replaced his right eye with a transplant and put a new lens in the left eye last year. Not long after the eye surgery it was discovered that he has cancer of the lungs, yet he keeps going and is still writing and publishing. One of his recent successes, "Genie in a Bottle" was written by Dave Black of Lebanon, Ore., and published by Jimmy's Jacob Daniel Publishing company. To date, the song has been very successful, selling hundreds of thousands of copies.

Moore has also worked as a professional drummer for many bands. Originally playing a rhythm guitar, which he used to help compose his music, he switched to playing drums because his hands were deteriorating. Over the years he was the drummer for bands like Quicksilver, Evening Rain, Moonlighters and Smoky Bear and the Fireballs, a Texas show band that has toured all over the United States.

He was both friend and co-writer with Mike Valvano, (who wrote and produced "House of the Rising Sun" while at Motown Records), over the years. Valvano also worked with and produced entertainers like Michael, Janet and Jerome Jackson, the Jackson Five, and many other big names during the 60s and 70s. After leaving Motown he

moved to Mill City, Ore., and he and Moore worked on many other projects together. Prior to Mike's death three years ago he and Moore teamed up with Billie Day, Pat Robinson, Dwayne Gaddie and other local music industry notables for frequent appearances on the Music from Oregon television show and many charity benefits and other functions around the state.

According to Moore, the funniest thing that has probably ever happened in all his years in the business concerned a song called Streaking Sally that he co-authored with Jim Hall. The song was recorded by Sonja Graf, a nudist, and sold thousands of copies to members of nudist camps all over the world. He said that Ms. Graf seemed to be a very popular item with them.

He is working on promoting a new country band right now, and a stop at Mike Hutton's studio out on Lake Labish Road or Pat Robinson's Double Draw Studio on Ward Road in Salem might find him working with the band, or writing the lyrics for a new song.

Moore left us with an interesting thought. He said that while good music, hit records and big royalty checks are fine, the best news he's ever heard was last week when his doctors told him that the cancer nodules in his lungs seem to be shrinking. He said that on the way home the trees seemed a little greener, the sky a little bluer and the day a little brighter

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS **Commons** MAY 25 - MAY 31

•WEDNESDAY:

ENTREES: Evil Jungle Prince w/ Chicken, Beef Roulad, Gourmet Mediterranean Veggie Sandwich
 SIDES: Mouseline Potatoes, Green Beans
 SOUPS: Tom Kha Gai & Minestrone

•THURSDAY:

ENTREES: Cabbage Rolls, Beer Battered Fish & Chips, Veggie Lasagna
 SIDES: Gnocchi, vegetable Kabobs
 SOUPS: Beef Burgundy Vegetable & Cream of Broccoli

•FRIDAY:

Chef's choice

•MONDAY:

No School: Memorial Day

•TUESDAY:

ENTREES: Paella, Bourbon Braised Pork Chops, Sauteed Veg over Lemon Alfredo Pasta
 SIDES: Cajun Cornbread Stuffing, Smashed Potatoes
 SOUPS: Beer Cheese

WEEKLY MENU

THE LBCC PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AND HIS WIFE

7:30 PM
MAY 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
 3:00 PM
MAY 29*

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Dangers hinder search for missing Caspian heir

Editor's Note: This is part of a series of reviews of the Chronicles of Narnia books by C.S. Lewis.

Sheena Bishop
The Commuter

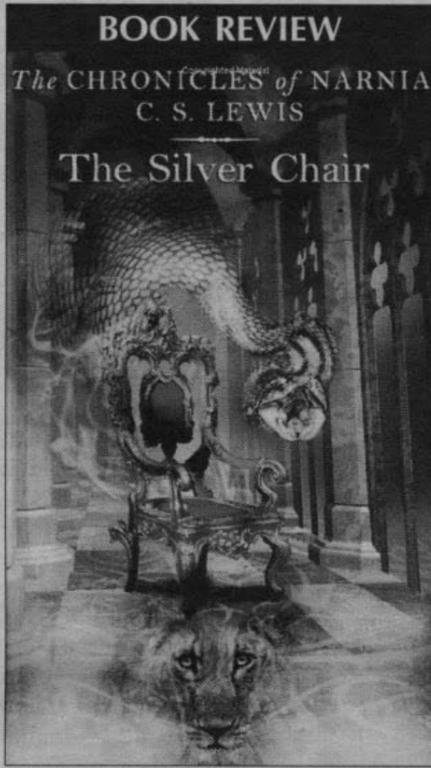
C.S. Lewis digs himself a hole in *The Silver Chair*, the sixth book in the *Chronicles of Narnia*.

We first meet Jill Pole, a distraught little girl waiting for the bullies at her school to come beat her up when a boy comes around the corner and tells her a secret to cheer her.

The secret is Narnia, a land he visited with his cousins, the Pevensies, last holiday. Jill is hesitant, but believes him. She even goes as far as to cry out to Aslan, the great lion, on cue from her friend.

Suddenly the bullies are close behind, and Jill and the boy, Eustace, find themselves scrambling away, wishing they were anywhere but in the schoolyard. They try a door they know is always locked, the one that leads out of school without going through the front gate.

To their surprise the door opens, but what they see on the other side is not part of England, not even part of earth. With-



out hesitation, and with the bullies gaining on them, Eustace pulls Jill through the door into a calm, bright wood.

With the help of Aslan, the children are sent on a great adventure to rescue Prince Rilian, the only son of King Caspian the Tenth, the same Caspian that Eustace sailed with on the Dawn Treader during his last adventure.

For a decade Rilian has been missing. Many men have disappeared looking for him, so many that Caspian refuses to allow any more searches for his son.

Along with the four signs that Aslan taught Jill, she and Eustace with the help of a Marsh-wiggle, Puddleglum, are heading north to find the rightful heir to Narnia before Caspian, now ripe with age, dies without an heir.

The road is dangerous ahead, going past stupid giants and then, after meeting with a fair lady on horseback, straight towards a kinder sort of giant. Before it is too late, our three travelers must get out of the giant palace and find their way, following the signs they strayed from at the beginning.

Under hot pursuit by an angry Giant King and Queen interested in nothing but man pie, they dodge into a crack along

the road that leads them deep into the underworld. In the dark they are discovered by very strange little earthmen, and taken to their queen.

Now, sure they are on the right trail, the travelers only hope they can rescue the Prince before it is too late. While the little men seem docile, they soon realize that the queen is not, and in fact is much like a queen from the past, better known as the White Witch.

After destroying the magical silver chair that holds Prince Rilian deep under an enchantment, the now group of four still have to find their way back up where there is a fresh breeze and grass between their toes, under the stars of the Narnian sky.

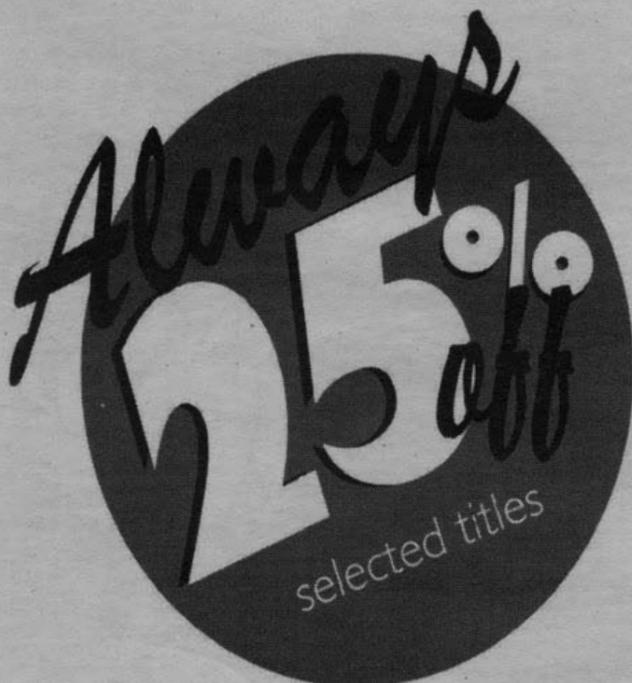
Before this can be done, they must deal with the queen, who is truly a witch herself.

And then there is the message the earthmen keep repeating, as if it were a law of their dark, cavernous city: "Many sink down to the Underworld, few return to the sunlit lands."

Will Prince Rilian and Puddleglum ever make it home? Will Jill and Eustace ever make it back to England? It looks very dismal for them.



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A & E Editor: Sheena Bishop
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Young fiddler adds flavor to local Farmers' Market

Colleen Jacks
 The Commuter

Spring is in the air, and nowhere was it more evident than at the Albany Farmers' Market last Saturday. Two rows of vendors lined the parking lot behind the Albany Senior Center, located on Water Street between Broadalbin and Ferry.

Customers wandered between the stalls chatting with those who brought their finest fruits, vegetables, plants and others products, all locally grown. The flower vendor displays were bursting with beautiful, brightly colored flowers that were a welcomed sight after weeks of dreary weather.

The Albany Saturday Farmers' Market, in association with the Corvallis Farmers' Market, provides easily accessible places for Willamette Valley and Coast Range farmers to market their products directly to consumers.

There was one pleasant addition to the usual activity of people chatting with the vendors and carefully choosing the perfect apple. The air was filled with the sound of Scottish fiddle playing by Rebecca Lomnicky, of Corvallis.

Rebecca, a seventh-grader at the Waldorf School in Corvallis, was named the 2005 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Junior Champion at a competition held in Houston, Tex. last month. She played with such poise and grace and appeared older than her 13 years; however, when she finished, the smile that broke across



photo by Colleen Jacks

Thirteen-year-old Rebecca Lomnicky of Corvallis performs at the Saturday Farmers' Market in Albany. She was named the 2005 U.S. Scottish Fiddle Junior Champion last month.

her face allowed listeners to see the little girl in her.

"I really like to play Scottish fiddle music," Rebecca said.

Scottish fiddle music is similar to Irish fiddle music, but has its differences in the sounds made as the bow skims across the strings. Even within Scotland, the music varies by region.

While most of Rebecca's experience has been with classical music, her real love is for Scottish fiddle music. A few years ago, she heard Canadian fiddle player Natalie MacMaster play at Monteith Park in Albany. "Rebecca just loved her," said her mother, Yvonne Uribe-Lomnicky, who was standing nearby with Rebecca's father, Jeff Lomnicky. After she heard

MacMaster play, Rebecca was hooked, she added.

Rebecca's fiddle case was lying open on the ground near her feet. Passers-by dropped dollar bills into it to show their appreciation for her playing and the small crowd gathered applauded in recognition.

"Rebecca feels like she's a financial burden on us because of her classes and traveling to competitions," Yvonne said. "She wants to help raise money."

"She loves the music. When she was 4, she went to Gracewinds Music store in Corvallis with her father and they put a violin in her hands. From that moment on, Rebecca said she wanted to learn to play," Yvonne added. At 5, Rebecca began training in classical violin.

"Most kids, when they start playing sound screechy, but Rebecca never sounded like that," Yvonne said. "Rebecca just had a natural ability to get it right," she added.

Rebecca takes Scottish fiddle lessons from Linda Danielson in Eugene, and she hopes to continue on to more national competitions.

In July, Rebecca will play at the Oregon Scottish Heritage Festival held in Athena, Ore.

For more information about Rebecca's appearances, send an email to weefiddler@comcast.net.

For more information about the Albany-Corvallis Farmers' Markets see their Web site at www.locallygrown.org.

Alexie: Captivating poetry punctuates author's presentation

From Pg. 16

relationship with his father, an alcoholic, who eventually died of kidney failure. Not wanting to be thought of as feminine, they expressed their feelings through sports. "Hey Dad did you see the game meant 'I love you,'" he said. Because of their lack of conversation Alexie decided to do something to open up their lines of communication.

He found out that his grandfather, a hero from WWII, had been awarded nine medals his family

were unaware of and decided to get them reissued. Oprah found out about it and asked him to come on her show. He flew into Chicago for the show and suffered a severe case of airsickness.

He was still feeling the effects before the show, and all he could think to himself was "Don't throw up on Oprah." He was caught off guard when a general came onto the show and presented him with 12 medals that his grandfather had been

awarded, three more than he had known about. Alexie was stunned and started bawling.

While the audience was kept laughing throughout his speech, it was really interesting to note the silence that swept over the crowd when Alexie abruptly started reading his poems. It was apparent that many of the audience members were fans and had a great respect for his work. Then, right when you feel the tears coming on he slams you with a hilarious joke.

He touched on many normally taboo subjects such as homosexuality and he expressed his "liberal lefty pacifist who hates liberals" views about the war on terrorism. According to Alexie, homophobia makes no sense. He feels that straight men should be thankful that gay guys are gay, otherwise they'd never get any.

Alexie has the uncommon ability to make fun of himself and his ego, "I'm the worst date you've ever had—half of you hate

me and half of you love me."

However, Alexie didn't make a big deal about his poetry. He would start reading it out of the blue, with no comment before or after. His poems were captivating and had their touching and humorous aspects. Mostly relating to his personal life, they explored the death of his father and his son's brush with death as an infant. Overall, Alexie's talk was extremely entertaining with brief moments of truth snuck in.

Concert signals Eastburn's swan song

LBCC News Service

The Performing Arts Department will present, "Coda, The Final Passage" on Thursday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall.

This concert will mark the final passage for Hal Eastburn and his tenure at LBCC, as well as the prelude for Susan Peck, the new full-time music instructor.

The Concert Choir, under the direction of Peck, will open the program with two pieces from the Middle Ages: the processional "Alle Psallite cum Luya," and one of the oldest notated rounds in the English language, "Sumer Is Icumen In." Other pieces include a madrigal by Renaissance composer Orazio Vecchi, "So Ben Mi Ch'a Bon Tempo;" two contemporary pieces by Ysaye M. Barnwell, "Breaths" and "We Are," that use layered vocal ostinatos to create an accompaniment for the melody; and arrangements of two Appalachian folk hymns, "Bright Morning Star" and "Down In the River To Pray."

The Community Chorale will mark the conclusion of its 26th and final season with the performance of the "New Millennium Suite" by

Gwyneth Walker. The choir is conducted by Eastburn and accompanied by Judy Krueger, who will be featured in a spirited rendition of three traditional spirituals, "Sinner Man," "Peace I Ask of Thee, O River," and "Down by the Riverside."

Eastburn will also direct the LBCC Chamber Choir in a performance of highlights from this season, including the Ukrainian Folk Songs "Schtschadrik" by M. Leontovych and "Kowssewkossar ssino" by I. Marton. Other pieces will include the "Mirage on the Gobi Desert" by Se Enkhbayar, "Bogoroditse Devo" by Rachmoninoff, "An American Thanksgiving" by Carol Barnett and "Domaredansen" by Drew Collins. "The Chamber Choir" will conclude this section with the "Irish Blessing" by Eastburn.

The concert will climax with a performance by the massed choir of Chamber and Chorale. Featured in this finale will be: "We Beheld Once Again the Stars" by Z. Randall Stroop, "Faith" by Eastburn, and "Amazing Grace" by Keith McCutchen. Nancy Brown of Lebanon will be featured on the final number, "O' Time Religion."

For more information, contact the LBCC Performing Arts Department at 917-4531. Admission is \$5 and available at the door.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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CALENDAR

Out & About

Airlie Winery 15305 Dunn Forest Rd. Monmouth 503-838-6013	May 28-30 19th Annual Reds, Whites & Bluegrass Festival Entertainment, tasting, food and music, featuring The Sawtooth Mountain Boys and Dirt Floor. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. \$7 Weekend Pass Includes wine glass Kids are welcome & free
Corvallis Community Theatre Majestic Theatre 115 SW 2nd. St. Corvallis 738-SHOW	May 26, 27, 28 May 29 Matinee Annie Get Your Gun The classic "Wild West Show" style musical with new Tony-award winning revisions. 8 p.m. 2:30 p.m. matinees \$12 General \$8 Seniors and under 18
Linn-Benton College Courtyard 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany 917-4561	Wed, May 25 Spring Fling Fun activities includ- ing food, music from "Thornbird", entertain- ment & mini-golf 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. All campus Picnic \$4 employees \$3 Students 12 - 1 p.m.
Linn-Benton College Multicultural Center 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany 917-4561	Thur, May 26 Movie: "The Business of Fancy Dancing" Based on Serman Alex- ie's book of poetry of the same name. 1 - 3 p.m. Free
Russell Tripp Performance Center 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany 917-4561	May 26, 27, 28 May 29 Matinee "The Unknown Soldier & His Wife" A wickedly incisive comedy about the en- during idiocy of war 7:30 p.m. 3 p.m. Mantinee \$8 Adults \$6 Students & Seniors
Riverside Hall Between Albany & Corvallis on Riverside Dr.	Sat, May 28 Synchronicity Frequen- cy, Leech & Eric Nordby Rock concert. Heavy metal/techno, European death metal & progres- sive modern folk 7 p.m. \$6.50 at door Under 6 free with parent

Calendar Compiled by Megan Pickens, Calendar Editor
 Get your event in Out & About. Send all info to The Com-
 muter, Attn: Events Editor at least one week in advance.

PLAY REVIEW

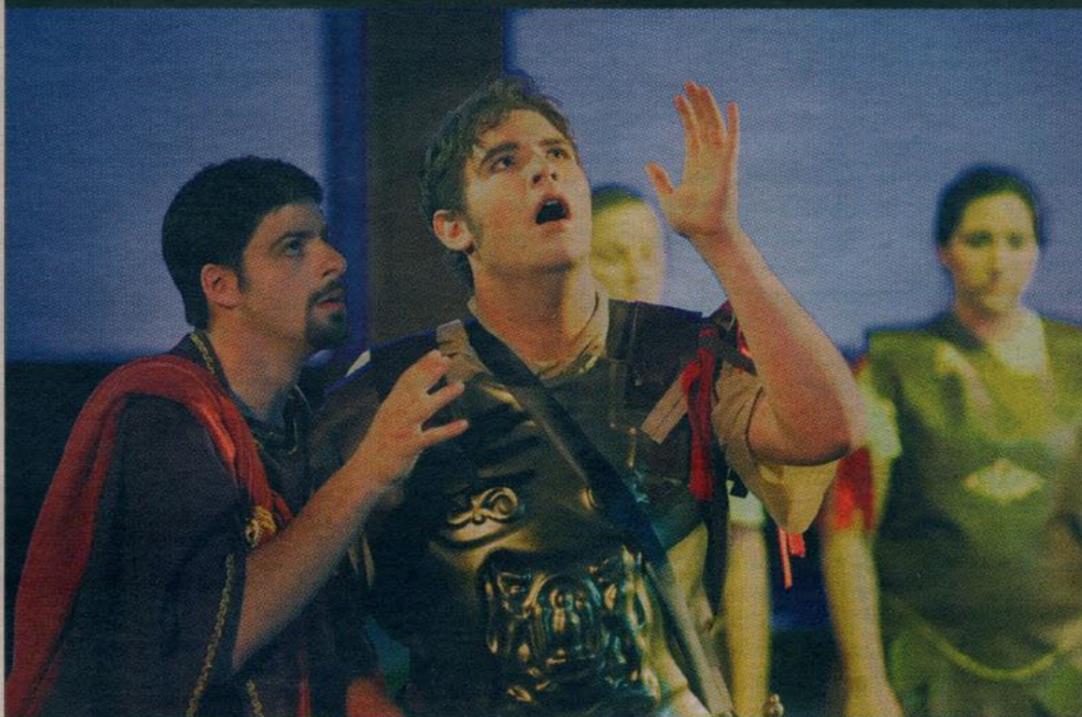


photo by Erik Swanson

Eric Nepom (left) plays The Archbishop and Travis Weiner plays The General in the LBCC Performing Arts Department's production of "The Unknown Soldier and His Wife," which will be on the Russell Trip Performance Center stage for its final weekend this Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

'Unknown Soldier' offers cutting take on war, peace and religion

Erik Swanson
The Commuter

Last Saturday's production of "The Unknown Soldier and His Wife" at the Russell Tripp Performance Center proved to be an interesting performance of the Broadway play.

Written by Peter Ustinov, influenced in part by his role in the British Army during World War II, the play's script focuses on his concern about the un-ending cycle of war and peace.

The plot's timeliness is aided by the ongoing war in Iraq. Unfortunately, the soldiers were portrayed by actors who couldn't possibly be mistaken for members of the military.

This was only a minor detriment to the performance, though, thanks to the stellar performance by Eric Nepom as a flamboyantly stylized archbishop.

During the play, his character goes through a comic de-evolution from TV preacher to a lustful, Greco-Roman priest and later forward

through history to become a Christian monk with a drinking problem and finally a loudmouthed protestant leader. John Danton's performance as the thoughtful, occasionally poetic unknown soldier also helps to redeem the production.

While the set was fairly minimal, the transitions through the play's various historical periods were creatively accomplished, often through clever on-set wardrobe changes.

The cast is comprised mainly of LBCC students and includes, Amanda Adams, Erin Bartelds, Andrew Darling, Lindsay Earp, Tara Earp and Adam Elizarraga, John Danton, Hans Eleveld, Eric Nepom, Tom Sabatino, Amanda Rickenbach, Mischa Brittin and Travis Weiner.

Lauris was assisted by Brittny Pigman who also served as stage manager.

The play will continue this Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee will play Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Russell Trip Center box office located in Takena Hall.

Alexie shares touching and funny life observations with packed house

Melissa Chaney
The Commuter

Famous Native American author and poet, Sherman Alexie, brought down the house during his speech "Without Reservations" at the La Sells Stewart Center, last Thursday evening.

Alexie's uncensored take on religion, politics, sex and his personal life had the jam-packed auditorium bursting with the surprised laughter of those unused to hearing opinions from someone who doesn't care about being politically correct.

It was obvious that Alexie was having fun on stage. Two interpreters were also on stage to translate for the hearing impaired and Alexie brought them into the limelight. He would blurt out comments about himself that

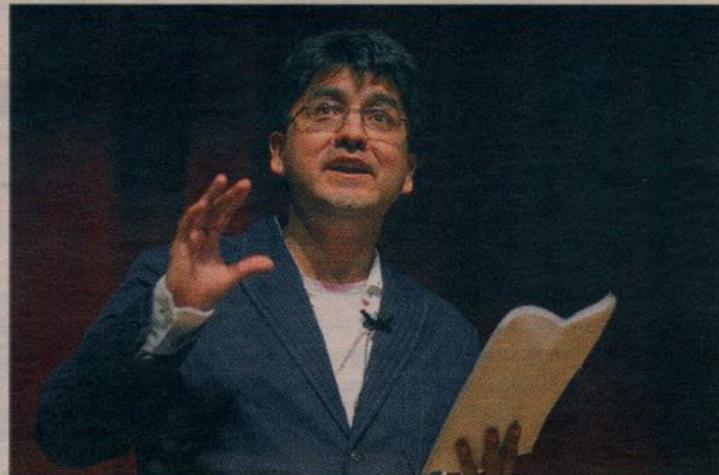


photo by Erik Swanson

Sherman Alexie brought stories and poems to LaSells Stewart Center Thursday night.

the interpreters would have to translate, such as "He smells good" or "I think he's cute." The interpreters switched out frequently either because their

hands were tired or because they were laughing too hard to do anything at all.

Alexie reminisced about his
 ▶ Turn to "Alexie" on Pg. 15