

CAREER FAIR THURSDAY

Scores of potential area employers will fill the Activities Center tomorrow for the annual find-a-job day. ▶ Pg. 5

ACADEMIC ALL STAR

Janine Dionne, a two-sport athlete at LB, named top student-athlete for winter term. ▶ Pg. 11



THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 34 No. 18



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Making the Cut

John Klompp of Rogue River High School takes part in the carpentry section of the state-wide Skills USA competition, hosted by LBCC. Carpentry students, like Klompp, were asked to build a miniature house under a strict time limit. Skills USA drew more than 450 members of the Oregon Association of Skills USA-UICA to attend the conference over the weekend. Twenty-five Oregon high schools and six community colleges participated in more than 36 skill contests. About \$50,000 in scholarships, cash travel awards and tools were awarded to winners. Friday and Saturday's winners now have a chance to move on to national or even international levels of competition.

Campus groups help students cope with war

by Phillip Ruzek of The Commuter

The world is changing, a dictator is being overthrown, channels are being bombarded with pictures of fire and bullets, and with this 24/7 coverage, there is somewhere to turn to.

For students needing help coping with the emotional distress over the war with Iraq, the LBCC Counseling Department, Multicultural Center and the Associated Student Government are offering support groups, presentations and other activities.

Counseling meetings set up by LB counselors are not for political debate, but are there to help students get back on track to what is important: their education. By providing support groups, students will have a better understanding of support and well-being.

Two different support groups are available for people who have similar needs. Students can

contact counselor Angie Klampe if their concerns and fears are for the troops. For those whose worries are based around grieving for the war, contact Jan Fraser-Hevlin.

Students are welcome to come to the Counseling Center to find out more about the groups or to call the center at 917-4782.

Presentations and discussion groups on everything from health considerations to the pros and cons of the war and historical perspectives are also being offered to students wanting to find more information about what is going on.

One upcoming activity in the Multicultural Center is "Do Tell! People Talk About War and Peace, Be Prepared for Any Disaster" on April 11 from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. At this event, a representative from the Oregon Pacific Red Cross will talk about how to be prepared for disaster, whether

▶ Turn to "Counseling" on Pg. 4

Emergency services ramp up under Orange Alert

by Thomas Lin of The Commuter

The United States has been on Orange Alert since March 17, two days before the first precision-guided missiles struck Baghdad. Phrases like "terror threat level," "high risk" and "orange alert" can be disconcerting. Especially coming from the attorney general's office and the Department of Homeland Security. Especially after Sept. 11.

But what do these alert levels mean? And what are local authorities doing different to make us safer?

On March 12, 2002, Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announced a color-coded advisory system to help guard against future terrorist attacks. Each upward shift along the five-tiered scale warns of heightened risk: green stands for "low," blue for "guarded," yellow for "elevated," orange for "high," and red for "severe."

"At orange, the system is hyper-alert," said Michael Bamberger, Benton County's emergency services program manager. Preventive measures are taken, like

increased surveillance of water supply points, wastewater treatment plants, bridges, roads and other infrastructure. The health department looks for trends and key indicators to assess potential dangers. "Vigilance is increased because of level orange," he said.

Bamberger gave as an example a suspicious package found under a bridge a couple of weeks ago. Even though it turned out to be a homeless person's suitcase, it showed that increased inspections were turning up "things that would have been ignored before Sept. 11," he said, adding that a lot of the normal issues, like drugs and abandoned vehicles, are found faster and dealt with sooner.

The emergency services office also looks at past disruptive events, paying closer attention to "suspicious groups" like the anarchists in Eugene and "ecoterrorists" like the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), and the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Bamberger said.

Orange alert relates to the threat of terrorism, but the most frequent emergencies in the Benton County area

▶ Turn to "Alert" on Pg. 6

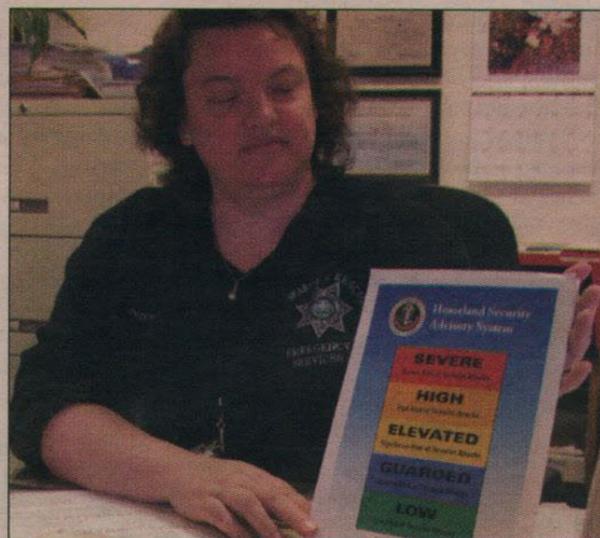


Photo by Thomas Lin

Peggy Peirson, the Benton County Emergency Services Coordinator, displays the Homeland Security Advisory System.

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

High: 59° Low: 40°
WEDNESDAY

High: 57° Low: 42°
THURSDAY

High: 56° Low: 42°
FRIDAY

High: 52° Low: 39°
SATURDAY

High: 56° Low: 38°
SUNDAY

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THE
COMMUTER

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and
 keep them at 250 words or less

Supreme Court remains divided over affirmative action case

from Detroit Free Press

In peppering lawyers during last week's historic hearing on affirmative action, the justices of the Supreme Court seemed to long for a day when issues of race won't matter. But to their credit, most of the nine appeared to acknowledge that time has not yet come.

Several justices, including the anticipated swing voters on this volatile issue, Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy, questioned the assertion of affirmative action opponents that race can never be used as even a factor in university admissions.

"You have some precedents out there that you have to come to grips with," O'Connor chided the lawyer representing white students who contend that the entry formulas for the University of Michigan undergraduate and law schools are illegal. The case is the court's first review of affirmative action in 25 years, and its decision will reverberate far beyond Ann Arbor.

Kennedy asked how the challengers could argue

that a university has no compelling interest to promote diversity if year after year it finds itself with scant minority representation in its student body.

Without reading too much into their questions, it appeared that O'Connor leans more toward preserving some form of affirmative action, while Kennedy seemed to recognize a racial disparity problem but was troubled about the adequate remedy. He asked a U-M lawyer if the court would be obliged to suggest alternatives should it strike down affirmative action. The attorney dodged the issue, but the court cannot. Alternative direction would be necessary.

Justice Antonin Scalia, the court's most vocal conservative, repeatedly offered one untenable suggestion: If U-M cares so much about diversity, it should just lower its standards.

U-M lawyers countered that Scalia offered a Hobson's choice. Just so. Quality and diversity are not mutually exclusive.

In this time of war, a brief filed by retired military

brass, including Gulf War Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, seemed to carry great weight with the justices. That brief said that affirmative action was the only way the armed forces could recruit and groom an officer corps that is sufficiently elite and diverse enough to lead diverse forces.

At the core of the challenge to U-M is the contention that affirmative action punishes people for being white, a violation of the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of laws. But the challengers also question the need for universities to reflect the makeup of society. And if there is such a need, they say the only acceptable solution is to fix the underlying social, economic and educational disparities that fail to prepare minorities adequately for college.

That certainly should be fixed. But in the meantime, generations of minority students will be denied the opportunity for the top-notch education that could make them the leaders who take society past its need for affirmative action programs.

Anti-war mother torn as daughter heads for Iraq

As my daughter's unit, the Bravo 52 Engineering Battalion, based in Albany, Ore., prepares to leave for Iraq, I think about all of the anguished mothers in the United States, Britain and Iraq, whose children are engaged in war.

My resolve strengthens to support my daughter in the manner that I consider ethically correct; by criticizing an administration that trains our children to kill, sends them in to invade another country and encourages them to kill the sons and daughters of other families.

In a national newspaper, I read an interview with a young service man who described his excitement at riding into an Iraqi town in an armored vehicle, and shooting everything that moved. I realize that not all of the troops in Iraq are trigger-happy warriors, but the sanitized video game mentality killing encouraged by combat training is chilling. Our humanity lies in our ability to feel compassion. When war is necessary we should weep at the need to kill, not rejoice in it.

I am old enough to remember Vietnam. I had many friends who went, fewer who came back. The ones who returned were no longer gung-ho young warriors. They were somber, anguished adults. Many of them could no longer function in the society that sent them to fight a futile war. They could not communicate the horrors to their wives and families.

I raised my girl to respect all life. She studied to be a marine biologist for five years at OSU. From the time she could first walk she would carry butterflies,

snakes, lizards, worms and bugs to me with gently cupped hands. I know that if she has to hurt someone she will bear scars in her mind, heart and soul for the rest of her life.

Since this war began, I have often pondered what would be worse: to have her injured or to have her injure or kill someone else? At least if one's body is injured one can heal. The Vietnam vets I knew never healed. Many of them succumbed to drugs, alcohol and violence.

The sanitized version of killing in effect now is even worse. The troops can sit in their armored vehicles and shoot ordinance while looking at a video screen, just like the video games people play. They do not have to face the fact that humans are being killed and mangled by their actions. The gravity of killing does not penetrate. The Vietnam vets who are protesting this war learned that killing is not a game.

They don't want their sons and daughters to have to bear the same burdens they do. The real pride I have in my daughter is her responsibility to her commitments and her love of life. Her compassion towards all living things and her intelligent analysis of what is right and wrong. I do not consider blind acceptance of any policy a trait to be proud of.

I saw a picture on the front cover of

"The Oregonian" last week showing a wailing Iraqi man, surrounded by eleven crude, open, wooden boxes. His six children, wife, parents and two brothers were

all killed by an American missile attack. Are so-called national interests really being served by this war? The photos of captured American service people, fleeing Iraqi civilians and bombed-

out buildings, remind me that families everywhere and their youths are pawns in games played by dictators, special interests and greed the world over. The people dying are humans, just like you and I, not electrons on a video screen.

In more than one country in the Middle East and North Africa the poor are dying of disease, war and hunger and the greedy are battling for control of oil fields, diamonds, cocoa and other natural resources. The best support for our troops and the dying poor of these countries is to be informed, active voters; to protest when our country supports and arms tyrants and crooked regimes.

Our sons and daughters should not have to fight to save the victims of our own skewed foreign policies. I can only hope that we salvage our consciences by bringing Iraq the freedom to choose its own path, regardless if it is a way we agree with or profit by.

This country was founded on the prin-

ciples of free speech and dissent. In a recent conversation with my daughter, she begged me not to be too vocal, she was afraid that I might be persecuted for my anti-war views. The irony of this did not escape me. Here is my only child, whose safety is so important to me. She is worried that I might get into trouble for doing the American thing: exercising my right to free speech.

At the same time she is going off to fight a war for liberty in another country. Is this a war for liberty? The rights we take for granted are being removed, and yet we say we are fighting for the liberty of others.

Of course it is hard to find peaceful solutions. But Libya is an example of a different way to deal with a war-like regime. The sanctions imposed on Libya by the world community worked. From its origin as a regime that supported world-wide terrorism, Libya is now acquiescing to international law, making reparations to those harmed and entering the world community.

The Iraqi regime could have been dealt with in other ways as well. At the least, Saddam's reign of terror was contained by the watchful eye of the world and patience would have resulted in regime change. His worst human rights abuses occurred when the U.S. provided his weapons and sanctioned his violence.

The best support for our troops is to not send them to fight in the first place. I will continue to pray for the safe homecoming of all of our children and to work for a world that is different.

Adele
Kubein

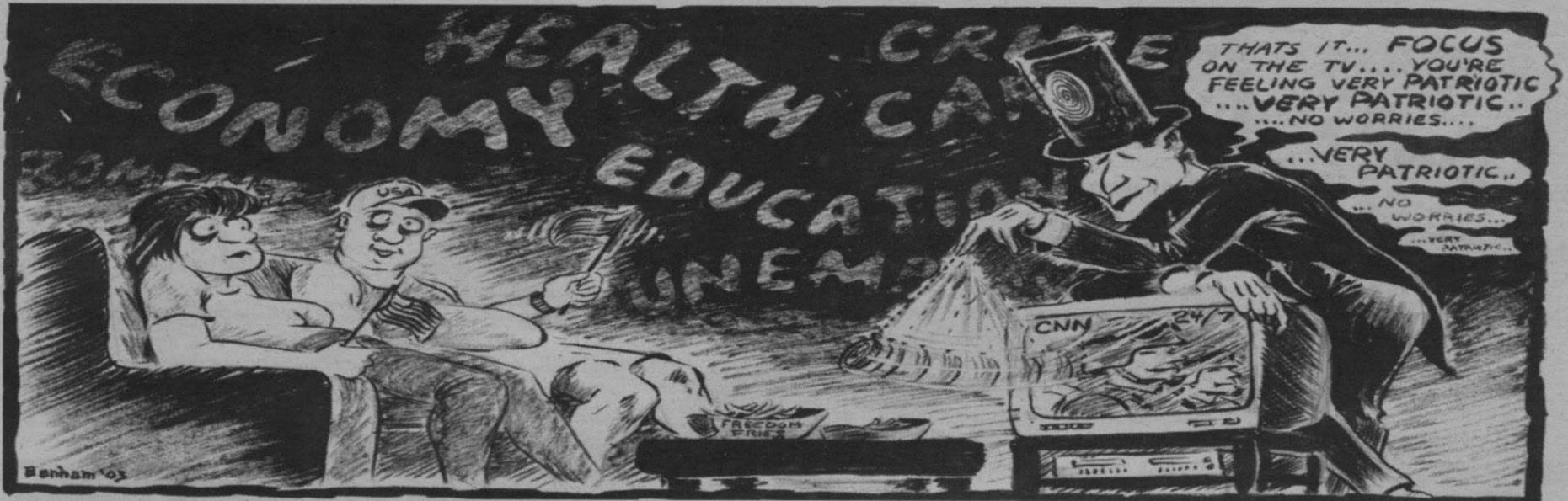
IN MY
OPINION



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OPINION

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What Students Think		Compiled by Heather Scott	
<p>Are you personally touched by the war? Any friends or relatives there now?</p>	<p>What do you think about all of the increased media coverage of this war?</p>	<p>Do you connect 9/11 with the war in Iraq? Why?</p>	<p>How long do you think the war will last and will happen to Iraq when it's over?</p>
 <p>CASEY CHILDRESS</p> <p>"Yeah, I'm touched by it. I don't have any friends or relatives there now."</p>	<p>"I have no idea."</p> <p>"There was a lot of media coverage in the Gulf War, but nothing in comparison to people sitting in Baghdad while we are bombing it... I think it's a good thing on one hand, but then again I have a cynical view of our government, I don't think we should be there in the first place... I turn on the TV and I just get fed up... it sort of desensitizes the whole idea of the fact that we are killing people."</p>	<p>"Sort of. It opened our eyes to what can happen. We are trying to prevent things like that from happening again."</p> <p>"No way. The only connection between us and Iraq and 9/11 is that 9/11 gave Bush an impetus to go ahead and do it. There is no connection between us, Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein whatsoever. The only connection is that they hate the United States and that would be the only reason they would work together. I'm not saying that actions that Osama Bin Laden has and things that Saddam does are right or should ever be done again. I would hate for 9/11 to happen again."</p>	<p>"I have no idea how long it's going to last. Probably not as long as typical wars last. I think it will be a fairly short war. I think we'll be in Iraq a long time afterwards."</p> <p>"I don't know how long it will last... It could be over in a month, it could be another year or so... What will happen to Iraq? I don't know... I was watching the news the other day... and they went over to Iraq and did the weather report. In a cynical sense it was like Iraq is the 51st state... the first promised oil contract was given to Dick Cheney's former oil company. I think that Iraq will end up becoming just sort of like a mess like South America."</p>
 <p>COLIN WONNACOTT</p> <p>"I have distant relatives that I don't really know, but I don't have any close friends or close family fighting in Iraq."</p>	<p>"I don't know that the public needs this much media... I think war is bad enough as it is and you know your children or your family or your friends are over there and you see these terrible awful things happening. When I was a kid you didn't see the Vietnam war on TV... I don't want to see it. I don't watch it anymore every since I know that my son is going. I don't want to see, and I almost don't want to hear."</p>	<p>"Yes I do. I think they've been planning this for a long time. They've done little things here and there that has shown that. That's why they are called terrorists, because they are trying to put us in a state of terror at all times. They're winning, they're working their way so that people are afraid."</p>	<p>"I don't know how long it will last. I know they think that its going to be short. I think that its going to be probably 6 months or longer. Its going to really take its toll. I hope that the result will be that Iraq ends up being a free country and out from underneath terrorism, and that we can help them and be allied with them."</p>
 <p>DANI GLASSER</p> <p>"Yes I do, my son will be going over to Kuwait at the end of this month."</p>	<p>"There was a quote I read, and I'm not exactly sure who said it, but it said: 'The Vietnam war was the first war that was brought to American living rooms and that war was lost.' On this basis I'm not really sure if it's really a good idea for it or a bad idea that it's coming into our homes at the rate that it is. But it's interesting and I watch it."</p>	<p>"Yes I do... The times have changed and the Soviet Union kept the United States and the world in checks and balances. The fall of the Soviet Union was replaced by nothing, through the Clinton administration... we just kind of rode the wave of peace, thinking that it was going to last forever... we didn't really look beyond our own borders. So when 9/11 did happen it changed the face of foreign policy and politics as a whole."</p>	<p>"I think it's going to be over in the next week or so as far as the actual war itself. But fighting and having our troops there will probably be a few years or 5 to 10 years before Iraq can be self-supporting and not need outside intervention."</p>
 <p>JONATHAN GRAY</p> <p>"I'm not personally touched since I don't have any close friends or family over there."</p>			

THE WAR WITH IRAQ

LETTERS

Saddam is not a friend of Iran

To Clarice Rainey:

The opinion article from March 12 "Locked and Loaded, Bush still can't get off first shot" had a mistake in it.

In paragraph 10 you said, "Iran doesn't like old Saddam but he's an "Arab brother" so they might change sides."

But Arabs are a minority in Iran (I think around 3 million, or something like that). Most Iranians are Persian, not Arab. Persians and Arabs are traditionally hostile toward each other, thus the contention between Iran and Iraq.

Eric Shetka

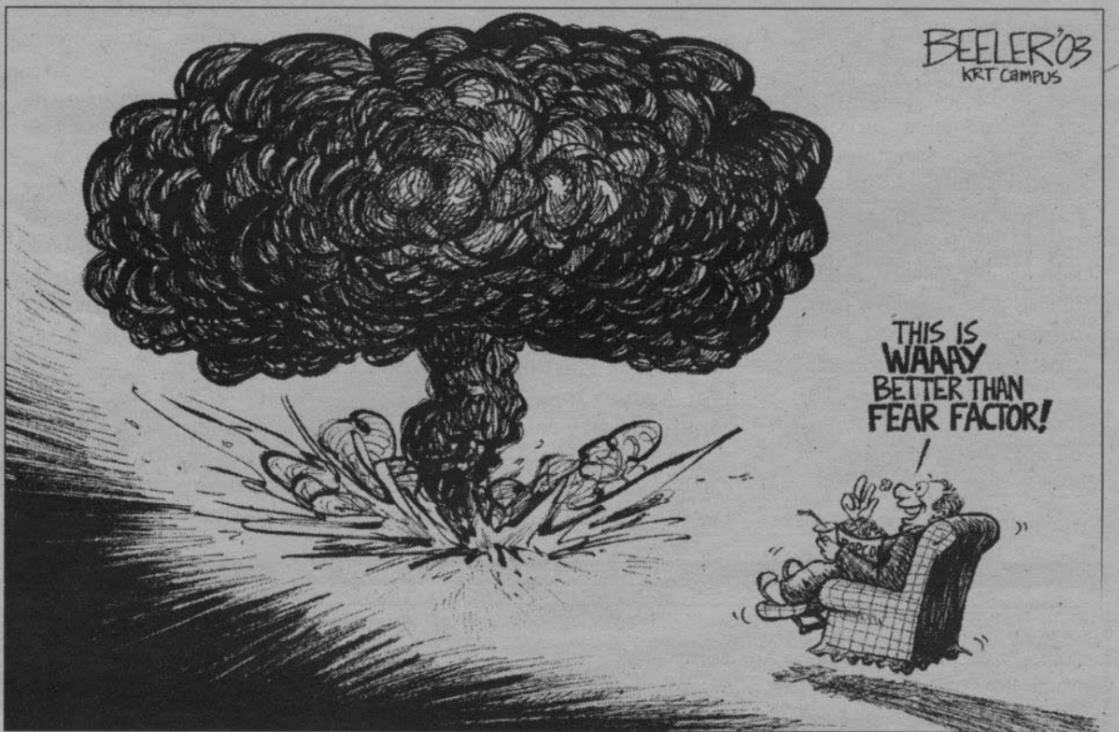
EXPRESS YOURSELF

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

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer.

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

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



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CAMPUS NEWS

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

From KRT News

Off Beat

Self Protection

A man opened the driver's-side door of a woman who was stopped at an intersection in Warren, Mich., and threatened to shoot her if she didn't give him money. He was unarmed, but pretended to have a gun in his pocket.

So she grabbed her 9mm handgun from the passenger seat, and pointed it at him. He fled.

Drinking on the Job

A man broke into a bar in Baia Sprie, Romania, and, after emptying the cash register, decided to relax and have a few drinks. A great many drinks, actually. He got drunk and passed out, and was still unconscious when the owner arrived the next morning.

Before he called the police, the owner gave the burglar a bill for the booze he drank.

The Police Made Me

A woman in Watford, England, was cited for speeding. But she is refusing to pay the fine, claiming that the reason she was speeding was that the police were chasing her.

Young Spirit

An elderly man in Chongqing, China, looking for a little female companionship, signed up with a matchmaking service. He wants an attractive woman under age 60 with her own money.

He warns, however, that he doesn't want a relationship that gets too serious, because he doesn't want to be "restricted by marriage." He is 94.

If Only Your Dog Spoke

A Japanese company has invented a device it claims translates dog barks into human language. It classifies the barks into six emotional categories: happiness, sadness, frustration, anger, assertion and desire and displays common phrases that most closely match the mood.

Marketed under the name Bowlingual, it will be appearing in pet stores this summer.

CAMPUS SHORTS

Open to Culture

The Multicultural Center, located on the second floor of the Forum building, will be holding its open house tomorrow, Thursday, April 10 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be refreshments, a listing of upcoming activities, and a drawing for a free Multicultural Center sweatshirt.

Lobby the State

On Tuesday, April 15, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 11 students will get the opportunity to take a field trip to Salem to tour the State Capitol. The trip includes a meeting with a lobbyist from the Oregon Community College Association and a full tour of the capitol and tower. There may also be the opportunity to watch a legislative session and sit in on a special committee. Transportation and lunch will be included. Sign up in the Student Life and Leadership office with a valid student I.D.

Routine Drill

The main campus's spring evacuation drill is set for 1:45

p.m. on Tuesday, April 15.

April Showers

The AAWCC is sponsoring a presentation titled: "Herbs from Garden to Table".

Rose Marie McGee from Nichols Nursery is back by popular demand. This time she is going to share her knowledge and skill with using herbs in cooking to enhance the flavor of even the plainest dishes. The talk will be Thursday, April 10 from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Boardrooms.

Don't Forget

April 11, 2003 is the deadline to apply for graduation on June 12, 2003.

Public War Forum

Monday night in the Fireside room at 7 p.m. Albany Peace Seekers and the LB Peace Studies program are co-sponsoring a Public Listening Forum on the war in Iraq. It is intended to give people the opportunity to speak about their feelings and thinking about the war.

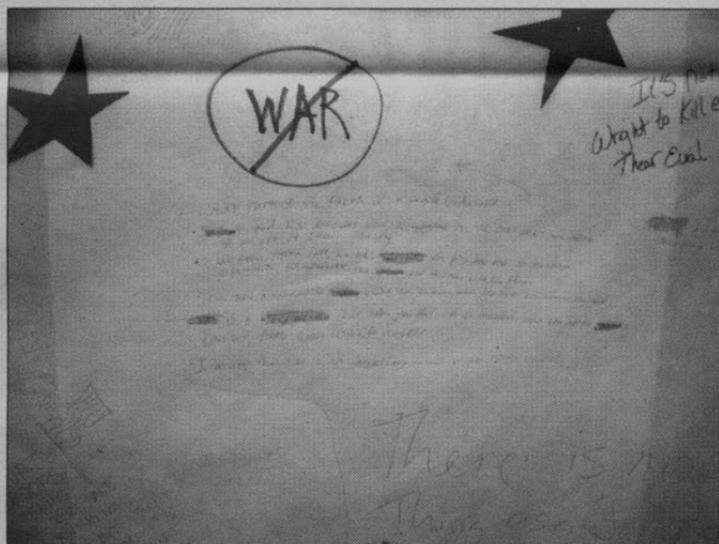


Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Students are invited to state their opinions on the war in Iraq at an "expression board" outside the Student Union.

Counseling: Workshops planned

▲ From Pg. 1

it is war-related or a natural occurrence. The event is co-sponsored with Peace Studies.

Other activities in the People Talk About War and Peace series include:

- April 25, Just War, Preemptive War & Propaganda, 12-1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center

- May 2, The Health Effects of War, 12-1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center

- May 9, The Pros & Cons of War Against Iraq, 12-1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center

- May 16, The New American Foreign Policy... Preemptive Force, 12-1:30 p.m., Fireside

Room

- May 23, The War to End All Wars, 12-1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center

- May 30, Veteran's Forum, 12-1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center

A workshop open to everyone titled "Defend Yourself!" will be taught by LB administrator and former criminal justice instructor Jackie Turle, April 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Alesca-Calapooia Room.

Outside of the Student Life and Leadership office the ASG has also put up an expression wall for students to write their comments about the war.

Trip planned to California to see Fuel Cell Project

by Wendy Geist
 of The Commuter

The future looks bright for fuel cells, as more and more researchers are experimenting with this new technology that could help to reduce use of fossil fuels and provide cleaner power. They could someday be used to power almost everything including homes, spacecraft, vending machines, cell phones and wastewater treatment plants.

Darrell McGie, Political and Current Events specialist for the Student Programming Board, has planned a four-day/three-night trip April 23 to April 26 for 30 students to attend the California Fuel Cell Project in Sacramento, Calif. The group will also make stops at Humboldt State University, the University of California at Davis, Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Estuary, and Redwood National Park.

Lodging and transportation to LB students will cost only \$30 per person plus lunch and dinner. The rest of the trip is funded by \$6,000 from the SPB budget.

The trip, which McGie started planning around a month ago, was originally intended for only 10 students. But, before the trip was even advertised, five people had already signed up, said McGie. The group will now travel in a bus to accommodate a larger number of people.

On the first day of the trip, the group will stop at the Redwood National Park. On the second day, students will tour a lab on fuel cell technology at Humboldt State, which uses a solar array to produce its own electricity to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen is then used to power a fuel cell that runs the college's marine center. The group will then visit Arcata Marsh to see

how this site is making a connection between water treatment and the production of hydrogen for fuel cells.

On the third day, the group will view the fuel cell research program at the University of California at Davis. They will then attend the first ever open house of the California Fuel Cell Project to view fuel cell powered cars and hydrogen dispensing technology.

The driving force in California for alternative fuels for cars is the air pollution in Los Angeles, explains McGie. Fuel cells in cars would produce smaller amounts of pollutants than conventional engines. Hydrogen vending stations for cars that use hydrogen fuel cells are already popping up in that area.

"Oregon is poised to become a major hydrogen producer," McGie says. Using water and hydroelectric dams to produce hydrogen "is the answer to our economic woes." Although, using hydrogen fuel cells for automobiles would make Oregon in competition with the petroleum companies. It would end up being a political decision in which we would have to "fight the federal government and heavyweights," McGie explains.

McGie also sees this as an opportunity for LB to start a fuel cell program or to continue on with fuel cell events such as this. He purposely named this trip the "First Annual Fuel Cell Event."

Fuel cells are the "next computer, the next big technology jump, and will fuel the next big economic opportunity for our country," McGie exclaimed. He hopes this is an area in which education at places like LBCC can be ahead of the creation of jobs instead of creating the program after the jobs are available.

Friends remember Stait

by Wendy Geist
 of The Commuter

Family and friends of Jared Stait, the LBCC student who committed suicide over a month ago, joined students, staff and faculty for a tree dedication and sharing of memories March 14 at the campus Peace Garden.

Students who had classes with Stait remembered the sadness they felt the moment they heard the news. Others mentioned his smile, positive energy and a talk he gave in a speech class about his first kiss.

Stait's mother recounted that she and his father had "enjoyed 20 short wonderful years" with him. "I know that he would want to be remembered in a living way," she said about the tree

planting.

LBCC president Jon Carnahan said a few words hoping that "as staff, we can do what ever we can to look for signs" so that another student won't have to go through the same thing. "With the planting, he will always be with us," he said.

Stait's partner and best friend, Erin Miner, was happy to see so many people at the ceremony who cared about him and said, "I think this is exactly what he would want."

CORRECTION

Robert Gavin's name was misspelled under his photo of a gun and flower in the March 12 issue of The Commuter.

CAMPUS CALANDAR FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 9-15

7-8:30 p.m.
 Friends of Wash. Park
 at the Benton Center

WEDNESDAY

10:30-2:30 p.m.
 Career Fair, Activities
 Center Gym

THURSDAY

1 p.m. Baseball vs.
 Chemeketa, home
 All day Open house,
 Multicultural center

12-1:30 p.m.
 Be prepared for any
 disaster, MultiCultural
 Center

FRIDAY

1 p.m. Baseball vs.
 Lane, home

SATURDAY

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 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Students can start job hunt at Career Fair Thursday

by Wendy Geist
 of The Commuter

Over 400 students will graduate this year and a great deal of them will be looking for a job. But searching out that special place to apply years of acquired knowledge and skills can be tough.

Tomorrow, students and the public will be able to talk directly to the human resources people from 58 different businesses and industries. And they will all be in one location on campus.

Career and Employment Specialists Marci Johnston and Carla Raymond give advice to those who plan to attend.

Bring several resumes and dress appropriately, Raymond said. Office casual is expected. Employers in the past have complained when students came to the fair dressed in grungy clothing and jeans with holes in them, she explained.

Also, show an interest in the com-

pany, Raymond said.

"Get on the Internet and find out what they do," she explains. The career fair Web site lists employer Web addresses.

Doing a little bit of research on the places you are interested in can help you sound knowledgeable, showing that you really have an interest in the company and that you are asking appropriate questions, Raymond said.

Bring questions, but don't ask or talk about pay, Johnston said. There will also be a list of sample questions given out at the fair. Ask for a business card so that you have a name to take home with you. Follow up later with the human resource

person and mention to him or her that you spoke to them at the career fair, Johnston said.

About 75 percent of the employers will be recruiting. Initially, the number of participating businesses was low, around 35.

"I think we were a little nervous this year that the (poor) economy would make it difficult," Johnston explained.

But the employers have come through. "Employers in our local community really support our college," said Raymond.

A large variety of majors will find the fair useful.

Raymond said employers are going to be hiring computer and accounting

people somewhere along the line, and said that asking "do you have the jobs now, and if not now, do you foresee in the near future an opening and may I leave a resume" is the right thing to do.

"There are a lot of opportunities going on in the nursing field and some of those places will supplement your tuition," she added. Opportunities also exist in EMT, medical offices assistant, medical assisting, and phlebotomy.

Thirteen program representatives from LBCC will be there for people looking to change careers or learn something new. Raymond asks students to invite friends and relatives.

Don't forget to ask employers about internships, cooperative work experience and part-time jobs, explains Johnston. Community services that help people with career transitions and funding, and temporary agencies will also be at the fair.

THE 25TH ANNUAL CAREER EXPLORATION & COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

DATE: Thursday, April 10
TIME: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
PLACE: Activities Center Gym.
INFO: www.linnbenton.edu/sservices/career/careerfair for an updated list of employers, tips and information on how to prepare.

Science club plans trip to Portland

for The Commuter

The science club is sponsoring a trip to Portland, Friday, April 11 to hear Dr. Ian Tattersall of the America Museum of History give a speech titled: "How and When We Became Human."

Dr. Tattersall traces the major events in human physical and cognitive development over the last four million years, ponder-

ing the question of just when did we become fully human.

Students, faculty and staff are all welcome to attend. The meeting place to board vans leaving LBCC will be in front of the Activities Center at 4:40 p.m., April 11.

If you drive up on your own and want to meet at Schnitzer Hall, there will be someone with tickets for LBCC students at the concert hall between 6:45 and

6:55 p.m. If you miss this person you may pick up your tickets at the Schnitzer's will-call booth.

After the lecture, the group will head out some place delicious for dinner and conversation the expected return time is around midnight. Tickets will be \$10.

To get tickets, contact Greg Mulder in ST 103. For more information contact Jenny Strooband in ST 212, 917-4767.

Bookstore ads grab national award

by Heather Scott
 of The Commuter

Tina Leonard, LBCC Bookstore's marketing and promotion coordinator for the last two years, led the bookstore to victory in the market gallery of the Independent College Bookstore Association annual meeting. The bookstore took first place awards for its advertising in best branding, most creative and best of gallery at the San Antonio-based contest.

Out of 25 colleges attending, LBCC was the only community college entry as well as the only community college bookstore ever to receive an award in any category at the meeting. Competitors such as University of Oregon, University of Arizona, Iowa State and Seattle University were among those defeated by the LBCC bookstore.

"I was shocked," said Leonard. "It was a real sense of pride that we were able to make a name for ourselves among all those large schools."

A proud bookstore staff warmly welcomed Leonard on her return from San Antonio.

"They were so great," said Leonard. "They had flowers and balloons and made me a little award." Leonard says that the staff also contacted the head of the division, who came to the bookstore and presented her with a College Center of Excellence Award (a chocolate medal).

Leonard's triumph is backed by a 12-year career in the advertising department of the Albany Democrat-Herald as well as a variety of advertising and graphic design classes taken at LBCC. Leonard also says a lot of her ideas come from outside sources such as television, magazines and newspapers.

The winning ad designs, which have been

"Last year, or the first year I worked at the store, I was figuring out what kind of image that we wanted the bookstore to have, getting used to what the people in the bookstore were like and what the merchandise was like."

▶ Tina Leonard

printed in the Commuter, consisted of: a Valentine's Day layout, a holiday sale theme and a more generally themed ad with various pictures and images. Full-time bookstore employees Jennifer Simer and Diana Ward, and student worker Tyler Haycock put their best face forward for the marketing plan.

"We just have several people that like to have their picture taken," said Leonard. "They are just really big hams!"

The silliness of Leonard's advertisements may have been just the ticket against her more toned-down opponents.

"I'd say most of the other ads were more serious, more copy, less photo, less color. Maybe that's the image they want to portray at their school: that they are a serious university."

Although the bookstore was unsuccessful at the competition last year, Leonard says this year's change in marketing was the result of a learning experience.

"Last year, or the first year I worked at the store, I was figuring out what kind of image that we wanted the bookstore to have, getting used to what the people in the bookstore were like and what the merchandise was like," Leonard said. "The first year everything didn't match I was changing it all the time, trying to find the way I wanted it to look," she said.

Creating a theme and using student models were a few of the changes Leonard put into place this year. "It's something everybody has really seemed to like."

Fans of the bookstore ads can expect to see more changes next year such as a different kind of theme. But Leonard vows that she will continue to "keep it fun."



Photo by Heather Ohana

Jon Carnahan, Corvallis Mayor Helen Berg, and LB board members Barbara Boudreaux and Thomas Wogaman break ground for the Benton Center expansion last week.

Group meets to plan Washington Park future

by Kimberly Nelson
 of The Commuter

The Friends of Washington Park are continuing discussions about improvements to the park and possible future projects today from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at LBCC's Benton Center, Room 10. The group also plans to address park users' concerns about the use of the space.

The Friends of Washington Park would like to create a vision of what the park could be for the community; to be utilized by everyone from students to local businesses. The improvements being made to the park include a cover for a portion of the park and, at the request of the Benton Center, a play area for small children. A draft drawing of the play area will be displayed at the meeting.

The Benton Center has concerns about its Parent Education and Live and Learn Programs that involve young children coming to the center. During the remodeling of the Benton Cen-

ter, it was decided that the existing play shed would be torn down. Jerri Wolfe, LBCC's Parent Education Co-Coordinator, said that the children of the parents participating in this program need a covered play area.

Wolfe also said that the group feels they haven't gotten enough input from the community and worries that if the project goes on without more input, there may be objections to the changes.

According to Jackie Rochefort of Corvallis Parks and Recreation, The Friends of Washington Park hope to discuss the capital improvement project with the community to generate ideas for type and layout of the cover.

The funding for this project comes partially from the Benton Center. The group is still discussing ideas for other funding possibilities, such as applying for a grant.

Anyone from the Corvallis area with an interest in the neighborhood park is welcome to attend. For further information contact Wolfe at 917-4891.

Editor-in-Chief: Wendy Geist
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Alert: Duct tape and beyond seminar set for April 23

▲ From Pg. 1
have to do with winter storms, power outages and transportation problems, said Peggy Peirson, who works with Bamberger as the emergency services coordinator. Other important concerns include preparing for earthquakes and mitigating the effects of flooding.

Because storms and terrorist attacks both have the potential to harm the same sensitive infrastructure, homeland defense is incorporated into the normal work pattern of the office, Bamberger said. As government

alert levels signal higher risk, his office increases the intensity of its operations.

The announcement of terror advisory warnings also raises the level of awareness and responsibility for people and organizations. Many tips come from the public calling in, said Bamberger, emphasizing the importance of community watch. At the "high" alert level, he added, the emergency services office asks people to look at what they do in a different light, as though with "orange alert goggles on."

When not responding to emergencies, the office works to educate the community about emergency preparation. Peirson, who has been with the police department for 18 years and with emergency services for six and a half, said the war with Iraq is a "teachable moment," because people are now more willing to think about safety issues and to do more to prepare.

Peirson explained that in an emergency, the best help comes from the people who are close to you. She also suggests maintaining enough food, water and

medication for at least three days. Her list of things to prepare includes duct tape and plastic, but she said she will give further instructions on how to use these materials effectively

when she comes to Linn-Benton. Peirson will be in the Forum on April 23 from 12 to 1 p.m. to present a brown bag info session titled, "Duct Tape, Plastic & Beyond."

Sexual assault at LB during winter term called false alarm

Albany police have informed LBCC campus security that the sexual assault that was reported to have happened on February 18 in a second floor hallway on the main campus did not happen. It was a false report. All charges have been dropped.



Help Wanted!

The Commuter has an opening for an Arts and Entertainment Editor.

Must be responsible and dedicated!

For more information contact The Commuter at 541-917-4451 or pick up an application from the Commuter office, F 222

The position carries a 4-credit tuition grant!



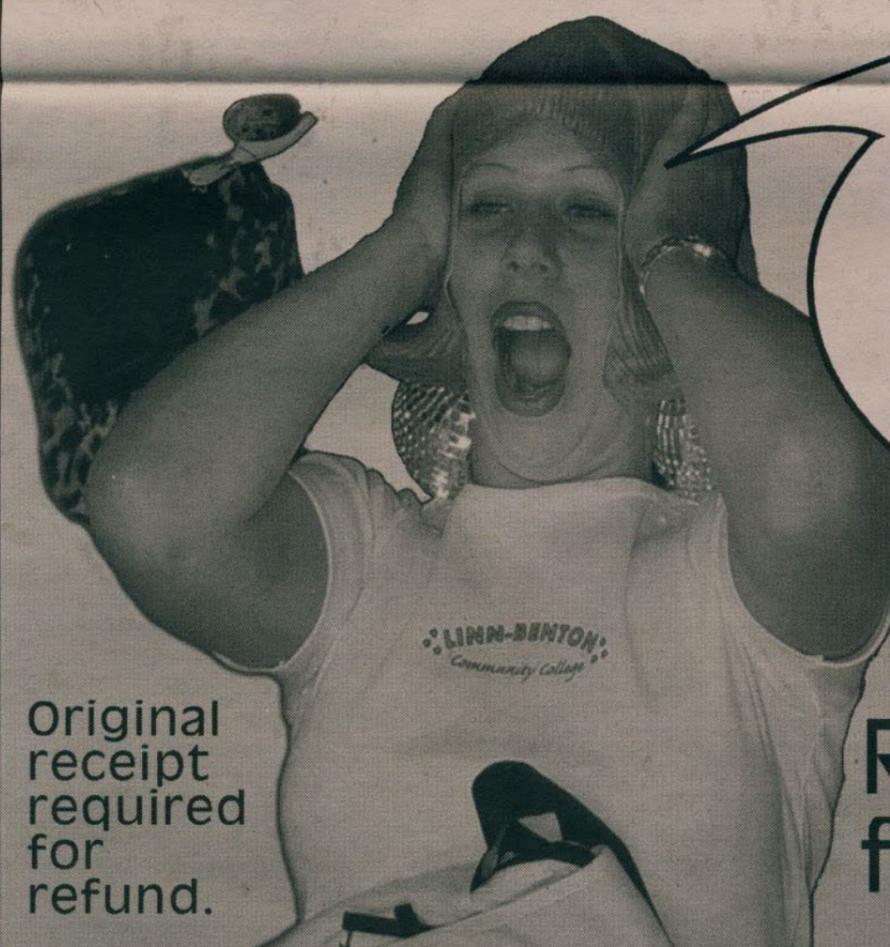
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Light, focus of Hagood's work

for The Commuter

English instructor Paul Hagood's exhibit of color photography in the AHSS Gallery, "Entering the Garden: Portraits of Everyday Beauty," runs through this Friday, April 11.

Hagood had these words regarding his art: "The show is a collection of pictures taken in the course of my everyday life - the flowers in my neighbor's houses and gardens, in a park at the coast I visited with my wife during a business trip, the pool at my father's house in Tucson, the red cliffs behind my father-in-law's house in Sedona. I shoot in both color and black and white.

"Except for a few images, all were taken in natural light. For a long time I've been enchanted with the late Galen's Rowell's teaching that photographers are really creating images of light, not of objects. He said that he looked for extraordinary light and then searched for objects and situations that made it possible to capture that light on film. In these images I've tried to do the same thing. Since I rarely get the opportunity to go deep into the wilderness the way Galen Rowell did, my aim has been to discover these moments of beautiful light flashing forth in my daily world, the 'ordinary' landscape of my life.

"Overall, my aim is to create images that combine drama, mystery, and beauty. In addition to dramatic light and intense color, I'm drawn to scenes of energetic composition. My goal is to make photographs that are hard to ignore. Ideally, they should both entice and intrigue the viewer. A little mystery is nice — a photo of a

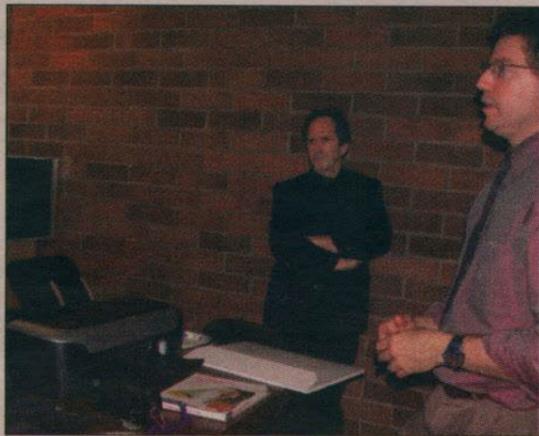


Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

Paul Hagood demonstrates his digital printer during Tuesday's reception for his photo exhibit.

flower should be both a beautiful image of a flower, and suggest something beyond the flower. I think this is the essence of beauty—it's not just something "pretty," but something true and alive in a spiritual sense. Beauty has a restorative power to change the inner state of the viewer, to move us from darkness to light. The Navahos believe that health of the individual and society comes from an awareness of the beauty and wholeness of the world, and their healing ceremonies bring people back into a living connection with this beauty and unity. Whether people see my images as just nice photos of flowers, or experience them in a more metaphysical or metaphorical way, I hope that my photographs bring them back into an awareness of the beauty and goodness of life."

Workshop draws journalists

by Adele Kubein of The Commuter

Last weekend Commuter staff members Wendy Geist, Thomas Lin and Adele Kubein attended the 2003 National Writers Workshop. Sponsored by The Oregonian, the event was an opportunity for journalists around the country to network and attend workshops.

Journalists attended from as far away as North Carolina, along with numerous staffers from Northwest newspapers such as the Seattle Times, the Eugene Register Guard and the Oregonian. The University of Oregon was represented with a staff member from the Emerald, and staffers from OSU's Barometer were there also.

The workshops covered topics such as: how to do effective interviews for profiles, watchdog reporting, writing with impact, racial diversity in reporting, ethnic reporting, including American Indian issues, compassionate, ethical reporting of assault crimes and storytelling to mention just a few. They were conducted by writers from national publications such as the Miami Herald, the Seattle Times, the New York Times and the Oregonian. Some of the writers were Pulitzer Prize winners and some were nominees.

This is by no means a comprehensive list, but some of the writers were: Alex Tizon, Brent Walth, Tom Hallman, Leonard Pitts Jr., Katrina Heron and Stephen Engelberg. The writers who gave their time to this conference are all regarded as top notch. The sessions were jam-

with how-to hints.

The Oregonian staff organized the event and volunteered an amount of time and staff. Writers from The Oregonian volunteered long hours to critique articles submitted by attendees. The Commuter staff took advantage of this opportunity by each submitting their articles.

The funding for The Commuter staff attendance at the conference was provided by The Commuter funds consisting of advertising revenues and student fees. The Commuter staff returned invigorated and ready to work toward providing its readership with an even higher standard of journalism.



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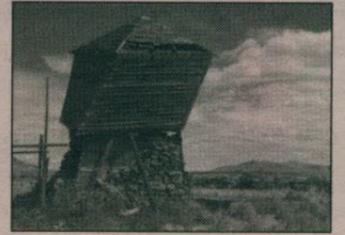
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ART HAPPENINGS

Benefit Concert

A benefit for The Circle of Hope is bringing two rock bands, Left Wing from Portland, and Scab Party from Corvallis, together to raise money in Corvallis April 18 at 8 p.m. The Circle of Hope is at Second and and Monroe streets.



Photography Exhibit

"East of Eden and Other Works," an exhibit by LBCC photography instructor Rich Bergeman, is at Pegasus Gallery, 341 SW Second St., in Corvallis this month. A reception for the artist is scheduled for this Thursday, April 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The exhibit is comprised of platinum/palladium prints that focus primarily on scenes from Eastern Oregon.

Floater Acoustics

On April 18 at 9 p.m. Club ESCAPE on the Oregon State University Campus presents a Floater Acoustic Concert.

Tickets are \$7 students/\$10 public and can be purchased at the Memorial Union 103, 541-737-6872, or at the door. For more information visit the Web site: www.floateronline.com/index.html.

Electrified Tunes

Matt the Electrician, "handyman by day and hilarious singer-songwriter by night," will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday April 16 in the Memorial Union Lounge at OSU. The concert is free and open to the public.

Two Hits & a Ms.

Playing original, traditional and contemporary acoustic roots music with three-part harmony, Two Hits & a Ms. perform at New Morning Bakery in Downtown Corvallis on Friday, April 11. There is no cover charge.

Written Beauty

Yuki Tanaka's Calligraphy II class is showing their work in the Albany Center for the month of April.



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FUNNY PAGE

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications for women of Lincoln County re-entering the job market. The Altrusa International of Yaquina Bay is offering \$1,000 for the 2003-2004 academic year. Applications are available in the Multicultural Center Kiosk. Application due date is May 1, 2003.

Scholarship Funds Available! **Izzy's Altrusa Alliance Scholarship:** a mentoring/scholarship program. Individuals selected to receive funds will be eligible not only for financial assistance, but will enjoy a great networking opportunity. Presented by Altrusa International of Albany, Oregon, with funds raised through the Izzy's of Albany annual Pizza Party. Applications are available in the LBCC Financial Aid Office and the LBCC Foundation Office, Room CC-105, Phone (541) 917-4209. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2003. Recipients will be notified by June, 2003.

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WANTED

Wanted: Women Students 25 yrs. or older, residing in Benton County and enrolled in 8+ credit hours. Apply for the American Association of University Women Scholarship. Information available in the Multicultural Center. The deadline is April 15th. DON'T WAIT!!

Wanted: Students pursuing a career in a medical field, working in a hospital setting, with a current GPA of 3.0 or better. Apply for the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center Scholarship. Applications are due May 2nd. Information available in the Multicultural Center Kiosk.

Students needing cash to continue their education! The LBCC scholarship awards process is happening again! Check out the ad online, go to www.linnbenton.edu/foundation/scholarships and look at what you may qualify to receive. Application due date is April 25.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pregnant? Free Pregnancy Test. Information on options. Non-pressured. Confidentiality. Pregnancy Care Center 541-757-9645

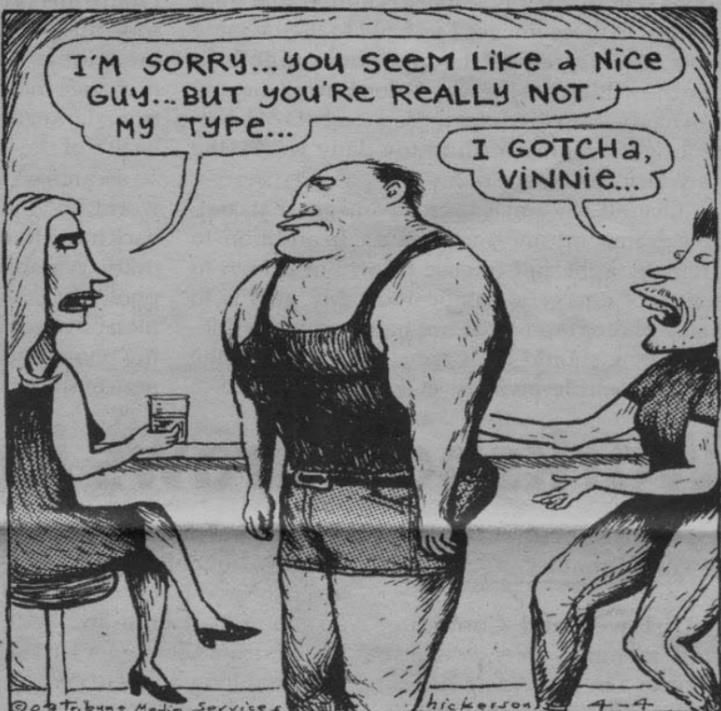
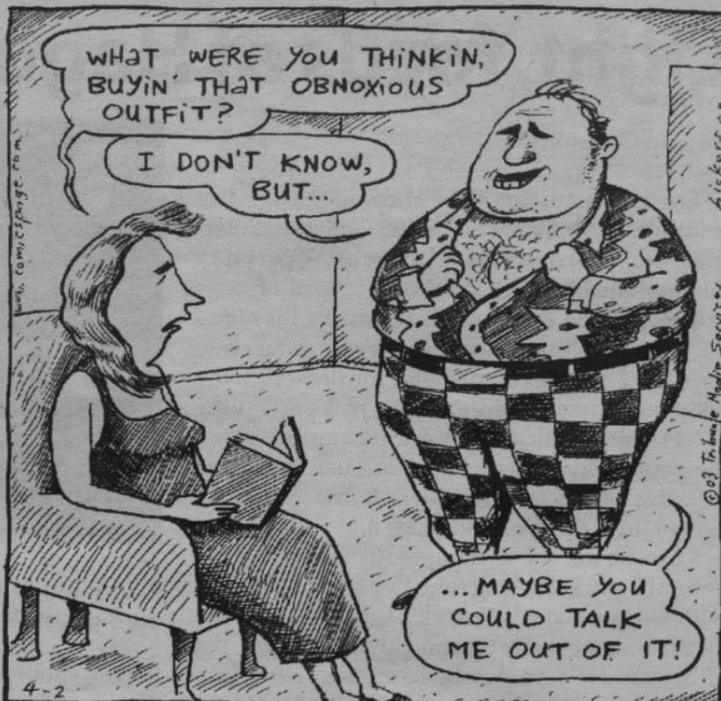
HELP WANTED

Baristas & Supervisor (#1835 & 1836 Albany) The positions will be filled before Starbucks opens about May 15. Starbucks will also be at the Career Fair. See Carla in Student Employment (T101) for your referrals!

Sales Associate (#1841 Albany) Great Pay (\$9/hour) for someone who is available for work 1-6pm weekly and on Saturdays. Work 20-30 hours a week. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Please see Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101) for more info!

Veterinary Technician (#1839 Independence) This clinic is looking for a graduate of our vet tech program for their full-time position which opens May 1. See Carla for a referral on this exciting opportunity.

25th Annual Career Exploration & Community Resource Fair will be 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10 in the Activities Center Gym!! Local Human Resource personnel come here to talk with you about career opportunities and their industry outlooks. Mark your calendar so you are sure to attend! This popular event is open to everyone, so bring your friends and relatives. Check out the website: www.linnbenton.edu/sservices/career/careerfair for a list of the employers and "Student Tips". See you there!!



More often than not, when trying to pick up a woman, Vinnie needed a spotter.

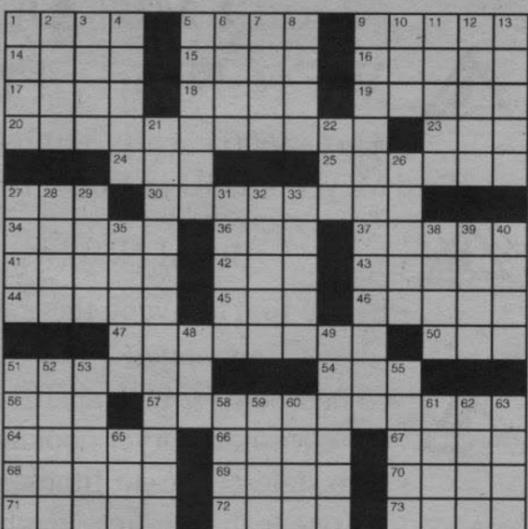
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Crossword

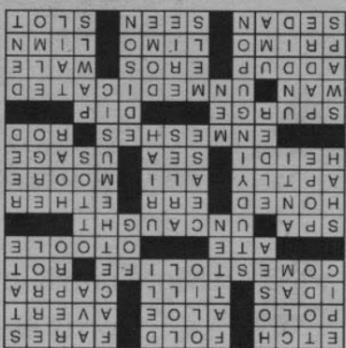
- ACROSS**
- 1 Imprint clearly
 - 5 Throw in cards
 - 9 Paying passengers
 - 14 Equestrian game
 - 15 African lily
 - 16 Ward off
 - 17 Lupino and Tarbell
 - 18 Cash drawer
 - 19 "Lost Horizon" director
 - 20 Grows excited
 - 23 Twaddle
 - 24 Cleaned one's plate
 - 25 "The Stunt Man" star
 - 27 Health haven
 - 30 Still on the lam
 - 34 Perfected
 - 36 Goof up
 - 37 Old-time anesthetic
 - 41 In a proper way
 - 42 Clay, today
 - 43 Sculptor Henry
 - 44 Spyrri heroine
 - 45 Aral or Caspian
 - 46 Custom
 - 47 Catches in a net
 - 50 Gat or heater
 - 51 Poinsettia, e.g.
 - 54 Chip scoopful
 - 56 Pallid
 - 57 Drug free
 - 64 Make sense
 - 66 Aphrodite's boy
 - 67 Corduroy characteristic
 - 68 The best
 - 69 Celeb's ride
 - 70 Describe
 - 71 Family car
 - 72 Viewed
 - 73 Payphone aperture
- DOWN**
- 1 Classic saga
 - 2 Hubbub
 - 3 Quahog
 - 4 Minor prophet
 - 5 Assign to a feedlot
 - 6 Musical medley
 - 7 Lounge around
 - 8 Sub shop
 - 9 Accept consequences
 - 10 "Mogambo" star Gardner
 - 11 Camera-ready proof
 - 12 Actor Flynn
 - 13 North or South Carolina
 - 21 Researching
 - 22 Kind of bank?
 - 26 Preminger and Kruger
 - 27 Persian ruler
 - 28 "Rape of the Lock" poet
 - 29 Debate side
 - 31 Discontinue
 - 32 Van Gogh location
 - 33 Heap of Dickens
 - 35 Church leader
 - 38 Icy frost
 - 39 Therefore
 - 40 Marsh growth
 - 48 Stag party attendees
 - 49 Phonograph
 - 51 Trades
 - 52 Chaplain
 - 53 Voided
 - 55 Ratchet latches
 - 58 Allen and Blanc
 - 59 Part of HOMES
 - 60 Rotunda feature
 - 61 Follow
 - 62 Tarzan Lincoln
 - 63 Fender mishap
 - 65 Thurman of "Batman & Robin"



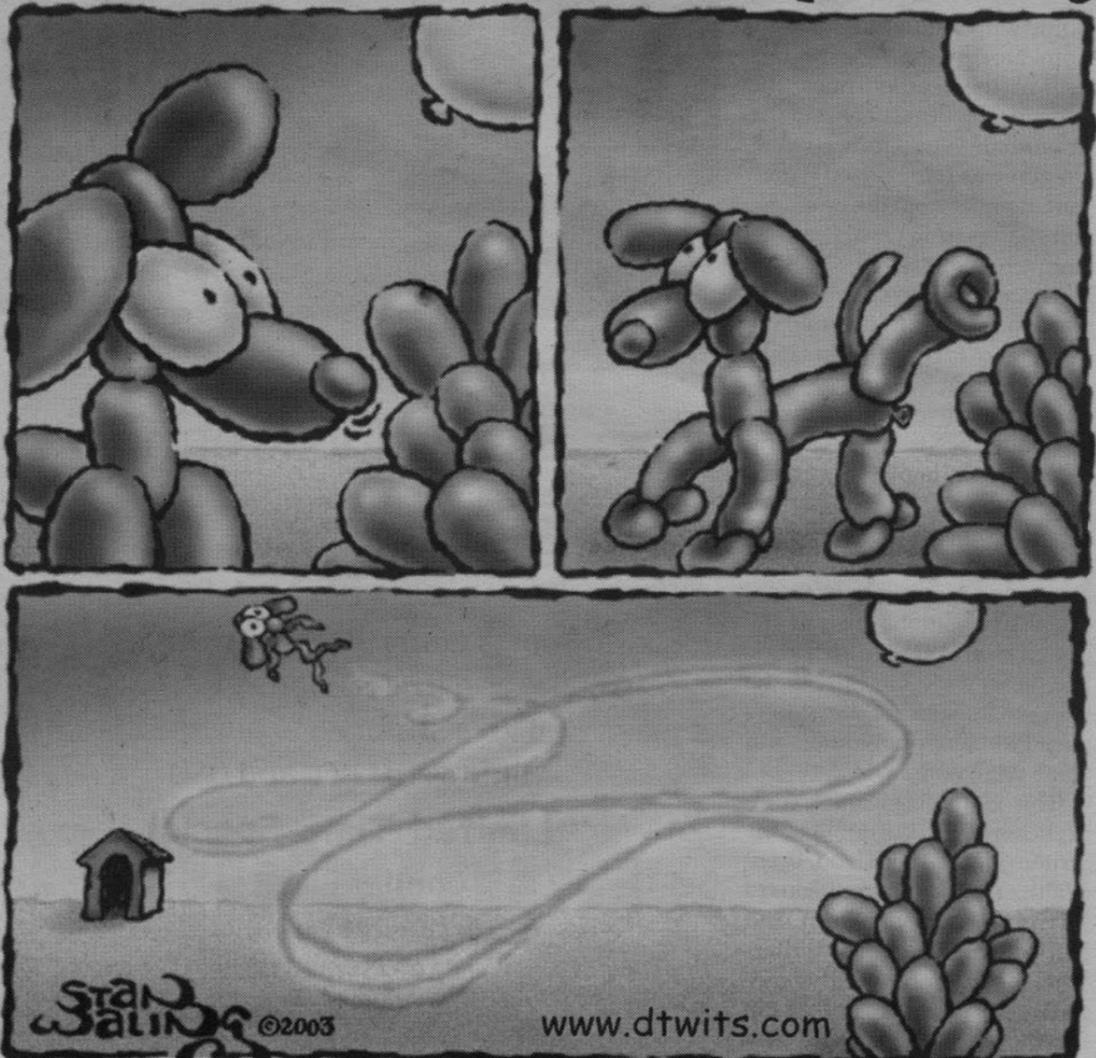
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04/07/03

Solutions



DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



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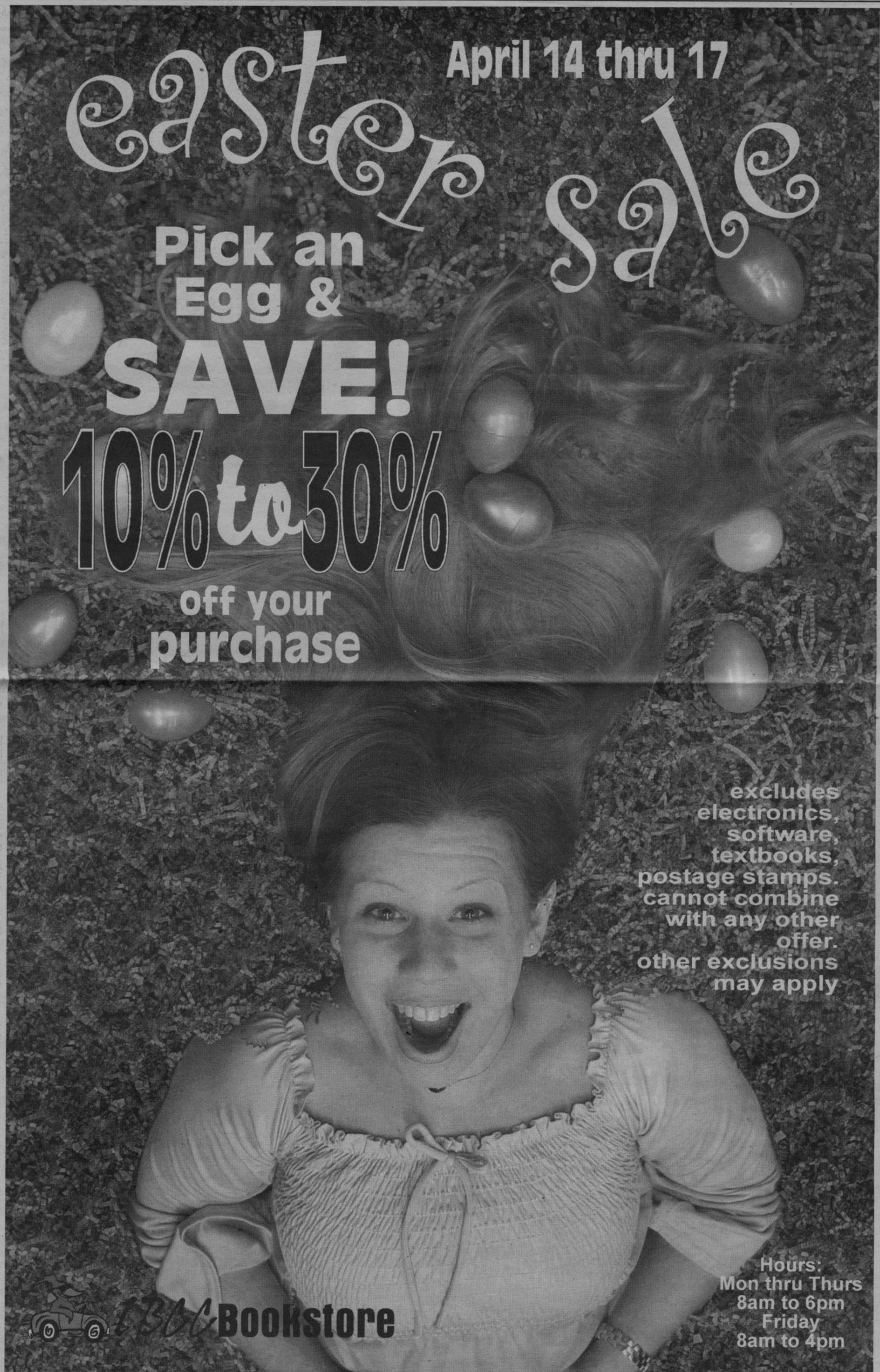
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SPORTS

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

Roadrunners swing into 2003 season

by Jered Reid
 of The Commuter

The terrible weather that has swept through the Mid-Valley in the last month has been a real let down for the Runners baseball squad.

Four doubleheaders have been canceled and rescheduled due to the weather. However, the team has been able to get in some baseball.

After having their first weekend of games rained out, the team started the season with a split against Skagit Valley. After dropping the first game 1-2, the Runners regrouped and ended the day with a 8-1 win. The following day, the Roadrunners dropped two games to the Linfield JV 3-4 and 1-3.

Linn-Benton traveled to the tri-cities in Washington during spring break to play in an eight-team double elimination tournament.

After winning the opener 4-2 against Spokane Falls Community College, the Runners then lost to Columbia Basin, the host team. The third game gave LB their first look at Southern league competition this year, facing Chemeketa CC.

The Roadrunners were leading 4-2 with two outs in the 8th inning before Chemeketa tied the score with a two-run double. In the ninth inning, Chemeketa once again had a two-out rally hitting a two-run single to win the game 6-4.

The Runners opened league play against Southern league powerhouse Lane on March 29th. Due to injuries, Coach Greg Hawk had to do some reshuffling in the order, especially with his pitching rotation.

LB made costly mistakes in the first game of the double header that turned into Titan runs. Lane went on to beat LB 12-2. The second game went to LB. The Runners got a great pitching effort from freshman left-hander Ryan Hayden and veteran John Best. Hayden and Best held the Titans to six heads and got the victory 3-2 in an extra inning. "We needed that win," Hawk exclaimed.

The Runners were scheduled to play both SW Oregon and Chemeketa last week, but due to bad weather those games have been rescheduled.

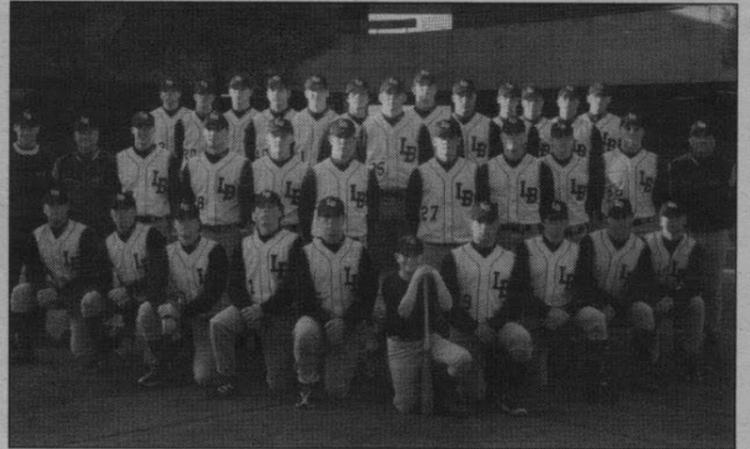
The Chemeketa game is rescheduled for tomorrow here at the LB field and the SW Oregon game is rescheduled for April 13, at SW Oregon. Overall, the team is 3-6 and 1-1 in league. Coach Hawk has 22 new faces this season, with six returning sophomores.

Hawk is short four players this season due to injury and eligibility problems. The loss of players has forced Hawk into major lineup changes early in the season.

However, Hawk is optimistic about the future; he expects these players to return. Sophomore pitcher Jeremy Robinson has been battling tendonitis, but should return in the near future. Starting Second basemen Neal Glynn unfortunately suffered a broken leg in the first game of the Lane doubleheader, in a play at first base.

Best and Robinson are both 1-0 this season with Robinson posting a .82 ERA in 11 innings of work, while Best has yet to give up an earned run in his 3 2/3 innings of work.

Hayden has pitched 18 innings already, striking out 20



Contributed by Lewis Forquer

The Roadrunner baseball team opens the season with 22 new players and just six returning sophomores.

batters. Sophomore transfer Shamen Johnson has led the Runners offensively with a .267 batting average with one home run and four RBIs. Speedy left fielder Cody Smith has stolen two bases, while posting a .261 batting average.

Coach Hawk has seen his pitchers put out tremendous efforts on the mound in the early season, and the team ERA is currently at 3.16.

Hitting and defensive play have hampered the Runners

early, with a team batting average of .172, however with good weather on the horizon and players returning, the Runners should get a better feel for their competition. The Runners will host Chemeketa tomorrow at 1p.m. Then they will have a full weekend of baseball, playing Lane at home on Saturday and then traveling to SW Oregon on Sunday.



The NWAACC named Janine Dionne the top student-athlete in the winter quarter.

Academic athlete honor goes to Dionne

by Lisa Terra
 of The Commuter

Janine Dionne, starting guard on the LBCC basketball team, has been granted the All Academic Student-Athlete Winter Quarter 2003 award from the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges.

Dionne is majoring in exercise and sports science. She will be complete her two-year degree this spring and will transfer to a university. While at LB, Janine was on the honor roll both years and also played volleyball. She was selected for the NWAACC All Academic Athlete Award during the season.

Dionne had earlier won an All-Tournament award at a Eugene tournament during the basketball pre-season. For two years Janine has led her team in three-point and free throw percentages, assists and minutes played.

Her twin sister Jennifer also played basketball this year for the Lady Runners, Coached by the twins' older sister, A.J. Dionne, who is head coach of the Lady Runners basketball squad.

LBCC BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Date/Time	Opponent	Location
April 10/1pm	Chemeketa	LBCC
April 12/1pm	Lane	LBCC
April 13/1pm	Southwestern	Coos Bay
April 15/1pm	Mt. Hood	Gresham
April 19/1pm	Lane	Eugene
April 22/1pm	Southwestern	LBCC
April 26/1pm	Chemeketa	LBCC
April 29/1pm	Southwestern	Coos Bay

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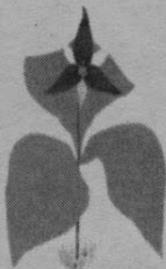
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COMMONS Menu April 9-15

Wednesday

- Beef Stew
- Chicken Cordon Bleu
- Kolokopita
- Soups: Moroccan Lentil
- Chicken & Rice
- Salad: Beef Taco

Thursday

- Turkey Club w/Pasta Salad
- Chili Verde
- Eggplant Parmesan
- Soups: Turkey Vegetable
- Split Pea
- Salad: Grilled Chicken Caesar

Friday

- Chefs Choice



Monday

- Buttermilk Baked Chicken
- Beef & Broccoli Yakisoba
- Tuna Melt
- Soups: Chicken Rice
- Potato Leek
- Salad: Chef Salad

Tuesday

- Braised Beef Stroganoff Style
- Sweet & Sour Pork w/ Steamed Rice
- Tortilla Espanol
- Soups: Mulligatawny
- Vegetarian Vegetable
- Salad: Golden Chicken Spinach

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NATIONAL NEWS

News and information
from the United States
and the world

Unable to stop war, protesters ponder next move

by Thomas Ginsberg
Knight Ridder Newspapers

They failed to prevent the bombing. They probably will not get Congress to block war funding. They still do not have the backing of most Americans.

Dissed but undaunted, some peace activists are beginning to ponder their next step, for today and the long run.

The inevitable questions arise as they try to seize momentum from their undisputed success in quickly igniting the biggest global antiwar protest in recent history.

Should they demand an end to the Iraq war, or to all U.S. military actions? Should they mount more civil disobedience and disruption, or less? Should they continue to rally around one theme, or widen their banner to a litany of causes?

"Yes, we did fail," said Stewart Nusbaumer, director of the New York-based antiwar group Veterans Against the Iraq War. "We're getting our heads together about it. Do we just go back to normal life? No, the answer certainly is that we're going to do something else. Our goal is becoming larger. We will be transcending Iraq at the same time we deal with it."

For protest leaders across the country and region, this is not a discussion about whether to dissent, but how opposition should be expressed and what should be its short-term and long-term goals. At stake, some contend, may be a chance to cultivate the biggest protest movement since the 1960s.

"I think we are on the verge of a mass movement," said Leslie Cagan of United for Peace and Justice, a New York-based leftist coalition. "It now will do what it can to try to change U.S. foreign policy. And beyond that, connect the dots between foreign policy and domestic policy."

"We're not merely an antiwar movement," Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), another leftist coalition. "This has become a passionate social-justice movement."

Protesters' vision of themselves is borne mainly of high turnout and rage. Millions of people, representing many causes, including 10,000 in Center City, took part in about 600 demonstrations in more than 60 countries on Feb. 15, a date some call the new movement's birthday.

Hundreds of thousands of people have protested in recent weeks in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia and elsewhere. Hundreds have been arrested in a flurry of civil disobedience since



Photo by Thomas Lin

A small protester takes on a big subject outside the Benton County Courthouse in Corvallis recently. Antiwar activists across the country are continuing to demonstrate against the action in Iraq.

the war began.

Enabled by sophisticated use of the Internet and e-mail messages, organizers achieved in a few months what took years during the Vietnam era.

Most organizers interviewed agreed Iraq would remain the rallying theme as long as the war lasts.

But some also want to nudge protesters toward other themes, such as President Bush's preemptive war doctrine, which could tie into his war on terrorism, which may implicate his entire domestic agenda, they said.

But that opens room for disagreement, too. How today's antiwar masses will respond to the broadened slogans is debatable, not to mention to divisive issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, globalization

and the Mumia Abu-Jamal case.

"A lot of their support is simply not going to move with them to other issues once the war is over," said Rice University political scientist Richard Stoll, an expert on political conflict and national security.

Already, a number of war veterans who had taken part in protests before the Iraq conflict began are now absent without leave from demonstrations out of concern that the displays would demoralize soldiers in the field, Nusbaumer said.

Protest organizers think they can find the right balance.

"We might lose some, but we also might pick up others," Cagan said. "I'm not talking about a laundry list of issues. You hold on to those you have and bring in more people when there are organic connections on issues."

Changes are afoot.

Last week, San Francisco protest leaders said they would suspend the disruptive actions, such as traffic blockades, that had angered so many residents, many of them sympathetic to the cause. Instead they pledged smaller demonstrations against government and corporate offices connected with the war.

The Brandywine Peace Community, based in Swarthmore, Pa., is hoping to harness protest energy for its vigils against local facilities of military contractors, particularly Lockheed Martin Corp., a major contractor for the Defense Department and the Department of Homeland Security.

Veterans Against the Iraq War said it would shift focus and start organizing teach-ins about U.S. foreign policy on college campuses nationwide.

Sojourners, a Washington-based Christian organization, will dispatch Christian ethicists to churches to denounce the war and organize e-mail-writing campaigns to soldiers in Iraq.

The Los Angeles-based Tikkun Community, a peace organization, plans to mount weekly "mourning and grief sessions" in major cities for antiwar education and discussion.

Tikkun chairman Rabbi Michael Lerner, who criticized some leftist organizers as misguided, said the best way for protesters to ignite a meaningful movement is to unite behind a clear alternative to the increasingly favored military solutions.

"What should a progressive antiwar movement be saying at this moment?" he said. "It should say that the United States will only be secure when it is and is perceived to be the world's leading force for rectifying poverty, homelessness, hunger, inadequate health care and inadequate education."

Top-selling video game simulates war actions in Iraq

by Mike Antonucci
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Real war is inspiring video-game war.

That's what is happening among fans of the new "Command & Conquer Generals" military-strategy computer game. Its publisher, Electronic Arts of Redwood City, Calif., has found that players around the world have rushed to modify the game to include a simulated U.S. campaign in Iraq.

The game, which already featured a confrontation between American forces and terrorists occupying Baghdad, in-

cludes programming tools that allow players to create additional graphics and missions and share them through the Internet.

Electronic Arts estimates that about 1,200 maps have been created in six weeks, as well as about 50 "mods" — game modifications such as more military missions. It took about six months for the previous game in the "Command & Conquer" series to generate that much map activity.

"The ones that seem to be getting the most interest are based on the topography of Iraq and Baghdad," said Jeff

"The ones that seem to be getting the most interest are based on the topography of Iraq and Baghdad."

▶ Jeff Brown

Brown, the company spokesman. "Keep in mind, we don't have any more control over the content they create than the makers of crayons and paintbrushes have over the people who use those."

EA said sales data from the NPD research firm showed "Command & Con-

quer Generals" was the top-selling PC game of February and was continuing in first place during March. The game also has provoked controversy in China and Germany.

In China, the government reportedly banned the game—which was only available in pirated versions—because of resentment over a scene that showed the destruction of a location similar to Tiananmen Square.

In Germany, advertising and store display for the game has been prohibited because of its violent content, although it still may be sold when asked for.

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