

Odd Couple

A rabbi and a Muslim prove that religious differences can make for a few good laughs.

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Hanging On

Oregon's varying geology tests rock climbers' skill, endurance and sense of adventure.

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THE Commuter

Wednesday,
March 15, 2006

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

New VP tackles difficult challenges

Jennifer Overholser
The Commuter

Carol Schaafsma, who is currently the director of curriculum and education for LBCC, will be stepping into the position of vice

president of academic affairs at the beginning of July.



Carol Schaafsma

After Ed Watson announced his retirement in January, the administration began a whirlwind internal recruitment and application process in an effort to allow time for training before Watson retires in June.

President Rita Cavin expects Schaafsma's breadth of experience and her previous time working closely with Watson to ease her transition. "People really know her already and trust her," Cavin said. "There're a lot of people rooting for her."

Schaafsma will bring a background of educational experience to her new position. She worked in the early childhood education program at Chemeketa for 10 years and worked in human resources at Weyerhaeuser in Springfield, training and assisting employees with teambuilding.

Since she came to LBCC in 1994 as a training specialist in the Training and Business Development Center, Schaafsma has held several positions, including director of professional and business development and her current job as director of curriculum and instructional

► Turn to "Veep" on Pg. 4



Wild Weather

Radiation technology major Brandy Frick enjoys a rare sunny spring afternoon lunch in the Courtyard with her friend's children, Jacob and Clairia Mundal, on Monday. Just a few days earlier the same scene was a winter wonderland, blanketed by a layer of wet snow, typical for an Oregon spring.

photos by Dan Wise



Student killed in Albany accident

Dan Wise
The Commuter

Todd Gary Boone, a 20-year-old LBCC criminal justice student, was killed early Saturday morning in an automobile accident on Santiam Highway in Albany.

According to local news reports, police said that Boone was one of three passengers and a driver in a Honda Civic that was rear-ended by a Ford Expedition while stopped at a red light at Burkhart Street at 1:22 a.m.

Both Boone and a fellow passenger, 20-year-old Joshua Perkins of Lyons, were pronounced dead at the scene. The driver and other passenger were transported to Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, where they

► Turn to "Crash" on Pg. 4

Despite risks, students regularly turn to alcohol

Elizabeth Uriarte
The Commuter

College and alcohol have always been seen as synonymous in this country. Students are almost expected by peers, media and society to consume alcoholic beverages and often in excessive amounts.

It's no different at LBCC. Weekend after weekend, many students hit the bars, clubs and parties to socialize with friends and of course, to get drunk.

One of the reasons that people drink is because it releases endorphins in the brain and causes a sense of euphoria. It also allows one to let go of inhibitions and gives people the feeling of being totally free.

Elizabeth Rose, a culinary arts major, said "Being drunk feels good, sometimes. I talk more; but 'Girls Gone Wild,' that doesn't

"Being drunk feels good, sometimes. I talk more; but 'Girls Gone Wild,' that doesn't happen with me."

Elizabeth Rose

happen with me." She parties with friends no more than a couple times a month and has on average about eight drinks.

Another culinary arts major, Shelly Hopson, said that for her, drinking is "mostly a social thing," although she says that she does not feel "pressured" or obligated to drink while around friends. She goes out drinking about four times a month and said during those times she consumes about four or five drinks.

Ralph Hall, welding major, said he drinks alcohol because "it does help relax

my mind." He admits, "It's a social thing as well." He said he consumes alcohol "at least every other day," and on an average night of partying has anywhere from three to eight drinks.

While none of these students consider themselves "binge drinkers," it is not uncommon for college students to engage in binge drinking, which the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information defines as consuming five or more drinks on the same occasion (within a few hours) on at least one day in the last 30 days. "Heavy drinking" is described as five or more drinks on the same occasion at least five different days out of the last 30.

According to The NCADI, about 38.7 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 are considered binge drinkers, and

► Turn to "Drinking" on Pg. 4

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High 48
Rain
Low 38
Wednesday

High 50
More rain
Low 35
Thursday

High 47
Rain and showers
Low 31
Friday

High 50
Mostly cloudy
Low 34
Saturday

High 55
Partly cloudy
Low 35
Sunday

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OPINION

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 and keep them at 300 words or less.



COMMENTARY

'Cursed' classroom chairs too tiny for larger-than-average students

Rocky Gavin
 Guest Columnist

First day of class as I rush in, I see the "cursed" chairs. You know the ones, the tiny colored chairs with the small writing table attached. My heart drops into my stomach as I walk by row after row, most are taken but not all. But, I keep on walking. I feel the entire class' eyes burning into me as I slowly stumble to a small desk and chair in the left back corner of the classroom.

I am 6 feet 1 inch tall and weigh 300 and some pounds. I am not obese but do have a good-sized tummy, which gets us to the base of the problem; I can't fit into the "cursed" chairs. I can see at least three or four students being similarly tortured for the whole length of the time spent in class by having to shove their poor bodies into a space it was not made to fit. We should banish the use of this kind of chair in Linn-Benton Community College's campus.

Sitting in the "cursed" chairs can cause insecurity, anxiety and other nasty, embarrassing situations experienced. One girl I talked with (who asked me not to use her name) told me she once got stuck when she went to stand up and fell over the next row of chairs. Hurt, she got up and rushed out of class amongst giggles and snickers. She then headed for the restroom, where there she cried for an hour. Tell me that humiliation won't leave a mark! That is just the one case. How many others have similar stories that go unnoticed? How many sit suffering in one way or another?

Let's look at the food court, where after getting some fries I start walking out to find a seat when some friends yell, "Hey, come sit with us." Standing there with my fries knowing that I can not fit into the booth, I think of a fast lie to get me out of there fast and gracefully. Then I head off in exile to eat alone.

Quarter after quarter the "torture devices" find more student victims who are forced to hear the lecture through the pain of being cramped into a small chair.

Some may say that changing to seats that are adjustable will cost too much. But no cost is too much to stop the pain, to stop someone from crying alone in a restroom, to allow big people to sit anywhere on campus like others. Maybe the powers that be need to sit in the "cursed" chairs all day to understand how it is. My proposal is very simple: just rip out the chairs and benches and put in adequately sized chairs without armrests and with some padding. If the cost is a problem, maybe they could do it gradually. In the classrooms, eliminate the chairs with the attached writing desk and instead, try putting in tables that can fit four chairs at each table. This may not be such a bad idea anyway, due to the age of the existing chairs and benches.

Even when some of us are lucky enough to get Oregon Disability Services to accommodate us with a little table and chair so we don't get the "cursed" chair, it still sets us apart from others, making us feel even more like an outcast. Maybe Goldilocks was right to keep trying until she found the chair that was "just right"—too bad that some of us do not get the choice.

Suicide law poses new dilemmas for Oregon

Physician assisted suicide has been legal in Oregon since 1997 and is hailed as a breakthrough policy for supporters everywhere. However, I've found that for at least three reasons, both the principle and the execution of the law present more of a threat to society than an improvement.

The first reason is that it degrades the quality of life. People who no longer respect life will take further steps toward ending theirs. Once the law allows one group of people to kill themselves, it becomes easier for others, even if the law doesn't technically allow it. Many who have become depressed and suicidal have come out of it and lived normal lives. Depressed individuals don't need another reason to believe suicide is all right. Life is the most important thing that we have and we can't afford to make exceptions.

The second is the means by which Oregon's Assisted Suicide law is carried out. By having doctors write prescriptions for drugs that will kill their own patients, the law compromises the integrity of the doctors. Throughout history, physicians have been paid to save lives and preserve the health of their patients, a precedent that we can't allow to change now.

Finally, you must consider the lives of the patients themselves. If your doctor tells you that you have less than six months to live, that doesn't mean it's true. Time after time the terminally ill go into remission and continue to live on. People who wish to end their own lives think only of themselves and not the people around them, whose lives they could greatly affect.

While the physician assisted suicide law may have many supporters and few survivors, the loss is the state of Oregon's and not just the law's avid opponents. A state cannot allow the importance of life to decline, its doctors to become compromised, and its people to end their own lives without the possibility of further accomplishment.



JOEL DEVYLDERE

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Columnist's claims unfounded, unfactual

To the Editor:

I was quite startled by the recent head to head article on evolution, specifically the part written by Joel Devyldere. Although the author's point is fairly far off the mark, there is a deeper problem at work, namely that of the author blatantly misrepresenting his sources. Perhaps this is due to the author's imprecise language, using the term "evolution" in lieu of Primordial Soup Theory. These are two distinct concepts.

Of particular interest are the two scientists the author cites. It is interesting because of the language used. "Reason No. 3 involves the probability that evolution could have happened." This wording is interesting, because it is in fact not what Hoyle and Wickramasinghe believe. Instead, a simple Google search will reveal that although they reject Primordial Soup Theory, that life here on earth evolved from inorganic materials, they instead write on how it is their belief that microorganisms were brought to earth via comets and evolved here. Far from supporting the author's claims, these scientists would disagree. This is shameful, irresponsible and deceitful misrepresentation on the part of the author of this editorial, and negligence on the part of The Commuter for letting it be published in the first place.

Another problem with this editorial piece is that it has a fundamental misperception about what science is about. It is not about shelving away facts in hidden corners until they can be proved beyond a shadow of a doubt. Instead it is about putting forth facts and theories, such that they can be examined and tested by everyone. This is why Primordial Soup Theory should continue to be taught, just as problems with it, such as those discussed by Hoyle and Wickramasinghe, should be taught as well.

Mark McBride

The Commuter

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STAFF

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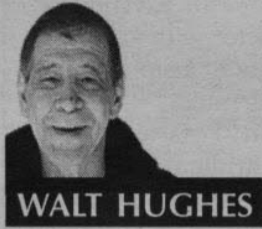
OPINION

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

Meth ruins families, destroys lives and quashes hope for the future

The entire methamphetamine story is difficult to tell because most people either don't want to hear the vividly graphic details of misery and death that can result, or just ignore it because they feel sure it will never happen to them.

The portrait of a meth user is not a nice picture. Most people do not see themselves going from living in a nice home on a quiet street in a nice neighborhood to sleeping in the gutter, stealing or selling their bodies to support the habit, then having their teeth fall out, internal organs fail and eventually dying a horrible death, yet it is happening every day to people all around us.



WALT HUGHES

According to a recent article by Danna Harman in the Christian Science Monitor, "The kingpins of this hemisphere's drug trade are no longer Colombians. In the largest reorganization since the 1980s, senior U.S. officials say, Mexican cartels have leveraged the profits from their delivery routes to wrest control from the Colombian producers.

As a result, Mexican drug lords are calling the shots in what the United Nations estimates is a \$142 billion a year business in cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, and illicit drugs on U.S. streets."

"Today, the Mexicans have taken over and are running the organized crime, and getting the bulk of the money," says John Walters, the White House drug czar, in a phone interview. "The Colombians have pulled back."

In the Christian Science Monitor, Brad Knickerbocker hit a little closer to home. He says, "In Keizer, Ore., the other day, a toddler in diapers and a T-shirt was found walking along a busy road. When police investigated, they found that his

parents, who had been sleeping, had left the 16-month-old boy alone. They were subsequently arrested for possession of a controlled substance methamphetamine.

"A few weeks earlier and a few miles away in the state capital of Salem, police investigated whether girls at the Waldo Middle School - barely in their teens - had been using meth, possibly exchanging sex for the drug."

Methamphetamine and its derivatives are really nothing new. Originally brought into this country from Asia in the late 1800s, amphetamines were found mostly in the southern California area. Easy profits and greed entered into the picture and the market began to expand. Making the drugs illegal without a prescription drove profits even higher, and eventually meth labs began to spring up along the West Coast from San Diego to Vancouver, Canada.

Many years ago people took Dexedrine to stay slim or lose weight. The Dexatrim diet, as it was known, was highly advertised, including in commercials on television. In those days, you could buy Dexedrine over-the-counter and Benzedrine, the trucker's copilot,

could easily be found at any truck stop in the country. Both could be bought for a penny apiece at drugstores south of the Mexican border.

Methamphetamine is relatively simple to manufacture using common household chemicals that can be purchased almost anywhere. The main ingredient, ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, is used in most cold remedies and could be purchased off-the-shelf at any drugstore in the country until recently.

After discovering over 500 meth producing labs operating in the state, Oregon was one of the first to pass a law requiring products containing ephedrine to be sold from behind the counter. This is only a partial remedy because the large drug traffickers have begun to bring ingredients across the Mexican border that cannot be obtained over-the-counter.

One law enforcement agency recently reported that a Mexican company had ordered 2000 pounds of pseudoephedrine from a European manufacturer. Instead of producing grams and ounces, the new drug syndicate super labs are capable of producing pounds and kilos at a time.

It is hard to pin down the accurate figures, but many agencies are reporting a higher incidence of child and spousal abuse involving methamphetamine addicts, and the most recent figures show a noticeable rise in individuals entering rehabilitation centers for addiction.

While it has not yet become common practice, some states are offering rehabilitation in lieu of prison terms in an attempt to combat the addiction problem.

Property damage is another increasing problem arising from the manufacture of meth. The chemicals used in the process leave highly toxic residues that permeate walls, ceilings, and floors causing possible severe damage to residents' health. Cleanup of contaminated properties is both costly and time consuming.

Once an area has been used in the drug manufacturing process it is considered dangerous and uninhabitable unless or until it is thoroughly cleaned. There are over 1000 houses and apartments on the uninhabitable list in Oregon right now and that figure inches upward daily.

Meth manufacture can also cause environmental damage. While the news constantly points out people caught manufacturing and people arrested for possession, it seldom discusses hazards to the general public caused by the disposal of the chemicals and paraphernalia used to manufacture the drugs.

A convenience store is robbed approximately every minute in this country, people are terrorized in their homes, and rape, robbery, environmental damage and wholesale mayhem are the result of one person wanting to get high and another preying on that weakness.

Back in the 1960s, Nikita Khrushchev stated that Russia would take us without ever firing a shot, but he was wrong. The Colombians and the Mexicans figured out the way to enslave our population and reap billions of dollars in the process, and that's a pretty sad state of affairs.



illustration by elizabeth beckham

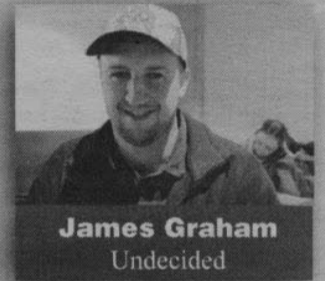
PERSPECTIVES

What do you think should be done about the growing meth problem?



Heather Wilson
Nursing

"I think there should be stronger penalties for people who commit crimes dealing with that."



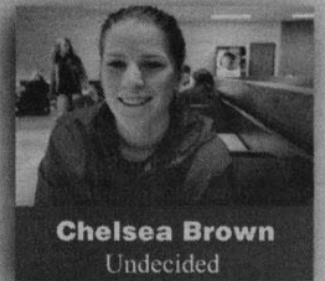
James Graham
Undecided

"They [government] need to start checking out neighborhoods and educating neighbors on what to look for like meth houses and dealers. Also be harder on people who get caught doing it."



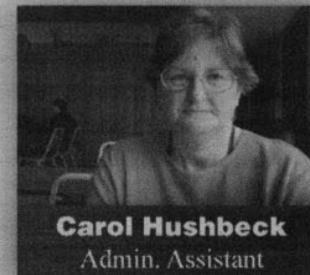
Truman Jones
Engineering Graphics

"I don't know, I just learned about it this last summer. It was the first time I ever heard about it."



Chelsea Brown
Undecided

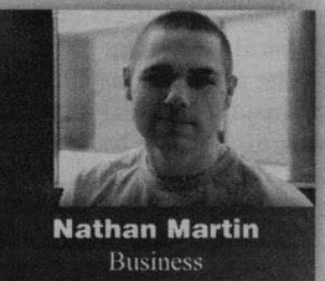
"Well, I can't say I agree with that stuff, and I would like to see it stopped, but I don't think it's going to happen because it's just going to keep growing."



Carol Hushbeck
Admin. Assistant

"That's a really hard question because there's not one thing you can pinpoint to correct it. Just get information out about the problem."

"Stricter laws, crack down more on offenders."



Nathan Martin
Business

Compiled by Kyla Hoyt

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Compelling talk, music presented at tea

Sherry Majeski
The Commuter

The American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) hosted an International Working Women's Day Tea in the Multicultural Center on Wednesday. Hors d'oeuvres and tea were served in the Commons and the LBCC Choir, directed by Susan Peck, sang three international songs. The songs were "Caritas Abundat" (love abounding) by Hildegard of Bingen, "Balía de Sehu" (harvest dance from Aruba) by Edouard Toppengerg, and "Kaki Lambe," a traditional Senegalese harvest chant arranged by Brian Tate.

Uzma Ahmend, the guest speaker, tells a story of the challenges she faced coming to America from Pakistan with her husband and daughter and leaving her biological family behind. She also told a compelling story about her battle with lupus.

Ahmend acquired her master's in clinical psychology from Punjab University in Pakistan. She stated that in Pakistan, education was highly appreciated and that she became interested in psychology because of her belief in people. She said, "We are here for other people."



photo by Sherry Majeski

LB staffers Catherine Quinnett, Naomi Anderson and Deana Culbertson indulge in hors d'oeuvres at the Working Woman's Day Tea.

She stated that she is motivated by the "importance of meaningful human contact." She earned her master's in counseling and she is a nationally certified counselor and licensed professional counselor in Oregon.

She said, "If I can figure out how to understand other people, then I can have a better handle on myself."

Ahmend got her first teaching job at OSU at age 23. Then she decided to study abroad for her Ph.D. She said her students said, "Please don't do it." Not because

they feared that she wouldn't return, but because, "Once a teacher gets a Ph.D, we don't understand them anymore."

She became emotional when she talked about medical issues she was plagued with. "I developed pain in my joints and I thought was arthritis. It became so painful; I finally went to my doctor. The diagnosis was lupus and soon it started to take its toll on me. It wasn't long before I became so weak that I could not walk or stand on my own. If I sat I could not get up without help.

It got so bad; I began to wonder how to live."

"At that time the book of choice for me to read was 911 and one day I had to call it; with a zero white blood count, the disease had taken so much from me. The chances of my survival was very limited, 95 percent. At that time my knowledge in psychology helped me a lot with survival. I learned how to keep positive images in my mind."

"Gradually, I started to get better. I was in intensive care for a month, which was unusual; usually you exit soon, one way or another. When I started to get better I had to learn how to walk again. It was a dilemma for me. When you put one foot forward, what do you do with the other foot? I had to learn to walk all over again with a walker."

Ahmend is the director of the Family Sexual Abuse Treatment Program in the Department of Human Services for Linn County and liaison for birth and foster parents for Department of Human Services in Benton County. She is dedicated to helping parents learn "how to provide children with a nurturing environment so they can taste what healthy human relationships are. It's how we understand our own value in life."

Veep: Schaafsma focuses on issues Crash: Woman jailed in case

4 From Pg. 1
programs.

Schaafsma earned a bachelor's degree in sociology at Ashland College in Ohio, moved to Oregon and worked as a daycare center director at the YMCA in Salem for several years before she ended up at Chemeketa. Following that, she received her master's degree in industrial relations from the University of Oregon.

As the new vice president of academic affairs, Schaafsma hopes to stay focused on student needs despite difficulties and possible distractions, "to really help us move through the challenges in front of us," she

said. "We really have to stick to that."

One of the challenges she will have to face in her new position will be the looming problem of the budget deficit. She says that her goal is to "keep LB a good place for learning."

She explained that there are a lot of things that are great about LB already, and hopes to maintain those, although she knows it will be challenging. She hopes to see the school able to provide what the community needs even with limited resources.

She described how painful it is deal with the aftereffects of budget cuts. "It's a healing process," she said.

On the other hand, Schaafsma is excited about other challenges she will have. She hopes to apply research that has been done about different learning methods, which could have an impact on the way subjects are taught in the classroom.

As for the future, Schaafsma hopes the budget problems will be alleviated by the services the school has to offer.

She believes that having enough funding is directly related to having a strong tax base, which can be improved through education.

"The more tax dollars there are, the better off we are," she said.

4 From Pg. 1

were treated and released.

Boone was a 2003 graduate of South Albany High School and worked in the meat department of Shop-n-Kart in Albany.

According to Albany police, the driver of the Expedition turned herself in Monday afternoon and was lodged in the Linn County Jail. Jodie Faye Jones, 30, is charged with two counts of manslaughter and assault, failure to perform the duties of a driver to injured people, reckless driving and driving under the influence.

Drinking: National stats show binge drinking causes problems

4 From Pg. 1

13.6 percent are heavy drinkers.

It is common knowledge that alcohol impairs one's ability to function properly, both physically and mentally. While moderate drinking (defined as one or two drinks a day for men and one drink a day for women) is relatively harmless, heavy drinking can certainly have adverse effects on both schoolwork and overall physical wellbeing.

The most serious effect is alcohol poisoning, which is a major problem with college students aged 18 to 24, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and is much more common than people think. Some of the signs of alcohol poisoning are mental confusion, stupor, coma, inability to be roused, vomiting, seizures, breathing slower than 10 breaths per minute and hypothermia.

The NIAAA states that many college students say they wish they had sought treatment for an overly intoxicated friend, and feel responsible for not preventing tragedy when a fellow student dies of alcohol poisoning. Even

if a victim survives alcohol poisoning, it can cause irreversible brain damage. The NIAAA encourages people to seek immediate medical attention for their peers who have overdosed on alcohol.

Hall believes that alcoholism is a problem for some students, and admits that alcohol can be dangerous when abused. He stated that alcohol is "a regular part of life." Dayle Schrock, education major, doesn't drink regularly. "I drink maybe six times a year," she said. She thinks that underage drinking is a problem, and that having a legal drinking age is ineffective.

Rose also believes that the drinking age law is a futile attempt to prevent underage drinking, but said she thinks it would be effective if it were enforced.

The NIAAA's statistics show that:

- 1,700 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes.

- More than 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking.

- More than 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape.

- 400,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 had unprotected sex and more than 100,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 report having been too intoxicated to know if they consented to having sex.

- About 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking, including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers, and receiving lower grades overall.

While LBCC currently has no on-campus center for information on alcohol and other substance abuse, it does offer a brochure containing information on the effects of substance abuse, school rules and sanctions, and treatment resources. For those with a possible alcohol abuse problem, the LB counselors are available to speak to, and willing to offer referrals to outside help. The Counseling Center is located in Takena Hall on the main campus, and counselors are available on a walk-in basis, or by appointment by calling 917-4780.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101). Just sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment. You will have access to lots of jobs and you will also receive e-mails about jobs.

Payroll Assistant (#4088, Albany) Part-time (1/2 time) for 12 months out of the year, this job could help to pay school bills! If you have accounting knowledge and are proficient in Word, Excel, Access & AS400, you need to apply!

2 Office Jobs (#4094, Tangent & #4096, Corvallis) Want an office job? These jobs are screaming for a "student"—part-time hours with flexibility.

Demonstrator Jobs (#4102 & 4093 local area stores) Great student jobs: part-time, flexible, weekends. Wage range is \$10-15/hr and \$17-19/hr. Can't beat that!!

MARS Outreach Worker (#4101, Corvallis) Get experience & get paid in this internship which helps to educate males ages 13-25 about their sexual responsibility. Male undergraduate students majoring in Public Health, Pre-med, Education or related fields are encouraged to apply.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

March and April are the two months that offer the MOST opportunities for applying to receive outside scholarships for the next academic year.

Be sure to check out the kiosk next to the Financial Aid Office, Takena Hall, to see all the scholarships currently being offered by outside sources.

NEW LISTINGS!

We have recently received information regarding scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year from the following agencies:

Samaritan Albany General Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship

Oregon Assoc. of Public Accountants Scholarship

OSU Folk Club Scholarship

Oregon Scottish Rite Foundation

Willamette Valley Ag. Assoc.

For detailed information and the application forms, check out the kiosk next to the Financial Aid Office, Takena Hall.

START NOW!

It's not too soon to start your LBCC application for spring term scholarships! Information and applications are available on the Web site at: www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships (sort by Spring TERM). Completed Applications are due no later than 5p.m., May 5th.

CONGRATULATIONS! to the 39 students who received approximately \$34,000 in scholarships during the winter term LBCC scholarship and awards process.

WANTED

Roommate needed, female, no parties please. \$325. Call 926-2924

Copy Editor: Melissa Chaney
commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Campus Shorts...

ASG Positions Open

The deadline for applying for several remaining Associated Student Government positions for the 2006-07 year is this Friday, March 17. Openings remain for the positions of representatives for liberal arts, student services, and health occupations, all of which offer tuition credits for two terms. Also open is the position of public relations secretary, which offers three terms of tuition credits. For information and application forms, visit the Student Life & Leadership Office in the Student Union.

Looking for a Job?

The LBCC Career Fair will be held April 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Activities Center gym. Last year over 50 employers participated. For further information contact Marci Johnston at the Career Center, 917-4786, or e-mail marcijohnston@linnbenton.edu.

New Sculpture Class

LBCC will offer a new 3-D design and Intro to Sculpture class, Design 117 (CRN 44480), starting spring term. This four-credit course is an introduction to theory and studio practice in the three-dimensional design and will benefit LBCC art majors as well as those transferring to OSU. The class fulfills a requirement for OSU's Design and Human Environment majors. Class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 10:50 a.m. on the Albany campus.

Power of Words

Today from noon to 1 p.m. the Multicultural Center will present "The Power of Words: Power and Privilege," the second in its three-part series about the power that words contain. Christy Stevens and Alice Sperling will discuss the role that privilege and power play in western culture.

Staffer chosen for LEADERS program

LBCC News Service

Reneé Windsor-White, executive assistant to LB President Rita Cavin, has been chosen to participate in the National Institute for Leadership Development, LEADERS program.

The LEADERS program is an international program for administrators and faculty in higher education.

This is a year-long program designed to enhance the skills participants need to assume major decision-making roles.

Projects have room to grow in new shop

Nancey West
The Commuter

Industrial students taking fabrication classes began using a new shop this term.

Part of the old printer room located in Industrial B had been partitioned and rewired to allow newer and larger equipment for metal fabrication.

"It is more like a professional shop and students get a true industry experience," said welding instructor Dave Ketler. "Larger equipment can be used in the new area."

Before the move, both welding and fabrication were in the same area. "Safety was our main concern. Students were working in a confined area; now it is a safer environment," Ketler said. "They can have larger projects now."

"I couldn't have built a frame this size," explained Jeremy Eucken, second-year welding student, of a metal frame centered on a car motor. He said he started the project fall term and plans to complete a rock crawler by the end of spring term. "It will

be for rock, mud, sand or snow," he said.

Students may build personal projects or work on projects for others. People from the community can also bring in projects for students to repair or construct. Some projects the students have built are utility trailers, jack stands for dirt bikes, a barbecue for a church and pottery racks for Corvallis High School.

Some students create their own design and blueprint to build unique projects, such as the mini-chopper displayed in the IA window. Two years ago, a student found a picture on the Internet, drew the blueprint to scale and built the first one from scratch, Ketler explained. The one in the window is the second one built by students and has traveled to high schools to demonstrate what can be accomplished in the LB program. Plans are being drawn for a full-size motorcycle, Ketler said.

The improved equipment and space has helped provide better service to local companies who send employees to LB for short-term, specified training.

Nominations sought for SL&L recognition dinner

Robert Wong
The Commuter

Nominations are being accepted for the fifth annual Student Leadership and Recognition Dinner, which will be held in the Commons from 5 to 7 p.m. on May 3.

Eight different categories are on the ballot, such as the Cultural, Social, and Educational Events of the Year, along with the College Employee of the Year honor. Four other categories are dedicated to clubs and co-curricular organizations. Winners of each will receive a commemorative plaque.

Lots of nominations are encouraged be-

cause all nominees will be honored at the dinner. Completed ballots can be returned to marked boxes in the Student Life & Leadership office, Takena Hall, or the Commons by the 4 p.m. April 7 deadline.

The dinner also serves as the swearing in ceremony for the Associated Student Government officials who won last month's election. According to Student Life & Leadership secretary Terry Gardier, the recognition dinner event was created when the SL&L office proved to be too small for all those who wanted to attend the SL&L swearing in ceremony.

People interested in attending should

contact Student Activities Coordinator Ann-Marie Yacobucci before April 17, as space should fill up quickly. Invitations are sent to all nominees as well as various staff members, club members and advisors, and SL&L officials. An estimated 200 to 300 people are expected.

Nominations can also be made at the SL&L Welcome Back table during the first week of spring term, so you can add to the nominees and get your free donut at the same time. The keynote speaker for the event will be newly appointed Academic Affairs Vice President Carol Schaafsma, who is currently director of curriculum and instructional programs.

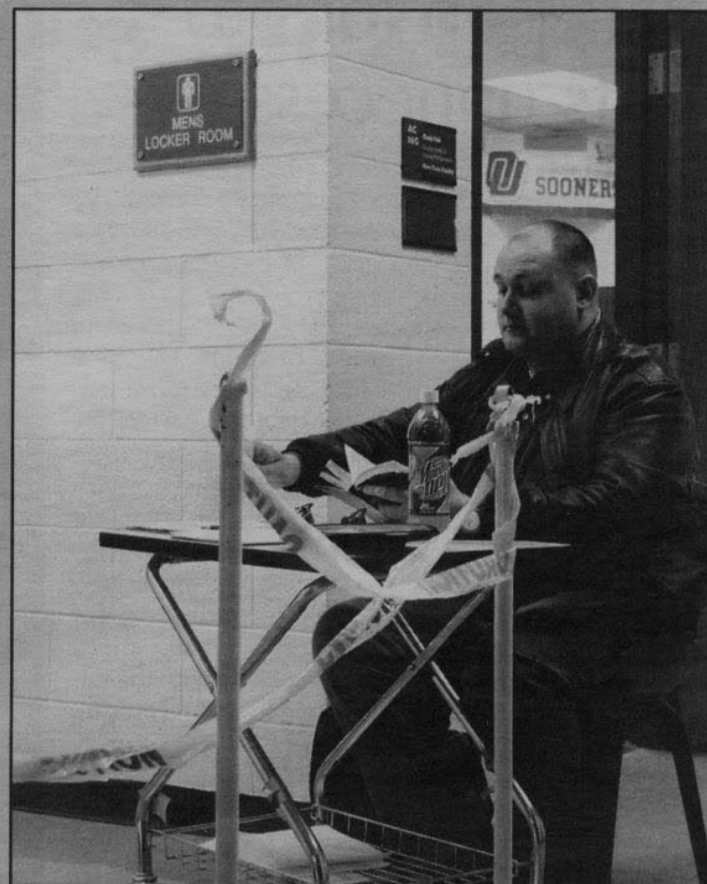
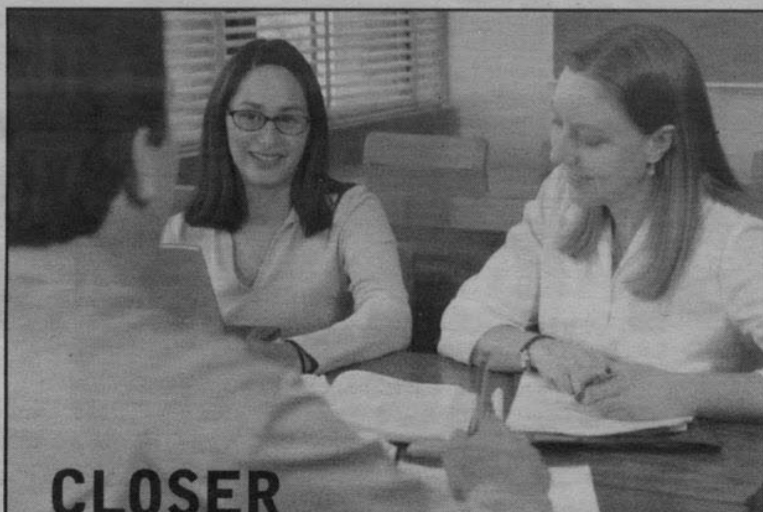


photo by Dan Wise

On Guard

Chris Wade, an LB history major and part-time security guard, monitors the entrance to the men's locker room in the Activities Center in response to a string of locker thefts. Anyone entering must sign in and out, and according to Wade, there has been no further stealing. There will continue to be a guard at least through the end of this week.



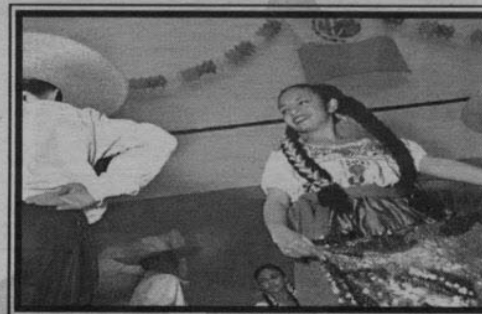
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SPORTS

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

Salary cap for pro sports unnecessary

For years now the argument of whether salary caps should be used in sports has been brewing. I do not believe that salary caps are necessary to maintain the foundational integrity of professional athletics that have persevered throughout their years of existence.

With the NFL's new collective bargaining agreement going through, the new salary cap is at \$102 million dollars... \$102 MILLION DOLLARS!!! Why is it even necessary to have a salary cap when the bar is set that high? This is just the precursor to a salary cap-free NFL following in the footsteps of big league baseball.

Doing away with the salary cap in the NBA couldn't hurt things either. This would get rid of that pesky luxury tax penalty that came about with the NBA's "sort of" salary cap (NBA soft-cap allows for teams to go over the cap limit to retain the rights to a player on the team). Teams wouldn't have to worry about getting slapped with a hefty luxury tax if the salary cap was eliminated all together.

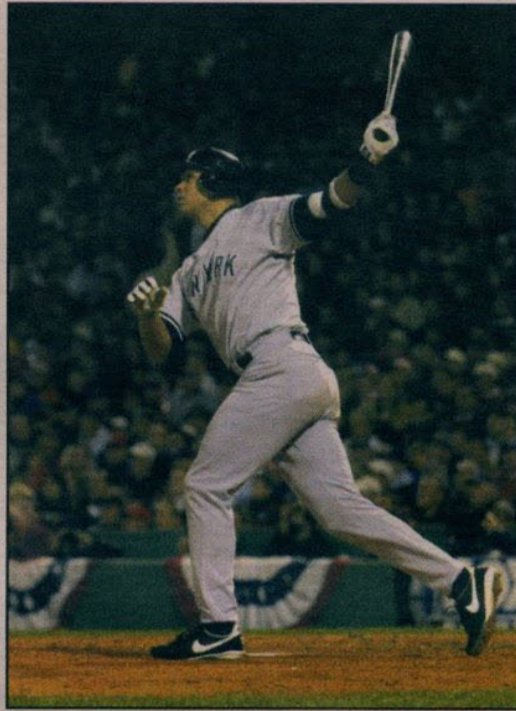
Without salary caps, the players will be receiving more of the revenue that they created. This is what is supposed to happen. Owners are just loaded figurehead positions. I'm not saying that professional athletes need more money; I am saying is that they deserve it more than the owners. Who are the ones drawing the crowds? Who are the ones selling the merchandise? The athletes, not the owners.

Many people are arguing that since baseball does not have a salary cap, a team can just buy a championship. This has not been the case. Take a look at the last five years in Major League Baseball which have produced five different world champs (2001, Arizona; 2002, Anaheim; 2003, Florida; 2004, Boston; 2005, Chicago WS). Notice that zero of the last five champs were the New York Yankees, who are the highest payroll team in the majors by a vast margin including spendy players like \$252 million dollar man Alex Rodriguez. That means lower payroll teams are winning. This proves that games are not a purchased entity, but rather the product of good coaching as well as good team chemistry and management.



CALEB HAWLEY

FACE OFF



KRT photo

All-Star Alex Rodriguez took advantage of a league with no salary cap in 2001, signing a 10-year \$252 million contract with the Rangers, before being dealt to the Yankees in 2004.

guard. The free agent market is a good market for players to get big contracts.

How successful NFL's free agency has been this past weekend is all because of having a salary cap in place until the 2011 season. Also, if you look at major league baseball, teams such as the Yankees and Red Sox have an unfair advantage because they are higher revenue teams and have more money to spend on players. Clearly, having a salary cap is good for professional sports.

NFL is poster child for modern salary cap era

Are salary caps good for professional sports? If you look at the success of the NFL and NBA, I would have to say yes. Not only are both leagues successful, but the salary cap gives everyone the same opportunity to win a championship. It's up to the general managers and the people running the organizations to draft and sign the right players and to build a team capable of winning the championship.

A good example of why the salary cap is important is what just recently happened in the NFL. Last week the owners and the players' union spent all week trying to agree on a new collective bargaining agreement. The CBA includes such things as revenue sharing and a new salary cap.

Before the agreement was finally done on Wednesday, a lot of teams appeared to be in jeopardy. Teams were 20 million dollars or more over the cap and looking at having to cut veteran players with big contracts, to turn the reins of the team over to young, unproven and affordable players. There was no salary cap in place for the 2007 season or beyond.

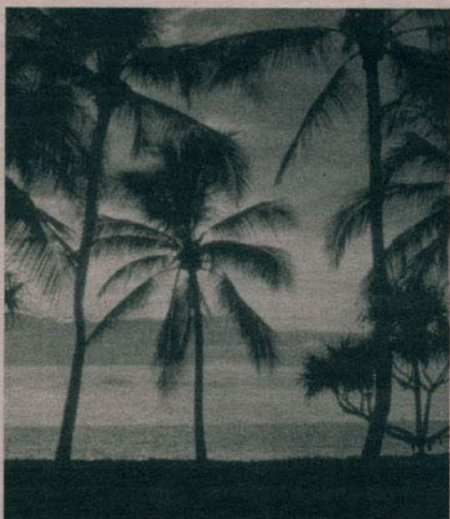
Then the CBA was agreed upon and it added an extra \$17 million to this year's salary cap. Teams that normally wouldn't have been able to be active in free agency were now able to be aggressive in the free agency market. The market was looking shaky before Wednesday. This Saturday, though, teams began signing players left and right. The players are getting much more money than they expected, and there have been some large contracts thrown at players to convince them they don't need to look elsewhere to play. The Vikings have given an offer sheet to the Seahawks' left guard Steve Hutchinson, an offer that will break the record for the amount of money given to a



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SPORTS

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

Runners 'playing for keeps' in 2006

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

"We're playing for keeps now," said excited Roadrunners baseball coach Greg Hawk following his team's opening exhibition contests. After a 4-4 start in the pre-season, LB is in the middle of the pack in the Southern division, but with only a handful of pre-season games left, don't count on seeing them in that spot when league play begins.

"These first eight games have been kind of an experiment, but we've just been trying to find out whose going to play for us. Now we're going to treat every game as if it's game seven of the World Series."

Hawk's squad heads in to the season fielding only six returning sophomores but remains his optimistic self when forecas-

ting the upcoming season.

"We have the make-up and attitude of a playoff bound team," said Hawk comparing this year's team with his past title winning teams. "Of all the championship clubs I've coached, all of them have been extremely focused on the ball field. So far we are only playing two-thirds of our ball games, we're not yet mentally strong."

Aiding in that respect are second year starters Ian Opsal, Kenny McCullers and Robert Stevens. Hawk feels that this group's play is his team's strength and will be key in their future success but they will also need contributions from freshmen pitchers. Closer Tyler Pickett and starter Barry Spooner are welcome additions to the LB pitching staff, but will need to mature quickly in the always-strong NWAACC south.

"We are way better than we are playing right now," says Spooner. "We are one of the top two teams in the league and I think we will get to the NWAACC tournament."

While many of the new recruits joining LB will fight for playing time, they will structure the remaining line-up around clean-up hitter Tim Puckett. The sophomore slugger returns to the middle of the order after leading the team in RBIs in 2005 and is expected to repeat his performance this season.

"Timmy is a big key to our club, but we have a really potent offense overall so we'll be quite alright," says Hawk. We've got a good freshman core so I like our chances. We are going to compete for one of the top spots in our league and before this year is over, they'll know the names of these guys."



photo by Sherry Majeski

LBCC 2006 baseball team: back row: Pitching Coach Mike Godfrey, Bobby Bond, Kyle Huntley, Eli McClure, Josh Pritt and Assistant Coach Harvey Miller. Fourth row: Coach Greg Hawk, Kenny McCullers, Casey Humphrey, Tim Puckett, Jordan Sim, Adam Simpson and Frank Drake. Third row: Ethan Robbins, Justin Harris, Charles Olson, Toby Thomas, Robert Stevens and Dan Hunter. Second row: Ian Opsal, Matt Alexander, Kelley Huntley, Jacob Owens, Jake Roy, Gary Richardson and Bryant Kraus. Front row: Tony Bellando, Stephen George and Tyler Pickett. Barry Spooner, not pictured.

Beavers end dismal season, look to future

Adam Loghides
 The Commuter

The Oregon State Beavers men's basketball team ended their season last week with a loss in the Pac-10 conference tournament quarterfinals to UCLA with a score of 79-47. The Beavers final record was 13-18.

After posting a 71-68 victory over eighth-seeded Arizona State, who had swept two regular season meetings with the Beavers, OSU was not able to contain the top-seeded Bruins, and eventually fell to the 13th-ranked team in the nation.

The loss of leading scorer Sasa Cuic four minutes into the Arizona State game did not impede the Beaver's ability to get the job done versus the Sun Devils. "We've made some offensive adjustments in the last couple of weeks because of this [injury] and have been trying to maximize our guys. So it really wasn't that hard, in terms of what we did offensively," Head Coach Jay John said

after the Beaver's first-round win.

As the second half of the season progressed, injuries to key players ripped into the Beavers depth, allowing them to only win two of their last nine regular season games. Prior to the Pac-10 tournament, the Beavers were smarting from season-ending injuries to starters Lamar Hurd and Nick DeWitz. When Cuic went down with a severely sprained right ankle last Wednesday, the loss against UCLA seemed inevitable, considering the 30 points and 12 rebounds per game the Beavers were missing from their three leaders.

The UCLA loss did not come from a lack of effort, however. The Beavers closed with 11 points at 38-27 going into halftime on a 3-pointer by Jason Fontenet. "We felt pretty confident we would stay in the game," Kyle Jeffers said. "It was just 11 points. Jason hitting that 3 was a little spark." The Beavers wouldn't get that close again.

The end result of the season was disappointing for

the Beavers, considering the optimism the Beavers held in January, according to Assistant Coach Jeff Reinert. "The season got away from us at the time of Hurd's injury (at Washington on Jan. 19)," Reinert said last week. The Beavers won only three regular season games after Hurd went down, effectively ending all hope of a second consecutive post-season appearance.

Despite the disappointing season, the Beavers hold hope for the 2006-2007 season. Reinert feels the strength of this team next season will be its frontline, which returns junior center Jeffers, sophomore Marchel Jones, along with Cuic. The question mark will be at point guard, where freshman Brett Casey will battle red shirt freshman Josh Tarver for the starting spot.

Next season's team looks good on paper, and has Reinert excited. "We will have a good mix of veterans and youth next year. Our frontline played well this year, and next season potentially will be very good. We like our team for next season."

Puckett's death impacts players, fans

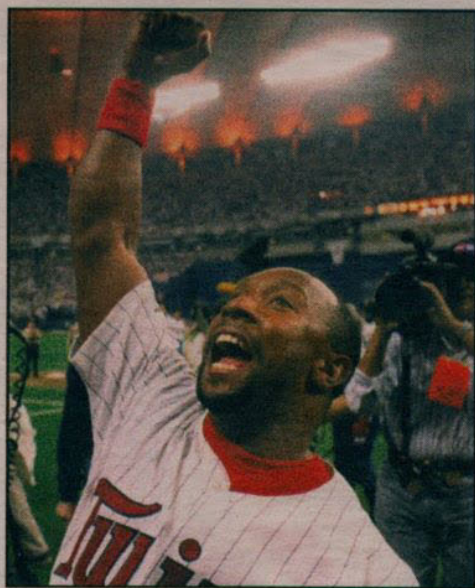
Steve Farrens
 The Commuter

When I was 12 years old, my sixth grade baseball team and I were lucky enough to play in the AAU World Series in Minneapolis against 63 other programs from around the nation.

While my memory has faded on most of the experience I was reminded last week of the most significant athletic event I have ever encountered—I shook the hand of Hall of Fame center fielder Kirby Puckett, who died last week after suffering a stroke—he was 45.

It was the year following his retirement and his presence was part of our pre-game festivities at the Metrodome. Each team circled the field with a banner and had the opportunity to talk to the players, and some, including myself, had a brief moment with Puckett.

The man has been an idol of mine since birth, and that one second next to him is something I'd never trade. His premature death, like his career, which was forced to end early because of glaucoma in his right eye, was a depressing moment for Major League Baseball and fans. Fellow teammates and opponents have spoken



KRT Photo

Kirby Puckett celebrates the Minnesota Twins' game seven victory over the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1987 World Series.

of his impact on the game, and on those around him.

John Smoltz commented to the Associated Press with much remorse. "His name just seemed to be synonymous with being a superstar . . . it's not supposed to happen like this."

His death has sent a wave of mourning throughout the game. A makeshift memorial has been constructed around the Metrodome, where he played his entire career.

During his 12-years in the majors, Puckett competed in 10 All-Star games, won two World Series rings, six gold gloves and the 1989 batting title. It was obvious in his training, competition and demeanor how much he cared for the game, a characteristic missing in many of today's professional athletes. It's been said that he and Lou Gehrig were the two most respected players to ever take the field. Coincidentally, the duo is also the two youngest baseball Hall of Famers to pass away.

I haven't been able to stop thinking about my connection with this superstar since Puckett passed over a week ago. His abrupt absence from the game made a significant impact to the Twins, to baseball and to athletics. Upon his death, the same can be expected.

My only hope is that our current athletes can view his career with the respect it deserves, perhaps even striving to compete with his heart for the game this coming season.



Ryon Pool



Kyle Masten

Runners make all-star team

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

The 2005-06 NWAACC All-Region basketball teams were announced this week, with two Linn-Benton Road Runners receiving spots on the Southern Division squads.

Center Ryon Pool, LB's leading rebounder and scorer with 18 points-per game, was the only freshman to make the Southern Region First Team, while point guard Kyle Masten made the All-Freshman Team after leading LB in assists and steals and finishing second to Pool with a 14.2 point scoring average.

Their South squad will face the Western Region in the NWAACC All-Star game on March 19 at Clark College.



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LOCAL NEWS

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Managing Editor: Jennifer Overholser
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Suicide terrorism explained

Harrison White
 The Commuter

On Thursday, March 9, 2003, Robert A. Pape, an associate professor of political science at the University of Chicago, spoke at the First United Methodist Church in Corvallis about his new book, "Dying to Win," which explores the logic of suicide terrorism. No government had yet collected the available statistics on the attacks, so Pape created his own database.

The facts he presented are:

Ordinary terrorism is in decline, from 666 attacks in 1987 to 348 attacks in 2001.

Suicide attacks have increased from three per year in the 1980s to 10 per year in the 1990s. Altogether, there were 315 suicide terrorist attacks between 1980 and 2003.

The most active terrorist group that uses suicide tactics is the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka, a Marxist-Leninist secular group that draws from Hindu families. The logic that allows such attacks comes from three levels: strategic, the use of coercive

power; social, a mass support of the people; and individual, a personal motive. Usually, a terrorist organization that relies on suicide tactics is attempting a political goal—usually the coercion of democracies to withdraw troops from the militant group's homeland.

Suicide terrorists are more likely to be Sunni, and from countries occupied by the United States military. Fifty-four percent of suicide terrorists have post-secondary education. Seventy-six percent are working or middle class workers with jobs such as teachers or ambulance drivers. Those that do attack for religious purposes (50 percent) are more likely to have higher education.

Pape's solution to the war in Iraq is what he calls "off-shore balancing," an alliance with the Arabian countries and aircraft carriers off the shores. He proposes America begin to withdraw troops in a cautious, steady manner and continue to protect the American oil interest. He believes this will decrease the instances of terrorist attacks, just as the withdrawal from Lebanon in the 1980s did.

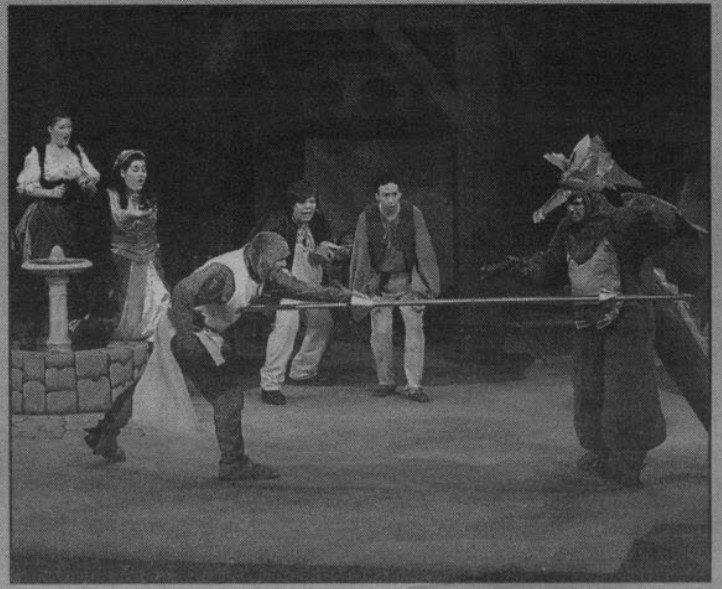


photo by Dan Wise

Dragon's Flame Extinguished

The Performing Arts Department staged its last production of the children's play, "The Reluctant Dragon," last Thursday in the Russell Tripp Performance Center. Thousands of local schoolchildren attended during its four-week run.

Group proposes library tax district for Linn County

Stephen Whitener
 The Commuter

Unlike Benton and 18 other Oregon counties, Linn County does not have a library district, so a third of Linn County residents, some 35,000, must pay annual fees to use the Albany Public Library.

The Linn Library League would like to change this. It has proposed a county-wide library district supported by property taxes. Originally planned for the November 2006 ballot, it has been delayed until the November 2008 ballot.

Two more years may seem a long time until one considers the fact that the idea has been kicking around Linn County since the Wilson Administration.

According to May Garland, co-coordinator of the league with Linda Ziedrich, the main reason for the delay is that a sheriff's levy is already slated for the '06 ballot. "We wanted to avoid competing with the sheriff's levy," said Garland, conceding that two taxes on one ballot would probably be one too many for Linn voters.

"People categorically dislike taxes" said Garland, "but we wouldn't have the services we have in this country without the tax system."

The proposed tax would be for 60 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. According to the league, a library district would result in a lower library tax for residents of Albany, Lebanon,

Sweet Home, Brownsville and Scio. Rural residents would pay the new library tax rather than choose whether to buy a membership at an out-of-town library. The Linn Library League maintains that a countywide district would be more cost-effective and efficient. By sharing an electronic catalog, a reference hotline, equipment maintenance and online database subscriptions, libraries could stay open 30 percent longer and afford more books and electronic services.

As with the Benton County system, the proposed Linn district would provide full library access for every county resident. Under the proposal, books would keep their permanent home at their respective libraries but would be available to all Linn residents on the electronic catalog. Special collections, such as the local history collection housed at Brownsville Community Library, would be listed on the electronic catalog as "non-circulating."

Recently in the Albany Democrat-Herald, executive editor Hasso Hering came out against the district proposal while praising the Library League's "well-intentioned" and "dedicated" work for "the ideal of library service for all." For Hering, the district was an "excellent cause" that would promote a "higher standard of living," but was not worth a new tax.

As Benton County voters decided in 1994 with the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library

merger, Linn voters will decide whether they deem libraries a luxury or a necessity.

Garland, a retired LBCC Learning Center employee, believes that one segment of the population in particular would benefit from a Linn library district: children. Indeed, some 1,350 children in the Albany

School District are among the 35,000 without library access.

"Children who read are children who succeed," said Garland. "Children don't get to make the choice now, but every child should have the opportunity to use a library. Parents might say: 'No, we're gonna buy a boat this year. We're not going

to pay for a library card." Starting April 1, the league's recently repaired bookmobile will again pay visits to Cascadia, Jordan, Foster, Crawfordville and a dozen other stops. More information on the bookmobile, the Library League and its summer reading program can be found at linnlibraryleague.org.

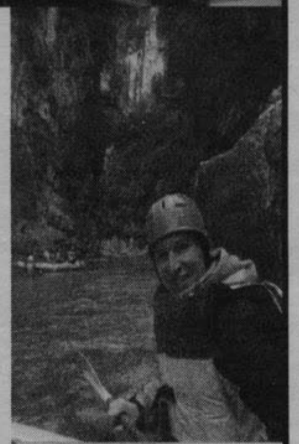


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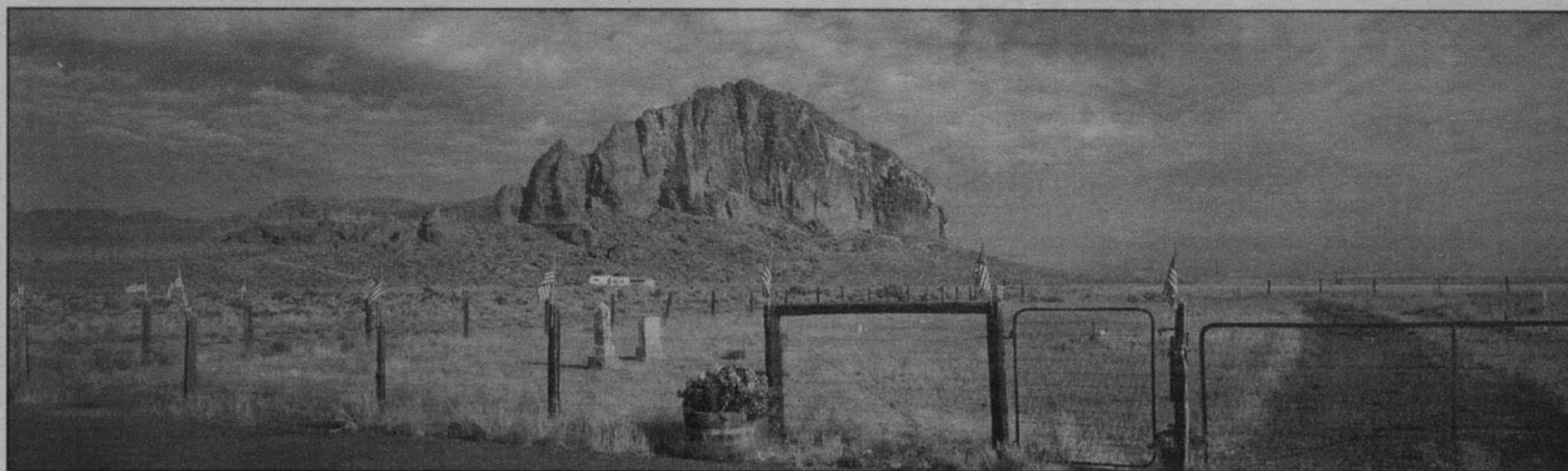
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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



"Fort Rock," a panoramic photograph by LBCC instructor Kurt Norlin, is among more than 25 panoramas on view in the North Santiam Hall Gallery. "Panos and Pots" also features ceramic art by past and present instructors and students from the Benton Center ceramics studios. A reception for the artists will be held Thursday, March 16 from 5-7 p.m.

Ceramics, photography focus at new NSH exhibit

LBCC Press Release

An exhibit of panoramic photographs and ceramic art will be on display in the North Santiam Hall Gallery at Linn-Benton Community College from March 14 to April 14, with a reception scheduled for Thursday, March 16 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Photographers Dave McIntire of Corvallis, LB photography instructor Kurt Norlin of Albany and Denise Ross of Newport are exhibiting landscape images made in the extra-wide panoramic format, while several ceramic artists brought together by local artist Jay Widmer will exhibit a variety of work.

The ceramics on display include sculptural, decorative and traditional pieces made by instructors and students who have worked with Widmer, who leads the ceramics program at the LBCC Benton Center. Known as

"the incubator" among local potters, the Benton Center Ceramics Studio and its artist/teachers have inspired many students to establish themselves in the area.

McIntire's large color prints—one is seven feet in length—focus on the majestic in the landscape, including images of the Canyonlands, Mount Rainier, Capitol Reef and the Grand Tetons. A retired ecologist and professor at Oregon State University, McIntire has been photographing the landscape for the past 20 years in a way that reveals the complex patterns of our natural environment.

Norlin's photographs, created primarily with a Fuji 6x17 camera, explore the broad and often barren landscape of the Eastern Oregon High Desert in both color and black-and-white.

"My first introduction to panoramic photography was some original images of my grandfather and the

men, horses, dogs and equipment of this fire station in Seattle," said Norlin. "The fine detail and the sense of being there rather than looking at the scene through a window intrigued me."

Ross meticulously hand-colors her black-and-white panoramic prints to create an intensely personal interpretation of the delicately nuanced palette of the Pacific Northwest light.

She worked as a commercial darkroom printer and retouch artist before going back to school for a graduate degree in botany and horticulture from Oregon State University.

The North Santiam Hall Gallery is located on the northeast corner of the LBCC campus in Albany and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional panoramic photographs can be viewed in the College Center Gallery.

VISUAL ARTS CLUB *Art Show &* AUCTION

Show off your stuff and submit prints of your work to be auctioned off to raise money for the Visual Arts Club. Pieces will be displayed for two weeks prior to the show at Riley's Pool Hall in downtown Albany.

Pieces are DUE in the NSH RM101 by **April 5**. Include name and contact information on the back of the piece. Must be ready to hang (matted and/or framed). Art from local students, teachers and residents of the Linn-Benton area will be on display and up for auction. Refreshments will be provided.

The Show and Silent Auction will be held in the Commons Saturday, April 22nd. Auction times are from 3pm-6pm. Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. For more information contact:
Elizabeth Beckham
 lizzo_beacham@hotmail.com

Fair covers family issues

Hannah Cowart
 The Commuter

The twenty-third annual Family Resource Fair will be held March 18 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Linn-Benton Community College and will feature keynote speaker Anne-Louise Sterry.

The fair offers more than 20 workshops on a variety of parenting topics, including single parenting, teaching children the value of money, baby massage, couple's communication and a new workshop on bullying.

Registration is from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Commons and admission is \$1 for adults. Lunch is also provided for \$2 per person, and childcare is available for \$2 per child. To kick off the day, Anne-Louise Sterry, singer, storyteller and educator, will be speaking on "Joy and Creativity for Your Family" from 9-10 a.m. in the

Forum Building.

During lunch, families will be able to learn about the community support available to them at resource booths. For more information, call Family Resources and Education at (541)-917-4897.



AmeriCorps*VISTA position

F/T AmeriCorps*VISTA position avail. Mar. 22 to recruit "Baby Boomers" for RSVP of Linn & Benton counties. 1-yr. commitment. Send cover letter and resume to: RSVP, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, OR 97321. For info call 541-753-9197 or visit <http://www.americorps.org/about/programs/vista.asp>

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 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Check It Out

"Suddenly Everyone Burst Out Singing!"

LBCC Concert Choir

and the new

LBCC Chamber Choir in Concert,
 Conducted by Susan Peck

March 15

7:30 p.m.

All seats \$5

(Non-reserved seating)

The Russell Tripp Performance Center
 LBCC Main Campus

"16 Blocks"

March 13-16

Pix Theatre

321 Second Ave. S.W.

Albany

(See www.albanypix.com for show times)

"Pygmalion"

March 16**, 17, 18,

8 p.m.

March 19

2:30 p.m.

Majestic Theatre

115 S.W. Second St.

Corvallis

\$10 Adults

\$8 Students and Seniors

**All seats \$8

Stairway Denied

March 17

9:30 p.m.

\$6 At the door

Platinum

126 S.W. Fourth St.

Corvallis

St. Patty's Day Irish Show

March 17

6:15 p.m.

\$15

Flinn's Theater

222 W. First Ave.

Albany

(541) 928-5008

Calendar compiled by Colleen Franzoia, A&E Editor
 Get your event in Check it Out. Send all information to
 The Commuter Attn: commuterarts@linnbenton.edu

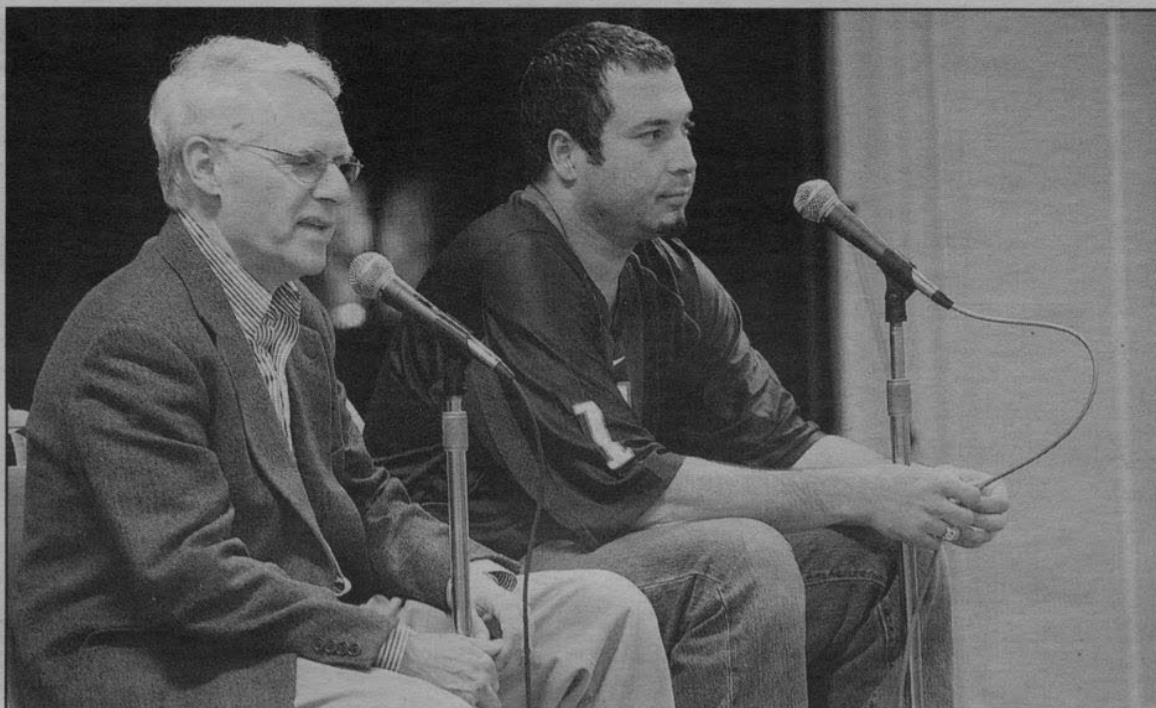


photo by Dan Wise

Rabbi Bob Alper and Muslim comedian Ahmed Ahmed answer questions from the audience at last Wednesday's Comedy Night performance in the Commons.

Comedic duo finds humor in clashing religious viewpoints

Arlen Proctor
 The Commuter

The LBCC Commons was filled with laughter for the better part of two hours Wednesday night during "Comedy's The Odd Couple," a stand-up comedy performance by Rabbi Bob Alper of Vermont and Los Angeles actor Ahmed Ahmed.

Alper started the night off doing his solo act, telling true-to-life stories about his family, his job (he is still a part-time Rabbi), and his childhood. The crowd of around 60, made up of mostly married couples over age 40, laughed throughout.

"He was very charming," one audience member commented. Alper's clean humor about family life seemed to appeal to the older crowd very well. Lines like, "I have some great news, we just arranged a student loan for my son; we're going to loan him to a family in Iowa for a while," had the audience bursting with laughter.

His entertainment was not limited to speaking, however. During one joke about his daughter's passion for modern dance he mimicked her dance routine on stage. His style of observational comedy was well-received, including his references to his religion and the Bible.

He also used props, such as a kitty-litter scoop that he held up for everyone to see and then asked an audience member to read a small tag attached to the handle. "Dishwasher safe" she read aloud.

During the next segment of the evening, Alper stepped off-stage and his partner Ahmed Ahmed began his performance. An accomplished actor who has been seen on both the large and small screens, Ahmed immediately launched into a story about his Egyptian heritage and Muslim

upbringing.

"You know you're Muslim when you drink regularly, have sex and gamble, but you won't eat pork."

His comedy had more of an edge than Alper's but it was equally tasteful, and the crowd did not seem fazed by the change. Ahmed told stories about being raised as a Muslim in America, being mistaken for a terrorist, and his battles with airport security ("How is it considered a random search if I'm the one always getting searched?"). His jokes covered many of the same topics as Alper's, including parents, trying to meet girls and religion.

"The only difference between Muslims and Jews is that Jews don't like spending money and Muslims don't have any money to spend."

After both Alper and Ahmed had finished their acts, both returned to the stage for a question-and-answer session that allowed the audience to get to know them better. They talked about many of the venues they had performed at and the strange people they encountered there.

Usually booked at synagogues, they face crowds a little different than most stand-up comedians. The audience was very involved in the question and answer portion of the evening, and it was clear that the comedians enjoyed being able to talk back and forth with one another.

"I really like working with Ahmed because we speak the same language comedically," Alper said after the show. "The reason we work so well together is that we do not compete with one another."

Their camaraderie was very apparent on stage, and Alper says, "It's something I'm very proud of."

REVIEW

Chevelle's words louder than music

Joel DeVylde
 The Commuter

Chevelle introduces a fairly good addition to the genre of American rock with "This Type of Thinking Could Do Us In."

Their latest album, released in 2004, brings together a modern rock sound and piercing metaphorical lyrics for a great sound on tracks like "Get Some" and "Vitamin R."

The hit song "The Clincher" especially stands out. Speculatively referencing the crucifixion, the lyrics brought a passionate message to radio listeners last year, "I'll stand for nothing less, or

never stand again... could we have known, never would I help to nail down. With nothing to gain, here's the clincher: this should be you."

Chevelle lacks, however, on many of the tracks in creating innovative music. Often the songs contain good music repeated over and over again. What saves the album is that, although often playing the same music for most of the song, they routinely change the distortion of the guitar and the rhythm.

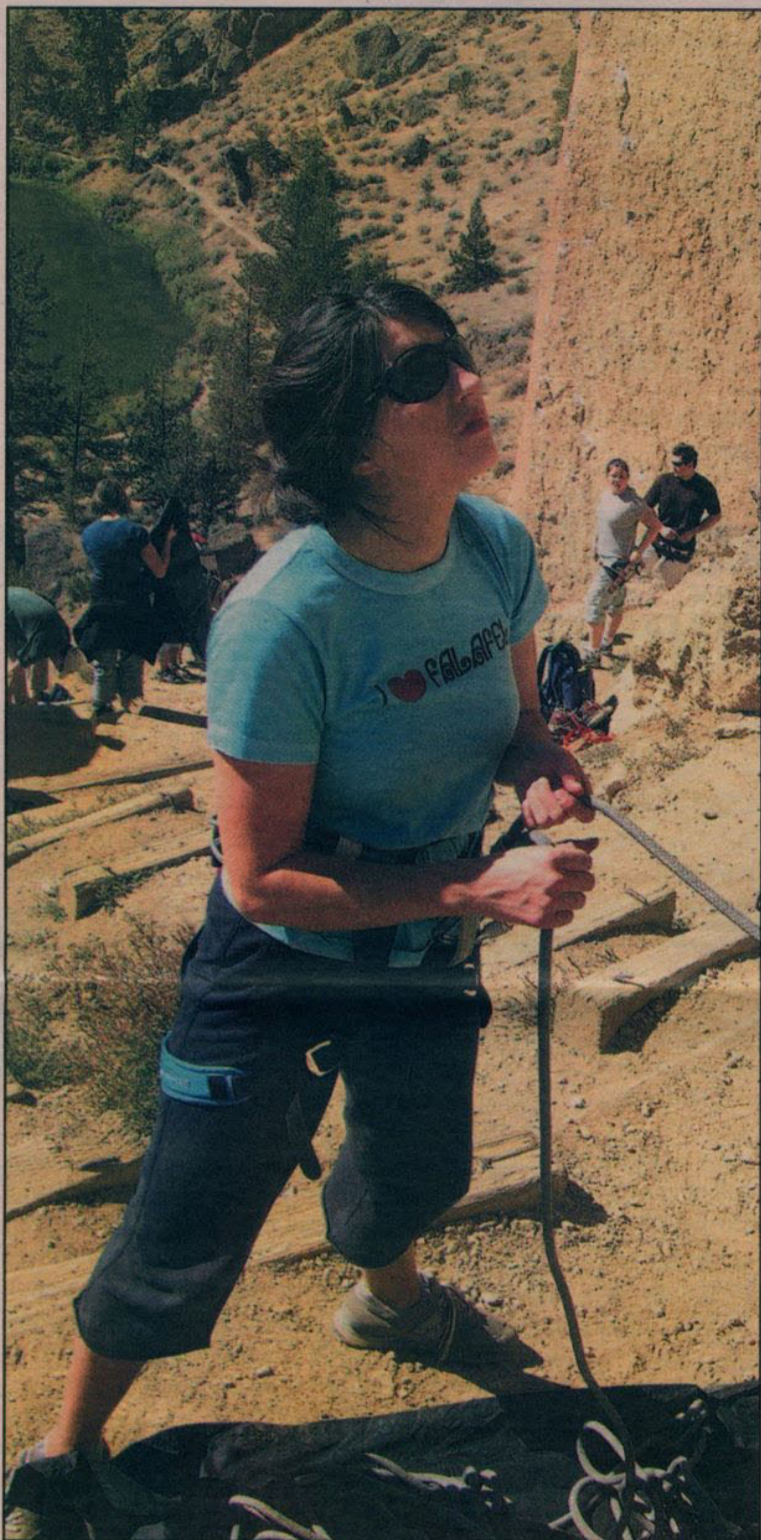
Overall, powerful lyrics and a genuinely great blend of music and vocals outweigh this album's flaws. If you're a fan of modern rock, you should check them out at www.chevelleinc.com.

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DISCOVERY

Community festivals, trips, treks
 and tours that readers might enjoy
 in their free time.

ROCK CLIMBING



Jens Odegaard
 The Commuter

Sitting on a cushioned mat, feet placed on toe holds on the wall, Cully Larson reaches upward and pulls himself onto the artificial rock face with hand holds. Around him approximately 30 other sweaty climbers strain upward with taught and stringy muscles.

Larson climbs higher, about eight feet, into the overhang of the "The Cave." Nearly horizontal now and parallel with the floor, he makes a move, slips and comes crashing down, with the hands of his spotters guiding him to the floor.

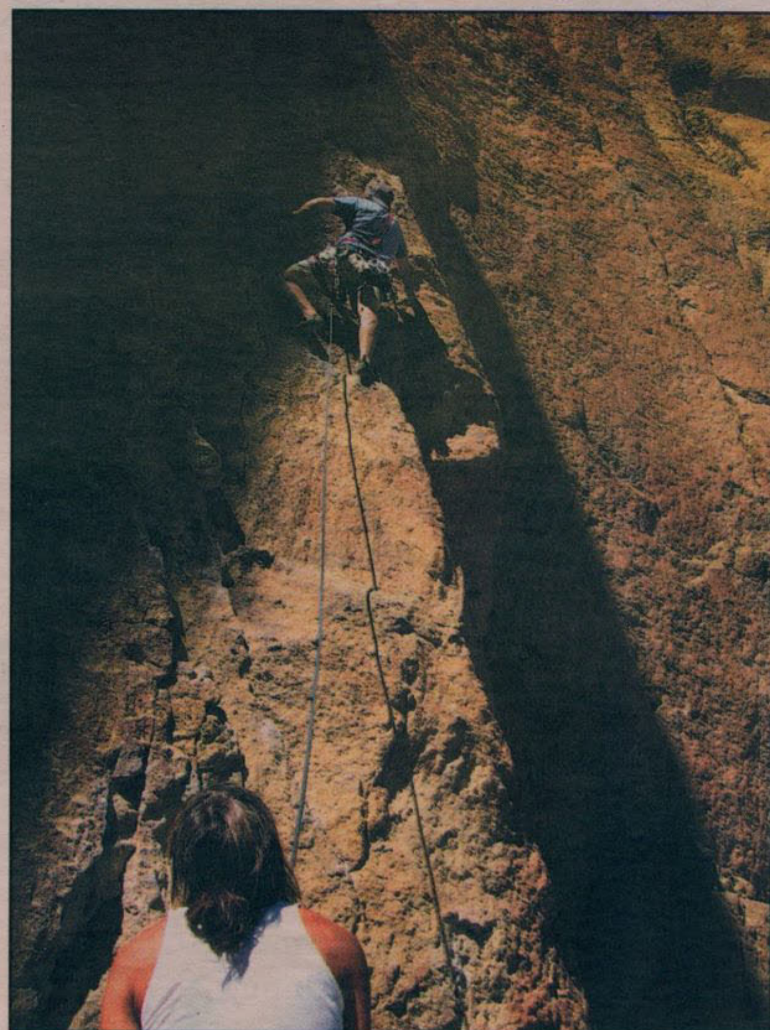
He gets back up and another climber takes his place on the route. Larson, a spotter now, takes his position and the bouldering continues.

A form of rock climbing, bouldering, takes place from 10 feet off the ground or less. Boulders are not harnessed in, nor are ropes used like they are with higher climbs. Yet it offers its own challenges.

"Bouldering is like the crux of a rope route, the hardest part," Cully says. "You can do it over and over again and easily take turns with other people until you get it."

But not everyone at the Indoor Climbing Facility at Dixon Recreation Center on the OSU campus is bouldering; friends Heather Rodgers and Natalie Allen, Larson's climbing partners, climb rope routes nearby.

Both are harnessed into the rope, which is secured to a carabiner anchor at the top of



Above, Kyle Beall scales a wall at Smith Rock while his wife, Wendy, belays. At left, belayer Natalie Allen holds the line for the climber above her. The cliffs of Smith Rock (below) draw many climbers.

the wall. Allen belays Rodgers, who is climbing a 5.7 route. Routes are ranked on a scale of 5.1 to 5.15. Allen anchors Rodgers, keeping her from falling by taking up the slack in the rope and providing counterweight.

After Rodgers reaches the top Allen lowers her down by letting the slack run through her hand, a carabiner connected to her harness and the small metal belaying device.

Larson, Allen and Rodgers climb at Dixon three to four times a week, but all would prefer to be outside on real rock, away from the fluorescent lighting and under the sun.

"The weather has prevented us from climbing outside lately," says Rodgers. Larson adds,

"We go to Smith Rock more than anywhere else."

The compressed volcanic ash—called welded tuff—and basalt faces of Smith Rock rise upwards of 550 feet from the banks of the Crooked River 25 miles northeast of Bend. "Smith Rock is one of the best sport climbing places in the country," Cully says.

Over 400,000 visitors are drawn to Smith Rock annually, according to Mike Volk of Smith Rock Media Ventures.

They test themselves on routes such as "Ugly Sister" and "Peepshow" on the Dihedrals section of the rock and "Tammy Bakker's Face" and "Cat Scan" on Morning Glory face.

They are drawn by the same pull that attracts Larson, Allen and Rodgers to the sport. "Climbing is like a puzzle. It engages your mind, a workout without monotony," says Rodgers. Allen adds "It takes devotion to excel in the sport."

Along with the hard work comes the support of friends. "I like the climbing community. They are really friendly and helpful," says Allen.

They'll pick you back up and encourage you when muscles get sore and bloody knuckles scar over, or when weariness sets in.

"I remember the first time I went," says Larson. "I couldn't open the car door my forearms were so tired. I had to use two hands to staple my school paper together."

The draw of fulfilling a route brings climbers back. "If you leave and don't finish something there is a lure to come back and try it again. It's like it is calling your name to tackle it," says Rodgers.

