

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication



Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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NATO bombing draws local demonstrators



Photo by Robin Camp

About 65 people gather in front of the Benton County Courthouse Sunday to protest NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia. The daily protest has slowly grown from only a handful in the early days of the bombing.

by Lizanne Southgate
of The Commuter

Under blossoming trees and sunny skies, 65 people gathered in front of the Benton County Courthouse Sunday to protest NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia.

Participants in Sunday's demonstration lined the street in front of the courthouse carrying signs with messages such as "Do not punish Yugoslavia for Milosevic's crimes," "Help not harm," "No way to peace without justice" and the refrain from a 60s song, "War, what is it good for."

A handful of those attending have been at the same location every evening to protest since NATO's bombing started more than two weeks ago. They say they will continue to show up until the bombing stops.

Although condemnation of Milosevic's actions was unanimous, nobody believed that bombing the people of Yugoslavia was the right way to deal with the problem. As one Corvallis High School student put it "We're killing people to get him to stop killing people, and it only makes it worse."

Speakers included John Dennis from the Presbyterian Church, retired Methodist Minister Eric Robinson, and Tim Stover from United Campus Ministries at OSU.

Dennis pointed out that the U.S. did not exhaust all

(Turn to "NATO" on Pg. 2)

Norpac draws protesters at Career Fair

by Joey Blount
of The Commuter

Among the many booths at last Wednesday's Career Fair there was one that fair organizers didn't plan on.

Protesters from MeCHA, Movimiento estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (Student Movement of Chicanos of Aztlan), and Vegetarian Resources Network were there with flyers to protest one of the employers participating in the fair, Norpac Foods. After being pushed to the lobby by fair organizers, they set up a makeshift booth urging people to boycott Norpac and companies that do business with the regional distributor and processor.

The protesters complained that Norpac has continued to ignore any attempt of PCUN, Oregon's farmworkers union, to arrive at a negotiated settlement of farmers' complaints. They also alleged that Norpac helped in the passing of bills that are discriminatory towards the farm workers at their grower farms.

Brian Bell of Norpac foods, con-
(Turn to "Rights" on Pg. 2)

Virtual class schedule will be on line soon

by Sarah Crauder
of The Commuter

To some it may seem like a scene out of "The Jetsons"—students logging on to the Internet to look up class information, price books from the bookstore and register for classes.

But the future is gradually becoming the present at LBCC. Projects are underway to make all three a reality for students at the dawn of the new millennium.

"We're not there yet," said Jim Crotts, Internet support technician at LBCC and one of the people involved in the projects, but he said they are well underway.

Already the bookstore is on line. A feature on the bookstore's Web page gives students the opportunity to see which books they need and how much they will cost without actually having to go to the bookstore in person. Students can enter the CRNs for their classes and the site will give them a list of the books for the entered classes along with costs and

ISBN numbers.

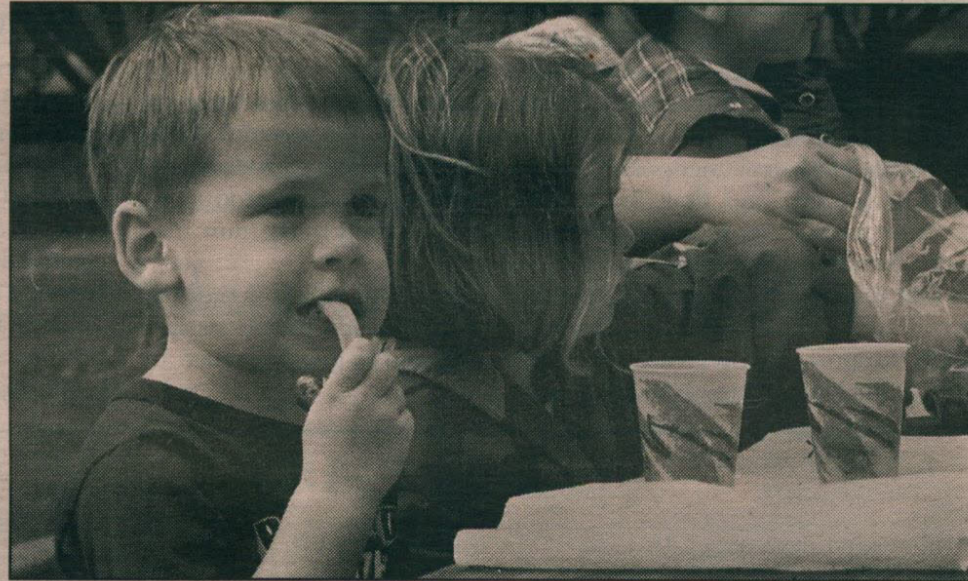
The bookstore's site can be found at lbcc.cc.or.us/bookstore. Clicking on the link to "books" and then on the "booklist" link will take students to this feature.

"It's not without bugs, but it seems to be working pretty well," Crotts said of the new addition.

Soon to be on line is the school's class schedule, which lists all the classes and meeting times for each term. The Web site will contain all the information available in the regular printed copy of the schedule, but it will be available for access from any where with a computer and modem and at any time. Students will be able to look up instructors, course numbers or CRNs with a few mouse clicks.

The first incarnation of the on line schedule will be merely an electronic copy of the hard copy schedule, but Crotts hopes eventually to be able to keep the online version up to

(Turn to "Virtual" on Pg. 2)



Picnic in the Courtyard

Nolan Lusford and Rachel Amity, both 3 years old, enjoy a picnic in the sunny courtyard Monday afternoon. Students could be seen emerging from classrooms and soaking up a little sun after weeks of damp weather. Weather forecasters predict a rain-free sky for the rest of the week.

Photo by Jeremy Parker



✓ **Living Dead**
Bands Zombie and Korn bring their nightmare to Portland

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Check This Out

Don't worry about the snooze button or your morning coffee Friday because classes won't be held due to inservice.

✓ **Frustration**
Roadrunners fumble away a chance to win

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Business group honors Trautwein

by Schellene Pils
of The Commuter

Sue Trautwein's office is full of examples of her accomplishments as a mother, grandmother, teacher and administrator.

Photos of her children and grandchildren as well as a deflated balloon share space with several awards, including her most recent prize for distinguished service from Western Business and Information and Technology Educators.

Trautwein, a LBCC business instructor of 20 years, joked that she sometimes thinks it was longevity that brought her the award, but admits that "a lot of the reason that I was elected was hard work."

WBITE is part of an international organization that includes 11 states and provinces in North America. "Every year they recognize one individual for leadership, dedication and service," she said. "Winning was exciting because the people

who have won in the past are people I respect and admire."

Trautwein's career has been diverse and varied and has included instructing in both England and Japan. Most of her experience has been at the community college level, but also includes time teaching at the middle school and kindergarten levels.

WBITE is a "professional organization to promote networking and sharing information that gives us a chance to upgrade our skills," as well as a chance to discuss similar problems with her peers, she said.

Trautwein is a very busy lady. "I teach quite a variety of office skills and computer education classes." This term those classes include instruction in desktop publishing, power point, keyboarding, technical editing, business math, as well as job success skills.

In addition to her hectic schedule, Trautwein is the current western region representative for WBITE as well as the editor for the International Society for Business Education Network, a monthly newsletter published by WBITE.



Sue Trautwein

NATO: War opponents call for end to Balkan conflict

✓ From Page 1

diplomatic options before resorting "to the easy way out" and dropping bombs on Yugoslavia. He exhorted the U.S. government to pay its fair share of U.N. dues and to participate with the United Nations in "heading these things off before they get started."

Minister Anne Bateman set the demonstration record for brevity with her two-word speech "Peace Now."

Participants in Sunday's rally included local church leaders, peace organization members and passers-by who paused to lend their support. Passing drivers honked and yelled encouragement to those gathered on the sidewalk.

A resolution urging the cessation of NATO bombing was passed around for signatures while speakers pleaded for the U.S. government to devote more money and effort to building ties with other nations rather than resorting to bombs.

On a beautiful spring day in Corvallis, flower petals floated down upon the head of grandmothers and children, ministers and students who gathered to demand a halt to the bombing. Meanwhile, in Yugoslavia the weather was cold and the bombs continued to fall.

Virtual: Cyber schedule slated for spring at LBCC

✓ From Page 1

date, changing it as instructors change or if classes are canceled.

The classes are currently divided in the same categories used in the schedule, but Crofts hopes to have future versions of the program with more specific sub-headings and categories to make it easier to find specific classes. For instance, a large category like music might be divided into the sub-headings of voice or instruments to refine searches.

Crofts hopes to have the spring schedule up on the LBCC Web page in two or three weeks. The summer version should be up before registration for summer term so students can use it to help with registration.

This will all eventually lead to online registration at LBCC, where students can look up classes, register for them and then price books all from their home PC.

The catalog program had to be created completely from scratch. It will eventually have 2,800 classes listed in its electronic pages. The first bare-bones trial version took three people two weeks to finish, but succeeding efforts are more complicated and take much longer to finish. The total number of people working on the project now number five.

"As we try to make it more user friendly it slows the whole process down. We've been working on the latest permutation for a month," Crofts said.

Pre-engineering student wins Rasmussen Endowment Scholarship

Aaron Tuttle, a pre-engineering student, was awarded \$500 from the Steve and Margaret Rasmussen Endowment Fund Physics Scholarship for spring 1999.

Tuttle, a 29-year-old Philomath resident who has attended LBCC for nine terms, has a 3.74 grade point average and intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master of business administration at the University of California at Davis.

The Rasmussen Endowment Fund awards funds for tuition each spring to a student enrolled for two terms of physics.



Photo by Joey Blount

A group of people gather in the lobby outside the Career Fair last Wednesday to protest the participation of Norpac, who they say is ignoring the farm workers union's demands.

Rights: Norpac denies responsibility for workers

✓ From Page 1

tacted at his Portland office, argued that since the grower farms are contracted and not technically owned by Norpac, the company is under no obligation to deal with workers' complaints. Protesters, however, argue Norpac is under a moral obligation.

Laws allow companies dealing with agricultural workers to ignore unions on the basis that the perishable nature of the American food supply is too vital to be disrupted by strikes or other problems associated with unionization. Protesters said the very nature of this allows for a potential sweat-shop-like atmosphere, where due to a "paid by production" setup, workers are not even protected by basic labor laws that require a minimum wage and other protections.

Many organizations have offered their support. United Farm Workers of America (AFL-CIO), the Na-

tional Farm Workers Ministry, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and over 75 other local, regional, and national organizations have officially endorsed PCUN's campaign and boycott of Norpac products, including FLAV-R-PAC/ Westpac brand frozen fruits and vegetables and "Garden Burger" brand products, which uses Norpac as a major distributor.

In Norpac's defense, Bell said, "It is clearly in the interest of the farm employer to operate in the best manner possible because it will improve production," and that "by coming to work, paid-by-production workers have the potential to actually make more than minimum wage."

Norpac, based in the Willamette Valley, is the largest food processing cooperative west of the Mississippi with five plants in Oregon, and is jointly owned by more than 300 growers.

commuter staff

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

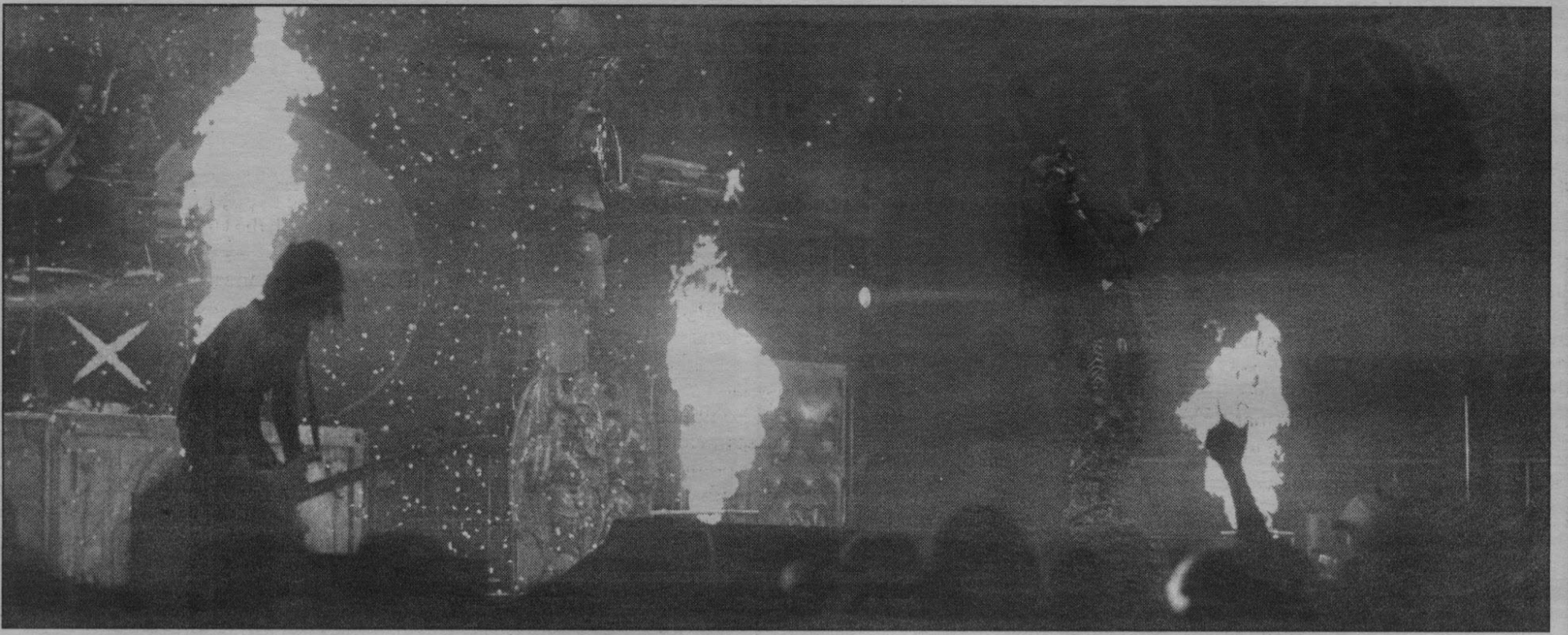
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IN FOCUS



Tour draws necrotic rockers and dreadlocked moshers

Story and Photos by Jeremy Parker of The Commuter

Looking like a scene out of "Return of the Living Dead," fans of rockers Korn and Rob Zombie painted their faces to resemble the undead and filled Memorial Coliseum in Portland Saturday night.

Videodrone, the opening act, burst on the stage dressed in their trademark red Dickies with energy and intensity, but they didn't get the response they expected.

"We usually get people that tear down the blockades just to get to the stage," said singer Ty Elam. "But here, people acted like they were dead."

Audience reaction to Videodrone was unenthusiastic at best. "They sucked," "I fell asleep," and "I didn't even watch them," were just some of the comments made about the band just signed to Korn's new music label.

But Mischa Connine of Portland said she "loved their music and they put on a pretty good show."

Spookmaster Zombie exploded on stage next with flames and spark-flying special effects.

Zombie's hard guitar riffs and eerie techno sound filled the coliseum with nightmarish music. The horror movie stage had towering creatures that you might find in a bad dream built into the castle backdrop.

Two huge screens built into the backdrop displayed scenes from old horror movies. During "Demonoid Phenomenon," the screen flashed



images of Charles Manson and Sharon Tate.

Korn then took to the stage with their dreadlocked gangster look and angry sound. Behind the band the stage was set up to look like a jail cell with coiled,

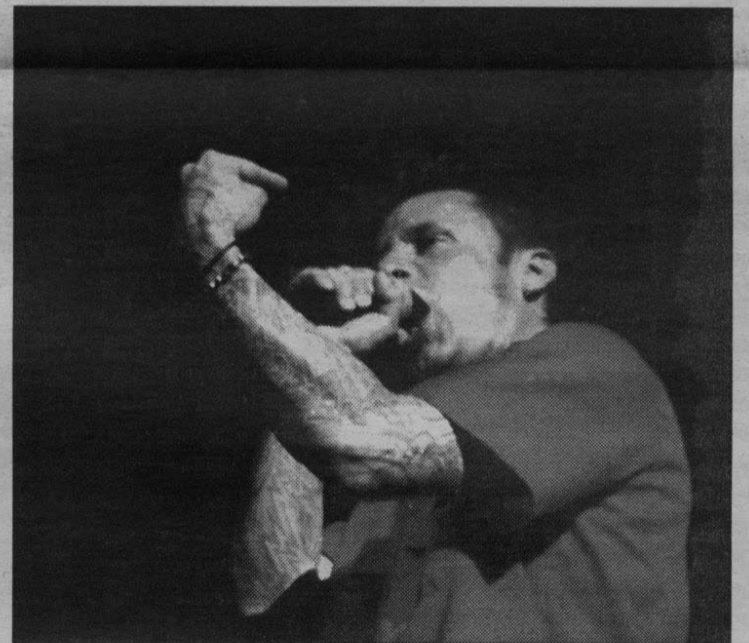
barbed wire and bars used to house more than a hundred lucky fans who were let into the cage to get a stage-side look at the show.

During Korn's performance the crowd stampeded the stage. A member of the

audience was almost trampled in the rush before being rescued by another member of the crowd. Jennifer Coyer, 18 from Chehalis, Wash., suffered bruised ribs and nausea, but did not require medical attention.

A Bad Dream with a Scream

The sparks fly as Zombie explodes onto the Memorial Coliseum stage in a nightmarish blaze of flames, blasting guitar riffs and gargoyles built into the backdrop. Zombie (left) followed Videodrone (below) to the delight of hundreds of fans dressed for the occasion as though they had returned from the grave for the concert.



Northwest sculptor exhibits new work at OSU

OSU News Service

"Trek to Sulawesi," an exhibit of recent wall sculptures by Lee Kelly, is on exhibit at Fairbanks Gallery, Fairbanks Hall, on the OSU campus.

A maker of monumental site sculptures and smaller interior pieces, Kelly, who is an avid trekker and mountain climber, says his work has been influenced by the cultures he has experienced during his travels to Mexico, Nepal, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia. The wall sculptures in his exhibit were influenced by a journey to Sulawesi, formerly called Celebes, in Indonesia. His arduous adventure there eventually led him to examine ancient structures made by members of former tribes from that area.

Kelly is noted as one of the Northwest's premiere sculptors, with large scale corten steel and stainless steel sculptures commissioned and installed at universities, businesses, and public sites including OSU, Reed College, Marylhurst College, the Oregon Health Sciences School of Nursing, The Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Union Square in Seattle and

Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

After serving as a draftsman in the Air Force Reserves during the Korean War, Kelly became an art student and studied painting at the Museum Art School in Portland in 1954. "Painting was a vehicle to grow in," says Kelly, who experimented with the wild impulsive brushwork of abstract expressionism and the centralized composition of cubism. The curriculum required that he study sculpture and he began to work in clay and plaster.

At home, Kelly began to make his own sculpture of soldered sheet metal. By the 1960s, after teaching himself the craft of welding, he had become a sculptor.

His work has been recognized through funds donated by organizations like the Seattle Art Museum, the Henry Gallery of Art at the University of Washington, the Western States Arts Foundation, the Oregon Arts Commission, and the City of Portland.

Fairbanks Gallery is open to the public weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The exhibition continues through May 5.

The 21st annual International Film Series

- "Smoke Signals"
- Gilfillan Auditorium
- 7 & 9 p.m. April 16 & 17
- \$3 admission

Two young Coeur d' Alene Indians come to grips with their pasts as individuals and as Native Americans in this film, one of the first widely distributed movies to be created by Native Americans from the ground up. The film examines the interweaving of culture and personal history.

CLASSIFIEDS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Western Utilities Supply Company is offering three scholarships for \$750 per year to students enrolled in a two year program in the waterworks field. Criteria and applications are available in the Career Center in Takena Hall. Application deadline is April 15, 1999.

St. Elizabeth Health Series Auxiliary of Baker City, Ore. will award a scholarship of \$1,500 to a graduate of Baker City High School or a current Baker County resident who has at least a sophomore status by September 1999. The applicant must be enrolled in a health care field, such as, RN, LPN, Radiology or Medical Laboratory Technician, Occupational, Physical or Respiratory Therapy of similar areas. Additional info and applications are available at the Career Center in Takena Hall. Completed application deadline is April 15, 1999.

The National Poultry and Food Dist. Association (NPFDA) Scholarship Foundation is awarding four \$1,500 scholarships to students in the field of poultry science, poultry industry. Additional information and applications are available at the Career Center in Takena Hall. Deadline is May 31, 1999.

The Women's Shipping Club of Portland Scholarship Fund is awarding five \$1,000 scholarships to students in the fields of international business or maritime affairs. Additional information and applications are available at the Career Center in Takena Hall. Completed applications deadline is April 15, 1999.

The Oregon Logging Conference will be awarding eight scholarships for the 1999-2000 academic year. Applicants need to be studying forest and wood-related areas, welding, cat scanning, diesel mechanics, choker-setting, etc. Applications may be faxed to 541-686-0176. For more information and applications, contact the Career Center in Takena Hall.

The Audria M. Edwards Youth Scholarship Fund, administered by Equity Foundation, is awarding between \$8,000 and \$10,000 in scholarships to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and/or the children of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons who reside in Oregon or Southwest Washington. Applicants must be pursuing their education through the post-secondary level and require financial assistance to that end. Information and applications are available at the Career Center in Takena Hall. Completed application deadline is May 15, 1999.

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The LBEC Executive committee in partnership with Mid-Willamette Valley Chapter of

the Northwest Human Resource Management Asso. has established the funding of the Human Resource Scholarship for \$1,000. The award will be made to the student who has proven scholastic ability, exemplary character and leadership capability, and has demonstrated their potential for achieving personal goals and the future leadership in the profession. More information and applications are available at the Career Center in Takena Hall. Applications must be postmarked by May 15, 1999.

The Transportation Association of Portland is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to students who intend to pursue a career in Transportation/Distribution/Logistics, which includes Marketing, Transportation, Traffic Management, Economics, Accounting, Distribution, Warehousing, Purchasing and other related fields. For more information and applications, contact the Career Center in Takena Hall. Applications must be postmarked by April 16, 1999.

The Scottish Rite Foundation is offering 10-15 \$1,000 scholarships to students who are in the sophomore, junior or senior year of undergraduate studies at an Oregon college or university with a minimum GPA of 3.5. For more information and applications, contact the Career Center in Takena Hall. The preferred application deadline is April 1, 1999, but may be accepted as late as July 1, 1999.

The American Heart Association is pleased to announce the 1999 Student Summer Science Research Fellowship Program. This program is an exciting opportunity for students interested in the study of biomedical science. Ten summer scholarship awards will be made to talented upper level high school students, undergraduate, graduate or medical students to provide an opportunity to become acquainted with cardiovascular research. Application deadline is April 29, 1999. For more information and applications, contact the Career Center in Takena Hall.

HELP WANTED

Claims Representative (Albany) Do you like working with people, flexible hours and great pay (\$21-40,000 a year)? They will even provide a 12-week training course. All you need is a 4-yr degree, 3.45 grade point average cumulative, strong preference for bi-lingual. If this is you, come see us in the Career Center. (T101)

Manufacturing Technicians(Springfield) This company had 2-3 openings and pays \$14.36/hour for these full-time positions. If you will be graduating in June with a degree in electronics, mechanics, etc. you should be checking into these jobs now! See us in Student Employment in the Career Center. (T101)

Accounting Clerk (Jefferson) If you have a 2-yr accounting degree, 5yrs experience in bookkeeping/accounting or equivalent combination of experience & education, here is your job! The pay is \$20-24,000/year DOE and the deadline is April 20 so hustle yourself on down to see us in the Career Center. (T101)

SMART Area Manager (Albany) If you like children and believe in the SMART book & reading program, here's a full-time job that pays \$24,000/year. You will recruit, train, & supervise school coordinators and generate community support and raise funds. See Student Employment for more information.



Photo by Jeremy Parker

Boob Tube

A display created by James Creighton in the LBCC Library encourages viewers to turn off their TVs and open books.

Classified Ad Policy

Deadline: Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission. If you wish a particular ad to appear in successive issues, you must resubmit it.

Cost: Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

Personals: Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week; no more than 50 words per ad.

Are you a number person? Would you or someone you know like to support a program dedicated to accurate and compassionate information about AIDS? Valley AIDS Information Network (VAIN), a small 501(c)(3) organization with a tradition of excellence needs assistance with accounting, bookkeeping, and grant writing. We have a special need for someone to oversee our budget. Please call Margo Denison at VAIN at 752-6322 for more information.

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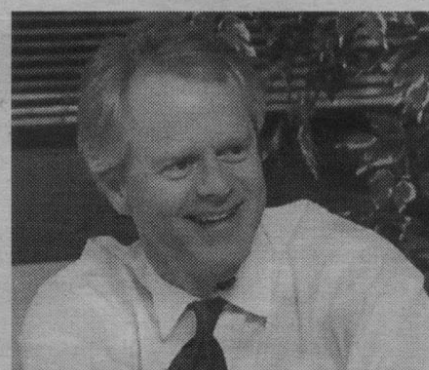
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SPORTS



Photo by E.J. Harris

Josh Thompson drove in the first run for the Roadrunners in the first inning and scored the last run for LB in the ninth.

Roadrunner's defense falls to Chemeketa

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

The weather in the state of Oregon has been very weird this spring, and has played havoc with the Roadrunners' baseball schedule.

Their two games last Thursday against George Fox and two games against SWOCC last Saturday were cancelled due to the bad weather.

But when last Tuesday's game against Chemeketa was on schedule, the Roadrunner defense was not. The Storm won 6-5, thanks to seven 'Runner errors.

Two errors in the top half of the first gave the Storm an early 1-0 advantage, with Jason Barrow scoring on a walk given to Lindsey Fanslier. The Roadrunners came back with a run themselves in the bottom of the first. Branden Arakawa led off the inning by getting hit by a pitch and eventually scored after Josh Thomp-

son walked with the bases loaded.

The Storm put two more runs up on the board in the top half of the second inning, taking a 3-1 lead, but the 'Runners quickly countered to cut it to 3-2 when Arakawa scored on a Travis Haima single. Chemeketa then put up another run in the top of the third, which gave them a 4-2 advantage until the top of the sixth inning.

Chemeketa scored two runs in the top half of the sixth to take a 6-2 lead. Both of those runs were unearned due to two errors by LB. The 'Runners were able to score a run in the bottom of the seventh inning, when Haima scored on a bases loaded walk given up to Shawn Lilley.

In the bottom of the ninth and with the Storm holding a 6-3 lead, the 'Runners knew it was time to try to get some runs. After Haima grounded out to the pitcher, both Travis Kundert and

Thompson walked.

Zach Milton was able to advance the baserunners after grounding out to first, then Lilley singled both runners home. But the Runners' rally ended when the Storm caught Lilley trying to steal second.

Haima was the Roadrunners' leading hitter, going 2 for 4 with one run batted in. Arakawa was 1 for 3 while scoring two runs. Lilley led the team in RBIs with three, with Thompson driving in the other run. Nick Renault took the loss for the 'Runners. His record on the season is now 2-3.

The scores from the 'Runners April 13 game against Chemeketa was unavailable at press time. They play Mt. Hood in two games on Saturday at 1 p.m., then face Linfield College in McMinnville on Sunday at 1 p.m. The Roadrunners record is now 5-6 overall and 0-2 in league play.

'Runners stumble at Mt. Hood

Clements wins pole vault, Waters comes in third in weather-beaten meet

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

The Linn-Benton track and field team has been off to a great start this season but hit a wall at the Mt. Hood Relays last Saturday in Gresham.

The women finished the day with 30 points, which was far behind Spokane Community College, which won with 123 points. The men were only able to score five points. Spokane won with 108 points.

The Roadrunners had some strong individual efforts, however, led by Melisa Clements, who won the pole vault event with a leap of 10 feet.

This was the second week in a row that Clements won the vault in poor weather, having taken first in cold and snow at Lane Community College the week before.

April Waters was able to clear eight feet for a third place finish in the pole vault.

Clements also placed fifth in the 100m hurdles with a time of 18.17.

Jolene Neufeld had a busy day, placing sixth in both the long jump at 15 feet 11 inches and the triple jump at 32 feet.

She also joined Dawn Habelt, Tiffany Sweat and Helen Rarick on the women's sprint medley team, which raced to a fifth place finish in a time of 2:00.99.

Competing in the triple jump were Sweat and Brandon Whitney. Sweat finished fifth at 33 feet 1 inch, while Whitney placed fifth for the guys at 41 feet 6 and a half inches.

The throwers had a tough time battling the weather. Isaac Presley was only able to place eighth in both the hammer at 105 feet 3 inches and the shot put at 40 feet 8 inches.

The women did a little bit better, however. Heather Carpenter finished fifth in the hammer at 113 feet 6 inches, which was a personal best for her, and fourth in the discus at 112 feet 7 inches. Janice Hallyburton finished seventh in the hammer at 100 feet 11 inches and the shot put at 29 feet 9 inches.

In the men's 4x100 relay, the men again were unable to make a good exchange. The team of Nate Kouroush, Ray Dandeneau, Erick Stanford and Whitney placed seventh with a time of 46.51.

In the distance medley, Kouroush, Dandeneau, Casey Clithero and Ryan Parmenter finished in seventh place with a time of 11:11.72.

The Linn-Benton track and field team will compete in a four-way meet against Chemeketa, SWOCC and Lower Columbia Community College this Saturday in Salem.



Photo by Jeremy Parker

Making the Catch

Saturday's 4-on-4 Flag Football Tournament attracted only four teams, but the action was fast and furious just the same. A team named the Bulldogs took first place, and Alpha Omega came in second. Joe Alinozo and Jim Artoff organized the tournament for Student Life & Leadership. Artoff said that he expected eight teams to compete, but that some must have forgotten or run into conflicts because they signed up "months ago."

OPINION

commentary

Disabled student seeks consideration, respect

by Brock Jacks
of The Commuter

"I have a dream . . ." said one of the greatest orators of the 20th century.

Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream of giving all people in the United States equal access to public services and places.

What a magnificent idea!

I too, have a dream. That dream is much the same as Dr. King—equal access. No, I'm not talking about religious or even racial discrimination, but a far more subtle type of discrimination—the discrimination against the disabled.

This discrimination, which I admit is often done inadvertently, is really more of a problem than it seems. I know this problem intimately as I use a wheelchair myself.

I suppose it would be easiest to explain what I am talking about by giving you, the walking public, an example which you can readily relate to.

What if you went to the supermarket one day and were greeted at the door by armed security guards who asked to see your membership card? Thinking this strange you might question the gentleman as to exactly what he means.

The guard would answer that the store has instituted a new policy whereby only card-carrying members may enter this store. Of course the only way you can get this card is to have it issued to you at birth. You cheer up a bit when you find out that other card-carrying members may bring you in using their card. So, while you may enter the store and shop just like anyone else, you must always rely on a card-carrier to be kind enough to vouch for your entrance.

This is close to the kind of situation that those who use a wheelchair face on a daily basis. We are confronted with steps, narrow doors and other obstacles which we must depend on others to help us get past to reach our destinations. Think about how frustrating this could be.

Imagine having to plan your whole evening of entertainment based on "whether or not the place has steps."

People of all races, religions and social backgrounds have generously helped me with everything from getting into my seat on an airplane to assisting me when my tire went flat on a ramp while I was in my electric wheelchair.

I have no cause to feel slighted or abused—and I don't. I am very thankful for the aid that people give me, whatever its form. I do feel, however, that for those who are even less mobile than myself, I must comment on our campus here at LBCC.

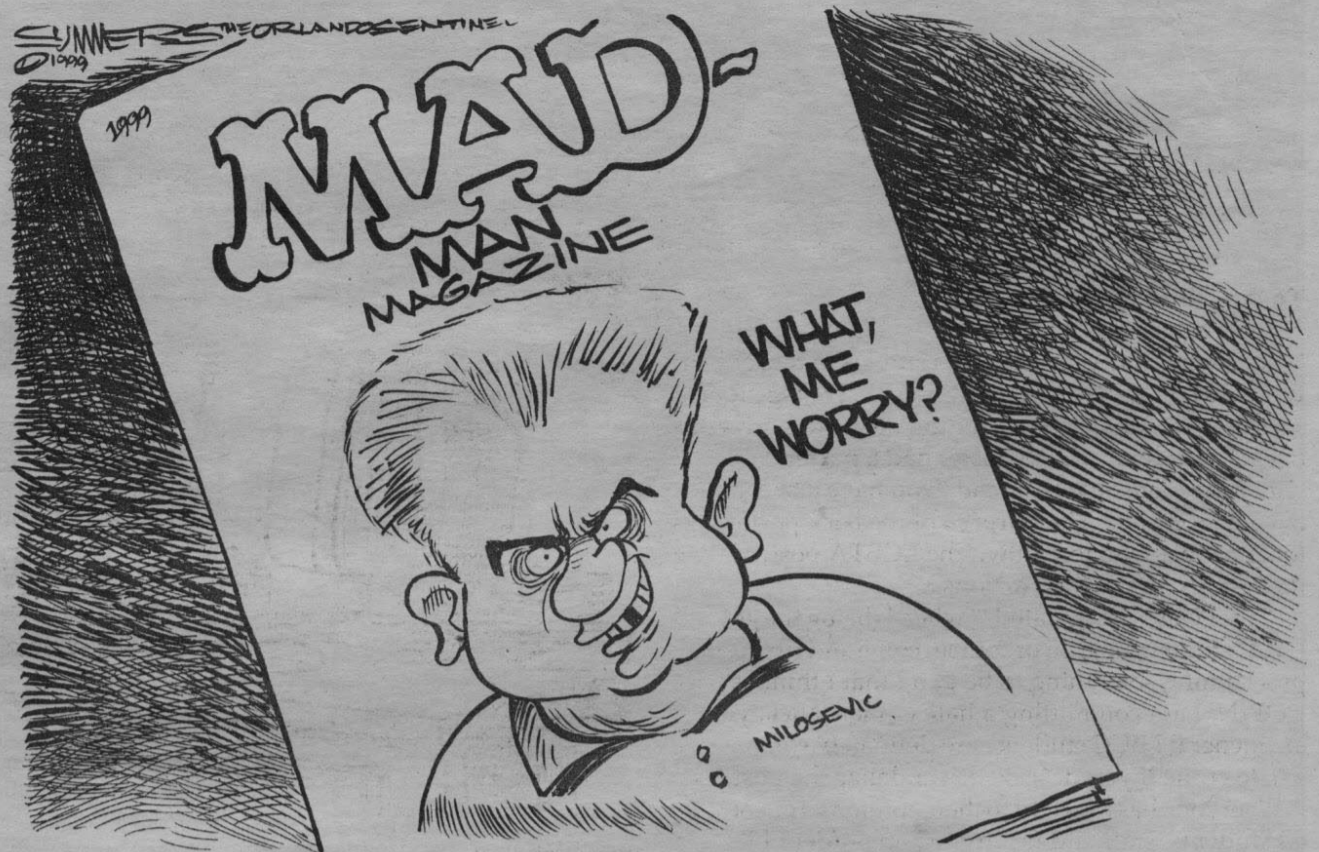
It seems that during the construction of many of our buildings (for example the Industrial Arts building, top floor) no one had the forethought to install electric door openers. Mind you, these are big, heavy glass doors that are nearly impossible to hold open and roll through.

I understand that installing automatic-door openers requires money and doesn't improve the education for everyone, but it still seems that a public college should try to make things as accessible as possible. Even if we are a tiny minority, remember that the elderly and people with armloads of stuff also find these doors helpful.

But by far the most grievous example so far that I have seen on this campus is in the new construction at the College Center. The Student Lounge, Multi-cultural Center and dare I say—The Commuter's office itself were all built with no automatic door openers! I can't see how this could possibly be in 1999 where we supposedly have regulations on equipping things for equal access to the disabled. I could understand this perhaps five years ago, but I can't now.

I'm not calling for any real action here, I think the lack of foresight or consideration (whichever it was) speaks for itself. If there wasn't enough money for automatic doors, so be it. But perhaps I have enlightened you to exactly what a wheelchair user faces during his or her daily activities and maybe now when my generation reaches the decision-making platform we will be able to create a more accessible environment for everyone.

And that is my dream!



commentary

Dangers of second-hand smoke overblown

by E.J. Harris
of The Commuter

As I sit here in front of my computer wondering what in the world I'm going to write about, I am reminded by my body's addiction to nicotine of a letter that Teresa Penninton, LB student, wrote to the paper, which was published April 7 entitled "Former smoker seeks peace and end to 'global whining.'" In her letter Teresa addresses a rather spicy issue, especially in the Corvallis area and here on the LB campus—Smoker's Rights.

Teresa nobly steps forward in her letter and lets the whiny non-smokers have it from the point-of-view of the smoker who has made that leap out of the dragon's mouth into a smoke-free life-style. Good for you Teresa and I mean that with the utmost sincerity. One, for the sole fact that you had the courage and strength to give up the nasty habit (I'm not quite there yet, you know how it is.) Two, that you wrote a well-thought-out letter that tries to illustrate the situation from both sides of this issue—smokers and non-smokers.

If you haven't already picked it up—I'm a smoker. And for all of you non-smokers who think that I'm going to get up on my journalistic 'high horse' and preach about all of the injustices that we smokers must endure for the sake of a healthier America, you're damn right I am, but finish reading the editorial anyway because I have a valid point.

Let's get this straight first: I know that second-hand smoke can be detrimental to the health of others. The surgeon general said that it is. I don't dispute this, but that is only when subjected to second-hand smoke in an enclosed environment for prolonged periods. Second-hand smoke in an open air environment is another matter.

Just for the sake of clarity, I'm one of those smokers who doesn't always smoke in the designated smoking areas on campus. I am sure that this must irritate some of those non-smokers out there who happen to get exposed to my toxic fumes. I know that I'm supposed to, and for a while I did, but like so many others, I found it was too inconvenient and I really don't see the point in it. In all actuality, the whole thing is rather silly.

Second-hand smoke is dangerous, but just because you can smell smoke doesn't mean that you are going to get cancer and die. Did you know that you can smell cigarette smoke from more than three hundred feet away depending on wind and weather conditions? That is the truth.

So really, why do we have these outdoor smoking sections? It leads people to believe that we (us nasty smokers) are killing them (non-smokers) off every time

they catch a hint of our smoke in the air, but that is not the case. It personally leads me to believe that enough people whined about how bad the smoke smells and how much they don't like seeing it. So, even though smokers pay the same money as non-smokers do to attend this school, we don't get all the same benefits. Instead, we get tucked away in these shady enclaves, like we have leprosy or something.

I know that I sound a bit one-sided on this issue, but come on. Just because some people find the smell of smoke unappealing, it is still no reason to segregate people based on public acceptance of their personal habits whatever they may be.

You don't see people making a big stink about farts do you? They can often be one of the most unappealing of odors and yet when someone lets loose a ripe one in class, we don't make them move to the farting section. Why? Because there isn't a farting section, only a smoking section. By the way, isn't methane gas harmful to our health and a contributor to global warming?

If catching a whiff of smoke is harmful, how harmful is it? Is it more damaging to your body than driving in rush hour traffic and breathing in all of the carbon monoxide emitted in automobile exhaust? You can't smell carbon monoxide, so how can you tell if you are breathing it in? You can't. But we all breathe in some every time we ride in a car, bus, train, airplane or ship; it is inevitable and accepted.

The brightest point that I saw Theresa's letter was about the benefits of tolerance and understanding for each other's perspective. If we all were to take a look at what is happening in the world today we would clearly see the negative effects and repercussions of when one group won't tolerate the other's way of life. Indifference grows into intolerance, intolerance grows into anger, then rage and then ultimately into violence. Look at the situation in Kosovo between the ethnic Albanians and Serbs, or between the Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland. They are killing each other solely because they won't tolerate the others religious beliefs. I would like to say that these conflicts are more complex than that, but the sad truth of the matter is that they are not.

For those who might misinterpret my meaning in this article and think that I am comparing non-smokers to Nazis or some other oppressive regime, don't even bother jumping that gun because it is not loaded.

That is not my point at all.

My point is that we all need to think about our world in a holistic sense. We only have this one small planet to live on, and with every passing day it grows forever smaller. Eventually we are going to be rubbing elbows with people whose personal habits might not agree with our own, and it could be over something more controversial than the trivial smoking dilemmas that we focus on.



OPINION PAGE

letters

LB staff member defends hate crime poster warnings

To the Editor:

I have just read Nick Walton's letter to the editor (The Commuter, March 10). His letter is in response to the LBTA, (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Straight Allies) group putting up posters advertising an open house. Each poster had a poster behind it with a message on it that read "you have just committed a hate crime." The purpose of the back poster was to let people who tear down the LBTA poster know the seriousness of their actions.

"That way," Nick stated, "when I (being the general LBCC student, not ME of course) come and rip posters, proclaiming something to be good that I think is bad, DOWN, I am committing a hate crime." Nick, you or any general LBCC students are definitely committing a hate crime if you destroy or vandalize the posters.

Everyone has the right to their opinions. I encourage all students, staff and faculty to join Student Life and Leadership, start groups which interest them and put up posters announcing the groups. Nick, you can disagree with whatever group you wish and start all of the "White Supremacy Networks," the "Heterosexual Hour" with Nick Walton or "Male Talk" shows you wish. However Nick, do not infringe upon other people's rights to be involved in and advertise the groups they are interested in.

In his letter, Nick stated, "And I for one am HIGHLY offended at the posters. Telling me, someone who thinks that homosexuality is WRONG, but I'm STILL keeping my trap shut, that I'm committing a hate crime." Again Nick, the only time "You Have Committed a Hate Crime" posters appear is when the LBTA posters are torn down. The LBTA posters were announcing that there was an LBTA group and that there was an open house, nothing else. Nick, you have not committed a hate crime for thinking the LBTA group is wrong, although I disagree with you; however if you (being the general LBCC student) tear down, destroy or vandalize the posters you have committed a hate crime.

Nick concluded by saying that "To those who are ripping: Knock it off, you're stirring up a bee's nest and I'M GETTING STUNG, and for those who are PUTTING UP: please do what you feel is RIGHT, but I would ask, as a personal favor, stop telling me what I'm doing WRONG." Nick, I agree; no one should tear down any posters, whether they disagree with the posters or not. Otherwise, the LBTA group will never stop telling people that destroying or vandalizing posters is wrong, because it is wrong!

Shaun Marks
LBCC Staff

Student responds to letter on faith, evidence of God

To the Editor:

In the Feb. 10 edition of The Commuter a letter ran under the title 'Student inspired to defend Jesus Christ and truth.' Its author, Luke Bjornstadt, makes out to set the record straight as to the question of Jesus Christ being the son of God, and to "re-establish" the truth of Jesus Christ as such. While acknowledging the emotionally charged nature of this issue, it is my hope to contribute a differing view for the sake of balance of content and diversity of ideas in the school newspaper.

It is the tone of Bjornstadt's letter that first strikes me. He asserts as ultimate truth something without ever saying why or on what basis he makes his assertion. What he is essentially saying is, "Because I say so, it is so." For the critical-minded, however, this simply won't do.

"In a worldly sense, there is no proof of God or his son," Bjornstadt writes. "It all comes down to faith." That it does, and for Bjornstadt and those who share his views, it isn't such a bad prospect. But for many people, reliance on hearsay or faith alone is not enough. "Because I say so" just doesn't stand to reason, and falls far short of convincing. In most cases a certain standard of acceptability must be met before something can be regarded as true; for example, evidence that is both



quantitative and verifiable. Belief is cheap. Anyone can believe in anything, no matter how weirdly or bizarre, and one needn't look far for examples. Regardless of how badly a person would like something to be true, no amount of conviction, earnestness or self-convincing is ever going to make it true. This is an important distinction. I may hold firm in my belief that I'm Napoleon Bonaparte and that the world is flat or at the center of the universe, but until I can come up with something to show for it, it's just that—a belief. There is no substitute for solid, credible evidence when advancing a claim; it is ultimately what separates belief from established fact, myth from reality, and determines what can be regarded as valid, reliable and useful.

Bjornstadt goes on to ask "Why hasn't one great man throughout history explained every question of time, physics and the universe?" Here he has a point. Granted one man alone hasn't explained so much. Several men and women are currently working in the various fields of science, and have been working collectively for some time now, to answer many of the questions that are as yet unanswerable. And many questions have already been answered. It's called the "God of gaps" concept, where the gaps, or unexplained phenomena and mysteries, are growing continually smaller and smaller.

I don't find it "egotistical," as does Bjornstadt, for humankind to question "God's plan." For if we depended on such a plan to be revealed to us, we would still be weltering in the fear, ignorance and superstition of the Dark Ages. Moreover, humankind has every right to question: it's in its very nature to do so, conscious and rational as humankind is—or has the potential to be. And besides, according to the Bible, which Bjornstadt refers frequently to, God grants everyone free will. I assume this includes the right to question as well.

To accept as true something on faith alone requires a leap not everyone can take. That at least some modicum of substantive evidence should be presented doesn't seem too much to ask before signing onto an ideology as otherworldly as Bjornstadt speaks so vehemently and assuredly of. Allow me the indulgence of a

quote in closing.

"The majority of men have not yet acquired the maturity to be independent, to be rational, to be objective. They need myths and idols to endure the fact that man is all by himself, that there is no authority which gives meaning to life except man himself."

—Erich Fromm (1941)

Escape From Freedom, (p. xiv)

A. Alexander

LGBTQA club takes steps to ensure freedom of expression

To the Editor:

Recently, a letter to the editor in The Commuter (March 10) complained about hate crime posters on campus. The LBTA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Allies) alliance is an officially sanctioned campus club at LBCC. The club holds weekly meetings and recently sponsored two open houses. The club, with permission from Student Life and Leadership, puts up posters on campus announcing events. In the past we have had a problem with LBTA posters being ripped down or destroyed. Therefore, a message behind each poster now states, "You have just committed a hate crime." This way people tearing down posters realize the seriousness of their actions which prevent our freedom of expression.

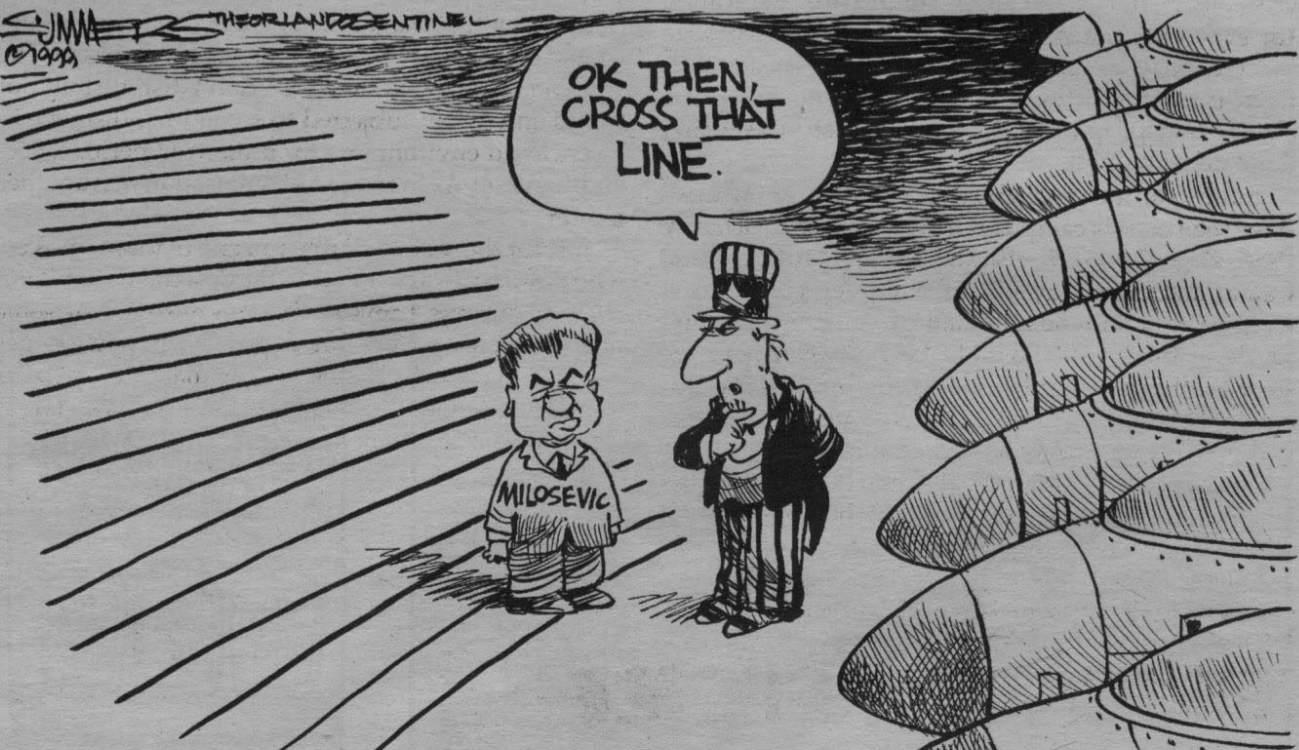
The members of the LBTA club want to make it clear why we put up the posters announcing the group's activities with the hate crime messages behind them. We ask all LBCC students and staff to respect our group and not tear down or destroy any of our posters. If you have any questions about the LBTA club or the posters, please call us at 917-4660.

Shaun Marks, LBTA advisor

Jane White, LBCC Staff

Dael Dixon, LBCC Counselor

(Also signed by several student members, staff and supporters of the LBTA club.)



LOONEY LANE

Emily Bellamy

©1999 by Adrian Wallace

Legend has it Saint Patrick charmed the snakes of Ireland into the sea to drown. This, of course, made for many an irate swimmer...

Adam 99

©1999 ADAM "SNAKE AND BAKE" GREEN

THE BLUE M&M

I HAVE NO NUTRITIONAL VALUE! I'LL JUST ROT YOUR TEETH OUT... **SOB** I'D ADVISE YOU TO EAT SOME FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, BUT THEY'RE ALL COVERED IN PESTICIDES! **SNIFFLE**

Adam 99

©1999 ADAM "CANDYMAN! CANDYMAN! GREEN"

The Einstiens by Matt Tedisch

©1999 Matt Tedisch

ACROSS

- Major US river
- Dispense liquids
- Standing tall
- Phobos or Phoebe, e.g.
- Eight bits
- More indulgent
- Eit
- Narrow cut
- Sufficient
- Sir ___ Newton
- Short negligee
- Being an omen
- School org.
- Caesar's eggs
- 1997 20-game winner Denny
- Humble
- Lacking vitality
- Shadow
- Sundance
- Festival state
- Actress Davis
- German river
- Actress Garr
- Indians and Chinese, e.g.
- Trajectory
- Handyman's assignment
- Kiddie seat
- Pre-college exam
- Equivocal
- Acquires with special effort
- Eatery
- Seaside golf course
- Crack shots
- Challenge
- Host
- Deep affection
- Wicked
- "Mr. ___ Goes to Town"
- Mishmash dish
- Refuse to believe

DOWN

- Hawks' former arena
- Gardener's tools
- Corn-belt state
- Waiting in the wings
- Network of "Nature"
- Popeye's Olive
- New York city
- Mark sale items
- "Taxi" cabbie
- Canterbury's neighbor
- Montreal ballplayer
- Prison room
- Family or shoe follower?
- Harvest
- Island of the Philippines
- Zsa Zsa's sister
- Merchant's figures
- Ninth planet
- Lugged
- Oscar, e.g.
- Celebratory events
- Zodiac scales
- Vote in
- Floral loop
- Total
- Seized control of
- a vehicle
- Potato
- Burdens
- Repasts
- English racecourse
- Faceted
- Begged
- Hoarfrost
- In the past
- Church area
- Poet's Ireland
- Depend
- 12/24 or 12/31
- Put in stitches

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The K CHRONICLES BY KEITH KNIGHT

SO A FEW OF MY FRIENDS HAVE BEEN TAKING THIS STUFF CALLED ST. JOHN'S WORT...

THEY SAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A NATURAL ALTERNATIVE TO PROZAC... IT HELPS KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP...

WELL... I'VE GOT JUST A TINY BIT OF ADVICE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MARKET THIS PRODUCT:

CHANGE THE NAME.

I DON'T CARE IF IT IS SPELLED DIFFERENTLY... "W-O-R-T" STILL SOUNDS LIKE "WART"...

WHEN I HEAR THE NAME I THINK OF SOME OLD BIBLE GUY SQUEEZING THE PUS OUT OF HIS BLESSED BUMPS INTO JARS GOING BY ON CONVEYOR BELTS...

HEY.. WHY STOP AT "WORT"? THERE COULD BE A WHOLE BUNCH OF ST. JOHN STUFF WITH REVOLTING NAMES...

(just a suggestion)

SOUNDS LIKE ST. JOHN'S WORT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS ANOTHER POORLY NAMED PRODUCT DESTINED FOR FAILURE...

ALONGSIDE THE TOYOTA VANIT & THE FASHION MAGAZINE "HITLER" STOP

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