

The Commuter

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Powwow brings spirit to LB

Lydia Elliott
The Commuter

The rhythmic beat of the drums are heard before they are seen. Entering the Activities Center Saturday afternoon their heavy beat can work its way up my feet and through my body. At the source of this sound men sat in a circle, harmonizing their voices with the ethnic chants and songs of the Native American people. It is to this heavy beat the men, women, and children dance in a circle on the floor. Their feet stomp the ground in unison with the drums, their heads shake, and with feather, bell, and ribbon on their regalia they move as if in its own dance.

The spirituality and importance of the dances and songs are evident in the faces of the participants. For them, the powwow is about community, celebration, and healing. David George, Native American radio host and participant, said about the powwow, "We are all related to one another. Within the circle, everyone is equal. Everyone comes to the circle with medicine."

When asked about the importance of the drums as instruments George answered, "Drums are the heartbeat of our mother."

Featured at this powwow, the fourth to be held at LBCC, was an honor dance for war veterans. Holding the flags of their military branch, the veteran's made their way around the center to cheering, applause, and a well

deserved standing ovation. As members of the military who have served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and more, they were given a place of honor at the event.

Other events at the powwow were hand drum contests, singing, dance competitions, a flute recital, children's activities, and drawings.

As messengers to the community, the gratefulness, humility, and strength the Native American people bring to their celebrations is something everyone can participate in and learn from. For John and Maggie Eley, the Native American style flutes they produce belie their Irish heritage, but that doesn't take away from the incredible craftsmanship and skill these two have. According to Maggie, it is not about your skin color or heritage, but the spirit within you.

As their friend Kiamishi Isham, a native of the Choctaw tribe from Oklahoma put it, "These two really have the spirit of the Native American people within them."

This event was not only for members of the Native American community. As a public event, everyone was welcome to attend, participate, try out the specialty fry bread, browse hand crafted Native American wares, and enjoy a day of culture, celebration, and friendship.

T-shirts are still available from Saturday's event for \$20. Proceeds will go the Native American Student Union. For more information, please contact Michele Wilson at (541) 917-4835.



photo by Lydia Elliott

Traditional dancer Kiowa Dougherty performs a sacred dance at Saturday's powwow.

Market boosts farming folk

Monique Cohen
The Commuter

Despite the blustery cold weather and occasional hailstorm, many people braved the elements to be at the opening weekend of the Corvallis Saturday Farmers' Market on April 19.

"This is the first time I've presided over an April market where it has snowed!" said market director Rebecca Landis. The chilly weather caused several vendors to cancel so they could tend to their crops.

Saturdays from mid-April through November, First Street in Corvallis overflows with organic fresh vegetables, fruits and other local farm products. Farmers from around the Willamette Valley sell organically grown produce. Baked goods, eggs, cheese and meat also are for sale.

Corvallis resident Katrina Meyers has attended the market for about 15 years.

"I like buying directly from the farmers and eating organically," Meyers said, while she stocked up on fresh produce from Gathering Together Farm.

Farm owners John Eveland and his wife Sally Brewer have grown fruit and vegetables there for 21 years. They were one of 25 vendors at the

market. It is a certified organic farm on about 50 acres of land in Philomath.

Under the watchful eye of Sam the farm dog, preparation for the market at Gathering Together Farm starts on Wednesday. Prepping onions and garlic and washing potatoes takes most of the day. Produce picking happens on Thursday and Friday for the weekend markets. In addition to Corvallis, they sell produce at several Portland-area markets and in Newport.

Although higher prices for organic food may dissuade some buyers, many people appreciate all that goes into supplying the fresh, flavorful, local, pesticide-free produce. Gathering Together Farm employs about 45 to 60 people depending on the season.

"I have a real commitment to make sure that everyone on our farm earns a living wage," Eveland said.

The use of an unheated greenhouse allows them to plant some vegetables during the winter months so they will be ready to harvest in the spring. In season right now are spring turnips, ruby red rhubarb, leeks, kale raab and arugula.

Low-income food recipients can now use their Oregon Trail cards at the farmers' market to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. The \$1 tokens



photo by Larry Coonrod

Gathering Together Farm grows organic produce for local farmers' markets and restaurants.

► Turn to "Farmers Market" on Pg.4

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter
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 Please sign and keep to 300 words or less

Consumers carnaged by capitalism

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

The line sprawls outward with geeks. A heavily dedicated clique of people who have been waiting in line sometimes for days, sometimes only a few hours. The first instances of this activity I really became aware of were the people that started waiting in line for the "Star Wars" remakes (IV-VI). People who just seemed to love "Star Wars" so much they were willing to sacrifice their lives to do it. It got worse with the prequels, despite everyone's disappointment, they all waited again and again and again. And after this, it sort of became the norm.

Then, it started happening to gaming. At first it was a few select games, "Final Fantasies," "MMORPG" expansions, but it really hit its crux when "Halo 2" ascended to its throne. Anymore, these days, it seems like every game or movie that comes out has a midnight launch, or at least tries to. I've seen some lines with less than 10 people in them, maybe they just have nothing better to do. And other lines for over hyped games with a myriad of disappointed players only a few hours afterward.

It's become a startling trend to me, and even more so the reasons why. It seems it's a status symbol to wait in line, as much as it is a social event. Often, these people will hold it over your head, that they got into the show before you, or they got the game an hour before you did. As if somehow that makes them a better human being or a bigger fan.

More so than all this, though, it's changed the way many people intake these goods. Somewhere along the line, the people that make the big money, realized, that they could corral and control us as consumers. They could choose when and where and even how (pre-ordering) you purchased your games if you wanted to be cool. Much like record companies sell fads along with their CDs, video game and moviemakers have realized they can do something not wholly different. They've

convinced a great number of people, almost like a cult, that they need to be there and have the item in their hands (or to see it) at midnight. So much so that people are willing to wait outside the store before it closes, and wait for it to re-open at midnight whether it's cold, rainy, or blisteringly hot. It's become as talked about as your average gala, with the majority of it comprised entirely of boasting about that last time you waited in line you got the game first and were playing it 10 minutes before the person behind you.

I know a great many people who got "Grand Theft Auto IV" this week after waiting in line. I know people who are going to wait to see "Iron Man" this Friday. I've even been victim to it, myself, waiting in line outside Fry's at 4 a.m. on Black Friday in the freezing November rain in nothing but a T-shirt and Kevlar helmet (gotta keep your head warm).

My only question is, what is wrong with all of us? What is wrong with this consumerist culture? There was a time when consumers had the power, when capitalism worked in their favor. There was a time when it didn't matter when you had something or saw a movie, as long as you had or did it. You could partake in something at your leisure, on your own terms, and still be cool. Those were the good ol' days, I guess, before we gave them all that power. They own us now, like communistic overlords, and we want our fix, we need our fix, we have to have it as soon as possible. Life is no longer in your hands, the leash is held by some fat cat in an office in southern California.

My message to you all is: Don't buy into it. Don't let them take your purchasing power. Don't let them control how you buy, don't become another trend whore.

I suppose it doesn't hurt that we wait so long in-between releases of quality content, but it seems anymore these days, even the basest crap is considered "quality content." As much as I love gaming, and as much as I love "Star Wars," I'm not going to let them control my life. Don't be slaves to the G-Man, man! Vendui.

New 'GTA' game- Same old questions

Will Parker
 The Commuter

After a morning of car-jacking, armed assault, and general mayhem, nothing was more rewarding than sauntering into the nearest fast food joint and getting a burger.

And then blowing the whole place up.

To be fair, all of those activities occurred on my Xbox while I was playing the latest and greatest to hit the consoles.

"Grand Theft Auto IV," the latest entry in the nine game series, went on sale at midnight on Tuesday morning. The idea of starting to sell something at midnight is nothing new, but for video games, the activity is increasingly common.

I stood in line behind about 30 people for the better part of three hours at the Corvallis GameCrazy while at least a hundred people stood behind me. But for some that were there, the midnight release was routine. People had brought folding chairs, food, and one guy even brought a half dozen energy drinks; All of us waiting for one of the hundreds of copies of the game that had been shipped there.

When I got mine, I drove home right away and started playing. I stopped at 7 a.m.

The series has always had a tremendous amount of violence: you got tons of bonus points if you could run down an entire line of Tibetan monks in the second game. The latest games have also been adding an increasing amount of sexual content. The last major release in the series, "GTA: San Andreas," had huge controversy over its sexual coffee due to a downloaded program called, "Hot Coffee" which added graphic sex scenes. Pundits across the country lambasted the game for making such content available to young, impressionable kids. Of course, the games have all been rated M for mature and restricted to selling to only those 17 and over, but that hasn't stopped the series from being the most popular series among 12 to 14 year olds.

But is a game that features strippers, the mafia, drugs, terrorists and the ability to gun them down the latest danger to young, impressionable teens? Will there be waves of violence?

In their new book, "Grand Theft Childhood" Drs. Lawrence Kutner and Cheryl Olson say that the games don't

cause the manic outrages of violence and gore that have so often been attributed to them. Kutner and Olson note that "violent juvenile crime in the United States reached a peak in 1993 and has been declining ever since."

So if "GTA IV" isn't cause for concern, what is?

The "choking game."

The game goes by some other names too: "Airplaning," "America Dream Game," "Black Out Game," "Breath Play," "Breathing the Zoo," "Bum Rushing," "California Blackout," "California Choke," "Catching Some Zs," "Cloud Nine," "Crank," "Dream Game," "Dying Game," "Fainting Game," "Fall Out Game," "Flat Liner," "Funky Chicken," "Getting Passed Out," "Grandma's Boy," "Halloween," "High Riser," "Hoola Hooping," "Indian Head-rush," "Knockout Game," "Passing Out Game," "Purple Dragon," "Natural High," "Neckies," "Redline," "Rising Sun," "Rocket Ride," "Sandboxing," "Sleeper Hold," "Space Monkey," "Speed Dreaming," "Suffocation Roulette," "Tingling Game," "Trip to Heaven," and "Wall-hit."

Or as I like to call it: The "trying to kill yourself and hoping you don't" game.

The premise is simple: Someone chokes someone else until they pass out or convulse into a seizure. The results are oxygen deprivation and sometimes death.

I know there will be a huge media circus over "GTA IV," but I also think we need to keep our priorities straight. If kids are killing themselves to get high without using drugs, shouldn't we be more worried about that than, well, just about everything else they do?

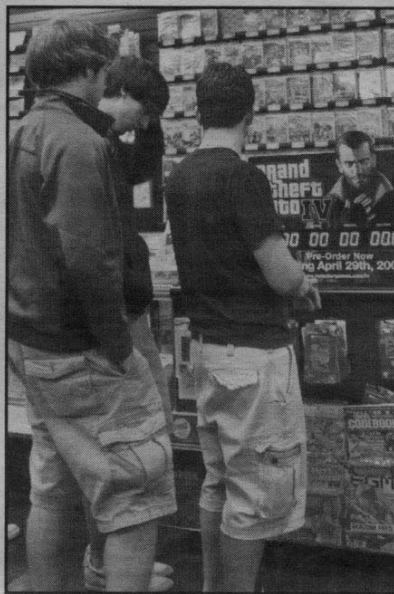


photo by Will Parker

Gamers wait for the midnight release of GTA IV at GameCrazy in Corvallis.

PERSPECTIVES

Q: If you were lit on fire and could only douse the flames with one flavor of gelatin or pudding what would it be?



"Tapioca. Hopefully it will caramelize and taste better."

• Justin Hussey •
 Physics

"Chocolate pudding."



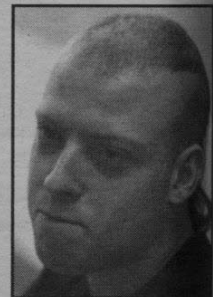
• Jesse Kayne •
 Physics



"Chocolate pudding."

• Lindsay Begin •
 Nursing

"Lemon gelatin.
 It's tasty!"



• Sterling Hunter •
 Music



"Chocolate pudding."

• Czarina Hunter •
 Spanish

"Lemon gelatin."



• Angela Ritt •
 Photography

Compiled by MaryAnne Turner
 and Elliott Duke

CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College campus events.

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Kids skip school for a day to learn at LBCC

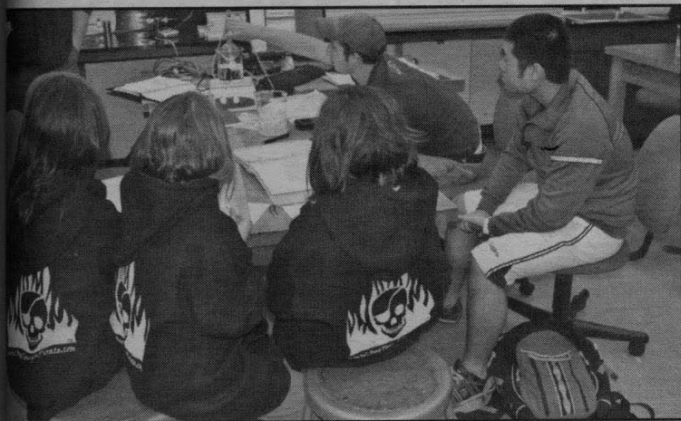


photo by Colin Walsh

Children join their parents for a day at Linn-Benton Community College.

By Anna Conrad
 The Commuter

Students of LBCC turned into teachers last Thursday when a group of kids entered their physics classroom. Together, the kids and the students conducted various experiments that everyone could take part in. Some of the kids got to record the data, some were in charge of the measurements, and some were able to reduce the pressure that their fingers produced.

Who knew that skipping school could be so educational? On Thursday, April 24, 21 kids took a day off from school and came to LBCC's Take your parents and daughters to work

day. It was sponsored by LBCC's non-traditional careers program and lead by Valerie Zeigler, Outreach and Retention Specialist for Non-Traditional Careers. It was an opportunity for staff to show their children what kinds of careers are offered at LB. The event began at 11 a.m. and went until 1 p.m., when it ended with pizza for lunch.

The event was a success among the parents and their children, and also the students. Daniel Paeth, a physics student who took part in the experiment, commented on the day saying that it was really rewarding. And they were collecting data for our experiment, so it works out for the both of us.

Other highlights of the day were visiting the printing services building and the Periwinkle Child Development Center. At printing services, the group of kids listened to Connie Shaffer talk about her 28-year long career as a bindery specialist, and learned about the different kinds of machines are used in the business. They also got to take pictures on the iMac computer, which were later turned into personalized notebooks, a souvenir from the day.

When the group arrived at the Periwinkle Child Development Center, they were greeted with a class full of screaming kindergartners. Many of the kids on the tour went to the Child Center for pre-school and kindergarten, so they reminisced about their days there. One of the younger children in the group said they remember learning about friendship, putting things in cubbies, and sharing.

The end of the tour ended with the kids and their parents coming together again for lunch and talked about what everyone learned. Parents learned a lot about their kids. Shelle Pokorney, a faculty member here at LB, learned that her second grade daughter, Taylor, is really

into science after taking part in the physics experiment. "I think this event is really important," she said. "Science was really her thing today, and I may not have found that out."

Sandy Heath, who works at the Learning and Career Center at the Benton Center in Corvallis, commented on the day, saying "I think it's very important on two levels. It is a chance for younger kids to see the college experience in a fun way, and see the many choices there are out there for careers." Sandy's daughter, Erica, will be a freshman in high school

next fall. She was scared before, she said. But now, after visiting LB and seeing what an open-minded place it is, she is not.

For most of the kids, it was a fun day to spend out of school. However, when asked about skipping school, most of them expressed a want to go back and a genuine love for it. Shelle Pokorney gave her daughter Taylor a choice to either stay with her or go back to school. Taylor replied saying that she had to go back because that day was library day. Her mom was very happy to hear that.



photo by Jacob Breitmeier

Poet Ingrid Wendt was one of the featured guests at the Valley Writers Series on campus earlier this month.

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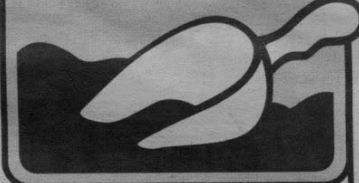
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Commons

APRIL 30TH - MAY 6TH

Wednesday:

ENTREES: Meatloaf and Mushroom Gravy and English Fish & Chips
 VEGETARIAN: Vegetarian Chili w/ Cornbread
 SOUPS: Dilled Potato Chowder and Chicken & Wild Rice

Thursday:

ENTREES: Pork Piccata and Coq au Vin
 VEGETARIAN: Tempeh Echiladas
 SOUPS: Potage de Boeuf

Friday:

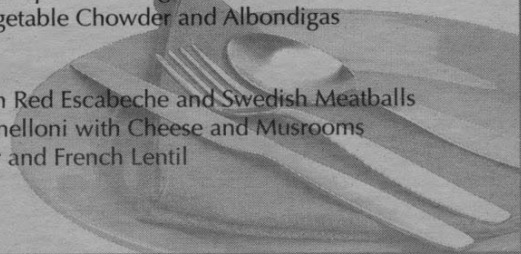
Chef's Choice

Monday:

ENTREES: Turkey Cutlet w/ Brown Butter Sauce and Texas Chili
 VEGETARIAN: White Spinach Lasagna
 SOUPS: Roasted Vegetable Chowder and Albondigas

Tuesday:

ENTREES: Shrimp in Red Escabeche and Swedish Meatballs
 VEGETARIAN: Cannelloni with Cheese and Mushrooms
 SOUPS: Egg Flower and French Lentil



A&E Editor: Aaron Broich
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Nearly Normals' vegetarian menu pleases palates

Tyler Dahlgren
 The Commuter

Twenty-nine years ago five people decided to turn a small café into an all natural, earthy, restaurant.

In 1984, five years after opening, the owners and friends decided it was time to take down everything but the front wall of the restaurant, making it seem like just another semi-crumbling college house. The remodel gave the then-tiny café a restaurant appeal with the addition of a larger kitchen, more seating, an upstairs, and an outdoor dining area.

Famous for its "gonzo cuisine," defined as using fresh ingredients (organic when available) and crazy recipes established from improvisation, Nearly Normals offers a unique vegetarian menu, including their most popular "Nearly Nasty Burrito."

Located on Northwest 15th Street in Corvallis, just behind the Circle K on Monroe Avenue, the restaurant offers surprising seclusion and a "nearly normal" seating arrangement.

Whether you are looking to sit upstairs in the earthy, pastel-colored dining area, downstairs (though a bit crammed) with spotty seating, or outside amongst apple trees, kiwi vines, fuchsia plants and rose bushes, there's seating for everyone.

Entering the restaurant I was a bit skeptical about the type of dining experience I would have. Met by the front counter upon entering, I grabbed a menu, glancing above the stack at a sign reading, "Please order before seating yourself."

While waiting for a rustic, hippie-looking couple to place their order, I took in the foreign atmosphere, absorbing what my senses took in, all working in perfect unison to conclude whether I would be returning for a second visit. I scanned the menu once again, reading the entrées listed below the categories soups and salads, burgers, gonzo cuisine, nearly Mexican, and breakfast. I took the quick route, asking the young college student working the counter:

"What do you recommend?"

"I would recommend the Nearly Nasty, it's really good," she said with enthusiasm.

I placed my order, relieved that they removed the green peppers, scallions, and salsa with smooth compliance, leaving my favorite bean, cheese, tomatoes, enchilada sauce, sour cream and lettuce toppings to be enjoyed in a flour tortilla. All products on my entrée like a majority of the products in the restaurant are local. Climbing up the stairs I found cozy, loft-type seating available and quickly sat down.

The lightly oaked room was filled with customers, all of whom I guessed were over the age of 30. Despite the large crowd, the chatter remained at a dull roar. Very peaceful.

Ten minutes passed as I waited for my dinner. The large parties that surrounded me, and were there before I arrived, began to get their food.

I received my dinner in fashionable time, staring at the massive burrito that lay before me with anticipation. Finishing my adult beverage from their fine collection of local beers, I found it difficult to order



photo by Will Pa...

Nearly Normals is an organic vegetarian restaurant in Corvallis near 15th and Monroe.

another, remembering that you have to travel to the front counter to purchase any type of beverage. The only flaw had been exposed. Nonetheless I traveled back down the stairs, placed a quick drink order and heading back up to enjoy the greatest burrito of my life.

Trusting my senses, I knew I'd be back for another visit.

Nearly Normals
 109 N.W. 15th St. Corvallis
 (541) 753-0791
 www.nearlynormals.com

from pg. 1 Farmers' market: organic produce

can be purchased at the farmers' market information booth.

Landis is looking for college students to help promote the program at the Albany market. The position is through AmeriCorps Students in Service and an education benefit is available.

New this year to Corvallis is

the Artisan's Market, situated next to the farmers' market.

Pine needle baskets, pottery and jewelry are among the items for sale. They also feature live music and performances.

The Saturday Corvallis Farmers' Market has been going strong since 1991. The

Wednesday market at the fairgrounds started in 1981. This year marks the 30th anniversary for the Albany Farmers' Market.

The Corvallis Farmers' Market runs every Saturday until Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Poetry Corner

Love rode thousands of miles
 And took many years
 To climb inside my window
 And surprise both of us
 The pleasure of that sleepy shock
 Will last many, many decades
 Because she is always still doing it
 And I am always still pleased
 I am not saying that patience is virtuous
 Love like anybody else, comes to those who
 Wait actively
 And leave their windows open

The necessity of poetry has to be stated over and over, but only to those who have reason to fear it, power, or those who still believe that language is "only words" and that an old language is good enough for our descriptions of the world we are trying to transform. Poetry is the power of our ultimate relationship to everything in the universe. There are poems, which, as we write them, we know are going to change the ways in which it is possible for us to see and act. A poet attempts to write about their experience with life, to fathom how she can order its chaos and ride out its storms. For the lesbian poet it means rejecting the entire convention of love-poetry and undertaking to create a new tradition, to ask questions that never occurred to Yeats, Whitman, Cummings or Frost. Language is the key.

Selina Van Laecken

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. For more information, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center in Takema Hall. (541) 917-4788

Education, Travel & Culture, a HS non-profit exchange student organization, needs Community Coordinators to contact public high schools and place students in quality homes. Stipends and travel opportunity available. If you enjoy people and detailed work, please visit www.edutrav.org and e-mail ssmith@edutrav.org for more info.

Misc. Info.

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College campus events.

Profile: Lee Homan

Student pitches green message and practices

By Dana Trulove
The Commuter

Flight operations safety, journalism and retail sales: Lee Homan has done a little bit of everything.

As a child, she made a list of all the things that she wanted to do in her life. Through her education and her different positions, she's accomplished just about all of them.

She earned her bachelor's degree in English from North Dakota. She attended Embry-Riddle University at Daytona Beach to get her flight operations safety degree.

Here at LBCC, Homan, an Albany resident, is a part-time student working toward her associate degree in business administration. While studying for her degree, she is working as the student manager of the Hot Shot Coffee House on campus. Homan is implementing "green" practices that she hopes will help the campus and as well as the community.

Mitch Bergland works part time in

the Coffee House and had previously been the manager. Due to the course load of his major he stepped down because of time constraints. Bergland feels that Homan's changes have had a positive effect. "It's better than what we did before, which was just recycling glass," Bergland said.

The Coffee House is now serving low-fat and non-fat milk and sugar-free syrups, as well as recycling containers, such as milk. Coffee grounds are saved and taken to the compost pile, which is located behind the barn on LBCC main campus. Compost is used in the campus garden, which then turns around and supplies the Courtyard Café and the Commons with fresh vegetables.

This is all a part of Homan's desire to be more environmentally conscious. "It's important for everyone to do their part. Everyone can do it," Homan said.

A part-time student and manager of the student-run Coffee House, Homan also helps take care of her mother with her older sister. In addition to all of her obligations, Homan has a disease that causes her discs to degenerate. This disease causes the discs in her back to compress against the spinal column. As she describes it, "The jelly between your



photo by Lydia Elliott

Lee Homan, an LBCC student, adds coffee grounds to the Albany campus community garden compost heap. The coffee grounds help decomposition by adding nitrogen.

discs goes from an inch to nothing."

She has had two surgeries to repair the discs in her back. The purpose of the surgeries was to "trim the jelly away from the nerves." Trimming the "jelly" away reduces the pressure against the spinal column, which causes intense pain.

Other options that are available to help improve her condition include physical therapy, cortizone shots and various medications. She also has fibromyalgia, which causes pain in the

muscles, ligaments and tendons. "There is pain all the time, no stop."

The pain hasn't stopped her from achieving her goals, however.

Eventually, she would like to get into employee training or human resources. "Hopefully, a good-paying job," Homan said.

Her passions spill into all aspects of her life. Thinking globally at work and school, Homan hopes to leave a lasting mark.

"Democracy in America 2008" Upcoming Events

The "Democracy in America" organization is hosting a couple of events. First this Saturday, May 3 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Big Forum, democratic candidates for the U.S. Senate Debate-Jeff Merkley, Candy Neville, Steve Novick, and David Loera will be on campus to speak.

Thursday, May 15 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room the Democratic party of Linn County is hosting a forum on media and politics, with LBCC professor Rob Priewe, OSU professor Rob Sahr, and Hasso Hering, editor of the Albany Democrat-Herald. After short opening remarks, each panelist will take questions from the audience. The forum will explore the way print, television, and Internet media have portrayed political events locally, at the state level, and in the national presidential primaries.

For more information, contact Dr. Robert Harrison at (541) 917-4571, or in his office at SSH 203.



photo by Will Parker

Traffic was slowed Tuesday morning on Pacific Boulevard in front of LBCC. No one was injured in the two-car collision.

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COUNTRY Insurance and Financial Services, a national company in business since 1925, is expanding in the Mid-Willamette Valley! We have 2 openings for Insurance and Financial Agents. No experience is necessary but we are looking for people with a history of success in school and a steady work history. Although a college degree is preferred it is not always required. Successful candidates have come from a variety of backgrounds: sales, customer service, banking, insurance, brokers, accounting, management, engineering and investing.

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Pots showcased at Benton Center

Pete Sherwood
The Commuter

LBCC is commemorating thirty years of molding, firing, and glazing by holding a month long "Half a Million Pots Ceramics Celebration," at the Benton Center and The Arts Center in Corvallis.

Local potters involved with LBCC will display their art for the public April 23 through May 20. The exhibits will feature work from the original studio coordinator, Gene Tobey, current studio instructor, Jay Widmer, and nationally renowned former LBCC students Cynthia Spencer and Cheryl Crownover.

"Both have pots featured in the museum exhibits throughout the country, and make a comfortable living selling pottery wholesale," said Widmer. "LBCC and the Benton Center have a history of developing and nurturing potters," he added.

An artist's reception will be held on Thursday, May 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Arts Center, 700 SW Madison in Corvallis. Following the reception, on May 2, Widmer, Spencer and Crownover host a panel discus-

sion at the Benton Center, 757 Polk Ave in Corvallis, Room 204. Students interested in developing a career out of pottery, the Oregon Potters Association, the American Craft Council, or the life of studio potters should attend and not hesitate to ask questions, according to Widmer.

On Saturday, May 3, join Crownover in the studio as she hosts a free workshop and potluck from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Benton Center's ceramics studio. Crownover will demonstrate the art of hand building at this interactive workshop and offer advice to beginner potters. For registration information, and potluck dish ideas contact the Benton Center at (541) 757-8944 or sign up at the registration desk.

Additional exhibits will be held May 1 through 31 at LBCC's North Santiam Hall Gallery in Albany; Oregon State University Memorial Union Concourse Gallery, 26th and Jefferson Way, Corvallis; Footwise, 301 Madison Ave., Corvallis; The Book Bin, 215 SW Fourth St., Corvallis; and the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 N.W. Monroe.

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Commuter
 College campus events

Campus Shorts

Benton Center hosts ceramics panel discussion and workshop

LBCC ceramics instructors Jay Widmer, Cynthia Spencer and artist Cheryl Crownover will host a panel discussion on ceramics on Friday, May 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at LBCC's Benton Center, room 204.

On Saturday, May 3, join Crownover for a free workshop on the art of handbuilding from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at LBCC's Benton Center Ceramics Studio. Learn handbuilding pottery techniques in this interactive one-day workshop. Crownover, a former LBCC ceramics student, currently resides in Sante Fe, New Mexico.

Both events are free and open to the public as part of the month long celebration Half a Million Pots hosted by the Benton Center and The Arts Center in Corvallis. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact LBCC's Benton Center at 757-8944 or drop by the registration desk at the center.

Math Awareness Week

The annual Math Awareness Week at LBCC will be held May 5 through May 9 in the LBCC courtyard, and on Wednesday, May 7 at the Benton Center in Corvallis.

This year's theme is "Math in Motion." Games and activities relating to the theme will be held including daily estimation contests and puzzles. A team contest will be Friday, May 9. Hot dogs, chips, soda, root beer floats and ice cream will be available for purchase.

LBCC's Latino Outreach Program will join in for MAW this year on Tuesday, May 6, with approximately 75 students from Calapooia and Memorial Middle Schools participating.

The Math Department's annual T-shirt design contest winner for MAW is LBCC math instructor Vikki Maurer. Maurer received a \$50 check and two free T-shirts.

MAW T-shirts are available for purchase for \$8 each at the LBCC Learning Center testing counter.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact LBCC mathematics instructor Andrea Bell at 917-4634.

Linn-Benton Opera Guild Preview: Aida

The Linn-Benton Opera Guild will preview the opera, Aida, by Giuseppe Verdi, on Wednesday, May 7 at 8 p.m. at 106 Benton Hall, OSU campus.

OSU music professor Angela Carlson will tell the story of the opera and play recorded excerpts from the score. Admission is free to Linn-Benton Opera Guild members, students of LBCC and OSU. Cost for the general public is \$4.

Performance dates are May 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Keller Auditorium, 222 S.W. Clay in Portland.

LBCC and the Linn-Benton Opera Guild will host a bus ride to the closing performance on Saturday, May 17 for those interested. Round-trip tickets are \$22 per person. Cost for opera tickets is not included, and seating reservations are required.

Tickets to Aida must be purchased in advance through the Portland Opera Box Office, (503) 241-1802 or toll-free at (866) 739-6737 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or at www.portlandopera.org.

For more information call Valerie Krauss, Opera Guild coordinator, at (541) 766-8916.

LBCC students honored by OCC

The Oregon Campus Compact recently honored three LBCC students for their exceptional service and leadership work.

Corvallis resident Naomi Anderson, a social science major, received the ORCC Leadership Through Service Award and the National Campus Compact Swearer Student Humanitarian Award. Monmouth resident Heather Boldt, a business administration major, and

Corvallis resident Peter McLean Eames, a speech communications major, each received the ORCC Commuter Caring Awards.

The Oregon Campus Compact is comprised of colleges and universities in the state. OCC annually recognizes students nominated by their leaders groups in their respective colleges at the OCC Campus Engagement Awards Celebration held each spring.

Juried student art show

More than 50 works of art by students went on display this week in the North Santiam Hall Gallery as annual Juried Student Art Exhibit begins its six-week run.

A reception and awards ceremony held April 30 and more than 10 awards totaling more than \$1,500 in cash and gift certificates were handed out.

This year's exhibit was juried by Bill Shumway, owner of Pegasus Gallery in Corvallis, and included a wide range of media, including paintings, drawings, photographs and sculpture. In addition, the best ceramic work by students of the Benton Center Ceramics Studio as selected by instructor Jay Widmer exhibited in the Gallery's lower level display case.

The gallery is open during school hours Monday through Friday and encompasses the halls on both the first and second floors of the NSH.

LBCC announces new director of accounting and budget

Betty Nielsen has been hired as the new director of Accounting and Budget at LBCC, replacing Jim Huestein who was recently promoted to vice president of Finance and Operations.

A Eugene resident, Nielsen holds a bachelor of science in business from Portland State University and a licensed CPA in Oregon and Washington. She previously worked at the University of Oregon as assistant director of Quality Assurance.

Creative students wanted for The Commuter staff for 2008-09

Editor-in-Chief

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant and provides great experience for aspiring writers and editors. Students with courses and/or experience in journalism preferred. Applicants must be enrolled as students throughout the 2008-09 academic year.

DEADLINE IS MAY 12
(for this position only)

Assistant Editors

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

Photo Editor
 Managing Editor
 Sports Editor

Copy Editor
 A&E Editor
 Opinion Editor

Hourly Wage Jobs

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

Editorial Assistant
 Production Assistant
 Photography Assistant
 Advertising Assistant

Digital Page Designer

Work for up to 12 hours per week on Mondays and Tuesdays. Good English and grammar skills along with experience using Macintosh InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark preferred. Great experience for majors in graphic design and/or pre-press tech.

Application Deadline for Editor-in-Chief is May 12

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (Forum-222)

For information call 917-4451 or adviser Rob Prieve, 917-4563

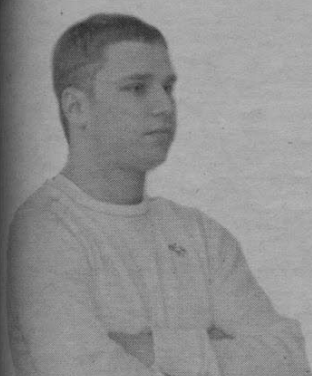
Sports Editor: Chris Kelley
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

FACE OFF

Roger Clemens on fast track to tarnishing hall-of-fame image



Tyler Dahlgren
 Chris 'Cheese' Kelley
 The Commuter

Cheese: With all the buzz about Roger Clemens, what is your view on him as a person and an athlete?

Dahlgren: As a person on the baseball field I would say he's a great guy. Here's a man who's won seven Cy Young awards and works just as hard than any other pitcher in the off-season. He's known as one of the greatest pitchers. In terms of off the baseball field my opinion is up in the air. The recent affair, the steroid use and the perjury counts have me wondering just what kind of person is he.

Cheese: I agree, Roger went from sure hall-of-fame member to fighting for his character in the courtroom during the off-season. It is a shame to see this happen to someone I enjoyed watching all my life. The allegations aside, he is being pinned in a corner by everyone and it seems like the heat just keeps on coming.

Dahlgren: What do you think about the steroid allegations? Should all the heat be on Clemens or is baseball just attacking the most influential athlete that is allegedly used steroids to send a message?

Cheese: The message needs to be sent no matter who the athlete is. If Clemens cheated, all of his records and achievements need to be taken away because they aren't genuine. Major League Baseball is falling apart and the game is being played in the "asterisk" era. If this "America's Favorite Past Time," this might portray how all sports are being played today.

Dahlgren: I agree. I can't even think about the game of baseball without thinking of steroids. These banned substances exploded into the game like a bomb, creating the biggest ripple affect in sports history. In terms of playing during the "asterisk" era, I agree with your statement that all of Clemens records and achievements need to be taken away. The same goes for Barry Bonds.

Cheese: HGH is a new banned substance and like Mark McGuire who used an over the counter muscle enhancer androstenedione, it wasn't illegal at the time of use. We can't say someone cheated before rules changed. I think it would've been easier for Clemens to admit HGH use since sources are linking the substance in his own household with his wife.

Dahlgren: Yes I think so as well. It would have been much easier if he would have just went along with the HGH, admitted he used it, and moved on from the situation. Now for Clemens when it rains it pours.

Cheese: The competition level in sports is so intense that every athlete is doing whatever they can to get any advantage. Sports writers and we the fans are to blame because we demand excellence and will cut down players and demand they be demoted if they don't perform. It shouldn't be all about money and stats, the game should be played for the love, passion and desire. Making it to the big show isn't good enough anymore; now every player is trying for the hall of fame for fear of not being remembered if they aren't in the record books.

Dahlgren: Ever since winning has become the most important thing not just in sports, but in society in general, we've had a major problem. Everyone recalls the glory days of baseball when Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, Hank Aaron and other greats excelled on the greatest stage in the world and to our knowledge did so drug free. They played the game for what it represented not for how well it could represent them.

Cheese: I think today athletes aren't playing to win, rather not to lose which makes them more desperate to succeed. If they lose then everybody is against them. Look at the Houston Rockets for example, they won 25 games in a row and there was lack of mention of any player who didn't make shots or that Yao Ming was sitting out the year to be healthy for the Olympics, which before he was being called selfish. Just because I say we are to blame for the athletes having to do whatever it takes, I still hold them accountable for cheating.

Dahlgren: I think that athletes are playing to win only when they know they have that shot. Randy Moss gave some of the most half-ass effort I have seen before being traded to the Patriots from Oakland. He scored 11 touchdowns in two seasons with the Raiders, then 23 in his first season with the Patriots. In all fairness he did have Tom Brady but we know that Randy Moss was not busting down field or going over the middle for balls in Oakland. He wanted to win and once he knew he had that chance in New England, we saw a new player on the field.

Cheese: Randy Moss is just one example of not giving 100 percent when they are losing; there are many more that fall in that category. What do you think can and should be done to improve the games we love to watch? How can we have these athletes be more role models and less selfish pricks?

Dahlgren: Decreasing players' salaries in every sport. Use the money earned from marketing sales and ticket prices to invest into the community. These players remind me of the 60-year-old man who isn't pulling his weight and has a bloated salary. How many lives have

these athletes saved? What ground-breaking discovery did they come upon to benefit mankind? Lower player salaries and if they don't like it they can quit. A majority of these athletes would play if the salaries were cut because that is about all they know how to do.

Cheese: Wow Tyler, I'm impressed, you might have the best idea all year. I was thinking along the lines of having every athlete have a clause in their contract saying that if they get in trouble with the law or are caught cheating that a portion or all of their money is refunded. I don't think it is fair to punish an athlete for being in a slump, because most of it is mental and that makes for even more pressure for an athlete knowing they won't get paid for the day because they went 0-4, even if they got robbed or the official made a bad call. But you are on the right line and that bloated salaries are a blunder for the game. A lot of athletes do volunteer in the community and go see sick kids in the hospitals. I would even go as far to say that them signing autographs and tossing the occasional gear into the stands at the end of the game is doing efforts in community investments.

Cheese: So what are we deciding about Roger Clemens, and any other athlete for that matter that is in the steroid controversy?

Dahlgren: Well what can we decide until someone is actually convicted? I realize that Clemens, Bonds, and now Tejada are under fire right now but they are still yet to be found guilty in a court of law. When we do find out, baseball acts immediately. Their names are taken from the record books and erased from Major League Baseball. I think it's important not to try and hide the steroid era. We the fans along with the players need to accept that the game needs to be protected. In order to protect the game we publicize the mistakes made by players to improve the games future. Maybe young prospects will realize that honor is more important than achievement when they are offered the chance to boost their game illegally.

Cheese: It all comes down to players competing the right way. Tony Gwinn and Cal Ripken Jr. are two of thousands that have played the game the way it should be and have their names in the record books forever. Both should be fathers of today's game and teach the ethics of baseball and not have a selfish act of crap we have seen lately. It is hard to trust athletes these days because if they are hitting home runs it's assumed they are on the juice, and if they are slumping they must be off their cycle. Sports need a giant shop-vac taken to them and cleaned up.

Rough week drops Runners in league standings

Tyler Dahlgren
 The Commuter

Runners' baseball hosted two consecutive double-headers this past week against Chemeketa. The first game on April 24th at home, the Runner's struggled offensively. Chemeketa's Ryan Smith picked up the win, throwing a six hit complete game shutout.

Blaine Goodwin was 2 for 4 with two singles for the Runners who stranded six on base.

Scott Allred pitched 6 1/3 innings, finishing with six strikeouts, four earned runs, seven walks, and ten hits.

The loss gives Allred his third of the season but he continues to be impressive from the mound with four wins and a 1.51 ERA.

Justin Counts relieved Allred in the sixth, throwing to 10 batters in 2 2/3 scoreless innings.

Game two proved to be a pitching duel as LB' Liam Baron faced off against Chemeketa's Zac Rosscup. Both pitched a seven-inning, complete game, one-hit outing in what was ultimately decided in errors as the Runner's lost 1-2.

Tucker Whitten doubled and singled going 2 for 3 while Colt Savaged made his presence felt at the plate, going 2 for 2 with two singles and the teams only RBI.

Baron faced 27 batters and gave up just five hits, walking one batter and surrendering one earned run, the second run, unearned came from an error and proved to be the deciding factor.

The Australian continues to dominate each team he faces, compiling a 7-1 record in nine games in which he has pitched. In 63 1/3 innings he's walked just 14 batters in the 248 he has faced.

Just two days later, April 26, Linn Benton traveled to Salem where they would once again play a double-header against Chemeketa.

Sophomore Derek Grieve made his seventh appearance of the season, throwing for four innings in a seven-hit, five earned run performance, receiving the loss as Linn Benton fell 4-7.

Relieving Grieve, Freshmen Chad Hanson finished out the remaining four innings with a five-hit effort.

Third baseman Mike Millis brought the hot bat, going 3 for 4

with three singles. Trevor Smith and Kyle Kanaeholo both went 2 for 4. Kanaeholo drove in a run with a single and a double while Smith hit for two singles.

Following their first game loss the Runner's came out on fire for the second, piling up 8 runs on 14 hits in a 8-2 win.

Pitcher Shane Marx threw 4 1/3 innings giving up just one earned run on four hits and picking up his first win of the season.

Trevor Smith picked up the save, coming in during the games final inning.

The Runner's only win in four games against Chemeketa currently has them in third place, just two games behind first place Clackamas and second place Mt. Hood. Their next two matchups have them at Mt. Hood on

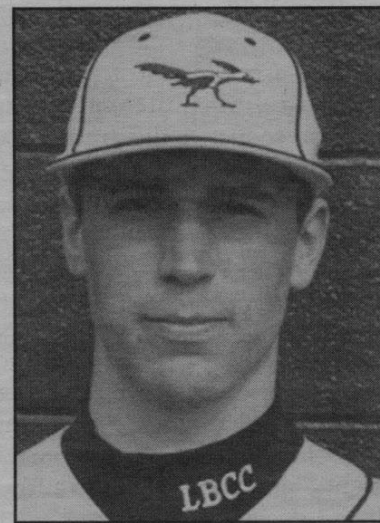


photo by Chris Kelley
Shane Marx threw 4 1/3 innings, earning his first win of the season

Thursday, May 1 at 1 p.m. and Saturday, May 3 at 1 p.m. against Lane at home.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Reggae Rockers sound solid

Josiah Stephens
 The Commuter

Being led down the stairs of a pale green house, located on the corner of Eighth and Jackson, the smell of musty clothing fills my nose. You have just entered the basement, home of Jer's Reggae Rockers.

The basement is like any other basement, filled with outdated computers, a weight bench collecting dust and a few old couches that have seen better days. But that is where the similarities end.

As you round a small corner you see what sets this basement apart from the rest. Equalizers, guitars, drums, keyboards, and wires control a good quarter of the space. There is a path through all the clutter that leads to a modest stage consisting of sheets of plywood resting on bricks and speakers stacked on top of cinder blocks. This is where the magic, known as reggae, is made.

Jared, the lead guitarist, quickly goes about getting the electronics turned on and everything plugged in while Nick, the Congo and bongo player, heads straight for his set. The rest of the band has yet to arrive due to

a phenomenon known as "Reggae Time."

Soon, all the band members, Emeliano Vargas (Em) on the acoustic guitar, Jeremy Gary (Jer) on the sax, Bob on the drums, Cameron Denning on the bass, Jared Englund (Jar) on lead guitar, Nick Failing on the bongos and Congos, and MaryAnne Turner, who provides the vocals and belly dancing, are all accounted for. Now we're ready to get down and funky.

We start out with some warm ups and before I realize, I'm sitting there tapping my foot to the quick beat of "Down Pressor Man," being hypnotized by the smooth sax in "Orthodox," and feeling like I'm in an uptown New York blues club with the song, "New Wave."

The variety in the music keeps me on my toes, bringing something new to the table with each song, incorporating different styles such as Roots, Dub, Dancehall, and Egyptian Reggae. Unlike some bands that simply pick a style and essentially recreate that same sound with different words for each song, these songs each have a distinctive flavor and message.

Jared, the band's founder, got

the idea to start a reggae band of his own while playing bass for a legendary reggae artist, Lehbanchuleh, which in Swahili means to be "built on a solid foundation."

"That's where I learned to play bass and he taught me to sing," recalls Jared. Lehbanchuleh is an acclaimed reggae artist, originally from Jamaica, who has produced many popular works, such as the highly praised "Claim to Joy."

Nick and Jared, two of the first members, were reggae DJs on KBVR-FM where they were introduced into the Corvallis and reggae music scene. Bob, Em, Jared, and Jeremy were all roommates at the time and became the first of Jer's Reggae Rockers. Slowly more members were added through various connections and "brought to reggae by heredity or fate."

The Rockers' main passion of sharing the positive message of Reggae as well as encouraging people is evident through their music. Even during my time spent with them, I couldn't help but feel as though we had all been friends for many years.

The Rockers have yet to break into the music scene, so they fill



photo by MaryAnne Turner

Jer's Reggae Rockers will perform Saturday afternoon as part of this year's May Day festival in Adair Park.

their time mostly with house parties and great practice sessions. The band, however, was involved in a groundbreaking new form of media distribution where the media is broadcast via recorder to multiple mediums, such as Internet and radio, simultaneously.

Their most public event was the 2007 May Day festival in Corvallis, a free festival where bands from the all over the central-valley area come together and play for the community. This year's festival will be held at Adair Park, just outside of Corvallis and while the music

is free, it is asked that the public make donations to help pay for the park rental. There are plenty of different bands besides the Reggae Rockers, but if you come around 3 p.m. on Saturday, you can enjoy them live, as well as hear a few of their new songs.

Even though I only got a glimpse of what this band can do, I can feel the energy these dedicated artists put into what they're playing. When I asked the band's founder, Jared, how reggae music should be, his simple reply was, "Reggae has to be solid." Solid is the definition of this band.

"Expelled": Intelligent design documentary controversial

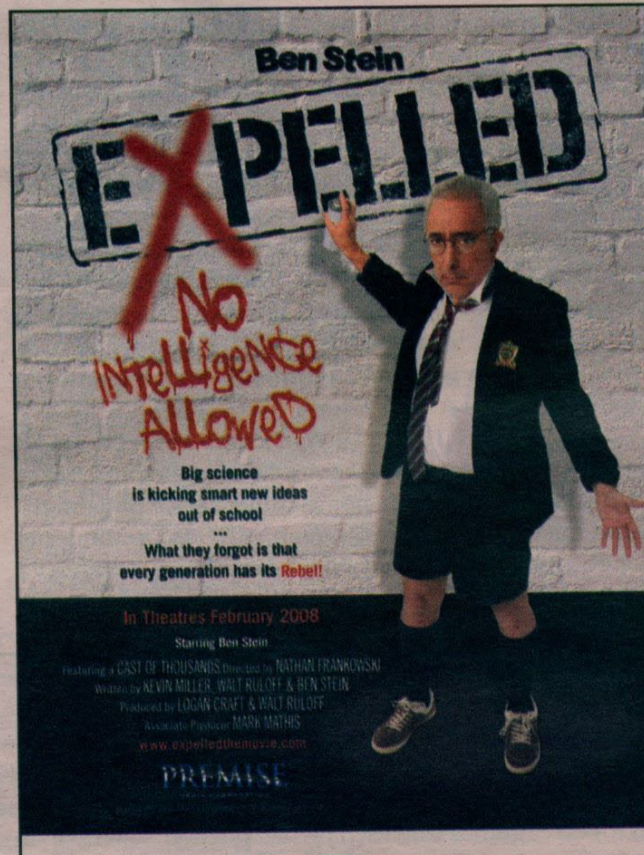
Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Is intelligent design science? Is it possible to make a legitimate scientific inquiry as to whether or not life on earth has a designer? These are questions dealt with in the new controversial documentary about intelligent design, "Expelled: Intelligence Not Allowed." The movie focuses on a few select cases of persecution experienced by members of the scientific community who are proponents of intelligent design, and who were "expelled." The main claim of the movie is that free speech is being wrongly limited in the U.S. by the growing power elite in the scientific world who is building a sort of "Berlin" wall to keep out advocates of intelligent design.

The movie, hosted by Ben Stein (also co-written together with Kevin Miller) was pre-released to be viewed by conservative audiences like "The Passion of the Christ," a movie which some critics claim is to stoke the flames of publicity when all the bad press comes in a following the major release. That's probably the case. The movie only partially lives up to the hype.

"Expelled" is surprisingly engaging and witty, dotted with scenes from old movies, like "Planet of the Apes"—Charlton Heston getting sprayed down with a hose in an attempt to silence him. There's also a short cartoon sequence illustrating the improbability of life evolving from organic compounds, where Richard Dawkins (author of "The God Delusion") kicks the slot machines frantically shouting, "Mother-nature, do your thing!" but the machine roles up a mismatch. The film clearly attacks the validity of the General Theory of Evolution, and uses language, which will be widely understood; however, it fails to address the finer points. It's not very concise—but then again, there's obviously a lot of sassy discourse regarding the origin of life.

Stein comments that, "Darwin has some valid insights," but the film fails to address in what ways intelligent design is incompatible with the general theory of evolution (which encompasses many hypotheses and so-called theories, some that are compatible with intelligent design, such as the well established theory of adaptation)—in essence, the two ideas can coexist, although scientifically speaking, intelligent design doesn't culminate with the affirmation of supernatural



causation. The film is insightful in mentioning that Darwinism only supposes that we have a common ancestor, and so goes as far back as a progenitor cell, but doesn't address the formation of life. The idea that life evolved from organic compounds is called agenesis—a hypothesis that even Dawkins and another prominent evolutionary biologist in the film confess there is no hard evidence for. When Stein asks Dawkins for an explanation for the origin of life in the film's finale, Dawkins replies, "nobody knows how life began"—no explanation, no hard evidence, no clipped scene.

To any independent observer, it's obvious that many evolutionists have an aversion to intelligent design because they are offended by the idea of God, even though intelligent design does not, in and of itself, address the issue of God. Even if there is naturalistic evidence for an intelligent designer that can be rightly examined by the scientific method, even the mere mention of the in-

quiry seems outlandish to many scientists, even though the question has nothing to do with the supernatural realm.

The film is lacking because it fails to emphasize the issue at the heart of the matter. However, Dawkins eventually legitimizes intelligent design, skeptical speculating that aliens might have created life on Earth but states that somewhere down the line, life had to have evolved from organic compounds through some natural process.

"Expelled" isn't very scientific, but is highly insightful and the way that it illustrates how our worldviews are crucial to approaching the question of the origin of life—believing in agenesis takes just as much of a leap of faith as believing in intelligent design, but perhaps faith of a different kind.

However, the validity of the movie has come under question in several ways. Numerous evolutionists, as Michael Shermer (editor of "Skeptic" magazine), are upset because they were told they were being interviewed for a different movie, called "Crossroads" about the intersection of religion and science. The producer Kevin Miller, said that the name and subject of the film were changed as the alarming evidence of I.D. persecution mounted. Miller should have at least asked for their permission to use the interviews for "Expelled." Will there even be a movie called "Crossroads"? Other production features are questionable as well.

Another way the movie falters is its ideological attempt to polarize the issues and the opposing sides. Evolutionists and I.D. advocates only roughly fit into the worldview categories of theists and atheists. It's not very clear-cut. "Expelled" spends too much time explaining the connection between Darwinism and Nazi eugenics, which is somewhat of a historical interpretation, and its overall journalistic thoroughness is lacking.

The film is compelling, entertaining, and at its best when an I.D. advocate says, "Beware of the sound of one hand clapping"—where there's an unsubstantiated claim, there is probably an opposing side. Unanswered questions don't go away. It's too bad Stein and Miller's film lacks the sort of objective rigor that we would expect from a scientific documentary. "Expelled" is more of an ideological and political piece.