



Photo by Jeremy Parker

### A Kid's Time of Year

Erin Pinkerton waves to the parade passing by the reviewing stand during last week's Community Parade in downtown Corvallis. More pictures are on Page 3.

## Conner quits early over college's policy on tech fee

by Schellene Pils  
of The Commuter

LBCC economics instructor Gerry Conner has been a lot of things—a marine, a student, a teacher, and now a volunteer instructor.

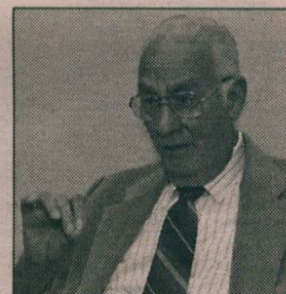
Unfortunately for Conner, he will finally be adding retiree to that list after fall term.

Conner, 74, officially retired in 1994 but has continued on as a volunteer instructor in order to establish a scholarship fund for business students. The fund is fed by the tuition paid by the students who take his classes. He had planned to leave this spring after bringing his scholarship fund to around \$250,000, but a disagreement with the college administration over the new \$1 technology fee has angered him to the point where he has decided not to return to LBCC after this term.

The discussion over the \$1 technology fee, which Conner considers part of tuition, began about two weeks ago when Conner realized that the \$1 fee was not being put in the scholarship fund along with the rest of his students' tuition payments.

So he went to the head of his department to discuss the issue, pointing out that his fund is short \$367. Soon after, he and President Jon Carnahan had a discussion about the tech-fee and came to, according to Conner, an understanding that he would receive it.

Instead, Conner received a letter from Carnahan with a personal check for \$367 and a note that said the board appreciated his generous contribution to LBCC for the last four years, but that it had decided to keep the technology fee separate from the Conner Scholarship Endowment Fund since it had never been intended as a part of the tuition in the first place. "It was a policy issue," said Carnahan, "the



Gerry Conner

(Turn to "Conner" on Pg. 2)

## Campus choirs sing in the holiday season

by Malia Ramos  
of The Commuter

To ease the stress of the holiday chaos, LBCC has planned a number of programs to brighten holiday spirits. There will be concert and chamber choir performances, a community chorale performance, a free trip to the Nutcracker ballet and a winter festival for kids.

On Thursday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m., in the Takena Theater the 20-year tradition continues when music director, Hal Eastburn's concert and chamber choirs offer "A Holiday Treat." The concert choir will perform holiday music by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Bach and many others.

The chamber choir will also perform a variety of seasonal music, along with a piece written by Eastburn, "Walk Beside Me."

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$3, or in

advance at the Takena Theater Box office, from noon to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

On Dec. 6 and 7, the chorale, under Eastburn's direction, will perform "A Classical Christmas," which will feature music of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

The Sunday, Dec. 6 presentation will be at 3 p.m. in the United Presbyterian Church at 330 5th Ave. in Albany. The Monday performance will be at 8 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church at 1165 NW Monroe in Corvallis.

The chorale will perform selections from Handel's "The Messiah," Mozart's, "Vesperae Solennes de Confessore," along with others, and will be accompanied by a string quartet from Corvallis.

Tickets are \$5 at the door, and can be purchased

(Turn to "Holidays" on Pg. 2)

## Student offices, lounge scheduled to open in January

by Keirsten Morris  
of The Commuter

The LBCC campus continues to be a project in the making, as workers continue on several remodeling projects and construction deadlines waver slightly.

"We're not as far as we'd like," said Bob Miller, administrator in charge of capital projects. "It just takes longer than you realize."

The new student lounge, recreation room and offices for student government and The Commuter are now tentatively scheduled to open the first part of January, about a month later than anticipated. The remodeling and enlarging of the restrooms in Takena Hall will most likely be finished by the mid-January.

The transformation of the Camas Room to the Courtyard Cafe is a little farther behind, although Miller said

he still hopes it will be completed by the end of January.

Gene Neville, director of hospitality services, is pleased with the look of the new cafe, which is a 1,200-square-foot improvement. The cafe will not only be larger, but will offer more types of food, and will feature a glass-domed addition on the wall facing the courtyard that will lend a greenhouse effect.

"I like it," Neville said.

Neville feels that the location of the Courtyard Cafe is well-suited for the students and is much more centrally located. A new grill will also add some diversity to the new cafe menu.

He notes that the seating in the cafe wasn't everything they hoped for, however. Neville was forced to cut seating space rather than kitchen space when a design problem arose.

Plans also include a restructuring of the main entrance to LB, just in front of Takena Hall. Miller hopes to "dress it up" a little, creating a promenade effect. A new bus shelter is currently under construction, along with plans to widen the sidewalk between Takena Hall and the LRC and add a sidewalk connecting Takena Hall to the Health Occupations Building. Weather permitting, the bus shelter could be finished by next term.

Tammi Paul-Bryant, director of Student Life and Leadership, said that the students are excited about moving from the second floor of the College Center to their new offices just off the highly visible courtyard.

"Our activities are much more accessible," she said.

While the new SL&L building is about the same size as the current space, Paul-Bryant states that the configuration is much more usable.



### ✓ Blood Flows

Blood drive exceeds goal for first time in four years

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Check This Out

Need cash for Christmas? The Bookstore will begin buying back textbooks next Wednesday in the Willamette Room.

### ✓ 'Runners Roll

Women open hoop season with overpowering victory

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## Web classes on the rise at LBCC

by Sarah Crauder  
of The Commuter

It's almost midnight, and Ben Sell has to go to class.

But instead of getting in his car and taking the highway to the LBCC campus, he logs on the Internet and gets to class using the information superhighway.

Sell is one of the growing number of students at LBCC taking classes over the Internet. The number and type of classes offered has been expanded over the past few years. There are 17 classes being offered this winter term, ranging from calculus to writing as well as a number of health classes.

Web classes use message boards, e-mail and web sites to present assignments and as forums for communication between the students in the class. There are also links to related sites to the class subject on each class's home page.

Some classes are hybrid classes, in which videos are also used as teaching tools as well as the Internet.

There is a \$20 lab fee for most distance education classes, but that hasn't deterred many students. Keirsten Morris, a student in the Media and Society web class, said she preferred the web course to a regular classroom course, and was more than willing to pay the extra money to take it.

Paul Snyder, the department chair for Distance Education and Media Services,

says that most classes can be offered in a web class format, with the exception of classes that require a lab, or activities that can't be replicated over the Internet, like dissections in a biology class or a performance in an acting class.

Snyder said that in national surveys, students taking classes over the Internet did better than students taking the same classes on campus. He added that this was most likely because most distance education students tended to be older, self-motivated students, and the majority of students who can't keep up drop the class early on.

He recommends that students have at least passing familiarity with their computer and the Internet and e-mail programs before enrolling in such classes. Inability to use the technology is one of the main reasons that students drop web classes.

About 70 percent of distance education students at LBCC are female, Snyder said. Many students prefer web classes because they can take the classes at any time of the day and can stay at home. People with jobs can log on to the class sites after work, and mothers can take classes while keeping an eye on their kids. Approximately half of the students also take classes on campus, and about half of them are part-time students.

Sell offered another reason to take a class over the Internet: "It's the only class you can go to in your underwear."

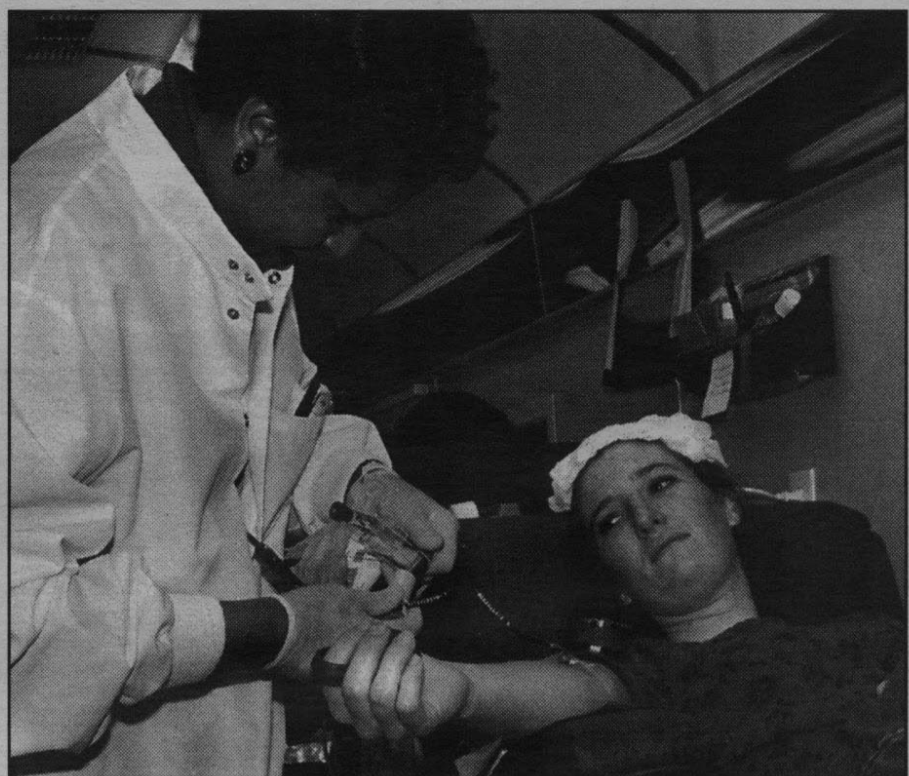


Photo by Natalie Dalton

### The Giving Spirit

Elizabeth Wolcott gives blood Nov. 18 to phlebotomist Fre Haile. Wolcott, who was chairperson of the campus blood drive said 71 volunteers donated blood during the drive. "I was so proud of the turnout," she said. In the past four years, the committee has not met its goal of 60 pints. However, this year's 71 pints more than met the goal. "I can't say enough about how happy I am," Wolcott said. Wolcott also mentioned that you can donate blood every 56 days.

## Conner: Board, students lament controversy that led to resignation

✓ From Page 1

board approved the policy but I made the administrative decision."

The crux of the problem is the disagreement between Conner, Carnahan and the Board of Education. According to the board, the \$1 technology fee was always intended as a separate entity. They decided that it would be easier to track the amount of money that was being made to promote technologies such as the Internet and the upgrading of computers and where it was being spent.

One of the issues that concerned Conner was that when staff members receive tuition grants, the \$1 tuition fee is waived as well. But Carnahan said, the tuition waiver is part of the benefits package that will come under scrutiny at the next collective bargaining meeting.

To Conner and some of his students, the money in dispute, which will amount to around \$350 a term, seems too insignificant to argue over, especially considering the fact Conner saves the college about \$20,000 a year by teaching for free.

Business major Ron Alexander, a student in Conner's economics class, said "It's a trivial sum of money that the board was willing to sacrifice one of LB's best teachers for. It's a big loss to the students and business department."

Hal Brayton, chairman of the board of education at LBCC, said "basically I think this whole situation is unfortunate. It was very clearly stated that it was not part of tuition," which was "a deliberate decision by the board because technology is needed by the students."

He said the technology fee was a product of the board's future planning. Officials try to project one to three years in the future—"to gaze into the crystal ball and find out what we will need," he said.

Brayton added that "this is not a recent situation," and said the board did

not force Conner to leave.

Thomas Wogaman, vice chairman of the board, agreed.

"He indicated that he wouldn't be continuing to volunteer as a teacher," said Wogaman, adding that he's sorry to hear him take that position but that's his choice. Wogaman also said that he "supports the distinction between the technology fee and tuition, since we did not have money earmarked for that and tuition can be used for anything."

But Conner considers the \$1 fee no more than a "politically correct way to raise tuition," and his students believe the college's stubbornness on the issue is detrimental to their best interests.

"I feel it's really an injustice," said Linda Stoeling, a business major. "They are cutting off their nose to spite their face."

Nina Davis, another business major who is enrolled in Conner's class, said, "I

think it's a huge disservice to the students to lose the benefits of an experienced instructor and the added contribution to the scholarship fund." In fact, she thinks that "the school (board) should consider the result of the decision and reconsider for the students."

Ag-business major Charlie Vandehey said that "it's stubborn from the board's point of view."

Board members agree that it's sad to see Conner go, but according to member Richard Wendland, "it seems to me that there's more to it than (the tech-fee). It's not a good reason to resign."

"We feel that his action was a little harsh," agreed Joseph Novak, who is the longest-serving member of the board. "He did a very very good job."

"Anytime we lose someone who is a good teacher it's somewhat of a loss," said Wendland, "I'm sure we'll find a good replacement for him. Life goes on."

## Holidays: 'Tis the season for music, ballet and the Winter Festival

✓ From Page 1

earlier in the Takena Theater Box Office, Monday-Friday, from noon to 3 p.m.

On a different note, the Student Programming Board is offering a trip to the "Nutcracker" ballet at the Civic Auditorium in Portland. On Saturday, Dec. 12 a

van will leave from Takena Hall at 11 a.m. and return about 5:30 p.m. Students are to bring money for lunch; however, the ballet is free to the first 12 students with an LB ID card who sign up.

Finally, to add to the holiday festivities, the Student Programming Board is

also coordinating the annual Winter Festival on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. Kids 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult will participate in story telling, cookie decorating, Hawaiian candy lei making, clown and magician performances and a sing-a-long.

This festival, which attracted 500-700 kids and adults last year, will be held on the second floor of the College Center. The event is free, but a donation of two cans of food is being asked. For more information contact Malia Fafita at 917-4557 or stop in College Center Room 213.

### 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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## CAMPUS NEWS

## Livestock team struggles in K.C., recovers in Kentucky

by Amber McNamara  
of The Commuter

Members of the sophomore Livestock Judging team returned Nov. 24 from two back-to-back contests in Kansas City and Louisville.

Although the team struggled a little at the Kansas City contest, they regained their composure and made a comeback in Louisville.

As one team member said: "You have to learn to put bad contests behind you and move forward."

Linn-Benton placed seventh out of 29 college teams in the final standing.

Top individual placings for the team members were: overall—Katie Dunlap 4th, Jeremy Kennedy 18th; beef—Dunlap eighth, Darcy Francek 18th, Kennedy 29th, DeNae Simms 32nd, and Sara Wilson 40th; sheep—Kennedy ninth and Dunlap 43rd; swine—Dunlap sixth; oral reasons—Dunlap second, Wilson 29th and Kennedy 31st.

In a meeting on Tuesday Nov. 24, the sophomore members of the team tried to give the freshman mem-

bers an idea of what it would be like for them next year.

"You have to focus because there is a higher level of competition," said Dunlap, a biology major. Sophomore Kennedy agreed. "It's a lot more competitive. There's so many good teams from back there."

The overall advice given from the sophomores to the freshman members of the team was that they will figure it out when they get there next year.

Dunlap compared the livestock judging team to sports because of the competition and the friendships that are built. "LB has the only program like this in the whole state of Oregon," she said.

Besides judging contests, the team also engages in other activities on their trips such as visiting the Churchill Downs when they were competing in Louisville. The funniest part of the trip was described by Francek: "There was a drunk woman at the airport, and she was riding around on the belt at the luggage pickup area waving."

Coaches Rick Klampe and Cara Ayers said that the team is taking a break to catch up from being gone. The

members are the first to agree that the homework is hard to stay on top of when they miss so much school. Taking tests in hotel rooms and writing papers on airplanes are regular practices for the members.

"We all have good grades, not to brag, but we do," said Francek. Coach Klampe added "The homework is hard. These kids have classes like chemistry, biology, and physics."

Currently all of the members are preparing for a fund raiser, in which the team will collect greens and make wreaths to sell for the holidays.

After finals are over on Dec. 9, the members don't hurry home for Christmas break. On Thursday they hold practice in Sweet Home, then on Friday they head north to help with a contest at the Canby Fairgrounds.

Finally they will wrap things up until after the holidays with a trip to Medford on the Dec. 12-13. On Dec. 14, the members will finally head home to spend the holidays with their families.

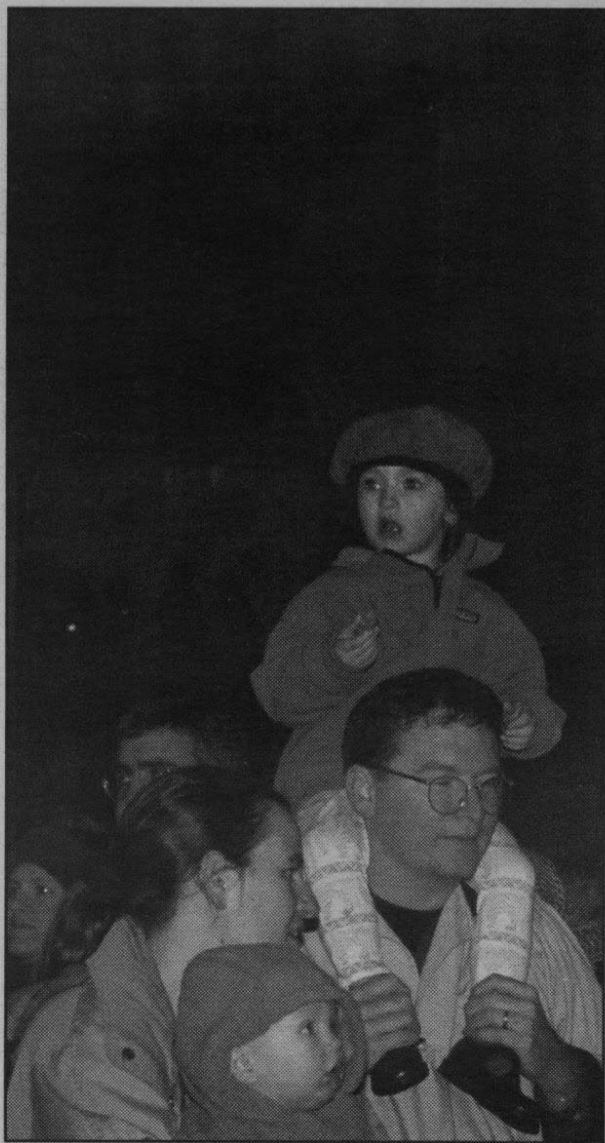
The upcoming contests after Christmas break are Jan. 2 in Pheonix and Jan. 16 in Denver.

## IN FOCUS



## CHRISTMAS ON PARADE

Thousands of spectators lined the streets of downtown Corvallis up to four deep last Friday to watch the Corvallis Community Parade, which is an annual event organized by the Lions Club. Spectators gathered along Fourth Street gazed in awe as the fire dog rode by on top of a firetruck (above) and people waved from floats (below). A child (left) perched atop her father's shoulders gets a bird's-eye view of the parade.



Photos by  
Jeremy  
Parker  
and  
E.J. Harris

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

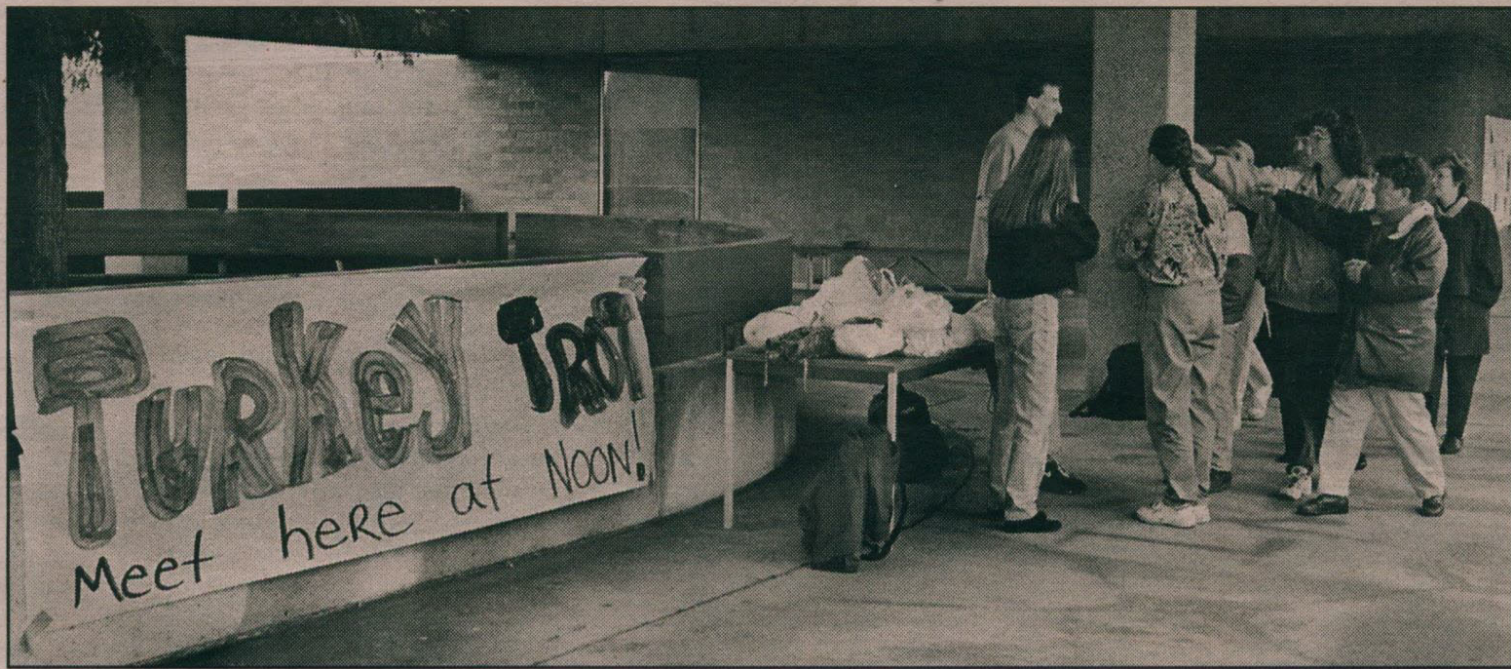


Photo by Jeremy Parker

Hot To Trot

The Turkey Trot, which has been running almost a decade, was rained out this year and moved to the courtyard balcony. About 25 runners braved the weather last week to run laps around the courtyard in hopes of winning a free turkey, ham, pie or t-shirt. Each time the runners passed the booth they received a playing card, which they used to build a poker hand.

review

Zelda enthralls gamers with awesome visuals and sound

by Benjamin Sell of The Commuter

Link is back and he's better than ever.

The day gamers have dreamed about ever since the first release of the Nintendo 64 has arrived, November 24, Z day.

The Legend of Zelda: The Ocarina of Time is Shigeru Miyamoto's latest gaming masterpiece. The fifth installment in the Zelda saga is the best yet. It has been heralded as the game of the decade, recieved perfect 10s from numerous gaming publications, and wowed gamers the world over with its vast environments and beautiful graphics.

Having played it myself I can honestly say it is the best game I have ever seen. Everything about it is as close to perfection as one can come with the current generation of gaming systems. The graphics are simply amazing and have to be seen to be believed. The

sound is also incredible, especially when pumped through a surround-sound system. The control is impeccable, the story is enthralling, and playing the game is just plain fun.

Players start out the game controlling Link in his quest to recover the three sacred stones that will open the door in the temple of time. The second half of the game takes place in Hyrule seven years later, with an

adult version of Link, complete with increased attack power and adult-only weapons searching for six medallions that are hidden in six temples scattered across the continent.

Basic Legend of Zelda fodder, find the sacred talismans to unlock the temple to fight Ganon to save Zelda.

Every gamer who has ever been interested in Zelda, or any other action RPG should pick this game up. If you don't have it, go buy it. If you do have it, stop reading this, and go play it.

*If you don't have it, go buy it.*

New Corvallis cinema to offer stadium seating and 12 screens

Regal Cinema plans to open new theater next winter

by Heather Wahlberg of The Commuter

Corvallis residents will be able to see more movies in town starting late next year, according to Allen Wells of Jackson Cooper, a Corvallis commercial real estate and leasing firm.

In spring of next year, construction will begin on a 45,000-square-foot multi-screen theater complex behind the OSU Federal Credit Union on Ninth and Spruce. The complex will contain 12 auditoriums with stadium-style seating and state-of-the-art sound systems. It will be built by Regal Cinemas, owner of the four-screen Ninth Street Cinema, which is the largest in Corvallis.

Wells, who has been handling the deal with Regal Cinemas, said that this theater has been in discussions for about four years and had nothing to do with the recent merger between Act III Theatres and Regal Cinemas.

The discussions for the new theater started with the desire to expand the existing Ninth Street Cinema, but because of the lack of space, an entirely

new theater was discussed, said Wells.

The property that the theater is to be built on is under contract to be purchased by Century Properties, LLC. The site will be developed by Regal Cinemas, said Wells, with the building done by Century and then leased back to Regal.

When the new theater is built, Ninth Street Cinemas will probably no longer be used, said Wells. He said that, at this point, plans are that the theater will be closed and then sold. As for the current employees, he says that he is unaware of any plans that have been made for them at this point.

With approximately 300 high-backed seats with retractable arms, stadium seating will allow customers to see the entire screen without looking over the heads of taller people in front. As Wells put it, it is like "going to a basketball game."

Some of the other features that will be offered are a large concession stand with two express counters, a gourmet cafe offering espresso and fresh baked goods, two-day advanced ticket sales and devices to help the hearing impaired in all theatres.

The new theater is sheduled to open sometime between October and December of 1999, said Wells.

**Grab it!**

More than 10,000 people attend LBCC, from 19 year old skateboarders to 30 something Moms and Dads. They live in Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Sweet Home and all points between. They work, play and shop in their local communities. For many, the Commuter is the only newspaper they take the time to read. If you want to reach them, give us a call at 917-4452.

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## SPORTS PAGE

## LBCC men go 1-2 over weekend; play at home tonight

by David Thayer  
of The Commuter

The Linn-Benton Men's Basketball team won one out of three games played at the Edmond's Turkey Shootout in Lynwood, Wash., Nov. 27-29.

In the first game on Nov. 27 against Centralia, LBCC went down 68-62. Centralia was up 34-27 at halftime and kept it up with 34 points in the second half to hold off an LBCC rally.

Spotty defense on LB's part allowed Centralia to get an early lead. Though LB made a late charge, Centralia's ball handling enabled them to secure the win.

Dustin Homann was the team's leading scorer with 18 points for the Roadrunners, hitting seven out of 17 shots. Newcomer Mike Aitchison, a 6-9 sophomore from Bandon, hit seven out of 12 shots, and Marc Cordle hit six of 10. Both ended up with 14 points.

Aitchison, Homann and Hamilton Barnes were the team leaders with eight rebounds each. The team finished with a total of 37 rebounds, 12 offensively and 25 defensively.

Overall the team shot 43 percent. On three point shots, they were 3 of 16 and shot free throws at a 50 percent pace. The team had seven more turnovers than assists (17-10).

On Nov. 28, LBCC got its first win of the season, defeating Blue Mountain 84-72. It was pretty much over for BMCC when the Roadrunners had a 45-30 lead at halftime. A strong half-court trapping defense kept Blue Mountain at bay. LB then kept a comfortable lead throughout the second half.

Aitchison was the leading scorer of the day for LB with 20 points, hitting nine of the 12 shots he took. Cordle hit four of six from behind the three-point line and finished with 16 points. Homann scored 15. Homann was the leading rebounder with 12.

Team totals were: shooting—34-64 for 53.1 percent; free throws—8-14 for 57.1 percent; three point shots—8-13 for 61.5 percent. The team's luck changed on assists and turnovers, having nine more assists than turnovers.

The last game of the tournament was on Nov. 29 against Tacoma Community College, which Tacoma won 93-80. They were up 50-33 at halftime. LB had been down early after failing to respond to a very strong pressing Tacoma defense. In the second half, however, LB did make a stronger showing by cutting a 23-point deficit to 13. LB got as close as 11, but they could not quite break into single digits.

Cordle (5 of 12) and Aitchison (8 of 18) were the leading scorers with 18 points each, while Barnes (4 of 7 on three pointers) and Jon Fussell (5 of 11) had 14 points each. Barnes and Aitchison each had nine rebounds to lead the team. The team total in rebounds was 46, 17 coming offensively and 29 coming defensively.

As a team, the Roadrunners converted 27 out of 62 shots for 43.5 percent. They also converted 18-27 of their free throws for 66.7 percent. On three pointers, they made eight of 17 for 47.1 percent.

"We got off to a pretty solid start," said Coach Randy Falk. "We see many positive things defensively we can build on."

The Roadrunners record is 1-2 going into tonight's game at home at 7:30 against Willamette Junior Varsity.

## Lady 'Runners shoot well, score first win

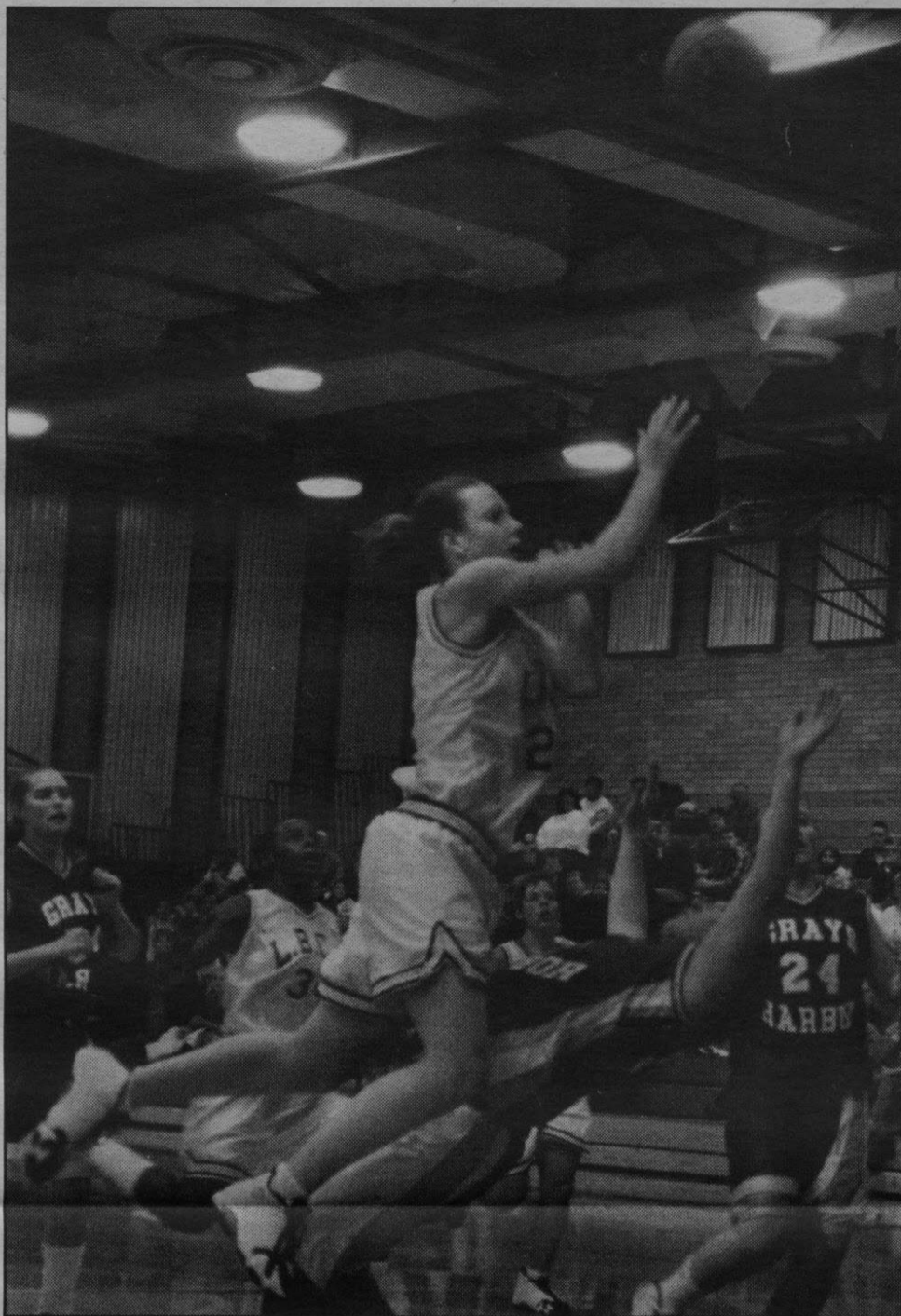


Photo by E.J. Harris

Tiffany Sweat flies over a defending player from Grays Harbor during one of many fast breaks for the Roadrunners last Saturday.

by David Thayer  
of The Commuter

Women's basketball Coach A.J. Dionne led her team to an opening game win against Grays Harbor from Aberdeen, Wash. on Nov. 28.

The Lady Roadrunners came out hard, taking a 39-32 lead at halftime. But it was in the second half when LB put Grays Harbor away, winning the game by a score of 84-69.

Sally Aiello was the team's leading scorer with 23 points on 9-21 shooting and hitting 3-4 from the free throw line.

Beth Nelson was the star of the game, finishing with 17 points, eight rebounds and eight steals. Leslie Boer dishing out eight assists and also finished with 12 points. Renee Pridgett was the team's leading rebounder with 10. Nelson's eight steals lead the team.

The team converted 29 shots out of 60 attempts for a total of 48.3 percent from the floor, and hit 22-34 from the free throw line for a total of 64.7 percent. LB had 41 rebounds, 17 assists, one blocked shot (Eva Larsen), 22 turnovers and 17 steals. Tiffany Sweat (nine points) and Jana Sissom (four points) both fouled out of the game.

Athletic Director Greg Hawk was happy with how the women played. "I was proud of our up-beat tempo and the good crowd that we had," said Hawk. "We took an early lead, stretched it out to a 10-point lead, let it go back to a three or four point lead, then took over the second half. It was a very impressive win for A.J. Dionne in her debut as the Lady Roadrunner head coach."

Hawk also commented on the large crowd at the game, which he said was very supportive of the team.

The next game for the Lady Roadrunners is at home at 5:30 p.m. tonight against Linfield College. Students are admitted free with their student ID card.

## OSU offers LB students discounts at sporting events

by David Thayer  
of The Commuter

Imagine getting a discount for going to Oregon State University sporting events.

Well, if you think it can't happen to an LBCC student, you are wrong.

The Marketing Department of Oregon State Athletics is offering discounts for different sporting events that OSU is hosting.

Oregon State is hoping to expand the current relationship between OSU and LB. All you have to do to get in is to show

your current LBCC ID card. You could get \$1, \$2 or \$3 off.

For women's basketball, volleyball, baseball, men's and women's soccer, wrestling and gymnastics, you get \$1 off. Men's basketball gets you \$2 off and football gets you \$3 off.

Marketing Director Summer Wright hopes that these discounts attract LBCC students to the games. Some of the benefits are:

- LBCC students get the opportunity to experience the excitement of PAC-10 Intercollegiate Athletics

- Provides LBCC students exposure to a college athletics experience at a four-year University should they choose to continue their education after LBCC

In exchange for student benefits, LBCC would provide the following support for OSU athletics:

- Advertising support for OSU Athletic Events
- Publicity in student areas: table tents, flyers, etc.
- Promotion of LBCC/OSU Athletics partnership in registration packets, class schedule and schedule of events.



Photo by Jeff Hamar

Students can hit the slopes for less this holiday break at Hoodoo, which is offering half-price lift tickets to those with a valid student ID card.

## It's snow fun to pay full price

Students can shuck those post finals blues prior to heading home for the holidays.

Hoodoo Ski Area, located on Highway 20 at the top of the Santiam Pass, is offering college students an opportunity to ski or ride with half-priced lift tickets. Students need only to present a valid college student body card to qualify for the discount. Hoodoo's regular adult lift ticket price is \$26. College students ski or ride for only \$13 during the promotion period.

College students can join the public in skiing for the first hour of every operating day at Hoodoo to test the conditions prior to purchasing a ticket. Hoodoo will not operate Wednesday, December 16 or Christmas day.

New at Hoodoo this year is a Snowboard Center with over 120 brand new snowboards with Marker boots and step in bindings. The ski area is already boasting four feet of packed snow.

# Bookstore Electronics Expo

December 9, 1998  
11a.m. - 6p.m.

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## OPINION PAGE

## Letters

## College called petty over Conner Scholarship dispute

To the Editor:

It is unfortunate that the school board is willing to lose the services of a tremendous professor over something so petty. I commend Professor Conner for standing up for his convictions.

He has dedicated the past 20 plus years of his life to the students of LBCC and it is obvious he loves and believes in what he teaches.

I hope the school board evaluates the marginal cost vs. the marginal benefit and re-evaluates letting one of the best professors we've ever had walk away.

Jennifer Schaake

## Conner's unselfishness should be inspiration to all

To the Editor:

There are few people that one meets in life that can rise above their own selfish greed. The desire to devour and to possess all that money can afford is what seems to drive much of the nation. When one does meet such a person it should be counted as a privilege. Then to have the opportunity to learn from that person one holds in high esteem; it seems almost sacred somehow. It saddens me greatly that such a person would not be revered and respected. I am speaking of Mr. Gerry Conner of the Economics Department. In light of Mr. Conner's \$218,000.00 contribution to the scholarship fund; that his door is always open to students; that a student can not sit in one of his classes and not learn because of his commitment and curriculum; the wealth of his wisdom and economic knowledge will be an extreme loss to LBCC.

In comparison, the comments made by President Jon Carnahan published in the Albany Democrat Herald "That's apples and oranges, from my perspective" and "I felt bad-he's contributed a lot to the community and the college. But I wasn't going to continue to make up the difference." It left me wondering just exactly what is his perspective? For Mr. Carnahan to compare \$367.00 per term with Mr. Conner's \$13,000 to 14,000 a term seems more like comparing apples to oranges to me. In all fairness to Mr. Carnahan it is not his decision alone. What about those board members?

Sitting under Mr. Conner's tutelage a student often hears the phrase "money grubbing capitalist" a statement that brings a smile to most of our faces now. Students have attempted to reason with the circumstance that we find ourselves propelled into. We will not be able to finish the school year with an instructor we have learned to respect and admire. We didn't talk apples and oranges, we talked money grubbing capitalist and bureaucracy. It appears to me that the board should have stuck to being viewed as a money grubbing capitalist! They would have had more of my understanding. The difference between \$218,000 and \$250,000 would help many students through college.

Linda L. Stoelting

## EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their opinions. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome.

Submissions may be in the form of letters to the editor or, for topics that require deeper analysis, guest columns. All letters received will be published, space permitting, unless they are considered by the editor to be potentially libelous or in poor taste. Guest columns should be approved in advance by the editor. Readers wishing to submit a guest column are asked to first discuss their idea with the editor.

Letters should be limited to 250 words or less, and will be edited for length, grammar and spelling. In order to confirm the authenticity of letters, they must be signed, with phone number and address included.



INTERACTIVE CARTOON

## commentary

## U.S. plan to topple Hussein lacks foresight

E.J. Harris  
of The Commuter

It has been nearly a month since Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein kicked-out U.N. weapons inspectors and announced that his country would no longer cooperate with the U.N. weapons inspections. This resulted in another costly billion-dollar military build-up in the Persian Gulf by U.S. air, sea and ground forces only to have Hussein back down in the final hours of the crisis, narrowly avoiding a punishing U.S.-lead air campaign that could have lasted for as long as a week. As the Iraqi dictator resumes his tactics of stalling and refusing to comply fully with the U.N. sanctions imposed on his country, many are left wondering what to do. Including President Bill Clinton.

On Oct. 31, the same day that Saddam expelled U.N. inspectors, President Clinton signed the Iraq Liberation Act, a \$97 million bill that is designed to encourage anti-Saddam dissidents to topple their repressive leader. But this bill is much more than the president throwing money away on a seemingly overwhelming task—overthrow Saddam. It is a fundamental shift in policy on the part of the White House.

Since the end of the Gulf War, the U.S. policy on Iraq has been one of containment with no real support for any sort of organized resistance to Saddam's regime outside of U.N. sanctions and a no-fly zone or two. This of course led to a humanitarian tragedy when rebel Shiites in the south and Kurdish rebels in the north began open rebellion against the Iraqi dictator under the notion that the United States would support them in their cause. Saddam retaliated with his Republican Guard which overwhelmed both rebellions while the U.S. sat back and watched from the sidelines rooting on the underdogs as though they were a football game. And now, eight years later, the U.S. is deciding to support the opposition in Iraq after what has been years marked by deception and resistance on the part of a defiant Saddam Hussein. Years in which Saddam has been able to rule with impunity over the Iraqi people even in the face of rebellions and crushing economic sanction. Some might say that this change in policy is too little too late, but there are others who are at this moment lobbying for a piece of the Iraq Liberation Act pie.

Like Iraqi dissident Ahmed Chalabi, a 54-year-old businessman who is trying to persuade Washington to fund his plan for an anti-Saddam revolt. Chalabi claims that with weapons and training from the United States a 10,000-man force of freedom fighters could march into Baghdad and topple Saddam and his government. This plan would call for the U.S. to set up training bases outside of Iraq in neighboring countries like Turkey and Saudi Arabia. In addition to weapons and training, the plan is heavily reliant on U.S. air support once the ground operation has begun. Military strategists in Washington believe Chalabi's plan to be foolhardy at best and are opting for something more along the lines

of CIA covert operations to recruit disgruntled military personnel and increase anti-Saddam propaganda.

This brings up some very important questions. Do we really need an Iraq without Saddam Hussein? And, would getting rid of Saddam be the cure-all for the problems in the Persian Gulf?

Probably not, and here is why.

If Saddam were to lose his grip on the reigns of power in Iraq, the political landscape of the region would shift dramatically. The potential for the country to fracture along religious and ethnic lines is far greater than one might think.

Without a government that is in firm control of the religious and political landscape in Iraq, the possibilities for a power vacuum to develop in one of the world's richest oil producing nations would be catastrophic.

The southern areas of Iraq are predominately Shiite Muslim, central Iraq is dominated by Muslims of the Sunni sect, and then in the north there are the Kurds. In the unlikely event of the Iraqi dictator being deposed the country would likely fracture along religious/ethnic lines, which could be disastrous for the region.

In the north, the Kurds would try to fulfill their long sought goal of establishing an independent Kurdistan. This would prompt countries like Iran, Turkey and Syria to absorb portions of northern Iraq as "buffer zones" in the hopes of curbing the Kurdish ambitions of establishing similar homelands in the Kurdish dominated regions in their countries. The Iranians might also come to the aid of the Shiite Muslims in the southern regions of Iraq in the hopes of extending their political influences westward in the region.

The political reality of the situation is that the world needs a stable Iraq, even if that means a stable Iraq with a weakened Saddam Hussein left in power. With eight years of debilitating U.N.-imposed sanctions behind him, and a world that knows the horrific potential of the Iraqi regime, the likelihood that Saddam could rebuild his deadly arsenal to the extent that it was before the Gulf War is highly unlikely.

So, why is our government going to throw more money away on a strategy that is a day late and a dollar short? It is really hard to say, maybe the Clinton administration feels that in six years they have accomplished very little, so this may be a new way to do even less.

There are no simple solutions to the problems in Iraq. Saddam Hussein has been in power there through four presidential administrations and the sad truth is that he will most likely be there well into a fifth, and even though the guns of war are, for the time being, silent there are still victims in this conflict. They are the people of Iraq who have no say in the politics that Saddam implements. It is these people who are left to suffer and die under the U.N. sanctions, not Hussein. So how do the White House policy-makers expect these people to revolt against their leader and finish the job that the U.S. refused to do at the end of the Gulf War?

LOONEY LANE

**LITTLE KNOWN TV FACTS #937: "BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER" WAS PITCHED AS A VERY DIFFERENT PROGRAM**



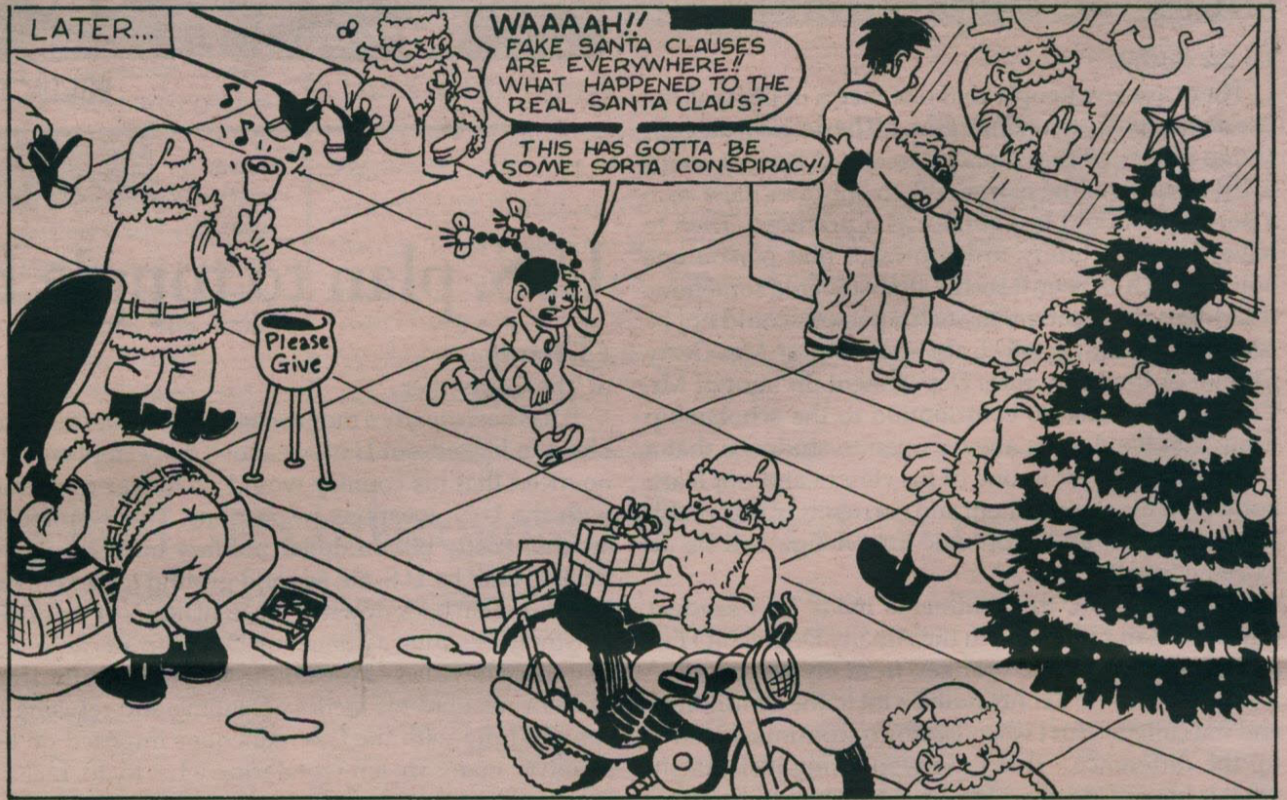
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**Emily Bellamy**

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**ACROSS**

- Christian minister
- Health resort
- Tar's mop
- Current unit
- Pole with a blade
- River in Tuscany
- Muslim sex segregation
- Edge of the tundra
- Clay today
- Pedal pumper
- Heaven's gatekeeper
- Moist
- Poet Teasdale
- That guy's
- Mishmash dish
- Spacey movie (with The)
- Sign a receipt
- Valuables
- Bring joy
- Descriptive name
- Inorganic
- Small greenish bird
- Cold-cuts cutter
- Vitality
- Pale or ginger
- Aga \_\_\_ ill
- Pool stick
- Insect snares
- Hot-dog's problem
- Of the back
- \_\_\_ of Cortez
- Flower arrangement
- Tender touches
- Flemish baroque painter
- Rotation line
- Tout's offering
- Sneak peak
- Receptacles
- For instance
- Lost sheep

**DOWN**

- Papayas
- Charm
- Pixie
- Sen. Kennedy
- Verbal exams
- Prepare to perform
- Heavy imbibor
- Golf scores
- Singer Franklin
- Store employee
- Formal legal document
- Bancroft or Boleyn
- Dutch South African
- Unmanly
- Says howdy
- Ship back?
- Pungent salad garnish
- Acoustic organ
- Education-minded grp.
- \_\_\_ Aviv, Israel
- Former Japanese commanders
- Photo faces
- Holiday lead-in
- Brooch
- Dander
- North Atlantic
- hazard
- Regulation
- Leavening agents
- Montana's capital
- Bureau
- Discordant sounds
- \_\_\_ Ste. Marie
- Wound cover
- \_\_\_ Driver
- Actress Moran
- Solo's princess
- 007, e.g.
- Lever

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**THE CHRONICLES** BY KEITH KNIGHT

AND NOW... MORE INFINITE TRUTHS FROM...

NEXT TIME YOU CATCH A DOG LICKIN' ITS PRIVATES IN FRONT OF A GROUP OF MEN, TAKE A GOOD LOOK INTO THE MEN'S EYES....

THERE IS A LONGING... LET ME TRY TO EXPLAIN...

YOU SEE... ALL MEN SECRETLY HARBOR THE DESIRE TO BE DOGS... MEN POSSESS THEM AS PETS ONLY TO LIVE VICARIOUSLY THROUGH THEM...

DOGS LEAD THE SIMPLE LIFE THAT MAN CAN ONLY DREAM ABOUT... I MEAN... IMAGINE JUST HAVIN' TO SNIFF SOME-ONE'S BUM TO DISCOVER IF THEY'RE YOUR MATE OR NOT...

THEY DO THINGS WE WISH WE COULD DO, BUT SOCIETY HAS DEEMED INAPPROPRIATE... um... Bad dog... SIGH I'D JOIN YOU ELSA, BUT THE MAN HAS COND-ITONED ME TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS WRONG!!

THIS CAN'T TASTE ANY WORSER THAN COOLS™

THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WHY MEN URINATE IN PUBLIC PLACES... IT'S THE CLOSEST THEY GET TO FEELING LIKE A DOG.

EVERYTHING ELSE... THE BALLCHASING, THE NUDITY, THE BITING, SNIFFING... MEN CAN'T DO... THEY'LL GET ARRESTED... OR AT LEAST PUNCHED OUT...

HEY!! AW FIDO, C'MON!! GET OUTTA THERE!!

DOGS ARE LIKE STAR TREK... THEY BOLDLY GO WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE. STOP

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