

THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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Tuition rises \$1 per credit; may go up again in fall

by Keirsten Morris
of The Commuter

The LBCC Board of Education has approved a dollar per credit tuition and fee increase effective summer term, and may decide to raise tuition by another dollar this fall.

That raises LB's tuition and fees for local residents to \$38 a credit hour, a 2.7 percent increase.

Marlene Propst, marketing and publications director, stated that the \$1 tu-

ition increase would generate a revenue of approximately \$150,000.

The state Emergency Board is currently considering a request from the state's community colleges to ease the funding crisis, but if it fails to give the colleges the money they seek, the LB Board of Education may approve an additional \$1 tuition hike effective fall term.

"With limited state and local property tax revenue, tuition is the only revenue source that the board still has con-

trol over," said President Jon Carnahan. "The board also must sustain its fair share principle that students' tuition and fees should not exceed 25 percent of the cost of their education."

The tuition increase stays within the board's fair-share policy and keeps LBCC's tuition in the low- to middle-range in comparison to other Oregon community colleges, said Propst.

Vickie Chamberlain, executive director of the Oregon Community College

Association, stated that because the Emergency Board last week put off the request for additional funding for Oregon's 17 community colleges, the need for additional funds will only grow.

State funding for community colleges has risen 1.8 percent, which has not been enough to fund the 4 percent enrollment growth LBCC has seen in recent years.

LB last raised tuition in 1996 by a dollar to \$36 a credit. A \$1 technology fee was added in 1998.

Campus events to celebrate Cinco de Mayo

by Justin Dalton
of The Commuter

This Friday, a celebration of Mexican arts and heritage will be held in the Courtyard to commemorate Cinco de Mayo.

"Batalla de Puebla," a day highly recognized, marks the epic battle in 1862 where an army of outnumbered, ill-equipped Mexican-Indians defeated the French Army's advancement to conquer Mexico.

"Batalla de Puebla," became better known in the United States as Cinco de Mayo, and is, oddly enough, celebrated more widely in the states than in Mexico.

"There's a lot of misconceptions about Cinco de Mayo," said Dee Curwen, coordinator of the Multicultural Center. "It's not a celebration of Mexico's Independence, moreover it's a celebration for a victory, commemorating unity and patriotism."

As the host of the celebration, the Multicultural Center has spent hours preparing for the event. Students have been working on a moving mural, a giant wall-hanging of an Aztec calendar and traditional paper art cuttings, known as "papel picado."

Curwen is overseeing the event and encourages students to help with the production of decorations.

"Students are more than welcome to help with painting and coloring the decorations," said Curwen. "We could use the help."

Curwen has also made arrangements with Señor Sam's in Corvallis to cater authentic Mexican food samplers during the celebration's food fair, scheduled for 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Along with enjoying the food, students can browse the many educational displays that focus on Mexican heritage

(Turn to "Cinco" on Pg. 2)



Transit Turmoil

Monday got off to a lively start this week when Albany Police vehicles, lights flashing, surrounded a Linn-Benton Loop Bus outside Takena Hall in response to a call about an angry confrontation between two riders. Albany Police officer Kevin Manske said the original call indicated a man was violating a restraining order by harassing his former partner, but that turned out not to be the case. After a discussion with the officers, the man and woman involved went their separate ways.



Photos by Robin Camp

Governor honors outstanding student scholars

by Leon Tovey
of The Commuter

Two LBCC students were honored as outstanding scholars during a ceremony at the State Capitol Building in Salem last Friday.

Aleksandra Avakova and Jin Wang were two of 38 Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) Outstanding Student Scholars chosen from over 380,000 students attending Oregon community colleges this year. The students were accompanied by LBCC President Jon Carnahan.

After the ceremony, they attended a luncheon at the Creekside Country Club in south Salem, where they were introduced to Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Avakova, who also spoke at the luncheon, called the experience "absolutely amazing."

"I didn't really expect to be so surprised by the Governor," she said Saturday. "I'd seen pictures of him before, but to meet him and have him standing next to me in his cowboy boots and jeans, with his big curly mustache—he's a really

neat guy."

Carnahan was also impressed with the experience. "I was very proud to represent LB and to accompany Aleksandra and Jin. Aleksandra gave a great speech, and they have both worked really hard for this for this honor."

OCCA Student Scholars are students that have completed at least 12 semester credit hours or quarter hour equivalents toward an associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or better. They are nominated by instructors and officials from their community college and if selected, they are eligible for \$1,000 scholarships offered by 20 public and private Oregon universities.

(Turn to "Scholarships" on Pg. 2)



Jin Wang



Aleksandra Avakova

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Enchantment

Local theme park offers fun for all ages

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Check This Out

Help build your community—literally. Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers Saturday. Sign up in the SL&L office.

Bats Explode

Runners take off on five-game win streak

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CAMPUS NEWS

OFF BEAT

Fuel drowns family room

Gregory Thorson turned the basement of his Merrill, Wis., home, into a family room, changed the heating system, and hauled away the unsightly fuel tank. But he did not remove the fixture on the outside of the house through which heating oil had once been delivered. A fuel truck driver, unaware of the change, pumped 100 gallons of heating oil through the fill pipe and directly into the newly renovated room. Damage was considerable.

Teacher shoots shoulder

Kathy Morris, a teacher at La Cima Middle School in Tucson, Ariz., was shot in the shoulder in her classroom before school began, and told police that a young intruder did the deed. The cops felt the evidence did not support her story, particularly when they searched her purse and found a gun that had been fired once. She later admitted shooting herself to demonstrate the lack of security at the school. She will soon face the scrutiny of a team of mental health professionals.

Kid drives drunk mom

After a night of heavy drinking in an Arizona bar, Michele McCoy decided - wisely, she thought at the time to have her daughter drive her home. The daughter is 11 years old. The kid, who had never driven before, promptly crashed the car into a house, resulting in police involvement. McCoy, 36, got seven years in prison.

Roaming county convicts?

Fashion-conscious teenagers in Jonesboro, Ark., have taken to wearing prison-orange outfits, similar to the ones issued to convicts to make them stand out in a crowd of law-abiding citizens. Printed on the clothes are phrases like "County Inmate" and "Correctional Facility." Some folks, upon seeing some of these kids, formed the distinct impression that groups of escaped convicts were roaming the countryside, and called the cops. This has led to increased headcounts in the county jail.

From the TMS News Service

CORRECTION

In last week's paper, The Commuter incorrectly identified LB student John Henderson and maintenance worker Jim Burnett, who worked on the Welding Society's motorcycle parking project.

PTK gathers books for Project Literacy

The LBCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is organizing a book drive to benefit Linn County Project Literacy.

Donations of new or used books will be accepted at the Counseling Center in Takena 101 in care of Rosemary Bennett starting today through May 10.

The donated books will be offered free of charge to students and faculty in Takena Hall on Thursday, May 11 and Friday, May 12. Cash donations will be accepted, with all proceeds going to Linn Co. Project Literacy, which works to promote literacy in the community.

In addition, PTK is looking for eligible students interested

in becoming members. A student is eligible if he/she have achieved at least one term at 3.5 GPA or higher and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.33. Benefits of membership include access to scholarships only offered to PTK members.

Several officer positions with PTK are available for the 2000-2001 school year. Elections for next year's officers will be held on May 11 and 12 in Takena Hall.

All general members may vote and/or run for office. Notification of intent to run must be submitted to the Counseling Center Secretary prior to May 9. Contact Bennett at 917-4780 for more information.

Cinco de Mayo: Festivities include photos, food, piñata

From Page One

and their overlooked, rich culture. Featured in the hallways of the Work Force Education Building (WEB), is a photo exhibit by Barbara Rossi, a program assistant with the JOBS program, who has captured Mexican culture by traveling its back roads for several years.

Apart from the "mature" audience, children from the Family Resource Center will have their kicks by taking swings at a piñata.

The celebration will kick-off at 11 a.m. and will run until 1 p.m. in the Courtyard. In the event of unwanted rain, the fiesta will continue in the Multicultural Center or Student Lounge.



Photo by A.J. Wright

Juan Garcia and Julio Arroyo-Burdett work on a sign for the Cinco de Mayo celebration planned for Friday in the Courtyard.

Math Awareness Week features games, contest, hot dogs, live pig

by Keirsten Morris
of The Commuter

The LBCC Math and Science departments will be hosting Math Awareness Week May 8-12 to celebrate the national theme of "Math Spans all Dimensions."

"Each day there will be a different hands-on game," said Math Instructor Cathy Lovingier.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Courtyard outside the Science and Technology building, and feature such games as a Tangram, a giant puzzle that must be put together within

a given outline, a six-piece foam cube with puzzle-type edges, a golf estimation game, and a team contest to solve a physical problem. Animal Science instructor Jim Lucas may bring one of his pigs in for students to estimate its weight.

"We're hoping to provide something for everyone," said Lovingier.

Math Awareness Week T-shirts that were designed by Math Instructor Rob Lewis and LRC Math Tutor Marv Kirk will be on sale, along with hot dogs, chips and a soda for \$1.50, ice cream for 35 cents and root beer floats for 75 cents.

Scholarships: Winners set sights on future

From Page One

Avakova is a 20-year-old pre-law major from Astrakhan, Russia, who plans to transfer to OSU next fall. She has a 3.7 GPA at LBCC and participates in the Student Programming Board, Student Activity Programming, and International Students Club.

Wang, 26, is a business administra-

tion major from Shanghai, People's Republic of China. She is a member of the Student Activity Programming Budget Committee, the International Students Club, and is a campus recreation specialist on the Student Programming Board. She has a 4.0 GPA and plans to transfer to a four-year university to pursue an international business degree.

President to swear in student leaders

From the LBCC News Service

LBCC's 2000-2001 Associated Student Government and Student Programming Board will be sworn in today at 3 p.m. in the Student Life & Leadership office.

The swearing in will be preceded by a ceremony honoring the 1999-2000 ASG and SPB. LBCC President Jon Carnahan will present a special award to the outgoing student leaders.

ASG officers to be sworn in are Todd Gifford, president; Jonathan Henderson, vice-president; Sheri Fenn, secretary; Luke Theurer, science/industry representative; and Max Cohen, business/health representative. Student Programming Board members are Roger Shear, Alex Mench, Darciea Corson, Charlotte Aaron, Ryan Dode, Gwendolyn Morris and Brian Holcomb.

The ceremony is open to the public, and refreshments will be provided for those attending.

THE 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.

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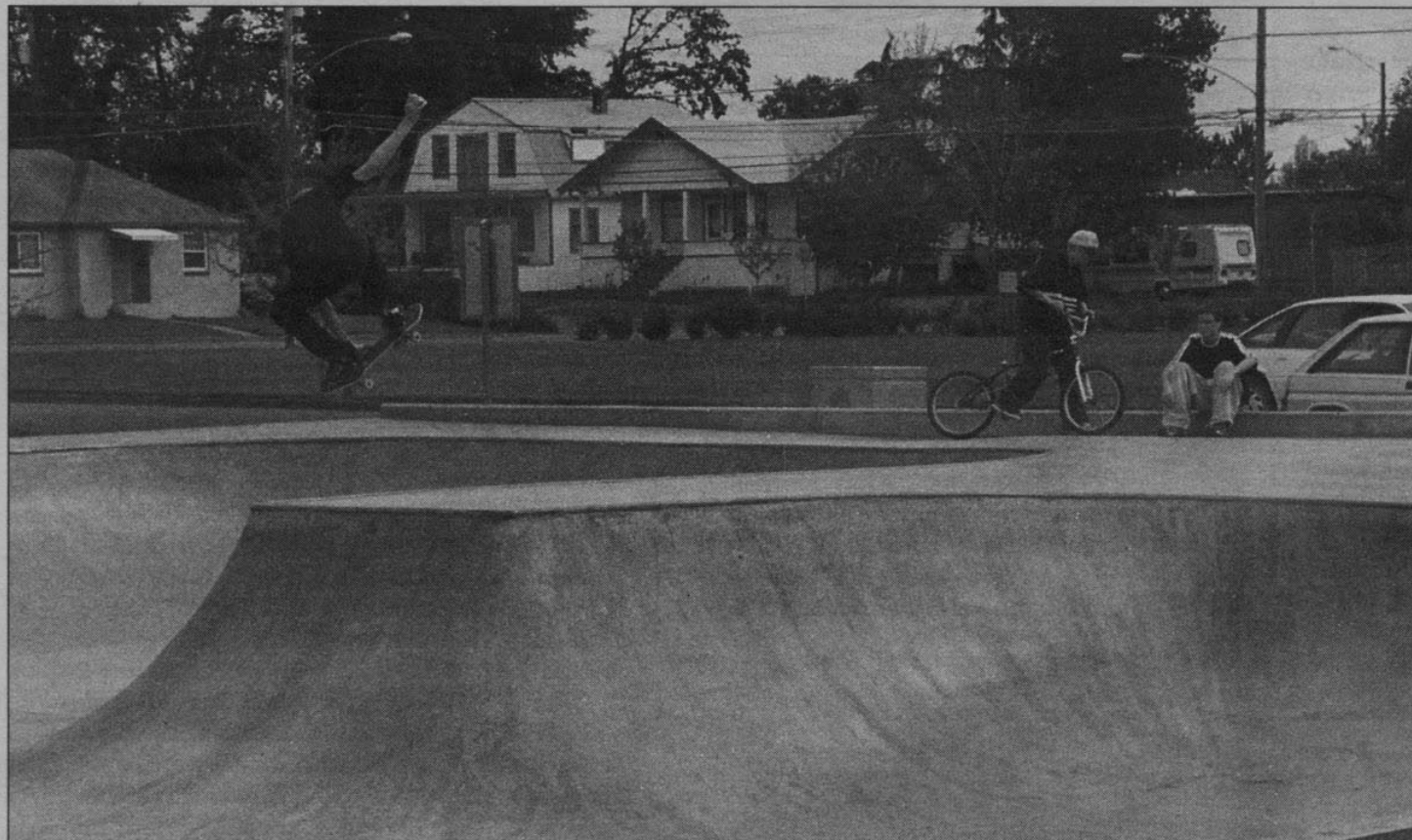
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IN FOCUS

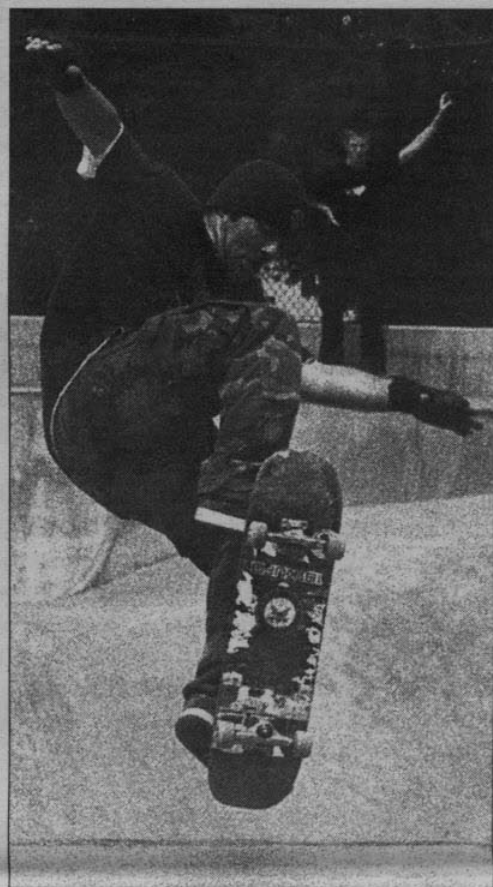
Thrashin' & Crashin'

AT THE ALBANY SKATEPARK



Nathan Hill flies high on his skateboard while Jason Barnes waits with his bike and a friend at the Albany Skatepark on Monday. Since it was opened last fall, the skatepark has proven a popular attraction to boarders from all over the mid-valley. The addition of lights earlier this year has opened up use of the park in the evenings.

Albany's Skatepark has seen lots of use since it opened last year, and the recent addition of lights will make it more accessible



Brian Kaucher works out on his skateboard at the Albany Skatepark, showing off a variety of moves (above, at right and top right).



Jason Barnes practices with his BMX bike in the Albany Skatepark, though bikes aren't allowed in the park.



Photos by Robin Camp

ON THE ROAD

Dune buggy adventure is just the ticket

Travelers find coast get-away satisfies urge for both beauty and thrills



by Anthony Fencil
of The Commuter

My traveling partner, Ben, stays away from words like "pristine" and "splendor" even in reference to the amazing Oregon Coastline. That's okay because Ben is a man of few words. In fact, Ben is a man of almost no words, and half of those are expletives.

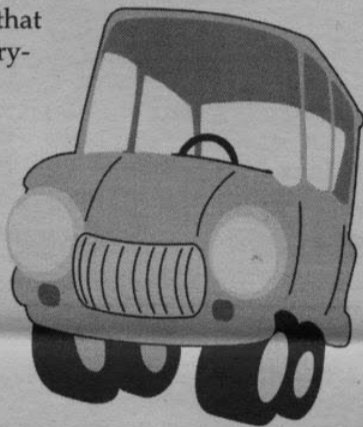
Last fall I took a trip to Sand Dunes Frontier Theme Park with Ben, a resident of the Corvallis group home where I used to work. Ben, in his 40s, has had Fragile X syndrome since birth. Fragile X is a chromosomal disorder that can affect the brain's development and cause other behavior traits specific to the disorder. Craig, who is Ben's brother and also a resident of the house, suffers from the same disorder. But while Craig is a seasoned traveler who spends several weeks a year at special camps for those with developmental disabilities, Ben experiences intense anxiety if he's away from his daily routines for too long and consequently doesn't travel well.

In spite of his verbal austerity, Ben has absolutely no problem communicating his needs. In various ways, he tells the staff at the house that he wants to travel—*anxiety or not*. Every day Ben pulls his suitcase out, opens it on the floor and, over the course of the day, scatters various articles of clothing in and around the suitcase. The message is clear, Ben wants to go somewhere.

The dilemma is how to find an excursion comparable to brother Craig's camping experiences but short enough to accommodate Ben's anxiety. We sift through travel brochures featuring the usual Northwest activities like rafting, hiking, etc. One brochure catches our eye. It shows a dune buggy ascending a sandy hill. This one has Ben written all over it and soon it is decided that I will take Ben on a dune buggy ride.

Some time later Ben and I find ourselves heading south along the coast from Newport towards Florence. Twisting and turning around the steep edges of the rocky coastline, I look over at Ben. He seems to be enjoying the ride. Deep down I can't help but conclude that Ben really does appreciate the rapt beauty around us. Perhaps he doesn't contemplate the imposing cliffs, the wind-twisted trees, open breadth of sea and sky the same way I do, but I'm convinced that at some level he feels them.

At this point, I'm reminded that our purpose is twofold. We are fulfilling two missions here. Not only



FAST FACTS

Sand Dunes Frontier Theme Park, located just south of Florence along Highway 181, offers a variety of ride packages:

- Large dune buggies that carry as many as 30 people and feature a 35-minute, scenic tour of the area for \$10 for adults, \$4 for kids age 6 to 11, and children under 5, \$2.

- A beach Trolley with a 60-minute narrated tour to the beach and surrounding area for \$15, \$8, and \$4, respectively, and \$13 for seniors.

- A variety of ATVs and dune buggies can be rented by the hour and require deposit.

In addition to the dune buggy rides and Western village, Frontier has a laser arcade shooting gallery, blacksmith shop, miniature golf and over 80 wooded camping sites. Nearby Florence also offers its own attractions and tourist sites, lodging accommodations and restaurants.

are we are experiencing natural beauty in one of its grandest forms, but we're also going for quick, cheap thrills in a fast dune buggy in the sand.

Sand Dunes Frontier Theme Park lies just south of Florence on Highway 181. The park is only four miles from town and lies within the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. True to its name, the park itself is done up in frontier style. The few buildings and storefronts have a quaint Old West look. The buzz of dune buggies is pervasive as the four-wheeled insects emerge from wooded areas on sandy trails, stop and unload their passengers. At the same time, other buggies are being loaded up and slowly crawl away.

On one of the larger "general-store" type buildings is a sign that says tickets. Inside, there's a large gift shop with food and snacks available, and a large sign listing the variety of rides to choose from. It's the Sand Rails "thrill ride" that looks right for us—30 minutes, \$15 per seat. Some of the buggies can carry up to seven passengers, but we decide to wait about 30 minutes for one of the smaller ones so we can go on our own.

Ben, by all outward appearances, warrants no special attention, but his behavior is often another story. As we wait at a picnic table with other potential sand railers, I notice Ben is becoming a little antsy in antici-

pation of our ride. He loudly and shamelessly lets out a few choice phrases that now and then turn a head or two. And, try as I may to appease Ben's diminishing patience, I just can't keep him from indulging in one of his more curious habits, that of taking off one shoe, twirling it around in his hands several times, kissing it gently, then putting it back on his foot. This does not escape the notice of other waiting passengers. Adults nervously try not to notice, but Ben's nervous ritual nevertheless draws a small audience. The kids present are fascinated.

Finally, our turn comes and Ben and I climb into the sand rail. We're issued goggles to protect our eyes from the sand, but Ben refuses to put his on. After repeated attempts at a gentle persuasion, we reach a compromise. He won't let me put the goggles over his eyes, but will let them rest on his forehead. With an expression that vaguely suggests something like liability issues, the driver looks at me, looks at Ben, then looks back at me again. I shrug. The driver then puts his own goggles on, puts the buggy in gear, and we go.

Suddenly we vanish on trails through sandy wooded areas. The trails then feed into open areas and we pick up speed. We don't have much time to admire the smooth, wind sculpted surfaces and sloping expanses. Before we know it, we are heading towards a steep hill at breakneck speeds and begin carving our way up its deep side, sand flailing aggressively from our rear paddle-like tires. It is intense. We reach the crest of the dune and, with a tingling tightness still in my stomach, I see the ocean and dunes and the beautiful green tree line carpeting the horizons around us. It is intense and breathtaking.

We continue on like this for half an hour. Ben is feeling the effects of not having his goggles on. His eyes are squinting tightly because of the sand, yet he still will not put them on. Despite this, he seems to be having fun. As we ascend or descend a dune with speed, I see him excitedly shaking his fist in the air as if experiencing some kind of inner triumph. Certainly, seeing Ben like this was a triumph for me.

As we get back to the loading area, Ben is quick to get out of the straps and scurries away to the rest room with child-like exuberance. Later, we make a trip to the gift shop where Ben tries on sweatshirts to commemorate our adventure.

An excursion like this is perfect for those in the Willamette Valley who want a quick and fun trip to the Oregon coastline. It has the potential to appease the nature lover and thrill seeker both. Natural beauty combined with the thrill of a roller coaster, an adulterated experience to some perhaps, but for Ben and me, it was just the ticket.

TRAVELS WITH KATIE

A trip to Oklahoma City leaves traveler thinking of 1995 bombing

by Katie Botkin
of The Commuter

Just after 9 a.m. on April 19, 1995, our family was listening to the car radio, about to depart, when the news reported an explosion in Oklahoma City. How odd, I thought, that's where we're going.

On April 18, 2000, exactly five years, minus one day, we all set out for Oklahoma City once again. This time we noticed on the news that a big memorial was in progress in the place we were headed, complete with speeches from the president and Janet Reno and Oklahomans passing out, apparently from heatstroke. We had our own little problems to worry about, though.

We were dealing with family togetherness. My sister Bess got sick and threw up twice. Then my brother Daniel got sick. Then my mom. When someone wasn't sick and the car did not have an excuse to be quiet, Bess threatened to make Isaiah smell her acid vomit breath if he made any noise. I threatened to write about my family if they did anything especially annoying. The power of the press at work.

We were on the first leg of our trip after leaving our

home in Idaho, where I sent in my first installment of this travel diary. My siblings were all actually pretty good and even looked at the scenery some of the time. Montana was the most beautiful just as we went over the continental divide. The road was carved into a mountain, which was covered with spruce trees, untouched snow and afternoon sunlight.

We were going to swing through Yellowstone National Park, but it was closed due to excessive snow. Driving through Wyoming, the least populated state, we saw pronghorn antelope grazing with cattle, but not much sign of settlement. We didn't run across any gas stations for a while and almost ran out of fuel.

As we drove past Denver, I noticed a flag flying at half-mast. I wondered why, until my sister reminded me that it was April 20th, the one-year Columbine anniversary and Littleton was a few miles away.

So then we were in Oklahoma, and we saw the same people we saw five years before. An orthopaedic surgeon, who worked on the victims of the bombing as we stayed at his house, took our family out to lunch and asked me about Linn-Benton.

I went to the bombing site, where those killed, those

who survived and those "changed forever," were represented in 168 empty chairs, a wall full of names and a shallow pool full of water that sometimes reflected the faces that look into it.

The day I went, the memorial was teeming with people because there was an arts festival going on downtown. Kathy Blackwell was one such person, who had been nearby when the bomb went off. She thought at first the blast was in her building.

"Now that I'm here, I like it," Blackwell said. "I think when all this calms down, it will be a nice, quiet place to come and reflect."

This is an opinion not shared by all visitors.

"I think they're spending too much money on it [the various memorials and museums that will go up in the next few years]," Ron Blackwell said critically, "\$26 million."

A Pearl Harbor veteran named Jimmy said he thought the hype was overblown and would never give the survivors or victims' families a chance to forget. A few minutes later I found out this apparent stranger was my mother's mail deliverer when she was a child.

This world is so full of irony.

CAMPUS NEWS

LB to host 10th international Peace Studies symposium

by Lori Weedmark
of The Commuter

LBCC Peace Studies Group advisor and instructor Doug Clark will be hosting the 10th Biennial International Symposium on Education for Peace, Justice and Human Rights this summer.

The symposium, made up of representative teachers and students from several countries, will be held the week of August 27 to Sept. 3 at the Benton Center in Corvallis.

Approximately 70 to 80 representatives from the United States, Germany, Canada, Israel, Palestine, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, the UK and Mexico are expected to attend. The event is designed to bring together students who are training to be teachers, help them learn from each other and bring an international perspective to their work.

"The purpose of the symposium is to get people in a setting to interact with other people and cultures," said Clark, who is hosting the event for the first time. "They can bring the things they experience and the idea of teaching peaceful alternatives to war back to the classroom with them."

This year's theme is Learning Democracy, which focuses on the fundamental changes in world politics during the last decade. These changes revolve around the importance of democracy in human relations. The symposium will focus on the implications of this for teaching and learning.

"There was a movement after WWII to build more elements of the lessons of war into lessons that teach peace," Clark said. "At that time, teachers began stressing the importance of seeking alternatives to war."

The symposium was started in the early 1980s by a small group of western Europeans. It was comprised of teachers and students who wanted to work across cultures and societies, creating techniques that incorporated teaching peace and tolerance of different cul-



Photo by Christopher Spence

Jennifer Stangier and Tom Jones sell T-Shirts for the Peace Studies Club in Takena Hall.

tures. At the time, the Cold War was heating up and many in Europe wanted to head off any potential battle that would inevitably end up being fought on their land.

The conference was in its fourth year when Clark first became involved. At the time he was teaching at a college in the Netherlands on a teacher exchange program. The conference was anxious to get American students and teachers involved.

"They wanted an American point of view," said Clark. "The United States was the world super-power and they needed us there at a time when the Cold War was going on." The group wanted as many perspectives as possible, he said.

LBCC students have been participating ever since, with trips to Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Berlin and Norway.

This year eight students from LBCC are expected to attend along with three or four students from Skagit Valley College in Mt. Vernon, Washington. Students interested in becoming delegates will be chosen after submitting an essay on questions posed by Clark.

"I'm going to try to be on the delegate team," said Jennifer Stangier, LBCC language major and Peace Studies member. "A lot of peace study students want to participate."

LBCC is donating space at the Benton Center for the symposium. The Peace Studies group uses money from fund-raising events to pay for their trips abroad. This year the funds are being used to help defray costs for hosting the event and to help groups from other countries participate. Peace Studies is a co-curricular program that also gets funding from the LBCC programming budget.

"The initial funding from the board is used to help with fund raisers for the group," Clark said. "Everybody who participates in this (symposium) is doing it voluntarily—it's a huge job to put together."

This year's symposium will include presentations on social, political and environmental issues in our region and in the home countries of the students. Students can choose to participate in workshops ranging from Language and Discrimination to Learning Democracy in Schools. Workshops will also be conducted on analyzing curriculum materials and school and classroom activities for global education.

"One of the workshops will be a daily newspaper that students will put together," Clark said. "It will look at how news and information systems affect war and peace."

Teachers help organize the workshops and show students what the topics are about. The students then take over and run the events for the week, gaining hands on experience, rather than just sitting through lectures.

Smith closes chapter as Umbrella advisor to focus on her own writing and teaching

By Rebecca Indrika
of The Commuter

It's not easy being the manager of The Eloquent Umbrella, LBCC's creative arts journal. Among the many responsibilities are soliciting and jurying manuscripts and illustrations; supervising the design, printing, and distribution; and teaching a staff of novice students how to edit the yearly journal.

Linda Varsell Smith knows this all too well having been advisor and instructor of WR247, Literary Publications, the class that has edited The Eloquent Umbrella for the last nine years. Under her guidance, students have had a rare glimpse behind the scenes of creating a literary publication.

Things are about to change, however, as Smith says goodbye to The Eloquent Umbrella. "I've come to a point in my life where I have to make a choice. I'm 60 now and my novels are my priority."

Smith has spent many hours each year working on The Eloquent Umbrella, a campus publication which changed from an extracurricular activity in 1991 to a co-curriculum publication in the English Department. The Eloquent Umbrella's shining moment came when the 1999 edition won a National Honorable Mention for college publications. Having had previous literary publication experience and an Associate of Arts degree in graphic design and printing technology from LBCC, Smith was asked to take on this project. Having been a volunteer since 1976 and an editor since 1982 for Calyx, a literary publication specializing in the creative works of women, Smith was especially qualified.

Smith is an avid writer involved in many local writing groups as well as working on several projects of her own. She has spent over 20 years developing a series of 10 fantasy novels that span 55 years from 1950-2005. She has developed an entirely new culture of people for her books. Seven of her novels have been completed, and she is working simultaneously on the last three. Though none have been published as of yet, Smith does intend to research publishers and submit the manuscripts once they are all finished.

Aside from writing fantasy fiction, Smith is also very fond of poetry. She published her first poem when she was thirty,

"I've come to a point in my life where I have to make a choice. I'm 60 now and my novels are my priority."

—Linda Varsell Smith



and has published over 100 since then.

"I get a special delight from poetry. Poetry is an exquisite language." Smith shows her special delight when teaching WR242, Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry. Many of her students have stated that Smith makes them eager to write and inspires them to try new methods of writing poetry and fiction. Smith stays active with local writers beyond campus publication. She has spent the past few years developing workshops where local writers can feed their creative souls. Smith's workshops, "Fooling Around with Words" and "Writers on Writing," both attract people from the Linn-Benton area and beyond. Smith nourishes her own creative nature through involvement with local writers groups. Smith says she enjoys meeting with fellow authors and sharing works for review, criticism or just for entertainment.

And teaching has been part of Smith's life since college in Connecticut, where she was born. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Central Connecticut State University, and her masters degree in educational psychology from the University of Arizona.

Smith moved to Corvallis in 1969 when her husband, Courtland, received a job as an assistant professor of anthropology at Oregon State University. In Corvallis, Smith and her husband raised three children, who in turn have given them three grandchildren.

Smith enjoyed her last nine years working on The Eloquent Umbrella. However, for now she looks forward to completing her novels and having more time to spend with her grandchildren. And teaching will remain in her life; she'll teach her credit and noncredit creative writing courses until she retires.

Smith's advice for aspiring writers is simple: "Hang in there, don't give up. Try to keep up with new styles and technology."

Tips for writers seeking writers

Interested in local writer's groups? Here are Linda's suggestions:

- Watch the Sunday Gazette-Times' book section for information on writers' guilds and Web sites.

- Look for an upcoming Web site that will be launched in cooperation with the Literary Interest Group to get local writers in touch with each other.

- Check out the Willamette Literary Guild for information on projects in the works for the fall 2000 that will bring writers together to form new or join existing literary groups in the area.

- Sign up for writing courses at LBCC where Linda teaches WR240 Personal Journal Writing, WR241 Fiction, WR242 Poetry, and a non-credit class, Life Story.

Eloquent Umbrella to be 'opened' May 13

From the LBCC News Service

Readings from the 2000 edition of The Eloquent Umbrella, LBCC's student-edited creative arts journal, will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at the Corvallis Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Ave.

In this annual event, called "Opening the Eloquent Umbrella," local writers read their works published in the journal.

Copies will be on sale for \$2.50. The readings are free and open to the public.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Enchanted Encounter

20-year-old theme park north of Albany still offers plenty of thrills and chills for children of all ages



Enchanted Forest's fairy tale sets like Alice in Wonderland (above) and Hansel and Gretel (below) have entertained visitors for nearly 20 years.

Photos and Story by Shauna Noah of The Commuter

Few things could send an otherwise upstanding reserved adult into fits of five-year-old frenzies. Number one with a bullet is a good old fashioned theme park, but if Disneyland is too far to travel, Enchanted Forest is your answer.

Enchanted Forest, located off I-5 in Salem, is a charming theme park that brings to life all of your favorite fairy tale characters, a small western town and a little English village.

The tour begins at a miniature castle that holds artistic renderings from Disney's Sleeping Beauty. From there you can go on to Alice in Wonderland, where there is the flower garden and Alice and the Caterpillar. The highlight of this spot is the rabbit hole, which at first inspection seems to just be a little photo opportunity until you start crawling down it to crawl a substantial way until you pop out at the key hole. Adults should leave this for the kids to play with, for the space is small and getting stuck might pose a problem.

After visiting more famous fairy tale abodes, you encounter the Old Lady's Shoe, a giant shoe that is also a giant slide. You are given a sliding mat, and with the help of the very friendly Enchanted Forest supervisors, sent down the bumpy slide. This is free of charge, with no limits on rides.

Next up is the Haunted House, which is \$1.65 per person. It has a sign on it that warns young children and those "easily frightened" against going in. I, being one of those "easily frightened" wussies, did not like this aspect of the park, but it did offer a lot of jumps and creepy effects.

One of the best part of the Enchanted Forest is its two rides: The Ice Mountain Bobsleds and The Big Timber Log Ride. The Bobsleds cost \$1.65 per person and bring you through blasts of cold smokey air into a bunch of fast, leaning curves that make you fear for your safety. The Big Timber Log ride costs \$2.20 per person. You sit in an open wood log and get lowered into the water, where you tour a fake mine and then drop 40 feet into water. It was the highlight of the trip. I went twice.

In the midst of the rides is Toftville, a western town that features a fake graveyard with funny headstones, a gift shop



and a few games. Toftville is named after the Enchanted Forest creator, Roger Toft, who began construction on the park in 1964 and opened it to the public in August 1971.

The tour then takes you to a small English village where kids can play in Pinocchio's Playhouse and listen to the blackbirds in the Blackbird Pie sing a swinging set.

The Forest then offers a chance for weary adults to get some rest and grub while the kids are entertained. The cafe is adjacent to the Fantasy Fountains, a water show that combines classic ballet music with water to form an aquatic fantasia. The show lasts for eight minutes and repeats every seven.

Enchanted Forest is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. from March 15 to Labor Day. From then it's only open on weekends and then closes its doors in October until the next spring. Admission is \$6.95 for adults, \$6.50 for seniors 62+, and \$6.25 for children 3-12.

REVIEW

'Heart' is better than its billing

by Michelle Mayo of The Commuter

When "Where the Heart Is" opened last Friday, critics called it "the white trash feel good movie of the year," and a waste of good talent.

"Heart" was inspired by the novel written by Billie Letts, which was made popular in December of 1998 by Oprah and her book club.

The young and talented Natalie Portman plays the lead character Novalee Nation, a 17-year-old native of Tennessee who is traveling with her hick boyfriend Willy Jack Pickens, played by Dylan Bruno.

On their way to California, Novalee makes a pit stop at a Wal-Mart in Oklahoma and returns to a find Willy Jack and the Plymouth they call a car gone. All that remains in its parking spot is her Polaroid camera.

Literally barefoot and pregnant and with no where to go, she makes the Wal-Mart her fortress and lives in a tent in the sporting goods department, living off the shelves of the store and keeping a running tally of what she "borrowed."

The secret is out when she gives birth on the Wal-Mart floor and she and her "Wal-Mart baby" become instant celebrities. The town befriends her and she finds a makeshift family among the interesting and eccentric locals of Sequayah, Okla. Novalee has finally found a home in the small town where fate has dropped her.

"Where the Heart Is" was made up of a star-studded cast that could rival "Steel Magnolia," only without the sunshine. Sally Field plays a cameo as Novalee's estranged mother who decides on a visit after seeing her on the news.

Stockard Channing plays Sister Husband, the surrogate mother she adopts, and Ashley Judd plays Novalee's relationship-challenged friend, who has found love in all the wrong places and has an abundance of children to show for it.

It's apparent that something is missing from this film, which has the feel of a Sunday-night TV special that hits the big screen in tube tops and spiked heels. I adored the book, and have a feeling that the movie version will be inspirational in trailer parks all over America.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Gladstone and Weiss bands to perform in LB fund-raiser

by Michelle Mayo
of The Commuter

Neal Gladstone and Company will be performing at Tadena Theater on Saturday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be sponsored by the YES for LBCC Committee.

All proceeds from the concert will go to support the Capital Bond Measure for construction and renovation projects on campus and at the campus extended learning centers.

"The committee is still in the process of assessing

and refining where the money is needed the most," said Marlene Propst, marketing and publications director for LBCC, and a member of the committee.

The six-piece band is well known in the Northwest for their amusing and intriguing songs and skits that are done in a cabaret style.

The group also plays on a broadcast radio comedy show which they have done for the last five years on Oregon Public Radio.

Also appearing in the show is Mark Weiss and Friends, a musical group which includes LBCC coun-

selor Weiss and LBCC's Learning Center Coordinator Audrey Perkins. The band is going to perform folk and instrumental music.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person, which includes admission to the concert and a reception afterward.

At the reception, refreshments will be served and entertainment provided by Gary Ruppert, of LBCC's Arts and Communication Division, and his wife Karen.

Tickets are available at Rice Pharmacy in Corvallis, Sid Stevens Jewelry in Albany and at the door before the benefit.

Student Art Exhibit

The Art Department's first Juried Art Student Exhibit opened in the LBCC Gallery this week, featuring more than 50 works by students in drawing, painting, photography and ceramics courses. At right is an oil on canvas by DiAnn Acevedo titled "Self-Portrait with Quilt"; below is a photograph by Charles Heath titled "Crow." The exhibit will be in the gallery, located in the foyer of the AHSS Building, through May 19. A closing reception will be held May 19 at 4 p.m. when visitors are invited to stop by and meet the artists.



Commons Menu



Wednesday May 3

Baked Stuffed Snapper
Jerked Chicken
Flat Bread & Curried Vegetables

Thursday May 4

Lemon Chicken & Steamed Rice
Flemish Beef Stew
Vegetable Pie

Friday May 5

Chef's Choice

Monday May 8

Sticky Chicken
Swedish Meat Balls
Portobellos, Spinach and Rice with
Poached Egg

Tuesday May 9

Herb-breaded Chicken Breast
Beef Tamales
Sweet & Sour Tempura Vegetable

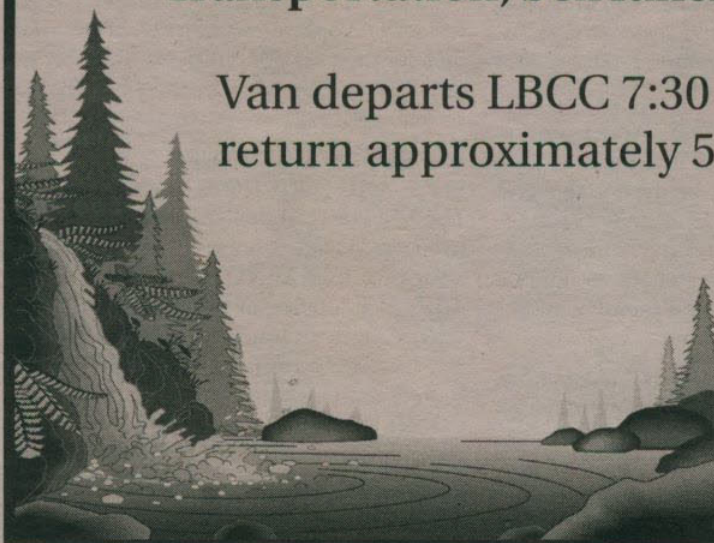


Opal Creek Hike May 20



Sign up in Student Life & Leadership office
\$3-student w/valid ID (sorry no refunds)
Transportation, box lunch & water provided

Van departs LBCC 7:30 am
return approximately 5:30 pm



approximate 10 mile hike
bring backpack (for lunch/water)
we'll have a picnic!

Sponsored by LBCC Intramural Recreational Program.
For more information, contact Jin Wang Ext. 4463

FUNNY PAGE

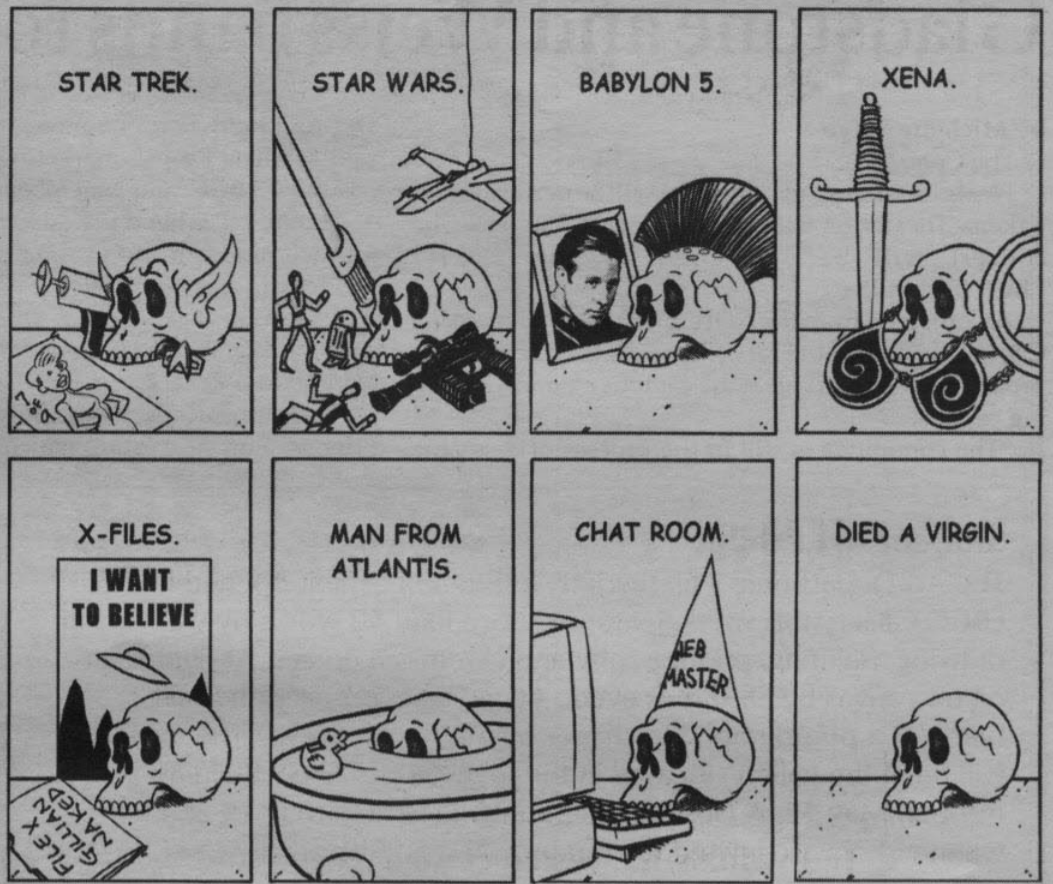
THE BLUE M&M



THE ADVENTURES OF SKULY

BY WILLIAM MORTON
©MCMXCIX

~ SCI-FI GEEK SKULY



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

HP RESEARCH INTERN -- Are you going to school for at least another year? We have a part-time intern position that requires a one-year commitment to work there and a desire to work in a library-type atmosphere. This job requires 20 hours a week and those hours are flexible. The pay is \$9.19/hour. See Carla in Student Employment to apply (T-101).

CWE COMPUTER SUPPORT positions -- Need to get your CWE credits in computer support? We have jobs at Wah Chang and Selmet with part-time, flexible hours and possibility of full-time during the summer. See Student Employment (T-101) to sign up and fax your resume!

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: If you have a 2-year accounting degree or 3 years A/P experience in a manufacturing environment, this is a job for you! This position is in Albany, full-time and pays \$10-\$11/hr., depending on experience. If you are interested, sign up in Student Employment, located in Takena 101.

Painters Wanted for Summer Employment: Call Northwest Pro Painters at 791-2109.

Marketing and Customer Support Rep (Corvallis): Immediate opportunity for person with computer experience for pre & post-sales support. Company makes portable data terminals & intelligent locks. Must be able to manage corporate marketing program & communicate solutions to customers in this full-time job. See Carla in Student Employment (Takena 101).

Engineering Assistant (Beaverton): If you are going to get your 2-year electronics degree and are starting to look for work, this could be for you! Position pays \$30-40,000/year. See Student Employment (Takena 101).

Executive Assistant (Albany): Provide general office support to company that handles over 700 employees. If you have skills in Windows 98, Office 97 and Microsoft utilities, this full-time position could be yours. Pay starts at \$7.50/hour with increases after 30, 90 and 180 days. Excellent benefits. See us in Student Employment for a referral on this opportunity.

Accounting positions - If you are looking for accounting jobs, we have some for you... and they keep coming in! Hey, now is the time to be job hunting. If you are interested, sign up in Student Employment which is located in the Career Center.

AutoCad jobs -- Immediate openings for full-time in Salem and two part-time in Harrisburg and Albany. If you know AutoCad, see Carla in Student Employment (Takena 101) for your referrals on these positions!

Assistant Manager -- This full-time position in a bookstore wants someone with customer service and retail experience. You must also have some cashiering and restocking skills. An associate degree is preferred. See Student Employment (Takena 101).

Nursery Worker (Corvallis) -- Work in a nursery business with plants and people. Can train you but you must be dependable and have a customer service attitude. This 12-week job has flexible weekend hours including Fridays and averages about 28 hours a week. See us in Student Employment for referral on this opportunity!

Coffee house jobs -- This new business has full-time jobs for evening cook, daytime cook and part-time for prep cook and dishwasher. If you're interested, sign up in Student Employment, which is located in the Career Center (T101).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hispanic Students: The HISPANIC DENTAL Association Foundation is offering two scholarships in the amount of \$500 and \$1,000. These awards are for entry level students only who are seeking to advance their scientific and applied clinical knowledge as they enter into the dental profession. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2000. Information and applications are available in the Learning Center (LRC-212).

Attention ALL STUDENTS IN A MEDICALLY-RELATED FIELD: The Geraldine Stephenson Continuing Education Scholarship Endowment, administered by Legacy Meridian Park Hospital Auxiliary, provides a yearly grant of up to \$3,000 to an individual or individuals in a medically-related field. Applicants must be seeking a medically-related field, have recently returned to college after a significant interruption of at least five years due to hardship, must show financial need, must be a U.S. citizen and Oregon resident. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2000. Information and applications available in the Learning Resource (LRC 212).

Attention AGRICULTURAL, FOOD SCIENCE AND POULTRY SCIENCE MAJORS: The NPFDA (National Poultry & Food Distributors Assn.) Scholarship Foundation is awarding four \$1,500 scholarships to students in the fields of poultry science, food science, agricultural economics/marketing, nutrition and all other areas of study related to the poultry industry. Applicants must be in their Junior or Senior year when they receive the scholarship. Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2000. Information and applications are available in the Learning Resource Center (LRC 212).

Attention FORESTRY, WELDING, DIESEL MECHANICS Students: The Oregon Logging Conference is awarding 8 scholarships to students who are in the following areas of study: forest and wood-related areas, welding, cat-skinning, diesel mechanics, choker-setting, etc. Applications and recommendations need to be submitted by June 5, 2000. Applications are available in the Learning Center (LRC-212).

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MISCELLANEOUS

MAY 11th is EQUAL PAY DAY. Women still only get 76 cents for every dollar men make. Our African American sisters get 64 cents and our Hispanic sisters make only 46 cents. On May 11th, wear one shoe in support of EQUAL PAY for ALL WORKERS.

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THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

WANTED!

The Commuter needs creative students to fill positions on the 2000-2001 staff

Editor

Individuals interested in journalism and communications careers are encouraged to apply. Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant and provides practical experience for aspiring writers and editors. Students with coursework and/or experience in journalism are preferred. Applicants must be enrolled as students throughout the 2000-2001 academic year. Appointment made by the LBCC Publications Committee.

DEADLINE IS MAY 12
(for this position only)

Photo Editor

Students with an interest and skills in photography are sought for this position, which offers valuable experience for anyone planning to pursue a career in photography. Several past Commuter photo editors have gone on to work at professional newspapers in Oregon and elsewhere. Applicants must have knowledge of conventional lab work. Familiarity with digital imaging is a plus, but we will provide training in Photoshop. The appointment carries a 75% annual tuition grant.

Sports Editor

A writer with an interest in athletics and outdoors is sought for this position. Students with some journalism or writing experience preferred, but anyone with a flair for writing and a passion for sports is encouraged to apply. The appointment carries a 50% tuition grant and provides valuable on-the-job training and experience covering a wide variety of intercollegiate athletics.

Graphics Editor

The Commuter is seeking an individual with experience in graphics and/or journalism to take charge of the graphic design and production aspects of the weekly newspaper. This position involves helping develop the overall design of The Commuter and coordinating the graphic production operations. Macintosh experience preferred. The appointment carries a 50% tuition grant.

Assistant Editors

Applicants sought for several assistant editor positions, including Managing Editor, Copy Editor and A&E Editor. Some journalism or writing experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointment to Managing Editor carries a 75% tuition grant, while other positions, such as A&E Editor, Copy Editor and Opinion Editor, carry 35% tuition grants.

Digital Page Designer

This part-time position pays \$8+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk Mon.-Tues. Work with the Mac to typeset copy, design ads and format tabloid pages. Macintosh experience and good English skills required; familiarity with Pagemaker helpful. Provides valuable experience for majors in journalism, graphics and pre-press technology.

Ad Manager

Individuals with career goals in business, graphics or journalism are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Macintosh experience preferred. The position carries a full annual tuition grant. Applicants must be enrolled for the 2000-2001 academic year.

Work Study Jobs

Editorial Assistant
Production Assistant
Advertising Assistant
Photography Assistant

These positions open to work study-eligible students only. Information on work study eligibility is available from the Financial Aid Office.

Deadline for Editor is May 12.

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222)

or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-108)

For additional information call 917-4563 or 4451

SPORTS PAGE

Runners dismantle Clackamas, SWOCC for five straight

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

A week after losing doubleheaders to Lane and Mt. Hood, the Runners came back to sweep a twinbill from Clackamas last Tuesday at home and then completed a three-game sweep of SWOCC in Coos Bay Friday and Saturday.

Clackamas fell 12-3 and 3-0, while SWOCC lost 3-1, 2-0 and 7-1.

In the first game against Clackamas, the Runners lineup provided the pop to propel them to the 12-3 victory. They scored one run in the first and eighth innings, two in the third, three in the sixth and five in the seventh.

Andy Narver provided most of the

hits for LB, hitting 4-for-5 with two runs and one run batted in. Mark Morris and Josiah Stroup also helped out, with Morris going 2-for-4 with one run scored and three RBI, and Stroup was 2-for-5 with one run and three RBIs.

Brian Lorimor, who was the starter for Linn-Benton, pitched six and two thirds innings and allowed only one earned run (three runs overall). He gave up four hits but walked four batters. Jeremy Sampson came in during the seventh to give Lorimor a rest, and pitched two and one third innings with two strikeouts and two walks.

The second game was much closer, with the Runners shutting out the Cou-

gars 3-0. Starting pitcher Jake Stickley pitched six of the seven required innings while Morris pitched the final inning to pick up the save.

Narver was again the hitting star for LB, going 2-for-3.

The Runners then traveled to Coos Bay for a three-game series with the Lakers, with one game on Friday and two on Saturday.

On Friday, Justin Quaempts pitched seven innings to claim the 3-1 victory. He got hitting help from Andy Campbell, who went 2-for-4 with a run scored and a triple. Haven, who also went 2-for-4, provided two RBIs on a double and a home run.

Quaempts numbers for the day were: seven innings, four hits, 10 strikeouts, one walk, one earned run. The victory upped his record to 4-2.

The first game on Saturday was another close one, as the Runners pulled out a 2-0 win. Campbell got the start for that game, as he pitched six innings, giving up three hits with nine strikeouts and four walks. Morris pitched the last inning for the save.

Matt Hinshaw and Ryan Borde provided the two Runner RBIs in the second inning. Hinshaw was 2-for-3 on the day.

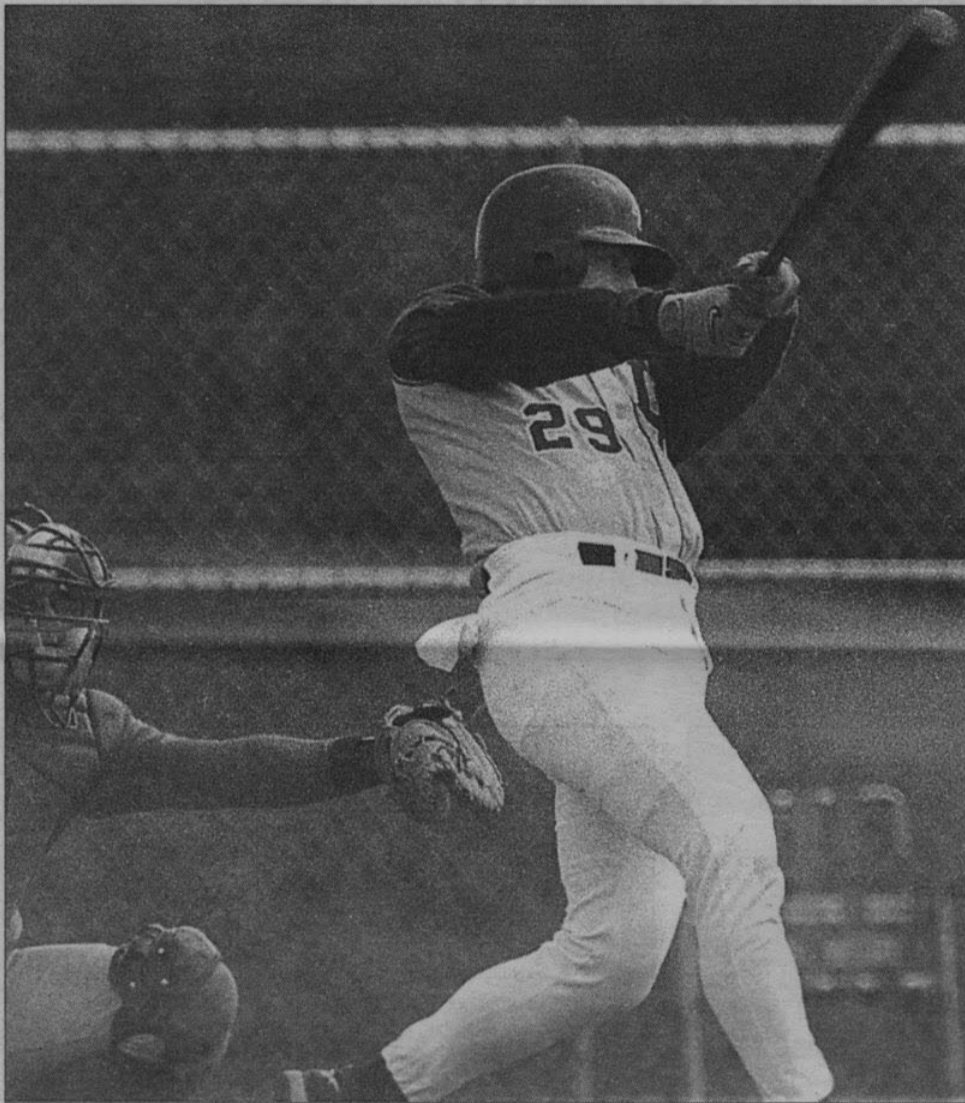
The two Linn-Benton runs were scored by Kris Lloyd and Morris.

The second game completed the three-game sweep of the Lakers, as LB won handily by a score of 7-1. Kyle Zimmerman, coming off a heartbreaking loss to Lane the week before, picked up the win after giving up just one hit and one run over five innings. Lorimor came in to pitch the final two innings to close out the game.

Narver, Campbell, Randy Richardson, Dameon Barrows and Korey Kanaeholo were the hitting stars for the Runners. The first three picked up two hits apiece while Barrows went 4-for-4 and Kanaeholo collected two RBIs. Narver was 2-for-4 with a triple and a run scored, Campbell was 2-for-3 with a run and an RBI and Richardson was 2-for-4.

The Runners results from their home game yesterday against Lane were unavailable at press time. LBCC will travel to Gresham this Saturday to face the Saints of Mt. Hood for a doubleheader, then return home next Tuesday to face the junior varsity squad from Linfield College. Both doubleheaders start at 1 p.m.

The Runners five wins jumped their record to 16-10 overall and 11-6 in league.



Photos by Robin Camp

Jimmy Zachor (above) takes a cut while Brian Lorimor (right) gets ready to release his pitch. The Runners won all five games last week.



Five track athletes post personal bests at WOU

LBCC gears up for track championships with good performances at Western Open

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

Five Linn-Benton Track and Field athletes turned in their best marks of the season at last Saturday's Western Oregon University Open—Kristyn Kohler in the hammer, Cassidy Beaver, Lani Cooke, Ryan Parmenter and Justin Kennedy.

Most of the Linn-Benton athletes competed in just their speciality events to focus on performance because they were looking for qualifying marks for the upcoming NWAACC Track & Field Championships.

On the men's side, Parmenter ran a season-best 16 minutes, 13 seconds in the 5,000 meters.

Ray Dandeanau won his heat in the

400 meters with a time of 51.84 seconds.

Kennedy, normally a hurdler, focused on his efforts in the throwing events. He improved his discus toss to 89 feet and his shot put to 27 feet, 2 inches. He also threw the javelin 147 feet, 4 inches.

Also for the women, Beaver ran the 300-meter hurdles with a season-best time of 57.81 seconds.

For the women, Kohler was the only thrower participating, and she improved her season best in the hammer at 93 feet, 2 inches.

Pole vaulters Katie Dobek and Christine Smith again performed well in the vault. Dobek and Smith both finished with vaults of 10 feet, but Dobek was able to place second while Smith had more misses, which dropped her down to fourth.

In other female track events, Jenifer Schwab cleared four feet, 11 inches in the high jump for a third place finish, while Lani Cooke ran a season's best 13.14 seconds in the 100 meters and ran an

impressive 27.84 seconds in the 200 meters for the win.

The team will be competing this Saturday at the Clark Open in Vancouver, Wash.

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SPORTS PAGE

Narver hopes to help bring home the NWAACC title

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

Andy Narver has found a place for himself since red-shirting last year at Oregon State, and that place is on top of the Roadrunner batting order.

A graduate of Tigard High School, Narver hoped to play Division I ball at Oregon State last year, but an injury forced him to red-shirt his first year there. This season he decided to cross the Willamette and play for Coach Greg Hawk. He is majoring in business right now, but that could change.

In high school, Narver was usually the third or fourth batter in the lineup, but at Linn-Benton he has been the Runners' lead-off hitter. That spot has given him a front-row seat to one of the biggest differences between high school and college ball.

"You're facing guys throwing about 90 or 91 mph," he said. "When you're batting first, you see a lot of fastballs. You also see a lot of pitches that you wouldn't see at third or fourth (in the batting order). It is not too bad, even though it is different. You just got to make the adjustment."

Through 26 games this season Narver has 34 hits in 84 at-bats for a .404 batting average. He has five doubles, two triples and no homeruns. He scored 16 runs and drove in nine runs.

The coaches, according to Narver, have helped him tremendously.

"Coach Ayo has helped me sharpen my swing up while coaches Hawk and



Photo by Robin Camp

Andy Narver has been hitting .404 as the Roadrunners' lead-off hitter this season after coming to LBCC from OSU, where he red-shirted last year.

Miller have contributed defensively," said Narver, who plays left field for the Runners. "They are guys I can go to and talk to whenever I have something on my mind. They are a good bunch of guys."

He feels the same way about his teammates. "Excellent relationship. They are guys you can go out with, kick back with

and just have a good time with."

As for himself, Narver thinks that the team is doing well but could be doing better. "I wish we were winning a few more games, but I think we are doing pretty well. I think we are going to be right there when the playoffs come."

Narver thinks that there is nothing easy about the game of baseball. "It is

"I wish we were winning a few more games, but I think we are doing pretty well. I think we are going to be right there when the playoffs come."

—Andy Narver

very hard sometimes, especially if you are in a slump. The most important thing in baseball is being able to have a short memory, because in baseball you are almost expected to fail. But if you go in there with confidence knowing you have another at-bat or another game, then you will be okay."

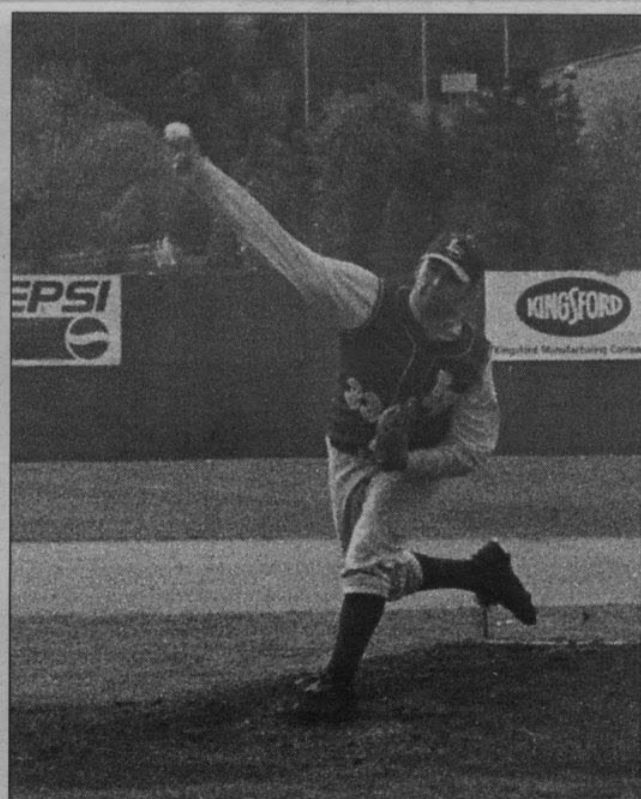
When he is at the plate, there is only one thing going on in his head.

"I go up there and think that this pitcher is dead meat, I own this guy, this guy is dead."

At the start of the season, Narver said his goal was to help get LB baseball back on the map and back into the playoffs. But now, with the team playing well and winning, he has a new goal.

"I want us to be at the top of the NWAACC hoisting up the the championship," he said. His one goal for when the season is over is to "get bigger."

When Narver is not on the baseball field or at school, you can catch him volunteering with youth groups working in church camps during the summer. Other than that, Narver likes skiing, fly-fishing and other outdoor sports.



Photos by Robin Camp

Runner pitcher Justin Quaempts shows the form that has given him a 4-2 won-lost record and a team-leading 1.05 earned run average.

LB pitching star Justin Quaempts keeps on improving

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

Justin Quaempts came to LBCC to throw baseballs.

After graduating from high school in Pendleton, he chose LBCC after being recruited by several college coaches because Greg Hawk wanted him as a pitcher.

"Coach Hawk was the one coach out of all of them that wanted me to pitch the most, plus it (LB) is only four-and-a-half hours away from home."

Quaempts, now a freshman majoring in General Studies, has noticed considerable differences in the game between high school and college. "Everyone in college are all-league or all-state players, so it is a lot tougher, flat out better in every aspect, and more competitive."

He considers pitching "extremely difficult" to do

"Everyone in college are all-league or all-state players, so it is a lot tougher, flat out better in every aspect, and more competitive."

—Justin Quaempts

well, but he knows that he can get better at it.

"I need to work on my mental aspect of pitching," he said. "I want to become a better pitcher. Pitching requires both mental and physical strength." Quaempts said that his slider is his best pitch.

The coaches at LB have helped him out a lot, according to Quaempts.

"My relationship with them is pretty good. I have much respect for them, and they have given me the confidence that I needed coming out of high school."

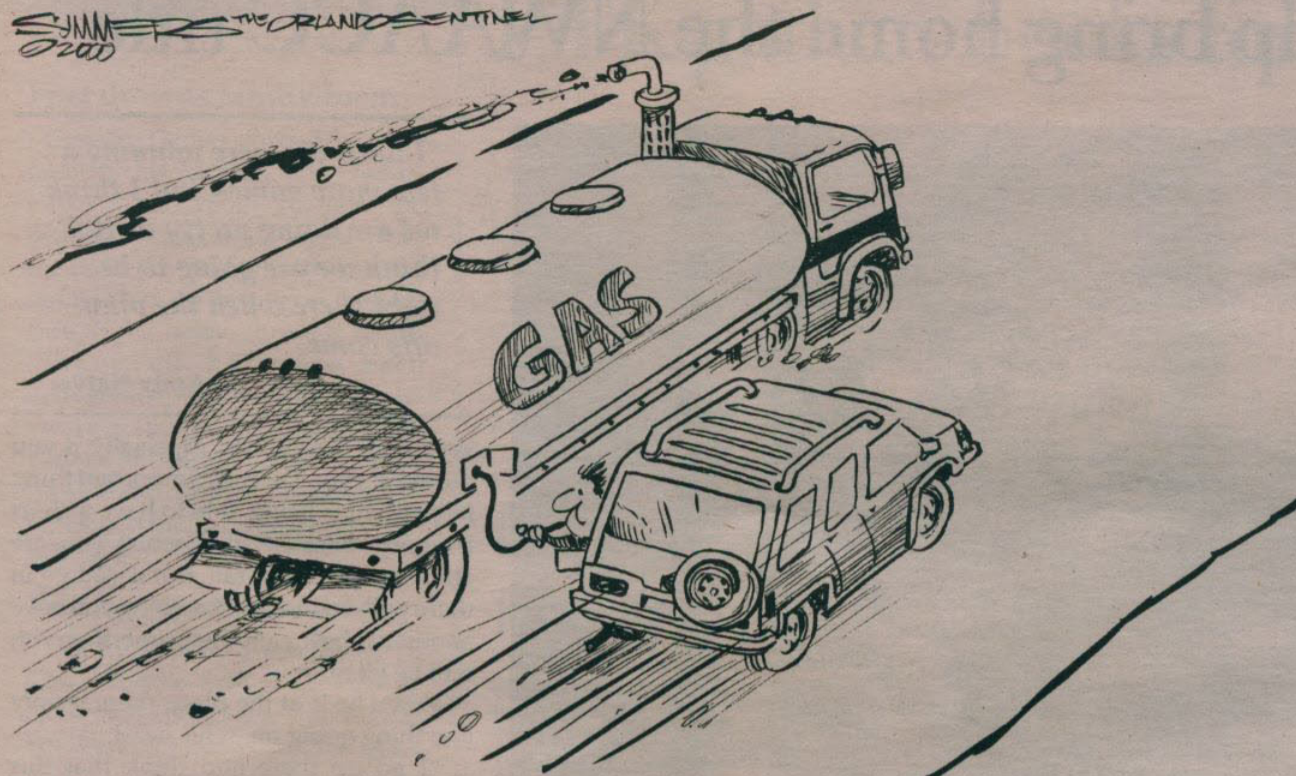
As for his relationship with his teammates, he says it is wonderful. "I feel that we have a good chemistry. They are fun to be around and I couldn't ask for a bunch of better teammates."

The season so far has gone well for Quaempts. He has a 4-2 record with a 1.05 earned run average, which leads the team. In 51 innings pitched, he has allowed only six earned runs while racking up 55 strikeouts and given up only 33 hits.

Quaempts feels that his numbers and season rate an 8 on a scale of 10. "I feel I have done a good job establishing myself as a better pitcher in the NWAACC this season."

OPINION

SUMMERS THE ORLANDO SENTINEL
02000



Hugh Hefner Street? So what!

by Valerie Danner

Campus Contributor - Columbia College

With Mandy and Sandy in tow, Hugh Hefner was beaming as he strolled down the streets of Chicago recently. I doubt his glow had little to do with the fact that the city just named a street after him. If you were a 74-year-old guy with 22-year-old voluptuous twins on each of your arms, you'd be grinning too, with a little help from Viagra, of course.

For some reason, Chicago decided to designate a portion of Walton Street, just off of Michigan Avenue, as Hugh Hefner Way. The truth is I couldn't care less that they named a portion of the street after a man who made his fortunes off of big boobs (take that however you want). In his own, unique way, he is a successful Chicagoan. Some people, of course, are in an uproar over this, saying it's wrong to honor someone who is basically a dirty old man sitting comfortably atop a heap of dirty old money.

I've never looked inside an issue of Playboy. I grew up in a household with two sisters, so it wasn't like I had an older brother stashing them under his bed. But I think it's safe to say that not everyone who picks up a Playboy is a pervert.

The issue of whether or not to honor Hef was heard before the City Council, where, I suspect, many of the male members were elated when a protester decided to wave a recent centerfold in their faces. I'm sure half of them tuned out what the guy was saying when they laid eyes on this month's playmate.

Of course Hef's daughter Christie, who now heads Playboy Enterprises, was there supporting her father, telling the council that her daddy isn't a purveyor of

porn.

But honoring a man who's made a career out of sex isn't the real atrocity here. The outrage is that the city has more than 800 of these silly honorary signs. I pity the poor tourist trying to navigate his or her way around town and then gets thrown off by one of those faux-signs.

I know that when I first came to Columbia four years ago with my sister, being naïve suburbanites, we were confused by this. We searched for Harrison Street, but were disoriented by the Mike Alexanderoff sign that's at Wabash and Harrison. Honorary sign—what did we know?

Like it or not, Hefner is a well-known guy and has managed to create an extremely successful publishing empire. Did he make his fortune by exploiting women? Maybe initially. But for a magazine to be around that many years and remain fairly reputable, there has to be more to it. How many naked women can a guy look at on paper before it gets a little old? OK, don't answer that, but have you ever looked at an issue of Cosmopolitan? They describe sexual things in such detail that it's enough to make anyone blush. It's not just typical men magazines that make money objectifying women.

So if the city is in this silly business of handing out these honorary street signs, why not give one to Hugh Hefner? I say if you're going to give someone a sign, you can't very well stand up and say someone else can't get one. So Hugh Hefner has joined the ranks of Jack Brickhouse, Harry Carey and Gene Siskel. All I have to say is so what? There are bigger battles to fight and whether or not Hef gets a street named after him shouldn't be one of them.

WHAT STUDENTS THINK

If you could change one thing about LBCC what would it be?

Some LBCC students may feel like their life at LB is affected by many decisions that are made without their consent and/or knowledge. The Commuter asked students what they would change about the school if they had the chance.

"I'd put more flowers in for landscaping. They smell good and make the place look nice."

—Corie Cain, psychology



"The advising needs to be on top of things a little more, like getting scholarships to students in a more timely manner. I got

a scholarship handed to me last week that was due the next day."

—Dan Tucholsky, mechanical engineering

"I'd ban smoking from campus. I'm allergic to the smoke and it really bothers me a lot to be around it."

—Susan Bursell, business management



"I'd like to see more office hours for student advisors. I want them to be more available to the students when we are here."

—Don Janes, business computer systems

"I would like to see a religion class that is taught as a religion class rather than as a literature class."

—Ruby Koch, undecided



Calling on Washington

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