



All Tied Up

The Roadrunners, in a 3-way tie for the last playoff spot, can inch closer to a postseason berth with wins in tomorrow's season-ending doubleheader.

Page 12

The Music Woman

Singer, pianist and choral director Susan Peck is in her third year as a full-time music instructor at LB.

Page 4



THE COMMUTER

Wednesday,
May 16, 2007

a weekly student publication

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www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

False alarm freezes campus; calm restored



photo by Matt Hamel



photo by Jesse Skoubo



photo by Will Parker

Freaky Friday

The campus was "locked down" Friday morning for over two hours after Albany police received a 911 call at 8:46 a.m. from a student who reported that a man was seen on campus who appeared to have a cylindrical object under his trench coat. Above left, two armed policemen establish a lookout from atop the Student Union during the lockdown. Above, students are evacuated from Takena Hall and were forced to leave campus, which remained closed until 4:30 p.m. Left, a policeman questions an individual outside the Activities Center who may have inspired the 911 call. He was found to have done nothing wrong and was not detained. Turn to Page 3 for a story on security's emergency response procedures and a schedule of forums this week where students can give their feedback.

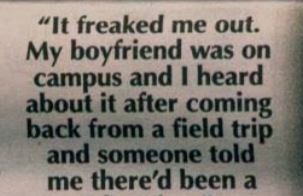
PERSPECTIVES

"How did Friday's lockdown affect you?"



• Joel Munson •
Engineering

"We got locked in the classroom but we had ice cream. We did an experiment where we put liquid nitrogen on ice cream, so we were ok."



• Brynna Crampton •
Education

"It freaked me out. My boyfriend was on campus and I heard about it after coming back from a field trip and someone told me there'd been a shooting."



• Richard Bobbitt •
Campus Security Officer

"It obviously concerned me quite a bit and I was ready to come back to campus on a second's notice."

"We all just went into emergency response mode and did what we were trained to do. It was a wonderful experience, if it had to happen, and I think it was reassuring to people that we can handle a crisis."



• Kristen Jones •
Associate Dean



• Nicole Stone •
Animal Sciences

"It scared me. I was late to class and got pulled into media services so I was with people I didn't know."

The Weather Through the Week

Source: Yahoo! Weather Service

High 70

Partly Cloudy



Low 44

Wednesday

High 69

Partly Cloudy



Low 44

Thursday

High 70

Partly Cloudy



Low 51

Friday

High 65

Showers



Low 46

Saturday

High 62

Partly Cloudy



Low 44

Sunday

Compiled By Michelle Turner
Pictures By Gary Brittan

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 commuter@linnbenton.edu (F-222)
 Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.



Friday's campus lockdown inspires personal reflection

Walt Hughes, Sr.
 The Commuter

To say the very least, this past Friday was an interesting day. While seriously trying not to interject too much of the personal in writing editorially, I occasionally feel that a first-person narrative is called for, and this is one of those times.

On very rare occasions the subject of what can happen to a journalist in war zones, Third World countries and so forth becomes a topic of discussion, and I have enjoyed a sober moment or two as we looked at the reality. When it comes to journalists, educators, politicians and so forth, they usually just walk them out in the field and shoot them, period. Not exactly a great thought to contemplate, but at least a look at reality.

Friday morning I arrived on campus at roughly 8:50 a.m. and went to the Support Lab where I was scheduled



The door to my cubicle swung open to reveal two sheriff's deputies toting high-powered rifles.

WALT HUGHES

to take a test. I got everything all set up and was just getting down to business when I heard an announcement that the school was in lockdown, and everyone was to lock their doors and stay where they were. That left me sitting in a 6-by-6 foot cubicle with nowhere to go and nowhere to hide. I heard someone out in the main lab say that if worse came to worse we were to crawl under our desks and hide.

Interesting thought there. There's a small window looking into the cubicle and it would give anyone looking an excellent view of the under side of the desk. I decided I would rather sit in a corner against the door.

I don't know where the speakers are located, but the announcements coming from the main office seem to be muffled, and for the most part we could not hear them clearly. That sort of left us wondering exactly what was going on. I'm not sure about everyone else but I spent the time pondering all the different scenarios of what could or might happen at any moment. On a personal level I am very aware that in the event of something like the Virginia Tech massacre occurring at Linn-Benton, I would be in the position of the proverbial sheep at the slaughterhouse because I cannot run and cannot even walk very fast and so on. Just some interesting thoughts on a bright, sunny Friday morning.

What seemed like forever later the door to my cubicle swung open to reveal two serious looking Linn County sheriff's deputies toting lethal looking high-powered rifles. While I didn't spend a lot of time looking at those guns, they looked like they would get the job done for sure. They walked us out to the parking lot, and I was on my way home a few minutes later.

I was tempted to put out my trusty dusty press pass and ask a lot of questions (I've been there before. The Gainesville murders at the University of Florida, the Atlanta bombings and so on.) but then I noticed that the TV crews were folding down their equipment, the helicopter overhead was just flying in wide circles and there seemed to be no focal point in the action.

Gut reaction told me that whatever it was seemed to be over or under control at that point and I didn't see any point in cluttering up the situation further. The only thing that might need attention beyond that is the barrier between the parking lot and the front of the college. While I may be wrong, it seems to me that a serious wacko could do some heavy damage all along the front of the buildings while using that as cover to hide behind.

As I said in the beginning, just a personal observation of what could have been a devastating tragedy. Thankfully, it seems to have been just a dry run but it is far better to be safe than sorry any day and fortunately things worked out fine this time.

Prudent action vs. over-reaction

Elizabeth Uriarte
 The Commuter

You didn't have to be here last Friday to be aware by now that LBCC had its own "school shooting" scare. Because of a guy wearing a trench coat, the entire Albany campus was in lockdown for nearly two hours. I, along with a large number of students and staff, found myself locked in a classroom for two hours while local authorities searched the area for the "suspect."

After we were allowed to evacuate the premises and the anxiety subsided, I began to think about what had just happened. While in my extra-long math class that morning, after hearing the announcement over the intercom telling the campus to run and hide, math was the furthest thing from my mind. Part of my mind, the logical, rational part, knew that it was more than likely a false alarm. The instinctual, survival-based aspect of my being, however, was not so sure. So when we were finally released from the locked-door suspense, I felt relieved, but also a bit stupid.

After hearing the news accounts of the events that took place that morning, I began to feel more annoyed than anything. I spent two hours locked in a room with eight other people-one of which was huddled on the floor against the wall and away from the window-all because a student saw someone wearing a trench coat and got paranoid. The "suspicious individual" was thought to be concealing something in his coat.

The guy probably had an itch in an embarrassing area and felt the need to relieve it in a covert manner,

and someone saw him and freaked out. "Oh no, some students were murdered on the other side of the country in a school, this guy must have a gun!"

I understand the dramatic effect that an incident such as the one that took place in Virginia can have on people's minds. And it is common for one school shooting, or any mass murder, to spark copycat crimes throughout the country. But what happened at LB on Friday was paranoia at its best (worst?). I'm just glad it was warm enough that morning that I didn't feel the need to wear my trench coat. Someone might have called the cops on me if I happened to fidget a bit or reach into an inside pocket for my MP3 player.

The other problem I had with what happened was the lack of communication that went on between the outside happenings and the little locked up world of the students. We sat there

for over half an hour at one point without any word on what was happening. We got most of our information from people calling friends and family on our cell phones.

It was prompt action by the faculty and police, I realize that. But it was also highly unnecessary. They could have looked more into this random tip about a guy in a trench coat before locking up the whole school like prisoners. And even if a lockdown was the right thing to do, it didn't need to go on for so long.

So should we just sit back and wait for someone to actually start firing before taking action? Hell no. But there are extremes on both ends of the situation, and we certainly hit one of them.



So should we just sit back and wait for someone to actually start firing before taking action? Hell no. But there are extremes on both ends of the situation.

ELIZABETH URIARTE

The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE

STAFF

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less. The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Deliver letters to The Commuter Office, Forum 222 or at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

College officials assess response to incident

Adam Loghides
 The Commuter

In the aftermath of the campus being locked down last Friday, the general consensus among students and staff seems to be that Campus Security and local police agencies handled the situation the best they could, given the circumstances.

Campus Security Manager Bruce Thompson stated that instructors, for the most part, were stellar in playing their part to keep students and themselves safe during the near two-hour long lockdown of campus.

Thompson also noted that the inter-agency response was swift. Police from Albany and Lebanon were on the scene within minutes of receiving news of the situation. The Linn County Sheriff's office and Oregon State Police also responded.

Because there were no injuries and no laws broken, Thompson said the event served as an un-

scheduled drill with live data, an event that will help security tweak some of its procedures to be better prepared in the future.

One issue, he said, has to do with the buildings' current locking system.

"I am a firm believer in electronic access," he said, because it would allow security to lock down the campus with a click of a computer mouse.

Also, although Thompson felt most students and staff responded properly to the lockdown announcement, some had a lackadaisical attitude that he feels could have gotten them hurt if this had been an emergency situation.

Thompson feels that too many people were quick to reach for their cell phones during a time of heightened stress.

When that many people are on their cell phones and sending text messages at the same time, it can create a phone line "traffic jam" and possibly cause

Feedback Forums

Students can comment on the college's response to Friday's incident and ask questions at the following forums.

Wednesday 11:30-12:30 p.m.

Alsea-Calapooia Room

Thursday 1:30-3 p.m.

Siletz Room

Friday 8-10:30 a.m.

Commons Cafeteria

Friday 12-1 p.m.

Board Rooms

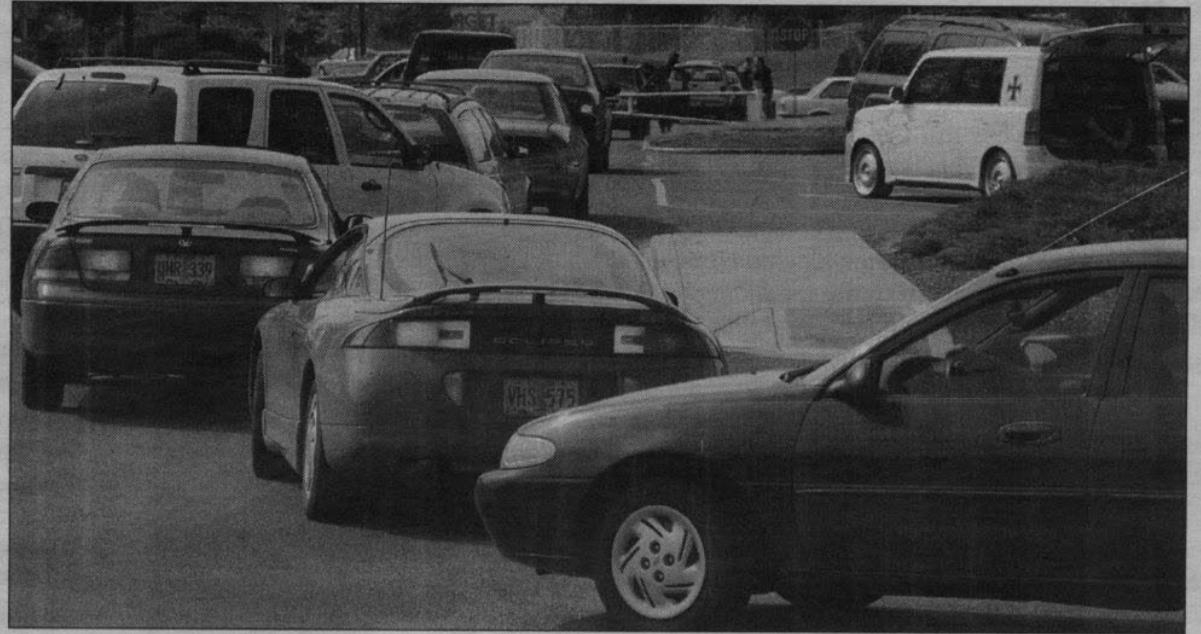


photo by Will Parker

Students and staff pour out of campus parking lots after Friday's lockdown was lifted about 11 a.m. Although the all-clear was given, college officials decided to close the campus for the rest of the day.

communication delays between outside police forces and security on campus.

Most students interviewed last Friday had their own "locked in" stories to tell, but felt the situation was handled correctly, although one student joked, "someone probably didn't want to take their midterm."

ASG President J.J. Quinlivan was locked in the conference room of the Career Center with about 30 to 40 staff and students. He commented that students, on

the whole, were tense but were not panicked.

"The number one concern from the students was that they were not given enough information," he said.

Radiology major Amanda Douglass was in class in the Science and Technology building during the lock down and felt that security forces handled the entire situation "really well, it is better to be safe than sorry. I would much rather have what happened on Friday than what

happened at Virginia Tech." The only thing that concerned her was the fact that the speaker on the public address system seemed to be out of breath and in a panic.

That speaker was Thompson, who explained that he had just run from the Health Occupations Building to the Service Center on the other side of campus, in one minute. He wasn't panicked, he said; he was winded.

"You would have been out of breath too," he quipped.

Proposed fee increase attracts students to ASG hearings

JJ Quinlivan
 For The Commuter

ASG held Tuition and Fee Hearings last week in association with LBCC Student Services to inform students about the new transportation/safety fee of \$1 per credit that the administration is proposing.

About 20 students attended each of the first two hearings and 12 students attended the hearing at the Benton Center. President Rita Cavin began the hearings by explaining that the new fee is being recommended instead of an increase in tuition to restrict how the funds can be used. If \$1 was added to tuition instead of a fee, then the money could be used for anything.

A new committee has been formed that will decide how to spend the \$165,000 that the fee will raise per year. One of the first expenses the committee is considering



Most of the concerns raised by students were on how the funds would be spent rather than whether or not the fee should be approved.

ASG PRESIDENT'S CORNER

is to improve parking lot lighting. Two members of ASG sit on this committee to represent students. The committee will soon be conducting a survey to ask the students about their safety concerns.

On Monday, most of the students' questions and concerns were about the availability and timing of the buses. Students asked if the bus runs could be expanded and the times changed to be more convenient. Currently the bus arrives in the morning right after classes start

and leaves in the afternoon right before classes end.

On Tuesday, the students who drove asked why the funds were being spent to subsidize the Loop bus. Cavin explained that by providing free buses, more students attend LBCC, which increases enrollment and the funds the school uses to provide classes and services. More students mean more classes. Cavin also mentioned that students attending most of the community colleges in Oregon pay much higher fees. Currently LBCC students pay \$4.21 in fees per credit.

Thursday's hearing was held at the Benton Center. Several students asked about the parking at the Benton Center and if the Loop bus could stop there. Most students who attended were in favor of the new transportation/safety fee. Most of the concerns raised by students were on how the funds would be spent rather than whether or not the fee should be approved.

Art Department faculty practice what they teach

LBCC News Service

Two Art Department faculty members, Rich Bergeman and Kurt Norlin, have been selected for purchase awards at the 25th annual Art About Agriculture: By Land and By Sea" exhibition at the OSU Memorial Union Concourse Gallery.

Bergeman had two platinum photographic prints juried into the exhibition, including "Yaquina Bay in Fog" which received the 2007 Juror's Purchase Award. Norlin received the Sheldon Ladd and F.E. Clark Northwest Environmental Pur-

chase Award for his panorama photograph "Going to Water, Lincoln County."

The annual traveling exhibit features 60 works by artists residing in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington and includes drawings, paintings, mixed media, photography and sculpture. The exhibit is sponsored by the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences.

The artwork will be on view at OSU MU Gallery through May 16. The show will then travel to galleries in Tillamook, Silverton, Coos Bay and Vancouver, Wash., during the year.

Lounge act stays local

LBCC News Service

The Benton Center Acoustic Showcase presents Corvallis-based solo acoustic finger style and blues musician Adam Scramstad and local husband-wife singing duo Sue and Andrew on Thursday, May 17 from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Benton Center student lounge.

Scramstad recently released his debut CD, "No Sun Around Blues." Sue and Andrew perform contemporary folk with a dash of country and blues.

The event is free. Attendees are invited to bring lunch.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Music underscores life of Susan Peck

Gary Brittsan
The Commuter

Although vocal music instructor Susan Peck is only in her third year as a full-time instructor at LBCC, her relationship with the college goes back several years, when she was hired by LBCC's first voice instructor, Hal Eastburn, to teach some classes part-time. She is well known in the local music community as a singer, pianist and choral director, not only through LBCC but also with OSU and community groups.

Where did you go to school?

I did my undergraduate work at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb., and got my master's degree at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

Where are you originally from?

I'm originally from Nebraska, lived in Missouri for a couple of years, then back to Nebraska, then to Arizona and then Oregon.

What brought you to Oregon?

Mountains and oceans. I decided living in the Phoenix area was not a pleasant place in the summer; it's very hot and everything is freeways. It's a weird place to build a city. I finished up my master's degree and was looking for other places, and I really just came up here for the place more than the work, and then found work after I got here. I've never regretted it. Oregon is a beautiful place.

What first interested you in music?

I grew up with it. My mother was musical; she played piano, sang, studied music. Both of my older brothers had piano lessons and played in band, so I just grew up in a musical family. I was involved in music all through grade school and junior high. Junior high was when I got highly involved in choir: playing piano for choirs, singing in choirs, and singing in the select choirs, so from then on I was a complete music jock. It's kinda just what I always did. I took piano lessons from the time I was 5. I played a little bit of violin; that wasn't the instrument for me, but I loved singing, I loved playing piano. When I was in high school I thought about pursuing math and science because I enjoyed both of those, but when it came time to choose a major, music was my passion so

OFFICE HOURS



photo by Gary Brittsan

Choir Director Susan Peck brings enthusiasm and a strong musical background to her music appreciation and choir classes.

that's where I went.

Tell me a little bit about your band:

It's a trio. We're called Crooked Kate and it's three women. I play keyboard and sing, we have a guitarist who shares lead vocals, we trade off singing lead and harmony, and our third member is a cellist, a wonderful musician who grew up in the Corvallis area and came back after college, she plays in the Corvallis OSU Symphony. She also sings a little bit. We play a wide variety of music—we do some folk, some alternative folk, some classical pieces and a handful of originals. We'll be playing at the end of this month at the Corvallis Folklore Society Best Cellar coffee house on May 25 and then on May 26 at the Harris Bridge Winery. We're excited because those are two really big performances on one weekend. We've been playing together for about a year, and it's been a really creative outlet for all of us.

How did you all get together?

The guitarist, Rita Brown, knew both of the other two of us from other musical connections. She and I were in a show together 10 years ago, so she knew me from that, and she lives about a block away from Anne

Ridlington, the cellist, so they knew each other from the neighborhood, and I knew Anne from some choral works where she came in and accompanied the choir. Rita called us up last summer and said "You know, I've been wanting to do some new musical things, and I really want to work with women, and I really like both of you and respect you, and what would you think if we all just got together and talked about ideas?" So we spent an evening talking about it and playing music for each other, and it's been great ever since.

What do you do in your spare time?

Ha, spare time. My other performing group is Corvallis Repertory Singers, we just had two concerts this past weekend that were very successful. The LB chamber choir was a guest choir on that performance, and it was wonderful. Corvallis Repertory Singers won't perform again until next fall, so we have the summer off. In the rest of my spare time, I try to get out and hike, since that's the reason I came to Oregon. I try to get out to the mountains or to the coast whenever I can, and I try to keep the grass in my yard from growing too long.

Do you have any plans for this summer?

Not a huge amount this summer. I'm going to be working at a big convention up in Portland in June, playing some music up there. Otherwise nothing, just relaxing and getting ready for next fall's classes.

What's something that your students would be surprised to know about you?

Something that I can tell? When I was in grad school, being a very serious musician, I was in a garage band playing Grateful Dead cover songs. I played keyboards and did mostly backup vocals, occasionally lead vocals, but mostly keyboard. I had heard of the Grateful Dead, but I had never really heard them, so all of a sudden I'm in a band playing it and wondering "why are we just playing these two chords and jamming for 20 minutes?" So that was the first band I was ever in, and then after I played in the band I got to see a Grateful Dead concert, and that was a very new experience.

Is there anything else you'd like people to know?

I want to invite everybody to come and sing in concert choir.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. For more information about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101) x4788

Summer Jobs are here!!

Laborer (#5196, Corvallis) Wonderful summer job where you get to work outside for a local gov't agency at OSU. Grounds & building maintenance, monitoring health & safety equipment, distributing paper to printers and freight. Pay is \$11.90/hr -wow!!

Clear Lake Jobs (#5239-5241) Summer jobs at beautiful Clear Lake on the McKenzie River. They are looking for Wait Person/Cashier, Cook and Boat & Cabin Cleaning people. Housing is provided free, but conditional upon employment.

CWE Certification Clerk (#5258, Albany) Get on-the-job experience in an office at a big name company and a reference along with credit toward your degree in a related office major. Hours are flexible with your school schedule.

Computer Technician (#5186, Corvallis) Entry-level tech support/sales; need experience with Microsoft operating systems, hardware & networking. Part-time during week and able to work Saturdays.

HELP AVAILABLE

Call Valley AIDS Information Network for information, support and referrals on AIDS/HIV, STD's and Hepatitis. 752-6322 or 800-588-AIDS.

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Deadline:

Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission.

Cost:

Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty.

CORRECTION

In the May 9 edition of The Commuter it was incorrectly reported that former ASG President Joey Markgraf was awarded the College Employee of the Year award. In fact, Markgraf presented the award to the actual winner, who was Brian Sandersfeld, computer lab specialist who works in the Forum Computer Lab.

Solutions

A	O	H	I	E	T	N	V	S	K	R	O	C			
E	S	V	C	S	N	V	A	E	R	V	N	S			
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LBCC MAIN CAMPUS
Commons
MAY 16TH - MAY 22ND

Wednesday:
ENTREES: Prime Rib with Popovers and Garlic Shrimp Tacos with Orange-Cilantro Salsa and Black Bean Salad
VEGETARIAN: Tofu Stir-Fry with Broccoli over Rice
SOUPS: Billy-Bi (Creamy muscle soup) and Beef Vegetable

Thursday:
ENTREES: Jamaican Jerk Chicken with Mango Chutney and Shushi/Sashimi
VEGETARIAN: Spanakopita (spinach, feta, in filo dough)
SOUPS: Chili Mac and Curried Cream of Carrot

Friday:
CHEF'S CHOICE

Monday:
ENTREES: BBQ Spare Ribs and Moroccan Chicken (salted lemon)
VEGETARIAN: Omelet Bar
SOUPS: Saffron Chicken and Vegetarian Vegetable

Tuesday:
ENTREES: Spice Rubbed Tri Tip and Coulibiac (salmon, rice, hard-cooked egg, spinach, mushrooms wrapped in puff dough)
VEGETARIAN: Portabella Polenta with Vegetables, Mascarpone Cheese and Sun-dried Tomato Pesto
SOUPS: Chicken Consomme and Roasted Garlic Pesto

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Rising gas prices drive Oregonians to alternatives

Pete Sherwood
 The Commuter

Josh Noble nervously fiddled with his keys that hung in a clump from his ignition as he waited for the station attendant to give him a receipt. Noble, a business major at OSU, snatched the slip of paper from the attendant and stuffed it into the ashtray to join a pile of others.

"Fifty eight friggin' bucks," Noble's muttering faded as he turned the keys and revved the engine of his brown 2004 Ford Expedition. The obnoxious bass from the Ford's subwoofers filled the parking lot as he shifted into drive and pulled away from the crowded Arco station.

"Can you believe that? I wasn't even close to empty either," Noble complained. "Makes you think twice about what trips are worth it, you know?"

Gasoline prices have been steadily increasing since January of this year. The national average for all types of fuel in January was just over \$2.40 per gallon and increased to nearly \$3.10 in the early weeks of May. While Oregon is

substantially above the national average, the good news is that the price trends in the Northwest are beginning to gradually dip once again.

Oil industry analysts say the West's proximity to refineries and the instability in the Middle East have pushed prices up earlier than normal in the season, according to The Oregonian.

"Prices will always go up around the summer, but this year I heard that there are refinery problems resulting in plants not operating at full capacity," said Randy Wisner, former owner of a Chevron gas station.

Wisner was referring to the BP PLC plant in Indiana that is only operating at half power due to unexpected repairs. This particular refinery, one of the nation's largest, produces more than 400,000 barrels of oil per day at full capacity.

While Americans have seen worse at the pump, November of 2005 and September of 2006 both with averages above \$3.10 per gallon, this recent price hike had the West Coast worried that the price records would be broken. There

are signs, including the recent repairs of the Indiana plant that the rising prices at the pump may be peaking, according to The Oregonian. However, since retail prices generally lag the future markets, consumers can end up paying more for gas even as prices drop.

At its peak at the beginning of March, Oregon was \$3.38 per gallon. Only Washington and California have had higher averages.

"Even though the national average is dropping, Oregonians can still save a bundle by using alternative modes of transportation," said Jim Mitchell, City of Corvallis's Transportation Division Manager.

Mitchell suggests taking the bus, riding a bicycle, carpooling, and efficient driving and trip planning to save money and reduce emissions.

Dual enrolled LBCC and OSU students with a valid student body card are able to ride the Corvallis Transit System (CTS) for free. Mitchell is currently working on involving LBCC students and the Albany Transit System.

Biodiesel fueled buses are just one of the aspects that makes Corvallis famous nationwide when considering alternative means of transportation, according to Mitchell.

In addition, the city is recognized for being an extremely bicycle friendly community by numerous bicycling associations nationwide, including: Bicycle Transportation Alliance, Bike at Work and Bike USA.

"Palo Alto and Corvallis are the only cities in the country that consistently win the gold-level award for being the most bicycle friendly towns in America," Mitchell said.

The key, Mitchell says, is community involvement. The bicycle advisory commission brings up improvements, issues, or concerns with the city council to take steps to improve or change a current bicycling situation. Mitchell encourages neighboring cities that wish to follow in Corvallis's footsteps to start with connecting the community in order to develop more accessible means to alternative transportation.

Former miner and logger turns to medical assistant career

Valerie Ziegler
 The Commuter

Matthew Montpas is a second-year LBCC student who will graduate in June 2007 with an Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assistant.

Montpas's occupational background includes working in a nickel mine after graduating from high school as well as spending 15 years working in the wood products industry.

His intentions were to hop on a fishing boat headed for Alaska to try his hand at commercial fishing when he stopped in Albany to visit a friend and ended up going to Helping Hands Shelter, expecting just to spend the night there. He ended up working there and has been staying there for two years while attending LBCC to pursue his degree.

He became interested in the field when he visited the LBCC campus in the summer of 2005 and spoke with counselor Ann Marie Etheridge, who suggested the medical assistant program to him.

He thought, "Why not?" He feels this training is an excellent foundation for setting him up for a life-long

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT OF THE MONTH



photo by Valerie Ziegler
 Matthew Montpas (center) with instructors Kathy and Rick Durling, will graduate next month.

career. "It's wonderful working with such professional people. I've never been treated with this much respect."

Montpas is currently working at Corvallis Internal Medicine to satisfy the requirements for his back-office

externship. One of his long range goals is to work for a cruise line as a medical assistant before coming back to Oregon to be closer his family.

He doesn't have much spare time right now, but he used to enjoy fishing, camping, hunting, and skiing, as well as spending time with his daughter and grand-daughter. He's looking forward to having more time with them in the near future.

Montpas credits the wonderful support he has received at LBCC for his success and wants to sincerely thank all those that helped him achieve his goal: counselors, Ann Marie Etheridge and Angie Klampe, all of his instructors, Rick and Kathy Durling, Nancy Noe, Sally Stouder, Mary Ann Lammers, Rosemarie Hubley and Twila Lehman. He'd also like to thank Pastor Bailey, Barbara Thayer and the entire staff at Helping Hands Shelter as well as Dr. Gallant from Corvallis Internal Medicine.

His advice to others who are considering the medical assistant degree? "I encourage anyone to talk with Rick and Kathy Durling if they're considering pursuing this degree. Go for it! You'll never be sorry. I have no regrets."

Credit 101: Cards come with strings

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series on how students can better handle their finances.

Marisa Silver
 For The Commuter

Credit card companies are salivating for your business. You're young, you're most likely financially naïve, and they know that mom and dad will probably bail you out if you need it.

That means big bucks for them in the form of interest and fees. Credit card companies flood mailboxes with offers and set up "teaser" events at places college students congregate: pizza places, cheap eateries and coffee shops.

Students apply for cards, and receive a free pizza, t-shirt or smoothie in exchange.

Hold that pizza, though. Before you take that freebie, consider this: Will you be able to pay

the balance in full every month? If not, then you really shouldn't get a credit card. You're signing up for debt that will amass at high interest rates and follow you around.

If you pay late, even one day, you may accrue a late payment charge, which is added to your running tally. These fees are typically around \$30. You'll pay interest on that fee if it's not paid off. Furthermore, credit cards have different interest rates for purchases than for cash advances, so using the credit card at an ATM will cost you at a higher interest rate. For example, if the cash advance interest rate is 20 percent, that \$40 ATM withdrawal just cost you \$48.

If you have a credit card, you should run a credit report every year to check on your score and to verify the accuracy of the reports by using free services such

as www.annualcreditreport.com. Credit bureaus monitor your credit worthiness on a scale of 0-850, using a formula combining your use of available credit, payment history, and credit history. Credit reports allow future creditors (for car loans, home loans, or other financial institutions) to rate your risk as a borrower.

That pizza may have been free, but you paid for it with a few points off your credit score. Having many lines of credit open, or applying for many lines of credit, can reduce your credit score, leaving you with higher interest rates for mortgages or car loans down the line.

Credit card companies take full advantage of consumers' unwillingness to exercise discipline and diligence. They don't deserve your hard-earned money, so don't fall prey to their enticing game.

Spring Fling

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Wednesday, May 23, 2007

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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A&E Editor: Aaron Broich
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Brew fest offers taste of home

Will Parker
 The Commuter

This Saturday at the Benton County Fairgrounds, the Heart of the Valley Homebrewers Association is hosting the 25th Annual Homebrewers Microbrew Festival.

Activities taking place at the festival include professionally judged homebrew competitions, tastings, food booths, brewing information, demonstrations and live music.

All of the proceeds from the event go to benefit the Linn-Benton Food Share and the Bob McCracken Memorial Scholarship at Oregon State University.

The Heart of the Valley Homebrewers is the host of the Annual Oregon Homebrew Festival, the longest running event of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.

The main focus of the event is the judging of homebrewed beer. The competition is sanctioned by the American Homebrewers Association (AHA) and the Beer Judge Certification Program (BJCP), using BJCP Style Guidelines.

This year's event is also a qualifying event for the Master's Championship of Amateur Brewing (MCAB), held in St. Paul, Minn.

In addition, the club hosts the festival to promote awareness and knowledge of various beer styles, provide opportunities to share information about the homebrewing and microbrewing craft, and encourage interaction between homebrewers in a social atmosphere.

The activities along with the homebrew competition will include publicly judged homemade soda competition; homebrew label competition; rookie entry competition, several displays; a raffle; and food booths courtesy of El Sol De Mexico, Smokin' B's Barbeque and The Queen Pretzel.

The event will also be featuring live local music from Wild Hog in the Woods, The Plaehn and Hino Blues Band, and the El Kabong Orchestra.

Due to the limited parking-space available, a shuttle service has been set up for the duration of the event. The shuttle to the event is free and stops at 2nd and Monroe, downtown by Squirrel's, and at the Reser Stadium parking lot at 26th and Western Ave.

The event takes place from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 for a \$10 entry fee, which includes a souvenir pint glass and three tastings. Additional tastings cost \$1.



Tango for Cash

Sterling Clark, Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer major, and Kaitlin Klinkebiel, English major, practice their tango skills Monday evening at the International Dance Series organized by the Student Programming Board. The next, and last, International Dance Series will be held on Monday, May 21, at 7 p.m. in the Activities Center and will feature the cha cha and waltz. Cost is \$2 for students.

photo by Matt Hamel

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

'Muse's Handprint' unveiled as online creative arts journal

Kristina Bennett
 The Commuter

On Monday, May 21 is the official presentation of the newly developed E-Zine, "The Muses Handprint." The event takes place in the upstairs Fireside Room from 12-1 p.m. and will include refreshments; this will be a showcase of all the developments that have been made this year.

Formerly known as Eloquent Umbrella, the college's literary arts expression ended after previous LBCC instructor Linda

Smith retired. Though retried many times, it was simply seen as expensive and time consuming. However, writing instructor Natalie Daley saw this display of student and community art in a different light.

"I had an epiphany, you could call it a scary one, that we could put all of this submitted art online in order to reduce cost, but I knew nothing about the process of completing that task. I always liked the feeling of standing on the edge of a cliff and feeling the breeze," Daley said. She didn't necessarily have far to go before

help was soon found.

The E-Zine still needed cover art, a name, and a committee who would decide what art pieces were going to be included. The Writing 246 and 247 classes, Editing and Graphic Art for Writers and Editing and Publications, chose every single piece of submitted art for "The Muse's Handprint."

Though various types of art such as paintings, drawings, photographs, and poetry were all included, they were chosen by a simple class vote. Other types of art such as video and

music were also desired, but not provided.

The LB student body came up with name and the Graphic Arts Program submitted many examples for the cover art and logo. According to Daley, "They were all so excellent and beautiful that we wish we could have shown them all." In the end, graphic arts student, Stephen Way, was the winner of the cover art and design contest.

"This E-Zine is really a snapshot of Oregon as a community," said Daley, "It is what happens, it is who we are. It is

what this college looks like." Though submissions for this year have already been made, and will again be accepted next fall term in September, they will no longer be accepted this year. In September, the E-Zine will get a fresh new start.

It will receive a new name, new material, and hopefully will be much easier to organize and be made accessible to all students. If you are interested in seeing a hard-copy of this year's "The Muse's Handprint," you can visit the Web site: www.lulu.com.

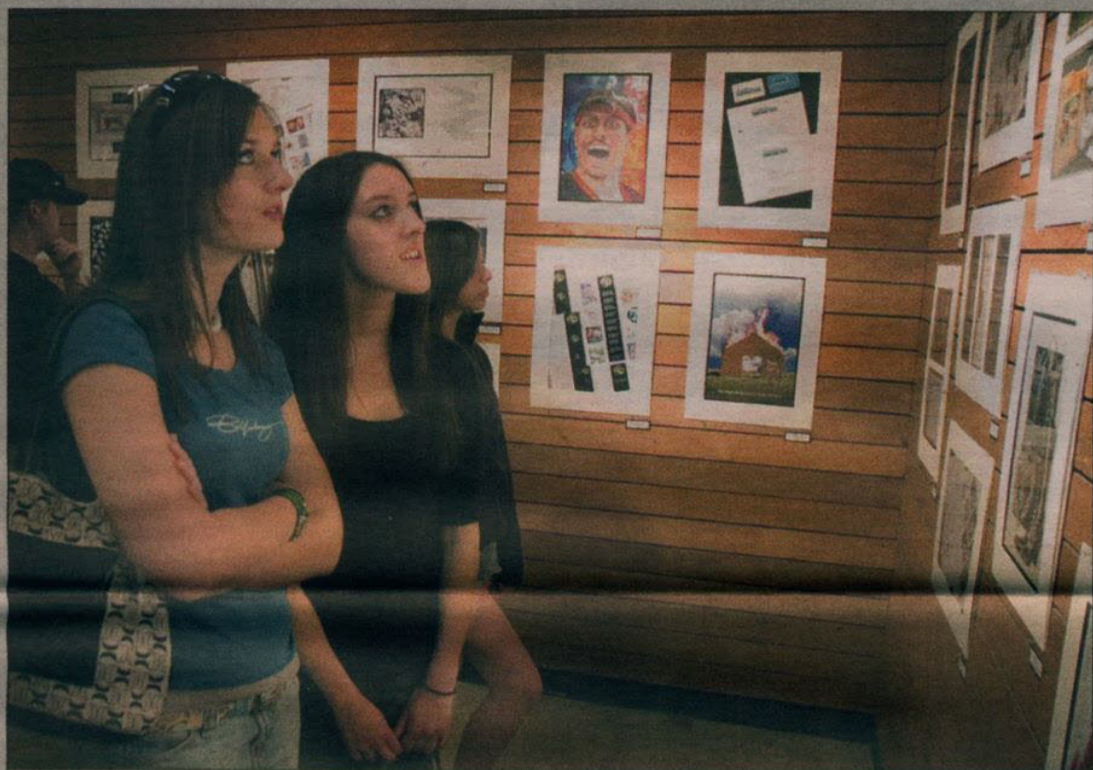


photo by Jesse Skoubo

Warning: Contents May Be Graphic

First-year art students Renee Crawford (left) and Kelly Cornell peruse the annual graphic design student exhibit that was unveiled Monday night in the South Santiam Hall Gallery. The exhibit runs through the end of spring term and culminates in the graduating students' portfolio presentation at 1 p.m. June 11 in the forum.

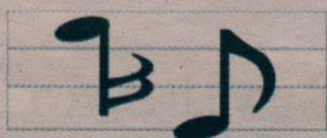
British import MIKA infuses new album with 70s inspired pop

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

MIKA brings us flamboyant, high-energy pop on "Life in Cartoon Motion." The Lebanese born Brit-pop star sounds a lot like the late Queen frontman Freddie Mercury.

MIKA also sounds like Elton John, with his light piano ditties and Beck with his bright guitar sounds. MIKA's sound could be accurately described as "that 70's music," with a colorful album cover to match. Many of his tunes are catchy and upbeat, mostly about the usual pop culture romance situations. MIKA shows originality, however, in presenting the oddities of relationships.

The album begins with "Grace Kelly," a theatrical song blazing the pop charts in Britain, about MIKA presenting himself to the



MUSIC REVIEW

★★★★☆

world with all of his quirkiness and eclecticism, and advocating his ability to be whatever you like. He even compares himself to Mercury. The fast paced singing is skilled and catchy, but it is perhaps the most bothersome on the album.

Throughout the album, MIKA's electrified falsetto shocks and can be annoyingly effeminate, but soars to such heights that it is hard not be impressed by it. He does well with his disco-ish funk song, "Relax (Take It Easy)," contributing wa-wa guitar chops and danceable keyboard parts to the number. He sings: "It's as if I'm terrified.

It's as if I'm scared. It's as if I'm playing with fire." Although the chorus drags on, it's an excellent song.

"Any Other World," is sparse and genuine with sweeping string arrangements. It urges progress, "Say goodbye to the world you thought you lived in." The goofy "Big Girl You Are Beautiful," espouses the loveliness of larger women.

MIKA shows a range of encouraging lyrics and amazing singing skills on "Life in Cartoon Motion." It would be nice to see him do some more serious work in the future that maintains his hip style, yet cuts down on the falsetto.

Several songs are lacking, and the catchy ones might be downright ridiculous to many, but there's enough diversity to interest a broad range of listeners. Even in his rants, MIKA delivers with a smile.

Free music venue gets shut down for two local bands, disappoints fans

MaryAnne "Rose" Turner
 The Commuter

Another typical Saturday evening on campus in Corvallis ended with the cops and a noise violation warning. Once again Pass Margo and It Doesn't Matter were shut down for being too loud.

"I'm a little disappointed," said Mark Roberts, the percussionist for It Doesn't Matter. "I feel ripped off, because we don't get any support in this town."

The first band to play was Milk Bomb. They were the only band all night that got to play a full set.

Their style was mostly on the grunge and heavy metal end of the spectrum. They were very lively and enthused to play for an active crowd.

"I like Corvallis. It's too bad we get the cops called on us every time we play."

Beau Allison

They jammed through only a few of their first songs before the village drunkard came running down the stairs with the bad news that the cops were there to shut them down again.

After playing only half of their first song at the previous show they tried to play in Corvallis on April 20, just a few weeks prior, they moved the show to a basement.

Now that they've been shut down again the bands just wants somewhere to play free live music.

Pass Margo is from the Portland area. They've produced one album, "Wake Up Call," that was released about one year ago.

After struggling to keep a good drummer, they're working with Cole Pruitt who's been in the

band for about three months. Allison on the bass and vocals, and Kevin Cooper on guitar and vocals have been playing and writing music together for about four years.

They run off of a jazz and blues influence. Cooper's inspiration and influences are grunge rock, and the Jimi Hendrix style of blues guitar.

"I like Corvallis," stated Allison. "It's too bad we get the cops called on us every time we play."

"It's really cool how all the parties around here are so open," replied Cooper.

It Doesn't Matter didn't get to play. They're an "Indie feel good rock" as Alex Herder, vocalist and guitar player, stated.

They started about three years ago in Tillamook, and released a 20-track demo about one year ago. The other members are Ricky Carlson on vocals and bass, and Mark Roberts on percussion.

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE COMMUTER

WANTED!

The Commuter needs creative students to fill positions on the 2007-08 staff

Editor

Individuals interested in journalism and communication 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 2007-08 academic year. Appointment made by the LBCC Publications Committee.

DEADLINE IS MAY 18
(for this position only)

Photo Editor

Students with 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. Familiarity with digital imaging is a plus, but training in Photoshop is provided. The appointment carries a 9-credit quarterly tuition grant.

Sports Editor

An energetic 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. Appointment carries a 6-credit quarterly tuition grant and provides valuable on-the-job training and experience covering a variety of intercollegiate athletics.

Graphics Editor

An individual with experience in graphics and/or journalism to coordinate the graphic design and production aspects of the weekly newspaper. This position involves helping develop the overall design of the paper, creating illustration and info graphics for publication, and coordinating production. Macintosh experience preferred. The appointment carries a 6-credit quarterly tuition grant.

Assistant Editors

Applicants sought for several assistant editor positions, including Managing Editor, Copy Editor, A&E Editor, Opinion Editor, Online Editor and Contributing Editor. Some journalism or writing experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointments carry quarterly tuition grants that vary with position, typically from four to six credits per term.

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.

Digital Page Designer

This part-time position pays \$9+/hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mon.-Tues. Involves using Macintosh and InDesign to paginate tabloid pages under direction of the graphics editor. Mac experience and good English skills required; familiarity with InDesign, PageMaker or Quark desired. Provides valuable experience for majors in graphics and pre-press technology.

Deadline for Editor is May 18.

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222)

For additional information call ext. 4451

Editor: Adam Loghides
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LOCAL NEWS

News about our local community, including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Sweet Home and Philomath.

Common sense best defense against scams

Craigslist and MySpace offer scammers new online opportunities

Michele Ulriksen
 The Commuter

Tacoma, Wash. homeowner Laurie Raye had just evicted a tenant from her rented property. Not long after, she got a call from a neighbor close to her property who told her people were taking appliances, windows, and even doors from the home.

By the time Raye arrived, looters had taken everything, including the kitchen sink, but not without leaving a mess of graffiti behind.

The culprit: a bogus craigslist advertisement inviting anyone to go to the property and take whatever they wanted for free.

Raye told news channel KING that she thought the ad could have been placed by the person she had evicted. Authorities are investigating the crime.

"We've had a lot of scams off of craigslist," Tacoma Police Detective Gretchen Ellis told Seattle's KING news. "We've had prostitution things happen, rental scams and fraudulent activity. In this case, it appeared the items were going to be given away, but they were not."

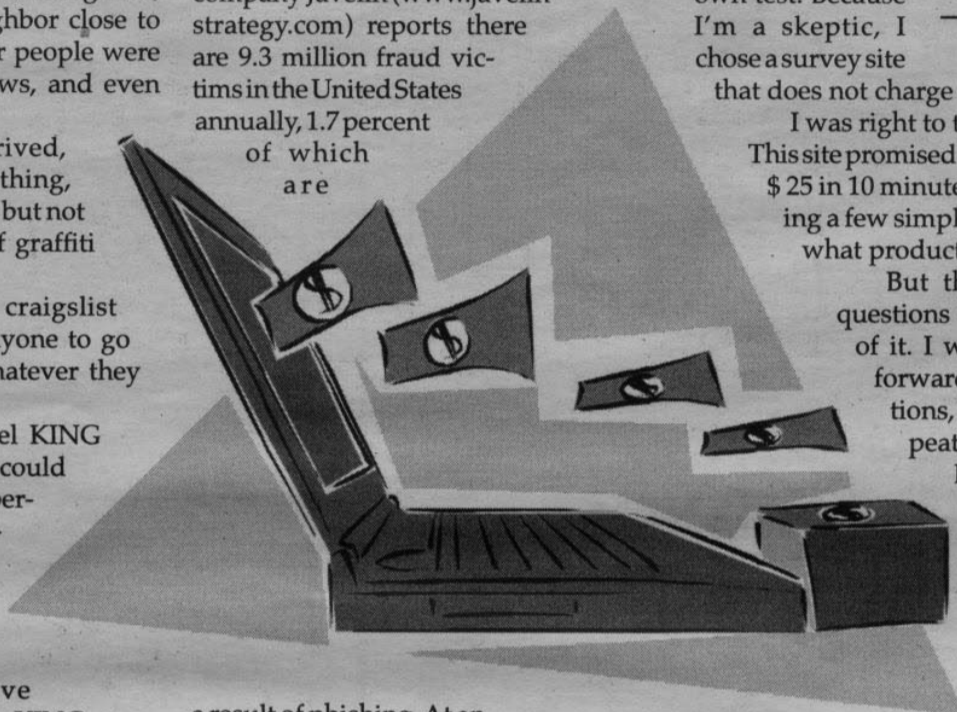
While the Internet can be a helpful asset to those who use it responsibly, this craigslist e-crime serves as a reminder that there are people who use the Internet nefariously.

According to a 2006 Pew Research Study, in a one-month period, more

than nine million people in America did online business with craigslist. The same research showed that 55 percent of 12 to 17 year-olds used the Internet regularly to communicate socially and purchase or sell merchandise.

As more people use the Internet, scams and identity fraud have become so common that numerous Internet sites have posted their own articles warning consumers about getting ripped off.

A recent study by the online research company Javelin (www.javelin-strategy.com) reports there are 9.3 million fraud victims in the United States annually, 1.7 percent of which are



a result of phishing. At an average loss of \$2,320 per incident, annual losses attributable to phishing total nearly \$367 million.

In addition to phishing (so called because scammers fish for personal information by impersonating a legitimate company), there are mystery shopping scams (companies that promise money for spying on store employees; some are legit and some are not); survey companies that promise cash as payment for taking

"just five minutes of your time to answer a few questions;" and those infamous e-mails from Asia, Nigeria and the U.K. that promise a commission if you cash checks for them at your bank then wire the money to their home country.

I've heard a few people complain about survey sites so I conducted my own test. Because I'm a skeptic, I chose a survey site

that does not charge any sign up fees.

I was right to trust my instincts. This site promised that I would make \$25 in 10 minutes just for answering a few simple questions about what products I use.

But those few simple questions were not the end of it. I was automatically forwarded to more questions, many of them repeated from the prior list. When I got to the end of the questions, on the screen appeared the very items I said I used.

In order to get my \$25, I would

have had to pay a \$15 trial membership fee to one of these companies. In addition, I would still have had to sign up for two more memberships of my choice, each one costing me additional money. In the end, I would have had to spend more than I stood to make.

Also, I found out that what this site called "cash" was actually coupons, not real money. I checked with the online Rip

Off Report and found out quickly that thousands of people have been victimized by these survey sites.

Deputy Micah Smith, the e-crimes investigator for the Linn County Sheriff's Office, gets up to a dozen calls per week from people who have been victims of Internet fraud and scams.

He warns those using the Internet to handle financial

transactions to never open Web links directly from e-mail because they can direct you to a bogus site. Instead, he advises consumers to go to the actual site through their web browser to access their accounts.

Phishing scams often involve fake Web sites designed to look like your account site in order to get your user ID's, account numbers and passwords.

Internet criminals also "phish" for information at MySpace, craigslist and eBay.

"Once you put your personal information out there, it's considered public information," Smith warns. "Anyone can use it for good or bad, and we have seen a recent surge in identity theft cases from criminals who phish info off of MySpace pages."

Smith also mentioned that in an effort to learn more about potential candidates, employers now use MySpace to assist them in their hiring decisions.

The Internet can be a positive and useful place to visit, but if you are not careful with your private information, you stand a good chance of getting ripped off or getting your job application trashed.

"The Internet can be a very safe and worthwhile place to visit but it needs to be used safely and securely," said Smith.

"We've had a lot of scams off of craigslist. We've had prostitution things happen, rental scams and fraudulent activity."

—Det. Gretchen Ellis

Keeping information secure is Rule No. 1

There are several sources of information for consumers regarding Internet safety and privacy.

Craigslist advises anyone using its service to deal locally with people they can meet face to face.

- Never wire funds via Western Union, Moneygram or any other wire service—anyone who asks you to do so can be a scammer. Over time, fake cashier checks and money orders have become common, and if banks cash them they'll hold you responsible when no money shows up later.

- Never give out any financial information such as your bank account number, social security number, eBay/Paypal info, etc. Avoid deals involving shipping or escrow services, and ignore any claim that your online transaction will be "guaranteed."

The Linn Benton Cyber Resource Center, at www.LinnOnline.org, contains information about scams and offers tips on how to use the Internet safely. Included are resources for children, teens and adults, and a consumer fraud help guide, all provided by the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

Another resource is the Federal Trade Commission online complaint form (www.ftc.gov), and the Internet Fraud Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov/).

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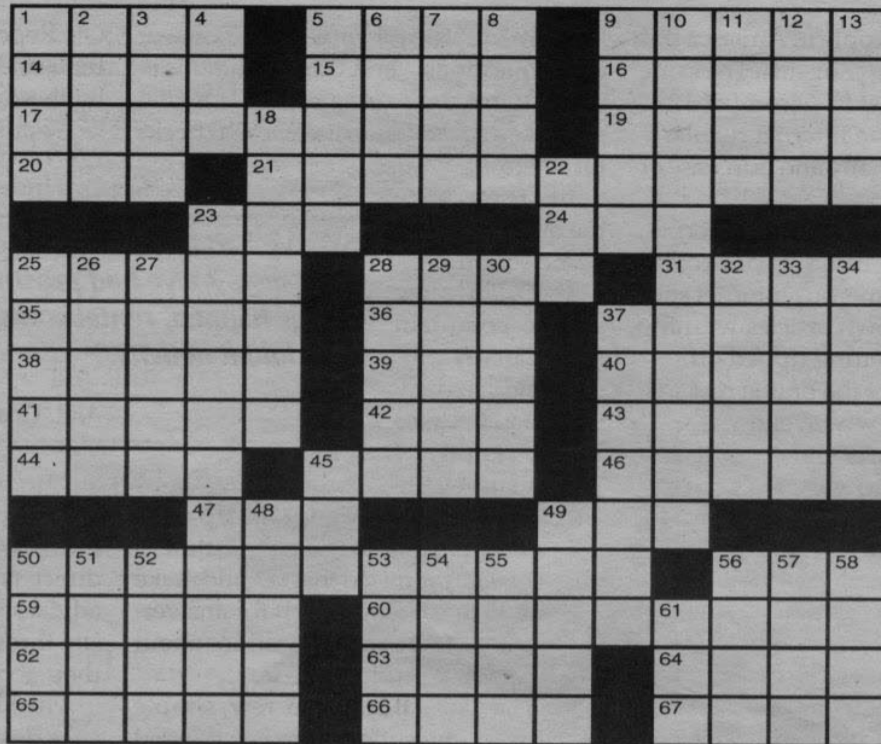
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FUNNY BONES

Crossword, cartoons, and
 some fun facts to
 brighten your day.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ancient Peruvian
 - 5 Made haste
 - 9 Old World lizard
 - 14 Part of speech
 - 15 Bee colony
 - 16 Jacket part
 - 17 Become extremely thin
 - 19 Half of half-and-half
 - 20 Weep
 - 21 Teachers' writing surfaces
 - 23 Adult males
 - 24 Cloth scrap
 - 25 PC messages
 - 28 Lollobrigida of "Trapeze"
 - 31 Bridge hand
 - 35 Comic absurdity
 - 36 Ginger
 - 37 To one side
 - 38 Highland lakes
 - 39 Routing word
 - 40 Osmond sister
 - 41 Zones
 - 42 Grab a bite
 - 43 Isolated
 - 44 Ocean motion
 - 45 Ray of "Battle Cry"
 - 46 Doctrine
 - 47 Vegas intro
 - 49 "___ Girl Friday"
 - 50 Mikhail of ballet
 - 56 Suitable
 - 59 Bi-colored cookies
 - 60 Too willing
 - 62 One drum
 - 63 Moving vehicles
 - 64 Lawsuit
 - 65 Wine stoppers
 - 66 Date or room opener
 - 67 Helen of ___

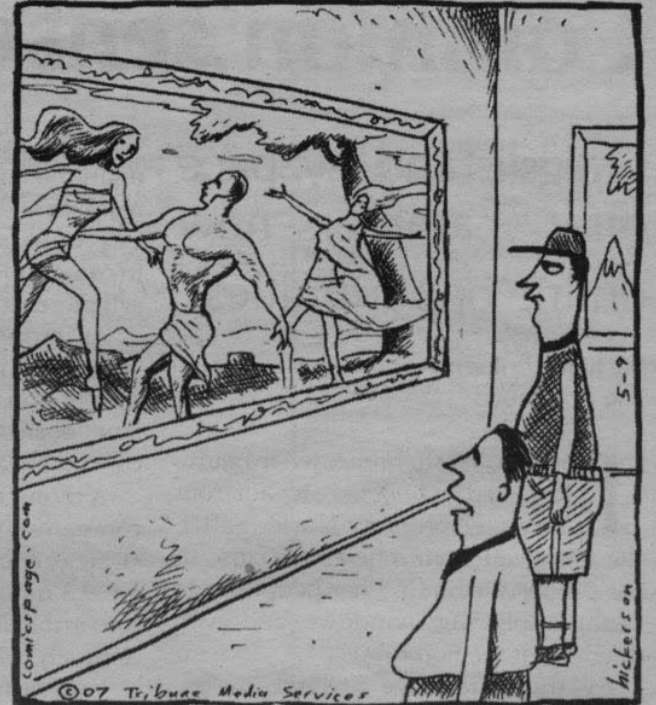


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- 8 Office piece
- 9 Aluminum maker
- 10 House-cleaning events
- 11 Simon Says player
- 12 Lake formed by Hoover Dam
- 13 Poor-box fill
- 18 Like neat drinks
- 22 Bikini top
- 23 "Cabaret" co-star
- 25 Key of "Eroica"
- 26 Native New Zealander
- 27 Followed a curved path
- 28 Judge's mallet
- 29 Epic war story
- 30 Peachy-keen!
- 32 Ohio city
- 33 River of Paris
- 34 Nestling noise
- 37 Inclined toward love

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- 50 Type of pear
- 51 Italian river
- 52 Rump
- 53 Classic Chevy
- 54 Karamazov brother
- 55 Superman alias
- 56 Lab medium
- 57 Mexicali money
- 58 Deuce topper
- 61 Performance



"I would appreciate it a lot more if it had a funny little caption at the bottom."



"Sheesh! I gotta start groomin' myelf better. I found THIS in my belly button."

Two Dudes

by Aaron Warner

CLIP-A-TIP COLLEGE COUPON

PLAN AHEAD

Setting *your own* due date for a term paper a *week before* it's *actually* due will give you *extra time* for reviewing, text changes or other "emergencies."

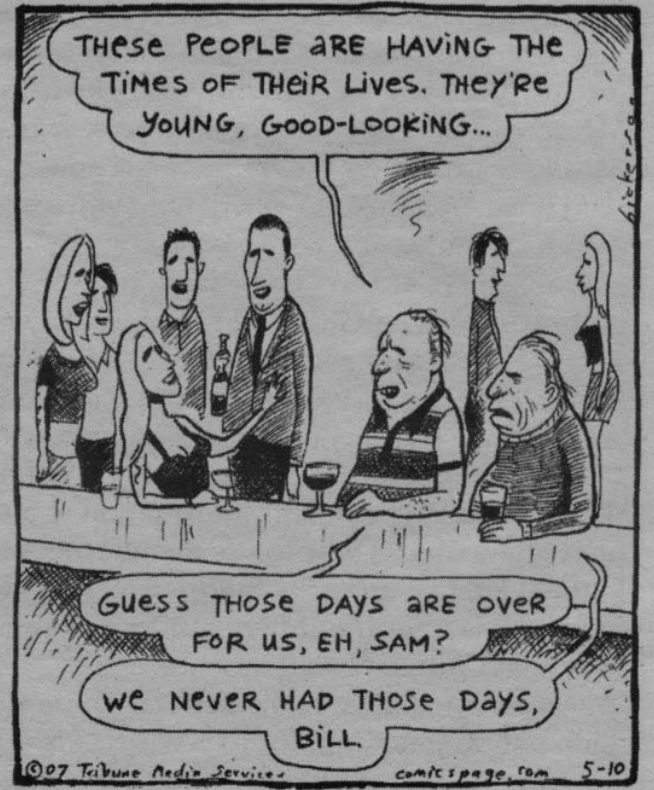
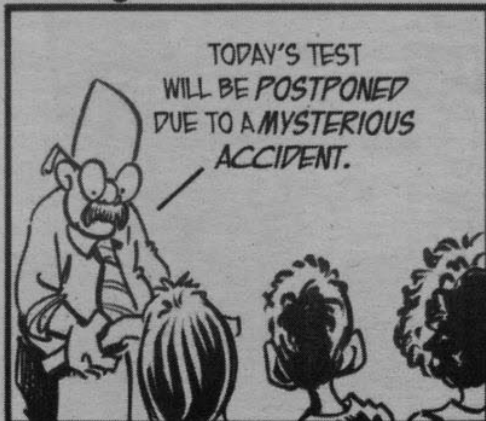


IT BECAME OBVIOUS YOU STOLE THIS FROM A COMIC BOOK WHEN YOU STARTED REFERRING TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN AS THE HULK.

EXPIRATION GRADUATION

A College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner



Sports Editor: Jake Rosenberg
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

Safeco Field lures fans to fun, affordable Seattle

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

Since the inaugural game on July 15, 1999, Safeco Field gained a reputation locally, regionally and nationally as a terrific setting for baseball and a great place for baseball fans.

Being just 240 miles from campus makes it easily an affordable get away for a day or two.

Although Seattle is known for its rain (a major reason why Safeco Field has a retractable roof), its summers offer gorgeous sunny days—perfect for baseball. Built just south of downtown, the stadium features views of both the Seattle skyline and the Puget Sound against the backdrop of the Olympic Mountains.

I recently took the four-hour trip to Seattle with three friends to watch the Mariners play, seeing how cheap I could make the excursion. My original budget was \$50, not including food, as that can be different for each person. This was to include hotel, gas and two tickets to a Mariners baseball game.

We planned on watching a night game followed by a day game the next day and driving back after the second game. This

meant we needed a hotel room for just one night.

For four college-aged friends, it was determined that one room with two beds would be ample. Our reservations were made for a hotel near SeaTac, 15 minutes south of Safeco Field, with an online discount of \$52—which was \$13/person. Nearby casinos provided possible entertainment including Texas Hold 'Em, slots and Blackjack.

After getting our hotel room and relaxing, we headed to the stadium an hour early to watch batting practice and find cheap parking. An hour before weekday night games, parking can usually be found on Fourth and First Street about five blocks from the stadium. But if you can afford it, parking goes anywhere from \$5-\$25, escalating the closer you park to Safeco.

The first game offered a promotion called "Fred Meyer Family Pack Night," which includes four tickets with four hotdog-and-drink vouchers for \$50. This was music to our poor-college-kid ears—\$12.50 a person for what would regularly cost \$20.

I wouldn't quite call it dinner, but it was a great snack to hold us over until after the game.



photo by MCT Campus

The Seattle Mariners have called Safeco Field home since 1999.

Any snack like peanuts, Cracker-Jacks, sunflower seeds and candy can be brought into the ballpark from the outside. Drinks, however, cannot, unless it is baby formula or diabetic supplies.

Tickets to the big-time games can easily be bought by local scalpers at an affordable price. The closer to the opening pitch you wait, the lower the prices are. For the day game the next day we paid for the cheapest tickets, \$6.50, and arrived at the ballpark early for batting practice and claimed closer seats that weren't taken—the "personal upgrade" I call it.

After the game, there are many choices for local restaurants, but a short 10-minute walk

northwest will take you to places to eat and drink with a great view right on the bay. Floyd's Place and Watertown boast to be the top singles bars in Seattle, making for a smart stop if you went to a "Singles Night" event at the Mariners game.

"Singles Night" features a

pre-game get-together in the centerfield patio for eligible individuals and a left field bleachers seat for \$25, including a drink. The bleacher aisles are divided up by sexes, alternating, so the single fans are surrounded by the opposite sex.

The gas totaled out to about \$16/person—putting the weekend just under budget, but the quality time included surpasses the price. It isn't often that a two-day trip for four can be done for under \$50 a person, including entertainment.

For anyone looking to enjoy a convenient and affordable get away, Seattle is what you're looking for. Even for the non-baseball fan, the Emerald city features the Space Needle, art museums and bay side views enjoyable for all ages.

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SPORTS

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

Runners in three-way tie for final playoff spot

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

Going into Saturday's doubleheader, Clackamas rode into Albany tied with Linn-Benton for second place and left in the same position after splitting the twinbill with the Roadrunners.

LB took the first game 5-2 and then fell to the Cougars 3-1 in the 10-inning nightcap.

The opener went scoreless through three and a half innings before the Runners batted around the order in the fourth with the first six batters reaching base en route to a three run inning.

Right fielder Bryant Kraus then started off the fifth by getting on and scoring while Eric Savage and Casey Humphrey cleared the bases. They would provide one more unneeded run for starter and South Albany alumnus Matt Alexander, who pitched the first six innings scoreless before giving up two in his complete game effort.

Backing him up was a flawless Roadrunner's defense led by shortstop Kyle Kanaeholo, who threw out two Cougar runners at home despite a broken thumb on his right throwing hand.

The late contest saw the cool winds



Freshman reliever David Iverson warms up in last Thursday's 14-7 loss to Mt. Hood. LB was swept in four consecutive contests by the Saints before splitting with Clackamas.

photo by Adam Loghides

blow away much of the season-high home attendance for the Runners' final home game of the season.

Starting pitcher Chad Riddle continually got himself in and then out of trouble with the Runners unable to provide any

run-support until the seventh inning where they tied the game at 1-1.

Centerfielder Mitchell Nelson tried to ignite the offense with a two-out double in the sixth but the Runners couldn't get on the board until Jake Rasmussen's double

the following inning drove in Savage, who prior reached on his third double of the evening.

The sun came out in the eighth and looked to be shining on the Runner's bats until Savage came to the plate and struck out looking with the bases loaded and a full count with two out to end the extra inning rally.

Two Clackamas batters reached on errors in the tenth and then scored on a two-RBI single that would eventually win the game.

Riddle went the distance and struck out nine batters while former Lebanon Warrior Brent Trask caught in all 19 innings on the night.

With only two games remaining in the regular season, LBCC (13-15, 19-23) is in a three-way tie with Clackamas (13-15, 21-19) and Lane (13-15, 16-30) for the second and final NWAACC Southern Region playoff spot.

The Runners hold a 4-2 head-to-head tie-breaker over Lane but they trail Clackamas 2-4 in their season series.

LBCC plays at Chemeketa (11-17, 20-27) in Salem on Thursday to culminate the regular season before the NWAACC Championships are held on April 24-28 in Longview, Wash.

Ethnic proportions uneven in athletics

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

What a week in sports. At the Kentucky Derby, Street Sense blazed through the field, becoming the first two-year-old colt in nearly 30 years



A WORD WITH "CHEESE"

It is simple to see that over 40 percent of the MLB are minorities—almost crossing to the line where white athletes will soon be the minority.

is that?

The level of minority coaches is at an all-time high, in every sport, but now for some reason they are being racist? I can safely

to capture the roses. Floyd Mayweather's boxing match over "Golden Boy" Oscar De La Hoya saved the sport with his split decision keeping his reputation as the 'best pound for pound' fighter in the world. There was near perfection for seven innings at Yankee Stadium against the Mariners, while the NHL and NBA playoffs stirred with excitement.

Yet for the past week on ESPN, the news has also been that black athletes are fading in baseball and white officials in the NBA are calling more fouls against black players.

Yes, race once again is playing a part in the sports world. Why is there this constant drumbeat of racism in a realm where integration is the backbone of the Americas?

It is simple to see that over 40 percent of the MLB are minorities—almost crossing to the line where white athletes will soon be the minority instead. But yet, the diversity in baseball isn't fair, to some people, towards black players. But whose fault

guarantee every professional coach wants to win, at any cost—and if that means suiting up the team with all white, Asian, Latino or black players, or a mix, to win, it will be done.

Why is there so much stress on black players fading to eight percent in baseball when the level of other minorities are even higher? You have to give a little and take a little—and white players are seeing the day near where they can call out racism due to their percentage fading in sports. Won't that be ironic?

You would think that the NBA, where there are studies to determine why whites aren't proportionally represented on team rosters, would be the last place where charges of white racism would be pursued, but you'd be wrong.

There is a fine line to what can be said about racism in sports—either you think there is a problem or you don't. My problem is that racist speculations are being made when they shouldn't be because the game is spread throughout with colors.



Beavers Freefall

Oregon State designated hitter Mike Lissman and catcher Mitch Canham celebrate after Lissman's three-run shot in Game 2 against Washington State. OSU took the game 11-5 in their only win of the three-game series last weekend. It was the Beavers first series loss at home in three years, where they had a 23-0-1 record, including post-season play in that time span. OSU dropped from No. 11 to No. 16 in the USA today/ESPN national baseball coaches' poll.

photo courtesy OSU SID

Cougars take bite out of Beavers

Caleb Hawley
 The Commuter

With their second consecutive conference series loss, the defending National Champion Beavers are letting post-season play slip from their grasp. In a home series the Beavers lost two of three games last weekend to Washington State (25-22, 8-13).

WU got out to an early 1-0 lead in the first inning of Game 1 that OSU just couldn't seem to overcome. In the third both teams scored a pair of runs, and then in the sixth and seventh innings the Beavers answered each of the runs scored by the Cougars, but were unable to generate any extra runs as WU went on for the 5-4 win. Leading the Beavers was Mike Lissman going 2-for-4 and Joey Wong was 2-for-3 day with a double.

Game 2 was an entirely different story as OSU finally got going and put together two big innings; three runs in the fourth and five in the seventh.

Jordan Lennerton scored the three runs in the fourth with a double to take a 4-1 lead and the team registered the cycle in the fifth in a five-run inning that was capped by a three-run homer by Lissman and Lennerton's first OSU career triple.

Joe Paterson and Daniel Turpen combined

for seven and two thirds pitched, giving up four earned runs and striking out four. Eddie Kunz gave up one earned through the final one and a third innings. Lennerton, Lissman and Mitch Canham each went 2-for-4 while Chris Hopkins went 3-for-5. Both Hopkins and Canham had a double and an RBI in the 11-5 victory. OSU's offensive flurry was short lived as the Cougs put the clamps down in Game 3 on their way to victory 5-3.

Again the Cougs got out to the early lead scoring in a run in each of the first two innings. OSU answered one run in the second inning, but then went idle for the next six innings. It wasn't until the ninth inning the Beavers were able to get a pair of runs across, but it too little too late as WSU had gotten three more runs across though the fifth and sixth innings to seal their series victory.

Lissman put another in the stands two days in a row and Braden wells went 3-for-3 and an RBI for the Beavers.

Oregon State will play host to No. 9 Arizona State next weekend for a three game series May 18-20 and will wrap up conference play the following weekend at UCLA.

The No. 16 Beavers are now 36-13 overall but only 8-10 in Pac-10.