



The Buzz About Sting

Sting's latest release "Songs from the Labyrinth" is an exquisite collection of instrumental tracks and 16th Century period vocals.

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NWAACC Bound

The Lady Runners storm toward the NWAACC playoffs on a 7-game winning streak, their first post-season appearance since the early 1990s.

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THE COMMUTER

Wednesday,
February 28, 2007

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Voting continues today for ASG president and vice president

Hailey Ediger
The Commuter

Today marks the final day students can vote for future ASG leaders.

Candidates for president are journalism major Elizabeth Uriarte and computer science major J.J. Quinlivan. Running unchallenged for vice president is Stephanie Ware, a pre-pharmacy major.

No candidates filed for public relations secretary or any of the five division representative seats.

In an interview last week, Quinlivan cited his current position as the ASG science/industry representative as the qualification that sets him apart from his competitor.

"I've learned what student government is, how to accomplish purposes and take them and teach them to the newer members," he said. One of his more passionate issues is opposition to tuition increases. He wants to initiate more lobbying within LBCC to create a more vocal and active student

body to make sure tuition is not raised. He also wants to rebuild the reputation of the student government, increasing lobbying in Salem and build up campus clubs and organizations.

Asked why students should vote for him, Quinlivan replied, "I am older than your average student. I've got the experience to lead the student government."

Uriarte cited her role as an ASG outsider as her main attribute as a candidate. "I'm different," she said. "I speak for the people that do not normally get spoken for." She wants to empower students to have the confidence to speak up, adding "Students are not involved in their school because they don't feel there is anything to be involved in."

Uriarte said she can give ASG a fresh start. "They need someone new, with the things that have happened down there. The students need to take charge in their college."

Voting ends today at 11:30 p.m. Ballots can be cast online at linnbenton.edu/election.



photo by Will Parker

Go Fish

Culinary arts instructor Scott Hurley is on a roll as he works with one of his students to prepare dishes for a sushi bar in the Commons last week.

Free money offered by Foundation

LBCC News Service

The LB Foundation is offering 58 scholarships worth \$1,500 each for newly admitted full-time students.

Scholarships are based on need and applicants must be majoring in one of the colleges'

degree programs. A complete list of qualifying majors is located at linnbenton.edu/scholarships.

Applications are due to the Financial Aid Office by April 15, which is the same deadline as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Applicants must also file

an admissions application and complete the computerized placement test (CPT) by May 1 to qualify.

AGPA of 2.5 for professional/technical majors and 2.75 for transfer students is required. Scholarships will be awarded during fall term 2007.



photo by Will Parker

Red vs. Blue

History instructor Robert Harrison (left) moderates a debate between liberal politician Pete Sorenson and conservative radio talk show host Jeff Kropf last Friday in the main forum. The debate discussed a wide range of higher education issues.

Demand for online courses on the rise

Pete Sherwood
The Commuter

Students at LBCC are taking online courses in record numbers this academic year, and surveys show they want more classes available online.

In 2004 only 60 courses were available online. By 2007, however, LBCC's distance education program offers over 100 classes online. Another 150 classes are hybrid courses, or partially online, according to Alan Heywood, LBCC manager of media services. Blackboard Academic is the service used by LBCC students to take classes online and has been in use on campus

for over four years. About 2,400 students took classes online last year, Heywood said. Eight hundred are currently enrolled in Blackboard this term.

The capability to attend courses without disrupting work schedules is the main attraction to enroll in online courses, according to surveys conducted by the media department.

"My job wouldn't be flexible at all with my hours," said Sarah Dvorak, business major at LBCC, "so taking classes online in my own time was a perfect alternative for me." Seventy percent of users on Blackboard are women who work 20-40 hours a week,

► Turn to "Online" on Pg. 6

The Weather Through the Week

Source: Yahoo!Weather

High 40
Showers/Snow
Low 32
Wednesday

High 44
Showers
Low 37
Thursday

High 48
Showers
Low 43
Friday

High 53
Partly Cloudy
Low 39
Saturday

High 57
Cloudy
Low 42
Sunday

High 52
Showers
Low 43
Monday

High 55
Showers
Low 40
Tuesday

Opinion Editor: Elizabeth Uriarte
Editor-In-Chief: Adam Loghides
commuter@linnbenton.edu

OPINION

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

Military background not necessary

Elizabeth Uriarte
The Commuter

It seems that some of my columns are beginning to anger some people. Good. That means that they're at least starting to pay attention to the world outside their little self-absorbed boxes.

In one letter written by Kevin Vinson, a Marine Corps veteran, he mentions a few things on my views of war. He apparently is under the impression that

I'm an ignorant child who hasn't experienced life, and therefore I have no real basis for my opinions.

As with many soldiers whom I have known, he seems to believe that life experience equals killing people in a war. No, I have never been overseas in the line of fire. I have never shot anyone, or watched my friends die in combat.

My life experiences, though drastically different, are just as valid. In the 26 years that I have been around, I have indeed suffered, been abused, disowned by my family, severely disillusioned and have fought for causes that I feel strongly about. Forgive me if I fight for my country with words rather than with guns. A bullet can affect one life. Words can affect many, many more,



ELIZABETH URIARTE

Vote for me, vote for Mr. Quinlivan, or whomever you feel will best represent you and your school. Just vote.

without causing death in the process.

Mr. Vinson tells me that if I'm so dissatisfied with my country, I should just leave. I'm sorry, but I have just as much right to be here as he, or any other U.S. citizen, whether they believe in war or not. I don't believe in running from a problem. I believe in fighting back, just not in the physical sense.

In another letter I received from Terry Thayer, I am accused of being too negative. I admit that I write a lot on the darker side of life, but that's

mainly due to the fact that people are blind to reality until it slaps them in the face.

Everyone has a voice. Not everyone has the guts to use it. Exercise your freedom of speech. It is not only your right as an American, but it is your obligation. If more people would fight with words rather than guns, we might just make a difference. People who tell you that you can't change the world are just too lazy to try. This is why I am running for ASG president. I figure it's a good start in my quest to change the world.

You still have time today to utilize your voice by voting in the ASG elections. Vote for me, vote for Mr. Quinlivan, or whomever you feel will best represent you and your school. Just vote.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Materialism not needed to celebrate holidays

To the Editor:

Wow, I think that some of Ms Uriarte's negative views need a response. I try very hard to read opinion editorials with a grain of salt. However, I think the extent of her disgruntlement is to the point of her not being able to find anything positive in the world around her.

Don't get me wrong, I think editorials that poke and prod us into seeing a side to things we don't necessarily want to see are important. Seeing all sides of a situation help to enable us to deal effectively with a problem. The world indeed has lots of problems from extremist Christian and Muslim zealots to corrupt misguided politicians and everything in between.

There are though, many wonderful and beautiful aspects to the world as well. To focus solely on the negative conditions and ignore the positive is dysfunctional in my opinion. If she doesn't like her or her daughter giving Christmas presents or receiving them no one is forcing her to participate. To promote the opinion that she is a victim of some circumstance that she has no control over, whether Christmas or global warming, is simplistic and childish at best and irresponsible and narrow minded in the broader view. There is an old saying, you are either part of the problem or you are part of the solution. All I hear her doing is complaining about situations without offering anything positive in its place. Her apparent stance is that she is opposed to the material aspect of the occasions she mentions.

She seems to be very non-materialistic. I think that is fine, but why do the rest of us need to hear her negative opinion of how we choose to participate in these events?

In the end she seems to me to be very much the Grinch that not only is trying to steal Christmas, but birthdays, or any other day that people find a reason to show love to each other or celebrate life.

By the way a word about birthdays: birthdays are generally celebrated for one simple reason in my opinion, to mark the ecstatic joy other people take in having that special person in their lives. The day a person was born is a great day to celebrate their contributions to our happiness and quality of life. Maybe we don't need a special day for it, maybe it is all commercialized, but that doesn't exclude the positive aspects of using an excuse to shower someone you love with any kind of special treatment you deem to be appropriate. She seems to

miss entirely the possibility that a person doesn't need to spend money to celebrate one of these events. It isn't what you give it's the thought behind it that counts, and hers seems to be negative to the bone.

It would do her good to find a way to look at the world through the eyes of someone that only sees positive when they look around. Maybe that view isn't any more realistic than her fatalist view is. However, it would at least give her a new paradigm to see the world through and then maybe she could find a balance between the two. Which in the end is the best place to be anyway. Good luck and for goodness sake she should LIGHTEN UP A LITTLE BIT!

Terry Thayer

Negative opinions on war lack experienced insight

To the Editor:

I just finished reading Ms. Uriarte's opinion article and again I am confused as to her intentions. Does she really feel so strongly about that of which she writes? In reference to her recent article I want to point out a few things. First off, as a Marine Corps Veteran who served during a time of war and saw death of combatants as well as non-combatants, I feel that Ms. Uriarte has no idea what she is talking about when it comes to the situation in Iraq. I don't necessarily agree with the war, yet I will not stand by while she tarnishes the memory of the heroes who have fought for this country and given their lives for a cause. She neglects to point out that most of the casualties in Iraq come not from U.S. soldiers but from insurgents.

Do we leave now just to satisfy those who don't agree with the war? You Ms. Uriarte may believe that we are murdering hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqi citizens, and I have to argue your numbers, but what do you know of war anyways? Have you ever put yourself in harms way to protect an idea? And I find it interesting that you listed the Iraqi casualties before the American. If you are so dissatisfied with our country then why don't you leave? I say this to anyone that feels the way that you do. The Canadian border is only a few hours north.

I may seem agitated to a great deal over this, and really I should just sit back and look at the source. How old are you? Have you really experienced life to form such negative opinions? Grow up!!

Kevin Vinson

PERSPECTIVES

"What would make the ASG more relevant to you?"



• Tyler Kennet •
Criminal Justice

"More visibility."

"I've never really been involved, so I don't really know. If I were to run for President I would protect the rights of students and make sure teachers are following instructions."



• Esther Valerio •
Business Management



• Robert Nath •
Criminal Justice

"It's not relevant to me right now."

"I really know absolutely nothing about it and don't think they've taken the time to make sure I do."



• Taunisha Tisinger •
Pre-Diagnostic Imaging



• Tom Sabatino •
Communication

"If they lower tuition, otherwise I don't even care."

"I don't know. I can't say I really know anything about them. I know they're in a room somewhere."



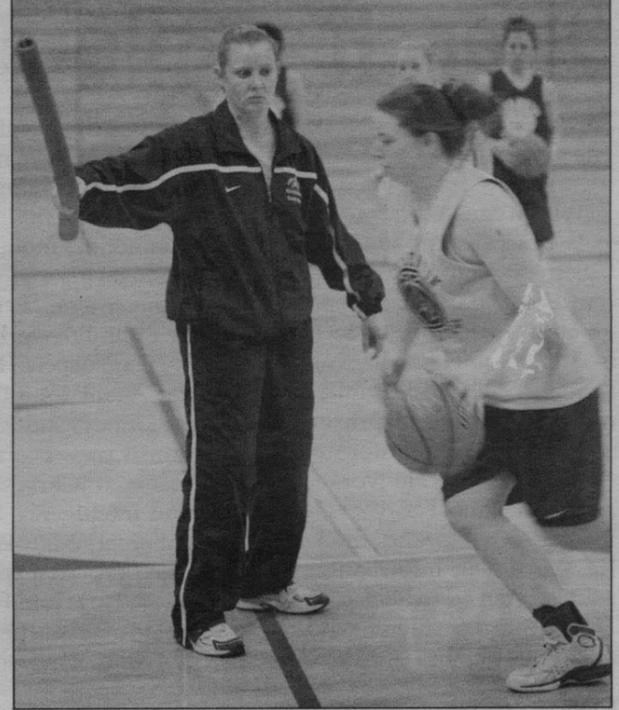
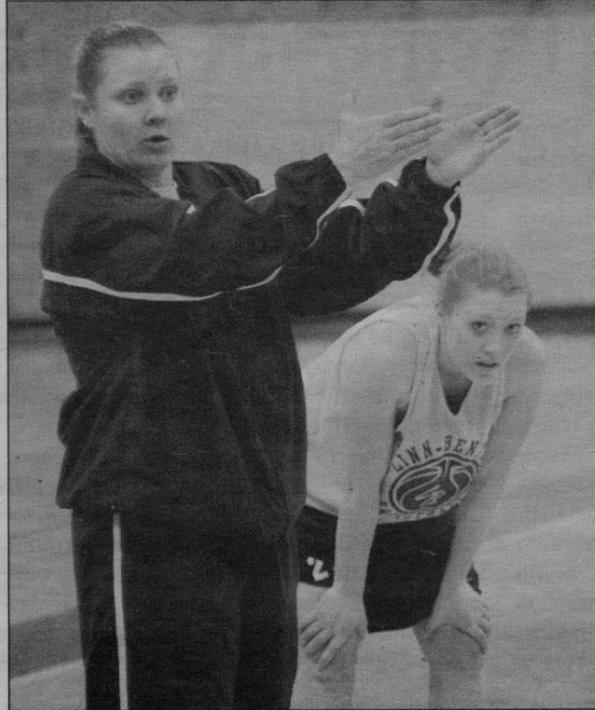
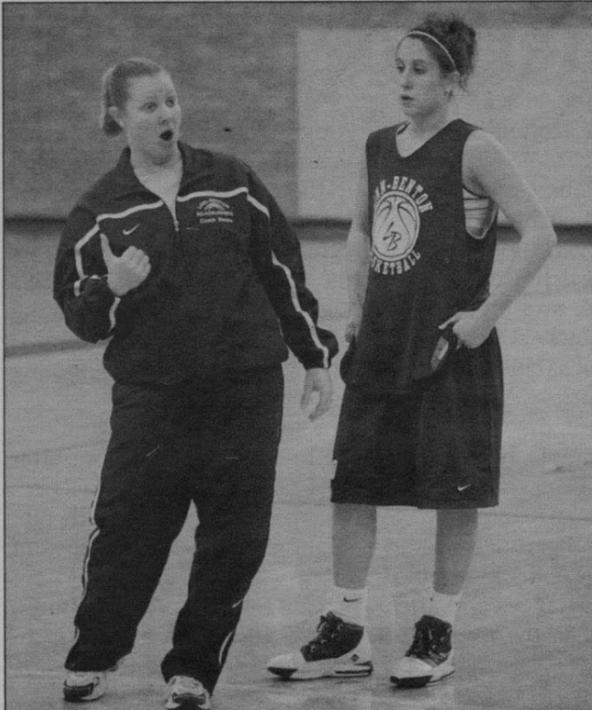
• Ruth Bennett •
Pre-Nursing

Compiled By Michelle Turner
Pictures By Will Parker

CAMPUS NEWS

Managing Editor: Michelle Turner
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

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



photos by Will Parker

Leading Lady: A.J. Dionne in a league of her own

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

Women's Head Coach AJ Dionne was named NWAACC Southern Division Coach of the Year this week after leading her team to the playoffs. She is in her ninth year as Lady Runners coach and has been loving every moment.

Could you give us a little background on yourself?

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, Calif. I have been playing basketball all my life and was the second highest recruited athlete in California coming out of high school. I attended Hart High School for three years and played softball. I then moved with my family to Brownsville, Ore., and graduated from Central Linn High School.

Why did you move from LA to Brownsville?

My dad retired from the LA Police Department after 22 years and moved us to Oregon because he always had a dream of being a cattle rancher so he bought a 700-acre ranch.

What were your choices like for playing basketball after high school?

I had about 72 full-ride scholarships to D1 colleges, and I chose Oregon State because they were a team that I could help bring their program around. They were last in the Pac 10 and struggling when I went there. I majored in Exercise and Sports Science with a teaching option.

How did you continue to stay involved with basketball

OFFICE HOURS

outside of college?

I went to an WNBA tryout in 1997, which was the inaugural year, for the Sacramento Monarchs. I made the Monarchs team and then my agent received an offer for me to play for a team in Sweden called Eos Malbos.

Were things hard to adjust to living and playing in another country?

Not really for Sweden, because English is their secondary language. I liked the opportunity to move outside of the states. I was the only paid player, and the salary was a lot more than for the WNBA's 21-week salary of \$10,000. But money wasn't the issue; it was more getting the chance to live outside the country for basically free. My housing and car were also paid for while playing.

Why did you choose to coach at Linn Benton?

After a year in Sweden, the Athletic Director at the time, Greg Hawk, heard I was in town and wasn't going to play the next year. He talked to me earlier, but I didn't want to coach until I was done playing because I was committed to training. I was spending seven to eight hours a day focusing on lifting and conditioning and playing basketball preparing for the next tryouts.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I am working on getting my real estate license, so we will see where that takes me, but whatever I do, whether it be coaching here or not, I would like to stay in the Willamette Valley. I have been offered other

coaching jobs, but they just haven't been convenient at the time.

What is your best experience coaching here at LB?

The overall experience here these last nine years has taught me a lot about myself. The patience aspect of teaching and interacting with the kids has given me great experiences. In a year or two, I get to recruit and follow each kid and teach them a lot of aspects of life and basketball. It has made what I think teaching and coaching is all about, a positive experience. If I was to pick my best experience in a team's overall success, it would be this season. I have a group of girls that has been completely committed and dedicated from Day 1. They are very focused and hard workers and want to win. Everyone is on the same page and understands their role. I don't have to coach effort with this team. It isn't to down grade any team in the past, but I haven't had a whole team wanting to focus on all those things, as a whole, like this group.

Being able to work with Mike Murphey, our conditioning coach, has been tremendous. Not every team uses him like I do, and most teams in our conference don't have one. He pushes my girls to work harder to get stronger and faster. The team that can out run the other team in the last seven minutes of a ball game is the team that will have the most success. That will be huge for us going into the playoffs. It is four days in a row and typically most teams can play games back-to-back, but I think he has totally helped prepare the girls for those third and fourth days.

The Commuter

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STAFF

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Editor-in-Chief:
Adam Loghides

Managing Editor:
Michelle Turner

Opinion Editor:
Elizabeth Uriarte

Photo Editor:
Jesse Skoubo

Photographers:
Chris Campbell, Will Parker,
Gary Brittsan

A & E Editor:
Aaron Broich

Contributing Editors:
Loren Newman, Joe Hodgson,
Kristina Bennett

Sports Editor:
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Staff Writers:
Chris Kelley, Joe Bryan, Ken Salt, Hailey Ediger, Marion Pingrey, Pete Sherwood, Alenie Downing, Sheena Schrock, MaryAnne Turner, Delilah Calhoun

Paginator:
Melissa Chaney

Advisor: Rich Bergeman

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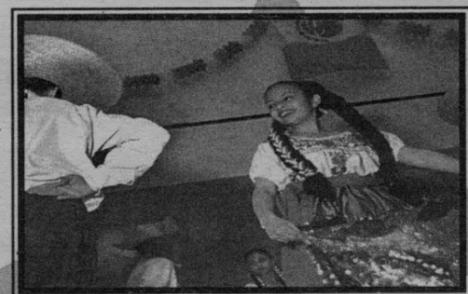
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A&E Editor: Aaron Broich
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

'Breach' explores themes of treachery, deception

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Whom can you trust?

Issues of deception and integrity play out in "Breach"—a film based on the story of the greatest breach of FBI security ever. Robert Hanssen was arrested in 2001, in Virginia, and convicted to life in prison for selling top-secret information to the Russians. He worked as a spy for almost 25 years, first for the Soviets and then the Russians. The information he sold is believed to have cost the U.S. government billions and led to untold deaths. Unlike some

notorious British spies, Hanssen appears to have no love for communism. Although he was given about \$1.4 million in cash and diamonds, money doesn't appear to be his motive either.

In the movie, Eric O'Neal (Ryan Phillippe) works for the FBI tracking suspected terrorists. Special Agent Kate Burroughs (Laura Linney) suddenly transfers him to a new position assisting Hanssen (Chris Cooper), a Russian Intelligence Specialist. O'Neal's real job is to keep watch on Hanssen, an expert at lie detection. He is told Hanssen is suspected of sexual perversions. It's not until later that Agent

MOVIE REVIEW

★★★★★

Now playing at
 Carmike Cinemas
 in Corvallis

Burroughs reveals Hanssen is a traitor.

The movie brilliantly builds suspense with dialogue-driven scenes. Cooper's performance of Agent Hanssen stands out. Cooper depicts Hanssen as intense and abrupt—deeply devoted to Catholicism, yet easily provoked. Hanssen repeatedly lashes out at O'Neal for his lukewarm Christianity.

The movie is often witty and ironic, like when O'Neal plays off of Hanssen's obsession with Catholicism to save him in several close calls. Even though Hanssen is the one exhorting O'Neal to pray more, he's involved in all sorts of treachery behind the scenes, as well as being a prickly pear on the outside. At one point, before O'Neal discovers that Hanssen is a mole, he comes to believe that Hanssen is a misunderstood man of integrity. He complains to Burroughs about his seemingly ridiculous job of no real importance, and then finds himself in the middle of the FBI's biggest case ever. Bur-

roughs tells him about all the years they knew there was a spy in their midst, but were powerless to fight back. Hanssen was actually put in charge of finding the traitor and revealed in this elaborate deception, viewing himself as an under-appreciated genius capable of fooling everyone.

The movie is a fitting follow-up for director Billy Ray, after his last film, "Shattered Glass," which is also a suspense thriller dealing with real-life issues of integrity and ethics.

Cameraman Tak Fujimoto makes good uses of eerie camera shots with subdued tones, along with numerous shots of ashen corridors within the FBI buildings. Every time the subject of faith and integrity comes up early on in the film, the camera holds steady on the faces of characters as they pause. These well-timed movements draw the audience in, showing the characters challenged to the core.

All of the major roles are well acted, making all of the movie's details believable. Hanssen is a fascinating character, and it would have been nice to understand more about his motives, although some viewers may read more into this than others.

The movie's strong points lie in its realistic storytelling and its intriguing dialogue. Few movies today portray the human condition so starkly.



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Baseball Information Director (Media Relations) (#4987, Corvallis)
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 Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Sting strikes resonant note with Elizabethan songs

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Sting explores new territory with his new album, "Songs From the Labyrinth." He per-

forms the music of John Dowland, an Elizabethan songwriter, whom he calls, "The first English pop star."

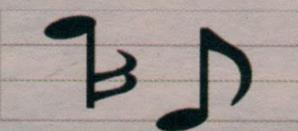
Dowland traveled extensively in Europe, playing his lute

and singing for many nobles. His ultimate goal was to become the official lute player of the royal court, but because he was Catholic he wasn't very popular in England at the time. According to Dowland's letters, he remained loyal to England, but some historians believe that he served as a spy.

Sting mostly sings, but also plays archlute on a couple of tracks. Edin Karamazov provides the bulk of the instrumental portion, playing lute and archlute. He is one of Europe's foremost lutenists, and has put together amazing arrangements for the album.

Between instrumental tracks, Sting reads portions from a Dowland letter, and together with Karamazov they have created what Sting calls "a musical soundtrack" to the composer's life. One song on the album is by Robert Johnson, another musician from the 16th Century.

Dowland's words speak of



MUSIC REVIEW

★★★★☆

that ethereal melancholy that seem to transcend time. "Thus wedded to my woes and bedded to my tomb, O let me living die, till death do come." He also sang a fair bit about uncertain romance: "Can she excuse my wrongs with Virtue's cloak? Shall I call her good when she proves unkind? Are those clear fires which vanish into smoke? Must I praise the leaves where no fruit I find?"

Sting's voice excellently compliments the depth of Dowland's heartfelt lyrics. Sting's singing is very accomplished on this album especially for him being out of his element. He has some characteristic smokiness that defines his voice, yet on parts of the album his voice is so refined that he sounds like a different man—not at all like a British rock singer. Sting skillfully oscillates his voice to capture the style of the period.

On the newly released "The Journey & The Labyrinth," combination CD and DVD set,

Sting and Karamazov perform live at St. Luke's Concerette in London. Sting sings with the same emotional fervor, and expresses a greater scope of his inner soul—he may have sung a little rough in two or three spots, but the trade off is well worth it. Karamazov plays flawlessly as far as I can tell. Together they cover the Police song, "Message In A Bottle," which fits in with the overall mood of Dowland's style. The DVD delves deeper into the story of Dowland's life and shows how the inspiration for the album came together. It's not as good a purchase as the musical album, but the visual music videos might appeal to many people.

Sting's new music projects, together with Edin Karamazov, have an eloquent simplicity that is quite sublime. The lute playing is often intricate, but the structure of the songs is minimalist overall.

This style of sublime mood is what Sting views as uniquely British. Both Karamazov and Sting are praiseworthy for their efforts.

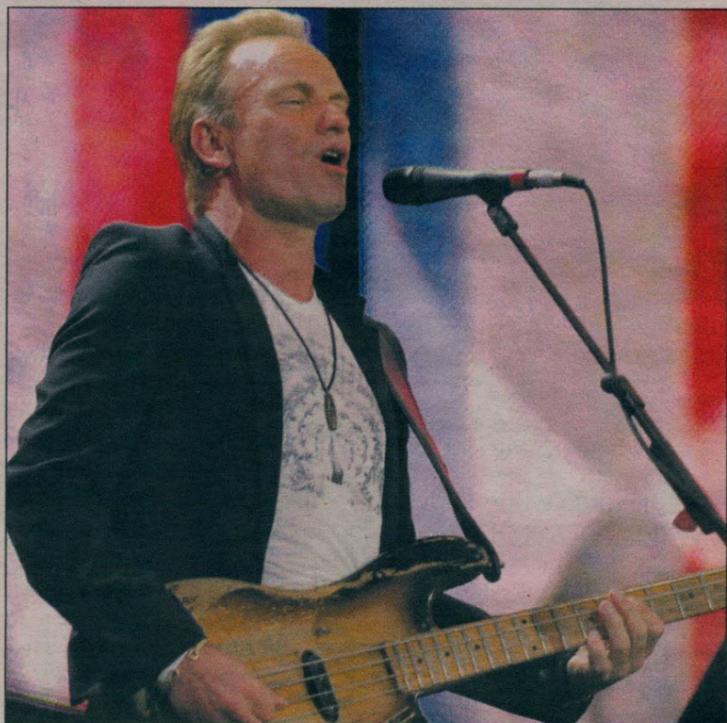


photo by MCT Campus

Sting performs at the Live 8 concert in London's Hyde Park in 2005.

Action, gore and mayhem blaze in 'Gears of War' game

Sheena Schrock
 The Commuter

"Gears of War" has "the greatest graphics of all time," or so Cody Schrock says. I would have to agree with him.

In this Xbox 360 game, you are Marcus Fenix, a former soldier for the Coalition of Organized Governments, or COG. You've been locked away and branded a traitor, but you are busted out of prison in the beginning of the game by Dom, another soldier. He needs your help defeating a mysterious force called the Locust. You join the Delta Squad. The only downfall of the game

is the lack of your incarceration, or the details behind the conflict. The game play is so sharp you probably won't care.

You fight a decent amount of varying enemies in "Gears of War." It consists of large battles between your squad and the enemy force.

Cover is a huge part of the game. If you are left in the open, you will get shot. The controls make it easy to hide and peek around corners, half burnt cars and concrete girders. There is really no other game on the market that offers as much excitement as "Gears of War." When you pop out to take a shot, you feel like

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

★★★★☆

you're taking your life in your own hands. The enemy is good at opening fire the second they see you. The thrill goes from start to finish of the game.

You usually have three other men in your squad, but they don't do much except distract the enemy. Your comrades also seem to die a lot, which is OK

since you can walk up to them and revive them with the X button.

However, when Markus dies, Markus dies, and your teammates cannot revive you. Your health meter will replenish itself after a few seconds if you aren't getting shot, and onward ho you go. It is a much quicker recharge than, let's say "Halo's" energy shields, and this helps keep the action moving while reinforcing

the need to play cautiously. The game takes most players between 10 to 12 hours, depending on the difficulty.

E3 Awards include: Best Action Game, Best Console Game, Best Original Game, Best Online Multiplayer Game, Best Graphics, Best Xbox 360 Game, Best of E3 2006. The graphics, blood, gore and awesome game play would leave me to give this game four stars out of five.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Event looks at Harlem Renaissance

Kristina Bennett
 The Commuter

The Russell Tripp Performance Hall will be filled with historical entertainment between friends today.

Instructors and artists Gary Ruppert, Gary Westford and Robin Havenick present music, art and literature as part of Black History Month from 1 to 2 p.m.

Ruppert, a pianist and dean of the Arts & Communications Division, described the program as a "look into the Harlem Renaissance and how everything during this time is weaved together with a common thread."

According to Havenick, an English instructor, people writing during the Harlem Renaissance thought of art as power, "and it didn't matter that it was not popular on a worldly basis. The various artists during that time realized that it had a purpose, and it made sense to them."

The program includes Ruppert on piano, Westford showing art from the period and Havenick doing readings.

"Jazz is the only true American music art form, but it is often perceived with shameful ignorance," said Ruppert. "It was a freedom of improvisation based on a group of people with none. We hope that idea will instill a deeper resonance with viewers."

The final event in Black History Month will be the Diversity Symbol Art Project, presented by Multicultural Center Coordinator Victoria Nguyen today in the Multicultural Center from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Veterans and supporters of vets invited to start new campus group

Joe Hodgson
 The Commuter

Veterans attending LBCC can share in initiating a Veteran's Group on campus. A meeting is scheduled for March 6 at 2 p.m. in Industrial Arts Building Room 227.

Nursing major Frances Gaidanowicz is the moving force behind the effort and says this is a new endeavor that has never before been attempted to the knowledge of anyone currently in charge. Participation is needed to make it successful.

Perry Carmichael, department chair of Drafting Engineering Graphics, is the acting advisor.

Gaidanowicz says attendees will discuss benefits of having an organization for supporting each other, the school, and the community, as well as the advantages and opportunities of having a formal organization for recognition, awareness and a pooling of information and knowledge. Every veteran has his or her own part of the academic life puzzle that, when shared, she said, can aid others to make money stretch, or help in career decisions, or benefit one another in too many ways

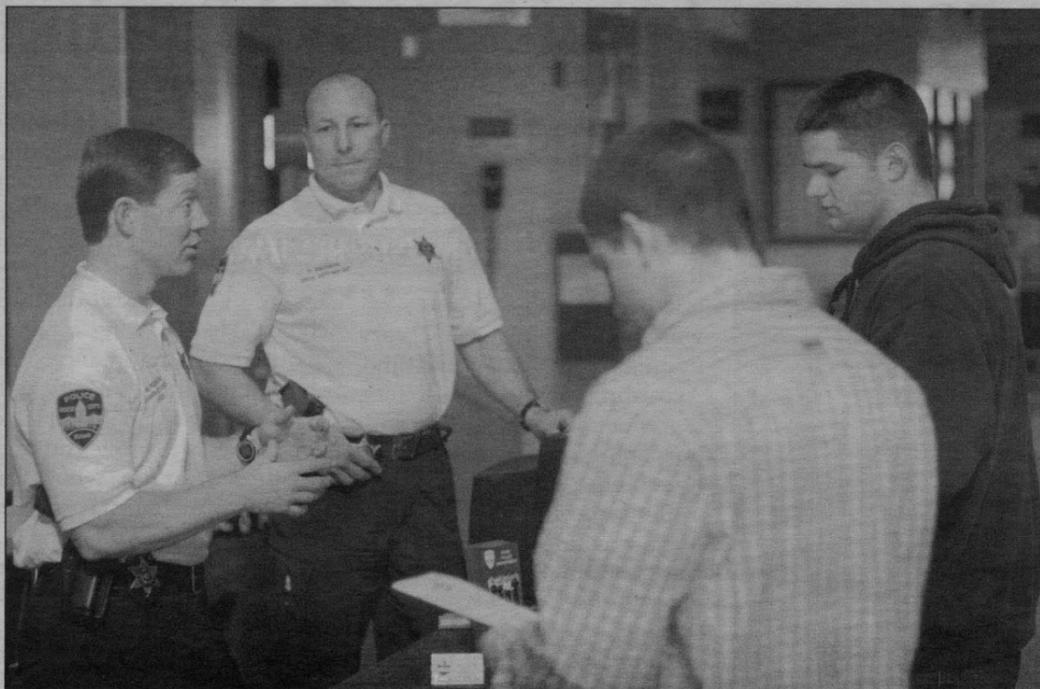
to list.

These topics are the agenda for the meeting, she said, and the floor is open to additional topics that impact students and have not been brought to light yet. Textbook costs and how they are dealt with individually versus collectively could be an example.

Gaidanowicz has done ad hoc testing of the numbers of military personnel on campus, not just veterans, and the number is large though not specifically determined.

Gaidanowicz also says that while the primary focus is on starting a veteran group that does not exclude active duty personnel, ROTC, or even those with an interest in the military. She feels that in the inclusive atmosphere generated by LBCC the group has a broad audience and does not want to exclude anyone with a real interest.

There is difficulty in setting a time to meet with such a diverse audience. Anyone interested but with conflicting times can contact Gaidanowicz at fgaidanowicz@yahoo.com to express their interest. Also interested students can forward a time that will work better for them for future meetings.



Recruits on Radar

Boise city police officers pitch the virtues of their city and its police force while on a recruiting visit to the campus last week. From left are officers Will Reimers and Dan Barber, who are talking to students Matthew Smith and Nick Miller.

photo by Will Parker

Online: New ideas give bright future to the realm of distance education

◀ From Pg. 1

according to surveys done by the Media Department.

One main objection of distance education is the lack of the social environment in the learning process, according to Paul Hagood, an English instructor at LBCC who teaches several online courses.

The loss of feedback, lectures and discussions that come with face-to-face teaching, are all concerns with online courses, Hagood said.

Each individual must evaluate their particular learning style and compare it to the course being offered. For some, online courses are a bad choice

"I tried a few classes online when I attended LBCC," said Matthew Harrison, a transfer student to Oregon State University. "I found out real quick that no lecture time means double the workload to teach the material to yourself."

"I tried a few classes online . . . I found out real quick that no lecture time means double the workload."

—Matthew Harrison

Web discussion boards are one substitute for social environment in the classroom. Farther down the road, students could possibly watch their lectures from their computers through a podcast produced by the instructors, Hagood hypothesized. While this scenario adds confusion when dealing with storage space for videos and copyrights, it would help the on-line classroom become more rounded for the future, he said. The future of distance education is bright.

LBCC hopes to create a new position in the media department to help instructors on campus use Blackboard more efficiently in order to meet the demand for more courses online, according to the Heywood. Chemekata Community College offers a complete two-year transfer degree completely online with the Blackboard program. LBCC has tentative plans to match Chemekata's achievement by having their own AAOT degree available online in the future.

Sorenson passes on

LBCC News Service

Carl Sorenson, one of LBCC's regular security officers, died on Monday evening following a brief battle with a very aggressive cancer. Services have not been scheduled as of press time. Sorenson will be missed by his family and his many friends at LBCC.

Family Fair offers tips

LBCC News Service

The 24th Annual Family Resource Fair will be held Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the LBCC Commons.

This year's theme is "Celebrating Families." The keynote speaker will be Rae Pica, a children's movement specialist for 26 years.

In addition to the keynote, 23 workshops will be offered on topics ranging from positive communication with children to managing difficult behaviors and resolving conflict.

The keynote and workshops will include information on the relationship between early learning, brain development and developmentally appropriate physical activity and movement. Registration is \$1 for adults. Child-care for children six months to 10 years is \$2 for the day and lunch is \$2. Families may bring their own sack lunches.

For more information, contact LBCC Family Resources at 917-4897. For information on the workshops or to download the pre-registration form, visit www.linnbenton.edu.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons

FEB. 28TH - MARCH 6TH

Wednesday:

ENTREES: Corned Beef Hash and Eggs and Beggar's Chicken with Steamed Rice (Asian-influenced marinated chicken with preserved vegetables)
 VEGETARIAN: Carey Pocket (Vegetarian Burger)
 SOUPS: Beef Consomme and Corn Chowder

Thursday:

ENTREES: Pork Schnitzel and Monte Cristo Sandwich
 VEGETARIAN: Vegetarian Egg Rolls
 SOUPS: Tortellini en Brodo and Split Pea

Friday:

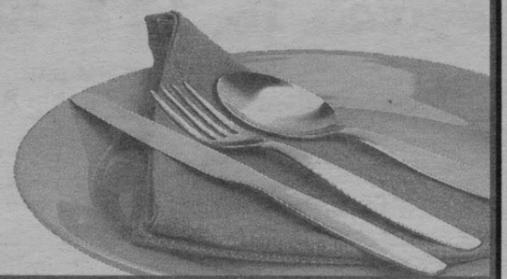
CHEF'S CHOICE

Monday:

CHEF'S CHOICE

Tuesday:

CHEF'S CHOICE



Sports Editor: Caleb Hawley
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.



Chris Kelley
The Commuter.

FACE OFF

Which team, the Red Sox or the Cubs, had the best off-season?



Caleb Hawley
The Commuter

The baseball team making the most news, and the best player pickups, in the off season was the Chicago Cubs.

When the Cubs fell to a 66-96 finish last season, changes had to be made. And big ones came!

President Andy MacPhail resigned before the season ended, and manager Dusty Baker was quickly ushered out behind him, leaving General Manager Jim Hendry to fix a team gone horribly wrong.

In came Lou Piniella, who was a year removed from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Hendry remembered the remarkable job Piniella did saving the Seattle Mariners from franchise disaster. The Mariners have only had nine winning seasons and have reached the playoffs only four times in their 30 years—even of those winning seasons and all of the playoff appearances occurred during Piniella's 10 years with the Mariners.

One of the most ejected managers in MLB history has been brought to Chicago to inject the Cubs with some of his winning formula.

Being hooked up to an EKG machine didn't stop Hendry, who was on the phone signing pitcher Ted Lilly from the Toronto Blue Jays to a \$40 million, four-year contract

Hendry went under the knife for an

angioplasty later that night.

On the first day free agents could talk money with all 30 teams, the Cubs kept third baseman Aramis Ramirez, giving him a \$73 million, five-year deal. A week later, Alfonso Soriano agreed to an eight-year, \$136 million contract with the Cubs, which is the fifth richest salary in baseball history.

Over \$300 million later, the Cubs were ready to compete again. Money well spent, because Ramirez, Soriano and Lilly are all 31 or younger and in great health. Added to the mix will be the return of Mark Prior, Kerry Wood and Derrek Lee coming back from injuries—all this makes the Cubs championship caliber.

The Cubs already were big news this winter, spending money as freely as a teenager let loose with a credit card. Add in Hendry's wheeling and dealing from a hospital bed, and you can see why the Cubs had the best off-season changes.

\$300 million might seem to some as too much to spend, but it isn't as bad as the Red Sox spending \$51 million just to negotiate a huge contract with Japanese pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka. Spending \$100 million, a third of Chicago's entire off season, on one foreign pitcher who hasn't ever pitched on American soil doesn't seem like much of an investment to me.

Spring training is here. It's time to start evaluating your favorite teams and see who made the best off-season moves. To this point I feel the Boston Red Sox have made the most significant strides this off-season to better themselves in the 2007 season.

I have always been a defensive minded spectator, no matter what the sport. So when I saw the moves that Boston made to bolster their pitching staff it really got me on their side.

I really like the Brendan Donnelly addition from the Los Angeles Angels. Last season Donnelly was 6-0 and had 53 strikeouts in 64 innings pitched.

To accompany Donnelly, Boston also picked up veterans J.C. Romero, Joel Pineiro, Runelvys Hernandez and former Japanese league pitcher Hideki Okajima, who is really being overlooked by many as a very good situational guy to retire those tricky left-handers. Boston also picked up some other guy from Japan...

Oh yeah, it was Daisuke Matsuzaka. In Matsuzaka's eight seasons with the Seibu Lions he never registered an ERA above four.

Matsuzaka has struck out at least 200 batters in half of his seasons in Japan. Record-wise he is doing pretty well at 108-60. Last season Matsuzaka went 17-5

in 25 appearances, had an ERA of 2.13 and struck out 200 batters.

Matsuzaka will round out an outstanding rotation for the Red Sox. He will accompany the likes of Curt Shilling, Josh Beckett, Jonathan Papelbon, Tim Wakefield and Jon Lester.

Boston addressed its need to re-tool their outfield. I feel they did a great job by signing J.D. Drew. Many people criticize Drew for not living up to his hype. Just because a player didn't live up to the hype of being the best player in the league doesn't mean he's not a solid player and in this case, a very good pick up.

Last season Drew batted .283 with 100 RBI, 20 homeruns and just three years ago Drew was getting mentioned for MVP.

With Manny Ramirez, Coco Crisp and now Drew in the outfield, Boston has done a fantastic job solidifying a legitimate three.

Also, Julio Lugo, a very capable short-stop was signed to address the ailing lead-off position after the departure of Johnny Damon. Last season Lugo stole 24 bases and 39 the year before for Tampa Bay.

Boston has made significant moves this off-season and has put the pieces in place to be a serious contender for a World Series run.

Barry Bonds' already weak credibility takes a devastating blow

Chris Kelley
The Commuter



Why does Bud Selig and the MLB front office not suspend players for failing any of the drug tests?

A WORD WITH "CHEESE"

It couldn't have come at a better time. Barry Bonds' tests came back positive on a drug test taken last year.

Perhaps this is very close to breaking the all-time home run record.

This test was positive for amphetamines—more popularly called "greenies" in the baseball world.

A drug that used to be passed out freely in MLB locker rooms as a green pill is now banned because of the severe health effects that come with regular use.

The effects of the pill mostly consist of an irregular heart beat and liver and kidney failure—nothing serious or anything.

Under baseball's amphetamines policy which took effect last season, players are not publicly identified for a first positive test. A second positive test for amphetamines results

in a 25-game suspension. The first failed steroids test will get a player 50 games.

Bonds did not appeal the positive test which makes him subject to six drug tests by MLB over the next six months.

Perhaps timing for Bonds—hating when he is already hooked up on steroid intro-

versy.

At 42 years old he enters his 15th season with the San Francisco Giants only 22 home runs shy of surpassing Hank Aaron's career record of 755.

He was given a one year 15.8 million contract by the Giants before spring training. In the contract it stated that he wouldn't have his own trainers in the locker room and he wouldn't be paid if he is indicted by Congress for his steroid testimony.

15.8 million sounds like a reward to me and I doubt it was for the 14 games he played in last year. Why does Bud Selig and the MLB front office not suspend players for failing any

of the drug tests?

It isn't worth it for the MLB leaders to let warning go because it just makes the game less credible if we know they are cheating.

They don't need anything else to cause fans to question the integrity of the game.

I have always agreed that there is only one chance at a first impression and Barry Bonds has lost his chance with me for good.

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SPORTS

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

Lady Runners win again, head for playoffs

Joe Bryan
The Commuter

Last Wednesday the LBCC Lady Runners played their final tune up before the NWAACC Playoffs, and showed they did not need it when they routed the Southwestern Oregon Lakers 107-40. The Lady Runners enter the playoffs on a seven-game winning streak after holding the Lakers to only 11 second-half points. The win came as no surprise as the Lakers finished their season 0-14 in conference play with only one win on the season. Whitney Bryant led the Lady Runners in scoring with 25 points coupled with 12 boards, while guard/forward Molly Fillion complemented her with 23 points of her own. The Lady Runners scored 48 points off Laker turnovers and shot 55 percent from the field for the game.

In the first round of the playoffs tomorrow, the Lady Runners will square off against the second-seeded team from

the East, the Columbia Basin Hawks, who are coming in off a 63-52 loss to Walla Walla. The Hawks finished their season with a 10-4 league record and a 19-8 overall record on the season. The winner will go on to face the winner of the Bellevue vs. Centralia game on Friday. If the Lady Runners are able to advance to the Final Four this could set up a rematch between the Runners and Clackamas, who the Runners split the season series with one game apiece. The Final Four will be played on Saturday, and Sunday and the new NWAACC Champion will be crowned.

Regardless of how the tournament shakes out, the Lady runners have had a fantastic season including being the only team to beat 13-1 Lane in conference play. The Lady Runners will only lose three sophomores after this season, and while Bryant, Molly and Jenny Fillion are key contributors, Coach Dionne and her staff still retain enough core pieces of the team to remain competitive next season.



photo courtesy Torch

Post-season awards are beginning to roll in for the Lady Runners as they prepare for the post-season tournament this weekend in Kennewick, Wash. Roadrunner sophomore guard Whitney Bryant (right) and sophomore guard/forward Molly Fillion (above) received Southern Region All-League Honorable Mention awards this week. The two were also selected to the NWAACC sophomore All-Star Team. Freshman Chelsea Hartman was selected to the All-League First Team. Others receiving Honorable Mention awards were Jenny Fillion and Destiny Neuenschwander. Hartman and Neuenschwander were also selected to the All-Freshman Team.



photo by Chris Campbell

Roadrunners win finale but fall short of playoff bid

Ken Salt
The Commuter

The Roadrunners traveled to Coos Bay last Wednesday and returned with a victory over Southwestern Oregon only to find that Chemeketa had beaten Mt. Hood to take the final playoff spot.

In a high energy environment, LBCC maintained their composure and defeated SWOCC by a score of 71-65 in their last regular season game.

"We came out strong," commented Dustin Vaughn. "We played our best."

Going into halftime the scoreboard reflected a 38-26

lead for the Roadrunners. The Roadrunners established control of the game early shooting 55 percent from the field and 100 percent of their free throws.

"SWOCC was energized and they didn't hold back in the second half," said Ryon Pool. "They tried to make a comeback."

SWOCC improved their shooting and rebounding but it wasn't enough to take down the determined Roadrunners.

Pool led the way with 20 points, six rebounds, and three steals. Alex Stockner added 15 points and four rebounds, while Ryan Vargas, who had eight rebounds, and Nate Aronson contributed 11 points each.

"Last night was a win and a loss," said Pool when asked about the tie for fourth place with the Chemeketa Storm.

The Roadrunners finished tied with Chemeketa at 7-7 but lost both matchups with the Storm during the regular season, resulting in the Storm gaining the fourth spot from the South Division in the NWAACC playoffs. The top four teams from all four divisions will be playing for the championships this weekend.

Overall, the Roadrunners went 16-13 and 7-7 in the conference. "We had a great second half of the season," commented Coach Randy Falk. "I'm proud of my guys."



photo by Chris Campbell

Ryon Pool was the Roadrunners' leading scorer this year as he completed his eligibility at LBCC and turns his sights to playing at Southern Oregon or in California.

Ryon Pool turns hard times into success both on and off the court

Chris Kelley
The Commuter

Being homeless for a while during his red-shirt season here at Linn-Benton, Ryon Pool has learned how to make a lot come from a little. You might have seen him scoring points and getting rebounds on the basketball court for the men's basketball team or on campus studying in the library in between his classes. Pool, 28, is an Albany native, and attended West Albany High School before dropping out after his sophomore year and getting his GED from LBCC.

But it was after obtaining his GED when he learned what doors an education can open.

"I was tired of doing manual labor to try and make money," said Pool. "I went commercial fishing in Alaska for eight months to save up money to buy a sail boat so I could travel around the world."

He could always play basketball where ever he was, which is why at 28, he is out playing 18-year olds, fresh out of high school.

"[Basketball] was something I could always look forward to, no matter how tough things were

going," he said. "I would always be playing in city leagues and also pick up games at Grand Prairie Park [in Albany]."

His come back to LB is in good part to Everett Hartman, the assistant coach of the basketball team at the time who coached Pool's JV team at West Albany over 10 years before.

He is pursuing a degree in Exercise and Sports Science, and also focusing on writing because he wants to write a book sometime about his life stories.

"I have had so many unique experiences with living from place to place and traveling that I think people would like to read about it," he said.

This is his last year at LBCC, but he hopes to continue playing basketball at an NAIA college like Southern Oregon University.

"I'd also like to travel down to California and check out some schools to play at, to see my possibilities," he noted.

Later on in life he still hopes to buy that sailboat and travel to South America and live off the sea and "experience other cultures."

Until that day he said, "Grand Prairie is where you'll find me in the summer."

"[Basketball] was something I could always look forward to, no matter how tough things were going."

Ryon Pool