

Comic Hits Town

Gallagher still a smash with Corvallis audience even without his hammer and watermelon.
Page 6

Double Dribble

Both Roadrunner basketball teams came up winners Saturday against the Portland Panthers.
Page 12



THE

COMMUTER

Wednesday,
January 17, 2007

a weekly student publication

Volume 38 No. 9

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Former students indicted on murder charges

Elizabeth Uriarte
The Commuter

Two former LBCC students have been indicted by a Benton County grand jury in connection with the kidnapping and murder of 17-year-old Richawn Marissa Manwarren, according to an article in the Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Shawn Ryan Womack, 21, and Jasmine Cooke Lesniak, 22, were charged with kidnapping and aggravated murder. According to the indictment, Womack is accused of murdering Manwar-

ren and Lesniak is accused of aiding and abetting in the crime. Womack faces the possibility of the death penalty with the aggravated murder charges.

The Gazette-Times reports that the murder of Manwarren was the third in a crime spree allegedly committed by Womack and Covelino Capuia of Portland. According to an affidavit, the spree began with the theft of a 2005 Honda and the killing of its owner, Chai Taphom, in northeast Portland. The affidavit also states that on May 27, Womack and Capuia allegedly shot and

▶ Turn to "Womack" on Pg. 4



photo by Jesse Skoubo

Time to Spare

Math majors Gary Brittsan and Noella Grady find a way to fill their day after LBCC's classes were cancelled Tuesday. The two LBCC students were enjoying themselves at Highland Bowl in Corvallis.

Governor's new budget delivers good news to LB

Adam Loghides
The Commuter

The administrative offices here at Linn-Benton Community College received some potentially great news last month when Gov. Kulongoski revealed his recommended budget for the 2007-09 biennium.

The governor's recommendations

included an appropriation of \$483 million for the Community College Support Fund, an amount of money that would be split between the 17 community colleges statewide.

The appropriation also includes a proposition that \$2 million be distributed to enhance and support college's professional technical programs.

According to LBCC President Rita

Cavin, the governor's recommendations will allow the school to operate at a "nice and healthy financial level."

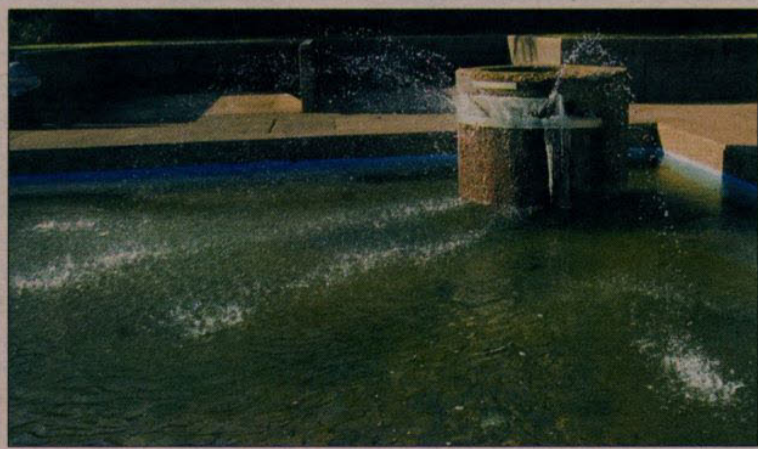
Cavin also stated that students should expect to reap the benefits as well. Come next school year there will be "no increase in tuition."

The jubilation over the recommendations and its potential positive ramifications on the school is being held in

abeyance for the time being. These recommendations still have to get approved in the State House and Senate. According to Cavin, a decision should be made this summer. There is a possibility that the decision making process may be stretched into the fall, but it is unexpected.

The governor's recommendations also campaign the state to increase its

▶ Turn to "Governor" on Pg. 4



Cold Times

Icy weather followed by snow closed campus on Tuesday. The college had originally announced a two-hour delay to 10 a.m. but later decided to cancel classes entirely, leaving the icy fountain the only movement on campus.

photo by Jesse Skoubo

College celebrates MLK

Commuter Staff

The Multicultural Center and Student Life & Leadership are continuing with their celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day with the second annual Hunger Banquet today from 6 to 8 p.m. in the LBCC Commons.

Throughout the evening, each of the participants will be assigned the "life" of another individual from around the globe,

with the meal representing the social status of that individual. On Sunday night, SL&L representatives took part in the "Stay Up for Hunger and Homelessness" event at Corvallis City Hall, which included a poverty simulation experience.

Tuesday's planned event—a replaying of King's "I Have a Dream Speech" was postponed when campus was closed due to inclement weather.

The Weather Through the Week

Source: Yahoo! Weather Service

High 39

Cloudy



Low 28

Wednesday

High 41

Partly cloudy



Low 30

Thursday

High 43

Partly cloudy



Low 35

Friday

High 45

Partly cloudy



Low 34

Saturday

High 45

Partly cloudy



Low 34

Sunday

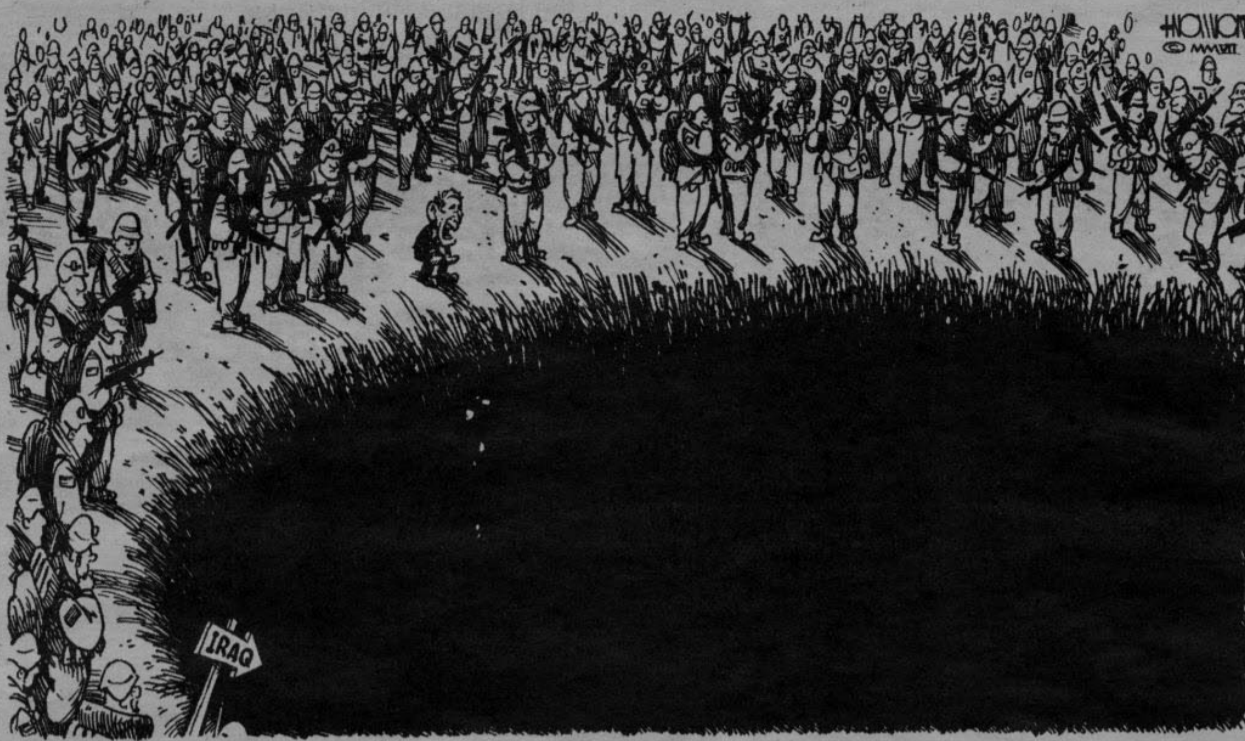
Index

Opinion.....	2, 3
Campus News.....	4, 5
Arts & Entertainment.....	6, 7
National News.....	8, 9
Funny Bones.....	10
Sports.....	11, 12

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

OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them
 and keep them at 300 words or less.



"SOME SAY IT'S BOTTOMLESS, BUT IF YOU WANT MY OPINION, WE JUST HAVEN'T DUMPED ENOUGH OF YOU FELLAS IN TO FILL IT UP YET."

Bush goes forward as country turns left

Statistics show that 60 percent of the college-age generation voted in the November elections. That figure is way up from what it normally has been and seems to demonstrate that the majority of students are pretty fed up with the way this country has been run in recent years.

With the swearing-in of new senators and congressional representatives the political atmosphere of rubberstamp Republicanism and driving the country into debt in billion-dollar increments is facing a whole new day on Capitol Hill.

It has been said many times that our chief executive is a stubborn little feller who pays little heed to the opinions of anyone outside his tight inner circle of cronies. The entire attitude for the past six years has been more of my way or the highway and he has always seemed determined to get his way regardless of what we think or how it affects the rest of us. The recent November elections finally delivered the strong message that we are fed up with those tactics.

In the weeks since the election George W. Bush claims to be listening to the opinions of outside interests, yet his nationally televised speech of this past week seems to indicate more of the same old attitude of dumping more billions of our dollars into a situation that has gone from bad to worse. Starting this month he faces the reality that his rubberstamp Republican cronies are no longer in the driver's seat, so the new tactics are that he will veto anything that does not give him his way.

Laying all else aside there is one intriguing question that most seem to ignore. Iraq is ranked as the world's

third-largest oil producing country and Afghanistan without a doubt produces the vast majority of the world's heroin supply. Both are multibillion-dollar-a-year enterprises, yet we continue to dump billions of our dollars into their economies and wellbeing on an almost weekly basis. Why should we foot the bills to solve their problems? Why should we continue to go deeper and deeper into debt that our grandchildren will end up paying for? Where are all the dollars produced from

the oil and heroin trade going? Another question along that same line is what happened to the billions of dollars and truckloads of money that were captured at the beginning of the Iraq War? When you look hard at that issue something doesn't smell right.

After three years of telling the American pub-

lic that everything was peachy keen when it came to our military staffing and troops on the ground we are now being told that we need even more troops and to spend even more billions of dollars. That may wash with people who don't pay much attention, but a careful check would turn up the fact that it was Donald H. Rumsfeld, the close crony of George W. Bush, who repeatedly insisted that things were fine. Notice that Mr. Rumsfeld resigned and was long gone within days of the recent election. The smell of a rat in the woodpile seems to strongly emanate from that quarter, too.

With slightly less than 700 days left in the executive office and counting down it will again be time for change and regardless of who replaces him it is likely that the legacy of George W. Bush will go down as one of the worst presidencies in our nation's history.



George W. Bush claims to be listening to the opinions of outside interests, yet his nationally televised speech of this past week seems to indicate more of the same old attitude.

WALT HUGHES

The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

Editor-in-Chief:
Adam Loghides

Managing Editor:
Michelle Turner

Opinion Editor:
Elizabeth Uriarte

A & E Editor:
Aaron Broich

Contributing Editors:
Walt Hughes, Loren Newman,
Joe Hodgson

Photo Editor:
Jesse Skoubo

Asst. Photo Editor:
Chris Campbell

Advertising Manager:
Maggie Busto

Advertising Assistants:
Maria Gonzalez
Carmen McKay

Staff Writers:
Chris Kelley, Joe Bryan,

Ken Salt, Hailey Ediger, Marion Pingrey, Peter Sherwood, Alenie Downing, Sheena Schrock, MaryAnne Turner, Kristina Bennett

Paginator:
Melissa Chaney

Production Staff:
Caleb Hawley, Aaron Broich,
Loren Newman, Joe Hodgson

Advisor: Rich Bergeman

Phone: (541) 917-4451, 4452 or 4453

Fax: (541) 917-4454

Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd., Albany, OR 97321

commuter@linnbenton.edu

Advertising Department: commuterads@linnbenton.edu

Oregon's California transplants don't deserve bad rap

Erin Mallon
 for the Commuter

Six months ago, I sat in the city park of my small hometown in northern California and chatted up a young man traveling south from Oregon.

Interested to know about my future home, I eagerly engaged the Willamette Valley native all afternoon. He left me with two things: a hemp anklet and some words of advice: "Don't tell them you're from California." "Why not?" I wondered.

Six months later, beginning my first January in the Willamette River Valley, I have come to understand exactly why.

Whether bred in Oregon blood or just the quirk of people living in close proximity, an identical expression comes from every Oregonian who hears my state of origin. "Oh..." Is accompanied by a crestfallen face and a patronizing smile. I find myself, more-often than not, quickly changing the subject and wondering if I can run faster than a mob of heated Oregon natives.

No, Oregonians, by and large, don't seem to like their southern neighbor. Recently, this has been aggravated by the migration of more Californians than ever into Oregon's sparsely populated wilderness. This occurs for many reasons, not the least of which is Oregon's relatively cheap real estate prices and low land taxes. Beyond this, a lot of Californians are escaping their metropolitan lifestyles, fleeing polluted, crowded cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco.

With new interest in a location comes a boost in real estate prices, one of the reasons Oregon folks cringe at the drop of the word, "California." More generally, a lot of Oregonians feel estranged by the shift in backgrounds and lifestyles of its new populace. Fortunately, this discomfort is largely unfounded, as most of those who relocate to Oregon are fittingly liberal, environmentally friendly, and eager to trade their SUV's in for Civics, or better yet, bicycles.

There's no imminent threat to Oregon's freethinking social climate; we Californians just want to join in. So why all the grumbling? Upon questioning, my coworkers in Corvallis echoed my own long-held beliefs on the matter:

"It's not all of California, just the southern half." Said Chelsea, born and raised in Corvallis. Growing up in rural Mendocino County, I always felt like Oregon was an extension of that area's liberal ideals. Northern Californians acted more like southern California's roguish little sister than her comrade in arms. Nothing is ever quite so simple as "us versus them" however, and Oregon is certainly not just an extension of northern California.

The Willamette Valley is an easily navigable, sprawling landmass. It's easy here to create networks of friends, activities, and opportunities. Each day, I walk or ride my bicycle to work and school, and only need to use my car to get to classes in Albany, a mere 10 miles away from my home in Corvallis. This is a far cry from the long, mountainous commutes I grew up with. Each town at least 20 hilled miles apart and that's only after you'd descended a rutted dirt road for miles into town.

Yet the Willamette Valley is not over-populated, nor does it feel metropolitan, as I've come to expect from more accessible places. In fact, the lifestyle here is in many ways more 'alternative' than my backwoods upbringing. More than anything, the sense of community is almost tangible. I have had to adjust not only to icier mornings and having my gas pumped for me, but to receiving smiles from perfect strangers and being invited into homes after first introductions.

I can honestly say that life here, as a student and young adult, is richer, simpler, and just plain more fun than that in northern California.

On behalf of my home state, I urge Oregonians to look at the influx of Californians as what it is: a huge compliment.

Before you write it off as bothersome, remember that the individuals your state is gaining are eager to help make a positive impact, and leave their own regional quirks at the border.

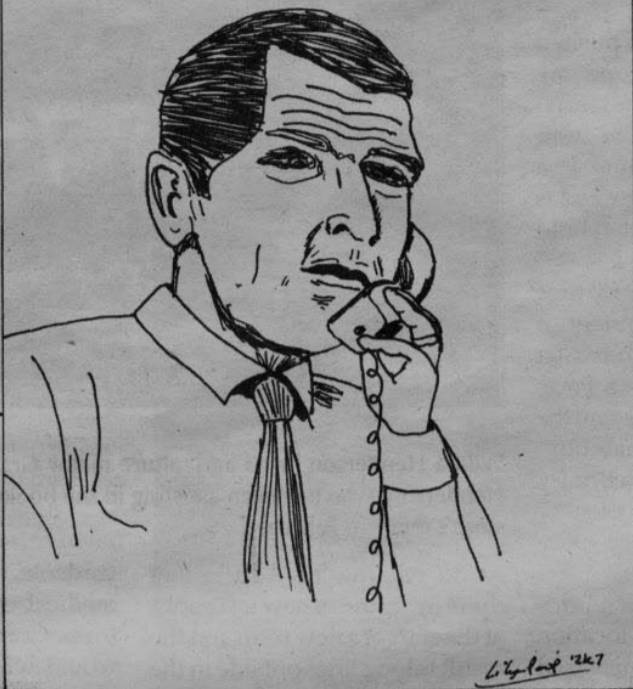
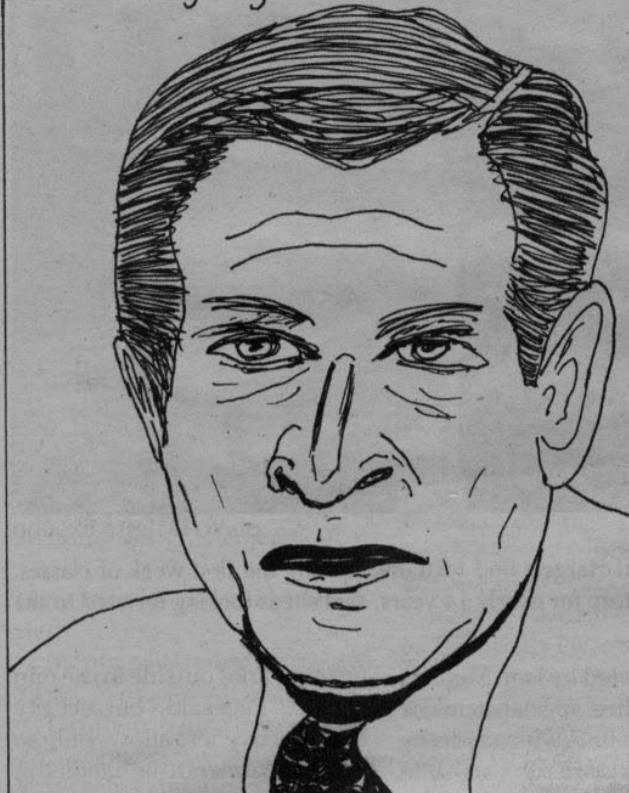
Opinion Editor: Elizabeth Uriarte
 Editor-In-Chief: Adam Loghides
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them
 and keep them at 300 words or less.

"Each of these human embryos is a unique human life, with inherent dignity & matchless value."

Hey, we need more troops in Iraq, how long do these embryo things take to hatch?



Stem cell's ability to be all they can be doesn't measure up in Bush's eyes

Last Thursday the House voted on a bill that would expand government funding of embryonic stem cell research. The bill passed 253-174, but unfortunately this number is not enough to override the expected veto by President Bush.

Stem cell research is a topic that gives rise to heavy debate from both sides. Stem cells harvested from human embryos offer hope for cures to a vast number of health issues, including cancer, diabetes and spinal injuries, to name a few. Stem cells have the ability to turn into any of the 200-plus cell types that make up the human body, which can be used to create new tissue to replace that which has been damaged by injury or disease. On the other hand, the harvesting of stem cells from human embryos results in the death of the embryos, which causes moral dilemma for some.



He believes it's OK to kill thousands of innocent human beings in Iraq... but when it comes to a few cells in a petri dish... those are too valuable to "waste" on saving the lives of actual talking and breathing people.

ELIZABETH URIARTE

I find the weak argument against embryonic stem cell research absolutely ridiculous, and see it as just another pathetic means to impose Bush's religious values upon the American people.

He believes it's OK to kill thousands of innocent human beings in Iraq, send thousands of soldiers to their deaths, but when it comes to a few cells in a petri

dish that are just going to be discarded otherwise, well, those are too valuable to "waste" on saving the lives of actual talking and breathing people.

Bush stated that he did not want to destroy life in the name of science. Of course not, he's not getting any money out of it. But he has no problem with sending 21,500 more troops to Iraq to fight his war that the vast majority of our country now opposes.

Then there's the question of whether a few-days-old embryo should even be considered the equivalent of a human life. Sure, it has the potential to be, but then so do sperm cells and ovum cells. They're just not mixed together yet. The whole thing reminds me of Monty Python's "The Meaning of Life," in which they make fun of the Catholic Church's stance on the "wasting"

of sperm. I can envision Bush dancing around singing, "every sperm is sacred!" Yet I'm sure he's spilled plenty of his own, and probably sees no problem with it whatsoever.

The only thing I have left to say on the matter is that I, along with the rest of the country, will breathe a HUGE sigh of relief once this ignorant tyrant's term in office is finally over.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues.

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 300 words, but columns can be longer. Contributors who wish to submit columns are asked to first contact the editor to arrange for space in the next issues.

The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, although we reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. Letters that raise libel, poor taste or privacy concerns will not be printed.

Opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter Staff or Linn-Benton Community College. Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu.

Bad Weather?

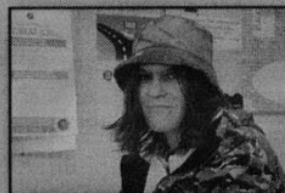
Check the college's Website or listen to the following radio stations for inclement weather closure information:

ALBANY
 KRKT 990 AM 99.9 FM
 KSHO 920 AM
 KGAL 1580 AM
 KXPC 103.7 FM
CORVALLIS
 KLOO 1340 AM 106.1 FM
SWEET HOME
 KFIR 720 AM

SALEM
 KSND 95.1 FM
EUGENE
 KLCC 89.7 FM
 KPNW1120 AM
 KUGN590 AM
 KEHK 102.3 FM
 KOOL 99.1 FM
 KFLY 101.5 FM
 KDUK104.7 FM

PERSPECTIVES

"How do you prioritize your time in college?"



•Heather Harris •
 General Studies

"I have to base it on the classes that are the hardest."

"My best friend makes me a list. I just divide it into what's the most pressure. It's about making choices."



•Marie Stewart •
 Undecided



•Paul Hagood •
 English/Writing Instructor

"Deadlines—I balance deadlines and my own personal priorities."

"With a planner."



•Leslie Lund •
 Spanish



•Lucas Muray •
 General Studies

"With a schedule—I have a day-to-day, hour-to-hour planner."

"Honestly at this point, since I'm working in the cafeteria, I try to do whatever homework I have right away."



•Mindy Peterson •
 Elementary Education

Compiled By Aaron Broich
 Pictures By Maggie Busto

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

CAMPUS NEWS

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

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
CWEPC Support (#4891, Albany) WonderfulCWEjobforcomputer students who want good pay and experience! Part-time during school & full-time in the summer. Pay \$9/hr with raises.

Cooperative Work Experience Jobs (various, Wah Chang in Albany) Great opportunities for students in science and/or engineering transfer majors. Great pay and experience and don't have to look for another job until you get your bachelors at OSU. Part-time during school & full-time during breaks.

Marine Technician (#4903, Corvallis) Full-time job working with 4-cycle & 2-cycle engines. Want a long-term employee for family-run business. \$10/hr or more DOE.

Medical Front Office or Medical Transcriptionist Positions (#4902 & 4900, Corvallis) Full-time and part-time positions for people with medical office training/transcription.

HELP AVAILABLE

Call Valley AIDS Information Network for information, support and referrals on AIDS/HIV, STD's and Hepatitis. 757-6322 or 800-588-AIDS.

FOR SALE

'93 Ford Escort. Blue. 94,000 miles. Some cosmetic damage as well as passenger-side body damage. Broken driver-side lock. Automatic. Runs perfectly. Brand new tires & battery. Perfect student or commuter vehicle. Contact Neville in the evening @ 541-451-3474 for more information. \$300/obo.

'73 Dodge Sportsman Van. 211,000 miles. Full-size & camper-ready. V-8 automatic. Needs some work but has tons of potential! Great for traveling and camping. Has brand new tires and battery. Contact Neville @ 541-451-3474 for more information. \$400/obo.

Solutions

S	E	R	V	S	H	R	E	N	S	E	L
E	N	O	D	N	V	E	O	O	S	E	K
M	E	T	I	E	C	O	N	O	E	R	A
M	V	E	S	I	D	E	R	S	C	A	L
S	C	A	L	P	E	R	S	I	D	E	R
S	H	R	E	K	T	E	S	J	E	H	S
I	S	E	E	M	A	R	A	C	A	S	E
M	A	T	R	A	K	I	O	R	E	N	E
N	V	O	H	E	V	E	R	S	E	S	I
S	T	L	A	T	A	S	E	P	I	E	T
S	T	A	S	E	P	I	E	T	A	S	E
S	V	S	E	S	O	P	O	S	T	I	T
G	A	L	L	E	O	P	O	S	T	I	T
G	I	B	R	E	A	K	T	E	R	T	I
N	O	E	N	O	I	U	O	I	E	V	A
A	B	B	A	V	A	B	E	T	S	A	N

Bookstore relocation delayed until February

Joe Hodgson
The Commuter

LBCC's renovated bookstore is spacious and ready, but stands empty despite being completed in November.

Construction delays pushed the original Nov. 8 reopening date out one week, but the reason books are still being sold from the Industrial A Building is a lack of fixtures—the gondolas and perimeter shelves that hold the merchandise.

The supplier of the fixtures blamed a delayed shipment of laminate needed to construct the fixtures, said Brenda Pace, bookstore manager. Pace said the delay was due to a laminate buy-out. It will delay until February the relocation of the bookstore back to its new expanded space in the College Center.

The Commuter earlier reported that the temporary location in the IA Building has increased drop-in traffic from students moving between class and the

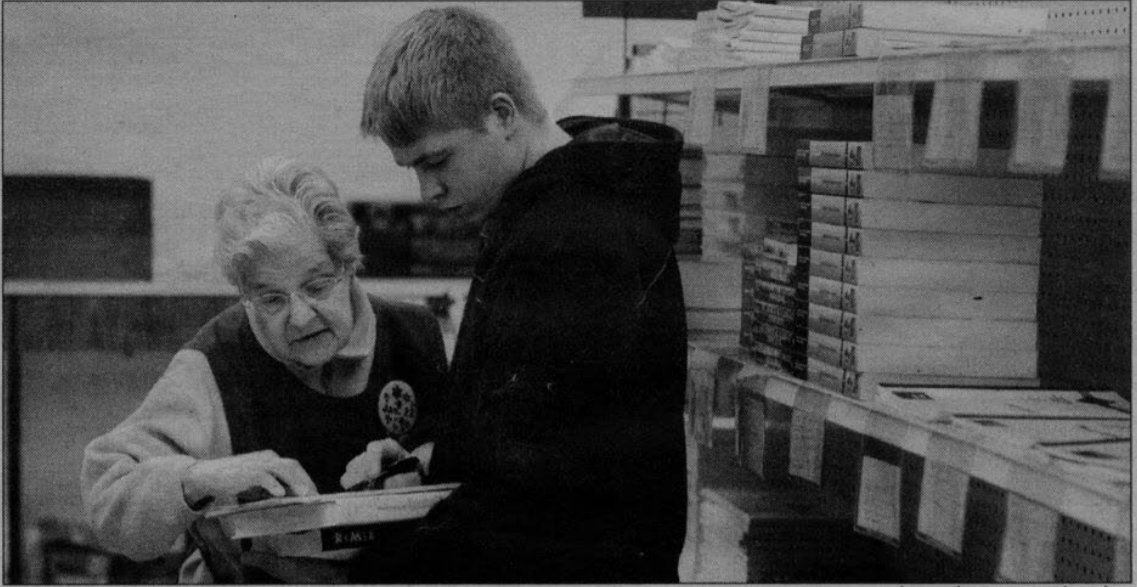


photo by Jesse Skoubo

Wilma Henderson helps agriculture major Grant Hargett find textbooks during the first week of classes. Henderson, who has been assisting in the bookstore for nearly 14 years, said she is looking forward to the store's move in February.

North parking lot. Add to that the purchasing of new textbooks at the start of a new term and the result is long lines outside in the winter weather.

students, noted by Jean Mercier, medical office specialist major from Corvallis, who said she would wait until next week to avoid the lines.

forming lines outside in the rain or cold," Pace said, "but security and effectiveness allows only so many customers to be handled at one time, and there is no space for waiting lines inside."

The lines are a concern for

"The bookstore staff dislikes

Womak: Suspects attempted to run from police

◀ From Pg. 1
killed Michael Burchette in the same area of Portland and also stole his black Honda.

The indictment suggests that Manwarren, Capuia's girlfriend, knew about the two Portland murders and was killed to prevent her revealing information to the police.

According to the Gazette-Times, Corvallis police spotted one of the stolen Hondas at Lesniak's apartment on Northwest Fillmore Avenue. Detectives followed Womack, Lesniak, and her small child as

they drove to a day care center near Southwest Ninth Street and Monroe Avenue. Once Lesniak had left the child at the center, the detectives moved in to arrest Womack and Lesniak. When police got out of their vehicles, however, Womack attempted to drive away and rammed into a patrol car.

When detectives examined the Honda, they found that the trunk was full of blood. They also found a 9mm gun, which was the same type used in the killings of Burchette and Taphom. The gun belonged to Lesniak, who had

reported it stolen on May 3.

The Portland police affidavit, as reported in the Gazette-Times, stated that Womack told police he and Lesniak drove to Portland to meet Manwarren, where he gave her \$200 to buy drugs. When she returned without the money or drugs, Womack got angry. He put Manwarren in the car and drove to Corvallis. On Highway 20, Womack admitted that he pulled over, took Manwarren out of the vehicle, and shot her twice in the head. He told police that he then put her body in the trunk of the Honda

and dumped it near Beverly Beach.

Womack and Lesniak were arraigned in late December. Both Womack and Capuia have filed motions questioning their capacity to aid and assist in their own defense. Womack has been ordered to undergo 30 days of psychological evaluation at the Oregon State Hospital, according to reports.

At LBCC, Womack ran unsuccessfully for student body president in February 2006, and both he and Lesniak were active in Student Life & Leadership.

Governor: Proposal would increase student aid

◀ From Pg. 1
investment from \$78 million to \$110 million. The bottom line regarding this portion of the recommendation is a higher level of financial aid will be available to students, according to Cavin.

Cavin stated that, "By these recommendations being passed, financial aid will not only be able to reach to middle class students, but to part-time students as well." Also, for the last two years the administrators have been attempting to raise private funding to build a new Science and Technology building.

If passed, the appropriation will allow for \$3.75 million to be allocated to the building of a new Science and Technology building on campus in 2008, according to Cavin. Cavin knows that the college needs a new Science and Technology building because "the current classrooms and laboratories are so cramped." On top of that, the labs are 35 years old and are, according to Cavin, inefficient and not up to current workplace standards.

tions may have come as a bit of a surprise considering his last recommendations in 2004. At that time, the governor recommended that the budget be reduced. According to Cavin, with the help of other lobbyists, the uphill fight was fought in order

to simply keep the status quo.

This time around, the recommendations came as "wonderful news" as well as "in sharp contrast to his 2005-2007 proposal," according to Cavin. The possible positive effects of the governor's recommendations could make

on this college are not lost on the members of the staff either. Cavin relayed that the governor was "flooded with letters from the LBCC staff applauding his efforts and continued support of community college education."



LBCC / OSU Degree Partnership Program Day

(Formerly Dual Enrollment)

- Academic Advising
- Admissions & General Information
- Financial Aid Information
- LBCC & OSU Advisors

**Wednesday, January 24
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
LBCC Commons Cafeteria**

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

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Biology and teaching bring Lebsacks together

Michelle Turner
 The Commuter

Stephen and Carolyn Lebsack have been team-teaching LB's Anatomy and Physiology class series for the past 15-plus years. While they each individually teach other biology classes, they are the only husband-wife couple that team-teaches here at LB. This dynamic duo has left an indelible impression on an entire generation of health care students required to pass the rigors of anatomy and physiology.

How long have you been married?

Stephen: We were married in 1980.

Carolyn: In June it will be our 27th anniversary.

Wow, congratulations! How did you meet?

C: We met in the organic chemistry lab at Oregon State in 1970.

S: We were at the same lab bench, across from one another on either side.

Do you have kids?

C: Our daughter is 23 and just graduated from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo with a degree in psychology and a minor in biology, and our son is 18 and is at Oregon State studying chemical engineering.

What would you be doing if you weren't doing this?

S: I actually trained as a fisheries biologist, so I would probably be doing that.

C: I always wanted to teach. My mother was a teacher and my dad was a coach and then a principal. For me it's always been about biology and teaching.

Did you both grow up here in Oregon?

S: It's actually quite amazing, we're both native Oregonians.

C: Stephen grew up in Portland and I lived in Bandon until I was a sophomore in high school. I think I was naturally very attracted to biology as a subject partly because of how I grew up. I enjoyed it in school and did well in the subject. My dad also used to go clamming with the biology instructor while I went off to the tide pools and afterward they would tell me everything I'd found and explain all about it.

What activities do you enjoy outside of the classroom?

S: We're quite outdoorsy-type people. Most of our biology background is in marine biology so we spend a lot of time at the coast. When our kids were younger we would haul them down to the tide pools and spend time at the beach.

C: We recently went snow-shoeing and are looking into pursuing that some more. We also enjoy bike riding. We like

being out in nature and going to places associated with the marine environment.

S: When we go on trips we tend to go places where we have the opportunity to get outside and poke around, although we go to Disneyland a lot. It's sort of our one exception. Our kids really loved it.

How did you get involved in team teaching a class?

C: Our dean recognized that the A&P class in particular needed a lot of effort, was hard to teach and that the students needed a lot of support to be successful, so 29 years ago the class started to be team-taught.

S: Initially I was not involved in class. It wasn't until Carolyn took maternity leave that I became involved in team-teaching the class with another instructor who's now retired. After she returned all three of us team-taught the class. After the other instructor retired, we have just continued to team-teach the class ever since.

What's the biggest challenge with team-teaching?

C: I don't know if there are really challenges, it's just so beneficial.

S: I think there's a big challenge, especially team-teaching with a partner you live with, in that you never really get away from the class. You take it home with you every night. I don't think there is ever a weekend where we're not talking about what's going to happen in lecture or the next lab.

Carolyn, what do you think is the biggest benefit to team-teaching?

C: I see the benefit for the students in that they get two different people as instructors. Some students relate better to



Courtesy photo

Stephen and Carolyn Lebsack are the only husband-wife teaching team at LBCC. They have taught the Anatomy and Physiology class for the past 15 years, and individually also teach a variety of biology classes.

one of us than the other. They get topics presented to them in two different ways, which allow for various learning styles and for students to pick up more information. It also allows us to individually specialize or get an expertise in a certain area so that when we teach those things we know a little bit more about it. We're also more available to students because there are two of us rather than just one.

Is there a specific area of A&P that you particularly enjoy teaching?

C: Well, I really like all of it, but I think some of the more interesting stuff is kidney physiology and the cardiovascular system. When we get to these areas people really begin to understand how things function and when there is a disease

process why it brings about the effects it does.

S: I particularly like the physiology also. The anatomy aspect of it is not a very dynamic area because you're really just

learning what is known and in physiology you're learning how various disturbances can stress the body and how it responds so there's a very dynamic interaction that develops between multiple organ systems. In particular, I like the respiratory system. I find the chemistry associated with it very interesting.

How would you describe your teaching style?

S: I really try to focus on ways to empower students to become self-learners. If you can establish foundational abilities, like how to organize concepts and devise ways for students to understand what they're learning then I think you empower them to learn on their own.

C: We also try to get them to think about how they learn and what they have to do to really learn it and for it not to be just a bunch of disconnected facts so that they can really use it later on.

S: Another way to phrase it would be that we are trying to create an awareness of potential in the learner.

C: And get them to think about things and apply that knowledge to their everyday lives.

Is there a wedding in your future?

Personalized wedding ceremonies at the location of your dreams

Oregon Celebrations

541-929-3996 oregoncelebrations.com

Lobby for LBCC at the Oregon State Capitol

February 27 • 8 to 5 PM

Tour the Capitol, attend a legislative session, talk to representatives who have the power to fund improvements to our science labs.

Limited to 10 students.

Sponsored by LBCC ASG.

Pick up applications at Student Life & Leadership; return it before noon on January 30.

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests four to six weeks before the event. LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP

ANSWERS TO ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

January 23 & 24, 2007 • 12-1 p.m.

Multicultural Center, 2nd floor Student Union

An advisor from the Financial Aid office will join us in the Multicultural Center to show how easy it is to apply for scholarships.

FREE PIZZA & POP!

Join us for free pizza and scholarship information galore!

Questions? Call Matthew Hamel 917-4457

Sponsored by: Financial Aid and the Student Ambassador Program.

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

A&E Editor: Aaron Broich
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Portland studio, photographer celebrate tattoo art

LBCC News Service

The North Santiam Hall Gallery at LBCC will exhibit works by internationally known photographer Cherie Hiser along with artwork created by artists from the award winning tattoo studio, Atomic Art Tattoo Studio, until Feb. 16.

Hiser's lecture "Odyssey of the Invisible" will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at noon in the LBCC Forum building, Room 104. Her presentation offers a revealing look into the creation of this body of work as well as the tattoo culture itself. A reception will immediately follow the lecture on the second floor of the NSH Gallery.

Hiser has exhibited and published her work throughout the United States, Mexico and Europe for more than three decades. She has founded several notable

communities for photographers including Center of the Eye Collaborative and Gallery, Santa Fe, N.M.; PhotoWorks NorthWest Inc., Portland, Ore.; and one of the first and finest photography facilities in the country, The Center of the Eye, Aspen, Colo.

Described as "one of the most vital persons of our time" by Cornell Capa, director of the International Center of Photography in New York, Hiser continues to share her extraordinary talent through work as a teacher, curator, lecturer and consultant.

NSH Gallery will also showcase Hiser's "Letters to Pepper" series. This fascinating work is part of a 12-year study of individuals who have been tattooed by artist Don Nolan. As Hiser describes it, "My theme was to create a document for Don's son Pepper. I used my journal and audio taped interviews of the

clients, Nolan's family, friends and fellow tattoo artists, to investigate this amazing diaspora, this invisible tribe. I photograph the people as they appear in the world and as they appear in their own world."

Also included in this exhibit is work created by the talented artists of Atomic Art Tattoo Studio. Atomic Art's founder, London Bellman, and colleagues Roll Hardy, Joanne Slorach and Jason Bradbury display their versatility as fine artists. The groups' diverse styles and aesthetic sensibilities are not only revealed in original tattoo artwork but in other media and "canvasses" besides ink and the human body.

Founded in 1993, Atomic Art has garnered many awards and notable recognition at tattoo conventions throughout the country. As part of Portland's dynamic

Albert Street art community, Atomic shares with us that same spirit through their compelling and vibrant work. Additional images by these artists may be viewed on their website: www.atomic.ms

For more information, contact the LBCC NSH Gallery at 917-4247.

Photographs by Cherie Hiser explore the dual lives of tattooed individuals (right) in the North Santiam Hall Gallery this month. Also on view are designs by the Atomic Art Studio in Portland.

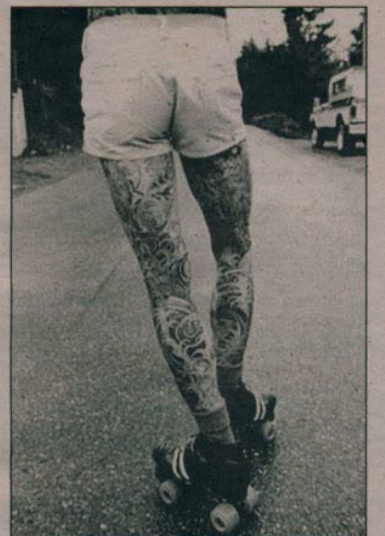
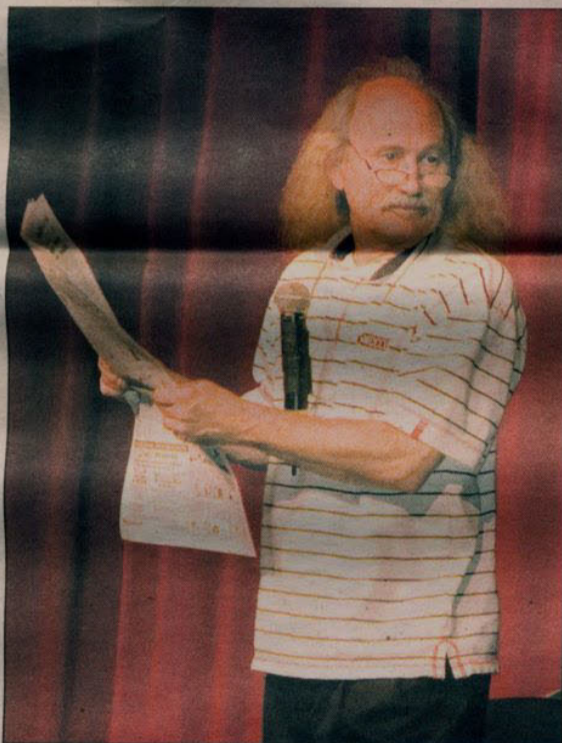
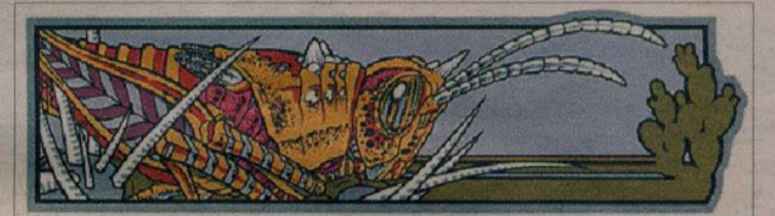


photo by Cherie Hiser



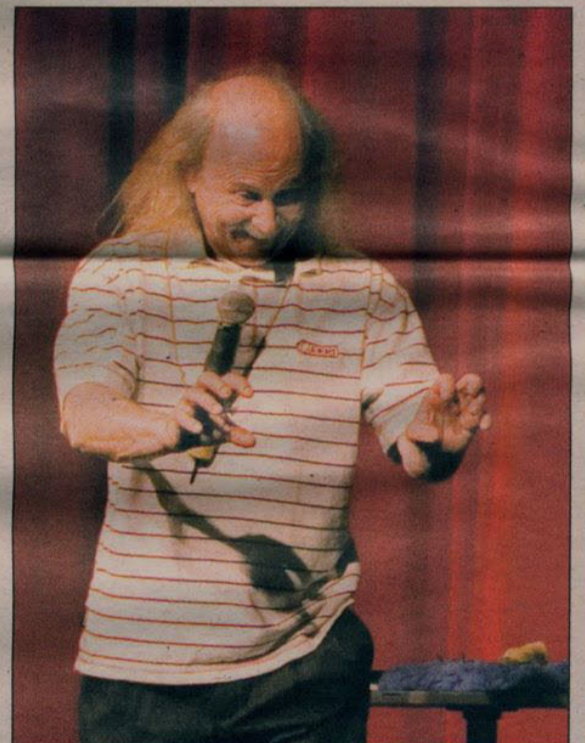
Gallagher a smash hit in Corvallis performance, even without the hammer

Story and photos by Jesse Skoubo
The Commuter

If you're anything like me, when you hear the name Gallagher your mind immediately flashes to a frizzy-haired, mustachioed, colorfully suspended melon abuser.

The unconventional comedian made a two-night appearance last weekend at the Majestic Theater in Corvallis, but to the surprise of the audience, Gallagher didn't execute his trademark sledge hammer and watermelon routine.

Just the same, an aged, grey-haired Gallagher entertained two full houses for two hours, and joked with crowds before and after his show. The 60-year-old comedian's routine centered around the absurdities of modern life and politics, with his typical sharp-eyed observations and irreverent wit.



DiCaprio's 'Blood Diamonds' shines

Aaron Broich
The Commuter

"Blood Diamond" takes viewers into the world of the conflict diamond trade of the 1990s—buying illegal diamonds that fund brutal and illegitimate government movements.

Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio), a soldier of fortune from Zimbabwe, hears rumors about a rare pink diamond after being imprisoned for smuggling conflict diamonds across the border of Sierra Leone into Liberia.

Solomon Vandi (Djimon Hounsou) a fisherman, was imprisoned after being kidnapped from his family and forced to work in the diamond fields of Kono. It was there that he found the huge diamond and hid it before being captured.

After posting bail, Danny pays to have Solomon released from prison, so that he can con-

MOVIE REVIEW

vince Solomon to help him find the diamond. After discovering that his family has turned up missing, Solomon finds work in the city of Freetown.

There, Danny crosses path with the resourceful journalist, Maddy Bowen (Jennifer Connelly). Maddy knows about a company in London that is buying conflict diamonds, the sales of which perpetuate the violence in Sierra Leone.

Hoping to expose the company, she tries to get Danny to tell her about the diamond smuggling trade, but he refuses to help until later when he needs her help in order to get to Solomon's diamond.

The storytelling in "Blood Diamond" is well conceived. There is an amazing contrast between Danny's single-minded mission of finding the diamond

to make it big, with the global compassion felt by Maddy, who wants that change the world for the betterment of humankind. Maddy is sickened that Danny is exploiting Solomon for material gain.

Solomon's outlook falls somewhere in between. He values his son above all else, but also has a great love for his family. Solomon is enraged when his son turns up missing he's enraged. Although Solomon is helping Danny get to the diamond, he's more interested in finding his son, and cannot figure out why Danny would want to get rich off the diamond since he has no family and already has enough money to get by.

The movie moves along quickly and has many interesting subplots. Although the violence is far from gratuitous, it may be too much for some people. I give it four and half stars out of five.

Have an opinion?

Share your ideas about what your Associated Student Government can do for you!

Come join us for free pizza and a forum on Wednesday, January 24th to offer your thoughts on what you need!

FREE PIZZA!

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Siletz Room, LBCC

For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests four to six weeks before the event. LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

A&E Editor: Aaron Broich
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Photo instructor shows 20 years of images

LBCC News Service

"Looking Back: Two Decades of Photography," a retrospective exhibit by photography and journalism instructor Rich Bergeman, is on view at the South Santiam Hall Gallery until Feb. 16. A reception and gallery talk will be held Thursday Jan. 18 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the gallery.

Bergeman, who has taught at LBCC since 1981, is showing more than 50 black-and-white prints made since 1985, when he first took up a large-format camera.

"Seeing those first images on the camera's ground glass back then changed my life, and I've been an addict ever since," he said.

His earliest photographs explored the abandoned upper floors of downtown buildings in Albany and other Oregon towns. A series of interior views of the St. Francis Hotel, Flynn Block and other historic Albany structures was purchased by the City of Albany in 1997 for its new City Hall, where they are on permanent display.

Since then he has gone on to

photograph the ruins of much earlier civilizations in such far-flung places as the American Southwest, Ireland and Croatia. In the mid-1990s, he received grants from the Oregon Arts Commission Regional Council and the Portland Photo Forum to support a three-year project to photograph the pioneer trail through Western Oregon taken by frontiersman James Clyman in 1845. The project culminated in extended exhibits at both the Oregon Historical Society Museum in Portland in 1996 and the Southern Oregon Historical Museum in Medford in 1997.

Bergeman, who will be retiring in June, has exhibited widely throughout the Northwest and is represented by Pegasus Gallery in Corvallis and Earthworks Gallery on the Coast.

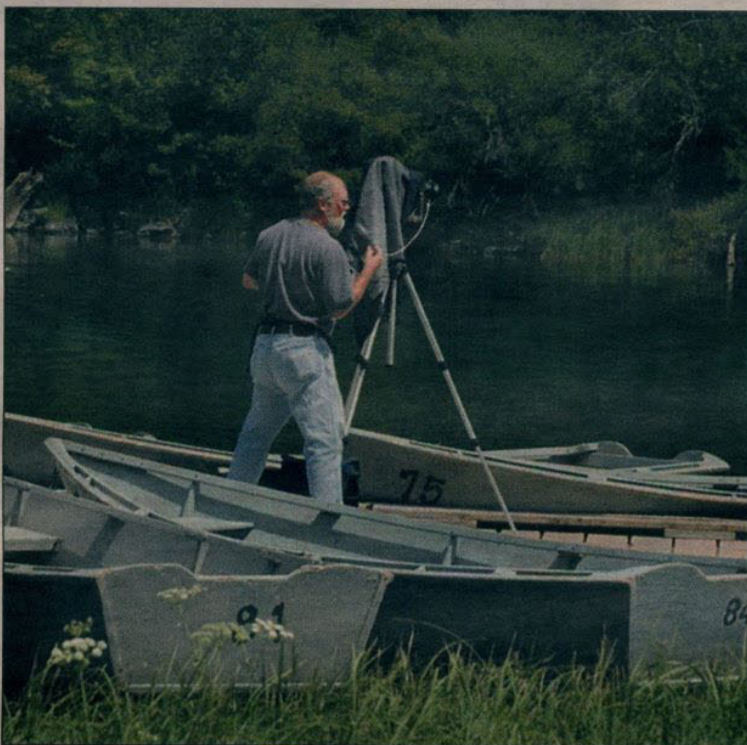
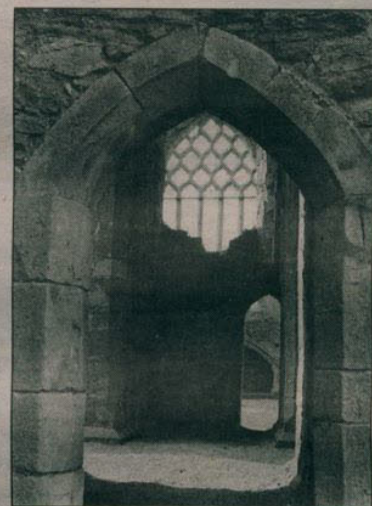


photo by Bob Ross



LBCC instructor Rich Bergeman (left) is showing over 50 black-and-white photographs spanning the last 20 years in the South Santiam Hall Gallery, including images from Ireland (above), Croatia and the western U.S.

Benton Center to showcase Cooper Hollow

The LBCC Benton Center Acoustic Showcase presents the folk blue-grass group Cooper Hollow on Friday, Jan. 19 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Benton Center Student Lounge at 757 NW Polk Avenue in Corvallis. This event is free and open to the public.

The Benton Center Student Lounge has comfortable seating and an espresso and snack shop. For more information, contact the LBCC Benton Center at 757-8944.

Garden lecture series planned for Corvallis

The lecture series "Gearing up for Gardening" will be held at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library on Tuesdays from 12:10 to 1 p.m. until Feb. 27 at 645 NW Monroe Ave in Corvallis.

Local experts will discuss everything from winter crops and plant selection to making your own organic mulch and fountain construction. The garden lecture series is free and open to the public and is co-sponsored by Linn-Benton Community College, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and Benton County Extension Master Gardeners.

Summer Session '07

Registration begins April 15!

this summer...

- Catch up. speed up. jump ahead.
- Choose from three, four, eight or 11-week sessions
- Work ahead on degree requirements
- Most courses are easily transferable
- Finish a full 3-course sequence in one summer
- Enjoy smaller class sizes

Schedule of classes now available online at summer.oregonstate.edu

OSU Oregon State UNIVERSITY
 Extended Campus

OSU Degree Partnership Program
 To learn about the benefits of being co-enrolled at your community college and OSU through the Degree Partnership Program, visit: oregonstate.edu/partnerships/students

Need a flexible schedule? Explore the variety of courses offered online. Classes start June 25th

summer.session@oregonstate.edu or call 541.737.1470

Managing Editor:
Michelle Turner
commuter@linnbenton.edu

NATIONAL NEWS

News about issues and events from around the nation and the world of interest to Commuter readers.

Gov. Schwarzenegger terminates cheap college tuition in California

Contra Costa Times

California university students learned Wednesday that their brief respite from fee increases may be over.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who last year prevented tuition increases after four straight years of them, proposed a budget that calls for a 10 percent increase for California State University students and a 7 percent increase for most in the University of California system. Students immediately vowed to lobby lawmakers to repeat last year's reprieve.

"We feel like (Schwarzenegger) ran a campaign as the education governor and now he's backing out of that," said Bill Shiebler, president of the University of California Student Association. "We feel betrayed, and

we're going to be there every step of the way like we were last year."

Although students and lawmakers welcomed last year's fee freeze, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office judged the move harshly, urging the governor to reverse course and agree to a moderate tuition increase. Instead, Schwarzenegger and the Legislature kept the provision in the final budget.

This year's budget renewed an annual battle to keep outreach funding, used to prepare K-12 students for college. Schwarzenegger has cut the money from his budget proposal several years in a row only to restore it in the final version after intense lobbying efforts by universities.

However, Schwarzenegger budgeted \$19.1 million to counsel at-risk community college students and \$20 million to beef up UC's research

capabilities.

The governor proposed cutting funding for two UC labor-studies centers, including one at UC Berkeley. The 10-campus UC system fended off such proposals in the two previous budgets.

As for K-12 education, Schwarzenegger proposed spending \$66 billion in 2007-08, an increase of 4.4 percent over the prior year to teach the state's 6.3 million elementary, middle and high school students.

The boost to the budget reflects last year's truce between the governor and state education leaders, rankled at his previous attempts to cut education dollars.

"We're really happy not to be in a big fight with him this year," said Scott Plotkin, executive director of the California School Boards Association.



photo by KRT Campus

*The last day
to return your textbooks
for a full refund is...*

January 22

LBC Bookstore

Store Hours:
Albany Campus
Mon-Friday
8am to 4:30pm



Managing Editor:
Michelle Turner
commuter@linnbenton.edu

NATIONAL NEWS

News about issues and events from around the nation and the world of interest to Commuter readers.

D.A. in Duke case resigns under controversy

McClatchy Newspapers

RALEIGH, N.C.—The state attorney general assumed control Saturday of the Duke lacrosse case, a move that puts fresh eyes on the evidence and on the actions of District Attorney Mike Nifong over the past 10 months.

Attorney General Roy Cooper announced his decision in front of a bank of TV cameras and throng of reporters chronicling another twist in a case that has stirred torrents of anger.

Cooper said Jim Coman, a former director of the State Bureau of Investigation and head of the attorney general's Special Prosecution Section, and Mary D. Winstead, a prosecutor in that division, will now oversee the case.

"Agreeing to accept the prosecution of these cases doesn't guarantee a trial nor does it guarantee a dismissal," Cooper said. "It simply promises a fresh and thorough review of the facts and a decision on the best way

to handle these cases."

In the 10 months since an escort service dancer alleged she was gang-raped at a lacrosse team party, Cooper's office has been flooded with pleas from people asking that Nifong be removed from the case.

Under state law, a request for a special prosecutor can come only from a district attorney. Those requests can be made when a case is particularly complex and when there are potential conflicts of interest, such as when a district attorney is being investigated for his handling of the case.

"We accept these cases with our eyes wide open to the evidence but with blinders on for all other distractions," Cooper said.

The files, documents and other evidence associated with the cases against David Evans, 23, Collin Finnerty, 20, and Reade Seligmann, 20, will be moved from Durham to the special prosecutions division early in the week, Cooper said. Not only will the new prosecutors go over

the evidence gathered, they will also interview key witnesses and investigators.

It was too early, Cooper said, to know whether a scheduled Feb. 5 hearing would take place in Durham County. Defense lawyers have asked Judge W. Osmond Smith III to throw out a police photo lineup from which the accuser initially picked out her alleged attackers.

"Since we have not been involved in the investigation and prosecution, all of the information will be new to our office," Cooper said. "We're taking a completely new, fresh look."

Cooper said his prosecutors planned to meet with the defense team that has poked holes in Nifong's sexual assault case and tattered his reputation.

Hounded by allegations that he made prejudicial, inflammatory statements early in the case, Nifong also was hampered by an accuser with multiple versions of what happened on March 13 and 14 when the lacrosse team hired two escort service danc-

ers to perform at a spring break party.

Cooper's announcement took place one day after Nifong contacted Coman about turning the case over to special prosecutors. Nifong, a lightning rod for

intense, nationwide criticism, recused himself after hiring a lawyer to defend him against misconduct charges filed by the N.C. State Bar, the ethical watchdogs of lawyers in this state.

On a tight budget but want QUALITY FOOD?

The Co-op offers DISCOUNTS for:



- Alternative transportation users
 - Owners on monthly Owner Sale Days
 - WIC & Oregon Trail card users
 - Low-income shoppers
 - Special orders by the case at 10% off
 - Owner-workers (min. 2 hrs. work/week)
- also... Over 100 products on sale every month and more than 650 items in bulk!

South Store:

753-3115 • Open daily 9-9
1007 SE 3rd St, Corvallis

North Store:

452-3115 • Open daily 7-9
NW 29th & Grant, Corvallis

www.firstalt.coop

First Alternative
NATURAL FOODS CO-OP



AADA alumni have been nominated for 72 Oscars®, 205 Emmys® and 58 Tonys®.

Audition in Portland, February 17

- College Degree Conservatory Program
- Six-Week Summer Intensive

The American
Academy
of Dramatic
Arts
Los Angeles & New York

ACT NOW!
LOS ANGELES 800 222 2867
NEW YORK 800 463 8990
www.aada.org

Courses that fit your life

OSU Online

Take advantage of OSU classes while at your community college.

There are many daily demands on your time. Our online courses and degrees suit your schedule - and your goals. Oregon State University's Extended Campus brings you closer to reaching your dreams without having to rearrange your life.

- Choose from more than 400 courses and 60 subjects offered online each year.
- Whether you are co-enrolled or planning to transfer, take courses at your community college and OSU at the same time.
- Finish your degree online in Liberal Studies, Environmental Sciences, Natural Resources or General Agriculture.



ecampus@oregonstate.edu

800-667-1465

ecampus.oregonstate.edu

Register today!

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS
Commons
JAN. 17TH - 23RD

Wednesday:
ENTREES: Beef stew and Chicken Cordon Bleu
VEGETARIAN: Kolokopita Triangles
SIDES: Baked Pesto Pasta, Raisin Rice Pilaf, Peas and Mushrooms
SOUPS: Red Lentil and Chicken & Rice

Thursday:
ENTREES: Turkey club w/ pasta salad and chili verde w/ flour tortilla
VEGETARIAN: Eggplant Parmesan
SIDES: Potato Gaufrettes, Mexican rice, and Stuffed Zucchini
SOUPS: Turkey vegetable and Split Pea

Friday:
CHEF'S CHOICE

Monday:
ENTREES: Buttermilk Baked Chicken and Pappardelle Bolognese
VEGETARIAN: Friatta
SIDES: Oven-Roasted Yukon Potatoes, Rice Pilaf and Green Beans with Hazelnuts
SOUPS: Pozole, Puree of Potato, and Leek

Tuesday:
ENTREES: Beef (style) Stroganoff and Seafood Risotto
VEGETARIAN: Stuffed Portabella Sandwich
SIDES: Penne w/ Sundried Tomatoes, Spaetzel and Broccoli a la Polonaise
SOUPS: Mulligatawny and Vegetarian Vegetable

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

FUNNY BONES

Crossword puzzle and cartoons to brighten your day.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hamlet, e.g.
 - 5 King or Ross
 - 10 "Fernando" group
 - 14 City on the Oka
 - 15 Vowels
 - 16 Light gas
 - 17 Four ounces
 - 18 Snap
 - 19 Big top
 - 20 Italian astronomer
 - 22 Pretends to be
 - 24 Spiral
 - 25 Underwater scanner
 - 26 Blind strips
 - 28 LCD watch month
 - 29 Michelangelo masterpiece
 - 33 Auction end?
 - 34 Letter writer's signoff
 - 37 Algerian city
 - 38 School subj.
 - 40 Calendario starter
 - 41 Drink of the Middle East
 - 42 Understanding words
 - 43 Shaken instrument
 - 45 GOP rival
 - 46 Animated ogre
 - 48 Some NFL receivers
 - 49 Idaho's capital
 - 51 Rationed, with "out"
 - 53 Element #80
 - 54 Ticket reseller
 - 57 Handgun
 - 60 Berne's river
 - 61 Cotillion
 - 63 Tabloid pair
 - 64 Small guitars
 - 65 Vast amount
 - 66 Accomplished
 - 67 Poetic fields
 - 68 Approaches
 - 69 Greek war god

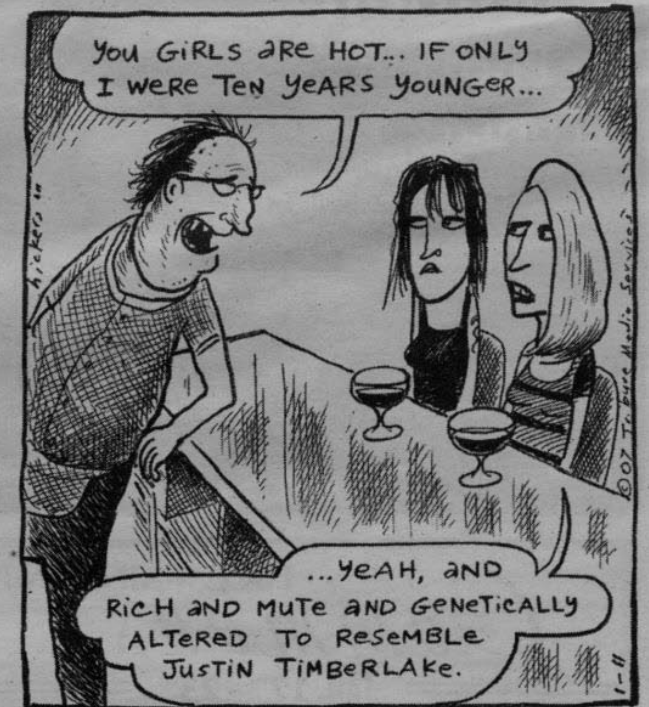
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21			22		23					
		24				25								
26	27					28				29		30	31	32
33				34	35				36		37			
38			39		40						41			
42					43					44		45		
46				47	48					49	50			
				51		52			53					
54	55	56						57					58	59
60					61	62					63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

© 2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
 All rights reserved.

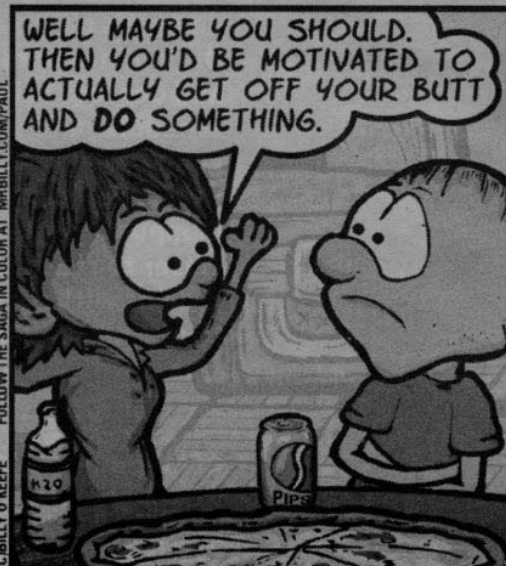
- 4 2000 movie, "Billy _"
- 5 Biblical tower
- 6 Architect Saarinen
- 7 Draw
- 8 Daytime dramas
- 9 Gold rush territory
- 10 Situated toward the front
- 11 Nectar hunters
- 12 _ fide (authentic)
- 13 Picnic pests
- 21 Writer Alther
- 23 Dupe
- 25 Cut off
- 26 Big trucks
- 27 Fido's restraint
- 28 Sexennial election
- 30 Erasing fluid
- 31 Captures
- 32 Cartoon style
- 35 Theol. school
- 36 Mythical bird
- 39 Incautious

Answers Provided on Page Four

- 44 Retired for the night
- 47 Keystone karacter?
- 50 Tater brand
- 52 Beguiled
- 53 Attitudes
- 54 Novelist Bellow
- 55 Bar of soap
- 56 Vicinity
- 57 Capone feature
- 58 M. Descartes
- 59 Mothers of Mlles
- 62 Grant-giving org.



PAUL



BY BILLY O'KEEFE MRBILLY.COM/PAUL



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.



Adam Loghides
The Comuter

FACE OFF

To playoff or not to playoff?
 That is the eternal question!



Chris Kelley
The Commuter

I blame both the George Mason basketball team and Boise State's football team. As the calendar flips from one year to the next the hottest topic in sports is almost always the same - should college football employ a playoff system? No. There already is a playoff system in place. It's called the regular season.

There are all kinds of proposed ways to make a playoff in college football. The most ludicrous of which compares college football to their basketball counterparts. Proponents of a football playoff point to George Mason's run through the 2006 NCAA basketball tournament and say, "If they could win it all, shouldn't Boise State have the same opportunity in football?"

That's comparing apples to oranges. More to the point, that's comparing pigskin to leather. I long for the days when college football's champion was determined on New Year's Day, in a conglomeration of bowl games that made even the most die-hard football fans head spin. Before the Bowl Championship Series stepped in and made the national championship a corporate title (The "Tostitos BCS National Championship Game"), the champion was determined in games we all remember as the Orange Bowl, Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl and Fiesta Bowl - and, no, not the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

The beauty of college football is that every game is a playoff game. Your team loses and you can plan on waiting 'til next year. Imagine if #1 Ohio State played #2 Michigan the Saturday after Thanksgiving and both teams are undefeated, as was the case this season. With a playoff system in place they rest their starters in the second half of the game to prepare for their playoff game in early December.

Ridiculous.

The current BCS system is flawed and has sunk the college football world like a rock sinks in the ocean. The thought a playoff would be added in order to give a team like Boise State a shot at a national championship could ruin the game.

Real football fans know one thing - Boise State was near dead at the end of their one bowl game - the reason they went for two and the win in overtime. Their coach knew they had no shot if the game continued. If they played top ten teams on consecutive weeks they would have been fodder for their second opponent.

Unfortunately, their month and a half layoff allowed them to game plan perfectly and upset traditional power Oklahoma. Now, playoff backers think Boise State could do that over the course of four games. Taking a flawed system and tinkering with it in order to attempt to allow for a once every decade Cinderella possibility is like trying to take a rock and polish it and make it pretty for outsiders to look at. Unfortunately for college football, it's simple physics. If you clean and polish a rock, what are you left with?

A rock.

As a consummate sports fan, I think it is apparent after watching this year's college football bowl games that a playoff system is needed. The games after New Year brought tears of both joy and sorrow to many fans. The excitement for each game, especially the BCS National Championship, seemed to be at an all-time high.

What doesn't seem fair was how the teams are chosen to play in the title game. Boise State and Ohio State were the only undefeated teams before the bowl games, yet Boise State was denied the chance to play for the BCS Championship. They were invited to play the University of Oklahoma in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, and were a severe underdog. The controversy over the University of Florida playing Ohio State in the BCS Championship instead of the University of Michigan, along with Boise State's snub, shows that a playoff system is needed for Division 1A football. Every other level of college football (i.e. D1AA, D2, D3 and NAIA) uses a playoff system to determine their champion. So why not the D1A? It would make each bowl game more meaningful if it were for the chance to play for the title. It would have to be a smaller version, since D1A plays more games, but having a 10-team bracket would make the college football bowl games more competitive.

The teams that play in the BCS National Championship game are determined by a computer system that ranks, among other things, a team's overall record and strength of schedule. All that a computer can do is tell which team looks better "on paper." How can the NCAA let the BCS decide which team is the best and should play for the championship?

Doesn't that seem unfair, for instance, to a team like Michigan, whose only loss was to the #1 ranked Ohio State team on the last game of the regular season? Isn't it then unfair to a team like Boise State, who went undefeated, beating Oregon State, who beat University of Southern California, who beat Arkansas, who beat Auburn, who beat Florida, who were ultimately the national champs? Shouldn't Boise State be the national champions by default? I think so! Florida's only loss was to, at the time, #4 Auburn toward the end of the season. What made Florida look better than Michigan "on paper" was the fact that they played a tougher overall schedule and more games than Michigan.

If we went to a 10-team playoff, the BCS could still decide the rank of the teams. The top two would play the winner of a #10 vs. #8, and #9 vs. #7, etc. Each game could be located and named for the top nine bowl games. It would take four weeks to complete. The regular season should be shortened so two playoff games can be played before Christmas and two after a week off.

A playoff system is the only fair way for the top 10 teams to each have a chance to be the national champs.

Out with the BCS National Championship, in with the BCS Playoffs!

Taqueria Alonzo




Mexican Restaurant

Located at
Two Rivers Market
 250 SW Broadalbin #107
 Albany, OR 97321
 (541) 812-1311

Also try our other location...
Dos Arbolitos
 590 Main Street
 Lebanon, OR 97355
 (541) 258-5798

It's easier to earn your degree when the school comes to your home.




That's right. You can earn your degree online in Business Management or Accounting right in your own home. Our online and evening bachelor's and certificate programs are designed for busy people seeking a top-notch, affordable business degree to help you accomplish your personal and professional goals. Financial aid available. Call Albany Linfield Advisor, Jim Garaventa at 541-917-4846 (jgaraventa@linfield.edu) or contact us at 1-800-452-4176 (adultdegree.linfield.edu).

Complete your bachelor's degree in:

- Accounting (Post-bacc certificate too!)
- Management
- International Business
- Business Information Systems
- Arts & Humanities
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- RN to BSN

Spring semester 2007 classes begin February 17. Get started today!

be. do. have. more.



LINFIELD
 Adult Degree Program

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.

Boston kicker shows how every Joe Shmo can find his niche

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

Waking up on Dec. 31, Steve Aponavicius (pronounced AH'-pah-nah-VIH'-chis) found out what it felt like to be a hero.

The day before, he was in Charlotte with four seconds left, with the chance of a lifetime, to kick the winning field goal in a college football bowl game. His kick from 37 yards, a career long, gave Boston College the win 25-24 against Navy in the Meineke Car Care Bowl.



The story of Aponavicius starts in the middle of this year's football season.

Last year he was in the stands, as a fan. While kicking field goals in the beginning of the school year to warm up his leg for an indoor soccer game he had later in the day, an assistant football coach for Boston College saw him and told him to try out for their football team as a kicker.

This walk-on sensation, who needed to be shown how to put on his shoulder pads, played his first ever football game in Boston College's sixth game of the season against Virginia Tech, on national TV. He was perfect, kicking two field goals and two extra points.

If only it were that easy for any Joe Shmo to be noticed in real life. It should be more often that people get a chance to be in the spot light after being noticed for a skill.

Let us all try to be Aponavicius.

What if at the end of a three-and-a-half hour high-speed police chase to elude 45 cop cars, instead of being arrested, they are given a NASCAR contract?

Because what is a NASCAR race, but a multi-hour race to stay in front. That would be the equivalent of being Aponavicius.

Or better yet, are you the best paperboy in town? Can you hit the stoop and doorstep with a newspaper perfectly from a moving vehicle? Well you're in luck; the Oakland Raiders need a quarterback!

Are you quite possibly the best janitor sweeper in the nation? The United States Olympic Curling Team is accepting applications.

With the recent snow to the area, you might have found yourself with a love for sledding. If you can run and jump onto your sled, sign up for the bobsled team.

Everyone should get the chance to be noticed like Aponavicius. It might be the last time we hear about him, but don't let that stop you because you never know who is watching.

You could be the next star in the limelight with a chance to win and be a hero.

No rest for Roadrunner basketball

Caleb Hawley
 The Commuter

Northwest Athletic Association of Community College basketball had a lot happening over the winter break for both the Linn-Benton Roadrunners men's and women's teams. Twenty-seven games were played between the two teams throughout the winter break.

The Lady Runners (13-5) had an outstanding 10-4 stint over the break where they went 2-1 in NWAACC South league play. Of the four losses, two of them were by single digit margins. The other two losses came against very formidable foes in 12-5 Spokane and top-ranked Yakima Valley.

Much of the Lady Runner action over the break came in three tournaments. The first of the three came at the Everett Crossover Tournament where LB finished in fourth place. Destiny Neuenschwander was named to the All-Tournament Team. LB hosted the second of the three in mid-December with the NWAACC Crossover tournament. They finished in second place with Chelsea Hartman and Whitney Bryant being selected to the All-Tournament Team. Chemeketa CC hosted the Lady Runners' third and final tournament of the break. At the Chemeketa Xmas Crossover tournament LB wound up in fourth place as the consolation winner with Hartman again receiving All-Tournament Team honors.

"The season is going very well," head coach A.J. Dionne explained. "We are very good this year. The talk around the south is that we are the team to beat. That is a great compliment to receive but we have to be able to walk the walk and I believe that we have the ability to do that. Right now it's just a matter of consistency. I believe we are the quickest and most athletically talented team in the south along with the deepest. We have the ability to go eight or nine deep. We just have to maintain some consistency and minimize our mistakes."

The LB men (10-8) didn't have quite as hot of a break as the Lady Runners did, but they still mustered some success as they have seen through the season.

Of the 13 games played over the break, LB was victorious in six of them going 1-2 in NWAACC southern division play.

Again much of the break action came in the form of tournaments for the Runners as the men played in three tournaments as well. The first was at Lane CC where they finished in third place. The second of the three was the Columbia Basin Crossover Tournament where LB finished in fifth place. Ryon Pool was named to the



photo by Chris Campbell

Guard Alex Stocker goes up for a shot during the Roadrunners 63-56 win over Portland Community College last Saturday at the Activities Center.

All-Tournament Team in the Clackamas Holiday Tournament which was the third and final tournament of the break.

The most recent action for both teams came at home on Saturday Jan. 13 against Portland when both teams won their respective games.

Trevor Thurn led the Runners with 14 points, six rebounds, three steals and three assists in their 63-56 victory. Pool added 17 points and Dustin Vaughn grabbed nine rebounds to lead LB.

Molly Fillion exploded for 29 points, hitting 12 of 17 from the field, and grabbed 14 rebounds in their 83-60 rout. Bryant added another 17 points, six rebounds, four steals and four assists. Jenny Fillion contributed a team high 5 assists and Hartman added 10 points, four blocked shots and four steals.

Both LB basketball teams will next be in action tonight as the Runners host Mt. Hood. The women tip-off at 5:30 with the men following at 7:30.

Bears' overtime kick grounds Seahawks

The Seattle Times

CHICAGO—Maybe they weren't supposed to get this far anyway.

Maybe the injuries that forced roster upheaval were too much to overcome, the up-and-down play from one week to the next too prevalent to make the Seahawks a Super Bowl team. Maybe winning the division, winning a playoff game and being in the playoffs was all they could have hoped for in a season like this.

The Seahawks played Sunday as if they had nothing to lose. But losing, 27-24, to the heavily favored Chicago Bears in overtime in the playoffs was still shocking and painful.

"People outside of our team weren't giving us a chance because of how poorly we played the first time (against Chicago in October)," quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said. "But we knew we could get it done today. It was right there for us. We just didn't get it done."

They were close. Few would have thought the Seahawks would have a 24-21 lead late in the fourth quarter. Few would have imagined a Seahawks offense throwing the ball and running with such success against a staunch Bears defense. Or that the Bears, for so much of the second half, would look perplexed on defense, unsure on offense and unable to stir up their home crowd.

"It felt like we were going to win," the Seahawks' Bryce Fisher said.

After forcing overtime and stopping Seattle's first possession, the Bears moved the ball to the Seattle 32, the key play a 30-yard pass from Rex Grossman to Rashied Davis. That play was the game's biggest, outside of the winning field goal.

The Seahawks forced fourth down, and Robbie Gould kicked the game winner. Just like that, it was wait 'til next season.

"We have a good core of players and the organization is healthy," coach Mike Holmgren said, "and I hope down the road we get a few more cracks at this thing."