

**BIRDIES ON GREEN**

Swing into spring with nine or 18 holes of golf at one of several local courses  
 ▶ Pg. 6-7

**SLIDING INTO FIRST**

Linn-Benton's baseball team moves into 1st place in the Southern Division  
 ▶ Pg.



a weekly student publication  
**The Commuter**

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 35 No. 19

**Former general criticizes handling of Iraq war**

**Peggy Isaacs**  
 The Commuter

Arriving in his lightweight leather Air Force bomber jacket, retired four-star Gen. Merrill A. (Tony) McPeak appeared at the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis Monday afternoon and drew praise, standing ovations and disapproving hisses as he spoke out against President Bush's war on Iraq.

Gen. McPeak opened with the question: "How do we arrive at the end state to make Iraq democratic for the region?"

But he admitted he had no good answers.

"The president has proved toughness, but we seem to be stuck. How do we get out?" continued McPeak. "Do

I have something to offer? I don't have any good ideas and haven't heard any good ideas. There are no magic potions."

His opinion on an "exit strategy" drew his first applause from the audience when he said, "The first order is to remove the current administration."

He went on to add, however, that a new president will be will be stuck, too—Democratic presidential candidates Howard Dean and John Kerry had no ideas either, he said.

"We will be stuck for some time and the first thing would be to abandon the notion that we will turn Iraq over June 30," he said. "We need to stay awhile. Tying

**"The first order is to remove the current administration."**

▶ Gen. Merrill A. McPeak

ourselves to dates is unreasonable when it is so unpredictable on the ground. And it gives the opponents time for attack."

He suggested doubling the troop strength in Iraq and imposing a military draft to do so.

"Mistakes are costly and we should pay for them. What are we going to do to get the manpower to take control? We need to impose the draft for success, don't borrow and pay for it ourselves."

At this point the crowd hissed loudly.

Much of McPeak's presentation, which was co-sponsored by the Benton County DemoForum and the OSU

▶ Turn to "McPeak" on Pg. 4

**Gettin' Gritty**

Jayne Fraizer's (right) Tuesday - Thursday volleyball class takes advantage of warm weather for some casual games. Near the end of the term, the class will commit to teams for continuing competitive play. On rainy days they work on technique inside.



photo by Jeremy Hennig

**National Guard running low on tuition reimbursement funds**

**Laurent L.N. Bonczijk**  
 The Commuter

The Oregon National Guard is running low on funds for its 75 percent tuition reimbursement program. The program allows guardsmen and women to be reimbursed for as much as \$4,000 per fiscal year.

Expected shortfalls are \$100,000 for spring term, \$80,000 for summer term and \$280,000 for fall term. The grand total is \$460,000.

A total of 380 soldiers are using the program at this time, but many more are expected to enroll

as National Guard units rotate out of Iraq later this year.

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Springfield, with the help of Rep. Darlene Hooley, D-West Linn, and Sen. Gordon Smith R-Pendleton and Ron Wyden, D-Portland secured \$280,000 from the National Guard Bureau. This amount will be used to cover spring and summer term. This is not new funding. The money came from states that had an excess of funds for those terms.

LBCC's Veterans Office declared, "No one has been turned away from this office at this time."

**Workshop teaches acceptance**

**Adam Peoples**  
 The Commuter

Students, staff and faculty have a chance to attend a special training workshop put on by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in the Multicultural Center from 12 to 2 p.m. today, April 14. The informative meeting is sponsored by LBCC Student Ambassadors and the Multicultural Center.

"GLSEN's main concern is to fight to end the anti-homosexual bias in the U.S. schools," said Petr Horak, LBCC student ambassador. Horak invited Julie Williams, a teacher from

Corvallis who has been trained by GLSEN to take part in the discussion. Williams also works as a coordinator of the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) program at Corvallis High School.

The training session is aimed at staff and faculty "to give them ideas on how they should talk to gay and lesbian students," commented Horak.

"I would really encourage all the students to come as well," added Horak, stating the audience could dynamically change the approach to the workshop.

"If more faculty shows up, we'll focus on making students feel more comfortable,"

said Horak.

Horak was among the student ambassadors who went to the National Orientation Directors Association conference during Feb. 6, 7 and 8. At the conference, they met with other program directors and workers and shared ideas on organizing and creating new students orientations.

"We were really impressed with all the activities the University of Oregon does for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and questioning (LBGTQ) students," remarked Horak.

"We felt like LBCC has fallen behind and we wanted to help

▶ Turn to "GLSEN" on Pg. 4

**WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND**

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

high 57 low 43  
**WEDNESDAY**

high 55 low 40  
**THURSDAY**

high 58 low 39  
**FRIDAY**

high 60 low 41  
**SATURDAY**

high 58 low 41  
**SUNDAY**

Opinion.....2  
 Campus News.....3-5  
 In Focus.....6-7  
 Sports.....8-9  
 National News.....10  
 A & E.....11-12

**INDEX**

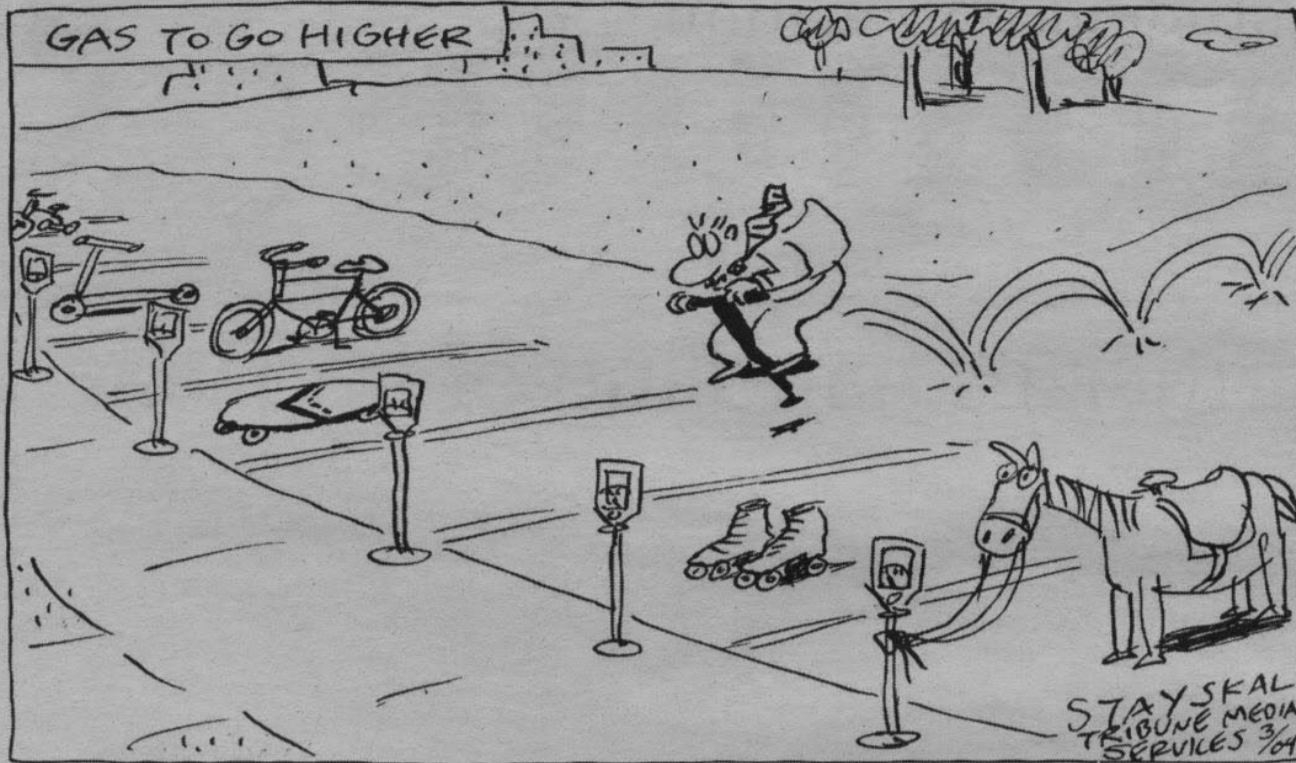


Commuter

**Opinion Editor:** Erica Hennig  
**Editor-in-Chief:** Michelle Bertalot  
**Telephone:** 917-4452

# OPINION

**Send letters to The Commuter:**  
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and  
 keep them at 250 words or less



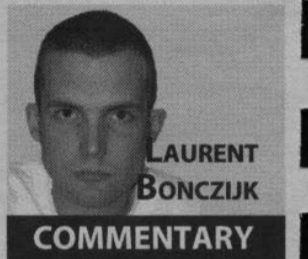
## Intolerance best defense to bigots

**Laurent L.N. Bonczijk**  
 The Commuter

Conservative right-wing Christians would have you believe that we liberals hate all Christians while at the same time love to death the religious zealots killing my fellow Marines in Iraq.

Discernment has never been a strong point for those people. While the world goes round in shades of gray, they can only see black or white.

This is a question of tolerance, or rather intolerance on both sides. Tolerance, Webster tells us, is recognition of and respect for the opinions, beliefs or actions of others. Intolerance is, quite unsurprisingly, the opposite, with bigotry given as a synonym. Bigotry is rather a step further in intolerance because it includes fanaticism.



In one way or another, we are all intolerant and bigots, and we have to be. Whom is my intolerance aimed at? The short list would be racists, anti-Semites, white supremacists, religious extremists and Fox News. But it is intolerance that is needed in order for myself and others to keep our way of life.

There are three positions that an individual can adopt toward other ethnic and cultural groups.

The first one is total tolerance, which right-wingers unwittingly accuse us progressive thinkers of being. It is not a working solution. The fully tolerant person has to accept everyone, including those who want to end that person's way of life. It is a self-destructive choice.

The second one is total intolerance. This choice is ethically unacceptable and impractical. You would be in constant conflict. The only way to live would be alone, and human beings do not have a history of leading long, happy lives by themselves.

The third and only viable solution is to be intolerant of people who do not tolerate you. This is probably the only issue that I will see eye to eye with a conservative about.

The problem to its practical application resides in differentiating between groups that pose a threat and groups that don't. I am a white, heterosexual male in my mid-20s and will use the gay and lesbian community as an example. They don't bother me. Why would they? They can't make me gay and none of their members have ever tried to convert me. In other words, their way of life does not negate or threaten mine. Conservatives on the other hand, out of ignorance and sheer paranoia, are intolerant of them because they wrongly perceive them as a threat to their way of life.

Let's go back to our first paragraph now. The intolerance that fundamentalist Christians feel progressive people have toward them comes from the group's refusal to acknowledge that different lifestyles are as valid as their own. The intolerance that they feel is the result of their own lack of tolerance. And just to clear up a point for them, we liberals are intolerant of all religious fanatics, no matter what cult they represent.

## 'Famous face': A lesson in how to destroy outward individuality

**Erica Hennig**  
 The Commuter

MTV's "I want a famous face" follows the stories of young people who undergo surgery to look like their favorite celebrities. According to a disclaimer at the beginning of each episode, the patients are not paid to appear on the show, rather, the celeb wanna-bes decide on their own to destroy their individuality.



The young men and women, in a state of extreme obsession, seem more like they want to become the person of their fantasies. They talk about the celebrity of their dreams as if they are in love with the person and about the surgery they are about to undergo as if it is going to be a walk in the park.

They seemingly have no idea of the seriousness and risk involved in their cosmetic surgery, which often involves more than one procedure, although those who have completed their surgery seem happy about the results overall in interviews appearing on MTV's Web site, mtv.com. After surgery and recovery, participants are asked such questions as, "What was the biggest post-operative surprise?" and whether they have been mistaken for the famous face they sought to emulate. Only one (Mia) said that she had been mistaken for Britney a couple times, but that it was no more than usual.

A set of twins from Arizona, Mike and Matt, had rhinoplasty, chin implants, porcelain veneers and cheek implants to look like Brad Pitt. The most noticeable change for the twins post-surgery was their clear skin. Before surgery pictures of the men bring up mental images of erupting volcanoes and pepperoni pizza.

Sha, from Texas, decided to get massive breast implants, lip implants and liposuction under her chin to achieve Pam Anderson's 'voluptuous' look. Mia, from Florida, already looked a lot like Britney Spears, but got breast implants to 'complete' her appearance. Jennette, also from Florida, got a (somewhat) Kate Winslet look a year after a gastric by-pass with a full body lift.

Next in line for the scalpel are Jessica and Jesse. Jessica is a man-turned-woman transsexual who has already had eight months of hormone treatment. She wanted butt implants, but decided to get breast and cheek implants, an eyebrow lift, eyebrow bone shave and her hairline lowered in hopes to get the "J. Lo glow." Jesse, an Elvis impersonator from Las Vegas, Nev. is opting for a chin implant, lip injections and a peel to help him look more like "The King."

I'm not the only person concerned by the show's participants. A quick search online turned out critiques of the show that were disgusted with the video footage taken during surgical procedures. Several said the show is "disturbing," pointing also to participants' obsession over their appearance and a lack of concern for maintaining individuality.

"I want a famous face" displays an extremely narrow margin of people, who are so concerned about their looks that they would undergo massive surgeries to "fix" what they believe to be "ugly" faces of their own. Rather than focusing on keeping their own style and self-image, they elect to take on that of another. We all have times when we are less than confident about our appearance, but these young people are destroying something very precious: Uniqueness.

There's nothing wrong with admiring a particular celebrity. But no one is perfect. We each have qualities that are better or worse than those of the people we admire. Perfection is unattainable. Be the best you can be, not the best someone else can be. I'm talking about on the inside, not the outside.

### The Commuter

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.

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Child abuse cross-cultural

**To the Editor:**

For many of us who are products of the 1950s and 60s, the understanding of being fed subtle messages in the form of "stereotyping" images is nothing new. The recent display on Domestic and Child Abuse here on our campus had only two pamphlets that had actual photos of children. Would anyone care to guess the race of these children that were pictured? By a show of hands, do we believe that ALL our societal ills and economic drains are based in the minority communities? Good, neither do I, and neither do the statistics. The message to all agencies and organizations should be that there must be a racially balanced display of images and information. I hope our college will include a standard of equal representation as a prerequisite for using our campus to promote information.

Judith Sherer

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## Staffer follows son's exploits in Iraq with concern and pride

**Peggy Hiedt**  
 The Commuter

When Red Ayers, instructional specialist for the Welding and Metallurgy departments at LBCC, heard the news that his son Jed was being deployed to Iraq he knew his cherished son would be placed in harm's way.

Jed Ayers, a combat medic who has been assigned multiple special OPS tasks since his arrival in Iraq, offered words of assurance to his father, explaining that since his job as a medic was to keep his fellow soldiers alive, he would be highly protected by the rest of his unit. Jed is 27 years old, a graduate of South Albany High School, and has served nearly three years in the United States Army.

According to Tammi Wright, Arts and Communications Division secretary at LBCC, there are at least 10 people on staff at LBCC with family members in Iraq, including one instructor, Lewis Franklin of the pre-press technology program, who is currently in Kuwait awaiting orders to move into Baghdad.

Wright is an officer with the

LBCC Classified Association, which used its annual fundraiser money this year to send care packages to men and women serving the U.S. Military in Iraq.

Although Red Ayers is aware of the potential danger to his son, he remains strong in his support of U.S. involvement in Iraq.

"Anybody who kills that many innocent people needs to be taken out," he said.

He believes that Saddam Hussein needed to be removed from power regardless of whether or not any weapons of mass destruction are ever discovered there.

Ayers is also very supportive of his son's military involvement, but he is not without concern for his safety.

He recounted a story his son told him about a time when he was standing in a guard tower and observing a man walking out of a house below, only to see him quickly turn and launch a shoulder-fired missile directly at him. The attempt failed—a stroke of good fortune that Red Ayers attributes to faith and divine intervention.

"I've just been praying daily

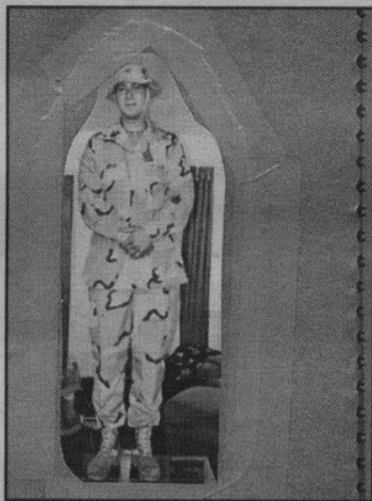


photo contributed by Red Ayers

**Instructional specialist Red Ayers (right) has been keeping close tabs on his son Jed, who has recently returned to the states from a deployment in Iraq. Red has been carrying a picture of Jed in his appointment book (above) as he goes about his duties as assistant in the welding and metallurgy departments at LB.**

that the Lord would take care of him and bring him home safe," he said. "I just have to keep believing that."

Last month Jed returned for a visit home, which is currently

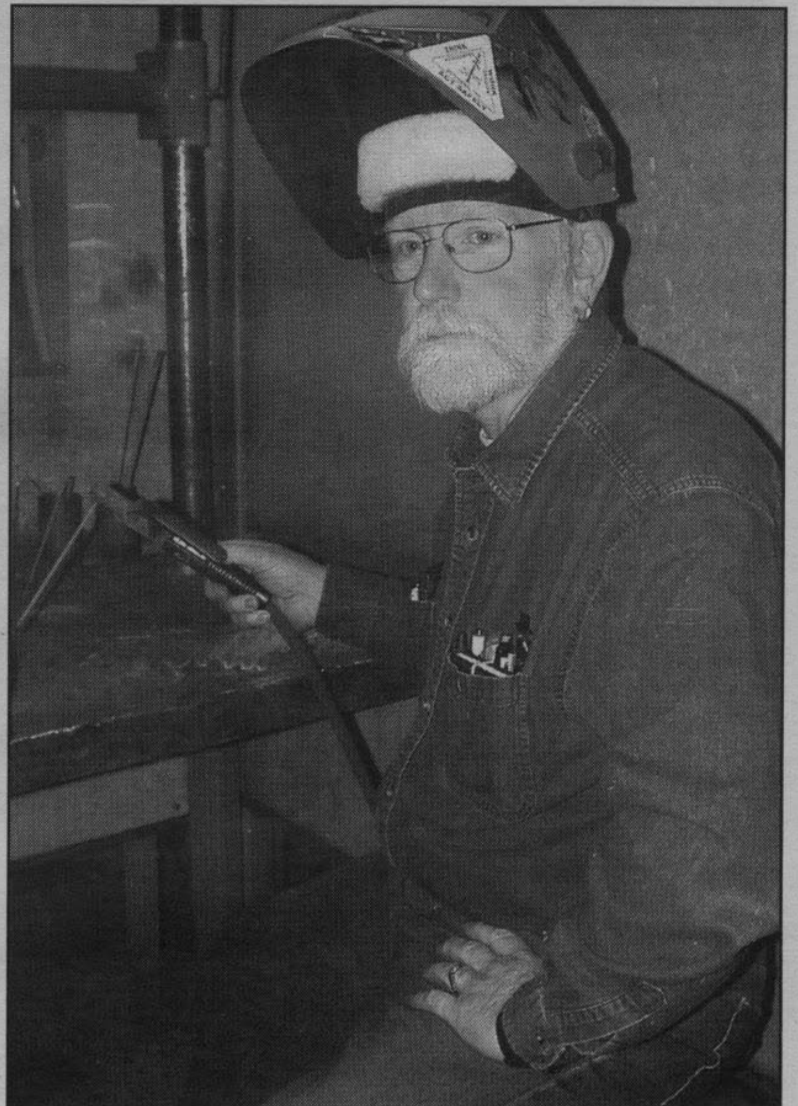


photo by Bonnie Quinones

in Fort Drum, New York, where his wife and two young children live. In June Jed will have served his official 15-month tour of duty, and Red hopes that he will not be redeployed to Iraq in the

meantime.

Jed and his wife have discussed relocating back to the Northwest when Jed's tour is over, and Red says he's hoping that's what they do.

## ASG and SPB leave service learning dispute for next year

**Sheena Bishop**  
 The Commuter

Last Wednesday members of the Associated Student Government and Student Programming Board voted to adopt seven of eight suggested changes in the student government bylaws, all of which were clarifications in the text to make for easier reading.

The one object of debate was listed in the agenda as Change 7, the much disputed alteration to the terms of service learning requirements—that is, making them optional.

To this the SPB put their foot down, stating that student learning "is not an optional piece of the student's duties."

They also stated that "due to funding, service learning is something that the office either has or doesn't have; thus making the proposed amendment impossible to pass."

Taking a closer look, the dispute has plenty to do with funding, in this case the talent grants that ASG and SPB are given.

Both are required to plan one event each term and participate in a service learning credit.

By removing the service learning credit, in order to meet talent grant requirements both groups would have to do an extra event each term.

Each event has a planning deadline, which has already passed for this term.

To change the bylaw now would not give students the necessary time to plan a second event for the term.

Another problem with the bylaw is the talent grant distributed to participants for their efforts itself.

It does not specifically state that it is an in-state, out-of-state or international amount.

Because talent grants are budgeted, it is a dollar amount and not a credit amount.

That means out-of-state and international students don't realistically get as much out of their efforts as they put in. The

benefit is superior for in-state students.

It was agreed to add "dollar amount of" to the declaration of "12 in-state credits full time" or six in-state credits part time, clarifying what students actually receive from the grant.

Also raised was the issue of incoming SPB members who have already been briefed and prepared for service learning and the planning out of one event each term.

The incoming ASG members have also been introduced to this, therefore SPB proposed to leave the change up to them.

The question of dual enrollment and talent grants also popped up, but was left for later discussion.

The final decision on the controversial Change 7 was to leave it up to next year's ASG and SPB to decide.

SPB member Jackie Lohner along with ASG members David Villeneuve and Sara Haines are to write a proposal to advisors

Tammi Paul and Carol Wenzel, as well as the Dean of Students Diane Watson and next year's ASG president and vice president.

The proposal will suggest a review of service learning and work loads of the ASG and SPB for next year.

In other words, students can look for this issue to pop up again in the 2004-2005 school year.

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Misc.

Rock Solid Health Center - 35% off supplements. Free consultation. Downstairs next to Starbucks, 4th street, Corvallis. (541) 619-5559.

There's a new club in town! LBC-CLUG We have just started a Linux User Group or club on campus and we will be having our first meeting on the last Thursday of every month in the Commons/Cafeteria from 12-1pm. Feel free to come and check us out.

### WANTED

Roommate wanted to share large house near bus stop and college. \$225/month Call John at 259-5076 or 990-2156.

### HELP WANTED

Ag Mechanic/Foreman (#2416, McMinnville) If you have a minimum of two years of higher education and are self-motivated, this job is for you! They are interested in diesel mechanic graduates or soon-to-be graduates. See Carla in the Student Employment (T101).

Paint Shop Helper/Prep (#2414, Corvallis) Looking for someone with collision repair skills. Can be part-time now and full-time in June. Please see Student Employment (T101) for your referral!

Draftsman (#2420-Albany) If you have AutoCAD proficiency & blueprint reading, this is your job! It's full-time, but will work with your schedule if you need to finish classes this term. See Carla in Student Employment (T101) for your referral.

Bookkeeper/Purchasing (#2419-Albany) Minimum 2 years of accounting classes with some OJT preferred, but not required. See Carla in Student Employment (T101) if this is you!

## McPeak: Speech draws applause, hissing

▲ From Pg. 1

Democrats, came in the question-and-answer period. While he answered most questions, he declined to offer direct opinions on Bush's tactics.

McPeak elaborated on his opinion that the draft is needed to secure Iraq by comparing the number of troops there to the number of police needed to maintain safety in any population.

He said the U.S. Army and Marines have around 600,000 deployable service personnel, but because of the number needed for support functions, only about 200,000 are deployable at any one time. Because of U.S. commitments in Europe and elsewhere, only about 130,000 are in Iraq.

He said this is about half what is needed, noting that the average police force maintains a 1 to 500 ratio to the population, and in turbulent areas the ratio is higher—a 1 to 100 ratio on the West Bank, for instance, and 1 to 85 in Northern Ireland. With 25 million Iraqis, the coalition forces need 250,000 troops on the ground, he said.

"If we need the draft to do so,

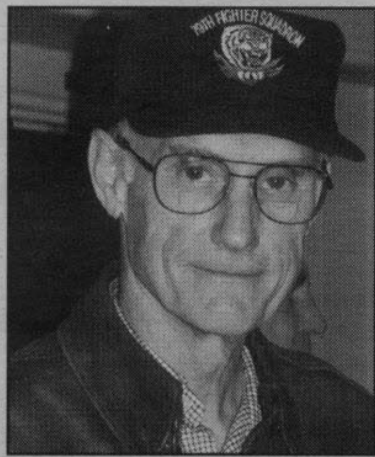


photo by Peggy Isaacs

then we should," said McPeak. "I don't see how we can make the square the circle without it."

Asked to explain how the Pentagon could have sat on the information regarding the 9-11 skyjacking 34 minutes before putting military defense in the air, he said: "Understand we gave up on air defense a long time ago. The leaders around the world agreed on 'mutual assured destruction' on our own borders, and we abandoned security for the country."

As a consequence, he said, when the planes were taken over by terrorists on that day, "there wasn't a single active duty on

**"(9-11) would have never happened on my watch."**

▶ Gen. Merrill A. McPeak

alert. When the crisis happened, the nearest National Guard was in New Jersey. The response was terrible; we were asleep at the switch. The leadership was asleep, the whole country was asleep. It took 40 minutes to fill in the gaps. That's where the time went."

McPeak, who has been out of the Air Force for 10 years, insisted that 9-11 "would never had happened on my watch."

On non-military topics, McPeak said that there is a maldistribution of wealth in our country that made worse by the president's policies, which he described as an all out assault on the middle class.

"We also need finance reform to get anything done in this country and stop bribing politicians and then we stand a chance to get adult leadership in office."

McPeak entered the Air Force in 1957 as a distinguished gradu-

ate of the San Diego State College ROTC program. During his career as a fighter pilot he flew 269 combat missions in Vietnam.

Between 1990 and 1994, he was chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a period of active involvement overseas, including Desert Storm.

As a member of the Joint Chiefs, he was a top military advisor to the secretary of defense and president.

During that same period, he conceived and executed the most extensive reorganization of the Air Force in its 50-year history.

Tina Empol, Ward 2 city council member, said "In order to have a more informed population, we need more people with military experience at the top, like him, to speak around the country."

Steve Hoop, an audience member, reflected on the speech, commenting, "It was what I expected, that certain parts of party issues he wouldn't cross on Bush because he's been in the service all his life. There are certain perspectives of the world that will always be held by the military industrial complex."

## GLSEN: Group helps students at ease on campus

▲ From Pg. 1

LBCC LBGTQ people feel more comfortable on the campus," he said. "This GLSEN 'lunch box training' seemed like a good idea to start at LBCC."

Horak addressed the need to make minorities of sexual orientation feel more connected and secure at LBCC. "Often LBGTQ students don't feel safe on our campus and

frankly, it's up to us to make a difference," Horak stated.

GLSEN's objective is to train and educate people in the school system to make LBGTQ students feel safe and welcome. LBCC's GSA advisor Heather Ohana believes seeing the issues gay and lesbian students face each day will be a positive impact on faculty.

"It's always a good thing for faculty to

educate themselves about how diverse the student body is," said Ohana.

A free soup and roll lunch will be provided to participants of the GLSEN training workshop. The GSA on campus meets Mondays from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. "Please come support LBGTQ students, faculty and staff" said Horak.

## TELL THEM

THANK  
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Administrative Assistant's Day is

# April 21st

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**LBCC Bookstore**

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## All quiet on campus crime front, Jackson says

**Adam Swackhamer**  
 The Commuter

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year Linn-Benton's security officers are constantly on patrol for anything out of place.

From car thefts to false security alarms, campus security is always around to take charge and resolve the incident.

According to Vern Jackson, manager of campus security and 19-year LBCC employee, 179 incidents were logged by campus security in 2003. Not all of these incidents were crimes.

Since all incidents are logged in the same book, it is very difficult to sort out which were criminal incidents and those that were false alarms or someone accidentally tripping a security alarm, which has become a common occurrence at the Benton Center because of all the recent construction.

With all the security around campus it is no surprise that crime levels are very low around LBCC.

According to Jackson, the Activity Center has the highest crime rate on campus.

More often than not, it is theft of a person's cell phone or wallet while they are in the Activities Center locker room showering.

The best way to keep your possessions safe is to "keep (them) locked down and out of sight," said Jackson.

This applies to possessions in your car as well.

When items are stolen around Linn-Benton it is usually a theft of opportunity. To minimize a potential thief's opportunity to steal, be sure to keep any electronics, CDs and especially school books out of sight when parking your car on campus.

When it comes to car break-ins, Linn-Benton's campus is usually a "feast or famine situation," said Jackson, "Luckily, we are in the middle of a famine."

Car thefts around campus are another uncommon occurrence. There were only two in 2002 and one in early January of this year. When a car is confirmed stolen, campus security passes the information on to the Albany Police Department for resolution.

Campus security personnel are not only available to prevent criminal activity.

Security officers often assist students and staff with their vehicles and can provide personal escorts to the parking lot for those who are uncomfortable going to their car at night.

Security officers can be reached at their office in CC-123 or by phone at 917-4440.



### Job Search

Nia Calihan (left) of UPS explains what job openings are available at her company during the 26th annual LBCC Job Fair in the Activities Center last Thursday. More than 500 students and local residents turned out for the event, which featured about 50 employers, ranging from the military to local manufacturers and health service companies

photo by Erik Swanson

## Academy aims to explain police work

**Colleen Jacks**  
 The Commuter

Once a year the Albany Police Department offers a Citizen's Academy, developed to increase citizen awareness and understanding of the police department and the role they play in the community.

This fall, the third annual Citizen's Academy will be offered to residents of Albany who are 18 years of age or older and must pass a criminal background check.

There is no charge for the course, which is limited to 25 participants. The academy will run from Sept. 7 to Oct. 26, each Tuesday evening and includes two Saturdays.

The session will include 30 hours of interactive classroom

and hands-on instruction covering topics such as: Police officer selection, investigation skills, canine procedures, firearm use, crime prevention and more.

"One Saturday session, the group will go to the Police Academy in Monmouth to learn (about) the use of firearms," said Lynn Hinrichs, community resources officer for the APD.

"They will use simulated firearms as part of an interactive computer program, where they will make situational judgments when to use their weapon."

Hinrichs said the lectures will be interesting and interactive.

"Class participants are encouraged to do a patrol observation with a police officer," Hinrichs added. "When they

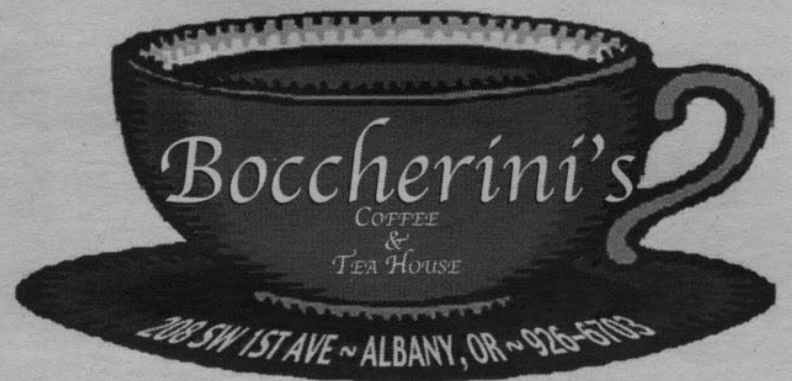
come to class, everyone will be given a form to request a ride-along at a time that will be convenient for them."

Persons interested in reserving a seat for the fall class, contact Lynn Hinrichs with the Community Resource Unit at 917-3206 or see the Albany Police Department Web site: www.cityofalbany.net.

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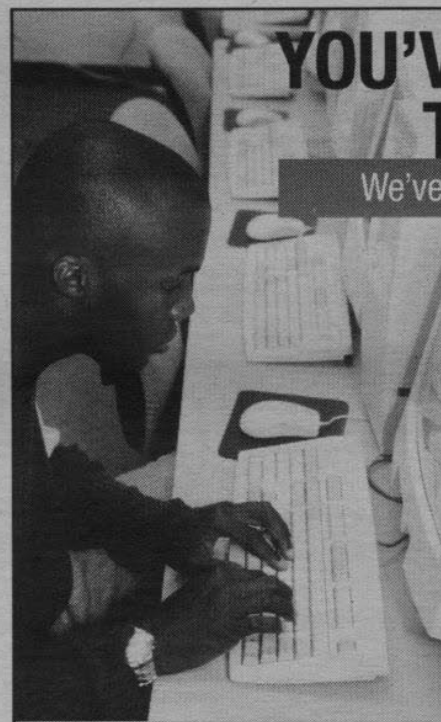


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# INFO

## BY JOEL MEACHAM THE COMMUTER

Whether you are new to the sport or a seasoned veteran, golfers in the Corvallis area have three courses that provide different challenges to choose from locally to satisfy those uncontrollable urges to hit the links.

Home to the OSU men's and women's golf teams, Trysting Tree Golf Club, located five minutes from the OSU campus at 34028 NE Electric Road in Corvallis, is considered one of the Northwest's finest public golf courses and one of the nation's premier collegiate facilities. The word is "grip it and rip it," as the 18-hole championship golf course has wide open fairways; large, fast greens and a few strategically placed trees on several holes.

The course is mostly open to allow the Pacific westerly winds to affect the design of the course. Trysting Tree was listed among the top five collegiate courses on the West Coast by GolfWeek



## BY ADAM SWACKHAMER THE COMMUTER

Walking into the pro shop of a country club can be an intimidating experience for the beginning golfer. The employees are impeccably dressed and the selection is usually overwhelming for those that know very little about the sport.

Luckily, many country clubs have on-site professionals who are available to help everyone from the seasoned veteran all the way down to a complete novice.

According to Dan Ostrin, first assistant golf pro at the Springhill Country Club pro shop, anyone just getting into golf can forego the expense of buying a full set of clubs and just stick to the basics. For the very basic set of clubs Ostrin recommends a "four irons, a wood, a pitching wedge, sand wedge and putter." This set is the absolute bare minimum you'll need to play a round of golf.

If you've ever stepped into a golf store before, you may have noticed the advertisements for different materials and technologies used in today's golf clubs. While Ostrin recommends graphite woods, he also says that

magazine. Golf Digest rated this course as the Ninth Best Public Course in the state in 1996. This course is always kept in exceptional shape and has superb drainage, making this an excellent course to play year round.

Located on the banks of Mary's River at 2020 SW Allen Street in Corvallis, Marysville Golf Course is a fairly flat nine-hole course. There are some trees and other hazards that can affect your shots, the most challenging hole on the course being hole five. The layout of that particular hole plays out much longer than the yardage might indicate.

This family owned course is well kept and considered by many to be a good golfing experience.

## TEE OFF AT LOCAL COURSES

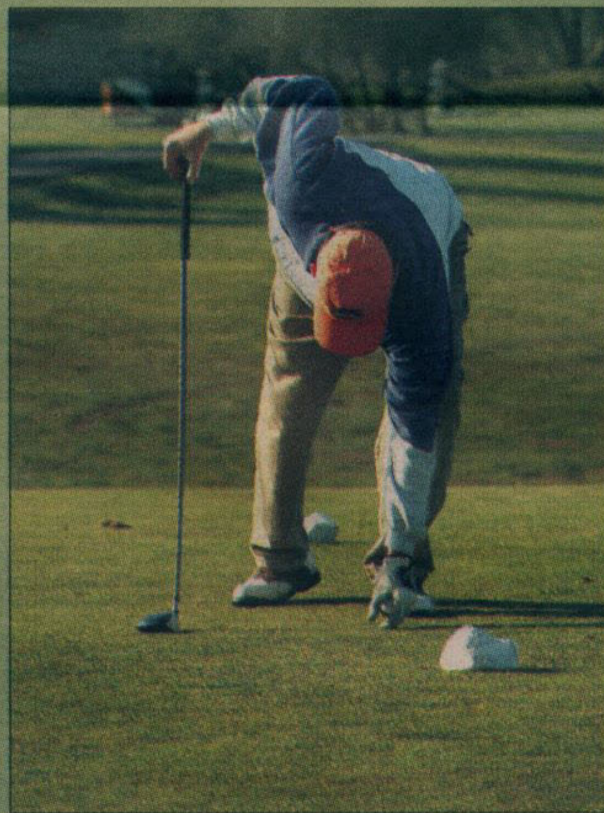


Considered a unique nine-hole executive course, Golf City located at 2115 NE Hwy. 20 in Corvallis, has one of the shortest par four holes in the world.

The length from the tee to the pin is a short 85 yards, but this includes a sharp dogleg fairway around some trees that are too high for one to consider attempting cutting the corner with a sand

wedge.

It's considered a good course to work on perfecting your short game and to experiment with new shots. If regular golf is not your game, you can test your skills on their challenging miniature golf course.



## STOCK UP AND HIT ROUND OF THE CLASS FROM THE SHOR

when playing at a public golf course, most of which will allow you to wear whatever you're most comfortable in. It is good practice to call ahead and verify the dress code policies before you arrive.

As with any new sport, don't let the complexities overwhelm you when choosing your equipment. Stick to the basics and if you have any questions most pro shop employees are very knowledgeable, as they are often golfers themselves.

If you are unable to spend the money for a set of clubs, some shops are equipped to rent a set for as long as needed, but it may be cheaper to purchase your own clubs if you play often.



## EQUIPMENT

most beginners will be unable to notice the difference from any other material. "It's like the difference between a Volvo and a Toyota Camry. Both are good cars, but one costs much less," Ostrin said when comparing beginner clubs, "Use whatever feels good and fits your budget."

As with clubs, the variety in the kinds of golf balls used can also be intimidating.

As with clubs, Ostrin says that most beginners will be unable to feel a difference when using a more expensive ball.

Most private golf courses have a strict dress code that all members and their guests are expected to follow. Usually it is a collared shirt and tailored pants, but some clubs allow shorts as well. All clubs are different. Some, like Springhill, allow well-kept jeans. This is different

# OCUS

Expanded feature on selected topics, relating to student life and local issues.

## BY JOEL MEACHAM THE COMMUTER

At six years of age Erin Stone faced a dilemma that would lead her to the game of golf.

"Mom had taught me to sew so we had something that we could do together, but I needed to have something to share with my Dad."

She continues "Dad was always spending time playing golf so I decided to go." Stone, a senior communication major that will graduate from OSU later this year, found out that she really enjoyed the game.

From age ten through high school, she spent her summers competing in junior tournaments, many of which she won. In high school Stone played on her school's varsity team all four years. She referred to finding the time and money to get out and hone her skills on the courses as one of the most challenging parts of taking up the sport.

Stone said that the combination of playing

well and being outdoors is what can really make the game enjoyable. Manzanita course on the Oregon Coast is her favorite place to play.

Corvallis resident Alan Settles found the game of golf to be a pacifier for summer boredom. "At age 12, both of my parents worked and the golf course was

the only accessible place I could get to." He continues, "So my parents bought me a membership and I played everyday."

Similar to Stone, Settles participated in and won several junior tournaments and was also on his high school varsity golf team. The highlight was his team came within one shot of going to the state tournament.

He says the most challenging thing about golf for him is putting. The most enjoyable thing about the game, he mentioned, is that it requires no physical fitness. "All you do is hit your ball, walk up to it and hit it again." He concluded, "No running required."

Settles said he really enjoyed playing at The Country Club at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio, where the



Professional Golfers Association has played its annual Memorial Day tournament.

Michael Prouty, a turf management major at OSU, started playing the game of golf at age 10, thanks to his love of anything sports-related and the fact that his annual family reunion included a nine-hole golf tournament. He also

played that same course in various junior tournaments throughout his childhood. His top finish was placing second.

He joined his first men's club in 2000 at the Vancouver Municipal Men's club in Vancouver, Wash. By this time he had perfected his game to the point that his first game ended in a first place win.

Due to his experience in working on courses he really takes pleasure in playing new courses. "I look forward to the first time I tee it up and glance over the course to see what lies ahead," said Prouty.

In addition to enjoying the layouts of new courses, he also enjoys the challenges playing a new course can bring.

"The most enjoyable thing I enjoy when playing golf is draining that 30-foot putt."

Prouty said the most challenging situation that the game delivers is being able to maintain your composure when you are not playing so well.

"If (you) get mad and lose your composure, then you can lose your focus." He concluded by saying, "If that happens you can kiss your game goodbye." Prouty says his favorite course to play is at Royal Oaks Country Club in Vancouver, Wash.

## Personal Player Profiles

# THE GAME OF GOLF

## AT THE GREENS FOR A CLASSIC SPORT HAILING ORIGINS OF SCOTLAND.

## BY ADAM SWACKHAMER THE COMMUTER

The modern incarnation of golf that is played today originated on the eastern coast of Scotland during the 15th century. While there were many other "stick and ball" games around this time, they all lacked the one thing that makes golf unique: The hole.

During most of the 15th century golf and soccer were banned. Scotland was on the edge of being invaded by England and sports were only a distraction. The ban was eventually lifted in 1502, after the signing of the treaty of Glasgow, when King James IV began to play golf himself.

The first golf club ever formed was The Gentleman Golfers of Leith. At the time, Leith was the premiere golf club in England and the site of the first international golf match between two Scots and a pair of English nobles.

When it originated, golfers used sticks or clubs and pebbles, but by 1854 golfers were using proper clubs crafted from beech or fruit trees. The balls of this time were constructed of horse skin and stuffed with feathers. Since these wooden clubs and balls had to be handcrafted, they were very expensive and reserved

golf as a sport available only to the affluent.

The Victorian Industrial Revolution brought a huge change to golf. Once metal became the material of choice for clubs and the gutta sercha balls became popular, the common man was able to enjoy golf.

Golf's transformation into a professional sport came when the Prestwick Golf Club was formed in 1851 and became the precursor to the British Open. With so few sponsored tournaments, many professionals made their living by betting on themselves when playing other pros.

The growth of golf in England was mirrored in the United States as well as India, with India hosting the first inter-

national tournament.

In 1894, golf in the United States and Mexico became much more controlled with the creation of the United States Golf Association (USGA). The USGA served to establish rules and did research into different types of grass. One year later the US Open and the US Ladies open began.

In 1900 golf became a globally popular sport with its inclusion in the Olympics. There were over 1000 golf clubs in the United States, with the first 18-hole course located in Chicago. In this same year, the Haskell one-piece rubber cored ball arrived on the golf scene, which nearly

guaranteed a longer drive.

In 1916, the Professional Golfers Association of America (PGA) was formed and by 1944 there were 22 events on the tour's schedule.

Today, golf is regulated by the USGA and Royal & Admirable (R&A). Both organizations meet every four years to discuss and enforce changes to the rules of golf. For 30 years, the two organizations split from each other after the R&A set a limit on the size and weight of a golf ball. The rift lasted until 1951 when both the USGA and R&A agreed on a common set of regulations.

That same year the USGA and R&A made amends, the Ladies PGA was born in the USA. Twenty-seven years later the United Kingdom caught up, opening the door of professional golf for people of every ethnicity and gender.



ALL PHOTOS BY SCOTT MCCLURE



## THE HISTORY OF GOLF

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# SPORTS

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

## Runners set sights on Lane after sweeping Mt. Hood

**Jacob Espinoza**  
 The Commuter

After going 3-1 in double headers against SWOCC and Mt. Hood last week, Linn-Benton has moved into a three-way tie, alongside Mt. Hood and Lane, for first place of the Southern Division with a 5-3 league record. "To be on top is awesome. Hopefully we can stay there," says sophomore Michael Mhyre.

Linn-Benton will play Lane in Eugene this Saturday. Lane is the defending Southern Division Champion.

"They have historically been a dominant team in the NWAACC," said sophomore Sky Manon. "But we can definitely play with them."

Linn-Benton proved their ability to play with them earlier this season, splitting games at home. "I think they've got two of the premier pitchers in the league in Garret Stenbridge and Matt Skundrick," said Head Coach Greg Hawk. Both Stenbridge and Skundrick were all-league players last year.

LB will play Clackamas, 3-5 in league, on the road next Tuesday, a team they defeated during a preseason tournament over spring break.

"Regardless of what happens against Lane I feel our team should sweep Clackamas," said Jesse Thorpe. "Our goal is to get three out of the four games on our road trip. But ultimately we'd like to get all four."

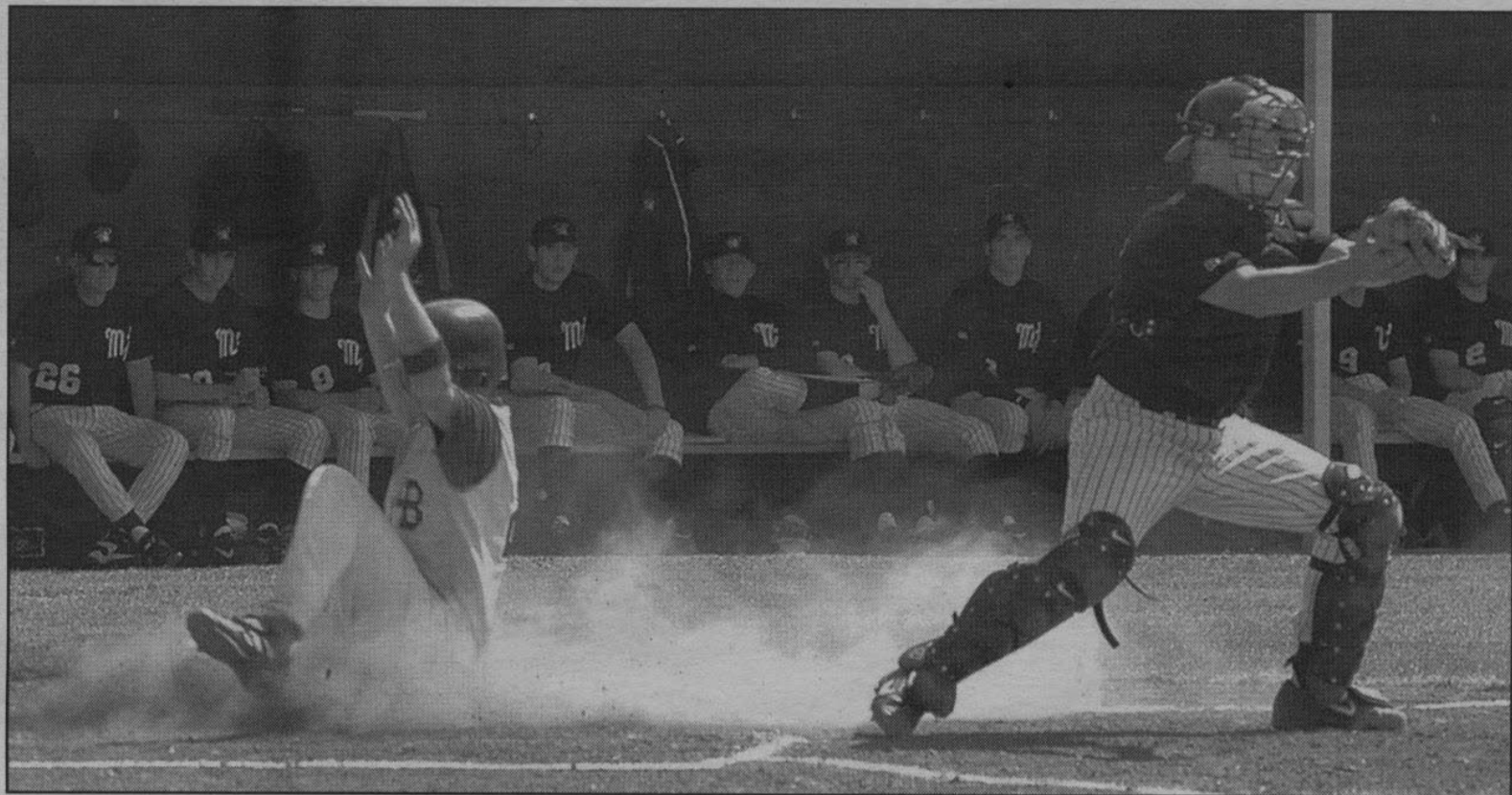


photo by Lewis Forquer

Neal Glynn slides into home plate during last Saturday's game against Mt. Hood. The Runners swept the Saints 6-4 and 8-2.

Linn-Benton started last week by splitting games against SWOCC.

"I felt like when we started the game, we got three runs in the first inning, we were going to take care of them rather rapidly," says Coach Hawk said. "But it ended up in a fifteen inning game and we were fortunate to win the ball game."

The team was fortunate to get six shutout innings from Michael Mhyre, who earned the win, and a game-winning RBI double

from Sky Manon to take the first game of the doubleheader. Manon batted 4-7 in the game.

"During the second ball game we just didn't hit in the clutch, with runners in scoring position," Hawk said. The Roadrunners lost the second game 4-3, the loss was pitcher Jeremy Robinson's first of the season.

"Jeremy didn't throw his normal style, he didn't seem like he had as a good command," said Hawk.

SWOCC was 0-4 entering the game against Linn-Benton. "They're a lower team in the league and we let them play with us," Manon said, "In the second game we only hit the ball in two innings. The rest of the time our bats were dead."

Mt. Hood showed up only 20 minutes before the game in Albany last Saturday.

"They thought they could come in and take a couple games from us" Manon said.

Mt. Hood was the Southern

Division leaders entering Saturday's games. "Our pitchers did a good job of keeping them off balance, and we were really able to capitalize by scoring some runs," Manon added.

Sophomore Sean Mascolo got the first win 6-4 and Brit Boydston, out of West Albany High School, got the second victory in dominant style with a final score of 8-2. Travis Rice, a freshman outfielder out of Crescent Valley High School, batted 7-10 for the day.

## Nineman football league begins fourth season with three new mid-valley teams

**Joel Meacham**  
 The Commuter

The sound of bones crunching, the sight of long passes, players refusing to go down, the cheers of the crowds, the screams of intense coaches, the joy of victory and the agony of defeat.

All these emotions and more came together last Saturday, as the National Nineman Football League kicked off its 2004 campaign in Eugene at Churchill High School with a multi-game jamboree that attracted fans from all over the Willamette Valley.

Interest in the NNFL is at an all time high this year due to the addition of three new teams.

Lebanon and Sweet Home's East Linn Loggers and Stayton's Santiam Stallions both took the field for their first preseason action against teams in the McKenzie Division. Both new teams showed they could be formidable opponents against last year's line up.

The third new addition to the league—Jefferson's North Valley Hunters, who were taking the field for their second preseason action—showed that they have made some improvement since

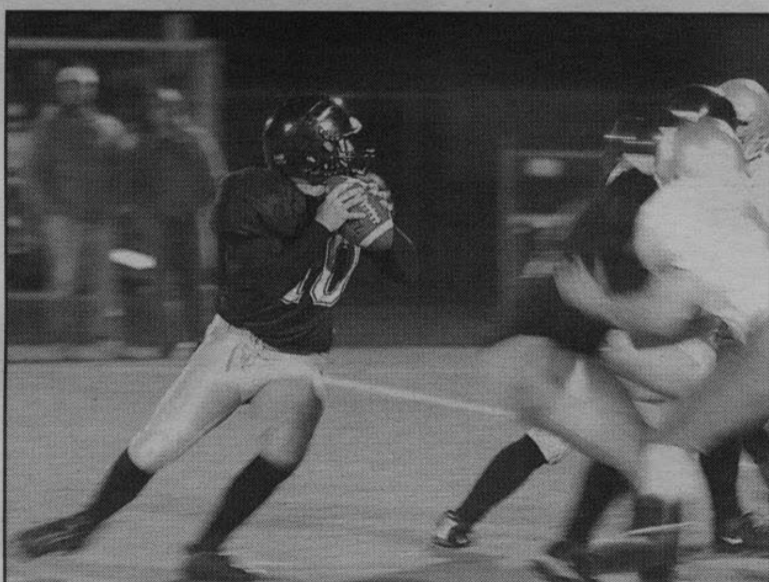


photo by Scott McClure

Monroe's Cascade Steel quarterback Chris Hubbard looks downfield, preparing to launch a long bomb vs. the Capitol Enforcers of Salem.

they were welcomed into the league March 20 by Salem's Capitol Enforcers. The Enforcers will be attempting to become the league's first team to win back to back championships. These four teams make up the Willamette Division.

The McKenzie Division is made up of four team's from the Southern part of the Valley—Veneta's Oregon Outlaws, Eugene's Knights, Springfield's Wildcats and Monroe's Cascade

Steel. Three of these teams have been a part of the league since its beginning in 2000. The Outlaws joined in 2002 and earned their first championship.

All the teams start making it count when the league begins the regular season on April 27. Fans that attend any games on the opening day will receive a free Nineman hat.

For ticket information or other information about the league go to [www.nineman.com](http://www.nineman.com).

### ROADRUNNER BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Sat Apr 17	Lane	Eugene	1 p.m.
Tue Apr 20	Clackamas	Oregon City	1 p.m.
Wed Apr 21	Linfield JVs	McMinnville	4 p.m.
Sat Apr 24	Lane	LBCC	1 p.m.
Tue Apr 27	SWOCC	Coos Bay	1 p.m.
Sat May 1	Chemeketa	Salem	1 p.m.
Tue May 4	SWOCC	LBCC	1 p.m.
Sat May 8	Mt. Hood	Gresham	1 p.m.
Tue May 11	Clackamas	LBCC	1 p.m.
Sat May 15	Clackamas	Oregon City	1 p.m.
Tue May 18	Mt. Hood	LBCC	1 p.m.

### NINEMAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE

#### Saturday, April 24

(free hat night)

Visiting Team	Home Team	Time	Location
Eugene Knights	Springfield Wildcats	2 p.m.	Mohawk HS
Cascade Steel	Oregon Outlaws	8 p.m.	Churchhill HS
Santiam Stallions	East Linn Loggers	1 p.m.	Sweet Home HS
Capitol Enforcers	North Valley Hunters	7 p.m.	Jefferson HS

#### Saturday, May 1

Visiting Team	Home Team	Time	Location
North Valley Hunters	Santiam Stallions	TBA	TBA
Springfield Wildcats	Cascade Steel	7 p.m.	Monroe HS
Oregon Outlaws	Eugene Knights	8 p.m.	Churchhill HS
East Linn Loggers	Capitol Enforcers	TBA	TBA

For more schedule information visit [www.nineman.com](http://www.nineman.com)



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# SPORTS

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

## Hawk brings country hustle to Roadrunner baseball

**Jacob Espinoza**  
 The Commuter

Born in the little town of Centerville, Iowa, Greg Hawk, Linn-Benton's baseball coach and athletic director, was brought up with small town values.

"Dad was a truck driver. Mom was a factory worker." Hawk says it like the first lines to his favorite country song. "I grew up on the truck with my dad, with a cowboy hat, boots and a lariat on, standing on Pepsi crates playing pinball machines . . . I've been all over the U.S."

His country charm has been firmly planted, but Hawk also has a touch of city hustle in him, which he has used to successfully coach baseball teams at the high school and collegiate levels. In 1980, he took a job coaching at Sweet Springs High School in Sweet Springs, Missouri.

"I was the head baseball coach and JV football coach. I taught physical education and also did the driver's education program," Hawk explained. "Our baseball team was 3-10 before I came in. The next year we were 10-3 and then we were 18-0 going into the regional finals."

Minutes into the conversation, you understand what is important to him. He knows that in 1960 his 13-year-old Babe Ruth All-Star team were the champions, just as he knows he has been married to his wife Beth for 27 years. Not only does

*"Our baseball team was 3-10 before I came in. The next year we were 10-3, and then (the following year) we were 18-0 going into the regional finals."*

▶ Greg Hawk

he know these numbers, but he naturally throws them into conversations.

"I do six to eight cement jobs every summer—sidewalks, driveways, patios," he says about his summer job as a concrete finisher. "I don't advertise, everything is by word of mouth."

He's a salesman, whether teaching a team how to protect first and third or talking about his life. Hawk doesn't try to sell his words, he lets his words sell themselves. He shares honest excitement with every detail in his stories of triumphs and close defeats. Every sports story he shares seems to put him in a real world twist of "Hoosiers."

"Centerville vs. Kansas City."

"We had three bus loads of students and parents who had drove the hour and a half to watch that contest," said Hawk. "It was such a thrill because we (only) had a few that showed up to the first ball game and we beat the arch rivals." A game Sweet Springs High hadn't won for eight years, he noted. "And there we were playing two years later with three

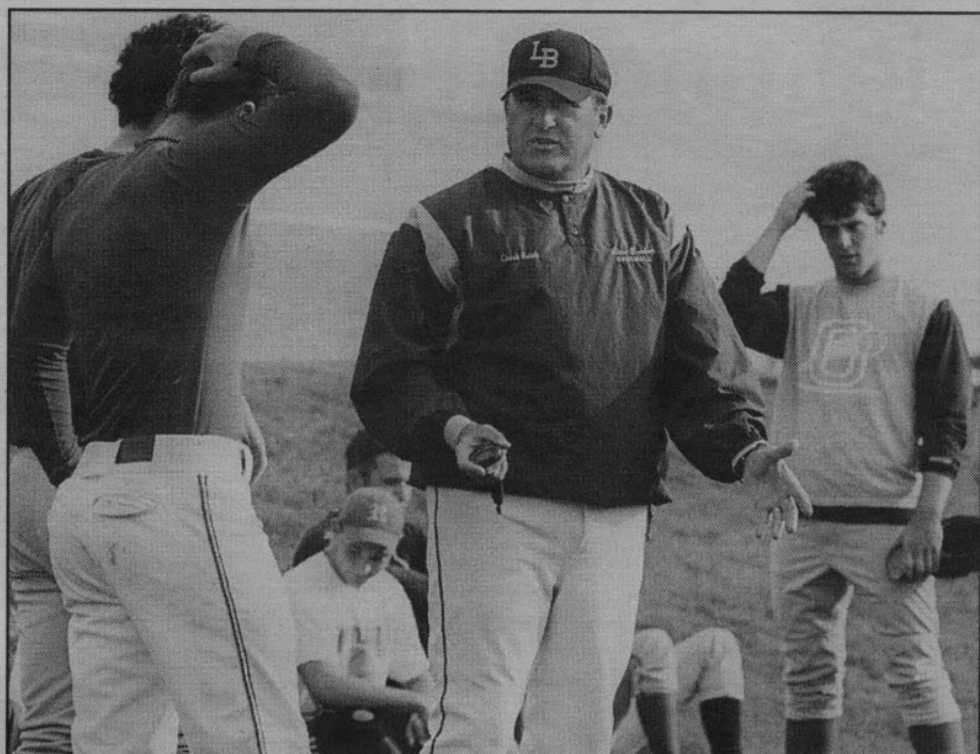


photo by Lewis Forquer  
**Coach Greg Hawk talks to his players before a recent practice. Hawk has won five Southern Division titles and two NWAACC championships since he began coaching here.**

bus loads watching."

The turn around his Sweet Spring High School team showed in those two years was remarkable itself, especially considering the baseball supplies he was given to work with—the mattress box spring he used to drag the fields, for example.

In 1983 Hawk began coaching at Linn-Benton as both the women's basketball coach and the men's baseball coach. He led the women's basketball team to two first place finishes in the Southern Region and two second place finishes in his four years as the team's coach.

Between 1986 and 1991 he won five Southern Division men's baseball titles.

His baseball teams won NWAACC Championships in both 1988 and 1991. To add even more to the impressive array of numbers, Gary Gaetti, his North West Missouri State college teammate and Golden Glove winner, won two World Series with the Minnesota Twins in the same five-year time span, winning the second in 1991.

Country legend or city hustle? Check the books.

"I'm a country boy," Hawk says.

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# NATIONAL NEWS

Current events from across  
 the United States and pertinent  
 international news

## Fighting in Fallujah ebbs as negotiators talk

**Matthew Schofield**  
 Knight Ridder Newspapers

U.S. Marines took advantage of an extended cease-fire Sunday to fortify their positions in the disputed town of Fallujah as U.S. officials waited for Iraqi Governing Council members to negotiate an end to the standoff there.

Combat was limited around the disputed town, though only in comparison to the fierce fighting of the previous week, which claimed the lives of more than a dozen U.S. Marines and perhaps as many as 600 Iraqis.

Cobra helicopters fired rockets at two buildings after they were fired on, according to a Marine spokesman at Camp Fallujah, six miles from the embattled town. Marines also claimed to have killed an unspecified number of Iraqi insurgents and to have captured 24 others.

Fighting also flared elsewhere across Iraq, including the capital, where an Apache helicopter was shot down, killing both crewmen. Mortars rained onto the grounds of Baghdad International Airport, trapping the few travelers getting into the country in the terminal for a short while.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the coalition's principal military spokesman, used words such as "sporadic" and "potshots" to describe the fighting at his daily news conference.

Kimmitt said the cities of Nasiriyah, Al Kut and Baghdad's Sadr City were under Iraqi civilian control, phrasing that meant that while they were no longer under the control of insurgents, they also were not under the control of coalition military forces.

He also suggested for the first time that U.S. commanders may be willing to reach a negotiated settlement with Shiite cleric Muqtada al Sadr, whose Mahdi Army still controls the cities of Najaf, Karbala and Kufa. Iraqi Governing Council members reportedly also are negotiating a cease-fire with Sadr's supporters.

"We don't see it as a necessary requirement that any military action has to occur in Najaf," Kimmitt said. "There are many ways for the town of Najaf to come

back under legitimate control ... that don't involve any fighting at all," Kimmitt said.

Central Command, the U.S. military organization that controls all U.S. forces in the Middle East, said 16 coalition soldiers had died in fighting since Friday, but that only two of those came Sunday.

At Fort Hood, Texas, President Bush met with 11 soldiers injured in Iraq, emerging from the 35-minute session looking grim. He said U.S. forces had a "tough week" in Iraq and that he was praying for their safety.

In Japan, the Kyodo news service reported that three Japanese civilians taken hostage by Islamic extremists in Iraq had been released unharmed.

The slowdown in fighting was a welcome respite at Fallujah, which has been the scene of intense fighting, with Marines turning to heavy weapons and air support, including AC-130 attack aircraft and 500-pound laser guided bombs, in a so-far unsuccessful effort to dislodge an unknown number of insurgent fighters.

Marines took advantage of the stand-down to reinforce their positions, a Marine statement said, and added to "the cordon encircling the city."

"Marines fought and died for those positions," Kimmitt said, noting that should fighting resume, they would be used to launch a new offensive.

The relative peace Sunday also gave Marines at Ramadi, near Fallujah, a chance to remember 16 comrades who had been killed in fighting since Tuesday.

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photo by Sylwia Kapuscinski

Iraqi boys watch as black smoke rises from burning military truck that was part of a U.S. convoy that came under attack on Monday, April 12, on a highway leading to Baghdad Airport. A total of 16 coalition soldiers have died in combat since Friday. A memorial service was held at the Marine base in Ramadi, near Fallujah, where a single helmet was draped with 16 dog tags.

Most of the dead came from Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, Fourth Regiment.

The service took place in a temporary hangar at the Marine base there. On one side of the room, a single M-16 stood, bayonet down, topped with a helmet draped with 16 dog tags. One by one, 400 Marines went up to the memorial, some kneeling.

"It is difficult to fully understand and almost impossible to experience the loss we have experienced in these days," battalion chaplain Lt. Brian Weigelt told the service.

### COMMONS

Put it on your plate!  
 April 14<sup>th</sup> - April 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Wednesday

Roast Chicken w/ Pan Gravy  
 Pork Enchiladas w/ Refried Beans  
 Pasta Bar  
 Potatoes Anna / Mexican Rice  
 Carrots and (Red) Bananas  
 Cabbage / Beef Noodle Soup

#### Thursday

NO SCHOOL

#### Friday

Chef's Choice!



#### Monday

Grilled Pork Chop w/ Sauce Robert  
 Chicken Gumbo  
 Roasted Tempeh and Vegetables  
 Black Beans and Quinoa  
 Cheese & Potato Croquettes  
 Carrots & Turnips Etupee

#### Tuesday

Reuben Sandwich w/ Coleslaw  
 Greek Lamb Stew  
 Vegetarian Thai Curry  
 Twice Baked Potato  
 Green Beans Tapa  
 Shrimp Bisque / French Onion

# WANTED

**New First-Year Students**  
 (21 and over) to participate in a focus  
 group to evaluate the LBCC website.

Free food and prizes, including  
 drawing for tuition gift certificate!

**Date:** Week of April 26-30 (exact day TBA)

**Time:** 2 hours

**Place:** LBCC Computer Lab

Call Marlene Propst in Marketing and Publications  
 at 917-4784

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**A & E Editor:** Peggy Isaacs  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4451  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## Cinema fans feed off bloody, flamboyant 'Kill Bill: Volume 1'

**Adam Peoples**  
 The Commuter

Quentin Tarantino's revenge flick is a rare-cooked, prime cut of stylized filmmaking. This healthy serving of action, substance and flair is now available in a tasty home release of "Kill Bill: Volume 1."

The movie is a trans-genre creation that mixes samurai showdowns, spaghetti Westerns, Hong Kong action, 70s exploitation and a pinch of anime for flavor. A messy description for a messy film, so bloody and violent that the extravagant "Showdown at the House of Blue Leaves" fight scene was shown devoid of color to slip under an NC-17 rating.

Uma Thurman portrays a deadly female assassin, known only as The Bride, who turned away from her life of murder and crime only to be gunned down and left for dead by her ex-boss, the titular Bill. As she embarks on her blood stained journey of revenge, The Bride tracks down the members of those responsible for her would-be demise, the Deadly Viper Assassination Squad.

Heads roll, arms are severed and blood gushes in a path of revenge. Viewers may find the relentless violence objectionable, but Tarantino's context is ample grounds for the spewing and spraying red liquid. The copious amount of gore loses some impact from its excessive use, being unrealistic and more for aesthetic purposes.

Equally messy is the film's chronology—never a one-way street with Tarantino. The chapter breakdowns serve well to provide a sense of order to the chaos, but

with flashbacks and non-sequential scenes one could get lost during an ill-timed restroom run. Rewind is a godsend for attention-challenged viewers. With "Kill Bill: Volume 2" slashing into theaters this Friday, audiences may consider a timely viewing of the first film.

Perhaps not as purely cool as "Pulp Fiction" or as thoughtful as "Jackie Brown," "Kill Bill" has a story to

back up the visual excellence. The Bride, a character jointly crafted by Thurman and Tarantino, has some gut wrenching scenes and well-written dialogue that turn audiences in favor of her vengeful goal.

Thurman is excellent at invoking sympathy and fear. Lucy Liu, Vivica A. Fox and Sonny Chiba constitute a supporting cast that shows Tarantino's keen taste for talent. Liu's role as a Chinese-Japanese American queen of the Yakuza is precluded by animated exposition entitled "The Origin of O-Ren Ishii." Tarantino continually uses these manga camera angles throughout the live-action scenes.

The film pays homage to works the writer/director personally enjoys and for this consistent trait some critics have accused Tarantino of lifting too heavily and

directly from his influences. While Tarantino makes no pretensions of the origins of his references, he manages to create his own blend of these elements that has itself inspired imitation.

"Kill Bill: Volume 1" is chock-full of bloody action. It's a mess of body parts, sword fights and visual style on a plate only Tarantino could cook up. When the credits roll, audiences will be dying for dessert as "Volume 2" nears release.

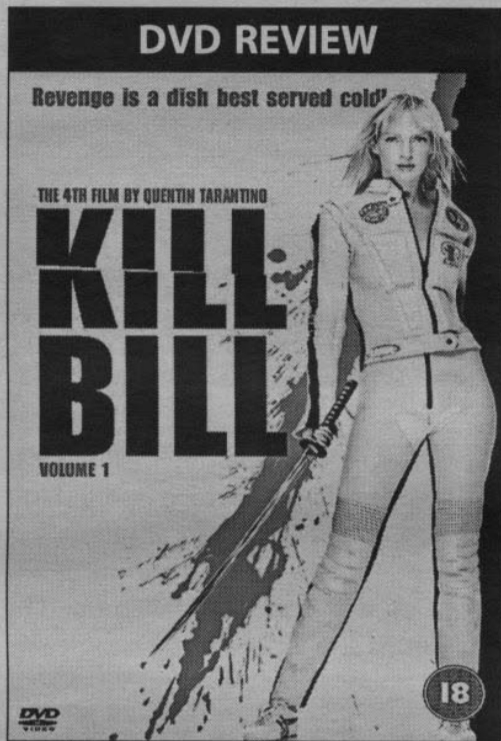


photo courtesy of Library of Congress

"Cotton Worker 1937" by Dorothea Lange is one of 16 famous photographers included in an exhibit at the Corvallis Arts Center this month.

## Artists show photos inspired by masters

from The Corvallis Arts Center

Sixteen local photographers are showing the work of master photographers who have provided inspiration to them, along with an example of their own work, in an exhibit titled "Photographers Inspired: Sharing a Legacy" at the Corvallis Arts Center this month.

Participating photographers include LBCC photo instructor Rich Bergeman, retired LBCC administrator Ann Smart, and former photo instructor Shelley Curtis. Among the famous artists whose work is on display are legendary landscape photographers Ansel Adams, Timothy O'Sullivan, Edward Weston and Elliott Porter, as well as such icons in the documentary field as Walker Evans, W. Eugene Smith and Dorothea Lange. Other featured artists include Huntington Witherill, Jay Dusard, Minor White, Moholy Nagy, Morley Baer and Elliot Erwit.

In a separate exhibit in the center's Corrine Woodman Gallery this month are photographs by Bergeman and fellow LBCC instructor Kurt Norlin. Bergeman is showing recent platinum prints, while Norlin is showing pigment inkjet prints of toy camera photographs.

## 'Final Fantasy XI' proves addicting despite technical flaws

**Adam Peoples**  
 The Commuter

The latest installment in the "Final Fantasy" series awaits gamers on store shelves in a mysteriously oversized white box. The contents inside are sure to bring forth both cheers and jeers from fans clamoring for more of the beloved series, but taken aback by the online-exclusive title.

"Final Fantasy XI" is a massively multiplayer online role-playing game for the PlayStation 2. You'll need the Network Adapter and some type of Internet service provider to play. Both dial-up and broadband options are supported.

This requirement alone has burned some fans that have followed the series since its origins on the 8-bit Nintendo Entertainment System. Throw on a monthly fee of nearly \$13 and you lose a few more sales.

Now the big one: A 40-gigabyte hard disk drive bundled with the "FFXI" software for \$100. Gamers who paid \$180 for a new PlayStation 2 are then required to make another triple-digit purchase in order to play one game.

What remains are a diminished user base and disgruntled casual gamers. So is "FFXI" worth it? My initial answer is a mixed bag of love and hate for a beautiful, immersive online game that suffers from a few hang-ups, tarnishing what would have been a perfect gaming experience.

The reality of the HDD is not as overwhelming as the ominous white packaging may lead you to believe. Installation is

a breeze and requires only a small coin to unscrew the Network Adapter, allowing access to the expansion bay that houses the HDD within the PS2's shell.

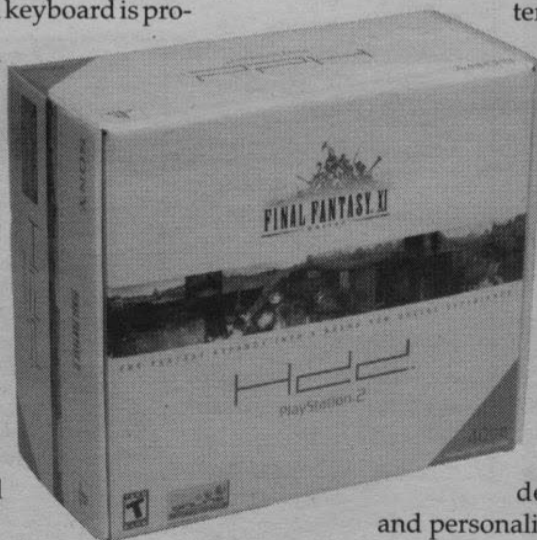
What follows is 45 minutes to an hour of onscreen registration and updating of files. An on-screen keyboard is provided, but the setup process also supports USB keyboards. After the installation and registration process is complete, the HDD is accessible from the browser and "FFXI" is launched off of the disk drive, not a DVD-disc like a traditional game.

Players create their character from a handful of races and genders and can further customize their physical appearance. While not as in-depth as some games in terms of options for unique creations, the game's visible equipment dynamically affects your appearance during gameplay.

The final step of this process brings up the first real pitfall in "FFXI's" design. The servers for the online game are independent of each other and once a player is assigned a server they cannot change that setting until starting a new character. Gamers looking to play alongside friends from real life or other online games have

to go through a painful ordeal just to end up on the same server.

A brief introduction to your new homeland leads to the first steps in a huge, sprawling world that thrives with or without you. Non-player characters set you on your way to becoming an adventurer in the class of your choice.



"FFXI's" job system is more like "FF Tactics" approach in its freedom of choice and customization. Players can be the character they want, not restricted to pre-determined heroes and personality profiles.

A striking difference from past "FF" games is brought to light when roaming the towns. The towns are loaded from the HDD in large segments and players can freely enter buildings and offices, without waiting through load times for each room, as had been the standard in past titles. The cities are crawling with computer-controlled characters and other human players making their mark on the online world of Vana'diel.

Talking to computer characters will bring about story elements and information on the world you live in. The first logical step is to head out of the city and take on some creatures awaiting your

blade, staff or other weapon of choice.

Now we come to another key departure from traditional "FF" titles. Combat had consisted of a single player assigning commands to multiple characters within a party in turn-based battles. "FFXI" relies on the idea that each party member is a player and combat is based on character statistics such as attack power, accuracy and speed.

Human interaction is a centerpiece for the gameplay. You can form parties with up to five other adventurers, taking on more powerful enemies that would ravage any single member individually.

Early on these party arrangements can be discouraging, though. When a team defeats enemies, the experience is split amongst the team. However, the distribution is not even and higher ranking members receive more experience points than up-start characters. Progression is uneven and it can be difficult to catch up with friends.

These issues attract excessive negative attention perhaps only because of the otherwise excellent game "FFXI" comprises. A feeling of awe arises during gameplay that outweighs the shortcomings and inconvenient design aspects.

**Final Word:** "FFXI" is not for everyone. It takes not only time and dedication, but also perseverance in the face of some early gameplay flaws to become a rewarding experience. "FFXI" baits players with its grandiose design and appealing ambition. Once hooked, be prepared to take part in an addictive, enchanted and unique console gaming world.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

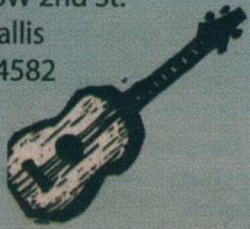
Information about plays, movies,  
 books, artwork, and other  
 entertaining or artistic endeavors

## CALENDAR

### AFTER DARK

#### AJ's

137 SW 2nd St.  
 Corvallis  
 758-4582



**April 15, 16, 17**  
**Battle of the Bands**  
**Knockout John**  
**Yeltsen**  
**Adequits**  
 Assorted music  
 9:30 p.m.  
 \$3

#### Boccherini's

208 1st Ave. SW  
 Albany  
 926-6703

**April 16**  
**Brad and Ethan**  
 Indie rock  
 8 p.m.  
 \$3

#### Crescent Valley High School Auditorium

4444 NW Highland Dr.  
 Corvallis  
 753-9224

**April 12**  
**John McCutcheon**  
 Folk  
 2:09 p.m.  
 \$13 members  
 \$15 non-members  
 Add \$1 at the door

#### Dynamic Life Center

299 Cottage Street  
 Salem  
 327-1792

**April 16**  
**Chris Ray and Al**  
**C. Special guest-**  
**Dual Sensation of**  
**Dynamix**  
 Rhythm & Blues  
 6:30 p.m.  
 \$4

#### Fox & Firkin

202 SW 1st. St.  
 Corvallis  
 753-8533

**April 16**  
**Upright Dub Orchestra**  
 Reggae  
 10 p.m.  
 \$5



photo by Peggy Isaacs

#### Punks in Kilts

Matt MacNasty plays bagpipes for The Real McKenzies Monday night at the Platinum club in downtown Corvallis. Extra security was hired to control the mosh pit for this Scottish-Celtic punk rock mayhem band. The haggis-fueled hearty bunch always performs in kilts and is known as the rowdiest punk show this side of Glasgow, Scotland.



#### Juror's Choice

This oil painting by April Larivee was awarded best of show by juror Cynthia Spencer at the annual juried Student Art Exhibit, which opened this week in the AHSS Gallery. The show contains more than 60 artworks by students, including ceramic sculptures, paintings, drawings and photographs. A reception and award ceremony will be held Wednesday, April 21 at noon when about \$800 donated by the LBCC Foundation will be awarded in the form of juror's choice and faculty choice prizes.

## Bluegrass band dishes out foot-stompin' good ol' time

Peggy Isaacs  
 The Commuter

If you're ready for some good old-fashioned bluegrass music like Bill Monroe or Tex Logan, come to Intaba's on Saturday, April 17, 8-10 p.m., for the excellent sounds of the Roundhouse band.

Roundhouse combines a warm mix of progressive bluegrass with traditional folk music to give a feeling of good times. With exceptional vocals that harmonize perfectly, Roundhouse belts out some highly acclaimed a capella songs.

The group mixes bluegrass sounds with acoustic rock and original compositions for an evening of foot-stomping fun.

Venues include spots at the Oregon State Fair, Seattle's Folklife Festival, the Portland Rose Festival and the Christmas concerts at the state capitol building in Salem.

Members include Ron Leavitt (mandolin and lead baritone vocals), Kim Jones (electric bass guitar and lead tenor vocals), Doug Dick (banjo, guitar and lead tenor), and Rick Campbell (fiddle, violin and vocals).

Originally playing rock 'n' roll, Leavitt became a fan of bluegrass after being inspired by Bill Monroe (who started "blue grass" around 1938), switched in 1978. Leavitt met Jones at the Oregon Bluegrass Association's annual gospel show in 1993, while Jones was singing with her award-winning band, Higher Ground and married in 1994.

At Guthrie Park in Dallas, Ore., Dick met Leavitt at a local jam session. Leavitt and Jones together recruited Dick, who in 1996 placed second in the Oregon State Banjo Picking Championship. Dick started playing the banjo in the 70s after seeing the movie "Deliverance."

Rick Campbell, the fourth member of this team who joined in 2002, was raised in a musical fam-

ily. Campbell's violin heroes are Tex Logan (who was in Bill Monroe's band), Albert Einstein and Thomas Jefferson, although his fiddle playing was heavily influenced by his musical explorations as a backup guitarist for Tex Logan.

The "New Circle of Life" CD includes Ron Stanley (Dobro "resophonic" guitar) with Leavitt, Jones and Dick.

The CD starts off with "Muddy Waters," which tells a tale of a man who loses his house to the flooding river and decides it is time to move on and not stay to start over. The tune starts out: "Mary take the baby, rivers rising, muddy waters taking back the land. Old frame house can't take much more beating, ain't no use to try to make a stand." The tune leaves you peaceful and mel-

low. A root-tootin' good time melody entitled "Let Me Rest" could move one to get up off their feet and dance and by the end singing "Let me rest at the end of my journey-heaven is my home and my goal."

With a stimulating, rapid, foot-stomper, "Feast Here Tonight" lets your "weary bones"

rest at the "little farmer's shed" with the "moon shining bright."

If fiddling is your thing, then "Anybody Else's Heart" will surely get your feet stirring.

"Dream" (by the Everly Brothers), sung a capella, has some of the best accompanying baritone and tenor ever put together.

Roundhouse is available for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, corporate parties, church socials, picnics, festivals and private parties. If you miss them at Intaba's, their next performance is on May 22 and 23, at the Hoffman's Dairy Garden First Annual Bluegrass Festival in Canby, Or.

For more information, visit [www.roundhouseband.com](http://www.roundhouseband.com).

Check out Roundhouse at Intaba's this Saturday, April 17, 1115 SE 3rd St. in Corvallis.



photo courtesy of Roundhouse