

READERS RESPOND

Recent Commuter articles on drugs, sex and politics draw both praise and fire from readers **▶ Pg. 2-3**

COFFEE, TEA & THEE

Cafés brew up specialty drinks in a hometown atmosphere **▶ Pg. 6-7**



The Commuter

a weekly student publication

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter
Volume 35 No. 22

New student ID numbers improve security

Peggy Isaacs
The Commuter

"Students and staff want more security," said Bruce Clemetsen, director of enrollment management, and the college has accommodated them by no longer using social security numbers as student ID numbers.

With identity theft on the rise nationally, LBCC has been talking for a number of years on how to accommodate the need for more security. One way is to make the student and staff identification numbers different from their social security number.

To do so, each student is being issued a new identification number, "an 'x' number" said Clemetsen.

"The (student ID) cards will look the same as they do now, except the new number will be encrypted in

the bar code, making it easier to use on campus."

Each new number will be randomly computer generated as they are entered into the computer system at school. The school will still need to use the social security number to process financial aid and the business office will still use the number to report to the state and federal levels.

"We need accurate records. Students still need their social security number for tax purposes. By law we have to produce one if money goes towards tuition,"

"The new number will be encrypted in the bar code, making it easier to use on campus."

▶ Bruce Clemetsen

remarked Clemetsen.

"Now, if records are printed up for any reason, and that record has the social security number on it, the record gets shredded when it is finished with. After the new number goes into effect, only that 'x' number will appear, not the social security number," explained Clemetsen.

On Monday, May 3, the systems rolled over and started using the new "x" numbers. Students can log onto the SIS using their social security number and find out their new "x" number.

"So now when any counter asks for your identification, you can use the 'x' number" said Clemetsen.

The library is the only place one may encounter a problem. Their system is not connected to the school so

▶ Turn to "ID" on Pg. 4

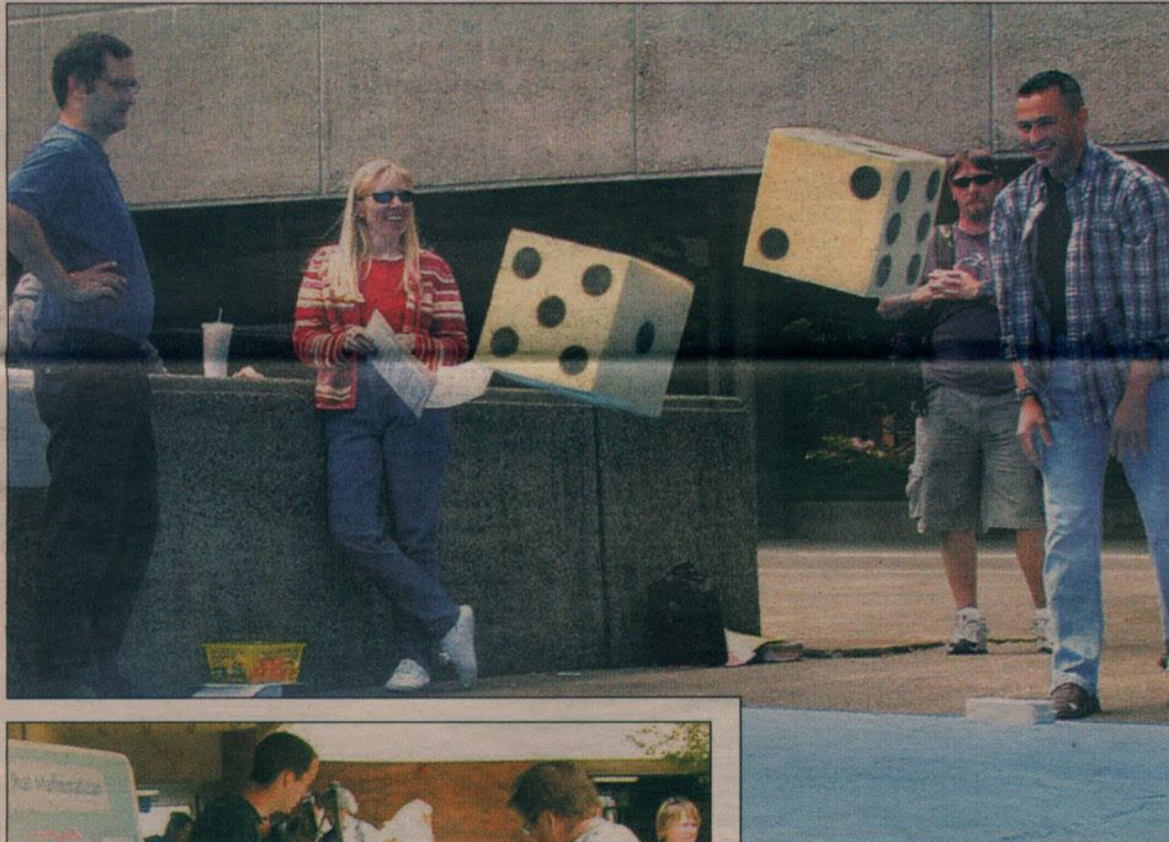


photo by Bonnie Quinones

Austin Magallan rolls giant dice in the Courtyard as part of Math Awareness Week activities. In this game, students roll dice three times a day until Friday when the top three students will be awarded prizes. At left, students take part in one of several math puzzles.

Instructors use games, puzzles to prove math can be fun, not painful

Adam Peoples
The Commuter

Math can be fun. This notion is behind the 19th annual Math Awareness Week at LBCC.

Events demonstrating mathematics prevalence in everyday life will be on exhibit Monday through Friday in the courtyard as part of this year's celebration.

Math Department instructor Jeff Crabill said he hopes that with this year's festivities students will "see a new relation to math."

The activities will take place from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and can be found near the Math and Science building.

Events include daily games and puzzles. "There will be a dice rolling game that has to do with probability," remarked Crabill. Throughout the week there will

be a tessellation contest, which deals with pattern repetition.

Crabill described estimation games where people would guess the weight or capacity of an item, example, a jar filled with jelly beans.

A slide-rule competition is scheduled for during the five-day Math Awareness event. The predecessor to the calculator will be used as a precise instrument of mathematical problem solving.

For the more physically inclined students, a Frisbee-golf course is available. Estimation has never been this fun.

Food will be available including hot dogs, chips, ice cream, soda and root beer floats according to Crabill. "This is a fun menu that should put you in the mood to play some math games," joked Crabill.

Faculty and staff of the Math

▶ Turn to "Math" on Pg. 4

TUITION FORUMS

Over the next two weeks LBCC administrators will be holding open forums to solicit student opinion and answer questions regarding a projected increase in tuition next year. Officials have predicted they need a \$5 increase in tuition and another \$1 in the technology fee to balance the budget. Forums will be in the Multicultural Center on the following dates:

May 5	Noon - 1
May 12	11 a.m. - Noon
May 12	1 - 2 p.m.

Fiesta celebrates Latino culture

Jacob Espinoza
The Commuter

This Friday, May 7, The Student Life and Leadership will host its second annual Fiesta.

Starting at 6 p.m. in the Commons, the Fiesta will conclude at 9 p.m. Entrance is free of charge and enchiladas and chips will be provided for the first 200 guests.

"We want to welcome Latino and Latina com-

munity members," said Yu Ping Hung, organizer of the Fiesta.

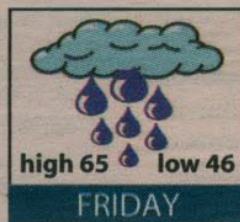
"Other cultures will come too and learn more about the Latino culture."

There will also be entertainment throughout the evening.

St. Mary's Mexican Dancers, Baila Con Mexico, and Fiesta Mexicana 4-H will all perform cultural dances throughout the evening. A piñata will be provided for children to play with.

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM



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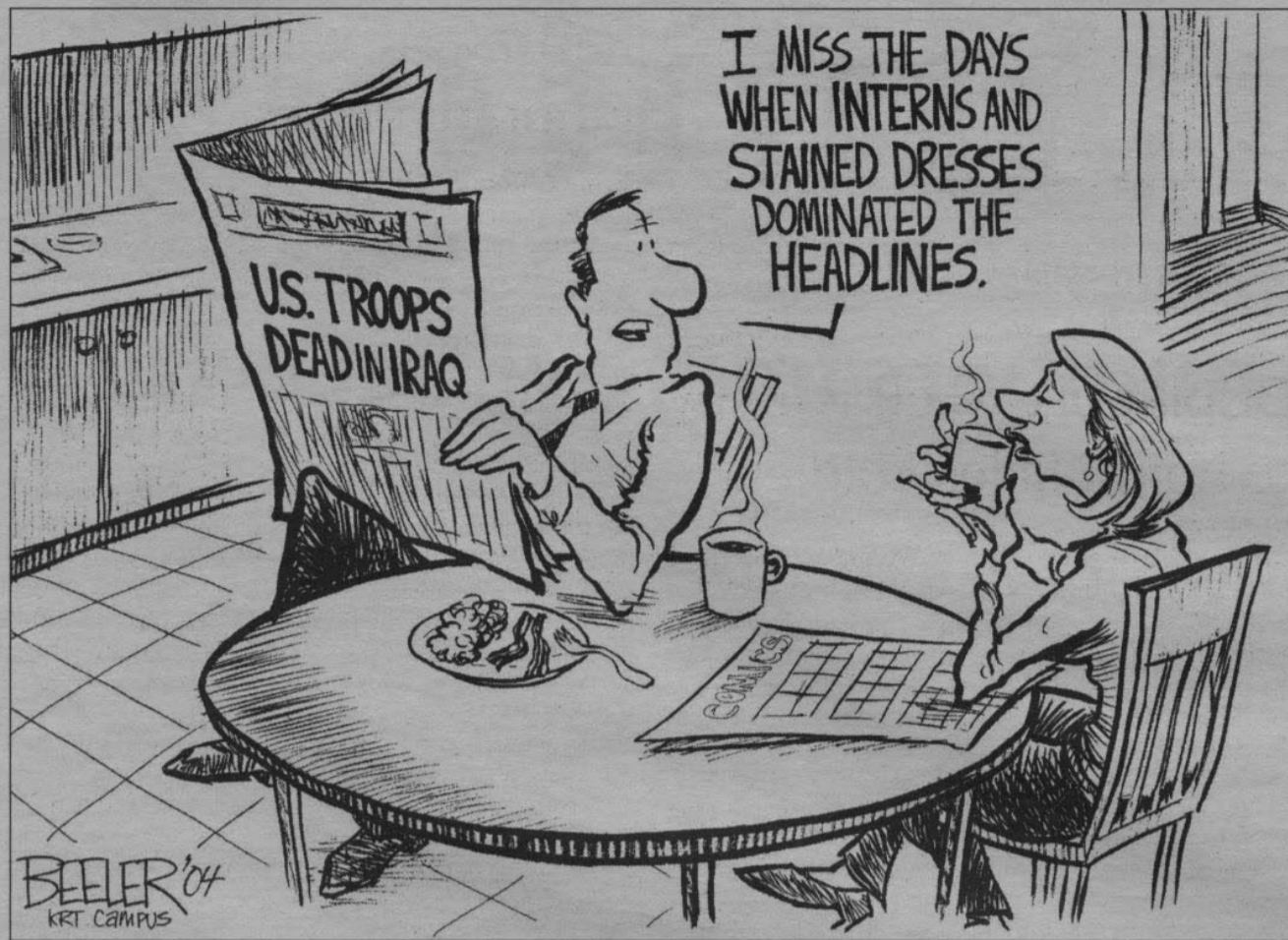
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Commuter

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OPINION

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



Florida education drops below par

Laurent L.N. Bonczijk
 The Commuter

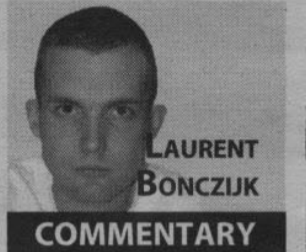
Florida, the state already known as the place old people go to die and as the site of the infamous 2000 election, can now add a lowering of its educational standards to its "worst of" list.

The state's senate passed Bill 30A, dubiously called The Quality Education Act, allowing high school students to graduate with 18 credits instead of 24, in other words 11th graders may now graduate with a high school diploma.

The intended purpose of the bill is to allow brighter, more mature high school students to get into college earlier instead of wasting a year.

It is all well and good for those students, but the bill also allows students to follow a "three year career preparatory program," which, among other things, does not require them to take U.S. History, or U.S. Government. Considering the already low involvement of the average American in politics and the fact that it is a requirement for foreigners applying for citizenship to demonstrate knowledge in both subjects, it seems out of place for the Florida government to not require it of some of its high school graduates. That program is designed for students that do not intend on going to college.

The truth is that Florida legislators are not so concerned with the quality of education students receive as with the fact that by cutting six credits from the curriculum they move the students through high school quicker, allowing for savings in the education budget.



LAURENT BONCZIK
COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meth dealers and cooks need harsh punishment

To the Editor:

I would like to thank you for your article on the use of meth. You have hit the nail on the head. Meth is the scourge of the new millennium as far as I'm concerned.

I am speaking from my own experience. I have been clean of meth for over 12 years now, but I remember how I was when I was using. There were times I would get so high that I would start seeing things that weren't there, and I would talk to myself, and at times would be very violent.

People I know that still do meth are in denial about the effects that this poison does to them, as I was at one time. The effect that meth has on your health can kill you. I myself contracted Hepatitis C and know a lot of others that have the same.

I think about how meth affected my family and it makes me very sad. I often think about the things I missed out on because I was so screwed up that I could not function around people. Sometimes I was embarrassed by my actions when I was using. I made my daughters ashamed of me on many occasions.

What I am trying to say in my rambling is that meth should be dealt with in a very harsh way, and people should be educated, especially in high schools, to try to keep kids off this crap. Dealers and cooks should get very long sentences, and in my opinion, some should get the death penalty.

Danny Morgan

Illustrations of meth use could cause 'trigger' effect

To the Editor:

I appreciate the facts in The Commuter on Wednesday, April 21, 2004, pages 6 and 7, about battling meth. However, I do have some opinions I would like to share with you, being an addict myself. I would also like to share some experience with you. I would also like to bring to your attention some reactions that I personally had and that some other people I know had by seeing this article in the paper.

My opinions are that the pictures in the paper are little realistic. Those of us who are addicts would pick up the paper and see the pictures and we would have what we call a trigger. I understand that those pictures do support the facts in the paper. Also, it is my opinion that some of what is in this section of the paper is misleading. I think using the expression of a thousand cups of coffee is an understatement.

I have been nine months clean off of meth today, so

I am still trying to recover from the crazy meth world. It is still fresh in my mind. I have tried very hard to get as far as I have today with living with the real world. I think that exposing the dangers of meth more often and the punishments for possessions of the drug and related crimes, may make at least the younger generation think twice before experimenting.

Kelley S. Steelman

Having friends on meth is a troubling situation

To the Editor:

Thank you for pointing out the problem that our community is having with meth. I found out the other day that North Albany has a high rate of meth in the area so now police are stopping a lot of people just to see if they are on it. Is that true? I have two friends that have done it or even still do it and I can totally tell because their face is sunken in, they're skinny, and they never sleep. What do you think I could tell my friends for them to stop doing meth?

I do think meth needs to stop so people aren't in danger and to also keep others out of danger of meth labs. So if we could get all the information on how it affects users and other people out, then maybe people will take it more serious. Thank you again for your concern.

Whitney Thayer

Young people need to be educated about drug use

To the Editor:

I must thank you for doing the article in the paper about methamphetamines. I think what you did was good for young people to see so they can read what methamphetamines do to certain people. I also think that it was great putting the commentary next to the story. This way people can read a true story about someone that has seen what happens, and almost gave in to it, even though she was scared of her own mother.

For young people like me, it is good to read so I know what's out there and know what to watch for. I don't want my friends falling into the drug. I also hope you do more articles like this in the future. This way young people like myself can see what kind of dangerous drugs that are out there and maybe we can prevent this from happening to our friends.

I must thank you once again for the article. I hope you do more of them like this. Thank you for warning me about this drug so I can let me friends know how not to fall in this path that might mess up their life forever.

Christian Smith

The 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.

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OPINION

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

Availability of meth scares community members

To the Editor:

It's nice to have someone so blunt and to point out the fact meth is a problem and it needs to come to an end. I have a couple friends who do meth and I don't know what to do. It freaks me out!

Will you write more on what it does to you and how it affects your future? I think that it would be excellent information and a lot of others could benefit from it. I can even benefit from it. I've learned that meth labs can be small enough to fit into a backpack. That's scary! The house that's been exposed to it is unfit to live in and the cleaning process can cost thousands of dollars.

It being the new marijuana, I agree with that, and it's frightening to know that we have children out there that have easy access to it. Just knowing that it's so close—North Albany cops have to stop just about every car to see if they're on meth. That's really bad. I can't believe that it would be that bad. What can the community do to stop this outrage. It has gone too far. It's ridiculous. My parents even know how to get it!

Jennifer Coffman

To be honest, I don't really like Senator Kerry. In fact, I'm going to have trouble voting for him in November. But I think it's laughable when someone wants to make an issue out of Kerry "flip-flopping" on issues when nearly every major issue in the last three years has included at least one Bush flip.

It would be nice if both candidates' records were analyzed the same way. My information came from mainstream news sources such as cnn.com; it just took a little searching.

Dennis Dugan

Display of caskets is a way to honor fallen soldiers

To the Editor:

I am a 42-year-old U.S. Air Force Veteran. I served our country for almost 10 years as a combat engineer. Yes, it is difficult to watch the news and see what is happening in Iraq. I don't recall any names of our fallen comrades given to the caskets that were viewed. If I am wrong on this I stand to be corrected. This leads me to say that the pictures are a way for us to honor these brave men and women.

Donald Waldman-Stoll

Pentagon wants public ignorant of war realities

To the Editor:

The Pentagon's policy to deny visual information about the Iraq war has nothing to do with sensitivity to bereaved families. It is an obvious attempt to shelter public knowledge of the realities of war.

War designers learned from Vietnam that photographs are powerful means of influencing public opinion. Why? Because a picture is worth a thousand words.

The Pentagon wants to keep the public ignorant, despite the fact that a picture is merely information and not political propaganda. Mr. Swackhamer's assertion that 'only family members of the deceased have the right to give permission to the photographer' is ostrich mentality. After all, the public will pay the bill for this bloodshed, shouldn't they know where it all leads? It is disrespectful to the fallen to hold their sacrifice in secrecy.

They supposedly fought to protect our rights, and free press is supposedly one of those rights.

Ajai Tripathi

Photos of dead troops can have varying purposes

To the Editor:

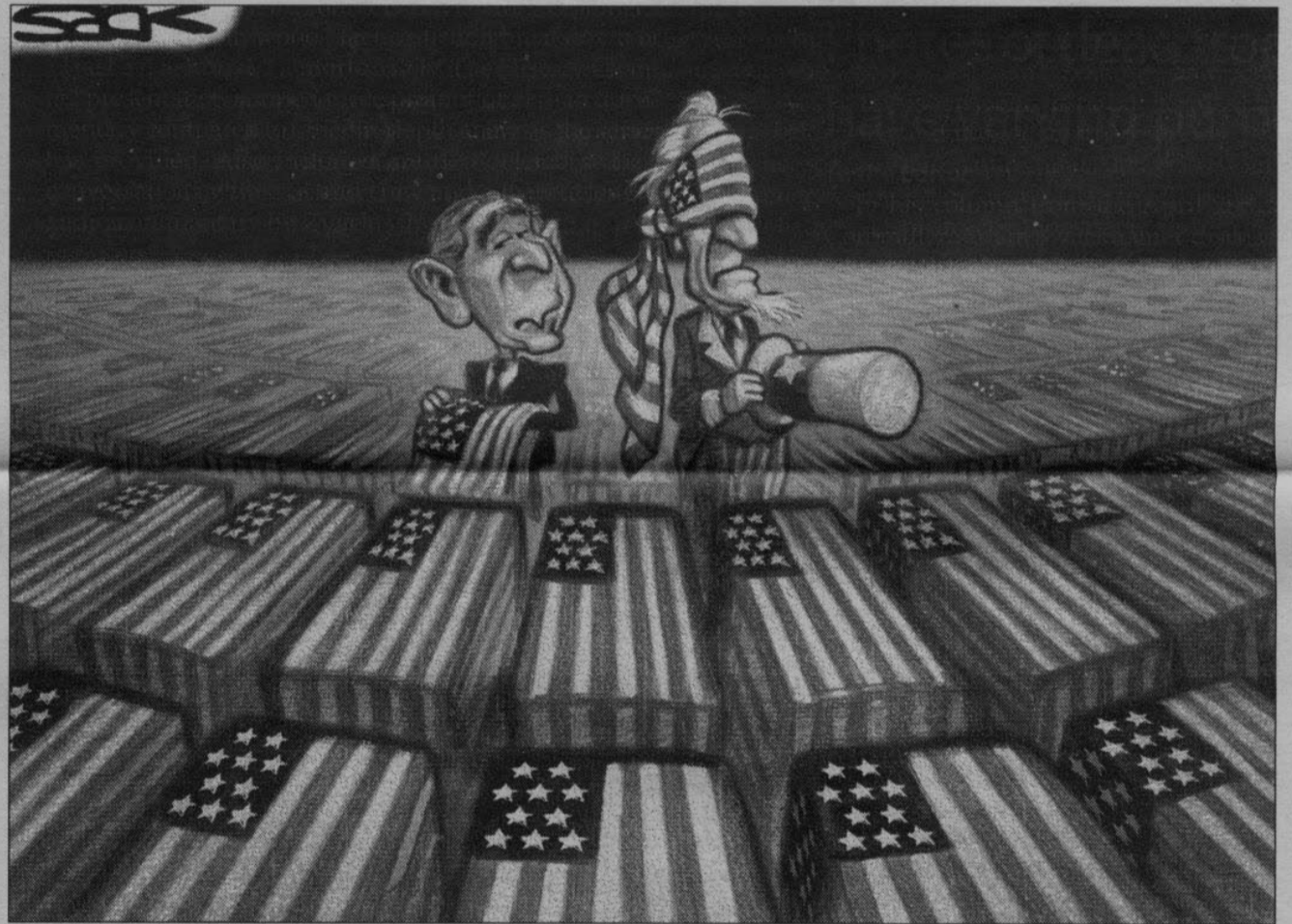
In his column from the April 28th edition of The Commuter, Adam Swackhamer discusses why he was "deeply troubled" by the media's decision to run photographs of military coffins. I would like to comment, as I see some of these issues in a different light.

Mr. Swackhamer mentions that some groups might use these images to promote an anti-war message. This is true. It is also possible that some might use pictures of the remains of soldiers killed in the line of duty, draped in the American flag, to argue for continuing the mission they died for. Still others may view the photographs solely as a reality of the consequences of armed conflict. The message one takes away from these images depends to some degree on the caption and, most importantly, one's own ideology.

Mr. Swackhamer views the publication of these photographs as making "light" of the soldiers' deaths. I disagree. I feel that it brings a certain seriousness and gravity to the situation in Iraq that we have not yet seen. If people are moved to tears by the lists of the dead, as Mr. Swackhamer points out, I imagine they feel deeper grief when a visual image is tied to those names.

More important than whether any one of us agrees or disagrees with the media's decision to run these photographs is the fundamental right in a functioning democracy of the press to make that choice.

Robb Vancil



Birth control does not take place of education

To the Editor:

In response to Laurent Bonczijk's recent column on abstinence pledges, he talks about the need for solutions, but the only solution he will consider is a panacea. Wake up, Laurent. There are no panaceas. Abortion certainly isn't. Abortion rights is the biggest swindle that has ever been perpetrated on women. "Have sex with me dear. If you get pregnant you can always get an abortion. It's your right." That's a sweet deal for men.

Abortion should be a viable option, but casting it as a right, up there with "pursuit of happiness," gives it a status it doesn't deserve. One female columnist wrote: "A woman chooses an abortion for the same reason that an animal, caught in a trap, chooses to gnaw its leg off." Abortion is not a fun thing.

Abortion rights is just one example of the male oriented approach to sex education, which puts the entire burden of sexual responsibility on the girl. The man is portrayed as this testosterone-driven hunk with urges that he will find some way to satisfy, so let's teach her about condoms and birth control pills. But neither of these are panaceas. Sometimes they don't work. This isn't real sex education, this is just giving men permission to rape. It's no wonder some feminists hate men.

Let's all stop believing in panaceas. Let's all support realistic and mutually responsible solutions. Abstinence looks pretty good to me.

Roy Severin

Bush flip-flopping makes Sen. Kerry better choice

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Adam Swackhamer's column of April 21st. In it, Swackhamer details some of Senator Kerry's so-called "flip-flops" on issues. Swackhamer claims that this makes Kerry less qualified for office. I say, let us look and see if Bush has ever flipped on an issue.

It appears Bush has flipped on all of the following

- He first opposed the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, but now supports it.
- He opposed the creation of the 9/11 Commission, but now claims to support it (despite hampering its efforts every step of the way).
- As a candidate, Bush claimed to oppose "nation building;" we're now attempting to do just that in Iraq.
- Bush first claims that we won't negotiate with North Korea, then sends Colin Powell to do just that.
- As a candidate, Bush was against deficits, until he created one of the biggest in history. Now he says they are necessary.
- After Sept. 11, Bush claimed that finding bin Laden was a top priority. By the summer of 2003, he was quoted as saying he "didn't care" where he was.
- Bush claims to be a "free trader," but places tariffs on steel for the benefit of U.S. workers.

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 and should be limited to 250 words.

Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

Read the Commuter

...because that dude on the bus wants to talk about his drywall project...

again.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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American Business Women's Chintimini Scholarship - due date May 28, 2004. \$1,000 award to women who: are US citizens, residents of Linn or Benton counties, GPA of 3.0 or better, and in a degree seeking major. Contact Elise Schloeder @ 758-6241 for more info. Materials are available in the kiosk next to Financial Aid, Takena Hall.

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Personals:

Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week. Advertising content is limited to no more than 50 words per ad.

Math: Hume designs winning T-shirt

▲ From Pg. 1

Department will be cooking and serving all the food. "It gives students an opportunity to see us outside of the classroom," said Crabill.

A T-shirt design contest was held beginning in January of this year in which students

were asked to create a commemorative shirt for the event. The winning design was that of Peter Hume. The department collectively chose a design they found most appealing, but also represented the idea of "math and art," the theme for this year's Math Awareness Week.

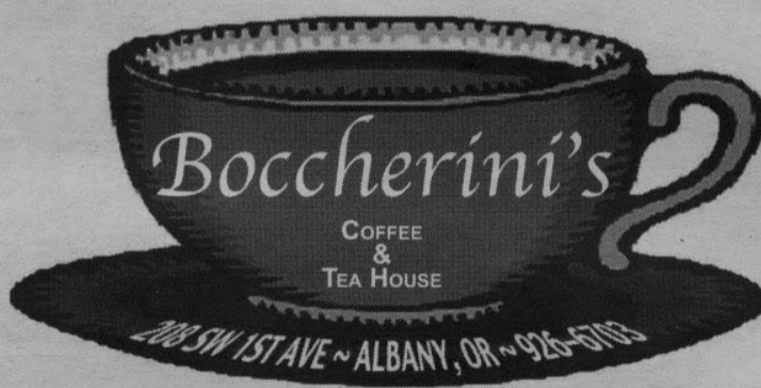
With the week underway, students can find a recreational look at math. In a subject known for heavy textbooks, sophisticated equations and complicated calculators, students may discover the hard work associated with math can give way to fun and games.



photo by Mary Stone

Curl up with a good cappuccino

Robin Evans and Amy Locke check out the new espresso machine in the Benton Center's new Bookstore area. They serve up coffee and pastries, as well as selling textbooks and supplies from the new space, which looks out over the yet-to-open study area. Renovations continue on parts of the facility, including the entry and study areas, but most of the new center is open and in use.



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ID: New cards will replace old numbers with random digits

▲ From Pg. 1

they are working as fast as they can to get updated, and students are asked to have patience as this process proceeds.

One benefit from the change over is that all students and staff that have the old identification card with their social security number printed on it will receive a new card free of charge, according to Clemetsen.

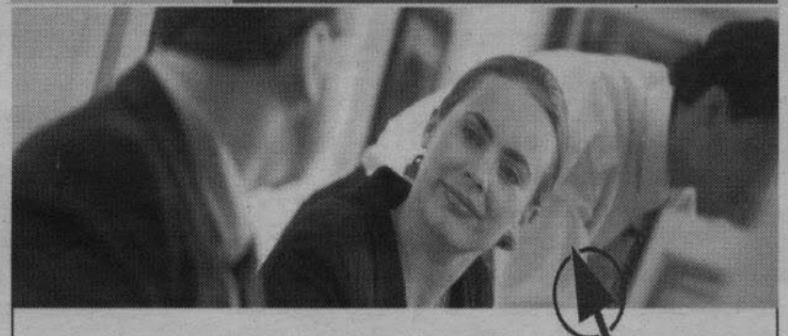
Ann Adams, director of information services said, "They want to encourage students to use their 'x' number on the SIS (Student Information System), but be reassured, the SIS will still work with the social security number."

Adams said, "Occasionally we have people who pull pranks on their friends and sign them up for classes they don't want, or a malicious soon-to-be-ex partner or spouse that tries to get back by messing with the school records. In this way only the student will know their 'x' number and will be able to use it."

Her advice to protect against identity theft is "Think twice before giving out your social security number if it is not legally required for taxes. Someone only needs to mirror that with an address, a name and birth date and they have your identification."

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CAMPUS NEWS

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Student picked for international business mission

Erica Hennig
 The Commuter



JoLyn Westphal

"In these cultural and business hubs, Westphal will have extraordinary opportunities to observe international business, economics and trade relations from the unique perspective of the world's increasingly powerful players."

▶ International Missions Press Release

Dual enrolled student JoLyn Westphal has been accepted to the International Mission on Business in Europe. May 15 to 28, Westphal and 80 other college and university students will visit three European capitals: Vienna, Budapest and Prague. She was nominated by being on the National Dean's List in 2001-2002.

According to a press release from International Missions, "In these cultural and business hubs, Westphal will have extraordinary opportunities to observe international business, economics and trade relations from the unique perspective of the world's increasingly powerful players." The International Mission on Business will come three weeks after Hungary and the Czech Republic have been introduced as members of the European Union.

Following a day of travel, students will arrive in Vienna and visit Schönbrunn Palace, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna city hall and finally attend a welcome dinner, featuring authentic Austrian cuisine. Among the educational activities on the itinerary is a briefing with representatives of the Austrian parliament on day three, followed by historical reflections on business in Central and Eastern Europe.

Vienna will be a city of particular interest to Westphal, as this where she will be attending a lecture on working women and the European economy, entitled "Breaking through the glass ceiling: A discussion with women executives from the Vienna Chamber of Commerce." Westphal plans to write on the topic by using

her own experience as well as by interviewing managers at Hewlett-Packard. She will compare and contrast on the topic of women in the workplace, both in the U.S. and Europe. The essay will count as credit toward her Associate of Science in Business Administration, which she hopes to receive this fall. The following days in Vienna are to be filled discussing a variety of topics, from eco-friendly business practices to "Behind the scenes at OPEC: The politics and economics of oil."

May 20, day six of the trip, students will travel to Budapest, Hungary. Among the destinations scheduled in Budapest are "Fisherman's Bastion: A breathtaking panorama of Budapest; Buda Castle: Captivating cultural and historical complex; Heroes' Square: Where Hungary's great leaders are remembered; and Trinity Square: Centerpiece of the Castle District." The first day in Budapest will wrap up with a traditional Hungarian dinner.

Day nine, May 23, marks their arrival in Prague, where they will visit Prague Castle: The largest ancient castle in the world; St. Vitus Cathedral: Home of the royal coronations; and Old Town Square: A centuries-old cultural Mecca. The day will end with local Czech cuisine.

Westphal had already been planning a trip to Florence, Italy, so after the mission she will be staying over 14 days on her own. She will also visit Salzburg to see the Sound of Music tour, Venice, Assisi and Cinque Terre, an area of five fishing villages built into the cliffs of the Italian Riviera.

Westphal has been attending LBCC since late 1996. She has just been accepted to the dual enrollment program and plans to attend OSU, where she will major in business administration with a focus in management and minor in psychology.

She sees the upcoming trip with International Missions as a chance to learn about a diverse range of people from around the world and to meet other students from around the country.

Originally from Snohomish, Wash., she now lives in Corvallis and has worked with Hewlett-Packard for almost nine years. She is currently a factory planner and hopes to continue with the company and one day become a second level manager, that is a manager of the supervisors in the factory.

After attending Eastern Oregon State College and Everett Community College, each for one year, Westphal has chosen LBCC and OSU because they are close to home. Small class sizes and teachers who get to know their students on a first-name basis are a few reasons Westphal has decided to continue her education here.

Benefit concert aims to lend hand to shelter

Sheena Bishop
 The Commuter

Albany Helping Hands, with the help of First Assembly of God Church, is hosting an event May 7 at 7 p.m.

If you are looking for a place to groove for a few hours, there will be live performances at the church by local bands the Knox Brothers and the Stock Brothers, as well as the First Assembly Choir and Quartet.

Admission is free, however there will be a donation basket passed around for the benefit of the new shelter, which is located where AK Carpets used to be.

Helping Hands needs to raise another \$250,000 to finish the dining and day center area of the shelter.

The contractor in charge of the project is currently working on it nearly every day and reports that with progress at such a steady and strong pace, the shelter will hopefully be open by November, just in time for the cold season and holidays.

A big turnout is expected. The Christian music is in the spirit of Helping Hands, which originally started nearly two decades ago when a local pastor took in homeless people from the streets into his church for guidance and support.

Director John Donovan shared how many past or present Linn-Benton students have come to help out, many sharing stories of being homeless once themselves.

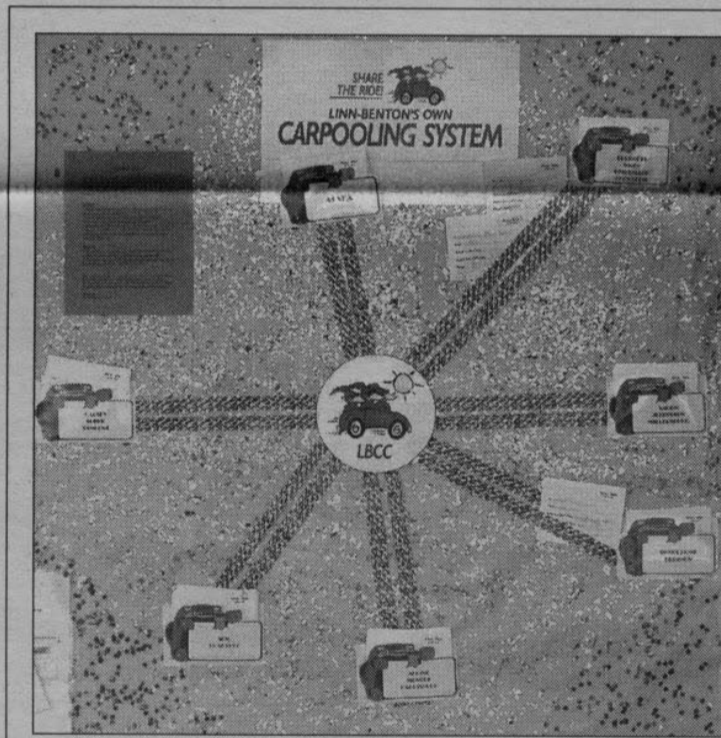
Such stories show that even those who hit rock bottom and go to great extremes to survive

can turn their lives around and be the one helping the next fellow needing a little help to his or her feet.

In order to meet their goal of opening in November, Helping Hands needs help from the community with funding the project.

Your \$5 donation could help build a table where people less fortunate dine for many years to come.

For more information on Helping Hands and the new shelter, go to their Web site at www.proaxis.com/~helpinghands.



Finding the Way Home

A new "share-a-ride" feature has been added to the bulletin board outside the Financial Aid Office in the Courtyard. Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership, the bulletin board provides a place where drivers and potential riders can share contact information for carpooling. Students are encouraged to use the board to find other students with similar schedules and destinations to save on gas costs.

photo by Jeremy Hennig

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IN FO

COFFEE & TEA

Sip a cup of refreshment at local

By Sheena Bishop

With a drive-up espresso stop appearing on seemingly every corner, it's hard to find a place to sit down and actually enjoy a cup of coffee or tea in the fast paced world we live in.

However, if you are looking for a place to relax, check your e-mail, read a book, or simply have a little fun, there is hope for those who prefer not to scald their mouth trying to consume coffee as fast as they can during their morning commute.

We may not live in Seattle and enjoy the bragging rights of being home to Starbucks, but there are many perks to the brews and bags you can find here in the Willamette Valley.

As many students on the main campus have savored, The Commons sells Allann Bros. coffee. What is often overlooked is the simple fact that Allann Bros. headquarters is right here in Albany, Oregon. And the number one Allann Bros. retailer? The Beanery, of course. In fact, everything at The Beanery was developed in the Albany headquarters kitchen, with the exception of a few treats.

The Beanery owns the patent on their Java Trio drinks, which are similar to Frappuccino for those of you who speak Starbucks. Their syrups and sugar are also developed in Albany. The syrups are all natural and the sugar comes from Hawaiian sugar cane. Most of the coffee beverages were developed by Allann Bros., as well as the brownies, pies, cakes, quiche, soup, sandwiches and burritos you can order with it.

There are more things to celebrate than food and a cup of joe at The Beanery. If you pop into the location on Second Street in Corvallis on a Friday or Saturday night you can also catch live music from local bands and a computer is always up and running to check your e-mail or surf around the Web.

For those who aren't big on coffee, The Beanery also has 30 to 40 different kinds of tea at any given time. With a blend of black, green, herbal and even a few rare exotic teas, there is a little something for everyone's taste buds. You can even snag a milk shake if your heart desires.

While there are three Corvallis locations and one in Albany located inside headquarters, you can also chill at The Beanery in Salem, Eugene and Ashland.

For those who find themselves needing a place to frequent

in Albany, there is always Boccherini's Coffee and Tea House downtown on First Avenue. Unlike The Beanery brews, Boccherini's uses Torresavione Italia beans that come from, you guessed it, Italy. Torresavione Italia is an international company with a local base in Portland, where Boccherini's orders the key ingredients to many of their tasty thirst quenchers.

The atmosphere is casual and comfortable, yet there is a sense of class about the place. All of the artwork is local and is switched out every month. If you really like what you see, you are in luck. Most of the display is for sale, depending on the artist's preference.

Many of the drinks you will see on the menu were converted from an alcoholic drink by owners Wendy and Gordon Kirbey, such as the frosty navel instead of one of the fuzzy variety involving peach schnapps. Gordon also created the grasshopper, as well as many of the traditional drinks you find listed next to it on the easy to read menu board.

In the summer you may occasionally see a special, created by one of the employees. Since it is a locally owned and operated establishment, the staff and owners have the opportunity to be more creative than a major company might.

Boccherini's also keeps about 40 different kind of tea on hand, including herbal, black and white teas. They will make pocket tea for you to enjoy there or you can purchase loose tea to enjoy in the comfort of your own home. They also keep house tea and iced

tea on hand to tempt your palette. Most of the teas are available all the time, although there are three or four that rotate. If you want to purchase loose tea to take home and they don't have enough there, they will order more and call you when it gets in.

In addition to unique coffees and teas, there are also biscotti cookies and a few other treats. There is live music from local artists every Friday night from 8 to 10 p.m. and on some selected Saturday evenings, as well. Board games, books or cards fit in perfectly with the relaxed atmosphere.

If you feel the sudden urge to grab your passport and attempt making it to England in time for tea, save some money and drive to Lebanon instead. Mrs. B's Special-Teas Cards and Gifts is a Victorian-style tea room located on Grant Street. It is home to the one of the 10 Lebanon chapters of the Red Hat Society, which originally began as a poem.

A woman who had recently turned 50 decided that she was going to go to afternoon tea wearing a purple dress and red hat because at her age, she really didn't care how ridiculous people thought she looked. The poem birthed Red Hat Societies all over the country, as well as in England, fitting in perfectly with the style at Mrs. B's. If you have any questions about the Red Hat Society, you can learn more by calling up the shop during business hours. They meet once a month for Afternoon High Tea.

The gift shop is open Monday



photo by Jeremy Hennig



photo by Scott McClure



photo by Scott McClure

through Saturday, but if you want to enjoy it, you need to be there on Thursday. The Beanery's Tea is a four course blend of a drink served the old-fashioned way, a fruit cup followed by sandwich and an assortment of desserts. It's cheaper than a passport and ticket.

Stop in for lunch Wednesday if your taste buds are craving more local delicacies in the gift shop. The sale were made in the Lebanon area.

If Lebanon is your location aren't your idea of a good time, Jacob's Well is the only place downtown that can be found downtown.

Recently added to the menu is a book you forgot your book on the night bookstore called "Gathered in Hills" inside the coffee shop.

Coffee beans are brought in from around the world. The beans make such a nice gift. A pound of your own for only \$8.99 for you if you choose.

Jacob's Well is a relatively new place open a year. This family owned business sells coffee and tea, but lunch as well. Sandwiches are a good price, especially considering the quality. If you're a little lighter, they also have salads worth here. There is also a child's menu. If you want his own turkey and cheese sandwich, hankering for a salad or just a burger for a huge sandwich he'll be fine.

There is currently plenty of art for sale. If you would like to sell their art and paintings, contact them. For a louder style of art, live music is available starting around 7:30-8:30 p.m. Starting time is based on the venue, so it may vary week to week.

Unlike many little coffee shops, Boccherini's is spacious. There is room to stretch your legs. If your extra long stretch just isn't enough, they'll stretch into their lap. Weekly specials include cookies, bottled juices and fountain drinks for everyone. And of course, there are always pastries. You want coffee or soda with your drink? No problem. Sit down to leisurely enjoy your time.

So put your passports and passports away. If you had a good time, you need not go farth from home. Located on 34, where locally owned coffee shops are, pamper and relax you.

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

FOCUS

al cafés

Historical brews: A look back

By Laurent Bonczijk

"Coffee: A stimulating beverage prepared from the ground, beanlike seeds of a tropical tree of the Genus Coffea." -Webster's II New Riverside.

According to several Web sites, coffee was first discovered in Eastern Africa, in what today is Ethiopia. The legend says that Kali, a shepherd, would have discovered coffee after observing his sheep having increased energy by eating the fruits from the tree. He would then have tried it himself, discovering its invigorating effects.

A brief history of coffee's spread goes as this: Berries were brought to the Arabian Peninsula in today's Yemen. Through commercial exchange they went to Turkey, and then Italy thanks to Venetian merchants. The Catholic Church, as with all novelty, didn't look on coffee too kindly at first. Some of its leaders even tried to have it banned. The pope Vincent III tasted it and decided to baptize it. He is quoted to have said, "Coffee is so delicious it would be a pity to let the infidels have exclusive use of it."

Today coffee is grown in the equatorial and subequatorial parts of the globe. The two trees it comes from are Arabica and Robusta. Arabica produces a higher quality fruit with lower caffeine and lower yields per tree. Arabicas are typically grown between 1,500 and 6,000 feet, under the cover of higher trees since high winds hinder the production of coffee. A constant rainfall of about 50 inches per year and mild temperatures of about 75 degrees are required for the plant's growth. It takes about five years for a tree to bear fruit and an average tree will only produce a couple pounds of coffee per year after roasting.

Harvesting of the coffee cherries is mostly done by hand. The beans are then separated from the fruit either by letting the fruits dry in the sun or by soaking them in water (washed beans). After separation they are sized, graded and selected by hand, which makes coffee one of the most manual labor-intensive crops in the world.

The beans are then shipped to coffee roasters. Two theories exist among roasters, to roast all the same beans together and then create their blends or to blend and then roast all the different beans together. The jury is still out on the issue. The roasting is done either in a heated rotating drum or by tumbling the beans in a current of hot air. The darker the roast, the stronger the taste will be and the lower the caffeine content. Espresso blends will usually have a portion of Robusta beans to add caffeine and creaminess to the coffee. Coffee's taste is characterized by four elements:

- Acidity: The sensation of dryness on the side of the tongue
- Aroma: The smell of the coffee
- Body: This is the viscosity of the coffee when in your mouth
- Flavor: The overall feel of the coffee when drank

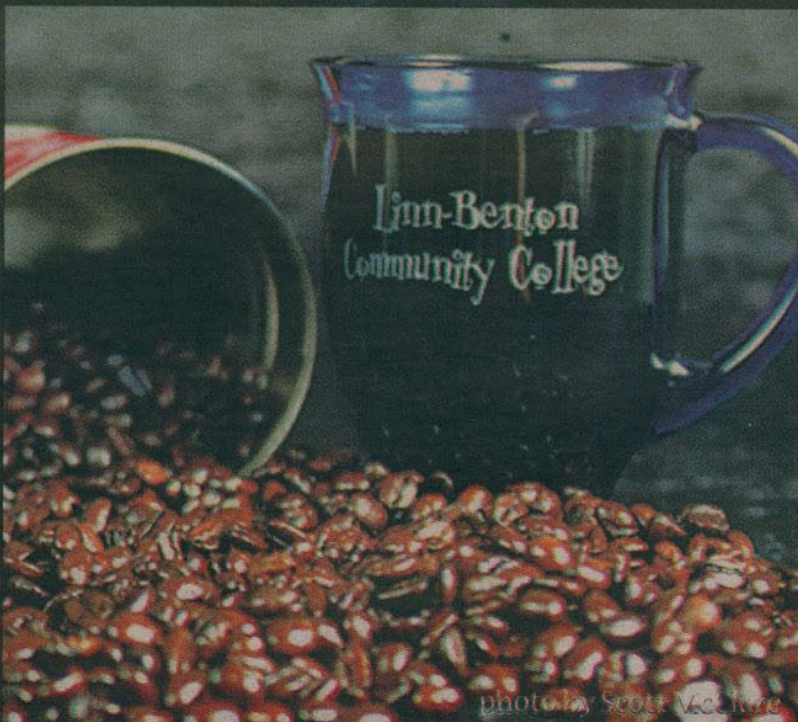


photo by Scott McClure

"Tea: An Asian shrub, Thea sinensis or Camellia sinensis, with fragrant white flowers and evergreen leaves. The dried leaves of this shrub, used to make a drink by steeping in boiling water." -Webster's II New Riverside.

As with coffee, the origins of tea are legendary. Shen Nung, a Chinese emperor concerned with the well being of his citizens had passed an edict that all water be boiled before consumption. While traveling, he stopped with his entourage and water was brought to a boil for the court to drink. Leaves from a nearby bush fell in the pot and produced a pungent amber drink. Tea was born.

Tea didn't reach Europe until the 1600s by way of the Dutch Navy, then very much involved in Pacific commerce. As with many

new imports it was originally so expensive that only the ruling class could afford it and it was available only in apothecaries. Within three quarters of a century, however, prices dropped enough that it was available in food stores all over Holland. Shortly after, it arrived to Great Britain, where it quickly became more popular than ale! It is interesting to note that tea appeared in the

Americans developed two new concepts for tea: The tea bag and iced tea. Iced tea was invented at the 1904 World Fair in St. Louis. High temperatures were impeding the sale of hot tea, so Richard Blechynden, a tea merchant, decided to dump ice in his brew, which proved an instant success.

Tea bags came four years later when another tea merchant realized that the bagged sample he gave to restaurants were used in the bag for convenience. As with coffee, tea cultivation requires a warm climate with lots of rain. The leaves are plucked from the tree during periods of active growth, the leaves near the end of the branches being the most sought after. A tea tree may live upward of 60 years. As with wine, the tree type and location are greatly influential in defining the finished product. Today four types of tea are sold in the stores: Black, oolong, green and white.

Black tea is fermented and dried. It is used in the making of English and Irish Breakfast tea. The resulting brew will be dark and pungent.

Green tea is only dried. The brew is light green in color. It comes by itself or with the addition of floral tones, as in jasmine tea. Oolong is halfway between black and green as it is only partially fermented.

White tea is the most delicate and expensive of all. The leaves from the tip of the branches are used in its making. The brew will be very light and has a touch of sweetness to it.



photo by Jeremy Hennig

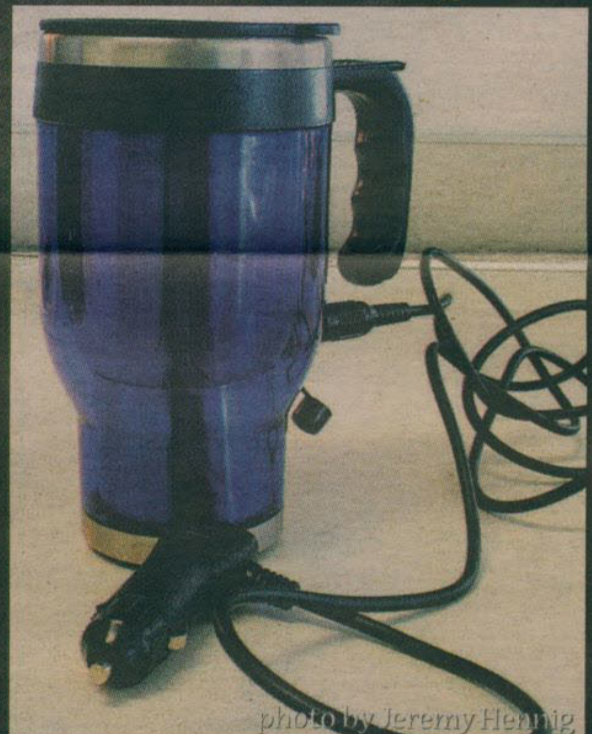


photo by Jeremy Hennig

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SPORTS

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

Diaper Dandy cries his way to New York

Joel Meacham
 The Commuter

As the final seconds were ticking down on the San Diego Chargers 2003 dismal 4-12 season, they could celebrate for two reasons.

Number one they had just defeated their hated rivals from Oakland and number two they now held the rights to the number one draft pick in the 2004 NFL Draft.

They now had a chance to pick up a player that they felt could set the wheels right on a car that had been spinning out of control since their last Super Bowl appearance in 1995.

Enter Eli Manning, the most coveted quarterback available in this year's draft. Considered by some experts to possibly be even better than his brother, Colt's quarterback Peyton Manning, Eli had a chance to go to San Diego, help turn around a franchise so badly in need of a leader on the field and play football in one of the most favorable environments in the NFL.

Not so fast Charger fans. Instead of accepting that challenge and stepping into that role, Eli decided that he was so good that he should be able to dictate his future, including choosing where he would start his NFL career.

Approximately a week before Eli was going to be that first pick in the draft, a story was made public that Eli had his daddy asked the Chargers not to pick him because he didn't want to play there.

He wanted to play for the New York Giants. Eli was even threatening to sit out the

entire 2004-05 season if the Chargers did in fact pick him and re-enter the draft a year later.

When I first heard of this story, I had pictures of a little three-year-old brat sitting on the floor screaming 'no' while his parents were telling him to do something.

The rest of the week was a war of words between Eli and the Chargers. Neither one was going to give in, and it appeared that the viewing public was going to be treated to a four star, childish temper tantrum on national television.

As draft day came and went, the tantrum was actually smaller than advertised. Eli was, in fact, picked by the Chargers, and shockingly he did go up on stage and shake the commissioners hand, but he held up the Chargers jersey as if it was saturated with the stench of an infant's dirty diaper.

Oh yeah, and he somehow neglected to follow the tradition of donning the team's hat.

When asked later why, he simply said, "I forgot."

Three picks later in the draft, after the Giants took North Carolina State quarterback Philip Rivers, it was announced that baby Eli had in fact gotten his way and had been traded to the Giants for the draft rights to Rivers and three more draft picks.

While Eli quickly rushed off to a press

conference at nearby Giants Stadium to be adored by his new found babysitter the Giants, Rivers was on his way to San Diego, to fun in the sun and a chance to eventually be the savior of the Chargers.

"I am fired up," Rivers said. "That is one thing the fans are going to get in San Diego, a guy who wants to be there and be a part of it. I am fired up to be a Charger."

And that sports fans is what the NFL Draft is supposed to be about. Players that are fired up for the chance to go out and help teams get better.

Philip Rivers I salute you as well as all the other classy athletes that have maturity to go and play for the teams that chose them.

Even OSU's Steven Jackson, who was touted as the best running back in the draft, somehow, in mind-blowing fashion, slipped down to the Rams with the 24th pick, is prepared to spend time learning behind future hall of famer Marshall Faulk until he gets his chance to take his place.

A classy move for a man that was already being penciled in by some as a starter on other teams ahead of the Rams in the draft.

If there was one thing this year's draft has shown, is that there are two different types of players entering the NFL this year. Those just happy to get the chance to play, and those that think the league owes them something.

So join me sports fans and go to your local supermarket and pick up some diapers, bottles and pacifiers, and send them to Eli Manning care of the New York Giants. Have a cigar on me New York it's a boy.



JOEL MEACHAM
COMMENTARY

COMMONS

Put it on your plate!

May 5th - May 11th

Wednesday

Baked Stuffed Snapper
 Pork Lyonnaise
 Rommali Roti w/curried vegetables
 Steamed new potatoes w/fine herbs
 Currant Almond Pilaf
 Glazed Carrots & Turnips
 Grilled Vegetabl Beef
 Roasted Garlic Pesto

Thursday

Lemon Chicken w/Steamed Rice
 Braised lamb Shoulder
 Huevos Rancheros
 Mashed Potatoes
 Cauliflower w/Cheddar Cheese
 Sauce

Friday

Chef's Choice!

Monday

Chicken Kiev
 Swedish Meatballs w/Noodles
 Portabella Mushrooms
 W/Spinach & Rice topped
 with Poached Egg & Bernaise
 Creole Rice
 Jardiniere of Veggies
 Cream of Broccoli
 Italian Sausage

Tuesday

Hungarian Chicken
 Garlic Shrimp Tacos
 Vegetable Lasanga
 Roasted Red Potatoes
 Batonet of Root Vegetables
 Paysanne Marmite
 Vegetarian Tomato

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SPORTS

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

Rice makes diamond his second home

Joel Meacham
 The Commuter

From the first time Travis Rice stepped up to the plate and took a swing at the little round ball that rested on the tee, he knew he wanted to be a baseball player.



Travis Rice

What started in T-ball and continued through Little League and High School, is now showcased on the field at LBCC,

where Rice serves as starting center fielder for the Runners baseball team.

He recalls being an All Star in Little League and as a result getting to play in a tournament in Northern Oregon with all the state's elite young stars.

In 2001, his senior year at Crescent Valley High in Corvallis, the team made the playoffs for the first time in 10 years. They won their first round game and then lost in the second round to the team that eventually went on to be the State Champions.

Even though they lost, Rice recalls it as an exciting time to be a part of the team due to the fact that it had been so long since they had that kind of success. He was first team all-league both his junior and senior years.

Rice credits his dad as one of the reasons that he loves the game. He said that thanks to his dad's profession he has been around sports his whole life. His dad is currently working as a physical education teacher at both Wilson and Garfield elementary schools in Corvallis. He said that his dad had coached him all the way through high school.

While in high school, Rice also played summer league Legion baseball in Corvallis for two years.

He said the best part was the 40 to 50 game schedule. "I would roll out of bed every morning and head to the field."

Travis said that his coach at Crescent Valley, Frank Baumholtz, who now coaches at Newberg High, had a huge impact on how he plays the game. "He could be your best friend, but he will push you to your limits."

Rice, a freshman, is currently hitting .390 on a Runners team that is hoping to put together a strong finish that would put them into the playoffs.

"We have a shot at the playoffs, we just have to get it together," said Rice.

Rice said the highlight of the year so far for him was in a game versus Chemeketa. The Runners were down by three, with two guys on base, when he smashed an 0-2 slider straight over the left field wall to tie the game.

"It felt really good to finally get that off my back."

Rice said that he hopes to get noticed while playing at Linn-Benton by a smaller university, where he should be able to step right in and be able to play without having to sit the bench.

He summed up his love of the game with two words, "Second home." To his coach, teammates' and fans Rice's play has clearly shown them that when he is on the field he really is at home.



photo by Scott McClure

Linn-Benton's Sean Barton slides into second base during yesterday's game against SWOCC. Linn-Benton swept SWOCC last week in Coos Bay. The Runners have four home games remaining this season, two against Mt. Hood and two against Clackamas. They are currently resting on the Southern Division's third and final playoff spot but will have to play well down the stretch to hold the position.

Roadrunners must play well down the stretch to maintain playoff position

Jacob Espinoza
 The Commuter

The Linn-Benton Roadrunners have put themselves in a difficult situation heading into the final games of the season.

With Lane and Mt. Hood alone in their fight for the division title, Linn-Benton's baseball team needs some big wins in their final eight games of the season to maintain hold of the third and final playoff spot.

"I don't like it at all," said head coach Greg Hawk, "We've gotta play better. It's an upward road, but I think these guys can do it."

Because five of the six teams in the Southern Division are still in the playoff race, teams in the division should expect some hard fought battles to close out its season. Linn-Benton, Clackamas and Chemeketa are all within a game of each other for the Southern Division's final playoff spot. Between the three teams, only Chemeketa has games remaining to be played against SWOCC.

Linn-Benton's final eight games are split against Mt. Hood and Clackamas.

Linn-Benton swept Mt. Hood earlier this season, but can expect to face a team ready to get revenge when they play

them on the road this Saturday. On Tuesday Clackamas will travel to Albany for a playoff intense doubleheader. A couple of Linn-Benton victories would create some distance away from Clackamas, while a couple of losses would take Linn-Benton out of the drivers seat completely.

"When these guys have had their backs against the wall I think they've played pretty well." Hawk continued, "We're really gonna have to play with a little bit more urgency and when guys play a little bit tighter, or with urgency, you never know what is gonna happen."

The Runners managed to split games last week, but have suffered some bad breaks during the second half of the season. They will need to quickly dig themselves out of their slump in order to remain in the upper half of their division.

"We were 7-3 through the first ten games and 3-7 through the last ten games. We've had a chance to win a number of games that have gotten away from us, but on the other hand I give credit to the other teams because they've battled back as well," Hawk said.

Last week the Runners swept SWOCC, split games with Clackamas and lost two straight to Chemeketa. Both losses against Chemeketa came on late inning three run homeruns.

The first annual OSU Universal 4-on-4 basketball tournament brings streetball to OSU Campus

Jacob Espinoza
 The Commuter

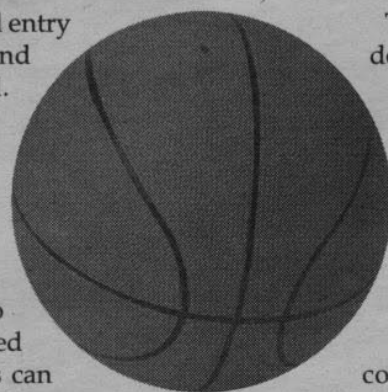
Streetball comes to Corvallis this weekend as the Lonnie B. Harris Cultural Center presents the first annual OSU Universal 4-on-4 Basketball Tournament this Saturday, May 8.

With a live DJ spinning throughout the tournament, the OSU Universal tournament should become the Corvallis version of Rucker Park.

Entry fee is \$25 and the deadline to

enter is today at 6 p.m. All entry fees go toward the grand prize. Winners take all. Games begin at 12 p.m. and will commence with the tourney's end.

Full court games will be played outside of the OSU dorms. Teams will get an automatic two games. Games will be played by ones to eleven. Teams can carry a maximum of five players.



There are no age or gender divisions to separate teams.

Food and Nike donations will be present.

To sign up, bring your team name and player names to the Black Cultural Center.

For more information contact Mary Dyton at (541) 737-4372.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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'Last Samurai' overcomes cliché story with quality

Adam Peoples
 The Commuter

During the late 19th century, Japan struggled through a bitter time of civil unrest. A thousand-year reign of the samurai warriors came to an abrupt end as the island nation sought unification and Western influences seeped into Japanese culture. "The Last Samurai" tells a fictional story based on the historical happenings of this period in time.

Director Edward Zwick offers a beautiful film that is blissful in its execution, so much so one may be inclined to overlook the cliché story elements.

Japan circa 1876 is recreated with undeniable skill and care. The Academy Award nominations for costume design and art direction would likely have been taken by "The Last Samurai," had a certain box-office king not returned to theaters.

Ironically, samurai weapon mass production was done by Weta, the New Zealand-based company famous for their work with "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Meticulous detail brings the past to full living celluloid glory. Intricate costumes were created to accurately reflect the styles and colors of the time. Because parts of Japan were adopting a new Western flavor, the film has a duality in its visuals that coincides with the conflicting cultures.

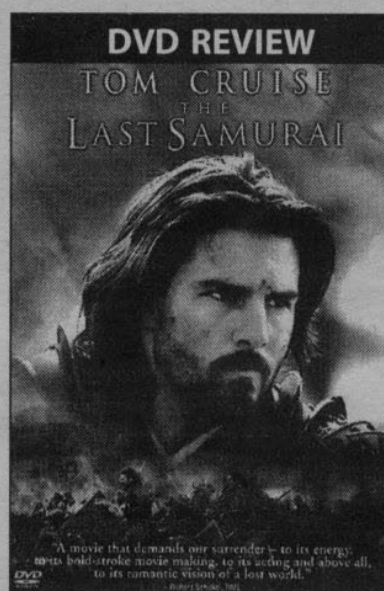
Modern day New Zealand is transformed into Edo, the area known now as Tokyo. An action movie at heart, "The Last Samurai" is not without its elegant scenery depicting a mythical Japan that resonates beneath

the electronic and concrete facade of today's Tokyo. The fluid silhouette of a samurai training against a setting sun draws a fondness for the way of the warrior, forged by steel, blood and dedication.

The introductory-level of the story being told is that of Civil War hero, Capt. Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise). He is a troubled military man, dishonored by the great loss of life his comrades endured under the command of Custer at his infamous last stand.

Cruise is never off key in his performance, but his character's path feels too engineered by Hollywood to be compelling. The film opens to Cruise as a drunken wreck of a man. The immediate acknowledgment that this fallen man will be our hero two hours later is insulting and unnatural.

Algren finds himself hired to train the newly created Imperial Army of Japan. To little surprise, their first skirmish goes undesirably and our captain finds himself



prisoner to the very people he was hired to exterminate, a band of samurai lead by Kasumoto (Ken Watanabe). Watanabe was nominated for an Oscar for his part in the movie and often steals the screen from the less natural Cruise.

"The Last Samurai" has been critically dubbed "Dances with Ninja," referring to the abundant similarities between the film and Kevin Costner's 1990 war-drama epic, "Dances with Wolves."

While the two films tell the story of a war hero who pledges himself to his once sworn enemy, the unique setting of the samurai's demise is more than enough to sell the film. One begins to realize the depth of the historical exposition later in the film. There are striking scenes of war between the Western-clad Imperial Army and the traditional samurai.

Slow motion imagery dissolves the notion of ancient culture clashing with modern technology to reveal both armies are comprised of Japanese men. One sees a nation destroying itself while the Western world supplies tactics and munitions. Not so much has changed in some aspects of history and the global arms trade.

History fanatics should be pleased to see the two-disc DVD released May 4th contains The History Channel's "History vs. Hollywood" fact-or-fiction breakdown of "The Last Samurai." Unfortunately, The History Channel presentation seemed more promotional than documentary compared to other in-depth analysis the series has provided. Also included are two deleted scenes, conversations with cast and crew and a feature length audio commentary by Zwick.

WANTED!

The Commuter needs creative students to fill positions on the 2004-2005 staff

Editor

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant. Students with course work and/or experience in journalism preferred. Appointment made by the LBCC Publications Committee.

**DEADLINE IS MAY 14
 (for this position only)**

Ad Manager

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant. Individuals with career goals in business, graphics or journalism are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Macintosh experience preferred.

Assistant Editors

Appointments carry quarterly tuition grants that vary from 4 to 9 credits per term, depending on the position. Some journalism or writing experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply.

Photo Editor	Copy Editor
Managing Editor	A&E Editor
Sports Editor	Opinion Editor
Graphics Editor	Online Editor

Hourly Wage Jobs

Advertising Assistant	Editorial Assistant
Photography Assistant	Production Assistant

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

Digital Page Designer

Pays \$8.50+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mon.-Tues. Good English skills and experience with Macintosh InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark preferred.

Deadline for Editor is May 14.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222) or from adviser Rich Bergeman (F-112)

For additional information call 917-4563 or 917-4451

A & E Editor: Peggy Isaacs
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

First Thursday exposes Portland's art world

Kim Tran
 The Commuter

Expose yourself to art. That's what former Portland mayor Bud Clark did in front of the bronze nude at SW Fifth and Washington, posing as a flasher in a trademark trench coat in an image made famous by a popular black-and-white poster from the 1970s.

These days you can still expose yourself to art and it doesn't require public indecency.

Whether you're an art novice or an art know-it-all, attending First Thursday in Portland is an easy and fun way to immerse yourself in the city's thriving art scene. I must confess that I belong to the former category, but have always enjoyed the big-city party atmosphere that erupts on the first Thursday of each month.

If you haven't been to a First Thursday, summer offers a perfect opportunity. Downtown art galleries stay open late on the first Thursday of each month to accommodate the hordes who descend upon the galleries to catch a glimpse of the latest openings.

First Thursday is really two shows in one. The first is the thriving art scene, which includes a wide sampling of art from the traditional and contemporary to the wacky and experimental. The other show on display is the First Thursday party crowd, which is another scene altogether. Some get dressed up as if they were going to an actual party, which is not entirely untrue.

The roaming crowds live music, the chatter and mingling and the wine and food lend to the party atmosphere that takes on a life of its own. Yes, some people are here for the art, but it makes me wonder where these people are during the rest of the month, when you can walk into any gallery and practically have it all to yourself.

Located in Northwest Portland just north of West Burnside and east of I-405, the Pearl District is the epicenter of First Thursday activity where many of the participating galleries are located, making it a convenient starting point for an evening of gallery hopping.

Once a working class warehouse district, the Pearl District has been transformed into a chi-chi neighborhood of art galleries, boutiques and trendy lofts. Traces of its former history are evident in the remaining auto repair shops and blue collar watering holes that still inhabit the neighborhood.

You'll know it's First Thursday when there isn't a parking space to be found in the Pearl District, where a bird's-eye view would probably resemble a carnival of performers, sidewalk artists and art enthusiasts spilling out from the galleries onto the streets.

Blackfish Gallery

At NW Ninth and Glisan, look for the sign shaped like a black fish that hangs above Blackfish Gallery, Oregon's lon-

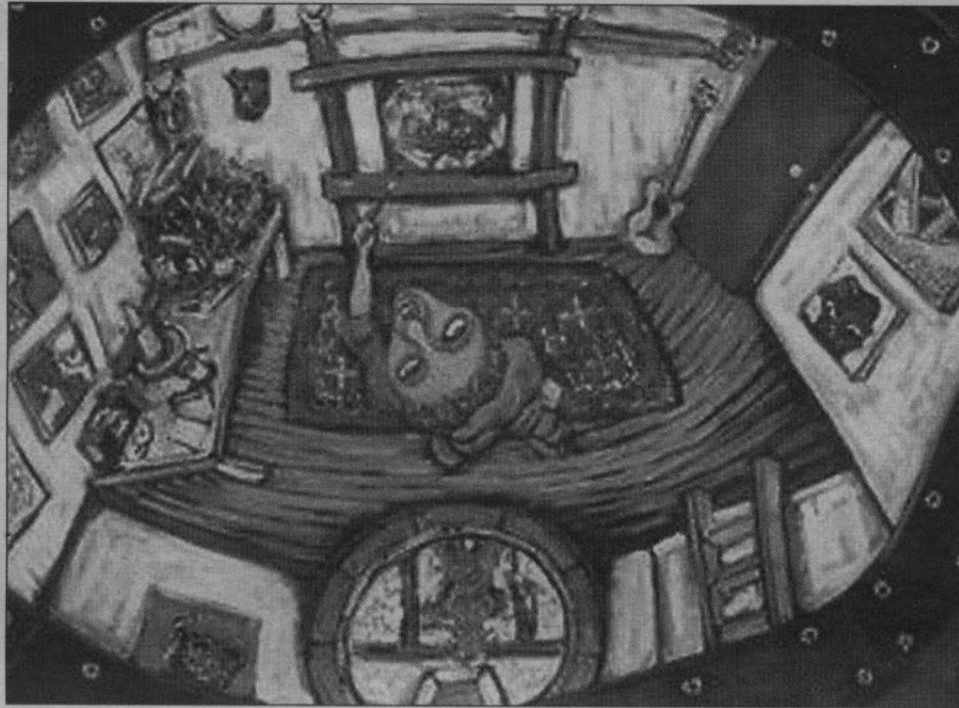


photo courtesy Blackfish Gallery



photo courtesy Quintana Gallery

gest-running cooperative gallery at 25 years and counting. Artist-run and member-supported, Blackfish exhibits some of the more cutting-edge and thought-provoking work around.

Blue Sky Gallery

A must-see for all photography buffs, Blue Sky Gallery is another notable cooperative gallery, a photography exhibition center that's been around since 1975, making it the oldest photo co-op gallery in the country.

Their first-rate exhibitions showcase the work of local, national, and international artists.

Laura Russo Gallery

A gallery that is worth the trip to NW 21st Avenue is the Laura Russo Gallery, which showcases a veritable "Who's Who" of Northwest art, including such luminaries as Michael Brophy, Mel Katz and Lucinda Parker.

This bright and spacious gallery is accessible by streetcar and is the clos-

est thing to a New York-style gallery in Portland.

Trying to hit all the galleries in the Pearl could be exhausting, so the best strategy is to zero in on the galleries that exhibit the type of art that strikes your fancy. Here are some ideas for making up your gallery hopping itinerary:

- Specializing in indigenous art, Quintana Gallery resembles a small museum of Native American art.

- Overlooking North Park Blocks, Mark Woolley Gallery exhibits a wide range of contemporary art in all media.

- Gallery 114 is an edgy, cooperative gallery featuring art dealing with contemporary issues and images.

Beyond Art

Eating and drinking are other popular pastimes in the Pearl District. Among the numerous restaurants and watering holes in the Pearl, the popular spots of the moment are Oba and Bluehour, both of which have excellent happy hours with

Art in the Pearl

Two must-see galleries during First Thursday in Portland's Pearl District are Blackfish Gallery, currently showing the work of Maurice N. Herinckx (top left) and Quintana Gallery, which is celebrating Cinco de Mayo by featuring Mexican artists like Daniel H. Tiburcio (bottom left).

BEST OF FIRST THURSDAY

Blackfish Gallery

420 NW Ninth Ave. (503) 224-2634

Blue Sky Gallery

1231 NW Hoyt St. (503) 225-0210

Gallery 114

1100 NW Glisan St. (503) 243-3356

Laura Russo Gallery

805 NW 21st Ave. (503) 226-2754

Mark Woolley Gallery

120 NW Ninth Ave. (503) 224-5475

Quintana Gallery

120 N.W. Ninth Ave. (503) 223-1729

Bluehour Restaurant

250 NW 13th Ave. (503) 226-3394

BridgePort Brewery

1313 NW Marshall (503) 241-7179

Oba! Restaurant

555 NW 12th Ave. (503) 228-6161

Farmers' Market

NW 10th between Irving & Johnson (503) 241-0032

modestly-priced appetizers and drinks.

If you're into all things organic and natural, head to the farmers' market in the parking lot of the Ecotrust building, which is held every Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. starting in June. On the day I visited, there was an eye-popping array of fresh produce, meat, dairy products, seafood, baked goods, flowers and more, all from local vendors.

For some, a visit to Portland wouldn't be complete without knocking back a few beers at a brewpub. Housed in an ivy-covered brick building which was once a hemp rope factory, BridgePort Brewery offers free tours at 2 and 5 p.m. daily.

On these tours, visitors are educated on the finer points of craft brewing and treated to a sampling of BridgePort ales.

With plenty to do and see, First Thursday is a great way to spend an evening out in the Pearl District. Take a cue from Bud Clark and expose yourself to art. It's free and worth the trip.

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 Sun. 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

CALENDAR

AFTER DARK

Book Bin

215 SW Fourth St.
 Corvallis
 752-0040

May 8

Debo

Hammer Dulcimer
 1-2 p.m.
 Free

Fox & Firkin

202 SW First St.
 Corvallis
 753-8533

May 7

Ten Foot Radius

Rock
 10 p.m.
 \$3

Majestic Theatre

115 SW Second St.
 Corvallis
 754-1551

May 6-9, 12-16, 19-23

Fiddler on the Roof

Corvallis Community
 Theatre
 Musical
 Curtain 8 p.m.
 \$12

Multicultural Center

LBCC Campus
 6500 Pacific Blvd.
 Albany
 917-4540

May 10

Do Tell!

Margarita Casas

Talk about travels in Peru
 and Bolivia
 12-1 p.m.
 Soup & rolls included
 Free

Oregon Zoo

4001 SW Canyon Rd.
 Portland
 503-226-1561

May 5

Rama the Elephant

Contract signing by Rama
 with his trunk & paintings
 9-6 p.m.
 \$9 adults
 \$6 children

W.O.W. Hall

291 W Eighth St.
 Eugene
 687-2746

May 5

Southern Culture on The Skids

R&B, swamp pop
 8:00 p.m.
 \$10 advance
 \$12 door

May 7

War & special guest Abakadubi

Rock, jazz, and R&B
 8 p.m.
 \$18 Advance
 \$20 Door



"Walking in the Light," a painting by John Mulder now hanging in the Juried Student Art Exhibit in the AHSS Gallery, has attracted a variety of responses because of its political and emotional content.

ART REVIEW

'Walking in the Light' is a powerful and relevant artistic experience

Charrie A. Cochran-Wilson
 The Commuter

Every work of art is a self portrait.

"Walking in the Light" was created by a man with several heroic years of military service. John Mulder's piece in the Student Show is more a glimpse into the soul of the artist.

"Walking in the Light" will have an immediate effect on those who see it.

We all possess our own ideas regarding the war in Iraq. Mulder's work makes us look past these ideas of the war and focus on the soldiers. Responses to the work itself will vary, as preconceived ideas always impact response, however, understanding of the soldier will change.

This piece is a well-crafted painting. All of the elements are present, from composition to line. The skill of the artist is evident, so I will focus more on the significance of the piece.

Kenneth Clark once wrote of "the predetermined brutality of men in uniform" in reference to the portrayal of soldiers in art. This portrayal is evident in works like Goya's "The Third of May" and Manet's "The Execution of the Emperor Maximilian." Mulder's piece simply does not fit this

description.

Mulder clearly shows us the underlying compassion and fundamental humanity of those in uniform. Anguish is so clearly revealed on the faces of his American soldiers as they help the wounded Iraqi citizen that it takes us into the minds of our men and women who are currently serving in Iraq. This is a relevant and timely statement.

Producing what could be controversial art requires the ability to know who you are and remain true to yourself even when your statement is opposed. Courage is required to force open a door that the masses are trying to slam shut. Mulder's work is the voice of a soldier with a gentle message for all of us. This message of compassion screams to us loud and clear.

I have heard comments from viewers in the gallery who are bothered by this work of art. You may not agree with the war, but take the time to view this piece and hear its message. Let it affect you. If we are affected by art it becomes part of us. It gives form to our values and exposes us to parts of ourselves we may not want to see. Any effect this work has on you will be beneficial, even if it only forces you to think.

Takena Theatre receives new lighting effects, re-decorating

Laurent L.N. Bonczijk
 The Commuter

"It's like Christmas everyday," said Bruce Peterson, LBCC's Takena Theatre manager, about the incoming shipments of equipment for the renovation of Takena Theater.

Walking on the stage from the small door in Takena Hall it is hard not to feel overwhelmed by all the crates and boxes, neatly aligned. Assembled spots lights fill one; another contains the new red curtains, a mostly empty crate contains the stage lights that still have to be put together.

Peterson's excitement is contagious. He shows the spots destined to light the audience. "I'll be able to light the auditorium like the stage," he said. This will be very helpful since a great number of the theatre productions are plays for children that include a lot of interaction with the audience.

In order to save money, Peterson and the committee

directing the renovation chose to buy 35 low-cost theatre projectors, each costing \$60, to light the audience, saving enough money to enable the group to buy six pendant type chandeliers "to add class," said Peterson. Four of them will be centered in a row with one on each side of the room so that the light will appear to be coming from them instead of the spots.

One hundred and eighteen new stage lights will be added to bring the total to about 300. The stage itself will finally have enough light to illuminate every part with the same accuracy and follow actors around the stage, which was not always possible in the past.

The committee opted for a color scheme that includes red curtains and red-and-gray seat upholstery. The walls will be painted in a dark gray with the molding and the sound clouds receiving a coat of lighter "warm kind of gray (so it) won't look as monochromatic," he says.

Painting will begin in June once the seats have been removed and sent to the re-upholstering company.

The three systems that were in use to communicate

between the stage, dressing room, sound box and the house will be replaced by one.

Two new speakers will replace the old ones donated by Hewlett-Packard, in the back of the audience. Those will be recycled and used in the back of the stage, doubling the current capacity to produce background sounds. A new digital sound system will enable the theatre to load the full score and sound effects of a play in a computer instead of having to constantly switch tapes or CDs.

Because theatre equipment has become so advanced in the 25 years since Takena Hall was built, the college is leaping ahead five generations in technology. An example would be the stage spotlights—the new 750-watt lights replacing some of the old 1,000-watt lights will be brighter, even though they are 25 percent more economical.

The renovation project is on schedule and the theatre should re-open for fall term 2004 as planned. A gala grand opening will be held in November to thank all who participated in the renovation.