



Asian Delight

Find a sense of peace and serenity in Portland's Japanese Gardens.

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Late Letdown

LB baseball goes into a late season slide losing to Lane and Mt. Hood

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THE Commuter

Wednesday,
May 10, 2006
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A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Periwinkle's focus is Pre-K literacy

Elizabeth Uriarte
The Commuter

"The Education/Child and Family Studies Department got a grant from the federal government, and that's a lot for me to be saying to you," boasted Jennifer Knapp-Beudert, coordinator of the Periwinkle Child Development Center here at LBCC.

tween LBCC, Kidco Head Start and Linn-Benton-Lincoln Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education.

This \$1.5 million grant was awarded in September of last year. It is a three-year grant, to be paid out in increments of \$500,000 per year. The purpose of the EEP program is to improve education for children

"It's really focused on early literacy, hoping to improve young children's literacy skills before kindergarten."

Jennifer Knapp-Beudert

Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., in the Fireside Room, the Periwinkle Child Development Center will celebrate the completion of their first year under a new federally funded program from the Early Childhood Education Professional Development program of the U.S. Department of Education. Called the Early Education Partnership program, it is a partnership be-

from at-risk populations, including bilingual or bicultural children, children with special needs, children living in poverty, and children living in towns with populations of less than 15,000.

"It's really focused on early literacy, hoping to improve young children's literacy skills before they get to kindergarten," said Knapp-Beudert, who is also the associate coordinator of the EEP



photo by Colleen Franzoia

Students at the Periwinkle Child Development Center (from left, Alex Mihaylo, Emily Lonsdale and Tia Bitz) practice writing the alphabet in Monica Turkisher's pre-school class last Monday.

program at LB. The EEP program will accomplish this goal by improving the knowledge, skills and practices of early childhood educators. Objectives include:

- Recruiting educators from underrepresented groups working with at-risk populations
- Reducing barriers affecting teacher access to professional development
- Meeting training needs of

- various types of early childhood educators
- Providing a progressive system of professional development
- Participants in the EEP program

▶ Turn to "Literacy" on Pg. 4



photo by Dan Wise

Local riders board the Linn-Benton Loop bus. Rising fuel prices may drive ridership to new highs.

Mass transit moves to front of bus

Aaron Broich
The Commuter

An increasing number of people may be riding the bus as gas prices continue to rise. LBCC student Sterling Clark used to drive to school from the Lewisburg area, but this term he can't afford to drive all the time.

"I still drive sometimes, because of errands... I think that if I rode the bus I would save about \$200 a term—if I ride everyday," said Clark.

Because there are no buses that stop north of Corvallis, both Clark and Freshman Stephanie Olsen, catch a ride to Hewlett Packard with their fathers. From there they ride the Loop bus to the main campus. When asked about the possibility of petitioning to start a bus route north of Corvallis, Olsen said, "We tried to get one a while ago, and there weren't enough people who wanted it; with the gas prices now, they might change their minds."

Both Clark and Olsen rely on the Corvallis city bus to ride to the main campus, like many other students. According to president of the ASG Philip Jones, there are plans for the school to buy into the Corvallis Transit System, so that LBCC students could ride the bus free of charge.

"In a couple of weeks we will be making up a

survey to find the actual amount of people [LBCC students] who ride the Corvallis city transit," said Jones. The cost would be \$2.06 per student per year, which amounts to over \$50,000.

Jones said that there isn't enough money for the bus system to expand. Partnerships would help to fund additional routes. "OSU is a partial partner. They buy in so they will be able to take the students from Oregon State over to LBCC and back and forth," Jones said. "They [LBCC] also have partnerships with Corvallis Transit System and Linn County." Jones said that these three are the main partnerships.

According to Jones, the Corvallis Transit System receives a lot more money than Albany's because Corvallis' population is just over 50,000, which is a cutoff that allows Corvallis to receive a greater portion of money from the federal government. Once Albany's population grows a little, the Albany Transit System can receive a lot more money, which will help to fund buses going to and from the main campus.

"There are only four buses that run during the whole day from here to Lebanon and back, and also Sweet Home." The administration is "trying to see if they can get more partnerships; for Lebanon we're going to be checking into Wal-Mart. They

▶ Turn to "Buses" on Pg. 4

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High 71
Sunny 
Low 43
Wednesday

High 65
Mostly Sunny 
Low 42
Thursday

High 65
Mostly Cloudy 
Low 38
Friday

High 70
Partly Cloudy 
Low 45
Saturday

High 75
Mostly Sunny 
Low 45
Sunday

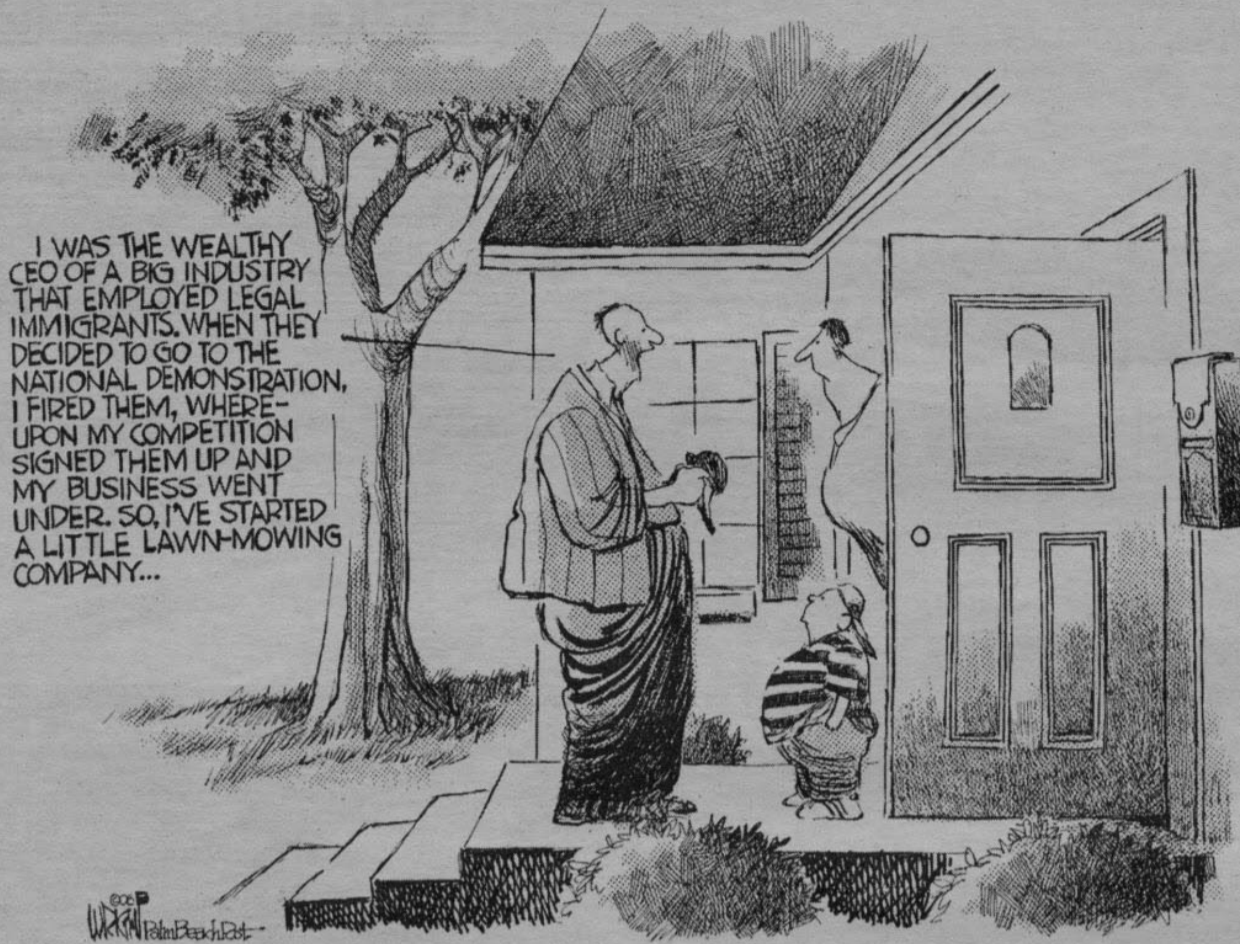
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Opinion Editor: Walt Hughes
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OPINION

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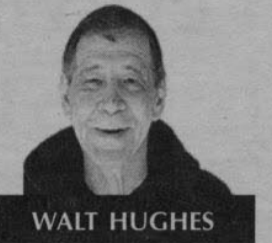


Protest marches through both sides of the border

Walt Hughes, Sr.
 The Commuter

The first day of May 2006 brought sunshine to most parts of the United States for those who marched through the streets of cities nationwide in a demonstration called "A Day Without Immigrants."

Los Angeles, New York, Denver, Phoenix, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Albuquerque all had between 100 and 300,000 flag-waving people marching to protest the fact that a large mass of people from south of the border do not seem to feel the need to comply with our laws.



WALT HUGHES

In a time when there is no lack of events like wars, famines, genocide and a hundred other things to capture your attention, the issue of illegal immigration has flooded the news for almost a week now, and the nation finds itself in a Shakespearean-type situation. "To be, or not to be. That is the question."

Do we throw open our borders and allow just any and every one who feels the need to step across the line and enjoy the benefits usually reserved for citizens, or do we say enough is enough and look at other alternatives? To say that there is no easy answer to this situation would be a gross understatement, but there has to be a resolution at some point. The longer things continue as they have for the past 20 or 30 years, the worse they will get.

The people who are coordinating the marches and pushing for illegal immigrants' rights say that they estimate the economic impact of Monday's marches, boycotts and demonstrations to be roughly in the neighborhood of \$1 billion a day. While that sounds like a lot of money, it is a very small amount when compared to the overall gross economic output of this country in a day. Unfortunately, most of that loss comes directly out of the pockets of the people involved and the businesses that cater to them.

To look at the situation in a serious manner, we need to first ask why 12 million people would want to abandon their own countries and come to the United States to live and work. Why can't they stay in their own countries, find jobs and raise their families? Why do they come here to work, accept menial jobs for little money and send every dime they can spare home to support their families? What is so great on the northern side of the border that hundreds of thousands of individuals risk all that they have, including their very lives, to get here each year?

Perhaps a hard look at the economic and living conditions in their countries of origin would be a good place to start. Interestingly enough, Mexico also held demonstrations on May 1, but they called theirs "A Day without Gringos." The why of that is another interesting question that should be thrown into the mix as you look at the real questions involved in the controversy. Yet another question is why people who will risk everything to get here seem to want to wave flags of the countries they came from and change our laws to fit their own perspectives of how things should work.

As you ponder all of these questions, ask yourself one more. What would happen to you if you crossed the Mexican border illegally? Do you really think they would make provisions for you to speak only English just because you're an American? If you have ever been to the Mexican border and taken a hard look at the difference in living conditions, you can probably understand why people flock across our borders in droves without too much of a problem. Interestingly enough, Vicente Fox and Fidel Castro seem to share the same idea. While Castro had his Mariel boatlift, Fox and his cronies simply encouraged their poor people to move north across our border.

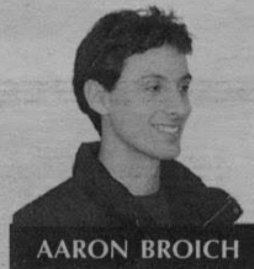
The bottom line is that anyone wanting to take up permanent residence in this country should comply with the laws and become citizens just like anyone else. To say, feel or do less would be to turn our backs, trample on, and ignore everything this democracy has stood for for over 200 years. This is still America, that great place that so many people stand in line to enter. Love it or leave it, but do it legally. No other answer makes sense.

COMMENTARY

Israel: The "Holy Land" of spirituality

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Israel is perhaps one of the most amazing places to travel to on earth. It is a land with thousands of archaeological sites just waiting to be uncovered. I traveled there in February with my church, Calvary Chapel Corvallis.



AARON BROICH

Life doesn't seem very interesting without passion of purpose, a purpose that means something, and for the reason of life's purpose, multitudes of people pour into Israel from all over the world. People want to reach out, touch God and have something physical that they can hold onto that has spiritual meaning, be it a set of laws, dirt from Mount Zion, or water from the Jordan River. Thousands of Christians from Nigeria flock to Israel every year to experience the Holy Land and I saw them filling large containers with water from the Jordan River to bring back home.

People of many faiths make pilgrimages to Israel's historical capital, Jerusalem. Mount Zion is the site of the temple mount, a giant stone platform where the Dome of the Rock stands in the Masjed Al-Aqsa compound to commemorate the ascension of Mohammed. History records that Abraham brought his son to Mount Zion to be sacrificed. For these two reasons, it is the third most holy site in Islam. Because Jews are not permitted on or under the temple mount, they believe the western or "Wailing" Wall is the closest they can get to the innermost chamber of the temple; the holy of holies. For thousands of years, Jews and later Christians have and continue to believe that the presence of God dwelt there.

When I went down to the Wailing Wall to pray I stood between two men with their heads pressed down against the stones. They were moved to tears as they muttered prayers in Hebrew. Cries like these gave the wall its name. The divides of the wall were layered with bits of paper—thousands of prayers preserved in written words. Further north along the wall in a more recent excavation, I saw one of the stones used in the construction that was about 587 tons and more than 50 feet long. It remains a mystery today how a stone so massive could have been moved from a nearby quarry.

Regarding the presence of God, Christians believe that God came down as a man, lived a perfect life, and having died in place of us for our wrongdoing, has bridged the gap between people and Himself, so that anyone who is sealed by His Holy Spirit now lives in

the holy of holies (in the special manifestation of God's presence). Muslims believe that God is known by studying the laws of the Koran, the teachings of the traditions of scholars and by works. However, God cannot be known through personal fellowship, as friends interact with one another. All three religions believe that God is omnipresent, but Muslims do not believe in a special manifestation of God on Earth.

I've spoken to a lot of people who travel to Israel to experience God in a new way. What is it about Israel that makes it a special place for so many people? According to ancient scriptures, thousands of years ago Abraham was called by God to leave his community with a few family members and travel far away to eventually settle in the land of Israel, which was then called Canaan. God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him and his descendants are founders of three of the world's main religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Their beliefs are somewhat similar, and hold a common thread of supposedly good principles, to submit before our Creator, that He alone is perfect and worthy to follow.

Whereas many people think that religious zealotry and irreconcilable differences between religions are the cause of many wars, in truth history shows that this is not the case. In places lacking a unifying religion, violence and tyranny abound. Cultures lacking a strong sense of right and wrong become overrun by corruption. This historical observation is very relevant today, with moral relativism on the rise; the teaching that there is no right and wrong, it's just a matter of opinion. In almost all of the wars that were a matter of religion, their outburst did not coincide with perceptions consistent with religious teachings, and were largely brought about by political corruption.

Given the wide range of diversity today, many questions remain. What standard of ethical conduct is reasonable to consider? Is there a creator who cares how we treat one another, or a natural order of things that acts as a standard of goodness?

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.

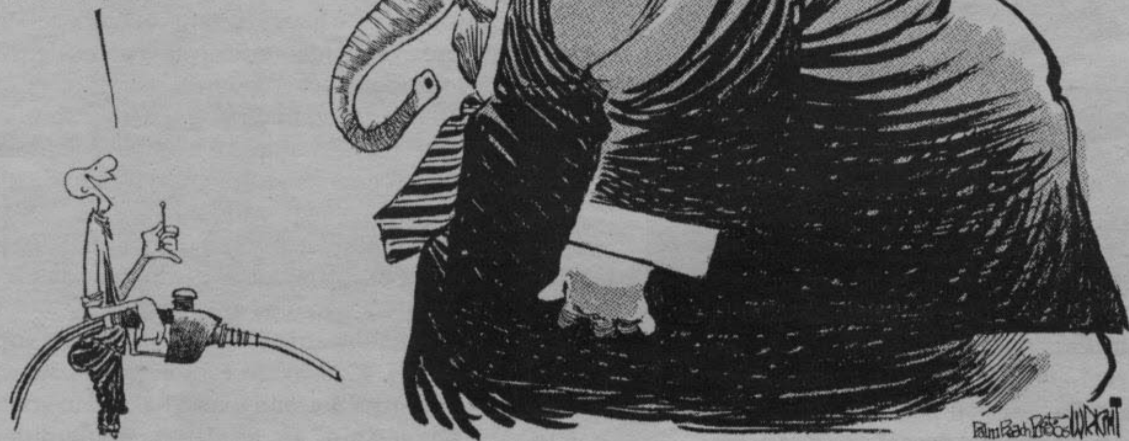
Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu.

Opinion Editor: Walt Hughes
 Editor-in-Chief: Dan Wise
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

OPINION

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

WOW! A \$100 REBATE! SPECTACULAR!
 THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
 THAT OUGHT TO BE JUST ENOUGH!
 THIS MATCH, A LITTLE
 GAS, I CAN SET
 YOUR SILLY RUMP
 ON FIRE!



TO THE EDITOR

Words can be as painful as actions

I was really disappointed to read Joel DeVyl-
 dere's column in the last issue. Not only was it
 poorly written and unsympathetic, it was just
 plain false. The Day of Silence's purpose was to
 raise awareness that gay people are people too,
 and that the unchecked aggression toward them
 needs to stop. In the article, DeVyl-
 dere suggests that the picked-on should simply go to the school
 officers to tattle on bullies and that they will take
 care of it.

In a perfect world that just might work, but
 what DeVyl-
 dere misses is that discrimination is
 not about "that one time I was called a faggot."
 It is about "everyday, before every class, at every
 lunch and every walk home I am called a fag-
 got."

Most verbal attacks are not out in the open in
 front of everyone, they are muttered under breath
 or said in passing out of earshot of everyone else.
 To burden the office with every instance of abuse
 is ludicrous. The lines at most high schools would
 never end and neither would the torment.

I think the problem is that most straight people
 cannot see that gay bashing is used everyday in
 the most casual circumstances. How many times

have you heard something referred to as "gay,"
 when the speaker probably meant to say, bad or
 lame?

What about queer or faggot? Those words are
 used all the time to mean weird or different, but
 whatever the instance, it is always negative. It
 would be the same as walking up to someone in
 a wheel chair and describing your performance
 on a test as "crippled." Now, I know that would
 never fly in the real world, so why is it any dif-
 ferent to call something "gay?"

I think instead of casual ignorance, straight
 people need to realize that what they say can be
 misinterpreted as something hateful to someone
 else. It might be just a word to you, but to others
 it is their way of life and to constantly use it in a
 negative way is detrimental and irresponsible.

The Day of Silence may have been a joke to
 many, but as a straight male participant trying to
 show my support for the gay community, it made
 me very aware of just how hateful people can be.
 And off-topic articles that miss the point do not
 help anyone.

Jesse Gwinn

Support for minorities is never a waste

In the last issue of The Commuter (May 3), I was
 pleased to see the number of positive responses in
 regard to the National Day of Silence. It is obvi-
 ous that the event meant a lot to people. Then I
 read the commentary by Joel DeVyl-
 dere. In this
 commentary, DeVyl-
 dere basically states that using
 school funds to promote the message of tolerance
 and equality is a waste of money.

Though I didn't have much expectation from
 him to begin with, I was shocked at the level of
 blatant ignorance put forth by DeVyl-
 dere's words.
 He made a number of uneducated assumptions,
 as people with his belief structure often do.

First of all, sexual orientation is not a choice,
 as he claims it to be. I'm sure that if DeVyl-
 dere is a heterosexual, he did not make a conscious
 decision to be so. Conversely, you don't wake up
 one day and say to yourself, "Oh, I'm going to be
 gay now!"

DeVyl-
 dere also seems to believe that only a few
 cases of harassment and discrimination based on
 sexual orientation occur at school. It is true that
 few of the incidents are reported to school of-
 ficials, but that is basically the entire point of the
 National Day of Silence—to promote awareness
 of the discrimination and harassment experienced
 by LGBTQ students, and to encourage those who
 have been victimized to step up and take a stand
 against it.

According to DeVyl-
 dere, minority groups are

not worthy of having their voices and causes heard
 by the majority. If he disagrees with Queer History
 Month, does that mean he disagrees with Black
 History Month? Are we to stop funding the pro-
 motion of racial tolerance as well, simply because
 they are in the minority? And for that matter, we
 may as well not even have a Multicultural Center
 on campus, because in DeVyl-
 dere's eyes, it's just
 a waste of college funds to bring awareness of
 different cultures and lifestyles.

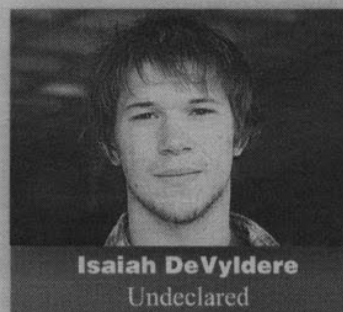
And finally, to answer one of DeVyl-
 dere's ques-
 tions, "Are some people more equal than others,
 in that they need special attention from the school
 to defend themselves?" yes, some people are more
 equal than others in this society. They're called
 heterosexuals. The fact that LGBTQ students
 need help from school officials and organizations
 doesn't make them special, it simply means that
 their rights to equality are so often ignored that
 they require campus-wide awareness in order to
 put an end to the discrimination.

If it weren't for the promotion of awareness
 at schools, racism would still be in effect, as well
 as sexism and any other kind of discrimination.
 Ignorance is the breeding ground for hate, and by
 keeping people in the dark about the animosity
 that LGBTQ students experience on a sometimes-
 daily basis is only facilitating that hatred.

Elizabeth Uriarte

PERSPECTIVES

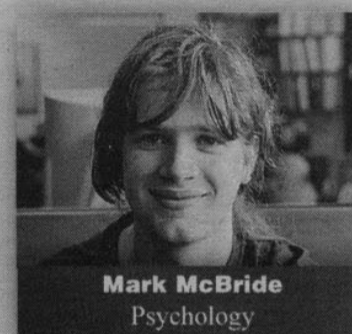
What do you think about the \$100
 rebate proposed by members of
 Congress to help ease gas prices?



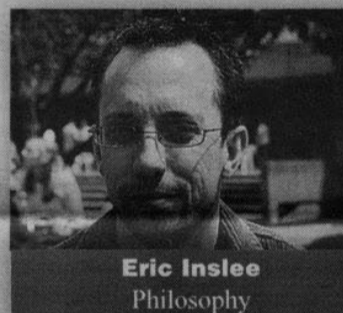
Isaiah DeVyl-
 dere
 Undeclared

"I'd rather they find a way to
 put pressure on who's doing
 something about it [those who
 are causing the price of gas to
 rise]."

"It seems like it's good PR on their
 part, but \$100 won't do much in
 the grand scheme of things."



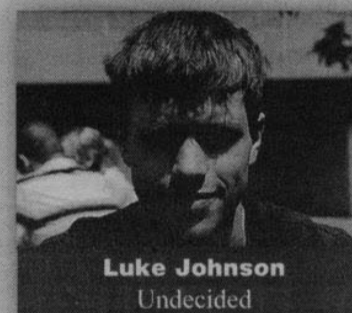
Mark McBride
 Psychology



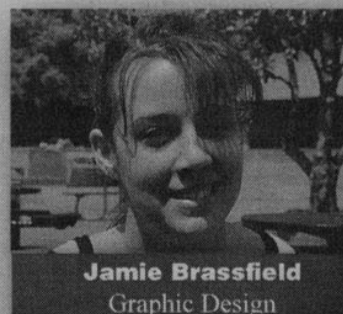
Eric Inslee
 Philosophy

"Great. I haven't really paid at-
 tention to it but whatever makes
 gas prices lower."

"It's a good gesture but I don't
 think its enough."



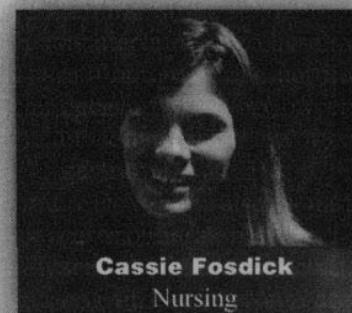
Luke Johnson
 Undecided



Jamie Brassfield
 Graphic Design

"It's a nice idea, but I don't think
 that it's really going to make that
 much difference."

"I think that it's better than
 nothing."



Cassie Fosdick
 Nursing

Compiled by Aaron Broich
 and Colleen Franzoia

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

LBCC Foundation fetes scholarship winners

Nancey West
 The Commuter

The LBCC Foundation Evergreen Spring Reception was held May 4 in the Commons to recognize scholarship recipients. "We are here to celebrate student success and the help from the community," President Rita Cavin told a crowd of 125 donors, foundation board members, recipients and families.

In 2005, \$107,104 in scholarships were awarded to 132 students, according to John Snyder, LBCC director of financial aid and veterans affairs.

"Scholarships are an overlooked resource," he said, "It takes effort for a student to seek out, get recommendations and apply for scholarships."

John McArdle, Director of Development, said, "Scholarships make a difference, not just with the student but the family. They open doors to opportunities." He thanked the board of directors, who volunteer their time, and the donors for their contributions.

"I am glad to contribute to the great facility that you have here," said Don Wimer, one of the donors.

Meagan Hernandez, recipient of the Linn County Vietnam Veteran Scholarship, said, "It helps me stay in school." She met for the first time the men who made her scholarship possible. Tom Owen, member of

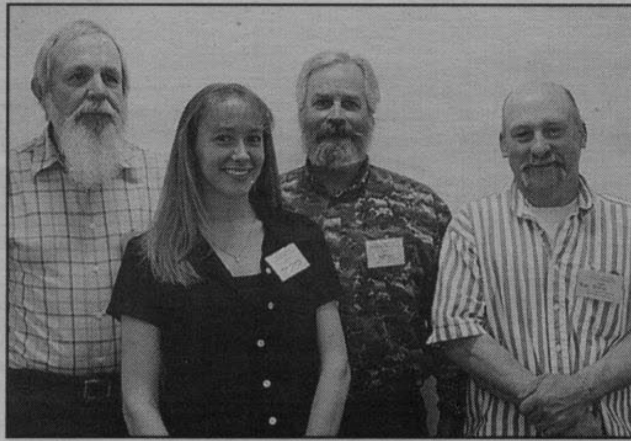


photo by Nancey West

Meagan Hernandez, the Linn County Vietnam Veteran Scholarship recipient, is shown with Rick Bauman, Tom Owens and Rich Bishop (left to right) at the LBCC Foundation Evergreen Spring Reception on May 4.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 585, explained why his chapter gives a scholarship each year, "Other veteran chapters want to build more memorials. We are giving a memorial scholarship. It can't be painted with graffiti and will still be giving when we are all gone." This is the fourth year they have donated the award.

They raise money for the award through donations and a variety of odd jobs, such as repairing and selling old equipment, directing parking at the Strawberry Fair and serving an all-you-can-eat breakfast once a month at the Legion in Lebanon.

"We are so fortunate to have a community college here in our community," said Joanne Secrest, co-president of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges, on why the organization gives a scholarship.

Recipient of the scholarship, Jodee Lonsdale, said, "I couldn't afford it otherwise. It would be a hardship to find an affordable college without it."

Every year many scholarships go unawarded due to lack of qualified applicants, according to the foundation's website, where 74 scholarships are listed.

LBCC Foundation awards \$50,000 in childcare support to 24 students, \$220,000 in tuition grants, which gives \$270 to 900 students, and over \$100,000 in scholarships. The scholarships are funded by many different people and organizations for various majors and requirements. "Filling out a FAFSA is a barrier to some people," said Marlene Propst, college advancement and foundation executive director, "but some scholarships don't need to have it."

Scholarships can be found online at: <http://cf.linnbenton.edu/scholarship/>.

Literacy: Development center improves skills

◀ From Pg. 1

gain professional development through specialized classes and mentoring. "We've been able to take about 68 teachers and students and they can go through our Child and Family Studies program at basically no cost, the grant pays for it," said Knapp-Beudert. The mentors, who are teachers and child care providers with a minimum of five years experience working with young children, help participants understand course material, overcome enrollment barriers, identify training needs, provide coaching, give feedback, and assess progress.

Participants include Head Start teachers, family childcare providers, childcare center teachers and pre-service teachers.

The Periwinkle Child Development Center is a childcare center and a lab school for pre-service teachers, and is open to the community as well as to LB students and staff. It serves about 70 children, ranging in ages from 18 months to kindergarten-aged.

One unique feature of the center is the parent observation

rooms; rooms equipped with one-way glass so parents may watch their children at play. Students also use these rooms for educational observation.

Another grant awarded to the Periwinkle Child Development Center, the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program (CCAMPIS) grant, enables LBCC students with limited income access to childcare at the center.

This grant, which is much smaller than the EEP grant, facilitates about 10 full-time students a term. In addition to childcare coverage, students in the CCAMPIS program receive personal support in a weekly seminar, which teaches strategies for balancing school and family, dealing with parenting issues, and being a successful student.

Additional information about the Periwinkle Child Development Center can be found at the LBCC Web site, or by calling 541-917-4898. For more information on the Early Education Partnership Program, contact Sue Doescher, program coordinator, at (541)-917-4915, or Knapp-Beudert at (541)-917-4961.

Buses: Extended routes needed

◀ From Pg. 1

have a massive amount of employees and a lot of them don't have cars or transportation, and it would be better for them to, say, buy into Corvallis Transit...and be able to get an alternative loop that we can set up. That would save them a substantial amount of money and help their employees," said Jones.

Students like Hamed Shafazand are often limited in their class choices because of the bus schedule. "I wanted to take a CIS class...but there was no bus that

came after six [p.m.]" Shafazand said.

Although buses may not be suitable as a means of transportation for some students, there are many alternatives.

There is a carpooling group that provides an alternative means of transportation, but according to Jones, only about seven people ever show up to the meetings. Some other ways that people get to school are: biking, skateboarding, walking, and of course, driving a gas-guzzling car.

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

As of April 19, downtown Corvallis has free wireless Internet access in select sites. The coverage area is between Highway 34 and Harrison Boulevard and from First to Fifth Street. Alyrica Networks, a high-speed Internet company out of Philomath, set up the Wi-Fi Network.

From downtown, people will have wireless Internet access to common e-mail Web sites and instant messenger programs, as well as select local businesses, OSU and UO Web access, and important local directories and features.

Anyone can arrange for unlimited Internet access through an account with Alyrica. The cost is \$5 per day or \$10 to \$39 per month, with the higher speeds costing more.

Alyrica has plans to extend the free access area to Ninth Street, according to network administra-

tor, Joseph Sullivan.

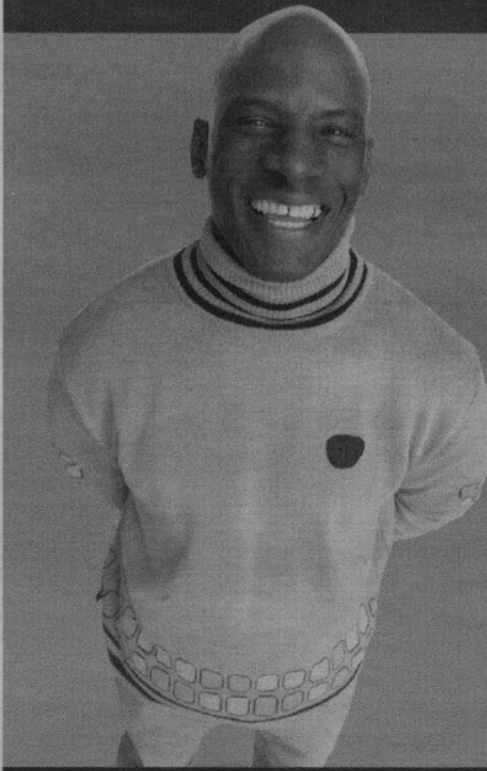
"And we're also doing some select apartment complexes as opportunities present themselves," Sullivan said.

"We install the equipment for free and then the tenants are able to tap into our services without costing the management anything, and the landlord probably gets something out of the deal, such as free services."

According to their Web site, Alyrica free Wi-Fi is considered "open," because the architecture of the Wi-Fi service allows other organizations besides Alyrica to provide services and transfer data over the network. In order to do this an organization may form an "interconnection" with Alyrica.

"We've spoken with OSU about the possibility of forming an interconnection that would allow OSU students living and working off campus to gain Internet access through ONID just like they can do on campus right now," Sullivan said.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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



photo by Dan Wise

The Big Sale

From left to right, horticulture students Del Vandemeer, Jenny Brausch and Paul Boomhower get ready for Friday's Mother's Day Plant Sale Extravaganza.

Campus Shorts...

explores women's changing roles from 1900 to the present.

New Club

The recently formed Native American Student Union is holding its first meeting from 5 to 8 p.m., May 17 in NSH-110.

Fiesta Time

Student Life and Leadership and the Student Activity Programs Committee are sponsoring a Courtyard lunch Thursday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Beef or vegetarian black bean and rice tostadas with cheese, sour cream, salsa, cookies and a choice of beverages will be served. The cost is \$4 for staff and \$3 for students.

Noon Movie

The Non-Traditional Careers Program will present "No Such Thing as Women's Work" on Thursday in the Multicultural Center from noon to 1 p.m. Combining modern style with historical newsreels, the video

CORRECTION

On page 1 the photograph of the science tour was incorrectly identified. Darlene Hooley was on the right and Elizabeth Lundy was in the center. The skeleton remains unidentified.

On page 3 in the Perspectives section, Maribeth Ward's name was misspelled. On page 12 the number of students in London should have been nine instead of 10.

On page 12 the name of the photographer on the bottom left picture should have been Colin Carron.

The Commuter wins first-place honors

The Commuter

Individual awards included:

LBC's student newspaper, The Commuter, won first place for an Oregon two-year college in the general excellence category at the annual Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association (ONPA) Collegiate Day.

The Commuter received 16 awards overall in 13 categories including four firsts, eight seconds and four honorable mentions.

Held at Oregon State University last Friday, the conference hosted 13 Oregon universities and colleges that competed for awards in 20 categories.

Colleges were divided into three divisions depending on their size and frequency of publication. Individuals in the editorial and advertising departments at Oregon newspapers judged a total of 457 entries.

The top award for general excellence won by The Commuter is a result of the efforts of a number of individuals who were not honored with individual awards according to Editor-in-Chief Dan Wise.

Managing Editor Jennifer Overholser, Sports Editor Jake Rosenberg, A&E Editor Colleen Franzoia, Advertising Assistant Maria Gonzales and a staff of very dedicated writers are all invaluable, he said.

In addition, adviser Rich Bergeman's wealth of experience and expertise provided the paper not only with a great base but with the balance that has kept us on track.

"The people behind the scenes are who make this paper so good," Wise said. "The devil is always in the details and we have a staff that is remarkably good at dealing with those details."

First place:
 General Excellence, Commuter staff
 Editorial, Dan Wise
 Sports photo, Eric Swanson
 Graphic, Elizabeth Beckham

Second place:
 Design, Commuter staff
 Headline writing, Melissa Chaney
 Series, Dan Wise
 Sports story, Steve Farrens
 Columnist, Walt Hughes
 Photography, Dan Wise
 Feature photo, Megan Pickens
 Graphic, Elizabeth Beckham

Honorable mention:
 Section, Commuter staff
 Writing, Davis Rogers
 Sports photo, Erik Swanson
 Series, Melissa Chaney



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101). Just sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment and get first dibs on those other jobs.

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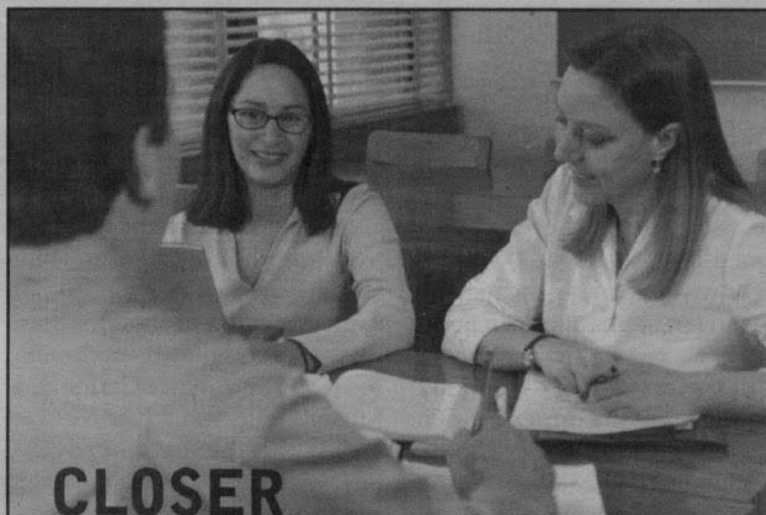
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SPORTS

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

Current system leads to no true champion

Caleb Hawley
The Commuter

First and foremost, the National Basketball Association's playoff seeding system is horrendous. The ideology in the system is flawed in some major aspects. Division winners are awarded an automatic bid into the 16 team playoffs. This in itself is not a poor scheme. The fact that the division winners, regardless of record, consume the top three seeds is where the system is blemished.

For example, the Dallas Mavericks have the four seed in the Western Conference. They had a six game edge over the Phoenix Suns of the Pacific Division in the regular season. Yet Phoenix has been awarded with the two seed. Does that mean that the Maverick's regular season feats were meaningless? Or does it just simply mean that six of the Maverick wins were completely meaningless?

Dallas also had an astounding 16 game lead over the Northwest Division champ and three seed Denver Nuggets. A team with the second best record in a conference behind the San Antonio Spurs is punished with the number four seed because they finished three games behind the Spurs in a highly competitive Southwest Division race.

The flaws in the system were exposed in the first round with two-seeded Phoenix needing all seven games as they struggled to defeat the seven-seeded L.A. Lakers. In addition, three-seeded Denver got rocked in five games against the six-seed L.A. Clippers.

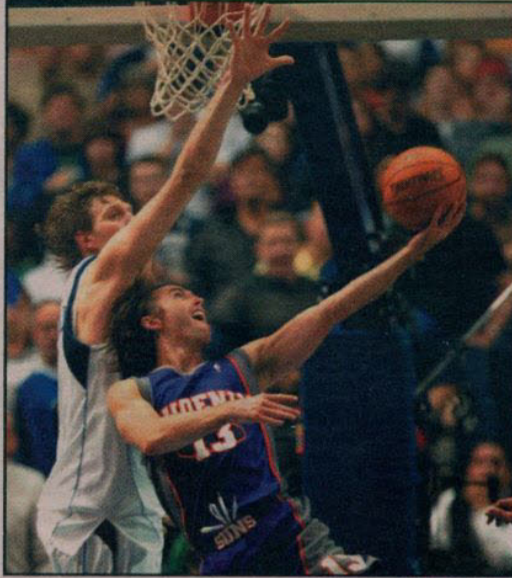
Logically speaking, the best two teams in a conference should meet in the conference finals in the event that an upset does not occur. Instead, with the faulty NBA playoff system, the two best teams in the Western Conference (Spurs and Mavericks) have begun a dogfight in the semis instead of a potential suspense-filled conference final between two powerhouse rivals.

The match-up will be great, even though it's happening a series too early. The fact of the matter is that it did not have to happen this way. The NBA playoff seeding system is an unsound system that needs a lot of work.



CALEB HAWLEY

FACE OFF



KRT photo

NBA two-time MVP Steve Nash hopes to lead the Suns to their first NBA title. Under the current playoff system, Phoenix plays the Clippers in the second round.

Division champions deserve playoff top seeds

Steven Farrens
The Commuter

It's my opinion that a 16-team bracket system with a seven game series in each round is another example of today's professional sports unbalanced point-of-view on profit versus quality competition. Having said that, there is one attribute within the NBA's bracket system which I applaud—awarding the three division winners in each conference a guaranteed top three seed in the postseason.

For example, this year's postseason features San Antonio, Phoenix and Denver as the top three seeds in the Western Conference, despite the Dallas Mavericks having won 14 more games than Denver during the regular season. But because Dallas plays in the Southwest Division, against quality competition like San Antonio and Memphis, their 60-22 record results in only a #4 seed. Does that seem fair? If you're saying no, you must not care about the regular season.

Awarding division winners top seeds despite their record is the one way society keeps NBA players more focused on the game rather than their clothes. The top two teams in each division compete in month or two-month long battles to capture the #1 seed. So, no matter what the records are for those top two teams in each division, every game during the last two months is incredibly important—a weaker seed in the playoffs leads to a tougher first round series. This attribute keeps the regular

season important rather than long and drawn out.

San Antonio won the race for first in the Southwest Division, and as a result, was awarded with a guaranteed trampling of the Clippers in the first round. Dallas couldn't quite keep up with San Antonio this year, so they are stuck playing Memphis from their own division. Dallas fans are screaming for this reason only, because if the situation was swapped, and the Spurs were involved in a competitive first-round series, I'm confident we wouldn't even hear a whisper from Dallas.

If there's no value to the regular season, the postseason suffers as well. The NBA's seeding system plays an intricate role in the struggling attempt to keep sports about the competition, rather than the shoes.



STEVE FARRENS

NBA playoffs move into second round

Neal Jones
The Commuter

Whew. If you are an NBA fan you might find yourself trying to catch your breath after an amazing round one of the NBA playoffs.

Like all things, in the NBA the show must go on and it continued with round two on Sunday. The San Antonio Spurs (63-19) are still the favorite considering no one has yet taken them out of the race. They play the Dallas Mavericks (60-22) in a best of seven series. During the regular season the series between them was 2-2.

In the first game on Sunday the Spurs got the upper hand in an 87-85 victory.

To win, the Mavericks are going to have to defend against the likes of Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker. Dirk Nowitzki is going to have a great series.

In the end, I predict the Spurs to flex their playoff muscle and squeeze past the pesky Mavericks.

In the East, the Detroit Pistons (64-18) are still the defending conference champs. They play the Cleveland Cavaliers (50-32), who had a difficult time making it past the Washington Wizards.

During the regular season, the series was a 3-1 advantage to Detroit.

Sunday the Pistons dominated on all fronts and had a balanced attack leading to a 113-86 win. LeBron James' supporting crew has to play the best basketball yet for Cleveland to have a chance. The Pistons just have to keep up their guard up and continue to play solid defense.

The Miami Heat (52-30) made a lot of moves this off-season to give them a chance of winning the Eastern Conference. They face a New Jersey Nets (49-33) team that can beat anyone when they get good play from the trio of Jason Kidd, Vince Carter and Richard Jefferson. In the regular season, the Nets had a 3-1 advantage with Carter averaging 38.5 points per game.

Let's get something straight: the Heat is Dwyane Wade's team. Shaq and the rest of the team are going to have to stop Vincanity and not fall apart. Kidd will have to score more points than the last series to make it past the Heat. The Los Angeles Clippers (47-35) will play the Phoenix Suns (54-28) in the second round of playoffs. In the regular season the series was a 2-2 tie with both teams looking good in their victories.

If Boris Diaw can continue his high level of play and if Shawn Marion, Tim Thomas and, possibly, a healthy Kurt Thomas, can slow down Elton Brand and Chris Kaman, they have a good chance of winning the series.

In the end, MVP Steve Nash leads the Suns past the Clippers.



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Non-marking shoes required; shoes will be checked. The workshops cost \$2 for LBCC students with current ID and \$3 for everyone else. Payments must be made by cash or check; no debit or credit cards will be accepted.

For more information, call 917-4963.

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Sports Editor: Jake Rosenberg
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SPORTS

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

Runners' eliminated from playoff contention

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

Two days before a season deciding series with Lane, the Roadrunners lost their momentum by dropping a pair of non-league games to the Linfield Junior Varsity squad. LB then lost two crucial games to the Titans on Saturday that may have ultimately dashed their hopes for a NWAACC tournament berth.

After giving up four runs in the opening inning to Linfield on Thursday, Roadrunners pitcher Barry Spooner settled down and pitched six consecutive scoreless frames thanks to some lively defense play.

He wouldn't get much help on offense though as an RBI single by Bryant Kraus in the first was their only run. LB was also shutout in the final six as they lost 4-1.

The LB bats struggled again in the late game but a strong performance by Dan Hunter on the mound gave the Runners a chance for a split, as the game was tied 1-1 in the sixth.

Tyler Pickett then came in from the bullpen and got the Runners out of a bases loaded jam late in the sixth but a de-

fensive lapse with two outs in the seventh eventually cost LB two runs and the game in the 3-1 loss.

Getting swept didn't lower the spirits of the Runners, as the anticipation for the upcoming Lane series was evident in the dugout.

"It's a big game and you've got to be ready," said coach Greg Hawk after the Linfield games. "If you can't be excited about Saturday, then you can't get excited about baseball."

"I just want to win," said LB's sophomore slugger Tim Puckett. "Saturday is our season, we'll be ready."

With post-season play at stake, both LB and Lane came ready to play in Eugene. Tied through eleven innings in the opener, LB broke a 4-4 tie in the top of the 12th but couldn't hold on as Lane scored two runs in the bottom of the inning to win 6-5. The Runners then looked to salvage the split but could only get one run on the board in the first inning. LB wouldn't get on the board again as Robert Stevens gave up only six hits in the complete-game 3-1 loss.

Clinging to little hope, LB hosted Mt. hood on Tuesday



photo by Dan Wise

LB catcher Jake Roy tags a Linfield baserunner out at home to save a run in Thursday's 3-1 loss.

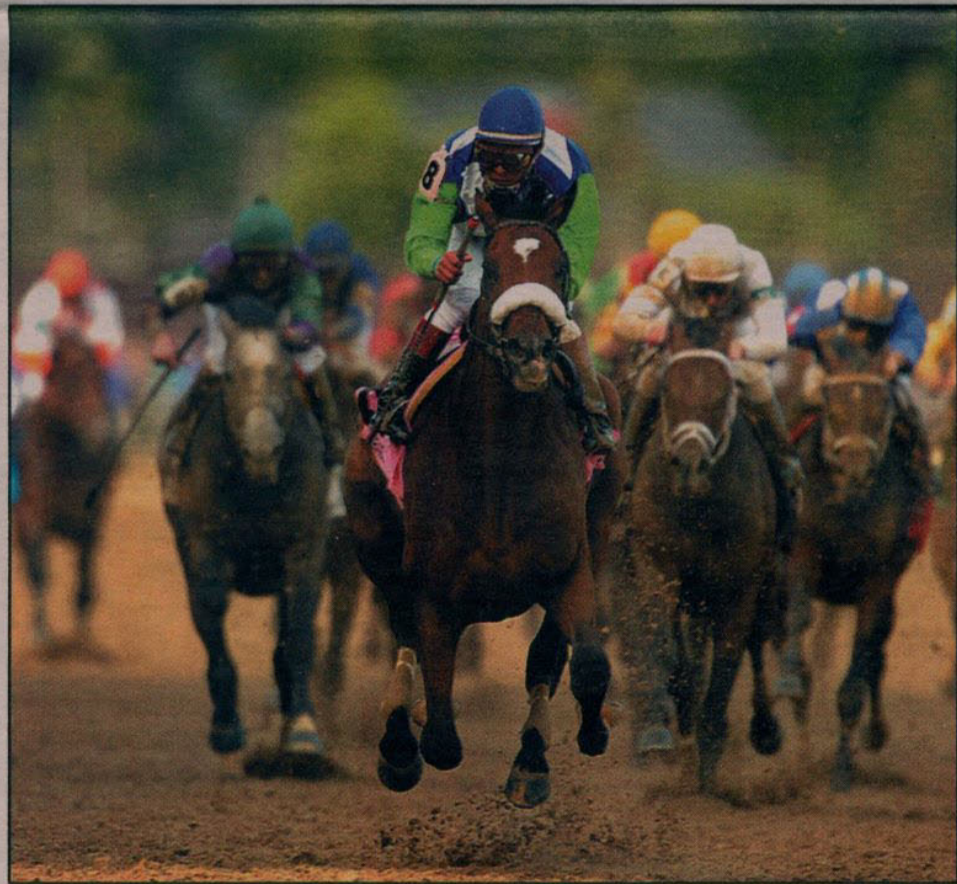
knowing they needed to win out and get help from the Lane opponents. Neither would happen as the Runners lost both games to the Saints 2-1, 8-3.

The Runners had a 1-0 lead through eight innings in the opener but after some great defensive play and a phenomenal

pitching performance by Kenny McCullers, Mt. Hood two runs off of a homer and an outfield lapse to give them a lead.

Ethan Robbins proved that if the Runners were going down, they would do so swinging. After the shortstop hit a leadoff single to start the game, he hit a

two-run triple in the second and then stole home on a wild pitch to give LB a 3-2 in the second. Mt. Hood then quickly retaliated with five runs in the next three frames to take a commanding 8-3 lead and give the Runners a six game losing streak as of press time.



KRT photo

Barbaro breaks away from the field, winning the 132nd Kentucky Derby by 6 1/2 lengths.

Barbaro gallops to Derby win

Adam Loghides
 The Commuter

Barbaro may have started with a stumble in Saturday's Kentucky Derby, but he finished with a flourish. He streaked away from the field, winning by 6 1/2 lengths and giving jockey Edgar Prado his first career Derby win.

Barbaro's stumble had Prado worried but he never lost his composure. He maneuvered Barbaro into position and turned him loose on the final turn—Barbaro took care of the rest.

Many believe his dominating performance could lead to a victory at the Preakness Stakes. Although there is only a two-week turnaround before the Preakness, Prado is confident in Bar-

baro's ability to bounce back with a solid effort.

"Coming back in two weeks is tough for any horse, especially one that just won the Derby. If any horse can do it, this one can," said Prado.

If Barbaro is able to win the Preakness, he will just need a win at Pimlico to become the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1973. Prado is not shy about his confidence in this horse, however. After winning the derby, he said "I've got the feeling we have a Triple Crown winner this year. That is why I am so happy."

scoreboard

Standings	League	Overall
Mt. Hood	21-5	33-8
Lane	15-9	21-15
Chemeketa	12-12	20-19
LBCC	12-14	20-21
SWOCC	6-13	10-20
Clackamas	6-16	18-20

Schedule:
 May 13 @ Clackamas
 May 16 @ Chemeketa

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Applications are due back by Friday, May 12th @ noon. Interviews will be held for qualifying applicants on Wednesday, May 17th at 2p.m. in the Student Life & Leadership Conference room.

If you have any questions, please contact Brittaini Hawthorne, 2006-2007 team coordinator @ 917-4472, or stop by the Student Life & Leadership office.

Design Editor: Elizabeth Beckham
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

LBCC's master plan ready for any disaster

Stephen Whitener
 The Commuter

LBCC is probably low on Al Qaeda's list of targets, but as Risk Manager Sharon King recalled, in the anxious aftermath of 9/11, no one was willing to take chances. A mysterious white powder had been discovered on-campus and the HAZMAT (hazardous materials) Team was called in. Luckily, the mystery was soon solved. While baking cookies, culinary students had spilled some flour and failed to clean it up. If only it were always so simple.

So far, this has been a disaster-prone decade. There are certain types of disasters LBCC is more likely to face than others, but LBCC's emergency manual, the Emergency Response Procedure Desk Reference, covers a wide variety of hypothetical situations, "situations that we all hope will never happen," reads the manual.

Along with full-time Risk Manager King, LBCC has 150 emergency volunteers (50 managers and 100 coordinators made up of LBCC staff), who, along with campus security and custodial staff, practice evacuation drills twice yearly. During the drills managers operate mobile

radios and coordinators help disabled students on the Evacutrac evacuation devices.

The most recent drill, held April 26, was a success, said King. "We made it under 5 minutes. The goal is 2-6 minutes." The next session will be held during the last week of October and will include an evening drill to practice working in the dark. If an alarm sounds before then, it is not a drill. LBCC does not conduct "surprise" drills.

Each member of the LBCC staff has a copy of the emergency manual. Each building on campus has six to 10 emergency coordinators. It may be reassuring to know that someone is "on the job," but every student has the opportunity to learn more about emergency procedures. 911 is an easy number to remember. Add to that 4440, campus security's extension.

Online information is available at linnbenton.edu/security/ and po.linnbenton.edu/emergencypreparedness/. This summer the security, safety and risk management departments' Web sites will be combined for greater efficiency.

Students are welcome to study the emergency manual, where they may learn how to properly respond to bomb



photo by Dan Wise

Students assemble at one of several campus evacuation points during disaster drill.

threats, earthquakes, fires, bodily fluid spills, broken elevators, gas leaks, power failures, toxic chemical releases/spills, violent acts and other situations. The manual, which is periodically updated, also contains such potentially life-saving information as the whereabouts of first aid kits, CPR masks, evacuation assembly points, eyewash sta-

tions, Evacutrac devices and fire blankets.

With its close proximity to railroads and paper plants, said King, LBCC is especially susceptible to toxic leaks or spills, and is required to follow OSHA's chemical storage and handling procedures for chemicals used on-campus. Other situations may seem unlikely to occur, but

recent disasters have shown the folly of complacency.

King, who has served as Risk Manager since 1995, tries to keep faculty "in the loop" and maintains contact with students through Student Life and Leadership's Tammi Paul. She welcomes students interested in risk management to call her at extension 4211.

Creative students wanted for The Commuter staff for 2006-07

Editor-in-Chief

Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant and provides great experience for aspiring writers and editors. Students with courses and/or experience in journalism preferred. Applicants must be enrolled as students throughout the 2005-06 academic year.

DEADLINE IS MAY 19
(for this position only)

Assistant Editors

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

Photo Editor	Copy Editor
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Sports Editor	Opinion Editor
Graphics Editor	Online Editor

Hourly Wage Jobs

Advertising Assistant	Editorial Assistant
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These positions open to work-study eligible students only. If you have a work study grant and are majoring in a communications field, we want to talk with you.

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Pays \$9+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mondays and Tuesdays. Good English skills and experience with Macintosh InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark preferred. Great experience for majors in graphic design and/or pre-press tech.

Advertising Manager

Students with career goals in marketing or graphics, as well as recent grads seeking p-t work to build their portfolios and resumes, are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Macintosh experience preferred. The position pays \$9+/hour for up to 15 hours per week.

Application Deadline for Editor-in-Chief is May 19

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222)

For additional information call 917-4451

Design Editor: Elizabeth Beckham
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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FUNNY BONES

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



**Got Questions?
Need Answers?**

Ask Isabelle
 Send your questions to
 ask_isabelle@hotmail.com

Dear Isabelle,

I have been through a couple of relationships that have ended poorly. Thankfully I am able to still be friends with one of the guys that I was in a relationship with. For about a year I have gone through a lot emotionally in regards to the dating scene. I have come to a spot in my life where I am FINALLY OK with being single and I actually like it. The only question I still wonder sometimes is when will I know that I am truly ready for a relationship? Is it something that just happens to you? You know, the "you'll just know" or is it something that you're never truly ready for. I thought I was ready in the past but now know without a doubt that I was not ready. I feel ready now but still wonder.

So my question to you is when and how do you know?

**Sincerely,
Thoughtful**

Dear Thoughtful,

The dating scene can be really rough on a girl sometimes and if you are not careful, it can make you bitter, so I am glad to hear that in spite of some bad relationships, you are still open-minded. The thing is, you ARE ready if you think you are, but it depends on the person you start dating. You may be dating some emotionally unstable men who can't commit and no one is EVER ready for those guys but they date them anyway. So my guess is that when the right guy comes along, you will be ready and everything will fall into place. You won't have to worry about if you were ready or not.

Dear Isabelle,

I have a friend that thinks this guy that she met once was pretty nice. She has heard a little bit about him from friends and thinks that he would be a good guy to pursue. The only problem is she does not know how to go about doing this since she has only met him once. When a girl is interested in getting to know a guy more, what is the best way to go about it and not seem like you are stalkerish or coming on too strong? Is it OK for a girl to go after a guy or should she wait for the guy to come to her? I personally have had difficulty with wondering how one would handle this kind of thing my-

self. When is it too much or not enough? Do you go or just leave it alone and whatever happens, happens?

Anyway, just wondered what your opinion was on this subject.

**Sincerely,
The Ponderer**

Dear Ponderer,

It's hard to read a guy's signals sometimes but it's even harder for them to read yours. Most of the time, guys are completely clueless that a girl likes them, especially smart, funny, good-looking girls. They feel most unworthy and couldn't possibly believe that an ultra-cool chick like you would be into them, so the best way to go about things is to be direct. Don't play games. That's why guys say "I hate games!" Just call them up, ask them if they would like to come to some sort of group thing like a party, bowling, movie, whatever, so they don't feel super pressured and can get to know you better in a relaxed and friendly environment. Then if they don't get the hint to ask you out again, go ahead and just put it out there. It may seem hard to do at the time, but in the end you'll always wonder what could have happened if you had said something if you don't.

FOR ADVICE...

E-mail Isabelle for anonymous, fair and unbiased advice anytime at ask_isabelle@hotmail.com or drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222, addressed to Ask Isabelle.

All names will be kept confidential and private. Isabelle will answer all letters as space allows so please be patient if we don't get to your letter right away.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Hunter's quarry
 5 Winter transportation
 10 Pass over
 14 Be adjacent to
 15 Port in a storm
 16 Tropical root
 17 Biblical garden
 19 Impersonator
 20 Crowd count
 21 ___ Star State
 22 Highland boy
 23 Screamed
 25 Highest level
 28 Zing
 30 ___ Juan Capistrano
 31 List unit
 33 Knocks lightly
 36 Avian abodes
 40 Sicilian erupter
 41 Lieu
 43 Go away!
 44 "Divine Poems" poet
 46 Of sound mind
 47 Fountain treat
 48 ___ at ease
 50 Dollop
 52 Dad
 53 Vandals' signatures
 58 Reiner or Lowe
 60 Miff
 61 Aromatic herbage
 66 Longoria and Gabor
 67 Opera company manager
 68 S.F. underground
 69 Fencing swords
 70 Salty droplet
 71 Sailor's saint
 72 Goes it alone
 73 Identical

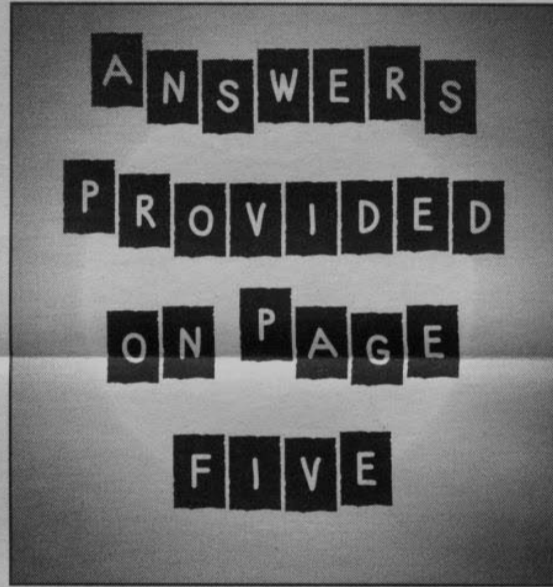
- DOWN**
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 2 Aid a criminal
 3 Mongrel
 4 Lucy's landlady
 5 Molting snakes
 6 Tibetan teacher
 7 Roy's Dale
 8 Actress Judi

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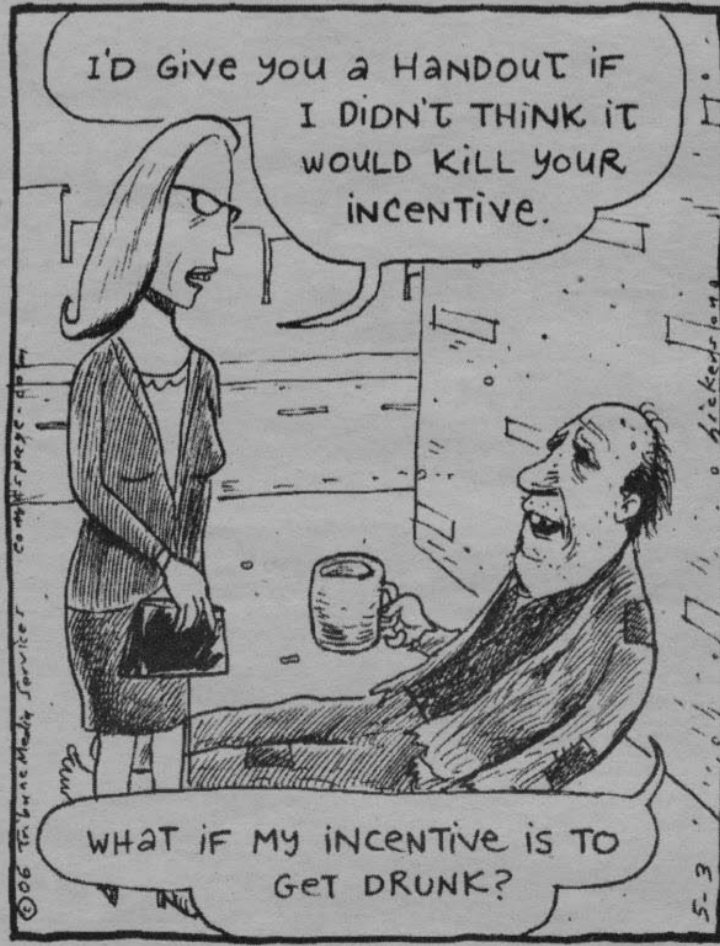
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5/11/06

- 9 Scornful looks
 10 Hackneyed quality
 11 Silk-cotton tree
 12 Actress Dunne
 13 Like leaves and skin
 18 Easy job
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Commons Lbcc MAIN CAMPUS

MAY 10- MAY 16

- Wednesday:**
 ENTREES: Baked stuffed snapper and braised lamb
 VEGETARIAN: Rommali roti w/curried vegetables
 SIDES: Steamed new potatoes w/fine herbs and glazed carrots & turnips
 SOUPS: Gazpacho and cream of broccoli
- Thursday:**
 ENTREES: Lemon chicken w/steamed rice and pork lyonnaise - stuffed pork chop on a bed of caramelized onions
 VEGETARIAN: Huevos rancheros
 SIDES: Mashed potatoes and cauliflower w/cheddar cheese sauce
 SOUPS: Grilled vegetable beef and beer cheese
- Friday: Chef's Choice**
- Monday:**
 ENTREES: Chicken Kiev and phad thai
 VEGETARIAN: Portabella mushrooms topped with spinach, a poached egg & bernaise sauce with rice
 SIDES: Rice pilaf and jardiniere of vegetables
 SOUPS: Cream of broccoli and Italian sausage
- Tuesday:**
 ENTREES: Hungarian chicken and Vietnamese steak wraps
 VEGETARIAN: Vegetable lasagna
 SIDES: Roasted red potatoes and batonet of root vegetables
 SOUPS: Paysanne marmite and vegetarian tomato

Weekly Menu

A&E Editor: Colleen Franzoia
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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



photo by Colleen Franzoia

Clever matchmaker Frosine (Melody Murphy) strikes a bargain for her services with parsimonious Harpagon (John Carone) in Albany Civic Theater's performance of "The Miser."

Farce 'The Miser' shines on courtship foibles

Colleen Franzoia
 The Commuter

"The Miser" directed by Robert Leff, opened to an appreciative crowd this weekend at Albany Civic Theater. This is the 50th show Leff has directed. The play was written by Moliere in 1668 as a French farce but has been adapted to fit a late 19th century setting. The translation was done by Albert Bermel.

Harpagon, a tightfisted money-lender, is anxious to have his children married off, so he enlists the aid of the shrewd matchmaker, Frosine. Her mission is to find suitable matches for his son and daughter.

The goal is make sure his children marry well and cost him nothing in dowries. However, the children have plans of their own.

Elise (Hannah K. Gerlach) is in love with her father's impoverished servant, Valere (Chuck Skinner), who swears he is the heir to a long-lost fortune. Her brother, Cleante (Cameron McFee), is in love with a poor young woman, Mariane (MaCherie Doerfler), who lives down the street. Set in a time when children had to follow the

wishes of their parents, Elise and Cleante have to think fast to stay ahead of their father.

In addition, Harpagon, comically played by John Carone, worries that someone will find his money-box full of gold coins, so he secretly buries it in his garden; however, every time someone enters the garden he is certain they are out to rob him.

Frosine, superbly played by Melody Murphy, knows how to drive a bargain and is pleased at the thought of earning a handsome fee for her matchmaking efforts.

It's fun to watch the story unfold as each character strives to get what they want.

Lisa Bell Shramek plays Jacqueline, both cook and chauffer and Kevin Kirk plays La Fleche, servant to Cleante. Both play a role in the success of the schemes. Ken Dickason and Craig Richard Currier round out the entertaining cast.

Tickets can be purchased or reserved at Sid Stevens Jewelers in Albany at (541)-967-8140 or Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis at (541)-752-7779. The box office holds 10 seats in reserve for every performance available 45 minutes before curtain.

Cancelled sitcom still a hit on DVD

Robert Wong
 The Commuter

One of the most acclaimed sitcoms in recent years, "Arrested Development," ended its three-year run on FOX this spring due to low viewer ratings. The last episodes went up against the opening night ceremonies of the Winter Olympics, practically guaranteeing the series finale was seen only by the show's small but loyal base of passionate fans.

However, this shouldn't stop anyone from grabbing the first two seasons of "Arrested" on DVD. At no more than \$30 each (with cheaper prices online), hours of enjoyment can be had from this most dysfunctional of families. For those on a budget, the DVDs can be rented for a lazy weekend or found at your local library. The third and final season's release on DVD is projected later this year.

"Arrested Development" is shot documentary-style and is narrated by acclaimed director/child actor/co-creator Ron Howard as we witness the events that unfold around the Bluth family, a wealthy player in the real estate scene in southern California. In its first season, "Arrested" won an Emmy for Best Comedy and has picked up numerous other awards as well.

George Sr. (Jeffrey Tambor) runs the Bluth Company and is

arrested on charges of fraud and imprisoned. His son, Michael (Jason Bateman), is then put in charge of the company while trying to keep the rest of the family out of trouble.

Lucille (Jessica Walter) is George Sr.'s wife, a bored socialite wielding authority over Michael and her three other children: Gob (Will Arnett), the magician extraordinaire; Buster (Tony Hale), prone to panic attacks; and Lindsay (Portia De Rossi), beautiful but misguided. Lindsay is married to Tobias Funke (David Cross), a psychiatrist with dreams of becoming an actor. They have a rebellious child, Maeby (Alia Shawkat), to whom they rarely pay attention to.

George Michael (Michael Cera) is Michael's awkward teenage son who secretly has feelings for his cousin, Maeby.

The show takes place in a variety of settings during each episode, setting it apart from most sitcoms that stay at home. The writing is impeccable, creating laughter for the moment, referring back to a previous episode, or alluding to future events. Longtime fans of the show watch episodes over and over, discovering new jokes in the dialogue or background that heighten the "Arrested" experience.

The guest stars come out in force during their time on

screen in recurring characters or one-shot cameos. Notable faces include Charlize Theron, Ben Stiller, Liza Minnelli, Henry Winkler, Heather Graham, Martin Short, Carl Weathers and Julia Louis-Dreyfus among others.

"Arrested" may be gone now, but it would be a huge mistake not to see what you've been missing with this great comedy—unless you're a chicken.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Check It Out

"The Miser"

May 12, 13, 18, 19, 20
 8 p.m.

Matinee May 14
 2:30 p.m.
 \$9 Adults
 \$6 Seniors and Students under 18
 Students half-price on Thursdays
 Albany Civic Theater
 111 First Ave. S.W.
 www.albanycivic.org

"Jesus Christ Superstar"

May 11, 12, 13, 17, 18** 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27,
 8 p.m.

14*, 21*, 28*
 *2:30 p.m. Matinee
 Majestic Theatre
 115 S.W. Second St.
 Corvallis
 Adults \$12
 Students and Seniors \$10
 **Bargain Thursday all seats \$10
 www.corvalliscommunity-theatre.org

Andre Paradise's All Star Comedy

Comedians from HBO, Comedy Central and more
 May 12
 7 - 9 p.m.
 No Cover
 The First Round
 129 1st Ave. W.
 Albany

The Clumsy Lovers

May 12
 9 p.m.
 \$9 at the door
 Platinum
 126 S.W. Fourth st. Corvallis

Jo Dee Messina

May 19 & 20
 Chinook Winds Casino & Resort
 1777 N.W. 44th St.
 Lincoln City
 \$30 - \$50
 1-888-MAIN ACT

Workshops get hips moving

Jennifer Overholser
 The Commuter

If you've ever dreamed of trying out the salsa, tango, cha cha or waltz, here's your chance.

These classic Latin and ballroom dances are at the center of the remaining two International Dance Workshops, presented by the Student Programming Board, which began with belly dancing last Thursday.

Tina "Levanah" Taylor, director of Heart and Soul Wellness in Corvallis, taught the workshop. She teaches belly dancing, yoga and massage. Taylor has been involved with belly dancing for 30 years. She is also a registered nurse and has a master's degree in counseling. She teaches at Timberhill Athletic Club and other locations in Corvallis.

Student Activities Coordinator Ann-Marie Yacobucci attended the belly dancing workshop. She became interested in trying belly dancing when she saw the performance at the International Dinner. "I just thought it was the neatest thing ever," she said.

Yacobucci said it was a really good workout and even though it was hard to shake her hips and shimmy her shoulders at the same time, she enjoyed the workshop. "I think everyone had a blast," she said. Yacobucci plans to attend the upcoming workshops as well.

Barbara Platt, a ballroom and swing dance instructor at OSU, will teach the remaining two workshops. She will teach a salsa and tango class on Thursday, May 18 and a cha cha and waltz class Thursday, May 25.

Both classes will be from 6 to 8 p.m. in AC-120 and cost \$2 with a student ID and \$3 for non-students. Participants must have shoes with non-marking soles. For more information call 917-4963.

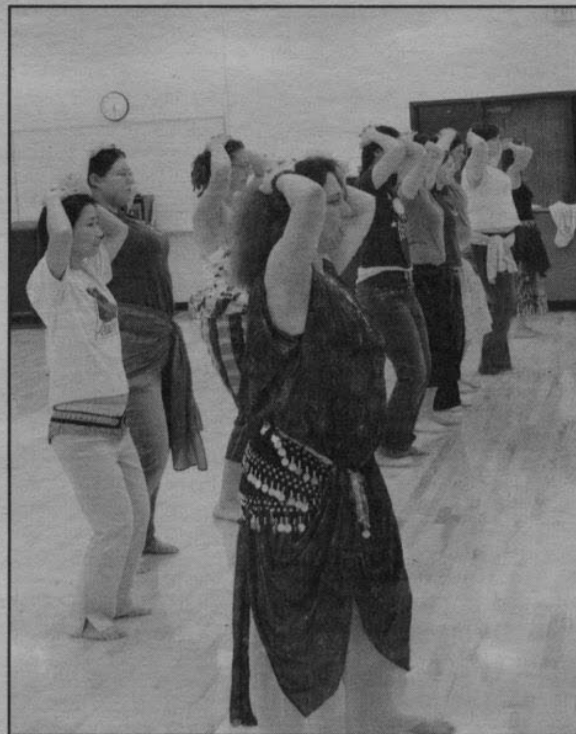


photo by Dan Wise

Tina "Levanah" Taylor leads the belly dance workshop last Thursday. It was the first of three International Dance Workshops.

REVIEW

MC video encourages the disabled to live successfully despite obstacles

Robert Wong
 The Commuter

The Multicultural Center will have a free showing of the video "Women Scientists With Disabilities" from noon to 1 p.m. today.

"Women Scientists With Disabilities" profiles three women who have triumphed over adversity to turn into respected figures in their fields of study.

The three women dealt with blindness, dwarfism, and a curvature of the spine to become a clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, and pediatric neurosurgeon respectively.

We get to watch these women

go through their daily routines at work and be successful, despite their disabilities. Outside of work, they enjoy free time with their families and various hobbies.

All three women were inspired to learn more about science because of the doctors who operated on them when they were children.

Each woman advises disabled students to work with their disability instead of against it and to pursue careers in science, saying that scientific study does not discriminate against the disabled as long as their minds are strong. Two of the three women have become professors in their field

in addition to their work.

In between profiles, young disabled people tell the audience about famous scientists who had disabilities but still went on to make discoveries and do great things.

With technological advances in education, a disability should not keep anybody from learning about any topic of interest.

According to the film, more than 175,000 disabled scientists work in the United States today, with one in every five people having some sort of disability.

Following the film, Coordinator of Disability Services Lynne Cox will lead a discussion session for those with questions.

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DISCOVERY

Community festivals, tours, far off treks, trips and interesting places that readers might enjoy visiting in their free time.



THE JAPANESE GARDENS OF PORTLAND

Davis Rogers
 The Commuter

It may come as a surprise to learn that Portland, known as the City of Roses, is home to one of the most authentic Japanese gardens in the world. Hidden away in the western hills overlooking the city, Portland's Japanese Garden is home to some of the most subtle and painstakingly crafted beauty in Oregon.

The Japanese Garden was created and continues to be run by the Japanese Garden Society of Oregon, a non-profit organization that supports and maintains the garden through admissions, memberships and donations. The society was founded in 1962 in cooperation with Portland's Sister City, Sapporo, Japan. In 1963, the garden was designed by renowned Professor Takuma Tono of the Tokyo Agricultural University. The Japanese Garden opened to the public in 1967 and has since quietly become one of Portland's more celebrated parks.

Words, and even photographs, do little to impart the



garden's effect on anyone who spends more than a few moments within its carefully terraced borders.

"I prefer to use one of my favorite quotes from Professor Tono, who said, 'The garden speaks to all the senses, not just to the mind alone,'" said Sarah Fawcett, the garden's marketing director, after a moment's contemplation.

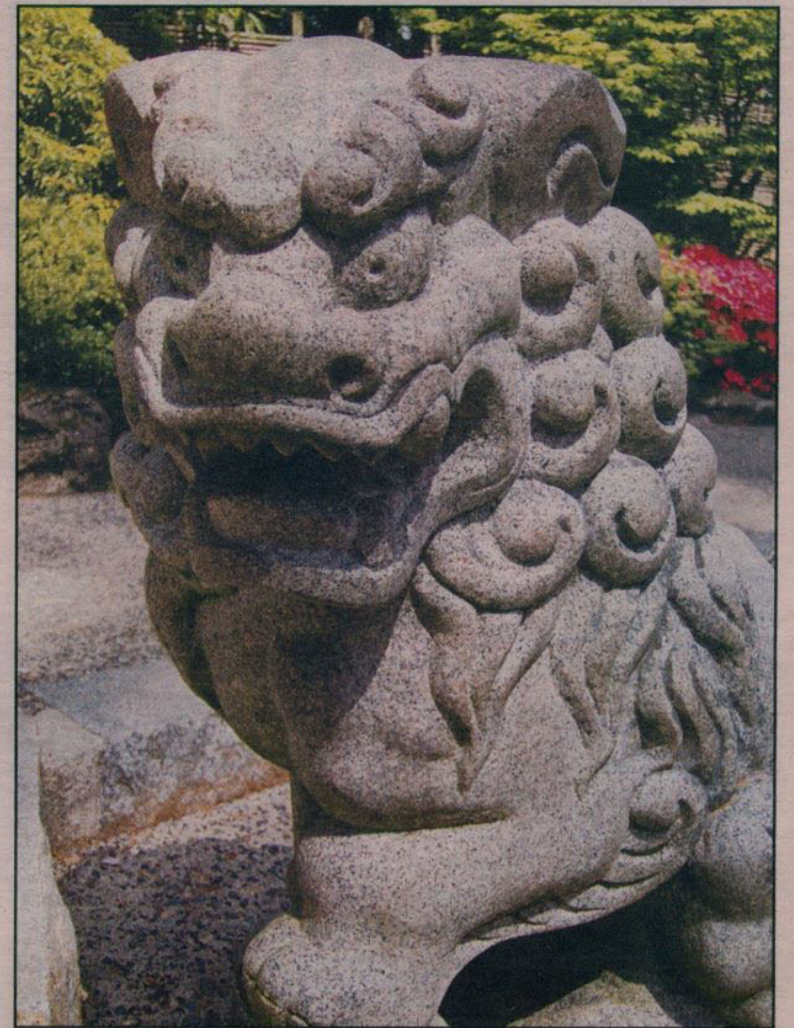
The difficulty to capture any description of the Japanese Garden is because the entire garden itself is a work of art. Every plant, stone, puddle, pond, natural sound and view has been carefully manipulated by Tono so that people who walk along its winding paths are constantly presented with his intricately prepared vision.

One of the goals of the Japanese Garden, according to Fawcett, is to give each visitor an escape and solace from the social world. The garden is intended to soothe its guests, to relax them and, in a more spiritual sense, balance them. All of this is achieved with the manipulation of every feature in the garden. Every tree, shrub, stone and flower is carefully

groomed and placed so that they each appear natural to the observer. This simplified version of nature is intended to set the visitor's mind at ease, because although the garden is beautiful, it is not intended to awe its guests.

Portland's Japanese Garden is wrapped around the corner of a heavily wooded hill and covers five and a half acres. Professor Tono designed five separate Japanese gardens that seamlessly blend into each other and yet are unique. The Strolling Pond Garden, Tea Garden, Natural Garden, Sand and Stone Garden and Flat Garden each represent a different view of Japanese culture, philosophy and sensibility, and each is full of natural symbolism.

"It is impossible to talk



Upper left: A zigzag bridge leads you over the koi pond. At Left: Three stones in the rock garden represent islands in the water. Above: A traditional dragon statue welcomes guests.

about the Japanese Garden without talking about symbolism," said one of the garden's volunteer tour guides, Norma Lind. "Symbolism exists in everything that surrounds you in the garden. It exists in the black pine, the polished rocks, the carved granite lanterns, and it even exists in the turns in the path. Everything is a symbol for something else."

Generally these symbols are meant to represent forces in Japanese spirituality and the placement of each symbol and the efforts by the gardeners to maintain them through pruning and positioning represents a balance in these forces.

"The guides are amazing because they fell in love with the garden themselves, and now they try to share that love and understanding with each visi-

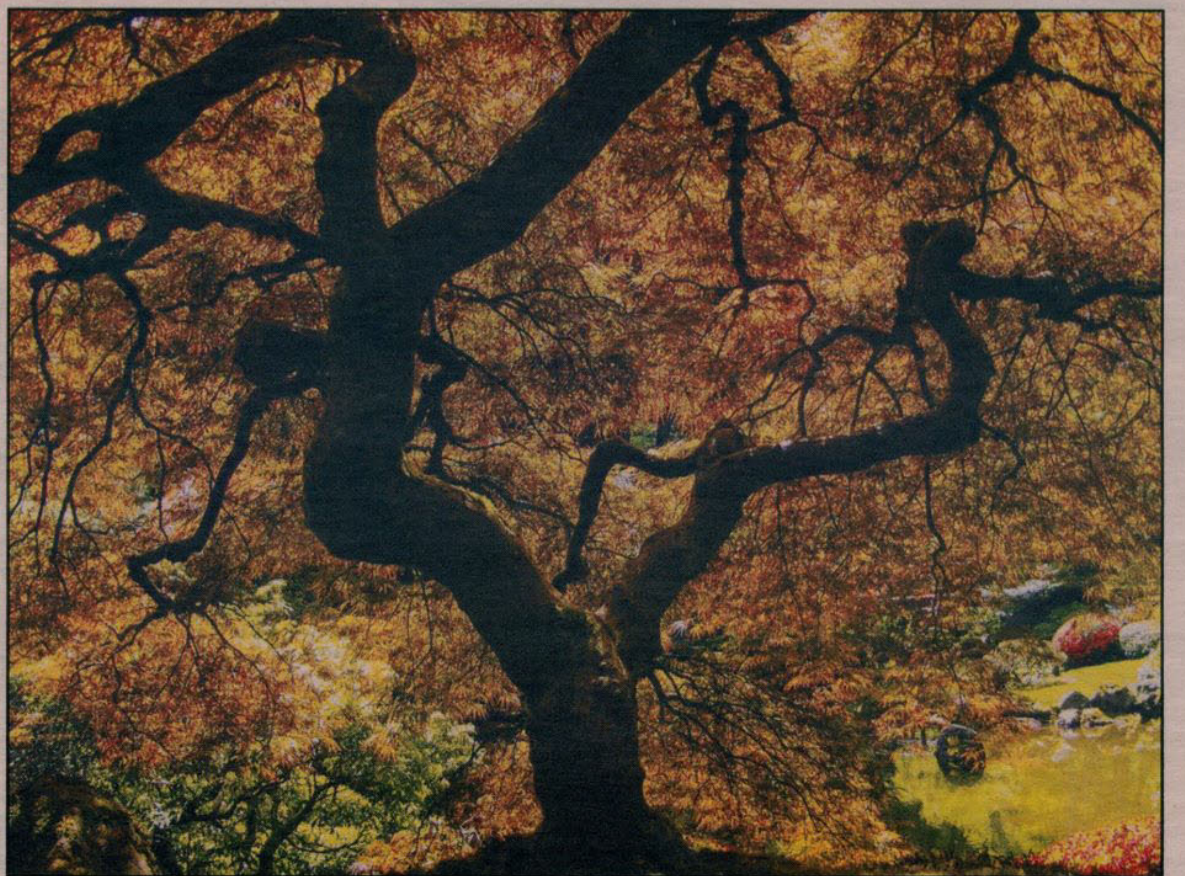
tor," said Fawcett. "They are volunteers and they want to be here to help and to share."

Visitors travel in small groups or alone, often not speaking or doing so only in hushed voices or barely heard whispers. Although there are no signs asking for silence, it is as though the garden itself demands it. Even as the visitors leave through the traditional daimyo gates and wander back down the winding path out of the garden, or climb back onto the complimentary shuttle bus, they remain quiet and pensive.

The garden is so powerful, because despite its complexity of design and motivation, in the end it achieves its simple goals: relaxing, soothing and calming its guests, leaving them feeling satisfied, fulfilled and ready to return to their varied worlds.



Above: A water sculpture's trickling droplets blend in with the natural sounds of the garden. At right: A Japanese maple.



photos by Elizabeth Beckham and Adam Ball