

ART VS. AIDS

Oregon City photographer uses her pictures to help children suffering from AIDS epidemic in Africa ▶ Pg. 9

SILENT YOGA

Hearing impaired student uses sign language interpreter to succeed in Yoga class ▶ Pg. 5



THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2002

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 34 No. 8



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Christmas Spires

A scale model of Albany's historic Whitespires Church is one of the featured attractions among the more than 60 displays in the 27th annual Christmas Storybook Land at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center. The event opens Saturday, Dec. 7. See story on page 7.

Childcare costs could triple at LB

by Wendy Geist of The Commuter

About 40 people attended the LBCC Board of Education meeting Nov. 20 to show their concern for proposed budget cuts at the Family Resource Center.

In an effort to reduce LB's budget by \$2.3 million next year, the college plans to cut programs. The Family Resource Center was given an early warning to help them find alternative funds. LB spends about \$292,000 each year on FRC staff salaries.

The current program requires parents to participate in a co-op at the center in which they must work and attend seminars with their children, allowing them to pay only \$375 per term for child care services. If salaries of the center's eight teachers are cut, parents will have to pay a market rate of \$430 a month for childcare at LB.

Liz Pearce-Smith, a parent at the FRC and education/child and family studies instructor, explained to the board the im-

portance of the fact that the FRC is a nationally accredited center and the only one in Linn County. The center serves 70 children ages 2 to 5. Smith is worried that parents will have to pay triple for childcare services, but also stresses the richness of the co-op experience.

"It's about creating communities. The Family Resource Center is not just about childcare, it's about the parents," said Smith.

Leta Brown, a classified staff at LBCC who relies heavily on the convenience of sending her 4-year-old to the FRC, said, "The day that changed my and my son's life was the day we were accepted into the co-op program."

The lessons she learned, she has put into action. Brown explained how a temperament class opened her eyes. She said she has gained a better relationship with her son and has shared what she has learned with other parents.

▼ Turn to "FRC" on Pg. 4

Students invited to share budget concerns at forums

by Wendy Geist of The Commuter

In January, Student Life & Leadership will host an on-campus forum concerning LBCC's budget and will co-host another forum with OSU on the topic of



Jon Carnahan

Measure 28.

The first forum will be held Jan. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Alsea/Calapooia Room in the College Center. President Jon Carnahan will speak about the LB's budget crisis and take questions.

ASG Student Body President Roxanne Allen says this will be a good time for students to voice their opinions to Carnahan regarding any cuts that have or will be made to their programs.

Recommendations for cuts will be made to LB's Board of Education Dec. 18 in an effort to reduce next year's budget by at least \$2.3 million.

The second forum, which will be about Measure 28, will be held Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. in the Memorial Union Lounge at OSU. The forum will be open to OSU, LBCC and the community. A special election on Jan. 28 will determine whether people are willing to pay a three-year temporary

income tax. If it passes, it will provide funds for all state funded institutions including colleges.

LBCC stands to lose \$1 million if the voters reject the measure, and OSU will also lose a lot of money, says Allen, who is working with OSU's student government to organize the forum.

Allen says the goal of the forum will be to give people the opportunity to voice their concerns in front of the community.

Christmas tree decorating to bring holiday cheer to campus

by Shannon Reddicks of The Commuter

Andrew Taylor, health recreation specialist and Darrel McGie, political activities specialist from Student Life and Leadership have both teamed together to bring LBCC its own

Christmas tree.

The tree was donated by Debra Brush from Tangent, Oregon and according to Taylor, the tree is about 20 ft. tall by 6 ft. wide.

The tree will be decorated with multicolored lights, 400 ornaments and tinsel acquired from the Student Programming Board. Students are also invited to bring

their own decorations. The Student Life and Leadership plan to use a ladder or even a lift to place the decorations on the tree.

The tree decorating will be on Dec. 4, and begin at 12 p.m. near the center of the Courtyard, and a choir will be performing from 12 to 12:20 p.m. Refreshments will include cookies and eggnog.

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

High: 48° Low: 39°
WEDNESDAY

High: 51° Low: 34°
THURSDAY

High: 51° Low: 34°
FRIDAY

High: 52° Low: 33°
SATURDAY

High: 50° Low: 37°
SUNDAY

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THE COMMUTER

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OPINION

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

Food for thought: mean holiday attitudes

As we return to class, fat tened by Thanksgiving dinner and about to enter the holiday seasonal frenzy, I want to give everyone some food for thought.

Charity. . . Americans still think of themselves as charitable people, and I believe they are, or have a desire to be. But I also believe that a mean-spirited attitude is rearing its ugly head at the holiday table. There is apparently widespread notion that all people on assistance are lazy drug addicts, that people on "welfare" are robbing the taxpayers of their hard-earned dollars and that we are being bankrupted by welfare expenditures.

In reality, it is tough to get any assistance at all, welfare "reform" has created many obstacles in the way of achieving any monetary grant at all and the small amount anyone is eligible for is not even close to subsistence level.

The last posted year (1994), of federal expenditures for Aid to Families with Dependent Children in Oregon totaled a paltry \$248,605, excluding food stamp benefits, but including administrative costs.

The State of Oregon shoulders the main burden of expenditures for the Adult and Family Services program—\$1.2 billion was estimated for the last biennium.

The focus over the last few years has been to move families from welfare to jobs. Unfortunately, the majority of jobs available are minimum wage. Anyone who has tried to survive on a minimum wage job, even without a family to support, knows just how impossible a task it is. Once you have a minimum wage job you are phased off of medical assistance and the other safety-net programs.

Now to put this into perspective, the

federal government spends \$870 million on each B2 bomber. The B2 is a nuclear weapons delivery system whose mission has never been defined and that is unused. For the cost of one B2 bomber, 29 thousand jobs paying a living wage of \$30,000 dollars a year could be funded. If other unnecessary nuclear weapons programs were canceled, the resulting \$8.2 billion in savings could fund 273,333 such jobs.

Oregon is in serious financial trouble. We are struggling to maintain a minimum of services. If the January 28 funding measure doesn't pass, we will lose some vital monies, affecting services to the mentally ill, schools and senior services to mention just a couple of the effects.

Many of us at LBCC have low incomes. Some of us have had setbacks in life, such as accidents, layoffs or abusive relationships. We find ourselves struggling to better ourselves without benefit of mom and dad paying our tuition, and with no safety net when the food money runs out before the end of the month.

Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States spent 60 percent of its military budget on the protection of Europe against Soviet attack. The Soviet Union collapsed in great part because of its unbridled military expenditures. They were caught in a security dilemma that proved to be an unending drain on their resources.

We are not immune from this problem ourselves.

In the U.S. we have not diminished our military spending since the collapse

of the Soviet Union. Actually, the military budget was increased toward the end of the Clinton Administration. Our society could be vastly improved by re-directing some of the over \$300 billion the military receives annually.

When we spend over \$200 billion on an untested, unworkable missile defense project, which is still only in the experi-

mental design phase, we are depriving the families of America vital services.

We have one of the highest infant mortality rates in the industrialized nations, in part be-

cause we are the only industrialized nation that does not have health care. Countries that have the welfare of their own population as a priority, provide health care, parenting benefits, child care and many other services to make the lives of their citizens better and improve the stability of their societies. Instead, the U.S. pours money down the hole we call a defense budget while the people of America suffer and go without vital services to line the pockets of fat cats in the military industrial complex.

It is time to inform ourselves. We must help change our society for the better and to join much of the rest of the world in prioritizing our expenditures to benefit and strengthen our country.

True national security rests in a strong and resilient economy, which is less vulnerable to outside pressures, and in the population's health, educational opportunities and morale.

I know that it seems complicated to gain information on what the federal

budget actually gets spent on. But an informed and active citizenry can change things. Once we understand the basic impact of what can be accomplished by even a slight change in military expenditures, we should have more impetus to vote for people that want to change the system. If politicians understood that Americans have a changing sense of priorities, they would run on different platforms. We cannot accomplish this unless we inform ourselves and speak out.

On the local level, there are many small things you can do that will make you feel good about yourself. Local businesses have Christmas trees set up with tags on them with the name and age of a local child. You can buy something for that child and bring it back to the business. You get to choose what to buy and you know it is going to a local kid.

You can donate to the school clothing program, donate supplies to the Boys and Girls Club, work at the soup kitchen, offer to watch the children for someone you know who is trying to get a job, mentor a teen, bring just a couple of cans of food to a food drive, dig up a couple of sweaters you don't wear anymore and donate them to Vina Moses—the list is endless.

We do have the power to change the country. We ARE the government. We also have the power to make those in our communities feel as if they belong and matter as human beings. This holiday season try making someone else feel good, it will become a habit and you might start doing it all year round. I promise you that nothing will make you feel better than to bring a smile to someone else's face.

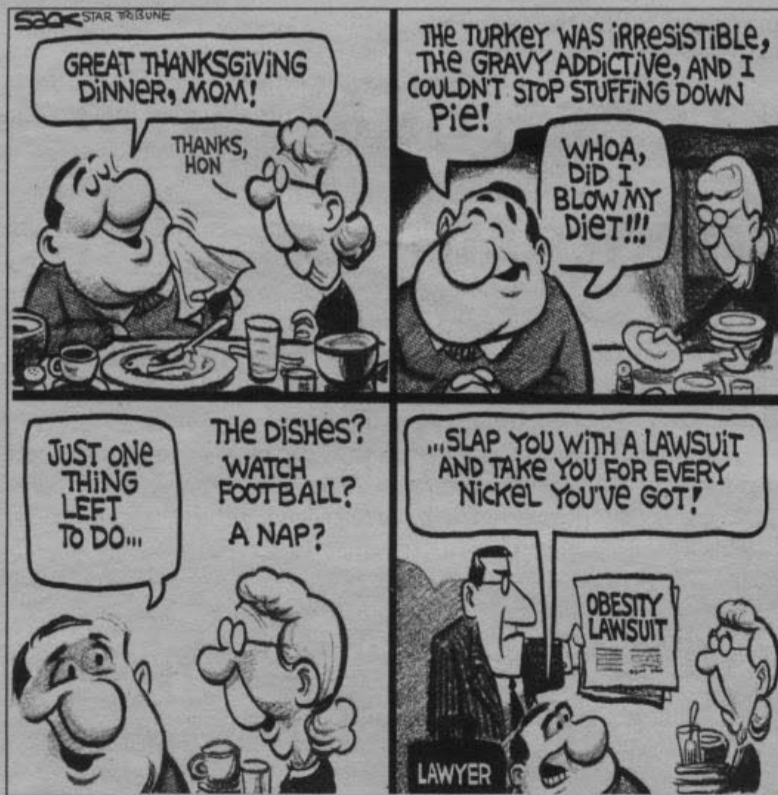
I hope everyone has a joyful holiday season, surrounded by those they love. That is what really matters.

IN MY



OPINION

Adele Kubein



EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer.

All letters received will be published, space permitting, unless they are considered by the editor to be potentially libelous or in poor taste.

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

AIDS: an emotional issue

Sunday, Dec. 1 marked the 14th observation of World AIDS Day. This year, the Multicultural Center partnered with artists at LBCC and in the community, and with Linn County Health Services for LBCC's second annual Artists Against AIDS.

One of those artists, photographer, Chellie Kew is featured in the AHSS Gallery through Jan. 15. Her work features pictures of African children whose lives have been changed by AIDS. Most of them are orphans, some are HIV positive. Many are homeless because they have lost their entire families to the AIDS pandemic.

I encourage you to stop by the gallery to see and read about these children. We are fortunate that here in the United States our loved ones have access to the latest "drug cocktails" and testing procedures that allow many persons infected with HIV or with AIDS to continue living their lives and contributing to our communities. This is not the case in many other countries.

The Monday Oregonian noted in its article that there are 42 million HIV infected people worldwide. Although 75 percent of those infected live in Africa,

local AIDS educator, Christopher Grey reports that Asian countries, particularly China, and Russia are now seeing epidemic numbers.

HIV/AIDS can no longer be termed a "gay" disease. Nor can we point to drug users as the main victims. In fact, the fastest growing population is hetero-

sexual women. The life expectancy of women in Africa alone is expected to fall from 54 to 38 in the next 10 years. During that time, AIDS will orphan more than 2 million children.

HIV/AIDS is also a reality here in our communities. Since 1981, Linn and Benton counties report 96 people infected with AIDS. And Oregon estimates reveal over 7,000 persons infected with HIV/AIDS during the same time period. These numbers only reflect those per-

sons who know they have HIV/AIDS. One third of infected persons are not even aware that they are infected. Silence, stigma and discrimination continue to hamper the efforts of health workers here and abroad as they continue to educate people about HIV/AIDS.

So, please remember and remind your friends and loved ones that HIV/AIDS is only transmitted by an infectious dose of body fluid. To be blunt, that means blood, vaginal fluids, semen or breast milk. There is no need to avoid our friends and neighbors who are infected.

The need is in taking care of others and ourselves. Postpone sex until you are in a long-term relationship with someone you are sure is not infected; Use a latex condom if you choose not to wait; don't do IV drugs, or if you are, do not share needles. If you have participated in sex without protection or IV drug use, please get tested. And finally, educate yourself and others about the spread of this disease.

Be compassionate with persons infected by HIV/AIDS. You just don't know how close to home this disease can be.

Susan Prock



CENTER

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Work study students look forward to 40-cent raise

by Maria Arico
 of The Commuter

Work study students can expect their wages to increase and hours to decrease as a result of the minimum wage increase set to take effect this January.

Oregon voters at the Nov. 5 election approved the proposed minimum wage increase of 40 cents per hour. Beginning Jan. 1, minimum wage workers will be making \$6.90 an hour. Students who participate in the federal work study program at minimum wage will be included.

Sylvia Pearson works in the LBCC financial aid office with the work study program. "The college's federal work study budget ranges from \$300,000 to \$320,000 per year 75 percent of the money is provided through federal funding and the remaining 25 percent comes out of the college budget," she said.

Pearson said this year the maximum work study grant was raised from \$800 to \$1,000 per term, but that very few students each year actually earn that much per term. Pearson said grants aren't likely to increase by much next year in response to the wage increase. Students will just be working less hours, as they will be starting this January, so as not to exceed their allotted amounts.

The main challenge will be for students with smaller work study grants to find work. Employers will be looking for those who have larger

grants because they can work for a longer period of time.

"It will be hard for students with just a few hundred because they will be out of eligibility in just a few weeks," said Pearson.

Career and Employment Specialist, Carla Raymond, works to place work study students in a variety of jobs on and off campus. She's "half and half" on the issue. "I think it's important for people to make a living wage, but we're in a recession and it might cause more people to be laid off. Especially by smaller employers who might try to do with a little less."

Raymond said departments who rely on work study help will have to adjust when the wage increase takes affect. "It will hurt us because of the number of hours students can work," she said.

Raymond said there are about 200 work study positions offered through the college and 165 of these are filled. Work study students can be found in most offices and labs on campus such as the collision repair shop, animal science and computer labs.

There are also off-campus opportunities at horse barns and various biology and physical science labs. Students can also work in local elementary schools through programs like Smart Reader, where they help children learn how to read; Even Start, which concentrates on disadvantaged students; and America Counts where students tutor children in math.

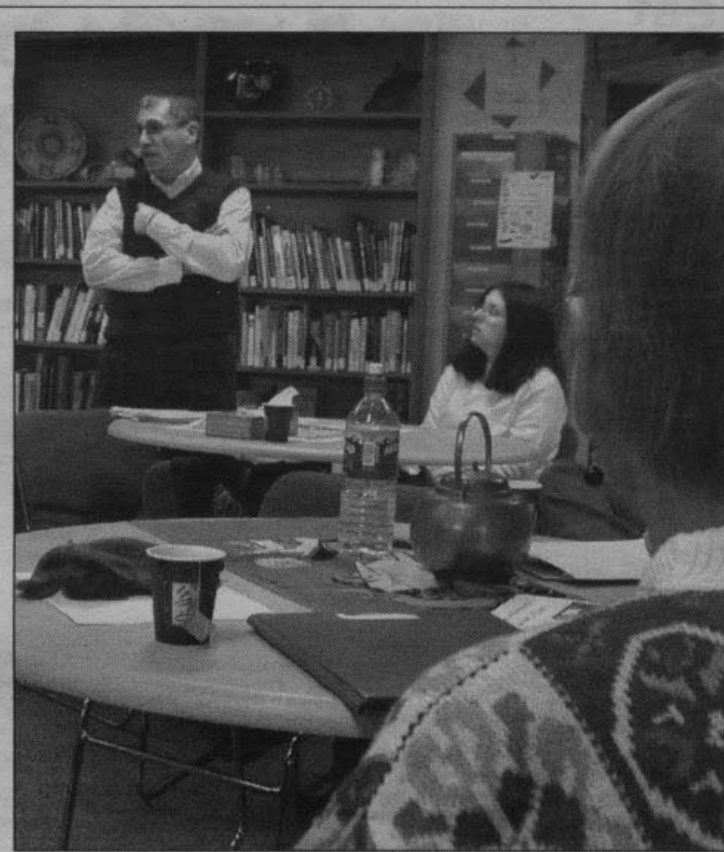


Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Speaking Out on AIDS

Bob Skinner talks about the discrimination AIDS victims face in society during last week's Artists Against AIDS event in the Multicultural Center. Skinner was joined by poets and other writers at the event, which was held to commemorate World AIDS Awareness Week. Another part of Artists Against AIDS is a photo exhibit on African children now on view in the AHSS Gallery.

Computer 'Road Map' helps students choose required classes

by Michelle Bertalot
 of The Commuter

The newly devised LBCC Road Map is a computer program that may help students find classes they need to fit graduation requirements for their specific degrees.

"It is mainly a way to check for available classes in the categories that are based on the student's specific degrees," stated Gary Ruppert, director of Arts and Communications.

Ruppert helped set up the Road Map program.

The program is accessible through the LBCC web site, www.linnbenton.edu, followed by a click on "SIS" and a click on "Road Map."

It was devised over the summer and on the web site for fall term. "It wasn't very well known for fall term," commented Ruppert.

Once a student has looked up the information they need, the program provides the CRN number, instructor, title,

number of credits, time and day, building, seats available and waiting seats available. "It's all live data," said Ruppert. "It's not something that was posted three weeks ago."

As winter term approaches and classes start filling up, Road Map will be a very useful scheduling tool because it will display how many seats are available currently and which classes are still open or full.

Before the Road Map, students would have to go through the term catalog, the

schedule of classes leaflet and had to actually find out if the class was full or not. "Students had to go through three or four different things to find a class," said Ruppert.

"This term we're working on getting advisers comfortable with it and advising the students how to use the Road Map," Ruppert stated.

Students should keep in mind that there may be added times classes meet and are encouraged to check the printed schedule for complete listings.

Pilot nursing program may let students start in spring

by Melissa Friend
 of The Commuter

Qualified students who applied for the nursing program last fall and made the alternates list were recently sent a letter from the admissions office that

explains a plan for an additional nursing class that would begin spring term 2003.

The pilot program would include a class of 27 students. Nine of those spaces will be reserved for students from Lincoln County. Also some spaces will

be held for students who were not able to continue the fall term NUR 101. The selection will be made from the alternates who reactivated their fall 2002 applications by Nov. 22, 2002.

The program would require a two-year commitment of full-

time attendance for spring, summer and fall terms. There would not be a winter term nursing class for this specific program.

It is important for all admitted nursing students for spring 2003 to have their certified nursing assistants license by March

31, 2003.

The final decision to run the pilot alternate program will not be made until Feb. 1, 2003. The program is dependent on having enough funds, students and the hiring of three more nursing faculty.



Photo by Bonnie Quinones

A record 227 people turned out for the third annual Native American Salmon Dinner in the Commons on Nov. 22.

Annual Native American Salmon Dinner breaks record for attendance

by Scott W. McClure
 of The Commuter

The third annual Native American Salmon Dinner, held on Friday Nov. 22, had a record attendance this year of more than 227 people.

The LBCC Foundation, the Multicultural Center and the LBCC Student Programming Board sponsored the dinner.

The evening started out with dinner and ended with storytelling, music, drumming and dancing. As with some Native American traditions, gifts were given away during the festivities.

The dinner was open to the public and free for students and their families. A \$5 donation was

asked of all others. It was held in the Commons in the College Center Building from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

This year's performers included Singing Bones and Friends who, with music, stories and dance shared the cultures of the Blackfoot, Klamath, Navajo and Algonquin tribes.

Susan Prock, the coordinator for the Multicultural Center, was told by one of the performers that this year's record attendance was due to its "third direction." Many native ceremonies start off with a prayer and a gift offering to the four cardinal points of the compass. This being the dinner's third year, thus the "third direction." Next year promises to be even bigger.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Off Beat

From KRT News

High Stupidity

A man mailed a package of high-tech telephone equipment at the post office in Nuremberg, Germany. But two postal workers inside stole the package, opened it, and decided to sell the stuff and make a quick buck.

Unfortunately, they tried to make the sale at a second-hand shop where, unbeknownst to them, the proprietor happened to be the man who had mailed the goods in the first place. He immediately called the police.

Hello Ladies

Four times during the past year, an elderly man has robbed a pharmacy in Marseilles, France, stealing the entire stock of the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

Pick Up Your Jaw

A man parked his old junk of a car behind a Massachusetts fire station next to two other beat-up automobiles, unaware that the other two vehicles were there to be ripped apart by the Jaws of Life as part of the firefighters' rescue training.

While he was gone, his car was erroneously turned into a large mass of scrap metal.

Password ... 'Delight'

Ever since a swingers' club opened on the ground floor of their Berlin apartment building, tenants have been losing sleep because of the "unmistakable sounds" of passion emanating from the premises.

The building's residents in the exclusive Charlottenburg district want the club shut down because the moans of pleasure and screams of delight are driving them crazy.

What About Shoes?

Nurses in Orebro, Sweden, angry that their bosses refuse to help pay for new uniforms, have issued an ultimatum: Either they get a financial contribution or they go to work in the nude.

Do You Hear Me Now?

An Iranian man, who says his wife beats him if he doesn't do what she says, made the mistake of asking her where she'd been when she came home very late one night. She responded by cutting off his ear and placing it in the palm of his hand.

Unrepentant, she told a Tehran court she wanted to "teach him a lesson" for "poking his nose in my business."

CAMPUS SHORTS

Calling all future nurses

The Career Center in Tadena Hall, Room 101, is now taking appointments for winter term pre-nursing information sessions. You do not need to attend a session if you have already applied to the nursing program or if you attended a session in the fall. The dates for the sessions are Jan. 13 at 12 p.m., Jan. 14 at 8:30 a.m., Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m., Jan. 24 at 12 p.m., Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 4 at 5:30 p.m., Feb. 10 at 12 p.m., Feb. 13 at 8:30 a.m., Feb. 19 at 3 p.m., March 7 at 8:30 a.m., March 12 at 12 p.m. and March 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Clubs against drugs

Student Life and Leadership will be awarding a substance abuse prevention mini-grant to LBCC clubs and organizations that provide education, activities and events that encourage positive decision making when it comes to alcohol and drugs.

The mini-grant program is designed to encourage and support the student organizations that work toward these goals. Examples of projects that could receive funding include: hosting a dance or social during times when students traditionally consume alcohol, conducting alcohol and drug awareness or safety campaigns, participating in Na-

tional Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week, bringing a speaker to campus, or showing a film.

Contact Gabe Adams or Sara Settles in the Student Life and Leadership office, or call 917-4463, for more information.

Board of Education meets

The LBCC Board of Education will be meeting Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardrooms, located in the College Center building. The meeting is open to the public.

Searching for volunteers

The Multicultural Center is looking for volunteers who want to be involved in the planning of an International Dinner, scheduled for Jan. 22 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. in the Commons. The dinner will showcase food recipes from around the world. Meet people and enjoy a special surprise cultural sharing time.

The morning of Jan. 22, there will be an International Dress Day reception held from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in the Multicultural Center.

If you would like to attend the dinner, sign up in the Multicultural Center before Jan. 14. Contact Susan Prock at 917-4461 soon if you would also like to help with the planning of the dinner.

FRC: Student government searches ideas to save program

▲ From Pg. 1

The public continued to tell the board why they think the co-op program at the FRC should not be cut but no decisions were made that evening. Suggested cuts will be formally brought before the board at the December 18 meeting.

Brown addressed LB's student government earlier in the term regarding her concerns about cuts to the co-op program, and has been the only person to do so, according to Roxanne Allen, student body president.

"Leta Brown came to us when they first heard about (the proposed cuts)," said Allen.

In fact, Student Life and Leadership received about 70 suggestions from students at a recent suggestion-by-the-slice event in which they traded pizza for ideas of what to do with the 2002-03 student project fund of \$4,483. Fifteen of those suggestions were to give the money to the FRC. But the policy guiding

the use of the student project fund states that the project the money is spent on must have a life span of five years and benefit the majority of students.

"Giving the money to the Family Resource Center would benefit quite a few students," said Allen, "But the major problem is the life span-it wouldn't fulfill the five years."

Allen said student government has been looking for other ways to raise money for the center but doesn't have anything set in stone yet.

"We haven't really taken any action in our meeting because we need input from the Family Resource Center. We just need other ideas. We would be more than willing to help them. If they come to us and say we really want to do a fundraiser, we could help them in that way," said Allen, stressing that student government needs more contact with those concerned before they take any action.

CORRECTION

"Entertainment landmark now a holy house" in the Nov. 20 issue of The Commuter incorrectly stated that the Plainview Mennonite Church had moved to Albany's Venetian Theater. The church's location in Shedd continues to be the place where the congregation meets on Sunday mornings while the Venetian now serves as the church office and outreach facility.



Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

Food donated for the campus food drive waits to be distributed. Seventy-five Albany families received the boxes this Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving food drive feeds 75 local families

by Matt Boase
of The Commuter

There were 75 very thankful families this Thanksgiving, courtesy of a successful food drive sponsored by the Association of American Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) and the Independent Association of LBCC Classified Employees.

The drive took place on campus. Both money and food were accepted and helped families who wouldn't have been able to enjoy such a dinner without a little help.

The food for the boxes was picked up on Nov. 23 from Fred Meyer by Welma Cremer, Roxie Putman and her daughter Diana (a former LBCC student in the dental assistant program).

"Fred Meyer was really great," said Putman. "We called ahead and they had the food on a pallet and ready for us to pick

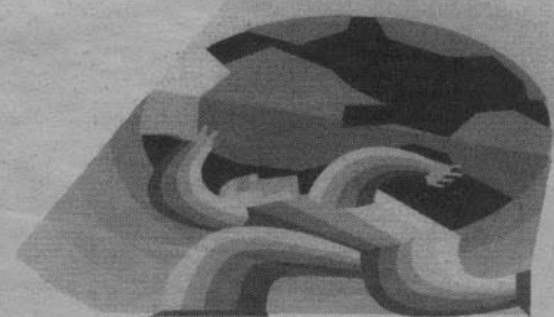
up." Jackie Grenz, Sandy Corliss and Kristen Jones joined the others to help box the food later that day. The boxes, which were given to Albany families, were distributed on Sunday Nov. 24, under the supervision of Cremer and Putman.

All boxes included a gift certificate for a turkey from Fred Meyer's, dressing, 10 pounds of potatoes, cranberry sauce, olives, flour, sugar, canned milk, sweet potatoes, gravy, bread and dessert makings. The average value of the boxes was \$40.

The boxes of food varied in size according to the size of the family, which ranged from one all the way up to nine.

This was the 14th year of the drive, and one of the most successful years ever. The total number of boxes fell only three shy of the record, and the total nearly doubled from last year's.

*Free 10 Minute
Chair Massages
Finals Week
December 9 - 10
10 AM - 2 PM*



Sign up in Student Life & Leadership

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Yoga student finds deafness no obstacle in class

International Disabled Day recognizes independence

by Heather M Scott
 of The Commuter

While students flex and bend to Susan Meyer's soothing voice in her Hatha yoga class, one woman isn't moving to the instructor's voice, but rather to the silent words of her interpreter.

The voiceless interactions allow 38-year-old Alene Robertson to "hear" everything the instructor says about the yoga moves she asks the class to perform.

Robertson has been deaf in one ear since age 15 because of a condition called Meniers disease. Meniers disease results from a problem with the fluid balance regulation system in the inner ear. In the early 90s her condition became "bilateral" and affected both ears. Today, Robertson is considered profoundly deaf.

Yesterday, millions of people like Robertson were recognized on the International Day of Disabled Persons, celebration of life and equality that began in 1992.

The theme for this year's day, "Independent Living and Sustainable Livelihoods" seems to fit Robertson well. Her life hasn't stagnated because of her situation, but rather continued and became strengthened because of the normal life she is able to live and the activities she is able to take part in, such as attending yoga class.

Robertson says she has always been interested in yoga, but before she learned sign language it was hard for her to understand movements and correct form, which resulted in injuries.

"I ended up in pain, so I didn't bother going back," she said.

About five years ago Robertson took another class in California that offered interpreters. She said the class taught her the basic routine of yoga and placed her on the road to the LBCC class she currently participates in.

Robertson and her interpreter, Annie Chozinski, who was selected for Robertson by LBCC's Disabled Student Services, attend the Thursday yoga class together.

"I thoroughly enjoy having Alene and Annie in class. Alene is responsive to details of breath work and the yoga poses. She is aware of her body alignment in poses and present with her energy," said Meyer who has been a student of yoga



Photo by Wendy Geist

Yoga student Alene Robertson (right) participates in an LBCC yoga class taught by Susan Meyer (left) with aid from interpreter Annie Chozinski (second from left).

for 24 years and a teacher at LBCC for two, "Annie, who is an experienced yogin herself, has a tremendous gift for interpreting, which enhances the experience not only for Alene, but also, for me, and the class as a whole "I listen more carefully to my words, while teaching, knowing they are being interpreted."

Chozinski relays information from Meyer to Robertson by way of sign language. Because many yoga positions require different body placements, Chozinski consistently moves around Robertson to keep her informed of moves.

Judging from Robertson's yoga abilities, she hasn't missed a step. Robertson credits Chozinski's interpreting abilities for much of her success in the class.

"I was so happy that I had Annie for this class because she has knowledge of yoga and it makes it much more clear because she knows the terminology. She's more alert to your needs," said Robertson.

Chozinski agrees that knowing the mechanics of yoga, before interpreting, makes a big difference in the experience the student will have and how well they will be able to follow along.

"Every new subject is something that you have to learn. This class has anatomy and physiology, bones and muscles. I've never had to sign that [before] I would just point, but if I just point, Alene would never have the word for that muscle," Chozinski said pointing to her arm. "So I'm trying to learn that fast or come up

with ways to show that. It's a struggle, but it's really important."

Chozinski says that her favorite part of interpreting is meeting new people and the honor of watching others' lives unfold. "It's like free cable," she said.

For Robertson, the fun does not end when yoga class is over. Robertson says that she also enjoys working out, volunteering in the deaf community, golfing, watching movies and spending time with friends and family including her husband, Michael.

"He's wonderful," Robertson says of her husband of 10 years. "He's really supported me a lot throughout my illness and becoming deaf."

Even though Michael does not yet know fluent sign language, the couple has found other ways of communication.

"You have to make a conscious decision to want to communicate. We use lip reading, writing [and] computer," said Robertson. "If it's really critical information I have to make sure I understand clearly, like appointment times and money. But I've known him for 12 years so it's fairly easy to lip read."

Technology plays a big part in the way Robertson lives her life, whether conversing with her husband or talking to a friend on the phone. A simple activity like going to the movies can be made easier with closed captioned theaters.

"I would not want to be deaf 10 years ago or 20 years ago and definitely not 50

"I would not want to be deaf 10 years ago or 20 years ago and definitely not 50 years ago. . . . There is a lot of assistance technology available (today), especially for people who are going to school. They didn't provide this type of technology through an interpreter a few years ago."

▶ Alene Robertson

years ago. We have [text] pagers now. A lot of people use text pagers. [We have access to] Proaxis communication, emergency services, text telephones and closed caption television. A lot of people who are profoundly deaf can get a lot of assistance from high-power hearing aids, [which] help with lip reading a lot," said Robertson, "[There are also] alarm clocks that vibrate and flash. There is a lot of assistance technology available, especially for people who are going to school. They didn't provide this type of technology through an interpreter a few years ago."

Both Robertson and Chozinski agree that LBCC's Disabilities Services, which has been a vital part of LBCC for over 20 years, is a great helping hand to those with needs. The disabilities service offers a wide range of accommodations for students with disabilities and the program is offered free to students attending LBCC. Approximately 300 students on campus are currently taking advantage of the assistance.

"I was actually nervous when I went into the office to request an interpreter," said Robertson, "I thought maybe they would only let me do it for a science class or something to a degree. I was so excited that I could actually take any class. That really makes me want to go to school."

Accomplishments in recent years have been a major turning point for those with disabilities. The promotion of equality and full participation of those with disabilities is one of the goals of the International Day of Disabled Persons. Those involved urge community members to spread the word and ask that you observe the day with the greater good in mind.

"I'm really happy I live in a day and age where people are interested in equality and treating people the same," said Robertson.

Machine tool program earns national certification

from the LBCC News Service

Graduating LBCC machine tool technology students now have the ability to become certified by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, after Advisory Board member Brad Whiting presented Program Chair Richard Carter with a NIMS certification award Nov. 22.

Whiting represents OEM Products in Corvallis on the advisory committee. Carter says Whiting has been instrumental in helping the program achieve this honor.

NIMS certification is awarded to metalworking training programs following a rigorous examination. The NIMS certification represents the industry's mark of approval and recognition of a training program.

LBCC is the second community college in Oregon and the third on the West Coast to be certified. Mt. Hood Community College also has a NIMS certified program. Only schools that meet the NIMS stringent quality

standards are awarded certification.

"NIMS requirements focus on accuracy, consistency, safety, knowledge for problem-solving, individual competence yet team participation, and demonstrated performance," according to the organization. "These are the qualities that foster productivity. When individuals earn credentials and receive recognition, self esteem and pride in workmanship are boosted - morale is increased."

Students at LBCC will be able to take performance examinations following their training to qualify for NIMS credentials. Workers with NIMS credentials are highly desired by manufacturers in the metalworking industry.

Earning a NIMS Credential is a two-step process that involves performance requirements and a written exam. Performance requirements are divided into two categories, Machining Level I and Metal Stamping at Levels II

and III.

A performance requirement for Machining Level I is completed when a local industry review panel called a MET-TEC signs an affidavit indicating that a part made by the individual meets NIMS requirements.

In Metal Stamping at Levels II and III, performance requirements involve completing a set of on-the-job experiences as recorded into a Credentialing Achievement Record (CAR). The performance requirement is completed when the individual's supervisor, trainer or mentor signs the CAR indicating satisfactory performance on the experience requirement.

Once the performance requirement has been completed for a particular credentialing area, the affidavits and/or CAR's are submitted to NIMS for review, and the credentialing exam can be scheduled. A passing score on the exam yields the appropriate NIMS Credential.

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8am to 6pm
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8am to 4pm

Contributing Editor: Adele Kubein
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
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LOCAL NEWS

News on happenings around the county including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Philomath, Tangent and Sweet Home

Fairy tales, movies come to life at Storybook Land

by Michelle Reed
 of The Commuter

The Christmas Storybook Land show will open on Dec. 6 for its 26th annual presentation, in part due to the efforts of Donald and Wilma Albright, of Albany, Ore.

The show, which was started by two Albany citizens, Donald Albright and Terry Houdek, is a series of scenes depicting classic fairy tales and modern children's stories, in a forest setting. This year's show will once again be held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center.

Albright and Houdek were inspired to start the Christmas Storybook Land by their visit to the Alpenrose Christmas Tree Lane in Portland, Ore., 27 years ago. With help from the organizers of Alpenrose, the two opened the first show of 15 scenes and 50 trees in 1976.

It took about 20 volunteers to set up the first show. Today, more than 100 volunteers helped with the show of about 60 scenes and 1,500 trees.

The trees, which are thinned by Weyerhaeuser and temporarily donated to the show, are returned when it's over and processed into mulch.

One of the main attractions at the show is Santa's house, where children can talk to Santa and

instruct him on what to get for Christmas. Other features include a scene with 9-foot dolls of Raggedy Ann and Andy, two large running train sets, and a Victorian style village.

The village buildings are each around 6-feet-tall and are often of great interest to the show's older visitors. Included in the village are replicas of the original Regional Museum and of the White Spires Church, which still stands in Albany on the corner of Fifth and Washington, and is where the Albrights were married.

Most of the scenes in the show are carried over from one year to the next and each year usually bring a new scene or two.

All of the materials are reused each year and, in the off-season, are stored in six semi-truck trailers.

Last year's show had more than 20,000 visitors and, although the event is free, many people brought food donations. Around 15,000 food items were collected, and donated to Albany's local distribution center, FISH.

The setup for the show starts about two weeks before it opens and takes over 3,500 volunteer hours.

Anyone is welcome to volunteer at any time or day for as long as they wish. By signing the volunteer list, one automatically becomes a Christmas



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

A teddy bear that sits over six-feet tall, made by May Olson of Albany, towers over the "Through a Child's Eyes" display at the Christmas Storybook Land in the Linn County Fair and Expo Center. May's husband Al, one of the electricians for the volunteer group that builds the display, has been helping create the local tradition for the past 27 years.

Storybook Land Character, and thus, a member of the Christmas Storybook Land Corporation. Members are invited to join the biannual get-togethers and will receive a newsletter from the corporation. Board members, including President Duke Ellingson and Secretary Wilma Albright, meet once a month throughout the year to prepare for the event.

Volunteers and sponsors of the event are listed and thanked at the show, but other than a spaghetti dinner for the setup crews, those involved receive little else. Donald Albright said the real reward comes from seeing all of the smiling faces. The point is to have something "free and non-commercial at Christmas time," he said.

The show will be held in the

Cascade Livestock Pavilion and will run until Dec. 22. Times are Monday through Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information call Donald and Wilma Albright at (541) 928-1612, or Duke Ellingson at (541) 928-3742.

Holiday cheer takes place under every tree for all types of people in Linn and Benton counties

by Erin Bartelds
 of The Commuter

The holidays are rapidly approaching and many of us will be heading out of state to visit relatives. But those who tend the home fires or are financially unable to travel still need something cheery to do.

Linn and Benton counties offer a number of activities through the month of December, many of them free of charge.

In Albany you can walk, drive, take a trolley or a horse-drawn wagon. For a little Night Time Magic, you can see the lights and decorations on homes throughout three nationally registered historic districts. Hours are 5 p.m.-10 p.m. every evening through Jan. 1. For more information call 928-0911.

If you want to please the kids or need a good place to hang out with friends the annual Christmas Storybook Land opens tomorrow at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center. The display runs through Dec. 22, hours are Monday-Friday 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m..

This Saturday at 11 a.m. historic downtown Albany will be hosting its Downtown Twice-

Around Parade. The parade will take place on 1st and 2nd avenue, running from Broadalbin to Washington.

Catering more to adult tastes, the Willamette Valley Vineyards is holding Holidays in the Vineyard on Dec. 7, 8, 14 and 15 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m..

A little more pocket change and a reservation will get you a ride on Flinn's Horse drawn Hay wagon Christmas Caroling Light Tour on Dec. 14, 20, 21 and 22.

If one prefers indoor entertainment, you might enjoy Flinn's Interior Homes tour, lit by candlelight and oil lamp. For more information and reservations call 928-5008.

Corvallis is also serving up a bevy of holiday treats. A seasonal favorite, The Nutcracker,

will be performed at the Majestic Theater Dec. 12-14 at 8 p.m. with a special performance on Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. Further information on this event can be obtained by calling 758-8203. The Nutcracker will also be at the La Salles Stewart Center, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.. Contact 737-4061 for information.

Benton County Fairgrounds is holding its fifth annual Holiday Bazaar, Friday, Dec. 13 through Sunday, Dec. 15. Friday it will run from 12-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from 12-6 p.m..

For additional local holiday events visit (www.Albanyvisitors.com) or (www.visitcorvallis.com) under "Local Events."

Information on Portland

events and activities can be found at (www.pova.com/event_calendar). And you will definitely want to check out (www.AAAORID.com/PUBL/Pub_cal_OR_12.Asp) for holiday events around the state.

Commons Menu Dec. 4 - Dec 11

Wednesday

- Corned Beef Hash and Eggs
- Turkey Saltimbocca
- Carey Pockets
- Soups: Beef Consomme
- Corn Chowder
- Salad: Beef Taco Salad

Thursday

Chefs choice

Friday

Chefs choice

Monday

Chefs choice

Tuesday

Chefs choice



StandUpGirl.com

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CHILDREN'S WINTER FESTIVAL

Sat., Dec. 7, 2002
 1 - 3:45 p.m.
 College Center
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- Native American Storyteller
- International Games
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- Crafts
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

ART HAPPENINGS

Holiday Poetry

The December reading in the Second Sundays Series of Poetry Readings at Art Gone Wild Gallery will feature LBCC writing instructors Peter and Sandy Jensen.

The Jensens perform poems in response to one another, then invite the audience to participate in the responsive exchange. This special holiday reading will include poems on the theme of the gallery's current show, "Wild Winter Weather."

Admission is free. Children and young people are especially invited to attend. It will be 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8, at Art Gone Wild Gallery, 279 N. Third Street in Stayton.

Peter Jensen is one of the authors of the poetry collection "Confluence," which was nominated for the Oregon Book Award in 1993. One of his poems won the 1996 Poet's Choice Award, given by the Oregon State Poetry Association. He is currently working on three manuscripts—poetry, short fiction, and non-fiction on Shakespeare's Sonnets.

Sandy Jensen has won numerous poetry awards, including first place in an OSPA

sonnet competition. She has just finished, and is seeking to publish, her first book of poems, "Lascaux in a Yellow Light." She has been named Teacher-of-the-Year at both LBCC and Linfield College.

Holiday Treat

The LBCC Performing Arts Department is presenting a holiday concert Thursday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. in Tadena Theater.

The LBCC Concert and Chamber Choir will be conducted by Hal Eastburn.

They will be performing Christmas carols along with "Hodie! A Cantata for Christmas," and "Hanerot Halalu, A Song for Hanukah." The performance will also include works from composers such as Mozart.

Admission is \$5.

There is no reserved seating. Tickets are available at the Tadena Theater Box Office, which is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Tickets are also available at Sid Stevens Jewelers in Albany and Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis. Tickets must be picked up at the Tadena Box Office before the date of the performance.

Photo instructor to exhibit pinhole, toy camera pictures

by Scott W. McClure
 of The Commuter

LBCC photography instructor Kurt Norlin will have a photography show at Pegasus Frame Studio and Gallery in Corvallis, Jan. 1 through Jan. 31. His exhibit will consist of photographs taken with various toy and pinhole cameras.

Toy cameras were cheap plastic cameras made as giveaways during the 1950s and 60s. They were discovered by artists and photographers looking for a technique that produced images that were more like dreams or visions instead of pure descriptive fact.

Pinhole photography is photography at its most basic level. It is an alternative way of making images and of discovering the world. A pinhole camera is nothing more than a light-tight container with a very small pinhole opening at one end and a piece of photo material at the other. The camera doesn't have a conventional lens and they can be made out of almost anything.

Norlin has been teaching photography and alternative photo techniques at LBCC for seven years.

"I was an art major and I took a photography class," said Norlin, explaining how he became hooked on photography. He received his bachelor's de-

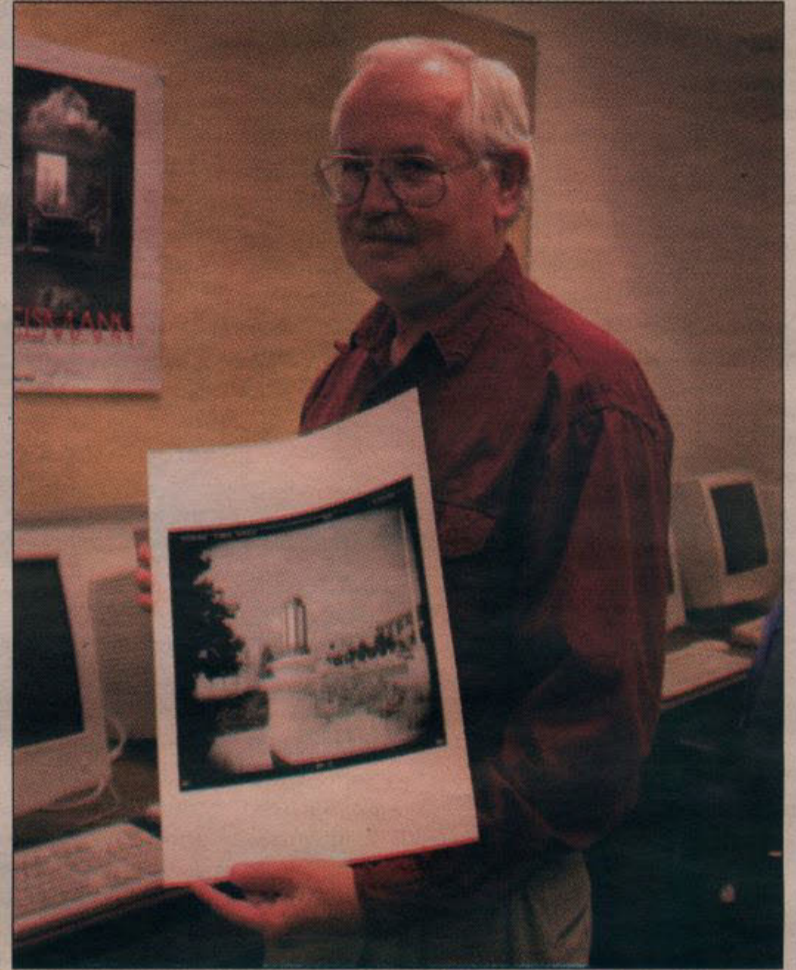


Photo by Bonnie Quinones

Photography instructor Kurt Norlin shows one of the toy camera images he will exhibit next month at Pegasus Gallery in Corvallis.

gree in 1972 at Central Washington University. He received his master of arts in 1974, and his master of fine arts in 1993 from the University of Oregon.

There will be a reception Jan. 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the

Pegasus Frame Studio and Gallery which is located at 341 SW Second St. Their phone number is (541) 757-0042. Kurt Norlin can be reached at (541) 917-4562 or by sending an email to norlink@linnbenton.edu.

REVIEW

Coastal Rhythm & Blues: Live and groovin'

by T.J. Hyde
 for The Commuter

Looking for great music and good atmosphere? If you answered yes, then look no further than the Oregon Coast. I recently attended the Coastal Rhythm and Blues concert at the Chinook Winds casino in Lincoln City. Most of us conjure up stereotypical images when we think of Casinos as well as when we think of that soulful music we call the blues. Casinos bring to mind a smoky lobby that is overcrowded with elderly people mindlessly funneling their life savings through slot machines in a last-gasp effort to cash in on the American dream. On the other hand, blues brings to mind a scene from the Blues Brothers. The stage is covered with chicken wire in order to protect Elroy and Jake from beer bottles and other objects being hurled at them by drunken hillbillies.

These stereotypes were thrown out the window when I attended the Coastal Rhythm and Blues concert this past Thanksgiving Day weekend. The casino was very clean and the staff could not have been more pleasant and helpful. Although the audience was extremely diverse, everyone seemed to enjoy and appreciate the talent on stage. Three bands that highlighted the evening were: the Norman Sylvester Band, the Linda Hornbuckle Band and the Patrick Lamb Band.

The Patrick Lamb Band celebrated the release of their Christmas album by putting on an

outstanding performance in the lounge the night before the Coastal Rhythm and Blues concert. Whether it was Deborah Crowe's sultry vocals or Patrick's silky-smooth jazz, the Patrick Lamb Band kept the audience yearning for more and the new album flying off the shelf.

The Norman Sebastian Band kicked off the Coastal Rhythm and Blues Concert by performing a soulful set that brought back blues rooted in the Deep South.

The next band was the Linda Hornbuckle Band. This band energized the crowd of 600 people with an upbeat rhythm that had every person tapping their foot or grooving on the dance floor.

The night was capped off by the fore-mentioned Patrick Lamb Band. The Patrick Lamb Band switched gears and played funk that got the audience up and grooving on an overflowing dance floor.

I was more than pleased with the Coastal Rhythm and Blues concert. The performers were energetic and looked as though they were having as much fun as a kid on Christmas day. It is my own personal recommendation to anyone who enjoys great music and good atmosphere to pay a visit to the Chinook Winds Casino. Chinook Winds Casino and the bands receive two thumbs up! If you would like more information on upcoming events at the Chinook Winds Casino then go to their web page at www.chinookwindscasino.com or call them at 1-888-chinook.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Photographer uses her art to fight AIDS in Africa

by Alaina Jones Richardson
 of The Commuter

Envisioning the millions of African people suffering from AIDS is too overwhelming for most. They can't imagine being capable of helping such a large number of AIDS victims.

Most shield their eyes, but photographer Chellie Kew, of Lake Oswego chooses not to.

Kew spent two years in Johannesburg, South Africa witnessing what she calls, "the beauty and the pain," of 13 million orphans, most affected by and living with AIDS.

Pictures from that and subsequent trips to Africa are now on exhibit in the AHSS Gallery on campus as part of the Multicultural Center's Artists Against Aids program, which was launched last week.

In 2000 there were an estimated 4.7 million South Africans living with HIV. The children of South Africa have very different lives than those in American or European cultures, Kew said. Most of the children have endured the death of their parents and others close to them due to AIDS.

As a result, she said, they are thrown into the orphanage system and live a life of pain and hardships.

Kew believes this situation could be improved immensely if it weren't for the country's "fear and denial" of the disease. Even the South African president, Thabo Mbeki, denies that HIV leads to AIDS, said Kew. He established a study that claims the drugs to treat HIV are breaking down the immune sys-

tem and causing AIDS, not the HIV virus itself. Instead of helping educate the country in practices that can lower the AIDS infection rate, Kew said he is presenting unsubstantiated information which may not help the effort to stop the spread of the disease.

Following Kew's two years in South Africa, she had a dream of an African child who was exhibiting "grace, courage and dignity" while in the grips of death. Kew said the dream "spoke to her" and fueled her mission to help orphaned children of South Africa.

She started the "Q" Fund, a non-profit foundation whose aim is to raise money to support the South African children and to "raise awareness through 'changing views' of these innocent children," said Kew.

Proceeds from Kew's photos and the contributions from family and friends around the world are the foundation's only source of funds. The funds are given to local organizations in South Africa which provide shelter, education, and medical attention to the children. "Sadly funding for non-profits is down," admitted Kew.

Currently Kew is working on the publication of her book "African Journal: A Child's Continent," which she hopes will produce an ample amount of money for the foundation.

It is a "photographic" journal, full of "graphic" depictions of the African children. "It goes beyond the stigma of AIDS and uncovers the child," stated Kew.

In the past Kew sponsored a charity golf event in South Africa that raised money for two children's aid organizations in



Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

The photographs of Chellie Kew of Oregon City line the walls of the AHSS Gallery in an exhibit that runs through Jan. 15. Kew is showing black-and-white pictures of African children affected by the AIDS epidemic alongside color images of wildlife from their countries. Kew is using her photographs to raise funds to help the young victims. She will talk about her work Jan. 15 at noon in the Multicultural Center.



Johannesburg. She is also helping build a school for the orphans in Zambia, which will also serve as a home for them.

Kew's photo exhibit is on display in the AHSS Gallery from Nov. 25 through Jan. 15, 2003.

There are pictures of native African wildlife alongside the photos of African children and stories of Kew's experiences. The portraits of the children have titles such as "Freedom" and "Power."

One photo is of a smiling child with glasses, named Moses. The caption accompanying it tells of his life, bouncing from foster home to foster home enduring "immeasurable tribulations." It describes his outgoing, happy nature when he met Kew and led her by the hand to meet all of his teachers. Through all of Moses's rough experiences, Kew said that he still has "a heart of palpable energy."

Kew will talk about her work

on Wednesday, Jan. 15, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. Information about Artists Against AIDS activities can be obtained in the Multicultural Center or by contacting Susan Prock, coordinator of the Multicultural Center at LBCC.

For more information about the "Q" Fund and Kew's campaign to help the children of Africa, go to her website at www.qfund4aids.org.

Saturday's Children's Winter Festival still needs volunteers

by Shannon Reddicks
 of The Commuter

LBCC will be holding its 32nd annual Children's Winter Festival on Saturday Dec. 7, featuring a variety of activities for children aged 12 and under.

Volunteers are still being sought to help out with the event, which is sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Students and staff are invited to sign-up to volunteer anytime between now and 10 a.m. on Saturday, the day of the festival.

All sign-up sheets are located in the Student Life & Leadership office on the first floor in the Student Union.

SL & L estimates approximately 40 volunteers will be needed to help out—more than 400 children are expected to attend. To get involved, contact Wendy Novak in the Student Life and Leadership office.

"This isn't just a Santa and elf event," said Micheal Vandehey, team coordinator for the pro-

gramming board.

There is an international theme to the event to celebrate a variety of winter traditions, he said. There will be Le Befana (Italian Feast), Native American storytelling, Chinese Lion dancing, South American and Kwanzaa activities. There will also be an international game room in which games from

around the world will be played.

Another activity will be cookie decorating. There are 1,200 cookies on order for this event. Volunteers can request to help with the cookie activity as late as the morning of the event. Santa will be there, and pictures can be taken with him for \$1.

Parents are asked to accompany their children. "Parental

supervision is encouraged because of the amount of children expected," said Vandehey.

Every child who shows up will receive a gift. Also, parents

are asked to bring a couple of cans of food for a donation. The festival starts at 1 p.m. and is over at 4 p.m. It will be held in the LBCC Commons.

HOLIDAY POTTERY SALE

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Eloquent Umbrella seeks prose, poetry, art, photos

by Shannon Reddicks
of The Commuter

The Eloquent Umbrella, LBCC's journal of the literary arts, which is edited by a winter term writing course, is looking for students to submit writing and art for its 2003 edition.

Terrance Millet, the faculty advisor for The Eloquent Umbrella, is asking that all submissions be sent in by Jan. 15, but preferably as soon as you can get them in.

Submissions can include art, photos, essays, poems, fiction and short stories.

The criteria for written pieces is a maximum of 1,500 words, and drawings, or black-and-white photos which

"It gives students a chance to learn how editing and publications work"

▶ Terrance Millet



can be no larger than 16 by 16 inches. All submissions should be given to Millet or placed in an envelope located in the Arts & Communications Division office.

To get more information regarding the publication see the web site at www.linnbenton.edu/eloquentumbrella or you can send e-mail to

<eloquent.umbrella@linnbenton.edu> You can also phone Millet at 541-917-4555.

The Eloquent Umbrella has been around for more than 12 years and first began in the English Department. Millet has been involved as an advisor to the publication for the last three years.

The Eloquent Umbrella is put together by students in the Writing 247 Literary Publications class. "It gives students a chance to learn how editing and publications work," said Millet, who guides the students while they decide the final cut. The publications are of a "professional quality," said Millet. This literary arts journal has also won the Most Improved Community College Publication award.

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Just tell us how you'd spend \$500 if you had it for the holidays, and your wish could come true!

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December 11, 2002
Winner
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CONTEST

Return Entry to:
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By December 11, 2002

Managing Editor: Erin Bartelds
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Web site connects volunteers with those in need

by Darrell McGie
 of The Commuter

The hopes of many to cultivate a future have turned fallow as the economic machine sputters out of gas. This has resulted in the blight of unemployment and the loss of many safety-net social programs.

Whether it is an elderly woman seeking shelter after eviction, an engineer laid-off from HP, or someone trying to return to school, the problem of finding solutions to bridge the gap of access in today's economy is becoming a difficult proposition. For many, it has become a choice of survival.

"Is it medication or food?" is a question Cynthia Hylton, director of Linn County Retired and Senior Volunteer

Program (RSVP), has been hearing a lot. Increasingly, volunteers are being asked to help solve problems previously served by social agencies, which have been eliminated or cut back. "It's become a community-wide crisis because the need doesn't go away," said Hylton.

A crisis intervention service offered by RSVP, an all-volunteer program partially sponsored by LBCC, has been able to help replace some lost services. But in order to face increased demands, the organization realized it needed a way to provide expediency in its service while increasing the number of volunteers and assemble an evolving database.

The answer came in RSVP's recently established interactive web site: <http://www.lbvision.org/> The site strives for connectivity, providing access to over

100 business organizations and agencies within Linn and Benton County, but was a struggle to create. "Innurtured and nearly gave birth to it [the web site]," said Hylton. LBvision features an online newsletter for upcoming events, and is searchable by category and location.

RSVP, with the new power of LBvision, hopes to attract all age groups to help meet growing demand. The elderly are historically more active and have more free time, but according to Hylton, "we need some new blood." Young and middle-aged adults, whom are typically harder to reach, can now utilize a more familiar electronic media for near-instant information access. There is also a large bulletin board that contains printed notices in Takena Hall, across from the Counseling Center.

Besides helping others, being a volunteer - especially for students - provides at least three other major benefits: experience, networking and references. According to Hylton, "It's an excellent way to build contacts for job opportunities while gaining experience, and we are happy to provide references for scholarships and future employment."

The RSVP office for Linn County is located on the LBCC campus in the Business Office, room CC-119. The person to contact is Beth Fox at 917-4476. The Corvallis office is located at 630 N.W. Seventh St., Corvallis Ore., 97330. The phone number is 753-9197.

Hylton sizes up today's situation by saying, "Budget cuts equal an increased need for volunteers, otherwise a lot of things aren't going to happen."

Joanna Chan, one of eight student ambassadors working for Student Life & Leadership, said the most rewarding part of her job is when students come in to tell her she made a difference. Among the ambassadors' duties are to help with new-student orientation and to make calls to new students during the term to see how they are getting along.

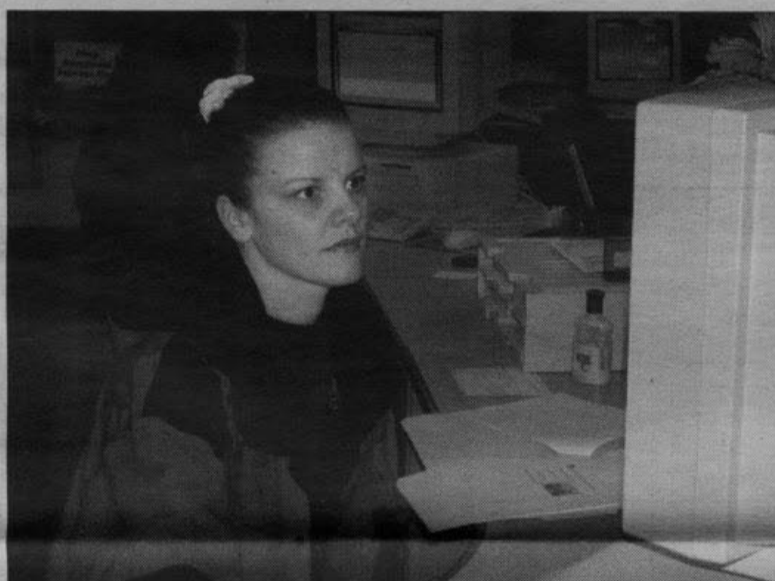


Photo by Bonnie Quinones

Students find personal rewards participating in ambassador program

by Maria Arico
 of The Commuter

Student Ambassadors at LBCC offer a number of services for students on and off campus.

Joanna Chan has been a student at LBCC for almost two years. She has been a student ambassador at LBCC for two terms and is enrolled in the pre-nursing program.

She says she wanted to become a student ambassador because she wanted a job on campus that offered her leadership opportunities and specific experience working with people.

"We encourage people to be involved in all departments at the college," Chan said. "Our primary focus is the recruitment and retention of students at LBCC."

She said student ambassadors organize and participate in numerous programs on campus and in the community. Two programs for new students are the new-student orientation and a retention-calling program.

New-student orientation includes tours and introductory information for incoming students. The retention-calling program is a series of three calls from student ambassadors to all new students during the year. The first call is to welcome students to the campus. The second is to touch-base with students during midterms, and then again during finals to let them know about the services and support available on campus.

To become a student ambassador you must first fill out an application. Chan said it's an easy application that asks a lot of questions about the individual rather than prior work-history. There's also an interview. Ambassadors are selected based on personality and volunteering they've done in the past.

"I had never been asked so many questions about me," said Chan. "It was also the toughest

interview I've ever had, and I've been working for 20 years."

"The most challenging thing for me about being an ambassador is being in front of 30 people and hoping you have the right answers to all of their questions," she said. "The most rewarding part is when a student comes in and remembers something you did and it made a difference."

She said there are eight student ambassador positions available. Six are currently filled and the remaining two are reserved for students with work-study.

Chan encourages those interested to stop by the Student Life & Leadership office to pick up an application and meet the people who work there.

Ambassadors also organize community outreach projects. Carol Wenzel, coordinator for Student Ambassadors, worked with students to coordinate an "Into the Streets" program where students have helped out at the Lebanon Soup Kitchen in past years.

She said the reason they're not doing the "Into the Streets" program this year isn't because of lack of student interest, but because the student ambassadors wanted to do something different in the community for those in need this year.

The student ambassadors put on a clothing drive at LBCC in October, and a student survival workshop Nov. 13 focused around international students.

Spring term the students will participate in Project Page Turner where second and third graders come to LBCC from schools in Albany and Lebanon. Students read to the children for an hour and then buy them books.

Ambassadors organize a variety of events on campus and in the community.

"Our primary focus is the students," said Chan. "It's important to us that people stay and accomplish what they set out to accomplish."

Wide variety of campus clubs give students a chance to get involved

by Michelle Bertalot
 of The Commuter

Have you ever thought of starting a checkers club or maybe a Good Samaritan club?

These ideas can become a reality with a little time and organization.

LBCC currently has 14 active clubs: ASCET (American Society-Civil Engineering), Campus Ambassadors, Campus Family Co-op, Education Club, Gay Straight Alliance, Graphic Arts, Horticulture, IAAP (college secretaries), Multicultural Club, Potter's House Club (bible studies), RPM (Racing Performance Mechanics), Spherical Cow (science), Student Nurses, and the Ultimate Frisbee club.

"We encourage clubs to be inclusive rather than exclusive," commented Student Life and Leadership department secretary Terry Gordier.

To start a club there are several things a student needs. First off, the student needs to find an adviser for the club. An adviser may be any LBCC contracted staff member.

According to Gordier, a student also needs a minimum of eight students to be charter members of the club. Once the students have the adviser and members, they may pick up a three-page form from the Student Life and Leadership office to petition the start of their club.

Once the forms are returned they are submitted to the Associated Student Government where they officially recognize the club.

Official LBCC clubs may use campus facilities. In the Multicultural Center there is a computer specifically for club use and a locker to store their work in. Also, they may opt to have seed money. The seed money is \$100 to start their club.

"The clubs can set up their own club accounts on campus and can use copying services here at our office," stated Gordier.

Nancy Haldeman, gender equity representative for LBCC, is the adviser of the newly-formed Gender Equity Club. She has secured eight students to become charter members and has submitted all forms to the Associated Student Government.

Haldeman tracked students down that are in non-traditional fields for the opposite sex. For example, she found a female in auto classes and one in engineering to join the Gender Equity Club.

"Our whole goal is for students to form their own support group, have more friends, talk about the problems they're having and help them figure it out. Also, we want to do some fun activities," Haldeman explained.

The club has not received official recognition yet from the student government, but is ready to spring into action. "It will be a whole lot easier once the club is established. Then each year after that it just needs to be reactivated," commented Haldeman.

"Imagine you're the one female in a computer science class, you might feel a little lonely," Haldeman explained. The Gender Equity club will provide support for students in these situations.

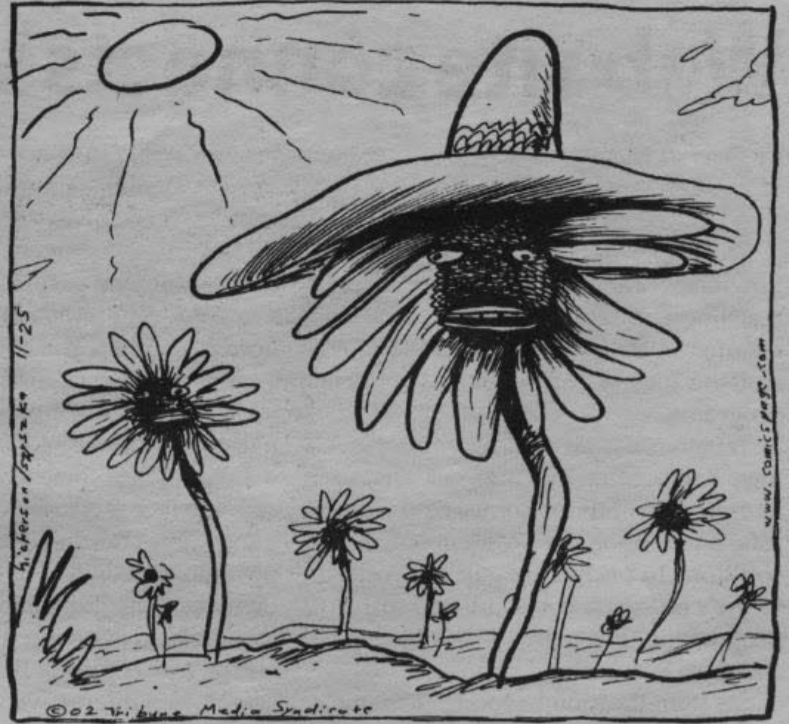
"You can imagine you're the one of the students that is different, it's harder unless people are nice to you," Haldeman continued.

So the next time you're sitting around with friends playing checkers, why don't you ask about starting your own club. The possibilities and benefits may be endless.

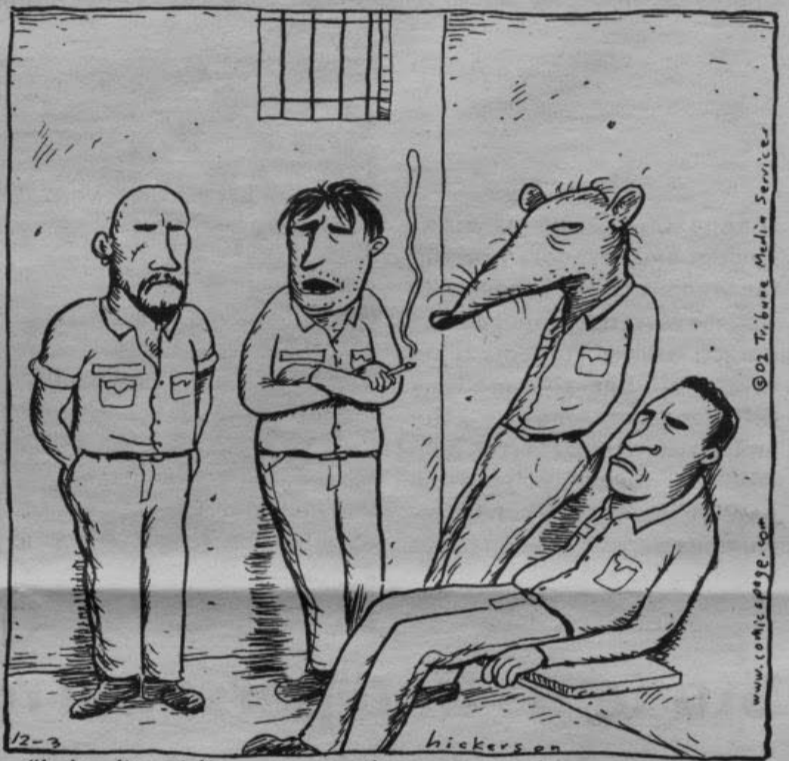
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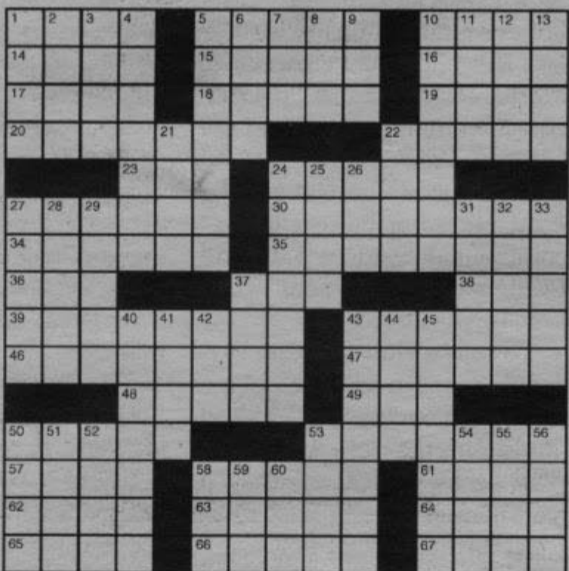
Cost: Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

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.

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Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Defeat
 - 5 Slightly drunk
 - 10 Travel stamp
 - 14 Mayberry kid
 - 15 Hi, on HI
 - 16 Biblical paradise
 - 17 Word before theory or warfare
 - 18 Censor
 - 19 Tear
 - 20 Eugene and Ed
 - 22 Lessen
 - 23 Luau staple
 - 24 Shoot from cover
 - 27 Titania's mate
 - 30 Pay close attention
 - 34 Fit in
 - 35 Some statistics
 - 36 Horror-film street
 - 37 Trout lure
 - 38 Vegas
 - 39 Bratislava's country
 - 43 Edam or brie
 - 46 Putting to the test
 - 47 Anglo-Saxon kingdom
 - 48 Surrenders
 - 49 Permit to
 - 50 Bodybuilder Charles
 - 53 Basutoland, today
 - 57 Clumsy clod
 - 58 Nudge
 - 61 Requirement
 - 62 Burrowing mammal
 - 63 The king of France
 - 64 At rest
 - 65 Wall upright
 - 66 Wets fully
 - 67 Little snakes



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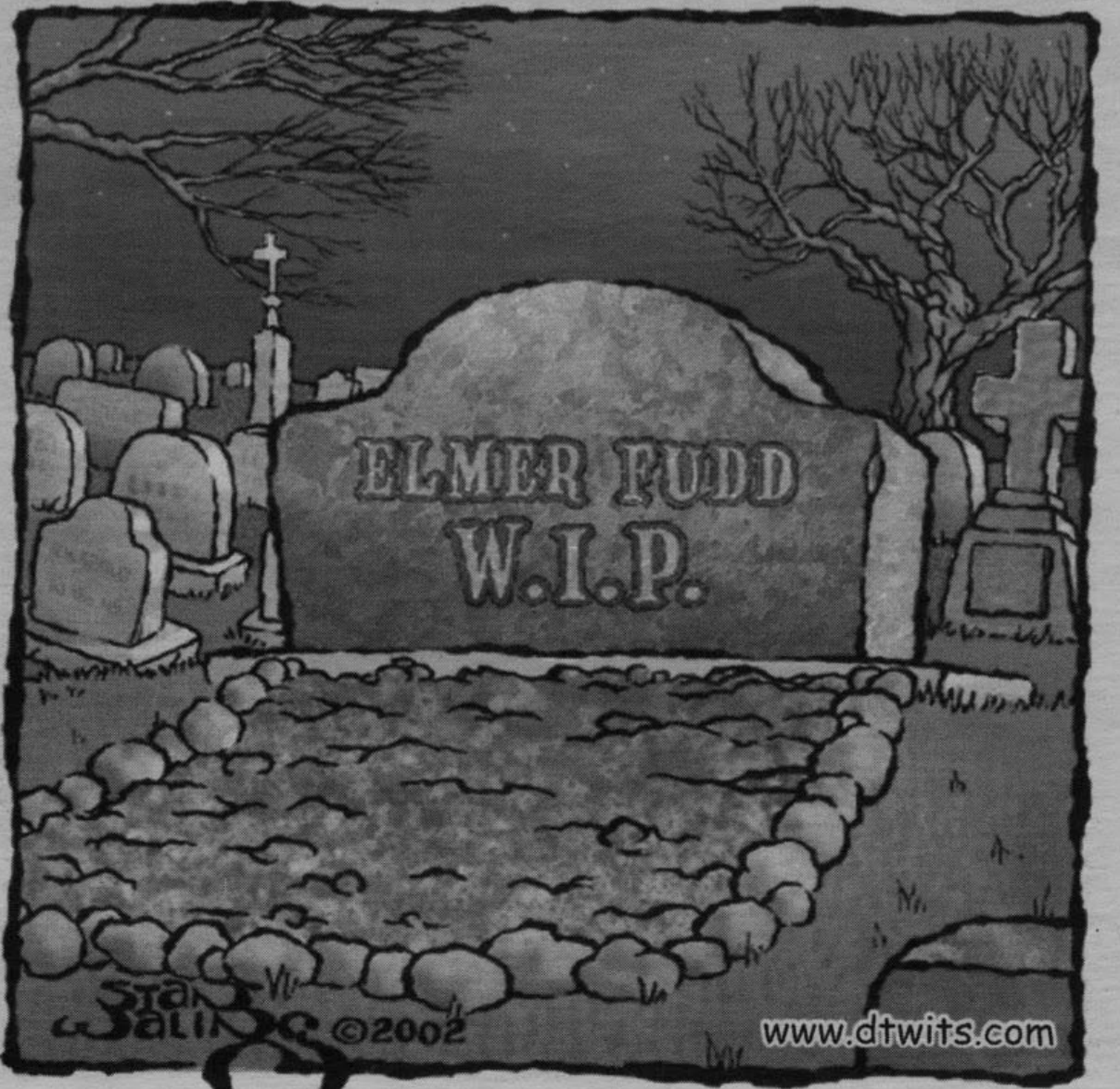
12/02/02

Solutions

8 That girl
9 Kisser or mush
10 Source of teak
11 Brainstorm
12 Transmitted
13 Starter chips
21 Bird with a laughlike cry
22 Sketch artist
24 German POW camps
25 Dark blue
26 Man with an alibi?
27 Way overweight
28 Carillon components
29 Roper and Lincoln
31 Stares at
32 Needle
33 English county
37 Cash penalty
40 Left empty
41 Positive votes
42 "Galahad"
43 "The Chronicles of Narnia" writer

- DOWN
- 1 Brand image
 - 2 Frank
 - 3 Father
 - 4 Part-time athlete
 - 5 Postponing
 - 6 Troubles
 - 7 "Utalume" author
 - 44 Colors
 - 45 Latvia's neighbor
 - 50 Pauper's plea
 - 51 Spree
 - 52 Doozy
 - 53 Sneak a peek
 - 54 Williams and Koppel
 - 55 Assist
 - 56 Poetic works
 - 58 Chicago transp.
 - 59 G. Carroll
 - 60 Bikini piece

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



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SPORTS

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

Boarders battle skiers for space on the slopes

by Phillip Ruzek
 of The Commuter

Tis' the season to get out onto the slopes and enjoy the cold powder, just be sure to stay clear of avid skiers or snowboarders who don't always respect each other.

People of all ages share the slopes, but over the years the mutual territory has brought some annoyance to snow lovers. That annoyance comes from snowboarders and downhill skiers who quite frequently conflict with one another while enjoying the mountains. This has caused arguments between the two which can be classified as more or less a "generation issue," said Jenny Miller, Timberhill Athletic Club personal trainer.

Miller has been downhill skiing for 38 years and has never had a problem with snowboarders. She has, although, had problems with other skiers that have been inconsiderate by cutting her off.

"I think we all can get along," Miller said.

With the two sharing the mountain together in such close proximity she can see where they could clash. She says that there



A group of snowboarders and skiers share the powdery white snow on Mt. Hood, avoiding the conflicts that have erupted on the slopes in recent years between the two types of outdoor enthusiasts.

Photo by Phillip Ruzek

are a lot of inexperienced boarders who take up space on difficult routes. Snowboarders also have more blind spots and take larger turns than skiers.

"Stodgy skiers don't like change," said Miller who believes skiers are easily frustrated. She adds that it depends on the

person's skill level.

However, there are some people that say that the feud is "a dying issue." James (did not want to give out his last name), A Timberline Lodge Faculty member agrees it is fading. James has been snowboarding for seven years and knows a lot of

skiers and snowboarders. He says that he has not seen any conflict in a few years, but when he did see it, it involved older skiers and younger, inexperienced snowboarders.

James points out that it all depends on the person and that the conflicts go both ways. Ski-

ers had to adapt when resorts decided to open the facilities to snowboarders.

Chris Johnston, communications manager at Mount Bachelor, says that there are more crossovers in ski resorts. Johnston has been downhill skiing for 30 years and spends a lot of time with snowboarders. Johnston said that when snowboarding first appeared, snowboarders did not know the rules of the mountain or "abide by the responsibility code," but with time that has died.

However there is still some resentment between older skiers and snowboarders. Johnston mentioned that an older skier wanted a downhill skiing area strictly for skiing.

One snowboarder who's annoyed with skiers is Bruce Pryor, Corvallis resident and student. He has experienced skiers doing zigzag turns in front of him and other snowboarders. Pryor says that some downhill skiers expect snowboarders to act like skiers.

There's also a personality conflict between the two, said Steve Shapiro, snowboarder and student at OSU. "Snowboarders are rebels and skiers are conformist," he said.

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SPORTS

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

SPORTS

Jered Reid



RANT

Bestowing honors where they belong

Does anybody remember the days of the great football dynasties?

Come on, it wasn't that long ago. Remember the Cowboys of the early 90s or the 49ers in the 80s. Some of you might even remember the amazing teams from the 70s, such as the Steelers, Dolphins and Raiders. If you are having trouble remembering anyone of these eras, don't worry about it, because the National Football League has finally put an end to all this nonsense of real teams.

The NFL has always tried to create parity within itself. Every year the worst team in the league gets the first draft pick and they also get statistically the easiest schedule. The better a team is, the harder its schedule will be and the lower its draft slots will be. Now I have no problem with this method of parity because it does not completely make every team equal.

It's the salary cap that makes it so difficult to hold together teams. Bottom line, football is a business. There are 32 businesses in the same market, all trying to bid for customers. The businesses get more customers the more they win. In the real business world the way someone would try to compete with the larger markets is to spend some money and try to make the best product possible. But no, instead professional sports likes to put its players, coaches and personnel on a carousel, traveling around from city to city like nomads.

My own opinion on the parity in the league is not the most popular opinion amongst fans. People seem to like this new league, where each team is now just mediocre. And I do agree, that this season has produced some very exciting games. There have already been 20 overtime games in 13 weeks; the record is 21.

But what I am complaining about is that there are no longer those really good games anymore. When there is a dominant

team in the league, there is almost always a team that is just about as good. These two teams normally will meet in the playoffs and produce a whale of a game or series. Think about it, how exciting was the Lakers-Kings series last year, or the Red Wings-Avalanche series. These series were unbelievable, with two superior teams meeting head on.

As I mentioned earlier, football used to have this—remember the great 49er-

Cowboy
NFC title games in the late 80s/early 90s, or the great AFC battles of the 1970s? When there is a dominant team in any professional sports league, fans

will either love to root for them, or love to root against them, and that is always exciting.

So now that the NFL is in parity heaven, what will happen in the last month of the regular season? Traditionally, after Thanksgiving we have a good picture of what teams will be in the playoffs and what they need to do to clinch positions. This year, the NFC for the most part has that situation. Green Bay, Tampa Bay and Philadelphia seem to be the front runners. It is pivotal for these teams to get home-field advantage. The Bucs cannot play in cold weather, Green Bay can't seem to win anywhere besides at home, and Philly does not want to visit the Pack or Tampa. New Orleans and Atlanta are also looking to make the playoffs, but if these teams have to go up north to play, there finished. So who ever gets home field in the NFC will be in Super Bowl XXXVII.

Now for the AFC, here's what we do to predict what teams will be in the playoffs. First we get 13 little tabs of paper, assigning the tabs to each of the teams with winning records in the AFC. The final step is to throw all the papers in a hat and then randomly draw six names out of it. And this is probably the best way to pick the AFC representatives.

Volleyball team closes season with 1-2 playoff showing

by Thomas McGeary
of The Commuter

The women's volleyball team closed the season Nov. 21 and 22 at the NWAACC Tournament in Spokane, Wash., where the Roadrunners won their opener but dropped the next two matches.

Linn-Benton opened in impressive style against No. 1 Highline Community College, which had a regular season record of 14-0 in the West Division.

"We played our best game of the season," stated Coach Frazier, as the Runners upset Highline 15-30, 30-28, 30-27, 26-30, 20-18 in a match that lasted over two hours.

Next up was No. 2 out of the East Division, Columbia Basin, with a season record of 10-2.

"We had great defensive rally, but their tips to the middle hurt us and they were able to spring on us," stated Coach Frazier. The Runners lost in three straight games 30-27, 30-24, and 30-27.

The loss put LB against No. 2 out of the West Division, Lower Columbia, for their final game in the tournament. "We lost our spirit in the Columbia loss," stated Frazier. The games against Columbia Basin were hard fought, and with little time to recover between matches, the Runners fought hard but lost 31-29, 30-24.

The Northwestern Athletic Association of Community Colleges all-star game will be Dec. 7 at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. Leslea Brown of LB will be on the first team and Kimberlie West will be on the second team.



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

The LBCC track, once the training ground for three decades of track and field athletes, sits mostly empty this year following the elimination of the intercollegiate track program. The track is still used by students in physical education courses, however.

Trackless students look to other colleges to fulfill competitive urge

by Carlie Russum
of The Commuter

LBCC has had a competitive intercollegiate track program since the early 1970s.

But last year it was cut along with other programs when the college was forced to trim its budget.

This was the first time in decades LB has been forced to eliminate an athletic program. In the 1970s men's wrestling and women's softball were dropped and in the 1980s cross country was eliminated. Brad Carman, who has been the track coach at LB for many years, now only teaches physical education courses. He could not be reached for comment.

The track program has been a success at LBCC. Three Olympic athletes have honed their skills here. Last year two members of the team, Jennifer Dionne and Heidi Van Dam earned the junior college All-American sta-

tus by finishing in the top three in their events at the NWAACC competition. Dionne was named NWAACC champion in the javelin with a throw of 142 feet and one inch. Van Dam came in second in the shot put with a throw of 40'11".

Dionne continues to attend LBCC because it was hard to leave behind friends and family, including her twin sister Janine who is playing both volleyball and basketball, and her older sister A.J., who is the coach for the women's basketball team. She has joined the lady Roadrunners basketball team but will transfer to Lane in the spring so she can compete in track.

"Having the track program cut was a big shock," Dionne said. "It messed up a lot of students plans because we intended on being here for two years. We got used to the coaches and then at the end of the season we had to figure something else out." She mentioned that a couple of

the LB track athletes transferred to Chemeketa this fall in order to continue their passion for track.

Dionne feels that the program was cut because it was limited in numbers. Initially, there were about 40 student athletes enrolled in the class, but each term the number decreased and only seven competitors actually finished the season. Also, she explained that a new track surface and new equipment were needed in order to keep the program going, making it more expensive to continue compared to the other athletic programs. After this year, Dionne plans to further her education and athletics at Western Oregon University.

It does not look like LB will have a competitive track team anytime in the near future. But, there will still be a track class offered spring term for those who want the experience without the competition.

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SPORTS

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

Lady Roadrunners find their groove after returning home

by Thomas M'Geary
 of The Commuter

The LBCC women's basketball team triumphed at the pre-turkey day game Wednesday Nov. 27. This victory was sweet especially due to the two hard-fought losses that opened the preseason.

The Runner's had opened their new season Friday Nov. 22 with a loss at South Puget Sound C.C. SPSCC put up a big 79 points while Linn-Benton could only muster 65.

Forward Priscilla Hendrix had a season high with 25 points and eight rebounds in the game, while reliable guard Marisa Higgins put up 18 points for the Lady Runners.

Higgins and Hendrix again teamed up to lead the team in its second game on the road, this one at Highline Community College on Saturday Nov. 23. Higgins had a huge game with 21 points, while the powerful Hendrix scored 16 to go along with a team-high 11 rebounds. Sharon VanEaton came off the bench to contribute a significant 10 points, but it was not enough to beat Highline.

The Lady Runner's first win of the preseason came against Linfield College at the LBCC Activities Center. The game opened with a heartfelt

rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, performed by the father of Head Coach Anjanette Dionne and her younger twin sisters, Jennifer and Janine, who play on the team. That seemed to send the Runners onto the floor with lots of energy.

With 5:34 left in the first half, the Lady Runners had built a four-point lead, and the half ended with LB playing great on defense and fluidly on offense, with good passing and good looks at the basket. Janine Dionne put in a clutch three-pointer right before the half for a 29-25 half-time lead.

When the second half started the Runners came out a little flat until Hendrix provided some fuel with strong battles under the hoop. But with poor cross-court passes and missed free throws, the Runners let Linfield get close.

But then the team really warmed up and VanEaton put in two clutch free throws that put LB up 42-39. After VanEaton went down with an ankle sprain, Jessie Ziegler had a great steal and Kimberlie West drew the foul. Higgins quick feet gave her a rebound off West's missed-free-throw, followed by a steal for two important baskets that put the score at 46-39.

LB then started a trap defense and Higgins hit two three-pointers that gave the crowd something to scream about as LB cruised to a 66-58 win.

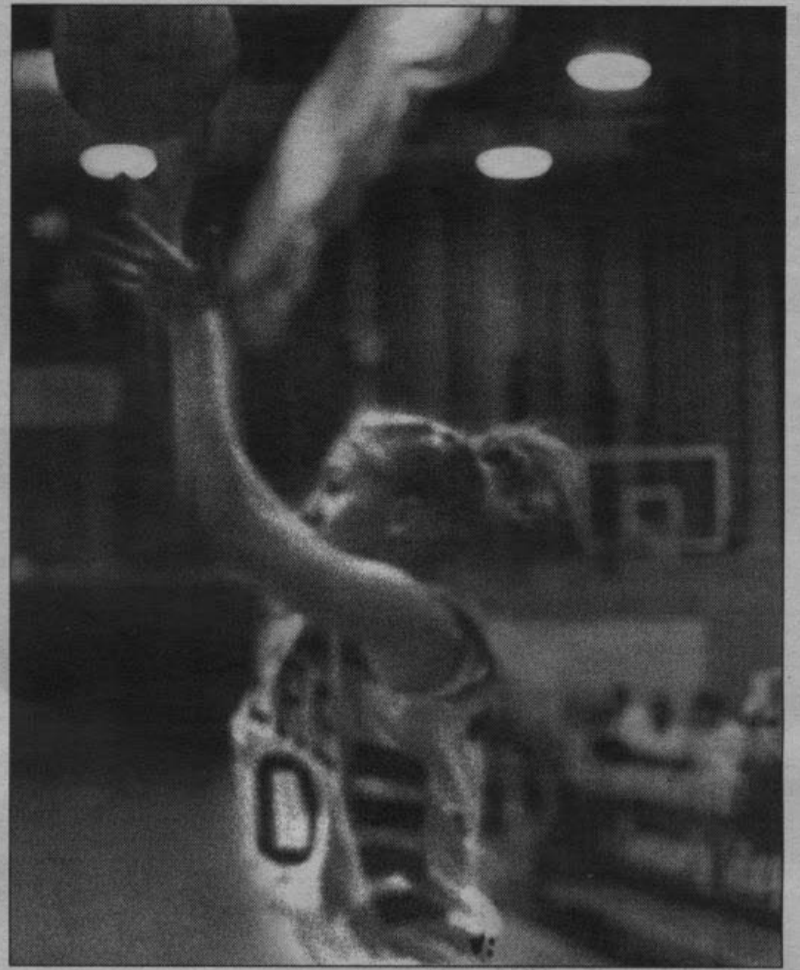


Photo by Thomas M'Geary

Kandice McClung goes up for a shot in last Wednesday's victory over Linfield College in the Activities Center.

Men place 2nd in Turkey Shootout

by Thomas McGeary
 of The Commuter

The Linn Benton men's basketball team opened the season with two impressive wins.

The men opened the season by traveling south to Eugene to take on Northwest Christian on Friday, Nov. 22. Led by 6-5 freshman Ryan Schmidt's 29 points, the Runners won 90-81. Notable team stats include Kyler Shinn's

13 points, James Muncrief's 16 points, six rebounds and three steals, Justin Duke's 12 points and Byron Orth's six rebounds.

"Our first-half defense played very strong, but we need to improve," stated coach Randy Falk on his first win of the season. Though Falk seemed content, he noted, "We need to make better decisions with the ball."

Last weekend the men took part in the Turkey Shootout Tourney in Mt. Vernon, Wash.

The opening game put the men against Wenatchee Valley, the No. 5 team in the East Division.

The Runners, led Schmidt's 26 points, won the opening game 77-73. Sophomore James Muncrief scored 15 and Jacob Espinoza followed with 10 points.

In the championship game the men faced a tough opponent, the No. 4 team out of the North Division, Skagit Valley. Schmidt scored 12 points and Espinoza had 11, but it was not enough to answer the Skagit Valley attack. The Runners fell hard to Skagit Valley in the championship game 88-59. Though Muncrief and Schmidt were named to the All Tourney team.

MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Thu Dec 5	Dale Bates Tourney	Eugene	3 & 8pm
Fri Dec 6	Dale Bates Tourney	Eugene	TBA*
Thu Dec 19	Crossover Tourney	LBCC	7pm
Fri Dec 20	Crossover Tourney	LBCC	TBA*
Sat Dec 21	Crossover Tourney	LBCC	TBA*
Sat Dec 28	Christmas Tourney	Ore. City	TBA*
Sun Dec 29	Christmas Tourney	Ore. City	TBA*
Mon Dec 30	Christmas Tourney	Ore. City	TBA*
Sat Jan 4	Blue Mountain C.C.	Pendleton	7pm
Wed Jan 8	Mt. Hood C.C.	LBCC	7:30pm

* Call 917-4242 for times

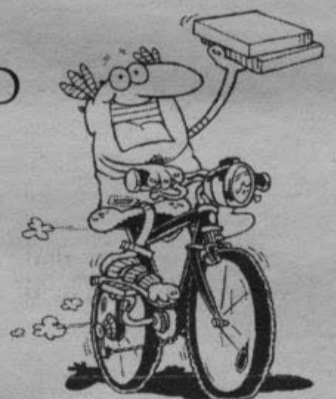
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Thu Dec 5	Dale Bates Tourney	Eugene	1pm
Fri Dec 6	Dale Bates Tourney	Eugene	TBA*
Fri Dec 13	Columbia Basin C.C.	Pasco, WA	6pm
Sat Dec 14	Walla Walla C.C.	Walla Walla, WA	TBA
Fri Dec 20	Crossover Tourney	Lakewood, WA	TBA*
Sat Dec 21	Crossover Tourney	Lakewood, WA	TBA*
Sun Dec 22	Crossover Tourney	Lakewood, WA	TBA*
Fri Jan 3	Wenatchee Valley C.C.	LBCC	6pm
Wed Jan 8	Mt. Hood C.C.	LBCC	5:30pm

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NATIONAL NEWS

News and information
 from the United States
 and the world

Northwest Christmas trees move into Mexico

by Bradley Meacham
 The Seattle Times

Feliz Navidad is taking on new meaning for Washington's Christmas tree growers. Rising personal income in Mexico and other parts of Latin America means a bigger market for many kinds of luxury items – including real Christmas trees.

It couldn't come at a better time for growers, who are gradually losing the battle with fake trees for the American living room.

Trees have long been exported to American expatriates and military personnel abroad, as well as to markets such as Hong Kong and Japan. But the trees will never be much more than a novelty niche in non-Christian cultures.

By contrast, demand for trees in Mexico, with a Roman Catholic-dominated culture and a growing middle class, grew rapidly in the 1990s.

Mexico now accounts for 9 percent of Christmas trees harvested in the Northwest, according to the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association in Salem, Ore.

This year growers will export about 1.2 million trees to Mexico, at wholesale prices ranging from \$12 for Douglas fir, the most popular export species, to \$30 for noble fir.

"The sky's the limit," said Bryan Ostlund, the association's executive. "Mexico City alone could keep us busy for years."

Though precise export statistics are hard to come by because permits don't provide specific totals and middlemen



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Christmas tree stands like this one in Corvallis are beginning to pop up south of the border with increasing frequency as Mexican citizens adopt the tradition. The trend means an expanding market for Northwest tree growers, who now send 9 percent of their harvest to Mexico.

handle much of the shipping, growers say the volume is increasing.

Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Costco and Mexican chain stores are booming south of the border, making it easier for consumers to find Christmas trees.

The Mexican government is encouraging the Christmas tree trade. The Mexican consulate in Seattle recently did a study of the Christmas tree industry for a Mexican maker of plastic tree bases and expects trade to grow as ties strengthen.

Trees now are loaded into refrigerated containers to the border, where they are reloaded into Mexican trucks for

transport to the retailers.

Though the North America Free Trade Agreement made trade economical, a tree shipment to Mexico City still takes at least a week.

The Bush administration last week announced plans to allow Mexican trucks throughout the U.S., potentially streamlining future shipments to south of the border.

"Export is definitely a bright avenue," said Tom Taylor, a salesman for Noble Mountain Christmas trees in Chehalis, Wash.

"It's outside our traditional market

"The sky's the limit.. Mexico City alone could keep us busy for years."

▶ Bryan Ostlund

and any growth there helps at home."

Most trees grown in Washington, the country's fourth-largest producer, and Oregon, the biggest, are shipped to other states, with California alone accounting for 46 percent of trees harvested.

But unfortunately for growers, the domestic market is shrinking as busy consumers increasingly put up low-maintenance artificial trees.

Real and fake trees each had about half the nationwide market in 1990. But since then the number of fake trees has grown to 60.3 million, or 68 percent of the households with Christmas trees.

The total number of real trees sold dropped to 27.8 million in 2001 from 35.4 million in 1990, according to the National Christmas Tree Association in St. Louis.

New markets could help Washington tree farmers who say they're struggling in the face of stricter environmental regulations and rising land prices.

"It's definitely getting more difficult to run a business," said Mark Steelhammer, owner of KLM Christmas Tree Farm in Rochester, Thurston County.

Obstacles in Washington include time-consuming permits, regulations on spraying, and water quality. The pending increase in labor-and-industry taxes means labor becomes more expensive.

Schools forced to open student records to military recruiters

by Ron Hutcherson
 Knight Ridder Newspapers

Military recruiters looking for a few good high school students will have an easier time finding them, thanks to a new federal law that requires schools to turn over students' names, addresses and phone numbers.

Congress ordered the school-to-military cooperation as part of the No Child Left Behind Act, the education overhaul that President Bush championed last year. The law, which went into effect in July, also forces high school administrators to let military recruiters onto their campuses.

The terms apply to any school, public or private, that gets federal money under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The only exemptions are private schools with religious objections to military service.

The requirements are welcome news at the Pentagon, but some school administrators aren't at all happy about them. Schools that refuse to obey risk losing federal education money.

Parents can block the release of their children's names, home addresses and phone numbers by instructing school officials to withhold them.

Critics say the law is an invasion of students' privacy and an affront to the principle of local control over schools. They also question the need for the changes,

"Many of those best able to advise youth about post-high school options – teachers, counselors, coaches, parents – have little firsthand experience with today's military. (They) may underestimate the military's value."

▶ Defense Department

since all of the armed services met their recruitment goals last year.

Some educators are becoming aware of the new requirements only now because the recruiting provisions were overlooked in the midst of Bush's far-reaching education overhaul. The main thrust of the law is to require standardized tests for all students and to set tough accountability standards for schools.

School administrators were put on notice about the recruiting terms in October by a joint letter from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Education Secretary Rod Paige, who urged schools to "work closely with military recruiters." They reminded educators that the disclosure requirement applies to juniors as well as graduating seniors.

Before the law went into effect, as many as 2,000 high

schools barred military recruiters, out of about 21,700 high schools nationwide, according to Defense Department estimates. Most schools are extremely reluctant to share personal information about their students, especially since other federal laws severely limit the release of students' data.

"We've been very zealous about student privacy, and with good reason – the parents want that," said Bruce Hunter, director of public policy at the American Association of School Administrators.

The Defense Department predicts that easier access to high school students will significantly reduce recruitment costs, which have nearly doubled over the past decade, to \$11,600 from \$6,500 per new enlistee. The armed services need about 210,000 recruits a year to maintain the all-volunteer military, in addition to 150,000 recruits annually for National Guard and reserve units.

Finding recruits has become more difficult in recent years. The boom economy of the 1990s, an increase in college enrollments and even the shrinking military all made it harder to find volunteers.

"Many of those best able to advise youth about post-high school options – teachers, counselors, coaches, parents – have little firsthand experience with today's military," says the Defense Department. "Those adult influences may underestimate the military's value as a powerful foundation for success in any endeavor."

THE COMMUTER

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