



## Elevator repairs cause detours for disabled

by Brock Jacks  
of The Commuter

For the many students at LBCC who depend on elevators to get between floors, the last few weeks have been difficult.

The most popular of the two elevators available for student use has been out of order because of maintenance problems, and it appears repairs won't be completed for about a month.

The broken elevator is located between the College Center and the Learning Resource Center, where it normally gets much use by students using the Disabled Student Services office on the second floor of the LRC.

Since it has been out of commission, students have had to use the only remaining public elevator, which is

*"Mainly we are battling old technology which needs to be upgraded. These elevators are more than 25 years old."*

—Kevin Nicholson

located more than 500 feet away at the corner of the Industrial A and Science Tech buildings.

Campus maintenance personnel decided to shut down the College Center elevator earlier this term after it failed to operate several times, including one incident in which a person was trapped and had to use her cell phone to call security. Officials decided that maintenance upgrades that were planned for this summer would

have to be moved up.

The failures are caused primarily by the control circuits and the relays within them. These parts are going to be upgraded, along with the hydraulic pump.

While this upgrade is going on, maintenance workers will install a phone and intercom to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

"Mainly, we are battling old technology which needs to be upgraded," said Kevin Nicholson, who heads up the college's maintenance department. "These elevators are more than 25 years old."

The relays have been ordered, but it will still be another three to four weeks before the elevator is operational again, he said.

(Turn to "Elevators" on Pg. 2)

### Winter Home

The sternwheeler Willamette Queen has moved from its usual moorage at Albany's Monteith Riverfront Park to Salem for the winter because high water in the Willamette makes it difficult to clear the Ellsworth Street Bridge in Albany. Those interested in taking excursions on the river can still do so until March, weather permitting. The Willamette Queen will move back to Albany in the spring.



Photo by Patrick Haley

## New Student Union holds Open House

The recently opened Student Union is hosting an open house for all who want to attend today in its new offices from noon to 2 p.m.

Student Life and Leadership, which includes the Associated Student Government, Student Programming Board and Student Ambassadors, has moved to its new home on the ground floor of the West Forum facing the courtyard.

The new recreational room, with its pool tables, arcade games and a pinball machine, is also open for business, just in time for the ACU-I Tournament this Friday. The new student lounge and Commuter office on the second floor are tentatively scheduled to be open next week.

Today's open house features door prizes, refreshments and tours of the new facilities.

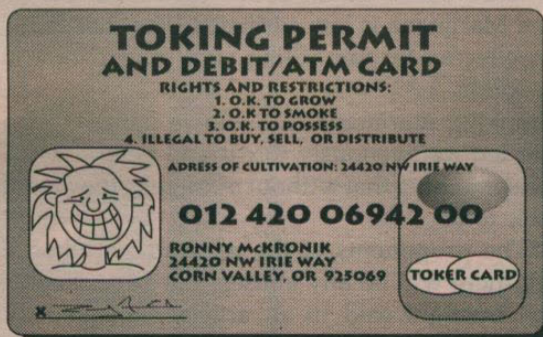
## Police propose changes in new medicinal marijuana law

by Robin Camp  
of The Commuter

The Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police has proposed changes to the new law that allows the use of medicinal marijuana for treating fatal diseases and glaucoma.

Measure 67, which was passed by voters last November and went into effect in December, makes it legal for patients with a doctor's prescription to possess and grow marijuana to help alleviate symptoms. Law enforcement officials, including Sheriff Stan Robson of Benton County, support making some changes to clear up the measure, which he expects to lead to more "promiscuous use" of marijuana.

Among the changes proposed are a requirement that users carry their medicinal use permit and that the permit list the location where their plants are grown. Robson also supports a change that would make it a crime for someone arrested for possession to falsely



claim they have a medical use permit.

Robson explained that if the patient's condition is serious enough to be using marijuana then they should be required to carry their permits.

He added that the Medical Marijuana Act will be an added burden for local law enforcement, especially with approximately 100 bills in the Legislature that could cut budgets, a general shortage of manpower

and a local law enforcement levy that is not bringing in as much money as was desired.

A 28-year-veteran of Benton County law enforcement, Robson said marijuana was already a substantial problem before the act. He pointed out that agencies seized hundreds of plants last year alone, finding between 15 and 20 growing operations.

So far there have been no incidents regarding the measure in Benton or Linn counties. Robson says that the handling of any such incidents will be "business as usual."

The measure requires law enforcement in medicinal marijuana cases to seize and keep the plants, something neither Benton County nor Linn County deputies desire to do, according to Robson and Linn County Sheriff Dave Burright.

"Normally it would be cut down. Law enforcement agencies across the state are wondering if we're going

(Turn to "Marijuana" on Pg. 2)

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Up close and personal in the world of insects

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#### Check This Out

Looking for the next Michael Jordan? Drop by the Schick 3-on-3 tourney in the Activities Center today from 3-7 p.m.

#### ✓ The Ticket

The Commuter's monthly A&E section; from movies to Furbies

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## Sign-up deadline noon today for pingpong, billiards tournament in new Student Union

by Joshua Johnstone  
of The Commuter

Student Life & Leadership is hosting its annual Association of College Unions-International (ACU-I) tournament this Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The tournament will take place in the new Student Life and Leadership recreational room connected to the Forum," said Jeremy Carlton, intramural specialist for the SPB. "It's a free tournament; anyone can do it as long as they are members at this college in good academic standing."

Any student with a GPA of 2.0 and higher will be approved for this event.

Carlton added that "the billiards competition is a

double elimination event where each match is one on one and the best two out of three games wins." The top four men or women in this contest go to Eugene for the regional competition.

The ping pong tournament is a round robin contest in which every competitor will play against one another once. The top person in this competition advances to regional competition as well. There will be a warm-up period a half-hour prior to the opening of tournament rounds.

Sign up is no later than noon today at the SL&L office at its new location in front of the Forum near the courtyard. For more information contact Jeremy Carlton at 917-4463 or stop by the SL&L office.

## Candidates sought for student government

by Sean Leveque  
of The Commuter

Elections for Associated Student Government and The Student Programming Board are coming up on Feb. 23 and 24.

Positions available for ASG are president, vice president, public relations secretary, representative at large, student services/extended learning representative, liberal arts/human performance representative, business/health occupations representative and science and industry representative.

There are eight SPB positions which are appointed by a committee of ASG officers.

So far 10 applications have been picked up for ASG

positions and 13 for SPB.

Applicants for available positions must meet the following criteria: each candidate must attend LBCC during the 1999-2000 school year, they must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 and finally the candidate must be enrolled half-time or more.

Students who are elected or appointed to positions will receive tuition grants and be expected to put in a minimum number of office hours.

Anyone interested in applying for a position with the SPB or ASG can pick up applications in the new Student Life & Leadership office on the courtyard level next to the Forum. The deadline for turning in applications is Feb. 12.

## Elevator: Sluggish repairs have students complaining

✓ From Page 1

"We're nervous about putting it back into operation and having the possibility of someone getting stuck on it," said Nicholson.

Nancy Sheffield of Disability Services has heard a lot of complaints from students who depend on the elevator as part of their every day routine.

"It's not just the people in wheelchairs," said Sheffield. "It's also an inconvenience to those who have difficulty walking stairs."

Some students are upset that the college has not placed its repair on the top of their priority list.

"It shouldn't be the last on the list of repairs," said Amelia Kinnson, a business major who said she has a weak knee due to an injury. Although a freshman in the

accounting program this year, she has attended classes on campus for four years and is returning for more training as a disabled student due to her knee injury.

There are many disabled students on the campus, she said, and it's not just they who need to use the elevators. Older students and others also have difficulty with stairs, she said, and workers need the elevator to move equipment between floors.

Although she understands there are budget constraints, she said she can't understand how the college can spend money revamping the cafe in Takena Hall and building a new student union but not repair the elevators immediately.

Students with concerns can call Disability Services at 917-4683.

## Marijuana: Police foresee problems with marijuana law

✓ From Page 1

to have to put up greenhouses," Burrigh told the Albany Democrat Herald in December. "I don't think the people of this county want their sheriff's office tending marijuana plants in greenhouses."

Robson said that normal procedure—seizure, photographing, sampling and destruction of the plants—will continue until he has clarification from the State Attorney General's office, which is currently working on guidelines for law enforcement.

Robson says he is willing to return paraphernalia but intends to avoid having to return the plants.

One of the problems for law enforcement is that the permit cards that patients are supposed to carry with them won't be ready until May, making it hard for law enforcement to differentiate between honest medicinal use and illegal recreational use. On top of that,

Robson expects some forgery of the cards and prescriptions to become a problem, as well as prescriptions from less-than-credible physicians.

Medicinal marijuana is intended for use as a pain killer. Marijuana is less addictive than morphine and more effective for pain killing, according to some medical experts.

Smoking marijuana also allows patients who are being fed intravenously to eat and keep down solid food, something that without marijuana they would be unable to do.

"The proponents of the measure say they don't think there will be any abuses. I'm very skeptical of that," Burrigh said in an article published by the Democrat-Herald in December. "The wording could make it subject to tremendous abuse. At the moment, there are more questions than answers."

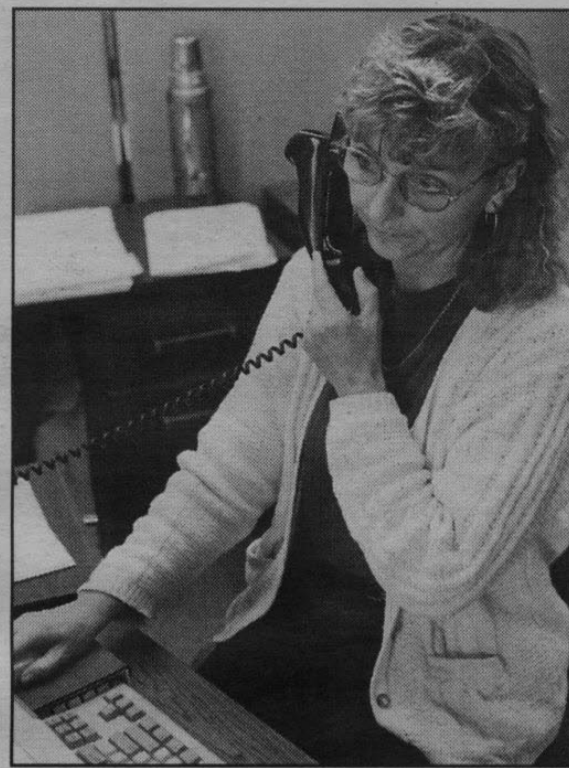


Photo by Joey Blount

Carla Raymond works the phones to find jobs for LBCC students.

## Employment Center helps students find jobs, both part-time and full-time

by Tina Flores  
of The Commuter

LBCC students both past and present have a friend in Carla Raymond and the Student Employment Center when they choose to join the job market.

Anyone who has taken at least a one-credit class at LBCC or completed the G.E.D. or Jobs program, can use the employment center to get assistance in finding a job. At different times throughout the year, the center has jobs available from such varied employers as Hewlett-Packard, Ormet-Wah Chung, Oregon Youth Authority, OSU and Target Distributing.

Student employment can also help with flexible part-time jobs designed for student schedules, and also find jobs for students after they complete an academic program. On the bulletin board outside the center students can check employment listings for Corvallis, Salem, Springfield and others locations. Currently 140 positions are available through the center. It offers a 24-hour Job Hotline as well.

The Student Employment Center also provides help with resume writing and interview preparation for the job search, as well a graduation follow-up and labor market trends and statistics.

The service is offered at no charge for students.

"Current economic trends show that although last year there was a labor shortage, this year there are fewer jobs and much more competition," said Raymond, who is an employment specialist with the center.

Raymond added that some of the more interesting jobs she found were "party photographer, Easter bunny, and Santa Claus." Raymond advises second-year students to "focus on getting some kind of on-the-job experience to give them the edge in today's tough and very competitive job market."

### commuter staff

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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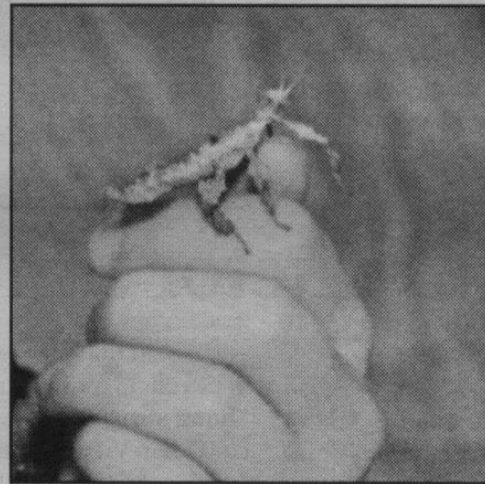
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IN FOCUS

# Creepy Crawlers

Children go hands on as amateur entomologists for a day at OSU



Eight-year-old Emily Denler (left) gazes in awe at an Australian walking stick (closeup), one of the many insects at the "Bugs Alive" anthropod experience at OSU last week. Six-year-old Nathaniel Lyon (below) waits patiently as another walking stick crawls onto his hand.

Photos by  
Jeremy Parker



Student Life and Leadership  
**OPEN HOUSE**

Wednesday February 3rd  
12-2pm

- \* Join us at our new office on the west side of the forum, facing the courtyard
- \* Visit our new and improved recreation room
- \* Meet your Student Representatives
- \* Refreshments Available
- \* Door Prizes

*Valentine's Day Flower Sale*  
*show someone you care!*  
*send them carnations!*



On sale in Takena Hall,  
Jan. 27 to Feb. 11th from  
10am-2pm. \$1.50 each or  
6 for \$7 Free delivery on  
campus only, from 8am to  
2:30pm on friday Feb 12th

Sponsored by  
Student Life & Leadership



## Transfer students have their day

College Transfer Days, an information fair for students interested in transferring to four-year institutions, will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Commons.

The event is free and open to the public.

Representatives from 17 colleges and universities in Oregon will answer questions and provide forms and information to transferring students.

The schools include the Art Institute of Portland, Eastern Oregon University, George Fox College, Linfield College, Marylhurst College, Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State Scholarship Commission, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, University of Phoenix, University of Portland, Warner Pacific College, Western Baptist College, Western Oregon University, and Willamette University.



Photo by A.J. Wright

### Framing Up

Construction on the new storage building north of the Science Technology Building has moved along steadily in the last few weeks despite the rain. Next door, the foundations are being poured for the new greenhouse, which is expected to be ready by spring.

## Philosophy instructor concerned over waning patriotism

by Michele Brosnan  
of The Commuter

"There is an apparent indifference among Americans toward the importance of government," says philosophy professor Tom Walmsley, "and this apparent lack bothers me."

Walmsley has taught at LBCC for 10 years and has lived through decades of transition in America's recent history, during which he's seen a change in attitudes.

Americans once were given a sense of bonding together to preserve the true patriotic spirit. "During World War II, there was a clear sense of who the enemy was, Hitler. His presence and threat were real," said Walmsley, "Patriotism was the love of their country and the philosophy the Constitution was built on."

Patriotism today is vastly different because there is no real enemy to strengthen the bond of unity and for "pride in our system of government and its three branches: the judicial, executive and legislative," Walmsley said.

He said that before the Vietnam conflict the country believed in politicians and in government but that "lying struck at the very soul of the country, and the conflict in Vietnam lost the soul of the country, causing a lack of trust."

Walmsley said that this may be why "Clinton's lies are not perceived as a threat. We have lost our confidence and the degree Clinton is lying is nothing compared to Vietnam."

In an informal poll of his classes, Walmsley found that most people do not look to the Presidency for moral behavior. On the first day of his winter term ethics class, students divided into three groups—those who were opposed to the continuing of impeachment proceedings, others who felt that President Clinton had done wrong and should go to trial and still others who were apathetic or wanted the whole thing to go away. A small minority of 8-10 percent felt that Clinton should be thrown out of office.

Walmsley said that people who are flooding to

religion and ethics classes are "restless and looking for a place to stand and may be looking for a way to calm their anxieties." The overall climate of society today promotes a search for an anchor or a foundation, Walmsley added.

This quarter the college decided to offer two ethics classes, which not only filled but were also wait-listed. This is not a surprise to Walmsley, who said, "Ethics are a big part of our lives and people are familiar with this word."

The philosophy department of LBCC offers three classes: ethics, introduction to philosophy and history of western civilization.

Walmsley earned his philosophy degree from Drake University in Iowa, a philosophy of religion degree from University of Chicago, a masters of counseling and a doctorate in education from the University of Michigan. He has been ordained by the United Church of Christ and held a pulpit and continues to perform weddings.

## Athletic department to sponsor prizes and events for LB employees

by David Thayer  
of The Commuter

Calling all past and present employees of LBCC!

The Athletic Department is looking for you on its Fourth Annual Employee Appreciation Night.

On Feb. 10, the LBCC Athletic Department will hold a special night for all former and current employees of LB.

It will be held during the women's basketball game at 6 p.m. and the men's game at 8 p.m. against Southwestern Oregon Community College. You can win prizes and enjoy a night of fun sports entertainment.

The big prize of the night is one set of tickets from Albany to Seattle on Amtrak and two nights at the Red Lion Inn. Other prizes include a clock and three

water bottles from the Athletic Department, Abby's Pizza, a T-shirt and a mock turtleneck from the LB baseball program, a \$25 gift certificate from G.I. Joe's and four miniature golf games at Golf City Par Three.

"I started this four years ago to thank the employees that work here at the college and work with the student athletes. Last year, we had roughly 63 prizes and

65 people showed up," said Athletic Director Greg Hawk.

"What we are trying to do is get the community involved to where they can help us in being able to thank the people that work with our student athletes. We are also going to have the presidents of LBCC playing basketball. To me, I want to make this our big employee appreciation night for the year," said Hawk.

## Lebanon man has seizure on campus, dies of cardiac arrest

by Brock Jacks  
of The Commuter

Last Tuesday evening Raymond Simmons, a 69-year-old resident of Lebanon, had an epileptic seizure in the Alsea-Calpooia room. His seizure led to a cardiac arrest, and after attempts to revive him failed he passed away at Albany General Hospital.

Simmons was attending a dinner put on by the Linn County Extension Group when he collapsed.

Security was called immediately after 911 and security officer Jeffery Carl responded. He began CPR and then instructed a bystander to continue until the ambulance arrived and revived Simmons with a defibrillator.

Although Carl was shaken afterwards, Vern Jackson of the Security Office feels Carl's training did pay off. "He did a good job and we're all proud of him."

## Eugene Asian Festival

February 13, 1999

9-4 p.m.

Eugene, OR



A day full of activities centered around Asian culture

This is an annual event and one of the largest Asian Festivals in the United States. Transportation and lunch provided for the first 12 students who sign up in the Student Life and Leadership office, in the Student Union building.

Van Departs: 9 a.m.  
Van Returns: 4 p.m.

For any information contact Brandt Schmitz in the Student Life and Leadership office

MID-WEEK MADNESS!  
MONDAY - THURSDAY  
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# The Ticket

## Arts & Entertainment

### Evils of War

'The Thin Red Line' contemplates WWII without much action, but packs psychological punch. Page 6



### Cult Hero

From 'Evil Dead' to 'Hercules,' Bruce Campbell knocks 'em dead in movies outside the mainstream. Page 7



## Toy-crazed America caught in Furby frenzy

by Brock Jacks  
of The Commuter

First there was Tickle-Me Elmo. Then there were Beanie Babies. Now there are furbies. These wildly popular toys have hordes of people lining up before store opening hours just to be able to purchase one from a new shipment. Wal-Mart in Lebanon has sold out some shipments in a matter of hours. This even with a limit of one per person.

Obviously, America has gone toy crazy. There've even been reports of punches being thrown for the right to purchase one of these toys.

Furbies are the latest of a new kind of toy, the virtual pet. Beginning with the Tamagotchi, the original giga pet from Japan, these virtual pets have evolved from small LCD screens on a keychain to something vaguely reminiscent of Gizmo from the movie "Gremlins". With the Tamagotchi, owners were responsible to feed, water and medicate their pet as well as play games, scold and even clean up after their virtual responsibility.

Furbies have made significant advancement from their egg-shaped predecessors. Manufactured

by Tiger Electronics, Furbies are small, furry electronic creatures that actually move. Their eyes open and close, their ears wiggle, their mouth moves and sometimes they even "dance" by rocking their body back and forth.

Part of what makes Furbies so popular is their interactivity. Not only can they talk to you, but they can also learn from you. By petting them you can reinforce whatever they say that you like. They dance and sing to music and even ask to be fed.

However, all this advancement has drawn some negative attention to Furbies. Furbies had been



banned from the National Security Agency earlier this month because they had "built-in recorders that repeat the audio with synthesized sound to mimic the original signal."

This however, is not the case. Roger Shiffman, president of Tiger Electronics, has been quoted responding to this ban, "The assertion that Furby could repeat classified information is totally false. Although Furby is a clever toy, it does not record or mimic voices. Each Furby is preprogrammed to react to its environment. The NSA did not do their homework. Furby is not a spy!"

Many other rumors have circulated about Furby's ability to fly, among other ludicrous assertions. One thing is clear, however, and that is that Furby has made a big splash.

So until next year when a bigger, better and more expensive toy hits the market, Furby is it for the kid who's got to have it all!

## Tuxedo-clad student leaders deliver flowers for Valentine's Day

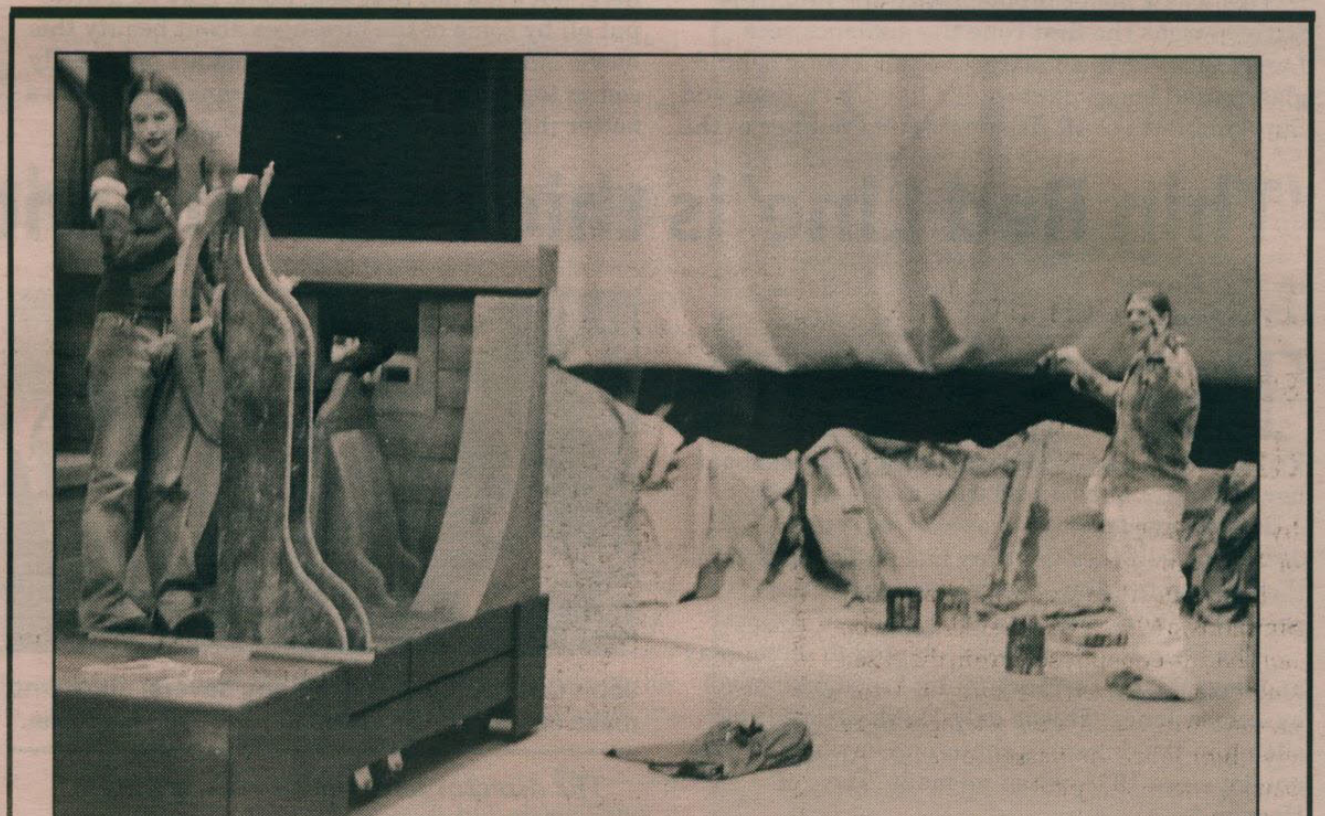
by Jessa Gilbertson  
of The Commuter

Come Feb. 12, many students may find themselves awakened from their catnap in math class by tuxedo-clad Cupids with bouquets of beautiful flowers.

During the next two weeks, the Student Life and Leadership office is holding its annual Valentine's flower sale. Students and staff can surprise that special someone with \$1.50 carnations delivered to their class or office on the Friday before Valentine's Day.

"This is a great way to show someone you care, by sending them flowers," says Jeannie Givan, political event specialist for Student Life & Leadership. She is hoping to sell 500 or more carnations this year. Although Student Life and Leadership is running the event, the students dressing up are from the Student Programming Board.

The carnations come in a variety of different colors and will be on sale until Feb. 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The cost is \$1.50 each or six for \$7. Delivery on campus is free the flowers will be delivered from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12. The money earned will be spent on what it will cost to run the event.



### Prepping the Set

Working on the set of LBCC's upcoming production of "Treasure Island" are Sarah Parchot, production assistant, and Matt Tedish. The stage crew is busy getting the set ready for the opening of the children's play in two weeks. Weekday matinee performances for local elementary school children begin Feb. 15, and the curtain goes up for the general public on Friday Feb. 19. Tickets can be purchased for \$3 for children and \$5 for adults. Box office hours are Monday-Friday 12-3:30 p.m. and two hours prior to performances. Public shows are at 7 p.m. on Feb. 19, 20, 26, 27 and at 3 p.m. on Feb. 21 and 28.

Photo by Joey Blount



# 'She's All That' isn't all that good

## Miramax brings stereotypes of teen life to big screen

by Sarah Crauder  
of The Commuter

Those of you familiar with the types of movies Miramax brings to theaters may be surprised by the latest one. Long the champion of foreign films and independent movies, Miramax is responsible for bringing foreign movies such as the Japanese film "Shall We Dance" and the small budget "Smoke Signals" to American theaters.

Miramax seems to have taken a vacation from its usual high-brow fare, however, with the cute, stereotypical teen movie "She's All That."

The story of "She's All That" is a familiar one. Anyone who has seen "My Fair Lady" or watched "Pygmalion" will recognize the plot.

In this case, instead of Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle, it's a popular high school student named Zach (Freddie Prinze Jr.) and Laney (Rachel Leigh Cook), a nerdy art student.

Zach is the class president and lone contender for the title of prom king. He's got a nice car (with the license plate 'MR PREZ'), is on the soccer team, and is oh so handsome. But best of all he's got Taylor (Jodi Lyn O'Keefe), the most popular girl in school and shoe-in for prom queen, as a girlfriend.

But when he gets back from spring break, he discovers that Taylor has run into Brock Hudson (Matt Lillard), a cast member from MTV's "The Real World" at the MTV spring break party at Daytona Beach, and the two have become an item.

Taylor blows off Zach, and to preserve his ego, he blusters to his friends that anyone can become the prom queen. All it requires is nice clothes, good hair and make-up and popular friends. In no time at all a bet is made among Zach and his friends on whether Zach can turn a unpopular girl into the prom queen in six weeks. After discounting a variety of girls as too easy to change, they pick Laney, a girl who cares more about human rights issues and her art than being cool.

This was a major problem with the film. It is fairly obvious the first time the audience sees Laney that she is an attractive girl hiding behind glasses and baggy clothes. It's like Clark Kent and Superman—take off the glasses and put her in the

right costume and Laney suddenly becomes prom queen material.

They automatically discount an overweight girl as being too easy to change. Funny, the last movie that changed such a girl won Academy Awards ("Georgie Girl"). It's a lot harder than taking off a pair of glasses. It was rather irritating that they so notably discounted the challenge.

The plot progresses as one would expect it to. As Zach tries to get Laney to open up to him, he starts to realize that maybe she's not a complete dork after all and starts to fall for her.

The changes in the characters as they come to accept each other seem to happen too quickly. Anyone who was the least bit unpopular in high school would

realize that it's a lot harder to break into the upper echelons of high school society than this movie portrays.

Some other complaints:

- The make-over Laney gets from Zach's friend may be trendy, but it looks awful.

- Zach exhibits almost god-like control over other students, making them do whatever he wants them to on command.

- There are two scenes in the movie that are just there for gross-out factor. There is NO reason for these scenes to be in the movie for any other reason, and it detracts from an otherwise cute movie.

However, this movie harkens back to the days of the great '80s teen films like "The Breakfast Club" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." There is relatively little bad language, and there are some genuinely funny jokes. (Kevin Pollack is underused in his role as Laney's dad, but there is a hilarious scene in which he consistently gets Jeopardy questions about as far wrong as you can possibly get them).

The movie is rated PG-13 for sexual content, crude humor, brief strong language and teen drinking. This is not Academy Award material here, but it's not that bad. Some may be a little put off by some of the messages about beauty this movie offers, since Laney's life and art only really comes together once she's been transformed. It's a better than average teen movie. It rates a B+.

B+

## High school love story almost flunks out

by Heather Wahlberg  
of The Commuter

It's not all that fun to watch a movie that has no original thought put into it. "She's All That" is nothing more than a reminiscent mix of such films as "My Fair Lady" and "Pretty Woman."

Unlike those movies, however, "She's All That" didn't try anything different. "My Fair Lady" was a classic play made into a movie and "Pretty Woman" took the angle of a prostitute playing Cinderella.

What does this film do? It takes the same tired plot and puts it in a setting of back-stabbing, fashion-crazed teenagers—more commonly known as high school.

Take the most popular guy in school, Zach, who's just been dumped by his equally popular female counterpart, Taylor.

Enter one withdrawn art student with the potential to be gorgeous, Laney. Add a couple of meddling friends who bet Zach that he can't turn just any girl into the prom queen as he claims. Now sit back and watch everyone race to make a tolerable film before time runs out.

This film is full of cliches and predictable wrong turns. All of the main characters could have been transplanted from one of any number of films.

Taylor is the expected witch that every guy wants to date and every girl wants to hang out with. Zach is, of course, the brilliant and good-looking, self-centered jock that every girl dreams of going out with and all the guys want to be.

Then there's Laney, the girl who worries more about the environment than her wardrobe and couldn't care less about whether the most popular guy in school looks twice at her—until he does.

I won't say that this film didn't have its good points. Some of the jokes were funny, the music was pretty good and not all of the characters were as shallow and self-centered as the rest—that distinction was reserved for the main characters. But when you look at this movie as a whole it's hard to say anything except, "Whatever!"

All in all I have to give this film a C+.

C+

# 'Thin Red Line' is thick on stars and futility of war

by E.J. Harris  
of The Commuter

The epic war drama, "The Thin Red Line", opened nationally Jan. 15, in the shadow of last year's war epic, "Saving Private Ryan," and it has the critics raving about how it is sure to be an all time movie classic.

But many who go to see this tragic tale of life, death and self-sacrifice may be left disappointed if they expect the non-stop realism and action portrayed in "Saving Private Ryan."

"The Thin Red Line" was adapted to screenplay and directed by Terrence Malik based on a novel by James Jones. This is only Malik's third time sitting in the director's chair, one in which he has not sat since 1978, when he made "Days of Heaven."

The story is about a World War II Army rifle company, Charlie company, thrown head-long into the battle for Guatalcanal, marked by history as the turning point of the war in the Pacific. The Army has moved in to relieve battle-weary Marine units who have been engaged in fierce hand-to-hand jungle combat with the Japanese for control of the island and its airfield.

Unlike the Spielberg's war epic "Saving Private Ryan," which plunges the viewer into the chaos of war within the opening minutes of the movie, Malik uses a much more subtle approach.

"The Thin Red Line" opens with Private Witt



John Cusack (center) is among several stars who make cameo appearances in "The Thin Red Line."

*The director uses the surreal setting to its fullest potential, juxtaposing scenes of serene natural beauty with the tragedy of man and war.*

(Jim Caviezel) contemplating his life in a small village while living in relative peace with the native people of the Solomon Islands, before a patrol boat comes along and takes him back to his unit, Charlie company.

Pvt. Witt is then disciplined by the company first sergeant (Sean Penn), and sent to a disciplinary unit to be a stretcher-bearer.

The story then leaves Pvt. Witt and follows

Charlie company as it prepares to go ashore and relieve Marine units engaged with the Japanese.

The story is driven by the hard-edge battalion commander, Colonel Tall (Nick Nolte) and his orders, which are to attack a key Japanese position. Col. Tall orders a frontal assault on the Japanese position spearheaded by Charlie company. Due to poor planning and a lack of combat experience, the attack quickly spirals into a quagmire of death and confusion leading the company commander, Captain Staros (Elias Koteas), to defy the orders given by Col. Tall and cease the assault. Eventually Pvt. Witt returns to Charlie company and takes part in the final assault on the Japanese position.

This movie moves beyond the actual story, the plot, in the sense that most are used to. The director, Malik, uses the surreal setting of the Solomon Islands to its fullest potential, juxtaposing scenes of serene natural beauty with the tragedy of man and war. He focuses on the evils of war and how it can shape and then reshape the way that man sees his reality and duties in life.

If you go to see this movie based on all the big-named actors that appear in the billing like Clooney, Cusack, Harrelson and Travolta: don't blink. You might miss them. Combined screen time for all those actors is about half-an-hour.

This movie is bound to win plenty of awards, even though it may not win in the box offices.



## Come Get Some

After 'The Evil Dead,' Bruce Campbell chainsaws his way to cult movie stardom

by Benjamin Sell  
of The Commuter

It all started with a little-known low-budget horror flick entitled "The Evil Dead." Though it was a small start, it was one that ultimately catapulted Bruce Campbell to the top in the world of cult-movie heroes. Through the movie and its two sequels, Campbell chainsawed his way into the hearts of fans the world over.

Campbell got his first acting job at the age of 14, playing the role of the young prince in "The King and I" when the original actor became ill and Campbell stepped up to play the role. He then went on to star in several other community theater productions and spent a lot of time making "cheezeball Super-8 flicks" with a neighborhood friend.

Campbell first met longtime friend and "Evil Dead" co-conspirator Sam Raimi in a high school drama class in 1975. Together they embarked upon a movie-making orgy of colossal proportions, turning out nearly 50 Super-8 movies.

In the summer of 1979, together with Raimi and newfound friend Rob Tapert, Campbell started out to become a "real" filmmaker. Between the three of them they managed to scrape up enough money to make a short Super-8 horror flick called "Within the Woods" which served as a vehicle for raising more money from potential investors. They finally managed to raise about \$350,000 which they used to make "The Evil Dead," in which Campbell both co-produced and starred.

"The Evil Dead" is a tale of five college students who take a weekend trip to an abandoned cabin deep in the woods. There they find a tape recorder featuring recorded passages from "Necronomicon ex Mortis" or The Book of The Dead. The passages awaken an evil force in the woods that possesses Campbell's character Ash's girlfriend and his other friends and basically all hell breaks loose and Ash is the only one who survives.

Four years later, the film was first noticed in England where it became the best-selling video of 1983, beating out "The Shining." After its appearance at Cannes, France, author Stephen King dubbed it "the

## Campbell conquers the 'Army of Darkness'

by Benjamin Sell  
of The Commuter

Its been six years since "Army of Darkness" first made its somewhat unremarkable debut. Though it never achieved great financial success or critical acclaim, Sam Raimi's sword-and-sorcery epic has gained a huge cult following in the years since its release.

"Army of Darkness" is the third installment in the "Evil Dead" series. Bruce Campbell again plays the role of Ash, the shotgun-toting, chainsaw-armed department store clerk from S-Mart's housewares division. Pretty much the most unlikely hero ever, Ash is a pompous, overconfident ass with an ego almost as intense as his overwhelming lack of anything resembling intelligence. After being transported back in time at the end of "Evil Dead II," Ash is captured by King Arthur's knights and mistaken for a member of a warring kingdom and is thrown into a pit inhabited by bloodthirsty members of the undead. He fights his way out and vents his frustration by both physically and verbally assaulting Arthur and the assembled throng.

Wiseman John attempts to convince Arthur that Ash is the "promised one," prophesized to fall from the heavens and deliver the kingdom from the evils of the "deadites," a vicious army of the dead that threatens to consume all mankind. After one of these deadites attacks and Ash quickly dispatches it with a few well-placed shotgun blasts, Arthur is convinced.

Ash is sent to quest for the "Necronomicon Ex Mortis" or the Book of the Dead. Within its pages are passages which have the power to send Ash back to his



most ferociously original horror film of the year." New Line Cinema then stepped forward to release Evil Dead in the U.S.

"Evil Dead II: Dead by Dawn" was released in 1987. This "more funny, less gory" movie was blessed with a budget ten times that of its predecessor. Bruce again co-produced and starred. More of a remake than a true sequel, this second installment in the series featured a more slapstick approach to horror inspired by the Three Stooges, of which Raimi is a huge fan. During one especially slapstick sequence Ash gets attacked by his own possessed hand which flips him on the ground and smashes dishes over his head, eventually he ends up lopping it off at the wrist with a chainsaw, which later serves as a replacement for his severed hand.

In 1992, he rejoined old friends Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert to co-produce the third and most likely final installment in the Evil Dead Trilogy, "Army of Darkness." Bruce once again starred as the lame-brained unlikely hero Ash. This time around, Ash is sucked into the 14th century and must do battle with an army of the dead which he inadvertently awakens on a quest to find the book of the dead. "Army of Darkness" is the source of several of today's well known catch phrases including "Gimme some sugar baby," "Come get some," and "Hail to the king, baby."

Immediately following the release of "Army of Darkness," the Coen brothers invited Campbell to play a feature role in their big-business comedy, "The Hudsucker Proxy." He then starred in Fox's short-lived series "The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr."

More recently, Campbell has been making numerous guest appearances on various television series including "Ellen," "The X-Files" and a recurring role as Autolycus on both "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys" and "Xena: Warrior Princess."

Campbell is set to play a "teaser" role in the sequel to "From Dusk 'til Dawn" called "Texas Blood Money" and play a large part in the upcoming flick "Icebreaker." He is currently working on a book tentatively titled "Confessions of a 'B' Movie Actor."

For more Bruce Campbell information check out his website at <http://www.bccentral.com>.

own time. Ash manages to retrieve the Necronomicon, but not before awakening an army of the undead by botching the sacred words required to safely remove the book from its resting place.

Ash's blunder leads to the undead army attacking Arthur's castle in hopes of obtaining the Necronomicon. But, with a little help from Ash (and some science books stashed in the trunk of his car), the castle residents are able to mount a reasonable defense.

In time the army attacks and Arthur's knights decimate their ranks with gunpowder-loaded arrows and catapult blasts. But eventually the army breaks through the castle gates and Ash fights an evil version of himself for possession of the Necronomicon. Ash finally dispatches his doppelganger, the kingdom is saved, the evil is banished, yadda yadda yadda...

Of course Ash once again screws up the sacred words and the movie ends with him dispatching a deadite in S-Mart's sporting goods department.

"Army of Darkness," despite its many technical flaws, really is a damn good movie. Sure Ash is arrogant, ignorant, and downright asinine, but you can't help but like the guy. He's the unlikely hero thrown into an improbable world facing insurmountable odds and somehow managing to come out on top. That's what makes him so endearing.

This movie is definitely one that has not been embraced by the mainstream populace, but to its cult followers it and its two prequels are some of the greatest moments ever captured on film. If you haven't seen it you owe it to yourself to check it out at least once.

## ask annie

### I've got the Varsity Blues

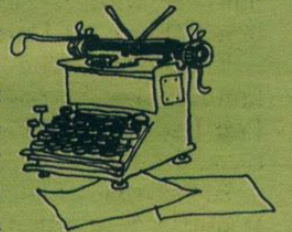
Dear Ask Annie,

Two years ago my boyfriend left me for our high school's quarterback. Now he's come back and wants to start where we left off. He says it was just phase and that he really loves me. What should I do?

Signed, Confused about Love

Dear Confused,

First, I think you are hardly the "confused" one in this situation. It sounds like your ex has gone through some serious transformations in his life and is reaching for something familiar. I would be a little cautious of a guy who is in love with someone after a two-year break. I would recommend that before you jump into a relationship with this guy you get to know him again. Most likely you have both changed a lot in those two years. On a side note, if a relationship does develop between you two again, be careful, you don't know where he was spending his nights for two years.



### The weirdo next door!

Dear Ask Annie,

My neighbor is weird. Every time I come home he's standing in his window staring at me. He knocks on my door at all hours of the night asking to borrow my dictionary or help him with a math problem. If I don't answer the door, he just knocks louder. How can I politely tell him to quit bothering me without hurting his feelings?

Signed, Too Busy for Weirdos

Dear Too Busy,

I think you should start dropping some hints with this guy, and fast. From the sound of it, he's too creepy for his own good. When he knocks on your door, just politely inform that you're busy with dinner, or homework, or even bathroom scrubbing. It doesn't really matter what the excuse is, but after awhile he should start to get the hint and hopefully lay off the weirdness. If he still persists after a week or so, it's time to lay down the law and tell him to leave you alone.

### The end of the world?

Dear Ask Annie,

I recently heard that some French guy from the sixteenth century predicted that the world would end last year. Are we all dead? This sure doesn't smell like heaven.

Signed, Dead or Alive?

Dear Dead,

That French guy was none other than Nostradamus, a scientist who predicted the comings of Napoleon, Hitler and Hussein. I can understand your concern, I too question the reality of the world in which we wake. I want to reassure you, though, that while we reside on a sometimes smelly planet, we are all very much alive.

### Forget forward flowers

Dear Ask Annie,

I have a crush on one of the guys in my math class, and I'm thinking about sending him a flower for Valentine's Day. Am I being too forward?

Signed, Aggressive

Dear Aggressive,

It's not always a good idea to send a guy a flower, unless he's your brother. Come up with another way to get yourself noticed.

If you have a question for Ask Annie, The Commuter's adviser to the lost and confused, send it to The Commuter, 6500 SW Pacific Blvd., Albany, Ore. 97321; or drop off questions in the office, which will be in Forum 222 by Feb. 5



# Poetry by Derrick Ian Jones

The House Of Peace

Derek Ian Jones

a roaring fills my ears  
as dust fills my lungs  
and the earth begins  
to shake  
shudder  
tilt  
spin  
all around me  
screaming  
bleeding  
dying  
crying

afterwards  
i return to see  
where so many fell  
because of someone else's stand

it is as though God's rage  
had been focused on us  
and he  
smashed the buildings with his fists  
in a drunken celestial fury

Kenya  
Tanzania  
Oklahoma City  
and too many other places to mention  
more than I can even recall  
WE CRY WITH YOU  
we too mourn your loss  
and the end of your innocence  
but time is a clock  
which cannot be unwound  
so all that we can offer you  
is our broken hearts  
and hope that it may be enough

The Love In Your Eyes  
Derek Ian Jones

i look at you  
and see something  
that i've never seen before  
and for it i would do anything you asked  
anything at all  
even against a million i would stand tall  
for the love in your eyes

the world could crumble and fall  
and i wouldn't miss it at all  
but without you i'd fall apart  
a man can't live without his heart

'cause now i look at you  
and see something  
that is worth more than all the jewels on earth  
and for it i would do anything you asked  
anything at all  
even against a million i would stand tall  
for the love in your eyes

and when i look at you now  
i sometimes wonder how  
i ever managed to deserve  
the love in your eyes

and it's the love of children  
that turns men into heroes...  
and for it i would do anything  
anything at all  
even against a million i would stand tall  
for the love in your eyes  
for you...  
my child



Photo by  
Jeremy Parker



## SPORTS PAGE

## Roadrunners lose to Lane, beat Clackamas

by David Thayer  
of The Commuter

On Jan. 27, the Titans of Lane Community College visited Linn-Benton trying to keep their undefeated record of 19-0, while the Roadrunners were looking to win their third game of the league season.

When the dust finally settled, Lane emerged the winner, 79-73, from a game that featured big leads, a dominating Titan defense and a big comeback by the Roadrunners that fell just short.

Lane dominated the first half, jumping out to leads of 17-9, 25-13 and 31-15. The Titans stepped up their defense and kept the Roadrunners from making scoring runs. Everytime LB scored, the Titans would go on a big run.

"Our biggest problem in the first half was our lack of intensity and not running our plays correctly," said Mike Aitchison, who led the Roadrunners with 18 points.

"When we went in at halftime, Brandon Marino really tore into us. He really roused us out of our seats and let us know how it is."

LB came out strong in the second half, closing the gap to make it 44-30, but then Lane came back and extended the lead to 51-30. Finally, the Roadrunners began to make their run. First they climbed to within 16, then 14, 12, 11—and then two Aitchison free throws got them within single digits at 65-57.

By the time Dustin Hamann hit a jumper late in the game, the Roadrunners were down by only one at 68-69, and they soon took their first lead 71-70. It was back and forth after that, and LB found themselves down by one with 30 seconds to go. After a missed jumper, the Titans converted and the Roadrunners couldn't comeback.

"We came out in the second half and showed that we could take it to them and that we could compete," said Hamilton Barnes, who had nine points, seven assists and four steals.

"I believe that we can make the playoffs the way the league is looking so far, and we can run the next several games," said Coach Randy Falk.

"I believe that we came together in the second half. Things were clicking and

we grew together tonight," added Hamann, who had 13 points and eight rebounds.

The Roadrunners out-rebounded the Titans 40-33, with Jon Fussell leading with nine. Lane hit 59 percent of its shots in the first half compared to only 37 percent for Linn-Benton. LB did get a lot more points off the bench (14-2), but LCC scored more points off turnovers (16-9).

The Roadrunners atoned for their loss in their next game on Saturday Jan. 30 by beating the Clackamas Community College Cougars in Oregon City. The game was close to the finish, with LB defeating CCC 99-96.

Marc Cordle led the 'Runners in points with 26 points, followed by Hamann, who had a double-double with 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Aitchison with 16 points and four blocked shots.

The Roadrunners are 11-11 overall and 3-5 in league play. Their next games are against the Umpqua Timbermen tonight in Roseburg at 8 p.m. and then against the Portland CC Panthers at 8 p.m. at LBCC on Feb. 6.

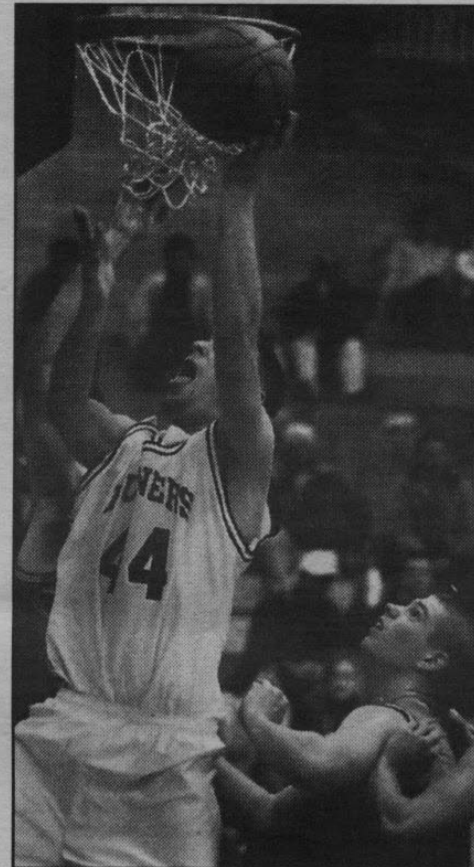


Photo by E.J. Harris

Andy Ross (above) shoots over Lane defenders in a tough 79-73 loss. He scored 8 points and pulled down 4 rebounds.

## Lady 'Runners get run over in games vs. Lane and Clackamas

by David Thayer  
of The Commuter

The Lady Roadrunners dropped two games in lopsided fashion last week, one to LCC on Wednesday 68-49 and the other to Clackamas on Saturday 80-44.

Against the LCC Lady Titans, LBCC jumped out to an early 12-6 lead, but that was it for LB in the first half, which LCC closed out with a 15-6 run to take a 35-26 lead into the locker room.

The Lady 'Runners came back in the second half to get within five of the Titans with about 11 minutes to go, but Lane then took over and sealed the win with solid play.

"I just think it was a lack of recognizing Lane's strengths," Coach A.J. Dionne said. "They are a good outside shooting team. They shot 59 percent from the floor in the first half. They out-rebounded us by one. We didn't really turn the ball over that much. It was just pretty much they shot really well and we didn't."

Tiffany Sweat led the Lady 'Runners in points with 13 and in rebounds with nine. Opal DePue was second in points with nine while Leslie Boer and Melinda

Klinkebiel each had eight points. The Lady 'Runners had it better than the Titans in points off turnovers and second chance points.

The 'Runners found the going even tougher Saturday in Oregon City, where they faced a strong Clackamas team. CCC hit 52 percent of their shots in the first half, compared to the LBCC percentage of 23 percent, and it was the same story in the second half, with Clackamas hitting 41 percent to LB's 29 percent.

Eva Larsen and DePue each scored in double figures for LB, with 15 points each. DePue also added 12 of the Lady 'Runners 43 total rebounds. The Lady Cougs' out-rebounded LB 49-43. Clackamas hit 46 percent of their total shots while LB hit 26 percent of their shots. What also hurt the Lady 'Runners was free throw shooting, hitting only 40 percent.

The Lady 'Runners take on the Umpqua Timberwomen tonight in Roseburg at 6 p.m. and then take on the Lady Panthers of Portland on Saturday at 6 p.m. The Lady 'Runners are 7-15 overall and 1-7 in league.

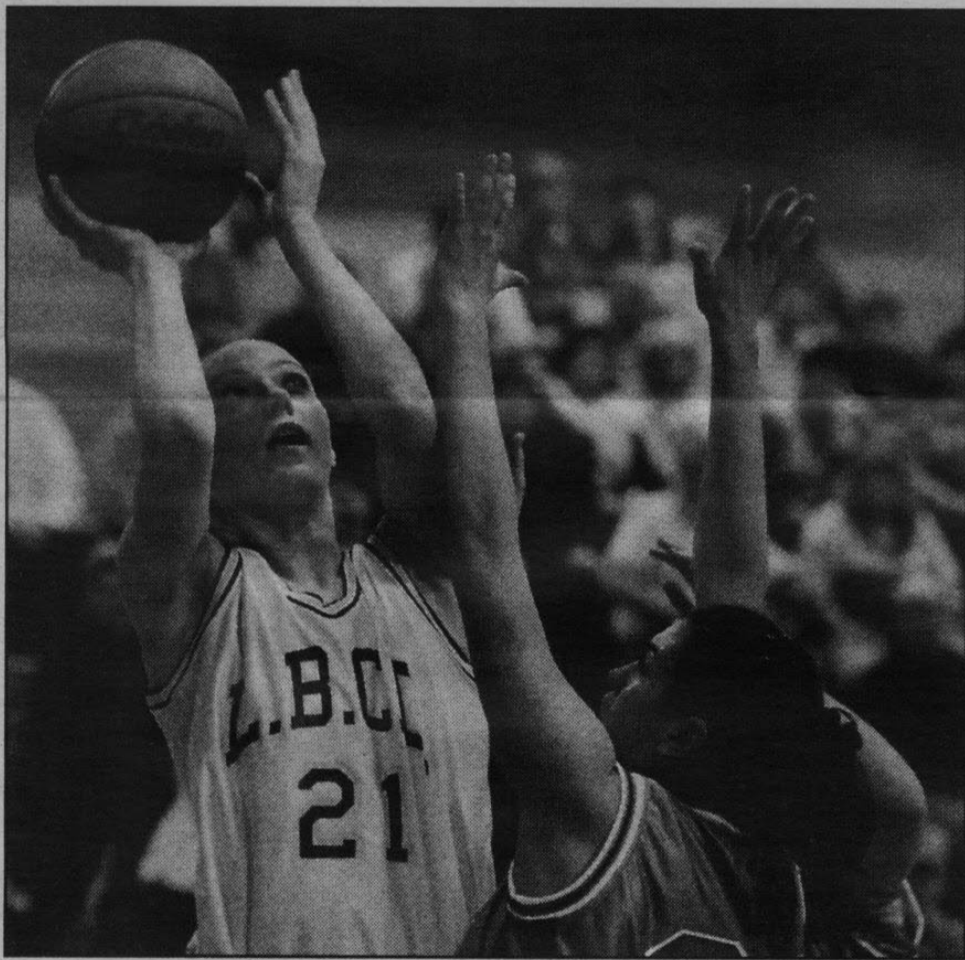


Photo by E.J. Harris

Tiffany Sweat (above) goes up for a shot against Lane. She scored 13 points and had nine rebounds in the 68-49 loss.

## NFL provides fans with a great season full of highlights and lowlights

by David Thayer  
of The Commuter

The National Football League season is finally over, with the Denver Broncos finishing it out with a 34-19 win over the Atlanta Falcons in the Super Bowl. The season was full of highlights and lowlights, coaching firings, signings and broken records.

The biggest story of the year was the Denver Broncos trying to become the second undefeated team in the history of the NFL. The first team was the 1972 Miami Dolphins. Denver's run was ended in week 15 to the New York Giants, thanks to a Kent Graham to Amani Toomer touchdown pass with 45 seconds left.

To add to the Bronco's great season, John Elway went over 50,000 yards on a pass to Ed McCaffrey against the Oakland Raiders, then went over 300 touchdown passes on the last game of the season against the Seattle Seahawks. Terrell Davis also added a highlight, passing the 2,000-yard mark, also against the Seahawks.



### thayer's thoughts

The Seahawks, one of the teams predicted to do well this past season, faltered due to losing close games. They lost to Pittsburgh, Denver, Kansas City and the New York Jets by one to four points. The Seahawks defense set an NFL record for most defensive touchdowns scored in a season.

Speaking of the New York Jets, they proved that they were not a fluke when they signed Bill Parcells two years ago. They made it all the way to the AFC championship game, only to lose 23-10 to the Denver Broncos.

New York did get the benefit of the doubt this season in their win over Seattle. A blown referee call gave them a 32-31 victory when it should have been 31-25 Seattle.

After that game and the blown coin toss in the Pittsburgh-Detroit Thanksgiving game, the players and the fans wanted to bring instant replay back.

The season was full of coaching changes and firings. Coach Mike Holmgren left the Green Bay Packers to take the general manager and coaching position in

Seattle. To take his place in Green Bay, the Packers hired Ray Rhodes, who was fired from his post in Philadelphia. Philly signed a former Packer's coach Andy Reid. In Carolina, Dom Capers was fired and George Seifert took his place.

Baltimore was also in the coaching changings field, firing Ted Marchibroda and signing Minnesota Viking offensive coordinator Bill Belichick.

The big talk at the beginning of the season was the top two draft picks, Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts and Ryan Leaf of the San Diego Chargers. Manning proved to be the best rookie even though his team didn't win very many games, while Leaf totally destroyed himself this season with poor passing and a terrible attitude.

This season was probably one of the greatest seasons in a long time. Minnesota went 16-2 and set the record for most points in a season. The Arizona Cardinals, led by quarterback Jake Plummer, made the playoffs for the first time since 1982, which was also a strike-shortened season.

To finish, my prediction for the first Super Bowl of the 21st Century is Seattle and Minnesota.

**classifieds**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Umatilla Electric Cooperative is offering seven \$800 scholarships to students who reside or whose parents' primary residence is in the UEC territory. More information and applications are available at the Career Center in Tadena Hall or by calling 1-800-452-2273. Deadline is March 1, 1999.

The Women's Overseas Service League is offering scholarships to women students in public service or military careers in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 annually-may be renewable. More information is available at the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Application deadline is March 1, 1999.

The Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association is offering the Neil Hamilton Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to those students studying Fire Science courses. For applications and more information, contact the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Application deadline is March 5, 1999.

The Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation Memorial Scholarship is offering scholarships for the 1999/2000 academic year. The amount of the scholarship varies from year to year. previously they have ranged from \$750 to \$1500. Applications and information is available in Tadena Hall. Deadline is April 1, 1999.

Conner Scholarship based on academic achievement are available for various Business Degree majors. Descriptions are applications area available in Business Building B-111. Application deadline is March 19, 1999.

The Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children is offering two \$400 and two \$500 scholarships to students and professionals seeking education or training in the Early Childhood Education field, serving children birth to eight. Additional information and applications are available at the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Application deadline is March 10, 1999.

The OreALS Scholoship Fund Inc. is offering scholarships to students who are preparing for the career as legal support staff. These scholarships are 40% based on financial need. Information and applications are available at the Career center in Tadena Hall. Application deadline is March 31, 1999.

**FOR RENT**

Share a Lg. comfortable home in a quiet countru setting 1 1/2 miles from LBCC. Own private room and share 2 other floors for this nice house w/ other adult. \$300 includes utilities, garbage and phone- Barn on site available w/ horse stables. No smokers, no drugs, no pets. 928-9363 after 5:00.

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CWE Internship with Salem/Keiser Volcanoes; Work in pro Baseball. These nonpaid internships will provide on-the-job experience in marketing, retailing, merchandising, journalism, graphic design and sales. Some of the jobs might even become paid positions this summer. We also have 3 full-time jobs! See us in Student Employment (T101)

Bookkeeper / Accounts Payable (Albany) We have a couple of part-time jobs needing someone who is very sharp with QuickBooks and accounting. Come see Carla, Cathy and Molly at the Student Employment (T101)

Medical Office Specialist (Corvallis) There is one full-time and one part-time position. Computer skills are required and they prefer certification and medical terminology. See a Student Employment professional. (T101)

Bank Tellers; Do you like to work with the public and money? You only need one year cash handling & customer service experience along with basic math. You can work full-time in Corvallis or half time in Lebanon. See Student Employment (T101)

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**Ask them questions, make them think, make them sweat, see if they buckle under pressure.**

**See who the best candidate will be!!**

**The forum will be located in the new Student Lounge on the second floor next to the Forum on Wednesday, February 17, 1999**

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3 full tuition grants  
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- Business/Health Occupations Representative**  
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5 office hours
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2 full tuition grants  
5 office hours
- Current Events/Political Act.**  
2 full tuition grants  
5 office hours

**Applications are being taken now. Deadline for applications is Feb. 12, 1999**

**Requirements:**

- ✓ must plan to attend LBCC 99-00
- ✓ must attend at least part time (6 credit hours)
- ✓ must maintain 2.0 GPA

*For more information contact: Student Life and Leadership  
Downstairs in the New Student Union*

917-4457

## OPINION PAGE

## commentary

## Moving away from home is harder than it looks

by Justin Dalton  
of The Commuter

Broke, hungry, hung over, my eyes could barely open over my crusty contact lenses. Struggling onto all fours, I scanned the bottle-laden floor which was my bed for the night. I seemed to have passed out in a puddle of Black Butte Porter which stained my clothes and fermented in my hair.

Who's sleeping on my couch? Why are there footprints on my counter top? Why is there a stuffed Chihuahua with shaving cream all over it hanging from the front door? What the hell happened?

The first morning in my new house.

Reality bites, in more ways than one. This is ever so evident living on my own for the first time.

After living in the same house for 19 long years, I jumped at the chance to move out like a hostage finding his cage door unlocked. I don't think one rational thought was even examined. It was now or never.

Then comes the cold hand of reality to slap me in my unsuspecting face.

Bills! Cleaning deposit! Food! Rent!

Every expense I had taken for granted living with my parents just crawled out and bit me on the ass.

"Hello, I don't think we've met? We're called mandatory expenditures."

When I left my house I thought I had some financial security, about \$500. But that drizzled down to \$32.25 in one day.

Everybody has lived though it, I've heard about it and now it's my turn to wallow in it. 100 percent pure life experience.

Responsibility, what was I thinking?

One minor detail that I hadn't counted on was my new house becoming the new "party house."

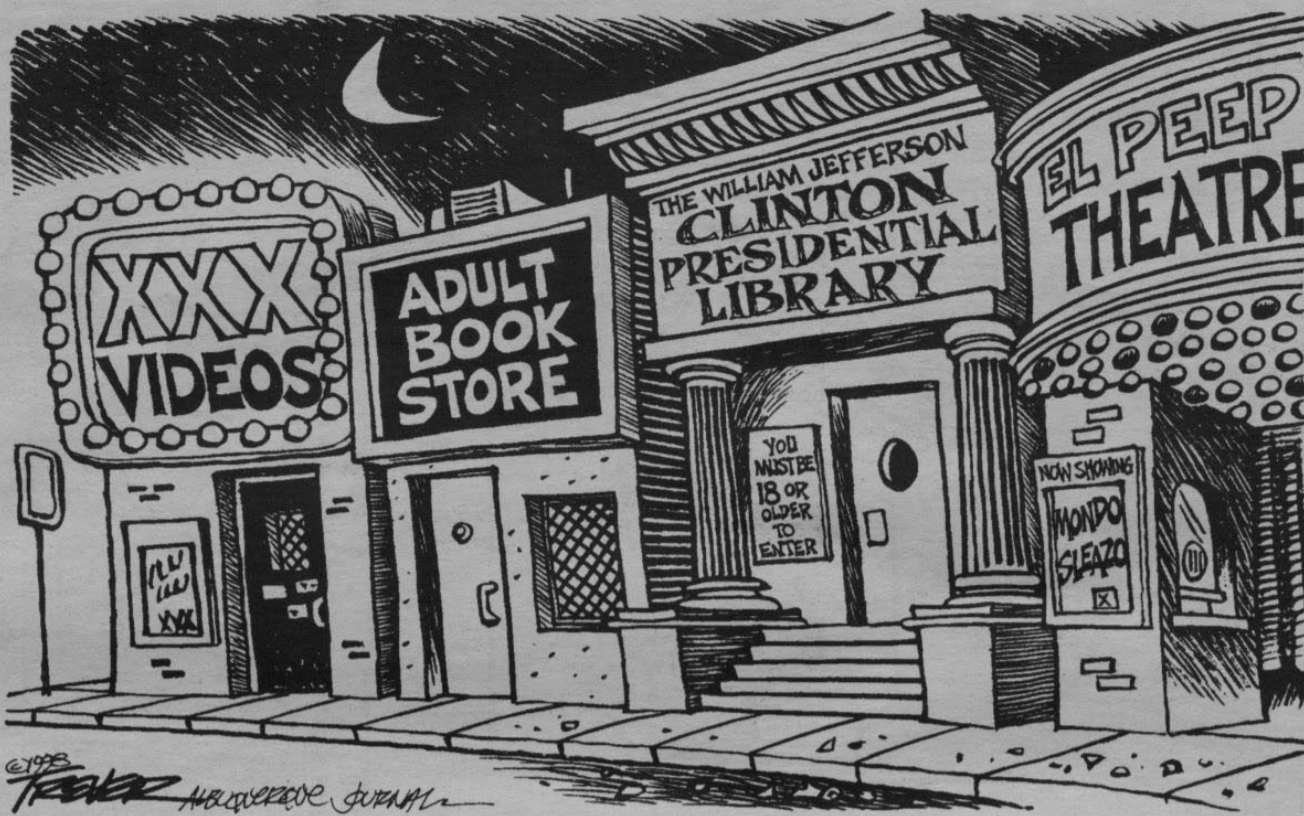
A person does not realize how many friends they have until they move out of their parents' house, until they show up the first night, peering through windows and howling like a pack of wolves nipping at the hooves of a wounded elk.

The first night it was 12 people, the second night 21, and the numbers kept doubling until the complaints started filtering down to my landlord. He, on the other hand, was quite understanding and said little about the neighborly complaints.

After three long nights of chandeliers, quarters, president @\$\$hole and intense beer bong action, my roommate and I collected over \$60 for groceries just with empty beer cans. This was one highlight among the downers of perma-stained carpet, broken lamps, ripped curtains and furniture acned with cigarette burns.

However, this week of initiation lasted only a week and the party crowd is nice enough to come only on advertised, weekend specials. This allows time during the week for study and peace of mind.

I've learned a lot since then about responsibility, budgeting money and appreciating the things my parents have done for me, and are still doing for me. I realize now what every college student has lived through, is living through and is about to embark on and why it's all a worthwhile learning experience in the end.



## commentary

## Panicked driver takes a nauseating spin

by E.J. Harris  
of The Commuter

Round and round we go, were do we stop? Does anybody know how to use the traffic circle?

Most of us have seen one. They are those odd round intersections with flowers in the middle and signs that say "YIELD" and "KEEP RIGHT" where the normal rules of the road are thrown out the window and seem to be replaced with rules created in some traffic "Twilight Zone."

Why do we need a traffic circle for anyway?

Is it because they are pretty? Perhaps.

Do they make us safe drivers? Doubtful.

Maybe it is because we needed more obstacles in the road to swerve around recklessly. I don't know but we got one, and man are they fun.

When the city of Corvallis put the traffic circle in, at the corner of Grant and Highland in their grand traffic experiment, the Gazette-Times ran this huge full-page article that explained the whos, hows, whats and whys of the Great Circle. Unfortunately, my cat had an accident on my paper that morning, so I didn't really get a chance to come up to speed (ha-ha) on the rules and regulations involved in the proper negotiation of this new traffic oddity.

For months, after the Great Traffic Calamity descended upon us, I went out of my way to avoid the circle because it confused me and I was afraid that my lack of understanding of the circle's dynamics might lead me to be a hazard to my fellow drivers and pedestrians. (Wait, what am I saying? I never walk anywhere. Well, I guess that I'm not a fellow pedestrian. Only a fellow driver.)

One night, after an action packed five-hour marathon of NHL '98 on the Sony Playstation at a friends house, I found myself traveling down Highland towards the dreaded traffic circle. I don't know if it was due to fatigue, or maybe I was just replaying that last overtime victory in my head. But, whatever happened, I was headed straight for it. My hands started to sweat. My head began to pound. There was no where to turn, no way out. OH GOD I'M TRAPPED! NOOOOOOOOO!

It was like one of those dreams where you show up in public naked and there is nothing that can be done except to flow with it. And boy-oh, did I flow.

In a panic, I picked up speed and aimed for the center of the circle. I thought, I'm not gonna let this thing intimidate me any more. If I can't live in a world with traffic circles, I'm gonna take it out. It was either him (let's call it a him, for argument sake) or me. "Back to the depths of hell, from whence you came, foul demon!"

As I got closer and closer to the beast, I noticed a sign. Was it a sign from God? Close, it was from ODOT, the Oregon Department of Transportation. The sign read "KEEP RIGHT." What could this mean? Was this sign

telling me something? Was it giving me some of those precious traffic circle rules that I missed-out on because my cat has a small bladder and I forgot to clean the litter box?

As I, in my '82 Chevy S-10, raced towards the circle, or better yet, it might have been pulling me in under its own gravity or a tractor beam of some fashion, I thought about what this message could mean, "KEEP RIGHT." I had little time to lose.

Then, as if things weren't bad enough, there was another damn sign that said "YIELD." What the #@%\* is that supposed to mean?

I choose to ignore this message because I had no idea what in tarnation that word meant, and I still had to figure out what the first message meant.

Then, enlightenment came to me. "KEEP RIGHT" it wants me to go to the right. "I got you dead to rights, traffic circle!"

With inches before impact I jerked the steering wheel to the right and went sailing through the traffic circle without any complications. This was the happiest day of my life. I had conquered my fear and came out of the ordeal a better human, or at least a better driver. Yeah, right. Right?

As I emerged on the other side of the defeated traffic circle, I thought that it was crazy to be afraid of such a little thing. With my new-found sense of confidence I decided to take another crack at the it.

So, I pulled a U-turn in the middle of Highland and headed back into the mouth of the monster. Upon entering the circle, I noticed there were no cars coming. There wasn't a soul in sight. The coast was clear. NA-DA. Hey, I thought to myself. Why is it that you always lose a sock while drying your clothes? O.K. I know this thought seems sort of random, but sometimes you think of the strangest things when you are driving. The other thought that I had was NO WITNESSES.

Just as before, I kept to the right, like the sign says. But instead of coming out of the circle on the other side, I turned back hard to the left. It was like I had died and gone to an NBA game. Oh, wait. Is that right?

I raced around and around the circle. Lap upon lap. I hung my head out the window, my tongue out my mouth and for some reason I felt like barking. Oh, my. It was just like Disneyland but cheaper. As my revolutions increased 3,4,5... I started to feel a little light headed 6,7,8... My stomach turned over 9,10,11... And my dinner turned up.

The velocity of the vomit as it left my mouth was not great enough to break free of the centrifugal force created by my S-10 orbiting the circle. Therefore, I painted the driver's side of my truck with liquid pizza and Pepsi.

Now, as much as I enjoy puking, I still managed to enjoy my traffic circle experience, and I appreciate the fact that the city planners had enough foresight to put such a delightful excursion into the lives of we who occupy this fantastically boring town. All that is left for us drivers is to put aside our hesitations and preconceived notions of this traffic enigma and enjoy the ride.

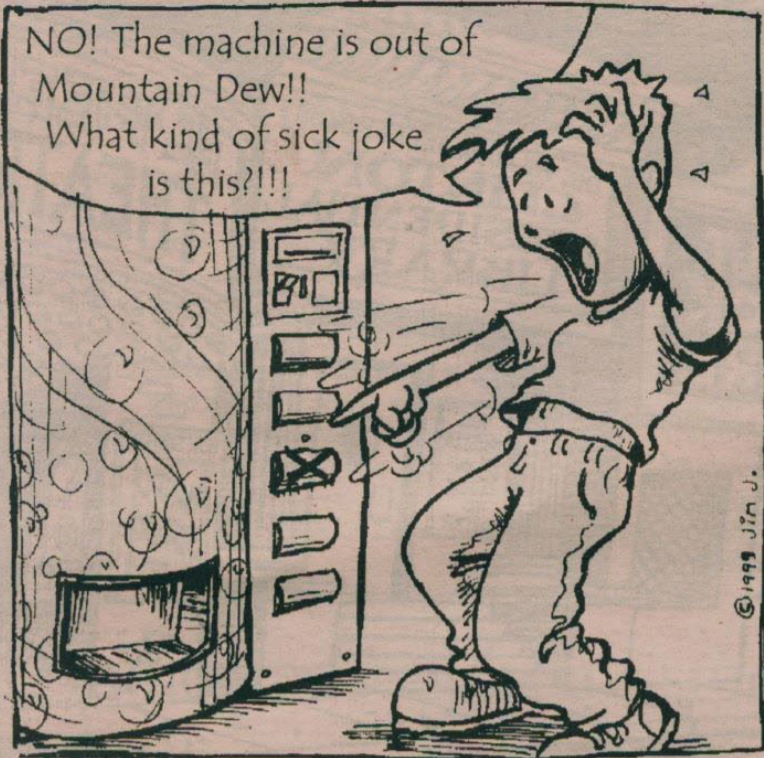


## EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their opinions. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome.

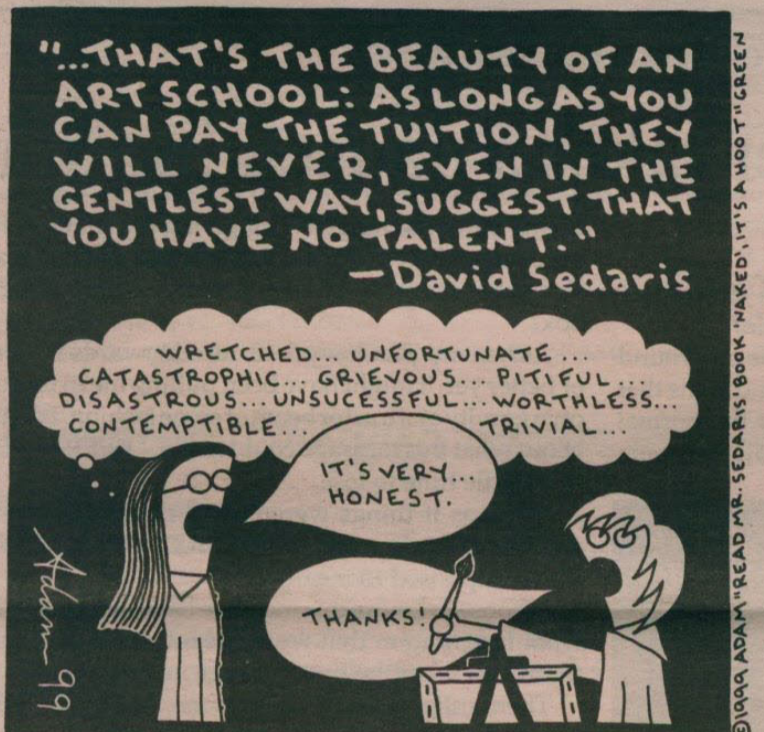
Submissions may be in the form of letters to the editor or, for topics that require deeper analysis, guest columns. All letters received will be published, space permitting.

# LOONEY LANE



## Emily Bellamy

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ACROSS

- Encircling route
- Overly decorated
- Actress Thurman
- Assert
- Lifted
- Negative prefix
- Changing the appearance of
- Put on
- Goddess of folly
- Attempters
- Relents
- Historic times
- Definite article
- Mr. T's outfit
- Select
- Feel poorly
- Wild ones
- Sought office
- Obtained
- Timeless
- In the past
- End hunger
- Mislead
- Small portion
- Small piece
- Dwight's opponent
- Permit
- Type size
- North African port
- Soother
- Greek letter
- Quilters' gathering
- Plumbers
- "The Ipress File" author Deighton
- Fit for consumption
- Soothing lotion
- 1994 US Open winner
- Rots
- Offed

DOWN

- Saloon
- Holiday antecedent
- Ran in front
- Buy a round
- Face east
- Jazz piece
- Baseball team
- Sale-tag
- Disclaimer
- High-strung
- Ventriloquist
- Bergen
- Not wanted
- Wasteland
- Sothem and Sheridan
- Very angry
- Kisser or mush
- Boards of Broadway
- Buckeye
- Ballpoints' cousins
- One of the Finger Lakes
- Ventilated
- Philippines city
- More wily
- "Three's Company" co-star
- Armies on horseback
- of hand
- Bakery purchase
- Like Batman and Robin
- Theatrical comment
- Scintillas
- Competent
- Outer banana
- Grand saga
- Singer McEntire
- Soar
- Building addition
- Fish eggs
- Put in stitches

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The K Chronicles presents MY TOP 5 HIGHS & LOWS of 1998 BY KEITH KNIGHT

#5 HIGH: IT SNOWED IN SAN FRANCISCO!!

#5 LOW: IT WAS COLD ENOUGH TO SNOW IN SAN FRANCISCO!!

Wow! This is great!! So Cool!! Amazing!!

#4 HIGH: MY BAND PLAYED WITH FISHBONE IN SEATTLE.

#4 LOW: ERIC!! Stop smokin' in the van!!

Heh... That's mah band. Right there. Mah band... up yours!! Hey!! sniff this one!!

#3 HIGH: I SIGNED A DEVELOPMENT DEAL WITH NICKELODEON!!

#3 LOW: EVERYBODY THINKS I'M RICH NOW...

Dude... I've seen the bank The Rugrats movie is makin'... Gimme some money.

#2 HIGH: GOING TO PARIS FRANCE WITH MY GIRLFRIEND.

There are a lot of beautiful women here, huh?

Um... Really? where? What women?

I wouldn't know cuz I'm not lookin'!! honest!!

There are women here?

#2 LOW: GOING TO PARIS FRANCE WITH MY GIRLFRIEND.

HE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL... HE'S GOT HIS MOM'S EYES.

HE'S GOT HIS UNCLE'S PENIS.

Well hello there little partner!!

HE'S GOT HIS DAD'S HAIR.

I'm a late bloomer!!

HAVE A GREAT 1999 (AND PLEASE: STOP PLAYING THE PRINCE SONGS NOW...)

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