

Looking Back

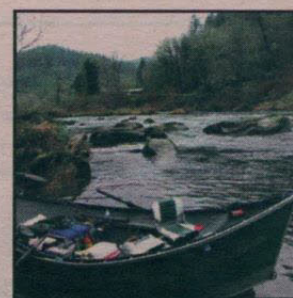
Albany's place in Oregon history began as a hub for transportation by river, road and rail for early settlers.

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Fish Stories

Oregon's fabled fighting steelhead lure fishermen out to area rivers in all types of weather.

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THE Commuter

Wednesday,
January 25, 2006

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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photo by Dan Wise

Where's the Park?

Heavy January rains have raised local rivers so high that flooding has persisted for days, especially along the Willamette. Water was several feet deep last weekend at Albany's Bryant Park, which sits at the confluence of the swollen Willamette and Calapooia rivers.

Role-playing reveals impact of poverty

Jennifer Overholser
The Commuter

Staff, students and members of community organizations took on the roles of families in poverty last Friday as part of an effort to increase understanding of the day-to-day realities faced by low-income individuals.

Participants sat in small groups that represented a family in a certain situation. Each family was given a large envelope with a description of their living situation, including names and ages of each member, monthly income, expenses and specific details like profession.

Tables representing different businesses and organizations lined the Fireside Room. Misty Flaska, Multicultural Center program assistant, sat at a table with

signs reading "Dave's Pawn Shop" and "Food-a-Rama."

"It's been a good week," she said as she shuffled through cards labeled Refrigerator, Microwave, Furniture—all representing items sold by members of the Nattin family to try to avoid eviction. A utility company and ATM took up one table, an employment office and a bank another, and the rent collector also gave out food vouchers.

Family members frantically ran from one table to another to make sure they had everything they needed taken care of for the week, which was represented by 15 minutes. As each week of the month came up, they were faced with new pressures and responsibilities.

Chairs that represented a
▶ Turn to "Poverty" on Pg. 4

Service held for Malloy

Sherry Majeski
The Commuter

Learning Center secretary Michele Malloy, 44, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 18. She had worked for LBCC since 1999 as an instructional assistant, peer mentor and instructional aide in math.

A memorial service will be held today, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. at Aasum Funeral Home, 805 Ellsworth St., Albany. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her name to Safe Haven Humane Society at 541-928-2789.

The Learning Center will close at 4 p.m. Wednesday so staff may attend the memorial service.

Students mount weekend horse show

Nancey West
The Commuter

"The desire to learn and compete is the driving force that brings everyone together," said Christy Harshman, co-captain of the Equitation Team. "We have a strong team with a mix of personalities and experiences but with a common love of horses."

The team continues its season this term by hosting one of the competitions for the region on Jan. 28-29 at the Benton County Fairgrounds in Corvallis. This is the second year LBCC will host a show. Last year the team held a one-day show with only English classes. This year there will be two shows a day for both days, with both English and Western classes.

"This is a huge endeavor," Harshman said. "A lot goes on behind the scene, before and after the show."

The host team provides all the horses and tack and begins gathering them a month in advance. Some of the borrowed horses are brought to the LBCC Horse Center to be schooled.

"They have to be trained up to par and

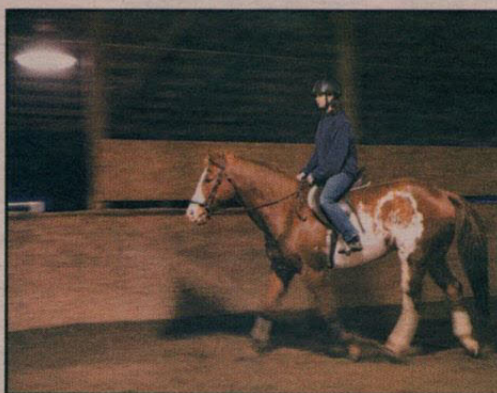


photo by Nancey West

Equitation Team member Noella Grady practices at LBCC's Horse Center.

have to be usable," she said. The team pays for the boarding while members work with the horses.

Other pre-show operations include sending show packets to all the schools, ordering ribbons, putting the program together, getting sponsors and donors and making a list of the horses and tack to be used. On the last days prior to the show, the horses are brought to the fairgrounds, where the students then feed, blanket and exercise them,

as well as clean stalls. The tack is checked to be usable and safe and equipment, such as jumps, is prepared.

The day of the show, the members, besides riding in their classes, also have to get horses ready for visiting riders. Riders draw the horse that they will ride early in the day but do not mount until they are ready to enter the arena for their class.

"It is an adrenaline rush to get on another horse just before showing," Harshman said. "You can learn by watching your horse in the warm-up pen, if someone else is also riding it."

Following the show, the horses have to be taken care of and returned to their owners, along with the borrowed tack. When the show season is over the members will return to the fairgrounds and have a workday to help pay for use of the facilities.

Each of the events admits two or three competitors from each school. Between 40 and 50 horses will be needed for this weekend, said Jenny Stooband, English coach and adviser for the team.

"We beg and borrow horses wherever
▶ Turn to "Equitation" on Pg. 4

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High-50
Fog then
Rain
Low-35
Wednesday

High-45
Rainy
Low-35
Thursday

High-45
Showers
Low-35
Friday

High-45
Cloud
fresh
H2O
Low-35
Saturday

High-50
Whats
another
word for
rain?
Low-35
Sunday

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OPINION

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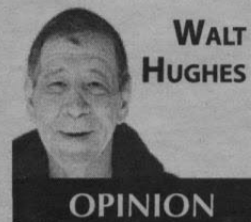


What part of 'illegal' does George Bush not understand?

Walt Hughes, Sr.
The Commuter

Greetings from the rainy part of the world. With all the water of late, the Ducks and the Beavers should be ecstatic. It goes without saying that we are getting our fair share of water right now, and while the Russians are freezing their tails off, we at least are reasonably warm.

An interesting point to ponder: last year's earthquake and tsunami were said to have caused the earth to pause slightly in its rotation. Is it possible that it caused a shift in the polar axis or speed of rotation?



I wonder what part of "not legal" does George W. Bush fail to understand? While it has been pointed out to him in many different ways by politicians and legal scholars, he seems hell-bent on trampling civil rights and breaking the law of the land. Regardless of the fact that Osama bin Laden and his followers snuck up on us, and regardless of the fact that a few other nations are acting ignorantly, we have to decide whether we are a nation of laws that apply to everyone, including the president of the United States, or a nation that will throw its constitution in the garbage at the first sign of traumatizing events.

To those of you who don't know me, I would tell you this: it may seem that I am really down on George Bush at the moment, but I am actually a Republican. After putting in my time in the United States military and voting in every local, state and national election for the past 40 years, I vote for the individual I believe will be the most beneficial to my country.

Why is it that we can spend billions of dollars pursuing a war on the other side of the world while we do almost nothing to stem the tide of illegal aliens crossing our borders daily? Is Mr. Bush afraid of Vincente Fox, or is there some other motive preventing him from stemming the flood of foreign nationals illegally crossing our southern border each day?

Add to this the latest announcement of intended money-saving cutbacks to our National Guard forces. Instead of raising taxes, which countries at war normally do, Mr. Bush would rather cut back on our military and leave this country undefended and at risk while he protects the profits and wallets of his rich, fat cat corporate cronies. It was just a few months ago when he came up with the brilliant idea of closing military bases on the West Coast and moving them almost 1,000 miles inland. For someone who swore to uphold the Constitution and defend the United States of America, his even considering such a thing should be good cause for immediate impeachment proceedings.

Your rights are being trampled with wiretapping and eavesdropping on your private communications without warrants or court orders. The Constitution that Bush himself swore to uphold states that such things are illegal. He knows that, yet he acts in his highly imperious manner, as though he and his cronies are above the laws that govern the common man.

This is not North Korea, Iran, Russia or China, where the government changes the law on a whim. This is the United States of America, a country founded on the principle that all men are equal and guaranteed certain rights under the law. Attempting to change or circumvent those laws is another very good reason for immediate impeachment.

It has been demonstrated for all the world to see that we have a problem taking care of our own citizens in a catastrophe, yet the Bush administration and his cronies bumble and fumble along while senior citizens do without their medications, citizens are left homeless after natural disasters, and people are arrested and jailed with no access to legal representation.

The Supreme Court is being packed with justices who share the same ideology. It took a little over 200 years to build this nation into a great society, but it could take less than a decade to set us back to square one if Bush and the Republican Party have their way.

Morality: Where will you stand?

Welcome back to LBCC. A new year is here and I believe it's time for change, and time to decide what you believe and act upon it. So this term, Walt Hughes and I are going to take important topics and write out our opinions on them. This week the topic is morality.

A person's morality is the basis for everything that they believe. Webster defines the word moral as "of relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior." So for starters, morality assumes that you believe in a definite right and wrong. Someone who doesn't believe in right and wrong could just as easily kill you as they would brush their teeth in the morning. For obvious reasons, this makes morality imperative.

Morality insists on two absolutes: right and wrong. The intensity with which you live out your system of morality, and the source from which you derive it, are the bases on which all of your beliefs stand. A good judge of what you really believe is what you do when nobody's watching. Otherwise, your behavior might simply reflect your desire to not get caught.

A person who attained his sense of morality solely from the Hitler Youth would believe that Jews killed Christ and were not real people. As a result, all of his actions toward Jews would reflect his morality. He could kill them and treat them like they were animals without a second thought. Similarly, a person with the same belief system who didn't allow his external sense of morality to govern him as much might have pity on Jews and not treat them as harshly.

However, I believe that everyone has a sense of right

and wrong that they don't necessarily pick up from their surroundings. That sense is called conscience. Thus, even a person who derives all of his education from a group like the Hitler Youth could still have a definite sense of right and wrong that comes from inside.

I also believe that there is a correlation between right and wrong in theory (truth and lies) and right and wrong in behavior. Jews, for instance, believe that God wrote down ten laws with his own hand and expects them to follow those ten laws perfectly. This truth dictates their sense of right and wrong. Murder, for example, is forbidden by the Sixth Commandment. So an orthodox Jew's external sense of morality would advise him not to murder. This belief is also usually backed up by that person's conscience.

Some people wonder why we can't all agree. I think that answer also lies in the source of our morality. A Muslim believes in the laws found in the Koran and follows them to the limit of his conscience. He might not be able to agree with a Jew who believes in the teachings of the Torah, especially where those teachings conflict with his own.

Someone who has no external moral standard, a complete moral relativist, might find it OK to murder. He might believe that there is no definite right or wrong, or true or false. We commonly know these people as serial killers. Their sense of conscience may interfere, but someone whose external morality is void can usually overpower his conscience by telling himself that he isn't held to any standards at all. So it all comes down to morality. Morality is the eventual basis for all acts, both seemingly insignificant and world-changing. Where do you stand? What standards will you be held to? Will you act upon what you believe?



The Commuter

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STAFF

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OPINION

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Individual perspectives deliver insight into life behind disability

Walt Hughes, Sr.
 The Commuter

For those of you whom I've never had the pleasure of meeting, I would like to share something that usually isn't discussed at length with anyone other than family and doctors. The subject of this article, disability, is at times deeper than a river and as vast as an ocean, because while some disabilities are easily recognizable, many others can be almost unnoticeable.

We hear of accidents, crippling diseases, broken bodies and even death almost daily. It always seems to happen to the other guy. When it happens to you, when it invades your life, it brings with it thoughts, images and knowledge beyond what mere words can easily convey.

In March of 2006, it will be 20 years since I joined the long list of the disabled, and it has been 16 years since I last wrote about the subject.

On March 24, 1986, I was run over by an automobile, and it changed my life in ways that it

would take at least one, but probably two or three, books to record. The accident left me with a severe spinal cord injury and upper motor neuron disorders of the brainstem, and for a few years afterward, I was all but unable to move.

There is almost no way to express the cold transition from being a very active individual on one day to being someone lacking the basics of coordination on the next. A small glimpse of my life before the accident might help to paint the picture and demonstrate how a catastrophic event can drastically change anyone's life.

Four events sum things up nicely. First, I sat in the left seat and handled the controls of an airplane when I was 12 years old; by 1986 I had flown all over the country as the pilot of my own plane. In the 1960s, a couple friends and I bought a 50-foot tugboat and a 100-foot barge that we used to dredge sand out of the Sacramento River. In the mid-1960s, I bought my first semi and ended up owning and operating a fleet of them until 1985. Then I encountered the fourth event: I ran headlong into that

great foul and conflicting word: can't. I found that my life had changed forever.

My lead doctor, the professor and chairman of the neurosurgery department at the University of Florida, said the only thing in my entire body that was not impaired by the accident was my mind. I would never again fly my airplanes, drive my trucks, walk the rolling decks of a water vessel, run, dance or be able to do many of the other things most people take for granted.

This article isn't just about me. There are other people with disabilities attending Linn-Benton, and I am writing for every one of them: people with vision and hearing impairments, learning disabilities, mobility problems, heart, kidney, or liver problems and other disabling infirmities. Any one of them could tell you a personal story about disability.

Anyone wanting to gain an accurate perspective of disability can try a few simple experiments. Try lying motionless and staring at the ceiling for eight hours; many quadriplegics get to do that 24 hours a day.

Try running or dancing with only one shoe on or sitting in a chair for 8 or 10 hours straight, or walking around the campus with a blindfold on. These are simple things that seem

like no big deal until you have to live with them every day of your life.

One day I was riding in a car with a friend, and I was feeling bad because my right leg would not stop shaking. We were driving past a basketball court when I noticed a man hopping around on one leg and shooting baskets. His right leg had been amputated at mid-thigh. It hit me that if he could play basketball with just one leg, I can do at least as well because I still have both of mine. Sixteen years-later, every time I get frustrated, I still picture that one legged man putting the ball through the hoop.

I write this to give insight where possible to those of you who will never experience what thousands of others must endure each day. I write as a voice for those who have neither the words nor the opportunity, and I write in the belief that each of you will gain some small understanding and feel better because of it. Last of all, I write because the handicapped are folks just like you, and that perspective is worth sharing.

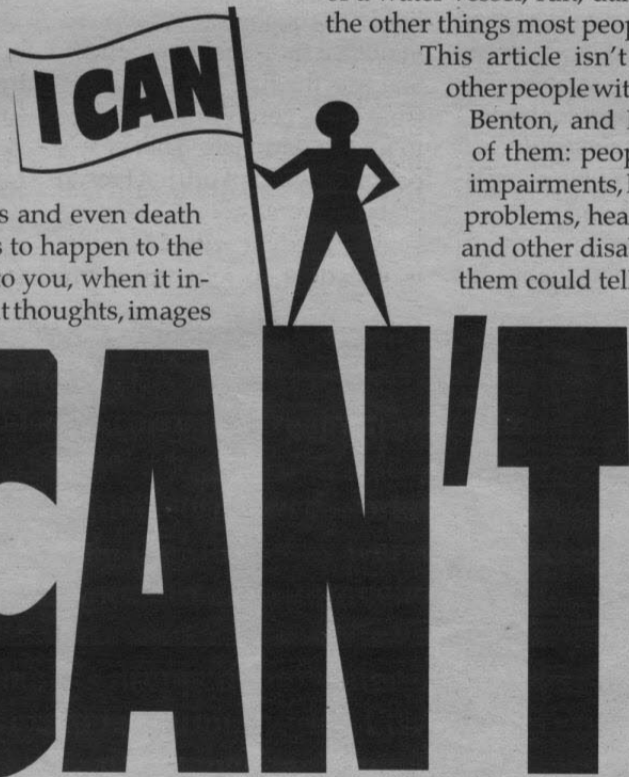
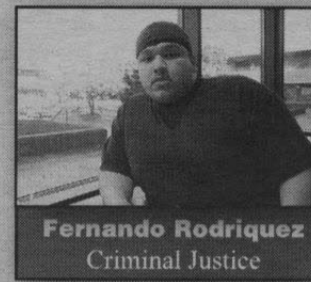


illustration by elizabeth beckham

PERSPECTIVES

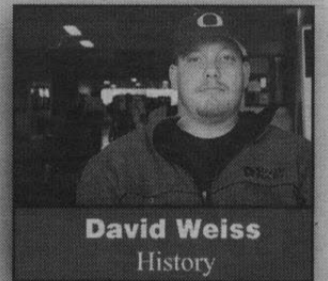
What do you think about downloading media from the Internet?



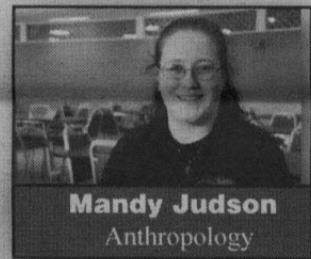
Fernando Rodriguez
 Criminal Justice

"I don't see anything wrong with it."

"I think it's wrong, personally. It [the Internet] is given to us and people are taking advantage of it."



David Weiss
 History



Mandy Judson
 Anthropology

"Well, it only cost them a fraction of what they are charging so unless they [the music/movie industry] lower the cost I'm gonna' continue to do it."

"I don't think it's a bad thing because if you go out and look at the prices of things they almost force you to get it off the Internet, but that's just me."



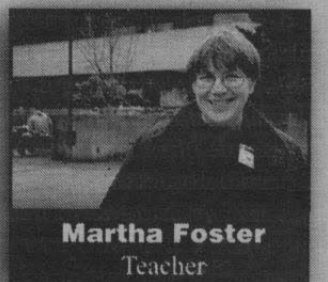
Kelsey Hall
 Theater



Joann Robinson
 Sociology

"It is wrong, but it's hard not to do it."

"It seems to be disruptive to the general economic system, so I don't think it's a good idea."



Martha Foster
 Teacher

Compiled by Kyla Hoyt

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

'Invisible Community' explores lives of homeless

Sherry Majeski
The Commuter

In conjunction with Sisters of the Road, Student Life & Leadership presented a visual Photovoice Project in the library last week that displayed the lives of homeless people and included a visit by an ex-homeless couple on Tuesday.

"Look here! Views from the Invisible Community" was a walk-through exhibit that provides the opportunity to get a first-hand view of life on the streets through the experiences of homeless people in the community and/or those living in extreme poverty in Portland.

The exhibit displayed photographic storyboards with an MP3 player giving an audio commentary of the images and stories of homelessness, depicting life on the streets in a way that most people never see or couldn't imagine from the comfort of their homes. Smaller storyboards showed pets, which are a big part of life for the impoverished.

The Sisters of the Road Café is located in Portland and is open to everyone. They serve low cost, hot, nutritious meals that can be purchased in a variety of ways, including cash, food stamps or

in exchange for work, but no one is sent away hungry.

Genny Nelson and Sandy Gooch were social service workers who founded the Sisters Of The Road Café. It began as a restaurant where affordable and healthy meals could be served to the impoverished. They are committed to the idea that people deserve the opportunity to obtain a meal with dignity, rather than with shame.

Kim Winton and Robert VanderVeen were at the library last week to discuss the exhibit. They are from the Portland area and said they got hope from the Sisters of the Road, which also provided them with a phone to serve as a message center which is necessary to find work.

Winton said that circumstances forced her to the streets for two years and VanderVeen stated that he lived on the streets for four and a half years. Together, they pooled together their resources and supported each other to secure a home—but not before the Department of Human Services (DHS) came and took their children.

When Winton was 18, she moved out of her father's home and joined the Tongue Point Job Corps in Astoria, where

she graduated after one year. She left the Job Corps full of hope, only to come upon roadblocks. Since she was unable to find work, she was forced to go back to her father's home, where her father welcomed her but her stepmother did not. As a consequence, she took to the streets.

To compound her difficulties, she had three children. She states that when DHS came and took her children—13-year-old Daniele, 10-year-old Brandon and 5-month-old Carol Ann—she fought for her children like a lioness would fight for her cubs. "I lost it and broke down," Winton said. "Then they said that I was mentally incompetent and took my children. Immediately afterward, I got a home, but they would not give my children back."

VanderVeen also met many obstacles in life that rendered him homeless. His biggest problem is that he is a nocturnal epileptic and needs medication, which is covered by Medicare. His medicine alone cost \$1,300 a month. If he gets a job, he would lose his Medicare and he would be without his medicine until insurance would kick in. Now he is receiving Social Security Insurance and that was the help they needed to afford an apartment.

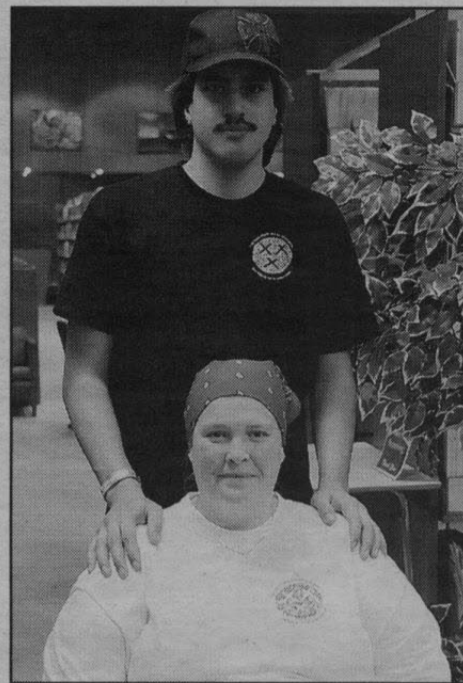


photo by Sherry Majeski

Kim Winton and Robert VanderVeen talked to students in the library last week about their life on the streets of Portland and how the Sisters of the Road and each other helped them get back on their feet. Their visit coincided with an audio-photo exhibit, part of Hunger for Justice week.

Equitation: Fund-raiser raises the bar for LB horsemanship

◀ From Pg. 1

we can," she said, "They have to be safe and trained." The same horses can be used for different events, which include three levels of hunt seat equitation and Western horsemanship, one class of reining and one class each of three heights of hunt seat over fences.

Hosting this event is the primary fund-raiser to help the team with expenses, such as travel. Others are courtyard lunches, when they serve enchi-

ladas in the fall and spring.

LBCC is the only community college in this region/zone and one of only five competing nationwide. Other schools in the region are Oregon State University, University of Oregon, University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University and Seattle University.

The regional competition will be April 1 in the Seattle area, and will be hosted by the University of Washington. In order to

qualify for regional, a competitor must earn 35 points in previous shows. Already qualifying for LBCC from their performance at four shows last fall are Noella Grady in advanced hunt seat flat and Christy Harshman and Jason Peacock in Western horsemanship.

"I have high hopes for Jason," said Jamila Taylor, western coach and team manager. "He's consistently in the top two."

The top two competitors in each regional event qualify for

the zone competition, which takes in Wash., Ore., Calif., Idaho, Nev., Ariz. and N.M. The top two competitors in each event at zone qualify for nationals. Last year LBCC team member Heather Louisiana qualified for nationals in novice hunt seat over fences. She was the first from LBCC or from any community college to go the nationals. This year's nationals will be April 8 at Fresno State University.

Any student with 12 credits is welcome to join the team.

The nine active members have majors in several different programs. Most members use the school's horses, and there are classes for beginners and for advanced students.

Anyone with experience with horses and wanting to help with this weekend's show is invited to come to the show, Taylor said. "We need help holding horses."

Anyone interested in helping or loaning equipment may contact StooBand at 541-917-4767.

Poverty: Event opens eyes

◀ From Pg. 1

home or apartment were turned over when a family was evicted and the family was told they couldn't stay there. Participants given the role of children didn't know what to do when they faced eviction and their parents weren't home. Student Ambassador Petr Horak approached families and asked if they had money to pay the rent.

"Excuse me! Hello! Week three is over!" shouts Lil Brown, Poverty Simulation director. She asks if rent and utilities have been paid and if the kids have eaten. Brown, from the Department of Human Services in Corvallis, has held this event at many venues over the years.

Multicultural Center Director Jason Miller attended a Poverty Simulation at the Corvallis Library last year and decided to ask Brown if she would come to LBCC. The Workforce Diversity Committee co-sponsored the event.

After the simulation, Brown asked everyone to discuss their experiences. Horak said that

not very many people took advantage of the food vouchers he was offering and explained that it was very frustrating to try to collect rent, saying that only one family paid him in full. "I became more aggressive," he said.

Brown explained that it's easy for people to be taken advantage of when they are left at the mercy of the system and that the lesson is to be cautious. Flaska mentioned that clothing and medicine set families back.

Linda Donald from Family Resources and Education cited the relevance of the simulation, saying, "For us, it's one of the diversity issues of Linn County."

Solutions

S	P	A	V	L	S	V	A	S	E	S	S	O	N	E	
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U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges 2006

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Adult Degree Program

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LOCAL NEWS

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

HISTORIC ALBANY

Walt Hughes
 The Commuter

Alone and shrouded in shadow as the dawn breaks. It seems they have been there forever, so long that few pay attention or even notice them anymore.

As the sun rises and the day brightens, the names slowly come into view, and the dates written underneath tell of the long-faded lives, hopes and dreams of those resting in the small cemetery plot overlooking Waverly Park. The names and dates on those headstones hark back to the days of Oregon's founding fathers, the days when Albany was but a small rural farming community set beside the Willamette River. Catching the eye like a million sparkling diamonds, the morning dew reflects the sun's first rays as one ponders what life used to be like.

In the 1850s, thousands came by way of The Oregon Trail, that long overland trek from Independence, Missouri to Independence, Oregon. They came from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky and as far away as New York and the Carolinas. They came on horseback, in Conestoga wagons, and on foot with dreams of a new life. Located 15 miles from Independence, Albany was first incorporated as a city in 1864.

The far-off sound of a blaring diesel horn mingles with the clatter of steel wheels on rails and heralds the approach of a southbound train. One can only wonder what it must have been like to listen to the plaintive whistle of an engine as it chugged along with steam hissing and bells clang-

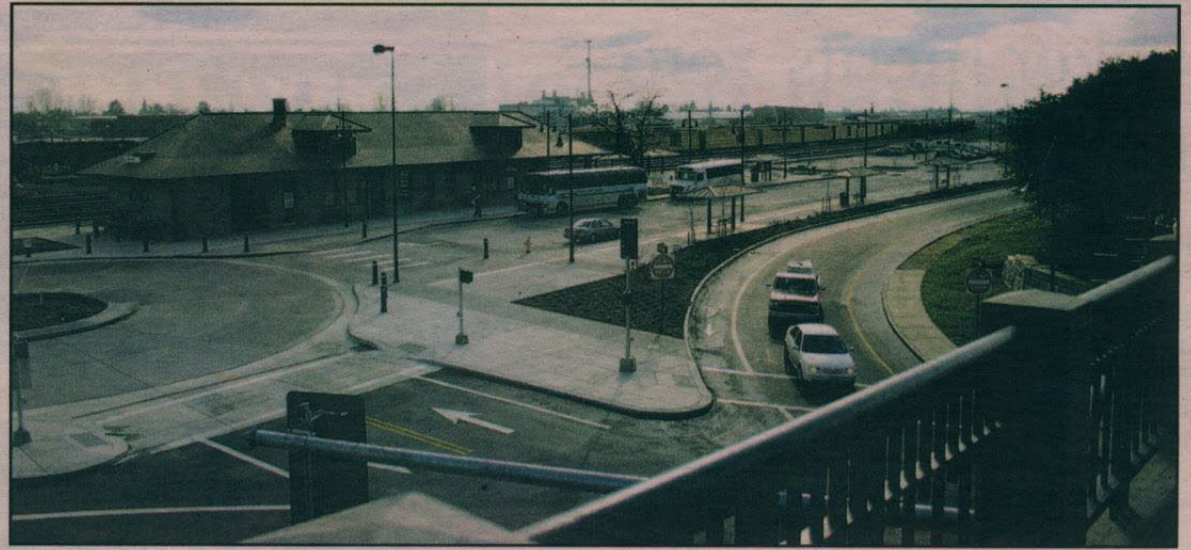
ing, bringing the produce of the world and carrying away lumber that would help build the nation. Those who rest in the small plots of the cemetery should take great pride in seeing what the city of Albany has become.

Albany is a city of rails and flight, a city of schools, churches, parks, ponds, meandering streams and roiling rivers. It is modern and bustling while maintaining its connections with its past.

Among the first things a visitor might notice is one of Albany's 28 well-manicured parks. The larger parks have modern picnic facilities combined with areas for sports and ponds that hold fish, ducks, and geese among other wildlife. Skate Park is the smallest and is only one-quarter of an acre, used mainly by skaters and skateboarders. Riverfront Park stretches along the Willamette River and boasts a large stage and bandstand.

Entering Albany from Interstate 5, visitors will find another surprise: in spring and summer there are flowers lining both sides of the road. The city's Parks and Recreation department stays busy caring for the wide variety of colorful flowers that add a beautiful touch to the parks and highways.

The airport is the oldest continuously operating in the state of Oregon and along with Convention Center complex, borders Timber Linn Park. The recent additions of a new aircraft parking ramp and hangars at the north end of the airport will allow members of the aviation community to fly in and park their airplanes next to the Linn County Fairgrounds and



Convention Center. The addition of Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Suites motels at the north end of the convention center provide Albany with an advantage over other small cities. For those traveling in recreational vehicles, there are two RV parks located next to the complex.

Albany supports its growing population with a diverse industrial base that includes rare metals processing, paper, pallet and machine manufacturing, and a wide variety of jobs in state, clerical, and service industries. Tour buffs might enjoy one of the daily trips through the Palm Harbor manufactured housing plant.

Albany also has hundreds of homes in its historical register. A little research reveals that Milton Hale was the first settler in Linn County, and he lived near Albany. Hale built the first ferry on the Santiam River in 1843. Library documents show that on March 2nd, 1849, territorial status was granted the State of Oregon, and there were 923 people living in Linn County. By 1850, steamer communication opened on the Willamette River connecting Albany with Astoria and many other Oregon cities including Marysville, which is now Corvallis.

A small book bound in brown leather and bearing the title "City of Albany, Oregon" stamped in gold letters states: "Albany, the seat of Linn County, is situated on the east

bank of the Willamette River a distance of 10 miles from the north and 20 miles from the south boundary of the county; 50 miles inland from the seacoast and has an altitude of 157 feet above the level of the sea." There were two railroads: the Oregon & California and the Oregon Pacific. The Oregon & California ran north and south for the full-length of the Willamette Valley; the Oregon Pacific ran east to connect with the Chicago & North Western Railway.

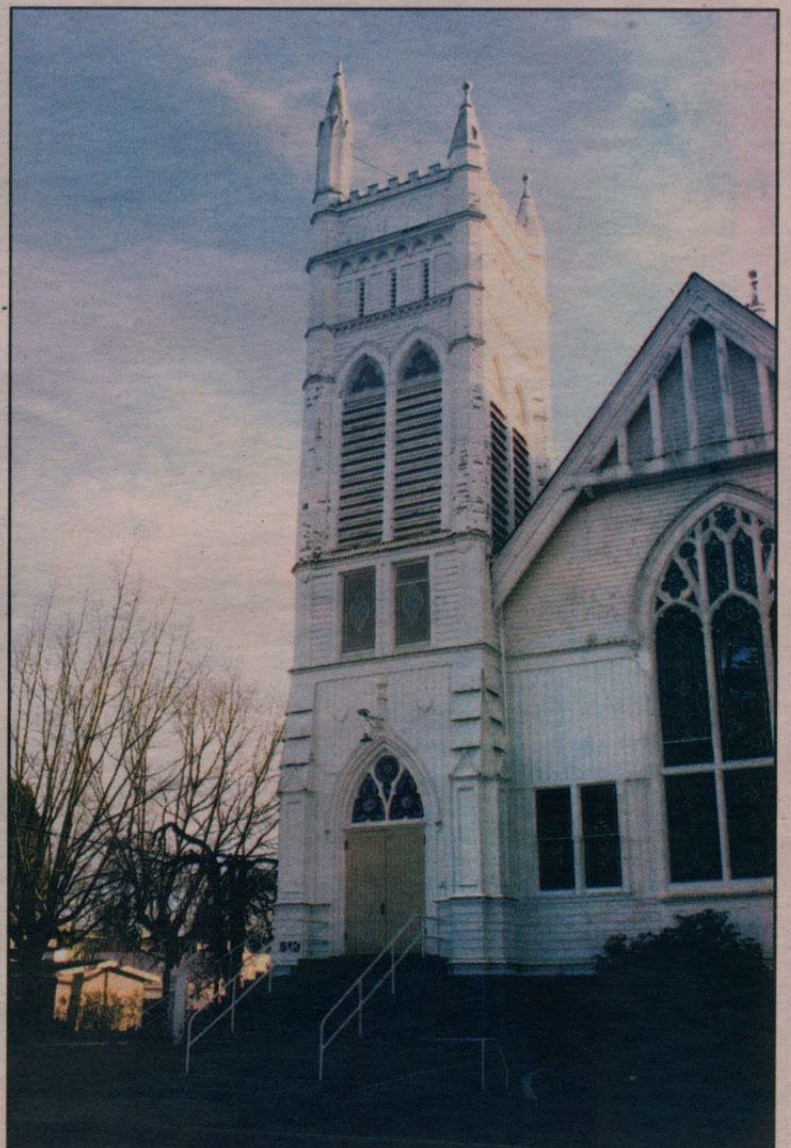
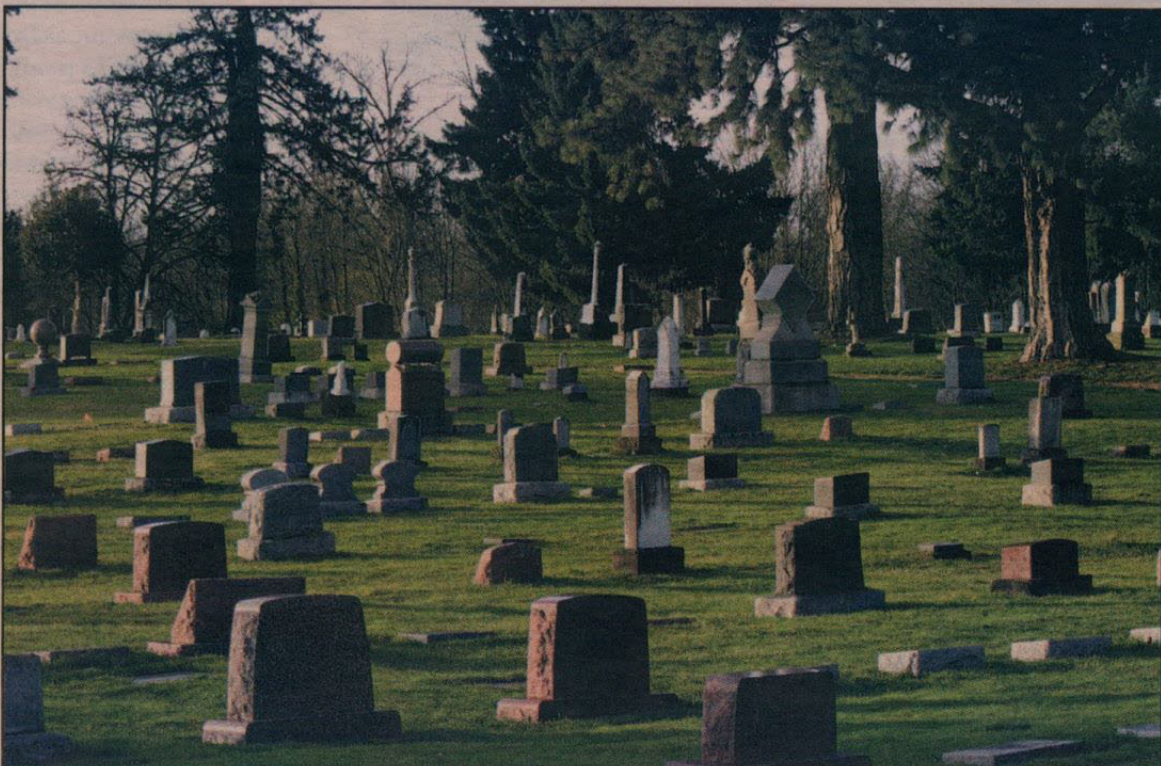
There is a newly remodeled passenger station with regular service from Amtrak. Today, the Portland & Western Railroad operates the rail yard. It serves the Willamette & Pacific Railroad along with being a crew change point for the Southern Pacific line running between Portland and Eugene. The Albany switchyard is located squarely on

the main line between Seattle and San Diego, and connects with the feeder lines running to Corvallis and the Oregon Coast.

Published in 1866, the "City of Albany" says that Albany had a population of about 3,500 people, and the local banks were "doing a good business" with total deposits averaging \$300,000.

In these times of high gas prices and expensive vacations, Albany is a destination with something for everyone. It's an ideal place to visit and spend an afternoon picnicking in one of its many parks, feeding the ducks and geese that populate the large ponds at Timber Linn and Waverly. You can have a meal at one of the many good restaurants, take in a concert at Riverfront Park or spend time touring some of the hundreds of historical homes and buildings.

Evidence of Albany's historic past are all over the city. Above, the old train station was recently remodeled. The city also boasts several old cemeteries like the Riverside (lower left) and historic churches including the Whitespires (below) at Fifth and Washington streets.



Photos by Dan Wise

Sports Editor: Jake Rosenberg
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

Poker merits zero regard as a sport

The explosion of poker upon the television scene has been growing so much over the past couple of years that it is really making an impact on the real sports fan. Let's get one thing out in the open. Poker is not a sport. For some reason, the people of the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, a.k.a. ESPN, have the notion that it is worth televising and taking up crucial hours of airing legitimate sports.

As a true sports fan who watches only athletic events for a majority of my time, this is unacceptable. If I am going to support gambling, it is going to be for something that actually includes physical effort or exertion. Horse racing is the most that I will tolerate.



JAKE ROSENBERG

I know that poker doesn't have to involve gambling and that it's really just a game, but that only proves my point. Poker is a game, not a sport and has no business being on a sports network. Even the Travel channel has its share of televised card games, but I still fail to realize what Texas Hold 'Em has to do with traveling. They don't even tour the grounds of these casino-resorts in these supposed exotic locations.

For the most part, card game fanatics watch high stakes tournaments to learn the game and to get better in order to make money online or with friends. That, or they are just reality TV junkies who love the drama and suspense that comes with the luck of the draw or watching someone lose a big money hand. I would just as much rather watch somebody play dominoes or pull a slot handle for an hour.

Televised card games only further supports a compulsive gambler's fetish and just promotes another unhealthy way of life as 'Joe LetItRide' competes for the sake of getting his latest fix. Card games are in the same category as the national spelling bee or dog shows and is just as out of place as those programs televised on sports networks.

I can only hope that this is just the latest fad in a country that so quickly lost its passion for yo-yo's and jazzersize.

FACE OFF



KRT photo

The competition of Texas Hold 'Em has drawn national attention on ESPN and other cable networks. But is it a sport?

These attributes have made the game popular in casinos and in broadcasting. ESPN gives the viewer what they want, and have done so successfully for decades. I firmly believe that ESPN should devote their coverage to the entire world of sports and competition. But within competition is the game of poker, and it's far too late to push back its popularity.

Texas Hold 'Em holds its own among sports

Eight years ago, ESPN introduced the 1998 No-Limit Texas Hold 'em Championship to cable broadcasting, and the world of televised gambling hasn't been the same since. Poker is an intriguing take on sports television, as anyone can successfully argue that the card game is not a sport. So why does ESPN continue to format its usual basketball spotlights around Tuesday's poker night, and the continuing repeats? The answer is relatively simple.

Unlike America's main sports: football, basketball and baseball, where in the 21st century size means more than talent, the competitive, thrill-inducing challenge that is poker can be won by anybody—short, fat, handicapped, homeless—because the game of poker is a mental strain, far exceeding the expectations of rapper/athletes and steroid-using robots.

While endless coverage of sports reminds the viewers of their own personal feats during their high school days, 99.9 percent of the country has no athletic future. Poker is not only an interest for the television community; it is also a goal—a light at the end of the tunnel. It offers another means of victory, something many of us can't seem to find these days.

Memorizing batting averages is useful sports bar conversation, but understanding how to play A-K suited may be the viewer's ticket out of hourly pay. Sports, after all, are about competition. There is no greater feat in the world today than to dominate 2,500 players in a game that requires much more than luck. It's been said that a poker game is 90 percent luck, but over time, is 90 percent skill. Before ESPN, the Travel Channel and FSN began their coverage on the game, most players were forced to read to succeed; not that reading is a bad thing, but television relates to a growing society whose books include only Garfield and ESPN collaborations.



STEVE FARRENS

LB women routed by Lane; rebound vs. PCC

Caleb Hawley
The Commuter

The Lady Runners (6-12, 2-2) went 1-1 in last week's road trip to Eugene and Portland. The Runners lost a decision to Lane Wednesday, but bounced back for a victory on Saturday against Portland.

Lane (19-1, 3-1) took care of the ladies on Wednesday by a large margin. The Runners fell by a score of 87-53. However, the Runners did manage to have three players score in double digits. Whitney Bryant dropped 13, Rebekah Welch had 12 and Molly Fillion had 11.

"We were in the game until they went on a run. It was a run we couldn't afford to let them do. It changed the whole tempo of the game coming into the second half. Lane is too good of a team to let go on a run. We came out, we played a little bit better by adjusting to some things. Intensity wise we played really hard, which I was really proud of the girls, to play that hard down by 20. Lane is a good team, we can't

let them go on a run like that and expect to get back in the game" said Head Coach Dionne.

Undeterred by the Wednesday loss, LB bounced back against Portland (7-10, 1-3) on Saturday with an impressive 57-44 victory. Fillion recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds to go along with 7 steals. Bryant chipped in with 12 points, Welch also contributed 12, and Sarah Long pulled down 8 rebounds for the Runners.

"We played pretty well, we didn't take care of the ball as well as I would have liked to for the whole game. We came out pretty intense, and went on a pretty good run at the beginning of the game. We pretty much kept a 15-point lead for most of the first half. We had a few minutes in there where we were kind of lazy and turned the ball over. I think they got bored with the game. Portland is not as strong of a team as Lane for example and you can make a few mistakes here and there. They aren't good enough to take advantage," said Dionne.



KRT photo

Seahawks Advance to Super Bowl

Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselbeck (with trophy) and NFL MVP running back Shaun Alexander (left) celebrate the Seahawks' first NFC championship by hoisting the George S. Halas trophy following their 34-14 victory at home over Carolina on Sunday. The win was Seattle's tenth home victory of the season. The Pittsburgh Steelers advanced to their sixth Super Bowl appearance in the AFC following a 34-17 victory in Denver. The Seahawks will play the Steelers in Super Bowl XL at Detroit, Michigan's Ford Field on Feb. 5 at 3:30 p.m. PST on ABC.

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SPORTS

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

Runners split two closely contested games

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

The LB men played the first two of a three-game road swing in their schedule and came out with a split against Lane and Portland to remain even at .500; they are now 2-2 in league play and 9-9 overall.

The Runners traveled to Eugene Wednesday for a match with league rival Lane and fell short with a 71-66 loss to the Titans.

Ryon Pool continued his strong play with a game-high 23 points in the contest. Point guard Kyle Masten contributed 11, including three 3-pointers, while center Dustin Vaughn added 10 points and nine rebounds.

"We have been in every game

this season," said Head Coach Randy Falk the day after the loss. "It's just a matter of getting more consistent play at the end of games."

The Runners helped themselves in the Southern Division on Saturday, winning at Portland 73-70. Guard Derek Grinnell, the lone LB sophomore, made his return to the top of the box score after an ankle injury with a 17-point, seven-rebound performance to aide the Runners to victory.

Pool added another 15 points and seven boards, while Kyle Masten scored 14 points.

"Derek has struggled to get his rhythm back, but at least we have everybody healed and ready to play now," Falk said. "The effort is as good as I've ever

seen. Many players are making strides and sacrificing themselves to help out in any way they can, and that has given us some really great team chemistry."

The Runners are currently tied for fourth place with Clackamas in the NWAACC Southern Division, and the road to the top will not get any easier with upcoming games at first-place Mt. Hood tonight and then hosting Clackamas on Saturday in the Activities Center.

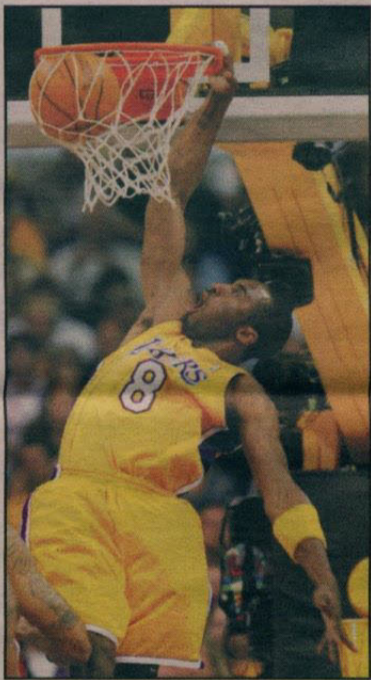
"We are a really good team this year and there are people that don't think that we are," said Pool during a water break at Monday's practice.

"We are going to surprise some teams this year and I think we are definitely headed for the tournament in March."

scoreboard

Men		STANDINGS		Women	
	League	Overall		League	Overall
Mt. Hood	4-0	15-3	Clackamas	4-0	14-3
Chemeketa	3-1	11-6	Lane	3-1	19-1
Lane	3-1	8-10	Umpqua	3-1	14-4
Clackamas	2-2	13-6	Chemeketa	2-2	5-10
Linn-Benton	2-2	9-9	Linn-Benton	2-2	6-12
Portland	1-3	9-10	Portland	1-3	7-10
SWOCC	1-3	9-8	SWOCC	1-3	8-8
Umpqua	0-4	2-15	Mt. Hood	0-4	2-13

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Jan. 25	Mt. Hood	Gresham	W-5:30 M-7:30
Jan. 28	Clackamas	Linn-Benton	W-4:00 M-6:00
Feb. 1	Umpqua	Linn-Benton	W-5:30 M-7:30
Feb. 4	Chemeketa	Salem	W-4:00 M-6:00



KRT photo
 Kobe Bryant scored an amazing 81 points on the Raptors Sunday night.

Kobe hits new high with 81

Neal Jones
 The Commuter

Sunday night Kobe Bryant gave the fans at the Staples Center quite a show.

In a 122-104 win over the Toronto Raptors, Bryant contributed 81 points in an effort unlike anything the fans have seen before. Bryant's 81 points are the most scored in a game since Wilt Chamberlain's 100 in 1962.

Bryant made 28 of 46 shots for a 61 percent field goal percentage and added 18 points from the free throw line out of 20 attempts. From downtown Bryant shot seven out of 13 three-pointers for a 54 percent. He also contributed two assists, one block, six rebounds, three steals and only three turnovers.

The 27-year-old Bryant is now in his 10th NBA season and is putting together a year that might be the best in history. He is the league-leading scorer with 35.9 points this season.



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Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT



(front row, left to right) Josh Gordon, Vice-President; Erin Moseley, Public Relations/Secretary • (back row, left to right) Kevin Dugan, Humanities Representative; Bill Hand, President; Roxanne Navarro, Health Occupations Representative; Cory Eisele, Business Representative; Phillip Jones, Student Services & Education Representative; David Hoskins, Science and Technology Representative

The ASG Elections Committee is recruiting for 2006-2007 Officers for all of the above positions. Be a part of your school government! Applications are available at the Student Life and Leadership Office and are due by Noon, Friday, February 10, 2006.

For information call the Associated Student Government at 9174462 or send Bill Hand an email at handb@linnbenton.edu

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution

Managing Editor: Jennifer Overholser
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Campus Shorts...

Hunger banquet teaches life lessons

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

As guests walked through the front door of the Commons during last Thursday's Hunger Banquet, they picked out tags from a basket that assigned them to a "class" for the hunger banquet.

A select few received an upper class tag, but the vast majority discovered themselves in the middle and lower classes. The breakdown represented the percentage of people in the world suffering from world hunger. On the back of each tag was a brief description of another person from across the globe to help the guests understand the life of the person they would be role-playing for the evening.

The banquet took place on Thursday evening when Highway 34 was closed down at Corvallis by flooding, resulting in lower than expected attendance. About 60 attended compared to 110 last year.

People who came together were often assigned to different classes, simulating how families are often separated by poverty, limited transportation and work arrangements. Guards prevented people from moving as they would have liked. Classes were forbidden to interact with each other, and lower class people were forced to sit on the floor. While the upper class ate a seven-course meal, middle class people just had rice and beans, and the lower class people were even denied beans.

When people from the lower class asked questions about their bland rice, a guard, Molly Nelson, said, "This was cooked in pure water, so you won't be getting any diseases."

Afterward people spoke about gaining a greater awareness of world hunger and how fortunate they were. Ten percent of the world's population makes more than \$9,000 a year; 30 percent between \$1,000 and \$9,000; and 60 percent less than \$1,000. People who are considered in poverty in the United States are living far above the levels of the rest of the world's poor.

Susan James, a volunteer with Linn Benton Food Share, spoke about how many people think that working hard and making an honest living will insure that they won't have to live in poverty and struggle with hunger. Poor people are sometimes thought of as lazy or undisciplined, she said, but added that the truth is that they are often some of the hardest working people out there. Good job skills and a good work ethic won't keep you from financial troubles. Education is of vital importance.

"One of the biggest things we're doing is telling people to know their legislators," she said.

A man who works at a nearby Safeway spoke about how lots of people who use the Oregon Trail food stamp cards use them to buy TV dinners, ice cream and other junk foods. Even though he has a decent job, he is not able to afford to eat like that, implying that those who have incomes low enough to receive food stamps are often making unreasonable choices regarding food purchases.

Even though the advertising poster said, "Few leave a hunger banquet with full stomachs," after the speakers finished everyone was allowed to partake in the food originally reserved for the upper class.



photo by Skyler Edwards
 Christy Olson, left, and Misty Flaska, right, serve themselves at last Thursday's Hunger Banquet held in the Commons.

Degree Partnership Event

On Wed. from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Commons cafeteria there will be a Degree Partnership information sharing, which will include issues about admissions and financial aid. There will be OSU advisors available for students to talk to. Pizza will be provided. Degree Partnership is the new name for Dual Enrollment. Following will be information sharing for LBCC and OSU advisors in the Siletz Room.

Lunar Celebration

Artists and performers will converge at Calapooia Middle School to celebrate the beginning of the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Dog on Jan. 26 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria. There will be arts, calligraphy and crafts, as well as art from the U of O's Schnitzer Art Museum, presentations by students from Taiwan and a demonstration by the LBCC Dragon Dance team. LBCC's dragon will also visit Central, Tadena and Waverly elementary schools throughout the day, before heading to Calapooia Middle School. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the LBCC Multicultural Center at 917-4461.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR SALE

Chicago Press brake, Model 285, 25 ton, without dies, contact LBCC, 917-4332 or 917-4592 for sealed bid information. Bid closes 3:00 p.m., Feb. 1, 2006.

Valentine's Day Flower Sale



\$2 each or \$10 for six.

Ordering begins Jan. 31.

Have a carnation delivered to a special person on campus! Place your order in the Student Life & Leadership Office or at our table in Tadena Hall. Flowers will be delivered between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on February 14. (We'll deliver to the centers between noon and 1 p.m.)

Sponsored by the LBCC Student Ambassadors and the Student Programs Board.

Assistance for tuxedos provided by Mr. Formal.

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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Taqueria Alonzo



Mexican Restaurant

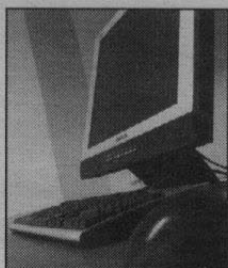
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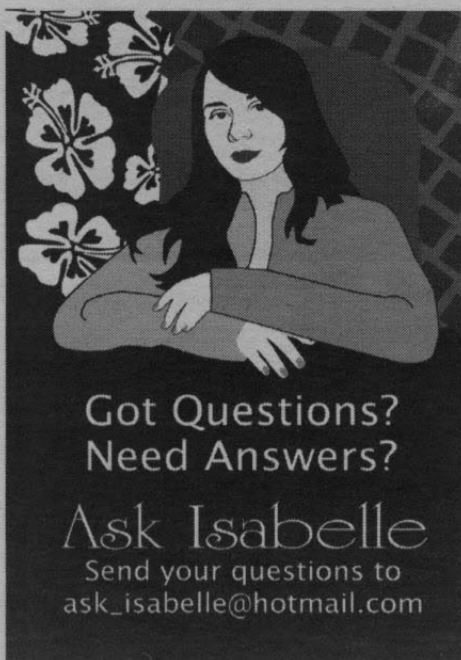
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Design Editor: Elizabeth Beckham
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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FUNNY BONES

Crossword, cartoons, LBCC Commons menu and some fun facts to brighten your day.



**Got Questions?
Need Answers?**

Ask Isabelle
Send your questions to
ask_isabelle@hotmail.com

Dear Isabelle,

My friend is dating someone that I think is not right for her. She always complains about his lies and tells me she doesn't trust him but she still stays with him and now they are getting serious. I listen to her problems but I just want to tell her to tell him to get lost. What should I do? I don't want to hurt her, but this guy is not right for her.

Concerned for friend

Dear Concerned,

In my experience, friends are always going to do what they want no matter what you say to them, even if it's for their own good. The only thing you can do is offer your concerns for your friend's happiness by respectfully approaching your friend and express them without forcing her to make a decision or making her feel stupid, otherwise she will just get defensive and angry. She may or may not listen to you but at least you can say you did all you could do as a friend.

Dear Isabelle,

I like this guy in my class but I am afraid to approach him. We are friendly towards each other and sometimes I think he likes me but I am afraid that if I ask him out and he turns me down, it will always be awkward every time I see him and our friendship will be ruined. Should I go for it?

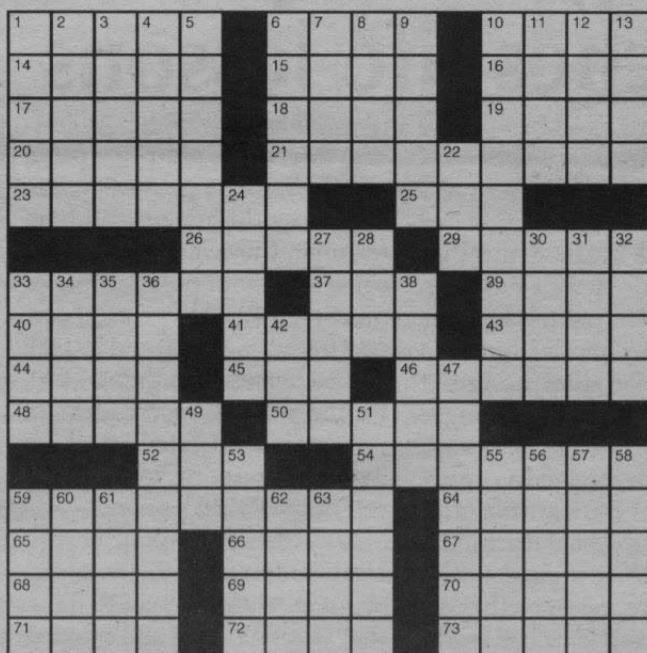
Scared of rejection

Dear Scared,

No guts no glory my dear, but it's all in the delivery. Since you are friends, it shouldn't be out of the question to ask if he would like to "hang out" some time. Don't put a lot of pressure on him or yourself and he will most likely accept the invite. Do something low key like play pool or go bowling. This will give you time to talk and get to know each other more and see if he wants to be more than "just friends."

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Deep gorge
 - 6 Con's knife
 - 10 Mine car
 - 14 "Giant" ranch
 - 15 Final passage
 - 16 Tortoise rival
 - 17 Remove sail supports
 - 18 Voiced
 - 19 As soon as
 - 20 Derision
 - 21 Offensive barrage
 - 23 Most on edge
 - 25 Tax agcy.
 - 26 Iron Mike
 - 29 Bivouacs
 - 33 Associate familiarly
 - 37 Team cheer
 - 39 Genesis man
 - 40 Opera song
 - 41 Architect Jones
 - 43 Comic Carvey
 - 44 Cicatrix
 - 45 Lofting tennis shot
 - 46 SSS word
 - 48 Angel hair or ziti



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1/23/06

- 50 Small songbird
- 52 Pioneer TV-movie channel
- 54 Sickly pallor
- 59 Good dishes, perhaps
- 64 Gold measure
- 65 Holm oak
- 66 Bard's river
- 67 Madonna movie
- 68 Trunk spare
- 69 Tear apart
- 70 Happen again
- 71 Son of Seth
- 72 Under sail
- 73 Palm blows

- 9 Frankie of The Four Seasons
- 10 Cast of
- 11 Pealed
- 12 St. Louis landmark
- 13 Track gathering
- 22 Trajectory
- 24 Actress Thorndike
- 27 Pygmy antelope
- 28 Scold persistently
- 30 Ring around a castle
- 31 Glazier's item
- 32 Deception
- 33 Necklace fastener
- 34 Black-and-white whale
- 35 Partisanship
- 36 Basilica lobbies
- 38 Book after Daniel
- 42 Armistice Day mo.
- 47 City bordering the Bronx
- 49 2 on the phone

**ANSWERS
PROVIDED
ON PAGE
FOUR**

- 51 Kigali's country
- 53 "Lovey Childs" author
- 55 Type of orange
- 56 Writer Jong
- 57 Stopped slouching
- 58 Headliners
- 59 Light snack
- 60 Ken or Lena
- 61 Roman tyrant
- 62 Currier and
- 63 Nary a one



"People! We're sorry but we've overbooked! We've got vouchers here for reincarnation, all expenses paid! Anyone? Anyone?"



"No worries tonight ... Bob is wearing his politically corrective shoe."

**LBCC MAIN CAMPUS
Commons**
JAN. 25 - JAN. 31

Wednesday:
ENTREES: Roast Chicken w/Pan Gravy; Pork Enchiladas w/Refried Beans; Pasta Bar
SIDES: Potatoes Anna; Mexican Rice; Glazed Carrots al'Anancienne
SOUPS: Cream of Broccoli; Won Ton

Thursday:
ENTREES: French Dip w/Fries; Almond Chicken w/Steamed Rice; Vegetable Calzone
SIDES: Steak Fries; Steamed Jasmine Rice (w/Almond Chx); Garlic Mushrooms
SOUPS: Creamy Roasted Chicken; Garlic Soup w/Tomato

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday:
ENTREES: Grilled Pork Chop w/Sauce Robert; Chicken Gumbo w/Creole Rice; Sweet & Sour Tempeh w/Rice
SIDES: Cheese & Potato; Croquettes; Rice Pilaf; Zucchini Pancakes
SOUPS: Chicken Noodle; Cream of Tomato

Tuesday:
ENTREES: Reuben Sandwich w/Coleslaw; Irish Lamb Stew; Thai Vegetable Curry w/Steamed Rice
SIDES: Twice Baked Potato; Creamy Pesto Shells; Green Beans w/Mushrooms
SOUPS: Shrimp Bisque; French Onion

Weekly Menu

...Fun Facts...

- Grapes explode when you put them in the microwave (don't try this at home kids...).
- In Kentucky, it is illegal to carry ice cream in your back pocket.
- In 1980, a Las Vegas hospital suspended workers for betting on when patients would die! (But they weren't fired???)
- The lens of the eye continues to grow throughout a person's life.
- If the chemical sodium is dropped into water it will immediately and violently explode (seriously, don't try this...ever).
- There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
- Before 1941, fingerprints were not accepted as evidence in court.

FOR ADVICE...

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

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

A College Girl Named Joe



www.AmazingAaronArt.com 5-13

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Check it Out

"Seussical the Musical"

Jan. 27, 28, 29*(m)

Feb. 2, 3, 4

8 p.m.

*2:30 p.m.

\$11 Adults

\$8 Seniors and students under 18
 Students half-price on Thursdays

Albany Civic Theater

111 First Ave. S.W.

www.albanycivic.org

"Memoirs of a Geisha"

Jan. 27- Feb. 2

Pix Theatre

321 Second Ave. S.W Albany

(see Web site for show times)

www.albanypix.com

K. C. and the Sunshine Band

with

The Village People

Jan. 27

7 p.m.

\$45 & \$55

Spirit Mountain Casino

Grande Ronde, OR

www.starticketsplus.com

49 Fingers

February 4

7 p.m.

No Cover

Oregon Trader

140 Hill Street S.E.

Albany

www.49fingers.com

Calendar compiled by Colleen Franzoia, A&E Editor
 Get your event in Check it Out. Send all information to
 The Commuter Attn: commuterarts@linnbenton.edu

Acoustics showcased at BC

Harrison White
 The Commuter

At LBCC's Benton Center, early afternoon on Friday, Jan. 20, a small group trickles in as two musicians begin playing a song. Called "Old and in the Way," it was written by Peter Rowan, a fiddle player for the Jerry Garcia bluegrass band. The duo continues on with a jazzy song, a long 70s rock instrumental, "Happy Feet," and many pre-electric blues standards. The finale is a delta-blues style song about eating fish and bread.

The band is Sid Beam's Gumbo, and the event is the monthly Acoustic Showcase.

According to Beam, the band focuses on the

earlier instrumental jazz and blues that came from the opening of taverns to bands in the 70s. Since bars are smaller spaces, he said, the change allowed for a more personal format, instead of the drum-heavy, rock-laced dance tunes of before.

The Acoustic Showcase is an attempt by LBCC to bring in students, faculty and anyone in the area, to enjoy music during lunchtime, according to Lauri Lehman, Benton Center publications assistant.

The next Showcase is on Feb. 10, from 12 to 1 p.m., and features JP and the Afterburners, a group comprised of four LB instructors: Mark Weiss, acoustic guitar; Tom Chase, acoustic guitar; Ron Sharman, bass; and J.P. Burns, lead vocals.

Forbidden Love on the Frontier

Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal star in the angst-filled story of two cowboys destined to stoically, almost violently, suffer through the love they share. "Brokeback Mountain" is currently playing at the Regal Ninth Street 4 Cinema in Corvallis.



KRT photo

Drama mourns the frontier's death

Harrison White
 The Commuter

I went to see the "gay cowboy" movie, "Brokeback Mountain". I intended to review the movie, but instead, I philosophize on it. While watching the movie, I found myself paying more and more attention to the land. The land, you see, became dirtier and dirtier and grittier and grittier as everything fell apart in the lives of the two main characters.

To me, this represented the end of the Dream, the American Dream. Set in the 60s, two ranch hands meet while tending sheep. After small talk, they get hog drunk and have sex. Unfortu-

nately, it becomes more than that.

Gay cowboys are nothing new. In the 70s a whole range of pornographic films were based on the idea of what, like pirates and sailors, a few males alone on the range might turn to in frustration, to relieve their pent up sexuality.

But the movie was not about the homosexuality in itself, or societies rejection of such practices. It's not even about the cowboys trying to fit in as normal. Instead it is about the final closing of the frontier: the death of the land.

As the land closes, and space

becomes more and more premium, more ways to live with the growing urbanization are discovered, more widespread. Thus, the cowboys are frustrated and trapped in the society that crawls like a huge spider over the last remnants of the wilderness and imposes structure and order and popular morality. The homosexuality is a stigma, and everything revolves around the one place they can truly be free: in essence, it is the frustration of the Dream.

"Brokeback Mountain" is a cautionary tale of not heeding the warnings of John Stuart Mill on the liberty of expression as long as it harms no one.

Steelheading: Year-round fun not far away

◀ From Pg. 12

river coverage and often, increased success. A boat also provides more comfort and allows greater access.

Steelhead are an anadromous fish. They spend most of their lives in the ocean and return to the river of their birth to spawn after two years of feeding. Rains bring them up the rivers, with many fish ending up in hatcheries designed to increase the fishery. Native fish, while not as numerous, are still present, although they must be returned to the river.

While winter steelheading is very popular, many Oregon streams support a summer run as well. Warmer temperatures, longer days and lower water make fishing conditions far

more pleasant.

"I love being able to wade back and forth across the stream, said Richardson, who usually fishes in shorts during the summer and fall.

Bend resident Eric Miller prefers fishing from a boat when he can. His favorite river, the Deschutes in Central Oregon, supports a winter run but is more famous for its late summer steelhead. While fishing from the boat is illegal, Miller uses a raft to gain access to the miles of water from Shearer's Falls to the mouth on the Columbia River. He gets away as often as he can, fishing not only the Deschutes, but also a number of other Oregon streams.

Miller also hires a guide a couple of times a year. While expensive (\$300 or

more for the boat for the day) he likes the luxury of having someone do all the preparation and cleanup so he can just sit back and enjoy fishing.

Miller also likes to try out rivers he hasn't been on, and he feels a guide knows the waters and will produce results without the time usually needed to be successful.

Oregon fishing guides are numerous and are available for every river in the state.

Oregon boasts many high quality steelheading rivers. Some drain into the Pacific, such as the Alsea, Siletz, Siuslaw, Nehalem, Rogue and the Umpqua, while others such as the Deschutes and the John Day empty into the Columbia. Almost any coastal

stream has some kind of run, with most supporting both summer and winter fishing. The Alsea is only 45 minutes from Corvallis depending where you fish, and most others are within three to four hours.

The best way to get into steelheading is buy some equipment and a license and head to the river. Local tackle stores are usually full of advice, especially if you spend a few dollars. Fishermen are not always so forthcoming as to favorite fishing spots and methods can be held close, but there is always someone that is willing to help out a newcomer.

Embodying the attitude of most steelheaders, Richardson said, "Go out and have fun and be friendly."

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DISCOVERY

Community festivals, trips, treks
 and tours that readers might enjoy
 in their free time.

STEELHEADING

Dan Wise
 The Commuter

It's cold and it's wet. The sky is gray and is reflected in the river in infinite variety—almost black in the deep pools, and lighter where the bottom color shows through in the faster, shallow water. The steady rain has washed silt from the banks adding an overall brownish cast. The tall fir trees lining the banks collect water then add it in heavy droplets to the fine pattern of rain on the river's surface.

The figures lining the Alsea River in the Coast Range of Oregon know this scene well. They are spread out in ones and twos, some on the bank, some wading through the swift current seeking a favorite spot. They all have at least two things in common; they are winter steelhead fishermen and they are passionate about what they are doing.

"It's the joy of being outdoors and walking along the bank," said Bob Richardson, Corvallis resident, on a Sunday when he was wishing he were on the river. "It's the challenge of fishing for a great game fish, and it's going out with friends," he continues. Richardson values sharing fishing with good companions most of all.

Steelheading is a demanding pursuit requiring patience, skill and luck, although any steelheader will say luck has less to do with it than any other form of fishing. A common belief is that it takes 20 hours of fishing to produce one fish,

and few veteran anglers would argue the point. Many days, even the most experienced return home empty-handed, but that doesn't seem to matter.

"Waiting in the dark by that first hole in the morning is my favorite thing," said Richardson. Many consider getting on the river very early to be the key, especially in the summer form of steelheading when river levels are low and clear and fish can be spooky. Beating the crowds is another advantage for early risers.

Despite the high hours to success ratio, the river can be crowded at times, especially when the fish are running. Competition for good spots can be difficult at times, but generally everyone gets along well, according to Richardson. The only problem is the small percentage of people who litter the banks with discarded bait containers and other refuse. This reflects badly on all fishermen and can cause bad feelings with the landowners

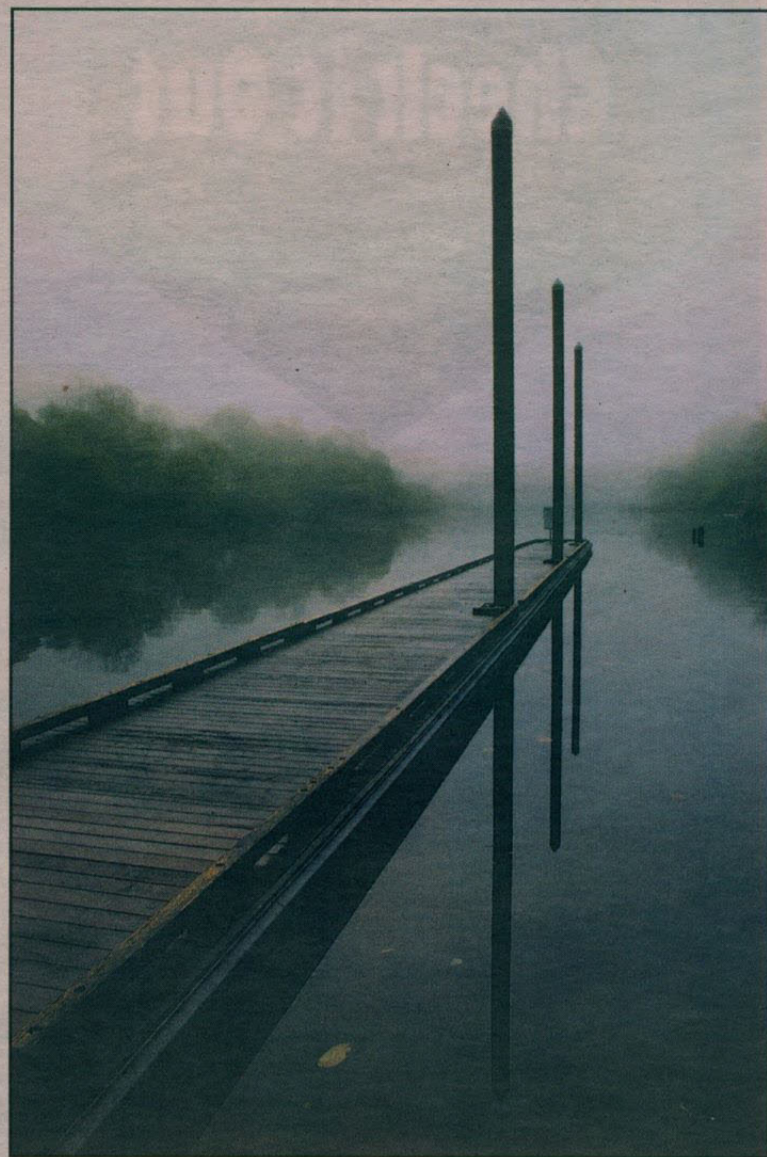
that control fishing access. "I wish they would clean up and be more responsible," said Richardson. He often will leave the river with a fishing vest full of garbage.

Steelheading can be a relatively inexpensive sport. With the initial purchase of equipment and license running between \$100 and \$200, the only further expense for the bank fisherman is the gas to get to the river.

"It doesn't cost a lot for me. I go low tech," said Richardson. "You just gather yourself and go."

Another popular method, drift fishing, can be very expensive. An outfitted drift boat can cost thousands, although that doesn't seem to be a deterrent, as the boat launches on a weekend are usually crowded. On larger rivers, jet-powered boats are often used, increasing the price of fishing many fold. While the expense goes up with angling from a boat, the advantages are increased

► Turn to "Steelheading" on Pg. 11



Steelheading on cold foggy mornings on the Suislaw River (above) or warm sunny afternoons on the Siletz (bottom) combine tranquility with thrills and a respect for nature.

