

King's Legacy

LBCC's Multicultural Center is presenting a series of events to heighten awareness of local, national and world poverty and hunger.

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Passing On

Popular LBCC history instructor Michael Weiss enriched the campus community for 16 years. He lost his battle with cancer in December.

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THE COMMUTER

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New hall offers more classrooms and wi-fi



photo by Kyla Hoyt

Amelia Cohn, a horse management major, is one of the first to utilize one of the three second-floor common areas in the wi-fi enabled North Santiam Hall.

Jennifer Overholser
The Commuter

On Monday, Jan. 9, Arts and Communication Dean Gary Ruppert stood inside the entrance of the new North Santiam Hall, directing students to their classrooms.

The new space, funded by a voter-approved bond, features 10 new classrooms and 14 new faculty offices, relieving much of the crowding that occurred in the past between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., says Ruppert. In addition, the entire building and patio have wireless Internet access.

English instructor Linda Spain is one of the faculty members who moved into the new offices. She was glad to get out of her windowless 8-by-10-foot office on the second floor of Takena Hall. "I always felt like I was trapped in an elevator," she said. She explained that her new office has made a difference in the way she feels about work.

The classrooms have about a student seating capacity of about 40, which means they can be

used for core classes that draw more students. All of the classrooms have windows and a media cart and overhead multi-media projector, which allows instructors to operate Power Point, DVDs and the Internet at the touch of a button.

The lights were originally set to turn off after five minutes to save energy after people leave the room, but a glitch in the system caused the lights to sometimes go off while people were in the room. Spain said that during a media cart training meeting the lights kept shutting off, so somebody had to keep getting up and waving their arms to turn the motion-sensitive lights back on.

Two skywalks on the second story connect North Santiam Hall to South Santiam Hall, formerly known as the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Building. Tables line the outer edges of the skywalks, providing students with additional study areas.

Chelsea Burroughs, a literature major from Corvallis, was taking advantage of the wireless

▶ Turn to "NSH" on Pg. 4

Cavin offers welcome

LBCC President Rita Cavin

Welcome back to Linn-Benton Community College. It's the time of year when people traditionally decide on New Year's resolutions; set personal goals; and start thinking about graduation, new jobs or transferring to a university. The college staff wishes you well during this annual period of introspection. We are all here with the sole purpose of making your college experience a successful one.



Rita Cavin

If you are drawing a blank on what promises to make to yourself, please allow me to make a few suggestions. Start with something really big: try to make the world a better place because you are in it. I know that sounds huge, way too big for someone trying to work, juggle family responsibilities, study

and stay warm. But, the way I look at it, making the world a better place begins with each one of us. Your college years are the perfect time to think about the rest of the world

Let's start with reading the paper—this student paper, your local paper, or news online—to be an informed citizen. If you've been reading the paper or watching the news on television, you might have heard that health care costs are soaring. How can one person make a difference? Corrections to America's health care crisis will occur one person at a time. Linn-Benton Community College offers fitness programs, training in physical activities that can last a lifetime, nutrition and stress management classes.

Much of the additional burden to our health care system is due to a national epidemic of obesity and the increasing abuse of alcohol and drugs. These barriers to a healthy life are occurring in young children, not just in our adult population.

▶ Turn to "Cavin" on Pg. 3



photo by Zack Wait

Threatening Water

Rain-swollen Oak Creek up behind the entry road on the north end of campus just before overflowing on Tuesday night. Students have endured an almost unbroken string of rainy days since school began. Forecasts are for more of the same.



photo by Dan Wise

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High-46
Rain
Low-35
Wednesday

High-45
Mostly Cloudy
Low-36
Thursday

High-47
More Rain
Low-35
Friday

High-48
Even More Rain
Low-35
Saturday

High-50
Sunny!... oh wait, its rain
Low-35
Sunday

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

OPINION

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 and keep them at 300 words or less.

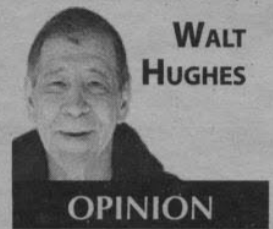


Scandals abound like ornaments on a Christmas tree

Walt Hughes, Sr.
 The Commuter

With the holidays out of the way and the new year chugging along, it's time to gear up and take a hard look at the world and things that affect our daily lives.

Sad to say, it has come to the time when Christmas, a long and time honored tradition, celebrated for hundreds of years by Christians the world over, has changed to bring it in line with the greedy mantra of spend your money and buy, buy and buy some more. Once known as a time of brotherhood and the celebration of the birth of an individual that thousands of people believe to have been the Savior of the world, it has become known for shopping till you drop and musical ditties like "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." Songs like "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger" have all but disappeared from the contemporary airwaves.



Perhaps it would be wrong, but with three distinct branches of government swearing to uphold the Constitution and laws of the land "So Help Me God" as they take their oaths of office, it would seem officially referring to Christmas as "The Holidays" and the national Christmas tree as the "Holiday Tree" would leave a really bad taste in their mouths. It might also be wrong to ask another basic and very simple question, but why not? Why is it that while the vast majority of the earth's population including Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims and other religious denominations claim to believe in God, they can't seem to agree on simple things like the Ten Commandments or the fact that you are not supposed to be murdering your fellow man?

We start off 2006 in a very interesting position. It has been widely covered in the news that the poor Iraqi citizens are up in arms because they have to pay 18 cents for a liter (5 quarts) of gasoline while we pay around \$2 for 4 quarts, but not much has been said about the fact our great Republican senators and congressmen slashed heavily into funding for senior citizens, the disabled, and students like you and I who are just trying to get an education. I guess that we are supposed to feel sorry for those poor politicians and go blindly along with their ideas without bothering to question where it will all lead us in the long run. What do you think?

And the more you look, the more interesting it gets. The United States holds itself out to be the land of the free, a democracy where the rich, the poor and everyone in between has a say on how we are governed. How do you reconcile that with the fact the president and his cronies seem to think they are above the law, can arrest people without warrants or court orders, and even imprison them without charges, judges, juries, or access to courts of law? Is it any wonder that the rest of the world is beginning to look at us as one big joke?

Top it all off with the latest in big money and governmental scandals. The top Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Tom DeLay, has been indicted for money laundering and conspiracy to violate election laws, the well-known and big-time lobbyist. Jack Abramoff has pleaded guilty to a number of charges that include bribing elected officials. The president of the United States seems to think that he is above the law by ordering wiretapping and listening devices that monitor people's conversations without a warrant. He claims the wiretaps are only for people colluding with our enemies, yet the program is highly top secret with no proof of who is being monitored.

Now there is a federal demand that Linn-Benton provide ready access to the school's wireless network this year so that they can monitor your Internet activities and e-mail. What do you think? Do you want them listening in on your private conversations?

At this point you still have a vote. You still have e-mail. You have telephones. The names and addresses of your senators and congressmen are readily available on the Internet or in the LBCC library. Call, e-mail or write and tell them what you think.

The changing face of journalism

Harrison White
 The Commuter

I will not subscribe to The New York Times journalistic theory.

Over the break, I spent time rediscovering my drive, the reason I want to write for the news media. The answer came to me while rewatching the classic Johnny Depp movie, "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." The older "new journalists," like Tom Wolfe, or Hunter S. Thompson, or even my personal fiction guru Steinbeck, knew something: one should write the story, what is important, what the people need to know. Instead, today's news is based on the facts. So it comes as no surprise that those in the print business do not recognize the merit of the Web log trend as a moving away from strict fact, and more toward the gut feelings of young Bob Woodward; the people want the story, government sanctioned or not.

This is the problem with modern journalism; there is paranoia now, one that stems from Watergate's exposure of that era's complacency with the administration. Under so-called "higher standards," the investigative journalist is squashed out, the curious instinct crushed. Even Gary Webb, in his Dark Alliance series on the CIA trafficking cocaine, was held to a courtroom standard of truth. Rather than something seeming reasonable, that the gut instinct trusted, some newspapers even require written admission of wrongdoing by officials before anything is considered true.

This courtroom standard is disgusting and stamps out some of the very life from journalism; it wrings the profession's neck. A source may have the story wrong, or a differing view of an event than other sources, but

this does not make it true or false. It simply makes it a different analysis. In modern corporate journalism, reporting is then limited only to the proven, as in "beyond reasonable doubt"—and since no agency or corporation will admit wrongdoing, there is no exposure.

News is once again Hearst-like, thanks to Clinton's deregulation. The writers are owned by the corporate masters, and in essence become yes men to the powerful lobbying forces in Congress that descend from journalism-centered corporations. The choice is to report or to lose your job. Complacency becomes the key. As George Seldes said, warning about Fascism in his time and ours, "It is possible to fool all of the people all of the time—when government and press cooperate."

Most disappointing, however, is that Bob Woodward is now a much different person. In his prime, he could bring down an administration with the brush of a pen. But now, he attends GOP parties and writes the news that his corporate masters want to read. He will not write anything that might offend too much or expose corruption. Meanwhile, it is much the same at The New York Times. For a year, they suppressed the story of the National Security Agency's unauthorized wire-tapping.

This new corporate journalism, Neo-journalism if you will, is a hideous monster comparable only to the Swamp Thing or the Creature from the Black Lagoon. Instead of Glasnost, we have only secrecy and layers. And journalists with the means refuse to take charge as they have in the past.

And so, all things considered, this is my New Year's Resolution:

I will not subscribe to The New York Times journalist theory.

The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

Editor-in-Chief:
 Dan Wise

Managing Editor:
 Jennifer Overholser

A & E Editor:
 Colleen Franzoia

Graphics Editor:
 Elizabeth Beckham

Contributing Editors:
 Robert Wong, Jens Odegaard

Copy Editors:
 Melissa Chaney
 Nancy West

Opinion Editor:
 Walt Hughes

Photo Editor:
 Erik Swanson

Photographers:
 Kyla Hoyt
 Skyler Edwards
 Zack Wait

Sports Editor:
 Jake Rosenberg

Sports Writers:
 Caleb Hawley, Neal Jones,
 Steve Farrens

Advertising Manager:
 Allison Griffin

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Staff Writers:
 Harrison White, Sherry Majeski, Joel Devyldere, Noah Tinker, Aaron Brioch, Natalya Fritz, Amanda Rappé, Adam Loghides, Ian Greer, Elizabeth Uriarte, Stephen Whitener, Arlen Proctor, Nathan Batten, Amanda Bielenberg, Hannah Cowart, Matt Ross, Ellen Purkeson

Advisor: Rich Bergeman

Phone: (541) 917-4451, 4452 or 4453 Fax: (541) 917-4454 Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd., Albany, OR 97321

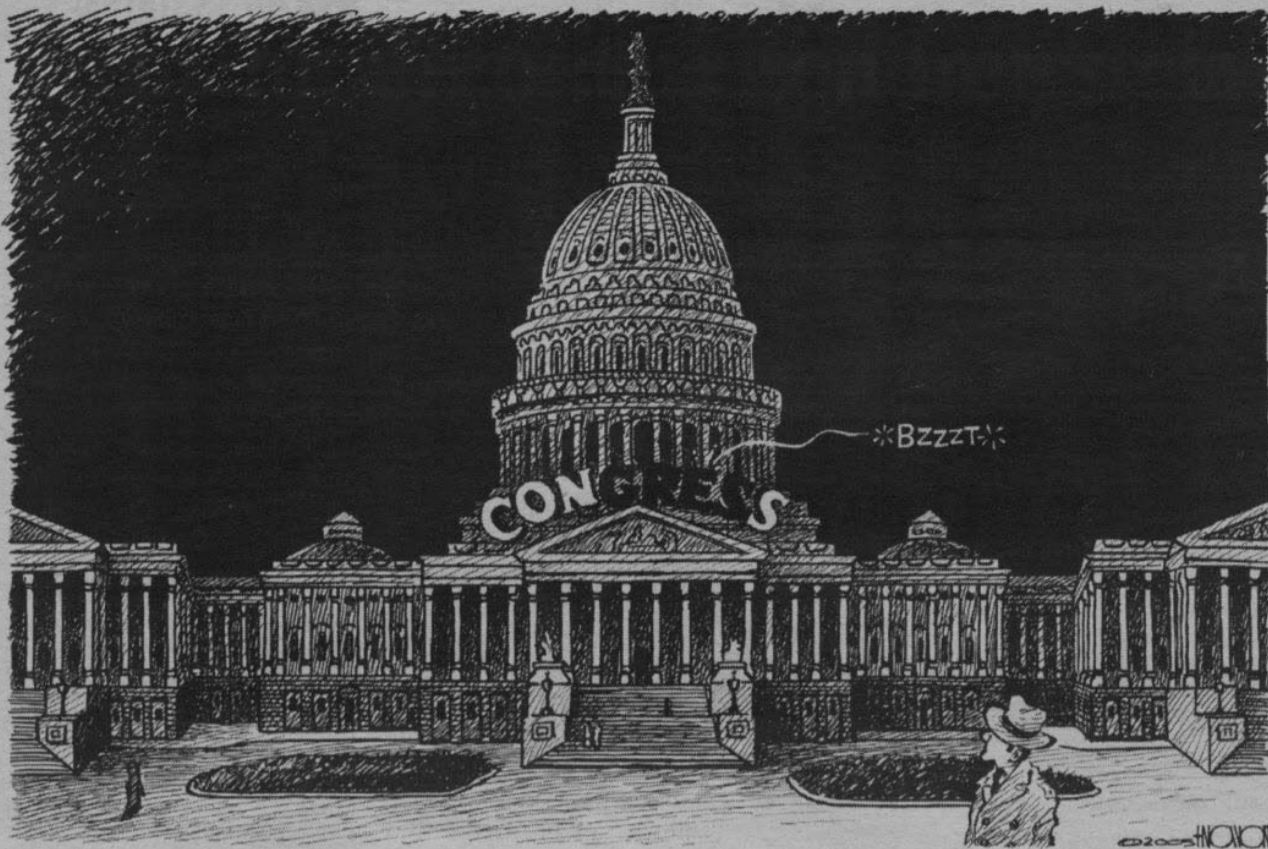
commuter@linnbenton.edu

Advertising Department: commuterads@linnbenton.edu

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

OPINION

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



Got an opinion? Tell me about it!

Dan Wise
 The Commuter

It has now been a year since I restarted my education at LBCC and a term since I started as editor of The Commuter. I cannot say I am sorry for either decision, although there have been isolated moments when I doubted my sanity. I have been truly lucky to have a staff at the paper that is both easy to get along with and very professional. An amazing advisor, Rich Bergeman, has kept the paper on course and off the rocks while letting us make it our own. In the future, my staff and I plan to build on what I consider a very successful paper.

This term we plan to institute a couple of new features. Our trusty (and opinionated) Opinion Editor will be taking on all comers in a Point-Counterpoint type section on the Op/Ed page. We welcome you to enter a debate with Walt on whatever topic you choose. With the cultural and age diversity of this school, there should

be some strong differing opinions, and we would like to hear them.

Because many of us occasionally feel lost in this complicated world, the paper has (at great expense) procured the services of an individual famous for wise and compassionate advice. If Ann Landers has failed you and Penthouse is just not your style, try sending your problems to The Commuter for a solution. You will find details on the Funny Bones page.

This week, the Perspectives question asks what you think should be in the paper. I am serious about hearing what interests you. It does no good to publish a paper you don't want to read. Let me know your opinions, complaints, suggestions and what you like about The Commuter. Send your thoughts to commuter@linnbenton.edu.

Here we go, diving into another term. Keep an eye on the paper for information on what is happening on campus and locally. We look forward to interacting with the LBCC community and reflecting its rich diversity.

Cavin: Students can make a difference

◀ From Pg. 1

I encourage you to lead a healthy life with physical activity and good nutrition. I encourage you to avoid substances that will hurt your body, such as tobacco and drugs

You may also have read that Oregon has over 11,000 homeless children in our school system plus many more homeless children under the age of five who are not tracked in our public education system. There are so many ways to help. Linn-Benton Community College sponsors coat drives, food drives, United Way campaigns, and our Winter Festival for community children. Find ways at the college to be part of the solution. Think about a rewarding career in preschool education or teaching and then be the kind of teacher who cares deeply about the welfare of children. Be involved with scouting, The Boys and Girls Club, or other community and religious organizations that nurture the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community. Be the best parent you can be.

If you are still undecided about your career choice growing career fields in the Willamette Valley include health careers, computer science and technology, manufacturing, agriculture, and engineering. However, all of those require strong math skills.

Many students struggle with college mathematics requirements, but they are there for a purpose. We want LBCC graduates to be confident in their ability to use their understanding of mathematics to make wise financial decisions, to understand statistics and probability, and to be competent employees. I encourage you to look at your math classes as a way to become a more confident person—one who is able to make good personal decisions about mortgages, car loans, and interest rates.

LBCC is currently raising funds to improve the capacity and quality of our science labs because they are critical to preparing our students for the world we live in. A recent article in the news stated that one-fifth of Americans erroneously believe the sun rotates around the Earth, even though we have known that it is the reverse for over four hundred years. Oregon cannot survive in a global economy of science and technology if its citizens don't understand basic scientific concepts and the importance of research.

I hope you gain a deep appreciation for the contribution science makes to your daily life and to eradicating the burdens of hunger and disease around the world. There is a small, successful company in Albany that can create drinkable water out of contaminated puddles in Iraq—helping people survive in areas with limited potable water. Consider joining the tradition of scientific investigation and discovery.

Employers are also asking the college to help our students develop good team working skills. Large organizations, such as Intel, are organized into small groups of five or six people who work together every day as an interdependent and independent team, responsible for their own productivity and accuracy. Smaller organizations need employees who are flexible and have demonstrated the ability to work with other people. Use your time at LBCC to build a portfolio of experiences working with other students—in labs and classrooms, in clubs, in performance groups and in sports.

William Butler Yeats said that education is not a bucket to be filled, but a fire to be ignited. I hope that your time at Linn-Benton Community College ignites your creativity and inspires you to exceed your own expectations, to tackle new goals and to be amazed when you accomplish them. Happy New Year.

PERSPECTIVES

What do you want out of your newspaper?



Brittaini Hawthorne
 Biology

"I don't know how well I can answer that because I just moved here, but every time I go to get one, the stands are empty so it must be pretty good."



Bard Hoag
 Chemical Engineering

"I don't read the paper"



Shannon Judge
 Political Science

"I would like to see more articles about issues and politics and what's going on in the country."



Marc Miskowic
 Enviromental Tech.

"I like it. I'm happy with the format. I think it's balanced—not too much or little of anything."



Judy Allen
 Office Specialist

"Like when people get initiated into clubs, not just sports or opinions. What's going on in the school and how to get in touch with club leaders."



Norma Kinney
 Legal Admin. Assistant

"Talk to people around campus and have more personal things. Maybe a list of the clubs."

Compiled by Kyla Hoyt

Managing Editor:
Jennifer Overholser
commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Learning Center bans cell phones

Harrison White
The Commuter

The LBCC Learning Center's testing area has a new policy regarding cell phones.

Cell phones have always been prohibited in the testing area, but in the past some students have brought them in, turned off. Now, if students are found with cell phones, their tests will be pulled and a written note will be left with the test, allowing the instructor to decide the next step.

Cheating by using cell phones is the next generation of students' attempt to cut corners, according to a Contra Coast Times article in February 2004. According to the article, one math teacher was shown a picture of a question from a previous term's test. The student sending the photograph apparently asked another student for the answer sent back in another picture.

Cell phones can be used to store electronic notes, call or text message other students, or even to take a picture of the test. At a high school in Salinas, Calif., as well as the University of Maryland, students have used the electronic devices to cheat on tests, according to an article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in

October 2004.

In the interest of consistency, the Learning Center staff has begun treating cell phones like any other unauthorized aid found in the testing area, according to Lynn Trimpe, Learning Center co-coordinator. If a student is found with a cell phone, he or she is not asked what he is doing with it; the Learning Center staff doesn't particularly care, says Program Assistant Anne Green. The test is simply taken from the offender, and a notation made. The test is then returned to the instructor to deal with as they see fit.

"We have to take them away, to help keep people more honest," says Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia, Learning Center co-coordinator. With cell phone technology, a student taking the test earlier may give an advantage to others, she said. "You'd get four or five hours more time to prepare. The quality would seem higher, but that wouldn't really be the case."

In an article last December in the Binghamton University student newspaper, Pipe Dream, some students reported they feel that the burden of finals warrants cheating. At LBCC, Green says that during midterms the testing area's staff can find cheaters at least once a day.

There's a better way to prepare for a test, says Wimbley-Gouveia—mastery of the materials. "A student should pay attention to the instructor's cues, lectures, syllabus, text questions; create his own test questions and exchange them; and practice the material. If you do, when you go in to take your test, you'll be pleased."

Students who feel the need to cheat have a variety of other options available. In the Learning Center instructional assistants are available, and seminars are offered on test-taking strategies and overcoming test anxiety in the coming weeks.



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

Security Officer (#3934, Philomath) Want to work on the weekends? This position does roving patrols on foot at a mill site. Pay is \$8.50/hr and work is approx. 20 hrs/week.

Delivery Person (#3945, Corvallis) This part-time job needs someone who is available a minimum of 12:30-4:30 on Mon-Fri to pick up and deliver office documents. You must have your own transportation and the pay is \$12/hr plus mileage reimbursement!

Screen Printer (3937, Philomath) If you are looking for a full-time or almost full-time job, this 8am to 2 or 3pm job helping with the production of printing shirts is for you. Pays \$8-10/hr DOE.

Meter Reader (#3949, Albany) Full-time job working in the Central Willamette Valley driving a vehicle and walking long distances. Pay is a great \$16.82/hr and continues up to a year.

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

DU

Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission.

Holidays come early for Radiology Tech Program

Robert Wong
The Commuter

Over the winter break, LBCC's Radiological Technology Program received an early Christmas present in the form of a \$560,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, according to an LBCC press release.

The grant will go toward advancing the existing Rad. Tech. program into a statewide Community College Partnership Program as part of a federally

funded \$125 million Community-Based Job Training Grant that will support 70 community college job-training programs nationwide.

Rad techs prepare patients for radiological examinations by taking and examining X-rays or applying more advanced techniques to look at a patient, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Web page. The web page went on to note that the future job outlook for rad tech students is favorable, due to

the increasing number of senior citizens that will need rad tech service in the next few years.

Ten of Oregon's community colleges will join together to educate students in untapped regions where rad techs are in demand and needed, LBCC Workforce Education and Training Division dean Ann Malosh said. A portion of LBCC's grant will go toward providing rad tech education to Oregon's rural, coastal, and remote suburban regions statewide. "Community

colleges and healthcare facility partnerships form an essential component of the teacher/mentor clinical model utilized for this program," said Malosh.

The grant will also go toward funding a new room in the Health and Training Center at Samaritan Health Services in Lebanon, the press release noted. New digital equipment, a full-time staff member and software will make the room suitable for LBCC rad tech distance education in Lebanon.

NSH: Wireless added

◀ FoPg

Internet access last week at a table in the second-story area above the building entrance. Previously, she had mostly used her laptop at the Hot Shot Student Union Coffeehouse and the Courtyard Café. She said she appreciated the increased outlet access as well as the atmosphere of the new building.

"It has so much more aesthetic value than other buildings at LBCC," she said. "Ability that is a lot more inviting." She said she likes the color on the walls and that she feels better about waiting for the bus for an hour.

Ruppert explained that the Arts and Communication Department was able to provide input into the design of the building. He acted as a liaison between the architect and the department.

The suggestions related to color and use of space on the inside and outside of the building. The courtyard tile design, entrance art display space and deep red walls reflect some of the faculty suggestions.

Ruppert emphasized that the

additional display space will allow for separate shows to be displayed at the same time, which would allow for more student shows as well as more from outside. The first show planned for NSH will be an Oregon faculty invitational.

In addition, Spain said that the display space would allow for a tribute to history instructor Michael Weiss, who passed away over winter break because of a brain tumor. Through his travels around the world he acquired a large number of artifacts and Spain is glad there is a place where many of them can be displayed. "There actually is a place that's inviting artistic things to happen," she said.

Inside the entrance to the building there is a circular opening to the second floor where there will be a hanging sculpture designed by students, of eight octagonal panels that feature the artwork of 16 students. Each panel will have a quote in the middle. The sculpture will be up by the building's grand opening on February 23 at 4 p.m.

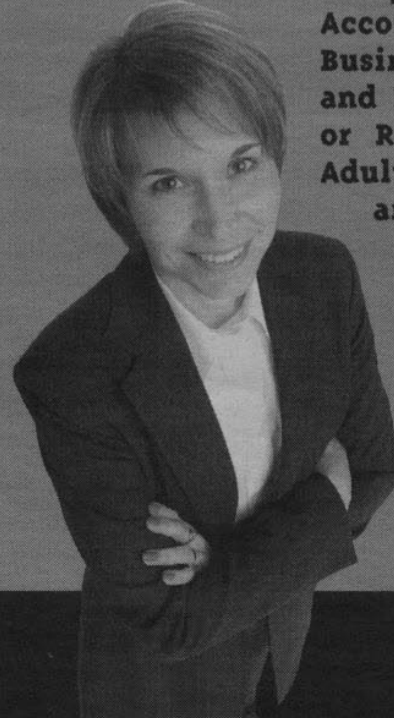
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commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Michael Weiss succumbs to cancer, passes into history

Melissa Chaney
The Commuter

After an extensive career as an instructor and a friend of students and staff at LBCC, Michael Arthur Weiss passed away of a brain tumor on Dec. 31, 2005.

His wife Elaine and son Max survive him, along with his two sisters and mother. His funeral took place on Jan. 3 and he was buried at the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. LBCC was well represented at his memorial service, according to Elaine. "There were two whole rows full of LB people," she said.

Weiss was born in the Bronx, N.Y. in 1945 to a Jewish family and had two older sisters. He earned his bachelor's degree at Hunter College, a master's degree in psychology from Michigan State University and another master's in history from the University of Oregon. Although he started out teaching fifth graders in Harlem, he moved to Southern Oregon in 1972 and to Eugene in 1984.

Weiss taught the history of western civilization, American history and the history of Latin America to hundreds of students during his 16 years at LB.

Many knew him for integrating his experiences from travel abroad into his slide show and video presentations, ancient artifacts and period clothing into his classroom.

Weiss' wife Elaine said that there have been many expressions of sympathy from those who knew Michael. One came from an LB student with a business major, who said that she took four of his classes because she enjoyed them and that Weiss had enriched her life.

Doug Clark, an LB political science and history instructor, knew and worked with Weiss since he first started teaching here.

Since they both taught history they developed courses and did much of their work together. "He was a unique guy when it came to the classroom," said Clark. "His style was unique to him—centered on trying to make the experience as tangible as possible for students."

Many have commented on Weiss' sharp wit. According to sociology instructor Arfa Aflatooni, "he was a great conversationalist and thinker. He also had a great sense of humor." Gary Westford also noted that Weiss has a "really wonderful wit, subtle but filled with intellect."

Weiss traveled extensively during his lifetime. He trekked all over the world from England, France, Mexico and Canada to Egypt, Athens and the Netherlands. "He also explored the U.S. with a historian's eye," said Aflatooni. He collected many artifacts over the years:

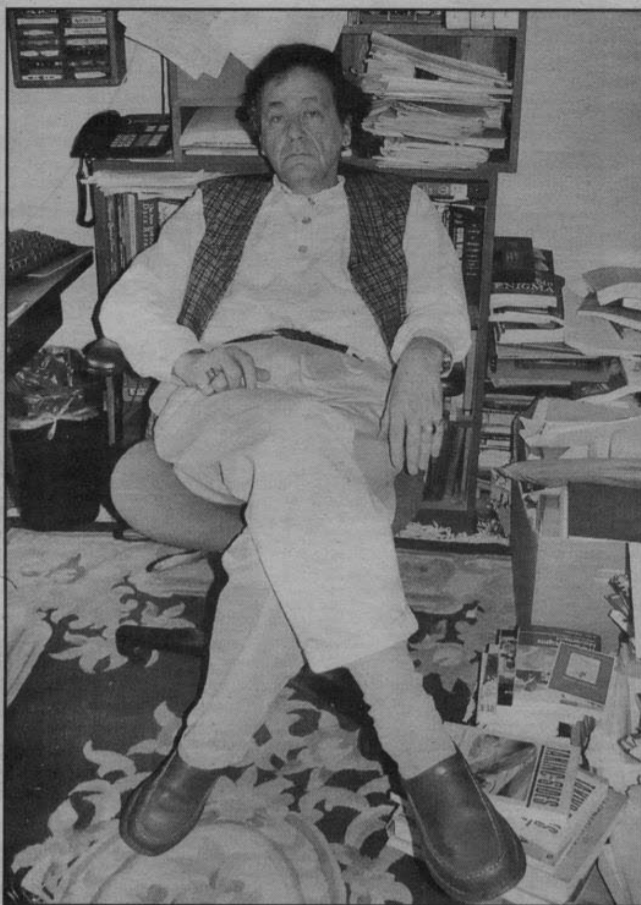


photo by Melissa Chaney

History instructor Michael Weiss in his characteristically cluttered office in spring of 2005.

"A person's passing makes you think about your own missed chances...and perhaps that might motivate you to make your own life more meaningful."

Arfa Aflatooni

roman coins, pocket watches, etc., and Gary Westford is planning on an exhibit case in North Santiam Hall in which to display them in Weiss's memory.

Aflatooni, who knew Weiss for around seven years and was with him as he passed away. "I think every time...a close friend dies you immediately think of that person's imprint on the world and also your own mortality. A person's passing makes you think about your own missed chances...and perhaps that might motivate you to make your own life more meaningful."

STUDENTS REMEMBER MICHAEL

A Solemn Departure

The anachronism that you are
Stand tall, stand proud
The mind rested in your corner
You questioned, and your tenacity paid off.
You speak to the past
As if it were candid
What the past gave you
You gave back to the world
For that, we owe you a debt
For which we repay by keeping the past
Don't you worry my friend.
Your messiah will come.

Ryan Callagan

He Was of a Different Time

He was of a different time,
Not decades, try centuries.
He helped Sumer irrigate our minds,
While wearing lace cuffs.

When Rome fell, he laughed,
Chaos reigned all around.
But he knew his people, Chosen
Would be there after dust.

He was a torchlight
Through the Darkest of Ages.
Showed us Byzantine treasures,
And Norman conquests.

As Islam in Spain declined,
So did he- the flames
Of his mind went cold,
And time stood still.

He was a fighter, we knew,
Blatantly unafraid.
Battles were his favorite stories.
With exploration, Reformation, he returned.

Next term, Enlightened,
We philosophized.
Locke and Rousseau toppled Kings,
Revolts turned earth upside down.

The world almost ended
In Germany and Japan.
How could I know
His war was losing?

If one wish could be mine
Lay him with Pharaohs, in lace cuffs.
In 5000 years they'll find him,
Still there after dust.

Laura Warden-Camp

Math T-shirt contest features cash prize

The Commuter Staff

A contest for the best T-shirt design for Math Awareness Week is open to administration, students, faculty and staff.

The theme is "Math is a MAZE-ing!" It must fit on the front of a

T-shirt and is limited to 8.5-by-11 inches and three colors including grey tones. The design should include the words "Math Awareness Week," LBCC or LBC², a design appropriate to the theme and 2006 hidden in the design. Designs are due by Jan. 30 at 4

p.m., and should be an electronic image. Images may be turned into the Learning Center or to jeff.crabill@linnbenton.edu.

Prizes are \$50 and two T-shirts with your design, and the winner will be announced shortly after Spring Break.

Speaker explains how to clean up the clutter

Aaron Broich
The Commuter

It's often assumed that organized people are born organized, but organization skills take time to be developed, according to Helen Tedder, a business consultant in the Corvallis area.

Tedder gave a presentation in the Fireside Room last Wednesday about steps to straightening up our homes and talked about her business, Clutterbusters. Her talk focused on the enormous amount of paper invading

our homes and the problem of overly cluttered closets.

"Clutter isn't just about the state of your home, it's about the state of your life," she said. Her advice is to put papers in one place once they get past the front door. She spends three minutes a day going through mail to discard, and gives catalogs up to a week to capture her interest before she recycles them. On Sundays she spends 30 minutes dealing with bills. Some of her advice for closets is to discard wire hangers for thicker plastic

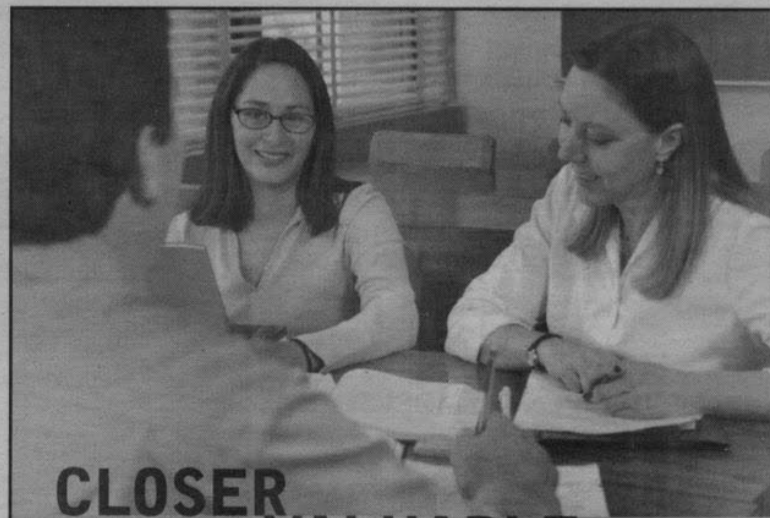
ones and to color coordinate different sections of clothing items.

Tedder handed out a brochure with a series of statements to determine if your house is cluttered, including:

- I have drawers in my home I have to shake for the clutter to settle before I can open them.

- I wear the same clothes that fill one-third of my closet and haven't worn the other two-thirds in over a year.

- I find souvenirs from places I can't remember going to.



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Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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SPORTS

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

All-star games aren't what they used to be

It's almost that time of year again, when sports fans can do nothing but complain and constantly remark about how certain players aren't getting the respect they deserve. Well, that's actually all year long, but February marks the beginning of the all-star season and a time for agonizingly boring all-star festivities.

All-star games and their festivities are not what they once were. I remember a time when the slam-dunk competition had basketball's greatest leapers, the NFL's fastest man contest included all of the fastest wide receivers and defensive backs, the NHL's fastest skater was actually its fastest skater, and the Home Run Derby featured only baseball's elite power hitters.

Well, those days seem long gone as the all-star game itself fails to feature a majority of the original players who were voted into it in the first place.

Slam-dunk contestants haven't portrayed an original idea since Cedric Ceballos' blindfolded jam. And during the game, all-stars throw defense completely out the window. NFL pro bowlers make the trip to Hawaii for vacationing only. They claim to be nursing post-season injuries, but they just don't want to waste their time playing in a meaningless game that doesn't allow blitzing, between two unmotivated and chemistry-less teams filled with alternates.

While hockey pits America against the World, or East versus West, or just plain cancels everything, baseball always manages to keep tradition alive with its NL versus AL summer classic. Then the game ends in a meaningless tie. At least Major League Baseball made the game meaningful by awarding the winning league home field advantage in the World Series, but until other leagues make these exhibitions worthwhile, we are going to continue seeing the same uninspired play. All-star games not only put high-profile athletes at risk of injury, but it also put viewers at risk of boredom and disappointment. These annual events no longer showcase each sport's finest athletes and their abilities, they just model the latest league licensed apparel now available for purchase.

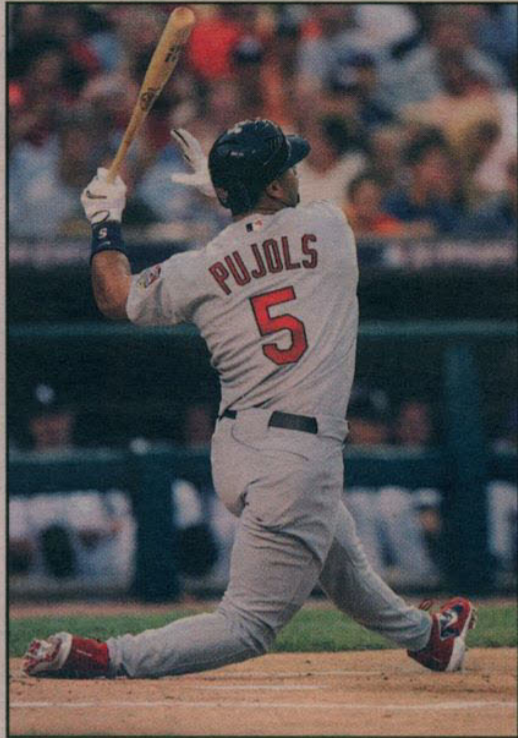


JAKE ROSENBERG

had basketball's greatest leapers, the NFL's fastest man contest included all of the fastest wide receivers and defensive backs, the NHL's fastest skater was actually its fastest skater, and the Home Run Derby featured only baseball's elite power hitters.

Well, those days seem long gone as the all-star game

FACE OFF



KRT photo

All-star games feature each sport's highest profile athletes, such as NL MVP Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals, and their abilities. They also risk injury if they actually decide to participate.

Fans get to have their say in all-star balloting

Are all-star games good for sports? I think they are. All-star games provide the one time during a sports season where the fans get a lot of say. We can go online or vote from our cell phones for the players we feel are deserving of being named an all-star.

Do the best or most deserving players always go? Maybe not always, but if fans want to see one of their favorite players play in the all-star game, then they get to vote to make that happen.

I don't know about everyone else, but my dream job is to be a general manager in the NFL and put together my own dream team. The all-star games I regularly watch are those for the MLB, NBA and NFL games. All three organizations try to do everything to make it better for the fans. The MLB even designed it so the winning team gets home field advantage in the World Series. Knowing that the players and the head people running the professional sports organizations care just as much as me about all-star games lets me know it's going to be a great game every year.

I mean, after all, aren't the fans the ones who buy tickets to go see games and put money in the owners' pockets to pay player's salaries and such? The all-star game is set up for the fans. The coaches coach the game to win but also they try to get every player in the all-star game to participate. It's a game where everyone can just have fun—the coaches, the players and the fans. Where else would we get to see Dirk, Garnett, Duncan and other dominant post players all on the court at the same time, or see such great moments like Shaq bringing the ball up the court. In addition, coaches can do creative things that they normally wouldn't try in a real game.

The events that take place during the all-star weekends are just as fun to watch. The three-point shooting contest, the dunk contest, the homerun contest, the quarterback skills challenge and others are part of what make all-star weekends legendary. Players get a chance to be forever remembered for a terrific array of dunks, or for homeruns getting consistently slammed out of the park. As I see it, professional sports can never improve by taking away the all-star games.



NEAL JONES

Seahawks to play Panthers for Super Bowl berth

Jake Rosenberg
The Commuter

A mediocre first round of the 2006 NFL playoffs led to a Divisional round that more than made up for the less than wild Wild-Card weekend the previous week. On Saturday, the Washington Redskins rode a six game winning streak into Seattle, following a 17-10 playoff victory over Tampa Bay and gave the number one seed Seahawks a scare. Seattle escaped

with a 20-10 win, their first playoff victory since the 1984 season, but not before losing NFL MVP Shaun Alexander to a concussion in the first quarter.

It will be the Panthers' second NFC title game in three years, following their defeat of Chicago on the road Sunday night. Wide receiver Steve Smith led Carolina to the 29-21 victory with 218 yards and two touchdowns on 12 catches.

Another aerial attack on display Sunday came as Peyton Manning and the

AFC top-seed Colts hosted the sixth-seed Pittsburgh Steelers. A steady rush of steel curtain blitzes held Indianapolis to only 3 points through the first three-quarters of play, before two Indy touchdown passes narrowed the margin to 21-18. That's how it would end though, as veteran kicker Mike Vanderjagt missed the field goal for a tie. It was his first playoff miss inside the RCA dome.

Saturday night saw another of the NFL's elite fall as defending champion

New England lost in Denver 27-13. Tom Brady lost his first ever playoff game after ten tries, despite throwing for 341 yards. It was Brady's two costly interceptions along with three other Patriot turnovers that negated the Pats' quest to be the first team to 'three-peat' in the 40-year history of the Super Bowl.

Denver will now host Pittsburgh in the AFC title game when they play Sunday at noon on CBS. Carolina will then play at Seattle at 3:30 p.m. on FOX.

HORTICULTURE CLUB

OFFERS OPEN MEMBERSHIP

This Is A Great Opportunity To Learn About Our Bio-sphere and Exploring Possibilities Of Promoting Others, Well-being.

Next meeting is January 18th
12:00 Noon
at the LBCC Campus Greenhouse

Or Contact:

jasonkratz3@aol.com (president)



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SPORTS

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

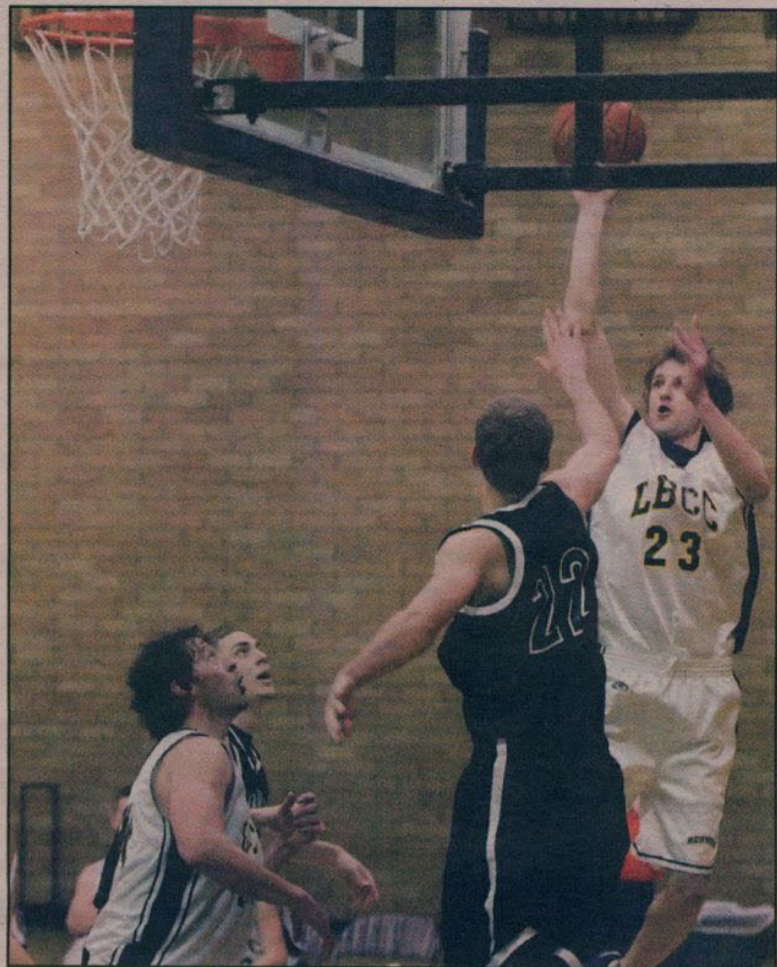


photo by Erik Swanson

Linn-Benton forward Kyle Johnson attempts a shot over a Chemeketa defender in Saturday's game. The Runners lost the game 86-74 after defeating SWOCC in their home opener Wednesday.

Roadrunners begin league play with comeback against Lakers

Caleb Hawley
 The Commuter

The Linn-Benton Road Runners (8-8, 1-1 NWAACC South) men's basketball team opened league competition at home last week against the Southwestern Oregon Lakers (8-7, 0-2) and the Chemeketa Storm (9-6, 1-1), going 1-1 with a win over SWOCC on Wednesday followed by a loss to a solid Chemeketa team on Saturday.

"I've been very pleased with what is going on," Head Coach Randy Falk commented about his team, which is now 8-8 overall. "Our guys are learning our system very quickly. We are coming together really well as a team. Our team chemistry is very good. Our defense continues to get stronger every game we play."

Wednesday night the Runners battled from a first half deficit of nine points against SWOCC

"I've been very pleased with what is going on. Our guys are learning our system very quickly. We are coming together really well as a team."

Coach Randy Falk

to get their first league victory of the season by outscoring the Lakers 38-25 in the second half for a 76-72 victory.

Strong offensive play from Ryan Pool and Derek Grinnell helped lift the Runners to their win.

Pool and Grinnell combined for 40 points and collectively shot 81 percent from the field. Kyle Johnson also added 6 assists.

The Runners weren't as fortunate Saturday night against Chemeketa, however. The Storm controlled the game from the

beginning to the end. At one point the Storm built a lead of 22 points in the first half and led the Runners 43-27 at the break.

Early in the second half the Runners made a surge to cut into the deficit, trimming the lead to just nine. This surge held up only for a moment, however, before the Storm regained control of the game and went onto an 86-74 victory.

Pool once again had a big night, amassing a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Three other Runners scored in double digits—Grinnell with 10, Alex Stockner with 12 and Kyle Masten with 20. Masten scored 18 of his 20 points from beyond the 3-point arc, hitting six long-range jumpers.

"Chemeketa is a very good team," Falk said. "We have played better than what we showed tonight, and I expect that we will play better the next time we see them again."

Lady Runners open league 1-1

Steven Farrens
 The Commuter

The women's basketball team faced one tough opponent after another during winter break, culminating in a disappointing 4-10 pre-season record, but the start of league play last week may have turned their fortunes around.

In the opening league game Wednesday, Simrin Cummins led the team against SWOCC, shooting 8-13 from the field for 19 points. The added offensive output of Molly Fillion (14 points), Jennifer Fillion (10) and Rebekah Welch (10) contributed heavily to the 69-64 victory. SWOCC fought back the entire game with three-point shot attempts on nearly every possession, but the Roadrunner defense held firm, especially in the final minutes, when the Lakers attempted a final run. Forward Sarah Long captured 10 rebounds in the victory.

While the victory restored much of the team's confidence, the squad couldn't manage a consecutive victory on Saturday against Chemeketa.

Welch had 13 points and 7 steals in the defeat, while teammate Fillion supported the squad with 12 points and 8 rebounds. The loss dropped the Roadrunners to 1-1 in league, tied with SWOCC (8-6), Umpqua (12-4), and Lane (17-1).

Chemeketa and Clackamas lead the division with two-league opening wins each.

The Roadrunners compete against Lane in Eugene tonight, hoping to unfold an upset and improve to 2-1 in league.



photo by Erik Swanson

The Runners' Emily Wood fights for possession Saturday versus Chemeketa in a game LB lost 69-52.

scoreboard					
Men	STANDINGS		Women		
	League	Overall	League	Overall	
Lane	2-0	7-9	Chemeketa	2-0	5-8
Mt. Hood	1-1	12-5	Clackamas	2-0	12-3
Clackamas	2-0	13-3	Lane	1-1	17-1
Chemeketa	1-1	9-6	Linn-Benton	1-1	5-11
Linn-Benton	1-1	8-8	SWOCC	1-1	8-6
Portland	1-1	9-8	Umpqua	1-1	12-4
SWOCC	0-2	8-7	Mt. Hood	0-2	2-11
Umpqua	0-2	2-13	Portland	0-2	6-9

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Jan. 18	Lane	Eugene	W-5:30 M-7:30
Jan. 21	Portland	Portland	W-4:00 M-6:00
Jan. 25	Mt. Hood	Gresham	W-5:30 M-7:30
Jan. 28	Clackamas	Albany	W-4:00 M-6:00

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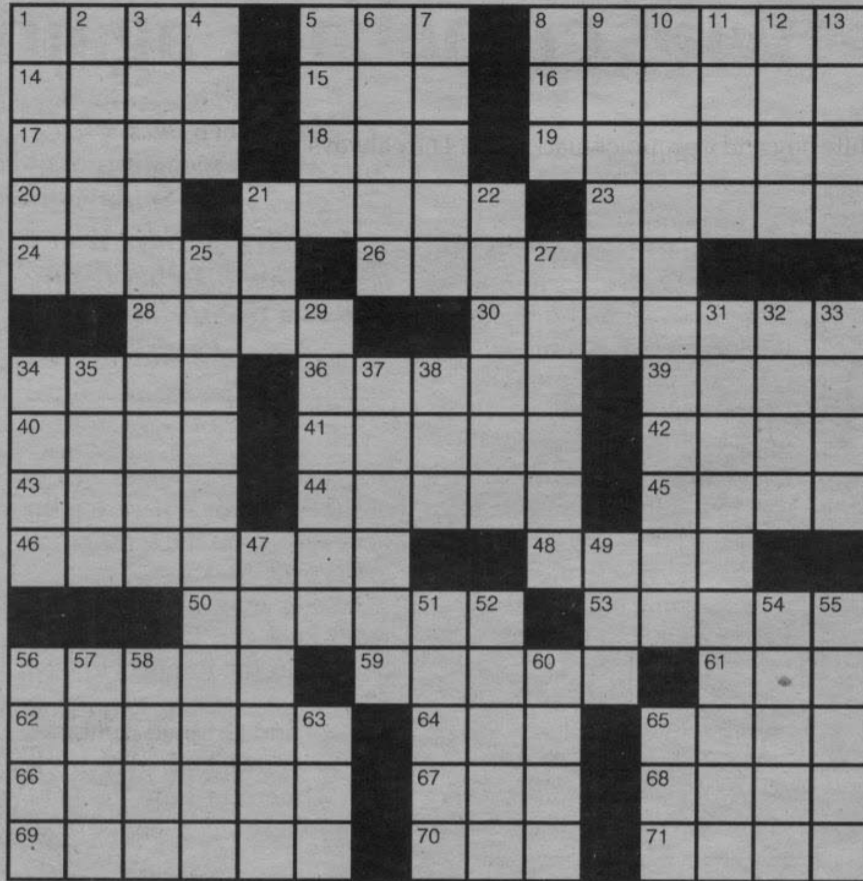
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FUNNY BONES

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

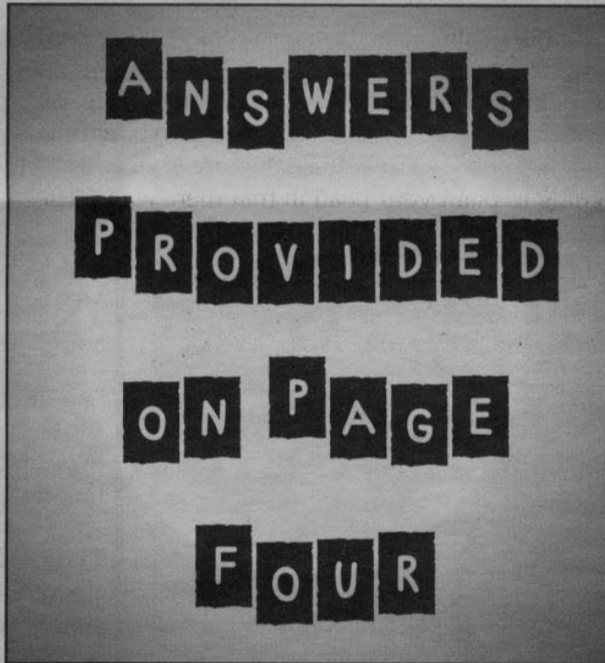
Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Secluded valley
 - 5 Period
 - 8 Dissuades
 - 14 Radames' love
 - 15 Mama's boy
 - 16 Lined up
 - 17 Pass over
 - 18 Small thickset dog
 - 19 North or South state
 - 20 Touch tenderly
 - 21 Heavenly harpist
 - 23 Untidy
 - 24 Schnoz
 - 26 Obliterates
 - 28 Contrite one
 - 30 Prepares shoes for removal
 - 34 Do not include
 - 36 Scarlett
 - 39 One and only
 - 40 Two-headed
 - 41 Tyrone of films
 - 42 Big brass instrument
 - 43 Guernsey or Anglesey
 - 44 Empress of Byzantium
 - 45 Sketch artist
 - 46 Homemaker, in a way
 - 48 Wood and Silver
 - 50 Letter flourishes
 - 53 Milk snake
 - 56 Sticks it out
 - 59 Laundry appliance
 - 61 Night before
 - 62 Divvies up
 - 64 One Gershwin
 - 65 Jacket or collar type
 - 66 Sound system
 - 67 Broadcast
 - 68 Manufacture
 - 69 Seed scatterers
 - 70 Fled
 - 71 Utah team
- DOWN**
- 1 Abrupt breaths
 - 2 Compare
 - 3 Newspaper opinions
 - 4 Forty winks
 - 5 "Baseball Tonight" stn.
 - 6 Blusher
 - 7 Enrage
 - 8 Accomplished
 - 9 Tooth coat
 - 10 Defends one's position
 - 11 Aphrodite's child
 - 12 Deteriorates
 - 13 Influence
 - 21 Took lunch
 - 22 Ambrose or Bacall
 - 25 Bargain-mall tenant
 - 27 Trapper
 - 29 Stringier
 - 31 Violent political acts
 - 32 Dresden's river
 - 33 Cauterize
 - 34 Norse god
 - 35 Meditate
 - 37 Gruesome
 - 38 Overwhelm
 - 47 "A Hard Day's Night" director Richard
 - 49 Rower's requirement
 - 51 Tuck, for one
 - 52 Assad's country
 - 54 Call forth
 - 55 Coty and Clair
 - 56 Bonny girl
 - 57 Glee club member
 - 58 Offed
 - 60 Merit
 - 63 Mayday!
 - 65 Flightless bird



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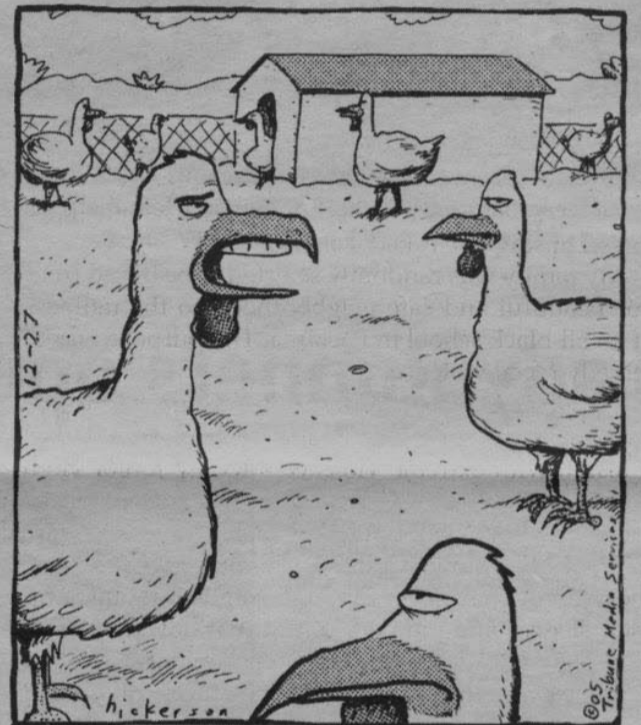
1/16/06



Got Questions?
Need Answers?

Ask Isabelle

Send your questions to
ask_isabelle@hotmail.com



"OH! So I'm paranoid, eh? Lemme ask you THIS, Mr. Peace-of-Mind: Does the fact that we're called BROILERS alarm you at all?"

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons

Nov. 16 - Nov. 22

Wednesday:

ENTREES: Baked Stuffed Snapper; Braised Lamb; Rommali Roti (flat bread) w/Curried Vegetables
SIDES: Steamed New Potatoes w/Fine Herbs; Glazed Carrots & Turnip
SOUPS: Gazpacho; Cream of Broccoli

Thursday:

ENTREES: Lemon Chicken w/Steamed Rice; Pork Lyonnaise - Stuffed pork chop on a bed of caramelized onions; Huevos Rancheros
SIDES: Mashed Potatoes; Cauliflower w/Cheddar Cheese Sauce
SOUPS: Grilled Vegetable Beef; Beer Cheese

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday:

ENTREES: Chicken Kiev; Phad Thai; Portabella Mushrooms topped w/Spinach, a Poached Egg & Bernaise Sauce w/Rice
SIDES: Rice Pilaf; Jardiniere of Vegetables
SOUPS: Cream of Broccoli; Italian Sausage

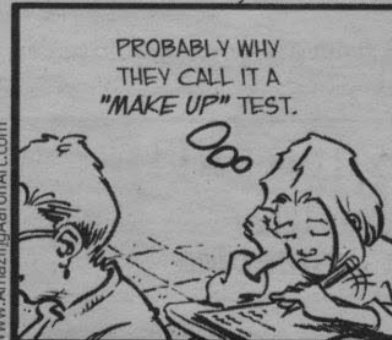
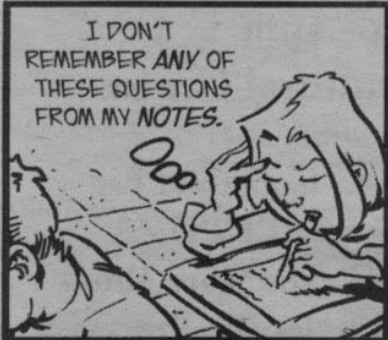
Tuesday:

ENTREES: Hungarian Chicken; Vietnamese Steak Wraps; Vegetable Lasagna
SIDES: Roasted Red Potatoes; Batonet of Root Vegetables
SOUPS: Paysanne Marmite; Vegetarian Tomato

Weekly Menu

A College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner



...Fun Facts...

- The first couple to be shown in bed together on primetime TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.
- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.
- Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.
- The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska

Managing Editor: Jennifer Overholser
commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. came to life on the day he died

Sherry Majeski
The Commuter

Every day for me was guarded at McClay Junior High School. I had to run from class to class, always watching my back, gripping my books and purse close to my body. If I didn't run I would get beat up. I was among the 1 percent white in an all black school, which had been ethnically segregated.

This school was known as Little Africa in Shadow Hills, where I lived in the suburbs of north Los Angeles County during the late 1960s. Our home nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and they moved us miles away.

Spurred by the passage of the Civil Right's Act in 1964, and Watts Riots in 1965 interracial desegregation was underway and busing was one of the proponents of the plan to integrate students to schools outside their residential area into an ethnically segregated school system. This plan was called desegregation busing or forced busing. We called it hell.

My family was randomly selected to be bused from our beautiful and safe neighborhood to the ugliness of an all-black school in Pacoima. The purpose was to remedy racial violence.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King came to life to me. He was assassinated and we were assaulted as a result, with extreme violence. McClay Junior High School had rioted. The school buses had arrived to take the whites home, but not before many "honkies" were injured. My younger sister and brother were among the injured. They never ran from a fight, but pulled up their sleeves and jumped in. But that day, they were extremely outnumbered. Many of the white kids had skimmed the fence, and I ran to the office, only to find that even the staff and faculty were being assaulted.

Turned into my memory was my first day at McClay Junior High. Upon arrival, a huge crowd of blacks greeted our bus ready to fight. To say the least, we were caught off guard when we were jumped and robbed of our pride. They grabbed my book bag and purse, and rifled through them, dumping their contents on the ground. They opened my lipstick and smeared it all over my face and ripped out my earrings. My lunch was taken and stomped. There were teachers there, but they were of little help because they posed no threat.

I was small and skinny, with big strawberry blonde hair, which intrigued the black boys. I never thought I was a cute girl, but the black boys did, therefore the black girls hated me; because the boys didn't. There, I was the minority. My brother always tried to protect me, and loved to fight, only these fights were off balance,

one white boy and a group of black boys. They always ran in groups ready to fight.

A couple of boys would corner me and try to kiss and grope me. When the girls caught up with the action, they would clear off the boys and then they would jump me.

My brother and sister always jumped in, and it erupted into a bigger fight. Often when the staff arrived, the blacks would clear out and we got hauled into the office for questioning. If we gave names, we would surely get jumped again.

Thinking back on it now, I was really quite lucky. I saw one white girl get jumped by several black

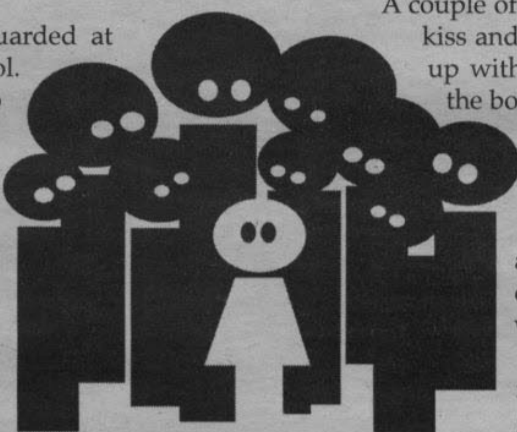


illustration by elizabeth beckham

girls. Her clothes were ripped off and shredded with a knife, and then she was chased around the school naked. This was their idea of fun. I was way too shy to live through that kind of humiliation. I was often bruised, but no serious injuries; just scared. When you are constantly running scared, you can't get much out of school. My grades were bad.

I saw staff assaulted when they tried to break things up. Staff, faculty and principals were constantly resigning. I can't remember having one teacher stay long enough to complete the class. I remember specifically a new young teacher in math and the blacks tormented her and she was gone before you knew it.

One of the black girls lifted her skirt, blamed me for it and the teacher was too scared to question it, but she knew it wasn't me. One of their favorite sayings was, "I'm going to plant your head in that there wall." The replacement teacher was just as harassed.

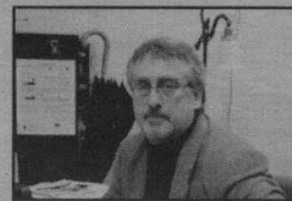
It wasn't until after King's assassination that we were finally allowed to go to another school. After that riot, my father had kept us out of school, refusing to send us back to that hellhole. My sister had suffered a fractured collarbone and my brother suffered a concussion. I was unharmed, but frightened. My father was trying to get us into other schools, but because of the busing laws, we were denied admission. So he kept us home and he was soon visited by the truant officers and Dad was arrested. I don't remember all the exact details and my father is not alive to tell me, but all I knew was somehow we were admitted into Sepulveda Junior High School, for a short while, then we were returned to McClay. My father had considered selling our home and moving to another city, but busing went on everywhere and there was no guarantee that we would not be bused again. I remained at McClay until I graduated to high school. My younger brother and sister eventually got moved to another school.

To the best of my memory, because of my siblings' injuries my father filed some kind of suit and got them transferred. What I find to be most amazing from my bad experience at McClay, is that I walked away from that school harboring no prejudices.

THOUGHTS ON KING

Doug Clark
political science instructor

Dr. King's work meant there was a sense of hope and possibly that the experiment in democracy could be successful, and that the damage caused by discrimination and exploitation could be overcome by using nonviolent means. At the time of the assassination he remembers how frightened people were and the rumor that started. "The fire department was warned that some blacks were circling the neighborhood and to stand by. Of course this never happened, but they were ready."



Brittaini Hawthorn
Biology Major



"To say Martin Luther King was outstanding was an understatement. To say what he said without offending people was commendable, because that was a very hard thing to do. He made such an impact without violence. If he were still around today, things would be so different. There would be someone standing for love and peace and acceptance without violence."

My family was randomly selected to be bused from our beautiful and safe neighborhood to the ugliness of an all-black school in Pacoima. The purpose was to remedy racial violence.

Mikey Thompson
Drafting Major

"Martin Luther King made a huge impact on a lot of people, insisting that we hold up the rights. He pushed for all the same rights for everyone. To say he humanized the races is an understatement. I was in school in the Midwest when he was shot. I went to church in Minneapolis in a predominantly dark area and was nearly beat up."



Judith Sheerer
Technical Writing Major



Sheerer remembers being with a Nigerian friend when King was shot. "What I remember was not only grief, but that we had already lost our president and all our hopes were changed. Here I was with an African, and I was so humiliated and full of shame in her presence."

My family was randomly selected to be bused from our beautiful and safe neighborhood to the ugliness of an all-black school in Pacoima. The purpose was to remedy racial violence.

Frances Beck
Library Staff

Beck remembers the fear that our nation was out of control "When people kill, it is because they act upon their fears. Today, if our young people don't understand racism, that could be a good thing, because perhaps they never experienced it along with its ugliness."



HUNGER FOR JUSTICE EVENTS

The Multicultural Center has teamed up with other campus and community organizations to sponsor a variety of activities this week in commemoration of Martin Luther King Day.

Oh Say Can't You See?

Look Here! Views from the Invisible Community, a multimedia exhibition highlighting the plight of the homeless in Oregon is being presented Jan. 18-20 in the library from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Its purpose is to teach about homelessness in Oregon and what you can do about it. The exhibit was developed in conjunction with Sisters of Road PhotoVoice Project.

Someone Else's Shoes

As part of Hungry for Justice Week, a poverty simulation will be held in the Fireside Room from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday Jan. 20. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income people

as they assume the life of a low-income individual. Through the course of the simulation they will navigate the complex system of assistance and day-to-day life. The simulation is co-sponsored by the LBCC Workforce Diversity Committee. RSVP to the Multicultural Center at 917-4461.

Thoughts on Welfare

A program discussing the Oregon experience with welfare reform and what sort of welfare program might really help reduce poverty will be presented by Joan Acker in the Siletz Room on Jan. 18 from 12 to 1 p.m.

Understanding Hunger

Giving participants a greater understanding of the problems of global hunger and poverty is the purpose of the Hunger Banquet at The Commons on Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Space is limited so RSVP to 917-4461.

Compiled by Sherry Majeski

A&E Editor: Colleen Franzoia
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Who's 'honnngry' for a modern children's classic?

Harrison White
The Commuter

REVIEW

One of my favorite children's books of all time is by Ken Kesey, author of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and the leader of the infamous Merry Pranksters. Their influence, among other things, brought a San Francisco band then known as The Warlocks to the attention of those at acid test. But away from the other distinctions of Kesey's career is a small book written in Ozark dialect called "Little Tricker the Squirrel Meets Big Double the Bear."

The book was published in 1990 by Viking Penguin and reprinted for Puffin Books in 1992. The story remains a classic example of the storytelling that Kesey is acclaimed for. In the dialect of the piece ("Don't tell me you're the only youngsters never hear...") we recall the com-

mon heritage of oral storytellers, from Homer on down to children reciting nursery rhymes, or even the stories of Uncle Remus in the allegedly racist "Song of the South."

The story is told by a character with a set way of speaking, a la Huck Finn, but the story is much more complicated than the usual children's book. While some of the primary elements of children's stories remain, such as the use of repetition, or the personification of animals, there is an allegory within the book about looking before you leap.

Without divulging the plot, the story revolves around a particularly clever squirrel who is lazing around and trying to avoid getting up when a big bear appears in Topple's Bottom, as the inside flap of the book says,

"boasting about his big time appetite."

The literary quality of the book is simple: it is fun to read to children and it is enjoyable at all levels. The characterizations lead us to willingly suspend disbelief enough for the animals to talk as they would in older stories such as "Little Red Riding Hood." The writing is some of the most expressive with both the dialect and alliteration (such as "...swallers her down, teeth, toenails, and teetotal.") lending to increased enjoyment of the piece. Who wouldn't want to roar along with Big Double as he says "...I'M HONNNGRY?" And who wouldn't clutch themselves tight, as Dr. Seuss says, "By the seat of your pants" while rooting for Longrellers the rabbit in out jumping the disturber of the woodland peacefulness? Truly, "Little Tricker the Squirrel Meets Big Double the Bear" is a

modern classic of children's literature that should join the ranks of "Curious George," "Blueber-

ries for Sal," "Busytown" and the many others in the child literature pantheon.



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Check it Out

Old Time Jam with Wild Hog in the Woods
 Jan. 19, 9 p.m.
Oregon Trader
 140 Hill S.E.
 Albany

Heavy Metal Night
 Jan. 20, 9:30 p.m.
 featuring
Myndessent
Forestals Falls
Norska
Platinum
 126 S.W. Fourth
 Corvallis

No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Tournament
 Pre-Register at 5:30 p.m.
www.corvallispoker.com
 Jan. 22
Platinum
 126 S.W. Fourth
 Corvallis

K.C. and the Sunshine Band with The Village People
 Jan. 27, 7:00 p.m.
Spirit Mountain Casino
 Grand Ronde, OR
www.starsticketsplus.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

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Art instructor Gary Westford (aka Westford) is showing a collection of his paintings, mixed media and installation work in the South Santiam Hall Gallery this month, including this homage to famed artist Renee Magritte completed in 1989 "Confirmed Sightings—Magritte on the Moon." Westford will present a lecture on his work on Thursday, Jan. 19 at noon in Forum 104. Additional paintings from his wrestling series are on view in the College Center gallery.

photo by Kyla Hoyt

Art instructor's retrospective brightens South Santiam Hall

Melissa Chaney
 The Commuter

LB art instructor and artist Gary Westford offers up a palette of colors and ideas with his exhibit "Conflict and Resolution."

Westford's exhibit, which opened in the South Santiam Gallery on Jan. 9 and ends on Feb. 10, contains work spanning over two decades.

His paintings and drawings provide a "retrospective of my relationship to conflict and issues of violence in world culture," said Westford.

An art instructor at LB since 2001, Westford received a Master of Arts from the University of California, Berkeley, and taught at the U of C, Santa Cruz, Linfield College and Chemeketa Community College.

After learning about his fam-

ily heritage, Westford, who is more commonly known as Westford at LBCC, began using the Icelandic spelling of his name, which included a "j".

Westford will host a reception and lecture this Thursday, Jan. 19 at 12 p.m. in Forum 104.

"The lecture will provide a brief overview of my major influences," he said. One of his main influences is Renee Magritte, a Belgian surrealist. Westford uses surrealist ideas such as juxtaposition to create alternate reality images in some of his paintings, such as "New Territories, 1982," "Confirmed Sighting-Magritte on the Moon, 1989" and "Six Poets Arguing, 1995."

In addition to being an art instructor, Westford was once an educator at the Oregon State Penitentiary. After being exposed to cultural revolution and turmoil in society during his life,

he believes that humans have a desire to engage in acts of war. The worst case of this trend in society manifested itself in the events of Columbine, according to Westford.

Poems may be found accompanying many of his paintings, namely those of W.H. Auden and Stephen Spender. W.H. Auden's poem "The Birds" was the inspiration for a series of drawings and paintings that are included in this exhibit.

Westford has turned a corner in his art and is forging his artistic commentaries on socio-political concerns. "It [violence] is always going to be there," Westford said. Now, wrestling, an interest he participated in during high school and college, is his focus. His subjects are Olympic wrestlers and his large-scale paintings can be found in the College Center.

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DISCOVERY

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

Cleaning UP

Commuter photographer Skyler Edwards recently accompanied a group of Grant Avenue Baptist churchgoers to help with the cleanup of Biloxi, Mississippi after hurricane Katrina. This is his story.



Skyler Edwards
 The Commuter

Biloxi, Mississippi was unlike anything I expected. The news had left me envisioning a leveled city. Angele Cele, a psychology major from the university of South Carolina, said it best, "I thought there was going to be way more destruction. I thought the whole city was going to be flat." But this was not the case, as traffic was heavy and much of the city is now up and running despite the random destruction that is still visible throughout the city.

I was interested in going on this trip to Mississippi to help after I heard about it through my church, Grant Avenue Baptist. It has always been my desire to help my fellow man and this opportunity was too much to pass up. The trip took place during Christmas break, and on the morning of Dec. 10, I was on my way with seven other church members to the airport for the six-hour flight south.

The extent of the damage became evident as we drove down a main street and turned toward the beach on the highway connecting Biloxi to Gulfport that follows the beachfront. The Boardwalk was nothing more than a concrete frame with occasional short lengths still intact. The snowy white beach was littered with storm debris and pieces of seashell. One of Gulfport's casino barges was sitting in the middle of an apartment building or hotel (I could no longer tell which).

Inland, on the other side of the highway, is the area where the national press took most of the pictures of Biloxi's devastation. Along the highway, businesses are torn to shreds and neighborhoods are littered with damaged homes, many so badly that they are left to be bulldozed. The sounds of hammers and heavy equipment could be heard in the distance but the streets



remained strangely empty.

I was very impressed by the attitude of the people I did meet. Grateful for help and happy to be alive, most were found in their homes piecing their lives back together. I didn't take pictures of them or their homes as I had been advised not to by our host, Bay Vista Baptist Church. Also, out of respect for the residents I didn't bother them with an interview. Instead, I focused my attention on helping with the cleanup and talking with the people who stepped up to help the hurricane victims.

Coming from all over the U.S., volunteers moved 22 pallets of food by hand to go to New Orleans even though they had spent all day clearing trees out of people's yards and homes. Then throughout the week they helped to receive, move and sort 16 or more pallets from various sources. They helped

distribute 500 cooked chickens to hungry families and gave out hundreds of toys to displaced children.

Most went home after a week or so, but some, like Gary Layne, Dick and Joanne Schouw, and Leslie Patchin have given months of their lives since the disaster. With the help of hundreds of other volunteers, they have made Bay Vista's overall relief effort effective while still tending to the needs of individuals. They have overseen such undertakings as giving out 17,000 turkeys on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving and the distribution of 7,000 to 8,000 items of clothing.

According to Kevin Clifton, head pastor of Bay Vista, the whole outreach started with a single pot of "red beans" the day after the storm, leading to the feeding of thousands, and the "mudding" out of hundreds of homes.



A group of local residents organized by the Corvallis Grant Avenue Baptist Church get a firsthand look at Hurricane Katrina's impact on Biloxi, Miss. over the Christmas break. The group was there to help out in a variety of ways.

