



**Civil War
preview
in Sports**



**Roadrunners lay it
all on the line at the
NWACC tournament**

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The Commuter

Wednesday,
November 28, 2007

a weekly student publication

Volume 39 No. 8

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

ASG steps up outreach

Elizabeth Uriarte
The Commuter

LBCC is a college that consists of more than just the main campus in Albany. There are various extensions, or centers, of LB in Corvallis, Lebanon, and Sweet Home.

While many students attend classes at these centers, they may not be fully aware of everything that happens in the LBCC community. The Associated Student Government, Student Programming Board and student ambassadors hope to change this beginning next term.

"Student involvement is an ongoing issue all the time," said Stephanie Ware, ASG vice president. "The centers feel underrep-

resented, and that's something we're trying to resolve."

While no exact dates have been set, Matt Hammel, student ambassador, plans to hold scholarship workshops at both the Benton and Lebanon centers in late January.

Also, the ASG is planning a series of rap sessions where representatives will join classes at the centers to discuss with students various issues on campus. The ASG also plans to do an informal survey of students to hear opinions on what students would like to see happen in the future.

"We have to do something about getting their opinions," Ware said, and stated that over 5,000 students contribute to

campus issues at the Benton Center alone. Ware also said that Colleen Clancy, director of the Benton Center, feels the center is not receiving enough attention from students leaders.

The ASG will have meetings winter term at both the Benton and Lebanon centers. The Benton Center meeting is scheduled for Jan. 23 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in BC-104, and the Lebanon Center meeting is Feb. 6 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in LC-218. Free pizza will be provided at the meetings.

For more information on next term's agenda, or to give ideas or opinions on issues that should be discussed, contact Ware at ASGVP@linnbenton.edu, or Hammel at ambassador@linnbenton.edu.



photo by Will Parker

Nightmare before Cakemas

First-year bakery students collaborated Monday on this display based on the motion picture "Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas."

"Cool" image fuels growth of Dutch Bros.

Aubrey Chambers
The Commuter

Dutch Bros. Coffee is the Oregon-based coffee franchise that has exploded into the hearts of coffee enthusiasts around the northwest.

There are at least 115 Dutch Bros. franchises around Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Nevada, even stretching into Arizona, where it is found popularity among college students, according to Arizona State University Web site, an online publication of the college's newspaper. But why? How has this 15 year-old franchise become something of a youth culture icon?

Perhaps it's the menu. With items to choose from, most priced at under \$3, it would seem that Dutch Bros. has a standard that is economically sensible without sacrificing selection. Dutch Bros. also roasts all of its own coffee, to "ensure fresh-

ness from the farmer to the cup," says the Dutch Bros. Web site.

Then again, it can't just be quality that makes a franchise so successful. Many well-known franchises all have stereotypes associated with them, such as Starbucks. Bekka Hollander, 19, said that Starbucks is "the working man's place, whereas Dutch Bros. is the cool teen hangout place"

This relaxed, "cool" stereotype may be from implementation of the Optimist's Creed, which Dutch Bros. has adopted as its own. The creed speaks of strength in optimism, looking for the best in everyone and everything, and being a light of encouragement to all those you meet.

"It's so much more than just coffee," said Andrew Holingsworth, 20, former LB student and Dutch Bros. employee. He went on to say that Dutch Bros. was about a great, relaxed and personalized service and a wel-



The Dutch Bros. on Pacific Boulevard north of LBCC has become a regular stop for many on their way to and from campus.

photo by Will Parker

drive through the Willamette Valley without seeing a multitude of stickers placed in rear windows, reading "Dutch Mafia," "Dutch Princess," and the like. Handing out the stickers to anyone who asks is most certainly a good way to get one's name circulating around the area.

Whether it's one of these many factors of the combination of all of them, Dutch Bros. has enjoyed a boom in business. At the Lebanon franchise, Holingsworth said that an estimated 450 customers per day come through. And though the employees serve hundreds, they seem satisfied with their jobs.

"The mood's always happy," said Martinez. "It's a cool place to work."

coming atmosphere.

Simon Martinez, 18, and also a Dutch Bros employee, added that the employees take time to get to know the people they serve.

But customers may have a different idea.

OSU student Alysia Furman, 18, said the best thing about Dutch Bros. is "the hot guys that

work there and the stickers!"

"You never see any guys that aren't cute," Hollander said of the employees. "They all seem to be cute guys are cute girls. But I think it would probably mostly be about personality because they're looking for people-people."

And, indeed the stickers are everywhere. One can scarcely

Opinion Editor: Walt Hughes
 Editor-in-Chief: Elizabeth Uriarte
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

OPINION

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Sasquatch lives!

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Last summer, when a friend told me about an eyewitness account of the Sasquatch sighting in the Crescent Valley area, my 20-year fascination with Bigfoot was rekindled.

The reported creature in question was said to be about four feet tall, covered in black hair, and have long stocky arms. He walked on two feet and was seen near an abandoned house. Although I question the validity of this encounter, there is compelling forensic evidence and numerous sightings that support the idea of an unidentified primate species dwelling in North America.

Numerous sightings of the "skunk ape" have swept the southeastern U.S. in recent years. In 2003 in the Lancing, Tenn. area, more than 100 cats are said to have gone missing in conjunction with numerous sightings, according to enthusiast Kevin Crowe.

One resident, Donna Keathly, claimed that the smelly, apelike creature had thrown a dead cat at her before it disappeared into the woods again, said Crowe.

The skunk ape is thought to be a smaller subspecies of Sasquatch, perhaps around 400 pounds.

What is Sasquatch anyway? Sasquatch reportedly stands seven to eight feet tall, has coarse hair ranging from black to yellowish brown, sometimes even white, stocky arms, humanlike facial features, and emits a foul odor, like a skunk or burnt hair. The Sasquatch's humanlike features are perhaps what make it so enigmatically creepy.

The earliest known reports of Sasquatch in North America came from a Spaniard who was exploring parts of British Columbia in 1772, according to John Green, author of "Sasquatch, The Apes Among Us." To this day, a majority of Sasquatch sightings are reported in the Pacific Northwest.

Skookums, or wild men, were said to occupy an area south of Puget Sound in Washington hundreds of years ago. Indians would set aside areas for Skookums. Reports of Sasquatch appear in Indian legends, on totem poles, and in huge carvings, according to Green.

Green also mentions a few prominent encounters. In 1924, the Portland Oregonian newspaper ran an article on July 13 about a struggle that took place between five prospectors and a group of "mountain devils" on the slopes of Mount St. Helens.

In fact, there are many reports of people being carried into and out of the forest by Bigfoot. A honeymooning couple disappeared from their cabin by Cultus Lake, in southern British Columbia in 1945 -- the door of the cabin was found open, and a cold meal was still on the stove with the table set. Outside, large bare footprints were found around the cabin, and the couple was never

seen nor heard from again.

I was astonished to find out that Sasquatch encounters have been regularly reported a lot closer to home than I thought possible. A few years ago a series of stories were reported to oregonbigfoot.com.

One woman living in the Philomath area reported seeing a Sasquatch at the age of 6 with her best friend who is two years older. Her brother recounted many bizarre encounters he had near his property on Slow Lane. He found coarse brownish hair that a lab report announced was, "from unknown origin." When returning to the area to go camping, him and a friend heard large logs hitting a pond and "strange vocalizations." While walking down Botkin Road, something was thrown at him, grazing his hair, and when he returned later he encountered two Sasquatch walking casually through the woods and having what sounded like a conversation in another language. He also reported numerous sightings and strange encounters throughout the '90s up to the point that he sold his home in 2000.

In 2005, a report came in from two men (BFRO.com), who in 1988 when they were high school seniors had a strange encounter near logging roads in the Alsea area.

They were riding their dirt bikes on local trails all day and returned to a familiar trail late in the afternoon to find a large log placed over it. They were creeped out but decided to camp in the area that night because they had a gun. After building a large fire, around midnight, "a large rock came sailing into the camp followed by the sound of something LARGE crashing through the surrounding undergrowth." They also heard screaming and growling, and frightened, they jumped into their truck and drove away. Coming back the next day, they grabbed their camping gear, but were too scared to check the area for clues.

On Nov. 9, the History Channel aired an episode of MonsterQuest, which investigated evidence recently collected in Ontario, Canada. Blood and hair were collected from a board full of screws placed on the porch in front of the door of a recently ravaged cabin. The New York Post reported on the DNA evidence. Of the 388 base pairs analyzed, only one base pair differed from human beings, although this may be a result of damaged human DNA or an artifact of the lab process. Conclusive studies may take up to a year.

Although numerous encounters have been cited in Benton County, only few have been reported in Lane. Sasquatch may be much closer than you thought. Though many people doubt its existence, those who have had unexplainable forest encounters seem to be genuinely convinced.

The next time you go walking in the woods, maybe take notice of anything out of the ordinary- there may be wild apes afoot.



"One resident ... claimed that the smelly, apelike creature had thrown a dead cat at her before it disappeared into the woods again."

AARON BROICH

PERSPECTIVES

What do you think of the weather we're having?



"It sucks."

• Cassie Hodges •
 Medical specialist

"I think we might have a harder winter than last year -- the geese flew over sooner..."

• Matt Severance •
 Computer support



"I think it should snow."

• Linda Lochr •
 Nursing

"It's cold."

• Tara Suvoy •
 Diagnostic imaging



"It's been cold and dry; nothing special. It's Oregon so I'd expect it to be wetter."

• Adam Keaton •
 Computer science

"I love the weather here."

• Erick Rogers •
 Computer science



Compilation and photos by
 Will Parker & Monique Cohen

The Commuter

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STAFF

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Editor-in-Chief:
Elizabeth Uriarte
Managing Editor:
Jamie Wilson
Opinion Editor:
Walt Hughes
Photo Editor:
Will Parker
A & E Editor:
Didi Clarke

Contributing Editors:
Aaron Broich, Gregory Dewar
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Advertising Manager:
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Crystal Beattie, Beth Tweedell, Aubrey Chambers, Nikali Covey, Tyler Dahlgren, Kayla Nissen, Caleb Thomas, Bryan Palmer, MaryAnne Turner

Photographer:
Marilyn Quintero
Paginator:
Loren Newman
Advisor: Rob Prieue
Distribution Manager:
Keita Beard

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: Elizabeth Uriarte
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 commuter@linnbenton.edu (F-222)
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'Net problems hit PEAK

Will Parker
 The Commuter

I am an American. Born and raised here in the U.S., that title, "American," confers with its some cultural ideas; like the idea that a hamburger, fries and a Coke constitutes a balanced meal. Or the fact that I'm always rooting for the underdog; or praising people for their individuality.

In fact, these last two ideas crisscross each other and merge into the stereotypical view of Americans toward big business: It's bad, and we're always rooting for the spunky little guy to topple the big corporate "box."

And with that idea, we have characterized corporations as cold, stony monoliths of business and the "Mom and Pop's" as warm, friendly and knowledgeable-offering the intangibles of good service, hospitality and answered questions at the small expense of charging a little more than the wholesale box store down the street that's staffed by thoughtless twits. The Home Depot in Corvallis comes to mind.

If you are with me so far, then you can imagine my surprise when a local business let me down in one of those; well, all of those intangible areas and some tangible ones too.

I'm a big proponent of another idea, "You get what you pay for." So if I pay Timmy down the street \$10 to fix my computer and it doesn't work quite right after Timmy spent four hours knee deep in the dead files on my hard drive, I accept it. Had I paid a certified professional to do the same job, I would have lost \$35 just walking in.

Never mind the sure to be exorbitant fee for coming to my house to address my issues. I expect when I purchase a product from a corporate seller, I'm going to get the product and not much else.

So how do I reconcile an issue where I went to a small business - a local, hip, got-it-together type place expecting more than likely quirky service but a service with good customer support, hospitality and answered questions

and got the worst of both sides: a deficient product with terrible support?

Which brings us to PEAK Internet, LLC and my reconciliation. I realized that the best thing I could do (or rather the most legal) was to tell people my story and let them decide for themselves about PEAK. And yes, they spell their name in caps.

My history with PEAK started in 10th grade in '98 when a friend of mine who was also in tech support at Corvallis High was showing me some e-mails he had received. It was my very first experience, and for the rest of my high school career, I would regard them as the sort of trendy, hip, Internet company with the Unix access.

Fast forward past high school, though my five years in the U.S. Army to 2005 and now I'm dealing with PEAK on behalf of an apartment complex I work for. Over the next two years, I would stick my neck out, vouching for PEAK, only to be burned ever so slightly, again and again.

Their Web page development guy was shoddy, they never gave us any literature for their wireless hotspot, and they routinely sent correspondence and bills to e-mail addresses that were on the account that we had no idea existed only to discontinue service when said bills went unpaid.

All of this came to a head in November, though. I was called in on the 15th to address an issue with the e-mail. Namely, the complex had not received any e-mail for the month so far, and was continuing to not receive anything sent.

I called up technical support for PEAK and after 45 minutes of talking to them, discovered that we were over quota for our e-mail box and would have to go through PEAK's rather basic Web interface and painfully delete each e-mail individually: All 4,000 of them. PEAK was supposed to issue an automated near full quota notice and full quota notice. Four hours later, the e-mail was up and running.

And then, something happened at PEAK. They called it a "human error." Someone (probably the guy accessing the account to tell me it was over quota) had done something to cause the complex's incoming e-mail to be returned to the sender. I found out about this on the following Monday; a whole weekend's worth of e-mail gone. And then I called PEAK, and they, after a large amount of fussing and waiting and waiting some more, got it fixed. Nineteen days into November and we've had e-mail service for all of two of those days. Appalling.

I called customer service and I expressed, in my most dour and corporate tone, that what had happened was unacceptable. We lost service for almost a month and there had been no compensation, no heartfelt apology, no, "Geeze we screwed up bad and we're sorry."

Instead: "I'll elevate this to the next level of management."

Well, today (Monday) I called up PEAK again and finally got to the next level of management. I talked with a real, if sniffily, human being - one with some personality and got some compensation. He assured me accidents happened and seemed sincere about the whole deal.

Of course now that everything is said and done, I'm feeling like I just got brutally beaten up and handed \$100 for my troubles. And left to metaphorically limp home, dirty money in my pocket, to consider when enough is enough.

Didi Clarke
 The Commuter

I heard the alarmingly sad news on TV that our country is picking on Santa. Yeah, you know; the happy fat guy with rosy cheeks, a white beard, bright red suit, and black boots. Apparently there is some sort of a "movement" that folks are encouraging Santa to stop saying "HO-HO-HO!" and replace it with a "HA-HA-HA!" instead. WHAT? Yeah, that's what I said when I heard it. All I could do was shake my head in disbelief. Then came the explanation as to why they want Santa's greeting changed, which really made me stop and think. When are we going to stop all this idiotic nonsense and get real?

According to the "experts," Santa's exclamation of "HO-HO-HO" is now scaring little children. Again...WHAT? Don't we remember that Santa has always scared babies and freaked out kids? And frankly, I don't think it is the "HO-HO-HO" that's doing it. After all, he is technically a "stranger" whose lap we parents force our children to plop upon to snap that "must have" annual holiday picture, bawling their heads off, or not. How in the world can it possibly be the "HO-HO-HO" that's sending youngsters over the edge? Just consider a moment the suggested alternate "HA-HA-HA!" Doesn't that sound like, "HA-HA! Gotcha!" or "HA-HA-HA!! Watch as Santa loses his mind!"

Santa's censored slogan sucks!

You think all that is bad? Consider the other reason Santa is being "encouraged" to change his jovial greeting. Again, according to the "experts," "HO-HO-HO" sounds too much like the terminology used to describe a female prostitute! WHAT? Who thinks up this kind of crap anyway? I challenge all of you to think back to the last time you heard "HO-HO-HO" and I ask you this: Did you for one second think, "Hmm, that sounds like Santa is referring to the little kids anxiously waiting in line as whores?" Didn't think so. But now, thanks to the "folks" who did think this, I feel violated. My innocence has been stripped away from the funny fat man in the bright red suit.

Is nothing sacred and innocent anymore? Must we find hidden meanings in everything now, including what was once untouched and pure? And for what reason? So that everyone can be sure to not have his or her feelings bent out of shape? I say, GROW UP! Are we pushing so hard for equality that the end result will be a society where people are afraid to say anything for fear of saying something that is wrong or offensive? We need to take back our ability to have Christmas without fear and holidays - without pissing someone off.

There is one thing for certain though; somewhere, someplace, someone is going to get their feelings hurt over something.

HO-HO-HO!!! and Merry Christmas!!

Spring classes are fast approaching.

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 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

LBCC hosts 37th annual Children's Winter Festival

For the Commuter

The 37th Annual Children's Winter Festival will be held at LBCC on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. on the second floor of the College Center building.

The festival is free to all Linn and Benton county children ages 12 and under. This year's event is "An International Winter" and will feature Kwanzaa room, Hanukkah room, cookie decorating, face painting and craft making activities.

Although the event is free, there is an optional donation of two cans of food. Every child will receive a free gift. Photos with Santa or Father Claus are available for \$1. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact LBCC Student Life & Leadership at (541) 917-4457.

LBCC hosts HIV/AIDS forum

LBCC Student Programming Board will host a forum on HIV/AIDS: 45 Years of Living on Thursday, Nov. 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Forum building, room F-104.

Bob Bowers, a 24-year survivor of HIV/AIDS who lives in Madison, Wis., will speak on his personal struggles and triumphs with HIV and on education and awareness. He is a national speaker and activist for HIV and AIDS and runs the non-profit group HIVictorious.

Kalee Garland, a 21-year-old from San Diego, Calif., will also speak of her experience with the disease. She first found out she had AIDS when she was seven, a disease she contracted from her mother at birth. Garland has been an outspoken HIV/AIDS activist, speaking at many events in California.

This event is sponsored by LBCC Student Programming Board and Corvallis Elks Charity Trust and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact LBCC Student Life and Leadership at (541) 917-4457.

AAWCC honors Apter

Joanne Apter, director of LBCC's Turning Point Transitions program, has received the 2007 Woman of Excellence award from the American Association of Women in Community College's.

The AAWCC Board of Directors celebrates individuals, chosen by local AAWCC membership, whose accomplishments made a difference for women at his or her own community college.

Apter was nominated by the executive committee of the LBCC chapter of AAWCC for her work with Turning Point/Transitions, where as director of the program she has changed the lives of hundreds of women who have gone through the program.

AAWCC gives the award each fall at the state AAWCC conference held in November. The recipient need not be a member of AAWCC to receive the award.

Flute workshop

The Native American Student Union will be holding a flute workshop today in NSH-107 at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Rocky Gavin, president of the NASU, will be discussing Native American flut-

ing, how flutes are made, and will be performing. There will be enough flutes for everyone to practice (mouthpieces have been sterilized).

The NASU still has forms available in the Courtyard Cafe for ordering NASU/FAC 2008 calendars. They are \$5 each. The NASU also has CDs from "Powwow 101" available for sale; cost is \$10 each.

Pottery show and sale

Join the Benton Center for our annual Ceramics Holiday Sale and Show on Friday, Dec. 7 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Benton Center ceramics studio, 757 NW

Polk Ave., Corvallis.

Beautiful and functional pieces made by LBCC instructors and students will be offered for sale. Pieces are made using techniques such as high fire, raku, salt glaze and wood fire pottery.

A portion of all sales goes to support the ceramics studio. For more information, contact LBCC's Benton Center at (541) 757-8944.

Democracy in America: 2008

Winter and spring terms bring "Democracy in America" to LBCC. This project focuses on the future of democracy.

According to Robert Harrison of the history department, the program will focus on the state of democracy in America, biggest challenges, and how citizens make a difference.

More details will be available after the holiday break.

Video Production Club meets

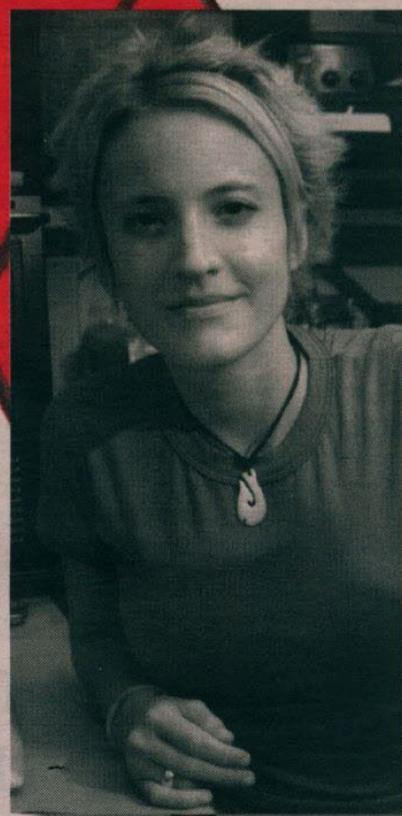
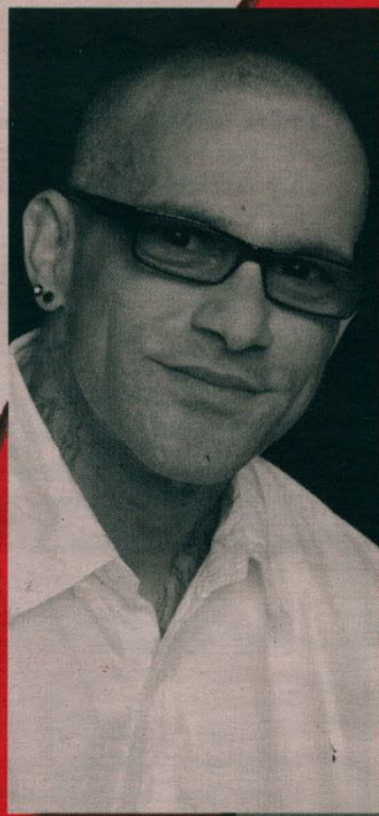
The LBCC Video Production Club holding its first meeting on Friday, Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. in Room CC-213 on the Albany main campus.

LBCC's Student Programming Board & Corvallis Elks Charity Trust Present:

HIV/AIDS - 45 Years of Living

"Life is about playing the hand you are dealt."

Bob Bowers, who has lived 23 years with HIV/AIDS, is an educator and advocate for those who have the disease. Born with AIDS, Kaylee Garland is determined to survive and spread the word to others. Hear their inspiring stories!



**November 29 • 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Forum 104**

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Editor-in-Chief: Elizabeth Uriarte
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

LOCAL NEWS

News about our local community,
 including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon,
 Sweet Home and Philomath.

Adventures abound in Oregon's Ashland

Didi Clarke
 The Commuter

Nestled amongst winding creeks and forested parks with the Cascade Range as its backdrop, Ashland offers visitors an array of shops, quaint eateries, cozy inns, and long-standing traditions.

Nationally known as home to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival that runs February to November, the southern Oregon city boasts an attendance of over 400,000 visitors annually. With its abundance of outdoor activities as well as monthly festivities, Ashland is sure to have something for everyone.

Though the Shakespeare Festival wrapped up its 2007 season earlier this month, the 2008 season begins in February with a variety of plays such as "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Othello" and "Coriolanus," along with many other weekly performances as well as backstage tours.

A visit to the festival's Web site (www.osfashland.org) is a quick way to see what is playing and offers advance ticket purchases. I recommend seeing a play in the Elizabethan outdoor theater, as this is a real treat, especially on a summer evening.

As the Shakespeare Festival winds down, Ashland's holiday season kicks into high gear beginning the day after Thanksgiving with the Festival of Light Celebration. This annual event, put on by the city's chamber, runs every weekend throughout December. The festival offers a variety of entertainment in the central plaza, which includes a Santa parade, and the lighting of over 1 million lights in the downtown area.

Visitors can take in the wonder as storefront windows seem to come to life, and strolling carolers greet your ears with the sounds of the season. And,

for those in the mood for a little adventure, the Darex Family Ice Skating rink across from Lithia Park is a popular spot.

For the even more adventurous, Mount Ashland ski area is within a 30-minute drive from downtown Ashland and has easy access on and off of I-5. With roughly 300 inches of snow annually and over 23 miles of trails, ski buffs will delight in the challenges the mountain boasts. A \$20 snow park pass, purchasable at several local merchants, the Forest Service, or Mount Ashland, gives visitors all-season access to the multitude of cross-country and snow shoeing trails. For snow reports, lift ticket prices, directions, and more information visit the ski lodge's Web site at www.mtashland.com.

Aside from all the adventure, Ashland also offers many choices for those who just want to relax and take in the sights. From the annual Chocolate Festival in March to the Ashland Independent Film Festival, and the Taste of Ashland held every April, Ashland's small town charm hosts a wide variety of things to see and do. And, for those traveling the first weekend of the month, Ashland's First Friday Art Walk offers visitors savory temptations from local chefs while touring local artists' work on display downtown. The Lithia Artisans Market is also a favorite weekend hot spot to find handcrafted items and local wares. Adjacent to Lithia Park and located along the Calle Guanajuato Creek, visitors can find fine art, framed photography, crafts, and live music every Saturday and Sunday, May through October.

If you are more in the mood for picnicking, taking a stroll, or mountain biking, Ashland's Lithia Park is located in the heart of the city and offers 93 acres of pristine lawns, tennis courts, a volleyball area, and over 20 miles

of walking and biking paths for visitors' enjoyment.

Restaurants offer food from fresh sushi at Kat Wok to the more unusual fare at the Black Sheep Pub; local chefs take pride in their creations with many having had featured dishes in magazines such as Gourmet, Bon Appetit, and Food & Wine.

When you're ready to turn in for the night, Ashland offers lodging from basic hotel stays such as the affordable Econolodge right off of I-5, to the more luxurious Lithia Springs Resort and Spa. Ashland is also known for its abundance of quaint bed and breakfast inns and many of the innkeepers take pride in sharing their city's history as well as offering help-

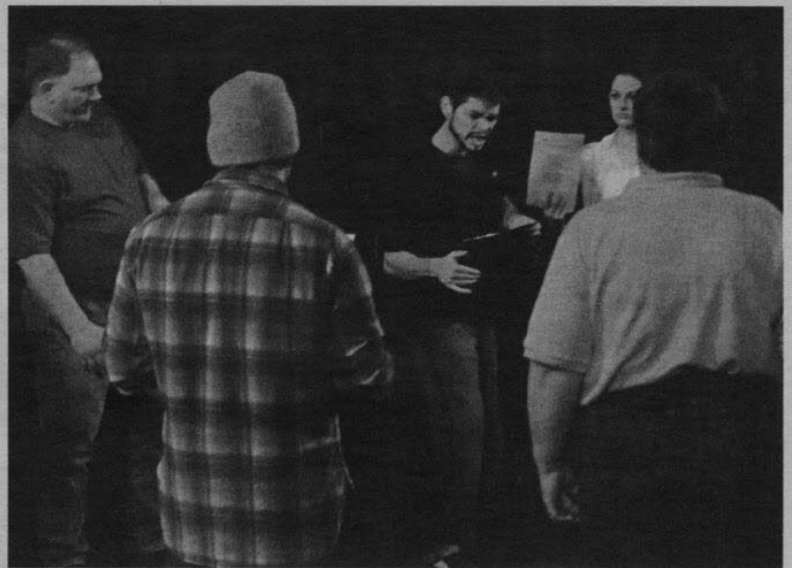


photo by Will Parker

Actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival troupe do a post-performance workshop behind the stage at LBCC on Nov. 16. They also performed a 35-minute adaptation of "Midsummer Night's Dream" called "A Bottom's Tale."

ful tips for their guest's daily adventures.

Be it a weekend retreat, an outdoor Shakespearean play, or an adventurous ski trip to Mount

Ashland, the town is sure to give visitors plenty more than what they ever came to find.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

Commons

NOVEMBER 28TH - DECEMBER 4TH

Wednesday:
 ENTREES: Chef's Choice
 VEGETARIAN: Chef's Choice
 SOUPS: Chef's Choice

Thursday:
 ENTREES: Corned Beef Hash & Eggs and Beggar's Chicken w/ Steamed Rice
 VEGETARIAN: Carey Pocket
 SOUPS: Spanish Chicken and Split Pea

Friday:
 Chef's Choice

Monday:
 Chef's Choice

Tuesday:
 ENTREES: Chef's Choice
 VEGETARIAN: Chef's Choice
 SOUPS: Chef's Choice

JOB OPENING

Advertising Coordinator for THE COMMUTER

Individual with career goals in marketing, graphics or journalism sought for this part-time position on the weekly newspaper staff. Responsibilities include coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Some design and/or business experience preferred, but will train.

Position starts January 2008
10-15 hours per week
Flexible hours to accommodate class schedule

Contact Commuter advisor Rob Prieue
917-4563 or rob.prieue@linnbenton.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takana 101). 917-4788

Disney College Program (#5783, Florida) We are looking for the best and brightest college students who want a one-of-a-kind Disney-designed experience that provides you with the opportunity to grow both professional & personally. Open to full-time students in any major who completed at least one term of college. Sign up online at wdwcollegeprogram.com.

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MISC.

Need writing help? Have a major essay due? Need to discuss some of your ideas before you start writing? Need help brainstorming topics? Focusing? Organizing? The **Writing Center** invites you to stop by for help with these and any other writing questions. The Writing Center is in SSH-108. Drop in Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Can't stop by? Then visit our online service: lbcc.writingcenter-online.net. You can submit work to the **Online Writing Lab** up to Wednesday, Dec. 5 (expect 1-2 days turnaround).

*Want to brush up
 before finals?*

The **Albany Tutoring Center** can help!

The Tutoring center will be open and available for one-on-one tutoring:

Nov. 26th - Nov. 30th
Monday - Friday
8am - 4pm

For service availability call 917-4697 or visit us. The Tutoring Center is located at its temporary location in T-207.

Also check for extended hours for the computer lab!

A&E Editor: Didi Clarke
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

"Beowulf" borders on blasphemy

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Truly an abomination among movies—"Beowulf" is spectacularly monstrous, and gaudy in the utmost.

Based on the oldest epic poem in the English language, the plot of "Beowulf" has compelling motifs, even though it has been drastically altered. Despite this, and all of the big names involved in the film, it flops big time.

At the start, King Hrothgar (Anthony Hopkins) hosts a drunken party, extolling the splendors of debauchery in his mead hall.

Apparently there's something special about the location of this hall, whereby the sounds from it reverberate all the way to the lair of the half-demon Grendel (Crispin Glover), who is driven into a fit of rage by the sounds of their merrymaking.

Like a disgruntled neighbor driven mad by the ruckus of a weekend kegger, Grendel busts into the hall and murders droves of men and women, before disappearing back into the night.

Contrary to the epic poem, when Hrothgar is asked if the people should pray to the Christ God for assistance, he says that

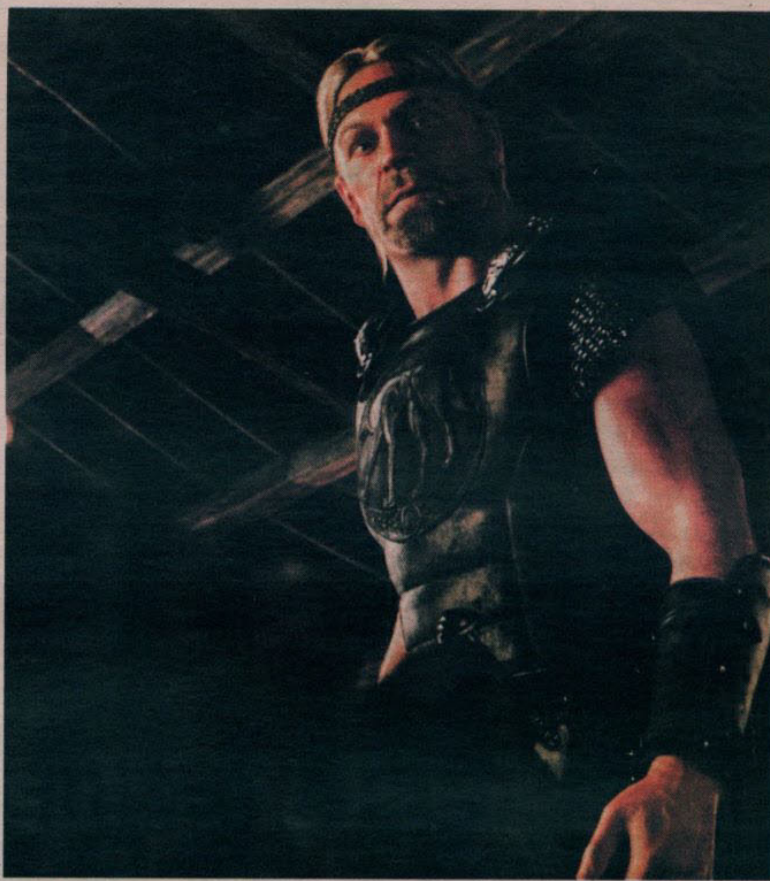
they don't need the help from the gods--what they need is a hero. Enter Beowulf (Ray Winstone)—who travels from Geatland (Sweden) to strike down the beastie and become the stuff of legends.

It turns out that Grendel is Hrothgar's son whose mother is a wicked demon (Angelina Jolie). Hrothgar made a deal with the temptress, giving her some sperm in exchange for temporary invulnerability, riches, and power.

When Hrothgar's wife, Queen Wealhthow (Robin Wright Penn), hears about this, she refuses to have sex with him, which accurately depicts the higher levels of freedom women enjoyed at the time.

After Beowulf deals with Grendel, his mother focuses her attention on Beowulf, who must confront his vanity and overcome temptation. Beowulf is insecure about his manhood, and so she plays off this. She sounds like a terse version of the preacher from Ecclesiastes, explaining to Beowulf that all his power and riches are insignificant.

With "Beowulf," Robert Zemeckis strikes out again, bringing us another movie with all computerized graphic imagery



(CGI). The talents of the actors are recognizable, but the deplorable script makes the characterization pervasively cheesy.

In fact, there are no redeeming character relationships in the film, which presents a bland video game world that's entirely unbelievable. Nobody has anything meaningful to say.

The script was written by producer Roger Avary and the renowned novelist, Neil Gaiman, known for the "Sandman" graphic novels, and the recent film, "Stardust."

How they went so wrong is a mystery to me. Some deplorable influence must have dragged the whole ship down.

Contrary to the poem, the movie places Beowulf's sidekick, Wiglaf (Brendan Gleeson) in his life much earlier.

Here there was a chance for a meaningful exchange of dialogue, but even when Beowulf tries to come clean about his fictitious storytelling, Wiglaf shuts him down before anything is said.

Jolie has repeatedly associated herself with lowly productions in recent years, but this one takes the cake.

Whether or not she appears in CGI scenes makes little difference—her tempting Beowulf is the sort of soft porn that doesn't belong in a PG-13 movie.

Whatever meaningful point the movie was trying to make seems to be destroyed by these lewd scenes.

The film is visually impressive at times—it's hard to believe that so many skilled graphic artists used their talents for such a wasteful cause.

Much of the film's dialogue is laughable and enough crudeness to make one's stomach turn.

Please, please do not see this movie. If you do, it will be two hours of your life that you'll wish you could take back.

LBCC Concert Choir and Chamber Choir to sing "Dark into Light"

For The Commuter

LBCC Concert Choir and Chamber Choir will perform "Singing the Dark into Light" on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Performance Center at LBCC's Takena Hall.

As the winter days grow short, and the cold nights lengthen, we turn to music to bring a sense of hope and light back into our lives. In the coldest winter night, there is knowledge that the sun will return after the solstice, and the fallow fields will turn green again. In times of war and strife, we seek peace and mercy.

LBCC Concert and Chamber choirs, directed by Susan Peck and accompanied by Joy Byers, will explore these themes in a concert of music connected to the Middle Ages, sometimes called the Dark Ages.

The choirs will present songs in which the Armed Man meets the Prince of Peace, with the dark fears and powers of war transformed into prayers for light, peace, and mercy.

Concert Choir sings "L'homme armé," a popular song from the 15th century that warns: "The armed man should be feared. Everywhere it has been pro-

claimed that each man shall arm himself with a coat of iron mail." Their modern arrangement adds a prayer for peace, imploring "craftsman, forge the blade of light, keep mankind from endless night, and raise the sword on high."

Concert Choir continues in the medieval vein with a set of pieces from Benjamin Britten's 20th century settings of several medieval Latin and English texts: "A Ceremony of Carols." The antique texts include "This Little Babe" with its striking metaphor of the child in the manger leading a military campaign.

Chamber Choir's repertoire includes a medieval Breton folk tune about winter planting, "Le Semeur (The Sower)," as well as the "Kyrie" from an early Renaissance cantus firmus mass by Ockeghem. The tune of "L'homme armé" serves as a structural element to unify the complex polyphonic prayer Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison (Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy).

Shifting to the 20th century, Chamber Choir will sing the lovely madrigal "You Are the New Day": "thoughts that we

as humans small could slow worlds and end it all, lie around me where they fall before the new day." They will also sing contemporary arrangements of traditional folk songs, including "The Minstrel Boy," "My Dancing Day," and "Lord of the Dance."

Chamber Choir concludes their program with a tour of historical musical styles in a song about a famous Mary and her Lamb.

Tickets are \$6 non-reserved seating, and can be purchased at the Russell Tripp Performance Center Box Office or by phone at (541) 917-4531 or online at www.linnbenton.edu/go/performing-arts. Box office business hours are Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased one hour prior to performance.

For more information, contact the LBCC theater box office. For disability accommodations, contact the LBCC Office of Disability Services at (541) 917-4789 or TDD through the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900 and provide OTRS with the number you are trying to reach.

Poetry Corner

my youth slips away, as candy loses its flavor
 and love loses idealistic sweetness, in trade for cynical
 bitterness

and such questions do I have arise
 Does the heart turn black before the body dies?
 Will the grass be less green?
 and the sky less blue and more gray, as the world has
 its way

with my innocence
 so preciously preserved, so easily thrown away
 Lacking color the way a picture decays with age
 fading a notion of life, ideal and new
 and reality in tedium, with nothing to do

- Jenn Joyner -

Editor's note:

Loyal Commuter readers: This will be the last issue until Jan. 16.

Friday, November 30
 Salsa, Merengue, Reggaeton, Bachata,
 Cha Cha, Cumbia ALL NIGHT

LATIN NIGHT

Hosted by
 Rumbanana Salsa
 Group

Cover \$12
 PLATINUM 126 SW 4TH ST., Corvallis
www.LatinNight.com

Managing Editor: Jamie Wilson
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

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photo by Marilyn Quintero

Kent Bean helps photography student Ya-Ting Jen in his photography lab.

Kent Bean: Photography a life-long pursuit

Monique Cohen
 The Commuter

Few people are lucky enough to spend each day doing what they love. Kent Bean is one of the lucky ones. Bean is the photography lab manager at LBCC. His passion for photography began in the eighth grade when a teacher came to his class and asked if anyone was interested in learning how to print. "I got hooked the first time I saw it (the image) come up in the chemistry," Bean said. Bean is responsible for maintaining and buying equipment and supplies for the lab, and guides the student lab aides. "He goes above and beyond what his job description is," LBCC photography instructor Rich Bergeman said. "He's always ready to help out." Bean uses his wealth of knowledge to help students on a daily basis. "It's always neat to see someone that likes it, especially in black and white, and just takes off with it...It's still neat for me and it's been 30-some years," said Bean. Born in Albany, he moved to California in the eighth grade and joined the Navy after graduating from high school in 1973.

Kent Bean
Age: 52
Occupation: LBCC Photography Lab Manager
Claim to fame: Passion for photography
Quote: "Film survives, we don't know that about digital."

Bean attended the Navy's photography school in Pensacola, Fla. Then he worked at the Navy's large photo lab at the Naval Intelligence Support Center in Washington, D.C., until 1977. Lajes Field in the Azores became Bean's next home for three years. The Azores are a group of nine islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean about 900 miles west of Portugal. It was here, during the Cold War, that he took photos for the Navy. Many of his photos were aerial shots he took while hanging out of the door of a P3-Orion turbo-prop plane, held only by a strap. He also took aerial photos from helicopters.

Bean's assignments were dictated by the Navy and included photos of ship antennas and submarines. Many of his photos were taken from an inflatable Zodiac boat. "They wanted us to get close enough to scrape paint," Bean said. Bean taught for Central Texas College while in the Azores. He taught beginning and intermediate photography to Air Force and Navy personnel, and managed the photography lab. Bean taught for Central Texas College while in the Azores. He taught beginning and intermediate photography to Air Force and Navy personnel, and managed the photography lab. Bean took him to Key West, Fla., and Norfolk, Va., before sailing on the U.S.S. Eisenhower in the Red Sea during Operation Desert Shield. He settled in Mountain View, Calif., at Moffett Field in 1991 and retired from the Navy in 1994. Bean moved to Bend the same year. He left Oregon to work at Dakota Photo Labs in Minot, N.D., and then returned to Oregon in 2001. He began working at LBCC as the photography lab manager in 2001, a job he still enjoys. Danielle Bean, his daughter, said he started a photography club at South Albany High School after learning that no photography classes were offered. They learned how to develop film and make prints. Danielle is a senior at SAHS



artwork by Kent Bean

and is taking two photography classes at LBCC. Bean spends his leisure time photographing landscapes and abandoned buildings. He prefers black-and-white photography and uses a medium-format camera and 35 mm camera with black-and-white film. His basement houses a complete photo lab he built himself. Bean begrudgingly has begun to use digital in a nod to technological advances. "He considers digital going over to the dark side," lab aide Jennifer Northcutt said.

Gay Men's Chorus sings in Portland

for The Commuter

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus will take to the stage with 110 voices for their annual Holiday Concert Brass, Bells, and Wassail at Kaul Auditorium, Dec. 14, 15 and 16.

Featuring a new work from the Chorus' resident composer Robert Seeley, PGMC will perform the west coast premier of "Our Stockings", a moving selection from the larger work, This House Shall Stand, commissioned earlier this year by the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington D.C. Artistic director Bob Mensel, now in his 15th season, has arranged for a rich brass ensemble to accompany PGMC.

The Chorus' subgroups, The Locomotions and Cascade, will also perform. Some of the more traditional fare includes "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "Home for the Holidays"...along with classical works by Poulenc and Grieg. Mensel has also included a multi-media presentation of voices and images reflecting the seasonal celebrations of Solstice, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

With the increased interest in the Chorus' popular Holiday concerts, PGMC has added additional seats for Brass, Bells, and Wassail. The concert is at 8 p.m. on Dec. 14 and 15, and 2 p.m. on Dec. 16 at Kaul Auditorium located on the Reed College campus. Tickets can be bought online at www.pdxgmc.org or through the box office by calling (503) 226-2588.

Editor-in-Chief: Elizabeth Uriarte
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Student employee dishes out his perspective

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

We shuffle in haggardly. The clock's cross-eyed gaze meets us with jaded features.

Sullenly, we motivate toward our stations. The great dragonous beast turns a lazy eye toward us and belches steam from deep within its bowels that dissipates into the neo-colonial fluorescent overhangs that blind us and keep our eyes downcast and focused.

"Are you broken today?" I wistfully ask the machine.

"Nay," it says, "not until you need me most."

I chuckle only because it's true. I find my squad mates somewhere in the wreckage of raw chicken and cake frosting, hunkered down behind the three sinks, rationing out cigarettes like criminals. "Yo ho!" I say. Their weary heads gaze briefly upward and they reply quietly: "Eggnog." That is all that needs to be said, for nothing more has ever been said, and nothing less has sufficed. The enemy's location is the common cry and we begin our day; thus, a shift in the dish room has begun; an onslaught that won't cease until I am damp (and cheerful at the thought of going home).

How many times have you thought about the dish crew after you dispose of your plates into the rectangular maw of the Commons cafeteria dish room? Who are these creatures of desperation toiling away, separated by a wall? What sorts of things happen in this place? The students come and go, scarcely even making eye contact, depositing their soiled dastardly abominations on the operating table and evacuating as quickly as possible. The din-

ers walk to and fro, only vaguely aware of a hissing and clanking cacophony as they pass.

Dirty cooking utensils, pans, pots, and a variety of errata from the students get deposited on an

L-shaped counter right around the corner from where you may order your food. This is the narrow rectangular passageway that people dart in and out of shouting "Corner!", right behind the fountain drink dispenser. Dishes here go to a sprayer at the angle of the L-shape, where the various forms of

things clinging to the dishes for dear life are sent to an industrial garbage disposal. Tin goes up the top of the L into the three sinks, where it is washed, rinsed, and soaked to sanitize. Everything else goes through the bottom part of the L to be loaded onto the dishwasher. All three of these jobs take at least one person to perform. China is deposited on a longer L facing opposite the first one, where it is sprayed, placed on a tray, and sent down the line to the dishwasher. Racks fill the space between the two L's for ease of drying. When the dishes come out of the dishwasher, they steam, even on the hottest day, as the heat from the 200-degree water burns off. They are then arranged neatly on racks and carts, and

thy trays are sent back up the line. This is another job that requires at least a person. Finally, when things have achieved the desired dryness, they're thrust out into the kitchen headed for a very specific spot, in

a busy world of noise filled with students who scurry about like ants. It is all I can do to successfully navigate my way to and fro without being toppled, or accidentally shanked with a knife; one more job that requires a person.

At any given time there is an average of four to five dedicated workers in

the dish room, who do nothing else but take care of the needs of the commons cafeteria. For the most part it's a thankless, dirty, exhausting job. Many are the nights I come home with some sort of indescribable substance all over my front.

It's a little known fact that the Commons cafeteria is separate from the culinary arts program here at LBCC. Despite the fact that it uses food cooked by students, it's run by the food services department and has to pay its own bills, much like the LBCC bookstore down below it, or the Courtyard Cafe you may be more familiar with. The current dish room is relatively new, being installed from Sept '06-Jan '07, during which time the Santiam Restaurant (located just east

of the Commons kitchen) had to serve on paper plates. The new setup uses less chemicals (which are more expensive than you might imagine, a few days worth of dish washing soap is around \$110) and is less labor-intensive which means it actually saves money for the Commons and allows food prices to stay reasonable. "I think we've got a great crew, it's reasonable, they can pick up others' slack, someone calls in sick. Everybody seems to have a good time and I've got a lot of confidence in them," says Gary Snyder, head of conference services here at LBCC, noting that he enjoys the new dish room especially because it requires less supervision.

Both the Courtyard Cafe and the Santiam Restaurant are owned by the food services division of LBCC. What makes the Commons and Santiam special is that the food is prepared by budding culinary students, preparing to take on the world one plate of fried rice at a time. That and the food choices tend to be varied and "educational," as Snyder puts it, with a new menu every day, as well as a few stand-by's. They also run a "Cheap and Cheerful" program with hot meals in both the Cafe and the Commons for around \$2.

But don't mistake this for whining; nay, it's education, at this oft-overlooked process that takes place out of sight and out of mind. It's a celebration of the toil of aspiring artists, writers, linguists, educators, and scientists. For we are people toiling with hopes and dreams and aspirations who appreciate the opportunity to better ourselves and make it through college.

The call of a dishwasher is not that of sadness; nay, it is one of over-incumbent joy!

O! Dishwasher, thy be true.
 Strike at the dirt,
 of all humankind!
 And let not your face be blue!
 Rejoice not in the hurt,
 Of empowering times!
 Throw up the banner,
 And let the call be: "Clean!"
 Let not the manner,
 Or jaded slack jaws of others cause
 you to glean!
 Throw up your many-jeweled crown!
 Take heart, young one,
 and turn that smile into a frown.
 For we are the dishwashers and we
 are come!

Rick Rogers' downtown Albany magic shop is full of tricks

Kayla Nissen
 The Commuter

In Las Vegas you may see the likes of Lance Burton, The Amazing Jonathan, Penn and Teller, David Copperfield, David Blane or Criss Angel: illusionists, magicians, performers, comedians. But Vegas isn't the only

place you can witness the art of magic. All you have to do is visit Rick Rogers at his magic shop in downtown Albany.

When he was about 7 to 8 years old, he found some of his father's old magic props in a closet. He took them out and was hooked.

His first show was at a middle school dance. In high school, he went to "lady's clubs" and performed magic. He earned \$20 to \$30 for 20 minutes.

"Magic shows paid for school stuff," Rogers says. He was earning more money in a day than his father did in a week.

Along with magic, Rogers enjoys collecting old horror/sci-fi movie memorabilia clear back to the 1920s. Some of his favorites include Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi. Rogers likes the movies that are filled with mystery and intrigue. Rogers says today's movies are filled with too many special effects and doesn't leave anything open for imagination.

Rogers, 63, remembers the first trick he was

taught.

"It was a paper folding

trick. You put a nickel on a piece of paper then fold it, then continue to fold the paper in a different piece of paper, then unfold all of the papers. The nickel is gone and all that's left is a card that reads 'It worked'."

Rogers' favorite trick he performs is one his father taught him as a child. "To this day, I dedicate it to him whenever I do the trick." The trick is called the dice box.

Rogers used to travel all over to do magic shows. He appeared on Fox Network and has even gone overseas to be in a few movies.

Before he made magic his career, he did broadcasting. In the Army, he interviewed celebrities on the armed forces radio in the '60s. Rogers was also a part of the morning show on KMTR for about 20 years.

These days, you can find Rogers hanging out in his magic shop, entertaining anyone who stumbles through the door, or you can catch him in his other job as the executive director of the Albany Downtown Association.

Josh Thomason, a regular customer said he enjoys going to the magic shop because Rick and his wife Karen are "nice and polite people. They are easy to get along with and they really make it fun to get into magic and are just wonderful people to be around." Thomason said he recently started doing magic, inspired by Criss Angel.

Rogers said there is a big group of magicians in Albany. And some of the big names even stop in for a visit once in a while. Rogers has met David Copperfield a few times as well as Angel, and many other famous illusionists.

Rogers' magic shop, Movies and Magic, is located at 222 First Ave. SW in downtown Albany.



photo by Will Parker

Rick Rogers' magic shop in downtown Albany houses many magical tricks, treats and even videos and DVDs.

Receive YOUR coupon when you sell your books back! While supplies last.



Holiday Cash

Textbook Buyback

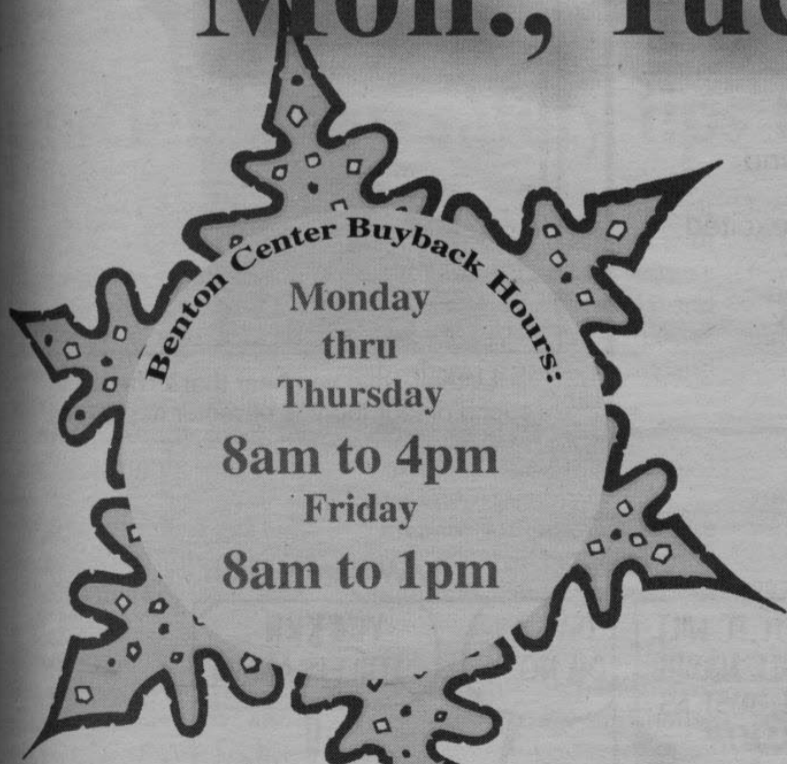
December 3-7

Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.

9am to 4pm

Wednesday

9am to 6pm



LBC Bookstore

ALBANY CAMPUS



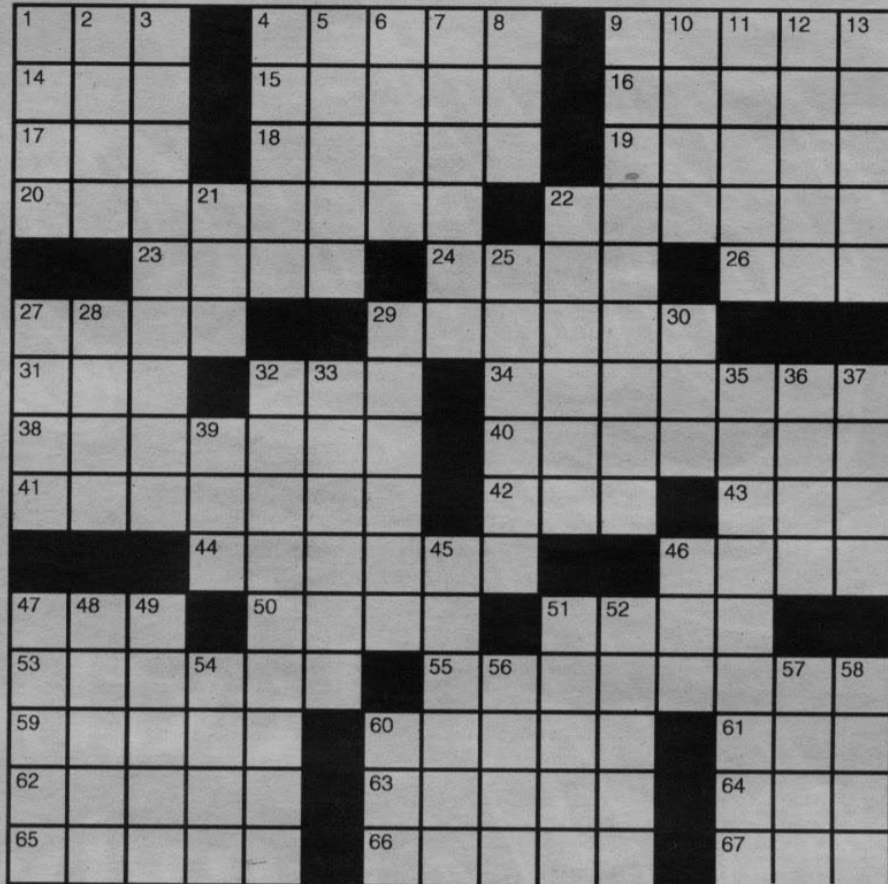
Managing Editor: Jamie Wilson
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

FUNNY BONES

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

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Solid paraffin
 - 4 Skewered meat dish
 - 9 No-see-ums
 - 14 Wall climber
 - 15 In seclusion
 - 16 Boom box
 - 17 Torme or Gibson
 - 18 Subdivided
 - 19 Last one
 - 20 Deep
 - 22 Fanatic
 - 23 Move laboriously
 - 24 Smile sheepishly
 - 26 Printer's spaces
 - 27 Waikiki's island
 - 29 Get steamed
 - 31 John's Yoko
 - 32 Computer of "2001..."
 - 34 Gardener's tools
 - 38 Wistfully thoughtful
 - 40 Fired clay
 - 41 Perspired
 - 42 Coffee container
 - 43 Long scarf
 - 44 Language
 - 46 Huff and puff
 - 47 Pop-ups, e.g.
 - 50 One with regrets
 - 51 Fly high
 - 53 Transform into
 - 55 Nonsense
 - 59 Cover story?
 - 60 Dishes
 - 61 Get along in years
 - 62 Chases off
 - 63 Trail follower
 - 64 Abel to Adam
 - 65 Earl "Fatha" _____
 - 66 Lifeless
 - 67 NCO rank

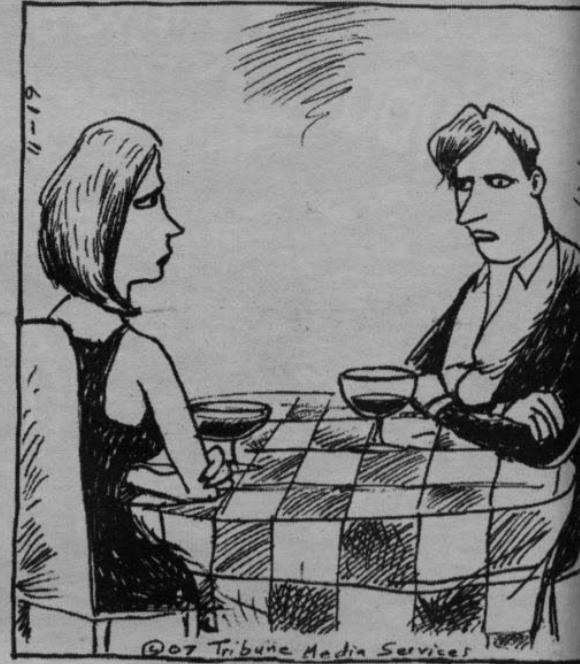


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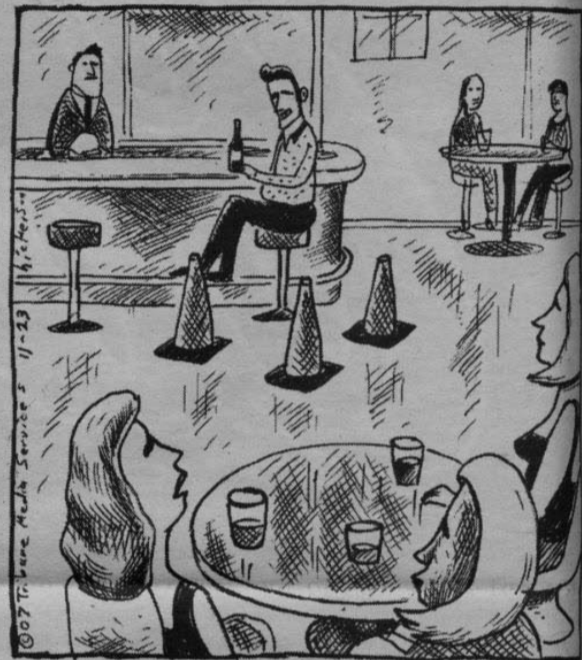
- DOWN**
- 1 Timid type
 - 2 Profess
 - 3 Marimba cousin
 - 4 Toy musical instrument
 - 5 For all to hear
 - 6 Birthplace of Beethoven
 - 7 Keyed up
 - 8 Bunk
 - 9 Tenderfoot
 - 10 Dog in "Peter Pan"
 - 11 Befuddle
 - 12 Affix
 - 13 Classifies
 - 21 Winter bug
 - 22 Stringed instrument
 - 25 Save
 - 27 How clumsy of me!
 - 28 From scratch
 - 29 Snow vehicle
 - 30 _____ Marie Saint
 - 32 Haphazard
 - 33 Means of access
 - 35 Disconcert
 - 36 Detroit football player
 - 37 Go away!
 - 39 Posed
 - 45 Needy youngster
 - 46 Butter serving

Answers provided on page 11

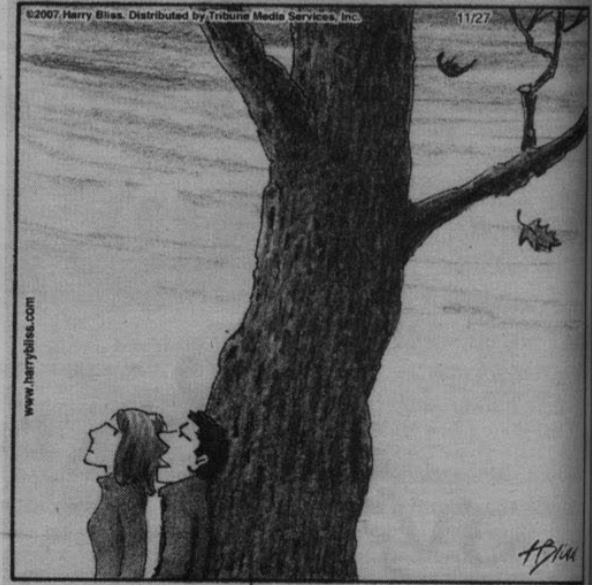
- 47 Disconcert
- 48 City on the Jumna River
- 49 Heir
- 51 More rational
- 52 Dizzying designs
- 54 Slender woodwind
- 56 Enjoy
- 57 Highly excited
- 58 Closely confined
- 60 Greek X



"I'm sorry I don't have any dialogue tonight, Lisa. Curse this writers strike!"



"I'd think twice before I went over there, Lucy."



"Listen ... can you hear that? That's the sound of four months of winter depression."

Brothers Watt

william.h.wilson@uconn.edu

by William Wilson



Editor-in-Chief: Elizabeth Uriarte
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Non-traditional student of the month

Valerie Ziegler
For The Commuter

Alex Barawis is a full-time student enrolled in the dental assistant program, who expects to graduate in June 2008.

In addition to earning a certificate in dental assisting, he will also graduate with a certificate in supervisory management, as well as an associate of general studies.

Barawis was raised on the big island of Hawaii and worked for a family-owned business picking macadamia nuts and Kona coffee. He moved to San Francisco with his family while in high school, eventu-

ally moving to Oregon where he now lives with his wife, Brenda.

Barawis became interested in pursuing a dental assistant certificate after years of working in the construction field.

"I wanted to try something extremely different from what I had ever done and I wanted to prove that I could do something challenging," he said.

Barawis' long-term goal is to work as a dental assistant for a few years and then be accepted into a dental hygiene program.

His hobbies include coaching volleyball at the middle school level for the Boys & Girls Club of Albany,

hunting, fishing, surfing, and spending time with his wife and daughter, Kamalei.

Barawis would like to credit LBCC counselor Angie Klampe for helping him find a direction for his studies and her support and encouragement in coming back to school after an extended absence.

Barawis' advice to other men who are considering a non-traditional field: "Be brave and don't hesitate. There is no reason why men can't be successful in a female-dominated profession. Step out of the box and try it. Don't fear being looked at as feminine and don't worry what other people think!"

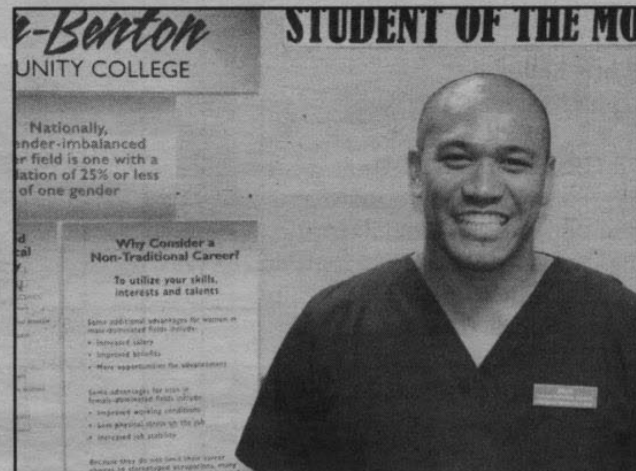


photo by Will Parker

Alex Barawis is enrolled in the dental assistant program at LBCC.

Meet mailman Mike Thomas

Caleb Thomas
The Commuter

Swish! goes the mail cart as it passes students on their way to class.

Its intended target is not the students who scramble to get out of its way but the adjacent staff room just down the hall.

Silently, Mike Thomas gets out of the cart, grabs the U.S. Postal Service bag from the bed of the cart and enters to the department area, stuffing each instructor's box full of mail treats.

He sighs and returns to his cart, bound for his next target.

"Mike and all of our work co-op students are so appreciated," said Linda McKinney, mail room coordinator, "They help us so much and make our job a lot easier."

Thomas is a second-year

psychology student who is looking forward to transferring to Oregon State University next year.

He was awarded work co-op in his financial aid and was offered a job with the mail department. He arrives early every morning and begins the arduous process of sorting the mail.

"When I first started, it was a little confusing, but I've got the hang of it now," he said as he picked up a letter addressed to someone in the English department.

He loads up the ubiquitous mail cart, which "doesn't go as fast as you would think."

Attached to the back of the electric-powered vehicle is a portable cart that is useful when items are to be delivered upstairs.

Due to restrictions in his work co-op award, Thomas is only al-

lowed to work in the mailroom for 12 hours a week, which is fine by him. Not only is he full time at LBCC but he also works an outside job for the Albany Democrat-Herald, on a 200-plus paper route.

"I drive a lot," said Thomas as he again navigates the dark corridors of the college.

Once his route is done, he returns his cart into the back of the Service Center, unloads and packs up his things, bound for class.

"I especially enjoy my anthropology classes, they are more lecture, but that is just fine with me," he said as he talked among the other workers in the mail department.

Thomas and the mail department do a vital service for LBCC. Without it, according to McKinney, the school wouldn't run as smoothly.

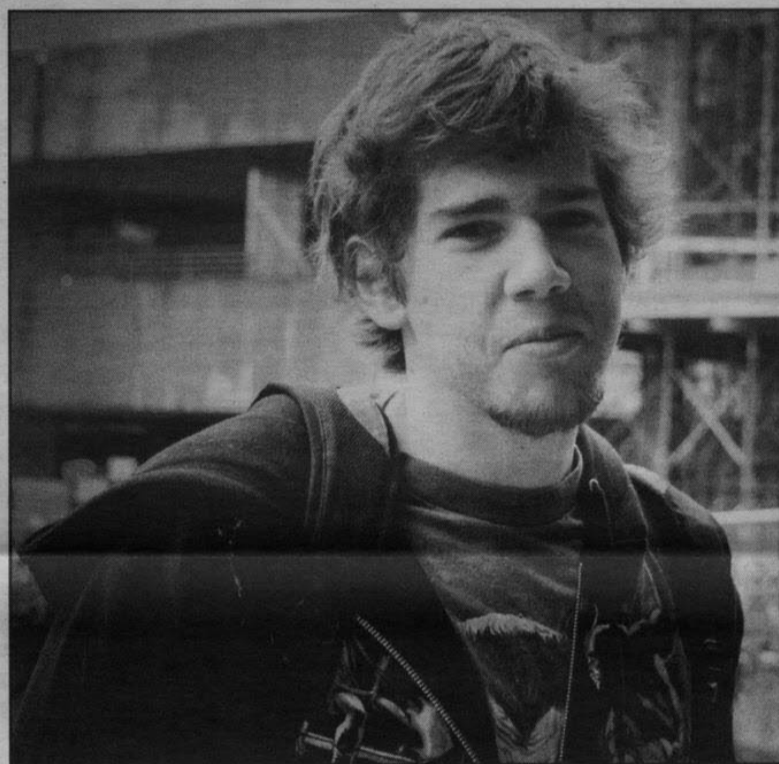


photo by Caleb Thomas

LBCC student Mike Thomas delivers mail throughout the LB main campus in Albany.

Vehicle, storm safety tips for winter

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

To make sure your vehicle is winter ready, here are tips from the Illinois Department of Transportation:

-Because winter is rough on equipment, regularly check the wipers, tires, lights and fluid levels.

-Always keep your gas tank at least two-thirds full to prevent the vehicle's fuel line from freezing.

-Equip your vehicle with a winter emergency survival kit, including: Ice scraper, snow brush, rags, jumper cables, basic tool kit, antifreeze, no-freeze windshield washer fluid, shovel, traction mats or old rugs, tire chains, salt, cat box litter or sand for your vehicle.

-A human winter emergency survival kit could include: Blankets and extra clothing including hats, socks, waterproof boots, coats and gloves; non-perishable, high-calorie food; candles, waterproof matches

and a metal container to melt snow into water; flashlight with extra batteries, flares or roadway reflectors; a basic first aid kit and fire extinguisher; a cell phone with a backup power source and a citizen's band radio.

Tips to deal with winter storms from the American Red Cross and Ameren:

Prepare for possible severe winter weather by developing a plan and compiling a storm kit.

The storm kit can include:

-Flashlights and fresh batteries; extra garage and house keys; a battery-powered radio; a battery-powered or wind-up clock; a supply of bottled water (one gallon per person per day); non-perishable foods that don't require heating; blankets bedding or sleeping bags; a first-aid kit and medications; a hand-operated can-opener; hand tools, such as a screwdriver, scissors and duct tape; household items such as plastic utensils, paper plates, waterproof matches and

household bleach and copies of identification and important family documents.

If you experience a power outage:

-Only use a flashlight for emergency lighting. Never use candles.

-Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.

-Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.

-Do not run a generator inside a home or garage.

-If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system.

-Don't try to heat your home with an un-vented heater, gas range or any similar appliance, and never use a charcoal grill indoors. Carbon monoxide could be produced. This colorless, odorless, poisonous gas can result in serious injuries, and even death.

Save yourself from the sprain of snowboarding this season

Chuck Myers
McClatchy-Tribune (MCT)

An ankle sprain can abruptly end your day on the slopes. And, unfortunately, snowboarders have a much higher risk of ankle sprains than conventional skiers, mainly due to the type of boots used for snowboarding.

Snowboarding boots allow a moderate range of motion for the ankle, but don't provide the same level of protective stiff support as normal ski boots.

The type of snowboarding boots a person selects can have a direct bearing on the chances of suffering an ankle sprain.

Soft-shell boots offer the most ankle flexibility during snowboarding, but also possess the highest risk factor for a sprain. A hard-shell boot may offer more stability and protection against a sprain, but may not provide the best range of ankle motion. A third type, hybrid boots, features qualities soft and hard shell boots, with increased stability and range of motion.

In addition to boot selection,

a few other preventive measures can reduce the risk of an ankle sprain while snowboarding:

-Warm up before any sports activity

-Undertake a conditioning program to increase muscle strength

-Perform stretching exercises daily

-Don't ignore a warning sign. Never undertake a recreational activity, such as snowboarding, if you experience pain in the foot or ankle.

Source: Medical College of Wisconsin; American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons; Institute of Sports Medicine and Athletic Trauma.



Sports Editor: Chris Kelley
 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.

Roadrunners end season with 5th-place finish

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

GRESHAM – A whole year of workouts and tournaments are done in preparation for the North West Athletic Association for Community College championship tournament.

The regular season is all about being the top four in the division to make it to the championship tournament-where anything can happen.

Linn-Benton volleyball entered the NWAACC tournament as a second seed; the first time in the school's history they have been seeded that high. They were behind Mt. Hood, the reigning NWAACC champions.

In the opening round Thursday, the lady Roadrunners swept Skagit Valley, a third seed in the North region (30-17, 30-20, 30-21). LB dominated the whole way through and Ali Krebs had 47 assists with 20 kills going to Chelsea Hartman and 10 to Bethany Vodrup.

Friday afternoon brought a match up against Tacoma, top seed in the West region and one of three teams undefeated in their division. Tacoma forced a lot of pressure the entire match, and after winning the first two games (30-22, 30-26), Linn-Benton found themselves down 19-26 and Coach Frazier called a time out.

"Defense needed to play lower," said Frazier on what she told the girls during the time out. "We also needed better ball control."

"She told us to dig deep," said Vodrup, who had six blocks in the match. "And that she has all the faith in the world in us."

After the time out, the girls made a 6-0 run, bringing the score to 24-26. They lost the



Above: Sophomore's Bethany Vodrup and Shauna Robinson team up for the block in their win against Tacoma. Vodrup had 6 kills in the match. Right: Vodrup spikes one of her 43 kills for the weekend.

photos by Chris Kelley

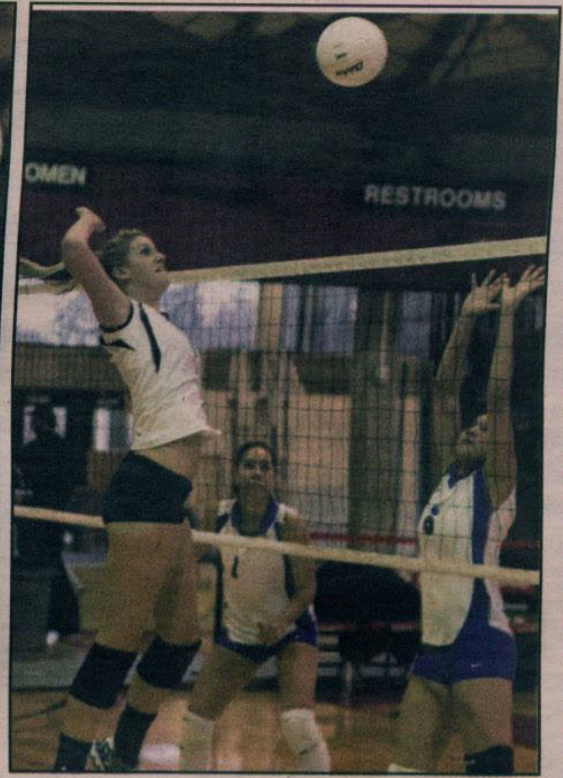
serve, but gained it back after an impressive block by Vodrup. Hartman served for four consecutive points, to give the ladies the lead for the first time since early on in the game and Vodrup finished the match off with two points for the 30-28 win.

"We had a very good attack percentage against Tacoma," said Frazier. "We also did a good job of attacking out of system

balls-the ones that aren't perfect."

They had a 33.6 attack percentage, which according to Frazier, anything between 30 and 40 percent is good by the end of the year.

Columbian-Basin was the Roadrunners next challenge in the quarter-finals Friday night. Another top seed and undefeated in the east. LB fell behind



early in the first game, and despite having seven straight scores late in the game and tying it up at 28, the ladies lost their first game of the tournament 28-30.

With the second and third games being close also, Lea Himan-Teves was the one to finish Columbian-Basin off, recording the last combined seven points for the (31-29, 30-15) wins.

In game four, CB again took control, winning 19-30 to force a game five, which is a tie-breaker played to 15. Shauna Robinson had 20 kills and Hartman had 26.

Game five was back and forth the entire way, starting with the ladies up 2-0 and finding them down as much as four, before losing the game 12-15 and match 3-2.

"She told us to dig deep. And that she has all the faith in the world in us."

-Bethany Vodrup

Saturday morning in the consolation bracket, the top seed in the North, Whatcom who lost to Mt. Hood in the quarter-finals, was the Roadrunners' challenger. LB won the first game 30-21 keeping the lead the whole time. In game two, down 21-23, the Roadrunners took the lead 27-23. After a Yellow Card was issued on Coach Frazier for illegal substitution, Whatcom took the lead 28-29. LB won the next point, and then again fell behind and lost 29-31. In game three, which is played to 15 and is the tie-breaker in the consolation rounds, Linn-Benton was defeated 11-15, ending the

historical season with a fifth-place finish. LB's South region foe Mt. Hood, defended their NWAACC title beating Whatcom in the finals. Clackamas finished tied for 6th place. Despite finishing fifth, LB was first in hitting percentage

service aces and assists for the tournament. For the nine sophomores, Himan-Teves, Hartman, Robinson, Vodrup, Kori Iverson, Brianna Laverty, Tara Stuart, Eric Miller, and Amanda Douglas, this might be their last time in Roadrunners uniform, but they will be in Linn-Benton records books forever.

Civil War: Beavs, Ducks going different directions

Nikali Covey
 The Commuter

Three months ago, if you were to ask any college football fan from Oregon where the state's two division 1A football programs would finish in the Pac-10, you probably would have received a much different answer than if you were to ask the same question now.

After the Beavs' tortoise-like start and the Ducks' lightning fast start, football fans could only assume that UO was destined for greatness and OSU was headed for another mediocre season. Things now appear to be less cut-and-dry.

Since starting the first five games of the season with a 2-3 record, Oregon State has managed to win five of their last six games, compiling a record of 7-4. In the meantime, the Ducks flew out to an 8-1 start, but have since dropped consecutive games to Arizona and UCLA, giving them an 8-3 record heading into the 111th Civil

War game with OSU, Dec. 1, at Autzen Stadium in Eugene.

Oregon State is riding high heading into Saturday's match up with Oregon after back-to-back wins against both Washington and Washington State. Kicker Alexis Serna proved to be too much offense for the Huskies in Corvallis, where he made five field goals in the 29-23 Beaver win.

"I just need to do what it takes to help our team win and get to a good bowl game," said Serna when asked about his chances at winning his second Lou Groza Award, which is given to the most outstanding collegiate place-kicker. "That is what is most important to me and I'm not worrying about anything else."

It didn't take Oregon State 60 minutes to put things out of reach for Washing-

ton State in Pullman on Nov. 17. The Beavers dominated every aspect of the game and cruised to a 52-17 win over the Cougars.

The Ducks on the other hand are not as hot. Since losing starting quarterback Dennis Dixon with a torn ACL in the

Beavers look to snap home-team string of victories against the Ducks in Eugene in Saturday's Civil War football game.

first quarter of the Arizona game, the Ducks' once high powered-spread offense has scored just 16 points in seven quarters-

which includes being shut out in the loss to UCLA on Nov. 24.

Both teams have been hit hard by the proverbial injury bug. In addition to their Heisman Trophy candidate in Dixon, the Ducks will be without backup quarterback Brady Leaf and a slew of other key players, including receivers Brian Paysinger and Cameron Colvin and backup running back Jeremiah Johnson.

The Beavers will likely be without quarterback Sean Canfield and running back Yvenson Bernard. Bernard is currently fourth in the conference in rushing and has accounted for 13 touchdowns.

If history is any indication of which school will be the winner of this year's Civil War game, then Duck fans should be excited. The home team has won the Civil War each of the last 10 years, dating back to 1996 when the Ducks last beat the Beavers at then Parker Stadium. In addition, the Beavers have not beaten the Ducks in Eugene in 14 years.

The stage is set football fans-OSU (7-4 at No. 18, Oregon (8-3) in the 111th installment of the Civil War. Can the Beavers snap their 14-year losing streak at Autzen? Or will the Ducks keep the 10-year trend of the home team prevailing victorious? It will surely be an exciting day for football fans regardless of the outcome, though I think it's safe to say that everyone in the state has picked their side.