



Home Safe

Roadrunners move into a tie for third place with Chemeketa after 3 of 4 games in the last week.

Page 7

Brighton Beach

London's seaside getaway attracts fun-seekers from all over the world.

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THE Commuter

Wednesday,
May 3, 2006
Volume 37 No. 19

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter



photo by Dan Wise

Science Center Tour

Congresswoman Darlene Hooley (D-OR) (center) visited LBCC on Tuesday to tour the college's outdated science building. LB President Rita Cavin led the tour and explained the difficulties faced by the college to meet the demand for science-based courses with its present facilities. Elizabeth Lundy, dean of math and sciences (right) also helped with the tour. The college is seeking a \$1.5 million grant from the federal government as part of the cost of renovation.

¡Celebrate 5 Mayo!

Maria Gonzalez
The Commuter

General Ignacio Zaragoza led the Mexican army in a battle against the French army at Puebla, Mexico, on May 5, 1862. The French army had been sent by Emperor Napoleon III to conquer Mexico. In honor of Mexico's victory and for all the Hispanics that live in this area, the Albany Downtown Association has organized events to celebrate the special day:

- Upstairs-Downtown Tour (Tour the second stories of several buildings, including the Flinn Block from 4 to 8 p.m.)
- Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Taqueria Alonzo in Two Rivers Market starting at 2 p.m.
- Evening wine tasting at the Wine Depot and gift baskets by Berlee's Fancies.
- The Albany Regional Museum presents The Northwest Banjo Band 6 to 8 p.m.
- KGAL-KSHO Street Dance '50s, '60s, '70s music in the Two Rivers parking lot 8 to 11 p.m.

The Heritage Mall administration and stores have organized different events for a public celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. on Cinco de Mayo.

The program will have live music and entertainment, family fun, live radio remote, prize giveaways, taco samples and community resource booths.

Portland's Cinco de Mayo Festival is held every year at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park; the Portland-Guadalajara Sister City Association (PGSCA) sponsors this event.

This festival is the largest celebration in Oregon. It represents a weeklong celebration that highlights traditional artistry, music and food from Latin America.

This celebration also marks the historical presence of Oregon's Chicano population. Student Life and Leadership from LBCC will join the celebration.

Students interested in going can register with Matt Hamel at 917-4457 or stop by the Student Life and Leadership Office.

Five foals delivered at LBCC's Horse Center

Nancey West
The Commuter

New life has been added to LBCC's Horse Center in the form of five foals. The four fillies and one colt were born in the last three weeks. Three belong to LB and two belong to students. One of the foals is a mini.

Students have been taking turns on mare-watch to be available when the foals arrive in case the mare needs any assistance.

"The students are responsible for mare-watch," explained Jenny Strooband, animal science instructor. "They stay at the barn and check the mares every two hours. If they have a question, they call me. I have seen many false alarms."

There is a bed in the classroom that Strooband said she or the students can use for the long nights of waiting. And the waiting isn't over—there are two more mares ready to foal. Both are overdue.

Fortunately, most deliveries go smoothly. "Some need attending, usually just minor problems," Strooband said. She explained that last year they did have one stillborn. "That was sad."

The breeding program brings a lot of revenue for the center, Strooband explained. LB owns one stud and has one stud on loan. Both are registered American Paint horses.

In 2005, five of LB's mares were bred along with 10 outside mares, from owners in Oregon, Washington and California. Three of LB's mares and three outside mares have been bred this year.

The mares are used for riding as well as breeding. Not all mares are bred each year. Outside stallion owners have also donated breedings to their studs.

The breeding program has a lab at the facility. "The students do all the collecting, the semen evaluation and at the end of the term will breed mares," said Strooband. "We use a vet when needed. He works closely with us."

"The babies will have some handling, get used to people and maybe learn to lead," Strooband said. "We usually leave them alone to be babies."

The foals will be weaned in October and worked casually. Then they will learn to tie, load in a trailer and be worked from the ground.

When they are 18 to 20 months old, they enter the 'classroom.' Students work with them on the ground for six weeks and then begin riding them. By spring term they will be ready to sell.

"They are trained well, they have a lot of exposure (to different situations) and we sell them for a reasonable price," Strooband said.

LB owns eight horses that are a permanent part

► Turn to "Foals" on Pg. 4



photo by Nancey West

Student Jason Peacock holds up the newborn mini foal, one of the five foals born in the last few weeks at the LB horse center, while Breanne Crawford holds the foals mother.

The Weather Through the Week

Source: National Weather Service

High 70
Sunny 
Low 33
Wednesday

High 71
Mostly Sunny 
Low 35
Thursday

High 67
Mostly Sunny 
Low 41
Friday

High 60
Partly Cloudy 
Low 42
Saturday

High 65
Mostly Cloudy 
Low 45
Sunday

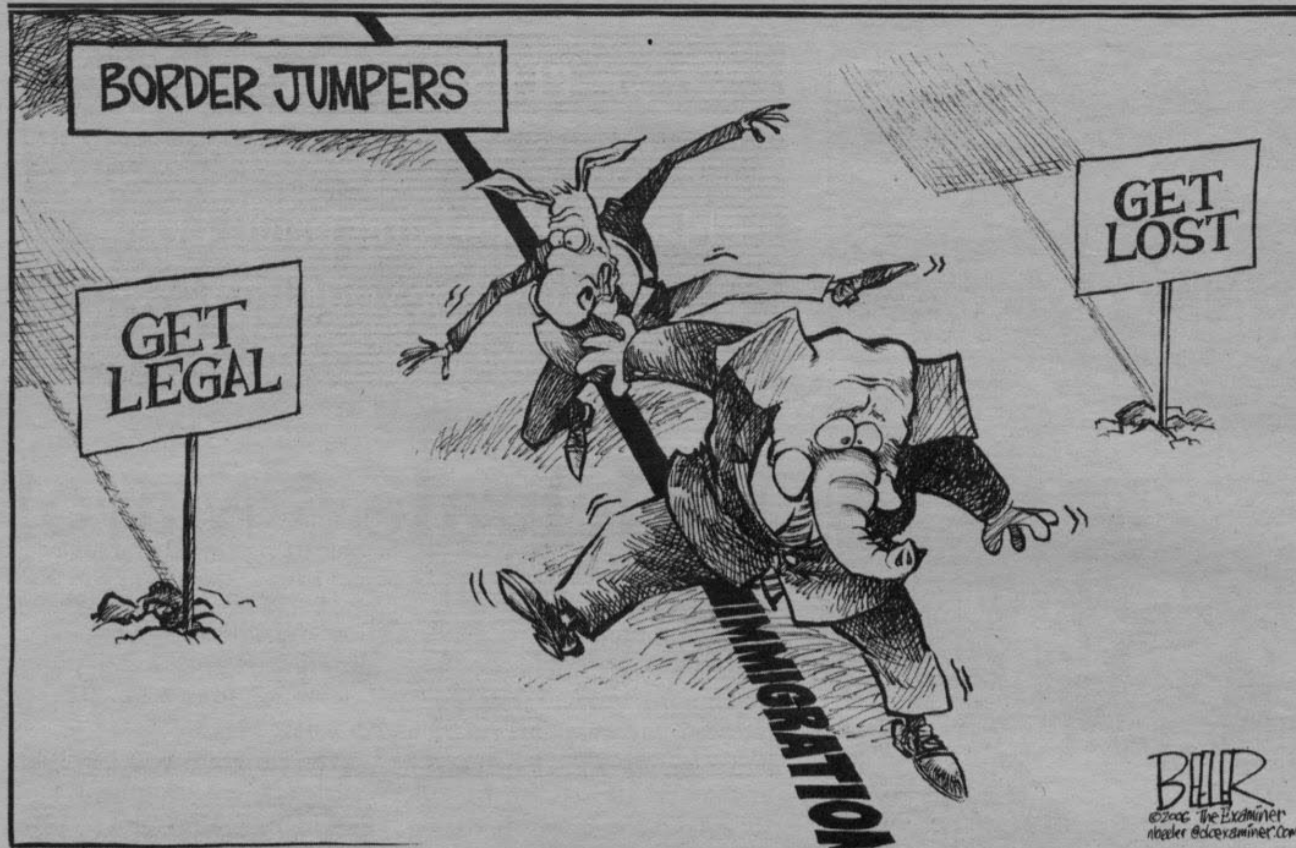
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 Editor-In-Chief: Dan Wise
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

OPINION

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



TO THE EDITOR

Silent action defies indifference, fear

How fitting that the Day of Silence fell on the same day that has been designated as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor, author and Nobel Peace Prize recipient makes a poignant statement that should make us all think about our decision to speak, or not to speak, to act or not to act, regardless of fear:

"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

I would like to thank the Student Ambassador group for taking on the Day of Silence at LBCC. I realize that for some it was an uncomfortable day. But, in this time of indifference, fear and hate, it is, without a doubt, an important day to support.

A special thank you to Petr [Horak] and Matt [Hamel] in particular, for their hard work, courage and integrity. It is an honor to have been a part of such a worthwhile program—one that I hope brings us all a little bit closer together—and a lot more understanding.

Well done, with heartfelt thanks.

Susan Garber-Yonts

Understanding needs more than silence

I've spent the last three years as a student working at LBCC. When I started my degree here, things were different than they are today and frankly, not very welcoming for an international student, especially a gay international student. Back then, I had a choice to be either bitter and not care about this college, or to get involved with the Student Life and Leadership office and create changes to make this college a more welcoming and safer place for everyone.

Over the years, I've tried to plan events that would raise human-to-human acceptance, awareness and tolerance. Equally, I have worked hard to provide our student body with education and support that students deserve on their college campus.

I just finished my last event at LBCC—the National Day of Silence. It was, in my opinion, a successful event and provided the entire LBCC community with the opportunity to support basic civil rights. I do understand that this kind of event wouldn't have taken place on this campus 10 years ago. I also understand that for many people this event was a "stretch." However, I feel compelled to mention my disappointment with the

response that participants wearing the "National Day of Silence" shirts received from their peers, the LBCC student body. On a few occasions, the people supporting the Day of Silence were verbally assaulted, but more often faced looks from students filled with laughter, disgust and hatred.

LBCC community, we need your help! Now is not the time to sit back and ignore these issues. If you are an instructor, please contact the Academic Affairs office and get a copy of the "Statement of Inclusion" written by student leaders to include in your class syllabi. It is not long and will fit with a few formatting changes.

Students and employees, please show your support! It is long past the time of silence. If you are an ally, identify yourself and share your open mind. Help create a healthy environment of acceptance and tolerance for all students. To all of you who actively participated in our efforts to stop hate crimes, I thank you for your support and courage to take a stand. The time is now and the place is right here on our own campus. Thank you.

Petr Horak

Discrimination dims LB's 'shining light'

I would like to publicly thank the two LBCC students, Petr Horak and Matt Hamel, who brought the National Day of Silence to our campus. In my almost nine years working here, this is the first campus event in my memory that was a specific and proactive show of support for this college's LGBT student population. I know it took a great deal of time, effort and most importantly, courage to make this happen. I only wish that there had been more participation by both staff and students, although surely even a ripple of involvement is better than none at all.

The post-event discussion was especially moving. "Red shirt" students talked about the demands of being completely quiet for a day, and the reactions they evoked. In some cases, they had to maintain their composure and sensibility while being confronted with overt hostility and verbal attacks. It's one thing to "know" that

homophobia exists and to have to endure it in its more typical quiescent state; it is entirely different to have to confront it head-on and in your face by committing the apparent sin of "too obviously" being who you are. This is when hate and ignorance rear their ugly heads and students are subjected to what, in this country, remains a quasi-legitimate, tacitly condoned bigotry.

If LBCC truly proposes to be, in the words of President Cavin, a "shining light in our community," then it feels imperative that we are forward thinking and take the lead in ensuring the safety and open acceptance of our LGBT students. Our school should be a safe haven for them, embrace them, and allow them to learn and contribute unfettered by condemnation of their biological and very human right to be who they are, just as it does for all other students.

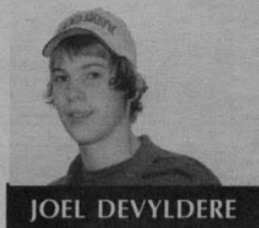
Jane L. Tillman

COMMENTARY

The Day of Silence: Who's more equal?

The Multicultural Center defined The National Day of Silence, which took place on Wednesday, as "a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a daylong vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment."

Signs around campus cited an instance in which a homosexual student committed suicide because of acts of discrimination against him, as well as statistics testifying to the speculation that many gay or lesbian students skip school because they are afraid of being harassed.



JOEL DEVYLDERE

I believe that most of us can agree that it is wrong for a person to harass another because of their sexual orientation. But is it reasonable to spend student enrollment fees provided for student activities at this school to support a specific group of individuals who claim harassment?

If my friends and I were discriminated against, because of a preference or choice of lifestyle, and the issue was in need of intervention, I would go to the officers of the school, whose job is to deal with discrimination and hate crimes. I wouldn't expect or support having the leadership at this school single us out and end the discrimination against us because we are a minority.

LBCC already has a policy in place to contend with harassment and hate crimes, as well as officers in place to deal with those who violate it. The Student Rights and Responsibilities Statement, for example, states that, "The College prohibits discrimination based upon a person's race, color, sex, (or) sexual orientation..." Students who believe that they have been discriminated against are encouraged to speak with or write to the Dean, and have the issue resolved.

I agree that some people are sick enough to insult, or even commit hate crimes against other students just because of their choice of sexual orientation. However, is it a necessary or reasonable response to lobby political groups, organize times such as "Queer History Month", and remain silent for a day, just for the few who claim to be harassed and refuse to go to the school for help?

Everyone will get discriminated against at some point in his or her life. But are some people more equal than others, in that they need special attention from the school to defend themselves? Whatever happened to standing up to harassment and defending your point of view on your own? Where is Gay Pride in all of this?

Joel DeVyldere

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues.

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer. Contributors who wish to submit columns are asked to first contact the editor to arrange for space in the upcoming issues.

The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, although we reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. Letters that raise libel, poor taste or privacy concerns will not be printed.

Opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter staff or Linn-Benton Community College.

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

OPINION

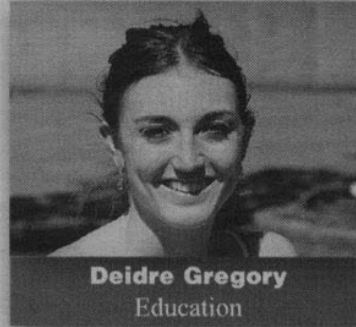
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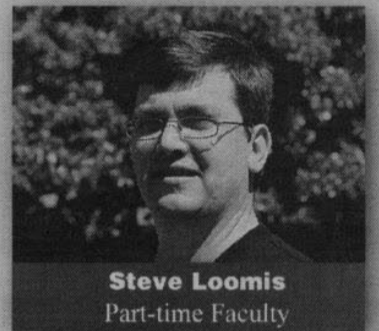
PERSPECTIVES

How is the rising price of gas affecting your life?



Deidre Gregory
Education

"It makes it more difficult to be able to visit family far away. I travel from Corvallis to Albany, and it's just more money."



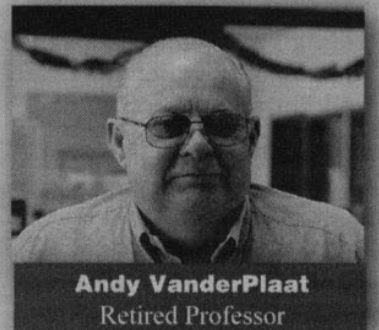
Steve Loomis
Part-time Faculty

"Well, I'm paying a lot more attention to my commute. If I can do more than one thing on my drive, I'll do it."



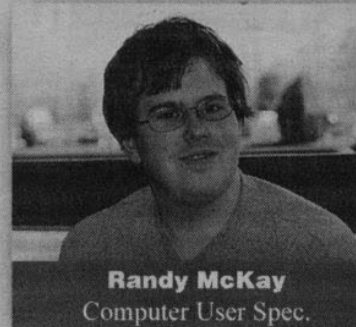
Marybeth Ward
Culinary Arts

"It's not, because I don't have a car."



Andy VanderPlaat
Retired Professor

"It doesn't make any difference. We have to pay it whether we like it or not."



Randy McKay
Computer User Spec.

"It hasn't affected me too much. I ride the bus."



Laura Fultz
Office Specialist

"Ah, it's very high and I don't like it, and it's because it's so high I can't afford to drive, so I take the bus."

President's ratings deflate as gasoline pump prices balloon

Jack Z. Smith
 Knight Ridder Newspapers

President Bush was once a Texas oilman, albeit not a particularly successful one. He was in the business in the mid-1980s, a bleak period for harvesters of fossil fuels.

In the energy boom year of 1981, crude oil prices topped \$35 a barrel, then an all-time high. But by the spring of 1986, Americans had embraced energy conservation with a vengeance, and the OPEC oil cartel was in disarray. To the amazement of many, oil prices plunged below \$10.

That was a colossal downer for George W. Bush and other denizens of the oil patch. But Bush might be ecstatic to see \$10 oil right now.

His sinking poll ratings, torpedoed by the unpleasanties in Iraq, have been further deflated by Americans' fury over gasoline prices topping \$3 per gallon. Ballooning pump prices are the offspring of oil reaching \$70 to \$75 a barrel, a record high. Since Bush became president, gasoline prices have roughly doubled.

He attempted last week to calm the storm by offering some conspicuously lame countermeasures. He pledged to pursue claims of "price gouging," even though he knows that such investigations typically don't amount to squat. Soaring gas prices customarily are triggered by market and political forces rather than whispered conspiracies.

Global oil demand is a robust 85 million barrels a day. It hasn't declined even in the face of a sustained escalation in energy prices.

The world's population has topped 6.5 billion. More people means more energy consumption. Millions of Chinese, Indians and residents of other fast-growing developing nations are buying cars, computers and other energy-eating products for the first time.

Some petroleum production in the Gulf of Mexico still hasn't been restored since Hurricane Katrina's rampage. Oil facilities are sabotaged regularly in Iraq and Nigeria. Political tensions surrounding Iran have upped oil prices in futures markets.

Bush proposed putting less oil into America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, providing an additional 10 million to 12 million barrels of supply. But that's peanuts. We consume approximately twice that amount daily.

The president has implored Congress to repeal \$2 billion in oil industry tax breaks over 10 years.

Once again, peanuts. Those tax breaks amount to \$200 million annually for an industry in which a single company, Exxon Mobil, last year recorded 180 times that amount, \$36 billion, in after-tax profits.

Bush suggested relaxing clean-air rules that might contribute to tighter fuel supplies and higher gas prices. Does that mean we exchange a slight reduction in pump prices for dirtier air? That's not an alluring prospect, especially in metropolitan areas most polluted by ground-level ozone (which can spawn asthma attacks and worsen the misery of bronchitis, emphysema or other respiratory ills).

Bush's political dilemma over gas prices is considerably of his own making.

Bush's political dilemma over gas prices is considerably of his own making.

Ever since he became president in 2001, he and other GOP leaders have foolishly opposed adopting substantially higher CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards for passenger vehicles. Bush has supported only two timid

increases, even though significantly raised CAFE standards could accomplish more in a relatively short period of time than any other measure to curb gluttonous U.S. energy consumption.

If Bush had pushed for higher standards five years ago, when he enjoyed surplus political capital, America probably wouldn't be faced with \$3 gas now.

Liberal Democrats and environmental groups deserve blame for their knee-jerk opposition to expanding domestic oil and natural gas exploration. I would gladly support limited drilling in a small part of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and parts of the eastern Gulf of Mexico in exchange for higher CAFE standards. We also should look at building better-designed, more cost-efficient nuclear power plants.

Bush is correct in saying that the government can't significantly alter energy prices overnight. Hydrogen vehicles might not be feasible for 20 to 30 years, if then. But we individually can contribute by doing everything from buying more fuel-efficient vehicles to embracing energy conservation in our homes.

CORRECTION

The photograph from the speedway on page 11 of last week's paper was incorrectly identified. The driver giving a thumbs up is David Cronk and he is driving a Supersport. He is the son of Mike Cronk and the father of Brian Cronk.

Compiled by Aaron Broich
 and Colleen Franzoia

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

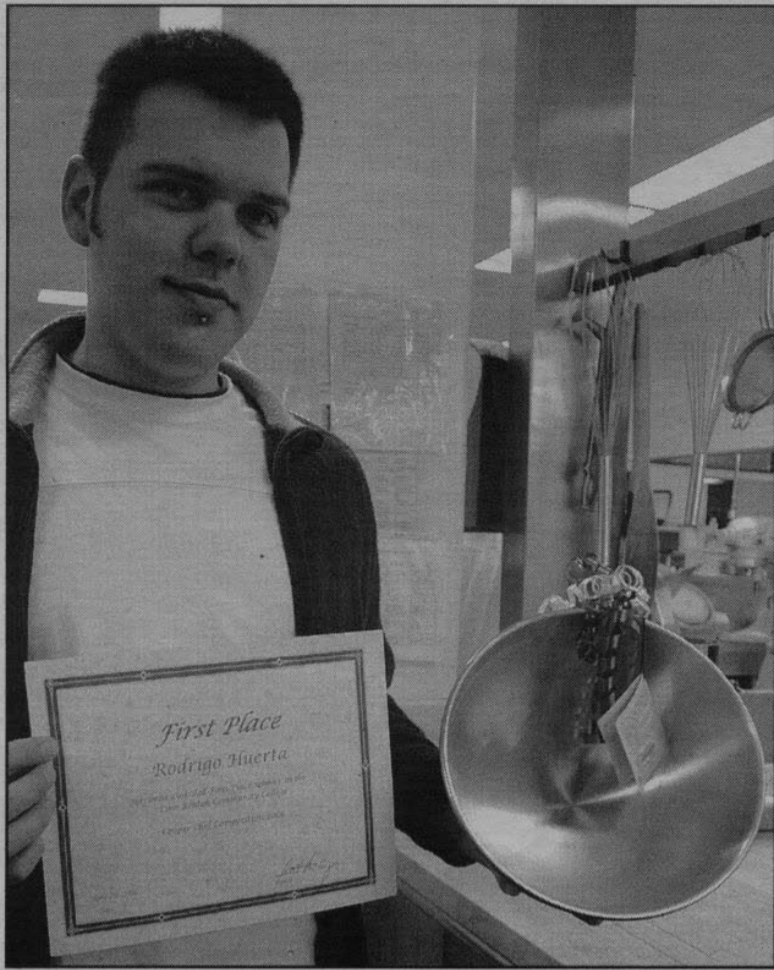


photo by Lori Fluge-Brunker

Students compete to be crowned as Copper Chef

LBCC news service

Four LBCC Culinary Arts students competed in the Second Annual Copper Chef Competition held April 26. This year's winner was Rodrigo Huerta, who received a copper mixing bowl as his trophy.

Much like the popular Food TV series Iron Chef, students were given a limited number of ingredients to make first course and entree dishes. This year's main ingredient was pork loin roast.

Students were given a list of ingredients to use such as potato, carrot, onion, celery, several vegetables, apples, eggs, milk

and basil. They could also use salt and pepper to taste. Several judges from the LBCC community sampled each dish, rating them on appearance, flavor, texture, degree of difficulty, and temperature.

Overall points possible were 110, with each category rated from 1 to 10.

Culinary Art students in this year's competition were Rodrigo Huerta, Joseph Metts, Becky Tucker and Michael Brown.

Judges were Dael Dixon from the Career Center, Paulette Myers from the Foundation, Don Kirby, a Santiam Restaurant patron, and LBCC student Deidre Calabro.

Foals: Focus on breeding, training

◀ From Pg. 1

of the program. Also in residence are the three newborns as well as six young horses that will be sold upon completing training. The seven-acre horse facility is one and a half miles from campus on 53rd Street. The function of the center is to support the horse program. It is a teaching facility with a classroom and a lab.

LBCC offers two horse-related degrees. Both are two-year programs and many of the classes overlap.

The Animal Technology Horse Management program is an Associate of Applied Science degree, while Equine Science in an Associate of Science degree, with more biology and chemistry classes. "Both are very hands-on programs," said Strooband.

Some of the classes include training young horses, so a riding evaluation is required at the beginning of the program. "If

they don't pass, then they have riding lessons to bring them up to speed," said Strooband.

The equestrian team uses the horses and the facility. Students, staff or faculty are also able to board their own horses there. "That is a nice addition to their education," said Strooband.

LB Recognition Dinner held Friday Outstanding '05-'06 part-time faculty honored

Neal Jones
The Commuter

A recognition dinner was held at LBCC for some special people Friday night, April 28.

The outstanding part-time faculty of 2005-2006 were given plaques and a congratulatory letter from Linn-Benton President Rita Cavin. The part-time faculty honoree event has been going on since 1981 at LB. To be honored you need to have been employed by LBCC during the current and previous year and not been selected during the two previous years.

The Albany Community Education, Benton Center and East Linn Centers are allotted two selections. Arts and Communication, Business and Computer Systems, Culinary Arts, Engineering and Industrial Technology, Health and Human Services, Family Resources and Education, Math and Sciences, Student Services and Workforce Education and Training are each given one selection for honorees. The maximum number of honorees

possible is fifteen.

Janet Lodge, a secretary in the College Center said, "LB has always had part-time faculty teach anything from non-credit to credited classes. Many have full-time jobs. Some wish to teach full-time or others may have no intention of teaching full-time." This year's honorees include Karen Bledsoe, for the sciences; Joyce Bower, for the English Department; Phyllis Copeland, for dance, from Albany Community Education; Donna George, for Practical Accounting at the Benton Center; Julene Hamilton, for ESOL; Kristi Murphy, for Health and Human Performance at LBCC; Cherine Province, for fitness classes in Brownsville; Lisa Richardson, who taught for the Parenting Education Department for 13 years; Joey Running, an instructor in the Computer Systems Department; Elaine Senff, lead instructor for the Pharmacy Technician program; Jeffrey Snyder, for teaching biology classes in Albany and at the Benton Center; and Dee Yarnell, for teaching art classes at the Benton Center for 10 years.

Campus Shorts...

Leadership Recognition Dinner

Tonight from 5 to 7 p.m., outgoing student leaders will be recognized and incoming leaders will be sworn in at the LBCC Commons. The Associated Student Government will also present an award for the employee of the year. Carol Schaafsma, director of curriculum and instructional programs will deliver the keynote address. Dinner will be provided. For additional information, call 917-4459.

French Banquet

Tickets are on sale for Linn-Benton Community College's

33rd Annual Culinary Arts French Banquet to be held Thursday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the College Center Commons, 6500 Pacific Blvd. S.W., Albany.

This event is held yearly to provide an outlet for LBCC culinary students to showcase their culinary skills. Cost is \$30 per person. Tickets are available for purchase at LBCC in room CC-214, or by phone at 541-917-4391.

Paths to Education

Latino and Latina students from Calapooia Middle School, LB's partner school, will be on campus May 9 to explore pathways to higher education and non-traditional careers. During lunch, Delia Guillen will share her own pathway to higher education. To participate or for more information, contact Mercedes at the Student Life and Leadership office or call 917-4466.



AmeriCorps*VISTA position

F/T AmeriCorps*VISTA position avail. Mar. 22 to recruit "Baby Boomers" for RSVP of Linn & Benton counties. 1-yr. commitment. Send cover letter and resume to: RSVP, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, OR 97321. For info call 541-753-9197 or visit <http://www.americorps.org/about/programs/vista.asp>

Training, stipend, and education award available.
Deadline to apply-5:00 p.m. May 22.

LBCC STUDENT PROGRAMMING BOARD PRESENTS INTERNATIONAL DANCE WORKSHOPS

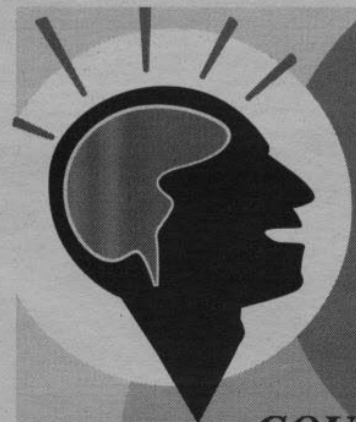
Belly Dance with Tina "Levanah" Taylor
May 4, 6-8 p.m., AC-120

Salsa & Tango with Barbara Platt
May 18, 6-8 p.m., AC-120

Cha Cha & Waltz with Barbara Platt
May 25, 6-8 p.m., AC-120

Non-marking shoes required; shoes will be checked. The workshops cost \$2 for LBCC students with current ID and \$3 for everyone else. Payments must be made by cash or check; no debit or credit cards will be accepted.

For more information, call 917-4963.



Questions Call:
(541) 917-4697 (24 hour
registrations notice required) or
email: tutorus@linnbenton.edu
or
visit Lebanon Center's
information desk.

COURSE ONE ON ONE
Tutoring starts May 1 at the Lebanon Center.

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests four to six weeks before the event.

Design Editor: Elizabeth Beckham
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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EXPRESSIONS

Poems, art, photography,
essays and other work
submitted by students.

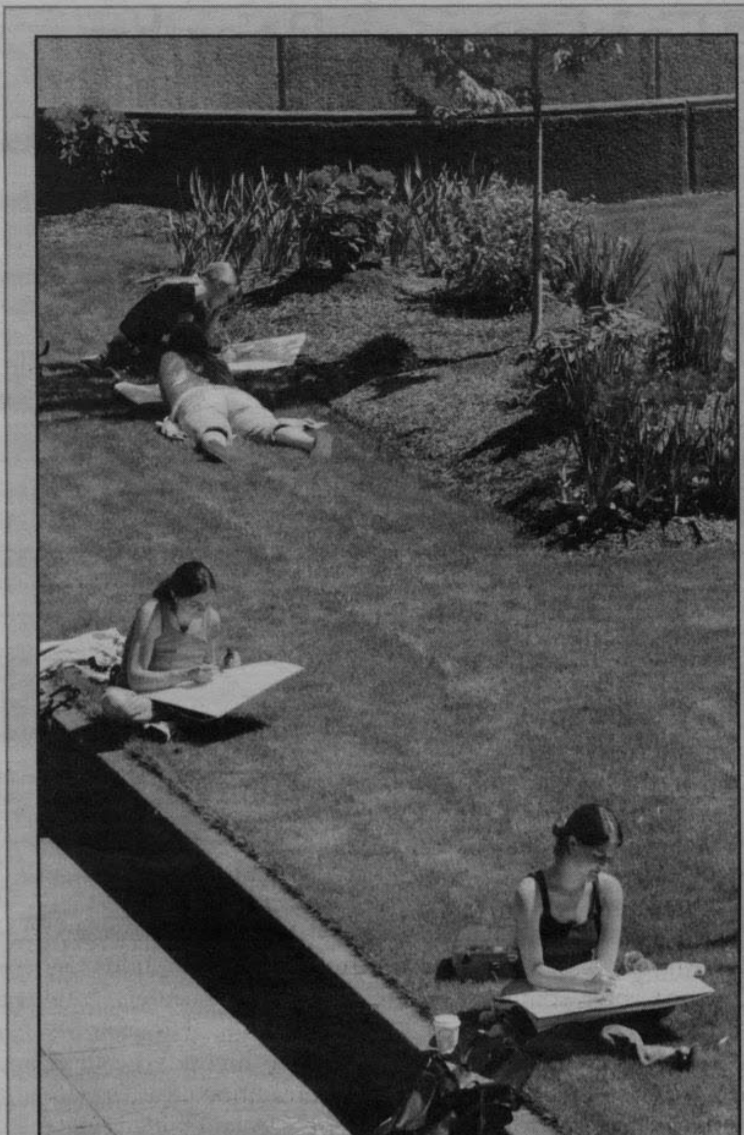


photo by Dan Wise

Sunny Studies

Rachelle Swaney, first-year graphic design student (front) joins other members of Dori Litzer's Drawing 3 class in the sunshine in the courtyard last Thursday.

TIRED AND TRUE

College—
 Tried and true I know
 But right now it's tired and true
 True or false
 Essay, essay, essay
 Quizzes and tests
 What do I know best?
 Trying to finish the year that began
 Then look back to see how I ran
 One day on top
 The next I'm behind
 At the end of the year
 I plan to stand in that line
 Never been before
 But now an open door
 Just need to continue
 Until the term's end
 Curious to see where this will all end.

Debbie Moffat

BABBLE POEM

Psychology, Biology
 They all sound like Greek to me.
 The terms they all begin to run
 To sort it all out is not much fun.
 Xylem, phloem, Sigmund Freud
 Cross section, surveys oh what a joy.
 Sometimes I think my brain is melting
 With all this stuff my mind I'm pelting.
 People or plants, epidermis
 I'm not sure which one is worse.
 They both have veins but one has sap.
 Which is the one that has a lap?
 Just for fun throw in more classes
 I think my ship is headed down fast.
 Now the fun can really start
 Exams next Friday
 Oh no my heart!
 I see the grade, can this paper be mine?
 In that an A there on the line?
 All my fears have been for naught
 My brain works better than I thought.
 To give up on learning would be a sin.
 So do the hardest part and just begin.

Victoria H. Gardner

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101). Just sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/studentemployment.

IT Intern

(#4242, Halsey) Are you a computer student with good computer skills? Here is an opportunity to get great experience, paid well (\$16.50/hr) and have a full-time summer job. Halsey is only 20 miles down a scenic drive in the summer.

Collections Clerk

(#4240, Albany) If you have one year customer service experience and office skills, this is the job for you! This full-time position pays \$13.50-\$14.40/hr DOE.

CWE Stockroom Clerk

(#4197, Albany) Eventually getting a business degree at OSU? This is a wonderful way to get experience, get paid and get a job reference.

Summer Jobs Galore! (and more coming in)

Get your summer job now, before they are gone! Sign up with Student Employment at www.linnbenton.edu/studentemployment. All you need is your student ID number and an e-mail address.

Human nature's dark side misses no one

Essay
Kathleen Veritas

"Religion is for people who are afraid to go to hell—Spirituality is for people who have been there and come back."

I'm beginning to know what this saying means in my own life. I wonder if the law of physics that "every action has an equal and opposite reaction" is also true of the reality of religion and spirituality, good and evil, dark and light—that there is a tension between these polarities.

From my earliest recollections I've known there were forces of good and evil in the world. As a child, I was taught that a higher power resided in me and guided my decisions. In church I also heard about the devil, his cohorts and the fact that they wouldn't appear as red entities with horns and pitchforks, but as ideas, traditions, philosophies and beliefs acknowledged and accepted by most "other" people. I grew up fearing new ideas and experiences lest the dangers of evil lurking in those dark alleys

would slip in some doorway of skepticism and derail my virtue. I had no doubt that there was evil in the world. I just felt insulated from it, even above it.

Because of my early teaching, I ignored the dark side of my life, those attributes I wasn't supposed to have. But I felt flawed, a misfit, the black sheep of the human race because there were feelings in me I couldn't assimilate. I remember vividly the point at which I became aware that I was more complex than just good and evil and until I embraced all parts of me, I wouldn't be whole. I had the epiphany that everything in life has an opposing side and tension exists between the polarities. That included good and evil, light and dark, right and wrong, feminine and masculine, religion and spirituality.

It occurred to me that until I accepted and integrated the dark as well as the light, I wouldn't have access to all parts of me, nor could I achieve the sense of balance and stability that I craved. I began visiting my dark side, slowly acknowledging the feelings of prejudice, the occasional desire for revenge, the tendency to judge others who didn't share my beliefs, the propensity to develop narrow vision rather than seeing the big picture. I hadn't wanted to acknowledge what felt like heresy to me when I began thinking outside the box of my early teachings. But I realized that I had the power to choose

to visit all the components I was comprised of: that included the negative as well as the positive. I was responsible for the tension between the polarities.

Visiting implies someplace we go, but we don't live there. It is the same with me when I visit my dark side: I don't live there, and I often don't like what I see. But it has been worth the effort because I come back to a better understanding of who I am and a sense of being more

perfectly human. And I have been able to exorcise the sense of guilt that was instilled in me as a child. I also have the choice of determining those characteristics and behaviors I want to keep or work at overcoming. I am still an outsider to the church and to my family, yet I have a profound sense of freedom, not just in body but in spirit. I belong to myself.

I have been there—and come back.

Solutions (This week)



Solutions (from last week)



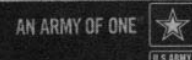
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Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

Ryan Leaf falls hard from the QB tree

Jake Rosenberg
The Commuter

In two weeks, Ryan Leaf will be 30 years old and have nothing to show for a career that so quickly went nowhere.

Not only was Leaf the biggest bust in the 1998 draft, but he was the most disappointing pick in NFL, if not professional sports history.

In the weeks before the draft, the city of Indianapolis was divided by two kinds of people; those who wanted Peyton Manning and those wanting Leaf.

Luckily for the Colts, Manning was the top choice after a long debate within the organization.

San Diego, knowing they would get one of the two, traded two first-rounders, a second-rounder and three-time pro-bowler Eric Metcalf to the Cardinals to move up one spot and land Leaf with the second pick.

"I'm looking forward to a 15-year career, a couple of trips to the Super Bowl and a parade through downtown San Diego," said Leaf following his four-year \$31.25 million contract signing with a guaranteed \$11.25 signing bonus.

After two wins with lackluster numbers to open his career, his week three performance was a sign of things to come. He completed only one of 15 pass attempts for four yards and two interceptions. In his rookie season, he would throw 15 total interceptions to only two touchdowns while completing a meager 45.3 percent of his passes. His tenure wouldn't last much longer as the Chargers finally realized they wrongfully mortgaged their future. Antics on and off the field along with petty injuries, cost him his first shot. The Buccaneers, Cowboys and Seahawks were all desperate enough to give Leaf an opportunity only because of his once promising potential.

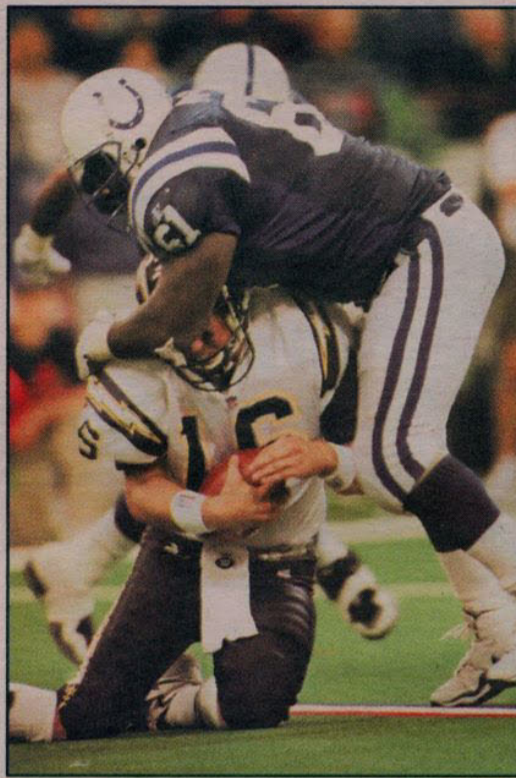
Those extra chances at a professional career became short stints as he retired at the age of 26 prior to the start of the 2002 season. He played in only 25 games in three years in the NFL, leaving with 24 career fumbles and a lowly quarterback rating of 50.0 while compiling a 4-17 record in 21 career starts.

After hearing of Leaf's retirement, former Chargers teammate Rodney Harrison said, "He probably did the best thing; he took his money and ran."



JAKE ROSENBERG

FACE OFF



KRT photo
Ryan Leaf was drafted number two by the Chargers in the 1998 NFL Draft, but is he the number one draft bust of all time?

Enis' career Bear-ly started before it ended

Adam Loghides
The Commuter

"With the fifth pick in the 1998 NFL Draft, the Chicago Bears select Curtis Enis, running back, Penn State." Those are the worst words a Bear fan has heard in a long time, short of "Favre throws another touchdown!"

In their seemingly endless search for a running back, the Bears selected Enis, and planned to plug him into the starting lineup for the next 10 years. By the end of his third NFL season, Enis had retired.

Enis was a back who was supposed to be a 2,000 yard guy for the Bears, and would lead them back to prominence. Enis gained, through rushing and receiving, a grand total of 1,925 yards - for his entire career.

He was supposed to be a back who would pound out 100 yards in the first three quarters of the game, then would slam the door shut on the opponent while running over them, killing the clock. Enis' career best game in the NFL was 94 yards. His best year, 1999, saw him rush for 916 yards. He scored a whopping six touchdowns in his career.

That draft also saw Ryan Leaf get drafted, three spots ahead of Enis, to the San Diego Chargers. Although some believe he was the biggest draft-day bust ever, there were concerns about Leaf going into the draft.

His pre-draft characterizations described him as having "some nagging questions in the area of maturity. Tends to beat to his own drummer and can have some streaks on the field where he looks like he has forgotten everything he has been taught."

Leaf wasn't even the first quarterback taken in the draft. Peyton Manning holds that title. How can the second best guy at his position in a given year be the biggest bust of all-time?

Enis, however, had pre-draft press clippings that described him as the best "big back" in the draft that year and that he had the "body of a linebacker." He was the first running back taken, by a team that is always hungry for a team led by the running game.



ADAM LOGHIDES

No. 6 Beavers sweep weekend home series

Caleb Hawley
The Commuter

A broom was in hand for the Oregon State Beavers this weekend as they swept Cal Poly (24-20, 7-5 Big West) and New Mexico (27-18, 9-4 Mountain West) in the weekend non-conference series that began on Thursday.

The sixth ranked Beavers started the weekend on a high note with a 3-0 blanking of Cal Poly. Starting pitcher Dallas Buck improved to 9-0 on the season with an outstanding performance, allowing seven hits and striking out five over 7 2/3 innings. Kevin Gunderson recorded the final four outs for save number 13 on the season. Leading the bats for the Beavs was John Wallace going 2 for 3, and both Scott Santschi and Mitch Canham were 2 for 4.

Mike Stutes continued the trend on the mound on Friday, pitching eight strong innings against New Mexico. Stutes fanned 11 batters, allowed only four hits and one earned run in the 16-1 rout of New Mexico. The Beavers were no slouch on the bats either. Canham was 1 for 3, knocking in three runs and

scoring twice. Darwin Barney went 3 for 4 and scored three times. Another big bat was Bill Rowe who scored two times while going 2 for 4 and batted



photo courtesy OSU SID
Oregon State ace Dallas Buck offers a pitch to a Cal Poly batter in Thursday's game. Buck pitched 7 2/3 shutout innings in the 3-0 victory. Buck is 9-0 on the season.

in three runs.

The Beavers didn't let up in the second game against Cal Poly on Saturday with an 8-4 victory. Jonah Nickerson struck out 13 and gave up three runs

in 6 2/3 innings of pitching that improved his season record to 8-3. Eddie Kunz, Mark Grbavac and Gunderson finished up the rest with Gunderson closing things down for his 14th save.

Finishing the weekend home stretch, the Beavers defeated New Mexico for a second time by a score of 8-2. With the OSU pitching staff excelling (3.41 team ERA), New Mexico never had a chance. Daniel Turpen pitched strong for 6 1/3 innings, striking out two and allowing two runs. Joe Paterson and Kunz cleaned up for Turpen by not allowing a run in the final 2 2/3 innings.

Three errors committed by New Mexico led to their demise as OSU capitalized and manufactured runs off all three errors. Barney led the bats going 3 for 4 and registering two RBIs and Wallace went 3 for 5, scored once and batted one runner in.

"We're getting good swings and getting on base," senior third basemen Shea McFeely said. "No one's been selfish and trying to get hits for themselves; they're doing it for the team. We've been seeing the ball a lot better and hitting it hard—even the outs, we've been hitting it hard."

The sweep this weekend improves the Beavers to 32-10 overall while remaining 9-3 in Pac-10 play. The 9-3 Pac-10 record is good enough to put

the Beavers atop the conference. The Beavers resume conference play this weekend May 5-7 at home against the University of Washington.

are you a **LEADER**? Do you have great **Ideas** that are just dying to **GET OUT THERE**? Do you enjoy working in a **FUN AND FRIENDLY** environment where your skills are valued? Are you sick of trying to **PAY FOR SCHOOL**?

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Pick up your application today at the Student Life & Leadership office (next to Hot Shot).

Applications are due back by Friday, May 12th @ noon. Interviews will be held for qualifying applicants on Wednesday, May 17th at 2p.m. in the Student Life & Leadership Conference room.

If you have any questions, please contact Brittaini Hawthorne, 2006-2007 team coordinator @ 917-4472, or stop by the Student Life & Leadership office.

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

SPORTS

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

NFL draft dips into Oregon talent pool

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

"The Texans didn't take Bush." Those were the words said by many stunned football fanatics in the wake of last weekend's NFL Draft.

The Draft weekend got off to a shocking start the day before the Houston Texans were even on the clock, as they signed North Carolina State defensive end Mario Williams on Friday to a six-year, \$54 million contract and handed New Orleans an early Christmas present in Southern California junior running back Reggie Bush.

While Williams is the most desired defensive end in recent history, nobody expected Houston to pass on a game-breaker like Bush, whom many consider to be the greatest prospect to come into the professional ranks in more than two decades.

"There were two first overall caliber picks this year and we decided to take the player that was the best fit for us," said Texans General Manager Charley Casserly. "This was strictly a football decision based on our team needs."

The Saints didn't fill their most pressing need with the second overall selection, but were unable to resist taking Bush despite fielding many offers for their envious draft position.

While the Saints hit the jackpot in the first round, the end of the rainbow touched down in New Orleans on Sunday when Oregon State wide receiver Mike Hass fell to them in the sixth round. The Biletnikoff winner was expected to go much sooner but dropped on many

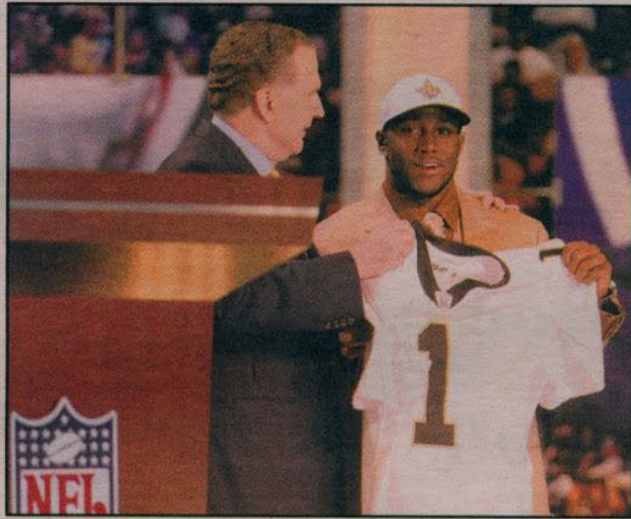


photo by KRT

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue introduces the newest New Orleans Saint, Reggie Bush, Saturday in New York.

draft boards due to a lack of size. That doesn't concern the Saints front office or even their newest star.

"Here's a guy that played in the PAC-10, played at a high level of football there and here's a guy that, one of our scouts is walking in the hallway and Bush grabs him and says that's a heck of a pick," said Saints Director of Player Personnel Rick Mueller.

"He runs the right route, catches the ball when it's thrown to him. He's tough, he'll block. He'll do the right things."

Hass was joined by linebacker Keith Ellison, who was taken by Buffalo seven picks later at No. 178 overall, as the only two Beavers to join the NFL ranks. Linebacker Trent Bray and punter Sam Paulescu will undoubtedly join an NFL team later in the week as rookie free agent signers.

The Ravens dipped into the Oregon talent pool as they took defensive tackle Haloti Ngata with the 12th overall selection. They looked northwest again in the fourth round by taking receiver Demetrius Williams.

The Buccaneers later took cornerback Justin Phinsee in the in the seventh and final round.

Tight end Tim Day and running back Terrance Whitehead are expected to join teams later this week.

Many draft experts rumored Ducks quarterback Kellen Clemens as a possible second round pick and to no surprise, the Jets traded up to take him 49th overall after passing on Matt Leinart with the fourth overall pick. Leinart, a possible top overall selection in 2005, fell all the way to the tenth spot to the Cardinals.

"I kind of knew the Jets would try to take a quarterback, but I did not know if they were going to take one with the fourth pick," said Clemens. "So when they passed on Matt, I figured it might be one of their second or third round picks, when they would try to sneak someone in. Passing on Leinart left the door open for me, and I was excited about that."

Lebanon natives and Weber State offensive lineman Paul and Pat McQuistan were taken by the Raiders in the third round and the Cowboys in the seventh round, respectively.

Runners making late season sprint to playoffs

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

The Roadrunners moved up into a third place tie with Chemeketa in the NWAACC Southern Division following a split with the Storm over the weekend.

LB swept the Willamette Junior Varsity squad on Thursday. Dan Hunter got a rare starting appearance and made the most of his opportunity by allowing only four hits in a complete game 9-0 shutout.

The Runners offense got off to a slow start but put up eight runs in their final six outs to win easily.

The Runners gave up only four hits again in the second contest, but LB needed eleven innings to win 3-2. Jordan Sim hit a two-run double in the third to

tie the game at 2-2 as it would remain that score until the eleventh when Casey Humphrey scored the winning run. Barry Spooner got the win by pitching the final three innings.

LB got back into league action on Saturday when they traveled to Chemeketa. Matt Alexander pitched a complete game victory as Sim and Tim Puckett provided the offense with a home run each in the 7-4 victory.

The win gave the Runners a five-game winning streak heading into the late game, but that would be as far as it would go. LB managed only four hits and gave up four costly errors as they lost to the Storm 4-1.

LB (18-15, 10-10) hosts the Linfield JV's on Thursday then travel to Lane on Saturday for two of the Runners' final eight regular season league games.

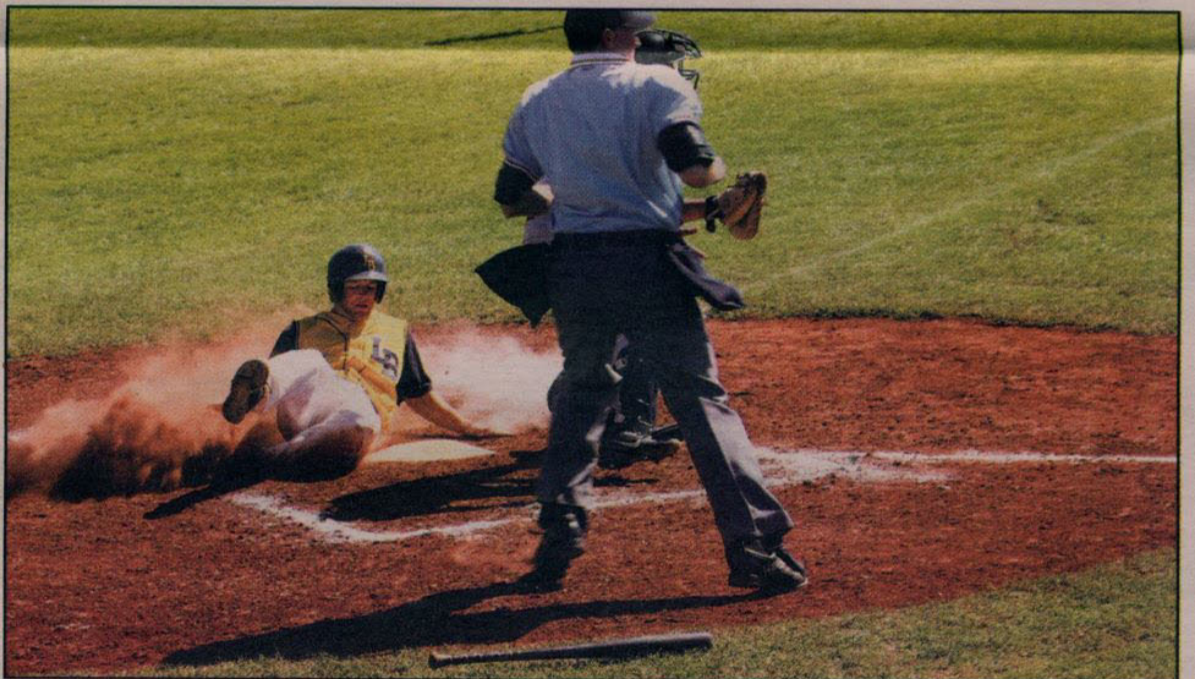


photo by Dan Wise

Charles Olson slides across the plate for LB in their 9-0 win over Willamette JV on Thursday.

scoreboard

Standings	League	Overall	Schedule:
Mt. Hood	15-4	27-7	May 4
Lane	12-7	18-13	vs. Linfield JV
LBCC	10-10	18-15	May 6
Chemeketa	10-10	18-17	at Lane
SWOCC	6-9	10-16	
Clackamas	4-14	16-18	

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A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE COMMUTER

WANTED!

The Commuter needs creative students to fill positions on the 2006-07 staff

Editor

Individuals interested in journalism and communications careers are encouraged to apply. Appointment carries a full annual tuition grant and provides practical experience for aspiring writers and editors. Students with coursework and/or experience in journalism are preferred. Applicants must be enrolled as students throughout the 2006-07 academic year. Appointment made by the LBCC Publications Committee.

DEADLINE IS MAY 19
(for this position only)

Photo Editor

Students with an interest and skills in photography are sought for this position, which offers valuable experience for anyone planning to pursue a career in photography—several past Commuter photo editors have gone on to work at professional newspapers in Oregon and elsewhere. Familiarity with digital imaging is a plus, but training in Photoshop is provided. The appointment carries a 9-credit quarterly tuition grant.

Sports Editor

An energetic writer with an interest in athletics and outdoors is sought for this position. Students with some journalism or writing experience preferred, but anyone with a flair for writing and a passion for sports is encouraged to apply. Appointment carries a 6-credit quarterly tuition grant and provides valuable on-the-job training and experience covering a variety of intercollegiate athletics.

Graphics Editor

An individual with experience in graphics and/or journalism to coordinate the graphic design and production aspects of the weekly newspaper. This position involves helping develop the overall design of the paper, creating illustration and info graphics for publication, and coordinating production. Macintosh experience preferred. The appointment carries a 6-credit quarterly tuition grant.

Assistant Editors

Applicants sought for several assistant editor positions, including Managing Editor, Copy Editor, A&E Editor, Opinion Editor, Online Editor and Contributing Editor. Some journalism or writing experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointments carry quarterly tuition grants that vary with position, typically from four to six credits per term.

Digital Page Designer

This part-time position pays \$9+/hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mon.-Tues. Involves using Macintosh and InDesign to paginate tabloid pages under direction of the graphics editor. Mac experience and good English skills required; familiarity with InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark desired. Provides valuable experience for majors in graphics and pre-press technology.

Ad Manager

Students with career goals in marketing or graphics, as well as recent grads seeking p-t work to build their portfolios and resumes, are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising. Macintosh experience preferred. The position pays \$9+/hour for up to 15 hours per week.

Work Study Jobs

Editorial Assistant
Production Assistant
Advertising Assistant
Photography Assistant

These positions open to work-study eligible students only. Information on work study eligibility is available from the Financial Aid Office.

Deadline for Editor is May 19.

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222)

For additional information call ext. 4451

Design Editor: Elizabeth Beckham
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

FUNNY BONES

Crossword, cartoons and some fun stuff to brighten your day.

Hormone Hostage

The Hormone Hostage knows that there are days in the month when all a man has to do is open his mouth and he takes his very life into his own hands!

This is a handy guide that should be as common as a driver's license in the wallet of every husband, boyfriend or significant other!!

DANGEROUS: What's for dinner?
SAFER: Can I help you with dinner?
SAFEST: Where would you like to go for dinner?
ULTRASAFE: Here, have some chocolate.

DANGEROUS: Are you wearing that?
SAFER: Gee, you look good in brown.
SAFEST: WOW! Look at you!
ULTRASAFE: Here, have some chocolate.

DANGEROUS: What are you so worked up about?
SAFER: What did I do wrong?
SAFEST: Here's fifty dollars.

ULTRASAFE: Here, have some chocolate.

DANGEROUS: Should you be eating that?
SAFER: You know, there are a lot of apples left.
SAFEST: Can I get you a glass of wine with that?
ULTRASAFE: Here, have some chocolate.

DANGEROUS: What did you do all day?
SAFER: I hope you didn't overdo it today.
SAFEST: I've always loved you in that robe!
ULTRASAFE: Here, have some more chocolate.

Another thing to giggle about... My husband, not happy with my mood swings, bought me a mood ring the other day so he would be able to monitor my moods. When I'm in a good mood, it turns green. When I'm in a bad mood, it leaves a big red mark on his forehead.

Maybe next time he'll buy me diamonds.

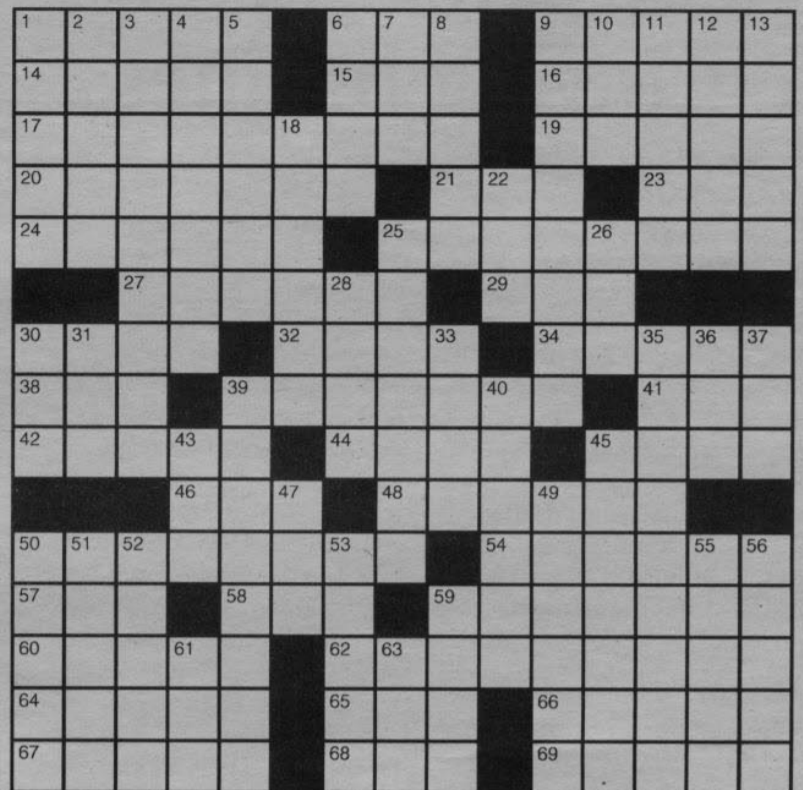
(Posted MySpace bulletin)

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Spy's garment?
 6 Purse
 9 Well worker
 14 Ski-resort building
 15 Stein filler
 16 Dickens' Heep
 17 Having no appetite
 19 On edge
 20 Spanish sheep
 21 CIA's Soviet counterpart
 23 Come by
 24 Fitting
 25 Gridiron upright
 27 Attempted an overthrow
 29 Mac
 30 "Lohengrin" lady
 32 "Cheers" regular
 34 Lens aperture setting
 38 Actor Kilmer
 39 Dispose of by deception

- 41 Shade or tone
 42 Deep hole
 44 Comic Carvey
 45 Israeli dance
 46 End hunger
 48 Nextel Cup group
 50 Wife of Odysseus
 54 Hot meal?
 57 Ostrich cousin
 58 Bossy remark?
 59 Changed dimensions
 60 Diameter halves
 62 Brief period
 64 Placards
 65 Sleuth Spade
 66 Talk and talk
 67 Put in office
 68 6th sense
 69 Unseals

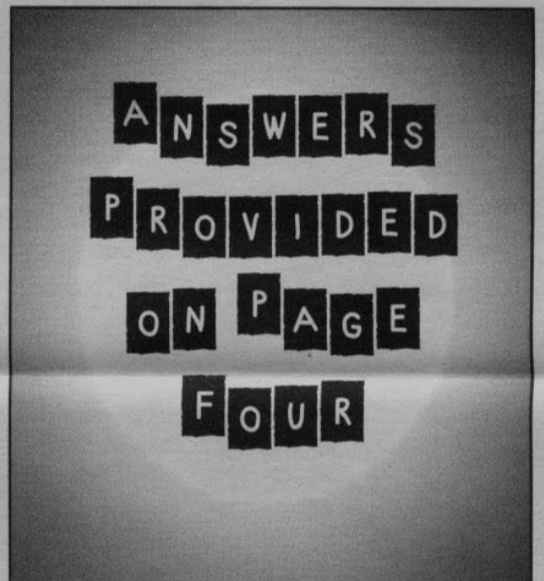
- DOWN**
 1 Part of a vise
 2 No socialite he
 3 In a smelly manner
 4 Herod's last name
 5 Catherine of "Full Frontal"



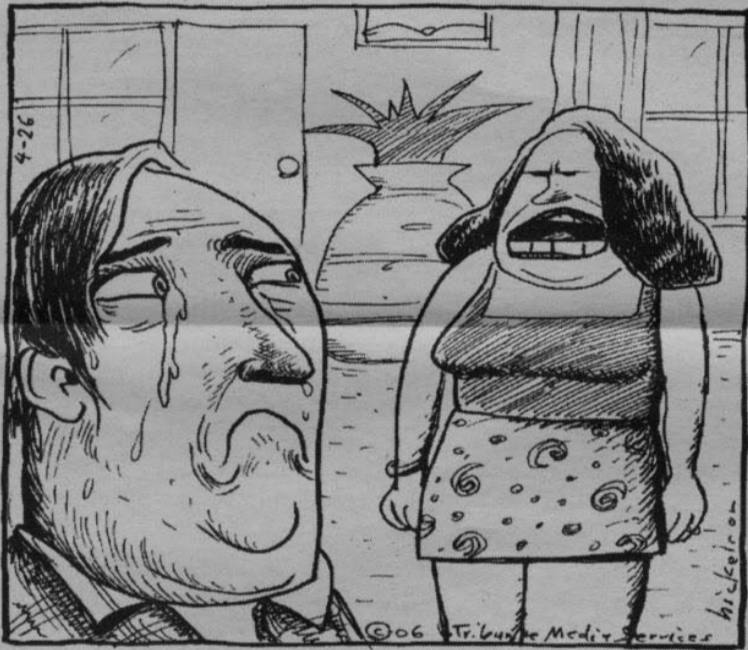
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5/4/06

- 6 Dugout stack
 7 Boxer Laila
 8 Sticky-toed lizard
 9 Last longer in a standoff
 10 Ferocity
 11 Clubby jargon
 12 Frees from anxiety
 13 Fictional Butler
 18 Eclipse revelation
 22 Chatter
 25 Pertinent
 26 "Nova" network
 28 Auctioneer's last word
 30 Actress Gabor
 31 Sci 101 locale
 33 Poet Van Duyn
 35 Very strong tranquilizer
 36 Sharer's pronoun
 37 Veggie sphere
 39 Poet like David
 40 More rapid



- 43 Understand
 45 Overact
 47 Also
 49 Batista's successor
 50 Inherently
 51 P.C. letters
 52 Prod gently
 53 Wild West militia
 55 Sharp fruit
 56 Utopias
 59 Frolic
 61 Abbr. for a bus.
 63 Possesses



"I didn't mean to make you cry, you moron! I just wanted to know how your stupid sensitivity training was going."

Commons

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

Wednesday:

ENTREES: Meatloaf and mushroom gravy and English style fish and chips
VEGETARIAN: Vegetarian chili with cornbread, sour cream and cheese
SIDES: Mousseline potatoes and peas and carrots
SOUPS: Dilled potato chowder and chicken and wild rice

Thursday:

ENTREES: Pork Piccata and Coq au Vin.
VEGETARIAN: Spinach, red pepper and feta quiche
SIDES: Scalloped potatoes and green beans amandine
SOUPS: Ox tail and cream of garlic

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday:

ENTREES: Turkey cutlet with brown butter sauce and Texas chili con carne with cornbread
VEGETARIAN: White spinach lasagna
SIDES: Orzo with pesto and zucchini in tomato
SOUPS: Roasted vegetable chowder and albondigas

Tuesday:

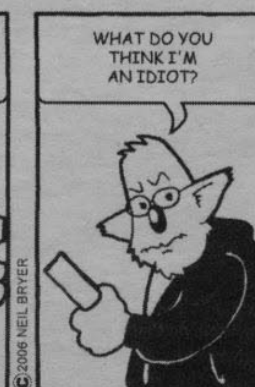
ENTREES: Garlic chicken and Swedish meatballs with buttered noodles
VEGETARIAN: Cheese enchiladas
SIDES: Risotto and cabbage with apples and onions
SOUPS: Egg flower and lentil

MAY 3 - MAY 9

...Fun Facts...

- Fine-grained volcanic ash can be found as an ingredient in some tooth-pastes.
- Cats cannot taste sweet things.
- More boys than girls are born during the day; more girls are born at night.
- The average American consumes 9 pounds of food additives every year.
- Tug of War was an Olympic event between 1900 and 1920.
- Each year, 30,000 people are seriously injured by exercise equipment.
- Pain travels through your body at 350 ft. per second.

WOMBAT



By Neil Bryer

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.

Video games to film, a growing business

Elizabeth Uriarte
 The Commuter

Watching someone else play your favorite video game may not sound all that exciting, unless of course you're watching actors play out your favorite games on the big screen. Films adapted from video games have become increasingly popular in recent years, gaining popularity with the success of the 1995 film "Mortal Kombat," which was based on the Super Nintendo and Sega Genesis games, according to Answers.com.

"I don't think they explained it clearly enough in the movie to understand what was going on."

Heather Miles

While some game films fail to make it past the "cult classics" stage, many have managed to become more mainstream. "Resident Evil" (2002), which features a deadly virus, flesh-eating zombies and a lethal but sexy heroine played by Milla Jovovich, has elements that appeal to both game fans and horror movie buffs.

Video game movies may also take the form of animation, such as "Pokémon: The First Movie" (1999), which was a big hit at the box office, according to the Internet Movie Database, bringing in over \$30 million during its opening weekend and spawning a series of sequels. Another more recent anime release is "Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children." This highly anticipated film adaptation takes place two years after the hit Playstation game's end, staying true to the game while at the same time giving it a storyline of its own.

In the adventure role-playing game, main character Cloud joins forces with the AVA-LANCHE team to defeat the evil forces of Shinra and Sephiroth. In the movie, the world of Midgar is in ruins after the battles that were to bring peace destroyed it (in the game). The world faces a new threat in the form of a mysterious illness, known as the "Geostigma." Cloud is called upon to help fight this new disease, and prevent the recreation of his adversary, Sephiroth.

If you have never played the game, the storyline of the movie may be difficult to follow; however, the film makes up for it with captivating special effects via computer animation, a technology that has allowed filmmakers to live up to video-gamer expectations of graphics. Storyline or not, this movie will have you glued to the screen from start to finish.

Other video-game-to-film

releases haven't been as successful. "Street Fighter" (1994) was a bit of a failure, and more recently, "Doom" (2005), which was a popular game for a variety of consoles, didn't quite make it as a movie, according to critics.

"Silent Hill," in theaters April 21, was based on the series of Playstation and Playstation 2 video games. The movie was greeted with mixed reviews. One comment from the IMDb raved about the movie, stating it was "hands down, the best video game adaptation ever." Other critics weren't so enthusiastic, such as Roger Ebert, who gave it one and a half stars, and felt that the movie had no discernable plot whatsoever, according to the review on his web site.

"Although I did not understand the story, I would have appreciated a great deal less explanation. All through the movie, characters are pausing in order to offer arcane back-stories and historical perspectives and metaphysical insights and occult orientations. They talk and talk and somehow their words do not light up any synapses in my brain," he said.

The film takes place in the ghost town of Silent Hill, which is filled with undead citizens. The main character, Rose, played by Radha Mitchell, is searching for her daughter in the town and meets numerous deadly beings along the way. Much like "Advent Children," "Silent Hill" has a storyline that only the players of the video games could follow, but makes up for it with dazzling effects, frightening, gory scenes and excellent camera use.

Heather Miles, 18-year-old computer user support major, found the movie entertaining and exciting, though she admitted that she didn't quite understand the ending of it. "I don't think they explained it clearly enough in the movie to understand what was going on," she said.

"Silent Hill," rated R, is currently playing at Regal Cinemas in both Albany and Corvallis. For ticket information call (541) 928-0069 Albany, or (541) 758-1028 in Corvallis.



photo by Dan Wise

Class Act

Tammi Drury, division secretary for arts and communication (left) was named IACE Classified Member of the Year at the lunch for classified staff held last Wednesday in the Commons. Leta Brown, Printing Services, presented the award.

Opera night a success at OSU

Stephen Whitener
 The Commuter

It was opera night at OSU last Friday, but there were no crying clowns, no spear-wielding Brunnhildes to be seen. "An Evening of American Opera" featured two one-act works, "A Game of Chance" by Seymour Barab (1960), and "The Devil and Daniel Webster" by Douglas Moore (1938), based on Stephen Vincent Benét's classic short story from the previous year.

Of the two operas, "Devil" was by far the more complex. Perhaps "Game" should have been considered a short subject before the feature. They both involve deals with the devil. "Game" told the story of three knitting women who weren't so careful about what they wished for. In each case they are visited by a mysterious, charismatic "Representative" who grants their wishes. The music (piano accompaniment) was reminiscent of Erik Satie and at times was hauntingly melancholy.

"The Devil and Daniel Webster," written at a time when Europe was making doomed deals of its own and America was going through the Great Depression, is a timely choice for today. As in Benét's time, it is useful to search the American past for

and supernatural lighting, the venue itself was surprisingly warm. Normally this could have been a setback, but when the subject is Satan it seems somehow apropos.

Only the OSU production, perhaps taking its cue from the Marlene Dietrich film, "The Devil Is a Woman," adds a twist, casting Stephanie Hower in the role immortalized on film by Walter Huston. The lusty-voiced Hower proved an able match for Erik Hundtoft's "Webster." Jabez Stone, the poor farmer who sells his soul, was well sung by Scott Christopher Ingham. The cast also included the Severin sisters, profiled in last week's Commuter.

The operas, performed before a sold-out crowd at Withycombe Hall's Lab Theatre, had one extra atmospheric touch that may have not been intentional. Along with the often-eerie choral music

and supernatural lighting, the venue itself was surprisingly warm. Normally this could have been a setback, but when the subject is Satan it seems somehow apropos.

In each opera, the combined efforts of OSU's music and theatre departments made much with little. The tiny space was well utilized to elicit that all-important "willing suspension of disbelief." With a brief assist by the singing Severins, the pianist, Brian Conatser, more than made up for any absence of an orchestra.

While the classic (non-opera) 1941 film of "Devil" is still a treat to see, the earlier operatic version as experienced last Friday also had the power to raise the occasional goose flesh. There's just something about that good old-fashioned Americana. Or maybe it was just a good night at the theater, period.

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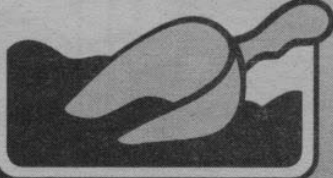
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Check It Out

"The Miser"

May 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20
 8 p.m.
 Matinee May 14
 2:30 p.m.
 \$9 Adults
 \$6 Seniors and Students under 18
 Students half-price on Thursdays
 Albany Civic Theater
 111 First Ave. S.W.
 www.albanycivic.org

Cinco de Mayo

Salsa Dancing
 May 5
 10 p.m.
 Platinum
 126 S.W. Fourth St.
 Corvallis
 \$4 at the door

Third Annual Tattoo Show & Contest

May 6
 7 p.m.
 First Round Bar & Grill
 129 First Ave. W.
 Albany
 Free

Clay Bodies: Figurative Ceramics

Northwest
 May 7 - June 3
 ArtCentric
 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
 Tuesday - Saturday
 700 S.W. Madison
 Corvallis
 www.artcentric.org

Dentzel American Carousel Museum

Carousel pieces and memorabilia
 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 Tuesdays-Saturdays
 311 First Ave. W.
 Albany

"Inherit the Wind"

May 3 -7, 10-13
 7:30 p.m.
 Matinee May 7
 2 p.m.
 \$14-15
 324 52 Ave. N.W.
 Salem



photo by Dan Wise

Math Awareness Week

James Calkins, business major, throws the dice while his friend Patrick Dentinger, undecided, looks on. The game was part of Math Awareness Week, a way for students to interact with math faculty and staff in an informal way outside the classroom setting. Activities feature games, food, and contests like The aMAZEing Race, a mathematical scavenger hunt around campus on Friday at 12:00pm.

Fans get fix at 'Survivor' parties

Adam Loghides
 The Commuter

Make popcorn, put the kids to bed and settle in so you can root for your favorites. That is what Shelly Raef and her sister Shyla Raef did last Thursday night, as they do each Thursday. They were not watching an NBA playoff game; they were watching CBS's hit show "Survivor."

"Survivor" parties have become the norm instead of the extreme. Another participant was outwitted, outlasted and severely outplayed last week on "Survivor." For the "Survivor" addicts out there, this week we got to see something we had never seen before—a player overcome by psychosis.

Marketing executive Shane found a piece of wood on the beach that was 6-by-6 inches and square in shape—about the size of a Blackberry. He began to push the imaginary buttons on his newfound electrical device, sending e-mails to his business partners and even his son. "I'm communicating with people that are not on this island," Shane quipped with eyes that had grown to the size of basketballs. When the other players got wind of Shane's antics, they used the proverbial grain of salt to show their feelings. Shane's acting crazy, what's new?

At the immunity challenge, ex-military stud

and three-time defending immunity champion, Terry, won again. This time he held 20 percent of his weight longer than anyone else could. Terry's victory was neither surprising nor rare. "It's getting kind of annoying to see him win every time, to be honest," Shyla said in the commercial break following the challenge. "At the start of the show he kind of reminded me of the winner two seasons ago, Tom. But now, he is just so cocky. I am ready to see him go," she said.

In the end, 31-year old Los Angeles native Courtney Merit was voted off, three votes to two. It was "outwitting" to the greatest extent, as she thought the other Gitanos tribe members were going to vote off 24-year-old yoga instructor Aras Baskauskas.

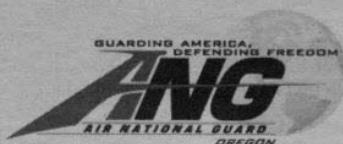
The host of the party, Shelly, isn't shocked by much at this point. "Nobody's surprised anymore when a tribe member is voted off, either knowingly or not. I think we all hope Terry is gone before the final two, he has no enemies on the jury." There is a pause; then, with a "caught you" look in her eye, she says, "Yet."

So, will it be déjà vu for the members of Gitanos? CBS certainly wants you to tune in and see. I know of one house that will have it on.

"Same time, same place next Thursday," Shelly says as the show ends. Next week, I bring the popcorn.

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DISCOVERY

Community festivals, tours, far off treks, trips and interesting places that readers might enjoy visiting in their free time.

England's Brighton Beach charms 10 Oregon study abroad students

Mariah Thompson
For The Commuter

A wall of noise and light hits me as I walk through the door. Alarms, buzzers, sirens and chimes accompany the roar of excited voices and the rainbow of flashing signs inside the large arcade. Hands stuff tokens into game slots, pull levers, push buttons and direct hanging claws. Out the back door on the planks of the pier lies a never-ending carnival with children spinning on rides, screaming in terror and pleasure. After watching pudgy hands stuff gaping mouths with carnival sweets, I turn to the nearby casino area and see adults greedily drop coin after coin into slot machines.

Now I finally understand why Brighton Beach has such a reputation for hedonism.

The seaside town of Brighton rests 60 miles south of London and is a perfect weekend getaway for Brits who need a break and a little bit of pleasure. While also well known for its happening nightlife and small designer boutiques, Brighton's most jubilant attraction is the infamous Brighton Pier. Jutting out into the surf for several hundred feet, the pier is a cluster of energy filled with glittering carnival rides, arcade games, junk-food stands, a bar

and hordes of joyous children.

For those less inclined to whirl and twirl on rides all day, Brighton has other delights. To the side of the pier is a weathered plank boardwalk that lazily winds itself down the seaside. As I strolled by, I was taken by the beauty of this peculiar beach. Unlike most beaches, the white-capped waves crashed not onto glistening sand, but onto a beach made entirely of multicolored pebbles. The red, yellow and brown tones of these smooth rocks made for a picturesque scene against the tide and the chalky blue, cloud-spattered sky.

The boardwalk took me past a lovely old-fashioned carousel and a seemingly endless parade of tiny shops and vendor's carts with such souvenirs as shells, jewelry and lovely handcrafted artwork.

A short walk from the sea front sits another of Brighton's more interesting attractions: the Royal Pavilion. Starkly contrasting the surrounding old English architecture, the sweeping curves of the ornamental domes atop this Indian-style palace jut toward the sky like mountain peaks. And while the outside of the Pavilion boasts majestic architectural traits, it is nothing compared to the myriad incredible sights



LB instructor Rich Bergeman's 10 Oregon community college students mix studies with trips to towns like Brighton. Brighton Beach boasts a pier (lower left) that stretches hundreds of feet into the ocean and has casinos and carnival rides. The Brighton Grand Pavilion (upper left) is lavishly decorated.

awaiting visitors inside.

The Pavilion's interior is decorated in a style heavily influenced by Chinese art. Most impressive of its many rooms is the Banquet Room. It boasts hand-painted golden ornamental work and stained glass in-

lays on a sweeping domed ceiling that seems to climb into the heavens, with beauty that looks divine as well. In the middle of the room hangs a vast, intricately carved crystal chandelier supported by a large silver dragon.

The lavish palace, scenic beachfront, bustling pier, enticing nightlife and extensive shopping opportunities make Brighton's seaside escape a perfect dose of earthly delights nestled sinfully close to London.



photo by Steven Dougherty-Amico of Portland Community College



photo by Colin Coarron of Chemeketa Community College



photos above by Rich Bergeman