

GOOD NIGHT, JOHNNY

The Tonight Show's legendary host, Johnny Carson, signs off for the very last time. **▶ Pg. 7**

WEATHERING THE STORM

Lady Runners collect their second league victory Saturday against Chemeketa. **▶ Pg. 9**



The Commuter

a weekly student publication

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 36 No. 11

Banquet leaves diners craving more

Nick Milhoan
The Commuter

Imagine you are sitting down with your family and friends enjoying a wonderful meal including all of your favorites. You have your main course, a large helping of hot potatoes, a warm steaming pile of vegetables and a luscious dessert that makes your mouth water, crying for more.

We all experience this type of meal several times a year and don't stop to think about what life would be like without it. This past week many of us were able to take a minute and realize what life is like for those less fortunate.

LB hosted its first ever Hunger Banquet this past Thursday. The event was sponsored by the Multicultural Center, Student Life and Leadership, Linn-Benton Food Share and Oxfam International.

The event was from the mind of MC director Jason Miller who has previous experience dealing with Oxfam.

"At my previous institution we did this," said Miller. "Oxfam does so many great things and there had been talk of doing this in the past here at LB. I

felt strongly about bringing the event here and so I decided to do it."

The event was designed so that the sponsors could bring awareness to those in attendance.

"One in five people in Linn and Benton counties has used a food bank," explained Miller.

The banquet started with each person reaching into a bag to select one of three different colored tickets. Each ticket had a name and a brief description on it. Those that received a red ticket were considered high class and were allowed to sit at a nicely appointed table. Yellow ticket holders were considered middle class and were placed at long tables with chairs. Finally, there were blue tickets. Those with blue were considered impoverished and had to sit on the floor. Folks with physical limitations were offered a chair.

My ticket was blue and my name was Miguel. I was a farmworker in Florida who typically works a 14-hour-day in the fields. Miguel earns less than minimum wage and lives in company-owned housing without a stove or a bed. He is organizing with other workers in



Waitress Sophie Mason serves William Manning, who sits with the "upper-class" population at the Hunger Banquet last Thursday in the Commons. One hundred people participated in the event and were divided into three classes proportional to the world's population--the rich, the middle-class and the poor. The event was sponsored by the Multicultural Center, Student Life & Leadership, Oxfam International and Linn-Benton Food Share.

photo by Matt Swanson

an effort to improve work conditions, but he fears losing his job since his employer didn't want the workers to unionize.

Before we were able to eat the bounty that LB's culinary

department had prepared for us, Miller and the SL&L crew prepared us for the night ahead and reminded all of how fortunate we are.

"There are 1.2 billion people

going hungry in the world," said Student Government President Stephanie Quigley. "Yet the earth produces enough food to keep all those people full."

▶ Turn to "Banquet" on Pg. 5

Peace group seeks Nagasaki delegates

Jennifer Overholser
The Commuter

LBCC's Institute for Peace and Justice is co-sponsoring a delegation to the Nagasaki Peace Conference, in August, with Albany Peace Seekers.

The groups are seeking LBCC students, faculty and staff who are interested in attending the 60th anniversary commemoration of the 74,000 people who died when an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan during World War II. An Albany high school teacher and

two high school students will also be participating. Applications are being accepted from any Albany area adults who would like to be involved.

The delegation will leave for Japan around Aug. 5, attend the conference on the 9th and return on Aug. 13. Participants will have housing provided for them by the Nagasaki Friendship Force, an international group focusing on establishing friendships over international borders. The group focuses on the ideas that friends can't be enemies,

▶ Turn to "Peace" on Pg. 5

Money up for grabs

Lydia Nelson
The Commuter

Several thousand dollars are available to students who are interested in finding extra money to help pay for their college education.

"The LBCC scholarship deadline is coming up soon, and there are still several awards that haven't even been applied for," said Sheryl Clemetsen, the head of scholarships. People who have received scholarships in the past need to get the word out to others and encourage them to apply. "It's not a hard process," stated Clemetsen, who talked about the lack of student effort in trying to receive scholarships.

For example, Clemetsen said two scholarships for horticulture majors, each for \$1,000 haven't been awarded for the last five terms, although criteria for both are minimal.

This term there are 20 scholarships available, with about 40 awards, totaling approximately \$12,000.

The LBCC Scholarships Award Committee determines who receives the awards.

There are still options for those students who want to apply for winter term scholarships. The deadline for LBCC scholarships is January 28, at 5 p.m. The web site for LBCC scholarships is <http://www.linnbenton.edu/scholarships>.

According to Clemetsen, four separate scholarships didn't get awarded last term because the applications were not complete, or students did not meet the criteria. Around 20 percent of all applications received last term were not complete. "The majority of those students probably would have been awarded a scholarship had their applications been complete," said Clemetsen. Clemetsen added that 15 percent of the applications didn't meet the criteria.

"Read the criteria, make sure you meet it," was Clemetsen's advice for those who do apply

▶ Turn to "Scholarship" on Pg. 5

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND


SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM



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high 53 low 41
THURSDAY



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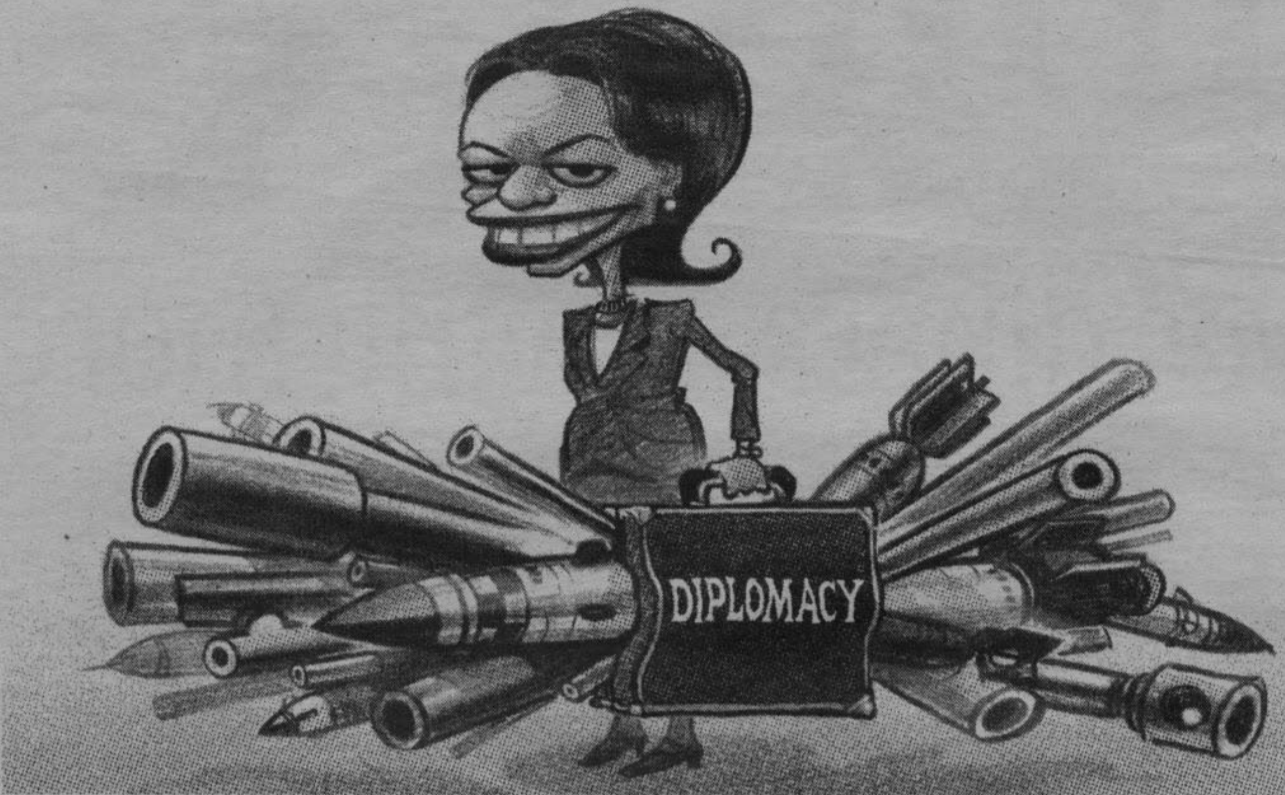


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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and
 keep them at 250 words or less

STAR TRIBUNE
 SBK



COMMENTARY

Why is Bush spending more \$\$\$

Okay, so the elections and the inauguration are all over and, at least for the next few months, we won't have to hear about who will be up for the nomination for either party for a bit. Now, I know Bush rightfully won this election and I wish him the best of luck in his next four years, because by all means he is going to need it with everything going on.

What really upsets me is that if a president is re-elected, should we really spend millions of our tax dollars to throw giant parties that really are of no value to him? I mean sure when a president is first elected he (or maybe someday she) should be thrown a giant celebration to congratulate him (or her) on their victory. To me that is a good reason to throw a party.

But if they have already been president for the last four years, and then they turn around and are fortunate enough to be re-elected, should we throw are tax dollars at him and say sure, we don't care that we don't have the proper equipment for our troops in Iraq, our kids can't get the best education and our economy is in shambles?

I think instead of spending upwards of \$45 million on some parties (two of the parties held are believed to have cost this much), we should have him re-inaugurated and give him a ball or small party, but he doesn't need a luncheon a day for a week, 25 balls that he makes a brief appearance at to wave to the crowd and look pretty at, and a bunch of other stuff that well he really has no need to attend.

Instead, he should come out and say, "thanks for re-electing me for another four years. I am going to try as hard as I can to unite this country and prove to those

of you that didn't vote for me that I can do a good job. I also promise to get a handle on the situation in Iraq and get our troops out as soon as possible seeing as they are being killed everyday for no reason. I also apologize for my misinformation. I really did believe their was WMD's and I am sorry for that."

If he had done that, although I don't really respect the man, I would have had a lot more respect for him and thought to myself "hey maybe this guy isn't such a moron."

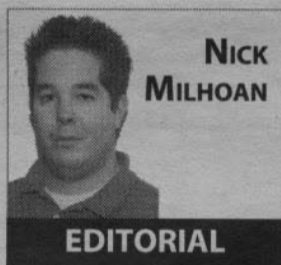
Now I'm not just complaining about Bush on this. I feel the same should be said of any re-elected president, Bush, Clinton, Reagan, Nixon and every future re-elected president.

Our country has so many problems as it is. I mean, half of us here at LB are struggling to pay for school, go to school,

get good grades, hold down a job, etc. We should take the millions of dollars spent on pointless parties and put it to good use.

Also, why not ask (which I will admit thankfully we didn't have to spend as much on these parties thanks to corporate America) more business' to contribute to the parties? Yeah it might not be the best suggestion considering major corporations really need to focus on paying their employees decent wages, but regardless of this, they are going to throw money at politicians in an effort to help them out, so why not do it that way?

In the end, I just think we should stop spending money on frivolous things and try to help out those who need it and give more money to government funded programs in an effort to make a better nation in the world of tomorrow.



**NICK
MILHOAN**

EDITORIAL

The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

STAFF

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

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COMMENTARY

A college degree and a dollar will get you four quarters

Bill Coplin
Knight Ridder Newspapers

A Texas prison inmate wrote me recently asking for a free copy of my book after reading about it in a newspaper column on the importance of soft skills in the job hunt. He justified the request with a claim that he achieved a 3.7 GPA in getting his associate's degree and "acquired a lot of academic knowledge" but was not ready for the workforce when he completes his prison term soon. I hear this comment frequently from college graduates and current students everywhere from community college to the Ivies, and none of them are in jail.

It reminded me of what a professor said to me 40 years ago with respect to my doctorate, "A college degree and a dollar will get you four quarters."

This statement seems counter-intuitive given the fact that people with an undergraduate degree make twice as much over their lifetime as people with only a high school degree (\$2.1 million versus \$1.2 million). But it is not.

Less than 30 percent of Americans over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree. Many of them are doing just fine. Plenty of cabdrivers have their bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees. More than 60 percent of college graduates end up living at home for at least a year. Moreover, economists report that the gap between wages earned between undergraduate degree holders and those who have no college degree has reached a plateau.

The key to career success is to have a strong work ethic and the skills employers want: oral and written communication, people, research, computer application, number crunching, analytical and problem-solving skills.

Employers rank "work ethic" the highest because all the skills and knowledge in the world will be of no use without hard work and continuous self-improvement.

Will a college education help students develop the skills they need for rewarding job opportunities? Employers and researchers answer, "not exactly." A survey of 450 employers in 2004 by Duffey Communications reports that only 20 percent of the respondents said yes when asked, "Are schools preparing students to meet employers' needs?"

Employers tell me they have a difficult time finding applicants with these skills. A high-level manager in a major telecommunications company e-mailed me the following: "Most kids coming straight from college to the work world do not have many (if any) of these skills at the very basic level, let alone mastered."

Employers know that the academic program and performance of students is a poor indicator when compared to their student activities, internships and jobs. The winning employees are not necessarily those who get the degree and obtain a high GPA. Those who put themselves and excel in challenging situations outside of the classroom are a much better gamble.

College provides the opportunity to build the skills employers want and a job-winning resume. What counts most is careful planning early in one's college career leading to part-time or summer jobs, internships and leadership positions on campus during the last two years of college.

Many colleges increasingly give college credit for these kinds of experiences through project-based, internship and field-work courses. Semesters away from campus, especially overseas and with an internship requirement, are valuable because students must sink or swim in an unfamiliar setting.

However, the majority of college faculties are not on board. They remain reluctant to give credit for skill developing experiences. They see their role as transmitting knowledge and assume applied activities are an unnecessary distraction.

But distraction is in the eye of the learner. Students who use college to develop their professional skills should focus on reality and not appearances.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

First LB radiology technology students graduate

Brenda Ranzenbach
 The Commuter

LBCC has graduated its first cohort of radiology technology students and sent them out into the working world.

"It is an intense program for these students," explained Jennifer Fraga, a Career and Employment Specialist for LBCC working with the program. The first group of students began their journey back in September of 2003.

The rad tech program was developed due to a great need for radiology technicians in Oregon. Samaritan Health Services and the Health Career Center

at Lebanon Community Hospital have partnered with LBCC for the program.

The first step for those interested involves an application process which tallies points for each prerequisite completed. There are several prerequisites, most of which are offered through LBCC. Selection is based upon a points system. Those students having residency status and the highest points are most eligible and considered first. Applications are taken in June of each year.

The selection process is completed in July. A maximum of 25 students are selected each year. After attending a mandatory orientation, they begin their

training in September, in the classroom for approximately 40 hours each week.

"They are in their clinical which is conducted in the field by mentors," elaborated Fraga. Hospitals, clinics and doctor's offices all over the state allow students to learn within a clinical environment. "This means students have to arrange their schedules to accommodate a changing clinical schedule," Fraga added.

The entire program spans 18 months. The students work through summer and graduate in December, receiving their two-year Certificate of Completion in Radiology Technology in addition to an

associates degree. Each student must pass the Oregon State Certifications examination given by the American Registry of Radiological Technologists.

A newly graduated certified radiology technician can expect to make anywhere from \$18 to \$20 per hour at jobs in hospitals, clinics and doctors offices. The program has become very popular. Last year 72 students applied and 25 were selected. Those not selected are encouraged to apply again the following year.

The program costs \$8,500-\$9,500 and includes books, registration, lab fees and instructor costs. The program is eligible for financial aid.

Tutoring services help struggling students achieve success

Sherry Majeski
 The Commuter

The Learning Resource Center offers tutors and a wide array of services to help LBCC students succeed in their college career. Math is the most dreaded subject for the majority of students and is in the highest demand for help. The LRC offers assistance with math, science, writing, reading, study skills and computer support. Also available is text book and calculator checkout.

By far, the most popular corner of the LRC, is the Math Help Desk supported by math teachers and LBCC's top math tutors all throughout the day.

Individual, one-on-one tutoring is available by appointment for students who are enrolled in a LBCC credit course. To take advantage of the tutoring service, students need to sign up at the tutoring desk in the center of the LRC. Appointments should be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance and are limited to three 50-minute sessions per week. In the event of heavy demand for certain tutors, appointments may be limited to two times per week.

Keeping track of appointments is the responsibility of the student. To cancel an appointment students need to notify the tutor desk at least two hours ahead so that another student may take the time slot. Failure to cancel an appointment with less than two hours notice or not showing up

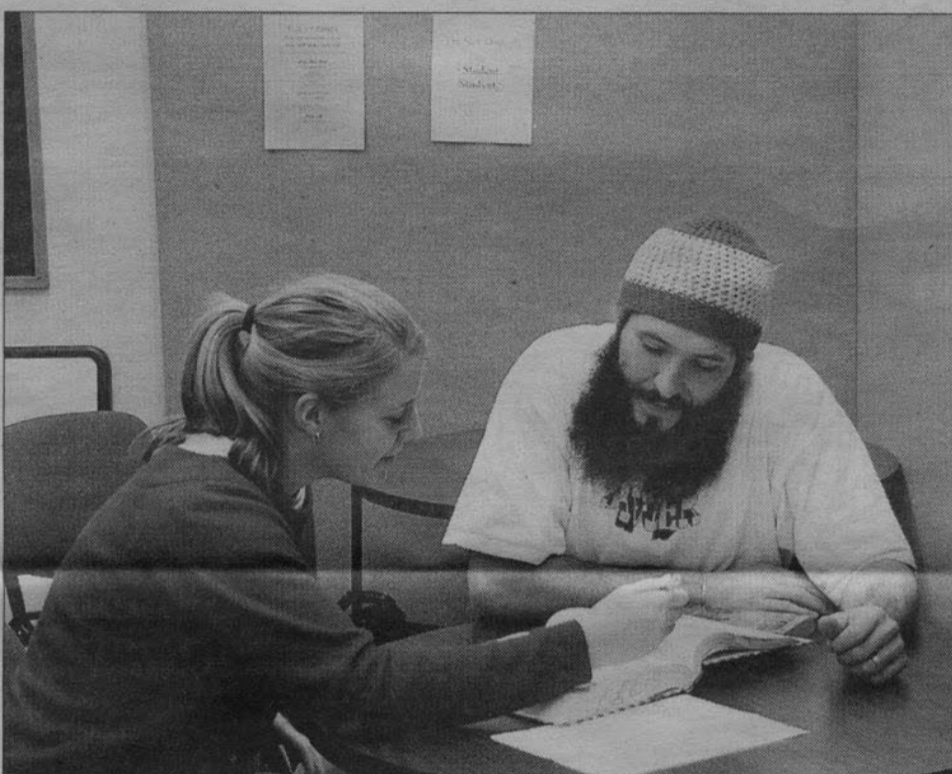


photo by Sherry Majeski

Tomás Gouverneur tutors Missy Cochran on math in the L.R.C.

two times, can result in the students name being placed on a "no show list" resulting in a loss of tutoring privileges for three weeks. Appointments can be canceled in person or by calling 917-4687. During the summer term, tutoring is limited to math and for only two sessions per week. Private tutors are also available.

The purpose of tutoring is to provide

academic assistance which maximizes learning potential, academic performance, and adjustment to college. It serves to encourage students to develop a positive attitude and confidence in their ability to learn and to help them become an independent learner. Tutoring also provides instructional experience for those interested in pursuing teaching

professions.

To qualify for tutoring a student must attend class. Students need to come prepared when seeing a tutor. Homework should be done prior to the appointment so the student knows what they need help with. Bring the textbook, notes and a calculator. Tutors do not do student homework or provide the answers. The tutor will help with understanding concepts so the student can find their own answers. This is the most effective form of learning support.

The tutor will clarify information presented in class or in the textbook, help develop effective study skills, model problem-solving techniques and have the student try them. They also offer encouragement as the student learns to understand difficult concepts.

The tutor will not take the place of the instructor, help with take-home tests or rescue students who miss classes. Tutors need to study themselves, so they are only available for scheduled appointments.

The tutor will ask you about your learning style. Understanding your own personal learning style can help you use study strategies that will make it easier for you to learn.

A learning style inventory is available in the Learning Center for those students who want to determine their learning style. Your tutor can work with you to identify and use learning strategies that suit your particular style.

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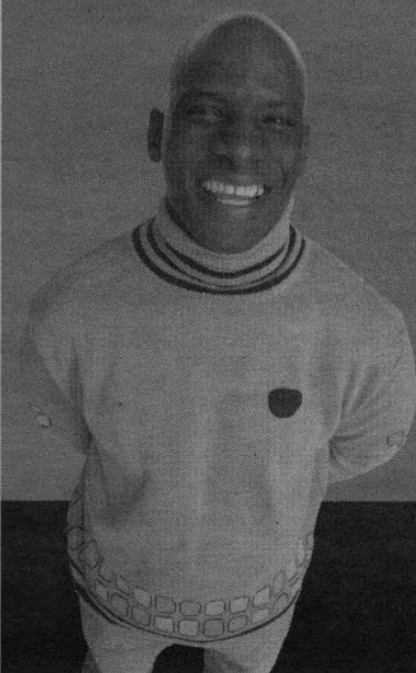
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Spring term open registration begins March 9th. Classes start March 28th. Call 800-667-1465 or email us at ecampus@oregonstate.edu for more info.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

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

CWE On-Line Testing Technician (#2968, Albany)

If you are a recent graduate or currently enrolled in a 2-year assoc. degree program in electrical OR working toward any engineering 4-year BS degree, you can apply for this part-time job. Earn credit toward your degree and get paid \$9.60/hr. If interested, please see me now!

Chef/Cook (#3002, Corvallis)

This full-time position for a fraternity in Corvallis wants experience in cooking and serving a large group of people. Pays \$2000/month for preparing lunch and dinner.

Transcriptionist (#2998, Albany)

If you completed a medical transcription program or a related accredited health records program, this job is for you. Hours are full-time: 3:30 p.m. to 12 midnight.

If you haven't heard yet, we launched our new Student Employment database! You can now register online to search our database for those elusive jobs. Our jobs are student friendly and many are flexible with your schedule. See www.linnbenton.edu, click Student Resources, Career/Counseling, Student Employment and finally Student Employment Database to register.

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Deadline:

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

Cost:

Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

Personals:

Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week. Advertising content is limited to no more than 50 words per ad.

Libel/Taste:

The Commuter will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner. Any advertisement judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Hunger: Food choices limited by social class

▲ From Pg. 1

Organizers asked for six volunteers from the lowest class and six from the middle class. They were then told to switch places. This brought happiness to the faces of those moving up and sadness to those forced to the floor.

"This gives me a better understanding of impoverished nations and how hungry they get," said Student Programming Board member James Crawford.

When dinner was served, those fortunate enough to be high class received the full course meal many of us know and love. They had chicken, vegetables, rice, dessert and plenty of refreshments. Those in the middle class were served buffet style and had rice, black beans and vegetables. Finally, the men of lower class were allowed to eat first while the ladies stood by waiting, astonished at the discrimination. The men dished up rice and water, while sitting on the floor. The ladies were finally able to dish up, fortunately for them, there was enough rice to go around, though this is not always the case for those less fortunate.

"This gives me a global perspective," said Susan Garber-Yonts, who sat amongst the high class. "I have an international student at my house so I've heard all about this and I wanted to give my eight year old son a better perspective."

Everyone sat in their respective places dining on whatever was available to them for the night. At one point, those in high class offered their food to those in the lower class. This was stopped because in the real world this rarely happens.

"I heard about this and wanted to know more about it," said Dr. Diane Watson, dean of Student Services. "I think it's a great experience and makes us see how fortunate we are to live where we live."

While everyone sat quietly socializing and eating, a slide show of people less fortunate was being shown, offering those in attendance a better feel for what life is like.

After eating, Susan James relayed her experiences with the group. She let us know that there are 73 different aid agencies in Linn and Benton Counties. She also explained that the soup kitchens in Corvallis, Albany, Lebanon, and Sweet Home are full for nearly every meal. The problem most people face is getting to the necessary agencies that provide help. Many don't have access to food kitchens or if they do, they don't have anywhere to cook the food. Thanks to the food share last year, 2.5 million pounds of food was saved from local landfills.

"What many people don't realize is that the majority of people that access us are two



photo by Matt Swanson

LB student Kara Carsner (left), a member of the low-income class at the Hunger Banquet, struggles to eat her rice with chop-sticks.

parent families," said James. "They are just trying to live the American dream."

The event was a success and brought a wake up call to those fortunate enough to attend.

"I'm wondering with my income as a college student, where I would fall," said second year LB student Chase Gourley, who sat in middle class. "I'm grateful for what I have."

Oxfam doesn't charge to do these banquets and is more than

willing to help anyone interested in hosting one, so that they can help raise awareness about the problems facing us today.

"To be stuck in middle class and experience this is amazing," said Watson. "This is by far less than what I live in."

The event was considered a success and will hopefully continue next year. It seems that those in attendance walked away with a better perspective on things.

Peace: Group urges local involvement

▲ From Pg. 1

citizen diplomacy, and making friends to prevent war.

Meals and transportation will need to be paid for by participants. Meals are estimated to cost between \$250 and \$400. The cost of transportation is not known, but may be close to \$1000.

Some assistance may be available to help with transportation costs.

Selected people are expected to contribute to group preparation and be an integral part of the delegation in Japan and on the return to Albany.

Several events are planned to share the experience with the community, including a film series on campus, according to Doug Clark, political science instructor and coordinator of the Institute for Peace and Justice.

Anyone who would like to find out more or would like an application packet can contact Clark in AHSS-206 or call ext. 4557.

Applicants will need to fill out an application form and background check form and write a letter of applica-

tion, including their reasons for wanting to be part of the delegation and how they think this experience would affect them personally and professionally.

The application packet must be submitted to Clark by March 1. A selection committee will interview applicants, who will be notified before April 1.

According to Clark, who is also the director of the Peace Studies Program, Albany Peace Seekers, whom he has worked with on other projects, asked him to work with them to not only send a delegation but to encourage a community discussion and help to generate that discussion.

The LBCC Institute for Peace and Justice was formed last year by Clark and so far they have worked with community groups on several projects, including a series of programs on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a reader's theater on peace and war, a film and discussion series on non-violent social change, and co-sponsoring a "Peace in the Valley" reader's theater.

Scholarship: Money often left unclaimed

▲ From Pg. 1

for future scholarships. "Also, if an essay is needed, the Writing Help Desk is available," added Clemetsen. All the information is also offered online.

LBCC's web site for scholarships has been updated to make browsing for the information much easier. The web site was redone so students can search for scholarships by keyword, term, or even by major. "LBCC had students test the site to check its accessibility," said Clemetsen.

Another good way to find scholarships is through the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC). They have at least 320 scholarships available to students, totaling more than \$1 million in free money. "Last year less than 100 LBCC students applied for OSAC scholarships," said Clemetsen.

OSAC held a workshop for students last Friday and the speaker gave instructions

on how to properly fill out an application, write an essay, find references and other tools used for applying for a scholarship. "Out of several thousand students on campus, many of those with financial need, only 12 showed up," said Clemetsen. Because all OSAC scholarships are transferable to any Oregon college for any Oregon student, this is a good opportunity for dual enrollment that may have been missed.

OSAC scholarships go in yearly cycles and this term's scholarship application deadline was in March of last year.

"Now is the time for students to start planning for next year," said Clemetsen.

OSAC scholarships are available right now for the 2005-06 school year. The deadline for these scholarships is March 1 and scholarship information can be found at www.GetCollegeFunds.org.

Several scholarships are still available to students this term. The deadline for applications is January 28, 5 p.m., at the Financial Aid office in Takena Hall. Scholarships available include:

- 3 for Health Occupation majors; 4 awards available.
 - 3 for Collision Repair majors; 4 awards available.
 - 2 for Horticulture, totaling \$3750 between them.
 - 3 for Industrial Math and Science, Engineering, and Computer Science majors, with at least \$3750 available.
- Other scholarships are available for agricultural, mechanical, or welding majors; arts, humanities, and social science majors; business communication majors; criminal justice majors; technical programs, business, or accounting majors, as well as female students.

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Get Involved

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR SCHOOL:

Associated Student Government: Applications are available now for all positions on the 05-06 ASG team. Positions and compensation include:

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(12 credits for Fall, Winter & Spring terms)
- **Vice President**
(12 credits for Fall, Winter & Spring terms)
- **Public Relations Secretary**
(12 credits for Fall, Winter & Spring terms)
- **Science & Industries Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)
- **Business & Health Occupations Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)
- **Student Services & Extended Centers Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)
- **Liberal Arts & Human Performance Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)
- **At-Large Rep.**
(12 credits for Winter & Spring terms)

Applications are due Friday February 11 at noon in the Student Life & Leadership office. There will be a candidate forum on February 16 and applicants should come prepared to answer questions from the audience. Elections will start via the web on Tuesday February 22 at 7:30 am and end on February 23 at 11:30 p.m.. Any questions should be directed toward Stephanie Quigley at 917-4475.

The Student Programming Board is seeking applicants for next year's leaders. The following positions will be filled:

- **Team Coordinator**
- **Multicultural Activities Coordinator**
- **Intramural Sports Specialist**
- **Health and Recreation Specialist**
- **Campus and Recreation Specialist**
- **Community Events Specialists**
- **Series Events Specialists**
- **Political Activities Specialists**

Applications are available in the Student Life & Leadership office in the Student Union. Applications are due by noon on Friday, February 11. Interviews will be held on Wednesday, February 23 at 2 p.m.. If appointed, individuals will serve one year and earn tuition talent grants that pay for up to 12 credits per term for two or three terms, depending on the position. If interested, or for more information, please stop by the Student Life & Leadership office or call Tamara Britton, '04-'05 Team Coordinator, at 917-4472.

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compensation inclu

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(12 credits for Fall)
- **Vice President**
(12 credits for Fall,
- **Public Relation**
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Editor-in-Chief: Nick Milhoan
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@mnnbenton.edu

IN MEMORY

A look back at the life and influence of those who have left this world.

So long Johnny, parting is such sweet sorrow

Lee Winfrey and Jonathan Storm
 Knight Ridder Newspapers

Television's greatest late-night talk-show host, Johnny Carson, died Sunday at age 79.

Carson, who suffered a heart attack and underwent quadruple bypass surgery in 1999, died of emphysema at his Malibu, Calif., home, according to NBC.

While presiding over the network's "Tonight Show" for three decades, Carson surpassed the two great late-night maestros who preceded him, Steve Allen and Jack Paar, and was the mentor and model for the best practitioners who followed him, Jay Leno and David Letterman.

Carson was unique. As Shakespeare said of Hamlet, "he was 'the glass of fashion, and the mould of form.'"

The handsome, confident comedian joked that his fans watched him "between



photo courtesy of KRT Campus

their toes" while lying in bed around midnight. But his opening monologue defined the day's opening for a congeries of viewers, and a guest spot on his show was the launchpad for many a young comedian's career.

His greatest skill, however, was one that possibly many of his viewers never noticed, but which his show-business colleagues adored. He brought out the best in his guests, feeding them lines, stroking their egos, sublimating himself for their benefit.

"It's a sad day for his family and his country," Letterman said. "All of us who came after are pretenders. We will not see the likes of him again. ... He was the best, a star and a gentleman."

Just last week, it was disclosed that Carson occasionally sent Letterman jokes for his CBS show. Some made it into the monologue.

Oprah Winfrey, in an interview Sunday, said, "For his time and what he represented, there is no one bigger."

"The first time you're on this show is one of the single pivotal moments in the careers of everybody who's ever been on it," Winfrey said. "To get that call means that somebody thinks you've made it. We all remember the first moment, standing behind the curtain, hearing the music. It's an out-of-body experience."

John William Carson was born Oct. 23, 1925, in Corning, Iowa, and grew up in Norfolk, Neb.

A book set Carson upon his career course.

When he was 12, he bought a copy of "Hoffman's Magic Tricks." After mastering its contents, he made his showbiz debut at age 14, billing himself as the Great Carsoni.

Carson served as an ensign on the battleship Pennsylvania from 1943 to 1946.

Carson earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska in 1949. His senior thesis, about comedy writing, included quotations from and footnotes about Jack Benny, Bob Hope and Fred Allen, whose techniques and timing he studied closely while listening to them on the radio.

In 1949, Carson married Jody Wolcott, a fellow student at Nebraska who was his magic-act assistant.

While at Nebraska in 1948, Carson got his first radio job, as an announcer at WFAB in Lincoln.

At mid-century, Carson and family drove to Los Angeles in a 1949 Oldsmobile with a U-Haul trailer hitched to the back. "We must have looked like Okies," he later recalled.

Carson made the rounds of TV stations, showing an audition movie of himself telling jokes and performing magic, and was hired by KNXT in Los Angeles in 1950. His local show there, "Carson's Cellar" (1951-53) was well received. "The kid is great, just great," Benny said.

Red Skelton hired Carson as a writer on his TV show and, inadvertently, gave him an even bigger boost. While rehearsing in 1954, Skelton accidentally knocked himself out trying to crash through a break-away door that failed to open. Summoned on short notice to take Skelton's place on the air, Carson sparked nationwide.

Moving onward and upward, he hosted a game show, "Earn Your Vacation" (1954), and a variety show, "The Johnny Carson Show" (1955-56), both on CBS. His first long-running series was another game show, "Who Do You Trust? (1957-62), on ABC.

In 1958, Carson hired Ed McMahon as his sidekick on "Trust," beginning a professional association and personal friendship that lasted more than a third of a century. Their "Tonight" always got rolling with McMahon's stentorian voice declaring, "Heere's Johnny!"

In a statement Sunday, McMahon said, "Johnny Carson was a man I considered

like a brother to me." Whenever McMahon faced a major post-"Tonight" career decision, he said, "I always got the OK from 'The Boss.'"

When Jack Paar decided to retire from "Tonight" after 4 years as its host, he said Carson was "the only man who could or should replace me." Carson premiered behind TV's

most-watched entertainment desk on Oct. 1, 1962.

From the start, his guests were top of the line, with Groucho Marx, Tony Bennett, Joan Crawford, Mel Brooks and Rudy Vallee gracing his 90-minute opening night.

"The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" was an immediate success in both the Nielsen ratings and volume of fan mail.

He never talked to a guest before the show, lest they leave their freshness and originality off-camera.

Whenever his opener fell flat, Carson let the world—including his writers—know about it. "I now believe in reincarnation," he said one evening. "Tonight's monologue is going to come back as a dog."

Commenting on comedians as guests, he said, "Never compete with them. I better they are, the better the show is. The only absolute rule is: Never lose control of the show."

Carson's peers recognized and appreciated his subtle but sure-handed expertise.

But his guests knew they had to be good, or their turn in the spotlight would be attenuated and their chances of returning, slender.

"Once you are on Carson's turf," Orson Welles said, "the onus is on you to stay there. If you fail, you will decorously get the boot."

Describing his first appearance, in 1981, Jerry Seinfeld said, "It was like coming over the crest of a roller coaster. It was the difference between thinking you're a comedian and really being one."

David Brenner said his 1971 debut changed his life overnight: "I had \$3 to my name at the time. Within 24 hours, I had \$10,000 worth of job offers."

But some of the show's most memorable moments had nothing to do with guest comedians. The longest burst of laughter

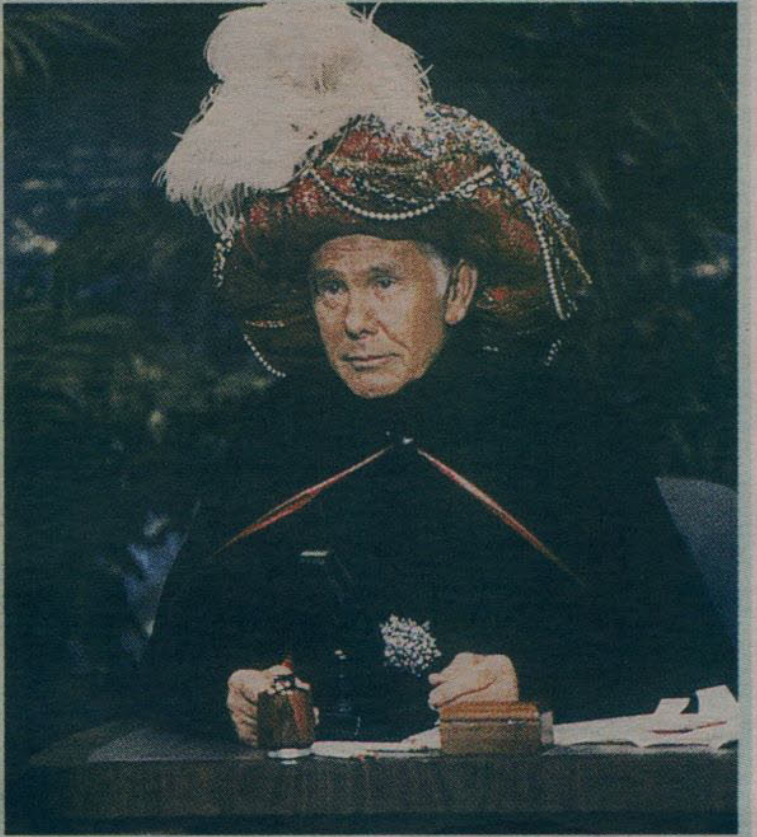


photo courtesy of KRT Campus

Carson portrays Carnac the Magnificent in 1986.

ever heard on the show came in 1964 when actor Ed Ames (then playing an Indian in the "Daniel Boone" series) threw a tomahawk at a cardboard human dummy and it stuck squarely in its crotch.

rated show was the on-air wedding of ukulele zany Tiny Tim and Miss Vicki on Dec. 17, 1969.

Witty and charming, cool and collected, nimble and durable, Carson knocked off competitors as if swatting flies.

Among shows consigned to oblivion after trying and failing to dislodge him from his perch were "The Les Crane Show," "The Joey Bishop Show," and "The Dick Cavett Show," all on ABC; "The Merv Griffin Show" and "The Pat Sajak Show," both on CBS; "The Late Show Starring Joan Rivers" on Fox; and "Thicke of the Night" and "The John Davidson Show" in syndication.

Carson prepared for his show both intellectually—he read seven newspapers every morning, looking for comedic grist in current events—and physically—he exercised regularly and pursued several hobbies including tennis, scuba diving, archery, and fencing. He was a good golfer and an excellent drummer, the active owner of a drum set given him by the great Buddy Rich.

As the years passed, he steadily reduced his workload, cutting the 90-minute show down to one hour, reducing his episodes from five a week to three, and escalating his salary to \$3 million a year.

The star more than earned his money. With him at the helm, "Tonight" became a mammoth money machine.

He shared his wealth. His John W. Carson Foundation donated millions to various charities, including bequests to his alma maters, the University of Nebraska and Norfolk High School, where the Johnny Carson Theatre honors his name.

Carson accumulated many honors, including five Emmy Awards, election to the Television Academy Hall of Fame, and a Kennedy Center Honor. He was a perennial favorite as host of the Academy Awards ceremonies.

Carson married Alexis Mass in 1987, and she survives him, along with his sons, Christopher and Cory.

The master was 66 when he called it quits. The guests on his next-to-last show were Robin Williams and Bette Midler, who in emotional tribute to him sang "One for My Baby" and one of Carson's favorites, "Here's That Rainy Day."

But on his final show on May 22, 1992, there were no guests, just Johnny. Going all the way back to his teenage gigs as the Great Carsoni, that was always enough.



photo courtesy of KRT Campus

Carson with then little known comedian and future "Tonight Show" host, Jay Leno, in an appearance on April 28, 1977.

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 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

Long wait fails to discourage Drexler fans at OSU

Sherry Majeski
 The Commuter

Clyde Drexler, former Portland Trail Blazer legend, made a guest appearance at OSU Bookstore to sign copies of his new book, "Clyde the Glide" last Saturday.

Drexler was scheduled to begin signing autographs at 2:30, ending at 5 p.m., but Drexler's schedule had been changed and he had to be at the OSU basketball game by 5 p.m. This was a huge disappointment to his fans that arrived late. Unfortunately, Drexler had been detained at his previous book signing due to the high volume of fans pleading for his autograph. He stuck around to accommodate as many fans as he could. Unfortunately, he did not arrive at OSU until 3:54 p.m. and had to leave at 4:30 p.m.

The late arrival and long wait did not discourage Drexler fans. Kurt Welty, 39, a 1989 OSU Alumnus was the first to arrive at 11 a.m. He came fully prepared to spend a few hours to get an autograph. He brought newspapers, food and a cushion to sit on.

Next in line was Chris Comstock who arrived at noon with his girlfriend, Erin Lawrence, a psychology major who tagged along as her boyfriend's best supporter. They are both OSU students. Comstock said, "I'm happy to be here and I love Drexler as a ball player. He is a good leader and positive role model." They both agreed that their homework could wait and they weren't going to miss this opportunity. Comstock grew up in Portland and watched all the games he could and has all Drexler's gear on his wall and now has an autographed book to add to his collection.

Andy Canavan arrived with a 1993 box of Wheat-

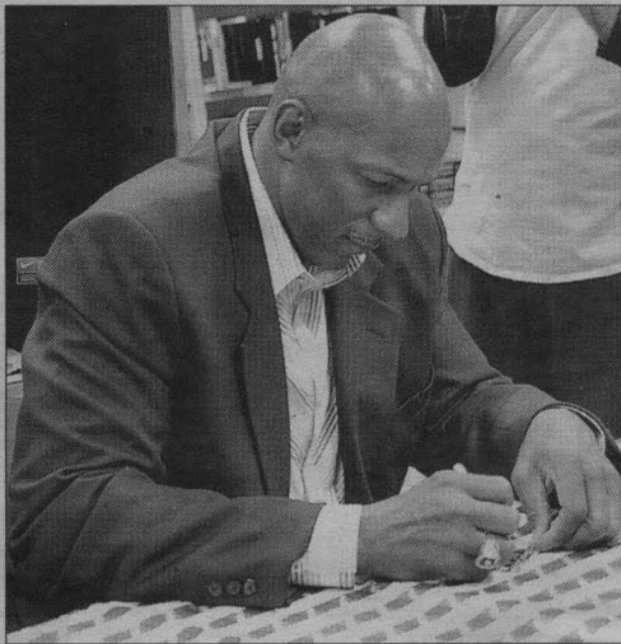


photo by Sherry Majeski

Clyde Drexler signs autographs at the OSU Bookstore, Saturday.

ies he purchased and saved since he was in the fifth grade. Canavan, now 22, was standing in line waiting for Drexler to autograph his treasured box of Wheaties. His sister, Annie Canavan stated, "I think it is a disgrace to his legacy, the way the team is now."

At 3:15, Drexler had not yet arrived. Seventeen year old Megan and Brie Bui, a science education major, were at the end of the line, hoping to get an autographed book for their father, who was scheduled to attend the OSU basketball game that evening. They said it would

be worth the wait if they were to get a book signed.

Fans continued to arrive and Robert Laufer, an OSU sophomore, engineering management major, was willing to take his chances and hang in line for an autograph. He said, "I think he is like the last testament of what the Blazers really were. I feel like there is a void since he left. I think this will be a good book."

Damion Ontiveros, 9 arrived at 12:30 with his grandpa, Dale Warner to get his book autographed. Ontiveros arrived with a gift for Drexler, his finest artwork of Blazer symbols. Warner said, "I want to meet him too," standing there holding four books. Drexler seemed very pleased to have received such a fine gift.

People from all walks of life stood in line for hours to get a glimpse of Drexler and an autograph. Young and old people, all with hopes for an autograph were like children waiting for Santa Clause on Christmas Eve.

Some people arrived with Drexler's new book, while others bought it for \$24.95. Some brought in other memorabilia including Drexler drinking glasses, life-sized posters, basket balls, ball caps, newspaper articles, photos, shirts and magazines.

Periodic announcements were made reminding fans that Drexler had to leave at 4:30 p.m. This did not discourage those waiting at the end of the line. They had their fingers crossed. At 4:20 the announcement came that he was going to stay until 5 p.m. The line had to be cut off at 5 p.m. just behind Tony Lagler. Disappointed fans left quietly and many of them returned their books. To them, the value of the book included Drexler's autograph.

The store had purchased 300 books, and had only six left. They estimated the crowd to be at 300.

STUDENT VOICES

Who do you think will win Super Bowl XXXIX?

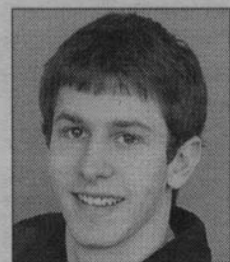


"I want the Eagles because they are the underdog, but I think that the Patriots will win."

Mike Smalley

"Patriots, because they have a really good kicker, and the quarterback has a really good arm and they just have a really good offense."

Amanda Usher

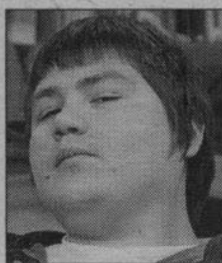


"Is that that football? I guess I'll go with the Patriots."

Aaron Stuber

"New England, they execute well and they have a good defense."

Byron Hostler



"The Patriots, they have better outfits."

Kim Gourley

Eagles take on favored Pats in Super Bowl

Jake Rosenberg
 The Commuter

Sunday signified the beginning of the end to the 2004 season, when the playoffs pitted the top two teams in each conference against each other to decide the Super Bowl participants.

The Philadelphia Eagles looked to end a three-year conference championship losing skid, meanwhile the Patriots fought to continue a dynasty.

The action kicked-off at noon when Michael Vick and the Falcons traveled up the coast to Philadelphia to challenge the National Football Conference's top seed. The Eagle defense came out in full force by keeping Atlanta's explosive offense from even sparking.

Vick was contained inside the pocket for all 60 minutes, throwing for only 136 yards while rushing for a meager 26. The Falcons were out-rushed, out-passed and just plain out-played in the 27-10 defeat.

Running back Bryant Westbrook was a game-breaker with 135 total yards, and tight end Chad Lewis caught the two touchdown passes Donovan McNabb tossed as the Eagles proved to be the biggest bird in the NFC nest.

Philly fans eagerly anticipated to seeing who their Super Bowl opponent would be when the current champion Patriots faced the Steelers later in the day.

New England struck the steel-curtain early, capitalizing on Pittsburgh's turnovers with a 60-yard-strike from Tom Brady to Deion Branch in the end zone. Brady put on a quarterback clinic in the first half, throwing for 205 yards and two touchdowns during his campaign for his eighth playoff victory in as many games.

On the opposing sideline was Ben Roethlisberger, whose undefeated rookie season looked to be in jeopardy when he

threw a second-quarter interception to Pats safety Rodney Harrison. The ball was taken 87 yards to the end zone for a 24-3 lead going into halftime.

It was too little, too late in the second half when the Pittsburgh's inspired play got them within 11 points before Corey Dillon's touchdown put the game out of reach for the Steelers.

New England's 41-27 victory puts them in the big game for the third time in four years versus a Philadelphia team

who last won an NFL championship in 1960 and last appeared in one 24 years ago.

Two weeks away from Super Bowl XXXIX, the Patriots have few quandaries to tend to, as the reigning NFL champs open as seven-point favorites.

The Eagles are quite the opposite however, as McNabb awaits team officials to see if he will have top target Terrell Owens for the NFL finally.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS Commons

JAN 26 - FEB 1

•WEDNESDAY:

ENTREES: Pot Roast, Chicken Burrito, Tofu Satay w/ Spicy Peanut dipping sauce
 SIDES: Potato Pancakes, Mexican Rice, Stuffed Tomatoes
 SOUPS: Tomato Rice, Corn Chowder

•THURSDAY:

ENTREES: Liver with Bacon and Onions, Monte Crist Sandwich, Grilled Vegetable Pizza
 SIDES: Potatoes O' Brian, Creamy Polenta, Broccoli and Cauliflower
 SOUPS: Tom Kha Gai, Cream of Tomato

•FRIDAY:

Chef's choice

•MONDAY:

ENTREES: Grilled Pork Chop with Sauce Robert, Chicken Gumbo, Sweet and Sour Temphe
 SIDES: Cheesy Potato Croquestts, Rice Pilaf, Carrots and Turnips Etuée
 SOUPS: Chicken Noodle, Split Pea

•TUESDAY:

ENTREES: Reuben Sandwich, Irish Lamb Stew, Vegetarian Thai Curry
 SIDES: Twice Baked Potatoes, Creamy Pesto Pasta, Green Beans
 SOUPS: Shrimp Bisque, French Onion

WEEKLY MENU

Sports Editor: Jake Rosenberg
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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



Brittany Howell charges down the court Wednesday's, thrilling game versus SWOCC. photo by Erik Swanson

Lady Runners' defense makes Storm a breeze

Jake Rosenberg
The Commuter

A second half rally came two points short of victory, as the Lady Runners fell to Southwestern Oregon last Wednesday 66-64. Kendall Dionne was all over the court for LB with thirteen points, 6 assists, 7 rebounds and a game-high 5-blocked shots.

Dionne's effort was aided by Sarah Long's 20 points and Kelsey Richard's 11 that helped LB overcome a thirteen point deficit to SWOCC. The Runners led by six late in the game thanks to the team's 26 points in the paint, but SWOCC pulled it out thanks Sarah Hislop's game-high 33

points, playing every minute of the game for the Lakers.

Saturday had the ladies traveling to Chemeketa to break the fourth place tie in the Southern Division. LB looked to make up for the heart-breaking loss three days earlier and did so in style with a 61-53 victory versus the Storm.

After a slow start, LB was down by only six at halftime despite 28 team turnovers that were compensated by some great defense by Sarah Long with 5 steals. The Runners held the Storm to only 20 points in the second half allowing them to pull out to an eleven-point lead and coast to victory.

LB Men struggle to stop foes as losing streak starts

Jake Rosenberg
The Commuter

LB faced Southwestern Oregon on Wednesday and allowed the Lakers to shoot 60 percent from both the field and beyond the arc on their way to an 83-70 defeat.

Forward Shaun Lake led the way for the Roadrunners with 18 points and five assists, while Tommy Bain continued to be a strong inside presence at post with 12 points, five rebounds, three steals and one blocked shot.

Bobby Schindler's 14 points and six-for-six free throw performance in only 16 minutes was another bright spot but proved not enough to offset the precise shooting of a SWOCC squad that made 14 out of 23 three-point attempts.

On Saturday, the Runners took to the road to face the Storm at Chemeketa.

Schindler once again made the most of his few minutes on the court, leading LB in scoring with 11 points while also stealing 3 balls in just under 19 minutes of play.

LB managed only 25 points in each half while giving up 39 points on 25 total turnovers. The defense continued to struggle as LB allowed 5 Storm players to score in double-digits. It was never close in this one as the men fell hard to Chemeketa 85-50.

The Road Runners have had a rough time on the defensive side lately, giving up 80-plus points in the past three games.

The men will look to end that streak this week as both LB teams have their next two games at home, facing Mt. Hood tonight and Portland on Saturday in the Activities Center.



Michael Braziel (right) looks for daylight thanks to a screen from Tommy Bain (left) during the LB's loss to SWOCC. photo by Erik Swanson

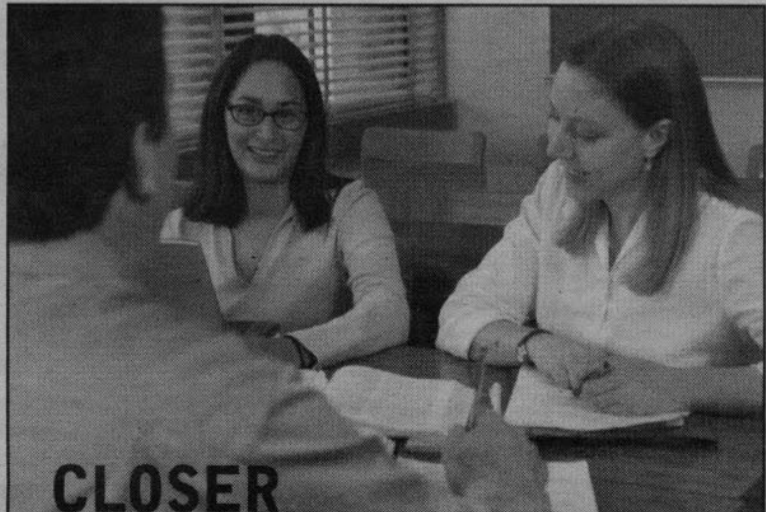
Valentine's Day Flower Sale

Have a carnation delivered to a special person at LBCC on Valentine's Day!
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If you are a currently employed Work-Study Student, with an award of less than \$1,000 dollars per term, and have unmet needs, you may come to the Financial Aid Office, Tadena 117, and ask for an increase in your work-study award.

Hurry! Awards will be made on first come, first serve basis.

Linn Benton Community College Financial Aid Office
Tadena 117

Managing Editor: Sheena Bishop
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

'Puss in Boots' to entertain 6,000 school children

Melissa Chaney
 The Commuter

An adaptation of a classic play may knock the socks—or boots—as the case may be, off of students this term. The production of "Puss in Boots," presented by the LBCC Performing Arts Department, marks the 30th Annual Children's Play at LBCC.

The two matinee performances open to the public will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27. The play will be performed in the Russell Tripp Performance Center, just recently renovated, which is located

in Takena Hall. In addition to the public matinee performances, an estimated 6,000 school kids will be attending the 16 school matinees beginning Feb. 8.

Directed by Jane Donovan, an instructor at LBCC for 25 years, and with over a dozen children's plays under her belt, Puss in Boots is not just a play for kids. According to Donovan, "It's clever, funny, and for people of any age."

The story of Puss in Boots has been around since the 1600's and was first published by Charles Perrault, a French writer. LBCC's adaptation closely follows the original tale where Puss in Boots em-

barks on a whirlwind adventure to prove himself to and also help his master Tom, in acquiring wealth and getting the girl. Along the way he encounters an ogre and his dog, a princess, a king, and a variety of other interesting characters.

Donovan believes that this play will appeal to students because, "Most people have seen Shrek 2, so they're familiar with the Puss in Boots character."

The production is in the final stages of rehearsal, and according to Donovan, many of the characters are "very good." Some of the actors had to embrace their inner animal when preparing for their

parts, as dogs, cats, and ogres. The part of Puss in Boots is played by Eric Nepom of Corvallis. The play is only about an hour long, so Donovan encourages students to see it. She also says that if you cannot make any of the public matinees, it is possible to watch one of the other matinees—if you don't mind being surrounded by school kids.

This is the first play to be presented since the revamping and renaming of Takena Theatre. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for people under 18 years, and are available at the box office in Takena Hall.

REVIEW

Generations of characters hold 'Singing Club' story together

Sheena Bishop
 The Commuter

In the national best-seller "The Master Butcher's Singing Club," you will first meet Fidelis Waldvogel, a survivor of Germany's WWI troops, who makes the long walk home to marry the pregnant widow of his best friend, Johannes, who was killed in action.

Before the war, Fidelis was trained in the family trade as a butcher, a trade he took to well. He uses the same spices and recipe as his father and generations before him to make the best sausages and slice the best meat cuts imaginable.

He marries Eva, as he promised, but sees opportunity elsewhere when a local man tells of a sandwich he had in Seattle. America is the land of opportunity, so the man said; a place where you can buy sliced bread.

So Fidelis sets out for America, bringing a suitcase of sausages and his knives that he sharpens to perfection every morning. After reaching New York, he sells his wares in order to make it to North Dakota, where he originally intends to stay just long enough to raise funds for another train ticket to Seattle.

Soon he sends for his wife and the baby, sets up his own butcher shop, and they begin the process of adopting a new language and way of life together.

Fidelis misses the singing club back home and starts one of his own. The men in the town meet in his yard at night, teaching each other songs they know, harmoniously lulling Eva and the four boys to sleep during the evenings that they gather.

By the time Delphine Watzka enters their lives, the butcher shop is well established and known for its quality.

Returning to sleepy little Argus, N.D., after a few years on the road, Delphine quickly becomes associated with the shop, falling in love with Eva and her strength. She first sees

Eva racing Franz, the oldest of the four boys, and admires her spirit and playfulness towards her son. Later, Eva offers her a job helping out with the shop, a job Delphine gladly takes, with her pockets short of change and her father needing help to pay the mortgage on his property a few miles outside of town.

You quickly become familiar with the simple life of the town, of Eva's strength and courage, of Step-and-a-Half's deep secrets she will take to the grave, of Delphine's booze-soaked father Roy, her lover Cyprian, and a woman as pathetic as they come, Fidelis' sister, Theresa Maria, whom they simply call Tante, German for "Aunt".

The death of an entire family in Roy's basement introduces you to Clarisse Strub, the mortician-owner of Strub's Funeral Home, inherited from her father, Delphine's best friend, and apple of Sheriff Hock's eye. Unfortunately for both of them, his persistence after her leads to both of their demises.

The characters are taunting, yet pleasing as well. There are tissue moments and slow moments, but great suspense. Mystery and amusement will hold your attention where the plot slows.

You will find, upon finishing this book, that Argus, N.D. is like any other town, just the right size for everyone to know everyone else, yet not know where they came from.

Louise Erdrich has done a wonderful job writing a beautiful novel with colorful characters that many can relate to. She has written many other novels, including National Book Award Finalist "The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse," along with poetry, nonfiction, and a few children's books.

This novel is perfect to read coiled up on the couch for a weekend of relaxation after homework can be set aside. It is a slower read than many may find enjoyable, but I'm sure many will find it a nice change.

Eugene photographer presents slide show on journey to Mongolia

LBCC News Service

Eugene photographer Gary Tepfer is showing large color photographs of South Siberia and Western Mongolia through March at OSU's Center for the Humanities.

Tepfer will present a slide show and talk about his most recent trip to Mongolia from 12 to 1 p.m. in Forum Room 113 on Friday Jan. 28. The talk, sponsored by the LBCC Art Department, is free and open to the public.

The landscapes, portraits and archaeological images represent more than a decade of work in the region, where Tepfer has served as the photographer for the Joint Mongolian-American-Russian Project "ALTAY," whose goal is to increase understanding of the emergence of ancient cultures in the Altay Mountain region, known as the cradle of Turkish civilizations.

Tepfer's photographs include dramatic landscapes in the remote region, as well as portraits

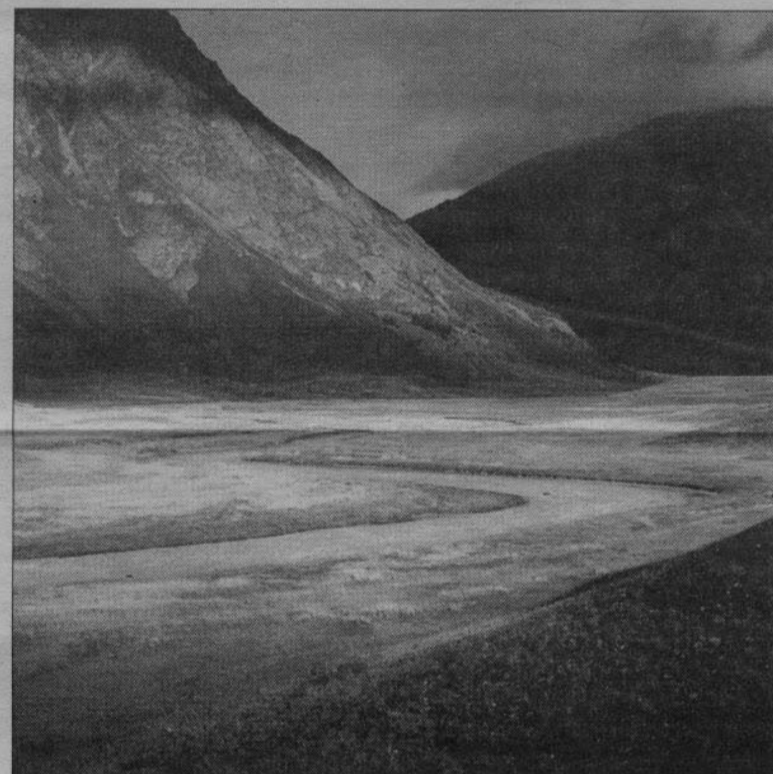


photo by Gary Tepfer

A landscape photo of the Altay Mountains of Western Mongolia. of the nomads who live there, petroglyphs carved on rock surfaces, and stone altars and other religious sites.

The exhibit at the Center for

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

CALENDAR

THE VIBE

Albany Public Library Main Branch
 1390 Waverly Dr. SE
 Albany
 917-7580

Mon, Jan. 31
Drumming with Dave Chiller
 Drums from around the world, techniques, introductions to rhythms.
 3rd. grade & older
 2 - 3 p.m.
 Free

The Book Bin
 215 SW 14th St.
 Corvallis
 752-0040

Sat, Jan. 29
Debra Mathis
 Piano Favorites
 1-2 p.m.
 Free

Bombs Away Cafe
 2527 NW Monroe Ave.
 Corvallis
 754-3601

Thur, Jan. 27
John Bliss Xtet
 Jazz originals
 7:30 p.m.
 Free



Fri, Jan. 28
Big Island Shindig
 Rock jamband
 9:30 p.m.
 \$3

Flinn's Theater
 222 1st Ave. SW
 Albany
 541-928-5008

Jan. 28 - 29
Only \$400 and...a Horse?
 Journey back to the first 50 years of Albany
 6:15 p.m. Dinner & Show
 7 p.m. Show only
 \$27.50 Dinner & Show
 \$10 Show Only

Oregon State University Memorial Union Ballroom
 Corvallis
 231-4853

Fri, Jan. 28
Noche Xtravagante
 A look at OSU cultures with dinner, entertainment & dance.
 5 - 11:30 p.m.
 Free

Platinum
 126 SW 4th St.
 Corvallis
 541-738-6996

Fri, Jan 28
Eleven Eyes
 Jazz, funk, drum n' bass, electronica, hip-hop, afro-cuban, club and improvisation
 9 p.m.
 \$5



Sat, Jan 29
Floater & Softcore
 Electronic show
 9 p.m.
 \$10

W.O.W. Hall
 291 W. 8th St.
 Eugene
 541-687-2746

Fri, Jan. 20
Northwest Royale, Five Foot Thick, Dome Shots, Blunt Point
 Metal concert
 8:30 p.m.
 \$5

Ballerstedt tells how he found the hammer dulcimer

Sheena Bishop
 The Commuter

If you happened to make the Showcase at the Benton Center Friday afternoon, you were lucky enough to hear the talents of Pete Ballerstedt. Ballerstedt was not the only one to perform, but his instrument was definitely unique.

The hammer dulcimer he purchased for \$1800 from Rick Fogel in Seattle included a case, stand, and hammers.

"The first instrument I tried happened to work for me," Ballerstedt said. How did he learn about it? At a dog show with his wife, of all places.

"At a Highland games... they had some booths set up for the hammer dulcimer and folk harps," he said. "Of course you don't just drive to Seattle for a rare instrument you happen to pass by in a booth."

Ballerstedt first rented one from Gracewinds Music in Corvallis. After deciding that he really liked the instrument, he hooked up with Fogel, who custom makes dulcimers. Ballerstedt says he is very happy with the craftsmanship.

The history of the dulcimer is a little vague, but Ballerstedt clued me in on what he knows.

Historians believe the dulcimer started in Middle Europe during the 14-1500's. It is possibly an ancestor to the piano and is thought to be more or less English in origin. There are also Chinese, Persian, Greek and Indian versions of the instrument.

Popular in the court of King James, there was a dulcimer on the manifest of the ship that sailed to and then settled Jamestown.

Ballerstedt said the dulcimer came to the Northwest in the 1960s at the Newport Folk Festival, brought by two boys from Minnesota where it is often called the "Lumber Jack's Piano". You can also find history of it in Kansas and Texas.

New builders and players sprouted up in the region after the introduction. You could even order a dulcimer from the Sears Roebuck catalog once upon a time, but as pianos became more affordable, the ancient tradition faded out.

The dulcimer is a four octave instrument that can be made in many ways, as a soprano instrument all the way down to the deep hum of bass. A learner's set he says would probably start at about \$500 and go on up from there.

"A lot of tunes I end up playing are fiddle tunes," Ballerstedt said, suggesting the small market for music specifically written for his trade.

"I don't sight read music," he also confessed, "I basically sit down and convert it into something I can read. You don't have to be able to sight read



photo by Matt Swanson
Pete Ballerstedt demonstrates his technique with the hammer dulcimer at the New Morning Bakery.

to play music."

Ballerstedt attends the Folk Life Festival every Veteran's Day weekend in Seattle. There are food booths and vendors everywhere. It is located at the Seattle Center.

"The biggest for me," Ballerstedt says to others who may take up the dulcimer, "the hardest thing about it is tuning it. It takes 45 minutes on a good day. There are 80 strings to tune."

That's right, 80 strings. But don't let that discourage you. He also said that some of the other ones have 46 strings on a smaller instrument.

If you are looking to buy one, he said check the newspaper. You may occasionally see one in the classifieds.

"Teachers are helpful but you can also learn from books and tapes," he suggests. There are also numerous resources on the Internet.

"I encourage anyone to make music, any music, but make it," Ballerstedt said. "The penalty comes from when we feel as if we can't play like what we hear on CD's then we aren't good."

If you missed the opportunity to attend the showcase, you missed a diamond in the rough. The sound of the dulcimer is as soothing as a harp or a mother's voice humming her infant to sleep.

It truly is a blessing to listen to. You also missed a chance to meet a very kind gentleman with a fantastic hobby.

I now leave you with the thought that Ballerstedt left me: Dulcimer comes from the Greek words Dulce and Meos, meaning "sweet sound". It couldn't be more accurate.

"Horror" hits ACT stage in April with sex, corsets and a time warp

Colleen Jacks
 The Commuter

Albany Civic Theater will literally rock the house when they present Richard O'Brien's, "The Rocky Horror Show," the play which launched the cult classic "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," is a true rock 'n' roll opera.

"ACT is the first community theater in the mid-valley to do this show," says veteran director, Christi Sears. This is a fun show to watch as each character goes through a change in an effort to define their identities, added Sears.

Sears also added that unlike

the movie version of this show, props are not allowed to be thrown on the stage.

If variety is the spice of life, this show has it all: Gender-bending actors dressed in bustiers, rhythmic dances which have the whole cast gyrating, and musical numbers like "Sweet Transvestite and The Time Warp," to keep the audience entranced.

The play opens with a newly-engaged, innocent young couple who find themselves lost in the countryside. They stop at the spooky castle of Dr. Frank N. Furter and ask for assistance. What they get is more than they could have ever imagined. The

good doctor, a transvestite, is working on his project to create the perfect man.

The play is filled with sexual innuendo and outright sexual references, so this is not a show for young children.

It's fun, racy, raucous and definitely raunchy, so strap on your corset, buckle up your garters and fishnet stockings and head for ACT this spring.

Evening curtain is at 8:00 p.m. and matinee (m) curtain is 2:30 p.m. Performances are Apr. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10(m), 14, 15, 16, 17(m), 21, 22, 23, 2005. Note that the show on the 22 is a special mid-night show, not a standard show time.

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Valley vitner creates heaven on a hill

Nick Milhoan
 The Commuter

A hhhh, the sweet smell of grapes ready to be harvested and the wonderful aroma of hot, delicious clam chowder begging to be eaten. What could be better?

Well, if you think this is heaven, then you would have loved being at Willamette Valley Vineyards last weekend.

I went with a friend to the Fifth Annual Mo's Crab and Chowder Festival on Saturday at the vineyards in Turner. As soon as we pulled under the archway leading to the grounds at the top of the hill, we could tell this was a very popular event.

Upon arriving, what caught our attention was the giant crab sitting outside the tasting room. As we made our way up through the tasting room we heard JT and the Tourists belting out the tunes while hundreds of people enjoyed wine, crab and Mo's World Famous Clam Chowder.

We relieved a German crystal wine glass with our admission that we used to taste three different wines. I first tried a glass of Griffin Creek 1999 Chardonnay. I was not particularly impressed with this. However I am not normally a fan of chardonnay. My friend was poured a taste of Willamette Valley's 2002 Pinot Gris, which he thought to be wonderful. This is one of the wines the vineyard is famous for.

Then we dined on Mo's Clam Chowder in a bread bowl. The chowder was rich in taste and texture and demonstrated why Mo's is known throughout the country for their savory chowder. The bread bowl was marvelous and added great flavor to the chowder.

After a short period of walking around the tasting room and through the gift



photo by Matt Swanson

J.T. and the Tourists, an oldies cover band, entertains the crowd as they dine on seafood and sip wine during last weekend's Crab and Chowder Festival. Mo's famous clam chowder was served with Oregon Dungeness crab and wine from Willamette Valley Vineyards.

shop, we walked out on to the porch to watch a glorious sunset. We then walked up through the tower to look over the grounds. The view from the tower enabled us to see from one end of the vineyard to the other. You could look northward and see Salem and from the looks of it, on a clear day, one should be able to see Mary's Peak as well as the Cascade Mountains.

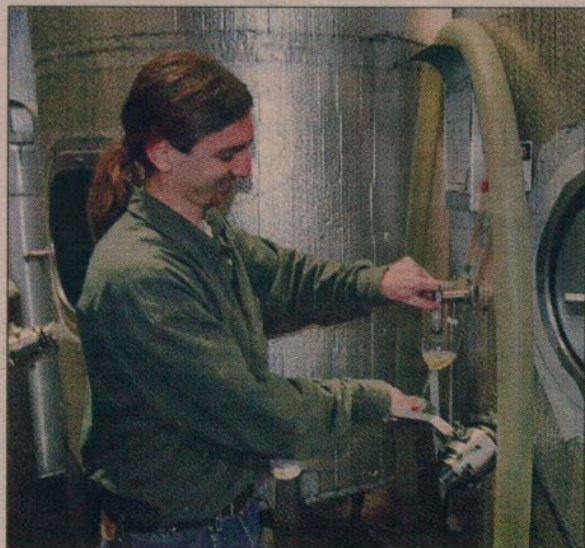
"This is my favorite winery," said Linda Wyza of Turner. "I've been coming here since they opened."

Later in the afternoon, we were able to take a tour through the production room. The tour was lead by Cellar Master Don Crank. The vineyard does production and harvest only once a year. They produce white wines, through a whole cluster process. The red wine process allows the grapes to ferment, then a machine breaks open the skin of the grape and peels it off. Both of these wines use a stainless steel press that is kept at 58 degrees Fahrenheit, this helps to create the filtering process.

While on our tour, we were able to get a taste of my favorite wine of the day, a wonderful, tantalizing Frizzante, which in Italian stands for sparkling. The wine's taste was rich in texture, yet with much less of a kick than you get with non-sparkling wines. The alcohol content of this wine is also reduced at only six percent. The muscat grapes are what help to give this wine a much sweeter taste. This particular wine was so spectacular, we bought a bottle before we left the vineyard.

Left: Jonathon Enhrig (a graduate of LBCC) draws a sample of Frizzante (a sparkling white wine) during a tour of the wine cellars Saturday afternoon.

Right: A large inflated Dungeness crab keeps watch over Willamette Valley Vineyards during the 5th Annual Mo's Crab and Chowder Festival.



As we left the area, we noticed a change in room temperature. The Frizzante is kept at freezing temperatures, while the wines like the Pinot Noir are kept much warmer. As we strolled through the barrel room, you could smell the fragrance of the wine mixing with the oak barrels. This was amazing and it's a smell that one cannot describe to another.

The barrel room holds 1,200 French oak barrels. The barrels last for about five years, though they can maintain liquid in them and can be kept much longer.

The winery chooses to replace them sooner. The winery is able to slowly soak the living wine through the membrane of the barrels and let it age. The French oak adds that rich texture we have come to expect in red wines. One barrel alone can produce up to 25 cases of wine.

Willamette Valley Vineyards has won many awards throughout the years, including the Newport Seafood and Wine Festival, Sunriver Sunfest, Reno West Coast and San Diego National Wine Competition, Oregon Wine Association and more. They also have autographed pictures in the awards cases from the cast of the television show "Friends" and a picture with former President Bill Clinton.

The winery hosts a different event each month. The next event scheduled is the Pinot Noir and Chocolate Celebration Feb. 12 and 13. They also will host Oregon's annual Wine, Cheese and Pear Jubilee, and the Oregon Grape Stomp Championship and Harvest Celebration. Cost of each event varies and usually includes a wine glass.

"Next month's wine and chocolate festival pairs different truffles with wines," said Wyza. "It's great because they all go so well together, this is my favorite event."

The winery is home to Oregon's Wine Guild. This is a unique resource for all wine enthusiasts. There are three different stages of the guild.

The "Grand Cru," which features rare cellared red wines and gives the customer two bottles of wine every other month. The "Premier Cru," which is a diverse selection of white and red wines, also gives the customer two bottles of wine every other month. Finally the "Creme de la Cru," which sends out a selection of sweet wines, gives the customer three to four bottles of wine, four times a year.

For more information on the winery visit their web site at www.wvv.com or call 1-800-344-9463.

