

# The Commuter

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

## Election '08: Obama wows Albany

Anna Conrad  
The Commuter

In preparation for the upcoming Oregon primary on May 20, Sen. Barack Obama held an intimate town hall meeting in Albany to an ecstatic audience.

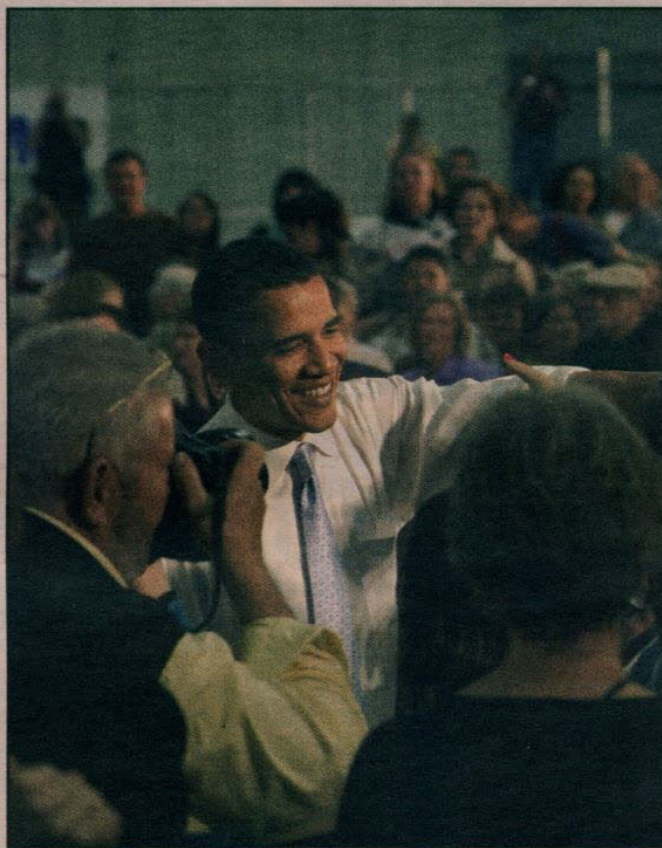
On Friday, May 9, Democratic presidential candidate Obama held a town hall meeting at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany. The doors opened at 1:45 p.m. and the event started at 3:30 p.m. The event was free and open to the public but the required tickets ran out quickly. The Expo Center was filled with an audience of 3,000 people.

The doors opened up 1:45 p.m., but the day started much earlier for some. Brian Toncray, a sophomore at OSU and an animal sciences major, was at the doors no later than 5 a.m. Friday morning. Tianna Salen, another early bird, got there at 10 a.m. Her and Toncray got to know each other all that day, they said. Both of them had tried to see Obama in Eugene on March 21, but were both turned down. "I wasn't going to miss this one," said Salen.

As the morning went on, so did the line. It was wrapping around the side of the expo center.

Before the much-anticipated Senator spoke, he was introduced by his brother-in-law and new OSU basketball coach Craig Robinson, and state representative Peter DeFazio. Coach Robinson talked about the past versus the future, saying that it's time to "turn the page on failed policies from the past." DeFazio, who had just endorsed Obama that morning by pledging his super-delegate vote, described Obama as "a beacon of freedom and justice to the world."

When Obama entered the room, there was a universal breath held throughout the room, and then a resounding explosion of excitement. The crowd had been waiting for hours for his arrival, and by their reaction it was obvious that it had paid off. There were seldom people who were not on their feet.



photos by Lydia Elliott

Sen. Barack Obama wows the crowd Friday, May 9, in Albany when he visited the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

Obama spoke to the crowd about issues such as the energy crisis, the war in Iraq, and education. He spoke out against Republican presidential candidate John McCain, thanking him for his service to the country, but saying he is "running for a third George Bush term."

Obama promised the people of Albany something. "I cannot promise to be a perfect president," he said, "but I can promise that everyday that I am in office I will be thinking of you, fighting for you."

Students, families, seniors, and young children were all contributors to the audience. One Grandmother was there, not for herself, but for her two-year old granddaughter, Anna Ozab. Kathleen Harris, a senior resident of Albany talked about why she supports Obama. "He may not be able to change my life, but he will be able to change Anna's," she said. "That's why I support him." Anna's mother, Julie Ozab, said that Anna loves Obama. "She gets so excited whenever he comes on TV."

Dr. Robert Harrison, an instructor at LBCC was also there to see Obama speak. As he entered the expo center he was whisked through the lines and was randomly chosen to be directly behind the podium where the senator spoke. "I got to shake the man's hand," he said, "and that was really exciting." Harrison agrees with many of the issues that Obama feels strongly about, such as the war in Iraq, universal healthcare, and education. "No one should have to pay for their own education and he is moving in that direction."

When Obama was done giving his speech, he immediately took questions from the audience. Some of the questions that came up were about U.S. agricultural policy, stem cell research, and Guantanamo Bay. "He gave some very thoughtful answers" said Harrison.

Senator Obama went on Friday night to speak in Eugene and was headed Bend on Saturday night.

## Student government focuses on issues, advocacy

Monique Cohen  
The Commuter

During a break between classes, the Hot Shot coffee house is a convenient place to relax. The warm inviting colors of the wall set the scene for a moment of peace during an otherwise hectic school day.

After placing an order for a favorite coffee drink, there's a place to check email on one of the two computers; simply relax in a comfy wingback chair and flip through one of the many magazines on hand.

Students may not realize it but this year's Associated Student Government

team funded painting of the Hot Shot coffee house. ASG also put in the lamps, computers and computer shelf.

This year ASG had \$23,968 to spend, and most of that budget comes from student enrollment fees. Many of the projects sponsored by ASG directly affect LBCC students, campus leaders noted.

Each year student government has a project intended to benefit students. This year in response to LBCC center requests, ASG purchased new furniture for the Lebanon Center. The Benton Center received a much needed newspaper rack. In 2000, ASG funds helped build the courtyard clock tower.

Eight students make up the Associ-

ated Student Government at LBCC-the president, vice president, public relations secretary and five division representatives. The areas represented are student services and education, business, health occupations, humanities (liberal arts), science and industry.

While ASG works with the Student Programming Board, they are separate entities. The programming board plans activities and events at LBCC.

"I am where I am today because of my involvement as a student leader," said LBCC Dean of Student Services Bruce Clemetsen in an e-mail.

Students interviewed on campus were in consensus about not knowing the

function or process of ASG at LBCC.

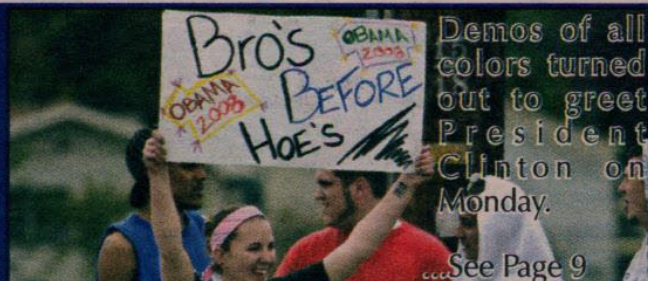
"Student government is a voice for students and a connection between students, staff and administration," Humanities Representative Jamie Wilson said.

ASG members serve as student representatives in campus meetings and belong to two or three committees.

Student government is also a place for students to learn real-world skills, according to Wilson. Last year, for example, former president J.J. Quinlivan and ASG members lobbied the state Legislature for community college funding. Wilson said their efforts helped increase funding of Oregon community colleges.

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# OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter  
commuter@linnbenton.edu (F-22)  
Please sign and keep to 300 words or less

## What's behind all the dropouts?

Greg Dewar  
The Commuter

Disillusionment with college, I'm sure we've all felt it at some point. Whether it be in the form of burnout, that annoying feeling like your brain is just full and you'd really rather be doing anything else. Sitting at home on your couch wondering if you're just spinning your wheels, how much this is going to help you? Should you should stick with it?

In a recent article in The Register-Guard, I noticed some startling statistics: some two-thirds of four-year college students, who graduated in the bottom 40 percent of their high school classes have still not earned a



*"...it shouldn't be four to five years of stress and melancholy."*

Greg Dewar

bachelor's degree eight and a half years later.

A point well-made in The Register Guard's article is that colleges have absolutely no problem taking your money, they make money regardless of whether or not you graduate and many of these drop-outs end up having learned little to nothing while still accruing a ton of debt.

Also, according to The Register Guard's article many who manage to graduate rarely end up in careers that utilize their education; they land in careers they could've done easily with a high school diploma. In a quick survey of my friends, I found out that one person they knew with a bachelor's degree flips burgers at Burger King, while another drives a public school bus.

If these institutions are making so much bank off of people they don't even have to graduate out, or people who will drop out of classes beyond the refund point, why is tuition so very high? Shouldn't it more closely resemble their profits? Or perhaps, the entire educational system is at fault, and institutions are as much the victims? Maybe the solution lies way back in high school, and preparing students better for the rigors of college?

I've yet to see any program, personally, that attempts to keep college students both focused and enrolled.

There's a great pressure to go to college, whether or not you were a good student in high school. The decision to go to college is usually light, and based upon factors that don't really matter: meeting people of the opposite sex, parties, family pressure, the idea that you can never be anything without a bachelor's degree.

There are a few alternatives to college people can pursue, chiefly the Job Corps, which will train you to be a high-paid blue-collar worker, or the military. I've known many people who have gone through both who are now leading meaningful lives, and are living much more easily than I am. I scrape paycheck to paycheck, working as much as I can, and forgoing sleep to get my homework in, in a questionable, yet ramshackle 5 a.m.-manner.

I'm not advocating college dropouts, I'm not saying if you were in the bottom 40 percent of your high school class that you should quit; in fact, truly the opposite. Stick with it!

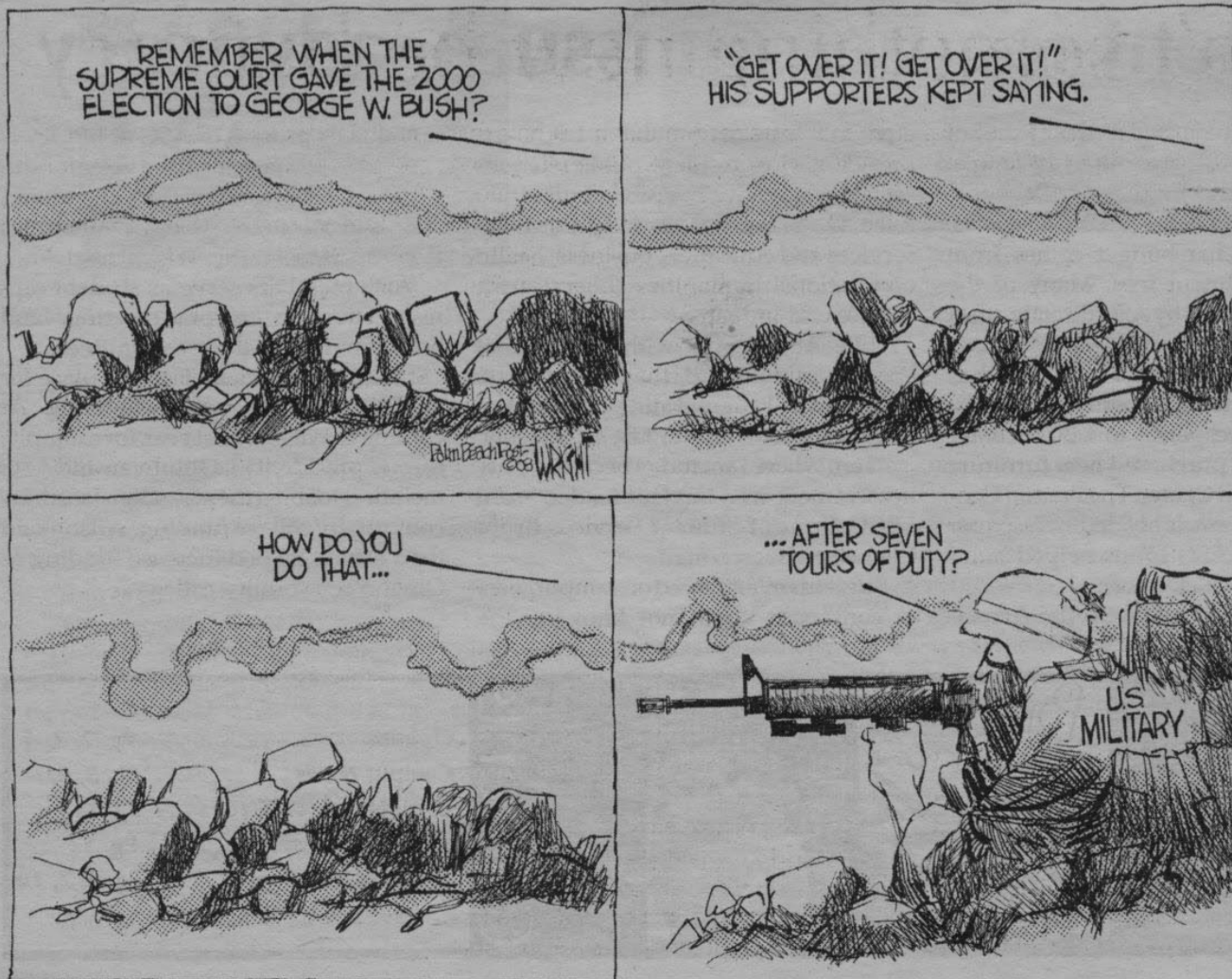
I'm also not advocating other routes; they work for some people, but not everyone can do them, and not everyone should. College is still the best and easiest route to professional success for the average American.

If colleges have such a problem with dropouts, why is their curriculum the way it is? Why is it this giant rush to go through important knowledge as quickly as possible to get out the door? To weed out the bad students? Classes always feel like whirlwind tours, barely touching down on subjects. I've known students, personally, who have elected to take 15 or more credits, and after three terms have become so embittered and burnt out, they'll likely never return to college, but their money's been spent.

From my lofty perch, college should be less of a race. Judging by my experiences in the real world, college doesn't prepare you. In fact, it was the real world that prepared me for college.

Education, essentially, needs to simmer down a little, and become a more friendly, positive experience for students; it shouldn't be four to five years of stress and melancholy. They should present it in a way that both strengthens the resolve of freshmen while pushing people close to graduating through, for the good of our nation's education quotient. They could break up certain classes into more manageable chunks for those that wish it, provide counselors that can see individual students more than six times and encourage students not to overload their plates; they should also have more stringent admissions and not take people knowing that they will fail. But if they start saying no to large amounts of people, there goes their money, and they run the risk of potentially having people feel discriminated against. Doesn't everyone deserve a chance?

As difficult and annoying as our current collegiate system is, if you've already spent time here, finish it, be stubborn, and prove them wrong. Get your money and time's worth, there are many services on campus that will spur you along to success, like the Learning Center and personal, free tutoring. All you have to do is stick with it; don't be a quick buck in their coffers.



## PERSPECTIVES

Q: What do you think of the current super delegate system?

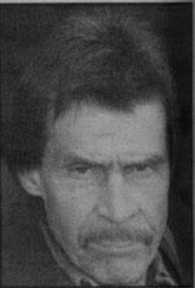


"I have no idea what that is?"

• Kristina Buerke •  
Turning Point

"It's horse sh\*t! It should be one vote for a man and one vote for a woman."

• Doug Mueller •  
General studies



"I haven't even heard of it."

• Erick Mehlhorn •  
Diagnostics imaging

"I think we need to find a new super delegate system."

• Jeremy Lambert •  
Undecided



"I don't really like it."

• Cheyenne Shelton •  
Veterinary Assistant

"It's a system that needs to be looked at and revised."

• Pam Folts •  
Teacher



Compiled by Elliott Duke

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# OPINION

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 Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.

## Wii hates you; Wii wants our "precious"

Jeff VanAtta  
 The Commuter

The Wii is a pretty fun little machine, and Nintendo is having a huge success with it. However, there aren't very many solid games out for it right now. Sure, we've got "Super Mario Galaxy," "Metroid Prime 3: Corruption," "The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess," "Super Smash Brothers Brawl," and the just released "Mario Kart Wii." It would be nice to have some great games apart from Nintendo's monster franchises.

Can a third-party developer start paying attention to this little machine?

"No, we go forward, not back," said the president of Epic Games, Michael Capps, when asked if his company would be developing games for the Nintendo Wii.

In an interview with Nate Ahearn, editor for IGN.com, Capps talked about "Gears of War," as well as their current project, "Gears of War 2." The comic adaptation of that franchise was discussed as well.

When asked what he thought about the Wii, Capps seemed confused as to why people even bought the thing.

Ahearn asked, "What do you think of the Wii and Nintendo's..."

"Pffffffft..." Capps interrupted.

"I know! I think the same thing! It's like, 'Come on, why are you buying this system?!'" Ahearn responded.

Trying to explain why the Wii doesn't appeal to him, Capps said, "It's a virus where you buy it and you play it with your friends and they're like, 'Oh my God that's so cool, I'm gonna go buy it.' So you stop playing it after two months,

but they buy it and they stop playing it after two months but they've showed it to someone else who then go out and buy it and so on."

"Everyone I know bought one and nobody turns it on. Obviously there's a class of people who really love it and enjoy it and are getting into the games but I'm still waiting for that one game that makes me play it," Capps said to IGN.

I don't know, Mr. Capps. You're a game developer. Why don't you make that one game?

"It makes more sense for us to invest in the next-generation tech," Capps said to Ahearn.

Compared to the Xbox 360 and PS3, it's no secret that the Wii isn't as technically impressive, and its online features are severely lacking. Because of their technical prowess, it is possible that the

360 and PS3 might outlast the Wii, so it would make sense to invest a significant amount of resources for developing the higher-end systems.

However, as of the end of last month the Wii has sold 24.77 million units worldwide, with the 360 selling 18.46 million units, and the PS3 selling 12.03 million units, according to VGChartz.com.

With that large of an install base and one that's surely to increase, why not pay a little attention to making some third-party games for the Wii? The graphics aren't going to reach high definition, but combine some solid gameplay, interesting characters, compelling stories, and good use of those motion controls to make an awesome game.

The Wii doesn't have to be the console that only little kids, hot girls, and grandparents play.

## Reader stands up for Sen. Obama; wants the truth

To the Editor:

Josiah Stephens' accusatory article on senator Barack Obama and his politics was, sadly, misleading and amateur.

In fact, I am convinced that Stephens' political credibility thus far would be fit to land him employment as a Fox News commentator and little else.

He goes out on a limb to recycle the same hack talking points that Obama's competition have used so well to his disadvantage—namely, things that his preacher said and a comment he made before the Pennsylvania primary (it should be noted that many Pennsylvania voters who voted against Obama in that race actually agreed with his statement that they were "bitter" and sought solace in their guns, etc.)

I am sick of the Reverend Wright "scandal." And in response to the comment that

"Obama caves in to popular demand like a 12-year-old girl..." in regards to the national dissent towards Wright; If Stephens had researched his topic well enough, he'd know that Obama only "disowned" his former preacher after Wright went out on a limb to blame America for wrongs that lacked general fault.

If our affiliations make us who we are, then George W. Bush is a Muslim terrorist who hates America—after all, his family and Bin Laden's family have a history together...

Josiah Stephens spends no time discussing the Senator's platforms on education, the economy, the war...the things that really matter. Instead he opts for political distractions. The resources are out there! A college student should know better.

-Mike Thomas  
 English

## Clinton is clear candidate; thorough political plans

To the Editor:

Given the dire economic climate we're living in, we cannot afford to support an amateur presidential candidate who has no record of accomplishment (Sen. Obama).

Senator Clinton has 35 years of experience fighting for the poor and middle class, ethnic minorities, women, GLBT communities, and the environment. She was the first candidate and is still the only candidate to establish clear, comprehensive action plans for West Virginia's energy initiatives, job creation, affordable higher education, universal health care, solutions to end poverty, and solutions for the mortgage crisis.

Senator Clinton also offers thorough plans for her first 100 days in the White House including port/infrastructure security, ending the war, and foreign policy related to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, and Israel.

We need someone who can beat the Republican machine and stop the Bush replica from racking up another victory. That individual is Senator Hillary Clinton!

If the election were held today, Clinton would defeat McCain in the Electoral College because of her lead in working-class big, electoral-rich states.

She has won all states that will be integral to beating McCain in Nov. including Indiana. These states — Ohio, PA, FL, MI, and TX — are blue collar, swing vote states in the general election. Obama has failed to make his case in these crucial states.

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## SPB? Wouldn't something new be better?

Will Parker  
 The Commuter

For the first time in recent memory, Oregon matters as a primary state. You wouldn't know it from campus activities, though. In fact, the almost complete lack of campus activities makes it feel like there's not even a presidential election happening in our backyard.

I mean, when Bill Clinton is speaking out of the back of a pick-up truck in an elementary school playground in Corvallis, you know that something serious is going on here. Barack Obama stopped at the American Dream in Corvallis before heading down to Eugene. Then he came back to the Linn County Fairgrounds. Chelsea Clinton spoke at the Oregon State Memorial Union.

Big people at big events talking big ideas about our future.

So where are all the campus clubs?

Where are the school rallies?

Where are the carpools to see these political giants speak?

Personally, I skate (and by skate, I mean all wildly, careening across it at random)

the line between being reporting the news and making the news. But I have to ask: Am I the only one that cares about this stuff? I mean, the people who will be making decisions involving green energy and nuclear weapons are flitting about like shiny butterflies, trying to capture the attention of voters.

Except on campus.

To be fair, there was some sort of forum on media and politics. And before that the Democracy in Action (which shares an acronym with an agency I used to work for/with) along with the Oregon State version of the club, got all the candidates for the Oregon house and senate to come stump in the auditorium on a Saturday. If I've learned anything in going to LBCC, it's that most people don't really want to show up on a Saturday. This is true of most schools.

Why is there not more?

The last day to vote is getting precariously close, and while the campaigns are firing off their big guns outside campus, what's being done here at LB?

I mean, I hear that the Student Programming Board actually has a person whose job it is to organize this sort of thing. But then,

the SPB is trapped in that black hole that resides below me in the Student Life and Leadership office, home to brands of idiocy, ignorance, and ineptness that you don't commonly see. Let alone in the multitude of combinations that they offer for sampling upon entering through their doors.

I would reason, however, that what's going on transcends the ability for the SL&L-ites to shift blame onto the person that's not there. In a race that's being decided not by states, but by counties, we have a chance to have our voice heard. So someone down there should care enough to do something about it.

But in my old age, I've come to understand some things.

First, there is something to be said for the status quo. If I'm the only guy holding a torch and a pitchfork outside the gates after yelling and screaming as I run through the village, chances are I should be doing something else.

Secondly, people have to care in order for change to happen. If no one cares that the student body president has a Stalin-like view of free speech, not to mention a less than eighth grade understanding of libel

and slander (oops, I mentioned it), then nothing will change. All politics work like this.

I am not nearly so influential as the guy I hire to represent me and 2,000 of my closest friends.

Here's my recommendation to address this issue:

People need to take action.

Vote, speak, read, something. Anything.

Do not accept the arguments that you are just an individual; that you don't matter; that no one cares. While we may have a student government that no one voted for budgeting and spending money they've taken out of everyone's tuition, and a Student Programming Board that wants to do its own bad impersonation of an event badly impersonated, it doesn't mean we have to accept that same level of misguided effort from other political arenas.

I mean, Woodstock? If there's really that many people wanting to relive the glory days of a culture that sold its soul for Birkenstocks and Starbucks, they could have at least picked Burning Man.

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# OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:  
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Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.

## Just say "NO!" to plastics; use your own bag *A student's journey into recycling*

Aubrey Chambers  
The Commuter

It's amazing that people sometimes judge one another based on the shopping gear they use in a supermarket. It's even more amazing that using a canvas bag instead of the plastic ones automatically labels you as either A) a yuppie that pretends to be environmentally conscious but doesn't compost and is thus a hypocrite or B) whacked-out-hippie. You're more likely to fall into category B if you have a tendency to wear anything other than conservative white-collar clothing.

At least, that's what I hear, anyway. I have friends who do this, friends who also compost, recycle EVERYTHING and refuse to buy anything packaged in or containing plastic. Even recycled or recyclable plastic.

Insert very large question mark here.

It's the last one that gets me, the no-plastic thing. Of course I see the reasoning. One article in bestlifeonline.com, in the Travel and Leisure section, said that there was a section of the Pacific Ocean twice the size of Texas filled with, you guessed it, plastic. Obviously a bit of a problem. So go no-plastic and be a hero of earth, saving the environment for future generations, etc. It's a good thing, no doubt about it.

But in terms of practicality, how does one pull it off? How does one exist without plastic without being a pariah because you look bad and smell worse without your plastic packaged shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant?

Yet apparently people do it. There is one woman who keeps a running blog, plasticfree.blogspot.com, about her experience- one year with no or absolute minimal plastic. She calls herself EnviroWoman, and has apparently done very well. Last year, she used only 1 pound 3 ounces of plastic, which

she has kept to reuse in what she calls her "plastic shrine." She washes with bars of soap that come in cardboard boxes and dabs on perfume that comes in glass containers. (I really have no idea how she avoids tooth decay.)

This makes me wonder: could I do this, at least on a smaller scale? In all honesty, I couldn't go totally plastic free. I love the effects of conditioner on my soft and bouncy hair, thank you, and I love the smell of boy's deodorant when I lift my arms for a quick smell check.

But I could get a canvas bag easily. Or a wire basket. Heck, a wicker basket! Dress it up with well placed Sharpie doodles, katana wielding monster flowers with fangs and epileptic stars. I don't HAVE to get the Cantonese Deluxe at Safeway for lunch- just a box of fried rice should be good. And honestly, I'm going to wash the darn veggies anyway. That plastic produce baggie is a bit superfluous. Bottled drinks look cooler in glass too, like Jones Soda or Bawls. Going by Dutch Bros., my stomach begging for a fatty iced chai? I've usually got a mug in the car.

Think about some of the things that come in plastic. Little Debbie Swiss Rolls, for instance. My arch nemesis when it comes to the question of the bottom-growth. If I stop buying those, I save the environment a bit of grief AND keeping the ever enlarging rear from forming its own gravitational pull. It's a win-win situation, really.

I guess at the end of the day it all comes down to what lengths one is willing to go to save the environment. I, being a narcissist, think that most people tend to think like me: environmentally concerned, but not about to sacrifice the life I'm so accustomed to for the sake of a bit of plastic wrapping that the products I use have.

But frankly, this low plastic use plan seems to be an excellent idea, hopefully keeping the 10 million square mile of polluted ocean from getting much bigger and forcing me to make more health conscious decisions. Not bad.

So today I'm starting my no-plastic journey. May my path be uncluttered, my trash bin less filled with crap, and my conscience more serene. And when they ask me at the store if I want paper or plastic, I'll just hold up my pretty and strange decorated wicker basket and say "neither."

*"I couldn't go totally plastic free... I love the smell of boy's deodorant when I lift my arms for a quick smell check."*

Aubrey Chambers

## Creative students wanted for The Commuter staff for 2008-09

### Digital Page Designer

Work for up to 12 hours per week on Mondays and Tuesdays. Good English and grammar skills along with experience using Macintosh InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark preferred. Great experience for majors in graphic design and/or pre-press tech.

### Hourly Wage Jobs

These positions open to work-study eligible students only. If you have a work study grant and are majoring in a communications field, we want to talk with you.

- Editorial Assistant
- Production Assistant
- Photography Assistant
- Advertising Assistant

### Assistant Editors

Appointments carry quarterly tuition grants that vary from 4 to 9 credits per term, depending on the position. Some journalism experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointments made by the editor.

- Copy Editor
- A&E Editor
- Opinion Editor

- Photo Editor
- Managing Editor
- Sports Editor

**Application Deadline for Editor-in-Chief is May 12**

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (Forum-222)

For information call 917-4451 or adviser Rob Priewe, 917-4563

# CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College campus events.

Editor: Davis LaMuerta  
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## Campus Shorts

### LBCC Institute for Peace & Justice lecture with Joseph Cirincione

Joseph Cirincione will speak on the topic "Abolishing Nuclear Weapons: Can We Expect the Next Administration to Make a Start?" on Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at 1165 N.W. Monroe Ave. in Corvallis.

Cirincione is the author of "Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons." He has been a guest on "Frontline," "The Daily Show," "Charlie Rose," "Lou Dobbs," and major network and cable news programs. He is president of Poughshares Fund, teaches at Georgetown University Graduate School of Foreign Service, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Cirincione also served as director for nonproliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in the U.S. House of Representatives as a professional staff member of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Government Operations, and served as

staff director of the bipartisan Military Reform Caucus.

This event is jointly sponsored by the LBCC Institute for Peace and Justice, the Willamette Valley Forum, and OSU's Political Science department. For more information, contact Doug Clark at doug.clark@linnbenton.edu.

### LBCC Physical Science Summer Experience in Oregon and Hawaii

Learn more about the world around you through LBCC's Physical Science Summer Experience in Oregon and Hawaii July 28 to August 19.

Participants in the Summer Experience will examine everything from the tiniest particles to the Universe as a whole. This four-week journey from the very small to the very big will include four main topics: Atomic and Nuclear Physics, Geology, Climate and Weather, and Astronomy and Cosmology.

The experience includes lab and in-class activities at LBCC, OSU, and the Big Island of Hawaii.

LBCC instructors Greg Mulder and Stacy Mallory will team up as primary guides, with specialty presentations from staff members at various field research stations in Oregon and Hawaii.

Field trips and hands-on experiences will include the nuclear reactor at OSU as well as various areas of geologic interest throughout Oregon. While based at the Kilauea Volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii, the group will visit Volcanoes National Park, the National Atmospheric Observatory, and one or more observatories.

College credit for LBCC General Science 106, Principles of Earth Science, may be earned for participation in the Summer Experience.

Cost for the four-week Summer Experience for Oregon residents is about \$1,590 and includes tuition for GS106, text/reference material, airfare, basic lodging, transportation in Oregon and Hawaii, entry fees, lectures, and field trips.

Registration deadline is May 23. For more information or to register, contact Greg Mulder at (541) 917-4744 or by e-mail at mulderg@linnbenton.edu. Register early, space is limited.

### Polysomnographic Technology orientation and training

An online information session is available through LBCC for those interested in training to become a polysomnographic technologist, or sleep technician.

Polysomnographic technologists assist sleep physicians to help patients with sleep disorders such as sleep apnea. Technologists ready the patient for testing, track the patient's sleep patterns, and write and interpret the results for the physician.

The program combines online and in-class instruction with a clinical practicum. Skill areas covered include the physiology of sleep with an emphasis on sleep disorders and their treatment. The program also covers how to administer, interpret and score a variety of sleep tests.

LBCC's Polysomnographic Technologist Program starts July 7 and runs through March 20, 2009. This three-term program prepares students for employment and to take the national certification examination by the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists.

Registration deadline is June 23. Completion of the online information session is mandatory in order to register for the program. Access to the session is available via the program bulletin at [www.linnbenton.edu/go/forms](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/forms) under Special Admission Bulletins.

Cost for the program is \$6,500. Check the LBCC Web site for program prerequisites at [www.linnbenton.edu/go/forms](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/forms). For more information, contact LBCC Health Occupa-

tions and Workforce Education at (541) 917-4923.

### Multicultural Center games week

The students of the Multicultural Center invite everyone at LBCC to stop in during the next three weeks to play games. Typical American games such as chess and UNO will be available and games from another country will be taught each week. Featured new games are from Japan, Nepal, Mexico, and France.

There will be prizes, big and small. During the entire Games Week session, people will be offered a games passport. With each new game, stickers can be saved in the passport.

Final prize drawings will be on June 2. Drop by the Multicultural Center between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day, and have some fun. Games will be laid out on tables, and there should always be someone to help you learn a new game.

Come meet a new member of the LBCC community. Share some laughs. Enjoy a new game.

Game Weeks is a project of the Multicultural Center. The MCC is a gathering place for all students, and also a place for staff to meet and learn with students. For more information, call the MCC at (541) 917-4461.

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## LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

# Commons

MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> - MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

### Wednesday:

ENTREES: Prime Rib w/ Popovers and Garlic Shrimp Tacos  
 VEGETARIAN: Tofu Stir-Fry w. Broccoli over Rice  
 SOUPS: Billy-Bi and Beef Vegetable

### Thursday:

ENTREES: Hungarian Chicken and Sushi/Sashimi  
 VEGETARIAN: Spanakopita  
 SOUPS: Chili Mac and Cream of Broccoli

### Friday:

Chef's Choice

### Monday:

ENTREES: BBQ Spare Ribs and Moroccan Chicken  
 VEGETARIAN: Omelet Bar  
 SOUPS: Saffron Chicken and Vegetarian Vegetable

### Tuesday:

ENTREES: Spice Rubbed Tri Tip and Coulis  
 VEGETARIAN: Portabella Polenta w/ Vegetables Marscarpone Cheese and Sundried Tomato Pesto  
 SOUPS: Chicken Consomme and Roasted Garlic Pesto



A&E Editor: Aaron Broich  
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4453  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

# New "Speed Racer" is cool beans!

Aaron Broich  
 The Commuter

"Speed Racer" is a kaleidoscope of classic sass. If you like silliness and racecar driving, you'll probably dig this chaotically stupendous movie. But, if you don't—then "Speed Racer" just might cause an epileptic breakdown.

The cinematography is a brilliantly gaudy collage of tropical Skittle flavors—you'll taste the rainbow alright. Admittedly, there are far too many flashbacks and cut away scenes during the racing, but the audacity of the film's production style outweighs its shortcomings (which many movie critics are blowing out of proportion).

The Wachowski brothers ("The Matrix", "V For Vendetta") strike again, and as one might expect, someone gets kicked into the air and spins like a flying top, before the end of the film. The tasteful fighting scenes are as silly as they are technically impressive. What was laughable and atrocious in "The Matrix Reloaded" actually works in "Speed Racer," which is a movie adaptation of the classic 1960s anime series—much beloved by baby boomers, but whom will probably ill appreciate the digital fireworks.

The film is about a racecar driving family who are so passionate about the art of racing, it's like their religion. Corporate sponsors often harangue them to sign on with them, but the father of the family, Pops Racer (John Goodman) believes they are equivalent to the devil.

Our hero, Speed Racer (Emile Hirsh, "Into the Wild") is the second son. He follows in the footsteps of his elder brother, Rex (Scott Porter). Speed runs into trouble when he declines an offer from the deplorable corporate CEO, Royalton (Roger Allam), who insists that racing is all about money, because the important races are always fixed.

Royalton arranges for Speed to be crashed out in his next race. But then, Speed is asked to help bring down Royalton, by a government agent who informs him that the Togokhan racing cooperation will provide evidence of Royalton's many crimes, if Speed will race on their team in the most deadly rally race on Earth, the Casa Cristo 5000—the same race that took down Speed's brother, Rex. Speed feels like he has to lie to Pops to get away long enough to secretly take part in the race, so he tells them that he and his girlfriend, Trixie (Christina Ricci), are going skiing. When Pops finds out, he's furious, but then we get some great dialogue with meaningful family values that include the hip Mom Racer (Susan Sarandon). Racer X (Matthew Fox) joins Speed's team for the rowdy race.

Perhaps the most creative part of the movie is how the racecars battle with each other, spinning and executing tactical moves with the precision of a kung fu fighter. It doesn't make sense, but it doesn't need to, because, in the words of Trixie, it's "cool beans."

What works about the movie is the ridiculously cluttered scenes, teeming with life, and styled with retro-futuristic



photo by MCT

"Speed Racer" is a psychotropic, silly ride. Emile Hirsh sports the Mach 5 racecar, which is a faithful reproduction of the original. The Wachowski brothers' movie is now showing

paraphernalia. The colors are brighter than life, and thankfully, the Wachowski brothers produced the film to feel like a cartoon environment, instead of a video game one. For example, Speed and Trixie's special parking spot on a hill overlooking the city is the perfect setting for a twilight DTR (define the relationship 'talk'). It's swimming in lavenders and fitted with anime styling. Unfortunately or fortunately (however you want to look at it), they're interrupted before Speed can plant his first kiss on Trixie's lips by his kid brother, Spritle (Paulie Litt) and the family's pet chimp, Chim Chim.

These two are a dynamic duo that are

always causing mischief. I have never seen an actual chimpanzee integrated so seamlessly into the script of a movie. They keep the film silly, which is good to offset the film's attempts at trying to be deep, because, although the dialogue is often meaningful, it could have easily come off as sounding pretentious.

The acting is great, for what the movie is. "Speed Racer" is timeless and unhinged from reality. It runs a bit long (Two hours and 15 minutes), but if you like racing, you'll be fine. The film is a little jumbled, but overall it's pretty groovy, and worthy of a review chalked with too many adverbs.

## Friday night no drag at OSU's Pride Week finale

Davis LaMuerta  
 The Commuter

May 9 wasn't your typical Friday night, at least not for those who attended the OSU Drag Show, the final event in OSU's Pride Week celebration.

The show featured performers from OSU's Rainbow Continuum, as well as a special appearance by Miss Poison Waters, a popular drag performer from Portland.

The Memorial Union was packed with guests anticipating the show, each dressed in their own colorful styles. The show was open to all ages, and though it was a bit racy, I brought my 9-year-old daughter, Milla, for her first drag experience. She complained beforehand about not wanting to go, but once we arrived, she caught the plague of excitement and declared, "This is so cool!"

According to the Daily Barometer, about 500 people were in attendance. Tickets to the show were free, but "sold out" after the first day of being available. My partner, my daughter and I

didn't have tickets, but we were allowed in after the ticketed patrons were already seated.

In addition to the excellent drag kings and queens, there were booths with little packages of condoms, dental dams, lubricant of many flavors, and to top it off, a Hershey's Kiss. Free rainbow pins and an array of pamphlets were also given out.

Though we were stuck in the back, due to her small size, Milla was able to navigate through the crowd, so she really enjoyed the show. She was my photographer. This didn't go unnoticed by Poison Waters, however, and Milla was soon discovered as probably the youngest guest and was put in the spotlight as she conversed with Miss Waters.

"Are you going to bring these photos to show-and-tell?" Waters asked a star-struck Milla, who replied, "I don't know..." with a giggle.

The OSU performers did an amazing job and gave a spectacular performance, with very creative dance acts to songs such as "It's Rainin' Men,"

and "Detachable Penis."

The OSU Drag Show and Pride Week was sponsored by the Rainbow Continuum, an educational LGBTQQIA group at OSU that works to support diversity on campus, according to the Rainbow Continuum Web site at <http://oregonstate.edu/groups/rcosu/index.php>.



photo by Davis LaMuerta

Nine-year-old Milla Uriarte enjoys her first drag experience with Poison Waters at the OSU Drag Show last Friday, May 9.

## "Spin" brings humor and witty satire to the OSU stage

Lydia Elliott  
 The Commuter

It's not often that a musical is produced that humorously depicts the strain between freedom of speech, morality, religion, politics, and art, but "Spin," written by John Frohnmayer, does just that.

Set in the era of the first Bush admin-

istration, "Spin" depicts the very real controversy Congress and the National Endowment of the Arts faced after publicly funding artists who sought complete freedom of expression, despite the outrage from the religious and political right.

The sharp-witted satire of this musical isn't aimed at one side of the controversy. Each character has their moment to shine,

make their case, and then submit to the true but brutal criticism of the opposing side. Whether it is artists vs. Congress, Congress vs. the NEA, freedom of expression vs. moral censorship, it is always witty and real.

With an enthusiastic cast including David Ogden Stiers of "M\*A\*S\*H" fame and an ensemble of students and faculty, "Spin" is funny, provocative, and memo-

orable. The music, composed by OSU faculty member Sila Cevikce Shaman, is catchy, upbeat, and sometimes dramatic.

"Spin" will be playing the weekend of May 15-17 at 7:30 p.m., in the Withycomb Hall Main Stage Theatre on the OSU campus, located at 30th and Campus Way. Tickets are \$14 for general admission, \$10 for seniors, and \$7 for students.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Editor: Aaron Broich  
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Commuter@linnbenton.edu



## Hornbuckle, blues wraps up LB festival

Portland blues singer Linda Hornbuckle performed a free concert April 25 in LBCC's Russell Tripp Performance Center. The performance closed the college's month-long Festival of American Popular Culture.

Photo by Becca Martino

# OSU summer session '08

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## summer.oregonstate.edu

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Help Wanted

You can sign up at [www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment](http://www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment) to look at student & graduate jobs. For more information about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center in Takana Hall. (541) 917-4788

**CWE positions (Wah Chang, Albany)** If you have 2 terms in your major which is related to computers for the CWE PC Support job or related to science for the CWE Student Lab Tech position, these jobs are for you! You'll get CWE (Cooperative Work Experience) and have a job through graduation at OSU-usually part-time flexible during school and full-time in the summer. They pay better than most local employers!

**Special Events Coordinator (#6394, Corvallis)** If you want to develop marketing and carry out special events designed for older adults, this could be for you! You develop program flyers, news releases & promotion of events. Only 10 hrs/week and pay is \$11.75/hr. Could be CWE position?

**Animal Care Technician (#6396, Albany)** Full-time and part-time positions at Safehaven working with animals and people.

**Bilingual HR Assistant (#6391, Corvallis)** If you are bilingual Spanish/English and in a major such as Spanish, business or HR, please apply. Flexible part-time/full-time.

Looking for 2 energetic and creative individuals to become Vista volunteers.

**Outreach and Volunteer Management Coordinator** for the Senior Meals program. Execute marketing and outreach plan within Linn, Lincoln & Benton counties. Develop an orientation and training plan for volunteers.

**Older Americans Act Project Developer** to develop and expand evidence based as well as volunteer based program addressing issues such as health, community support, and financial stability for older adults. Vista volunteers receive health coverage and stipend. For more information, contact Council of Governments at 541-967-8720.

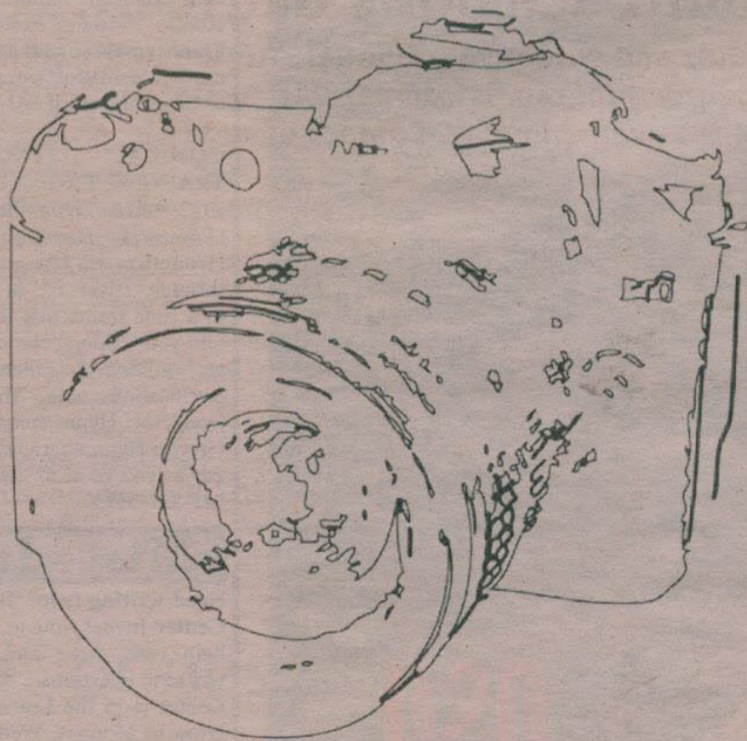
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### Misc. Info.

**Need writing help?** The Writing Center invites you to stop by for help with these and any other writing questions. The Writing Center is in the Learning Center. Drop in Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 2:30p.m. Can't stop by? Visit our online service: [lbcc.writingcenteronline.net](http://lbcc.writingcenteronline.net).

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# CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College campus events.

by Lydia Elliott  
 Room Desk: 917-4451  
 linnbenton.edu

## Library has Ray of sunshine

by Lydia Elliott  
 Commuter

Jacquelyn Ray isn't like other women in her field. Her outgoing and shy demeanor are natural characteristics of librarians, but "Jackie," as we call her, also has an approachability that is a far cry from the mousey, silence-seeking, card-pulling librarians often spring to mind. Ray's presence in the LBCC library is for much more than enforcing rules and stacking books. She says her job is to inform, engage, and to serve as a translator and guide to students as they navigate to where they want to be. Ray says she really enjoys her job at the library, and finds working with students the most fulfilling.

Her colleagues say it shows.

Faculty member Jorry Rolfe describes Ray as, "tireless, honest, and refreshing." Rolfe went on to say that LB was "lucky to have her on the staff."

Besides her job at the library, the Woodenville, Wash. native also teaches a library orientation class twice each term on the OSU campus. Her goal there is the same one she has at LBCC: helping students make the most of what the library has to offer, and of themselves.

An alumna of the University of Washington, Ray understands the struggles everyday students have when faced with a daunting research paper or project. A student of comparative international studies, she thrives on what she learns as

she helps other students tackle big projects.

Although the library seems like the most natural setting for someone like Ray, she also loves the outdoors, even once working as a park ranger on the Oregon coast. It was there that she met her current boyfriend, who is now a park ranger in the small town of Sweet Home.

As a resident of Corvallis, Ray also assesses fire lookouts in the surrounding forests. Her love of nature inspires her to work hard to protect it.

When asked what else inspires her, Ray's answers ranged from the profound lives of world leaders such as Gandhi, to former employers who have balanced children, a continuing education, and a career, and even the students she meets every day. For Ray,



photo by Lydia Elliott

LBCC librarian Jacquelyn Ray always has a moment to help students check the facts.

the dedication shown by these people despite difficult challenges encourages her to continue aspiring towards her own goals.

Ray's natural curiosity and eagerness to continue learning benefits the students who come to her for assistance. For Ray,

she sees each one as an opportunity to learn more about a variety of subjects.

Her favorite subject to study?

"History, particularly the 15th-19th centuries."

## ONPA awards Commuter staff

by Lydia Elliott  
 Commuter

Last Friday, May 9, brought the annual Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association's (ONPA) Collegiate Newspaper Contest, held this year at Oregon State University.

This year's contest saw 17 Oregon student newspapers with entries in 20 separate categories, and three divisions. Out of these entries, 159 saw awards. The Commuter staff won eight awards, including second place for General Excellence.

Other awards included: First place for Best Writing by Will Parker; first place for Best Review by Aaron Broich; first place for Best Columnist by Greg Dewar; honorable mention for Best Columnist by Aaron Broich; first place for Best Photography by

Will Parker; second place for Best Sports Photo by Chris Kelley; and honorable mention for Best House Ad by Will Parker.

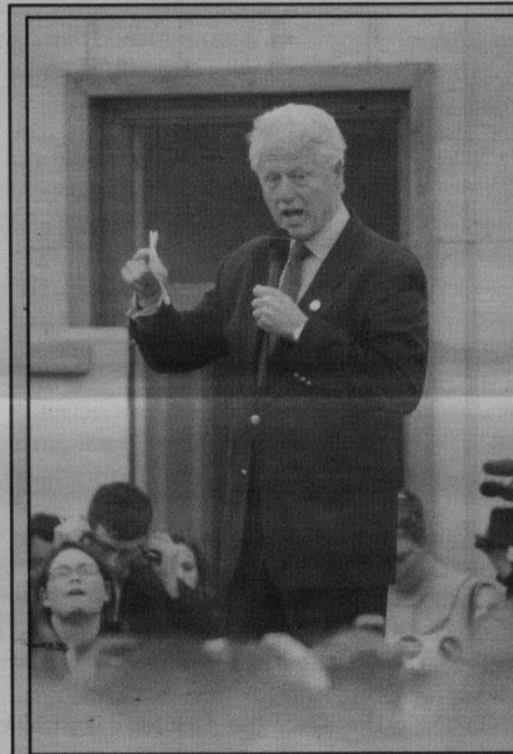
A committee of Oregon newspaper editorial and advertising staff members judged entries submitted in March. A complete list of contest winners can be found at the ONPA Web site: [www.orenews.com](http://www.orenews.com).

In addition to the contest, the Collegiate Day was a chance for student newspaper staff to attend educational sessions on topics such as Design (Steven Asbury, Asbury Design, Eugene); Opinion Writing (Kevin Widdison, Grants Pass Daily Courier); Managing & Motivating Your Staff & Newsroom (panel discussion); Open Records/Meetings & Legal/Ethics (Judson Randall, PSU Student Publications Adviser, and Duane Bosworth, Davis Wright Tremaine, Portland); Photography (Ben Brink,

photographer & photo editor, The Oregonian); and an Adviser Roundtable.

The Commuter staff is proud of its accomplishments, and encourages students to apply to fill next year's staff. In addition to the chance to win in this prestigious contest next year, staff members are awarded credit tuition grants for their editorial positions.

To apply for a position, stop by The Commuter office in Forum Room 222 and pick up an application. Though the deadline for editor-in-chief has passed, other editor positions are open until filled.



### Clinton in Corvallis

Former President Bill Clinton visited Corvallis Monday, May 12 in support of wife and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## May Day merriment in Adair

MaryAnne Turner  
 The Commuter

It was a dry but cloudy day in Adair Park. The sounds of drumming, laughing, and sound checks were prevalent, along with laughter and Hacky Sacks meeting hippie feet—the smell of sage burning, the sun setting and there were lots of people. But, this was no ordinary day, this was the first ever May Day Festival on public land. And it was all-legit too. Americanized and true to good-natured hippies, the May Day Festival meant a weekend of mass consumption, anything to expand the mind, and simply indulging. Even if you were to research it, Wikipedia would tell you “it has traditionally been an occasion for popular and often raucous celebrations, regardless of the locally prevalent political or religious establishment.”

I remember feeling tipsy and thinking to myself “we should get started. It’s pretty much dark and the intoxication has begun.” After finishing my cranberry-vodka I staggered to the tiny one-man tent that Nick and I had packed at the last minute that morning. It was set up by the meditation tent, which beside the psychedelic “Happy Town” banner in the middle of the camping area—Nick followed. We fumbled through bags with our one flashlight and made our merry way back to the stage for the rest of Jenna Summer Smith as soon as we accomplished the deed.

I remember the dancing and the excitement. Now that it was dark, and people were running on lowered and heightened senses, the vibes were rolling. By this time, the DJ in the Gutter Guys’ truck had pulled up by the soundboard, to lay down some reggae/funk beats on his turntables between bands. The Oregon Trail Brewery truck pulled up with kegs to spare and free beer fresh on tap with four choices. Most well bred hippies left a few dollars or more in a cup next to the tap for a donation.

The DJ played some beats while

the South Town Hounds set up their stage. The Hounds played an awesome set, with some reggae and funk beats that kept us all groovin’.

After some more funky beats for a half an hour, there came a much louder sound coming from the stage (that consisted of a flat bed truck, a flat bed trailer, and over a dozen tapestries). Lost Tortoise, the last band of the night, had finally hit the stage. I made my way around the fire pit, and back to the front of the stage to see my bass player on keys for this totally awesome band. “What else is this guy capable of?” I asked Em, who just smiled a drunkard smile, took a chug from his growler that he had filled up with mead from the keg by his tent, and started dancing again.

A little intoxicated, I staggered back to the fire pit to enjoy the heat and the music. Next thing I knew, maybe 35 minutes into the set, the music and the lights came to a sudden and complete halt. Two cops in their black uniforms stood parting the crowd with anger, fury, and a spot light.

“Anyone still here in five minutes is getting arrested for trespassing!” screamed the irate cop. I looked around the fire and people were either oblivious or just choosing to ignore the piggies. The dumb asses from out of town that had been harassing the smaller (not younger, just smaller) chicks took off immediately. Most of us didn’t notice for a few hours, but figured that those were the fools whose taillights we saw. Most of us joked about them being the stupid ones to get D.U.I.s.

Jordan, the percussionist /vocalist for the South Town Hounds, was our MC for the night. He had a permit for this event, insuring the use of the park for the whole weekend. According the permit we still had 24 hours, and anyone smart enough to check on it before hand was ignoring the situation, because we all knew we were safe.

Jordan shouted at the cops,

telling them they couldn’t do anything because of the permit. “We paid to be here. This is all legit!”, he continued loudly while waving the document in the police officer’s face.

“Sir, you need to calm down,” suggested the cop uneasily, taking the document and looking at it.

“You can’t make all these people who are trying to be responsible, and not drink and drive, drive out of here.” Jordan was full out dueling with these cops, and the two of them in their one car simply could not arrest the few hundred of us that were not causing any trouble.

“Fine. No more amplified music, or we will come back and pull that permit from you,” threatened the cop, obviously unsatisfied that he had lost the battle.

The cops left, and the party was just getting started. Now people were really getting trashed. We had dealt with the cops for the night, and as long as we weren’t too loud, the park was ours. The music didn’t stop though. No, this was a complete affirmation of everything true to the good nature of hippies and the musicians who were just looking for peace and beauty; once they found it, it had to be kept.

Two younger girls, one of which I recognized from a previous creative writing class, started serenading the large crowd around the fire with “Afternoon Delight.”



photo by Elliot Du

Jenna Summer Smith with InEclipse woos the audience at the May Day Festival in Adair Park on May 3rd.

Another man happily demanded a guitar. Then Cameron, bassist for Reggae Rockers and keyboardist for Lost Tortoise, got his hands on an acoustic from somewhere around the circle. The happy demander said, “let’s hear something good.”

“Well, what do you want to hear?” asked Cameron.

“What do I want to hear?! I’ll tell you what I want to hear. I want to hear your favorite song to play right now!” he strongly suggested, and laughed in satisfaction.

The music went on until almost sunrise. The nocturnal ones stayed up singing, drinking and being merry until the sun came up. But when the sun was straight up in

the sky that Sunday morning, the May Pole went up and the festivities of this older-than-Christian holiday began. Girls and boys all ages danced around the May Pole, braiding it, while the other drummed a beautiful beat under the cloudless skies.

People enjoyed the free beer truck until late afternoon. The after cleaning the park, and leaving it the way we found it, we headed back for the real world, where everybody gets along. But those who stayed the whole time were satisfied knowing that we had won the battle against “Babylon System,” and this was just the beginning to an awesome summer of great music.

## Poetry Corner

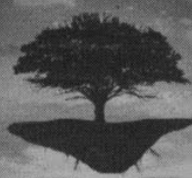
Dear Country,

How I once loathed you  
 for not accepting me, my kind, and us  
 and  
 spitting, and cursing, and pissing  
 on “Your Honor” as we had none  
 in your red, WHITE, and the blues eyes  
 I hated your representation requiring  
 Obedience from your zombie citizens  
 containing their lives in fenced-off pastures  
 like dumb mooing cattle  
 content to chew on their cud  
 of mortgage and payments of cars  
 with inane designs and colors  
 giving each cow an identity of  
 self-worth to distinguish from  
 the millions of other softly mooing  
 grievances of cattle. Each lost  
 in the homogenous pot of  
 bleached souls.

by Karen A. Daugherty

Questions? Contact Natalie Daley, faculty advisor, at 917-4453, or daleyn@linnbenton.edu

MAY 22  
 12-1PM



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# LOCAL NEWS

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

## Funding benefits CSC local county programs

The Commuter

CORVALLIS — Community Services Consortium (CSC) of Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties received \$40,000 total in funding from Trust Management Services, Inc. of Waldport, Oregon for four CSC programs.

"We are grateful to Trust Management Services," said Martha Lyon, executive director of Community Services Consortium. "This funding for four of our programs allows us to strengthen these programs at a crucial time. It will help many people in our communities ranging from at-risk youth to our vulnerable seniors, from people who are hungry to people who are homeless."

CSC's Community Housing Service received \$10,000 to continue work on a program for helping the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in Linn and Benton counties. It will support the continuation and coordination of a 10-year planning document to end homelessness, forums for people who are homeless or at risk

of homelessness, the public, supporting agencies and interested community partners. In addition the project includes twice monthly newsletters and updated website.

The second CSC program to receive \$10,000 is the Housing, Employment and Learning Programs for Self-Sufficiency (HELPS). The money will allow the students in this program for at-risk youth to develop and implement a landscaping program, which will benefit low-income families in newly constructed Habitat for Humanity homes in their community. HELPS has been instrumental in supporting people across CSC's service area in Lincoln, Linn and Benton counties when no other support exists.

CSC's Linn Benton Food Share Program (LBFS) is the third program to receive \$10,000. LBFS's low-income gleaners will receive \$6,000 of the funding to use as gas vouchers for the Gleaning Program. There are 4,900 low-income Gleaners in Linn and Benton counties who collect donated food for their 14 member groups while sharing

half with elderly and disabled people as well as community food pantries.

"Driving to pick up food has been a hardship on the people who can least afford it," said Susan James, Linn Benton Food Share Gleaning coordinator. "The gas vouchers will ensure that the Gleaners and their adoptees as well as other community low-income people will continue to supplement their diets."

The remaining \$4,000 will be used for fuel expenses for the Linn Benton Food Share trucks to conduct the Fresh Alliance/Food Rescue programs that are in place. Fresh Alliance and Food Rescue pick up donated fresh food and deliver it to food sites such as soup kitchens and food banks where it will be used the same day.

The final program to receive funding in the amount of \$10,000 from Trust Management Services, Inc. under the umbrella of CSC is the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. They received \$10,000 for the Friends of Benton County Retired Senior Volunteer Program to expand the Safe and Secure Seniors Independent Project

(SASSI). SASSI is a crime and fire prevention that keeps seniors, age 55 and over, living independently in their homes for as long as possible. The money will support educational outreach for the program. It will include volunteer recruitment, training and recognition, background checks and home safety hardware for seniors in need.

Community Services Consortium, a non-profit organization established in 1980, is the state-designated Community Action Agency serving Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties. CSC's staff of 170 develops, manages, and provides a wide range of services to over 40,000 low and moderate-income individuals and families, annually, to help them meet their basic needs and develop the skills for self-sufficiency. Services are funded through federal, state and private grants, donations, local levies, and fundraising efforts. For more information, or to support CSC and its many programs, please contact (541) 752-1010.

## OIT health informatics program new to Oregon

The Commuter

PORTLAND—Recognizing the increasing workforce demands of the healthcare industry, the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) recently introduced a Bachelor of Science degree option in health informatics. Health informatics is one of the fastest growing - and highest paying - jobs available for college graduates, and OIT is the first Oregon university to offer a baccalaureate program that prepares students for this promising field.

Health informatics - applied health care IT - is seen as one of the key components to creating an improved, higher-quality health care system. Health informatics is the link between management, computer information technologies and medicine.

A graduate of OIT's Health Informatics program will be able to design, analyze, implement and support emerging technologies - such as electronic medical

records (EMRs) and administrative systems - needed in multiple areas of health care, from hospitals and health systems to insurance companies and research institutions. These professionals put technologies in place that help providers and patients access and utilize key information that will lead to safer, better health care.

With the emergence of EMRs and other health care IT, there is a high and growing demand for skilled health informatics specialists. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data, employment of health informatics professionals is expected to grow by over 30 percent nationally through 2016, more than twice the growth rate for all occupations. Starting salaries for grads in this field can range from \$45,000 to \$75,000.

"OIT's Health Informatics program will play a significant role in meeting the growing need for talented and skilled professionals in Oregon - and in the na-

tion - by producing graduates who are knowledgeable in the areas of information technologies, management, and the health care system, and have acquired critical-thinking and problem-solving skills," said Dr. Michael Kirshner, director of OIT's Health Informatics program.

The Health Informatics curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the health care industry and includes course work in database and systems analysis, business management and organizational development. Students also take courses in the design and structure of the health care system. They receive real-world, hands-on experience in teamwork using current health care technologies through externships with leading organizations, senior projects and a unique Simulation Lab slated for Fall 2008.

In order to provide opportunities for a larger and more diverse student population, the program is designed to allow students with previous college credit or

degrees to easily transfer course credits. With evening and weekend classes, the program schedule is geared toward working professionals. Small class sizes and instructor-led labs contribute to high-quality, personalized education.

"We are working with some of the region's top health care organizations to develop a curriculum that will produce graduates ready to meet the needs of the industry," Kirshner said. "Whether students are joining our program to take their associates degree to the next level, or to improve their chances of advancing at their current job, we can give them the skills they need to succeed in a field marked by technological changes and high demand."

OIT's Bachelor of Science degree in information technology/health informatics is currently available through the university's Portland and Klamath Falls campuses. For more information, please visit [www.oit.edu/portland/IT/HI](http://www.oit.edu/portland/IT/HI).

## Humans are new target for tracking device

By Deardorff  
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

CHICAGO—Chipping Fido is considered an act of love. Chipping Grandpa, however, has been described as "Orwellian," "creepy" and even "satanic."

Regardless, human "tagging" was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2004 to make it easier to retrieve medical records. An estimated 100 million people worldwide have volunteered to have tiny RFID (radio frequency identification) chips embedded just below the skin, including 111 dementia patients and their caregivers at Alzheimer's Community Care in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Privacy advocates, who protested at the Florida care center, argued that Alzheimer's patients can't necessarily give informed consent. Implanting a chip, they say, is a violent, invasive act. Crit-

ics also worry about potential long-term effects on health, even though they've been used with pets for more than a decade.

But supporters say it's important to have instant and accurate access to medical records, especially for dementia patients. In addition to the estimated 4.5 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's—a number that is expected to quadruple by 2050—the tags could be used for high-risk patients suffering from diabetes, cancer, heart disease and autism.

"The most important thing the chips have done is give our families peace of mind," said Mary Barnes, CEO of Alzheimer's Community Care, who reports no incidents so far.

The chip's maker, VeriChip Corp., says the technology uses safe and passive (there is no power source) devices that are activated only when read by a

scanner. Like pet microchips, they do not have GPS capabilities and can't track a person's whereabouts. And they don't set off airport security alarms.

Pet owner Christine Collins, 56, of Bolingbrook, Ill., micro-chipped her cats and called the tiny devices a "wonderful solution for locating both people and pets that are dear to you."

The problem, she said, is that unlike collars and bracelets, the chips are not visible.

"Chips are great for providing details, but they are subtle tracking tools that only work if people are aware they may be implanted," said Collins, who worries about her own father, who was diagnosed with mild dementia, early stage Alzheimer's and cardiac issues. "That's probably the most immediate issue with their use and efficacy, not Orwellian fears of privacy."

### The LBCC Student Programming Board Presents: **Springadelic**

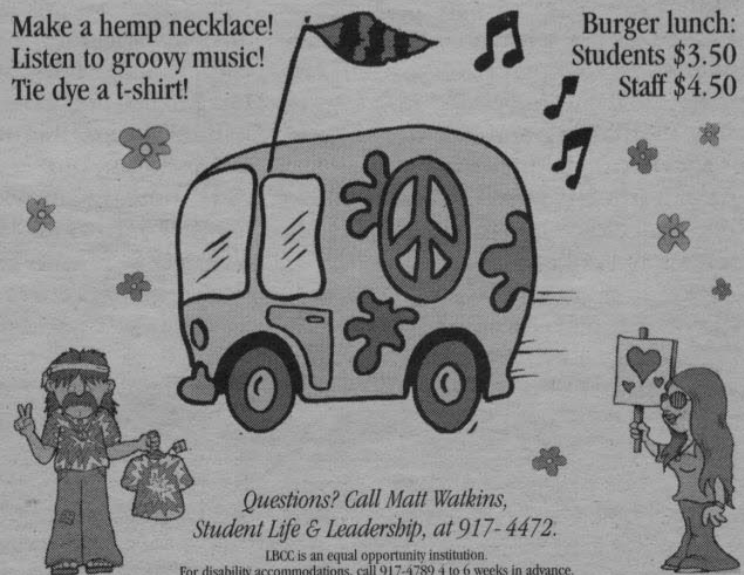
LBCC's version of Woodstock!

May 21, 2008

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. • LBCC Courtyard

Make a hemp necklace!  
Listen to groovy music!  
Tie dye a t-shirt!

Burger lunch:  
Students \$3.50  
Staff \$4.50



Questions? Call Matt Watkins,  
Student Life & Leadership, at 917-4472.

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.  
For disability accommodations, call 917-4789 4 to 6 weeks in advance.

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# SPORTS

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

## Last home game Thursday to decide playoff future

Tyler Dahlgren  
 The Commuter

The Runners quest for first place in the NWAAC South drew closer to its end as Linn-Benton hosted the first of its final four double-header match-ups this past Tuesday, May 6.

Chad Hanson gave up just six hits in seven innings of work, giving up just three runs while keeping the visiting Mt. Hood offense at bay.

After a first inning sac fly by Alex Poff scored Mitch Nelson, the Runners bats were held scoreless until a sixth inning single by Tucker Whitten scored Kyle Kanaeholo from third, tying the game at 2-2.

Mt. Hood scored once again in the top of the seventh but the Runners rally continued with a seventh inning single by Mitch Nelson scored Brent Trask, tying the game at 3-3 heading into the eighth: Nelson was 2 for 4 on the day with two doubles and an RBI.

Dan Maurer relieved Hanson to start the eighth with a three up three down middle relief performance.

Maurer picked up the win in the bottom of the eighth after Trevor Smith, the teams closer, set up his own save opportunity in the bottom of the ninth by hitting a two run single that would ultimately win the game as the Runners won 5-3.

Game two was a pitcher dual as Linn Benton's Liam Baron and Mt. Hood's Chris Vitus pitched complete games, allowing a combined 11 hits and twelve strikeouts.

Linn-Benton's offense just couldn't get going, only



scoring in the first and fourth inning as the Runners fell 2-4. Baron picked up just his third loss of the season despite just three earned runs.

Just two days later the team was back at it, hosting Clackamas who, at the time, was in second place.

Playoff-implications at hand, the Runners showed savvy as they continued their impressive season with a 3-0 first game win.

Mitch Nelson's walk off homerun to start the game boosted the Runners confidence and provided the pitch-



photos by Chris Kelley

(Above) Hit the showers early: Coach Hawk got the team fired up when he was ejected after arguing a check-swing strike out in the 2nd inning of game two Saturday. (Left) Liam Baron got his league tying 8th win of the season in a key game last Saturday against Clackamas. (Right) Leadoff batter Mitch Nelson had a great week, going 8-24 with 7 RBIs and a home run.

ing staff with a 1-0 lead to begin the inning.

DH Tucker Whitten added to his hot week of hitting going 2 for 4 with two RBI singles.

Scott Allred threw seven innings, giving up only three hits in twenty-two batters faced along with five strikeouts and most importantly, a 3-0 run. Trevor Smith threw the final two innings to pick up the save.

The second game provided a hitting barrage as the two teams finished with a combined 23 hits for the game, 13 of them coming from Linn Benton.

Led by the consistency of Mitch Nelson the Runners compiled 11 runs, five of them coming from two Nelson singles and a double. Mt. Hood was forced to use five different pitchers in the game, none of which could stop the steamrolling offense of the Runners.

Shane Marks picked up his third win of the season, relieving Derek Grieve after the second inning and went on to pitch three innings, giving up just one run on four hits. Trevor Smith added to his much increased save total, throwing a scoreless seventh.

Saturday, May 10th the Runners faced Clackamas once

again but this time they were on the road.

The two teams would split the series as the Runners lost the first game 6-2. Pitcher Chad Hanson earned his second loss of the season throwing 122 pitches, giving up six hits, and four earned runs.

Brent Trask led all hitters going 3 for 4 at the plate and right fielder Blaine Goodwin was 1 for 3 with two RBIs.

Linn-Benton's ace, Liam Baron was back on the mound for the "must-win" second game match-up. Baron showed Clackamas what he does best - win games.

Throwing six innings, the lefty faced 28 batters, striking out three and giving up eights in the 4-3 narrow victory.

Smith earned his 11th save of the season, giving him the most saves in the NWAAC South.

Shane Garrett provided the Runners with two of the four runs going 1 for 3 with two RBIs. Catcher Colt Savage was 1 for 3 with an RBI and A.J. Allen went 2 for 3 with an RBI and two singles.

The win improves the Runners record to 19-9, tied with Mt. Hood for first place in the NWAAC South. A sweep at home on Thursday, April 15 against Chemeketa locks up



first place for the Runners. The double header starts at 1 p.m.

The 2008 Baseball Championships in Longview, Washington run from May 22-26. If the Runners win both games Thursday, they will play the North's second place team at 9:35 a.m. on May 22. If the Runners lose Thursday they will face the North's first place team at 12:35 p.m.

## A word with cheese

Chris Kelley  
 The Commuter

"Kings full of jacks," said the dealer as he raked a stack with more than 80 one-dollar chips to a player on my left. His full house, including pocket kings, were better than a king and jack in my hand for a jacks full of kings full house.

After a trip last weekend to a local casino, I have developed new respect for professional poker players.

Poker looks easy, and I am sure most everyone has played underground games of Texas Hold-Em in their garage or seen the countless re-runs of the World Series of Poker (WSOP) on ESPN.

Looks are deceiving!

My years of 'practice' only prepared me to get schooled at the table on Sunday by a couple card shark regulars to the casino scene, one of which was named

Ping-Luo Ming.

Ming is 43 and lives in Pasadena, Calif. He recently decided to go professional with his poker career after being an hour away from making money at the 2007 WSOP-Main-Event in Las Vegas. His \$10,000 entry fee was paid for after winning a satellite tournament online last spring.

He now travels with his wife, Caren, to casinos all over so he can "play against a variety of players and experience levels," as he puts it. He was in Oregon for his nephew's wedding in Portland and decided to do some sightseeing and gambling with the rest of his weekend.

It was Ming that won the pot I described in the beginning. As he stacked his winnings around his eight neat-stacks of 20, bringing his chip count to around \$300, he said to me "Not a bad play, you just ran into a better hand."

My 'run in' could be related to a NASCAR crash: many people involved and ended costly. Hearing that from a professional eased my pain only slightly, realizing how lucky I was that I didn't risk more of my money. The damage was only about \$30 to my stack as well as to a couple other players who appeared to be chasing the straight draw.

Poker players might not be athletes to most of us since they don't engage in physical contact-unless someone tries to touch their stacks-and can 'work' in regular clothes, but some players wear custom jerseys and hats and even use performance enhancing drugs. No, they aren't injecting steroids, but to them over the counter medications that improve memory, attention span and pains from sitting upright in chairs all day are their ways of gaining an edge on their opponent.

They are the new breed of athletes. To them it is more than gambling, it is playing the cards dealt to them and reading the other players around them. Take in account the next time you sit at a poker table that you'll be read like a book, because the good players are always watching. Be careful not to seem excited the next time you get pocket aces, or in my case king-jack suited.

For Ming, it was just another day of work and although I ran out of chips before he left, I imagine he continued on to be successful that night. For me, it was a humbling experience realizing the professionals I see on TV daily are risking 100 times more each time they sit down at the tables.