

Commuter

Linn-Benton Community College • Albany, Oregon 97321

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Photo by Kevin Shiels

This Volkswagen looks as if it were hit by a blizzard, not a hurricane as implied by the sticker on the windshield. More snow pictures can be found on pages 4 and 5.

Contract settlement with faculty reached

The LBCC faculty contract has been settled.

After 11 months of negotiation discussions, Linn-Benton's Board of Education met in a special early morning session Dec. 22, followed by an open board meeting where the announcement of the settlement was made.

The contract includes a 10.1 percent average increase in entry level pay scales, and an average fringe benefit boost of 1.3 percent over a three-year period. However, according to the Oregon Community College Association, the college will continue to have the lowest average faculty salary among Oregon's 13 community colleges.

The new three-year contract between LBCC and more than 140 faculty is a revised version of the old agreement and is retroactive to July 1, 1981 and will be in effect through June 30, 1984.

The document includes a 15.56 percent pay increase over current base salaries in 1981-82 and a 12.35 percent increase the following two

years. These increases will be made by means of split pay raises during the alternate six-month periods of each year. Instructors will receive eight and seven percent increases the first year, and five and seven percent increases during each of the next two years.

Each percentage of salary increase will be added to the expanded base salary of the previous six month period, beginning with the 1980-81 base, according to the college business office.

Entry level pay scales raised from \$12,285 to \$13,732 in the new contract. The old agreement placed a pay ceiling on salaries while the new one does not. The 1.3 percent increase in fringe benefits includes the medical, dental and life insurance policies the college pays toward for its employees.

The faculty contract agreement was the last bargaining unit at the college to reach settlement this year. Previously management, part-time and classified staff had contracts approved in 1981.

CCOSAC plans Salem rally protesting state aid cutbacks

Oregon Community colleges will rally Jan. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the state capital grounds in Salem to protest Governor Atiyeh's tentative plan to cut \$15.5 million from state funding of community colleges.

The LBCC Student Organizations Office urges all students to join in the rally to stand up for the future of their education.

Student Organizations will sponsor bus transportation to and from the rally. A sign up sheet for riders is now available in the office at CC213. Students are advised to sign up early so Student Organizations can reserve the needed number of buses.

The rally is being organized by Community Colleges of Oregon Student Associations and Commissions (CCOSAC), which represents student governments at the state's colleges.

In a news release, Doug Moxley, executive chairman of CCOSAC, stated the group's two positions on the budget cuts:

1) CCOSAC will support legislative research into new sources of revenue, whether temporary or permanent, and will oppose any attempt to place more of a tax burden on the college districts.

2) CCOSAC will also oppose any legislative attempt to remove control of tuition rates from the local boards of education, and will stress the point that the quality of education would suffer if severe budget cuts occur.

According to Moxley, petitions will be circulated to show the legislators exactly how the public feels about the proposals. Several lobbyists will be posted in Salem to keep the government aware of CCOSAC's positions between now and the special session. Moxley also urged people to write letters to legislators in an effort to make them aware of the public feelings concerning this matter.

Editorial

Guidance needed

Over the last 12 years Linn-Benton Community College has earned a reputation for being an accessible and sound insituition of higher education.

It's tangible and intangible effects have been felt throughout Linn and Benton counties.

Business, industry, and individuals have all benefited and prospered because of its existence.

But the brakes have locked on funding, and the future of the entire community college program in Oregon may be going into a skid. Without a steady hand at the wheel, LBCC will be seriously, perhaps irreparably, damaged.

Economic policies in this country have fluctuated over the past few decades like the heaved breaths of a wounded beast.

The philoposhy of providing a comprehensive, well-balanced curriculum made up of both vocational and lower division transfer courses--not to mention education for the community in life skills and high school completion--may be on its way out.

In the summer of 1980, a special legislative session cut state aid for the 1980-81 school year by 10 percent. Community colleges answered the need for frugality by reducing cash reserves and halting all program expansion, even though they were still experiencing substantial growth.

The next cut came last August.

The 1981 legislature said they had too little money to cover inflation, let alone growth in any agency dependent upon the general fund. So another 5 percent cut below the Governor's budget was approved.

By this time someone here should have recognized the writing on the wall.

It was evident with these state aid cuts that a greater dependency on fragile local tax resources would be necessary, along with probable tuition increases, if the college was to maintain current core levels of instruction and services.

But the signs of severe times ahead were ignored, overlooked, or simply shrugged off.

LBCC continued to carry more than 550 unfunded full-time equivalency students (FTE), placing an added drain on support services while their tuition payments account for less than half of the \$1,025 average payment the state makes for each FTE.

LBCC also continued to maintain peripheral programs that tied up substantial amounts of funds in supplies yet served a very limited student interest. In other programs parallel course enrollment exists, (courses where a single student is concurrently enrolled in a program at two different levels) which makes enrollments appear larger than in fact they are.

And in how many instances are college facilities being used during off hours to benefit individual interests?

Are overloads, classes of fewer than 12 students, and the expansion and maintenance of Community Education's rural centers, a wise use of precious resources?

At a time when the college should be pulling its socks up, it seems to have turned a blind eye to the very excesses that may mean our survival.

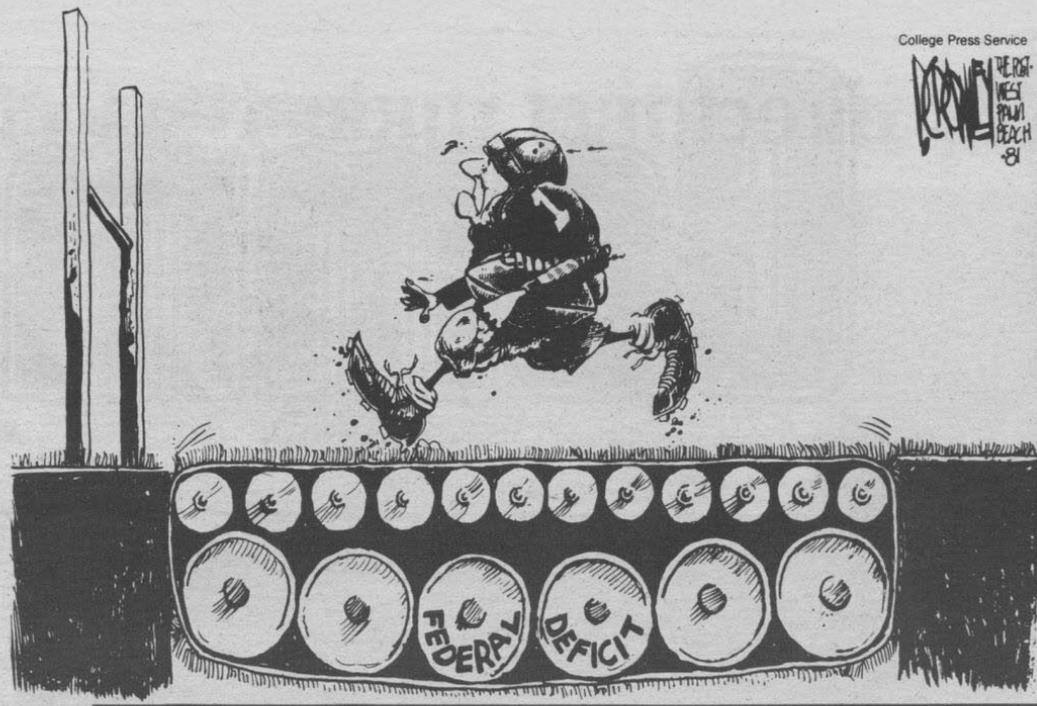
This school cannot continue to be all things to all people. We need to cut the deadwood out with precise strokes to save the core of heartwood.

With the new budget in progress a closer look is being taken. But are the real inadequacies floating to the surface to be skimmed off? Or are personal preferences and the lack of leadership or a masterplan letting our ship drift through the storm without a helmsman?

Entire programs and many part-time faculty positons will be in jeopardy if the state cutbacks exceed 10 percent. Internal reorganization is necessary, to stem waste and increase efficiency, for the good of the whole.

Students are the college's reason for being. Their futures and interests are tied to the outcome of this struggle.

It's time for someone to set the course.



Legislature considers aid cuts to community colleges

By Pam Cline
Staff Writer

Alarms are sounding. The future of community colleges in Oregon is growing dark.

Because of national policies, Oregon--a state with an undiversified economy--is being hit hard and the trend will probably worsen before it improves.

Analysis

Governor Victor Atiyeh has called for a special session of the Legislature to convene Jan. 18 to deal with a state revenue shortfall now projected to total \$239 million.

Among the proposed cuts to be considered are two very important subjects in relation to community colleges: the paring down of state aid to the 13 community colleges by \$7.7 million and a possible further reduction in property tax relief.

LBCC's 1981 budget of \$12,223,884 suffered a five percent loss during the last year's budget process to legislative cuts, inflation, and unfunded FTE (full-time equivalent students).

At present, the college's \$11.8 million budget comes from three main sources.

State revenue, which is currently in jeopardy, accounts for \$4,213,000, or roughly 35 percent, of LBCC's budget. If the state cuts back 20 percent--which is one of the figures being tossed about by legislators and state education officials--that would withdraw more than \$1.2 million in funds. That would then reduce the state's portion of LBCC's budget to about 25 percent.

Tuition, prior taxes, federal and miscellaneous income make up another 30 percent of LBCC's revenue, while current taxes round out the picture at 35 percent.

These last two revenue sources are relatively stable in the overall budget scheme. It's the state contribution that's on the chopping block.

With the college already carrying more than 550 unfunded FTE--possibly the highest number of any community college in the state--any more cuts in state funding will create a greater demand for increased property tax revenues.

But it's a safe bet that local tax-

payers, many of whom are unemployed or facing possible layoffs, will be in no mood to endorse any more increases in their property taxes.

If the state Legislature dips into the property tax relief program to raise more revenue, and at the same time reduces state aid to education, community colleges stand to lose from two directions.

In the next six to eight weeks LBCC's 1982-83 budget will begin to emerge, and the search for possible candidates for amputation will escalate.

Prioritized lists from each division have been used for several years to prepare the college budget, according to Vern Farnell, Dean of Business. However, by insituting a modified zero-based budget system this year, the college has asked its managers and division directors to justify all expenditures above a 75 percent base.

To date, no explicit decisions have been made by the college's board or the president on any single step to reduce expenditures, such as the elimination of summer session. Some managers feel it could have been beneficial if this kind of savings could have been shown in relation to a prioritized 25 percent budget reduction.

Mid-level management had until Dec. 21 to compile a list of cuts and possible layoffs, in order of precedence, which could be used if a large state aid cutback takes place.

These suggestions will then be reviewed by the president and the deans before going to the budget committee.

It is hoped that the Legislature's decisions will be known before Jan. 25, when the president and deans are to finalize their version of the budget document. The budget committee will meet Feb. 25 to elect officers, formally receive the document, and hear the budget message from President Gonzales.

Final budget revisions and formal approval of the completed document will take place March 4.

The budget is expected to reflect a leaner LBCC.

Enrollment reductions, cutbacks in part-time staffing, trimming of ser-

vices, and even removal of whole programs is likely, according to Board Chairman Larry Coady. Even if the state cuts amount to only 10 percent, the college must take some serious cost-saving measures, he said.

The state Board of Education's current plan for state aid slashes calls for individual steps of 5 percent reductions up to 20 percent.

Each step includes a corresponding cut in full-time student enrollment. The board also suggests cuts in full-time administrative, faculty, and classified positions; tuition increases; a freeze on equipment purchases and travel budgets; and elimination of some instructional programs. Among those programs targeted are community education (adult self-improvement and GED classes), developmental education, some college transfer and vocational-technical offerings, athletics, student activities, and other student services.

Regardless of the level of state aid cutbacks, the college is organizing for the upcoming May 18 tax base election.

"The stability of the college, and the programs it will be able to offer over the next few years, is tied to this tax base," said Mike Patrick, LBCC's director of Community Education. "I think if people would look at their tax bills and realize that the cost to them would be less than eating out two or three times in a year, they would support the measure."

Although the exact amount of the tax base will not be determined until the budget process is completed, both Patrick and Gonzales say the election is crucial.

If the tax base measure fails, LBCC's last resort for this biennium is "A" and "B" levies.

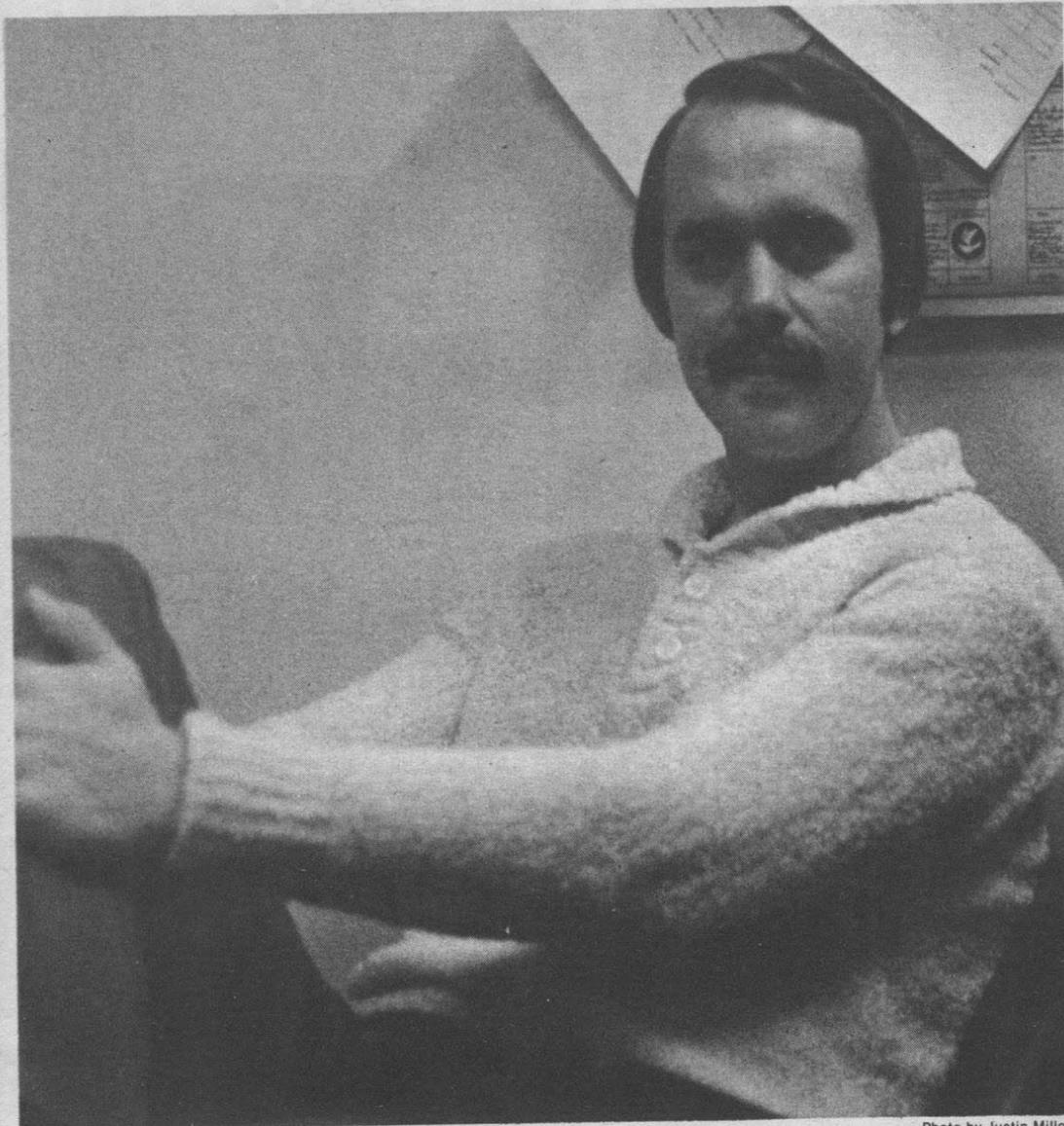
The decisions to be made in the weeks and months to come will reshape the community college system in Oregon. Decisions both on the local level in LBCC's budget committee meetings and at the state level in the Legislature.

They're hard decisions--harder still when made in a vacuum. Students and residents whose lives are affected by the fortunes of their local community college should not stand by and watch quietly.

College Press Service

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New director of Student Activities promotes LBCC



Blaine Nisson, LBCC's new coordinator of student activities.

Photo by Justin Miller

By Maggi Gibson
Staff Writer

Blaine Nisson likes to open doors for students.

And as the new coordinator of student activities at LBCC, Nisson has found a job that lets him open lots of doors — not the kind that lead to the next room, but the kind that lead to personal enrichment and growth.

He said he enjoys his new job because he can share in the development of students, which is a personal and professional goal nurtured since his own college days in Idaho in the mid-70s.

Nisson's position at LBCC keeps him closely involved with the ASLBCC Council of Representatives, student clubs, and others involved in student activities. He also serves as an admissions assistant.

Experience during his undergraduate and graduate years at Idaho State University helped to prepare him for this type of work, he said.

After graduation in 1973 with a bachelors degree in business administration, Nisson took a position in public relations at ISU working with high schools. He returned to Idaho State in 1976 to pursue a masters degree in Student Personnel Work for Higher Education.

Although Nisson looked for a student activities position in the Northwest after he finished his masters, none were available. Instead, he found a job at ISU as financial aid counselor and later as coordinator of the Work Study program.

Three years later, Nisson decided his job was "taking up more time paper-chasing and less time spent directly with the students."

So he began another search for a student activities position in the Northwest.

Nisson and his wife spent their three-week vacation last summer touring the community college system in Oregon. After visiting all the campuses and talking to students and employees, Nisson concluded that he liked the "atmosphere and people" at LBCC.

"I really loved this area," he said. "Plus, I wanted to work at a community college because it is smaller and there is more personal interaction."

Nisson's job at LBCC deals directly with students in one way or another. Twenty-five percent of his job includes working with Registrar Jon Carnahan, conducting campus tours for high school students and some traveling to promote LBCC at area high schools — "not to mention recruiting for the student government," Nisson said.

"I want to raise the visibility of the council (of student representatives) so that students will recognize what they do here," said Nisson. Nisson has assigned projects to the council members which involve intense study of problems at LBCC and how they can be solved.

The growth of a developmental program for students is another "important goal" to him.

His objective in planning student activities is to "bring things to people — cultural things — that they would not ordinarily be exposed to, Nisson added. He said that due to the "wide range of interests" here, a variety of activities need to be available to the students.

Budgetary crisis can be eased by adopting alternate funding programs

By Linda Hahn
Staff Writer

When state legislators meet in special session Jan. 18 to balance the budget, they will have to decide whether they are going to slash programs or look at alternate forms of revenue.

The Jan. 5 Oregonian reported that Gov. Victor Atiyeh will ask the Legislature to cut higher education by \$28.1 million; \$7.7 million from the community college budgets alone.

In his fiscal study, Atiyeh said that tuitions and property taxes will be raised where feasible, and that additional numbers of students will be turned away, possibly 4,000-7,000.

To avoid disastrous cuts in state programs, many alternative ways to raise revenue have been suggested.

Verne Duncan, state superintendent of instruction, listed his suggestions in a release to the State Board of Education, Dec. 11, 1981.

"We are going to balance the state's budget on the backs of our local taxpayers," he said. To the people who are unemployed or on a fixed income, this system is not fair.

Duncan suggested restructuring the property tax relief program to be "targeted at low and middle income levels...for people who need relief."

Duncan also suggests adjustments in the upper brackets of the income tax structure. This could raise an additional \$30 million in added revenue.

Duncan wants to tap the tourist industry by instituting a motel and restaurant tax.

A state-wide sales tax is another plan which would raise revenue and tap tourists, but Duncan doesn't think it will pass.

"I don't think Oregonians will buy a sales tax. They have a certain phobia against it. There's more interest in it now than I've ever seen, but not enough. The last time a sales tax was proposed it was defeated eight to one."

He sees money to be made by increasing license plate fees. There hasn't been an increase since 1949. An increase of five dollars per license would raise an additional \$10 million annually.

"My point in raising these examples is that there are options other than further burdening the taxpayer or dismantling state programs," he said.

Because there are predictions that the economy will improve, Duncan advised lawmakers to "look for additional revenue, don't wipe everything out." If the economy improves we want the programs kept on the drawing boards."

The Oregonian reported that several state agencies did not have their general fund budget cut. They are: the Economic Development department, Department of Transportation's tourism promotion program, and the Oregon State Police.

Politics versus jobs

By Linda Hahn
Staff Writer

How did the state of Oregon get \$239 million in the red?

Must the problem immediately be solved at the expense of vital services and jobs to Oregonians?

With one of 10 Oregonians out of work, the state is not collecting enough income tax to finance its programs.

Opinion

The budget problems are the result of projections of income tax revenues which simply aren't there because of high unemployment and problems in the timber industry, according to Senate President Fred Heard, D-Klamath Falls.

To fill in the holes, the Legislature made deep cuts in August 1980. As the recession worsened, the 1981 Legislature curtailed spending again, but overestimated by a slight \$239 million.

To solve the problem, Gov. Victor Atiyeh plans to cut the budget by 10 percent. He says this move will cause layoffs of about 500 state employees, although the Salem Statesman-Journal newspaper puts the figure at closer to 1,000. That's 1,000 fewer

people who will be paying income taxes, and the deficit will deepen.

The lack of income tax is not the only reason for a loss of revenue. Federal cutbacks snowball, lessening state money, which then causes unemployment.

Reagan has tightened the strings to balance the budget—one of this campaign promises—but hasn't concerned himself with the consequences socially and financially.

During a press conference Wednesday, Dec. 30, Gov. Atiyeh postponed announcing his new recommended cuts in the budgets. He instead announced that he is again running for governor. He then said he was going to confer with Reagan about programs to benefit Oregon.

A reporter asked him if he would solicit Reagan's help for his campaign.

Atiyeh declined a comment. After all, Reagan should be receptive to helping with a campaign that reflects his own beliefs.

A balanced budget looks good on paper to those who do the balancing—those who have a job.

But what about the 500 people who will be laid off, scapegoats to a campaign promise?

Snow slows students, staff and faculty, le



An unidentified LBCC student casts his shadow on a

peace symbol which was stomped in the snow the first morning of classes.

Photo by Rich Bergeman



Several inches of snow fell Sunday evening and bushes and ground covered by a crust of snow.



At least two vehicles found in a ditch on Highway 99E early Tuesday.

g many lumps and bumps behind

By Micki Hanson
Staff Writer

Silently it came during the night on soft cat's feet.

When winter term began for LBCC students the school was attired in white.

Like a cat, the snow has another personality—it presented problems for many students and faculty.

In Health Occupations, about half the dental students missed their early morning class. The nursing students did better, with 5 or 6 calling in absent. Also absent was Bobby Lambertson, medical terminology instructor, who phoned in that she was snowbound in Bend and running out of food, according to Paulette Herrold, secretary Health Occupations.

Lynn Exton, Math II instructor, said about one-third of her 8 a.m. class didn't show.

According to Lois Gangle, instructor assistant in business, about half of the 8 a.m. typing class was absent.

In contrast, Max Lieberman's 8 a.m. Introductory to Sociology class had a gigantic turnout, while his 9 a.m. class had high absenteeism.

"Everybody wanted to turn out for my naughty stories," said Lieberman. On his way to school Monday morning Lieberman said he slipped and fell in his driveway, joking that his "garter belt and pantie hose tore loose."

Several other staff members also

suffered falls, many of them on campus, and several on the southeast entrance to the College Center.

Nadine Jordan of the business office, said she fell backwards on the sidewalk leading to the College Center, and has a lump the size of a goose egg on her head.

Connie Smith, secretary to Barbara Dixon, fell on the same walk, twisting her knee and ankle and suffering "extreme mortification."

Pat Tolbert, graphics services, and Laura Hallock, a student, were both taken to the emergency room of Albany General Hospital after falling on the sidewalk.

Other victims of that sidewalk were Julia Reed and Polly Hainz of the Business Office, and Margaret Orsi, secretary to the president.

Although several area elementary and secondary schools were closed Monday and Tuesday, LBCC officials decided to remain open those two days, but closed evening classes Tuesday due to freezing conditions.

School closure due to inclement weather is decided by President Tom Gonzales. The decision is made by 6 a.m., when Leila Matheson, coordinator of the Office of Public Information notifies the following local radio stations: Albany KRKT, KWIL/KHPR; Albany Lebanon, KGAL, K104; Corvallis, KLOO, KFLY/KEJO; Sweet Home, KFIR.

The decision to cancel evening classes is made by 4 p.m.



Photo by Cris Miller

ings, leaving the



Photo by Kevin Shiels

to the car in the foreground belongs to LBCC student Elizabeth Wilson.

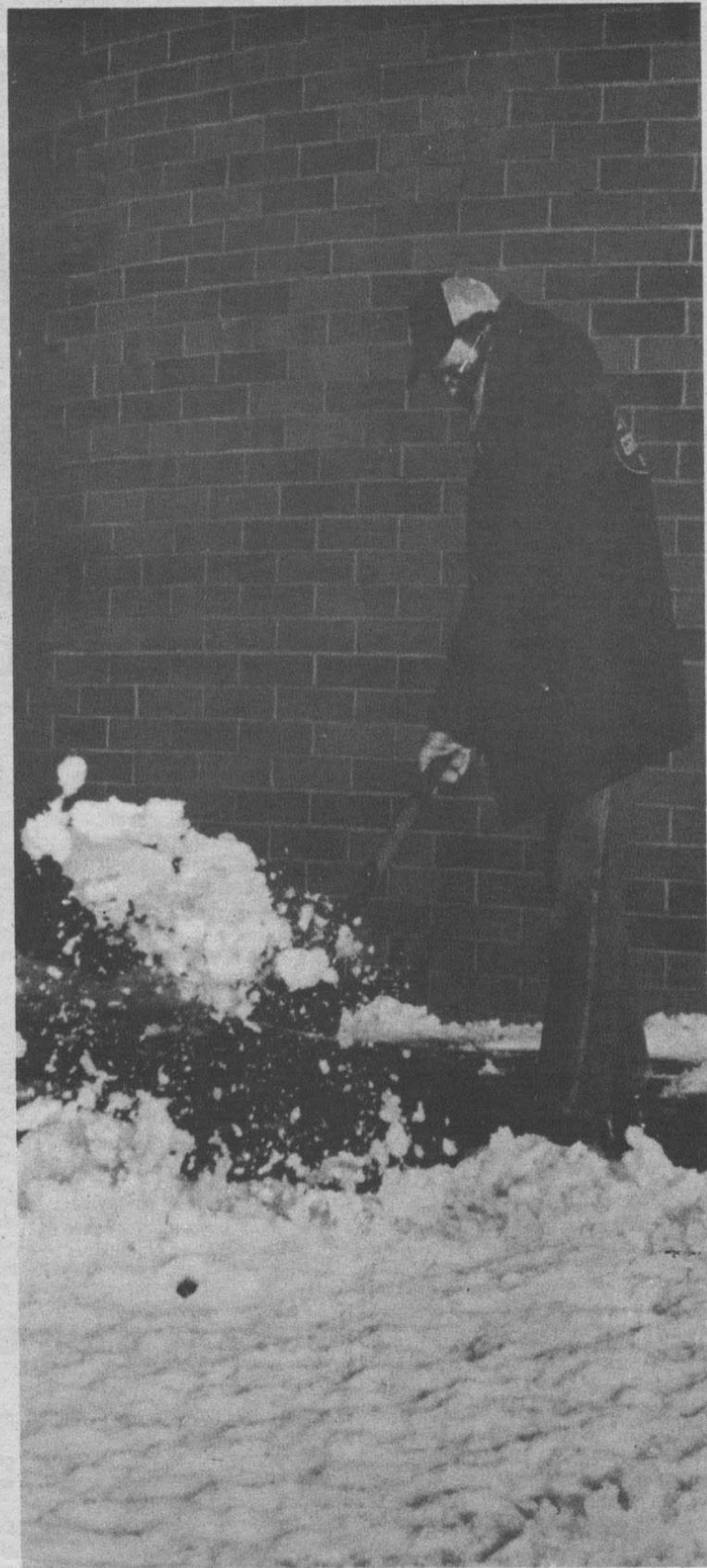


Photo by Kevin Shiels

LBCC employee Dan Hettick shovels snow from the walk in front of the College Center.

Never say die to Rise

By Pat Thomas
Staff Writer

RISE — a mid-valley program for low-income unemployed — didn't escape the federal budget ax that fell on many area social programs last summer.

But true to its acronym, RISE, which stands for Reach Independence and Security through Education and Employment, refused to stay down.

According to Mary Spilde, coordinator of RISE, the program was informed last July of a 100 percent budget cut by CETA, its sole supporter. CETA considered RISE a luxury program.

But Spilde disagreed. RISE is a necessity to the people and the community alike, Spilde said, citing last year's figures as proof.

During 1980, RISE placed 43 percent of its clients in jobs within 90 days, and put another 40 percent into additional training programs, including college and apprenticeships. Spilde added that 94 percent of the GED applicants achieved their goal within four weeks of beginning the program.

Spilde and several supporters who valued the program voiced their concerns at a county commissioner's hearing in September and won new funding — at least temporarily.

If the program is able to meet a 38 percent employment rate before its six-month review, RISE will be allowed to continue its service to the public, Spilde explained.

But the program is severely cut back, Spilde pointed out. Its once tri-county operation is now limited to one office in Albany, with one-fourth the usual staff assisting 120 participants, twice the number served last year.

The goals of the RISE program are simple: to build support and self-confidence in individuals who are ready for a major change in their lives. Since its beginning in 1978, RISE has expanded its clientele from displaced homemakers to people desiring GEDs, people from the corrections system, and people needing special job counseling and placement.

Supplementing the program are workshops in interpersonal relations, values, assertiveness training, goals and decision making, and effective parenting.

The usual cycle is a five-week process: four weeks preparing an individual for the job market, and the last week organizing a job search with prospective employers.

Group dynamics is the key, Spilde said, with participants gathering for an hour a day to discuss problems, frustrations, and triumphs of dealing with the job market. She emphasized that peer support was an essential element of the RISE program.

For a person entering the job force after a number of years away, lack of skills can prove to be an intimidating obstacle, she said. Another major barrier, especially for the single parent is the need for convenient and inexpensive child care.

Spilde said an individual must possess a positive self-image to overcome these obstacles and tackle the job market effectively. The RISE program helps them by providing a supportive system that meets these vital needs.

In order to participate in the RISE program, a person must be CETA-eligible. Persons interested in learning if they qualify can make an appointment with Spilde at the RISE office, 607 Jefferson St., Albany; 926-7681.

Students Council investigates campus activities for policy changes

By Maggi Gibson
Staff Writer

The ASLBCC Council of Representatives has assigned its members specific problems or complaints to investigate during the course of the year.

Among the projects assigned are the gathering of information on student housing; studying the use of smoking and non-smoking areas on campus; developing dance and activities policies; investigating the use of bulletin boards; organizing the "Friends of LBCC," a club designed to improve public awareness or the college; and studying the current registration system.

Student Activities Director Blaine Nisson said the system of giving individual council members a "portfolio" to work on represents a different approach to the operation of ASLBCC.

He said the portfolios will provide each of the student representatives with an educational experience, while at the same time establish a permanent resource for future councils, improving the college's services to students, and raising the visibility of the council itself.

Because of the large amount of work involved with each of the projects, Nisson said the representatives will not be turning in their findings until April or May.

Ideas for future projects are already waiting, he said.

The work involved in completing a portfolio assignment includes an in-depth investigation of the particular subject; a thorough written report on the investigation and its findings; and recommended solutions or alternatives.

These reports will then be taken to Dean of Students Lee Archibald.

Archibald said the students will have cooperation from his office on their projects.

"The better the information and the more detailed the reports, the more apt we are to respond to these projects," Archibald said. "Our desire is to have a desirable school."

Jonni Hudgens, operations coordinator of the council, is working on the Friends of LBCC portfolio. She said she regards it as a good project, but feels it could be handled in a different manner.

"I feel that it could be done in groups," said Hudgens. This would allow more group interaction on subjects, rather than depend entirely on one individual to attend to each project, she said.

The portfolio system was borrowed from a similar program organized and working at Mt. Hood Community College. This is a trial year for this project at LBCC.

Supreme Court allows religion on campus

Kansas City, Mo. (CPS)—"I'm confident it was God who gave us this victory," Greg Rice, president of the Cornerstone religious organization said in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's eight-to-one ruling in the group's favor.

Cornerstone had sued the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) to use campus facilities for religious gatherings. Writing for the majority, Justice Lewis S. Powell asserted: "(The university's) exclusionary policy violates the fundamental principle that a state regulation of speech should be content neutral, and the university is unable to justify this violation."

UMKC had turned down Cornerstone's 1977 request to use two rooms of the Haag Hall Annex for weekly religious meetings because "to allow such meetings would provide the aura of implied approval" of

the group by the university, according to the school's brief.

The case, as it wound its way through the courts, revolved around competing parts of the First Amendment freedoms of speech and association.

But Justice Powell argued that "an open forum in a public university does not confer any imprimatur of state approval on religious sects or activity."

"University students are, of course, young adults," Powell added. "They are less impressionable than younger students and should be able to appreciate that the university policy is one of neutrality toward religion."

In dissent, Justice Byron R. White wrote that he "would not hold that if a university permits students and others to use its property for secular purposes it must also furnish facilities to religious groups for the

purposes of worship."

Those involved in the suit were generally relieved the long struggle was over.

"I'm glad the issue is settled," said Dr. Gary Widmar, UMKC's vice chancellor of student affairs. "I assume the university will now amend its regulations to comport with the court's ruling."

No one is sure how the ruling will apply to the campuses.

Cornerstone co-counsel Mike Whitehead hopes it will "encourage the administrations of other universities and state officials that they don't have to panic every time God is mentioned on public property."

"It won't affect us greatly at all," Widmar said. "But I suspect there may be a flurry of activity on some campuses. It obviously will require other universities to look at their regulations."

Etcetera

Local artist exhibits at LBCC

Sixteen abstract constructions by Corvallis artist-designer Ray Oelke will be on display through Jan. 29 in the Humanities Gallery.

Oelke, who has taught art in the Corvallis public schools for 12 years, began developing his constructions in 1980. The framed masonite panels range in size from one to 12 square feet, and are built up in layers, which are painted and stained for a dramatic effect.

The current series progress from non-object images to totem-like forms.

Other exhibits scheduled for this winter include ceramic wall sculpture and vessel forms by Dennis Staats of Corvallis Feb. 1-26, and the Regional Skills Juried Show of high school art March 6-17.

The exhibits are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Library displays art in January

An exhibit of fiber art by Sandra Zimmer, chairperson of LBCC's Art Department, will be on display at the library during the month of January.

Included in the exhibit will be a new work of crocheted wire, a loom-woven lace room divider, and a knotted-fringe basket.

Zimmer received a bachelor's degree in education with a double major in fine arts and business from Kearney State College in Kearney, Neb., and a masters degree in fine arts from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. She has taught art in public schools in Nebraska, Colorado and LaGrande, Ore., plus a year at North Platte Junior College in Nebraska.

Zimmer moved to Oregon in 1970 and has taught art at LBCC since 1972. Her assignments are in the areas of designing, drawing and weaving.

The artist says her work is characterized by a "variety of interests in and approaches to fiber, and a fondness for color."

A new art display is featured each month in the library, which is open from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

SOSC visit set for Jan. 12

A representative from Southern Oregon State College will be at LBCC Tuesday (Jan. 12) to talk with students interested in transferring to the Ashland school.

The representative will be in the Commons Lobby on the second floor of the College Center from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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Sports Roundup

Men hoopers sport 8-4 record so far

The LBCC Men's Basketball Team enters a possible seven-team dogfight for an OCCAA playoff spot with an 8-4 record and a pre-season experience that Coach Butch Kimpton described as "very good".

Kimpton stated that one of the highlights of the pre-season was winning the LBCC tourney. Another was an opening win against tournament host Bellvue by a 69-52 score, a win that Kimpton called a "particularly good effort."

One of the biggest non-league wins, according to Kimpton, was a 60-55 win over Clark College. The Roadrunners were down by 20 points with 10 minutes remaining, but outscored their opponent 31-6 in the last 10 minutes to earn the win.

The men opened their league season with a 77-65 loss to Umpqua. Kimpton said the team

played "very well for the first 10 minutes," but they were unable to hold off their opponent. The Roadrunners managed to battle back to an eight-point deficit with three minutes left in the contest, but Kimpton said they couldn't hit the key basket in the closing minutes.

Kimpton sees Chemeketa and Mt. Hood as the two top teams in the league, and stated that the other seven teams will put on a strong battle for the final playoff spot. He said that the team has "played well enough at times to be there," and in order to win they must control the tempo of the game and play tough defense.

The men have league games at Lane CC on Friday, and a home game against Chemeketa at 8 pm Saturday.

Coach says losses may help team

If it is possible for lost games to be beneficial, the LBCC Women's Basketball Team may have benefitted from their first regular season losses in more than a year.

The women finished fourth in an 8-team tournament in Longview, Wash., defeating Chemeketa 82-70 for the consolation championship. The lady Roadrunners placed second in another tourney in Roseburg, losing to Umpqua 82-75 in the championship game.

Coach Dave Dangler said the losses may actually help his team in the future, because the pressure of the undefeated string affected the women's play. He said the team was "playing not to lose" instead of playing to win.

Still, Dangler's assessment of the team's play so far this year was "very good".

He stated that he was very pleased with the way the team has improved in their offense and defense, and that the outlook for the league season was "very bright."

The Roadrunners began defense of their OCCAA title by defeating defending regional champions Umpqua 76-59 last weekend. "It was a big win for us," Dangler said.

The women play two league games this weekend, as they travel to Eugene to play Lane CC Friday and entertain potential title contender Chemeketa at home on Saturday at 6 p.m.

Injuries leave wrestlers with 0-3 mark

Injuries are a factor in every sport, but they are especially damaging to a wrestling team, as Coach Bill Buckley found out during his teams competition over vacation.

Due to 15 forfeits in three meets the LBCC wrestling team came away from its Christmas trip to California with a 0-3 record.

The grapplers lost their matches to College of the Redwoods, Delta and Diablo Valley due to the injuries. Of all the teams members, only one wrestler has gone uninjured according to Buckley.

A forfeit in wrestling costs a team six points, which is as many points as a pin. Despite four forfeits against the College of the Redwoods, the wrestlers lost by only three points.

To make matters worse, Al Grove may be lost to the team for the remainder of the season according to Buckley.

The grapplers were to open their league season tonight against Clackamas at 7 p.m., but bad weather forced its cancellation. The scheduled Tuesday match against Mt. Hood was also cancelled due to poor weather.

In assessing the upcoming season, Buckley said: "As long as we can avoid injuries, we will be competitive". He stated that he was "not looking for team scores as much due to the forfeits we are giving up."

"What we are looking toward is the individual's performance on the mat," Buckley said.

"We are hoping that the people we do have will gain enough experience, and hopefully by the end of the season win a conference championship and place at regionals.

Compiled by Stephen W. Irvin

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Bus passes discounted through Jan. 15

A special student discount will be offered on Linn-Benton Loop Bus passes through Jan. 15.

Student passes are offered to grade school, high school and college students.

The prices for the special discount will be \$6 for a 10-ride pass, \$12 for a 20-ride pass, and \$24 for a 40-ride pass. Normally, the passes go for \$7, \$14 and \$27, respectively.

Passes are available from the Information Center and the Campus and Community Services Office at LBCC, or from the Linn-Benton Loop System drivers and Albany City Hall.

Additional information is available by calling 967-4371.

Lovers Luke and Laura and Evil Erica entertain the afternoon crowd as soaps thrive in the LBCC lounge

By Kevin Shiels
Staff Writer

What is full of laughter, full of tears, full of dreams, and full of fears. Afternoon television has it, and people of all walks of life watch it, that is, soap operas.

Twelve-noon in the lounge at LBCC and like a westward migration, people are drawn toward the tube. Like "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," students will leave their lives behind for the next hour to immerse themselves in the lives of "All My Children." Soap opera prime-time has arrived and will not conclude until General Hospital signs off the air at 3 p.m.

It was Thursday at 12:15 p.m. and Mary Fortun, 20, a Home Economics major from New York City has a final at 1 p.m., but her final however must take second place to her daily reunion with "All My Children," a soap she has followed for the past nine years.

Two in the afternoon, and after a hectic day in his Mechanical Engineering class, Terry Potter, 18, from Sweet Home, crashes into a sofa to digest the next step in the continuing drama of "General Hospital," a series he has stayed with since fall of 1980.

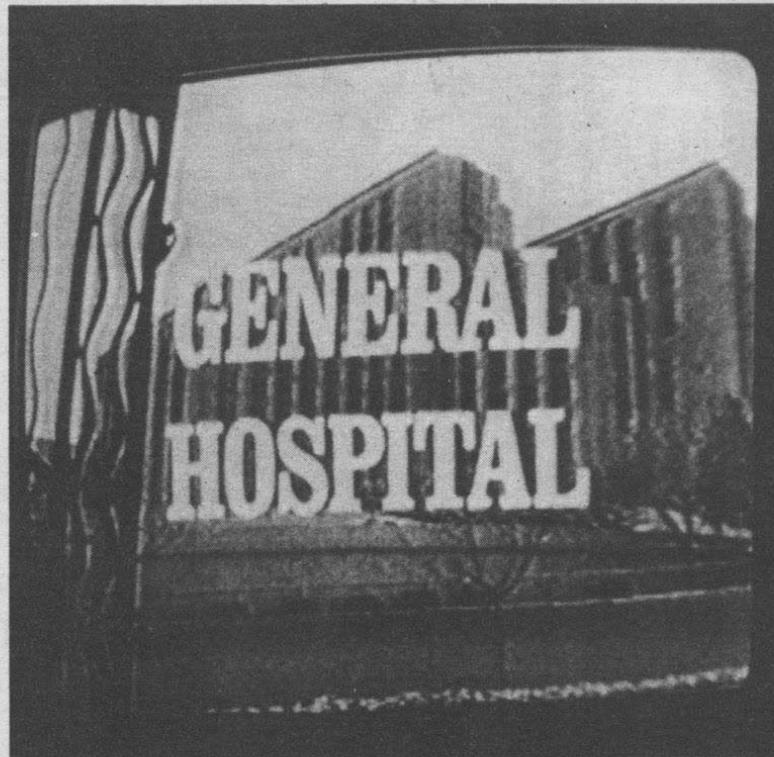
Crazy? Maybe. Unusual? No. Mary and Terry are a part of a nation-wide soap opera syndrome.

Terry said he prefers "General Hospital" over the other soaps because of its generous supply of action. He said it often has three stories interwoven into one plot, so if one doesn't hold the person's interest the others will. There is something for everyone.

Terry said a good soap opera must be more than a "daily gossip session." It should resemble a mystery novel that you can't put down.

Terry said soaps addict people because they are constantly changing, usually in a tactful and subtle way so the person doesn't know they are getting interested.

He said he likes to form opinions on what might happen next. The audience is like a court jury in that people have own theories about the outcome.



Mary said she thinks people get hooked on soaps because the shows are so unpredictable and the characters are the picture of perfection. She said with the characters all so rich and beautiful it makes you feel in sort of a "fantasy in wonderland."

Going from mechanical drawing to melodramatics, Terry said he uses soaps to escape reality. The show rarely fails him unless he is really bugged about some problem. He said they "clear his head" allowing him to momentarily substitute the day's problems with "who shot who" on General Hospital.

Mary said people do indeed get caught up in soaps emotionally. She said soap watchers see part of their own lives being represented, possibly making their own problems seem less serious.

Mary said it is very seldom that she misses her soap. Often she will make excuses to avoid missing an episode, like calling in sick for work. But if missing it is unavoidable, she has her roommate fill in for her. When

Mary attended OSU, she would schedule her classes around her soaps. Despite all this she said she still regrets not being able to see some of the other soaps, so she is considering buying a video tape recorder for playback of other soaps at a more convenient time.

"Oh darn," was Terry's reaction when he recalled missing an important episode of "General Hospital" the one where Heather shot Diana. But he said it was easy to catch up the next day because everyone was so eager to tell him about all the nitty-gritty details.

Terry said it takes about a week to get hooked on a soap. Mary felt two to three days was more accurate. Both felt the complexity of the plot had much to do with the soap's contagiousness.

"Why read a book when you can watch this?" Terry said. He said about the only way to get unhooked from a soap is to have something come up that forces you away from the tube.

Mary said that about the only way she would stop watching soaps is to get a full-time job, which she said

would guarantee the purchase of a video recorder.

Terry said the withdrawal symptoms from prolonged lack of soap operas is irritability, anxiety, and the feeling of isolation from essential happenings in the world.

"It also causes a purplish rash on the back of your arms," Terry added jokingly.

Terry said the people who seem immune to soaps are usually those who don't start watching them in the first place. He said that 80 percent of the people could enjoy them, but don't, because they don't have the time.

When asked if he felt soaps educated him to cope with real life happenings, Terry said, "definitely not" because they represent abnormal situations; for example everyone is jumping in bed with everyone else, or in not so many words, "being passed around."

Mary said she can sometimes relate her own life to her soaps. They occasionally give her answers to her own problems, like whether or not to "dump" the boyfriend she is going with.

Terry said he gets no psychological benefits from watching soaps. Viewing them is just relaxing. He said, "no way, shape or form does he build his life around them." Terry said he notices about a two-to-one ratio of women to men watching soaps. But he said as soaps become more action-packed, more men are watching them.

Mary agreed that women do watch soaps more than men, but amusingly she recalled seeing curious guys questioning the girls on a soap's plot.

Mary said soaps are becoming more popular among college-age people these days but admitted they affect all ages. She said her father used to thoroughly mock soaps, but now he sits home glued to the tube, letting out an occasional burst, "Oh don't do that!"

Terry said the typical stereotype soap watcher is a "lazy housewife sitting home in her bathrobe at 3 p.m." But he said this image doesn't apply anymore. Not all soap watchers these days are a "bunch of deadbeats."

Soaps can sometimes get irritating to their watchers. Mary said she sometimes gets upset when she sees a preview of events to come on her soap. She settles down for an hour of excitement, but then the show doesn't follow through with what is promised. This, she said, gets her slightly provoked and carries her through the remainder of the day on a sour note.

Terry was irked by the conduct of Luke and Laura on "General Hospital," when the two of them were making up after a fight and they kept getting closer and closer, for about five minutes, but never did kiss. Also on "General Hospital" Terry said he was bothered by Jeff because Jeff was "playing Mr. Nice Guy with Ann" and later went to bed with Dianna Taylor.

When it comes to soap heroes, Mary said, it is not unusual for her to have crushes on the soap gentlemen. But her favorite character is Erica on "All My Children." She describes Erica as evil. Mary said "I just love to hate her."

Terry's favorite character is Luke on "General Hospital," because he is sharp, extremely jealous and "plays so hard to get, he doesn't get anywhere." □

Celebrity speakers drawing larger crowds on campus

(CPS)—Until this year, lectures on nuclear power, abortion, politics and equal rights were the sure-fire topics for attracting hordes of students to campus-sponsored events.

But if you want to draw crowds this year, your best bets are Luke and Laura from "General Hospital," Bowser from the "Sha Na Na Show," or virtually anyone from the popular "Hill Street Blues" series.

"The majority of the stuff we've booked is celebrity-oriented, compared to the issue-oriented topics that have been popular in the past," commented Bob Davis, spokesman for the American Program Bureau, the largest booking agency for campus lectures.

"Students aren't interested in El Salvador or 'warning shots,'" he

asserted. "They're not involved with issues. Students would rather listen to Captain Belcher talk about 'Hill Street Blues' or Bowser of 'Sha Na Na' lecture on the roots of rock and roll."

Bowser, otherwise known as John Bauman, is one of the most popular of the new breed of campus crowd pleasers.

"He was very well received here," confirmed Michele Magier, program director at Ohio Northern University, where Bauman recently lectured.

"Students don't need any more pressure," she added. "Relaxing lectures and discussions are drawing the biggest crowds."

Denise Horan, program coordinator at Penn State University agreed.

"We've had to move away to lighter

topics," Horan said, including such upcoming topics as sports, entertainment and other "less serious" subject matter.

The reason is that "people don't really want to get involved in intellectual things," Horan contended.

At Dalton Junior College, soap opera star Richard Shoberg, who plays nice guy Tom Cudahy on "All

My Children," drew hundreds of students recently when he lectured and answered questions on the television business. The most popular question students asked Shoberg was what was going to happen on the next show.

"He just told them they'd have to watch and see," said Dalton official Nora Ann Wood.

The Commuter is the weekly, student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed through student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in the Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Signed editorials, columns and letters reflect only the views of those who sign them. Correspondence should be addressed to the Commuter, 6500 S.W. Pacific Blvd., Albany, Oregon 97321. Phone (503) 928-2361, ext. 373 or 130. The newsroom is in College Center 210.

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