

Mambazo Magic

Ladysmith Black Mambazo's fluid a cappella sound carries tales of African culture.

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Losing Ground

The Lady Runners landed in fourth place and the men slipped to sixth after going 1-3 last week.

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THE

COMMUTER

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photo by Geoff Korol

Flags of Their Fathers

Over 112,000 flags were planted on the University of Oregon campus on Sunday by over 100 volunteers. Each white flag represents close to 6 Iraqis that have died during the U.S. occupation of their country, and each red flag signifies a deceased American Soldier. A number of different groups from the community assisted in bringing the display to campus. Various presentations and performances will take place during the event. The display is a roaming project that started in Colorado, and will remain in Eugene for one week before moving to either Oregon State University or Reed College.

LB plans 8 showings of Gore's 'Truth' film

LBCC News Service

Former Vice-President Al Gore's award-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" will be shown throughout next week in Forum Room 104.

The film, which has been shown around the country over the past several months, has ignited a national dialog about the challenges of global warming that our civilization will be faced with over the next decade. There will be eight showings of the film, which runs 1 hr 40 min.

• Monday Jan. 29 at noon and again at 3:30 p.m.

• Tuesday Jan. 30 at noon and again at 2 p.m.

• Wednesday Jan. 31 at noon and again at 5 p.m.

• Thursday Feb. 1 at 11:30 a.m. and again at 3:30 p.m.

All showings are free and open to the public. According to Sherry Rosen, coordinator of Service Learning, the film is

being shown as a prelude to a visit to the campus by Prof. Eban Goodstein of Lewis and Clark College.

Goodstein, who is the director of Project Focus the Nation: On Global Warming Solutions, will speak in F-104 from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday Feb. 6.

"We are encouraging the entire campus to attend, including faculty, students, classified staff and managers, in the hope that our campus might become involved with this project in gearing up for simultaneous symposia across the country in Jan. 2008," Rosen said in an e-mail to the campus staff. "The goal is to create a catalyzing event which will help to shape the policy decisions of our country toward stabilizing our climate within the next decade," Rosen said.

For more information, contact Rosen at 917-4778 or visit www.focusthenation.org.

Colleges come a-courtin'

Joe Hodgson
The Commuter

LB students are invited to consider their futures and gather their questions in preparation for College Transfer Day on Friday, Feb. 1, when representatives of 24 colleges will be in Takena Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. recruiting students.

Both public and private schools will be present, said coordinator Nancy Morrill. The schools include University of Oregon, Oregon State, OSU-Cascades Campus, Eastern Oregon, Western Oregon, Southern Oregon, George Fox, Linfield, Northwest Christian, Oregon Institute of Technology, Pacific University, Pacific Northwest College

of Art, Portland State, The Art Institute of Portland, Concordia, Corban, University of Phoenix, University of Portland, Willamette University, Ford Family Foundation Scholarships, and Sierra Nevada College, a liberal arts school in Lake Tahoe, Calif.

While the annual event is targeted primarily for graduating seniors, there is no restriction regarding who may participate; Morrill emphasized that every student is encouraged to attend and satisfy their interest in four-year schools.

Family, friends and anyone interested in gathering information about higher education are welcome, Morrill said.

Contact Morrill at 917-4816 for more details.

Peace groups launch lecture series

LBCC News Service

A series of lectures on public affairs organized by the Albany Peace Seekers and the LBCC Institute for Peace and Justice kicks off Thursday with a talk by OSU Political Science Prof. David Bernell at the Venetian Theater in Albany.

Prof. Bernell will speak on "Rethinking U.S. Foreign Policy

in the Middle East" at 7 p.m. at the Venetian, 241 First Ave. in downtown Albany.

John Frohnmayer, author and former chair of the National Endowment of the Arts, will deliver the second lecture in the series—"The Bill of Rights and Citizen Activism"—on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at The Venetian.

The third presentation will be

on March 20 when Bill Lunch, OSU political scientist and Oregon Public Broadcasting political analyst, will speak on the 2006 elections and their consequences for Oregon's future. Like the other events, it will be held at 7 p.m. at The Venetian.

The talks are free. For details contact Doug Clark, director of the peace institute, at doug.clark@linnbenton.edu

The Weather Through the Week

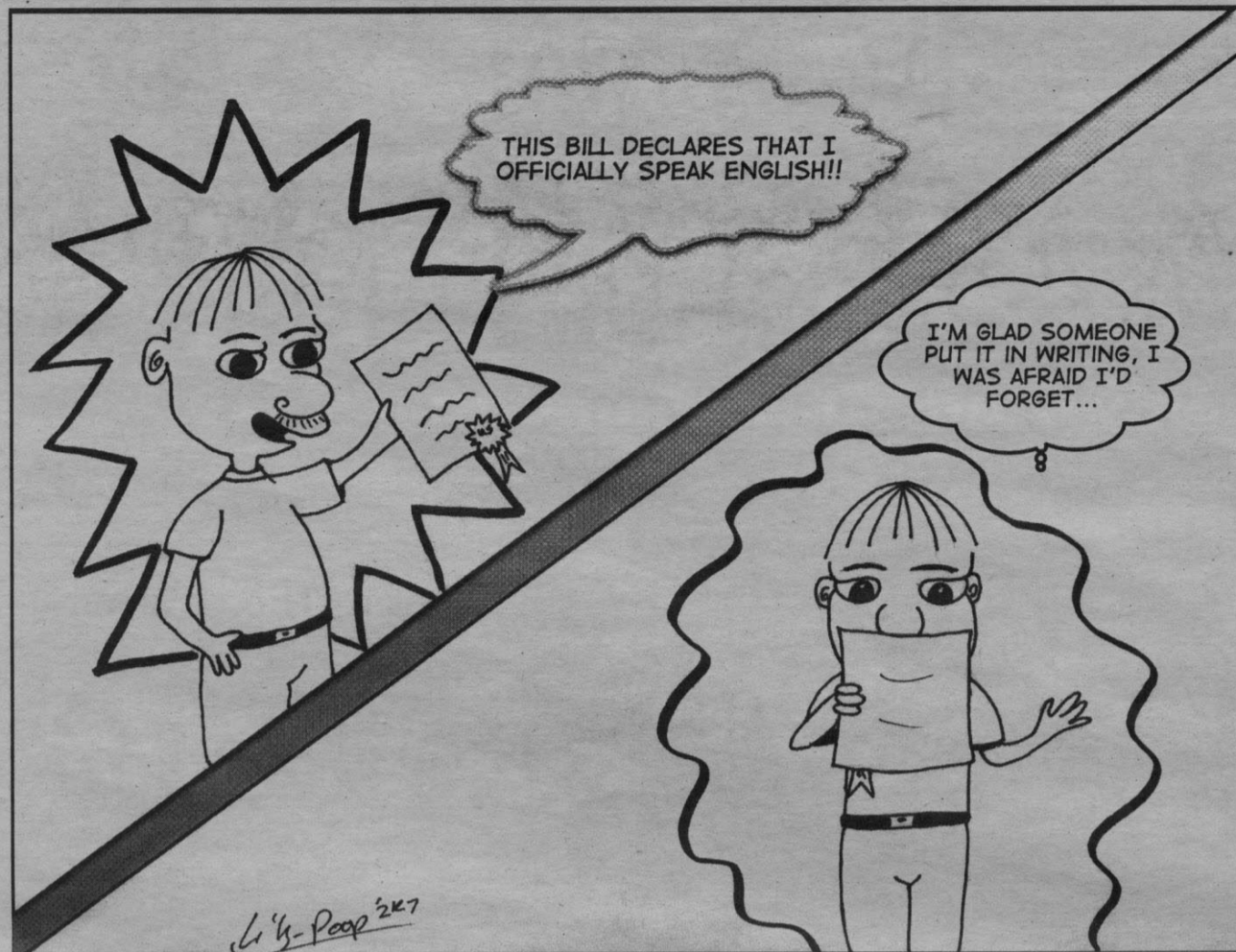
Source: Yahoo! Weather

High 52 Sunny Low 33 Wednesday	High 51 Partly cloudy Low 34 Thursday	High 49 Showers Low 33 Friday	High 50 Sunny Low 31 Saturday	High 50 Partly cloudy Low 32 Sunday	High 50 Sunny Low 31 Monday	High 48 Sunny Low 31 Tuesday
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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter:
 Please e-mail commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu
 and keep them to 300 words or less.



Obama's easygoing ways will challenge 'politics as usual'

Michael Goodwin
 New York Daily News

I don't know whether Illinois Sen. Barack Obama will be our next president. I do know that, win or lose, Obama will have a huge impact on the 2008 campaign, one that will force others in the race to mind their manners. Think of him as the "Meet John Doe" candidate.

That's the title of Frank Capra's 1941 masterpiece starring Gary Cooper and Barbara Stanwyck. She is a newspaper reporter in a nondescript city—Chicago, perhaps—who concocts a story that Cooper, a hobo, would commit suicide on Christmas Eve as a protest against a heartless society. Cooper plays along with the sensational hoax so well that an "everyman" movement springs up, making him the leader and sending shivers through fat-cat pols and powerbrokers. One exchange sums up the film's guiding spirit. When a mayor is told he can't join a John Doe club, a woman explains that "Just the John Does of the neighborhood because you know how politicians are."

"You know how politicians are" could be Obama's motto. That everyman disgust with Washington as usual was front and center Tuesday in his statement about why he is exploring a run for the Oval Office. He cites the familiar laundry list of problems—health care, pensions, college costs, security and a "tragic and costly war that should have never been waged." So far, so standard, especially for a liberal Democrat.

But it's the next part that defines Obama and explains his sudden poll vault. He says, "But challenging as they are, it's not the magnitude of our problems that concerns me the most. It's the smallness of our politics. America's faced big problems before. But today, our leaders in Washington seem incapable of working together in a practical, common-sense way. Politics has become so bitter and partisan, so gummed up by money and influence, that we can't tackle the big problems that demand solutions. And that's what we have to change first."

Notice he doesn't blame only Republicans, he blames all partisans. And he doesn't say "I," he says "we have to change" it.

That sense and sensibility are what give Obama running room. In a crowded field of bare-knuckle insiders easy to depict as partisan dividers, Obama is casting himself as a uniter. One who can cross all kinds of lines. And smile at the same time.

The racial line is the most obvious, he of the white American mother and black African father. And he clearly aims to make a virtue of his short two years on the national stage by challenging all "our leaders in Washington."

Most important, Obama has a natural, easygoing warmth. He headed the Harvard Law Review, yet his manner appears unassuming, even modest. John Doe, indeed.

For now, his approach threatens everybody else in his party, starting with Sen. Hillary Clinton. Polls show her as the ultimate divider, and although she has taken steps toward the center, if nominated, she could probably win only in a close and bitter election. John Edwards, the other top Dem contender, is so far left and identified with "attack" politics that he would likely fade next to Obama.

All that assumes that Obama's sizzle doesn't fizzle and that his strengths stay that way. At the very least, if he plays his role right, the others will have to follow his lead by putting away the brass knuckles and developing the common touch on the stump. That alone would be a happy ending straight out of Hollywood.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

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

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be limited to 300 words.

Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or e-mail us at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

Adopting an official language is a step toward ignorance and discrimination

Further proof that the country has ceased to move forward and instead has fallen back on its collective ass is new legislation in Oregon that would declare English as Oregon's official language, making it the 29th U.S. State to do so.

Again I find myself asking the same question I ask every time I pick up a newspaper or read an article online: why?

In an article in this Sunday's Gazette-Times, Rep. Donna Nelson, R-McMinnville, who is the sponsor of this bill, stated that, "While our diversity is strong, it takes a common language to bring diverse people together."

What? Maybe I'm blind, but I see absolutely nothing that this ignorant legislation could do to improve diversity. If anything, stating that "my language is better than yours" can only work to push different cultures apart, not bring them together.

Why not go further and say that white is the official color of America, hamburgers are our official food, Christianity is our official religion, etc.? According to David Gulliver, Nelson's legislative assistant, making English Oregon's official language would "break down barriers that exist between people." Again...what? How?

I see it as something that would create further barriers. People who speak a language other than English, could be discriminated against by having interpreter

services denied to them.

In a comment posted in response to an online Statesman Journal article on the subject, one person said, "Maybe some will think about going to one of the other 21 states where English is not the official state language. Share the 'fun,' so to speak. Let their property values degrade. Let THEIR crime rates soar. Let THEM have to

tolerate screaming across stores and 'polka music' booming into their homes from down the block."

Well, statistics show that the majority of heroine, cocaine and methamphetamine users in Oregon are white. The Office of National Drug Control Policy's National Metham-

phetamine Drug Conference found that "A change in demographics of addicts shows that methamphetamine is now used more frequently by women, college students, and white-collar workers."

Designating an "official" language is not going to improve our society. It's not going to change anything except the way people of various cultures view those who speak primarily English. They'll view us for the ignorant extremists we appear to be. I am well aware that my first language is English. I don't need it stated as law. Language diversity is important to any society. Recognizing that there are people who aren't just like us helps us to recognize our own culture.



I am well aware that my first language is English. I don't need it stated as law.

ELIZABETH URIARTE

The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE

STAFF

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Mulder searches for answers in the stars

OFFICE HOURS

Chris Campbell
 The Commuter

Instructor Greg Mulder's long and winding road began in Germany and led him to LBCC, where he presently teaches physics, calculus and astronomy with a high level of energy and a style that has earned him a reputation on campus as one of LB's top instructors.

So, Greg, where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Heidelberg, Germany. I grew up in Reedsport, Ore.

What classes are you teaching this term?

PH 212-Physics with Calculus and PH 104-Astronomy.

What drew you to teaching?

Watching that light bulb turn as I'm helping people to understand how the universe works is a lot of fun.

Why physics in particular?

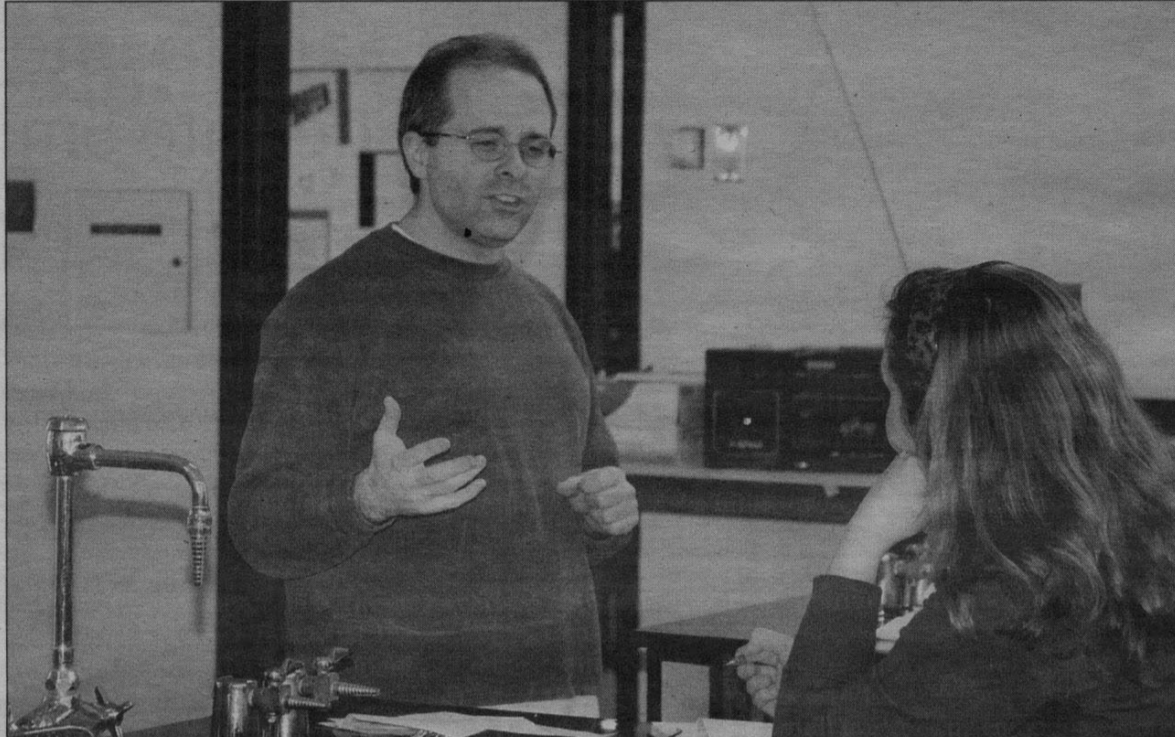
Physics has got some of the coolest tools with which to play.

How did you end up at LB?

There are a very small number of full-time physics positions available at the two-year college. While working for British Telecom in London, I kept my eye on positions all across the U.S. and was very lucky to have LBCC open up first.

I know you studied in Germany, what was that like?

The University of Karlsruhe had very high expectations for its physics students. Furthermore, they had the German tradition of the students being a lot more independent in their own learning than we are used to in the U.S. Rarely, if ever, does an undergraduate student in Germany have contact with the professor. Most of your learning happens within groups of other students.



Physics, calculus and astronomy instructor Greg Mulder revs students up with his unique teaching style. photo by Gary Brittsan

The battle to grasp a challenging topic made for me a really tight-knit group of friends, all of whom still mean a lot to me today. I prefer LBCC's tradition of students having much more access to their instructors.

What is the biggest distinction between the ways higher education is taught here versus in Germany?

One serious disadvantage of the U.S. system is our high tuition. In Germany, tuition is around \$100 a year and grants are available to cover all your living needs. This means that German students get to focus all their energies on their coursework. In the U.S., so many of our students are trying to hold down full-time jobs while going to school. This detracts not only from learning, but also from the whole college experience.

Do you have a favorite physics bar trick?

Exploding a keg (once emptied of beer and refilled with

water) with one cup of water is always a crowd-pleaser.

You have earned quite a reputation on campus for your teaching style. How do you make physics accessible to students?

This term my PH 212 class has been really active in taking physics out to the community. Last week a great group of 10 LBCC students demonstrated a series of "physics tricks" to around 1,000 Cub Scouts. The LB students were simply spectacular at both explaining the physics and getting the Cub Scouts excited about physics. We'll also be finding the mass of Saturn, a galaxy or two, doing Stellar Evolution with the Boys' and Girls' Club, some scuba diving and other great projects...

Physics is simply fun! Do you have a favorite moment in the history of physics?

We're living it. The sum of human knowledge is doubling every five to seven years. Since

I've started teaching, the human race has learned how to teleport particles across the planet, discovered the eventual fate of the universe, created the coldest temperatures the universe has ever experienced, and much, much more. We are living in the best of times for those people who are lured by the adventure of learning.

One does have to hope, however, that the human race's ability to utilize this new knowledge is to the benefit of all people. As our knowledge grows, so must our wisdom.

Who's your hero?

Hypatia of Alexandria around 500 A.D. is certainly a tragic hero of mine. As the greatest physicist/mathematician of that era she led a fight against superstition, dogma and hate that her society was facing. She lost. Not only did she die, but European civilization collapsed and it took Europe about 1,000 years to get back to the point that

it had once reached.

Linus Pauling and other scientists of the 1950s who helped the world come to terms with its newfound power in the atom bomb and helped pull us away from the brink of global destruction I find inspiring.

At the local level, I have come across so many students who are taking challenging classes at school while holding down a job and often taking care of a family or a family member all at the same time.

Do you have a MySpace profile?

I started one once and I think I got interrupted by a phone call. Do you think that I should make one?

Do you think mankind will ever solve its energy crisis?

I certainly hope so. The universe isn't kind to those societies in the past who faced an energy crisis and failed to take the needed steps. We have technological solutions to the energy crisis we will face within the next 30 to 50 years. I hope that we will have the political gumption to take the needed steps as well.

Who's leading the charge on teleporting matter and how much can we teleport currently?

There are lots of labs across the planet working on this. If you go to Google and type in "Quantum Teleportation" all sorts of Web sites, both good and bad, will pop up.

Will transporting matter ever be more energy efficient?

I think that the answer to this is currently unknown.

Did you listen to a lot of Kraftwerk when you lived in Germany?

Leider nein... but I do now. **What type of sausage do you like best?**

I'm more of a Schnitzel and Spaetzle type of guy.

Theme for Math Awareness Week: 'The Lighter Side of Mathematics'

LBCC Math Department

Before the annual spring term celebration of Math Awareness Week, the Math Department at LBCC is sponsoring a design contest for the official MAW T-shirt.

The Math Awareness Week T-shirt has become one of the most visible aspects of the week-long celebration, and the Math Department has asked students and staff to submit proposals for designs for the MAW 2007 T-shirt.

The department will choose the design that best incorporates the theme for this year: "The Lighter Side of Mathematics."

Designs must include the words "Math Awareness Week," "LBCC" or "LBC2."

In addition, the year "2007" must be hidden somewhere in the design. All designs must be appropriate to the year's theme to qualify for the competition.

The winning designer will receive a prize of \$50 and two free T-shirts. Designs must be submitted electronically to Andrea Bell (e-mail: Andrea.

Bell@linnbenton.edu) or can be turned in at the Learning Center on a disk or CD-ROM.

The deadline to submit your T-shirt design is Feb. 21, 2007.

Math Awareness Week is an annual activity put on by the math faculty for the enjoyment the students and staff of LBCC. The department faculty organize a variety of games and activities relating to the theme, including daily estimation contests, puzzles, and a team contest on Friday.

Instructors also grill hotdogs, serve chips, soda, ice cream, and root beer floats all week.

"Math Awareness Week is one of the most popular activities on campus, and the T-shirt is always fun to wear," said Bell, who is serving as this year's MAW coordinator. "Please submit your design this year!"

Math Awareness Week 2007 will take place May 7 through 11 in the LBCC Courtyard. It is free and open to the public.

The theme for 2006 was "Math is aMAZEing," and the winning T-shirt was designed by Bud Morgan.

TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT*

Feb. 2, 2007

5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Commons Cafeteria

- Prizes for the top five finishers (including two Hoodoo ski lift passes and gift certificates to Cirello's and Señor Sam's)
- Drawings for additional prizes

Register soon - only 49 seats available!

Sign up at Student Life & Leadership or e-mail: gzikh@linnbenton.edu

*No actual money involved.

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Refreshments & snacks provided.

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

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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



photo by Ivar Vong

Ladysmith Black Mambazo performs their harmonious songs to a sold-out show at Corvallis High.

World-class musicians bring African culture to Corvallis

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

A world class act came to Corvallis High School on Jan. 18 in a sold-out show. Ladysmith Black Mambazo opened with a Zulu song of greeting. Their singing style was a cappella in two different styles native to South Africa—*isicathamiya* and *mbube*.

The songs they sang were simple, sublime, and joyous, carried upon strong melodies and almost trancelike with their subtle changes. Group founder Joseph Shabalala's voice stood out as having an emotional urgency about it. The band got the audience laughing with their stage antics—flying high kicks that sent other singers off to the side. The band was lively with much kinesthetic expression.

The band was formed in 1960, by Shabalala, who recruited family members. In 1964 Shabalala had a series of dreams in which he experienced perfect harmonies.

He re-formed the band, taught them the harmonies and changed the name to Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Ladysmith is the hometown that Shabalala's family is from in South Africa, and Black is an ox, chosen because it is the strongest

of farm animals, and Mambazo means axe in the Zulu language which is suppose to represent the competition being cut away, according to Wikipedia.org. In 1975 Shabalala became a follower of Jesus Christ and went on to produce a series of internationally recognized albums.

In Corvallis, Shabalala talked about bringing South African culture to the world and promoting peace, hope, and harmony. In one song the band sang, "Hurt my brother or sister, no no no, never." In another Shabalala sang about the end of apartheid and against racism, "Different colors mean nothing to me, different languages mean nothing to me."

Nelson Mandela said of the band in the '90s, "Members of Ladysmith Black Mambazo are South Africa's cultural ambassadors. The band's songs have a wide variety of themes, such as, the resurrection of Jesus, not drinking and driving and fair-trade.

LJ Wilson, a backstage hand helping out with the concert, said: "They have a Zen-ness about themselves. They're very calm, but they kind of break out in singing every once in a while—humming—they can't help it. We had to heat up the theater and the rooms because of their throats—they didn't want their voices to get cold."

"They're very calm, but they kind of break out singing every once in a while—humming—they can't help it."

LJ Wilson

MOVIE REVIEW

'Pursuit of Happyness' fails to find success despite Smith's efforts

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Will Smith, who yesterday received an Oscar nomination for Best Actor, plays Chris Gardner, a struggling medical supply salesman with aspirations of becoming a stockbroker. Based on a true story, "The Pursuit of Happyness" is like a well-polished and lengthy after school special for college drop-outs.

One begins to wonder how true the details are, with anecdotal characters like the acid-dazed hippie who insists that Gardner's bone density scanner is a time machine.

Set in the early '80s, Gardner goes through a period of homelessness after being left by his disgruntled wife (Thandie Newton) and being accepted for a competitive intern program for a stockbroker firm called Dean Witter.

Gardner was inspired to try out for the program after seeing a joyous man drive up in an expensive red car.

When asked what he did for a living, the man tells him that he is a stockbroker and that you just need to be good with people and numbers to succeed in the career.

Gardner then turns around to notice all the happy stockbrokers coming and going. He gets his chance for an interview after sharing a taxi with an executive and solving his Rubik's Cube.

The executive goads him on by saying that no one can solve the puzzle and looks stunned after Gardner succeeds.

"Happyness" reeks with the stench of humanism and with

a first person narrative, clearly hints that it is a success story.

Probably everyone will realize this in the first scenes, if not from the previews, so the main intrigue becomes a matter of how our hero is going to get from point A to point B—rags to riches.

Smith carries the movie along as best he can in a convincing performance and is well complimented by his real-life son, Jaden, who plays his son in the movie.

Tear-jerking power plays are to be expected in overly sentimental films like this, but the movie's major downfall perhaps lies in the kind of message it is sending.

The story suggests that material success equals happiness.

Gardner's pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-boot-strap example seems to be saying that you can reach your dreams if you try hard enough and don't let anyone tell you that you cannot do it—whatever you want, go get it.

This might not seem like such a big deal if it weren't paired with Gardner's dreadful example.

Gardner makes it big, but throughout the movie he is cutting corners—frantically rushing, pushing people out of the way and telling all sorts of elaborate lies to cover up his dishonorable situation in life.

This movie gives you the idea that the right to pursue happiness is "the be all of end all," always coming back to mention The Declaration of Independence.

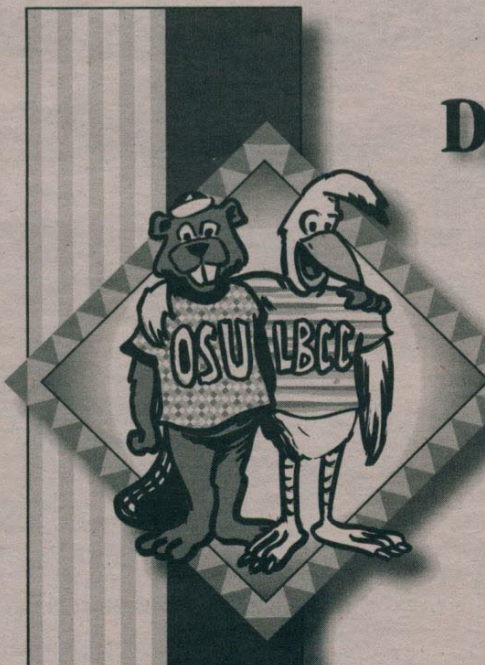
The real-life story of "Happyness" may be one well worth telling, but the movie falls flat. I give it one and a half stars out of five.

LBCC / OSU Degree Partnership Program Day

(Formerly Dual Enrollment)

- Academic Advising
- Admissions & General Information
- Financial Aid Information
- LBCC & OSU Advisors

Wednesday, January 24
 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 LBCC Commons Cafeteria



Do you have a good eye for photography?

The Commuter is looking for photographers to join our staff. Have your work published and gain experience working with an award-winning publication. Plus, earn a three-credit tuition grant.

If interested, please contact photo editor Jesse Skoubo or editor Adam Loghides at 917-4451 or via email at commuter@linnbenton.edu

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

COMMENTARY

Tattoo exhibit reveals more than some are comfortable seeing

Erin Mallon
 The Commuter

As you wander through the halls of North Santiam Hall this week at LB's Albany campus you will notice a tension that's taken root there: Cherie Hiser's art installment. From shock, to hushed awe, to discomfort, and back again, Hiser's exhibit, "The Odyssey of the Invisible," which photographs fully nude, tattooed men and women, has elicited every response imaginable from its viewers.

The exhibit, as Hiser's artist statement details, is "a 30-year documentary photographic study built upon themes addressing visual change and cultural juxtaposition which often may bring shock and disbelief to the viewer."

Inspired by the artist's chance discovery that a conservative-looking businessman was in fact the proud wearer of full-body tattoo art, it aims to reveal that there is more to each of us than what meets the eye.

Due to its very nature, the exhibit is one that focuses on the human body, presenting many full nudes (plus tattoo ink, of course) in creative, unusual poses.

Some students have begun to feel uncomfortable because of the arguably graphic nature of the subjects.

This raises many questions for all of us as viewers of art.

What is acceptable for the general public to view? What constitutes a work of art? Where do we draw the line between challenging and disturbing?

More specifically: Is it okay for a public art show to feature something some of us may not feel comfortable viewing?

These are questions we have to answer for ourselves. It takes a lifetime to build the morals that we function and base judgments upon. This lies at the very root of the problem: How do we make general standards for something that is inherently personal?

Obviously, we can't. What we can do is step back for a moment and try to understand why we believe what we do.



Cherie Hiser's photographs of tattooed men and women in the North Santiam Hall Gallery have ignited a discussion over the display of nudity in public art.

A college is a place of learning based largely around being shown new information. It is the occupation of a student to sift back through all the ideas presented and choose from which to build his/her own.

First, let's think about the setting of the exhibit. Many of the complaints coming from the student body here at LBCC refer to the fact that uncensored nudity is out in the open for anyone to see; the walls of a school hallway are hardly those of a cutting edge art center that one would enter ready to be shocked.

For some, the nude photographs are seen as the unnecessary bombardment of an audience that wants nothing to do with it.

But as students in general, we do want something to do with bombardment. A college is a place of learning based largely around being shown new information. It is the occupation of a student to sift back through all the ideas presented and choose from which to build his/her own.

Each of us, by attending college, is asking for shock. While we cannot hope to unify all our diverse value systems, we should hope to tolerate and understand them, and through this, our own.

Maybe by looking at "The Odyssey of the Invisible" I have decided I despise blatant nudity in art.

Maybe I have found that I really get a kick out of it. Whether I've reinforced my own old ideas, or come out of it with a new belief entirely, the point is that I had to think about it. It is this constant rebuilding of standards and ideals that lends them their strength.

Hiser is an artist who knows full well that strangely placed nudes will get a second glance. In her own words, she seeks to "champion and mentor the aesthetics of a society which alternately fears and spurns the individual who inhabits the world outside of the social 'norm.'"

As a college student should be able to look at something shocking and really think about the acceptance or rejection of it, an artist should show us things that make us do that!

Francis Bacon once wrote that art can "help me find and realize ideas. I look at hundreds of very different, contrasting images and I pinch details from them..."

In a world filled with choices, we choose what to base our ideas on. Let's not forget to make sure we know why we make those choices.

Photographer to discuss tattoo art

LBCC News Service

Internationally known photographer Cherie Hiser will present a lecture, "Odyssey of the Invisible," today at noon in the LBCC Forum Room 104.

Her presentation offers a revealing look into her work currently being shown in the NSH Gallery as well as the tattoo culture itself.

Hiser will also show slides of her striking portraits of tattooed men and women including diptychs that show her subjects both in professional attire and with their tattoos revealed, creating a surprising duality.

Hiser is described as "one of the most vital persons of our time" by renowned photo luminary Cornell Capa.

A reception will follow the lecture in the NSH Gallery. The event is free and open to the public.

Academy spurns 'Borat' and 'Dreamgirls' in picks for best picture

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced nominees yesterday for the 79th annual Academy Awards, which will be presented Feb. 25 at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center.

Nominated for Best Picture are:

"Babel," "The Departed," "Letters from Iwo Jima," "Little Miss Sunshine," and "The Queen."

Nominated for Best Actress are:

Penélope Cruz in "Volver," Judi Dench in "Notes on a Scandal," Helen Mirren in "The Queen," Meryl Streep in "The Devil Wears Prada," and Kate Winslet in "Little Children."

Nominated for Best Actor are:

Leonardo DiCaprio in "Blood Diamond," Ryan Gosling in "Half Nelson," Peter O'Toole in "Venus," Will Smith in "The Pursuit of Happyness," and Forest Whitaker in "The Last King of Scotland."

PERSPECTIVES

"Do you think nudity in art on campus is appropriate?"



• Niki Kelley •
Pre-Nursing

"I wouldn't really have a problem with it."



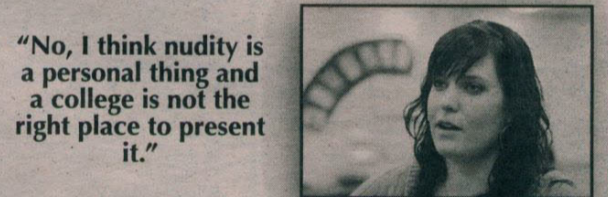
• Bill Thomas •
Learning Center staff

"It's probably not appropriate, but it doesn't really bother me."



• Jeremy Theobald •
Pre-Pharmacy

"Sure, yeah, as long as it is a part of the artistic expression."



• Sara Bond •
Business

"No, I think nudity is a personal thing and a college is not the right place to present it."



• Brock Anderson •
Nursing

"It's OK because we are older. If we were in an elementary school that would be different, but here is OK."



• Brandon Sutor •
Nursing

"Sure, doesn't really bother me."

Compiled By Michelle Turner
 Pictures By Chris Campbell

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commuter@linnbenton.edu

LOCAL NEWS

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

Evolved or created: Controversy remains high



photo by Jesse Skoubo

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward J. Larson spoke about the evolution-creationism controversy at OSU last Thursday.

Maggie Busto
The Commuter

The controversy concerning evolution and creationism was the topic of a lecture given by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward J. Larson at OSU last Thursday as part of the 2006-07 Horning Lecture Series.

Larson, who is also a professor at the University of Georgia, spoke to a packed auditorium about the history of the teaching of the two subjects and referenced the many trials and prominent figures that have appeared throughout the conflict, starting with where it all began—Charles Darwin.

Darwin's evolutionary theory was introduced in 1859, and ever since the idea has been rejected by the religious world for its atheistic implications, resulting in the conflict many are familiar with today.

Court case after court case has arisen between the two sides, but what Larson refers to as the "best-known misdemeanor case in the history of the United States" is the Scopes trial of 1925.

The case pitted famed prosecutor William Jennings Bryan against defense lawyer Clarence Darrow, who was defending John T. Scopes, a high

school teacher who had taught the evolutionary theory in his classroom.

At the time, Tennessee's Butler Act forbade any curriculum that denied the theory of Divine Creation. After much deliberation, Scopes was convicted and Tennessee won. Yet the case served as precursor to today's legal arguments.

This controversy is not quite history, for society is still engaged in the ongoing debate.

Students and professors are careful as to how they approach the subject; books are continually being published on both sides of the argument, examples being the "Left Behind" series and Larson's own books including "Summer of Gods." The Scopes trial is annually reenacted for tourists, and the controversy still receives front-page headlines whenever a breakthrough is made on either side.

"That is where the evolution, creationism controversy is today... still making front page news after 80 years," said Larson.

He isn't the only one who agrees.

OSU senior John Reeves said "It's not over, there are still going to be creationists coming up with new ways to poke holes in the evolution theory."

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

You can sign up at 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 (Takena 101) x4788

Sales & Office Assistant (#4912, Corvallis) If you have one year of office experience and can type 55 wpm, this might be the job for you! Accounting skills and/or website experience is a plus. Part-time, \$8.50-9.50/hr.

Cooperative Work Experience Jobs (Wah Chang in Albany) Various job opportunities for science and/or engineering transfer majors. Great pay and experience and you don't have to look for another job until you get your bachelors at OSU! Part-time during school & full-time during breaks. Employers want experience and a degree and you can have it.

Part-time Student Job (#4916, Corvallis) Work at an OSU research station doing various farm or related duties. Part-time now, possible full-time in summer. \$8.50-10/hr.

Kennel Person (#4915, Albany) Part-time weekend position working for a local vet hospital. Five-ten hours total on the weekend. Pay is \$8/hr or more DOE.

HELP AVAILABLE

Call Valley AIDS Information Network for information, support and referrals on AIDS/HIV, STD's and Hepatitis. 757-6322 or 800-588-AIDS.

Deadline:

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

Cost:

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

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Elizabeth Yamada welds her way to win

Valerie Zeigler
The Commuter

Elizabeth Yamada, better known as "Libby," is a second-year LBCC student who expects to graduate in June 2007 with a double major in Automotive Technology and Welding Technology.

Yamada is the January 2007

winner of LBCC's Non-Traditional Student of the Month award. Yamada had no background in welding when she began her LBCC career, but soon after her first welding course she began to realize how many possibilities existed in the field.

"It is the ability to manipulate something as solid as metal that attracts me to welding," Yamada

commented.

Yamada became interested in the automotive field mainly because she knew nothing about fixing cars, and was tired of putting her faith in strangers to make necessary repairs. She is currently working as an intern at Oregon State University motor pool where she performs general maintenance on the vehicles in the fleet.

Yamada's hobbies include sculpture beads, marble, and making jewelry, as well as teaching the ukelele.

Yamada credits automotive technology instructor Phil Krock with being instrumental in her success.

"In addition to teaching me the skill set I need," Yamada said, "he also motivates and encourages me to push beyond what I ever imagined possible."

What is Yamada's best advice for other women who want to pursue a non-traditional field?

"Set up small goals, then show up mentally and physically ready to achieve them," she said.



contributed photo

Elizabeth Yamada is a double major in Automotive and Welding Technology and LBCC's Non-Traditional Student of the Month.

The Latino/a Student Club would like to invite ...

interested students to attend the sixth annual "Students of Color Coalition Conference" at Western Oregon University on Saturday, February 3rd. This well-attended conference offers workshops and informative sessions along with this year's keynote speaker Winona LaDuke. The attendance fee is waived for LB students. Limited spaces available. For more information contact club advisor Analee Fuentes @ 917-4540 or attend the Latino/a club meeting on Wednesday, January 24th @ 3 p.m., SSH room 103. Conference website: <http://www.orstudents.org/oscc/info/C26>

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SPORTS

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

Florida athletes, teams enjoy decade of sunshine

My eyes were glued to the TV two weeks ago as I watched my favorite college team, the University of Florida, win the football national championship.

Being a Florida native, I can hardly be called a bandwagon-chaser by supporting my Gators. I represent the 904 with pride. But while watching the game, it came to me that there is something extremely special in the Sunshine State for sports.



CHRIS KELLEY: A WORD WITH 'CHEESE'

There is something extremely special in the Sunshine State for sports.

The Gators became the first school ever to win the football and basketball championships in the same year. In addition, last year the Miami Heat won the NBA Finals.

How can one state be blessed by so much good fortune? It makes me think back, and it turns out this year isn't the only year the state of Florida has been successful.

Over the past 10, even 20 years, The University of Florida, Florida State, and The University of Miami

have historically dominated college football. In NCAA Baseball, University of Miami won two championships, one in 1999 and one in 2001.

However Florida tradition doesn't just reside in college football and baseball. In 1997 and 2003, the Florida Marlins won the World Series. Additionally in 2002, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won Super Bowl XXXVII. The 2003-04 NHL hockey season brought the Stanley Cup to the Sunshine State when the Tampa Bay Lightning won it. Isn't it ironic that a championship in a sport played on ice went to a team in the warmest state?

There is a pattern here. In comparison, California is the largest state and is also home to the most professional and college teams. Yet, it still can't compete with Florida in the number

of sports champions in the last 10 years.

California has had recent success with the University of Southern California, who won two national championships in a row from 2003-04. They represent California as the only D1 football team to win a championship since 1972. In college baseball, USC won the championship in 1998 and the University of California State at Fullerton won it in 2004.

In the NBA, the Los Angeles Lakers won three straight championships from 2000 to 2002, and in baseball, the Anaheim Angels won the World Series in 2002.

No California team has won the Super Bowl in the last 10 years, nor has any ever won a Stanley Cup—interesting, considering California is home to three teams in each sport, the most of any other state.

Comparing championships in the past 10 years in the four major sports, Florida wins in a landslide 11-8 even though it is a smaller state and has fewer teams.

I guess Florida isn't just famous for its sunshine and orange juice anymore.

NWAACC South Men's Standings

Team	Conf.	All
Clackamas	5-0	16-4
Umpqua	4-1	10-10
SW Oregon	3-2	16-4
Chemeketa	3-2	11-7
Mt. Hood	3-2	11-7
Linn Benton	1-4	10-10
Portland	1-4	4-14
Lane	0-5	6-13

Upcoming Games

Jan. 24, at Lane, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 27, at Clackamas, 6

Jan. 31, SW Oregon, 7:30

Women's Standings

Team	Conf.	All
Lane	5-0	17-3
Chemeketa	4-1	15-5
Clackamas	4-1	13-6
Linn Benton	3-2	14-6
Mt. Hood	2-3	10-9
Portland	2-3	10-10
Umpqua	0-5	8-11
SW Oregon	0-5	1-15

Upcoming Games

Jan. 24., at Lane, 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 27, at Clackamas, 4

Jan. 31, SW Oregon, 5:30

PAC 10

Men's Standings

Team	Conf.	All
Oregon	6-1	18-1
UCLA	6-1	17-1
Wash. St.	5-2	16-3
USC	5-2	15-5
Stanford	4-3	12-5
California	4-3	12-7
Arizona	4-4	13-5
Washington	1-6	11-7
Oregon St.	1-6	9-11
Arizona St.	0-8	6-13

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Thursday:

ENTREES: French Dip with Fries and Fettucini with Clam Sauce

VEGETARIAN: Vegetable Calzone

SOUPS: Creamy Roasted Chicken and Garlic Soup with Tomato

Friday:

CHEF'S CHOICE

Monday:

ENTREES: Grilled Pork Chop with Sauce Robert and Chicken Gumbo with Creole Rice

VEGETARIAN: Sweet and Sour Tempeh with Rice

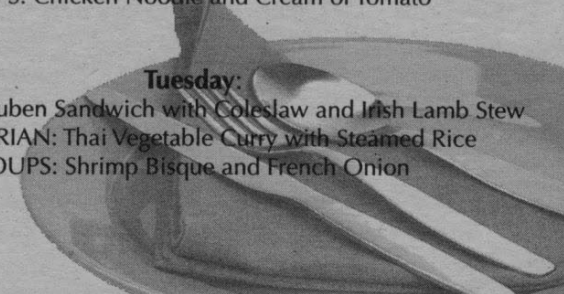
SOUPS: Chicken Noodle and Cream of Tomato

Tuesday:

ENTREES: Reuben Sandwich with Coleslaw and Irish Lamb Stew

VEGETARIAN: Thai Vegetable Curry with Steamed Rice

SOUPS: Shrimp Bisque and French Onion



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Sports Editor: Caleb Hawley
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

Lady Runners split, men drop two straight games



photos by Chris Campbell

Sophomore Ryon Pool (above) slices through the Mt. Hood defense for a lay-up and two of his 21 points against Mt. Hood Thursday. Jenny Fillion (right) pressures the Saints' point guard in Thursday's first game.

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

The Lady Roadrunners started off this week with an impressive 77-46 home win against Mt. Hood in Thursday's make-up game. The game was rescheduled because of the recent bad weather in the Portland area, which caused many schools and roads to be closed.

Whitney Bryant and Chelsea

Hartman both grabbed nine rebounds over the shorter Mt. Hood team. When Coach Dionne was asked about the size difference, she said, "There weren't any mismatches for us because we are one of the quickest teams in the conference." She also attributed their win to the team's depth saying, "We have all 10 girls contributing, most teams don't have that."

Saturday at Chemeketa, the

NWAACC South's second-place team brought a different story. Despite Destiny Neuen-schwander scoring 21 points, with five three-pointers, and Whitney Bryant bringing down 16 rebounds, Linn-Benton was defeated 88-68.

Ladies' hoops is currently fourth in the South Division with a 14-6 record, and they face a tough week coming up with road games against the two top teams, Lane and Clackamas.

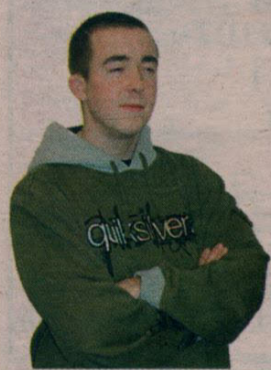
The LB men, despite having a great practice on the extra day off Wednesday, couldn't pull off a win at home against Mt. Hood, losing 82-70. Ryon Pool helped the team with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

The game was close all the way through, until LB was forced to foul in the final minutes in order to regain possession.

"Defense and being out rebounded were key contributors to the loss," said Coach Randy Falk.

Following a slight defensive let down on Thursday, the Roadrunners played a tough game, out-rebounding Chemeketa 48-37 but still lost a close one 64-63. Alex Stockner lead the team in scoring with 13 points and eight rebounds. Pool had 11 points and eight rebounds.

The men are currently 10-10 and are in sixth place in their division. They face Lane on Wednesday and the first place team, Clackamas, on Saturday. Both games are away.



Caleb Hawley
 The Commuter

FACE OFF

Who is NFL's top rookie: The flashy Reggie Bush or the steady Jones-Drew?



Adam Loghides
 The Commuter

Reggie Bush of the New Orleans Saints should be the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. Outside of being the most exciting player in football, Bush is one of the most productive players in the NFL, and I'm not talking just amongst the rookie ranks.

Over the course of the year Bush has compiled some outstanding statistics. He carried the ball 155 times for 565 yards, and scored six touchdowns. He caught 88 passes for 742 yards, and two touchdowns. He also tacked on another score via punt return.

The 88 receptions ranks Bush in the top 10 in the NFL, ahead of pro-bowlers Chad Johnson, Reggie Wayne and Anquan Boldin. But it's the statistics that he didn't receive that really made Bush great this year.

Whether lining up in the backfield, as a wide-out or in the slot, Bush drew more attention than any other player in the NFL.

This role as the league's most dangerous decoy diminished his numbers to some degree and helped his teammates

have fantastic years. Bush opened the door for fellow rookie Marques Colston, who nabbed over 1,000 yards receiving this year, and for Deuce McAllister, who rushed for over 1,000 yards. When Bush lined up at receiver it took that seventh man out of the box, allowing McAllister to have a fantastic season.

Had Bush not been on the team one could only imagine that these guys would have had less than stellar numbers this season, and is it a coincidence that Drew Brees just so happened to have his best season at quarterback this season?

My last point is simply that Bush is a winner. After the acquisition of Bush, New Orleans went from a 3-13 snub, to a division winning, 10-6 NFC power. Bush made the big plays down the stretch when needed. He helped his team win when wins were needed. That's what is holding down his candidacy for offensive rookie of the year.

Sure Maurice Jones-Drew had some nice statistics, but where did his team go? Not to the playoffs, but to three consecutive losses to end the season.

It has been one of the greatest NFL seasons for rookies in a long, long time. The Reggie Bushes and Vince Younges of the league have certainly had good years but I believe that a rookie who flew under the radar much of the season should win Rookie of the Year. That guy is Maurice Jones-Drew of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Sure, Bush and Marques Colston have helped to lead the Saints to a remarkable season. And Young made a few plays late in games to win some for the Titans. But the lack of media coverage and a good team around him has hurt Jones-Drew in his pursuit for Rookie of the Year.

It has been said that Colston and Bush are the front-runners. Hogwash. If the award were handed out for the first half of the season, Colston would win hands down. If it were the Most Exciting Rookie of the Year, Bush would be the winner. But this is a 16-game season and Bush's statistics don't compare to his excitement level.

Colston disappeared in the second half of the season—the precise time

Jones-Drew took his game to another level. Even though they both had strong halves of the season, Jones-Drew by far had the best overall season.

Colston had just over 1,000 yards receiving and eight touchdowns—certainly a good rookie season. Bush had his share of high points as well.

Jones-Drew, on the other hand, rushed for nearly 1,000 yards. His yard total dwarfs Colston and Bush: 1,377 (Jones-Drew) to 1,307 (Bush) and 1,038 (Colston). That statistic is not nearly as glaring as this one—15 touchdowns to eight. Jones-Drew also scored at least one touchdown in each of Jacksonville's last eight games, an "LT" type stretch of running back play.

Lastly, Colston and Bush are tied as the best rookie on their own TEAM. There is no way either could be the league-wide Rookie of the Year.

Mix in the fact that Jones-Drew's accomplishments were for an 8-8 team, one vying for a playoff spot, and it is easy to see that Jones-Drew deserves to be the 2006 NFL Rookie of the Year.