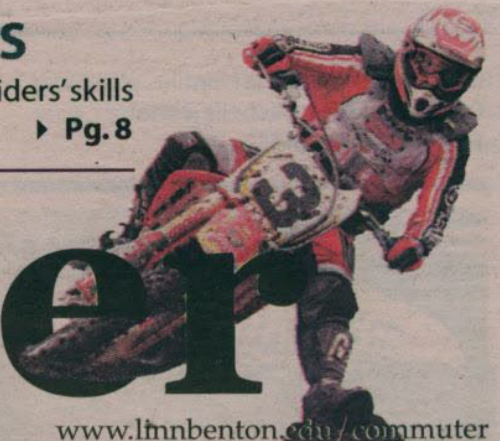


## THUMB WORKOUT

New products highlighted at annual E3 gaming festival have players atwitter in anticipation ▶ Pg. 6-7

## CARVING CURVES

Albany Motorsports Park showcases riders' skills during 4-stroke nationals ▶ Pg. 8



# The Commuter

a weekly student publication

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 35 No. 24

## Dangerous Mix



Students watch a crew from the Albany Fire Department rip open a car using the Jaws of Life. Denise Martin, seen at right, from LB accounting, trying out the drunk goggles on her break. "Driving wasn't as bad as the walking, I definitely would not drive if I was feeling like that," said Martin.



photos by Jeremy Hennig

## Board promotes campus car pools

Sheena Bishop  
The Commuter

One of the many nightmares that plague students, besides tuition, scheduling and textbooks, can now be put to bed. For many students, the nightmare of transportation drives them over the edge of sanity.

Who has to be where and when is something every household deals with, but with help from fellow students those who don't have access to steady transportation have a ray of hope. The Student Ambassadors Program (SAP) has started a car pooling message board, located outside the Financial Aid Office.

Students who need a ride or are willing to give one take a card from the board and fill it out, then tack it to the appropriate place. The board is designed by regions, grouping towns into areas that might travel the same roads to get to LBCC.

The system is simple and completely dependent on those who need and are willing to give rides. Creator Stefanie

Hessenkemper of the SAP says that it is a great way to meet new people and make friends. She also pointed out that with gas prices on the rise, car pooling makes for a cheaper trip.

The idea came from SAP meetings, then taken on by Hessenkemper. She originally designed the board herself, but then decided to send it to Marketing and Publications, who print all the calendars, flyers and posters found around campus.

Sending it to Marketing and Publications took some extra time, but the end product seems to have been worth the wait, attracting its first driver on the day it was hung. The board has been up for about a month now.

If you need a ride to and/or from school, stop by the car pool board and pick up a card to fill out.

All you need to do is circle if you are a driver or a rider, state where you are traveling from and when, your name and phone number—all the requirements for ending the transportation nightmare.

## Ambassadors hand out flowers to Mennonite residents

Adam Swackhamer  
The Commuter

Tucked away off Columbus Road in Albany, the Mennonite Village sits, quiet and inviting, surrounded by foliage and low lying houses.

At 3 p.m. last Thursday, five Student Ambassadors and one advisor from LBCC arrived to liven up the scene with pallets full of flowers.

Adriane Tibbitts, Jocelyn Hass, Stefanie Hessenkemper, Josh Faw, Amelia Cohn and ASG advisor Carol Wenzel came to hand out flowers as part of a service project for this term.

The flowers they handed out were donated by Peoria Gardens and were given to almost every resident available at the village.

Most of residents welcomed the ambassadors into their rooms and were clearly excited by the students and their colorful gifts.

Stephanie Bates, the activity director for the nursing section of Mennonite Village, accompanied the students as they traversed the building.

Bates said that while people visit off and on, mostly during Christmas, it isn't enough. While it is not unusual for older kids to come visit, more often than not preschool and kindergarten age children visit, something

Bates said residents enjoy because they "don't see little children enough."

It isn't just people that visit the Mennonite Village. Once a month the Welcome Wagners organization brings dogs and cats to visit everyone living in the assisted living center.

It doesn't stop at dogs and cats either. According to Bates, they have had goats, sheep and pigs roaming their halls. "We've even had a llama come down the hall," she said.

Designed with five different kinds of care in mind, the different wings of the Mennonite Village house many different kinds of patrons.

The Ashwood Court apartments provide independent living with planned meals for those who need them. The Mennonite Home provides full health care with unlimited visiting for family members.

Lydia's House is a care center for patients with Alzheimer's and the Mennonite Village is completely independent living.

Bates said that lately they have begun expanding the choices patients have.

They can pick their own menus for the day, and have a TV activity room and patient-maintained garden, where many of the flowers that were handed out will eventually be planted.

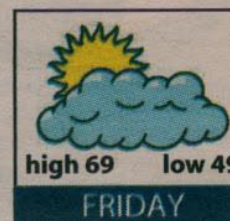


photo by Mary Stone

Business major and volunteer Adriane Tibbitts gives flowers to Ann Severns, a resident at the Mennonite Village.

### WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM



### INDEX

Opinion.....2  
Campus News.....3-5  
In Focus.....6-7  
Sports.....8-9  
A & E.....11-12

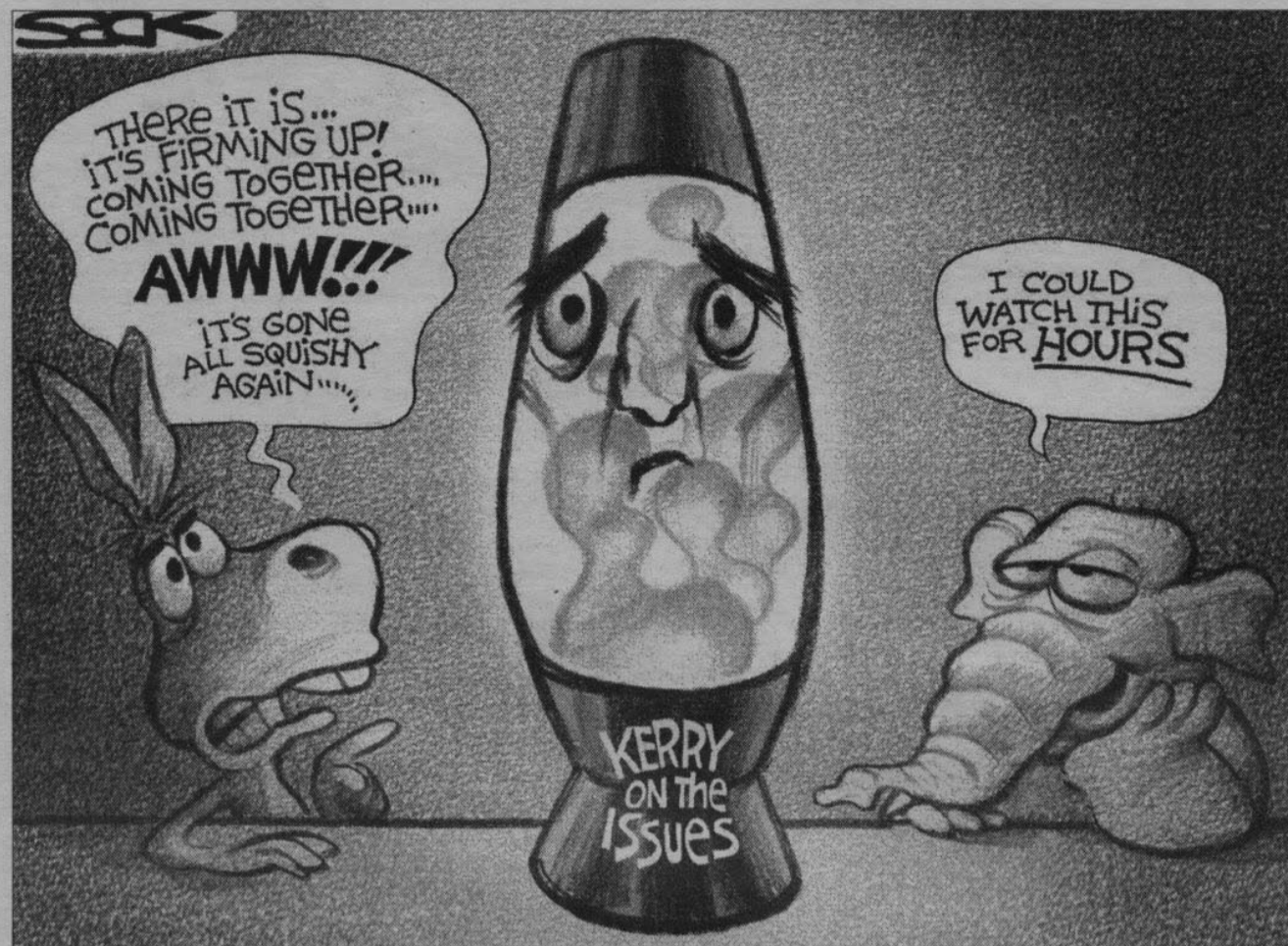


Commuter

**Opinion Editor:** Erica Hennig  
**Editor-in-Chief:** Michelle Bertalot  
**Telephone:** 917-4452

# OPINION

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



## Incompetent drivers risk adding girl-shaped hood ornament to car

**Erica Hennig**  
 The Commuter

They're out there. Driving, swerving, speeding past me in the LBCC parking lot.

Who are they? Nameless faces I don't know and I don't care to know.

They don't know me and I don't know them. But they should damn well stop for me.

Why? Because I'm in the lines, buddy. I'm here and I'm not going anywhere. So unless these drivers want a small, girl-shaped blood spot on their cars, they better just watch out for me.

I'm a student here. I've been going to LBCC for years, but only this past year have I been living so close to the school—so close that I only have to walk across the street and I'm here within minutes.

Yet in those few minutes, I usually find myself wondering, when I step out in the crosswalk: Should I be planning the work I'm about to do on this paper you are holding in your hands or should I be picking out my casket or an urn for my ashes?

This reasoning comes from the fact that I am a pedestrian and a female one at that. I have no hard shell around me when I walk to school. I have only my small, girlish figure—a figure that seemingly people don't care one hoot whether it gets hurt, maimed or even killed.

If I were a man, my husband for example, maybe more people would stop for me. I have taken notice that you drivers seem a little more cautious when I walk with him. His theory, and mine also, is that you are afraid of the larger, man-sized dent that he would make in your car.

It's no secret to me that you don't care about my safety when you ignore the bright red stop sign. I don't really give a horse's petoot for yours when you are in your car and I am in the crosswalk. That's because it's my turn to go, so you can just wait the extra 30 seconds it takes for me to cross.

I know, you must have some emergency to attend to. Maybe you are rushing home before your dog makes a brown spot on the carpet. Your children could be stuffing sandwiches in your CD player. Your cat could be having kittens. I don't care. I don't want to know.

In case you just simply forgot how to drive a car, here is a tip. You know those white lines? No, not the lines on the mirror. The ones on the road. Yes. When I appear between those lines, you stop.

If you don't stop, your car gets blood splattered on it and we both know you are too busy to clean that up and just imagine trying to explain that girl-shaped dent to your insurance company.



**ERICA HENNIG**

**COMMENTARY**

## Containment of al-Qaeda calls for world effort, not just American

**Adam Swackhamer**  
 The Commuter

I've heard the moaning from many people lately regarding the current occupation and liberation of Iraq, claims that if we simply left the Middle East everything would be kosher and those trying to kill us now would no longer seek to destroy the United States and the entire Western world we represent.

For anyone with a semblance of rationality this holds no water. Recently, Khalid Khawaja, a friend of Osama bin Laden, told the National Press, "When you are supporting the enemy (The United States) then you are a target."

Sadly enough, Canada has given only minimal support to the United States in the Middle Eastern conflicts. Most recently in Iraq, Canada assisted the United States by sending all of 31 officers to assist in the liberation.

This is hardly supporting the enemy, yet it has earned Canadians the No. 5 spot on al-Qaeda's list of most important targets.

A Canadian terrorism expert has offered a 'logical' reason for al-Qaeda's hatred for Canada and nearly every other country on the planet.

He explains that al-Qaeda's followers break the world into two categories: Dar ul-Islam and Dar ul-Harb. Dar ul-Islam is the perfect Muslim world, while Dar ul-Harb

consists of everyone not devoted to Islam.

It is this kind of attitude shared throughout the Middle East that may permanently prevent a peaceful world. Even if the United States and its allies removed all troops from the region today, many there would still hate us simply because we are not a Muslim nation.

An enemy this irrational cannot be appeased by any government and must be dealt with by force.

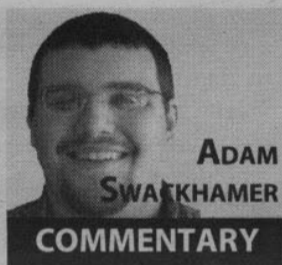
Weeding out those in the region who cling to these antiquated and hostile beliefs should be a top priority for any administration that is looking to protect its citizens.

While our most recent attempts at achieving overall peace have not gone perfectly or been carried out under clear pretenses.

I do believe that our president and Congress began this war because they believed it would severely damage the terrorist networks woven throughout the Middle East and save the lives of people all over the world, not just America.

The recent attacks in Spain have shown us that we are not alone. The hatred al-Qaeda harbors for much of the world cannot be allowed to roam unchecked.

No longer are coalition soldiers fighting and dying to save the lives of Americans. The al-Qaeda terrorist threat has circled the globe and only an internationally united effort can contain it.



**ADAM SWACKHAMER**

**COMMENTARY**

### The Commuter

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE  
 www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

#### STAFF

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

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
 Michelle Bertalot

**Managing Editor:**  
 Adam Peoples

**Copy/Opinion Editor:**  
 Erica Hennig

**Arts & Entertainment Editor:**  
 Peggy Isaacs

**Sports Editor:**  
 Jacob Espinoza

**Editorial Assistant:**  
 Colleen Jacks

**Contributing Editor:**  
 Adam Swackhamer  
 Joel Meacham  
 Sheena Bishop

**Photo Editor:**  
 Jeremy Hennig

**Photo Assistants:**  
 Bonnie Quinones  
 Scott McClure  
 Lewis Forquer

**Advertising Manager:**  
 Melissa Friend McClure

**Advertising Assistant:**  
 Brent VonCannon

**Online Editor:**  
 Laurent Bonczijk

**Production Coordinator:**  
 Aaron Kiersky

**Advisor:**  
 Rich Bergeman

**Phone:** (541) 917-4450, 4451, 4452 or 4453

**Fax:** (541) 917-4454

**Address:** 6500 S.W. Pacific Blvd., Albany, OR 97321

### EXPRESS YOURSELF

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

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

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

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

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

**Editor-In-Chief:** Michelle Bertalot  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4451  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## 'California girl' feels right at home as LB's leader

**Peggy Isaacs**  
 The Commuter

It was a clear day and the sun was shining bright through the large picture windows that fill the east wall in the office.

Behind the executive office desk set to one side, looking quite authoritative, sits Dr. Rita Cavin, who took over the presidency of Linn-Benton Community College last fall.

Cavin speaks softly as we introduce ourselves and shake hands. Feeling comfortable around Cavin is easy—she is a California girl and the quietness of the beach shines through as we talk about her life before LB.

In Southern California Cavin was raised as an only child.

When Cavin left home to strike out on her own, her mother went to work at Nieman Marcus as a salesperson

and then for Continental Airlines as a payroll clerk. Cavin says one of the things she admired most about her mother was the fact that "She always volunteered her time."

Her father, Charles Burleigh, was a civilian working for the Air Force as a supervisor who managed government contracts to buy and test planes for pilots.

As she recalls her father's pranks as a ventriloquist, she becomes animated and laughs about some of her favorite memories. One night, as the family was waiting in line at a movie theater, her father tried to convince movie-goers in line that someone was trapped inside the soda machine. "He was funny I never knew what to expect," said Cavin.

She remembers another occasion when she was younger and a plumber came to the house to unplug the kitchen sink. At the same time the plumber was finessing the metal "snake" down the sink to push the clog through, her father threw his voice into the pipes and hollered "Stop, stop it's going right through me."

"He was always making us laugh," says Cavin.

One of her first influences in education was "Mr. Lee," an English teacher in her senior year of high school. Lee stood 6 feet 7 inches and his large appearance made him seem quite dramatic to Cavin. "He was so fascinating. Being enthusiastic and en-

ergetic, he pushed us hard and the students just couldn't let him down."

Cavin said she had a lot of other influences once she entered the local community college. One was Mr. Wiley, who had nicknames for all of his students.

"Wiley was the kind of character that wore white buck shoes and they always stayed white," chuckled Cavin. "I don't know what he saw in me, I didn't do much. I went from a not so good student to an honor student though. He wouldn't let me escape and he got me a job in the English Department."

From the community college Cavin went on to the University of Redlands, Immaculate Heart

College and Claremont Graduate School to earn a bachelor's in English, two master's degrees (one

in English and one in higher education administration) and a Ph.D. in higher education administration.

In her professional life, Cavin has served as vice president of student learning at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif., and vice president of instruction at Citrus College in Glendora, Calif., where she also held titles of dean, associate dean and learning resource director.

Cavin remains actively involved in many activities related to her job as president of LBCC. Besides the duties of being president of the college, she is also on the Foundation Board at LBCC. Her position at the college has her working for sometimes up to 70 hours a week.

She said she doesn't mind though because she knew from the first time she walked the campus on her preview of the college last summer "that this was the place for me."

Cavin is very comfortable here.

"I love it," she says. "I would never have picked up my family for something that wouldn't work and I knew this would work. The family here at LBCC is fantastic and I am honored to get adopted by them. This is a very friendly place to come to."

Cavin has held the position of president for about nine months now. She said one of her first challenges on the job

started the first day of winter term 2004. Because of a snow storm she had to decide to close down the school and the severity of the storm eventually kept classes from starting for three days. There are "procedures to follow that were already set in place," she said. "Children arriving at the Family Resource Center were of great concern. Those children arrive early in the morning and their safety came first, as well as the students and staff arriving early for classes.

Decisions come easy for Cavin. She remarked how some of her inspiration for them came from Don Berz, one of her mentors.

He gave career guidance and taught managers and teachers how to do it right. He was always available and set the mark. If he had something difficult to deal with, he would consult other colleges and see what their input was before he made a decision. He was always focusing on the students and their needs. This is a philosophy that Cavin wants to follow.

Her message to students is simple: "The longer you wait, the more expensive college is. The course you fail is the most costly. Figure out what your life can hold and the college offers you ways to get there."

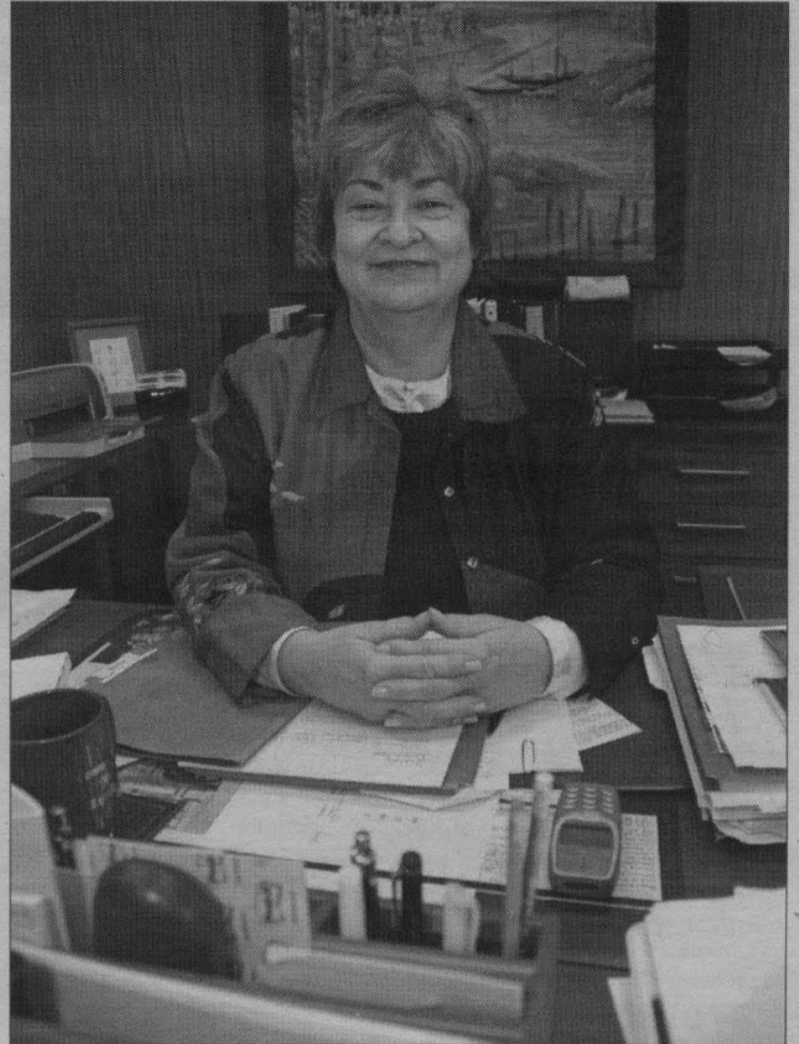


photo by Erik Swanson

Dr. Rita Cavin has settled in to the president's office after taking the helm at LBCC last fall. "The family here is fantastic and I am honored to get adopted by them," said Cavin. Originally from Southern California, she feels comfortable here and is enjoying her duties very much.

**"The longer you wait, the more expensive college is. The course you fail is the most costly."**

► Rita Cavin

### COMMONS Menu

Put it on your plate!  
 May 19<sup>th</sup> - May 25<sup>th</sup>

#### Wednesday

- Corned Beef Hash & Eggs
- Turkey Saltimbocca
- Vegetarian Carey Pocket
- Jodo Potatoes
- Acini Pasta
- Green Beans & Peppers
- Beef Consomme Soup
- Corn Chowder

#### Thursday

- Pork Schnitzel
- Sake Chicken w/Steamed Rice
- Spring Rolls/Egg Rolls
- Buttered Noodles
- Braised Red Cabbage
- Stir Fried Vegetables
- Turkey Rice Soup
- Split Pea Soup

#### Friday

- Monday
- Tuesday

Chef's Choice!



## SPRING FLING

May 26 • 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.  
 Main Campus Courtyard

ALL CAMPUS PICNIC\*

hamburgers & garden burgers, baked beans, potato salad, apple pie, and drink

LOTS OF ENTERTAINMENT

interactive mechanical bull riding, dunk tank, country music by KRKT, sidewalk art competition, books and gifts for sale

\* STUDENTS: \$3 • FACULTY/STAFF: \$5

If you need disability accommodations to attend any of the events, please call Tamara Britton in the Student Life & Leadership Office at (503) 917-4451 ext. 4400 by May 11. LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. This event's main purpose is through a collaborative effort between Food Services, L&L, Student Ambassadors, Multicultural Center, and Campus Arts Club.

**Linn-Benton**  
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Editor-in-Chief:** Michelle Bertalot  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4451  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## SCHOLARSHIPS

American Business Women's Chintimini Scholarship - due date May 28, 2004. \$1,000 award to women who: are US citizens, residents of Linn or Benton counties, GPA of 3.0 or better, and in a degree seeking major. Contact Elise Schloeder @ 758-6241 for more info. Materials are available in the kiosk next to Financial Aid, Takena Hall.

The Sallie Mae Fund is offering a \$1,000 - \$3,000 scholarship for the 2004/2005 academic year. To qualify for the scholarship students must provide the following items and complete the application by May 31st. Criteria: U.S. citizen, family adjusted gross income for calendar year 2003 of \$30,000 or less, demonstrate unmet financial need of at least \$1,000 AFTER Financial Aid award packaging is completed, have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 - 3.0, enroll as a full-time student. For application materials, please go to the website listed: [www.salliemaefund.org](http://www.salliemaefund.org)

## FOR SALE

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1990 Subaru Legacy 5-speed. New radiator and tires. FM/tape, AC \$1400. Call Rio @ 738-1187.

## Misc.

Rock Solid Health Center - 35% off supplements. Free consultation. Downstairs next to Starbucks, 4th street, Corvallis. (541) 619-5559.

## HELP WANTED

On-Call Security Officers (#2489, LBCC Campus) If you have an ODL, 2 years of experience in security-related education or employment or military and DPSST private security certification, you will want to apply for this. \$9.35/hr to start. See Carla in the Student Employment (T101) for more info on this wonderful opportunity!

Management Trainee (2507--Corvallis) This national company has a full-time trainee opening for a college graduate or someone about to graduate. A wonderful accounting/retail position with advancement opportunities. Please see Student Employment (T101) for more information!

Apprentice Welder (#2504--Lebanon) If you have experience or education in welding, this full-time job is for you! Pays \$10-15/hr. See Carla in Student Employment (T101)

Intern Laborer (#2505-Local area) This full-time, summer job would like to see horticulture students or those experienced in landscape & irrigation construction. Sign up with Student Employment (T101) and find out more information!

Need Experience? Build resume, gain credit. Make \$8,000/summer, Travel. Info sessions being held now @ OSU! Call: Nina Allen @ (541) 517-8719 or [ninaallen25@hotmail.com](mailto:ninaallen25@hotmail.com) The Southwestern Company.

## PTK honored at regionals

The Commuter

Officers and advisors of Alpha Tau Upsilon, the LBCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, were pleasantly surprised when attending a regional conference in Seaside, April 30 through May 2.

Alpha Tau Upsilon was awarded first place in both the fellowship and scholarship categories, and second runner up in leadership, during the conference's awards ceremony. They won the Fellowship Milestone Award for marking the greatest improvement in score from the previous year. Chapter President Brandi Hereford was named 2004's Most Distinguished Chapter President and Alpha Tau Upsilon also received the 2004 Most Distinguished Chapter Award. The group was also the only chapter in the Rocky Mountain/Cascade Region to be named as a Top 100 Chapter out of 1,500 worldwide.

Alpha Tau Upsilon reported 79 members this year. The group focused on the topics of cancer awareness and the degrees and dimensions of health. Regional PTK awards are given based on the scores of four separate essays submitted by each chapter describing the previous year's activities in areas of leadership, fellowship, scholarship and service.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.5 million members and 1,200 chapters located in 50 states, U.S. territories, Canada and Germany.

Annually, more than 90,000 students are inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. To be eligible for membership a student must complete a minimum of twelve hours of associate degree course work and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Students must maintain a high academic standing throughout their enrollment in the two-year college, generally a 3.25 GPA.

## Clubs, faculty get awards at annual banquet

Business instructor Manyard Chambers was honored as Faculty of the Year and six other awards were given at the annual Student Recognition Dinner last week. About 70 nominations were collected from LB students for the ASG Faculty of the Year award.

**Faculty of the Year**  
 Manyard Chambers

**Most Active Club of the Year**  
 Campus Ambassadors  
 Christian Fellowship

**Informational Event of the Year**  
 Welcome Back Table  
 Student Ambassadors Dustin Norber,  
 Trina Williams and Petr Horak

**Community Service Event of the Year**  
 Community Coat Drive  
 Student Ambassador Jocelyn Haas

**Educational Event of the Year**  
 Share the Care  
 Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop  
 Student Ambassador Petr Horak

**Most Unique Project of the Year**  
 The Family Resource Center  
 Mural Project

**Campus Family Cooperative**  
 Member of the Year  
 Phi Theta Kappa member Kelly Noland

**Advisor of the Year**  
 EBOP advisor Clayton Weber

**Organization of the Year**  
 Phi Theta Kappa

## CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

### Deadline:

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

### Cost:

Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free. Others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word.

### Libel/Taste:

The Commuter will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner.

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**Alphabet Tuesday:** Pick a letter from the alphabet can and receive a FREE plant starting with that letter with any purchase!

**Wacky Wednesday:** Choose a new & different plant from Ann's Weird & Wacky flat. One FREE with any purchase!

**Thirsty Thursday:** Enjoy a free old-fashioned pop while you shop. Limit two per vehicle.

**Freebie Friday:** Help yourself to a FREE and clearance priced plants-new items added weekly.

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## Business student's dedication honored at awards banquet

**Mary Stone**  
 The Commuter

Five o'clock on Friday afternoon usually finds the LBCC campus deserted, but on May 14, faculty from the Business and Computer Systems Division were dressed down for a couple hours of work. Into the Commons they hauled lattice, balloons, flowers and boxes of certificates, programs and plaques. By 6:30 the room had been transformed and faculty headed to their offices to dress for a special occasion. They were carrying out, for the 31st time, the annual tradition of honoring their outstanding students with a dessert reception.



Virginia Husted

The Business Awards Reception is unique at LBCC. No other division holds an event such as this. Janet Jackson, administrative assistant in the Business Technology Department also stresses, "This is a faculty-repeat, faculty function." The faculty take upon themselves the responsibility for organizing and executing all of the details. Instructor Ian Priestman provided entertainment for the evening. His tenor voice, electric guitar, and occasional harmonica combined for a smooth set of classic rock while the 20 guests filtered in and sat down to dessert and coffee.

One of these guests was Virginia Husted. When asked last week about her thoughts when she was notified that she had been nominated for an award, she reached into her book bag and pulled out an envelope. With red-rimmed eyes she said, "I've still got the letter, I was thrilled. It said, 'Congratulations, you have been nominated by your instructors at LBCC for the outstanding administrative assistant student this year.' I looked at it and just thought, What? you've got to be kidding. It didn't seem real. For me, just getting this letter is a thrill."

Two years ago, Husted found herself single, unemployed and approaching 60 years old. In addition, the hard years of her adulthood had left her emotionally beaten. She was "scared to death" at the thought of going back to school, but knew that in today's world she would need computer skills in order to get a good job. She signed up for a couple of classes. Then she signed up for a couple more, followed by a couple more.

"Finally I got to the point that I thought, 'I've come this far, I might as well go all the way.'" In the process of gaining the skills she needed, Husted also gained

self-esteem and confidence.

"Virginia is the epitome of what a community college is all about," says Mary Ann Lammers, Business Technology Department head. "I have been able to see her on a daily basis grow, not only in the classroom but here in the office as our work study student. She has had a lot of hurdles in her life that she has gotten around, and she still has a lot to give to herself, to her family and to her community." But first, her instructors had something to give to her.

Husted arrived at the Commons early to find her place at one of the tables topped with pastel linens and trailing panies. Friends she had made while at LBCC began arriving shortly after, bringing hugs and gifts in

bright bags. A current of excitement passed between them as the program got underway. Scholarships were awarded, alumni spoke of the role LBCC had played in their careers and all of the nominees were presented.

Beside the podium, winners' plaques were lined up in rows as precise as an accountant's ledger. It was time to reveal the names on those plaques. As the presentation of her category drew near, Husted breathed a request to her friend. "Deborah, hold my hand."

Moments later, Husted clutched a plaque with her name engraved upon it. More than just a line to put on her new résumé, it was tangible proof that Virginia Husted had succeeded.

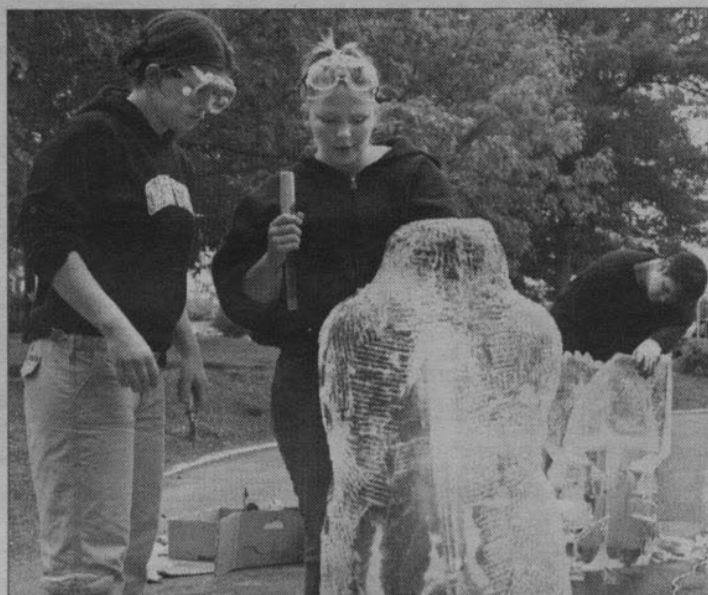


photo by Jeremy Hennig

### Cold Creations

Culinary arts students Kimberly Reynolds and Shelly Hopson (left) shape a block of ice into a sculpture of a cloaked woman last Friday, while Phillip Bunker works on an eagle in the background. The huge chunks of ice were left over from the Culinary Arts Career Day and provided the students with something to practice on.

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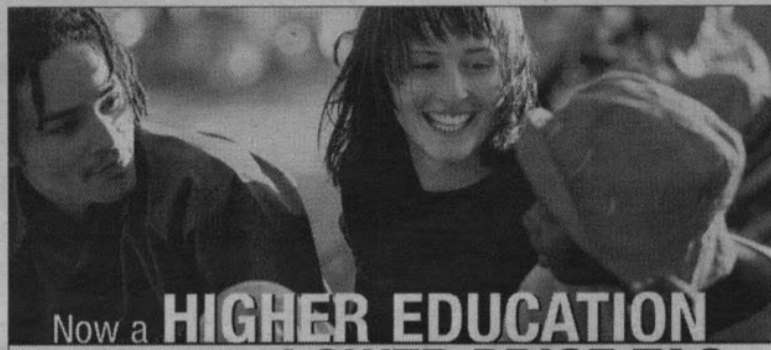
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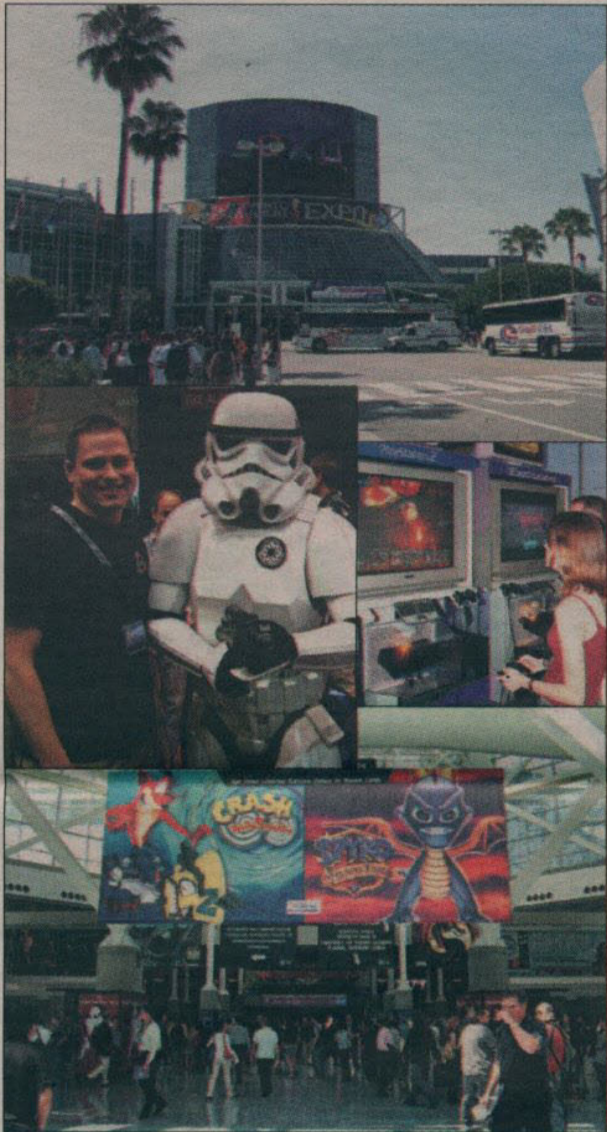
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Managing Editor: Adam Peoples  
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453  
commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

**E3** IN FO

# ELECTRONIC ENTERTAINMENT EXPOSITION

The pilgrimage to the yearly conference is a daunting task. Trekkers must overcome rabid crowds, costume clad fanatics and seizure inducing displays to find the bliss within the convention center walls. Our picks for the top five games from the big three consoles is presented, risk free.



## Geek Speak

**Booth babes:** Scantly clad women hired by companies to promote their titles via branded micro-garb. A silly tradition, but always a crowd pleaser.



**E3:** The largest annual videogame conference where all of the latest and greatest games are demonstrated and key industry players unveil their big guns along with their plans for the upcoming year.

**Fanboy:** A biased gamer relentlessly devoted to supporting one console, proclaiming its superiority above all else. Often caused when a player can only afford one system and feels the need to convince themselves and others they are not missing out on anything.

**"Game-X" Killer:** Usually preceded by the top game of a given genre, this phrase denotes lavish and ambitious products that look to dethrone the current champ.

**Owned:** This term refers to an event when all competition was devastated, such as a Halo network game resulting in a massacre by one highly skilled player. All other members are deemed to have been "owned." Common Internet usage also includes PWN3D.

**Violentrific:** A term coined to describe the ultra graphic and disturbing games, origins: Manhunt. Given that majority of hot upcoming titles are rated "Mature," easily the flavor of choice for modern gamers.

Written by Adam Peoples  
Event photos contributed by Gina Cornilious  
Game screens property of their respective owners

# XBOX PICKS



## Halo 2

Master Chief is heading home. The alien onslaught is bent on destroying Earth and the Chief is going to need all the help he can get. Reworked weapons, like the battle rifle and new guns, like the MSG are at his disposal. Bungie has implemented new development tools to make Chief look better than ever. Multiplayer modes include Xbox Live support, allowing gamers to take their skills



## Forza Motorsport

Microsoft is taking aim at the simulation racing genre. "Forza Motorsport" is based on the idea that a life-like physics engine, quality AI competitors and silky smooth graphics will win the hearts of gamers. Recently Microsoft has produced two excellent arcade racing games, "Project Gotham Racing 2" and "Rallisport Challenge 2." If Microsoft can channel the same production standards into a sim game this upcoming driving simulator could speed away and leave the rest of the pack in the dust. The ability to customize your ride adds a level of depth that will have hardcore fans salivating.



## Fable

Renowned developer Peter Molyneux brings his unique take on the action role-playing genre in the form of an epic adventure where gamers choose the fate of their character. "Fable" looks visually awe inspiring with life-like textures and engrossing environments. The graphics are more than skin deep, as revealed by the scar and tattoo system included in the game. If a young hero lets a wound go unattended, they will have a scar later in life. Likewise, when players interact with in-game characters, they mold a pseudo reputation that will have an impact throughout their journey.



## Doom 3

Three words describe "Doom 3" best: Scary as hell. The first-person shooter utilizes state-of-the-art graphics and horrific enemies to create an atmospheric thriller that will have players nervously twitching their trigger fingers. Exclusive to the Xbox is a multiplayer portion including Xbox Live support. The third installment in the Doom series is a retelling of the events that occurred at a derelict moon base when a portal to hell was opened. As players blast the unholy creatures back to the pit from which they crawled out of they'll be in for a creepy and frightful experience.



## EA on Xbox Live

Since Xbox Live launched in November of 2002, Electronic Arts has refused to get on the Live bandwagon. At E3 the duo confirmed rampant Internet rumors. The two companies have put the past behind them and now Xbox Live will get a healthy supply of fresh games. "Madden," "NBA Live," "MVP Baseball" and other games like "Battlefield: 1942" are Xbox bound, delivering a devastating blow to Sony's claim of "online exclusively on PS2." The change in tactics follows the resignation of EA's executive John Riccitiello. Things are looking good for Xbox Live and gamers alike.



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## PSP

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# PS2 GAME ECUBE



## Metal Gear Solid 3

The third and final chapter in Hideo Kojima's "Metal Gear Solid" trilogy is due this fall on PS2. Gamers assume the role of a spy sent deep inside the Soviet Union during a top-secret exercise in 1967. Some debate remains surrounding the character's true identity, with all of the confusion stirred about by "MGS2: Sons of Liberty." Japanese powerhouse Konami seems to have tapped hidden

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## PSP

The PSP is Sony's first real attempt at a handheld platform. Scheduled to hit American shores next spring, the PSP is looming over Nintendo's market. The device itself is reminiscent of a PS2 controller with a widescreen LCD screen centered on the sleek design. The screen will come in handy when watching movies, as Sony's PSP discs supports movies, games and music. The black handheld

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## GTA: San Andreas

Stealing cars, committing crimes and shooting everyone in sight. Ah, the joys of "Grand Theft Auto." The sixth "GTA" game expands on all the basis established in past titles. Faux felons find themselves in a West Coast themed environment, a departure from the New York and Miami inspired locales. Early rumors indicate the game will consist of separate areas, as the first "GTA" game

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## Gran Turismo 4

Racing fans have waited years for the next game in this popular series. Acclaimed for its racing physics, incredible graphics and huge roster of licensed vehicles, every "Gran Turismo" has made it into Sony's "Greatest Hits" line-up. "GT4" ups the ante to 500 cars from 80 different manufacturers that you can take to the streets in over 50 different courses. Adding to the excitement is the

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## Killzone

Taking aim at the lack of first-person shooters, Guerrilla is crafting what could be a masterpiece of virtual warfare. "Killzone" is a highly stylized shooter, a genre often devoid of individuality and art direction. Set in the near future, players must eliminate the Helghast forces, a rogue group perpetuating an interplanetary war. Scripted events made popular by EA's "Medal of Honor" series add to

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## Resident Evil 4

No zombies, no Umbrella Corp. and no restrictions. "Biohazard 4" as it's called in its native Japan is a drastic change in the nearly decade-old series. Leon Kennedy is stranded on an island amid infected villagers hungry for some blood. While Capcom has denied these creatures are zombies, the similarities are striking. The control scheme has been retooled, allowing more ways to escape from the death-invoking populace. Rails can be jumped, doors shot through and ladders knocked down. Also a first in the series is the ability to drive vehicles and a new over-the-shoulder view when players draw their gun.

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## Legend of Zelda

Shigeru Miyamoto has righted all wrongs. When "The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker" was announced as a cel-shaded game featuring a pre-pubescent cartoony hero, fans of the green-clad elf recoiled in disbelief. Miyamoto's brain-child Link is older now and fans may once again place their faith in the little Hyrulian. This more mature Link is the hero of a much darker game, akin to his Nintendo 64 outing, "The Ocarina of Time." Preview clips include Link on horseback battling hordes of evil cretins. A overhead view in dungeons adds an old-school flavor to the upcoming title.

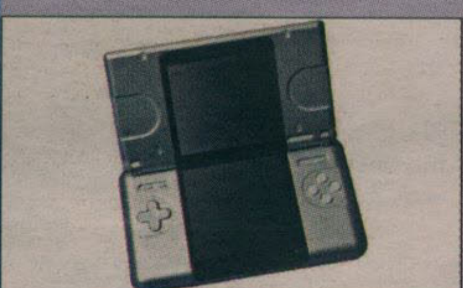
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## Pikmin 2

The original "Pikmin" was a breath of fresh air for the real-time strategy genre, a category that has been left behind by mainstream gamers. Captain Olimar returns to the planet his first adventure left him stranded on, this time to save his company from bankruptcy. A captivating single player mode features new types of plant people which the space captain must command and manipulate for his financial gain. Increasingly complicated level designs keep players challenged. Observant gamers will find small visual rewards. Players should replay the original over the summer to get prepped for the sequel due this fall.

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## Nintendo DS

Already in control of the portable market, Nintendo revealed a new device that embodies the company's priorities of innovation and originality. The dual-screen handheld gaming console features horizontal layout that opens upward. One screen is an LCD screen, while the other doubles as a touch-sensitive input. No one can deny that the unique design is fresh and unusual, however functionality of the handheld remains in question. Games such as "Mario Kart" will use the extra screen to display overview maps of the race, while "Metroid Prime: Hunters" utilizes the touch-screen ability for control of Samus' aiming reticle.

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## Metroid Prime 2

Samus is back and she's bringing her friends. "Metroid Prime 2: Echoes" adds a multiplayer mode to the mix. Also making an appearance in the upcoming first-person adventure game is a three-dimensional version of her famous screw attack and a wall jumping ability, giving her more ways to kill and explore. Samus' in-helmet view remains similar to her last outings camera, though it has received a face lift. The story has our favorite female warrior fighting on the planet Aether, where a rift between parallel universes has opened bringing her face to face with her own dark side.

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**Sports Editor:** Jacob Espinoza  
**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4453  
 commuter@linnbenton.edu

# SPORTS

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

## Buzzer sounds on Spurs-Lakers dynasty

**Jacob Espinoza**  
The Commuter

Lakers 4, Spurs 2. It has a double meaning: Games and championships. In this final year of the "Triangle Offense Period" Shaq Diesel sent the Spurs back to Texas like they did the Houston Rockets in the previous series.

The Lakers should thank the Charlotte Hornets once again for Kobe Bryant. He managed to average 26 points and six assists against a fundamentally solid defensive team in a series with an average score in the eighties.

Another huge and highly publicized factor for the Lakers four consecutive victories against the over matched San Antonio Spurs was the way Gary Payton and the Lakers' defense didn't allow Tony Parker to get any easy baskets after the Spurs opening victories. He wasn't allowed to get any rhythm in San Antonio's last four losses and it showed in his shooting performances, including 4-18 in San Antonio's season ending loss.

After the Lakers take care of business this year, they will split up like Da Band and allow room for the next. Because the league is packed with potentially driven teams, many of who are getting valuable playoff experience this year.

Starting with the West Coast, the Timberwolves are the team of the next few years. There is no other reason for this than Kevin Garnett. He's averaging 20 points and 10 rebounds for his career, including 24 and 13 this season. And oh yeah, he just turned 28 today. Kevin Garnett has been a coach's player since he entered the league. He works to get block outs, follows his

shots and doesn't hesitate to pass up a shot to dish to an open teammate. He loves the game.

The Miami Heat could also be a force in the near future. With two New York basketball legends on their squad, Rafer Alston and Lamar Odom, to go along with Dwayne "All in Jermaine's face" Wade, if the Heat can manage to pick up a legitimate big man over the summer they could become NBA Champions by 2007. (If Odom keeps his game straight, everyone stays healthy and LeBron never gets any help in Cleveland, that is.)

Jamal Tinsley, Jermaine O'Neal and the Indiana Pacers have all the makings for a hip-hop version of Stockton to Malone. Both born in 1978, O'Neal and Tinsley could become the center pieces to a very solid team if Tinsley continues to improve his outside shooting.

Kobe Bryant is rumored to be heading to Memphis next year, to join former Lakers GM Jerry West. As long as his legal troubles become a thing of the past, West should be able to provide a team around Kobe with 1990's Bull dreams.

I, of course, can't forget LeBron and Mello. This year LeBron proved the term 'too good to be true' doesn't always apply. He won the Rookie of the Year Award while Anthony was playing in the playoffs. Denver barely snuck into the playoffs and was matched up against a team from Minnesota that would have beaten any first round opponent this year after their last half decade being sent home in April showers.

The youth of the Michael Jordan period have finally arrived.

The League is about to get ridiculous.



**JACOB  
ESPINOZA**

**COMMENTARY**



photos by Scott McClure

### High-Flying Action

Joe Casey (top) of Portland and Josh Hill of LaCenter, Wash., pour it on at the Albany Motorsports Park last weekend. The park boasts spectacular viewing sites along a mile-long track with doubles, triples, table tops and a rhythm section. The USA Four-Stroke nationals will be held at the track this weekend, beginning at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids under 10.

## Pickup softball game planned

The Seaside team is organizing a softball game scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the field in the middle of the LB running track.

Participants and spectators will be eligible for prizes,

drawn every half inning and also a grand prize: A \$50 gift certificate.

Participants should bring their own glove. The Seaside team will provide water and other equipment.

Association of American Women in Community Colleges

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**Sports Editor:** Jacob Espinoza  
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# SPORTS

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

## Runners ride winning streak into the playoffs

**Joel Meacham**  
 The Commuter

"We played some super baseball this past week." That is how Roadrunners Head Coach Greg Hawk described his team's performance from this week.

Thanks to a six-game winning streak that the team is on, the Runners have clinched a spot in this Saturday's upcoming regional playoff game against either Lane or Mt. Hood, depending on which team finishes second in the Southern Region. The winner of that playoff will go along with the first place team to the NWAACC double elimination baseball tournament to be held at Tri-Cities Stadium in Pasco, Wash., starting May 27 and running through May 31. The Runners have won that tournament two times, once in 1988 and again in 1991.

The winning streak that began with a sweep of Mt. Hood last week continued with two more sweeps against Clackamas, one at LBCC Thursday and another on Saturday at Clackamas. They will try to continue their win streak tomorrow in a double-header at home against Mt. Hood.

Game 1 on Thursday featured a strong performance from the pitching staff. Even though the Cougars out-hit the Runners 11-9, they only managed two runs off starter Brian Farrimond over seven innings and then were shut out for two more by Brandon Dixon.

The offense was provided on RBIs by first baseman Sky Manon, catcher Chris Price and second baseman Neal Glynn. Manon smashed a two RBI double down the third base line in the third inning to give the Runners a 3-0 lead. Glynn added an RBI single in the bottom of the sixth

and Price knocked in left fielder Bryan Boal who had gotten on with a double earlier in the inning.

Assistant Coach Harvey Miller said of Farrimond's performance, "He threw the ball real well and has been very effective (these) last few weeks. He walked a couple of batters in the first, but was able to settle down and have a strong performance after that."

Coach Hawk echoed those sentiments and in addition praised the defense. "Brian was able to keep their hitters off balance and when he got tired and presented their team with scoring opportunities the defense was able to pick him up."

Game 2 was a close game that went into extra innings. Starting pitcher Kyle Koontz went six strong innings, allowing only one run, but the game came down to the bottom of the eighth. After a lead off walk and what coach Hawk referred to as a "perfect sacrifice bunt" by Bryan Boal, first baseman Sky Manon smashed a base hit up the middle to plate Boal with the winning run. On Saturday the Runners again received strong pitching performances from their starters.

In Game 1 starter Raleigh Olsen gave up up two runs on three hits and stuck out two in four innings. Reliever Brit Boydston allowed just two hits over four innings to pick up his third win. The game was closed out by Sean Mascolo, who picked up his first save of the year.

The offense was jump started in the second inning when leftfielder Bryan Boal blasted a two-run homer over the wall. The Runners added two more runs in the seventh and one more insurance run in the top of the ninth, which proved to be more than enough as they ended up with a 5-2 victory.

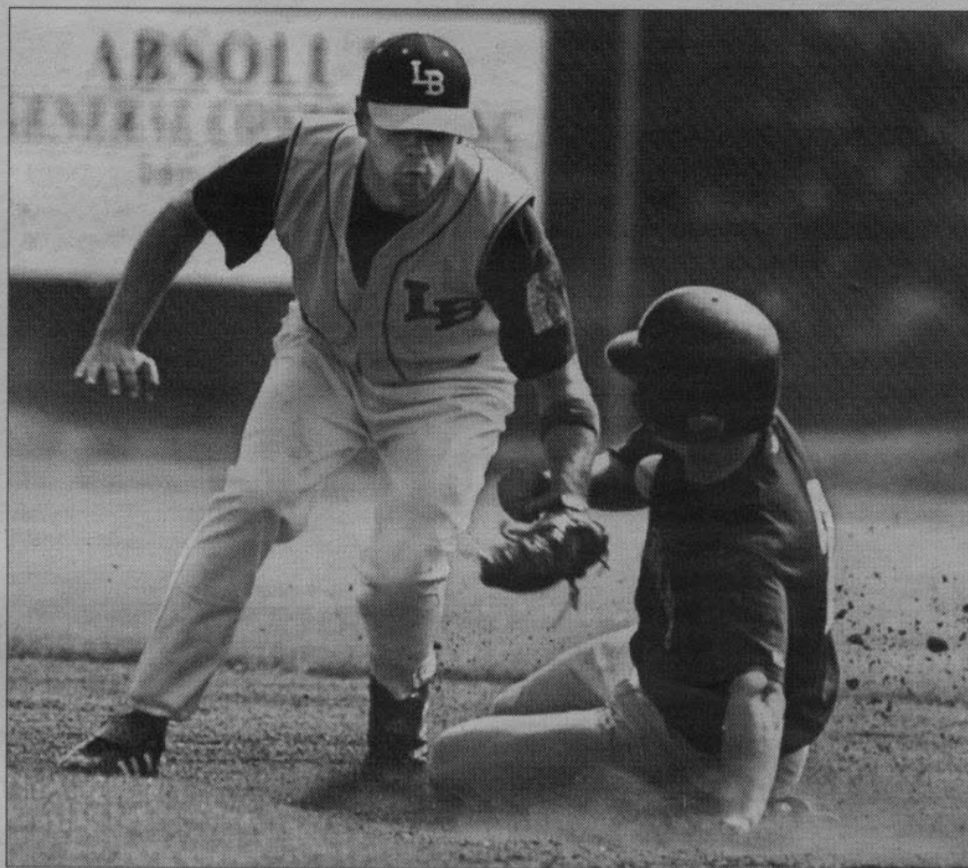


photo by Lewis Forquer

**Neal Glynn tags out a runner in Linn-Benton's sweep of a double-header over Clackamas at home last Thursday. The Runners followed that sweep with another against the Cougars in Clackamas on Saturday to extend their winning streak to six games.**

In Game 2 starting pitcher Jeremy Robinson did not allow a hit through three innings. Nick Giles, who came in to pitch in the fourth, was charged with two unearned runs, but he gave up just two hits through the sixth. Sean Barton then took over, striking out the side in the seventh to complete the game.

Second baseman Jessie Thorpe smashed a two-run triple in the fourth inning and Brian Boal went 2-2 on the

day and added another RBI in the second to pace the Runners' offense.

"The guys have done a nice job positioning themselves and are very thankful to be moving on," Hawk said, adding that the players hope they can continue to play well over the next few games. If they can do that, then they will be able to advance on to the tournament in Pasco, which Hawk said would be a perfect ending to a successful season.

## Mascolo perseveres through injuries

**Joel Meacham**  
 The Commuter

When Sean Mascolo started playing baseball his aim was to be an outstanding hitter, but due to a painful injury that plan was altered.

With inspirations like former San Diego Padres right fielder Tony Gwynn and playing the game as early as three years old in the backyard with his dad, Mascolo became attached to the game very early in life and had aspirations of one day being a big-time major league hitter.

But thanks to a fractured elbow at the age of 12, his hitting career was over. At the time of his injury Mascolo was a member of Eugene's Babe Ruth All Star team. As a result Mascolo was forced to miss the entire all star season.

After realizing he would no longer be able to hit like he used to, he decided to take up pitching.

Mascolo said, "Until my junior year of high school I took the game of baseball for granted."

That summer he played for the Pepsi Challengers of the American Legion Baseball League. "I was shown the work



**"Be confident in yourself even when things go bad because confidence can get you through anything."**

▶ Sean Mascolo

ethic needed to make it to the next level as a ball player," said Mascolo.

Following that summer Mascolo took the bull by the horns and never let go. The summer of his senior year with the Challengers he threw the first no-hitter of his career against Klamath Falls.

He is now in his second season as a pitcher for the Roadrunners and says, "The most important thing about pitching is to keep the team in the games and give them a chance, if you do then they will start scoring runs."

Mascolo says the most satisfying thing about being a pitcher at this level is having the respect of his teammates as well as the respect of teams from around the league. He says the highlight for him this year so far was when he pitched a two-hitter against Lane

Community College.

His favorite pitch is the change-up. The pitch comes out of the pitcher's hand looking

like a fastball, but due to the grip on the ball it ends up being about 10 mph slower and will dive down and away from a right-handed hitter.

Mascolo says that he hopes to continue his baseball career at a university next year.

He has gone through a lot of ups and downs so far in his baseball career and as a result has some advice for anyone that may be dealing with a serious situation. "Be confident in yourself even when things go bad because confidence can get you through anything."

For Mascolo having that outlook has helped him persevere despite the curveballs life has thrown him so far and if things go his way he will continue to throw life's tough pitches right by any batters he faces.

## Health Fair features talk, info, v-ball

A Health Fair is scheduled today, featuring a talk on sleep deprivation, health information booths and a sand volleyball match.

**11 a.m.-12**

**Alea Calapooia Room**  
 Dr. Mari Goldner from the Corvallis Clinic discusses sleep deprivation and how it affects your performance at work and school.

**11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Activities Center Gym**  
 Health-information booths featuring Country Vitamins, Curves 4 Women, Gold's Gym and lots more. Complimentary massages provided by Therapeutic Touch Massage on a first-come first-served basis.

**2 p.m.-4 p.m.**

**Sand Volleyball Courts**  
 2-on-2 tournament play. A court will also be reserved for those who want to play a game outside of the tournament. Winners will win a volleyball and sweatshirt.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## Smoking on the edge with author Sherman Alexie

**Peggy Isaacs**  
 The Commuter

Last Wednesday in the Columbia Room at the University of Oregon, Native American Sherman Alexie gave a hilarious stand-up performance on his experience coming to Eugene on the train before his book signing of his New York Times bestseller, "Ten Little Indians."

He was delayed in Salem for an hour, so various volunteers from the audience of 700 people, including Ben Bochner, Eugene writer who wrote "The Amazing Adventure of Fudge and Edge," read from Alexie's books and poetry.

When Alexie finally arrived, looking a little worn, he started kidding the Eugene crowd about waiting. "You're probably all stoned," he said, taking a hit off of an imaginary joint. The crowd roared and didn't stop until he was finished an hour later.

The audience expected Alexie to read from his books, but instead he gave an unforgettable comedy act. No Native American "meaning of the dream" poems, nor were there any hidden meanings of great wisdom, like in his writings. He kept most of the audience in stitches but angered some as he poked fun at various "white man" foibles.

He pushed the edge with several remarks, labeling caucasians as "capitalistic freaks" and telling them to "knock it off." He started making fun of the vegans, who are vegetarians who don't eat anything that was alive first and got the only "boo" from the crowd as he made the faces that vegans might give if you are around them and eat meat.

Alexie is so animated in his actions, I laughed myself silly, as I have been on both sides of this issue and could relate completely. The comment he made about going to lunch with a vegan and being told that "If you bite that, it will scream," followed by a look and then the comment, "I know that's why I ordered it," ignited a

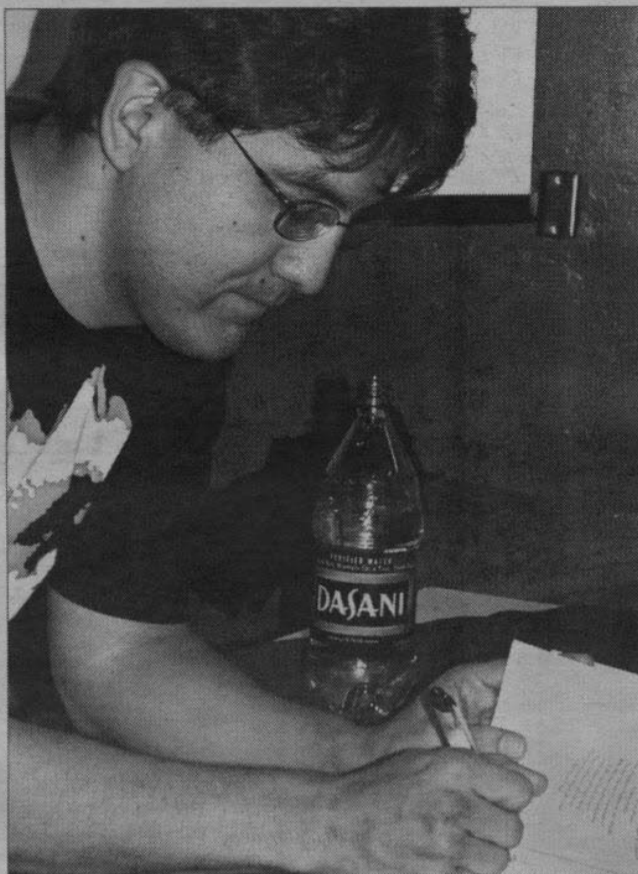


photo by Peggy Isaacs

**Sherman Alexie signs autographs after his stand-up comedy act in Eugene last Wednesday.**

few angry faces in the audience, but mostly everyone laughed.

After calming down a bit, Alexie went on the edge again when he called Earth First "violent fundamentalist ---holes," then added "I'm not scared of you tree-huggers. I may be small but I bench press 220 pounds." Commenting on the "tree-spiking cowards in the trees,"

he laughed and said "they were my cousins on the reservation."

This was the same time people started leaving the Columbia Room—coincidence, maybe, but the looks on the faces of those leaving were angry.

He ended with a political observation, which cannot be repeated here. After the show Eugene writer Bochner said "It was great, my face was hurting from laughing for an hour. It's an art."

Before he left the podium he offered a piece of Native American wisdom and told the remaining audience that "If we are all sacred then so are the things we build. Build wisely."

Alexie has published works since 1992 with the book "The Business of Fancydancing" and "I Would Steal Horses." After having a problem with alcohol in college, Alexie gave up drinking when he learned "The Business of Fancydancing" was to be published by Hanging Loose Press.

In 1993, the first collection of his short stories, "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" was published by Atlantic Monthly Press.

In 1997 he collaborated with Chris Eyre, a Cheyenne/Arapaho Indian, to produce a film inspired by Alexie's work. "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven" was released as "Smoke Signals" at the Sundance Film Festival in January 1998. It won two awards: the Filmmakers Trophy and the Audience Award.

During the release of "Smoke Signals," Alexis competed for the World Heavyweight Poetry bout. He won and went on to become the first poet to hold the title for three and four consecutive years.

He made his stand-up debut at the Foolproof Northwest Comedy Festival in Seattle, Wash. in 1999.

Alexie has appeared on the Jim Lehrer News Hour on PBS, Politically Incorrect, 60 Minutes II and NOW with Bill Moyer, where he wrote a special segment on insomnia called "Up All Night."

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[reppb@pdx.edu](mailto:reppb@pdx.edu)

A & E Editor: Peggy Isaacs  
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451  
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## CALENDAR

### AFTER DARK

**Aladdin Theater**  
 3017 SE Milwaukee Ave  
 Portland  
 (503) 233-1994

**May 19**  
**John Mayall & the**  
**Bluesbreakers**  
 Blues  
 7:00 p.m.  
 \$20 advance  
 \$22 door  
 All ages

**Bombs Away Cafe**  
 2527 NW Monroe Ave.  
 Corvallis  
 757-7221

**May 19**  
**Triple Play**  
 Classic rock  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Free

**First Alternative**  
**Co-op**  
 1007 SE 3rd St.  
 Corvallis  
 753-3115, 754-8522

**May 21**  
**Eric Nicholson**  
 Live music  
 4-6 p.m.  
 Free

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

**May 20**  
**DJ Brad**  
 Club mix  
 9 p.m.  
 Free



photo by Erik Swanson

#### Art by Design

Norman Pickens looks over the work of graphic design students during the opening reception for the annual Graphic Design Exhibit in the AHSS Gallery Monday evening. More than 100 pieces, including illustrations, logo designs, posters and 3-D package designs are on view through June 4. On Monday, June 7 graduating students will present their portfolios to the public and invited guests at 1 p.m. in Forum 104.

## Performers go on the road with 'Peace in the Valley'



photo by Jeremy Hennig

Eric Nepon and Mandee Schell are among the cast members in the "Peace in the Valley" reader's theater.

**Peggy Isaacs**  
 The Commuter

"Peace in the Valley," an LBCC Performing Arts Department production of thoughtful and light-hearted prose, drama and poetry on peace and social justice issues, is being held this weekend in Albany, Corvallis and OSU.

The reader's theater production features works published in the upcoming edition of *The Eloquent Umbrella*, LBCC's creative arts journal. Characters include veterans, Native Americans, a geriatric nurse, environmentalists who believe in UFOs and Oregonians who distrust tourists.

This marks the first time the Performing Arts Department has taken a show on the road. It

opened May 14 and will be continuing through May 24.

Upcoming performances will be on May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Two Rivers Mall in Albany; May 23 at 7 p.m. at the Corvallis Art Center and May 24 at 7 p.m. at the OSU Lab Theater on 30th and Campus Way. It will be the first time ever that an LBCC production will perform at OSU.

Jane Donovan, LBCC speech and drama instructor, directs the 90-minute show.

Donations will be accepted at each performance to support the LBCC Peace Studies Program, which supports the show and the Performing Arts Scholarship Fund. The May 21 performance at Two Rivers Mall will benefit Mediation Services of Linn County.

## Tech N9ne performance leaves silver lining tinted orange

**Sheena Bishop**  
 The Commuter

Lately I have heard a lot of music lovers ringing out the toll of disappointment. Not only are many of the more popular artists right now making really crappy remakes of songs that weren't good to begin with, they are talking about things that have been beaten to death. The horse is dead folks, put down the stick.

There is a silver lining to this rhetorical cloud however, straight out of Kansas City and just as tired of the music industry's crap as we are as listeners.

Tech N9ne, who was born Aaron Yates and christened Tech by KC gangsta Wee Capone, is tired of being passed around the industry by labels that aren't willing to take a chance on someone who comes from the heart.

On Saturday, Tech N9ne performed at the Roseland in Portland. The show featured all of the most popular tracks from his last two albums.

Listening to Tech in the car with the

bass cranked up and the volume so high that the windows rattle, is an awesome feeling you don't understand until you have seen the man perform.

Until you see this orange haired, goatee sporting Kansas City rhyming master get up on stage and perform "This Ring" from his second album, you can not even fathom the depth of his lyrics. Read them on the Internet, buy the album and play it until it melts, but if you don't see Tech N9ne live you don't know what you are missing.

When Tech N9ne popped up on stage he lit a fuse in the audience. Many had seen him open for Insane Clown Posse about a year ago, an association which obviously brought a good portion of the crowd in. Hatchet Man shirts, necklaces and tattoos were all over the place.

As the mosh pit grew, fans went crazy. With his orange spiked hair and the word "NASTY" written across his forehead, Tech was happy to give the



MUSIC REVIEW

fans their money's worth. Every song intro set off another roar from the pit, every song building up to the climax. When "The Industry is Punks" started up the entire audience went with it, screaming "F... the industry!" along with the lyrics.

His career started to take off from his second album released in 2001. The photos in the jacket were widely criticized and misunderstood. Depictions of Tech as an angel and as a devil with horns and wings were seen as the worship of Satan, not the escape portrayed lyrically on the album. "AngHellic" was made to represent his personal triumphs and escaping the difficulties he had to go through in his life, including how going from Aaron Yates to Tech N9ne shattered his marriage. You won't find anything in Tech's lyrics about worshiping Satan.

After a decade of battling to find a label he could belong to, Tech N9ne helped build the foundation of a label that was willing to take a chance on him, Strange

Music. In 2002 he released his third album, "Absolute Power." Because they would only allow him 80 minutes on the CD, Tech decided to include a bonus DVD that includes the music video to "Slacker" as well as tape from the studio and seven other songs.

You listen to this guy and you want to know the history behind all the pain. Not only do the lyrics show that he's in this with his heart, it shows his love for the fans. He has proven himself very adaptable for a hip hop/rap artist, performing with Twiztid and many other artists that are more widely known.

While Tech is not part of the Juggalo community, better defined as Psychopathic Records, he is performing at The Gathering this year right along with them. The three-day event is in Michigan and costs \$100.

Maybe Tech N9ne isn't a silver lining, but he sure qualifies as an orange one. Give Jessica and Justin a break and trust me on this one. Tech N9ne is worth a listen and definitely worth the ticket price.