

DIESEL DILEMMA

Students worry that cutbacks to heavy equipment/diesel program may be just the beginning. ▶ Pg. 6

EQUESTRIANS EXCEL

LB's three-year-old equestrian team puts in strong showing at regional meet. ▶ Pg. 11



THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

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FROM BOOKS TO BYTES



Photo by Bonnie Quinones

Students take advantage of online resources in the Library, which have begun replacing the more traditional resources of books and periodicals for students doing research for classes.

Workshops encourage Latinas to interact

by Kimberly Nelson
of The Commuter

Last year's Latina Conference in Woodburn drew 250 participants. Erlinda Gonzales-Berry, event coordinator and OSU professor of ethnic studies, said that registration is slow this year. She is concerned that the new location at Central High School in Independence is impeding participation.

The Latinas Conference, which will take place

on April 26, is an all day event with workshops and speakers to empower Latinas through knowledge and education.

Gonzales-Berry says that the conference provides opportunities for Latinas to come together, get to know one another and receive education.

With topics like "Latinas in Politics," "Empowering Latinas Through Education," "Latinas in Leadership Roles" and "The Problem with Abstinence Programs," the conference may be a good

▼ Turn to "Latina" on Pg. 4

Library logs on as use of conventional research declines

by Heather M Scott
of The Commuter

A student stands at the reference desk, Wednesday morning, making use of library staff members. She is searching for a journal article on marriage and the family, probably for a research paper.

The librarian weaves around a couple of students taking advantage of computers provided at the library, and a group of students studying at a nearby table. The room is shockingly silent.

It is probable that this student and many other students scattered about the library could have just as easily located the information necessary for a paper or another assignment using the World Wide Web.

According to Library Department Chair Jorry Rolfe, about 3,658 students enter the library every week to study, get books, or use computer resources. This

is an insignificant number compared to the number of students logging on to the Internet at home or on campus. As the Internet becomes a more common source for information, physical resources such as our own campus library feel the effects.

Rolfe, who has worked at LB's library for 17 years, thinks that to some degree physical libraries are in less demand due to the wide array of information on the over 320 million web pages students can surf.

"There's a lot of good information on the Internet," said Rolfe, "but I think for pondering a subject or researching in depth you need to access books."

▶ Jorry Rolfe

LBCC's library doesn't seem to be stepping down to the World Wide Web; instead, the library has increased Internet access in recent years to further the information available. As is the case with many libraries, LBCC made the decision to create an online

▼ Turn to "Library" on Pg. 4

Search committee hopes to find president by fall

by Wendy Geist
of The Commuter

The college presidential search process is underway, aiming for a Sept. 1 start date for LBCC's new president. Tonight the Board of Education will approve 21 college and community representatives to become a screening committee that will be in

charge of sorting through the myriad of applications that are expected.

The committee will consist of two representatives from students, classified, faculty, management, and the foundation; one representative from OSU; seven board appointed community members (one from each board

▼ Turn to "Search" on Pg. 4

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM

High: 56° Low: 40°
WEDNESDAY

High: 52° Low: 38°
THURSDAY

High: 60° Low: 41°
FRIDAY

High: 59° Low: 42°
SATURDAY

High: 58° Low: 40°
SUNDAY

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THE
COMMUTER

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OPINION

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

Recycling takes effort, but the benefits are rewarding

I put my recycling out the other night feeling smug. I had done my duty for the environment, or had I?

I thought about the old cell phone, and the two old computers in my storage unit I didn't know what to do with. I did research on what actually happens to my recycling after its stay on my curb, and how to get rid of old computers, which made me wonder how I could make a difference. I had the sneaking suspicion that my paltry recycling efforts were the proverbial Dutch boy's finger in the dike.

Looking for answers, I realized that the way the world does business needs an overhaul if we are to keep from being inundated in old washers, televisions, computers, toasters, refrigerators and other ubiquitous household appliances. I found that newspaper, bags and cardboard recycle well, many grocery bags and cardboard boxes have at least a percentage of recycled paper in them.

A problem though, is this—if the price of cardboard drops, the buyers will sometimes just dump it on land or at sea. The same thing can happen with our plastic milk jugs and containers; they are shipped to Asia and if the price drops en route, unscrupulous shippers will dump them at sea.

The sheer volume of recycling materials sold to private businesses makes enforcement of dumping difficult. A small amount of the wrong plastic can render a whole batch of post-consumer melt unusable, and then it becomes landfill.

It is important to separate your plastic correctly. Take the lids off and throw them away. Recyclable containers have a number on the bottom and your disposal company will tell you which plastics they take.

Crushed glass has many uses; you

need to separate the clear from all the other colors. If you use a paper bag to do this the bag can be recycled also.

All garbage has to go somewhere. If you recycle all of the usual things you still create mountains of stuff in your lifetime that has to go to landfill. Many of these things, such as electronic devices, seep extremely toxic chemicals into the water table and air. So what so you do with them?

There are places that take cell phone, flashlight, rechargeable and other batteries. Robnet's Hardware on Second Street in Corvallis will take all kinds of batteries for recycling. Also Bi-Marts do. Cell phones can be donated to Sprint PCS dealers; they are recycled to other countries and to women's shelters. Car batteries are taken at almost any place that sells them. Tires and car batteries sometimes carry a small fee for recycling; it is worth the cost. Think of your grandchildren; do you want them to inherit a world full of old batteries, tires and appliances?

Your garbage company has information on its hazardous waste day. I urge you to participate. Smoke alarms, old thermometers, deck paint, and so many things are hazardous waste and labeled as so. Unless you plan to move every

time you throw these things away, you are living in an environment contaminated by them, and if you did move, you would be somewhere someone else had dumped the same stuff.

We don't throw appliances and computers away often, but when we do, what happens to them? Only part of the appliance is recyclable and the rest is toxic waste. Computers are very toxic, so are monitors. Some old printed circuits go to Mexico or other countries for recycling.

You cannot imagine the living and

working conditions for the poor people who do this. The fumes from heating and exposing these old circuits to acids to extract the gold kill thousands of people a year and infect whole areas of those countries with poisons.

There is a move underway to hold computer manufacturers responsible for their used PCs. Also the idea of leasing rather than buying appliances is taking hold in other nations. Sweden has a program to lease large appliances to the consumer, then at the end of the lifetime of the product the company takes it back and completely reuses all of the components.

This transforms the industry to a service provider rather than a consumer

goods provider. The savings in materials and dump fees have paid off handsomely for companies such as IKEA and Electrolux. This is called an "intelligent product system".

www.microweb.com/pepsite/Recycle/Oregon.html has specific listings for computer disposal in Oregon, or call the customer service number for the maker of your computer and urge them to begin programs to recycle their obsolete computers.

Places that take used motor oil can be found by calling 1-800-MOTOROIL. 1-800-BATTERY has information on battery disposal; your disposal company has information on where to take old fluorescent tubes, which contain mercury, a deadly poison.

Old smoke detectors, which contain radioactive waste, can be sent to First Alert, Radioactive Waste Disposal, 780 McClure Rd., Aurora Ill. 60504-2495. Please buy cheap cameras rather than disposables; disposables are hardly ever really recycled.

For information on what to do with all kinds of waste see www.obviously.com/recycle/guides/hard.

Used clothing is a great deal and a good way to reduce consumerism and waste; garage sales and second hand stores are not just cheaper, they are environmentally friendly. For information about intelligent product systems, enter "The Natural Step" into Google.

Think about the legacy you will leave for your children and grandchildren. If we stop to think about all of the durable garbage we throw out every week, we can see that we cannot continue on this path forever. Call appliance companies, think about what you do. Help keep the earth the beautiful place that it is.

Adele
Kubein

IN MY
OPINION

If we stop to think about all of the durable garbage we throw out every week, we can see that we cannot continue on this path forever.



PROTECTING IRAQ'S TREASURES

Opinion Editor: Adele Kubein
 Editor-in-Chief: Wendy Geist
 Telephone: 917-4451

OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE COMMUTER

Freedom, not casualties, prevail

To the editor:

As I sat down Wednesday at my place of employment, I began to flip through The Commuter in hopes of something interesting to read. I was looking at all the different headlines searching for something that might catch my attention. I usually find the "Off Beat" section the most interesting but this time "Anti-war mother torn as daughter heads for Iraq" in bold letters jumps and pulls me in.

I liked the phrase "My resolve strengthens to support my daughter in the manner that I consider ethically correct; by criticizing an administration that trains our children to kill". I would like to inform Ms. Kubein that I have served in the armed forces myself with the 82nd Airborne Division, that we are trained to respect, protect, serve our country and aid in the well fare of others, not just to kill. I, on my own will signed a contract to protect your rights just as your daughter did, Ms. Kubein as you criticize the government that makes that happen. Did you know that if you are an Iraqi and you criticize the Iraqi government, you would die as well as your entire family? Did you know that Saddam tortured and killed 3 million of his own people? Furthermore, the French are the ones who supplied Iraq with nuclear capabilities, not the U.S.

The best way to support our troops is to be thankful for what they are doing and to let them know you are thankful. Anti-war protesting does not help. In fact it costs some cities over \$200,000 a day because of protesters, people who have no clue what they are even protesting for.

This is not Vietnam, nor is the views of society the same as it was in that era. Our troops are proud to be fighting and standing up for what they believe in and no one should be able to take that away. They are not forced to go over there. And neither is your daughter. Be proud of her, and be proud of the troops, you might need them to protect your freedom one day.

Jason Melkvik

Mom could learn from child

To the editor:

I was an LBCC student in 1979. I read the April 9 Commuter opinion column with interest. I am pretty sure my rebuttal will never see the light of day as I found no rebuttals in any of the editions I read at their Web site. It is of course an opinion column, presented by someone who apparently does not feel compelled to follow any protocol normally expected of professional reporters. The editor provided a page full of opinions and suppositions, none of which were cited in any way; many have no bearing on the main subject, whatever that was. It was ridiculously entertaining to read her account of being a proud parent, having taught her nature-loving child well and who trusts in her judgment, yet she never really examined why her daughter joined the military to begin with. Perhaps Mom could learn something from her child. Anyone aware of the development of our world, knows that human nature includes a tendency toward violence; "might makes right" when all else is said and done. We strive to be an enlightened society, to deny the reality of our warring nature is to deny how we became a mighty nation who

has led millions of people to personal freedom in mind and body, millions more than have died in the quest. Presenting your opinion in such a narrow minded and immature manner does discredit to your paper and is insulting to those who have served to preserve your right to deliver such *drivel*.

Larry Jackson

Opinion writer, not mind reader

To the editor:

How gracious of The Commuter to allow me so many words to respond to a half-page of nauseating discourse. Of course I'm referring to Ms. Kubein's April 9 editorial. I would love to expound, but I'm limited; so, it's just the highlights, and blunt will have to do. Invasion and liberation aren't the same thing—not even close—look it up. I was in the Army and we were NOT encouraged to kill anyone, but if I had to choose my demise over another's, I knew how to shoot. The Armed Forces are just that, and they are voluntary—which begs the question of why your daughter signed on the dotted line. How you happen to *know* that soldiers don't have to face the fact that people are being killed is a mystery, and how you *know* that the gravity of killing doesn't penetrate is an even bigger mystery. Opinions are one thing, Ms. Kubein, but leave the mind reading to someone else. You essentially labeled all soldiers—except your daughter—as killing machines with no conscience. The day you are able to see into the hearts and minds of human beings is the day I will bow and call you a god.

Pagan Phillips



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 that express a more developed point of view can be longer. Contributors who wish to submit columns are asked to first contact the editor to arrange for space in the next issue.

All letters received will be published, space permitting, unless they are considered by the editor to be potentially libelous or in poor taste.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Bush administration must validate reason for war in Iraq

by Brian Ranzoni
 for The Commuter

It's a bit late in the game for the Bush Administration to change its war story.

Unable to find either weapons of mass destruction or credible Al-Qaida links, our administration now plays up Iraqi tyranny to justify its premature invasion.

As a Navy Veteran and a current reservist, I'm skeptical of our administration's latest justification, because the United States has failed to liberate other countries, including countries more dangerous than Iraq.

Being a veteran and a reservist, I am not blind to the threat of the Iraqi regime. I've spent time in the Gulf helping the fledgling Kuwaiti Navy learn to defend their nation, no thanks to Saddam Hussein and his family. And no thanks to Saddam, I've actively participated in dozens of combat exercises meant

to anticipate Iraqi action. But history, current events, and experience reveal greater threats.

In the Gulf in the late 1990's, I wasn't worried about ballistic missiles raining down on my country. But I was in Japan in 1999 after North Korea began to test fire ballistic missiles able to threaten American soil. While we wail and gnash our teeth over Hussein's primitive rockets, North Korea has been test-firing guided anti-ship missiles.

Our papers have publicized North Korea's reactivated nuclear bomb program, while little evidence exists to demonstrate that Hussein has recovered a similar capacity after UN dismantling.

Hussein's military and human rights violations might extend over the last 30 years. But a state of war has existed between North Korea and the United States since June 1950, currently simmering by a 1953 armistice. North Korea has invaded an

American ally, kidnapped Japanese civilians, and captured or attempted to capture American pilots. North Korea eclipses the problems posed by Iraq, but our administration prefers to enter new conflicts without resolving this old one.

Another old problem has been America's failure to help nations with plenty of genocide but little strategic value. Bush wanted to liberate an oil-rich, geographically strategic, and relatively modernized nation called Iraq. He doesn't seem to care as much about a coffee-rich, geographically mild, relatively poor nation called Rwanda. I don't know why: between April and July of 1994, government militias murdered about 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus. According to state.gov, the French were the ones willing to step in, not us. The genocidal militias escaped into the jungle much like the Taliban escaped into the mountains. In the up-

coming election campaign, I will be looking for Bush's vision to bring these terrorists to justice.

And speaking of justice, my third and final point asks where it has gone for the Chinese. Surely the Tiananmen Square massacre is sufficient grounds for our Administration to execute another regime change.

On the Web site for the National Security Archive, I found that in June 1989, Chinese armor units crushed a massive pro-democracy student demonstration. During this violence, the military beat western reporters. The site also reports that, after the massacre, Chinese soldiers fired on US embassy apartments. The number of Chinese civilian casualties is debated, but could be as high 2,600 by the count of the Chinese Red Cross. By November 2004, I expect Bush to reveal his plans for liberating China.

Some people might argue that criticism at this time is inappropriate, because we need to sup-

port our troops. Surely, Americans are capable of doing both. Considering that our current President has never served a day in uniform, criticism towards him cannot be connected to our service members. I also think that invoking my siblings-in-arms to silence opinion is inappropriate. I've spent six years defending the Constitution of the United States; I would like to use it every once and a while.

Our Administration and its supporters cite the tyranny of the Hussein regime as justification for an invasion. But history plainly shows that America has failed to occupy worse tyrannies. The desire to support our troops does not negate this failure.

If our administration can invade Iraq first and look for evidence later, then it can do the same for North Korea, Rwanda, and China. Otherwise, it will be my skepticism that is justified, and not Bush.

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

From KRT News

Of Beat

Leashing Devotion

When a San Antonio, Texas, woman informed her husband of 15 years that she was leaving him, he padlocked a 25-foot chain around her neck. Someone noticed this when the couple dropped their kids off at school, and called the cops. When they arrived at the couple's home, they found her standing in the driveway while her husband slept in the passenger seat of the car, holding the chain. He was charged with unlawful restraint.

Big Happy Family

A 40-something female lion tamer in a German circus was teaching the circus director's 20-year-old son how to tame the big cats when one thing led to another and they fell in love. She ran off with him and also took eight lions and two tigers.

Fans Never Forget

A British soccer fan was crushed when his team lost a semifinal match by a score of 1-0, 19 years ago, and has held a grudge ever since against the man who scored the winning goal. The game-winning player became a bricklayer and was on the job at a construction site recently when the fan spotted him, punched him to the ground and bit off his ear.

I Ordered Curly Fries!

A man ordered curly fries but was given regular french fries at the drive-through window of a Greenville, S.C., restaurant. The manager refused to replace them because the guy was eating the fries he had been given. Rebuffed, the customer shot out the window and drove off.

Long-Distance

The people of Swaziland have been tuning in to hear Swazi Radio's war correspondent, Phesheya Dube, file live reports from Iraq. Or so they thought. Legislators were shocked when they spotted him walking through the Swazi parliament building. An investigation has been launched.



Hungry for retirement

Gene Neville, food service manager at LB, ends his 21-year devotion to the college at his retirement party in the Alsea-Calapooia room Thursday. "It's the end of an era. He's been a mainstay of food service and the Culinary Program. He's been instrumental in me being able to do what I've done in my time here," said Culinary Arts instructor Scott Anselm. Guests attending the party enjoyed food provided by LB Culinary Arts students.

Photo by Bonnie Quinones

CAMPUS SHORTS

Defense workshop set

Activities coming up from the Multicultural Center include "Defend Yourself!" on April 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Alsea-Calapooia Room, a workshop on the basics of self defense presented by Jackie Turler.

Also in the Multicultural Center "The Laramie Project" from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on April 22. "The Laramie Project" is an HBO documentary about the Matthew Shepard story.

Students in the dark

An off-campus power outage left students in the dark Tuesday. The outage started at 9:30 a.m. and lasted for about 40 minutes. A second power outage started at 11 a.m. and lasted for about 20 minutes. According to Sue Bewley, office coordinator of facilities, a blown fuse at Ormet Mill was the source of the problem. Small breaks in the power have occurred before at LBCC, but this one lasted quite a

bit longer, she said. The alarms did not go off because they are used solely for emergencies.

Laptop computer stolen

The incident happened on campus April 15. Crucial data is stored in it. Please return to Campus Security.

Easter Week events

This Sunday, April 20, is Easter, a holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Campus Ambassadors Christian Fellowship invites all students, staff and faculty to join in the following Easter week activities:

Thursday, April 17, a discussion from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Clubs and Organizations room on the topic, "Jesus: Resurrected to life?"

Tuesday, April 22, a discussion from 10 to 11 a.m. in room IA 219 on the topic, "Doubting Thomas."

Thursday, April 24, a video from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Fireside Room titled, "Jesus."

Latina: Fuentes to participate in conference in Independence

▲ From Pg. 1

resource for women.

Outside of this conference many events are geared toward young men in high school and college and there are few opportunities like this for women to come together, according to Gonzales-Berry.

Art Instructor Analee Fuentes will also be giving a presentation titled "Chicana Artists: 1960's to the Present." Fuentes' presentation will include a slide

show about the development of Chicana artists from all over the world.

A map to Central High School is available on the Web site: www.oregonstate.edu/dept/ethnic_studies/mujeres/.

Early registration forms are due April 16 with a registration fee of \$10. On-site registration is \$20. Registration forms and information can be obtained from the Web site or from Gonzales-Berry at 737-5708.

Library: Books still have value Web can't match

▲ From Pg. 1

Library Reference Center where students can locate books in the library through their home computer or anywhere on campus.

"I think it has improved access because unlike the card catalog where [you] had to go through those drawers, you can do a keyword search," she said.

Parallel to Internet technologies and the ever-changing library world the library has chosen to also offer over 2,000 e-books as well as a variety of journals online. Many of the magazines offered in the library are also available online through the library Web site. With an increase in magazine prices and the availability of full text issues online, Rolfe says that cost of keeping magazines in the library has gone down.

Internet technology available in the library has also caused an increase in students taking advantage of the library atmosphere says Rolfe. Students can access information through EBSCO host, the electronic library and net library with passwords provided by LBCC. Using these features in the library setting allows librarians such as Rolfe to assist students in finding and evaluating the resources students use.

"I hope librarians are still used as a resource to help people learn to use the tools and learn to evaluate the tools," said Rolfe, "I think we are still necessary

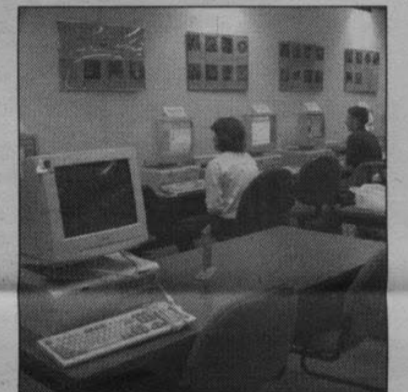


Photo by Bonnie Quinones

The library's Internet computers have attracted increasing numbers of students who are using Web resources more than traditional library resources.

and will be necessary in the future to help guide people to information."

In Corvallis elementary schools, librarians are no longer hired to assist students in learning about the materials and finding books to read. Instead, volunteers or untrained staff operates the library. This decrease in library knowledge and use at such a young age may show that the educational system is moving toward a much less library educated youth and more toward Internet and Web learning.

"I would hate to see that that's the only source of information," said Rolfe. "I love the Internet as a library professional; I love books too, so I think there is a place for all those formats in the world."

Search: Interviews set for May

▲ From Pg. 1

member's zone); and three board members, who also make up a three-person presidential search subcommittee.

The college marketing and publications office has produced a brochure announcing the job. May 8 is the closing date for applications and the screening process will happen May 12 to

May 19.

Interviews of the new candidates is tentative for May 22 to May 29, leading to the announcement of a new college president on June 18.

The board meeting, which is open to the public, starts at 7:30 p.m. and will be in the boardrooms in the College Center building.

CAMPUS CALANDAR FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 16-22

1-3 p.m.
 "Defend Yourself,"
 Multicultural Center

THURSDAY

INSERVICE
NO CLASS

FRIDAY

9:30-11 a.m.,
 11:30-1 p.m.
 Laramie Project,
 Multicultural Center

TUESDAY

8:30-3 p.m.
 American Red Cross
 Blood Drive, Fireside
 Room

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Career Fair shines light on job networks in area



Photos by Thomas Lin

A Samaritan Family Medicine Representative talks to an interested student at last week's 25th Annual Career Exploration and Community Resource Fair. Fifty-Eight agencies and nearly a dozen LBCC programs were at the fair to talk to students seeking information on employment after graduation or just looking for potential future employers.

by Skyler Corbett, Wendy Geist, Kimberly Nelson of The Commuter

People are looking hard for a job and it was evident at the career fair last Thursday.

Lindy Young, who will graduate with a technical writing degree from LBCC, spoke to Karin Michaelson of the engineering firm, CH2M Hill. Young believes this company would be a good one to work for and is her best chance at the fair to find a job in which to apply her degree.

Sue Musil from Adair, a 1986 LBCC graduate in medical transcription and medical reception was laid off from a temp service where she had been working for the state's Family Health Insurance Assistance Program.

The program had budget problems and was no longer sending out or receiving applications.

The paperwork she was hired to do came to a standstill. Musil said she found "no promises, but hints of possibilities" at the fair.

Major sectors that were represented at the career fair included the military, temp services, financial institutions, health occupations and the technical sector. Some companies at the fair were hiring and had a substantial number of openings.

Trillium Family Services came from the Children's Farm Home in Corvallis with approximately eight openings. Amy Champion, a manager of Corvallis' Timberhill Starbucks, said her company was looking for 13 people to fill local positions.

Avamere, a company that runs 20 skilled nursing facilities and 60 assisted living facilities around the state came with two open positions.

There is a shortage of nurses and nursing assistants, said Virginia Raby, director of nursing for Avamere.

Raby was paying close attention to the students and public in the medical field who visited her booth. She already has one LBCC graduate working at her company now.

Other representatives at the fair weren't hiring but were there to recruit, such as the Albany Police.

"We have just recently finished a round of hiring," explained Sherri Jacobson, a crime prevention educator for the Albany Police, but she went on to explain the importance of having a booth at the fair.

"I have received questions from a wide variety of people asking about police officer positions and what it takes to be a police officer," she said.

MANY booths at the fair handed out hard candy or choco-

late enticing people to stop and talk.

Kim Weil of Stahlbush Island Farms in Corvallis handed out raspberry and blueberry puree. Her company was looking for sales assistants, equipment operators, people with a commercial drivers license, and general farm and plant laborers.

Other booths offered people a career change. Donna Johnson, of IPhasion and Phagan's Cosmetology College, finds it worthwhile to collect information forms from fair attendees.

If we get 30 to 40 interested, we might get 2 to 3 of them who actually go ahead with it, Johnson said. A lot of people who go to our school wanted to be a cosmetologist when they were younger but ended up in something else. Plus, as an independent contractor you can decide the hours and days you work.

Not all job opportunities come in the form of paid jobs. CARDV, the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence, came to the career fair offering hands-on volunteer experiences in legal advocacy, speaking engagements and work at their shelter.

CARDV operates with 90 volunteers and 9 full-time staff and prides itself on bringing together people with diverse backgrounds to tackle a community problem.

Student government collects toys, clothing to fight child abuse

by Heather M. Scott of The Commuter

According to the National Mental Health Information Center an estimated 903,000 children in this country alone were victims of abuse and neglect in 2001.

Many of these unthinkable acts were carried out by the parents, relatives or

family friends of the children being affected.

This month the Associated Student Government and the ABC (All Because of Children) House will unite to assist in the abolition of child abuse and neglect.

The ABC House specializes in creating a safe and comfortable environment for children to undergo expert evaluations and "begin the healing process."

The ASG will be holding a children's toy and clothes drive in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

All this week through Friday, ASG is accepting new or nice clean reusable items that will be given to Albany's ABC house for distribution to the community.

Donations may be dropped off in Takena Hall, the Family Resource Center, the Student Life & Leadership Office,

Family Connections in the WEB building and Printing Services.

In addition to the distribution of goods for the ASG toy and clothes drive the ABC house, which began in May of 1997 and has served well over 1,000 children, will present information and statistics on child abuse in Takena Hall, April 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Library offers Chilton's online vehicle repair system on trial basis

by Phillip Ruzek of The Commuter

LB has added a trial online repair data base system for students and community to find out more about repairing and maintaining their own vehicles without stepping into an auto body shop.

The Web site: <http://lib.linnbenton.edu/index.html> will take you to the EBSCOhost and then on to the Auto Repair Reference Center, offered by Chilton. The online vehicle manual has many options for a vehicle between 1954 and 2000.

The host contains topics such as repair procedures services

bulletins and recalls, wiring diagrams and labor. These topic headings contain information about your specific vehicle and the problems you may be encountering.

LB student Sarah Carter said, "It is kind of cool," but said that you need to know specifically what's wrong with your car.

The library is asking for people's input on the new online system and hopes that if it is popular enough, the school will continue to fund it.

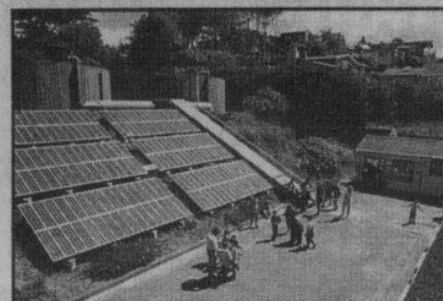
Contact a librarian at 917-4645 or 917-4646 or e-mail at libref@linnbenton.edu for more information and to comment on the system.

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Editor-in-Chief: Wendy Geist
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Questioning the nuts and bolts of budget cuts

This story is the first installment of a two-part series on the dynamics of budget cuts at Linn-Benton as seen through the lens of the heavy equipment/diesel program

by Thomas Lin
 of The Commuter

Sam Bates worries about the future of the heavy equipment/diesel program. A first-year diesel student at Linn-Benton, 21-year-old Bates spent the previous two years earning an associate degree in agriculture business at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton.

Bates had planned to stay on at Blue Mountain this year to study diesel mechanics, an important skill for maintaining the heavy machinery on the family farm.

But just before the program was to begin, it was cut. Bates found himself scrambling to find a college with a two-year diesel degree. With Central Oregon in Bend also facing cuts to its automotive program, Linn-Benton was one of only three remaining choices.

"Now they're starting to cut here, like they did at Blue Mountain," Bates said over the uneven rapping of metal against metal. He explained that their shop helper, Jim Allen, lost his job last term, adding that Allen had played an important role in the program supervising shop safety and helping students one-on-one. Just talking about it reminded Bates and classmates Bryan Hosler and Howard Hagen to put on their safety glasses before returning to work on an old diesel gearbox.

Bates was not the only student to voice concerns.

"They cut Jim, and they keep saying the diesel program has no money," said Robert Smock, 26. "I'm in the engines class right now and all I hear all the time is, 'We ain't got money for this' and 'We ain't got money for that.' I pay my tuition each month and I expect it to at least go to my program."

Smock, who also serves as president of the ITS Diesel Club, recognizes that the program is expensive and needs money beyond student tuition. But, he claimed, "We're the bottom of the barrel."

Without new supplies of bearings and other nonreusable parts, students cannot take apart or reassemble engines. Because these parts are costly, the department is either unwilling or unable to pay for them.

Smock said that his friends who were in the program a few years ago always had the materials and resources they

needed to take apart and fix diesel engines. He just wants the same opportunity to learn how engines work inside and out.

"The college is trying to go more and more into teaching students how to replace the transmission instead of fixing the transmission," Bates said. "Their reason for doing this is they think that is all industry is doing. While this may be true, the mechanic still needs to know how it works to be able to fix it."

Diesel students see this as just another example of belt-tightening cuts that weaken the program and hurt student



Photo by Thomas Lin

Diesel students Sam Bates, Bryan Hosler and Howard Hagen practice disassembling and reassembling an old gearbox.

learning.

Fred Haynes, director of the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division, acknowledges this emphasis in favor of just replacing parts. But he explained the motivation for the change this way: "The advisory committee (made up of industrial representatives and potential employers) tells us things are going differently in the industry. The biggest skills that technicians need are troubleshooting, problem-solving and client services. Now parts go to specialty houses to fix. Mechanics just replace. It's more cost effective."

He went on to explain that the program is designed to meet industry needs and that saving money was not part of the decision-making process.

In response to student claims that rebuilding engines gives them a deeper understanding and improves their ability to diagnose problems, Haynes said that taking engines apart would not necessarily help

students learn troubleshooting skills.

"Community college is to help students enter employment," he

said. "The expectation is not that they are all-around mechanics that can do everything." If, for example, graduates were hired to work in a specialty house, the specialty house would train them, he added.

Bates said he understood that "your average line mechanic is not necessarily going to be rebuilding an engine." However, he insisted, "you got to know what's behind that engine to know what's going on, to know if it's a 10-minute fix or a three-day fix."

Over a McDonald's lunch among the clutter of the diesel shop office, Bates

pointed out that most diesel students sincerely want to learn. That's why they're frustrated with what they see as a diluting of the curriculum.

"The engine class that started this term, there were some guys that were working real hard to get an engine tore down," Bates said. "Class was over. You're able to go home—nothing's making you stay here—but there were still four or five guys standing around watching them take that engine down just to see what's inside of there, to see what it looks like, to see if there were something wrong with that engine—if they could catch that one thing that everybody missed."

Bates made a point of saying that they do it because they like it, not because they can't do anything else. "The college and other people think that mechanics is a job for people of little skill and importance. I think that they could not be farther from the truth.

"It takes a broad range of knowledge to be able to figure out what is wrong with something and the appropriate steps it takes to fix it," he said. Smock agreed with Bates that there's a bias against mechanics. "We're seen as the low guys when it comes to grant money," Smock said. "We're the last one to get anything."

Haynes suggested this divide between technical and transfer programs was due more to insecurity and poor communication than any real prejudice in the decision-making process.

"There are some fences put up between academics and technical fields," Haynes said. "We should communicate and work across all boundaries.

"Students, when they're young, may not think academic classes like English and math are important," he said, "but it will help them develop and advance their careers. Industry is looking for people who not only twist the bolts but also are able to communicate and work in teams."

The loss of Allen and the perceived watering down of the program have some students questioning whether the entire

program will be shut down like at Blue Mountain and Central.

"There is no concrete evidence that they're trying to cut the diesel program," Bates said. "I'm not saying they're going to. I'm not saying they're not going to. I get the feeling occasionally that they're just trying to whittle away and eventually get rid of the program. It's really frustrating because no one wants their program cut."

Not so, says Haynes.

"Currently the program is on sound enough ground," he said, adding that there is no specific plan to make further reductions. "All programs took some hits. We're all riding the waves of the Oregon budget situation."

The real concern, Haynes suggested, was whether the incoming president would understand the needs of the technical programs. He said the extent to which administrators understand technical needs has a direct bearing on program funding, adding that he hopes the new president will be as supportive as retiring President Jon Carnahan.

Haynes blames the state Legislature and federal government for budget cuts made to technical programs. "When writing letters to legislators or congressional representatives, their responses often show they don't understand the technical needs," he said.

On this point, Bates agreed.

"I'm not necessarily ticked off at the administration here at this school," he said. "I'm more ticked off at the legislators that are cutting funding from the programs. Every program is important. And this one, even though the dollar signs are high, it's still a very important aspect of life to have people who can turn a wrench and know what they're doing."

Next week, Part 2 of the series will examine how administrators determine where to make budget cuts and will include comments by former Instructional Specialist Jim Allen on the changes to the diesel program.

"I get the feeling occasionally that they're just trying to whittle away and eventually get rid of the program. It's really frustrating because no one wants their program cut."

▶ Sam Bates

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Elvis Lives!

David Wylie, LBCC student, serenades Jenny Van Drew and friends in the Courtyard last Thursday with his Elvis impersonation. Wylie says he has been impersonating Elvis for most of his life and has performed in Las Vegas and various fairs.

Iraq-bound husband sends roses

Student Keegan Foster received a special bouquet of one dozen birthday roses Tuesday afternoon from her husband, Tim Hoard, who was deployed to Iraq with the 162nd division that same morning.

"He's a good planner," she said, as her eyes teared up.

Hoard sent the roses to the Health Occupations office with his wife's cell phone number on it. The two last saw each other on Valentine's Day and have been married for five years and have a 2-year-old daughter.

While he was at Fort Carson, the two talked to each other once a week. She believes she won't hear from him for over a month.



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Keegan Foster, a criminal justice/pre-law major, was surprised to receive a dozen roses Tuesday from her husband Tim Hoard, who was on his way to Iraq with the 162nd Division.

MC Center to offer free flicks

by Heather M. Scott
 of The Commuter

The Multicultural Club will show free movies every Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. beginning April 21 in the Student Clubs and Organizations Room.

Most films will be fairly recent such as next week's movie: "The Cup," a 2000 movie about Tibetan monks whose love for soccer rivals their lifestyle.

Other movie possibilities include "Before Night Falls," a 2001 film about the life of a famous gay poet from Cuba and "City of Lost Children", a 1995 movie about children who have been stolen for their dreams.

Department invites artwork submissions

from the LB Art Department

Students who have been enrolled in any Art Department classes this year, including painting, ceramics, design and photography, are invited to submit work to the second annual Art Student Juried Exhibit this week.

Deadline for submissions is Thursday April 17.

Cash awards will be made by the jurors in several categories.

Work must be professionally presented and ready to hang, with the artist's name, title, me-

dia and price (if for sale) labeled on the back of the piece. Artwork can be submitted to the secretarial office in the AHSS Building between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Jurying will take place on Friday, April 18, and work not accepted for exhibit can be picked up at the secretarial office on Monday, April 21.

The exhibit will be on display in the AHSS Gallery from April 21 to May 16, with a reception and awards ceremony on Wednesday April 30 at noon in the gallery.

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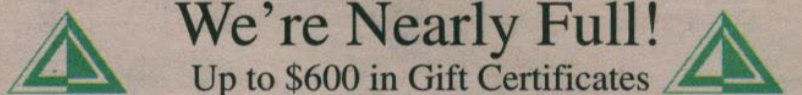
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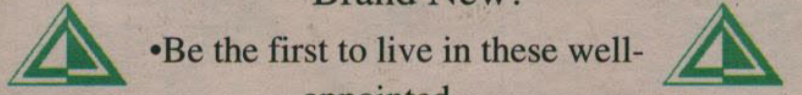
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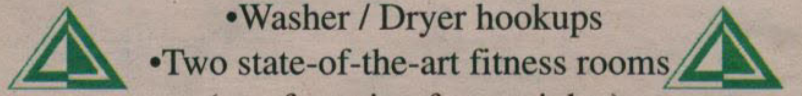
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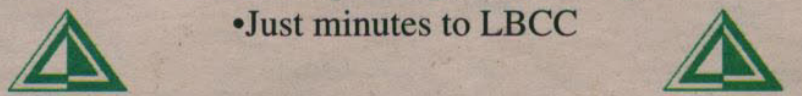
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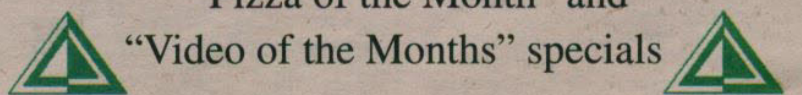
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SCHOLARSHIPS

KATU Minority Broadcaster Scholarship- \$4000 Available for students in broadcasting curriculum intending to transfer to a 4-year institution. must have 3.0 a GPA and be Native American, African American, Hispanic, or Asian. Applications available in the Multicultural Center. Completed applications due by April 30th.

St. Elizabeth's Baker County Scholarship- \$1500 Health Care majors who graduated from or are current residents of Baker County may apply for this scholarship. Applicants must be of sophomore status by Sept. 2003. Applications are available in the multicultural Center and must be completed by April 15.

Geraldine Stephenson Continuing Education Scholarship- \$3000 Legacy Meridian Park Hospital Auxiliary provides a yearly grant up to \$3000 to an individual in medically-related field. Designed to award students who have interrupted their schooling due to financial or family needs. Must have a 2.5 GPA. Applications available in the Multicultural Center and due by May 30th.

LBCC Community College Awards and Scholarships. The spring term application process for scholarships is now underway. Applications and information on these scholarships may be obtained in the Multicultural Center or on-line at www.linnbenton.edu/foundation/scholarships. Applications are due by April 25th.

HELP WANTED

Security Officers (# 1844 on site at HP in Corvallis.) If you have 1-3

years security or related experience, they want you! Computer literacy, CPR/First Aid/ AED certification, pass drug screen and background check are some of the other criteria they are looking for. See Carla in Student Employment (T 101) for more information before these positions disappear!

Computer Aided Note Taker (#1838, LBCC) Great job on campus (\$8.71/hour) for someone who is available for work 10:30 am- 12 noon for a biology class. More openings will be coming up for other classes, so apply now. Please see Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101) for more info!

Veterinary Technician (#1839 Independence) This clinic is looking for a graduate of our vet tech program for their full-time position which open May 1. 2003. See Carla for a referral on this exciting opportunity.

Office Coordinator (#1847 Philomath) This part-time position is in a small office working for appraisers and is about 20 hours a week. Pay is \$8.50/hr to start and goes to \$9/hr after 90 day probation. If you are familiar with Word, Excel, and answering phones, see Carla in T 101)

due by May 31th. Scholarships of up to #3800 are available Don't delay act now!

There will be a meeting of the Gender Equity Club on Tuesday April 29 in the student Clubs and Organizations meeting room from 12-1. All students interested in promoting gender equity on campus are invited! Soup and rolls will be provided. Call Nancy at 917-4786 for more information.

Home for rent! 3 bedroom 1 3/4 bath. North Albany. View. Close to schools and park. Fenced yard. Shop. Storage. Nice neighborhood. Fruit trees. Berries. HUD approved. \$859/month. 1st, last deposit. (503) 606-9895 or Tom @ ext. 4630

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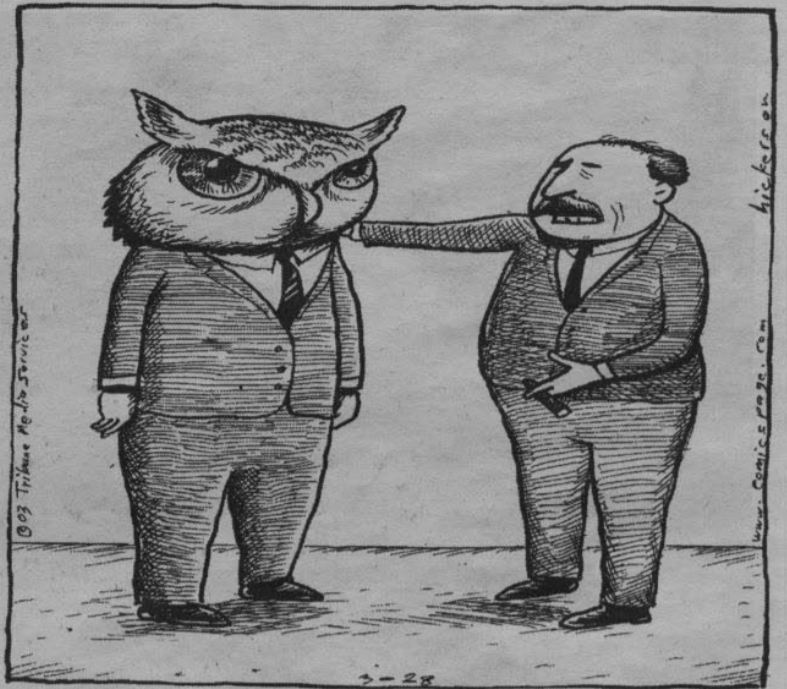
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Do you receive financial aid but still have "unmet needs"? If so, apply now for the Sallie Mae Unmet Need Scholarship. Applications are available in the Multicultural Center and

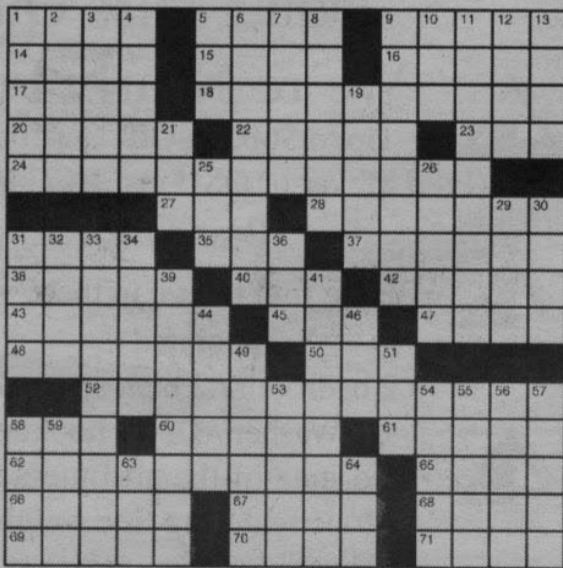


"I'm going to have to let you go, Stepanoff ... you just don't seem like a morning person."



Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Brit's apartment
 5 Meat in a can
 9 "Jerry Maguire" director
 14 Provoke
 15 Accomplish
 16 Indy entry
 17 European river
 18 Slothful person
 20 Alaskan tongue
 22 Loses moisture
 23 Citric cooler
 24 Observing carefully
 27 Actress West
 28 Moves slowly
 31 Uneven cut
 35 Nevertheless
 37 Show up
 38 Favorable responses
 40 ___ of Cortez
 42 Olympian's award
 43 Wise man
 45 Even one
 47 Find a buyer
 48 Mournful poems
 50 Anderson of Jethro Tull
 52 Certain derby participants
 58 Cereal grain
 60 River of forgetfulness
 61 Pick up the check
 62 Stabbed with a small dagger
 65 Opera song
 66 Adores
 67 Small whirlpool
 68 Like claret or Chablis
 69 Signs
 70 Facility
 71 Fewer



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04/14/03

- DOWN**
 1 Mutation
 2 French city
 3 Dramatist Edward
 4 Prepare to drive
 5 ___ Jose, CA
 6 Recipients of binding promises
 7 Watchful
 8 Innumerable

- 9 Part of a telephone pole
 10 Unrefined
 11 City near San Diego
 12 Tuesday in movies
 13 ___ Stanley Gardner
 19 Actress Winger
 21 Comic Conway
 25 No vote
 26 Cruel brutes
 29 Nearly round
 30 Foster film
 31 "Auld Lang ___"
 32 Part of a shoe
 33 Inclined to be bold
 34 Square one
 36 Drink for two?
 39 Lacking dirt
 41 Licorice flavorings
 44 Find a new tenant for a flat
 46 Tibetan beast
 49 Small sofa

Solutions

S	S	E	T	E	A	S	E	S	N	E	M	O
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DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling

www.dtwits.com



The National Weather Service apologizes for mistaking Sal the Weather Gal's ultra-sound for a Doppler Radar readout. The severe fetus alert has been canceled.

Editor-In-Chief: Wendy Geist
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LOCAL NEWS

News on happenings around the county including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Philomath, Tangent and Sweet Home

Sweet Home skaters to get their own park

by Rhonda Hanks
 of The Commuter

The four-year vision of skaters, bikers, city officials and many volunteers is finally becoming a reality.

According to the Sweet Home Era, The Kiwanis club, City of Sweet Home staff, the Sweet Home Parks Board and volunteers have raised about \$50,000, including \$30,000 in city funds towards the construction of the new BMX/skate park.

In a meeting recently, site managers from the Kiwanis, the City, school district, Rotary Club and parents of the user group were selected to look at site availability for the proposed park.

A site criteria assessment meeting was held this month to check the potential of all locations proposed in the Jan 15 meeting. These volunteers will then go to each proposed site and evaluate them based on: size of location, room for traffic flow, and permission of land usage.

One difference between the Albany Skate Park and the Sweet Home Park is the use of modular equipment for the park, such as ramps, pyramids, rails, banks,

"The site must be in a area where noise isn't an issue, but not so secluded that the small percentage of problem causers would be able to cause problems."

▶ Craig Martin

launch boxes, quarter pipes, and mini half pipes.

The equipment can be purchased and placed on a concrete deck with less expense. The modules the city is planning on purchasing are made of steel and coated with a non-skid substance that helps with safety. They are manufactured by Skatewave Modular Park Systems of Delano Minn.

One of the advantages of using modular systems is that it will make the citing of the park easier. In addition there will be warranties on parts and replacement parts can be ordered.

Modular components also appear to be more durable than concrete, and if the original site fails, the pieces can be moved to another location. Another advantage is the ease of adding equipment on to the

existing park with less expenditure.

Once the site has been chosen and readied and the design of the skate park is complete, Skatewave will send the equipment and volunteers will install the pieces.

Proponents of the park have already discussed remedies to some of the possible problems typically associated with any recreational facility, such as vandalism, inappropriate equipment use, and litter. Some methods the city has proposed to combat these problems are making sure the site selected provides open view to police sight, and making sure the area is well lit to deter bad behavior.

"The site must be in a area where noise isn't an issue, but not so secluded that the small percentage of problem causers would be able to cause problems," said City Manager Craig Martin.

The city's perspective is to have the park self-policed by the users of the park. They want to have it open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Restroom facilities will be available at the park site.

Some of the teens that want to use the park have spoken up and said they would be willing to help police the premises if it means keeping their park open.

COMMONS Menu April 16-22

Wednesday

Roast Chicken
 w/Pan Gravy
 Pork Enchiladas
 Pasta Bar
 Soups: Cabbage
 Beef Noodle
 Salad: Tarragon Shrimp

Thursday

French Dip w/Fries
 Almond Chicken w/
 Steamed Rice
 Vegetable Calzone
 Soups: Creamy Roasted
 Chicken
 Vegetarian Won-Ton
 Salad: Chicken Taco

Friday

Chefs Choice



Monday

Grilled Pork Chop
 Chicken Gumbo
 Roasted Tempeh and
 Vegetables,
 w/Black Beans & Quinoa
 Soups: Chicken Noodle
 Split Pea
 Salad: Tuscan Tuna

Tuesday

Reuben Sandwich
 Greek Lamb Stew
 Vegetarian Thai Curry
 Soups: Shrimp Bisque
 French Onion
 Salad: Chopped Salad w/
 Special Dressing

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SPORTS

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

Equestrians compete in regionals for first time

The only community college to compete, LB puts in strong effort

by Wendy Geist of The Commuter

Four members of the Linn-Benton Equestrian Team qualified for and participated in the Zone 8 Championship two weekends ago in Costa Mesa, Calif.

LBCC's team was the only community college team to compete in the regional event. Winners of this Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Zone Competition are eligible to go on to the nationals.

Although none of the riders from LBCC qualified for the nationals, the team considers themselves very fortunate to have made it this far.

"To be able to qualify for zone as a young team is a big thing," rider Mia Corwin said.

The team has only been in existence at LBCC for three years. But the members have all been around horses since they were young.

Corwin, who rode western style at the zone, began riding horses 15 years ago when she was new to 4-H.

Molly Brennan, who rode English at the zone and placed fifth in her class, has been riding horses since she was three.

Tristan Conway has been riding since she was four and started riding western when she came to LBCC. Conway placed



Photos by Thomas Lin



"To be able to qualify for zone as a young team is a big thing."

► Mia Corwin

English Coach Jenny Strooband (top) and Western Coach Cindy Gooch (not pictured) aided the Equestrian team in making it to the Zone 8 Competition this year. Mia Corwin (right) was one of four riders who competed. She placed fifth in Western.

sixth in beginning western horsemanship.

Roxie McGrath placed sixth in English and has been riding horses since she was ten.

"I look at it as I'm the sixth best rider in nine states. I could have done better, but better luck next time," McGrath said.

In regionals, the team competed against Washington State University, Oregon State University, University of Oregon and the University of Washington, and have traveled to places such as Seattle and Bellingham, Wash., for competitions.

LBCC also provides horses

for competitions and did provide them at regionals held at OSU.

"It is not necessary to have your own horse to compete, Corwin explains.

The team is open to anyone interested. Practices, which are held once a week for each riding style, are held at LBCC's Horse Center, which is a short five-minute drive north of the college.

Joining the Equestrian Team is done on a walk-on basis. "It's kind of nice, everyone has an equal opportunity to be on the team," said Corwin.

OSU has 20 spots on their team but acceptance is based on tryouts. LBCC started out with 18 team members at the start of their fall season and they have 13 members on the IHSA roster.

Corwin says the team emphasizes sportsmanship and teamwork.

"Our team helps take down jump courses," she said. "We always try to help each other out, even though we are com-

peting against other teams. It is not a negative competitive atmosphere, even if it costs us—for example when we clarify the pattern and then they go and beat you."

The team will celebrate its accomplishments at LBCC's animal science banquet, which is scheduled for next Wednesday. Most of the team members are currently studying horse management.

Lakers come back to sweep Runners

by Jered Reid of The Commuter

The Linn-Benton baseball team was able to play four out of their eight scheduled games last week, going 1-3.

The weekend was not kind to the Runners, however. After their game against Lane was rained out, the team lost two heart breakers against SW Oregon last Sunday.

In the first game of the doubleheader, the Runners were leading 5-3 going into the bottom of the ninth inning. But the Lakers were able to take advantage of costly Roadrunner errors and go onto win the game 6-5, with a game winning single to right field.

The Runners belted out 13 hits in the contest with sophomore outfielder Cody Smith leading the charge, going 4-for-5 with a run scored, two RBIs and a double. Rafael Colon and Casey Nagler each recorded two hits, and Sky Manon and Eric Beasley both had doubles during the contest. Freshman pitcher Kyle Koontz pitched eight-plus innings for the Runners striking out 10 SWOCC batters.

In the second game, the Runners jumped out to a 5-0 lead, but the Lakers had an eight-run second inning and the final score was 8-5 in the Lakers favor.

Both teams did a lot better in the field during the second game, as the two teams combined for only three errors in the second game, compared to the 14 of the first game.

Freshman Travis Breidenberg had three of the Runners nine hits, contributing a triple, run scored, and an RBI. Jesse Thorpe scored two runs and recorded a double, while Shamen Johnson pitched in two hits and an RBI.

Last Tuesday, the Runners traveled up to Salem to play a make-up game against the Chemeketa Cougars. The first game witnessed a brilliant per-

formance from pitcher John Best, who threw all nine innings, only allowing one Cougar run and got the win 5-1. The second game was much more of a nail-biter, as the Runners and Cougars battled for 11 innings before the Cougars were able to get the win 6-5. Smith went 4-for-5 in the game.

The Runners are now 2-4 in southern league play and find themselves 3 1/2 games back of league leader Lane, whom they will play Saturday in Eugene. The Runners next home games will be a doubleheader against SWOCC on April 24 at 1 p.m.

Meantime, the players, coaches and groundskeepers are working extra hard to get the LB field in shape after the wet weather over the weekend.

LBCC BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Date/Time	Opponent	Location
April 19/1pm	Lane	Eugene
April 22/1pm	Southwestern	LBCC
April 24/1pm	Chemeketa	LBCC
April 26/1pm	Chemeketa	LBCC
April 29/1pm	Southwestern	Coos Bay
May 1/1pm	Lane	LBCC
May 3/1pm	Mt. Hood	LBCC

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NATIONAL NEWS

News and information
 from the United States
 and the world

Young college couple experiences war first hand

by James M. O'Neill
 of The Philadelphia Inquirer

For two U.S. college students stranded in the Iraqi desert, their Good Samaritans turned out to be a carload of Somalis.

Eastern University seniors Jonathan and Leah Wilson-Hartgrove and their team of Christian peacemakers had been kicked out of Iraq by the government, and they were on the road back to Jordan, in the middle of the desert with their gas gauge on empty.

They had already stopped at two stations, both closed. As they drove, they could see bombs falling in the near distance, on both sides of the road. They were at the third station, also closed, when Somali medical school students drove up. The students popped open the hood of their car, pulled out the battery, hooked it up to the gas pump, and got the gas to flow for the Americans.

The Wilson-Hartgroves, both 22, were back on the Eastern University campus April 8, describing their journey home after five days in Iraq last week. They had risked their lives to enter Baghdad after the war started to live out their belief in Jesus' message of peace and to show Iraqi people that U.S. Christians were not all supporting the war.

They visited a hospital, listened to Iraqis grieve at the death and injury inflicted by stray bombs, and made it home safely, even more committed to acting

out their faith by spending time with people who are suffering.

But for all they gave, they also received Iraqi kindness.

On the route out of Baghdad, they traveled in a three-car caravan with other Christian peacemakers. The Wilson-Hartgroves were in the lead car. Their driver, nervous about the bombs, swerved around missile craters, burnt-out military vehicles and debris. Suddenly, the third car behind them was no longer in the rearview mirror.

When the Somalis rolled up, they said that they had seen the other car in a ditch, with a tire blown out from road debris, the doors open, and blood inside. The car was empty.

The Wilson-Hartgroves persuaded their driver to turn around, and after seeing the car, they headed to nearby Rutba.

There they learned that a children's hospital in town had been reduced to rubble by bombs, and that their team members had been taken by an Iraqi driver to the local clinic.

Peacemaker team member Weldon Nisly, 57, of Seattle, had been seriously injured when the car slammed into the ditch. He suffered broken ribs, a broken clavicle, a broken finger, and a large gash in his head, which Iraqi doctors at the clinic stitched closed. They charged the Americans nothing.

Although their journey had been dangerous, the Wilson-Hartgroves said it was worth the risk being present for those who were suffering, being able to listen to the anger of Iraqis



Photo by Peter Andrew of the Miami Herald

Eastern University seniors Jonathan and Leah Wilson-Hartgrove missed most of the action in Baghdad after a team of peacemakers to show the people that U.S. Christians were not all supporting the war. As seen here, American forces encounter little Iraqi resistance as they take Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit late Monday afternoon.

who had lost children, siblings and loved ones.

The Christian Peacemaker Teams project, which has sent groups trained in nonviolent conflict resolution to such hot spots as Haiti and Hebron, Jordan, since 1988, is an initiative of Quakers, Mennonites and the Church of the Brethren.

The Wilson-Hartgroves learned one key phrase in Arabic that they repeated when meeting Iraqis angered by the bombing: "We are sorry," they said, holding their hands over their hearts.

On their second day in Baghdad, they visited a bombed market. One Iraqi gave an impassioned speech, saying the Iraqi people would fight back against the invading Americans and British "with our shoes if we have to."

They visited a neighborhood where a bomb had hit. They entered a house and saw the blood-stained mattress where they were told a 5-year-old girl had been watching TV when shrapnel ripped through the room.

The next day, team members visited a hospital, where they

saw the girl and two siblings whose faces were speckled with scabs from shrapnel. A woman whose daughter had been on the mattress watching TV pulled out a photograph of another child, who she said had died in the bombing.

The sight of that Iraqi woman, with three children lying in the hospital from wounds and one dead, brought Leah Wilson-Hartgrove to tears.

"There was nothing we could really say," her husband said. "But it was important just to be there with them."

Court rips Governors State University for censoring paper

by Richard Wronski
 Chicago Tribune

Student journalists at south suburban Governors State University won a federal Appeals Court ruling Thursday in a First Amendment case that was closely watched on college campuses nationwide.

A three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected an argument that college administrators have the same power as high school officials to censor school-sponsored newspapers.

The decision paves the way for three Governors State students to pursue their lawsuit against former Dean of Student Affairs Patricia Carter, charging that she violated their freedom of speech rights.

In October 2000, Carter ordered that the college's student-run newspaper, named the Innovator, could no longer be published without an administrator's prior approval.

Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, called the ruling

significant for college journalism.

"The college press has for decades been out there, kind of edgy, always stirring up things, always out there trying to raise some trouble," Dalglish said. "This will further empower college journalists to get out there and do groundbreaking journalism."

The appeals court Thursday rejected Carter's contention that she was immune from the lawsuit and sent the case back to U.S. District Judge Suzanne Conlon.

Illinois Assistant Atty. Gen. Mary Welsh, who represented Carter, cited the U.S. Supreme Court's 1988 decision involving the Hazelwood, Mo., School District in the dean's defense. In that ruling, the justices found that high school administrators have broad powers to censor student newspapers.

The appeals court rejected this argument in the Governors State case, saying that treating college students "like 15-year-old high school students and restricting their First Amendment rights by an unwise extension of Hazelwood would be an extreme step."

The ruling is only binding in Illinois, Indiana and

Wisconsin, but the opinion may be influential beyond the 7th Circuit, said John McGinnis, a professor at Northwestern University School of Law.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are former Innovator editors Jeni Porche and Margaret Hosty and staff member Steven Barba.

Porche and Hosty took over the semimonthly paper at the 9,000-student college in University Park in May 2000 and began stirring controversy with investigative articles and stories critical of the faculty and administration.

Later that year, Carter told the Innovator's printer, Regional Publishing, that the newspaper must be reviewed by a school official before any more issues were printed. Carter argued that no one from the university had reviewed the paper for journalistic quality and that it may have contained grammatical errors.

The Innovator, founded in 1971, hasn't been published since. The students filed a federal lawsuit in January 2001, charging that their free press rights had been violated. Carter left Governors State last year.

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