OCA rallies for support at

5 LBCC

Reggae veterans jam at the Peacock

Stitzel injury leads to Roadrunner 11 pounding

Linn-Benton Community College, 6500 SW Pacific Boulevard Albany, Oregon 97321

Up-grading

College considers adding plus-minus to grade system

By Trista Bush

Of The Commuter

The Instructional Standards Committee is now considering a proposal to change LBCC's grading system from straight letter grades to a plus and minus system.

The proposed grading system would break down with the following point values:

A (4.0)	B- (2.7)	D+ (1.3)
A- (3.7)	C+ (2.3)	D (1.0)
B+ (3.3)	C (2.0)	D- (.7)
B (3.0)	C- (1.7)	F (0)

Both Oregon State and the University of Oregon use the plus-minus grading system with the same point values.

"OSU adopted the system three or four years ago and the students' grade average stayed pretty much the same (overall)," said Russell Dix, the associate registrar at OSU.

According to Dix, the faculty at OSU seem to like the system, but it is not mandatory that every faculty member use it.

Dix did say he has noticed a significant increase in (Turn to 'Teachers' page 4)



Photo by Chris Treloggen

Grinding It Out

Randy Walker seems to know how to deal with the daily grind of classes as he works off the rough edges from his project in preparation for his evening certification class. Walker's instructor, Dean Dowelless, says the national certification is needed for any work done on large construction projects, like bridges and pipelines. Additional pictures of "Students at Work" can be found inside, on page 7.

State shifts Oakville Road intersection to prevent accidents

By Audra J. Stephens

Of The Commuter

A plan to make a "disconnected intersection" where Oakville Road meets Highway 34 has been set into motion as a solution to the chronic accident problem which has plagued that section of the highway.

The new intersection will require moving the southern leg of the Oakville Road so that it meets Highway 34 at a new location 1,400 feet to the west. To cross the highway, motorists must turn right, cross left into a center refuge lane, wait until traffic is clear, then proceed across by turning left.

"We allow for people to make one movement at a time," explained James Halloran, lead designer of the Region Location Office for the Oregon Department of Transportation. This plan "helps make it a safer way to make maneuvers."

The Department of Transportation also plans to make other adjustments, such as raising the northern leg of Oakville Road. This will make Oakville Road fit better with the elevation of the state highway, which in turn will give motorists a better view of Highway 34, Halloran said.

Halloran said street lights will be placed along a half-mile stretch between the Calapooia River to the railroad tracks to the west. A flashing beacon will also be installed at the new entrance of the Oakville Road to help Proposed Left
Turn Lane

N

To Corvallis

Hwy. 34

Construction: New County
Remove & Obliterate
Road Connection

Remove & Obliterate
Existing Road

alert motorists of the upcoming intersection.

Holloran said most of the accidents that occur at the Oakville intersection are the result of high traffic volumes and fast speeds. It's very difficult for people on the Oakville Road to get across the highway. "They get impatient and use less than the best kind of judgement," he said. Most of the accidents that occur at the outlet involve turning vehicles.

According to Halloran this project is

the result of public hearings in Albany, and input from The Department of Transportation's technical staff.

The Citizens Advisory Committee, which is composed of people who live around the Oakville area, also added to the formulation of the plan. "These people really have a stake in the outcome of this," Halloran said.

Despite appeals from local residents for a traffic light at the Oakville intersection, Halloran believes a signal would cause more rear-end accidents and other problems. "Most people realize that this isn't a perfect plan, but it's the best we can do under the circumstances."

Halloran hopes increased state police patrols at the Oakville intersection and the rest of a ten-mile stretch up and down Highway 34 will decrease the number of accidents on the highway.

The original estimate of the project was slated at about \$780,000. However, Halloran included some extra costs and determined the new figure to be just under \$1 million.

Funding for the project will come from the Hazard Elimination Program of the Department of Transportation. The Federal Highway Administration pays 90 percent of the money, and the state pays 10 percent, Halloran said.

The contract will be open for bids by the end of June and construction should be underway by early July. Most of the roadwork will be completed by October, after which the new road work will only need lighting work.

About six miles of farmland will be purchased for the new intersection and landscaping will be done to cover up the old stretch of Oakville Road.

Several other intersections along Highway 34 will soon have lights and flashing beacons installed. Those intersections include: Colorado Lake Drive, Tangent Loop Road, White Oak Road, Riverside Drive, and Columbus Street.

Fast times on Highway 34 leave motorists feeling it in the wallet

John Butterworth

Of The Commuter

Late-sleeping LB students who race down Highway 34 at Mach 5 may want to reconsider their priorities. While ducking into a class 15 minutes late may be embarrassing, paying the new \$329 ticket fine that

went into effect yesterday would be even worse.

As of yesterday, the fines drivers will pay for traffic violations increased by 250-450 percent.

That means drivers cited for exceeding the 65 mph speed limit on (turn to 'Fines' page 4)

Old world women teach youngster lesson in masculinity

By Tony Lystra Of The Commuter

Scott and I sat under a fig tree and beat flies to death with a baby blue swatter.

My older cousin and I had been in the now former Yugoslavia for about two weeks, exploring the rural areas of Montenegro on what was our first pilgrimage to the birthplace of our great-grandparents.

Our days had been filled with excursions to ancient Turkish forts, swimming holes and the front porches of countless family we'd never met.

I learned quickly during these visits that, at the age of only ten, I was considered a youngster—a pup, too young to hang out with men and too energetic to enjoy spending quality time with women. I resultingly spent much of my time in the motherland sidestepping the pampering hands of great aunts and their daughters.

Scott, who was only two years older than myself, was a man, a strapping twelve-year-old of Montenegran lineage. He got respect, honor and a place at the table with men who would yammer about old times and gulp bottles of Raquea and Slivoviza (booze strong enough to power an airliner).

Whenever I could, I'd slip into a spot at the table, perhaps sip a bit of Uncle Drago's raquea and do my best impression of a strong Montenegran war hero. Sometimes, when men folk were piecing their tiny east-European car back together, I'd sit on the front porch and pretend to supervise.

But most often I ended up playing second fiddle to my older cousin—a predicament spawning from cultural factors which I accepted. Before I could scurry off to the table designated for mass booze consumption, I was typically scooped up and oogled at by some old-world mama who wanted to poke at the little American kid.

At the time, I wanted nothing more than to be respected as a strong Montenegran.

But today I'm greatful for the time I spent with those Montenegran women.

Little ones, male and female, commonly tottered around the countryside bare-butt and exposed to the world. When they got dirty, mom scooped them up, dropped them in a bucket and hosed them down.

I was doing my best impression of a man of the world, observing culture and enjoying the setting sun and the smell of good Yugoslavian cooking, when an old woman snatched me by the shoulders, dropped my pants and hosed my privates.

Mom had told me to respect Yugoslavian culture and maintain dignity in compromising situations. But I had my manly pride and this woman was hosing what was left of it down the drain. I was on the other side of the country with my shorts at my chest before anyone could say, "Hey, where's that naked little American kid going?"

It was after one of these adventures that Scott and I settled into the early evening under our Uncle Drago's fig tree.

We'd been drinking Kokta, the Yugoslavian answer to Coke. I'd contentedly sunk the bottle half way into my mouth like little kids commonly do, when Drago leaned over and mumbled into Scott's ear.

Scott leaned into me and said, "Drago says you drink like a woman. You're supposed to do it like this." He tipped the bottle just so it touched his lips and finished his Kokta.

Scott will tell you that's exactly what Drago said. He claims he could understand the old man because they both speak German. I never believed that Drago really said anything of consequence to Scott.

But a subconscious urgency to place my name among the ranks of true Montenegran stock gave me the wrong impression that little things--like how you drink from a bottle-- determine how much of a man you are.

Today I know that it's not only how much Raquea you can drink, or how you drink a bottle of Kokta that makes you a man.

It's all a matter of how good you are at catching naked little Yugo-brats speeding across fields at Mach ten. It's a matter of how hard you can make your house-guests laugh. That's what being strong is all about.

In retrospect, that's what I learned from the Montenegran women I hung out with. I respect them now more than I did as a sprout.

But I'll never put a glass bottle in my mouth again.
I think Drago would be proud of me.















The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising.

Commuter Staff

Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration,

faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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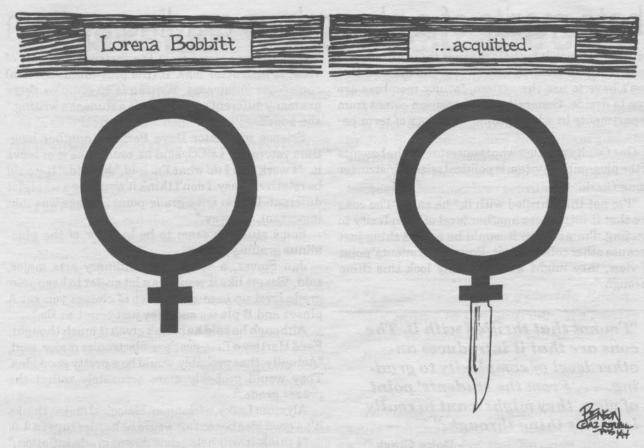
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Spielberg film tells exceptional story

By Richard Cohen

The Washington Post Writer's Group

Washington-I am sitting here, at my desk and before my computer screen, trying to write about "Schindler's List," the new movie by Steven Spielberg. It's a film about the Holocaust, about Oskar Schindler, the German bon Vivant,

womanizer and decadent Commentary arriviste who saved the lives of some 1,100 Jews,

all of them his slave laborers. After the war, he stumbled from one failed business to the next until, broke, he had to be supported by the very people whose lives he had saved.

He is buried now in Israel, a German among Israelis, a Catholic among Jews-in death as in life, an odd man out. He had ordinary vices, but he was no ordinary man.

In a virtual parody of capitalism, Schindler was a entrepreneurial camp follower.

He came into Poland on the heels of the conquering German army, determined to profit from the war. He took an apartment expropriated from Jews and set himself up in the business of making enamel cookware. For employees, he used Jewish slave labor, paying the Nazi authorities—but not his workers-for their time.

His true talent was the corrupting of others—of Nazi officials, of pretty women and, even, of his wife who came to accept his dissolute lifestyle.

He was a man who eschewed the generic. Wine has a vintage, cognac a brand, cigarettes a preferred manufacturer and his suits were of silk because that was the best.

Over his shoulder and out the window, Jews were routinely being murdered, but Schindler professed indifference. They were, as a Nazi officer later said, "units."

But Schindler saw them as people.

Thomas Keneally wrote about Schindler in 1982. Two years earlier, he had walked into a Beverly Hills shop in search of a briefcase and wound up talking to the proprietor, a Holocaust survivor named Leopold Pfefferberg who had been saved by Schindler.

Because he invented some dialogue, Keneally called his book a novel, but it really isn't. It's as true as the hole left in Europe by the Nazi genocide—a void that Holocaust deniers say they cannot see.

That's why, I suspect, Spielberg ends his film at the Jerusalem hillside where the Jews saved by Schindler place memorial stones on his grave. If seeing is believing, then Spielberg is intent on making everyone believe.

I try not to write about the Holocaust anymore

because, frankly, I can think of nothing new to say, no fresh angle. Its meaning, if there is one, still eludes me.

Spielberg, though, has succeeded where most others have failed-not because he is wiser or smarter, or has discovered an heretofore hidden meaning, but because he is a brilliant filmmaker. His camera has taken up where literature has failed or, more precisely, proven insufficient.

The late Terrence Des Pres wrote an unforgettable description of Auschwitz-Birkenau; Louis Begley's novel, "Wartime Lies," contains scenes which for me will fade only when I do Elie Wiesel's "Night" and various works of Primo Levi have their searing passages, but they were all humbled by the enormity of their material and constrained by the imperative to stifle their anger, to conceal any bitterness, to be courteous to the reader and spare him a total immersion in the hideous. Levi, an Auschwitz survivor, was praised above all for his lack of bitterness.

In the end, he killed himself. So did Des Pres.

But the camera confronts. Seeing is believing because seeing is experiencing. It's the way most of us take in the world.

In Spielberg's ghetto. It's not some sanitary, neat dragnet of people, a chalkboard exercise that ends with the gassing of the naive and the incineration of their bodies-"processed," in Nazi-talk or, in the boast of the Treblinka death camp, "from door to door in 45 minutes."

Speilberg provides the asterisk to that account. His roundup, the Aktion, as the Germans called it, is a bloody, panicked affair, an exercise in foul barbarity for which the viewer has insufficient tears.

Keneally writes of "a screaming woman and a child," an SS dog's jaw clamped on the woman's hip. "The SS man-took the child, flung it against the wall" and shot the woman. This was witnessed by the Beverly Hills shopkeeper, Pfefferberg, but no, similar atrocities can be witnessed by others as well.

I have read of these events, walked their sites and tried to imagine them, but it was not until Spielberg showed them that I felt their immeasurable horror.

Even then, of course, the reality was so much

Schindler's Jews, his employees-cum-wards, survived the war. He squandered his fortune by bribing the authorities in their behalf. His exploitation turned to benevolence and then to an audacity that only the heroic could attempt and only the corrupt could bring

His wife once said that he had done nothing before the war, little afterward, but the period in between was exceptional. So is the movie that tells his story.

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

Writer reflects on a changing way of life

By Jack Josewski Of The Commuter

I noticed a new face on the campus the other day with all the earmarks of a retraining timber worker.

All the classic signs were there.

The brand new book bag, the slightly bewildered look, the Coleman lunch box and the most revealing clue of all, the worn Stanley thermos bottle tucked comfortably under one

It took me back to Commentary my first few times on

campus. I was enrolled in advanced welding and an English class and during the breaks I sat in the courtyard drinking coffee from my beat-up old thermos bottle wondering what in the hell I was doing here.

Seeing this new student, with his thermos bottle of hot coffee and a face painted with apprehension, brought back a raging flood of memories and emotions inside of me. I guess it was the thermos that really took me back.

I reflected back—back to the first time I ever saw my banged-up old thermos bottle. I couldn't actually remember how old I was, because my father carried it for nearly twenty years.

As a kid, I remember running to meet him in front of our house when he pulled his truck in from work. I'd carry his lunch box and that old thermos into the house bouncing at his heels like a happy pup. Once in a while I'd get lucky and find a Twinky or doughnut left in the lunch box and I suspect they were left to me on purpose.

I can still see my mother, on mornings I'd rise from bed long before a kid my age should, filling that old grey thermos bottle with steaming hot coffee for my father's long hard workday.

On weekends my father, brother and I would leave the house well before the dawn, to spend the day hunting grouse or prairie chickens on the South Dakota plains. Crunched in between them on the front seat of that pick-up truck the mornings seemed to be charged with excitement, electricity and the promise of a wonderful day in the field. Those are some happy memories for me and the old grey thermos bottle was always there filled with steaming hot coffee smelling so much like my mother's kitchen.

When my Dad passed away ten years ago, I comforted my mother the best I could, and helped her prepare for a life without that strong good man. And when it was time for me to go, back to my own life and career, she handed me that thermos bottle that had traveled so many miles in the honest hands of an American working class man.

I carried that thermos for the next ten years. Through the mills of Arizona, Oregon, Washington and North through Alaska I drifted repairing saws and living a life of hard work and hard play. Through the jewels of the nation's crown of national forests I traveled with each place more exciting than the last.

Each place I worked, when the noon-time whistle would blow and the men would gather for their lunch, that faithful old thermos would be hauled out and dusted off. A comfortable old companion in a wide unknown world.

I know now that I was collecting more than just a paycheck on my travels through America's Western lands. I was collecting a lifetime worth of memories and friends. It's been a long hard trip for both of us and I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Every glance at that old thermos brings back the faces and the times, both good and bad, of the travels I recall so well.

When my five-year-old son came to spend some time with me last summer, we spent our days on some great fishing trips on the upper reaches of the South Fork of the Santiam River. And I had to smile to myself on a glorious sunny morning, when at the head of the trail to the river, that young boy turned to look up at me and with wide serious eyes asked, "Could I carry your thermos down for you Dad?"

E XPRESS YOURSELF
The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Forum" pages to express their opinions. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional

and national issues are welcome. Submissions may be in the form of letters to the editor or, for topics that require deeper analysis,

Teachers, students, debate merits of a plus-minus grading system

the number of grade changes submitted by the faculty under the plus-minus system, which makes a lot of additional work for

his office. After From Page One grades come out at the

end of the quarter, he said, many students who are unhappy with their grades will get their instructors to change them.

Western Oregon State College in Monmouth is also considering changing to the plus-minus system.

According to WOSC's registrar, Dave Cowart, the schools' Faculty Senate has made an official recommendation in favor of the plus-minus system.

"They think they can grade more accurately", he explained. Cowart said his biggest concerns are the amount of grade changes that would be made after the quarter and the fact that under this grading system, a C- would not be eligible for financial aid. Cowart said the college will make a final descision by the end of this academic year.

Patsy Chester, assistant to the president at LBCC. said the idea is still under study here.

"The concept has been proposed and Diane Watson (director of admissions) will design a survey to give to all faculty," said Chester.

Watson said the survey would be ready in the next several weeks.

Economics Instructor Gerry Conner, who's been with the college for 20 years, supports the proposal but thinks the survey is unnecessary.

"Our two major universities use this system," he argued. "If they can use it, why can't we? I disagree

with the survey. It bothers me that there are several people at this campus who oppose the system. You don't have to use the system, faculty members are free to decide. Generally the opposition comes from departments in which people write lots of term pa-

One faculty member who is uncertain of the benefits of the plus-minus system is political science instructor Doug Clark.

"I'm not that thrilled with it," he said. "The cons are that it introduces another level of complexity to grading. I'm not sure it would be a good thing just because other colleges do it. From the students' point of view, they might want to really look this thing through."

"I'm not that thrilled with it. The cons are that it introduces another level of complexity to grading. ... From the students' point of view, they might want to really look this thing through."

-Doug Clark

English Department Chair Beth Camp said she's neutral on the subject, but thinks the plus-minus system "would be a motivator for students."

"From the students' point of view, it's important to them when they apply to other schools," Camp said. "What I worry about from the instructor's point of view, is instructor bias. It (the plus-minus system) can create unfairness. Writing is so complex there are many different ways to grade a student's writing."

Science instructor Dave Perkins, another longtime veteran of LBCC, said he could take it or leave it. "I work and I do what I'm told," he said. "It would be relatively easy. I don't think it would be a whole lot different. I never felt a grade-point average was that important, anyway."

Some students seem to be in favor of the plusminus grading system.

Jan Stover, a second-year culinary arts major, said, "Seems like it would be a lot easier to keep your grade level up because in a lot of classes you get A pluses and B pluses and they just count as Bs."

Although he said he hadn't given it much thought, Reed Hartley a first-year pre-electronics major, said, "Actually, that probably would be a pretty good idea. They would probably more accurately reflect the proper grade."

Alyssum Lafky, a freshman biological major, thinks it's a good idea because it would be harder to get a 4.0.

"I think it will help (slow down) grade inflation," she said. "I think a lot of times people who don't do as good of job get higher grades. I think it's a great idea. I've been told there are a lot of people who go to a community college, then go to a university and have been shocked because they don't do as well because it's (the community college grade) no reflection of

Culinary arts students prepare dinner

LBCC's Culinary Arts Department Southern France, Greece and Spain. presents "ATour of the Mediterranean" Friday, Feb. 11.

The meal begins at 6:30 p.m. and features six ethnic courses featuring a variety of foods from countries on the Mediterranean: Southern Italy,

Seating is limited and early reservations are recommended. Call ext. 101 for reservations.

Tickets cost \$15 per person.

All proceeds will go to benefit the Culinary Arts Endowment Fund.

Fines increase for speeding commuters

by ten From Page One mph will pay between \$50 and \$134.

Motorists cited for driving 76-85 mph will now pay \$329. Running a stop sign or red light will cost \$233 compared to the previous \$48. And the fine for driving with an open container of alcohol will now jump from about \$50 to \$416.

The increase in traffic fines was voted into effect by Oregon's 1993 legislature. The legislative fiscal office expects the fines to increase annual state revenue by about \$9.6 million.

"This is a soft figure," said State Court Administrator Bill Linden. "If the increase in fines has the desired effect of decreasing traffic violations, it is possible for state revenues to de-

The legislature will reconsider the fines for traffic violations in 1995.

Linden said the most notable increase in bail is for open alcohol container violations. He said the increased open container fine is part of an effort

to combat Oregon's drunk driving prob-

Pendleton Police Chief Ed Taber said he expects more drivers to challenge their tickets in court. He expects that police will deal with more angry motorists. And court officials will endure long dockets. "I can see my overtime budget going out of sight," he said.

Drivers may still submit written explanations or appear in court in hopes of lowering fines, said Linden.

"The problem," said Said Salem Municipal Judge Frank Gruber, "will be people who will not be able to afford the

According to a Benton County Court clerk, those who are unable to pay the bail may make arrangements for interest free payments.

Taber expects that police will issue fewer citations. "Some of my officers found it difficult to write citations for \$99 for stop sign violations," he said. "It's going to be hard to write someone a ticket for running a stop sign that could cost them a month's rent."

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Messy students force closure of Fireside Room lounge

Office of Student Programs seeks solutions to room-use problems after finding trash, discarded food and tobacco spit on carpet

By Audra J. Stephens

Of The Commuter

The Fireside Room at LBCC was closed last week because students failed to clean up food and tobacco spit left on the room's newly reupholstered couch cushions.

Student Programs locked up room 211 in the College Center in an effort to keep students from further damaging the lounge, said ASLBCC Moderator Claudia Leavenworth..

"We have signs posted that say no eating, drinking, or use of tobacco," said Leavenworth. However, students still take food and drinks into the room while they study. This is not a problem according to Leavenworth—not unless those students don't clean up after themselves.

Student Programs recently used \$6,000 of student fees to repair and reupholster all the furniture in the room. "Unfortunately this year we've had increasing vandalism around the school," Leavenworth said.

Last term, \$400 damage was done to one of the

pool tables in the Recreation Room. This prompted Student Programs to close the room for a few days while they decided how to set up a monitoring system.

A "Rec Room Watch Committee" was formulated by Jed Robinson, Student Government's business and health occupations representative. The team of about twelve students set up a schedule where at least one of them monitors activities in the Recreation Room.

In return, they can play free pool while monitoring. Monitors remind people to not sit on tables or drop pool balls for example.

"Luxuries like the Fireside Room are going to get scarcer. We really have to take care of what we have now."

-Claudia Leavenworth

This team was possible because students took an active part and helped out. However, it may not be a feasible idea for the Fireside Room, said Leavenworth.

"Nobody really wants to take the initiative, but someone has to," Robinson said.

The Fireside Room was also closed on several occasions last term because of similar problems, Leavenworth said. Students shoved chip bags and banana peels in between couch cushions and left lunch trays and food on the tables. In addition, soda pop and paper cups full of tobacco spit have been spilled.

Leavenworth said another problem Student Programs faces is students sleeping on couches and placing their muddy shoes on the cushions.

Leavenworth believes the Fireside Room is "the living room of the school. She said she wants it to be comfortable and accessible for everyone."

Student Programs has asked that the college use student fees to replace the existing carpet in the Fireside Room.

But Leavenworth said she doesn't want money wasted on a room that is going to get trashed. "We are reluctant to push that request if we are going to continue to have problems," Leavenworth said. "Luxuries like the Fireside Room are going to get scarcer."

"We really have to take care of what we have now."
Student Programs is in the process of formulating a plan to deal with the problems in the Fireside Room. "If anyone has any ideas, we look forward to hearing them," Leavenworth said.

California couple helps OCA gain support for upcoming election

John Butterworth

Of The Commuter

About 170 people showed up at LBCC's Commons to listen to Oregon Citizen's Alliance representatives Friday night.

In preparation for November's vote on the The Minority Status and Child Protection Act, sponsored by the OCA, the organization is holding a series of meetings throughout the state. According to OCA head Lon Mabon, the meetings are an effort to consolidate the vote of "the mainline church" and the "evangelical church" of Oregon.

The featured speakers at the meeting were Pastor Chuck and Mrs. Bonnie McIlhenny, of San Francisco. They presented footage from the Christian Braodcasting Network's coverage of an assault on their church by gay activists. Pastor McIlhenny also spoke of his court struggles as pastor of America's first church to be sued by the gay movement. Mrs. McIlhenny spoke of her struggles dealing with having her home and family firebombed and shot at.

Outside the meeting, about 15 people held a candlelight vigil near the entrance. Randy Brown, Series Event Specialist of ASLBCC, said their purpose was, "to let the OCA know that there are people here on this campus that are opposed to what they are doing." Prior to the meeting, they placed "hate



Photo by Micky Shannon-Monroe

Pastor Chuck and Bonnie MCIIhenny describe their recent assault by millitant gays in San Francisco.

free zone" posters around campus.

Mrs. McIlhenny said the most frightening aspect of her experience with gay activists was the periodic threatening phone calls which were sometimes aimed at her children. "People would describe in detail our children's school schedule, classes and their route to school, and then describe in vivid detail how they would torture our children before killing them," she said. There came a point that after a firebomb, bullets and other objects coming through their windows as they slept that she said her family thought about leaving San Francisco.

Pastor McIlhenny spoke of his experience with the gay community. After firing a recently hired organist who he discovered was gay, he was sued by that organist on the basis of discrimination. In the process of being exonerated in court, he said, "It cost over \$100,000 and loss of part of my congregation.".

In response to accusations that the OCA's initiative is based on hate, Mabon asked that OCA critics read the initiative.

The initiative amends Oregon's constitution by adding a section to Article 1. It states that within Oregon's government, minority status shall not be applied to homosexuality and that children, students and employees shall not be advised, instructed, or taught by any government agency that homosexuality is the equivalent to race, color, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

The initiative also states that in regard to public employees, lawful sexual behavior is a non-job related factor; licenses, permits, or services can't be based on lawful sexual behavior.

A Free Lecture at LBCC

An Oregon Pioneer: Abigail Scott Duniway

- •Kay Sweetland Bower
- •February 8, 1994
- •Fireside Room

Ms. Bower will be speaking about Abigail Scott
Duniway who traveled to Oregon in 1852 in a covered
wagon. Duniway was instrumental in helping to secure the voting rights for Oregon women.

Noon-1:00 p.m.

College Center Second Floor
Linn-Bention Community College
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Albany, Oregon

Oregon suffragette Abigail Scott Duniway subject of second Chautauqua program

LBCC Student Leadership presents the second lecture of its three-part Chautauqua series with a multimedia program by Kay Sweetland Bower on "An Oregon Pioneer: Abigail Scott Duniway" on Tuesday, Feb.8, noon-1p.m., in the Fireside Room,

Bower's presentation covers the life of Oregon pioneer and suffragette Abigail Scott Duniway.

Born in 1834, Duniway and her family came to Oregon in a covered wagon in 1852. Committed to securing the vote for Oregon women, Duniway began the suffrage newspaper, The New Northwest, and traveled across the Northwest lecturing for women's rights.

The lecture is sponsored by the LBCC Student Leadership and was made possible in part by a grant from the Oregon Council for Humanities.

In the third lecture of the series, Sharon Sherman examines Oregon folklore in "uniquely Oregon: Exploring Oregon's Folklore," Wednesday, Feb. 23, noon- 1 p.m., in the Alsea/ Calapooia Room.

For more information, call Tammi Paul or Randy Brown at Student Programs, 967-8831, weekdays.

Ashland novelist to give reading at LBCC

Novelist Sandra Scofield will read fromher work as part of the Valley Writers Series on Friday, Feb. 18, 10a.m.-1 p.m. in the Boardrooms.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, she will hold a workshop called "The Authentic

Story" for new and experienced writers.

A resident of Ashland, Scofield has written four books: "Gringa," "Beyond Deserving," "Walking Dunes," and "Morethan Allies."

Warmer climes beckon as spring break edges closer

Urge to travel leads Albany woman into part-time job lining up get-away vacations for local residents tired of Oregon winter

By Renee' Lunsford

Of The Commuter

If you're looking for some place a little out of the ordinary to travel for spring break, Millie Corder may be able to help you.

"I took a trip to France, and that gave me the bug to travel," she said.

That was 10 years ago.

Today Corder, a storeroom clerk for the Willamette Industries Paper Mill in Albany, works as a travel agent on the side.

Since she began working in the travel industry she has snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Climbed Mayan ruins in Mexico, scaled ancient temples in Tical (Guatemala), and "attempted to climb Ayres Rock (Australia), without much success."

"It was pretty treacherous," Corder said.

Corder said her travels have led her to some harrowing experiences—experiences that taught her to appreciate life in the U.S.

During a trip to Guatemala, Corder said she was riding in a six-man plane when it flew into torrential rain storm. She said the pilot was using a two-way walkie-talkie radio to keep in touch with the air traffic control tower.

During a cyclone in the Cook Islands, Corder said she saw locals nonchalantly board up their windows. They told her, "Don't worry, we'll tell you if anything new develops."

Corder said she told them, "I'm sorry, but I'm from islands and taxes.

used to having cable TV and the weather channel, I want to know what's happening, right now!"

Corder said after ten years on the road, she still lives to travel. She says it gives her the chance to see a lot of historical sites, new faces, and unfamiliar cultures.

"I love to help other people plan their vacations, some of these are once-in-a-lifetime experiences," Corder said.

She helps folks plan their vacations based on what they want to do when they get off the plane. Does the person like quiet sleepy towns or a lively nightlife? How much money do they want to spend? Is this a good time of year to visit a particular location?

For example, Corder says, "Now is not a good time of year to visit Australia, it's their summer and it's just too hot."

"Some people just have to go to Hawaii," says Corder. For them there are travel packages beginning at \$485 per person - includes round trip ticket, seven nights lodging, transfer flights from islands, taxis and a lei greeting.

Corder said the Waikiki commercialized scene is most appropriate for "party hardy" types. But she said for a few hundred dollars people can visit much more exotic islands than Waikiki.

The Cook Islands, she said, are a little quieter, although the locals like to party. The islands feature snorkeling, diving and the famous Banana Court club. Corder says the club doesn't open until 11 p.m., so guests usually go to Terry's Bar which has a happy hour from 5-6 p.m. and then filter into the Banana Court later in the evening. Travel packages start at \$1,079 per person—include round trip ticket, seven nights lodging, transfer flights from islands and taxes.

"There are cruise ships to fit every taste—from budget to luxury—from active to mild."

"And then there's always Mexico," says Corder. Puerto Vallarta is also a little quieter, with a village-type atmosphere. The famous flick "Night of the Iguana," starring Richard Burton and Liz Taylor, was filmed in the city. Corder said the beaches at Puerto Vallarta aren't as reputable as other tropical vacation areas, but the area is full of great night clubs, shopping malls and small boutiques. Travel packages start at \$465-\$500 per person. The packages include round trip ticket and seven nights lodging.

For those who would prefer a more active setting, there is Mazatlan. Mazatlan is known for it's fabulous beaches and is also the home of the famous "Senior Frogs" club, a restaurant and bar similar to Portland's Tequila Willies. "Senior Frogs really rocks at night!" Corder said. Packages start at \$465-\$500 per person and includes round trip ticket and seven nights lodging.

"Cruises are always an excellent choice," Corder said, "There are cruise ships to fit every taste—from budget to luxury—from active to mild." The Carnival line (known for the Loveboat) targets mainstream working class Americans. Most cruises include a large variety of music—ranging from piano bars to disco. At port, vacationers can go ashore to see the sights or stay aboard the ship, where, the ship's crew hustle to entertain passengers. Prices start at \$899 for air fare and cruise.

For information you can reach Corder at 928-

Some of Washington state's most delightful destinations are unheralded

By Don Duncan

Seattle Times

There's Olympic and Rainier national parks, Mount St. Helens, the San Juans.

But some of Washington state's most delightful attractions, rank, in terms of respect, along with Rodney Dangerfield: they don't get much of it

MIMA MOUNDS

The Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, near Little Rock in west-central Washington, is for those who enjoy a scientific whodunnit.

What caused the formation of thousands of earthen mounds—roughly 30 feet in diameter and seven feet high—in the Little Rock and Tenino areas?

Unfortunately, it's harder to find the Department of Natural Resources Interpretive Center than to understand the theories. Take the Little Rock exit off I-5. Drive west through the town's junction and up a slight hill to a T-fork in the road. Turn right on Waddell Creek Road, even though left (Mima Road) seems to make more sense. Drive about three miles to the sign for the interpretive center. Don't give up.

Lt. Charles Wilkes, heading the Wilkes Expedition, "discovered" the mounds in 1845, and Paul Kane, a frontier artist for Hudson's Bay Co., described them in his diary in 1847. Scientists have advanced three credible theories to explain the mounds:

1. Pocket gophers.

2. Ice Age Theory I. Many scientists believe the mounds were formed by surface freezing and thawing during the last Ice Age, 15,000 years ago.

3. Ice Age Theory II. The earth may have been

frozen in polygon shapes during the Ice Age, and flooding waters may have washed away the dirt between the cores.

GINGKO PETRIFIED FOREST

Exit at Vantage off Interstate 90 just east of Ellensburg in Central Washington.

One sign points right, to Wanapum State Park on the lake formed by Wanapum Dam. The other points left, to Gingko Petrified Forest, which contains two distinct areas: Heritage—a state park, "Trees of Stone" trail and an interpretive center; and Natural—ranger station and more trails. Stop first at the interpretive center to examine large chunks of petrified wood. Don't overlook the stairs down to the Indian petroglyphs, rock etchings brought to high ground for before Wanapum Dam flooded their original sites.

Give Peace A Chance!

Come and Check Out The LB Peace Club!

Experience this terrific slide show and discussion with LBCC Political Science Instructor Doug Clark. The themes of the meeting will include:

- Experiencing International Politics First-hand!
- · Live! From Vilinus, Lithuania!
- · War and Peace in the 1990s!
- Former Soviet Republic Site of Inter. Conference!
- LBCC Invited to Send a Delegation!
- · World Politics-Up Close and Personal!

Feb. 9, 1994 LBCC, AHSS 103 Begins at 2:30 P.M.



Your Chance To Make A Difference In The World!!!

COLLEGE TRANSFER/ TRANSFER SEMINAR

College Transfer Day will take place on February 14, 1994 in the Alsea/Calapoolia Room from 9a.m. to 1p.m.. Seventeen Oregon college representatives will be available to answer students' questions and concerns. Hopefully this will help ease the transition process from two-year to four-year schools.

On February 11 the LBCC Transfer Seminar will be offered from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and 1p.m. to 2p.m.

Boardrooms A & B. LBCC counselors Blair
Osterlund and Martha Christensen, and OSU counselor Les Dunnington will provide detailed information for students transferring from LBCC to four-year educational institutions.

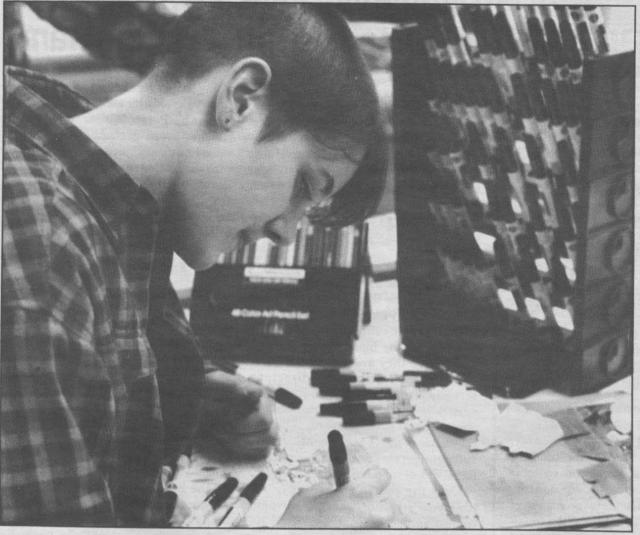


Photo by Jacob Pigg

Graphics student Cynthia Hubble works intently on her illustration for a class in 3-D Packaging Design.

Students at Work

Several students in Rich Bergeman's photojournalism class recently fanned out across the campus looking for pictures of students with their noses to the grindstone. They found a wealth of activity in almost every building on campus, from grease-stained automotive technology shops to squeaky clean nursing labs. Some of the pictures they came back with are on this page.



Photo by Tiera Page Dental assistant major Katharine Healey practices on Dexter the Dummy In the Dental Lab before working on real patients. The lab offers low-cost dental care for qualifying students and provides training for future dental assistants.



Second-year nursing student Betsy Borin joins other students in practicing the proper technique for putting on surgical gloves.

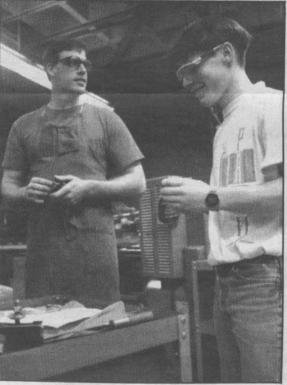


Photo by Trista Bush Brian Casburn and Jon Rievley work in the Machine Shop on their lathe project in Mike Burke's manufacturing technology class.



Auto Tech major Mike Clark prepares a V-8 engine block for rebuilding.

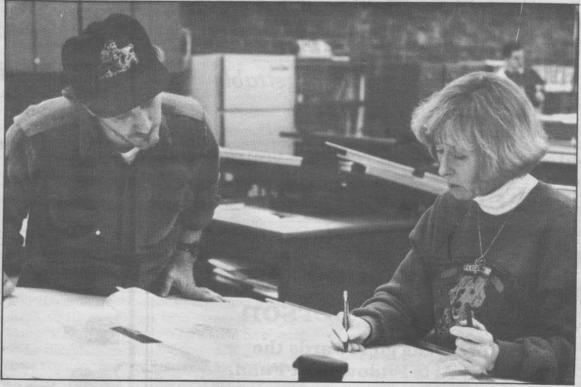


Photo by Cyndy Wells Drafting student Marjie Fries discusses the advantages of an upstairs laundry chute with a classmate in Advanced Architectural Detailing class.

Coming Attractions

Valentine's Day flowers on sale

Student Programs is now taking orders for carnations to be delivered on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Representatives will be in the Commons Lobby to take orders through Friday, Feb. 11. Flowers cost\$1.25 each, or 6 for \$6. Students can ask for certain colors only if they order six or more flowers.

Faculty member curates show

"Disappearing Oregon," an invitational photo exhibit assembled by guest curator Rich Bergeman of LBCC, is on view at the Benton County Historical Museum through Feb. 26. It features images that describe "some of the vanishing physical and social symbols that have come to define Oregon as an idea, as well as a place," Bergeman said. The seven photographers participating are: John Baugess, Dan Powell and Susie Morill of Eugene; Stu Levy and Brooks Jensen of Portland; Dan O'Brien of Monroe; and Gary Tarleton of Corvallis. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Valentine's Art Show Opens

In conjunction with the Guild Sweet Art Show of 1994, the Corvallis Arts Center features two artists with a special link to the spirit of Valentine's Day. Rebecca Mannheimer is a paper-artist from Portland who works in a variety of media. She will have small collages with handmade, Japanese and gold papers on display. Her imagery refers to love through more and also less abstract forms. Sandra Maynard from Sheridan calls her

collection the Rainbow Reflections. She makes bears and bunnies from a variety of different patterned fine knits. The Sweet Art Show goes through Feb. 26. The Corvallis Arts Center is located at 700 SW Madison, Corvallis. Opening hours are noon to 5, Tuesday through Sunday.

Arts faculty show work

The LBCC Art Gallery is exhibiting work by LBCC faculty through Feb. 10. The Art Gallery is located in the AHSS Building and is open to the public 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. The exhibit includes recent mixed media paintings by Judy Rogers; photographs by Rich Bergeman, Shelley Curtis and Jim Tolbert; mixed media designs by Sandra Zimmer; paintings by Doris Bartholomew Litzer; and graphic designs by John Aikman.

Opera Guild preview planned

A preview of the musical Man of La Mancha will be held Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. at 303 Benton Hall on the OSU campus. The room is wheelchair accessible. Michael T. Coolen, OSU associate professor of music, will tell the story of the musical written by Dale Wasserman and play recorded excerpts of the music. Admission is free to Linn-Benton Opera Guild members and students.

On The Verge

Three Victorian "lady travelers" stride out for Terra Incognita and find themselves moving through time as well as space in Albany Civic Theater's current production of "On the Verge." Performances are Jan. 14, 15, 22, 27, 28 and 29 at 8:15 at ACT's Regina Frager Theater, 111 W. First Ave. A matinee performance will be held on Jan. 23 at 2:30 p.m.

Sundance Film Festival gives independent films a shot at fame

By Dave Kehr

New York Daily News

PARK CITY, Utah—"This is unbelievable," says the young Hollywood producer, looking around the cavernous dining room of the River Horse Cafe, the most stylish eatery in this ski resort town nestled in the Wasatch Mountains.

"It's as bad as any Los Angeles restaurant. Everybody in the business is here."

Not everybody, perhaps. But there are enough industry types, instantly recognizable by their black ski parkas and amazingly unself-conscious way of wielding their cellular phones at dinner, to chill the blood of any civilian. The reason they are assembled hereproducers, distributors, directors, screenwriters, actors and casting agents—is not the River Horse's celebrated sauteed chicken breast but the Sundance Film Festival, now in its 10th anniversary under the auspices of Robert Redford's Sundance Institute.

Over the course of its 10-day run (this year's edition ended Saturday), the festival presents approximately 100 feature films, and serves as the leading showcase in the country for work by young, independent and financially strapped film makers laboring outside the Hollywood system.

The face-to-face proximity is unusual and thrilling for this business, which usually takes place in the unreal world of the telephone and fax machine.

Business is conducted in the restaurants, in the streets, and in the ski condos that surround this 19th-century mining town. Business is often conducted on the slopes, but less so this year, thanks to warm temperatures and thin snowfall.

Redford, who occasionally descends into Park City from his Olympian home high in the mountains, told an opening day press conference of his passionate determination to keep Sundance pure.

"This is a festival for filmmakers," he said, "and we're committed to keeping it that way."

Indeed, several stars in attendance this year-Matthew Modine, Daryl Hannah, Peter Weller and Ethan Hawke- were present not as Hollywood icons but aspiring directors, each with short films entered in the program. Carole Bouquet, the French actress and Chanel spokeswoman, was here for reasons no one can quite explain.

All of this tends to distract from all the new talent on display. In the documentary category, the heart of the audience went to "Hoop Dreams," a three-hour study of two high school basketball players from Chicago, comparing their lives over a four-year period

Steven M. Martin's goofy and engaging "Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey" chronicles the unbelievable life of Leon Theremin, inventor of the electronic instrument that bears his name (a science-fiction movie staple that was featured in the Beach Boys' "Good Vibrations") and ace wiretapper for the KGB.

Among fiction films, the festival brought Lodge H. Kerrigan's brilliant and excruciating study of a paranoid schizophrenic, "Clean Shaven"; Kevin Smith's grungy comedy of life in a New Jersey convenience store, "Clerks"; "Go Fish," a warm-hearted lesbian comedy of manners by Chicagoan Rose Troche, and "River of Grass," a witty and original variation on the road movie by Kelly Reichert that was probably the festival's critical favorite.

The popular favorite was unquestionably "Fresh," Boaz Yakin's unabashedly sentimental story of a young Brooklyn boy who somehow manages to be both an unspoiled innocent and a shrewdly calculating drug runner.

Many of these films will be on commercial screens within the year. Others will fail to attract distributors and subsequently slip into obscurity. But Sundance gives them all a fair shot; that's what the festival is for, and how it should remain.

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February 11, 1994
6:30 pm
The Commons
\$15.00 per person

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Student Programs 967-8831 ext.831

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.



'Wiley and the Hairy Man' to entertain local youngsters

Childen of all ages can help the slick talking Wiley outwit the Hairy Man

By Tricia LaFrance Of The Commuter

He's the archetypical trickster known in literature throughout the world. He makes things disappear, transforms himself and keeps coming back. He's Wiley, and he'll be appearing in this year's children's production by the LBCC Performing Arts Department.

The award winning play "Wiley and the Hairy Man," will be presented Feb. 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 3 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater, Takena Hall.

The fast-paced play, all in verse, centers on whether Wiley can outwit the Hairy Man three times, so he will never be afraid of him again. "Wiley and the Hairy Man," is a Southern folk tale written by Jack Stokes and adapted for the stage by Alice Molter.

"Children will be excited to see Wiley out trick the

biggest trickster in the swamp," said Jane Donovan, play director. "Hairy Man is funny. He does dumb things--the blunderer who is often the victim of his own tricks."

The set, for this audience participation play, extends into the audience space with suspended swamplike vegetation. Children help tell the story and create animal sounds to enhance the swamp atmosphere.

The cast for "Wiley and The Hairy Man" includes Storyteller: Andrea Rust, Corvallis; Wiley: Russ Moline, Albany; Mammy: August Petypool, Corvallis; Hairy Man: Randy Brown, Albany; and Chorus: Michelle Washburn, Corvallis; and Beth Calhoun, Albany.

Russ Moline showed up at tryouts and was persuaded to audition for the play, Donovan said. "He did, and he's having a great time. It's the first play in which he has performed."

The cast of LB students has lots of energy and enthusiasm, according to Donovan, and after a month

of rehearsals is ready for the kindergarten-fifth grade students.

The final dress rehearsal will be a preview performance held Wednesday at 7 p.m. The cost is \$2 at the door.

Maskmaker Deborah Fisher of Bend is making the mask and the costume for the Hairy Man while Elaine Murphy of Albany is designing colorful costumes for the other characters. Barbara Platt Lauris of Philomath choreographed the dances to Cajun. music.

"Wiley and the Hairy Man's short, fast, lively fun," Donovan said. The play lasts less than fifty minutes.

Play goers are invited to come early and see drawings of the play's characters as interpreted by local elementary school children.

Tickets are \$2 for children and \$4 for adults and are available at Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis, Steven's Jewelers in Albany and through the LBCC Box Office. For more information, or to order tickets, call the LB Box Office, 967-6504, 9 a.m.-noon weekdays.





Photos by Micky Shannon-Monroe

Bill Hayee shows his versitality Thursday evening at the Peacock Lounge. He blows a mean trombone, plays some percussion and sings back up harmonies with Jah Levi and the Higher Reasoning.

Jah Levi gets the Peacock crowd jamin' to a Reggae beat

By ND persons Jr. Of The Commuter

The crowd at the Peacock Tavern in Corvallis was inspired to move their dancing feet last Thursday night. The Reggae sounds of Jah Levi and The Higher Reasoning added a different beat, dreads, and bit of color to the usual Thursday night Peacock scene.

Jah Levi is mildly psychedelic with its guitar effects, a bit jazzy with its horn melodies, and reggae with its driving rhythm section. Jah Levi, a man on a mission, holds his conviction in the Rastafari. His faith in Jah was felt and heard in the music played at the Peacock Thursday. The dancing throughout was practically continuous, as sweaty faces came off the dance floor with the conclusion of each set.

Jah Levi and The Higher Reasoning is traditional in their production of world-beat roots reggae, but their Nyabingi drumming and chanting with a heavy electric groove makes them different from the reggae most listeners have been exposed to. So there were mixed opinions from the crowd.

One girl said that she thought she was coming to see a different reggae band, that is ten times better than The Higher Reasoning.

Another woman mentioned that she must be spoiled after seeing The Mighty Diamonds at Squirrel's years ago, and that Jah Levi and The Higher Reasoning left her feeling disappointed.

I thought the band's music was representative of their strong roots harmonizing with an open mind for what's happening in the modern era.

Jah Levi seems like a man with respect for tra-

dition, and a love of experimentation with different sounds. His credentials show just that.

His life was not always consecrated to Jah. He went through much of the same trials and trips that most teenagers face. But he was "zapped" by a vision. The vision lead him on a quest to "penetrate Rastafari."

Jah Levi calls The Higher Reasoning and himself "spiritual rockers." There is no flash or showboating in their music. There are no frills that some come to expect from a live performance—in fact the stage performance is a bit dry, but the music is penetrating.

The group members are: Jah Levi, vocals and guitar; melodica, kete; Ras Menilik, vocals, kete and percussion; Steve Abramson, vocals and keyboards; Bill Hayee, vocals and trombone; Currin Davis, bass; and Jah Ty on drums.

Jah Levi's guitar sound is big. It was rock and roll big but definitely reggae in feel. He presides over a rack of digital effects which channels guitar loops and trippy sounds, some of which were live and some were sampled. He also had about ten different knobs and switches on his electrically modified electric guitar. It looked grungy.

Bill Hayee is the trombone player and quite an individual. He stands out on a stage with reggae musicians, looking as though he should be playing bass for Slayer.

Looks couldn't be more deceiving. He's a fabulous horn player. For someone who looks like they should be thrashing on stage, Hayee makes beautiful music. Although many of the horn sounds came from the keys, I could still distinguish Hayee's breath of sound.

The bassist for Jah Levi is a new edition to the band. Davis didn't seem as one of the faith of Jah, but the bass sounded good, even though, as Davis told me, he'd just entered the band and they're still getting it together. Davis is a blues-man in a reggae band. An unusual reggae band.

The drums and bass together produced a thick groove to dance to. It was bumpin'. That's what makes the music so accessible to people unfamiliar with the roots reggae aspect of the band.

With the rhythm section, the percussion, and Jah Levi adding in his trippy samples-the mood is one of dancing.

The show was familiar and predictable one moment, feeling like true roots reggae, and yet very unpredictable at other moments. I was impressed and inspired by the keys. There was one intro in particular that felt like a slow, rock, piano ballad. It climaxed in a propulsive reggae beat, my friends and I looked at each other and howled, "Jah! Rastafaride! Feeling irie!" The work on the keyboards was otherwise used to harmonize with the horn and keep rhythm with Jah Levi's guitar rhythm.

One would expect Jah Levi and The Higher Reasoning to be out of their element playing in a constricted town like Corvallis. But what better place to relay their message to the people.

One love, Corvallis!

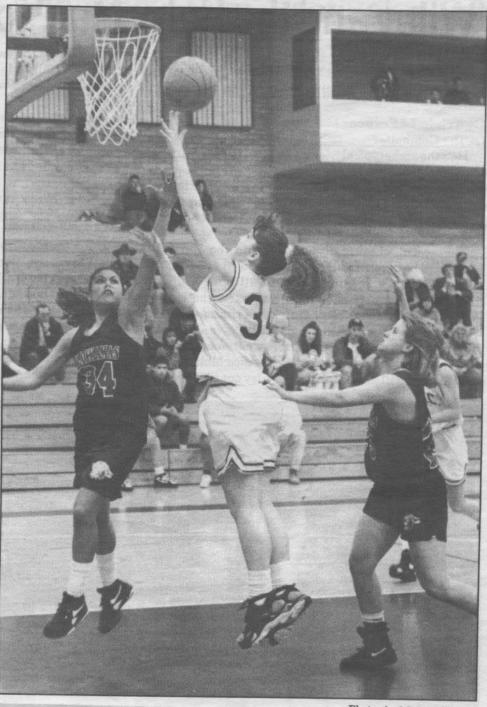
"...it's time once again to bring our musical vision on the road, to perform our music, and spread our spiritual message..."

—Jah Levi.

Women come up short in battle with Clackamas

Roadrunners Molly Mickey (below) and Darci Powell (right) lead the attack against the Clackamas Cougars Saturday in a game that slipped away from LBCC in the final minutes. The Cougars won 56-48, but were up by only two with only four minutes left. From that point, however, the Cougars went on an 8-2 run to take control of the game. The loss was the second in as many games for LBCC last week—the Roadrunners were upended by a powerful Lane team in Eugene on Wednesday by a score of 95-69. In that game, the Titans shot over 50 percent from the floor, led by Kelly Boles' 6-for-6 shooting from behond the three-point line. Leading the Roadrunners in scoring were Darci Powell and Michelle Neuman, who each scored 18 points.





Photos by Michelle Harris



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Salem

Monday, February 7 Chemeketa Community College Building 3, Rooms 118-120 Portland/Beaverton Tuesday, February 8

Tuesday, February 8
Greenwood Inn, Fir Room
10700 S.W. Allen Blvd.

Portland/Clackamas Wednesday, February 9 OIT Metro Center

7726 S.E. Harmony Road

You will have the opportunity to interact improvisationally with representatives of OIT's Admissions and Financial Aid Offices, faculty members, students and President Lawrence Wolf.

[5]

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Mother Cries

It's a gift to my heart...

To stand among the forest so serene
The morning's dew upon the leaves of green
But tomorrow the ground I stand upon
Will slide away to the lakes
And these trees will be gone from the grounds.

It's a Burden upon my heart...

That we must insist on tipping nature's balance
Pull the precious life from an ever moving cycle
And we cut their limbs and be stripped of their bark
Uprooted all for the need for greed
Take my Mother Earth

J.D. Monroe



Photo by Keith McIntueff

Earthquake

It was 4:30 a.m. I found myself flying through the air, landed on the floor with a thud, and bounced a little. The air was split with the cry of twisted steel and crackling boards, falling plaster and brick. It was my wake up call.

Being a native Californian, I laughed. It was just another earthquake. The native Oregonians were probably terrified of the things rumbling, rolling and flying through the dark night. No use to turn on the television. No power No water. So I went to my battery operated radio and turned on the news. I did not have to pick frequencies. Those that had the power were all stating the same. A 7.2 trembler with multiple aftershocks. I grabbed my flashlight and checked for damage, putting on my shoes to keep my feet from getting cut on the glass. I was in pretty fair shape. Nothing major broken.

I found my way to the kitchen and drew out several gallons of fresh tap water. Remembering the 17 January 1994 Sylmar-Northridge disaster, I knew that the water would probably be contaminated before long.

Preliminary reports were coming in from Portland. Epicenter was ten miles northwest of Millersburg. Close, but no cigar.

Portland was a mess. Half of the bridges over the Willamette and Columbia Rivers were down and many of the others were damaged. I-5 was a disaster and Oregon was cut off from Washington, right across the river. Power outages ran from British Columbia to the Los Angeles basin, just like the sylmar-Nothridge quake.

The floor started shaking again. Aftershock. We would have hundreds of them before this thing was all over.

Better check on the neighbors. Kelly with her husband and four kids, Brad, Jaimew and their two, Stephenie with her husband and the two girls in the house. By now most of them were dressed and poking their heads out the door. The one neighbor in the middle came out in his army reserve uniform. I joined him and we checked apartment to apartment. No one killed. A few walking wounded.

Since he had no orders to report, we decided to move all of the tenants to the strip between Waverly School and the motel. They would be safe there .Nothing to fall on them. I called the Superintendent of Schools and asked him to send some one out to open the yard. He agreed.

Grabbing blankets, dry soup, and a few large pans, we set up a tent city in the playground. Several trees were down in front of the apartments, and one of the neighbors got a chain saw and started cutting wood to keep us and to help us start making hot soup. Late that afternoon, the army trucks started arriving and started a mobile field mess for us.

Fantasy? Albany and Oregon sit on an earthquake fault zone. Several run through Portland, others near Mount Angel and as far south as Klamath Falls. It is not inconceivable that one of these days we will suffer the same fate as those in Southern California. Be prepared.

Sherman Lee Pompey

I know a guy who is alone.

He sits around by his phone.

He has no friends, no one to see.

He laughs and plays, and has a good time.

But no one knows what he's like inside.

He feels hurt from the love he lost.

But he knew in time he'd pay the cost, and so he takes it all in stride

And holds it in with all his pride.

That's all I know of him you see

Because right now, this guy is me.