

THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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Spring Days celebration enlivens LB

by Leon Tovey
of The Commuter

With temperatures climbing into the 70s and 80s and the sun making more frequent appearances with each passing day, it would seem that spring has finally sprung.

So it must be time for LBCC's annual Spring Days celebration.

The main event this week is the All-Campus Picnic and Carnival, which will be held from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. today in the Courtyard.

The Carnival will include a book fair, information booths and carnival games sponsored by various campus groups. There will also be live entertainment, a watermelon-eating contest and a dunk-tank where, for a quarter a shot, you get a chance to sink ASG President Todd Gifford or business instructor Ian Priestman. Profits will go to the LBCC Foundation's scholarship fund.

As part of this year's festivities, the week has been designated Campus Awareness and Pride Week, featuring the second coming of the Trash Bash, a contest aimed at getting teams of students, faculty and staff to clean up the campus. Everyone who participates will get a T-shirt, and the team that collects the most trash by the end of the week will win a pizza party.

The rules for the contest have changed slightly from the first Trash Bash, which was held in January. During the winter Bash, some teams turned in bags that included leaves and sticks, much to the dismay of event organizers.

"Last time it just turned into a big leaf and stick competition," student activities coordinator Carol Wenzel said last week. "This time we are only accepting real trash—no yard debris."

Event organizers are also giving triple-weight credit for cigarette butts, gum and recyclable materials.

(Turn to "Spring Days" on Pg. 2)



photo by Robin Camp

Janet Johnson (rear) and Stefanie Hoskins enjoy the sunshine in the grass around the Courtyard this week, which will be the site of the annual Spring Days celebration today.

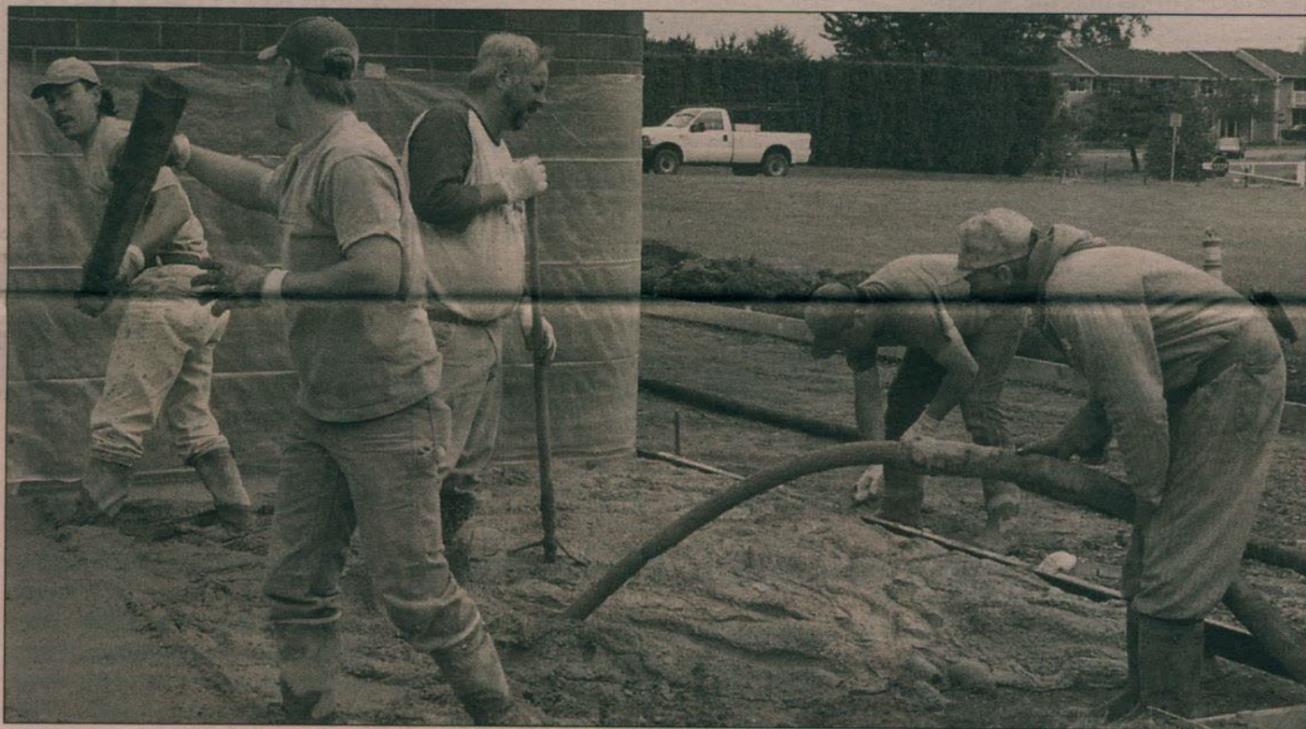


Photo by David Thayer

Paving the Way

Workers from Salem Concrete pour a wider, reinforced sidewalk around the Service Center Monday, one of four campus concrete projects being completed this week. New sidewalk access ramps for wheelchairs were added in front of the Activities Center and Takena Hall, and another walk was laid between the Industrial A and C buildings. Still to be completed is the addition of benches in front of Takena Hall in place of the center planting bed. Also planned are metal tables and benches in the Courtyard to replace the wooden benches, which have warped since their installation 20 years ago.

New financial aid advising room ready next week

by Leon Tovey
of The Commuter

Students wishing to discuss financial aid issues with an advisor will soon have a more private place to do it when construction is completed on a new room in the Financial Aid Office.

According to Lance Popoff, head of LBCC's financial aid department, the new office under construction in Takena Hall is expected to be finished as early as the end of this week.

The new office, which will be occupied by advisor Bob Rodgers, has been on the department's list of "things needed" for almost five years.

It was finally approved earlier this year and construction began a few weeks ago.

"We've needed a place where students could discuss their financial aid situation with an advisor without feeling like they're in a fishbowl," Popoff said earlier this week. "This will make it a lot more comfortable for everyone—students and staff alike."

Enrollment in LB/OSU dual enrollment program takes off

by Keirsten Morris
of The Commuter

An informational event on the LBCC and OSU dual enrollment program, which now boasts over 500 students for Fall 2000, will be held today from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Student Life and Leadership Office, where students can ask questions and get recruitment information from the program advisors.

The dual enrollment program, which made its debut in the 1998-99 school year with approximately 80 stu-

dents, was open only to four transfer programs at first. It is now available to students in all transfer programs and provides a vital link between LB and OSU.

"We're moving as fast as we can so students can enjoy what both schools have to offer," said Bruce Clemetsen, director of enrollment management.

The program allows students to choose a home school, where they must take at least six credit hours; they can take as many credits as they want from the other institution. Clemetsen points out that many stu-

dents take their classes at LB for the lower tuition cost, yet still have the benefits of attending OSU.

"You can be living and enjoying OSU and take all your classes at LB," said Clemetsen.

To join the program, students must pay a \$50 application fee and meet OSU's criteria, either as a freshman or transfer student. Freshman applicants must have a 2.5 GPA from high school, which is lower than OSU's normal standard of a 3.0 GPA. Transfer students must

(Turn to "Enrollment" on Pg. 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Time Warp

Lebanon drive-in takes moviegoers back in time

Page 3

Check This Out

Come hear a musical performance coupled with stories on rural American folk culture today at noon in F-104.

First Course

Culinary Arts students set table for education

Page 7



CAMPUS NEWS

OFF BEAT

Nude snaphooter nabbed

Women frolicking at a nude beach in Varberg, Sweden, were most annoyed when they spotted a man some distance away looking them over with a pair of binoculars. He also had a camera to capture images of them romping on the beach for his personal collection. He fled when they saw him, but the naked ladies got a good look at him too. They discovered the man's identity quite by chance when his wife innocently had his picture published in the local paper to announce his 50th birthday. He has since been arrested for breach of the peace.

Beware a woman scorned

In an effort to win back the husband who had left her, a schoolteacher in the United Arab Emirates had a sorcerer cast a spell on him. The ex-husband did not return to her, but he did suffer "physical and psychological ailments" after the spell was cast. As a result, the woman was sent to jail for harming her former husband. But an appeals court ruled that the illnesses were just a coincidence and set her free.

New citizen makes bail

Konstantine Berezovskiy, who was locked up in Florida on a federal drug rap, asked the judge to release him on bail so he could fly to New York and be sworn in as a U.S. citizen. He was freed on a \$50,000 bond.

Take this job and bug it

Timothy Lloyd, a computer expert at a high-tech company, was angered at being demoted and soon took his revenge. He set up a program, which prosecutors called a computer "time bomb," at the Omega Engineering Corp. in New Jersey. It made the machines forget how to make the company's products. The program kicked in in 1996, after he was finally fired, and it cost Omega about \$10 million. Lloyd will be going to jail very soon.

Bridal panic in Tinsel Town

An employee shortage forced a Los Angeles bridal shop to close for the weekend, but it sparked rumors that the store was going out of business. As a result, dozens of angry brides-to-be descended on Bridal Designs in a mad frenzy, and some broke in and grabbed their wedding gowns for their impending nuptials. The owner came in and restored order.

—From the TMS News Service

Once Upon a Time

Student Ambassador Diana Barnhart reads to a group of first and second graders from Albany's Central Elementary School during last week's Project Page Turner in the Fireside Room. The Student Ambassadors presented about 45 children with two books each that were collected in a book drive earlier this year. They also treated the kids to home-baked cookies and milk donated by Lebanon's Timber-Linn Dairy. The program, designed to encourage children to read, will be continued next year.



photo by A.J. Wright

Enrollment: Students benefit from program

From Page One

have a 2.25 GPA and have earned at least 24 credit hours, lower than the 36 needed to transfer to OSU.

By lowering the minimum GPA requirement and providing a single application fee for both schools, the program is designed to get students in the door with ease.

LBCC and OSU stay linked through access between the schools' student information network and interaction between OSU faculty and their LB counterparts.

Future plans include making the application for the program available on line as well as reviewing whether students should be charged a proctor fee for taking another school's test at LB, and issues involving academic standing and

the honor roll.

LB gets the word out on the dual admission program by distributing brochures at Oregon high schools, setting up recruitment fairs, word of mouth from LB advisors and counselors, and a direct link on OSU's admissions Web site.

The program is designed to give students as much help as they need as they make their journey through college.

"It can reduce barriers to students getting four-year degrees—they've been advised the whole way," said Clemetsen.

Applications for the dual enrollment program are available at the Admissions Office and information, contacts and frequently asked questions and answers can be found on the dual enrollment Web site at www.lbcc.cc.or.us/dualenrollment/

Speers named distinguished PTK officer

From the LBCC News Service

LBCC student Dan Speers received the Distinguished Regional Officer Award at the 2000 Phi Theta Kappa International Convention held last month in Orlando, Fla.

Speers, 45, is a member of Alpha Tau Upsilon, LB's Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

He is a Philomath resident, pursuing an Associate Degree in general studies.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two-year colleges, with more than 1,200 members at community, technical and junior colleges in all 50 states, Canada, Germany, Japan and U.S. territories abroad.

Spring Days: Trash Bash has new rules

From Page One

Another difference in the Trash Bash this time around is the rule about the make-up of the teams. In its first run, each team had to include two students, two faculty members and two staff members. This rule no longer applies.

Other Spring Days events include the annual Library Book Sale and the "Drugs, Drinking, Diving, Don't" Campaign.

The Library Book Sale runs all week at

the LBCC Library. Used books will be sold for 50 cents (hardbound) and 25 cents (paperback). Used records (real vinyl) will be sold for 50 cents.

The "Drugs, Drinking, Diving, Don't" Campaign will be held tomorrow from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the south parking lot. It will feature educational booths, FATAL VISION simulator goggles, and local car crashes caused by impaired driving. Ouch.

Community Chorale sings poetry June 4

From the LBCC News Service

The Linn-Benton Community Chorale will present music based on the poetry of the great American poets e.e. cummings and Robert Frost at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 4, in Takana Theater.

The Chorale will be directed by Hal Eastburn and accompanied by Robert King. Tickets are \$6 at the door and in advance by calling the Takana Theater Box Office at 917-4531.

The concert includes "Four e.e. cummings Choruses" by Vincent Persichetti and a piece written by Eastburn for the cummings' poem, "anyone lived in a pretty how town." Two musical settings by Neil Ginsberg will feature the e.e. cummings poems "once like a spark" and "porkie and porkie."

Also on the program are musically set selections by Randall Thompson from Robert Frost's "Seven Country Songs."

The women will also be featured on "Frost Bites" by Eastburn, which features three of Frost's poems: "Last Word of a Bluebird (as told to a child)," "A Minor Bird" and "My Cow."

In addition, the choir will perform a new edition of "Laudate Coeli Dominum," by Johann Adolf Hasse.

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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

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IN FOCUS



A marquee outside the drive-in lists the movie line-up.



Cars start to fill the MotorVu Drive-In Theater in Lebanon (above) as the sun begins to set. Moviegoers (below) get a good seat in the back of a truck.

Local drive-in offers nostalgic look back in to time, current movie selections

Photos and story by Justin Dalton of The Commuter

When you arrive at any drive-in movie theater, father time turns back the dial a few decades. It's sort of like a cameo appearance in "Grease," where you'd expect to see John Travolta trying to sneak a kiss with Olivia Newton-John in his hot rod convertible. The times have definitely changed but the scene remains the same.

Instead of piling your friends into classic Ford and Chevy coupes, people are crammed into imported cars and SUV's. Couches, mattresses and love seats are strapped to the back of pick-ups, while patrons sitting on them clutch

coolers and sacks of smuggled snack food as they cruise past the ticket booth.

Inside the booth, owners Carl Hermansen and his wife Shirley take turns collecting cash as motorists line up around dusk.

"Well, we had to open a half-an-hour early again. They were lined up clear to the highway tonight," smirked Carl.

Armed with his walkie-talkie, Carl towers in the small booth like a military general, listening attentively as transmissions randomly sputter, keeping him alert to security matters.

Looking toward the west, the sunset is just beginning and Carl hustles past the snack bar into the tiny film booth to start the show. Heaving giant film reels, he threads the film through the old projector that resembles a rear fender off a '56 Cadillac.

"This theater was built in 1952," said Carl.

And it doesn't look a year older. The snack bar has checkered floor tiles, the counter still has louvered chrome molding and the walls are decorated with neon signs.

After firing up the projector, Carl sits in a recliner just inside the door of the film booth. He flips a switch on an old one-way speaker that allows him to listen to the movie in one ear and frees his other ear for the walkie-talkie clipped into his shirt pocket.

Both Carl and his wife have been doing this routine for many years.

"We've been in the theater business



for 26 years," said Shirley.

In those 26 years, the Hermansens have owned three different theaters in Linn and Benton counties. After juggling their time schedules, the two decided that owning three theaters in different locations was a real chore.

"It was just too stressful and too much work," said Shirley.

"And this one works just fine," chimed Carl.

Since the drive-in movie business is limited to the warm-weather season, the Hermansens usually head out on the open road and do a lot of traveling.

"Well you're not going to make any money if the weather isn't good," said Shirley, "So he and I and the dog just take off in our fifth-wheel."

But at the end of spring, when the streets heat up and dry out, the marquee sign on South Santiam Highway will start listing the movies that will air the coming weekend.

"It's been crazy so far," smiled Carl, "The people keep coming earlier every weekend."

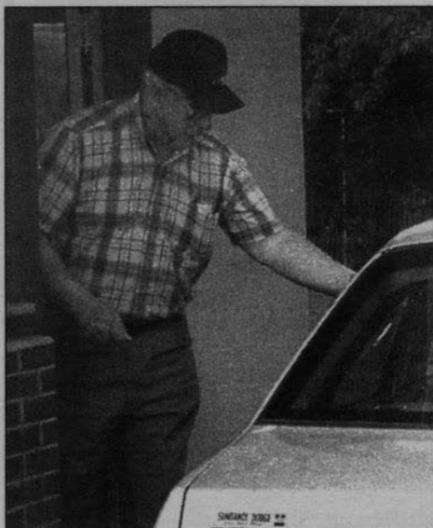
So if you're planning on going to the MotorVu Drive-in Theater, there's a few things to think about. Cramming people in the car or truck is fine, just remember that you'll be charged extra if you exceed the amount of people your car is manufactured for.

One carload of people will cost a flat fee of \$8 and radios are required because the owners recently took out the speakers you could mound on the windows.

If it's your first time there, pay attention during the second movie, about halfway through it you'll hear a phrase come over your radio that Carl has been using for over 26 years:

"Snack bar will be closing in five minutes. Snack bar will be closing in five minutes, come and get it!"

For information on showtimes and featured movies call 258-5432.



Carl Hermansen mans the ticket booth at the MotorVu Drive-In in Lebanon.

SPRING DAYS 2000

The annual end-of-the-year campus party celebrating spring, warm weather and graduation! Here's just a sample of schedule activities!



Campus Awareness and Pride

May 22-26

Take pride in your campus by participating in the Spring Term Trash Bash. Teams of six will have one full week to pick up as much trash as possible on campus. The team with most trash, measured by weight at the end of the week, will win. Every participant will receive a t-shirt, and the winning team will be given a pizza party.

All-Campus Picnic and Carnival Day

May 24 • 11:30am-1pm • Courtyard

Come out and enjoy a complete lunch- hamburger/veggieburger, chips, veggie sticks, cookies and soda- for only \$2! Live entertainment, information booths, carnival games, and watermelon eating contest.



“Drugs, Drinking, Driving, Don’t”

Campaign May 25 • 10am-2pm • South parking lot by gym

This statewide campaign educates communities about the ways impaired driving imperils individual, families, employers and the state. It features a local car crashes caused by impaired driving, FATAL VISION simulator goggles, the official FATAL VISION test car, and educational booths set up with videos, pictures of crashes

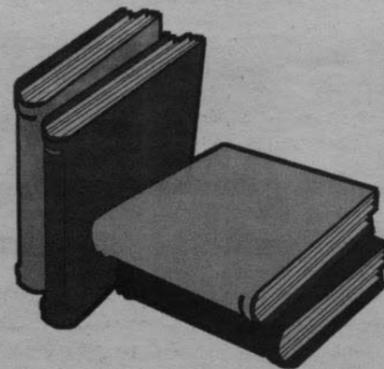


information, and free gifts. Free hot dogs and soda. Try your hand at driving the FATAL VISION test car!

Book Fair • Save up to 70% Retail!

May 24 • 10am-2pm • Courtyard

Select from more than 150 titles in 12 different categories. Sponsored by Books are Fun, Ltd., the Book Fair offers you an opportunity to purchase books, CD's and other items at remarkable discounts.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Stereotypes take "Center Stage" as new movie brings ballet to life

by Michelle Mayo
of The Commuter

"Center Stage" is a film full of fresh new toe-tapping talent that tells a story about following your dreams at any cost.

The movie follows the lives of a tight-knit group of dancers for a year through their trials and errors at The American Ballet Dance Academy. This film features the dancers and the stigmas that are often attached to them.

"Center Stage" opens with the young beauty Jody Sawyer (Amanda Schull) who is auditioning for a spot at the prestigious dance company. Even though she is said to have "bad feet" and wrong body type she wins a place at the school by the grace of the director of the school, who is played by Peter Gallagher.

Arriving at the school in New York, Jody is introduced to a new circle of dance friends, which play up to the common stereotypes associated with dancers. We are first introduced to Maureen (Susan May Pratt), technically the best dancer at the school with the least heart in her trade. Eva (Zoe Salana), a dancer

with a permanent chip on her shoulder with the most potential out of the group.

1998 Olympic gold figure skater Ilia Kulik plays Sergei, a foreign dance student. Erik (Elion Bailey) is the typically stereotyped gay guy of the group. Charlie

(Sasha Radetsky) joined ballet as a means to pick up girls. Last but not least is Cooper (Ethan Stiefel), who is a principle dancer at ABDA and has a history with the director and his wife.

The film leads up to the final act, where the dancers in the school are cast into different parts for an end of the year performance. All of the dancers futures come down to the one night in the Lincoln Center where all have high hopes of becoming permanent dancers in the ultra-prestigious dance companies of the world.

"Center Stage" is a movie made of all the right stuff a dance movie should have. It brings the viewer into the world of ballet and forces them to watch how a successful dancer is made through the struggles and eyes of these young dancers.

REVIEW

LB choir groups to put on benefit concert to help fund Performing Arts scholarships

From The LBCC News Service

The LBCC Concert and Chamber choirs will present a scholarship concert at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, in Takena Theater. Tickets are \$4 and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 917-4531.

Proceeds from the concert will help fund LBCC Performing Arts student scholarships. This will be the final concert of the year for both choirs conducted by Hal Eastburn.

Lucy Watts will provide accompaniment for the Concert Choir and student

conductor Aaron Rumerfield will conduct "Banquet Fugue" by John Rutter.

The Chamber Choir will be performing a variety of selections, including one by Eastburn, "Kyrie and Gloria" and another arranged by Eastburn, "Every Time I Feel the Spirit."

As a special treat, the Chamber Choir will feature the men's group The B-sharps, a sextet with Adam Grieve of Salem; Chris Luckman and David Hayes of Albany; Anthony Rieke and Aaron Rumerfield of Lebanon; and David Dominy of Sweet Home.



photo by Keirsten Morris

Rockin' Out

Nicola Wilson (left), an LB graduate in accounting technology, and Josh Rudiger, a current LB student, perform last Thursday at the Venetian Theater in Albany with their band Scared For No Reason. The Corvallis-based band, which formed early this year, also features LB student Gabe Acock on guitar and Paul Russe on bass and makes regular appearances at Uncle Hungry's in Corvallis. The Venetian Theater regularly showcases local bands on Thursday nights. Call 791-8585 for info.

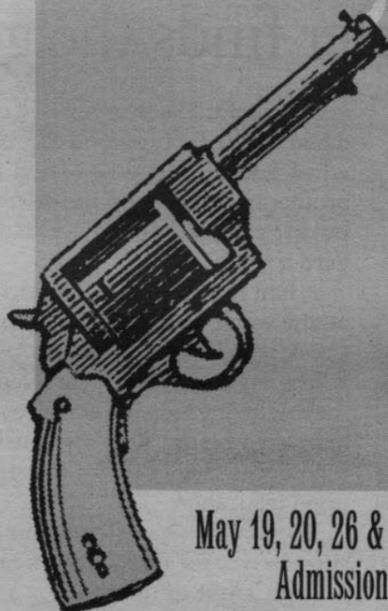


photo by Keirsten Morris

Rousing Reception

The opening reception of the annual Graphic Design Student Show drew a huge crowd to the AHSS Art Gallery Monday night, as more than 100 pieces were unveiled. The show runs through June 2. Graduating design students will present their portfolios to the public at 1 p.m. in Forum 104.

Crimes of the Heart



A warm, funny story about three unconventional sisters from Mississippi, whose courage and charm prevail over failed dreams, attempted murder and the Lonely Hearts of the South.

By Beth Henley

Directed by Jane Donovan

May 19, 20, 26 & 27* at 8 p.m. May 28 at 3 p.m.
Admission is \$7. All seating is reserved.

For 24-hour phone reservations, call (541) 917-4531.
Tickets are available at the Takena Theater Box Office beginning May 1 (M-F, 12-3 p.m.)
Tickets are also available at Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis.

*Saturday, May 27 is sign interpreted and also is the benefit performance for the Performing Arts Foundation Scholarships.
A LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION
If you need disability accommodations, please call 917-4536 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) at least one week in advance.

ON THE ROAD

CRUISTIN' THE CARIBBEAN

With everything from gyms to discos, cruises guarantee you'll never be bored

by Rebecca Indrika
of The Commuter

As soft surf laps gently against the shore line as the ship slowly starts its voyage. Small speed boats rush by, their passengers shouting "Bon Voyage!" to the travelers looking out from the decks of the massive ship looming overhead.

Welcome aboard the "fun ship" MS Jubilee, one of 15 ships from Carnival Cruises. Nine decks of exquisite lodging, dining and activities are available for cruises throughout the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and the North Pacific Ocean. Carnival has won various awards from several vacation publications, making it not only one of the best known cruise lines, but also one of the most traveled.

It's almost impossible to be bored on any of the Carnival fun ships. Activities around the clock provide an array of events for passengers to attend. The Jubilee itself has three swimming pools, a spa and a gymnasium offering its guests plenty of physical activity. Each morning, a "get fit" class is offered for those looking for a structured exercise program. Daily poolside contests also get people out of their cabins and into the fun in the sun.

Starting in mid morning, guests can opt to attend arts and crafts activities, or get busy gambling with the onboard video horse racing. Each day at 11 a.m., guests may attend informational meetings detailing the next day's activities and information pertaining to the specific port of call.

If you're really into gambling, you won't want to miss the fast-paced scene in the Sporting Club Casino, which opens at noon. Several tables provide games and betting limits that make it easy for players of all skill levels to find a spot to enjoy themselves. In your cabin you can find a Carnival channel with a continuous program giving guests tips on how to play casino games.

At any given time, there are various contests, tea receptions and ice cream socials. Bingo is often offered as an activity in the afternoon with prizes from \$50 cash up to a free cruise. Art is also prized on the Jubilee, as several times during your cruise you can have the opportunity to view and buy selected paintings and small sculptures.

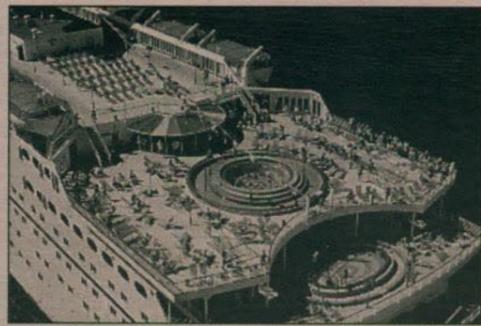
Evening brings cocktail parties and formal/

semi-formal dinners to the ship patrons. Each night the Carnival staff provides an extravagant show of singing, dancing, comedy and even a Jubilee Guest Talent show. The quite comfortable and classy Atlantis Lounge packs full rather quickly, but there are two show times available to accommodate all the guests.

After the show, there's quiet piano music at the Speakeasy Bar, party music or dances at Smugglers or a night under the stars smoking cigars and exchanging stories with newfound friends on the Lido Deck. Diverse styles of dancing are offered every night: party dance to today's hottest pop rock hits, line dance in good old country and western style, jazz, toga parties and rumba. Almost anything goes in the Oz Disco.

If you bring children with you and want to enjoy the adults-only events, then take the kids to their own fun at Camp Carnival. A staff of trained youth caregivers provides a wide array of activities to keep children ages 2-17 occupied.

Two dining rooms—the Bordeaux and Burgandy rooms—provide first-class dining from a kitchen full of first-rate chefs. Meals include dishes from many international backgrounds, such as Mexican, French and Caribbean. Don't feel like getting dressed up to dine in such an exquisite dining room? Stroll leisurely up to the Funnel Grill where you can enjoy simple foods such as hamburgers, french fries, pizza and grilled sandwiches along with salads and fruits. Too busy to eat at your mealtime? Buffets offered at midnight every day give you something to tantalize your taste buds, or call room service and have almost anything you want delivered



photos courtesy of Carnival Cruise Lines

Carnival Cruise Lines offers a variety of cruises to the Caribbean as well as Alaska. Besides on-deck activities, the cruises boast fine dining in plush restaurants.

right to your door.

At the end of a long day of activity, it's nice to retire to the comfort of your stateroom. Smaller staterooms are about 185 square feet usually adorned in shades of rose and burgundy. The ten luxurious suites are over 300 square feet and decorated with blues and whites. All rooms have two beds and medium-sized dressers. The suites also contain a plush sectional hide-a-bed couch and sliding doors leading to private decks.

Not everything is perfect. There are several fine details a travel agent or customer service representative might forget. Always have plenty of \$1 bills on hand—using extra services such as room service and poolside drinks come with the anticipation of a tip. Though most all ships are stabilized to reduce side-to-side swaying, little can be done to prevent forward and backward motions caused by rough waters. Hot sunshine during the day will drive you to T-shirts and shorts, but the speed of wind generated by the fast moving vessel will freeze you at night. And while there are salons, gift shops and medical help on board, these services will dry up the cash well in your pocket.

However, if a cruise sounds just like what you need, Carnival offers a selection of destinations. A Caribbean cruise could lead you through the Virgin Islands, San Juan, Tortola, Virgin Gorda and the Bahamas just to name a few. There are two trips available to Alaska—a cruise taking you through 12 of the United States' most beautiful northern cities. Carnival also sails ships through the Hawaiian islands, eastern Canada, the Panama Canal and Mexico.

During the high season (generally May - September) prices can range from \$859-\$2,159 for a seven-day Caribbean cruise. The same seven days to Alaska could cost about \$1,009-\$3,009. If you choose to sail in the off season, the prices drop considerably. All prices are based on sailing date, destination, room choice, and ship. And with the variety that Carnival offers, everyone is sure to find a vacation plan to suit his or her desires.

FAST FACTS

Interested in cruising? Try these Web sites for information:

- Carnival Cruise Lines: www.carnivalcruise.com/
- Cruise Holidays at Beaverton: www.cruiseholidaysbvtn.com/
- Sail With the Stars: www.sailwiththestars.com/
- Holland America Cruises: www.hollandamerica.com/
- Disney Cruise Line: <http://disney.go.com/DisneyCruise/>
- Royal Caribbean International: www.rccl.com/
- The Big Red Boat: www.bigredboat.com/

TRAVELS WITH KATIE

Commuter traveler finds the going wet in former dust bowl territory

by Katie Botkin
of The Commuter

While all of you students were enjoying a rare day of Oregon sunshine on May 5, my family and I were watching storm clouds move in over the plains of Oklahoma.

When night fell, they broke into a violent thunderstorm, which is not so uncommon, but the results were much more than I expected. A rural Tulsa woman in her 50s was drowned while driving to work, such was the extent of the flooding to the neighborhood where we were staying.

When I awoke the next morning and went downstairs to greet the now-sunny Saturday, I smelled skunk. My dad said one had been washed into the yard dur-



Katie Botkin

ing the night. That was my first clue that it had flooded. My second clue occurred when I went outside to see a fish my brother had caught on the dry road and put in a puddle for revival and found the yard a soggy mess.

It had rained nine or ten inches, and all the water was funneling into Polecat Creek, which was very close to 31st Street, where my aunt and uncle lived. All of the bright day long the water rose. It had happened before, said my cousins, and the houses farther down the street had flood insurance.

Even though it's not something you're supposed to do, due to the threat of raw sewage, eight of us went for a walk to survey the floodwater early in the day. My youngest brother, Isaiah, did a good job keeping his cast dry (he broke his arm on our vacation falling off a slide). Samuel, my 13-year-old brother, carried a hoe in case we ran in to any water moccasins. We didn't see any, but that

night, my cousin Carrie went out barefoot on the road and stepped on a snake. Whether it was poisonous or not, dead or alive, she didn't know—she just screamed and got out of there.

On our walk we saw Colton Barnell, age 4, playing in his flooded yard. His mother watched from the top step of their porch, which was still dry. Later, when the water came higher, Colton's family would move upstairs with the dog until the water receded—however long that would take.

In the evening Carrie and my sister Bess waded out as far as they could go. They didn't go very far; the water had risen and the current provided a threat to them. Most of the flooded neighbors had left by then.

At about 11 p.m. the water peaked. All of the neighborhood cars not in use were parked in front of my uncle's home or the higher next-door neighbors' property. The lower next-door house was

partially underwater.

"I've been here 28 years and it's [the floodwater] never come up to that house," commented a neighbor. There was a crowd gathering on the road in front of the Botkins' house; police and firemen had come to rescue Mark Batchelder, who had already sent his wife and children to safety and had intended to keep watch on the house himself. However, his house was one story high, and the water soon rose too high for comfort. "It's at least three feet," said Carrie, after snooping past the policemen and being shooed away.

We watched a helicopter search the water and light the way for the boat bringing Mark to dry ground. The current tugged the boat toward the fences that lined the road, but everyone got to their cars safely.

The next morning, when we left, the water had gone down by about three inches. It still had a long way to go.

CAMPUS NEWS

Santiam Restaurant offers great food at reasonable prices

by Lori Weedmark
of The Commuter

There's a great place here on campus to have a great meal at a great price, and with table service. If you haven't tried it yet, check out the student-run Santiam Restaurant.

But you'll have to hurry--the Santiam shuts down for the year next week.

The LBCC Culinary Arts department runs the Santiam Restaurant for their first-and second-year students as part of a program geared towards training the students in all aspects of the food service industry--from waiting tables to preparing meals to management.

"We have about 15 positions that we rotate the students through," said Jonni Hudgens, a second-year student. "I would say the Santiam line is where the students get to show their stuff."

The kitchen for the Santiam Room is definitely a place for creativity, or showing your stuff. Students are challenged by the faculty chefs that run the program, such as Chef John Jarschke, who says that the menu changes each term, with daily specials that are created by the students.

Sukiyaki was one such special created by second-year Culinary Arts student Pam Nelson-Munson. The Japanese dish is made with sliced beef, tofu and vegetables sautéed in rice wine and served on a bed of rice noodles with a fresh cucumber salad and ginger scented rice on the side. The meal also includes green salad and rolls. At a price of \$5.75, it is a great deal.

The students are offered a variety of foods to work with, including some exotic things most of us don't think of cooking. A few that have been on the menu in the past include wild boar, frog legs, llama, ostrich and kangaroo.

"There are so many possibilities to explore with this program, we have opportunities to work with things like truffles and lobster," said second-year student Tiffany Walkins.

First-year students work in the dining room as wait staff and do some prep cooking. Second-year students manage the first-year students and do the majority of the cooking and baking for the restaurant. They rotate between the Santiam Room and the cafeteria.

"I used to drive trucks and wanted to change careers," said second-year student Tim Williamson. "I'm happy with the program here, I'd like my focus to be on baking."

When the Santiam Restaurant first opens at the beginning of the year they are very busy, with the restaurant seating about 48 people. As the year progresses, they slow down some, but business generally picks back up in the spring.



photos by Lori Weedmark

The action is fast and furious in the Santiam Room kitchen as cooks hustle to prepare lunch to order for restaurant patrons. In the kitchen are Culinary Arts students Kara Wright (left), Candy Spriggs (center) and Tim Williamson (right). Andrea Hiddleston, left, tidies up a table in anticipation of the lunch-hour rush. Hiddleston graduated from the program last year and now works as the dining room manager. The restaurant is entirely student run, and is open Monday through Thursday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



"Each term the menu changes," said Chris Koker, second-year student. "I'm in the pantry, so I put together all the ultimate salads, like the chicken or beef salads."

The atmosphere in the restaurant is comfortable yet elegant, with white table cloths and linen napkins. Each table is set with full place settings, and the wait staff caters to your every need.

At one point, someone used the wrong fork for their salad and was promptly given a replacement when their main meal came. Pretty attentive.

The Santiam Restaurant is open Monday through Thursday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Prices for a full meal range from \$5-7. All proceeds go to the Culinary Arts Program, with tips going to the Culinary Arts Club.

Student dedicates time at LB to studies in preparation for the future

by Mary Jova
of The Commuter

When Lawrence Lew Eng got a B on his geography test earlier this term he was not a happy man. While most students would be happy with a B, Lawrence is the type of student who expects to succeed at the highest level. He learned his work ethic from his parents, Chi and Annie Ng, who left Hong Kong for Portland in 1974 to raise a family and chase the American dream. They were in their mid-20s at the time, and since then they've opened six restaurants.

Even though Lawrence was born in America, he still celebrates the Chinese New Year with his extended family. This year the celebration took place on Feb. 5. His eyes light up as he describes the all-day celebration, which starts with having breakfast at House of the Louie in Portland's China Town. After breakfast they go shopping for ginseng and other spices for the evening meal before returning to a relatives' home to play a game of Ma Jong.

The elder grandmother, who speaks Cantonese, gives all her grandchildren "lucky money" in red and gold envelopes and blesses them with "Gong Hay Fat Choi," wishes of good health and prosperity. She finishes her blessings with lots of love and hugs.

Lawrence said that his parents moved to rural

"Hopefully my grandmother's lucky money blessings will take me somewhere where I will prosper."

—Lawrence Eng



Jefferson in 1991 when he was a boy to get away from the gangs and violence in their neighborhood.

"Attending Jefferson High School was the best time of my life," he said. "I didn't have to worry about anything. I played sports, attended the dances and had fun."

The reality of being Chinese in a small rural community was not easy, however. Once he heard a boy call him a racial slur in the high school cafeteria.

"It made me so angry that I went over to the guy and hit him," he said. Later on, when the schoolmate got suspended and apologized, they became friends. "That was the only time I had someone call me a racial slur."

At LBCC, Lawrence is busy as he plans to graduate this spring term and transfer to OSU to pursue a bachelor's degree in management and information systems. Later, he wants to go on to get a master's degree in business administration. While attending

LBCC this year, he has been working in the campus mail room, and in the summer time works full time as a data entry specialist at the state capitol.

Lawrence states that his job at the capitol helped him decide to major in management and information systems. LBCC construction and engineering student Kenneth Bronson, who has known Lawrence since sixth grade, states that Lawrence is dedicated to his studies and focused on what he wants to do in life.

Although he's spent his whole life in America, Lawrence maintains an interest in his heritage and has twice returned to Hong Kong for visits. He remembers the smell of the streets and the very large buildings, and noticed that the people were not polite and were unorganized compared to the friendly laid-back Americans of the Northwest.

He said he draws his strength and inspiration from his parents.

"I thank my parents for motivating me to study and stay focused," he said. "I want to thank them for being there for me in the good and bad times." Lawrence hopes to be a "great guy" like NBA star Michael Jordan, whom he admires for his business sense, hard work and dedication to his family—all virtues he wants to nurture in himself.

"Hopefully my grandmother's lucky money blessings will take me somewhere where I will prosper," he said with a smile.

THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

WANTED!

The Commuter needs creative students to fill positions on the 2000-2001 staff

Sports Editor

A writer with an interest in athletics and outdoors is sought for this position. Students with some journalism or writing experience preferred, but anyone with a flair for writing, a passion for sports and a take-charge attitude is encouraged to apply. The appointment carries a 6-credit tuition grant per term, and provides valuable on-the-job training and experience covering a wide variety of intercollegiate athletics and outdoor recreation.

Photo Editor

Students with an interest and skills in photography are sought for this position, which offers valuable experience for anyone planning a career in photography. Several past Commuter photo editors have gone on to work at professional newspapers in Oregon and elsewhere. Applicants must have knowledge of conventional lab work and familiarity with digital imaging and Photoshop. The appointment carries a 9-credit tuition grant per term.

Ad Manager

Individuals with career goals in business, graphics or journalism are ideal candidates for this position, which involves coordinating the sale, design and billing of display advertising in the newspaper. Macintosh and Pagemaker experience preferred, but will train. The position carries a full annual tuition grant (12 credits per term). Applicant must be enrolled for the 1999-2000 academic year.

Graphics Editor

Individual with experience in graphics and/or journalism sought to manage graphic design and production of the newspaper. The Graphics Editor helps develop the overall design of The Commuter, creates graphic illustrations, and coordinates the weekly production operation. Macintosh and Pagemaker experience preferred. The appointment carries a 6-credit tuition grant per term.

Assistant Editors

Applicants sought for a variety of assistant editor posts, including Managing Editor, Copy Editor, A&E Editor, Opinion Editor and Contributing Editor. Journalism experience preferred, but all interested writers are encouraged to apply. Managing Editor carries a 6-credit tuition grant; other positions carry 4-credit tuition grants.

Digital Page Designer

This part-time position pays \$8+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk Mon.-Tues. Work with the Mac to typeset copy, design ads and format tabloid pages. Macintosh experience and good English skills required; familiarity with Pagemaker helpful. Provides valuable experience for majors in journalism, graphics and pre-press technology.

Work Study Jobs

Editorial Assistant
Production Assistant
Advertising Assistant
Photography Assistant

These positions open to work-study eligible students only. Information on work study eligibility is available from the Financial Aid Office.

Applications remain open until positions are filled.

Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222)
or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-108)

For additional information call ext. 4563 or 4451

LOCAL NEWS

Woman's life caught in cycle of abuse

A violent kidnapping by a former boyfriend is part of a pattern of abusive relationships

by Anthony Fencil
of The Commuter

Gaylene and Larry's relationship could have been described as existing in a state somewhere between estranged and just strange.

This was five years ago, when Gaylene's on-again off-again boyfriend, Larry, devised plans for the two to leave Albany and start a new life together in California. The strange thing about the plan, however, was that it began with Gaylene's abduction, and ended seven weeks later in the Mojave desert.

Also strange, and certainly also sad, is the fact that this was neither the first nor last time Gaylene McLellan has been in a violent, abusive relationship. Nearly her entire life has been marked by intermittent episodes of violence and abuse. Beginning in early childhood, and later as an adult, she said she's been hit, kicked, scratched, cut, and bashed in the head more times than she can remember. She's been raped twice by two different assailants.

To survive violence of this kind, you might think Gaylene would be a two-fisted, tough-as-boards kind of gal. Not at all. She's upbeat, attractive, and warm. She's well liked and is considered hard working by her coworkers at Oregon Freeze Dry in Albany. At 39, her face almost glows with ruddy health, thanks in part to her half Native American parentage (as well as the occasional session in a tanning booth). Yet an almost child-like trembling can occasionally be heard behind her soft voice—a trembling that subtly betrays her vulnerability.

Though she was born and lived until age 5 in Burbank, Calif., she and her twin sister Jaylene grew up in a rural setting outside Sweet Home. She considers herself a "farm girl" and has always found solace in the company of animals.

But a dysfunctional family environment left many scars, according to Gaylene. Hitting, kicking, face-scratching, bruising pinches concealed under the arm, and even a stab to the head with a fork were some of the incidents that Gaylene and her sister endured while growing up, she recalls.

"We were little kids. We were innocent beings. Why did it have to happen?" she ponders aloud while describing her turbulent childhood.

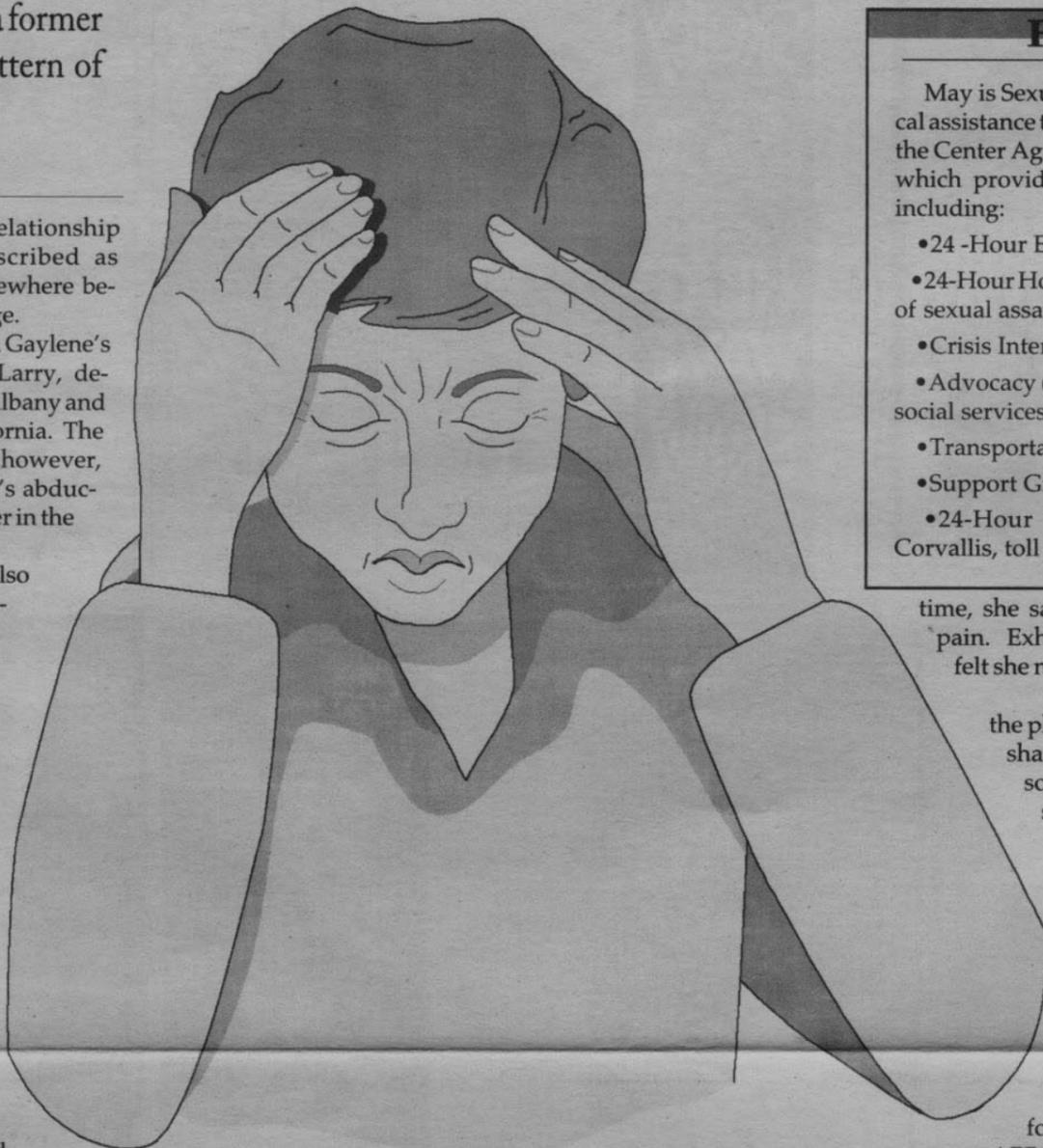
Ironically, instead of fleeing abusive relationships and ensuring that her life would be forever free from any kind of violence, Gaylene, as an adult, has again and again ended up in situations where violence and abuse have been a regular part of the relationship.

"I always seem to get stuck with the fruitcakes, real nutcases," she says. At present she is violence free, but as the past is so often an indicator of the future, there is certainly reason for concern.

Erica Stephens, an intern at the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence, or CARDV, in Philomath, says that it's not unusual for cycles of violence and abuse that are set in childhood to recur in adulthood.

"Someone who has experienced abuse in an earlier part of their life will often look for it in their adult life," Stephens says.

Gaylene's first and only marriage lasted five years,



during which she says she was emotionally and physically assaulted, even raped. Later, another boyfriend, someone she'd known since high school, beat her face so badly that her lungs began to fill with blood and emergency technicians had to perform a tracheotomy so she could breathe.

So, in early 1995, when Gaylene found herself forcibly abducted by Larry and on her way to California, she again fell into a sordid but not entirely unfamiliar pattern of violence and aggression. Larry, who's mental state, according to Gaylene, was questionable to begin with, also drank and used marijuana and methamphetamine. Often, she says, he was given to paranoid rages during which he would accuse Gaylene of infidelities and other imagined grievances. Just prior to the kidnapping, he'd lost his job. He blamed Gaylene for it.

"He said he was going to make me pay, and

boy did he make me pay."

With his hand over her mouth, he forced her into a waiting car driven by Larry's brother. Initially he was calm, but that didn't last. Working himself into jealous fits, he began to attack Gaylene. She fought back.

"I thought he was going to kill me," she said.

Though she was still alive when they reached their destination, she was bloodied, bruised, and missing large chunks of hair. They took her to an old house without electricity in a remote area of the Mojave desert near Rosamond, Calif., where other members of Larry's family were living.

His parents, siblings, and now Gaylene too, lived in constant fear of his aggression. Soon it became clear that Larry had no intention of starting a new life. Rather than looking for work, she says he spent most of his time maintaining his control of her, looking for pretexts to start the cycle of abuse again.

During a trip to Lancaster 40 miles away, Gaylene made an attempt to escape, but didn't get far. By this

FAST FACTS

May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Local assistance to victims of abuse is available from the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence, which provides a complete range of services, including:

- 24-Hour Emergency Shelter
- 24-Hour Hospital Accompaniment for victims of sexual assault
- Crisis Intervention
- Advocacy (assistance with legal, medical and social services)
- Transportation to Shelter by arrangement
- Support Groups
- 24-Hour Hotline 754-0110; calls outside Corvallis, toll free 1-800-927-0197

time, she said even walking caused her severe pain. Exhausted by desperation and fear, she felt she neared a complete mental breakdown.

Although she was not allowed to use the phone—and was once cracked on head sharply with the receiver for trying to do so—she was permitted one brief and supervised conversation with Jaylene.

During the call she managed to discreetly communicate to Jaylene, in that subtle way that only twins can, just how serious her situation was.

Her father was notified, and he began to help Jaylene locate her twin sister. Law enforcement agencies in Oregon and California also began to intensify their efforts to find the missing couple. An APB was issued on Gaylene, but the search

was slowed, partly because the house's mailbox, according to Gaylene, was located several miles away and displayed a false number. Finally, after seven weeks of violent captivity, police showed up at Larry's place and began asking questions. They found a shattered and broken Gaylene McClellan.

"I came hobbling out of the house and I said 'yes I'm Gaylene,'" she recalls.

Her father, who had driven down to aid with the search, was reunited with his daughter later that day. Larry, however, managed to elude police. Though he had warrants outstanding in Oregon, Gaylene speculates that California authorities did not have the necessary search warrants prepared at the time of the rescue.

After she was back in Oregon, officials in California asked if she would return to pursue matters legally, but she refused. She never heard from Larry again, until she learned that he had shot himself to death two and a half years ago.

As traumatic as this experience was, Gaylene has not been able to break free from abuse, and as recently as two years ago she was victimized by yet another dysfunctional relationship, in which she was deceived, beaten and later abandoned in a bar in Montana.

That was the last violent relationship she's had. She explains that while she's been free from abuse for a couple of years now, she still experiences frequent nightmares, flashbacks, emotional stress, and depression because of the past trauma.

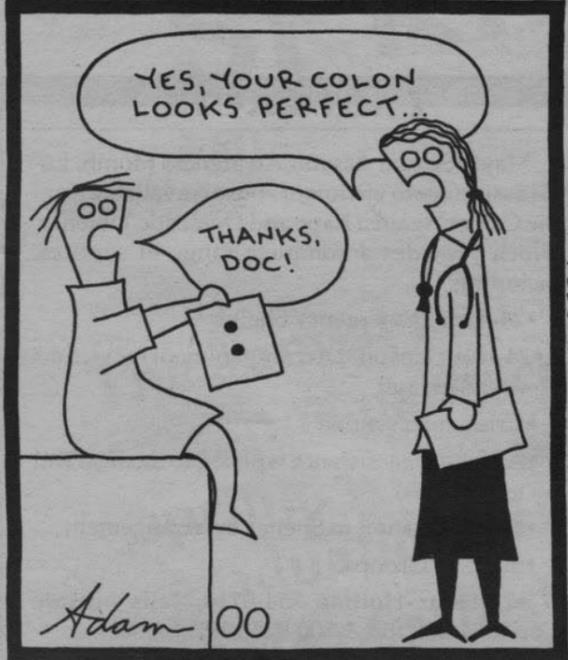
But aside from taking anti-depressants, Gaylene has done little to assist herself in the healing process. Although this may not bode well for her future, it is not unusual behavior for battered women, according to the experts. There is something about Gaylene's experience that is consistent with many kinds of abuse. That something is fear.

"A woman who has been abused for a long time is afraid," states CARDV's manual. This is a fear that can result in "emotional paralysis."

Gaylene may be a textbook case. Asked why she's never sought help, Gaylene replied simply: "Scared. Just scared."

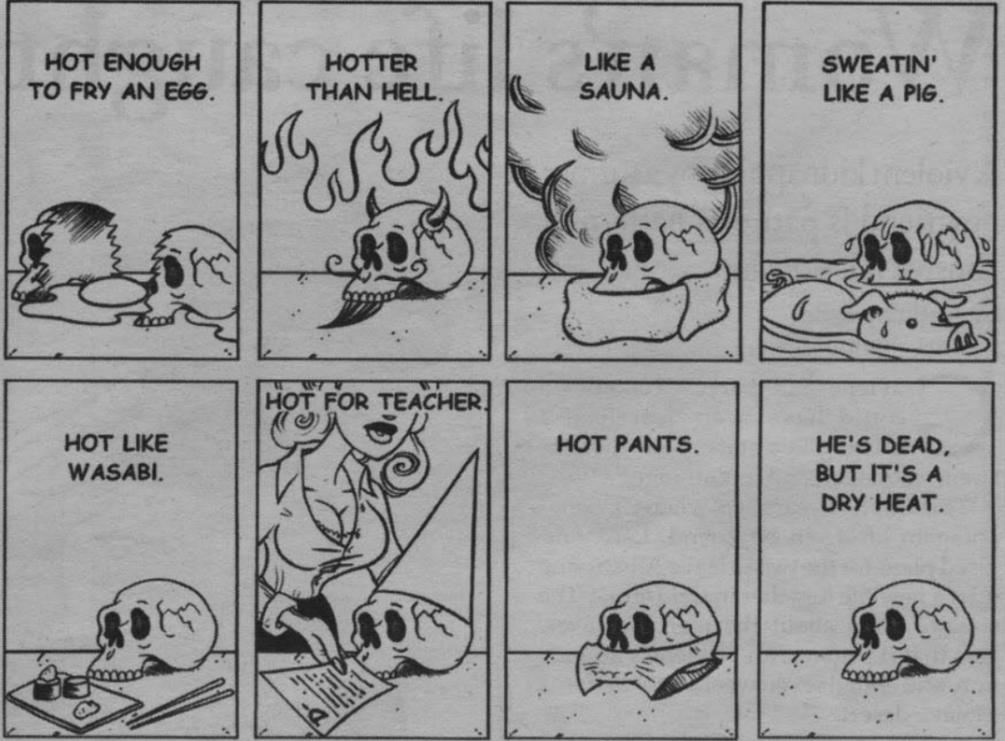
FUNNY PAGE

ALWAYS GET A SECOND OPINION



© 2000 ADAM "SEMI COLON" GREEN

THE ADVENTURES OF SKULY BY WILLIAM MORTON ©MCMXCIX HEAT WAVE SKULY



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Veterinary Technician/Assistant -- Full-time in Junction City. The salary range is \$8-\$9.75 per hour. See Carla in Student Employment (T-101) for your referral.

Bank Teller -- Full-time in Albany. This position includes a full package of benefits plus professional growth opportunities. See Student Employment (T-101) for your referral.

Technical Support Rep. -- Full-time in Corvallis. The position starts as soon as possible! See us in Student Employment for referral.

Automotive Technician -- Full-time in Albany. If you're interested, sign up in Student Employment which is located in the Career Center (T-101).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hispanic Students: The HISPANIC DENTAL Association Foundation is offering two scholarships in the amount of \$500 and \$1,000. These awards are for entry level students

only who are seeking to advance their scientific and applied clinical knowledge as they enter into the dental profession. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2000. Information and applications are available in the Learning Center (LRC-212).

STUDENTS IN MEDICALLY-RELATED FIELDS: The Geraldine Stephenson Continuing Education Scholarship Endowment, administered by Legacy Meridian Park Hospital Auxiliary, provides a yearly grant of up to \$3,000 to an individual or individuals in a medically-related field. Applicants must be seeking a medically-related career, have recently returned to college after a significant interruption of at least five years due to hardship, must show financial need, must be a U.S. citizen and Oregon resident. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2000. Information and applications available in the Learning Resource (LRC 212).

AGRICULTURAL, FOOD SCIENCE AND POULTRY SCIENCE MAJORS: The NPFDA

(National Poultry & Food Distributors Assn.) Scholarship Foundation is awarding four \$1,500 scholarships to students in the fields of poultry science, food science, agricultural economics/marketing, nutrition and all other areas of study related to the poultry industry. Applicants must be in their Junior or Senior year when they receive the scholarship. Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2000. Information and applications are available in the Learning Resource Center (LRC 212).

FORESTRY, WELDING, DIESEL MECHANICS STUDENTS: The Oregon Logging Conference is awarding eight scholarships to students who are in the following areas of study: forest and wood-related areas, welding, cat-skinning, diesel mechanics, choker-setting, etc. Applications and recommendations need to be submitted by June 5, 2000. Applications are available in the Learning Center (LRC-212).

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SPORTS PAGE

Runners end rollercoaster season with string of losses

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

With their playoff hopes crushed a few weeks ago, the Roadrunners were hoping to finish out their season on a winning note.

However, Mt. Hood and Chemeketa dashed their hopes as the Saints won 6-5 last Tuesday and the Storm won both ends of the doubleheader last Thursday 14-2, 8-2.

When Linn-Benton faced off with Mt. Hood they almost pulled out a victory, but fell short.

Kyle Zimmeran got the start on the mound for LB and he was unable to establish himself, as the Saints scored a run in the first, a run in the second and two runs in the third to grab a 4-0 lead.

The Runners got a run back in the bottom of the fourth as Randy Richardson started things off with a walk. Johnny Rosti was put in to pinch run and he stole second base and moved to third on ground ball by Kris Lloyd. Jeremy Sampson then singled to score Rosti.

John Mendenhall came in to replace Zimmerman in the fourth inning and shut down the Saints in the fourth and fifth innings. In the sixth, however, the Saints broke loose when three singles, a sacrifice fly and two balks allowed two runs to score, giving Mt. Hood a 6-1 lead.

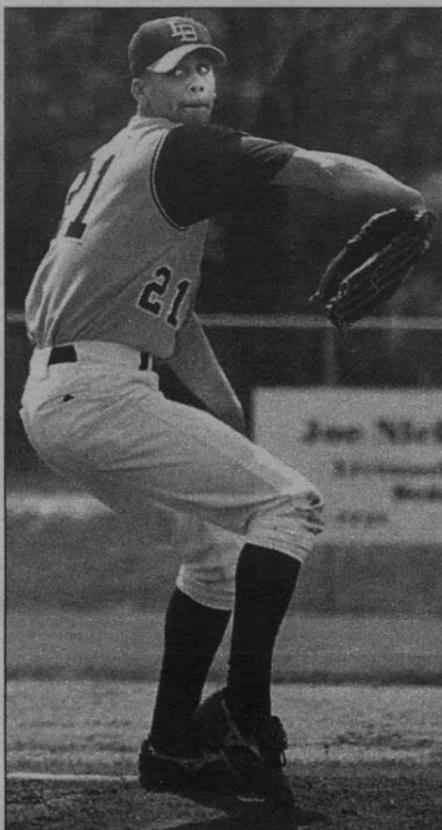
LB inched closer in the bottom half of the inning, sending up eight batters.

Sampson and Troy Bугanan got the inning going with back-to-back doubles, as Bугanan's brought Sampson in.

Two batters later, Andy Narver was hit by a pitch. A wild pitch then scored Bугanan to cut the lead in half and Narver moved to second. Andy Campbell struck out, but Mark Morris drove Narver in with a single to make the score 6-4.

Linn-Benton got one more run in the bottom of the eighth to bring the score to its final margin.

Haven hit a sharp double to left and two batters later Dameon Barrows came



in to pinch hit for Lloyd and hit a single to right field and drove in Haven.

LBCC was hoping to get something started in the bottom of the ninth after Korey Kanaeholo walked with one out. Narver came up and hit a sharp ground ball to short, but the Saints' short stop gobbled it up for the 6-4-3 double play to end the game.

In their doubleheader against the Storm of Chemeketa, the Runners came out flat and dropped their final games of the season.

Jake Stickley started the first game for Linn-Benton and did a decent job, pitching three innings while giving up only one run. Campbell came in to relieve Stickley to start the fourth inning with the Runners down 1-0. Campbell struggled by giving up two doubles, a single and one run with no outs. After



photos by Robin Camp

Outfielder Andy Campbell (left) got the call in relief in LB's season-ending doubleheader Thursday, but he didn't have any more luck than the other Runner pitchers as Chemeketa stormed to a 14-2 win. In Tuesday's game against Mt. Hood, Dameon Barrows (above) knocked in a run with a pinch-hit single to draw the Runners within one run of the Saints in the eighth inning.

getting one out on a sacrifice bunt that drove in a run, Campbell gave up a triple that scored another run. Campbell walked the next batter and Brett Strode was then brought in to pitch.

However, Strode couldn't stop the Storm onslaught of runs, and allowed 10 more runs to score before getting the final two outs of the inning. The score after three and a half innings of play was 14-0 in favor of Chemeketa.

The Roadrunners were able to get a run on the board in the bottom half of the inning as Haven hit a deep home run to right field.

In the bottom of the sixth, LB scored its final run thanks to a Morris double and an RBI single by Richardson.

When the bottom of the seventh started, the Runners were hoping to score three more runs to prevent the 10-run

rule from coming into effect, but they were unable to score and the game was stopped after seven innings.

In the second game, Brian Lorimor got the start in Linn-Benton's final baseball game of the year.

The Roadrunners took an early 1-0 lead after the first inning. The lead didn't hold up though, as Chemeketa stormed back with six runs in the top of the third.

Josiah Stroup came in to relieve Lorimor in the third to try and stop the bleeding. However, he gave up a run in the top of the fourth and one more in the fifth to give the Storm an 8-1 lead.

The Roadrunners were able to get one run back in the bottom of the sixth, but were unable to score in the seventh and lost 8-2.

Linn-Benton ended their season 19-16 overall and 13-12 in league play.

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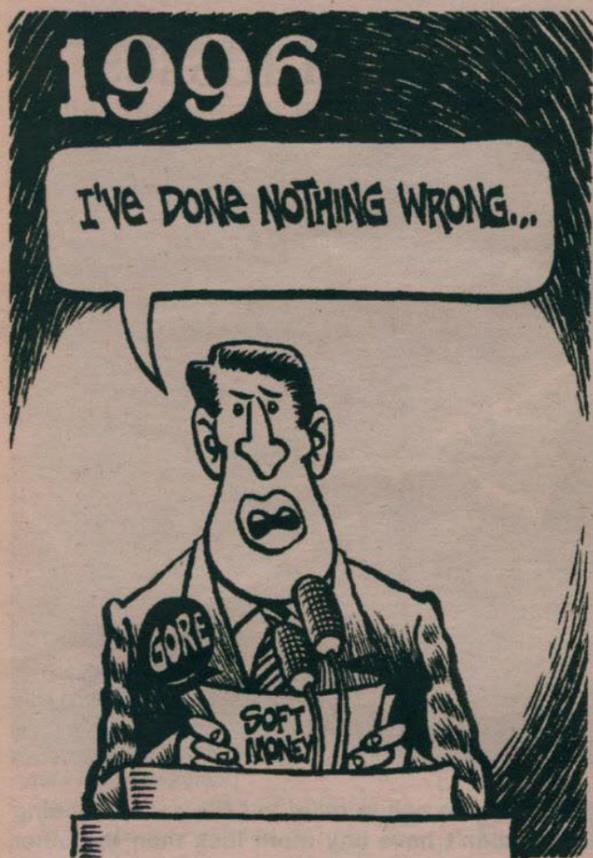


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OPINION



COMMENTARY

The ritual of turning 21 replayed

by Benjamin Sell
of The Commuter

When you're 17 you think there's nothing worse. You count each and every agonizing day until you turn 18. Then it's a non-stop orgy of cigars, dirty magazines, and lottery tickets. You realize you can vote and discover that the penalties for your actions have suddenly become much more severe. But eventually you discover that being 18 isn't all that great, and you have three long years to wait until you hit the next magic number: 21.

I personally had been counting down the days since about six months beforehand, and Tuesday, May 16, a day that will live in infamy, finally arrived.

About two months ago I decided that I wanted to go into a bar at the exact moment I turned 21. So, the plan was to hit the bar at midnight Monday night/Tuesday morning.

Author's note: In the interest of preserving the public belief that all members of The Commuter staff are reputable, upstanding citizens who would never engage in such a controversial behavior as drinking copious amounts of alcoholic beverages, I will henceforth refer to said staff members by means of incredibly transparent aliases.

8:30 p.m.: J and I arrive at K's house. We decide to watch "Fight Club" as a means to pass the seemingly endless final hours until we start walking in the general direction of pretty much the only bar in Corvallis open until 2 a.m. on a Monday night.

11 p.m.: The movie ends and our friends Su and Rod arrive. Rod and I share the same birthday, so tonight is to be a double celebration. The final minutes are spent BS-ing.

11:30 p.m.: The group departs K's house.

11:50 p.m.: We arrive at the bar, and Rod and I make our way inside only to be asked to step outside until the stroke of midnight.

11:51 p.m.: Rod and I spend the last 10 minutes smoking cigarettes and bitching to the rest of our little entourage about how much it sucks that we have to wait outside because we're a whole 10 minutes early.

Midnight: The hour finally arrives and the drinking commences. My first is what they call a "backdraft." For the uninitiated among us, a backdraft is a concoction of various alcohols (surprising eh?) which the bartender lights on fire and you snuff out by forming an airtight seal on the glass with the palm of your hand. Then you shoot it, cap the glass, and sniff the fumes. I had three of these, Rod had a couple, and I think J and K both had one. At this point I began to feel some

effects, of course the four "beverages" I had at K's house before we left weren't helping.

The rest of this narrative is in as close to chronological order as possible. It replays in my mind kind of like the collection of events on Raoul Duke's tape recorder in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas."

I remember telling Rod that I was going to buy him a birthday drink, and the two of us making our way back to the bar from our booth. I vaguely remember telling the bartender to make us something that tasted good. I must have told him to make us something expensive too because when he handed the two fruity concoctions across the bar \$13 disappeared from my wallet.

I remember buying the first pitcher and asking the bartender if they had any problems with drunken idiots spilling pitchers of beer as I stumbled back to our booth. I vaguely remember trying to operate the jukebox and getting two of the four selections I tried to make, and then forgetting all about listening for them. I've got visions of shuffleboard, pool, darts, and a broken basketball shooting game that played for free. I shot hoops for probably 15 minutes until a girl who's name I got but don't remember started talking to me. I remember not being able to focus on her face but trying valiantly nonetheless. I later found her because I recognized her outfit, but I don't remember if I was ever able to put a whole sentence together before I stumbled off like the drunken ass I was.

Right before closing, a guy that Rod and J had met offered to buy us all shots in honor of our birthdays. At this point I was pretty much down for anything so I downed it without a second thought. I found out later it was Jack Daniel's.

At this point I had four Olys, three backdrafts, a Hawaiian island, a sip of a bloody mary, and a whole pitcher of Budweiser in me (I'm sure there's more but I don't remember it). I poured the Jack Daniel's on top of all of this. You know the old saying "beer before liquor, you've never been sicker?" Turns out it's true! Who woulda guessed it, eh?

Rod and J puked in the bathroom at the bar, I managed to make it all the way back to K's house before I started puking.

The last week has been a never-ending series of realizations: walking into Seven-Eleven after work and realizing I can buy a beer to drink with my hot dog, realizing I'll never have to find a buyer again, and realizing I've got quite a few underage friends I never knew I had. All in all, I'd say that being 21 is definitely worth the wait, although the puking part was kind of a downer. It makes for a helluva story; too bad I can't remember it all.



Benjamin Sell

WHAT STUDENTS THINK

What instructor has inspired you?

LBCC students were asked what faculty member has made the most contribution to their learning experience here at LBCC.

"That would be Jackie Turle, criminal justice instructor. I felt like she really made my learning experience here worthwhile."



—Brittany Nelson,
business administration



"Business administration teacher Mr. Schuetz. He definitely got me into class and involved fully in my work. I feel like what I learned has been

helpful on an overall life basis."
—Matt Fulop, business administration

"I think that would be Ed Knudson of the Business Department. He's great, and I think he's the best teacher so far—he knows his stuff."



—Jason Pung, business



"My American literature teacher, Jane White. She's really flexible with things like missing class or schedule. She's willing to work with you."

—Kendra Adams, education

"I'd have to say Doug Clark, political science. I like his style of teaching and his interest in the subject that he's teaching."



—Christina Doolittle, political science



"Doug Clark, political science, because we talk about the topic of the day in his class and about topics that are relevant. And we have some great class discussions."

—Shawn Garrett, education

Compiled by Lori Weedmark and Robin Camp