

The Commuter

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Student leaders battle advisers for more authority

Mary Hake
The Commuter

Lack of communication, misunderstandings, complaints, accusations, threats, manipulation, desire for control—Does this sound like a relationship in serious trouble? It is.

These are all words which have been used by people involved in the ongoing conflict in College Center Room 213, the home of the Associated Student Government and Student Programming Board. Student government leaders believe that they do not have sufficient authority to successfully perform their jobs or even adequate knowledge of the procedures.

Student leaders' grievances prompted President Jonathan to postpone the student body elections scheduled for this week in order to deal with these internal problems.

Angela Rivera, ASLBCC moderator, said that there are many issues that the current leadership needs to deal with in order to ensure that what comes out of student programs is student-run, student-oriented and student-dictated, with consideration for LBCC's board of education policies.

These concerns led them to propose a change in the term of office for student government so the current leadership team can remain in office long enough to make the necessary changes.

Heidi McKinney, Student Programs Board Events Specialist, said that the Student Programs Board has no accountability, no minutes of their meetings and no specific guidelines for the student officers. "I had to feel my way around until I could find what I was supposed to do," she said.

Rivera and McKinney listed some of the students'

complaints about the current system: mail addressed to student officers opened, read and photocopied before officers receive it; threats of losing talent grants; advisers spending student funds without a procedure for student approval; misrepresentation of things students said; no documentation of decisions; inaccessibility of records in the student office; poor office atmosphere; and a request for students' office keys to be returned.

They admitted that some of these things may not really be wrong because there has been no policy in place. Rivera commented, "We want the wall down and everything out in the open."

She said that right now the system for getting things done is staff-oriented, and ASG officers want to see the entire process become more student-oriented.

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Photo by Deborah Shelby

Rushing to 'Really Rosie'

Elementary school children file off their bus in front of Takena Hall on their way to see the LBCC Performing Arts Department production of "Really Rosie." Hundreds of children from schools throughout Linn and Benton counties attended performances on Tuesdays and Thursdays this month. The next production for the department will be "Grapes of Wrath." See story on page 4.

Feb. 29: A leap out of the ordinary

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) —It's a day among 1,460 others, coming along every four years to keep the passage of time in sync with the earth's seasons.

Why isn't Leap Day a bigger deal? It's not a national holiday. It's not a day off from work. Good luck finding a playing card to mark the occasion.

From its inception in 46 B.C. during the reign of Julius Caesar, Feb. 29 has long been regarded for recognition. For centuries, it hasn't even been considered a legitimate day, said folklore expert Joseph P. Goodwin of Ball State University.

Because the day occurred every four years, it was not considered a legal day. It was something outside the regular calendar," Goodwin said.

"Because the day occurred every four years, it was not considered a legal day. It was an extra day. It was something outside the regular calendar."

—Joseph P. Goodwin

"Some people think that's why it came to be called Leap Day -you leap over it."

Until about 300 years ago, no official business was transacted on Feb. 29 because the date wasn't even considered to have occurred and so deals would not hold up in court, said Donald Dossey, author of "Holiday Folklore Phobias, and Fun."

"If the law didn't think it was all that hot, then we didn't make a big deal out of it," said Dossey, of Asheville, N.C.

As it was, it sounds like most other holidays observed in this country, when little if any official business occurs because banks and offices are closed.

(Turn to 'Leap' on Page 2)

Government shut down slows financial aid processing

by Matt Wade
of The Commuter

Students seeking financial aid for 1996-97 may feel the affects of government gridlock.

The federal government was shut down for about four weeks and is behind in processing financial aid.

For three weeks at the end of December the federal government was shut down because Congress and the president could not agree on passing the budget. And the shut down was extended another three to four days due to snow.

"This is a critical time in getting ready for financial aid," said LBCC coordinator of Financial Aid John Snyder. In a normal year about 800 students apply in January and get financial aid back by early February. This delay will mean that students may not get aid back until the end of February, he said.

Pell grants are also delayed one month in processing, Snyder said. "But students who had a Pell grant last year and who will receive another one in 96-97 will receive 100 extra dollars," he said.

The federal government is starting to get caught up and student aid will probably not be delayed for very long, if at all; but it is subject to change, said Snyder.

LBCC also has new computers which will delay the start of processing until next week.

Students who have any questions can go to the Financial Aid Department in Takena Hall to get more information.

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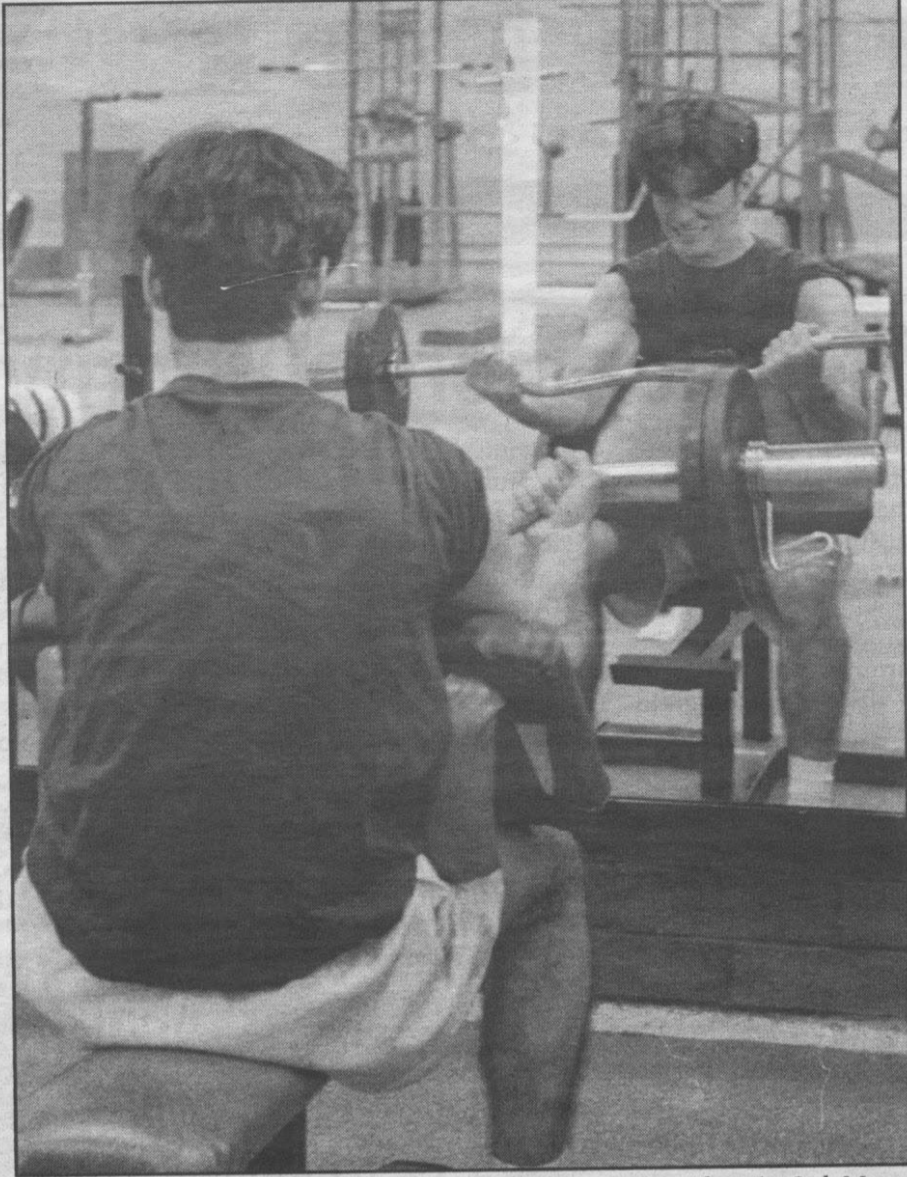


Photo by Seth Myers

Pumping Up

LB student Anthony Morali takes advantage of the open weights period in the Activities Center weight room. The weight room is open for walk-in use from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

New jobs hot line lets your fingers 'pound the pavement'

by Bill Jones
of The Commuter

The Career Center has expanded its effort to make job hunting easier for students by adding a hot line to go along with the computerized employment kiosk added earlier this year.

The hot line, which went on-line three weeks ago, is part of the college's new phone system and is provided at no cost to the students who use it.

Students can access the hot line from any touch-tone phone 24 hours a day, by dialing 917-4798. Approximately 100 to 165 jobs are currently listed on the hot line in eight major categories and 22 subcategories.

For information on a specific job, students first enter the major category number and then the subcategory number. Students searching for clerical positions, for example, would press 1 for business then 2 for clerical.

Marlene Propst, director of Career and Entry Center Services, said she has wanted a hotline for some time, but until the new phone system became available, the office lacked the capability.

According to Propst, many students have already been taking advantage of the hot line, even though its promotion has been limited to word-of-mouth and passing out cards in the Career Center and in some classes.

The hot line does not list commission jobs and "open referral jobs," which include most minimum wage positions

and those that are always open for applications. Information on contacts for the jobs is listed in the Career Center's folders.

A more visible addition to the Center's services this year is the computerized kiosk in the Takena Hall lobby, which connects users to the Oregon State Employment Office. Propst said the kiosk, which was originally slated for another location in the state, is one of only two in this area. The second machine is located in the Heritage Mall in Albany.

The kiosk was provided at no cost to the school by the state employment office. Propst, who works closely with the employment department, had expressed an interest in having a kiosk at the school and when this unit became available, Mike Sowles, manager of the employment department's Albany office, made arrangements for it to be sent here.

Propst believes having the kiosk on campus would be beneficial to students by providing them with information on Civil Service openings and other job openings, unemployment insurance benefits, and career information.

The kiosk, which contains a touch-screen computer with telephone connection, also provides information on a variety of community services, including food, housing, health and safety education, and government resources. In the past, students would have had to visit the OES office in downtown Albany for this information.

Conflict in Student Programs office leads to 'chilly atmosphere'

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They want their own office—one for ASLBCC officers, one for Student Programs and a separate office for the advisers—because of the "chilly atmosphere created by the advisers" and the overcrowded conditions.

Charlene Fella, director of Student Programs and adviser to student council, said that the students have raised good issues that need to be dealt with. She agrees with some of the student suggestions, such as the need for their own office.

Fella said the student presumption that "the enemy" (referring to the adviser) makes all the decisions is incorrect. "That perception is the problem," she said, adding that she sees herself as a strong student advocate.

Fella compared the adviser's role to walking a tightrope. She said she was hired by LBCC and has a major responsibility to the college for the budget and office management. Being an adviser to student leaders is not her only job.

The office used to have wonderful hand-kept records, Fella said. But with the increased use of computers, budget

items are lumped together and "it's hard to find the information—it used to be less confusing."

Rivera calls herself an activist. She wants to see students in the leadership with the advice of the staff, "a student-run government instead of the other way around."

She said the council wants the students to be able to make decisions and to know where every penny is spent, adding that the ASG should have control of its own budget.

"Now the staff decides" what to spend, she said. "There is no process and no justification of the money and its use."

Rivera sees a clearly defined adviser's role as part of the solution, along with accountability for every student fee dollar spent.

Vice President Mike Holland, acting Dean of Students, said this conflict ultimately falls under his authority. His role, he said, is to listen to student and staff concerns regarding organizational issues, adding that each group has very different views on how student government should be organized.

Holland said part of the conflict may

be due to personality issues that have led to students' anger and hurt feelings. He explained that a lot of activities have to move forward for students, and the staff often have step in to make sure tasks are completed. "Students sometimes see that as an activity that takes away their own control," he said.

No formal complaints have been filed.

"It's fair to say the adviser's role in overseeing work for some positions is probably more prominent than it needs to be," Holland said, explaining that he views the problem as a communication issue.

Rivera, who said she has been accused of being a radical and a poor leadership model, said there have been student leaders who either resigned or were kicked off the board "like little firecrackers that quickly got silenced."

Both Fella and Holland mentioned a serious student government conflict at LBCC about 20 years ago. Fella said there was a recommendation at that time to dissolve student government and a big study was done about it.

That led to a major reorganization of student government, Holland said.

"Maybe this runs on 20-year cycles—it's just our turn to take a fresh look at how we're organized."

He said he is really in the middle of the conversation between students and staff, and believes they have common ground and need to have heart-to-heart talks. "I'm trying to make this a win-win situation for both parties." He does not want to point fingers of blame, but instead find ways to resolve the differences by offering proposals for their consideration.

"Some of the concerns that the students have raised are legitimate," Holland said. "Some of the concerns that administrative staff have raised are because it is very difficult to manage complex student programs office that depend on community college students that have so many other commitments. It's natural to want to step in and do your own work yourself."

Holland explained that there is justification for both sides.

He plans to meet with a small group of those involved in the conflict to discuss his recommendations and proposals before making them public.

Leap Day traditions mired in obscurity, and likely to remain so

✓ From Page One

So why haven't labor leaders seized Leap Day as an opportunity for the working masses to enjoy a day off? After all, employers would have to grant it only once every four years.

"It didn't have a lot of history to it, no long-term feelings to it as far as workers were concerned," Dossey said. "It didn't have any tradition that workers could hang onto."

Indeed, a check of the archives at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies in Silver Spring, Md., failed to

turn up any effort to win a day off on Leap Day.

Short of action by Congress or some other arbiter of official days, Leap Day is likely to remain mired in obscurity. "For every holiday that exists, there was a grassroots movement that one leader or group was pressing to have."

Peter Morris of Kelowna, British Columbia, may be ready to take up that challenge. Twelve years ago, while toiling as a marketing director for a shopping center in Edmonton, Alberta, Morris was bemoaning to co-workers that unlike bosses or secretaries, most

employees have no special day and labor on with little recognition. "Much like Leap Day itself."

A flash of inspiration led him to create International Underlings Day, observed every Feb. 29.

"This is sort of for people who fall through the cracks otherwise," Morris said.

Until this year, observances have been limited to Morris and his co-workers, but a mention in the 1996 Calendar of Events, a book that catalogs community events, has him fielding calls from across North America.

"I don't know what I've started," Morris said.

CAMPUS NEWS

Students get two chances to question Hill on harassment issues

by Pete Petryszak
The Commuter

University of Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill will be at LBCC Monday and Tuesday, March 4 and 5, for a discussion with students about race and law and a workshop on sexual harassment.

Monday's discussion will be from 11 a.m.-noon in Forum 104 and Tuesday's will be from 9-10 a.m. in College Center 203. Both are open to all students and staff. In addition, Hill will deliver a master address entitled "Creating Awareness on Campus: Sexual Harassment and Social Change" at 7 p.m. in the Lasells Stewart Center at OSU in Corvallis. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the Inner Strength

Gospel Choir will perform at 6:30 p.m. Hill, who has been on the faculty at Oklahoma since 1986, grew up in rural Oklahoma and received her law degree from Yale University in 1980.

She has also taught law at Oral Roberts University and worked as a legal assistant in the Department of Education's Civil Rights Office and at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

She was cast into the public spotlight in September of 1991 when Clarence Thomas, Hill's former superior at the Department of Education and at the EEOC, was nominated to replace Thurgood Marshall as a Supreme Court justice.

Initially contacted by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which reviews and questions nominees for the Supreme Court, simply because she had once worked for Thomas, Hill shocked and divided the nation with allegations of sexual harassment. Hill claimed Thomas had frequently asked for dates and when she refused, he described in detail scenes from pornographic films he had seen.

These accusations sparked a nationwide debate over what constituted sexual harassment as well as over how widespread the problem was. The televised hearings also showed the nation how politicized the process of selecting justices for the supposedly "neutral" court

had become.

Even after Thomas was confirmed, the debate over sexual harassment continued. Buttons reading "I Believe Anita Hill" began appearing on the lapels, purses and backpacks of men and women across the nation, while author David Brock published "The Real Anita Hill," in 1993, in which he criticized Hill and attempted to discredit her testimony.

Since the hearings, Hill has written and lectured on the subjects of race and gender relations, taking a two-year leave of absence from the University of Oklahoma for that purpose.

Free tickets to the Monday night speech at OSU are available from the Student Programs Office on the second floor of the College Center.

Cuomo appearance draws LBCC students to political debate in Portland

by Dannie Bjornson
The Commuter

Eleven LBCC students watched a debate between former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, a Democrat, and former Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin, a Republican, in Portland last Wednesday degenerate into a general discussion on the role of government.

The students, mainly members of the Peace Studies Program and political science and history classes, were looking forward to hearing the two national figures deal with the scheduled topic from New Hampshire to November: Values vs. Votes.

And some weren't happy at the turn of events.

"None of the questions focused on the debate. I don't feel they talked about the election. Both Martin and Cuomo dismissed Buchanan," said Kim Hale, a member of the Peace Studies Program.

In her opening address to the audience, Martin said that what happened in the New Hampshire primary was interesting. However, she quickly shifted from the designated topic to discuss education issues, refraining from mentioning Pat Buchanan's first place finish

in the New Hampshire primary.

"I felt that Lynn Martin was avoiding the questions completely," added Peace Studies member Willow Coberly. "Cuomo was addressing different issues because he was answering her."

On the other hand some students felt that the abandonment of the topic made the debate more interesting.

"I thought the subject of the debate was pointless," said Alan Edwards. "It was a cut-and-dried subject. It would have been dry and strung out if they had stayed on the topic."

Tanya Neel agreed.

"By ignoring New Hampshire, the debate was more interesting. Because of all the political analysis that is being done anything they could say would be redundant and rehashed."

Students commented that, overall, the experience was worthwhile.

"I was very impressed because Martin had an interesting opening statement. She got shrill and off base towards the end. I thought Cuomo was on the ball and very intelligent. He was able to remember the questions and her answers and address each," commented Coberly.

Hale added, "I thought that Martin was a good

deliverer, but no substance. Cuomo has charisma. He offered solutions. She side stepped questions about Buchanan. Cuomo kept reiterating the importance of quality education as a way to cut unemployment." She stressed that the debate was "really good," although they seemed "practiced."

Cuomo and Martin bantered lightheartedly throughout most of the debate with rare shows of intense difference. For the most part, they argued moderately while representing the basic values of their parties. Both discussed issues that exemplify the fundamental differences between parties—cutting corporate welfare, funding of education, and business responsibility.

Voter turnout and negative campaigning were also briefly mentioned.

"You don't often get an honest debate about what the government roles are. I didn't expect such an emotional exchange of ideas," said Neel.

Doug Clark, political science instructor and adviser to the Peace Studies Program, felt that the experience was useful.

"It gave students an opportunity to hear politicians talk about their differences in issues. It's different than on TV. The students got to be a part of political dialogue. They were clearly different in their perspectives," Clark said.



Mario Cuomo

Ridinger wins first place in billiards at flood-delayed recreational tournament

by Jacob Schmid
The Commuter

Pool enthusiasts chalked up for the annual Association of College Unions International Billiards Tournament on Friday, Feb. 16, to test their skill against fellow LBCC students.

Originally scheduled for Feb. 9, the ACUI tournament had to be delayed due to the flooding that shut the school down for two days. Of the seven students who originally signed up, four turned out for the competition.

A chess tournament was also planned for the occasion, but it had to be cancelled due to lack of participants.

"Some years we have a big turnout, but because of the floods and mid-terms, a lot of people who might have participated didn't have the time," said Naikia Benjamin, organizer of the event.

The contest began at 9 a.m. in College Center Room 212. Winning three consecutive games, 19-year-old Josh Ridinger took home the first-place prize of a gift certificate for a foot-long Subway sandwich and an Intramural Recreational Sports T-shirt.

With two wins and one loss, Jason Rice took second, a \$3 gift certificate to Bob's Hamburgers in Corvallis and an IN-REC T-shirt.

LBCC isn't ready...

Sponsored by the Peace Studies Program

IN THE MOOD

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO THE U.S.O TOURS!

Dinner Theatre Thursday, March 14th

LBCC Commons 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW Albany, Oregon

Hors d'oeuvres: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7 p.m.

The Show: 8 p.m.

Adults: \$20

Students: \$16 (with ID)

Seniors: \$16



Tickets available at LBCC Student Programs, CC-213 The White Rose, Albany Rice's Pharmacy, Corvallis

Presented by: LBCC Student Programs Dinner Prepared by: LBCC Culinary Arts Program

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. If you require accommodation for disability to attend the dinner theatre, please contact LBCC Student Programs, 917-4457, at least 48 hours prior to event.



review

Zany Sandler makes 'Happy Gilmore' work

by Ben Cole
of The Commuter

Former "Saturday Night Live" cast member (back when the show was worth watching) Adam Sandler stars in the funniest golf movie since the original "Caddyshack."

Sandler plays Happy Gilmore, a young loser who dreams of being a pro hockey player. The only problem is he can't skate very well. He has the attitude of a hockey player though: He holds the record for being the only hockey player to ever take off one of his skates in the middle of a game and try to kill another player with them!

After he tries out for the local hockey team and is again rejected, Happy gets a call saying his grandma is getting evicted from her house. It seems the sweet, little old lady hasn't paid her income taxes in over a decade. She owes the IRS \$275,000.

Since she raised him after his dad died during a freak accident while watching a hockey game, Happy decides to try and raise the money for her so she won't have to give up the house. He then finds out he has a natural ability in golf and enters a few tournaments. Unfortunately for Happy, he's not as good as he thought and ends up last or near last during his initial tournaments.

But Happy's attitude on the course is drawing big crowds. He curses the ball when he misses a shot, celebrates when he makes a hole in one and generally livens up this serious, quiet (boring) sport.

While playing, Happy meets "Chubbs" (Carl Weathers), an old pro that can't play golf anymore because his hand was bitten off by an alligator. He becomes Happy's mentor. He also meets "Shooter" (Christopher McDonald) a pro with an ego the size of the golf course.

Shooter hates Happy as soon as he sees him, because Happy is taking away Shooter's crowds. Eventually they'll play for grandma's house. Gee, I wonder who'll win?

And of course, Happy has a love interest—Virginia (Julie Bowen) the PR person for the tour.

There are a lot of cameo appearances along the way including Kevin Nealon, another former SNL performer, Richard Kiel (Jaws in the "James Bond" movies) and my favorite, Bob Barker (host of "the Price Is Right"), who gets in a fist-fight with Happy and beats the snot out of him.

This film is full of hilarious, bizarre and somewhat painful scenes. In one scene, Happy stands directly in front of a pitching machine in a batting cage and lets baseballs bounce off of him. This is part of his hockey training.

I'll admit "Happy Gilmore" isn't for everyone. If you are offended by bathroom humor or just don't understand Adam Sandler's weird imagination you probably won't like it, but I've been a fan of Adam Sandler since SNL and I was laughing straight through "Happy Gilmore." I give it eight out of 10.

'Grapes of Wrath' welcomes beginning actors

by Melani Whisler
of The Commuter

This spring's production of "The Grapes of Wrath" offers an opportunity for those who always wanted to step out on stage but let shaky knees and cold sweats get in the way.

Auditions will be held March 11-12-13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takena Hall Theatre for the stage production of John Steinbeck's classic American novel. The play tells the story of the Joad family as they travel across the dust bowl from Oklahoma to California in 1938 with thousands of others in search of a new life.

Director Pat Kight, who has directed over 17 plays in the past dozen years, doesn't want the word "audition" to scare away potential thespians. Kight is a guest director from Albany for the LBCC Performing Arts Department.

"This play is different," she said. "Because we need such a large ensemble, almost everyone who shows up at auditions will get a part."

Kight wants the auditions to be fun, consisting of theater games and exercises so people can become comfortable with acting. Roles will be determined during early rehearsals which will be run in a workshop-type setting.

Aerial views of flood shown Thursday

Aerial views of Oregon's recent record-breaking floods taken by biology instructor Bob Ross will be the subject of a slide show Thursday Feb. 29 from 12-1 p.m. in Forum 104.

Ross, who specializes in both nature and industrial images, will show pictures he took while flying over Western Oregon when the flooding was at its peak. The pictures include the Willamette Valley from Halsey to Portland, the Columbia River from Bonneville to the mouth, and the north coast around Nehalem and Tillamook.

The images concentrate on the light, shadow and textures created by the high water.

"In the midst of all this tragedy there's the beauty of the patterns," Ross said, explaining that he likes to concentrate on the abstract designs on the land and the water that are visible from the air.

"I'm wanting to be able to work understandable. I don't want to sit down and say, 'do this!' I want to get up on stage and say, 'let's figure out how to make this work together.'"

The play has 13 principle roles for men, ranging in age from their 20s to 70s. The cast is mostly men, with only three main roles for women in their late teens to 70s. She said actors need not be the specified ages: they just need to play them convincingly.

"We need a lot of guys!" stressed Kight.

Because many scenes require stage combat, Kight is bringing in George Lawrese, a professional combat choreographer from Seattle, to help with the fighting scenes.

Students interested in auditioning but worried about schedule conflicts shouldn't be. Kight said that, because there are so many minor parts, not everyone will be required to show up at rehearsals every night. Minor roles will need to be a practice about two nights per week early in the term. As performances come nearer, more rehearsals will be required. Kight said she will plan rehearsals as best as she can to meet everyone's schedules.

Performances will be May 24, 25, 31 and June 1 at 8 p.m. and June 2 at 3 p.m.



The flooded Columbia River creates patterns as it surges into the sea at Warrenton in this aerial view by Bob Ross.

LBCC To Host Professor Anita Hill

March 4, 1996

11 a.m. F-104

Discussion: Law, Justice and Race

This program will be a dialogue with professor Hill related to the content of selected articles. Open to all students. Copies of articles can be seen in the Student Programs Office or in the library.

7 p.m. Lasells Stewart Center (OSU)

Keynote Address: Sexual Harassment and Social Change

Tickets are free and can be picked up in the Student Programs Office.

March 5, 1996

9 a.m. Alesa/Calapooia Rooms

Discussion: Gender Discrimination

Open to all staff and students

If you require accommodation for disability, contact Student Programs at 917-4457 at least 48 hours prior. LBCC is an Equal Opportunity Institution.

SPORTS PAGE

Deja vu all over again! Roadrunners fall in final seconds

by Jessica Sprenger
of The Commuter

For the second time in as many years, the Linn-Benton men's basketball team has finished third in Southern Division play and qualified for the regional tournament.

Unfortunately, the result was the same this year with the Roadrunners falling short of the NWAACC tournament.

In a game that could have gone either way, Clackamas came out on top defeating Linn-Benton 72-68 in the first round of the NWAACC regional tournament held in Oregon City last Thursday.

The Roadrunners were within one with 7.5 seconds to go when Jawanza Hadley converted his free throw to complete the three-point play after being fouled by Chris Swallow.

Linn-Benton then came down the floor, but threw the ball out of bounds with just two seconds remaining on the clock.

The Cougars led 42-36 at halftime. Clackamas held a 67-56 lead with 7:13 before the Roadrunners went on an 11-point run to tie the game at 67-67 with 2:08 remaining in the contest.

During Linn-Benton's run, sopho-

more Kyle Wonderly scored six of his 14 points. Wonderly also grabbed a game high 12 rebounds.

The Roadrunners battled with the Cougars throughout the first half, exchanging leads five times before Clackamas went up 15-13 on a Hadley 3-point goal with 11:43 remaining in the first half.

Linn-Benton closed the lead to 30-29 with just under 5:30 left in the half, but the Cougars went on a 8-0 run.

Swallow led all scorers with 23 points. Mike Graves dished out seven assists for Linn-Benton.

Leif Spencer, who lit the Roadrunners up for 30 points and grabbed eight rebounds in the regular season, finally put in 18 points.

Hadley also scored 18 points for the Cougars. Jay Lassen added 16 points for Clackamas and blocked five Roadrunner shots.

Lassen and Brian Hay each grabbed nine rebounds for the Cougars. Hay also dished out 10 assists.

The Roadrunners finished their season with 12 wins and 15 losses.

Chris Clark and Mike Graves are the only freshmen on this year's team.

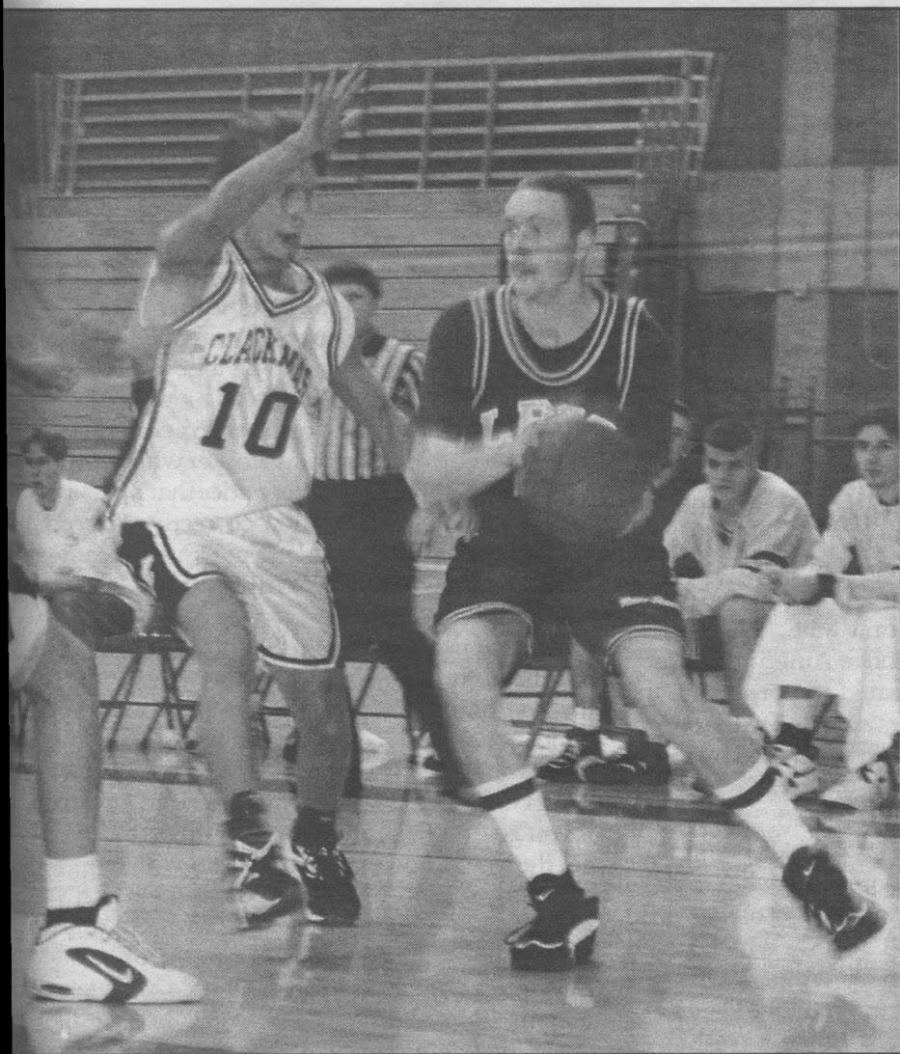


Photo by Jessica Sprenger

Cloud drives against Clackamas' Aaron Pearson. The Cougars eliminated Linn-Benton from the NWAACC Southern Region playoff tournament with a 3 victory.

Swallow jumps into role as team leader and earns all-star honors

Sandoval
of The Commuter

As he steps onto the hardwood floor and looks over the crowd, he realizes this will be his last home game in a Linn-Benton uniform. Thoughts of what have been going through his mind as the ball is tipped and the game begins.

Linn-Benton plays strong, but the season is unfortunate: Linn-Benton 84, Clackamas 89.

Walking off the court, he hears his name announced as leading scorer one more time: "Chris Swallow with 21 points." Swallow, who led the team in scoring this season, helped the Roadrunners finish the season in third place for the second year in a row.

For the second year in a row, the Roadrunners got eliminated from the regional playoffs on a down-to-the-wire defeat. The defeat came against Clackamas Thursday in a near replay of the 1995 season finale.

After last year's buzzer-beating, sea-son ending shot by Chemeketa ended the Roadrunners' tournament hopes, the team was left to search for a squad leader for the 1995-96 season.

With two key players gone from last season and the addition of four

freshmen, the team's chemistry needed to be rebuilt. Who would be the leading scorer? Who would be the leader?

The 1994-95 season was Swallow's first at Linn-Benton, where he started every game and played hard-nosed ball, but he never really was the go-to guy. He averaged decent points and always arrived ready to play.

"Last year was a good year. We played as a team, we were more of a team. This year we have a bunch of individuals looking to take over," he said.

Swallow, who came here from Spokane, Wash., where he played basketball at Joel E. Ferris High School, decided to move to Albany to get away from home. "I was there 13 years. I needed a change," he said. "Besides Coach Randy Falk showed the most interest."

"I love the sport," he said. "It has taught me a lot, not only as a player but as a person." Swallow's father has always been a great support for him and has always been there to give him an extra little push when he needed it.

As a slim player in high school, he didn't play varsity until his senior year.

"Our school was really good in hoops," he said. "We had a lot of good players. I just waited my turn and then took advantage of it." Swallow made honorable mention in league and also

received second-team all-state honors during the state tournament. He helped LB earn a state championship that year.

When asked if he regretted coming here and playing for LB, he smiled and said, "No, we didn't win as much as I would have liked, but I am grateful for the opportunity. I look at it as a stepping stone in my basketball career."

During the past off-season, he worked a lot on his game, especially his shooting, he also hit the weight room and added 15 pounds to his 6-4, 180-pound body.

"I wanted to be a little more consistent on my shooting and I also wanted to bulk-up a little so I could be more of a threat, not only from field but on the boards as well," he explained.

The work has helped develop Swallow into the team's top shooter. He racked up a team-high 20.4 scoring average by shooting 47 percent from the field, 43 percent from three-point range and 80 percent from the free-throw line. He also pulled down an average of 6.6 rebounds a game, most of them coming on the defensive end and collected 75 assists, 54 steals and 13 blocked shots over the 26-game regular season.

"I never thought I would consider myself the go-to guy," Swallow said. "But now I'd rather have the ball in my hands to take the final shot if it's coming down to that."

Swallow was was a first-team all-league pick for the Southern Region and will play in the NWAACC sophomore

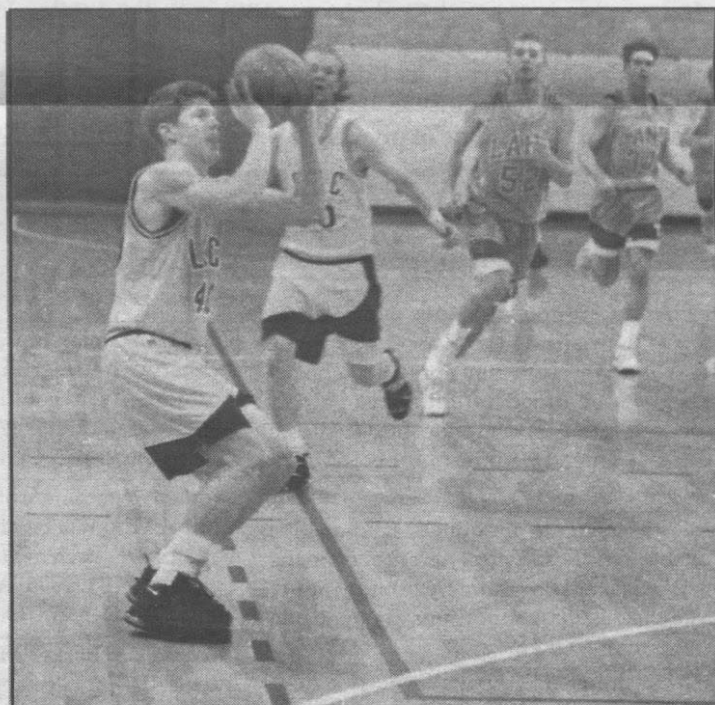


Photo by Trevor Gleason

Chris Swallow, who led the Roadrunners in scoring, was selected as a first team NWAACC Southern Region player will play his final game in a Linn-Benton uniform March 10 at the NWAACC sophomore all-star game at 6 p.m.

all-star game March 10 at Chemeketa.

Swallow will leave LB with many memorable moments in a Roadrunner uniform.

"There are quite a few to be realistic," he said. "but I would have to say the loss to Chemeketa to end the season last year, the time I scored 33 points against N.W. Christian, and most unforgettable would probably be during my freshmen year in a game against Edmonds where I made seven 3-point shots and won the game on a buzzer-beater."

As his time to leave LBCC draws near, Swallow is already looking into four-year colleges, where he can continue playing basketball and also pursue his business degree.

"I haven't decided on where I'm going to attend, but as far as basketball, Concordia is showing the most interest, but I wouldn't mind playing for Willamette. But I guess wherever I do go, I know I'll do just fine."

Men's playoff results

CLACKAMAS 72, LINN-BENTON 68

LINN-BENTON (68): Roberts 2-10-3-49, Graves 0-2, Cloud 1-3-5-88, Clark 2-6-2-26, Swallow 2-3-23, McCabe 3-5-0-0-6, Wonderly 6-13-2-Sexton 0-1-0-0-0. Totals: 24-65 14-20 68.

CLACKAMAS (72): Pearson 2-9-0-0-4, Bullock 2-2-4, Spencer 7-14 2-3 18, Hay 3-5 1-2 8, Hadley 2-3-0-24, Hadley 7-12 1-5 18, Lassen 6-11 6, Beall 0-2-0-0-0. Totals: 28-59 10-18 72.

Halftime—Clackamas 42, LB 36. 3-point—LB 6-19 (Roberts 2-5, Cloud 1-2, Clark 0-4, Swallow 3-11), Clackamas 6-14 (Pearson 0-4, Hadley 2-4, Hay 1-3, Hadley 3-3). Rebounds—2 (Wonderly 12), Clackamas 42 (Lassen, 9).

Fouls—LB 14, Clackamas 14. Fouled out—1. Assists—LB 16 (Graves 7), Clackamas 24 (10). Turnovers—LB 14, Clackamas 13. Free-throw shots—LB 2 (Wonderly, McCabe), Clackamas 6 (Lassen 5). Steals—LB 7 (Roberts, Tom 2), Clackamas 6 (Spencer 3).

Women's all-league

FIRST TEAM: Angie Herr, so., Chemeketa; Melanie Sharp, so., Clackamas; Farrah Magee, so., Umpqua; Lisa Tamamasui, so., Umpqua; Kelli Johnston, fr., Chemeketa; Michelle Jim, so., Northwestern Oregon.

Most Valuable Player: Angie Herr, so., Chemeketa.

SECOND OF THE YEAR: Karen Twain, Clackamas. COACH TEAM: Karen Lindsay Hatch, Clackamas; Melissa Olson, fr., Linn-Benton; Melanie Green, fr., Chemeketa; Jenni Johnson, fr., Mt. Hood; Clair Cox, fr., Chemeketa.

HONORABLE MENTION: Megan Miller, so., Lane; Jennifer Sheppard, fr., Chemeketa; Andrea Gustafson, fr., Lane; Denise Haselwood, so., Clackamas; Angela Burgess, fr., Umpqua; Kodi Waite, so., Linn-Benton; Charley Murray, fr., Southwestern Oregon.

ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM: Kelli Johnston, Chemeketa; Lindsay Hatch, Clackamas; Melissa Olson, Linn-Benton; Melanie Green, Chemeketa; Clair Cox, Clackamas.

PAUL TURNER

Is it worth the hassle it takes to strive for the American Dream?

"Will mount your chains for \$10," the sign said. A rather robust-looking man, dressed for the cold weather, stood next to the truck bearing this sign by the snow-whitened highway. I showed this picture in the paper to Jack Josewski while we ate lunch. We both agreed that the man must've made a lot of money by the end of the day. I'm a pretty robust guy myself, but it's worth ten bucks for me not to lie under my car in the dirty ice and snow and mess with cold tire chains which never seem to fit. I can bet there are very few people who would drive on by this guy and do their own chains.

I made the comment that if I suddenly found myself wintering without a job, I'd grab a couple floor jacks from the garage and make a sign like the guy in the newspaper. Jack and I started talking about the things we would do if God threw our worthless asses out of school and back into the real world from which we came. I told Jack about a motorcycle swap meet where this guy had a precision grinder and buffing wheel. His sign read "Knives sharpened: \$2." While resting my feet and waiting for my wife to return from the leathercraft tables, I watched this guy for almost an hour. In that time he had taken 18 dull knives and ground and buffed them to razor-sharpness. For those of you not big on math, that's \$36 an hour. I brought him my blade and while he took the two minutes to sharpen it, I asked him if he did OK with his booth. He smiled and told me a story. The guy was a college graduate in biology. Hated the bio-gig once he got out into it. He does knife sharpening now and makes more money than his college buddies.

He handed me my sharpened and polished knife. "It's sharp, dude. Be careful." I handed him two bucks.

Jack nodded. "I used to sharpen saws in mills. I always knew I could make good money if I got setup to do scissors and knives. I bet I'd make more than I do now."

Recently, I totaled one of my vehicles. In an effort to



get it outta' the yard, I put an ad in the Nickel Ads. By the end of the first week the ad ran, I wished I had 10 wrecks in my yard. My family didn't share this particular desire. But, the point is before I even knew the ad was out, people were driving out to give me money for pieces of my wreck. I got to asking around and found out that there are a whole bunch of people, normal working people, making great beer money buying wrecks from insurance companies and people, then selling them piece by piece. One of these people even offered me a butt-load of money for my wreck. I declined, deciding to see how I could do on my own. He told me how he'd been doing this for years and was using the money to put his kids through school.

Now that I've droned on for 566 words, where is this going? Well, it deals with a comment someone made. They said the American Dream is a lie. "No one can make it to the upper stratification of American society. The American Dream was created to perpetuate the work ethic which keeps workers attached to the corporate tit. Most of America's property is owned by a very small percentage of the population, which prevents the rest of the people from getting ahead." And so on.

True. But you have to decide if you really want to be in the upper stratification. Do you really want to be so wealthy that you are isolated from the rest of the world because of your wealth? I read a study which stated that at least half of the big lottery winners wish the gambling gods had not smiled upon them. They have lost friends, family, privacy, etc. Some have had to move to keep the bloodsuckers away from their door. Now, doesn't that sound like a good time?

If American Society were a person, I would take her or she by the shoulders and say, "Here's a news flash: you have been sucked in by marketing. It's true, dear human. You really do not need to work 10 hours of overtime a week to make that payment on your new car. Why did you buy it? Because the advertising told you it would make you younger, get you laid more, make you envied? Listen, dear human. Do you realize that wanting these things so badly you will spend your life getting them, indicates a real problem? Such things

are not the stuff life is made of. These are mere B-Aids for your tarnished soul. The soul which is being sucked from you by replacing your spiritual needs with material needs."

By this point American society would have kicked me in the groin and called the cops. But, the question lingers: know what your American dream is.

Every second you spend in school up to college is teaching you one thing—to be a good worker and an even better consumer. You learn math to count change and keep a checkbook. You learn to get along with other people so you can be a good worker when you grow up. You learn penmanship (ever notice that's a sexist word) to fill out a job application correctly. You are being shown the way to the American Dream dreamed up by the advertising industry: Work 9-to-5, then spend your wages at Wal-Mart.

Most of you reading this (allow me my fantasies) are in college and choosing a vocation which, with luck and the love of Jesus in your heart, will provide you with a good-paying job. Then you can have all the things you ever wanted.

Let me share with you the American Dream I know. If you go to college and/or get a soul-grinding 9-to-5 job, get the things you want, you're screwing yourself. This is America. There are lots of people making it very hard who are not working their lives away to retire with a broken body and an angry heart. Look around you. Ever notice there are a few people who seem to be making it through their day without spending a fortune? A deal of it slaving away at something that sucks?

Jack took a look at the picture of the tire-changer again. We agreed it didn't look like a lot of fun. I guess again, I'd guess the dude in the snow might look like he's starting my day reading flaming e-mail, press releases from the Republican candidates and phone messages for pissed-off interviewees as not much fun either. I also guess the tire changer doesn't have to carry a paycheck.

Dear humans, I hope you don't waste all of your education feeding your future checkbooks and your minds and souls. Unfortunately, almost every aspect of your American environment is programmed to lead you in that direction.

classifieds

SCHOLARSHIPS

'96 Eligible Oregon residents who plan to major in Journalism in any 2 or 4 year public or private institution may apply for scholarships given by Broadcast Journalism at Oregon Community Foundation. Info available at Career Center. Deadline to apply is March 1.

Kaiser Permanente announces scholarships available to full-time students enrolled in the Dental Assistant Program. Deadline to apply is March 1, 1996. Applications are available in the Career Center.

Attention transfer students in Early Childhood Education. OAEYC announces 1996 grants in various amounts for Oregon residents pursuing a degree/career in Early Childhood Education. Deadline to apply is March 1, 1996. Applications are available in the Career Center.

'96 Ford Family Foundation Scholarship. 100 scholars are selected. Students who have completed or are completing an associate degree in preparation to transfer to a baccalaureate degree-granting college or university. Pick up application from the Career Center in Tadena for a list of requirements. Deadline to apply is March 1.

'96 Scholarships available for students in manufacturing engineering, industrial technology or other manufacturing related program. Must be full-time students, have completed 30 cr. hrs with a 3.5 GPA. Apps available in the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Deadline to apply is March 1.

Transfer student to OSU or Eastern Oregon State College with interest in agriculture sciences are eligible to apply for scholarships of \$1000 to \$2000. Apps are available in the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Deadline to apply is March 15.

Land O' Lakes Inc. will award 75 \$1,000 post secondary scholarships to students pursuing degrees in agriculture or food-related fields. Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in an undergraduate degree

program. Apps are available in the Career Center. Deadline to apply is March 15.

OreALS Scholarship available to a person furthering a career in a legal support staff position. Award could be up to \$1200. Deadline is March 22, 1996. Applications are available in the Career Center.

Women over the age of 25 years from Benton County who will be attending Oregon State Fall of 1996. Each award is for \$1200. Deadline: March 31, 1996. Applications are available in the Career Center.

'96 Leslie S. Parker Memorial Scholarships awarded to female Oregon Transfer students who are Oregon residents with at least two years of satisfactory college work. Applications available in the Career Center. Deadline to apply is April 1.

'96 Oregon Nurserymen's Foundation providing 12 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1000 per year to qualified students majoring in the field of horticulture or related field. Applications available in the Career Center. Deadline to apply is April 1.

'96 Albany General Hospital Scholarships. Eligibility: majors in a human medical field and attending full time. Deadline to apply is April 10. Applications available in the Career Center.

'96 Clifford and Grace Taylor Scholarship available for eligible students enrolled full-time in a medical or engineering-related field of study. Apps available in the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Deadline to apply is April 15.

NAWIC scholarships are available whose major is construction, construction management, architecture, civil, mechanical or electrical engineering for 1996-97 year. Applications are available in the Career Center.

HELP WANTED

ALASKA EMPLOYMENT- Students Needed! Fishing Industry. Earn up to \$3,000 - \$6,000+ per month. Room and board! Transportation! Male or female. No experience necessary. Call (206) 971-3510 ext

A60651 NATIONAL PARKS HIRING- Positions are now available at National Parks, Forests & wildlife preserves. Excellent benefits + bonuses! Call: 1-206-971-3620 ext. N60651.

CRUISE SHIPS NOW HIRING- Earn up to \$2,000+/month working on Cruise Ships or Land-Tour companies. World travel. Seasonal & full-time employment available. No experience necessary. For more information call 1-206-971-3550 ext. C60651.

Summer job listing: Oregon- City of Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation; Mt. Hood Kiwanas Camp; Westwind Summer Camp (YMCA), Portland; Crater Lake and Oregon Caves. United States- Alaska Wildland Adventures; Keystone Resorts, Colorado; Rocky Mountain Park Company, TW Recreational Services, Inc. for Keystone and Yellowstone National Park. Applications and info available in the Career Center.

Looking for work? Visit the LBCC Student Employment Center located on the first floor of Tadena Hall in the Career Center. Part-time, full-time, temporary and permanent positions are available. For a complete listing, visit our office or call our job hotline at 917-4798. If you are eligible for the Federal Work Study through Financial Aid, jobs are still available: child care, food service, print shop, library aide, Lebanon Center instructional lab aide, RSVP data entry assistant, social science aide, math lab clerical aide, ABE/GED clerical aide and office aide in Financial Aid Office. Check with the Financial Aid Office if you are eligible for the Federal Work Study Program.

Spend your summer at Sunriver Resort!!! They will have a job fair on Sat., March 23 between 10 a.m. - 1p.m. in the Main Lodge Meadows Restaurant. Sunriver Resort, Sunriver Recreation Association, and Thousand Trails Resort have positions available for the summer and will be hiring friendly, motivated people at the fair. Positions for lifeguard, tennis monitor, housekeeper, waiter/waitress, marina aide, activities

leader, golf shop clerk, beverage cart attendant, hostess/host, dishwasher, bike cashier, cashier, table busser, cook, front clerk...and more!

Need money for college? Earn it with United Parcel Service will be on campus Thursday, March 7, between 8 a.m. - 11a.m. in the Alsea/Calapooia Room in the Career Center. Orientation session starts promptly at 8 a.m., with interviews immediately following orientation session. Additional view times will be scheduled for Friday, March 8, between 10 a.m. - 1p.m. in the Career Center rooms if necessary. Pay ranges between \$9/hour; 20 hours/wk; full benefits available. Visit the LBCC Student Employment Center, Tadena Hall first floor if you have any questions.

FOR SALE

Singer Super Compact Vacuum cleaner. Nearly new, \$20. Call 745-5628 in the Career Center.

MISCELLANEOUS

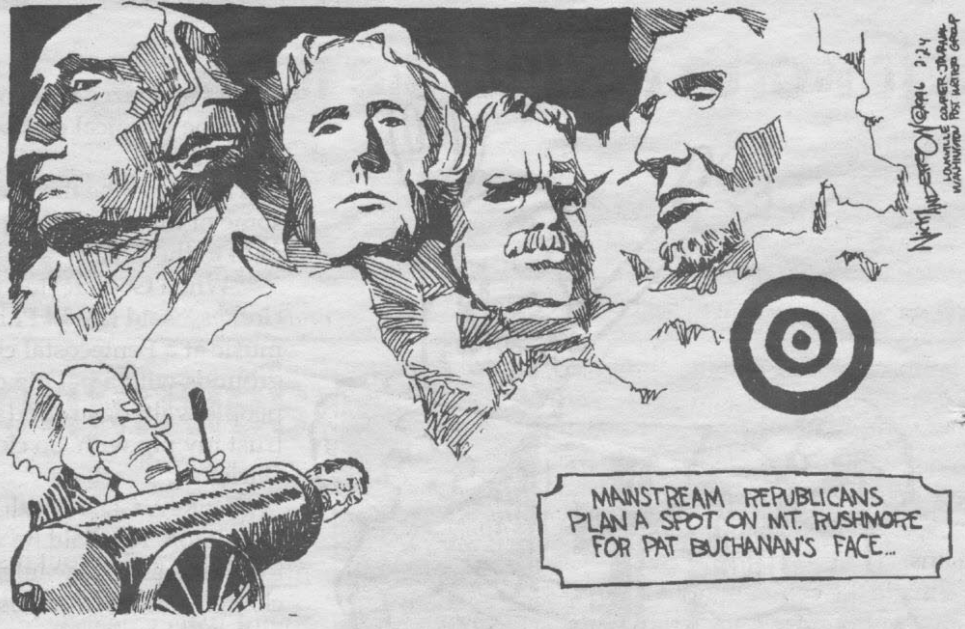
Tickets for Portland Opera production of "Jenufa" - Sat. Apr. 6, 7:30 p.m. Two tickets available in the Student Programs Office, CC-213.

Tickets are available free to LBCC students for lectures: Dr. Richard Dalkins, Inst. for Public Policy, and Public Policy-Hult Center at OSU. Dr. Jean Clottes, Inst. for Sci., Eng., and Public Policy-Hult Center (May 13) two tickets for each lecture in Eugene. Contact Student Programs office, CC-213.

ROOMS FOR RENT

Unique Opportunity close to LBCC. Country home being converted to "rooming house." Double/single occupancy rooms \$300 a person, utilities included! Horse riding on same property- No smoking/No alcohol. Call 928-9363. Judy or Vern, mornings best.

OPINION PAGE



Letter

Commuter's columnists lack credibility, balance

To the Editor:
 As last year's opinion columnist for The Commuter, I've tried very hard to be non-judgmental about the changes that have been made in this year's paper, even though I don't like many of them. After all, each editor has his or her own way of doing things, and since this is a college newspaper, it can hardly be expected to stay the same year after year.
 What can and should be expected from a serious newspaper of any kind is professionalism, a quality which is sorely lacking in this year's Commuter. The reporting and the News Lite features are good, but the columns may as well be written by middle-schoolers. Paul Turner has a great sense of humor and always has something worthwhile to say, but his use of four-letter words and the sort of dialogue that goes on in adolescent boys' locker rooms doesn't do much for his credibility, especially among those of us who are well past 18 (and who have never spent much time in locker rooms).
 As for Erik Bootsma, who I have to think must be the current editor's answer to last year's liberal columnists (myself included); his disjointed, illogical and factually distorted ramblings simply do not belong in a publication that attempts to portray itself as journalistic in nature. I have no quarrel with his opinion itself, even though I disagree with it. In fact, I can even relate to Bootsma, in that I too am firmly committed to my ideology and refuse to apologize for it. But if The Commuter is going to be as biased and one-sided to the right as it was last year to the left, the editor should consider finding a conservative writer with some talent—not to mention one who knows better than to misrepresent himself as something he is not. All Bootsma's column does is reinforce the widely held, if inaccurate, perception of conservatives as a pack of yahoos with the mental abilities of a crayfish. Wouldn't George Will or Mona Charen be a better choice?
 Think about it.

Marla J. Lawrence

commentary

Buchanan's scapegoating rhetoric ignores history

by Pete Petryszak
 of The Commuter

Pat Buchanan's narrow victory in New Hampshire has shaken up the GOP presidential field and made Pat the center of attention as the primary circus travels on to Delaware and Arizona.

I called Pat a reactionary buffoon back in October and, in spite of his recent victories, I stand by that assessment. I see Buchanan's popularity as evidence of growing discontent and uncertainty over America's future, not an endorsement of his positions.

Buchanan's message is, for the most part, the same as it was in 1992: Stop illegal immigration and reduce the legal variety, end foreign aid, pull out of trade agreements and abolish abortion.

Say what you want about those positions. The fact is, they're popular opinions these days, as they were popular in the past. Throughout our history, in times of economic uncertainty and cultural upheaval, popular movements have sprung up, defending "traditional values" and blaming the nation's woes on some "outside" group. In the past those "outside groups" have included foreign nations, minorities, the Freemasons or the American people's all-time favorite target: Immigrants!

I've always found it interesting that a nation descended entirely from immigrants would be so eager to attack and resist others who wish to do no more than what the "natives" or their ancestors did not so long ago—come to this country in order to make a better life for themselves or their children.

It seems the "nativists" believe there is a finite source of "opportunity" in this country, and that an overflow of new immigrants will somehow cause the well to run dry. The fact is that each new group of immigrants provides new opportunities for astute merchants and investors to provide them with the goods and services they desire.

It's almost amusing to think about the lineage of the present Nativists and the adversity their parents or grandparents had to overcome. First, Americans were mostly of Anglo-Saxon descent, and immigrants started coming in from northern and western Europe, some of the Anglo-Americans started complaining about the new immigrants and their strange customs.

Well, some years passed, the country wasn't ruined by knockwurst and herring, and the northern Europeans became "Americans" by virtue of living here.

Then came a wave of Irish immigrants, and the newly Americanized Northern Europeans joined with the Anglos in condemning the Irish, their Catholicism, potatoes, whiskey and anything else they felt made the Irish different from "us regular Americans."

However the Irish, just like the Germans before them,

didn't ruin America. They just moved in and adapted to "American life." Some of their culture was even absorbed by American society.

The Irish adapted to American culture so well that they were among the first groups to protest against the new wave of Italian and other southern European groups in the late 19th century. Like the other "natives," the Irish complained that the Italian immigrants would take their jobs, that they lived in filthy conditions and that their penchant for wine made them poor workers.

It's easy to pick out a scapegoat and blame that one person or group of people for all your problems, but the issues are always more complicated than that.

I wonder how many people who support Buchanan have jobs that depend on foreign trade and don't realize it. As much as Pat rants about NAFTA and the Mexican Bailout, he doesn't seem to be complaining to loudly about the export dollars those agreements have brought into the country in the past two years.

I'd also like to know how many of the folks who complain about illegal immigrants buy fresh produce. If you like being able to buy apples for 89 cents a pound instead of a dollar or more apiece, thank an illegal immigrant. It's the flow of illegals who are willing to pick fruit at reduced wages that keep produce prices down.

Too much of Buchanan's message involves pointing the finger at someone else. His candidacy rests on his ability to work a crowd into a frenzy by saying "See those folks over there? They're the reason why things are bad for you right now! Everything would be perfect if we could just get rid of THEM!"

The problem is that "THEY" are rarely, if ever, the sole source of the problem, and chances are that after Pat gets done building his wall between Texas and Mexico, pulls out of NAFTA, GATT, the U.N., the Geneva Convention, and any other foreign alliance, things will be worse, not better. And the next step for Pat would be to redirect the finger of blame to another group in society; to keep it pointed anywhere but toward himself.

Buchanan is not without his strengths. He's a terrific orator, and he can sure get folks worked up. And that's what has the moderate Republicans shaking in their boots. They're afraid of the results if the nomination goes to Buchanan. Almost no one outside of Pat's campaign offices think he can win, but it would be interesting to see him run against Clinton.

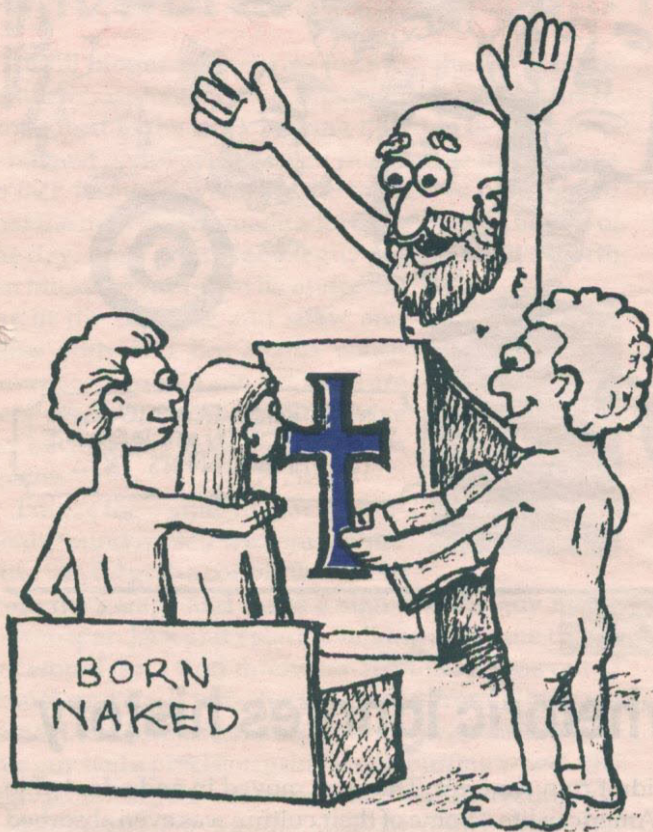
The fate of Buchanan's candidacy will be determined by whether Americans look deeper into the issues or rush to jump on the blame-shifting, finger-pointing bandwagon.

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Bare all believers have nothing to hide

LONGWOOD, N.C. (AP)—“Amazing Grace” lifts softly into the North Carolina pines from the meeting room where voices gather greater fervor in praising God with each verse.

Take away the video screen and music and it might be just another Saturday night in a Christian campground tradition that predates Billy Graham—except the woman leading the song has no clothes on, her husband wears only a T-shirt and all the others are similarly undressed.

Welcome to the first Christian Nudist Conference, where naked Christian karaoke is but one sign of a coming-out party for this tiny but growing movement of religious naturists.

Some 40 Christian nudists from around the country stood naked and unashamed before their God at the conference, which ended Sunday with a worship service where ministers both robed and unrobed distributed communion to the nude and nearly nude outdoors underneath a wooden cross.

“The No. 1 goal of this whole thing, ultimately, is to glorify the name of Christ,” said Carol Love, an owner of the Whispering Pines Resort where the conference was held. “We feel like we’ve been Christians for a long time, and this is our next step to get closer to God.”

Christian uneasiness with nudity goes back to the biblical account of Adam and Eve, who were clothed by God after eating the forbidden fruit. Public nudity is associated with original sin, and most Christian denominations encourage modesty in dress so as not to inflame lustful passions.

But if churches emphasize fallen human nature since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, some nudists contend Christians can recapture a purity of spirit regarding creation.

“The Bible does say God created man in his image, and I think his image reflects the physical aspect of life,” said John Kundert, editor of the Fig Leaf Forum, a newsletter for Christian nudists. “I think as Christians, the redeemed, the new creation, (we) should be able to recapture some of that original goodness.”

The North Carolina conference and the forum newsletter, started in 1994, are two examples of the growing effort among Christian nudists to become more visible, said Jim Cunningham, head of Naturist Life International, a Troy, Vt., a group of conservative nudists.

Although his group is not explicitly religious, its magazine contains a feature called “Divine Reflections” and four priests concelebrated Mass at its conference last year in Quebec, Cunningham said.

“We’re overcoming our inferiority complex, and coming out of the closet ourselves,” he said.

With clothes on, the participants of all physical

shapes and sizes here to play and pray in the nude could be a typical collection of mostly over-40 Christians.

They describe themselves as Bible-believing folk, some of them fundamentalists, who see nudity as a path to the divine.

“When God created us, he didn’t create us with clothes,” said David Phipps, a retired minister of music at a Pentecostal church as he walked the grounds with a pet pig on a leash. “There are a lot of people walking around in \$400 suits that I wouldn’t trust my pig with. So clothes really don’t make the Christian.”

The Rev. Gene Smith, a red-bearded minister from Lexington, Ky., said he was raised by an old-fashioned father who wanted him in church—fully clothed—as often as possible.

But in his experience, the practice of nudity follows along with his spiritual beliefs.

“When I became a Christian, my sins were covered,” said the 52-year-old Smith, ordained in a nondenominational Evangelical church. “There is nothing I have to hide. I really feel that’s the way my relationship should be with humankind also.”

A couple of miles away on Sunday at the Old Shallotte Baptist Church, a traditional red-brick building with an American flag out front, Southern Baptists in sport coats and dresses sing the traditional hymn “Love Lifted Me.”

When they think at all about the nudists a short distance away, it’s with benign detachment. Nudists from Whispering Pines sometimes don clothes to attend the Baptist service.

“We don’t condone. We don’t condemn. We just try to be loving,” said Deacon Larry Shreve. “I believe we should wear clothes, but I’m never one to condemn.”

Over at Whispering Pines, with the sun shining and a simple wooden cross by the lake as a backdrop, nudists solemnly walked back and forth to communion. On one side, a man dressed in shirt and slacks distributed the bread, while on the opposite side a nude minister gave out communion.

“I’m sure God’s looking down and smiling at us today,” said the Reformed Evangelical minister in full liturgical dress who led the service. “Each one of us is a glorious work of art.”

But the minister declined to be identified for fear of reprisal.

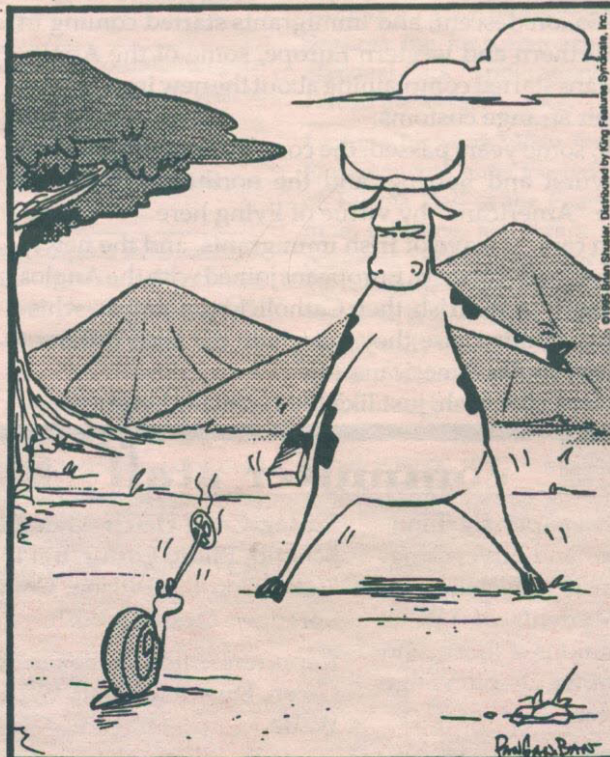
Throughout the conference, participants discussed the desire for greater self-acceptance and winning the understanding of other Christians as two of the major issues facing Christian nudists.

Love, a mother of four children who attends Catholic Mass almost daily, said the idea for the conference came to her at 5 one morning when she heard the voice of God.

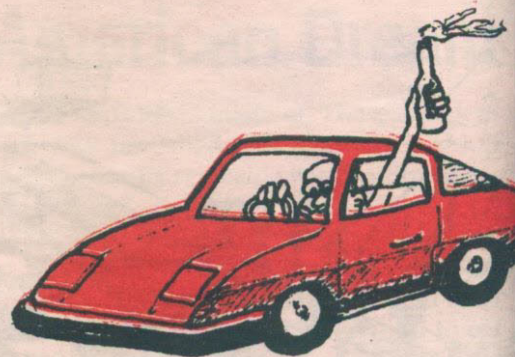
“It was like he said, ‘Do it; this is what I want.’”

News Lite Illustrations by Jacob Schmid

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



It was a tense few minutes, but eventually Arnold’s branding iron cooled off, Bessy ate her salt-lick, and they went their separate ways.



Drunk drives himself straight to jail

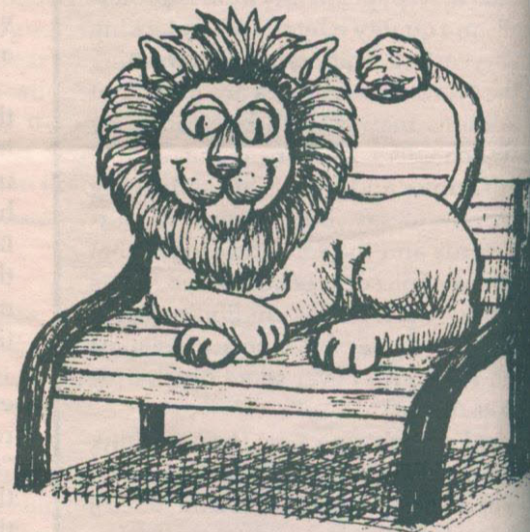
SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Robert S. Burns could have made it much easier for the troopers who arrested him for drunken driving. He drove to

The used-car-lot employee drove a Mazda to the Washington State Patrol office Thursday for inspection. The dealer-owned car was from out of state, and Washington law requires such vehicles be inspected before they can be resold.

The inspector who checked the car was a re-trooper who smelled alcohol and saw a plastic bottle in Burns’ lap, patrol Sgt. Chris Powell said. The inspector asked for the bottle and found it half full of beer, Powell said.

A breath test measured Burns’ blood-alcohol at 0.20 percent, twice the legal threshold of intoxication. Burns, 29, of Spokane, was arrested for driving and jailed.

“They say alcohol impairs your judgment, and that seems to be the case here,” Powell said.



All Simba wanted was a quiet walk in the park

PLANO, Texas (AP)—For five hours, Ronald Ross’ pet was the king of Shamrock Park.

That was until authorities put a leash on his African lion, Simba, after a morning stroll through the park near Lake Lavon in rural Collin County north of Dallas.

There were no injuries, but park dwellers had a few tense moments.

“The neighbors were ill at ease, to say the least,” said Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife Commissioner James Wilson. “It’s pretty scary to see a 200-pound lion on the loose. But it was not a threatening animal. I hate to say it, but he’s just an overgrown kitten.”

The cat was first reported spotted in the park about 10:30 a.m. Thursday, sheriff’s department spokesman Lt. John Norton said.

Ross joined four deputy units, a veterinarian nearby Allen, a representative from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and three park wardens on a mid-morning suburban safari.

“(Simba) seemed pretty nervous about so many strangers being around,” Wilson said. “Our plan was to first try to apprehend him with leashes, and that didn’t work, we would try sedation and the next option would be to destroy the animal.”

The cat, apparently calmed by Ross’ presence, succumbed to the leash, Wilson said. Ross did not have a permit to own the 14-month-old cat, which should eventually grow to twice its current size.