

**Corvallis Farmers'  
Market blooms again**  
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**Roadrunners get their  
fill of Titans for a week**  
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A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

# THE COMMUTER

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 33 No. 21

## SANDS OF PEACE



Photo by Chad Richins

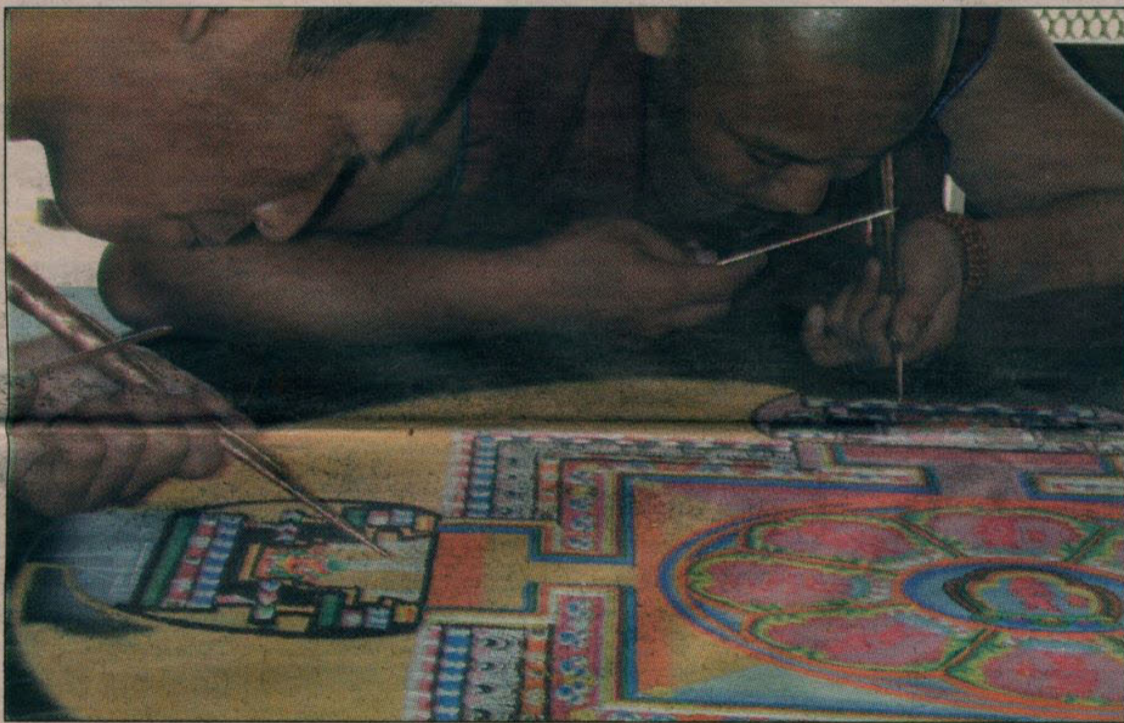


Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

### Monks Wrap Up Mid-Valley Visit Today

Tibetan Buddhist Monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery add sand to the colorful mandala that they have been creating in Takena Hall since Monday. The mandala is expected to be finished at 5 p.m. today, when it will be followed by a closing ceremony by the Mystical Arts of Tibet touring group at 6 p.m. At noon today the Monks will lecture on "The Ancient Art of Healing" in Forum 104.

## Revenue shortfall leads to proposed \$2 increase in tuition

by D.D. Malloy  
of The Commuter

LBCC students can expect to be paying about 5 percent more in tuition when they return to campus next fall.

An increase of \$2 per credit hour was proposed to the Budget Review Committee at its meeting last week. If the college's Board of Education approves, per credit tuition will go up from its current \$39 to \$41. Full-time students taking 15 credits will see their overall tuition bill go from \$585 to \$615.

LBCC is one of several community colleges in the state that have either raised tuition or say they plan to by this fall in order to help make up for state-mandated budget cuts. LBCC's proposed increase is one of the lowest. On average, tuition at the state's 17 community colleges is expected to go up 12.5 percent in the fall, with Lane Community College in Eugene leading the way with a 26 percent increase to \$49 per credit.

Several economic factors have converged to reduce the revenues available to LBCC. At a recent Budget Committee meeting, President Jon Carnahan gave a brief overview of the economic actions that have

made the administration face difficult budget policy issues.

Factors highlighted by the college president included the loss of 60,000 jobs in Oregon and the shift of revenue from property taxes to income taxes. With unemployed Oregonians not paying income taxes, the revenue received from the state will be \$1 to \$2 million less than projections.

In two special sessions, the state Legislature has failed to find additional revenue sources, and instead forced schools and state agencies to cut their budgets. LBCC has had to dip into its financial reserves, cut back on the number of classes offered and seek a tuition increase to make up the difference.

Some services have been reduced, such as the Student Health Clinic cutting back to one day a week, and more than 150 classes have been eliminated, which is the equivalent of 232 full-time students.

Other cuts announced previously by the college include reducing administrative and classified support staff, cutting both full-time and part-time faculty, eliminating the intercollegiate track team and reducing the

## Peace Studies raises funds for international symposium

by Thomas M'Geary  
of The Commuter

LBCC Peace Studies Program is in the midst of fundraising to pay for eight delegates to attend the biennial symposium on Peace, Justice and Human Rights in York, England, this June.

For the past 14 years, the LBCC Peace Studies Program has participated in this international effort to foster nonviolent conflict resolution through people-to-people contacts among students of many nations.

The LBCC delegation will arrive in

Budapest June 13, and travel to Berlin, Amsterdam, Leewarden and London before arriving in York June 22 to attend the week-long symposium.

The co-curricular program relies on grass-roots fund raising and a portion of student fee revenues. This spring the students are selling Earth Day T-shirts, providing coffee breaks at an Interstate 5 rest area, organizing dinners at local restaurants and developing other sponsorship programs. The group's popular Earth Day T-shirts are on sale this week at a table in Takena Hall from 9 a.m. to 2

p.m. The T-shirts, designed by a former student, have been sold for the last eight years. They sell for \$15, and all proceeds go toward travel expenses.

The Peace Studies Program will host a brunch on Sunday, April 28, at the trendy downtown Corvallis restaurant Lovino's from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A percentage of all sales during this time will go to Peace Studies. The student delegation will be on hand to socialize and assist with preparations.

The students will also be staffing a free coffee booth at an I-5 rest area dur-

ing the first weekend in May, from Friday, May 3 through Sunday May 5.

The students are also seeking sponsors for each of the delegates attending the symposium. Persons contributing over \$50 to help support individual delegates will receive a fine-art photographic print taken in one of the countries on their tour upon the group's return.

Volunteers and sponsors interested in participating may sign up outside political science instructor Doug Clark's office or contact him in T217 or at 917-4557 to make contributions.

### WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

 High: 63° Low: 37° Wednesday	 High: 63° Low: 36° Thursday	 High: 58° Low: 39° Friday	 High: 55° Low: 38° Saturday	 High: 59° Low: 35° Sunday
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A little Madness in the Spring  
Is wholesome even for the King.

—Emily Dickinson

Source: Weather.com



## PAGE TWO

## OFF BEAT

## No, bad elephant!

Officials in Bangkok have decreed that people are no longer allowed to leave their pets unattended in public places. This includes cats, dogs, water buffalo and elephants. Owners will also be required to clean up their animals' waste.

## They'll never get me

A man stole a street sweeper from Ohio, and was arrested in Michigan when he tried to drive it across the border into Canada. A spokesman for the company that owned the vehicle said the thief probably thought he'd escape punishment. "If you want to avoid the law, you go to Canada or Mexico at least that's what they say in the movies," he said. "It's not necessarily true any more, but if you're not too bright, you're not gonna know that."

## Tax dollars at work

The witch doctors of the village of Akradio, Ivory Coast, claim it was their magic that helped the national team win the Africa Nation's Cup soccer trophy in 1992. But the government failed to pay them for their help, so they put a curse on the team, which hasn't won the championship since. The government finally relented, and paid the witch doctors \$2,000 and a bottle of liquor.

## And one, and two...

A woman in Santa Ana, Calif., went on disability leave from her job in 1998 after a fall in which she hurt her left hip, knee, back and neck. While still claiming she was unable to return to work nine months later, she was videotaped by insurance investigators participating in a vigorous aerobics workout at a "Jazzercise" class. She was arrested.

## These better be good

The University of Iowa lost millions of dollars due to state budget cuts. The professors decided to counteract the shortfall by holding a bake sale.

## Out of retirement?

A 48-year-old entrepreneur sold his Ohio software company for about \$10 million eight years ago. He was recently arrested for robbing eight banks. Authorities did not know why a millionaire would enter the bank robbery profession

—From KRT News

## Annual Family Fun Day

Games, crafts, a silent auction and a used toy and book sale are just some of the fun to be had at the 25th Annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, April 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Benton Center Gym, 630 NW Seventh Ave., in Corvallis.

Family Fun Day is LBCC's Parent Education Scholarship fundraiser. Families purchase tickets to participate in the events. Activity tickets are 25 cents each or five for \$1 at the door.

Activities are designed to be fun for young children and parents and include such things as making necklaces, playing with play dough and "ooblick," going through the obstacle course and more. Parents can participate in the silent auction.

This annual event, established in 1977, is the main fundraiser for the scholarship fund, which pays partial tuition for some of the nearly 2,000 parents in Linn and Benton counties who take LBCC Parent Education classes each year. Many parents would not be able to attend the classes without financial help.

For more information or to make auction donations, call the Family Resource Department at 917-4897.

## Fraud workshop planned

The Harrisburg Seniors And Law Enforcement Together (SALT) and Citizens Bank are joining forces to bring the community a free seminar for all persons interested in learning how to recognize and prevent financial fraud.

The seminar will be held May 2 at the First Christian Church in Harrisburg, 601 Smith St., from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration check-in and a free light breakfast will be offered, starting at 8:30 a.m. Advance sign-up for the event is required to reserve a seat.

Jan Margosian, with the Consumer Protection Division of the Oregon Department of Justice, will share the most up-to-date



information on how to protect yourself or someone you know from becoming a victim of identity theft and other financial scams, such as pyramid schemes.

Patty Street from Edwards Jones Investments will speak about investment fraud, and Kathleen Howlett, education manager of the Oregon State Construction Contractors Board, will speak about construction fraud.

The Harrisburg SALT Council is comprised of concerned senior citizens, Linn County Sheriff's Office, Linn-Benton Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Cascades West Senior Services, and AARP. Its purpose is to increase and improve senior crime prevention and education, improve local law enforcement's knowledge of crime prevention needs of seniors, to identify the concerns of local senior citizens, to improve senior victim assistance, and to involve senior citizens in community crime prevention efforts.

## CPR Saturday

Adult CPR and Infant and Child CPR classes will be offered Saturday, April 27 at LBCC's main campus.

Samaritan Health Services and LBCC are joining forces to teach the lifesaving skills of CPR to as many in the community as possible.

The cost of registering for one or both of the classes is \$5 for classes held on this day. The cost is low because the instructors' time and facilities are being donated.

The two classes will each be offered three times in the day: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Preregistration is suggested to ensure a space in the class. Call 541-768-6615.

## Math T-shirts for sale

Math Awareness Week is coming up May 6-May 10. More information about this year's games, contests, and food will be posted around campus next week.

This year's MAW T-shirt features one of the most famous theorems in mathematics (the Pythagorean Theorem:  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ ) and was designed by LBCC graphic arts student, Analee Durfee.

The short-sleeved, crewneck T-shirts are 100 percent cotton and come in sizes small to 3X large. Cost is \$10. The geometric design is on the front of the shirt, which comes in white, natural, daffodil yellow, ash, lavender and coral.

If you would like to order a T-shirt, go to the Learning Center and place your order with Michele Malloy by next Monday, April 22.

## Scholarships available

It is scholarship application time once again. The Financial Aid Office is accepting scholarship applications until May 3. Students may download the application from the college website at: [www.lbcc.cc.or.us/foundation/scholarship.html](http://www.lbcc.cc.or.us/foundation/scholarship.html).

## Poetry readings May 8

LBCC English Instructor Linda Smith, who teaches creative writing classes, will join Jim Crofts, LBCC Internet Support Technician, in a reading of their own poetry and prose on Wednesday, May 8, from noon to 12:50 in the Siletz Room (CC-213).

Students and staff are invited to bring lunch and a friend to listen to two of LBCC's own creative writers. Sponsored by LBCC's Valley Writers Series.



Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

## Soaking It Up

LBCC students Mike Langeliers and Justin Shivas take advantage of the recent sunny weather to relax on the north side of the Courtyard. Sunny skies and warm weather are expected to continue through the rest of the week, with the spring rains holding off at least until the weekend.

## 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, Associated Students of LBCC or the Warren Commission. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them.

Address correspondence to The Commuter, 6500 S.W. Pacific Blvd., Albany, Ore. 97321; Telephone (541) 917-4451, 917-4452 or 917-4453; Fax (541) 917-4454; E-mail [commuter@ml.lbcc.cc.or.us](mailto:commuter@ml.lbcc.cc.or.us). The newsroom is located in Room 222 of the Forum.

## The Commuter Staff:

**Editor-in-Chief**, Chad Richins; **Photo Editor**, James Bauerle; **Assistant Photo Editor**, Stefanie Hessenkemper; **Copy Editor**, Wendy Geist; **A&E Editor**, Mariana Schatte; **Sports Editor**, Jered Reid; **Contributing Editors**, Twila Skelley, Sherry Majeski, and Donald Downing; **Writers**: Allen Garner, David Miller.

**Advertising Manager**, Mikki Love; **Marketing Director**, Heather Shearer; **Editorial Assistants**, Thomas McGeary and Joshua Peterson; **Pagination Coordinator**, Nicole Halverson. **Advisor**, Rich Bergeman.



# CAMPUS NEWS

## Plans move ahead on Benton Center

by D.D. Malloy  
of The Commuter

The \$3 million renovation and construction project being planned for the LBCC Benton Center in Corvallis continues to move ahead on schedule.

The site located at the old Washington Elementary School next to Washington Park, has been the focus of a controversy because the renovation will destroy the small gymnasium used by community groups. Concerned citizens have voiced opposition to the loss of the gym at every public meeting and in the media.

Because the old Washington Elementary School, built in 1924, is a historical building, the exterior of the structure must be preserved in its original architectural form. Penny York, director of the Benton Center, has made two presentations to the Corvallis Historic Advisory Board and is planning another. The college is committed to working with the advisory board to make sure that their recommendations receive full consideration.

Kathy Gager, associate planner for the City of Corvallis said, "The college has been very involved with the Historic Advisory Board and has made very good presentations. They have been very responsive to the informal comments suggested by the board members."

At a recent Historic Advisory Board meeting, members of the community testified in opposition to the demolition of the gym. However, the gym is not a part of the Washington Elementary School building and the advisory board has juris-

diction only over the exterior preservation of designated historical buildings. The gymnasium is not a historical facility. Penny York noted that the college intends to make sure the gym's wood floor is recycled in a responsible way.

The plan for the new facility has a 3,000-square-foot fitness room with a suspended wood floor. A space for equipment storage will also be available in the new fitness room. Mats will be available for floor exercises.

Two buildings at the campus will be connected by a two-story atrium containing a student lounge and lobby. A one-story building will be constructed in such a way that a second story can be built on top in the future. The new entrance will be off of Ninth Avenue, alleviating traffic in the neighborhood.

Representatives of the college have met with the Corvallis Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation to coordinate development of the project. Neighborhood meetings have also been held. A pre-application of intent to build has been submitted to the city. Final approval by the city is expected this summer, with construction scheduled to begin winter term 2003.

Neighbors of Washington Park have expressed an interest in having a covered play-area structure built that would permit activities during inclement weather. New landscaping in the park and at the campus will enhance the grounds. Additional parking will be made available.

The LBCC Board of Education has approved the tentative plan but will make its final funding decision at a meeting later in the year.

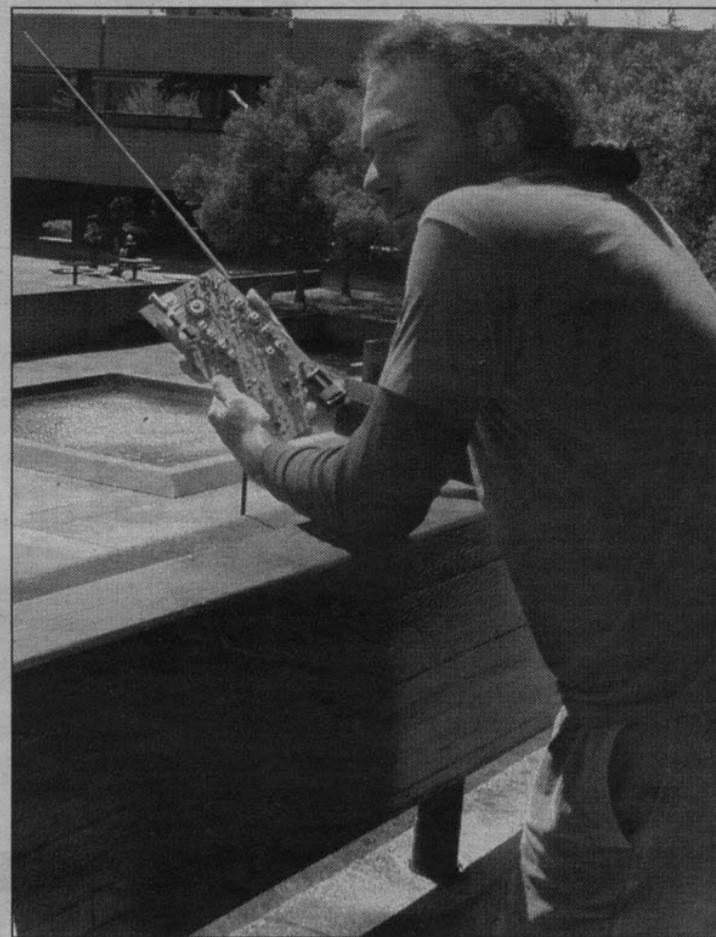


Photo by James Bauerle

### "Testing, Testing"

Electronics student Alex Berger tries out his AM/FM radio that he built for his integrated circuitry class.

## Budget: Higher costs for energy, insurance, retirements add to strain

From Page One

number of theater productions.

Other factors adversely impacting the college's operating budget include the loss of \$150,000 in timber revenues, a projected 30 percent increase in energy costs and an increase of \$650,000 in staff health benefit costs this year alone.

Another contributing factor

is the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), which guarantees employees enrolled in the fixed income earnings option an 8 percent return on their investment. Simply stated, more money is being paid out than received. The college currently pays 9.5 percent of payroll earnings and employees pay 6 percent matching. The

PERS Board is considering raising the contribution requirements as high as 12 or 13 percent. This would add another \$500,000 per year to an already stressed budget.

State revenue makes up 56 percent of the college's funding and local property taxes provide 24 percent. The remaining portion comes from other sources,

including tuition.

An increase in enrollment this spring contributed to an increase in tuition revenues, but it also meant that more than 200 spring term classes were full.

In May, taxpayers will vote on whether to allow the state to expend \$220 million from the Education Endowment Fund. Gov. John Kitzhaber is actively

campaigning against the measure, and if it fails the Legislature will be forced to mandate even more cuts, which would likely affect LBCC.

The next LBCC Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for May 15, and the final budget hearing is scheduled for June 19. The tuition increases are expected to be passed at that time.

## LB takes awards at Arab debate

for The Commuter

The LBCC delegation to the Model Arab League debate returned last weekend with more awards than any other delegation after competing with colleges and universities from around the Northwest.

The awards were reported as follows:

Saudi Arabia delegation: Honorable Mention Best Delegation

Joint Defense: Sean Carey  
Palestinian Affairs: Theresa Champ

Interior: Summer Beanland-Southgate (Best Delegate)

Environmental Affairs: Diane Hale (Honorable Mention Best Delegate)

Qatar:  
Joint Defense: Tina Empol  
Palestinian Affairs: Charlene Pott

Social Affairs: Tareq Al-Yassin (Best Delegate)

Interior: Stephanie Hampton (Honorable Mention Best Delegate)

Environmental Affairs: Matthew Martin

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Visit us on the web: [www.clas.pdx.edu/DCP/Salem](http://www.clas.pdx.edu/DCP/Salem)



# THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

## The Commuter needs creative students to fill positions on the 2002-2003 staff

### Editor

Individuals interested in journalism and communications careers are encouraged to apply. Appointment carries a 12-credit quarterly tuition grant and provides practical experience for aspiring writers and editors. Students with coursework and/or experience in journalism are preferred. Applicants must be enrolled throughout the 2002-03 academic year. Appointment made by the LBCC Publications Committee.

**DEADLINE IS MAY 17  
(for this position only)**

### Photo Editor

Students with an interest and skills in photography are sought for this position, which offers valuable experience for anyone planning to pursue 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. Familiarity with digital imaging is a plus, but we will provide training in Photoshop. The appointment carries a 75% annual tuition grant.

### Sports Editor

An energetic 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 and a passion for sports is encouraged to apply. The appointment carries a 6-credit tuition grant and provides on-the-job training and experience covering a wide variety of intercollegiate athletics.

### Graphics Editor

The Commuter is seeking an individual with experience in graphics and/or journalism to coordinate the graphic design and production aspects of the weekly newspaper. This position involves helping develop the overall design of the paper, creating illustration and info graphics for publication, and coordinating production. Macintosh experience preferred. The appointment carries a 6-credit tuition grant.

### Assistant Editors

Applicants sought for several assistant editor positions, including Managing Editor, Copy Editor, A&E Editor, Online Editor. Some journalism or writing experience preferred, but all interested applicants are encouraged to apply. Appointment to Managing Editor carries a 6-credit tuition grant, while other positions carry 4-credit tuition grants.

### Digital Page Designer

This part-time position pays \$8+ per hour for up to 12 hrs/wk on Mon.-Tues. Involves using Macintosh and Pagemaker to paginate tabloid pages under direction of the graphics editor. Mac experience and good English skills required; familiarity with Pagemaker helpful. Provides valuable experience for majors in journalism, graphics and pre-press technology.

### 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. Macintosh experience preferred. The position carries a 12-credit quarterly tuition grant. Applicant must be enrolled for the 2002-03 academic year.

### 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.

**Deadline for Editor is May 17.**

Other applications remain open until positions are filled.

**Applications available in The Commuter Office (F-222)**

**or from advisor Rich Bergeman (F-112)**

**For additional information call ext. 4563 or 4451**



# LOCAL NEWS

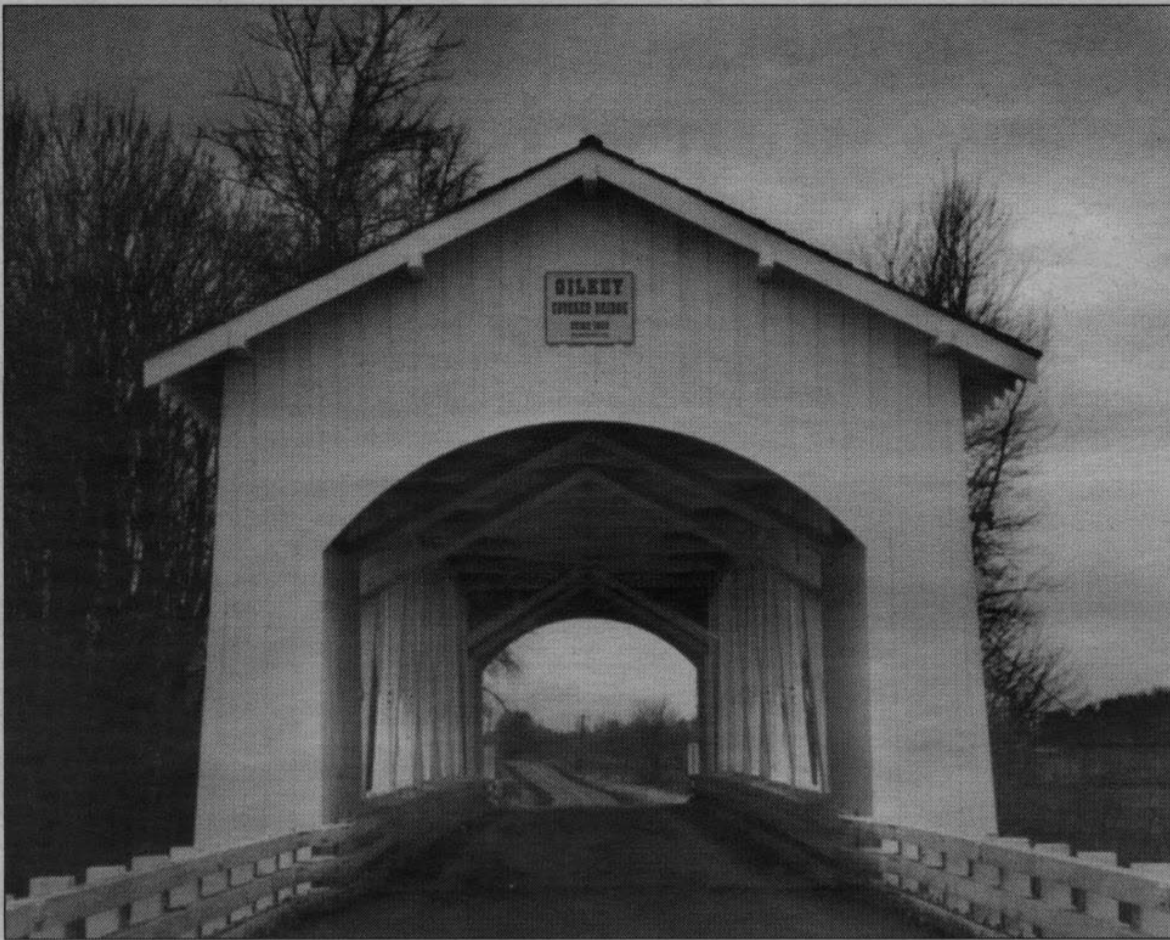


Photo courtesy of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon

The historic Gilkey Bridge over Thomas Creek near Scio is one of several to be featured in the upcoming Covered Bridge Festival in the Fall. Built in 1939, the Gilkey Bridge is 120 feet long.

## Covered bridge festival set for fall

by Chad Richins  
of The Commuter

The Covered Bridge Society of Oregon is organizing the first state festival to celebrate covered bridges this fall and is seeking volunteers to help with the event and to design a web page.

The festival will be centered around the Scio area, where five covered bridges are within driving distance.

Oregon has the largest concentration of covered bridges of any state west of the Mississippi,

and eight of them are in Linn County.

Covered bridges are part of Oregon's cultural heritage and help define the era before modern freeway travel, when roads meandered through rural communities and sometimes crossed over rivers and streams in style.

Founded in 1978, the society

offers newsletters, picnics, guest speakers, slide shows and historical bridge data. Membership dues are \$15 per year.

To volunteer or for more information about the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon call Judy Prindle at (503)752-8269 or Jeannine Schmeltzer at (503)628-1906.

## Community river cleanup

For The Commuter

A community cleanup of the Willamette River and Periwinkle Creek will be held Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers are needed for the event, dubbed "Down by the Riverside," and are asked to meet at Bryant Park in Albany at 9 a.m.

Pizza will be provided for all volunteers at noon and prizes awarded for the largest item, most unusual item, largest quantity picked up and more.

Garbage bags and latex gloves

will also be provided. Volunteers are advised to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots and to bring work gloves.

Groups of five or more are asked to pre-register by May 13, but smaller groups do not need to pre-register.

Middle school children and younger must be accompanied by an adult. All participants will be asked to sign a waiver and parents' signatures are needed for those under 18. The cleanup is sponsored by the City of Albany and SOLV.

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Featuring Tammy Pescatelli  
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### Tickets

\$7 General Admission

\$5 Students/Seniors

Available at:  
LBCC Box Office  
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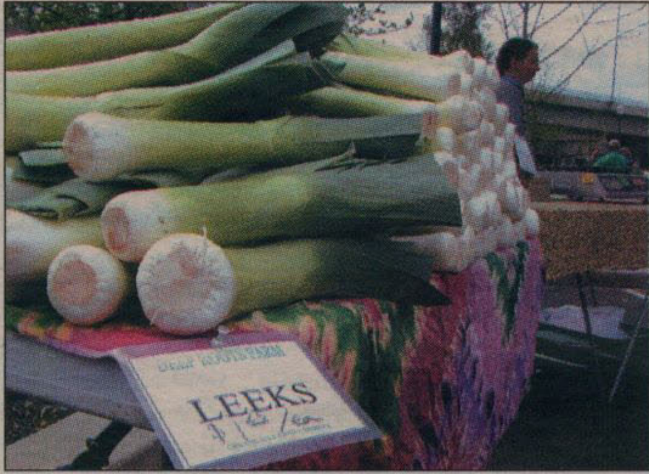


Presented by LBCC Student Life & Leadership





# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## Farmer's Market opens for business in new location

The Saturday Corvallis Farmer's Market has moved from its previous location near City Hall to the south end of Second Street next to the Skate Park. The move did not seem to have affected business on the first day of operation last weekend, as plenty of shoppers and vendors were on hand buying and selling flowers, spring produce, honey and other farm products while listening to musicians and enjoying the warm weather. When the Riverfront Park construction is finished, the market will relocate again to the north end of the park.

Photos by Chad Richins



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## OPINION

### 'Alternative' crowd values worth study

by Chad Richins  
of The Commuter

People watching is an art, not an activity. Anybody can stare out the window of a coffee shop self-consciously as people pass by and think, "Am I watching them, or are they watching me?"

It takes a true artist to mingle among the natives and find out what they're like in their natural environment.

This weekend I hit the town in Corvallis to study the indigenous party people crowd on the unofficial holiday of April 20, or 4-20. I don't want to say what the significance of 4-20 is, since I had to find out for myself a long time ago, and if you have to ask, you probably don't need to know anyway.

The celebration of the day on this 4-20 was another show for the local favorite funk band, the South Town Hounds at Squirell's Tavern. The place was jumpin', everybody was lookin' fine and the music was what the crowd seemed to require. The hips swayed. The shoes tapped. Butts slid down long wooden benches to join other butts already there. Things got close and sexy. The party people were in their element, like ducks in water, and the night came off without fistfights, glass mugs through the mirror behind the bar or unauthorized gropings. A few celebrated a bit too much, but were taken care of by friends or the watchful Squirell's staff.

Studying these people with the naturally unbiased eye of a professional journalist, I almost got the idea that these people could probably exist in a society without oppressive police guidance or a draconian justice system to tell them how to behave. Bill Siebold, an instructor in OSU's microbiology program was at the Squirell's show and said, "There's a good alternative component to Corvallis. It's nonviolent. They're very gentle people."

I have to agree. Watching these "alternative" types, one doesn't get the same vibe as, say, the meat-market vibe on the second floor of the Peacock on Thursday night where everyone is evaluating everyone on who is hotter or richer or more likely to be talked into something, well...naughty. It's more of a, "Hey, let's hang out sometime soon," attitude than "Hey, wanna hook up?"

## Where can a college student catch a break?

Being a student, even in a college town like Corvallis, doesn't earn many discounts

by Twila Skelley  
of The Commuter

A discount here and there for being a student would be great, but is very hard to find in the immediate area.

One might think that in a college town like Corvallis, or a supportive educational town like Albany, there would be numerous advantages to being a student, but there aren't.

As most students already know Regal Cinemas offers movies at a discounted \$6 when a valid college identification card is presented. However, that's a dollar more than it was just a couple months ago.

How about traveling? A lot of students are from out of state or live several hours away from LBCC or OSU. Before TWA was bought out by American Air, TWA had a pack of four tickets that a student could buy to fly home and back to school for a discounted price, but American Air no longer honors TWA's student specials. So much for air travel. Greyhound used to offer student specials but has cut them out of their business. However, one means of travel still offers students a cheaper rate—Amtrak,

which offers fully enrolled college students 15 percent off in most cases as long as travel plans are made 14 days in advance. Right now Amtrak is running a 30 percent off for everyone special. Quick, go buy your ticket. As far as student discounts in the area go, it seems this is where the train stops.

After calling nearly 13 pizza places, the only student special located was for high school students that had Rebel or Bulldog cards, which identify the students with South and West Albany students. With the unreasonable amount of pizza college students are known to eat, why are there no pizza places that offer college student specials? Most college students consider pizza a staple item in their diet.

Cheap entertainment is easier to find in the area. Loafers in downtown Albany offers the 21-and-over crowd a new club to dance the night away with cocktail in your hand. The cover is only \$3. The music is upbeat and the people are friendly.

The college bar scene in Corvallis offers different events going on every night of the week. Unknown to many, Michael's Landing has bar specials Monday through Friday that include a full meal for \$3.50 or less, and discounted tap beers during happy hour, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and from 8 p.m. until closing. The more popular bars for being loud, like Tailgaters, has 50-cent taco Tues-

day. The Cantina, located behind Senior Sams has a different special every night of the week too.

Small bakeries and cafes in Corvallis, such as the New Morning Bakery, offer free entertainment from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The bakery features all different types of music from bluegrass to acoustic guitar and vocals. The shows are early enough for those students with families and early classes who still feel like going out for the evening.

For the more adventurous student, the OSU rock wall is extremely popular and cheap. The climb is free for OSU students and only \$5 for any community member. If an OSU student will sponsor a climb with a community member the price is only \$4.

There really are a lot of things for students to do in the area if they keep their eyes open, but there should be more things to do, and more discounts. College students as a general rule are dirt poor!

Student Programming Board Team Leader Charlotte Aaron stated, "Why shouldn't we get an area discount card like the high school students. It will be a Roadrunner or Beaver card." Could this be a possible project for next year's Student Programming Board and Associated Student Government to tackle as a cooperative project?

## FACULTY PROFILE: ANALEE FUENTES



**Background:** Born in San Diego, Calif. Moved to Oregon in 1981. Has lived in various locations in the west, including Alaska and Nevada. In another life (during the dark ages), was a Licensed Practical Nurse and midwife. She has a daughter who lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

**Schools attended:** College of the Redwoods, Crescent City, Calif.; Lane Community College; the University of Oregon and the University of Arizona.

**Favorite CDs:** "James Brown, Live at the Apollo" and "Aretha Franklin's Greatest Hits." Most recent CD purchased was Charles Mingus' "Uh, Huh."

**Favorite Books:** "The Little Prince," "Lucien Freud, Paintings," and "The House on Mango Street."

**Favorite Film:** "Freaks" by Ken Brown.

**Favorite Theater Performance:** Guiermo Gomez-Pena, performance artist.

**Favorite TV shows:** "Artbeat" and "Oregon Field Guide" on NPR and "X Files."

**Favorite Radio Show:** "Car Talk" on NPR.

**Heroes:** My grandmother, my mother, on occasion my husband.

**Future plans:** "To complete two new series of paintings and drawings. One relates to the current war, the other is humorous and is based on the new multicultural hybrids found in fast food."



752-BEAD

905 NW Kings Blvd

(across from Rice's - blue building  
on corner)

M-Th 10 am-9pm • F-Su 10 am-6pm

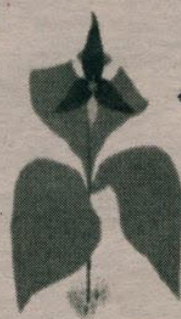
There's a new Bead Store in Corvallis!

LBCC students always get 10% OFF  
with ID!

- Basic beading instruction always free
- Studio space available to work on beading projects
- Numerous beading classes offered
- Private group classes or beading parties - our location or yours!

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Corvallis, OR 97333  
Call: 541-754-7944  
Fax: 541-754-7950

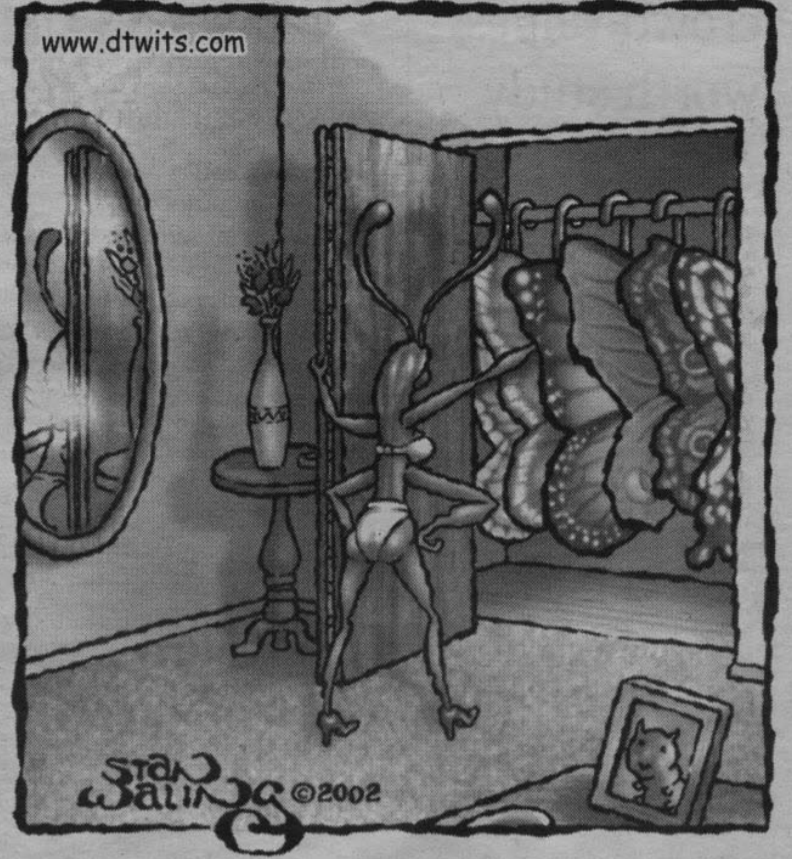
Open 7 days a week  
Lunch: 11:30-2:30  
Dinner: 5pm-9:30pm  
Lunch Buffet: \$5.95



# FUNNY PAGE



## DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



### CLASSIFIEDS

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

**Financial assistance offered:** A total of \$2000 is available which will be distributed to one applicant. Altrusa Alliance: A mentor/scholarship program. Individuals selected to receive funds will be eligible not only for financial assistance, but will enjoy a great mauldering and networking opportunity. Eligibility: \*students entering the final year of a two year degree program at LBCC, \*have completed one satisfactory year of their program, \*must be willing to participate with the club and its fund raising activities, \*must complete the application form and provide a letter of support from an instructor, advisor or personal reference, \*consideration may be given to need and displaced worker status. Applications are available in the LRC and the Foundation Office (917-4209) Deadline: May 31, 2002. Recipients will be notified by June 2002.

OBO, bought for \$4900 in '00. 4-door, 165K, burgandy. All power, sun roof. Clarion CD player, bonus speakers, alarm, new alternator, brakes & battery. Great Condition, runs like steel. Caitlin 738-6880

Black, Plastic Vito Clarinet, comes with case. Great for beginning players. In great shape, have questions call Gelina @ 757-9766, \$150/OBO

Storage Depot. 111 NE Davidson St. 5x5's, \$24. 5x10's as low as \$32, prepay 6 months, receive 10% discount. Secure Sight. Call Denise at 928-7777.

'72 Datsun Pickup. Project car, runs, but needs brakes & license. No major body damage. Interior needs TLC. \$300/OBO. Call 754-6144, ask for Susan.

Must sell Moving! '96 Dodge Neon, 4 dr., cd/air/cruise, 65k, excellent cond., \$5300/OBO, 738-6147

**CWE positions at Wah Chang** (Albany) These positions are full-time during the summer and part-time during school. Looking for current students with degrees related to engineering, chemistry, environmental and quality control. Must have two terms completed and be going for a bachelor's degree in the future. See Carla in the Career Center (Takena 101) for more information!

**Teller I or II** (Corvallis) #1330 & 1331 If you have cash handling experience and customer service, this could be for you. One job is full-time permanent and the other is full-time for summer only. See Carla in the Career Center (Takena 101) to get your referral!

**HVAC Service Tech** (Independence) #1225 If you have an Associates in HVAC Technology or equivalent, this company wants you. If you will get one in June, you might start looking now. The pay is \$20-50,000/yr, depending on apprenticeship level for this full-time job. See Student Employment in the Career Center (T101)!

#### HELP WANTED

**PBX Operator** (Corvallis) #1259 High energy, detail-person for this telephone operator position. This Full-time position is temporary through September, but may lead to full-time employment. See Carla in Student Employment (Takena 101) for more details!!

#### FOR RENT

Room for rent, 3 bdrm, 2 bth house. Responsible person wanted. Includes washer/dryer use. Utilities included (except phone). Small pet ok, easy access shopping. \$425/month. 812-1587 for appointment.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Do you need tutoring help with writing assignments? Call me...35 years writing/editing experience. Reasonable rates. Karen Randolph 757-9013

#### FOR SALE

Nickel/Silver mix Evett closed hole flute. Excellent condition, great beginning student flute. Nice tone. \$195. Contact Lydia Eaton, 929-5368

1990 Honda Accord LX, \$4100/

### Crossword

- ACROSS**  
 1 Piercing pain  
 5 Filled with reverence  
 9 Validation  
 14 Shakespearean troublemaker  
 15 Computer input  
 16 Happen again  
 17 Garage pump  
 19 Grandiloquize?  
 20 Bittersweet longing  
 21 Male servant  
 22 Aviv-Jaffa  
 23 Indian guitars  
 24 Tiny  
 28 Reason  
 31 Wedding party members  
 33 Therefore: Lat.  
 34 Dolt  
 37 Decamped  
 38 Qaddafi's land  
 40 Earth  
 41 Service charge  
 42 Detonator cord  
 43 Kigali's country  
 45 Watercolors on a wall  
 47 "Crocodile Dundee" star  
 48 Mongrel  
 51 Fellow  
 53 Distinctive atmospheres  
 54 Distinctive qualities  
 60 Shiny lizard  
 61 "Fame" star  
 62 de Leon  
 63 Maltese money  
 64 God's image  
 65 Contemptuous expression  
 66 Colleen  
 67 Sunning spot

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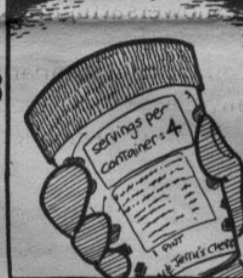
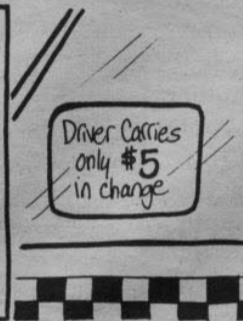
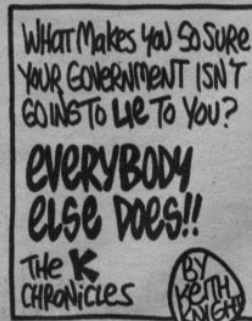
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#### Solutions

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- DOWN**  
 1 Indication  
 2 Source of poi  
 3 Historic periods  
 4 Gravy server  
 5 Dancing Fred's sister  
 6 Golf-club movement  
 7 Pin box  
 8 Plato or Carvey  
 9 Stipulation  
 10 Give a new score  
 11 City south of Gainesville  
 12 External  
 13 Fingerboard ridges  
 18 Butterfly with eyespots  
 23 Sweetener  
 24 Neutral shade  
 25 Wight or Capri  
 26 Quaker's you  
 27 Actor Danson  
 29 Three-masted ship  
 30 Ululate  
 32 Swung around  
 34 Tune  
 35 Radames' sweetheart  
 36 Scheme  
 39 Orbiting loc.  
 40 Paulo  
 42 Searcher for weapons  
 44 What'd I do?  
 45 Hundred Years' War winner

- 46 Flirtatious lookers  
 48 Metal fasteners  
 49 Canadian territory  
 50 Pickling agent  
 52 Forearm bones  
 54 Bunker, e.g.  
 55 Diva's number  
 56 Word with rock or rain  
 57 Speed contest  
 58 Fast-food magnate Ray  
 59 Went to the bottom



## THE ADVENTURES OF SKULY BY WILLIAM MORTON © MMII SKULY REMEMBERS

THE WAY YOU WEAR YOUR HAT.

THE WAY YOU SIP YOUR TEA.

THE MEMORY OF ALL THAT, NO, NO, THEY CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME.

MEMORY.

MEMORY LANE.

JOG YOUR MEMORY.

MNEMONIC DEVICE.

IN MEMORIAM.



# CAMPUS NEWS

## Roommates find that they must adapt to survive

It pays to pick your roommates carefully, because some come with extra baggage, bad habits and attitude

by Sherry Majeski  
of The Commuter

For most college students, sharing living quarters is a fact of life. The experience can be a rewarding personal relationship, a necessary evil to be endured till summer vacation, or a total disaster full of angry confrontations.

The Commuter interviewed three different couples to get some insights into how they manage to balance finances, food, cleaning, kids, pets and other issues that come into play in shared living arrangements.

Tracie Love and Jamie Schmidt, both LBCC students, met at a dairy judging competition where they became friends and discovered that they both had a need—a financial need. They were two students serious about their education, and struggling to make a living and pay the bills. It was a practical decision to combine their expenses by moving in together and sharing the cost of living. They have come to an agreement to split the bills 50/50 and to buy their own food, while sometimes sharing.

Love and Schmidt moved into an Albany apartment together in September and so far, have encountered no difficulties. They both are laid back and have a mutual respect for each other and each other's property. Love said that she leaves her stuff out more than her roommate, and finds it in her room when she gets home. They like to watch the same programs on TV, so there is no hassle there.

Love has more friends and socializes more, and therefore brings more friends over, which poses no problem for Schmidt. Love showers at night and Schmidt showers in the morning.

There is one personal computer in the apartment and they both share it peacefully. They have a good working relationship, in which they respect each other and each other's space.

Steve Hess, an LBCC student, and Mark Cannell met at church and became friends, both in mutual need of a roommate. Before Hess moved into Cannell's home, they discussed ground rules and expectations and they soon discovered that they have an excellent living arrangement.

Both men are tidy and well-organized; they pick up after themselves and do their own laundry. If they have a problem, they discuss it with each other and get it settled. They often plan meals together, as often as they eat out. Cannell said that Hess is the better cook and really appreciates it when he prepares meals. The expenses are split 50/50 with no hassle. They mutually share a computer and respect each other's needs and space.

Hess has a 15-year-old daughter, Amber, and Cannell has an 8-year-old son, Matthew and a 4-year-old daughter, Kaitlynn. They have agreed that if there is an issue with their children, if one parent isn't around, the other is free to correct the child if necessary, with each other's back up.

Hess and Cannell both agree that they have an excellent living arrangement. The only problem is the need for more space.

Rich Solomon and John Homan have been friends for more than 20 years. They both had a wife and children. Solomon became divorced and Homan, not long afterwards, found himself in the same boat. Solomon, a homeowner, was faced with household expenses that once required two incomes to support. When Homan became homeless he went to Solomon for a place to stay while he ironed things out.

As it turned out, they got along well, had no problems communicating and working together on issues. They mutually split the household expenses which include; electric, gas, garbage, water and sewer. Solomon takes the bills, adds them up, divides it in half and gives Homan the total he has to pay.

As far as household chores are concerned, Homan goes on cleaning spurts, and Solomon is more consistent. After all, it is his house. When it comes to preparing meals, they both share the duties depending on each



other's time schedule.

"I am an Oscar and Rich is a Felix, as in the 'Odd Couple,'" Homan said. "We have our boundaries. The living room, kitchen and back room is neutral space. The rest is designated to our own territory. We respect and do not invade each other's territory."

Homan leaves messes and doesn't get to them as quickly as Solomon would like, but it eventually gets done. Homan said, "If he wants it picked up faster than I can get to it, he does it and he does it without complaining. He knows that I would have done it if I could, most of the time anyway."

Food division is a fairly divided issue between the roommates. They both take turns buying the food. Solomon stated that Homan buys cheap generic foods, and he buys brand-name foods, but that is because of their budget differences. They respect each other's pockets.

Children can often pose a problem in many situations, but not for this pair. They have their children for visitation on the weekends and Homan has two daughters, Sarah, 15, and Megan, 12, and Solomon has one son, Richard, 14. Solomon says that all the kids get along very well and have become tight friends.

However, when it comes to chores, there is a minor problem. Solomon expects his son to chip in on the duties, but Homan does not expect his girls to do the same.

"The only reason I can deal with this is because he cleans up after his daughters," Solomon said. "I don't believe that this is especially good for children, but that is his business, not mine. I guess the bottom line is, the mess is taken care of and it doesn't matter who does it. It does sometime create an issue with my son, because he resents that the other kids aren't required to pitch in. We then talk it out to alleviate his hard feelings. He understands."

Both men have agreed that if there is a kid problem, the other will respectfully correct the situation if the other parent is not around and they will back each other up should a problem arrive. Solomon and Homan both have dogs and they also take care of each other's dogs.

All in all they share a good working relationship based on need and friendship. They respect each other's idiosyncrasies and differences.

A situation leaning on a disaster zone are the lives of Billy Baker and Suzie Sparks. Baker is a cowboy coming off of a ranch in Colorado, working with 2,500 head of horses and just as much cattle. He has lived in a bunkhouse with 20 other men and has never lived with a woman before. To make the situation even more precarious, Sparks has four daughters ranging in ages of 2 to 16.

Sparks is a professional woman who has been working hard to support her daughters and was barely keeping her head above water financially when she met Baker. Baker had just come off the ranch and was living with his sister in a small house with her son and he was feeling all cooped up.

*"We have our boundaries. The living room, kitchen and back room is neutral space. The rest is designated to our own territory. We respect and do not invade each other's territory."*

—John Homan

Baker and Sparks hit it off quite well and decided to room together to help each other out. Sparks has a house in the country and that was what Baker was accustomed to.

Sparks said she needed a man around the house and Baker filled the bill. He had agreed to help out with the outside chores, such as chopping fire wood, mending fences and tending to the livestock. Sparks was trying to manage her small farm since the departure of her husband one year ago.

The agreement was that Baker was to work for his room and board until he found a decent job. As it turned out, Baker has developed a blood clot on the brain and could not find work because of the severity of headaches caused by the clot. The headaches created a huge amount of anxiety for Baker, and he soon discovered that children did not fit into his life-style. As tension built, Sparks felt that he became more and more irritable with the children and he and Sparks began to fight over the children.

According to Baker, Sparks did not discipline her children and allowed them free reign of the house and he felt that the children held the power in the house. Often, he said, the girls would leave gates open and he would have to chase horses all over the place.

Baker also complained that Sparks and the girls left the kitchen a mess, and if he wanted to eat, he had to wash dishes and clean a spot to cook. Food he purchased was eaten by the girls or often left out to spoil, and he had no say over the matter.

Sparks, on the other hand, said that Baker comes into the house with muddy boots and hay and dirt all over his clothes and deposits the dirt everywhere. She also stated that Baker eats her out of house and home and yells at her children.

"They are my children and I am responsible for them. If I want to let them run amuck, then, that is my business, not his."

Baker said, "I don't want to take my boots off just to come into the house for a minute, it is too much trouble. I just stick my head in the door and holler for someone to come get something for me. But the kids are too busy watching TV to help, so I have to come in and get it myself."

Sparks would like to move Baker out, but currently she really needs his help. He also owes her for a vet bill and a big phone bill.

For his part, Baker said, "I want to go back to Colorado. I can't live with all these women. They are slob."



# SPORTS PAGE

## Today on eBay: Used gum from pro baseball players

by Greg Cote  
of Knight Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI - If the chewed, discarded gum of baseball player Luis Gonzalez can fetch thousands from lunatic bidders on eBay, we can only surmise that star athletes - struck by paranoia and anticipating the logical next step in memorabilia - will begin to post armed guards outside their bathroom stalls.

All boundaries that once governed collectibles have disappeared.

The day is coming when Alonzo Mourning might wear a Nike-brand "neck trough" to catch his own valuable perspiration, for example.

One can only imagine the riches that might be accrued by purloining and then auctioning the expectorant of a Cliff Floyd. Collectors who once had no bigger challenge than deciding whether a card was in mint condition might soon grapple with the value differential of standard (what we call Classic) spit or the

more preferred, fecal-colored tobacco stream. I suspect a splat of fluey phlegm will trump all. But that's just me.

Sports fans in general seem to have the least shame.

That's why you might see, as I did at a Marlins game last week, an adult man all but trample a small boy to retrieve a foul ball. That wiggles the Pathetic Meter even more than the sight of a grown fan diving to seize a T-shirt shot from a cannon.

To me the denigrating collectibles business continues as only the second saddest development in sports.

After all, memorabilia is sort of a victimless crime. I figure anyone who would gather and sell spit-out gum deserves profound pity, while anyone who would pay for it deserves unfettered ridicule.

I would like to find that same buyer and offer him, from my own collection, several baseballs autographed by Babe Ruth. After the ink dries, of course.

## Secretary's Day IS TODAY



Show your appreciation for the people that support you with a balloon or gift!

**LBCB Bookstore**  
 Mon.-Thurs. 8am-6pm  
 Fri. 8am-4pm  
[www.bookstore.linnbenton.edu](http://www.bookstore.linnbenton.edu)

## COMMONS

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?  
APRIL 22nd - 26th

Wednesday

- Pot Roast
- Chicken Burrito & Pinto Beans
- Grilled Vegetable Skewers
- Tomato Rice Soup
- Corn Chowder
- Taco Salad

Thursday

- Liver with Bacon & Onions
- Croque Monsieur
- Pizza with Grilled Vegetables
- Hot & Sour Soup
- Cream of Tomato Soup
- Grilled Chicken Spinach Salad

Friday

Chef's Choice!



Monday

- Cheddar Cheese Soup
- Beef Barley Stew
- Baked Ham
- Beef Goulash
- Frittata
- Tuna Nicoise Salad

Tuesday

- Chicken & Dumplings
- Chili Verde
- Vegetable Strudel
- Split Pea Soup
- Caldo de Albondigas
- Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad

## FIRST TIME CAR BUYERS

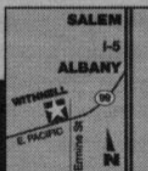
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When you're ready, we'll be ready for you.



# SPORTS PAGE

## Roadrunners go 1-3 against division-leading Titans

Anderson, Henderson and Smith get big hits to snap LB losing streak

by Jered Reid  
of The Commuter

The Roadrunners got some big hits last Saturday to defeat division-leader Lane 8-4, and end a four-game losing streak and stick in fourth place.

Last week the Roadrunners battled with the league leaders four different times, winning one and dropping three. Head Coach Greg Hawk's team is now 6-8 in league and 10-12 overall. LB currently sits in fourth in the standings at the halfway point of the season.

In the nightcap of Saturday's doubleheader, LB blasted out eight hits, four of them going for extra base hits. Coach Hawk decided to go with some new faces in the second game and the gamble proved to pay off. The two new faces were backup catcher Brady Henderson and rightfielder Cody Smith. Henderson, at the designated hitter position, went 2-for-4 with both a double and a triple, scoring once and recording two RBIs. Smith went 1-for-1 with a two-run double.

Going into the bottom half of the fifth, the Titans had began to crawl back and were within a

run. But catcher Ben Anderson put a stop to that with a monstrous three-run home-run shot that put the Runners up by three. Anderson's second home run of the season pushed the Runners over the edge, and there were no more runs recorded the rest of the game. Freshman pitcher Jeremy Robinson got the win from the mound, increasing his record to 2-1 on the season.

In the first game, Lane was able to out-hit LB 7-3 and win the game 4-1. However, the seven hits were not the most crucial stat in the win, instead it was balks. Roadrunner pitchers balked four times in the sixth inning to help the Titans get four runs. This was the only inning that the Titans were able to score and the LB pitching staff prevented the Titans from getting a single, extra-base hit on the day. Freshman John Best, (0-3), was the starting pitcher of the game. Last Saturday's performance was desperately needed to prevent a Lane sweep of the Runners.

Last Thursday, the Runners traveled down to Eugene to make up the rained-out, April 13 doubleheader. LB was dominated by Lane pitching, who also got ten hits in the first game to win 14-4. Lane also got some help from Roadrunner pitchers, who walked five batters and hit



Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

First baseman Nathan Pendley takes a throw in a pickoff attempt during last weekend's doubleheader against Lane. The Roadrunners dropped the first game but came back to win the second game to break a four-game losing string.

six. The Runners got only three hits in the first game and four in the second game, which got the sweep, 3-2, in the night cap. Sophomore Jeff Frost hit a solo home run in the first game, and both Tanner Abel and catcher

Ben Anderson got doubles on the day.

Nate Pendley (1-2) was the starter in the first game, giving up eight earned runs, striking out three, walking five and hitting five batters.

Pendley was credited with the loss. Right-handed pitcher Andrew Larson, (2-3), pitched in the second game. With a fine performance, he only allowed three runs off five hits, but in the end got the loss.

## Van Dam leads LB athletes to seven firsts at Salem meet

Van Dam wins three events; Silbernagel two; Dionne, Vetkos one each

by Jered Reid  
of The Commuter

The Linn-Benton Track & Field team had a memorable day last weekend in the Chemeketa Dual Meet in Salem.

The Roadrunners competed against both Chemeketa and SW Oregon in the meet. Eight LB athletes were in the meet, winning seven events. On the men's side, four competed, winning three events, and four women were in the field, taking home four events. All four of the women had personal best throws in their respected events.

Jennifer Dionne won the javelin with a throw of 144 feet 9 inches, which is the third longest throw in school history. Dionne also leads the NWAACC in the event. Heidi Van Dam came home with victories in three events. She won the hammer, shot put, and discus with throws of 131-11, 37-11 and 125-11. Van Dam also competed in the javelin for the first time this season, her throw of 102 feet was good for third.

Sicily Hotrum finished a close second in the shot put and third in both the hammer and discus. Hotrum tied Van Dam in the shot put with a throw of 37-11, but lost the tie breaker based on the second best throw. Hotrum

threw 107-1 in the hammer and 89-11 in the discus. Missy Beach also competed in the hammer competition, finishing second to give Coach Brad Carmen an LB sweep on the podium. Her throw came in with a mark of 110-11.

Kevin Silbernagel led the men with a double victory over the weekend, winning the 1,500- and 800-meter runs. Silbernagel had a season best in the 1,500, with a

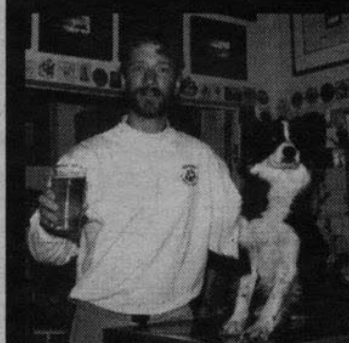
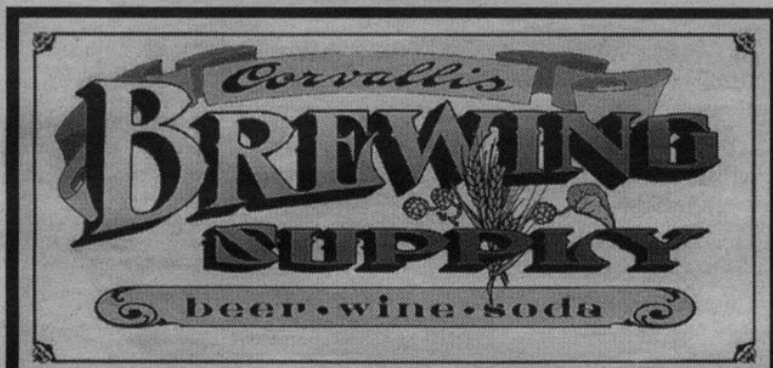
time of 4-minutes, 21.4 seconds, and won the 800 with a time of 2:01.3. Two weeks ago, Silbernagel posted a personal best of 1:57.6 in the 800 in the University of Oregon Meet.

The other men athletes last weekend included T.J. Vetkos who came out of Salem a winner. He cleared 14 feet to win the pole vault. Noah Winningham finished second in two field

events, throwing a personal best of 128-7 in the hammer and a 39-7 1/2 in the shot put. Kasey Carlson ran in a total of three different races. He finished third in the steeple chase with a time of 12:00.5, second in the 500 with

a time of 2:07.6, and fourth in the 800 with a time of 18:45.4.

The next meet for the Linn-Benton Track & Field team will be the Western Oregon University Open in Monmouth on April 27.



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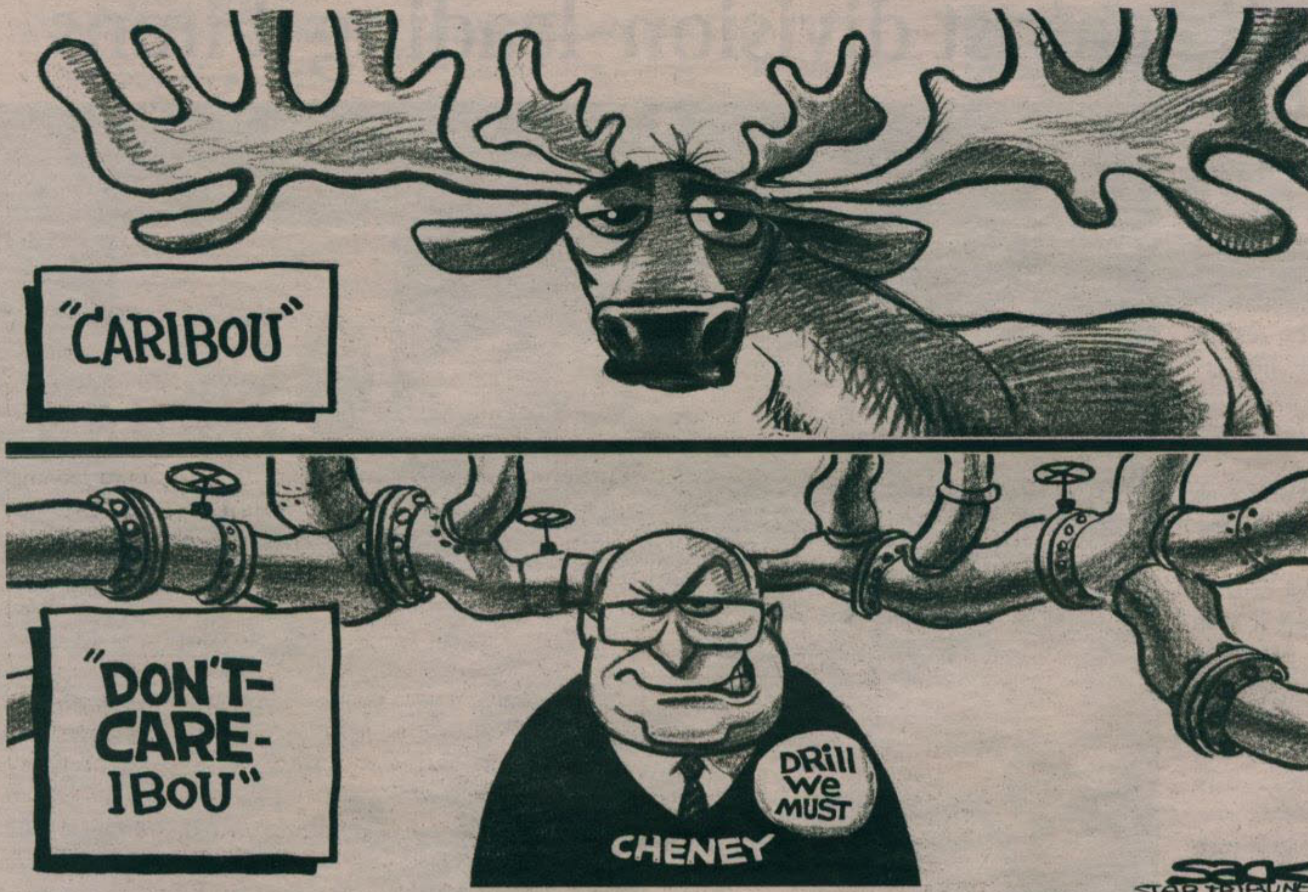
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# OPINION



## COMMENTARY

### The time for talking is done; changing environmental policies takes action

by Chad Richins  
of The Commuter

I call it "The Conversation." It's the ongoing discussion I end up having with people about the environment, and since it never really ends, it seems like one never-ending conversation that tends to be long on problems and short on solutions.

The litany of environmental ills the world faces is well-known. Deforestation. Greenhouse gases. Urban sprawl. Overfishing. Chemical pollution of the water, air and land. Wildlife and plant extinction. Deformed frogs. Topsoil loss and salinization due to farming. Nuclear waste disposal. Land mines. Birth defects. Smog.



Chad Richins

It is not a fun list. And when I talk to friends that are active in one environmental cause or another, it can get overwhelming because they invariably have stories from the field about actual places and people that are suffering from environmental damage. The human effects alone are staggering. The skyrocketing cancer rate worldwide is one indication—a recent environmental author described the cancer rate as increasing from one chance in 30 of getting some kind of cancer near the turn of the century to one chance in three today.

If you have ever had a loved one die of cancer, you know it is a terrible experience for everyone involved. But did you ever think what may have caused the cancer? Every day we drink water that has things in it that we can't even pronounce. It isn't just H<sub>2</sub>O anymore.

Monday was Earth Day, which is funny to me. Like having Breathe Day, or Live Day or Exist Day.

We shouldn't have to have a day to focus on the planet that we live on while the rest of the year we ruin it. Labor Day hasn't fixed anything yet. I usually have to work on Labor Day and that should be against the law. But I digress.

The thing is, I am sick of hearing about it. I am sick of hearing how bad things are. I want to hear about what somebody is doing about it.

Don't tell me how bad you feel about the earth while you do nothing but cater to your own comfort and entertainment just like everybody else. Somebody say, "I'm going to donate my extra income to finance a lawyer to raise a stink about the quality of water my kids have to drink." Or tell me how you are going door-to-door to pass out fliers about what we need to do to limit air pollution, or acid rain, or whatever cause you choose.

It is amazing to me that we have not done more,

really. Myself included, that is. I am just too damn busy with my own living to actually be active and try to change anything. Meanwhile, those pipes are spewing gunk into the river, those smokestacks keep burping little clouds of poison into the air and a lot of people are making money off processes that will ensure the deaths of their fellow Americans.

My idea is to start putting our money where it can do the most good. When I get a job that makes more than a living wage, which may be in the next year or so, I plan to investigate how I can finance the revolution by hiring someone to litigate or lobby or whatever it takes to get something done about pollution where I am living. The Big Money conservatives spend a hell of a lot more money to publicize their screw-the-little-guy campaigns than any liberal organization can muster.

Greenpeace ain't getting it done, folks. The Sierra Club, either. And burning down ski resorts, animal research labs and SUVs on car lots only publicizes the opposite viewpoint.

Until we play the real power game of equal representation through monetary contribution, things will only get worse.

Locally, we can do a lot. Do you even know who is on your city council? Or who your state representative is? These people are making decisions for you, in your name, so you better check up on them from time to time. Everybody who is griping about the Corvallis Riverfront Park project can tell you it is better to get in on things early in the decision-making process before things get solidified that you don't like.

So do something, even if it isn't going to change the world overnight. And don't let the world get you down. No one wants to listen to a bitter harangue about what is wrong with the environment. Be a positive, smiling voice for change. And have a sense of humor. Things are never as bad, or as good, as they seem. We can change things. The earth can rebound and be a safer, cleaner and more sane place to live. But it will take action and resources.

## EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their opinions. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome.

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

Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at [commuter@ml.lbcc.cc.or.us](mailto:commuter@ml.lbcc.cc.or.us)

## WHAT KIDS THINK

### What's your favorite animal?

In honor of Earth Day, The Commuter asked children in Jennifer Goth's class at the Family Resource Center's Garden Room what they thought about Earth Day. Our fall back question for those kids who weren't too sure what we meant was, "What is your favorite animal." Surprisingly, many of the children did have strong opinions on that topic.

"My favorite one is hyenas. Cause I don't have one."

—Connor Mole



"A zebra or a T rex. And horses."

—Olivia Brown

"I like the rain. The water. And, dinosaurs. Pterodactyl."

—Jacob Trader



"Butterflies. Sunshine. Show the sunshine!"

—Betsey Bleau-Snedigar

"Butterflies. I have roly polys at my house. And worms."

—Carly Storm



Compiled by Chad Richins