

SafeHaven looks to expand, educate

Monique Cohen
The Commuter

Rudy's face lights up and his tail wags joyfully as visitors approach his kennel. With each visitor to SafeHaven Humane Society there is hope that Rudy will soon meet a loving family that will give him a happy home. Rudy is a friendly 8-year-old senior Kelpie mix who enjoys playing ball and is available for adoption. He was surrendered to SafeHaven by his owners who could no longer care for him.

SafeHaven Humane Society is a full-adoption animal shelter, which means it finds homes for all the cats and dogs it takes in. It is a private, non-profit organization and does not receive funding from local or state government. It relies on donations from the community to stay operational.

SafeHaven can house up to 35 dogs and about 50 to 60 cats onsite. It has many dogs and cats placed with foster parents and families. Cindy Plymell, adoption manager, said they have a great need for more foster families. Puppy season is coming up soon and they need foster families to care for pregnant dogs and puppies.

Volunteers also play a large role in keeping SafeHaven's doors open. Chris Storm, executive director, said they have about 50 regularly scheduled volunteers who work two to four-hour shifts. Volunteers also help with fundraisers such as bake sales, holiday bazaars and other events. The next volunteer orientation session is Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Last year SafeHaven found 1,032 pets new homes. Storm said the standard adoption time

for a cat or dog is about one week. SafeHaven often works with the Oregon Humane Society in Portland and other shelters throughout the state to find the right family for a homeless cat or dog.

SafeHaven will also seek medical treatment for an ailing cat or dog and will consult with an animal behavioralist if needed.

The shelter is at 33071 Highway 34 S.E. in Albany, but it is looking for about five to 10 acres of property in Linn County to build a larger shelter. The new building will allow it to increase its educational programs as well as care for more homeless cats and dogs.

"We're really excited about the future," Storm said.



photo by Larry Coonrod

Rudy is one of SafeHaven's many animals waiting for adoption. Alexandria Ritter is a volunteer at the shelter.

▶ Turn to "SafeHaven" on Pg. 6

New year brings new rights to LGBTs

Elizabeth Uriarte
The Commuter

The first of the year will bring about significant changes in Oregon, specifically for gay and lesbian couples. After Jan. 1, 2008, same-sex couples in Oregon will have the right to enter into domestic partnerships, thanks to House Bill 2007, aka The Oregon Family Fairness Act. This bill, which was signed on May 9, 2007, makes Oregon the 10th state in the U.S. to recognize same-sex partners, according to Basic Rights Oregon.

In addition to the domestic partnership bill, Senate Bill 2, the Oregon Equality Act, was also passed in May, which aims to end discrimination based on sexual and gender orientation. According to BRO, "The Oregon Equality Act creates consistent statewide law outlawing discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation and other important areas, on the basis of sexual orientation."

Both of these new bills met with resistance by conservative groups that attempted to collect signatures to bring the bills to vote. These groups failed to gather the required amount of signatures in time, and the bills passed through the House and Senate.

"Every decade or so there are a few bills that are actually transformational for Oregon, and House Bill 2007 and Senate Bill 2 were two pieces of legislation that will literally transform our state from one of exclusion to one of complete inclusion," Governor Ted Kulongoski said in a recent press release.

Domestic partnerships, while seen by many as equivalent to gay marriages, have significant differences.

Protecting gay workers

Nineteen states and D.C. have laws prohibiting discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation:



NOTE: Oregon has adopted an anti-discrimination law that goes into effect January 2008

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Source: Human Rights Campaign
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Judy Treible

"Without access to the status of marriage, same-sex couples are excluded from important protections and responsibilities that allow them to care for one another and their family every day and in times of crisis," says BRO. "Only a handful can be bought through contracts and legal agreements. House Bill 2007...will make available to same-sex couples the more

than 500 rights and responsibilities available through marriage to opposite sex couples under state law."

Some of these rights and responsibilities include the right for same-sex partners to make health care decisions for one another and visit each other in the hospital; automatic custody for non-biological parents to children born AFTER the domestic partnership; right to a deceased partner's estate, and many others.

Domestic partnerships do have limitations, however. Oregon domestic partnerships are only valid within the state, and there are no federal benefits available to same-sex couples.

Regardless of the benefits still denied same-sex

couples, proponents of the bills are fairly optimistic.

"Since I'm single right now it doesn't have a direct effect on my life in the present, but just knowing that there has been some sort of affirmation of queer couples makes me feel a lot better about my own situation," said Katie Eaton, fisheries and wildlife major, and added, "the fact that it's implementation stops cold at the border limits its effectiveness and respectability in the world at large. That aspect makes it feel a bit disappointing."

Patric Pici, pre-pharmacy major, said, "Being gay really makes you feel like an outsider at all phases of your life. This gives us the chance to be normal or to be like others, to feel that we fit into place in life."

The Oregon Equality Act, while seen by many as a step in the right direction, also has its limitations. According to BRO, religious organizations can still discriminate against people based on sexual orientation. This includes religious schools, camps, daycare centers, and thrift stores. Hospitals, however, are not exempt.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, Oregon is now the 12th state (including District of Columbia) to prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender identity and the 20th to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Pici was relieved that some sort of anti-discrimination law was finally passed. "In high school after a football game on the way to my house, I was assaulted and it resulted in five stitches in my nose and three in the corner of my eye," he said, "I'm really happy for this law because kids can now speak out against these types of crimes."



Day Of The Dead
LBCC celebrates Dia de los Muertos on page 5

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OPINION

Send letters to The Commuter
 commuter@linnbenton.edu (F-222)
 Please sign and keep to 300 words or less

Corn Nuts ... Really?

Loren Newman
 The Commuter

This summer, due to a course of events well within my control, a road more like a rollercoaster and less like a road, my van caught fire in the middle northern California. Sadly, before the local pot farmer could help me extinguish the flames with a Nalgeen of ice tea, the damage was done and the car never ran right again. Due to this heartbreaking loss of my van I have been forced to use the Linn-Benton Loop bus to get to and from school and home, and to tell you the truth the students of LBCC need to step it up on their bus behavior. And I am determined to help fix this problem. So here it is, my 617-word primer on public transit etiquette.

Please for the love of God don't talk to people on the phone while on public transit. I don't want to hear your conversation with your significant other telling them to pick up that cream for you rash at the pharmacy. To talk on the phone on the bus you have to basically yell into your phone for the person on the other end to hear you. That means the others around you are forced to listen to your phone conversation at a decibel level that is wicked annoying, and to make matters worse I can't escape your conversation-I'm in an aluminum tube going 50 miles an hour, I can't just walk away from you; chances are you are blocking my exit anyway.

In the winter the bus turns into a pathogen tube; if you're sick remember that the others around you don't want to be. I know that as kids we were always told that sharing is caring, but that ideology doesn't translate into the world of contagious diseases. Cover your

mouth when you cough or sneeze and use your elbow not your hand. Using your hands just means that you have more control of who you infect. Instead of a large airborne spray it's more of a surgical hand shake or doorknob infection.

I'm surprised that I even have to mention this next flux-pau, for the most part you would tell junior highers this. But here it is anyway: AX IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR BATHING. That stuff is like poor man's tear gas and some of you literally bath in it. Like the cell phone conversation you can't escape the excruciating stench of the guy who thinks that the can of body spray is a full proof aphrodisiac and that the more you spray the more you get. In fact, if any woman tried to even approach you they would instantly fall over light headed at the sheer overpowering odor that is your cologne. And ladies, the same applies to you, as well as any person who thinks that Corn Nuts are an appropriate transit snack; seriously, that smell lingers for weeks.

The last thing I have to say is that just because you are in the seat right next to mine doesn't mean I want you to be a part of my conversation, especially if your eavesdropping was hindered because you were telling your friend on the phone how piss drunk you were last night. Because not only are you probably interrupting but chances are you have no idea what we were talking about due to having to yell into your phone and the headache and constant ringing in your ears. But seriously, most of you guys are pretty well mannered and for that I thank you, and for the rest of you just try to be a little more courteous to those of us who are forced to ride the public transit system with you.

Canned response no substitute for sincerity

Dan Dryden
 For The Commuter

I find myself habitually reminded of the suffocating constraints of our modern society. One of the most glaringly obvious but at the same time unsettlingly subtle indicators that our culture has become an over-industrialized, consumer-oriented institution is the astonishing ease with which employees greet you without actually caring.

Those employed by an establishment that has a steady flow of customers are usually heavily trained to be overly polite and friendly to each and every person that they see throughout the day. The manner in which an employee interacts with her customer does not necessarily have to be genuine, but you typically find that those working in more pleasant workplaces generally appear more genuine. However, since the majority of the working class is notoriously bored and disinterested in what occupies their time, it is quite apparent that virtually none of them actually care how your day is going when they ask; they simply want to be done with you so that they can help the next customer.

It is especially entertaining to disrupt the casual flow of seemingly functional consumerism by interacting with your local supermarket clerk not as an interaction of exchange, but of one fellow human being to another.

Once, when buying a pack of cigarettes on a day when

I was feeling particularly flat, I was blankly greeted by the cashier at the register and asked how I was doing. Instead of the usual expected affirmative response, I explained to the man that I was having the type of day that could most easily be compared to pure and total excrement. He paused, thrown off for a moment by the deviation from the normal hollow conversation.

To him, I had suddenly differentiated myself from the generic idea of a consumer he had gradually formed in his mind: this mindless shell of a being, repeatedly entering and leaving his store, purchasing different items each time.

His reaction to my honest answer was surprisingly authentic in return. He asked what was wrong, and although I didn't provide a very detailed explanation, he wished me the best after our transaction was complete. I felt a sense of mutual respect between us.

This lack of real, unrestricted communication between human beings is not just present in business among strangers. Even in some families, when the simple question of how someone is feeling is asked, the response is often the same rehearsed, forced, repeated answer.

Why do we feel the need to lie to one another about our emotions, to continually repeat that we're "OK" or "fine" when half the time, if not most of it, we are not? Honesty is not well received because people desperately strive for normality and our raw thoughts and emotions do not typically fit into the narrow space of conventional reality.

To the Editor

To the Editor,

In response to the Walt Hughes' editorial, "Bush administration ignores child health care," it should be known that the Bush administration wants to sign an extension and expansion of the S-CHIP program. Mr. Hughes left that part out. The expansion touted by the Democrat congress goes too far, and they know it. They sent it up anyway in hopes to make the president look bad, and

Hughes took the bait.

The Democrats have brought out children who are now covered by the current S-CHIP program and who would not lose coverage if the Democrats would leave a successful program alone, as "human shields" to protect them from any criticism on the issue. Meanwhile, a recent Rasmussen poll indicates that Americans aren't falling for Senator Reid's and Representative Pelosi's fraudulent scheme to make

the president look "anti-child" while they themselves are jeopardizing children's healthcare coverage.

This while the Reid/Pelosi congressional approval rating sinks so low that they are now jealous of Bush's pathetic approval rating. It's unfortunate that someone as intelligent as Mr. Hughes would carry water for these frauds on the pages of The Commuter.

David Vrooman

PERSPECTIVES

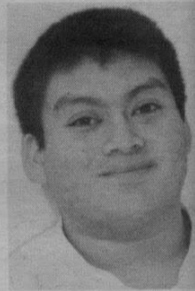
"What is your biggest complaint about LBCC?"



"Probably the fact that the financial aid department isn't on top of things."

• Rita Loehr •
 Undecided

"For me it's the distance; I have to drive from Lebanon."



• Tyler Scott •
 Education



"I would have to say the windtunnelness; it's so cold."

• Jennifer Brown •
 Child Education

"The availability to instructors when I need help."



• Nathan Stipek •
 Drafting

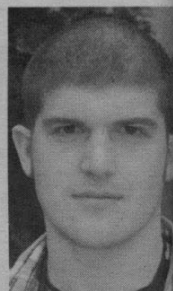


"I think the bookstore should be able to take back all the books that you buy."

• Sasha Wright •
 Business Management

"Parking is my biggest complaint; there's no parking, ever."

• Cory Bergman •
 Graphic Design



Compilation and photos by
 Will Parker & Monique Cohen

CAMPUS NEWS

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

Transfer scholarship

For The Commuter

LANDSDOWNE, VA - The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has opened the nominations process for the largest scholarships available to students and recent alumni from community colleges. Through the initiative, called the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program, the private foundation will award up to \$30,000 annually per recipient to help students and recent alumni from community and two-year institutions pursue four-year degrees at any accredited college or university in the United States and abroad. Last year, the Foundation received over 700 nominations for these awards.

While 45 percent of all college students in the U.S. attend community colleges, few private funds are available to help top community college students transfer to four-year institutions, in spite of their high levels ability and need. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarships can provide funding for tuition, room and board, required fees, and books for the length of the undergraduate degree, generally two years. Each award can total up to \$30,000 annually, though the amounts will vary based on such factors as the cost of the institution each recipient attends.

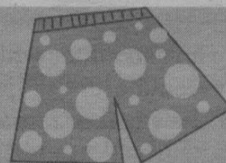
The Foundation plans to award approximately 50 scholarships through this program in spring, 2008. It will

renew awards each year based upon student performance. Current students are eligible, as are alumni who earned a degree from a community or two-year institution since spring 2003 and have not since transferred to a four-year college. All candidates for the scholarship must be nominated by the faculty representative at their community or two-year institution. The deadline for nomination is Feb. 1, 2008. The list of faculty representatives and application materials are available on the Foundation's Web site, www.jackkentcookefoundation.org, or by calling 1-800-498-6478.

The Foundation is a private, independent foundation established in 2000 by the estate of Jack Kent Cooke to help

young people of exceptional promise reach their full potential through education. Cooke was a businessman and philanthropist who owned such professional sports teams as the Los Angeles Lakers and the Washington Redskins as well as the Chrysler Building in New York City. When he died in 1997, he left most of his fortune to establish the Foundation. Besides the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program, the Foundation's programs for outstanding students with financial need also include full scholarships for students attending graduate and professional school as well as scholarships to help high-achieving youth develop their talents and abilities throughout high school.

Campus Shorts



POWER SHUTDOWN

On Monday, Nov. 12, the contractors will be shutting down the power to complete a portion of the remodel to Willamette Hall.

This will start at 7 a.m. and will affect the College Center and Willamette Hall buildings. Depending on the level of difficulty the power could be disrupted between four to eight hours.

Please call the Facilities Office at ext. 4720 if you have any questions or concerns.

POWWOW 101

Today at 3:30 p.m. the Native American Student Union is hosting "Powwow 101: Anything You'd Like to Know About Powwows," a free information session. This session features guest speaker Nick Sixkiller of the Cherokee Tribe. Free pizza is provided. For more information, contact Rocky Gavin at (541) 971-2500.

In addition, the Native American Student Union and the Visual Arts Club will be taking orders for posters and 2008 calendars. John Aikman's students designed six original posters for the NASU's "Powwow 101" event. There will be order forms available in the Courtyard Cafe illustrating the designs. Calendars and posters are \$5 each. Proceeds from the sale of the posters will be split between the two clubs and be used to further their missions.

LBCC HOSTS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ACTORS

LBCC will host a pair of actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival on Friday, Nov. 16 for two performances at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall.

The actors will perform a 35-minute adaptation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" called "A Bottom's Tale," followed by a question and answer session.

The OSF School Visit Program is part of the Festival's ongoing commitment to bring live theater to students. At the conclusion of the Festival's 2006 season, six teams

of actors visited 119 school and organizations, reaching over 65,000 students in four states.

For many students, the program has afforded them their first encounter with live theater. One student wrote, "I thought the actors did a fabulous job. They made me want to learn more about Shakespeare and his different plays."

The 2007 School Visit Program is funded by generous grants from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, Helen Clay Frick Foundation, Nike, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, Houghton Family Charitable Fund, Steven and Karen Tyler and the Bowmer Society supported by Bank of America. The OSF actors' visit to LBCC is funded by LBCC Student Life & Leadership and coordinated by the LBCC Valley Writers series.

The OSF School Visit Program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact LBCC Arts and Communications at (541) 917-4530. For disability accommodations, call (541) 917-4789 or TDD 1-800-735-2900.

TURKEY TROT

On Monday, Nov. 19 at noon is the Turkey Trot, an event sponsored by IACE and Wellness. Staff, students and faculty walk five laps to receive five raffle tickets with a chance to win a turkey, pie, or flowers. The event happens on the Albany main campus by the cafeteria entrance.

AAWCC SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The LBCC Chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges is looking for members. This organization is open to all employees and students (both women and men) of LBCC.

Their motto is: "To inspire, champion, & celebrate the talents within each of us." The AAWCC sponsors monthly meetings with an educational focus on a variety of topics. They provide networking and social

opportunities on campus; give at least two student scholarships each year; sponsor the Thanksgiving food drive; provide leadership opportunities for women through Board membership, the Oregon Institute for Leadership Development, and the National Institute for Leadership Development.

To join or for more information on AAWCC, contact Ann Custer at (541) 917-4489.

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The Student Programming Board is presenting a bowling tournament this Thursday Nov. 8 at Lakeshore Lanes.

The tournament is from 3 to 5 p.m. and includes free pizza, soda, and prizes (including two gift cards to the LBCC bookstore).

It is free to the first 100 LBCC with a student I.D. or schedule of classes. Students can sign up in the Student Life & Leadership office or at the tournament.

PTK SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN TO APPLICANTS

Phi Theta Kappa is taking applications for the All-USA Community College Academic Team.

There are two available slots, and the winners will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship and the chance to represent LBCC at the national conference.

The applicants need not be members of Phi Theta Kappa, but must have a 3.25 GPA.

Applications are available from Dave Becker in B109 and must be returned by Nov. 26 at 1 p.m. For more information go to <http://aws.linnbenton.edu/ptk>.

EZINE HAS NEW TITLE

The title of LBCC's eZine for the 2007-08 school year is "Creative Highway." The eZine is now accepting submissions of writing, poetry, visual art, music movies or any other sort of media for the eZine now through January. Submissions can be made at the Web site (<http://www.linnbenton.edu/ezine>).

Campus contributes to 19th annual Thanksgiving food drive

Caleb Thomas
The Commuter

Come one, come all and help those who need it. That's right, it's time for the annual campus Thanksgiving food drive.

Starting last week, donations, both money and food, are being accepted for those in the LBCC community who need help this time of year. Donations can be taken to the college's Registration Office and B-111.

"Items we need are flour, sugar, shortening, potatoes, evaporated milk, canned vegetables, etc. We will also

take cash or checks," food drive coordinator Debby Zeller noted in a campus e-mail.

Checks can be made out to LBCC/AAWCC (American Association for Women at Community Colleges) and given to Ginger Peterson in B-111 or Zeller in the Registration Office.

The annual drive started Nov. 1 and ends Nov. 14. Boxes of food are to be handed out in person to more than 100 needy families in the area on Nov. 17.

It's not too late to nominate a family in need for the food drive. To nominate a family, e-mail Ann Custer at custera@linnbenton.edu or call 917-4489, or e-mail Roxie Putman at putmanr@linnbenton.edu or call 917-

4814. The names of those who refer a family will remain anonymous.

A family-friendly bunko game also will assist this fundraiser. This game will be at the downtown Albany Senior Center, 489 Water Ave. N.W., at 6 p.m. Nov. 16. The cost is \$5 per person; all of the proceeds are for the food drive.

"(The bunko game) is going to be a lot of fun, there will be prizes and lots of laughter. We'd love to see a few students attend," said Ginger Peterson, bunko organizer. Beverages will be provided.

This is year 19 for the food drive at LBCC.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Platou inspires despite warbly vocals

Aaron Broich
 The Commuter

Carl Platou sounds like he's singing through the mouth of a duckbill platypus on his debut album, "Frozen Eve." He sports, perhaps, one of the thickest European accepted singing voices of recent years. As he finishes a line with a long vowel sound, quashing it through tightly pursed lips, it's reminiscent of being slapped in the ears with a long spindle of regurgitated caramel. Honestly, his voice, which is reminiscent of Bob Dylan, actually works for some of the album. It has a sort of unique charm. It's shaky and nasal, and if he makes it big, it'll help the rest of us to believe that we can, too. If you can get over his voice, you might really enjoy "Frozen Eve."

So who is Carl Platou? He's a brand-new folk musician from Oslo, Norway, who's virtually unknown in the U.S. In his MySpace bio, he declares himself the king of dark pop, in the third person-however, there's nothing particularly dark or poppy about his music—it's pretty much chilled-back folk rock, and according to his bio, his Library

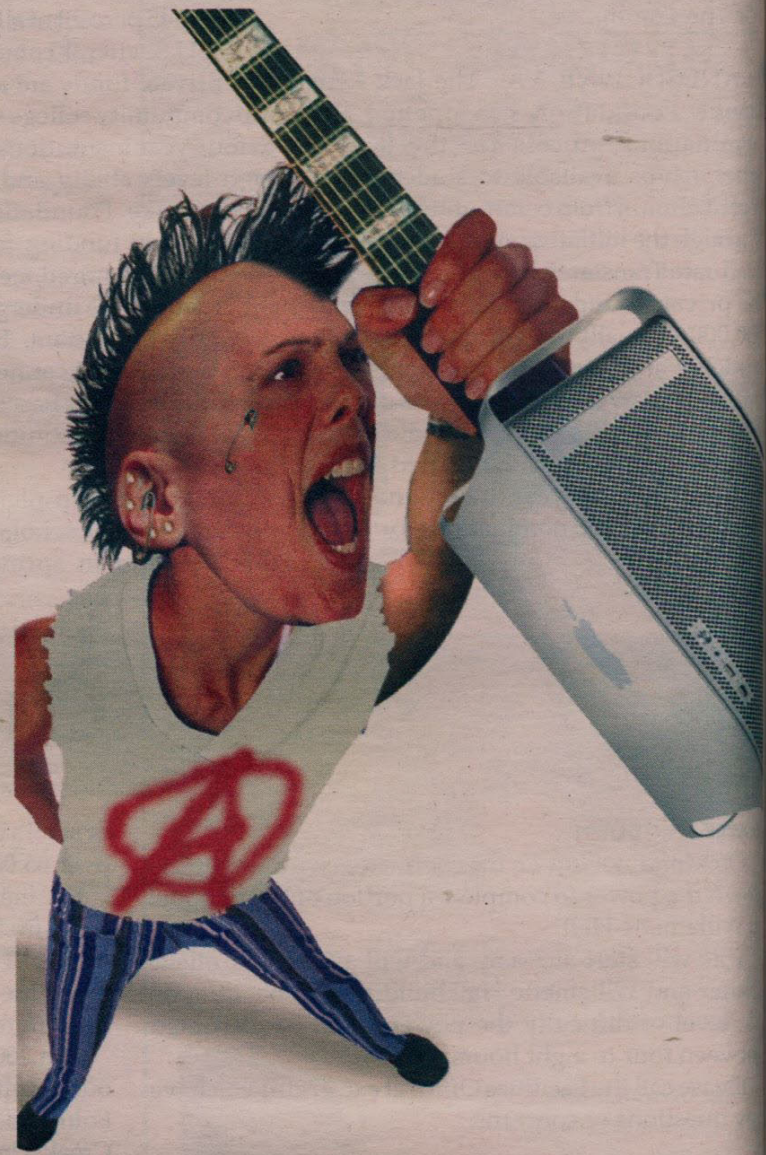
Bachelor's degree will, "surely put your average grunge rocker to shame." He sounds like Velvet Underground, or acoustic versions of The Cure or REM.

The album's opening song, "I'll Fly Away With You," sounds like sort of get-up-and-go folk music that you listen to early in the morning while starting a road trip. The acoustic guitar is pretty standard, but as the bass, keys, and drums come together, its instrumentally decent, especially when the electric guitar slams down the whammy bar. Throw in a few minor chords for the bridge, and I guess you get what Norwegians call, "dark pop." Platou sings about a man having an encounter with some sort of female entity—he's not sure if she's real or fantasy, but if she's real, he'll surely fly away with her—over the mountains and such.

Platou sings about conventional things like parting loves, good wine to drink, smoking cigs, and having hot coffee to keep you warm and awake. He also sings about making it big in the rock-n-roll scene on "Pearly Gates": "With rock-n-roll, there's no doubt—you gotta have faith.

Some day we'll make it. Open the Pearly Gates." Platou's macabre style works well for the song's intro, but his lazy singing doesn't have enough fire to carry the dramatic tune to its end. His shaky voice adds some texture to the album as a whole, but in general, it sounds like the result of an under developed diaphragm, and he teeters precariously between overly flat and jaggedly sharp notes. He would sound better if he sang with more clarity and confidence, saving his shakiness for sparse moments.

"Frozen Eve" is full of delightful melodies and charming solos. "Sunday Morning" makes tasteful use of the whammy bar to achieve a surfer sound. It also incorporates a well-placed cello, which is also used more extensively on the album's finale, "I Go With the Sun." Whereas the rhythm guitars are a little bland and familiar, all the instruments together form beautiful songs—but the question remains, will you really dig Platou's crooning? I imagine in my mind that more lip pursing (to achieve long vowels sounds) went into the production of this album than any other.



This fall filled with MMOs

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

Ahh, fall, the leaved-vertigo is upon us again. Pumpkins, turkeys, lack of sunshine limiting your precious, precious vitamin D, fog, etc, etc. Life is good, but it just gets better because the fourth quarter is the season to game. As college students, our time to game is severely limited, even more so as the term drones on.

This time of year is the time the fat cats of our beloved multi-billion dollar industry literally roll in the dough. Fourth quarter profits are beyond ridiculous, with Take 2 Games showing a \$1 billion revenue for the fiscal year ending this quarter according to their investor relations Web site. With this insane profit-fest comes a deluge of games, that floods down from the mountains like fall rain; a torrent that aims to bankrupt the average college student, in both time and money.

Single-player is strong (as always), but the real gem of the last few years has been online gaming, and to be more exact, MMOs, or Massive Multiplayer Online Games, usually RPGs (Role Playing Games).

MMOs put players together in a massive and persistent world that they all share and adventure in together, they can interact in a variety of ways from questing to-

gether to killing each other. With the success of Blizzard's World of Warcraft with an estimated 9.1 million players, according to their official website, the stage is set.

Richard Garriot (Lord British), the creator of Ultima Online, the first popular MMORPG (Massive Multiplayer online RPGs), claims that the average MMO player will swap MMOs every one to two years, and thus, if you recycle players, the customer-base is nigh unto infinite, with more and more people buying PCs, broadband, and going online to play.

A new generation of entertainment for the masses is upon us, and I'm here to fill you in on the scoop of the latest and aging MMOs that are vying for your study time in the first of these handy mini-guides.

The first of the juggernauts is World of Warcraft. WoW, as it's commonly called, is one of the most popular MMOs of all time; it was game of the year according to a variety of magazines and Web sites in 2004.

With the release of a new expansion pack last January and a new one coming out sometime next year, things are looking good. The world is mostly High Fantasy, featuring some noticeable rewrites of traditional Warcraft lore to appeal to a wider audience. The graphics are cartoony in places, colors are bright,

and Blizzard is smart to target all age groups. It draws heavily from classics like Everquest and Asheron's Call; it's a tried and true formula that works.

The Burning Crusade, the expansion pack released last January, felt a bit too mundane, a lot of the feeling of achievement and victory was sapped out of the game and replaced with grinding (completing a repetitive task for inordinate amounts of time to achieve a goal). Especially in PvP (Player Vs. Player), with large changes to the system that drastically changed play and a relatively lackluster new battleground that's basically the other three battlegrounds combined with a mixture of some of the new locales featured in The Burning Crusade.

Speaking from personal experience, I played WoW for two years, logged 300 days worth of game time on my main (Approx. 7,000 hours, or 12 hours/day), a female Dwarf Hunter named Nasheira, who became Grand Marshal (Rank 14) pre-cross-server (when servers could battle each other's players), and pre-honor nerf (making it easier to achieve ranks). Needless to say, I didn't have a life for a very long time and I'm somewhat of an expert on the subject.

See part two in next week's Commuter...

Poetry Corner

Jim Lehrer is My Friend

We are living in a time when the masses would rather
 look away from the real problems.
 We have lost action, we have lost nerve. We sit, daily,
 watching the news, the bad news;
 I can turn on OPB and Jim Lehrer will read me all those
 that are no longer with us,
 But still we sit.
 I can change the channel and hear the morning talk
 show; showing me pictures of the
 Man.
 Showing me videos of him, telling me how he got the
 gun, how he found his
 Victims.
 But still we sit.
 I stopped watching the news last week.
 I wanted to though.
 I didn't want to miss the next time they tell me four
 kids my age, got killed in their Jeep by
 An IED
 They throw this word around, like they always knew it,
 IED, IED, IED
 Well fuck IEDs. When did we say it was OK to be
 comfortable with that word
 When did we say a boy couldn't come home to visit his
 family because
 Satan still needed him to ride.
 Scream out poor naked wretches
 Scream out that there is no need for war because we've
 found the meaning of life
 But these thoughts pass idly by,
 As we sit

-Nik Matsler-

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Dorris Ranch, hazelnuts and history

Beth Tweedell
 The Commuter

The mechanical harvesting equipment and wooden storage boxes are put away for another year. The harvest is in, and the orchard is once again quiet, except for the crunch of dried leaves and filbert husks under foot and the river's quiet gurgling in the distance.

This is the orchard at the Dorris Ranch Living History Farm in Springfield. More than half of all the commercial hazelnut trees now growing in the United States originated from Dorris Ranch nursery stock.

The first cultured hazelnut tree in Oregon was planted in Scottsburg in 1858, according to the Hazelnut Marketing Board, by retired Hudson's Bay Company employee Sam Strickland. That 150-year-old tree is still alive today.

The first significant planting occurred several years later in 1876, when David Gernott planted a fencerow of 50 hazelnut trees.

And it has been just over a century since George Dorris planted the first commercial hazelnut orchard in the Pacific Northwest in the Springfield area in 1905.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Dorris Ranch is recognized as the first commercial filbert orchard in the United States. Located at the confluence of the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette River, the ranch continues to

Dorris Ranch is open to the public weekdays and weekends from 6 a.m. till dusk for self-guided tours.

Brochures with all the interesting facts, historical sites, and a map of area paths are available at the entrance kiosk.

Visit its Web site at www.dorrisranch.org.

day as a commercial hazelnut orchard.

Oregon produces about 98 percent of the hazelnuts in the U.S., in part because the climate is ideal for growing hazelnuts. It was declared Oregon's official state nut in 1989.

But what about filberts? Filberts, hazelnuts and cobnuts all belong to the family Corylus. Generally speaking the name "filbert" is applied to the oblong nuts of two varieties native to Turkey, Greece, and Italy; "cobnut" is another European variety; and "hazelnut" is used with the American varieties, which bear small, roundish nuts.

There is also a wild variety of hazelnut here in the Pacific Northwest. The Native Americans called it "chinquapin."

"This wild hazelnut, while small and hard-shelled, can provide more calories per hundred grams than meat," according to Lesly Egan in an article published by Oregon State University Food Resource Management. "In survival situations the wild hazel provided excellent fats and proteins."

Remnants of hazelnuts and other types of foods were discov-

ered in a hearth near Newberry Crater by the University of Oregon archaeology department. Radiocarbon dating puts the food remnants at 10,000 years old, according to the report.

While the history of the orchards at Dorris Ranch is more recent, as its name implies, the Dorris Ranch Living History Farm offers several living history programs each year for those who are interested in learning more about daily life on a 19th century farm. Costumed interpreters take you through various activities that educate and demonstrate what life was like for Oregon homesteaders. There are also programs offered for school groups.

Coming up on Nov. 10, for example, is an opportunity to help build a root cellar. Dec. 1 offers the chance to watch and learn from a local blacksmith.

The Dorris Ranch Living History Farm offers more than a history lesson. Owned by the Willamalane Parks and Recreation District, this 250-acre farm operates as a nonprofit organization. It also can host special events, from company picnics to weddings. There are two buildings on the site available for rental, as well as a large picnic area.

Self-guided tours through the orchards, with a path to the Willamette River, are a highlight of any visit. Michael Proctor of Corvallis, visiting the orchards for the first time, described it as the "classic Willamette Valley experience."



photo by Beth Tweedell

Each of the 11 separate orchards has a name, like this one, the Nursery Orchard.



photos by Will Parker

4-H Fiesta Mexicana Dance Group performs a number of traditional Latin American dances.

Student involvement tops agenda for next ASG meeting

J.J. Quinlivan
 For The Commuter

The Associated Student Government is the voice of the students. We represent you to the faculty and administration of LBCC. We also lobby for students in Salem and Washington D.C.

Do you have a concern? Interested in holding an event on campus, or starting a club? You can attend one of our meetings or stop by the Student Life & Leadership office to speak to any member of our team. ASG officers and representatives hold regular office hours each week.

Students from each division have a representative on ASG. Jamie Wilson represents Arts & Communication students. Wilson is a nursing major and is also the president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Students majoring in math, science or industry are represented by Dani Peters. Peters is majoring in agricultural business management and raises her own registered Black Angus cattle.

Studying hard to become a nurse or another health occupation? Talk to Hannah Gzik. Gzik is a pre-pharmacy major from Eastern Oregon.

On Oct. 17, ASG appointed Roxanne Goodwin as their business representative. Goodwin recently returned to school and is majoring in diagnostic imaging. Her goal is to become an ultrasound technician.

If you haven't declared a major then talk to Louann Van Beek. Van Beek is the Students Services and Education Representative. She is majoring in computer science and hopes one day to fly helicopters in Search and Rescue.

ASG meetings are open to all students and are held on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Life & Leadership conference room next to the Hot Shot Coffee House.

Do you take classes at the centers? ASG is interested in hearing from you. ASG will be holding its weekly meeting today at the Benton Center in Room 236 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We will be discussing how to get students involved from the centers and how we can learn about their concerns. We will also be discussing possible changes to our bylaws and election code in preparation for next year's ASG election. Next week's meeting will be at the Lebanon Center in Room 218E. We will provide donuts for students at both meetings.

Editor: Elizabeth Uriarte
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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Origin of eye evolution is brought to full view

Robert S. Boyd
 McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

WASHINGTON – Scientists have traced the origin of eyes back to a transparent blob of living jelly floating in the sea about 600 million years ago.

That creature, the distant ancestor of a modern freshwater animal known as a hydra, could only distinguish light from dark.

But that simple trick was such an advantage that it was passed on from generation to generation of the hydra's cousins and their myriad descendants. It was the precursor of the wildly different, ever more complex eyes of fish, ants, flies, giraffes and people.

The hydra work was reported last month in the journal PLoS One by biologists David Plachetzki and Todd Oakley of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

It helps solve one of the puzzles of Darwinian evolution, the process by which a complex organ such as an eye could arise by random genetic mutations and natural selection.

"These results are significant in advancing our understanding of the early evolution of sight in animals," said Jerry Cook, a program director at the National Science Foundation, which financed the work.

The discovery also helps to counter one of the principal arguments used by anti-evolutionists to discredit Charles Darwin's theory and to support their belief in "intelligent design."

The skeptics contend that it would have been impossible for an eye to form in a series of small steps, by a purely natural process, as Darwin suggested almost 150 years ago. Therefore, they conclude that a supernatural "designer," presumably God, must have done the job.

Like most modern biologists, Oakley vigorously disagrees that a designer is necessary to explain evolution. "There is no doubt whatsoever in the ability of evolutionary processes to produce all the diversity of life we see," he said in an e-mail.

In their research, Oakley and Plachetzki

discovered that a gene called opsin – after the Greek word "ops," meaning "eye" – exists in hydras but not in sponges, an even more primitive animal.

The scientists calculated that opsin genes appeared about 600 million years ago, because that's when the evolutionary branch that led to modern hydras split off from the line that led to sponges.

Opsin genes direct the production of light-sensitive proteins, also called opsins, that coat the surface of a hydra, especially around the mouth area. The opsin proteins would help these simple animals tell night from day and perhaps help them find food.

"Hydra probably uses its light sensitivity to find prey," Oakley said.

According to Oakley, the opsin proteins must have evolved from earlier "signaling" proteins that send chemical messages to other proteins. Signaling proteins exist in all living creatures, from single-celled bacteria to humans.

Other biologists commended Oakley's work. "It makes sense that oceangoing animals such as (the hydra's ancestors) would use light detection to orient themselves or regulate a body clock," said Sean Carroll, an evolutionary geneticist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

According to Carroll, the opsin genes would have been created by evolutionary "tinkering" and didn't "require the intervention of a 'designer' to craft specific protein interactions."

Cook, the NSF program director, said Oakley's work "shows how simple genetic changes can produce visual pigments that begin the pathway to the evolution of sight."

For more information on hydras:
www.micrographia.com/specbiol/cnidari/hydrozo/hydr0100.htm

For an explanation of how opsins work:
[http://nai.arc.nasa.gov/news_stories/news_detail.cfm?article\(EQUALSIGN\)/teachers/MichaelCummings/molecular_biology.htm](http://nai.arc.nasa.gov/news_stories/news_detail.cfm?article(EQUALSIGN)/teachers/MichaelCummings/molecular_biology.htm)

Ask a geek Where geeks answer your computer and tech questions

CPU Club
 For The Commuter

Is your computer driving you crazy? Need a little help figuring out how to use it? The geeks in the CPU Club will answer your questions. Send your questions to cpuclub@ml.linnbenton.edu.

Q. How do I connect to the wireless network at LBCC?

A. Windows XP won't automatically connect to the LBCC network. To connect, right-click the wireless network connection icon in your System Tray (by the clock), and then click "View Available Wireless Networks." Select the "LBCC Network" then click "Connect." If you see a message warning you about an unsecured network, click "Continue" anyway.

Once you've connected you'll need to login with your student e-mail account to access the Internet. Federal law requires LBCC to verify wireless users and the student e-mail accounts were the easiest way. If you don't have an account it's free and quick to setup. On the LBCC home page just click "Student" then e-mail.

LBCC wireless network is unsecure so make sure your firewall and antivirus are running. Click the "Start Menu", "Control Panel," and then "Security Center" to make sure your computer is protected.

Q. Help! I can't open the Microsoft Word document I just created at LBCC!

A. Over the summer LBCC installed Office 2007 in all the computer labs. Office 2007 uses a new file format that you can't open in Office 2003. When you save your documents at LB, click

"Save As" then change the "Save type" to Word 97-2003 document. This works for all Office applications. You can download a Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack from www.microsoft.com/downloads that will allow you to open 2007 files in Office 2003.

Q. How can I get a copy of Office 2007-cheap?

A. Microsoft has a deal for college students available until April 2008. You can get Office 2007 Ultimate for only \$59.95! All you need is your LBCC e-mail address. You have to download Office 2007 so make sure you have a fast connection. We also recommend you pay the additional \$6 so you can download it again later. If you don't and the download fails, it's almost impossible to get approved to try to download it again. Go to www.ultimatesteal.com for more information.

The LBCC CPU Club gives beginning and experienced computer users a chance to meet and share ideas. For more information go to http://www.linnbenton.edu/cpu_club.

SafeHaven: Donations needed

◀ From Pg. 1

"We're really excited about the future," Storm said.

SafeHaven seeks to educate the community about animal issues and care. Storm said they have been in 56 classrooms this year teaching humane education.

One of SafeHaven's educational programs is the "Pets and Pals Club." It is open to children ages 7-12 to meet monthly to talk about animal welfare issues. At an upcoming meeting they will learn how to make an animal first-aid kit.

SafeHaven also offers the "Cats Count" program, which gives Linn County residents the opportunity to spay or neuter their cat for only \$10. This program is possible due to a donation of \$10,000 from the Karen M. Scroth Foundation.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals declared November the first "Adopt-a-Senior-Pet Month." There are many benefits to adopting a senior pet, according to the Oregon Humane Society. Older pets have been litter box or house trained and they do not require the constant care of a puppy or kitten.

As Rudy awaits adoption, he keeps busy with visits to the senior center and assisted living homes in the community.

"Everyone loves him," Plymell said.

The animal shelter has an urgent need for non-clumping cat litter. They also need kitten food (Kirkland brands preferred), cat and dog food, and paper towels.

For more information about SafeHaven Humane Society, call (541) 928-2789 or visit its Web site www.safehavenhumane.com to check shelter hours and listings of adoptable cats and dogs.

LBCC MAIN CAMPUS

Commons

NOVEMBER 7TH - NOVEMBER 13TH

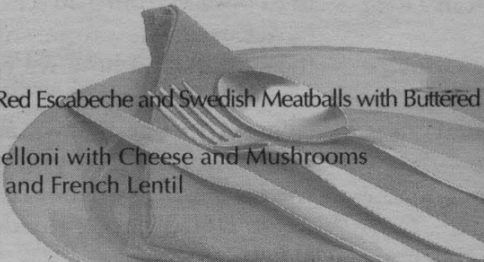
Wednesday:
 ENTREES: Meatloaf and Mushroom Gravy and English-style Fish and Chips
 VEGETARIAN: Vegetarian Chili with Cornbread, Sour Cream, and Cheese
 SOUPS: Dilled Potato Chowder and Chicken with Wild Rice

Thursday:
 ENTREES: Pork Piccata and Coq au Vin
 VEGETARIAN: Tempeh Enchiladas
 SOUPS: Potage de Boeuf* and Cream of Garlic

Friday:
 CHEF'S CHOICE

Monday:
 CLOSED

Tuesday:
 ENTREES: Shrimp in Red Escabeche and Swedish Meatballs with Buttered Noodles
 VEGETARIAN: Cannelloni with Cheese and Mushrooms
 SOUPS: Egg Flower and French Lentil



CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/StudentEmployment to look for student & graduate jobs. For more information about the opportunities listed below, please see Career in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101) x478.

Teen Computer Room Instructor (#5768, Lebanon) If you have a strong background in computers and an interest in working with children, this part-time job could be for you! Hours are M-F: 2-6:30pm and pay is \$7.80/hr.

Office Manager's Assistant (#5776, Albany) Are you an accounting student who will be graduating in December? This job is full-time, but will work with your school schedule for now until you graduate and then go full-time.

Urban Forestry Paid Intern (#5777, Albany) Horticulture, Agriculture or Forestry students are encouraged to apply for this wonderful internship with the City of Albany. Can beat \$11.50/hr for a minimum of 10 hrs/week.

Customer Service Rep (#5776, Albany) Answer phones and schedule appointments. Part-time flexible during the week and Saturdays as a must. \$9/hr to start.

Great part-time work available at Lake Shore Lanes

Looking for energetic and outgoing people to fill bar tending position, no experience required. Lake Shore Lanes is a friendly working environment. We are now accepting applications at: Lake Shore Lanes, 5432 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, OR 97321

FUNNY BONES

Crossword, cartoons, and other fun stuff to brighten your day.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Come Back Little ___"
 - 6 Metric unit
 - 10 Slumgullion
 - 14 Actor Burton
 - 15 Hick
 - 16 Was dressed in
 - 17 Teheran man
 - 18 Harrow's rival
 - 19 Etc.'s cousin
 - 20 Barbecue tool
 - 21 Barak of Israel
 - 22 Right on maps
 - 23 Composer Jerome
 - 25 Synagogues
 - 27 Chorus voice
 - 30 Omelet item
 - 32 Ruby or Sandra
 - 33 Ointment of antiquity
 - 36 Floating platforms
 - 40 Ripen
 - 41 Behavior of a scoundrel
 - 43 Old card game
 - 44 Out of fashion
 - 46 Resplendent
 - 48 Frozen surface
 - 50 Summer cooler
 - 51 Chopping tools
 - 52 Developed
 - 56 Unattractive fruit?
 - 58 Beginning of fairy tales
 - 59 Neato!
 - 61 Having no will to move
 - 65 Norse deity
 - 66 Lively melody
 - 67 Out of bed
 - 68 Brass component
 - 69 Skye or Wight
 - 70 Popeil company
 - 71 Advantage
 - 72 Kind of bolt or heat
 - 73 Serpentine
- DOWN**
- 1 Narrow fissure
 - 2 Deli offering
 - 3 Writer Hunter
 - 4 Capital of Thailand
 - 5 Get up
 - 6 Type of plum
 - 7 Naomi's daughter-in-law
 - 8 More or less
 - 9 Repaired
 - 10 Popeye's tyke
 - 11 Add up
 - 12 Wipe from memory
 - 13 Lash marks
 - 24 Casino town
 - 26 Actress Streep
 - 27 Pronto letters
 - 28 Org. of Webb and Wie
 - 29 Haberdashery items
 - 31 Brusque
 - 34 Standing upright
 - 35 Failed to meet obligations
 - 37 Pose like Charles Atlas
 - 38 Sound property
 - 39 Barflies
 - 42 Ladder step
 - 45 Failure to speak out
 - 47 Makes up ground
 - 49 Geometry pioneer
 - 52 Hooch
 - 53 Voided
 - 54 Cake coverage
 - 55 Composure
 - 57 Munchausen and Ananias
 - 60 ___ podrida
 - 62 Sicilian mount
 - 63 Moranis or Mears
 - 64 Ex-QB Aikman

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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11/10/07

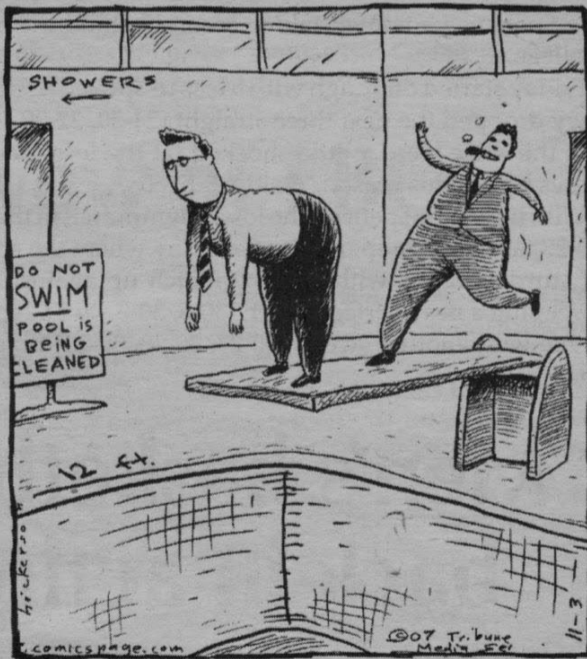
Answers provided next week



SpongeBob SkinnyJeans



"Ah-ha, Thag! I caught you getting on one of those dating sites again."



It wasn't what Bob had expected when he was asked to assume a position on the company's board.

Brothers Watt



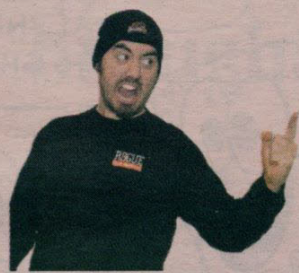
by Will Wilson



Sports Editor: Chris Kelley
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SPORTS

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



Chris "Cheese" Kelley and Will Parker
 The Commuter

FACE OFF

Dodgers discriminating against minorities?



Chris "Cheese" Kelley: I feel the "minority act" that a team must interview two minority candidates for sports job openings is a great idea and will help give everyone a fair shot at getting a job. In the case of Joe Torre being the only interviewee, the Los Angeles Dodgers knew whom they wanted and it would be a waste of time to interview anyone else.

Will Parker: The point of the rule regarding the interviewing of two "minority" candidates for a given coaching position is to allow access to people who otherwise might not get the opportunity as well as offering some sort of equality in an area still dominated primarily by white players. Just because the Dodgers "knew" whom they wanted, doesn't mean they should get a waiver for the rule. Waivers erode the credibility of the rule.

Cheese: Bud Selig, the MLB commissioner, personally waived the rule, which he put in place. He knew that the two interviews of minorities would be a waste of everyone's time. Torre has the best record and largest amount of consecutive playoff appearances than any other possible candidate along with the most World Series titles.

Parker: His previous performances are only

a vague indicator of future ones. While he may hold numerous records, that doesn't automatically mean he should be given special consideration.

Cheese: The rule is in good faith, but doesn't mean it will always apply. If there were a minority coach in the same situation, there would be no debate because everyone could see he was the best candidate. No matter how great an interview goes with anyone else, he withstood the Steinbrenner reign for 12 seasons, making the playoffs every year longer than anyone else held the skipper position. That in itself says he can handle any other job. Who else would you pick for a manager spot right now other than Torre?

Parker: I don't know and neither does anyone else really, seeing as how they restricted the interviews. I'm sure there are plenty of viable candidates. Rules promoting diversity are not and should not be "fair weather" rules. You only have to pay lip service to the ideas of affirmative action as long as it suits you? That's no way to run a business; in fact, many businesses have similar rules for all positions and they aren't subject to waiver even if there's an internal candidate.

Cheese: Selig vetoed the rule in this case, knowing it would be ridiculous to make anyone else go through the interview process when the Dodgers organization told him there wasn't anyone else on their list they would consider not because of race, simply

because of his resume. Winning four World Series six AL pennants and making the playoffs 12 years a row was in itself enough to get the veto.

Parker: The point of the rule is to help with issues of racism. What you're basically saying is racism is okay as long as the guy who gets the position is good.

Cheese: This isn't a race issue we are talking about. There was no discrimination. The Dodgers organization has the highest percentage of minority staffing in the whole MLB. This is an organization that gave Jackie Robinson the chance no one else would. It isn't a racist team!

Parker: There's no proof that there's no racism. There was discrimination in that no one else was allowed to interview. All of that doesn't change the circumstances of this decision. Just because a team has a history of being pro-diversity doesn't mean they get some sort of right to waive the rules when it suits them.

Cheese: Whoever gets a coaching position doesn't have to be good; they are just the best candidate for the team. Torre was, in their minds, the best candidate. We should come to the conclusion that Torre was best to not waste anyone else's time and money to interview for something they would have a chance in getting.

Roadrunners place 2nd at Spokane Crossover

Chris Kelley
 The Commuter

After a week off, the Lady Roadrunners kicked it back in gear last weekend at the Spokane Crossover taking second behind the host team Spokane Community College.

Friday started off rough with a loss to Spokane. After winning the first game 30-22, they dropped the next three straight (24-30, 22-30, 21-30).

"I think we were a little shocked [at the loss] because we had beaten them two times before this season," said Ali Krebs.

With little time spent on the loss, Olympic fell in the next match (30-18, 30-21, 28-30, 30-27) as LBCC prepared for Saturday where the championship round began.

Saturday began with an easy match up against Everett, with the Roadrunners sweeping a near perfect match (30-6, 30-8, 30-7). Next, in the semi-finals, came Bellevue with another sweep (30-27, 30-28, 30-24) to force a rematch with Spokane in the finals.

The finals match saw LBCC fight hard after losing the first two games 28-30 and 30-30, coming back to win 30-24 in the third game before losing the last match 30-24. "Spokane and Bellevue were good preparation for our next match against Clackamas," said Amanda Douglas. "The South Region is definitely one of the toughest regions, so this tournament wasn't the toughest we have seen. But at the same time, no team is to take lightly."

The ladies have one more league match tonight at Clackamas. Win or lose, they have already secured the second seed in the South Region, which is the first time that LBCC has entered the NWAACC tournament with that seeding.

Tara Stewart said on being a second seed "It will be much better to play Clackamas in the finals rather earlier if we were a seed lower."

With Mt. Hood Community College only an hour and a half from campus, come support LBCC in their quest for the NWAACC championships. Matches begin Thursday November 15th. Check out the NWAACC Website later this week for exact round match ups.

Men's basketball back in action

Tyler Dahlgren
 Commuter

Roadrunner men's basketball has begun. The team saw their first action last weekend winning all four 20-minute jamboree games--in what Coach Randy Falk called a "team game."

"We did a lot of right things on offense and defense. There are still a number of things our team needs to work on but I think we have shown significant improvement on both sides of the ball," said Falk.

"I am not expecting a big season out of one individual but rather many individuals,"

said Falk on this year's contribution. "This is the best team I have seen work together as a coach, they demonstrate teamwork and know how to help each other out on both the offensive and defensive sides of the floor."

The Runners' four sophomore starters add experience to a lineup the team hopes will pose tough competition in the NWAACC South. You can watch as the men jump-start their season at the Southern Region Tip-off Tournament Nov. 16-17 in Eugene hoping to make progress toward surpassing last season's league record of (7-7) and overall record of (16-13).

Ladies come back stronger

Nikali Covey
 The Commuter

Women's basketball coach, A.J. Dionne, talked hoops preview with Nikali Covey.

What sorts of things are you and your team doing in preparation for the season?

We had intense fall conditioning for Sept. 24 - Oct. 15. Since Oct. 15 (first official day of practice) we have been practicing with our focus to improve everyday. We've played two scrimmages thus far, and our third and final scrimmage is tonight at Willamette University.

How would you describe the chemistry of your team?

Our team is very close. I make a point to recruit and bring together student-athletes that will get along on and off the court. "You don't have to be

best friends, but you have to be best teammates" is a quote I stress.

Who are some of the leaders and key players on your team?

Returning key players are: Point Guard: Emily Irwin. 2 Guard: Destiny Neuenschwander. Wing/Forward: 1st Team All League last year, Chelsea Hartman. Incoming key players will be: Post, Jessica Vorpahl and Point Guard, Kati Quigley. Right now our leaders have been Emily and Kati.

What are some of your team's strengths and weaknesses?

Our team strengths are our quickness, which factors into our defense and fast breaks. We are a strong outside shooting team, and better in the post-play than last year. In the preparation and conditioning for the season, we thank and give the credit

to our weight strength coach Mike Murphy. He has done an outstanding job working with my team. Stronger, quicker, faster is his focus and we bring teams into the ground that to coach Murphy. Our weaknesses would be overall defense and rebounding.

What are your expectations of your players in the classroom?

Our team goal is a 3.0 GPA term. As of now they are all doing well and following through with their responsibilities.

What are your expectations for this season? (Goals, record progression, etc.)

My expectation for the 2008 season is to finish leading in the top two, go to playoffs and place. Our team goal is to win every tournament in the season, take first in league, and win NWAACC's!