

THE COMMUTER

Wednesday,
April 22, 2009

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 40 No. 24

Page 3: Cavin addresses budget cuts, Interview with the Chinese delegates

Page 5: First Alternative Co-op North Store expansion

Page 7: Daycare co-op, Keeping it local at the farmers' market, Welcome to Earth Day

Page 14: Rita Cavin: open letter to the community



The Commuter
Editor-in-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
News Editor: Ryan Henson
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton
 Community College, including
 the Sweet Home, Lebanon,
 and Benton Centers.

Rita announces retirement

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

Linn-Benton Community College President Rita Cavin formally announced her retirement at the board of education meeting on Wednesday, April 15 in an emotional address for everyone attending.

Cavin will be officially leaving her office as president on Dec. 31. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at 5:00 p.m. to elect a committee to start the hiring process of another college president.

The news came as a shock to some, though it had already been discussed with the board members. Mid-speech, a board member went to get her a cup of water, illustrating the respect present for Cavin. Board member Hal Brayton agreed that the decision to leave was the right thing to do.

She stated that she would be around to wish the college luck in the new year.

The meeting ended with rounds of support and friendship from the board members and Vice President Bill Thaler. Cavin received many pats on the back, and it was reiterated many times that she would be missed. The Chinese delegation was also moved by the announcement.

"We will find a good president, I promise you..." Brayton stated with a look of determination on his face to the board and attendees. He discussed the hardships of the decision while noting that he had been on the board when Cavin was elected.

Throughout the duration of the meeting, Cavin remained stoic and assertive of the interests of students while matters affecting the college were brought up and clapped loudly for part-time faculty being honored with recognition.



Board member Ron Mason listens intently as LB President Rita Cavin announces her retirement

Photo by MaryAnne Turner

Submit to The Commuter!

commuter@linnbenton.edu
 541-917-4451
 Forum 222

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not express the views of The Commuter, its staff, or Linn-Benton Community College.

Spring 2009 Academic Success Seminars

FREE

Sign up on SIS or drop in!

No Stressin' From Testin'

Would you like to know what it takes to walk into a testing situation feeling confident? Test-taking can and should give you the opportunity to glow. This seminar will share strategies that you can use to overcome test anxiety and show off what you know. Come find out how to make test-taking a positive experience.

April 27, Lebanon Center, LC 205, 4:30 – 5:20 p.m.

April 28, Benton Center, BC 104, 5 – 5:50 p.m.

April 29, Albany Campus, WH 225, 12 – 12:50 p.m.

April 29, Sweet Home Center, SHC 102, 4 – 4:50 p.m.

Tips to Overcome Procrastination

Procrastination can keep you from your goals. Come learn the underlying causes and tips to successfully overcome it.

May 5, Benton Center, BC 104, 5 – 5:50 p.m.

May 6, Albany Campus, WH 225, 12 – 12:50 p.m.

May 6, Sweet Home Center, SHC 102, 4 – 4:50 p.m.

May 11, Lebanon Center, LC 205, 4:30 – 5:20 p.m.

Prepare for Finals Without Cramming

Juggling due dates for papers, projects, and finals? There's a way to do this without losing your sleep or sanity—even if you've been procrastinating! (Bring all of your assignments and due dates to get the most out of this workshop.)

May 4, Lebanon Center, LC 205, 4:30 – 5:20 p.m.

May 12, Benton Center, BC 104, 5 – 5:50 p.m.

May 13, Albany Campus, WH 225, 12 – 12:50 p.m.

Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center. For more information and to sign up, visit SIS under Study Skills or call 917-4684.

Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests 4 to 6 weeks before the event where possible. To call by TDD, call the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2900 & provide them with the number you wish to reach.

Last week's front cover photo caption/credit

A U.S. Army soldier views the cemetery at the Hadamar Institute, where victims of the Nazi euthanasia program were buried in mass graves. This photograph was taken by an American military photographer soon after the liberation on April 5, 1945.

Photo Courtesy of the United States Holocaust Museum

THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

Editor-in-Chief:
 Gregory Dewar

Managing Editor:
 MaryAnne Turner

Copy Editors:
 Emily Barton, Erik Bender,
 Gary Brittsan, Amy Dewar,
 Haley Florin, Lillian Love,
 Brian Lucas, Blair McMackin,
 Melody Opel

Photo Editor:
 Lydia Elliott

Photo Assistants:
 Eve Bruntlett, Becca Martino
Editorial Assistant:
 Rick Casillas

A & E Editor:
 James Scales

Features Editor:
 Max Brown

News Editor:
 Ryan Henson

Online Editor:
 Jon Neuneker

Advertising Assistants:
 Travis Adams, Frank Warren

Digital Page Designer:
 Kristin Horst

Advisor:
 Rob Prieue

Letters Welcome

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less. The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter writers do not represent the views of The Commuter Staff or the College. Deliver letters to The Commuter Office, Forum 222 or at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

Web Address: http://commuter.linnbenton.edu
Phone: (541) 917-4451, 4452 or 4453
Fax: (541) 917-4454
Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd.
 Albany, OR 97321

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
News Editor: Ryan Henson
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

President Cavin addresses budget cuts

Ryan Henson
 The Commuter

In her state of the college address, LBCC President Rita Cavin told faculty and staff that, even in the face of current economic turmoil, the college, through careful planning, would move forward.

The address, which took place on Friday, April 17 in the Russell Tripp Auditorium,

focused mostly on the \$60 million gap in the state budget allotted for community colleges and explained that some adjustments would need to be made at LBCC. One of these adjustments includes an \$8 increase in the tuition for resident students and a \$15 increase for international students.

Cavin explained that, because of the spike in unemployment, the state budget gap is growing rapidly and would "swallow" all of the states community college funding and still leave a bud-

get hole of \$3.6 billion. During this time of financial crisis, the college will need to position itself for rebuilding, preserve its uniqueness and values, increase efficiency, and listen to the community for workforce needs.

"This is not a new plan," Cavin said. "This is how we have responded all along. It's important to identify what to protect and what needs to change."



"Doing less and having less money does not mean we need to have less quality."

President Rita Cavin

LBCC's plan to "navigate the economy" will be to use reserves wisely, position for a bond campaign when the community recovers, prepare for more declines in state revenues, reduce cost increases, be selective when filling vacancies, and maintain "discipline until stability and predictability are achieved." There will also be two budget team meetings each month to evaluate proposals for savings and to monitor finances.

"Doing less and having less money does not mean we need to have less quality," Cavin said.

Cavin reminded the crowd that money that has been spent cannot be saved, and because the college has used reserves and temporary savings to offer a path for change, the cutback periods would last longer, but reduce the need for dramatic layoffs.

According to Cavin, this was not the first time the college has faced an economic crisis, and that a \$53 million cut in 2001-02 took four years to recover from. "We are starting at a \$60 to \$70 million cut," Cavin said.

The news in the address was not all bad, however, as Cavin pointed out some progresses that have been made at LBCC, including efforts made towards environmental sustainability, the approval of a grant to provide health care for low-income students, improvements in distance

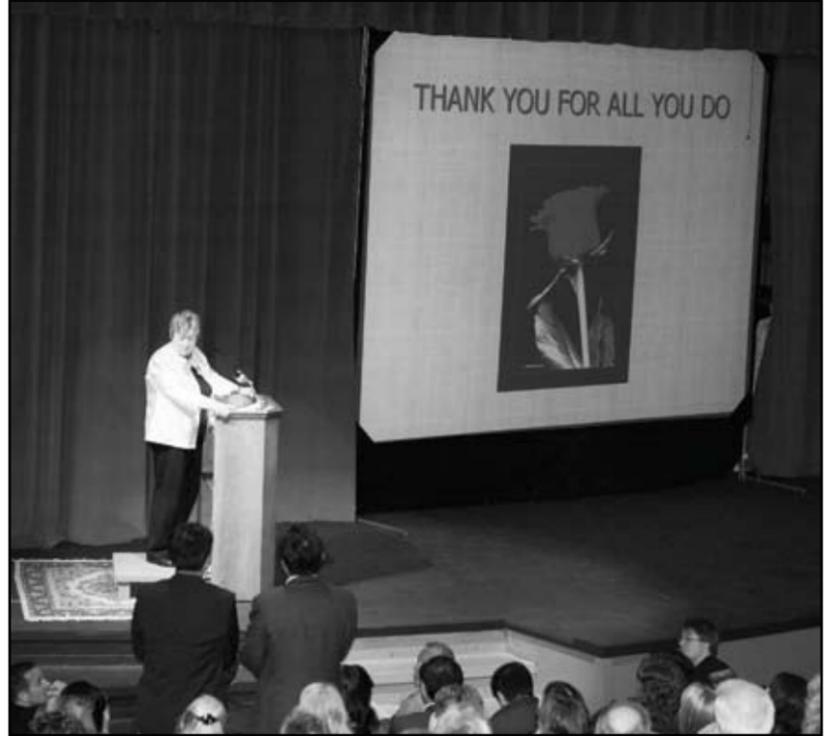


Photo by Gregory Dewar

President Cavin addresses the Chinese Delegates, Friday April 17

learning programs, and reduced child care and transportation costs for LBCC students.

In addition, the American Recovery and Investment Act, a stimulus package that was signed into law by President Ba-

rack Obama on February 17, will mean increased funding for Pell grants and Perkins loans as well as \$2500 tax credits for tuition and related expenses.

Turning Chinese? I really think so...

Gregory Dewar
 The Commuter

Monday, April 20, the Chinese delegates, visiting from technical colleges were kind enough to sit down with me and answer a few questions. Vice-President of LBCC Bill Thallamer said that last week delegates had an overview of "College Governance." They found that their systems were very similar, yet noticeably different. According to Thallamer they have no general education program; their colleges are specific to industry. They tended to focus on how LBCC blended with the municipalities in terms of providing the workforce's needs and supporting the community. Next week they'll be able to sit down with faculty in Q&A sessions and learn from each other. Thallamer is in charge of the delegates and ensuring that they have a fruitful stay while they're here in the U.S.

The delegates included: President Jianmin Chen from Beijing Polytechnic College, President Hongzhi Yuan from Xuzhou Institute of Architectural Technology, President Wanmin Wu from Guangzhou Civil Aviation

College, President Fangming Zhang from Lanzhou Petrochemical College of Vocational Technology, President Xinguang Feng from Rizhao Polytechnic, and Co-ordinator Xiaoyong Zheng from the China Education Association for International Exchange.

Greg: Is this anyone's first trip to the U.S.?

Delegates: Most of us have been here before.

Greg: What's one thing you've all learned from your trip here?

Delegates: We've learned about the administration concepts of running an American community college, particularly the close relationship between the college and the community. And the program setting of the college is tailor-made to the needs of the enterprises.

Greg: What's the most fun you've had on your trip so far?

To this the delegates laughed and shared what I can only assume is an inside joke.

Thallamer translates for me: "They had a good experience at the child care center when a child approached them." And he leaves it at that.

Greg: Is there anything you think you've taught us?

Thallamer replies that their chance to educate us will take place in the Q&A sessions and other events next week.

Greg: Do you think you'll ever visit the U.S. again?

Delegates, unanimously: "Yes, of course," for partnership. "We are going to do exchanges and training programs for faculty and students."

It is explained to me that they like Oregon because of the wide open spaces, which they don't have in China, and that they feel safe here. Thallamer adds that they boosted our economy at the Woodburn outlet malls.

Greg: Is there anything you'd like to say in the newspaper to the college community?

Delegates: "Please convey our greetings to the students and faculty members of the administration of the college. We are grateful for

the hospitality we have gotten here. We've gotten hospitality from staff members from all of the colleges we've visited. We are appreciative to President Rita Cavin and Vice-President Bill for their hospitality and welcome the community to visit China. We are going to start our cooperation with the college; our teachers will be visiting very soon. We wish your newspaper to continue getting better."

Part way through the interview, the tables turned and I

became the interviewee. They took a keen interest in learning about The Commuter and our journalism program and seemed to approve. I went with it; after all, they're here to learn. With a look at the clock, they notice they're late for their next appointment, but not too late to take a photo and insist that I be in it. I scurry around and we all clump together, somehow I got center stage as Bill snapped the photo, shoulder to shoulder with my new friends.

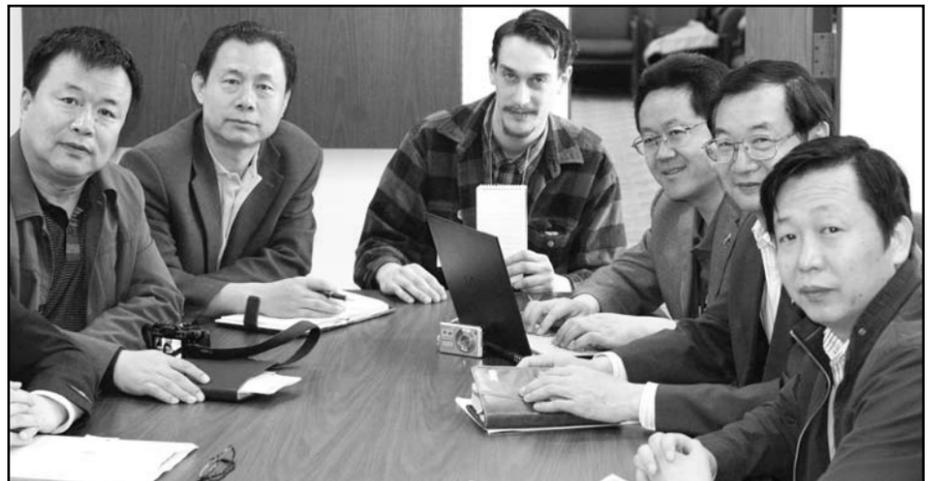


Photo by Bill Thallamer

From right to left Xinguang Feng, Wanmin Wu, Hongzhi Yuan, Gregory Dewar, Jianmin Chen, Fangming Zhang, and Xiaoyong Zheng

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
News Editor: Ryan Henson
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

Campus Shorts...

For those interested, it's time to register for the LBCC/OSU Degree Partnership Summit scheduled for Friday, May 15 at LBCC. In addition to information regarding registration and financial aid, a panel of students will speak about their experiences in the partnership. To register, go to www.Oregonstate.edu/partnerships and click on "register now."

class will meet on two Thursdays, May 14 & 21, from 6:30 - 8:50 p.m. and the Sweet Home class will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 8 a.m. - 4:50 p.m. Cost is \$25 for families. For more information contact the Sweet Home Center at 541-367-6901.

The 2009 summer schedule of classes is now available to view

online. Registration for continuing admitted students begins May 18. Open registration begins May 26.

Please join the Diversity Achievement Center for LBCC's 5th annual Pow-Wow on Saturday, April 25 at noon. There will be Native American dancers throughout the day as well as vendors selling traditional Native American crafts and food. This is a family event and all are welcome.

The LBCC Parenting Education Department will hold a workshop entitled "Happy Hands Build Healthy Families" at Lebanon Community Hospital on April 25. The workshop will focus on positive approaches to discipline and alternatives to spanking.

You are invited to the 2008 -09 Student Leadership Recognition and Award Ceremony on Wednesday, May 6. Highlights include seven awards and

the swearing in of 2009-'10 Associated Student Government. Please RSVP by Friday, April 24 to Valerie.zeigler@linnbenton.edu.

Sharon Konopa, mayor of Albany, will speak tonight, April 22, from noon- 1 p.m. in F-113. She will discuss the major challenges facing Albany and possible solutions. Q&A to follow.

There are plants out there looking for parents. View proud plant parents at <http://po.linnbenton.edu/profdev/PlantAdopt.pdf>. If you are up to the challenge and would like to be a plant parent, contact Vickie Keith at 541-917-9868 or e-mail: Keithv@linnbenton.edu

A conversation on "Nurturing Your Spirit at Work" will be held on Friday, April 24, from 7 to 8:30 a.m. in the Willamette Room. Two volunteers will share a reading or poem and help lead the

discussion.

The Corvallis/Albany Chapter of Parents and Family and Friends of Gays & Lesbians are proud to announce the formation of PRIDE Corvallis, a non-for-profit community based organization dedicated to serve the diverse needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, asexual, and ally communities of the Mid-Willamette valley. If you are interested in becoming involved with PRIDE Corvallis please contact us at prideorvallis@gmail.com

You have seen the experts slice and dice on the Food Channel but now you can see it in person - knife skills 101 with LBCC's own Scottie Hurley on Wednesday & Thursday, April 22 & 23 at 6:30 - 8 p.m. Cost is \$28.

The Financial Aid Office, in order to speed up the application process for all students, will be implementing a priority deadline date for each quarter. All required documentation will need to be in to the Financial Aid Office by the posted deadline in order for awards to be processed and reviewed. The deadline for summer term is May 29.

LBCC is offering the American Boating Safety course at the Lebanon and Sweet Home centers this spring. The Lebanon center

Give this cutie a home!

She is an older dog, housebroken, spayed, no bad habits and very loving. She is very healthy. We have fostered her for 4 months and she is ready for a loving family. She gets along with animals and has been raised with children. Her family is military and had to move where they couldn't take her. We will send along her food and

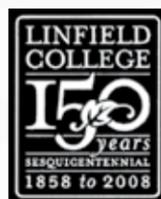
grooming stuff. If you are interested call Lori at 503-843-2556 (I know nothing about this dog, but am passing on the info sent from my wife. She is a great dog and we don't want her to go to the pound.

-Perry Carmichael



Make your own opportunities for success.

Get your bachelor's degree from Linfield College, online and on your schedule. Tuition in our Adult Degree Program is comparable to the state universities. Summer classes start soon, so don't wait - contact us today.



Complete your bachelor's degree online in:

- Accounting
- Management
- Nursing (Online RN to BSN)
- Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Business Information Systems*
- Arts & Humanities*
- International Business

Summer classes begin June 15th.

Call Jim Garaventa, Advisor
541-917-4846 or
email jgaraventa@linfield.edu

* weekend classes required.

LINFIELD

Adult Degree Program

be. do. have. more.

Enroll now at linfield.edu/dce



Wouldn't it be great if the things you really needed in life were free?

If you were to become unexpectedly pregnant today, finding the right help shouldn't come with a price tag.

- Talk with someone who genuinely cares
- Get a confirmation pregnancy test
- Learn more about all available options

At Options Pregnancy Resource Centers we offer personalized care and resources that are absolutely **free, confidential** and **available** at just the right time—whenever you need them.

Since 1986, we're here for you.



possiblypregnant.org

Corvallis
867 NW 23rd St.
757.9645

Albany
409 1st Avenue W
924.0166

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline: Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission. If you wish a particular ad to appear in successive issues, you must resubmit it.
Cost: Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

Personals: Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week; no more than 50 words per ad.

Libel/Taste: The Commuter will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner. Any advertisement judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Help Wanted

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

Disney College Program (#7236, California & Florida)
Work in a paid internship at Disney. Must be current college student. Go to disneycollegeprogram.com to apply.

Process Mechanical Engineering Tech Intern (#7235, Corvallis) Great job with a well-known worldwide company for a current student enrolled in a 2-year CAD degree program. Must have completed one term of MicroStation coursework.

LPN (#7103, Albany) Provide nursing care for people with developmental disabilities. Must have current license as a LPN in Oregon. Pay is \$14.60-19.11/hr DOE with benefits. Full-time.

Registered Nurse (#7171, Salem) This part-time position monitors health care needs of clients. Desire two years experience in developmental disabilities. Must have RN license. Pays \$19.53-25.58/hr DOE.

Services

Pregnant? Free pregnancy test. Information on options. Non-

pressured. Confidential. Options Pregnancy Resource Center. Corvallis 757-9645. Albany 924-0166. www.possiblypregnant.com.

Housing

Hi my name is Wes and I am a student at LBCC looking for summer roommates. Sigma Nu Fraternity Summer Living. Men

and women welcome. There are open rooms at Sigma Nu Fraternity at OSU available this summer. \$900 entire summer all utilities, cable, and internet included. Discounts Available Email WILLIAMS1350@HOT-MAIL.COM, if interested.

Wanted

Marketing for small business immediate openings for part-

time marketing. Ability to make up to \$30/hour. Email Wwiliams1350@hotmail.com

For Sale

Custom, affordable jewelry and accessories. Semi-precious stones, hemp and accessory bags. Customize it yourself, or choose something in stock. Call MaryAnne at Gypsy Jayne Jewelry & Accessories @

(541)908-3658 or rosebinx@aol.com

Help Wanted

Full time student summer work with OSU Wheat Research. Must be 18, willing to work outdoors, and travel. Interested: e-mail Eddie.Simons@oregonstate.edu.

OSU summer session '09

this summer...

- Choose from one, three, four, eight or 11-week sessions
- Stay on track for graduation
- Complete a prerequisite or bacc core requirement
- Finish a full three-course sequence in one summer
- Enjoy smaller class sizes
- Save! Everyone pays in-state tuition
- Need a flexible schedule? Explore the variety of courses offered online

Schedule of classes now available online!
Registration begins **April 12**
Classes start **June 22**

OSU **summer.oregonstate.edu**
Oregon State UNIVERSITY | summer.session@oregonstate.edu | 541-737-1470

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
Feature Editor: Max Brown
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPECIAL FEATURE

Celebrate Earth Day with information on local events and tips for sustainable living.

First Alternative Co-op North Store expansion

Max Brown
The Commuter

The First Alternative Co-op has been in the process of expanding its North Store, and now it's done. Over the course of expansion, they have doubled the size of their retail space. In fact, the North Store now has more retail space than their original store, the South Store.

Evelyn Hall, the store manager, says the store has been a part of the neighborhood for almost six years now. She feels the expansion will be very convenient for customers of the

co-op, as the North Store will now have everything the south store has.

Hall says they have gotten very little negative feedback about the expansion. Mostly, customers are excited. Hall's favorite thing about the expansion seems to be either the new flavors of sesame sticks or the new salad bar.

The North Store has a number of new features. One of those is the new self-serve salad bar. Many new products are coming to the store with the expansion. Even a self-serve espresso machine is installed.

Hall also noted that one of

the biggest improvements to the store is all the back-stock area and the new loading zone. For the past six years, they have had to use the parking lot for deliveries. They also have an actual food prep area; in the past the best they had was basically a hallway, according to Hall.

Michelle Eaumann, a customer of the co-op, said "I don't have to go to south town." She says the store has more things and she loves the new train sets for her child to play with. "It seems brighter," she said.

Suse Willis, an employee at the co-op for eight years, likes almost everything about the expansion: the deli, the salad bar, the train set, the new products, and the fact that the customers do not have to go all the way to south town for their shopping needs. Her favorite thing is "the new windows in the back of the store." She feels the hardest thing about the expansion is getting used to the new layout.

The co-op will be hosting a grand re-opening for the North Store on May 1, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.



Evelyn Hall stands in front of the expanded bulk section of the North Store.

Photo by Max Brown

ANYONE CAN SHOP THE CO-OP!

GROW YOUR OWN!

South Store
1007 SE 3rd St • 753-3115
Open 9-9 Daily

North Store
NW 29th & Grant • 452-3115
Open 7-9 Daily

First Alternative
NATURAL FOODS CO-OP



Increase in floor space after expansion

Grocery:		Prepared foods:	
-Bread	Same	-Cheese	200%
-Beer	50%	-Meat	100%
-Wine	22%	-Deli	300%
-Packaged	97%	Health and Household	
-Frozen	23%	-Pet	167%
-Dairy	13%	-Household supplies,	
-Chill	133%	body care, mercantile,	
Bulk	95%	and garden	88%
Produce	34%		

A Superfund clean-up effort

Eve Bruntlett
The Commuter

The Portland harbor, the trail end of the Willamette River, was declared a Superfund site in 2000. The Environmental Protection Agency added it to the national priorities list. The reason it has such a high mark on the list is because of the large amount of toxins found in the sediments at the bottom of the river. These toxins include: PAH's (components found in processed fossil fuels), PCB's (a class of organic compounds used as fluids in transformers and other machinery), pesticides, herbicides, dioxins, furans, and metals. The Superfund site includes a six mile stretch of river. This part of the river is surrounded by many industries such as ship repair sites and wood treating facilities.

The Willamette River supports populations of

salmon, Chinook and Coho. It also is an environment for other fish such as steelhead, American shad, Pacific lamprey, and white sturgeon. The cleanup of the Willamette River is being organized by the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality). This organization figures out how the pollutants are making their way into the river. The cost of the cleanup of this site is also monitored by the DEQ. The EPA was also given \$50,000 to help with the cleanup.

The cleanup of the river requires community involvement. Some of the concerned citizens of Oregon got together forming the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group. These groups are often started in communities that have Superfund sites in them. The DHS (Department of Human Services), and ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) were responsible for figuring out the human risks at

the site. ATSDR's tests concluded that the fish caught in the river that then end up in the supermarket are the main way that the contaminants could reach people. At this time they are unable to make a definite answer on if the contaminated fish are really a danger to eat. They are continuing to do testing on the fish in the lower Willamette River until they have a definite answer. The fish caught there do, however, have a higher level of contamination than is normal.

The ASTDR also cautions children from playing in the area because of the toxins and vapors in the air. They say that because children are smaller, higher levels of dangerous chemicals enter their blood stream. All these groups are working to make our river a safer place for us, and the future generations in Oregon.

PERSPECTIVES: If you were the Earth, how would you like to die?

 <p>Matt Williams Electrical Engineering</p> <p>"It would be quick and painless with an asteroid."</p>	 <p>Daniel Phifer Art</p> <p>"If I was the Earth I would most likely want to be engulfed by the sun."</p>	 <p>Alisia Ball Business Admin.</p> <p>"I would like to explode quickly and painlessly like a supernova."</p>	 <p>Mindy Peterson Elementary Educ.</p> <p>"I wouldn't like to die by global warming."</p>	 <p>Merlin Marr Systems Networking</p> <p>"Something like being hit by a huge meteor."</p>
--	---	--	--	--

The Commuter

Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
Feature Editor: Max Brown
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPECIAL FEATURE

Celebrate Earth Day with information on local events and tips for sustainable living.

Daycare co-op

Max Brown
 The Commuter

The Periwinkle Child Development Center (PCDC) is adding a co-op pay model in hopes to provide quality, affordable childcare to any parent.

The co-op is significantly cheaper than the normal cost of childcare.

Instead of paying around \$400-500 a month, a parent will be paying that cost once a term. Susan Knapp, director of PCDC, notes that because this is a class, financial aid may cover the costs. Knapp says even if a parent does not receive

financial aid they will still be getting very cheap, quality childcare.

Knapp says, "this is a wonderful opportunity for students. Anything we can do to keep students in school is good."

PCDC has been a co-op daycare in the past, but they stopped using it as a payment method. During her State of the College Address, Rita Cavin noted that the co-op format for PCDC was something good in the past and they should go back to it.

Knapp notes that they are not going back to the old system, but going to an improved system. Now, a parent does not need to be a student to take advantage of the co-op system; any parent can

enroll their children, which Knapp feels is good for the community.

To take advantage of the savings offered through the co-op model, a parent only has to sign up for a three-credit class. The class requires the parent to attend two hours of seminars and three hours of work in the classrooms each week.

Pearl Barido feels the co-op model is important, because it gets parents involved with their children. "Parents are their first teachers," said Barido. She says it gives parents hands-on work experience and helps them to understand why PCDC is quality daycare.

Knapp says that not only does

it help build bonds with your children, parents usually become friends with other parents. She felt being a student with children is difficult and that these parents understand each other. She suggests that parents at the daycare will be able to reach out to each other



Grant Converse with daughter Hailey, age 4. Gwen Guerpo with daughters Kianna age 6, and Kelsey age 4.

Photo by Max Brown

Knapp says that each week the seminars will be one hour of class about parenting issues and one hour where parents will talk with the teachers about the class and what is happening.

Keith Gabensky has been using PCDC for childcare for around seven years. When he was attending college at LBCC, the center was using the co-op pay model.

Gabensky said, "The co-op is what enabled me to go to school." He also said it is an affordable way to be part of the child's development. He felt it helped to build a bond with his daughter's friends and teachers. Gabensky now has a business degree and is an accountant.

for help when needed.

The center offers pre-school for children two and a half to four years old and kindergarten. The pre-school follows the LBCC academic schedule, while kindergarten will follow Albany's school calendar. Knapp notes that on days Albany kindergarten is closed, the children will still have a place to go while LBCC is open, so students can still attend their classes.

The co-op option will become available fall term. For more information, an open house will be held on May 2 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, or you can contact the LBCC Periwinkle Child Development Center at 541-917-4898.

Keeping it local at the farmers' market

MaryAnne Turner
 The Commuter

On Saturday, April 18, the citizens of Corvallis and surrounding communities flocked to the farmers' market for opening day. It was a perfect day for such an event, with the sun shining bright, warming the smiles of those enjoying locally and organically grown goods, and acoustic music on nearly every block of the Corvallis Riverfront.

Every year, Corvallis is home to the farmers' market that runs from mid-April to late November. With vendor stands from all the local farms, this market is just like the old days: their goods delicious and fresh, and most without pesticides or herbicides.

The location has hardly changed for the Saturday Market since it began over 15 years ago. It continues today on First Street between Jackson and Madison.

However, there is a market that runs all year at the Benton County Fairgrounds on Wednesdays. This season, the Wednesday market, starting today, April 22, will be held at First and B streets, by the Corvallis skate park. This is a temporary location for this season, and long-time shoppers will remember it as the temporary spot for the 2002 Saturday Market when they were rebuilding the riverfront.

This year the market will run every Saturday and Wednesday until Nov. 25. The last day of the market will be the day before Thanksgiving, as is tradition. The end of harvest season can be celebrated with the freshness of local produce.

"It's just awesome 'cause it's better than anything you'll find at the grocery store," said Corvallis local Justin Groft.

You can find produce from major local farms like Midway Farm, Gathering Together Farm, Hazelnut Hill, Wilt Farm and Sunset Valley Organics, and many other local farmers. You will also find fresh cheese and bread from places such as Great Harvest. For those who start gardening late in the season you can also find plants and seedlings of all

kinds.

Overall, this is the place to go for produce, fresh and local goods, plants, flowers, homemade/homegrown crafts, and even music. It's a way our communities can grow and survive in this time of economic struggle. Without the market, most of these local farmers would struggle, maybe even have to close their farms, but the market allows for easy access and a fun environment. Who wouldn't want to hear live music while grocery shopping? The Saturday Market makes grocery shopping almost like going to a fair. The Corvallis Farmers' Market even takes Oregon Trail food stamp cards in an effort to help stimulate the local economy.

The Corvallis Farmers' Market will run from April 18 until Nov. 25, on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Wednesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.

The farmers' markets are everywhere. There is one for nearly every community. The Albany Farmers' Market also runs from mid-April to late November, on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and is at Fourth St. and Ellsworth in the City Hall parking lot.

Brownsville also hosts a farmers' market called the Calapooia Food Alliance that starts in May. It runs on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and is at 260 N. Main St. (North Main and Park).

Perhaps the biggest farmers' market around is the Saturday Market in Eugene. The Lane County Saturday Farmers' Market opened on April 18 as well, and runs through late November in downtown Eugene at East Eighth and Oak streets, three days a week; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday from noon to 7 p.m.

Other farmers' markets can be found in Creswell, Dundee, McMinnville, Newberg, Salem, Silverton, Kings Valley, Springfield, Sweet Home, and Veneta.

For information on a farmers' market in your area visit www.locallygrown.org or www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org.

Welcome to Earth Day

James Scales
 The Commuter

April 22 is Earth Day. A lot of people probably won't do anything out of the ordinary. I usually forget that anything is special about the day. This year, I was wondering why exactly anyone started this (for want of a better word) holiday.

It would seem that Earth Day as we know it was started by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin back in 1969. Nelson was in Seattle, Wash., attending a conference and made a grand announcement of a nationwide demonstration for the environment. It would be 1970 when the first Earth Day was observed. Twenty million Americans participated, and many consider that April 22 to be the beginning of the modern environmental movement with goals being set on making the world a healthy and sustainable place.

Though we recognize April 22 as Earth Day, it wasn't exclusively mid-April festivities that dominated the eco-friendly holidays. John McConnell first suggested a global holiday under the name "Earth Day" at a UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) conference in 1969, and that it be held on the day of the Spring equinox. The first official Earth Day proclamation was made by Mayor Joseph Alioto of San Francisco on March 21, 1970.

Eventually, the April version of the eco-holiday finally won and we have what we know today as Earth Day. To all those who rue and lament the day, or when others watch them more carefully when they don't recycle, blame Senator Nelson. To those who appreciate his work to better the earth, thank him by doing your part. Recycle, compost, plant a tree, ride your bike instead of driving your car. Celebrate your Earth Day!

The Commuter

Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
Feature Editor: Max Brown
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPECIAL FEATURE



Recycle

Most of the items we use every day are recyclable. These are items that will go in your recycling cart.

Please remember that recyclables should be clean with no food debris left on them.



Paper

- Newspaper, magazines, junk mail, phone books, printer paper.
- Paperboard like cereal boxes and cardboard.
- Cartons from milk, eggs, aseptic containers (broth, soy milk).
- * Cardboard should be folded and flattened.

Plastic

Recycle by shape, not number

- **Bottles:** all plastic bottles that have never contained hazardous waste like beverage bottles, shampoo, soap and condiment bottles. Their caps cannot be recycled.
- **Jugs or bottles with handles:** milk, syrup, laundry soap.
- **Jars:** like those that hold peanut butter or mayonnaise.
- **Tubs that are fairly flexible:** can include yogurt, sour cream, nursery pots, and buckets.



Metal

- Aluminum cans, tins, foil.
- Aerosol cans from non-hazardous materials.
- Lids that are mostly metal.

Rebecca Marino
The Commuter

Garbage day can be awfully confusing when you have separate containers for trash, recycling and yard debris (I'm not even going to talk about the numbers on the bottom of different plastic containers). Here are some tips provided by Allied Waste Services of Albany, Corvallis, Philomath, Lebanon, and Sweet Home that can relieve your stress. Remember to check with your local service provider to find out what goes where. With residential services, carts are provided.

The following recycling information is for people being served by Allied

Reduce

By recycling and reusing, you have just reduced the amount of waste that goes in your garbage can.

Waste products include:

- Clear plastic packaging.
- Dishware
- Loose shredded paper (please place in paper bag).
- Containers with food residue.
- Sharps

Curbside

What cannot be placed in your cart, may be placed at the curb in the blue or red containers.

- **Glass:** Container glass only, no Pyrex, window glass or mirrors. Glass should never be placed in your recycling cart.
- **Motor oil:** Place on curb in a container with tight fitting screw on regular collection day.



SPECIAL FEATURE

Celebrate Earth Day with information on local events and tips for sustainable living.

Waste Services of Albany, Corvallis, Philomath, Lebanon, and Sweet Home areas. Because different counties may have different colored carts, and rules on what can go inside, check with your local waste services for more information. To find the name and contact information of the service in your area visit the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Website at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/contacts.htm>.

For more information on residential or commercial services provided go to http://www.sanitation.com/services_residential.aspx



Reuse



In-town customers can opt for a small home composter instead of a yard debris cart, or choose to pay a monthly fee to have both. Weekly customers outside of Allied Waste yard debris service area can request a home composter at no charge.



What can go in your yard debris cart

- Yard debris: lawn and tree clippings, brush, limbs.
- Food debris: fruit & vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grinds and tea.



REMEMBER: *If it doesn't grow- it doesn't GO:*

- Dirt/gravel, paper/plastic trash, metal or rubber objects, stumps/logs, rocks/bricks/pet waste/medical waste.

Specialty Recycling Items

Specialty Recycling Items: These items can be recycled curbside in certain cities, but most need to be taken directly to specific recycling locations.

- PVC
- Cooking oil
- Electronic devices: computers & peripherals (cables, wires, mice, keyboards, ect.), photo copy machines, microwaves, etc.

- Latex paint: no rusty or unlabeled cans.
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Batteries: in a sealed zip-lock bag. Styrofoam and polystyrene are not accepted curbside, or at recycling plants. Some local businesses or markets like the Fresh Start Market in Salem may accept clean, dry block packaging foam.

Sustainability Tips:

- Try and purchase products at the store that use minimal Styrofoam packaging. Choose paper or other recyclable containers when available.
- Plastic bags can be brought to the Albany or Corvallis Recycle Depots. Most household plastic bags can be accepted at both locations. By using cloth or reusable shopping bags, you can save up to 100-200 plastic bags per year.
- Nationally, its estimated 40 percent of material landfills is organic. Using your yard debris cart or compost at home reducing the amount of waste in the landfill, and creates nutrient-rich soil.
- Containers should be rinsed for recycling to prevent contamination of paper and the health of people who handle recycling.

Other Reminders:

- Only place your carts curbside when they are full, or when it is easy for you to manage to help make collection more efficient.
- Place cart with handle facing house.
- Bring carts in as soon as possible after collection to keep streets clear for bikes and vehicles.
- Don't block bike lanes with your cart.
- Leave four feet between carts and other objects like mail boxes and eight feet between carts and cars.
- Be sure there is enough overhead clearance for your cart to be emptied. Don't place under trees, basketball hoops or limbs.

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
Feature Editor: Max Brown
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

SPECIAL FEATURE

Celebrate Earth Day with information on local events and tips for sustainable living.

Kitchen composting: how to

Ryan Henson
The Commuter

Materials:

- Plastic bin
- Redworms
- Newspapers
- Dry leaves and lawn trimmings
- Water
- Food scraps, coffee grounds
- A tray
- Love
- Patience

Right now, as I write this, a group of worms are in my apartment scavenging on my leftovers.

This is not an infestation. The Department of Health and Sanitation need not be informed. These worms are invited guests, a part of a kitchen composting system I created over the weekend.

For those who don't know what composting is, it's a way to use decomposers to help break down organic materials such as kitchen scraps, lawn trimmings and leaves, and is a useful and eco-friendly solution to help reduce your waste.

Now, since a lot of college kids live in apartments, large outdoor composters may not be a realistic option, either because there is no yard or they cannot get permission from a landlord. So, I'm going to show you how to build a small apartment-sized compost or "worm bin" that can fit under the kitchen sink. Not only will this "worm bin" help with your food waste, but it will also produce worms for fishing and turn your leftovers into a potent organic fertilizer that your plants are going to scream for.

Step 1. Buy or reuse a plastic bin of some sort - make sure it has a tight fitting lid. The idea here is to keep the soil moist.



Step 2. Drill out about 8 to 10 holes in the sides of the bin and about 20 in the bottom. This is to offer oxygen to your worms and will allow drainage.

Step 3. Shred up some old newspapers - maybe The Commuter - and lay them in the bottom of the bin (just enough to cover the bottom).



Step 4. Wet the newspaper strips with water. The newspaper strips should be about as wet as a rung-out sponge.



Step 5. Add in a good mixture of brown and green lawn trimmings (more brown than green) and mix it all around.



Step 6. Add in your food scraps - make sure these are natural foods like fruits and vegetables. You can throw in coffee grounds (the filters will even break-down. But, for the worm's sake, use non-bleached filters). It is also advisable to not compost meats, dairy products, oily foods, and grains because they will get smelly. Also, no glass, plastic or tinfoil allowed.



Step 7. Add a pound of redworms (you can buy them online or at pet shops, just call around) and remix everything in the bin.



Maintaining your bin: If you have the right mixture of worms to food scraps, there isn't much to do for a couple months - other than adding food. After awhile, there should be little or no original bedding visible in the bin, and the contents will be brown colored worm castings. The contents will have decreased as well. At this stage, it's important to separate your worms from the finished compost or they will die. The easiest way to do this is to move the finished compost over to one side of the bin. Place new bedding in the space created and put food waste in the new bedding. The worms will eventually move over and the finished compost can be skimmed off the top as needed and fed to your plants.

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
A&E Editor: James Scales
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews, upcoming events,
 and the cure for weekend boredom.

The Weekly Burger: a sustainable burger

James Scales
 The Commuter

Being that there is a green holiday this week, and my significant other is always reminding me it's much more sustainable to eat a pound of vegetables than it is to eat a pound of beef, it was decided that I research a "green" burger. Finding a lot of veggie burgers that tasted disgusting, I was almost resigned to throw some spinach on a bun and laugh at the reaction I would get. But, through perseverance and some very hungry vegetarian friends, a "burger" was born. Not just one that tasted pretty good for having no meat, but one that might be a bit more sustainable than our normal beef. So, without the wait, here is the Better Veggie Burger.



A fried up veggie burger and fries.

Jasonlam-flickr

Better Veggie Burger
 Makes four burgers

Ingredients:

8 ounces brown rice, cooked
 8 ounces garbanzo beans, canned or dried, and soaked, and run through a food processor or finely crush.
 3 ounces carrots, shredded or run through a food processor
 2 ounces mushrooms, shredded or run through with the carrots

Dried whole oats as needed
 An herb you like, parsley or basil, cut into strips
 Garlic to taste, minced
 Salt and Pepper to taste
 Panko bread crumbs to coat
 Oil for frying

Equipment:

A fryer is very useful; so is a wok, but unnecessary. If you

have neither, just get a deeper pan, even if you need to get a small pot to fry in. Basically any vessel that is about an inch taller than your finished patties will be good enough. A food processor is highly recommended, else a sharp knife. A rice cooker is a nice appliance to have, even if you don't make this burger!

Procedure:

Start by cooking your rice. If you have a rice cooker, you should know how to use it. If not, consult your user's manual. Take your brown rice and just give it a quick rinse, making sure that all the grains have at least been wetted. If you don't have a rice cooker, put it in a pot with enough space for three

times what you put in. Add one and a half parts water and one part brown rice. Turn on to high heat until it boils. Once a full, rolling boil is reached, turn it down to low heat and cover. Cook there for about 20 minutes. After the time is up, turn off the heat and let cook for 10 minutes. Do not remove the lid until you are ready to use the rice!

Get your carrots out, peel and cut them into small pieces if you are going to run them through a food processor. If not, shred them like normal. Chunk up the mushrooms and run them with the beans through the food processor, or mash them together with a knife in a mincing-like fashion. Add in the carrots and the rice. Stir it all together, and add the herb and garlic, salt and pepper to taste. If it's too wet and won't stay together in a ball shape, add some of the dried oats.

Preheat the oil to 350. Fashion patties out of your bean and rice mixture, then coat with the breadcrumbs, and fry, about three to four minutes, flipping if necessary. Top off with some tomato and lettuce, and your favorite sauce and enjoy!

THE COMMONS FARE

4/22-4/28

Wednesday
 Dishes: Pot Roast, Paella*and 3 Cheese Stuffed Shells.
 Soups: French Onion* and Corn Chowder

Thursday
 Dishes: Liver with Bacon and Onions*, Chicken Cordon Bleu and Vegetables in Green Curry with Steamed Rice.
 Soups: Ginger Chicken &Coconut (tom Kha Gai)* and Wild Rice

Friday
 Chef's Choice

Monday
 Dishes: Glazed Ham (Carved on Display)*, Beef Goulash with Spaetzle and Vegetable Calzone
 Soups: Split Pea* and Manhattan Clam Chowder

Tuesday
 Dishes: Chicken and Biscuit, Jambalaya* and Vegetable Strudel
 Soups: Cheddar Cheese and Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls

*Gluten-free

Movies for Friday

Courtesy DreamWorks Pictures

The Soloist
 Based on the true story of musical prodigy Nathaniel Anthony Ayers. He dropped out of Julliard after he developed schizophrenia and became a homeless busker on the streets of L.A. Journalist Steve Lopez discovered the young man while walking through the streets and hearing him play. Lopez tries to help Ayers back into the world of music. Rated PG-13

Courtesy Screen Gems

Obsessed
 Derek Charles is a successful businessman, an asset manager that was just promoted to a great position. He is elated with his career and his marriage to the beautiful love of his life Sharon (Beyoncé Knowles). When a temporary worker starts stalking Derek, and everything he has worked for, his job, his wife, all are put in jeopardy. Rated PG-13

Courtesy Rogue Pictures

Fighting
 Shawn MacArthur is a small-town kid who has come to the big city, New York. When a scam artist named Harvey Boarden offers Shawn help with making serious money by street fighting. Both men find success, in and out of street-fighting. Shawn has a change of heart and the only way to end his time in the underground world is to win the toughest fight of his life. Rated PG-13

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
A&E Editor: James Scales
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews, upcoming events,
 and the cure for weekend boredom.

Campus beautification day

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

Flower planting, open to all staff as part of LBCC's spring in-service day, April 17, took place between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. The project was headed up by George VanKeulen. Red Petunias were planted in pots just outside the first floor entrance of the Business building right next to the College Center fountain.

Five staff members attended in addition to VanKeulen: David Kidd, engineering instructor,

Vickie Keith, Ginger Peterson, and Kimberly Dammon.

The aim of the project was to beautify our campus a little more and add some spring flavor around campus; Kidd commented: "[I] just thought I'd plant some flowers" matter-of-factly, as he seemed to be enjoying the entire process—from tilling the soil to putting the flowers in the pots.



Ginger Peterson prepares soil for the planting of flowers in a pot

Photo by Gregory Dewar



Photo by Gregory Dewar

LBCC staffers look on as the soil, already in pots, is unloaded from a pickup truck. From left to right: Vickie Keith, Kimberly Dammon, and David Kidd.



Upcoming music events this week

FireWorks Restaurant and Bar
 1115 SE 3rd St.
 541-754-6958

Jesse Meade
 Friday, April 24, 8 p.m.,

Melanie Reid
 Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m.,

The Conjugal Visitors
 Sunday, April 26, 7 p.m.

Southtown open mic talent search
 Mondays, 8:30 p.m., \$5 to participate
 Cash prizes to the top three acts.

Block 15 Restaurant and Brewery
 300 W Jefferson Ave.
 541-758-2077

Mondays - Acoustic Folk Jam, 7 p.m.

Bomb's Away Café
 2527 NW Monroe Ave.
 541-757-7221

Slater Swan
 Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.,

Matt Jager
 Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.,
 Project 431 with Jenna Summer Smith

Friday, April 24, 10 p.m., \$5 cover

Oregon State Musician's Guild Acoustic Night
 Saturday, April 25, 9 p.m., \$3 cover

Cloud 9 & the Downward Dog
 126 & 130 SW 1st St.
 541-753-9900

Astro Tek Electric Boogaloo
 Friday, April 24, 10 p.m.

Emerson Valentine Lyon
 Saturday, April 25, 9 p.m.,

Peacock Bar and Grill
 125 SW 2nd St.
 541-754-8522

Wednesday nights
 Johnny Dark and the Wondertones

Platinum
 126 SW 4th St.
 541-738-6996

Wednesdays - Wild West Wednesdays
 No cover. \$1 beers

Thursdays - Ladies Night w/DJ Hes, 9 p.m.

Saturdays - Rockstar Saturdays (80s and 90s music)
 9 p.m. \$1 beers

Calapooia Brewing
 140 Hill St., Albany, OR
 541-928-1931

Thursday, April 23
 Wild Hog in the Woods, 7:30 p.m.,

The Vicki Stevens Band
 Saturday, April 24, 8 p.m., \$3 free

Blues Jam
 Sunday, April 25, 4 p.m.,

The Crowbar
 214 2nd St. (the rooftop at American Dream Pizza)
 541-753-7373

Paul Lemoine
 Thursday, April 23, 8 - 10 p.m.,

The Best Cellar Coffee House
 1165 NW Monroe Ave.

MC2 with Mark Weiss, John Swanson and Susannah Doyle, and Tim Hardin
 Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. \$2-10 donation, children get in free.

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
A&E Editor: James Scales
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

NERD RAGE

...on a page.

Not Just-A-Game-Con

Greg Dewar
 The Commuter

"It's just a game, you're supposed to have fun with it," says Matt Ashland of Matt's Cavalcade of Comics, Cards, & Collectibles, standing amidst



Photo by Gary Brittsan

Matt Ashland, owner of Matt's Cavalcade of Comics, organizes Game-Con each year

boxes of board games and tabletop rulebooks. This is his explanation for the nomenclature of his gaming convention, called Just-A-Game-Con. The hot dog he's been trying to find time to eat for the last few hours has grown cold by now, and appears lonely on a table not far away. I appear to be the latest in what I imagine is a steady stream of distractions.

For Ashland this is the 9th gaming convention that he's hosted at the Benton County fairgrounds. Once a year—this year on April 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. Saturday until 6 p.m. Sunday—Ashland packs up inventory from his store, lays out tables and starts helping

people schedule events for "32 hours of straight gaming."

The main event that took place during the local convention this year, which drew players from as far away as Canada to compete in, was a Kotei, or tournament, for Legend of the Five Rings, a collectible card game with a storyline that is affected by players. It takes place on a national level, and this year Game-Con was one of the stops. A variety of tabletop experiences took place in addition to the Kotei tournament, ranging from the fan-favorite Dungeons and Dragons to lesser known games such as Silverton, a game set in the historic mining areas of the west that includes railroading and market management.

Other experiences to be partaken of included: the SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) events that were mostly LARPing (Live-Action Role-Playing), CCGs (Collectible Card Games) such as Magic: The Gathering, anime being constantly played on a variety of screens, console games that stretched from Halo 3 to Rock Band, and a computer LAN (Local Area Network) that consisted of 90 percent Commuter staff. We rocked Battlefield 1942, but got sidetracked when an Unknown Armies game was hosted, and didn't make it back to our computers until it was time to pass out.

The entry fee was \$6 for one day or \$10 for both days; children 10 years old and under got in for free. Door prizes were offered throughout the convention.

When asked why Ashland goes through it all every year, hosting what can only be considered a chaotic event, he replies: "I like getting people together and I like gaming," which is verified by just taking a look around. Ashland flew back just in time to make the event from Las Vegas, where he was demoing a new game line called Bucephalus.

According to Ashland, there are generally 30-35 people who stay all 32 hours of the event.

I noticed that Seeth Laemert, owner of Fantasy Knights in Albany, had a table at the convention with his wares. I asked Ashland about competition and their relationship: "We call each other if one of us doesn't have something." He described their working relationship as good; they schedule tournaments for the same game on different days so as not to compete.



Gamers playing in the Legend of the Five Rings tournament at Game-Con

Photo by Gary Brittsan

Biggest challenge to the convention? Finding adequate help to set up, tear down, and to moderate the event.

Ashland's "perennial favorite is Munchkin. It's always fun to watch people play Munchkin" he says, though he wholeheartedly recommends a game entitled "Puerto Rico," which was game of the year last year. The stable of games that Ashland brings to Game-Con are made available for checkout with an Oregon Drivers License; a library of 50-60, meaning that if you get bored of what you bought, or want to try that one game you've seen sitting on the shelf for awhile, it's a great chance to do it

amidst an ample player-base. Pick-up games ran all night, and when I left around 5 a.m. with the rest of The Commuter's staff, I could still hear dice rolling, a lone guitarist was playing Rock Band, and on couches, under tables, and on the floor, nerds slumbered peacefully, awaiting the startup of Sunday gaming at 8:00 a.m.

Matt's Cavalcade of Comics is located at 2075 NW Buchanan Ave. in Corvallis. The phone number is 541-752-6757. The convention's website can be found at <http://home.centurytel.net/GOMC/JAGC.htm>.

A love letter:

Rick Casillas
 The Commuter

Dear split-screen co-op,

You've been on my mind lately. Whenever I pick up a controller, I can't help but think back on better times. Oh, that magical summer that seemed so long ago, when we were young and loved to frag. Long, cold nights spent crawling through dungeons with nothing but a +3 flaming longsword and our love to keep us warm. They want to keep us apart, baby. They think I would rather pay \$15 a month for a gold membership so I can play Team Fortress with some random douche in Wisconsin online, but I don't want that; all I want is you. I can't count the sleepless afternoons I've spent, wandering the halls of Blockbuster and Gamestop, seeking your face in vain. Sure there are others to fill that hole in my heart: online

co-op may do things you won't, but she's so cold and distant; system link may look like you do, but she's too high-maintenance and I can't afford her; and sure I can play Final Fantasy Tactics and just pass a controller around, but I don't talk to that whore. In the end none of them satisfy, because none of them are you. Who cares what they say about us being wrong for each other. I never wanted a full screen to myself and I like it when the camera is stationary; they're just jealous we have somebody. Nobody brings my friends together like you do baby; you are a blue shell when I'm in second place, a turkey leg when my wizard needs food badly, a plasma grenade to my grunt. Stick with me and we'll illuminate the world with the explosion of our love. I remain faithfully yours.

Love,
 Me



A Game-Con attendee sets up his army for a game of Warhammer 40,000

Photo by Gary Brittsan

The Commuter

Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

opinion

Submissions to The Commuter:

E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

Drop-in: Forum 222

Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.

Rita Cavin: open letter to the community

I've been asked many questions in the days immediately following my retirement announcement. I thought a letter to the Commuter might be the best way to respond.

Will we have enough time to find the next president?

The board is committed to finding an excellent seventh president of Linn-Benton Community College through a process that includes the college and the community. Not only is eight months long enough to meet this goal, but it should be possible to hold the public forums in the fall for maximum participation. The immediate goal is for the board to select a search firm and for that firm to build a strong pool of candidates.

What will my role be in the process?

It's inappropriate for the president to have a role in the selection of the successor. I will

be helpful to the board in any way that relates to the process, but not to the selection. I will not provide recommendations for candidates, but may be asked to answer potential candidates' questions about the college. I plan to begin an active transition process as soon as the next president is identified.

What will happen to the college?

LBCC will be fine. Our strategic plan is designed to be reviewed and updated in 2010-2011. Your new president will have time to become acquainted with LBCC before leading that effort. It will be a great way to start working together.

This year Carol Schaafsma and her team have worked very hard on an academic master plan; the next step is to update the facilities master plan based on our academic needs. Again, this will be a wonderful way for your new president to become involved with the

Takena project and the improvement of our Industrial facilities – the next two major capital projects on our list. If I stay much longer, I will have to turn these projects over midway in their development.

I still feel that the college will need to go out for a bond sometime in the near future. That decision and commitment will fall to your next president and the board. If I stay much longer, I would cut into the time your next president will need to build a relationship with our community.

Of course I would love to stay to see the completion of the Science facilities, to see our first exchange with China, to see the development of a health care campus in Lebanon, to build back the budget we have had to reduce. But that's a three or four year commitment and at age 66, that's a lot to ask of my family.

A few comments in local

newspaper coverage have made it sound as though I am leaving because of the budget. There is nothing further from the truth. I still believe that the worst will be over by December which means your new president will lead the rebuilding. Last summer I thought that this year would be positive and productive based on the energy we created at the president's retreat. Then the budget sank. I think we have done an amazing job of staying on our path in spite of the budget. I'm proud of what we have accomplished this year and I'm not retiring due to budget frustration or exhaustion.

Why am I leaving now and what am I going to do?

Aging brings with it some limits and some challenges. For me, one challenge is being honest with myself about whether I have the energy and focus to meet both

the demands of the job and my family. There is a large part of my heart that wants to remain your president for many, many years to come. But there is also a growing voice in my head that says: "travel, play, take care of your health, make time for your family."

Am I leaving town?

No, Brooks and I have a home in Corvallis that we love and a close network of friends in Oregon. I plan to stay in town, engaged, and active. But it will be nice to travel without checking my e-mail and taking my work with me. I will enjoy having a healthier lifestyle and having more private time.

I have so much to do in the next eight months, I ask for your help in getting ready for your next president. And, I ask you to understand and support my retirement decision.

Have you become comfortably numb?

Rick Casillas

The Commuter

For years advocates and experts have spoken against the media's exposure of brutal imagery and news stories to the public. The constant presence of its influence they believe acidic, slowly eroding the morality of viewers who insulate themselves from emotional reaction. In an effort to engage ourselves in the debate, The Commuter has located two speakers to argue the topic for your viewing pleasure.

The Media Is Too Violent

By: Billy 'Can't Taste The Difference' Montana

I read the news for information, because I like to stay informed, but only if that information makes me happy. Every time I open a damn paper I've got to deal with the harsh reality of living in a world where somebody is getting killed on the side of the road; why don't these bigwig print tycoons run something about all them people that ain't getting killed roadside, huh? I seen plenty of 'em when I'm driving to the Wal-Mart; I know it's happening. Problem is good news don't put ink in the typewriter. People would rather read about our economy crumbling than some nice old lady finding the perfect big hat to wear to a garden party, now there's a story I would like to read. Here's some facts for you: did you

know a puppy gets born every 20 minutes? I googled it last time I was at the library, so it's probably true. Here's another one: making a new friend is a nice thing to do, that's a fact just ask anybody. Bam! There's two stories right there. Does anyone care though? The answer is a big fat no! You folks is too busy chattin' each other up on the myface and ridin' around on Segways to notice there's a whole wide world of good news out there if you stop and take a gander. And why should you give a hoot and a half, pleated jeans is more interestin' then a songbird finding a new home inside of my garage, ain't it?! Wrong, champ, and until you learn that good news and happy hearts go together like Velveeta and Spam you're about as happy as a dead pig in the sunshine.

The Media Isn't Violent Enough

By: Count Mellencamp Von Stroffonburger

After an unfortunate carriage fire accident I have found myself relegated to my estate for these last eighty years and as a result have been cut off from the outside world entirely. What bits of information that filter through by way of the UPS delivery man I gather that the media has made a habit out of lifting the cause of entropy to the eyeline of those commoners who possess the remarkable talent of literacy, which in turns upsets them to no end.

What those single-celled-abjectly-idiotic-plebeians fail to

realize is that greatness is tempered in the fires of violence. Like many of you I remember the first time I killed a rabbit with my bare hands, I cradled its trembling body against my chest watching the life slowly drain from its eyes. And yet, the thrill subsided after the ninth or tenth one and I moved on to cats, then sheep, and before I knew it I was choking four oxen to death just to get through the morning. Today, thanks to the Internet and television there's no end to the volume of horrifying imagery I can consume. Hatred and violence cries out from the marrow of humanity and we seek upheaval at every turn, were it not for the attentive coverage of major news publications, we would have no idea where to find these terrible events and would be forced to lash out at our neighbors to sate our unquenchable bloodlust. I can't very well start killing my waiting staff now can I? That would be silly and unproductive, and no one would know I did it. No, if I must search out in the great gray yonder to make a name for myself, who better to announce my arrival than the voice box of the media. My re-emergence will make 'Jack the Ripper' look like 'Jack the didn't try hard enough.' Soon all will know the name and correct pronunciation of Count Mellencamp Von Stroffonburger AND TREMBLE IN ITS COMING.

Letters to the Editor:

My Castle

Nicolas Carlson

For The Commuter

In the fleeting moments of the power outage in Corvallis on Thursday, April 9, I arrived home from OSU. For the first few minutes, I thought about all my plans that I could no longer do. I could not plug in my laptop (who's battery had died on the bus ride home) to do my homework, I could not cook food in my microwave or on my electric stove, and I could not sit down and watch the next episode of my favorite new show, Castle (you should really check this one out). My castle was now without power.

After less than a minute, I stopped thinking about what I couldn't do, and what capabilities I had left. Having already ruled out what I couldn't do, I stopped to think as I made a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Then I thought of how much we have made ourselves completely dependent on so many things. Our progress comes with the heavy price of reliance on such a small number of companies. They really do have all the power. Literally.

So what would we do if one Thursday afternoon the power went off and never came back? I sit here typing this from my laptop now, as the power has returned. What if we could never use our laptops again? What if our grandchildren couldn't conjure up an image of what they even looked like? Would we be better off building fires for our food, sharing instead of hoarding, looking out for our community and not ourselves? Instead of spending our days driving our cars and using every minute towards "progress" to increase our capabilities, what if we were focused on our needs, the strength of our people, and the well-being of others? Do we really need to

take away our capabilities to realize that they are not as important as the people we share them with?

The freedom of choice in jeopardy

Bryn Reesman

For the Commuter

I feel that I have to weigh in on the Oregon government telling people where they can and can't smoke. While I, personally, do not smoke I believe people have the right to choose. I can understand not smoking in restaurants and even bars but now Salem wants to ban smoking in your own car if children are present.

I believe the police departments have enough on their plate without having to check and see if a man or woman is smoking in their own private vehicle and have children in it. The police could be mak-

ing better use of their time by catching criminals.

I understand there are health issues and if parents really cared about their children the parent(s) would choose not to smoke around their children, especially in enclosed areas. Education would be the key. Parents who smoke should have to learn about the health hazards they are presenting to their children when they are smoking in a confined area.

A major issue I have with people who smoke in their cars is that a lot of them I have witnessed throw their cigarette butts out on the road. Obviously, they aren't aware that this is littering and in hot weather could also start a fire somewhere.

Perhaps smoking, in and of itself, should be banned; just a thought, even though I know it won't be, as then the government would lose a lot of money for the people who are addicted to nicotine and can't give it up.

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

SURREAL LIVING

Crosswords, cartoons and some fun facts to brighten your day.

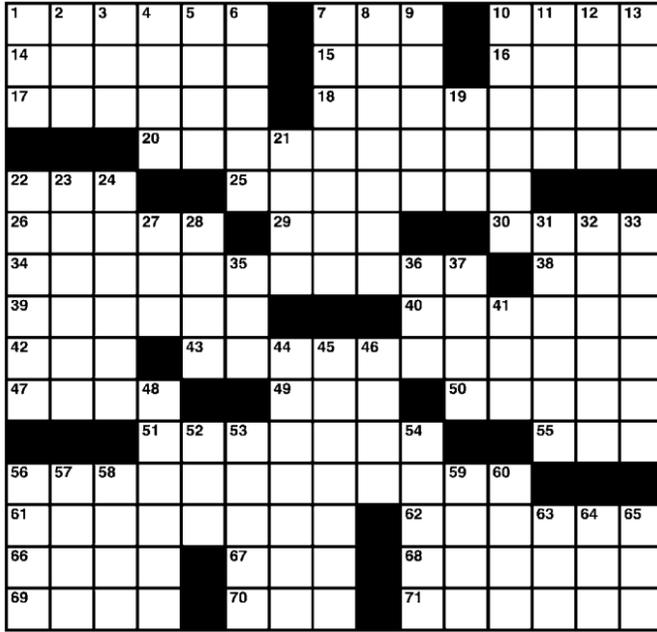
FOR RELEASE APRIL 22, 2009

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Aquanaut's workplace
- 7 Arabic for "son of"
- 10 Software prototype
- 14 "1984" author
- 15 Teachers' org.
- 16 Campground arrival, briefly
- 17 Pleasure dome site of verse
- 18 Most energetic
- 20 Cornucopia
- 22 Baba of fiction
- 25 Via
- 26 Hermit
- 29 Poivre partner
- 30 Let go
- 34 Supplement that some claim eases arthritis
- 38 "Bali ____"
- 39 Italian cheese
- 40 Tender poultry
- 42 Stereotypical pirate leg
- 43 Texas governor before George W. Bush
- 47 Ont. or Que.
- 49 Feedbag morsel
- 50 Former big name on "The View"
- 51 Snob
- 55 Mag. employees
- 56 1973 Erica Jong novel
- 61 Crooner Julio
- 62 What pupils do in the dark
- 66 Action hero's garb, and what each first word in this puzzle's four longest answers is
- 67 Lunes, por ejemplo
- 68 Squirrel's stash
- 69 Prolific auth.?
- 70 Morsel
- 71 Grand Prix site



By Mike Peluso

4/22/09

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

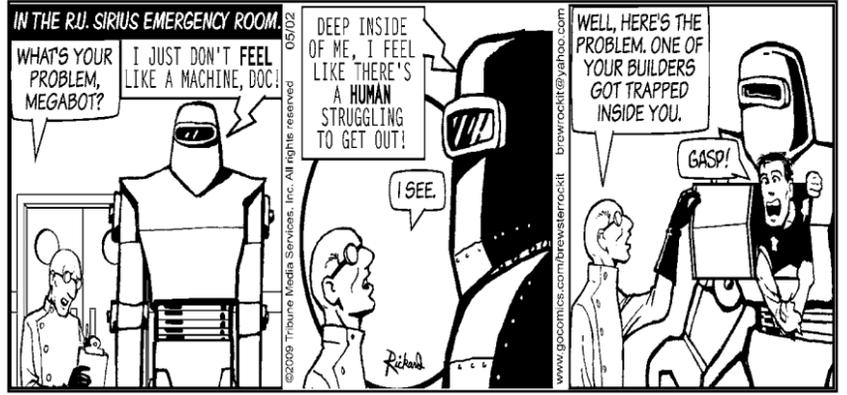
M	A	R	T	A	T	T	N	F	A	C	E	S
A	F	A	R	C	I	A	O	O	D	O	R	S
D	I	N	O	I	N	C	H	R	E	L	E	T
A	R	O	U	N	D	T	H	E	B	E	N	D
T	E	N	P	M	S	L	U	G	V	A	T	
	E	I	R	E	P	R	O	F	I	L	E	
A	M	P	A	L	E	E	A	R	L	S		
D	O	E	S	N	T	K	N	O	W	S	S	Q
A	R	R	A	Y	D	U	H	S	H	Y		
M	E	R	C	Y	M	E	T	O	L	D		
S	L	Y	A	O	N	E	P	O	S	S	E	
	C	O	N	C	R	E	T	E	S	T	O	O
S	P	O	O	K	A	R	E	A	I	N	R	E
T	E	M	P	E	P	I	E	R	M	A	T	E
P	R	O	S	E	T	E	M	P	E	R	A	S

(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

4/22/09

DOWN

- 1 White ____
- 2 Pitching stat
- 3 Barley bristle
- 4 Sister of Rachel
- 5 Actor ____ Ray of "Battle Cry"
- 6 Book jacket promo
- 7 Running the country
- 8 Hybrid meat
- 9 Dover diaper
- 10 Boxers' alternatives
- 11 Like 2 or 4, e.g.
- 12 Sample
- 13 Pseudo-sophisticated
- 19 Gp. once headed by Arafat
- 21 Org. at 11 Wall St.
- 22 Daisy Mae's creator
- 23 Not as tight
- 24 Spectrum color
- 27 She, in Lisbon
- 28 Latvian capital
- 31 First words of the "Mr. Ed" theme
- 32 "____ Camera"
- 33 Bite-sized Hershey products
- 35 From, in German names
- 36 Former transp. regulator
- 37 Cowardly Lion portrayer
- 41 Kung ____ chicken
- 44 "You cheated!"
- 45 Lays into
- 46 ____-bitsy
- 48 "Pippin" Tony winner Ben
- 52 ____ Angeles
- 53 "Don't mind ____"
- 54 Kind of wave or pool
- 56 Pay stub abbr.
- 57 Alaska's first gov.
- 58 Brand for Fido
- 59 Pleasant
- 60 Get hold of, with "onto"
- 63 Altar in the sky
- 64 Former Opry network
- 65 Alpine curve



Percy The Personable Pirate By: Rick Casillas



Percy Learns A Valuable Lesson sponsored by Nike®

