

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1996

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 27 No. 14

Residents pitch in to recover from floods

Scio one of the first towns badly hit by the big flood of '96

Craig Hatch
The Commuter

When the sun finally shone down on the mud-covered streets of Scio and a warm wind blew through town, people began wandering the once-flooded streets to assess the damage.

Last Thursday found many residents in Scio cleaning up after much of the town was forced to evacuate due to massive flooding the day before.

Although the national media has focused its attention on Portland and Salem, the small town of Scio was the first eastern Oregon community to succumb to the rising rivers that eventually chased thousands of people from their homes from Brownsville to Portland.

Scio's Main Street, which resides on the banks of Thomas Creek, was the site of a huge overflow on Wednesday afternoon the likes of which hadn't been seen since 1970.

"The water got a lot higher than we thought it would," said Carol Bates, who owns the antique store in town. "I know there's going to be a lot of damage, but we're all still here and the building's still here. We'll just have to start cleaning up and go on."

"The logs coming down the river were something else," said Richard McDonald, who works for the school district. "A lot of businesses just opened the front and back doors and just let the water come through."

Wandering through town, many children were already playing in the remnants of the receding water, seemingly oblivious to the events of the day before. Adults, however, were busy with the clean-up effort. At the Scio Food Center, a thick layer of mud and the loss of some

(Turn to 'Flood' on Page 2)



Photo by Bill Jones

Residents of South Corvallis watch helplessly as the waters rise along SW 3rd Street last week, effectively shutting them off from the rest of the city. For two days the city was divided in half due to the flooding of the Willamete River. Below, Freeman Road near Scio shows the damage that the high waters caused when the tributaries of the South Santiam River overflowed their banks on Wednesday. The town of Scio was evacuated when Thomas Creek flooded.



Photo by Craig Hatch

Red Cross provides relief for people in need of shelter

by A. Banks
of The Commuter

The flooding has finally ceased and hundreds of people in Linn and Benton counties are returning to their water-drenched homes.

The flood of '96 has taken a toll on many local residents. Fortunately, temporary shelters were provided for these victims.

Last Thursday, people from Corvallis, Albany and surrounding areas started evacuating their homes. Some people had friends or family to turn to. But, some were left out in the cold.

Not quite. The Red Cross provided shelter for victims at local churches. Over 100 people flooded into the Church of Latter Day Saints in Corvallis on Feb. 9. Right here in downtown Albany, St. Mary's Catholic Church provided 26 people with cots, food and warmth.

Red Cross D.A.T. (Disaster Action Team) volunteers, from all over Oregon, were at St. Mary's to help set up cots and arrange for food supplies. "This project would be a disaster within a disaster if there wasn't an action team," said a volunteer all the way from Gold Beach, Oregon.

"The flood relief shelters are funded through national Red Cross donations only after the governor and President Clinton declare a disaster," claims Jerry Aleman, a D.A.T. volunteer.

"You don't realize what a disaster is until you're standing knee-deep in your bedroom at 1 o'clock in the morning," says Mary, an Oakville Road resident. "We accepted this was really a disaster when the police came in their boat and took us to dry land."

Police and their rafts were loaded in (Turn to 'Volunteers' on Page 2)

Janita Hill to visit LB campus for lectures on gender and race issues

by Linn-Benton Community College Media Relations

Janita Hill, the law professor who made national headlines during the Clarence Thomas Supreme Court nomination hearings five years ago, will visit LBCC for discussions with students on March 4 and 5.

Hill's accusations of sexual harassment against Thomas were broadcast nationally in October 1991, and though her testimony did not prevent the Senate from affirming Thomas' nomination to the high court, they succeeded in putting the national spotlight on the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Hill, a University of Oklahoma law professor, will give a discussion on law, justice and race from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in Forum 104 on Monday, March 4; and then on

Tuesday, March 5, she will give another talk on gender discrimination from 9-10 a.m. in College Center 203.

Both events are open to all students and staff.

On Monday evening, Hill is scheduled to deliver a major address entitled "Creating Awareness on Campus: Sexual Harassment and Social Change," at 7 p.m. in the LaSells Stewart Center on the OSU campus in Corvallis. Doors to the center will open at 6 p.m., and the Inner Strength Gospel Choir will perform at 6:30 p.m.

Although the lecture is free, tickets are required to attend. Tickets are available at the LBCC Student Programs Office in College Center Room 213, as well as at the White Rose in downtown Albany, OSU Memorial

Union Programs Office, and Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis.

After the lecture, Hill will attend a reception from 8:30-9 p.m. in OSU's Black Cultural Center.

She is also scheduled to lead a discussion from 11 a.m.-noon on Tuesday in the OSU University Honors College.

Hill's visit is sponsored by a coalition of organizations, including LBCC Student Programs, OSU Black Cultural Center, OSU Conventions and Lecture Committee, OSU Honors College, the President's Commission on Hate-Related Activities, the President's Commission on the Status of Women and the Region 7 and 10 Gender Equity Committee.

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CAMPUS NEWS

The Women's Center is full of friends and never-ending support

by Melani Whisler
of The Commuter

From just a glance, the LBCC Women's Center on the second floor of the Industrial Arts building looks like nothing more than a desk.

But with one step inside you enter a world full of new friends, never-ending support and vast information.

With an average of about 100 women visitors a day, it's often difficult to find a place to sit on the big overstuffed sofas lining the walls. The room is decorated in blues, pinks and purples, creating a homey atmosphere that one would have a difficult time feeling unwelcome or out of place in.

Quiet music drifts through from the radio perched on the top shelf in the corner, and the shelves underneath are lined with an abundance of different snacks that are brought in by Women's Center users.

"I come here because it's a comfortable place to relax between classes."

—Dawn Huston

"I come here because it's a comfortable place to relax between classes," said Dawn Huston, second-year wastewater student. "A lot of the women who come in here are . . . how should I say this? . . . more mature. They have families and are familiar with a lot of things I'm associated with. It's more of an environment."

The center is more than a place to just relax. It offers a variety of information on subjects such as grants, scholarships, different types of birth control, abuse, Alcoholics Anonymous and sexually transmitted dis-

eases, just to name a few.

"A lot of men don't want to hear about things like breast cancer," said Melissa Gorby, who works in Women's Center. "Women have a special bond that men don't. But don't get me wrong, we are not misogynists."

The Women's Center is planning a film festival this month, featuring movies such as "The Joy Luck Club," "Thelma and Louise" and "Boys on the Sidewalk." Dates and times are still in its planning stages.

The Women's Center Mission Statement, says it is "dedicated to social justice . . . provides a safe environment that promotes understanding and gender equality . . . honors difference and maintains a commitment to serve and support all students and our community."

For further information on the Women's Center, drop in or contact Heide McKinney, ext. 4963.



Photos by Craig Hatch

Above, Carol Bates an antique dealer compares this year's highwater in '70. Bates has written a book about the floods in 1964 and 1970. At right, Mike Harbison helps his family clean up the mess left behind by the flood in the True Value Hardware store in downtown Scio.



Flood causes havoc but Scio pulls through

✓ From Page One

of the stock that was on the lower levels of the shelves were the main remnants of the flood.

"We have it a lot easier than some places," said Romana LaRont, as she mopped the mud off of the floor. "It's going to take a while to clean up."

Although the water level had dropped considerably, some houses were still surrounded by water, appearing as houseboats floating on a lake.

The schools seemed to survive with only a small amount of damage, although the middle school gym was flooded, as was the kitchen and the boiler room.

Bates, who wrote the book "Scio in the forks of the Santiam," spent much of the day before trying to move her stock up on shelves. The book covered the floods of 1964 and 1970.

"This is a whole lot worse than those two floods," said Bates. "During those two, our house didn't get wet. This time it did."

The water level of her antique store, which is on Main Street, reached about 11 inches off the floor.

"I'm grateful for all of the people who came to help me," said Bates. "There were usually about 20-30 people here at

various times. There were a lot of kids helping out."

"With floods, everybody kind of gets together," said McDonald.

Indeed, many people spent Thursday helping others who watched much of their lives literally wash away the day before.

"I'll have to have a flood sale to get rid of stuff that got wet," said Bates as she surveyed the damage to her store.

Thursday, Scio Mayor Anthony Lagler declared the city in a state of emergency.

"Most of the businesses are taking it on the chin," said Lagler. "It hit us hard and fast."

Scio city crews were out all night in an attempt to minimize the damage to the town. Unlike some cities, however, the water supply seems to have been undamaged.

During the flood, Scio was isolated from the rest of the county, as all of the roads out of town became impassable earlier than anywhere else in the county.

There was, however, a strong feeling of hope throughout the town as folks went about their cleanup.

"We just have to assess the damage and clean it up," said Lagler. "It's stuff like this that reaffirms your faith in God."

ASG proposes to expand size of student council to 13 members

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

The Associated Student Government of LBCC has proposed amendments to the ASLBCC constitution that would change some of the duties and titles of student officers.

One of the amendments would increase the number of representatives on the council from 11 to 13 by creating two new officers—secretary/communications director and treasurer. It would also change the titles of the other elected representatives from moderator to president/CCOSAC representative and from operations coordinator to vice president.

Another amendment would change

the wording of a section regarding the council's responsibilities overseeing the Student Activities and Programs budget, which funds co-curricular programs, athletics and clubs. The section would be changed from "developing and overseeing the SAP budget" to "developing and overseeing the ASLBCC budget as stated in the ASLBCC bylaws."

The amendments were approved by the ASG at its meeting last week, and must be voted on by the student body in the general elections scheduled for Feb. 27-28. Students with questions about any of these amendments can contact one of the student representatives in College Center 213.

Free tax help being offered local Volunteers

From LBCC Media Relations

Free tax preparation for elderly, low-income and disabled residents of the area is being offered by the local offices of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and the American Association of Retired Persons.

The volunteers are trained and certified by instructors trained by the Internal Revenue Service and Oregon Tax Commission.

Walk-in services are available at the Albany Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and

Fridays; the Albany Public Library Waverly Drive from 6-9 p.m. Thursdays; the Lebanon Senior Center from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays; the Sweet Home Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Assistance by appointments can be made at the LBCC campus on Thursdays from 12-5 p.m. by calling RSVP at 4476.

Those seeing assistance must bring last year's income tax returns as well as current tax materials. Service is available until the tax filing deadline of April 15.

Security activates emergency number

From LBCC Media Relations

The Safety and Security Office has established 4-1-1 as a new on-campus emergency number for use outside normal business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

The new number connects callers to the campus security patrol's cellular telephones.

Callers will first hear a message that indicates their call is being transferred,

followed by a delay of 15-20 seconds before the security officer on duty answers.

The 4-1-1 number will also work during normal business hours, although callers can also dial the office directly at 4440.

The 4-1-1 number works only on campus telephones. The emergency number from off-campus is 926-6855.

commuter staff

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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CAMPUS NEWS

Linn-Benton student honored at luncheon

Lee Stone, a second-year student in the Welding Technology Program, is being honored for his accomplishments by the Oregon Logging Conference at a luncheon in Eugene Feb. 23.

Stone was awarded a \$750 scholarship in 1995 to assist with his studies by the Logging Conference Scholarship Committee.

"He has been a very active and contributing member of the Welding Technology Department's student chapter of the American Welding Society, serving as vice chairman," said Dennis Wood, department chairman.

In addition to carrying over 20 credits per term, Stone has also held a work experience position with the CTC Corp. in Philomath as a part-time welder-fabricator.

"Lee Stone is an example of the dedication and determination of many of the Industrial Technology students who combine training and education with work experience and somehow find time to contribute to their major program with their leadership skills," said Wood.

Tickets now on sale for the annual dinner theater at LB

Tickets are now available for the annual dinner theater in the LBCC Commons, hosted by Student Programs and the Culinary Arts program.

This year's show will feature the musical "In The Mood," a tribute to the USO. Tours that have been entertaining the nation's armed forces for more than 50 years.

Dinner will be prepared and served by the LBCC Culinary Arts students, with hors d'oeuvres being served at 6:30 p.m. and dinner beginning at 7 p.m.

The musical begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available in Student Programs (CC-213), Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis and The White Rose in Albany. They are \$20 for adults and \$16 for students and senior citizens.

Flood-damage loans available

The Linn County Federal Credit Union has announced that it is making flood-damage loans available for new and existing members.

The credit union is offering loans for up to \$2,500 per member at an annual rate of 4 percent, with 90 days before the first payment is required.

Additional information about the loans is available from any of the credit union offices: in Lebanon, at 485 Second St. (259-1235); in Albany at 1200 Queen SE (967-7432); and in Sweet Home at 1428 Main St. (367-2230).



Photo by Josh Burk

over the Van Buren Street bridge in Corvallis, a rescue vehicle and raft are ready to be used if needed. The Corvallis Police and Fire Department had both bridges going over the Willamete river closed to motor vehicles but people were allowed to walk across the bridges to see the massive amount of flooding that covered the road.

Volunteers come through in '96 flood crisis

From Page One

ump trucks and driven down Oakville Road Thursday morning. "The rubber raft was dumped off the back of the truck and carried down our driveway by the current. Luckily, our truck, which was submerged, stopped the raft and the police were able to drift to our door," says another Oakville Road resident.

After police boated people out of their homes, the residents were loaded on a city bus and taken to the nearby Red Cross shelters.

In the St. Mary's shelter, the now-homeless residents could drag their weary bodies to one of the 30 cots provided. Lined up in three rows, the old army cots finally offered comfort to the recently rescued community members. A window in the basement wall provided light and a glimpse of rain. The two rows of

lunch tables were not being used to eat at, but to play card games and to rest tired heads.

A volunteer periodically came around to see if anyone could use coffee or lemonade. More volunteers from this community came in to serve dinner and clean up around the shelter.

The community's effort continued as local restaurants donated food to the shelter.

The weather permitted victims to leave their temporary homestead on Saturday and return to their water-drenched homes. The sunshine will allow people time to clean up and dry out their homes.

To continue with the community togetherness, volunteers will be appreciated to help those people who need it. For information on cleanup, call the American Red Cross at 926-1543.

Permits are not pertinent to the Pastors for Peace group

By Tricia LaFrance

The Commuter

Last month, San Diego police and U.S. Customs refused to allow a computer-carrying caravan headed for Cuba, that included two Albany residents, to cross the border into Mexico. But that's not going to stop them.

This week, the Pastors for Peace group, along with other organization and community members, say they will again attempt their mission of helping to computerize Cuba's medical system, linking hospitals and clinics and rural health facilities to an on-line medical information network that will cover the entire island.

A group of about 35-40 people are organizing the community and soliciting support for this charity work, said Albany resident Ed Hemmingson. "We will be leaving Wednesday to join them. We are going to go back to the border on Saturday, Feb. 17, and ask for the right to pass through."

His wife June, local chair of Linn-Benton PeaceWorks, added: "We are like Rosa Parks. We have sat in the

back, now it is time to move up."

In addition to supplying humanitarian aid to Cuba by delivering computers, the group is protesting the U.S. trade embargo of Cuba, which they consider an unjust blockade.

"This is a political campaign," said Ed Hemmingson, who explained that the group did not apply for a permit to take the computers into Cuba. "That would just give authority to a law that's unconstitutional."

"We do not need a permit to do charity work," he said. "You don't need a permit to do a good deed for your neighbor."

June Hemmingson added that it would have been unlikely that a license would have been issued to the group.

"The blockade is an act of war against a country at peace that does not have the will or the ability to wage war against us," Ed Hemmingson said.

The border incident on Jan. 31, when the Pastors for Peace group attempted to cross from San Diego, California, into Tijuana, Mexico, with computers for Cuba, resulted in having over 300 computers donated by Americans being

seized by the U.S. Customs Service.

"This was the first time that humanitarian aid has not been allowed," Hemmingson said. "We were not attempting commerce or trade."

As the Hemmingsons stopped their GMC truck at the border, the ropes were cut, the tarp pulled back, and the interior stripped of its contents by officers in uniform, but with no visible badges, Ed said. Their truck included the computer the Hemmingsons were donating to the Cuban medical community and 24 boxes of computer equipment donated by their Albany and Corvallis friends and neighbors. Ed was given no receipt for the computers that were seized from his truck, he said.

The Hemmingsons disputed the Associated Press reports last week that stated several protesters rushed the police line, injuring one activist and four Customs agents.

As they saw it, one member of Pastors for Peace was wrestled to the ground, placed in a choke hold, and rendered unconscious, needing to spend the night in a hospital.

"Another activist was handcuffed and

the officers behind him were bending his arms back, so that the protester was bent forward," Ed Hemmingson said. "That was not necessary. The U.S. Customs officers out-numbered us. It did not require force."

Members of the San Diego police were outfitted in riot gear against the unarmed Pastors for Peace activists, he added.

Seventeen members of the caravan were arrested. Two ministers and four women were released without charges. However, the 11 men who were arrested but released the following day, are under investigation of assault on federal officers, the Hemmingsons said.

Pastors for Peace is committed to delivering medical computers to Cuba. According to a Pastors for Peace press release, "all people of conscience" are invited to come to San Diego on Feb. 17 when they will again try to send medical aid, including computers, to Cuba.

For more information or to donate medical aid, contact Pastors for Peace at 612-870-7121.

Spanish teacher spends her life pursuing languages

by Jason Andrus
of The Commuter

From the fast-paced bustle of Rio de Janero to the historical shores of Greece; through most of the now-homogenized Europe to her now-home state of Oregon, Vera Harding has lived and seen many things.

But the common thread that draws all of these experiences together for her is her love of language.

A visit to her tiny office in Takena Hall reveals her dedication to language—rows and stacks of books on the shelves and desks. As an instructor of Spanish at LBCC, her job is focused mainly on the short two-year program that serves first- and second-year Spanish students.

However, her determination to learn and teach different languages goes beyond the demands of her job at LBCC. Born in Rio de Janero, Brazil, she was exposed to other languages at an early age.

"I remember when I was about 10 or 12 years old, I fell in love with language for the very first time," she recalled. "Our class would dance and sing in French. It was beautiful and something I'll always remember."

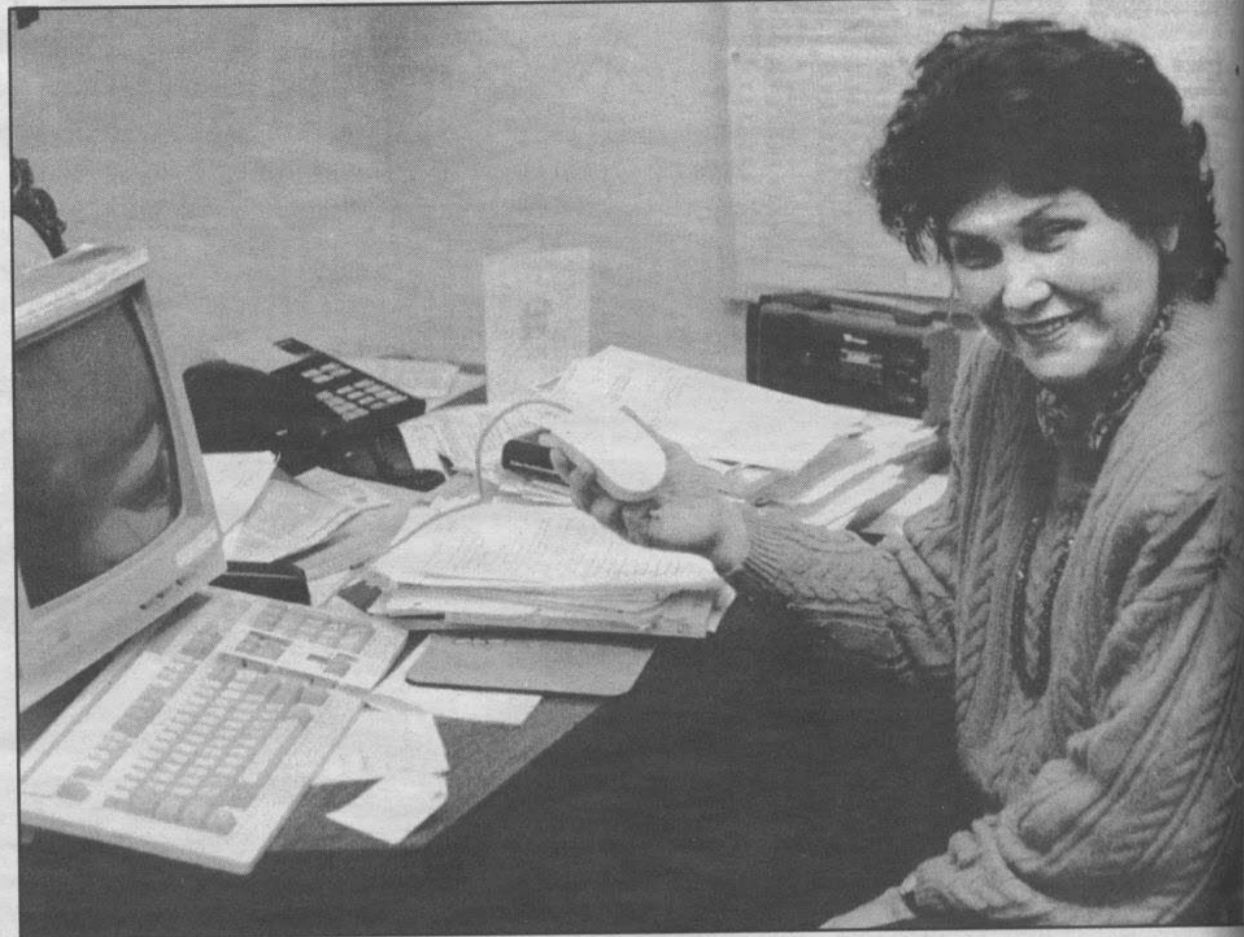
As she grew older, her interest in language intensified. She took classes in German, French and English. She also learned Spanish from friends, and decided she wanted to be an English teacher in her native Brazil. So she went to the United States to study English at the University of Oregon in Eugene. During her studies at the U of O, she continued to broaden her linguistic skills. It was then that she was asked to help teach a Spanish class.

"People assumed that because I was Latin American I must speak Spanish instead of my native Portuguese that we speak in Brazil," she said. "So when the offered me the job to teach a Spanish class, I was hesitant. But I took them up on their offer anyway. That's how I got into the Spanish Department at the U of O."

It was then that she decided to change her master's studies to focus on Spanish. But, a short time later she met her husband-to-be, Phil, and decided to give up her position at the university in order to raise a family. This did not stop her from her desire to learn, however. For the next 10 years, she and her husband—and eventually her four children—lived in various countries of Europe.

Wherever she went, she continued to develop her linguistic skills. In Greece, she learned Greek and Latin. She visited Germany, Portugal and France, all the while entranced by each new language. Eventually, she returned to the United States and finally made her way back to the West Coast, settling in Corvallis.

By now she was divorced and she decided to enroll in the Ph.D. program at OSU while teaching classes in Spanish and Portuguese. She soon found that the school would not let her be an instructor and a student at the same time, so she began to teach a few temporary Spanish classes at LBCC in the late 1970s.



Photos by Jason Andrus

"Each new class of students brings with it its own challenges and rewards and all the while I'm doing something I already love."

From then on, it became her goal to establish a Spanish department at the community college, and throughout the past 16 years she has managed to create a permanent and growing Spanish course out of what was once a temporary class.

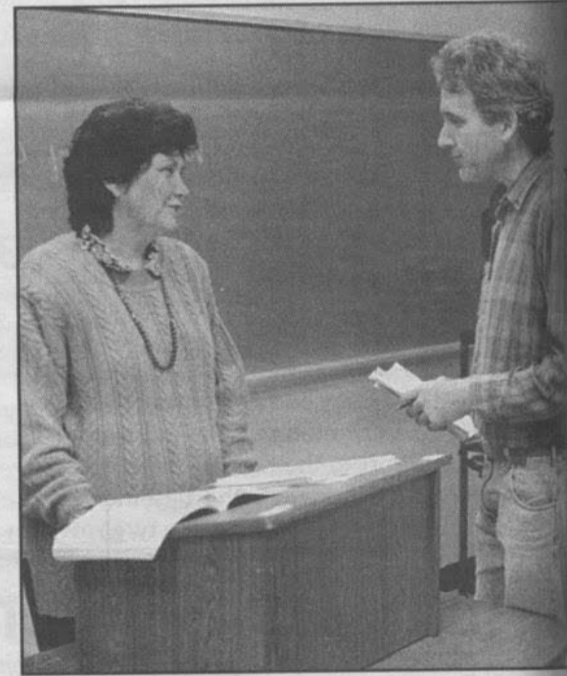
She managed to set up a system of native speakers to help tutor classes both at LBCC and OSU, as well as organize various excursions with her students to Mexico and other countries in order to broaden their appreciation of the language they were studying.

Teaching is the perfect job as far as Harding is concerned. "It's always fresh, so I never run out of something to teach. Each new class of students brings with it its own challenges and rewards, and all the while I'm doing something I already love," she said.

And she's still not done learning. Having mastered German, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Greek, Latin and English, she sees at least one more linguistic challenge on the horizon.

"Next," she said with a chuckle, "I need to learn computer language."

Vera Harding's office demonstrates her interest in languages as books on various cultures clutter shelves and desks. Below, Harding talks to a student after one of her classes.



TWISTED

Tuesday, March 12
11:30 - 2:30
Alsea/Calapooia Room

To participate,
register in CC 213
Prizes will be
awarded

Contact Student Programs
CC-213
for more information
917-4458

Sweet Hearts Night
Wednesday, Feb. 14

3-legged race!

Bring your sweetheart, or meet one at the game and join in the fun during half-time of the final home game of 1996. The race will be held during half-time of the men's and women's game.

**Prizes
Awarded!!!**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Music funding declines in Oregon public schools

by Gabe Pallastrini
of The Commuter

"Music helps us recognize something in this life that can't be explained by science or by teaching strictly visual concepts that limit our other senses and our possibilities" says Eric Dickey, a free-lance music instructor who lives in Corvallis.

But is music in the public schools a thing of the past? Since Measure 5, Oregon public schools have lost 146 music teachers while enrollment has increased by 12,459 students, according to the Oregon Department of Education.

In the Albany Public School District, the district has lost the equivalent of 1.3 full-time music instructors, including a full-time high school band leader, while enrollment has climbed from 7,240 to 7,660 according to the school district's Human Resources Department.

In Corvallis, where enrollment has dropped slightly from 7,382 to 7,351 students district wide, the elementary schools have lost the equivalent of 4.8 full-time music teachers since

the 1990-91 school year, said Debra Dineen, of the Corvallis public school district's Human Resources Department. Corvallis does not budget music separately in the middle and high schools.

It's simplistic though to assume that Measure 5 is at the root of the declining music programs says Dineen. The high schools and middle schools are site base-managed, meaning the administrators, teachers and parents decide what to cut. If they maintain large classes for most subjects, the music and arts programs are still viable. But if they opt for smaller classes concentrating on fundamentals, it is usually the music and arts programs that get cut.

At LBCC, there have been no teachers lost in the music department, and it's hard to be certain of the impact from the state-wide cuts because there are few music majors here, says Gary Rupert, chairman of the Performing Arts Department. He says co-operative education is the best way to learn, and there is nothing like a music performance to demonstrate this.

Cherry Poppin' Daddies play at Venetian Theatre

by Christina Bondurant
of The Commuter

Are you sick of doing the same old thing in Albany every weekend... nothing?

This weekend could be different!

The Cherry Poppin' Daddies, also known as The Daddies, will be playing at the Venetian Theatre in Albany on this Saturday, Feb. 17.

The Daddies mix funk and jazz, resulting in a unique and explosive sound. They have played at the Venetian in the past and regularly play in Eugene and Portland. "People just don't sit still when the Cherry Poppin' Daddies are in town," said owner Rob Connell. The dance floor is 700 sq. ft. with a capacity for 685 people. "But, people dance or mosh everywhere in the club," said Connell.

The Venetian is located at 241 First Ave. in downtown Albany. Ticket cost usually ranges between \$4-\$7, and sometimes they can be purchased ahead of time at Phonomania, a record store next door to the Theatre. Tickets are always available at the door the night of the show.

The Venetian doesn't exactly have set times for their shows, but they usually start somewhere between 9 and 10 p.m. So, here's your chance to get out and have fun this weekend—don't blow it!

Photos and pottery displayed in LBCC gallery

"Light and Stone: Wood and Salt," a display of photographs by UO Professor Dan Powell and of ceramics by LBCC instructor Jay Widmer, opens Tuesday Feb. 20 at the Art Gallery in the AHSS Building.

The exhibit, originally scheduled to open this week, was postponed due to the weather. A closing reception for the current exhibit will be held this Friday from 6-8 p.m.

Widmer, a Corvallis potter, is known for his masterful throwing technique, strong form and integrity of surface treatment. The subtle and complex beauty of his ceramics are intended to be soothing and engage the viewer's mind. "My work in clay synthesizes my life experiences," Widmer said.

He often works Oregon Coast shale into his clay and uses seaweed and clamshells to create surface effects.

He fires his pots with both a salt-fired kiln and an anagama kiln, which is a 20-

foot-long wood-fired cave dug into the hillside of his small tree farm on Digger Mountain west of Alsea. Firing in anagama takes three cords of wood and teams of people to stoke it for two days around the clock.

Powell, an associate professor in the UO Art Department, will be showing layered images depicting stonework from Europe. He uses multiple printing, bleaching, hand-coloring and writing marks to create a connection with historical communication. "I wish to situate the viewer at a point of presence within a continuum," he said, explaining that the muted writing marks he puts on his prints reflect his interest in communications from past Western cultures that exist now only as "fragmented mysteries."

Both artists are expected at a closing reception Friday, March 8, from 6-8 p.m., during Albany's second Friday Art Walk.

LBCC's Art Gallery is free and open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Benton Center ceramics instructor, Jay Widmer, is exhibiting a collection of his salt-fired and wood-fired pots in the LBCC Art Gallery.

Jeremy McArthur—
To the man of my
dreams....
The love of my life....
My dearest friend.
I LOVE YOU!
Your Valentine
Forever—
Sarah

Nils—
You've two-stepped your
way into my heart. I can't
imagine dancing solo when
I look into your heavenly
eyes. Take my hand, and I'll
follow your lead into a dance
that will last a lifetime.
—Wendy

Dorothy
Loves
Harold

Rich
Loves
Carol Ann

It's really nice for some change . . .

\$4 for adults, \$2.50 11 and under and senior citizens.
Shows before 6p.m. are \$2.50 for all ages.

K U H N
THEATER
668 S. Main, Lebanon • 451-5846

Looking back at the flood of '96

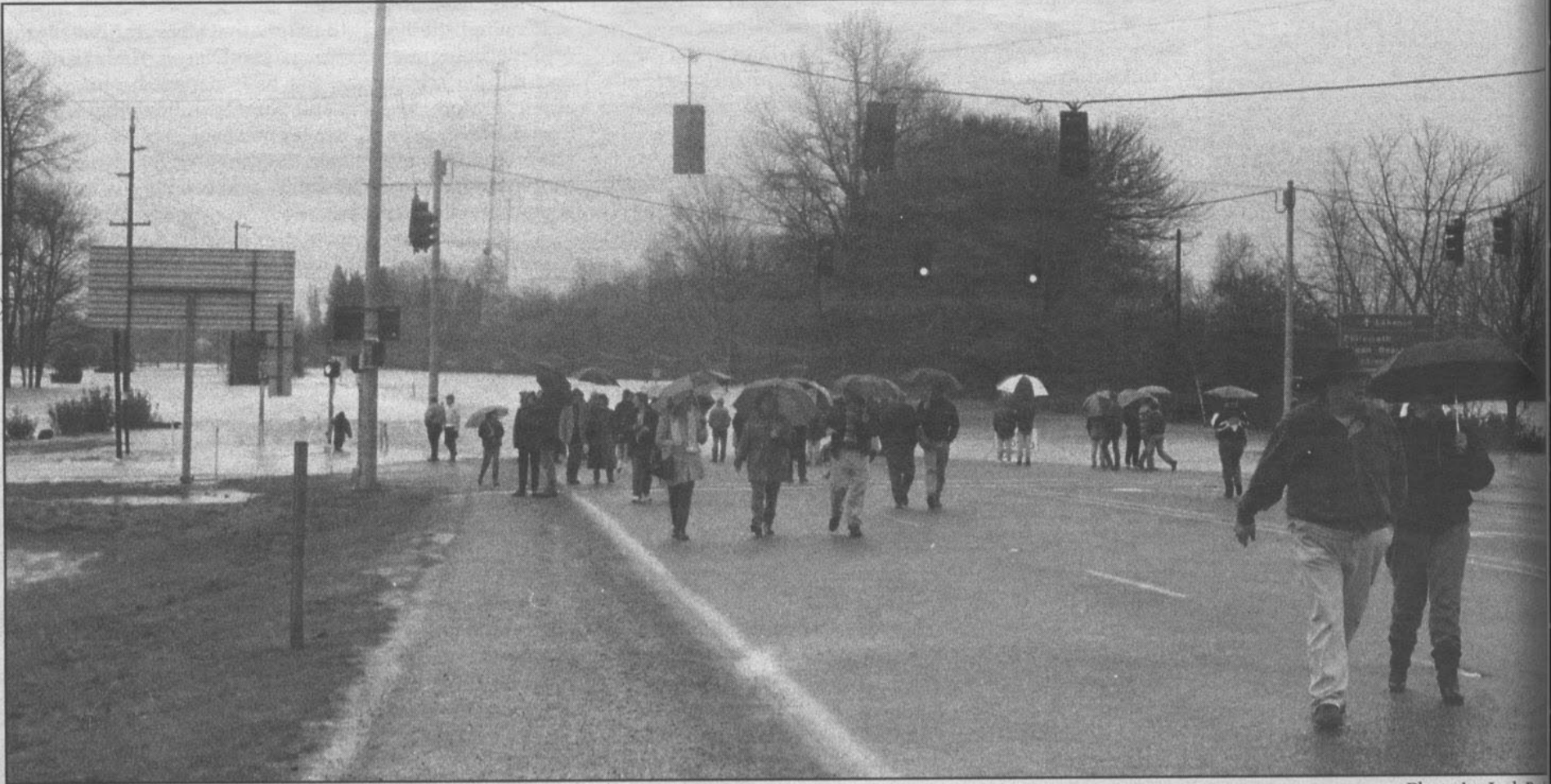


Photo by Josh Bur

Watching the Water

While some Corvallis residents were struggling with the problems created by last week's high water, others were lucky enough to treat the flood as more spectacle than disaster. Above: Huge crowds thronged over the Van Buren and Harrison Street bridges in Corvallis to gawk at the inundated intersection of Highway 34 and the bypass, which effectively cut off the town from Linn County for two days. Right: The river levels as measured under the Van Buren Street bridge were below 23 feet by Saturday after peaking around 28 feet on Thursday. Below: The sandbags that lined the storefronts along Jackson Street in Corvallis turned out not to be needed since predictions that the downtown would flood proved wrong as south Corvallis took the brunt of the flooding.



Photo by Rich Berg



Photo by Josh Bur

LOCAL NEWS



Photo by Dannie Bjornson

Santiam Surge

Lebanon resident Betty Hodges, below, listens to the cracking of the trees as they succumb to the swollen South Santiam River. Hodges, an LBCC general studies major who has lived on the river for 10 years, has never seen the Santiam this high. At left, the signs at Gills Landing in west Lebanon show how high the water rose Wednesday. The wooden dock at the popular fishing boat landing was destroyed. The South Santiam rose to record heights, flooding its banks in many places and damaging several houses.



Photo by Dannie Bjornson



Photo by Bill Jones

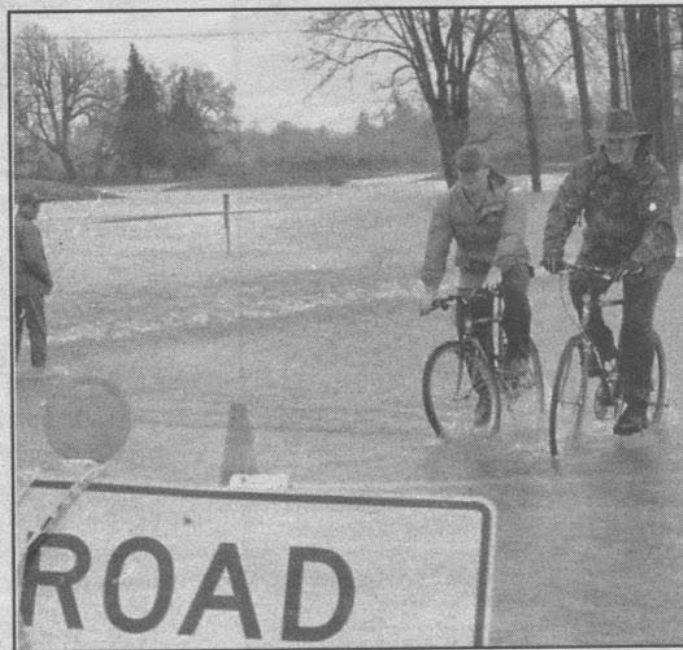


Photo by Josh Burk

High-Water Hijinks

For many, last week's flood meant no school and lots of fun. Above, a couple pedals down the flooded highway outside Corvallis, while two youths (at bottom left) cavort in a pool of water in front of the Osborne Aquatic Center in Corvallis. Apparently it was too busy inside, so they decided to swim outside. At top left, a motorist makes waves as he speeds down flooded Southwest Third Street.



Photo by Josh Burk

scoreboard

Women's Results

LINN-BENTON 58, LANE 45
LINN-BENTON (58): Waite 3-87-913, Henin 0-1 0-0 0, Blem 0-2 0-0 0, Sprenger 4-5 1-2 9, MacLean 5-15 4-4 14, Ziegler 3-7 2-8, Olson 6-10 2-4 14, Knudsen 0-4 0-0 0, Falk, Surmon. Totals: 21-52 16-21 58.

LANE (45): Roady 1-5 0-0 2, Miller 6-12 2-6 14, Finau 0-8 0-2 0, Kammer 5-11 2-3 13, Lawrence 0-2 0-0 0, Phillips 0-1 0-0 0, Becker 2-5 0-0 4, Webb 1-3 0-2 2, Gustafson 3-9 4-4 10. Totals: 18-56 8-17 45.

Halftime—LB 22, Lane 19. 3-point goals—LB 0-2 (Blem 0-1, MacLean 0-1), Lane 1-11 (Roady 0-2, Finau 0-2, Kammer 1-3, Phillips 0-1, Gustafson 0-3). Rebounds—LB 42 (Olson 11), Lane 33 (Kammer 7). Total fouls—LB 13, Lane 18. Assists—LB 16 (Waite 8), Lane 13 (Gustafson 5). Turnovers—LB 18, Lane 18. Blocked shots—LB 3 (Olson 2), Lane 2 (Miller 2). Steals—LB 10 (Knudsen 4), Lane 11 (Roady, Miller, Kammer, Gustafson 2).

CHEMEKETA 70, LINN-BENTON 63
CHEMEKETA (70): Johnston 2-7 0-0 5, Schaffer 1-3 2-25, Green 5-18 3-4 17, Sheppard 4-7 0-0 11, Sowards 1-1 2-4 4, Herr 8-11 2-3 18, Howell 1-3 4-4 6, Smith 2-5 0-0 4. Totals: 24-55 13-17 70.

LINN-BENTON (63): Waite 3-15 0-0 6, Blem 0-2 0-0 0, Sprenger 0-6 3-4 3, MacLean 4-11 2-3 9, Ziegler 5-9 2-13, Knudsen 4-11 2-3 10, Olson 10-17 2-2 22. Totals: 36-71 9-11 63.

Halftime—Chemeketa 43, LB 35. 3-point goals—Chemeketa 9-21 (Johnston 1-2, Schaffer 1-3, Green 4-10, Sheppard 3-6), LB 2-6 (Waite 0-3, Blem 0-1, MacLean 1-1, Ziegler 1-1). Rebounds—Chemeketa 34 (Green 12), LB 27 (Waite, Sprenger, Olson 5). Total fouls—Chemeketa 10, LB 17. Assists—Chemeketa 21 (Johnston 10), LB 18 (Waite 8). Turnovers—Chemeketa 22, LB 13. Blocked shots—Chemeketa 4 (Herr 3), LB 6 (Olson 3). Steals—Chemeketa 9 (Johnston 3), LB 14 (Waite, Olson 4).

MT. HOOD 63, LINN-BENTON 48
LINN-BENTON (48): Waite 4-9 4-4 12, Hein 0-2 0-0 0, Blem 0-1 0-0 0, Sprenger 4-13 4-6 12, MacLean 4-12 0-0 9, Ziegler 0-1 0-0 0, Knudsen 1-6 3-4 5, Olson 5-8 0-3 10. Totals: 18-52 11-17 48.

MT. HOOD (63): Phillips 3-11 0-0 6, Senn 1-3 2-25, McDonald 7-17 5-5 21, Nolin, Warrrens, Parsons 0-4 0-0 0, Allen 2-3 0-0 4, Davis 3-6 3-4 9, Taylor 1-5 1-2 4, Johnson 6-6 2-2 14. Totals: 23-55 13-15 63.

Halftime—MH 28, LB 21. 3-point goals—LB 1-4 (Waite 0-2, MacLean 1-2), MH 4-12 (Phillips 0-2, Senn 1-1, McDonald 2-5, Taylor 1-4). Rebounds—LB 30 (Olson 10), MH—41 (Johnson 9). Total fouls—LB 14, MH 19. Fouled out—Taylor, Johnson. Assists—LB 11 (Waite 5), MH 15 (Phillips 4). Turnovers—LB 20, MH 21. Blocked shots—LB 5 (Olson 2), MH 1 (Nolin). Steals—LB 11 (Waite 3), MH 13 (Senn, Allen 3).

Men's Results

LANE 78, LINN-BENTON 68
LINN-BENTON (68): Roberts 3-12 4-4 12, Graves 0-2 0-0 0, Cloud 1-3 0-0 2, Clark 2-4 0-0 4, Heron 0-10 0-2, Swallow 7-18 3-4 21, McCabe 6-8 0-0 12, Wonderly 6-12 1-3 13, Sexton 2-6 0-2 4. Totals: 27-66 8-13 68.

LANE (78): Alexander 1-2 0-0 2, Shafer 2-9 2-2 7, Arsov 3-8 2-3 10, Whitt 5-10 4-4 15, Colarchik 1-6 3-4 5, Magee 1-1 0-0 1, Cowan 4-10 5-6 13, Hales 0-1 1-2 1, Baker 6-13 9-11 23. Totals: 23-59 26-32 78.

Halftime—Lane 43, LB 34. 3-point goals—LB 6-20 (Roberts 2-8, Cloud 0-1, Clark 0-1, Swallow 4-10), Lane 6-19 (Alexander 0-1, Shafer 1-6, Arsov 2-2, Whitt 1-3, Colarchik 0-2, Cowan 0-1, Baker 2-4). Rebounds—LB 34 (Swallow 9), Lane 48 (Baker 16). Total fouls—LB 24, Lane 18. Fouled out—Roberts. Assists—LB 15 (Roberts, Swallow 4), Lane 20 (Whitt 6). Turnovers—LB 10, Lane 11. Blocked shots—LB 5 (McCabe 3), Lane 4 (Magee 3). Steals—LB 3 (Swallow 2), Lane 7 (Shafer, Cowan 2). Technicals—Roberts.

CHEMEKETA 107, LINN-BENTON 84
CHEMEKETA (107): Haman 1-6 0-0 2, Hoffman 2-5 2-46, Olson 9-16 3-325, Robinson 0-30 0-0, Rohrich, Kofstad 16-19 2-434, Schurr 6-7 0-0 12, Duncan 6-12 5-7 17, Slider 4-12 0-0 9, Rademaerber 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 45-51 12-18 107.

LINN-BENTON (84): Roberts 2-13 4-4 10, Graves 0-4 0-0 0, Cloud 2-4 2-27, Clark 6-11 2-2 18, Heron 3-6 0-0 6, Swallow 6-15 0-0 17, McCabe 1-4 0-0 2, Wonderly 10-13 2-4 22, Sexton 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 31-71 10-12 84.

Halftime—Chemeketa 55, LB 38. 3-point goals—Chemeketa 5-16 (Haman 0-2, Hoffman 0-3, Olson 4-5, Schurr 0-1, Duncan 0-1, Slider 1-4), LB 12-31 (Roberts 2-8, Graves 0-2, Cloud 1-2, Clark 4-7, Swallow 5-12). Rebounds—Chemeketa 45 (Kofstad, Duncan 10), LB 24 (Swallow, Wonderly 5). Total fouls—Chemeketa 13, LB 15. Assists—Chemeketa 17 (Olson 6), LB 22 (Swallow 9). Turnovers—Chemeketa 14, LB 13. Blocked shots—Chemeketa 1 (Rohrich), LB 8 (Heron, Wonderly 2). Steals—Chemeketa 8 (Olson 4), LB 13 (Swallow 4). Technicals—LB coach.

Roadrunner men working for final playoff spot



Chris Swallow goes up for two points in a recent men's game. Swallow was named NWAACC Southern Division player of the week following his performance of 46 points and 19 rebounds against SW Oregon and Portland Community College.

by Jessica Sprenger of The Commuter

On Saturday, Kyle Wonderly put together his best offensive performance since coming back from a preseason knee injury, but Linn-Benton couldn't contain Chemeketa's Kevin Kofstad in the Chiefs 107-84 victory over the Roadrunners.

Wonderly finished the game with 22 points, 10 of 13 from the field and 2 of 4 from the free throw line. He also dished out three assists and had two blocked shots.

With just under five minutes left and the Roadrunners down 97-65 Linn-Benton went on an 8-0 run. Wonderly scored all eight points, with Chris Swallow getting the assists on the first two buckets.

For Chemeketa, Kofstad scored 16 of his game high 34 points in the second half. He also grabbed 10 rebounds.

The Chiefs led 55-38 at halftime and then widened their lead with a 12-2 run to start the second half.

"We didn't step up to the meet the challenge," Roadrunner coach Randy Falk said.

Chemeketa managed to hold Linn-Benton's leading scorer, Swallow, to just three points in the first half, but he exploded for 14 second half points including four three-pointers. He also had nine assists and four steals.

Chief sophomore Zac Olson, who hit the game-winning shot in last year's playoff game between the two schools, scored 25 points, grabbed seven rebounds, dished out six assists and had four steals.

Chris Clark added 18 points for Linn-Benton, while Steve Roberts chipped in 10 points, including a 3-pointer from about two feet behind the line. Mike Graves dished out six assists.

Last Wednesday, the Roadrunners were defeated 78-68 by the Lane Titans in Eugene.

Leading the way for Linn-Benton was Swallow with 21 points and nine rebounds. Wonderly added 13 points while Roberts and Andy McCabe each added 12 points for the Roadrunners. Swallow and Roberts each dished out four assists.

Linn-Benton traveled to Gresham Monday and were edged out by Mt. Hood 84-82.

Wonderly scored 31 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, while Clark put up 27 points and pulled down nine rebounds. Roberts and Swallow added 10 and 10 points, respectively. Swallow also dished out seven assists.

For his play the week of Jan. 28-Feb. 5, Swallow was named NWAACC Southern Region Player of the Week.

In the Roadrunners games against SW Oregon and Portland, the 6'4" sophomore from Spokane scored 46 points including going 8 of 14 from behind the 3-point line and 12 of 18 from the free throw line. He also grabbed 19 rebounds in the two victories.

Linn-Benton, 5-7 in league and 11-16 overall, now is in a three-way tie for fourth place in the Southern Division with Lane and Mt. Hood.

The Roadrunners finish league play this week with third place Umpqua, 6-10 in league, tonight and Clackamas on Saturday.

Lane hosts SW Oregon and travels to Chemeketa, while Mt. Hood hosts Chemeketa and travels to Umpqua.

Linn-Benton's remaining games will both be held in the Activities Center and will start at 8 p.m. tonight and 8 p.m. Saturday.

Chiefs down Roadrunner women

by Dustin Kendall of The Commuter

The Lady Roadrunners gave the defending conference champion, Chemeketa, all they could handle before coming up short, 63-70 Saturday night.

Once again Linn-Benton's strength was down low as starting forward Melissa Olson led all scorers with 22 points followed by reserve forward Kari Ziegler with 13. Starting center Jessica Sprenger, normally a big help for the Roadrunners, was hampered with foul trouble and saw limited action.

Olson, Sprenger and Kodi Waite each pulled down five rebounds.

The Roadrunners found themselves down by eight at halftime and by as

many as 15 in the second half. But it was Chemeketa's 22 turnovers that helped Linn-Benton storm back to within three. That was as close as the Roadrunners would get, however.

It was a swarming zone defense that Chemeketa used to keep the Roadrunners off balance, usually limiting them to one shot per possession.

The tough defense, coupled with hot-shooting Chemeketa's Angie Herr, who led the way with 18 points, did in the Roadrunners.

Following tonight's home matchup with Umpqua, the Lady Roadrunners close out the season against Clackamas on Saturday in the Activities Center. Both games start at 6 p.m.

Women defeat Lane and fall to Mt. Hood as they split their final two road games as season's end comes this Saturday at home

by Jessica Sprenger of The Commuter

The Roadrunner women avenged an early season loss to Lane with a 58-45 victory over the Titans last Wednesday in Eugene.

Linn-Benton held a 22-19 lead at the half and were able to edge away from Lane for the win.

Gresham products Melissa Olson and Melinda MacLean led the team with 14 points apiece.

Point guard Kodi Waite added 13 points and dished out eight assists. Olson grabbed a game high 11 rebounds and teammate Lisa Knudsen pulled down nine rebounds, each grabbed seven defensive boards. Knudsen had four steals.

Megan Miller, who scored 26 points against the Roadrunners in their last meeting, put in 14 points for the Titans.

In a game that had been postponed twice due to bad weather, the Roadrunners finally played Mt. Hood. Unfortunately, the Saints defeated Linn-Benton 63-48.

A full-court press by Mt. Hood gave the Roadrunners problems during the first half, but the Saints led by only seven going into the locker room.

The Roadrunners started the second half in a man-to-man defense, but fell behind and couldn't get out of the hole.

Leeann McDonald led the Saints with 21 points. Jenni Johnson added 14 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

Waite and Jessica Sprenger led Linn-Benton with 12 points apiece. Olson recorded a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Waite dished out five assists and had three steals.

With the loss the Roadrunners, 5-7 in league and 16-7 overall, fall into a tie with SW Oregon for fifth place, a game back of fourth-place Mt. Hood.

Linn-Benton faces third-place Umpqua tonight and Clackamas on Saturday.

Mt. Hood finishes the season hosting Chemeketa and traveling to Umpqua while SW Oregon travels to Lane and hosts Portland.

Come watch the Women finish the season at home.

Women's Standings

Clackamas	....	10	2	.833	—
Chemeketa	...	10	2	.833	—
Umpqua	.....	9	3	.750	1
Mt. Hood	.....	6	6	.500	4
Linn-Benton	..	5	7	.417	5
SW Oregon	.....	5	7	.417	5
Lane	.....	3	9	.250	7
Portland	.....	0	12	.000	10

Men's Standings

Chemeketa	...	11	0	1.000	—
Clackamas	....	10	1	.909	—
Umpqua	.....	6	6	.500	5 1/2
Linn-Benton	..	5	7	.454	6 1/2
Lane	.....	5	7	.454	6 1/2
Mt. Hood	.....	5	7	.454	6 1/2
SW Oregon	.....	3	9	.250	8 1/2
Portland	.....	2	10	.167	9 1/2

PAUL TURNER

What you don't know about your family may surprise you

Shoes are funny. So is family, but let's start with shoes.

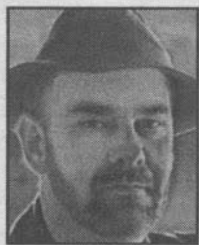
If you get a chance, look at the shoes you are wearing and compare them to the people who are around you. If you are sitting in a classroom, chances are you are surrounded by Doc Martens, neo-psychedelic Nikes, the ubiquitous Northwest sport hikers, and the ever-popular combat boots. In Lebanon, where I live, I can look down and see high tops worn from blazing-new white to Oregon sky gray, biker boots with steel toes shining through the leather, and the ever-present cowboy boot.

The thing about cowboy boots in Oregon is they kinda make you fit. People wear them to church, in the malls, even polish 'em up to go to the Elks. They can go from the road to under the hose, then off to work, onto the motorcycle, then tucked under the nice Levis and off to the bar. They're comfy, they go on and come off with the same ease as Clinton's political convictions, and everyone is wearing them around here. I once saw someone on a horse actually wearing cowboy boots. Once.

The real cowboys scoff at us city slickers wearing cowboy boots because they are suddenly in style. It's so easy to be in style when style happens to be moving in your direction. I was caught in the tidal wave of vogue when Harley-Davidsons became the new celebrity accessory. Suddenly, that loud old beast the other kids used to make fun of was in style. It makes me laugh, but I know when they fall from grace, I'll still be filling the oil leaks spotting the floor of the garage. And cowboys will always be wearing cowboy boots, no matter what they're wearing in Hollywood.

Some people are born to fit in, others have coolness thrust upon them.

To be cool, we seem to need to buy the toys and clothes which make us cool. But to be cool with ourselves is another matter. For some people, one of the ingredients of being cool with themselves is unavailable to them: There are those who do not know the identity of one or more of their parents. Everyone around them knows just where they fit in with their families, but they are left wondering. They feel like



When I reached the ripe old age of 32, my mom announced her "past had caught up with her." It turned out that 40 years ago, she had a daughter—and had neglected to tell me, my brother, or my dad about it. Surprise!

clown shoes on a headwaiter.

When I worked with kids having a little trouble getting through their adolescence, one of the contributing factors to their problems often had to do with adoption. Many adopted children do very well and have few problems acclimating to their families. Others have all sorts of problems. There is a very basic part of the human make-up which likes to know where we come from.

I have a friend who was not privy to the knowledge of who her father was. He split when she was young and a step dad soon filled the facade of fatherhood in her life. It took her 32 years to come up with the right combination of clues and courage to track down her bio-dad.

She didn't like what she found. He had passed away when she was 14. What affected her most was the realization that he had been alive in her heart and mind, and now she knew he wasn't really alive at all. She had been going through the years with this man somewhere "out there" waiting for her. It was a crushing blow when she discovered that he no longer waited for her in this life.

My friend ranted and raved. She lamented the stupidity of ever wanting to know about this guy. But the calm reality is now sinking in that she knows the truth, and can now get on with life with a sense of closure—after mourning for a man she never had a chance to meet.

My sister never knew her dad either. It took her 40 years just to know her mom.

When I reached the ripe old age of 32, my mom announced her "past had caught up with her." It turned out that 40 years ago she had a daughter—and

had neglected to tell me, my brother, or my dad about it.

Surprise!

We were lucky. My mom was not dead and my sister turned out to be really cool. My sister's dad is another story. There is still nothing concrete about his life or lack thereof. This wears on my sister. She wants to know. She's waiting for the other shoe to drop.

In a ringing endorsement for looking up bio-family, my sister and I are very close and take every opportunity to hang out and get into trouble together. To prove many personality traits are genetic, she and I are too similar in our thinking for comfort. Though raised by different parents in different countries, we had been together for less than an hour before we were finishing each other's sentences and laughing hysterically at the subtle humor we found at the expense of those around us.

It's freaky.

But it ain't all wine and roses. Members of my family that grew up without her have trouble believing she has a place with us now. Those among my clan who suffer from emotional constipation tend to regard her standoffishly. My sister and I deal with this very well—we simply make fun of them.

Someone with too much time on their hands figured out that you can choose your friends but you can't choose your family. I'm very lucky that the family member who chose to discover me I would have chosen as a friend.

Since this has to end with the shoe analogy thingie I started with: Remember, you may not be able to choose your family, but you can choose your shoes. Howz that? Or: If you come from a family of Birkenstocks, its okay to don those hiking boots from time to time. But seriously, folks, if you choose to seek out family which time and space has removed from you, there is no way of knowing if they are going to fit. But, as one who was sought out, it worked as comfortably for me as a well-worn pair of cowboy boots. And even if they don't fit you, at least you tried them on—and you can walk by the shoe store without pressing your nose to the window.

This is a good thing to know, 'cause if we get another Oregon freeze, pressing anything against glass could be dangerous.

classifieds

SCHOLARSHIPS

Minority Scholarship Program: American Chemical Society announces scholarships for minority students majoring in chemical sciences. Must be full-time, U.S. citizens or permanent residents and demonstrate need according to federal aid application. Pick up forms at the Career Center. Deadline to apply is Feb. 15.

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

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

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

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

Scholarships available for students in manufacturing engineering, industrial technology or other manufacturing related

program. Must be full-time students, have completed 30 cr. hrs with a 3.5 GPA. Apps available in the Career Center in Takena Hall. Deadline to apply is March 1.

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

Land O' Lakes Inc. will award 75 \$1,000 post secondary scholarships to students pursuing degrees in agriculture or food-related fields. Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in an undergraduate degree program. Apps are available in the Career Center. Deadline to apply is March 15.

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

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

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

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

NAWIC scholarships are available whose

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

HELP WANTED

ALASKA EMPLOYMENT- Students Needed! Fishing Industry. Earn up to \$3,000-\$6,000+ per month. Room and board! Transportation! Male or female. No experience necessary. Call (206) 971-3510 ext A60651

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

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

Looking for work? Visit the LBCC Student Employment Center located on the first floor of Takena Hall in the Career Center. Part-time, full-time, temporary and permanent positions are available. If you are eligible for the Federal Work Study through Financial Aid, a few jobs are still available on campus as well as at the Extended Learning Center in Lebanon. For a complete list of jobs come to the Career Center, T-101. Visit us today!!!

FOR SALE

Size 42 large man's fleece lined canvas car coat. Very rugged looking. \$20. 745-5628, evenings.

Several tons of oak firewood. Make offer. 745-5628, evenings.

Free: several hundred pounds of healthy, green mistletoe. Call 754-5628.

Classified Ad Policy

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.



Opinions, even unpopular ones, deserve to be heard

by Craig Hatch
of The Commuter

After waves of criticism, I have finally decided that it was time I wrote an editorial piece.

Many people feel that I shouldn't, as editor, allow certain columnists to run in The Commuter.

Even Jack Josewski, editor of OSU's Daily Barometer and a former Commuter editor, obviously feels I am making a mistake allowing the ultra-conservative Erik Bootsma to run his occasional opinion piece. Josewski, among others, seems to think that I should censor Bootsma and not allow his opinions on The Commuter's pages.

Let me first make it clear that the opinions of any columnists who publish on the opinion page, be they Bootsma's, Paul Turner's, Pete Petryszak's or anyone else's, are not those of The Commuter. That's why it's called the Opinion Page. The disclaimer is in black and white in every issue of the newspaper.

Let me go further and say that the opinions of those same writers are not necessarily mine either.

This newspaper will not deprive others of the right to express their opinions just because they might be unpopular with the majority of the readers. To truly be a public institution, opinions should not be squelched simply because they are a minority.

Opinion pieces will not be run if they are filled with half-truths or are aimed at simply angering the major-

editorial

ity of the readers of this newspaper. If a submission is felt to do either, it will be returned to the writer to be rewritten or not to be resubmitted at all. This has been done before.

If, on the other hand, the submission is felt to have some value to a part of the readership, every attempt will be made to run the piece. This includes opinions that may be volatile but make readers think.

Every submission is read by the editorial staff and edited for grammar only. We do not change the meaning of any opinion piece that is submitted. At times we are forced to cut submissions for length, simply because of space considerations, but when that is done, every attempt is made to leave the meaning of the submission intact.

Who am I to deprive anyone of the right to publish their opinions in a public institution?

Even if I don't agree with what was submitted or find it irrational or stupid, it is not my right to squelch that opinion. That is the basis of censorship. That is what the people who founded this country fought to stop and wrote the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to prevent from happening again.

Furthermore, history has shown that many times when someone is prevented from expressing their

opinion, people begin to wonder what it is that is hidden.

It is better that individuals are allowed to express their opinion for everyone to judge. If the opinion is flawed and absurd, then the writer has accomplished nothing but to show his or her own foolishness. Censoring an author risks making a martyr of someone whose own opinions will eventually prove their downfall.

By running opinion pieces, I hope that you will think about them, discuss them and hopefully write about them.

This is a place where people come to learn and think. A piece will be run if it is thought to have value. That includes people who disagree with the opinion. If you disagree with the opinion, at least you are thinking about it.

When we stop thinking, that's when we stop growing. Never take things at face value, be they in a newspaper, on TV or from other sources. If one of the opinion writers says something you think is incorrect or stupid, write a letter. Correct that person or state your opinion.

This is a student newspaper. This is your newspaper. You have every right to make your opinions known. I hope you will.

We encourage students and staff to submit letters to the editor. If at anytime you do or do not agree with an opinion published in this newspaper, please write a letter. It will be run if at all possible.

commentary

Flood brings out the best in local residents

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

Today is Valentine's Day, a day filled with expressions of love and caring. Holidays, like Christmas and Valentine's Day, evoke kindness and generosity demonstrated by both deeds and gifts.

Residents of the Pacific Northwest didn't wait for a special day to exhibit their care for others. The flooding we have just experienced brought out numerous unselfish volunteers who sacrificially offered their assistance to friends, neighbors and even strangers.

They filled, hauled and stacked sandbags; moved out furniture and possessions from threatened buildings; searched for missing victims, like the 8-year-old who drowned in Scio; rescued the stranded; donated needed items to those who had to evacuate; fed workers; took in homeless animals; and are now in the process of cleaning up the horrible mess left behind by the raging waters.

However, we don't need to go overseas or up to Lake Oswego to offer help to others. Our concern can be put into practice everyday in our own cities and neighborhoods and in our own homes.

Multitudes of opportunities occur and often pass unnoticed or unfulfilled. I encourage each person to be more open to these opportunities to help other people.

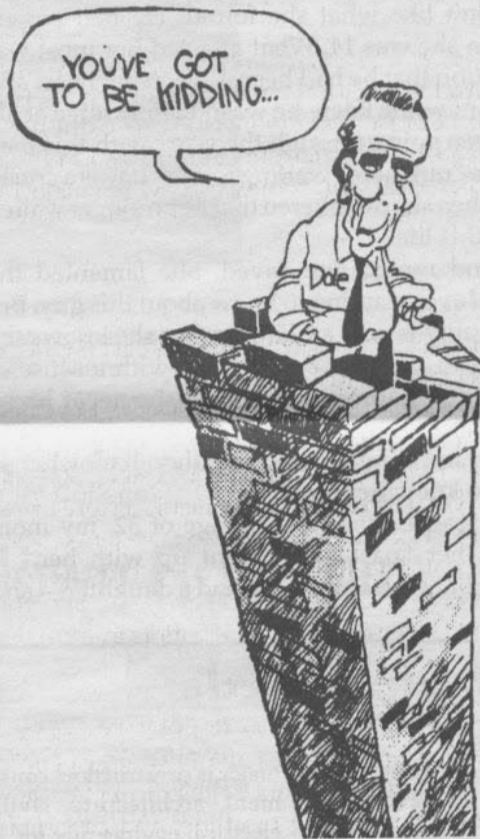
I have been the recipient of much assistance over the years (and have tried to offer the same to others also). My family has been blessed by gifts of money, food, clothes; unexpected Christmas gifts; transportation to church, meetings, school, and to doctor's and therapy appointments after an auto accident when I couldn't drive.

Friends and relatives have helped us move, babysat and shared their possessions and expertise.

Strangers have pushed my stalled car out of an intersection, pulled my pickup out of a ditch and unlocked my van when I had locked my keys inside. All this was given without thought of repayment.

Often people seem so self-focused that they are not really aware of the needs around them which they could meet without great effort on their part.

Why wait for a special day to display kindness and compassion? Make it a way of life. Let's begin today to make this world a better place by helping each other, showing that we care and, yes, even love.



letters

Here's hoping the wetlands gift to LBCC keeps on giving

To the Editor:

Hopefully the generous gift of wetlands to LBCC will help defer some of the taxes the Schrock family would otherwise have to pay on the sale of nearby land for the Target distribution center. Hopefully, the Target distribution center, built over agriculture land, will provide convenient jobs for LBCC students.

Hopefully, LBCC will find the monies to manage their newly acquired wetlands and make up the tax losses from this now public property.

Hopefully, government funds would then become available to sponsor:

- Soils classes to determine the proper drainage required;
 - CAD classes to draw up detailed contour maps;
 - PE classes to shovel, haul, and rearrange the soil as an alternative to hefting meaningless weights in a dingy gym;
 - Biology classes to select, establish, and study appropriate flora and fauna;
 - Animal husbandry classes to manage a herd of bullfrogs;
 - Horticulture classes to manage seed crops;
 - Culinary classes to prepare and serve frog legs;
 - Business classes to market wild rice;
- Great expectations? Dickens wrote about those.

Arne Landsberg, Corvallis

Bootsma, please keep writing

To the Editor:

In response to the letter of Feb. 7 from Jack Josewski:

It is a sad day when the editor-in-chief of the Daily Barometer writes a letter to The Commuter complaining about sloppy journalism and jumbled facts. OSU student, I can attest to the "tired, misinformed, jumbled rhetoric" printed in the Barometer weekly tirade complain about someone else being inaccurate? Does anyone really believe that rape and bike theft as the most frequently occurring crimes on campus? Besides Terese.

Erik Bootsma may someday work his way to the right as Farmen is to the left, but, for now, honesty is refreshing. Please continue publishing the beacon of journalistic integrity, Erik Bootsma. I would hate to spend money on fresh bird cages.

John Raasch, Corvallis

Correction:

Due to a typing error, a line from Mr. R. "Bear" Alford's letter was omitted from the Feb. 7, 1996 edition of The Commuter. We apologize for any confusion our mistake may have caused.



commentary

Columnist defends his credibility and questions that of his detractors

Erik Bootsma
of The Commuter

Last week many of you, while waiting for the waters to recede, probably sat back in the easy chair of your home and read a fine edition of BCC's own Commuter. You might also have had the opinion page hoping for some new insight into politics or campus issues that you care about. And you just might have read a letter by Jack Josewski, editor of the Daily Barometer at OSU.

A lot of questions may have been raised in your mind about what Mr. Josewski wrote, and I have time too. So, kick your feet up onto the coffee table and read the following letter to Mr. Jack Josewski that I wrote just for him:

Mr. Josewski,
I have to thank you for taking the time to read my column as faithfully and happily as you do. I would like to thank you for writing the lovely letter which appeared in The Commuter last week. After reading over your letter, I have a few questions that I know you would happily answer promptly as possible.

Why is it that an editor of a major college newspaper finds it necessary to use the words "sinky thinker" and "idiot" to describe a rival in an open letter?

2. You state that the OSU student press will not give regular column space to my "tired, misinformed, jumbled rhetoric." I would like to know how you define my writing with the above adjectives. If it is hard to believe your assertion considering the many accolades I have received from both students and staff at LBCC for my writing ability. Personally, I don't care what you publish, but I want you to know that your columnists, as well as your own editorials could be considered "misinformed" and "tired" by some.

3. Why am I, a writer, the cause of so much hate on campus to require the imposition of a speech code anywhere? How is it that my "old way of thinking is no longer acceptable" in dealing with "equal rights" when my old way of thinking includes believing in the "unalienable rights" given to us by our Creator, one of which being the freedom of speech?

4. You say that you will not publish false or misleading information in your paper, but why is that during the Rape Awareness Week you published two separate articles using a false statistic concerning the issue of rape?

Why is it that a slight embellishment of my word on my part is so unethical as to mandate my removal from OSU? Is my being a student and having taken some journalism courses not enough to warrant me being an "LBCC Student of Journalism?" And is that more unethical than publishing articles containing fake statistics from a biased student group at OSU on the front page as news?

To put it simply, Jack, I just don't get it. I just don't get what you were trying to say other than a noble attempt at tarnishing my credibility. I welcome your challenge, however, and I would love to debate you in any forum you prefer, be it in person or in a formal debate before the students of OSU and LBCC. But only under one condition—everything be public, and that you publish what you don't like me in your own paper as well as the one I work with. Are you up to the challenge, Jack?

Electoral College has finally outlived its usefulness to American democracy

by Pete Petryszak
of The Commuter

My last column dealt with confusion caused by shifting primary dates. This week I'd like to continue examining the process of selecting a president by taking a look at what is perhaps the least understood of our political entities, the Electoral College.

The Electoral College is as old as the Constitution itself, established to be the vehicle through which the people would choose a president. The way it works, at least on the surface, is simple: the people of the state vote, then the electors vote en masse for whoever receives the majority of votes in that state.

The most frequent criticism of this method is the winner-take-all nature of electoral voting. Critics charge (correctly) that the Electoral College can thwart the will of the people, because a candidate who carries the most populous states by slim margins but loses soundly in the smaller states can still come away with a majority of the electoral votes, even if that candidate is defeated in the popular vote.

To understand why the Founding Fathers would establish a body that could do that we must understand the political, social and geographical climate in which it was created in 1787.

The first reason for creating the Electoral College was one of convenience. The United States in 1787 stretched 1500 miles north to south and some 300-500 miles east to west. Lines of communication were unreliable, and roads and transportation systems were miserable at best. The short trip from Richmond, Virginia, to New York City could take weeks, and the possibility of transporting boxes of ballots in from the remote areas of the country to be counted was almost nil.

It made sense, then, to have the ballots counted locally, so that only a few representatives of the people in the states would have to make the journey to New York, the nation's capital at the time, and cast their states' votes for president.

Still, the framers knew that the body they created could, in certain circumstances, overturn the decision of a majority of the electorate, and they had good reasons (according to 1787 logic) for doing so.

The first reason for having states vote as blocs was that the founders needed the state governments, or at least strong voices within each state, to support their new constitution. Just as the U.S. Senate gave the individual states' concerns a voice in the national legislature, so the Electoral College would give the states power in determining who the head of the national government would be. This helped appease the states' concern that the new federal government would rob them of all their power.

The other reason for establishing the Electoral College is harder for us to understand in this day and age—the Founding Fathers' fear of populist demagogues.

While Americans of the 1990s consider "democracy" our country's greatest single achievement, the word had a different, frightening meaning in 1787. During that time, the word "democracy" meant unrestrained mob rule, which explains the framers' repeated insistence that they had not created a "democracy" but rather a "federated republic."

This fear of "democracy" led the founders to believe that a state-based, winner-take-all election process would be best so that margins of victory would not be counted, only who won the most states. It was hoped that this process would balance out any regional or populist movements which could otherwise lead to the election of unstable or tyrannical leaders.

The system, as it was established, has led to three elections in which the candidate who received the largest number of votes in the popular election was not

elected president.

The first came in 1824, when Andrew Jackson received the largest plurality in the popular vote but did not win a majority of the electors. The choice of president then went to the House of Representatives, where Henry Clay of Kentucky convinced enough members to vote for John Quincy Adams, who had come in second in the popular vote.

The next was in 1876, when some electors were bribed to change their votes and elect Rutherford B. Hayes. To my knowledge, this was the only presidential election in our history to fall victim to fraud.

Finally, in the 1888 election, Benjamin Harrison did what astute observers had known could be done all along; he carried enough states to win a majority of the electoral vote even though he received fewer votes in the general election than the incumbent President, Grover Cleveland.

With this in mind, we should look at what has changed since 1787 in this country and decide whether the reasons for using the Electoral College to select a president are still valid.

First, even the remotest regions of this country aren't remote anymore. The improvements we have made in transportation and communication over the past 200 years have made it possible to tally popular votes quickly and accurately, making the notion that the electors make the process more convenient obsolete.

Equally important are this country's changing attitudes about the importance of states and the fear of mob rule.

It is not questioned that states are still important government bodies, but I doubt you will find many people who believe that the interests of one particular state are so specialized that the state government should have more of a voice in selecting our leaders than the people within it. In short, Americans of today place a higher value on the individual.

Furthermore, a majority of Americans no longer believe that the people need to be protected from themselves. Although majorities can still make bad decisions, the general feeling among Americans today is that the majority of the people should be entitled to the leader they choose.

For these reasons I humbly suggest that the time has come to do away with the Electoral College, and that the president be chosen directly by popular vote. And I would like to add one more reason for doing so:

The system as it is set up causes candidates to adopt a platform not to win over a majority of the electorate, but only to win a majority of the electorate in certain states. This means that smaller states, although they may be dealing with vital issues of the day, tend to be overlooked by the candidates because they are more concerned with winning the big states.

Think about it this way: Imagine that everybody in Oregon is pro-logging, while everyone who lives in California supports a ban on all timber cutting. What position do you think the candidates would take on that issue? If they wanted to take California (and they all do), the candidates would leave their supporters in Oregon high and dry without a second thought.

If we scrapped the Electoral College, it would not be the first time we tinkered with the elections process. Before the 11th Amendment, each elector, or representative, if the elections went to the House, cast two votes for president, with the runner-up being made vice president. In 1800, this resulted in the House of Representatives casting 99 ballots, because Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr kept receiving the same number of votes. The leaders of the country found a glitch in the machinery, and corrected it.

I think it is time we further refined our elections process by doing away with the Electoral College, an outdated institution that appears complicated and confusing at best, and ominous and tyrannical at worst.

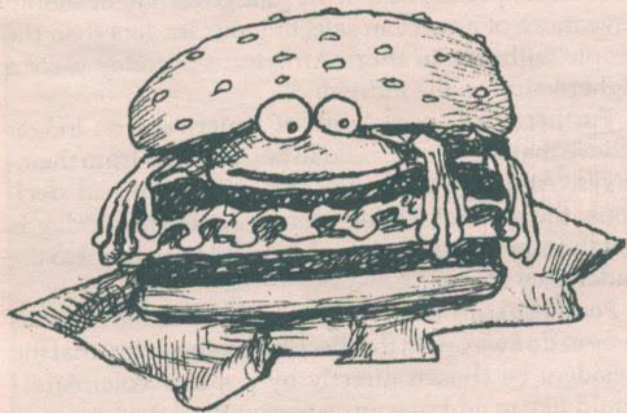


Elderly entrepreneur hooked by police

GENOA, Italy (AP)—Police in this tough port city said Sunday they have broken up a prostitution ring run by an 82-year-old woman who gave discounts to elderly clients.

Police said the woman, a former prostitute, was helped in running the ring by two women in their 60s. The women, now under investigation, used mainly South American prostitutes who offered their services in 10 apartments and two warehouses in the city, police said.

Standard fee was 70,000 lire (\$45) a session, with customers over 60 getting a 20,000 lire (\$12.50) break, authorities said. All customers were required to pay an extra 1,000 lire (65 cents) for a condom.



Hop on down to Mickey-D's for an unfrog-edible meal

RUSKIN, Fla. (AP)—A young man claims he took a bite of a McDonald's Quarter-Pounder burger and bit into a dead frog.

Joey Hatfield glanced down at the food in his hand and saw legs. "It was a frog, (baked) inside the bun," said the 22-year-old Hatfield.

He bought two burgers Wednesday, gobbled the first and bit into the second. He said he noticed something wasn't right.

"I know what a Quarter-Pounder is supposed to sound like," Hatfield explained later. "I was in total amazement."

He immediately spit out the bite and rushed to see the manager. He was reimbursed \$4.26 plus tax,

went home and nursed a sick stomach.

Since then, Hatfield has been deluged with telephone calls—not all of them complimentary. He's been called a hoaxer, a prankster and "Frog Boy."

But Hatfield insists it is no prank. He wouldn't put himself through all this fuss on a lark.

"We take this very seriously," McDonald's spokeswoman Cheryl Smith said. "It needs to be investigated rather than having people speculate about it."

A McDonald's accident investigation report says the burger bun "had a frog baked in it."

So, inspectors from the state's Department of Agriculture went to East Balt. Bakery of Florida in Kissimmee where the buns are made. They inspected it and said it was clean as a whistle.

"There is no way a frog could have entered the building," said agriculture spokesman Terence McElroy. "If a frog got in that place it would be paste before it got out."

Teens go to pot for a good cause

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP)—Marin County teenagers had a fund-raising idea they couldn't let go down the drain.

They were flush with success, raising almost \$20,000 by giving away toilets, the ultra low-flush models that save water. In just two days, youths raked in \$10,500 for their schools.

Teen-age volunteers with the Marin AIDS Project didn't sit around either. They raised \$7,050.

The Marin Municipal Water District is underwriting the \$122 cost of each low-flush toilet. The youngsters get \$15 for each new toilet they distribute.

The water district will spend about a \$1 million this year on its toilet retrofit programs. Those who accept the free toilets must return their old ones—or they will be billed for the cost of the new toilet.

The water district wants its 180,000 customers to conserve water, about 20 percent of which is brought in from the Russian River at a cost of about \$2.2 million a year.

The youths must organize and advertise the giveaway and retrieve the old toilets, which are crushed and used as road construction materials.

"I thought it was really fun, but it was really hard work," said Michael Weaver, 17, a senior at Drake High School. "I was one of the people lifting and loading the toilets, so it was hard on the back. In the end it was worthwhile. It seemed we were making a difference."

News Lite Illustrations by Jacob Schmid

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



Metal railing lick 5-year-old girl

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP)—The icy metal railing leading to the Masonic Temple was glistening in sunlight, and apparently was enticing to a 5-year-old girl waiting for a school bus nearby.

So she licked it—in sub-zero temperatures.

After spending five minutes trying to wiggle her tongue free, her older sister panicked and got her said Benita Thielman, who called 911 to report the Wednesday morning incident from a nearby office.

"She was really scared," Thielman said. "You could lose your tongue out there but those kids don't know that."

When firefighters arrived, the girl's saliva and breath had formed ice around the bottom of her tongue, Lt. Rocky Willette of the Yakima Fire Department said.

They poured warm water on her tongue and she was free in 30 seconds, Willette said.

The girl, who was not identified, was treated at Providence Yakima Medical Center for frostbite to her tongue and released, officials said.



Bonehead burglar bungles getaway

CADIZ, Ky. (AP)—Police charged a Paducah burglar with armed robbery and said time he lost trying to break into his own getaway car helped lead to his capture.

Kevin Stanley Stokes, 25, had locked his keys in his car and had to kick out a back window to get in, Cadiz Police Chief Ray White said.

"He ran outside and said, 'Whoops,'" White said. "which was good because it bought us a couple minutes to get a unit there. He might have been successful had he not done that."

Stokes was charged with first-degree robbery of Cadiz Shell Food Mart. He allegedly entered the store on U.S. 68 at Interstate 24 east of Cadiz, at 11 p.m. CST Thursday and pointed a pistol at two clerks, demanding money. The clerks handed over a bag containing \$169.75.

White explained what happened next:

While the robber was desperately breaking into his own car parked beside the store, the clerks called police. Given the brief head start, Cadiz Police Sgt. Duncan Wiggins and Officer Scott Brown soon spotted Stokes' car headed east on I-24.

Officers followed him for 21 miles at normal speed to the Oak Grove community in Christian County. At 12:23 a.m. Friday, Stokes turned into a restaurant parking lot and was arrested without incident.