

Photo by Jeremy Parker

Take That!

Radly Pozniakoff puts students through their paces in his defensive tactics course, which meets Thursday nights on campus. The course is popular among criminal justice majors and others who want to learn how to defend themselves.

Last one out shut the door!

Wave of retirements has college seeking new teachers and managers

by Mary Hake
of The Commuter

A record number of LBCC employees are scheduled to retire next month.

Because of the high rate offered by the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) for those who retire by March 1, up to 16 faculty and administrative staff plan to take advantage of this opportunity.

LBCC President Jon Carnahan said that PERS growth the past year was 21 percent, based on their investments, and PERS recently announced that this year's growth was about 17 percent. This amount is applied to an employee's first year of retirement, increasing the individual retirement fund.

Carnahan said that because LBCC has been in existence 30 years, a majority of employees will reach retirement age in the next five years. Recognizing that many of these might choose to retire early, he sent out a memo to all the staff in October addressing the potential problem of a large turnover.

By mid-December, the list of those considering midyear retirement "was pretty complete," he said, adding that most of these people intend to remain until the end of the school year in June. Retirees are allowed to work up to 1,040 hours per year for a PERS organization, and the college will continue their same pay rate in their noncontracted positions.

Knowing who must be replaced helps with planning for the future, and it also provides an opportunity to restructure the college, said Ed Watson, vice president for academic affairs.

He added that whenever a position
(turn to "Retirements," Pg. 2)

Despite enrollment decline, LB's Asian students said to be weathering financial storms back home

by Molly Schulze
of The Commuter

LBCC seems to be slowly losing its Asian students, although whether the reduction is due to the recent economic crisis in Asia is uncertain.

In the fall of 1995, LBCC had 17 Asian students enrolled. In the fall of 1996, only 15 Asian students enrolled. This fall, the number of Asian students dropped to 11, and just 10 are enrolled this term. There is one student from Thailand, one from Honk Kong, one from China, four from Indonesia and three from Japan.

Carol Wenzel, LBCC graduation evaluator who works with international students, pointed out that she doesn't know why there has been a decline in Asian student enrollment.

However, about 200 Asian students have left OSU just this term, according to a Jan. 15 article in the Gazette Times. The exodus was blamed on the declining financial status of East Asian countries, where, according to the article, "years of

economic speculation, unsecured loans and unchecked growth" have made college costs unmanageable for Asian students.

A Jan. 21 article in the OSU Barometer reported that international students at OSU pay approximately \$21,000 for one full year. Because of the drop in the value of their home currencies, however, an Indonesian student would be forced to pay the equivalent of about \$85,000 for that same 12 month period. The cost at LBCC for an international student for one year is merely \$8,280.

Jack Van de Water, dean of International Programs at OSU, told The Barometer "the rapid slide (that the Asian economies were experiencing) has stabilized in recent

days." He also said that "that could all change tomorrow".

At LBCC, Wenzel said, "I have talked to several students and asked them how their families are doing, and are they going to be OK; and so far they've all said they think they are going to be able to make it."

(turn to "Asian," Pg. 2)

National Story, Page 4

Asian students at universities across the country have watched their tuition charges go up as the value of their home currencies have plummeted in recent weeks.

Expansion of Camas Room calls for more seats, bigger menu

by Curtis Larson
of The Commuter

Students and staff can expect a noisy summer in Takena Hall this year as the Camas Room is enlarged to accommodate more patrons and a wider food selection.

Due to limited seating and a small kitchen area in the current Camas Room, the college plans to make many changes over the summer. Although final details are still being ironed out, the goal is to double the seating capacity.

Some of the changes being discussed include replacing the table seats with booths and adding bar seating for those who are in a hurry. Tables will also be placed

elsewhere in Takena Hall, such as near the alcove by the stairs and on the second-level bridge.

The Camas Room will also have two new entrances from the outside for easier access from the courtyard. There is also discussion of other additions, such as a new salad bar, espresso, deli and baker case.

Despite having less money for the project than originally anticipated, college officials remain optimistic about beginning the project this summer, with completion sometime fall term. They feel that a larger Camas Room will draw more business and be more convenient to students.

The exact nature of the new facility is still uncertain, as committees continue to meet with architects.



Photo by Mary Hake

Students Nick Smith and Desiree Dunn enjoy lunch in the Camas Room last Thursday.

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Kids to swarm Takena Theatre for Tolstoy play

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Check This Out

Information from 13 universities will be available at College Transfer Day, next Monday. See story on Page 2.

✓ 3 Kings

Killer Crossover crushes competition in 3-on-3 contest

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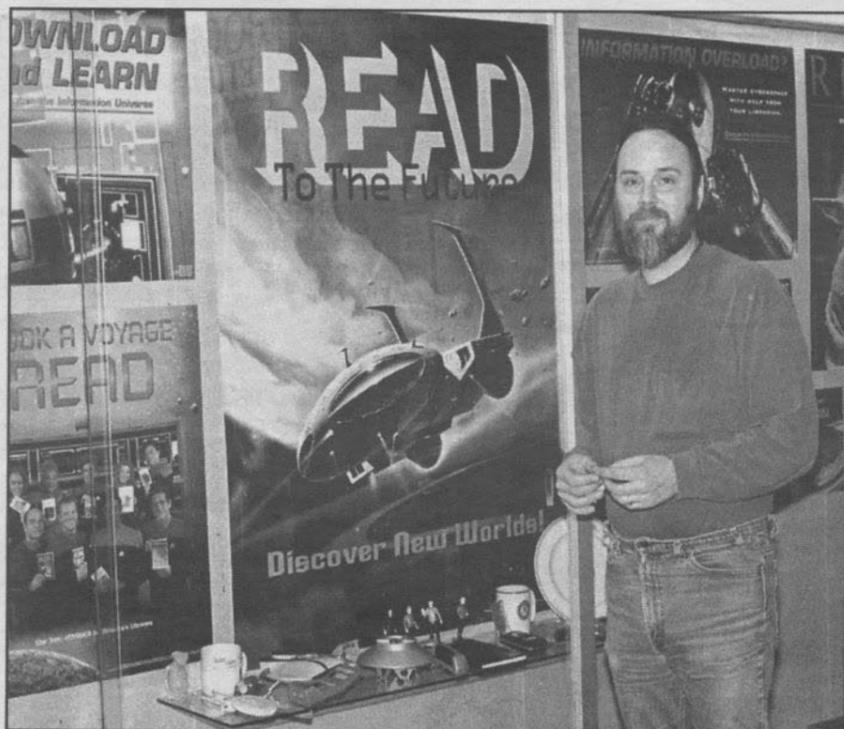


Photo by Carrie Baxter

James Creighton's current display in the library deals with space exploration, real and fictional.

Library seeks collections to place behind glass in entryway display

by Jeremy Parker
of The Commuter

Do you have a collection that you're proud of? If so, why not display it in the library?

James Creighton, a technical processor and the man behind the original and thought-provoking displays in the entrance of the library, is looking for people with collections that they would like to have displayed.

This invitation is open to students, staff or a class who would like to show off what they have done.

Creighton has been doing the display case in the library for three years now. He got started by putting up book covers to advertise books from the library.

He said that the response he received was so positive that he continued to fill the case with book covers and posters and started adding things from his own collections. His most famous display was what he called "Poking fun at TV" last April. It had

one TV with bars in place of the glass and a bunch of toy monsters behind the bars, a TV filled with Barbie dolls and a mannequin with a TV for a head.

This was also displayed in The Book Bin in downtown Albany from November until last Friday. According to Creighton, the response has been so great that the owner of The Book Bin has asked him to put it up in the Corvallis store, where it is now showing during February, and after that in the Salem Book Bin. Creighton said that the message he was trying to get across is simple: "Turn it off and free yourself."

We can expect to see his TV display again in April to celebrate National "Turn Off Your TV" week.

If you have a collection, no matter how small or weird, and are interested in showing it off, you can contact James Creighton in the library or call him at 917-4651. He said he's open to just about anything.

Asian students struggle with college costs

✓ From Page 1

The 10 Asian students at LBCC this semester are not the only Asian students on campus. They are the students registered as F1, whose visas allow them to the U.S. for the sole purpose of attending school. Therefore, there are other Asians on campus, those who may have a spouse working at OSU, for example, and are here for reasons other than attending school. The information that LBCC holds

does not include the numbers of those students or where they came from.

The Asian students on campus who are F1 students, according to their original agreement, cannot get jobs off-campus, but they can apply for an extension in the case of an unforeseen hardship. The request takes approximately 90 days to process. Interested foreign students should inquire at the Admissions Office.

Information for transfer students offered at seminars Monday

On Monday, Feb. 9, the Career Center is sponsoring College Transfer Day, a day full of information and advice for students who are thinking of transferring from LBCC to another school.

Booths from 13 different colleges, many of them four-year Oregon universities, will be set up in the Commons between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., where information will be available and representatives will answer questions.

In addition, three seminars will be

held in the Alsea/Calapooia rooms:

- A seminar on the LBCC/OSU joint admissions project will be held from 10-10:30 a.m..

- "All You Ever Wanted to Know About the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer Degree" will be held from 11-11:30 a.m.

- "Been There, Done That," from 12-1 p.m., will offer students a chance to ask questions and hear answers from a panel of transfer students.

Multi-cultural center to promote diversity

by Eric Rinkin
of The Commuter

A multi-cultural center is being proposed as part of the upcoming construction projects that will move Student Life & Leadership offices.

A 10-by-18-foot area has been proposed for a multi-cultural center, which will include a small library for multi-cultural and gender affairs. At a joint meeting of the Student Programming Board and Associated Student Government last week, it was suggested that there should be a partition between the center and the Student Life and Leadership (SLL) Office.

However, it appears that the center will get a separate room, according to the most recently revised floor plans.

Tammi Paul Bryant, director of SLL,

said that creating space for the new center has not been easy because this institution does not understand what a multi-cultural center is.

"The term 'multi-cultural' is misleading," agreed career counselor Marlene Propst. "It is more centered around diversity. The center speaks to all groups."

Council members were told that the center's goal is to help students understand the differences with which people have to deal said college officials. The focus will be on expanding students' knowledge of diversity.

The idea for a multi-cultural center came out of the Diversity Committee, whose goal is to support diversity. It will be a room containing information about various cultures and where people can sit down and talk.

Retirements will affect budgets, tradition

✓ From Page 1

opens, it is an opportunity to reexamine that position and to look at all the resources of the college and find out where they can best be used. Those positions may change in the process, he said.

Watson explained that the school likes to get its recruiting message out by the first part of February so that it can "start attracting a pool of applicants." The Human Resources Department advertises openings through local news outlets, focusing on the Northwest. Watson said that, depending on the position, they may have to look outside the area.

Other Oregon schools are facing the same situation. The consortium of community colleges were concerned that the large number of job openings would be perceived as something negative happening in Oregon. They placed a half-page ad explaining the circumstances in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Carnahan said that new employees would start at lower salaries than the experienced ones leaving, saving the college money.

However, he quickly added, "We would not not replace a position in order to balance the budget." He said that they look at enrollment, but not at those va-

cancies by themselves as a way to balance the budget.

"We will feel the loss of history," said Carnahan. Losing all these "quality veteran faculty members who have grown up with this organization and have a huge personal and professional commitment to the college" will have a large impact over the years.

Newcomers will be less experienced and less committed to the community and the college, Carnahan said "On the other hand, they will bring in new ideas, fresh views and excitement." He added that he wouldn't want those retiring to think that they didn't have all those.

He explained that the school intends to promote administrative personnel within the college and would be more likely to rearrange these responsibilities than they would those of faculty who leave, creating different positions than those which were vacated.

Carnahan said his one concern is being able to find qualified faculty to replace those retiring, explaining that the job market is very competitive. Not only is LBCC close to Chemeketa and Lane, who are also seeking employees, he said, but education is not competitive with the private sector.

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

Class helps Lebanon students knit strong tradition

by Rebecca Newell
of The Commuter

Seeing Eye dogs and young teens aren't what typically come to mind when picturing a crocheting and knitting class. But those two elements, as well as the traditional gossip, laughter, and a furious flurry of colored yarn and wagging needles, are part of a group of women who are anything but stereotypical.

For the 14 women who gather Tuesday mornings at the East Linn LBCC Center in downtown Lebanon, the weekly event is more than just a class. It's "a weekly therapy session," laughed Bertha Forbes. The Lebanon resident has attended the class since its start in 1984, and enjoys the camaraderie of her classmates as much as the production of her many pairs of socks.

The class is just one of several offered weekly in Albany, Lebanon and Sweet Home. Mary Ann Earles of Lebanon has been the instructor since its beginning. For her, crocheting is a family tradition passed from mother to daughter. In addition to the skill of crocheting, which she was taught as a young child, she learned to knit. Her years of experience and level of skill led her to organize the class. Her favorite part of the class is helping her students clear hurdles in their numerous projects.

Her success is obvious by the reflection of attitudes and accomplishments of her students. Charlotte Rose, a fifth-year student currently working on an afghan for a overdue great-grandchild, remarked "I used to make a mistake and

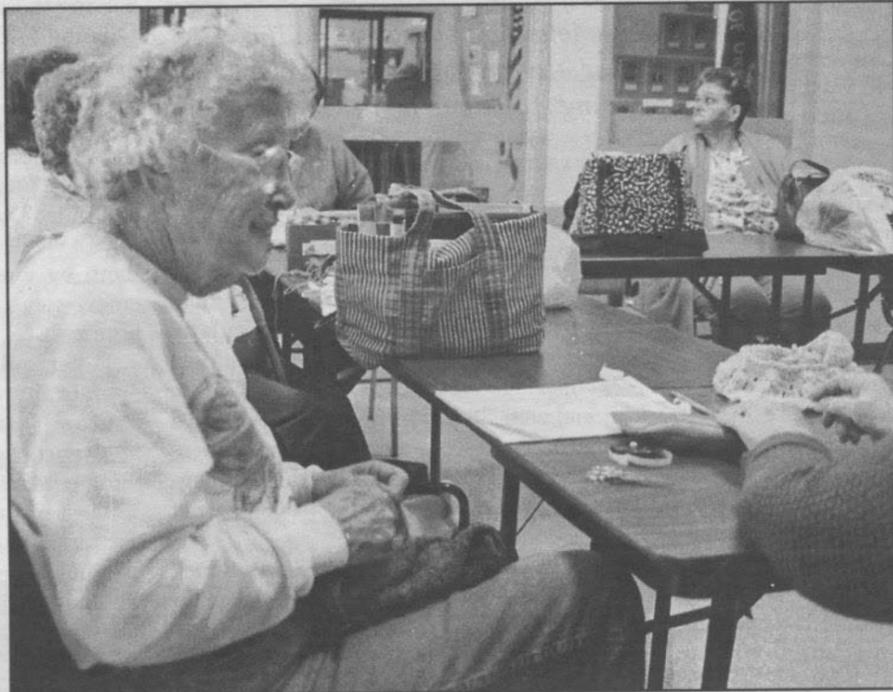


Photo by Rebecca Newell

Lebanon resident Evelyn Anderson works intently on a knitting project during the Tuesday morning class at the Lebanon Center.

not know how to fix it. As a result, I would always leave projects undone. One reason I enjoy the class is that Mary Ann can help me fix any mistake, and I can complete all of my projects."

The class includes a diversity of women from age 14 to 81. The youngest of the group is Sarah McCraw, who is home schooled by her mother Diane. During the class, Sarah not only works at completing an afghan, but at the task of training a Seeing Eye dog. She took re-

sponsibility for Regatta, a six-month-old golden retriever, as a 4-H project, and brings the animal everywhere.

Diane McCraw decided to enroll both herself and her daughter in the class after becoming the leader for Sarah's 4-H club. "I enjoy doing work with my hands," she commented while putting the finishing touches on a dress collar, "and by taking the class, I always know where Sarah is and what she's doing."

Despite the variety of projects that

individuals in the class work on, a common thread of tradition backs the reason many of the women are there. For one first-year student, who wishes to remain anonymous, following tradition is the sole reason for taking the class. "My grandmother was a teacher for 40 years, and knitted all her life. Every Christmas, she knitted everyone a pair of slippers," commented the woman. "After her grandmother's death several years ago, she decided to carry on the tradition, and has designated next year's Christmas as the date to reveal her efforts to her family."

"One reason I enjoy the class is that Mary Ann can help me fix any mistake, and I can complete all of my projects."

—Charlotte Rose

For Dee Gaylord, a sixth-year student, taking the class not only allows her to work constantly with arts and crafts, to her husband's chagrin, but also provides a source of extra income. Every year at the Philomath Renaissance Fair, she sells colorful jester hats, the product of her work during class. "It's a great social outlet and keeps my frustration level down," she said with a laugh.

It's obvious the women get more from the class than finished socks or sweaters. Over the past 14 years, they've also knitted many friendships.

Two students place second in ag machinery repair contest

From the LBCC News Service

Six LBCC students recently competed for the first time in the Washington State Contest of the Postsecondary Agriculture Students Organization held Jan. 21 at Walla Walla Community College.

Heavy equipment mechanics/diesel instructor Allan Jackson said his six-student team competed in the agricultural machinery service technician award program sponsored by John Deere and Company.

"My students came within nine points of the top team," said Jackson. "This was a great opportunity for our students to show their stuff and meet potential employers face-to-face."

Two of Jackson's students, Herb Larwood and George Jenkins, placed second in the contest, entitling them to go on to the national contest scheduled March 11-14 in Williamsburg, Va.

"This wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated teaching of Allan Jackson and Jim Allen," said Jenkins.

Other students on the LBCC team were Amos Kirk, Jason Bishop, Bryan Fisher and Justin Seiders.

At the national Postsecondary Agriculture Students Organization (PAS) contest, state contest winners may attend leadership seminars and compete in various specialist award programs in career planning and progress, crops, dairy, animal production, ornamental horticulture, agri-business, agricultural machinery, agricultural speech making, and employment interviews.

More than 50 community colleges, technical colleges, junior colleges, colleges and universities participate in PAS.

LBCC is the first Oregon school to join the organization.

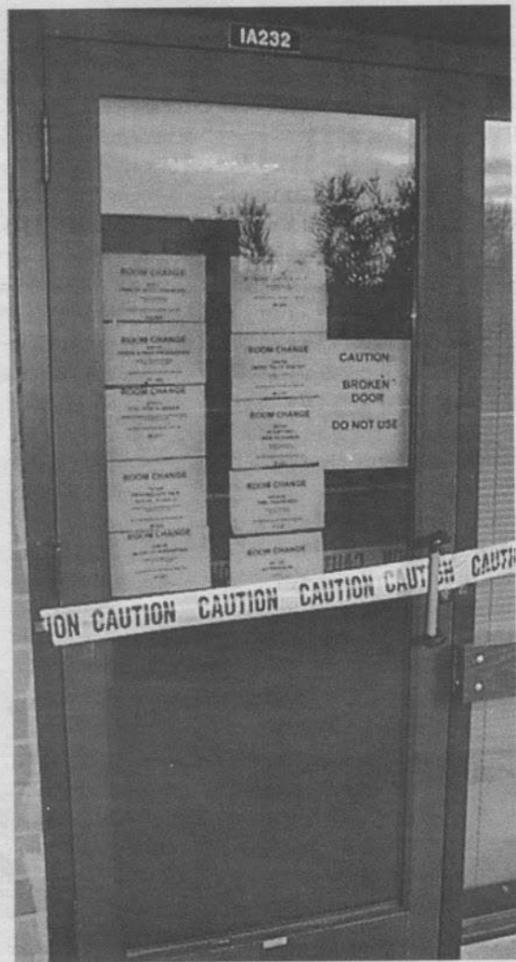


Photo by Mary Hake

Shut Out

Ten classes have been forced to find new homes for the rest of winter term because of a broken door in one of the newly remodeled rooms on the second floor of the IA Building. The new door is "falling apart," according to a spokesperson for facilities. The college is working with the contractor, Morris Kielty, to get it replaced.

Life's too short.

STOP THE HATE.

Leadership Conference Education Fund, Inc.



Internet term papers cost more than students bargain for

by Jenifer Doane
of The Collegian

Need a report on the Civil War? That'll be \$44. How about a 10-page paper on the effects of global warming? That's \$60, please. Papers carefully laying out the ethical theories behind any number of topics will cost you even more.

Term papers doled out from Internet web sites are becoming increasingly problematic for universities around the country. For a fee of as little as \$3 a page, students can order complete essays just by accessing the web. There are hundreds of papers floating around out there, including "Themes of Sex and the Human Mind" and "The Effects of Quantum Chaos."

For \$15 a page, students can even order a customized term paper on the topic of their choice written by professionals specializing in that subject.

"Students who don't want to do the work have always found ways to get out of doing it. This is just the newest way," said Kathryn Hochstetler, a political science professor at Colorado State University.

Last year, two students from the University of Denver were caught using papers from the Internet after their professor went online and found very similar papers for sale. Both students were put on probation.

"Students who don't want to do the work have always found ways to get out of doing it. This is just the newest way."

—Kathryn Hochstetler

Professors are aware of papers available on the Internet, and, ironically, are using the web to combat the problem. Instructors are using two websites particularly helpful, Hochstetler said. "Student Term Paper Web Sites" and "Plagiarism Websource Alert" list more than 40 additional web sites offering term papers a variety of subjects. Professors also access a list provided by Duke University's Center of Academic Integrity to find even more papers available from Internet paper mills.

Also effective, Hochstetler said, is the "grapevine" system of communication professors use to keep up with the newest Internet mills.

The fate of Internet paper mills is being tested in the courts. Last month, Boston University filed suit against several companies with hopes of getting a court order

barring them from doing business in that state.

Some of the companies in the lawsuit are A-Plus Term papers, Jersey City, N.J.; A-1 Term papers, West Chester, Pa.; The Paper Store Enterprises Inc., Jackson, N.J.; and paperz.com, San Antonio, Texas.

A-1 offers 20,000 pre-written term papers at a range of prices. Custom documents cost up to \$35 a page, plus shipping. The Paper Store, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, offers essays for \$12 a page and will send them by e-mail or federal mail. They also offer an emergency option if an essay is needed within 48 hours.

Paper mill companies should not be allowed to operate anywhere, said Colorado State University instructor Heather Urschel.

"It encourages plagiarism, and it goes against everything education is about," she said.

Most of the term paper websites carry disclaimers encouraging students to use papers for research, not as original material.

"I believe if students use the papers for research and cite where they got the paper from, then the websites are all right," said Colorado State freshman Crystal Presnell. "But as far as using the papers as your own work (goes), that is wrong."

Asian students face financial dilemma as markets drop

by Sarah Hallonquist
of The Minnesota Daily

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Jokes and laughter covered the worried expressions on the faces of Korean university students as they patiently brainstormed for ways to pay this quarter's tuition.

About 30 students, both graduates and undergraduates, attended the special Korean Student Association meeting Jan. 9 at The University of Minnesota's Coffman Memorial Union.

The recent market crashes in Southeast Asia are causing international students from South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to seek different sources of money for tuition and living expenses. Many of these students receive funding from their government or parents while they complete their education in the United States. But as the exchange rates continue to fluctuate, the students find they get less money from home.

"The first thing I check is the exchange rates," said Jeong Hoon An, a political science undergraduate who recently got an on-campus job to make up the funding difference his parents can't send him anymore.

An is among three students chosen by the group to communicate with UM administrators about addressing the financial crunch. Because the undergraduate and graduate students have different financial needs, the group chose students from both areas to represent their concerns.

As a starting point, the students drew up a list of suggestions. They include:

- Applying resident tuition rates to students who do not receive financial support from their department such as graduate or teaching assistantships.

- Making available long-term loans with low interest rates.

- Alerting departments of the economic crisis and urging them to hire international students as teaching or research assistants.

- Allowing international students to work off campus temporarily (which is currently illegal under Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations).

In addition, the Korean Student Association is planning "Korean Culture Night" for February. Originally intended as a showcase for Korean art and music, the celebration will now focus on raising money to help struggling students pay their tuition or living expenses. Brandon Cho, the association's president, said they will sell crafts and ask for donations from the Twin Cities' Korean community.

Meanwhile, UM has begun responding to the students' requests. The office of International Student and Scholar Services is holding informational sessions this week for all international students affected by the economic crisis.

"This affects many, many students who had normally not had financial difficulties probably any time in their life," said Director Kay Thomas. She noted that between 50 and 60 students contacted her office last week with concerns and questions related to the market plight in Asia.

The UM will also be sending a memo to all faculty and staff members sometime this week to inform them of the problem. Bob Kvavik, associate vice president and executive officer, said the memo will ask colleges and departments to look to their resources for any way to help their own international students. The help could come in the form of scholarships, loans or job opportunities.

Kvavik said the memo is a way to reassure students that their concerns are heard.

One student, who asked that her name be withheld, said she found it frustrating when she tried to explain to her advisor how the crisis was affecting her.

When her department did not renew her assistantship for winter quarter, she panicked.

Eventually, after alerting them to the Asian market problems, a job was created for her so she could afford tuition.

"Even though they read newspapers everyday, they may not be connecting those things to their Korean students," she said. "We really want them to know

about us."

While the UM alerts staff and faculty, administrators will continue to collect information and work with students on a case-by-case basis.

"We have no interest in driving students home," Kvavik said. "In one sense, they've made a decision to come here and, like any student, we've made an investment in them just as much as they've made an investment here."

He said the UM has faced this problem before with students from Iran and Nigeria.

BE LESS PRODUCTIVE AT THE OFFICE.

The office has always been a place to get ahead. Unfortunately, it's also a place where a lot of natural resources start to fall behind. Take a look around the next time you're at work. See how many lights are left on when people leave. See how much paper is being wasted. How much electricity is being used to run computers that are left on. Look at how much water is being wasted in the restrooms. And how much solid waste is being thrown out in the trash cans. We bet it's a lot. Now, here

are some simple ways you can

produce less waste at work. When you're at the copier, only make the copies you need. Use both sides of the paper when writing a memo. Turn off your light when you leave. Use a lower watt bulb in your lamps. Drink your coffee or tea out of mugs instead of throwaway cups. Set up a recycling bin for aluminum cans and one for bottles. And when you're in the bathroom

brushing your teeth or washing your face, don't let the faucet run. Remember, if we use fewer resources today, we'll save more for tomorrow. Which would truly be a job well done.

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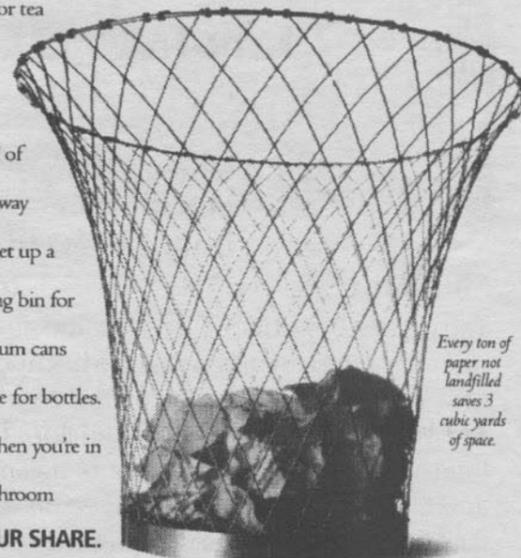
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Earth Share

LOCAL NEWS

Local elementary school to be turned into Christian camp

by Eric Rinkin
of The Commuter

A proposal by a Eugene firm to convert Shedd Elementary School into a Christian camp has been granted by the Linn County Planning Commission in a 3 to 2 vote.

The camp, known as Camp Northwest, will offer activities, athletics and classes centered around biblical training. The current owners, E.H. Canfield & Sons, a trucking firm based in Eugene, plan to expand the camp by building housing for 280 people, along with an outdoor swimming pool, restrooms, a shower house and recreational equipment. It will also have 10 electrical and water hook ups for recreational vehicles. Eventually the owners plan to enclose the pool.

However, the Linn County Planning Commission has imposed some restrictions:

- Each session of the camp, intended for children 8-18 years of age, must be limited to a total of 150 people,

including campers and staff.

- Campers will be forbidden to leave the campgrounds unless on organized outings.

- The facility may be used only by Camp Northwest.

- A fence at least 5-feet high must be put up on three sides to protect surrounding grass seed fields.

"Our goal is to be a good neighbor. The only way America will get back in control is to get back to Christian fundamentals."

—E. H. Canfield

- No amplified music or the use of a public address system outdoors is allowed.

- Outdoor evening activities are limited to Fridays and Saturdays before 10 p.m.

- The RV campgrounds will be used only by people

affiliated with the camp.

So far the camp has been funded by corporate and private donations, which the owners plan to use to fund the construction. The camp will be used mainly for grade school-aged youth.

The concept behind Camp Northwest was originated in 1979 by Tom Canfield. He started by renting Camp Christian in Springfield, Ore., then Camp Lutherwood in Eugene, followed by Camp Mayfield in Mossy Rock, Wash. The original purpose was to provide a camp away from everyday influences. Currently the organization's purpose is to "establish, operate and maintain a Christian camp and conference grounds, for evangelism, education and edification so that lives will be changed by God's power for his glory," according to its brochure.

"Our goal is to be a good neighbor," Canfield said. "The only way America will get back in control is to get back to Christian fundamentals."

Child Care Commission holds forum on campus

From the LBCC News Service

On Thursday Feb. 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Family Resource Center Room 105, the Oregon Child Care Commission will hold an open forum to listen to families talk about their concerns with child care. Information gathered will be reported back to the governor and legislators.

This is a great opportunity to speak out on this topic and let your legislators and governor know what it's really like for families who depend on the child care system. Suggestions on how to improve child care regulations, the cost and quality of care, or other concerns you may have will be important for the Commission to hear.

Call Family Connections, 917-4899, for information.



Photo by Natalie Dalton

Welcome to the World

Handler Bob Williams helps a ewe take care of her newborn lamb at the OSU Sheep Barns, where the public is invited to observe lambing during daylight hours through March. The barns are located off Oak Creek Drive west of Harrison and 53rd outside of Corvallis.

Project Vote Smart launches campaign for student volunteers

by Kate Casprowiak
of The Commuter

Project Vote Smart (PVS), a national organization with headquarters in Corvallis, is campaigning for volunteers to gather factual information regarding candidates for Congress, governor and state legislatures.

Voters throughout the nation will depend on the information about the positions of approximately 13,000 politicians during the 1998 elections.

Ninety percent of the research work is done by volunteers and interns, who are needed to do simple computer work, research, mailing, handling phone calls and faxes. Most jobs require only simple typing and basic communication skills.

Internships are directed at college students, often with backgrounds in political science, communications, marketing or public relations. Students can gain college credit for internships and earn valuable training, according to Lucy

Skjelstad, head of volunteers. To apply to become an intern one must fill out an application, submit a resume and give at least three references.

PVS is non-partisan, and does not accept funding from government or corporate sources. Support comes from the founding board of political leaders, ranging from Mark Hatfield to Geraldine Ferraro.

PVS uses the National Political Awareness Test (NPAT), to evaluate the posi-

tions of political candidates. The NPAT was designed by a group of 90 political scientists and national political leaders. Questions are designed to cater to the top concerns of American voters, determined by polls taken from the previous three years. The test is sent to politicians to determine their willingness to answer issue-orientated, fair-minded questions while running for office, said Skjelstad.

For volunteer or internship information, call 754-2746 or 737-3760.

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Grab it!

More than 10,000 people attend LBCC, from 19 year old skateboarders to 30 something Moms and Dads. They live in Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Sweet Home and all points between. They work, play and shop in their local communities. For many, the Commuter is the only newspaper they take the time to read. If you want to reach them, give us a call at 917-4452.

'The Tolstoy Story Play' invites audience participation

From the LBCC News Service

What happens when a toy maker loves his toys so much he refuses to sell them?

Find out in a free performance of "The Stingy Toy Maker," part of this year's LBCC children's play, on Saturday, Feb. 7, at 1 p.m. in The Book Bin, 228 SW 3rd St. in Corvallis. The 15-minute performance is for children up to the fifth grade and includes audience participation.

"It's going to be very free-form at The Book Bin," said director Jean Bonifas. "We'll involve kids in the audience and just roll with it; it'll be very fun."

"The Stingy Toy Maker," a locally written story, has been added to the performance of the award-winning "The Tolstoy Story Play," the upcoming LBCC Children's Theater production on Feb. 14, 21, and 28. Performances are scheduled for 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Takena Theater. Admission is \$3 for children under 18 and \$5 for adults.

The complete play runs approximately 45 minutes. Tickets are available at Rice's Pharmacy in Corvallis and at the Takena Theater Box Office, 917-4531. Weekday performances for local schools begin Feb. 5 and run through Feb. 26.

Scio resident and retired educator Joyce Greiner submitted "The Stingy Toy Maker" to the Tolstoy Story Contest last fall, when it was selected out of 20 local

entries for inclusion in the seven-story play adapted by V. Glasgow Koste.

Greiner said, "It's a story about sharing and each person doing his part and finding out the lesson when you don't share."

"The Tolstoy Story Play' is a composite of Russian folk tales first adapted by Leo Tolstoy from oral tradition," said Bonifas.

The performance is done in story-theater style with narrators telling the basic story, and the cast of six LBCC student actors playing a variety of roles. Children in the audience also will be included in the performance.

Bonifas said the show helps children understand the value of storytelling and the importance of oral tradition "as it helps us understand the world around us and how we function in it."

Bonifas, a customer service and sales representative at Cascade Printing in Corvallis, directed "The Wheel" for the LBCC Children's Theater six years ago.

"I find it really exciting to stimulate the imagination of children," Bonifas said. "There's a great deal of enthusiasm in a children's audience that you don't get in adult audiences. It's important to give them well-presented theater because that's how we build our audiences for the future."



Photo by Michele Dardis

Tina Empol, Alicia Corey, Randy Brown and Aaron Grow dance and play music during rehearsals for "The Tolstoy Story Play," which opens Thursday for a three-week run of performances that will bring hundreds of area school children to the campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

commentary

Brainless films create respect for better movies

by James Eagan
of The Commuter

Whether we like to admit it or not, we've all seen some pretty stupid movies at one time or another in our lives.

So have I. And I don't care who knows it. I've even intentionally seen some pretty lame ones.

The difference is, I will see a stupid movie with the knowledge that it's going to be stupid, but I'm going to be entertained by it anyway, dammit.

I guess that's what separates me from people like Siskel and Ebert.

Sure, I'm disappointed when I pay six bucks for a movie ticket and the film that I had such high hopes for turns out to be really lame. Who wouldn't be?

We can't expect all films to be "Lawrence of Arabia." Hollywood doesn't make very many "sweeping epics" like that anymore. They're too expensive to make, and they don't generally get the big box office numbers like "Jurassic Park" or "Men in Black."

Not that I didn't enjoy those two films, but their quality is nothing compared to, say, "2001." And that's OK. They're not supposed to be brilliant, just entertaining, which they were.

On the opposite end of the film quality spectrum, you have movies like "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" and any movie with Pauly Shore in it. Brilliant? Not even. Enter-

taining? Yes.

Think about it. A movie based on the premise of mutant tomatoes running (or should I say rolling?) around killing people at random is pretty dumb. But that happens to be one of my favorite movies of all time. Why? Because it was absolutely hilarious in its stupidity, and that made the movie that much more entertaining.

So "Encino Man" is not exactly Oscar material. Big deal.

It was funny and entertaining, and that's all it pretended to be. I mean, could you really expect "weasel-boy" Pauly Shore to be in something like "The English Patient?"

A friend of mine and I once saw "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (which has been

made into a pretty decent TV series, by the way). We both knew it was going to be a pretty stupid movie, but we enjoyed it anyway. The plot, the writing, and the acting were all weak, but so what? One of the reasons we saw it was to see Paul "Pee Wee Herman" Reubens as a nasty, snarling (but funny) vampire.

The point of all my ramblings is this: Go see a stupid movie once in a while. Accept the fact that it's stupid and revel in its idiocy. Watch something like "Plan Nine from Outer Space," on video and then go see "Titanic."

Trust me—you'll appreciate "Titanic" even more.

So what's your favorite stupid movie? E-mail me at JCEagan@aol.com, and I'll publish the results.

Go see a stupid movie once in a while. Accept the fact that it's stupid and revel in its idiocy. Watch something like "Plan Nine from Outer Space," on video and then go see "Titanic."

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SPORTS PAGE

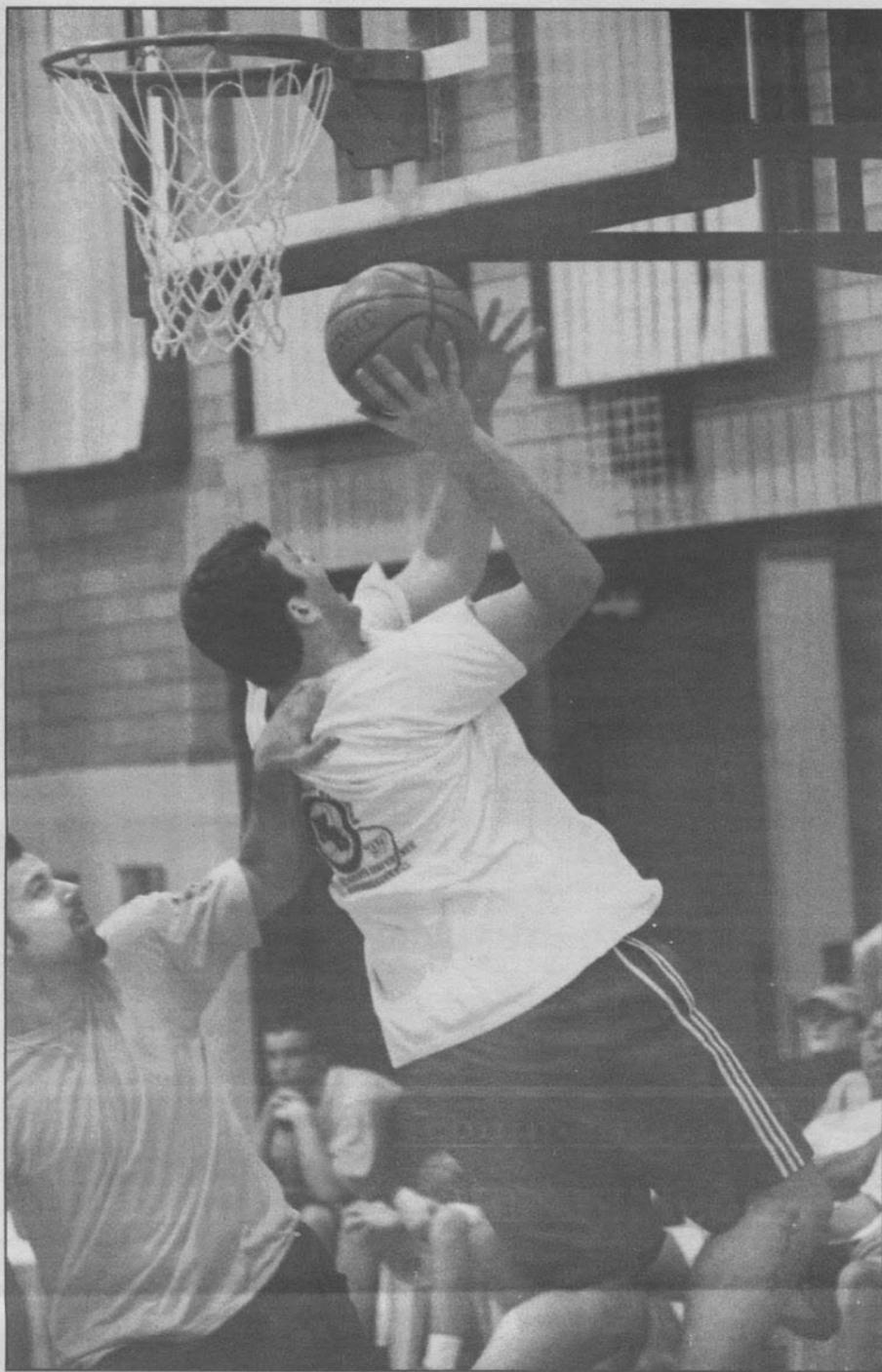


Photo by E. J. Haris

Robbie Greenawald of We'll Spot U Ten does his best to stop Cory Steward of Killer Crossover during the Schick 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Despite the rough play, Killer Crossover prevailed in the championship game last Wednesday. Twelve teams turned out for the annual event.

Killer Crossover dominates in Schick 3-on-3 basketball tourney

by Spencer Berndt
of The Commuter

Hard fouls and great plays helped make last week's 3-on-3 Schick Tournament one of the most exciting in its seven year history at LBCC.

The tournament drew 12 teams to the Activities Center last Wednesday, and after three hours of hard-fought competition, only one team was left—Killer Crossover, made up of Cory Steward, Denis Melain, Zach Milton and Paul Bustern.

The tournament was set up in a double elimination format. Two hours and 15 minutes into the tournament, Sucks-2-B-U, We'll Spot U Ten! and Killer Crossover were the only teams left.

Sucks-2-B-U, made up of Mark Hewitt, Ryan Grant, Zack Metzker and Brad Hounshell played We'll Spot U Ten!, made up of Derek Greenawald, Keith Greenawald, Robbie Greenawald and Jeff Forty to determine who would play Killer Crossover in the championship game. In battle We'll Spot U Ten! took the win, leaving Sucks-2-B-U in third place.

The first game of the championship

round was won easily by We'll Spot U Ten!, yet it was Killer Crossover's first loss. The teams had to play again. Fatigue was the main factor of the final game and plagued both teams' play. Killer Crossover was able to get its second wind just in time to find themselves doing the victory lap.

"This was some highly competitive basketball. My teammates and I had an awesome time."

—Zack Metzler

The tournament had almost as many viewers as players, which added more excitement.

The competitors enjoyed a well-organized event put together by

Patty Wachs, coordinator of the Student Ambassador Program, and Dan Hildenbrand, intramural/recreation specialist on the Student Programming Board. They were assisted by student ambassadors Justin Rettman, Katie Dunlap and Dan Baca and by Elijah Van Vlack, community events specialist.

Metzker commented, "This was some highly competitive basketball. My teammates and I had an awesome time. The rules were completely explained, and the event ran smoothly. It made for a great time."

Grant said, "A great day to be an athlete; a great day for basketball."

LBCC can't hold on to top spot as they pull out a split

by Shawna Phillips
of The Commuter

The Roadrunner basketball team couldn't hold on to the tie for the top spot last week as they beat SWOCC, but then lost to Mt. Hood.

Some sharp shooting in the first half by sophomore Brian Fauth and strong defense in the second half kept LB alive in Wednesday's game. Southwestern Oregon shot 62 percent from the field, compared to 48 percent for the Roadrunners, in the first and managed to stay ahead by one at the half, but in the second half the 'Runners put the pressure on the Lakers' offense and forced them to work hard for their shots.

"Our first half defense was a little shaky. It was great to see them take their defense a whole lot more seriously in the second half," said Head Coach Randy Falk of the 77-64 victory.

Fauth scored 29 points and was 6-for-8 behind the three-point arc, while Marc Cordle added 16 points and six assists. Brian Csergei had a double-double with 11 points and 12 boards.

On Saturday Mt. Hood handed LBCC their second loss of the season, 86-105. The game started out with the 'Runners in the lead until about 10 minutes into the first half, when the Saints set the

stage for their comeback.

Again, Linn-Benton was down by one at half time and the game remained close until four minutes were left in the game with Mt. Hood up by three.

From that point on the once hot hands of the Roadrunners became ice cold and they also lost some offensive rebounds and second shot opportunities. Mt. Hood took full control and forced Linn-Benton to keep fouling, which helped to build up their lead.

Fauth was the offensive leader again with 25 points and four assists. Cordle scored 17, while Nick Matsler and Justin Priddy both added 12. Csergei grabbed 10 rebounds.

"Some nights you hit on all cylinders; some nights you don't," Falk commented. "We look to be back on track for Wednesday's game."

Advice well given from Falk as the Roadrunners will have a tough challenge ahead as they face first place Lane tonight and Chemeketa on Saturday. LBCC won the last meeting against Lane, but the Titans will be fighting to make sure they stay on top. Then Linn-Benton will travel to Salem to play the team that handed them their first loss. Tip off will be at 8 p.m. on both nights.

Lady 'Runners fall to 0-8 in league

by Shawna Phillips
of The Commuter

Poor defense and bad decision making continue to be an Achilles heel for the Lady 'Runners as they dropped to 0-8 in league play after losses against Southwestern Oregon and Mt. Hood last week.

SWOCC out-passed Linn-Benton and took better care of the ball, which led to the 36-60 loss for the Roadrunners in Wednesday's game. The Lakers ended up with 21 assists and 22 turnovers, while the Roadrunners had only six assists and 32 turnovers.

The Lakers jumped out to grab a 14-point lead by half-time, and in the second half they led by as many as 22. Linn-Benton then picked up their intensity and managed to cut the lead to 12 with five minutes left in the game, but they couldn't keep up the pace and stopped taking care of the ball, which allowed Southwestern Oregon to grab the 60-36 win.

"We haven't been playing as a team," explained Head Coach Craig Jackson. "And we're not going to get anywhere until we start."

Talia Cheren led the way for the 'Runners with a double double - 15 points and 10 rebounds. Leslie Boer added nine

points, four assists and five steals.

Linn-Benton had a rough time trying to defend Mt. Hood in Saturday's game. "We just couldn't defend them," Jackson said. "They are a team that's really streaky, and when you let them get the momentum they keep going with it, which is what we did."

The tempo of the first 10 minutes of the game was slow and in LBCC's favor and the game was kept somewhat close, but as the Saints converted the tempo to a faster one, the Lady 'Runners just couldn't adjust to it and Mt. Hood ended up scoring over twice as many points as Linn-Benton in both halves to go on to win 89-42.

Post player Mellissa Hoffman wound up as the leading scorer in only her second game back after not playing since the first couple games of the preseason. She scored 12 points and dished out four assists. Karen Bryan scored 11 points and brought down seven rebounds. Boer ended with seven points five steals and six boards.

Tonight the Lady 'Runners will take on Lane in the Activity Center and on Saturday, they travel to Chemeketa's home court. Both games will begin at 6 p.m.

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CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Administrative Assistant (Corvallis) Great part-time job in the real estate business! If you have computer skills and some office experience, this morning job (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) could be yours! See Career Center T-105.

Student Office Worker (Albany) This is a great part-time job with a state agency that can give the criminal justice or law student some experience with the legal processes and paperwork. Possibly full-time between terms. See Carla in Job Placement in T-105.

Information Systems Support (Halsey)—Install and repair IBM-compatible personal computers, install/upgrade PC software, oversee operation of WAN, firewall, optical storage, CAD & Internet systems. This full-time position is permanent and pays \$14/hour. See Student Employment for this great opportunity! (T-105).

Administrative Assistant (Sweet Home) Why be bored at work? This full-time job will keep you hopping with the phones, computer and fax. You'll also learn about the exciting financial world and make \$18-24,000/year. See the Career Center, T-105.

Student Conservation Association (SCA) has summer and fall positions in the Resource Assistant Program for various places throughout the U.S. and District of Columbia, including Hawaii and Alaska. The SCA provides opportunities for citizen involvement in the management and conservation of our nation's parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other public lands. You may obtain academic or internship credit for the field experience. The SCA offers unique personal growth and outdoor experiences for special populations, including disadvantaged, hearing impaired, developmentally disabled and at-risk youth. Applications and information on file in the Career Center T-101.

Northwest Youth Corp. is now hiring Field Staff! The NYC program is modeled after the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's) of the 1930s. Corps members earn minimum wage and spend entire five weeks away from the amenities of modern civilization. They live in tents, cook their meals, and are responsible for the chores of camp life. The NYC staff direct coeducational teenage (14-19) crews on a variety of reforestation, conservation, and recreation projects located in remote areas throughout the Pacific NW. Interesting employment opportunities at Tadena 101!

DISNEYLAND and DISNEY WORLD recruitment held at LaSells Stewart Center at OSU on Feb. 26, 1998 at 6 p.m. You must attend the meeting in order to qualify for interviews immediately following. Information available at LBCC's Career Center, Tadena 101 or call OSU Career Services at 541-737-0519.

FOR RENT

Do you need a place to call home? UMBRELLA PROPERTIES, Inc. can help you find a home in Albany or Lebanon. You SAVE money because there's no application fee. We offer various move-in DISCOUNTS. See our ads in the Albany newspaper. Rents start at \$325 to \$560. For a free printed listing call us at 541-484-6595.

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1984 Chevy S-10, A/T, stereo, need to sell, \$1800. Leave message 541-327-2853.

Used Speed Queen Dryer, Excellent condition! \$115. Call 541-929-3512.

MISCELLANEOUS

ATTENTION MUSICIANS: Musicians club forming here at LBCC for students and staff. Membership free. Come join the fun. For more details contact Jon at (541) 327-2853 or e-mail at alex@dnc.net

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual group is meeting every Wednesday, this term, from 2-3 p.m. Re: Social activities, support and community building. Call 917-4660 for meeting place, Someone will call you back!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Guistwhite Scholar program for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members. Ten \$5,000 transfer scholarships awarded to community college graduates. Deadline: June 1. Download the application from www.PhiThetaKappa.jackson.ms.us or contact advisor Rosemary Bennett in Tadena Hall Room 101.

The Scottish Rite Foundation in Oregon, Inc., is awarding 10 to 15 \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students in their sophomore, junior or senior year of undergraduate studies at Oregon colleges and universities. Requirements and applications are available in the Career Center. Deadline: July 1, 1998.

The Department of Military Science at OSU is offering a scholarship. This Scholarship is available to students who will receive their associate's degree this spring, and plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in any field except theology. Requirements and applications available in Career Center. Deadline: Feb. 20, 1998.

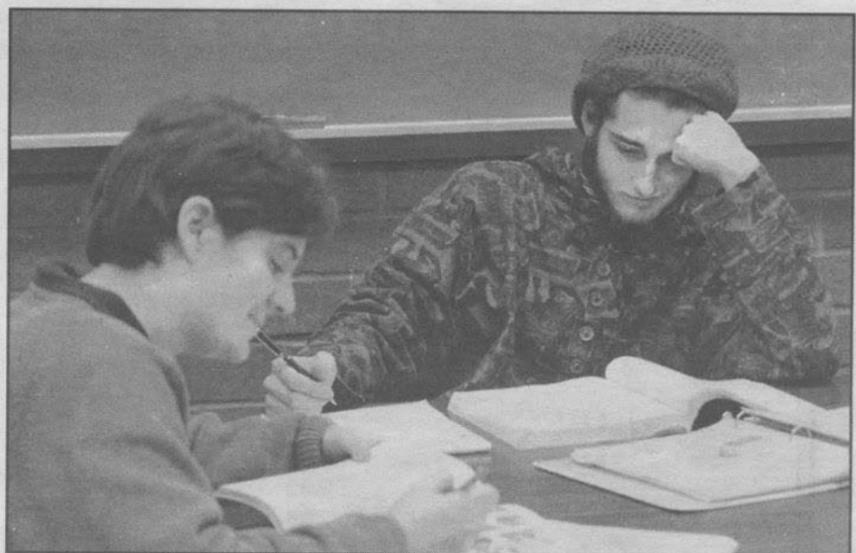
The Oregon Fire Chief's Association has made available the Neil Hamilton Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to cover tuition and textbook expenses, for those students enrolled in Fire Science courses. Requirements and applications available in Career Center. Deadline: March 6, 1998.

The National Association of women in construction is offering scholarships, which range from \$250-\$1000. The scholarships are for students (male or female) who plan to attend college or trade school, and major in a construction related career which leads to a degree or an associate degree. Requirements and applications available in the career Center. Deadline: April 1, 1998.

The OSU Folk Thrift Shop is offering a \$1,200 scholarship for the older-than-average woman student. Applicants must be over the age of 25 and from Benton County. Other requirements and applications available in Career Center. Deadline: March 31, 1998.

Scholarship available for Broadcast Journalism majors. Contact OSSC Valley River Office Park, Suite 100, Eugene, OR 97401. Must be Oregon Resident. Submit Federal financial aid application. Deadline: March 1, 1998

The Oregon Association of Public Accountants Scholarship Foundation is offering ap-



As Midterms Approach

Photo by Melani Whisler

Kristi Permann, a first-year biology major, sits with first-year horticulture student Antoine Farmer Monday in the Learning Resource Center prepares to begin a long day of studying. LRC Coordinator Jeanette Scott said that, even with midterms coming up, student traffic through the LRC has been unusually low.

proximately 10 scholarships for approximately \$1000 each for accounting students. Students must be an Oregon resident carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours. Contact the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Application deadline is April 1, 1998.

The St. Charles Medical Center is offering the MaryAnn Thomas-Hosier Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in his/her initial nursing program. The \$1250 grant is to be used for tuition, books, or direct school fees. Contact the career center in Tadena Hall. Application deadline is March 1, 1998.

The Oregon State Scholarship Commission is offering awards in over 140 programs. You can pick up the application and description of the awards in the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Applications must be received by OSSC on March 1, 1998.

The Oregon Nurserymen's Foundation offers 15 different scholarships. Contact the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Deadline April 1, 1998.

The American Water Works Association is offering three \$750 scholarships to students at two-year colleges. Contact the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Deadline April 15, 1998.

The Orealis Scholarship Fund, Inc., is proud

to promote education for students interested in a legal support staff career. Applications are available in the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Application Deadline: March 20, 1998.

The University of Oregon has a new scholarship called The Diversity Building Scholarship. Additional information is available in the Career Center in Tadena Hall. Deadline: March 1, 1998.

The St. Elizabeth Health Service Auxiliary of Baker City Oregon will award a scholarship of \$1500 to a graduate of the Baker County High School or a current Baker County resident. Requirements available in the Career Center in Tadena Hall.

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.

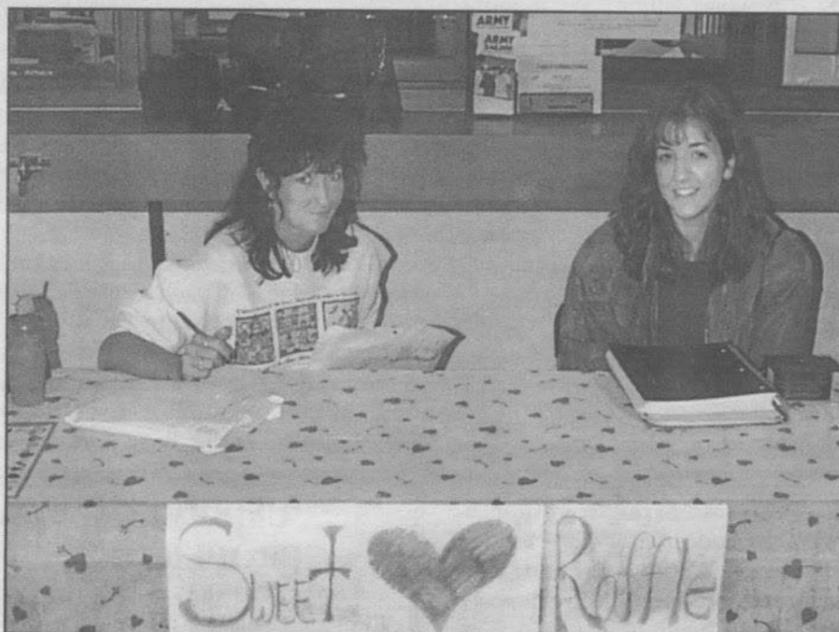
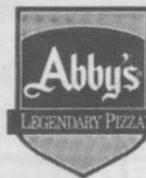


Photo by Mary Hake

Be a Sweetheart

Vicki Gabba and Susan Stocker are among the parents from the Family Resource Center who are selling raffle tickets for the FRC Sweetheart Fund-raiser to earn money to build a covered play area with climbing equipment for the kids. About \$4,000 has been raised so far, and parents hope to raise the remaining \$4,000 to \$8,000 needed by March. Over 40 prizes will be given away at the drawing on Feb. 13. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and are available at the table in Tadena Hall at lunchtime or in the FRC.

MID-WEEK MADNESS!
MONDAY - THURSDAY
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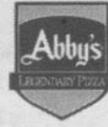
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ASG consists of 8 members: President, Vice President, one Representative from each of the following areas: Student Services/Extended Learning, Liberal Arts/Human Performance; Business/Health Occupations; Science & Industry; plus one At-Large Representative and one Public Relations/Secretary. The four representatives of academic areas must be majors in the division they represent or receive written permission from the appropriate dean. The At-Large Representative and the Public Relations/Secretary may be from any division.

"Important dates for the next elections....
The LAST DAY to turn in applications is
Feb. 13, 1998 at Noon
ELECTION DAY is Feb. 24-25"



counterpoint

Legalized abortion lets children be born into healthy families

To the Editor:

This is in response to Ben Sell's "Abortion denies the rights of the unborn," from the Jan. 28 issue.

First of all, I respect Mr. Sell's individual right to his opinion. However, his argument was thoughtfully misguided. The article focused on the word "killing." Mr. Sell, do you think the millions of women who have had abortions are evil-spirited and honestly want to "kill" children? Have you been raped and forced to make this decision?

You don't condone abortion, but do you condone the death of a woman for the sake of her fetus? Do you condone women being raped and having unwanted children as a result? Do you know that 69 percent of children born as a result of rape end up on drugs, drop out of school, and rape others themselves (from U.S. Statistical Guide, 1996)? When a married couple is not ready to raise children and are using birth control every time they have intercourse, then accidentally conceive, should they be forced to keep that child?

I am pro-choice, but I am not pro-abortion. Mr. Sell is right that abortion in the basic sense is killing, but nothing is ever basic. My opinion does not make me a hypocrite, as you claim pro-choicers are. I have a personal, private right to choose what I do with my body. Key word: my. Am I imposing my right to choose over those of the unborn fetus? Yes. But speaking from a Christian view, God gave me the physical freedom to make that decision. In my journey through life and after, I alone will have to answer to God.

The Roe v. Wade decision was not made because the U.S. Supreme Court believed it was constitutional to "kill" children. Our constitutional right to privacy, the roots of which are found in the 4th, 5th, 9th and 14th Amendments, is broad enough to "encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy."

Clearly, the U.S. Supreme Court is not advocating "killing." It is, however, justly establishing that we are all individuals who make individual choices. Thus, the court is placing personal responsibility in our own hands. Isn't that what we want, personal, private freedoms?

Let's talk about the 13 abortion clinics bombed in the past eight months, including the one last Thursday, which killed a security officer. Was that not considered "killing" because it was for the sake of saving lives? I have not read or heard of one case where pro-choicers bomb and kill pro-lifers just to get their point across. Why? Because having an abortion is not an easy choice. The women who decide to have one are not "killers." Pro-choicers fight to continue to fulfill the vision of making every child a wanted child and every pregnancy intentional.

Pro-choicers believe we must keep these decisions moral and medical—not political. As Justice Blackmun stated in 1973, "'Liberty,' if it means anything, must entail freedom from government domination in making the most intimate and personal decisions."

For today, at least, the right to abortion stands. The women of this nation still retain the liberty to control their destinies. But I fear for the future. I fear for the liberty and equality of the women who have come of age in the 25 years since Roe v. Wade was decided.

I hope, Mr. Sell, that you are capable of realizing that abortion is not primarily about "killing," nor should it be. As you continue by asking where the world would be without Thomas Jefferson and Bill Gates, I respond: without Thomas Jefferson, there would have been another to write the Declaration of Independence; someone born to a healthy family, one ready to raise that child. Without Bill Gates, we would be talking to one another more and not be filling his pockets with gold.

Life is based on choices. To allow choice is also to make and impose choices. To deny choices is also to impose the choices made by others, whether it is abortion, smoking or driving. The point to legalizing abortion is that it is a just, personal and private responsibility. Let's not place blame upon blame. Let others' choices be.

Brie Easley



letters

What's wrong with letting birds roost in the atrium?

To the Editor:

Concerning the Wednesday, Jan. 28 Commuter front page picture titled "Bird Sanctuary or Death Trap?"

My question is rather straightforward: What's wrong with the having birds roost in the trees? I rather enjoyed the unexpected sing-song of a couple hundred hard-to-see birds sitting in those atrium trees. Is there a safety issue or a "who gets to clean up the mess?" scenario or something?

Just curious.

Johnathan F. Ohlund

Students miss Women's Center and want it back

To the Editor:

Perhaps the transitional nature of a two-year campus causes complacency. Things that just don't seem right are tolerable when you know you'll be leaving soon. But I've just got to say that there are women on campus who miss and want the Women's Center.

According to the Jan. 21 Commuter, Marlene Propst, Counseling Center director, said questions of safety and supervision caused the center's closure. This reasoning seems bogus in light of the architectural "dream sheets" for campus remodeling.

If their plans are to create small lounges throughout

campus to accommodate for the loss of the Fireside Room, will the activities of the students who frequent these lounges be any easier to supervise than the Women's Center? It seems to me that the LBCC administration is riding the anti-affirmative action wave. Combining the Women's Center with a multi-cultural center is just a political way of dissolving it forever.

I wonder, when I hear of the administration's desire to construct a conference center, what the mandate of this school will be. What other parts of this campus will be whitewashed in order to make it more attractive to the business seminar market? Cutbacks in education financing are forcing the administration to be creative to ensure its future. However, community colleges were created to serve the educational needs of the general population, not the corporate community. The administration has effectively taken away the Women's Center. We want it back.

Gloria O'Brien

Teachers deserve a day of appreciation from students

To the Editor:

My name is Greg Culver and I'm writing this letter not only to Dick Abernathy, but to all of the teachers out there who deserve some recognition and thanks for the compassion and concern they've shown us. They really do care if we succeed, and we should thank them for it. So, go ahead and make your teachers' day by letting them know just how much you appreciate him or her.

Greg Culver

commentary

Television reflects decline in nation's values

by Justin Dalton
of The Commuter

Society's values and standards have endured so many changes over the decades that have been reflected in the mass media. In the process, we seem to have lost our sense of decency and morality.

Take the television scene, for example. In the late 50s and early 60s, actors and newscasters were so repressed that they couldn't say the word "pregnant" during a show or make any hint of a sexual innuendo. The married couples in early soap operas had to sleep in two separate beds, and if a man was on a women's bed, he would have to leave one foot on the floor.

What is acceptable nowadays is shocking in comparison.

For instance, issues such as sadomasochism displayed on MTV, lesbian intimacy on Ellen and the violence on NYPD Blue are just a few examples of things that were considered too risqué for TV just a few years back.

How about that wonderful group Marilyn Manson, the satanic band sporting the names of serial killers, which has grown disturbingly famous and popular among the younger generation? Though they are considered an act and haven't reportedly broken any big laws (except allegedly sacrificing a goat on stage), it's the explicit content and messages contained in their

music that have many people worried.

But that's just one aspect of the problem. The scary part is that something like Marilyn Manson could seep into society and connect with so many kids.

The Internet is another area of concern. Is it a global village of information, or a cess pool of smut? Graphic pictures have been found containing everything from child pornography, bestiality, necrophilia and the suicide of Kurt Cobain, among other things. The list goes on. Why the sudden morbid infatuation and interest in filth? Since the Internet is virtually impossible to censor, it's more susceptible to become a gruesome smorgasbord.

Finally, a person can look at the Clinton v. Lewinsky fiasco several different ways. He's obviously not the first president involved in a sex scandal. But what kind of example is he showing the public? This isn't just some Joe Blow down the street who followed the head nurse into the broom closet. He's the leader of our nation. The whole case is about morals, but we would be better off if it were settled behind closed doors rather than on the national network news.

These examples represent just a fraction of the problems resulting from the decline of American morals. Unfortunately, it is difficult to see a solution. In the meantime, the innocence of our rejected generation is diminishing.

OPINION PAGE

editorial

Christian conversion
not enough to prevent
Tucker's execution

by Brock Jacks
of The Commuter

You've probably heard about the Karla Faye Tucker case. You know, the woman who in 1983 murdered two people in Houston, Texas. Tucker and her boyfriend, Daniel Ryan Garrett, took a pickaxe to her ex-lover Jerry Lynn Dean and his companion, Deborah Thornton, while the two victims were sleeping.

When police arrived on the murder scene, they found the pickaxe still embedded in Thornton's chest. During her trial, Tucker boasted she experienced ecstasy each time she plunged the pickaxe into her victim. At the time Tucker was a drug addict and a prostitute, according to authorities.

Garrett and Tucker were both convicted of murder and sentenced to death, but Garrett died of liver disease in 1994 while in prison.

Today, Tucker, who is 38, claims she has turned her life around and is not the same woman she was 15 years ago. She says she is now a born-again Christian and has asked to be spared the death penalty. She says her virtually spotless prison disciplinary record testifies to her transformation, but her opponents say that prison conversions are common and not always legitimate.

On the morning of Feb. 2, Tucker's request to be spared the death penalty in exchange for life in prison was denied. The first woman executed in Texas in 135 years, her only hope for intervention was by the Supreme Court or Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

At this point in the article I would like to point out that I am a Christian male and, as such, my opinion may be considered biased by some. I feel that Karla Faye Tucker should be executed just as any other person who committed such a grisly act should be.

If Tucker is spared the death penalty, it would encourage other criminals to convert, but who is to say whether their conversions are legitimate? If we go about sparing the lives of every eleventh hour convert, how can we execute fair and equitable justice?

We cannot. Tucker should pay for her crimes by death.

A close friend of mine defended Tucker by pointing out that we pour thousands of dollars into rehabilitating criminals only to execute them in the end.

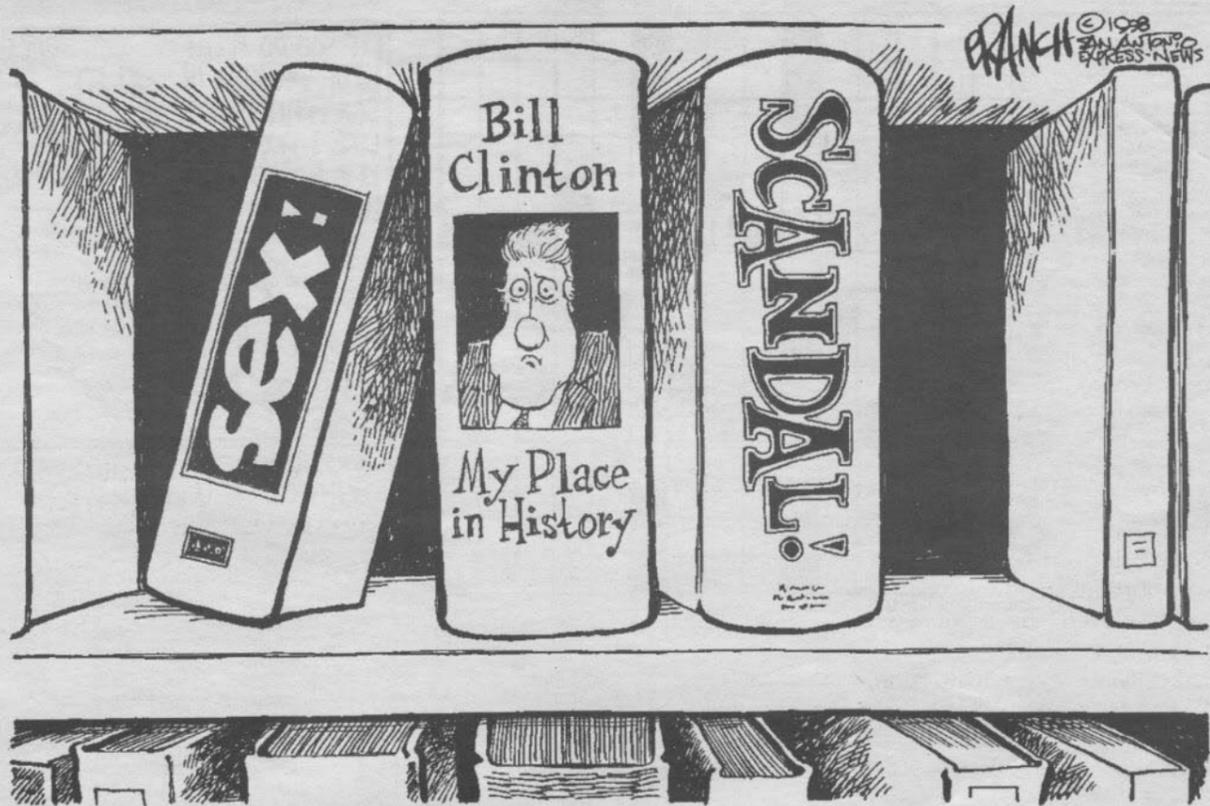
I feel that it is terrible that anyone should die, but what of Tucker's victims? Did they have an opportunity to save themselves? Were they even awakened? Tucker thought nothing of taking the lives of two innocent people, yet she wants the state of Texas to spare hers?

If Tucker is indeed a born-again Christian, then she should have no problem with death because she will meet her God. She admits to this, but is still asking for a reprieve. She feels that no matter what happens it will all work out with God. As a Christian myself, I know that I would not feel right with God even asking to be spared my life after committing such a brutal and senseless act.

I am truly sorry that Tucker must be put to death, but I feel that, as a United States citizen and a member of society, it is my duty to support the laws of the land to their fullest extent. I also hope that Tucker sees that she must pay for what she has done. The ultimate crime deserves the ultimate punishment.

Maybe her death will stop another pickaxe-wielding person from murdering someone if they understand that the state is not going to let them off easy.

☞ Karla Faye Tucker, may your soul rest in peace with God.



commentary

Clinton treads water as charges mount

by Pete Petryszak
of The Commuter

Clinton's presidency is unlikely to be remembered as one that achieved victories equal those of the great presidents like Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt. However, he has shown great ability at dodging scandals, a skill that seems to be imperative for anyone with a desire to hold office these days.

I initially sat down to write this column thinking it would be a eulogy for the Clinton regime. And what a sad, sordid tale it would have made—the pitiful, abortive life of an administration that should never have been born at all, finally staked in the heart by the president's own voice emanating from a surreptitiously recorded cassette tape, echoing against the walls of the Senate chamber. And the president would be heard saying,

"u u u h . . . , doncha tell nobody on that grand jury 'bout our little game, OK Sweetie? Thank yeeew."

In the days between my first draft and our production day though, the story had changed quite a bit. At first it really looked like Clinton was on his way out. No one seemed to challenge the allegations. The first family disappeared (to pack, presumably), and even former advisors like Leon Panetta and George Stephanopolous joined the presidential deathwatch, seeming to confirm that not only was the story of Clinton's affair with Ms. Lewinsky true, but that enough evidence could be gathered and presented to force the president from office.

The developments of the past several days, however, have at least tripped up the procession carrying Clinton's coffin.

Lewinsky, the girl of the hour who was supposed to skewer Clinton with testimony about high-office hijinks and an attempt to cover it up, zipped her lips and refused to talk to Kenneth Starr's team as negotiations for her immunity broke down.

Meanwhile, after the State of the Union speech Clinton's approval ratings hit an all-time high. Normally a president's "numbers" are high the week before a scandal breaks and bottom out after the public gets the story, but for Clinton the exact opposite is true. No doubt conservatives will claim it merely provides

more evidence that this administration does everything bass backwards.

Clinton hasn't dodged the bullet yet, though. It's as if everything has stopped in mid air. Kenneth Starr still has the option of trying to convict Lewinsky on perjury charges and waiting to see if she rolls over in prison. That strategy didn't work on Susan McDougal, however, and could result in a confrontation between Starr and Lewinsky that reaffirms his image as Washington's would-be witchfinder general, coercing people into letting him spoon-feed them invented testimony with threats of jail time.

At this point, whether the allegations are true or not and even the question of whether the charges will force Clinton from office are irrelevant. Regardless of the outcome, investigations into alleged misconduct by the president and other members of the administration

have effectively derailed the Clinton presidency. The policy goals he outlined when he took office have been reduced to ashes, and the chance that any accomplishments of this administration will be remembered as milestones in history is nil.

Regardless of whether the Republicans succeed in their campaign to push Clinton out of office, the real losers will be the voters, who expected to see the two parties work together during Clinton's second term, like they said they would. Not only has this endless partisan bickering paralyzed Congress and the president during Clinton's term, but it also threatens to keep our government from enacting any meaningful legislation when we elect our next president in 2000. If the Republicans impeach Clinton, embittered Democrats are likely to try to torpedo Republican leaders.

For the time being, the president has taken the high ground in the battle with Congress, but it won't last. His proposed agenda, which would focus on ensuring the life of Social Security, can be strung out in hearings by every conceivable subcommittee for years. The fact that he had to focus on an issue with virtually unanimous appeal shows how little influence he has on the path Congress will take in the next two years. And as soon as Lewinsky or Starr blinks, certain lawmakers will again squeal with delight as their dream of impeaching Clinton looks to be coming true.



LOONEY LANE

ACROSS

- Motive
- Heifer
- Twangy
- Back street
- Coach
- Parseghian
- Speak bombastically
- Extent covered
- Checkers side
- Self-perception
- Actor Sharif
- Retailer's gimmick
- Rhinoplasty
- Purchased hair
- For instance
- Tonic's partner
- Big name in cameras
- Leaner and bonier
- Bear and Berra
- Sulk
- Skedaddles
- Wooded valley
- Doubleday of baseball
- Morally
- Bargains
- Disney dwarf
- Unaccounted-for G.I.
- Historic period
- Carrot-top
- Lacking a gift
- Seldom seen
- Shop
- Unknown John
- Witch gathering
- Gin and
- Sullivan and McMahon
- Portents
- Workout wetness
- Agile deer
- "The Last Remake of Beau"

DOWN

- Leslie of "Gigi"
- San Antonio shrine
- Arm bones
- Isolated
- Ogle
- Chocolate
- substitute
- Raw minerals
- Henry Longfellow
- Small bouquet
- Square measure
- "... of Iwo Jima"
- Bewildered
- Inclined not to
- Years (for)
- Cover
- Lively dance
- "Ode on a Grecian Urn" poet
- Film from 28 A
- Fat farm
- Corn holder
- Operate
- Reykjavik resident
- Solidify
- Badly
- Slightly shifty
- Faceted
- Vote in an incumbent
- Massachusetts
- cape
- Exist
- Indispensable items
- Being dragged
- Make amends
- "Harlem Nights"
- co-star Della
- Roof's edge
- ... we all?
- Overcrowded
- Opera song
- Botheration
- Gear tooth

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IF YOU DO A LOT OF WALKING IN SAN FRANCISCO LIKE I DO, THEN IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN...

STEPPING IN HIPPIE

and now... ANOTHER SHOCKING REVELATION FROM THE KRONICLES

BY KEITH KNIGHT

IT'S OBVIOUS FOLKS... HIPPIES ARE VEGETARIAN ZOMBIES!!!

THINK ABOUT IT, FOLKS... HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY HIPPIES WALK AROUND IN A DAZE ALL THE TIME?

OR WHY THEY'RE SO INTO THE MUSIC THEY LISTEN TO?

OR WHY THEY GET INTO THE EARTH SO MUCH?

OR WHY THEY KEEP THEMSELVES SO UNKEMPT?

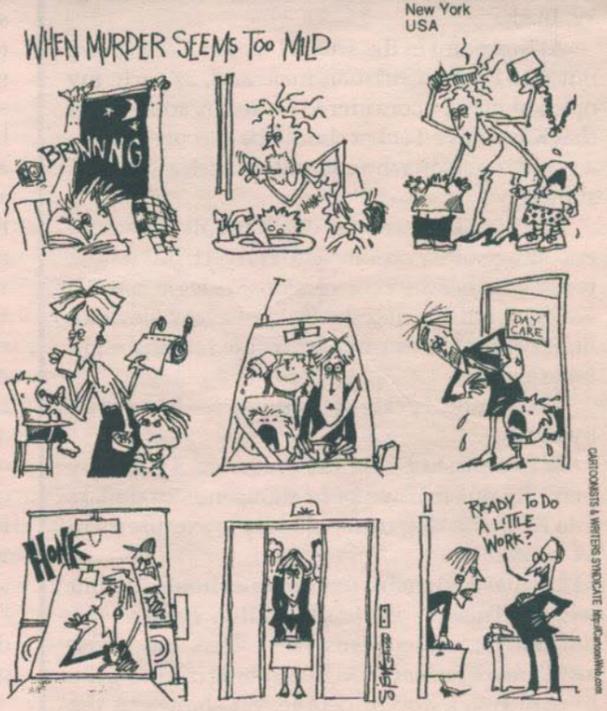
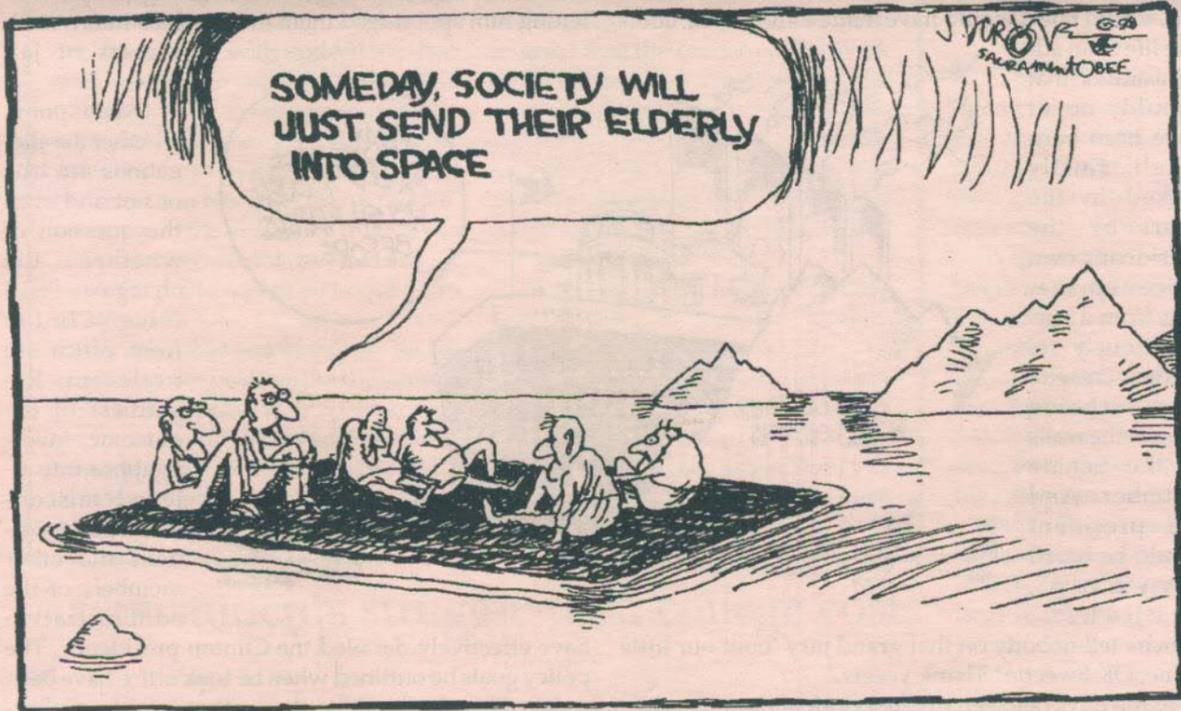
YOU SEE... ZOMBIES ARE FOR REAL... THEY'RE JUST ANOTHER HIDEOUS RESULT OF OUR FINE GOVERNMENT'S SECRET RADIATION EXPERIMENTS... ANYWAY, THEY ALL RESIDED IN NEVADA UNTIL THE MID-SIXTIES...

THEN ONE FATEFUL EVENING...

IN 1967 THEY ARRIVED... DAZED & CONFUSED...

JUST LIKE MANY OTHER MISFITS OF THE WORLD, THE VEGETARIAN ZOMBIES WERE TOLD TO MOVE TO SAN FRANCISCO...

SIGNE WORKING WOMAN New York USA



Muffin

By Nora McVittie

DOESN'T buying books for school SUCK?

First of all, the books are way overpriced.

NINETY BUCKS for THIS?!!!

AND the more expensive the books are, the less likely the instructor is to use them.

Or course it's a given that buy-back time never pays off.

It takes money away from my new wardrobe fund!

50 cents?! Hey, you get John Kennedy on a coin-- what more do you want?

We'll use these books occasionally for reference...

Great.