

THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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Want free tuition? Help arrest and convict a vandal

by Keirsten Morris
of The Commuter

Thinking about expressing yourself on the walls of those monochromatic bathroom stalls? This year, college administrators are encouraging students to think again.

LBCC is offering the reward of one full year's free tuition to anyone who provides information that results in the arrest and conviction of a vandal defacing college property.

"I want to heighten the awareness of the physical appearance of the college," said LB President Jon Carnahan.

Vern Jackson, head of security, points out that most vandalism on campus comes in the form of graffiti in campus bathrooms, which is continuously being repainted by maintenance.

The tuition reward was originally started about two years ago in an attempt to tackle the problem of vandalism on campus. Though offered every year since its conception, the tuition reward hasn't led to the conviction of any vandals yet.

"It's a motivator for people who are borderline to stop it," said Jackson.

Defacement of college property is punishable by a \$750 fine and 100 hours of community service. The information provider must identify himself or herself and cooperate fully with investigations, and the tuition award must be used within two years of the arrest and conviction of the vandal.

The recently renovated Tadena Hall restrooms are the standard to which Carnahan would like to bring LB's other facilities, and the reward is an "attempt to monitor the appearance of the restrooms."

"It's there to try to curb the graffiti," added Jackson.

For more information, contact the Security and Safety Services Department at 917-4441.



Day of the Dead

Photo by A.J. Wright

Danny Orysheyn and Hitomi Kuromoto arrange an altar for Ricky Martin in the Multicultural Center as part of the Day of the Dead celebration earlier this week. Other altars created by students in LB's Spanish classes were set up in the AHSS Art Gallery and at the Benton Center.

International symposium meets on campus

by Lizanne Southgate
of The Commuter

Linn-Benton's Peace Studies Program is gearing up to host the 10th International Symposium on Education for Peace, Justice and Human Rights in August, 2000. This year's theme is "Learning Democracy."

More than 70 students and teachers are expected to attend from the Eastern Hemisphere, as well as delegations from Mexico, Oregon and Washington. The group is actively seeking more participation from Canada and the Americas.

In preparation, Doug Clark, head of LB's Peace Studies Program, and Tim Van Slyke, a former student member, are setting up a Web site for the conference. The site is scheduled to be operational within the next

two weeks, allowing visitors to learn about Linn and Benton counties, read about the conference and exchange information.



Doug Clark

Participants from LB, Hungary, Israel/Palestine, Lithuania, (Turn to "Clark" on Pg. 2)

Clark expects the site to take some part of the preparations off his to-do list. He said that "the big step I haven't taken fully is getting people organized, delegating (responsibility) and letting them run with it."

Local members of the program will use the site for coordinating and organizing committees. Participants from LB, Hungary, Israel/Palestine, Lithuania, (Turn to "Clark" on Pg. 2)



Photo by Kevin Blount

Children play on the FRC slide that the Kiwanis is helping to cover.

Kiwanis 'adopts' FRC as service project

by Mary Jova
of The Commuter

The banner hanging on the Family Resource Center states: "Family Resources: Serving Families for 25 Years."

To help carry on that tradition, the Tadena Kiwanis Club of Albany has adopted the FRC as a service project.

Club members have already volunteered on a Saturday and completed a few maintenance projects.

Club liaison Ed Watson, LBCC vice president of academic affairs, said the FRC is an outstanding community resource that serves children's diverse needs. He said the club has "made it a goal to stay with the FRC for a long period of time" and is developing a "creative five-year plan for future projects."

According to FRC Coordinator Cindy Nelson, 75 children between the ages of two and five are enrolled in the program. Ten staff members and 13 student employees make an effort to create a home-like, fun experience for the children, she said. The FRC is open Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

"This is a great place for parents to be involved in their child's education," Nelson said, explaining that parents learn new skills and network with other parents. The FRC involves the children in art and reading activities and teaches them to problem solve. The staff also takes children on field trips on and off campus.

Single parent Jamie Kelly, who is studying to be a legal secretary, has par-

ticipated in the program for the past two years.

"I have a sense of security when I can check in on my son and see how he interacts with other children and adults. My child enjoys coming to school and I receive feedback from the instructors who are trained professionals," Kelly said as she watched her son play on the slide in the FRC playground.

One of the Kiwanis projects is to help build a roof over the slide and other play equipment, which currently cannot be used by the children in the rainy season. After the parents raised funds for the roof, a Kiwanis Club member who is an architect drew up plans for the roof, and building permits have been issued. Construction is expected to begin soon.

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In the Hunt

Local game reserve offers resource for hunters and anglers

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Check This Out

Beat a path to the beading demonstration today from 12-1 p.m. in the Alesia/Calapooia Room with Sophia George.

Face Lift

Albany's venerable Venetian Theater is reborn

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CAMPUS NEWS

OFF BEAT

Fan deals with belt

An enthusiastic fan, watching the University of Arkansas football team trounce Middle Tennessee State at Razorback Stadium, kept jumping up and down in response to the exciting plays of the game. He didn't realize that every time he bumped the fanny pack around his waist, he hit a one-touch button on his cell phone, which automatically dialed 911. As a result, police in Fayetteville, Ark., received 35 emergency calls from him. When the dispatcher answered, all he could hear was the cheering crowd.

Teacher returns fire

Substitute teacher Carrie White could take no more. When some of the seventh graders in her choir class at Cloverleaf Middle School in Lodi, Ohio, started throwing spitballs at her, she returned fire with a dictionary and a calculator, police said. Sheriff's Deputy Samo Mernik said later, "She felt they had it coming." White was summarily dismissed.

Feminist is no boob

Kayla Sosnow, a rather uninhibited feminist, was arrested for baring her breasts while camping out in the Ocala National Forest in north Florida in 1996.

Seeing this as a women's rights issue, she appealed her conviction and won on the grounds that no one had objected to her partial nudity except the cop who took her away. Victorious, she told reporters, "By going top-free, we are rejecting the criminalization of our breasts."

Police free criminal

To avoid police who were seeking him for stealing 125 yuan (\$15.10) from a neighbor's house, Lu hid in a three-foot hole he had dug underneath the closet of his home in Xinyuan, China for 12 years, coming out only at night. The cops finally caught him on one of the many searches of his residence they had conducted over the years.

Owl mugged by fan

Angered that the screeching of a barn owl was interfering with his enjoyment of "Monday Night Football," Alan Rondi went out into the yard of his Dublin, Calif., home, knocked the bird from its perch with a slingshot, and then smacked it with a board. He was convicted of animal cruelty. The owl is OK.

Fall enrollment rises nearly 8 percent

From the LBCC News Service

Local Roadrunners did not migrate this fall. Instead they showed up for class at LBCC in record numbers.

According to Bruce Clemetsen, director of enrollment management, full-time enrollment after the fourth week of fall term—which began Sept. 20—is 7.72 percent higher than that time last year, which equates to 178 more full-time students.

And that's good, Clemetsen says. "Full-time students generate additional state money because of the increase in

the number of credits being completed."

Pinpointing sources of the enrollment increase is less certain. Clemetsen believes part of it may be the result of slowly rising numbers of high school graduates who intend to get a college degree.

Another contributing factor, he says, has been the college's effort to offer as many courses and sections as possible to meet demand. When possible, additional part-time faculty were called upon to teach additional sections.

Clemetsen added that, "It may be because students realize that they can get a quality education at a modest price. LBCC is a great place to start, with smaller class sizes and an array of resources to help students be successful."

"We experienced such a dramatic increase in full-time students for the summer," Clemetsen says. "Many of these students may have decided to continue as full-time students for fall term. Our professional technical programs are extremely full."

SafeHaven for animals found just south of campus

by Angie Bishop of The Commuter

Since taking over as foster care coordinator at SafeHaven Humane Society about a month ago, Christine Storm has made it her goal to find temporary homes for homeless animals.

There are 60 pets, mostly cats with kittens, that need homes quickly. "We get kittens dropped at the door," said Storm, who is also an Employment Specialist in the Work Force and Education building at LB.

SafeHaven, located south of the campus on Old Highway 34, works mainly with cats and dogs but currently offers no foster care for dogs.

Host families would care for a mother cat and her kittens until the kittens are eight weeks old. This allows the kittens to develop social skills in a home environment before they go to the shelter to be adopted. Families also have a choice to adopt the pets after the fostering period is over, and many do.

When a person first gets involved and brings a foster pet into their home, they also receive what Storm calls a "start-up kit." They get Storm's home phone num-

ber as well as a litter box and cat food.

"All of their shots are paid for by SafeHaven and if there is an emergency, that will be paid for, too," Storm added.

According to Storm, all the foster family provides is food and water. Anyone can be a temporary foster care provider. The only requirements are a landlord's approval, if renting, and a home visit by Storm to talk with the provider about how to care for the pet.

Storm commented that SafeHaven would like to get foster care for dogs and puppies as well as starting "large animal rescues" from humane societies where dogs only have 72 hours to live after they get there.

For a dog, however, a foster care provider would need to have a fenced yard.

Volunteers are always needed, Storm added, to help walk and feed animals



Photo by Robin Camp

Kittens wait for a home at SafeHaven Humane Society, which is seeking volunteers to provide foster homes until a permanent home can be found.

that are awaiting adoption.

"Run strictly by donation" and staffed by volunteers, SafeHaven is opposed to euthanasia explained Storm.

"Animals stay here until they are adopted," she said.

Additional information is available by calling SafeHaven at (541) 928-2789.

Clark: Pre-conference teach-in on WTO set for Nov. 17

From Page One

Netherlands, Poland, UK, Skagit Valley College, Washington and Mexico can "meet" each other before the conference by exchanging pictures, bios and other information through the site.

In addition, the site will provide links to other peace study programs and resources, such as the Oregon Peace Studies Consortium. For Mexico, this on-line resource will be particularly valuable, since this will be the first time that country is sending a delegation. The Website will also provide assistance with fundraising for the Mexican delegation. Other fundraising possibilities include requesting assistance from Hewlett-Packard since HP has a plant in

Guadalajara, the city from which the students are coming.

Tying in with the conference theme of "Learning Democracy" will be a Teach-In about the upcoming World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle. The Teach-In will be held at LBCC on Nov. 17 and feature speakers from labor unions, professors, business representatives, activists and political figures.

Proposed changes to the WTO would strengthen its power while weakening or removing the power countries now have to determine their own laws and standards. Any policy or law that could be construed as detrimental to corporate profits could be overturned by the WTO. The WTO has already over-

ruled two U.S. environmental laws and stopped countries from blocking access to products deemed unsafe or produced by slave labor.

The WTO meeting in November has created some unlikely alliances. Among the scheduled 50-70,000 protestors will be labor union members concerned about the prospect of losing U.S. jobs, environmentalists upset over the gutting of environmental laws, human rights advocates alarmed about the prospect of increasing poverty and others opposed to multinational corporations dictating U.S. policy.

Clark believes that the WTO conflict presents "an ideal case study" for those attempting to learn about democracy.

THE COMMUTER STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising.

Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty 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.

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

The Commuter Staff:

Editor, Keirsten Morris; **Managing Editor**, Schellene Pils; **Chief Copy Editor**, Barry Greer; **Contributing Editor**, Lori Weedmark; **Editorial Assistant**, Lizanne Southgate; **Sports Editor**, David Thayer; **A&E Editor**, Joshua Ransom; **Photo Editor**, Kevin Blount; **Assistant Photo Editor**, A.J. Wright; **Photo Assistant**, Robin Camp; **Advertising Manager**, Cindy Lewis; **Advertising Assistant**, Jared Corcoran; **Production Manager**, Chris Bryant; **Graphics Editor**, Joe Ellingson; **Advisor**, Rich Bergeman.

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Photographer, Christopher Spence.

IN FOCUS

Duck Hunt

E.E. Wilson wildlife reserve provides recreational outlet for hunters and anglers

Story and Photo by Andre Vriesman of The Commuter

It's record numbers," said E.E. Wilson manager Dave Budeau, as he showed off this year's waterfowl statistics in his Oregon Fish and Wildlife office. "There's more birds predicted in the fall flight than we've ever surveyed since the 1950s."

Located 15 minutes north of Corvallis on Highway 99W, the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area is almost 1,700 acres of grasslands, brush and wetlands. Established in 1950, the area is natural habitat to game birds such as duck, pheasant, grouse and quail. It is also home to rabbits and a small number of black-tail deer.

It's not just bird hunters who are attracted to the wildlife area. Anglers are welcome for year-round fishing at nearby Adair Pond, which is stocked with bluegill, large mouth bass and channel catfish.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife releases an average of 35 farm-bred pheasants a day in the reserve. The department purchases about 1,500 pheasants each season from a private company, which are paid for through sales of pheasant hunting tags. The reserve previously stocked its own pheasants, but the pheasant breeding program was closed in 1997 due to lack of funding.

"It's great hunting," said Aaron Davis, a pheasant hunter from Albany. Davis said that it wasn't hard to find birds in the area, even without the help of a hunting dog.

He said that the pheasants were not particularly large, however. Another hunter who drove all the way from Eugene said that the pheasant hunting was "almost too easy," after bagging his daily limit of two in just half an hour.

Although Oregon's wetlands are currently dry, experts around the state and the country are expecting a record season. According to Ducks Unlimited, an estimated 105 million ducks are expected to fly south this fall, a 25 percent increase from the 84 million that flew south last year.

The numbers are attributed to good weather conditions as well as a payoff from wetland conservation efforts in the United States and Canada.

Since Dave Budeau started working at the Wilson reserve in 1989, an increasing number of waterfowl, quail and pheasant have been harvested in the



This sign greets visitors to the E.E. Wilson wildlife reserve and the map below gives an idea of the layout of the area.

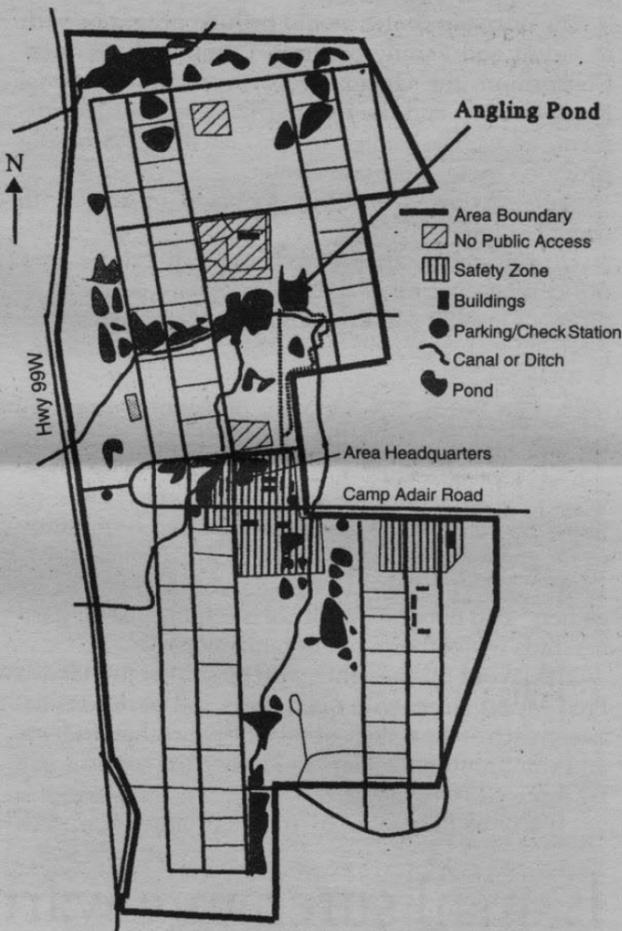
area. "We've had over 3,200 hunter visits on our wildlife area since the first of October," said Budeau, who attributed the popularity to pheasant hunting. "Last year we had 700 waterfowl hunter visits, and we harvested 300 ducks. The year before that we harvested 400 ducks." Budeau also said fishing at the area's angling pond was popular this year, with over 10,000 visits.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife encourages hunters and anglers to be aware of the rules of sportsmanship and safety. "It's best that for either hunting or fishing here, someone who is interested should take a look at the regulations," said Budeau.

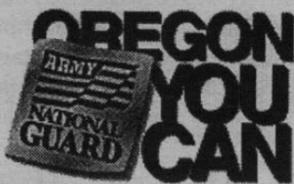
Hunting with shotguns is permitted at the refuge, although rifles and pistols are prohibited. Duck hunting at E.E. Wilson is open to hunters through Jan. 23 with a daily bag limit of seven. California quail will be open through Nov. 14, and mountain quail will be open through Jan. 9. Rooster pheasant can be hunted through Nov. 14.

Rabbit season will be open through Feb. 28 this year. Fee pheasant hunting, which was open from Oct. 1-31, is expected to break harvest records this year.

Hunting and fishing licenses are available at most sporting goods stores or through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. For more information on hunting and fishing regulations and licensing, check out the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Web at www.dfw.state.or.us/.



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CAMPUS NEWS

Livestock judging team competes at Grand National

by Robert Corl
of The Commuter

The Linn-Benton livestock judging team will leave tomorrow to compete in the Grand National Livestock Judging Contest at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, Calif.

The LBCC team of six students, coached by animal science instructors Rick Klampe and Cara Ayres, will be competing in their fifth event of the term.

Livestock judging consists of four cat-

egories: beef, sheep, swine and reasons.

Each student judges and ranks 12 classes of four animals each, usually more classes of cattle than swine or sheep. After the initial judging, the students defend their rankings with two-minute oral presentations to a panel of professional livestock judges.

The LBCC team had their best showing, according to Coach Ayres, at the Los Angeles County event. Shannon Jensen, of Silverton, Ore., took first individually,

and the LBCC team placed second overall.

The team has also competed in the Western Fall Classic in Medford, Ore. where they placed third overall; at UC Davis, where they placed second and Ryan Coffman of Central Point, Ore. placed third individually; at Chico State, where the team took fourth, Coffman again placed third individually.

Livestock judging takes considerable time and dedication, according to Coach

Ayres. The team meets Tuesday and Thursdays to practice from 1-6 p.m., on Fridays for a few hours and then again on Saturdays. That's not to mention the weekend long meets they're involved in. For the meet this weekend the team will leave at noon on Thursday and is scheduled to return around 11 p.m. on Sunday.

The team also plans to make trips later in the year to Louisville, Ky. and Houston, Tex.

Lebanon 'one stop' center to provide more classes, efficient assistance

by Schellene Pils
of The Commuter

Lebanon residents may soon find getting state and federal services a lot less complicated, thanks to LBCC.

The college plans to build a "one stop" social service and education center on land it already owns just outside Lebanon.

The one-stop center would include programs such as Adult and Family Services, Community Services Consortium, the Oregon Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Oregon Employment Department, as well as more classes than those currently provided by the Lebanon Center.

Construction is expected to begin in 2001 with completion in early 2002.

"If you are in a job search mode it can be very difficult because all of those services are currently at different locations in Lebanon," said Gary Lancot, regional one-stop coordinator.

The idea was first proposed three years ago, according to Pete Bober, director of the offices of community partnerships and work initiatives.

"The college facilities are not very good in Lebanon; there's a drastic need for space," said Bober. Building this center is a way to assist students and community residents by saving time and reducing duplication.

"We're trying hard to bring all of the services together," said Bober. "Our office is responsible for partnerships with other work organizations."

The layout for the center will be similar to that of a Fred Meyer store, with open areas and partitions between each of the agencies that will insure that students and community members can utilize the services in a far more efficient manner.

"It will be integrated by function rather than each



Photo by A.J. Wright

An old grist mill on Highway 20 outside Lebanon marks the spot where LBCC is planning a one-stop center for education and service agencies.

agency having their own space," said Bober.

The cost will depend on the size of the building,

which has yet to be determined, but it is expected to be about \$4-5 million.

The college has yet to determine how it will finance this project, said Lancot.

The agencies, most of which have leases that will come up for renewal within the next three years, will lease space in the building, said Bober. "We need to secure letters of intent by partners who want to lease space, then we'll be ready to build."

"We've been in the region for about three-and-a-half years trying to form a one-stop system," said Lancot. After the work force investment act passed last year the project sped up.

The proposed location for the new center is a plot of land owned by LBCC north of Lebanon that is now the site of an historic grist mill. The one-stop center would share the plot with the mill, which would be restored as an historic site if all goes according to plan, Bober said.

The Lebanon center is just a part of the system that is being set up to include similar services offered in Corvallis, Albany and Newport.

According to Lancot, although the Newport center is outside of the Linn-Benton area, it does fall within the work force region designated by Oregon. The Newport and Corvallis centers have already been completed, except for some remodeling and are currently in use.

After the Lebanon center has been completed the group will focus entirely on the one-stop center in Albany. Albany will be the last one up and running, said Lancot, adding that it's still a ways off.

As part of a larger system, the Lebanon center will be owned by LBCC and will be unique in offering training and classes at one site. According to Bober, the hope is that the one-stop center and the restored grist mill will together become something of a gateway into Lebanon.

E-mail surcharge warning a hoax; Bill 602P doesn't really exist

by Lizanne Southgate
of The Commuter

Internet users in the United States and Canada have been getting e-mails warning about two proposed surcharges on Internet access.

The messages contain a strong call to oppose the measure, even containing a link so readers can immediately contact their state representatives.

The problem is the e-mails are a complete hoax. The Canadian newspaper "The Halifax Chronicle Herald" printed an article in March denouncing the hoax.

"The cyberspace rumor mill is working overtime," said columnist Kelly Shiers. The newspaper identified the sender as an "assistant to an Ontario lawyer."

The messages warn computer users about Bill 602P. There is no Bill 602P.

According to the unsigned message, the telephone industry and the government are trying to end free use of the Internet. The first alleged threat is an attempt by the U.S. Postal Service that would place a 5-cent charge on every e-mail sent, based on the premise that the Postal Service is losing money due to

electronic mail. The second claims to allow telephone companies to attach toll fees to all long distance e-mails.

While state representatives were quick to reassure concerned voters that there is no Bill 602P, no one went so far as to say that the fictional scenario could not become real at some point.

In an e-mail response to a constituent, Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio pointed out that a recent FCC ruling is significant because it determined that interstate Internet use, is indeed, subject to federal jurisdiction.

"This ruling could be problematic in the future, so we need to be vigilant. I will carefully monitor both FCC and Congress to sure the Internet remains affordable and accessible," DeFazio said.

As of now, FCC policy exempts Internet providers from additional Internet access charges. However, both the potential fees in the e-mail have been discussed by businesses and government before, so should FCC policy change, there is substantial profit to be made by someone out there. For now, the warning messages are false alarms.

First LBCC TV commercials good business— fall enrollment rises

by Shannah Gallagher
of The Commuter

The LBCC marketing office launched its first ever major television ad campaign this fall to attract students to LBCC, and if fall enrollment figures are any indication, it worked.

The commercials cost up to \$6,000 and were aired on cable stations such as MTV, TBS, USA and FX.

TCI Cable produced the commercials and decided when they were to be run.

They began in early August and continued through the first week of school in late September.

Three commercials were produced to appeal to different student populations. One targeted transfer students by showing money falling from the sky and ending with the words "Complete your first two years and then transfer. Education that works. Higher education and lower costs."

The second was targeted more to the

male audience and featured a gerbil running in circles inside a ball with the message: "Not getting anywhere in life? LBCC has lower costs and smaller classes." The final commercial had the same message, but was aimed more to the female audience by opening with a child on a swing.

Marketing Director Marlene Propst said the time slots when the commercials ran were picked depending on what TV show was running at the time. For ex-

ample, if "Lethal Weapon" was playing on the USA Network, the commercial geared to the male audience would run; if "90210" was playing on FX, the commercial aimed toward the female audience would air.

Although the commercials can't take all the credit, Propst did point out that enrollment this fall has gone up nearly 8 percent. She said no more commercials are planned for the rest of this year, but that she may run them again next fall.

THE TICKET

ADMIT 1 Arts & Entertainment

Nature Show

Local photographers invited to show their best pictures at Bob Ross' 20th Invitational Nature Slide Show



On Stage

Two actresses from the Ashland Shakespeare Festival visit campus to put on show for English classes and public



Show Time

Venetian Theater prepares to raise curtain on venue for music in Albany

by Shauna Noah of The Commuter

The Venetian Theater, a popular spot for underaged teens, is expected to reopen later this year after undergoing a \$1.2 million renovation at the hands of the new owner, Sam Lanahan, and manager, Dan Bowden.

The theater will stage all sorts of shows from music to comedy, with two shows a month for the underaged crowd.

"The old theater held sporadic shows but the kids did not know when the shows were going to be. Now they are going to be more consistent.

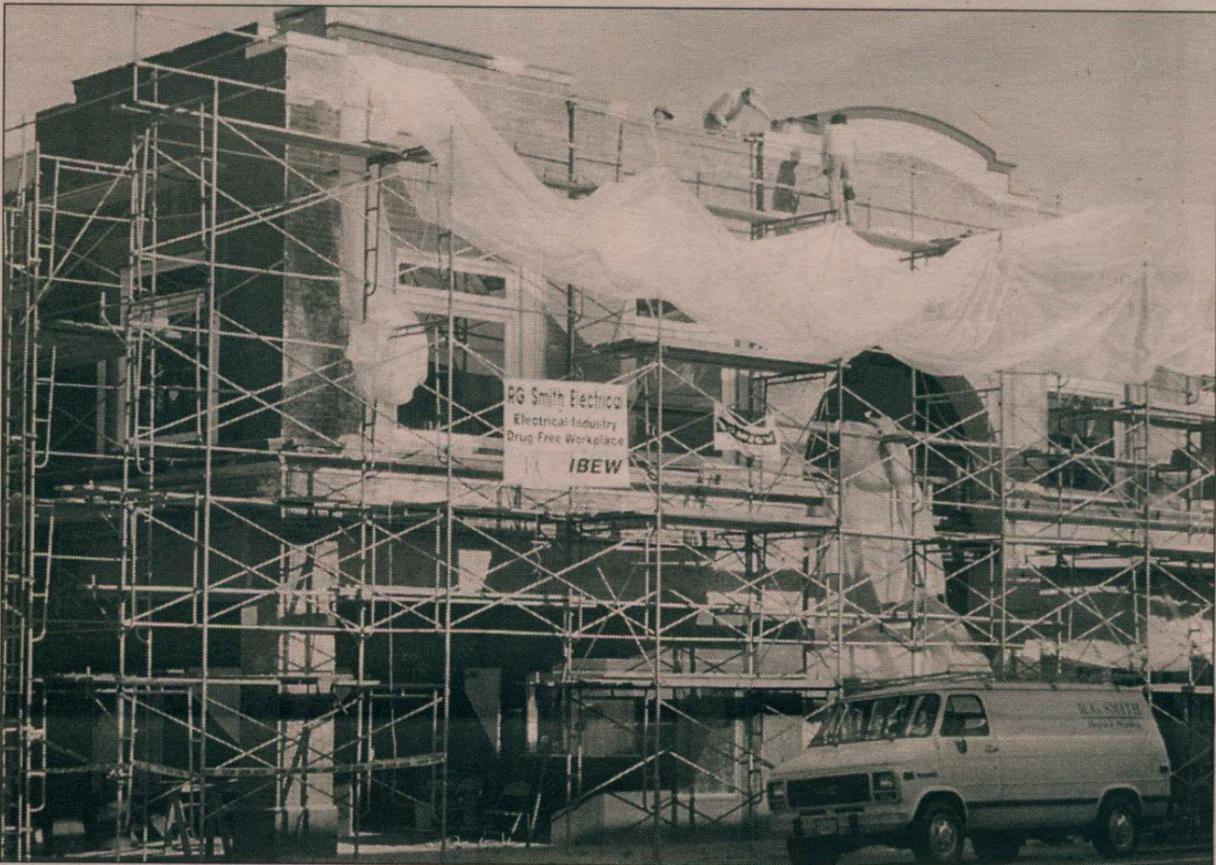
We hope parents will have a positive reaction and feel safe and secure dropping their kids off here," said Bowden. "The kids will know before hand when the shows are and where they can get tickets."

For the adults, the Venetian will serve alcoholic beverages from the bars that will be on both levels of the theater. The main bar upstairs will be the only one open during all-age shows. Next to the main bar will be a sitting area that is designed to be quieter where people can talk.

"The driving theme behind this is our lives are so fragmented that the idea is to bring people back into a social setting where women will feel comfortable and go out again," said Lanahan.

The Venetian was built in 1913 as a vaudeville playhouse and was redesigned in the 1930s when it became a movie theater. Since then it was used for retail shops before it was once again turned into a music hall in the 1990s. Lanahan bought the building in the summer of this year and began the remodeling.

The goal of Lanahan and Bowden is to return the theater to its 1920s architecture. One problem they have run into is the lack of historic fabric to help them visualize what the original theater was



Photos by Kevin Blount

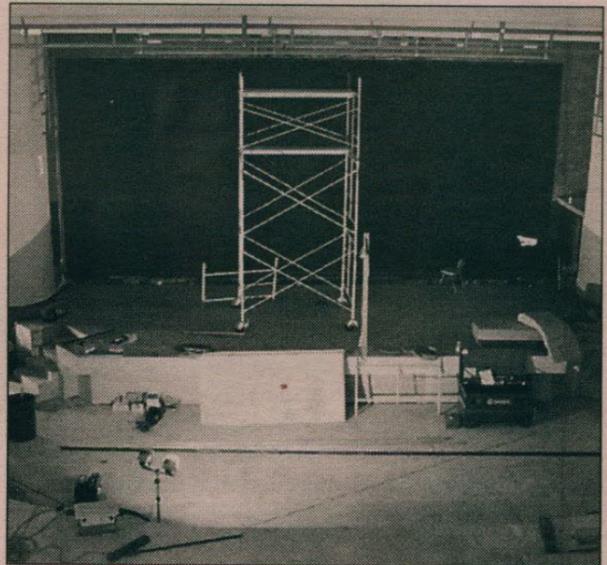
A skeleton of scaffolding (above) supports work crews as they prepare the Venetian Theater for its grand reopening later this year and the stage (below) boasts "flex space."

supposed to look like. They are having four out of the six outside windows handmade and are remarking the window moldings from the design of a small piece that has remained here through the years.

The finished theater will feature a cafe, new lighting and sound systems, with "flex space" in the area in front of the stage which can be converted from tables and chairs to a mosh pit depending on the show.

Upstairs will hold the main bar and sitting area, where soft music from the band will be piped in to provide background noise. Eighty-five seats in two tiers will line the upper outside wall in front of the stage which Lanahan calls "Your own little sky box."

The Venetian is hiring people 21 and older for all positions; to apply go to 222 NW First St. across from the theater.



New albums by Primus, Long Beach Dub Allstars and Robbie Fulks

From the TMS News Service

"Antipop," Primus (Interscope) 3 stars

Limp Bizkit's Fred Durst and Rage Against the Machine's Tom Morello each helped out with production duties on the new Primus disc, and "Antipop" does indeed rock harder than the band's more recent efforts.

Of course this only means that they sound less like a Dungeons and Dragons club that learned how to play bass and more like Weird Al Yankovic fronting the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Whether you're wailing on a banjo or hitching a ride on today's metal rap express, dork rock is still just dork rock. Perfect for those trying to get in touch with their inner Urkel.

"Right Back," Long Beach Dub Allstars (Dreamworks) 5 stars

At risk of speaking ill of the dead, the late Brad Nowell and his bandmates in Sublime really weren't anything more than this decade's answer to Bachman-Turner Overdrive — purveyors of big, dumb, guilty-pleasure music. Sublime's surviving members have recruited a handful of new players for the Long Beach Dub Allstars project, and that name is as about as accurate as they come: This is dub and reggae music, as appropriated by suburban Cali dudes. The Allstars manage to acquit themselves rather nicely on the darker dub tracks. Unfortunately, there is an equal batch of dull and lightweight pop reggae that serves to remind us of this outfit's thoroughly pedestrian past.

"The Very Best of Robbie Fulks," Robbie Fulks (Bloodshot) 9 stars

Neo-twang smartass Robbie Fulks riotously skewers nerdy genre purists in the howling new track "Roots Rock Weirdoes," and it sure sounds like some sweet revenge for an artist who got lambasted for his previous disc, a major-label stab at modern rock. Fulks is once again playing to his strengths, which happen to be just about each and every variety of country music that's ever come down the pike. "The Very Best" is a misnomer in that this is all new or previously unreleased material, yet this disc certainly stands with Fulks' top work. All of it is whip-smart and undeniably catchy, which makes this the perfect disc for people who think they hate country music.

THE TICKET



"Along the Lower Yaquina," a platinum/palladium print by LBCC photo instructor Rich Bergeman, is one of more than 70 images by local photographers on display in "Here & There," a joint exhibit by the Corvallis PhotoArts Guild and the Eugene PhotoZone Gallery at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis.

Photographers join forces for show at Guistina Gallery

A joint exhibit of photographs by members of PhotoArts Guild of Corvallis and the PhotoZone Gallery of Eugene will be on display at the Guistina Gallery in the LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University in November and December.

More than 70 prints by about 30 photographers will be on display, including black-and-white, color and alternative processes, such as platinum, hand-colored and gum prints.

The exhibit combines the work of two Willamette Valley photography groups formed during the 1980s to promote the appreciation of fine art photography within their communities and advance the artistic development of members. The PhotoArts Guild, which is associated with the Corvallis Arts Center, has about 30 members from Linn and Benton counties, while the PhotoZone group has about 20 members in Eugene.

A public reception with refreshments will be held Friday Nov. 5 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the gallery.

The Guistina Gallery is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and on evenings during events in the LaSells Stewart Center, located at 26th and Western across from Reser Stadium.

The show runs through Dec. 31.

TV Trivia Time

1. What science fiction show premiered on Sept. 15, 1965?
2. Who won several Emmy awards for his portrayal of Lou Grant?
3. What was Lucy Ricardos's maiden name?
4. "Mama's Family," was a spin-off of what classic sitcom?
5. What two actors played "Darrin" on "Bewitched"?
6. Who sang the theme song on "Green Acres"?
7. What was the name of Alice's boyfriend on the "Brady Bunch"?
8. What actress played Maude's daughter?
9. Kelsey Grammer got his start on what classic TV show?
10. What was the name of Tonto's horse?
11. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" was set where?
12. Who played "Zorro" on the 1950s TV show?
13. Before "Who's the Boss," Tony Danza starred in what sitcom?
14. Tom Hanks starred in what early 80s sitcom?
15. What "M*A*S*H" star won an Emmy in three different categories: writing, directing, and acting?

Answers:

1. "Lost in Space"
2. Edward Asner
3. MacGillcuddy
4. "The Carol Burnett Show"
5. Dick York and Dick Sargent
6. Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor
7. Sam
8. Adrienne Barbeau
9. "Cheers"
10. Scout
11. The Twin Cities
12. Guy Williams
13. "Taxi"
14. "Bossom Buddies"
15. Alan Alda

Complied by Josh Ransom

Linn-Benton Opera Guild previews 'Werther'

From the LBCC News Service

The Linn-Benton Opera Guild will preview "Werther" by Jules Massenet at 7:30 p.m., tomorrow at 303 Benton Hall on the OSU campus.

OSU music Prof. Angela Carlson will tell the story of the opera and play recorded excerpts from the score. Admission is free to Linn-Benton Opera Guild members and students of LBCC and OSU. The public is invited, and the room is wheelchair accessible. The cost for non-members is \$4.

The preview will help people understand and appreciate the upcoming performances of this opera on Nov. 6, 8, 10 and 13 at the Portland

Opera, 1515 S.W. Morrison, in Portland.

People who want to see Portland Opera's closing performance of "Werther" on Saturday, Nov. 13, may ride either one of two buses sponsored by the Linn-Benton Opera Guild. Round-trip tickets cost \$20 per person or \$90 for the five opera season; opera tickets and meals not included. Seating reservations must be made in advance.

Tickets for "Werther" must also be purchased in advance. Call the Portland Opera Box Office at (503) 241-1802, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information about the Opera Guild, or to make bus reservations, call Betty Miner at 757-8949.

Annual nature photography slide show welcomes both beginners and novices

From the LBCC News Service

The 20th annual Bob Ross Open Invitational Nature Photography Slide Show will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 12, in the Forum Bldg. auditorium (F-104) at LBCC. The show is free and the public is invited.

Photographers are asked to bring one to three series of slides (no more than 20 slides) presenting themes in nature they have worked on for a long time. Photographers without themes may show nature slides from a particular trip or location. Otherwise, bring nature-related slides taken in the last 12 months to share with the audience. For this show, "nature" means parts of the world without humans and human artifacts, in other words, no architecture, hot air balloons, vehicles, backpackers, etc.

A Kodak slide projector and screen is provided. This is not a contest; there is no judging or critiquing or prizes.

Nature photographers from throughout the Willamette Valley gather together each year on this occasion to celebrate nature and share their experiences, techniques, favorite places and things to see. Beginners may sometimes feel hesitant to share their slides, and therefore the forum is designed to be non-threatening. For more information, contact Bob Ross at 917-4763.

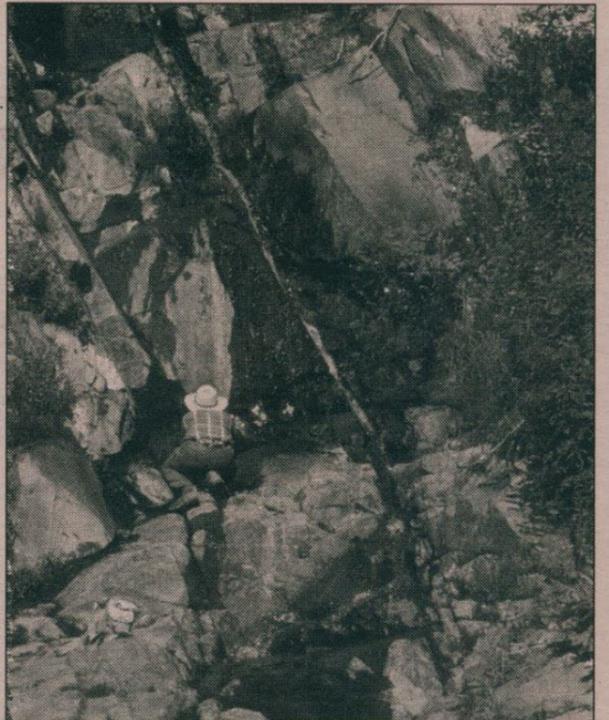


Photo by Rich Bergeman

LBCC biology instructor and nature photographer Bob Ross climbs high for a close-up shot in the Mount St. Helens Wilderness Area.

THE TICKET

Shakespearean actresses to visit LB

by Josh Ransom
of The Commuter

On Nov. 5, LBCC students will be given an opportunity to catch a glimpse inside a professional Shakespearean performance. For the 12th year in a row, the Student Programming Board is sponsoring a visit by two Shakespearean actors: Rebecca Clark and Kirsten Giroux.

The actresses will be conducting interactive workshops for selected classes, before moving on to the Forum, where they will present a 40-minute production, which will consist of selected scenes from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." This free performance is open to both LBCC students and the general public.

As in previous years, high school students from both West and South Albany will be invited to attend. This serves a dual purpose, as the high school teachers use this as a time to introduce their students to the LBCC campus.

Jane White, English Department head, jokingly said the actresses come each year, "because it's tradition," but also said they come, "because we [teachers] want to foster Shakespeare in the community. It's first of all for the LBCC students, then for the high school students, and to highlight the excellent Shakespeare festival."

The event, which costs \$550, is funded by student fees and the English Department. In past years, this program has been used to help advertise the Shakespeare Festival trips that are conducted by LBCC each May. White also voiced support for these trips, and hoped many more students would take advantage of them.

Both performers coming this year are veterans of the Ashland Shakespeare Festival, and have traveled all the over the country for a variety of different drama companies.

"It's great to be on the road again. I've been acting for over 20 years on the East and West coasts. Most recently, I spent five seasons with OSF and I'm delighted to be touring for the festival this fall," said Giroux.

Clark credits a school visit similar to Friday's for introducing her to Shakespeare, and birthing the desire to become a Shakespearean actress.

"Once, a long, long time ago, I sat in the gym of my high school and excitedly watched as 'the actors from Ashland' with the school visit program brought to life the great words of Shakespeare. I feel so lucky that I now get to be one of those actors."

"I feel so lucky that I now get to be one of those actors."

—Rebecca Clark



"It's great to be on the road again. I've been acting for over 20 years on the East and West coasts."

—Kirsten Giroux



Last year, approximately 125 people attended the performance, and the organizers are hoping for even more this year.

The performance of selected scenes from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," will be presented this Friday, at 12 p.m. in Forum 104. For more information contact White at 917-4555.

'Blair Witch' scares viewers with video release

by Schellene Pils
of The Commuter

On Oct. 21, 1994, three filmmakers, Heather Donahue, Joshua Leonard and Michael Williams, hiked into the Black Forest of Maryland to shoot a documentary film on a local legend called Blair Witch and were never seen or heard from again.

The long awaited video, "The Blair Witch Project" is sure to give viewers the same stomach clenching terror that they received from the big screen version.

The summer release of "Blair Witch," a film about three students who get lost in the woods while filming a documentary, proved that a handful of talented actors working with a great idea and a shoestring budget can still make a suspenseful hit movie worth over \$140 million.

What separates this movie from the other summer releases such as "Eyes Wide Shut" and "The Haunting", with their high-tech special effects and even higher paid actors, was the absolute fear generated by Donahue, Williams and Leonard, the characters and makers of the film.

The film was formatted to look like a home movie, making it far more believable than it would have been as a blockbuster production. While it was reported to be the most frightening film of the summer on the big screen, the video version may be scarier since it provides an intimacy that you can't get in a theater.

The screams are real, as are the tears coming from Donahue's eyes as she begs forgiveness on film for bringing a crew out to document the Blair Witch phenomena.

The movie begins with mere bantering and bickering between the three filmmakers and turns into true terror caused by stress, lack of sleep and the fear of being hunted that radiates from the



students in this pseudo-documentary.

Why is it so scary? Because while watching this movie, you forget that it is not really a documentary, believing instead that you are watching the last few days in the lives of these three students. For the 87 minutes of the video, including the nine minutes of "new" footage at the end, I was glued to my seat.

In addition to the creeping foreboding that slowly finds its way into your brain, the shaky camera angles and fear of the unknown that can't be seen on camera is unsettling and adds to the experience, throwing the you off-kilter and drawing you deeper and deeper into the movie.

Since "Blair Witch" came out, with its advertising done mostly on the Internet and by word of mouth, there have been spoofs of it used in everything from advertising to Scooby Doo. If imitation is the greatest form of flattery, then the makers of "Blair Witch" should be pleased.

The story doesn't end with the film or the video however. Visitors to the internet site, located at www.blairwitch.com, can read on about the legends and complex story that went along with the documentary.

I found that after visiting the site and reading all the material included within, that it was very difficult to think of this movie as a pseudo-documentary.

The stories were as well thought out as a ghost story told for generations over a campfire, with all the twists and turns that get added on throughout the years to spice up the story.

The site includes a legend on the disappearance of children that spans 200 years and includes at least one serial killer. There are audio and video clips as well that seem as authentic as the real thing would be.

Weekly Horoscope

From the TMS News Service

Aries (March 21-April 19). This week count your winnings and figure out which games to play next. Take care; misunderstandings will be plentiful. Figure out a way to get what you want over the weekend, with a good friend's help.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Settle into a good partnership this week. Get most of your letters out before Friday. Let your partner do the driving over the weekend. Figure out the agenda, too. Relax!

Gemini (May 21-June 21). This week take good care of other people, and they'll do the same for you. Clean house on Wednesday. Schedule your date for Thursday and expect complications with travel and communications Friday. This weekend could be intense. Hit a big project hard. To finish it on time, get friends to help.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). You're in a fun phase. There's not enough money, but there's plenty of love. Stay close to home Thursday and Friday. Have your date come to your house for dinner Friday night. Romance looks good over the weekend, too. Better pack the refrigerator Thursday.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Home and family are your dominant themes this week. Focus on financial issues on Wednesday. Catch up on your reading Thursday. On Friday, practice something that's harder than it looks. Stay home and fix up your place over the weekend.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). On Wednesday, start new projects, such as developing a new friendship. Your life becomes more complex on Friday. You're smart over the weekend. Take on your most difficult assignment then.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). This week learn how to wheel and deal from your friends. Don't do exactly what they say; use your own judgment. From Thursday through the weekend, you look good. Don't let disruptions impede your creativity on Friday. An action you take should pay off by Sunday.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're in charge this week. Don't let a bump in the road slow you down. Rely on your friends Wednesday. You're pressured to perform on Thursday and Friday, so why not? You're lookin' good. Keep your secrets to yourself. Start new projects over the weekend.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your hopes, dreams and fears are activated this week. The check may get lost in the mail, too. You're popular Thursday and Friday. Don't spread yourself too thin. All will not go as planned. A religious retreat or vision quest would be perfect this weekend.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your friends are your bane and your bounty this week. If you can't go in person, travel electronically. Pay attention to home and business on Thursday and Friday. Take care from Friday on; make sure your safety net is in place. Party hearty this weekend.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). This year you could be successful if you apply yourself. It's easier for you to get what you want on Thursday and Friday. Watch for slowdowns, though. You may feel stifled over the weekend. Recommit yourself.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll learn interesting things this week. A partner helps you get organized Wednesday. Go shopping with a plan on Thursday and Friday. Travel looks good over the weekend. Near water would be best.

THE TICKET

LBCC Chamber Choir featured in training video

by Shauna Noah
of The Commuter

The LBCC Chamber Choir is one of six choirs selected to perform for a national training video produced by an international representative for choir directors.

The video showcases a choir directing technique developed by Rodney Eichenberger, director of choirs at Florida State University, where natural hand gestures create sound changes. The choir recorded two prepared songs: "Salve Regina" by David Childs and "Deck the Halls" arranged by Paul Stuart.

"The choir sounded really good," said Hal

"It forced us to get to a high level of polish really quick."

—Hal Eastburn

Eastburn, the LBCC choir director, who uses the Eichenberger technique. "It was a good experience working with other conductors. It forced us to get to a high level of polish really quick. Usually we become pretty accomplished by spring, this put pressure on us to have that high level of polish within a month."

Eichenberger conducts at FSU and does training sessions around the world. He uses his first

video, "What They See Is What They Get" in his workshops.

Eastburn, who attended previous workshops, met with Eichenberger at Cannon Beach for a session hosted by Portland State University. Eichenberger mentioned his new video and allowed Eastburn to audition, and eventually LBCC was selected.

The completed video will be out sometime next year and will be sold on the Internet, wherever choir music is sold and at Eichenberger's workshops. The LBCC choir will be performing the two songs from the video along with others in the Dec. 2 Holiday Treat Concert in Takena Hall.

Art Gallery

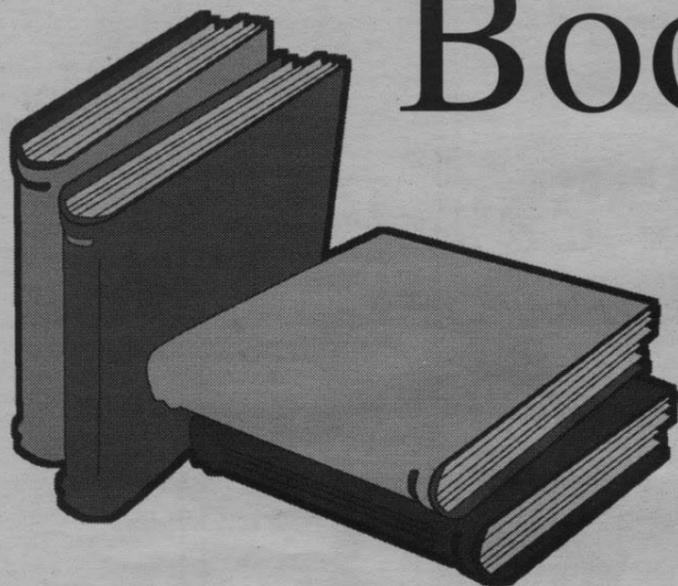


"Monica and Bill"

Bret Furtwangler created this figure/ground reversal for his ART 115 Basic Design class taught by Analee Fuentes.

COMING EVENTS

What	When	Where	Cost
"Sandgren in Mexico" watercolor show	Fri. Oct 29-Dec. 31	Benton County Museum 541-929-6230	free
"Powwow Highway" movie	Thurs. Nov. 4 at 2:30 p.m.	Student Lounge LBCC campus	free
"Return to the Forbidden Planet"	Nov. 4,6 at 8:15 p.m.	ACT Theater Albany call 541-928-4603	\$7/10
Catlin Gables Rummage Sale	Fri. Nov.4 - Sun. Nov. 7	Portland Expo Center call 503-297-1894 for info.	free
"Steel Mangolias" play	Nov. 5,6 at 8 p.m.	Majestic Theatre Corvallis call 754-8455 for info.	varied
Willamette Valley Juried Exhibit	through Nov. 5	Corvallis Art Center call 541-754-1551 for info.	free
Corrine Woodman Gallery Exhibit	through Nov. 6	Corvallis Art Center call 541-754-1551 for info.	free
"Chocolate Classics" chocolate fantasy	Sun. Nov. 7	Westin Salishan Lodge, Lincoln City 574-2688	varied
Writers On Writing IV	Tues. Nov. 8 at 12:15 p.m.	Corvallis Public Library call 541-753-3335 for info.	free
"Habaneros" CD Release Party	Sat. Nov. 6 at 9 p.m.	WOW Hall, Eugene call 541-687-2747 for info.	\$6
"Imperial Teen" Pop-rock	Sun. Nov. 7 at 8 p.m.	WOW Hall, Eugene call 541-687-2747 for info.	\$6
New World Belly Dance	Tues. Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.	WOW Hall, Eugene call 541-687-2747 for info.	\$3
Christine Lavin, Folk music	Wed. Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m.	WOW Hall, Eugene call 541-687-2747 for info.	\$14.50
Poetry Reading by Stephen Sher	Wed. Nov. 10 at 12 p.m.	CC room 213, LBCC campus	free
Pinhole Photography Show	Oct. 18-Nov. 19 M-F 8-5	LBCC Gallery, AHSS 100	free



Book Buyback

Dec. 6-10

Monday-Wednesday

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday through Friday

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

College Center
Room 213

Order your books on-line from
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www.lbcc.cc.or.us:80/

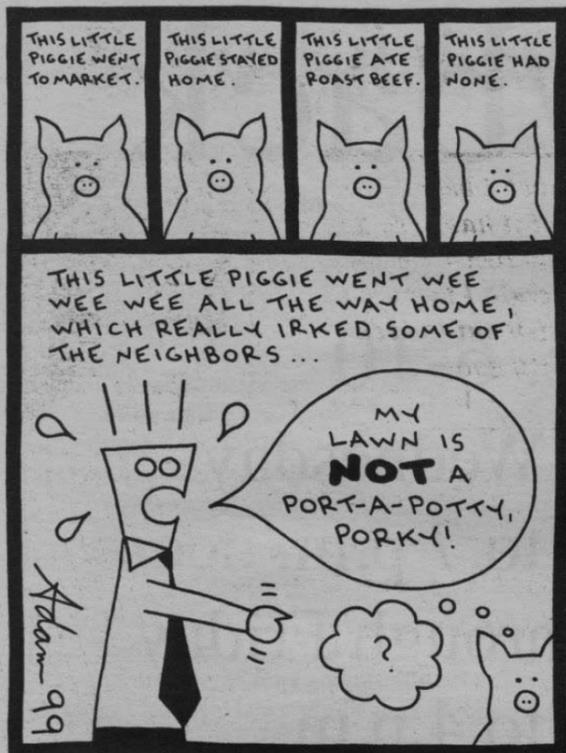


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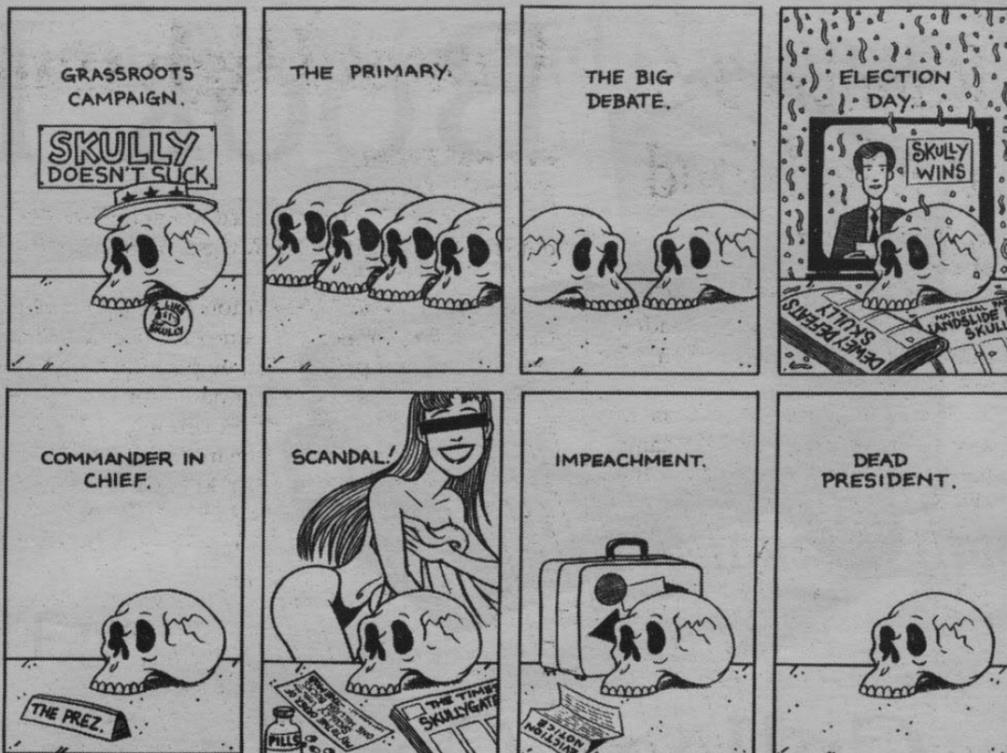
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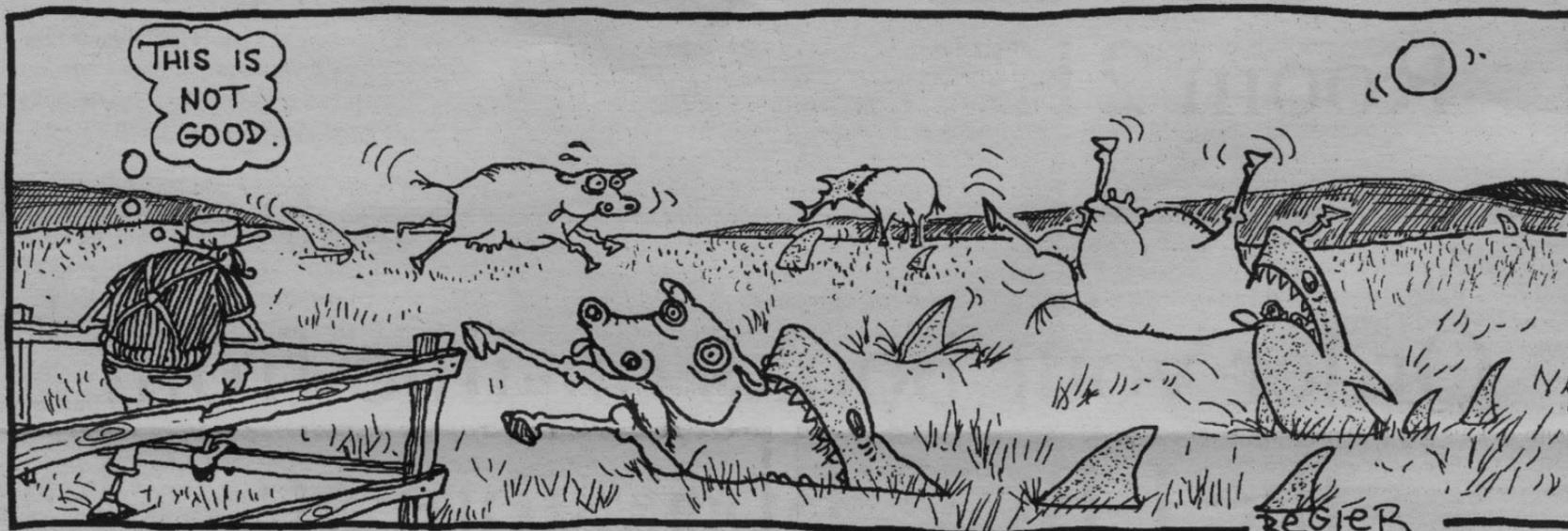


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HELP WANTED

The Alpha Tau Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, The International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges, is looking for an Activities Coordinator and Public Relations Officer. These positions carry a 6-credit talent grant for the spring term. To be eligible for these positions, you must be a member in good standing, currently enrolled in classes, and be able to attend the executive Board meetings (Friday 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.). If interested, contact Rosemary Bennett in the Counseling Center in Takena Hall.

MISCELLANEOUS

AFROTC Detachment 685 at Oregon State University is hosting an Open House Saturday, Nov. 6, 1999. Anyone interested in learning more about commissioning opportunities in the Air Force ROTC program or the Air Force Academy is cordially invited to attend. Presentations will be giving discussing the ROTC and Academy admissions processes, requirements, and life-style. They will also discuss scholarships, extracurricular activities, and career opportunities as an officer in the Air Force. For more information contact Maj. Kathleen Tighe-Smith at AFROTC Detachment 685, OSU (541) 737-6284.

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.

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SPORTS PAGE

Runners 3-3 at Mt. Hood

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

Heading into the Mt. Hood Classic, the Lady Runners were headed out of the playoff hunt with a 3-7 league record.

The trip to Gresham was in search of victory, and they came back with three, going 3-3 at the classic.

They started out losing to Columbia 7-15 and 6-15 in the first match on Friday, then to Lower Columbia 15-9, 14-16 and 11-15. But the Runners salvaged the last match of the day against Umpqua 15-2 and 15-3.

"We placed third on Friday, which put us in the contender bracket for Saturday's play against seven other teams," said Coach Jayme Frazier.

On Saturday, the Runners handled Shoreline with a 15-11 and 16-14 victory, and defeated Big Bend next with a 7-15, 15-10 and 15-12 win. They lost the last match to Green River 9-15 and 9-15.

"On Saturday, we beat Shoreline and Big Bend, which place us in the championships. We played with heart against Big Bend, but we went flat in the championships against Green River," said Frazier.

Jamie Caster ended the weekend with 46 kills and a 29 percent kill percentage to go along with 16 blocks. Sarah Towns finished with 31 kills and a 24 percent kill percentage. Sarah Whisler had 68 assists for the two days, while Katie Howell had 40 assists on Friday. Kristyn Kohler, Amy Chase and Sheril Baga each had 17 digs on Friday. Kohler also finished with 11 service aces and Baga had eight.

Up next for the 22-20 Runners are the Lady Titans of Lane tonight at 7 pm. They are at the Lower Columbia Crossover this weekend in Longview, Wash.

Crater High transplant hits it big at LB

by David Thayer
of The Commuter

Being on a 3-7 team can be a downer for anyone, but it hasn't dampened the spirits of Jamie Caster, a freshman middle hitter for the Lady Runners.

Caster came to Linn-Benton from Crater High School in Central Point, Oregon. "I came here because of the academic and educational programs they provide here," she said.

So far, Caster has made a name for herself here. She has recorded 205 kills (56 of them coming in the Gray's Harbor Crossover Oct. 8 and 9 and 46 in the Mt. Hood Classic Oct. 29 and 30). Her biggest day for kills came on Oct. 16 against Chemeketa, where she recorded 14 kills. She has also become one of the main shot blockers for the team, with 45 blocked shots for the season so far.

"My favorite part of playing volleyball is just the competitiveness and the sport overall. I like offense the best, because it is fun to hit the ball," says Caster. "I just don't like not winning. It is definitely hard."

Coach Jayme Frazier, according to Caster, has been great. "She knows a lot about the game and makes it fun to be here." Her teammates have been great to Caster, too. "Oh, I love them. We all get along really well. It's hard to say though. Everyone is really good. I mean, as long as we come together, we are really good."

It was rough at first, however. "Coming together as a team was hard. We are all freshman except for one sophomore (Jenni White) and we've never played together. But it is starting to come together."

Caster adds that an indication of what the team is capable of occurred at the Grays Harbor Crossover, when the team finished second out of six teams.

Despite the team's losing record, Caster sees the season as positive overall. "We haven't been winning, but it has been a good experience for me. And overall, I think we will finish out the season pretty good."

When Jamie is not busy with school or volleyball, she can be

"We haven't been winning, but it has been a good experience for me. And overall, I think we will finish out the season pretty good."

—Jamie Caster



BY THE NUMBERS

Middle hitter Jamie Caster has been on a tear since early October

205 kills on season

(season high: 14 against Chemeketa Oct. 16)
102 kills combined in two tournaments
recorded 10 or more kills five times in regular season

45 blocked shots on season

(season high: 5 against Umpqua Oct. 23)

27.3 kill percentage

averaging 11.1 kills per game since Oct. 7

found either reading or hanging out.

"There is not a lot to do around here, so I just like to read fiction stories or biographies. If I am not doing that, I'll listen to any kind of music."

As for future plans, she says she will be coming back here for another year, but hasn't considered where she will head after LB.

"I either want to go to Southern Oregon or Oregon State, but I am not sure. I haven't really looked into it."

You can catch Jamie and the rest of her teammates at tonight's home game against Lane at 7 p.m. and next Wednesday at home against Mt. Hood at 7 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 3, 7 p.m.

LB vs. Lane

Activities Center

Last Meeting:

15-12, 15-3, 15-5 victory

Nov. 5-6

Lower Columbia Crossover

Longview, Wash.

Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

LB vs. Mt. Hood

Activities Center

Last Meeting:

1-15, 2-15, 15-10, 0-15 loss

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OPINION

Readers React: Witches get bad rap in Halloween column

Wiccans will not be silenced when faced with intolerance

To the Editor:

I was sad to read the opinion of Josh Ransom in the Opinion section of The Commuter on Oct. 27. As a new student just transferring up from Arizona, I couldn't believe that the school paper would print such religious prejudices and right before the most holy day for many of us. As someone who has practiced witchcraft for over 10 years now, I can honestly say that what Josh wrote was totally wrong. The only fact he got right was the date in which it's celebrated on. How would he like it if I attacked his Jesus right before Christmas? As pagans, we have respect for other people and their beliefs and aren't threatened by them, unlike Christians who believe that their way is the only way and the rest of us aren't worthy enough to have our own beliefs. I just have a few things to say to people like Josh.

1. To you who do not know me. You don't understand my beliefs, yet you proceed to attack me. Violating your own code with your intolerance.

2. To you who set up campaigns to silence me, and yet protest when your rights are infringed upon.

3. To you who call me evil, but don't know what I am, because you have never cared to find out.

This is what I have to say to you. I am not evil, I am peaceful. I will not be silenced, for I believe what I speak. I wish no harm to come to you. I wish not to fight with you. I hold no malice against you because we believe differently. I wish it were the same with you. I do not hate you, although you'd like to believe I do. I do not cast spells to harm you. You accuse me of foul injustice, but I am innocent. You accuse me of violence, which I do not perform. You've called me a killer. I wish only for a chance to live in peace with you and all others. You've accused me of the foulest of deeds. You've tried to suppress me and destroy me. You've done your best to succeed, but yet you fail. You fail because, despite all that you have done to me and my kind throughout history, still we live. We will not be silenced. We are Witches, Pagans, Wiccans and Shamans. We are united together to fight the intolerance you teach.

Now to correct many of Josh's lies that he didn't back with facts. Someone's been watching too many of those religious TV shows that do the same thing. Josh first starts out by saying how stores start selling Halloween stuff earlier each year. True, but I remember being in Walmart back in July and they did have Halloween stuff out, but they already had Xmas stuff out too. He then said that Halloween was first celebrated in the second century by Druids in France? Well the facts are that Egyptians and pre-Spanish Mexicans for example celebrated this day as the day of the dead, along with many other pre-Christian cultures as the end of the year and for early Europeans, the word Samhain which is the other name for Halloween, which means summer's end and not Josh's silly idea. This time of the year marked the beginning of the cold, mean months to come, the flocks were brought in from the fields to live in sheds until spring, the last harvesting of the crops. The Celts also recognized that Halloween was exactly between the autumnal equinox and the winter solstice, with ancient peoples reliance on astrology, thought it was a very potent time for magic and communion with spirits. The veil between the worlds of living and dead was said to be its thinnest on this day, allowing the living to feast with their departed loved ones. It's a day of remembrance, like Memorial Day for some.

Josh also said that we honor Satan on Halloween? I can tell you that, that's just another Christian lie, because Satan is part of the Christian and Muslim religions. Since we are neither Christian or Muslim, we do not recognize the existence of Satan, let alone worship him/it.

Josh also said that we still sacrifice animals and sometimes people on Halloween and he knows this because bodies are found shortly afterwards. Really good reasoning there Josh. I know of a few Christians that blow up abortion clinics and molest children but I don't say that you all are a bunch of murdering child molesters based on the actions of a few weirdos. The

Editor's Note: Readers are encouraged to use this page to state their opinions. It's a great forum for airing your ideas and we want everyone to feel welcome. However there's only so much space here, so we urge you to limit responses to 250 words or we may have to edit for length.

fact is we don't believe in killing anything for sacrifice. The nature of sacrifice is to give something of one's own in order to gain something more important. Like Christians do in church when they pass around the money plate. We do not feel that the life of another creature is ours to give, therefore we would never kill an animal or person in ritual, as we would not consider it a true sacrifice. Witches believe in sanctity of all life. For that reason a large percentage of witches are vegetarian.

Well I'm getting tired and it's time for me to go and carve my pumpkins with my kids now, and I hope that this will dispel some of the lies that some people want to spread about other peoples religion, just because they fell threatened by the truth.

Peter Gula

Halloween misrepresented by misinformed columnist

To the Editor:

I was shocked, disturbed, and disgusted when I read the article titled "Halloween celebrates Satanic holiday and promotes more tricks than treats" by Josh Ransom (The Commuter, Oct. 27). I realized the article was printed on the Opinion page, but this does not excuse Mr. Ransom's slanderous comments regarding the Wiccan religion. I can only assume that Mr. Ransom's claims regarding the origins of Halloween must have come from his own vast personal experience, being that he cited no sources for his statements. Several paragraphs of what was most likely plagiarism, might be enough for the average reporter, but apparently it was not enough to satisfy Mr. Ransom. After all of this uncited information about the supposed worship of Samhain by the ancient Druids, Mr. Ransom continues by claiming that even today witches sacrifice animals and even people on Oct. 31. He makes claims that fresh human and animal remains are found after Halloween. Now even though these statements aren't backed up by a police report or anything else, let's just assume that Mr. Ransom is right. Let's assume that all these remains really do turn up every year. Why give Mr. Ransom the right to play judge, jury, and executioner of the Wiccan religion? Wicca is a religion, just like Christianity or any other religion. I have met Wiccans (the formal term for witch), and I can tell you that sacrificing animals, or people, is not part of their religion. Mr. Ransom's statements regarding Wiccans would have caused outrage throughout the community if they were made regarding any non-pagan religion. If he had made unfounded claims about Mormons or Baptists or any other Christian religion committing murders on an annual basis, his article never would have been printed. To me, this article was nothing more than blatant

We want mail

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We do need a real name to put at the bottom of the letter--we do not publish anonymous diatribes. So to make sure we know you're real, put your phone number at the bottom of your e-mail letter so we can call to confirm you exist. Send your comments to us at commuter@gw.lbcc.cc.or.us.

In order to confirm the authenticity of letters, they must be signed, with phone number and address included.

propaganda aimed to stifle the rights of a misunderstood religion. I am disappointed that The Commuter printed this irresponsible journalism, and helped contribute to the ignorance of the masses.

Edward Ellsworth

Christianity has no right to throw stones at witches

To the Editor:

In response to the article on Halloween by Mr. Ransom, I feel it necessary to offer rebuttal. Many assertions were made about the beliefs and practices of Druids and witches from the second century until now. These assumptions fail to recognize that there was life before the march of Christendom across the European subcontinent. They also fail to take into account the sociological phenomena associated with a campaign both militant and subversive.

Before the arrival of Jesus—who taught peace, love and forgiveness—and long before Emperor Constantine adopted Christianity as the official state religion, born of the politically volatile council of Nicea, Druids and witches worshipped nature. One need not dig deep to find support for the fact that, like most precivilization cultures, the European aborigines worshipped the forces of nature in anthropomorphic terms, as we humans are wont to do. It is so often assumed in the Western world, where Christianity holds the most temporal power, that there are two forces in the universe, God and Satan. If you don't worship God, you worship Satan. Who is God? We all have our own answers, but some of us use our position or influence to push our personal conception onto others, as Constantine and all his figurative scions have done these many centuries.

So, along come the armies of God, marching across the peat bogs and lime escarpments, slaying and torching all those who behave in ways believed blasphemous by those with superior arms. Whatever they saw was filtered through the template of their state-designed and approved belief system. When military methods proved insufficient or ineffective, diplomats wearing robes and bearing the accouterments of "Christ" were sent to educate deluded souls. Many of these souls adopted these beliefs, at least sufficiently that in the blend, the old nature spirits and gods became transformed into something else. Those who resisted, were then deemed minions of Satan and all their practices, some brutal, some not, became the workings of the devil.

Truth be known, Satanists directly, or indirectly place themselves within the popular Christian paradigm, Wiccans (the name of the religion practiced by most witches) don't. They don't consider themselves the antithesis of what Jesus represents, they simply aren't, as the majority of humanity aren't, Christians. Perhaps most of them exhibit a dash of persecution complex, but the history can perhaps explain this. Modern day witches tend to be polytheistic, worshipping the forces of nature in the forms of various gods and goddesses, depending on the tradition, display reverence for nature, acceptance of reincarnation and are notable for their lack of proselytization. They believe in magic as the subtle forces of nature can be manipulated, but only with great respect. For those that adopt the Wiccan Rede believe in a system variously similar to Karma; what you send out comes back.

As far as Halloween goes, as with most holidays, people in general are less concerned with the origins than the opportunity to celebrate life in some way. Why are the most festive holidays celebrated in the winter? A step outside during the long, gray Oregon night should explain. I won't go into the meaning of Samhain (pronounced "sowen") as it would make this already long diatribe far, far longer. But as to the accusation about animal sacrifice, without examining the practices of the ancient Israelites, I will simply say this: While there may be people, who call themselves witches, killing children and pets in the name of the Lord of Darkness, so too are there people, who call themselves Christian, who kill people and indeed wage war in the name of the Prince of Peace.

Paul A. Huppert