

Henderson wins ASG presidency in low turnout

by Ky Weatherford
of The Commuter

Last week, 117 students voted in the election of the 2001-2002 Associated Student Government, which will be sworn in on May 2.

Jonathan Henderson, who was the only candidate for president will be taking the place of the current president Todd Gifford.

When asked about his plans for the coming year, Henderson said, "First off, I want to start a leadership club to involve more kids on campus. I would also like to have a more efficient board. I would like to see the representatives keep in touch with the clubs and see what is going on around campus."

The purpose of the leadership club would be to raise participation in activities on campus and give the average student an opportunity to get involved.

Roxanne Allen won the office of vice president, Diane Barnhart was voted in as the public relations secretary, Katrina Jackson will be the new business and health representative and Daniel Wittekind was voted in as at-large representative.

Last year, 300 people voted in the largest ASG election voter turnout in history. Last year's turnout was thought by some to be due to online voting, which was used for the first time to supplement the polling booths. This prompted the ASG to get rid of polling stations (Turn to "Election" on Pg. 2)



Photo by James Bauerle

Hot Time

More than 250 students from several high schools in the region were on campus Friday for the annual Industrial Skills Contests. Welding was one of the biggest events, attracting at least 200 competitors. Students also participated in metallurgy and materials technology, auto technology, machine tool and engineering graphics.

Fund-raising barbecues spark review by food committee

by Lori Weedmark
of The Commuter

Getting tired of all those fund-raising barbecues vying for your hard-earned dollars?

Some people apparently are.

LBCC's Food Services Committee will be meeting April 6 to discuss this and other fund-raising issues concerning student groups and organizations at LBCC.



Photo by Christopher Spence

Clark Engdall of the Ultimate Frisbee club heats up burgers.

The committee, made up of students, faculty and staff, will meet at 2 p.m. in CC135 to discuss fund raising policy issues such as the frequency of fundraisers like barbecues and the use of the LBCC name when soliciting funds from local businesses.

"We're concerned about making sure who it is that's using the name LBCC for fund raising, and that the money is properly receipted and going to benefit the college or the students," said Mike Holland, vice-president of Administrative and Student Affairs.

The frequency of fund-raising events, such as barbecues, and their effect on other college departments, such as food services, will also be discussed.

Currently, student groups such as the Ultimate Frisbee team receive \$50 in seed money from Student Life & Leadership to get started. Any other funding is up to the group to raise.

"A student club needs to be self-sufficient because it caters to a select group of students," said Associated (Turn to "Culinary" on Pg. 2)

Plan to buy flags for Tadena Hall gets thumbs down from AART

by Crystal Davis
of The Commuter

The plan to hang 40 international flags in Tadena Hall has been put on hold due to a decision that was made by the Arts and Aesthetics Resource Team.

According to a memo from Gary Ruppert of the AART, the committee met on Feb. 21 and discussed the Special Project proposal from the Associated Student Government. After a discussion about the impact this proposal would have on the aesthetics of Tadena Hall, the committee unanimously decided to recommend against the implementation of the flags.

Each year, the ASG has a special project fund of \$5,000 which they are allowed to spend to benefit LBCC students.

There were three options of how the special project fund could be used this year. The options included putting up permanent gallery art display cabinets in Tadena Hall, purchasing artwork for a permanent LBCC art collection, or buying international flags to hang in the entry way of Tadena Hall.

"We got a lot of feedback on the flag idea, more than any other idea that we had, so we were pushing for that."

—Jon Henderson

"We got a lot of feedback on the flag idea, more than any other idea that we had," said Jon Henderson, ASG vice president, "so we were pushing for that." The board took a vote on Jan. 23 and it was decided that the flags were to be purchased.

The total cost for this project was estimated at \$1,200; however, it ended up costing \$1,240.

The decision by the AART will drastically affect the time frame in which the flags will be hung. "What we have to do now is figure out if we can still push to have the flags hung in Tadena Hall, or if we should try to take a different route and find alternative space to hang the flags," said Henderson.

(Turn to "Flags" on Pg. 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Rock Revival

Local bands raise roof while raising funds

Page 7

Check This Out

Bulk up for finals with a Jamba Juice smoothie at the Student Union today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Just \$2 each.

Taking the Leap

TJ Vetkos leads Runners in Icebreaker

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CAMPUS NEWS

OFF BEAT

Right to remain stupid

Police in California put a robbery suspect in a lineup with a group of other men and instructed them all to say, "Hand over the money or I'll shoot." To the astonishment of witnesses on the other side of the glass partition, the robber exclaimed defiantly, "Hey, that's not what I said."

When teenagers attack

As a driver was gassing up his green Lincoln Continental at a filling station in Pittsburgh, two teenagers jumped in and drove it off at high speed. They were going so fast that they failed to negotiate a 90-degree turn and rolled the car over onto its roof and right onto the railroad tracks. They crawled out and were trying to roll the car back onto its wheels when a freight train came through, demolishing the vehicle. The youths fled but were soon apprehended in a nearby wooded area.

Dead eye McWilliams

The state of North Dakota has issued a gun permit to Carey McWilliams. He is blind.

Who's sacrificing who?

Waheeb Hamouda kept a sheep in a cage on top of his three-story apartment building in Alexandria, Egypt, for six weeks, and was fattening the animal for sacrificial slaughter as part of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha in early March. It is not known whether the sheep was aware of his ultimate fate, but, one day when Waheeb came to feed him, the animal charged and butted him off the roof to his death.

Don't drive angry

Steven Zea, 26, had a very upsetting argument with his mother while they were riding in the car along Interstate 95 in Florida. He was so angry that he decided then and there to start a new life without mom and that he would rob a bank to accomplish this. When she slowed down, he hopped out and went to the Bank of America branch in Oakland Park and committed the robbery. He later repented and turned himself in. Interestingly, when he was having the fight with his mother, she was driving him to an anger management class.

Picking up campus litter could garner prizes

by Michael Taylor
of The Commuter

Today is the annual Care About Your Campus Day at LBCC. The Student Ambassadors, who are organizing the event, will supply garbage bags and gloves for those who help pick up garbage around campus.

Anyone who brings back a bag of trash will get his or her name entered into a raffle where they will draw the

names at random to win various prizes.

Some of the gifts being given away to participants are a three month membership at the YMCA for your whole family, pizza from pizza hut, a LBCC sweat shirt, and gift certificates at Target, Novak Hungarian restaurant, and Fred Meyers.

In last year's Trash Bash five teams of six people gathered trash from around the campus to be weighed. The goal of last year was to get your team to gather

the heaviest trash to win. This year Diana Barnhart of the Student Ambassadors decided not to weigh the trash because it got out of hand with what people brought in.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Care About Your Campus Day you can contact Diana Barnhart of the Student Ambassadors Association in The Student Union office, Forum 120.

Culinary: BBQs keep Ultimate Frisbee Club flying

From Page One

Student Government President Todd Gifford. "It's a select group of students, so we have to be careful as to how much student fee money we kick back to the groups."

The Ultimate Frisbee team has been particularly active in its fund-raising efforts this term, hosting a weekly barbecue to raise funds for a competition trip to Hawaii. The team's budget for this year is \$4,000, with only \$50 being funded by SL&L.

"Barbecues are our sole fund-raiser," said Greg Mulder, physical science instructor and Ultimate Frisbee team advisor. "Without them, our club wouldn't exist." Any comments or concerns on this issue should be directed to Holland at 917-4411.

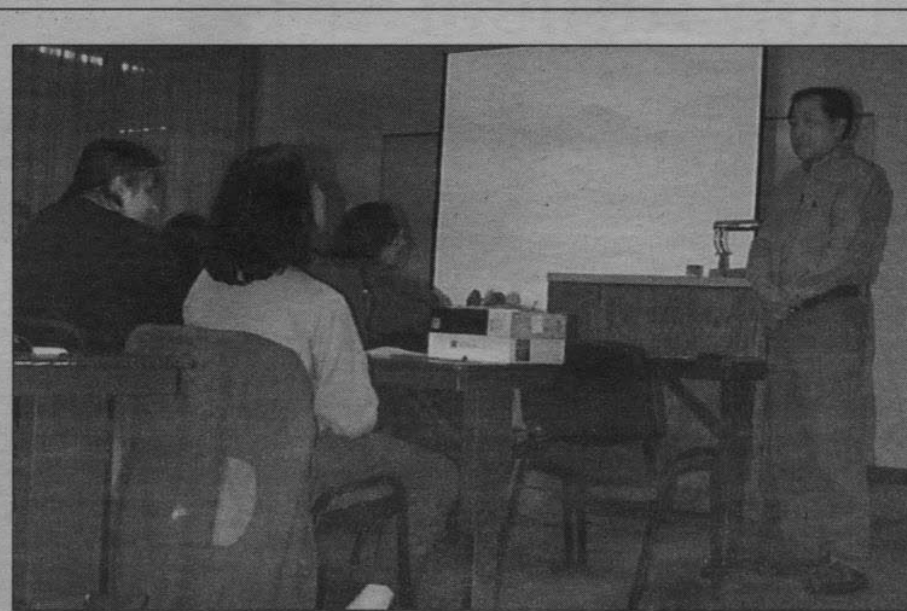


Photo by Christopher Spence

Talking About Art

Eugene artist Harold Hoy addresses a crowd in the Fireside Room Monday and shows slides of his sculptures, which deal with people's relationship with the environment. Hoy's visit was sponsored by Student Life and Leadership and the Art Department.

Online courses get grant

From the LBCC News Service

The Business Development Center recently received a grant from the Benton-Lane-Lincoln-Linn Regional Investment Board to pay half of the cost of online business courses for local small business owners.

The grant will help businesses with 50 employees or less improve their operations through a variety of online courses in customer service, financial management, marketing, the Internet, and using popular software packages. The grant comes from Oregon Lottery funds administered by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

The grant funds apply to online classes taught by the Internet company Education To Go and marketed in partnership with LBCC's Business Development Center. The company, which has been a partner with the Business Development Center since September 1999, began offering online courses in 1995.

Interested businesses may visit www.ed2go.com for a complete listing of topics that are available.

Flags: ASG project represents nationalities of LB students

From Page One

The flags would represent 40 different countries. These countries were chosen by Henderson and Rob Carey, head of the international students on campus and were determined upon taking into consideration the international students who are currently enrolled at LBCC.

"The first 16 flags represent countries that we have students from," said Henderson. "The remaining flags represent students that we have had on campus in the past."

There will be options for international students that come to LBCC and do not have their country represented. "We worked out a deal where the student can come to the Student Life and Leadership office and request that their flag be purchased and hung along with the other ones," added Henderson.

Henderson also said that if the ASG cannot find a solution to this recent dilemma, the money allotted for the flags will go toward more recycle bins, which is another benefit of the special project fund.

"Whatever decision is made has to be brought to the ASG board and passed," he said.

Election: Online-only election sees drop in voter turnout; three seats remain open

From Page One

this year, but the results were disappointing. While Gifford was hoping for a turnout of more than 1,000, only 117 students voted. He said the lower turnout

may be due to the uncontested race for student body president this year.

Three offices had no candidates: representatives for student services, liberal arts, and science and industry. The va-

cant positions will be reopened soon and students who are interested will have to fill out applications and be interviewed for the chance to be selected.

Henderson, who plans to transfer to

OSU eventually, says his ASG involvement does not mean he plans to make a career out of politics.

"No, I think school politics is as far as I would like to go," he said.

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, Associated Students of LBCC or the Libertarian Party. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them.

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CAMPUS NEWS



Spring is Here

Helen Snyder, fine arts major, works on her drawing of a birch tree in front of the College Center building during last Monday's sunny afternoon. Weather forecasts call for increasing clouds for the rest of the week.

Corvallis cultivates relationship with Ukrainian sister city

by Barry Douglas
of The Commuter

Several government officials from Uzhgorod, Ukraine, are in Corvallis this week to discuss disaster planning in the latest example of the continuing Sister City relationship between the two cities.

The visit is one of several exchanges that have occurred between Corvallis and Uzhgorod since the Corvallis Sister Cities Association established a relationship with Uzhgorod in 1988.

The goal was "to further peace, understanding, and friendship by building reciprocal relationships between the people of Corvallis and the people of Uzhgorod."

In the 13 years since then, there have been exchanges of doctors, dentists, nurses, physical therapists, educators, artists, students, volunteers and civic leaders between the two cities.

Over 100,000 pounds of medical supplies and other items have been shipped from Corvallis hospitals to clinics and orphanages in Uzhgorod and elsewhere

in the Transcarpathian region of the Ukraine.

Carol Paulson has been involved with the Corvallis Sister City Association since its inception and is proud of the program's success in overcoming obstacles.

"When we first began looking for a sister city, we were still in the middle of the Cold War with the former Soviet Union," said Paulson. "Ronald Reagan had coined the phrase 'Evil Empire,' and there wasn't much encouragement in that kind of atmosphere to form a relationship like the one we did with Uzhgorod."

"Before we decided on a particular city, we had made up our minds to look only in the Soviet Union for a community with which Corvallis shared common circumstances," said Paulson. "Although Uzhgorod is larger than Corvallis, we have a great deal in common."

The Sister City concept evolved from President Eisenhower's "People to

People" program, and is now embodied in Sister Cities International, a non-profit citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between U.S. and international communities.

Nearly a thousand cities representing millions of Americans have established links with counterparts around the world in an effort to increase global cooperation at the municipal level, to promote cultural understanding and to stimulate economic development.

The Corvallis association's efforts have proved so successful that it received awards in 1995 and 1998 for Best Assistance Program from Sister Cities International.

The association has also won two national awards for its program centering on disability issues, and it recently received funding through Sister Cities International for the continuation of the Municipal and Community Problem Solving Program, which will focus on the needs of children with physical disabilities in Uzhgorod.

Nutritionist to bring class to LB

by Taiga Sudakin
of The Commuter

A sports nutrition specialist who worked with OSU's gymnastics team for 11 years is now sharing her expertise with LBCC students.

Sandra Strohmeier, a new part-time instructor of diet and nutrition at LBCC, has helped shape the diets of people as diverse as children, athletes and the elderly.

Strohmeier, who has a master's degree in human nutrition and is a registered dietitian, will teach a new class at LBCC on sports nutrition next fall. She is also working on a new class for the nursing curriculum.



Sandra Strohmeier

Her approach to teaching students is to incorporate "personal and real life experiences to take this information they are learning and practically apply it," she said.

Strohmeier shares case scenarios with her students from her own experiences, which include counseling, presentations and programs for caregivers of the elderly, health care providers, children and athletes. She has also taught nutrition classes in Spanish.

Her active lifestyle includes running, hiking and horseback riding. This enhances her ability to promote fitness and preventative nutrition, Strohmeier said.

She created Health Watch, a sports nutrition food service program used by OSU and the College Inn in Corvallis. The program helps facilities provide optimal diets for student athletes through nutritional guidelines, recipe development, menu analysis and promotional items.

Strohmeier has counseled clients on topics such as eating disorders, sports nutrition and weight management in her private practice, since 1984. She is a member of the Sports, Cardiovascular and Wellness Nutritionists practice group of the American Dietetic Association.

Family Fair set for this weekend

by Kurt Madar
of The Commuter

LB's eighteenth annual Family Resource Fair is being held March 10 and will be based around the theme "celebrating families."

The fair starts with a speech on "Down To Earth Dads" by Patrick Mitchell from 9-10 a.m. After the speech, there will be two sessions with 26 different workshops covering topics such as Positive Communication and Managing Difficult Behavior. The first session begins at 10:15 a.m. and ends for lunch at 11:45. The second session starts at 1 p.m. and finishes with the end of the fair at 2:30 p.m.

Admission is free for children and costs \$1 for each adult. Families that are interested in attending the fair need to register in the Commons from 8-9 a.m. March 10. Child care is available for children from 6 months to 10 years of age for an additional \$2. Lunch will also cost \$2 and it is necessary to pre-register for both lunch and child care by March 7 with the LBCC Family Resource Office. The fair is sponsored by Good Sa-

maritan Hospital-Center for Women and Children, The Corvallis School District, Albany General Hospital, Lebanon Community Hospital, Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD and the greater Albany Public Schools.

For further information or Pre-registration parents should call LBCC Family Resources at (541)917-4897.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Two killed in California high school shooting spree

by Karen Brandon and Vincent J. Schodolski
Chicago Tribune

SANTEE, Calif.— In the worst act of school violence since the Columbine massacre, a high school freshman allegedly shot two fellow students to death and wounded 13 other people on Monday, smiling as he fired the gun.

The boy, who had spoken over the weekend about going on such a shooting spree but was not taken seriously, was arrested at the school and questioned late Monday. Officials said he would be charged as an adult with murder.

Law-enforcement officials said they might never know the motive for the shooting, but the suspect is a slight boy who was frequently teased about his size and recently had two skateboards stolen from him, students said. His name was not released.

Most of the victims in the shootings at Santana High School were between the ages of 14 and 18, law-enforcement officials said. Two of the injured were adults: Tim Estes, a student teacher, and Peter Ruiz, a school security guard. The dead were identified as Bryan Zuckor, 14, and Randy Gordon, 15.

Chris Reynolds, 29, the boyfriend of the mother of a Santana student who is a friend of the suspect, said the boy spent Saturday night at his home, and talked about taking a gun to school and shooting people. But Reynolds said the boy said he was only joking.

On Monday morning, as Reynolds stood among a throng of red-eyed parents, weeping teenagers and grim police officers in a strip mall across the street from the school, he said he regretted not having told someone about the boy's remarks.

"I'm upset with myself for not doing anything," Reynolds said. "I made a bad choice."

A friend of the boy was so concerned about the boy's remarks that the friend had "patted him down" as they left for school Monday morning, Reynolds said. But the gun apparently was in the boy's backpack, and so his friend had not detected it, Reynolds added.

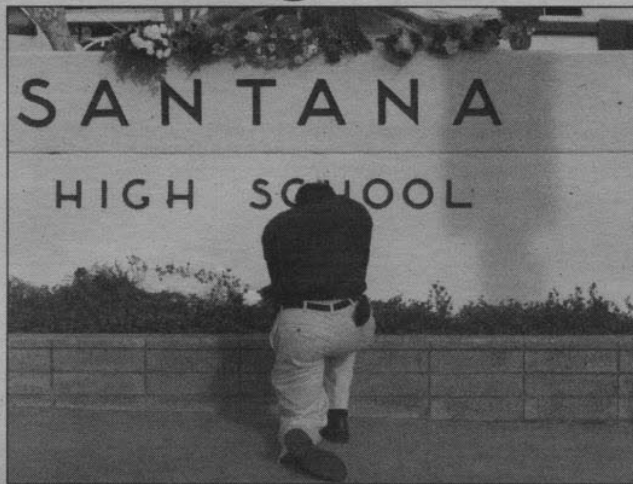


Photo by Paulina Lubens

Brian Kays prays in front of Santana High school in Santee, California, the scene of a shooting rampage on Monday.

Students who witnessed the shooting said the boy stepped out of a bathroom and began firing as the bell rang before second period. "I looked at the kid and he was smiling and shooting his weapon," said John Schardt, 17.

Jordan Freymiller, an 18-year-old senior, said he was standing nearby when the shooting began.

"I thought it was just a pellet gun at first because it was kind of quiet," Freymiller said. Then he saw a boy on the floor, his face bleeding.

"Everyone was stopping to see if the kid was all right," he said, but when the sound of shooting continued, a friend said, "Let's go."

Freymiller said he ran, following a trail of blood drops coming from another student who had been shot in the leg.

"All you could hear were the caps going off," he said.

The school, with a spread-out, open-air campus, does not have metal detectors, but Matt Martin, a 17-year-old senior said security was tight at the school.

For instance, he said, students have not had lockers in many years, largely to prevent them from having a convenient place to store drugs or weapons.

Lt. Jerry Lewis, chief of the San Diego Police Department's homicide division, said the boy used a .22-caliber, eight- or nine-shot handgun.

When police arrived, "the suspect gave up without any argument, without any fight," Lewis said.

The first police to respond were two officers already on the open-air campus. One was teaching a class and the other was registering his child for classes and also was involved in the suspect's arrest.

After the boy was taken into custody, one law-enforcement official went into the bathroom where the suspect had been and found two students in rear stalls. Both had been shot.

One was able to talk and seemed to be only slightly injured, but the other was "not responsive," according to San Diego Police Officer Robert Clark, who was at the school registering his daughter when the shooting took place.

The shootings represented the worst violence in a U.S. school since April 20, 1999, when two Columbine High School students in Littleton, Colo., shot to death 12 students and a teacher and wounded 23 others before killing themselves.

Karen Degischer, principal of Santana and its nearly 2,000 students in grades 9 through 12, said she was attending a meeting at the school district's office when the shooting occurred. An assistant principal placed the 911 call, she said.

"As principal of Santana High School, this is my worst nightmare," she said. She said the school staff had drilled for a possible shooting incident and that teachers and others had followed the guidelines, including having teachers herd students into classrooms.

San Diego County District Attorney Paul Pfingst said the teen would be charged as an adult under the provisions of Proposition 21, a California ballot initiative that passed a year ago.

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CAMPUS NEWS

LB merges with Western Pacific to train future truckers

from the LBCC News Service

LBCC and Western Pacific Truck School have teamed up to offer class A commercial drivers license training courses to the public.

The first tractor-trailer truck driving course began Jan. 8 with three students who completed intensive field and classroom training on Feb. 6. Six more four-and-a-half week courses will be offered through Aug. 10, with class sizes limited to nine students. The course is certified by the Professional Truck Driving Institute.

"There's about 400 to 700 job openings for truck drivers a year in Oregon," says Ann Malosh, LB's coordinator for the new course. "Nationally, there's a need for 36,000 drivers per year because, although 45,000 drivers enter the market each year, 76,000 leave. The national turnover rate is very high."

Malosh adds that local trucking companies have said that graduates who have around six months of

long-haul experience and having a good driving record may find a local job fairly easily; one that would allow them to be home every night or drive the I-5 highway corridor and be home every three nights or so.

With such high turnover rates, students should know they could be starting on a bumpy road, especially for long-haul truckers with families. However, Albany resident and driving student Virginia Andersen won't have that problem. She is engaged to a long-time trucker and plans on teaming up with him after she graduates.

"The program's awesome and the instructor's super," says Andersen.

Students taking the course will be prepared to become professional entry-level class A truck drivers after completing 70 field hours and 110 classroom hours of training.

Malosh says the course stresses safe and efficient operation of various types of tractors and trailers.

Drivers will learn Federal Department of Transportation rules and regulations, plus defensive driving techniques and the skills and knowledge to pass the National Commercial Driver's License Examination.

Graduates will receive a diploma and transcript of grades, and a CDL license with endorsements, placement assistance, and a letter of certification from the Professional Truck Driving Institute.

Eligible students must be at least 21 years old, have a clean driving record for the past three years, and a GED, high school diploma or sufficient reading ability.

Tuition for the course is \$3,650, plus additional fees of \$212 for the DOT driver's physical, drug screen, commercial drivers license written tests, class A instruction permit, skills test, and commercial driver's license issue fees. Western Pacific Truck School is offering financing for a \$20 fee.

For more info, call Ann Malosh at (541) 917-4934.

LB students concerned about lack of campus computer access

by Gelina Inches
of The Commuter

With classes at LB becoming increasingly dependent upon online resources, computers have become a necessity for students—even though not everyone is fortunate enough to have one.

That is why LB has about 1,100 computers around campus, including the ones in faculty members' offices. Approximately half of the computers are located in labs that can be accessed by students.

However, with the growing number of web classes on campus, need for computers exceeding lab resources has caused concerns and complaints among

students.

"Every term this year the Forum lab has been filled to its capacity," said acting Forum Computer Lab coordinator Brian Sandersfeld. "Students have complained that they pay tuition and should be able to use a computer at any time. We try very hard to accommodate their needs."

Because of the rush of students in need of a computer there are five classrooms in the business division that have computers labs and if the classes are not in session students may go in and use them.

The Forum Lab is open 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday,

"Every term this year the Forum lab has been filled to its capacity. Students have complained that they pay tuition and should be able to use a computer at any time."

—Brian Sandersfeld

and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday.

The Forum Lab isn't the only lab open to all students. The LRC also has a computer lab.

"From 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. computers are available and in the evening there is a

computer usually available," said computer lab specialist Stephanie Ames. "The lab is busy depending what part of the term it is. If kids have papers that are due it's busy."

There is a classroom in the LRC, if there isn't a class in session, students can drop in to use a computer. The LRC lab is open from 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday.

In addition, campus officials are looking at other solutions, according to Dean of Student Services Diane Watson. "There are needs across campus and the college looks at building add-ons or remodeling and is aware that there is a need to grow in the technology area."

LB helps train medical staff with workshops

From the LBCC News Service

The Samaritan Health Professional Leadership Program, a series of nine four-hour workshops for managers and supervisors, was recently created by LBCC and Oregon State University at the request of Samaritan Health Services.

Training & Business Development's Joseph Bailey helped develop a program

covering communication, decision-making, juggling multiple priorities, conflict resolution and other topics.

LBCC instructors Myrna Gusdorf and Sally Andrews from Business Management and Romi Hitchcock from Communications are teaching the workshops along with instructors from OSU and private businesses.

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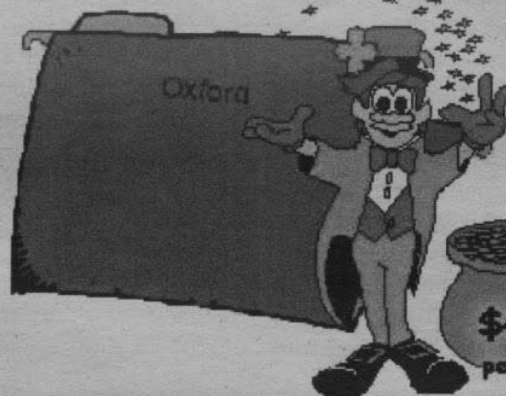
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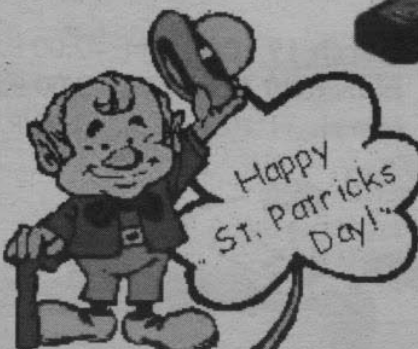


Oxford Hanging File
Folders box of 25
Reg. price - \$6.75

\$4.30
per box

Stanley Desktop Stapler
w/ free box of staples
Reg price - \$13.98

\$8.99



*Campus Dept. Buyers, buy your supplies via e-mail and we will deliver your purchase straight to your desk. E-mail all requests to S O R (special order request) on Groupwise.

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Avalon Cinema owner builds dream in Corvallis

Paul Turner's love for movies dates back to his first job at a drive-in; now his theater enriches Corvallis' culture

by Adam Pierce
of The Commuter

There is a kind of war going on in Corvallis, a struggle to bring culture to what some still like to call "corn valley."

On the front lines of that war stands Paul Turner. His only weapon—a small art house theater called The Avalon located on the fringe of downtown between First and Second streets on Jackson.

He stands in the building as though it is an extension of himself, as though he built it with his own two hands—and for all intents and purposes, he did. The comings and goings of his two-person staff and house full of patrons seems to match the beat of his heart, and the satisfied look on his face as the soundtrack of the foreign film echoes through the popcorn-perfumed lobby shows that this is his heaven.



Paul Turner

Paul Turner and the Avalon Cinema found each other about three and a half years ago. Then it was just a junk shop, and he was just another man with a dream. But he found the courage and the financial backing to risk leasing this little corner of the city and transformed that old junk shop into an 80-seat theater.

He dressed the lobby with pink flamingos, low-slung couches and an antique typewriter. He wall-papered with license plates and movie posters, and he set up a popcorn popper and a concession bar to let people know this was indeed a movie theater, and that independent movies were coming to town.

The Avalon became the only art cinema in Corvallis, but it isn't the only such theater in the mid-valley—it joins the Bijou in Eugene and the Salem Cinema in the struggle to get lesser-known films brought into the area.

Opening the theater wasn't easy. Turner spent six months putting his construction skills to use remodeling the lobby area, building risers for the seats, and making sure that the building met Corvallis safety codes and was handicap accessible. He compliments Corvallis for being strict with its regulations. "You can't argue with that," he said. "You can't argue with rules that make buildings safe. I just have never seen such a militant approach to the enforcement of those regulations."

The theater has been open for three years now, and though Turner neither makes a living nor a profit from it, he still loves what he does. He says most businesses take five years to get off the ground and he has only been at it for three. Turner doesn't let that stop him; he loves what he does and he plans on doing it forever.

Movie house life is nothing new to him. He has been running theaters since he was 18, when he worked at a drive-in with his best friend. That drive-in is where he fell in love with movies. It happened during the film "Alien." Turner was standing on top of the projection booth looking out over 500 cars, with 500 little speakers sending the sounds of the scariest part of the movie into



Photo by James Bauerle

A former junkshop, Avalon Cinema has become the area's premier spot for independent and foreign films.

the night sky. "I thought to myself, hey, this is cool!" From that point on he was hooked.

His experience includes everything from teaching and reporting (including a stint on The Commuter in 1994-95, where his video reviews won state-wide awards) to running the Kuhn Theater in Lebanon for nine years.

The joys of running a theater are many. Due to the intimate nature of The Avalon, Turner is able to experience relations with his patrons that workers at larger movie houses might miss out on.

He tells of one incident during the showing of John Waters' film "Pecker" last year when a "middle-aged sweet lady" came in while he was selling tickets and chatting with about a dozen customers. The woman innocently inquired "How long is John Waters' 'Pecker'?"

The room fell silent as his patrons all stared at him, waiting for an answer. "I told her 'well, the movie is about 88 minutes long.'" She thanked him and left,

leaving the lobby in laughter.

Once, he even traded tickets for a bag of grass seed with a man who came in from working the fields without his billfold.

January, February and March are Turner's busiest months because it's Oscar time. His most successful film this year is the one now showing—"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." The film has been nominated for 10 Academy Awards and has been held over for two weeks.

He doesn't advertise in the local papers much, to save on expenses, but www.avaloncinema.com has all his current show times.

As the crowds steadily increase at The Avalon, Turner is hopeful that the theater will eventually run in the black. But for now, he's running a tight ship. Sometimes as much as 90 percent of his ticket sales go back to the film company for rental fees.

"If you ever wonder why snack bar prices are so high, there it is," he says.

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MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! ONE ENTRY PER STUDENT, PLEASE
LBCC STUDENTS ONLY - MUST HAVE VALID STUDENT ID CARD

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rock is dead

long live rock

Last Saturday, a concert thrown by KBVR 88.7 and Linn-Benton Food Share livened up the downtown Corvallis music scene and at the same time provided close to 150 donations of food towards the Sunflower House.

The event, which charged only \$5 or three items of packaged food, brought a smaller crowd to the I.O.O.F. hall, a venue known these days for being a place burgeoning talent can cut their teeth and try out their music on live bodies.

The scene was coordinated by the KBVR DJs—Sarah Lopath, Jen Biegle, and Russel Standridge.

The three bands scheduled to play were Tricky Dick, Backstreet Willie, and the African Drum Band. Unfortunately the African Drum Band was a no show, but KBVR was quick to fill the spot with a DJ who could spin dance tunes.

Tricky Dick was formed by lead vocalist and acoustic guitar player Ryan Ferris and lead guitarist Kevin Jacobsen. They met in high school six years ago and have been playing "a wide range of rock stuff ever since," according to Ferris.

Tricky Dick picked up their bass player Mike Magina around two years ago; the same time Magina was picking up the bass for the first time. He plans on attending LB or OSU next year.

The band has played at venues like AJ's and plans on playing there again soon. According to Ferris they haven't found

a permanent drummer for the band. When asked about that issue, Ferris said, humorously, "Since we suck, at least we want a good drummer."

Tricky Dick's sound is surprisingly mature for a young looking three-piece group. Bassist Magina did a great job not sounding like a rank amateur, laying down solid rhythms for the others to follow—an important job on a night when the band was without a drummer. On the song "Don't Get Too Close" the bass was like a full-bodied wave pushing the other two guitars over into a tumultuous, rising tide of sound, an example of pure synergy when the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Jacobsen, on lead guitar, left absolutely nothing to be desired except more of the same. Keeping the crowd hypnotized with his fluid fretwork and deft ability to keep changing his sound to suit the songs, he wrung a lot of sound out of his vintage Fender Strat. From a dreamy '50s surf-style lead on the Ween cover "No One Else", to a gritty Nashville lead on their original song, "Missing My Cows," a hilarious send-up of a conflicted country boy unsure if his new girl measures up to his old favorites back on the farm.

The band's sense of humor definitely added spark to their set and drew the crowd into their music. Ferris' vocals are understated, yet fill the bill well for the kind of music Tricky Dick plays. His deadpan delivery of the mockingly sincere, "Don't Get Her Pregnant," made it funnier than if he had overplayed it, and the crowd ate it up. Tricky Dick has several elements which make good bands go places; musical



At the I.O.O.F. hall in Corvallis, Tricky Dick warms up the stage (above), the crowd moves to the beat (left), and Backstreet Willie funks it up. (Photographs altered)



talent, showmanship, humor, gravity, and presence.

Coming on last after a well-received opening act and a long set of DJ music, the crowd had thinned significantly before Backstreet Willie took the stage, but soon the remaining audience was moving to the funky stylings of the shabbily-clad four-piece group.

The band "spontaneously" formed two years ago in the Dalles when Andrew Kerr (drums), Eric Hampshire (guitar, bass, vocals), and Wesley (guitar, bass, vocals) met Rob Wollsey (drummer), the veteran of the bunch.

Playing a pretty constant funk inspired first few songs, the band later mixed a little foot-stomping rock-a-billy style and more mainstream rock into their set.

Backstreet Willie currently has a six song demo that is being shopped around to venues and recording companies. They played at a Christian Biker Rally last year and at Lenore's Ghost in Independence last Friday. Their next gig will be at Lenore's in April.

Photos and stories by
Chad Richins and Ben Hughes

IN FOCUS

Take a nature walk on the wild side in Corvallis

Depletion of wetlands continue despite strict preservation efforts

by Christina Laramore
of The Commuter

Over the years, millions of acres of wetlands have been damaged throughout the nation at a loss rate of 70,000 to 90,000 acres annually, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

In the 1600s, over 220 million acres of wetlands are thought to have existed in the lower 48 states. Since then, extensive losses have occurred, and in the 1980s and 1990s those states still contained an estimated 103 million acres.

There are many reasons that account for these actions, both human and natural. Because of these losses, people no longer have the benefits that wetlands provide.

Wetlands provide animals with food, protection from predators and other important habitat factors for the nation's fish and wildlife, including endangered and threatened species.

Wetlands also have economic value, helping to remove pollutants from overland flows before they can reach our lakes and rivers.

Human and natural threats have caused wetland loss and degradation.

The major causes are introducing non-

native species into the habitat; releasing toxic chemicals; changing nutrient levels; air and water pollutants; construction; mining; logging and tilling for crop production.

Some of the natural threats to wetlands include erosion; subsidence; rising sea levels; droughts and hurricanes and other storms.

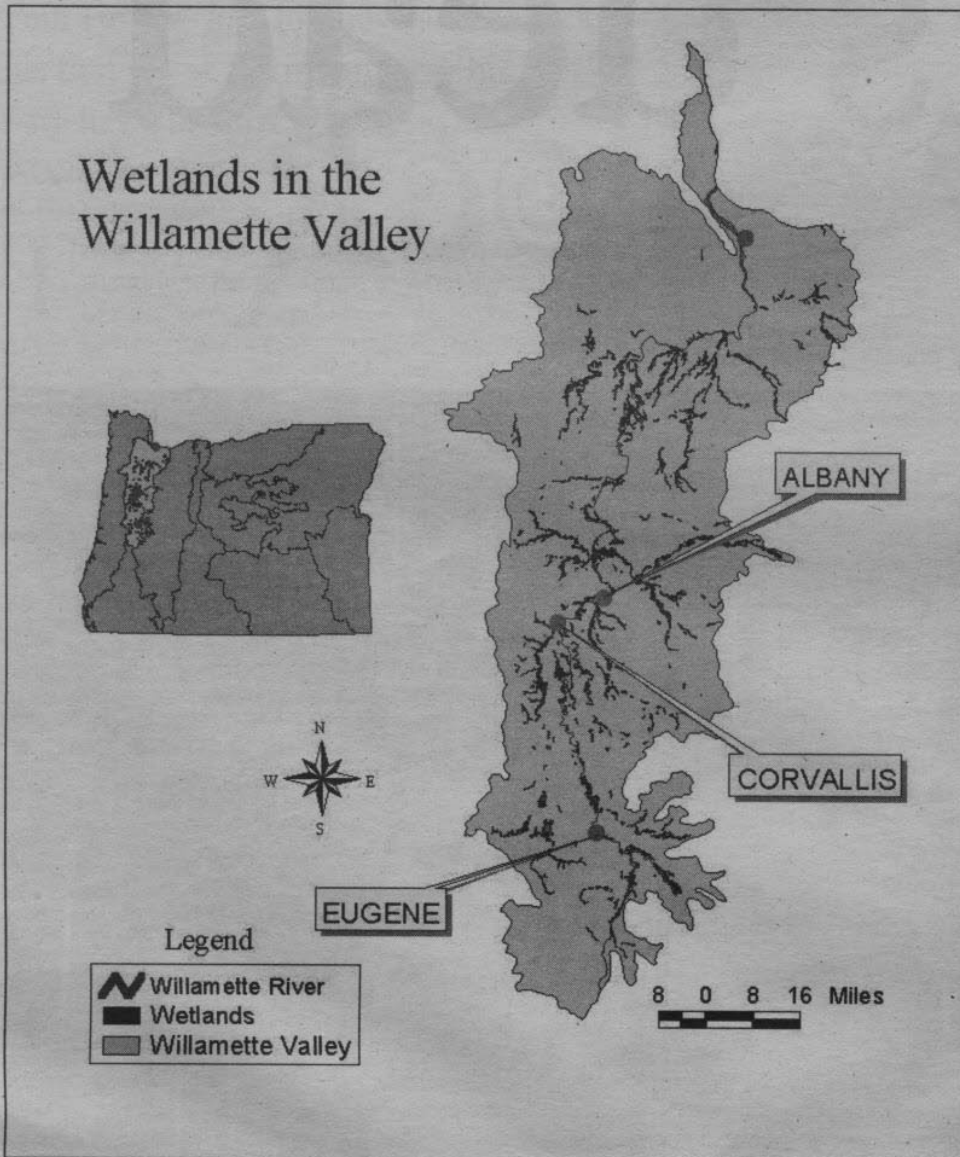
Still other threats have included chemical contamination; excess nutrients; and sediment from air and water.

Over the years, millions of acres of wetlands have been damaged throughout the nation, according to the EPA. Restoration looks to help stop the degradation of Wetlands before it goes any further.

From 1982 to 1992, a total of 768,700 acres of wetlands were gained as a result of restoration activities around the nation.

The increase in flood damages, drought damages, and the declining bird populations are, in part, the result of wetland degradation and destruction.

If people continue to contaminate the environment and damage the ecosystem and wetlands, there will no longer be able to provided for all living things*.



Explore the many beauties of Jackson-Frazier Wetlands

Corvallis park is habitat to many diverse plant life, bird species and small mammals

by Allen Garner
of The Commuter

Do you want a place to go to become one with nature? Visit the Jackson-Frazier Wetlands in Corvallis.

The Benton County Parks and Services established the wetland park in 1992 to help preserve and promote education, research and recreational use.

The 147-acre park is home to over 250 plant species, including the meadow fox-tail, wild rose, water parsley, cow parsnip, meadow barley, slough grass and fragrant popcorn flower.

It also has more than 70 bird species such as the mallard, red-tailed hawk, sora and black-capped chickadee, but it is also home to deer, beaver and nutria. In the evening owls, coyote and frogs can be heard.

In 1994 boardwalks were put into keep damage minimal during the wet season.

Cheldelin Middle School and other Corvallis schools use the wetlands in their science classes. It is also used as a training ground for wetland scientists and the Audubon Society uses it for its annual Christmas bird survey.

Wetlands are a good source for cleaning polluted water and providing a habitat for several wildlife species. They also help to reduce flooding by absorbing water during the heavy rain season.

The wetlands are full of life year round, but tend to be wettest in the winter and spring and dry in the summer and fall.

To get to the wetlands, take highway 20 or 99 to Conifer Blvd., then turn north on Lancaster drive. The wetlands are located near the end of Lancaster



Photos by Michelle Mayo



The Jackson-Frazier sign (above) greets those visiting the wetlands off Lancaster Drive in northwest Corvallis. A boardwalk (below) winds its way through the landscape offering a place to view plants and animals—such as the sparrow (right) that sits in a tree enjoying the peace and quiet the wetlands offer.



IN FOCUS

Whale watchers may see fewer grays heading north

Biologists concerned that lack of nutrition in female grays may cause them to abort calves

by Mary Jova
of the Commuter

Coast visitors with spring fever will find a number of volunteers distributing literature about gray whale migration this spring break.

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department's Whale Watching Spoken Here program trains the volunteers and stations them along the coast to help tourists spot grays heading north to the Bering Sea feeding grounds. Spotters will be on duty from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from March 24-31.

The Whale Watch Spoken Here program was started in 1987 and continues to be one of Oregon's popular tourist attractions during the winter and spring gray whale migrations. There are 30 whale-watch sites where volunteers will be present to answer questions and help the public spot whales.

Within the last two years the marine biology community has been noticing a disturbing trend—the gray whales mortality rate has been increasing.

Oregon State University Marine Biologist Bruce Mate states that the grays are migrating later this year due to a food shortage.

The marine biology community is scratching their heads and trying to figure out what is threatening the mammals and causing a food shortage.



Courtesy OSU Marine Hatfield Center

Biologist Bruce Mate pilots the HMSC Beagle in search of whales along with partner Mary Lou and Barb Langerquist.

Recently, five marine biologists got together and compiled a document examining possible causes of the high mortality rate. The document states that when the beached grays were examined that it was clear that they were undernourished and underweight.

The biologist found that when the female mammals had low body weight they were more likely to abort or fail to wean their calves because of their inability to gestate or lactate.

Last summer Mate conducted an in-

tensive project at the Bering Sea. Scientists dived to the bottom of the ocean and collected amphipod samples, which are tiny shrimp-like animals that live in sediment on the ocean floor.

Mate found that a warming trend in the climate has caused a decline in the food population in the sea.

Today, the biologists have the ability to monitor grays from the comfort of a warm and dry office and know when the mammals dive to the bottom of the sea to feed and where the feeding grounds are

located. Satellite tagging has made it possible to study how much of the grays summer activity is spent feeding in order to get ready for the three-to-five-month winter fast for the migration and breeding season.

The females are the first to leave the feeding grounds in Baja, Mexico, and the last to arrive in the Bering Sea. They must be efficient feeders if they are to be successful in gestation and lactation.

Mate explained that the female mammals invest in their future by showing their young where to find a smorgasbord of food to forage that has been successful for them.

Sexual maturity occurs between 5 and 11 years of age with 8 years being the average. Females are frequently found in the company of one or two males (termed a courting triad). The male's reproductive organ and has the ability to flush out the previous suitor's sperm.

The OSU Marine Mammal Program's world-renowned satellite tracking will help them understand the health of a species, and recognize how human activity impacts other living things on earth.

OSU's Adopt a Whale Foundation offers the public the opportunity to choose and name a whale in return for a donation.

Adopting a whale will help biologists continue the research in ensuring that the habitats of the whales can be adequately protected.

For additional information contact Lori Cloninger Sweeney at (503) 725-5761.

Scientists puzzled over declining whale population

Gray whales may be dying due to pollution, changing temps, drug traffic or a lack of food

by Stephani Gordon
of The Commuter

Beaches across the West Coast are carrying the weight of hundreds of dead gray whales. Scientists have many hypotheses about the cause of death, however the origin is unknown.

According to Susan Andres of the Marine Mammal Centre in Sausalito, Calif., in 1999 the number of dead grays reached 269; a record high. Marine biologists have a number of theories about the cause of death.

Bruce Mate, a whale researcher based out of OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center said, "As near as we can tell, we have a joint occurrence of a decline in productivity of the Bering Sea, coupled with a recent El Nino event. We've just got a number of factors which makes it plausible that nutrition is an aspect of the problem. Whales lacking nutrition are susceptible to disease, which may cause death on their long journey home from Mexico to the Bering Sea."

According to Mate, one possibility for the lack of nutrition in the grays is a lack of food. The whales' summer feeding grounds off the Alaska coastline have experienced a number of changes. The under sea ecosystem simply may not have enough food to support the number of whales migrating. Because whales fast during migration, the food they receive off Alaska is essential to a successful journey.

"Gray whales might go without food anywhere from three to five months, and



Courtesy OSU Marine Hatfield Center

A pod of right whales search for prime feeding grounds to help them maintain their body weight.

those that didn't fill up the tank, so to speak, in the Bering Sea may be returning on empty," said Mate.

Some scientists believe that fluctuation of ocean temperatures may be the cause of a lack of food. Researchers have theorized that the decrease of food is due to changes in ocean temperatures, which may be partly caused by humans.

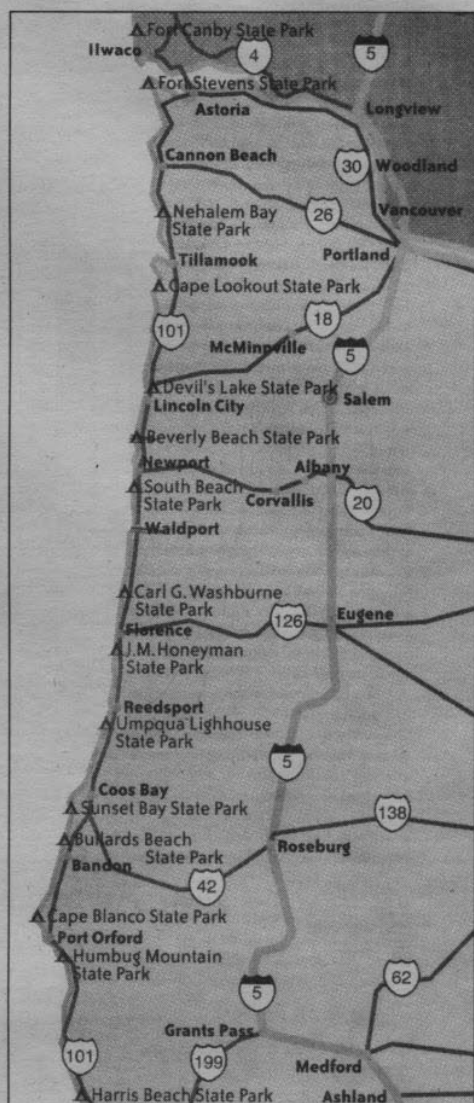
Drug traffic may also play into the death of grays. Drug smugglers use a fluorescent dye to mark the sea during air drops. This dye contains cyanide, which some suspect may be killing whales. An environmental group in Mexico, led by Home Aridjis, focuses their attention on the effects of cyanide on the environment.

"This greatly alarms us. Above all we have to know whether it's due to cyanide or pollution of their habitat," said Aridjis.

"Whales lacking nutrition are susceptible to disease, which may cause death on their long journey home from Mexico to the Bering Sea."

—Bruce Mate

Many theories about the cause of death have been proposed, but according to Mate, it is too hard to tell. "By the time a team can identify the mortality of a dead whale and get to it, the warmth of the sun has caused bloating and deterioration in the physiology of the carcass, so good diagnostics really can't be done."



Volunteers will be at 30 locations along the Oregon Coast to help visitors spot gray whales migrating to the Bering Sea feeding grounds. Along the Central Coast volunteers will be at the Inn at Spanish Head, Yaquina Head Lighthouse, Depoe Bay Sea Wall, Seal Rock, Yachats State Park, Beverly Beach, South Beach, Cape Perpetua and several other locations.

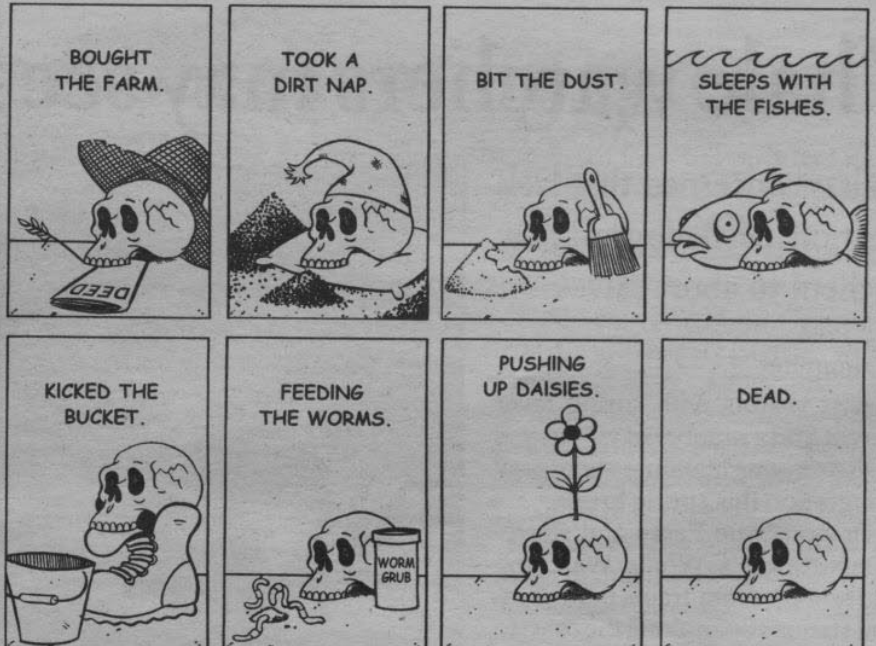
FUNNY PAGE

DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling



"Waiter, there's a fly in my ants!"

THE ADVENTURES OF SKULY BY WILLIAM MORTON ©MCMXXIX SKULY'S EUPHEMISMS

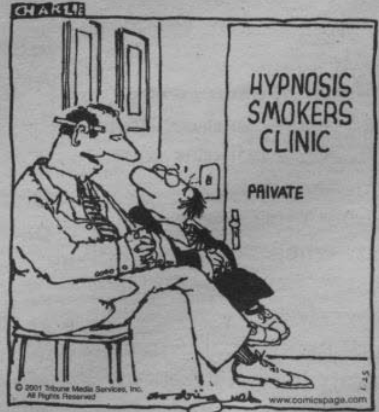


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CAPTAIN RIBMAN in A Wig's Worth A Thousand Words



by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



"Actually, I quit smoking eight years ago. I'm hoping hypnosis can cure me of the annoying habit of carrying a cigarette behind my ear."

CLASSIFIEDS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Accounting Students: The NSA (National Society of Accounting) awards an average of 30 scholarships per year. Information and applications are available in the Learning Center (LRC 212) and on the internet at www.nsact.org. Applications, official transcripts and appraisal form must be received by **March 10, 2001**.

Attention Undergraduate Students: The Asian American Foundation of Oregon is offering four \$500 scholarships to college students who are U.S. Citizens and Oregon Residents for use during the 2001-2002 school year. Additional information and applications are available at the Learning Center (LRC 212). Applications must be received on or before **March 15, 2001**.

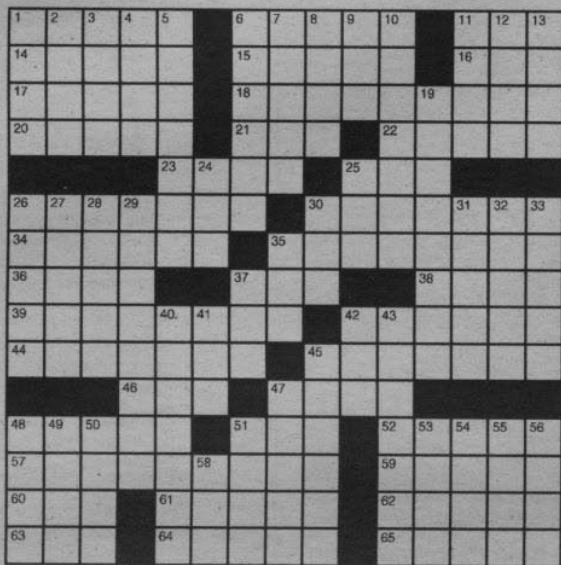
The OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop is offering \$1,200 scholarships. Additional information and applications are available at the Learning Center (LRC 212). Applications must be received on or before **March 30, 2001**.

able at the Learning Center (LRC 212). Applications must be received by **April 1, 2001**.

Office Specialist (#718 Lebanon & #717 Corvallis) These two full-time positions are looking for someone who has computer, typing, and receptionist skills. Must be able to work in fast-paced offices. See Carla in Student Employment (Takena 101) for your referral before these jobs are filled.

CROSSWORD

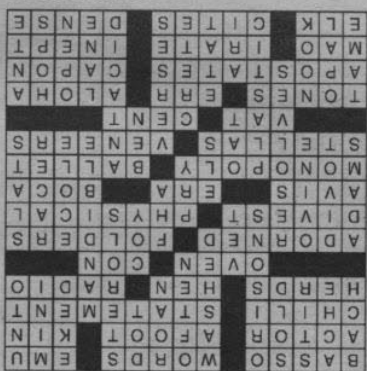
- ACROSS**
- Low voice
 - Sentence components
 - Cassowary cousin
 - Broadway name
 - Walking
 - Family
 - Spicy dish
 - Utterance
 - Multitudes
 - Coop denizen
 - Part of RCA
 - Pizzeria fixture
 - Cellmate
 - Decorated
 - Files
 - Sell off
 - Medical exam
 - Rara
 - Notable period
 - Raton, FL
 - Exclusive control of a commodity
 - Where tutus twirl
 - Adler and Benson
 - Thin surface layers
 - Large tub
 - Penny
 - Shadings
 - Behave humanly?
 - Ciao, on Lanai
 - Those who have lost faith
 - Fowl choice
 - Chinese chairman
 - Fuming
 - All thumbs
 - Member of a fraternal order
 - Issues a ticket to
 - Tightly packed



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3/7/01

Solutions



- DOWN**
- Baroque master
 - Muscular stiffness
 - Mix
 - Auctioneer's last word
 - Prayers
 - Bathed
 - Frequently

- Colorful mount
- Period
- Fatty tissue components
- out a living (scraped by)
- Short skirt
- "Do _ others as..."
- Lower jaw
- Dog's best friend?
- Demure
- Smith and West
- Golfer's gouge
- Of sheep
- Decides
- Govt. agcy. (1934-65)
- Eleve's place
- Fast snake
- Louvers
- Use too much nose
- 1994 Open golf champion
- Credit cards
- Horse's morsel
- Hogan of golf
- Indigestion relief
- Poetry
- Greek island
- Subdue
- Australian gem
- Alcove
- Coup d'
- Kent's beloved
- Exposed
- Beer ingredient
- Feed the kitty
- Biblical lion

Attention Business Technology Students: OreALS Scholarship Fund, Inc. is accepting applications from persons interested in a career in various legal positions. Additional information and applications are available at the Learning Center (LRC 212). Applications must be received by **March 31, 2001**.

Attention Forestry & Diesel Mechanic Students: The Oregon Logging Conference is looking to award at least 17 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Additional information and applications are available at the Learning Center (LRC 212). Applications must be received on or before **March 31, 2001**.

Attention Female Students Over 25: Salem Chapter for American Women's Association has funds available for Spring, Summer & Fall term scholarships. Additional information and applications are available at the Learning Center (LRC 212). Applications must be received no later than 30 days before the start for each term.

Phi Theta Kappa & Students w/ a 3.5+ GPA: Hobart and William Smith Colleges are accepting applications from transfer students to apply for admission and scholarships. Additional information is available in the Learning Center (LRC 212) and on the internet at www.hws.edu. Application for admission, supplemental scholarship application and official transcripts must be received by **April 1, 2001**. Earlier submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Journalism Students: Each year, the Asian American Journalists Association-Portland Chapter offers a scholarship of up to \$2,000 to an outstanding student at the undergraduate or graduate level. Eligibility requirements, additional information and applications are available

ATTENTION ACCOUNTING STUDENTS: The Oregon Association of Public Accountants is offering awards ranging from \$1,000-\$2,000. Applicants must be an Oregon resident, enrolled in or accepted by, an accredited school for the study of accounting within the State of Oregon and be a full-time students carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours. Additional information and applications are available at the Learning Center (LRC 212). Applications and official transcript must be received on or before **April 1, 2001**.

Horticulture Students: The Oregon Nurserymen's Foundation is accepting applications for 2001-02 scholarships. Applications are available in the Learning Center (LRC 212) and on the internet www.nurseryguide.com/onfform.shtml. Applications, official transcripts and three letters of recommendation that support your interest and ability in horticulture must be received by **April 2, 2001**.

NUMEROUS OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE - Information on current or upcoming scholarships are available at the Learning Center (LRC 212)

HELP WANTED

Chemistry Tutor for LBCC Learning Center, 100 and 200 level. Must have successfully completed chemistry course(s) and have desire to help students. Instructor approval required. Pays \$7.25 hour for one-to-one tutoring appointments. See Catherine in the Learning Center for information and interviews.

Radiographer B (Albany) Have you completed 40 hours of classroom training in radiographic inspection and have previous Level 1 certification. This full-time position pays \$10.20-\$12.70 per hour. If interested, please see Carla in Student Employment in Takena 101 for more information.

Sales Secretary/Receptionist (Albany) this full-time position in Albany pays \$8-12/hour and wants someone who knows how to do spreadsheets, mail merge, and word processing. See Student Employment (Takena 101) for more information.

IT Specialist (Corvallis) This part-time student job requires basic knowledge of hardware and software and the ability to do troubleshooting. Pays \$10/hour! See us in Student Employment in the Career Center for more information.

We have more jobs coming everyday, be sure to get signed up before they are gone. **Mark your calendar for our outstanding Career Fair on April 10th from 10:30 am to 2:30 PM - over 70 employers to talk with.**

Linn & Benton Counties are looking for volunteers who are excited about tutoring individuals one-on-one. There adults ready to improve their reading, writing, spelling, or speaking English-as-a-Second-Language and they need your help! Change a life! Become a tutor! Call Oregon's Literacy Line to get more information: (800) 322-8715.

Violence in our community affects us all. You can help stop the cycle of abuse by volunteering at the **Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence**. Call or E-mail Cathleen for more info, and application at 541-758-0219 or cardv@proaxis.com.

MISC.

The Student Lounge upstairs in the Student Union Building is open 'til 10 P.M. Friday nights! If you need a place to study, you're welcome there.

CLASSIFIED AD

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.

SPORTS PAGE

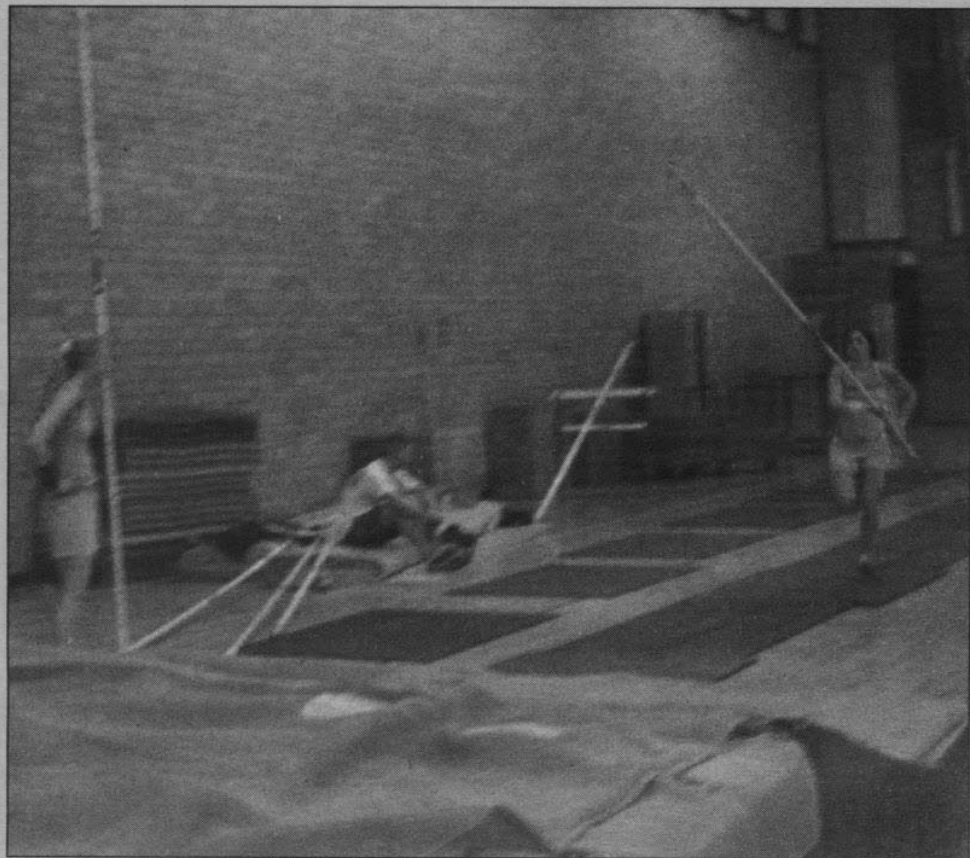


Photo by Phil Ruzek

Sophomore Christine "Cass" Smith runs for a vault in track practice on Thursday. LB started the season Saturday at the Linfield Icebreaker. Smith took fifth with a vault of 10 feet. Her personal best this season is 10 feet, 10 inches. T.J. Vetkos vaulted to third place for the men, while Cassidy Beaver placed eighth in the 400-meter hurdles.

Four LB athletes place in first meet in McMinnville

by David Miller
of The Commuter

The LB track team kicked off its season last Saturday with a preliminary showing at the Linfield Icebreaker in McMinnville.

Community colleges and Division III schools from across Oregon participated in the event, which was also attended by the U of O girls' squad.

"The pole vault tends to be LB's strength, and this meet proved to be no exception," said LB Track Coach Brad Carman.

T.J. Vetkos—who entered the meet unattached—placed third in the pole vault with a 14-6 vault. Christine "Cass" Smith, LB's top female pole vaulter, grabbed a fifth place finish with a 10 foot vault.

Like Vetkos, most of the athletes who placed for LB were unattached, meaning that they are students at LB, but are not eligible to perform in the regular season. "Hopefully when the grades from the winter term come out they will be eligible," said Carman.

Other LB students who competed in the meet unattached were Cassidy Beaver, Marvin Hernandez, Tyler Mitchell, and Daniel Kerr.

Ed Hoffman placed eleventh in the high jump with a jump of 5-10—a poor performance for Hoffman, according to Carman.

Beaver placed eighth in the 400m hurdles with a time of 100.06. Hernandez ran the 200m and 400m dash and clocked in with times of 25.05 and 59.98. Mitchell had a 18-1 jump in the long jump, and Kerr ran the 100m and 200m dash with times of 12.03 and 24.8.

Carman expects Smith, Vetkos, Beaver, and Eric Konzelman to be among the team's top performers this season. Konzelman was hurt last year, but should be able to really help out the squad this year, said Carman, who felt that the team's poor performance was due to a lack of conditioning.

"It showed our fitness level isn't very good, yet," Carman said. "But it is early in the season, so we can correct it."

Lady Runners capture post season honors, all-star nominations

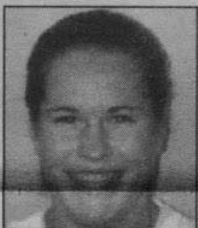
by Jason Amberg
of The Commuter

This season's version of the Lady Runners made drastic improvements over last year's team as they enhanced their record by six games, going 16-12.

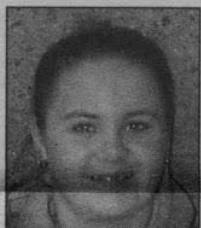
The hard work and improvement is paying off as accolades are getting passed out throughout the league. Sophomores Kelley Dexter and Summer Wright were chosen to play on the Southern Region's all-star team. The Southern team will face the all-stars from the Eastern Region on March 18 at 4 p.m. at Clark College in Vancouver, Wash.



Kelley Dexter



Summer Wright



Christy Rickert

Dexter and Wright were joined by freshman point guard Christy Rickert in receiving honorable mention for the Southern Region's all-league teams.

This season Wright averaged 10.9 points per game, good for third on the team. She also led the Lady Runners in assists with four assists per contest and made 75 percent of her free throws while also hitting on 34 percent of her three-point attempts.

Dexter averaged 10 points and led the team in rebounding with 6.6 boards. She made 29 percent of her shots from behind the three-point line.

Meanwhile Rickert led the team in scoring with 14 per game. She was second on the team in assists with 3.7 assists per game and shot 79 percent from the free throw line and 34 percent from beyond the arc.

Roadrunner to represent LB on All-Star team

by Christina Laramore
of The Commuter

After a stellar season, sophomore basketball player JR Brusseau will be honored with two more awards before calling it quits at LB.

Brusseau was nominated to the Southern Region's all-star team, and will compete with the rest of the players in the division in a game against the Eastern Region's all-stars. The game will be held on March 18 at Clark College in Vancouver, Wash.

"It's awesome," Brusseau said. "It's an honor to play with the best sophomores in the league."

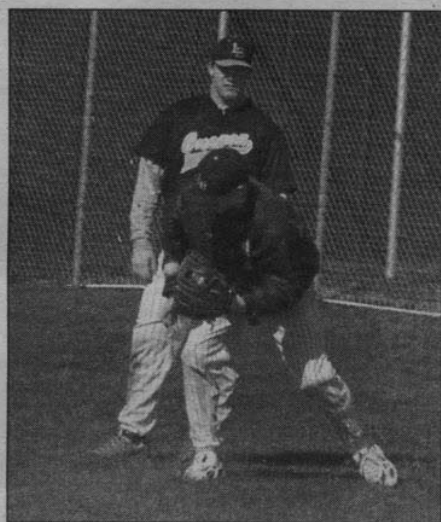
He also received honorable mention for his performance and led the team on the court, averaging 14.4 points per game over the season, shooting 50 percent from the field. He also averaged six rebounds, two assists, and two steals per game.

Brusseau's strongest place on the court was at the free throw line, where he shot 77 percent to lead the Runners.

"I'm just happy I got honored," Brusseau said about his award. "What else can you say?"



JR Brusseau



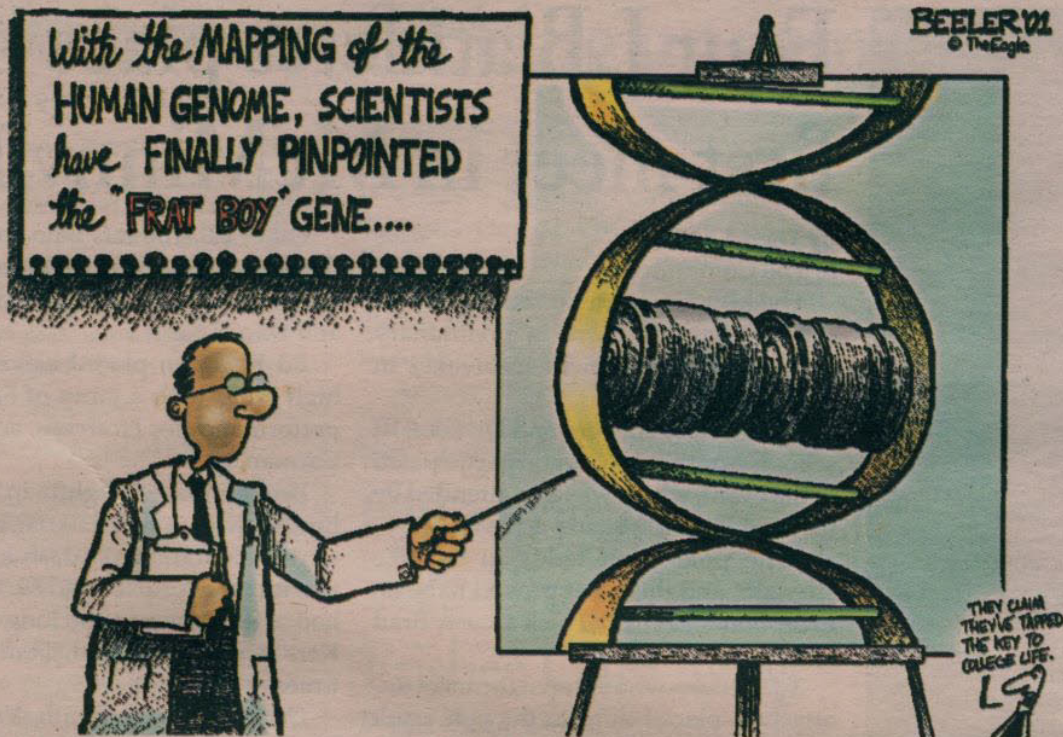
Photos by James Bauerle

The Boys of Summer

Sam Kirby (right) throws in from the outfield and then waits in line while Justin Pratt (above) fields a ground ball. The Roadrunners will open their season on March 17-18 in The Dalles for back-to-back doubleheaders against Columbia Basin and Centralia. The Runners host league-rival Chemeketa Community College on April 3 in the team's first home game, which starts at 1 p.m. at Roadrunner Field.



OPINION



LETTERS

Christian creeds should not dictate rational human life

To the Editor:

Dear Arwen LeQueieu,

Never disturb a secular rhetorician during hibernation, for they will be volatile and hungry for young religious apologetic writers. I awake with ire and wrath; pen in hand shall enfeeble thee!

Let us start at the top and explore our way down the display of religious "balance" on the American nation. President Bush has stated "only those who believe in Jesus, THE Christ, will go to heaven," direct discrimination to every Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and especially Jew, not to mention the Humanists among the crowd. Then President Bush further establishes 14 billion taxpayer dollars to finance those "Faith-based church" industries as they further feed off the vulnerable and gullible of America.

Biblical religion is THE authoritative hot bed source for bigotry, discrimination and violence; along with a multitude display of other civil immoralities. The Republican party, Vatican-sponsored lackeys, through Bush want more religion in America. America is already considered the most religious populace of industrialized nations and America has the highest violent crime rate: six times higher than Britain, seven times higher than France, and five times higher than Sweden or Austria.

These zealous religionists decry peace and unity, yet they are a most contentious propaganda even among themselves. A religionist purpose is to hold out for a delusional genocidal apocalypse, which will vanquish those those dreaded thinking others and redeem their pathological minds from any wrong. Religionists care not for this planet's ecosystem, for their only eternal hope is to enter Heaven's Gate!

"Great inventors, poets, scientists, diplomats have been religious people," your claim, exactly, is limited. Religion does not hold the ground for good deeds. Most modern social and moral progress has been made by persons free of religious taint—Albert Einstein, Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Edison, Charles Darwin, and many others. "Free Inquiry" magazine illustrates 90 percent of the scientific community has no use for divinity. Religion, on the contrary, deplores scientific advancement; Galileo was forced to recant, on penalty of death, the heliocentric solar system, and the church, as we all know, fears Darwin.

As for numbers, "Free Inquiry" conducted two independent polls, which consistently registered the nation as 11.4 percent non-religious—a whopping 30+ million Americans. Japan is primarily Buddhist, a philosophical method to life—not a religion, and China is primarily Confucian or Taoist—again life method, not religion. These two nations alone reduce your exaggerated religious practitioner numbers down to about two billion—give or take a few million.

Finally, our very own LBCC campus is plagued with Biblical advertisement. A recent display was a page with a computer image of 12 all white youths and the slogan "Christians, God loves them better." This pictograph is degenerate discrimination right here on cam-

pus. The secular Internet community refers to religionists as "Fundists," fundamental religious idiots, and that kind of display is a prime example.

Fairy tales and fantasy illusion have no authority or necessity to be a dictation to modern rational human life. Religion is, and should only be taught as a mythical fairy tale. For all its ailing claims of superiority, religion is truly a dying creed, soon to sit on the shelf nothing more than another legend next to Homer's Odyssey.

—Patrick Berry

Homosexuals, Christians each have right to exist

To the Editor:

Or, more precisely, to Mr. Jordan Eaton:

Please read this through, it may surprise you.

I read your articles with interest. I found that you made some very good points but ignored others. If, as you claim, you have read the entire Bible, then you would know that God (and Jesus) taught against homosexuality. In fact, God even destroyed two cities for that very reason (Sodom and Gomorrah).

That being said, you know that I, as a follower of Jesus, and worshiper of God, am not going to tell you that homosexuality is OK. However, you have the right, as I do also, to practice what you wish (a God-given right). If you choose to live what God considers a sinful life (it doesn't matter what I think), you will receive the reward that is earned.

In the Old Testament, as recorded in The Books of Moses, there were many laws that required people to be put to death (one was for a disobedient child). Under the New Testament, as taught by Jesus and his disciples, there are no such laws. The killing of "sinners" is not allowed under Jesus' teachings. All "sins" can be forgiven, save one (blaspheming the Holy Ghost), and that one is hard to define. The justification of persecution and killing of homosexuals, attacks on abortion clinics (yes, I believe abortion is a sin, but see above about choice to sin), or any other acts of violence toward those who don't believe as we do is contrary to Jesus' teachings. Most of the people involved in these hate crimes (yes I said that) are using the Old Law (also known as Moses' Law) to justify their actions. These people are not Christians, because they do not follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. As, I am sure, you can see, I don't justify the death penalty because it also is contrary to Jesus' teachings, but that is another argument.

As for the laws of this country, they also give you most of the freedoms allowed by Jesus. The death penalty is the worst exception. It has been proven that legislating morality doesn't work (prohibition, laws against homosexuality, and laws against abortion). While I feel that homosexuality is a poor choice (yes I believe it is a choice), it is your God-given right (also guaranteed the Constitution of the United States of America) to live as you choose. It is also my right to choose to worship whom I may, but not to try to force you to. It has to be the free-will choice of each person to do as they please (within the confines of the law).

Thank you for your ear.

—Neil Jenson

ALL THE RAGE

Hey Andy, what has your 15 minutes cost?

by Leon Tovey
of The Commuter

Fifteen years old and your life is over.

Two people—kids—are dead and more than a dozen others are injured.

Has your life been that bad? Were your parents that cruel? Were your classmates that evil?

I can't fathom it. When I was fifteen I was so busy getting loaded and trying to lose my virginity that I couldn't conceive of killing anyone. And my life was bleak when I was fifteen. I was skinny, I was angry, my parents were divorced, I had no car, no job, no prospects—I was not so different from you.



Leon Tovey

So why have you done this?

How does a person go from cracking jokes to firing a pistol at a bunch of scared kids in the hallway of his high school?

Did you see this on TV? Is the media to blame for this? Was it coverage of the Thurston or Columbine killings that set the stage for what you did?

They say the police removed seven guns and a computer from your home. Was it a combination of too many evenings spent playing "Doom" and too many afternoons spent shooting cans in the backyard? Are you the product of an overly violent society? Are you the product of too many shoot 'em up action films and not enough Disney cartoons?

People say our society is too violent—maybe it's not violent enough.

We live in a country that has profited from violence but now seems to consider itself beyond the need for it. Few people in our society have any exposure to the realities of violence. As such, our exposure to it has become extremely warped and limited; people either completely isolate themselves from it or view it as a consequence-free form of entertainment.

Is that how you view it?

Were you simply looking for your 15 minutes?

I picture you in that hallway, surrounded by the screams of your peers and smells of gun powder and rage. I picture you in your jail cell, surrounded by the silence of cold concrete and the smell of starched prison sheets and regret. I wonder where it all went wrong for you. I ask myself, why this kid—why so many kids—and not me?

The pundits, the psychologists, the politicians, the theologians—all these people will be scrambling to explain what you did in the coming weeks. They will point fingers and blame each other and Hollywood and the whole damned system, but they will come no closer to understanding why you did what you did than they came to understanding why Kip Kinkel did what he did. And I'm sure none of them will think to ask you.

And maybe it wouldn't do any good if they did. After all, if you could express the feelings that brought you to this, you probably wouldn't have done it. Maybe if you'd had someone to see through your jokes or someone to talk to—maybe if you'd just had a guitar to bash away at on those lonely nights in your room—you wouldn't be surrounded by the four walls that could be your home for the rest of your life.

Maybe, maybe, maybe and what if? Maybe it's too late for you Andy, but maybe the rest of us will learn something from this. Maybe our society will learn to spend more time listening to people's problems than pointing fingers after a kid brings a gun to school. Maybe then we won't have to point fingers.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their opinions. Commentaries and letters on campus, community, regional and national issues are welcome.

Drop letters off at the Commuter office, Forum 222 or email us at commuter@ml.lbcc.cc.or.us