

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 30 No. 22

what students think

"I don't think they (angry teenagers) are directing their anger at who they should be. I'm glad I'm out of high school."



-Robert Butts



"I'm just really sickened that that information (how to construct bombs) is on the Internet. I don't think it should be." —Jamie Leinbach

"I think it's horrible. I'm from Ecuador and it's so easy to get weapons here. What's it going to do you your reputation nationally?" -Anna Sanchez





"It's kind of tough. It's tragic. They (the media) keep talking about Springfield. I guess there's a question of when it's going to end." -Ken Norfleet

"Someone's always trying to find someone to blame, like Marylin Manson. I'm sure they're going to try to pin this on someone." -Dustin Killel



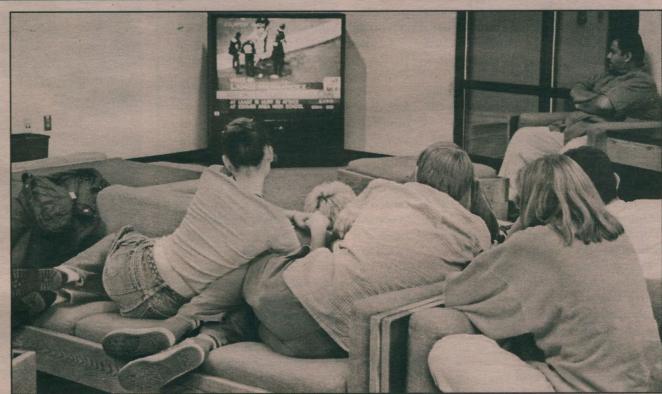


Photo by Joey Blount

Megan VanEaton, Matt Tedisch, Mel Juza and Josh Anderson gather around the television in the Student Union Lounge to watch the unfolding tragedy at Columbine High School last week.

Colorado shootings raise concerns over campus safety and social order

by Schellene Pils

of The Commuter

The shooting in Colorado has heightened concerns for safety among students, educators and their families across the country

Even here at LBCC the question of whether students are safe is at question.

According to Security Chief Vern Jackson, just days after the tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., a mother of one LBCC student called to report her daughter had seen a man on campus wearing a black trenchcoat and acting strangely.

Since 1995 LBCC has had a "zero tolerance" policy that bans the possesion of any type of firearm, knifes with blades longer than 4 inches and any other dangerous weapon on the main campus and the extended learning centers in Lebanon, Sweet Home and Corvallis.

"We have a policy that no guns are allowed at school-period," confirmed Mike Holland, vice president of academic affairs.

Since this policy has been in effect, there has been only one time when a student was found with a firearm. "Two years ago, we had a student who had a weapon in his backpack that had been placed there without his knowledge," Holland said. The student gave a satisfactory explanation for why he had the gun and was given a warning.

According to Jackson, the only other types of guns that have been reported on campus have generally been hunting rifles seen in vehicles. The student who owns the weapon is warned the first time and asked to not return to campus with the gun. However, this has never been a problem, said Jackson.

(Turn to " Gun Security " on Pg. 2)

Students, staff help spruce up landscaping for local housing project

by Lizanne Southgate of The Commuter

A handful of LBCC volunteers spent for those who can't

housing. "We provide decent housing

"We provide decent housing for those

who can't afford it"

- Don Rea

that there was not a suit- Start program for newborn through 4ity project available, Rea enlisted their help in completing the pre-inspection detail work at Park Rose.

able Habitat for Human- year-old children will be opened. "This program makes a tremendous

part of Saturday helping the Albany Partnership for Housing and Community Development put the finishing touches on its Park Rose project.

The Park Rose development includes four houses, six duplexes and a large, run-down building that will soon be converted to a space for community meetings

The Albany Partnership for Housing and Community Development is a nonprofit organization devoted to the development and maintenance of low income

afford it," said board member Don Rea.

Habitat for Humanity, LB volunteers hoed and yanked weeds, schlepped planting soil, cleared sidewalk planting strips, hacked brush and buried exposed piping.

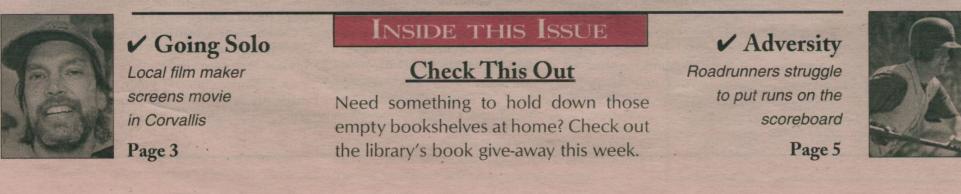
flyer requesting help for a Habitat for Humanity project. When it turned out Park Rose sits on a

former Oregon Department of Transportation site. ODOT sold the land to Albany Partnership for Housing and Community Development "at very good terms."

Once the community building is renovated-through a combination of grant money and volunteer labor-an Even difference to the parents and kids," according to Corry Sharp, a board member who supplied refreshments for the volunteers.

LB volunteers included Tammi Paul Bryant, Betsy Pacheco and son Nohokai, Roger Shear, Monica Smith, Stacey Hartsook and Brandt Schmitz.

There is another Habitat for Humanity project coming up in Albany. Those interested in volunteering for the project can contact the Albany area coordinator at 967-4030.



Under the direction of Rea, who is also

a board member of

Initially, volunteers responded to a

CAMPUS NEWS

Health van may not return after fall term without more funding

by Sean Leveque

of The Commuter

The health van will be missed if it leaves," said Jackie Paulson, chairwoman of the Health Occupations Department.

The funding for the Health Van had been approved for the 1998-1999 school year for almost \$6,000.

But Paulson stated that the van may only be available for fall term next year due to the lack of funding.

"The Health Van that has been providing low cost services to students since 1996 is in danger of being eliminated," said Paulson.

"In the past years the van has been funded almost entirely by the Linn County Health Department, while the school has been asked to fund the services of the nurse."

Pat Crozier, the Health Department nurse who staffs the van, said that it costs about \$100 per day to bring it to the campus. Added to that is primary care at \$37 per hour and the nurse at \$28 per hour.

That means each visit total comes to \$541. The total for the operation of the Mobile Health Van in 1998 was \$16,230.

The van parks on campus outside the College Center all day on Wednesdays. It still offers the same services as before, but they want to expand their services into informational sessions, said Paulson.

"There was one last term about body piercing and tatooing. It was well received with about 14 people."

Paulson said she feels that it is a good partnership with the Linn County Health Department.

The Health Van began its services on Oct. 8, 1996, after Pat Crozier called and offered its services. The 43- by-20-foot van is owned by the Linn County Department of Health Services.

The health van offers physical exams, women's health care and sexually transmitted disease screening and treatment. Walk-ins were welcomed but physicals needed an appointment. Services were billed to students on a sliding scale based on gross family income.

As of October 1997, the health van was only serving half of its 20-patient capacity, but the number of students using the van has increased since 1997. "About 15-20 students use the health van each week, sometimes more," said Crozier.

"There will be a banner and perhaps sandwich boards on the days the MHV is here," said Paulson. She hopes it will prevent confusion between the health van and the blood van.

Hispanic festival starts Tuesday

From the LBCC News Service

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the LBCC Multicultural Center. Activities begin Tuesday, May 4 with a lecture on "Chicana Art" by LB art instructor Analee Fuentes in the Multicultural Center. Wednesday, May 5 will include musical

performers, free chips and salsa, arts and crafts, and information tables by local agencies in the commons and Alsea/ Calapooia rooms.

If you need more information contact Malia Fifita in the Student Life and Leadership Office 917-4457.

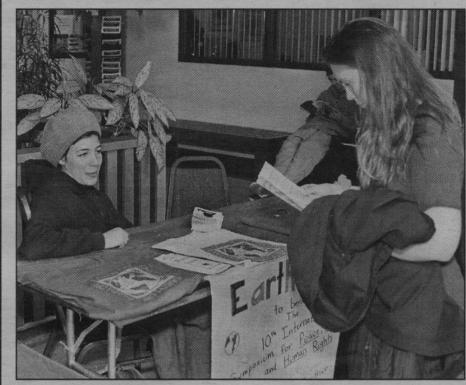


Photo by A.J. Wright

Peace on Earth Day

Peace Studies member Edie Sperline sells an Earth Day T-shirt to Harmony Mosby at the table in Takena Hall. The shirts, which are available in medium, large and X-large, cost \$15 for one or \$25 for two and are going fast, according to Peace Studies Advisor Doug Clark. Only 100 T-shirts were ordered by the club this year. They come in two colors, sage and plum, and are decorated with an earth-friendly design by former LBCC design major Jill Shinkawa. The shirts can be ordered by calling 917-4557 or by visiting the Peace Studies office in T-212 or the table at the entrance to Takena Hall. Proceeds will be used to support the 10th Biennial International Symposium on Peace, Justice and Human Rights, which is scheduled to meet in August, 2000 in Corvallis. As the host, LBCC will welcome students and faculty from England, Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Israel, Palestine and Mexico. This will be the first time the event will be held in the United States. LBCC and Skagit Valley Community College are the only two U.S. colleges participating.



Gun Security: Carry a gun, get expelled from LBCC

From Page 1

If students are caught carrying a gun or knife at LBCC or any of the centers, they can be expelled; and employees can be fired under similar circumstances.

Although concern for safety at LB has been heightened by the tragedy in Colorado last week, the problem of school violence did not begin with Littleton. It began in Kentucky more than a year ago with a boy who felt he was being ridiculed by his classmates decided the only way to solve the problem was to use violence.

According to Doug Clark, peace studies coordinator at LBCC, one of the reasons that kids think they have to go to such extremes is the whole of society's expectations that they should do the right thing.

The pressure and frustration of trying to live up to

society's ideal of happiness can turn troubled kids into a human pressure cooker of emotion ready to explode. They are told to get good grades, don't do drugs and be happy all the time, and when that's not possible, something gives.

"It's not an indication that society is becoming more violent, its an indication that kids are feeling put down and pressured," said Clark. "These kids are an example of contemporary consumers. They expressed their anger in giant economy size."

He believes that citizens have gotten"out of touch with our sense of community. This seems to be a society that can't relate without tragedy. It's the only way that we can feel our solidarity. I feel like the fabric of society is ripped and this is a symptom of that tearing."

Wendy Thompson wins Distinguished Educator Award

Photo by Jeremy Parker

Cleaning Up

Brock Ditterick (right) and Ry Pursell (left) of the ITS club try to wash and wax their way to Reno during a fundraiser last Friday.

From the LBCC News Service

Wendy Thomson, an instructor in the Lebanon JOBS Program and Life and Employment Development Department at LBCC, has received a Distinguished Educator Award from the Linn-Benton Business Education Compact. A plaque and \$200 were presented to

Thomson in a ceremony on April 16 at LB.

Thomson was one of six distinguished educators recognized by the Business Education Compact. She was nominated by her peers for her creative and outstanding performance in helping her students train for and find work in the community.

commuter staff

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

Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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IN FOCUS

Ninth Street Cinemas debuts local film maker's first movie April 30

by Sarah Crauder of The Commuter

orvallis, Ore., the Hollywood of the Pacific Northwest? Hardly. But one Corvallis film maker is doing his best to at least give Corvallis

a taste of the movie business. Paul Ahrens has just released his directoral debut, "The Independent," to the theaters and is letting Corvallis see it first.

Ahrens co-wrote and directed the film, which was inspired when he reread "Le Misanthrope," Molière's comedy about 17th century court society. He realized the plot could still work if moved into an American high school in the 20th century. He switched the genders of the characters, so that the story is now about Anne Thrope, the newly appointed newspaper editor at Corbett High School who wants the paper to start writing real news stories instead of the usual fluff.

"She pushes the envelope, shall we say," Ahrens said, "makes waves

in terms of where she wants to take the newspaper, and it creates problems. She's kind of brash, smart, ballsy kind of person, and she not only alienates her enemies, she alienates some of her friends."

Supporting characters include her womanizing boyfriend Charlie, who she's convinced she can change; her friends Claire and Elvis; her rival for the editor's job, Lucy; and student body president Arsenio, who fears that the new types of the stories in the paper will lead to moral decay at the school.

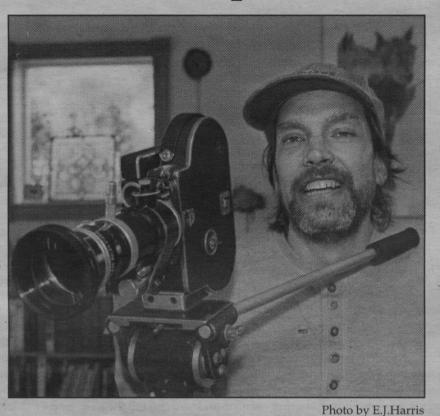
The film's cast and crew are all from the Pacific Northwest, mostly from Eugene, Portland and Seattle, although Corvallis resident Gillian Scott has a role as Shelley, a member of the paper's staff. Another Corvallis resident involved with the picture is singer / songwriter

Sally Alder, who has a song featured in the movie.

Ahrens' first career was as a chemical engineer. He founded Synthtech, a chemical company in Albany where he's still chairman of the board. Ahrens used his basic management philosophy-"hire people who are smarter than you are, let them do their job and treat them well. It worked out real well. That al-

lowed me to have a second career as a film maker."

He has been involved with community theater at ACT, both as a director and actor. In 1995 he decided to combine this love of the theater with his entrepreneurial drive to start making films.



Corvallis filmmaker Paul Ahrens is screening his first film at Ninth Street Cinemas starting Friday, April 30.

> want to move to Portland and then on to Seattle and probably down to Eugene.' He said, 'Well, that sounds great. You can do one week at each place and we'll see what happens," said Ahrens.

"It's kind of a slow time right now especially with Star Wars coming out," Ahrens explained. "No one wants to put anything really big up against it. I don't mind competing with Star Wars. I mean, we're not really competing. It's just all these people pouring into the theaters and they go see the posters and say, 'Well, maybe we didn't get into Star Wars, so let's see this.' People won't be seeing it for the same reasons, so the timing was good for me. During the summer it may have been impossible to get screen time for something like this."

> If the movie is popular enough, Ahrens may consider taking it outside the region, but right now the film is more of a learning experience than an attempt to make money.

> "It's conceivable, I suppose, that I could break even, but I'm not counting on it, and I don't really expect it. It takes a lot of publicity to get people in to see movies. You're competing for their time and dollar and it's

Another learning project is his idea to give Corvallis high school students the opportunity to get involved in film production.

"One of the things I'm working on is a plan to make



Paul Ahrens' first film is 'a remarkable effort'

by Sarah Crauder

of The Commuter

A feature movie made by a Corvallis film maker shown at Ninth Street Cinema. Who would have imagined it?

"The Independent" is the directoral debut of Paul Ahrens and his movie company Groovie Moovies. Sure it's a little independent film-it looks like one and doesn't claim to be anything else. Why look down on it just because there aren't huge explosions and space ships and computer animated creatures?

Films like this dare you to put a value on plot. The only thing that independent films have going for them are their scripts. There are no big stars in "The Independent," there are no special effects, there is no reason for you to like this movie other than the story.

I still maintain that the script is the most important part of any story. Sure, if you really mess things up, you can make a bad movie from a good script, but there is no way you can make a good movie from a bad script. The true power of Hollywood is that they have found tools in the form of stars, special effects, and sequels that can still bring money to bad movies.

"The Independent", therefore, must be judged mainly on the power of it's story, co-written by Ahrens and producer David Mayne.

The plot has been taken from the Molière play "Le Misanthrope." The 17th century court society intrigue has been moved to Corbett High School and the genders have been swapped. Anne Thrope (sometimes referred to as "Miss Anne Thrope"), played by Betsy Schwartz, is the new editor of the high school newspaper. She quickly transforms the paper into a tool to wake the students at the school up. When the paper begins running articles about teen sex she makes an enemy of the conservative, morality-preaching student body president, Arsenio (Jacob Sidney), who teams with the assistant editor who wants Anne's job, Lucy(Rachel Jahn), to get Anne fired.

Other colorful characters include Anne's friends Claire (V. Jude Hill) and Elvis (Tim Kniffin) and Anne's cheating boyfriend Charlie (Joshua Daugherty).

While the script sometimes tries too hard to fit situations from the original work into a high school, it has moments of very clever dialogue.

In addition, the ending seems a bit tacked on and rushed. The final sequence is a number of short scenes that rush through all the characters to show what happens to them at the end of the movie, and I felt that it was rather abrupt. Then there is the question of why the uber-moral Arsenio would go to a party with alcohol and smoking, which would probably appear very hypocritical to the other students given his cam-

"One of the things I'm working on is a plan to make some short films using teenagers. I've seen there's a lot of writing talent, there's acting talent, there's photography/cinematography talent." -Paul Ahrens

not easy."

Filming on "The Independent" began in October, 1996 in Mt. Tabor Park in Portland and took 23 days in 10 locations. "I had a great cinematographer, who made what is a very wordy script visually interesting and a good production designer to create the atmosphere and a great editor," Ahrens said.

Cinematographer Joseph Pontecorvo has worked for 10 years on documentaries, feature films and commercials. His latest project is a documentary on Siberian tigers to be aired on the Discovery Channel on June 2. Amy E. Duddleston, who has worked extensively for Gus Van Sant, did the editing for the film.

Ahrens presented the film to a handful of Los Angeles distributors. "They all basically said, 'Hey, it's a nice movie, good acting in it, there some people here who could go someplace, but we don't know how to market it.' i.e. there's no name actors in it."

Ahrens then sent the tape to Regal Cinemas, the company that bought Act III Cinemas and owns the Albany, Ninth Street, Whiteside and State theaters.

"The guy took a look at it and said, 'Yeah, this isn't bad. There's an audience for this. Where do you want to show it? When?' I said, 'Well, I want to start in Corvallis Ninth Street Cinema.' He said, 'Great.' 'I some short films using teenagers. I've seen there's a lot of writing talent, there's acting talent, there's photography/cinematography talent. For me it's an opportunity to try some processes, both creative and technical ideas, in a very low pressure, low cost environment. And then I'll also have experienced potential crew for my next projects."

Ahrens' next projects include two feature films, both currently in the script stage.

"'Neurotica' is a drama of destinies and pasts colliding on a ghost ranch in the Oregon Desert. I've got a great location out there, this isolated Victorian-type house out in Eastern Oregon desert kind of area. It looks good," he said.

"'Vampire Moon' is a 'psychological thriller' about a good female vampire and her evil nemesis and a young graduate student in psychology-who kind of runs into them 'cause she's doing a thesis on studying these gothic vampire 'clubs' and she ends up encountering the real thing."

Both are still far from being ready to film, but information on the development of these movies as well as about "The Independent" can be found at the Groovie Moovie website: www.grooviemoovies.com.

paign against these vices.

The acting quality in this film varies like the script does. The supporting characters of Elvis, Spengler, Ponsie and the psychotic school counselor who has "been to Tibet and studied under the Dhali Lama!" are all scene stealers. Elvis is especially a joy to watch as he regularly pokes fun at almost all of the characters, riding through the school on his skateboard, entering from out of nowhere and exiting even more abruptly leaving his latest victim completely befuddled.

Schwartz, Sidney, Jahn and Daugherty act well, despite not having the any of the punchlines.

The flaws in "The Independent" are not so serious that the movie can't be enjoyed, and it really is a remarkable effort for a first film. I give it a B. The fact that it has Pacific Northwest cast and crew and the filming locations are all in Oregon just add a little bit of regional patriotism. I can only hope that this encourages other wouldbe film makers in the area to start on projects of their own.

An Oregon film industry. Can you imagine it?

SPORTS

Simonton brings determination to Beaver football

by David Thayer of The Commuter

magine being one of the top 100 best players on the West Coast and playing on a high school team in California that is best known-if it's known at all—as the one that could not beat state power De LaSalle.

OSU running back Ken Simonton went through that during all four years he was at Pittsburgh High School.

Pittsburgh is a town about 40 miles east of San Francisco, with a population of about 30,000. High school football was big in Pittsburgh because their team was always going to the 4A championship, only to lose to De LaSalle in the championship game. Simonton remembers those years well.

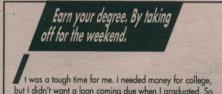
Asked if they believed they could beat De LaSalle, Simonton said "No doubt. Every year we had more talent than them."

During his senior season, Simonton competed for ranking as one of the top 100 players in the West. "I enjoyed that, but we had some guys who really felt we could take our show anywhere. And I am still trying to get some of those guys up here. That's one of those things you know you put into during the summer and expect to get some of those honors and can be thankful you are able to compete for them."

After he graduated from Pittsburgh, Simonton had his pick of colleges, but decided on Oregon State. He says former Coach Mike Riley was one of the reasons he came up here. "Mike Riley is one and the fact I was going to get the chance to come in and play both sports (baseball and football), because a lot of the other schools were like, come play football for us and we'll give you a chance to play baseball or maybe we'll talk about it later. Oregon State was like sure, if you want to do it, you can do it."

According to Simonton there are several differences between high school and college football. "School, meetings and everyone expects you to be so business like. You come to the meeting and you have to have your notebook. You really gotta budget your time. The game speed picks up a bit. I believe the biggest thing is balancing your life as a whole."

Last year was Riley's final season in



"The thing about Riley was that everyone trusted him and everyone liked him, but he was that good wholesome Beaver. Erickson brings in that UMPHH!!! and that attitude like we are going to get it done and that's the only way it's going to be.

-Ken Simonton

Corvallis, but Simonton thinks the effect will be positive. "Actually, I was relieved. At first, I was hearing talks about him with University of Washington, and people like that. And as long as he didn't leave us for another college, I was happy for him. That's what we are all playing for, trying to get into the league."

Riley's successor this season is Dennis Erickson, who comes into Corvallis after spending four years as the Seattle Seahawks head coach. Simonton was happy when word got around that Erickson was the new head coach. "I was delighted then. I mean, because you aren't losing nothing. You still have a big name head coach that is going to attract big name players. He's coming from the league, so we know he has access to get us there. So you really aren't losing nothing."

Simonton believes that Erickson brings confidence to this year's team.

"The thing about Riley was that evervone trusted him and everyone liked him, but he was that good wholesome Beaver. Erickson brings in that UMPHHH!!! and that attitude like 'we are going to get it done and that's the only way it's going to be'. So he kinda brings that extra little cockiness and flare to us."

The Beavers were one of the top rushing teams in the Pac-10 last year, but Simonton feels that he could have done better.

"At times last season I did. But I didn't enjoy it because I felt we had so much potential and so much talent that we didn't use it right. And so, it's kind of a good and bad situation. You enjoy the



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guys you are playing with and you think you've got a lot of talent, but if you are not going to go out there and maximize it every game, it kind of works in reverse."

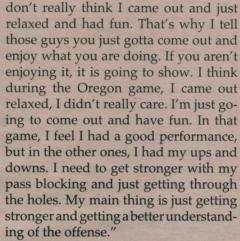
The team lost a lot of seniors to graduation, so Erickson had the tough task of bringing in the new recruits. Simonton likes what he has seen so far.

"Some of them are a little more brass than others. We need that. We need guys to come in here and who make that statement and act like they are walking on air and act like they belong here and have come to do a job. We don't need guys who come in here and hesitate. The guys who they have brought in here are uptempo and you can tell they are ready to get going. I'm enjoying it right now."

Last year, the team had to compete with UCLA, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and other great programs in the Pac-10. "We can spank dat ass. We should have beaten them last year. It's all about attitude. The most part of this is guys' attitudes. If they feel like they can come out and work and feel like they can compete, we can do it. I feel we can beat all of them."

But still, Simonton feels that he needs to work on a lot of aspects in his game to beat them and doesn't feel he had that great of a season last year.

"I wasn't too happy with my performance. Other than the Oregon game, I



Simonton also plays baseball as well as other sports. He hasn't decided what sport he likes better, though.

"Actually, I just have as much fun shooting hoops or attempting to play tennis. If it has a ball, I like it. I'm just an athlete. If I had to make a career out of either one, I don't know, I might choose baseball because you might think you'll have a longer longevity with it, but who knows. I may be the kind of 'back like Barry Sanders who avoids injuries if I stay healthy. I'm just enjoying playing them all and I'll let the future decide."

Simonton says he has other interests besides sports.

"Actually, I like to fish but I ain't got a chance to do a lot of that here. People keep telling me that there are places to go up here but I need to find someone from around here because me and my roommate have been trying to get out on the water for the longest. We also like to sit around and cook and enjoy the days off. I really enjoy this area because it's far away from home and don't have as many distractions."

You can look for Simonton and his Beaver teammates to kick off the season at home against the University of Nevada Wolfpack on Sept. 4.



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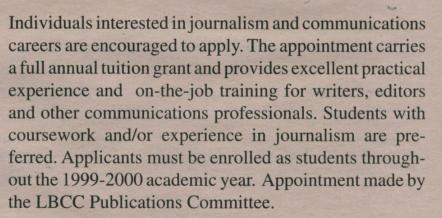
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Applications available in:

The Commuter Office (Forum 222) or from advisor Rich Bergeman (Forum 108) For additional information call ext. 4563 or 4451

SPORTS



Photo by E.J. Harris

Travis Haima bunts for a single in the LBCC's 2-0 defeat of Lane Community College on April 24. He scored the first run of the game in the fourth inning.

'Runners mauled by Cougars but split with Titans to hold onto 4th place tie

by David Thayer of The Commuter

Just as the Roadrunners were hitting a bright spot in their season by going 4-4 in an eight-game span, they hit a rough spot, losing to Clackamas Community College by a score of 4-3 and splitting a double-

header against Lane Community College 2-0 and 0-9. During the April 20 game against Clackamas, Coach Greg Hawk gave the starting duties to Brian Lorimor, who gave up only two runs in six innings and the Roadrunners were able to take a 3-2 lead after six and a half innings. When Nick Renault got the call for the bottom of the seventh, however, the Cougars proceeded to score two runs to win 4-3.

LB's leading hitter, Branden Arakawa went 3 for 5, while Travis Kundert went 2 for 4 and Travis Haima 2 for 5. Haima scored one of the three 'Runners runs.

In the first game against LCC on April 24, the game finished close with the 'Runners winning 2-0. LBCC scored a run in the bottom of the fourth on three straight walks to Haima, Kundert and Randy Richardson, then a sacrifice fly by Josh Thompson to

Arakawa

drive in Haima. The 'Runners threatened in the bottom of the sixth with Renault on third and Haima on first. but Richardson struck out and the Lane catcher got Renault in a run-down to end the inning. Renault did got his revenge later in the game, however, by driving in Arakawa on a single and error after Arakawa doubled with one out. Jake Stickley pitched well to win his second game of the year.

In the second game, the Titans shut out the 'Runners 9-0. The Titans opened up the scoring with a run in the top of the first, then got four runs in the third, three runs in the sixth and one run in the seventh. Renault was the starter, but was knocked out in the third. Lorimor came in but was eventually taken out for Corey Scott in the fifth. Michael Drakatos was brought in for the sixth inning. Richardson, Thompson, Arakawa, Haima and Ryan Borde each had the five LBCC hits.

The 'Runners overall record is now 10-12 and 4-7 in league, leaving them in a fourth place tie in the NWAACC Southern Division with Mt. Hood. The 'Runners are five games back of division leader Lane. The two top teams in the NWAACC are Lower Columbia (Western Division) at 26-2 and Columbia Basin (Eastern Divsion) at 24-3.

Track team thinned by injuries but still grabs 6 firsts in meet

by David Thayer of The Commuter

The men's and women's track and field teams were some what shorthanded in their meet against Highline Community College Saturday due to injuries.

A back injury sidelined Tiffany Sweat, one of the NWAACC's top performers while Ryan Music will be out the rest of the season with a hamstring pull.

Coach Brad Carman and Sweat agreed it would better for her to miss the HCC meet rather than risk losing her for the season.

The men's team finished third out of four teams at HCC. They scored 33 and a half points, behind HCC with 111.5 and Chemeketa with 36, while Lane finished last with six points. The women finished second with 50.5 points, behind Chemeketa's 88 points and ahead of HCC's 26. Lane recorded only six points.

First place finishers for the 'Runners were Isaac Presley, Heather Carpenter, Helen Rarick, Melisa Clements, Dawn Habelt and Jolene Neufeld.

Presley was a triple winner in the throws. He threw the discus 118-5, shotput 40-7 and the hammer 128-3.

Carpenter was a double winner in the women's throws, throwing the hammer 117-10 and the discus 113-1.

Rarick finished first in the 3,000m race at a time of 11:42.2 and Clements again won the pole vault by a leap of 10-6.

With Sweat sitting out this event, Habelt was able to win the triple jump with a jump of 31-7, while Neufeld jumped 15-4 in the long jump.

Second place finishers for the 'Runners were Ryan Parmenter, Neufeld, Jolene Vandehey and the men's 4x400m relay team.

Parmenter scored a time of 9:18.8 in the 3000m race. Neufeld got a time of 13.3 in the 100m while Vandehey finished with a time of 1:02.4 in the 400m.

The men's 4x400 relay team of Nate Koroush, Dominic Lopez, Casey Clithero and Ray Dandeneau finished at 3:36.1.

Third place finishers were Habelt, Neufeld, Carpenter and Parmenter. Habelt got a time of 13.6. Meanwhile, Neufeld got a time of 27.5 in the 200m and a triple jump of 31-7. Carpenter got a shotput of 31-10 and Parmenter ran a time of 2:01.2 in the 1500m.





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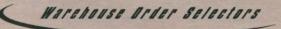
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The American Heart Association is pleased to announce the 1999 Student Summer Science Research Fellowship Program. This program is an exciting opportunity for students interested in the study of biomedical science. Ten summer scholarship awards will be made to talented upper level high school students, undergraduate, graduate or medical students to provide an opportunity to become acquited with cardiovascular research. Application deadline is April 29, 1999. For more information and applications, contact the Career Center in Takena Hall.

Bookbuilders West is offering a \$1,500 scholarship. This scholarship is available to students intending to pursue a career in the book production/publishing industry. Application deadline is May 15, 1999.

HELP WANTED

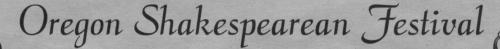
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Trip #2: May 30-31, 1999

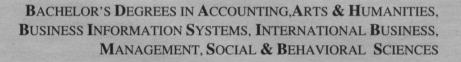
This weekend trip is open to all students (with valid JD) & includes transportation to Ashland, tickets to Shakespeare's "Othello", Bertolt Brecht's "The Good Person of Szechuan" & lodging. The cost is \$20, sign up in the Student Life &

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Information Session May 6

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New

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commentary

Blame game plays out in wake of Colorado high school killings

by Brock Jacks

of The Commuter

Tragic massacre.

Shooting rampage.

School slaughter.

These terms are fast becoming all too familiar to the American public.

There's Pearl, Miss.; Paducah, Ken.; Jonesboro, Ark.; and even our own Springfield, Ore.

Now add to this Littleton, Colo. The news media has flocked to these stories like sharks to a bleeding whale. The sensationalism of it all has turned this latest incident into a circus.

I find myself sickened as I hear

all the latest reports of "Killing at Columbine" or whatever the particular network has chosen to christen the incident. Makes me wonder when they'll be selling the T-shirts and hats or maybe even custom trench coats.

As you'll notice I'm abstaining from graphic words as I describe these events as "incidents." I really hope to cut down on the shock factor and get right down to the nitty gritty of this phenomenon.

First I would like to dispel some of the misunderstandings that I have noted as I've followed this whole affair. As with all tragedies, people immediately look for the reason and for someone to blame. All the things people may not understand are generally first to come under attack. I must say that I can completely understand how a grieving community would reach for the closest thing to demonize.

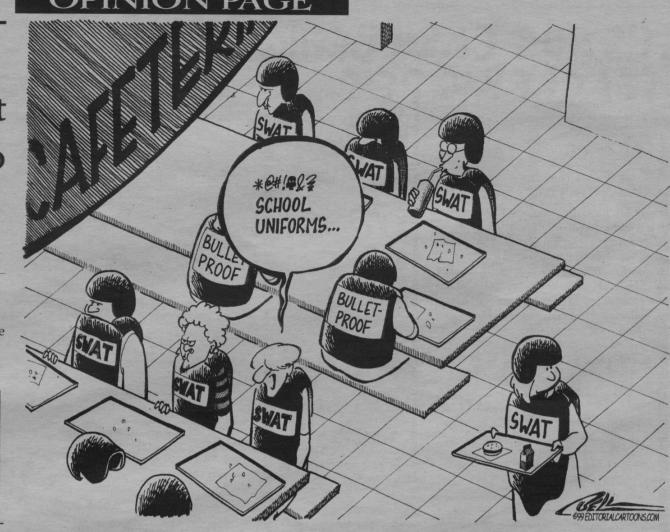
It seems that the "suspects" (come on, do they get a post-mortem trial, too?) were avid fans of the computer game Doom, which the media has described as a "medieval war game." In fact it's not. Instead you shoot your way past the minions of hell using shotguns and pipe bombs-that's hardly medieval.

Yes, the game is bloody, but there are several million copies of the game in circulation, and if it induced homicidal urges, don't you think a few more people may have acted out?

Then there is the idea that the shooters' obsession with the film "Natural Born Killers" is linked to their violent actions. I remember this film catching a lot of flak when it was first released for being too violent and graphic. In fact the film is both of these things, but once again, perhaps more than just these two boys saw this movie? Was it an influence? Perhaps.

Maybe, though, we should blame the demand for such a film to be created —after all it is rated R so it is primarily marketed to adults.

These outcast kids were supposedly involved in the "Trench Coat Mafia" a small group of outcasts at Columbine High. Oh no! They wore black trench coats! What exactly defined this group's membership? Could anyone wear a black trench coat and be in just like that? This, a group of teenage misfits, hardly seems a viable place to lay the blame. The "causes" and "influences" go on and on. Various music artists and groups have been blamed and of course the Internet, where the boys found their information on bomb making. Even the parents have been blamed, even though we know very little that might indicate they had any knowledge of their sons' activities.



letters

Designer Christians overlook meaning of faith

To The Editor

Consumer? Capitalist?—Christian? Before I continue I shall put forth what I do believe. I believe in one supreme God, Jesus Christ (God's son) the savior of humankind, the infinite power of God's Holy Spirit, the right for all people to be happy and free human beings with all the blessings of liberty bestowed upon them by God from birth, and the commitment by all men and women to always seek the truth, speak out against evil and make themselves into better humans.

For some time I have been obliged to write on my perception of the state of Christianity in our society today and the general surge of interest in Christianity that is happening now, especially with people my age (late teens, early twenties). It seems to me that there has been a strong (dare I say movement?) surge in young people's interest in the last five years in becoming a Christian and / or getting excited about Jesus. Don't get me wrong, no man thinks more highly of Christianity than me, but some of the aspects that this new generation shows in terms of paradoxical ideology is in fact

disgusting. I for one NEVER doubt the power of God's grace to change people INTO different people because I have seen it happen . . . but is it just me who sees this or do many aspects of American society contradict directly with CHRISTIANITY?

I can't help confessing that I am rather annoyed when some person comes up to me bursting with energy on their new found God and how faithful and obeying they are to their faith while at the same time they are driving a brand new Camry, dressed in black Doc Martens, wearing Silvertab khaki designer jeans and a fleece vest. Not to mention the fact that they work as much as they can to rake in the dough. Get real people!! Whatever happened to one of Jesus' most profound statements, "You cannot serve two masters: God and money." Or, "Don't worry about thingsfood, drink and clothes. For you already have a body." From my personal observations it seems like consumerism, capitalism and materialism create a kind of virtual reality where we all hear about atrocities in the world but bat them away as disturbing things. Being wealthy and rich and not being generous must be one of the greatest sins of this age. Just imagine how much suffering could be alleviated if the Bill Gates of the world would help those in Sudan, Rwanda and Kosovo. Lucas Bjornstadt

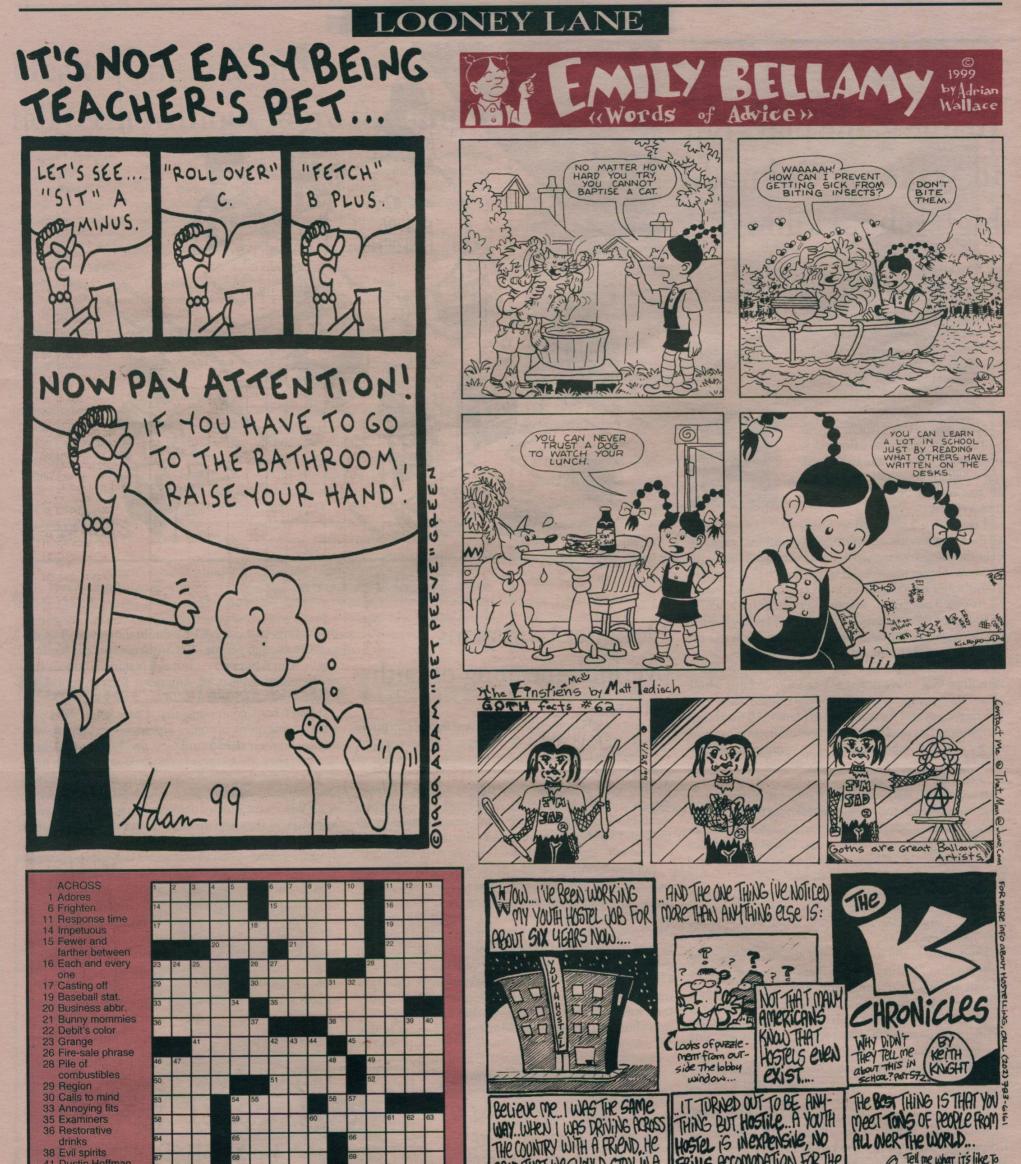


My point is this—perhaps we should place the blame where it really belongs.

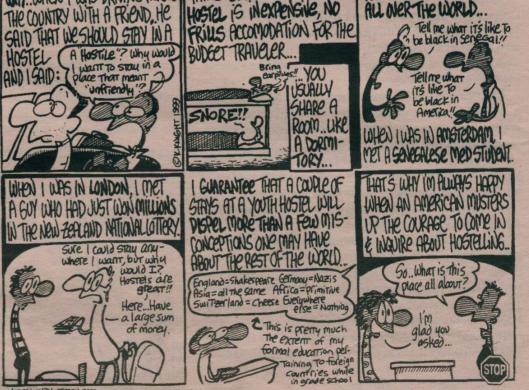
It belongs squarely on the shoulders of Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris. It belongs there because the bottom line is: They did it! They shot the people, they built the bombs, they went to that school and killed those people. They planned it out at least a year in advance and they knew exactly what they were doing.

It's time to stop searching for an alibi for the boys and face the fact that they are responsible for their own actions.

I say, let God deal with 'em.



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