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THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION



www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2002

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 34 No. 1



Photo by Phillip Ruzek

The LBCC campus has grown a lot since it was built in the 1970s.

Tiny college becomes major state institution

by Phillip Ruzek of The Commuter

Established in 1966 as a two-year public school to serve the needs of Linn and Benton counties, Linn-Benton Community College enters its 35th year of offering degree programs this fall.

LBCC is supported by tuition, property taxes and state revenue, and directed by a seven-member elected board of education.

In 1964, the Linn County Chamber of Commerce commissioned a community study through the University of Oregon's Bureau of Educational Research. The study found that post-secondary schools in the area were inadequate and that many graduated seniors were more interested in attending a local community college. Linn enlisted in the support of Benton County leaders, and a two-county committee was produced to establish a community college in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

Voters in the two Counties approved the formation of Linn Benton Community College district on Dec. 6, 1966, by a vote of 3,742 to 1,702.

LBCC's Board of Education, chosen by voters, selected Dr. Eldon Guy Schafer as LB's first president in 1967. In July the college made its headquarters in the former Capital Business College on first and Ellsworth streets in Albany. A full-time

staff of around 12 prepared the college for its first classes in late September of 1967. Evening only classes were held in 30 borrowed or leased buildings in various locations throughout the district. Daytime classes followed the next year in LB's first year of full time operation. Tuition per credit for full-time students was \$8 in 1974, compared to \$43 today.

In the winter of 1970, voters passed a bond to construct a permanent campus for the college, and at the end of the summer, eight portable classrooms were moved to LBCC's current location two miles south of Albany, while construction of permanent buildings were underway. Fall term of 1970 enrollment rose 33 percent over the previous year. Since then programs and full-time staff have risen quite a bit, said Paul Snyder, department chair of media services, who has been a faculty member at LBCC since 1974.

The college founded the Roadrunner as the school mascot in the early years because of all the traveling necessary for students to get from town-to-town. Snyder mentions that classes were held in Lebanon, Corvallis and Albany.

By the fall of 1974, the newly completed 11-building campus was completed. Takena Hall was added five years later, which made the campus a complete circle.

Turn to "History" on Pg. 4

State economic woes help fuel LB's record enrollment

by Erin Bartelds of The Commuter

By Monday morning full time enrollment was up 10 percent compared to the same day in 2001.

"This is our third fall in a row with record breaking enrollment and the numbers continue to rise every year," said Bruce Clemetsen, director of enrollment services. "Total enrollment is greater now than ever in the history of LBCC."

Several reasons account for the record-breaking influx of students, including the fact that Linn county has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state.

"We have faculty who serve on a rapid response team," said Clemetsen. "They attend lay-off announcement meetings at some of the larger companies in our area."

This team includes representatives of the community, who direct employees to services they may need during a layoff. "So we see a lot of people coming to LBCC to acquire better skills to compete in their career field and others who

decide to change career paths entirely," he said.

"We have also seen a slow but continuous rise in enrollment each year from all of the high schools in the district," said Clemetsen. One reason is the dual enrollment program with OSU. This fall alone LB has 400 new dual enrolled students, bringing the total count to just under 2,000 students utilizing the program, he said.

And all of this is coming from the local population. "We have not seen significant enrollment figures from students outside the district," said Clemetsen.

But that is no consolation for students with a time crunch.

"I tried to register in early September but all the classes I needed were already full," said student McKenzie Frishkorn.

Frishkorn, a biology major, is in her fourth year at LBCC. "There are only a few specific classes I still need to transfer to OSU, some of which are a sequence of biology classes," she said.

Turn to "Enrollment" on Pg. 4

MC Center, clubs gain more space

by Heather M. Scott of The Commuter

What used to be known as the Student Lounge on the second floor of the Student Union is now the roomy new Multicultural Center and Club Room.

The change was made after a poll conducted by Student Life & Leadership showed a need for a different arrangement.

"It was always an issue that the clubs didn't have enough space," said Student Body President Roxanne Allen.

The poll asked students who used the former student lounge and multicultural center such questions as: "How frequently do you use the Student Union Lounge?" and "What do you usually do while in the student lounge?" Out of 104 surveys returned 74 students suggested moving the Multicultural Center into the student lounge and 62 students suggested that a cyber cafe be created in the lounge for club and general use. A student worker was also assigned to take a count of stu-

Turn to "Center" on Pg. 4



Photo by Bonnie Quinones

Multicultural Center Coordinator, Susan Prock, celebrates the center's new home at an open house last week

Weather through the Weekend

Source: www.weather.com



High: 69° Low: 42°
WEDNESDAY



High: 63° Low: 37°
THURSDAY



High: 63° Low: 38°
FRIDAY



High: 65° Low: 42°
SATURDAY



High: 65° Low: 40°
SUNDAY

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THE COMMUTER

Editor-in-Chief: Wendy Geist
 Managing Editor: Erin Bartelds
 Telephone: 917-4451

OPINION

Send letters to **The Commuter**:
 Turn into Forum 222. Please sign them and
 keep them at 250 words or less

What People Think

How have you dealt with the chaos of overfull parking, classes and wait lists the first week of classes?

Sherry Dodd
 Radiology

"I come 20 minutes earlier than I have to just to find a parking space and get here in time so I'm on time for my classes. I've gotten in all my classes that I was on the wait list for."



Jeff Geist
 Forest Engineering

"I park about a half a mile away from campus, hike it in. When I get there I'm soaking wet and my boots are full of water."



Elizabeth Strauser
 Psychology

"I go to school pretty early so I don't usually deal with the parking and I registered early for classes so I didn't really deal with that either."



Michelle West
 International Studies

"I just try and leave a little bit earlier, you know, then I get to class. I registered really early so I'm not on any wait lists, that helps out a lot."

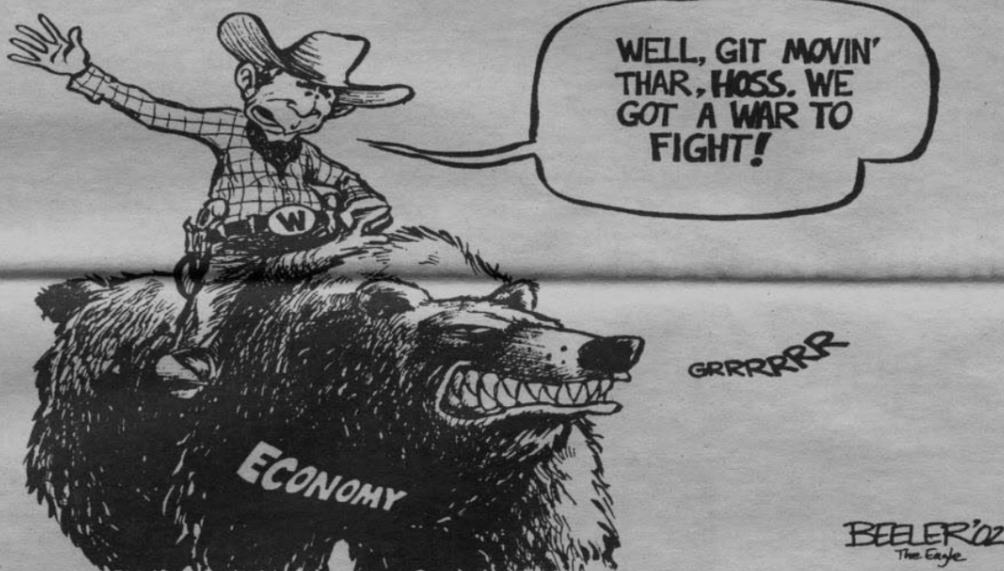
Matt Wolford
 Forest Engineering

"I just park in the corner of the parking lot, no one ever parks there. As far as overload of classes I really haven't had to worry about that."



Devon Bowen
 EMT

"I haven't really been affected because I get here at eight o'clock in the morning when nobody's really here."



Express Yourself

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer.

All letters received will be published, space permitting, unless they are considered by the editor to be potentially libelous or in poor taste.

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

Susan Prock

Former LBCC student Ona Lebotse remembered

Today, I am going to tell you a story about one of the most remarkable people that I've had the privilege to know.

One day, I was sitting at the table in the Multicultural Center with a diverse group of students representing at least six nationalities and three different spiritual traditions. A young woman with a Boxer dog walked up to the window and waved. Being completely goofy about this type of dog, I forgot myself and ran out the door, dropped to my knees and started petting the dog and telling him how handsome he was. When I returned to the center, the students were all staring at me with a variety of expressions from incredulity to horror. I realized I had made a huge social gaffe. One student saved the day and taught us all how to have difficult conversations by laughing and shaking her head while she said:

"You Americans and your dogs. I just don't get it."

After I had washed my hands, the group had an hour-long conversation about how our different cultures looked at dogs and other animals. We were able to draw parallels, identify why we might have these diverse opinions, and develop a deeper respect for each other's cultures. All because one student used laughter and grace to get the conversation going.

The dog story is one of my favorite memo-

ries of a former LBCC student, Ona Lebotse. She originally came to Corvallis from Botswana on an emergency visa to help her mother raise funds and take care of her little brother who was in renal failure and in dire need of a double organ transplant. She chose to go to school as she did that and in the process, became deeply involved in the Multicultural Club and the center. Countless people across campus donated to the transplant fund and made friends with Ona in the process. Countless other people fell in love with her honesty, love of life and spirit as she negotiated the difficulties of learning in a culture different than hers. She was also involved in many things; too many things to list.

The Multicultural Club was reinvigorated due to Ona's efforts. She created and staffed the Kwanzaa Room at the Children's Winter Festival, was instrumental in developing the International Dinner, and shared her culture through programs at the center and numerous speaking engagements in different classes. Ona loved LBCC. She helped with new student orientations; told her success story for a video about LBCC and worked hard to make sure other stu-

dents knew about the opportunities and support available to them. It was not unusual to see her helping other students understand math or science. Ona loved it here so much that she requested her visa be changed to student status so she could finish her education among the people she considered community. Unfortunately, her request was denied and we tearfully bid farewell to Ona earlier this year as she went to Canada to continue her schooling there.

Ona Lebotse died in Canada this summer. I still really do not know the details of her passing. I only know that she died in the hospital after an illness put her in a coma and that my joy in the new center space is tempered with grief at the loss of this strong, happy woman. Indeed, the world has lost someone who would have been an agent of change and a cultural bridge builder anywhere. I know that many people will be shocked and grieved, just as I am that such a young life with so much potential should leave this world. I encourage you to turn to other friends of Ona to share your memories, or contact me with your thoughts. And I want you to know that even though I feel as if there is a hole in my heart, I know that Ona's spirit will remain with us as we hold her memory in our hearts. This column is in memory of Onalenna Mmasekopo Lebotse: 1976-2002. May her body rest in peace and her spirit soar always through our hearts.



Ona Lebotse

Commentary

Open letter to George Bush

by Mariana Schatte
 of The Commuter

I remember around a month ago I turned on the TV on a Thursday morning and there you were talking about the problems of your country. I have to confess that I never liked you, but that day I was going to try to hear you talking without a previous judgment, and I did, but I got a post judgment after your speech.

You said that you were worried about the problems of the Americans and that you were going to work hard to solve them. Now here is where I strongly disagree with you—the problems of your people are not terrorism. My friends are not having problems sleeping because of it; they are facing other things that you don't see, maybe because it's easier for you to govern a country with problems that have to be solved.

Unemployment is the biggest issue that starts the list of things that should be worked on, followed by education and the never ending story of health. Why is it that whenever I hear you talking you seem like you don't even live in the states.

I oppose the war against Iraq, and it's more than the fact that I am a peace advocate—I just want you to tell people why they lost their jobs, why they cannot go school or get in the classes they need.

War against terrorism—AH! BULLPOOP! If you really cared about terrorism the United States would not have been the only country from the "Group of 8" (the 8 most powerful and developed countries in the world) without a real delegation at the international meeting to help developing countries that was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. I mean, if this was actually an issue for you, you would be attacking the actual root of it—inequality and poverty—and that it's not happening.

Attacking Iraq is not going to benefit Americans. Like any other war it's only going to bring pain and death. Jobs are not going to show up if Saddam is not in power any more; classes are not going to be opened, either.

The problem in America is not terrorism. It is you, dear mister president, who needs a little bit of "focusing" to work on the real problems of your country, your people. Be a president to help this place to be better, be a president so no one here gets put aside and forgotten, be a president for the things that worry Americans and stop being a boy playing with toy soldiers around the world. Just be a president who defends the right of your people and not the ones of your pocket.

Thank you.

Managing Editor: Erin Bartelds
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus

Parking lot stuffed with cars

by Heather M. Scott
 of The Commuter

Parking on campus the first couple of days of school proved to be a struggle.

Students trying to get to class on time weaved in and out of parking aisles in hopes of finding a spot before classes started. In desperation for a spot, it seemed many students found parking in alternative places on campus. However, only six warnings were given out on the first day of school, including a few given to vehicles parked on campus grass.

Vern Jackson, chief of security, claims the early 90s was the last time he had seen the parking situation this bad. "It got to the point where

we just stopped writing tickets," he said.

Tickets for general traffic violations on campus are \$20. Fines for parking in disabled parking spots run much higher at \$100 per violation.

Jackson's advice for dodging a costly ticket is to try and avoid fire hydrants, loading areas, grass, and disabled parking spaces.

Another option is the Linn Benton Loop Bus, which offers free rides for students with valid ID.

"Try Transit Week" is also an opportunity for students to experience bus services offered throughout Linn and Benton counties.

Rides on the Linn Benton Loop, Albany Transit System, Corvallis Transit System and the Philomath Connection will be free this week, through Oct. 12.



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Security Officer Doug Shaffer issues a warning for a car illegally parked on campus last week.

Local candidates hold forum on campus Thursday

by Wendy Geist
 of The Commuter

Tomorrow, Thursday Oct. 10, LBCC students and the public are invited to the Oregon Candidate Forum. Local political candidates from areas in and around LBCC will be on stage answering questions in front of the audience. The event, sponsored by the Student Programming Board (SPB), will be held in the Forum on the main campus of LBCC from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Student moderator Derek Etheridge will direct questions on community college education and funding toward the 15 invited candidates, of whom nine have responded and five have confirmed. Expected participants include Jeff Kropf of Lebanon, republican candidate for state representative, 17th district; Frank Morse of Albany, republican candidate for state senator, 8th district; Joseph Novak of Albany, democrat candidate for state representative, 15th district; Barbara Ross of

Albany, democrat candidate for state senator, 8th district; and Kelley Wirth of Corvallis, democrat candidate for state representative, 16th district.

The questions being directed toward the candidates were originated from the fact that classes are being cut, enrollment is up, and state funding is down, said the event planner Darrell McGie, Current Events/Political Activities Specialist with SPB. The forum will allow students to reinforce to candidates just how important a community col-

lege education is, he said.

"These are our candidates, the ones we will seek to lobby for the interest of all community colleges and students," states McGie who is hoping for a large attendance.

When speaking about hot topics that will be addressed in the forum, McGie says, "It shouldn't be the decision of the legislature to cut certain programs because they think they are not cost effective. Decisions on cutting programs should be made at the local level and not by state rep-

resentatives." "There has been some discussion of this, but now it needs to come out in the open," said McGie explaining that in recent decisions the legislature has "micromanaged the affairs of the college."

The introduction of the event and candidates will take place from 11 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The moderated question period will start at 11:30 a.m. and finish up at 12:30 with conclusions of positions from the candidates. Questions will then be taken
 ▼ Turn to "Candidates" on Pg. 4

Carnahan to discuss cuts in front of LB board tonight

by Wendy Geist
 of The Commuter

LBCC's President Jon Carnahan will be going before the board tonight to find out if he has the "thumbs up" on his plans for addressing future budget cuts for the college.

President Carnahan will be presenting categories, not specific people or programs, in which he thinks reductions and cuts need to be made in order to offset an assumed \$3.1 million shortfall in the 2003-04 budget. No decisions will be made at the work session, which is open to the public and starts at 6 p.m. in the Alsea/Calapooia rooms on the main campus.

LBCC is already feeling the \$1.38 million reductions that were put into effect at the end of last year including the elimination of 178 class sections, the loss of 11 full-time staff members and a \$4 increase in tuition.

A new \$482 million state shortfall was announced in September, and after five special sessions of the state legislature, expected revenues for community colleges from the state are still looking grim. LBCC is going to lose \$250,000 for self-improvement classes, and \$1,045,237 if voters in January turn down a three-year temporary tax increase initiative. The college will also deal with a postponement of our last quarterly payment of the biennium from the state in the amount of \$4 million.

During a speech to faculty

and staff on Sept. 26, President Carnahan told listeners that the college has to make decisions now in order to let students and staff know in January if their life will be impacted in the spring. The projected state shortfall for the 2003-04 budget includes the elimination of approximately 300 classes, 30 staff and a tuition increase.

"I'm not going to wait for the cigarette tax to pass, I'm not going to wait for the next revenue forecast, I'm not going to wait for the legislature to make any decisions in January because we would always be waiting. It's terrible, it's like drip torture," said Carnahan. In order to be able to balance the budget in July of 2003 for the next biennium, the college needs to develop a plan or strategy now, he explained.

Categories of budget reductions and revenue enhancements President Carnahan will discuss in front of the board include contractual changes relating to faculty, classified workers and management. Carnahan can't implement these contractual changes without agreement from the two collective bargaining units whose contracts expire in June 2003.

Another category is cost recovery from instructional and service related programs. "Are there some services or programs that we offer that we could charge for?" asked Carnahan in an interview last Thursday. He

stated that he has received notices from people asking about charging for parking.

"My personal opinion on parking fees is that it doesn't work very well for us," said Carnahan explaining that costs involved in managing and patrolling would offset the revenue.

"One of the wonderful things about LB is that no one has parking priority...I think that time demand is more important to our students, than staff, especially to those who work and have children in day care," he added.

"The biggest and most serious category is the elimination of programs," said Carnahan.

"No decisions have been

made to date on any programs," he added.

In the past, enrollment was the main criteria in deciding what programs to eliminate, said Carnahan, but today LB is full in every program. "We are going to have to make some difficult decisions to eliminate programs that are full," he said.

President Carnahan added that if a decision were made in January to eliminate a program, students who have completed the first year would still be able to complete their second year. The college will make a decision not to admit new students and to still teach the second year of that program in the next year.

Two more categories include
 ▼ Turn to "Budget" on Pg. 4

178
classes
cut...

Hey! It's YOUR education...

OREGON
CANDIDATES
FORUM

...get some answers.

Brought to you by the LBCC
Student Programming Board

Thursday, October 10
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
In the Forum

FREE PIZZA AND SODA!

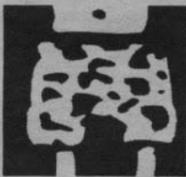
Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. If you need accommodation for disability in order to attend, please contact the Student Life and Leadership Office (541-917-4457) at least one week prior to the event.

Managing Editor: Erin Bartelds
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus



Campus Shorts

2002 Study Circles

The Community Alliance for Diversity is offering a study circle at LBCC this fall called *Toward a More Perfect Union*. In this small group discussion people will have the chance to get to know one another, consider different points of view, and discover common ground.

It is meant for creating dialogue on important community issues like race and diversity, with an emphasis on action and planning ways to improve the community. The study circles are led by trained facilitators and based on discussion guides. Topics will range from the many faces of America, to communities and to making a difference.

Toward a More Perfect Union is being offered through Albany extended learning.

Voter Registration Drive

On Wednesday Oct. 9, a Voter registration table will be in the Courtyard from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with walking sandwich boards and give-away candy.

On Thursday Oct. 10 the voter registration table will be in Takena Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday Oct. 11 the voter registration table will be in the Courtyard from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A 106.1 Classic Rock DJ will help wrap up voter registration in the Courtyard from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday is also Red, White & Blue Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the voter registration table. Free prizes provided by the Bookstore will be given to people who dress up in those colors.

History: LBCC grows to 'not too big, not too small' size

▲ From Pg. 1

The Family Resource Center was built in 1988, and the WEB Building in 1992.

A lot has changed over the past 35 years, with parking lots that used to house trailers for classes are now completely full

All-Campus Picnic

This exciting event will be held today, Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Courtyard. This is the all-out kick-off event of the year and will feature music, a barbecue, information and club booths. The event is sponsored by the LBCC Student Programming Board. The cost for Students is just \$3, and for Staff it is \$4.

Free Clothing

Need some extra clothes for the cool winter? On October 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Student Life and Leadership will host a clothing drive in the Takena Theater to provide just the right amount of extra garments. Everyone is welcome to bring clean unwanted clothing to donate, or to just come pick out free clothes for themselves. Donations will be accepted Mondays and Wednesdays in the Student Life and Leadership office from 12:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. prior to the date of the event. For further information please contact Seth at 917-4467.

River Cleanup

Join community members as they clean the rivers and creeks of Albany this Saturday, Oct. 12. Bring high spirits work gloves and a workers mentality to Bryant Park in Albany from 9 a.m. to noon. Take part in a great and helpful effort to keep the waterways healthy for fish, plants, wildlife and people. Groups of five or more need to pre-register by calling 917-7629.

of cars as the college hits a record enrollment this fall.

"I really like the size," Snyder said of the college. "It's not too big or too small." He also stated that LBCC cares that students get a good education and graduate.

Candidates: Free pizza offered at forum

▲ From Pg. 3

from the audience from 12:45 p.m. until 1 p.m.

Students and the public are asked to enter the auditorium from the second floor of the Forum building through room F-201. A voter registration table along with complimentary pizza and soda, provided by SPB, will

be in this location. Campaign literature from the candidates will also be available.

McGie is looking for student volunteers to gather question cards from the audience and to facilitate the event. Contact Darrell McGie at 917-4963 or stop by the Student Life and Leadership office.

Center: New space offers cyber cafe

▲ From Pg. 1

dents utilizing the areas to see who would benefit from the change. Allen was confident that the change would benefit the majority of students.

The new multicultural center and club space offers four computers in a cyber cafe setup. One computer is exclusively for club use. The three other computers are available for chat, homework, e-mail, and other personal purposes. Susan Prock of the Multicultural Center said that this is the only place on campus where students can use the computers for chatting and e-mail. The room also boasts a large table for meetings, as well as lockers for club use only. Allen proposes that students will probably be more informed about clubs and events because of the resources available. Prock has already documented an increase

of students using the Multicultural Center.

"Over 50 people came through the first day," said Prock.

The new Center offers a great deal more space for resources such the new scholarship and study abroad information rack, movie rentals, a reference library, and magazines from all different cultures. Decorations, most of them donated, loaned, or created by students hang a little less cluttered in the new space than in the previous, much smaller room. Prock is very happy about the new room and stresses that everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the new center.

The Multicultural Center and Club Room is open for use from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, a calendar is on display for room reservations.

Budget: President Carnahan says tuition hike is last resort

▲ From Pg. 3

changes and budget fund transfers. The college will look at capital reserve funds and technology reserve funds.

"I do not intend to reorganize the college, we have enough crisis right now besides going through a reorganization," stressed Carnahan.

Tuition increase is the last category.

"A lot of other colleges are in

the discussion of raising tuition this year. At least at this point I don't anticipate recommending to the board that we raise tuition this year," said Carnahan. The only way a tuition increase would be put on the discussion table before spring is if the state revenue forecasts continues to look bad and the budget in January doesn't pass, said Carnahan emphasizing that it is too early to tell.

Enrollment: Students forced to juggle schedules

▲ From Pg. 1

Ironically, one of the reasons this particular class was full is that students from OSU were enrolled in it. "I guess with all the budget cuts that the legislature passed, OSU has been sending some of its students over here to get their credits," said Frishkorn.

Fortunately Frishkorn is not one to get discouraged and it paid off in the end.

"Every class I needed was full, even the wait lists. For a minute I worried that I would have to take a whole other year to get all my credits, then I decided I couldn't let that happen. I went

and talked to the teacher and she told me to go ahead and come to class. We found out that a lot of the students were engineering students and didn't really need the class so my teacher asked them to drop so the rest of us, who needed it, would be able to get in. And they did," she said.

Clemetsen confirmed that students have done a lot of schedule juggling to get into classes.

"We have had a lot of students who signed up for the same class several times and classes that are at the same time, just to try and get into some-

thing and instructors are having to do more in order to sort it out," he said.

The big question is "What can we expect next term?"

"We might be able to offer more classes next term but it depends on how many students make it past the second week and pay for tuition. We typically have 150 students dropped each term because they forget to turn in their add slips with the instructors signature, moving them from the wait list into the class," said Clemetsen.

He also points out that tuition only makes up one-quarter of the revenue needed to run the

college, so if students want more class sections offered, the best thing for concerned students is to register to vote. With an additional revenue source, on the January ballot every yes vote is critical.

Clemetsen advises, "Get into whatever you can now so that you will have some credits on your transcript and will be first in line to register for winter term." Clemetsen, in cooperation with Gary Ruppert, Arts and Communication division director, are already working on refining our systems to make winter term registration faster and easier.

Off Beat

From KRT News

Hangover High

About 200 students showed up drunk at a dance at a Scarsdale, N.Y., high school. One attendee told reporters, "It was easier to find a drunk kid there than someone who was sober."

A policeman characterized the situation this way: "slightly drunk kids taking care of very drunk kids."

School dances have been banned until further notice.

Ouch, That Hurts

An inmate at a Czechoslovakian prison was using a tiny walkie-talkie to speak with his wife and arrange to bribe police officers involved in his case. When he wasn't using it, he hid the device in a part of his body where guards would be, shall we say, reluctant to search.

He was caught when they heard voices coming out of his backside.

False Security

After a number of break-ins and thefts at her home in Swansea, England, a woman bought a Staffordshire bull terrier to guard her property. Someone stole the dog.

Dead Exams

An Illinois doctor was nabbed for fraud after a check of bills he sent to medical insurance companies revealed he falsely claimed to have examined 180 people in one day. Records indicate 32 of these "patients" were dead.

Belting It Out Braless

Young women in Papua New Guinea have been told to bare their breasts when they participate in "singsing" dances because tradition demands it. The edict came after the ladies showed up wearing bras.

"Underwear is not recognized in (our) culture," Mewie Launa, the chairman of the event, told them. "Our parents never did that."

New Limo Please

After robbing a bank in Moline, Ill., a man returned to his hotel and ordered a getaway limousine to pick him up and drive him to Chicago. Unfortunately for him, the driver was a retired policeman.

When the robber gave him \$335 in cash for the ride, he became suspicious and alerted his former comrades on his cell phone.

You Snooze, You Lose

A man, parked in front of a bank in Graz, Austria, he was planning to rob, drank a bottle of schnapps to calm his nerves. Then he fell asleep. He was later arrested when a passer-by noticed his out-of-state license plates.

Managing Editor: Erin Bartelds
 Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus

Peace students bridge international barriers

LB delegation find European friendships on their way to peace symposium in England

by Adele Kubein
 of The Commuter

While many of us this summer were working, enjoying Oregon's natural splendors, or attending summer classes, political science instructor Doug Clark, journalism instructor Rich Bergeman and eight of LBCC's Peace Studies students visited several cities in Europe and attended the 11th Biennial symposium on Peace, Justice and Human Rights in York, England.

The symposium is a product of a group of colleagues from colleges and universities in nine or ten countries with a commitment to learning and a love of peace, who put together a biennial, enriching, one-week experience for 75 students. The emphasis is on finding and teaching alternatives to war. These people work very hard to fund-raise, organize and find locations for the symposium every two years. In 2000, the symposium was hosted by LBCC and held at the Benton Center.

The LBCC delegation had the honor of being the only representative from the United States this year.

To fund their trip, Tina Empol, Thomas McGeary, Matt Martin, Patrick Neidermeyer, Theresa Champ, April Chapman, David Dorman and Musa Jaman sold T-shirts designed by a former student, hosted a brunch at Iovino's in Corvallis, provided coffee breaks at a rest stop along Interstate 5 and tirelessly collected bottles and cans. Funds also came from student fee revenues.

This trip was a way for the LBCC students to expand their view of the world and make friends abroad. Matt Martin felt that by meeting European students, the Americans learned that many other nations consider the United States isolationist and view the current administration as being unilateralist. The United States gives this impression by its reaction to the 9-11 attack and because it has withdrawn from various international treaties.

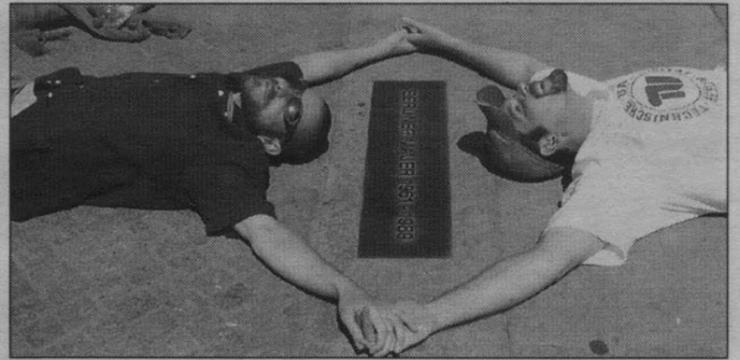
The students and faculty flew to Frankfurt, Germany June 13 via Washington, D.C. From there the group traveled in a small plane to Budapest, Hungary. They spent three days at a hostel in Budapest, saw the sights, networked with some democratic organizations and met up with one of Doug Clark's former students now living in Hungary; Tim Van Slyke, who met his Hungarian wife on a peace studies trip in 1990.

Then the group boarded a train to Berlin, Germany. The train voyage was not without its mishaps. The first indication students had that something was awry was when they saw instructor Rich Bergeman through the window. He was on another train, going to Salzburg, Austria. Rich had been in the dining car working on some images and drinking cappuccino when the dining car, unbeknownst to him, was uncoupled and attached to another train. Rich discovered his predicament when he returned to what he thought was his sleeper car and found a different set of people.

The peace studies students who saw him departing alerted the conductor but there was nothing he could do to stop the train. Fortunately the original train was five minutes behind the one bound for Salzburg for a limited distance. Bergeman managed to return to the Berlin-bound train around midnight, much to everyone's relief.

For three days in Berlin the group spent their nights at various local student homes. They toured some historic sites in Berlin and visited the remains of the Berlin Wall.

From Germany to the Netherlands, where the group split for home stays between three towns, once again with local students. The home stays were an opportunity for the LBCC students to learn first-hand what it is like to be a student in Europe and how the European students viewed the United States. The American students connected one-on-one with their counterparts and friendships were made.



Photos by Rich Bergeman

Thomas McGeary and Patrick Neidermeyer reach across the site of the Berlin Wall during their visit to Europe with the LBCC Peace Delegation last June. Another LB delegate, Theresa Champ (above) talks with school children in York, England, the site of the International Peace Symposium. Led by Political Science Instructor Doug Clark (below, right foreground,) the delegation has a farewell dinner at an Indian restaurant in York.

"I gained a greater understanding from exposure to the different viewpoints of the European students. Meeting the other students was one of the most enriching parts of the trip and I am very glad I went"

—Matt Martin

Students and faculty finally boarded a ferry from Rotterdam to Hull, England and took the bus to York, where they spent a week in student housing while they attended the symposium.

LBCC peace studies student Thomas McGeary said he enjoyed getting to know the European students.

"I gained a better understanding of educational systems in other countries," he said. "Rich and Doug were fun to be with. Doug enriched the experience with his knowledge of the countries we visited and the people we met were friendly and open to the group".

McGeary said peace studies is a great co-curricular program that has enriched his life personally.

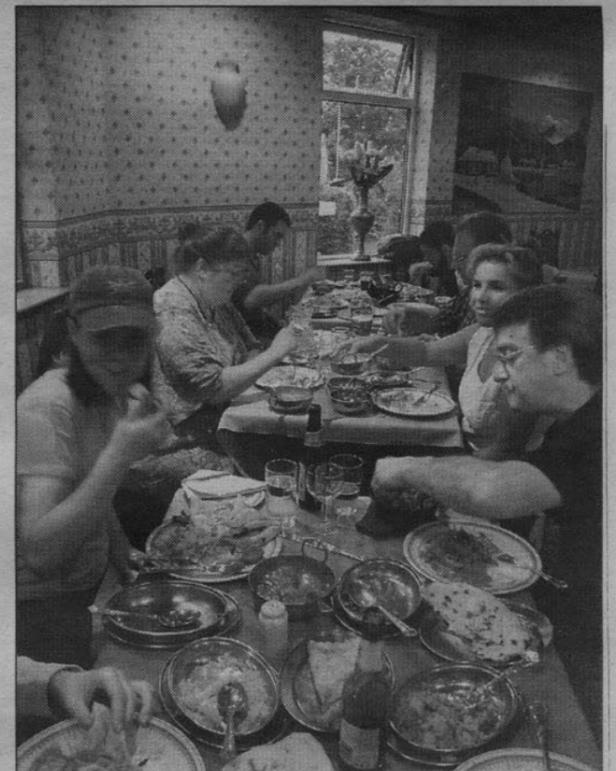
Matt Martin, a student who attends both LBCC and OSU, was another one of the participants.

"I gained a greater understanding from exposure to the different viewpoints of the European students. Meeting the other students was one of the most enriching parts of the trip and I am very glad I went," Martin said.

He said that even from his liberal viewpoint it was eye-opening to learn how America was perceived by the Europeans.

Professor Clark agreed.

"The home stays were an exciting chance for the students to relate and learn about the circumstances and lives of their counterparts. These trips have been amazing opportunities to make friends and to develop perspectives unavailable unless you leave the United



States," Clark said.

Clark has been leading the biennial trips to the international symposium since 1988. He uses the opportunity to encourage the students to open their minds and eliminate ethnocentrism. He said he returned with renewed energy from this trip.

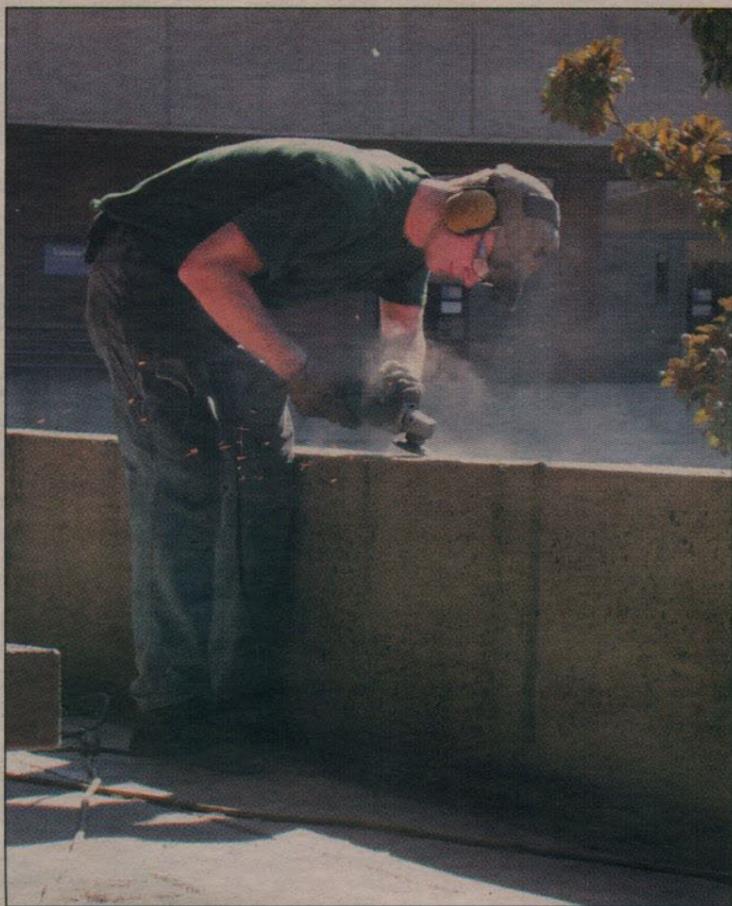
Anyone interested in attending peace studies courses or becoming involved in the group's activities can access the peace studies web site for more information at lbcc.or.us/peace/home.html or contact instructor Doug Clark at clarkd@linnbenton.edu or in his office in Takena (if you can ever catch him during his busy day.) There are other contact links on the web site.

Managing Editor: Erin Bartelds
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the administration, faculty and students on campus

Campus stretched to the limit as new students roll in



Ben Jablonski, an LB student working for TK Fabrications, grinds down the brackets in preparation for a new iron railing to replace the old wooden rails.

Record-breaking enrollment put a strain on campus facilities this fall as the college opened its doors for its 35th year. Full classes and packed parking lots greeted students when fall term started last week, leading to lots of juggling with class schedules and cruising the parking lot for that elusive open spot. Long lines snaked out of the Bookstore and the Registration and Financial Aid offices for the first week, but things settled down by week 2.

Photos by
Jeremy Hennig



Students in a surveying class try out their instruments in the courtyard (above) while culinary art student Dave Arguedas sets up the Santiam Restaurant in preparation for the lunch-time diners.



Long lines were the order of the day during the first week of classes. The Registration counter kept busy throughout the week, and students were also forced to wait in lines at the Bookstore and Financial Aid Office.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Information about plays, movies, books, artwork and other entertaining or artistic endeavors



Art Happennings

Art Show

Works of art from LBCC faculty members will be on display in the AHSS Gallery beginning September 30.

Paintings by Dori Litzer, Gary Westford and Analee Fuentes, pottery by Jay Widmer, and photography from Kurt Norlin and Rich Bergeman will make up the Faculty Show.

The AHSS Gallery is located in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Building foyer on the Albany Campus of LBCC, 6500 SW Pacific Boulevard. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Book Reading

Friday, October 11 at 7 p.m. in the Main Gallery of the Corvallis Arts Center, Grassroots Books and Music, and ArtCentric will debut a new ongoing series of free evenings with prominent Northwest writers. The Northwest Writers Series will start with a stageful of writers from a brand new collection, *Scent of Cedars: Promising Writers of the Pacific Northwest*, just published by Russell Dean & Co.

"Reading this anthology," says a reviewer, "is a bit like picnicking with a basket of treats packed by somebody else."

While Grass Roots and ArtCentric plan to establish their Northwest Writers Series as a regular monthly gathering, plans are to start gradually as time and scheduling allow. For the future, keep a literary eye open for further installments diving deeply into the rich Northwest literary scene.

The Northwest Writers Series is offered free of charge, unless otherwise noted. Grass Roots will provide copies of books for author signings when available. For more information, contact Grass Roots, 754-7668 or ArtCentric, 754-1551.

Poetry Reading and Discussion

On October 15, from 12:10 to 1 p.m., local poet Clem Stark will expound on the statement "A Poem is a Figure of Speech," as the second session of this fall's Brown Bag lunch series at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe.

What is a figure of speech? How does speech differ from writing? What distinguishes poetry from prose? Stark will read some of his poems and discuss these questions.

This free brown bag series is sponsored by the LBCC Benton Center, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library and Friends of the Library. The series will be held Tuesdays from 12:10 to 1 p.m. between October 8 and November 12. Call 757-8944 for more information.



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Music instructor Hal Eastburn warms up the LBCC Community Chorale prior to rehearsals for the show

Community chorale to perform Eastburn's 'Songs of the Earth'

by Erin Bartelds
 of The Commuter

Rehearsals for the Linn Benton Community Chorale began Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in room AHSS 213.

The Chorale is preparing their featured work titled "Songs of the Earth," an original composition by Hal Eastburn, music instructor for LBCC and Chorale director.

"Songs of the Earth" is a cantata with orchestral accompaniment on native flute and drums. The piece features a narrator and the text is borrowed from poems and legends of Inuit, Navajo, Yokuts, Lakota and Aboriginal tribes.

The Chorale will perform aside Festival Chorale Oregon under direction of Dr. Solveig Holmquist, director of choral activities at Western Oregon Uni-

versity.

Rehearsals will continue at LBCC every Tuesday until the combined choir performances on Sunday, November 17 in Salem and November 24 at LBCC.

Although there is a short rehearsal schedule this season, opportunities for experienced singers in Bass and Tenor sections may be available. Interested parties may contact Hal Eastburn at 917-4550.

Art cuts leave students and staff frustrated

by Mariana Schatte
 of The Commuter

Student and faculty in the Art department are suffering from the cuts. Student are not able to get in the classes they want because a lot of classes were suspended and the existing ones are overloaded. Teachers have to work harder to fill the space left by the lost part-time instructor positions, and the fact that they have more student help than usual.

In the Art program, students are disappointed and frustrated because they can't get into the classes the want and need.

"The gallery position was cut off. In order to keep the gallery working, faculty volunteers have to make it work. The problem is that it's really hard because some time there is no time to keep up with it and the actual work that we are suppose to do as teachers. And it's important to have art in the gallery," said art instructor Analee Fuentes.

The Theater program re-

ceived the largest cuts. Classes like Acting II, III and IV, and the makeup classes were eliminated. This left only basic theater classes like Introduction to Acting, Introduction to Theater and Improvisation as the only classes available for students interested in this field.

"The fall play was suspended because there is no time for Bruce Peterson, technical director, to prepare three plays. The reason is that his job was reduced three-quarter time," declared theater and speech instructor, George Lauris.

In the Music department, classes such as piano and group lessons were cut along with a part-time instructor position.

"The classes are overloaded, too. In my class, Music Fundamentals, I usually have 38 people at the most and right now I have 42, plus I have five private voice lessons to give to fill the space left by the voice lessons group," said music instructor Hal Eastburn.

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LOCAL NEWS

News on happenings around the county including Albany, Corvallis, Lebanon, Philomath, Tangent and Sweet Home



Photos by Mariana Schatte

Protesters gather in Corvallis

Hundreds gathered on the lawn of the Benton County Courthouse in Corvallis Sunday, Oct. 6 for a peaceful protest to a possible war in Iraq. Some carried various messages on signs stating words such as "Stop George's Immoral War," or, "Peace is Patriotic."

Poems, music and speeches echoed the theme of "Not in Our Name." Supporters of local political candidates could be seen walking around with shirts, pamphlets or stickers advertising the names of those running for office. The large event also attracted honks by passing motorists, and some not-so-nice gestures.



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SPORTS

Coverage of competitive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation

Roadrunners beat Clackamas with late surge

by Wendy Geist
 of The Commuter

Friday night's home volleyball match was full of suspense. The Roadrunners were facing second-ranked Clackamas Cougars; just two days after their loss to No. 1 ranked Mt. Hood. Yet, with a total record of 13 wins and three losses, counting preseason matches, the Roadrunners were entering Friday night's game with a hefty winning record.

In the first game, freshman Kellie Kettles and sophomore Kim West contributed a large portion of the kills, but

Clackamas consistently had about an average seven-point lead. Kettles finished with seven kills, and West 11. The first game ended with LBCC ten points behind for a 20-30 score.

In game two, freshman Rebecca Buhl joined West in dominating the kills. But once again Clackamas quickly gained a large lead and took the win 13-30.

If it looked like the Runners had no chance of winning game three, guess again. Head coach Jayme Frazier was working on a way to throw Clackamas off. She switched setters and started the

game with a different lineup.

"It took the second group to change the tempo," said Frazier.

Suddenly things changed. In the middle of game three, LB was up 16 to 7. Near the end, freshman Holly Prinslow and West joined together for a block for a score of 26-20 and the Roadrunners took game three 30-24. The third game turned the momentum to LB's side.

"We were going toward the middle but then we went toward the outside and had a lot of success," said Frazier about offensive control.

If LB was going to add this match to their record of wins they would have to win both game four and game five.

The Runners started off a little behind at the beginning of game four. But by mid-game the two teams were neck and neck. A significant number of service

aces and kills from sophomore Danielle Palmer, sophomore Leslea Brown and Buhl helped the team battle out each point. By now the crowd was getting anxious. The Runners weren't going to give it up to Clackamas. A final smashing block led to game point and LB took the win 30-24. The Runners at this point had not played an opponent in a fifth game match since the second game of the season and was only the fourth time that LB had gone past three games.

A lack of long-game experience did not seem to trouble the Runners at all and it was apparent in game five that the Runners finally had a hold on how to beat Clackamas. They were consistent in covering areas where the Cougars had previously aimed their point-winning kills. A mild injury didn't stop West, along with Buhl, Brown,

Prinslow, Palmer and freshman Amber Opoien from leading the team to a 15-10 game-five win in front of a standing crowd.

The Runners had a very balanced attack in the win with six players having five or more kills. West led the team with 11, while Buhl ended with 10. Mariah Zook had nine kills, and Kettles seven. Opoien and Leslea Brown each had five. LB had both of its setters finish with over 20 assists, Prinslow lead with 24 and Burcham added 21. Janine Dionne had an outstanding defensive effort with 16 digs and Palmer burned the Cougars for six aces. Clackamas packed it up as the Roadrunners celebrated their win to the song "Another One Bites the Dust."

Morale is high, says coach Frazier, "The team played with heart to come back after a two-game (in-league) deficit."

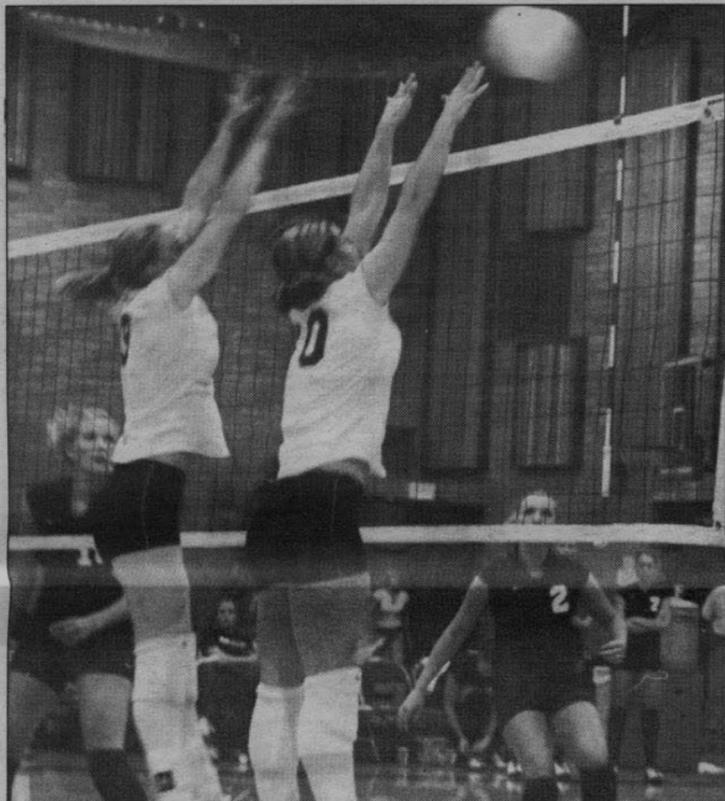


Photo by Stephanie HessenKemper

Jenny Lawrence and Amber Opoien team together for a block in last Friday's winning match against No. 2 Clackamas at LBCC

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SPORTS

Coverage of competitive and recreational activities at LBCC, as well as from around the state and nation

Runners roll through preseason; go 3-2 league

LB opens the season winning an amazing nine straight games

by Jered Reid of The Commuter

"Unity and depth" are the two words that coach Jayme Frazier uses to describe her team's best strengths this volleyball season.

The two words fit her team of five sophomores and seven freshman perfectly, as the Roadrunners have used a balanced attack to accumulate a 14-3 record overall, and a 3-2 record in-league.

Coming off a disappointing season last year that resulted in a 2-10 league record, the Runners have regrouped and currently are third in the division standings. After tonight's match with SW Oregon, the Runners will have completed the first half of the season.

LB started the 2002 season on a roll, winning their first nine non-league matches, all on the road. The team opened the season by playing in the Siskiyou Tournament in Weed, Calif. The Runners won all eight of their matches, losing only two games in the two days of competition.

The Roadrunners continued their preseason by traveling to

Washington, where they defeated Clark Community College 30-24, Kim West led the team with eight kills and 14 digs, while Rebecca Buhl added seven kills and 22 digs. Amanda Burcham and Holly Prinslow both were in double digits in assists with 13 and 10. The next day the Runners were traveling again, playing both Tacoma and Pierce in the same day. LB started the day with a victory over Tacoma 30-25, 30-24, 24-30, 30-23. West had eight kills, while Burcham added 19 assists. The nightcap game against Pierce did not finish in the Runners' favor, however, as they lost their first match of the season 26-30, 30-25, 22-30, 28-30. West and Buhl both had 11 kills, while Burcham had 20 assists. Freshman Holly Prinslow had 12 assists and three aces.

The Roadrunners finished the preseason with two games at home, sweeping both Green River and Linfield 30-13, 30-21, 30-24; and 31-29, 30-15, 30-11. In the Green River contest, West and Kellie Kettles had eight and six assists. Burcham led the team in assists with 19, and Buhl and Amber Opoien each had four aces. Against Linfield, Buhl and Kettles had seven kills a piece, Prinslow added 19 assists, and Burcham had six aces to go along

with her 14 assists.

After the Runners' terrific preseason, they started league play with a road trip to Sale, where division rival Chemeketa swept LB 33-31, 30-22, 30-22. But LB rebounded quickly, sweeping both Umpqua and Lane in their next two matches. Opoien and Kettles each had eight kills against Umpqua, with Burcham dishing out 19 assists and Leslea Brown serving five aces. Frazier got terrific performances from both Buhl and Burcham against Lane. Buhl had 10 kills and four aces, while Burcham had a season-high 23 assists.

Last Wednesday the Lady Runners clashed with division-leading Mt. Hood in the Activities Center. Despite great efforts from West (11 kills) and Burcham (22 assists), the Saints swept 30-16, 30-23, 30-16.

The Runners have great depth this season with two to four solid players at all positions. Frazier has two outstanding freshmen setters in Burcham and Prinslow, and strong players at the net. The Runners have four outside players in sophomore Brown and freshmen Buhl, Rachel Broderick, and Mariah Zook. On the right side are two experienced sophomores, Jenny Lawrence and Danielle Palmer. Playing the middle this season

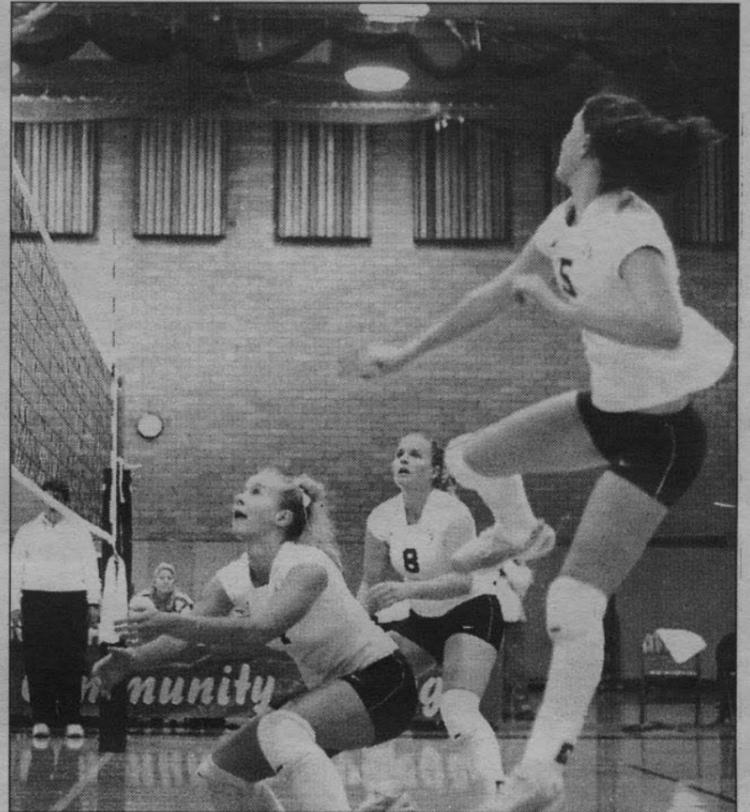


Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Rebecca Buhl goes up for a kill from the left side in last week's game against Mt. Hood Community College, which the Roadrunner's lost in three straight games.

issophomore captain Kim West, and freshmen Kettles and Opoien. Sophomore Janine Dionne is the team's libero this season, which is a defensive specialist.

Despite The Runners' early season success, Coach Frazier stresses to her team to take one game at a time this season, and is optimistic of the Runners' chances to have a solid season.

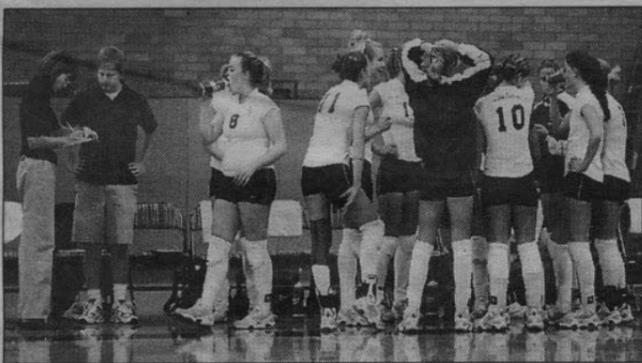


Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Coach Jayme Frazier (left) calls the team together in a huddle during a match last week.

Volleyball Roster 2002

NO.	NAME	YEAR	POSITION	HIGH SCHOOL
1	Holly Prinslow	FR	Setter	Gervais
2	Janine Dionne	SO	Libero	C. Linn
4	Kellie Kettles	FR	Middle	Philomath
5	Rebecca Buhl	FR	Outside	Estacada
6	Rachael Broderick	FR	Outside	Lebanon
7	Leslea Brown	SO	Outside	Ashland
8	Amanda Burcham	FR	Setter	S. Home
9	Amber Opoien	FR	Middle	Monroe
10	Jenny Lawrence	SO	Right	Canby
11	Danielle Palmer	SO	Right	Canby
12	Mariah Zook	FR	Outside	S. Home
13	Kim West	SO	Middle	Philomath

Volleyball Schedule 2002

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Wednesday	Oct. 9	SWOCC	Coos Bay	6 p.m.
Fri-Sat	Oct. 11	Highline College	Des Moines	TBA
Wednesday	Oct. 16	Chemeketa C.C.	LBCC	7 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 18	Umpqua C.C.	LBCC	7 p.m.
Wednesday	Oct. 23	SWOCC	LBCC	6 p.m.
Friday	Oct. 25	Lane C.C.	Eugene	7 p.m.
Wednesday	Oct. 30	Mt. Hood C.C.	Gresham	7 p.m.
Fri-Sat	Nov. 1	Linn Benton	LBCC	TBA
Wednesday	Nov. 13	Clackamas C.C.	Oregon City	7p.m.
Saturday	Nov. 16	Playoff ties	TBA	TBA
Thur-Sat	Nov. 21	Championship	Spokane	TBA
Fri-Sat	Dec. 6	All-Star Event	TBA	TBA

Standings

Mt. Hood	6-0
Clackamas	4-2
Chemeketa	3-2
Linn-Benton	3-2
Lane	2-3
SW Oregon	1-4
Umpqua	0-6

COMMONS Menu Oct. 9-Oct. 15

Wednesday
Pappardella Bolognese
Bouillabaisse over Steamed Rice
Vegetarian Tart
Soups: Beef Noodle
Cream of Broccoli
Salad: Beef Taco Salad
Thursday
Teriyaki Triple Garlic Beef & Cheese Bomber
Sake Chicken Vegetarian Chili over Polenta
Soups: Chili Mac
Beer Cheese
Salad: Grilled Chicken Caesar
Friday
Chef's Choice
Monday
Roast Pork Leg Jus Lie
Shrimp Fried Rice
Macaroni & Cheese
Soups: Chicken Noodle
Cream of Broccoli
Salad: Chefs Salad
Tuesday
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Soups: Beef Vegetable Lentil
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NATIONAL NEWS

News and information
 from the United States
 and the world

Bush lays out rationale for action against Iraq

By Ron Hutcheson
 Knight Ridder Newspapers

CINCINNATI—Trying to rally the nation and the world behind a possible attack on Iraq, President Bush said Monday night that the Iraqi regime is the single gravest danger confronting mankind.

"While there are many dangers in the world, the threat from Iraq stands alone because it gathers the most serious dangers of our age in one place," Bush said, citing Iraq's pursuit of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. "By its past and present actions, by its technological capabilities, by the merciless nature of its regime, Iraq is unique."

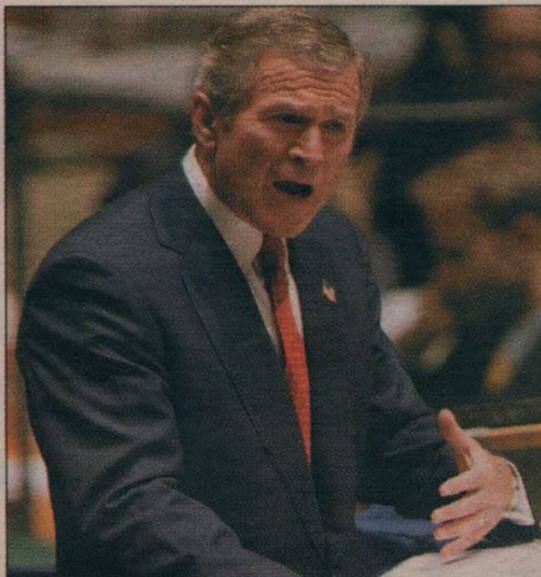
The White House released excerpts of Bush's prepared remarks before the president's scheduled 8 p.m. EDT appearance at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Bush traveled to America's heartland to make the case for war in a prime-time speech designed to muster domestic and international support for military action. His address was timed to influence this week's debate in Congress on a resolution that would authorize him to attack Iraq, but Bush also aimed his remarks at a much larger audience.

Congress is expected to give Bush the broad authority to wage war that he seeks in votes this week or next, but several new polls suggest that domestic support for military action is tentative. While roughly two-thirds of Americans support using force to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, public support plummets if the United States has to act alone or if the war results in heavy U.S. casualties.

Although there was little new in his speech, Bush presented his most detailed case for war on Iraq yet, one year after launching the first air strikes against Afghanistan in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Although Bush assured Congress that passage of a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq "does not mean that military action is imminent or



Source: KRT News

President George W. Bush urges Congress to pass his resolution on Iraq in a speech in Cincinnati on Monday

unavoidable," he left no doubt about his determination to force Iraq to scrap its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs. He heaped scorn on Saddam, ranking him among history's most brutal leaders.

"The time for denying, deceiving and delaying has come to an end," Bush said. "Saddam Hussein must disarm himself—or, for the sake of peace, we will lead a coalition to disarm him."

Bush offered assurances to the Iraqi people that he is committed to rebuilding Iraq after Saddam's ouster.

"America is a friend of the people of Iraq. Our demands are directed only at the regime that enslaves them and threatens us," he said. "When these demands are met, the first and greatest benefit will come to Iraqi men, women and children."

On Capitol Hill Monday, Bush rolled up more support in Congress, as both the House of Representatives and the Senate prepared to vote later this week or next on a resolution authorizing him to use force against Iraq.

House Majority Leader Richard Armey, R-Texas, who in August voiced opposition to a preemptive strike against Iraq, said Monday that he would support the president's resolution because Saddam Hussein represents a "real and present" threat to the United States.

But while many Americans support Bush on Iraq, not all seem to share his sense of urgency. A New York Times/CBS News poll found that two-thirds of those surveyed said they approved of using military force to oust Saddam, but almost the same percentage wanted to give the United Nations more time to resume weapons inspections. The nationwide telephone survey of 668 adults has a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points.

One would-be challenger to Bush's re-election in 2004, Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., publicly decried Bush's approach to foreign policy Monday as too often being "arrogance without purpose."

Bush faces even greater skepticism overseas, where anti-war sentiment is growing as the U.N. Security Council moves toward a decision on Iraq. Steadfast opposition from France and Russia has stalled Bush's push for a U.N. resolution that would authorize force if Iraq fails to permit tough new weapons inspections.

White House aides scheduled Bush's speech for prime time in an attempt to reach the biggest possible television audience. But they did not ask the four major television networks to carry Bush's remarks live, and the networks stuck with their regular line-up.

Bush appeared on the cable news networks opposite NBC's "Fear Factor," ABC's "The Drew Carey Show," CBS's "The King of Queens" and the Major League Baseball playoffs.

Not everyone convinced by Bush Administration's war rhetoric

By Warren P. Strobel, Jonathan S. Landay
 and John Walcott

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON—While President Bush marshals congressional and international support for invading Iraq, a growing number of military officers, intelligence professionals and diplomats in his own government privately have deep misgivings about the administration's double-time march toward war.

These officials charge that administration hawks have exaggerated evidence of the threat that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein poses—including distorting his links to the al-Qaida terrorist network—have overstated the amount of international support for attacking Iraq and have downplayed the potential repercussions of a new war in the Middle East.

They charge that the administration squelches dissenting views and that intelligence analysts are under intense pressure to produce reports supporting the White House's argument that Saddam poses such an immediate threat to the United States that pre-emptive military action is necessary.

"Analysts at the working level in the intelligence community are feeling very strong pressure from the Pentagon to cook the intelligence books," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A dozen other officials echoed his views in interviews with Knight Ridder. No one who was interviewed disagreed.

They cited recent suggestions by Defense Secretary

Donald H. Rumsfeld and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice that Saddam and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network are working together.

Rumsfeld said Sept. 26 that the U.S. government has "bulletproof" confirmation of links between Iraq and al-Qaida members, including "solid evidence" that members of the terrorist network maintain a presence in Iraq.

The facts are much less conclusive. Officials said Rumsfeld's statement was based in part on intercepted telephone calls, in which an al-Qaida member who apparently was passing through Baghdad was overheard calling friends or relatives, intelligence officials said. The intercepts provide no evidence that the suspected terrorist was working with the Iraqi regime or that he was working on a terrorist operation while he was in Iraq, they said.

Rumsfeld also suggested that the Iraqi regime has offered safe haven to bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar.

While technically true, that too is misleading. Intelligence reports said the Iraqi ambassador to Turkey, a longtime Iraqi intelligence officer, made the offer during a visit to Afghanistan in late 1998, after the United States attacked al Qaida training camps with cruise missiles to retaliate for the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. But officials said the same intelligence reports said bin Laden rejected the offer because he didn't want Saddam to control his group.

In fact, the officials said, there's no ironclad evidence that the Iraqi regime and the terrorist network are

working together, or that Saddam has ever contemplated giving chemical or biological weapons to al-Qaida, with whom he has deep ideological differences.

None of the dissenting officials, who work in a number of different agencies, would agree to speak publicly, out of fear of retribution. But many of them have long experience in the Middle East and South Asia, and all spoke in similar terms about their unease with the way that U.S. political leaders are dealing with Iraq.

All agreed that Saddam is a threat who eventually must be dealt with, and none flatly opposes military action. But, they say, the U.S. government has no dramatic new knowledge about the Iraqi leader that justifies Bush's urgent call to arms.

"I've seen nothing that's compelling," said one military officer who has access to intelligence reports.

Some lawmakers have voiced similar concerns after receiving CIA briefings.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said some information he had seen did not support Bush's portrayal of the Iraqi threat.

"It's troubling to have classified information that contradicts statements made by the administration," Durbin said. "There's more they should share with the public."

Several administration and intelligence officials defended CIA Director George Tenet, saying Tenet is not pressuring his analysts, but is quietly working to include dissenting opinions in intelligence estimates and congressional briefings.

The Commuter Staff

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The Commuter
 6500 S.W. Pacific Blvd.
 Albany, OR 97321

Editor-in-Chief: Wendy Geist
Managing Editor: Erin Bartelds
Contributing Editor: Adele Kubein
Editorial Assistant: Heather Scott
Design Editor: Evan Johnson
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