

JAZZED UP

Eleven Eyes brings a fresh blend of jazz and fusion with a hip-hop beat to the local music scene **▶ Pg. 7**

PRICE WARS

LB Bookstore stays competitive with online sources as textbook prices soar **▶ Pg. 5**



www.linnbenton.edu/commuter

THE COMMUTER

A WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2003

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 34 No. 10

Details of program cuts slowly emerging

by Wendy Geist and Heather Scott of The Commuter

Although college officials are not yet ready to release a list of programs being cut next year, many students are learning through their instructors of changes they'll see in 2002-03.

While everyone is holding onto the hope that Measure 28 will pass and alleviate the pain, the college is moving ahead with plans to eliminate some programs, such as electronics engineering and geography, and to reduce others, including photography and emergency medical technician training.

The proposed \$2.8 million in budget reductions will involve cutting 201 course offerings and a total of 30 management, faculty and classified staff.

Last Friday, photo instructor Rich

Bergeman met with photo majors to discuss how the cuts will affect them. He told them that the Associate of Science degree in photography may not be offered next year because of the projected elimination of the program's instructional lab assistant. Courses in color and studio photography are slated to be eliminated and all other advanced courses will be cut from two sections per year to one. It is still being considered whether a photography major will be packaged on to another degree.

Thomas Broxson, the geography instructor at LB for the past four years, has also told students that there won't be any geography courses offered at the college next year because his position will be eliminated. Broxson teaches three to four courses in geography a term, including

▼ Turn to "Program Cuts" on Pg. 6



Once popular electronics degree falls to budget axe

by Wendy Geist of The Commuter

Instructional program cuts are taking a hard swing at LBCC's Electronics Engineering Program (EET).

Under budget cuts laid out by college administrators, the two-year program will not take in any first-year students in the fall of 2003. Students will finish their

degrees in the spring of 2004, and then the program will be terminated.

The loss of the program will mean that two faculty and 1.25 lab support people who conduct the 14 courses of the program will have to be cut. Second-year instructor Al Bailey will be the only faculty from the program to stay next year.

The program, which has been around

▼ Turn to "Electronics" on Pg. 6



Thousands of teachers and education backers crowd onto the Capitol Mall in Salem on Monday to show support for Measure 28, a temporary income tax increase that may help reduce the impact of pending budget cuts. Gov. Ted Kulongowski (left) told rally participants that while education is a top priority in his new administration, the state's budget crisis will take time to solve.

Photos by Jeremy Hennig



Photo by Thomas Lin

Pam Chapman drives the noon route for the Loop Bus.

Fewer students using free bus pass

by Thomas Lin of The Commuter

Dean of Student Services, Diane Watson, is puzzled by declining ridership on the Linn-Benton Loop Transit System.

According to data collected by Albany Transit, the number of passengers taking the Loop had been increasing year to year since the "pass program" began subsidizing students in July 2000. But the numbers for last October and November dropped by more than 20 percent compared to the same period a year earlier.

"I was wondering if students didn't realize that with their validated ID card they can ride the bus free," Watson said. But lack of awareness is hard to explain, she said. Students were informed of the free rides during orientation, it was reported in an Oct. 9 issue of

"I was wondering if students didn't realize that with their validated ID card they can ride the bus free."

▶ Diane Watson

the Commuter, the information was printed in the Student Services section of the Schedule of Classes, and it was promoted during Try-Transit Week.

Part of the problem may be inconsistent communication. Over the past year, freshman psychology major, Matt Holbert, has relied on the Loop to get from his Corvallis home to classes at LBCC. He said he was told about the free rides at registration last winter term but

▼ Turn to "LB Loop" on Pg. 4

WEATHER THROUGH THE WEEKEND

SOURCE: WWW.WEATHER.COM



Opinion.....	2
Campus News.....	3-6, 9
A & E.....	7
Funny Page.....	8
Sports.....	10-11
National News.....	12

INDEX
THE
COMMUTER

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

OPINION

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

Teachers who touch lives gain gratitude

In this time of budget cuts and course cancellations, it is tempting to blame everything, including the educational system. Recently, I have read letters to editors of various Oregon publications that put teachers down for making too much money, refusing pay and benefit cuts, etc.

Teachers, even at the university level, do not make as much as engineers, software designers, computer jocks, middle- and upper-level managers, and even some blue-collar professionals such as painting and landscaping contractors.

Yet teachers, who hold the future of our children and of our economy in their hands, are often treated as unimportant workers. Some people feel they don't work hard enough or they should not demonstrate for higher wages or benefits. In reality, they spend long years gaining a degree and many additional hours in and out of the classroom studying to keep their knowledge current. The amount they can owe in college loans upon graduation can top \$40,000.

Teachers spend many unpaid hours at home working on course curricula, work many "invisible" hours grading, in parent teacher conferences and helping students that have no where else to turn to

for tutoring and counsel.

The stress levels are tremendous. Teachers have pressure from their superiors to keep up the class grades, parents are often argumentative when their child does not get the expected grade, older students, especially at the high school and university level will sometimes slander a teacher or professor that does not give them the grade they feel they deserve. The need for 'political correctness' is an added strain. A teacher or professor must always be alert to the image they portray. Privacy can not be taken for granted, a teacher has to think about what they are doing in public at all times.

Just one good teacher can have a huge impact on a person's life. I have had several student-teacher experiences that have changed my life.

Mrs. Cazares was a teacher who worked with an inner city program for drop-outs. At the time I did not appreciate her, but in retrospect I realize what a

gift she gave us. We were street children headed toward disaster. She was an East Indian lady who had been classically educated in Spain and the finest schools in Europe. Instead of taking a professorship in some elite private school, she spent almost every waking hour helping us with everything from math to the arts.

I had only progressed to long division when I met her. She spent countless hours teaching me beginning algebra, Castilian Spanish, proper English, and so many intangible things, such as compassion for others and dignity. She always treated us with respect and made us feel special. She filled our after school hours with dancing lessons, outings and even how to play the castanets and other instruments. She kept us out of trouble in a loving, caring way. I know she only earned a pittance for the work she did, but helping us fulfill our potential was, for her, more important than money.

Later in life, at LBCC I had some math instructors that never made me feel stupid, who showed me that I could indeed learn mathematics and patiently led me through the courses. I managed to get As in classes I never thought I could comprehend.

Instructors at LB make far less than OSU professors, yet, on the whole, work longer hours and provide a great service by helping us along the path to an education. They are just as dedicated as any professor and pave the way for our future accomplishments.

I know elementary teachers that provide stability and love. They are the only good role models that some children have. These teachers take their concerns home with them and agonize over the children they teach.

As in every profession, there are the not-so-good, but teachers who don't care don't have much incentive to stay in the job. The stress is high, the pay not so good. They could do other things with their degree and many of them do. The majority of teachers out there are in it for the satisfaction they get from their jobs. Let them know they are appreciated, a good word from a student means a lot to them, that is why they do what they do.

IN MY

Adele
Kubein



OPINION



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.linnbenton.edu

Is MLK's dream fulfilled, or still a long way off?

by Leonard Pitts Jr.
 Knight Ridder Newspapers

Martin Luther King Day.

Over at the White House, they're marking the day by the festive ritual of extending the middle finger to the civil rights establishment. Last week, President Bush came out against a University of Michigan affirmative-action program designed to foster racial diversity on campus. He's concerned that the policy, which is now before the Supreme Court, discriminates against white kids.

(One wonders where all this concern over discrimination was when the president was campaigning at Bob Jones University, which is infamous for its ban on interracial dating. But that's another column.)

It has been suggested that the

president chose this latest fight from a need to tack to his right, offer a sop to his conservative base, after being compelled to lambaste Trent Lott a few weeks ago. Without disagreeing with that suggestion, let me offer another:

I don't think the president thinks race matters.

You got a sense of that in Bush's statement on the Michigan case. The university's policy — a point system that rewards applicants for being members of a racial minority — may have good intentions, he said, "but its result is discrimination, and that discrimination is wrong." Like many foes of affirmative action, the president tacitly equates the decades of institutionalized exclusion the practice seeks to address with the relatively minor hurdle it represents to prospec-

tive white students.

That's an affront to history itself. But it is not a surprise.

Bush only echoes the so-called "colorblind" view that has crept into the mainstream of white thought in recent years, a view that treats even the mention of race as a lapse in decorum. In this view, it is never proper or necessary to take color into account. Just last week, a New York Times letter writer described as "dangerous and outmoded" the notion that race matters.

The writer is guilty of wishful thinking.

Yes, we've made great progress on this front. Indeed, for my money, racism isn't even the most pressing issue facing the black community in 2003. I'd rank black-on-black crime and fatherless homes above it.

And yet, racism is still the

problem that undergirds all the others.

Consider a recent study conducted by professors at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They sent out 5,000 resumes in response to newspaper want ads. All the fictitious applicants had similar qualifications. But those in one group had so-called "white-sounding" names: Emily, Gregg, Brett and so forth. The other group was full of people with names like Tameka, Ebony and Kareem.

It ought not surprise you to learn that the "white" group heard back from prospective employers twice as often as the black one. Not to put too fine a point on it, but a man who is shut out of the job market by his skin color is, it seems to me,

more likely to engage in crime or to leave his children fatherless.

And here, the usual people will make the usual weak attempts to rationalize race out of the equation. Somebody — bank on it — will fault black people for, as one of my readers once put it, choosing names that distance their children from "normal society." As if black parents, alone among all parents, should not have the right to pick baby names that reflect their creativity or heritage. What a stupid and arrogant view.

No, if you're honest with yourself, you know exactly what the study is telling us.

Of course, that's a big if in a nation where people from the president on down have convinced themselves that we've arrived at "someday."

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

Candidates sought for student government positions

by **Kimberly Nelson**
 of The Commuter

Elections for student government are coming up in February and all students interested in holding office are encouraged to apply for one of the eight seats.

Current ASG President Roxanne Allen, says that a position in the ASG is rewarding because officers come to know a lot about LBCC and its staff.

Student government officers are able to participate in leadership retreats to places like Mt. Hood, where speakers,

workshops and other information is available to them.

Allen is in her third year with ASG and says she enjoys getting to know all of the teachers on campus along with many of the students. Allen also enjoys being able to help students who need it. "I just keep coming back," Allen said.

President, vice president, and public relations secretary are the three main positions, although eight total positions will be open. These ASG positions require that the student be in the Student Life & Leadership office five hours a

week. Elected officials will receive a grant for 12 credits for three terms.

Other positions open are; representative for the business and health occupations, health and human performance, science and industry, Students Services/Extended Learning divisions and an at-large position. These positions require three office hours a week and provide a 12-credit grant for two terms.

Students can pick up and drop off applications at the Student Life & Leadership office, located in the Forum next to the recreation room. Once an application

is received, students may begin campaigning. All applications must be received by noon, Feb. 14. A candidate debate is scheduled for Feb. 19 in the Commons at noon. Candidates will participate in a discussion, then audience members will be allowed to ask questions. Free pizza will be available.

Students may vote Feb. 25 and 26 on the ASG's election Web site. All votes must be in by midnight of Feb. 26. Students can view candidates, information about ASG and the voting results at www.linnbenton.edu/election.

Health clinic offers low-cost services

by **Heather James**
 of The Commuter

Most people who attend LBCC are unaware that there is a health clinic located on the main floor of Takena Hall that is open every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is available to all students free of cost, or at a low fee depending on your annual income.

There is no appointment needed though it is recommended, as you may have to wait.

On a typical day up to 25 students come and see us, explains nurse Lita Friedte. The

nurses can answer questions you may have and refer you to a doctor if needed.

The clinic is sponsored by the Associated Student Government of LBCC, Student Services Division, and Linn County Health Department.

The clinic provides immunizations, treatment for minor illnesses, sports and required physicals, STD exams and treatment, reproductive health care, pregnancy testing and HIV counseling and testing.

To reach the clinic call 967-3888 or 800-304-7468, and by email www.linnbenton.edu/healthservices.

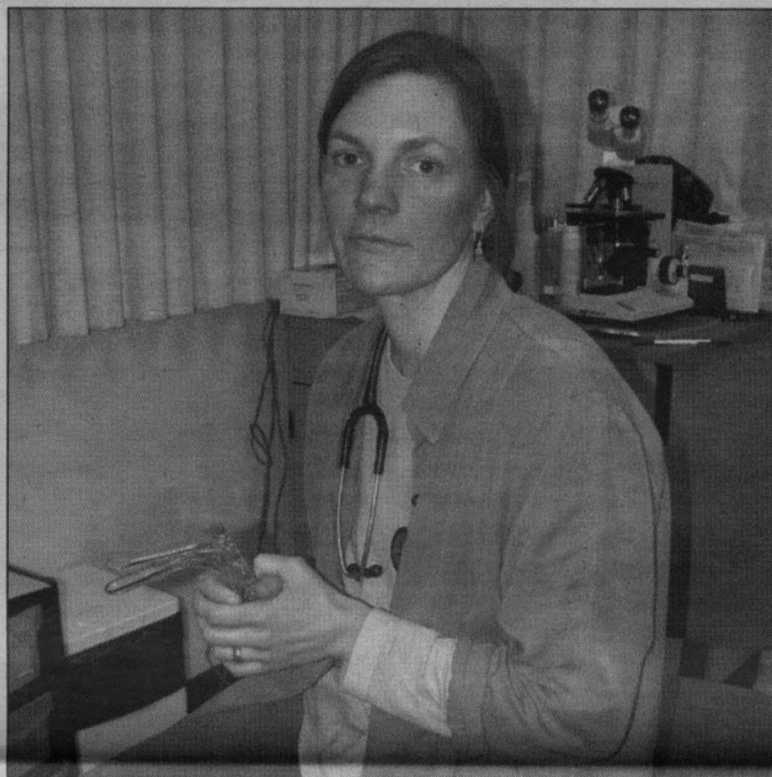


Photo by Bonnie Quinones
Nurse practitioner Sally Mering works with nurse Lita Friedte in the Student Health Clinic on Wednesdays.

MLK event airs diversity

by **Dee Denver**
 of The Commuter

As part of the Martin Luther King Jr. week celebration, there will be an open mike Jan. 23 from noon to 1 p.m., in Forum 104. People are encouraged to speak out about diversity and discrimination, through poetry, song, testimonials and stories.

Sponsored by the Gay-Straight Alliance club, this event is intended to raise awareness of campus diversity and discrimination. According to the event coordinator, Rebekah Sudia, this will give Linn-Benton students the opportunity to let their voices be heard. "Don't be afraid to be different," Sudia emphasized.

Talk to shed light on mental illness

by **Wendy Geist**
 of The Commuter

One in five families deal with mental illness. But for an illness that is so prevalent in society, it is also riddled with myths, fears and misconceptions.

Mike Rinkin, executive director of Compassion Ministries in Albany, will be holding a seminar called "Hear the Music Again," Sat., Feb. 1 in the Fireside Room on LBCC's main campus.

Rinkin, who has been educating people on mental illness for nine years, hopes to rid society of those fears and anxieties about the illness. He will lead the day-long seminar in which people will share their personal stories with mental illness and a mental health professional will be talking about medications and therapies.

Participants will use hands on experience to understand the illness, and topics covered will include community services available and the myths and stigma about mental illness.

"Mental illness is not mental retardation," explains Rinkin, "It is a biological-based brain disease." There is no cure for it. The only thing that can be done is to "alleviate or control the illness through medication and therapy," he says.

Rinkin lists the three major mental illnesses as major depression, bipolar (or mania, manic depression) and schizophrenia.

"No amount of positive thinking or no amount of picking yourself up by the bootstraps can get you out of (major depression)," says Rinkin. But the depression associated with losing a loved one or being down in the dumps is not considered major depression, he stresses. Major depression is a kind of depression in which no one can talk you out of it.

Bipolar, which is also a mood disorder, is more of a double whammy to people, he explains. Imagine starting your car up and letting the en-

gine race for a day or more. The car would either run out of gas or the engine would blow up. This can be compared to what people with bipolar disorder go through, says Rinkin. They go for a day or two without any or very little sleep, and afterwards crash and go into major depression.

"Schizophrenia is probably the most misunderstood, the most feared of all the major mental illnesses," says Rinkin, because they get the bad rap that they are dangerous to society.

"But they aren't anymore dangerous than the average person on the street as long as they are on their medication," he says. People with schizophrenia have delusions and hear voices but can't turn them off in their head.

Mental illness "crosses all lines of society" and can start at any age, says Rinkin, whose son started showing signs of bipolar disorder at the age of 12. There is also a strong stigma associated with any mental illness, Rinkin says, explaining how he knows doctors, attorneys and pastors who deal with mental illness themselves but have never been diagnosed for fear of losing their job or insurance.

According to Rinkin, his seminar attracts people who are dealing with mental illness themselves and are looking for ways to cope. It also attracts family members of someone with a mental illness who are looking for ways to understand the illness.

"Hear the Music Again" will be held Sat., Feb. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room, CC 211, on the second floor of the College Center. Pre-register by Wednesday, Jan. 29.


The cost is \$10 for students or \$15 at the door. For non-students the pre-registration cost is \$15 or \$20 at the door. Registration includes materials, beverage and snack. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Send checks payable to Compassion Ministries, 1305 Front Ave. NE, Albany, Ore. 97321, or call 541-928-6382.

Spend the day in Portland at:
Powell's City of Books
 Plus lunch at Thai Orchid Restaurant
Saturday Feb. 8
 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.


The trip is free to the next 7 students that sign up at Student Life & Leadership.

Each student receives a \$15.00 gift certificate towards a book purchase and \$7.00 to help cover the cost of lunch for each student.

 **Little Caesars**
 Best Pizza Value in America.

BUY 1 PIZZA AND RECEIVE AN 8 PC. CRAZY BREAD FREE WITH THIS AD!!

541-928-1000
 1705 HILL STREET S.E.
 ALBANY



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

Off Beat

From KRT News

Unwanted House Sitters

An old man went on vacation for three weeks, and, when he returned to his Carrboro, N.C., home, he found three homeless guys sitting in his living room watching TV.

They had apparently moved in while he was away. He had them arrested.

Killer Allibi

A Mafia hitman testified in court in Messina, Sicily, that he could not possibly have committed the murders of two men as the prosecutors charged.

This is because, he said, he was busy killing two other men at the time.

Smile for the Camera

A 16-year-old purse snatcher was under the mistaken impression that newly installed security cameras in Toyonaka, Japan, were just dummies, aimed at discouraging criminal activity. So, he ripped off the handbag of an old woman.

His image was clearly captured by at least five cameras, as the police revealed when they arrested him.

Criminals 11

Police say that five days after a thief was released from a Kentucky prison by the governor to save money, he robbed a bank.

Then, he robbed another three days after that. Eight days later, the cops say, he went back to the first bank and robbed it again. He is back in jail despite the cost.

Security Surprise

A thief reached into a car stopped at a traffic light in Redfern, Australia, and snatched a canvas bag sitting on the front seat.

Police speculate that he must have been greatly surprised to find that the bag contained a venomous, red-bellied black snake.

Age is Only a Number

After a night of working hard for the money, a prostitute in Bochum, Germany, was strolling home in the early morning when she was set upon by a robber who relieved her of the evening's proceeds.

She reported the incident to police who were surprised as they had never before seen a 77-year-old lady of the evening.

One said, "It's a very unusual case."

CAMPUS SHORTS

Diabetes Info

Family Connections is holding a Work/Life Seminar called "Diabetes: What You Should Know." Lindy Lear-Konold, a certified diabetes educator and advanced registered nurse practitioner with 15 years of experience and special training in the field of diabetes, will present basic information about diabetes, new therapies/ideas, and prevention and misconceptions. Students, staff and family members are welcome. The talk will be Wednesday, Jan. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Call 917-4897 to sign up.

Big Night Out

An evening of food and music is scheduled for Sat. Jan 25

from 6 to 11 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Corvallis as a benefit for medical expenses for former LBCC employee, Lani Diehm Hudson, who was a counselor in East Linn. Lani has huge medical expenses as she continues her search for a cure for cancer.

The benefit includes a gourmet dinner, an array of non-stop live music and a silent auction. LB staff Mark Weiss and Audrey Perkins will be performing. The suggested donation is \$20. Tickets are available at Grass Roots Bookstore in Corvallis, and at the door. On campus, tickets are available from Liz Pearce-Smith at the FRC, and in the Career Center from Angie Klampe, Dael Dixon or Sherry Rosen.



Photo by Thomas Lin

Matt Halbert, an LBCC freshman uses the LB loop three days a week.

LB Loop: An increase in student riders benefits all

▲ From Pg. 1

not at subsequent registrations.

First-term freshman Ed Kline, another regular on the Loop, said he learned about the program from his girlfriend.

Conflicting messages also exist. The Linn-Benton Loop bus schedule and Albany Transit web site (www.ci.albany.or.us/pages/bus/bus_services.html) still quote student passes at \$55.

Pam Chapman, who drives the noontime shift, said many students were still trying to pay a dollar when they boarded the bus last term. "Don't you have an ID card?" she would ask them.

Diane Watson said the pass program uses about \$15,000 a year from the school's general fund.

She said the actual cost of Loop rides per passenger is probably about \$3 now, but the cost to customers is only \$1, because "a number of partners are subsidizing it to bring the price down for the public." The pass program pays that \$1 for registered students.

Chapman said that 2002 was

a bottleneck year for mechanical breakdowns, which could have affected ridership. At the same time, "breakdowns happen. These buses are on the road for 12 hours a day, five days a week."

This term, whether due to better communication or improved dependability, ridership appears to be up again.

Numbers for January are not yet available, but Holbert and Kline both attest to teeming buses during peak morning and afternoon hours. The regular driver said that at 8:15 a.m. 50-plus passengers often squeeze into the bus. Some even have to stand.

Even with its occasional ups and downs, taking the Loop has its advantages. "Fall quarter we had a difficult time finding a parking place (on campus)," Dean Watson said. "The bus is a good alternative to that."

By taking the bus, students also consume less gas, easing the burden on the environment and their pocketbooks. Students who haven't tried the Loop better get in line early, if they want a seat, that is.

Student boom leaves few classes

by Erin Bartelds
of The Commuter

Tuesday saw 82 percent of all credit class seats full this term with a mere 18 percent available to students looking to add classes.

"Just like fall term, people clearly saw that classes were going to fill fast. So as soon as we opened registration for continuing students, that first week of registration was up by 40 percent compared to last winter. Continuing students were really on the ball getting into classes. The number of filled and wait-listed classes is up by the hundreds of percents compared to last year," said Bruce Clemetsen, Director of Enrollment Management.

And students registered smart, using phone and online services he explained.

"That is exactly what we had hoped people would do. The number of people using the computer compared to coming in (to register) was four to one," said Clemetsen.

New features within the college's computer systems are working to assist students with those sticky registration problems. For the past year newly enrolling students have been able to immediately access online registration after orientation, in lieu of standing in line.

"In fact some of the orientations are now being scheduled in computer labs so administrators can show students how to use Roadmap and SIS (Student Information System) simultaneously. Advisors are trying to show students this feature; particularly because every second counts during registration," Clemetsen said.

One feature a lot of students don't know about and don't use within the SIS program is a course search feature that allows you to search by department, instructor, day, time, etc. It will list all your classes and they'll have check boxes next to them. If they are still open then you can click the box and immediately register from there for that class or you can have it added to the group of classes that you want to register for.

Clemetsen mentions, "What's nice about Roadmap is that we have just added additional sorting features based on various degrees and their requirements to try to speed the process up. So people can find exact classes faster. That functionality doesn't exist in SIS, so if you really need to know what cultural diversity courses are offered, you are going to need to use Roadmap."

Another advantage of using the Roadmap program is that it is easier to see where classes are held; it separates classes from

the main campus or one of the centers.

"A lot of people used it fall term. But unless you read the building codes to know where it was then you just saw it was open, registered and then realize on the day of the class that it's half way across the county," said Clemetsen.

But even with quicker and more convenient services, frustrations have not been eliminated for newer students.

"People who waited to get through the admissions process to take 12 credits tried to get 11 credits on the first day of open registration and are now having a hard time finding that next class to get them to full-time," said Clemetsen.

The good news is that whatever credits you do take, the total will add up and give you priority registration in future terms.

Clemetsen says, "There is still that benefit of getting through the first term even if none of the classes are what you wanted. It's time to experiment with

"People who waited to get through the admissions process to take 12 credits tried to get 11 credits on the first day of open registration and are now having a hard time finding that next class to get them to full-time."

▶ Bruce Clemetsen

classes; do something that you might not have taken before. In most degree programs there are elective credits, so even though it's not in the catalog or on the graduation check sheet, most programs have room to take elective credits."

Keep in mind that financial aid students in a two-year degree actually get nine terms for tuition. So if you hit a term where it's difficult to find classes there is some flexibility.

More good news is that the Dual Enrollment program continues to expand; advances are being made in other programs that will potentially attract other students.

"Our partnership with Oregon State University continues to create some developments that are completely unique in the state and are starting to provide opportunities for students that didn't exist before," said Clemetsen.

It seems that although times are changing and problems arise, LBCC still has the flexibility to adapt and the potential to accommodate a new era.

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

Bookstore gets smallest slice of textbook pie

How many times have you said to a friend, after standing in the endless line at the LBCC Bookstore, "You'll never believe how much I paid for books this term?"

It's a common lament among students on campus— discussing the overwhelming cost of paying for classes, as well as cleaning out pockets for the materials to accompany them.

Purchasing books for a full course load usually means an expenditure of \$200 to as much as \$500, depending on the student's major. For example, an AAOI major taking MATH111, SP218, ENG108 and GEOG121 would have to spend about \$283 for the required texts.

High book prices are not the result of greedy workers or college budget needs, but rather dictated by the publishers. According to the NACS (National Association of College Store) and Association of American Publishers, the bookstore itself receives only 4.7 cents on the dollar. Bookstore salaries and benefits are provided with the 11.4 cents per dollar offered and 6.8 cents goes to store operations, such as insurance and utilities. A total of 64.3 cents is taken by the publisher for various fees— 1.3 cents is used for freight, and the author of the book receives the remaining 11.5 cents.

"The Bookstore is a cost recovery operation," said Brenda Pace, fourth-year manager and 12-year veteran of the LBCC Bookstore. "It is not subsidized with general fund dollars. The bookstore is designed to generate enough money to cover all expenses including salaries and benefits for all bookstore employees and to purchase inventory each year."

The Bookstore's gross margin for textbooks is 20 percent.

The margin is the difference between amount spent for books and the amount taken in through book sales. According to the NACS, the national average is 26 percent. The margin covers salaries and benefits for employees, purchasing inventory for the upcoming year, student scholarships, and special donations that work to directly benefit students.

"The 20 percent gross margin on textbooks has not increased in 20 years. We continue to pay increasing expenses through the year with the same margin," said Pace. Cheaper prices in the bookstore are therefore not an option. "If we did [sell books cheaper] we wouldn't break even and wouldn't be able to stay in business."

Books for the LBCC Bookstore are purchased first from the students through the book buy-back process.



Photo by Denise Nelson

Gabe Santoyo, an exercise and sports science major, gathers texts needed for his classes this term from the rapidly emptying shelves of the LBCC Bookstore. Despite several online alternatives for book buying, the vast majority of students prefer using the Bookstore.

If enough books cannot be purchased from students, wholesale used-book companies are used to obtain a practical amount. Lastly, publishers are contacted to fill gaps in book availability.

"The exception is when a new edition is available. There wouldn't be any used books available to purchase from students or wholesale book companies. We would then purchase the entire quantity from the publisher," said Pace.

Bookstore expenditures in the 2001/2002 school year equaled \$1,635,443 according to Pace. "Currently, textbook sales are running approximately 90 percent.

Stories by
Heather Scott



We return about 10 percent back to the publisher."

The Bookstore staff keeps close numbers on textbook sale percentages by working with faculty. Textbook needs are determined for each class by estimating enrollment. This helps to reduce or eliminate over- and under-spending.

Book-buy-back is offered to "assist students with the cost of their education." A contracted wholesale book-company conducts book buy-back during finals week each term. The bookstore then buys the used books from the contracted company.

"When we purchase used books from our students, we aren't paying expensive freight charges to transportation companies," said Pace.

Last year [July 2001 through June 2002] 20 percent of total textbook spending for the Bookstore was spent on buying back books from students. The Bookstore pays 50 percent of the new book price whether the book was purchased used or new.

The Bookstore requires only that the book be in decent condition, the Bookstore to be in need of additional copies, and an instructor plans to use the book in the upcoming term. Surprisingly, most students don't sell them back.

"We attempt to buy back every title possible," said Pace. "There are some restrictions out of our control, such as instructors request that workbooks not be sold used."

Buying used books may leave students with spare change. Used books being sold at the LBCC Bookstore are priced 25 percent cheaper than new books.

Reserving or purchasing books online via the Bookstore Web site may ensure a student's ability to buy used books by getting to them before they're sold out.

Although Pace is sure that textbook prices will continue to increase, she concludes that the reason is justifiable. "As we become more educated in the differences in learning, publishers will continue to assist instructors in developing additional learning tools to accompany textbooks, such as visual aids and pin codes for accessing study tools online. All these additions have a value and that value is passed along to the end user in the form of the price for textbooks."

Online book sellers can not compete with LB Bookstore

Regardless of the continued rise of book prices and the increase in Internet technology, a majority of LBCC students still occupy the line outside the Bookstore at the beginning of each term.

An estimated 20,801 students showed up this fall to receive their books from the Bookstore rather than other sources, such as the online book sellers Amazon.com or ecampus.com.

"When you buy them from the bookstore you get them faster and you don't have to worry about people losing them in the mail," said welding technician major DJ Seufert.

A comparison of prices from the LB Bookstore, and the three most popular online sites— Amazon.com, Textbookx.com, and Ecampus.com—showed that despite what students might assume, LB was actually cheaper than many of the online sources.

For instance, a Psychology 231 book that was \$79.70 new at

the LBCC Bookstore was over \$81 at two of the online sources, and at Amazon.com the book was priced at exactly \$88.

The site that offered superior bargains, besting the LB Bookstore in four out of the eight books in The Commuter's sample, was Textbookx.com. Ecampus.com was higher for all the books sampled, and Amazon was more expensive for five out of the eight books [see accompanying chart.]

Also, the basic book price online is just the beginning. Shipping and handling costs are added to the bill at check-

out, and then there's the cost to return the book if you decide to drop a class.

Online bookstores present other problems for students. For example, one book for a Spanish class was unavailable at all three of the online stores, and

none of the three carried all the texts in The Commuter's sample.

The financial aid that some students receive may also sway a student's decision to purchase books at the college store. Financial aid allows students to purchase books before they receive their check in the mail. Without this partnership between the Financial Aid Office and the Bookstore, some students may not be able to afford books before classes start.

The assortment of editions available for particular books is yet another problem students must be aware of. Even though

the name of the book may be the same, the instructor may have a preference for a certain edition, and having the wrong edition could cause confusion for students during the course.

"[Something] to consider is, the Bookstore receives textbook orders directly from the instructor of the course. This is first-hand information and we have the ability to ensure the exact text for the course," said LBCC Bookstore Manager Brenda Pace.

"For the most part our student population appears to have a high level of confidence in our knowledge and ability to provide the exact editions of textbooks for classes."

LBCC student Casey Bond agrees:

"It's more convenient. You can go there, get the book you need. You know they [the books] are going to be there. You don't have to look around as much and you don't have to order them and wait."

COMPARISON OF TYPICAL TEXTBOOK PRICES

Class/Text	Bookstore	Amazon	Textbookx	E-Campus
BIO 101				
Living World	\$98.45	\$110.05	\$95.67	\$105.65
GEOG 121				
Intro. Phys. Geog.	\$80	\$90.88	\$78.37	\$105.84
MTH 111				
College Algebra	\$86.90	\$93.95	\$86.98	X
PHY 201				
Physics	\$112.50	\$135.90	\$105.40	X
SPN 102				
Panorama	\$71.25	X	X	X
WRT 121				
Bedford Reader	\$42.50	X	X	\$42.73
PSY 231				
Human Sexuality	\$79.70	\$88	\$81.48	\$84.48
REF/HEAT/AIR				
Refrig. & AC Tech.	\$85.95	\$84.95	\$80.87	\$89.23

X - The book was unavailable at the online store.
 Research compiled Jan. 15, 2003

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

Cuts: Geography, apprenticeships, photography and EMT affected

▲ From Pg. 1

map interpretation, physical geography, cultural geography and environmental studies.

According to Broxson, the number of geography courses increased in 1999 due to a greater demand for those classes by students in the OSU dual enrollment program.

"I am concerned there will be a lack of classes at LBCC that deal with non-western parts of the world," said Broxson, whose classes include the geography of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and Latin America. "Since 9-11 there has been an interest in learning about other cultures."

Broxson said he has enjoyed being involved with students in the Model Arab League and is sad to leave. "I am very happy here and was planning on staying a long time. I like the small class size, the culture is very positive in the classrooms because everyone is happy to be there. It is a great place to teach. But budget cuts happen."

Other programs affected by cuts include:

- Electronics Engineering Technology, which won't be accepting new students for fall 2003. The second year of the program will be offered next year, and then it will be discontinued.

- Apprenticeship classes, which will not be supported by the general fund next year. Officials in the Engineering and Industrial Division said they will work with industries to explore alterna-

"I am concerned there will be a lack of classes at LBCC that deal with non-western parts of the world. Since 9-11 there has been an interest in learning about other cultures."

▶ Thomas Broxson

tive funding options for these courses.

- Emergency Medical Technician certificate program, which will be eliminating classes currently part of the one-year certificate program. The hope is that there will still be a certificate but with fewer credits.

The reductions are painful and difficult to come to, officials said.

"We continue to see an increase in the number of students who want to take classes at LBCC at the same time we are having to make reductions in what is available to them," said Gary Ruppert, director of the Arts and Communication Division. "The cuts were made based on the basis of where dollars could be saved that had an impact on the least number of students. The reductions were not based on which classes or programs were more important but which ones would affect the least number of students campus wide."

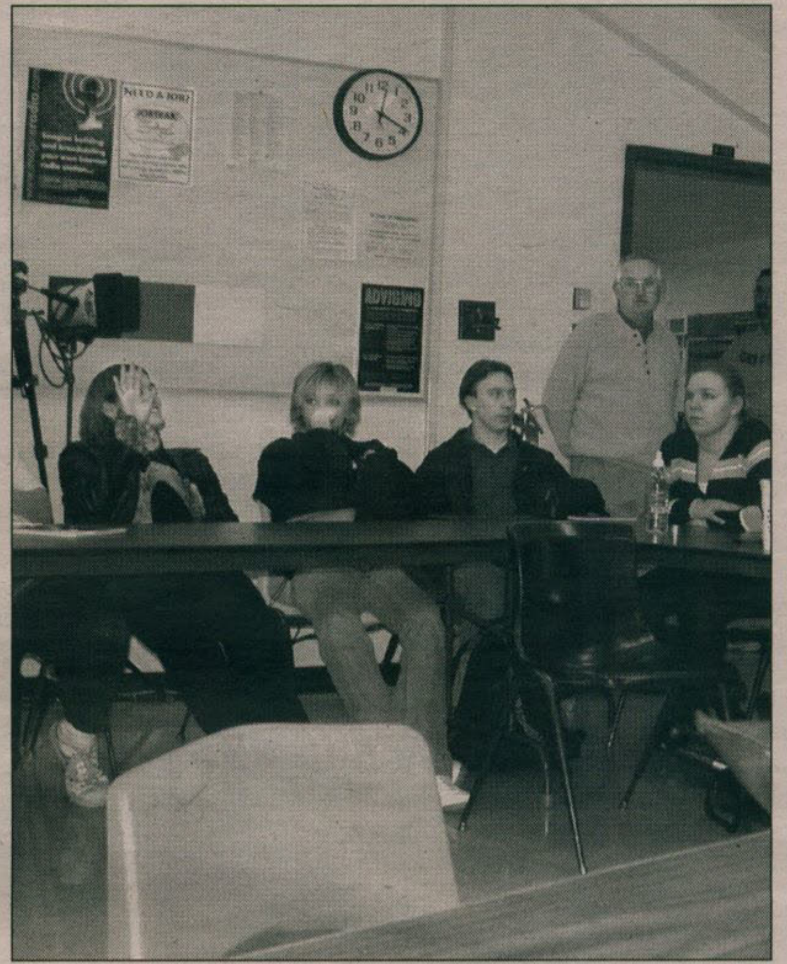


Photo by Bonnie Quinones

Photo Lab Instructional Assistant Kurt Norlin (back, right) joins students and other staff at the photography majors meeting last Friday to hear about upcoming cuts to the program. With the elimination of the instructional lab assistant position, the program will have to reduce the number of lab classes offered.

Electronics: HP's downgrade results in program cuts at LB

▲ From Pg. 1

for about 25 years, was primarily made for Hewlett Packard (HP) in Corvallis, said Bailey, who has taught at LB for eight years. There was a time when 95 percent of LB's EET graduates went straight into employment at HP after graduation, he said.

Bailey explains demand for the Inkjet printer was so high that HP couldn't make them fast enough and the company was supporting the college with approximately \$100,000 a year for a technician apprenticeship program.

But because of a slow economy, HP and other local businesses haven't been hiring EET students for the last two years. In Bailey's first years as an instructor at LB, he saw 100 percent of the students find jobs before they graduated.

"Last year was the worst I have ever seen," said Bailey. "I, myself, didn't find even one job for our students."

"I probably would have cut our program, too, based on the current number of students we have and the cost of the program. But I think the effects are going to be far reaching," said Bailey.

A former instructor of the program explained to Bailey that cycles in enrollment have always been occurring. One year there would be 50 students and the next, 12. Currently there are 31 students in the program.

"I really feel the next wave push of high tech will be a big one. If the people aren't there to hire, companies will have to leave or import workers," said Bailey, explaining that HP has hundreds of technicians right now that were trained at LB.

Ten years ago, there were 11 EET programs offered at colleges across Oregon. If Lane Community College's program, disappears as predicted, there will only be about four offered programs left in the state. "It's not a good situation," said Bailey, especially when we are trying to attract industry to Oregon.

Not only do the cuts ripple forward into industry, but backward into the high

schools. Lebanon, West Albany and South Albany have tight relationships, articulating their students into LB's EET program.

A handful of students at LBCC will be hurt by the elimination of the program before they even had a chance to start it. According to Sam Hoskinson, the first-year EET instructor who has been at LB for eight years, some students are currently taking pre-program courses in order to get themselves ready to enter the program as first year EET students. But now there will be no program to enter.

Second-year EET student, Schuyler Jensen, was planning on taking the two-year program in three years. But working full-time at HP as a process technician on weekends, while also expecting a new baby on the way hasn't left him much time for classes. Jensen wants to

"I probably would have cut our program, too, based on the current number of students we have and the cost of the program. But I think the effects are going to be far reaching."

▶ Al Bailey

move up to a maintenance technician position at the company because the pay is better and because he has an interest in how things work and wants to be the one to fix the problems.

"I know that the whole tech industry is in a down cycle now, but I kind of see it back on the rise. Like out at HP, they are probably going to need more mainte-

nance technicians in the future," said Jensen. "It just seems like the way of the world, with the new high tech tools. They are going to be used in businesses, people will be needed to fix them when there down, and to bring them up."

Bailey admits a lot of good things were almost ready to come to fruition for the program. Instructor John Sweet was working on a high school articulation program in conjunction with LBCC and OSU.

Another idea was to reorganize the program into different tracks; such as computer electronics, optics, radio frequency electronics, and a track for the new wireless boom that's going on.

The Bonneville Power Administration came to the EET program at LB for the first time this year looking for substation technicians, or electricians, or line technicians. "Six of the upcoming graduating class will be applying for those jobs," said Bailey. The jobs start at \$21 an hour with a guaranteed \$2 dollar-per-year increase.

Second-year EET student Jeffery Gurke says he is "definitely" going to apply for the BPA job. He is concerned about the current job market. "Hopefully there will be jobs coming up, but it's hard to say if there will be," he says.

Over the last two years people have been starting off making an average of \$11 to \$12 right after graduation, said Bailey. EET majors work as process technicians, research and development technicians, maintenance technicians, biomedical technicians, computer support, in maintenance for copier machines, and as optical technicians.

Bailey hopes industry will take a stand. "Without HP's support we will not have a program," he said, explaining that the EET program has been supplying this part of the valley with electronic technicians for over 20 years.

"It's very easy to destroy something and it's extremely difficult to build it up."



Photo by Jeremy Hennig

Al Bailey (left) works with EET student Schuyler Jensen and second-year EET student Jeffery Gurke (right) in the electronics lab this week. The program is slated for elimination after this year.

A & E Editor: Mariana Schatte
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Fusion Jazz hits Squirrels this Saturday

by Thomas McGeary
 of the Commuter

A refreshing new sound is blowing out of Corvallis in the form of a sextet that blends a mix of jazz with a hip-hop beat and just a dab of funk.

Eleven Eyes formed last summer and since then has energized the crowds at a variety of Northwest clubs, including Luna, Jo Federigo's and Diablo's in Eugene, and Jazzbone's in Tacoma, Was. They also played a prime time appearance on the Jazz Stage of the 2002 Eugene Celebration, and recently performed at the Eugene Poetry Slam.

This Saturday, Jan. 25, Eleven Eyes plays a return engagement at Squirrels Tavern, 100 SW 2nd St., Corvallis. This is a 21-and-over show.

The band is comprised of Tim McLaughlin (trumpet, effects), Matt Calkins (tenor and soprano saxophones) Mike Pardew (guitar), Dave Trenkel (bass, keyboards), Steve Weems (drums) and JD Monroe, AKA The Turntable Enabler (turntables, samples, effects).

McLaughlin is a free-lance trumpet/ guitar player and arranger. He holds a degree from the University of Oregon School of Music with an emphasis in jazz studies and trumpet perfor-



Photo by Thomas McGeary

Matt Calkins of Eleven Eyes performs Saturday night at Luna in Eugene. 11 Eyes is a fresh new sound of funk, jazz and hip-hop. They will perform Saturday night at Squirrels in Corvallis.

mance. He previously played with the U of O Symphony and Wind Ensemble. He also holds private teaching studios in Eugene and at Gracewinds Music in Corvallis.

Calkins has been a member of Huzzah, Minus and the Nautical Sauce Posse, and other local and regional bands. He's also performed with NYC free jazz

drummer William Hooker, Kawaida, and the Bond Brothers. He studied Jazz at Oregon State University.

Pardew began performing as a guitar player in the Willamette Valley when he was 13. He lived in Spain in 2001, where he performed as a solo artist throughout places in Northern Spain, and recorded his own composi-

tion "Ya Me Voy" with Juan Luis Suarez's Punk Band.

Trenkel is an improvising musician, multimedia artist and recording engineer and producer. He runs the "New and Improv" label at the Web site: www.newandimprov.com

Weems has played drums and percussion professionally since 1996. He studied classical percussion for four years at the University of Oregon, which enabled him to play with the Eugene Opera, The Eugene Symphony, as well as OFAM sponsored groups. He also teaches drumset at The Lesson Factory, an offshoot corporation closely tied to Guitar Center and Fender Guitars.

Monroe, AKA The Turntable Enabler, started his musical career at age five. He brings a rare musical sensibility to his work as a turntablist. He has performed and recorded on turntables with Minus, Admiral Twinkle Devil, and recently appeared to great acclaim at the first ever Portland Festival of Looping Music.

Eleven Eyes opened at Luna in Eugene on Saturday night to a audience eager to hear its tight energizing sound.

"We love playing here. They treat us right and the audience is always great," stated Monroe. The band was well-received and Luna regulars are looking forward to their return.

Mid-valley residents can catch a performance by Eleven Eyes at Squirrels this Sat. at around 9 p.m.

Journal seeks artists and writers

by Monica Gizowski
 of The Commuter

The college's 12th annual student-edited creative arts journal, "The Eloquent Umbrella," is offering students, staff and community members of the Linn and Benton counties the opportunity to get published.

The journal is put together by the WR 247 Literary Publications class.

The class is encouraging students to submit poetry, short stories and essays, as well as, drawings, paintings and photos. The class will jury the submissions and publish them in an anthology for spring term. The books will be sold at the LB bookstore and at off campus locations for \$5.

The instructor of WR247, Terrance Millet, said 750 books were printed last year and all the journals were successfully sold. The books are funded by student fees and previous year's sales.

Deadline for submitting work is Feb. 1. To submit, contact Terrance Millet at terrance@peak.org or 541-917-4555. Work can also be delivered to AHSS Room 108.

Exhibit exposes U.S. Iraq policy

by Emil Rogers
 of The Commuter

"Children of the Gulf War," a photo exhibition documenting the effects of the 1991 Gulf War on the children of Iraq, will be showing at the OSU Center for the Humanities Jan. 20-30.

Physicians for Social Responsibility and other local civic organizations are endorsing and supporting this touring exhibit which is part of the Children of the Gulf War U.S. Tour Project.

The show is comprised of about 50 pictures taken by photojournalist Takashi Morizumi since 1998. Morizumi focuses his lens on environmental issues, primarily in his native Japan. He explains his motivation for this portfolio in a quote from the introduction to his book "Children of the Gulf War:" "Since its invasion of Kuwait, Iraq has been subject to severe economic sanctions. Its economic activities, heavily dependent on imports, are virtually paralyzed. The people are exhausted, their lives a continual ordeal, and the main victims are the Iraqi children."

The Children of the Gulf War U.S. Tour Project was started to facilitate further networking among anti-war organizations. According to their mission statement: "As citizens concerned with social justice and the deteriorating situation in Iraq, we have conceived a program that we hope will draw attention to

the devastation of war and economic sanctions on the people of Iraq. We hope to expose the genocide and moral bankruptcy of U.S. foreign policy regarding people in Iraq, especially children."

The Center for the Humanities is located at 811 SW Jefferson in Corvallis. The exhibit is open from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

on weekends. For more local information contact: Makiko Matsumoto, U.S. Tour Project event organizer for Oregon at akaiko@hotmail.com or 753-1343. The project's web site is: www.savewarchildren.org

The exhibit will also be on display at the Newport Visual Arts Center, 777 NW Beach Dr., Newport from Feb. 3 to Feb. 8, noon to 4 p.m.

ART HAPPENINGS

Poster Display

A collection of 18 posters from major art museums is on display in the AHSS art gallery through Jan. 31. The posters feature a diverse group of major artists and photographers, including Picasso, Albrecht Durer, Renee Magritte and Clarence White. An informal gallery talk about the posters by art department instructors Rich Bergeman and Gary Westford will take place on Thursday, Jan 30 from 11:15 to Noon.

Threads of Diversity

To celebrate the work and message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. students and college

employees are invited to the Multicultural Center to decorate a quilt square expressing what diversity means to them. Materials will be provided through Friday, Jan. 24 in the center. The squares will be sewn into a quilt to be displayed in the Multicultural Center.

Poetry Reading

Friday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m., Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Ellen Bryant Voigt will read from her work at the Corvallis Arts Center in Corvallis. Her reading, the third in this year's OSU Visiting Writers Series, is free and open to the public.

Don't Miss Out We're Nearly Full!

Two Month's Rent Free Over \$1,400!

Brand New!

Be the first to live in these well-appointed 2 bedroom/2 bath apartments

- washer /dryer hookups
- two state-of-the-art fitness rooms (one featuring free weights)
- covered parking, extra storage
- just minutes to LBCC

Ask about our "Pizza of the Month" and "Video of the Months" specials

Mountain View at RiverGreen

541-738-0303

FUNNY PAGE

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Engineering/Land Surveying Intern (#1727 Salem) They are looking for someone who preferably has EIT and/or LSIT certification with a desire to obtain "hands-on" experience in this full-time position. See Student Employment in T 101 before this position gets filled!

Home Health Aid/ Homemaker (#1731 Linn & Benton Counties) These part-time casual opportunities provided support to the terminally ill and pay \$9-11/hour DOE. If you have one-year experience as a home health aide or CNA or equivalent, please see Carla in the Career Center (Takena 101) for more info!

CWE Computer Support (#1736 Corvallis). Need some work experience? This nonpaid CWE position provides that and, IN ADDITION, you will work for one of the largest organizations in the local area. Act now, as computer intern positions are hard to find!! (*NOTE: you must be a current student who has completed 2 terms in the computer field in order to do CWE.) Please see Student Employment (T 101) for your referral on this!

Legal Secretary (#1734 Lebanon) Do you have legal office skills, the ability to transcribe dictation, yet find it hard to locate a job? Here is the full-time position you have been waiting for! See Carla in the Career Center for more information.

WANTED

Bar/Tender trainees needed!!! \$250.00 a day potential. Local Positions. 1-800-293-3985 EXT. 815

Wanted: Students in need of money! Many scholarships now available. Check the Kiosk in the Multicultural Center or go on-line to www.linnbenton.edu/foundation

(Wanted cont...) **DESPERATELY NEEDED!** Roommate, male or female, by Feb. 20. Includes the master bedroom & bathroom for yourself. Please call Stefanie. Best to reach her at night: 924-1262.

MISCELLANEOUS

24-hour hotline has information, support and referrals for HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and hepatitis. Call Valley AIDS information Network: 752-6322 or 800-588-AIDS.

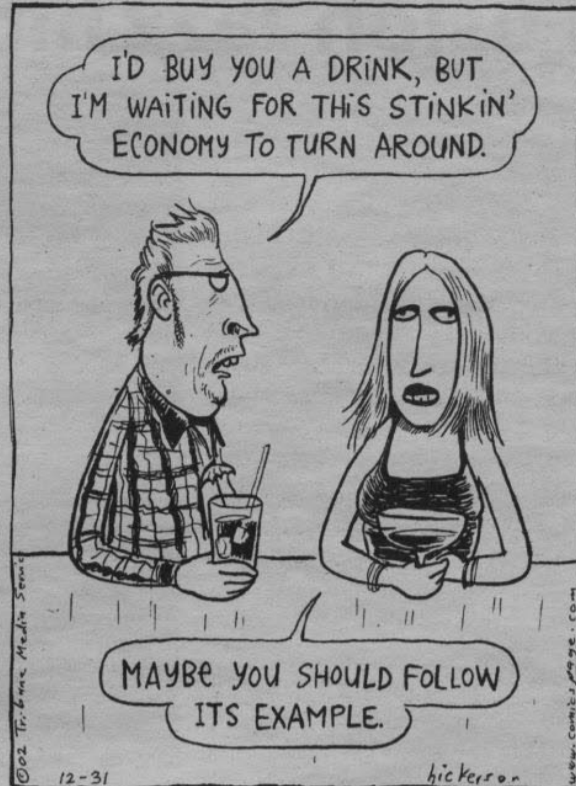
Pregnant? Free Pregnancy Test. Information on options. Non-pressured. Confidentiality. Pregnancy Care Center 541-757-9645

Scholarship applications for the Winter LBCC process are due no later than 5 p.m. January 31st. to the Financial Aid Office, Takena Hall.

Need money but no time to work? Try applying for scholarships. Two processes are now happening at LB! Scholarship applications due Jan. 31 and OSAC apps. due March 1.

FOR SALE

Abercrombie, A.E., Gap, and more. Come check us out! **THE CLOTHING EXCHANGE** for men and women. Monroe St. Corvallis. 541-754-2264



CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Deadline:

Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission.

Cost:

Ads that do not solicit for a

private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

Personals:

Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad

per advertiser per week. Advertising content is limited to no more than 50 words per ad.

Libel/Taste:

The Commuter will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner.

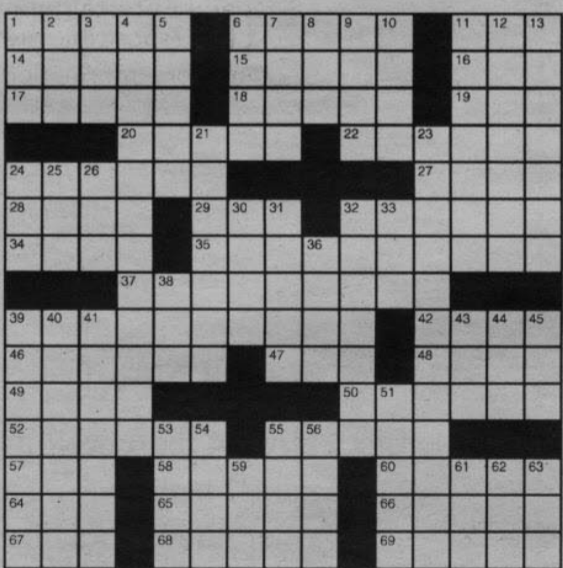
CAPTAIN RIBMAN® in Joe Superhero

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



Crossword

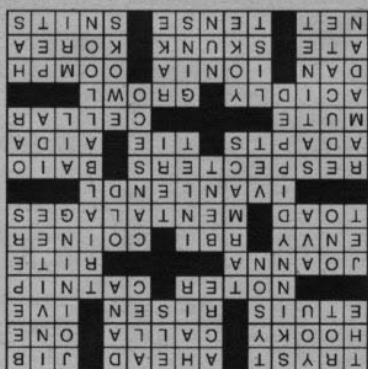
- ACROSS**
- 1 Meeting between lovers
 - 6 In the future
 - 11 Crane's arm
 - 14 Truancy
 - 15 Lily variety
 - 16 Wallet bill
 - 17 Needle boxes
 - 18 Standing
 - 19 "Gotta Be Me"
 - 20 Observant one
 - 22 Herb for felines
 - 24 "The Mad" mother of Charles V
 - 27 Ceremonial act
 - 28 Green state?
 - 29 Slugger's stat
 - 32 Word manufacturer
 - 34 Frog's cousin
 - 35 Intelligence tests determinations
 - 37 Three-time U.S. Open winner
 - 39 Those showing deferential esteem
 - 42 "Joanie Loves Chachi" star Scott
 - 46 Changes to fit
 - 47 Draw
 - 48 Opera set in Egypt
 - 49 Remote button
 - 50 Storage area
 - 52 With venom
 - 55 Dog's warning
 - 57 Rather or Marino
 - 58 Greek colony
 - 60 Spirited vigor
 - 64 Gobbled up
 - 65 Shutout
 - 66 Part of ROK
 - 67 Trawling device
 - 68 Edgy
 - 69 Agitated, states
- DOWN**
- 1 Definite article
 - 2 Decay
 - 3 "Are There"
 - 4 Swam naked
 - 5 Cicely of "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter"
 - 6 Pasture portion
 - 7 Narrow margin
 - 8 2002 British Open golf champion
 - 9 Smart guy?
 - 10 Ivey or Elcar
 - 11 Merging
 - 12 Guest
 - 13 Cell phone precursors
 - 21 Road surfaces
 - 23 Tentative plan
 - 24 Black shade
 - 25 Lennon's love
 - 26 Actress Gardner
 - 30 Stopped
 - 31 Small cove
 - 32 Ballplayer Jose
 - 33 Along in years
 - 36 Actress Garr
 - 38 Dog's best friend?
 - 39 Fast month of Islam
 - 40 Teach
 - 41 Inferior, shiny fabric
 - 43 Be in poor health
 - 44 Neighbor of Wash.
 - 45 Boat propeller
 - 51 Lucas folk
 - 53 Categorize
 - 54 Oxen holder
 - 55 Cotton-cleaning devices
 - 56 Roue
 - 59 Holy sister
 - 61 Med. picture
 - 62 Stroke gently
 - 63 Possesses



© 2003 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

01/20/03

Solutions



DITHERED TWITS by Stan Waling

I'm back! I'm whack!
I'm da man in Iraq!

SADDAMINEM

THE SADDAMINEM SHOW

The U.N. inspectors, Bush-league collectors, small pox detectors are convergin' on me, surroundin' me, ready to pounce on me, like my deadbeat mom did on me. But please don't cap me, 'cause Iraq would be so empty wit out me.

Have you forgotten 'bout bin Laden, the spider whose web your balls were caught in? Remember him? Find him, Slim. Find him and fill his coffin. And while you're busy bein' jerks, I'll be free to gas the Turks. Now there's a concept that works.

Everybody, come follow me to the Baby Formula Factory. Nothin's here for you to see at the Acme Anthrax Company. Careful, Slim, don't step in the camel pee (hee, hee).

www.dtwits.com

©2002 Stan Waling (with help from Mary Waling)

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

Native American story teller to speak Friday

by Rhonda Hanks
 of The Commuter

Esther Stutzman will share stories of the life and times of her Coos and Kalapooya tribes on Friday, Jan. 24 from 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. in the Fireside Room, on the second floor of the College Center.

Native Americans have handed down the history of their people through a form of literature called oral traditions, or story-telling. Through her sto-

ries, Stutzman explains significant events and tribal history. Peter Jensen, LBCC English instructor, has brought Stutzman to campus because he believes she is one of a few people who can help students imagine what natives were like prior to the coming of the white man.

According to Jensen, Stutzman grew up in Coos Bay, where as a child she listened to her grandparents tell the stories of her tribe. At age 7, she realized these stories were not writ-

ten down, so with the help of her uncle, she started to document them. She now travels and tells these stories to others outside the tribe so the history of her people and their lives can be known.

Stutzman is related to the famous coastal Native American story teller Annie Minor Peterson, who told stories of her Coos tribe to white anthropologists after she was sent to the Siletz reservation in the 1860s. Stutzman is also related to a

Yoncalla Kalapooya Chief, Camifina, who was able to stay in the land of his birth under the protection of Charles Applegate, but his tribe was sent to the Siletz reservation in 1850.

Stutzman has served on the board of The Oregon Committee for the Humanities and she currently lives in Yoncalla, Ore. This event is sponsored by the Native American Literature class and is part of the series presented by the Valley Writers League.



Native story teller Esther Stutzman shares her history on Friday.

Being organized helps students applying for scholarships

by Lisa Terra
 of The Commuter

Now is the time when college students should be thinking about applying for financial aid for the academic year ahead.

There are many sources of assistance for students, both through the LBCC foundation (see story at right), and through internet sources.

Before you apply for scholarships, financial aid experts advise students to create a scholarship portfolio to keep track of where you search, what Web sites you browsed, the results of each hunt, and a copy of each submission.

Organize applications by deadline date; this will help you plan ahead and will also help you know which scholarship to work on first. Then create an activity portfolio; keep track of all paid and volunteer activities you can refer to. Include responsibilities you had while you were involved and your supervisor's name and phone number.

Putting together an extra portfolio of essays, future plans, career goals, and your financial need can come in handy and save you time in the long run. Also

LBCC offers Winter Term scholarships

by Adele Kubein
 of The Commuter

Applications for winter scholarships offered through the LBCC Foundation are being accepted through Jan. 31.

Financial aid specialist Sheryl Clemetson said that detailed information is at the LBCC Web site: www.linnbenton.edu/foundation/scholarship.html.

This url provides a link to all the descriptions and the application. Information and applications are also available for students to peruse in the Multicultural Center.

Scholarships available through the LBCC process this term include:

- ▶ American Assoc. of Women in Com-

munity College scholarships.

While searching the Internet for scholarships, beware of warning signs that

can lead to a scam. The applicant should never have to pay more than the postage of an application. The best scholarship information is available for free on the internet. Statements of funds going unclaimed are untrue; funds that are available will be taken. No scholarship application should require a credit card number or bank account number of any person in your family. If an application states they will "do the work for you," don't believe it. Students must fill out the application and write the essays themselves.

Searching the internet for scholarships can be easier when you enter your ethnic background, state of residence, professional associations, parents' employers, disabilities, athletic abilities and community service projects you have been involved in.

A few sites that may be of use are: www.linnbenton.edu, www.fafsa.ed.gov, www.finaid.org, student financial aid collection, www.osac.state.or.us, or the most common site: www.fastweb.com.

- ▶ Health occupations majors.
- ▶ Criminal justice majors.
- ▶ Vietnam Veterans Memorial Scholarship.
- ▶ Corvallis Morning Rotary vocational scholarship—for a Benton County H.S. grad.
- ▶ Collision repair program.
- ▶ Business/accounting or technical programs—Tripp Scholarship.
- ▶ Agricultural/mechanical/welding—Robert Jones Scholarship.
- ▶ Business/communications—Hilda Jones Scholarship.

Students may complete one application to apply for multiple scholarships. If students have on-line access, that is the easiest route to send them.

Student Ambassadors to LB brighten seniors' lives

by Kimberly McGill
 of The Commuter

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s idea, "The Beloved Community," Student Ambassador Seth Williams has created a new project called "Into the Streets" to show appreciation to senior citizens.

Each year, ambassadors come up with projects like this that enable students to volunteer a helping hand in reaching out to the community.

A small group of volunteer students will go to the Albany Mennonite Home for the project. Peoria Gardens donated 90 primroses that the students will hand out to the residents. This activity will take place on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 5 p.m.

SL&L offers free trip to Powell's Books

by Sarah Meyer
 of The Commuter

The Student Life and Leadership is offering a free trip Sat., Feb. 8, to Powell's Books; City of Books in Portland.

Eleven students are invited to spend the day at one of the largest bookstores in the United States, enjoy a free lunch and receive \$15 toward the book of their choice! Sign-ups are available now in the Student Life and Leadership office to anyone with a valid student ID. Remember space is limited.

This trip is sponsored by the Student Programming Board, which gets its funding from student fees.

Help Wanted!

The Commuter has an opening for an Arts and Entertainment Editor. Must be responsible and dedicated!

For more information contact The Commuter at 541-917-4451 or pick up an application from the Commuter office, F 222. The position carries a 4-credit tuition grant!



Spirit Card Giveaway Coming Soon...

Have you used your Spirit Card yet?



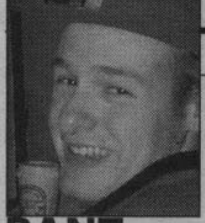
LBCC Bookstore

Sports Editor: Thomas M'Geary
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

SPORTS



**Jered
Reid**

'Gruden Bowl' becomes center of attention

RANT
No one likes to be wrong, but in this case I am overjoyed by being wrong. Last week I picked the Eagles over the Bucs, because I did not realistically think that the Eagles would lose at home, but they did. And now the Super Bowl that a majority of America wanted to see will happen.

Super Bowl XXXVII has beautiful storylines all over the place, the most appealing perhaps has to be the coaches.

John Gruden will lead the Buccaneers into their first Super Bowl, to play the team that he brought back from the slums of the NFL to the team that they are now. Across the field from Gruden will be Bill Callahan, who was hired by Gruden as the

offensive coordinator during his tenure in Oakland. Callahan uses the same formations that Gruden likes to use, however he has made the Silver and Black an air attack basically abandoning the run. The two coaches are good friends, but differ greatly in demeanor. Gruden or "Chucky," is a workaholic, has an animated, bull charge coaching style, and Callahan on the other end of the spectrum is a wise, reserved, methodical coach. This Sunday will be an amazing chess match between two great offensive coaches.

The second storyline in this game will be the best offense in the league (Oakland) squaring off against the best defense in the league (Tampa Bay). Oakland's offense makes the best defense in the league look

amateur, and on the other side of the coin Tampa's defense paralyzes even the best offense. The way to beat the Bucs defense is to run right at them. However, the Raiders do not run the ball. This plays into the Bucs defensive hands, with their zone blitz schemes and their amazing front four anchored by Warren Sapp and highlighted by Simeon Rice. However the Bucs defense has never played an offensive to cover. The Raiders also play a lot of downs with no huddle, which is confusing to defenses when they want to blitz. This match up is just to evenly matched to give either side an upper hand, and that is the true beauty of this Super Bowl. For the first time in quite a long time, we have two powerhouse teams playing for the title. Which is another storyline in its own.

Another neat little storyline to this game is Raiders maverick owner Al Davis. Davis had a key role in the AFL-NFL merger


over thirty years ago, and ever since then has given the league nothing but trouble. He has even sued the NFL. Except for people in the Raider Nation, this might not seem like a good storyline; but for those that are, watching Commissioner Paul Tagliaboo hand the Lombardi Trophy to Al Davis will be a sight for the ages.

This game will come down to three things; red zone production, turnovers, and penalties. The Raider defense is terrific at creating turnovers, and the

Raider offense almost always capitalizes on their opponent's mistakes. But the Raiders Achilles' heel are their penalties. Yes, that is classic Raider football; to win despite having a bundle of yellow flags thrown at them, but they cannot afford to give the Bucs offense as many yards as they did the Titans last week.

As a devoted Raider fan I am too biased in this match to make a fair prediction, but I will predict that this will be an amazing Super Bowl, and that is truly what every fan hopes to have.

VICTORY GYM



(541) 928-0794

BOXING
KICKBOXING
Jeet Kune Do
Capoeira & Jiu Jitsu

Full Service Gym!
Family Discounts!

1 Free Class!
251 PACIFIC BV. SW
Albany

COMMONS Menu Jan. 22 - Jan. 28

Wednesday

Roast Chicken w/Pan Gravy
 Pork Enchiladas w/Refried Beans
 Pasta Bar
 Soups: Cabbage
 Beef Noodle
 Salad: Tarragon Shrimp

Thursday

French Dip w/Fries
 Almond Chicken w/Steamed Rice
 Vegetable Calzone
 Soups: Creamy Roasted Chicken
 Vegetarian Won Ton
 Salad: Chicken Taco

Friday

Chef's Choice

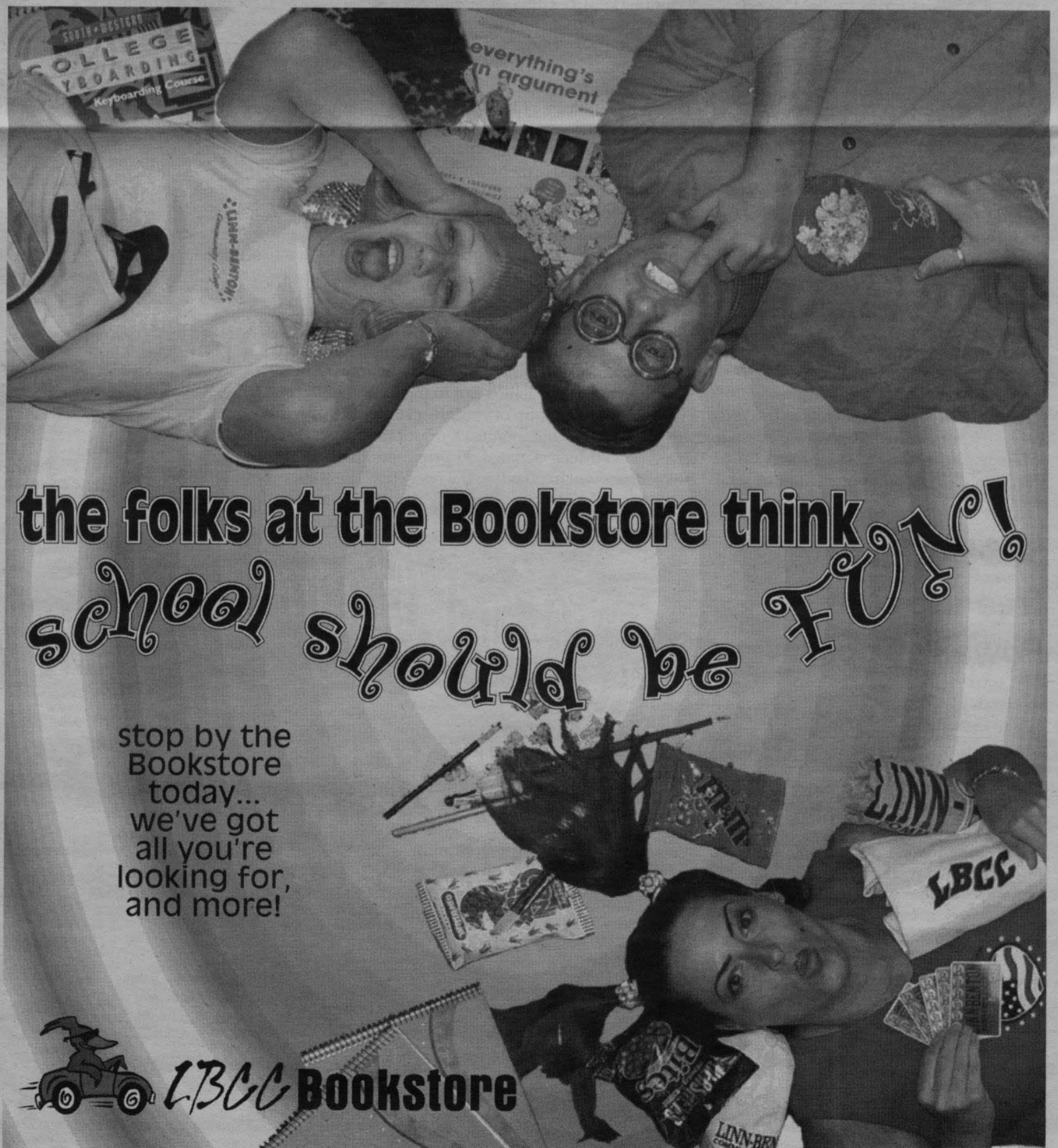


Monday

Grilled Pork Chop w/Sauce
 Robert
 Chicken Gumbo
 Roasted Tempeh and Vegetables w/ Black Beans & Quinoa
 Soups: Chicken Noodle
 Split Pea
 Salad: Tuscan Tuna

Tuesday

Reuben Sandwich w/ Coleslaw
 Greek Lamb Stew
 Vegetarian Thai Curry
 Soups: Shrimp Bisque
 French Onion
 Salad: Chopped Salad w/ Special Dressing



the folks at the Bookstore think school should be FUN!

stop by the Bookstore today... we've got all you're looking for, and more!

LBCC Bookstore

Sports Editor: Thomas McGeary
Newsroom Desk: 917-4453
 commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

SPORTS

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

Men lose to Lane but claw back against Cougars

By Thomas McGeary
 of The Commuter

The LB men again split their two games last week, falling in a controversial game to Lane Community College and easily defeating Clackamas Community College.

Against Lane, whose 13-2 pre-season record included two victories over LB, the Runners were unable to overcome some officiating calls that didn't go their way and fell 66-64.

The men opened the game with great zone defense and were up by four. Bryon Orth used good inside position to give LB second-chance shots. Tyler Shinn hit a three and was fouled the next time down the court to keep LB's four-point lead alive. Ryan Schmidt, with defenders draped on him, hit a crucial shot.

At halftime, with the score tied at 26, LB was left with more questions than answers. In fact, some of the assistant coaches even approached the referees with their questions as to how the game was being called.

In the second half Nunn took control by scoring four quick points and putting LB ahead by the same margin.

Lane came alive and made a small rally, hitting a three-pointer and pulling in front by four, but when Nunn found James Muncrief to tie the game at 42, Lane was forced to call timeout.

Officiating again became a concern for LB as Nunn drove hard to the basket, but was sent even harder to the floor. But the call was an offensive foul on Nunn, much

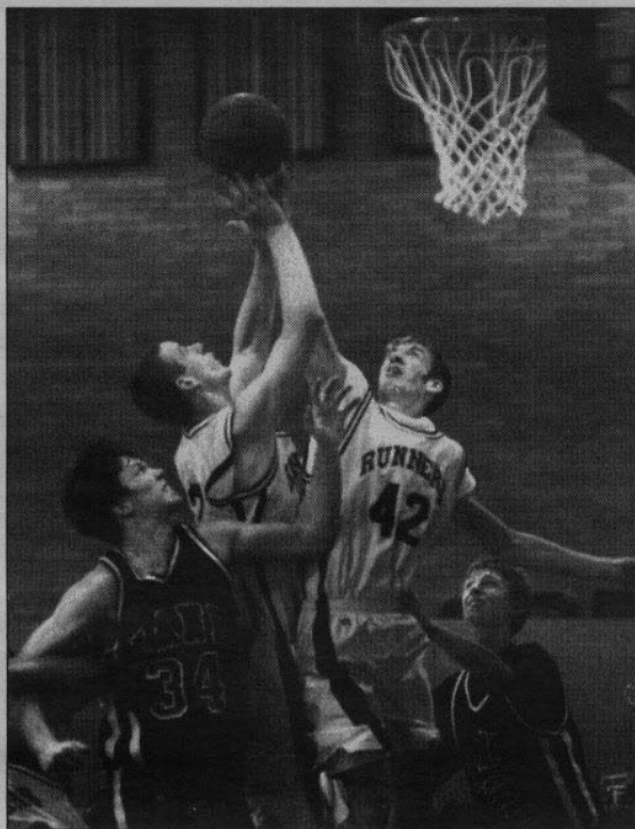


Photo by Stefanie Hessenkemper

Justin Duke and Ryan Schmidt battle on the boards in a loss to Lane last Wednesday in the Activities Center. The Runners bounced back for a win against Clackamas.

to the crowd's dismay. The game seemed to end on another questionable call. With LB trailing by two with four seconds left, Schmidt took a pass and was appeared to be fouled as time ran out, but no call was made.

Orth scored 19 points to lead LB, while Nunn scored 14. Muncrief collected nine rebounds.

"We had terrific effort by our guys, which was an indication on things to come," Coach Randy Falk said. "Also zone defense had a bearing on the difference, and the most important was the patience on offense and passing for high percentage shots."

Against Clackamas the Runners bounced back from a disappointing loss to win 86-80.

Despite the absence of James Muncrief due to an ankle injury, the Roadrunners took the floor against the Clackamas Cougars with a fierce resolve that brought them a strong lead in the first half. Schmidt's 13 first-half points brought LB a lead of 17 at halftime.

In the second half LB's offense continued to roll as Orth scored on a great off-balance shot and Schmidt hit a three to put LB up by 25.

But the Cougars would battle, and started a run to make the game interesting towards the end, but LB would prove to be too much. Schmidt had 21 points, and Orth scored 19 with nine rebounds. Ryan Mostinger also had 17 points.

Next up for the Runners is a game at second-place Umpqua on Wednesday. LB returns home on Saturday to play host to bottom-dweller Portland.

Women suffer back-to-back losses and drop to 1-3

By Thomas McGeary
 of The Commuter

The Lady Runners lost to league-leading Lane Community College last Wednesday by a score of 79-52 and then faced Clackamas at home on Saturday, where they put in a better performance but still came up short, 74-68.

Lane was coming into the game 2-0 in the league play and 13-3 overall. LB knew the importance of the win and hit the floor excited and determined.

Katie Jarrett, Kelli Wolfram, Marisa Higgins, Janine Dionne and Priscilla Hendrix started the game, and their floor presence shined through. No baskets were scored in the opening minutes of the game until Wolfram, who went on to have a huge game, hit two, of her season high of 25, off a Higgins' miss and put LB up 2-0 when LB took a time out. Hendrix then hit two from a steal, but Lane came right back and hit a three-pointer 4-3, and the game was on.

The turnovers that plagued LB in the past came back as two travel calls helped put Lane ahead, and the Titan defense successfully hounded the ball for another steal and basket before LB took a time out with 10:04 left in the half while down by three at 16-19.

Janine Dionne drove for two and the foul and Kim West hit a runner in the paint to put LB back in the game, 29-30, but the Runners fell flat in the second half and fell out of contention.

Lane went up by 11 with 13:32 left in the game. Higgins hit a three-pointer to liven the crowd,

but that was it for the Runners, as they were out-scored in the second half by 45-23.

Notable team stats for the game were Wolfram's 25 points, Higgins' nine points and seven rebounds. Hendrix had 10 rebounds.

The Runners opened the Saturday game against the Clackamas Cougars with determination. West hustled for a loose ball on the floor and found Jessie Ziegler for the outlet to tie the game at two. At 13:22 left in the half LB was down by seven. Higgins started an LB run with a pass through the legs of a defender to West for two, Wolfram followed with a steal and basket for two.

Patience by the Cougars kept the lead until five minutes left in the first half when Janine Dionne was fouled and shot for two to put LB up 21-20. Higgins hit two off a Jarrett rebound and West scored two with fifteen seconds left in the half and LB went to the locker room, 35-31.

LB opened the half with past problems coming back to haunt. Turnovers and good Cougar defense put the Runners down by three when LB took a time out with 13:55 left in the game. Higgins answered with four straight points to tie it back up, but Cougar composure brought the lead back to four. Wolfram's great hands caused a jump ball with 8:01 left, which changed possession to LB and she followed with a steal and a bucket to close the LB gap back to 4, 59-63. That was as close as LB got as the Cougar lead expanded to seven with 4:10 left in the game. The game ended with the score Clackamas 74, Linn-Benton 68.

Next up for the Runners is Umpqua away on Jan. 22 and Portland at home on Jan. 25.

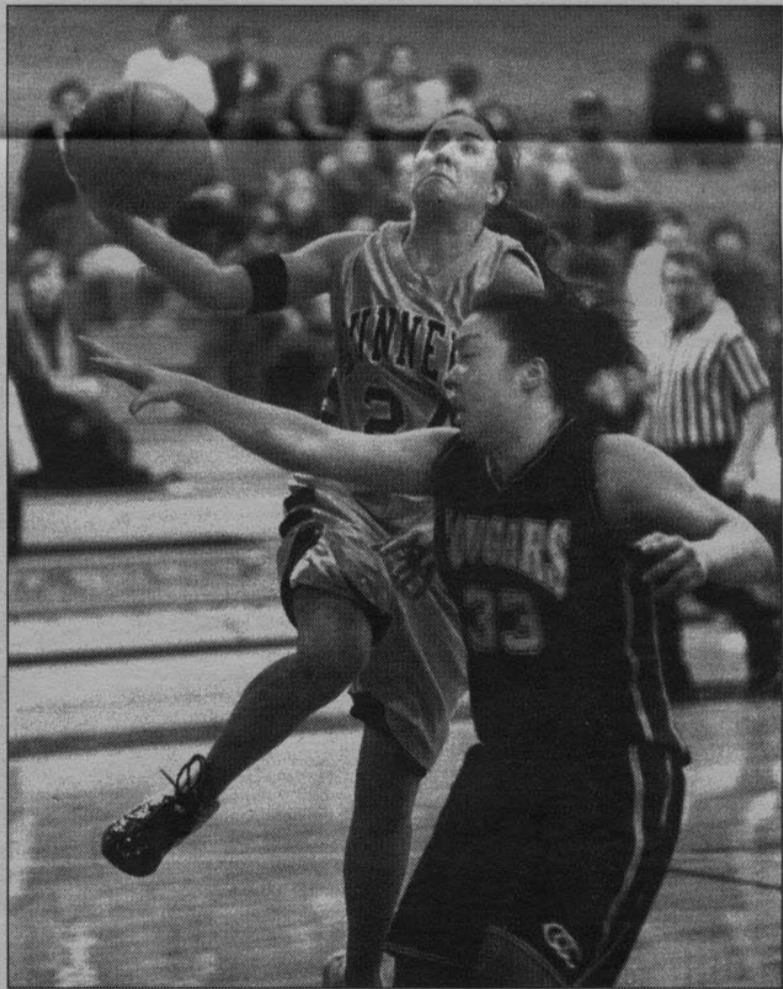


Photo by Thomas McGeary

LB's Kelli Wolfram takes it hard to the basket against Clackamas last Saturday, a game that LB lost 74-68. Wolfram had four steals.

STANDINGS

TEAM	MEN LEAGUE - OVERALL
Lane	4-0 14-2
Umpqua	3-1 10-7
Mt. Hood	3-1 6-8
Clackamas	2-2 11-6
LBCC	2-2 7-9
Chemeketa	1-3 7-9
Portland	1-3 7-8
SW Oregon	0-4 8-8

WOMEN

Lane	4-0 14-3
Chemeketa	3-1 14-2
Clackamas	3-1 14-2
Umpqua	3-1 11-6
LBCC	1-3 5-10
Mt. Hood	1-3 1-14
SW Oregon	1-3 5-11
Portland	0-4 1-13

MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME: WOMEN & MEN
Wed Jan 22	Umpqua	Roseburg	5:30 & 7:30
Sat Jan 25	Portland C.C.	LBCC	4 & 6
Wed Jan 29	SW Oregon	LBCC	5:30 & 7:30
Sat Feb 1	Mt. Hood	Gresham	4 & 6
Sat Feb 8	Chemeketa	LBCC	4 & 6
Wed Feb 12	Umpqua	LBCC	5:30 & 7:30
Sat Feb 15	Clackamas	Ore. City	4 & 6
Wed Feb 19	SW Oregon	Coos Bay	5:30 & 7:30
Sat Feb 22	Portland C.C.	Portland	4 & 6
Wed Feb 26	Lane C.C.	Eugene	5:30 & 7:30
Fri Mar 7-10	NWAACC	Tri-Cities, WA	TBA
Sun Mar 16	All Star	Gresham	TBA

SOCGER HOCKEY FOOTBALL
 DON'T MISS OUT
 WINTER SEASON
 BEGINS FEBRUARY 11, 2003
 REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 4, 2002
 LEAGUES FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS!



CORVALLIS SPORTS PARK
 PHONE: 541-757-0776
 WWW.CORVALLISSPORTSPARK.COM

Editor-in-Chief: Wendy Geist
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

NATIONAL NEWS

News and information
from the United States
and the world

For Bush, affirmative action can cut both ways

by Michael Tackett
Chicago Tribune

When George W. Bush was applying to college, and later to graduate school, he could rely on something far more powerful than affirmative action: He could count on affirmative influence.

After a less-than-stellar academic record at the prestigious Phillips Academy, he was accepted at Yale, where his father graduated and where his grandfather sat on the board of trustees. After an undistinguished academic career at New Haven, he was accepted at Harvard Business School.

With the Bush administration filing a brief opposing the University of Michigan's use of what Bush calls "quotas," Democrats contended that the president, who clearly benefited from a legacy of preference, is a flawed messenger to inveigh against affirmative action.

"It's the inherited advantage," said Democratic consultant Frank Greer. "There is a de-

gree of hypocrisy with his grandstanding against Trent Lott before an African-American audience and taking a position on an issue which he could have stayed out of."

Republicans said Bush was standing up for a core belief. "I think he took a very principled position that many of us, particularly Republicans, hold," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., former chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. "The Democratic Party is hard-pressed not to define affirmative action as you did at the University of Michigan. But it's very hard to ignore the woman (in the case) who applied for admission but was denied because she was white."

By weighing in on one of the third-rail issues of American politics, Bush ensured that there will be a battle over civil rights between now and the 2004 election, especially from those Democrats who would like to succeed Bush as president and thus need to win over a Democratic Party base that strongly favors affirmative action.

At the same time, Bush no doubt solidified his support among his conservative base, which long has opposed affirmative action, with his decision to side with the white students suing the University of Michigan. The White House apparently hopes the president, in his Wednesday talk, cloaked his words about the Michigan case with enough calls for diversity and tolerance that the negative impact from the brief will be limited.

Indeed, administration officials emphasized that Bush was addressing only the Michigan case and not making a sweeping statement about whether other affirmative action programs are constitutional.

Affirmative action has had an uneasy place in American politics since President Richard Nixon implemented the "Philadelphia Order" in 1969 that included goals and timetables for including minorities in federal contract awards.

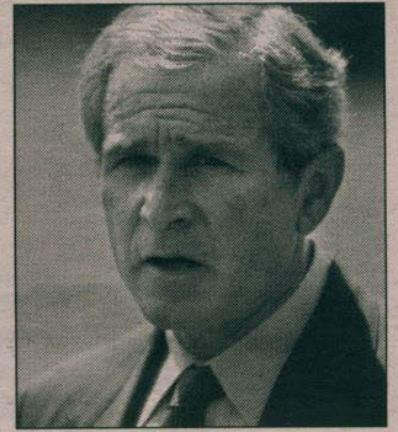
Ever since, Republicans have been quick to find unfair "quotas" embedded in many of the

programs, while Democrats have argued that the programs merely level the playing field of opportunity. President Ronald Reagan opposed affirmative action, and so did the first President George Bush. President Bill Clinton embraced it — but not quite wholeheartedly, with his slogan, "Mend it, don't end it."

Now President Bush has staked out his clearest position to date by labeling affirmative action programs at Michigan unconstitutional because they include race-based quotas. At the same time, the president hailed diversity and acknowledged that "racial prejudice is a reality in America."

Even some Republicans conceded that the timing was less than ideal, coming less than a month after the resignation of then-Senate Majority Leader Lott, R-Miss., whose seeming embrace of segregation drew a strong, public and personal denunciation from Bush and left many Republicans feeling that the party had suffered another setback on race.

"Sometimes you get to pick



your fights and sometimes your fights get picked for you," said one Republican strategist with close ties to the White House. "The fact is that affirmative action as administered by the University of Michigan is not a fair practice and does have a perverse impact. But if you were putting together the agenda for January would you put affirmative action on it proactively? No. But you also have to have some principles that you have to stand for."

Affirmative action is a nuanced issue, and the level of support for it often depends on how it is defined.

Abortion war being fought in mushy middle

by Judith Graham
Chicago Tribune

Never again, vowed Mark Twarogowski after his college girlfriend became pregnant and she decided to have an abortion. Never again would he behave so irresponsibly or turn his back on a life he had helped create.

Ask Twarogowski today how he views abortion and he expresses distaste. "I don't know any person who thinks abortion is a good thing, or even that it's really OK. It's not," said the 39-year-old, who is dean at an elementary and middle school in Denver.

And yet Twarogowski strongly embraces Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion across the United States 30 years ago this week, and he considers himself a committed supporter of a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy if she so chooses.

Sounds contradictory? Perhaps. But people like Twarogowski don't see the nation's wrenching, ongoing debate over abortion in terms of black and white, like extremists on either side. To these people in the middle, this issue leads to a gray zone of complicated feelings and competing values, of vexing moral questions without easy answers.

This group represents the majority of Americans, though their voices are rarely heard in the polarized public discourse on this subject. They neither think abortion should be legal in all circumstances, like 25 percent of citizens in a May 2002 Gallup poll, nor that it should be altogether illegal, like 22 percent — the opposite extremes of the abortion controversy.

Instead, they are the 51 percent of people who told Gallup's pollsters "yes, but": Yes, abortion should be legal, but only in certain circumstances.

Over the years, experts have called this difficult-to-categorize group the "mushy middle" or the "muddled middle." Whatever the label, their significance in the nation's ongoing abortion debate is crystal clear.

These are the potential swing voters that anti-abortion advocates would most like to pull over to their side with rhetoric emphasizing the importance of children and the sanctity of life.

And they're the group the abortion rights supporters most need to keep as allies if they hope to prevent the pendulum of public opinion from swinging against them.

For people in the middle, the old slogans of the abortion wars — "our bodies, our rights" or "abortion stops a beating heart" — aren't convincing. "They respond to a more nuanced set of messages," said Heather Boonstra, senior public policy associate at the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a research organization specializing in contraception issues.

They are men and women who often describe themselves as both "pro-life" and "pro-choice," marrying the two seemingly irreconcilable sides of the controversy in ambivalent compromises. "Pro-life emotionally, pro-life politically," is how Vera Lord, an anti-abortion advocate based in Pittsburgh, describes them.

Many in this middle group believe abortion is the taking of a form of life; not the murder of an unborn baby, as some would argue, but the extinction of something living nonetheless. They would not accept it as an option except under extreme circumstances such as rape, incest or a threat to a woman's health.

A significant number of them don't want to see abortion practiced as a form of birth control. They believe women and men should take more responsibility for preventing unwanted pregnancies. And they

have serious doubts about abortions after the first trimester has ended and the fetus starts to have recognizable eyes, arms and toes.

Still, this middle group doesn't want the government deciding this most intimate of issues: whether or not to bear a child. They don't want a return to the days of illegal, unsafe, back-alley abortions. And knowing how complicated the circumstances surrounding an unwanted pregnancy can be, they believe abortion should remain a legal right for women.

A great disappointment for the anti-abortion movement is that "we can't figure out how to reach this middle," admits Frederica Mathewes-Green, an anti-abortion writer and activist. "Nothing we've done has been successful. ... It seems the mushy middle is not particularly persuaded by logic."

The logic to which she is referring is the core of the anti-abortion position: the argument that if you admit a fetus is alive and you permit it to be aborted, you are endorsing murder. "Everyone on the pro-life side is focused on 'is this a life' and there is almost no ambivalence," Mathewes-Green said.

That's where the slippery, shape-shifting middle defies abortion opponents' expectations. Many in this group tend to think of abortion differently, with different factors that deserve varying consideration under different conditions, explains Frances Kissling, president of the Washington-based Catholics for a Free Choice.

"Some say the only moral question is: Is the fetus alive and when? To us, there are other pressing moral questions as well, all of which have weight: What are our responsibilities to ourselves? To our existing children or our children yet to come? To our partners? To our communities?" said Kissling.

THE COMMUTER

STAFF

commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

AD Department: commuterads@ml.linnbenton.edu

VISIT THE COMMUTER ONLINE

WWW.LINNBENTON.EDU/COMMUTER

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do

Phone: (541) 917-4450, 917-4451, 917-4452 or 917-4453
Fax: (541) 917-4454

not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty, and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them.

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
Online Editor: Skyler Corbett
Sports Editor: Thomas M'Geary
Photo Editor: Jeremy Hennig

Photographers:
Bonnie Quinones,
Joleane Sharp
Photo Intern:
Stefanie Hessenkemper
Contributing Editor:
Phillip Ruzek
Advertising Manager: Lisa Terra
Production Assistant: Jered Reid
Advisor: Rich Bergeman

Reporters:
Matt Boase, Heather Bristol,
Dee Denver, Monica
Gizowski, Patrick
Gurczynski, Rhonda Hanks,
Heather James, Thomas Lin,
Kim McGill, Sarah Meyer,
Kimberly Nelson, Cecelia
Orphan, Emil Rogers, Lisa
Terra