



• American Girls tear it up at the Wow Hall

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Titans are on a winning streak

□ After 19 games, the mens basketball team still holds the number one spot

Jeremy Bloom

Interim Sports Editor

The LCC men's basketball team improved its school record streak to 19 straight wins with victories over conference rivals Portland CC and Mt. Hood CC on Jan. 20 and 23.

It's an accomplishment, acknowledges Head Coach Jim Boutin, but he has other concerns. "Opponents are going to be ready for us. We are ranked number one in the conference," says Head Coach Jim Boutin. "I hope our kids do not think about the streak. It's not one of our goals. Our top goal is to win the championship."

Lane improved to 18-0 with a decisive win over the Panthers of Portland 100 to 67. Karlo Kovacic led the Titans with a team high 21 points. Also making it into double figures were Matt Zosel with 19, Andrew Brogden with 18, and Danny Carter with 14 points. Zosel was a warrior in the paint with 14 rebounds. The defense held Portland to only 31.9 percent shooting from the field while LCC shot 52.4.

Against Mt. Hood, the men concluded their short two game home stand, running their unbeaten streak to 19. They continued to dominate league opponents by blowing out the Saints by 29 with a score of 97 to 68. Again leading the team in scoring was Kovacic pouring in 21. The three point line continues to be friendly as LCC hit nine of 17 from behind the arc. The Titans hit the boards

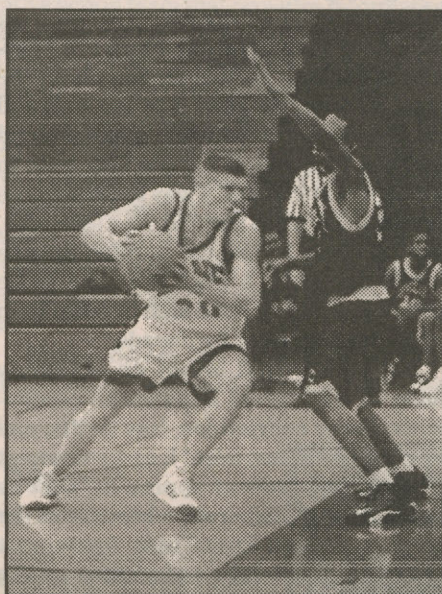


Photo by Vinson Svetich

Karlo Kovacic led the Titans with a team high of 21 points against the Portland Panthers.

hard, out rebounding Mt. Hood 40 to 35.

After 19 games, The Titans lead conference play by two games over South Western Oregon. Brogden is leading the team in scoring, averaging 18.8 per game. Carter is close behind averaging 17.5 per game and is also at the top in rebounds at 9.6 each night out.

The Titans have won their games by an average 23 point margin. Helping them to this large point differential is 73 percent shooting from the free throw line and 43 percent from the three point line.

"Our shooting has been exceptional," says Boutin. "We have a great thing going here. This is a great team."

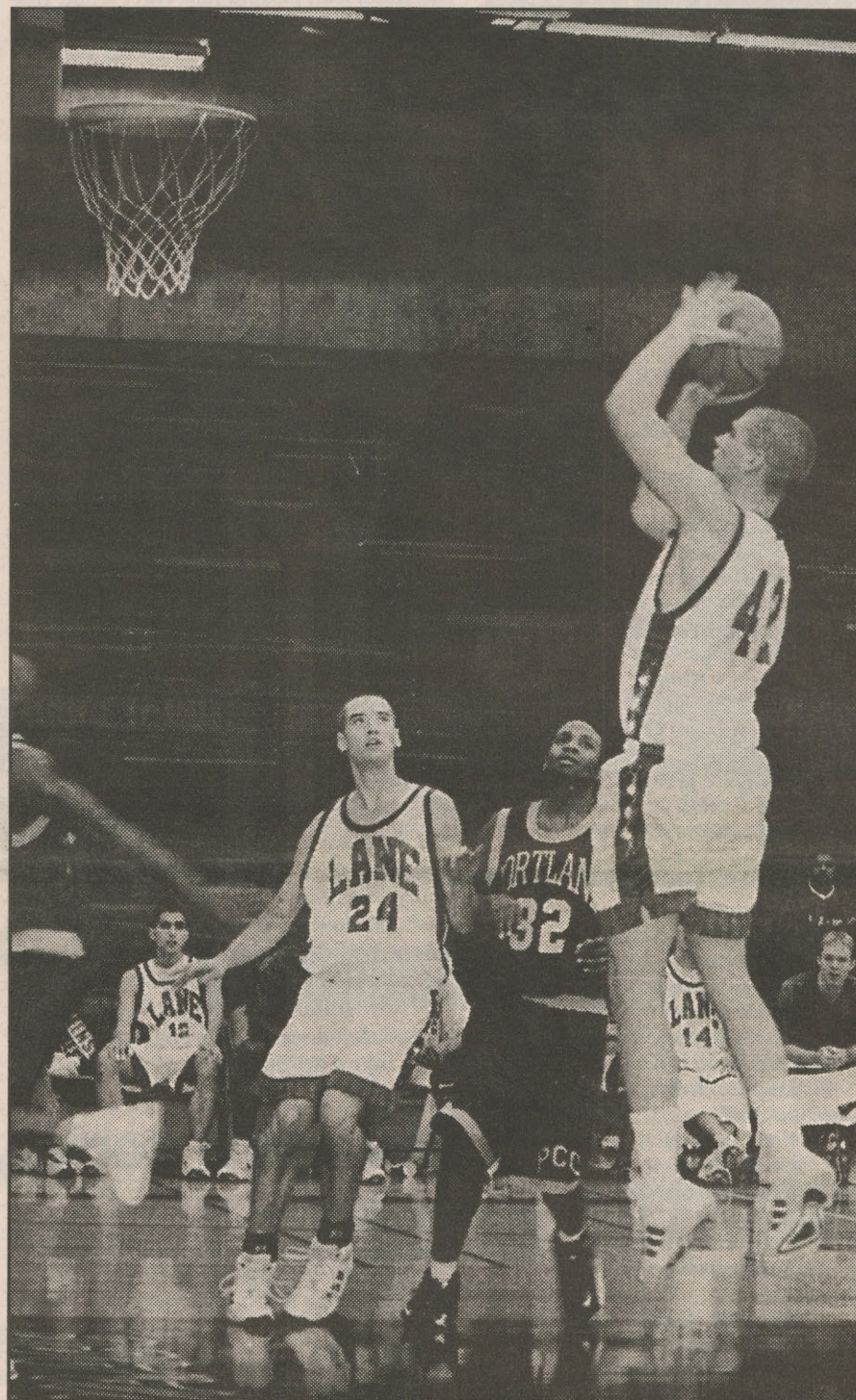


Photo by Vinson Svetich

Danny Carter (number 42) made 14 points for the team, averaging 17.5 points and 9.6 rebounds per game.



Photo by Judy L. Sierra

Ronda Greene and Heather Hafer talk with Mari Good about the Computer Information Technology Department.

LCC provides one stop shopping for career options

Casey Jarman

Staff Writer

On January 30, for the tenth straight year, The Women's Center will host Women's Day, a special event for women who would like to explore career options at Lane.

Women's Day will be held in the Floor Level of the Center building, where attendees will find greeters and signs. Lunch is provided, as is free Child care and all the information Lane has to offer.

"Our aim with Women's Day is to provide a day for sort of 'one stop shopping' for women either in the community, or already attending Lane. It's one day when we try to cover ev-

everything they might need to know about Financial Aid, CoOp, (etc.)" Says Patsy Raney, the Administration Specialist for the Women's Services department at LCC.

Raney says the event is popular with attendees "We have an evaluation form, and the evaluations are usually unequivocally positive. Women appreciate the opportunity to relax, and be around a lot of other women."

Registration forms are available from the Women's Center Office at Lane, and phone registration is available at 747-4501 extension 2353.

There will be workshops on Career Planning Resources, Job Trends, Financial Aid, Fitness, and more.

Opinion & Editorial

Winter Term

February 2 is Groundhog Day – if Bill sees his shadow, will he have six more weeks in office?

The Torch

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Why Republicans hate President Clinton

Commentary
by
Peter Prengaman

Republicans in Congress have told us all about President Clinton this past year. The guy has a sexual appetite that his discretion can't match. He's a liar, a cheat, and a constitutional cancer. He's someone the American people just can't trust. But through all the foul cries about "hairsplitting" and the moral calls to do what is "right," there's something the Republicans have not wanted to admit to themselves or the American people about Clinton: The man is absolutely brilliant.

After his State of the Union Address which had "something for everyone," as Dan Rather later pointed out, even some of Clinton's most bitter enemies had to concede to such brilliance. Pat Robertson, longtime Christian Right figure head in favor of impeachment, told his viewers on the "700 Club" that the impeachment trial was effectively "over." After such a triumph, Robertson didn't think there was any sense in going on. Clinton had, after all, hit a "home run." (Probably more like a grand slam, Pat).

What Clinton did to the Republicans that night, that is, make them look like sour and uptight anachronisms, is a symbol of what he's done to the entire party throughout his years in office. This trial isn't about sex. It isn't about doing what's "right." And it certainly doesn't have anything to do with preoccupation about constitutional precedents. For Republicans, this trial is their platform, a platform that both hides and illustrates a party that has little left to rally around. If this trial were to end suddenly tomorrow, Republicans would be hard pressed to champion an issue that was truly Republican. Quite simply, Clinton has neutered the Republican Party.

Take welfare. For years Republicans argued that such social programs needed to be taken off the backs of middle-class

Americans. When a welfare reform bill made it through the House and Senate in 1996, Clinton signed it, knowing that a veto wouldn't hold and that working people across the country yearned for such a change. Ever the master politician, Clinton then took credit for it.

What about being fiscally conservative enough to get rid of the deficit? Such economic reforms, in conjunction with tax cuts, have long kept old white businessmen at cocktail parties talking about the latest Republican plan. But not only did the Clinton Administration manage to rid America of a deficit for the first time in decades, it also found a way to present the American people a surplus. As a side-note, Clinton plans to use the surplus to save Social Security, a plan that has more Americans letting out a sigh of relief than scrunching up their foreheads.

But wait! What about an economy made of traditional Republican components: fewer restrictions, low tariffs, and the overall "laissez-faire" less government is better government approach? Just as the Clinton Administration brought us the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the world economies of the 1990s have turned "global." Although some Republicans, like Pat Buchanan, have blamed NAFTA for exporting American jobs to Mexico, the nature of free trade in a global, and thus much more competitive economy, would be enough to make even Ronald Reagan smile because of all the capitalistic opportunities.

So what does all this leave for the Re-

publican Party? Tax cuts? Please! That phrase has been so overused in American politics it hardly even qualifies as a soundbite. What's more, most voting Americans are smart enough to know that the tax cuts Republicans are espousing would free up enough money in an average pay check for an extra night at the movies every week. On the other hand, all that money collectively could, and already has, helped to put more police on the street and lower the number of children per classroom.

Of course, the Republicans will always have the usual conservative rhetoric about moral values, pro-life, and anti-homosexuality. But as Bob Dole painfully learned in the presidential election of 1996, appealing the Christian Coalition may help one get the G.O.P. nomination, but pushing issues like pro-life on mainstream America is equivalent to making a down-payment on a political grave. In the end, many of those issues have done more to divide Republicans than unite them.

Republican Henry Hyde, one of the driving forces in both the House and Senate impeachment trials, won't admit to you that President Clinton probably has more activity going on between his ears than most of the Republicans have collectively. Newt Gingrich and Bob Livingston, two men who have seen their careers ruined because of Clinton's presidency in "crisis," probably won't admit to you that Clinton may be the best politician America has seen this century. But what the elections exposed last fall when the Republicans lost seats because of a failure to convey an agenda to the American people is something Republicans won't be able to hide once this mess is finally over: Clinton has taken his 75% approval rating right out of the center, leaving Republicans with little, if anything, to rally around.

Disowning society's obsession with female body ideal

Commentary
by
Morgan Hentrup

I find this ironic. When I first began to write this piece on eating disorders, I was chomping away on a mini Hershey's bar left over from New Year's Eve.

That act basically sums up my current feelings about food: It's there, I'm hungry; why shouldn't I eat it? Even if I know I shouldn't, is it worth the effort to deprive myself of something I want?

This is my wholesome, too-healthy, middle-aged food persona talking. I neglect to mention my alter ego: the guilty, obsessive side that rears its ugly head every so often, usually when I visit my relatives on my mother's side of the family, The Lermans. Despite my liberal ideals and the fact that I eat twice as much as my relatives at family dinners, I have still managed to inherit the eating disorder genes that are the Lerman Women's Legacy.

As a child, I was never affected by the sickness around me; I was shielded and ushered away from the reality that my family was part of the "Eating Disorder Club." This was partly due to my grandmother, a former movie actress, whose obsession with force-feeding any animal in sight, pet or stray, extended to her grandchildren as well. She encouraged us to clear our plates and praised me when I did so. I remained oblivious when praise turned to raised eyebrows at my table habits when I entered into adolescence and began to lose my stick-skinny physique.

My mother nervously announced one night that I looked like I was gaining some weight. Then I started to notice what the girls on TV looked like, and how I didn't quite measure up. That was when things shifted.

I learned to become self-conscious of my eating habits and critical of my appearance. My self-awareness of the image I was to become escalated in my mind.

I looked to the female members of my family to provide that image.

My mother, a beautiful, petite 5'6" and 100 pounds, had been coping mentally with anorexia since being hospitalized in her teens. Her bouts with the eating disorder came and went as her inclinations and self-control constantly battled within. One consistent element in her life was the mentality of the disorder: the obsessive, low self-esteem, negative body image side that would be mine to inherit. These characteristics were always more pronounced when we went to visit our relatives in Los Angeles.

It is now impossible to believe I survived growing up there with no major scarring. The importance the LA woman places on appearance and weight con-

sumes her daily life. My aunt and cousin's joyful greetings when we arrived always included a "wow-look-how-much-weight-she's-lost" remark, instantly making me realize what kind of a visit was in store.

The refrigerator was always packed with every fat-free food in existence. Dinner was calorie-counting time. Activities were often scheduled around trips to the gym.

My eyes, though not blinded to the sickness that surrounded me, both idolized and sympathized with my female relatives.

They were beautiful, but couldn't appreciate it. Their inner strength had been weakened by starvation of the body and mind. My heart ached for these women as my mind furiously condemned their practices. I resolved to end this cycle of self-abuse by not succumbing to my predestined inheritance. I was going to like myself and food.

I despise the media's portrayal of the female body-image ideal, which the Lerman women embrace with bony arms: a starving, eroding body wasted away to only skin and bones from self-mutilation. This is what women strive to become?

I long for the days when voluptuousness was considered desirable and people like Kate Moss would have been freaks of nature.

See Commentary page 7

A DAY IN THE LIFE: LCC operator makes the connections

□ LCC Operator directs up to several hundred callers each day.

Casey Jarman
Staff Writer

In a small, slightly cluttered room with two tall windows overlooking the Northeast parking lot of LCC, the grey light from outside drips onto the desk of Gwenda Sluyk, who sits at one of two large telephone-esque consoles.

There are notes taped on the desk in front of her, titled "Bookstore Hours," "GED Testing," and the like. On her left is a large metal-clad book of names and numbers. Every once and awhile, Sluyk uses the directory, but in most instances, she's dialed the numbers often enough that she doesn't have to look them up.

Sluyk is the lead operator, one of two full time operators on the main campus at Lane. She is not new to talking on the phone. In New Zealand, she worked as an operator with a large switchboard. "It was before voice mail, so more people had to

go through the operator," Sluyk recalls.

She came to the United States in 1972 from New Zealand, accompanied by her husband and daughter.

When I began the interview, I intended getting some wacky angle on things. The stupid questions people ask, if she had ever told someone to "look in their damn handbook!," and who the most popular man or woman on campus is (judging from how often they're called).

My intent was somewhat dissolved after I met Sluyk. Not because she was too serious, or humorless, but because she had no hostilities towards any of her callers.

Sluyk would speak to the callers with a gentle tone, and with patience.

"They are serious questions that people ask," Sluyk says. "I don't think there are any stupid questions, because it's not stupid if they have to ask it." The phone rings, and Sluyk quickly connects the caller.

"Lots of times I am the first person people talk to," she continues. "Maybe they haven't been to school in a long time, and they need help so that they can move

on to the next step."

"I try not to get frustrated with people," she says, "because I understand that they are frustrated too, and it's usually a problem that can be fixed quickly."

After answering phone calls all day, Sluyk doesn't usually talk on the telephone much at home. "I have my husband do it," she smiles. "I'm bothered more by salespeople at home, so that's his job."

And just who IS the most popular person on the Lane Campus? "There's not one really. Some days one might get more than another." She pauses. "Actually, The Torch gets a lot of calls," she says with a smile.

Sluyk had plans to return to New Zealand. Unfortunately, her nine year-old



Photo by Veronika Ditmar

Gwenda Sluyk sits at LCC 'switchboard' to answer calls

grandson became ill, and has been in the hospital with a burst appendix.

"He's a very sick little boy," Sluyk says.

While the New Zealand trip has been postponed, the Sluyks will still make time for a vacation. "We're going to take him and his brother to Disneyland this summer."

Do you know where your student fee dollars go?

□ Students pay \$750,000 each year to several student organizations

Katherine Nagy
Staff Writer

You and your fellow students give a projected \$750,000 per year to LCC through student fees. If you are a registered student taking one or more credit courses, then you are required to pay a mandatory student fee of \$24.38 each term.

First, let's start out with some figures from fall term of 1998. There were 10,404 registered students, according to Craig Taylor, director of research and planning. Together, their fee amounts to over a quarter of a million dollars. The question remains, where does it all go?

The fee is disbursed among six student organizations — ASLCC, ASLCC Child Care Co-op, OSPIRG, Student Health Services, Athletic Department, and the Oregon Student Association.

• ASLCC receives \$5 from each fee (\$52,020 total last term) to go toward operating expenses, Photo ID, Legal Services, Denali (art and literary magazine), Food Cart, and the Book Exchange.

Brian Tanner, ASLCC director of state affairs, says the fee is a form of self taxation to improve the campus community. Most students attending Lane are also not aware of the Legal Services that are provided for them: free wills, name changes, step parent adoptions, expungement of criminal records, general advice, landlord/tenant disputes, consumer problems, review of legal documents, pending criminal matters, and public benefit problems. For more information about legal services, you may call 747-4501, ext.2365. For questions concerning the use of the student fees to aid ASLCC, you may contact Tanner at 747-4501, ext.2333.

• ASLCC Child Care Co-op receives \$5 from every fee (totaling \$52,020 last term) to go toward providing subsidies for students who need off-campus child care or have children in the Child Care Co-op. Students voted in the 1991 spring elections to fund this program that also provides an opportunity for student parents to work closely with one another and share child care responsibilities.

• OSPIRG collects \$2.25 from the fee (\$23,409 last term) to educate students and the community about consumer and environmental issues such as clean water, safe toys, pesticides, and many others. According to Andy Gerweck, chapter chair of OSPIRG, by paying the fee students become a part of an educational and political process that allows hands-on experience that is not available in the classroom. "Student fees are a key part of the educational mission that contributes to the marketplace of ideas and free speech," he says.

• Student Health Services garners \$6 out of every fee (\$62,424 last term) which goes towards free or low cost health care to students. Students approved this

\$6 assessment to retain the health services which were scheduled to be cut from the 1993-94 budget. The SHS provides basic first-aid and necessary immunizations. It charges for lab work. Sydney Wilson, receptionist from the center said, "We offer free services to students who cannot afford health care or do not have insurance." Along with first-aid, the health services department also offers substance abuse counseling, as well as birth control information and supplies at a low cost. In addition, the SHS promotes health among women by having clinics that are easily accessible and offer a system of tests and procedures that are beneficial.

• The Athletic Department collects \$5 from each fee (\$52,020 last term) to provide free recreational activities such as open gym hours, badminton, basketball, and open weight sessions, along with free admittance for LCC students and family members to all the home games. Ron MacKenzie, assistant director of athletics, says, "Take a ride on the wild side, check into Lane Recreational Sports."

• The Oregon Student Asso-

ciation receives \$1.13 of the fee (\$11,756.52 last term), ASLCC's membership dues. LCC is the first community college in Oregon to join the OSA, which includes the Oregon Health Sciences University and all the universities within the Oregon University System as members.

Along with supporting campus organizations, students also receive other benefits from stu-

dent ID cards. Some of these include the use of the UO library, performing arts tickets at LCC at a discount price, a 15 percent discount at IHOP and Izzy's Pizza restaurants, discount ticket prices for performances at the Hult Center, movie discount passes at some theaters, and the ability to vote in student government elections in May of each year.

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Proficiency grants provide tuition waivers for projects

□ LCC is investing money to encourage students to work on projects that will benefit the college or community

John Dreiling

Managing Editor

If you produce audio tapes for hearing-impaired students, or work on the LCC web page, you might earn the equivalent of 12 credits waived at LCC.

Spring term, the college will begin investing up to \$10,000 in student projects intended to benefit the student and the college through the Proficiency Grant Program. The \$10,000 will pay for 23 grants to students at current tuition rates.

Patrick Lanning, Health and Physical Education Department division chair and

Proficiency Grant facilitator, says acceptable projects through the new program are very wide ranging.

"Pretty much anything.... It really needs to benefit either the college or the community," he says.

The Proficiency Grant Program will pay for up to 12 credits for students who are accepted. Minimum qualifications include being an LCC student enrolled in at least six credits, not having accumulated more than 150 percent of the required credits for graduation in a program, meeting financial aid standards for satisfactory academic progress, and actively seeking a degree or certificate.

"The idea came out of creating an opportunity for students to be rewarded for their efforts that has to do with their skill," says Lanning.

Applications are currently available at the Students First! Center located on the

second floor of the Center Building on the main campus. The deadline for returning the applications to the center is Feb. 12.

Lanning says that a diverse selection committee composed of student, faculty, professional technical, transfer, instructional support, financial aid and administrative representatives will evaluate each application and proposed project in doling out the grants.

"The scoring for the evaluation of each project is based on the GPA of the student, whether the project is related to their field of study in some way, ...and what their stated goals and outcomes would be.... And then there's also some scoring for the neatness of the application, and for their experience in doing this type of thing, either paid or volunteer," he says.

Lanning says that the Proficiency

Grant Program requires students to spend a certain number of hours during the course of the term on the project. The number of hours required is based on a formula of the dollar amount of 12 credits (currently a total of \$432) divided by the minimum wage (currently \$6.50) to equal the number of hours required to complete the project (currently 66 hours). Staff members will mentor the student during the collaborative experience.

The LCC Foundation gave \$10,000 last fall to start the Proficiency Grant Program. Joe Farmer, Foundation director, says continued funding "probably won't happen again through the Foundation. Essentially, what the Foundation Board said to the college is we'll fund it the first year, but beyond that you're going to have to find other funding for it."

Lanning says that he is seeking reoccurring funding from the college budget.

Students help decide who makes the grade with instructor evaluations

□ Evaluations assess the strengths and weaknesses of LCC instructors

Grahan Cooley

Staff Writer

The form many students are familiar with and fill out in roughly 30 to 40 percent of classes at Lane are just one part of the overall system used by the school to evaluate instructors.

"The evaluations are broken up into four or five sections, including self-, student-, adminis-

trative-, and peer-assessment," says Margaret Bayless, English instructor and LCCEA faculty union president, "none of which are set as of greater importance than any other sections.

"We're able to identify staff strengths and weaknesses, allowing us the opportunity to improve our service to the students."

According to the contract between the Board of Education and the LCCEA, an instructor is in a probationary status for their first three years. During that time they will receive a comprehensive evaluation every year by March 1. After the probationary

period the instructor will receive one every three years, barring mitigating circumstances.

During the first term of an instructor's evaluation year, he or she will sit down with his or her supervisor to discuss professional goals, what kinds and what sources of data will be necessary, and the manner by which the information is to be collected.

The system is very flexible," says Bayless. "It's designed to allow for a wide array of instructor styles and vastly different courses of study. LCC covers everything from automotive technology to English, and it would be almost useless to have a single

generic form to cover all of it."

The flexible format is evidenced by the student input section. There is a section of standard questions along with a set of questions developed by the department and another set from the instructors themselves.

After all the data has been collected, the instructor and his or her supervisor will meet again to discuss the information, clarify any questions or concerns, and identify the specific strengths and weaknesses in the instructor's performance. Suggestions may be made on how to enhance the teacher's effectiveness and how the college can

help achieve those goals.

Currently, only the science department publishes the results of their instructors evaluations, although other institutions make public the entire faculty's results.

Jeff Stott, ASLCC vice president, is attempting to convince the college to make all instructor evaluations available to students.

"It wouldn't be as biased as word of mouth is. It would be more objective because it would be based on the whole class," Stott says.

"For as much money as we have to pay... I want a teacher that I feel is going to be willing to work with me, willing to help me."

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Arts & Entertainment

Has Jewel lost some of her 'Spirit' in new album?

□ Jewel releases second album to mixed reviews

K. Bishop
A&E Editor

A couple of years ago, I went to see singer-songwriter Jewel at Baba Yaga's in Eugene (a now-out-of-business women's coffee shop).

When I arrived I was told that her gig had been canceled because she had been contacted by the David Letterman show for an appearance. The coffee shop gossip was that Jewel had wanted to stay and play at Baba Yaga's, but her manager convinced her to leave.

Soon after that episode, her

sweet tones were all over the air waves.

Later that year I saw her on TV at the Grammy Awards. She commented on how quickly life can change: a few months earlier she had been living in her van.

Now she has a movie coming out, "Ride with the Devil," and just released her second CD - "Spirit."

I like "Spirit," yet, for reasons I cannot define, it quickly gets old on replay. While there's no doubt that "Pieces" spilled from her heart, undiluted, awkward at times, yet captivating, she seems to have lost some of her 'spirit' on "Spirit."

I'm not saying there aren't



some good tracks, Jewel has a full rich voice which often invites comparison to Joni Mitchell. She strives for depth in her lyrics and as an artist in progress, she is worth a listen.

"Deep Water" is a sample of what she's best at - capturing that down and out longing for love feeling.

"Jupiter" is a love song which has some good lines like, "It makes you so crazy you want to swallow the moon." (And when you realize it's Venus talking to Jupiter, it's even a little witty.)

In "Enter from the East," she makes the most of her haunting soprano. It's a song worth listening to for the music, though the lyrics are overly personal.

"Life Uncommon" has an easy rhythm and anthem style which is refreshing. It's a call to free-

dom for everyone.

My favorite cut on the CD is "This Little Bird," an a cappella tune in which Jewel sings back-up to Nedra Carroll. "Listening to my mother sing this song to me as a child is one of my first memories," she says on the cover.

At times her lyrics are just a little too "let's all hold hands and get along" as in her cut "Hands" - "If I could tell the world just one thing/it would be that we're all OK/And not to worry 'cause worry is wasteful."

She is good at projecting angst—through her voice, lyrics and expression—it's just that one can only take so much angst, of which this CD is "drowning." But if you want to get angsted-out Jewel's "Spirit" is the ticket.

Calendar of Events Steppin' Out

Jan. 29

•Internationally acclaimed Tibetan vocalist Yungchen Lhamo will sing Buddhist oriented songs based on traditional Tibetan melodies at the WOW Hall at 8 p.m. \$10

•Rubberneck along with Groove Revelations will heat up Good Times with funk rock. Rubberneck just released their third album "El Nino" and consider themselves "the second wave of what Santana started" \$7 cover

•Tennessee William's A Street Car Named Desire will begin its run at the University Theatre. A revelatory play in which madness passes as normal and those who are sensitive go mad. Other performances: Feb. 4-6 and 11-12 at 8 p.m. A special benefit performance for the Crystal Hauser Foundation (Hauser is a Eugene high school student waiting for a heart-lung transplant) is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7. Tickets are \$10 for the general public.

Jan. 30

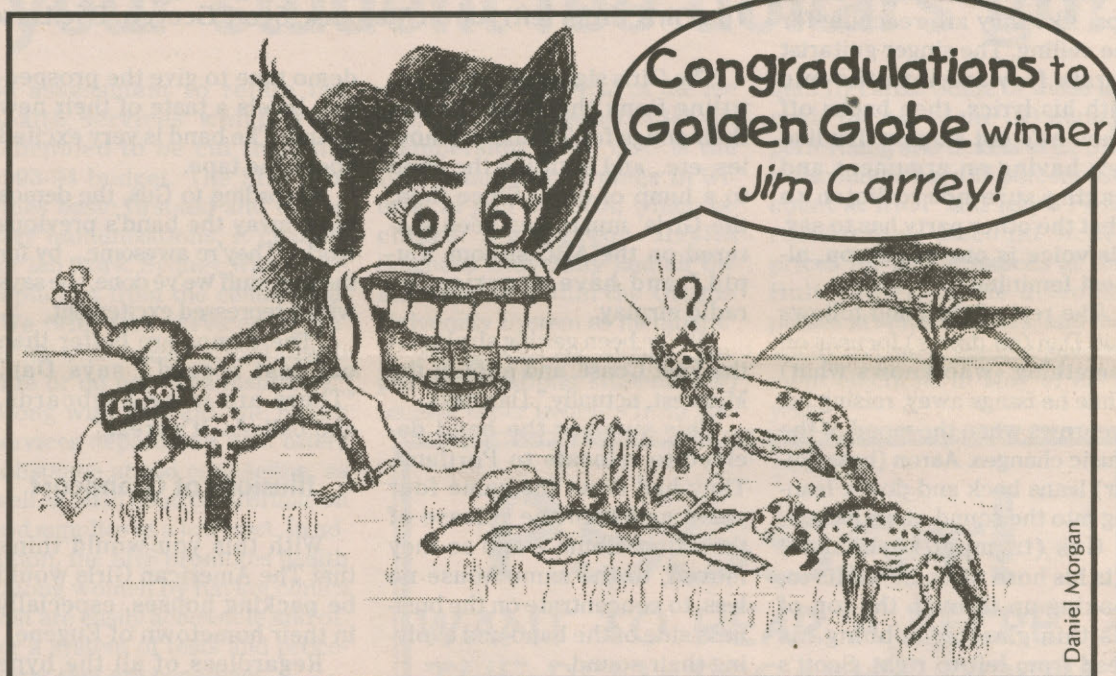
•The Folk Monty: All-Star Sensitive Guy Singer-Songwriter Revue jams at the WOW hall. Prepare for onstage antics and original covers from award-winning songwriters Christopher Williams, Evan Grubaker and Jonathan Kingham. 8 p.m. \$6 at the door

Feb. 12

•Local singer-songwriter Mark Alan will play knock-out tunes at Buffalo Gals starting at 7:p.m. A clean quiet smoke-free environment.

Feb. 13

•Cool Rhythms- KLCC showcases a musical event at the Wild Duck Music Hall \$10 in 2advance, \$12 at the door. Featuring acoustic jazz from the Mike Denny Trio at 6:30 served up with complimentary hors d'oeuvres at 8:30 folk-rock band Ashleigh Flynn Band keeps the beat going. Soulful singer Terry Evans headlines the event at 10:pm. John Swan & the Revelators' Electric Church finish out the night with electric blues from midnight to 1:30 a.m. All proceeds will benefit KLCC a public radio station.



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AMERICAN GIRLS ARE REALLY all boys in love

Casey Jarman
Staff Writer

Let's get drunk!

The sound check was one of a finely-tuned pop machine. Joking around on the stage, the band shook out some general craziness before it was time to play. The WOW Hall was brightly lit with its high orange lights. It's 7:30, and the girls appear anxious to get out of the Hall. "Let's try a song," the soundman asked from behind the knobs and buttons.

"Whaddya wanna play?" one voice asks. "You're the s**t?" "Let's do it."

The wall of sound that follows is pure glee. Even in sound check, the musicians are so directly connected to their music that you can hardly tell who is playing what. The sound simply emanates from the expressions on their faces.

Eric's hair is bright red at the tips, like they are reaching for the ceiling. The singer-guitarist bursts forward into the mic with his lyrics, then backs off when he's not singing. It's like he's having an argument and making sure not to listen to what the other party has to say. His voice is one of reason, almost feminine.

The rest of the band follows suit. Dan (on drums) focuses on something (who knows what) while he bangs away, raising his eyebrows when the mood of the music changes. Aaron (bass guitar) leans back and down, leaning into the sound of his bass.

Gus (trumpet/keyboards) hits his horn when he wants to, looking up through the top of his thin glasses, bobbing his head from left to right. Scott's (guitar) serious expression turns to a smile when anything out of the ordinary comes into the sound. The band throws the music around; they play with it like a hot potato.

As quickly as the song began, it's over, as is the sound check.

"Alright," the sound guy says, indicating that all the knobs are set, and the buttons have been pressed.

"Let's get drunk!" Eric yells, and the band makes their way to the liquor store across the street from the WOW Hall. (Little did they know it had closed 10 minutes earlier.)

Hurry up and wait

Last year, Gus, Eric, and Aaron were attending the UO. After the release of their third album, "In the whiskey Ya Ya's" (Elemental), The American Girls started attracting a lot of attention. It became more evident one night after playing at the Wild Duck when The Girls were approached by a Sony representative who enjoyed their performance. Immediately after the show, he offered the band a publishing deal with Sony.

"The only thing was he didn't have it all written up right then," Dan says.



The Girls (from left) Aaron Masonek, Scott Georgis, Eric Larson, Gus Baum and Dan Stieg.

The Girls signed the deal, entitling Sony the rights to use their songs for TV shows, movies, etc., and entitling the band to a lump of cash. Since then, the Girls' music has been featured on the ABC sitcom "Cupid," and have experienced radio airplay.

"We've been getting airplay on the East Coast, and a lot in the Midwest, actually," Dan says.

This summer the band decided to relocate to Portland. They had done the same four years ago with the release of their first album – and so they moved, to the same house no less, to concentrate on the business side of the band and evolving their sound.

"We love Portland almost as much as I love Jayne," Eric says. He hasn't stopped talking about Jayne, his girlfriend, since the interview began, and will not for the remainder of the evening.

The band is currently "courting" two major labels, Immortal Records (Korn, Goodness, Far) and Trauma Records (Bush). The band says that the two labels have made equally compelling, if not entirely different, offers.

"We are happy with everything we've done so far," Dan says, "We are just trying really hard to make the right decision now."

"This isn't the hard part, right now," Eric says with confidence. "Right now people are being very patient with us, and kinda blowing smoke up our ass. We know that the hard part starts after we sign. That's when people are demanding of you."

Dan adds, "It's very much hurry up and wait."

"We want something stable," Dan says. "This is our career, we want to insure that we will be supported for as long as possible."

So as they are wine and dined, the little band from Eugene dreams of the big time. They produced a nine song

demo tape to give the prospective labels a taste of their new sound. The band is very excited about the tape.

According to Gus, the demos blow away the band's previous work. "They're awesome... by far the best stuff we've done," he says with a repressed excitement.

"The demos are better than our last record," says Dan. "There are more keyboards, and ballads. It's great."

Illusions of Grandeur?

With this you would think that The American Girls would be packing houses, especially in their hometown of Eugene.

Regardless of all the hype building for them, the 150 odd crowd that shows up at the WOW Hall is far from capacity.

"It's a hot and cold place (Eugene)," says Eric. "A pop crowd is a lot different from a metal crowd or a ska crowd. A lot of times the crowd that comes, it's not necessarily a young crowd, but they are not looking in the publications and stuff. We get a lot of emails that say, 'When are you guys playing a show?' and it's like, 'you just missed us.'"

Gus, who earned a degree in music and a minor in business at the UO, also enjoys Eugene, and

points to natural reasons for changes in crowd. "Eugene is in a lot of ways very all-ages accessible, but the problem is, everything is so totally based on the University culture that it can be very hard to establish a solid fan base here. Our mailing list will be half gone from year to year, just from people moving, coming and going. It's not anyone's fault, it's just the nature of the beast, in some respects."

The American Girls are not the only band to experience these sort of fluctuations in crowd size in Eugene. Their good friends in Marigold, while experiencing a huge 'buzz' about them media-wise, do not always draw large crowds, even in Eugene. Marigold has been the subject of much talk in the Rocket, more recently in the Register-Guard, and have solidified their deal with Dreamworks to put out an album this year. Still the band has been known to draw small to medium sized crowds, and rarely headlines shows.

Nevertheless, the American Girls play in Eugene often, especially The WOW Hall. "We try to play all-ages shows," Dan says, "We're the last piece of wholesome entertainment left in the rock world."

This one is for the girl I love

The American Girls come complete with rock and roll karate kicks, and musicians on top of speakers. The crowd has slowly built up to the comfortable level it reaches for the headliners.

At one point, the band calls for a young fan, Pete, to perform with them. "Pete, Pete, Pete" the crowd chants, and Pete gets on stage to help the Girls perform one of their most popular songs, "More of me, less of you."

"Oh Yeah!" Pete yells with the band. "All I need is you, and all you need – all you need is me."

Like Sinatra, The Beatles, The other Beatles, er.. Oasis, the American Girls are about love. So it comes as no surprise when nearly every song in their set is dedicated to Eric's love.

"This is another one that goes out to the girl I love," he says. "She's not here right now, because I was stupid and she's pissed off at me." You can almost hear the women in the front of the crowd sigh in desperation.

Eric has been playing guitar since he was 16 years-old, "I always wanted to be a crooner, but I suck at it," he says.

In truth, his performance is not unlike that of a modern day Sinatra, singing about love, drinking before the show, and smiling like a thousand dollar bill.

"Whatever you do, end your article with 'The American Girls love you,'" he says.

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State figures project LCC deficit by 2002

☐ Projections are based on figures released by the state last fall

John Dreiling
Managing Editor

Increasing deficits are in the college's future.

Expenditures will be \$2.4 million above revenue in 2001, \$4.8 million above in 2002, \$6.4 million above in 2003, and \$8.1 million above in 2004, according to LCC's projected revenue/expenditure comparison.

Marie Matsen, vice president of college operations, says that the college has been relatively lucky in the past: "Doomsday never comes, at least it hasn't in the past, because we bit the bullet when we had to.

"It looks like we have this situation every year, and the axe never falls. Well, the axe does fall; it just falls in little pieces."

Matsen says that the projections are based on state figures released last fall, the same kinds of employee compensation increases as in years past, the same expenditure levels, and does not include tuition increases. Uncertainty also exists in the forming of projections regarding how much the state legislature will appropriate to community colleges, she continues.

"Looking into the future, it's hard on both (revenue and expenditures) to predict," she says.

Matsen says that the college's financial situation has been greatly affected by Measures 5, 47, and 50 which limited local property taxes, passed by Oregon voters during the '90s.

According to figures released by LCC Institutional Research, Assessment, and Planning, funds from local sources accounted for 39.3 percent of the total college budget for the 1990/91 school year. That number had dropped to 13.6 percent by last year. The state has picked up some of the missing revenue support, increasing its percentage from 23.9 percent to 44.6 percent during the same time frame.

"When we were funded by property taxes, our funding compared to other community colleges in the state was better. Now it's the same as, and (the state) can't play favorites," she says.

Matsen says that the college has a legislative action team that provides information about the college to the state legislature, and LCC also works through the Oregon Community Colleges Association to lobby.

"The recent two or three bienniums the legislature has been fairly kind... to community colleges, compared to higher education. I hate to guess, but indications are that it's higher ed's turn this year, but we don't know. It's too early to tell," she says of the college's prospects during the 1999 legislative session.

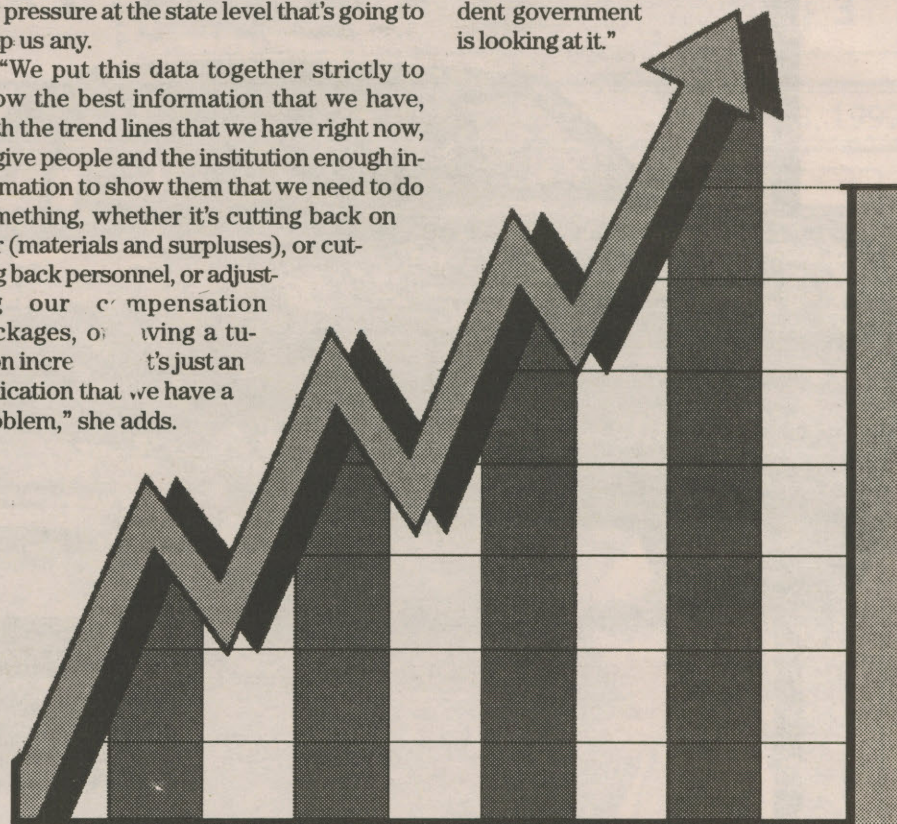
Matsen denies that the college uses the projections as a type of scare tactic to pres-

sure the state legislature to increase its funding of community colleges.

"It's our attempt to be honest with the data that we have right now.... Just based on this data, we're not going to be able to apply pressure at the state level that's going to help us any.

"We put this data together strictly to show the best information that we have, with the trend lines that we have right now, to give people and the institution enough information to show them that we need to do something, whether it's cutting back on our (materials and surpluses), or cutting back personnel, or adjusting our compensation packages, or raising a tuition increase. It's just an indication that we have a problem," she adds.

Brian Tanner, ASLCC director of state affairs, agrees: "It's a true figure. It's not something that (the college is) blowing out of proportion, taking out of context. It's a fact of life is how I'm looking at it, and how student government is looking at it."



LCC's expenditures may rise to \$8.1 million above revenues by 2004

Commentary from page 2

I was always encouraged to believe that beauty came from within, but found that concept confusing when direct evidence proved to me that society held quite the opposite belief.

This is the nature of the battle that goes on constantly in my mind: should I accept myself for who I am, or should I try to become an image that society will condone?

I do not believe I have an eating disorder. Yes, I sometimes feel guilt from food. And yes, I admit to frequenting the torture chamber, or gym, rather. But I will never be anorexic. As much as I

have been conditioned to desire a waif-like body, I like mine just fine and value my health over appearing on a magazine cover (In addition, I love food and have very weak willpower). But I have seen what I know I don't ever want to become.

Because of this, my relatives see me as "liberated." I disagree. I'm just careful—I know the potential for self-destruction my genes carry. They say they wish they had my strength.

Yes, I have strength. I know they do too; it's just been hiding for awhile behind that tub of fat-free ranch in the back of the fridge.

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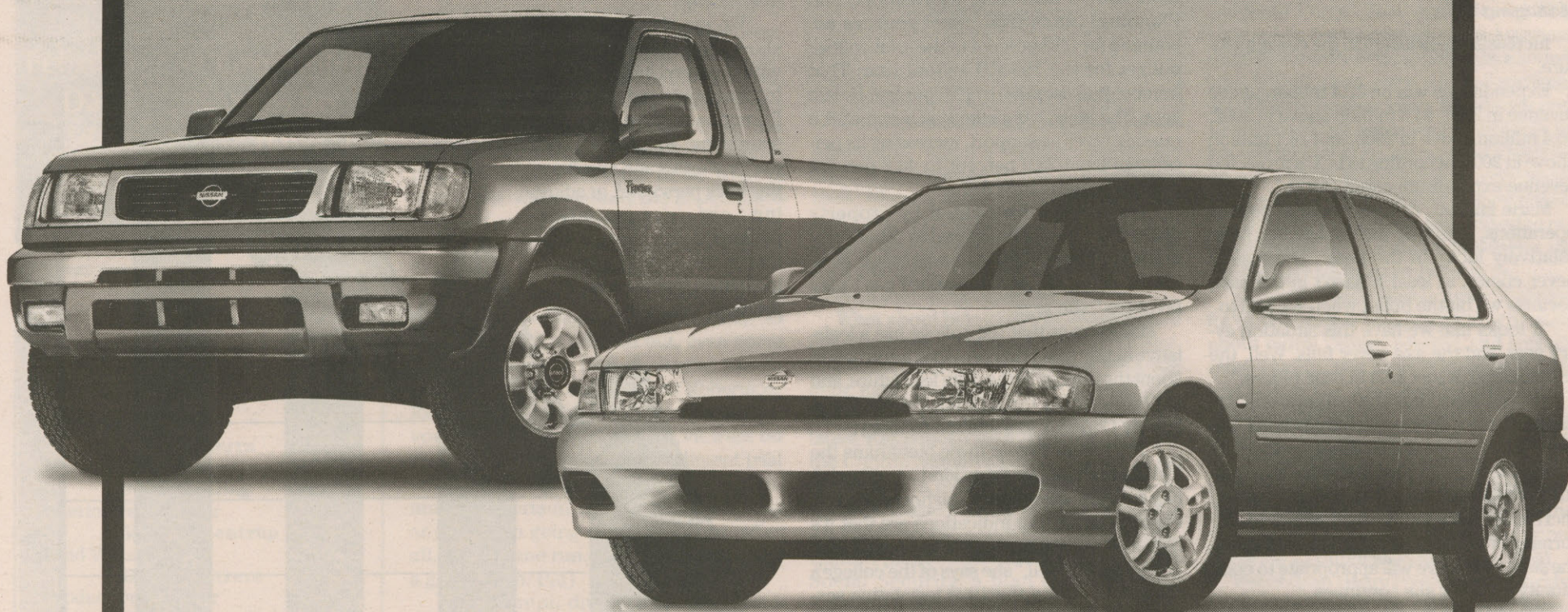
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