



Mackworld returns
page 2

The doctor is in
page 4



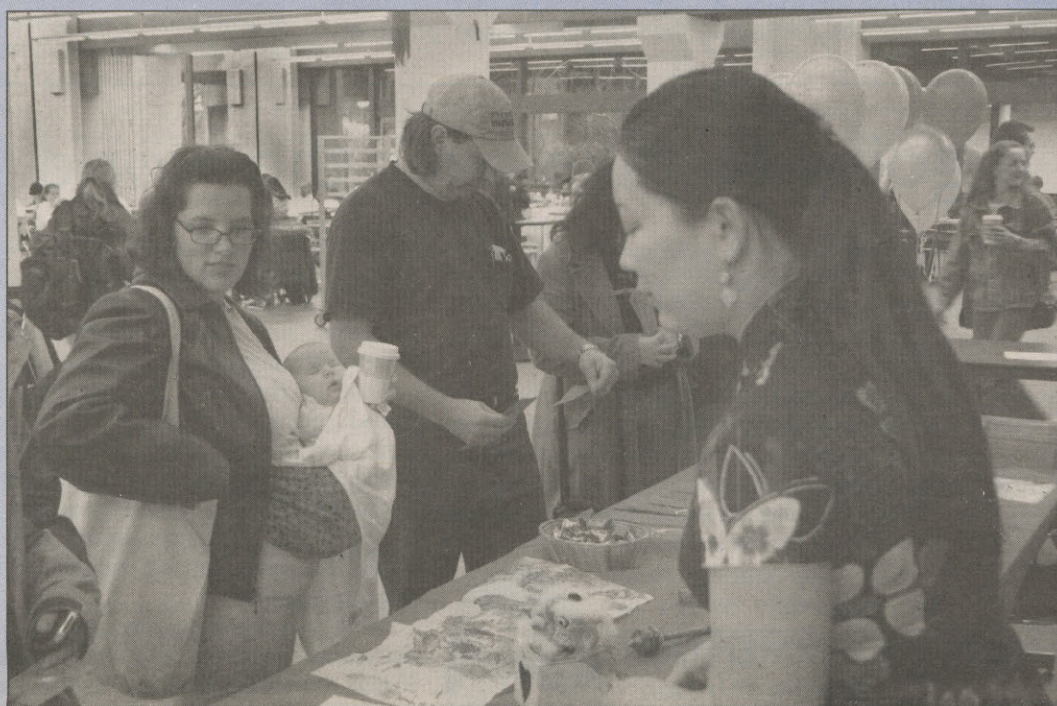
VOLUME XL, NUMBER 13

THE TORCH

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

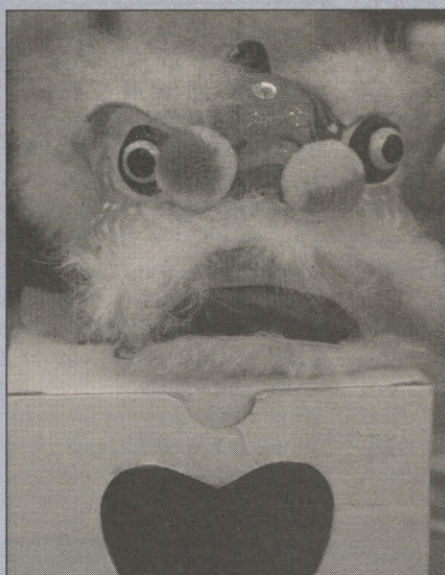
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006

Year of the Dog begins



The Chinese Year of the Dog began on Jan. 29. In the Chinese culture, those born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature: loyalty, honesty, and inspiration. A celebration is conducted that lasts 15 days and is full of ancient traditions. One such tradition is the Lion Dance where two people form the body of a lion (costume pictured right) and dance to bring good luck to the people. University of Oregon student Zhang Lei came to LCC to celebrate and share the Chinese New Year with students (pictured above).

PHOTOS BY JARED MILLS



Tragedy hits the slopes

Accident claims life
of LCC student at
Mount Bachelor

HEATHER SERAFIN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

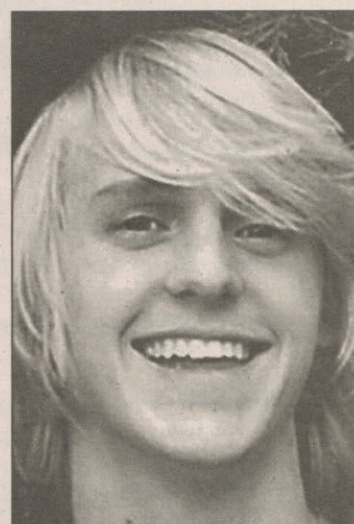


PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE REGISTER GUARD

Cameron Sharp

Avid snowboarder and LCC student Cameron Joseph Sharp was killed Jan. 27 at Mount Bachelor when a snow removal machine ran over him early in the morning.

After a trip to the mountain with his snowboarding class, Sharp decided to stay behind and take advantage of the next day's "free ski day" an event held annually at the resort.

Sharp, 18, was asleep in the parking lot of the resort when the snow machine struck him around 4 a.m.

Sharp started classes at LCC in Fall term of 2005. Snowboarding was the only class he was taking this term. He had hopes of taking more art classes and maybe pursuing the culinary program in the spring.

Helen Garrett, LCC Director of Enrollment Services/Registrar, spoke with Sharp's mother Mary.

"Cameron had struggled in high school. He had a hard time feeling like he belonged," Garrett said. "When he came here in the fall, it was with really good excitement about what the future held."

"He always felt good about how he was looked at and treated at Lane. His mom talked about how the moment he started, people cared that he was here, instructors

cared, and he felt like he had an opportunity to turn around where he was going and what he was doing with his life."

Sharp grew up in Myrtle Creek. He graduated from South Umpqua High School in 2005 and moved to Eugene during the summer.

"He had brothers in this area and had really good feelings about Eugene," Garrett said.

The LCC snowboarding class leaves for Mt. Bachelor every Thursday morning at about 6 a.m. Students are supposed to check in with the instructor and mountain personnel at 4 p.m.

"Cameron informed us that he would not be coming back on the bus with us. He was staying with friends, going to Bend. Obviously what we know is that didn't happen. Because

See **SNOWBOARDER** page 10

Gubernatorial hopeful holds conference

Pete Sorenson proposes
doing away with
corporate kicker and
using the money to fund
community colleges

PEGGY GREEN
NEWS EDITOR

Pete Sorenson, current Lane County Commissioner and Democratic candidate for Oregon governor, held a

press conference Tuesday, Jan. 31 in the LCC Boardroom to voice his concern for Oregon's community colleges and to announce how he proposes to fund them.

Sorenson, former member and Chair of LCC's Board of Education, is looking to "the level of loopholes, exemptions, credits to the major corporations," to find the additional \$70 million he proposes to add to the current budget of \$434 million for Oregon community colleges.

He plans to find the funds by eliminating the corporate kicker, the tax

money that is returned to corporations every year.

"One hundred million dollars will be returned to the corporations this year," Sorenson said.

Oregon is the only state in the country with a kicker law.

Each year, according to Sorenson, large Fortune 500 corporations get a tax refund "based upon whether or not the state economist was accurate or not in predicting the state budget surplus or deficit. If the state economist is off by two percent or more then the kicker kicks and the money is returned, as it

will be this year.

"Two thirds of those corporations are based out of state and a different two thirds will pay zero income tax," Sorenson said.

Those figures represent the source of the \$70 million that Sorenson says community colleges in Oregon need, over and above what the current legislation budgeted.

Sorenson further stated that in 1973 these Subchapter C corporations paid 18 percent of Oregon state income

See **GUBERNATORIAL** page 10

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
50/38, good chance of rain	48/38, good chance of rain	48/37, good chance of rain

The Torch has been awarded first place in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association's General Excellence category for community college weeklies for 2004 and 2005.

THE TORCH

The official student-managed newspaper of Lane Community College is published every Thursday.

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Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words. Commentaries should be limited to 750 words. Please include the author's name, phone number and address (address and phone number are for verification purposes only and are not for publication.) The editor in chief reserves the right to edit letters and commentaries for length, grammar, spelling, libel, invasion of privacy and appropriate language.

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State of the Union Address makes for a great purgative but nothing else

If you're looking for a point-by-point refutation of the State of the Union Address, look elsewhere. I'm sure there's one posted on counterpunch.org or perhaps someone's blabbing about it on Air America. If you want an erudite analysis of the speech's main themes, this isn't it.

What we have here is a very simple list. Seeing as how no one has the attention span for reading prose any more, this column will be presented to you in an easy-to-read bullet-point format. We'll call it:

The Six Parts of the 2006 State of the Union Address

That Made Me Most Want to Be Violently Ill.

As you'd expect, there were a lot of moments from which to choose.

1. The arrest of Cindy Sheehan and other protestors before the speech:

COMMENTARY
Randy Woock
A&E Editor

If you watched the SotU on CBS, the arrest of the protestors was mentioned as the camera lingered on Laura Bush, positioned between a young black man and a woman

in a hajib. Coincidental seating arrangement there, I'm sure (representatives of groups your policies have killed always get choice seats), but the juxtaposition of arrests on audio and the First Lady's companions on visual made for a nice touch.

After all, few things sum up the Bush-style of government better than staged photo-ops

and mass arrests. It made for a nice prelude to all of Bush's later babbling about freedom.

2. Bush's eulogy for Coretta Scott King:

Yes, she was an admirable woman, and it's tough to go wrong with the widows of deceased civil rights leaders. Of course, it's also massively hypocritical when your administration pursues the sort of violent and socially stratified policies that would have Dr. King spinning in his grave. So, was Kayne West right when he said Bush didn't

See **STATE OF THE UNION** page 10

Exxon Mobil is going to take over the world

There's something very wrong with the world when one U.S.-based energy company makes more money than the entire country of Indonesia.

And more than Wal-Mart.

Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country, with a 2005 gross domestic product of \$245 billion. In comparison, Exxon Mobil's revenue was a mind-boggling \$371 billion for 2005. For those that don't want to do the math, that means that Exxon Mobil had revenue of \$126 billion more than Indonesia. Want to see some zeros just to help that sink in? \$126,000,000,000. Profits alone were over \$36 billion. \$36,130,000,000.

I'm typically the type of person who rolls her eyes when someone starts whining about the government trying to financially, metaphorically, or even metaphysically screw them over, but in the words of one of my co-workers, "these are the people that own the government, not the actual government," so I can whine about it all I want. I don't usually think that the bigwigs are out to get me, and it's okay that companies make profit, but this is disgusting.

The executives at Exxon obviously know that this number is staggering, and as such have tried to push the focus off of them and on to pharmaceuticals. Exxon is only competing with themselves though, and beat their own record of \$25.3 billion

which they set in 2004. The only other profit that even comes close is the \$22 billion that Ford Motor Co. made in 1998.

What can we, the consumer, do about this?

In the past, I've gotten the chain e-mails about boycotting, and not going to a certain chain of gas station on a certain day, and never paid them much mind. What's one day to an oil company? Does this idea in fact have merit?

Nah. Gas station chains are really only owned by

COMMENTARY
Krystle Johnson
Features Editor

a couple of companies since they've all had mergers by now, so by boycotting one specific chain, you're probably sending business to their sister-station.

Switching to hybrid cars won't solve your problems any more than boycotting a gas station will. Not only are they a new and unexplored safety hazard to rescue crews in car accidents, but also they fall apart within a few years. Just like every American-made car you've ever owned. Most of these vehicles aren't old enough to have started having these problems yet, but soon there will be a wave of hybrids

hitting a mechanic shop near you. They have to be driven in optimal conditions to get the gas mileage they supposedly promise, and they require extremely expensive maintenance programs.

One of the most disgusting things I found out about Exxon: the statement that their profits climbed more than 40 percent last year, and yet not surprisingly, its tax bill climbed only 14 percent.

Do I hear someone saying something about the rich getting richer while the poor get poorer?

What kind of laws, rules and regulations do we have to prevent this from happening? Is this a result of gouging? Is this going to end sometime soon? Is this surge in profit helping the economy?

All I know is that there's something fundamentally wrong when the amount of money siphoned directly from the hose at the pump to the wallet of a big-wig equals more than entire countries make in a year.

This issue goes beyond gas prices; this is a tax issue, a government issue, an oil issue, and a consumer issue. I'd suggest writing your representative, or boycotting the pumps, but somehow I don't think it'll work. Go right on ahead and keep looking for alternatives (let me know what you come up with), and continue to be disgusted, because it's pretty much the only surefire thing you can do.

Mack is back!

The class schedule for Spring term 2006 is available anytime this week. The LCC new catalog for 2006-07 will be out later in the year.

I have so many appointments. Be serious when you are hurt. When my arm hurt I went to Dr. Tom J. Ruchman.

I took all week off The Torch paper. I'm better, thank you.

Groundhogs' Day is coming and winter is flying by. Monday Mar. 20 is the first day of spring.

I will be back again or who knows? I'll have a new job very soon. Jonnie Cakes Espresso and more in Springfield LTD. Live long and prosperous. Good luck.

Mackworld
John Mackwood
Columnist



Letter to the Editor

Why I am no longer writing for The Torch

When The Torch first approached me with the prospect of writing a weekly column for them, I was overjoyed. I thought, "At last. The school newspaper will have an opportunity to present the opinion of a moderately educated female American with the ability to write complete, logical sentences."

Alas, how wrong I was! After noticing that an above-the-fold typo had transformed the word "deficit" to "defecate," I perused the re-edit of my column and found that the two paragraphs which made my argument sensible had been completely removed, and several of the most essential tenets of my style had been deleted, rendering my opinion piece just another baseless rant amidst a cacophony of incompetence. Folks, that's my picture there. I'm appalled

that anyone might associate my writing with such blatantly incompetent editing.

Students, you attend an exemplary community college. I implore you not to tolerate these blunders, because whether or not you like it this paper is representative of the college you attend. Writing is difficult. Proofreading is NOT. Take back The Torch. We are not all idiots.

Lindsey Brown
LCC Student

Editor's note: We want to hear from you! Send us your opinions, ideas and views. All letters should be limited to 250 words and will be edited for length, spelling, grammar, libel, invasion of privacy and appropriate language.

In the Jan. 26 issue of The Torch, Todd Lutz's name was incorrectly spelled.

Coretta Scott King dies at 78

Dr. King's widow dedicated her life to keeping his dream alive

KRYSTLE JOHNSON
FEATURES EDITOR

Passing on quietly in her sleep early Tuesday morning, Coretta Scott King died at 78.

It is reported that her daughter, Bernice King, was unable to wake her around 1 a.m. at an alternative medicine clinic in Mexico. King had previously suffered a serious stroke and heart attack in August 2005.

When the news of her death broke, there were tributes across Atlanta including a moment of silence and piles of flowers placed at the tomb of her husband. Flags at the King Center were lowered to half-staff.

Known for keeping her late husband Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream alive after his 1968 assassination, the civil rights supporter also leaves a legacy of her own.

They were married in 1953 and had four children together. After his death, she raised their children and worked to keep his message and ideology of equality for all people out in forefront of the nation's agenda.

She spent much of her energy building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which served as a living memorial to both her husband's dream and life. She helped to train tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy and methods and guided the creation and housing of the largest archive of documents from the Civil

Rights Movement.

King was also responsible for spearheading the massive campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday. In 1983, Congress established the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, which she chaired until she saw the first legal holiday in honor of her husband in 1986.

She led goodwill missions to nearly every corner of the globe, including Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa. She served as a Women's Strike for Peace delegate to the 17-nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962.

She was also the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and was the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard.

She was arrested with three of her children in 1985 at the South African embassy in Washington D.C. for protesting against apartheid.

She received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities, authored three books and a nationally syndicated column. She helped found dozens of organizations including the Black Leadership Forum, the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

King was also known for accusing movie and TV companies, gun manufacturers, toy makers, and video arcades of promoting violence.

President Bush called King "a remarkable and courageous woman. Mrs. King's lasting contributions to freedom and equality have made America a better and more compassionate nation."

Students find assistance at campus Recovery Center

Free services offered to LCC students and their families

LARRY COONROD
RECOVERY CENTER

Students seeking help with addiction, whether it is with drugs, alcohol, smoking or overeating can find it at LCC's Recovery Center.

Meetings are based on a 12-step program and are facilitated by students with at least six months of successful recovery themselves, according to Recovery Center work study student Tom Hutton.

"This is a recovery resource center for people that want

to come in and get help with all kinds of different recovery issues," Hutton said. "Whether it is alcohol, drugs, overeating or anything else, we are here for them."

One-on-one counseling is available with director Mark Harris, Hutton said.

Currently one-hour non-denominational recovery meetings are held on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 11:30 a.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursday from 12-1 p.m.

Meetings take place at the Recovery Center, Building 1, Room 226, located behind the TRIO Learning Center. Tucked away above Students First, the center can be difficult to locate.

This is a point Recovery Center aide Julia Barlow acknowledges, "We are working

on getting more signs made up to make it easier to find us," she said.

Barlow stressed that they are seeking volunteers to run recovery meetings. "If we had more people involved we could offer more meetings," Barlow said.

Services offered through the Recovery Center are free of charge to students of LCC and their families. The center is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is available on a walk-in basis.

Students seeking additional information can contact the Recovery Center by phone at 463-5178 or visit their website: <http://www.lanecc.edu/stuser/subabus.htm>. Director Mark Harris can be reached by e-mail at harrism@lanecc.edu.

News Flash

DIVERSITY: FROM IDEA TO PRACTICE AT EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lani Roberts of Oregon State University will facilitate a discussion exploring interrelated topics of the null curriculum (what isn't taught), the power of stereotyping and the unearned advantages enjoyed by members of the dominant culture.

This free event will be Feb. 2 from 3-5 p.m.

BELL HOOKS OPENS THE WOMEN OF COLOR CONFERENCE

Bell Hooks will lecture on Friday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m., 150 Columbia Hall, University of Oregon. Feminist, social thinker, memoirist, intellectual, and teacher, Bell Hooks has written over 24 books, including "Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism." She is Distinguished Professor of English at City College in New York. She will have a book signing at the ASUO Women's Center in the EMU, Suite 3 starting at 5 p.m. Contact Brittinie N. Harper, 346-4095.

WINTER POWWOW AND INDIAN CRAFT MARKET

The Annual Winter Powwow and Indian Craft Market will take place Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Elmira High School Gym, 24936 Fir Grove Lane, Elmira, Oregon. Grand Entry times are at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. There is no admission charge and the general public is invited.

ANNUAL FUNGAL FEAST

The Cascade Mycological Society and the Lane Culinary Arts Program will host their annual Fungal Feast, Thursday, Feb. 9, in the cafeteria on main campus. Following a cooking demonstration, a meal featuring several species of wild and cultivated mushrooms will be served starting at 6:30 p.m. in the northeast corner of the cafeteria. A donation of \$8-\$15 is asked. No reservations are required. For more information, call Kyle Hammon at 463-5447.

FUNDRAISER FOR NURSING PROGRAM

There will be a fundraiser for the LCC nursing program on Feb. 20 from 5 p.m. until closing at the North Bank Restaurant, 22 Club Road, Eugene. Half the proceeds will go to the program (via the Foundation). Celebrate that no school holiday Monday by not cooking. Contact Julia Munkvold, Nursing Program Coordinator, 463-5754, munkvoldj@lanecc.edu.

READING TOGETHER PRESENTS

Jim Garcia, LCC's Interim Chicano/Latino Student Program Coordinator and recipient of the 2005 Martin Luther King Leadership Award, will discuss and perform Corridos, oral history through song, Feb. 9 from 10-11:30 a.m. These songs, performed bilingually while Jim accompanies himself on guitar, honor those who have struggled in behalf of the community while highlighting significant events and issues impacting the Mexican-American people. Jim weaves these songs into a presentation, which considers the history of the Mexican-American experience in this country.

Flight Technology Department stays aloft in stormy weather



PHOTO BY NAOMI REICHMAN

Coming in for a landing, Marcus Casley, a student of LCC's aviation program, uses the Instrument Landing System to find his way to the ground in the Piper Seminole.

LCC students soar to a bright future

PEGGY GREEN
NEWS EDITOR

How could an expensive program such as a flight school still exist at LCC considering the budget problems it has had to face?

Harvey Birdseye, director of LCC's Flight Technology department, has made the program self-supporting. His other innovations aim at ensuring its indispensability and longevity.

The sources of the funds are tuition and various fees paid by

students. The fees pay for the use of the airplanes, aircraft simulators and the instruction fees. They also cover flight and ground insurance.

The fees are hefty, totaling about \$30,000 for the two-year program. Add to that the cost of the FAA (medical) physical, books and supplies, and the total is around \$31,650 to get an AA in Flight Technology from LCC.

The Flight Technology Department differs from other LCC departments in that it keeps 100 percent of student tuition to help run its school, "all \$67.00 per credit hour," Birdseye said.

Birdseye, a former Navy pi-

lot, has developed a program that is now a direct transfer program to Oregon State University, where they can complete a Bachelor's degree in Pilot Management or pursue a double baccalaureate which includes the Pilot Management degree and an Adult Professional Education degree.

All credits are automatically transferable. "About 70 percent of students want to go into the airline industry. The airline industry increasingly wants to hire pilots with four year degrees," Birdseye said.

If students want to go through the program and

See **FLIGHT** page 12

House call made to LCC Performance Hall

Preview Performance
January 26, 2006

REVIEWED BY LINDSEY BROWN
FOR THE TORCH

Opening tomorrow night at the Blue Door Theatre is the Students Production Association of Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor," a collection of small vignettes based on the short stories of Anton Chekhov. Chekhov's stories, which he sold to newspapers and magazines to pay for medical school, were so successful that it wasn't necessary for him to practice medicine—which is why we know of Anton Chekhov the writer and not Dr. Anton Chekhov, General Practitioner.

Directed by Patrick Torelle and starring several SPA regulars, the play is really more a bizarre vaudeville review of story ideas from an absurd, reclusive writer played by Matthew Keating. Keating overacts a bit, a fact that his talent just barely makes up for, but is entertaining to watch and the strength of his acting ability carries his enthusiasm throughout the performance. Ranging from sublimely awkward love-scenes to genius slapstick, Keating's Narrator introduces his ideas with sincerity, weaving boastful showboating with cleverly disguised insecurities to create a genuinely likable, albeit odd, ringleader for the circus he presents to us.

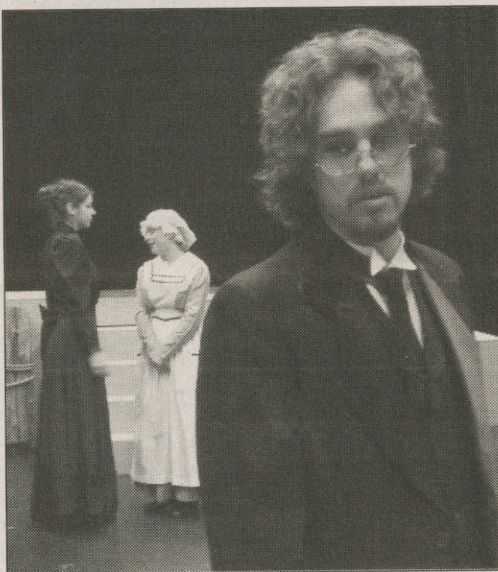
"The Good Doctor"
LCC performance hall
Fridays and Saturdays
Feb. 3-18, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 12, Noon
Thursday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.
Tickets \$10 adults
\$8 for students

The beautiful, austere Michelle Nordella plays a condescending governess whose cruelty to her helpless nanny is redeemed only by a genuinely tender moment of exasperated kindness.

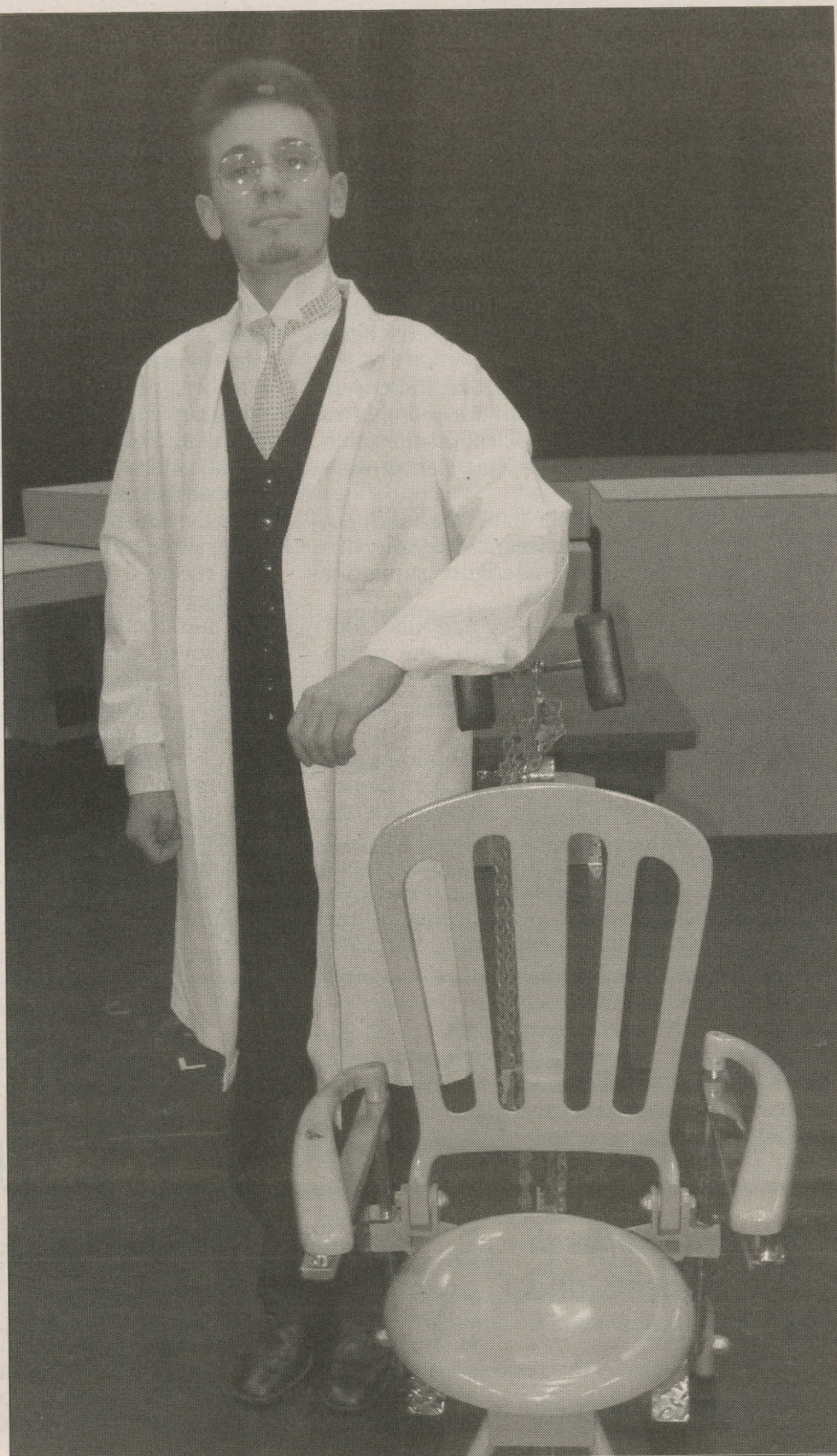
Aaron Ertsgaard makes a charmingly naïve husband and Aimee Akwai shines as his seduced wife. They both mix a sharp sense of comedy with genuinely good acting. The two of them work well together and provide an earnest affection that is convincingly sweet and satisfying.

One of the most noteworthy vignettes, "Defenseless Creature," stars actress Caitlin Tischer as an eccentric woman who plagues a bank director suffering from severe gout. She has impeccable comedic timing as well as a sure command of her facial expressions and is easily one of the strongest performers in the piece. A recent graduate of Sheldon High School, she plans to continue onto the conservatory at NYU next year. Look out; she's a natural.

Make no mistake—this is less comedic theatre than it is straight vaudeville, and Patrick Torelle (along with his talented student minions) has produced a classic. Whether you're entertaining a date or just need a night off, "The Good Doctor" is guaranteed to supply a good gut laugh or two. The play runs Feb. 3, 4, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 18, with a Sunday Matinee at noon on the 12th. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors.



PHOTOS BY LINDSEY BROWN



Black History Month

Black History Month Facts

Americans have formally recognized black history since 1926. It was originally celebrated as Negro History Week. Black History Month and study of black history can be attributed to Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

The second week of February was the original Negro History Week because it included the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced black Americans, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Important February Dates in Black History

Feb. 23, 1868 — W.E.B. DuBois was born, who would later be an important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP.

Feb. 3, 1870 — Blacks gained the right to vote with the passing of the 15th Amendment.

Feb. 25, 1870 — Hiram R. Revels took his oath of office as the first black U.S. senator.

Feb. 12, 1909 — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in New York City by a group of concerned black and white citizens.

Feb. 1, 1960 — A group of black college students in Greensboro, N.C. began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter, an event that would become a civil-rights milestone.

Feb. 21, 1965 — The militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, Malcolm X, was shot to death by three Black Muslims.

Black History Month Quiz

Over the years, there have been many proud moments for black people in America, and many firsts. Test your knowledge of who was responsible for some of the black firsts in America.

- Who was the first black to reach the North Pole?
A: Gordon Parks
B: Matthew A. Henson
C: Marcus Garvey
- Who was the first black Nobel Peace Prize winner?
A: Martin Luther King, Jr.
B: John Hope Franklin
C: Ralph Bunche
- Who was the first black Miss America?
A: Vanessa Williams
B: Halle Berry
C: Tyra Banks

- Who was the first black heavy weight champion?
A: Joe Frazier
B: Muhammad Ali
C: Jack Johnson

- Who was the first black millionaire?

A: Madame C. J. Walker
B: Robert Johnson
C: Oprah Winfrey

- Who was the first black mayor of a major U.S. city?

A: Carl Stokes
B: David Dinkins
C: Tom Bradley

- Who was the first black to win an Oscar?

A: Sydney Poitier
B: Hattie McDaniel
C: James Earl Jones

Q 1 Answer: B, Matthew A. Henson
Q 2 Answer: C, Ralph Bunche
Q 3 Answer: A, Vanessa Williams
Q 4 Answer: C, Jack Johnson
Q 5 Answer: A, Madame C. J. Walker
Q 6 Answer: A, Carl Stokes
Q 7 Answer: B, Hattie McDaniel

Student's soul expression takes form on LCC stage

Kristen McLeod hopes to attend the theatre program at California Institute of the Arts later this year

LARRY COONROD
TORCH REPORTER

LCC thespian Kristen McLeod first caught the acting bug in a sixth grade production of "Word Wars" in her home state of Michigan.

"That was it, once I did that I was hooked," she said. "I can't draw myself away!"

McLeod has been involved in every student theatre production since she began attending LCC in 2002. She is serving as president of the Student's Production Association this year.

Started in response to budget cuts during the 2002 school year, the Student's Production Association funds and produces all theatre performances at LCC.

"For Midsummer Nights Dream last year we built a replica of the Globe theatre in London. We asked the Council of Clubs for money for that and they did donate money," McLeod said. "Otherwise we're self-sufficient; fortunately we are profitable on our shows. Not always necessarily but we usually make back the money we put into."

No mean feat considering the cost of producing a show can be several thousand dollars. Student actors receive no pay for their production work.

McLeod enjoys all aspects of theatre work: both on stage and behind the scenes. This term she is the stage manager for the SPA's production of "The Good Doctor," which opens Feb. 1 in the Blue Door Theatre located in Building 6.

"That's actually a very challenging job, it's one of the hardest in the theatre I would say," McLeod said. "You have to control the actors, make sure everything is getting done, lights, sound and set design."

McLeod laughs when asked if a



Kristen McLeod

veteran like herself still gets stage fright.

"I don't think there is anyone out there that can say they don't get those little butterflies before they go on stage," she said. "And if they don't, there is something wrong with them!"

Despite the "butterflies," McLeod is passionate about acting and the arts. "It's a high really, only it's a legal high - to be addicted to theatre," she said. "I think part of your soul is gone if you can't express yourself in some form."

Sometime in the next month, McLeod plans to audition for acceptance to the prestigious California Institute of the Arts. She hopes to be one of 25 people CIA will accept into the theatre program this year. Acceptance is based on the prospective student's performance of two two-minute monologues.

"You have four minutes to give them your all," she said.

Acceptance to CIA does not come cheap. According to McLeod, the annual cost of tuition is \$40,000. "I'll go broke that's \$160,000 I'll be in the hole," she says laughingly.

Two former LCC alumni, Kathy Streker and Anton Ray have been accepted to CIA in recent years. "Which is really amazing for such a little community college," McLeod said.

McLeod credits theatre instructors Patrick Torelle and Judith (Sparky) Roberts with much of the success of the LCC's theatre arts program. "We have a great resource here. The teachers we have make themselves so available and are really helpful," she said.



PHOTOS BY JAMES HOLK

Student Kristen McLeod, above at left, is actively involved in many of LCC's programs. Here she helps lead a discussion inside the Blue Door Theatre prior to rehearsal of "The Good Doctor."

She is currently enrolled in Torelle's method acting class.

"She's remarkable as a student, remarkable as an actor. Just a really fine person that people like to work with and be around," he said. "I couldn't ask for a more dedicated, detail orientated, ahead of the game; all of the time kind of student. I feel very fortunate that she has taken over the reins of the Student Production Association," Torelle said.

McLeod describes method acting as "using things that happened to you personally in your life to draw out those emotions and feelings that need to be present in the play."

Torelle credits method acting with the "super-realistic" style of modern theatre and film. "People are able to create these huge emotional states in themselves on cue and over and over again," he said.

"It can be scary territory if you pull up something you don't really want to have to deal with. We put up these walls and as actors it's our responsibility to tear them down," McLeod said.

As president of the SPA, McLeod is encouraged by the growth of interest and participation in student theatre. "I want this organization to keep growing in the future. It's tricky being a community college, people come and go so quickly," she said. "With this level of interest it is more likely people will take

over the roles that need to be taken over next year."

She emphasizes that the SPA needs more than just performers. "We always need behind the scenes people, lighting, sound and stage hands. We can always use those," she said.

"Anyone who wants to can join, you don't have to be a theatre arts major," she said. "For a lot of people it may not be their major or what they plan to do with their lives but the theatre is definitely important to them."

Besides a major production piece, every term the group also sponsors weekly scene showcases, known as "The Blue Door at Four." "That's where people who have been working on scenes in their classroom can perform for an audience," McLeod said.

As for future career plans McLeod says simply, "I just want to make a living doing what I love. Preferably acting but I love all facets of the theatre."

"She is definitely going to be working for the rest of her life," Torelle said of his student. "Theatre, television, film; anything she wants to do she'll be able to do."

Students seeking more information about theatre opportunities can contact Kristen McLeod at the Student's Production Association at 463-5761.

Downtown Center offers unique non-credit classes for students

Center remains optimistic about program sustainability despite looming budget crisis

DREW HUNT
TORCH REPORTER

Lane Community College is widely known for its effectiveness in providing two-year transfer degrees for students planning to transfer to a four year university. However, few are aware of the opportunities LCC has for those looking to gear themselves toward a specific endeavor.

LCC's Downtown Center provides a plethora of non-credit classes through the Continuing Education and Extended Learning program. With these classes, students can enjoy studying and learning a subject that does not lead toward any specific degree or long term agenda.

These classes allow LCC to provide the freedom for people to take a certain class and learn something they can apply to their lives or careers right away, said Continuing Education director and chair Jeff Davis.

Even though looming budget cuts could hinder the Downtown Center's efforts, Davis remains hopeful that they can continue their efforts.

"It's really too early to tell how



PHOTO BY JAMES HOLK

LCC's Downtown Center offers a far calmer and slower paced atmosphere for completing and accommodating many of the same tasks that students often face in the Student's First building, such as enrollment services and bus pass fees amongst others.

the budget will affect us. We remain optimistic," said Davis, "because our classes tend to be very popular. We're constantly looking at what is working. If a class isn't as busy, we'll replace it and get something that is."

"In one form or another, we'll be around," he said.

Classes range wildly, from a stand-up comedy class to social psychology. Classes are moderately priced, usually around \$100 each. Latin guitar goes for

\$111, while a class on learning how to write an Internet Blog will cost \$66.

More than 1,900 of LCC's students, roughly 55 percent of the overall student body, are enrolled in these non-credit classes and take advantage of the many opportunities offered. These numbers came to be after a steady growth in recent years.

"For the past five years, one out of every two households in Eugene have someone living in them that has taken

a course through LCC, mostly through non-credit," said Davis. "These are not people going for a degree, but would like to learn enough Spanish for their next trip to Mexico, or how to cook for their friends."

Although most of the classes offered are non-credit, there are numerous programs that offer career preparation, most notably in Real Estate and Massage Therapy, where there are 1,275 students currently enrolled with about 100 already signed up for the Spring term.

Program coordinator Lori Bumgardner Steger said the Downtown Center has been doing a better job of getting information out via the Internet. Through the web, they're able to gain feedback more quickly and future students can easily access information regarding which classes they may or may not wish to take.

According to Davis, a lot of people in Lane County know LCC through the non-credit classes, generating much buzz about what happens at the college.

"The classes are smaller, and the instructors love that they teach," said Davis.

Steger said some students are even using the classes offered as social gatherings as opposed to using them for educational purposes.

"Couples are using our ballroom dancing class as date night," she said.

Storm rains on Titans' home court, 111-97

Titans can't overcome 53-point performance and drop game to Chemeketa on Jan. 28

ROBERT JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

Records are made to be broken. Chemeketa Storm's top shooter Riley Luetterodt took center stage against the Titans in Eugene Saturday and exploded for 53 points. It was one shy of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges record 54 points set in 1991 by Portland's Tyrone Pollard against Lane.

It's been 12 years since anyone has been this close to breaking the single season points in a game record.

Larry Raw of Blue Mountain Community College also scored 54 in 1968. The last 50-point game was in 1994 and is a rare sight to see.

"That's the most points I've ever seen scored, I've never been a part of a game where someone scored that many points," Lane Head Coach Matt Swagerty said.

Many Division 1 schools including Washington State, Nevada and Ball State are scouting Luetterodt.

The Titans lost the game 111-97 to drop their league record to 3-3.

Chemeketa Head Coach David Alberhalden was pleased with the win but also impressed by Lane's style.



PHOTO BY ROBERT JONES

Lane's Travon Mouton puts up a shot against Riley Luetterodt (22) of Chemeketa. Lane lost the game 111-97 to move their record to 3-3 in league play. Lane will host sixth ranked Clackamas Feb. 4 at 6 p.m.

"We talked about the fact that Lane wasn't going to roll over and that we needed to come out with good focus and intensity especially at the defensive end. As we had discussed at (half-time), Lane came out hard and we didn't respond to the level which I had hoped for. Lane's intensity and hustle got them back with in striking distance but we managed to do just enough to hold onto the lead," Alberhalden said.

Lane brought the game within nine late in the game after being down by as

many as 28 points.

The Titans found themselves trailing by 21 points at halftime with a score of 67-46. "We just dug ourselves to big of a hole to come back," Swagerty said. The Titans' 97 points was the most points scored this season but they also gave up a season high in points.

This was the second time a team broke 100 points against the men. Shoreline scored 100 in the Bellevue tournament in December.

The Titans are still in striking distance

to gain a playoff spot at the mid-point of the season.

Lane is tied with Clackamas and Portland for third place. The next three games will be played at home with Mt. Hood coming in on Feb. 11.

"It's going to be nice to be at home," Swagerty said.

In the other games on Jan. 28, three teams (Chemeketa, Yakima Valley, Mt. Hood) all broke 100 points in a game. Four players including Lane's Josh Akwenuke scored more than 30 points.

Second annual Student Spring Spectacular raised an estimated \$60,000 for athletics

An estimated 350 people helped support LCC sports

ZACKARY PACHOLL
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Baseball and soccer should be ready to play next season thanks to an estimated \$60,000 raised in the second annual Student Spring Spectacular.

On Friday Jan. 27, LCC hosted a fundraiser and dinner to help support men's baseball and women's soccer.

A few companies such as Symantec, Wildish and SELCO Credit Union were on hand to show their support at the event.

"It was good, it was a lot of work and I think it came together really well," Athletic Director Sean MonDragon said. "It was amazing to see all the effort."

In its second year the Student Spring Spectacular attracted approximately 350 people.

At the Spectacular, there was an oral and silent auction after dinner, with all of the items being donated. Outback Steakhouse donated the food for the dinner and the help was volunteered as well.

Baseball and soccer players, along with LCC staff, worked hard to make this event possible.

"Our athletes, coaches and staff stepped up and helped quite a bit. They did a great job," MonDragon said.

Some of the items included a signed Willie Mays baseball, a trip to a Seattle Mariners game, and even a painting done by soccer player Penny Sullivan's younger brother.

Former Seattle Mariners catcher Dan Wilson was the keynote speaker at the dinner.

"When I found out it was for a junior college I said I'd love to come down and help," Wilson said.

Wilson came to LCC to share some memories of his playing days and to speak about way to achieve ones goals.

The highlight of Wilson's speech came at the end when he said, "in achieving our goals, help others achieve theirs."

"He really wanted to come and really help out," MonDragon said. "That was really cool, it was a

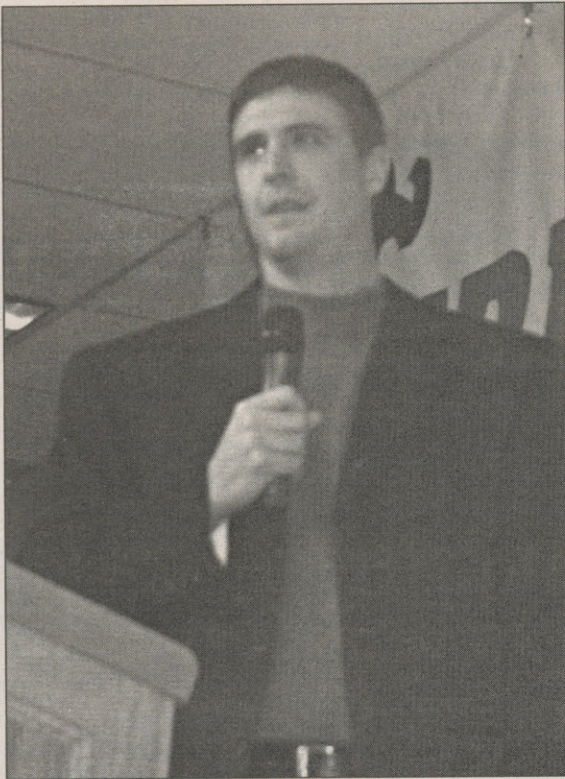


PHOTO BY ROBERT JONES

Former Seattle Mariner's catcher Dan Wilson was a guest speaker at the second annual Student Spring Spectacular. The fundraiser was to help the LCC baseball and soccer teams and raised over \$60,000

nice thing of him to do it."

Two years ago, baseball and volleyball were cut due to budget cutbacks. Community members got together and put money together to help fund baseball. With the reinstatement of baseball, a women's sport with equal scholarships was added, which was soccer. The men's baseball and women's soccer budget is mainly funded by community donations and other fundraisers throughout the year.

Cross-country, track and field and basketball are school-funded sports. The money that funds these sports comes from student fees and general fund money.

NWAACC MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

As of 1/28/06		
NORTH	League	Season
Peninsula	7-0	13-4
Bellevue	6-1	15-4
Shoreline	5-2	13-6
Whatcom	4-3	11-7
Olympic	4-3	12-7
Skagit Valley	2-5	5-12
Edmonds	2-6	9-9
Everett	1-6	10-9
Seattle	1-6	5-13
WEST	League	Season
Lower Columbia	6-1	19-1
Highline	6-1	13-4
Grays Harbor	5-2	13-6
Centralia	5-2	8-11
Green River	3-4	7-11
Pierce	3-4	9-10
Tacoma	3-5	4-15
Clark	1-7	3-15
S. Puget Sound	0-7	5-12
EAST	League	Season
Spokane	5-1	16-4
Columbia Basin	4-2	8-11
Big Bend	4-2	13-7
Walla Walla	3-3	9-10
Yakima Valley	3-3	8-11
Treasure Valley	2-4	10-11
Wenatchee Vly	2-4	3-16
Blue Mountain	1-5	8-11
SOUTH	League	Season
Mt. Hood	6-0	17-3
Chemeketa	5-1	13-6
Clackamas	3-3	14-7
LANE	3-3	9-11
Portland	3-3	11-10
Linn-Benton	2-4	9-11
SW Oregon	1-5	7-12
Umpqua	1-5	4-15

Saturday's game against Clackamas will set season

Women's basketball looks to have better starts to games

ZACKARY PACHOLL
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The game against the Clackamas Cougars on Feb. 4 will set the tone for the rest of the season.

When these two teams faced off earlier this season, Clackamas grounded the 17-game win streak and handed Lane its first loss of the season. In that game, the Titans lost 92-80.

Clackamas currently sits atop the southern region, the same region that the Titans have set out to win.

Sophomore forward Morgan Zajonc summed it up, "We need to beat Clackamas and win the southern region."

That task is nearly impossible unless the Titans beat Clackamas on Saturday.

If the Titans can beat Clackamas in Eugene, they will increase their home winning streak to 40 games.

On Saturday Jan. 28, Lane played host to the Chemeketa Storm.

The Titans got off to another slow start, which has become all too common this season.

"We kind of started out slow tonight," sophomore guard Domonique King said. "We have slow starts all the time."

If the goal for this team is to get back to the NWAACC Championships, they must find a way to rid themselves of the slow starts.

"We can change it, we get lazy and all beat up (with injuries). We just gotta suck it up and play through it," King emphasized.

After breaking away from the Storm, the Titans ran up the score putting the final tally at 102-62.

The Titans are the first team to score 100 points in a league game this year. This win also matched their total of 100-point games last year.

"It was said throughout this week if we hit 100 points we are getting chalupas," King said.

In the game, Zajonc led the Titans with 18 points and five assists. King added a team high nine steals. Lane had six players in double figures for scoring.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, the Titans smashed the Lakers of SWOCC 91-47.

"We blew them out," sophomore forward Cora McVey said. "We got the lead and kept it all game long."

The Titans have a chance to put themselves back in the driver's seat heading into the NWAACC Tournament.

"If we don't win on Saturday (against Clackamas) it will affect our placing for the NWAACC (tournament)," Zajonc said.

"Which means we'll go lower and play a harder team in the first round."



PHOTO BY ROBERT JONES

Domonique King of Lane soars to the basket in the Titans' 102-62 triumph over Chemeketa in Eugene on Jan. 28. The Titans are in second place in the South division and will face number two ranked Clackamas at home on Feb. 4, at 4 p.m.

Mystery of the other football league

For the past 18 Sundays there has always been a football game on T.V. I never miss one.

There's no better place to wait out a hangover than in front of pro football. Last Sunday, however, as I sat in my recliner eating Cheetos, pondering the meaning of life and watching the last ten minutes of Unsolved Mysteries, I realized no game would follow the show.

I wept tears of pure Cheeto extract, their artificial goodness flowing down my cheeks.

Thankfully, there remained a glimmer of hope. A choice remained to me, a way to salvage my Sunday. I could watch a little bit of golf or some arena football.

The decision didn't take too long to make. In my opinion,

golf should not be televised in a house unless it's a senior citizen's complex. With those choices narrowed down, arena football got the winning vote.

This sport existed for years, and yet no one cares.

I find it satisfying to watch a football player get

knocked into the stands. It's kind of like watching hockey except there's no glass separating the cowardly fans from the players.

This version of football is fun and exciting to watch. It even has a team in Philadelphia that can actually win a game or two.

The Arena Football League field is only 50 yards long. Even I could run that, maybe. Who

can't love a game where the final score can be 56-46?

After the Super Bowl, I recommend that people start watching the AFL.

And speaking of the big game, I have a confession to make. My name is Robert and I'm a Broncos fan. Yes, I admit it.

And on that note, I have to say that the Steelers really are that good. However, in my prediction I'm going to put the favor against them, not because I want to, but I have to.

Seattle has never been to the big game, but they deserve the respect they ask for and Sunday they will prove their worth.

One of two things will happen: it will be the lowest scoring Super Bowl ever, or the most lopsided win in history. Even worse than the Broncos 55-10 loss to the 49ers in 1989.

My prediction: Seattle 14, Pittsburgh 10.

COMMENTARY
Robert Jones
Sports Editor



NWAACC DIVISION
OVERALL STATS

SCHOOL	PTS	REB	BLKS	STLS	FOULS
Lane	1687	586	84	355	379
Clackamas	1507	932	56	256	307
Everett	1400	940	67	253	361
Yakima Valley	1397	82	26	311	343
Centralia	1391	980	17	253	357
Big Bend	1339	810	29	210	315
Wenatchee	1316	798	27	152	338
Highline	1264	764	53	247	420
Shoreline	1217	747	46	219	292
Spokane	1189	774	45	273	417
Portland	1125	741	57	215	326
Umpqua	1122	725	44	122	200
Linn-Benton	1067	783	23	208	286
Chemeketa	1028	700	59	190	264
Mt. Hood	772	607	5	143	273
SWOCC	506	362	10	71	150

Castro ready to shake souls at Cozmic Pizza

**Concert supported
by Rainy Day
Blues Society**

REVIEW BY RYAN MCGILL
FOR THE TORCH

Chances are, if you're an insomniac with a taste for stand-up comedy, you're more than a little familiar with the name Tommy Castro. You were probably lying there on the couch after Louie Anderson had ushered another up-and-coming comedian off the stage (maybe Dave Atell, Louis Black, or Patton Oswalt) and after his trademark rasping whine, you probably heard some other sounds that were much more conducive to a

well-adjusted lifestyle. That, my friend, was the Tommy Castro Band, who is best known in more mainstream circles as the house band for the oft-rerun HBO Comedy Showcase.

Castro is touring in support of his most recent release, 2005's "Soul Shaker." He will be performing on Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. at Cozmic Pizza, located in the Strand on the corner of Eighth and Charnelton. Eugene devotees the Rainy Day Blues Society are providing local support and promotion.

For the money, you don't get much more eclectic or electric than the Tommy Castro Band. I'm not alone in this sentiment. Carlos Santana noted that Castro

has, "The voice, the sound, and the right intentions to touch everybody's heart." Castro has played twice with the biggest name in blues, B. B. King, and with Santana as well as a host of others. He is highly praised for his sound, which incorporates elements of rock n' roll, R&B, and soul into an intense Chicago blues. He is often compared to Stevie Ray Vaughan and Eric Clapton, probably due to the similar tone of their instruments.

Castro blues is true blues, but it's also fun blues. He's a romp through the city after midnight, a sheet or two in the breeze, singing about sailors on leave. His vocals are the smooth ache of a man too old for his years.

The Tommy Castro band is filled out by a hard-driving rhythm section: Randy MacDonald on bass and Chris Sandoval on drums. Keith Crossan contributes the fleshy saxophone underbelly that practically defines Chicago blues.

"Soul Shaker" has garnered the group nominations for two Blues Music Awards, including Best Contemporary Blues Album and Best Contemporary Blues artist. The Blues Music Awards, formerly known as the W. C. Handy Awards, are governed by the Blues Foundation.

For more information on the Feb. 7 show, contact Christine with the Rainy Day Blues Society at (541) 461-3619.

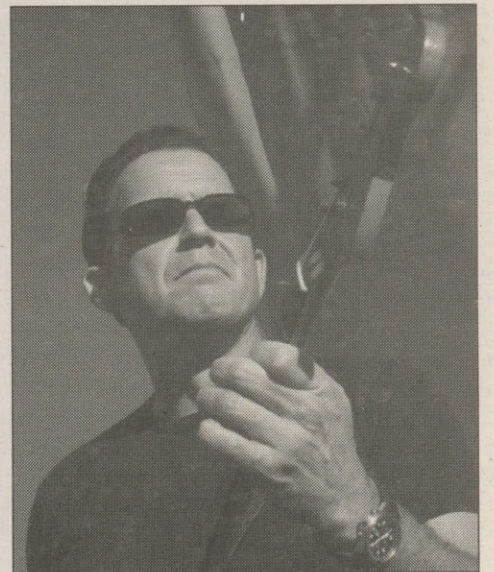


PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE RAINY DAY BLUES SOCIETY

Tommy Castro brings his turbo-charged Chicago blues to Cozmic Pizza Feb. 7 at 8 p.m.

A year of new music brings a band that should cause a 'Panic!'

**Rockers Panic! At The
Disco are ready
to make their leap
into the limelight**

REVIEW BY DREW HUNT
TORCH REPORTER

Multiple artists saw 2005 as a banner year. Kanye West dropped his phenomenal "Late Registration." Mariah Carey finally proved she wasn't crazy any more (kind of...). And Gwen Stefani showcased her spelling abilities with brilliant poise.

However, in the rock world, one of the biggest stories of the year was the uprising of a multitude of bands whose major success came after already

having a massive following from the independent circuit.

Bands like My Chemical Romance, Coheed & Cambria, and most poignantly the Grammy-nominated Fall Out Boy all shot into the mainstream, turning the heads of critics and snubbing the scene kids who had heard of them first. While some may react to this with up-turned noses and message board slander (think the aforementioned scene kids) the band's impact on popular music last year was undeniable.

As these bands have already established themselves as volatile forces in the music industry, a new question arises: who will be next? Record execs are undoubtedly searching high

and low for "the next big thing," the next MTV darling. They should look no further than Las Vegas, Nevada's Panic! At The Disco.

The band attracted some publicity in the lead up to the release of their debut album "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out" (Fueled By Ramen Records / Decaydance Records), selling 10,000 copies in its first week. Blending dance/techno-pop and power chords with relative ease, fans of The Faint and Blink-182 alike should find it irresistible.

Though a bit pretentious at times, with song titles such as "I Write Sins, Not Tragedies" and random synth interludes that seem entirely out of place and highly unnecessary, there's

no denying the pop accessibility and mosh pit starting breakdowns that should make Panic! TRL favorites in no time. That, and the fact that their boss, Fall Out Boy's larger than life bassist Pete Wentz, can't seem to stop boasting about them in Cosmo and Teen People Magazine.

Tracks like "Camisado" and "I Constantly Thank God For Esteban" are anthemic tracks highlighted brilliantly by singer/guitarist Brendon Urie's highly infectious vocals that have been compared to that of (yet again) Fall Out Boy's Patrick Stump, only better. Lyrics like "you're a regular decorated emergency" are unforgiving when sung from his pseudo-falsetto and actually add more to the song than the instruments do.

"It's Time To Dance" is another fine example of Panic!'s vocal strong points. The song is a dance-rock gem, fixed with pounding drums and jumpy keys, but what makes the song memorable is Urie's soaring call and response: "When I say shotgun, you say wedding."

The rest of the album has many high notes as well. "There's A Good Reason These Tables Are Numbered, Honey, You Just Haven't Thought Of It Yet" is a refreshing tune laced eloquently with a semi-salsa horn section. The album's final track "Build God, Then We'll Talk" is a fitting and perfectly sarcastic sounding finale.

What may hold Panic! back from being embraced by the masses is its stereotypical emo tagline, given by narrow-minded critics and guys who wear girls' jeans. The gross misconception and constant usage of the term will certainly turn some people off, but those who tell you they're Fall Out Boy with a keyboard (or the even more dreadful, "emo new wave") aren't listening to the unique aspects of the sound.

Panic! At The Disco will be playing at the Crystal Ballroom in Portland on March 9 in support of label mates The Academy Is....

Their album is currently available in most record stores.

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1990 S-10 Pick-up, blue, chrome wheels, looks and runs good. \$1,900. Call Michael at 461-7965. Leave message w/number.

DVDs for sale, \$5 each. Student selling personal collection, 275 DVDs in all. Wide variety. Call 206-7529 or email kellycrain@comcast.net

Events

Bible Study/Prayer Group! T/Th at noon in the north cafeteria in front of the coffee

shop. Questions? E-mail Aleisha: BrokNB4God@aol.com

Other

Aikido/Self-defense classes for all levels Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8 p.m. Amazon Community Center, Eugene. Call 935-8655.

Shout out to LaToya and my man Fuzzy Slippers in da Bronx. RIP, son.

Free avocado green, but nice, electric range, hood, and oven, works fine. U-haul. Call Peggy 736-8316

"Don't give til it hurts, give til it feels good," my fortune cookie.

"Don't go barking up this tree" said the Chihuahua to the Rottweiler

Grandma and Grandpa Bingham, I love you guys!!!

Happy 26th B-Day Bro! We miss you!

Hi Grandma and Grandpa! I miss you. -Eir

Looking for a good time visit www.homestarrunner.com

Taqueria offers good beer and delicious burritos

Mexican food done right at Las Brasas a rarity in the Pacific Northwest

REVIEW BY RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

Mexican food in the Northwest tends to taste like it got here via a bad game of telephone. Like someone started whispering recipes down by the Rio Grande and by the time it reached Oregon the message was so jumbled that what's resulted is a downright crime. Bland food, high prices, and salsa weak enough to rub in your eyes.

With a Mexican version of McDonalds such as Burrito Boy earning such high praise in these parts, something must be terribly jaded about our standards. Oregonians' toleration of the Mexican food they're served is like culinary abuse.

Now: the secret's out. No more culinary abuse for us. There's no need for it thanks to the good Mexican grub to be had at Las Brasas.

The Setting:

Las Brasas is a cramped little storefront. It looks like someone converted their efficiency apartment into a taqueria. You could dive straight in from the front door and land in the open kitchen. This is as close to the authentic taqueria experience as you're likely to get in Eugene. It reminded me of the small eateries in Mexico City where the kitchen and dining area are both stuffed into what was once a small garage. Las Brasas is roomier than those places, but not by much.

Stepping into Las Brasas means stepping up to the register. It's that close. To the right is the small dining area and to the left are the kitchen and

a cooler filled with Mexican beer, juices and soft drinks. A sign on it reads, "Hoy no fio/ manana si."

The Service:

You can select your order from a large hand-painted sign hanging just to the right over the register. There are several other ad-hoc announcements written on paper around the larger sign, so try not to get confused by the clutter. One of the signs announces that lunch prices are a buck less than dinner, but the deal ends at 3:30 p.m.

WILL REVIEW FOR FOOD

Las Brasas
541 Blair St.

Meals can be ordered to go, but the proletarian charm of Las Brasas is reason enough to dine in. If the stuffy dining section of the taqueria is a bit cramped for your taste, there are always the picnic tables out in front. Sitting there last Saturday could have gifted you with the rare experience of munching burritos in a hailstorm.

Orders are made and money is exchanged at the register. Then you can grab a seat and they'll bring it all to you. Don't worry, given the size of the place the staff should have no problems locating you.

The Food:

!Gracias Jesus, por la comida sabrosa! I had begun to despair that satisfying Mexican food was only a myth in the Pacific Northwest, kind of like Bigfoot but with more frijoles. Thankfully, Las Brasas is here to restore my faith.

First off, delivered along with your food are two small bowls of condiments. One has an average temperature pico de gallo, but the other contains picante mixed with some nicely potent mole.

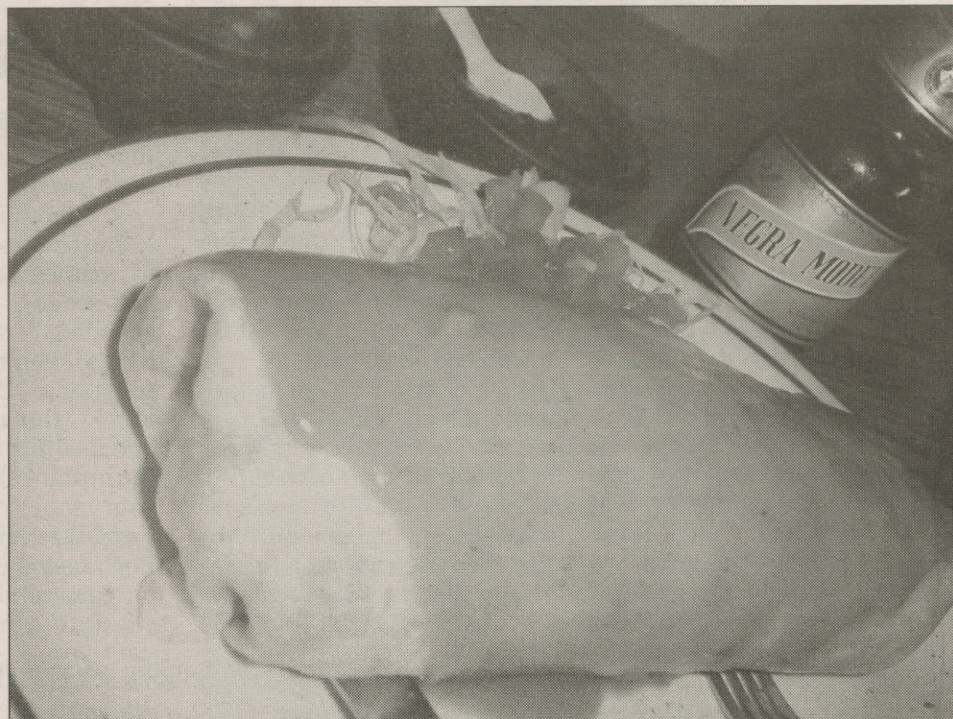


PHOTO BY RANDY WOOCK

Bigger than a baby's arm, the Las Brasas's pork burrito is enough food for two. One of these goes for \$5.25.

Ladling it over your food will give you the closest thing to a genuinely spicy dish that you're likely to encounter this far north.

I ordered a pork burrito (\$5.25) and a Negro Modelo (\$3). My dining companion snagged a veggie burrito (\$4.50), all for a grand total of \$12.75. That's not too bad a price for stuffing two people (with a little left over) at a non fast-food establishment.

For another 12 bucks or so we could've snagged a filete dorado, which consists of an entire fish, head and all. Neither of us was in much of a mood to be stared at by our food, so the option was saved for later.

The burritos were over six inches and fat, like all good things in life should be. The vegetarian burrito contained corn, cilantro, lettuce, Mexican rice, frijoles, tomatoes, onions, carrots, celery and what may have been potatoes. The pork burrito was about the same with the healthy addition of chunks of meat.

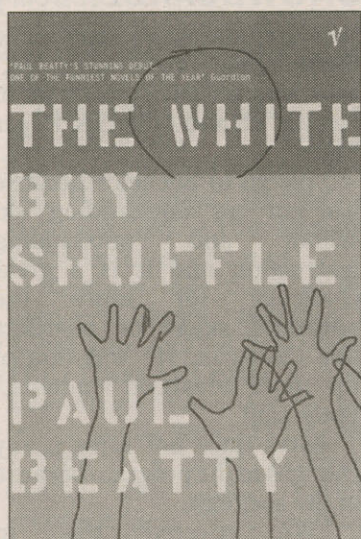
The burritos were richly flavorful, but sadly lacking in the puddles of grease one normally associates with taqueria food. This lack of unhealthiness is a little disappointing, but to make up for it I'd recommend having an extra beer or smoking a few more cigarettes than originally planned after the meal to fill your quota for unhealthiness.

Black poet devises final solution for white oppression

A book full of humor, racial politics and mass suicide

REVIEW BY RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

According to author Paul Beatty, "The defining characteristic of the African-American writer is sobriety." Beatty's self-described mold is definitely shattered by his first novel, which may very well be the most amusing book you'll ever read.



OFF THE SHELF
The White Boy Shuffle
By Paul Beatty Houghton
Mifflin. 1996.

And you will read it, right? It's Black History Month, for chrissakes! Maybe you should experience something of a sub-culture beyond watching old Chappell Show re-runs.

The Skinny:

The book is summed up best by protagonist Gunnar Kaufman himself: "If a movie mogul buys the rights to my life, the TV Guide synopsis will read: 'In the struggle for freedom a reluctant young poet convinces black Americans to give up hope and kill themselves in a climactic crash 'n' burn finale. It's full of laughs and high jinks. Some violence and adult language.'"

Gunnar attracts followers

Crispus Attucks to catch the first musket ball).

One from the 19th century was the only free man to willingly escape into slavery. And another earned a living painting signs for segregated bathrooms before going on to inspire the black-faced antics of the Amos 'n' Andy radio show.

As Gunnar eloquently phrases it: "I'm black Orestes in the cursed House of Atreus. Preordained by a set of weak-kneed DNA to shuffle in the footsteps of a long cowardly queue of coons, Uncle Toms, and boogedy-boogedy retainers."

The Bad:

Well, if you've got a P.C. bug lodged firmly up your backside like so many west coast liberal-types seem to, Beatty's novel will give you a coronary followed by an epileptic seizure.

Beatty skewers every class and racial stereotype known in America. The man uses the so-called "N-word" like he's given a monthly government stipend of the thing and has to deploy them all or will risk having his allotment cut.

There's nothing inherently offensive (to anyone sensible-minded) about Beatty's use of the term. In fact, it's used to designate the first friend Gunnar makes in his new LA. neighborhood (before this everyone just beats on him). "He called me 'nigger.'"

My euphoria was as palpable as the loud clap of our hands

colliding in my first soul shake."

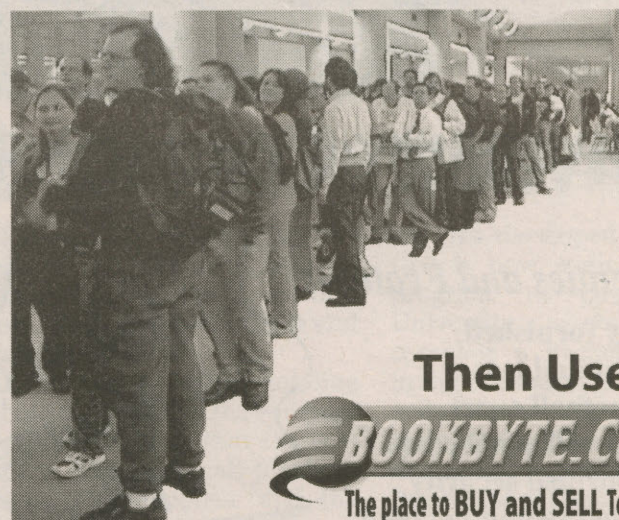
The Ugly:

Following the public reading of a poem in front of the assembled masses of his secessionist section of L.A., Kaufman cuts off his own right pinky finger.

"I'd prepared myself for the pain, but I wasn't ready for the

amplified sound that pounded out of the monitors. One hundred thousand crunching watts of stainless steel cleaving through bone followed by the solid *kachunk* of the knife into the mahogany lectern, followed by my gasp, the audience's gasp, and my deep inhalation of shock."

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STATE OF THE UNION from page 2: The last time I was lied to so frequently in an hour was at Christmas Mass

care about black people? Of course not! Bush apparently thinks they're great for name-dropping.

3. The Post WWII Growth of Democracy:

As Bush put it, "Far from being a hopeless dream, the advance of freedom is the great story of our time. In 1945, there were about two-dozen lonely democracies on earth. Today, there are 122." The insinuation is that American goodness had something to do with this charming march of freedom throughout the world.

History major though he may have been, Bush neglected to mention that quite a few of these so-called democracies, since the term "republic" is too advanced for the average

American viewer, were formed in spite of American intentions. In fact, American help was crucial in squelching democracy in places like Greece, Iran, Indonesia and all over Latin America.

4. Using a Dead Marine's Family as a Prop:

Probably the most offensive part of the entire evening. Bush has a charming habit of using the dead during his SotU speeches. The last one I watched was back in 2002 (which put me off them for a while) and that time it was a 9/11 victim. The corpses were waved in the air on both occasions to justify his administration's bad ideas. First, the war on terror and then the invasion of Iraq.

For the record, when Bush

had the parents and wife of deceased Marine Staff Sgt. Dan Clay stand up and be noted, they received the longest applause of the night; over 50 seconds. I'm sure that, and the free trip to Washington more than made up for the loss of their loved one.

5. Spending Tax Dollars

Bush touted his achievements in reducing "the growth of non-security discretionary spending." Or, in layman's terms, money spent on social programs. You know, those horrid things like education and healthcare that actually do the unthinkable act of spending your money on you rather than using it to kill people overseas. Bush had the utter gall to brag on camera about how pleased

he was to have screwed us all. And then, of course, he received a standing ovation for it.

6. The Sacredness of Life

George got that serious look on his face and warned against "the most egregious abuses of medical research — human cloning in all its forms — creating or implanting embryos for experiments, creating human-animal hybrids and buying, selling, or patenting human embryos."

I was a bit disappointed by his stance on animal-human hybrids, looking forward to having my own pet centaur as I was, but the worst was yet to come. Bush went on to say, "Human life is a gift from our Creator — and that gift should never be discarded, devalued,

or put up for sale."

This from the guy who set a record executing inmates in Texas and ordered the invasion of two separate countries. From the last invasion alone he's got the blood of more than 2,000 U.S. military folk (including Marine Staff Sergeant Dan Clay) and a minimum of 30,000 dead Iraqis staining his hands.

Or maybe George just meant that human life was a gift from the Creator...to him, to use as he and his associates see fit.

It was at this point that the lies and the propaganda got too much for my weakened constitution and the remote was hurled at the screen. The picture went black, the audio died and my nausea calmed accordingly.

GUBERNATORIAL from page 1: Sorenson speaks on helping community college budget issues if elected to governor's seat

tax, but that in 2006 they will pay five percent.

"That is the lowest percentage of any of the 50 states," Sorenson said.

Sorenson decried the fact that as large corporations pay less in taxes to the state, community college students pay more in tuition.

"The recent LCC tuition increase to \$69.50 per credit hour represents an 83 percent increase since 2001. We know that tuition through the first 25 years at LCC was about 20 percent of the total cost of operating not only Lane Community College but also virtually every other community college in Oregon. Now that number is 30 percent," Sorenson said.

The partnership between the taxpayer and the student had always been (that) one fifth of the cost would come from the student, and now in 2006 we'll see that number go to 30 percent. It's not fair," Sorenson said.

"It affects the rest of our society," Sorenson said, citing benefits such as "reduced incarceration, improved

health, health related absenteeism, decreased welfare, decreased unemployment, all of which can be attributed to a person bettering themselves at a community college in Oregon."

On a personal level, a community college student can expect that for every dollar they spend on education, they will increase their lifetime earnings by \$5.

He attributed the increase in tuition in part to the 20 percent decrease in enrollment since 2001.

Sorenson quoted an estimate "of some 76,000 people in 2004 cut from the 17 community colleges' enrollment (in Oregon). Portland Community College had to cut 35 programs, increase tuition by 28 percent, just in two years and they lost 18,000 students. These numbers are grim," Sorenson said.

Sorenson is running against current Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski in the May 16 Democratic primary. Governor Kulongoski "is the one who proposed the major cuts on Oregon's community

colleges," Sorenson said.

"I disagree with his failure to identify where the money will come from. He'll make a promise and then he won't tell where the money is going to come from," Sorenson said.

Steve Candee, faculty instructor in the Cooperative Education department, and a supporter of Sorenson, felt that what was important was Sorenson's specifics on where he would get the money to fund community colleges.

"I think from my perspective, getting Sorenson to identify the source of the money to fund it is a bold step. To get politicians to be specific is often difficult," Candee said.

Candee said that he thought the corporate kicker was ridiculous because it was "based on a two percent error."

Where Sorenson and Kulongsoski agree is on the importance of funding part-time students at community colleges through the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon's principal need-based financial aid program.

Many students attend community colleges part time to prepare themselves for better jobs or to improve their skills for the job they have. Both the governor and the gubernatorial candidate endorse increasing the Oregon Opportunity Grant so that it funds part-time students as well as full-time students in community colleges.

Sorenson credits community colleges with improving his life. He attended Southwest Community College in Coos Bay before transferring to the University of Oregon, where he later graduated from its law school.

"Certainly without the ability to go to the community college in Coos Bay, I doubt if a lot of the other things that have happened to me in my life would have happened, and I really got my start at an Oregon community college," Sorenson said.

It goes further than that.

"My public life started with my appointment as a budget committee member at Lane Community College."

SNOWBOARDER from page 1: LCC snowboarder dies

they are adults, we can't make them come back with us," said Interim Division Chair of Health, PE and Athletics, Roger Bates.

"We go to Bachelor because it's got an outstanding ski school and outstanding instruction and it is a great challenge for more the advanced skiers or boarders like Cameron. He was one of the more advanced students," Bates said.

Bates does not foresee any changes to the program because of the accident.

"We covered this in orientation, the rules of the mountain. One of the rules is you can't just stay up there and camp. The mountain doesn't allow it.

"We weren't aware of the decision that he was going to camp out. If we knew we would have not allowed it and made sure the mountain was aware that someone was thinking of doing that. But we weren't going to let it go if we knew about it.

"We are going to miss him. It is going to be tough to deal with. Thursday's trip will probably be pretty difficult for people," Bates said.

Class is expected to go on as normal.

"I am sure there will be a lot of discussion Thursday about it and we will all get through it the best we can. I appreciate the Lane counseling service that jumped in and is available

for everybody," Bates said.

Students from Sharp's snowboarding class were contacted by phone early this week and offered counseling services at the LCC counseling office.

"It's tough. We have students that have told us that they heard something about that up there but they didn't share it with anybody. So, nothing was done and I think that's the hard thing that we are all dealing with a little bit. Everybody is thinking about the ways they could have prevented it."

"He absolutely loved snowboarding. He had a real sense that it is an expensive sport and it is not accessible to those without money.

"So they (Sharp's family) felt that it was appropriate for the scholarship money that's coming out of the donations to the US Bank. The scholarship would be for snowboarders who can't afford it.

"They felt like it would honor his values and his philosophy which is to let people get out there and shred and enjoy the snow because he loved it so much.

"He was happiest on the mountain," Garrett said.

A memorial service will be held Saturday Feb. 4 at 2:30 p.m. at Tri-City Church of Christ in Myrtle Creek. Memorial contributions can be made to the Cameron Joseph Sharp Memorial Fund at any US Bank.

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All the stars are projectors: 21st Century Astrology

Lainey Bloom**Torch Astrologer****Aries- Edgy Times**
(March 21-April 19)

The Moon has made its way through Capricorn, which means that it is squaring your Sun. This transit is probably going to make you feel very tense and perhaps get you acting a bit edgy. Doing a relaxing activity will make you feel better.

Taurus- Difficult Optimism
(April 20-May 20)

Right now you are going through a period of trial. A lot of things in your life are going to come to an end, which is going to be difficult to handle and this transit may drain you emotionally. Fortunately, Jupiter and Mars are tossing some energy into this, as well as some optimism, stamina, and vitality.

Gemini- Mercurial Stimulation
(May 21-June 20)

Lately, you've been feeling a bit bored with life. You thrive on activities like learning, talking, and traveling. You can't help but notice how much you haven't been doing those activities lately. The best thing for you to do, dear Gemini, would be forcing yourself to either socialize or pick up a book.

Cancer- Pleasant Moods
(June 21-July 22)

How fancy! You have the moon as well as Venus making an opposition to your Sun, thus making you feel pretty good. You are lucky enough to experience the Moon's transits as being pleasant nearly all of the time (this is because Cancer is ruled by the moon), and it is rare that a Venus transit would cause trouble in someone's life.

Leo- Life Errors
(July 23-August 22)

There's a transit of suns in your sign, and this transit is good for bringing your life into focus, making you think about what you have accomplished during the past six months. It would be best for you to view your failures as little life experiments that just didn't work out. It happens.

Virgo- Luckily Fortunate
(August 23-Sept. 22)

Everything these days seem to be working out just how you want. The key thing with Jupiter transits is to remember that life isn't always so smooth. Be sure to enjoy this transit while you have it, but be ready to pick up where it left off when it goes away.

Libra- Venusian Minion
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This transit is only bad if you have something that you need to get done (due to Venus's lack of motivation), in which case you would be best off trying to feed this lavish Venusian energy prior to engaging in any activity that requires lots of brain activity.

Scorpio- Assertive Confusion
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Mars is making an opposition to your Sun, which is proving to be slightly confusing. Normally this transit can be a pretty tough one for people to handle, however Scorpio is ruled by Mars, thus making it very easy for you to embrace its energies. You can accomplish a great deal during this time, just as long as you assert yourself properly.

Sagittarius- No Time!
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're being quite the busy body, not being able to get anything done, but you like it this way. Normally, you might have a somewhat difficult time maintaining your vitality, but (fortunately) the Sun is providing you with what you need in order to keep chipper during this time.

Capricorn- Insightful Interaction
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Right now you have the Moon making its pass through your sign, which is making you feel emotional, but in a good way. What you say (as well as how you say it) during this transit may be viewed as being fairly insightful to those around you. If you have matters you've needed to discuss with others, now would be the perfect time.

Aquarius- Sunny Despair
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The most important thing going on for you would be the Sun moving through your sign, which means that it is time to talk about birthdays! However, you are having a harder time being more excited about it then those around you. If any sign should be happy about their birthday, it's breezy little Aquarius. Get happy, for your happiness instantly makes others happy.

Pisces- Social Disdain
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Venus is making a sextile to your Sun, giving you a creepy vibe in regards to social interaction. Without very little effort, everyone can't help but feel as though you are the cat's meow. Not that this is proving to be any sort of a bother to you (everyone loves attention), but you sort of feel as though you don't really need it. The best advice would be to just accept it.

Dear Pele

Dear Pele,

My marriage ended after five weeks. It turns out that my bride had just wanted the experience of getting married, and now that we've had a wedding and honeymoon, is ready to move on. I had been looking forward to spending the rest of my life with her, and wish that she had been a bit more up-front with me about her feelings.

My question is whether or not I should sue for alimony. My wife has a great deal of inherited wealth and we never signed any sort of alimony-limiting prenuptial agreement. Would taking half of this callous heartbreaker's money be a justified sort of revenge for having been used and discarded like I was, or should I just turn the other cheek here and let bygones be bygones?

Lovelorn and Litigious**Dear Lovelorn,**

If you turn the other cheek here, chances are, some other poor sap will suffer the same emotional beating you have. A woman such as her (from what I can tell) who just wants the experience of getting married is absolutely not worth your time. Traditionally, regardless of who brought what into the marriage, once you get married all of that is shared. All of your

assets are combined when the marriage is finalized, and then split down the middle if a divorce ensues. The courts see it this way, and in my opinion on this situation, you should too. I wouldn't do it for revenge purposes or just to spite her, but if she wants to go through the motions of breaking someone's heart, she can go through the motions of dividing things up and experience divorce for all it's worth.

Dear Pele,

My mom beats my dad. You wouldn't suspect such a thing was possible, since he's got 54 pounds and eight inches on the woman, but she does. She's been beating him for as long as I can recall. It doesn't take much to set her off. Dad might make some kind of complaint about dinner and Mom will give him a vicious backhand. Sometimes she doesn't stop there, since she especially loves taking shots at his face. I've seen her pummel him with her fists for what seems like minutes. Through all this my dad barely even tries to defend himself anymore.

Needless to say, we all lost respect for my dad a long time ago. We kids just figured that if he could get whipped by someone that much smaller than him he probably deserved it. Lately, I've started feeling kind of bad for the guy; and wonder if there's something I

should do for him.

Is there?

Worried Along the Willamette**Dear Worried,**

Have you talked to him about this? Or to her for that matter? I'd probably feel bad for the guy about now too. It's hard to look up to someone who's traditionally supposed to be in authority when someone who's traditionally submissive is tanning their hide. I'd talk to Pops if I were you and see what he has to say about it. No matter who is doing the abusing in a relationship, it's still abuse, and it's still unhealthy. Other than a well-placed slap after an offensive comment, your mom shouldn't be slapping your dad around, and she certainly shouldn't be giving him backhands and pummeling him with her fists. Try and send them to counseling. This isn't something a talk over dinner is going to solve, especially since she's been doing it for years.

Dear Pele is an advice column written by a Torch staff member, and is not to be taken literally. Send your problems or questions to us at askpele@hotmail.com and the Goddess of Fire will do her best to give you some advice.

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THANKS FOR DINNER MOM!-JP

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COLLEGE TOUR 2006

The following college representatives will be in the Lane Community College cafeteria on Thursday, February 9, 2006 from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lane students and staff, as well as local high school students and staff are invited to stop by their tables for admissions/program information.

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Concordia
Corban
Eastern Oregon University
George Fox
Linfield College

Marylhurst College
Northwest Christian College
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon Scholarship Commission/Ford
Family Foundation
Oregon State University

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University of Oregon
University of Phoenix-Portland
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Kanye West has claimed that George Bush doesn't care about black people. What's your reaction to this?

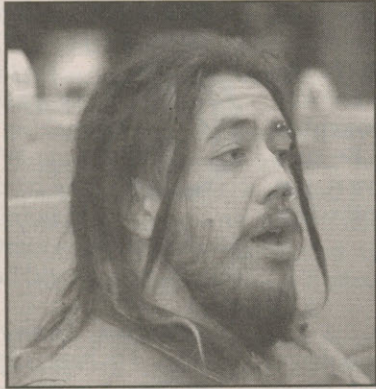


Ravenel Bisbee

UNDECIDED

"If Bush doesn't care, at least he hasn't passed any discriminating laws."

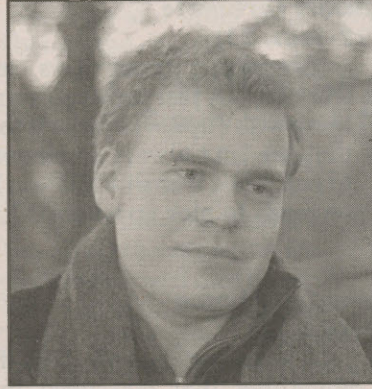
COMPILED BY
RANDY WOOCK
PHOTOS BY SEAN HOFFMAN



James Smith

LCC VISITOR

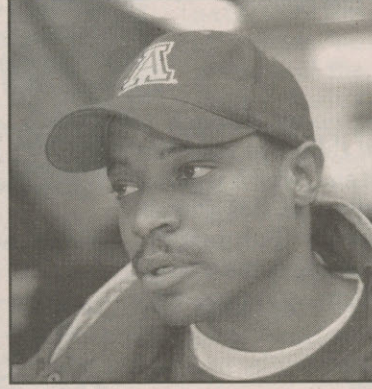
"The statement is somewhat true, depending on the social status of the person. Poor black people Bush doesn't care about, but if they've got money he cares."



Patrick Wilson

GRAPHIC DESIGN

"I don't think Bush has much experience with black people outside of them being a voting block. (The slow response to Hurricane Katrina) was more because Bush is overall inept."



Michael McCuin

ART

"I think Kanye was having a hasty reaction to what he'd seen. He was just thinking out loud, but I don't agree with his statement."

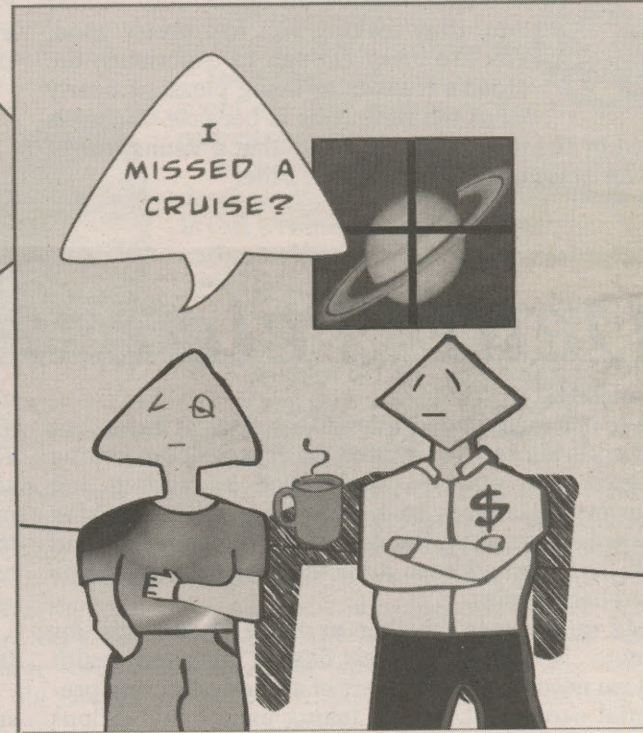
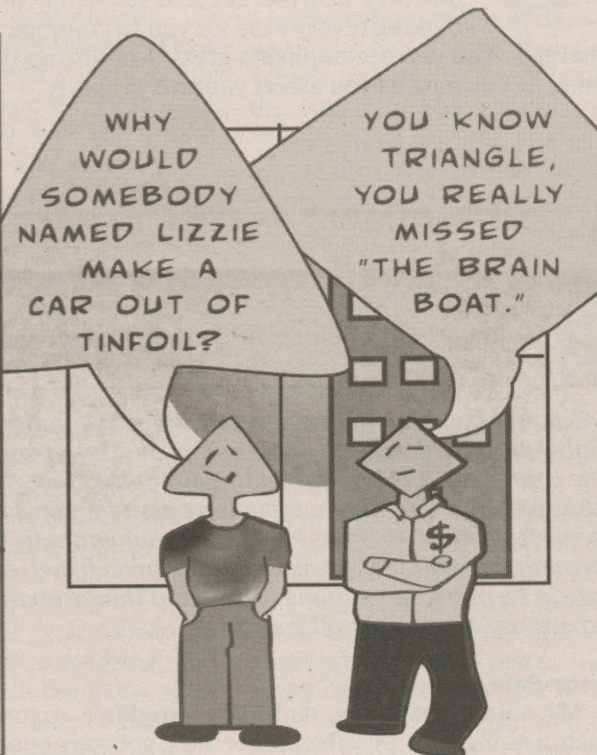


Jessica Olivas

RESPIRATORY CARE
THERAPY

"I think it was the wrong place for Kanye to express his opinions like that. But personally, I don't think Bush cares about any of the underclass."

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FLIGHT from page 3: Self-supporting flight program seeks students

receive only an AA in Flight Technology they can still do that. When the students leave LCC they have both a Private and Commercial Pilot's license and an Instrument Rating.

They also graduate as a Certified Flight Instructor. At that point, some prefer to go off on their own and try to get a job flying commercially or instructing.

"I have also wired in the University of Oregon," Birdseye said. Robert Mauro, former LCC aviation student, now a UO professor of psychology in cognitive research has developed a class, in conjunction with the National Aeronautical and Space Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration, in decision-making processes, with regards to safety. The class is titled Aviation Psychology and is offered at both the 400 and 500 level.

The UO Aviation Psychology course begins at LCC, but students enroll through the UO's Continuing Education Department with no LCC fees and no LCC credit, thus protecting LCC's liability.

the students fly in planes as passengers, doing strictly observation flights. There is no piloting involved.

Other projects Birdseye is working on include writing a grant with the UO library to preserve and fill out its aerial photography collection. "The U of O needs more aviation influence to get their grant," Birdseye said. LCC will share the grant money with the university.

The department has recently received a gift that will upgrade their training. Horizon Air donated a simulator worth about \$150,000, making simulator training with digital, GPS-based technology possible.

The flight department can handle up to 150 students at one time, and starts two new classes of beginning students a year (Fall and Spring terms) and generally limit that to about 40 students.

Most flight tech students are on financial aid, which usually covers about half of the tuition and fees. There is increasingly more scholarship money available these days.

So, what about the lousy weather in Eugene for flying?

"Eugene is the best place to train pilots. We do more intense instrument pilot training in actual conditions than anywhere," Birdseye said.

We have built this into a professional pilot program," Birdseye said.

"Everyone who walks through our front door is going to be an airline pilot, and all of their rules are Instrument Flight Rules, they operate on IFR," Birdseye said.

Birdseye shows just as much creativity in marketing his program as in running it. As of Friday, Jan. 27, LCC is linked to Evergreen Aviation's website.

Fall term enrollment was good, but the department is always looking for new students. Spring term enrollment began Feb. 1.



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