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look page 8

Doing V-Day on
\$20 page 4



VOLUME XL, NUMBER 14

THE TORCH

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006

Feds will cut aid to college students

**President Bush
expected to sign
bill that would cut
approximately \$12
billion**

EDER CAMPUZANO
MANAGING EDITOR

A 216-214 vote on Feb. 1 sent a bill cutting nearly \$12 billion in federal student aid to President Bush for approval. The Deficit Reduction Act calls for cuts in Medicaid and Medicare subsidies as well.

According to House Republicans the purpose of the bill is to restore federal discipline on spending. An estimated \$39 billion in cuts will take place over the next five years and \$99 billion over the course of the next ten years.

All four Oregon and Washington House Republicans voted in favor of the bill, while nine of the ten Democrats voted against it. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore. was unable to attend the meeting thus forfeiting his chance to vote.

David Wu, D-Ore. has called the vote tragic and stated, "Making it harder for students to go to college not only undercuts our promise to individuals, it undermines America's economy and world

leadership."

Not only will the bill cut almost \$12 billion from student aid, it will also increase interest rates for student loans.

According to LCC social science professor Steve Candee, rates for Stafford Loans taken out by students will increase from 5.3 to 6.8 percent. The rates for the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students will increase from 6.1 to 8.5 percent. The increases in interest rates take effect on July 1. In addition to the increases in rates there will also be an increase in loan limits.

The Department of Education has reported that almost 10 million students take out Stafford Loans annually and nearly 800,000 parents receive PLUS loans. An estimated 92,000 of those students attend Oregon schools.

The vote was also another step in the Legislature's plans to cut taxes.

"It seems ironic that politicians, both Republican and Democratic, come campaign time always talk about 'Education! First priority!'" Candee said. "But when it comes to putting the dollars there, they're nowhere to be found."

The immediate effects of these cuts point to less accessibility for students to get the education they need, said Candee.

Path to spring



PHOTOS BY JAMES HOLK

The Eugene area saw the beginnings of spring this week. Mount Pisgah, just south of the LCC main campus on the Willamette River, is close enough for a picnic lunch break. The weather forecast for the weekend predicts sun and some rain.



OSPIRG launches joint campaign to protect coast

**LCC, UO combine efforts to
protect the Oregon coast;
hope governor participates**

PEGGY GREEN
NEWS EDITOR

The combined OSPIRGs of LCC and the University of Oregon launched their 'Protect the Oregon Coast Campaign' outside the Erb Memorial Union on the UO campus on Thursday, Feb. 2. Showing off their painted whales

and inviting the public to voice their concern to Governor Kulongoski, representatives of the two schools were ready in force to state their objective.

"Our coast is under attack from the U.S. government," Jeremy Wright, environmental advocate for OSPIRG, said.

For the last 35 years, since the Santa Barbara oil spill of 1969, there has been a bipartisan effort to prevent oil drilling off the East and West coasts of the United States. Offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico remains big business.

For the month of February students at several colleges in Oregon are painting whales stamped out of recycled plywood. On March 4 all the whales will migrate with their human advocates to the Newport Pavilion, on the coast. OSPIRG representatives are hoping Kulongoski will join them. As of now he has not committed to making an appearance.

"The governor has gone on record saying he wants protection put in place," Wright said. Since the Oregon legislature is not in session, Wright would like to see the old law renewed by

an executive order from the governor's office or by a land board.

"We'd like to see something happening in the next year," Wright said.

OSPIRG coordinators are also reaching out to the local community for more support. LCC and the UO are working together on getting the community involved. They are targeting businesses, contacting the managers.

"It will affect our economy if the offshore drilling happens," said

See **OSPIRG** page 3

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Sports.....p. 6-7	Blowing Smoke.....p. 12

Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
53/33, cloudy	52/35, partially cloudy	53/35, partially cloudy

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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Taxpayer money to help homogenize downtown Eugene

Imagine a downtown Eugene with a couple extra chain stores, parking garages, condos and multiplex cinemas. Think about a downtown that could provide you with the exact same shopping experience enjoyed by consumers in just about every other city and state.

Like the thought of that? Enjoy the notion of living somewhere with a downtown that looks like every other downtown area in America? Think the slogan "Unique Eugene" is hopelessly outdated?

Hopefully you do, because if the Eugene City Council has its way, residents of Eugene will be paying to homogenize its downtown to the tune of almost \$40 million.

As was discussed in the 1/26/06 and 1/12/06 of the Eugene Weekly, the money will be tossed in the direction of developers Conner-Woolsey-Opus. CWO hopes that Eugene's City Council will obligingly condemn the property it wants, taking it from the current owners to be given to CWO. Tax breaks in several forms are also requested.

First, CWO is reporting that its developments will require a total of 743 new parking spaces. These will take the form of three five-story parking garages. Of the 743 parking spots that will be

contained in these garages, CWO wants the city to subsidize 455. This could cost taxpayers up to \$22 million.

CWO has also floated the proposition that it be given a ten-year break on taxes for its proposed condo. This could deprive city coffers of a sum of up to \$15 million. Also, the proposed development would entail the eviction of some current businesses. CWO expects the City Council to evict other businesses by force and then sell the property to CWO at a taxpayer-subsidized price.

COMMENTARY
Randy Woock
A&E Editor

This is all questionable on several levels. First is whether the city government's right of eminent domain really extends to the ability to take one person's property and give it to another for business purposes.

Unfortunately, the answer to that is a great big affirmative. The Supreme Court declared as much in their execrable *Kelo v. City of New London* decision in 2005.

So yes, the City Council can very easily reach in and condemn any property it

desires. Then it can "sell" the property to CWO at a taxpayer-subsidized price. This is all very much in the City Council's power.

However, just because one can do something doesn't always mean that one should. Were that the case the U.S. military would invade and conquer Mexico on a bi-annual basis. Just, you know, for something to do in the off-season.

Would a downtown Eugene "renovated" with chain stores have the same unique aesthetic as the current one filled with local businesses? Would a downtown Eugene containing multi-story parking garages and the extra traffic they encourage be as pedestrian - friendly as the current incarnation? And why would we need that many more parking garages when there are buses crisscrossing the city and a central station located in the middle of downtown?

Sure, downtown Eugene isn't perfect. There's that large and unintentional pool across from the library and the usual population of charming transients. But a serious discussion about what is best for Eugene as a whole and not just for a few developers' portfolios, needs to be held before downtown renovation plans progress any further.



Letters to the Editor

Pele gets a slap to the face

Upon sitting down to breakfast this morning, I picked up a copy of The Torch (Feb. 2nd edition) to get a feel for the pulse at LCC. When I reached page 11, I was shocked and angered to read Pele's advice for Worried Along the Willamette, who shares with us their story of the serious and longstanding domestic abuse that their father has endured at the hands of their mother for years. While it is clear that Pele's heart is in the right place, I was shocked to read him/her explain to Worried (and us the reader) that while: "No matter who is doing the abusing...it's still abuse..." but that "a well-placed slap after an offensive comment" would be okay.

What?! Being slapped in the face hurts, and in the context of a domestic relationship, can definitely amount to abuse. The idea that it's okay anyone in a relationship to be hitting someone else is ridiculous for those of us that imagine loving, supportive relationships that don't involve hitting each other as a form of expressing our anger (what ever happened to talking?).

Women should be insulted by this advice as well, since the whole idea that a

woman can hit a man for saying something off-color was predicated on the idea that women were the "weaker sex" and couldn't really hurt men. Overall, this represents a serious lapse in judgment on the part of the writer and editorial staff for allowing this to go to press. We can certainly do better than this when it comes to giving good advice to a student that sees his/her father getting beaten on a regular basis, can't we?

I think Pele and The Torch staff should think a bit more deeply when replying to letters with this sort of content.

Noah Zanville
Pre-Nursing

Former Torch writer airs his concerns

When I read Lindsey Brown's letter to the editor about why she is no longer writing for The Torch it made me feel validated. Validated in knowing that not only my writing was heavily censored, or as The Torch calls it "edited." Entire paragraphs were removed, destroying thesis statements and key sentences were removed from paragraphs changing their

entire meaning. Taking things out of context is an understatement. I too, am ashamed to have my picture put on the editor's twist of my words.

The most definite reason I decided to take my opinions elsewhere is because of the way I was denied the right to defend my writing. Last term I wrote my opinions on current working conditions, and compared it to the practice of slavery. Several people were upset by that article and wrote letters to the editor. So I wrote an apology and explanation of the writing. They refused to print it, saying they didn't want to "beat a dead horse." The next issue comes out with another letter to the editor about my article. Essentially the editorial board tied my hands behind my back and continued to allow readers to throw punches. All the while I was made to look like an ass.

The editorial skill is most evident in the copious amounts of typos that go unnoticed. From "foot stamps" to the "budget defecate," I say it won't be long until The Torch is filled with nothing more than week-old regurgitated news from other sources.

Chris Flaherty
LCC Student

Valentine's Day quiz and trivia

COMPILED BY KRISTLE JOHNSON
FEATURES EDITOR

Ever wonder just how many roses are being bought for Valentine's Day? Or do you ever wonder how many of those flower buyers are men? The answers to these questions and more in this lover's day quiz!

1. Approximately how many Valentine cards are sent each year?

- A: 10 billion
B: 5 billion
C: 1 billion

2. Approximately how many roses are given on Valentine's Day?

- A: 110 million.
B: 75 million
C: 50 million

3. What animal (besides humans) traditionally chooses its mate on Feb. 14?

- A: Birds
B: Snakes
C: Rabbits

4. What percent of flower buyers on Valentine's Day are men?

- A: 73 percent
B: 82 percent
C: 67 percent

5. What percent of pet owners will give their pet something for Valentine's Day?

- A: 10 percent
B: 5 percent
C: 3 percent

6. When were Sweetheart candies first factory-made?

- A: 1890
B: 1902
C: 1910

7. About how many candy hearts are sold in the six weeks surrounding Valentine's Day?

- A: 10 billion
B: 8 billion
C: 6 billion

Q 1 Answer: C, 1 billion
Q 2 Answer: B, 110 million
Q 3 Answer: A, Birds
Q 4 Answer: A, 73 percent
Q 5 Answer: C, 3 percent
Q 6 Answer: B, 1902
Q 7 Answer: C, 6 billion

LCC diversity team shifts gears

Tova Stabin's new position changes department face

EDER CAMPUZANO
MANAGING EDITOR

At the end of December, LCC diversity trainer Tova Stabin received the position of interim diversity coordinator in the wake of Jim Garcia's move to interim coordinator of the Chicano/Latino program.

One of Stabin's first projects as diversity coordinator was the establishment of "Lane

to Diversity," a monthly newsletter advertising events that promote diversity on campus. The first issue of the newsletter is now available in print but henceforth will be an online publication.

Since 2001 she has taught sessions for LCC staff on how to deal with diversity issues that are faced today and how to interact with students when it comes to these issues as well.

"I think diversity is an ongoing process," Stabin said.

She has written commentary pieces for the Register Guard and was the editor for "Bridges" magazine.



PHOTO BY NAOMI REICHMAN

Tova Stabin is the interim diversity coordinator.

Culinary students create original mushroom dishes

Cascade Mycological Society presents annual Fungal Feast

PEGGY GREEN
NEWS EDITOR

Students from LCC's Culinary Arts department will collaborate to create original dishes featuring mushrooms to delight the palate and inform the public Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. The event takes place in LCC's cafeteria and is a benefit for the Cascade Mycological Society, co-host of the evening. A donation of \$8 to \$15 is asked and no reservations are required.

"It's a great opportunity for the students to experiment. My kitchen is a laboratory," Clive Wanstall, LCC Chef Instructor, said.

The chefs, who are all volunteers and receive no course credit or payment for the evening, are a mixture of both first and second year students.

"It's great opportunity and experience for the students," Wanstall said. There will be a cooking demonstration prior to the meal. Wanstall recommends the evening for anyone, especially those interested in cooking.

"Like Julia Child said, 'If you want to be a good cook, you've got to eat a lot of good food,'" Wanstall said.

Wanstall offers these tips for cooks: "Make sure you cook them well. Don't eat raw mushrooms. Only buy them from a supermarket. It's very easy to pick up the wrong mushroom."

If you do eat the wrong type of mushroom it can be fatal. Kyle Hammon, Vice President and Chair of the Cascade Mycological Society offers this warning to those who would go mushroom hunting in the wild: "Never make an identification based on a picture in a book. A picture can help but if you intend to hunt for mushrooms to eat, take a class or join the Mycological Society," Hammon said.

"It's too easy to make a mistake. There's too much physical similarity," Hammon said.

Hammon, who also is chair of LCC's science department, has taught mushroom classes for credit.

Biology 103H is offered in the fall, the best time of the year to find mushrooms. The class takes field trips to identify mushrooms in their native habitat.

"The diversity and abundance of mushrooms is greatest in the fall. The class focuses on the ecology and evolution of fungi in addition to identification both in class and in the field," Hammon said.

The mushroom has great importance ecologically.

"Without mushrooms we probably wouldn't have healthy grasslands or forests. Most plants have symbiotic fungi living on their roots that provide nutrients, water, and protection from disease-causing organisms," Hammon said.

The Mycological Society will present a discussion of the mushrooms used in the dishes created Thursday, as well as displaying examples of fungi with both their Latin and common names.

There will be a variety of mushrooms used in the gastronomic creations Thursday evening. "I'd love to get Truffles," Wanstall said.

Which brings up the question: Do pigs really root for Truffles?

"Yes, pigs naturally root for Truffles. In Europe a tame pig was used to find the Truffles. Now they use trained dogs to find them. The dogs can work longer and they don't eat the Truffles," Hammon said.

Hammon said there is a theory that the Truffles emit some sort of sex hormone which pigs are attracted to.

Will this work for humans as well? Come along to the Fungal Feast Thursday evening for gastronomic delights and find out.

OSPIRG from page 1: Wooden whales aim to prevent Oregon coast drill

Coordinator at LCC.

Tourism, fishing and whale watching could all be adversely affected by the presence of offshore drilling.

Wright said that whale watching is a very big aspect of tourism.

"Whale watching is a very fast growing tourist industry. More than 40,000 Oregonians go to the ocean to whale watch," Wright said.

In February they watch the whales migrate south and later in the year they go back to watch them return to the northern waters. All of this brings in tourist dollars in the form of money spent on charters, lodging, meals, drinks, gas, souvenirs, books, T-shirts and film with which to record it. Then they go home and tell their friends and family, and hopefully those people will then go to the coast.

"Imagine ten years from now and you look out and see an oil rig next to Haystack Rock," Guymon said.

The goal is to create enough awareness to

bring pressure in Salem so that the bill, which protected the coast from oil and gas drilling, would be renewed. That bill expired in 1995, and advocates of keeping the Oregon coast free from drilling warn that the energy bill recently passed by the Bush administration is indicative of a climate contrary to coastal protection.

The governor has expressed an interest in reinstating the law.

Outside of being unsightly, oil rigs can leak, slowly polluting the ocean. The sonar used by geologists interferes with whales' ability to communicate and navigate.

The rebound of the Eastern Grey Whale is a real success story. There are now estimated to be 17,000 of these mammals on the eastern side of the Pacific Ocean. By contrast, there are fewer than 100 of the Western Grey Whale, whose feeding grounds in the northwestern portion of the Pacific are checkered with oil wells.

"The difference is the environment," Wright said.

News Flash

COLLEGE TOUR

Representatives from 17 four-year colleges and universities and the Oregon Scholarship Commission will be in the LCC cafeteria on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. LCC students and staff, as well as local high school students and staff, are invited to stop by their tables for information about admissions and programs.

ENERGY QUIZ: HOW MUCH IS LCC'S WINTER NATURAL GAS BILL?

The Sustainability Office is sponsoring an energy quiz asking how much students think LCC's December 2005 total natural gas costs were. Those interested in participating can send a guess to sustainability@lanec.edu by Friday, Feb. 10. The prize for the closest answer is a \$25 gift certificate to the Renaissance Room and will be announced Monday, Feb. 13.

COLLEGE BOARD INCREASES TUITION

The Lane Community College Board of Education has approved the tuition increase proposed for the 2006-2007 academic school year. Beginning Summer term 2006, resident students will pay \$69.50 per credit hour. This is an increase of \$2.50 per credit hour over the current rate of \$67. For non-resident/international students, tuition increases from \$230 to \$239 per credit hour. Extended learning (non-credit) students will pay \$3.79 per contact hour in the 2006-2007 school year.

These rates are inflation-adjusted and as such are not part of the current budget crisis facing LCC.

According to board policy, these rates may be changed during the budget development process that concludes in June 2006.

GREEN BAG LUNCH ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

There is a Green Bag Lunch on Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 12-1 p.m., Building 16, Room 115. Local experts will discuss quick and easy solutions for how you can begin reducing your dependence on fossil fuels today.

Options that will be discussed include solar electric, solar hot water, biodiesel, ethanol, purchasing wind power and conservation. Bring your own sack lunch. Munchies will be provided. Contact Jennifer Hayward, 463-5594.

BLACK STUDENT UNION PRESENTS TENT CITY

"Remembering Our Roots: Eugene's Tent City Revisited," will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, from 1-4 p.m., at Lamb Cottage in Skinner Butte Park. The Black Student Union Tent City Historical Project, a reenactment and display of the arrival of Eugene's first African American citizens, is dedicated to remembering the past hardships and victories over racism and discrimination of African Americans who chose to make this community their home.

INTERN WITH U.S. SENATOR GORDON SMITH

Kirsten Zimmerman, Internship Coordinator for U.S. Senator Gordon Smith, will be on campus Friday, Feb. 24, from 12-2 p.m. in the Center Building, Room 447 to meet and interview students interested in participating in the Mark O. Hatfield Internship Program and a chance to intern with Senator Smith's Committee on Aging in Washington, D.C. Stipends are available and credit is offered for these opportunities through Cooperative Education.

Contact Steve Candee at 463-5188.

Robbery at local bank

Robber makes quick escape on 10-speed

PEGGY GREEN
NEWS EDITOR

The Key Bank branch at the corner of 30th Avenue and Hilyard in Eugene was robbed Wednesday, Feb. 8 at approximately 4:30 p.m.

The robber presented a note to the bank teller and did not show a weapon. He is described as a white male in his mid-twenties, about 5 foot 10 inches, wearing a knit cap, blue wrap-around sunglasses and a dust-mask similar to that worn by painters. The man also had a barbed wire tattoo on his right wrist.

The man was last seen on

a blue 10-speed bicycle riding north through an adjacent alley.

"No one was hurt. We're not sure if any customers were present at the time of the robbery," Sgt. Scott Fellman of the Eugene Police Department said.

"This bank has been robbed quite a few times. We don't know if this subject fits the description of outstanding robbery suspects," detective Matt Herbert said.

By 5:15 p.m. members of the Eugene Police Department were trying to get fingerprints. The police would not disclose how much money was taken.

Anyone with information regarding this crime should call the Eugene Police Department at 682-5111.

Show them how much you care for \$20

HEATHER SERAFIN &
KRYSTLE JOHNSON
EDITOR IN CHIEF &
FEATURES EDITOR

Krystle's loot:

For those of you that spend Valentine's Day loving on your loved one, but forgot (or will forget) to make those all-important restaurant reservations, you're in luck. Here you'll find what I was able to come up with for slightly over \$20, which should give you hope that you might still be able to have a wonderful meal by candlelight, even if it does require some preparation.

I happen to have a Safeway Club Card, which is free and allows me some savings, so

that's where I went.

Originally, I planned on making Parmesan halibut, but Safeway didn't have any halibut, so that called for a quick change of plans.

Chicken. Readily available and highly versatile, it's always a safe bet. I got organic boneless, skinless chicken breasts for \$7.27. I'll either be cutting the chicken into bite-sized pieces and cooking it with some oil, butter, and garlic or I'll bake it with some seasonings just long enough to

cook it and not dry it out.

Four-cheese tortellini will also make an appearance on the table, which I was able



to pick up for \$3.19, with some creamy garlic Alfredo sauce for \$2.50. If I cut the chicken up, it'll get mixed in with the tortellini and sauce. If I don't, it'll sit next to the pasta.

I cheated on the salad part and bought one of the bagged salad kits. It's a Caesar kit that has croutons, Parmesan cheese, lettuce, and dressing for \$3. This way I still get salad without having to spend the extra money on a whole bag of croutons and a



whole bottle of dressing. I did however, splurge and bought a cucumber for 50 cents and two Roma tomatoes for 49 cents. They'll complement the salad, and the tomato will add some color to the meal.

Instead of opting for French bread, which could be a twist you put on this meal, I went the

See JACKSON page 10

Male nursing student uses experience as a tool

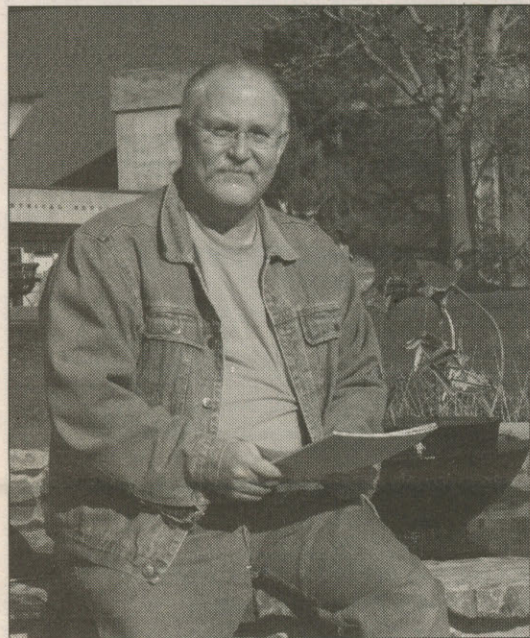


PHOTO BY JAMES HOLK

Already having worked 30 years in the medical field, Mark Gorham is a first year nursing student at LCC.

Female-dominated program could use more gender diversity

LARRY COONROD
TORCH REPORTER

For first-year nursing student Mark Gorham, school looks like work. Literally.

Gorman spends his days at McKenzie Willamette Hospital learning the basics of nursing with his LCC nursing program clinical group, seven other students and an instructor, in the surgical care unit. He spends his nights at McKenzie Willamette working as an Emergency Department Technician.

He sometimes sees patients in the surgical care unit as a student that he helped treat in the emergency room.

"It's kind of nice to see what happens to people afterwards," he said. "The emergency department is

a whole different world than the rest of the hospital. We see patients for an hour or two: triage them, treat them, and off they go."

His 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. shift in the emergency department makes for some long days at school.

"There are some nights, like two days this week, where I got off work at four o'clock and had to be in class at eight," Gorman said. "I was just figuring yesterday afternoon when I got out of here that in four days I had eight hours sleep."

Gorman is just one of seven male nursing students in his 72-member class, a ratio he feels represents the nursing profession as a whole. He does not see being a male in a female dominated field as a problem.

"The goal is always the same, to take care of the patients and work together," he said.

Dealing with physically violent patients is one situation where Gorman feels men have a bit of an advantage.

"Anytime there is an out of control

patient they want the guys to show up," he said.

Gorman started working in the medical field 30 years ago as an Army medic. He has been a paramedic for the past 15 years. He has attended LCC part time for the past four years to meet the requirements for acceptance into the nursing program.

Prerequisites for admittance to the nursing program include anatomy physiology, microbiology, math, writing and social science. Additionally, all students must have a Certified Nursing Aide license to be accepted into the nursing program.

Admittance into the program is highly competitive. According to Gorman, approximately 230 students applied for the 72 slots this year. Admission is based on a 40-point system. Students acquire points based on grades and experience. Gorman's three decades of experience netted him six points, the rest he had to make

See NURSE page 6

Chicken soup for the unattached single

Five sound rules for spending V-Day with nobody but you

RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

Valentine's Day is rolling back around and you couldn't be less happy about it. You're single, celibate and not exactly looking forward to having hearts and candies shoved in your face every time you visit the grocery store. It's bad enough that no one considers you worth sharing their life with, but does there really need to be a holiday dedicated to pointing this out?

Yes, there does. The only thing keeping most people in relationships is the fear that being alone would be so much worse. Without the occasional tormenting of the unloved, people might decide to give up on relationships and all the hassle they entail, and then society would dissolve into an anarchic hurly-burly of singledom.

Society needs couples, see? Without couples there tends

to be no reproduction (no, this isn't a hard-and-fast rule, but bear with me), and with no reproduction there's no extra mouths to feed, and with no extra mouths to feed there's no way people would keep trudging on down to factory every day to work a job they hate.

However, just because you're smart enough and secure enough to stay single (of course it's a choice; you could be with anyone you want, you just don't want anyone, right?) doesn't mean that you should suffer on Valentine's Day. There's no reason for you to plant your self-pitying carcass in front of the television to eat chocolate, watch sitcoms and worry about how each year that passes makes you less and less likely to ever be loved.

Instead, why not plan some fun activities to take your mind off the frightening possibility of dying alone? Just because everyone else on the planet is getting all snuggly and romantic without you doesn't mean that you have to spend the night bored as well as miserable. In that spirit, here's five ways to spend Valentine's Day when you're single.

1) Throw an Anti-Valentine's Day Party:

There's safety in numbers, so gather all your bitter single friends together for one heck of a shindig. Everyone brings their old love letters, burns them in a bonfire, then drinks till they forget the pain. Rule Number One, however, is that no one can hook up at the party. That would just make everyone else there feel even worse.

2) Couple Watching:

This might sound like a bad idea at first, but just listen. Go to the sort of nice, swank restaurant you'd visit if you actually had someone to love. Observe all the other couples there. They look happy, don't they? Well, they're not. You know it even if they don't, so spend your meal picking them apart. Point out to yourself which guys are probably cheating on their girlfriends, which girls are just using the guys for their money, and who probably took their partner out to a nice place to make up for all those instances of domestic violence. Once you've damned everyone else for the falsity of their relationship, you should feel much better about your

own singlehood.

3) Take Comfort That You're Not Hurting Anyone:

Couples tend to give roses on Valentine's Day, right? Remember those big bundles of heavenly-scented flowers that indicate that another human being loves you? Well, before you start yearning that someone would toss a bouquet your way; just keep in mind that most roses come from Guatemala. In Guatemala the harvesters of those pretty roses aren't paid jack and get continuously sprayed with harmful pesticides known to cause all sorts of horrible cancers. So, while you may not be spending the day with someone who cares, you can at least take comfort in how you're not causing poor Latin Americans to rot from the inside out.

4) Visit a Planned Parenthood:

Look at all the unhappy people in there. They're all worried about either being pregnant or having caught something awful. Not you, though. You're spared having to worry about things like unwanted pregnancies or nasty viruses thanks to you being strong enough to be on

your own. Good for you!

5) Pamper the Heck Out of Yourself:

Seriously. Take the day off to spoil and indulge the person you love the most: yourself. Skip work and get a massage, take yourself shopping for those shoes that you know you deserve, play videogames all day in your underwear, buy that extra-expensive sex toy, and cap the night off by treating yourself to the sort of dessert that you wouldn't dare eat if you were trying to look good for someone else.

Then, think about how little of this you would have been able to enjoy if you had a significant other to worry about pleasing on Valentine's Day.

Most of all, just keep telling yourself that Valentine's Day is an empty Hallmark holiday devised by heartless capitalists like the flower, candy and greeting card conglomerates. People who buy into it are just being suckered into pumping more money into the coffers of Big Business. You, on the other hand, smart and single person that you are, have much better things to do with your time and money.

Biochemistry major on a mission

Father's struggle with cancer provides a reason for accomplishing goals

KRYSTLE JOHNSON

FEATURES EDITOR

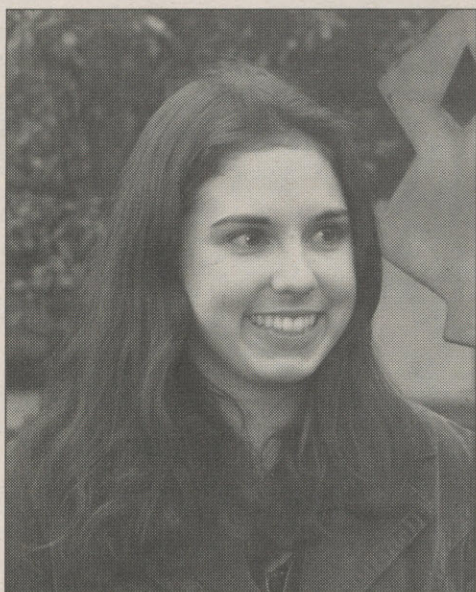


PHOTO BY KRYSTLE JOHNSON

Iris Hood wants to know what causes cancer.

on the national exams, and now I'm in my fifth term of calculus and it's going well. I'm glad I didn't give up at it because it's one of those tough things, I'm glad I made it."

Still facing challenges in her classes today Hood says that, "It's made less challenging because I'm interested in it. I may spend more hours on a particular subject because it may be difficult but because I'm so interested it may lessen that challenge. I think the hardest part would be that you're combining so many disciplines into one and making sure that you are able to retrieve things from each of them."

She can credit a few of her LCC instructors with helping her accomplish her personal and professional goals.

"Lance Sparks probably has been the most inspirational; he's probably had the most effect on me of all the teachers. I mean Gary Mort, my general chemistry teacher was really inspirational and key in brewing my interest in chemistry and really affected me. Same with John Thompson, an organic chemistry teacher here at LCC.

"I'm glad I didn't give up at it because it's one of those tough things, I'm glad I made it."

-Iris Hood

"Lance really helped me believe that I could get funding to continue going to school, so he just saved me because we have a lot of financial problems with my family; we're not very well-off. Now I feel like I can do it, from that help and encouragement. Someone that actually believed that it was possible, instead of me just judging myself and thinking I couldn't do it," she said.

Hood came to LCC partially because, "My older sister had went to Lane for her first three years, she really enjoyed it here. I received the Staton Scholarship from Lane so they're going to fund my bachelor's degree at Oregon."

The hard sciences currently have very few women as majors, and Hood is reminded of this daily.

"I think it's unfortunate that there aren't as many. For example, in my advanced calculus class there are only eight of us, which is small already but I'm the only woman. I do meet a few women that are personally interested in chemistry and biology."

The issue of women in science is reaching even into the Language, Literature and Communication Department.

"The plain fact of the matter is that there are too few women, and especially too few young and talented women in the hard sciences. It is important for teachers at every level of education to encourage and support young women in the progress in those fields whenever and wherever possible. Their talents are needed, their abilities are needed, and too few realize the opportunities that exist in the fields of the hard sciences," Lance Sparks, English instructor, said.

"Iris is enormously talented, skilled

and dedicated, with a personality that should bring her what we would think of as extraordinary opportunities the chance to do original research, to make original contributions. There are more like her, but not many," Sparks said.

Someday, Hood hopes to be able to work on finding the cause of cancer. Since her father has been diagnosed with a strand of cancer, it's something close to her heart.

"The more I study, any of the disciplines, physics, biology, calculus or chemistry, the more I study the more questions I get, to the point where it gets a little ridiculous. But to eventually get to study something, and study something for many years, where you get to the point where you can search for and answer some questions that haven't been answered is huge. Like the causes behind reticular disease, not necessarily the treatment, I'm not as interested in that as I am the cause," Hood says.

Hood has other interests, though.

"I want to be a good painter someday, or violinist. I paint landscape and floral. I really enjoy watercolor painting. It's very mathematical, getting the mathematical depths, the perception and the dimensions. When you're looking at the details of the plants you might find things you wouldn't look at unless you were staring at it for five hours trying to paint it."

While Hood stands out from the crowd both as a student and person, in the end she just wants to make an impact.

"I really want to be happy with what I'm doing. I also really want to be able to influence other people by maybe eventually teaching at the university level. Being able to inspire other people to figure out and continue their dreams, being able to figure out other problems that need to be solved. I hope that I'm happy at the end of all of this. I hope that I actually accomplish good research in the end. It would be really disheartening to not accomplish anything or enrich the field."

Tutoring services dedicated to helping students

Equipped with quiet study rooms and helpful tutors, students find centers a good resource

DREW HUNT

TORCH REPORTER

For many students school does not come as an easy thing. Whether it's acclimating to college life, balancing homework and a job, or a simple inability to grasp the material, it can be difficult for anybody to keep up with their studies.

Fortunately for students, the tutoring services at LCC are easily accessible and are producing numerous quality programs geared toward the advancement of student education.

There are several tutoring centers scattered about the LCC campus, the main one being Tutor Central, located in the Center Building. Just this past Fall term, Tutor Central saw an estimated 1,300 students using the services offered to their

advantage.

"It's a very valuable resource," tutoring services coordinator Liz Coleman said.

At tutor central, there are many tools and utilities that LCC students can utilize to better their experience and enhance their performance. There are quiet study rooms for those who need to limit distractions, and two group study rooms where students bring classmates and work on a project together, Coleman said.

There are currently 70 tutors providing services for the college, with 30 of them working directly out of the Tutor Center.

The college also provides a budget of \$75,000 for tutoring services, and Coleman is currently working towards receiving an \$8,000 grant. Though budget cuts are looming, it is too early to tell if the tutoring services will be affected.

Subjects are never limited, though there are certain places where a student can go for help in a specific area. The Math and Science Resource Centers in Building 16 are aimed to aid students who either struggle to

comprehend their work or may just want a little extra help.

"I do all my homework at the Science Resource Center. If I need help I can get a quick question answered instead of searching or going to the back of the book. Or sometimes I'm shown a new way of doing something that wasn't shown to me before," LCC student JD Beall said.

Robert Thompson is the head of the Math Resource Center, where almost 3,000 students are getting the attention they need to succeed. The center is obviously busy, but is equipped with more quiet study rooms where students can work in a calm environment.

In the MRC, students can interact one-on-one with a teacher, or work on a variable credit, self-paced schedule. Developed for students with scheduling conflicts, one can take a three-credit class but work on one credit at a time until all three are achieved. The student can go at his or her own pace and can pass a class even if it takes longer than the term lasts, Thompson said.

Students are permitted to take Math 20, 60, 65 and 90



PHOTO BY NAOMI REICHMAN

Writing tutor Shelly Emerson (right) shares some laughs and advice with Writing 121 student Kelly Barber.

through the variable credit approach.

"The reason for these centers is to promote student success," Thompson said, "And quite a few students benefit from it."

Coleman's philosophy towards the tutoring services is one of openness.

"I want to encourage students to make the tutoring centers a regular part of their

study experience. If they're able to stay on campus longer, they should take advantage if it. Students should never feel stupid for asking for help, because everybody needs help with something. A stupid person would keep struggling; smart people use their resources," Coleman said.

Women's basketball gets a big victory over Clackamas

Titans garner win; rebound from season's only defeat

ZACKARY PACHOLL
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It was a pivotal game against Clackamas that Lane players called "a must win." The Titans' lone loss of the season came at Clackamas when they suffered a 92-80 defeat.

The crowd was split down the middle as if the half court line were painted up the wall Titan fans on one side and Cougar fans on the other. Both camps were ready to explode with ecstatic behavior and noise as their teams took the court.

The Lane Titans (23-1, 7-1) knocked off the Clackamas Cougars (17-4, 7-1) with a final score of 87-77 in a hard fought match on Feb. 4.

The Titans made the first basket of the game, but that would be the only lead it would see for the entire first half.

After the Titans scored, the Cougars came out with some firepower and hit on three consecutive three point shots, putting them up 9-2 over Lane.

The game stayed fairly close in the first half despite Clackamas shooting the ball only 26 percent from the field. At halftime Lane trailed 34-29.

The Titans came out of halftime refocused and ready to show Clackamas why it held a 39-home game win streak.

Lane started with a 7-0 run that open the second half. It gave the Titans a taste of the lead they desired.

After the Titans regained the lead the team slowed the game down and used the clock.

Sophomore forward Cora McVey was a big part of the Titans regaining and stretching out the lead. McVey scored 16 of her 23 points in the second half that helped lead the Titans to victory.

Sophomore guard Domonique King had a solid all-around game. King had 19 points, six steals, five rebounds, five assists and a season high three blocks.

"Domonique is capable of doing that type of stuff. I challenge her to do it more often but she's a very selfless player. She likes to get her teammates involved... tonight we are glad she decided to attack more," coach Greg Sheley said.

The Titans got off to a slow start but again proved they can finish in the second half.

"It was kind of a slow beginning. I think we gave a lot of heart, we knew we wanted this game," freshman forward Stephanie Stephens said.

Sheley responded by saying, "I'm proud of the way the kids recomposed themselves at halftime. I don't think we played a particularly good first half but the second half they came back with intensity and some good strong basketball. Clackamas is an amazing team and to beat them by ten means we outscored them by 15 in a half. That's pretty amazing."

Clackamas coach Jim Martineau felt his team played well, but Lane was able to slow down the tempo of the game.

"We got up and down the floor the first half. We got a lot of shots up first half and then the tempo slowed down



PHOTO BY ROBERT JONES

Titan players rejoice after knocking off Clackamas 87-77 at home on Feb. 4. Clackamas handed the Titans its first loss of the season on Jan. 14 in Oregon City, 92-80.

a lot, which is what they wanted...we played to their style and they ended up beating us," Martineau said.

The Titans had this game marked on their calendar ever since its only defeat of the season.

"I can't put it into words...it feels great getting this victory over Clackamas," King said.

The Titans didn't have a game on Wednesday so they were able to rest up

and let small injuries heal.

"We can try to heal up. We are pretty beat up right now. We are going to take some time off and rest up. Then we're going to refocus and hopefully make a last little push," Sheley said.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, at 4 p.m. the Titans will host Mt. Hood (2-17, 0-8) a team they beat on the road 85-43 earlier in the season.

Seahawks get sacked in Stupid Bowl

The Super Bowl turned into a game of the Seahawks versus the combined powerhouse of the Steelers and referees. It was shocking to watch this horrible display of unfair penalty calling.

There were four damaging calls that cost the Seahawks 18 points in the game.

The first one was the pass interference call that took away the Seahawks' first touchdown of the game. When two players are battling for position no one is at fault. Luckily for the Steelers, Chris Hope cried to the ref and won his case.

The result was a 'Hawk field goal, meaning they lost four points due to the call.

The second one was when Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger dove towards the end zone, falling just inches short. Fortunately for him though, the linesman ref must have had a bet in Las Vegas with the over/under in the second quarter. He hesitated long enough to place his call to his bookie and send a shout-out to his mom before making the call.

The third was the mystery holding call midway through the game. One of the refs probably had just taken his eye medication

when he saw a mystery hand grab a Steeler during an offensive pass play.

That call brought a Hawk catch at the one to back around the 20. That costly call could have meant seven points.

There are 11 points that were taken back and seven that were given to the Steelers. The fourth call came after Hawk QB Matt Hasselback attempted a lame tackle and got called for a block below the waist. Since when did a tackle become a block?

Bogus calls weren't the only thing bad at the game.

The Rolling Stones are officially dead.

Their next concert should be a county fair with the likes of Van Halen and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

Don't get me wrong, I like their music, but only the stuff made in the 60s and 70s. Jagger looked like he was having an attack of some sort and needed to be put in a wheelchair for precautionary measures.

Now that football is over it's time to set my sights on college basketball and the NBA. So don't stop reading after this week.

There's more to come.

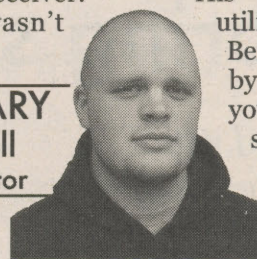
COMMENTARY

Robert Jones
Sports Editor



COMMENTARY

Zackary Pacholl
Assistant Sport Editor



Let it go Seattle fans, the Seahawks choked yet again.

In this year's Super Bowl the Pittsburgh Steelers showed they were the better team by beating the Seahawks 21-10.

Immediately following the game Seahawk fans blamed the officials for its loss.

There was a fan who had a sign that read, "the Steelers 12th man wears stripes." Very funny

considering the recent trademark lawsuit that Texas A&M laid on the Seahawks over the "12th man" moniker.

One could blame missed calls or bad calls but in the end it boils down to making plays and the Seahawks didn't do this after the first quarter. On Tuesday, the NFL said that no officiating mistakes were made in the game.

At the start of the game, the Seahawks looked solid, throwing quick and consistent passes to wide receiver Darrell Jackson. Jackson tied a Super Bowl record of having five receptions in the first quarter. Once the quarter ended, Jackson wouldn't touch the ball for the rest of the game.

My biggest problem with the entire game came on Seattle's last

possession.

With 1:51 remaining in the game, Seattle trailed by 11 points. Three consecutive incomplete passes got them nowhere. I can understand making a few short attempts to pick up yardage, but throw the ball down the field! Jackson is the team's deep threat receiver. His talent wasn't utilized.

Being down by 11 means you must score twice to stay in the game. That is not

going to happen when your season-saving attempt is to have tight end Jeremy Stevens catch a ball for a three-yard gain right in the middle of the field.

Congratulations on letting your record-setting season (15 victories) end with a crushing of the hopes of Northwest football fans for having any sort of regional pride. The infamous east coast bias lives on.

There were numerous opportunities for the Seahawks to take control of the game, but in the end it didn't have what it takes to be Super Bowl champions.

NURSE from page 4: Aging baby boomer population provides nursing jobs

up with academics.

Gorman sees the age difference between himself and most of his classmates as being advantageous. "I'm fairly comfortable with the (medical) surroundings here and being an older student helps too, with life skills," he said.

An aging baby boomer population and a nationwide shortage of registered nurses ensures LCC nursing program graduates job security for many years to come.

According to Gorman, "there are places offering nurses moving cost, \$2,500 to \$5,000 bonuses and paying loans off for

new nurses." Gorman says he plans to stay in the emergency care field after graduation and has given some thought to traveling the country working short term nursing contracts.

When asked how he thought LCC's nursing program compared to others in the state Gorman offered nothing but accolades.

"It's a great program. They've got the highest pass rate in the state for the nursing board exams, 99 percent," he said. "It's one of the best programs in the state as far as I am concerned."

**Next Game against Mt. Hood
On Sat. Feb. 11, 4 pm**

Titans season shaping up after uncertain basketball lineup

The Lane men take the week off before taking on the NWAACC's No. 2 ranked team Mt. Hood

ROBERT JONES
SPORTS EDITOR

No one knew what to expect when Brad Kanis and Josh Akwenuke were the only returning starters for this seasons team. Kanis went out with a hand injury; that left Akwenuke in charge of leading a group of freshmen.

The result has brought the team into a position to gain a playoff spot, but they're only at the midpoint with six games left and a 4-4 league record. Last season the Titans were 1-7 in league.

"We need to win at least five if not six. We're in a fine position to still make the playoffs and get that third place spot if we really want it," Akwenuke said.

The Titans are now in rematch play as they play each team for a second time. After beating sixth ranked Clackamas in Oregon City 93-87, the two faced each other on Titan Court Feb. 4.

Both played close throughout the whole game but Lane could never take a lead after leading 2-0 in the first half. The Titans never let the Cougars maul them, but Clackamas had their claws in them the entire game.

Lane trailed 36-32 at the break. Ervin Sims ripped apart the Titans with his second 30-point performance.

Sims doubled his scoring average of 15 percent. Lane made the game close but missed key shots down the stretch before falling 80-74 in front of its home crowd.

"It's just frustrating to be in close

games when you feel like there are things to do to prevent that," Head Coach Matt Swagerty said. Those words were echoed through the locker room.

"It's bad we're in close games," Travon Mouton said, "but it's exciting basketball. I like to be in that kind of basketball."

When the Titans take the court on Feb. 11 they will have had a week to prepare for the number two-ranked Mt. Hood in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges.

The Saints climbed back from being behind for 37 minutes during their last meeting on Jan. 21 in Gresham before taking the lead then settling for an overtime win, 96-84.

The next step for the Titans is to win at home. This season the Titans have won only two home games.

"I don't think we really played our best basketball at home this year, but I think that's going to change," Akwenuke said.

Lane will have some hard practices to prepare for Mt. Hood on Feb. 11, but they feel confident they can take on the Saints and move to the next level.

"It's going to be a battle, but it's a game we have to win," Mouton said.



PHOTO BY
ROBERT
JONES



PHOTO BY ROBERT JONES

Top: Josh Akwenuke (white) gets rid of the ball under pressure of three Clackamas players during the Titans home loss the Cougars on Feb. 4, 84-70. Jake Kettles (25) of Clackamas appears to take the most of Akwenuke's knee in an effort to get the ball. **Left:** Travon Mouton (32) plays one on one basketball with a Clackamas defender in the Titans loss at home, 80-74, to the Cougars on Feb. 4. The next home game will be on Feb. 11 at 6 pm against Mt. Hood.

Upcoming Events

SKI TRIP

Willamette Pass

Thursday, Feb. 9 is the last day to register for a winter excursion to the Willamette Pass. If interested in rental and/or lessons, at an additional cost, inquire when registering. To register, contact Colby Sheldon at 463-5165 or stop by Building 1, Room 201

Date: Saturday, Feb. 18

Age Limit: 15 years old

Time: 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cost: \$30 students

OREGON DUCK WRESTLING

McArthur Court

Those planning on watching Oregon Duck wrestling, stop by Building 5, Room 204 and for tickets for \$1. This is a \$4 deduction from the gate price. The tickets are good for any home match (includes multi-team events).

Note - Staff and all other non-students may purchase these tickets as well, but at an additional \$2 per ticket.

Dates: Various

Cost: \$1 each

OREGON DUCK LACROSSE

Plan for Oregon Duck lacrosse and softball games this season. There are a limited number of tickets for both events for \$1, a \$4 savings from the gate price. The tickets are good for any home game excluding playoffs. The first lacrosse game is March 3 and softball leads off on March 15.

Note - Staff and all other non-students may purchase these tickets as well, but at an additional \$2 per ticket.

All listed activities are designed for the whole families' enjoyment. Participation in the following requires a ticket from the Recreation Department. These events have limited space. Tickets can be picked up Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Building 5, Room 204. Some limitations apply. Questions or comments please call Brent Ellison at 463-5293.

BOWLING

For people in South Lane County (Creswell, Cottage Grove) there is bowling at Liberty Lanes in Cottage Grove. Bowling is free on Sunday Feb. 26 from 1-3 p.m. There is a ticket limit of five per family. All additional tickets are \$3.

SWIMMING

On Sunday, March, 19 from 1-5 p.m. at Lively Park there will be a hot tub, baby pool and giant wave pool. Limit of five tickets per family for free.

MINDS IN MOTION

Tickets are still available for the Feb. 12 date. The event is from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Only those under the age of 15 require a ticket. All adults are free.

Minds in Motion Discovery & Fun Center is primarily designed for children aged 2-12. It features an exciting selection of hands-on exhibits that will allow children to explore, create and discover.

CLUB SPORTS

Roster spaces are limited and are only secure upon full receipt of payment. The cost to join a team is \$20 per person (unless otherwise noted). The fee helps pay for the league. If minimal participation requirements are not met, the team will be withdrawn from the league. Competition levels for each team are TBA, as it is based on community league availability and roster experience. All the following registration dates are general approximations and subject to change.

REGISTRATION/LEAGUE SCHEDULES

Dodge ball
Regional Sports Center
Registration is until March 8
League starts March 20

Mens/Womens/Coed Volleyball
City of Eugene Recreation
Registration is until February 22
League starts March 29
Coed Ultimate
City of Eugene Recreation
Registration is until March 8
League starts April 3

Shamrock Village RV PARK

Close to college on LTD bus route.
\$275 plus electric with
laundry and showers.
Study by the river.
541-747-7473 Restrictions apply.

ALL YOU CAN EAT
SPAGHETTI
\$3.50
Every Tuesday
PIZZA PETE's
2506 Willakenzie 344-0998
2673 Willamette 484-0996

THE TORCH
ON-LINE EDITION
LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

**The
Torch
is
now
on-line!**
www.lanecollege.edu/torch
Check us out!

Passion will make your art taut with power

Multimedia assemblages put on quite a show

REVIEW BY RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

Beverly Soasey has a brilliant grasp of tone and architectural balance. She creates multimedia mixes of old photographs and found objects, turning them into haunting assemblages fraught with ambiguity and poetry. The exhibit of her work currently showing in the LCC Art Gallery is possibly one of the more concretely striking displays to have been featured there in quite a while.

Soasey's multimedia assemblages comprise some of the more remarkable pieces in the show. While a picture would truly be worth the thousand clumsy words wasted in conjuring a fraction of their charm, an attempt will be made.

The assemblages are box-like in overall shape, square borders that typically frame a cut-out of the front of a house. There's upstairs and downstairs openings, usually with an intriguing visual inside each. Old photos, small objects, prose and paintings can comprise an assemblage.

Some seem almost like small shrines. "Trust Thyself, Know What You Prefer" comes complete with a paper fan and old photograph of a woman in antiquated beach gear, shamelessly showing her bare knees and posing before a painted backdrop of waves.

One of the more eerie pieces could be "I Rest in the Grace of the World and am Free." The focal point of the assemblage is a small doll with brown bird feathers for wings. A porcelain head and shoulders rest atop a sack-cloth body. Ducks and cranes linger at the bottom edges of the piece, and the vague shape of a house is painted in the background.

My personal favorite assemblage, "Passion Will Make Our Bodies Taut with Power," has the main shape of a house.

It's covered with drawings of birds with real feathers at its base. Old atlases wrap the piece's perimeter. The title of the work comes from a quote from D.H. Lawrence's poem, "Escape," helpfully inscribed on the piece.

ART FOR PHILISTINES

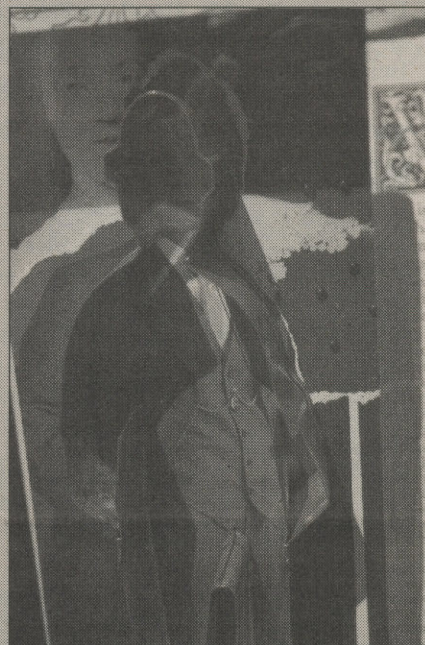
Beverly Soasey
Visual stories
LCC art gallery
Building 11
through Feb. 31

It reads: "cool, unlying life will rush in, and passion will make our bodies taut with power. We shall stamp our feet with new power and old things fall down, we shall laugh, and institutions will curl up like burnt paper."

There are additional works along with the assemblages. Soasey has a few graphite pencil drawings of tide pools. A postcard series on two of the gallery's walls feature postcards (surprise!) covered with old stamps and various bric-a-brac like rusted washers, old keys and toothpick bundles. The three-part "Identity Thief" series has mismatched old photographs as its focal point. A young woman's head is placed atop a man's overcoat. The head of an elderly, bearded male is matched with a formal black dress, etc.

And there's good news for those of you looking to add a few fine pieces to your art collection without spending a fortune. Soasey's pieces all come complete with their very own price tags. The assemblages tend to be in the \$800-\$900 range, so the average community college student is out of luck where those are concerned.

The postcards, however, are a more affordable \$75. For those of you still too cheap to part with that much of your money there's the \$5 Art-o-mat conveniently located right around the corner.



PHOTOS BY NAOMI REICHMAN

Focusing on form and tone, Beverly Soasey molds paintings and found objects such as cookie cutters and violins into architecturally stylish wonders. The mixed media art is showing now in the Building 11 Art Gallery.



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Is the University of Oregon for YOU?
Attend our **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Tuesday, February 21
Lane Community College
2:00 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.

Center for Meeting & Learning, Room 104

Panel Participants Include:

- Admissions
- Academic Advising
- Academic Learning Services
- Non-traditional Student Union
- First Year Programs
- Career Center
- Financial Aid
- Disability Services
- Multicultural Academic Support

Bring your questions. Bring a friend.

Office of Academic Advising
364 Oregon Hall
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403
<http://advising.uoregon.edu>



Office of Admissions
240 Oregon Hall
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403
<http://admissions.uoregon.edu>

Upcoming Events

Festival

KLCC Microbrew Festival
Friday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 11
5-11 p.m.
Lane Events Center (Fairgrounds)
796 W. 13th
Contact info: 463-6000

Oregon Asian Celebration
Saturday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 19
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Lane Events Center (Fairgrounds)
796 W. 13th

Lecture

Black History Month Presentation
"Classical Music and the African American Experience"
By Elizabeth Lyra Ross, soprano
Thursday, Feb. 9
11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m.
LCC Performance Hall, Building 6

Lecture/Performance

The Reading Together project
Jim Garcia
Thursday, Feb. 9
10-11:30 a.m.
Center for Meeting and Learning
Building 19, Room 104.

Benefit

"For-TEA-ssimo"
Hosted by Arts Umbrella
Saturday, Feb. 18
2:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
13th and Pearl
Tickets \$20
To purchase tickets, call 484-0473

When felons can't vote they do the next best thing: secede

East St. Louis secedes from America in the hilarious 'Birth of a Nation'

REVIEW BY RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

The 2000 presidential election saw the systematic disenfranchisement of black voters in Florida. Nothing was done about this, of course, but what if something was? McGruder, Hudlin and Baker imagine a world where the cheating of black voters in 2000 led to the secession of the worst city in America: East St. Louis.

The Skinny: When mayor of East St. Louis Fred Fredricks went to vote in the 2000 presidential election he was confronted with a problem unjustly shared by many of his fellow citizens; booted off the eligible voting roles for

being a felon. The trouble was that Fredricks wasn't a felon any more than most of the other East St. Louis voters. In protest, East St. Louis seceded from America, dubbed themselves Blackland, wrote a national anthem to the tune of the theme from "Good Times," and

OFF THE SHELF
Birth of a Nation
Aaron McGruder,
Reginald Hudlin and Kyle Baker
Crown Publishing. 2004

brought in outrageous revenues due to their status as a Switzerland/Vatican Bank nation of anonymous bank accounting.

In no time at all, Blackland's lucrative economy and trendy use of alternative fuel sources has it fending off threats from its abandoned parent country. The rest of the U.S. masses troops along

Blackland's border and prepares to invade.

The Good: Well, the book's funny as all hell. Writers McGruder and Hudlin create a sympathetic cast of characters that include the aforementioned mayor, his childhood friend grown into a smooth-talking banker, street thugs, and idealistic young revolutionaries who can't choose between bedding Fredricks or the hyper-masculine criminal element that Fredricks turned into Blackland's military.

The Bad: I used to live by East St. Louis. Spent some time there. And the notion that, if the city actually did secede from the country, anyone would miss that festering boil of a cesspool is the biggest suspension of disbelief that the book asks you to make.

Seriously. On the pathetic scale the real East St. Louis place ranks higher (or is that lower?) than Glenwood. And you know nothing will be done about it,

ever.

The Ugly: In the so-called Real World nothing became of the mass disenfranchisement of black voters in 2001. The news story didn't appear in American papers until 2001 (Europeans were well aware of it way before us), and the folks helped by it are still in power.

Additional Info: Aaron McGruder is, as most of you know, the auteur behind the daily newspaper strip, "The Boondocks." He wins respect for being the only part of the mainstream media not kissing the Bush administration's behind after 9/11. Really, one day they'll give the man a medal for not acting as pathetic during that time period as the rest of his media brethren. You remember, right?

And Reggie Hudlin made a bunch of movies that I could never force myself to recommend to another human being. House Party, anyone?

Corridos tell stories that sustain Chicano culture

Songs are part of a rich oral tradition going back to medieval times

PEGGY GREEN
NEWS EDITOR

Corridos are a form of music that began in Spain centuries ago in medieval times with the Spanish troubadors. The songs are like ballads in that they tell a story.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, Jim Garcia will perform them on the main LCC campus in the Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 1, Room 104, from 10-11:30 a.m.

Garcia, interim coordinator of the Chicano/Latino Student Program at LCC, will sing the songs in Spanish and simultaneously do a PowerPoint presentation providing the translation in English. Accompanying himself on the guitar, Garcia will also give a short presentation before each song to inform

the audience of the importance of each corrido.

Corridos were brought to Mexico from Spain and became popular with the Mexican Revolution in 1910. They provide an oral history of the Mexican people and have a tradition of resurfacing when there is conflict. Eventually the corridos and their oral tradition spread north.

Many corridos were created during the Chicano movement that was led in the 1960s and 70s by labor leaders like Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta.

Garcia's performance is a presentation by The Reading Together project at LCC. This year's theme of the project is "Circling Home: Stories and Sustainable Communities."

The corridos are stories that members of the culture tell themselves. They help to sustain the Chicano culture in a very easy and simple way.

"You don't need a printing press, or a computer, or an editor. It's simple. It's only in the past 30 years we've had printed documentation of Chicano

studies," Garcia said.

"It's alright to have access to the mainstream, but we should have the old ways, too," Garcia said.

"To be Mexican is to be proud.' When (the kids) see my presentation they see a proud community."

-Jim Garcia

Garcia believes the corridos provide an authenticity that the mainstream publications do not.

Garcia will sing and read poems, too. The corridos he has selected cover the time from the U.S.-Mexican War, (1846-1848), until the present.

"I want folks to experience and see what they take from that. It's up to the person who receives that and they make their own conclusion about what is being said," Garcia said.

Garcia has found that the corridos

reach across generations in a way other forms of communication have not been able. For some young Mexican-American, the corridos answer questions they have had for their parents or grandparents. These are questions have angered or frustrated them such as: "why didn't you teach me Spanish?" and "why did you move us out of southern California to go to the Northwest?"

"Many times when I do this presentation they come up to me and I can tell this is the first time they are hearing it," Garcia said.

Like his parents did for him, Garcia says he tries "To empower the kids. To be Mexican is to be proud.' When they see my presentation they see a proud community."

Garcia's presentation reaches out to the Eugene-Springfield community. High school students come and see that other people are interested in their history. He expects to see high school students at this year's performance.

"The (corridos) performance goes to ally building," Garcia said.

A funky rendition of a lost movie art

Quentin Tarantino's 'Jackie Brown' is critically acclaimed as the last blaxploitation film ever made

REVIEW BY DREW HUNT
TORCH REPORTER

One of the most popular film genres that blossomed from the 70s, yet sadly did not last past the disco era, was the ever-stereotypical "blaxploitation." The films featured primarily black actors and perfectly-fitting funk and soul music. The films took place in the ghetto and tended to involve pimps, drug dealers, hit men and hookers. In all of these films it was common to see drugs, Afro's and corrupt white police officers.

Many of today's filmmakers still respect the lost medium and frequently pay homage to it in subtle yet noticeable ways. Director Quentin Tarantino most notably expressed his admiration in his film "Jackie Brown."

Adapted from Elmore Leonard's novel "Rum Punch," the film tells the tale of black stewardess Jackie Brown played by Pam Grier. Mostly known for work as Foxy Brown, a no nonsense hustler and a flagship character for blaxploitation films, Tarantino re-worked the character from the book specifically with Grier in mind.

In the film, Jackie works for illegal arms dealer Ordell Robbie (Samuel L. Jackson), smuggling in the money he makes from Mexico. However, during one of her smuggling efforts Jackie is

caught by two Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms officers and offered a deal: if she leads them to Ordell, her charges will be dropped. Jackie, however, plans a double cross by not only hoodwinking Ordell, but the feds as well. Enlisting the help of her bail bondsman Max Cherry (Robert Forster, nominated for an Oscar), Jackie spins a web of deception while remaining sassy and witty - true to blaxploitation style.

The most intriguing aspect of the film lies in its conspicuity. The characters know more about the going-ons of the film than the viewer. In fact, the viewer is left almost entirely in the dark as to what is exactly happening until we see the events unfolding in front of us.

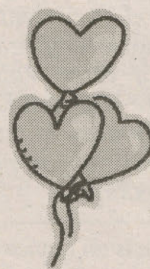
The film was critically acclaimed for its creative script and a skilled supporting cast, particularly Robert De Niro as Ordell's right hand man.

Many consider "Jackie Brown" to be a modern rendition of blaxploitation, and Tarantino does a stupendous job updating the once popular genre.

In true Tarantino form, the film is filled to the brim with gratuitous violence, horrible language and witty dialogue.

However, much of the film is a somewhat tame venture when compared to past Tarantino work. It lacks a certain intensity that his two previous films were chock full of.

By making this film a bit softer than his other work, Tarantino flawlessly executes his goal to revive and pay homage to one of his favorite film genres. Commend him for not delivering the same formula for each of his films.



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Building 18, Room 101

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All the stars are projectors: 21st Century Astrology

Aries- Lazy Relaxation (March 21- April 19)

Right now, little Aries you have Venus making a square to your natal Sun. This transit usually ushers in a nice, relaxing mood to your life. Your stress levels are pretty low and you can't help but feel just a little bit lazy during this time.

Taurus- Mini Awareness (April 20 - May 20)

You can't seem to help but get somewhat "in tune" with your feelings lately and some small event in your life may come to its mini-climax. If there were something that you've needed to say (or do), now would be the absolute best time, as it will work out in your favor.

Gemini- Will Power (May 21 - June 20)

There's a lot going on with your sign currently, however this signifies energies that you can use to accomplish something in your life. The key is just mustering up enough willpower to get yourself to utilize these energies.

Cancer- Relationship Exams (June 21 - July 22)

You're feeling somewhat stunted emotionally at the moment, and you've been examining your relationships with friends and loved ones, trying to figure out what you gain out of your relationships with others. Don't be too concerned with outer expressions from others, just because others don't express what they are feeling doesn't mean they aren't feeling it.

Leo- Hissy Kitty (July 23 - Aug. 22)

There's a trying transit in your sign now and it'll be pretty easy for you to fall into a bad mood. You feel as though you are having a difficult time in getting people to pay attention or understand you. Since no one seems to be paying attention to you, you shun everyone else by ignoring them- thus giving you plenty of time to get things done.

Virgo- Excited Accomplishments (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

You have been feeling quite pleasant lately and the mixture of planetary energies you're getting can make you feel somewhat restless, like you just don't know what you feel like doing. No matter what it is you do right now, you'll find a certain amount of satisfaction with any activity.

Libra- Tough Tasks (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

You are being presented with many opportunities during this time, but to gain anything from them, you are going to have to work for it. If you ignore them and choose not to do anything with these opportunities, you won't be bothered initially, but someday you'll wish you had.

Scorpio- Internal Soul (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

There's a whole mess of energies coming your way Scorpio, and this isn't necessarily a bad thing. A Sun/Moon opposition is going to make you want to internalize just about everything. You don't really need this, as you already have a tendency to internalize in this first place.

Sagittarius- Super Happy (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

During this time your vitality is quite high and your energy is also shooting through the roof. Now is a great time for friends, dear Saget, as you would only be doing more good to make those around you feel happy.

Capricorn- Pretty Socializing (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You feel like expressing just about every aspect of yourself, which makes you feel like a pretty person who just wants to be around pretty things. You seek nothing but pleasure and enjoyment during this time, which would be well spent with company.

Aquarius- Mentally Restless (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You have still been feeling really good, as of late, due to the Sun making a conjunction to your natal Sun. Mercury is making you think and analyze just about very aspect of your life, and it's making you want to express yourself to everyone. Luckily for you, everyone seems to want to listen.

Pisces- New Pleasantness (Feb. 19 - March 20)

Your life has been enormously pleasant lately. Not only are you feeling healthy, but you have this wonderful sense of well-being. You feel as though you want to expand your learning or understanding, so it is highly likely that you may pick up an area of study completely new to you or grab a book you wouldn't normally read.

LAINEY BLOOM
TORCH ASTROLOGER

Dear Pele

Dear Pele,

Last year I proposed to my girlfriend on Valentine's Day. We're getting married in a few months, but in the meanwhile I was wondering what I could do to top last year's act of proposing. Any ideas?

Stumped on Seneca Rd.

Dear Stumped,

If you're getting married, obviously she loves you, or at least we can hope so. She knows last year's proposal was a big event, and I can guarantee that you don't have to try and top yourself. Take her to where you guys went on your first date, make her a card (women melt over things like that) and keep it simple. Sneak some flowers into her car or room, or send them to her at work, or make her a simple dinner. If she's expecting you to top last year, find yourself a new woman.

Dear Pele,

I have two boyfriends. With Valentine's Day forthcoming, I also have a little problem: both would like me to spend the day with them. It's not like they don't know about each other, but I'm worried that choosing one's offer over the other would result in hurt feelings. I wish Valentine's Day was

more like Hanukkah or Kwanzaa and had multiple days, but unfortunately there's just the one. What can I do to have a happy Valentine's Day while still avoiding any bad feelings?

Overbooked by Oakway

Dear Overbooked,

You've got yourself in a pickle, and here's how you're going to get yourself out:

Make the two of them draw straws. Whomever draws the short straw has to go first, and gets to spend the day before Valentine's Day with you. Valentine's Day, spend the day with your girlfriends, get a massage, take yourself out to dinner, or do something special for yourself. Don't see either boyfriend on Valentine's Day, so they won't have anything to fight about. The day after Valentine's Day, see the other boyfriend. He'll get seconds, but he'll also know what the other boyfriend did for you and will know how to compete.

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.

JACKSON from page 4: Not much to Valentines Day besides toys, food

dessert route, and got a pound of strawberries for \$2.50. I also bought the cute little Hostess dessert cups for \$1.39. Having these things right inside the front door definitely worked in Safeway's favor.

I'll cut up the strawberries, put a little sugar on them, let them sit in the fridge while I cook the rest of the meal until when I'm ready for dessert and put them on the dessert cups.

"Lite" whipped cream was \$2.59, buy one get one free. I bought it, but you don't have to.

Meal without the whipped cream: \$20.84

Meal with the whipped cream: \$23.43

Heathers Loot:

Let's face it; Valentine's Day has become too serious. When I set out to buy gifts, I wanted to avoid the traditional flowers and candy and find something unique.

I found exactly what I was looking for at Hiron's next to Safeway on 18th Avenue. For less than \$20 I was able to buy five fun items to present to my loved ones.

My favorite item is the "Love Gun." It is not really a gun; it is a small catapult that launches tiny cupids up to 15 feet away. It even comes with a bull's-eye



PHOTO BY SEAN HOFFMAN

complete with a heart in the center. It cost me \$4.99 and was worth every penny.

The most expensive item I bought was a \$5.99 "Passion Pen." It claims to test your love by using "a unique thermodynamic reaction." In other words, grasp the bottom chamber that is filled with red liquid and time how long it takes for the liquid to reach to top chamber. This will grade your passion from "Cold Fish" to "Hot Stuff."

I bought a set of rubber "Sweetheart Duckies" and a strawberry "Gummy Heart," \$3.99 each.

The ducks are heart-covered and make a cute couple. More importantly, they squeak. All you Sesame Street kids know that's all that matters when it comes to rubber duckies.

The "Gummy Heart" is an entirely different story. It turned out to be a big hit in The Torch office, but I thought it was disgusting. It is an edible strawberry flavored anatomically correct heart. The package reads, "My love is pure, my love is true, you can have my heart and eat it too!" Gross!

The last item I bought was a "Magic Balloon." It is one of those balloons on a stick you find at the checkout stand in the grocery store but this one comes in a package and self inflates. You simply squeeze it, shake it and it will inflate. For 50 cents I was sold! It has a cute image of a boy resisting a kiss from a girl and the words "I love you" on it.

All in all, my trip to Hiron's cost me \$19.46 and I managed to buy gifts that no one will be expecting on Valentine's Day.

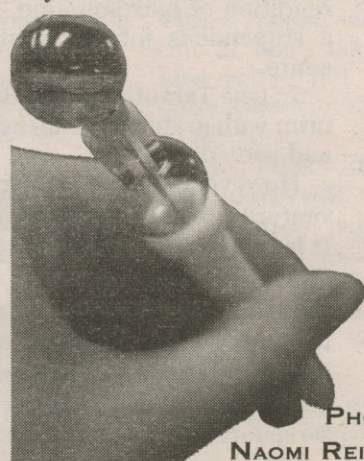


PHOTO BY
NAOMI REICHMAN

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Part-Time Openings! Customer sales/service, \$15 base/app., flexible schedules, no cold calling, no experience necessary, all ages 17+, conditions apply, call 434-0201 or apply at www.workforstudents.com

For Sale

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

Other

Bible Study/Prayer Group! T/Th at noon in the NE cafeteria, in front of the coffee shop. Questions? E-mail Aleisha: BrokNB4God@aol.com

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

Affinity group forming. Mindless devotees wanted. Must worship A&E Editors as divine beings. We are not a cult. E-mail torch@lanec.edu and ask for Randy.

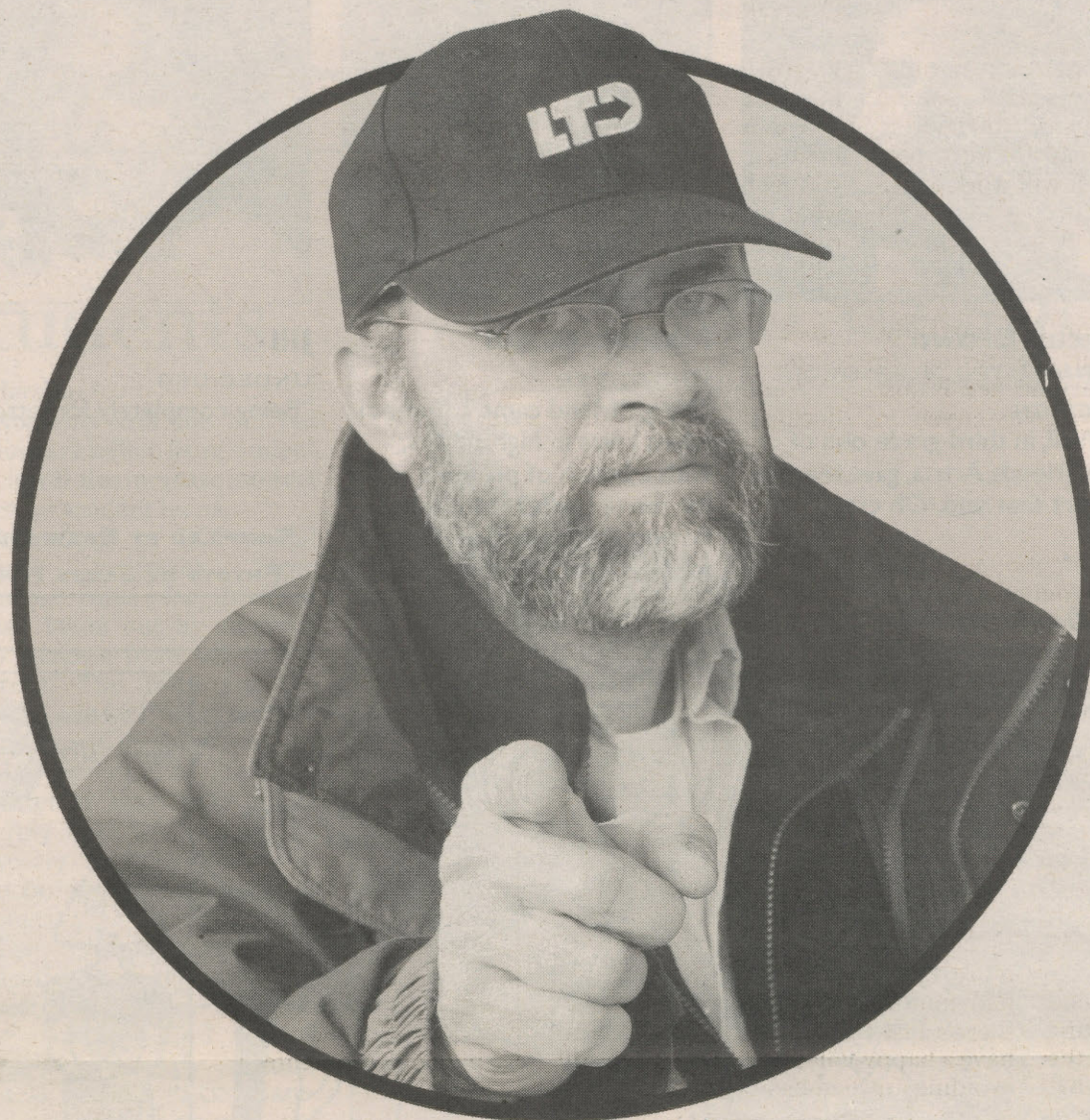
Events

Rec-sport & ISCP ski trip on Feb. 18. The sign-up deadline is 3 p.m. on Feb. 10.

Messages

Are you a student with a home-based business? I'd like to interview you for a Torch feature story. Call Larry at 463-5881 or write coonrodLarry@yahoo.com.

WE WANT YOU



TO GIVE US INPUT!

2006 Fall Service Changes *Plug in to the process!*

Each fall, LTD implements service changes that address available resources, service demand, and service reliability. This is your opportunity to provide feedback and make suggestions for service changes. LTD customers are the best resource for service ideas, so we encourage your participation.



Lane Transit District

at your service

Here's how you can get involved:

Visit www.ltd.org for service proposal updates.

- Send an e-mail to ltd@ltd.org.
- Testify at a public hearing. Public hearings are scheduled on Monday, February 13, and Monday, March 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the Eugene Library.
- Call LTD at 682-6100.

Note: Input must be received by Wednesday, March 15, to be considered for Fall 2006 service changes.

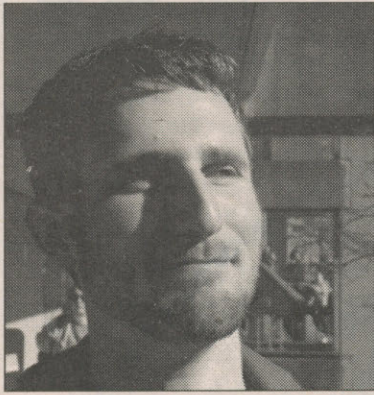
What's the worst thing that has happened to you on Valentine's Day?



Kendra Wortham

NURSING

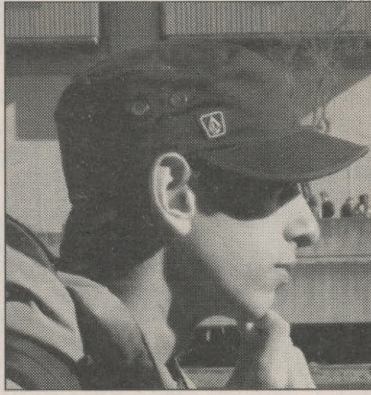
"Well, I was driving down this country road and it was dark outside and I got abducted by aliens and they anal probed me and turned me into a robot."



Jacob Brown

GRADUATED MULTIMEDIA DESIGN

"Well, in third grade one of my friends, Arista, gave me this heart that said, 'Oh crap.'"



Nathan Beard

UNDECIDED

"My girlfriend came to school when I was in high school, with a bunch of presents for me (a stuffed bear, some flowers, and chocolates) and I forgot it was Valentine's Day."



Jill

UNDECIDED

"Being completely forgotten."



Katelin Mezger-Sieg

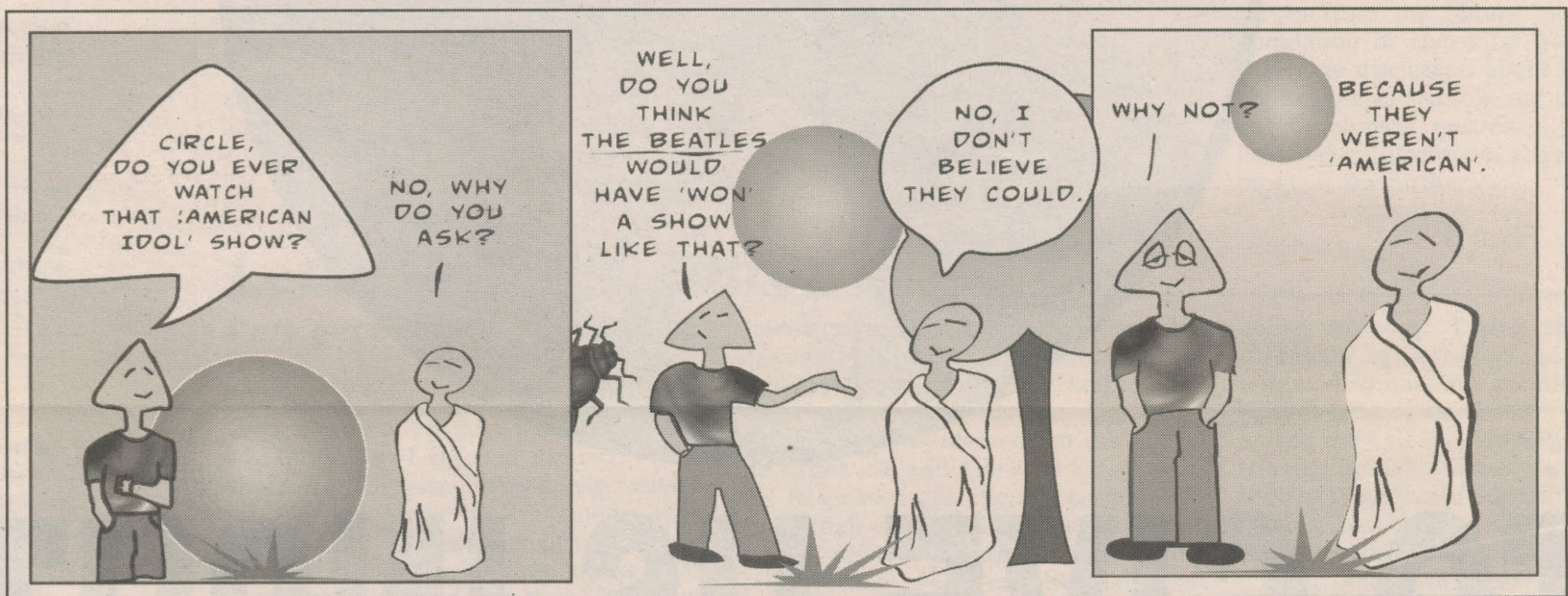
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

"It isn't so much something that happened to me, as it is something I did to him: I dumped him."

COMPILED BY DREW HUNT

PHOTOS BY JAMES HOLK

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Valentine's Day
is Tuesday, February 14

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