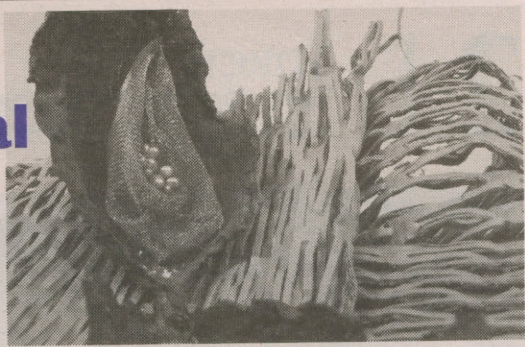


Heavy metal

LCC art gallery showcases earthy, multimedia art
A&E | Page 6



VOLUME XL, NUMBER 21
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2006

THE TORCH

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WWW.LANECC.EDU/TORCH

Budget Crisis

LCC axes \$6 million

Proposal calls for staff, service reductions

PEGGY GREEN
NEWS REPORTER

A new chapter in the 40-year history of LCC was written on Wednesday, April 12, when a budget reduction of \$6 million was presented to the Board of Education.

Citing "a continuation of the public disinvestment in higher education," LCC President Mary Spilde announced the proposed budget cuts for the 2006-07 academic year.

The cuts are a proposal to address the \$5.9 million deficit for next school year.

Another similar cut looms for 2007-08.

Students will be glad to know the cuts include no academic program reductions. However, the cuts could mean reductions in services.

There will be fewer part-time faculty teaching positions. The gap will be filled in by current full-time faculty spending more hours teaching and less time working on such things as grant proposals and serving on committees and other released time.

However, there are 18 faculty vacancies which will be not be filled at this time but held open for future consideration.

Spilde announced that in the 2007-08 academic year there will have to be faculty cuts. "I see no way to except to impact instruction," she said.

Most of the personnel cuts are from classified positions. A total of 64 classified positions will be affected.

"The cuts are essentially all

See **BUDGET** page 5

Choreography by students featured in **'The Works'**



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRINKERHOFF

LCC dance department presents "The Works," a student dance concert in the Performance Hall April 21-22 at 8 p.m. From left to right: Lindy Comrada, Bryan Avery, Shannon Knight, Alonzo Moore and Angela Mustacchia.

RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

Three terms of dance study culminate in "The Works," a student dance concert in the Perfor-

mance Hall April 21-22. The concert will explore issues raised by books from the Reading Together project held at LCC.

See **WORKS** page 6

Photographing penguins through the decades

Bill Curtsinger's work includes decades of wildlife photography, like this shot of an emperor penguin.

PHOTO BY NAOMI REICHMAN



Bill Curtsinger arrives at LCC to show pictures, new book

RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

Bill Curtsinger has been a freelance photographer for more than 30 years and his work has appeared in more National Geographic issues than most people have read. Curtsinger stopped at LCC last Wednesday to make a presentation in support of his new book.

"Extreme Nature: Images from the World's Edge," Curtsinger's seventh book of photography, was the focus of his talk in Building 17. It showcases his specialty of underwater and Antarctic photography. He showed

See **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** page 10

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WEATHER:

FRIDAY: 58/42
CHANCE OF RAIN

SATURDAY: 58/42
CHANCE OF RAIN

SUNDAY: 58/42
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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COMMENTARY

More reasons to feel defeated at tax time

Tax day this year is April 17. Thanks to this annual reminder of your basic status as a free-range sharecropper, you're probably feeling a little upset. A bit beaten down.

And if it already feels like the government just left you bleeding in the streets, then this column will help kick you when you're down.

So, you might as well just lie back and enjoy it for the next 700 words as we add insult to injury and present: Why Taxes Are Even Worse Than You Thought.

Reason #1: People richer than you pay less in taxes.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the staggering 60 percent of all Americans who, combined, own less than five-percent of the country's wealth (attending community college is a decent hint that we fall into this group) pay more than 14 percent of federal taxes. By contrast, the microscopic one percent of Americans who own 38 percent of the country's wealth pay only 24 percent of federal taxes.

The percentages just don't add up, do they? So, for a further salting of your wound there's this charming factoid from those pinko-commies of the Congressional Budget Office as utilized by the group, United for a Fair Economy. It states, "If all taxpayers paid the same 10.5 percent of their wealth in taxes as median income families pay, the taxes of the lowest 40 percent would be cut by 94 percent while the taxes of the wealthiest would triple."

And, as you probably know, the federal tax cuts in 2001-2003 weren't exactly geared towards helping meager peasants. According to the Tax Policy Center of the Urban Institute and Brookings Institute, those cuts helped anyone who was a millionaire to save at least around \$113,000 from the 2003 cuts alone. Those of us

in the bottom fifth of society's socioeconomic barrel saved a whopping \$3.

Yeah. That's not even enough to super-size your value meal, is it?

Reason #2: Corporations laugh as you fill out your 1040-EZ form.

The percentage of federal taxes paid by corporations, as opposed to those paid by you and I, has fallen over the decades. In "America: Who Really Pays the Taxes" by Donald Bartlett and James Steele, it's revealed that corporate tax responsibility dropped more than half (33 percent to 15 percent) from the 1940s to the 1990s.

The percent of the federal tax burden on the individual, however, almost doubled from 44 to 73 percent. So while you've been tossing more and more of your money down the governmental gullet, folks like Texaco, Hallibur-

COMMENTARY

Randy Wock

A&E Editor



ton and Enron have more and more untaxed profits to spend on useful things like "golden parachutes" for their CEOs while outsourcing your jobs and mine to Asia.

Reason #3: Less of your taxes go to helping you than killing other people.

It's tough to determine how much money disappears into the insatiable black maw of America's military. Quite a bit of the Pentagon's budget is classified, and other large expenditures don't even figure into official budget projections (trivial things like the more than 100 billion spent on subjugating Iraqis and Afghans).

Estimations abound, however, as they always do when hard information is hid-

den. One can easily surmise, however, that over half of the money collected by the government goes to the military.

The federal discretionary budget for 2004 (allow for a little fluctuation between the years) was \$782 billion. The above-the-board military budget was \$399 billion.

Once again, keep in mind that this doesn't include the classified budget or the cost of those invasions us "peace-loving people" have launched twice in the past five years.

This is just the stuff us plebeians are allowed to know about. And what we do know is quite enough. Far more of your money is spent on the military than is spent on you.

For an example let's use something sure to get your attention. The Department of Education is funded to the tune of \$53.137 billion. This includes stuff like \$15.019 billion for higher education (hit close to home yet?). In comparison, the Army gets \$93.7 billion, the Navy/Marines get \$114.6 billion, and the Department of Defense (changed from the more apt "War Department" in the late 1940s) receives \$57.9 billion annually.

Our rulers' interests seem lie more in killing future generations than funding education to teach them.

The government, of course, spends all this money on the military in order to save you. To watch over you. Patriarchal authorities always need your money to save you. Keep that in mind when they pass around the collection plate at Easter service this weekend.

Source note: Most of the numbers about the military came from a great pictograph at <http://www.deviantart.com/view/9410862>.

Letter to the Editor

On April 9, 2006, the Register Guard published an excellent thought-provoking article by Cynthia Whitfield in its commentary section. Ms. Whitfield argues that our education system shouldn't be a "one size fits all" system and I agree and it isn't.

Having taught in a community college for 25 years, I have seen my share of students trying to find out where they fit in this world. A community college is a good place to do this and is cheaper for both the student, their parents and for Oregon's taxpayers. Not everyone in Oregon belongs in a university, especially if they are trying to find out what to do with their lives and not everyone needs to go through what Whitfield's older son

went through. People need to understand that there are a variety of routes one can take to achieve economic and social success. For many people, community college programs lead to such a goal in two years or less and those people who finish programs such as nursing and dental hygiene are also making a major contribution to society, or he/she can transfer to a university as a junior.

It is too bad Ms. Whitfield's oldest son had to suffer from insomnia and self-doubt and feel the only path to success is through institutions of higher education when he could have known there are other choices available to him.

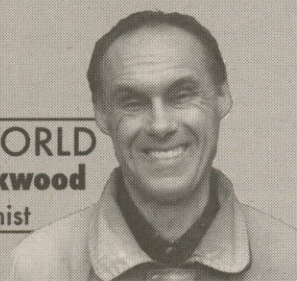
G. Dennis Shine
Springfield resident

Making your life easier

The income tax deadline is here: Monday, April 17.

Forget the traffic over at Gateway Mall. There is a lot of traffic there before noon. Instead, stop for gas in your own car, have some food and pop, or coffee. Or make it easy on yourself and get a snack to go. Good thinking skills are critical. Do not wait in line; the smart thing to do is to go home.

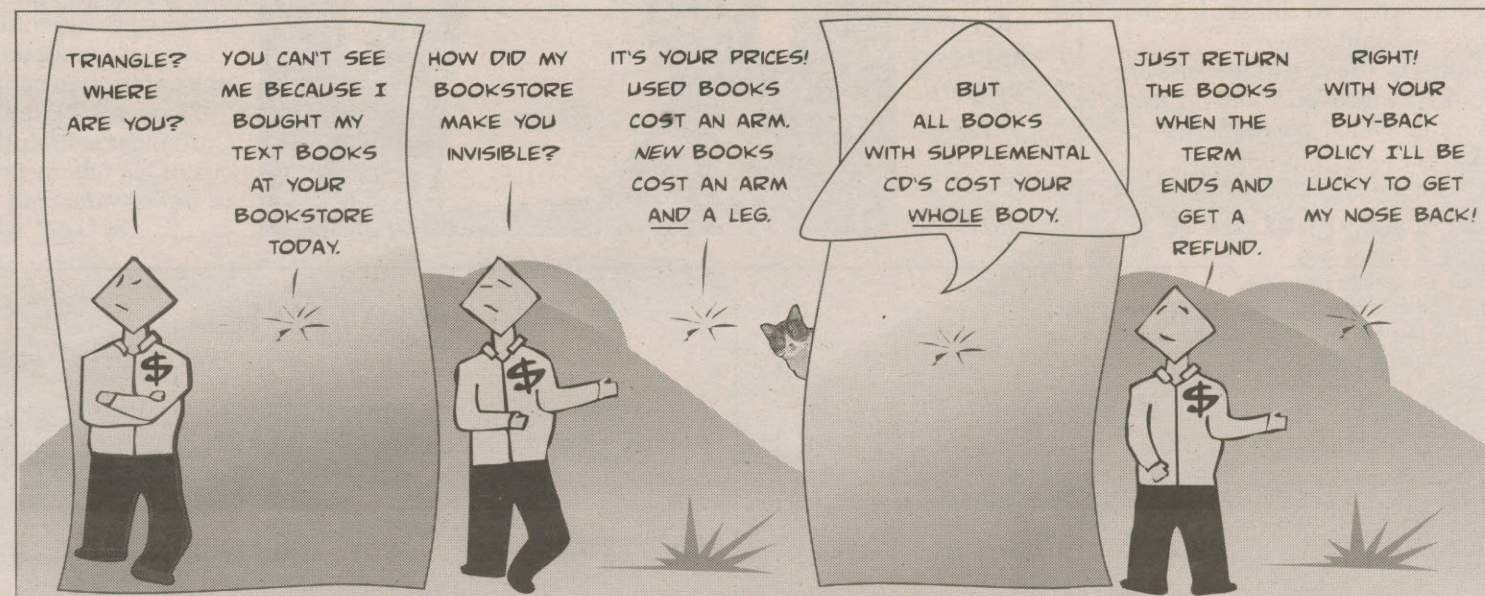
MACKWORLD
John Mackwood
Columnist



Have a good and happy Easter this Sunday.

Editor's note: John Mackwood is a G.E.D. student at Goodwill in Springfield. John writes his column with the help of the Torch editor.

2ND DIMENSION



AP Associated Press



2005 OREGON BEST TREATMENT SINGLE SUBJECT

First Place
KLCC

KLCC was awarded first place from the Oregon Associated Press Broadcast Association for Sean Bowditch and Marianne Parsons work on the special issues series "Poverty and Health."

Broadcast association gives honors to KLCC

NPR affiliate is top in state for "Best Treatment of a Single Subject"

EDER CAMPUZANO
MANAGING EDITOR

KLCC snagged first-place in the "Best Treatment of a Single Subject" category with two broadcasts from its "Poverty and Health" series when the Oregon Associated Press Broadcast Association announced the winners of the 2005 news awards on April 1. These were "Homelessness, Health and Hygiene" by Marianne Parsons and "Effects of Poverty" by Sean Bowditch.

This was the third consecutive year

that KLCC was named the recipient of this award and the second consecutive year that Bowditch was a recipient.

The campus radio station also received second-place honors in the "Best Use of Sound" category with Ann Dornfeld's "Flouridation" from the "Water and Power" series. The station also received second-place in the "Best Feature" category for Bowditch's "Totem Carver," a profile on Tony Rath.

KLCC stands in the "Division 2, Non-Portland Metro Markets" category. The competition is statewide.

Later this year the station will receive word on which awards it will receive at the Public Radio News Directors Conference, held annually in Chicago. Last year KLCC came away with three first-place awards and one second-place award.

News Flash

SERVICE LEARNING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

A service learning student scholarship is available for a LCC student to attend the Western Region Campus Compact Consortium Continuums of Service Conference (WRCCC) in Bellevue, WA, from April 19-21. It is an opportunity for a service learning student to participate in regional community-based learning workshops and sessions. The scholarship will cover registration expenses to the conference. For more information, please contact Jennifer Von Ammon, Service Learning Office, ext. 3658 or vonammonj@lanecc.edu.

PRESENTATION: FIELD BIOLOGY IN COSTA RICA

Joe Russin, biology instructor, will offer an informational seminar about his summer "Field Biology in Costa Rica" class (BI103B) on Thursday, April 13, 5-6 p.m. in Building 16, Room 111. There will be a slide/video presentation and refreshments will be served. For more information contact Joe at ext. 5452 or russinj@lanecc.edu.

WHERE DO TRUFFLES FIT IN?

Cascade Mycological Society welcomes all to their next general meeting, April 13, 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker this month is Matt Trappe, who will discuss "Truffles in Context: Where On Earth Do Truffles Fit In?" Matt is a co-author of "Truffles of North America," published by the North American Truffle Society. Location: Building 16, Room 115. For more information, visit www.cascademyco.org or call Kyle Hammon, 463-5447.

FRIDAY VIDEO SERIES

The Women's Center Friday Video will be shown at noon, April 14, Building 1, Room 202. "Safer Love" (27 min). It asks and answers questions like: Can safe sex be fun? What is safe? How to negotiate in a relationship. How to put on a condom. What does a female condom look like?

BLOODMOBILE RETURNS TO CAMPUS

LCC's Blood Drive for Spring term will be on Monday, April 17 and Tuesday, April 18 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. If you're eligible and wish to donate, please e-mail or call Judy Ann Fuller at fullerj@lanecc.edu or 463-5564 with a preferred appointment time and she'll contact you.

REGISTER TO VOTE

ASLCC and the Student Vote Coalition would like to encourage staff, faculty and students to register to vote. The following locations feature voter registration boxes: Bookstore, MCC, ASLCC, Women's Center, Cafeteria, Counseling and Enrollment Services. The Student Vote Coalition is a non-partisan, statewide group of student governments and associations. The voter registration deadline is Tuesday, April 25.

TAKE AIM SCHOLARSHIP

Take Aim Scholarship applications are still available for students who qualify for financial need and are continuing at LCC or transferring to a four-year school in Oregon. Deadline is April 13 at 5 p.m. For more information go to Career and Employment Services Building 1, Room 102 or go directly to the application at http://www.nela.net/resourcesforpartners/financialaidoffices_lenders/takeaimscholarship.asp?nav_section=1 For information contact Jackie Bryson at 463-5164.

ORDER CAPS AND GOWNS BY FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Orders for faculty and staff caps, gowns and hoods are due by Friday, April 14. Drop by the Bookstore or contact Vicki Colley at 463-5772 to order. If ordering by e-mail is more convenient, please include the following information: your name, department, height, cap size, exact degree, school and the city the school is located in. Graduation is Saturday, June 10.

OSPIRG helps the homeless, sets plans for Earth Day



With his head resting in a fern, a homeless man sleeps in a flowerbed near the Willamette River bike path.

Local hunger drive benefits community

DEJAH MCDOUGALL
TORCH REPORTER

Hunger and homelessness are prominent issues at OSPIRG.

OSPIRG will be participating in the hunger drive on April 15. The Hunger Cleanup will be a community service day and take place at four different sites: WomenSpace, First Place homeless shelter, Grassroots Garden and Looking Glass Station Seven.

Participants will be working

with local shelters to volunteer with activities such as painting and yard work. Leading up to the event, participants will be gathering pledges for their hours of community service.

For every hour of volunteer work done, \$1 will go toward Looking Glass and Food for Lane County. For every dollar raised, Food for Lane County will be able to provide six pounds of food to the community and LTD will donate two bus tokens for a youth.

The event will be taking place on the same date statewide. According to OSPIRG coordinator, Catie Guyman,

the main purpose of the hunger cleanup is "establishing a relationship within the community so that we are aware of...what we need to (do is) help out...so that future generations won't need to go through the pain that some of the people are experiencing while they're on the street."

The cleanup is an event that Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy endorses locally, but is actually a national campaign.

Headed-up in Washington D.C. and in its 22 year, the campaign fights against hunger and homelessness.

See OSPIRG page 4



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRINKERHOFF

Students waiting for the 3:50 p.m. LTD #98 Cottage Grove bus climb aboard despite long lines and few vacant seats. The LTD Board is currently debating whether or not to add two more buses to the route schedule.

Cottage Grove bus routes overly crowded

Public transportation not so convenient for some riders

ARIEL BURKHART
COPY EDITOR

The Lane Transit District Board is feeling the pressure from its Cottage Grove patrons. Pleas and concerns for more buses traveling to Creswell and Cottage Grove have finally reached the board's attention.

The LTD Board is debating whether or not to add two more buses to the route schedule. Buses with fewer route times mean cramped public

transportation and inconvenient schedules.

Lara Opeifa, a first-year LCC student from Cottage Grove and LTD patron feels that the times scheduled are not very beneficial.

"I have a child and that's three hours of child care that I have to pay for and I only have one class that day. They're very limited on their schedules," Opeifa said.

An open forum at www.cottagegrove.net/ltd/ltd.html has been set up for discussing the inconveniences but few people have responded or even know of the board meeting concerning the times and routes.

The board is considering

putting up two more afternoon times for riders. Some question whether this will be enough.

"After all the seats are given up to people with disabilities, mothers with children, there's still disabled people standing on the bus. There was a guy with a cane who was standing, I felt so bad," Opeifa said.

Every February, June and September, the LTD routes change to fit the LCC, UO and 4J School District schedules.

Between those times, riders and LTD staff are able to talk about how they can fix the schedule and bid on changes for the upcoming seasonal routes.

The schedule stays secure until the next change of events can happen and more issues can be brought up to the board.

Even with the recent February changes, LTD riders are still exhausted by the lack of space on the bus.

Recently, an 18-minute documentary was released that explored the opinions of the Cottage Grove riders. It contained their thoughts, complaints and ideas on what could fix the current situation.

Most people felt more buses should be added to the schedule because of the lack of space on the buses. The inability of the buses to handle passen-

ger loads leads to riders being turned away.

LTD is taking in more riders now than ever because of the increase in gas prices.

Also contributing is the recent allowance of free rides to some high school students upon showing their student ID. The increase in riders leads to the decrease of space and more people standing on the bus.

However, the ability to save money through bus riding has made LTD an economically safe option.

"Financially, it's better to take the bus. I'm able to use my financial aid for more important things," Opeifa said.

OSPIRG from page 3: Campus events scheduled throughout Earth week.

According to Campus Organizer Heidi Haskell, the implications of this event reach a national and international scale.

Ten percent of the money raised goes toward national advocates who lobby for better standards for the homeless in the United States and two percent goes to "A Million Voices for Darfur," an international organization helping a refugee camp in Sudan to build latrines and provide clean water and food.

Anyone interested in participating should go to the OSPIRG campus office, located in the basement of the Center Building.

OSPIRG is also working on making the campus more sustainable with community gardens and alternative power sources. When LCC becomes sustainable it means, "We'll be reducing, reusing, and recycling to the point where we send no materials to the landfill. This will save land for habitat, reduce water pollution run-off from the landfill and reduce greenhouse gas air pollution," LCC Sustainability Chair Jennifer Hayward said.

"Right now Lane operates on ten percent wind power...one of the campaigns for next year...is to try to get all universities to purchase the wind power," Haskell says.

The primary goal is to increase LCC's wind power to 15 percent.

Wind power must be purchased from the Eugene Water and Electric Board. One obstacle preventing this increase is that wind power is more expensive than traditional electricity, although a much better choice in terms of sustainability.

OSPIRG already has a plot of land set aside for a new garden, located behind the childcare center. Planting starts during Earth Week (April 16-22). If people are interested in helping, the contact is Stephen Whitaker.

In honor of Earth Week, there will be a special event to raise awareness. Friday, April 19, Walkin' Jim Stolz will be giving a presentation at the University of Oregon in Room 180, PLC. Stolz is famous for hiking through 25,000 miles of wilderness. He will be sharing his poetry, stories, music and photos. OSPIRG is one of six environmental groups sponsoring the event, which is free of charge.

LCC campus events celebrating Earth Week will be each day of the week.

On Monday at noon at Bristow Square will be a volleyball game. One team will pose as corporate representatives and the other as activists.

Tuesday will be green bag lunch day. There will be a talk on household energy and tips for conservation, followed by a hike around

the campus area.

A slideshow (content undecided at press time) will be held in the Forum Building on Wednesday night.

On Thursday there will be a trash audit. Participants will go through campus trash from the night before and determine how well LCC recycles.

There will be another green bag lunch on Friday followed by the opening of the community garden. Friday is "bring your tool to school" day. The community garden will be open from 12-3 p.m. and is located behind the childcare center.

Internship opportunities are still available at OSPIRG. The program offers a co-op credit through the college. Interns can obtain anywhere from 1-12 credits every term depending on how many hours they complete. They receive one credit for every six hours of work.

Once interns apply they will be asked to express interest in a particular campaign and be interviewed in order to find a good field for them.

Adviser Steve Candee will be taking applications into mid-term. An internship with OSPIRG offers many opportunities, including first-hand knowledge of the Eugene area and forming coalitions with local businesses.

The Torch is now on-line!

THE TORCH ON-LINE EDITION

www.lanecc.edu/torch
Check us out!



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRINKERHOFF

Students, faculty and Board of Education members attended the Lane Community College meeting and budget proposal announcement on April 12.

BUDGET from page 1: Final deliberations, decisions will be presented at the May 10 Board of Education meeting

classified in terms of personnel," LCCEA President Bob Baldwin said at the meeting.

"There are some contractual issues this brings up. We'll discuss those further at the appropriate time," Baldwin said.

There are five vacant management positions which will not be filled, but will be held open for the 2006-07 school year subject to reorganization.

The category of Materials and Services is greatly reduced.

The proposals include a one-time reduction of nearly a half a million dollars in the category of Capital Outlay. Equipment that is outmoded will not be replaced.

The proposals also put a stop to several large remodel projects originally scheduled for the summer. The postponement of those projects will reduce the budget by \$350,000.

To reduce the deficit the college proposes to outsource construction and laundry ser-

vices; eliminate many Information Technology Services; reduce administrative and office support services in instructional areas.

Tuition will not increase beyond the \$2.50 per credit hour increase already announced in January, as the Board had already decided that the burden on students had already been stretched to its limit.

"It seems rather insane that the same time the country needs an educated workforce

we're losing funding for education," Spilde said.

Board President Roger Hall's heated comments got the largest reaction from those in attendance. Speaking of the disinvestment in higher education, Hall said, "This is a near criminal act that's being forced upon the college."

One by one the representatives of various departments read the 158 individual proposed cuts which collectively totaled \$6,018,858.

The formal process calls for the proposals to go to the College Council for approval and on April 26 the Budget Committee will start their work.

President Spilde emphasized that these were not reductions but proposals, but some classified employees on campus have reported that they have already received lay-off notices.

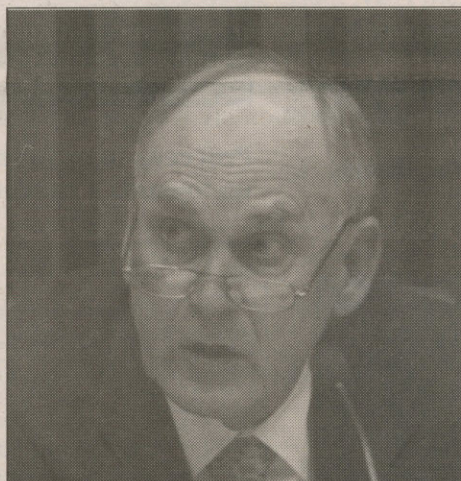
The Board will hear the final recommendations at the May 10 meeting.



Scott Brooks

STUDENT

"We wanted to see what would happen, we knew people would be losing their jobs but we wanted to see who. We knew this would affect a lot of students, the students have been very upset, (students) would experience general service cuts, like financial aid."



Roger Hall

PRESIDENT LCC BOARD OF EDUCATION

"As far as I'm concerned it's a criminal act we're committing here tonight."



Benjamin Hanks

STUDENT

"I wanted to make sure the interests of the students were taken care of, we're going to have tuition cuts, I wanted to make sure the student body wasn't undermined by the administration."

Alejandro Guarez

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

"Student Life and Leadership is losing one adviser in the Multicultural Center. This will make it more difficult for students to get information about multicultural programs and activities."

Bert Logan

STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

"I hold my generation responsible. We got what we wanted with the Great Society and all that, and now we don't want to pay for the next generation."

Dawn DeWolf

ADULT BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

"Some classified positions will be impacted."

Summary of Proposed 2006/07 Budget Reductions

Elimination of 64 classified positions:

- 37 potential layoffs
- 11 positions subject to reductions ranging from .083 to .5
- 16 vacancies proposed for elimination

5 Management positions held for at least one year

18 Faculty vacancies will be held vacant for future consideration

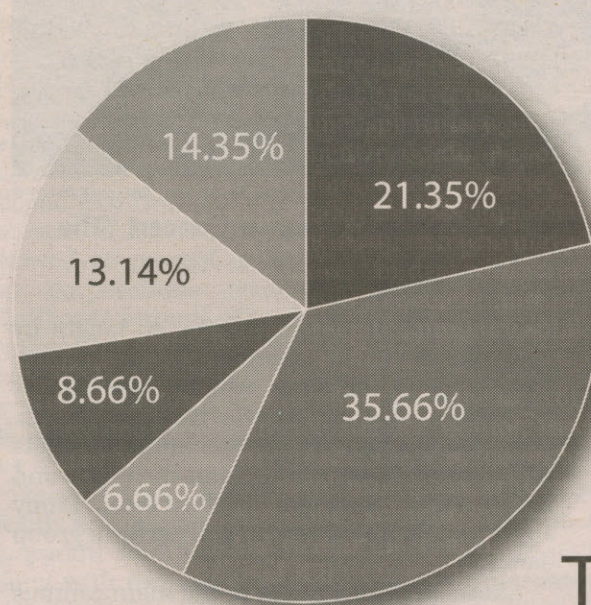
Reduction in faculty release time

Reduction in materials and services

Equipment replacement

Delay capital projects

LCC proposed budget cuts



- Salary & other payroll expenses: \$2,146,251 / 35.66%
- Vacant positions: \$1,295,836 / 21.53%
- Other savings: \$863,776 / 14.35%
- Materials & supplies: \$790,893 / 13.14%
- Part-time faculty: \$521,253 / 8.66%
- Part-time classified: \$400,849 / 6.66%

Total: \$6,018,858

From earth to art using life's little talents

Ceramics and multimedia metals showcased in LCC art gallery

REVIEW BY RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

The art faculty takes a backseat to this exhibit as two student staff members claim the gallery as their own. Tim Ditter and Kit Kerkvilet contribute ceramics and multi-media pieces to "Material Realizations," an LCC Art Department Gallery show running through April 20.

Ceramics and multimedia pieces seem to be the order of the day for this show. There's plen-

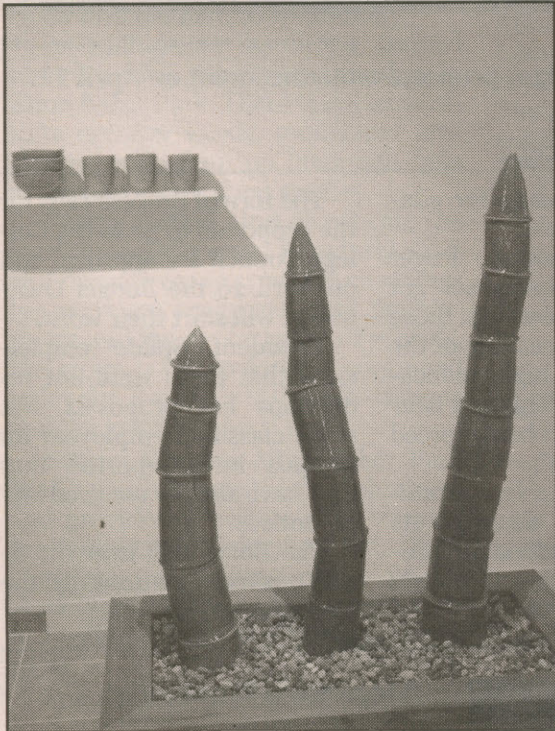


PHOTO BY NAOMI REICHMAN

Tim Ditter's multimedia piece, "Bambusa sp.," is on display at the LCC Gallery in Building 11.

ty of three-dimensional goodness to be found, with a depth, heft and presence that paintings just can't convey.

Ditter and Kerkvilet are both relative newcomers to LCC. Kerkvilet has been at the school for two years and Ditter has been employed since the fall.

Ditter's work tends to be more functional, polished clay pieces.

"It's so immediate," said Ditter when working with clay, "You're taking earth out of the ground essentially and, on the wheel with a few simple tools...re-writing it."

Along with a charming piece featuring ceramic bamboo stalks "Bambusa sp.," there were plenty of Eastern-style jars and potteries. A few well-designed tea sets looked ready for use.

"I sell some of the (pieces) I make, but I don't make them to sell," Ditter made sure to point out.

Kerkvilet's featured work follows a more multimedia path. They also showcase that rarest of traits among exhibited art: interactivity. That's right, the current exhibit at LCC's art gallery is one of the few places in the art world where the usual rules of "Look, but don't touch" do not apply.

Several of Kerkvilet's pieces can be touched, fiddled with and even mounted. "Pod," a multimedia piece resembling a seedpod, can be peeled back one metallic layer at a time.

His "unstable landing (a metaphor for life)" was a chopped up tree trunk resting on the gallery floor. Patrons are invited stand atop the thing, rocking uneasily while undoubtedly tearing up the floor underneath.

"You're supposed to embrace the imbalance of it," Kerkvilet said. It's probably only a matter of time before someone falls from the thing and twists and ankle. And good for that, I say; more injurious art is exactly what this country needs. While it's easy to forget most art three seconds after walking out the gallery door, it's far more difficult to forget something that might leave you limping for days.

"Material Realizations" is on display in Building 11 through April 20.



PHOTO BY NAOMI REICHMAN

Proceeds from the sale of Kit Kerkvilet's "Breaking Free" go towards a cancer-stricken friend of the artist.

WORKS from page 1: dance explorers issues related to LCC's core values

The Works Dance Concert

- Friday and Saturday, April 21-22
- Performance hall, Building 6
- 8 p.m.
- Tickets \$6 for adults, \$4 students & seniors
- Ticket office contact number: 463-5202

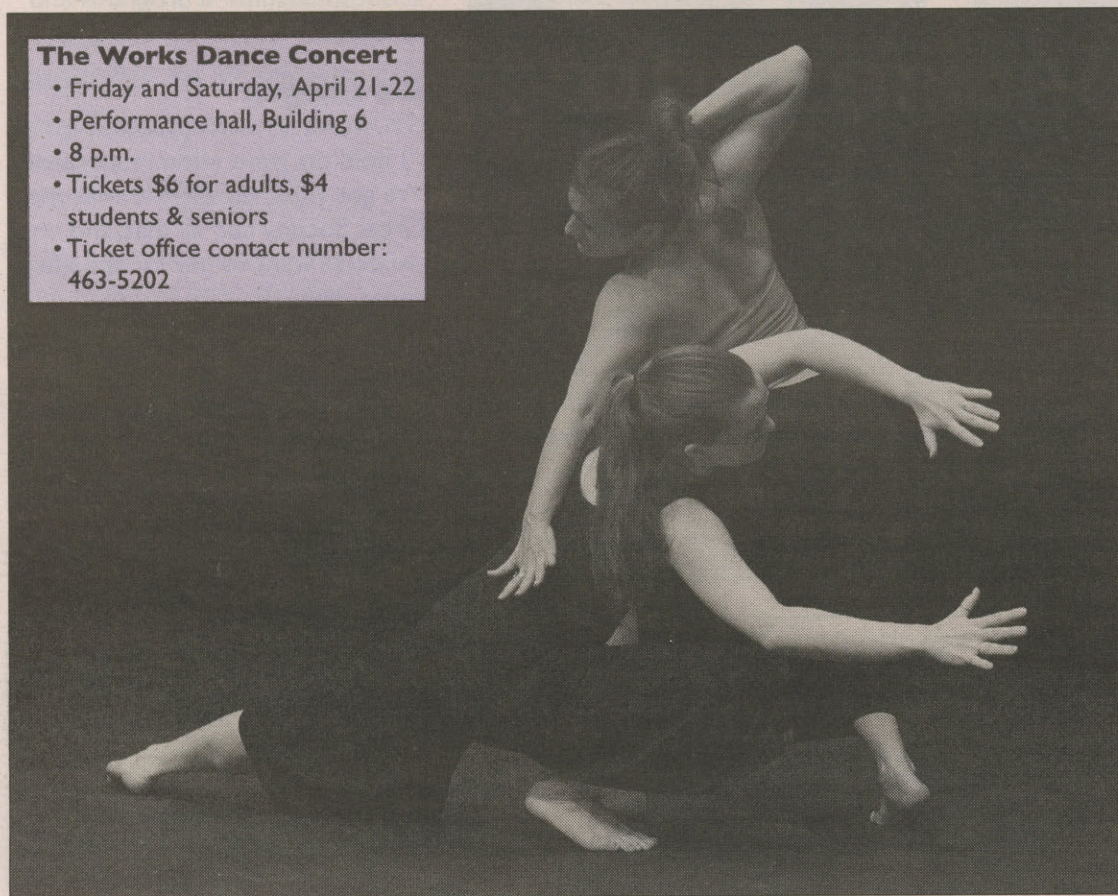


PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRINKERHOFF

Lindy Comrada and Angela Mustacchia perform in the Student dance Concert "The Works."

The books utilized for their themes were "Blessing the Boat", a collection of poetry by Lucille Clifton and Terry William's "Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place."

The issues from these books taken for inspiration by the dance students were integrity, learning, accessibility, diversity, innovation, and collaboration and partnership.

To prepare for the concert, the students studied Dance Improvisation, Solo Composi-

tion, and Group Choreography, all taught by lead dance faculty member Bonnie Simoa. Appearing in the show will be solo dances by Rebecca Morris, Angela Hubbard, Linda Comrada, Alonzo Moore, Samantha Ketcherside, Angela Mustacchia, Tamarra White and Bryan Avery. Students Arielle Olson, Emily Joyce and Shannon Knight will perform group dances.

Shows are April 21-22 in the main campus Performance Hall at 8 p.m.

Upcoming Stuff

ART

Gala opening for Autism Artism show
Saturday, April 15,
4-8 p.m.
DIVA, 110 W Broadway
Contact info: 344-3482

Student Show at LCC
April 26-May 16
Building 6, 1st Floor art gallery

THEATER

Much Ado About Nothing

April 12-May 6
LCC main campus,
Building 6
\$8 Students/Seniors,
\$10 Adults
Evening shows- 8 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays,
April 14, 15, 28, 29
Also, Thursday, Friday and
Saturday, May 4-6
Matinees 2 p.m.
April 22, 23 and 30
Ticket info:
(541) 463-5761

DANCE

The Works Dance Concert

Friday and Saturday,
April 21-22
Performance hall,
Building 6, 8 p.m.
Tickets \$6 for adults, \$4

students and seniors
Ticket office contact number: 463-5202.

FILM

Make Your Own Movies class

Eugene public library
Six-week class for adults
Starts April 18
For more information or to pre-register, visit the 2nd floor Reference Desk at the Downtown Eugene Public Library, or call 682-5450.

Best of the DisOrient Asian American Film Festival

Saturday, April 22,
7-9:30 p.m.
Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19,
Room 226
Admission Free

"Independent Little Cuss" Documentary

by Jeff Patterson
Friday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.
Film will be followed by a farewell reception for arts advocate
DIVA Center 110 W. Broadway.
Contact info: 344-3482
Admission cost: Donation

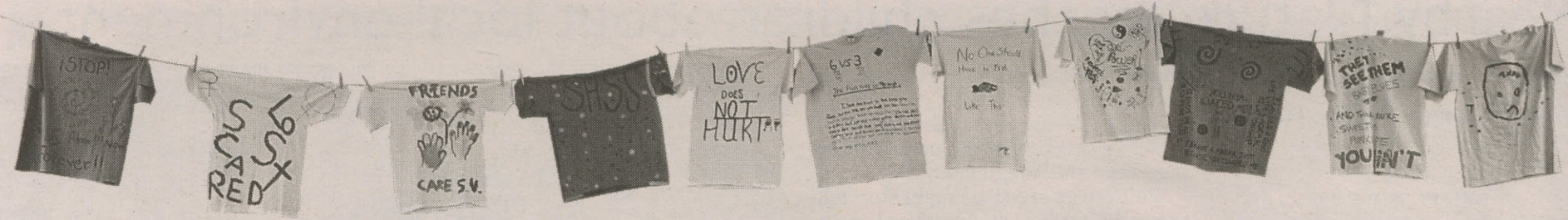


PHOTO BY NAOMI REICHAMN

T-shirts are hung together on a clothesline in LCC's cafeteria creating a visual airing the dirty laundry of domestic abuse.

Violence against women increasing on college campuses

The Clothesline Project brings attention to the issues of sexual assault

JENNA CLINKSCALES
TORCH REPORTER

College campuses nationwide have reported a recent rise in abuse, rape and stalking. While many cases go unreported due to the stigma and embarrassment attached to the experience, statistics show that it is a sizable problem.

It is estimated that 20-30 percent of college age women are in a physically abusive relationship. Out of 500 women ages 15 to 24 surveyed, 60 percent currently were or had been in a violent relationship and all had experienced some form of violence.

Currently on display in the LCC cafeteria is the Clothesline Project. Its purpose is to create a memorial to survivors of sexual assault, incest, and rape and to women whose lives have been taken by violence. Presented locally by SASS (Sexual Assault Support

Services), the project originated in Hyannis, Mass. in 1990 by The Cape Cod Women's Agenda.

Participants tell their story by creating a T-shirt. The shirts are then hung together on a clothesline, creating a visual airing of the dirty laundry of society.

Women between the ages of 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of what is known as "intimate partner violence," according to a report on IPV by the Federal Bureau of Justice.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline defines abuse as "a pattern of coercive control that one person exercises over another. Battering is a behavior that physically harms, arouses fear, prevents a partner from doing what they wish or forces them to behave in a way they do not want."

"Really, what we are talking about is control. Usually the people who abuse are seen as charming individuals," Havilah Tower-Perkins said.

"Young women need to learn to trust their instincts," she said.

The Women's Center at LCC offers help to women in abusive relationships.

"I see at least one person a day who needs help with their abusive relationship," center coordinator Jill Bradley said.

This may be a woman trying to escape a physically abusive relationship, one who has already left and needs a plan, or someone who is concerned about a loved one, friend or co-worker.

"The first thing I do is evaluate the situation," Bradley said. "Then I find out what her concerns are." She also said victims sometimes don't even know they are in an abusive relationship.

Bradley said no men have asked her for counseling in the 20 years she has worked for LCC, but there are programs for men as well.

Bradley wants people to know that "Education, knowing the warning signs and having a safety plan are important."

Some warning signs of a potential abuser are embarrassing their partner and criticizing them, controlling where their partner can go, what they can wear and with whom they can speak and isolating them from friends and family. Other signs of a potential

abuser include intimidating their partner by giving them "scary looks," being cruel to animals and vilifying the opposite sex. Any and all forms of physical abuse are warning signs.

The biggest warning sign of all is whether the person is extremely jealous. Jealousy usually begins early in the relationship. These people will form a very quick intimate relationship before the partner really gets to know them or see the signals.

Girls and women between the ages of 16-24 often have a romantic idea about love and mistake jealous behavior as a sign of love. The women often think that if they behave, as the abuser wants them to, the abuser will change for them.

The recommended website for more information on campus domestic violence is www.acadu.org/dating.html. Interested parties can also call the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-SAFE. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information about the Clothesline Project and workshops in the Eugene area, contact SASS at 484-9791.

Restoring 'fairness' to the tax system

Book suggests replacing all taxes with 23 percent sales tax

REVIEW BY RANDY WOOCK
A&E EDITOR

The FairTax Book opens with a quote by T. Coleman Andrews, Commissioner of Internal Revenue from 1953-1955. He states that, "The income tax is bad because it was conceived in class hatred, is an instrument of vengeance and plays right into the hands of the communists."

And that's how you open a right-wing rant against the IRS. Keep in mind that Andrews' quote comes from the 1950s. These days, instead of communists he would have chosen a more recent buzzword and blamed the tax code on terrorists.

The Skinny: The United States has a 17,000-page tax code. FairTax author Neal Boortz and Congressman John Lindner (R-GA) want to simplify things a bit. To these ends they've created a plan they call the FairTax. It involves elimination of the graduated income tax in favor of a 23 percent sales tax on all new

OFF THE SHELF
The FairTax Book
Neil Boortz and John Lindner
Regan Books, 2005

goods and services. Buy something new (used things having already been taxed); 23 percent tax. Purchase a service; 23 percent tax. Sounds easy enough, right?

Boortz and Lindner claim to have arrived at this number by figuring the median income tax of most Americans to be 15-percent plus the 7.65 percent in payroll taxes. They also claim that this will give us a tax code that is economically stratified in a fair and balanced manner for once. It's a given that the wealthy purchase more expensive things than do the lower classes, right?

And, to be fair to all the peons hard at work in the bowels of the IRS who'd lose their jobs if the tax code were simplified, Boortz and Lindner suggest fazing the FairTax in over a twenty-year period. That should give all those minions of evil ample time to find more productive work.

The Good: The book is written in an easy, conversational tone. Even if you have absolutely no head for math, if filling out your 10-40EZ drove

you to tears, the few numbers juggled in the FairTax book should give you no problems.

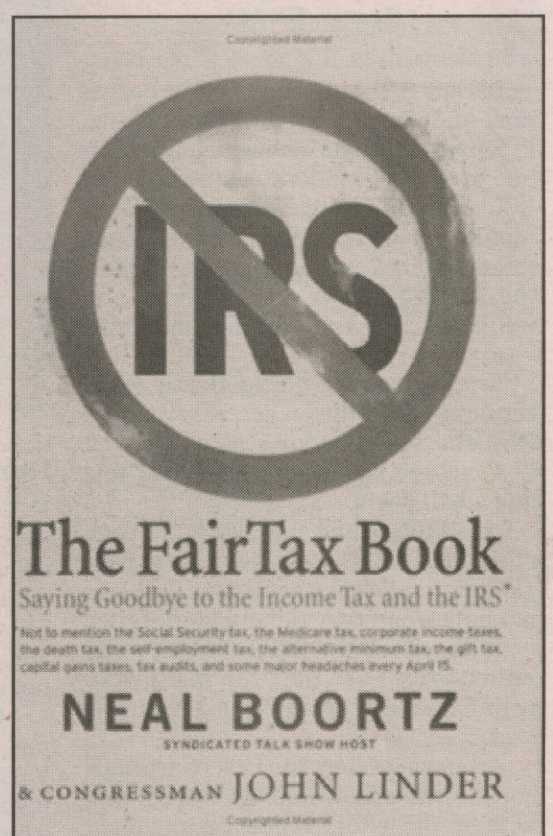
The Bad: Boortz and Lindner claim that, along with Social Security and Medicare, tax evasion is the reason Americans pay so much in taxes. In other words, the government has to take so much of your money because it doesn't get to take the money of other people.

Unfortunately, when Linder and Boortz talk about tax evasion, they mean people like you not declaring that extra few grand you made by getting paid "under the table" at your second job. They're not too interested in how a 2003 study showed 96 percent of American corporations evading a significant amount of their tax duties. Call it a hunch, but the government probably loses more revenue from Exxon than it does from you not listing all your tips.

The Ugly: Linder and Boortz's plan calls for ending corporate and business tax, along with the estate tax. Or, to put it more clearly, one of

their major goals is to end the taxation of the upper classes. You know, those people who tend to already employ small armies of accountants to help them find tax shelters and other loopholes to avoid paying their share of things. With the country's deficit currently ballooning out of control, elimination of such sources of income might not be most financially sound idea.

Unfortunately, the permanent elimination of the estate tax (a move that democratic congresswoman Nancy Pelosi referred to as "reverse Robin Hood") has long been a goal of the Republican-led House and Senate. The House has, in fact, voted before to permanently repeal the estate tax. The bill, thankfully, failed in the Senate.



Additional Info: Neal Boortz is the host of The Neal Boortz Show on the radio as well as being the author of Somebody's Got to Say It and The Terrible Truth About Liberals. John Lindner is a Republican Congressman from Georgia. You can call him at 202-225-4272.

Nearby Nature teaches children about local environment

Group hosts guided walks through Alton Baker Park

MICHAEL KURCSICS
FOR THE TORCH

LCC students with a passion for the outdoors and a desire to give back to the community can get involved with the Eugene-based organization, Nearby Nature. The nonprofit group trains students and community members to lead children on nature hikes through Alton Baker Park.

It's mission is to help people develop and sustain healthy personal relationships with the natural community.

In addition to becoming trained nature guides, volunteers can work in Alton Baker Park. There they can eradicate invasive weeds, implement erosion control, clean up litter and help propagate native plant species.

Nearby Nature aims to educate the local community about its natural areas and delicate ecosystems. By encouraging recycling programs, park maintenance and the appreciation of wildlife, the group hopes to foster a continued ardor for Eugene's lush park systems and the greater natural world.

Nearby Nature's Alton Baker Park Walks program enlists local volunteers and provides a series of free training sessions in the spring and fall. Upon completion of training, nature guides work with children from grades K-6, leading weekly strolls through the park.

The children are not the only ones who benefit from these nature hikes. Volunteers are educated on a broad range of topics such as riverside cottonwoods, spring wildflowers, lichens,

animal tracking, Kalapuya culture, and entomology.

These lessons are taught during interactive sessions in the park with experienced staff members.

Volunteers are also taught storytelling techniques and educational methods, which are essential for working with children.

"Volunteers are invaluable," program director Beth Stein said.

"Our volunteers learn about local natural history, develop teaching skills, get to spend time outdoors, meet new people, and make a difference in our local community," Stein said.

Those who want a more physical experience with the park can join the Alton Baker Park Action Project. This branch of the organization launches monthly work parties into the park. Their objectives include protecting wildlife from automobile runoff, stabilizing streamside sediments and improving wildlife habitat.

Nearby Nature also hosts an array of ongoing projects throughout the community. They have been working with local elementary schools, teaching courses such as "Earthkeeping," which offers children interactive projects designed to teach sustainable living.

The "Earthkeeping" course allows students to build model eco-homes with natural and recycled materials, heat cocoa in a solar oven, create a worm-composting bin and learn basic bicycle mechanics.

Focusing on children is important for the organization.

"When kids learn early on to appreciate, respect, and enjoy the natural world, they learn to be caretakers; something the world could certainly use more of," Stein said.

Another facet of Nearby Nature that



PHOTO BY NAOMI REICHMAN

Ugly ducks have babies, too. A goose rolls an egg in the grass of Alton Baker Park, where Nearby Nature leads children's nature walks.

works with children is its Kinder Critters Program. Staff members come into elementary schools and child care centers in elaborate animal costumes. Characters such as Franny Frog tell stories, play games, and share specimens with the children.

The program aims to convey information about nature to children in a way that is both fun and accessible. The Kinder Critters Program is volunteer based and, like the Nature Guides Program, training is provided for free.

Monthly Nature Quests, Summer Day Camps, and the Network Charter School are a few of the other projects that Nearby Nature is currently under-

taking.

"By focusing on natural areas nearby, we make nature accessible to everyone, regardless of income age, or mobility...an adventure in Alton Baker Park is free, nearby and accessible for everyone," Stein said.

Anyone interested in getting involved or finding out more about Nearby Nature can contact them at 687-9699, or peruse their website at www.nearbynature.org. For those who want to support them but don't have the time or energy to volunteer, they accept donations and thrive on community support.

Health clinic offers a dose of treatment and aesthetics

The LCC Health Clinic is available to students, staff and faculty

PEGGY GREEN
NEWS EDITOR

It's late in the afternoon at the beginning of Spring term and Family Nurse Practitioner Mona Arbuckle stands in one of several modern exam rooms of LCC's Health Clinic, talking to a Torch reporter. Her friendly face welcomes discourse and puts one at ease. She's the kind of health care provider one wants for the first, second and third visit.

Leaning against the spotlessly clean counter, she smiles when asked about why she likes working at a clinic at LCC, where she has worked for nine and a half years.

"It's a nice small staff; we know each other well. We're not part of a conglomerate. We can spend time with our patients when they're here, and if they need to see us for follow-up they can return to us. I like the team that I work with here really, really well," Arbuckle said.

Arbuckle prefers the lack of artificial constraints she would be forced deal with if the clinic relied on payment from insurance companies or if they were a Help Maintenance Organization.

"I can fill in where I'm needed. If I'm free and one of the doctors or nurse practitioners has a patient waiting, I can see that patient. I don't have to worry about taking someone else's (patient) revenue away," she said.

Funding for the clinic comes mainly from student activity fees and monthly

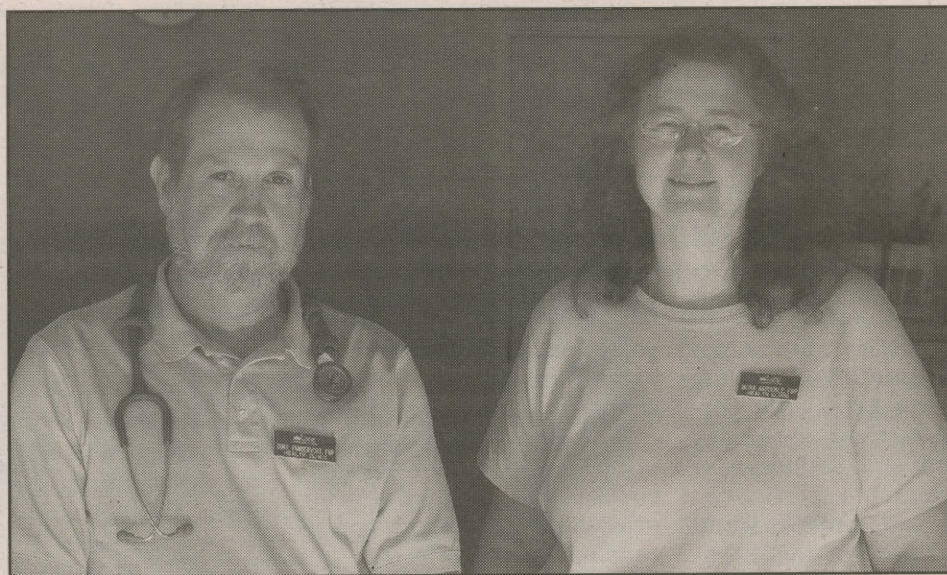


PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRINKERHOFF

Duke Vandervort and Mona Arbuckle are family nurse practitioners at LCC's Health Clinic in Building 18, Room 101.

paycheck deductions from most classified staff. Both students and staff qualify for free office visits at the clinic. There are fees for certain procedures and medication. It's a good deal, but not one known by everyone at LCC.

"We're the best-kept secret on campus," Health Clinic Director Duke Vandervort, FNP, said. Vandervort is justifiably proud of the new facilities, which opened late Fall term.

The shiny, golden wood floors throughout are striking in appearance. Their dark brown marks betray the building's history.

"This used to be the woodshop...you can see the gouges and marks from where they dropped things," Vandervort explained.

Entering the waiting room of the clinic, a sense of light, spaciousness and beauty prevails. On the west wall,

facing a courtyard is an almost floor-to-ceiling window where once there was a large warehouse door a truck could be driven through. The ceilings are high and the dark and light rose colors provide both a dramatic and soothing sense to the visitor. The original artwork displayed is by LCC art students.

The clinic is an oasis in the middle of the stress and excitement brought on by the deadlines and demands of people determined to improve their lives, juggling home, work and school, not getting enough sleep, and with no time to go into town to see a doctor.

But why would they need to make the trip? Their doctors are here on campus with them.

"Yes, we have real doctors here," Arbuckle said. "We're not just a Band-Aid station."

The clinic is fully staffed with two

medical doctors, three family nurse practitioners, one registered nurse, and a number of classified office employees.

There's also at least one medical office assistant who professionally escorted me to the examination room and took care to let me know the nurse practitioner would be in shortly. He was as attentive as a maitre d' or a bell-boy. I almost felt as though I should tip him.

The rest of the clinic is as equally impressive as the waiting room. The many examination rooms are an improvement over the cramped conditions of the old clinic that was located in the Center Building.

"We couldn't work with more than one patient at a time," Arbuckle said.

"The halls were so narrow, two people couldn't pass each other without bumping in to each other. If there was a wheelchair, you couldn't pass it," she said.

The new clinic is impressively staffed with a laboratory where tests can be performed onsite, as well as a small pharmacy and a modern treatment/procedure room where can be done minor surgeries and sutures. Finally, there is a quiet cot room for students or staff who may just need to take a rest to deal with stress. This room is used frequently close to the end of term when the pressures of final exams take their toll.

Whatever the time of the term or the reason for visiting the Health Clinic, Arbuckle, Vandervort and all the medical professionals there want students and staff to know they're welcome. After all, it is their clinic. The Health Clinic is located on the ground floor of Building 18.

Another home baseball game, rained out

The Titans have had to reschedule four home games this season due to bad weather

ZACKARY PACHOLL
SPORTS EDITOR

After 18 games into the season the Lane Titans baseball team has yet to play a game in Eugene.

The Titans (8-10, 4-4) have rescheduled six games this week because of rainy weather.

"These kids haven't played a home game yet this year...it has definitely affected us. At this point we just want to play," Head Coach Rod Strickland said.

Both home series have been rescheduled for later in the season.

The Titans are currently tied for third place in the Southern Division along with Linn-Benton (10-9, 4-4) and SW Oregon (8-11, 4-4). The Titans trail conference leaders Chemeketa (14-11, 6-4) and Mt. Hood (16-5, 4-2).

"It's a lot different of a year than it has been in the past. Usually you see some separation at this point but everyone still has a very good chance of being one of the two teams to go to the NWAACC Tournament," Strickland said.

He also stressed the importance of winning close games.

"The one thing that we have not done this year is to put a team away when we have them down. Every single loss this season, except the first game, has been by one run. When they learn how to finish a team off especially when they have the lead, they could be the best team in the Southern Division if not one of the best teams in the entire Northwest," Strickland said.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRINKERHOFF

The Titans baseball team has been unable to play a home game this season because of poor field conditions.

The Titans have been on the losing side of one run games this year. Strickland noted that when the team won the NWAACC championship two years ago they were on the winning side of the one run games.

"If we don't make a push it will be very difficult (to catch up with the other teams). It's just a matter of overcoming the one-run deficits and winning some baseball games to give us some more confidence," Strickland said.

The last doubleheader against Chemeketa on April 8 both resulted in one run losses.

Ryan Robinson pitched three innings and gave up one

run on one hit and struck out three batters.

Mike Bauman pitched five innings and gave five runs and six in the 6-5 loss. Ryan Escalera went two-for-four driving in three runs and smacking his first homerun of the season.

In the nightcap, Jesse Sweet pitched six innings and gave up six runs. Patrick Cooley suffered the loss giving up the last two runs in the 8-7 loss.

Matt Phelps was three for four with three singles. Scott Jacobson had three runs batted in.

One advantage the Titans will have in the second half of league play is more home games. Due to rain and trading home and away series with other schools attributed to weather conditions, the Titans will play a majority of their home games in the later half of the season. Currently, the Titans are set to play 14 of the remaining 22 games at home.

"This has been an extraordinarily difficult year in all areas. If you look at struggling to win the one run games, keeping people healthy, not losing any players to grades, field conditions, no money for travel to play games on the road, it's been a tough year for these guys. I don't know how much more I can ask from them without it really affecting them," Strickland said.

In addition to the problems above the Titans have lacked the home field advantage.

"Playing every single game on the road is not an easy thing for these kids. I do not want to play any more league games on the road unless we absolutely have to because we need to gain some momentum here," Strickland said.

We need to get this field shored up and get home games and some good weather."

The Titans have two seven-inning games scheduled against the University of Oregon club team. The games are scheduled for April 13 at 1 and 3 p.m. depending on the weather.

Sports Shorts

Interested in playing soccer for the Titans?

A call has gone out for women soccer players for play next season. The Titans finished their inaugural season with a 6-8-4 record and are looking forward to next season.

"I am very excited about next season and making it to playoffs," sophomore defender Mesha Clayton said.

"We're interested and excited about getting new teammates." The team begins conditioning this summer for league play starting the beginning of September. If you interested in becoming a member of the women Titans soccer team or want more information please contact Sean MonDragon extension 5548.

Open Gym:

Volleyball, basketball and weightroom open gym times are now available for Spring term. Volleyball will be held Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. Basketball from 3:15-5:15 p.m. The weight room will be open Monday, Wednesdays, Friday 6:30-8 a.m., 12-1 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and Tuesday, Thursday 6:30-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-5 p.m. Open gyms are available to all students and staff at LCC. For more information please contact Brent Ellison at extension 5293.

Need a 4 Credit Biology Class?

Like to travel to exotic places?

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russinj@lanecc.edu
for more information.

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/zodiac.html

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National Geographic page 1: checking out the penguins

slides from the book, primarily one shot after another of penguins. Curtsinger admitted that the popularity of last year's hit documentary, "March of the Penguins," was a particularly fortuitous coincidence.

Curtsinger started his decade-spanning career in freelance photography by getting drafted during the Vietnam War. He chose to enter a division of the navy called "Combat Camera," where he learned about underwater photography and other forms of picture taking in unusual terrain.

After his three years of service time were up, Curtsinger pitched stories to National Geographic. He sold them on the idea of covering a part of Antarctica they'd yet to feature in the magazine; the part closest to the tip of South America, the one that Curtsinger had visited during his Navy stint.

He has, to date, photographed more than 33 stories for National Geographic, his last one being a feature on porpoises back in 2003. He has also contributed to other publications all over the world.

Curtsinger described the life of a freelance photographer as a difficult one. "If you don't have the passion...pick another career. It's tough," he told the crowd at his presentation.

His interest in the underwater world started at a young age. He read Jacques Costeau's book on the ocean, "Silent World," as a child.

"It really spoke to me," Curtsinger said.

This fascination has been

parlayed into a lengthy freelance career. Despite his enthusiasm for his work, Curtsinger made sure to level with the crowd at the presentation. He called finding work in freelance photography an "endless, shameless exercise in self-promotion."

Curtsinger also told his audience, comprised mostly of photography students, to "be prepared for rejection...it never ends; it never goes away."

In addition to photography, Curtsinger also tends to write the articles that accompany his photographs. He took up writing after experiencing several frustrations with the ghostwriters National Geographic would assign to his articles. He uses his pictures to help structure the writing.

"I can use my photographs as a writer would his notes," Curtsinger said.

Despite the difficulties involved in the freelance life, Curtsinger's enthusiasm for his work was evident during the lecture. He lingered on slides showing shots he was particularly proud of, and announced that once he left LCC he was headed back to Antarctica.

Curtsinger left the audience with a few words of economic wisdom, "If you're going to be in this business, you'd better start thinking about ways to make money with your camera."

Curtsinger's book, "Extreme Nature: Images from the World's Edge," is available through all major booksellers.

Dear Pele

Dear Pele,

After being impressed with how people withstood the persecutions of the Chinese government, and attending an introductory seminar, I joined a local chapter of Falun Gong. Everyone in it is so nice to me and after 19 years of life I finally feel like I've found a place where I belong.

Everything would be perfect right now if it wasn't for my mother. A very devout Presbyterian, my mother is incredibly intolerant of any belief system other than her own. While she claims to have my best interests at heart, she just doesn't understand how happy I am to have joined Falun Gong. Everyone in there is incredibly sweet and they're the first people I've been around in my entire life who accept me for who I am.

My mother says that I've joined a cult, that I've been brainwashed and that she doesn't see how anyone could fall for such "nonsense." This from a woman who worships a dead carpenter! She's even threatened to call one of those creepy deprogramming people to kidnap me and rearrange my mind back to the way she likes it.

I'm thinking of cutting off contact with my mother (and with the rest of my family and friends, none of whom support my Falun Gong membership), but I'd really rather not have to do so. Is there

some other way this could be resolved?

-Frustrated in Fall Creek

Dear Frustrated,

Does your mother know anything about what Falun Gong is? Have you tried explaining it all to her, to clear up her vision that it is simply "nonsense?"

I think it's wonderful that you've found something you feel you're a part of, a place where you belong, where you can be around people who see things the way you do.

Parents and children often butt heads on things of such high personal value as religion, belief systems and philosophy. Parents always envision their children following in their ideological footsteps and when they don't, they feel that this is a huge problem to be reckoned with.

You're not practicing a harmful religion, you're not hurting others or yourself and most importantly, you're happy, which is why your mother should be happy for you. Getting her to see that is the problem.

I don't think you need to exile yourself from your family, just try and phase belief systems out of your conversations. You don't ask her about her beliefs and she won't ask you about yours. One of those agree-to-disagree sort of situations. By opting for this sort of "don't ask don't tell" method, you'll avoid having to try and change your mother's obviously deep beliefs, and you won't have to deal with her trying to change your ever-growing beliefs.

Dear Pele,

My boyfriend, Jack, drinks way too much. At first it was just a weekend thing, but now he does it every day of the week. When Jack gets off work he always downs a beer or two right after arriving back at the apartment. I'm not even allowed to talk to him before he finishes off his second beer. I have to hold in my talk and complaints about all the things that have happened to me during the day until Jack has what he calls his "Dealing with You Dou-

ble."

There's also the "Six-pack of Coping" that he makes sure to finish off before we have our weekly dinner with my folks and recently he's begun to insist on having an extra two shots of "Sacramental Vodka" before church.

I find the little names that he makes up for his drinking to be cute, but not the drinking itself. Jack denies that he has a problem, and insists that his drinking is merely what it takes to handle living with me. What should I do?

-Dried Out in Drain

Dear Dried Out,

You have a couple of options here. Obviously his drinking is a problem, because as half of the relationship's couple, you deem it one. I find it sad that he has to drink in order to handle living with you and I think you should too.

Make him move out and see how things change, that's one option. If living with you is driving him to drink, toss his stuff on the porch and see what his excuse then changes to.

Demand he makes a habit of AA meetings. Get the man some help! He doesn't realize it's a problem, apparently, but making excuses for drinking shouldn't be commonplace. If he has to make an excuse for his actions, maybe he shouldn't be doing it.

There's nothing wrong with drinking, it's drinking excessively, or drinking at times when it has to be justified that is a problem, which is exactly what he's doing. Talk this out with him calmly; let him know it's a problem for you and that you don't exactly approve of it. He should value your opinion and if he doesn't, I'd kick him to the curb. This is an expensive and destructive habit he's got to quit if he wants a happy and successful relationship.

Dear Pele is an advice column written by a Torch staff member and should 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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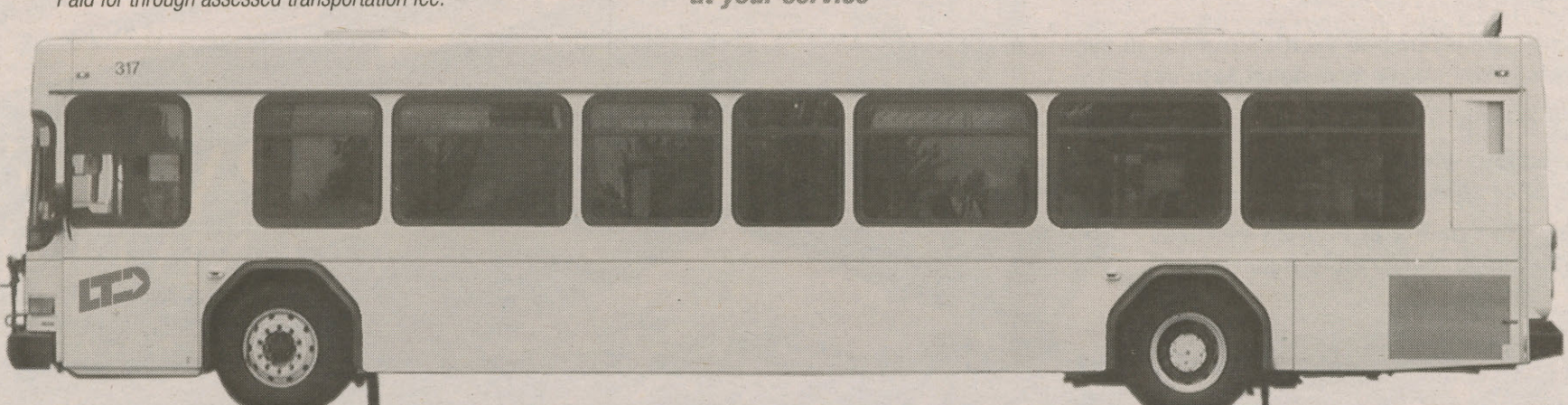
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Should current illegal immigrants be deported or allowed to stay?



Happi Matthews
BUSINESS

"I think they should be allowed to stay, even though they come over from Mexico they're looking for a better life. If we send them back, what's America for?"



Heather Pace
PRE-LAW/DANCE

"If we have to pay taxes I think they should too. If they want to be Americans they should be treated like Americans."



Patrick Farr
AAOT

"All borders should be open and abolished. The borders are material manifestations of xenophobia."



Sky Felix
PRE-LAW

"They should absolutely be allowed to stay. People have the right to be here..."



Linda Bolan
BUSINESS

"They should be allowed to stay. They're part of our economy regardless of whether or not they're illegal."

COMPILED BY ARIEL BURKHART
PHOTOS BY EDER CAMPUZANO

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Used Books: Botanical Beginnings, Ch221 Lecture/Lab, WR122 Comp Style and Argument. Make an offer! Call 359-9631.

Events

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World Religions Study - Intrigued? It's a Christian study of world religions Tuesdays at noon. (Building 1, Room A.) E-mail BrokNBe4God@aol.com or regeneration357@yahoo.com.

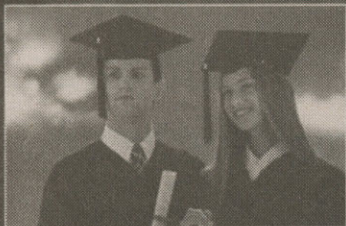
Other

Aikido - The peaceful martial art. Amazon Community Center classes. Call 935-8655. **Visit the free, drop-in tutor centers.** Don't wait! Tutor Central, (Center 210) has a list of locations.

Dearest Lindsey, Happy Birthday! Love you much, Ariel

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