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LCC's looking good

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The TORCH

Lane Community College



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APRIL 5, 2007

EUGENE, OREGON
www.lanecc.edu/torch

Education shorted in budget proposal

\$458 million is less than Kulongoski recommended

Larry Coonrod
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Oregon State Legislature's proposed funding for Oregon community colleges could increase Lane Community College's expected budget deficit by approximately \$1.5 million for the 2007-08 school year.

Now expecting a minimum budget shortfall of \$6 million, LCC must soon submit budget recommendations that could include higher tuition, loss of programs and personnel cuts.

LCC administrators along with the Oregon Education Association had proposed that the Oregon Community College Fund receive \$529 million for the 2007-2009 biennium. Governor Ted Kulongoski proposed \$483 million. The Legislature's Ways and Means Committee shocked educators by recommending \$458 million be allocated to community colleges, \$25 million less than the Governor's proposal.

Greg Morgan, vice president of finance for LCC said that administration, while hoping for a number closer to the OEAs, has been using the more conservative \$486 million in planning next year's budget.

Morgan said that because of unexpected increase in health care premiums and Public Employee Retirement System contributions, the budget deficit is projected at about \$6 million. Additionally the college has dipped below the minimum amount of working capital it is required by the Lane Board of Education to have on hand and needs to replace \$3 million by the end of 2008.

If the college does not re-

store the working capital reserves, its bond rating will go down, "costing the college many more millions of dollars in interest on future bonds," Morgan said.

Eighty percent of the school's expense is payroll related. Wage cuts and benefit reductions cannot be made under bargaining agreements with the faculty and staff unions until those agreements are renegotiated, which will not be until the 2008-2009 academic year.

"When you are trying to decrease your budget by 10 percent and only have 20 percent of it to work with, it makes it difficult," Morgan said.

Mary Spilde, LCC president, has scheduled a campus wide meeting on Friday with faculty and staff to discuss the budget situations and possible solutions.

"She will be asking for shared sacrifices by everyone," Morgan said. "If we share in the sacrifice it will be a softer landing for all, rather than a hard landing for a few if we do layoffs."

Some of those sacrifices could include unpaid days off and larger class sizes, Morgan said.

By law, the college must have a balanced budget in place by June 30, even though the legislature is unlikely to vote on a balanced budget until later in the summer.

Spilde is scheduled to present budget recommendations to the Lane Board of Education on April 19.

The Oregon Student Association and ASLCC sent several delegations of students to Salem during Winter term to lobby lawmakers for increased community college funding.

"These cuts are catastrophic," Alejandro Juarez, OSA campus organizer at LCC, said. "We are approaching a doomsday scenario right now."

SEE BUDGET • PAGE 4



PHOTO BY SEAN HOFFMAN

Donations raise money for Food for Lane County

Local potters sculpted clay bowls at the annual Throw-a-thon on Saturday, March 31, at LCC. Tom Rohr, a sculpting instructor at LCC, said that artists from Lane County would make hundreds of bowls from clay, glass and wood. Proceeds are donated to Food for Lane County. Potters volunteer every Spring break to help with this fundrais-

ing event. About 10 artists participated and LCC art students will practice their firing skills during the term. Above, Pat Farr, executive director for Food for Lane County, and Mary Briggs work on a piece together.

Information on purchasing a bowl can be found at Food for Lane County's website: www.foodforlanecounty.org.

Debit card available for LCC students

ASLCC brings up key issues with new program

Mario Saraceno
FEATURES EDITOR

A new debit card for receiving financial aid payments is available to LCC students starting this term. However, ASLCC has expressed concerns about the fees attached to the cards usage.

The card is designed for students to get their financial aid money quicker than the normal time needed for a check to arrive in the mail. ASLCC is concerned about the card's fees and students' ability to pay bills and access all of the money in a timely fashion.

In a meeting held March 24,

Cost of using the LCC debit card

- \$25 per incident if issuing bank determines cardholder is at fault
- \$15 cardholder lost card
- \$5 per month inactivity fee charged after six months no charge if card is at 0 balance
- \$3 per month if statement is mailed to card holder 1 percent or \$5, whichever is a greater of cash withdrawal
- \$3 per incident for "live" operator
- \$1 per incident if transactions occur outside of the United States
- \$1 per incident plus any surcharge fee — one free each month
- 1 percent of amount processed through point of sale outside the United States

ILLUSTRATION BY DAN BARTON

dozens of students and ASLCC met with Barb Delansky, LCC student life and leadership director, and Sonya Christian, vice president for instruction and stu-

dent services, to discuss their concerns about the new IntelCard.

Previous to this meeting, ASLCC had talked with Greg

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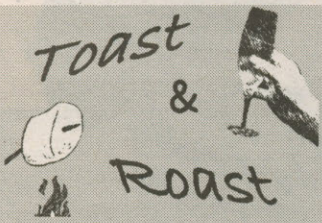
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One more win

Sheley coach of the year

NEWS • PAGE 3

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. Second place 2006.



Toast and Roast is written by the members of The Torch editorial board. It's a compilation of things that are commendable (toasts) and things that are condemnable.

Roast: to Senator John McCain for claiming that he "freely and safely walked the streets of Baghdad." It turns out freely and safely meant he was wearing a bulletproof vest, surrounded by a hundred heavily armed U.S. soldiers and had three Apache helicopters overhead.

Toast: to all the LCC students who made it through another round of finals and are still here or have graduated.

Roast: to the Oregon Legislature's Ways and Means Committee for trying to shaft community colleges with a pauper's budget.

Toast: to LCC President Mary Spilde for fighting hard to maintain quality education at LCC despite some of the pinheads in Salem.

Roast: to Al Gore for telling the rest of us to cut back our global warming emissions while he lives in a 10,000 - square-foot, 20 room mansion with eight bathrooms racking up \$1,200 a month in electric bills. Hey Al, credibility means practicing what you preach.

Toast: to drilling for oil in Alaska. Oil marketers say oil may rise to \$4 per gallon during the summer. Drill!

Roast: to a state in India that banned sex education when they have the highest HIV rate in the world. Not helping...

Roast: to the Eugene Weekly for letting its Letters to the Editor page look like a MySpace cat fight because of Dan Savage columns.

Roast: to \$3 a gallon gas. Don't we own some oil wells in Iraq?

Toast: to Titan runner Jordan McNamara for breaking a 29-year-old school record.

Toast: to Sanjaya Malakar for making a mockery of American Idol.

When you can't say it, honk it

If I am driving and I find that words can no longer express what I want to tell you, I can resort to using a loud and obnoxious vehicle horn. It is one of the most irritating features in automobiles, right after the backseat driver.

The horn was created to alert people in cases of emergency. When I say emergency, I don't mean "Hey, the speed limit is 40, not 25!" but "Hey, that silver object riding directly beside you while you merge into its lane is a car!" kind of an emergency.

Yet, advising drivers of the merge concept ceases to be the only excuse for tapping the "ah-oooooh-gah."

In my family, my sister and mother always honk the horn after they've left a home belonging to a friend, relative, or even their own if someone else is there. I refuse to continue this family trait. For one thing, I just said "good bye" to you inside your home and don't feel the need to remind you that I'm leaving, as well as the rest of the neighborhood.

I'm sure the Smiths across the street are saying to each other, "I sure wish Déidre would let us know when she leaves her parents."

Mom, however, feels that not

honking, or the quiet diss, is the same as saying "I don't care about you." That is why leaving my parents' home has always made me twitch.

My mother stands down by the front door, holding her cat.

Commentary

Déidre Moxley

Columnist



I buckle my seatbelt, put the key in the ignition and wait for the engine to turn over. And she will continue to wave as I back out of the driveway. It is at this point that I always debate whether I'll appease the honking needs of my mother.

Granted, she's my Mom and it won't kill me to just honk the damn horn, which is why I pick my battles. So, I always relent and wait until my car is directly in front of her house before I hasten through the "good bye" ritual.

Of course, I can't just tap out some mundane honk. No! There's a system to honking where the number of honks and the brevity of each honk determines what you want your car to say and the emotion you want to portray.

I believe it's called Morse Honking.

Usually, two long honks will do as you're driving away from a

friend or relative's home - letting them know you'll see them soon.

However, there is the triple-long honk; an endearing beep beep beep to say "I love you, I'll miss you and good bye." It isn't until Mom hears the "love honk" that she lowers her hand and retreats from the front door, no doubt pining for me to drive around the block just so I can surprise her with that "miss you already" honk.

I'd rather just avoid the whole Morse Honking thing entirely, but there it is.

Though I'm sure she'd like to take credit, my Mom didn't invent the honking system. Morse Honking, also known as the Vehicular Operator Importance Alert, has been utilized for many purposes ranging from the aforementioned "personal acknowledgment" honk to the ever-popular "impatience" honk.

When you pass another car while driving and you know its owner, you give two short honks and wave wildly. Though all drivers in your vicinity will take a gander in your direction just to see what the hell is so important, the rapid waving is a safety measure to avoid pissing off the other drivers too badly.

A favorite of mine is the "come out" honk where the driver sits in their vehicle in a driveway, maybe

20 feet from the front door (where there's an internal bell - neighborhood friendly) and they honk the horn to advise the home's occupant that they're waiting. Three to four lingering honks usually suffice, followed by a one-minute pause and then repeat. This honk, of course, occurs in the early morning hours of the day.

Honking has completely eliminated the need to actually speak to people. Who has time? It's also much more noticeable than simply waving.

After all, waving is the number one cause of carpal tunnel.

We even encourage our fellow drivers to honk just for the sake of honking! "Honk if you're horny," "Honk if you're confused," "Honk if you vote!"

With this ingenious horn to do all our mundane tasks, we can finally rest assured that our message will be heard, loud and clear. Who knows what we'll be able to say with honking someday!

Consider the potential marketing concept for FIAMM Horns: "Don't propose to someone using language, instead tap out those four words on your flat circular steel diaphragm and let the electromagnet ask the question for you. Klaxons are forever."

So, go on and honk. Honk, I say!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hall best candidate for LCC's Board of Education

On March 26, 2007, the Register Guard published an article on page 3 entitled "Romney's stance on political issues changes over time."

When Mr. Romney was running for the governor's position in Massachusetts, he promised to support abortion rights, gay rights and environmental laws.

He was elected on that platform and is now running for the Republican nomination for President of the United States and has changed his stance on these issues.

Mr. Romney, when faced with the changes in his political stances, attributed it to faulty memories or the political agendas of special interest groups and that he has not broken any of the promises he made during the campaign he waged during his race for governor of Massachusetts.

I noticed from the Siuslaw News of February 28th, 2007 that Mr. Rob Spooner, publisher of the Oregon Coast magazine,

has announced that he will once again be a candidate for the Board of Directors for Lane Community College.

He ran unsuccessfully against Paul Holman for the Zone 1 position which includes Florence and during that race he came to Lane Community College to present his platform.

He stated that, if elected, he would close LCC's Women's Center and that he felt that the primary mission of the college was to prepare recently graduated high school students for transfer to four-year institutions.

Therefore, he would stress the transfer courses which are cheaper than LCC's professional and technical programs such as nursing and the college should charge a higher tuition for older students than for recent high school graduates.

Mr. Spooner is now denying having said any of these things and, like Mr. Romney, that these comments stemmed from the faulty memories of people such as myself or are due to the political agendas of special interest groups.

Unfortunately for him, the event was covered by The Torch, LCC's paper, and they have a letter to the editor by me outlining his statement and endorsing Mr. Holman's re-election and a copy of Mr. Spooner's reply to my letter.

I would suggest that people read both letters if they are in doubt as to what he said.

I would also suggest that the voters consult with both Mr. Holman and with Robert Purscelley, Director of LCC at Florence, regarding Mr. Spooner's time on their advisory committee.

Therefore, as a past board member of LCC and as a present budget committee member of LCC, I think the citizens of Lane County would be better served by re-electing Dr. Roger C. Hall to the Zone 6 seat he presently occupies.

G. Dennis Shine
Springfield, Ore.

The TORCH

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

Submission Guidelines

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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Coach wins NWAACC honors

Alex Braga
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

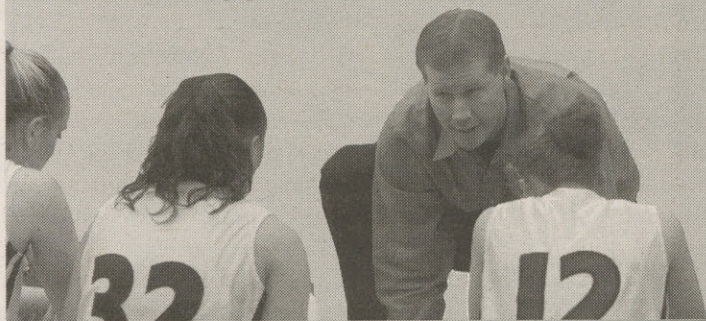
For the second consecutive season, Lane Women's Basketball Head Coach Greg Sheley was named the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's coach of the year. Sheley led the Titans to a 29-4 record this season and its second consecutive NWAACC title.

Since taking over the program for the 1999-2000 season, Sheley has directed the Titans to a 74.2 winning percentage

and six straight trips to the NWAACC tourney, after an eight-year drought.

He has won more games than any other coach in the history of the program and has led the Titans to three consecutive final four appearances. During those seasons, Sheley's teams have only lost a total of eight games.

He will be honored at the NWAACC's Hall of Fame Banquet on May 31 in Bellevue, Wash.



SHELEY AT A GLANCE

Year	Won	Lost	Pct.	Playoff Finish
1999-00	9	17	34.6	-
2000-01	14	15	48.3	-
2001-02	24	8	75.0	7th
2002-03	25	8	75.8	4th
2003-04	22	8	73.3	6th
2004-05	31	3	91.2	2nd
2005-06	33	1	97.1	1st
2006-07	29	4	87.9	1st

Debit cards From Page 1

Morgan, associate vice president for finance, about the card.

They were concerned with the card being an opt-out default for any students signing up for loans. As a result, signing up for the Intellect card is now an opt-in process.

Delansky said there have been 225 students who have already opted-in to the debit card system.

"We are trying to get some students from student government to form a review panel to decide whether to renew the contract," Christian said. "In spring it is going to be a pilot program which is why it is important to have a review board in place."

Matt McLellan, client development manager of Evisions, Inc, who manages the program for EduCard said, "We have never seen anyone back out of these programs because we try to make adjustments in regards to student needs."

The student concerns were sent to McLellan and ranged from a variety of different problems with the functions of the Intellect card. "We should be able to take out as much money as we need at a time," was one anonymous comment sent via e-mail. The response, via e-mail, from McLellan and Evisions said, "Almost every debit card has a daily limit in regards to the amount of cash which can be withdrawn from an ATM. This is for fraud

prevention and cardholder protection." The e-mail continued to say that they are trying to put an ATM on campus to allow unlimited ATM usage without fees. "That ATM arrangement will be in place by Fall term at Lane," McLellan said.

The concerns of ASLCC about the fees when using the card were also replied to in an e-mail sent to one of the student testers at LCC by McLellan. "Our intent is not to charge fees whenever possible. The card allows students to safely make purchases without having to carry cash and to be able to avoid any check cashing fees. We also work with local merchants to offer discounts to cardholders as an added benefit," McLellan wrote.

"You can electronically deposit the money off the debit card into your personal account," Delansky said. "They are trying to push out the information of how to use the card without the fees."

"My recommendation is if it is about the timing of the money that is an issue, you have a bank account you trust and you can manage your money; it's not a bad option if you want your money sooner. If you have any concerns at all and it doesn't seem like its going to work for you then don't choose this option," Delansky said.

Delansky also stated there is a chance the card could get sent to people who cancelled the option

of receiving one. "If you get the card in the mail don't activate it but let enrollment services know and they will send you a check," she said.

"We have had focus groups with students who use the card and regularly proactively call cardholders to insure the highest customer satisfaction with the card program. We are always willing to make changes to the program based on feedback and have done so to make the cards as student-friendly as possible. Typically the cardholders that have problems are the ones who do not read the information provided on the website or in print," McLellan said.

LCC signed a one-year contract with Educards, the California based company that provides the card, in August of 2006.

Under terms of the contract, Educards waived the \$45,000 setup fee but LCC must "reimburse Educards for the costs and expenses that Educards has incurred to provide Educards services" if it cancels the contract before one-year.

Morgan, LCC vice president of finance, said he believes that LCC would have to pay Educards the \$45,000 setup fee. An Educards representative refused to say exactly what LCC's financial liability would be to cancel the contract, saying that it is confidential information.

Meet the scholarship lady: Jackie Bryson

Mario Saraceno
FEATURES EDITOR

Ever since Career Employment Adviser and Scholarship Coordinator Jackie Bryson came to LCC she has devoted herself to giving students the same experience and help she was given.

"I really like to help students put together solid scholarships and help them get money to continue their education," Bryson said.

Bryson went through the Women in Transition program at LCC in the mid 90s. "The Women in Transition program helped me transition from being an at-home mom to stepping back into the work field. I didn't know how I could fit into the working world," Bryson said. She also said her biggest accomplishment is her children and raising them as a single mom.

Born in the Midwest, where she was raised to believe things to be "yours, mine and ours," Bryson was sent to boarding school for her high school education. "I went to boarding school and that helped me get ready for college," she said.

Bryson graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in social work. Although LCC is not where she had originally planned on working after she got her degree, since the day she first came to LCC, she has never left. "I've been working at Lane for 10 years. I plan on staying at Lane for the future and continuing to work with students," Bryson said.

Bryson enjoys traveling and hiking for recreation. She has hiked to the bottom and back to the top of the Grand Canyon as well as to the top of the Andes. Her travels have taken her to Africa, Argentina, bird watching in the Galapagos Islands and kayaking in Alaska.

"My travels have helped me understand people a lot more and get a better understanding of cultures.

I learned how easy it is to offend someone without knowing anything about their culture," Bryson said.

LCC is an environment Bryson flourishes. She has helped many students get scholarship money for their education, including three Jack Kent Cooke Scholarships in a row.

Bryson consulted with the Lane Scholarship Foundation to edit and improve their application packet, which now contains over 220 scholarships. Helping people overcome challenges is what keeps Bryson coming back.

Of her own challenges and accomplishments Bryson said, "If I can do it, anybody can do it. I always think I can overcome anything. I am a very optimistic and hopeful person."

Bryson can be contacted for scholarship information at 463-5164 or e-mail brysonj@lanecc.edu.



News Flash

Native American "Living Traditions" presented by Reading Together.

Lane Community College's Reading Together program is sponsoring a panel of Native Americans working to preserve their culture. The event is in conjunction with the 2006-2007 Reading Together theme, "Navigating the Changing Terrain."

A wide range of Native American tribes reside in Oregon. Many members of these communities work to explore, strengthen and pass on the traditional cultures and values of their people. They do this through educational programs in their communities as well as in public schools.

Panelists include James Florendo, coordinator for LCC's Native American Student Program, Allison Davis White-Eyes, from OSU's Indian Education Office, Tom Ball, UO assistant vice provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, as well as several other Native American speakers.

Living Traditions takes place Monday, April 9, from 10 a.m. until noon in the Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19, Room 104. The event is free and open to the public. People can come late or leave early as schedules permit. For more information contact Ellen Cantor at 463-3660.

The March of Dimes WalkAmerica fundraising event is raising funds for premature babies at Alton Baker Park. The event is set for April 28. There is a 10-kilometer and a three-kilometer walk starting at 9 a.m. Registration forms can be found at any Kendall Auto Group Dealership, Bi-Mart stores, First Tech Credit Union branches, SELCO branches or online at WalkAmerica.org. Or call 541-686-2170. For more information about March of Dimes go to marchofdimes.com/oregon.

APRIL 5, 2007

Summer jobs available at Yellowstone

National Park offers work experience, fun

Ariel Burkhardt
MANAGING EDITOR

Xanterra, a food and human services company, is offering seasonal work for anyone who wants to work and play this summer at Yellowstone National Park.

During the summer, there are usually 3,500 employees that come from 30 different countries. Chance Mikesell, the orientation coordinator said there are thousands of miles for people to explore.

"It's a wonderful experience," Mikesell said. "You can't ever see the whole park in one summer."

Xanterra employees can come in with no previous experience. Two weeks of training is provided depending on the position and date employees start. Employees can expect 40-48 hours per week with minimum pay while living at Yellowstone. Employees pay \$284 each month to cover rooms and food. They can also expect two days off of work each week. The fee also covers medical visits for workers.

Employees can be trained to take their food handler's permit or any other training specific to any hospitality job.

There are nine park hotels that offer human service and food service work. There are also recre-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANCE MIKESSELL

Employees working at Yellowstone pay \$284 a month for room and board while having plenty of time to explore the park. The bison are among the park's most popular attraction.

ational jobs, such as working with horse stables, river guiding and tours.

Yellowstone was the first national park ever established. Some of the hotels are over 100-years old.

Mikesell said Yellowstone is also well known for its wildlife.

"I love the place, it's hard to leave," Mikesell, who has been

working for Xanterra for three years, said. There are some employees who have worked there for 30 years. "It's a different experience. Anyone can come do it."

The Xanterra program operates in many other national parks so it's easy to transfer to different properties, Mikesell said.

Mikesell also said that Xanterra has a sustainability program

and is committed to the environment. Xanterra believes in having the most minimal impact on the environment. "Thirty percent of our company is energy efficient," he said.

Employees have to be 18-years old and cannot bring family members such as children, or pets.

After eight months of experience, employees start getting

medical insurance, "so you are covered," Mikesell said.

While living at Yellowstone, employee recreation programs are available almost every day so there is a lot of stuff to keep employees busy, Mikesell said.

Anybody interested in working can call a staff assistant at 1-307-344-5323 or go to their website at www.yellowstonejobs.com.

Budget From Page 1

Juarez said there is misconception among legislators that because community colleges have more students than universities, they have more money. "They don't take into account the lower tuition," he said.

Juarez said he believes the Ways and Means budget is a political maneuver by Democrats to force Republicans to increase state revenues. "At this point it is going to be a fight just to get back to the \$486 million," he said.

The OSA plans several more lobbying efforts to increase college funding. The Ways and Means co-chairs will be hearing public testimony at the UO on April 11, at 6:30 p.m. "We're trying to get at least 20 students to speak to

them," Juarez said.

Legislators will hear from community colleges on April 16 in Salem and Juarez hopes 30 or more LCC students will help in the lobbying effort. On April 18, LCC faculty, staff and administrators travel to Salem for more lobbying. The OSA is arranging bus transportation to Salem for interested students.

"They really need to hear from students," Juarez said. "A lot of agencies are fighting for money and the ones with the loudest voice will get the money."

More information about transportation to lobbying events can be provided by calling Juarez at 463-3237.

Not afraid to ask the tough questions?

The Torch is looking for writers who can inform, entertain and excite readers with stories about local news, events and people. We are also looking for photographers. No experience needed. Contact **Larry Coonrod at 463-5655.**



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Sculptures exhibited at LCC

Northwest
artists present
their work

Ariel Burkhart
MANAGING EDITOR

Lane Community College is hosting the Pacific Northwest Sculpture Symposium. Twenty-two artists and sculptors made their way to Eugene from all over the Northwest to plant one piece of their art on LCC's campus the weekend before Spring term started.

Andy Salzman and Lee Imonen, LCC sculpting teachers, invited teachers, professional artists and one LCC student to partake in the event. Salzman said they talked to artists and sought out whom they felt were the best.

The Sculpture Exhibition was sponsored by the Department of Art and Applied Design and by the Art on Campus Committee. Costs for faculty, students and staff who worked to create and install the sculptures were covered by a private donation.

Erick Schultz, a fine arts major at LCC, was the only LCC student invited to design and create a piece to present. He described his piece, "Process" as broken railroads; it can be seen facing Bristow square outside the cafeteria. He lives in Eugene and said he has a fond relationship with the instructors at LCC. "Process" took eight people to lift and load onto a truck so it could be transported on the highway to LCC.

Tom Rohr, an LCC instructor and artist, installed his piece along the side of Building 1. A collaboration of vases made to look like a snake decorates the north side of the building and is titled "Out of the Bushes and into the Light."

The pieces are on loan from the artists and will be displayed from April until June 15. Students, faculty and staff are invited to join the artists and department faculty at a formal reception on Friday, May, 14 at 5 p.m. on the north side of the Center Building.

(clockwise from right) Stewart Jacobson brought "Entropy" from McMinnville. The circle in Entropy represents the earth and the keystone represents mans intrusion on the earth. Erick Schultz stands by his piece "Process" which took eight people to lift onto a truck to be transported to LCC. Schultz was the only student invited to take part in the sculpture exhibition. Tom Rohr, LCC faculty and sculptor, stands by his piece "Out of the Darkness and into the Light." A myriad of vases form the body of a snake weaving through the Students First Building. The upper left piece is by Carolyn Mills of Oregon City and can be found between the health and administration buildings.

PHOTOS BY SEAN HOFFMAN



APRIL 5, 2007

Big hitting fuels Titan baseball team's sweep of Linn-Benton at home field

Baseball team wins two-of-four in league opening week

Alex Braga
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When ball four went passed pinch-hitter Mark Bavaro and center fielder Dan Schlottman walked across home plate, the sigh of relief from the Titan faithful could be felt as far as the Pacific.

After trailing for most of the game and already two league games in the hole after losing to Clackamas, Lane used a late inning surge to beat Linn-Benton 9-8 Saturday, March 31, and earn its first league victory of the season.

Schlottman finished 6-for-6, including four doubles and a triple, and keyed an eight run burst with four RBI and two runs scored after a rain-delay halted play in the seventh inning.

"That's one of the best, if not the best single hitting performance we've ever had at Lane Community College," Titans Head Coach Rob Strickland said of his player who had missed the first part of the season due to academic issues and an injured shoulder.

"He knows what to do at the plate, he doesn't swing at too many bad pitches and he got on base for us and drove runs in. He's a huge addition for us."

The Titans (5-17 overall, 2-2 in Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Southern Division through March 31) returned from the rain delay an inspired team and ran off eight hits and earned three walks in the final two innings to erase a seven run deficit. They finished the game with 15 hits and a much-needed confidence boost early in league season.

"You'll get a game like that maybe once a season, once every two years. Where you're out of it, you have no business winning and for some reason something clicks and you end up winning the baseball game," Strickland said.

"Every inning we had runners in scoring position and runners on base and we didn't do anything."

Sophomore RHP Joaquin Lopez struggled early, hitting two batters in the first inning, but was

a victim of the Titans inability to manufacture runs and a series of errors. He was able to get out of several jams, only walked two and didn't give up an earned run in 6 1/3 innings of work. Freshman Eric Brown came in and faired the same in his 2 2/3 innings. The Titans finished with five errors and didn't give up an earned run in the game.

Lane's late-inning success was a case of the right players in the right situations coming through for the team. Strickland inserted freshman Carter Cullen in the eighth inning and he singled, walked and scored two runs. He pinch-ran Corey Smith, who came around and scored in the ninth. Bavaro pinch-hit for Smith and earned the game-winning walk. Sophomore Ricardo Leclaire hit an RBI bunt single and scored on Schlottman's final double earlier in the ninth.

"Everyone was able to come through for the team and that really made a difference," Strickland said. "It couldn't have happened at a more opportune time as far as our season is concerned."

Lane rode the momentum from its come-from-behind thriller into the second game of the double header and jumped out on Linn-Benton early in the seven-inning match-up.

Fueled by the return of veteran pitcher Jesse Sweet, who missed the last two weeks with shoulder problems, the Titans took an early lead and never looked back. Sweet retired the first three batters in order and Lane was

able to get the first two runs of the game across in the bottom half of the first-inning on an RBI double by sophomore Scott Jacobson and an RBI single by freshman designated hitter Mat Solders.

"Jesse's been here before,"

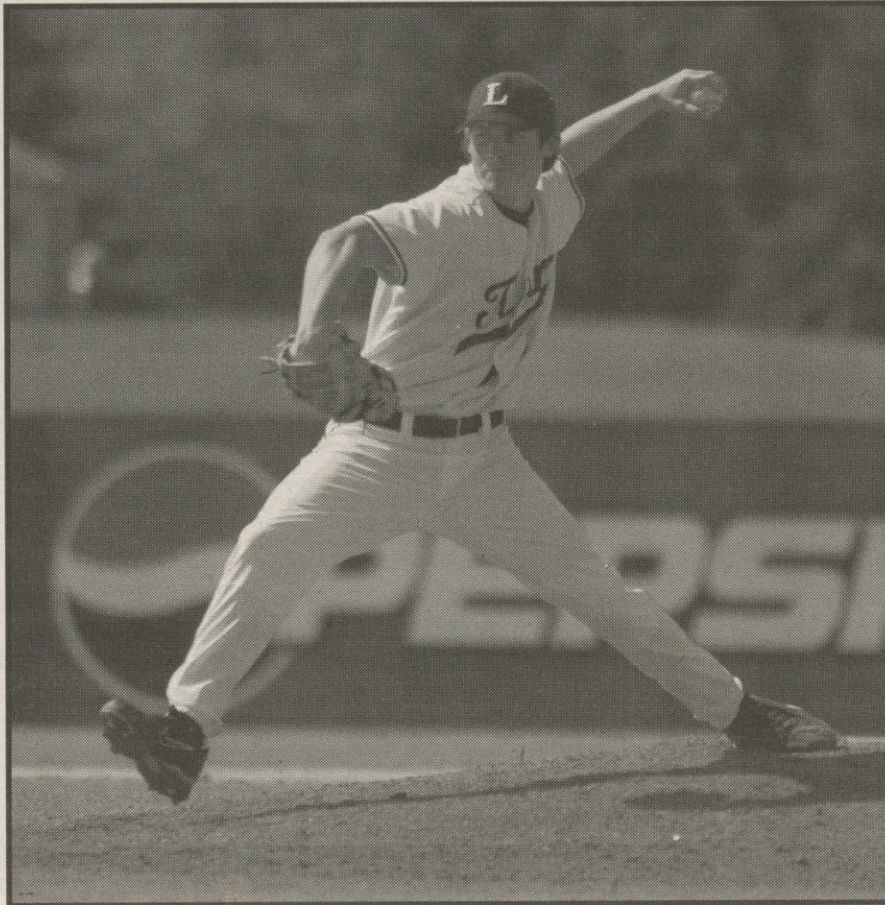


PHOTO BY MICHAEL BRINKERHOFF

Scott Carpenter pitches against Clackamas. Carpenter is one of the pleasant surprises from the preseason the Titans will rely on for league success.

Strickland said of his pitcher who went 7-3 as a freshman. "We can finally go back to our number one pitcher on the mound and you can see our players know all they have to do is score a couple of runs and we can have a good chance of winning the game. He was fantastic."

Sweet pitched six strong innings of four-hit ball and gave way to freshman Bret Swett in the seventh inning with a 3-1 lead. Swett was able to overcome a bases-loaded jam with timely pitching and solid defense behind him to earn the save.

"I put him in a comfortable situation, then it became uncomfortable and he did well enough to secure the win," Strickland said. "He's someone who's gonna have to come in and close doors on the opposing team when I need him to do so. As a freshman he's got a load of experience already and it showed out there."

The sweep of Linn-Benton followed a shaky preseason that saw the Titans only win three games, but finish strong, winning two of their last four. They struggled through injuries, mistakes on defense and the inability to take advantage of runners in scoring position.

"At times during the preseason we were as competitive and as close to winning games against very good teams than we've ever had in the past," Strickland said. "Pitching is what held us together."

There were notable performances from freshman Scott Car-

penter and Lopez, who pitched a complete-game 6-hitter in Lane's 3-1 win over Olympic on March 23.

The Titans were unable to bring the momentum of their March 25 preseason finale, a 14-0 victory over Olympic that featured a complete-game shutout by sophomore Russ Razor, into their league-opening double header against Clackamas, March 29.

Lane sent Carpenter to the mound in the opener and, according to Strickland, "he just wasn't there, he really didn't pitch all that bad. He just fell behind hitters and it really hurt him."

Carpenter only gave up one earned run in 5 1/3 innings on the hill, but fell victim to five errors in the field. The Titans fell 6-2 to the Cougars.

Lane fared better in the seven-inning second game, but was unable to finish a late inning rally to lose 7-6. Strickland said, "Russ Razor put a good swing on the baseball and was within 15 feet of getting it out, but they caught it and our tying run got thrown out at second and that basically killed us."

Strickland hopes his teams' weekend sweep of LBCC will finally be the wake-up call they need to make a run at the NWAACC Southern Division.

"This team needed confidence so badly. The coaching staff can only say so many times that 'you're good, you're gonna be good', but until you actually experience winning and being good, that's the only way it's gonna work."

3/31/07 LANE 9 LINN-BENTON 8

	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so
Schlottman (cf)	6	2	6	4	0	0
Ausland (lf)	5	0	1	1	1	0
Jacobson (1b)	3	0	1	0	1	1
Razor (rf)	4	1	1	0	1	0
Solders (dh)	4	0	1	1	0	0
Smith (pr)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Bavaro (ph)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nading (ss)	5	1	1	0	0	3
Parham (3b)	4	1	2	0	1	1
Rector (c)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Cullen (ph)	1	2	1	0	1	0
Thacker (2b)	4	0	0	0	0	0
Leclaire (ph)	1	1	1	1	0	0
Totals	40	9	15	7	6	8

LANE	000	100	035	9	15	5
LINN-BENTON	040	000	040	8	9	2
	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Lopez	6.1	5	4	0	2	3
Brown (W)	2.2	3	4	0	0	4

3/31/07 LANE 3 LINN-BENTON 1 (7-INNING)

	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so
Schlottman (cf)	2	1	1	0	1	0
Ausland (lf)	2	0	0	1	0	1
Jacobson (1b)	2	1	2	1	1	0
Razor (rf)	2	0	0	0	0	0
Solders (dh)	3	0	1	1	0	0
Nading (3b)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Parham (ss)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Rector (c)	2	1	2	0	0	0
Thacker (2b)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	20	3	6	3	2	2

LANE	200	010	x	3	6	1
LINN-BENTON	000	001	0	1	7	0
	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Sweet (W)	6	4	1	1	1	5
Swett (S)	1	3	0	0	0	0

3/29/07 LANE 2 CLACKAMAS 6

	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so
Schlottman (cf)	3	0	0	0	1	0
Nading (ss)	4	1	1	1	0	1
Razor (lf)	4	0	1	0	0	1
Solders (1b)	4	0	0	0	0	1
Jacobson (rf)	4	0	1	0	0	1
Ausland (dh)	4	0	2	0	0	1
Parham (3b)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Rector (c)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Thacker (2b)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Leclaire (pr)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	2	5	2	1	6

LANE	000	000	002	2	5	5
CLACKAMAS	000	102	201	6	15	1
	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Carpenter (L)	5.1	7	3	1	3	3
Swett	2.2	5	2	1	1	3
Brown	1	3	1	1	0	0

3/29/07 LANE 6 CLACKAMAS 7 (7-INNING)

	ab	r	h	bi	bb	so
Schlottman (cf)	4	2	2	0	0	1
Nading (ss)	4	1	2	0	0	1
Jacobson (p)	4	2	2	3	0	0
Solders (1b)	4	0	2	2	0	0
Leclaire (pr)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Razor (rf)	4	1	2	0	0	0
Ausland (lf)	4	0	2	0	0	1
Cullen (c)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rector (ph)	2	0	1	1	1	0
Parham (3b)	3	0	1	0	0	1
Thacker (2b)	3	0	0	0	0	1
Total:	33	6	14	6	1	6

LANE	201	001	2	6	14	3
CLACKAMAS	201	022	x	7	11	0
	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Jacobson (L)	6	10	7	4	0	1
Razor	1	1	0	0	0	0

Penalty box turns to batter's box for coach

Fourth-year head coach took road less traveled in finding his home in Oregon and at Lane

Alex Braga
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

During a time of financial instability and turmoil at LCC, the one guiding force and steady presence for the baseball program, barely clutching for life and its team, has been Head Coach Rob Strickland.

Baseball hasn't always been Strickland's game though. When he was growing up in Tonawanda, N.Y., which is outside of Buffalo, he had aspirations to play a sport not known much in the Northwest.

"My two sports growing up were baseball and hockey. I'm an avid hockey fan; I love it actually more than I do baseball," Strickland, who was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres to play hockey, said.

"I could have, as a senior, left to go play Major-Junior A up in Toronto. I decided against it because I wanted to graduate with my class and to see where baseball could take me 'cause I was on the radar."

Strickland wasn't drafted in baseball coming out of high school so he attended the University of Buffalo and played both sports while working a part-time job at a hockey rink. He attributes his newly developing aches and pains of age from that time in his life because his love for playing the sports rarely earned him a chance to relax.

It was also at that point in his life when he met his wife, Jacquie. Strickland worked for her brother who introduced them and they began dating and haven't looked back ever since.

"I got signed after my junior year and I said, 'Well let's see how it goes 'cause obviously I'm gonna be away for the summer,'" Strickland, who was an 18th round pick by the Chicago Cubs organization and began on their New York - Penn League Class A team, said. "But she'd come out to see me. As I got deeper in my career, especially when I got to Winston-Salem she came out and stayed with me."

Jacquie has stuck with her husband through all of what comes along with being a baseball manager and player including promotions, demotions and the moves to different regions of the country that go along with them.

"She handled it extremely well and she was just unbelievable. She got to know quite a few important people in the game of baseball and they always liked her better than they liked me and that includes major league managers. She's just so gracious and was al-

ways willing to do what was necessary for us to survive," Strickland, whose three children, Scotty (11), Kyle (9) and Christine (6) were all born in Oregon, said.

"We've gone through quite a bit with this baseball ride."

The Strickland marriage in 1989 coincided with his release from the Cubs AA affiliate the Pittsfield Dukes in Massachusetts. He said the team shopped him around to other clubs and despite his abilities as a solid utility player and a .400 average pinch-hitter, didn't have any takers.

Strickland said he wanted to try his hand at managing because he had been around baseball in a time of amazing talent and had watched and learned from some of the best players in the game.

In Class AA ball and at Winston-Salem, Strickland was a roommate of 2006 National League Manager of the Year Joe Girardi and played with or against players the likes of Greg Maddux. Strickland said the experience was vital for him now as a manager, but that it was "bad timing" as a player because that type of talent being out there made it difficult for him to break into the major leagues.

Players such as Barry Bonds, Rafael Palmeiro and Will Clark hogged the spotlight and roster spots during those seasons.

"I decided to take a look at coaching because I had learned from some major league managers," he said. "Jim Tracy, who was with the Dodgers, now he's with the Pirates. Jim Essian who managed for the Tigers years ago. There was a handful of guys that ended up either being bench coaches or major league managers."

"I got to learn the game of baseball by sitting on the bench and watching to see how the game was played and understanding what my managers were trying to do in different situations."

Something Strickland tries to teach his players at Lane and at every other level he has coached is to be consistent and to have the mindset that those successful players and managers had every time they took the diamond. He also knows players must have the ability to be self-sufficient.

"A lot of things done nowadays with baseball is kind of force-fed, they just have to do it. To me, I just don't think that's a great learning experience for the kids," Strickland said. "I think the best players, whatever level they are at, they know who they are as a player. They know how to get better, how to work things out on

their own."

"Coaching is more of a guidance to where you're saying 'why don't you try this? Let's look at doing this, this way. I have a hard time trying to force-feed players what to do because I think eventually they get tuned out of it, but they've got to be willing and receptive to try and change things. Baseball's a huge game of adjustments and it's more a mind-state than anything else."

After leaving baseball as a player, Strickland worked for a chemical refinery in Southern Texas where he says he could have made a good living and worked until retirement, but that the area was tough to live in and he would have missed baseball too much.

He and Jacquie then moved to Flagstaff Ariz. in 1992, where he would coach high school baseball in a tough climate. From there, Strickland sent a series of resumes out to the Northwest and got his first bite.

"I actually got a golf course job plus a job coaching baseball at Churchill High School in the same resume. So I was like, 'okay lets go,'" he said. "I was at Churchill for two years, I was over at Thurston High School for two years and I ran Legion over in Springfield for about three years."

When the Lane head coaching position opened in 1996, Strickland jumped at the job but lost out to legendary Titan coach Donny Harrel.

However, Strickland asked Harrel if he needed an assistant and after watching what he could do was offered a position on Harrel's staff. Strickland served that position for seven seasons, and when Harrel left to become an assistant at Oregon State, Strickland took over, only to win an Northwest Athletic Association for Community Colleges championship in his first season.

"I look back at that '94 season and am just in awe of it. It's very, very difficult to repeat that," Strickland said. "Donny made the program what it is today, and I've spent the last four years just trying to keep it going."

Strickland wants his players to become better baseball players while in his program but understands that there can be more important things and hopes his values rub off the right way.

"I think the ability to coach the players to be able to do the things you need to do to be successful is absolutely critical," he said. "I en-

joy trying to teach these guys the game. It's not about winning and losing anymore cause we've won our championships."

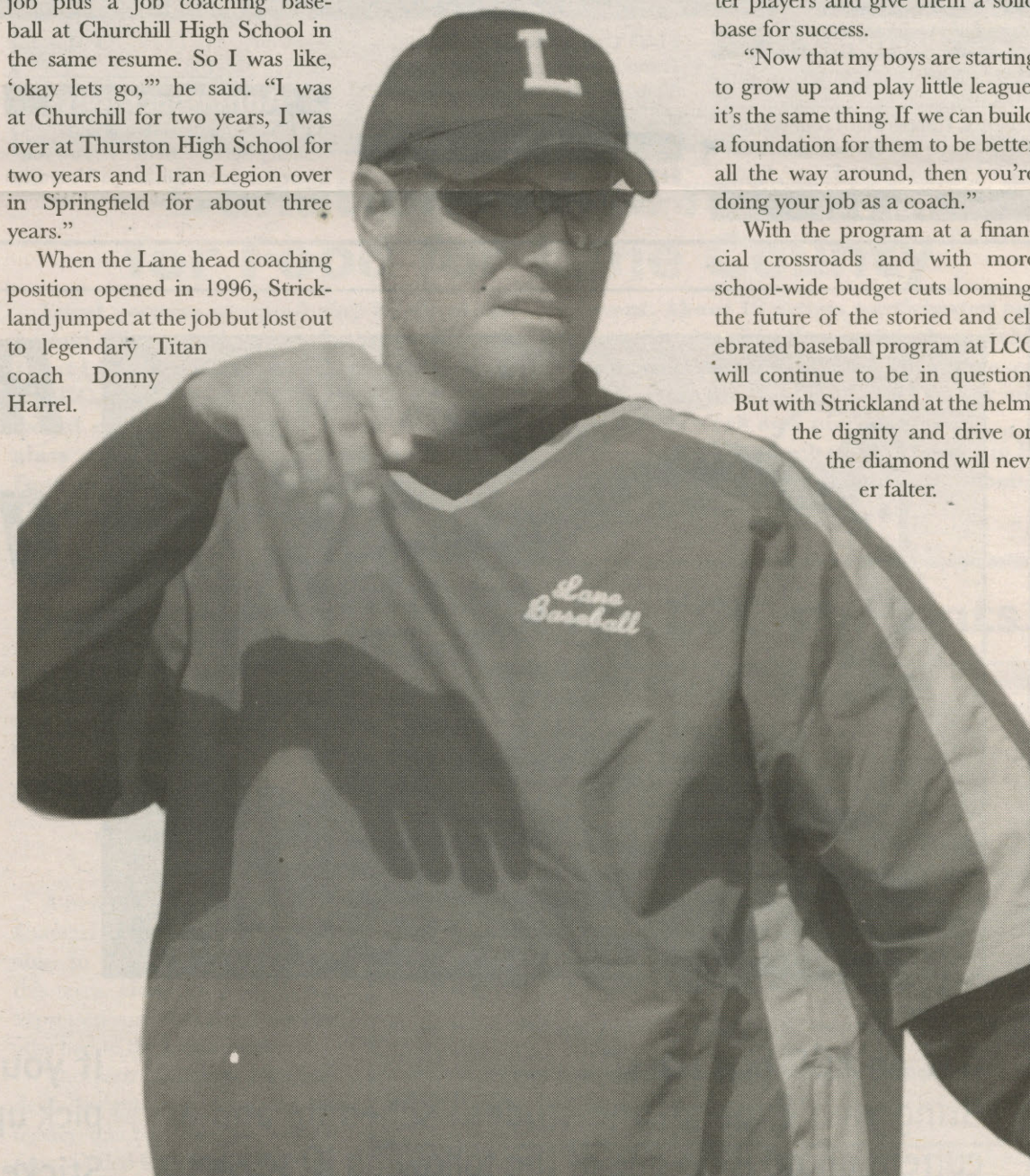
"Are they getting a quality education? Are they getting better? Are they getting an opportunity to go on to play at the next level? If we're not academically successful then what are we really doing? I want my players to have success here baseball-wise, but when they leave here I want them to be the type of people that know they can be successful in whatever they try to do. At some point they've got to be able to have some leadership and take responsibility for their lives and I think we can teach them that here."

Strickland said he takes pride in his players becoming better athletes and citizens. His goal as a baseball coach is to make his players better at what they do and ready for the next level if that's the direction they want to go. He is driven every day to give them the opportunities to become better players and give them a solid base for success.

"Now that my boys are starting to grow up and play little league, it's the same thing. If we can build a foundation for them to be better all the way around, then you're doing your job as a coach."

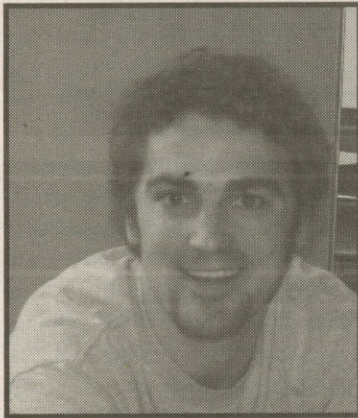
With the program at a financial crossroads and with minor school-wide budget cuts looming, the future of the storied and celebrated baseball program at LCC will continue to be in question.

But with Strickland at the helm, the dignity and drive on the diamond will never falter.



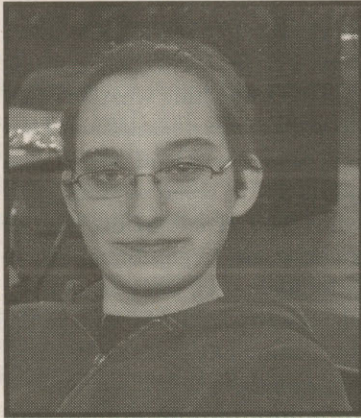
ROB STRICKLAND AT A GLANCE

- Played baseball and hockey growing up in the Buffalo, New York area.
- Drafted to play hockey by the Buffalo Sabres.
- Played minor league baseball for the Chicago Cubs organization.
- Played with or against the likes of Greg Maddux and Will Clark in the minors.
- Double A roommate with 2006 National League Manager of the Year Joe Girardi.
- Has been affiliated with the Lane baseball program since 1996.

What do you wish you had done during Spring break?**Reed Ingdall**

BUSINESS

"Walked on the moon, 'cause that would have been cool."

**Kelly Johnson**

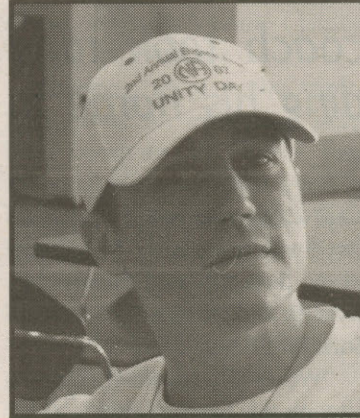
UNDECIDED

"What didn't I do during Spring break? I wish I would have taken my friend to the beach 'cause he's never seen the Pacific Coast."

**Coral Barreto-Costa**

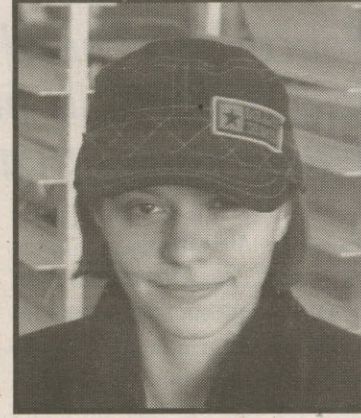
UNDECIDED

"I had a pretty good one. I went to San Diego and went to the zoo."

**Jake Golden**

GRAPHIC DESIGN

"A lot more than I did ... I wish I would have gone to Portland and visited my friend."

**Reyenne Collins**

GRAPHIC DESIGN

"I wish I had spent more time with my kid. I had so many errands."

Compiled by Ariel Burkhardt
Photos by Sandy Wilcox

Classifieds**Personals**

Hey Grant! Happy birthday! Hugs from Ariel.

Jeremy, Happy Third Anniversary, Hon! I Love You Forever and Always. I Promise. Your Fiancé, Katie.

For Sale

TI-83 Calculator, \$50. Women in Transitions textbooks-\$10 for both. All in excellent condition. Make offer at 513-8359.

Rooms for Rent

\$425-Quiet, no smoking. SE Eugene house, kitchen/laundry privi-

leges, direct bus LCC/UO. Must like Yorkies. 344-1885.

Announcements

ATTN: Student Veterans and Military Service Members. Are you interested in establishing a Veterans/Service Member Interest Group?

Come meet.

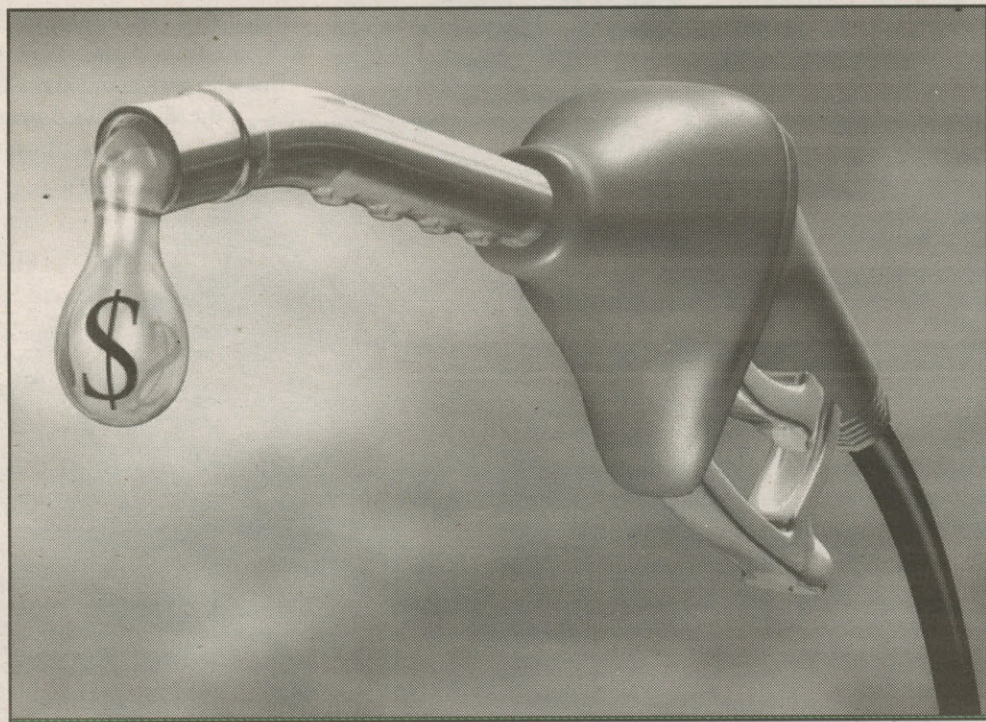
Events

High school arts show, April 2-13; reception April 5, 5:30-7 p.m.; Art Gallery, Building 11.

Reading Together living traditions: Native American culture, edu-

cation and revitalization in Oregon, April 9, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19, Room 104.

Career and job fair, April 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19.



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Lane Transit District

Get an LCC bus pass!*

Bring your ExpressLane student schedule and a current photo ID to one of the following ID sessions:

April 2 and 3

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Building 19, Room 117

* paid for through Assessed Transportation Fee

If you already have a valid photo I.D. pass, pick up your new sticker before April 14, 2007.

Stickers available April 10 and 11

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Building 1, Room 121

(541) 687-5555

(800) 735-2900 (TTY - Oregon Relay)

www.ltd.org