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Photo by Emily Simpson
Thank You Reser for Your Support!

Luke Sheahan
Staff Writer

Reser’s Fine Foods has a strong commitment to their employees and to the community. Since their modest origin in the 1950s when Alvin Reser started selling his mother’s potato salad in Cornelius, OR, Reser’s has grown to a company of over 1600 employees and is now based out of Beaverton, OR. Reser’s has been a substantial donor to Oregon State University in the past when they helped build the football stadium that bears their name. Reser’s still holds true to their pledge to give back to their community. Starting in 2000, Reser’s Fine Foods has generously donated to UHC Dad’s Weekend — including bodacious brats, sumptuous salads, tasty taco chips and spicy salsa. The 2002 Dad’s Weekend Chair, Matt Bremmer, created a big thank you sign to Reser’s, which we posted outside McNary Hall, near the Dad’s Weekend BBQ site. The UHC extends our gratitude to Reser’s for their continued strong support of OSU and the UHC. Thank you, Reser’s!

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*Chronicle* magazine is published twice a year by UHC and OSU students. Articles reflect views of the individual writers on the *Chronicle* staff, but may not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Oregon State University or the OSU Honors College. Comments can be made at uhc_chronicle@hotmail.com
The Editors’ Corner

Emily’s Farewell

This is sadly my last term at Oregon State University, living it up in C-town. Yes, it’s the truth – I’m graduating this spring! (Which is of course contingent upon getting that pesky, oops, I mean rewarding, thesis done, but there is hope.) It’s hard to imagine leaving this small town in which I once felt completely lost. It seems like only yesterday I was a freshman engaged in all those inane freshmen antics, such as riding one’s bike down dorm hallways while playing the kazoo and having races in rolling desk chairs. As I walk around campus now, I run into at least five different people I know every day. The entire Chemistry department faculty and office personnel ask me about my future plans and it is inevitably intimidating to ponder the next part of my life in some new place. These four years have been amazing, the UHC and Chronicle experiences both adding to their richness, but I remain certain that the best is yet to come. I wish you all success in your endeavors and whatever path life may lead you down!

Letter From the Editors

And yet another glorious spring term has arrived, cherry trees in full blossom, the myriads of students gleefully bedecked in sandals and sunglasses, and the heated games of Frisbee in the Quad. Along with springtime activities, we bring you the next scintillating issue of the Chronicle, perfect for shading one’s face while tanning or protecting oneself from wet grass. But we’d ideally like the Chronicle to be used as inspiring, thought-provoking, and occasionally amusing reading material.

Over the last couple of issues, the focus of the Chronicle has shifted to a more student-oriented view and approach, which is reflected in some of the auto-biographical student experiences as well as the recent addition of student opinion pieces. We would like to remind all the readers that these are individual student opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire UHC or the Chronicle Staff. We would love to present both sides of controversial topics or include more articles, but this is a student-run publication with volunteer writers, and we do not always have the opportunity to incorporate the multiple facets of each issue. The featured opinion piece of this issue, a pro-choice stance in the abortion debate, is in response to a previously published (pro-life) opinion piece in the winter 2003 issue. We are always open and receptive to feedback, whether it concerns article ideas, comments on a published piece, or a submission of your own. We hope you enjoy this issue and have a great spring term!

The Chronicle Staff inadvertently placed a photo of professor Kathleen Moore with an article relating to the Book Bin in the Winter 2003 Issue. Mrs. Moore is not associated with the Book Bin in any way. We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused.

Spring 2003
A Moment in the Spotlight: Behind the Scenes of the UHC

Jenny Moser
Staff Writer

Let's face it — when people talk about the University Honors College, Joe Hendricks and Jane Siebler get most of the publicity. This is understandable since Jane and Joe, as Head Advisor and Dean respectively, play such pivotal roles in the Honors College. But if you've spent any time in the UHC office, you'll have some inkling that there's more to be done within the UHC than those two could handle on their own. The Honors College we all know and love depends greatly on the efforts of the staffers who, for the most part, keep a low, yet friendly profile as they tend to the important work behind the scenes. Each staff member's individual duties play a key role. Without such efforts, the UHC could not function as smoothly as it does today. This is their moment in the spotlight.

After Diana Hancock decided to head in a new direction from her previous job at an accounting firm, she ended up at OSU in Property Management. Later, when Diana learned that the office manager of the UHC was leaving, she applied for the open position and was accepted. Today, she is the Administrative Office Manager of the Honors College. What exactly does that mean? For starters, she schedules all the Honors coursework, planning when and where our classes will be held. She also ensures that the UHC's gritty business work gets done as it should. This leaves her responsible for subjects that range from personnel management to payroll, budgeting to bill-paying. Diana schedules many of the special events put on by the Honors College. She also oversees the students who staff the SLUG learning center (Students Learning Under Ground), meeting with them periodically. She loves spending time with students, something she couldn't do in her previous position.

When not on the job, Diana spends time with friends and family, including her Welsh corgi puppy, Ali. She enjoys scrapbooking and swimming. She also belongs to a wine club whose members plan dinners with food and wine appropriate to the cuisine of another country. She feels the most valuable aspects of the Honors College are the unique experiences and distinctive coursework available to its students. Moreover, she says, the UHC is like one big family, which makes many new students more comfortable in the transition to college.

When Andrea Learning finished school at LBCC, she applied to a number of state agencies, one of which was OSU. She started out in the Business Office in 1974 and stayed there until she decided she needed a change of pace. Andrea filed an application with OSU's clerical pool, from which any department in need of staff can select a candidate. The Honors College chose her, and she is now the Academic Liaison Specialist. Her job includes representing the UHC to students, staff, faculty and visitors. Andrea assists with the application process and orders textbooks for the Honors College faculty. She also does the clerical work needed to make UHC events happen. Andrea is a friendly face for everyone who stops by the Honors College office as she runs the reception desk and answers the phone. She helps students who need to make appointments with Jane or Joe, and (most importantly) she ensures that the Slug-Bait candy jar is always full!

When she's not around the UHC, Andrea loves to travel with her husband and daughter. They have traveled all around the West Coast, from California to Seattle to Canada.
She is a baseball enthusiast, and her favorite team is the New York Yankees. She is also a fan of OSU Beaver Football. For Andrea, the best thing about the University Honors College is the personal attention that the staff can give to students and faculty.

Rebekah Lancelin had a stint as a reporter for a Minnesota small-town newspaper, but she’s a big-city woman at heart as her roots lie in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When she moved to Corvallis with her significant other, she had two other jobs before coming to Oregon State. She was glad to be hired by the Honors College because she likes working in academia. She is often buried in academic duties as the Admissions Specialist and Publications Projects Coordinator. Rebekah meets with prospective students during their visits to OSU, and loves reading the student essays for UHC applications. She helps first-year students register during START orientation weekends, and she may be doing more advising soon. Throughout the term, you’ll see Rebekah in your UHC classes administering student course evaluations that help the professor tailor the class to student needs. Additionally, she directs the layout and design of the Honors Link, the UHC newsletter that goes out to alumni.

Once Rebekah has left campus for the day, she likes to do yoga and attend plays. She enjoys cooking, usually preparing vegan menus. She is an avid reader, preferring mostly fiction, but also books about spirituality. When the weather is warm, she loves to go hiking. What does Rebekah like best about the Honors College? She is fascinated by the uniqueness of the students that the UHC attracts. They’re amazing, she says, and not just academically.

The newest member of the Honors College staff is Ruth Erin Carter. Ruth Erin chose to attend the UHC because the Air Force Academy rejected her and there’s too much snow in Michigan. During her undergrad years, she participated in the Steering Committee and spent a considerable amount of time helping Jane with various UHC activities. She was a Resident Assistant for three years, including one year in McNary Hall. She graduated from the UHC with her H.B.S. in Psychology. After a year off, she chose to return to OSU for graduate work because OSU has a great counseling program and is close, but not too close, to her family. When she returned, Jane offered her the position of Graduate Teaching Assistant. Ruth Erin loves being a GTA because she gets paid to have fun. Her official duties include assisting with all UHC student activities, helping with programs run by the McNary Hall RAs, and serving on the START advisory board. She also participates in student orientations and prospective student visits.

In her free time, Ruth Erin enjoys singing, doing aerobics, and country dancing. A passionate Trekkie, she collects Star Trek autographs and has traveled 800 miles to attend a Trek convention, in addition to having toured Italy. Ruth Erin has been skydiving once and bungee-jumping twice, but insists she can be professional when need be. She is a member of PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and is owned by a white cat named Jiggers. Her favorite thing about the Honors College is the opportunity to hang out with its students, whom she describes as awesome.

The OSU Honors College, like its students, is undeniably amazing. It has only become so thanks to the devoted efforts of people like the four who are profiled on these pages. Diana, Rebekah, Andrea, and Ruth Erin received a moment in the spotlight, but there are many more who deserve it as well. The commitment of people throughout this university, whose hard work enables the Honors College to provide a challenging and top-quality education, is truly remarkable. We students who benefit from it are truly blessed.

Photos by Jillian Ries
Diversions in Sunriver: UHC Students Escape from Scholastic Duties

Naaman Horn
Staff Writer

Winter term had set in; classes, lectures, and homework assignments overshadowed the fading memories of a carefree Winter Break. The long-range forecast predicted about ten weeks of relentless hard work with an occasional patch of brain exhaustion and increasing burnout towards the end of the term. Some Honors College students, however, were able to escape the monotony of school for a weekend as they ventured to Sunriver for a couple of days of fun, relaxation, and no homework.

Every year one or two University Honors College students take upon themselves the responsibility of completely arranging the trip for everyone else to beautiful Sunriver to ski, snowshoe, play games, and socialize with friends. The Sunriver trip gives students the opportunity to be with their fellow students in a non-academic atmosphere. The majority of time that most students spend together is academically oriented: taking notes, doing homework, and cramming for tests. Trips arranged by UHC students, such as the rafting trip in spring, let them associate in a recreational atmosphere. Since UHC students first initiated a weekend vacation to Sunriver in 1999, students have gathered in the mountains to share experiences and make memories that will last a lifetime each successive year.

This year’s trip started out not differently than previous trips taken by past students. All the participants crowded into cars already full of pillows, sleeping bags, clothing, and enough food to save the Donner Party from their unfortunate fate. Upon arriving at Sunriver, both people and sundry gear were transferred to the three rented houses. Within mere minutes of arrival people, suitcases, blankets, and various other unclassifiable items were strewn across the floor and furniture. The students took a collective deep breath of content; they now had the familiarity of home without the stress of school. The students had the rest of the weekend to ski, snowshoe, play poker, compete fiercely in a match of men versus women Trivial Pursuit, or do nothing at all.

For most, this year’s chapter of the continuing Sunriver story was a success. With advance notice from his mom and a little preplanning by the Honors College, a surprise party was held for Andy Dausman. He and his fellow Honors College students came together to celebrate his 23rd birthday and to anticipate the years to come. It was also a great weekend for the women. This year marked the first year in Honors College Sunriver: history that the women won the Trivial Pursuit challenge. Great job gals! Maybe you have started a tradition that will last for years to come. Regrettably, the weekend was not incident free. Ben Legg ironically broke his leg skiing. It was an unfortunate mishap, but we are glad to report that he will not be pressing charges and seems to be recovering just fine.

If you would like to see more pictures from the Sunriver trip, Brent Ito was kind enough to post a web site sporting some Sunriver pics. You can access the site at http://home.attbi.com/~ito.random/sites.html.

Some upcoming Honors College activities that you might want to check out this term include: Mom’s Weekend Recital on May 3rd, the UHC Thesis Fair on May 28th, the UHC Spring Picnic on June 4th, and Commencement on June 15th. For more information on these activities read Jane’s Monday Messages either in your email or online at http://oregonstate.edu/dept/honors/.
A wide variety of student activities is available to UHC students each year. Activities are organized according to what the UHC students indicate they are interested in doing. At the new student orientation each year, Head Advisor Jane Siebler polls the new students to see what types of activities they are most interested in having offered. Each year, UHC students indicate that outdoor recreational activities are high on the list, so a variety of outdoor activities are always offered. In the past, a fall term fly fishing trip was held on the Crooked River in Central Oregon. After the fishing enthusiasts graduated, a weekend camping trip to the Oregon coast was offered instead, during fall term.

The winter term Sunriver trip started in 1999 when Jane suggested it as a great winter outdoor excursion. It has been a tradition over the years for many OSU living groups and clubs to have a winter trip to Sunriver, so Jane thought the outdoorsy UHC students would also enjoy a winter snow trip. The Steering Committee students got busy and organized the first Sunriver trip with the underlying idea that it would be cheap and fun for all types of students—from skiers to snowshoers to hot-tubbing poker players to students who just wanted to sit around the house and study and watch the snow. The tradition continues with the highlight of a Saturday evening meal, where everyone gathers together in one house and has the chance to meet someone new.

The spring term Raft Trip began in a similar way, when UHC Steering Committee members Kyle Shaver, Scott McGregor and Jeff Morgan decided that combining fishing and camping with river rafting would be a great addition to the outdoor recreational activities the UHC students had been enjoying. It was determined that Memorial Day Weekend would be the best time to offer such a trip—not only for the usually better weather and river conditions, but also a long weekend that provides extra time for the ever-necessary studying. Students leave for the trip on Friday afternoon and return on Sunday afternoon, with plenty of time remaining for studying Sunday night and Monday.

UHC Trips Coordinator Matt Bremmer and his capable committee of helpers have taken over the planning of the traditional Memorial Weekend raft trip for this year. About 30 UHC students and their friends head off to the South Umpqua River. One of the traditional aspects of this trip is the early morning camp out at the OSU Recreation Center to reserve the rafts. The inexpensive rafts are available on a first come, first served basis, and your spot in line can determine whether or not you get your rafts. The Trip Coordinator and helpers always get up very early on raft reservation morning to assure their spot in line and thereby secure the rafts for the trip.

The Raft Trip is not an easy activity to pull off—in addition to securing the rafts, the committee must purchase the food, arrange for transportation and shelter, and pray for good weather. It is always a lot of fun, and Jane Siebler and her husband Bill enjoy serving as the supply wagon each year. It’s become a tradition for Jane and Bill to take half the food to the rafters at the midpoint of their trip. After enjoying lunch with the rafters on the banks of the Umpqua, Jane and Bill unload the food, load up the garbage, and send the rafters off on the last part of the trip.

This trip is not for the weak—all food and water must be hauled in, and all garbage must be hauled out. There are no campgrounds or camp sites or toilets—just the water, the islands and the sky. The joys of running the rapids and enjoying the wildlife of all kinds make up for any inconvenience caused by the lack of modern amenities. Jane says that she is always a little bit wistful in sending the rafters off when she and Bill have to drive home. She imagines how fun it must be to row hard and then relax on one of the islands, enjoying one of the great campfire meals, then sleeping under the stars. What an experience! UHC students are intrepid travelers and adventurers, enjoying life to the fullest whether in class or on the river.
As I walked onto the site, a swarm of kids surrounded me like bees often surround a flower. It felt so special. Some of the other kids stood back and smiled warmly, too shy to express their need for attention and love. Their innocent brown eyes spilled with curiosity as they looked up at me, asking me a hundred questions without a spoken word. I had just arrived at Veerayatan Vidyapeeth – a primary school established for the children orphaned by the devastating earthquake of 2001 in India. I knew immediately that I would love it here.

Stemming from the incredible vision of Acharya Shri Chandanaji, the first woman to ever receive the title of Acharya (high order spiritual leader) in the Jain tradition, Vidyapeeth was built shortly after the earthquake. The fundamental principle of Veerayatan is to “uplift and empower humanity through the three jewels of humanitarianism, education and inner development.” Veerayatan is located in many parts of India, however, this particular school is located in Bhuj, Gujrat, the Northwestern part of India.

I got involved in the program through an opportunity provided by the Youth Jain Association (YJA). I travel to India every couple of years, but usually to visit family. This time I went to India with a desire to help and truly make a difference. I thought I would be teaching the kids of the school/orphanage what I know about life and what I have learned through my education and experiences. Little did I know that they would be the ones making a difference in my life by opening my eyes to the world. Their unconditional love and appreciation for the simple things in life are lessons in themselves. These are traits often lost in the fast-paced, materialistic world in which we have immersed ourselves.

I stayed in a small hut with a concrete base and clay slab roof for the majority of the time I was there. It
didn't take me long to discover that each child had a story to tell and secrets to share. They so eagerly and willingly opened their hearts and made me a huge part of their small world. The women who run the shelter have taken in these children as their own. When one child was asked what it was like to be without a mother, he replied that at Veerayatan, he had a hundred mothers who loved and nurtured him; one of whom was mother earth. The school offers more than just an education for the children -- it is a safe haven and a place they can call "home."

As part of my experience, I initiated a project to promote awareness of basic hygiene to the kids of the Natwas Colony -- a local slum surrounding Veerayatan. We set aside one day as "hygiene day" and taught approximately 50 kids how to brush their teeth and wash their hands properly; we also cleaned and cut their nails. Toothbrushes were given to all the children to encourage them to continue the habit at home. With the help of some local workers, we promoted the idea of a "healthy child competition" to ensure continued awareness of hygiene. It was an exhilarating experience to work so directly with the children and make such a personal impact.

From Veerayatan, I had the opportunity to go to the Bidada medical camp and work with doctors from India and the US. It was an open medical clinic, so anyone was admitted free of charge. We were seeing about 150 patients a day. I had been wavering on whether or not I wanted to go to medical school, however, after going to the camp I am absolutely certain this is the type of career I want to pursue! I will never forget the experiences I had or the lessons I learned during my short stay at Veerayatan this past winter break. I encourage everyone to step out of her or his comfort zone and experience life from an entirely different perspective. The insight and satisfaction gained from such an experience are unparalleled.

For more information on Veerayatan, visit the website at: www.veerayatan.org

Above: Monika Arora gathers together with the kitchen staff and some of the other employees at Veerayatan Vidyapeeth. The kitchen staff cooks breakfast, lunch, and dinner for 200 people every day!
Top Right: As part of Monika's experience, a basic hygiene project was initiated in one of the neighborhoods surrounding Veerayatan. Approximately 50 children were taught how to brush their teeth and wash their hands properly.
Writing for Science: Hatching New Ideas for the Dragonfly House

Casey Woodworth
Staff Writer

A deceptively sunny sky stretches over a frosty brown landscape, not only burning the eyes but chilling the bones of the curious students. They take the long-handed nets with frozen fingers and step to the edge of the murky pond. The nets dip below the water, coming up momentarily with a scoop of deep brown mud and slimy muck.

Amongst the abundance of life found in the single scoop are leaves, twigs, plants, mayflies, scuds, backswimmers, even newts. The real prize, though, and the goal of this expedition to Peavy Arboretum, is the dragonfly nymphs. This winter term, Carole Ann Crateau’s Honors Writing for Science (HC199) got involved with a special project called the Dragonfly House. The term Dragonfly House encompasses a larger vision that will educate the public about a captivating species. Lynn Royce of OSU’s Entomology Department first visualized the Dragonfly House in 2001 while at a talk about butterfly houses. People from many different colleges on campus have lent their support: Philosophy and the Spring Creek Project, English, Forestry, Entomology, Horticulture, Honors College, Native Americans in Marine and Space Sciences, and Botany. Currently the group has its eye on the Oak Creek Apiary property as a potential site, though this is far from being secured—at press time the property was designated to become a parking lot. “There may be other sites,” said Royce, “but I feel the creek deserves protection all along its length.”

Ideally, the house would encompass an educational center for the community, classrooms where students and public schoolchildren could come together, nature displays, the creek, a greenhouse, an organic garden and orchard, a pollination garden, and other restoration projects. According to Royce, not only would the Dragonfly House preserve some of the campus, “It would provide a venue for university and community interaction and give the community a sense of ownership towards the university, and the university a sense of ownership towards the environment.”

Students in HC199 got involved in a variety of different ways. Two groups created colorful posters for OSU’s Museum Days on April 29-30. The posters, one on dragonfly predation and the other on the life cycle, will be accompanied by live displays collected at Peavy and other locations around the area. Eryn Cramer, who has an option in pest biology and management, said of the dragonfly project: “I’m happy to see people getting more interested in insects as they are fascinating creatures.”

Indeed, dragonflies have a long and intriguing history. Dragonflies and their sister family Damselflies, both in the order Odonata, are insects which have fascinated humans for thousands of years. Three HC199 students, Crystal Ives, Julie Ream, and Rachelle Hasson, took on a special endeavor that traces humanity’s association with dragonflies. Up to 150 schoolchildren come through Museum Days each hour, and some of them will be treated to a fun, informative play called “Gullivand’s Travels: The Tale of a Dragonfly.” It concerns the journey of a dragonfly nymph, all the way from the pond of his birth through the vast outside world.

According to Ives, the characters “travel through time and space as they reenact myths of multiple cultures that center on the dragonfly. The overall message of the play is that no matter how small you think you are, each of us has a vital role to play, and no creature can be disregarded as ‘unimportant.’” Gullivand eventually helps the humans see how important dragonflies are to the world’s ecosystem, a lesson that Ives hopes will “[encourage the children] to find their own niche.”

This sort of community outreach is one of the major aims of the project. “It’s important to get college-age students enthusiastic about insects,” added Cramer. “We can be role models to grade-school students in the biological sciences, because of the lack of science education in schools.” Those interested in more information or in getting involved with the Dragonfly House can contact Crateau (Carole. Crateau@orst.edu) or Royce (roycel@bcc.orst.edu).
When asked the controversial question of whether I am pro-choice or pro-life, my answer is always the same. I am pro-choice and I would never have an abortion. This might seem like a contradiction of views to some, but to those who truly understand the ‘abortion issue,’ it makes perfect sense. The pro-choice side isn’t arguing that abortion is a wonderful procedure. They don’t want to pass a law that requires all women to have an abortion at some point in their life. They don’t even claim that an abortion is a good choice for everyone. What they do argue is that every woman has the right to make that choice for herself. Pro-choice means women have the right to be provided with information in a safe and non-confrontational environment. And should a woman so choose to have an abortion, she has the right to have it performed by a qualified doctor in a secure environment.

The pro-choice/pro-life argument is not really about the morality of abortion. Women will have abortions, regardless of their legality. The real issue is what options are available to women considering such a procedure. Abortions will happen even if they are forced behind closed doors again. Women will use rat poison, coat hangers and arsenic and go to ‘back alley’ doctors. Having an abortion is not a new idea and will continue to happen as long as women continue to get pregnant.

To illustrate this point, perhaps the facts will paint the clearest picture. Of the 46 million abortions that happen worldwide each year, 20 million are performed illegally. It is estimated that of those 20 million, almost 80,000 women die as a result. Pre-Roe vs. Wade (before 1973) statistics show that close to one million illegal abortions were performed in the U.S. each year, with as many as 100,000 women dying each year from complications. The number one cause of maternal death was complications from abortions, many of which were self-induced. Planned Parenthood Federation of America records indicate that “80 percent of the women who came to [the most experienced abortionist known] for consumption of an abortion had previously attempted some sort of self-induction.”

Women sometimes choose to have an abortion because they see it as their only option. Instead of focusing on taking that right away, we should be directing our efforts toward doing everything we can to provide those women with more options, education and support. Only when the options have been clearly presented does it become a choice, instead of just the only way out. And only as a result of being presented with the choice, can some women choose not to have an abortion. Legalizing abortion allows women to undergo a safe procedure, instead of resorting to dangerous and potentially deadly methods, and is actually helpful to both pro-choice and pro-life advocates. One could argue that forcing women into back alley abortion methods doesn’t allow them to make an educated decision on a very serious and life-altering issue. A woman should only have to make the decision once she has been presented with all the facts, all the options and all the resources and counseling she wants. After careful consideration, some will choose to continue with the procedure. But some will choose not to. The point is that the woman who chooses to have an abortion has the same rights as one who doesn’t. Either way, it is her choice.


This piece does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Chronicle staff or the UHC. If you would like to submit comments, email the Chronicle at uhc_chronicle@hotmail.com.
In Search of the Classy Side of Corvallis

Beth Tovar
Contributing Writer

Corvallis is known for being a college town with an agricultural edge, but what many don’t know is that Corvallis is also bursting with upscale services and endless opportunities for planning an unforgettable event. Whether you are anticipating a company gathering, preparing for a wedding, or just trying to impress the future in-laws, the following guide should give you some useful information to get you started. Hold on to your seats as we prepare to guide you through a few of the classy Corvallis companies.

When it comes down to it, a dramatic entrance—or exit—is always in style. For an extra special flair, consider the Corvallis Carriage Company. With four unbelievable carriages to choose from, you are sure to have a smooth ride and unforgettable memories. Each carriage normally is pulled by a single horse, but if your heart is set on a team, that can be arranged. The company is owner-operated, so you can be sure that your driver will take exceptional care of you right down to the detail of their own attire. When it comes to luxury transportation, the romance and charm of the horsedrawn carriage is unbeatable.

Now let us be honest, nothing is more important than food. The aromas tickle your senses and the flavors dance on your taste buds while you savor every moment of your special event. Corvallis has many tasty restaurants and caterers, but if you are seeking an innovative din-

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ing experience, Taylor Street Ovens is the place to go. They have cakes and pastries that will have your mouth watering and their extensive catering menu is perfect for any event. The restaurant itself serves all day with a great selection of sweetrolls, quiches, deli sandwiches and soups, not to mention the delicious desserts and famous cookies! In addition to being one of the top eateries in Corvallis, Taylor Street Ovens is truly focused on the community. Owned and operated by a local not-for-profit organization, Taylor Street Ovens is dedicated to creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

What words do not say, flowers do. The extra time and attention put towards their bouquets and arrangements makes Penguin Flowers an excellent pick among the area’s florists. They can work within any budget and happily accommodate your every whim (within reason of course). The friendly staff and beautiful flowers can be the perfect companion as you wade through planning every detail of your event. Inside the shop you can put together your own bouquet for a special someone or choose one of their exquisite arrangements that are ready and waiting. Penguin Flowers also stocks local handmade cards, cuddly stuffed anim-

gardens will transport you to another time. Although the house looks as though it’s from a page in a history book, technological amenities such as telephones and high speed internet access are available in every room.

No matter what kind of event you may be planning in the Corvallis area, you can be sure that this agricultural town nestled in the valley does not fall short when it comes to planning a memorable affair. From horsedrawn carriages to one-of-a-kind cakes and catering, fabulous flowers to cozy lodging, this little city has it all.
Several Honors College students, as well as some non-Honors residents of McNary Hall, went as a group to view the film "Bowling for Columbine." Afterwards, they discussed their reactions to the movie in the McNary Main Lounge.

Bowling for Columbine: A Provocative Commentary on Gun Violence in America

Nathanael Blake
Staff Writer

Michael Moore's "Bowling for Columbine" is not a regular Hollywood movie. It does not pretend to be. Nor is it a documentary, though it has won an Oscar in that category. It is a commentary, an editorial, and a propaganda piece. It is utterly imperative that the viewer understand this about the film. Ostensibly this film is a discussion on gun control, using the shootings at Columbine High School as a springboard into the issue. But Moore is not content to limit himself to just one issue; his question is, "Are we a nation of gun nuts or just nuts?" His answer? Both.

There is no doubt that Moore is a proponent of stronger regulations governing firearms, and the film has instances that address that point. Most of the movie goes beyond that though, delving into the psychology of America, pondering why we are so violent. This makes the film much more entertaining and controversial. Moore is about as leftist as can be, and is not at all shy about flaunting his views and arguing his case. He covers everything from health care, to racism, to American foreign policy, making for an interesting experience. I personally agree with him on gun control, but disagree on many other points, so I, like many others no doubt, emerged in a slightly schizophrenic haze. The movie's ability to incite thought among the audience is the film's greatest strength.

Sorting through his assertions and arguments on the various topics addressed makes for excellent mental exercise without compromising the entertainment value of the film. True, it was not created primarily to entertain, but the film recognizes the reality of cinema and acts accordingly. In one of the first scenes, Moore takes advantage of a bank's offer of a free rifle with a new account. The sight of him brandishing a firearm in the bank is hilarious, made more so when an employee discusses the finer points of shooting technique with him. Another highlight is "A Brief History of America," an animation satirically narrated by a disconcertingly chipper bullet.

But for all the ramblings and humorous interludes the film retains sight of the issue at hand: why are Americans shooting each other at such a high rate? Easy access to guns is certainly part of the explanation, but not all of it. Moore argues that Americans are fearful, paranoid, violent people (who happen to have a lot of weapons). One telling statistic cited that although murder rates have dropped over the last decade, media coverage has increased by 600 percent. Figures such as this are interspersed within a generous dosage of interviews, and other footage, some of it quite bleak. Security tapes from Columbine, frantic 911 calls after various shootings, and pictures of a six-year-old girl shot by a classmate all hammer home the stark and ugly reality of this issue.

That is the reason this film was made. Laughter and tears are packed into two thought-provoking hours. You may disagree with the auxiliary points, you may even disagree with the main one, but you will not leave the theater without having thought about the issue at hand.
Try the Thai: UHC Student Critiques Two Corvallis Thai Restaurants

Jillian Ries
Staff Writer

A while ago, my roommate and I decided to venture out and compare two different Thai restaurants. One night we meandered over to the Tarn Tip Thai Cuisine located on Monroe (within walking distance to those living on campus — a big plus!). The biggest problem there was parking, which was almost impossible, if non-existent. After circling around several times, we abandoned our vehicle in a nearby bank parking lot and strolled over. Once inside, we found the restaurant possessed a fairly quiet and inviting atmosphere. The walls were adorned with cultural paintings and ornamental wooden pieces. We were first greeted by the large metal Buddha on the counter next to the cash register, followed by a friendly host, who quickly seated us in a cozy little booth. The tables themselves were artistic, as they flaunted decorative pictures protected by a clear glass cover.

At the Tarn Tip, everyone receives free tea with their meal — a huge bonus for me since I'm an avid tea drinker. My roommate and I both ordered the pad Thai dish, which was absolutely delicious and very affordable at less than $7 a plate! Most of the dishes on the menu are $10 and under, which is incredibly reasonable for the amount of food you receive, but watch out, they do not accept credit cards. I devoured all of my meal (can we say belly ache later?).

The second Thai eating place that I investigated was the Cha-Da Thai Restaurant, located on 9th street. Even though parking was much improved, it was still quite a distance from campus, making it difficult for students to reach without adequate transportation. While the inside of the restaurant was clean and pleasant, it did not possess the same cozy atmosphere as the Tarn Tip. Both the walls and tables displayed a fairly common décor. The food seemed rather bland, and the service fairly slow. The menu items were more expensive than the Tarn Tip, but still relatively reasonable ($15 and under). Overall, I was unimpressed with things, at least until my dessert arrived. The special that night was a kiwi strawberry cheesecake, and what they presented to me was a masterpiece, akin to a specimen off Emeril Live. The price of the dessert was tolerable (a mere $3.50), considering how beautifully it had been prepared. So, although the food wasn't the greatest, I highly recommend this place to satisfy your sweet tooth! Cha-Da can be found at 1945 NW 9th Street. If you have any questions about service or food, call them at 757-8226.

The Lovely Bones Not Worth Dying For...

Jillian Ries
Staff Writer

After all of the hype surrounding this new hardcover, I went over to Borders bookstore and picked myself up a copy of The Lovely Bones, by Alice Sebold. In the beginning, I was very impressed with the author's narrative writing and diction. The plotline was intriguing, and very well-written; the storyline believable and heart-wrenching.

On her way home from school, 14-year-old Susie Salmon is lured into a cornfield and brutally raped and murdered, the latest victim of a serial killer - who also happens to be her neighbor. Her family and friends spend many years grieving and searching for the killer, who, although hiding under their noses, is never truly discovered. While Susie gazes down from heaven and wishes to be back on earth, she watches her family dissolve into chaos, with each beginning to mend in his or her own way.

While gruesome and disturbing, the author relates Susie's murder in the least graphical way possible, making it an easier read for people (like me), who possess weaker stomachs. While I loved the beginning of the book for its innocence and enthralling narrative, I was sorely disappointed as the novel progressed. In heaven, Susie is obsessed with having someone find her murdered remains. After several years and with a continuing desire to return to Earth, she is temporarily granted her wish. However, instead of telling someone how and where to find her remains, Susie chooses

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to have sex with the boy who gave Susie her first kiss shortly before she died. The novel ends rather abruptly, with the killer never being caught (though he does end up receiving a rather interesting justice), and Susie's remains never being recovered. The family's tortured memory of Susie slowly begins to fade, and eventually they stop trying to find justice for their deceased loved one.

This book had a great amount of potential, and would have turned out to be a truly remarkable novel if it only kept on track with its haunting and well-written beginning, rather than dragging on and becoming more and more unbelievable. I recommend this book for those of you who are bored or curious, with no other available option, but at least wait for the paperback version - don't waste your money hurrying to buy the hardcover.
To My Mother
By Aaron Smith

Throughout my life, you’ve always been my squire.
Unnourished now, my legs begin to tire.

I stumble, trying to evade pursuit.
My bravery has blossomed hardened fruit.

Had I been a sage, contained my rage, not fallen ploy,
Then would I have held my blade, insulted but devoid.

A brighter day, a lighter song I sang:
A melody untainted by disdain.

But alas, the wind has carried me away, onto another day,
I pray, but anxious thoughts remain.

Sad, I sigh inside:
Distraught, but glad to die with pride.

My debt’s repaid, so anoint me with your tears.
"'Tis best this way," the wind whispers in my ears.

Gentle Death
Anonymous

Gentle Death
She hides from us
Replaced by her bitter double
Who grows strong in times like these
I miss her sweet kisses goodbye
Instead screams and pain fill the air
Wake me
When the sadness disappears
why this discontent?
Anonymous

aching for something more
than the daily inflow, outflow
of people and thoughts,
words that connect
without connecting anyone
leave me standing more alone -
fumbling for two sentences worth of change
in a pocket full
of imperfections, doubts, refuse
of all the living i had or hadn't done
before -
came up empty,
stepped away embarrassed
for the stolen time,
no way to repay -
must be somewhere
mouth-tongue-words-voice
that belong to me,
will outline my body,
built bones, sculpt flesh,
render me opaque and concretized -
touchable.

If Life Were a Song
By Heather Bolstad

If life were a song,
Would it soar to the skies with glory on its lips,
Or would it tremble ominously like hurried whispers?
Would it skip gaily along,
Or would it meander meditatively like a stream?
Would it voice grace with every note, a sweet lullaby,
Or would it clang with dissonance harsh enough to raise the dead?
Would each sweet note fall on the ear like pearls on a thread,
Or would each chord sound pregnant with the wails of the mourning?
What would it be like, if life were a song?
Would it have extremes?
Or would it drone on?
A little of both, I fancy
But then, I have yet to finish composing.

the world didn't end
it will, not explode
to dust ashes falling from the
sky, earth, wind, ocean, even
ice and crust, abolishing life
here & there, forming anew conditions
for ripe and plentiful burdenment of
life-character theatre playing its
choreographed stereophonic types along
its narrow mindedly winding path
through never forgotten realms of chance
meeting and lucky strikeouts that
teach and inform you of your
sick little place in the everwidening
gaia galactic madness that
dwarfs every preconception you
ever made or held about life
characters and how they live.
SMARTER THAN THE AVERAGE BEAR?
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