

# Campus News

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

# TRIO: helping students succeed

**Ryan Henson**The Commuter

At the beginning of an orientation last Friday, Lynn Groshong asked those in attendance what they think the TRIO center offers students. The students said it is a place to "relax" and "be themselves." They said it is a place where they can get help and become successful students.

Groshong, a retention specialist at TRIO, agreed with these points and said that the best way to describe TRIO is as a "one-stop mentoring center."

The TRIO program, which offers student support services at both the Albany and Lebanon campuses, is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and offers students a variety

of services, including workshops, student mentoring, tutoring, help with transfers, financial aid and scholarship information, career and transfer counseling services and visitations to some of Oregon's four-year colleges.

"Our goal is to remove barriers to higher education by assisting students with all aspects of the college process," states TRIO's Web page. To qualify for the program, which is in its



From right to left: Kyle Chapin, Fox Mcallister, and Jerry Wilson hang out in the TRIO center

Photo by Eve Bruntlett

fifth year at LBCC, students must meet one of three criteria: being first generation college students, meeting federal guidelines for low-income households, or having a documented physical or learning disability. The program currently has a cap of 160 students.

At the orientation, Groshong offered advice to the students, telling them that they can speak with TRIO counselors before dropping and adding classes. She told them about TRIO's textbook library and that one textbook, if available, will be provided to each enrolled student per term—a savings that can total hundreds of dollars according to Groshong. Groshong says the students need the program and that the program needs students.

"In order for us to continue to get our grants, we have to meet certain benchmarks. We have to have so many students who graduate. We have to have a certain percentage of students who transfer to four-year schools," Groshong said.

Each student in TRIO meets with a TRIO adviser and completes a personal success plan—a facet that Groshong called the "core" of the program. The plans, which are created by the students, help them recognize specific academic goals and a path by which to accomplish those goals.

"We will do anything we can to help you," Groshong said. "If anything, when you have a question, come and ask ... we don't know all the answers but we do know where to find them, and we will try very hard to do that. That is really what we are all about."

For more information contact the Albany TRIO center at (541) 917-4993 or the Lebanon TRIO center at (541) 259-5776.

# LBCC: "We do have options"

## As student population rises, dean tells students to "be persistent"

**Max Brown**The Commuter

Still looking to sign up for classes? Afraid that rising student numbers will stop you from pursing your degree? LBCC says to keep your chin up and keep trying!

Student population is skyrocketing and classes have filled up fast. Recently a number of e-mails have been sent out to the campus encouraging advisers to do everything in their power to place new students on a path of success.

Angie Klampe sent out an e-mail on Sept. 9 warning staff of using the terms "full" or "closed" when talking about programs of study. She stated that "your program may be full, however the college is not full... we do have options. Please treat these students with compassion; for some of these students this is their last hope!"

Although some classes are full, there are

others that a student may take to complete their degree. Not only would registering for these classes get the student credits they need, but it would also open them up for earlier registration for winter term. By registering early, they will have a better chance of getting into classes they want.

Bruce Clemetsen, dean of student services, sent out an e-mail reinforcing what Klampe said.

"We must help those who do not find the classes they want be ready and successful at enrolling when winter term arrives."

The school is adding as many classes as they can to adapt to the growth in student numbers. Kristen Jones, dean of academic development, communication arts, and mathematics, says her division has added 25 sections due to the growing student population.

Jones suggests that, if you are on the wait-list for a class, you should show up with an add/drop form and get it signed by the instructor. She has also extended her advice out to staff,

encouraging them to sign up as many students as they can handle.

Jones encourages wait-listed students to be persistent and continue going to class for the first week. If there are any openings, the student is up to date and right there to fill the spot. She also says that it is a good idea for students who are already enrolled in a class to show up. This is because teachers may drop missing students sooner if they have other ones waiting to get in. If a student cannot make it in, they should e-mail the instructor before the class.

If a student has not yet signed up for classes, according to Jones, they should still go to their orientation. This is the best time to sign up for classes because you will have an adviser working with you. Also, she says that orientation is important in the long run. If a student does not attend orientation, the student will not be considered fully admitted at LBCC. This means that the student would only be able to take 11 credits a term and would not be able to get a degree until they complete orientation.

# Campus News

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

## We have a poet and now you know it

Max Brown
The Commuter

LBCC has chosen their second poet laureate!

The new poet laureate is Amy Earls, an avid poet and member of the poetry club. She is an English major who has been attending LBCC for four years. She has already earned one degree from the college.

Last year, LBCC picked their first poet laureate, Kaedence Eaton. The position was created after Rita Cavin, LBCC's president, had thought of the position in fall of 2008. In the spring of last year, the school started searching for a new poet laureate for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

At first, Earls was not planning on applying, but she was encouraged to by Robin Havenick, instructor and poetry club advisor at LBCC.

"Just the ideas of what can happen, and what I can share concerning poetry on campus, made me really enthusiastic to know I can make a difference in that area," Earls said.

Earls has been writing poetry since she was very young.

"I had a desire not to just read other people's works, but to create my own expression of how I saw everything and what I thought about things." She feels poetry was something that just came natural to her.

Havenick was delighted by how many people applied for the position. She believes this indicates a growing awareness and interest in poetry at the college. She added that many of the



**Poet Laureate Amy Earls** 

Photo provided by Amy Earls

applicants were amazing individuals, but felt Earl's qualities stood out the most.

"Amy distinguished herself because of her passion, her vision and the clarity of how she saw poetry being able to be a force in making poetry alive in other people's lives in our community. When she's talking about poetry, you feel her passion in the room," Havenick said.

She also said that Earls is a really remarkable poet, who is very involved in the poetry club and other poetry activities.

Earls plans to start a "poem of the week." These will have to do with both the time of year and what is happening around campus. She said these will be "inspiring words from people of the past that I think will really help students stay strong." She plans to have handouts of these and to have them posted different places at school.

So keep your eyes peeled around campus for new activities involving poetry!

Have a voice in poetry club. When: Monday, October 5 at 1 p.m. Where: Library reading room.

### Office Hours: Q&A with Gary Ruppert

Ryan Henson

The Commuter

Dean of Instruction Gary Ruppert was awarded the Distinguished Staff Award on LBCC's in-service day, Sept. 21. We decided to sit down and ask him a few questions.

### Q. What are all of your responsibilities here at LBCC?

A. I oversee a new program. I coordinate all the career technical programs and the alignment with the state that needs to happen with those. I oversee the budget expenditures and make sure things are in the right category. At our office here we do all the course outlines, instructor approvals and those types of things.

### Q: What other positions have you held here?

A: I was a faculty member for a number of years who taught music and speech communication and then was a dean of the global arts area.

### Q: Do you still teach?

A: Last time I had a class was maybe two years ago, so I still do a little here and there.

### Q: Do you miss it?

A: Not from the standpoint of on top of everything else. But I do miss that direct student connection.

### Q: How long have you been at LBCC?

A: I was here part time, so this will be my 35th year.

### Q: How have you seen LBCC change since you've been here?

A: Probably one of the biggest changes is when we got the degree partnership program up and running with OSU. Our average age has dropped dramatically on campus. And it's kind of interesting because this fall our average age has climbed back up again because there's so many displaced workers.

## Q: How do you feel about community colleges' role in this day and age?

A: I'm excited to see that finally community colleges are starting to get the recognition they deserve. Nationally they're seen as probably the number one place for getting people back to work. We've known that for years but no one else seemed to pay attention, so it's nice to see that. And that we fill multiple roles of workplace-related things, transfers, people who come just

to get one skill upgraded in a class, and that's all they came for.

### Q: If you could do anything, any job besides what you're doing right now, what would you be?

A: Uhh, professional traveler (laughs). I've got a lot of things that are hobbies that I love spending time doing but not necessarily as another career. I'd love being a



Dean of Instruction Gary Ruppert

Photo by Ryan Henson

chef. I'd love being, and have been, a professional musician. But none of those would I want to do on a full-time basis.

### Q: What kind of music do you play?

A: I'm a jazz pianist.

### Q: What are your visions for you and for LBCC for the future?

A: Probably, for LBCC, it would be trying to deal with 20% plus growth of students and a declining budget.

### Q: What about for you?

A: At some point in the not-too-distant future I will be retiring.

### Let the traveling begin...

(laughs) Exactly, let the traveling begin...

### Q: Where do you want to travel to?

A: There are places in the United States I have not been; I have not been to Europe. I've been just dying to go to Italy; somehow a month in Tuscany just sounds like a lot of fun.

Where to Find Gary Ruppert

Office: SSH-101A Phone: 917-4534

E-mail: garyruppert@linnbenton.edu

The Commuter Editor-In-Chief: Ryan Henson **Opinion Editor:** Adam LaMascus Newsroom Desk: 917-4451 E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

# **Opinion**

**Submissions to The Commuter:** E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu Drop-in: Forum 222

Adam LaMascus The Commuter

The youth of the United States find themselves in something of a catch-22. We live in a society where a college degree is needed for a rather sizable number of jobs, even ones where the knowledge you acquire wouldn't really help you. However, we also find ourselves in an economic recession, and of course, the US government is cutting costs. Ever wise, they of course slash budgets to education before just about anything else. This of course results in a general decrease of education as well as a decrease of available classes. In turn, this causes the costs of school to go up, while receiving an inferior quality of education.

Unfortunately, another side effect of the recession is, of course, people losing their jobs. Enrollment rates, at community colleges in particular, have skyrocketed as people go back to school, since they can't get jobs. As mentioned before, there are fewer classes available, so there is increased competition, and increased amounts of people unable to get classes. A friend of mine at Cal Poly Pomona was unable to get a single class this semester because there weren't enough classes in his department for all of the students. Also, since people are losing their jobs, they are finding themselves unable to afford the new, much higher tuition costs (take a look at LBCC's tuition last year and now, for an example that directly affects us).

The next step in this little merry-go-round of misery (would that be a misery-go-round?) is that with people unable to afford school due to loss of jobs, they have to take out loans and grants. However, the limited funds for the federal loans and grants aren't enough to cover all of the people as it is, let alone with the additional thousands of students . The other big option is private loans from banks. So now, people who are broke because they lost their jobs due to a financial crisis largely created by unreliable banks must give their meager savings back to the banks that caused the problem in the first place.

Lastly, and not least, there is the fact that people are often saddled with debt for decades after graduating college due to school loans. They need degrees to get the jobs that really give you the option of paying them off, but you aren't guaranteed them even if you do get a degree.

The point I am trying to make here is that while we argue about health care (which we do desperately need to reform), the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, gay rights, and the other host of topics frequently discussed in the public forum, we are neglecting education. Our schools are being given attention, just not enough.

Admittedly, the U.S. spends more money than almost any other country on education, yet we still lag behind many other developed nations in the quality of education. So even with all of our spending, we have mediocre education, and yet we cut it. Our educational system needs to spend smarter, and not have its costs cut. In the end, we need to reform education just as much, if not more, than we need to reform health care.

## Every child left behind Advice from Weiss

**Mark Weiss** 

For The Commuter

Dear Readers.

The purpose of this column is to answer questions students may have about advising and academic concerns, where to turn for help, and how to be successful as a student. Since this is the first week of class, there aren't, of course, any questions in yet. So I thought I would start with a little advice about getting started at LBCC in what is shaping up to be the largest, busiest term in college history.

First, know where to find help. LBCC has created a new First Stop in the middle of Takena Hall, next to Admissions and the Career Center. Patti Ball, and the other kind and knowledgeable folks at the First Stop, know the college backwards and forwards and if they don't know the answer to your question they will know who does. You will either get your questions answered there, or you will be directed to the right place to get the help you need.

There are many other places on campus that students can find help. Our library is located right in the center of the college, just off the courtyard. Folks there are helpful and they have several computers for student use.

Just above the library is our Learning Center, where you will find academic help of all kinds. Tutoring for literally every class on campus, a math help desk, a writing help desk and much more, all wait for you in the Learning Center.

Student Life and Leadership has an office just off the courtyard, near the Hot Shot Café. In addition to helping to answer your questions, they provide opportunities in student leadership, campus projects, and much more.

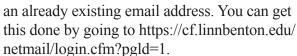
Students with documented disabilities can get help by contacting the Office of Disability Services in RCH-114, (541) 917-4789.

And then, of course, the Career and Counseling Center, at the front of Takena Hall, is here to help you with any difficulty that you are experiencing, plus job placement help, career testing, career information, scholarship searches, career counseling, academic advising for undecided students and computers available for your use.

Another thing students should think of doing in the first week: make sure you know how to use the online Student Information System (SIS). This is where you can add and drop classes, check your financial aid, your transcript and grades, and update your personal information. Any of the folks in the offices I

> mentioned could help you get logged on, if you aren't already familiar with the system.

It is very helpful if you create a student email account. If your teachers, or the college, have an important message for you, this is how they will try to reach you. These accounts can be set up so they go straight into



A wise person once said, "Showing up is 80% of success." I don't know if the percent is completely right on, but for students, showing up is certainly critical to your success. Show up for class. Show up during your instructor's office hours to ask questions and get guidance about the classes you are taking. And show up for the help and services you need. There is a lot of help available to you at LBCC, you just need to come through the door of those waiting to give it to you. We want you to be successful here.

Finally, this really is the largest term in the history of our college. Students are bound to feel frustrated with trying to get into classes, and instructors are bound to feel pressured by all the people trying to talk to them about classes. These first couple of weeks will be stressful for us all, so let's be kind and patient with one another. If we all do our best, and assume that others are truly doing their best as well, we will make our way through these uncharted waters together.

Mark Weiss has been a counselor and adviser at LBCC for 20 years. Please send your questions to mark.weiss@ linnbenton.edu



Counselor Mark Weiss

### Submit to The Commuter!

commuter@linnbenton.edu 541-917-4451 Forum 222

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not express the views of The Commuter, its staff, or Linn-Benton Community College.

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Ryan Henson
Opinion Editor: Adam LaMascus
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

# **Opinion**

Submissions to The Commuter: E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu Drop-in: Forum 222

# Health: U.S., open your wallet

**Lydia Elliot**For the Commuter

The American people have long been known to be some of the most generous in the world. Every year we give billions to charity, to the homeless, and to foreign countries in need after floods, earthquakes, and other disasters. In fact, Americans are so generous that, according to the Giving USA Foundation, Americans gave \$300 billion last year alone, enough to count as 2.2 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. In fact, drowning in medical costs of my own, I gave \$5 to a man on the street in Portland whose sign simply read, "need money for space ship repairs." I knew he didn't have a car, let alone a space ship, but I said the money was for making me smile. And considering his hat full of spare change and dollar bills, I wasn't the only one.

In a country so generous, I am having a hard time understanding what the fuss is over health care reform. Americans give, and give, and give. According to the US Census Bureau records, we gave \$700 billion to bailout the banks, more than \$500 million to Israel, millions more to other foreign allies, billions bailing out the failing auto industry, and finally, last year alone we spent \$1.2 trillion dollars fighting the war in Iraq. That's enough money to make my head spin. So why are we handing over our tax dollars to be spent on war, bailouts, and so-called foreign allies, and not our own friends and neighbors?

The cost of Obama's health care reform does not include numbers we've never seen before, or spent on less important things. In fact, unlike our other expenses, Obama's plan seeks to finance itself, relying very little on tax payer funding. According to the White House, the money comes from where it already exists in our system, among the top 3 percent of wage earners, existing profits from Medicare and Medicaid, two public plans already proven to be essential and beneficial to the American people, and from the decreased cost of all those previously uninsured people finally receiving early care instead of becoming so ill they must visit an overcrowded emergency room just for some antibiotics or blood pressure

medication.

So where is all the hostility coming from? Who are these people that have suddenly emerged, so afraid that someone might come in the night and give health care to American's in need? Where were these people when we gave billions to the banks, or spent trillions on war and countries they will most likely never visit? No, these outrageous expenses don't seem to bother these people one bit. As one self-professed Republican friend put it, he "didn't want to spend his money

on people who weren't his problem." In other words, he doesn't give a s\*\*t about you, your sick grandma, or anyone else outside his selfish little circle. And that is who the opponents of health care reform are: the selfish minority who don't want to spend money they will never have on people like you and me, and themselves, if they would stop waiving their Obama=Hitler signs long enough to think about it.

Obviously some complain about the top 3 percent having to shoulder the burden for the rest of us, but I don't think they would miss that one new Louis Vuitton purse amongst all their others just because they had to give a little extra. And I hate to break it to you fellow students, but work as hard as you can, and you will still most likely never come near to being in the top 3 percent. No, you

ONE IS HERE FOR A CHECK-UP...THE OTHER TWO WANT TO TALK ABOUT OBAMA'S HEALTH CARE PLAN!

POCTOR

POCTOR

TRIBUNE NCOIA
TRIBUNE NCOIA
TSERVICES 9/09

will be down with the rest of us who need this plan. So please, don't worry about spending money you will never have. Instead, give what you have, and be thankful we have a country so great we (mostly) want to take care of all our people.

Americans, you are generous, good people. Every day we prove that we care about others, and that we know what is right. Don't let the selfish minority waving their signs and spouting their nightmarish lies tell you that health care for all is not right, and not what this country needs. Americans should keep being the generous, giving people we are, and take this opportunity to keep a little of that good-will and generous spirit here in our own back yards.

## Get thee to the opera

**Brandon Goldner**For the Commuter

For the better part of my life, the word "opera" conjured images of men in tuxedos, their wives holding opulent viewing glasses, little finger outstretched. It seemed kind of stuffy and dull; it wasn't really for me.

But I had always liked music and going to the movies if there was anything good playing. In fact, I preferred watching a film at the theater, because there was something about having hundreds of people in a darkened space all following the same story. The images and sounds pulled you in, and your reaction wasn't just shared by you and your loved ones, but by the strangers on either side (or even at the other end of the theater).

Considering all of that, what follows really doesn't seem as big of a surprise as I thought it would be, and here it is: you need to go the opera.

Grab some decent clothes and get a move on, because, contrary to what you'd think, you really don't need to be dressed in your grandfather's mothballed three-piece suit to fit in. I saw plenty of guys who, like me,

were wearing some decent pants and a button-up shirt. Sure, there was some style, but I never got a sideways glance. It wasn't like having your top button undone at the country club, something for which I have been barked at on one of my few visits there.

And once you get to the window, you'll get another surprise: the tickets are pretty cheap, if you do it the right way. Some of you may be familiar with the term "rush tickets," which is where the unsold tickets for the night at practically given away just before show time in an effort to fill all the empty seats.

For the opera we saw, Portland Opera's "La Bohème," rush tickets were only available to seniors, military personnel, and students an hour before curtains. We were able to sneak in with about 15 minutes to spare for just \$10 apiece, which is an incredible deal. I gladly would have paid the minimum \$40 each ticket would have cost otherwise,

but I don't think I would have been able to afford it.

By the time we got to our seats, the lights had already begun to dim, telling everyone to turn their cell phones off and get ready for the performance, which was, in a word, spectacular. The moment the maestro begins cueing the orchestra, you can feel something in the air. It's electric. The sound is like nothing I've ever heard: resonant and booming, and 100% authentic. Dolby's got nothing on what this felt like. The set design was unbelievable, truly insane. Two stories tall, and everything looked real. And the

performers! No way are human beings able to do what they're doing! And it was hilarious too, at least before the story took a turn for the tragic.

In Italian, the words flowed like water. Without mention of just how much more melodic a language it is than English, I liked being able to decide whether or not to actually follow what was being said, and more be taken for a ride with the sound and spectacle of it all. There was a narrow screen far above the stage that had the English translation which, much like a subtitled movie, wasn't even noticed after the first few lines.

Did I mention it was funny? I really didn't think I would be able to connect with the material, but I did, and I loved it. It makes it easy to appreciate the entire performance when you can actually see the music being conducted and performed. In short, there was nothing about the experience I didn't like, with one marked exception: the women in front of us with the cell phone. She actually was TALKING ON THE PHONE after intermission, during the performance. Are you kidding? And on top of that, near the climax of the final act, she was TEXTING,

which sent an uneasy blue-green blob of light in our direction, and pulled me out of the moment. Poor form, lady! This is the opera, not your daughter's dance recital!

And honestly, even if it had been a recital, show some class; because even if going to the opera isn't an ultra-formal, 19th-century aristocratic outing of our long-held stereotypes, it deserves your respect.

# Campus News

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

## We're back

LB students return for another

fun-filled fall term

photo essay by Eve Bruntlett and Jonathan Ginn



The fall term is alive again and campus is back to its usual hustle and bustle. Ronda Lockheart (right) is already feeling the weight of school with a few bags full of textbooks. Because of a 20 percent increase in full-time students, (top) campus has become rather crowded. So, to combat a shortage in parking, the lawn was used as over flow parking.





The art faculty are opening the fall term with their annual exhibit in the South Santiam Hall Gallery on LBCC's Albany campus. The exhibit runs through Oct. 29. Gallery hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact the gallery at (541) 917-4247.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, LBCC will exhibit the artwork of Humberto

Gonzalez and Yolanda Valdés in the LBCC North Santiam Hall Gallery through November 23.

The graduation deadline has been changed to the 4th week of the term prior to a student's last term. Deadlines for each term can be found online at www.linnbenton.edu/go/

graduation.

The theatre will be holding a talent call/open house this Thursday, October 1 from noon to 1 p.m. and Friday, October 2 from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Bruce Peterson at (541) 917-4554.

The Diversity Achievement Center will be showing the movie "A day Without a Mexican," part 1 on Monday October 5 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. The film is part of a series of movies that will be shown on Mondays throughout the term.

The American Association of Woman in Community Colleges LBCC Chapter will be holding a silent auction in order to raise money for student scholarships in the courtyard on Wednesday, October 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The class Business
Basics for Business Owners and
Managers will be offered fall
term. The five-week class will meet
on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
starting on Oct. 12 in room CC213. The class costs \$99. For more
information or to register, contact
the Small Business Management
Center at (541) 917-4923.

**The LBCC Benton Center** 

will host a ceramics workshop
with local ceramic artist Terry
Inokuma on Friday, Oct. 16 and
Saturday, Oct. 17. For more
information or to register, contact
Lin Olson at (541) 757-8944, ext.
5114, or Jay Widmer (541) 7578944, ext. 5106.

Phagans Cosmetology
Colleges will be having one of

Colleges will be having one of their "Marathon Service days" for "Passionately Pink for the Cure," an awareness and fundraising program benefiting Susan G. Komen, on Friday, Oct. 30, from 9 a.m, to 5 p.m. Please join them at 1565 S.W. 53rd Street in Corvallis.

If you have a Campus Short, please e-mail them to Commuter@linnbenton.edu.



## Feature

Welcome Back! Here are some survival tips from your friends at *The Commuter* 

Page 7

## Staying on track: A path to graduation

Max Brown
The Commuter

"Dude, I am taking underwater basket weaving!" "Is that needed for your degree?"

"Uh ... I dunno."

To save time and money it's best to know what you need to graduate, but where and how can you find this information?

Mark Weiss, career counselor at LBCC, says, "the single best resource we have for students is that every faculty member on campus has office hours," and at LBCC all teachers have advising in their contract. Weiss suggests that students find teachers that are in their field of study and that they trust.

An adviser will help students pick out classes, figure out what else they need to graduate and help students make a two-year plan. This is Weiss' favorite method to make sure students stay on track because it makes a "connection to a person who becomes invested in your success."

Weiss says it's best to meet often and discuss a student's plan and the progress they are making toward completing it. This makes

sure the student is on track and also gives another set of eyes in case the student has missed something. Advisers also have plenty of experience with this and know what mistakes to look for.

Another boon to meeting with an adviser is that they can choose to offer

course substitutions if the student shows significant skill with certain areas. An adviser might see that a student already knows everything from a basic required class, so they would be able to set them in a more advanced class that will count toward the degree.

In the class catalog, and online, a student can find each degree with a list of classes needed

to obtain the degree. While one could just use this to figure out what classes they need, Weiss advises against this just in case the student were to miss something, and he

feels these don't clearly display the exact way classes must be completed. Weiss suggests that students get a graduation worksheet for their degree. Any adviser can print a copy of these, or they can be found on the LBCC website: www.linnbenton. edu/admissions/

gradworksheets.html. The value in these graduation worksheets is that a student will need to fill one out to actually graduate. As a student advances in college they will check off the classes they have taken and be able to see what else they need.

Weiss said undecided students should work with the career center in Takena 101, as they don't have a field of study yet. According to Weiss, by the time they decide their degrees they have worked with several teachers and will have figured out who they would like to work with. He says the transmission process is usually a smooth one.

LBCC offers some classes centered around career planning, and Weiss suggests undecided students look into taking these.

"The goal of a career planning class is to help narrow down the choices, if not make the choice," Weiss said.

They include career tests, career information, guest speakers and other things to help students choose where they want to go in college and in life. Weiss says they have a one credit "mini-course" in college planning aimed at undecided students. This course is called College Planning for Undecided Students."

So the bottom line is that LBCC has the resources if a student needs it, all they need to do is seek it out.

### A teacher's worst nightmare

Rick Casillas for The Commuter

There are a few things nobody likes to hear their first day of school, and teachers are no different. So if you plan on staying on the good side of your educators, keep your voice down avoid these commonly misspoken phrases when in the presence of human beings.

- 1. "This is great! They didn't let us have pencils in prison!"
- 2. "Oh yeah? Well maybe *you're* in the wrong classroom!"
- 3. "Personally I find pants cumbersome and lacking in adequate ventilation."
- 4. "There aren't any children within 50 feet of this class are there?"
- 5. "Yes I have a question about the homework. Will you be walking to your car alone tonight?"

## Five classes LBCC should offer

The Commuter

### **RD211 - Lip reading for iPod listeners**

With this class, students will no longer need to take out their earbuds for those pesky people who want to communicate.

By hands-on learning, role-play activities and real-world experience, students will learn to fake it and make it, becoming a productive member of society with a Jay-Z soundtrack.

### PE164 - The walk of shame

This self-directed class is for those people out here who would like to take advantage of all that a risky sexual lifestyle has to offer and get fit while doing it. While learning how to simultaneously build and destroy their self-esteem, they will learn that they are nothing but mere objects with no feelings. Why walk on a treadmill when you can just walk home from a frat party?

### MTH114 - Bar-ithmetic

After a few weeks in this class students will learn that

the amount of time they spend talking to the ugly friend is actually a function of how hot the person your friend is talking to. What about bar tabs? If you offer your friend a drink and he waits until after happy hour, how much of the cost are you now responsible for?

### **ENG 132.5 - Avoiding plagiarism in college papers**

Plagiarism, as defined in the 1995 Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary, is the "use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author

and the representation of them as one's own original work."[1] Within academia, plagiarism by students, professors, or researchers is considered academic dishonesty or academic fraud and offenders are subject to academic censure, up to and including expulsion. In journalism, plagiarism is considered a breach of journalistic ethics, and reporters caught plagiarizing typically face disciplinary measures anging from suspension to termination. (We totally

ranging from suspension to termination. (We totally did not steal this from Wikipedia, honest!)

### HPE134 - Putting down your cell phone

This self-help workshop will help students put down their obsessions and carry on with the rest of their lives. Remember when you only checked your status updates once a day? Remember when you only checked your status updates once every ten minutes? We will help you get back to this place. Besides, no one cares about all your stupid apps.



# **Opinion**

Submissions to The Commuter: E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu Drop-in: Forum 222

## Back in the day

Adam LaMascus
The Commuter

### This week in history...

September 27, 1821 - All your base are not belong to us...

Mexico gains its independence from Spain after a long insurgency that was nearly defeated multiple times by the Spanish occupation force.

September 28, 48 BC - Keep your friends close...
A former ally of Julius Caesar, Pompey the Great is defeated by Caesar in a civil war and flees to Egypt.
Upon arrival, Pharaoh Ptolemy XIII has Pompey assassinated in the hopes of earning the favor of the victorious Caesar. The plan backfires, and Caesar becomes enraged when given Pompey's head.
Ptolemy's sister Cleopatra (*the* Cleopatra) figures out that giving Caesar sex was a better way of winning his favor than a friend's head.

## September 29, 1916 - Pass go, collect \$318.3 billion...

John D. Rockefeller becomes the world's first billionaire. Amusingly enough, the Communist Party chooses this day 33 years later to write a treatise on the future of communism in China.

## September 30, 1938 - Dirty appeasers, energizing and legitimizing...

At 2 a.m., Neville Chamberlain of England, Edouard Daladier of France, Benito Mussolini of Italy and Adolf Hitler of Germany sign the Munich Agreement (also known as the "Munich Betrayal"). This agreement effectively gives half of Czechoslovakia to Germany.

### October 1, 1827 - A millennium later...

Russian forces storm the city of Yerevan. This marks the first time in over a thousand years that Christian Armenia is not being ruled by Muslims.

### October 2, 1187 - Role reversal...

Saladin captures Jerusalem after a 12 day siege. This is the first time in 88 years that Jerusalem is not being ruled by Christians. This defeat prompts the Third Crusade as the Christians attempt to recapture the city.

## October 3, 52 BC - France is conquered for the first time...

After being defeated by the Romans in a truly epic battle at the siege of Alesia, leader of the Gauls, Vercingetorix (there's a heck of a name), surrenders to Julius Caesar. The conquest of Gaul (France) results in a huge increase of power and prestige for Caesar, and this new power results in the tension and eventual conflict between Pompey the Great and Caesar.

### Thought for the week:

"We have not to fear anything except fear itself."
-Gaius Julius Caesar

## A search for the truth

**Ryan Henson**The Commuter

For an indefinite amount of time, a friend of mine has decided to no longer read any newspapers, check any online news sources, listen to any talk radio or watch any cable news broadcasts.

"All you hear are the same talking points over and over again," she explained with a sigh. "That's not information. That's not news."

I have to admit my friend's media fast sounds temptingly refreshing. It would be a relief to jump away from the slants, to jump away from the verbal and written ideological rants of commentators like Anne Coulter, Arianna Huffington, Sean Hannity and Chris Matthews, to jump away from Republican and Democratic strategists; to simply turn off the TV, tune out the radio, fold up the paper and close out the browser. Who knows? I might just get a good night's sleep for once.

Unfortunately, as an aspiring journalist and believer that it's our responsibility as citizens to be informed, I can't do this. So, how do people like me weed out the biased jabberwocky? How do we move away from the polar philosophies and into the center where we can shake our sticks at the objective truths?

1. Understand the media: according to Rob Priewe, the journalism instructor at LBCC and staff advisor for the Commuter, people need to understand that the "media is a business" and one of its main concerns is trying to build up and maintain a following. The media outlets decide their degree of credibility, and we need to be careful when deciding what to believe. We need to become, as Priewe puts it, "savvy information gatherers."

2. Look in a bunch of different places to find the whole story: If you're a liberal, don't just watch MSNBC. If you're a conservative, don't just watch Fox News. These are biased news outlets. To get a better outlook on things, leave your ideological comfort zones. "Too often we get locked into the same sources of information, which

can restrict the points of view we

read, see and hear," Priewe says.

"It's immensely beneficial to be

aware of what all sides are saying, especially on controversial issues, such as health care, the bailout, and spending on higher education."

3. Know the difference between news and commentary: WHAT happened is the news. WHY someone thinks that something happened is commentary. For instance, President Obama saying that Cambridge police "acted stupidly" by arresting Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. is news. Glenn Beck saying that President Obama has a "deep-seeded hatred for white people" because he said that Cambridge police "acted stupidly" by arresting Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. is commentary.

4. Do some fact checking: there are plenty of fact-checking sites out there – with FactCheck.org and PolitiFact.com being the most reputable. PolitiFact.com, which is maintained by the St. Petersburg Times, even won the Pulitzer Prize in 2009. Beware: according to the article "Political Fact-Check Sites Proliferate, But Can They Break Through the Muck?" by Mark Glase, which appears on PBS.org, some fact-check sites can be just as biased as the organizations they are fact checking. For instance, Newsbusters.org leans to the right and Mediamatters.org leans to the left.

5. When watching or reading the "news", ask yourself some simple questions: Provided by Soundingcircle.com, these questions can help determine if you were given a biased perspective:

Were you told... Who has a different view of the events? What part of the story was speculation? Where opposing viewpoints can be found? What political gain is possible? Why no challenge has been offered?



### PERSPECTIVES:

What was your biggest regret over the summer?



Cassie Daneke

Pre-Med

"I wish I had spent more time with my mom."



Jennifer Thrall

Undecided

"I wish I had used my free time to experience new things."



Cassie Powell Speech Pathology

"I wish I had traveled more."



**Katie Landgren**History

"I wish I hadn't worked so much."



Chelsea Mespelt

Animal Tech-Horse Management

"I wish I had gone camping more."



**Q**ueten Wahlert

Business

"I don't regret traveling Europe this summer."

Compiled by Matt Deboot. Photos by Eve Bruntlett. The views expressed in Perspectives do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter staff.

## Letters

Letters to the editor. These do not reflect the views of the Commuter staff.

### Letter from poet laureate

Dear Students and Staff:

The

It is with great honor and excitement that I endeavor on this new adventure of being LBCC's second Poet Laureate. I expect only great things to come from it and from all of you as you continue to inspire poems and join with me in seeing poems come to life. Poetry and I go way back. Long before I knew its name I felt it in things and people around me, I experienced poetry in beauty.

I have seen intense beauty at LBCC. I see it every day in faces and friends and the vast landscaped nature that surrounds the premises. It is my goal to evoke that beauty in such a way that we see it, not just on paper in books that remain on shelves for far too long or on displays in the library or in a literature class; but it is my hope that we see poetry put to action, that you will begin to catch my vision and see that poetry is felt in sadness and happiness, in love and hate, in future dreams and present engagements. Poetry is life.

One of my goals for this year is to bring poetry to you. I am planning on having a poem of the week that will hopefully land in each and every one of your hands. I will set the poem of the week in the Commons, hallways, potentially classrooms, the Learning Center, and hopefully various other places.

I want words of inspiration to be on every corner of campus, words of encouragement from many great people that will bring a smile to your face. Another great aspect of poetry is that, although poets live and die, their words never do, and those great words have a chance to dwell in your daily thoughts and actions.

There are many other ideas I'm working on, such as starting a computer forum where all of you can share poems with each other, having a few events on campus, and starting a poetry tree that will be on display in the library for Poetry Month. We'll see what other ideas will be brought to mind and action!

If you have any ideas that you would love to see happen concerning poetry or would like to help be involved with events, please contact me at earlsa@ml.linnbenton.edu. You can also see your own poems in the Commuter by e-mailing your poems to Robin Havenick at Robin.Havenick@linnbenton.edu.

I look forward to a great year with numerous blossomed poems!

Your Poet Laureate, Amy Earls

## Poetry corner

For My People by Amy Earls

For my people scrounging for truth, for clarity, for freedom, searching in the yesterday's and today's and tomorrow's, never ending never knowing, never finding the answers to poverty, racism, school shootings, politics, death, hostility, despair, rejection, restriction, pain and triumph.

For my people stuck on hands and knees on kitchen floors crawling and praying and scrubbing and seeking and weeping and dying and picking up crumbs and finding lost money and dreaming of walking and children make-believing they're someone else or somewhere else or lost.

For my people begging for more time to laugh to cry to vent to talk to sleep to love to ponder to study to live to pay rent and heat and taxes and food and gas and clothes and debt and cable and Verizon and credit and movies and friends, trying not to spoil their children who want to feel free from abuse and

insecurity and lack of attention and hunger and divorce and war and abandonment and lies.

For my people who are alone today and afraid of being alone tomorrow, trying to find a place in all people, all races, all differences, all unity in every face and every shade of skin of every man and woman of our America.

For my people who are holding fast to dreams and inspirations and chances and beauty, dancing and singing and celebrating our discoveries.

Let this beauty find its place in hearts, homes, schools,

jobs, freedom. Let us prepare for change in love and community and hope. Let us find happiness in the individual wonders that we are and embrace ourselves. Let us continue to "rise and take control."



### THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

**Editor-in-Chief:** Ryan Henson

Managing Editor: Max Brown

**Photo Editor:** Eve Bruntlett

**Opinion Editor:** Adam LaMascus

Online Editor: Jon Neuneker Ashley Christie

Adviser:
Rob Priewe

Frank Warren

**Copy Editors:**Gary Brittsan, Pamela Moeller

**Advertising Manager:** 

**Digital Page Designer:** 

Addrage http://commuter.lin

Web Address: http://commuter.linnbenton.edu Phone: (541) 917-4451, 4452 or 4453 Fax: (541) 917-4454 Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd. Albany, OR 97321

### Letters Welcome

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. The Commuter attempts to print all submissions received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter submitters do not represent the views of the Commuter staff or the College. Deliver letters to The Commuter Office, Forum 222 or at commuter@ ml.linnbenton.edu



Follow The Commuter on Facebook & Twitter

latest news. Plus, check our website for more stories,

pictures, videos, and blogs at *lbcommuter.com*.

Tell us what you're thinking and keep up-to-date on the



### Classifieds

### **Help Wanted**

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student and graduate jobs. For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

Part-time Child Care Positions (#7572, Albany) Two shifts (Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-12 and Mon-Thur 4:30-7:30 p.m.) working at a gym.

Must have CPR/First Aid and experience with childcare or elementary education. Discount on products and free membership.

**Part-time Personal Trainer** (#7574, Albany) Work for a gym for approx. 20 hrs/week. \$8.40/ hr plus commission, free membership and discount on products.

Front Desk/Customer Service (#7571, Albany) Do you have customer service, cash register and health & fitness experience? This is the closing shift at a gym. \$8.40/hr plus membership and discounts.

Interested in learning about Apprenticeship

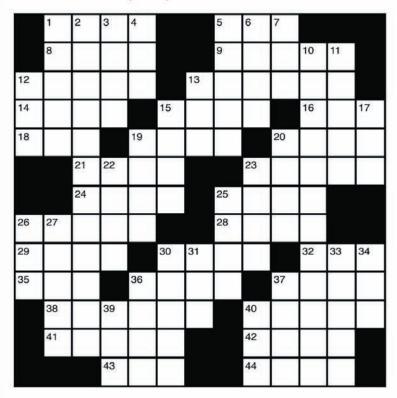
Programs? Join us for an informative presentation focusing on training opportunities in Oregon and Washington on Friday, Oct. 2 9:15-11:15 a.m. at the Central Electrical Training Center, 33309 Hwy 99E, Tangent (south of LBCC).

# Surreal Living

Crosswords, cartoons and some fun facts to brighten your day.

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



#### **ACROSS**

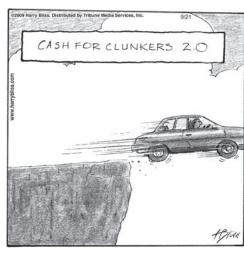
- Role for Judd Hirsch on "Numb3rs"
- "The Couple"
- 8 "Larry King\_
- 9 "CSI: 12 Performed
- 13 Actress Ethel
- 14 Specks 15 Actor Nicolas
- 16 Actress Merkel
- 18 \_\_ Mineo 19 Plato or Delany
- 20 "Dharma & \_\_\_"
  21 Perón and Gabor
- \_ Boothe Luce
- 24 Bowler's targets
- 25 Worry
- 26 Eyeglasses, for short 28 Actress Anderson
- 29 \_\_ vera 30 Undergarment
- 32 "Mike Hammer, Private
- \_ of the World"; Sigourney Weaver movie
- 36 Perched on

### Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

| T | 1 | М |   | Т | R | Е | A | T |   | F | В | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Α | S | Α |   | Н | Е | L | L | 0 |   | Α | R | C |
| s | L | Y |   | Е | L | L | Е | Ν |   | Т | 1 | Е |
| ĸ | Е | В | Α | В |   |   |   | 1 | Т | Н | Α | D |
|   | Т | Е | R | 1 | Н | Α | T | С | Н | Е | R |   |
|   |   |   | 1 | G | 0 | Т | 0 |   | Y | R | S |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | R | Е | N |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | С | A | T |   | S | Α | Y | S | 0 |   |   |   |
|   | Н | 0 | W | 1 | Е | М | Α | N | D | E | L |   |
| Р | Ε | R | 0 | Т |   |   |   | Α | D | D | Е | F |
| L | Е | Т |   | Α | В | Α | С | K |   | D | Α | E |
| Е | R | Α |   | L | Α | 1 | N | Ε |   | Ť | ٧ | E |
| A | S | S |   | Υ | Α | R | N | S |   | E | Е | L |

- 37 Rugged cliff
- 38 John Ratzenberger's role on "Cheers"
- \_\_, em, \_\_!" \_, Indiana" tar " "Book 'em,
- 42 "Star
- 43 O'Neill and Bradley
- 44 Utters

- World's third-largest producer of aluminum
- \_, Big World"
- 3 5th and Pennsylvania: abbr. 4 "\_\_ and Stacey"
- Last letter of the Greek alphabet
- Very urgent
- Aswan or Hoover
- 10 Actress on "ER" 11 Located near the center
- 12 Commercials
- 13 "The \_\_ from U.N.C.L.E."
  15 Elliot of The Mamas & the Papas
- 17 Years lived 19 Rowan and Rather
- 20 "The \_\_ Campbell Goodtime Hour"
- 22 "Miami 23 Cut off short
- 25 "The \_\_ Wilson Show"
- 26 Ally Walker's lead role on "Profiler"
- "Melrose
- 30 Homes for pigs
- Chaney or his son
- 33 Richard Gere movie nominated
- for a Golden Globe Award 34 Sense of self-esteem
- 36 Eager
- One of the twins on "Jon & Kate Plus 8"
- 40 Sobering-up woes, for short
- 39 "The Boys \_\_ Back"





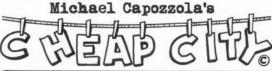




It's NOT a "Frivolous Lawsuit" -if it's important to YOU!







In NEGOTIATION, balls and tenacity count as much as skill!



Michael Capozzola's

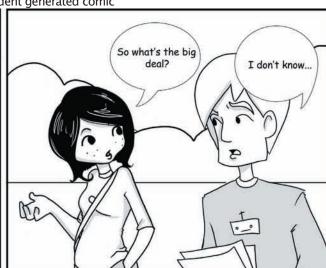


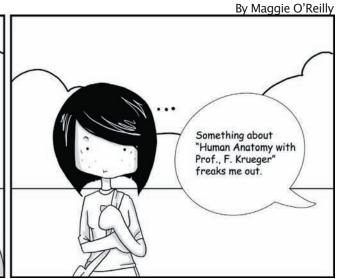
Save on dinner and drinks -by combining them ..!



An LBCC student generated comic







## A&E

Reviews, upcoming events, and the cure for weekend boredom.

# Student artist featured at Fall Festival

**Lacy Jarrell** for The Commuter

Art faculty member Analee Fuentes remarks of student artist Gabrielle Snider, "It is hard to isolate what's so unique about her work because she is just so outstanding. Her work is interesting and creative."

It is for this outstanding achievement in art that Gabrielle Snider, known to her friends as Gabi, was honored as the featured student artist this year in Corvallis' 37th

annual Fall Festival.

Last weekend,
Snider's mono-chromatic
painting entitled "She
Can't Save You" was on
display at the Corvallis
Public Library as part of
a 36-piece Fall Festival
invitational exhibit
designed to highlight
exceptional local artists
in the community. The
30" by 48" acrylic on
wood painting, she says,
was inspired by a friend

and reflects the knowledge that "other people cannot save you from yourself." As a student of LBCC for the last two years, Snider has participated in various student art shows, but she confesses that "being invited to participate in the Fall Festival is a



"The job of artists is to hold a mirror up to society. Art has a reflective role; it transcends language."

Gabrielle Snider

save you.

Sample of Snider's art. "She can't

tremendous honor."

It is perhaps her extensive history in art, formal and informal, that has given her work a presence that surpasses academic exercises and has landed her the invitation offered to only one student per year at LBCC. Originally from Arizona, Snider began working with pottery and paints at an early age. As her artistic abilities matured, she began to move in a new creative direction and began tattooing.

Although her 10-year career as a tattoo artist was rewarding, Snider's interest eventually came back full circle to painting and drawing. "The job of artists," she verbally contemplates, "is to hold a mirror up to society. Art has a reflective role; it transcends language. Art has an emotional power over us; it can reflect the best of us and the worst."

Self described as a pop modern artist, Snider acknowledges that growing up in the Southwest has influenced an interest in Hispanic culture, a theme that continually inspires her.

The Fall Festival, which features art exhibits ranging from handmade soaps to exotic wood creations, began collaborating with LBCC about four years ago. Festival Director Cynthia Spencer-Hadlock began working closely with staff to create a linkage between students and the established art community as a way of encouraging students and exposing them to the world of professional art.

Students are chosen by faculty consensus and according to faculty member Fuentes, "It is Gabi's ability to personalize her work with such a unique calligraphic mark that sets her work apart from others."

Currently, Snider lives in Corvallis and is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Printmaking while dual enrolled in the LBCC / OSU degree partnership. "The thing that I like about printmaking," she states, "is the ability to disseminate information cheaply and in mass ...

whether it's books or plates or posters; something that is thought-provoking to the masses." She hopes to continue creating art that interests as well as challenges people.

If you missed Fall Festival, you can check out Gabrielle Snider's art in this year's Day of the Dead La Tiendita Store in North Santiam Hall later this month. Her hand-created candles and buttons will be on display, as well as for sale.

### The top 5...

Adam LaMascus

The Commuter

#### **Top 5 Video Games:**

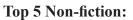
Vgchartz.com

- 1. Marvel: Ultimate Alliance 2 (Xbox 360)
- 2. Marvel: Ultimate Alliance 2 (PS3)
- 3. Wii Sports Resort (Wii)
- 4. Mario & Luigi: Bowser's Inside Story (DS)
- 5. Scribblenauts (DS)

### **Top 5 Fiction:**

USA Today

- 1. The Lost Symbol, Dan Brown
- 2. The Last Song, Nicholas Sparks
- 3. New Moon, Stephanie Meyer
- 4. Eclipse, Stephanie Meyer
- 5. Twilight, Stephanie Meyer



USA Today

- 1. True Compass, Edward M. Kennedy
- 2. What Happy Working Mothers Know, Cathy L. Greenberg, Barrett S. Avigdor
- 3. Glenn Beck's Common Sense, Glenn Beck
- 4. Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman, Jon Krakauer
- 5. Official Book Club Selection: A Memoir According to Kathy Griffin, Kathy Griffin

### Top 5 Songs:

Billboard.com

- 1. "I Gotta Feeling" (The Black Eyed Peas)
- 2. "Run this Town" (Jay-Z, Rihanna, Kanye West)
- 3. "Down" (Jay Sean)
- 4. "You Belong with Me" (Taylor Swift)
- 5. "Empire State of Mind" (Jay-Z, Alicia Keys)

### **Top 5 Box Office:**

Imdb.com

- 1. "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"
- 2. "Surrogates"
- 3. "Fame"
- 4. "The Informant!"
- 5. "Tyler Perry's: I Can Do Bad All
- By Myself"

### **Top 5 Rentals:**

Imdb.com

- 1. "X-Men Origins: Wolverine"
- 2. "State of Play"
- 3. "Crank: High Voltage"
- 4. "Next Day Air"
- 5. "Duplicity"



### **Weekly Weather Predictions**

