

# THE COMMUTER

Your Community Compass

COMMUTER.LINNBENTON.EDU

## Chefs Show Off

Marcea Palmer

Staff Photographer

**F**our Chefs from around the area competed Sunday in the Ten Rivers Food Web Chef Show-Off at LBCC's Calapooia Center. The event featured local women farmers and growers, bakers, and chefs from the Valley and Coastal region, as well as many local breweries and wineries all coming out to celebrate food.

As Oregon approached its 100th year of involvement in Women's Suffrage, the event was meant to showcase local women, who not only farm to grow and supply markets and restaurants, but also those who prepare meals, whether in their own businesses or homes.

Michelle Bursley from ONO Restaurant & Lounge in Yachats, Kimber Hoang from Magenta in Corvallis, Regina Iovino from Iovino's at Enoteca in Corvallis, and Karen Novak from Novak's Hungarian Restaurant in Albany competed with ingredients from local women growers and farmers. The chefs did not know what they would be preparing until the ingredients were presented at the beginning of the competition.

The dishes were judged by last year's competitors. Congratulations go to Regina Iovino, who won with her dish featuring a whole chicken stuffed with herbs, garlic and shallots over a bed of risotto.

See more photos online at: [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu)



Regina Iovino of Iovino's at Enoteca, Corvallis prepares her winning dish during the Chef Show-off.

Marcea Palmer

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<p>Wednesday(4/4)</p> <p>Thunderskies, ho! 49°/39°</p>	<p>Thursday(4/5)</p> <p>Maybe wet 51°/36°</p>	<p>Friday(4/6)</p> <p>Maybe wet, sorta 53°/35°</p>	<p>Saturday(4/7)</p> <p>Sun cloud! 59°/34°</p>	<p>Sunday(4/8)</p> <p>Sunshine-y 65°/43°</p>	<p>Monday(4/9)</p> <p>Comfy sun 67°/44°</p>	<p>Tuesday(4/10)</p> <p>A few showers 63°/47°</p>
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**WEATHER**  
Source: [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com)

## THE COMMUTER 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:**  
Jill Mahler

**News Editor:**  
Justeen Elliott

**Opinion Editor:**  
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**Staff Photographers:**  
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Justin Bolger, Gary Brittsan,  
Amanda Hayden

**Staff Writers:**  
Sean Bassinger, Ian Butcher,  
Kay Roth, Nora Palmtag

**Newspaper Distribution  
Facilitator:**  
Mason Britton

**Cover by:**  
Marcea Palmer

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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@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu)



The Commuter

@lbcommuter



LBCC Commuter

**Web Address:**  
[commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu)

**Phone:**  
541-917-4451, 4452 or 4453

**Address:** 6500 SW Pacific Blvd.  
Albany, OR 97321

# All Work and No Play Makes College A Dull Place

**Justeen Elliott**

News Editor

Are you still looking for spring classes? Want something fun and interesting, something you've never done before? Or something that works your entire body?

For Spring Term, LBCC is offering some new classes and some old ones with a kick to it. For the first time ever, LBCC will be offering a video game making class. Along with a classical Egyptian-style belly dancing class. Then there is yoga, which is not new, but is always looking for new students. There is also the new dance craze, Zumba.

The video game making course 'Game Maker' is a one-credit course,

has a \$2 lab fee, and began on April 3. It is a five-week course that runs from 6-8:50 pm on Tuesdays in the North Santiam Hall, NSH-107. In this class, students can create their own arcade-style video games using iconographic object-oriented game maker programming. This course is designed for beginners and serves as a jumping-off point into the multi-disciplinary game making industry. The only thing that is a required material is a laptop.

The Classical Egyptian-Style Belly Dance course has students learning how to belly dance to romantic, high glamour, yet casually powerful style of belly dance. Routines are set to orchestrated love songs from the Golden Era of Cairo. Emphasis is on personality, fluidity, and quality of the move.

This is a non-credit course that runs for 10 weeks and is \$66 with a \$3 lab fee. The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:20 pm.

Yoga has many different classes offered, both credit and non-credit courses. While it is not a new class, it is still an interesting one. There are two main yoga classes on the Albany campus that are worth one credit each, Yoga and Yoga Strength. Yoga classes, both credit and non-credit, are offered at Albany Community Education Center, Benton Center, and at the Sweet Home Center. Courses are 10 weeks and for credit classes are regular tuition price plus a lab fee. Non-credit courses are \$66 with a \$3 lab fee.

It seems like everyone and their dog is starting to do Zumba. LBCC

is now offering Zumba classes at Albany Community Education Center, Benton Center, and the Sweet Home Center for \$87 and a \$5 lab fee. Zumba is a dynamic, exciting and effective fitness program featuring easy to follow, low-impact aerobic/fitness interval training with a combination of fast and slow rhythms. Latin and international dance music creates fun and even party-like classes. Achieve long-term goals and benefits of improved agility, flexibility, cardio and muscular strength.

Have fun this term and take a one, or two, fun classes. We all need to have a break every once in a while.

## Career Fair at LB Opens Doors to Job Market

**Marcea Palmer**

Staff Photographer

Community members and Linn-Benton students have the opportunity to participate in an annual career fair on Wed. April 11, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Activities Center Gym on the Albany Campus. For 34 years, LBCC has sponsored the career fair in which local employers send human resources and recruiting officers to talk with students who have an interest in learning more about careers, job opportunities, internships, and more.

Carla Raymond, Career and Employment Specialist at LBCC, the event organizer, says, "It is a good time for students who are undecided or in the process of declaring a major to find out more about what kinds of careers and jobs have potential growth

in the coming years, and to find out first hand from employers what they are looking for in an employee."

Raymond recommends the Career Fair to anyone, especially those who are looking to further their job experience working in the field they may get a degree in while going to school. "Sometimes, a student goes to school and graduates without working in their field, and then gets into the workforce only to find out that they don't like what they chose to do for a career," Raymond points out.

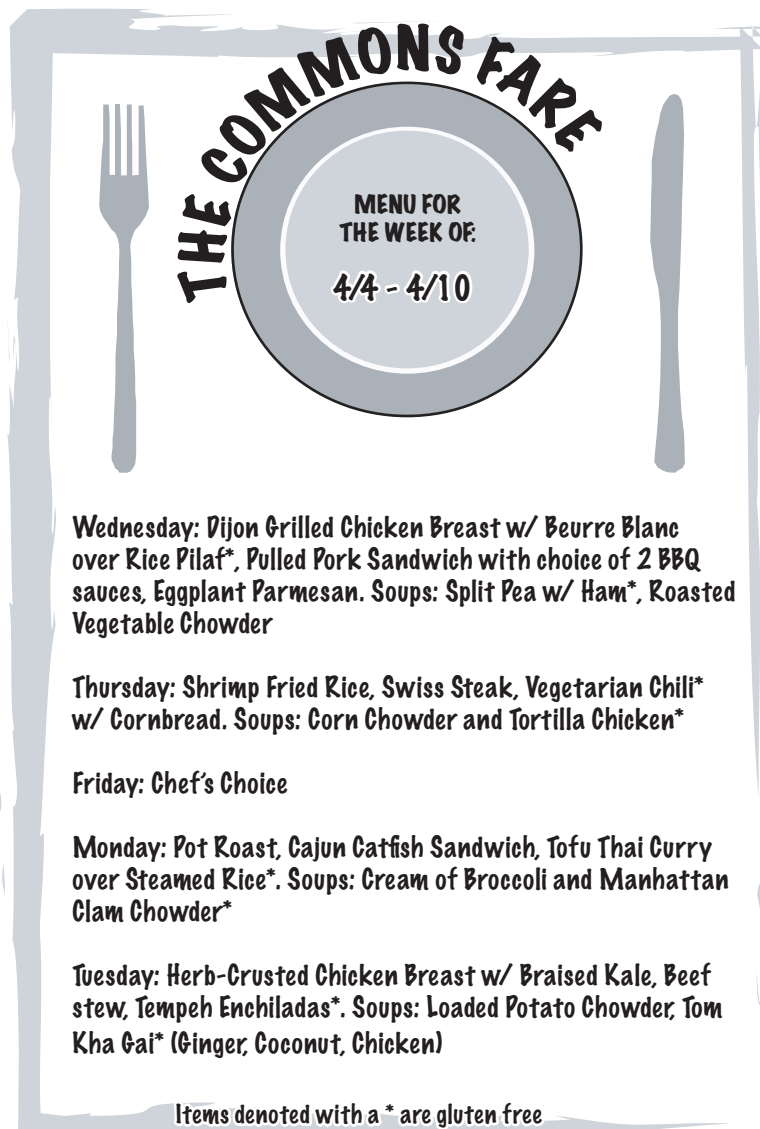
Not only will students benefit from the 57 different businesses, government agencies and industries with representatives on hand to answer questions, but they can also bring their resume and better understand what the interview process may be like for future job hunting. Program coordinators from

LBCC will also be on hand to answer questions about the college's own educational degree programs.

Even if students are already decided on a major, they may find that meeting with a company in the field of their chosen career may be a good way to initiate a contact for that time when they are looking for employment.

There are links to learn more about job-seeking skills, what questions to ask a potential employer, as well as other important career related information on the Linn Benton website: [www.linnbenton.edu/go/career-fair](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/career-fair).

If you need more detailed one-on-one information, feel free to stop by or contact Carla Raymond in Takena Hall at First Stop or 541-917-4788 or [carla.raymond@linnbenton.edu](mailto:carla.raymond@linnbenton.edu)



**THE COMMONS FARE**  
MENU FOR THE WEEK OF:  
4/4 - 4/10

**Wednesday: Dijon Grilled Chicken Breast w/ Beurre Blanc over Rice Pilaf\*, Pulled Pork Sandwich with choice of 2 BBQ sauces, Eggplant Parmesan. Soups: Split Pea w/ Ham\*, Roasted Vegetable Chowder**

**Thursday: Shrimp Fried Rice, Swiss Steak, Vegetarian Chili\* w/ Cornbread. Soups: Corn Chowder and Tortilla Chicken\***

**Friday: Chef's Choice**

**Monday: Pot Roast, Cajun Catfish Sandwich, Tofu Thai Curry over Steamed Rice\*. Soups: Cream of Broccoli and Manhattan Clam Chowder\***

**Tuesday: Herb-Crusted Chicken Breast w/ Braised Kale, Beef stew, Tempeh Enchiladas\*. Soups: Loaded Potato Chowder, Tom Kha Gai\* (Ginger, Coconut, Chicken)**

Items denoted with a \* are gluten free

### Linn Benton Community College Music Program Presents The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

**LIFE IS A...  
CABARET**

**Thursday,  
April 5, 2012  
7:30 p.m.**

**Forum F104,  
Albany Campus**

**Tickets are \$5 and available at the door!**

Not your typical music revue!  
Performances given by LBCC students!  
Featuring a little bit of...everything!

Vocalists, instrumentalists...everything  
from pop, rock, musical theater,  
a cappella, dancing...you name it!

**Linn-Benton**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

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# Tuition to Increase, Again

Sean Bassinger  
Staff Writer

The last event in a series of many efforts to protest LBCC tuition increases – branded “Pack the DAC” – took place at 5 p.m. on March 21.

Proposals to increase tuition started in November 2011, and additional board discussions took place this past February. Since the announcements were made, representatives from LBCC Student Life and Leadership did everything they could to rally students together and oppose the \$5 per credit increase.

Events of action included a letter of solidarity with over 14,000 signatures, 75 personal student stories, and a group trip to Salem to get students discussing this problem with our very own state representatives.

“Pack the DAC” was a last resort, bringing stories of LBCC students directly to the Board of Education that night. Votes to increase tuition still passed 5-2, but students still did an exceptional job of making their voices heard.

Eric Noll, legislative affairs officer of the Student Leadership Council, helped organize “Pack the DAC.” Noll made it clear how these events were a last resort, and that they were not out to blame the Board of Education. He mentioned how a lack of state funding doesn’t leave many other options for LBCC.

“We don’t want to fight our administration,” he said. “They’re good people.”

Noll said student stories were vital in getting the point across to the board and showing them how much these increases will continue to impact the lives of those attending LBCC.

“The power comes from the personal story,”



he said.

Around 6 p.m. Noll directed students out of the DAC and into the lobby of the LBCC board room, where they would wait for part-time faculty recognition presentations to end.

Nearly 20 minutes later, students were lead into the meeting.

LBCC’s Student Body President Ricky Zipp began speaking during the “citizen comments” section of the conference. Zipp began by outlining his personal story, and how he was a returning student after nearly five years out of high school.

“My story kind of pales in experience to other students here,” said Zipp.

As an example, Zipp noted families who have other occupying roles in their lives, including parenting.

“Students will struggle because of these tuition increases,” he said.

The next student to speak was Philip

Rakowski, who mentions how LBCC also helped get his life back on track. Rakowski spent much of his life struggling with addiction, but returning to school gave him the tools he needed to resume control and progress to greater heights.

“I wasn’t ready to change myself, but I’ve been back now for four years strong,” said Rakowski with a great sense of pride. “This college means a lot to people around Linn County.”

Gerald Thomas, another student speaker, spent 35 years working in construction until his job was lost. He was eligible for compensation, but could not receive it since he decided to return to school.

“I can sit at home and be a burden, or I can do something with myself,” he said. “I chose the latter.”

Thomas wishes to better his life though an improved education. Unfortunately, continuing tuition increases with an already tight budget

make his goals more difficult.

Noll was the final individual to speak on behalf of the students, initially outlining the significance of the Wednesday evening gathering.

“We’re at school, after finals on a snow day, asking you not to increase tuition,” said Noll as he addressed the entire board.

With honesty, Noll claimed higher credit prices would not affect him as much. He did, however, cite his obligation to stand against the proposed budget increase as a representative of other students.

“We can’t fit tens of thousands of students in this room, but that’s how many are affected,” he said.

Following Noll’s presentation, board member Penny York addressed the issue with a sense of regret, stating how there were simply no other options aside from increasing tuition.

“We’re getting less state funding, which is why tuition is going up,” she said. “We are desperately concerned about your plight and our college as a whole.”

Though the board voted in favor of the tuition increases, Noll and other students will continue doing everything in their power to change these trends. He and other members of the student government hope to get more LBCC students involved with voting in order to tackle this problem where it formed — our state’s capital.

“We’re the ones who can least afford it, but we’re the ones with the greatest burden,” said Noll.

The \$5 per credit tuition increases will begin during the Summer 2012 term. Out of state students will be expected to pay an additional \$21 per credit.

## Esther Chapman, Teacher Extraordinaire

Nora Palmtag  
Staff Writer

Watching Esther Chapman, clad in her typical college attire, at work is a lot like watching the energizer bunny with brains in action.

Chapman looks like a student, being youthful and small of stature, but when she is in front of the class, you get caught up in her enthusiasm and knowledge of mathematics. Amazed by the information Chapman imparts in such a fast-paced fashion, it is surprising how much of that information is being comprehended.

Chapman is an exceptional teacher.

Chapman takes the time to make sure she is familiar with each student’s name and schedules time to help whenever needed. Using the best interactive slide system, Chapman puts the problems on her interactive slide show and helps the student understand the answers, making sure all students participate in the class.

Sharon Rodecap, Mathematics Department Chair, who has known Chapman for about two years, said Chapman “is never content to do the minimum, always goes above and beyond what is required of her.” Rodecap described Chapman as creative, very energetic and always positive, the “cheerleader of the students.”

When asked about Chapman as a

teacher, James, a student in her class, said, “I felt a little like an experiment in how Esther Chapman is planning on directing future classes, which is alright in my opinion, but it does make things hard. For instance she wants to throw a lot of activities, worksheets, chapter reviews, brush-ups, tests, journal entries, and now a proficiency test at us.”

James said, “I like the positive and energetic way she describes math to the class.”

We agree that Chapman is very strict, when it comes to rules in her class, but this is the very nature of mathematics. But this is a good thing as the student are ready to go on to the next step successfully.

However, her class is not a class you can miss or stop doing the homework or special projects.

James said Chapman “really wants to make math exciting and fun to learn and it shows in her presentation. She’s very clever in how she deals with homework as well. Assigning a homework, but only requiring you to show 2-3 problems she picks out that you’ve done allows her to lower the demand of how much work she has to check, while still making it so you have to do all of the work.”

Brie Wood, in math angle in the Learning Center, said Chapman is a great tutor and very helpful to students at the Math desk. Wood has



Mathematics instructor Esther Chapman

Nora Palmtag

known Chapman two years and said she is very well-rounded in physics, chemistry, as well as math. Chapman is always enthusiastic, loyal and dedicated, according to Wood. Wood sees Chapman as a very caring person, who values her friends.

What’s not to like. Ben, also at the math angle, agrees that Chapman is a great person and teacher and a great asset to the math department.

Not afraid to admit when she has made a mistake, Chapman is the epitome of a good leader and teacher, by putting learning first.

Chapman is very active in her church. When she is not tutoring math and physics, which is her major, Chapman likes to vege-out and stay pretty low key. The other activities she enjoys are dancing, socializing with her friends, jewelry work, and

artwork.

After taking astronomy in high school, Chapman realized that math, astronomy, physics, and chemistry are all related. Coming to LBCC, Chapman was a full-time tutor and was encouraged by teammates to go for the mathematics teacher position. Chapman, shows each day why math is important in our life on campus and at home.



provided by Charles Eisenstein

## Dreaming of Equality and Fulfillment

### A chat with neo-economist Charles Eisenstein

Joel DeVyldere

Contributing Writer

"We want freedom, but we settle for sports cars."

A room full of hippies, environmentalists, and student activists reflect in wonder at the articulate musings of speaker, author and neo-economic dreamer Charles Eisenstein, a well-spoken man with flagrantly optimistic notions. Both energetic and calm, the 35-year-old joyfully makes the case that a culture based on consuming goods is not spiritually fulfilling for human beings.

Eisenstein recently stopped in Corvallis on a west coast speaking tour where he expounded on topics from his book *Sacred Economics*. At present, he is mesmerizing a crowd at the University of Oregon, telling a story on the history of the social and economic organization of people.

A key theme in Eisenstein's story is the saga of human happiness and well-being. He describes a time when the social climate of small villages enabled people to provide for each other without fear of being scammed. In Eisenstein's history lesson, the well-being of one's neighbors used to factor heavily in the thought life of each member of a community; and local reputations made trade a less-than-shady affair in the economies of the not-so-distant past, he claims.

Thanks to new systems of social organization, modern people don't interact like that anymore. A twist in the plot reveals a generation of people suffering the effects of entire lifetimes of for-profit interactions, resulting in cosmic anonymity and endemic wariness.

So where have we gone wrong? A phenomenon called Capitalism has helped us look at the world in a profit-motivated way, and the scarcity which that system creates has sapped us of the energy for thinking of others first.

In Capitalism, Eisenstein argues, money is based on debt -- created in way that ensures that there will never be enough to go around. We are playing musical chairs in modern economies, and everyone is trying to make sure they're sitting pretty when the music stops. The resulting atmosphere has made an attitude of scarcity and fierce competition the norm, even though abundance and cooperation might serve us better.

Capitalism uses a measure called the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to quantify the health and prosperity of a group of people. But Eisenstein is concerned that this isn't a very good way of looking at the world -- things like human happiness aren't even factored in, he says. Worse than that, in modern Capitalism, sectors of the economy like the pharmaceutical drug market can show increases that are dependent on human suffering.

"I think that the best way to grow the economy today is to make people miserable, alone, disconnected," Eisenstein offers.

Another problem is in that modern Capitalism, rapid growth is the only way to keep the economy from collapsing. A phenomenon called infinite growth economics makes sure that we humans continue to extract unmitigated quantities of natural resources from the earth in the quickest, cheapest and often most destructive manner possible with no conceivable end in sight. "Money, as it stands today, is an exception to ecology," Eisenstein notes.

Soon enough, however, Eisenstein rather extreme critiques of Capitalism shift into a vague optimism for future models of human organization. He starts talking about freedom, in a post-sports-car world.

But what makes this economist think a better way of living is possible? Why is a man so well-studied in the troubles of this world so hopeful for a healing and fulfilling future for humankind? I had an opportunity to ask Eisenstein a couple of questions to clarify his positions on social and economic ills and virtues.

## In the News:

### Local:

**Salem, Ore.:** Marion County deputies were called to the 3900 block of Rockwood Park Drive Northeast at about 5:40 p.m. Friday, to pull a body out of a canal. The body was found floating in a small canal that weaves through several apartment complexes. The drainage canal is about 5 feet wide and is usually less than a foot deep, but the heavy rain has made it about 3 feet deep. The person was identified as Christopher Marshall, 26. Family members told deputies that Marshall had been staying with friends in Salem. There were no signs of obvious trauma, according to authorities, and an autopsy is planned.

source: KPTV

**Salem, Ore.:** Marion County Sheriff's detectives have arrested 55-year-old, John William Freeman, on Thursday, for allegedly molesting three children and now investigators believe there may be more victims. Deputies were tipped off about the alleged abuse when one of the girls confessed to her mother that Freeman had touched her inappropriately. The mother told investigators that she later learned her other children had also reported being victims of sexual abuse at the hands of Freeman. The children, who detectives say are siblings between the ages of 9 and 15, called Freeman "step grandfather" or "uncle." Freeman was arraigned on Friday on two counts each of sexual abuse, unlawful sexual penetration, unlawful child display of sexual content and a single count of fourth-degree assault.

source: KPTV

**Portland, Ore.:** Portland activists took to the streets in North Portland on Saturday to march in solidarity for Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old who was gunned down in Florida last month. The group rallied at Peninsula Park at 11 a.m., before marching across town for several hours. The group said, they will continue marching for weeks to come, until their message is heard, and hope along the way that justice is found for Trayvon Martin and his family. The group also said, while they may be thousands of miles away from the streets of Sanford, FL. They stand together in response to the grief and anger they feel over Martin's death.

source: KPTV

### Nation:

**Atlanta, Ga.:** Lottery ticket-holders in Kansas, Illinois and Maryland each selected the winning numbers and will split a \$640 million jackpot that was believed to be the world's largest such prize. Each winning ticket was expected to be worth more than \$213 million before taxes. Americans spent nearly \$1.5 billion for a chance to hit the jackpot, which amounts to a \$462 million lump sum and around \$347 million after federal tax withholding. With the jackpot odds at 1 in 176 million, it would cost \$176 million to buy up every combination. Under that scenario, the strategy would win \$171 million less if your state also withholds taxes.

source: AP

**Washington D.C.:** The individual insurance requirement that the Supreme Court is reviewing isn't the first federal mandate involving health care. There's a Medicare payroll tax on workers and employers, for example, and a requirement that hospitals provide free emergency services to indigents. Health care is full of government dictates, some arguably more intrusive than President Barack Obama's overhaul law. Most of the mandates apply to providers such as hospitals and insurers. For example, a 1990s law requires health plans to cover at least a 48-hour hospital stay for new mothers and their babies. Such requirements protect some consumers, while indirectly raising costs for others. One mandate affects just about everybody: Workers must pay a tax to finance Medicare, which collects about \$200 billion a year. It's right on your W-2 form, line 6, "Medicare tax withheld." Workers must pay it even if they don't have health insurance. Employees of a company get to split the tax with their employer. The self-employed owe the full amount, 2.9 percent of earnings.

source: AP

**Philadelphia, PA.:** Joseph Picklo of Dallas, Pennsylvania, 29, was taken into police custody at the Philadelphia airport after attempting to board a flight to San Francisco, while carrying items that could have been assembled into an explosive device; a vial with a fuse, a plastic bottle filled with explosive powder and three M-80 type fireworks. Picklo told authorities he is a self-employed salesman who "likes to conduct experiments with explosives" and that he was trying to start a business using exploding targets. FBI officials told ABC News there is no known connection to terrorism, but authorities said some or all of the elements could have been combined to make a bomb.

source: ABC News

### World:

**Pakistan:** According to Osama Bin Laden's wife, during the decade of his hiding, he never spent any of it hidden in caves, but in safe houses around Pakistan. Youngest wife Amal Ahmad Abdul Fattah, told Pakistani police that except for the eight or nine months just after 9/11 when the family "scattered" and she does not account for bin Laden's whereabouts, skipped from safe house to safe house in Peshawar, Swat and Haripur, Pakistan before settling in Abbottabad for the last six years of his life. In his time on the run, Bin Laden managed to father four children by Amal, a Yemeni citizen, at least two of whom were born in government hospitals.

source: ABC News

**London:** A first-class menu from the Titanic's last lunch sold Saturday for 76,000 pounds, about \$120,000, the auction house said. The menu bears the date April 14, the day in 1912 that the reputedly unsinkable ship hit an iceberg and fell to the bottom of the Atlantic. The disaster left 1,500 people dead. The menu is one of the "rarest items of Titanic memorabilia to be sold in recent years" and that it made

its way off the ship in purse of the wife of prominent San Francisco banker Washington Dodge. The menu was on the table of first-class passengers and that Dodge's wife, Ruth, had it in her purse when she escaped on a lifeboat with her son.

source: MSN

**Africa:** Tuareg separatist rebels in Mali say they have seized the historic town of Timbuktu after a rapid advance through the north of the country. A statement said they had "control of the entire region" of Timbuktu, and had ended the Malian "occupation." Eyewitnesses said the rebels bombarded a local army base, but government troops had already left. The leader of the coup that overthrew Mali's president last month has pledged to return power to civilian hands. The rebels' statement said they would now begin their "mission of defending and securing the territory of the Azawad, for the happiness of its people". Azawad is the rebels' term for the entire north of Mali, which they want recognised as an independent Tuareg homeland. The statement also denied reports of links to Islamist groups.

source: BBC News

### Weird:

**Maryland:** Police in a suburb near the U.S. capital got a surprise when they stopped a driver who appeared to have improper license plates on his car: they had pulled over none other than the comic-book hero Batman. The officer who first spotted Batman's car ordered him to stop because his expensive black Lamborghini sports car did not display a proper license plate from the state of Maryland. In its place was a replica license marked BATMAN. The Batman driver in Maryland showed police he did have legal license plates and registration inside his car. After posing for an officer's photo, he was free to go on his way, to entertain children at a hospital.

source: VOA News

**Sacramento, CA.:** A drunk man walked up and leaped onto the hood of the officer's vehicle, but this was no ordinary drunk man. This was Jesse James Thomas wearing a sombrero and a boxing glove, and he was here to make his name known. Thomas, 55, allegedly did just that and screamed his own name repeatedly from atop the cop car before fleeing. Soon after, cops found him lying in the street nearby and Thomas was arrested on suspicion of public drunkenness.

source: Huffington Post

**London:** What do you get when you combine a faux-holiday with women nearly naked in the streets? You get a group of women strutting around London and making a scene, all in the name of National Cleavage Day. National Cleavage Day is a holiday to "celebrate women's independence and power in their careers and relationships."

source: Huffington Post

# Sex AND THE Campus

## Overusing Love

Jill Mahler  
Editor-in-Chief

Of all our first moments in relationships, saying, "I love you" to your partner usually ranks close to the top. Most people can remember the first time they uttered those three little words, with excitement and love welling up inside of their chests. However, saying "I love you" has become complicated and over commercialized.

On one side of the spectrum, we are pressed to believe the "I love you" milestone practically falls short of a proposal. Such importance is placed on saying it that ironically the phrase that should cement the relationship can actually cause it to end if one person feels it is too early. In addition, if the response in return wasn't equal, such as saying "Thank you" instead, may cause the relationship to suffer.

To say, "I love you" for the first time, we feel pressure to have every element correct, time, place, even our outfits. On the other side, we have overused the word "love" to such a degree in our relationships and in our every day

experiences, that "love" has begun to lack meaning and significance.

When you examine the origin of the word "love" you see where the word has become weakened when we use expressions, such as "I loved that movie," "I love that food." The word "Love" is both a verb and noun, defined as "a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person." Other elements of the definition revolve around the words, kinship, attraction, affection and benevolence. Nowhere in the definition, is love used for pizza or cable TV shows.

Saying, "I love you" to the person you're with is a big moment and sometimes difficult to build up to. However, once those three words are said, couples begin to use the term all the time as if they were collecting points. This is when, just as we use it incorrectly in every day terms, also in relationships we lose sight of the meaning when we say it too much to each other. Saying, "I love you" twenty times a day may sound like a good idea, but is part of the problem.

Saying, "I love you" to the person you are with, whether it is for the first time or not, it is important. "Love" is not a term to be afraid of or use as an excuse to distance yourself because of what it implies, but also not as a term to abuse and overuse. If we lose sight of its significance, what will we use to describe our affection?

Words are a powerful tool. They are a way to express, build, destroy and learn. Say, "I love you" when you really mean it; when you feel it. There is no relationship worth having without Love, nor is there Love without a relationship.

## Letter to the Editor

# Voter Registration

Dear Students of LBCC,

With the May 15th primaries in sight your LBCC student government is working to collect 500 voter registration cards before the April 24th registration deadline. The Student Leadership Council recognizes the importance of voting as one of our basic, unalienable rights in Oregon and the United States. Because of this, the SLC has created a 3 week campaign to register students throughout campus. We want you to be part of this campaign. All you have to do is register to vote.

This is essential for building a strong student electoral power and giving students a greater voice in the community and the state legislature to fight for funding for higher education. To fight for issues that matter to you! Students have been traditionally underrepresented in elections, and therefore in the decisions by those elected. There is a belief by the greater society that students and young people don't care, and therefore, don't vote. Historically, this has been true. The SLC is trying to change that, but we need your help.

Here is what you can do. You can stop by the Student Union, located right next to the clock tower in the courtyard, and register to vote. Or, you can find us anywhere on campus, just look for students with registration cards and VOTE t-shirts. Just make sure you find a registration card, fill it out, and we'll turn it in for you. No stamp and no trip to the post office. It's really easy. Once you register you are sent a ballot in the mail, and then you vote.

Some elections are decided by as few as 7 votes! That's what happened to our current Oregon Secretary of State, Kate Brown. Not only do you vote nationally, but you make an impact at the state level and locally as well. Get your voice heard and have a say! Register to VOTE!

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Noll at (503) 302-0099 or stop by the Student Union.

**Eric Noll**

SLC Legislative Affairs Director  
slcvp2@linnbenton.edu

# Advice from Weiss

**Questions:** Hey advice guy, what's with not getting classes at this school? I went to a university year before last, and I thought it was bad there. But coming in for spring quarter here all I could get was one class that'll help me and one piece of fluff just to give me enough credits so I can have partial financial aid. Is this really the way it is? I went through all paper work to get officially admitted and then it didn't do me any good.

**Answer:** Yes and no. Right now LBCC struggles to offer enough classes. The effect of this is that new students (in any term they choose to start) are lucky to get even a little of what they want. That's the bad news.

The good news is it doesn't have to stay that way. At LBCC, like most colleges, new students register last.



**Mark Weiss**  
Counselor

Returning students who, like you, went through the admissions process, all have access to what's called "Priority Registration," meaning they get a chance to register early.

From this term forward (and for the rest of your life) you will have access to Priority Registration, and if you use it you should have a good selection of classes available to you. The date you can begin using Priority Registration is always on

your WebRunner system. If you look there will be, right now, a date listed in May that you can begin registering for summer quarter, and a date in early June that you can use to register for fall. Students who use their given dates will be able to make reasonable schedules, students who wait, often cannot.

Traditionally, when we talk about how to be successful in college, we've talked about things like showing up for class, using college resources, doing your homework, and getting enough sleep. But right now, the biggest key to a student's success may be remembering to use Priority Registration and being aware of exactly when that is.

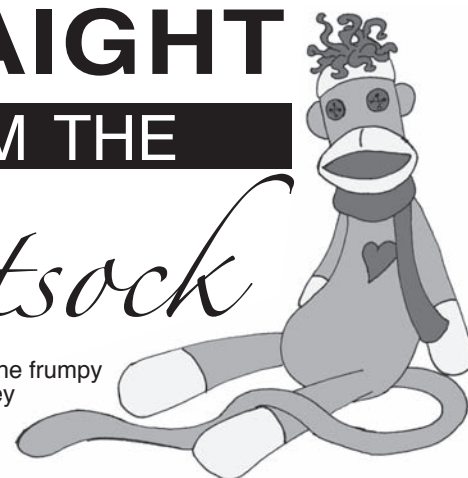
**Mark Weiss**  
Counseling

Mark Weiss has been a counselor and adviser at LBCC for 20 years. The purpose of this column is to answer students' questions about the college, academic advising, and how to be successful at LBCC. Please send your questions to mark.weiss@linnbenton.edu or stop by the Career and Counseling Center in Takena Hall.

# STRAIGHT FROM THE

## Hartsock

Brain stuffing from the frumpy sock monkey



### Literal Interpretations

**Jennifer M. Hartsock**

Opinion Editor

A period of rest usually brings renewal to our lives. Over spring break, I had the pleasure of a quiet stay at a lake house with my family. The last night of our stay, six of us stayed up late—two Christians, one Atheist, two agnostics, and one who believed she should have been born as a Hindu—and discussed the ways and means of religious influence, how they impact what we believe to be truth and fact, and how they differ from each other.

A bit nervous to open up to my family, a very inspirational and intelligent person, Eric Sloss, a dual-enrolled LB and OSU junior, conveyed the following opinion:

*What is truth, and what is fact?*

*To me, the two are different things: While all facts are true, not all truths are fact. I'll try to illustrate this a little bit more. You can learn a lot of truths about life from various myths, legends, and rumors—things that aren't necessarily facts. To me, fiction is the most powerful agent in communicating ultimate truths about reality.*

*The line between the two—facts and truths—is often blurred. This is not the case in Hinduism, which acknowledges that depictions of God are not factual representations of what God actually looks like. Similarly, Hindus consciously construct fictional stories, which they know are not factual historical accounts, to draw the reader to larger truths about reality and life.*

*As far as I can tell, the line between fact and truth is largely uncertain, or possibly nonexistent, in modern interpretations of the Bible. The types of physics-defying miracles performed by Jesus Christ in the New Testament are present in many Eastern legends and stories, but there is one very important question to ask: Did these miracles actually occur?*

*Hindus might say, "No, but they illustrate the power of the divine," but Christians might say, "Yes, and they are proof of the divine's power."*

*These are two very different takes on each religion's holy texts, and I feel that the Western take can lead to a lot of unneeded confusion. If everyone were to look at the stories within the Bible as tall-tales that contain moral lessons to live by, I don't feel like Christianity would breed radical fundamentalism (and all of its nasty, violent side-effects).*

*As with Gautama Buddha, I feel that Jesus was truly a gift to the world. Both were extremely wise and compassionate people who preached a message that humanity needs to hear and accept into their hearts.*

*Having said that, I don't think that Jesus' message gets any stronger after hearing that he walked on water.*

Biblical literalism in modern day can lead to ignorance of science, and also ignorance of other truths in different religions.

At the beginning of winter term, I wrote a Straight from the Hartsock entitled "Enlightenment through Literature" that asked all of us to open up to other forms of beliefs so that we can find some understanding, and perhaps, some truths that enhance our own way of life.

As this term begins, and we're searching to find ourselves in this modern world, we must still remember that what we view as fact should never limit our ability to see the truth in other forms of thought, lifestyle, and religious teachings.

Love and understanding, my friends, is the pathway to liberation. It is the way to peace.

"I can believe things that are true and things that aren't true and I can believe things where nobody knows if they're true or not." – Neil Gaiman.

## What do you think?

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

Submit your thoughts to  
[commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu)



*Dear Conscience,***What if we lived during  
“The Hunger Games?”****Jennifer M. Hartsock**

Shoulder Devil

If we lived during the “Hunger Games,” we’d have to care more about our own mortality than we would about other people’s wellbeing. Sure, Katniss saved her younger sister from a potential fate of brutal and inhumane death, but she probably only did it in order to gain some attention.

Think of it this way: why do the outer districts dislike the Hunger Games? It’s because the outer districts are poor and envious of the inner districts, and thus are not noble enough to consider their tributes as honorable. They’re too busy hunting and gathering and picking rocks out of their feet to reflect on the reason they’re apart of the Hunger Games in the first place. It’s their fault for not respecting authority and revolting against the Capitol.

And if you think this is a crazy idea, remember that, like Panem, man sinned, got kicked out of the Garden of Eden, and invited death into existence. Panem revolts against the Capitol, and death is the result. Instead of complaining about it, just deal with it. What makes it worse, it is young kids—or in view of the Garden of Eden, all of humanity—who are the ones who pay the price. Thanks a lot, we’re now left with your sloppy choices, and in constant worry about what comes after death. Eternal bliss, raging fire, or genetic-engineered mutations.

Alas, we have a strong, leading character who is only trying to win in order to keep her sister sane, and to stick it to the Man. Great, we’re teaching girls to stand up for themselves and be independent, abuse a poor guy’s heart in order to gain sponsors. Obviously she’s still in-love with the guy she dumped her family on to take care of. Pita-bread plus Katniss, the girl on fire equals toast.

**Jill Mahler**

Shoulder Angel

What a gr.er... horrible world that would be. A place where “precious lives” are sacrificed as tributes. Can you only imagine?

Not that there wouldn’t be some population control from it. Then to make matters worse, everyone would be forced to watch the tributes fight to the death in arena. That is something missing from the Olympic games.

Fighting your fellow man and woman is the lowest mankind could ever stoupe to. However, they say you never know what you’re made of till you have your back to the wall.

I mean, all they’d have to do is come from behind and ... I mean, hug each other (please). How did Katniss win? She waited for them to come to her and for the right opportunity.

The patient hunter always gets their prey. But that was “wrong.” It would be better to die with dignity than take a life. (However, no one roots for the dead guy in action movies.)

Most people sleep easy since there’s no way we could even allow such a terrific... oops, horrific event to occur. History doesn’t repeat itself.

The ancient gladiators were a myth. We need not be careful. Our differences could easily be considered simple “misunderstandings.”

After all, one leader giving another world leader a lovely hug could easily avoid nuclear fallout and wars.

That’s the ticket; we need to arm our military with hugs. After all, that is how Katniss really won, because of “love.”

Psych, APRIL FOOL’S! Yikes, that was hard. A few times there I thought I was going to spontaneously explode, but I got you!



Zainub/ flickr.com

**When is Enough Enough?***The impact of plastic bags on our environment***Cindy Valenzuela**

Contributing Writer

Curious about single-use plastic bags, I did some research and began to think twice about using them. I took a long hard look at these bags. I found single-use plastic bags to be extremely wasteful, costly to consumers, and menacing to the environment, and I think they should be banned from Oregon.

Before doing research on single-use plastic bags, I had a lingering thought that they were wasteful. Merchants hand them out mindlessly for small items, like a package of gum or gallon of milk.

According to research conducted by Clarks Honors College, they stated, “Locally, it is estimated that Oregonians use 1.7 billion single-use plastic bags each year – that’s 444 per person, per year, and roughly 39,000 in an average lifetime.” This is only locally, and it is difficult to grasp what this number is on a larger scale, like our country as a whole.

Single-use plastic bags are wasteful because they are rarely recycled.

Portland Mayor Sam Adams addressed residents on reasons why their city should ban single-use plastic bags: “Plastic bags are difficult to recycle: according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, less than 5 percent of all single-use checkout plastic bags are actually recycled.”

Isn’t that shocking? In Oregon, if only 5 percent of the 1.7 billion single-use bags are recycled, that still leaves 1.615 billion bags unaccounted for.

Stores like Safeway will reimburse you up to 5 cents per each reusable bag you use for your groceries. I wasn’t exactly sure why they reimbursed 5 cents, until I found they are actually reimbursing the money they originally tacked on. Single-use plastic bags may seem free, but they are not.

The cost repercussions are endless. Information provided by an environmental non-profit organization called Heal the Bay stated that, “Stores typically pay 2 to 5 cents per plastic bag; these costs are embedded in food prices, which are then passed to consumers.”

It makes so much more sense now. Stores need to recover the cost, and they do this by raising the prices of your merchandise. I don’t think it’s fair they don’t reimburse you when you decline a bag.

Single-use plastic bags have a negative effect on the environment, not only due to litter, but also the damage it causes to our waterways and marine life.

According to Adams, “In the ocean, some of these plastics – polycarbonate, polystyrene, and PETE – sink, while LDPE, HDPE, polypropylene, and foamed plastics float on the ocean’s surface. Sunlight and wave action cause these floating plastics to fragment, breaking into increasingly smaller particles, but never completely disappearing – at least on any documented time scale. This plastic pollution is becoming a hazard for marine wildlife, and ultimately for us.”

The billions of unaccounted bags end up in places where we least imagine. Most people don’t think about where these bags end up. It’s such a horrible thought that in the end we are ingesting our own trash. We need to take care of our marine life; they depend on us and we depend on them.

It’s difficult for Oregon to recycle these bags. Single-use plastic bags don’t belong in our curbside recycling bins. They jam in the machines that process recycling items and cause malfunctions, which cost thousands of dollars to fix each month, says Adams.

Most people are unaware that some merchants have recycling bins for single-use plastic bags. At my local grocery store, they are easy to overlook, when I didn’t know these recycling bins existed. Until I could figure out what to do with them, I collected many single-use plastic bags. Ultimately, it was too much and I threw most of them away. I did save some for waste-basket liners and had even used them as shower caps. I still had many left over.

Portland passed a ban on single-use plastic bags. Portland is among many cities and countries around the world with this type of ban. It’s great that the Portland community recognized the outrageous costs of single-use plastic bags and did something about it.

On the other hand, it’s hard to imagine what life would be like with fewer plastic bags. What options do we have and how are we supposed to carry our groceries? Local co-ops and Costco come to mind. Local co-ops don’t use plastic bags. You can either purchase paper bags for 5 cents each or use your own reusable bag. Costco packages items in used cardboard boxes.

I think that’s the way it needs to be: pay for paper bags, use your own reusable bags, or reuse cardboard boxes. At some point, we became so dependent on the plastic bag. We didn’t know the harm we were causing.

Famous American author Maya Angelou says, “When you know better you do better.” We all definitely know better. The information is in our hands and now we need to make a conscious decision. Do we continue down this destructive path, or do we look at how we can escape our dependency from these bags?

I started escaping my dependency slowly. I started keeping reusable bags in my car and declined plastic bags. During one of my purchases, the clerk was so surprised I declined a plastic bag for my groceries. “I can carry them,” I said to her.

I made a choice based on information I learned. We can all do that. I’m a busy full-time mother and student. When I’m at the grocery store, I am purchasing items not only for myself, but for each person in my household. The hundreds of bags I have declined may not seem a lot compared to the billions used each year, but it’s a start. I am educating my family about them and we are heading in a positive direction.

Single-use plastic bags must be banned in Oregon. Let Oregon show our country how we care about our environment and how we spare our resources. Enough facts have been considered that show single-use plastic bags are harmful, wasteful and have gotten out of hand. Too many times we have put off doing something about it. Enough is enough, Oregonians.

**Have questions? We have answers.**

We offer advice on ANY topic from two different points of view. Send your questions to: [commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu)

“Dear Conscience” does not necessarily reflect the views of any of The Commuter staff.



Kody Kinsella

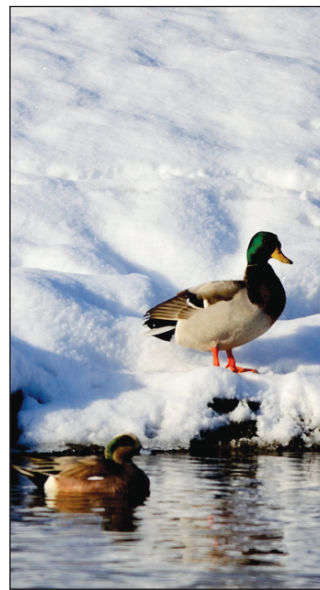


Kody Kinsella

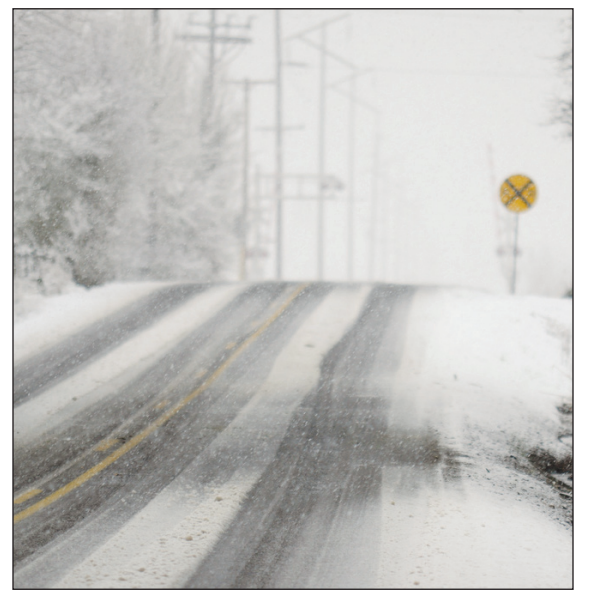
## Spring Snow

An uncharacteristically cold spring gave Willamette Valley residents something they didn't expect over the break: snow. The storm started Wednesday, March 21, and many were surprised to wake up Thursday to inches of white powder that had accumulated overnight.

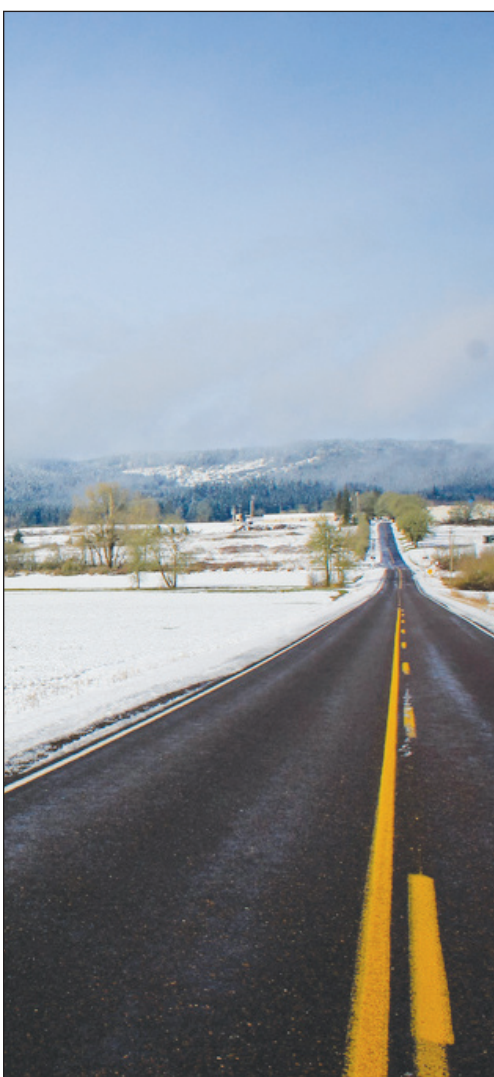
See more photos online at: [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu)



Kody Kinsella



Kody Kinsella



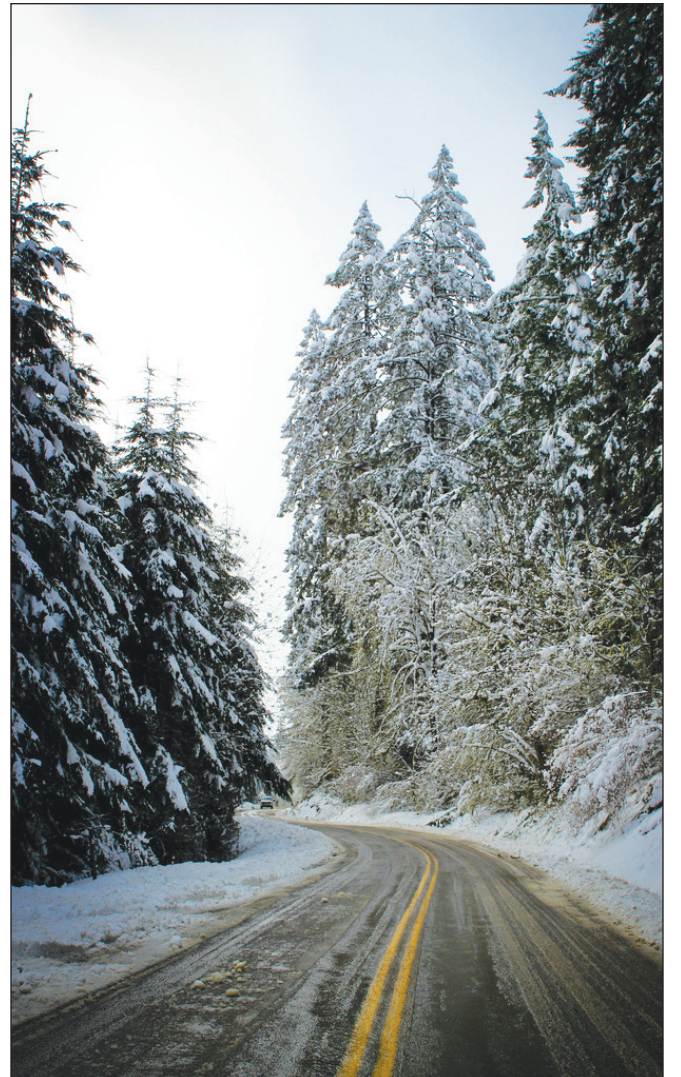
Marcea Palmer



Kody Kinsella



Kody Kinsella



Marcea Palmer

# HOROSCOPES Poetry Spotlight



**ARIES**  
3/21-4/19  
A new term, a new opportunity to display just how awesome you are.



**TAURUS**  
4/20-5/20  
When studenting, be sure to tackle as much as possible.



**GEMINI**  
5/21-6/21  
Relax, the term just started - no reason to do any work until at least midterm.



**CANCER**  
6/22-7/22  
You're a scourge upon the earth, go kill yourself.



**LEO**  
7/23-8/22  
Strong, hearty, filled with vigor, these are things you are not.



**VIRGO**  
8/23-9/22  
You are the best.



**LIBRA**  
9/23-10/23  
GG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



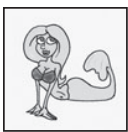
**SCORPIO**  
10/24-11/21  
Just shut up.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
11/22-12/21  
You are not doing so hot this term.



**CAPRICORN**  
12/22-1/19  
Taking on more than you should is not the best idea. But please don't leave.



**AQUARIUS**  
1/20-2/18  
When all else fails, use your beauty to get what you want.



**PISCES**  
2/19-3/20  
Don't wade in too deep; there are sharks out there.

## Untitled

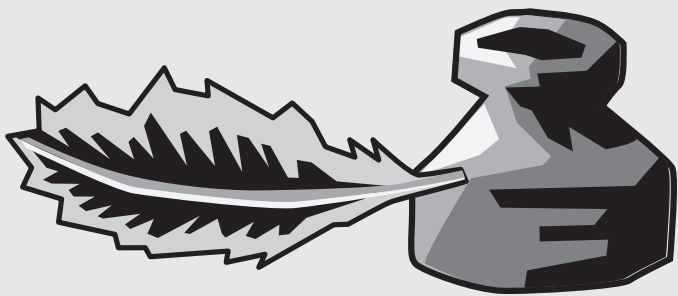
The cold air blows,  
Beats upon the beards,  
They flip up and down  
Yet no one hears them

by Michael Henderson

## Untitled

Grass fields line the highway  
Tall green fields staring at the sun  
Swaying with each breath of the wind.

by Kyle Beaver



# BACK in the DAY

This day in history ...

### April 4, 1967 - Finders keepers

The U.S. loses its 500th plane over Vietnam. This is why we can't have nice things.

### April 5, 1985 - That's what he said

John McEnroe says "any man can beat any woman at any sport, especially tennis." It's all in the wrist.

### April 6, 1896 - Let the games begin

The first modern Olympic Games begins in Athens, Greece. And by modern, think "Hunger Games."

### April 7, 1933 - Time to party

Prohibition ends in the United States. How should we celebrate? I know, kegger!

### April 8, 1974 - Swing batter batter

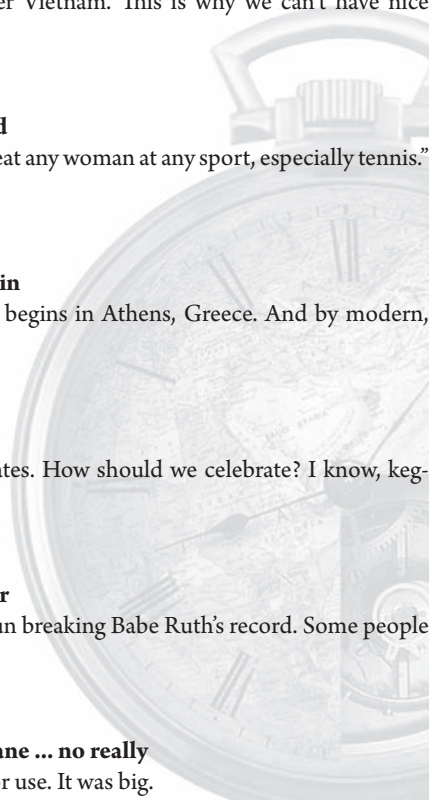
Hank Aaron hits his 715th home run breaking Babe Ruth's record. Some people just don't know when to quit.

### April 9, 1967 - It's a bird, it's a plane ... no really

The first Boeing 737 is rolled out for use. It was big.

### April 10, 1912 - Unsinkable?

The Titanic sets sail from Southampton, England. I wonder how this one's gonna end?



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April 14th

Crafters Market & Home-Based

Business Expo

From 9-4

Find hand made soaps, candles, baby items, bath & body, jewelry, chocolate, home décor, other great products and home-based business opportunities

April 21st

Flea Market Buy-Swap-Sell

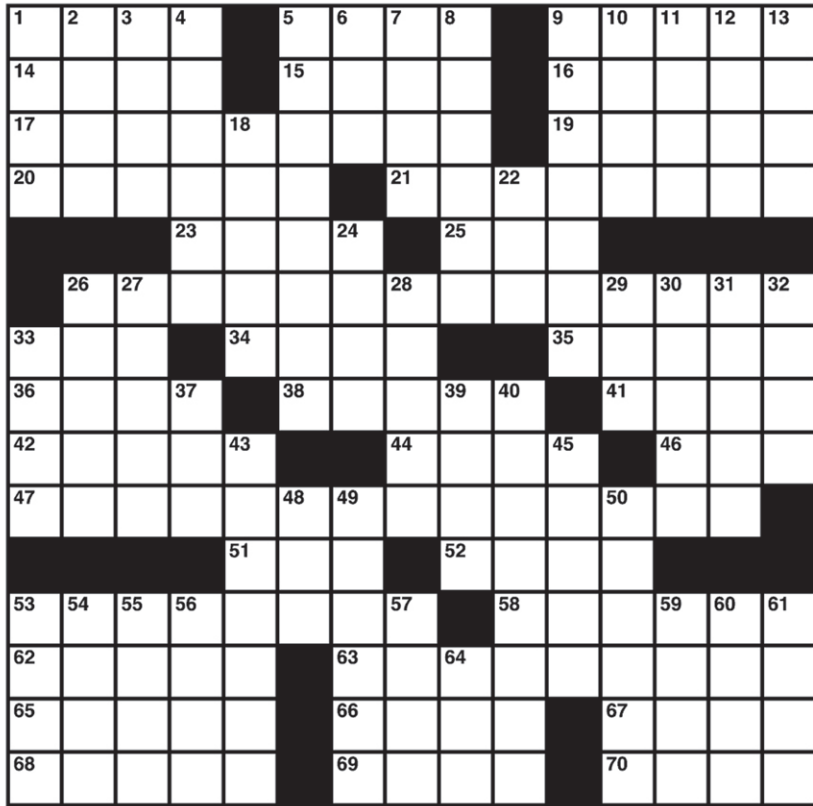
From 9-4

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www.santiampalace.com



- ACROSS**
- 1 Symbol of gentleness
  - 5 Torahs' homes
  - 9 \_\_\_ Ababa
  - 14 Fridge problem
  - 15 R-rating reason, perhaps
  - 16 Longship sailors
  - 17 Maximum tolerance for a stand-up comic's jokes?
  - 19 AT&T Park player
  - 20 Start of a memorable 1961 admonition
  - 21 Force
  - 23 Gripe
  - 25 Slippery swimmer
  - 26 "All Trotsky, all the time" channel?
  - 33 In favor of
  - 34 Flight-related
  - 35 Clichéd
  - 36 It's often left in the copier: Abbr.
  - 38 Wolf (down)
  - 41 Mountain ride
  - 42 Marine threats
  - 44 Edible seaweed used for sushi
  - 46 Clear
  - 47 When dogs can't run loose?
  - 51 Estuary
  - 52 Senior golfer Aoki
  - 53 Lover's sweet talk?
  - 58 Precipitated
  - 62 Cuban boy in 2000 news
  - 63 Nuts about Danish toys?
  - 65 Confuse—or what to do to four common phrases to form this puzzle's theme answers
  - 66 Plus-size supermodel
  - 67 To be, in Brest
  - 68 Hull damagers
  - 69 Signs of nervousness
  - 70 Interpret, as tea leaves



By Michael Blake

- DOWN**
- 1 1970 hit by the Kinks
  - 2 Summer coolers
  - 3 Religious ascetic
  - 4 You can count on a lot of bucks from one
  - 5 Stirs up trouble
  - 6 CD follower?
  - 7 Songwriter Kristofferson
  - 8 Den piece
  - 9 Sainly
  - 10 Knock off
  - 11 Big bore
  - 12 "\_\_\_ that special!"
  - 13 Clockmaker Thomas
  - 18 Doone in Exmoor
  - 22 Relig. title
  - 24 Capital northwest of Rome
  - 26 He played Ugarte in "Casablanca"
  - 27 "All My Children" vixen
  - 28 "\_\_\_ behold!"
  - 29 Sad sound
  - 30 Skater Slutskaya
  - 31 Best way to sing
  - 32 Veto from Lenin



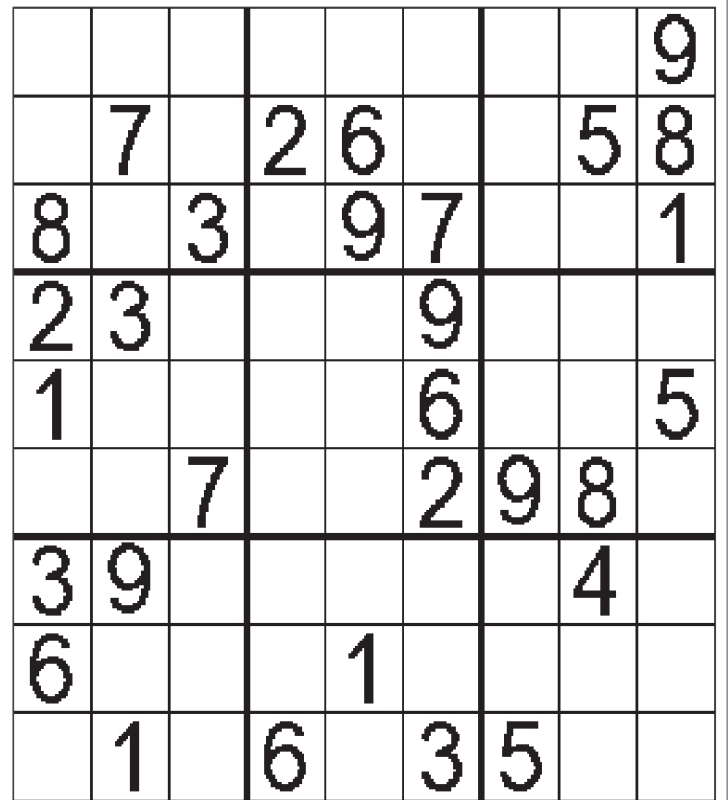
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- 33 Mislead
- 37 Great time, slangily
- 39 Rice-A-\_\_\_
- 40 Sistine Chapel features
- 43 Sacred sites
- 45 "I, Robot" author Asimov
- 48 Come out on top
- 49 Aerie newborn
- 50 More morose
- 53 Adjacent
- 54 Quaint retail adjective
- 55 Sand castle's undoing
- 56 Even share, perhaps
- 57 Huge hauler
- 59 Fill
- 60 Biblical reformer
- 61 Like blue hair
- 64 Tracker maker

## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level:  1  2  3  4

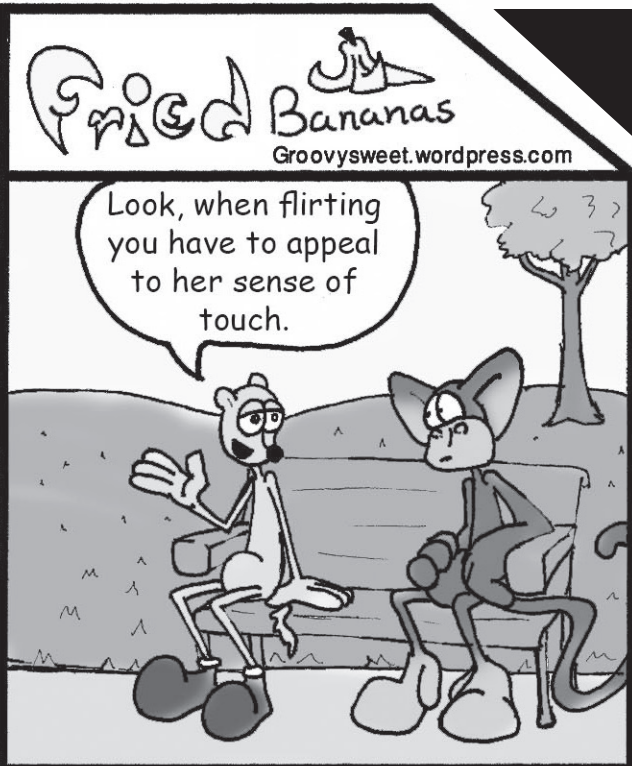


### Last Issue's Puzzle Solved



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton

**Fried Bananas**

Groovysweet.wordpress.com

Mason Le Britton © 2012

## Travel at the Tripp Film Series: “Burma and Cambodia, Lands of Conflict”

### Press Release

Join filmmaker Buddy Hatton as he presents the last film in the LBCC Travel at the Tripp film series “Burma and Cambodia, Lands of Conflict” on Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m. in the Linn-Benton Community College Russell Tripp Performance Center.

Burma’s traditions are deeply rooted in the philosophy of Buddhism. The creed the Burmese live by is heart-felt goodwill to friends and strangers alike. With diversity of terrain, breathtaking beauty and charm, Burma remains one of the most mysterious and undiscovered destinations in the world.

Modern Cambodia’s story is steeped in bloodshed and tragedy. The capital, Phnom Penh, has a French look about it, with wide boulevards and avenues, colonial-era French architecture, and roundabouts. In Siem Reap, Cambodians still strive to recapture a sliver of their ancestor’s glory. The breath-taking temples of Angkor are on the UNESCO Heritage Sites and Wonders of the World lists.

Buddy Hatton cannot remember a time he was not in show business. From a young man producing his own radio and television shows, to producing records, being a talent manger, running a radio show and winning two prestigious Percy Awards, Hatton’s love for people and excitement in discovering new places made becoming a travelogue producer and lecturer

was a natural progression.

Travel at the Tripp is produced by LBCC Performing Arts and AAA Travel Services. Experts from AAA Travel will on hand along with the filmmaker to answer your travel questions, with prizes from AAA given at each show.

SafeHaven Humane Society volunteers will sell coffee, tea and homemade baked goods during intermission at each of this season’s Travel at the Tripp films. Cookies, brownies and muffins along with a variety of pies will be available for purchase. Proceeds support SafeHaven Humane Society, Albany’s non-profit animal shelter, which provides dog and cat adoptions, low cost spay/neuter, and other vital services to the community.

Ticket prices are \$8 for each show, \$6.50 for students/seniors, or \$25 for a season pass to all four films. All films will be shown on Sundays at 2 p.m. in the LBCC Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Russell Tripp Performance Center box office at 541-917-4531. Online tickets sales available at [www.linnbenton.edu/go/film-series](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/film-series). For special needs and accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at Phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 at least 72 hours in advance of this event.

## “Celebration of A Cappella”

### Press Release

The 1st Annual “Celebration of A Cappella” will be held Friday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Linn-Benton Community College’s Russell Tripp Performance Center, Takena Hall, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany.

The concert will feature a cappella performances by LBCC’s Blue Light Special and The Sirens, Rezonate, Oregon State University’s “Divine,” Portland State University’s

“The Green Notes,” The No Names, and West Albany High School a cappella group.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10 general admission, \$7 for students and seniors, and \$5 for children under 12.

For more information, contact the LBCC theater box office at 541-917-4531. For special needs and accommodations, contact the LBCC Office of Disability Services at 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 at least 72 hours in advance of this event.

## “The Nature of Oregon” On Display



### Press Release

Welcoming everyone back for spring term is a new exhibit of photography in South Santiam Hall this month called “The Nature of Oregon,” which is a twist on the word “nature” (as in “essence”). Twenty-nine local photographers offer their take on what makes our state unique, ranging from iconic landscapes like Mt. Hood, Crater Lake and the Gorge, to quirky and cultural aspects like rodeos, lattes and log trucks. The show runs through May 4.

A photo by local artist Ricardo Small on display in SSH through May 4.

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday 4/5

7:30 p.m. the Forum  
2nd Annual LBCC Cabaret. All types of music from Pop to the Harmonica will be performed.  
Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the door.

8 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Grammy Award Winning Rebirth Brass Band with The Revivalists perform!  
Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20 at door.

### Friday 4/6

12 p.m. MKH 118  
Active Minds meeting!

### 8 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Heartless Bastards, David Vadervelde, and Brain Lopez perform!  
Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$18 at door.

### Saturday 4/7

8 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts  
Rootz Underground with Indubious perform!  
Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$15 at door.

### Sunday 4/8

11 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts!  
Tyga After Party!  
Admission is \$10

### Tuesday 4/10

8:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts  
Firehouse, Tera Melos, Golden Motors perform!  
Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$18 at door.

### Wednesday 4/11

8:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts  
BoomBox, Lynx, Quarry, and Cestladore perform!  
Tickets are \$13 in advance; \$15 at door.

If you have an Upcoming Events, please e-mail them to [commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu).

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LBCC Commuter

[commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu)

## Classifieds

**Deadline:** Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission. If you wish a particular ad to appear in successive issues, you must resubmit it.

**Cost:** Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

**Personals:** Ads placed in the “Personals” category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week; no more than 50 words per ad.

**Libel/Taste:** The Commuter won’t knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in unfairly. Any ad judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

### Help Wanted

You can sign up at [www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment) to look at student & graduate jobs.  
\*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena First Stop Center).

**2012 LBCC Career Fair** (AC Gym, Albany Campus)  
Over 57 employers are coming on Wed, April 11, 10am-2pm to talk to you! Check out [linnbenton.edu/go/career-fair](http://linnbenton.edu/go/career-fair) for the latest list of employers and “Job Seeker Links” for Career Fair Tips, “Sample Questions”, and “Planning Tools”.

**CWE Environmental Administrative Asst** (#9595, Albany) Is your major in business or office administration? This CWE job can get you experience and credits and pays \$9-10.40/hr. Student hours: part-time during school and full-time during summer.

**Seasonal Maintenance Workers** (#9592, Corvallis) Here is a summer job for you! Pay is \$9.66-14.28/hr DOE. Street Maintenance, painting, building and grounds, etc.

**Telephone Interviewer** (#9603, Tangent) Join telephone interviewers on a survey research team working part-time. Pay is \$8.80-10/hr to start.

Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone (541)-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232.

Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

# Odds are in Audiences' Favor

**Ashley Christie**  
Page Designer

Tears, bloodshed, fame, fortune ... this could describe "The Hunger Games," or any other "reality" show on television these days.

The latest tween-book-series-turned-film, "The Hunger Games," based on Suzanne Collins' series of the same name, is already tearing up the box office with record sales. There's a reason for that: it's a really good movie. Fans of the book, and cinema in general, won't be disappointed.

For those who don't know what it's about, "The Hunger Games" is set in a future version of our world called Panem. After a massive uprising against the government, the country was divided into 13 districts. Each year, to remind the people of its power and control, The Capitol chooses two teens from each district, one boy and one girl, to fight to the death in the Hunger Games. It's the television event of the year.

In richer districts, being chosen as a "tribute" is an honor. In poorer districts, the people aren't quite as enthusiastic about being fed to the slaughter for the public's viewing pleasure. Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), from District 12 (the poorest district), volunteers to go in after her younger sister's name is chosen. The movie follows her struggle to stay alive.

Before I go any further, yes, I've read the books and yes, I like the books. As a fan of the series, I was happy with how faithful the film was to the original material. It's impossible to cram a 400+ page book into two hours. For the most part, the changes that were made enhance the movie.

A couple key elements were left out. I think the filmmakers are relying a little too heavily on the entire



Jennifer Lawrence, as "Hunger Games" heroine Katniss Everdeen, wins audiences' hearts.

audience having also read the book. For instance, the mockingjay pin plays a key element in the movie, but it's never explained why. We're never told that it's a failed genetic mutation of The Capitol that has become a symbol of rebellion in the districts (which is kind of important).

Perhaps this will get explained in the sequel, or maybe word will just spread with all the people asking, "What's with the bird?"

These issues aside, the movie does a good job of rounding out the world of Panem, especially The Capitol, and adds depth to some of the supporting characters in the world. Where the book stays with Katniss the entire time and her inner monologue, in the film we get the chance to leave the games arena and see the reactions across

the country. We also get an insider's look into the gamemaker's headquarters and an introduction to the pure evilness of President Snow (Donald Sutherland).

If you don't care about the book-to-screen translation, the movie is still really well made. The cinematography is fantastic. Great care was taken in creating the world of Panem and the stark difference between the poverty in District 12 to the lush lives of Capitol residents.

The somber lives of the district is reflected in the color palette and the fact that everyone is dressed like extras from "The Grapes of Wrath." The Capitol uses rich, bright colors to reflect its status in the world.

My favorite element of the film is the casting. Though Jennifer Lawrence

is about five years too old to capture Katniss' youth, she does capture her heart and makes her character more likeable for me. On the page, you're inside Katniss' head the entire time, and sometimes I just wanted to slap her. She's almost too innocent and honest. You win the games by becoming a character people root for, and she never grasps that concept. On the screen, we're spared the inner head trip and can just appreciate Katniss' actions.

Josh Hutcherson, as Peeta Mellark, the other District 12 contestant, is wonderful. He's who I imagined while reading the series and captures his character perfectly. He loves Katniss and his character has to find the balance of those feelings while playing the game for the cameras emotionally and physically.

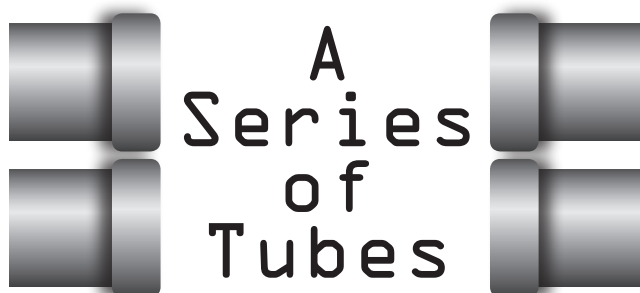
We're also given a good introduction to Gale Hawthorne, a District 12 resident and Katniss' other love interest. We'll see more of him in later films, and Liam Hemsworth does a good job of making him a character we want to know more about.

The real charm of this film comes from its supporting characters. In particular, Woody Harrelson, as Katniss' mentor Haymitch, is a brash, loud-mouth drunk. He gets the film's best lines and steals every scene. He is, by far, my favorite character. While others may declare themselves of Team Peeta or Team Gale, I'm Team Haymitch all the way! But is it really that surprising that a man whose career started as a bartender ("Cheers") is so good at playing drunk?

Stanley Tucci, plays Caesar Flickerman. He serves as the games' commentator and has all the charm of the cheesiest game show host you can think of. His character is given an expanded role in the film, which I enjoyed.

Donald Sutherland is evil incarnate. Elizabeth Banks is almost unrecognizable as Capitol chaperone and Miss Manners herself, Effie Trinket. Wes Bentley gets the coolest beard as Head Gamemaker Seneca Crane, who is a fully fleshed-out character on the screen that we both love and hate at times. And Lenny Kravitz, in his acting debut, as Katniss' stylist Cinna, delivers an incredibly heartfelt performance.

Despite a few minor qualms, like too much shaky-cam for my taste, I still recommend this movie to everyone. If you're a fan of the books, you've already seen the movie. If you just want to go see a good movie, wait a couple weeks for all the hoopla to die down and then go check out "The Hunger Games," and may the odds be ever in your favor.



Your Guide to the Interwebs

## Social Media Privacy

**Marci Sischo**  
Webmaster

This past Friday (March 30), Cult of Mac writer John Brownlee published an article about a smartphone app called "Girls Around Me." This article exploded in a privacy backlash before the weekend was over, resulting in one social media network pulling the app's access to its data, a second investigating the app for a possible terms of use violation, and the makers of the app voluntarily pulling "Girls Around Me" from the iPhone market.

"Girls Around Me" is a geolocation app that determines where a user is via a smartphone's GPS system and displays to the user

all of the women (or men) in their immediate area, on a map, with links to the wealth of publicly-available information from each person's various social media networks.

Specifically, the app pulls from Facebook, Google Maps, and FourSquare. We've all heard of Facebook and Google Maps, but FourSquare is a little less famous. For those who haven't run across it yet, FourSquare is a location-based social networking site that allows users to "check in" at various locations and share that check-in with their friends, while leaving tips, notes, photos, and more on their location. Facebook's Places check-in system is based largely on FourSquare.

As Brownlee states in his article, this particular app, although creepy, isn't so much the problem. There are several geolocation apps that work in a similar fashion. The real problem here is that so much information is so freely available in the first place.

One of the main reasons so much information is available is that more often than not, people don't pay enough attention to their social media privacy settings, or they set them once and never look at them again. This frequently leaves users broadcasting way more information about themselves than they may have intended. It doesn't help that some social media networks make navigating their privacy settings

a full-on nightmare (\*coughFacebookcough\*), or change their settings frequently without alerting users to the changes (\*coughFacebookcough\*).

Today is a great day to start fixing that problem. To that end, here's a series of fantastic guides to help you nail down your privacy setting across various social networks, and help you ensure you're only sharing the information you intended to share.

- LifeHacker: The Always Up-to-Date Guide to Managing Your Facebook Privacy (<http://lifehack.kr/IPAzWO>)
- LifeHacker: A Guide to Google+ Privacy and Information Control (<http://lifehack.kr/oeboL9>)
- Cult of Mac: Stop Apps From Tracking You Without Your Knowledge (<http://bit.ly/HNnwY1>)
- AllTwitter: How To Maintain Personal Privacy on Twitter (<http://bit.ly/GKD3K7>)

Ten or fifteen minutes with these guides will have your information safely locked down as tight as possible, but these aren't the only things you should watch. Remember also to watch what kind of permissions go along with the apps you download and install to your smartphone. ComputerWorld reported last year that 20 percent of Android apps accessed private or sensitive information on users' phones, and that Apple's iOS apps were sending more personal information out to third parties on a per app basis than Android's were. Finally, keep an eye on what kind of permissions Facebook's apps are asking you for, too. Many of those apps are gathering a lot more data about you – and your friends – than you might realize.



*Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors by somebody I do not know - John Keats*



## Eastern Sunz and that "Filthy Hippy Music"

*Duos new album, "Filthy Hippy Music," a success*

**Joel DeVyldere**  
Contributing Writer

Eastern Sunz can hold a live show together - a fact that people on more than one continent can attest to. Through American and European tours, thousands of fans have heard the brilliance and seen the light, while grooving to the beats of this socially conscious, Eugene-based hip-hop duo.

"You can be heard or be herded like sheep, be the early bird or get murdered in your sleep," Sunz frontman Courage related as he broke it down for fans at the WOW Hall last month. But these fellows - Courage and TravisT - aren't just your average bass-bumping, 'hood-conscious emcees. Lyrics from the Eastern Sunz are permeated with an optimism uncharacteristic of their genre, a tempered realism that unassumingly reaches out for environmental justice and social equity with surprising clarity and liberal doses of sarcasm.

The Sunz take the game to a whole new level with "Filthy Hippy Music," a record aware of its own quirks and eccentricities, and shamelessly self-described on the title track as "concise and relevant." And they deliver. The six tracks on "FHM" deal with topics as different as poverty and deforestation in a cacophony of what is called on the album "street knowledge laced with academic concepts."

"FHM" dropped March 23, at which point fans and skeptics alike had the pleasure of hearing six of the sharpest, cleverest, and arguably most relevant tracks in the hip-hop genre. The Sunz, who took home an Independent Music Award for last year's "Corroded Utopia," have really outdone themselves this time.

"I started rapping in third grade," recalls Courage, whose real name is Aaron Harris. "I pretty much started rapping as soon as I heard rap music. I basically picked up the pen and started emulating it."

Five albums later, after ten years together as a group, Oregon-raised Courage and TravisT are still making music. But there's a lot more to them than just beats and rhymes. Both rappers are college graduates, and both are engaged in presenting listeners with an environmentally conscious societal critique.

"My academic career and my music career run parallel in a lot of ways. I think they have both informed each other, in terms of the direction that I've chosen to go in my life," says Courage, who is studying urban planning and community development at the University of Oregon.

"Looking at community development is looking at societal equity issues, environmental issues, all the political and economic stuff that goes into the context of what creates a community. That ties into other environmental issues in terms of health, crop production, environmental equity and safety ... and those are the themes of our music."

"Make love, not war. Smoke weed, not tobacco," begins the track entitled "Threads," which projects an optimism on a life often muddled by complex systems of oppression. Controlled substance use is portrayed as positive throughout the Sunz' music, while only abuse is depicted as negative.

So how do you craft an album that features the voice of Bill O'Reilly and an entire track devoted to Beatles references? "To me, creating hip-hop music is like making a collage," Courage explains. "It's taking all these different components and putting them together ... It's like a dialectic. It's kind of like this interesting synthesis of your collective life experiences and also the products from society with the samples that we might grab."

On the subject of influences, Courage talks up the Oakland-based rebel rap group The Coup. "They're probably one of the first to warm me up to a lot of issues."

He sees himself as part of a long line of socially-conscious emcees, a tradition that Courage aspires to continue: "Music is always entertainment, but I think that first and foremost we've definitely used it as a medium to convey concepts and ideas that we consider to be important and pressing."

And, though they have met with some commercial success, Courage asserts that it's not about all that. "We don't do the commercial formula. We make the songs that we make 'cause we think that they're pertinent, and that they've got something to 'em."

These bike-riding, organic-food-promoting hippie emcees can make some sick beats, but the real magic is in the lyrics. "I think our shit's hard," Courage says. "It's different. I mean, we're talking truth."

The first single from this album is now available on Youtube. You can download "Filthy Hippy Music" from [www.easternsunz.com](http://www.easternsunz.com) now.

## London Calling the LB Choir

**Carli Gibson**  
A&L Editor

London will be the host of the Olympics this year, where our very own choir will be performing! It was no easy task for LBCC's Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir to be honored with this opportunity. It wasn't just getting the chance to perform in London. The process continues with fundraising, never-ending rehearsals, and preparations.

After applying for the chance to perform, our choir got "an official invitation to perform as part of a worldwide mass choir and to perform a solo performance on our own," according to James Reddan, music faculty and director of choral activities. Getting to where they are now required a lot of effort.

As part of the application process, an audition CD had to be sent in, which Reddan pulled from the choir's strongest, most excellent performances in competitive situations over the past several years, but that wasn't the only requirement. Reddan adds that the choir also "really needed to have an established standard of excellence to be considered." Our choir's excellence beams through their strong work ethic and dedication. While most people are busy sleeping on Saturday mornings, the choir is busy preparing for the upcoming performances.

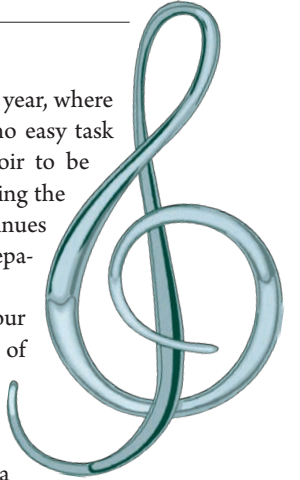
All the hard work put into these performances are to overcome the challenges that they face.

"Performance, especially vocal performance, is a lifetime learning process," Reddan said. "Which is why no matter how great our choir is now, they will always find room for improvement because of their dedication and hard work."

Among other challenges, they didn't feel that being from a community college was one of them.

"Excellence can be achieved at any educational level, and our students are proof-positive of that," said Reddan. Instead, Reddan and his choirs found their biggest challenge to be the short amount of time they have. "There is only so much that can be done in class, which requires extra rehearsals outside of regular classes and working with a variety of complex schedules." And, of course, the funding that comes with a trip like this can always be a challenge.

As the choir continues their constant effort, Reddan continues to beam with pride. "I am extremely proud of the Chamber Choir and all of the choirs for what they have achieved; they have a lot to be proud of, for their journey through singing has certainly paid off!"



### COMING ATTRACTIONS

 <p><b>Titanic 3D</b> Rated: PG-13 Genre: Out of Original Ideas</p>	 <p><b>American Reunion</b> Rated: R Genre: Aging High Schoolers</p>
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Sources: [IMDb](http://IMDb.com), [Yahoo! Movies](http://Yahoo! Movies), [Fandango.com](http://Fandango.com)

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