

The

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A Weekly Student Publication

February 17, 2010

Commuter

Fat Tuesday

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The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Max Brown
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Campus News

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

New LBCC president settles in

Gregory Hamann at a glance

What: President of LBCC since Feb. 1

Age: 56

Previous job: President of Clatsop Community College, since 2003

Education: A bachelor's degree in psychology and social studies education from the University of Minnesota; a master's degree in counseling psychology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; and a doctorate from Gonzaga University in educational leadership.

Family: Wife, Rita, and son, Mike.

Justin Bolger
The Commuter

LBCC officially has a new leader!

Selected in November, Gregory Hamann is the successor to Rita Cavin as the seventh president of LBCC.

Just two weeks after his Feb. 1 start, The Commuter got the chance to get to know Hamann a little better.

His manner of speech is both down-to-earth and well considered; this made for a great conversation. Here are some highlights:

Commuter: What are some major accomplishments from your time at Clatsop Community College?

Hamann: When Clatsop hired me seven years ago, there were really two things they wanted me to work on: some severe facilities challenges and some accreditation problems. We were able to clean up our accreditation. I got to be a part of it, but it was a lot of people working together to fix that. Clatsop has struggled for years with inadequate facilities - we got that project started. From what I can tell they're enjoying their new building, and now they're working on another one.

C: What led to your decision to change schools?

H: Part of it is just the way I'm wired - I just don't sit still real well. I was looking for a new opportunity. At Clatsop I was able to work with some great people and accomplish some great things, but the things that were on my list, the reasons I was hired, were all checked off, and so I wondered what I would do next. LBCC is a school that's always impressed me. So when Rita decided to retire, I thought hard and decided to apply. It's the only position I've applied for since I came to Clatsop, so it wasn't like I was on the hunt.

C: How have you been involved in your community before?

H: I was on the Liberty Theatre Board, worked together with my wife who was very involved in the Women's Research Center, which is an organization that



LBCC President Greg Hamann welcomes visitors outside his office during a reception two weeks ago.

Photo by Chris Foster

helps with domestic violence situations, and I was involved in the church. You work very collaboratively with the school district and city, and it becomes very much a joint venture.

C: How has the moving been for you and your family?

H: The people here have been so welcoming and helpful. My wife is still back in Astoria trying to sell our house. We're looking into buying a home in North Albany, and once we have that all secured, we'll move everything down here.

C: What are your impressions after your first few weeks here?

H: Again, it's hard to imagine being more welcomed. There are a lot of good people doing great things. It's just been wonderful. I'm still the new kid so I'm just beginning to figure things out, but people

have just been so helpful. Mostly I'm just really excited and proud to be here.

C: Do you have plans on where you're going to take LBCC?

H: I more want to think that what I do is participate in a process in which we go together. I know I have a unique role to play as president, but it's not my job to come in and superimpose a new agenda. It's my job to support and consolidate energies and dreams. I have my own, but I don't come here with an agenda to take us in a new direction. We have plenty of things to do.

C: What sort of events around the campus do you plan to attend?

H: I try to get everything on my calendar, and when I can do it, I do it. I like student activities - just finding ways of

making sure that I'm staying connected with students. I try to go to off-campus events with faculty, so I can get to know them better too.

C: Is there a message you'd like to leave for the students and faculty?

H: There are a lot of things that we do around here, and it's really easy to focus on what you're doing instead of why you're doing it, and this may be more a challenge for me, but something I think we all need to do is remind ourselves that everything we're doing is to create opportunities for students.

His actions speak louder than words. The Bandit, Clatsop's school newspaper, mentioned in an article that Hamann saved the jobs of 23 employees, partly by taking a pay cut of his own when the school was forced to cut its expenditures by 15 percent. He never mentioned this during our interview.

During a more informal conversation afterward, Hamann described a few of the adventures he's been on in his off time, including skydiving last summer and international travels. The most interesting story, however, was about getting on a train with several students, which led to a burning-barrel discussion with the homeless.

"One of the guys who was sitting around (the barrel) had his master's degree and just didn't like the way work tied him down. So you just learn so much when you let yourself have one of those experiences. We're meant to be connected with other people. If we let ourselves do that, our life is really enriched."

Hamann encourages students to never stop having adventures, because "life is a grand adventure." According to our new president, they are what enrich our lives. We shouldn't be afraid.

"I think part of what education is supposed to do is help us to feel the courage to do some of those things. Sometimes we're raised in such a way that we get stuck, and education helps us to see other options."

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Some Restrictions Apply

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Students set to study in shadow of pyramids

Chris Foster
 The Commuter

Pack your bags! An opportunity to study one of the world's oldest cultures and one of the Ancient Wonders of the World is available to students of LBCC. Partnering with EF tours, Linn-Benton will be sending interested students to Egypt next spring.

Under the instruction of Robert Harrison, students will be leaving March 12 next year to study ancient Egypt. The trip will be one week long, with travelers returning on March 21.

Students will visit a number of interesting and educational sites during the trip, including the Great Pyramids. Along with that unforgettable site, the trip includes a visit to the Cairo museum, where students will see the treasures of King Tutankhamen and learn about the modern and medieval history of Cairo.

It's not all studying however. While in Egypt, students will have the opportunity to take a cruise on the Nile River and a visit to the Valley of the Kings at Luxor.

Harrison will be tying the trip into his History 101 - African History class and History of Religion. He is excited to teach students how ancient Egyptians built a political society that ran for 3,000 years, as well as how their ideas and beliefs shaped future civilizations, showing that ancient people may not have been as primitive as we think.

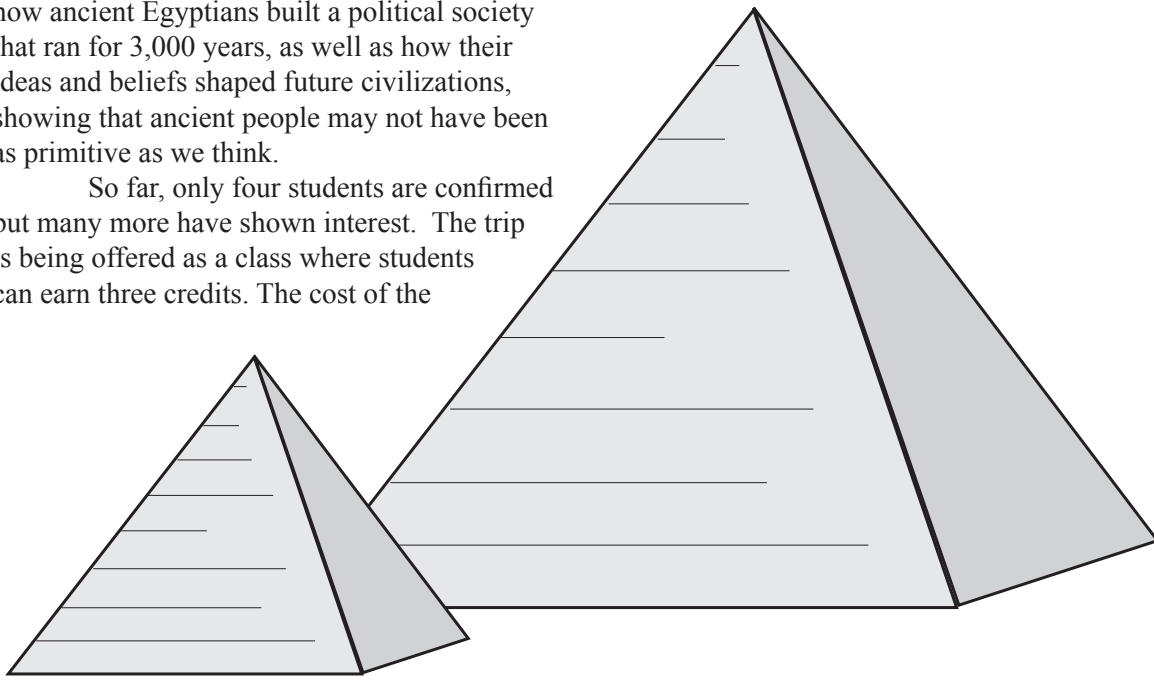
So far, only four students are confirmed but many more have shown interest. The trip is being offered as a class where students can earn three credits. The cost of the

trip varies for each person, depending on travel insurances and room choices. For students age 23 and under the travel fee will be around \$2700; students over 23 will pay around \$3000.

For those interested in taking the trip next year, a meeting is being held in the LBCC Library on Thursday, March 4 at 3 p.m. Also, those taking the course as a class should plan on paying the regular tuition, purchasing a book, and meeting with Rob Harrison in classes before taking the trip.

This year, Harrison's students are taking a trip to Greece. This trip will leave on March 11 and take 15 travelers, 12 being students and they will travel to Athens, the Acropolis, and the Citadel of Mycenae. Students will be studying historical and archeological sites, learning about the birthplace of democracy and the Parthenon as the temple to Athena and how it influenced western architecture. While there, it wouldn't be right not to visit Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympics in 776 B.C.E.

Harrison has plans for future trips including China and the Civil War battlegrounds, hoping to complement the study abroad trips like the ones to Central America, giving students a chance to broaden their minds and memories.



Group raises \$400 for Haiti relief

Max Brown
 The Commuter

Instructor Scott McAleer's History of Latin America class finished their fundraiser for Haiti last week. The group began raising money a few days after the earthquake struck Haiti.

They had a table set up in the cafeteria every day during lunch for about two weeks.

McAleer said they took in around \$358 in bills and he thinks they had about another \$50 in change. The majority of the donations were \$1 or \$2. He feels this shows that a lot of people on campus gave what they could afford, and he was very pleased with the volume of participation.

The class is giving half of the money to the Red Cross and the other half to Doctors Without Borders. These groups were chosen at the beginning of the fundraiser because they are well known so the class felt people would feel comfortable giving to them, and they believe those organizations spend their money well.

McAleer thanks his class for all their hard work. He said they had a core group

that worked really hard on this project. He really enjoyed working with them and getting the opportunity to know them better.

He calls their fundraiser more of a wiki-fundraiser. McAleer said instead of a set guideline for how they would raise the money, it was a series of in-the-moment contributions. Like the wiki-communities online, the group would look at any idea someone presented and choose whether or not to run with it that day.

"I didn't anticipate how enjoyable it was, even though the cause was quite grim. Working towards a solution for that cause was actually a fun thing to participate in."

McAleer said that he has not changed the class schedule too much, but they have talked more about Haiti than they normally would. He said that many of the issues that were directly affecting Haiti before the earthquake are still to be discussed in the class, so later in the class there will be a greater opportunity to discuss Haiti and the crisis more.

Academic Success Seminars

Boost Your COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE!

Sign up on SIS under Study Skills – or just drop in!

Accomplish Your Academic Goals				
Wednesday Feb. 17	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm	
Wednesday Feb. 17	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm	
Wednesday Feb. 17	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm	

Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center. For more information and to sign up, visit SIS under Study Skills or call 917-4684.

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests 4 to 6 weeks before the event where possible. To call by TDD, call the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2900 & provide them with the number you wish to reach.

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chicano Week

A look at lives of Chicanos through film & discussion

February 22–26 All Films & Discussions at the Diversity Achievement Center

<p>Monday, February 22 <i>"Chicano Park"</i> • Documentary 11 a.m. – Noon Chicano Art Presentation <i>Analee Fuentes</i> Noon - 1 p.m. <i>"Quest for Homeland"</i> Documentary • 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, February 23 <i>"Struggle in the Fields"</i> Documentary • 11 a.m. – Noon <i>"Salt of the Earth"</i> • Film 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.</p> <p>Wednesday, February 24 <i>"Taking back the Schools"</i> Documentary • Noon – 1 p.m. <i>"We are Chicans"</i> Student Panel • 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.</p>	<p>Thursday, February 25 <i>"Papers"</i> • Movie • 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. DREAM Act Presentation by <i>April-Kay Williams</i> 11a.m.- Noon <i>"Fighting for Political Power"</i> Noon – 1 p.m. • Documentary <i>"Papers"</i> • Movie • 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.</p> <p>Friday, February 26 <i>"Brown is the new Green"</i> Documentary • Noon – 1 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PIZZA on THURSDAY! between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sponsored by: Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER</p>
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FREE SNACKS & DRINKS Provided all day

For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests four to six weeks before the event. To call any LBCC department by TDD, call through Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service 1-800-735-2900 and provide OTRS the number of the department you wish to reach at LBCC. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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Debate: A year with Obama

Maya Lazaro
 The Commuter

Students munched on pizza while debating the pros and cons of the Obama administration last Thursday, Feb. 11, during a student panel titled "Reflection of the Year with President Obama".

The debate took place in the Diversity Achievement Center from noon until 1 p.m. Moderator Veronica Garcia asked a series of five questions about various topics, such as health care, racism and higher education to four panelists, two for Obama, and two against. Abel Soriano and Muna Hassan spoke in support of Obama, while Patrick Anderson and Johnny McWilliams were in opposition. Anderson volunteered to be a panelist last minute when a panelist that was to be speaking against Obama didn't show up.

Garcia began the panel by asking whether Obama's new health care bill would be effective. Soriano brought up "fallacies within the (current) system" and that by asking for Republican input Obama was being fair and bipartisan in the creation of the bill. Anderson countered that the "health care system in place just (needed) to be fine-tuned." Audience member Dick Creaser brought up the topic of tort reform during the health care debate, stating that neither side had adequately addressed that aspect of rising health care costs. The debate became heated as Creaser and Soriano argued over malpractice insurance before Garcia had to step in and move on to the next question.

The second question dealt with how having an African American president has changed race relations in the U.S. Hassan stated that it "opens up the doors for the U.S. to be more open" and was proud that the U.S. has "moved from segregation to



Muna Hassan and Abel Soriano discuss the pros of Obama's first year.



Dwain Stizeckland and Barry Payton listen intently during the event.

Photos by Max Brown

having a black president." Creaser and Barry Payton, who were sitting in the audience, felt unjustly labeled as racists whenever they disagreed with Obama's policies.

The third and fourth questions asked panelists about the job market and higher education. Soriano emphasized that by supporting green or eco-friendly businesses, Obama was creating a new job market for the unemployed. Dwain Stizeckland, who sat beside Creaser and Payton in the audience, was vocal about illegal immigrants, stating that they were taking jobs opportunities away from legal U.S. citizens. Creaser and Payton were upset that Obama's "Dream Act," which gives opportunities for undocumented immigrants

to become citizens through going to college, discriminated against legal citizens who are not given the same financial support.

The final question up for debate was the new hate-crimes bill amendment, which seeks to include crimes committed based on gender identity or sexual orientation. Garcia asked panelists whether the government should be focusing its efforts on the amendment when there are already so many pressing issues at hand. Both the panelists and audience had little to offer in terms of debate, except for Creaser, who felt that if he were attacked because he was a straight, white male, he would be "laughed at" for pressing charges.

Non-western art showcased

Max Brown
 The Commuter

Another showcase of beautiful art is available to students and faculty of LBCC.

Gary Westford, art instructor at LBCC, has a display of art from his private collection in South Santiam Hall. The show is called "Promised gifts: Art from non-western cultures." It has around 18 works, which consist of sculptures, masks, paintings and more. These works hail from China, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, Africa and the Pacific Islands.

"I've been collecting art since I was 20 years old, and the work that's on display there is part of my collection. Basically, I'm an art alcoholic. I use art as a tool in my classes, rather than just showing images from the web or looking at books. There's no substitute for seeing the real thing."

Westford put this display up to link it with events associated with black history month. He says that western artists in the early 20th century, such as Picasso, were hugely influenced by non-Western art. They saw it as primitive, coming from a spiritual place.

He wanted this show to focus on other cultures so students, faculty and staff would have an opportunity to view and think about art they don't normally see in western culture.

"The thing I love about them is the use of texture, use of repeated pattern, beautiful color, and also images that are frequently abstract," Westford said about the art show.

He also mentioned that some of these cultures don't necessarily have a word for art, like the African culture that the Chi Wara headdress comes from. This is a headdress used in ceremonial dance among the Bamana in Mali.

When he first saw the Chi Wara in a gallery he thought, "Wow. What a beautiful sculpture." Later he was talking to the gallery owner and she informed him it was a headdress. In his class, Understanding Art, he shows pictures of this, documentaries, and brings in the actual object.

Currently there are three art showcases around campus: "Twist" in NSH, which features the drawings of Jim Adams and photos by Robin Bachtler Cushman; "A Passion for Glass" also located in NSH featuring works by Bill and Jane Siebler; and this new show in SSH.



Above: A Chi Wara headdress from the Bamana culture in Mali.
 Below: An Indonesian tribal mask on display in SSH.

Photos by Max Brown





Through Feb. 26 (Fri)
Promised Gifts: Art from Non-Western Cultures
South Santiam Hall Gallery
 The exhibit will feature authentic art works from many countries including China, Mexico, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, India and Africa. These objects include African masks, a headdress and ceremonial bowls, examples of Chinese calligraphy, a painting from India, a Japanese wood-block print and many other beautiful objects.

Through Feb. 26 (Fri)
Twist: Art on Exhibit
North Santiam Hall Gallery
 Twist features the drawings of Jim Adams and the photography of Robin Bachtler Cushman.

Feb. 18 (Thu)
Racial Segregation Then and Now
 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. • *Diversity Achievement Center*
 Have we really addressed racial segregation in America? Come for an interactive conversation and understanding of past policies that effect our lives today. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.

Feb. 18 (Thu)
Valley Writers Reading
 3 p.m. • *NSH-208*
 The series is proud to announce a reading this term by a member of our English faculty, Ruben Casas. He will be reading excerpts of papers and stories by and about undocumented youth. For more information, contact Jane White at whitej@linnbenton.edu or Lucette Wood at woodl@linnbenton.edu

Feb. 19 (Fri)
Acoustic Showcase: Wild Hog in the Woods
 Noon – 1 p.m. • *Benton Center Student Lounge*
 This local stringband plays a wild mix of old-time, swing, ragtime, blues and tin-pan alley tunes with honest verve and gusto. Their motto is, "Nobody leaves without a grin." For more information, contact the LBCC Benton Center at 541-757-8944.

Feb. 19 (Fri)
Ceramics Lecture
 7 – 8 p.m. • *Benton Center, BC-204*
 Dennis Meiners will hold a free slide show and lecture. For more information or to register, contact the LBCC Benton Center at 541-757-8944.

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Feb. 20 (Sat)
Ceramics Workshop
 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. • *Benton Center*
 The LBCC Benton Center will host a workshop with award winning ceramic artist Dennis Meiners. Cost for the Saturday workshop is \$40. For more information or to register, contact the LBCC Benton Center at 541-757-8944.

Feb. 20 (Sat)
Baseball Hitting Camp
 9 a.m. • *Activities Center gym*
 This clinic is geared for ballplayers ages eight to 18. Camp includes three hours of instruction, a camp T-shirt and refreshments. Cost for the camp is \$40. For more information, contact Greg Hawk at 541-917-4242.

Feb. 21 and 27 (Sun and Sat)
Children's Play "Cool Suit"
 3 p.m. • *Russell Tripp Performance Center*
 This musical retelling of "The Emperor's New Clothes," a classic tale of the vain, clothes-horse Emperor, rocks with music and comedy. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children under age 18.

Feb. 22 (Mon)
Permission Marketing Seminar
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. • *Small Business Development Center*
 Receive hands-on instruction that includes using Constant Contact® software as you learn to reach your target market. LBCC instructor Jan Weir will discuss the principles of Permission Marketing and help you apply what you've learned as

you take the next step in marketing your business, products and ideas. Basic computer skills needed. The four-week, non-credit class will meet on Mondays. Cost is \$149 and includes all materials. For more information or to register, contact the LBCC Small Business Development Center at 541-917-4923.

Feb. 27 (Sat)
Canned Food Drive and Employee Appreciation Event
 4 – 7:30 p.m. • *AC-130*
 In conjunction with our last home basketball game for the season, the athletic department will be holding these two events. The Employee Appreciation event is our opportunity to say "Thank You" to the LBCC faculty, classified

staff and managers who support our student-athletes and athletic programs. Admission cost will be two cans of food or a cash donation of at least two dollars.

March 5 (Fri)
LBCC Winter Banquet
 6:30 and 7 p.m. • *College Center Commons*
 Tickets are now on sale for the annual Linn-Benton Community College Winter Banquet presented by the LBCC Culinary Arts students. Tickets are \$21 per person and include the complete buffet and beverages. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the LBCC Culinary Arts Department at 541-917-4391 or 541-917-4385.

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

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Opinion

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Drop-in: Forum 222

A word from your local ASG

Updates (and a few words from behind the scenes) in the office!

Concerns and rumors about the smoking policies on campus have created unnecessary tension between students, administration, facilities, smokers, non-smokers, Oregon law, etc ... I could carry on, but the point that I would like to emphasize in this update is the importance of civil communication and cooperation.

In an attempt to help facilitate a compromise between all stakeholders, the ASG is partnering with other offices from the campus on an awareness/feedback campaign. Surveys, flyers, posters, class raps and news media updates (such as this article ☺) will all be utilized to gather information and ideas and to raise awareness within the campus community. For those who haven't had a chance to share their ideas, questions, or concerns with a surveyor or representative, stop by the SL&L office and speak your mind.

Just in case you haven't already heard, Study Jam and Kids Jam will be happening the weekend before finals (March 13th and 14th). Need a place to get in some last-minute studying with quality resources and knowledgeable help? How about a few hours of free child care to help minimize distractions and maximize focus time? Check the bulletin boards around campus or the SL&L office for information about locations and times. Study Jam and Kids Jam are free for LBCC students. However, space is limited for Kids Jam. Information and signups for Kid's Jam are available in the SL&L office.

Tuition is a concern for most students. Next month the ASG will be hosting informal discussions with campus administrators and students in The Hot Shot coffee house to address possible changes or adjustments to tuition rates at LBCC. Dates and times for discussions are still being determined. If you would like to be a part of these events, or would like information on the topic, please email asgpres@linnbenton.edu to be added to our list of event contacts.

Elections for next year's ASG members will be occurring on February 24th and 25th via an online voting site. The rest of this update is sad, yet hopefully inspiring to some. In the nearly month-long window of opportunity to apply for a candidacy, 20 applications were handed out – 5 were returned. To those 5 who were courageous enough to step forward and take this chance, I applaud you. It takes a tremendous amount of strength in character to be brave enough to step into a role of responsibility and leadership. Prior to even taking on that role, though, you are forced to acknowledge the fact that you might not even be selected by your peers to be their representative. Once again, I applaud you. This year's election will be a test of how well we can rally in these apathetic times. For positions that are not filled during the elections, interviews will be conducted by a panel of representatives shortly thereafter to fill vacancies.

Nic Bowman
ASG President

The views of the ASG do not necessarily reflect those of The Commuter. Any questions or comments can be directed to the Student Life & Leadership office.

Associated Student Government meeting schedule 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Public welcome

February 17 – Takena Hall, Main Entrance
March 3 – Takena Hall, Main Entrance
March 10 – Takena Hall, Main Entrance
March 17 – Takena Hall, Main Entrance



Nic Bowman

“Vagina” is not a dirty word

Adam LaMascus
The Commuter

Last Friday, my girlfriend and a roommate took me to OSU's LaSells Stewart Center to see “The Vagina Monologues,” a play written and originally performed by Eve Ensler. I was less than thrilled, but curious. I'd heard the play was good, but then again “Titanic” got a ton of Academy Awards.

Anyhow, after watching the play, a series of monologues inspired by interviews Ensler did with women about their vaginas, I was really surprised. It was, in a word, incredible. The play is designed to be thought-provoking, and it is. Every story, from funny to terrifying, revolves around some sort of misfortune or injustice. One amusing segment centered around a lady complaining about how uncomfortable tampons are, the awkwardness of visiting the gynecologist and the horde of “feminine hygiene products” that are supposed to make their vaginas smell like “rosewater.” Amusingly enough, most of these “hygiene” products are actually unhealthy and cause problems.

“The Vagina Monologues” is about women, and what it is like growing up as a sexual being (because women are sexual beings just like men) in a world that is very resistant and often outright hostile to the idea. One reason I was less than thrilled about seeing this play was that I anticipated some sort of man-hating rant. There wasn't one, and surely not for lack of opportunities.

A couple of the monologues almost made me want to cut my own penis off (which isn't the goal of the play, I know), such as the one from a woman who survived the Bosnian War (1992-1995). During the war, the Serbs set up “rape camps” where Bosnian women and girls age 10 months to 87 years were constantly raped by Serbian soldiers. Accurate numbers are hard to get, but it is believed that between 20,000-70,000 females were systematically raped. This woman's monologue talks about how doctors and soldiers did not just rape her, they used broom handles, other tools, and most horrifically, the barrels of their loaded assault rifles to violate her and the other women.

Another monologue was from a girl living in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has one of the most unabashedly deceitful names for a country ever. This girl tells a story that is all too common in that part of the world. When she was 15, she went out for a two-day vacation to visit an uncle and do shopping with some friends. As they returned home, Congolese soldiers kidnapped them and used them as sex slaves for two years before she escaped. Things like this are still going on daily in the DRC.

I could go on and talk about every monologue, but that would be a huge article. It would also spoil the show for those who haven't seen it, and you really should see the play when you get a chance. Unfortunately, as

far as I know, the only two nights it played at OSU were last week, although they put on the production annually.

As we left the auditorium, there were poster boards and setups promoting a number of topics and groups, such as CARDV (Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence) and various health clinics. There was a local OSU group present called Every1, dedicated toward peer education. One of the men there chuckled and asked that instead of working so hard on defending women once they've been attacked, why not work on eliminating the issue so people don't try to rape women in the first place? He and I discussed the issue of masculinity, and how there is a big difference between being masculine and being an ass. I asked what he did, and he told me his main endeavor was giving presentations to frats in an effort to increase male awareness, show what they can do to help reduce rape, and also, just showing how rape isn't funny, cool or OK.

In the end, “The Vagina Monologues” was funny, educational, horrifying, depressing, and uplifting, all at the same time, and I'm very pleased I went. I'd also like to say the cast did a wonderful job. It is a great thing that so many people are working so hard to make the world a better place for women.



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Fame obsession

Brittany Reynolds
 for The Commuter

“We are living ... in the age, in which the pursuit of all values other than money, success, fame, glamour have either been discredited or destroyed, ... for we are living in the age of ‘the thing.’” These are both lyrics by Felix Da Housecat and the truth which more than half the world lives by. But why? Maybe because it looks simple and can be quickly obtained. In today’s world, being famous is easier than it was 20 years ago. It seems as though a person doesn’t really need this thing called “talent.” A person can rise to fame quicker by dressing bizarre, dating someone “in the business,” or even acting like a complete fool and trading their dignity for cash and entertainment of the masses.

It may also be because fame is a fantasy-like state of being, something not everyone has. The attention, power, money and notoriety a person has when they are famous is enviable by almost everyone. Who doesn’t want to wear Armani or Dior, go to award shows or be a VIP at all the greatest parties? Unless you’re the next Mother Teresa, I’m sure you have thought about what you would do if you were famous.

Perhaps we are lonely? Jake Halpern, author of the book “Fame Junkies,” theorizes that celebrity magazines like “Us Weekly,” “People,” and “In Touch” are so popular because people are lonely. Halpern points out that today more young people tend to marry later in life and more can afford their own living spaces, so they spend more time alone.

When we look at these kinds of magazines that exploit celebrities while at the same time invading their privacy, we feel like we know them, and we want what they have.

Everyone can see what a celebrity really looks like under all that make-up, or witness proof that they eat fast food, just like us. Seeing this, we realize that they are just like us, therefore we may feel that we can be just like them.

In my opinion, it all comes down to attention. There’s no doubt that every single one of us has wanted it more than anything at one time or another. Maybe it’s the way we dress, what we listen to or what we say that helps us get the focus. But for all those who can’t wait to have the limelight, don’t worry. As the great Andy Warhol said, “In the future, everyone will be world-famous for fifteen minutes.”

Back in the day

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

On this day in history ...

Feb. 17, 1600: Nobody expects the Roman Inquisition!
 Giordano Bruno is burned at the stake for heresy at the Campo de’ Fiori, in Rome. Bruno was a mathematician, philosopher, and astronomer that is most famous for proposing that the universe is infinite, and that the sun is just one of billions of similar bodies. There is now a really awesome statue of Bruno at the site where he was burned.

Feb. 18, 1478: A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!
 George Plantagenet, the first Duke of Clarence, is executed in the tower of London after having been found guilty of treason against his brother Edward IV. George is remembered largely as a character in Shakespeare’s play “Richard III.” He holds a special place in my heart, as I played George in my high school production of that show.

Feb. 19, 1943: We got better ...
 The Battle of Kasserine Pass begins. The battle is fought in Tunisia, and is one of the first major engagements between German and American forces in WWII. Erwin Rommel, the “Desert Fox,” leads the Germans to a stunning victory, inflicting about 10,000 casualties, destroying 183 tanks, over 700 other vehicles, and driving the Americans back over 50 miles, while only taking 2,000 casualties and losing 34 tanks. The battle results in the US Army instituting a number of changes that made us far more effective in the future.

Feb. 20, 1472: She had huge tracts of land ...
 As part of a dowry payment, Orkney and Shetland are given to Scotland by Norway. I wish I would be given a bunch of pretty cool islands for a wedding gift.

Feb. 21, 1965: RIP ...
 Malcom X is assassinated by members of the Nation of Islam. Truly an amazing person, Malcom X is far too controversial and complicated to explain in just a few sentences. Coincidentally, this day occurs during the beginning of that year’s “national brotherhood week.”

Feb. 22, 1797: What?
 France sends a small group of French, Irish, and American soldiers to invade Britain in an effort to support an Irish revolutionary movement. They land and begin fighting near Fishguard, Wales. Needless to say it does not turn out well for them.

Feb. 23, 632: End of an era ...
 Muhammad gives his Last Sermon. This is known as “Khutbatul Wada” in Arabic. The sermon is long and contains many messages, one of the most interesting being that since all mankind is descended from Adam and Eve, they are all inherently equal, regardless of race, and it is only through piety and good action that people show superiority.

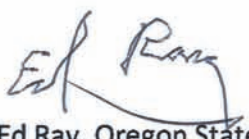
Thought for the week:
 “I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”
 -Nelson Mandela

Letter to the editor


RE: Letter of commitment to the 2010 U.S. Census

At Oregon State University and Linn-Benton Community College, we understand the significance of the 2010 Census and commit our organizations to full participation. We support this important, constitutionally mandated process because it will help define who we are as a nation, affect political representation and direct the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. A complete and accurate census count will help ensure that the communities we serve are accurately represented in Congress and could result in an additional seat in the House of Representatives. Businesses, communities and units of government, such as OSU and LBCC, benefit from accurate data that help us make strategically and fiscally sound decisions, including those that spur and sustain economic development and growth, and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. In communities such as ours which include a high percentage of students, it’s especially important that every undergraduate, graduate and international student gets counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups and residency status. Foreign students who currently live in this region may think they don’t need to participate because they aren’t citizens or permanent residents, but this is not true. Everyone counts! To learn more, please visit www.2010census.gov. When the U.S. Postal Service delivers census questionnaires in April 2010, please complete the simple ten-question form and return it. Our partnership efforts, and your participation, will make a valuable difference for our communities and our state.

Respectfully,



Dr. Ed Ray, Oregon State University



Dr. Greg Hamann, Linn-Benton Community College

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The Commuter
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Feature

Something a little different.

Mardi Gras dance a small success

Maya Lazaro
The Commuter

Not a face was unmasked Friday when students gathered in the Fireside Room for LBCC's Mardi Gras Dance. The event offered a family-friendly alternative for students seeking a chance to party in a safe, drug-free environment.

As the night began, there were only a small handful of students in attendance, but the dance-floor slowly filled up as the night went on. DJ Scott Sanders, who had previously worked at the Halloween Dance last October, mixed modern hip-hop and pop hits with classic 90's tunes. To get his playlist ready for the evening, Sanders filled his laptop with music, and chose songs based on crowd response. If students looked bored and listless, he switched up the playlist in order to get students moving again. "I wing it," yelled Sanders over the music.

The dance was organized by the Student Programming Board and

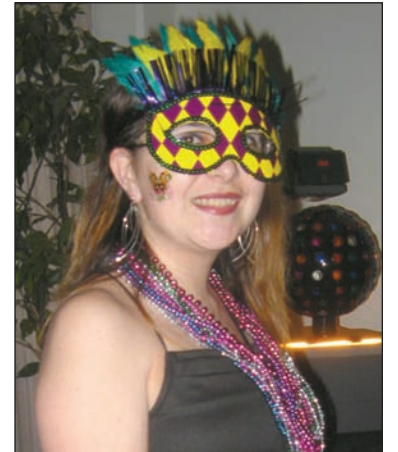
spearheaded by Tiffany Leguina, who researched Mardi Gras before deciding on the theme. While fliers asked students to come dressed in beaded necklaces and colorful masks, board members provided a large supply of extras in case students were not able to bring their own. Snacks and beverages were also available for those who wanted to refresh themselves in between songs.

Students who enjoyed getting dolled up for big events were especially drawn to the dance. Many attendees could be seen wearing ballroom gowns or button up shirts and dress shoes.

"I like costumes. I like dressing up," said business administration student Mia Sanchez.

The evening was a great opportunity for students to let off steam after midterms or steal a slow dance, as did couple Dustin Matney and Alicia Upton during a particularly romantic song.

"It's good energy," said Student Programming Board member Jessica



Left: LBCC students dance the night away last Friday in the Fireside Room.

Above: Mia Sanchez shows off her Mardi Gras costume.

Below: SPB member Sandra Ballardo and her boyfriend Chris Hornell enjoy a slow dance together.

Calhoun.

The Mardi Gras dance was a respite from the sexually-charged, substance abuse-promoting environments of many college parties. Dave Rector, a pre-nursing student at LBCC, brought nephews Jayce and Shilo to the party, and both boys showcased some of the best dance moves of the evening. Although the party targeted college students, Rector had no worries that his nephews were unwelcome.

"It's not like the usual parties I've been to in college.

It's family friendly."

Leguina agreed, stating that the usual antics that go on at Mardi Gras parties, like women flashing their breasts at passersby, were "not appropriate" for school dances.

While the dance had been announced beforehand, it drew a smaller crowd than last term's Halloween Dance, disappointing many Student Programming Board members who expected higher numbers in attendance.

"I've done as much as I could," said Leguina, who was frustrated with the lack of attendance.

SPB Team Leader Allison Walkinshaw had conducted an informal survey earlier this year and found that "most students wanted more dances." She attributed the small turnout to inadequate advertising.

"We need more publicity to get more people to come. We did a lot for the Halloween dance."

Library Science major Stephanie Runge also believed the solution for low attendance was increased advertising.

"[The Student Programming Board] should put fliers everywhere on

campus, even in the bathroom stalls."

Runge was optimistic about the future of LBCC dances and hoped to attend more in the future, offering her own theme suggestions, including "Hollywood" and "By the Lake."

"More people need to know how great these dances are."



Top Left: (from left) Meghann Fenn, Jessica Calhoun, and Tiffany Leguina pose for the camera.

Top Right: (from left) Devon Winters, Amanda Young, Cristy Young and Lindsay Young hang out with DJ Scott.

Right: DJ Scott Sanders keeps the tunes coming.

Photos by Maya Lazaro



Perspectives:

What would entice you to an LBCC dance?



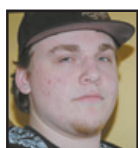
Bryant Na
Business

"I've never been to a dance before ... I want to but I don't have someone to go out with."



Lennie Vaughn
Theater

"There would have to be some entertainment ... where everybody could be themselves, have fun, and not feel restricted."



Chris Southern
Automotive Technology

"More rock music ... because everytime I go to a dance it's Rap Rap Rap."



Ashley Boyez
Social Science

"Just have a rave."



Justen Glynn
Graphic Design

"Make it more publicized ... and some really big thing ... like a big formal."

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SPORTS

News about local and national sports and activities.

Moving forward: Andrew Carter

Erik Bender
 The Commuter

Standing 6 foot 3 inches with tattoos covering much of each forearm, Andrew Carter, 25, cuts an imposing figure in the middle of the key as Linn-Benton's starting center.

Never mind the calm and easy-going personality that makes him so pleasant to speak with. Come game time Carter proves to be a force on the court, averaging over 14 points a game and consistently leading the team in rebounds.

Basketball did not come into Carter's life until eighth grade. Carter grew up moving all around the Northwest with his troubled single mother.

"I was in and out of different projects, I was in a foster home for a year and got into a little bit of trouble here and there," said Carter. "I spent my junior and senior year at Corvallis, sophomore year in Warrenton, freshman year in Astoria and eighth grade in Portland."

When Carter was 17, he met his future wife Andrea. Together they have two children: Andrew Jr., age 5 and Ezra, age 3. Andrew and Andrea are currently awaiting the arrival of their third child Zavier, who is due between April and May.

In 2004 Carter came to Linn-Benton for a term but felt it wasn't as important as working and supporting his family. Now, Carter

has been a student since last year, is pursuing a degree in sports science and looking to possibly further his education at Western Oregon University.

Carter played basketball from eighth grade until his sophomore year in high school, but trouble kept him from making the team his junior and senior year. When a friend of Carter's invited him out to open gym last year, he got to play against a couple of guys on the basketball team and felt he could play at their level.

"He's the heart and soul of our team," said Randy Falk, LBCC's head coach. "His leadership is very strong, it is the kind of leadership that guys look up to and respect, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for Andrew for what he's doing in basketball and in his life in general."

Carter and the team made it into the NWAACC playoffs last year but were eliminated after the first two rounds. This year, however, leaves Carter and the rest of the team in high spirits.

"The team is a lot better than last year; there is more emphasis on team and there's no selfishness," Carter said. "The chemistry is great we are all friends and buddies and joke around. We care for each other, and get on each other's nerves once in awhile but we're like a family unit. Just like the big brother picking on the little brother."



Andrew Carter mans the middle of the Roadrunner defense as the team's starting center.

Photos by Erik Bender

Fun facts about Andrew Carter

- **Childhood dream:** To be a professional baseball player.
- **Fondest memory:** "In eighth grade, the first year I played basketball, I actually went the wrong way and went to the wrong basket. First game, first time in, I got the ball and missed the layup."
- **Perfect day:** "No classes. Get up, work out, eat a really good breakfast at The Original Breakfast, that is my favorite place in Albany. Then take my kids to the park, go to the lake and barbecue with friends."
- **Tattoos:** Left forearm is a large shaded skull with ribbon bearing the words "Till death do us part," signifying the love between him and his wife. Right forearm displays the Greek symbol for Christianity, a tattoo he and a friend serving in Iraq got together.



Carter spots up for a free throw.

"JUSTICE TOO LONG DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED."

Have you read the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail?"

Are you up to the challenge?

In a 500 word essay, examine the letter from Birmingham Jail.

Ask yourself:

What is the significance?

How does this relate to our present day society & social system?

Who is the intended audience?

What is King really calling for?

1st place wins a \$100 book store gift card

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2nd place wins a \$50 book store gift card

3rd place wins a \$25 book store gift card

you can find full text of the letter at:
www.bates.edu/admin/offices/dos/mlk/letter.html

Submit essays to the Student Life and Leadership office.

Deadline to submit is February 19.

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SPORTS

News about local and national sports and activities.



Xavier Wilson drives to the hoop on his way to scoring 17 points against UCC.

Photos by Erik Bender

LB men remain undefeated at home

Erik Bender
The Commuter

A close and exciting game against Umpqua Community College Saturday led to LB taking the one-point victory over UCC, 78-77, and maintaining their undefeated home streak.

In the first half LB (7-3) enjoyed the biggest point gap of the game, 12 points over UCC, but finished the half just 6 points ahead 41-35.

During the second half UCC (2-8) effectively was carrying out their game plan, running out the shot clock while the ball was in their possession, and with 12 seconds left in the second half UCC took a one-point lead over LB 77-76. However, fouls on Jordan Highland allowed for a free throw opportunity to put LB over the top, and stay one game away from first place.



Nick Haney launches a 3-point shot against UCC.

Forward Xavier Watson led LB with 6 field goals and 5 free throws for 17 points, while guard teammate Taylor Roos had 16 points with 7 field goals and 2 free throws.

Top scorer of the game was UCC's guard Elisseo Nieves who made 7 field goals and 11 free throws for 25 points.

"Umpqua came out hard, and we just tried to match the intensity, because our shots weren't falling so we had to keep up the defense and the rebounds and we did it," said LB guard Kenny Yukich "We did a good job defensively, and made key stops down the straight when we

needed to. Our guys' grit is good because in spite of it being a close game we made some very good plays offensively," said head coach Randy Falk.

Roadrunners' home basketball schedule

Men's Basketball

February 17
7:30 pm
vs. Clackamas CC

February 27
6:00 pm
vs. Mt. Hood CC

Women's Basketball

February 17
5:30 pm
vs. Clackamas CC

February 27
4:00 pm
vs. Mt. Hood CC



Riverhawks overcome Roadrunners

Erik Bender
The Commuter

The Lady Roadrunners showed up dressed in pink T-shirts to promote breast cancer awareness Saturday when they played against the Umpqua Community College Riverhawks. Unfortunately LB came away with a loss, 78-56.

The first half of the game showed LB had strong hustle and good team communication, but landing shots was key. LB scored 11 of 33 field goals but was zero of 7 attempted 3-point shots. UCC scored 14 of 27 field goals and 4 of 7 3-pointers in the half. LB did make 11 free throws to UCC's 6 with both teams having 13 attempts, and the first half finished with UCC ahead 38-33.

LB has yet to put together two halves and let UCC run away after halftime. All but one of UCC's starters scored over 12 points in the game, but LB showed who was better at free throws, making a total of 20 of 24 to UCC's 10 of 24.

This game was starting point guard Sam Sander's fourth game back after an ankle injury. She



Above, Triana Crane guards UCC's forward Kate Wilton. Below, Jamie Wilson looks to pass.

Photos by Erik Bender

said she feels her team is still lacking something. "We competed in the first half but once we get in a hole we can't dig ourselves back out of it," said Sanders, who was clearly frustrated at the game's end result.

"We are such a young team and I think everyone is still trying to adjust, but it's good to have extra players for practice," said head coach Teresa Guerra. "We have four games left, all I want is them to put 40 minutes together. All season long we've been able to play one 20-minute half but not the full 40."



THE COMMONS FARE 2/17-2/23

Wednesday

Dishes: Five Spice Pork, Almond Chicken and Sweet & Sour Tempeh
Soups: Egg Flower and Cream of Broccoli

Thursday

Dishes: Chicken Fricassee, Sushi and Spanikopita
Soup: Billy-Bi and Chili Mac

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Dishes: BBQ Country Ribs, Moroccan Chicken and Omelet Bar
Soups: Saffron Chicken and Vegetarian Vegetable

Tuesday

Dishes: Spice Rubbed Beef, Coulubiach and Portabella Polenta w/ Mascarpone & Sun-Dried Tomato Pesto
Soup: Chicken Consommé and Roasted Garlic

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

redbox review

Moon

Joel DeVylde
 The Commuter



I would classify the movie "Moon" as a pointed endeavor into the outer reaches of human sympathy. Writer/director Duncan Jones appears to be aiming to take the human sentiments of "love" and "sanity" and analyze their essence. To achieve this, "Moon" is set in one of the most remote locales available – outer space.

We meet astronaut Sam Bell, depicted superbly by Sam Rockwell, on a lunar mining base, where he is serving the last two weeks of a three-year contract alone in space. Because the live communications satellite for the base is down, Sam's only contact with the outside world is through recorded video. Via these recordings, he holds distant and awkward conversations with his wife Tess (Dominique McElligott) and the management of the lunar mining enterprise.

We hear Sam telling himself that there's just two weeks left time and time again as he goes through his daily routine – running on a treadmill, eating, watching television and going to work. Work consists mainly of monitoring the base's robotic mining vehicles, which are collecting a substance called Helium-3 from the moon's surface. We are told that the Helium-3 harvested from the dark side of the moon is supplying somewhere around 70% of the world's energy at this point. With those kinds of benefits, it might seem a small price to pay to have one man live on-site alone for three years at a time.

And so we watch as Sam Bell slowly starts to lose his sanity. His only real-time interactions are with his robot GERTY (voiced by Kevin Spacey), and his only hope becomes his mantra: "two weeks ... two more weeks."

I found this movie fascinating for its unconventionality, beginning with its unusual setting. On the dark side of the moon, everything is more evident. Here is a likeable and fairly sociable human being living almost entirely without social interaction. There's not much to distract from or obscure the down-to-earth and innately human struggles that Sam is having. He's lonely and yet optimistic, tense but good-natured and even easy-going in some ways.

This movie is a good one to watch alone, or with a friend or two on a Sunday afternoon. It's one of those films that moves slowly and makes you deeply consider the lives of the characters. When the credits start rolling, you think to yourself how lucky you are not to live on the dark side of the moon.

Lounging in Lebanon

Lacey Jarrell
 for The Commuter

Looking for a place in Lebanon to enjoy an espresso or tasty gourmet wrap while studying? For those of you living in Lebanon who haven't noticed the lack of communal places to study, let me be the first to point out that other than the library, there is only one: the newly-renovated Lebanon Coffee House & Eatery, located in the Historic Lebanon Hotel.

Despite upgrades like new carpeting and paint, the Lebanon Coffee House has managed to maintain the integrity of the historical building, which was originally built in the late 1800s. High ceilings, wooden banisters, and original fir wall paneling accentuate a modern atmosphere studded with micro fiber couches, a flat screen TV and artificial bamboo plants.

Students can make use of bar tables in a raised street-side alcove or the regular tables set out through the main floor. Just up the antique stairs is the "Power Lounge," with three oversized chairs and six couches to accommodate a more intimate experience. While I was only able to find one power outlet to plug my laptop into on the ground floor, there are two four-plug outlets that are easily accessible and centrally located in the balcony area and the whole building has free Wi-Fi.

Food items on the menu range from the usual coffee shop bagels and muffins to a more upscale deli-style panini. The portions are not exceptionally impressive, but they are just right for a light afternoon lunch. Most dishes, such as the pulled pork sandwich and sweet chili chicken wrap, come with a choice of fresh fruit or veggie chips. Prices are easy on a student budget, ranging on average from \$4.95 to \$6.95, and the service is quick and accommodating.

Lebanon Coffee House serves Allann Bros. coffee piping hot and made to order. Mochafrappewhatever or just plain coffee, it's all there, including a hook for regulars to hang up their favorite coffee cup. Owner Peter Richard seems genuinely interested in getting to know his customers and is eager to talk to them about a wide variety of



Interior shot of the Lebanon Coffee House.
 Photos by Joel DeVylde

Lebanon Coffee House & Eatery
 661 Main St., Lebanon
 www.lebanoncoffeehouse.com

Open Mon.-Thu. 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Fri.-Sat. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

subjects, especially future plans for the coffee house.

"We are very interested in bringing in and supporting college students ... We want to hear suggestions of what they want," Richard said.

On yelp.com, patron Ashli E. from Portland writes, "I had read that a new coffee shop had moved into the old Lebanon Hotel building ... [that] some guy had a goal of bringing more people to downtown Lebanon which I'm all about! If I was still living in Lebanon I would definitely come hang out there."

In a small town's attempt to move forward and embrace a more social atmosphere, the coffee house is a step in the right direction. Although The Lebanon Coffee House & Eatery doesn't have the upbeat 'live' ambiance most students look for, in Lebanon it's a good deal. Students of all ages are encouraged to stop in and check out the coffee house and see what it has to offer.

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 will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner. Any advertisement 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 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 101).

Census Takers (#7763, local area) Testing is going on now to hire 300-400 people to conduct the census 2010 from March-June **mainly nights and weekends**. Pay is usually \$15.25/hr plus mileage reimbursement. Get paid training, exercise, and a great employer on your resume! Call 1-866-861-2010 to schedule a test. See www.2010censusjobs.gov for practice test.

Customer Service Rep (#7782, Albany) Part-time and full-time jobs with benefits are available. Four weeks of training provided (classes are 8am-5pm or 11am-7pm, 40 hrs req'd, Tues-Sat.) Starting \$8.99/hr.

Online Bookkeepers or Account Rep needed asap, to earn \$200 per duty, registration free, contact: fbenneth@gmail.com

CWE Engineering Assistant (#7800, Albany) If you are a LBCC student in the mechanical, industrial or electrical engineering field, this is your job! Work here through OSU graduation. Pay is \$10.45-

16.90/hr DOE, part-time during school and full-time during summer.

GIS Technician (#7799, Albany) They want a good working knowledge of AutoCAD and one year experience working with GIS or AutoCAD projects. Full-time.

Marketplace

Textbooks bought and sold, new & used, online buybacks. Buy, sell, rent at cheapbooks.com (260) 399-6111, Espanol (212) 380-1763, Urdu /Hindi/ Punjabi (713) 429-4981, see site for other support lines.

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Please sign up in the Diversity Achievement Center, Student Union, or email dac@linnbenton.edu or call 541-917-4461

www.pcc.edu/resources/illumination

For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests four to six weeks before the event. To call any LBCC department by TDD, call through Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service 1-800-735-2900 and provide OTRS the number of the department you wish to reach at LBCC. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Snaps for Haley Mills

Joel DeVylde
 The Commuter

Ice. That's the first word that came to mind while listening to the collection of songs adorning the Myspace page of Broken Toy Airplanes - south Texas' new addition to the realm of indie electro pop. Everything is about freezing and vitiating water. The keyboards and programming are numb in a lake of iced-over rhythms and chill melodies. The lyrics reflect the painful honesty between your nerves and brain when the feeling starts to come back into your limbs (and heart). It's chilling.

All analogy aside, these songs have some incredible substance. Haley Elizabeth Mills is the voice and programmer behind Broken Toy Airplanes, an electronic indie effort with decidedly emo and angsty lyrics. At just 17 years old, Haley puts forth cleverly programmed and emotionally charged musical offerings into the venues of Myspace and Purevolume in the fashion of Playradioplay! and Owl City. Simply put, it's teenage Garageband pop, and it's stunning.

The single "Don't Run" is a musically simple and lyrically tearful glimpse of a lost relationship, complete with hamstrung emotions and strung out vocals. "When she holds your hand and traces the lines, just remember that I'm doing fine..." Mills nails it. It's angsty in subject matter, but also composed and seemingly under control.

Second is "Little Steps," a smiley-sounding look at an inevitable mess of a relationship. This song is a lyrical success that needs refining. Simplistically rendered but vocally stellar, this recording sounds like a first take at what will become a great song. Most notable is "9 Crimes," a cover that was originally written and recorded by Damien Rice for



his 2006 album "9." Mills duets this song with Sean Ryan (who goes by the musical moniker of Apollo's Child). She programs and sings the first verse and the background, while he sings lead. Strangely enough, these kids almost overwhelmingly outperform Rice and his backup (the pop artist Lisa Hannigan) - it's quite the track.

"This is one of the first songs I'm actually very proud of!" she says on her Myspace page, and her confidence is well placed. This song shows maturity, especially in the vocal mixing. The vocals are grounded and full, in the vein of Valeri Lopez and Colbie Caillat. Essentially, this song is ready for an album.

Stepping back, there are some minor issues with the recordings put forth thus far from Broken Toy Airplanes. The tracks are sometimes a bit empty for want of a few more instruments, the sound could be a bit more full, and the lyrics could use more solidity and creativity at times.

Overall, however, the potential of this project shines through. It's that slowly thawing potential that makes Haley Mills an exciting artist. My favorite thing about the music of Broken Toy Airplanes is that it doesn't take itself too seriously. It's fun to listen to and easy to respect.



Los Tequilas deliciosos

Selena Gwin
 The Commuter

Most of us, when we think of comfort food, think of chicken soup, mashed potatoes, or maybe a grilled cheese sandwich. I, on the other hand, like mine with flavors a little more south of the border. With a wide variety of dishes and consistently good food, Los Tequilas Mexican Restaurant has become my local favorite for dinner when I need a little pick-me-up.

Located on Santiam Highway, Los Tequilas is in the same parking lot as Cork's Donuts. They even have a covered walkway leading up to the front door; a big bonus when it's raining. The inside is warm, bright and colorful with murals covering most of the walls and a ring of vined plants that circles the whole dining room above the booths. There's always someone ready to greet you at the front door, and they bring you a dish of refried beans with a dollop of pico de gallo in the middle as well as the normal chips and salsa.

Deciding what to eat may be the hardest part about eating at Los Tequilas. The menu boasts over 12 different burritos and 16 dinners, as well as a whole page of appetizers and two pages of seafood. There's even a kid's menu. While much of their menu is standard Mexican cuisine, they do offer many unique dishes like Chicken Pipian (\$12.99), which is chicken sauteed in a pumpkin seed sauce. Last time, I tried the Chile Verde (\$11.99): juicy morsels of pork simmered and served in tomatillo sauce that was so delicious, I nearly broke my stomach trying to eat it all.

The dinners can be a little pricey for those of us living on a limited budget, but the portions are generous, and the food gets to the table quickly. Dinners range from \$8 to \$14 and many of them come with beans and rice, but most appetizers are between \$5 and \$8. The huge plate-sized burritos go for about \$9, depending on your fillings, and I haven't managed to finish one yet. If you're a fan of fajitas, take a friend (or two!) and share the Trio Fajitas: shrimp, chicken and steak served up family-style on one big sizzling platter with your choice of tortillas, beans, rice, and condiments on the side, all for \$25.99.

My absolute favorite dish at Los Tequilas has to be their Tortilla Soup. For only \$7.99, you get melted cheese, tender bites of



Photo provided by Los Tequilas menu

chicken, corn tortilla strips and a savory broth, topped with fresh avocado, tomato and bright green onion. This soup not only tastes amazing, but it kills my flu every time - and there are always leftovers for later.

I don't come back to Los Tequilas just for the yummy food, though. They have an extensive drink menu with plenty of house favorites and nightly specials. The service has been consistently friendly, with smiles on the way out as well on the way in, and my ice tea or soda never gets empty. They also know when to drop that check off and they take care of it quickly every time. Don't leave without trying their Dulce De Leche dessert (\$3.95), however. They layer thick caramel, butter cake and whipped frosting, slice it up and serve it with a caramel drizzle so you can end your dinner with a sweet treat - but I usually end up taking mine home for later, to enjoy after I recover from my Chile Verde coma.

Los Tequilas
2525 Santiam Highway SE, Albany

Open Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
 Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
 Sun. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Live music this weekend

Friday, Feb. 19

Boy Eats Drum Machine, Massive Moth & Solar Powered! (Electronic)
 IKE Box - 7 p.m.
 299 Cottage St. NE, Salem
 Cost: \$5
myspace.com/ikeboxmusic

Al Rivers (Blues)
 Fireworks Bar and Grill - 7 p.m.
 115 SE 3rd St., Corvallis
fireworksvenue.com

Gumbo

Calapooia Brewing Company - 8 p.m.
 140 Southeast Hill St., Albany
calapooiabrewing.com

Magik, Kopath Bear and Right On

John (Punk)
 The Space - 9 p.m.
 1132 NE Broadway, Salem
 Cost: \$3 donation suggested
thespaceistheplace.com

Merrill (Rock)

Boon's Treasury (McMenamin's) - 9 p.m.
 888 Liberty St. NE, Salem
mcmenamins.com

Intervision

Bombs Away Cafe - 10 p.m.
 2527 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis
 Cost: \$5
bombsawaycafe.com

Saturday, Feb. 20

Brady Goss (Country/R&B)
 Hotel Oregon - 7 p.m. 310 NE Evans St., McMinnville
mcmenamins.com

Jake Duncan

The Downtown Beanery - 8 p.m.
 500 SW 2nd Ave., Corvallis
www.allannbroscOFFEE.com/beaneries/2nd_street.cfm

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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



Photo provided by sunnyside-up-cafe.com

The “Sunnyside” of breakfast

Krista Goeke
 The Commuter

Breakfast is my favorite meal of the day, and experiencing it at Sunnyside Up only increased this admiration for morning chow time.

Sunnyside Up is a restaurant in downtown Corvallis, dedicated to using fresh and nutritious ingredients. They try to prepare every part of a meal on location and use organic foods as much as possible. Best of all, they display a wide range of breakfast dishes.

Getting food was not my only goal when going to Sunnyside Up. I wanted breakfast, but I also wanted it to be stupendous.

Stupendous ended up not just being about food, but also included a peppy atmosphere. Polka dots jumped across the green and orange walls, while bold shapes gave off a hip vibe on lamps hanging throughout the room. Whimsical paintings decorated the walls with bright flowers and swirly strokes. This place had style and was not afraid to show it.

I was ready for an adventure and it started with where I chose to sit. One place stood out more than any other.

It’s called, “the community table.” A place where people can sit together, whether they know each other or not. This table is big enough to hold six or eight people but there are no chairs. Instead, the table resides on a platform accompanied by more than a dozen colorful pillows to lounge against.

When I scanned the menu, several plates looked appealing. Homemade granola, blueberry pancakes and huevos rancheros all

sounded great, but there was one dish that really stood out: Suncakes.

Suncakes are veggie pancakes that come in three different varieties. They are served with a fresh bowl of fruit and yogurt for dipping. Because today was the day for an adventure, I decided to go for it.

Without searching further, I ordered the sample plate which included sweet potato, zucchini, and sweet beet pancakes.

This was not just any meal. The flavors hitting my taste buds were new to me. The sweet potato went down first and brought a sensation to my mouth that made me smile. It was a tad crunchy on the outside, warm on the inside and sweet all the way through. The beet Suncake was not too far off and these two competed to become my favorite.

I tried the zucchini and was surprised by the taste. Perhaps having salsa to dip it in would have complimented its taste, but overall, it had a little too much onion flavor for me to take on.

The good food I found definitely outweighed this minor disappointment, and I can recommend Sunnyside Up to anyone ready for classic home-style breakfast or those looking for something a little more extraordinary.

I finished breakfast satisfied and ready to come back. Starting the day with tasty foods from Sunnyside Up was a good idea.

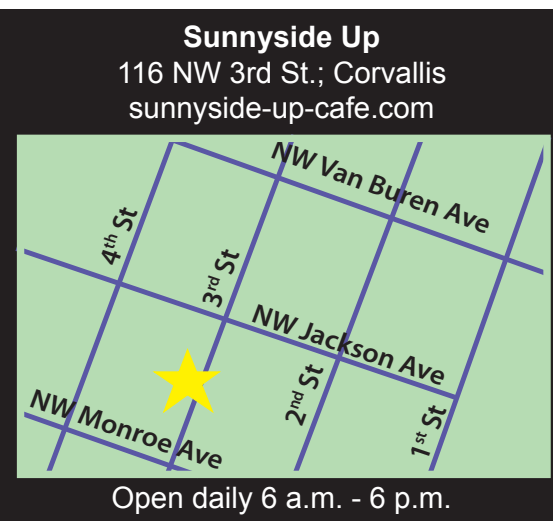
My next good idea: to do it again.

Maybe on my next visit, I’ll have time to chat with others while lounging at the community table.

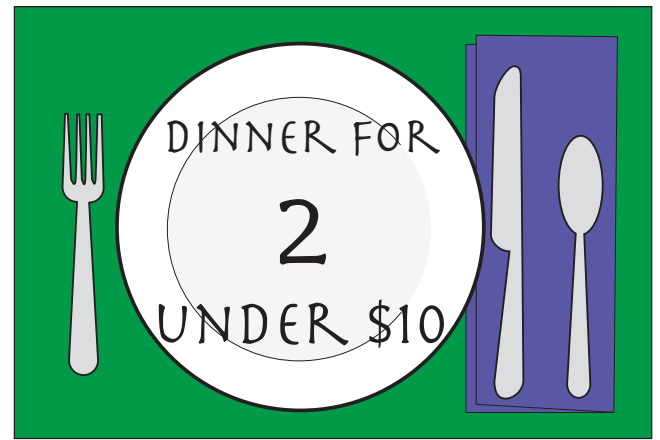
Pricing: Egg and cheese bagels or breakfast wraps start at about \$4.50. Larger meals, such as the Suncakes, run up to about \$9.

Specialties: Sunnyside Up specializes in local and organic cuisine. They pride themselves on making their meals from scratch and offering vegetarian or vegan dishes.

Try: The Sweet Potato Suncakes. Veggies can actually taste good for breakfast. This plate comes with a side of fruit and yogurt dip.



Open daily 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.



Almond crusted cod on a bed of lentils

Jana West
 The Commuter

I’m always looking for interesting side dishes rather than your standard starches to serve with meals, and lentils are not only easy to cook, but healthy as well.

Grocery list:

1 lb. cod	\$5.99
1/4 cup raw almonds (from bulk)	\$.95
1 cup lentils (from bulk)	\$1.02
1 small yellow onion	\$.23
1 medium zucchini	\$.61
1 head garlic	\$.50
1 lime	\$.39
2 bouillon cubes	\$.25
TOTAL:	\$9.94

Sauté the onions in ½ tablespoon of olive oil until translucent; add the chopped zucchini and sliced garlic and cook for about two more minutes.

Dissolve bouillon cubes in 2 ½ cups water to make broth, then add lentils and broth to onion mixture and cook until the lentils are tender. I add ¼ teaspoon of cumin to the lentils as they are cooking, but this can be omitted if you don’t have cumin.

Grind almonds in a food processor until they are the consistency of breadcrumbs, mix with 4 tablespoons of melted butter, the zest of the whole lime, and the juice of half of the lime.

Spread mixture evenly over the fish so that the whole top is covered.

Bake for 15-20 minutes in a 375 F oven, serve over bed of lentils with a few slices of lime.



Here fishy fishy.

Photo by Jana West

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Surreal Living

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

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

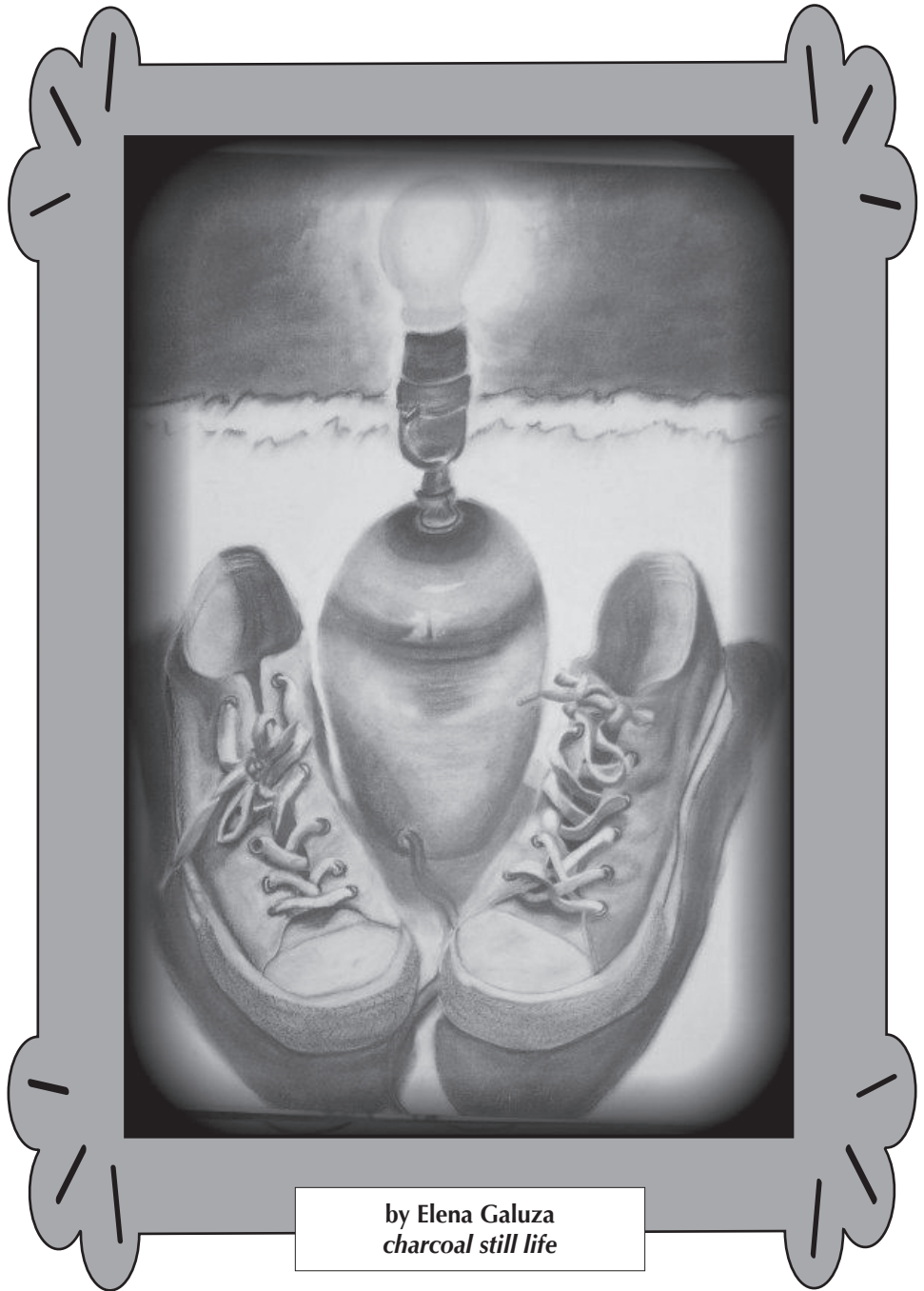
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3	2	5	8	6	4	1	7	9
4	6	7	2	9	1	5	3	8
7	4	9	6	2	5	3	8	1
5	8	6	7	1	3	2	9	4
2	3	1	9	4	8	7	6	5

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

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Student-submitted art

e-mail your own artwork to commuter.submissions@gmail.com



by Elena Galuza
 charcoal still life

DRAW for

The
COMMUTER

YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO, BABY! :)

We're looking for student-generated art for the Surreal Living section. Come to the Commuter office to pick up a sketch card,

Or submit a photo, poetry, etc.



- Commuter.Submissions@gmail.com -
 OR come see us at F222.

THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

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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

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Coming attractions

Shutter Island

Leonardo DiCaprio stars as Teddy, an investigator who's searching for an escaped murderer on Shutter Island off the coast of Massachusetts. Set in 1954, the film follows his investigative exploits as he searches for the truth in a hospital for the criminally insane from which a prisoner escaped. The clues become more unsettling and Teddy begins to doubt everything. Directed by Martin Scorsese.



Runtime: 138 minutes
Rating: R

A Serious Man

Writers/directors Joel and Ethan Coen have the Academy applauding again with "A Serious Man" (opening at the Darkside this weekend). The brothers have cast Michael Stuhlbarg as a Jewish professor living a quiet life in a Midwestern town, but his wife is leaving him, his brother is living on his couch and his daughter is taking his money for plastic surgery.



Runtime: 106 minutes
Rating: R

The Ghost Writer

Ewan McGregor stars in Roman Polanski's latest film as a ghostwriter aptly named The Ghost. When Pierce Brosnan, a former British prime minister, hires him to finish his memoirs, The Ghost discovers secrets that put his own life in danger and turn him into a real ghost. Also stars: Kim Cattrall, Tom Wilkinson, Timothy Hutton, and James Belushi.



Runtime: 128 minutes
Rating: PG-13

Sources: [Imdb](#), [Yahoo! Movies](#), [Fandango.com](#), [Darkside Cinema](#)

"Bioshock's" little sister

Max Brown
The Commuter

"Bioshock 2" takes place 10 years after the events of the original "Bioshock." This time, you play as the first Big Daddy, a giant lumbering creature that was the fiercest type of enemy in the first game, as you search for a specific person. Once again the game takes place in Rapture, the creepy underwater steampunk distopia.

Many aspects of "Bioshock" are very familiar in this sequel, but they have added to and improved on a few things. The environment is just as creepy and the storyline is twisted much like the first game. Combat is nearly identical, but they have made changes to the way upgrades work for plasmids (your special powers like lightning bolt and incinerate) and weapons.

Plasmids now gain different functionality as you upgrade them. Your lightning power at the second level can be charged to do a chain lightning attack, which hits multiple targets. In the first game they would just get stronger. The plasmids I have seen available seem to be pretty much the same as they are in the first game.

Each weapon has three upgrades; the first two being something like damage or clip size increase, and the third being a special power added to your weapon. The shotgun gets a Tesla upgrade, which will sometimes electrocute your foes. As you upgrade the weapons they get really cool steampunk-ish modifications, which is the same as the first game but I feel the need to mention it because it is so damn cool.

Also, the game has added new weapons. Because you are a Big Daddy, you get to use their well-known drill arm to mutilate your foes. I have to say my new favorite weapon is the spear gun. This acts kind of like a sniper rifle, but you can nail your enemies to walls with it, which is just gruesomely awesome.

Most of the monsters you fight are the same old splicers, the crazed mutated citizens of Rapture, but they have added a few hard-hitters to the line-up. Big Sisters are similar in appearance to Big Daddies, but they move faster and unleash plasmids to take you down. They have also added a brute splicer who has a ton of hit points and loves to hurl large objects at you.

The environment of Rapture is familiar for players from the first game. I feel this is a good thing as Rapture is kind of an amazing place, although it is definitely not as magical as the first time through. You do get to explore



Big Sister gives Little Sister a ride.

Photo provided by 2K Games

completely new areas and have a number of chances to walk around outside of Rapture, which can be quite breathtaking.

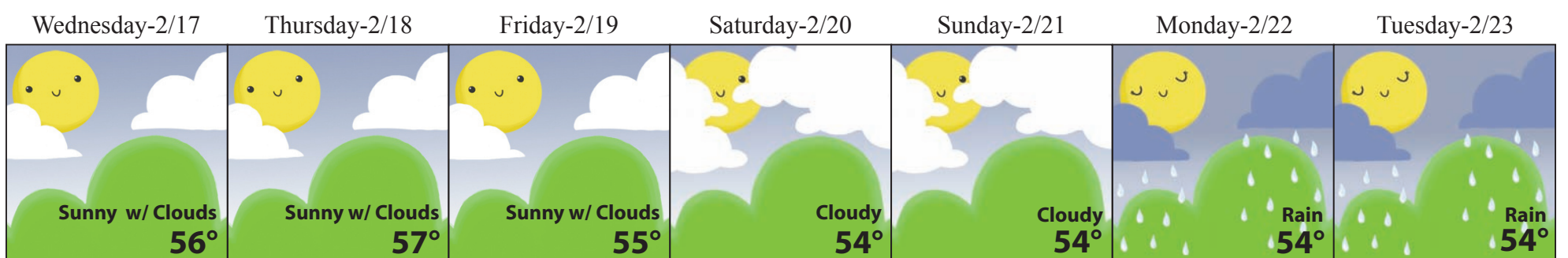
The sound in this game, which added greatly to the feel of the first game, is deliciously creepy. The groans and creaks of Rapture are just as eerie. Every now and then you will be walking along and hear a splicer talking to themselves crazily, yet they are nowhere to be found. Sometimes my own footsteps in the game will startle me.

The characters of this game are interesting but so far not as likable as ones from the first game. While exploring, you will find a ton of backstory to some of the big name characters from the first game, such as Andrew Ryan, and characters new to "Bioshock 2." The voice acting for this game is excellent - every character sounds genuine.

Being a Big Daddy also offers you the opportunity to interact with Little Sisters in a new way. Little Sisters are creepy young girls who are the only ones that can harvest Adam, a drug-like substance that allows people to use plasmids. In the first game you would fight off the Big Daddies who protected the Little Sisters and then get Adam from them. Now you have the option to protect and guide them for more Adam.

This game is a lot of fun. It does feel and play a lot like the first game, but I enjoy that because the first game was incredible. If you enjoy first-person shooters and creepy horror games, then "Bioshock 2" is right for you. Now I am going to curl up and cry myself to sleep while I try to forget some of the more haunting moments of this game.

Weekly Weather Predictions



Warning: These are only predictions. For up-to-date forecasts, please look out your window. Source: [accuweather.com](#)