

The

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February 24, 2010

Commuter

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The Commuter
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Opinion

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A word from your local ASG

Over this last weekend, I traveled to Chemeketa Community College to attend the February meeting for the Oregon Community College Student Association. OCCSA is a student governed board of representatives from seventeen community colleges statewide. This group collectively represents nearly 400,000 community college students from across Oregon. Although we are currently rewriting our mission, vision, and values statement, the general purpose of this group is to unify and strengthen the collective voice of community college students in Oregon and to use that unified voice to advocate for student rights and needs at local, state, and federal levels. Current and past projects for the group include voter registration and education campaigns, lobbying efforts at the capitol for funding the Oregon Opportunity Grant at a higher level (we actually lobby the capitol frequently for numerous reasons), and also help organize support for national campaigns such as the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act or the Dream Act.



Nic Bowman

I have mentioned OCCSA in previous articles; this week I am writing about the group to inform students at LBCC about ways to get involved with the organization. Quite often I or another member of ASG is working on a project generated from OCCSA board meetings, and we are always looking for volunteers. There is a lot of truth to the statement "strength in numbers." However, it is very clear to anyone who has worked with volunteers that the most productive volunteer efforts come from those volunteers who are somehow emotionally vested in the cause or goal they are working towards. At this last board meeting, I volunteered to be on the OCCSA Steering Committee. This is where my call to action for you, the reader, comes in. If you have an issue, a story to tell, or a general complaint about the Oregon community college system, please bring it forward. Many community college students have issues or concerns about their education, but simply do not have the time or energy to take an effective stand for them. That's what our group is for – let us be your voice.

Additionally, LBCC has been selected to be the host campus for OCCSA's May meeting. Times are yet to be determined, but the date of the public portion of the meeting will be Saturday, May 22. This will be an excellent chance to have your voice heard by student representatives from across the state. We often find similar issues, large and small, between community college campuses. Sometimes we are able to share our stories with one another, only to find out that someone else has had the same problem and are either currently working through it or have successfully navigated their trouble. We help each other with advice, support, and experience. It is reassuring to find out and then know that we are not alone in our own despair.

The official website for OCCSA is currently being reconstructed, but will soon be functional. For more information about OCCSA or how to get involved, please contact me at asgpres@linnbenton.edu. I highly encourage anyone with a problem, concern, or compelling story to bring it forward. I would also ask that anyone who has the time and energy to get involved to please do so. The quality of your education and the education of your fellow Oregonians depends on making sure that our voice, the student voice, is heard.

Nic Bowman
 ASG President

U.S. copping out for cash

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

The other day I read an article about President Obama's recent meeting with the Dalai Lama. You didn't hear about it? Good, then the press corps did their jobs right. The article discussed how the meeting was kept very low-key, which is standard fare for president/Dalai Lama meetings. Clinton, both Bushes, and now Obama all worked to not let many people know about their meetings. Why? Because they didn't want to upset the Chinese government.

This seems ridiculous to me, and I think it shows a very serious flaw in American priorities. The People's Republic of China is run by ruthless people. According to the CIA World Factbook, they have been reprimanded five years in a row for doing absolutely nothing to stop the rampant human trafficking within their borders, in addition to doing very little to stop the mass production of heroin and methamphetamines. Not to mention the rampant human rights violations, kidnapping, torture, and murder of political dissidents, as well as their truly nightmarish environmental policies and standards of

quality control; I'm thinking of all the lead-fused and toxic products they ship globally. Last but not least, we have their continued occupation and repression of the nation of Tibet. Yet we work hard not to upset them, largely because we want to make money off of them.

According to the Washington Post, President Obama is taking a slightly stronger stand than previous presidents, though not by much. Despite the low-key meeting, he expressed strong support for the Tibetan people and the preservation of their unique culture and religion. Similarly, the Defense Department, in January, announced plans to sell \$6.4 billion worth of weapons to Taiwan, China's "nemesis," according to the article. The White House wished to reiterate that these acts didn't indicate a shift in U.S. policy.

As I said, this demonstrates a flaw in our priorities. I understand that we can't go around bullying the Chinese, but it doesn't mean we should abandon our principles either. Perhaps we aren't, though; the United States has a history of ignoring things like "human rights," "American ideals," or "the environment," when there is money to be made.

"The Indians deserve their own home, since we stole their old ones. What? You have oil? Never mind, you should just keep going west."

"The Philippines deserve to be free of the tyranny of Spain. What? You have natural resources? Never mind, you are incapable of ruling yourselves, we need to do it for you."

"Mexico is a sovereign nation! But, we'd really like to have Texas, California, and all that land and resources in between. Invade them."

"We need to preserve this world for our future generations! Ooh, that wildlife reserve has a lot of oil in it. We can drill, the animals will be fine."

"Tibet deserves to be free of repression and tyranny! Wow, the Chinese do have a lot of money though."

The world needs to be more critical of the Chinese government, as well as our own. We gather at the UN and talk of world peace and equality, but it will never be anything more than just politically correct babble until we start to acknowledge that there are more important things in the world than making money and grabbing everything we possibly can.

Associated Student Government meeting schedule

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Takena Hall, Main Entrance

Public welcome

March 3

March 10

March 17

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.

LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESENTS:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Unity Celebration

February 25

Cascade View Room, Calapooia Center

"The Language of Racism"

A Panel Discussion

3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Unity Celebration:

Dinner & Wine

Live Jazz with Local Group Rough Jazz

Poetry & Prose Open Mic

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Rosa Parks 1913-2005

Masai Warrior - Kenya, Africa

www.linnbenton/go/black-history-month

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.

Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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The new face of Facebook

Chris Brotherton
 The Commuter

Facebook has changed again. It now greets members with a message welcoming you to a simpler version. At least they are accurate about it being simpler, which to many is another word for "dumbed down."

The new interface of Facebook is missing a few key components. For instance, they have taken away the option of limiting the "home page" to only viewing status updates. All that is available now is the "News Feed." This shows you EVERYTHING that your friends are doing, whether you're interested or not.

You can see what status they liked that day, or who they

became friends with. Of course, the most important thing that you can see is what your friends are doing in Mafia Wars (or Farmville, or whatever game they play) and what gifts they accepted.

Holy cow! There is no way that I could make it through my day without knowing that!

Before this last abomination, you could choose how much information you wished to receive about your friends. Now Facebook has taken that freedom away from you.

There is no doubt that social networking is a very important part of today's society. Whether you use it for catching up with friends that you haven't spoken to in years, or to promote yourself for job opportunities,

it can be a powerfully addictive habit.

Facebook knows this and also knows that they can change anything they want without any fear of users deleting their accounts over it, even with cries of, "This new setup sucks!"

Perhaps Facebook should have offered the opportunity for people to choose. Instead of shoving this new setup down the throats of users, it could let them decide how much information they see on their home page. This is a way of pleasing the masses and keeping people excited about their product, instead of enforcing the idea that they run the monopoly on this deal.

Back in the day

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

On this day in history . . .

Feb. 24, 1942: LA people . . .

The Battle of Los Angeles occurs. Numerous unidentified flying objects are spotted over LA at 2:25 a.m., and anti-aircraft batteries open fire. Six civilians are killed as a result of the barrage, but none of the UFOs are shot down, nor do they return fire. The government releases a report stating that the UFOs were effectively stress-induced hallucinations. To this day, nobody really knows what the aircraft were.

Feb. 25, 1947: Farewell . . .

The state of Prussia is officially abolished. Prussia was the kingdom which unified Germany. I find it ironic that the country which made Germany a country no longer exists and is mostly part of Poland.

Feb. 26, 1815: Fear the Frenchman!

Napoleon Bonaparte escapes his exile on Elba island. He returns to France, and when an army is sent to capture him, he convinces the army to join him. This period is known as the Hundred Days, and ends with his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo. The man was certainly charismatic.

Feb. 27, 1964: Gotta keep their priorities straight!

The government of Italy asks for help to prevent the Leaning Tower of Pisa from falling over. They also ask that the tower not be fixed, because then it would lose its place as a tourist attraction.

Feb. 28, 1939: Never trust anything you read . . .

It is discovered that the fake word "dord" was accidentally added to the "Webster's New International Dictionary: Second Edition." "Dord" was defined as "density." It was actually a typographical error of a note which said that "D or d" were acceptable abbreviations for density. Oops . . .

March 1, 1692: What do you do with witches?

Hang them, according to the Puritans. This date marks the beginning of the Salem witch trials. Over the course of the trials, 14 women and five men are hung for committing the felony of witchcraft. One man is crushed to death with large rocks after he refuses to enter a plea to the court. Did I mention the Puritans sucked?

March 2, 1896: Italy is just bad at colonialism . . .

An Ethiopian army under Emperor Menelik II wipes out an Italian army at the Battle of Adwa. This is the first time an African nation defeats a European one. Let's face it: The Italians haven't been good soldiers since they were still Romans.

Thought for the Week:

"The true character of man ever displays itself in great events."

-Napoleon Bonaparte

Advice from Weiss

Mark Weiss
 for The Commuter

Question: This isn't about school, it's more personal. I was in a relationship with someone I really liked. But I treated it like other, not-so-important relationships, not really trying hard. When she would ask me questions about how I felt about things, I sometimes just made a joke of it, or did something to get out of talking.

Now she's broken it off and I feel like I really blew it. So I'm trying to think of what I can do to impress her or, if she won't give me another chance, what I can do differently the next time I meet someone special.

Answer: Always do your best. One way or another, it will be good enough. Good enough to form a strong relationship, or good enough to find out this isn't the right relationship for you.

I've been writing a series on Don Miguel Ruiz's "Four Agreements," and the fourth agreement is "Always do your best." But it's important to consider what your best really is. Is it trying harder than you're capable of maintaining? Is it trying to change yourself into someone "better" in order to be impressive? I don't think so. Our best is usually being (and acting) like who we really are: showing others our true, genuine self, and letting the chips fall where they may. It's either right, in which case being your true self will be good enough, or it's not, in which case turning yourself upside down, inside out, and backwards won't help.

I don't know you or the woman who broke up with you, so I can't know what really happened or why, but it's been my experience that most of the time when people have regrets about relationships, it's because they weren't truly open; open about who they are, and open to the other person.

Although you said this wasn't about



Counselor Mark Weiss

school, I want to point out that the same rule does hold true with school. Teachers and classmates can't know who you are, what you're capable of, or even what you need to learn, unless you tell them who you really are. Unless you show them what your best is.

And, just like in romantic relationships, we always have to be realistic in knowing what our best is. For some students their best is to take a ton of credits and go through school like a flash. For some they get their

best grades and learn the most, if they go part-time. And it's important to be realistic about how we challenge ourselves. I recently did an advising session with a young woman who had taken the placement test and tested into WR 121, the highest placement we allow in writing. But, since she knew herself and what her issues were, and because she was willing to be open with me, she convinced me that she was just a good test taker and really needed to learn about sentence structure and paragraphs before she tried to write the kind of compositions required of students in WR 121.

Swinging back to romance for a moment, the above example of a student being willing to talk about her concerns and self-doubts, and not wanting to fake strengths she doesn't have, is a good model for relationships of any kind. Many times part of "our best" is being willing to reveal our fears, and the things we have struggled with in previous relationships. Should we show all of our good sides to romantic partners, friends, and teachers, show them all the ways in which we are successful and attractive? Sure! It's just that in order to have a good, long-term relationship of any kind, we have to be open and honest about all of who we are, and that's often the best part of being human.

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.

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Campus News

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



Feb. 24 (Wed)
Taking Back the Schools
 Noon – 1 p.m. • *Diversity Achievement Center*

Part three of “Chicano!” This segment documents the Mexican American struggle to reform an educational system that failed to properly educate Chicano students, an event that was emblematic of a national movement for improved educational opportunities.

Feb. 24 (Wed)
We are Chicano/a
 2 – 3 p.m. • *Diversity Achievement*

Center
 A student panel will be discussing their journeys to higher education. They will discuss the challenges that must be overcome in order to reach their success. It will shed light on the common stereotypes Chicano/as must face on a daily basis.

Feb. 25 (Thu)
“Papers”
 9 – 10 a.m. and 3 – 4 p.m. • *Diversity Achievement Center*
 This is the story of undocumented youth and the challenges they face

as they turn 18 without legal status. These are young people who were educated in American schools, hold American values, know only the U.S. as home and yet risk deportation to countries they may not even remember.

Feb. 25 (Thu)
DREAM Act: Fighting for Political Power
 11 a.m. – Noon • *Diversity Achievement Center*
 Introduced by Senator Richard Durbin and Representative Howard Berman, DREAM Act will bring

awareness to the struggle of undocumented immigrants to attain higher education. Can we solve this growing problem?

Feb. 25 (Thu)
Brown is the New Green
 12:30 – 2 p.m. • *Diversity Achievement Center*
 This documentary, featuring George Lopez, is a fresh, provocative film that examines how media and marketers are shaping America’s perceptions of Latinos.

Feb. 25 (Thu)
The Language of Racism
 3:30 – 5 p.m. • *Cascade View Room, Calapooia Center*
 A discussion panel will meet to discuss the language of racism. The panel will consist of six people from around LBCC’s community. They will focus on how language creates, supports, and culturally reflects racism and other –isms in our society.

Feb. 26 (Fri)
Nobody Told Me About the Korean Within
 11 a.m. – Noon • *Diversity Achievement Center*
 By using stories and humor, Robin Young will engage the audience in a thought-provoking session. Colleagues are encouraged to share their own stories, challenges, and strengths of cultural diversity and how it influences them now both professionally and personally.

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 hold 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 \$2.

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.

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Tombstone, AZ, one of the few remaining ghost towns of the old west. Photo by mlhradio@flickr.com

Tripp travels to U.S. ghost towns

Krista Goeke
 for The Commuter

The Wild West will bring mystery and history to the Russell Tripp Performing Arts Center.

The third of a four-part travel film series entitled "Travel at the Tripp" will be shown on Sunday, March 7. Each trip in this series is presented by the actual person who traveled abroad, coming home with spectacular footage of their adventures. Part three, "Ghost Towns of America," follows the journey of presenter Gray Warriner on his trip across the Wild West.

Warriner has put together a superb film of his trip through ghost towns in Arizona, Colorado, Montana and other states. Mining camps, chiseled cliffs and other results of the gold rush can be seen high in the Rockies and across the San Juan Mountains.

This video is unique because Warriner used old black-and-white photos in the film to let the audience see what these towns originally looked like in the 1800s in comparison to what they look like now.

The "Travel at the Tripp" series is put on by the LBCC Performing Arts department and AAA Travel.

AAA Travel will be available to answer questions, and baked goods, provided by the Safe Haven Humane Society, can be purchased during intermission and after the program.

"They have got some absolutely fabulous bakers," says Patrice Bledsoe-Wright, performance production coordinator. "I always buy something and take it home to my family."

Bledsoe-Wright enjoys attending the travel series because it's not always easy to get away. "It's kind of like getting to take a vacation," she says.

Bledsoe-Wright also says that the series has become very popular with the younger generations since it first started four years ago.

The final film will be shown on April 11 and covers England, Scotland and Wales.

Films will be available for purchase at each showing.

At a glance:

What: "Travel at the Tripp" film series entertains with "Ghost Towns of America"

When: Sunday, March 7 from 2-4 p.m.

Where: The Russell Tripp Performance Center, Takena Hall

Cost: Tickets are \$8 per show or \$6.50 for students and seniors.

Contact: For more information or to purchase tickets, call the LBCC box office at 541-917-4531 or purchase tickets online at www.linnbenton.edu/go/film-series.

When is illegal legal?

Lacey Jarrell
 for The Commuter

Think back to last year, or perhaps many years ago, when, with high hopes for your future, you began gathering scholarship forms and college applications. As you filled the forms out, you wondered, "What is my social security number? Why can't I ever remember it?" You ask mom, and then you know why. You can't remember it because you don't have one. You're an illegal citizen. And then, just like that, everything changes and your plans for the future go into a tailspin.

Undocumented youth in America was the issue addressed by English faculty member Ruben Casas last Thursday during the Valley Writers Series presentation in North Santiam Hall. Casas' current project, "Papers: The Story of Undocumented Youth," explores the essence of being American and the controversy surrounding youth that have been illegally brought into the United States and raised as American citizens.

According to the website www.nilc.org and The Urban Institute, 50,000-65,000 such young people graduate from high school each year after having lived in the United States for at least five years.

All too often, these young adults are left with no options for legalized work or college because of legal status.

Casas believes that it's time to start exploring what we think it is to be American - is it more than just documentation? When children are brought into the U.S. at young ages, raised as a U.S. citizen and taught in U.S. schools, what is the defining feature that constitutes nationality? He believes that in a case of cultural nuance verses technicality, culture should win out.

"If you look American, act American, and were raised American, then papers are only second to legitimacy."

Casas describes a view of "otherness" that often dictates how we view others: How much like me are you? He thinks it's time



Ruben Casas addresses the audience at the Valley Writers Series last Thursday.

Photo by Justin Bolger

For more information, contact Ruben Casas at casasr@linnbenton.edu

for Americans to "challenge opinions on the surface level," to expose the meaningless stereotypes that cause us to falsely evaluate what it really means to be American. Is it a piece of paper, or is it the essence of the nation in which you were raised? These are the kinds of questions that Casas thinks we should be asking.

"We all benefit from interrogating our own assumptions about people who don't fit the typical American mold; question assumptions about mainstream society and what it means to be part of it," Casas said.

According to Casas, alongside gender, race and sexual orientation, being undocumented falls into a category of skewed mental social constructs that often restrict access to outlets of mass communication. The goal of "Papers" is aimed at giving these victims of international circumstance a platform with which they may express the hardship of being labeled a criminal by the country they call home.

"I don't believe people should just come into America illegally, but the children have no choice in the matter and it's their parent's decision. I think that the ones born in America and that have grown up in our culture should be considered citizens," student Brittany Reynolds posted in a forum on Moodle.

The short vignettes in "Papers" tell stories of affected youth experiencing the

obstacles of living in the U.S., often unknowingly, as illegal aliens. A number of stories are autobiographical and detail experiences from living in constant fear of Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) to actual instances of deportation.

"One of the things the book addresses is that not all undocumented citizens are from Latin America, breaking the stereotypes and being realistic about the issue. Where people are coming from, rights they may have and why they are here," Casas said.

The book cites contributors age eight to 29 from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

Casas wants Americans to realize that no matter where the immigrants are from, this is an issue that affects everyone. Behind the scenes of our nation there is a new civil rights movement going on, and Casas want us to take notice and recognize that this is an issue that affects everyone, politically and personally.

Student Sara Avitt writes, "I never even thought about immigration ... I just assumed it wasn't any of my business, but what Ruben made me realize today is that it is my business ... I really enjoyed being there and learning about this issue."

"Papers: The Story of Undocumented Youth" is currently under review at OSU press.

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Office Hours: Q&A with Arfa Aflatooni

Alx George
 The Commuter

Commuter: How long have you been teaching here and when did you start?

Arfa Aflatooni: This is my 12th year. I came here in 1998.

C: How did you get started?

AA: I was looking for a job. A friend of mine told me there was a job opening here in Albany. I was teaching on a one-year contract at the Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. I applied for this job and I got it and moved down here. I was grateful for that. I was at the end of the rope basically. I had been teaching either part time or on a one-year contract for eight years after I got my Ph.D., and I was hoping I would land a permanent job somewhere. When I got this job I said "This is it. I got my dream job."

C: Why did you decide to teach sociology?

AA: That decision was made a long time ago in 1974 when I started college in Iran. I always had this affinity for sociology. I read some sociology books when I was in high school and I fell in love with it. In Iran you don't choose your major, because there is a national entrance exam for all public universities. All the high school graduates take that test. They give their preferences, as far as their major, to the government, and based on their test scores they are placed in one of the universities and one of those majors. So I picked sociology for my first major. I took that test and did well. So they placed me at the University of Tehran. I was there for four years. Then the revolution happened and we had to leave the



Arfa Aflatooni

Photo by Alx George

country so I couldn't finish my studies in Iran. But I was able to transfer most of my credits to Idaho State University.

C: You've mentioned that you're a Bahai. Could you give a brief explanation of it in your own words?

AA: The Bahai Faith is an independent religion. It's relatively new and it emerged in Persia in the 19th century. It promotes unity of mankind. It believes that all religions come from the same source, one god, one religion basically, different names but the same spirit. I grew up as a fourth generation Bahai. My faith is persecuted in Iran. That's the reason I left the country and came to America. The government in Iran has not let up on its attempt to harass and persecute the Bahais. In fact they've intensified the persecution over the last couple of years.

C: How did you escape?

AA: I did not escape, because when I left the country it was still under the Shah's regime. So I went to the U.S. Embassy and got a student visa and came to America. This was about two or three months before the revolution. I had

a friend who was studying in California at the time. He got me an admission to a college. I came here as a student with a student visa. Once the revolution happened and the Shah was overthrown and I knew there was no chance of me going back, I applied for asylum on religious grounds.

C: With your faith in mind, is it challenging to discuss sociology topics?

AA: I don't bring it up. I do believe that I have to separate my religious beliefs from what I say as a sociologist and what I discuss in my classes. They do overlap sometimes, but not all the time. So I try not to mix my faith with my courses.

C: What do you like about teaching?

AA: What I like about teaching is the interaction with students. I like the fact that we exchange ideas and I give them a chance to speak their mind as an open forum within some limits, as long as they're not cussing or offending someone. Also, intellectually it keeps me interested in the courses I teach and many other sociological topics. It's very stimulating. You

Where to find Arfa Aflatooni

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Office Hours: Mon./ Wed./Fri. 1-2 p.m.

Tue./ Thus. 9-9:20 a.m. & 12-1 p.m.

have to think all the time. You have to be on your toes and remain as sharp as you can be. I learn as much as I teach. I learn from my students. It also enables me to have some free time, like the summer and winter breaks we have. I need those breaks to recoup.

C: What kinds of things do you learn from the students?

AA: Lots of things. I try to keep up with things in the world. But there are some things that are generational, that I'm not aware of. Since most of my students are young, they keep me informed. They tell me about trends, what matters to them, the things that are important in their lives and so forth.

C: And what do you dislike?

AA: Well, teaching a lot of classes. I'm overwhelmed and overworked sometimes. Six classes is a lot. It's a lot of grading and preparation. It's part of the trade. It doesn't bother me as much as it used to. Once you've

done it for almost 25 years, you just know what to look for when you grade a paper or a test. Just like anything else, once you've done it for a long time you become more efficient when it comes to teaching and grading.

C: What do you want students to know about you, the classes and the subject you teach?

AA: Well, I teach sociology and most of my students are not sociology majors, but I want to make sure they learn something about sociology that they can use in their everyday life; they will find some applications in my classes for their personal lives. In their personal lives I'm sure there are things they can use to help them perhaps make right decisions, improve their personal relationships, and just be more informed. I think that's my goal as a teacher, that they become interested in social issues, and that they think about these issues.

Priority registration changes

The Commuter

There are changes to the Priority Registration Schedule for spring term!

Due to the significant increase in student enrollment, Priority Registration will begin sooner than planned. This change ensures

the functionality of SIS during the hoards of students striving for first dibs on classes.

The first students will now be able to register for classes on March 5 at 7 a.m. Log into your SIS account or check out the LBCC website to find when you're eligible for spring term registration.

THE COMMONS FARE

2/24 - 3/02

Wednesday

Dishes: Cassoulet, Pork Schnitzel and Carey Pocket
 Soups: Beef Consommé and Corn Chowder

Thursday

Dishes: Coconut Braised Short Ribs, Casserole-poached Chicken and Tempura Vegetables
 Soups: Spanish Chicken and Split Pea

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Dishes: Kung Pow Chicken, Pepperoni Calzone and Frittata
 Soups: Cuban Black Bean and Tomato & Rice

Tuesday

Dishes: Pork Tamales, Poached Fish over Confetti Rice Pilaf and Roasted Vegetable Lasagna
 Soups: Beef Barley and Potato Leek

The Commuter
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Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
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Campus News

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

Toni Klohk: A woman with purpose

Frank Warren
 The Commuter

Professional, head held high, full of confidence and with purpose, Diversity Achievement Center Coordinator Toni Klohk is a woman on a mission.

After graduating from West Albany High School, Klohk joined the military. It wasn't until Klohk joined the Army that she realized the stereotypes and beliefs that she had held unconsciously were not as accurate as she formerly believed.

"Think about some of the history where we get some of the things we say to other people in a negative way," Klohk said. "When we call someone a slave driver, slave driver meant at one time someone that oversaw African-American slaves during the slave times. One thing that makes me mad is when a boy is called a 'sissy' when they are bad because in the minds of the one who said it they are like girls."

After the military, Klohk came to Linn-Benton



Diversity Achievement Center Coordinator Toni Klohk

Photo by Frank Warren

Community College and into the classroom of history and political science teacher Doug Clark, who helped shape some of her closely-held values and changed the way she looked at diversity.

Klohk said, "It's a matter of opening our ears and minds and becoming aware of what we say and do. Not to feel guilty, but to seek and learn so that we can become better people."

Valerie Zeigler, an outreach and retention specialist located in the DAC said, "She is passionate about social

justice and moving diversity forward on the campus."

Rinee Merritt, a student in the graphic design program at LBCC, concurred. "She's very committed to social justice."

Klohk desires a society free of stereotypes where diversity can thrive. This is her mission.

"She's like our 'momma,' she makes sure that we clean up and gives us puzzles to do and she takes care of us," said Kathrine Lee, a student who frequents the DAC.

Editorial: DAC meets needs of students, community

The Commuter

We would like to take a moment to recognize the efforts of the Diversity Achievement Center. This is an amazing place on campus where students can do homework, discuss issues of diversity, attend amazingly enlightening events, get free coffee (one of our favorites), or just sit around and relax.

Their room is furnished with comfortable couches, and plenty of tables where students can do work or play games. The DAC does a wonderful job of making students comfortable and welcome. Every student should check out the DAC and see if it is somewhere they would like to hang out.

The DAC is always striving to produce quality events that help educate our students and our community about anything dealing with diversity. They also allow students to become involved with planning and producing these events, which is an amazing learning and growing experience. We feel getting involved with campus events and clubs helps increase student success, so the DAC is incredibly valuable.

If you have not attended an event at the DAC, we highly encourage you to do so. On Thursday of this week

they have a panel discussing the language of racism, which should be very informative and interesting to attend. After this panel, which starts at 3:30 p.m., the DAC will host its annual Unity Celebration which begins at 5 p.m. This event is free and will have live music, poetry readings, food, interesting conversation, and so much more. This should be an amazing time for everyone who attends.

This event is meant to finish Black History Month and all the events that went on during. We agree with Dana Emerson when she said, "We can explore these ideas and then we can come together and break bread and have a really, really good time and get reunited." So swing by the DAC for the language of racism panel, and stick around for a great party afterward.

Toni Klohk, the director of the DAC, is incredibly friendly and enthusiastic about improving our students and our community. LBCC is blessed with a number of great faculty members; she is surely one of the best. She puts a lot of effort into these events, and she does an amazing job of getting the word out about them so that more students can enjoy them. We thank Toni for all of her hard work. She truly makes a difference.

Panel: Language of Racism

Max Brown
 The Commuter

A panel discussion covering the language of racism will be held on Thursday, Feb. 25, from 3:30 till 4:45 p.m. in the Cascade View rooms. The event is free and open to the public.

The panel will focus on how language creates, supports, and culturally reflects racism and other "isms" in our society. They also will discuss the implications of language choice, racist humor and more. The panel is interactive, so members of the audience will be allowed to express their opinions and ask questions throughout the event.

The panel will be moderated by Dana Emerson, an LBCC speech instructor, and will consist of six members: Dee Curwen, a retired teacher from LBCC who taught English to speakers of other languages; Wolof Ovimbundumakua, who is currently a student in OSU's graduate College Student Services Administration program; Terryl Ross, director of community and diversity for OSU; Bryan Miyagishima, reference and instruction librarian at LBCC; Art Mota, LBCC employee and adviser to the Soccer Club; and Carla Gary, assistant vice president of institutional equity and diversity at University of Oregon.

Emerson wanted the panel to be diverse so there would more opinions and many different voices that could be heard. She asked the panel members to think about how language creates and upholds racism, as well as how the language associated with humor reflects the dynamics of an

oppressive society.

"Language plays a role not only in upholding racism, but it also helps to create it. It's not just racism, it's all these other -isms," Emerson said.

She feels that by addressing the language, it will allow people to be able to start other important conversations about racism in our world. She says that we need to take a step back and investigate the terms we use and why we use them.

"We wonder why it's so difficult for us to move out of racism, feminism, and all these other -isms, and it's literally because we ignore how much language is at the foundation of all of that," Emerson said.

Toni Klohk, director of the Diversity Achievement Center, feels that the panel is to bring about understanding that some of the things we say today, unconsciously, are part of the oppression that still goes on for certain groups of people.

Klohk says that while she was growing up, she was unaware of oppression and racism until she went into the army and was with people from other cultures. During this time, she started to notice that the stereotypes she grew up with and knew were not true.

"It's not about blaming or trying to cause guilt. Social justice education is about raising our awareness and raising our consciousness to the world around us, and to the experiences of other people in our world that we may not know or understand," Klohk said.

Student Services & the Diversity Achievement Center presents

"Nobody Told Me About The Korean Within"

Friday
 February 26

FREE



11 a.m. - Noon
 Diversity Achievement Center
 F-220

Robin Young
 Associate Dean,
 Enrollment Services,
 Bellevue College

AFFIRMING YOUR OWN CULTURAL DIVERSITY CAN BE BOTH A GREAT JOY AND A GREAT STRUGGLE. By using stories and humor, Robin will engage the audience in a thought provoking session. Colleagues are encouraged to share their own stories, challenges and strengths of cultural diversity (acculturation/assimilation) and how it influences them now both professional and personally.

Sponsored by
 Associated Student Government

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.

Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Students enlightened by Illumination Project

Maya Lazaro
The Commuter

When students filed into the LBCC's Forum Auditorium Friday to experience "The Illumination Project," an interactive performance put on by students of Portland Community College, they had little idea what they were in for.

Instead of requiring the audience to sit quietly in their seats, the project instead asked students to shout, get emotional, and most unusual of all, get right up on stage to participate as one of the actors. This was a performance that asked students to question their beliefs, challenge their misconceptions and create social change.

The "Illumination Project" is, as taken from their brochure, an "innovative, nationally lauded social justice program that addresses issues of oppression through interactive theatre." Each season, the project produces a handful of plays centered around a different form of social injustice such as racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and discrimination based on gender identity, religion and socio-economic status. All of the plays and accompanying brochures and educational handouts are student written and produced, based upon real experiences of discrimination and prejudice they have faced throughout their lives.

The play that LBCC students attended was titled "Living While Black," and followed students "Reece" (played by Samuel Lumsey) and "Logan" (played by Jayvin K. Green) through a typical day. What surprised many audience members was that a typical day for a person of color involved encountering forms of personal and institutional prejudice,

ignorance and discrimination that, though often subtle, had a powerful impact on their lives. Scenes included Reece being pulled over unnecessarily by a cop, Logan having a cashier assume he was on food stamps and Reece being told that racism no longer exists when his personal experiences clearly prove otherwise.

According to project coordinator Jeannie LaFrance, the goal of the plays is to "prompt dialogue and discussion around issues of oppression."

The prompting began when LaFrance asked audience members to say "Stop!" during the second run-through of the play whenever they saw forms of oppression going on, and to take the place of a character onstage that they could see themselves as (for example, a friend or classmate of Reece or Logan, or in some cases, Reece or Logan themselves), putting a stop to the oppressive behavior by speaking out against it. Audience members were not asked to take the place of the oppressor, because it often allows them to deny the existence of racism or justify the oppressor's actions.

The performance gave LBCC students the opportunity to practice handling daily forms



Above: The cast of the Illumination Project takes their final bow.

Left: (from left) LB student Jake Dontavion and PCC actors Jayvin K. Green and Corrina D'Annabale talk about discrimination in a restaurant scene.

Below: (from left) Project coordinator Jeannie LaFrance, PCC actor Michel Brooks, and LB student Muna Hassan act out a classroom scene.

Photos by Max Brown



of discrimination that either they themselves experience or they witness another person experiencing.

In the café scene, journalism student Alethea Skinner got up from the audience and took the place of Reece, who had been told that the reason he'd been pulled over that morning had nothing to do with his race despite evidence to the contrary. Skinner told her onstage friend that while at first she had given the cop the benefit of the doubt in order to, in her own words, "de-escalate the situation," after doing a little investigation, came to the conclusion that he had wrongly stopped her over a faulty claim.

Another student, Jake Dontavion, took the place of Logan's white friend and asked to see the manager when he saw the cashier make assumptions about Logan because of his race,

while Stephanie Coons, taking the place of Logan, told the manager that the cashier's comment had made her uncomfortable and recommended that they provide training for employees on discrimination.

In a classroom scene, a professor quickly silenced Reece when he attempted to respond to a white student who claimed racism no longer exists and used Barack Obama's recent election success as evidence. Muna Hassan took the place of

Reece and told the fellow student that Obama's presidency did not mean that racial discrimination wasn't still an issue. Lisa Kennedy took the place of a classmate and asked the professor to let Reece speak, stating, "You let [the other] student speak. I pay for this class, and I want to hear what [Reece] has to say."

Not every student followed directions. When Daniel Rasberry got up from the audience he insisted on taking the place of the perceived oppressor in that scene, saying, "People don't discriminate based on race anymore, they discriminate more on culture," citing his sagging jeans and "street" demeanor as a factor in why he himself had been pulled over so many times while living in Oakland, Calif.

During the performances, LaFrance asked

PCC and LBCC participants about how the intervention made them feel, and on occasion it became very emotional. When questioned whether it is difficult to face discrimination on a daily basis, Lumsey responded, "It's sad to say this, but it happens so often sometimes I don't even care. I walk with a mask on. I don't want people to see me hurting."

Anthropology and Women's Studies instructor Michele Wilson was there with her Anthropology 101 class, who were required to attend the performance for class credit.

"It is one thing to have students read, watch videos, or participate in class discussions about these complicated and heavy topics. It is another to afford them the opportunity to 'see' it and to perhaps participate in it in a safe environment," she said later in an e-mail interview.

For four years Wilson has been bringing her classes to Illumination Project performances to provide them with a safe place to talk about prejudice, something that she believes instructors "should be required" to do for the benefit of their students. The Illumination Project not only serves a purpose to her students, but to her as well.

"The IP is one of the best opportunities that I have found to learn techniques and to gain the tools necessary to approach my struggles in more meaningful and less antagonistic ways, because quite frankly, I want to live in a just and peaceful world and I really, really believe that most people do too," said Wilson.

To learn more about the Illumination Project, students can visit www.pcc.edu/resources/illumination.

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Feature

Something a little different.

Care for a smoke?

Max Brown
The Commuter

Smoking could cost LBCC \$2,000 a day. As of Jan. 1, a new law went into effect regarding smoking in workplaces. The new law reinforces the old Oregon Smokefree Workplace Law.

"The law expands the number of indoor workplaces that are required to be smokefree. The law also prohibits smoking within 10 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes of workplaces or public places," according to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) found LBCC was not in compliance with this law. This could mean fines of \$500 - \$2,000 a day till LBCC is in compliance. DHS created a plan for LBCC, and currently the college is considered to be following the law until further inspection.

Marcene Olson, manager of safety and loss prevention, said that the problem started with complaints being filed against the school about non-compliance with the law. At first it was minor and no action was necessary because LBCC's own smoking policy follows the law.

DHS then did an investigation after more complaints were filed. Their report indicated that people were smoking within

the boundaries, cigarette butts were found in doorways, and students were not complying with LBCC's policy.

According to Scott Krambuhl, LBCC's facilities director, the problem is that people are not smoking in the designated smoking areas. LBCC's policy states that smoking is only permitted in designated smoking areas around campus. As one remedy, the college has posted additional notices alerting people to the smoking policy.

Now the school needs to figure out a way to make sure it complies with the law, while still making everyone involved happy. Krambuhl wants to work with smokers to get their opinion on current smoking areas and how they can be improved.

Olson and Krambuhl are working with the Associated Student Government to survey the smoking population of LBCC. ASG plans to set up a location where individuals can drop off surveys about the designated smoking areas around campus.

"We are doing the best we can to protect the privileges that they have on campus. We understand smoking for an adult is a right they have, but where they're able to smoke is a privilege," ASG President Nic Bowman said.

Bowman feels that if it goes to a non-smoking campus, the problem will just

shift to parking lots and other places. He feels the smokers are very limited currently and thinks that they do need larger shelters and more receptacles.

"What it comes down to now is the ability of the college to make it financially possible in the moment and what we can do in the meantime to make an immediate compromise," he stated.

A group of smokers outside of McKenzie Hall feel that the smoking areas are inadequate. They say that the areas are not well maintained and they are too small. Some of them would be fine with the smoking shelters being moved if that is what needs to be done, but they still feel that the school needs to make them larger.

"You'll come out here sometimes and there's 20 people here. We can't fit in the smoking area," Cathy Peterson said.

They say they want to comply with the law, and they understand others don't want to breathe their smoke, so they try to stay in the designated smoking areas.

"It's my choice to hurt myself. I knowingly choose that, but I don't want to hurt anybody else," Clint Johnson added.

Scott McAleer, an LBCC history teacher who has an office near a smoking area, said that "It needs to be moved desperately. Every time I walk to my office with a student they complain about it."

He does not blame the smokers for this though. He realizes that the smoking areas are far too small and are put too close to the building. Even if all the smokers are in the designated smoking area, a breeze will send the smoke right toward non-smokers entering and exiting the buildings.

One of the problems LBCC is facing is leftover cigarette butts. This was one reason for DHS to suspect individuals were not complying with the law.

Judy Allen, a student at LBCC, said the ash trays were not well maintained. She sometimes empties one of the ash trays outside of McKenzie Hall, but often runs into the problem of overflowing trays.

Krambuhl says they want to get someone from maintenance to clean the ash trays at least weekly, but they don't have enough manpower to do it more often.

Olson and Krambuhl want to make some changes to the school's smoking areas so it is easier to comply with the law, but they want to wait until they get feedback from smokers and non-smokers.

"Somehow we have to find a solution that works reasonably well for everybody, because we don't want to alienate anyone," Krambuhl said.

So you want to quit ...

Ryan Henson
The Commuter

There are a million reasons to quit smoking cigarettes: They cost you too much money, stain your teeth, damage your lungs, stink up your clothes, and you have to stand in that little stupid bus stop thing in front of Tadena Hall. On top of that, the non-smoking world treats you like a refugee from a leper colony. So what are you waiting for?

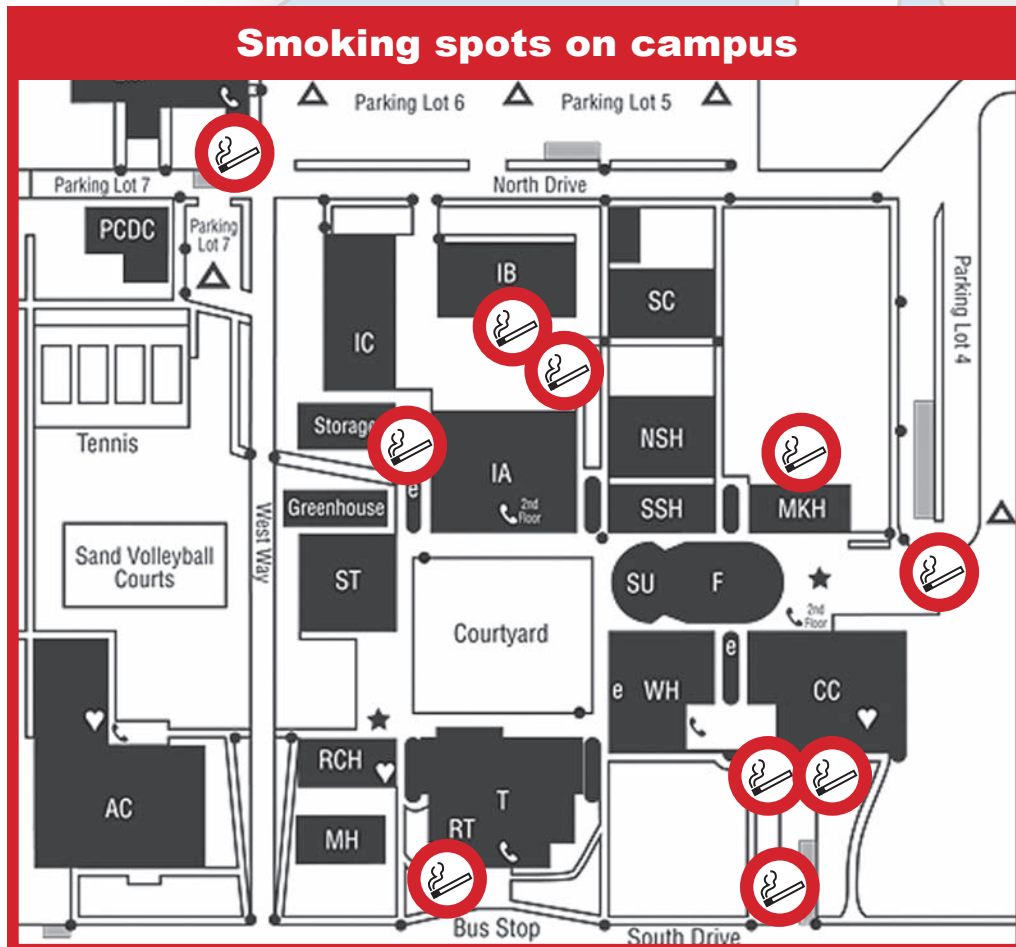
Here are four fantastic ways to rid yourself of your cancer-stick cravings.

The patch: The only quitting method that actually looks even more trashy than smoking not only helps you lower your nicotine dose for eight weeks (at about \$25 a pop) but for a lot of quitters, also brings a few sweet skin rashes and vivid night terrors into the equation.

Hypnotism: Look into my eyes ... Why try to quit the hard way when someone else can just trick your mind into thinking that you don't have a problem? Hooray for easy solutions! I don't know about you out there, but I always look to have major problems in my life solved by the guy who performed at my senior prom.

Chantix: The latest and greatest pharmaceutical cure has arrived and now smokers can quit smoking with just a single pill a day. The only side effects are hostility, agitation, depression, anxiety, hallucinations, paranoia, suicidal ideation and ... wait. Why is this better than smoking?

Cold Turkey: There is nothing like a little bit of good old-fashioned suffering to prove that you're still alive. As you scratch at the walls and thrash through your sheets with acid indigestion radiating through your body and your will crumbling like the tissue in your lungs, you'll begin to wonder "Do I need Chantix?"



Perspectives:

How well do you think the designated smoking areas on campus meet people's needs?



Colton Martin
Criminal Justice

"Pretty well. They're pretty helpful to me. There need to be more of them though."



Ashley Schrock
Animal Science

"I think they do pretty well. As far as I've noticed everyone goes to the designated spots; [that] helps everybody out. I think it works pretty awesome."



Mike Hussey
Physics Engineering

"I'm actually rather pleased with them."



Elysia Southern
Business

"They don't. I think the one in front of Tadena is too close and some people smoke by the bus stop. And I think they're too small for a smoker. Smoking is a social gathering."



James Dearing
Computer Science

"I think they seem to work pretty well. I haven't seen too many of them but the ones that I have seen are big enough and easy enough to find."

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SPORTS

News about local and national sports and activities.

Men suffer first loss at home

Erik Bender
 The Commuter

The LBCC men's basketball team played the Clackamas Cougars (9-2) last Wednesday at home. Both teams played consistently and fought it out until the game's finish, resulting in Linn-Benton's first home loss 74-65.

The first half was close, with both teams bringing the intensity and pressure. LBCC (7-5) scored 15 field goals, as did the Cougars in the first period. But Clackamas landed 7 free throws to LB's 1 free throw and two 3-pointers, ending the quarter with Clackamas ahead 37-33.

The second period played out much like the first, and it was apparent that LBCC needed to stop Clackamas starter Chehales Tapscott, who played for 35 minutes and had an incredible game scoring 33 points, 19 rebounds and 9 of 11 on free throws.

The deciding factor for the game had to

be free throws, as Clackamas made 20 of 25 to LBCC's 11 of 15. Clackamas, however, failed to land any of their 13 3-point attempts while LB scored 6 of 23.

"I thought we played pretty good, but we just didn't hit some shots at the end," said LB guard Michael Kruesi, who thought the intensity was there and that they just needed to land their shots in the upcoming games.

"We only had one or two people going for the rebound, and there needs to be three every time," said head coach Randy Falk.

Taylor Roos led the Roadrunners playing for 34 minutes and scoring 23 points while Jordan Highland added 16.

The Roadrunners, who sit in fourth, need one more win to clinch a spot in the NWAAC playoffs and are currently two wins ahead of Southwestern Oregon, who are in fifth place. NWAACC only take the top four from each region.

"I am very proud of our guys for hanging in there," said Falk.



Taylor Roos pushes through the Clackamas defense.

Photos by Erik Bender



Kalah Heacock drives to the center.

Cougars beat down Roadrunners, 85-44

Erik Bender
 The Commuter

The women's basketball team is still looking to put together a full game. The women fell hard to the Clackamas Cougars last Saturday, 85-44.

Clackamas (10-2) brought the intensity against LBCC (1-11) by not allowing them to finish with no more than 19 points in the first half. LBCC managed to get off more shots in the first half than Clackamas, but failed to land them. LBCC made 7 of 36 field goals to the Cougars 18 of 35, ending the period 46-19.

The Lady Roadrunners raised their game in the second half. Starters Kalah Heacock and McKenzie Smith led the game in rebounds with 9 for Heacock and 8 for Smith. However, rebounds often turned into turnovers, allowing successful scoring

opportunities for Clackamas.

"We did not come to play like we should have. We came out slow and did not land our shots," said LBCC guard Carrie Garrison.

Garrison made eight field goals and went 2 for 2 on free throws for eight points, as did Jamie Wilson and Heacock, who also added eight points.

"We couldn't break their press, we couldn't handle it and we worked on it a lot in practice these past few days, but couldn't carry it over to the game," said head coach Teresa Guerra

The Lady Roadrunners will not be going to the NWAACC playoffs this season.

Teams that clinched a spot in the playoffs for the Southern Region League include Lane (10-2), Clackamas (10-2), Umpqua (10-2), and Mt. Hood (8-4).

THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

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

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Letters Welcome

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

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Universities take on “Second Life”

Justin Bolger
 The Commuter

Hundreds of colleges around the world are turning toward the virtual world of “Second Life” in an effort to further education strategies. Seventeen of these are Oregon community colleges.

At first I scoffed, but the more I looked into it, the more supportive I became. These virtual classrooms can take online classes to a whole new level of engaging.

William Noonan, philosophy instructor at Columbia Gorge Community College says, “‘Second Life’ is offering me a chance to create, literally, an experience for the students to come to know philosophers in a number of ways.”

Noonan’s classes explore environments pulled directly from the lives of the philosophers he teaches about. Students begin in Plato’s cave, and eventually the class progresses into the garden of enlightenment. In the garden are six historic philosophers to learn from, along with their homes and actual objects from their lives.

“The technology has been one that’s created this terrific opportunity to create an environment to read philosophy,” says Noonan.

Imagine this ability in regards to say a literature class where students could essentially travel the same course as the characters and interact with the world. Even science has its place on a

virtual field trip. Things like the workings of a molecule could be viewed and discussed in three dimensions.

Not only does “Second Life” allow students to explore fictional or historical locales, but also some institutions use it when hands-on training isn’t an option.

According to a case study by Linden Labs, Loyalist College trained border guards onsite at a virtual Canadian border. Within the simulation, students were able to perform every function of the job, including checking IDs, asking routine questions, checking trunks, and making real-time judgment calls.

Linden Labs’ case study shows that students who participate in the program

consistently show much higher success ratings during testing benchmarks than those who don’t.

“The learning in these spaces is amazing, and when we are working with 30 percent increase in success, there is nothing more memorable than that,” says Ken Hudson, managing director for the virtual design center at Loyalist College. “No single technological addition has ever impacted grades at the college in such a positive way.”

As the technology grows, any kinks will be worked out. Someday “Second Life” or some similar program will be mainstream in the world of education. The potential here is undeniable.

Sam City
 Fusion Restaurant
 Multi-Cultural cuisine
 Serving Pho (Vietnamese Rice Noodle Soup)

LBC Student ID Gets YOU A 10% Discount!
 Present student I.D. card when ordering
 Some Restrictions Apply

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.

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.

Disney World & Disneyland College Program (#7808, California & Florida) If you are a LBCC student and want to have some adventure, this paid internship will stand out on your

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

redbox review

Thank You for Smoking

Ashley Christie
The Commuter

Warning: writer/director Jason Reitman's political satire "Thank You for Smoking" is highly addictive and may cause uncontrollable laughter. The movie stars Aaron Eckhart as Nick Naylor, a smooth-talking lobbyist for the tobacco industry, or as he puts it, "the face of cigarettes, the Colonel Sanders of nicotine."



Nick Naylor, the best spin doctor in the business, is on top of the world. He's got a hot girlfriend, his son worships his every move, and he has job security in the fact that big tobacco isn't going out of business anytime soon. The cigarette companies have been getting some bad publicity lately and Naylor has been working overtime to put a positive face on it all.

He's debating anti-smoking senators on TV talk shows, flying out to California to pitch pro-smoking movie ideas, giving exclusive tell-all interviews, and even selling his own story as the victim of some anti-smoking kidnapers. When Naylor gets called to testify at a congressional hearing in Washington, D.C., anything could happen and his relationships with his family, friends, and bosses all hang in the balance.

"Smoking," like the film's anti-hero, is smart, funny, charming, and utterly soulless, and I mean that in the best way. Jason Reitman, whose past work includes "Juno" and more recently the Oscar-nominated "Up in the Air," has a tendency to be attracted to projects that are slightly offbeat and instead of filling them with wacky and zany characters whose sole purpose is to provide comedic relief, he gives them a heart which makes them feel grounded and incredibly genuine. Nick Naylor is one of Reitman's most complex creations.

We first meet Naylor while he's on an "Oprah" type talk show defending tobacco while sitting next to a teenage cancer victim we only know as "Cancer Boy." Next, we see him sitting down to a weekly lunch with his friends alcohol lobbyist Polly Bailey (Maria Bello) and gun lobbyist Bobby Jay Bliss ("Anchorman's" David Koechner) where they compete to see who has the highest death count.

You hate this man, you despise him; then, somewhere along the line this smarmy bastard, portrayed brilliantly by Aaron Eckhart, becomes the one you are sympathizing with, the one you find yourself rooting for. By the end, the anti-smoking senator (William H. Macy) from Vermont, with its high-cholesterol cheeses, becomes the enemy. The all-star cast is rounded out by J.K. Simmons, Cameron Bright, Robert Duvall, Katie Homes, Adam Brody, Sam Elliott, and Rob Lowe.

"Thank You for Smoking" is not a pro-smoking movie, and it's not an anti-smoking movie either. It's a satirical look at the media, government, and all the propaganda that is distributed by all parties. In the end, it's about discovering your talent and finding out what makes you happiest in life.

Thai Chili heats up Corvallis

Lacey Jarrell
for The Commuter

Sixteen years ago, looking for a better life and with a four-year-old daughter in tow, Gai Chaicharn and her husband Fon immigrated to the United States from Srisaket, Thailand.

Today Gai and Fon are the owners of two successful businesses: the GT Asian Market in Albany and Thai Chili, a Thai restaurant in Corvallis.

Both the store and the restaurant were born out of a combination of necessity and opportunity, since the ingredients needed for Thai cooking could not be found closeby, not even in Portland. That was when Gai decided to open the GT Asian Market.

Now, customers come from as far as Dallas and Monmouth to buy specialty foods like seaweed soup mix and ready-to-use pad thai sauce.

"Chaicharn is filling a niche that's long been neglected," said Janet Steele, Albany Area Chamber of Commerce president in an article in the Corvallis Gazette-Times.

As years passed and business grew, Chaicharn felt satisfied. It wasn't until her husband happened upon a Craigslist ad that the seed of the restaurant began to

germinate.

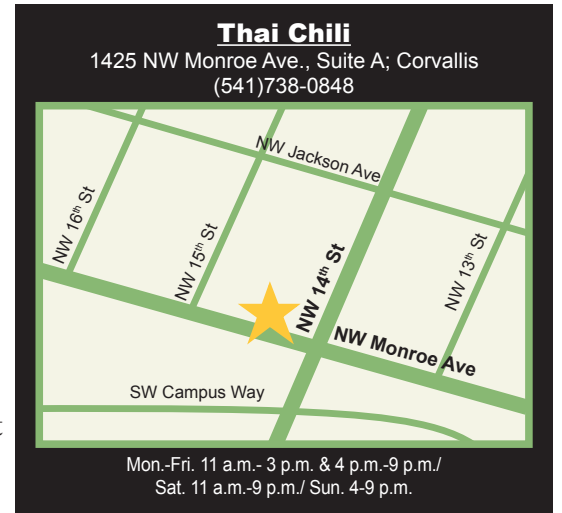
"I wasn't even sure I would like cooking for someone else. Especially not a lot of people, all day, every day," Chaicharn admitted.

Although neither of them had any restaurant experience, with the encouragement of a friend they decided to open Thai Chili at 1425 N.W. Monroe Ave.

Seven months and several successful dishes later, Chaicharn is glad she made the jump. Working as the restaurant's head chef, she acknowledges that it keeps her on her toes, but it is now something "fun" for her.

"Everybody is welcome at Thai Chili. It's casual, it's a place where people can come to sit, talk and have fun," Chaicharn said.

Thai Chili serves traditional yet dynamic food that can be found in almost any marketplace in Thailand. Cultural dishes such as tom yum, a hot and spicy soup, and papaya salad reflect the nation's history of combining ingredients such as ginger and basil based on health benefits as well as flavor.



"There are reasons some things go together, and it's not always the flavor."

Scio resident Diane Merrell made the trek to Corvallis to experience the restaurant and said, "The trip was well worth it. I could tell [Chaicharn] was a good cook. She always helped me figure out what to buy [at the store] and was very good at giving me cooking advice."

Chaicharn doesn't want to influence the local culture in Oregon; that is not why she came here. What she wants is to give people the opportunity to experience something new while she is preserving what is important to her at Thai Chili.

"Culture is something that you experience with your own eyes, your own mind and your own heart," Chaicharn said. "It's just another dish to be mixed and matched."

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- How does this relate to our present day society & social system?
- Who is the intended audience?
- What is King really calling for?

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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 24.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Take a trip to "Shutter Island"

Chris Foster
 The Commuter

Leonardo DiCaprio "thrills" us again in "Shutter Island." Based on the novel by Dennis Lehane, it tells the story of U.S. marshal Teddy Daniels (DiCaprio) and his newly appointed partner Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo), as they investigate the escape of inmate Rachel Solando from Ashecliffe, a secluded island hospital for the criminally insane.

At the start, Daniels finds a note left by Solando in her cell asking about the "Law of 4" and "Who is 67?" DiCaprio's character deals with staff that appear to know more than they say and a physician who seems helpful but is mysterious about his intentions.

In addition, the inmates don't seem as insane as the physicians let on and they provide clues as to what is going on behind closed doors. After more clues, Daniels uncovers a conspiracy out of his worst nightmares.

DiCaprio's acting was decent, showing a character who became more confused and rattled with each new discovery.

The rest of the cast was just as good and played off each other well. In an era when movies are 3-D and full of effects, the movie did seem slow, dark and moody, but plot twists kept you guessing. The



film held my interest but didn't have the suspense to keep me on the edge of my seat. I had no problem going to the snack bar and wondering if I missed something important since there wasn't a lot of action or many emotional scenes.

As it headed to its end, it did pick up, but I can't go into detail without ruining the entire movie.

Overall, Shutter Island was good. It was refreshing to sit through a quiet movie that causes you to think about it, instead of just waiting for the next big explosion. While it may seem slow and boring to some, I think fans of old-style mysteries and thrillers will enjoy it.



"Cool Suit:" A perfect fit for all ages

Chris Foster
 The Commuter

Looking to take in a play this weekend? Head down to the Russell Tripp Performance Center and check out "Cool Suit." Based on the classic story "The Emperor's New Clothes," the play tells of the Emperor who has a suit tailored for him, that only the smart, beautiful and talented can see. What he doesn't know is that the crowds go along with it until a child points out that he's not wearing anything. "Cool Suit" is a high-energy musical with a lot of physical comedy and is suitable for all ages.

The play is part of LBCC's 35th Annual

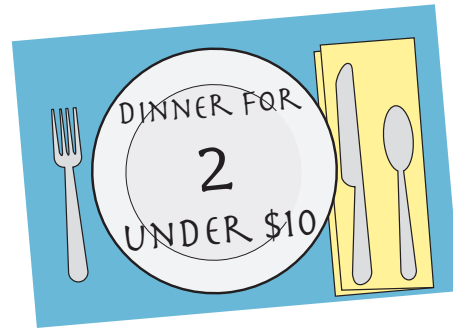
Children's Show. Special showings for school children started February 9 and will run until March 4, children's showings Tue. and Thur. only at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Public performances started on February 21 and will run until this Saturday with showings at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$9 for adults and \$6 for kids.

"Cool Suit" stars Mike Bishop as the Emperor, Rachel Chapman as Mother, and Mark Ekins as the Tailor. Nikki Funk, Amanda Konstantin, Emily Robinson, Lindsey Town and Matt Smith round out the rest of the cast of "Cool Suit." It is directed by Nick Sheler with James Reddan as the musical director, Bruce Peterson serving

as the technical director, and choreography done by Katherine Sanders. Patrice Wright is providing box office support.

"Cool Suit" at a glance:

What: This musical retelling of "The Emperor's New Clothes," a classic tale of the vain, clothes-horse Emperor, rocks with music and comedy.
Where: Russell Tripp Performance Center
Admission is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children under age 18.



Healthy shrimp stir-fry

Jana West
 The Commuter

The stir-fry is a quick, easy and healthy dinner that I often rely on in a pinch or if I'm craving a variety of vegetables. The combinations of veggies one can choose from make this dish easy to personalize to one's own preferences. I often browse the produce section to see what looks the best and what's on sale. If you don't like shrimp you can substitute chicken, tempeh or beef.

Grocery list:

1/2 lb. 51-60 count Shrimp	\$3.50
1 package buckwheat noodles	\$1.99
1/2 lb. broccoli	\$.89
1 zucchini or yellow squash	\$.68
4 large white mushrooms	\$.72
1 large carrot	\$.24
1 small piece of ginger root	\$.40
1 bunch green onions	\$.99
6 garlic cloves	\$.25
1 packet crushed red pepper (from any pizza place)	FREE
2 packets of soy sauce (from any Chinese place)	FREE
GRAND TOTAL:	\$9.66

Cook noodles according to package directions, or until just tender. Drain and set aside.

Grate the ginger (I use a zester so the ginger is a nice fine consistency). You'll need about a tablespoon.

Chop all vegetables before you start because this will go quick (I use a wok), but you can use a heavy pan on medium-high heat.

Heat one tablespoon of extra light extra virgin olive oil or canola oil. Start with shrimp and sauté for about one minute. Add the mushrooms and broccoli, stirring frequently, for about two minutes. Add carrots, ginger, zucchini, garlic and onions.

When vegetables are tender, add the noodles, two tablespoons of soy sauce, one tablespoon of water and a sprinkle of the pepper flakes up to the whole packet depending on how hot you want it.

Some other great substitutions I suggest include eggplant, bell peppers, snow peas, bok choy or cauliflower. This can also be served over white rice or Ramen Noodles, if you have those lying around.



Shrimp stir-fry

Photo by Jana West

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E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

Surreal Living

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

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Obsolete item
- 16 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" and others
- 17 Pet that's larger than a toy
- 18 Group originally named the Jolly Corks
- 19 Zaire's Mobutu Sese ___
- 20 No longer serving: Abbr.
- 21 Bk. before Job
- 24 Themes
- 27 Try to bean, in baseball
- 30 Easing of tension
- 31 Roadside grazer
- 32 False show
- 34 Fountain beverage
- 36 Verdi aria that translates to "It was you"
- 37 Diamond stats
- 41 Hearty entrée
- 44 Caviar, say
- 45 Quantities possessing only magnitude
- 48 Veneration
- 50 Seat of Washington's Pierce County
- 51 1956 Mideast crisis site
- 52 Part of a loop
- 53 "Given that ..."
- 57 McAn of shoes
- 60 Tax service, familiarly
- 65 It may be awakened after a period of inattention
- 66 Retail security staff

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52						53	54	55	56			57	58	59
60			61	62						63	64			
65														
66														

By Thomas Heilman

- 8 Cab hailer
- 9 Serious trip
- 10 Some triangle sides
- 11 WWII zone
- 12 Kung ___ chicken
- 13 Second man on the moon
- 14 Choose
- 15 Safari menace
- 22 Local govt. unit
- 23 Half-baked
- 25 They may end with 27-Down
- 26 Equal
- 27 Passes may result in them: Abbr.
- 28 "Yoo-___!"
- 29 Alaska and La., once
- 30 Remove pitch stains from
- 33 Spanish uncle
- 35 Alice's chronicler
- 38 Soviet leader who signed SALT I and II
- 39 Biennial games org.
- 40 Tennis unit

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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- 42 Descartes's conclusion
- 43 Nashville sch.
- 45 Connecting flights
- 46 Customs exemption for an auto
- 47 Customer ID
- 49 Czar known as "the Great"
- 54 Lose color
- 55 Narrow opening
- 56 Normandy river
- 58 York's river
- 59 "Miracle" 1969 World Series winners
- 61 Chariot ending?
- 62 "Self-Reliance" essayist's monogram
- 63 List-ending abbr.
- 64 Lab caretaker?

Poetry spotlight

The Blues
by Amy Earls

I'm hanging low like the willow tree.
 Draping shadows over melody.
 I'm in and out of reality,
 Drifting in-between the blues and me.
 Down, down, the blues down deep,
 Down, down deep in my soul.
 I hear America sing the blues!
 Harlem lights flicker on, on, live on.
 America jumps from note to note
 With a tune of deep tranquility.
 Down, down, the blues down deep,
 Down, down deep in my soul.
 Mmm. America's playing with heart.
 Mmm, mmm, mmm, baby, don't crush the song.
 Free-da-dom! Free-da-dom!
 Free-da-de-da-de-dom!

Down, down, the blues down deep,
Down, down deep in my soul.



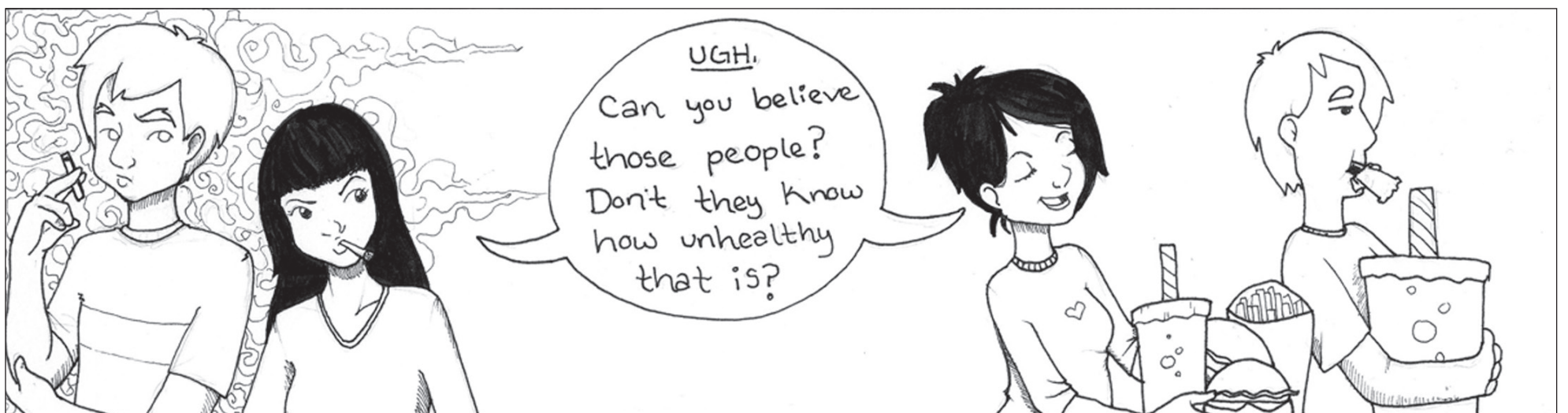
Did you know?

- NASA says that Mars was very wet about 1.8 billion years ago.
- The Northern Mariana Islands have the lowest population growth rate of any country in the world, with -7.078% annually.
- The longest movie is "Berlin Alexanderplatz," a 15-hour film made in 1980 and showed on television in 14 segments in Germany.
- The earliest example of steel production is from an archeological site in modern-day Turkey that is about 4,000 years old.
- The Ebola virus is named after a river valley in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the first outbreak was recorded.

Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



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Surreal Living

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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

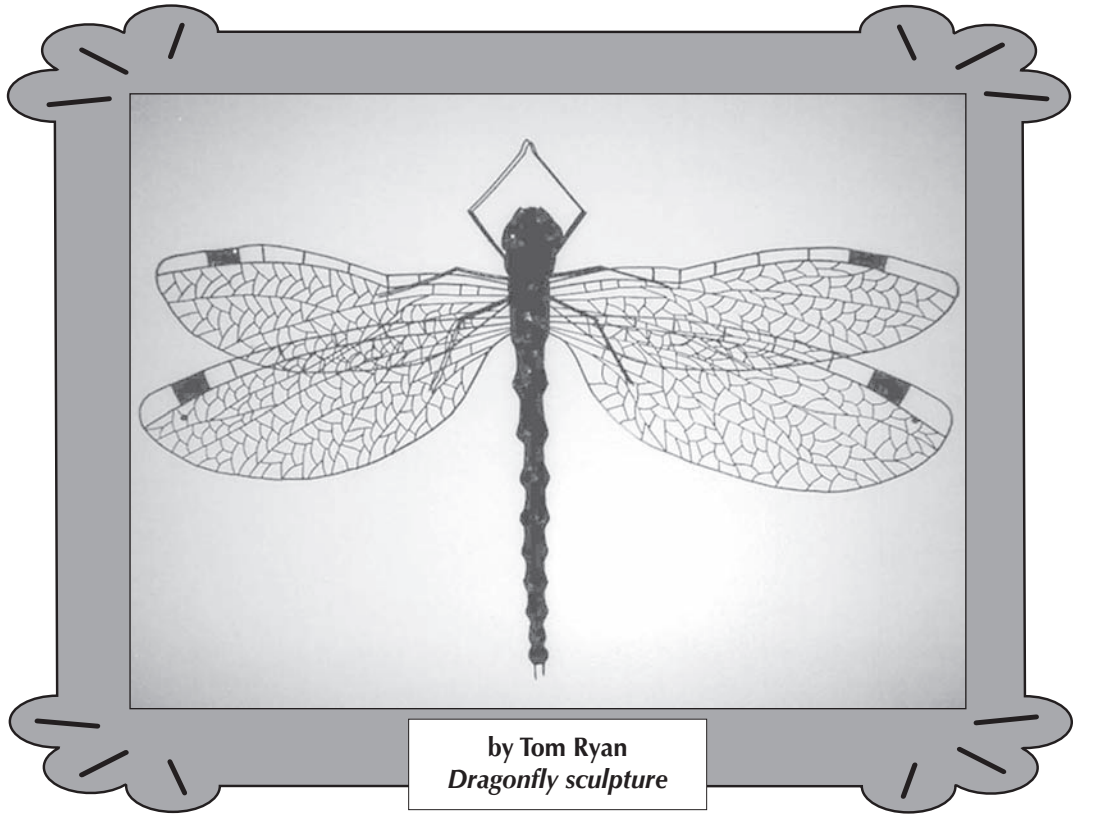
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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



by Janey Bevill
 Self-portrait

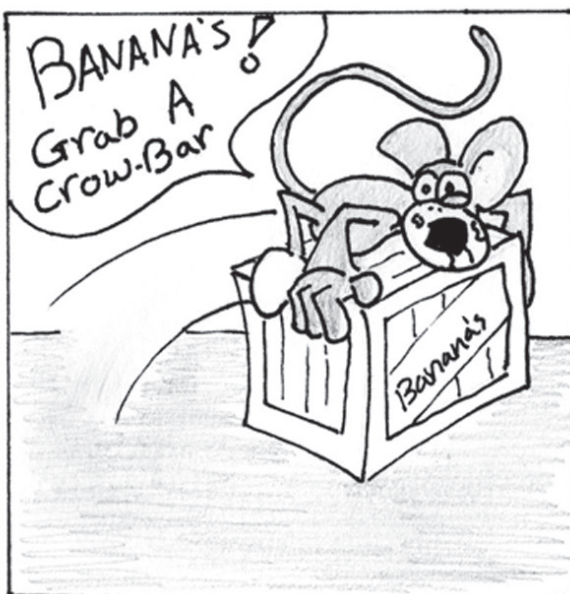


by Tom Ryan
 Dragonfly sculpture



An LBCC student generated comic.

By Mason Britton



-Mason Britton Feb 2010

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Coming attractions

The Crazies

The citizens of Ogden Marsh, Iowa are turning out to be mindless violent maniacs. In fact, there seems to be a toxin infecting ordinary townspeople and turning them into psychopathic killers. Who will strive to turn the tide of zombie rednecks and attempt to defend his town against itself? Oh, probably the protagonist depicted by lead actor Timothy Olyphant.

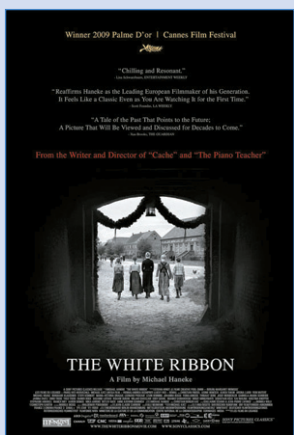
Runtime: 101 Minutes
Rating: R



The White Ribbon

This German film with two Oscar nominations is set to open at the Darkside on Friday. It catalogs the strange and nefarious happenings of a north German village in the 1910s through the eyes of the local schoolteacher. Some are frightening, while others are enigmatic (such as a ruined crop and an inexplicable fire), but how are all these "accidents" connected?

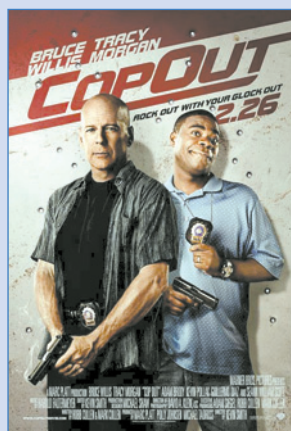
Runtime: 144 Minutes
Rating: R



Cop Out

Kevin Smith directs as an old NYC copper (Bruce Willis) has a rare baseball card stolen from him by a gangster, and recruits his partner (Tracy Morgan) to help him track it down. The card's recovery is crucial to the aging policeman's aspiration to pay for his daughter's wedding. "Rock out with your Glock out" boasts the tagline of this violently crass buddy cop comedy.

Runtime: 110 Minutes
Rating: R



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

Wine and dine at the coast

Jana West
The Commuter

No matter whether you love wine or seafood (I happen to enjoy both), there is only one place to be this weekend: the 33rd Annual Newport Seafood and Wine Festival.

The Oregon coast will be buzzing with activity this weekend, Feb. 26-28, for one of Newport's busiest weekends of the year. The Newport Seafood and Wine Festival is one of the biggest and most well-attended festivals of its kind in the Northwest, taking place the last weekend of every February.

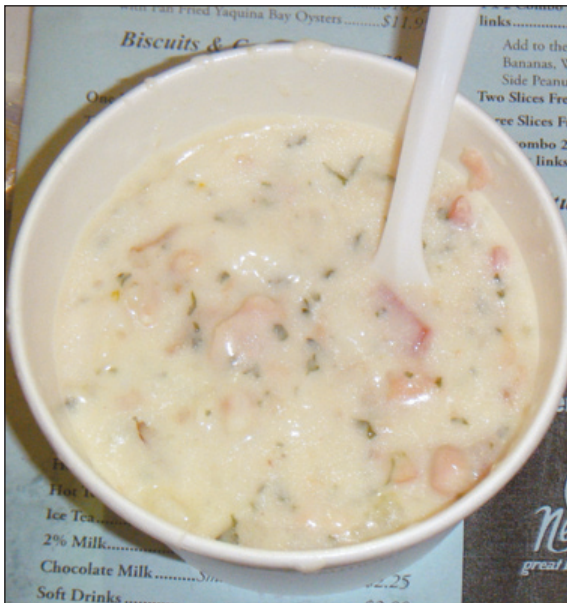
The festival is produced by the Newport Chamber of Commerce and will have a multitude of craft vendors selling everything from pottery and jewelry to art and wine accessories. Even if you're not a fan of seafood and wine, the people watching and craft vendors might make it worth your while.

The food at the festival is about as fresh as it comes, from the crab dinners and freshly-shucked Yaquina Bay oysters to the fabulous and famous clam chowder in the Newport Café. There are also vendors selling products like garlic-stuffed olives from Garlic Gourmay, and packaged smoked salmon that you can take home with you.

Perhaps the biggest draw though is the wine; the festival has over 60 wineries, giving visitors the chance to taste hundreds of wines from all across the state. It's the opportunity to sample Pinot noirs (Oregon's premier grape) from different regions, side



Mary Bellando pours the wine at last year's Seafood and Wine Festival in Newport.



A warm cup of clam chowder from the Newport Café.

Photos by Jana West

by side. Don't like red wine? That's okay, the festival has Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot gris and some sparkling wines for those who like their bubbly. Rogue Brewery will also be pouring beer for those who aren't interested in wine, and there is even a booth serving sake.

Tickets can be purchased for \$25 for a three-day pass, or you can buy tickets for each day, with Sunday's price being as low as \$5. Tickets can be purchased online at www.newportchamber.org, or purchased at the event. Just expect to wait in a long line if purchasing tickets at the door.

According to a volunteer, they are expecting around 15,000 people for this year's event.

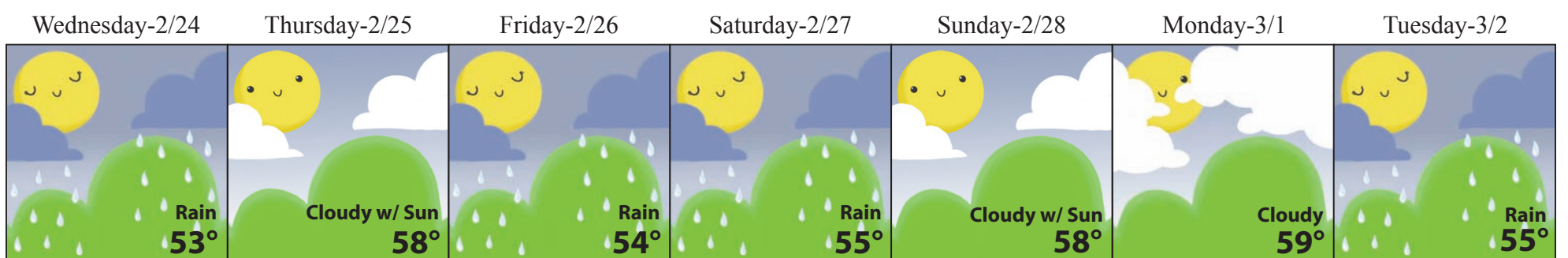
Shuttle service runs frequently from many locations (which is recommended, as parking can be a nightmare). Some things you might want to consider include taking plenty of cash (as last year there were only two ATMs and people waited in line for hours

to take cash out) and drinking lots of water (it can get a little muggy in the tents and you've got a full day of drinking in front of you). Also, expect there to be large crowds, as this is a very busy event and the tents will be packed, making the atmosphere just short of a frenzy. At the festival, it's standard practice that every time a glass hits the ground the crowd will erupt in cheers.

So if you're looking for something to do this weekend, take a trip down to the Oregon coast and try out some local flavors, do some people watching and maybe try out some new wine.

P.S. Don't forget about the chowder.

Weekly Weather Predictions



Warning: These are only predictions. For up-to-date forecasts, please look out your window. Source: weather.com