



The Albany, Oregon
Commuter
LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION:

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WANTED! SCRIPT WRITERS

The theater is a place of freedom, expression and ultimately the combination of both. Those with a passion for creativity and acting are constantly thinking up new ideas and characters on a daily basis, but now they will have the ability to share their ideas.

The Black Curtain Society, the theater club at LBCC, will be people hosting a One Act play. Students have the freedom to create their own one act play, but only one will be chosen and directed.

"This will be our first time attempting to put on an entire student run/created show" said Asia Lederer, one of the club leaders.

Dan Stone, the theater director, had suggested that the

students focus all of their efforts into one 30 to 45-minute act, versus three shorter ones.

The thing that the club wants people to focus on is the deadlines for certain items pertaining to the One Act play.

For script writing, the deadline is Jan. 10, 2014 (or the first Friday of winter term), for directing applications the deadline is Feb. 7, 2014.

Additionally, a few things have been determined for anybody who is interested in directing.

"We'd like to have the director either be a theater emphasis or theater major," said Joe Hill, one of the other club leaders. "After the script is selected, we'll begin to accept application forms for directors."

The application form will be accompanied with a scene pulled from the script for the applicant to direct on paper.

"I know there isn't much time for the directors to do this, so we'll keep it pretty short," said Lederer

After the applications are received, they will host some interviews and then ideally, will be able to choose a director by Feb. 14.

Once interviews are completed and a director is chosen, they will be able to host auditions and get things up and running.

"There will be a theater lab hosted at the Majestic theater in Corvallis on March 20-22, 2014 and the plan is to start setting up rehearsals on March 20," said Stone. 📍

STORY BY **LEX PORTER**

POETRY CORNER

Casper was a friendly ghost,
Who toppled o'er with glee.
Until he found a friendly host.
A home with-inside me.
He realized how much joy it gave,
Killing blamelessly,
Though blame had not fallen away,
but rather upon me.
Now in a pillowed room I grieve,
Explaining I won't try.
For you'll just laugh and not believe,
The tale of Casper and I.

By: Josh

Cancer and Banter

As I drift through life another ghostly face passes
me by in a crowd
No acknowledgment, No time, No existence, No
life, STOP
Light up, Puff
The ghosts come through the smoke and
materialize
-Can I bum one?
-Sure man
Conversation
Faces talk a mind is present and 15 minutes of
friendship is realized.

By: Kent Elliott

Celebrate

As the seasons come to an end
It is time that should be enjoyed
A time to Celebrate
Love, Friendship, and Life
With the time of family and friends
The giving of oneself
The gathering of the lost
It is a time to remember the past
A time to look to the future
It is on this day
I take a little of your time
In doing so you know
You hold a place in my heart and mind
Taking time from the rush
To remember and to dream
And wish yours love and happiness
And all the dreams for the future
Have a blessed Christmas
And a bountiful New Year

By: Elizabeth Mottner

Cold dark past
Does not define my future
Dysfunctional family morals
Does not define my future
Broad wide walls
Will no longer hold me back
Like a giant
I will stomp and crush those walls
I'll grow some balls
And no longer fight being me
I will succeed and be free

By: Amber Tela

"I knew that I loved you
until the end of time,
I've said we can't be friends
but I knew that was just a lie,
as time passes and things change with time
I want you to know that you're in my heart
like the first time that I saw you
and I asked you to be mine"

By: Harrison Winter

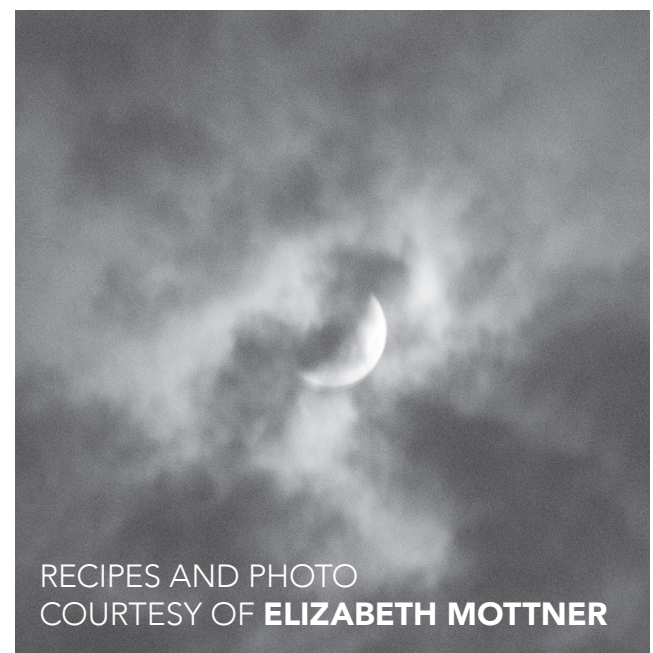
WINTER SOLSTICE RECIPES

It is the time of year to celebrate the many traditions of the world. Enjoying loved ones company, accented with tasty food and lovely drink.

Two traditional recipes are offered for your enjoyment. As you gather together for merriment, enjoy these delicious delights. Though the etymology of eggnog is debated, both of these recipes evolved in northern Europe.

Pepparkakor are thin Swedish ginger cookies. These are enjoyed during the Winter Solstice celebrations and are tasty thin cookies full of flavor

Eggnog is enjoyed as a holiday treat in the United States. Alcohol of your choice can be added to make this recipe uniquely yours. Eat and drink responsibly, but enjoy! 📍



RECIPES AND PHOTO
COURTESY OF **ELIZABETH MOTTNER**

Eggnog

Ingredients:	Directions:
3 egg yolks	Heat the milk and cream. Separately, beat egg yolks gradually adding the 1/2 cup
1/2 cup sugar	sugar and salt in a large saucepan gradually
1/4 tsp salt	add the milk and cream and cook in a
3 cups milk	double boiler or VERY carefully on direct
1 cup heavy cream	heat on low. DONT BOIL or it will curdle.
1 tsp vanilla	Add vanilla and chill. Beat egg whites till
3 egg whites	stiff, gradually add 1/4 cup sugar, beating
1/4 cup sugar	till stiff. Fold into cold custard. Makes 2
	quarts. Add in rum or cinnamon schnapps
	to make this an enjoyable adult beverage.

Adapted from: family recipe
by Elizabeth Mottner

Pepparkakor (Swedish Ginger Thins)

Ingredients:	Directions:
2/3 cup brown sugar	In a medium saucepan, heat brown sugar,
2/3 cup molasses	molasses, and spices just to boiling point.
1 teaspoon ginger	Add baking soda and stir. Pour this mixture
1 teaspoon cinnamon	over the butter in a medium bowl and stir
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves	until it melts. Add beaten egg; add flour, a
3/4 tablespoon baking soda	cup at a time, and blend well. Turn out onto
2/3 cup butter	a floured countertop and knead 1-2 minutes.
1 egg	Wrap in waxed paper and chill until firm
3 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour	(about an hour). Preheat oven to 325°F.
	Roll out to approximately 1/8-inch thickness
	on a floured counter and cut into desired
	shapes. Place on greased baking sheets and
	bake for 8-10 minutes.

Adapted from: Faulk family recipe
by Elizabeth Mottner

MONUMENTAL CIVIL WAR

The 117th Civil War match-up between the Ducks and Beavers may be one for the ages. After six lead changes in the second half alone, the Ducks came away with the 36-35 victory. A 12-yard pass from Marcus Mariota to Josh Huff, with 29 seconds to go, put the Ducks ahead for the last time.

This was a much different Beavers team than we had seen in a long time. The Beavers finally got their running game back on track, totaling 231 rushing yards behind Terron Ward's 145 yards.

The Beavers defense stepped up again big, with two interceptions, one each by who else? Rashaad Reynolds and Steven Nelson, our top two cornerbacks and team leaders in interceptions. They also caused one fumble on the day. All of this happened in three straight drives for the Ducks.

After being completely humiliated in losing to Washington, who scored a school record of 69 points, the Beavers showed a lot of courage and confidence. Coming into this game, the Beavers left the past in the past, leaving

it all out on the field in Autzen Stadium.

Although they did not come out of Eugene with a victory, they can hold their heads high knowing they gave it everything they had.

Oregon State is still bowl eligible with six wins on the season. The bowl selections will be officially announced on Sunday, Dec. 8, also known as "Selection Sunday." Right now, with many different projections it is unclear which bowl they will end up in. 📍

STORY BY **COOPER PAWSON**

VOLLEYBALL FALLS SHORT OF CHAMPIONSHIP

The RoadRunners made a pretty good run for the championship but fell short after being defeated by Olympic just two wins shy of trading places with Olympic, who went on to face, the number one overall seed Blue Mountain, in the title match. Blue Mountain went on to win their second consecutive title, third in the last four years.

"We had a great season. Our goal as a team was obtaining the one or two seed in the region and top four in NWAACC Conference, we achieved both," said Coach Jayme Frazier after being eliminated.

The RoadRunners did not get off to a good start, they began the tournament with a very tough loss to Bellevue who was the second seed out of the North Region.

Claiming the second and fourth sets by scores of 25-19 and 25-12, the RoadRunners forced a fifth and final set that finished 15-12 in favor of Bellevue. Linn-Benton found themselves immediately in the losers bracket.

Quickly, the RoadRunners had to dig themselves out of a hole for they would face Yakima Valley just an hour later to decide whether they would move on to the next round. They bounced right back by defeating Yakima Valley Nov. 21, to give them another day to play.

The success continued for the next two days with three straight wins against Lower Columbia 25-20, 25-11, Tacoma 25-23, 19-25, 15-9 and Highline 25-14, 21-25, 16-14.

After being tied and winning by two against Highline in the third and final set, the RoadRunners found themselves in a final four as a three seed in with three number one seeds.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. The ladies championship hopes ended after being defeated by Olympic in two straight sets, 25-17, 25-13.

Frazier was very proud of her players; several players were recognized individually. Emily Kozlowski was named NWAACC academic all conference, Samantha



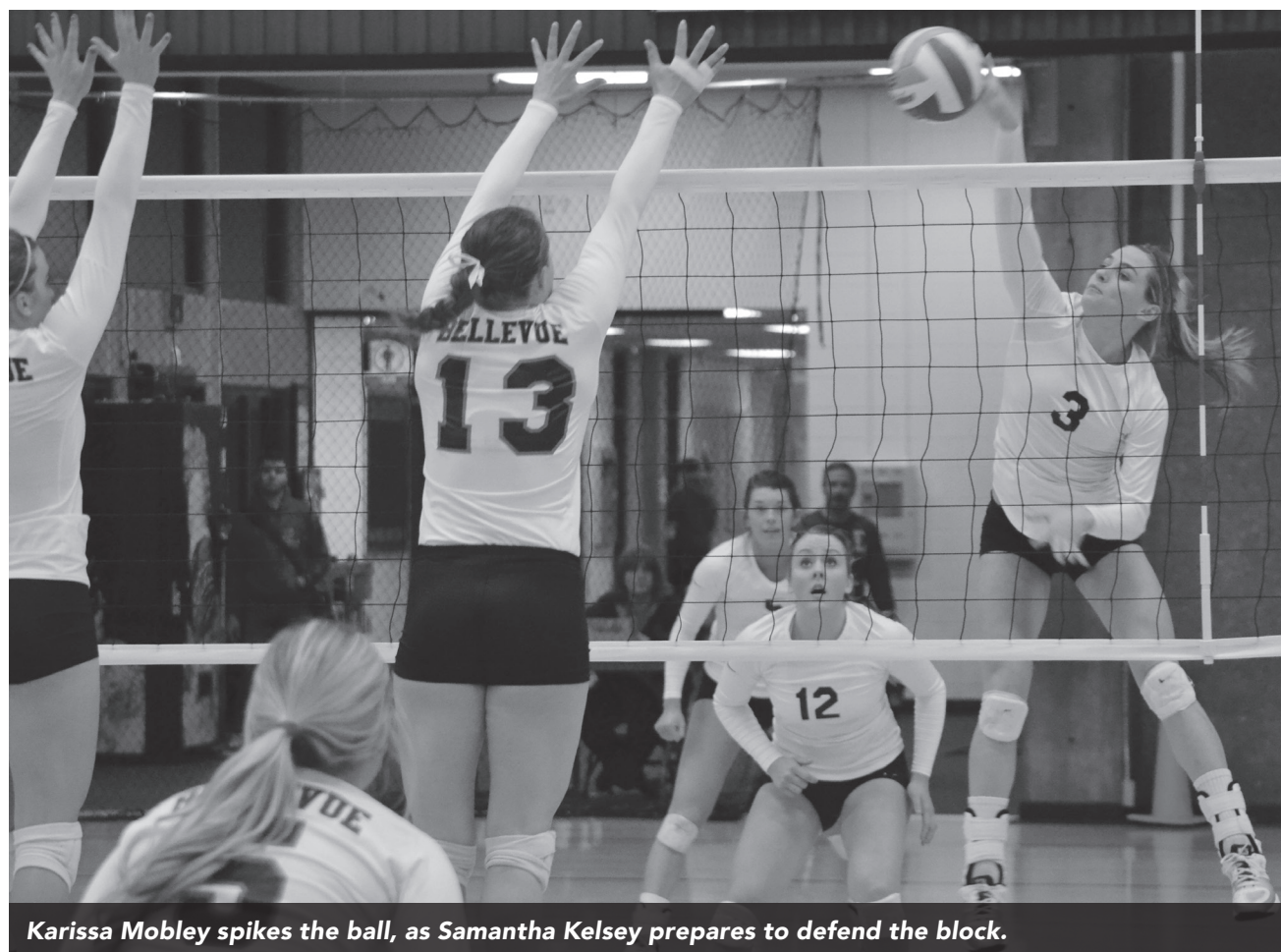
Abby Hardie and the team celebrate their win.

Kelsey and Abby Hardie made second team all NWAACC tournament, and Hardie and Karissa Mobley made first team southern region. Hardie was selected as AVCA second team All-American.

In the end, the RoadRunners accomplished a lot this year on and off the court.

"It is always such a privilege to work with these student athletes and see the growth that occurs throughout the year, not only in volleyball, but in their relationships, academics and all around maturity," Frazier concluded. 📍

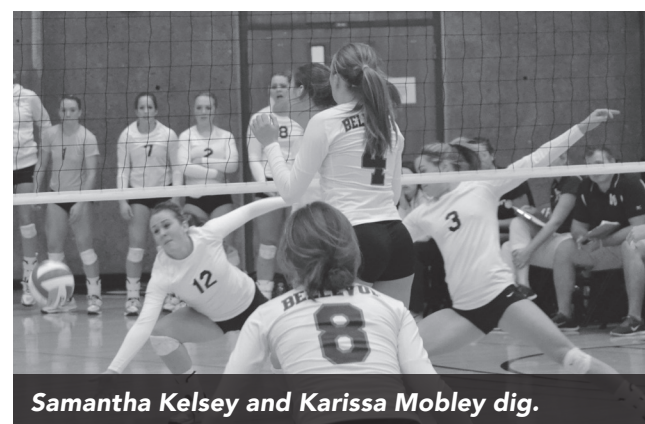
STORY AND PHOTOS
BY **COOPER PAWSON**



Karissa Mobley spikes the ball, as Samantha Kelsey prepares to defend the block.



Samantha Kelsey concentrates on the ball.



Samantha Kelsey and Karissa Mobley dig.



PHOTO: WILLIAM ALLISON

Anyone with a smartphone should know the pain of being without a charger and having a low battery warning pop up on their mobile device. Sure, some phones get better battery life than others, but in the end, they all die when you seem to need them most.

History:

About a year ago, a San Francisco-area startup, now known as Nomad (hellonomad.com), wanted to eliminate the inconvenience of carrying cables around by creating a product by the name of ChargeCard. The idea was simple: make a charging cable in the shape of a credit card. In their Kickstarter video, creators Noah Dentzel and Adam Miller said, “Keys, phone, wallet; these are the only three things you should have to remember.”

The first round hit production when the duo realized that their iPhone 4/4S and Micro USB models worked great, but the iPhone 5 version wasn't doing so well. The circuitry was different in the iPhone 5 charger. They started from scratch, completely redesigning it. Half a year later, they finally perfected it, starting mass production once again, slowly tackling the backorder.

Once they got everything figured out, Nomad started producing a similar product by the name of ChargeKey. ChargeKey is the same concept, except it's the size and shape of a key, allowing you to keep it on your keychain. However, in this review, the focus will be on the ChargeCard.

Design: ★★★★★

The ChargeCard, which is the size of a credit card and the thickness of three cards, is designed to fit in your wallet so that “it's there when you need it, and out of your way when you don't.” This is exactly what it does.

The ChargeCard fits in my wallet, nestled alongside my

credit cards, barely adding any bulk. Most of the time, it's forgotten, unless there's a need for it.

Some people have expressed concern on the Nomad Facebook page on how the material will stand up to everyday use. While it is made of plastic, the ChargeCard is sturdy, and there should be no fear that it will break or get damaged.

Functionality: ★★★★★

As a charging cable, the ChargeCard does what it should—it charges your device. While you still need access to a USB port, that doesn't seem to be an issue these days, as everything from TVs to mattresses have built in USB ports.

The one problem the ChargeCard has is the awkwardness. Because the USB portion of the card is in the center and flips out, this can make it difficult to use your phone while it is charging. At times, it will leave your phone dangling from the wall, but the plug is very secure and doesn't slip out, which would cause the phone to stop charging and fall.

The ChargeCard is also designed with bulky cases in mind. It has no difficulties plugging into even the thickest of OtterBox cases, making the card usable for nearly anyone.

Customer Service: ★★★★★

The customer service of Nomad has left a lot to be desired, and this is evident based on the comments left on their Facebook page. Due to the issues in production with the iPhone 5 model, there was an insane delay in shipping them out. The ChargeCard used for this review was one of these, and took over a half year to receive. There were several times that they said, “Oh, it's shipping this week!” That finally happened seven months later.

This wouldn't have been a big deal, as most people would prefer a delay over a non-working product, but there

PRODUCT REVIEW:

ChargeCard

COST: \$25

MODELS: iPhone/iPad/iPod (30-pin or Lightning) or MicroUSB

WHERE TO BUY: <http://hellonomad.com>

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

REVIEW BY WILLIAM ALLISON

was no communication whatsoever. It took numerous calls, emails, Facebook posts, and tweets to get any kind of reply other than false promises. When there was finally a reply via Twitter, it wasn't very helpful, simply explaining the delay, and again saying it would ship that week.

Price: ★★★★★

Phone chargers can be bought nearly anywhere these days; online, convenience stores, electronics stores, and more. At \$25, the ChargeCard is six dollars more than the Apple replacement charger cable, and about \$10 more than the AmazonBasics lightning cable. While the cost of this one is more than your typical charger, the durability and convenience makes it worth it.

Overall: ★★★★★

When it comes to the ChargeCard, you really do get what you pay for, at least for the actual product, though the customer service could use some major improvement. It's durable, convenient, and does what it is supposed to do. If you're constantly finding your phone battery in need of a charge, the ChargeCard is the perfect thing for you. 📍

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LBCC AND LEGACY BALLET PRESENT 'THE NUTCRACKER'

An annual tradition, Legacy Ballet brings the magic of “The Nutcracker” to Linn and Benton counties for its second full-length production, in partnership with LBCC's Russell Tripp Theater.

Legacy's performance will feature adult and children dancers from the community. Established in Albany in 2008, the dance company offers ballet, jazz, hip-hop, modern and tap dance for ages three through adult.

Tickets are \$12 general admission. Purchase online for no fee www.linnbenton.edu/russelltripptheater. Tickets are also available at the theater Box Office by phone at 541-917-4531, or one hour prior to the performance. Box Office hours the week of the performance are 1-4 p.m.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Russell Tripp Performance Center
Takena Hall
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW
Albany, OR 97321

Dec. 12 and 13 at 7 p.m.
Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Price: \$12

www.linnbenton.edu/russelltripptheater

Box Office 541-917-4531
Disability Services 541-917-4690
TDD 1-800-735-2900

STORY BY LBCC NEWSWIRE



COURTESY: METRO NEWS

It has been eight years since the world of console gamers has been graced with a new system from Sony or Microsoft and though there have been a few hiccups out the gate, but overall the feedback has been positive. Having ordered my Xbox One a few months ago, the anticipation of waiting for it to show up on my doorstep can only compare to being a 10-year-old boy, sitting at my bedroom door, waiting for the okay to come out on Christmas morning to my NES. We were out running errands when it arrived and once home, I didn't even allow the car to stop before I was out the door and ripping open the box. Yes, I'm a big kid and yes, I squealed like school girl, but I will do my best to contain my gaga like excitement and give a fair review.

First Impression and Set Up ★★★★★

Opening the box, everything is black and heavy, giving off a classy but expensive vibe. The Xbox One is a little over a foot long and really doesn't have much design to it other than some ridging on the top. This is consistent with Microsoft, as the first Xbox and original 360, were not aesthetically pleasing until later editions. The set up, on the other hand, leaves nothing to be desired.

Though there was a set of instructions that came with the console, reading them was unnecessary. Each input is clearly marked and getting everything plugged in and set for use, takes under five minutes. Upon turning on the system you are immediately met with Wi-Fi set up and a download patch. Though it is pretty silly that in order to run the system you need a patch, it downloads at lighting speed compared to the 360 and within a few minutes it's ready to go.

Dashboard and Usability ★★★★★

If you have used Windows 8 at all, you will have no problem with this dashboard set up. For those that haven't, the home screen has some great tutorials on how to use your system. For the most part, the process for accessing and using your content is pretty simple. Microsoft incorporates the pinning concept from the 360 and upgrades it a bit by giving you the ability to view your pins as their own screen (to the left of the home screen). Your home screen contains the things you will use other than your pins (profile, friends, etc.) and is accessible with the push of a button. In all, everything feels very Microsoft-esque and mastering the

menus takes very little time. The voice commands are another problem, that will covered with the Kinect.

Kinect ★★★★★

The Kinect is box shaped just like its console counterpart and has significant weight to it. Though it doesn't contain auto-adjust like its predecessor, it clearly is a better constructed piece. You can see this immediately once you turn it on and set it up. Your living room appears in clear 1080p and unlike the 360 Kinect, requires no perfect lighting to work flawlessly. Setting the angle to perfectly fit your living room is a snap, as the Xbox guides you through the process with no stupid smiley-face card required. The voice command functionality is not as easily dealt with. Though it is obviously picking up the commands given, if anyone else is talking or if you don't use the exact verbiage, the commands aren't recognized. After a week of playing around with it, the commands have become familiar, but it still needs a great deal of work, especially in the TV functionality.

Controller ★★★★★

It is hard to imagine improving on the 360 controller, but that is exactly what Microsoft has done here. The controller is sleek and form fitting to the hand, feeling like it belongs there. The circumference of the analog sticks are noticeably smaller, but seem to fit your fingers (whether big or small) much better. The triggers embedded with vibration sensitivity are far more responsive and require less of a trigger pull to get the desired effect. At the top of the controller is a glowing Xbox symbol that, when pressed, takes you directly to your home screen, a great function for people looking to do things on the fly or who have to take breaks in their playing. As a dad, I put this to work all the time without fearing of losing content or where I'm at in a game. With the press of a button, I'm able to restart where I have left off, even after watching TV for several hours. The best part about the controller is how it pairs with the person holding it. The controller, once in hand, recognizes the player holding it and instantly is assigned to them. Lastly, it has been about two weeks and I haven't had to change my batteries, something the 360 controllers needed all the time.

PRODUCT REVIEW:

Xbox One

COST: \$500

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

REVIEW BY **TEJO PACK**

Games and Performance ★★★★★

Having heard a lot about how it looks, the first game I slide in to test was Forza 5 and believe me, it didn't disappoint. Having spent a great deal of time on a 360, the textures and richness of color, is levels above. Not to mention the graphical detail in every blade of grass and every leaf on a tree. As you pass by a row of them doing 140 mph, you can make out each needle on a pine tree. And unlike the 360 where environment renders as you approach it, you can see the landscape for miles and in perfect definition. Call of Duty: Ghosts, even at a lower resolution than the PS4, also looks visually amazing. I notice the quality difference most when playing online and I'm able to see people across the map, no scope required. I have spent numerous hours completing the game and playing online and the only lag experienced thus far is solely based on servers and not the system's ability to render. To date, I have only played five of the launch titles, but each has done a fair job at showing the performance power that comes with this machine.

Overall ★★★★★

Though some of the operation of the system is a bit clunky, overall it functions pretty smoothly. The launch titles are some of the best I have seen for a new system in my short time inhabiting this earth and the controller is the best I have seen to date. The Kinect is a serious improvement and add in the function of being able to jump from gaming to TV in an instant with the use of a word and the Xbox One truly feels like it belongs at the center of your entertainment universe. In the end, if you're looking for a central hub in your living room that does it all, look no further. The Xbox One is for you. ♡

LBCC FALL CHOIR CONCERT: "SING FOR JOY"

LBCC will presents its fall choral concert "Sing for Joy" in the LBCC Russell Tripp Performance Center.

Conducted by James Reddan, LBCC Choral Activities director, the performance includes the Concert Choir, Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir, the Musical Theater/Opera Workshop, and the vocal a cappella groups Blue Light Special and The Sirens. Penny Bazanele will accompany on piano.

"The fall choral concert will truly be a choral extravaganza, with literally something for everyone," said Reddan. "We will present a real choral tour-de-force, celebrating the joy of the season reflected in song from many different cultures and periods!"

The concert will feature different choral works to celebrate the joy of the season, including: "Magnificat

Mysticum" (Snyder), "Weep No More" (Childs), "In Dulci Jubilo" (Culloton), "Dúlámán" (McGlynn), "Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet" (Gilpin), "The Little Drummer Boy" (Hayes), "O lux beata trinitas "(Matshushita) and many more.

LBCC's new Musical Theater/Opera workshop will perform selections from "Chicago" and "Into the Woods," celebrating the festivity of the fall season. The a cappella ensembles will present a wide variety of popular favorites including: "Clarity", "Telephone", "Wonderwall", and "You Found Me Turning Tables."

LBCC choir alumni will be invited to come to the stage to perform "We Three Kings" (Meader), an LBCC tradition. The performance will round out with a performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah." ♡

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Russell Tripp Performance Center
Takena Hall
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW
Albany, OR 97321

Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Price: \$10 general admission
\$7 students

www.linnbenton.edu/russelltripptheater

Box Office 541-917-4531
Disability Services 541-917-4690
TDD 1-800-735-2900

STORY BY **LBCC NEWSWIRE**

A LONG WAY FROM HOME

A good friend of mine once told me that in order to experience life in the way that you want to, you must take one step out of your comfort zone and completely submerge yourself into the world of the unknown.

For me, that step was out of my hometown of Chico, Calif. which landed me here, in Corvallis. It took close to a year of planning and many long-distance phone calls from school to school, apartment complex to apartment complex, and so on, but I landed here, in the town of Corvallis that I have called home for just over two months.

While 400 miles may not appear to be that far, there are still common, everyday struggles that I have faced from the first day that my parents pulled away from my apartment complex and I returned to the room that was appearing smaller by the minute.

However, as the minutes on my own turned to hours, and the boxes began to be unpacked, I recognized that this place I now inhabit was slowly becoming a reflection of myself; it slowly began to feel more like a home. Another contributing factor to the gradual climb in confidence was the ability to explore. I cannot express enough how important it is to take advantage of the new opportunities that may come to someone who is new to an area.

To put it plainly, you are in an area where pretty much nobody knows your name, you are able to, in a cliché sort of way, "reinvent yourself." There is nothing stopping you

from being who you are, and a new city, new school, or even new state is an opportune place to do so.

There are days when I'm immensely satisfied with the feeling of independence that has graced me since I traveled north. As the holidays are quickly approaching, however, I find that this is the time I most wish I were back home. There are parades of lights, Christmas previews, and family all at my fingertips back home. Of course, just as I say that, there are parades, previews, and a new family of sorts all within an arm's reach up here.

There are pieces of yourself, no matter who you may be or wherever you may go. As these pieces begin to form together, the feeling of nostalgia will simmer to a calming fulfillment of accomplished wanderlust, so long as you give the journey the chance to play itself out. There are times when the journey may end up disheartening, and at times, you may even have to retreat home and revamp your plans. However, I am a firm believer in the phrase "If you never try, you'll never know."

There are unsteady limbs that you may stumble over as you jump from the nest for the very first time. There are also sturdy branches that you'll land upon. While time has not told whether Oregon will be my resting point, it is slowly growing its leaves and showing me the colors that assure me that my wings are in working order. ♡



STORY AND PHOTO BY REBECCA SPALSBURY

ONCE FRIENDS, NOW FAMILY

Family, a word most all of us would use to describe those people in our life that share the same genetics and blood relations that we do. These are the people who raised us, who know us, who nurture and care for us. This is the traditional meaning of the word as most would be sure to agree.

"For the newer generations, it seems they are choosing their friends as their surrogate family."

Historians and psychologists apply years of research on the matter with great importance centered on the hereditary parents, as anyone who has ever viewed a history book, attended a psychiatric meeting or attempted to trace their own genealogy can attest. Countries under the rule of an established king or emperor often use this perception of family as the only proof necessary to establish sovereignty, as do several religions and business corporations. These styles of government act on family as its core ruling class and most believe in the proliferation of extended families.

America has a different approach to both. While the American nuclear family is by no means the norm for the rest of the world, some would say that it may not even be the norm now, here, in the United States. America today is one of a handful of nations with substantially weaker responsibilities and expectations placed on the family unit than has been shown historically with that of other global nations. We find ourselves pulled between what may be best for us as opposed to what seems best by another's view. Even when that other view comes with certain loaded expectations, which have been ingrained in us from our earliest childhood. Otherwise one becomes viewed in a harsh light by our other family. Often, even our companions and peers may view us this way. Though it may be that the harshest light one is viewed under is his own.

With the lending of the amount of undue stress and anxiety a family is capable of placing a member under, is it any wonder so many of us turn to friendship over family? We all know the ability to choose our family was never ours to control. But in the choosing of our friends we revel in the freedom and wonder of finding someone like us who enjoys us for who we are.

While this may not be true for all, it can be assumed many of us have dealt with events and scenarios of this sort.

Family, as a major priority, has been among the dominant thoughts of man since the moment of our awakening to this world as intelligent beings. Perhaps even long before that, as we still moved among the animal world. To call it a phenomenon of the human condition would be incorrect as it can be viewed with relative ease through simple observation of the (animal) kingdoms. Nearly every living creature has some sense of a family, not just we humans. Is this acceptance of family engrained into our genetic being? Most would assuredly say yes to such a question.

When we are children, our parents make up most of what can be considered to be our core self. They teach

us right from wrong and the reasoning of logic to make those moral decisions. Along with these invaluable guides to life provided by our immediate family, they, as parents, are expected to show us love and companionship. This is at least how it should be, though I am fully aware that everyone is not fortunate enough to have had these

generalities attributed to their own family experiences. This is where my argument with the notion of genetic blood ties to family being stronger than the obligations to a bond of true friendship begins. Most certainly though there are countless other reasons to defend this concept.

With age and experience we grow on this early core self as we find more independence in thought and actions. One may also find that the influence of parents, grandparents, siblings and extended family such as cousins and uncles or aunts lessens by considerable amounts. Family that you may have once spent endless summers playing at games with, now in later years, are rarely seen or even heard from. Some may find that those bonds and connections due to our growth of self, social groups and that of society around us have been made weak or possibly even severed altogether. This, I believe, is due in part to the current age in which we live and in many ways our nation. Eastern countries for instance, have no welfare plan because their citizens are expected to allow elderly, displaced or disabled relatives to become the family's responsibility, which holds true for many cultures. Several nations still live in acceptance of extended family (grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins) all living within the same household as parents, children and siblings. While here in America the child is expected to become independent after a certain age as they leave the home and find a job or go to college and make their own way, the statistics on individuals in assisted care facilities in America is quite high and still rising, according to the Online Newshour's "Health Spotlight" on assisted living. Many Americans, however, have negative impressions of nursing homes. In fact, 45 percent think people are worse off after going into nursing homes than before they entered.

This uncaring attitude towards family appears constantly all around us and in many ways, made most readily apparent perhaps in daily television. Constantly all around us we see broken families with circles of friends in their place. One could say it was a growing fact that the way those before us have related to family is now being traded for a more fraternal view.

For the newer generations, it seems they are choosing their friends as their surrogate family—

a family of like-minded individuals with very little regard for age, race or personal beliefs – over the family to which they are genetically tied. When so many of us are regarded so insignificantly by family as to be beneath the help or tutelage of our own blood, we look for acceptance in our immediate circle of greatest emotional and mental bonds. That circle being made of our dear and true friends. Easily able to become more beloved and beholden to us than our own fated family, the entire act seems more natural than unnatural.

Do the blood connections to family carry any real weight in regards to how well received we are by those people who by standard definition are our nearest and dearest?

Be it a simple matter of interests, ethics, religion or what have you, we in this modern day, full of its science and convenience, now, perhaps more than ever before, see ourselves as a people united by common threads. ♡

STORY BY JUSTIN SHOEMAKER

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CHILDREN ARE PRIORITY

Caring for a young child is a full-time job. There's the middle-of-the-night feedings, changing diapers, nap time, play time and of course, picture time for Facebook.

Being a full-time parent, it can be nearly impossible adding a full-time college schedule. This is where the Periwinkle Child Development Center on the Albany campus comes in. In the center, children are eating snacks, brushing their teeth and sitting reading, doing craft projects and participating in other activities throughout the day.

Kidco Head Start runs the day-care facility in the Periwinkle Center. But this isn't your ordinary child care facility. "We provide a lot of support for families," said Christina Nese, site supervisor.

Head Start provides care for children from 6 weeks to 5 years old. It is designed for those full-time LBCC students who may not have access to other day-care options for their young child. Certain qualifications need to be met before a family and child can be accepted into the program.

For LBCC graduate Stephanie Breshears, Head Start was just in time.

"I was a full-time student and my husband was a full-time student. Without Kidco, I don't know if I would have been able to stay in school," she said.

When Breshears was attending LBCC, her daughter was accepted into Head Start. At the time she was 4 months old, now she is 2½.

"She loves the teachers and the socialization," she said.

In addition to the socialization, Head Start helped her daughter with potty training. And her daughter knows how to count to the number 13 and has learned her colors.

"This program helped me graduate early," she said.

One unique feature is the availability of an observation room. This came in handy for Breshears on days that she was overwhelmed with homework. She was able to do her homework and check in on her daughter.

Even for the youngest members, there are plenty of caring people.

"It is an educational, learning, and growing program," said Danelle Cartwright, teacher for the newborn to 3-year-olds. "A lot of people don't know we're here."

The learning doesn't stop in the classroom.

"We provide in-home care visits," said Pam Woitt, Family Educator. For the at-home program, Woitt provides assistance with setting goals, connecting families with medical and dental services, and identifying and referrals for behavior concerns. "I believe in the program. I have the roll of the family advocate and can help."

The at-home program provides care during the summer months and is not limited to LBCC students. They also



Work-study student and mom Delilah Belt reads to the full-day students.

provide part-time or full-time day-care services.

All the preschool programs serve eligible LBCC students, as well as low-income families and those dealing with disability issues.

For more information, visit the Head Start program at the Periwinkle Child Development Center or the Kidco Head Start website at www.kidcoheadstart.org.

STORY AND PHOTO BY TED HOLLIDAY

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

My life has taken many twists and turns. One of the things that I never expected was to return to college. After a career in management and relocation of the company that I worked for, I found myself competing for jobs that required a degree.

When I embarked on my education, much later than most, I wasn't certain where I wanted to go. LBCC provided a great opportunity to find my stride. Returning to college has presented many challenges. One of those was trying to decide on a career path.

I thought that I wanted to go into education. I started at LBCC under the educational program. I was fortunate over the years to have spent some time in the classroom with other teachers. Eventually, however, I realized that this wasn't that path for me.

So what path would lead me to my best degree, one that I could utilize in any environment? I searched the degrees and came across the Journalism and Mass Communication program. When I met with the adviser, Rob Priewe, he asked me, "Why this program?"

Accessing the archives of my brain, I realized that I could be a good writer but it had been a long time since I wrote anything meaningful. Priewe said to me, "Take these classes, and this will tell you whether you want to write."

That's how my journey into journalism began. There were nights staring at my computer screen almost in tears. I didn't know what to write. This wasn't what I had in mind. I wanted to be creative, innovative, and interesting. Telling about the news seemed, well, it seemed ... boring.

Then, I started to get to know people while reporting on stories. I quickly learned that I wasn't reporting news, I was giving someone a distinct voice. I was producing stories that told the world about someone's adventures.

This is when the pilot flame of intrigue, adventure and people's stories ignited into a roaring inferno. For the Spring term of 2013, I had 15 articles published in LBCC's student newspaper, The Commuter. I had found my new career.

The next step was clear. I had one more year left for my degree, so I decided to apply for the editor-in-chief position at The Commuter. When I was selected for the position, I made some changes.

My first goal was to assemble an outstanding team. With my managing editor, William Allison, we did just that. They include Tejo Pack, Elizabeth Mottner, Marci Sischo, Lex Porter and Cooper Pawson.

Other team members also came on board. Without everyone's help working collaboratively, the paper would contain little content nor could it be assembled on a weekly basis. I am grateful for everyone's hard work and dedication to making The Commuter the best it can be.

One of our goals was to redesign the paper. I wanted



TED HOLLIDAY

to make it look fresh, innovative and still be informative. We brought on board a new page designer, who is also attending LBCC. Eric Robinson has created a masterpiece and a new standard in page design for The Commuter.

Sometimes timing isn't what it should be. However, opportunity knocks and door opened, it is time to step out. That time has arrived for me.

Making The Commuter a great paper with informative content that is interactive with the audience and innovative in design has been my goal. Although I believe that goal is nearly achieved, it is time for me to step aside and allow someone else to lead the paper to the end of the year.

Although the timing isn't perfect (I still need about 10 credits to graduate), I have accepted a job as a professional reporter. My last goal was to move on from college and become a reporter. The best analogy that I can use is, "I'm going pro."

Thanks to everyone who works to make this a great paper. A special thanks to Rob Priewe, who pushes me to always do things a little better. Thank you to all the wonderful people who have guided me thus far. I'm truly grateful, appreciative, and humbled by all the knowledge to be found at LBCC.

SINCERELY, TED HOLLIDAY

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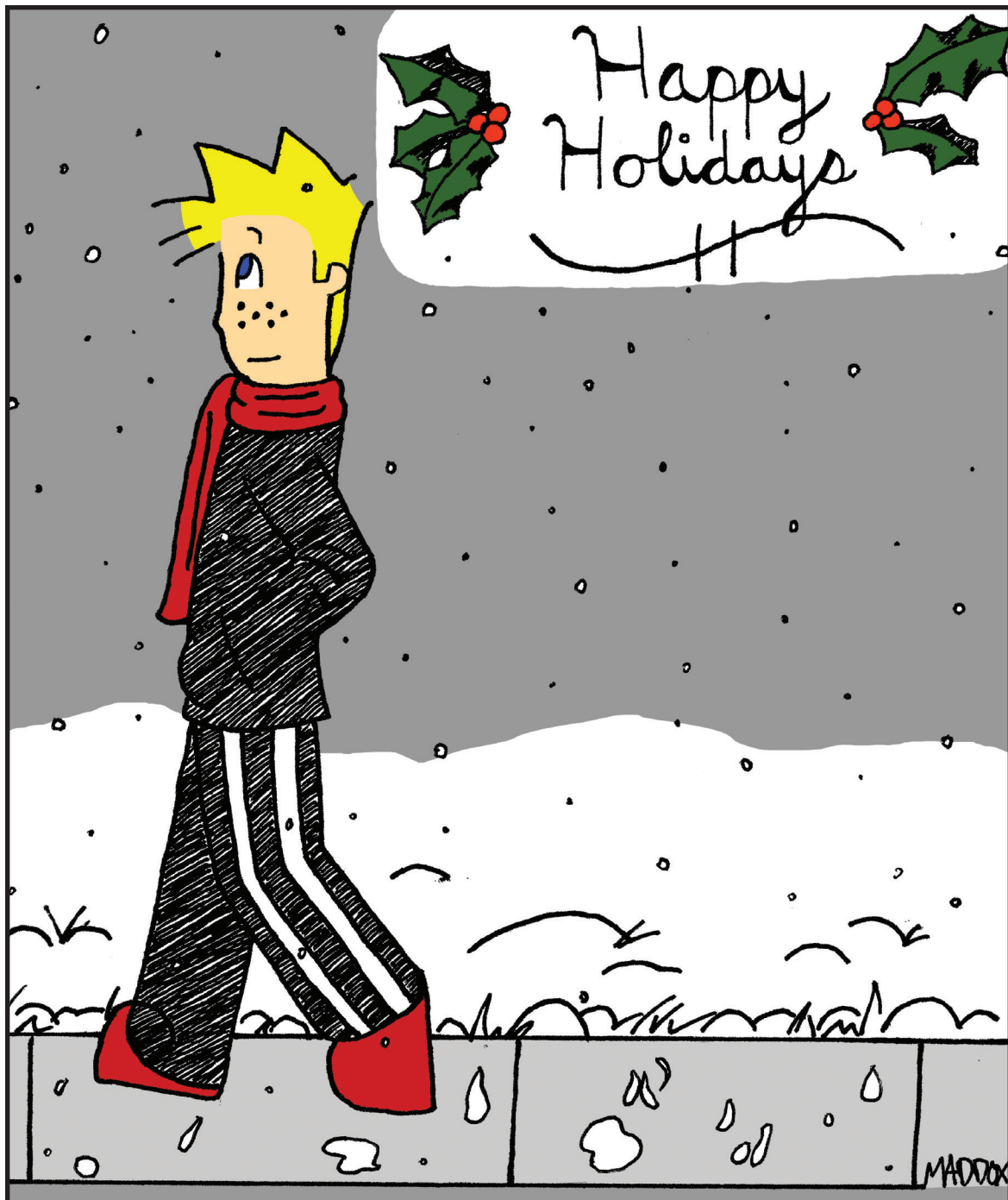
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COVER CONTEST RESULTS

Continuing the outreach for interaction between The Commuter and students, the paper ran a contest for this week's edition cover. The paper received three submissions. Congratulations to the people who submitted their work.

Winner of the contest, front cover: Painting submitted by student Yura Kim, "Christmas Van Gogh Pastiche."

Runner-up (below): Submitted by: Nishana Hamann, untitled.

Honorable mention: (left) Submitted by Jason Maddox, "Winter Wonderland Art." Note: Maddox contributes weekly cartoons to The Commuter and was not eligible for the main prize.

Each of the artist's hard work and dedication to art is appreciated. The winner of the contest won a \$25 gift card for the LBCC Bookstore and a free Christmas tree.

Additional opportunities to interact with The Commuter will be available. Likewise, the paper is always looking for talented people to contribute.

If you have the desire to take photos, write, express your opinion, or produce videos, stop by the office in room F-222.

The Commuter is a student-run newspaper that reports events for the campus, community, sports, opinion, and any other issues that are important.

As the media changes, The Commuter is a news platform that strives to build its relationship with its audience. Get in touch, get in the know, and get involved. Working at The Commuter is a great way to be involved with the school. ♡



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FREEDOM TO MARRY

As of today, 16 states have legal same-sex marriages. Of those states five have adopted legalization of same sex unions by court decision, eight have done so through state legislature, and three by popular vote since 2012. That leaves 33 states still having a ban on same-sex marriage and one state riding the fence with no laws in place regarding either stance. This may soon change however as Oregon residents who support same-sex unions are nearing their goal of 115,080 signatures in support of Oregon United for Marriage and their goal of placing the Freedom to Marry and Religious Protection Initiative on the November 2014 ballot.

Oregon United for Marriage, the growing coalition dedicated to securing the freedom to marry for same-sex couples is leading the campaign to make Oregon the first state to proactively amend the constitution at the ballot in support of the freedom to marry.

Civil advocacy groups like Basic Rights Oregon, Oregon's central state organization committed to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity are prominent in the area and lend support to the measure.

A December 2012 poll found that 54 percent of people in Oregon would vote to approve the freedom to marry, while only 40 percent said they would oppose marriage for same-sex couples. Independents support marriage by a 64-33 margin, and voters younger than 45 support the freedom to marry by a margin of 68-30. According to The Williams Institute's analysis of the 2010 U.S. Census, 11,773 same-sex couples are living in Oregon, representing 7.8 same-sex couples per 1,000 households.

Most recently, on Oct. 18, 2013, Oregon began honoring the marriages of same-sex couples who legally married out of state.

With statistics like this, Oregon, looking set to be number seventeen of the states that have legalized same-sex marriage, should come as no surprise. The area has a long standing progressive view of support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

Political leaders in Oregon have always forged ahead



in areas of civil rights. Portland is known to have the first openly gay mayor of a major U.S. city, Sam Adams. Oregon has also stepped into the national scene on these matters with having the nation's first lesbian House speaker, Tina Kotek. In support of equality Oregon boasts Supreme Court members Rives Kistler and Virginia Linder, both of whom are members of the gay community and Secretary of State Kate Brown, considers herself bisexual while being married to her husband.

Gallup reported that Oregon ties for the second-highest share of residents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Hawaii, with 5.1 percent, is highest in the nation. Oregon and Vermont come next, at 4.9 percent. According to the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law Multnomah County has the fifth-highest proportion of same-sex couples among all the nation's counties, making up nearly 1.7 percent of all households.

Recently, the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered civil rights group, gave Portland a 100 score. This is the highest score given for equality measures. Eugene scored 93 on the 100-point scale, and Salem scored 91. The average score for 291 rated cities was 57.

While the measure hasn't qualified yet for the November 2014 ballot this has done little to stymie some 3,500 volunteers plus many paid staff who have already gathered nearly the entirety of needed signatures with several months to go before the deadline.

Normally most groups and associations wait for ballot measures to qualify before taking a stand or making contributions, but this civil liberties campaign seems to have many willing to make their presence known early.

In the past two months alone the Portland Business Alliance board voted, on Sept. 10, by at least a two-thirds majority to support same-sex marriage in Oregon. The group serves as the metro area's Chamber of Commerce and contains over 1600 members. On Oct. 2, the Oregon Business Association board voted to support same-sex marriage at 39-0 with one abstention. The group has more than 300 members, including some of the Portland area's biggest corporations, such as Nike, PGE, NW Natural and Wells Fargo Bank. Most recently Nike created a new political action committee to support same-sex marriage, seeding it with \$100,000 in corporate money and \$180,000 from Nike executives.

Business groups are not the only ones having their voices heard on the matter. On Oct. 11, the Portland Timbers, Portland Thorns and Portland Trail Blazers became the first professional sports teams in the nation to endorse same-sex marriage.

If you would like to learn more about the measure or to join the cause you can contact "Oregon United for Marriage" at www.oregonunitedformarriage.org or you can reach "Basic Rights Oregon" at www.basicrights.org.

STORY BY JUSTIN SHOEMAKER

LBCC THEATER STUDENTS PREPARE FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST IN BOISE



PHOTO: HEATHER HUTCHMAN

"The Underpants" play from Spring 2013.

Thanks to this year's LBCC play, "The Underpants," three student-actors — Asia Lederer, Joe Hill and Abe Cusick — will participate in the Irene Ryan Scholarship Auditions at the annual Kennedy Center American Theater Festival Region VII Festival in Boise, Idaho. The event will take place at Boise State University the week of Feb. 17.

A five-day event, the KCACTF Region VII Festival will see numerous actors coming together from the states of Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming to compete for a spot in the national Irene Ryan Scholarship competition.

According to KCACTF.org, the Irene Ryan Foundation awards 16 regional and two national scholarships a year. Sixteen awards consist of a \$500 scholarship for each regional representative, and two scholarships of \$3,000 each for the winners at the national festival in Washington, D.C.

The scholarship auditions are three rounds over five days. Since two of the three rounds require an assistant to accomplish, our actors will bring colleagues along to help them. These assisting actors will include Dari Lawrie and James Murray V.

The festival is not competition only, however. While at the event, actors are encouraged to register and participate in the various workshops being held throughout the week. The workshops will range from technical and design work, management and directing, to playwriting. Even acting opportunities for summer employment are available.

"I'm hoping to gain as much knowledge as I can about what theater is like around our region," Joe Hill said. "When we all come together at the workshops, I'll just be trying to expand my acting horizons further."

"I just really want to win," Abe Cusick half-joked. "Being able to compete in acting is something I've liked to do since high school." Cusick, a native of Southern California, competed in the Fullerton College High School Theater Festival three times during his formative years.

With the prospect of obtaining regional, and possibly national, scholarships — along with a broader resume — these students have the chance of becoming distinguished LB alumni. This opportunity hasn't always been possible. As of 2014, this will be the first year LB's theater program has participated in the Irene Ryan competition.

The main reason for this is the annual Children's Theater play, which has been held for the past 38 years; this will be their 39th with the production of "Androcles and the Lion." Since both the festival and the production fall within the same time frame, mid-February, the Children's Theater play will have a week shaved from its schedule; the week of the festival.

Dan Stone, LB's theater program instructor, has been pushing the KCACTF Region VII Festival since his arrival at the college three years ago. With the go ahead from administration to participate, he is looking to the future, as next year's competition will be held at the University of Oregon, a considerable home-field advantage.

STORY BY AUSTIN HARRIS

SOLSTICE TRADITIONS

Ever wonder where holiday traditions got their start? Each holiday is celebrated uniquely based on the family, cultural or religious beliefs.

Winter Solstice occurs on the shortest day and longest night which falls on Dec. 21 or 22. The sun is at the lowest point in the horizon at noon, residing at the Tropic of Capricorn. As the holiday season begins many prepare to enjoy celebrations for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Winter Solstice. The traditions we follow today were adopted or adapted from annual festivities celebrating the renewal of the growing year. This was celebrated on Winter Solstice, the shortest day and longest night. Many cultures held festivals to celebrate the returning of the light and the harvest.

"The winter solstice in the northern hemisphere usually happens on December 21 each year or within 24 hours on either side of that day. Astronomically speaking, the winter solstice is when the sun is at its lowest point along the southern hemisphere and rises and sets directly above the Tropic of Capricorn. It is also the day of the shortest amount of sunlight for everyone in the northern hemisphere and it is completely dark above the Arctic Circle." said William Browning contributor for Yahoo Voices.

Throughout European and Asian cultures people celebrated health, fertility and the coming prosperity. Many of these cultures used symbols and traditions that carry on today, like the use of candles, use of greenery, a decorated tree and giving of gifts.

Food and light are they key to most of the celebrations.

Light symbolizes the passing of the longer dark nights and the approaching spring. Each culture had their own unique feasts, including fall fruits and vegetables, game meat, nuts and rich drinks.

Several cultures celebrated sun god or goddess. The Scandinavian sun goddess Beiwe, who represented health and fertility, was celebrated for helping plants regain their green color as spring approaches. Or in the Slavic regions, the old Sun Hors was defeated, thusly bringing the birth of the New Sun (Spring.)

In the East Asian cultures, the Dongzhi festival honors the philosophy of balance and harmony, yin and yang, light and dark that is observed in the solar cycle. Festivities rejoice the return to the longer hours of light and the increase of positive energies.

The Germanic people celebrated Yule with the burning of the Yule log, singing and eating. A Yule pig or goat would be roasted and enjoyed. This could be the origins of the Christmas ham tradition.

The Celts and Druid cultures of British Isles celebrate the Meán Geimhridh and Winter Solstice with great feasts and observations of light play across unique structures like Stonehenge and Newgrange, which date back prior to 3000-2000 BC.

In the A.D. third century, Romans enjoyed Saturnalia was a festival to celebrate the Agricultural god, Saturn. This weeklong celebration included fertility rituals, decorating with greenery and adorning trees and shrubs with small tin ornaments. Revelers also danced naked, singing

EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

To learn more about
Winter Solstice traditions:

news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/12/21-winter-solstice-first-day-winter-facts/

carols, perhaps a precursor to today's caroling, minus the nakedness. Like the Romans, the Norse customs began in the A.D. first century. Like many other celebrations, it involve feasting, wassailing, and decorating trees with sun and solar motif ornaments, feathers, acorns, holly, pine cones and mistletoe.

In the US, Solstice is still celebrated by people with parties, lots of food and drink and merriment. Homes are decorated in white and blue with greenery, candles and lots of lights. Most of our holidays today include traditions from Solstice celebrates with decorating with greenery like holly and fir boughs, use of candles and holiday lights on the inside and outside, and ornament adorned trees. No matter individual's personal beliefs, traditions can be traced back in history to some of the earliest celebrations. The end of the longest night gave hope of the coming spring and people held festivities to celebrate the light to come, enjoying food, drink, and much merriment. Enjoy the Winter Solstice that has helped shape the current holidays. ♣

STORY BY **ELIZABETH MOTTNER**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ted,

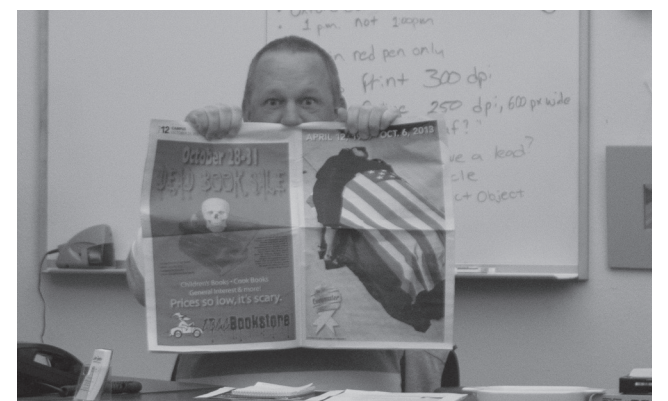
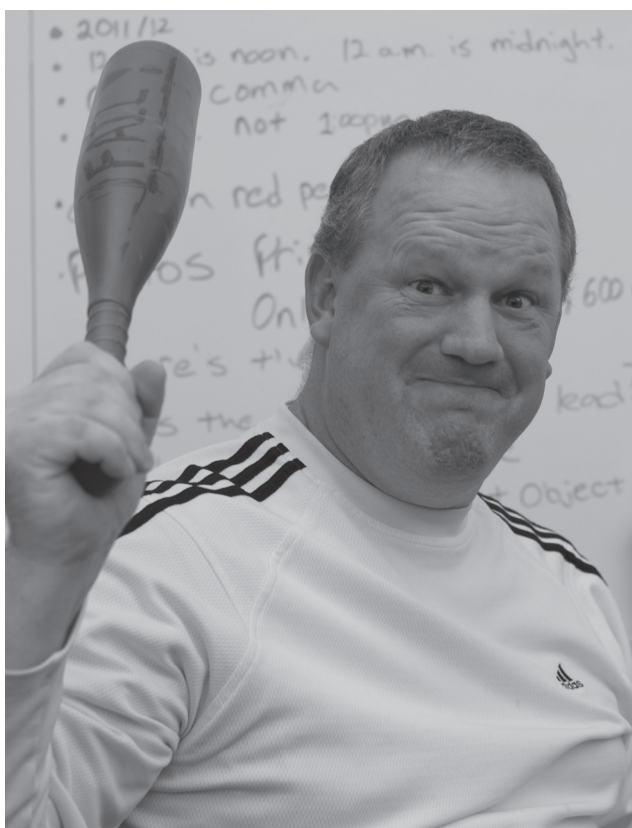
It is with a sad, yet glad heart that I am writing this letter. We want to thank you for all the support and guidance you have offered the staff of The Commuter. We are sad to see you go, but very proud of you for taking that next step in the adventure of life. You have set a great example for all of us.

Ted, you have improved The Commuter with your guidance. You challenge us, the staff, to give you our best and set the bar high, but not out of reach. Under your leadership, our circulation has increased and we have put out a paper we are all proud of and happy to share with our peers. Even with a limited staff, we excel. The paper is consistent and timely with the campus and local news. The new style that you fought so hard to bring to life still honors the tradition while keeping us innovative.

Thank you for the laughter and friendship you have shared with us all. Thank you for your support and guidance. Thank you for your respect, honor, and the passion you have for The Commuter and all of our readers. We will miss you, even your puns, silly headlines and subtitles. We will look forward to your contributions throughout the rest of the year. Congratulations on your new job, we wish you the very best. Good "bison." ♣

The Commuter Staff

Amanda, Cooper, Dale, Danya, Denzel, Elizabeth, Eric, Jason, Kent, Lex, Marci, Michael, Natalia, Nick, Tejo, William, and Rob.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

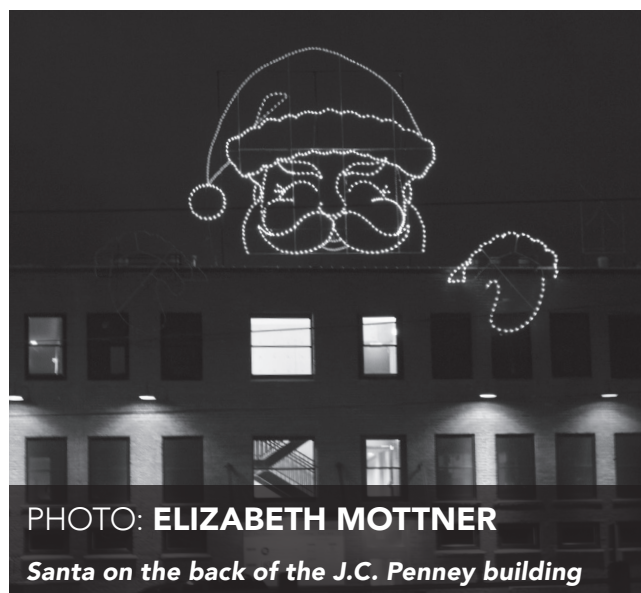


PHOTO: **ELIZABETH MOTTNER**

Santa on the back of the J.C. Penney building

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and now it's time for the Christmas spirit to take over. Each year, there are many Christmas events that take place in the Willamette Valley. Here are some details of the most popular.

Christmas Storybook Land

Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany, Ore.
Cost: Free, non-perishable food donation appreciated
Open: Dec. 6 - 20, 2013
Monday - Friday 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
More information: <http://christmasstorybookland.org>

Pastega Christmas Display

Benton County Fairgrounds in Corvallis, Ore.
Cost: Free
Open: 6 - 10 p.m. through Dec. 31, 2013
More information: <http://bit.ly/18yNQFX>

ZooLights

Oregon Zoo in Portland, Ore.
Note: ZooLights is different this year compared to previous years, please go to <http://oregonzoo.org/visit/zoolights> for details, hours, pricing and more information.

Keizer Lights

Gubser Neighborhood in Keizer Ore.
Open Dec. 4 - 26, 2013, 6 - 10 p.m.
More information: <http://bit.ly/1bbGi9U>

Horse-Drawn Carriage Caroling

Albany Tie-Dye in Albany, Ore.
Cost: \$10 for Adults, \$6 for children
Open: Dec. 19 - 22, 2013, 5 - 8 p.m. (every 45 minutes)
Reservations: Contact June at (541) 908-5778

BY **WILLIAM ALLISON**

IRONICALLY INDEPENDENT

Black, white, grey, and red all over

What is important to you? Money, race, religion, politics... family, love, honor, respect, happiness... the world has gotten lost in all the labels and must be's.

Recently, a white man was elected in Texas. He ran his campaign under the guise as a black man. Wrong? Right? Does it really matter? Should politics be blind, just like justice? We were once represented by our neighbors, those who knew us and lived the lives we live. That time has passed. Now politics is a profession, a career. It's no longer a honor to be elected by your peers, who are truly

"No matter what race you represent, a liar is a liar, no matter the tale, story or the spin..."

no longer your peers. Politics is now about who can buy and lie their way to power.

My questions: Is misleading or lying to your voters about your race more morally wrong than having an affair, doing drugs or the other assorted transgressions that our politicians have committed and were able to apologize for and spin? Where do we draw a line on what is right and wrong? What wrongdoings will we forgive our politicians, who supposedly represent us?

People should be defined by their words and actions, not by their attributes or appearance, ethnicity or religion. Politics should be blind, like justice. We need the facts and we need to stop accepting all these people who have great charisma, who lie to our face, and we are happy for it.

In a perfect world, the color of your skin or personal beliefs should not factor into how you vote. It should be

about the facts and the voters making the politicians walk the talk. Was what Dave Wilson did wrong? Yes. But the fact that so many people got angry because he portrayed an African-American, bringing the race card into play, over the fact that he is a liar is a bit ironic. No matter what race you represent, a liar is a liar, no matter the tale, story or spin that a lie is wrapped in.

We are conditioned to be forgiving of our politicians. We are even entertained by actors who dress up as women to get a job or change their race to go to school. In the 1986 comedy "Soul Man," C. Thomas Howell portrayed an African American in order to obtain a scholarship to go to his dream college, Harvard. If Mr. Wilson had dressed in drag to obtain the votes would we be so angered by it? "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Toostie" taught us the advantage of portraying a female to obtain a job you want.

Please let the past remain in the past, learn from it but don't keep bringing it up so we have to relive it. Let Trayvon Martin rest in peace. I am sorry someone did not recognize Oprah and try to spend her money, that she has opinions she is willing to express and that other people find it worthy of recognition. Why should her race or sex matter on this expression of self? Stop attacking those who differ from your opinion. This just continues the cycle of racism, making it more vicious.

We are humans and inherently flawed. We are greedy, jealous, envious, and prideful, allowing our emotions and desires to guide us. It is being human that makes us unique,

but it is also what drives us to hurt others, to make ourselves feel better when others hurt. Humans feel the need to have control and power and that is at the cost of others. The point is we are human, no matter race, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, or culture. As much as you deserved to be safe and respected, so does everyone else. So get over yourselves and be human, no matter what you look like or believe.



COLUMN BY
ELIZABETH MOTTNER

Racism is still a problem here in the United States; you are a fool to believe otherwise. And why shouldn't it be. It gets a rise out of the people; it sells and plays on the emotions of the people. It is just another tool in the bag of tricks that our politicians have become so good at using. We pay billions to be entertained by Hollywood, but some of the best actors are our politicians. Until we are ready to make our politicians accountable for their actions, until we make decisions on facts over fictions, racism will never be put to rest. ♡

GREED: THE TRUE MEANING OF THANKSGIVING?

When I was younger, I was always taught that the meaning of Thanksgiving was to be thankful for everything you have, and to spend time with your family - the food was just an added bonus.

Today, that doesn't seem to still be accurate.

As Thanksgiving approached this year, I started hearing a lot about Black Friday, which is to be expected. What was different this year is that stores opened earlier than ever, particularly the big box stores we've come to know and rely on.

I stopped at the K-Mart store in Albany to pick up a few things before heading out to Eugene, where I spent my Thanksgiving. K-Mart opened at 6 a.m. on Thanksgiving for "Black Friday." I found this to be odd, but decided to check out a few deals. Wandering the store, I saw nothing that would make me get up before sunrise and stand in line in the cold, just to save a few bucks, but apparently others did.

As I was checking out, the employee who was helping me, who asked not to be named so her job wouldn't be in jeopardy, seemed very tired. I asked her if she was required to work, to which she simply nodded her head. She then commented that it was mandatory for all employees to work on Thanksgiving.

After picking up the item I was looking for, I ventured the busy roads down to Eugene, where I spent time with friends and family, enjoyed some food, and had conversations

about the time spent apart.

After the food was gone, we sat around the living room, talking. I picked up the newspaper to check out the ads. Though I had no intention of getting anything, I wanted to see what was being offered, and how good of deals there were.

I asked my significant other if she wanted to go check out some stores, just to see how crazy it was, and maybe pick up something if it was a good enough deal. She thought that was a good idea, so we hit the road.

After stopping by the Gateway Mall, and seeing a nearly full parking lot, we decided to go to the Wal-Mart on West 11th. When we arrived at 5:30 p.m., it was a nightmare. Drivers were cutting each other off so they can get a parking spot slightly closer, people were yelling at one another, and pedestrians had no regard for anything around them. It seemed like everyone's one mission was to get inside the store.

Entering the store, I realized that things would only get worse from here. There were hundreds, if not thousands, of people in various lines throughout the store. They were pushing, shoving, yelling, and grabbing things.

As it approached 6 p.m., things got crazier. People started ripping the displays open, completely ignoring the employees who were telling them to stop. They started piling things into their carts and snatching prized goods out

of other shoppers' hands. At one point, I witnessed a group of people grabbing as many \$99 Xbox 360s as they could.

They walked away with at least 30.

I stopped for a moment to talk to an employee, who also wished to remain anonymous. I asked him his thoughts on working Thanksgiving.

"I'd rather be at home with my family, but everyone is required to work; we don't have a choice," he said. "At least they made us dinner."

Sure, Wal-Mart can make them dinner, but it's the least they can do after forcing them to leave the company of their families. Wal-Mart and K-Mart aren't the only ones doing this either. A friend who works at Target was made to work a 10-hour shift, overnight, starting at 7 p.m. on Thanksgiving.

The combination of events I witnessed on Thanksgiving this year is what makes me think that it is all about greed now. The companies are greedy for money, the consumers are greedy for products, and the stores are greedy for customers (the doorbuster deals make this obvious).

Has our society become so money-driven that employees are forced to work on holidays, just so the company can make the extra money? Simply put, the answer is yes. Why not let people volunteer, and give them incentives for doing so? ♡

STORY BY **WILLIAM ALLISON**



COLUMN BY
MARK WEISS

ADVICE FROM WEISS

Question: My girlfriend and I disagree on what's most important in preparing for a test. I tend to stay up the night before, cramming, trying to get every bit of knowledge into my head. On the other hand she thinks it's important to stop studying earlier and get a good night's sleep, even if that means you haven't taken in every possible factoid. Who's right?

Answer: In a way, both of you are correct. On the list of things that make a student successful, studying and getting enough sleep are certainly right up at the top.

Your girlfriend scores big points here because a sleep-deprived brain doesn't function well and is likely to be unable to access all the "factoids" that we've stuffed into it, no matter how hard we've stuffed.

Of course, you are right as well, in that no matter how well rested our brains are, if we haven't put anything into them they will have nothing to put out, when called upon to do so.

The difficulty, then, lies in the juggling of your time. This problem has plagued students since time began (or, at least, since colleges began). Many students who achieve success in college sacrifice something else. They give up fun time, family time, pleasure, work. Anything else, in order to be able to get studying done early enough that they can also get some good rest.

One tip I've heard our Learning Center folks give is "don't take your homework home." Get it done at school, where there are fewer distractions and more resources to help you. Speaking of the Learning Center, they have information on time management that students have found helpful. ♡

LIBERALLY LENIENT

What counts as a human being?

Every once in a while a story comes along with a headline that leaves you stunned. As you begin to read the story, you come to realize that what you are reading is actually a true event and not just an attempt by the journalist writing the story to destroy someone's credibility.

If you were following the headlines on Nov. 10 then you probably had one of these moments. If you happened to miss the news that day, here is what you would have seen: "White Texas Conservative Wins Election by Pretending to Be Black."

Now I know what you are thinking, this is some liberal news affiliate jumping to conclusions and making a mountain out of a molehill, and on another day this might be true. But unfortunately for those hoping to end things there, the headline came from Fox News.

That's right, a white man pretended to be a black guy (in the South no less) to win an election. It's the type of headline that speaks for itself. Immediately, the rage from someone being so profoundly obtuse fills your bones and you pray to your pastafarian god that somehow this addepleted homo sapien is just that. But in the end you find that Dave Wilson is just another politician playing the system to get what he wants — a seat at the table.

Mr. Wilson is one of those guys inside the electoral process that no one can stand. The type of guy who believes in smearing his opponent as a way to win. The type of man who doesn't put his photo on anything, including the voters' pamphlet, so he can play his lie to completion. The type of white, anti-gay Republican who, according to MSNBC, does this to win: "Wilson sent campaign fliers to community members

"Pretending to be a black man, supported by a black man, to win the black vote."

that used stock photos of African Americans with messages like, 'Please vote for our friend and neighbor, Dave Wilson.' He even boasted an endorsement from Ron Wilson. Houston voters probably thought he meant former state Rep. Ron Wilson, who helped create the Texas Human Rights Commission, debated Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, and led the fight to make Martin Luther King Jr. Day a recognized holiday in the state, according to the Houston Chronicle. But the Ron Wilson in question was actually his family member with the same name, an Iowa-dwelling cousin who Wilson grew up playing baseball with."

Pretending to be a black man, supported by a black man, to win the black vote. When in all actuality he represented none of it. It almost feels like something you would read in a Mark Twain novel and for good reason. For as long as the idea of people being able to govern themselves has been around, one question has remained, what counts as a human being? In the time of Mark Twain, the answer to this question was unfortunately clear, but is it any different today?

The U.S. government says yes, racism is gone. The Supreme Court showed this by gutting the Voting Rights Act in June and spoke it with Chief Justice Roberts saying, "That problem is solved." For them, if your skin is dark, you're a human being. That's great news, even though it took over 250 years. But are we convinced? Or is racism still here today?

It has been almost a year since the brutal killing of Trayvon Martin. Many say that it wasn't about race and maybe there is some truth to that, but it just felt too familiar. A black person looking suspicious because they walk through a nice neighborhood with a hood on. Regardless of what may be true about who Martin was and what he was up to, that thought process is racial profiling.

To say that racism is dead is like saying that "The Adventures of Huck Finn" are no longer relevant. To argue that we are no longer arguing over who is considered human or not, that all men are truly now created equal, would be like spitting in the face of MLK Jr. and telling Huck that going to hell is no longer a necessity. As long as we continue to stereotype people of color, we do the world and its children an injustice.

Injustice, though, has a way of speaking to a larger truth. In the case of Dave Wilson it shed light on the fact that people of color were not seen as individuals worthy of honesty, but pencil marks on a ballot.

The Supreme Court says move on and leave the past in the past. But it is the truth of our heritage that shapes us and molds us. Yes, it has been a some time since slavery, and yes, it would be nice to absolve the lines of racial inequality, but first we must remove it from our minds. Bob Marley once said, "Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds!" I tend to agree. ♡



COLUMN BY
TEJO PACK

REALPACKMAN.BLOGSPOT.COM

CONSERVATIVE CORNER

The negative reflection of racism



COLUMN BY
DALE HUMMEL

Our founding fathers, in their ultimate wisdom, designed our Constitution to be molded along with the needs of the American people. Anyone with the will, drive and desire can become that certain person who represents the people in local, state, and federal governments.

Most any elected official or politically active person will tell you if you want to change the laws and policies in your community, getting elected to a city council or school board is a great way to start. This fall that very thing happened in Houston, Texas. Dave Wilson claimed he was tired of "all the shenanigans," according to www.khou.com, and wanted to change some things in the Houston Community College System. Mr. Wilson was faced with a major challenge. He is an older, white, conservative Republican in a predominately black Democratic area. To help with the campaign he printed up fliers

that some called questionable at best.

The mailer featured anonymous photos of black people and an endorsement from Ron Wilson, a long-time black representative in the Houston area. Unfortunately, the Ron Wilson the flier was referring to was Dave Wilson's cousin and not the respected representative. That information was noted on the flier in small print. The flier also begged the voter to "Please vote for our friend and neighbor Dave Wilson." According to www.politico.com, Mr. Wilson claimed, "It's a sales job. I'm trying to get votes and trying to get people to support me and I wanted to focus on the issues."

Maybe Dave Wilson shouldn't have used random faces on his fliers or led people to

"In a way of speaking, yes, racism is alive and well in America..."

assume that he meant a different endorsement, but was his campaign as "pathetic" as www.chron.com, a local Houston paper, called it?

If Mr. Wilson's campaign was racist, what is more racist, a white man trying to connect to his future constituents who happen to be a black majority, or a community where a black majority may not vote for a candidate because of the color of his skin? Maybe the people of Houston aren't as racist as they appear. Mr. Wilson won the seat on the board by 26 votes. Perhaps the people of Houston voted on the issues and not Wilson's race. The local TV station, www.khou.com, reported Mr. Wilson as saying, "I'd always said it was a long shot. No, I didn't expect to win."

Was Dave Wilson's campaign wrong and racist? Perhaps he could have been a bit more honest regarding his endorsement, but does that make him a racist? Some may consider his actions morally wrong, however, no more wrong than other political and social leaders.

California Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters screamed "The tea party can go to hell!" during a town hall meeting in 2011. According to www.americanthinker.com, Texas Democratic Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee said, "Differ with Barack Obama and you're a racist." Even during the 2008 and 2012 elections, members of the Black Panthers intimidated white voters by deploying themselves outside voting booths, according to www.wnd.com. We have gotten over racism enough to twice elect a black man to the highest office in the land, even with a long list of scandals, including fast and furious, Benghazi, the IRS targeting conservative groups and many more.

In a way of speaking, yes, racism is alive and well in America, and the president helped cement the division between the skin color of our fellow countrymen with his assessment of the Trayvon Martin case. You can see the racist views in many people when a hoodlum in a hood violently attacked a Hispanic neighborhood watchman who tried to defend himself and was called the racist term "crazy-ass cracker" for trying save his own life.

On Nov. 11 of this year Oprah Winfrey said in a BBC interview that whites hate Obama because he's black. She went on to say that "...the people who come from a racist background, they just need to die." A few days later she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. That is one heck of an award for such a hateful statement.

There were ugly times in our past when we judged people by how dark their skin was. There may be some white people who still do. Today, however, being labeled a racist against blacks is like putting a target on your forehead. Groups such as the NAACP and "civil rights" leaders such as Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson seem to make it a point to only target white people, even if they are not completely Caucasian.

It is a shame, even after all these years that we still can't look past our skin to find the goodness in people. In the immortal words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we need to "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." I believe this applies to everyone. ♡

DKHUMMEL.BLOGSPOT.COM

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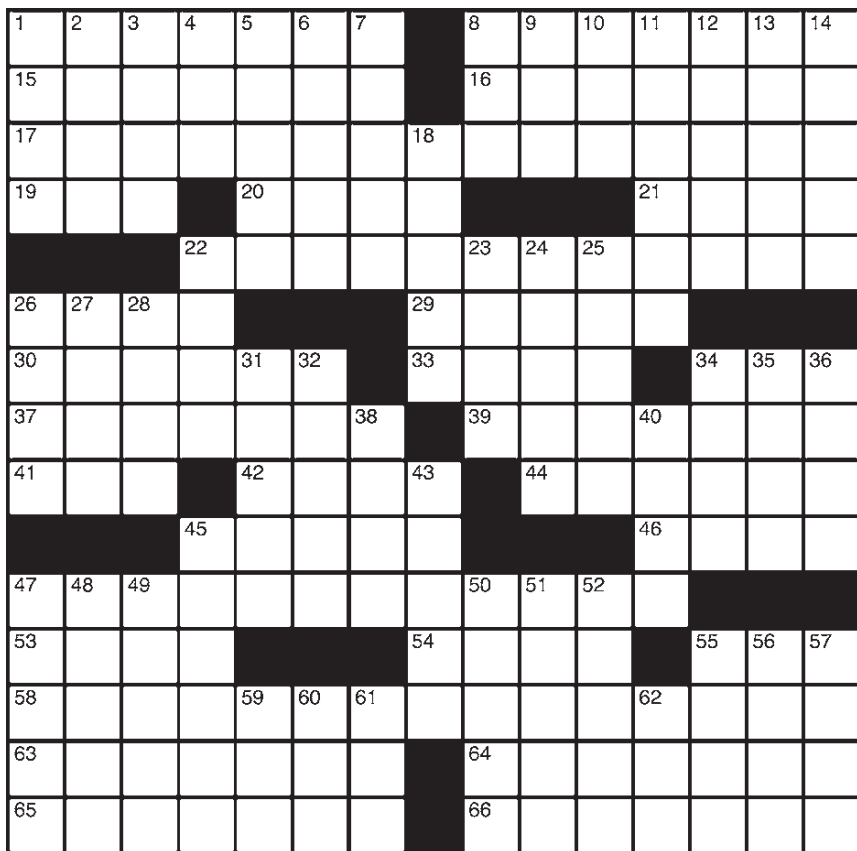
The Commuter encourages all students, staff, faculty and administration to be engaged in conversations and discussions on current topics.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Williams' partner in paint
- 8 Vivid
- 15 Former and current Yankee Alfonso
- 16 "How sexy!"
- 17 *Doing more than is necessary
- 19 Decorates on mischief night, briefly
- 20 Norwegian saint
- 21 Bad marks in high school?
- 22 *Where secrets are kept
- 26 MD's "Pronto!"
- 29 Habituate
- 30 New York governor before Spitzer
- 33 Prefix with tarsal
- 34 Mean: Abbr.
- 37 *"The Elements of Style" co-author
- 39 *"We're even!"
- 41 OK hours
- 42 Hot stuff
- 44 Toady
- 45 "Blue Jasmine" director
- 46 Map speck
- 47 *Words before a flip
- 53 Household name in household humor
- 54 Bologna bone
- 55 Local center?
- 58 Celebration suggested by words that end answers to starred clues
- 63 Frequent park statue visitors
- 64 "Show Boat" (1936) standout
- 65 Gives a kick
- 66 Hanging in the balance



By Matt Skoczen

12/04/13

Last Edition's Puzzle Solved

T	B	A	R	S		T	A	D	A		A	B	L	E		
O	R	D	I	E		E	G	O	S		P	E	A	L		
P	I	E	D	P	I	P	E	R	S	T	R	A	I	L		
U	A	L			T	E	R	I		Y	O	U	R	S		
P	R	E	P	A	R	E	S	C	O	R	N					
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11/20/13

DOWN

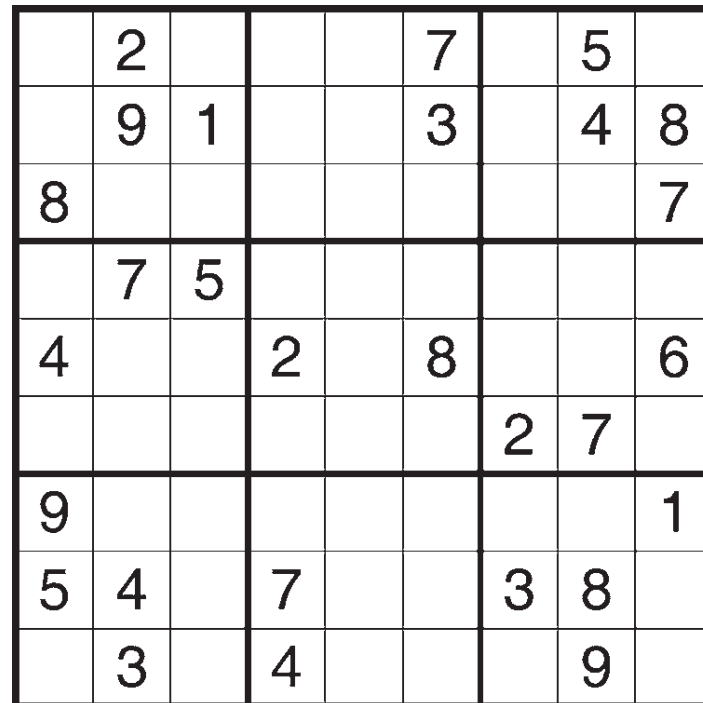
- 1 Army NCO
- 2 Earring shape
- 3 Most massive known dwarf planet
- 4 Dog star's first name?
- 5 It may be covered
- 6 "___ Chicago": 1937 Tyrone Power film
- 7 Exploding stars
- 8 Brit's oath
- 9 Balderdash
- 10 Contented sigh
- 11 "Say ___"
- 12 Contrive
- 13 Actress Massey
- 14 French royal name of yore
- 18 Violinist
- 22 The Colorado runs through it
- 23 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
- 24 Bonkers
- 25 Use a Pink Pearl
- 26 Project detail, briefly
- 27 They're run at bars
- 28 Chem lab abbr.
- 31 Defeats, as a bill
- 32 European prefix
- 34 Green machines?
- 35 Medical lab vessel
- 36 Item in a pool
- 38 "Did you ___?"
- 40 Surplus store caveat

- 43 "Three Sisters" playwright Chekhov
- 45 Bits of advice from gramps, perhaps
- 47 Jalopies
- 48 "Sesame Street" striped-shirt wearer
- 49 Cuban girlfriend
- 50 Latin stars
- 51 Enjoys a lucky streak
- 52 Editor Marshall and singer Lisa
- 55 Toledo thing
- 56 "Star Wars" creature
- 57 Kin of -ess
- 59 "Woo-___!"
- 60 Old Opry network
- 61 1942 FDR creation
- 62 Asian occasion

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4



SOLUTION TO LAST EDITION'S PUZZLE 12/04/13

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

Active Minds Dec. 5 - 6 from Noon to 2 p.m. Active Minds, the psych club on campus, is hosting a classic Warner Brothers cartoon showing and giving away free popcorn in NSH 209 on Thursday and NSH 109 on Friday for a stress break from finals.

"Sing for Joy" Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Linn-Benton Community College will presents its fall choral concert "Sing for Joy" in the LBCC Russell Tripp Performance Center, Takena Hall, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 for students, seniors, and veterans, and \$5 for under 18. Purchase for no fee online at www.linnbenton.edu/go/tickets, at the Russell Tripp Performance Center Box Office

PCPA Holiday Connections Dec. 5, 6, 7 at 8 p.m. Newmark Theatre, PCPA Holiday Connections presented by PGM Tickets are available at www.tickets.pdxgmc.org and prices start at \$15. Student, Senior and Group discounts can arranged by calling the box office at 503-226-2588

Earl Thomas and the Blues Ambassadors Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The Majestic Theatre presents Earl Thomas and the Blues Ambassadors. The Majestic is located at 115 SW 2nd Street, Corvallis, OR 97333. Reserved seating is available for \$18-\$25. For tickets, call 541-738-7469 or purchase online at www.majestic.org.

Job Fair Dec. 17, LBCC is hosting the 2013 Youth Job Fair. In need of volunteers to give students mock feedbacks. To volunteer for this event register at www.albanychamber.com or contact Kimberly Montgomery at 541-926-1517



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Wednesday: CHEF'S CHOICE (the menu will be posted in the commons for service, but not published in advance. Figuring out the "mystery menu" is a part of their final...)

Thursday: Braised Short Ribs or Pork Shanks*, English Style Fish and Chips, Carey Pocket. Soups: Sausage Potato Kale*, and Creamy Tomato.

Friday: Chef's Choice

FINALS WEEK: December 9,10,11- The Commons will be open for lunch during normal business hours (10-1:15) with lunch available from 11:15-1:15.

The Commons will be closed December 12 and 13.

Items denoted with a * are gluten-free Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

HOROSCOPES

 BY: **DANYA HYDER**

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
All the gifts are wrapped, and you just got your gift from 'Secret Santa,' a brand new crossbow! You work over-time, but there will be a great gift waiting to be unwrapped.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Your gift from 'Secret Santa' just arrived! Tearing off the paper you found a pile of rope; they must have known you couldn't get down from trees. Thanks to Black Friday, you finally have all the new gifts, even the ones going to your least favorite people.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
A gift from 'Secret Santa' arrived; you now have a new Siamese cat! Sadly, the cat also has claws. Even with torn furniture, you have everything completed for Christmas.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20
Your gift from 'Secret Santa' was a canoe without the paddles. Sadly, you don't know how to use a canoe. With all the gift-giving, always remember, it's the thought that counts.

Aries: March 21 - April 19
Somehow you managed to get wrapped up instead of the present you wanted to give away. Your 'Secret Santa' gave you a "Helpful Guide to not be Too Clumsy". Sadly, guides may not always be helpful, but having others help you gift-wrap may solve your problems.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20
Your 'Secret Santa' gave you a large gift, but it ended up being a camera! Capturing the day will be much easier for you. Wondering why that present keeps talking, will be much more confusing.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21
Your 'Secret Santa' gave you both the complete opposite of what you wanted. Wonderful, trading gifts has never been easier, you know, because you're both identical. Remember, gifts aren't always going to be the best ones.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
Odd, for some reason 'Secret Santa' has gifted you a giant dictionary? Oh, wait, there's a gift card inside! Even the littlest gifts can make you smile.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22
'Secret Santa' gifted you a lion cub! You and Aquarius love to see whether the lion cub or the cat will win in the race. Making snowmen may provide you with great entertainment!

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Counting the number of days till Christmas has been made easier with the chocolate-calendar 'Secret Santa' has gifted you. Sure, it may never make it to the fridge, but you love your present!

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Your gift from 'Secret Santa' is a giant scale. Decisions might become easier to you now. With all the many decisions you still need to make, a giant scale may be in your favor.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
As Secret Santa you were not expecting eleven wrapped presents awaiting you! Giving gifts is great, receiving them is awesome, but having your friends with you is great. Especially, when you can get the giant candy canes again!

THE COMMUTER

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 students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters, and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

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:

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541-917-4451, 4452 or 4449

Email:
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BACK IN THE DAY

 BY: **WILLIAM ALLISON**

On Dec. 6, 1998, Astronauts aboard the space shuttle Endeavour connected the first two parts of the International Space Station.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese, immersing the United States into WWII.

On Dec. 8, 1998, The FBI released its 1300-page file on Frank Sinatra to the public.

On Dec. 11, 1981, Muhammad Ali lost his 61st fight, which was his last, to Trevor Berbick.

On Dec. 14, 1799, George Washington died at the age 67.

On Dec. 15, 1966, Walter "Walt" Disney died in Los Angeles. He was 65 years old.

On Dec. 17, 1791, The first one-way street opened in New York City a traffic regulation change.

On Dec. 25, 1959, The U.S. Congress held its first session in Washington, DC, in the partially completed Capitol building.

On Dec. 28, 1912, The first city-owned cable cars were used on the streets of San Francisco.

On Dec. 30, 1953, The first color TV sets were sold for a mild price of \$1,175.

On Dec. 31, 1879, Thomas Edison demonstrated the electronic incandescent lamp in public.

On Jan. 1, 1908, The New Year's ball drop occurred for the first time at Times Square in New York City.

THREE'S A CROWD

 BY: **JASON MADDOX**

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LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Persons having questions about or requests for special needs & accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at LBCC, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

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