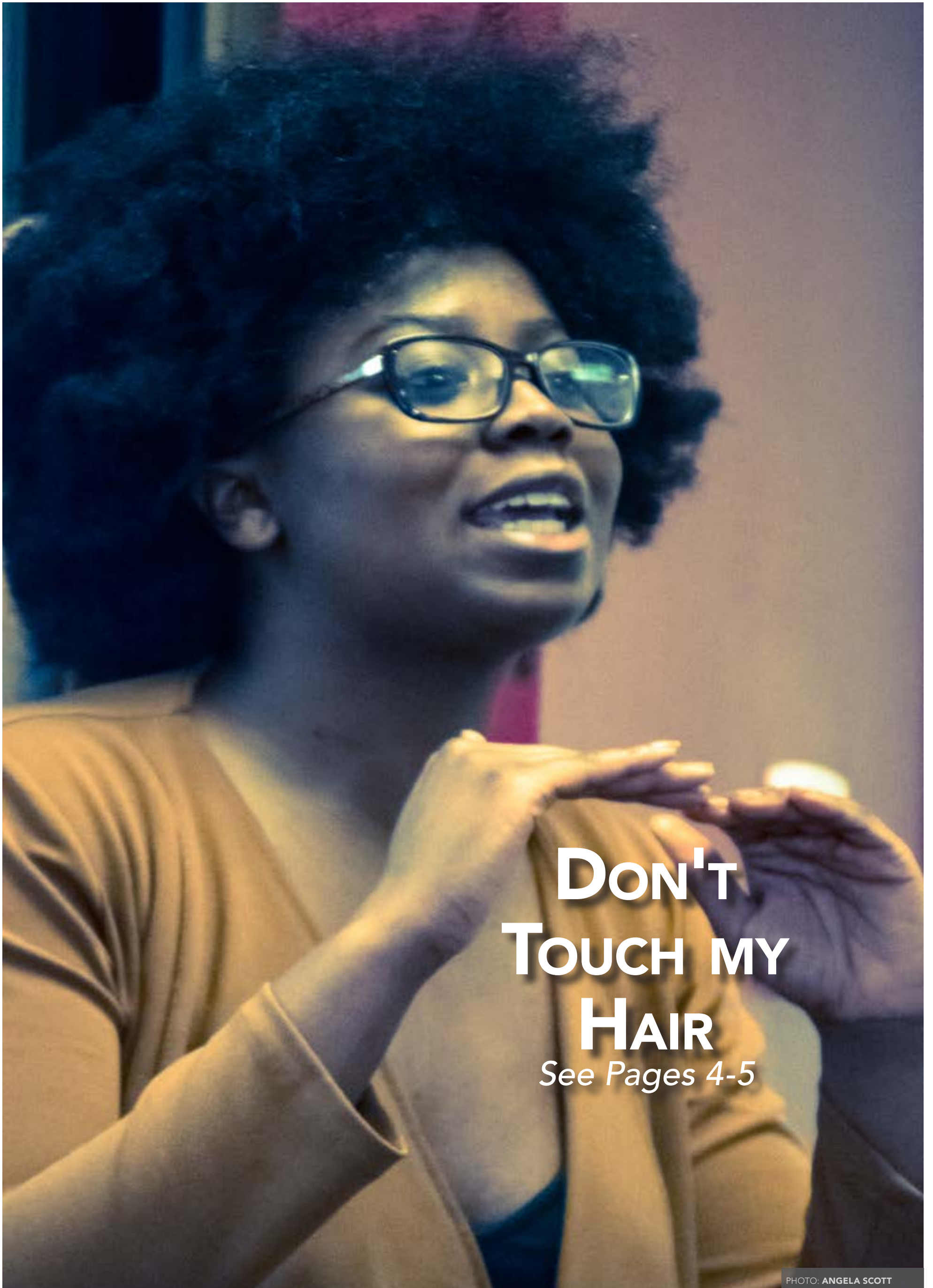


COMMUNITER

VOL. 49 EDITION 19  FEB. 28, 2018



DON'T TOUCH MY HAIR

See Pages 4-5

THE LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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.

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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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FAMILY FUN DAY

The LBCC Parenting Education and Family Resource Center will host its 41st annual Family Fun Day fundraiser on Saturday, March 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the LB Activities Center Gym located in the southwest corner of the Albany campus.

Come join this fun event geared towards families with children aged 0-6. Entrance is free with a suggested donation of \$5 per family. Activities are 25 cents each and will include lots of prizes, bouncy castles, face painting, target toss, spin art, putt-putt golf, Little Gym gymnastics and much more. Concessions will be available.

All proceeds go to build the Parenting Education Tuition Grant Fund, which helps cover the cost of tuition for qualifying parents who wish to take parenting classes, especially the "Live and Learn" courses.

Drawing tickets for Family Fun Day are \$1 and ticket holders are entered into a drawing of more than 60 prizes, donated by local businesses and organizations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What: 41st Annual LBCC Family Fun Day fundraiser

Where: Linn-Benton Community College Activities Center Gym

When: Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Who: Families with children ages 0-6

Why: Raise funds for Parent Education Grant Fund

PHOTO COURTESY: FREEPIK.COM

CAMPUS VOICE

What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?



MADDIE HERNANDEZ
KINESIOLOGY

"I'VE HAD COW STOMACH BEFORE; IT WAS IN A SOUP. I'VE HAD COW TONGUE TOO."



EMILY RUSHING
UNDECIDED

"I THINK I ATE SNAIL ONCE. I'VE HAD ALLIGATOR BEFORE, TOO. I'M TRYING TO THINK OF WEIRD THINGS I ATE IN AUSTRALIA. OH, I ATE A KANGAROO!"



JOSIE VOLKOM
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"MAYONNAISE ON TOAST."



JARED WOLF
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

"PROBABLY LIKE, OCTOPUS."



GABE GLYNN
ENGINEERING

"RANCH ON TOAST."



STORY AND PHOTOS: CUAHTEMOC REILLY



REMEMBERING LB's ROOTS

Russell Tripp

LBCC founder shares memories

For many, LBCC has been a landmark on Southwest Pacific Boulevard for most of their lives and has “always been there” for anybody born after the late 1970’s.

LBCC was built from the ground up with the sole purpose to educate. The home office of the school was originally at the old Capital Business College building on the corner of First and Ellsworth.

LBCC was created due to the lack of nearby accessible education services between Salem and Eugene. The only post-secondary school at the time between the two was OSU. Members of the Linn County Chamber of Commerce initiated creating the community college. As with most ventures, the organization ran into some roadblocks.

“We were working, mainly, to get a community college going. When we applied in Salem to the state education department, they said, ‘it doesn’t make any sense. You’re too small, unless you include Benton county,’” said Russell Tripp, a former and original member of the LBCC board of education. “Benton county didn’t want in. At the time, they thought we would be competitive with OSU. Over the period of a couple years, Corvallis people were convinced that a community college would be an asset, instead of a problem, so they came around, and they’ve been some of our biggest supporters”.

Once the school was approved, however, the biggest challenge was where to put it. There were those who fought for a Lebanon location, and those for an Albany

location.

“It was interesting. Albany offered the current site the school is located on through the chamber of commerce, who raised the committee that had an option on the land to buy it if the college ended up there. Lebanon offered a site, too. It was kind of crazy, because on the board, we had a man from south Benton County out towards Monroe, and he was voting for Lebanon, and Dan Ashton from Sweet Home said Albany made more sense, and he was criticized by the Lebanon people for not going in their direction. So it was quite a fight, but it ended up alright,” said Tripp.

The issue of where to put the school has long been at rest, and now there are auxiliary branches of LBCC in Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Corvallis.

“There was an enormous amount of chaos, but we were somehow dealing with it amazingly well,” said Bob Ross, LBCC’s Biology instructor since day one of the school’s founding.

The layout of the school has been a topic of conversation amongst students for a long time. “Why are there so many breeze ways, or wind tunnels,” is one of the questions asked most regarding the school’s design.

“We thought it was best to have a solid building. If you’ve ever been to Umpqua Community College, they have beautiful little buildings, and they’re all scattered around. So kids were having to put their coats on to travel between buildings during storms. We thought it

would be better to have the facilities enclosed to keep the kids dry. It did create a bit of a wind tunnel effect, which at the time, we didn’t think too much about that. It was about keeping the kids dry,” said Tripp.

According to Tripp, LBCC is a school built by community members to help students succeed and to give instructors what they need to teach the best they can.

“The college has fostered personal and professional growth and development among its leaders, staff and teachers, as well as the development of a wonderful professional community that is focused on helping students to strive to reach their fullest potential as well,” said Ross.

The original LBCC board of education members were Dan L. Ashton representing Sweet Home, Russell W. Tripp representing Albany, Ken J. Purdy representing Scio, Glen Huston representing Lebanon, Robert I. Hadland representing Shedd, and Herbert Hammond and Loren J. Smith representing Corvallis.

Russell W. Tripp, 91, is the last surviving member of the original board, and Biology Instructor Bob Ross is in his 50th year teaching at LBCC.

STORY AND PHOTO BY LEE FRAZIER

ARTIST REFLECTS ON ‘POLLINATION’

Local Printmaker Tallmadge Doyle displays the beauty of nature

The latest exhibit that the gallery on the first floor of South Santiam Hall recently showed was entitled, “Pollination,” and featured a collection of works by Eugene based printmaker Tallmadge Doyle.

Doyle, originally from Upstate New York, knew she wanted to be an artist for a very long time, “Being an artist is the only profession I seriously thought about doing,” said Doyle.

Doyle attended the Cleveland Institute of Art before moving to Seattle. She eventually settled down in Eugene about twenty years ago in order to go to the graduate school at the University of Oregon. Doyle says Oregon’s natural beauty inspires her work.

“I love Oregon, its natural areas, its forests, its rainy weather, its flora and the fauna. I’ve gotten a great deal of inspiration from nature and the natural environment,” said Doyle.

The prints on display in “Pollination” showed multiple series from Doyle, including “Shifting Migrations,” a series that incorporates silhouettes of butterflies and foliage.

“Sometimes I start out by sometimes investigating scientific information, for example, about climate change, about severe weather patterns, I look at climatic maps, I read articles about various species of butterflies whose migration has changed. That information is sort of a ‘jumping off point’ for me to get into my images. I have this collection of images in my head that I draw upon. On my computer, I collect images and information and it all sort of comes in and comes out in



these different series of work,” said Doyle.

“The title of the show is ‘Pollination’. I’ve always been very interested in animals and insects that pollinate and the cycle in nature. Pollination is very symbolic of that cycle.”

Doyle introduced another “jumping off point” regarding natural beauty.

“Interconnecting webs that are present in nature along with expressing the fragility of the environment, and beauty of the environment,” Doyle said.

“A lot of these works are very subtle environmental statements. Not statements of activism that shout at you, although there is nothing wrong with that, it is just not my style. I like to bring the viewer in with color and composition, aesthetic beauty and then give more of a subtle message perhaps.”

Doyle also offered advice to art students.

“Expect to work very hard. You have to be your own promoter, your own sales person. You have to make connections. There is a lot more to it than just creating the artwork. It would be wonderful if that was all there was to being an artist... It is a good idea when you start out to have two other things you can do to make money while you develop your work and get your name and work out there, because you’re going to need that to pay bills,” Doyle said.

She suggested artists should look at the work of others as well.

“Always be looking at work, always go to see other people’s work, go to galleries, go to museums, go to art happenings, performance art...really diversify what you are going out there to look at. You really need to educate yourself, even if you go to a great school, you really still need to keep educating yourself every minute,” said Doyle.

On the same note, Doyle said she was thankful for the opportunity to show her work to college students.

“It is great to have the opportunity to show here at this community college. I love college students being able to see my work and being able to talk with them about it.” Doyle said.

STORY BY JEREMY DURAND

BEAUTY OF MY BLACK

DAC holds presentation about significance of hair in black culture

Imagine an average day, you're out in public, at school, or work, or wherever you spend your time when suddenly a stranger comes up to you and asks if they can touch your hair. How would you react?

For many black people, this isn't a hypothetical scenario, this isn't something they get to just imagine, this is an issue that many have faced firsthand. Diversity Achievement Center student staff member Zakeiba Ofosu decided to find a way to educate people on the subject of black hair and its significance in black culture with a presentation and discussion titled "The Beauty of My Black Hair."

Students and faculty gathered in the DAC on Wednesday, Feb. 21 for the presentation that is the third installment of the DAC's Black History Month event series.

Ofosu led the discussion and addressed several key components on both the logistics of maintaining natural black hair and the importance of embracing one's natural hair.

The idea for the presentation came when the DAC was brainstorming student-staff-led events for the month of February. Ofosu came up with the idea when she was wearing her hair in an afro and someone she didn't know touched her hair without permission and compared the texture to wool.

"It made me so mad because I felt like it dehumanized me and even when I did approach the problem in a pretty professional and nice way she still got mad at me," said Ofosu.

"I realized it was because of her lack of education towards my hair and towards the feelings I have for my hair."

She then approached Director of Institutional Equity Javier Cervantes about doing a presentation to educate people about black hair.

She started the presentation by talking about hair relaxers, a lotion or cream that helps chemically straighten tight curls. Her presentation explained the dangers of using those chemicals as sometimes it can burn people's scalps. Ofosu also shed light on how and why people in the black community feel obligated to use them.

"One of the biggest reasons people use things like relaxers is assimilation," said Ofosu.

"Straightening your hair was looked at as more professional, so that's how we started with relaxers and straightening."

Ofosu then mentioned the Natural Hair Movement, a cause that encourages women of African descent to keep their natural textured hair.

"The Natural Hair Movement was a movement

"I don't ask to touch a painting, I look at the painting. It's beautiful and it's art, and I think of my hair as art."

~ Zakeiba Ofosu

against assimilation. It was to tell black girls that 'your hair is beautiful. You can grow out your hair and it can be natural and it can be stylish without having to chemically straighten your hair,'" said Ofosu.

The presentation covered a variety of other different topics about black hair ranging from how to wash it, the variety of different hairstyles, to the subject of weaves and extensions. Ofosu was joined by Dr. Ramycia McGhee, an English professor at LB. The two talked about what it's like to have coarser textured hair and living in a predominantly white area.

"It is hard. You are forced to be creative because people don't know how to do your hair and going to a salon is almost like going to your 5-year-old cousin-- You don't know what's going to happen," said Ofosu.

McGhee added that she drives up to Portland at least once a month to get her hair done.

"I go to Portland every month. I have to. I have no other way to do it, that's why I have to go. That's why I had to research before I even got here [to Oregon] because it was essential that I had someone here that knew how to do my hair," said McGhee.

Ofosu shared an anecdote about her mother, how she wore dreadlocks, and how she felt forced to cover them up with a wig when going through job interviews for



Ofosu brought her own weave to pass around as she defined the differences and origins between weave and extensions. Photographed: Vanessa Cisneros



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HAIR

fear of appearing unprofessional.

“People look at this hairstyle that my mom has had for over twenty years and they say ‘that is unprofessional.’ They will question everything about your credentials and everything about your background just because of a simple hairstyle,” said Ofosu.

“The reason why the natural hair movement is so important is because you can’t tell a little girl that what is growing from her head naturally is unprofessional and expect her to be a confident woman and expect her to love herself...Hairstyles just need to just be hairstyles. A woman can dye her hair bright pink and still be a professional woman, she can still be a woman of great character.”

She also explained why it is upsetting when people try to touch her hair.

“It reminds people of wanting to touch an animal. I’ve had people pat my hair and groom my hair like I’m a dog and that’s literally how it feels,” said Ofosu.

“I don’t ask to touch a painting I look at the painting. It’s beautiful and it’s art, and I think of my hair as art.”

Cervantez explained the importance of presentations like “The Beauty of My Black Hair” and how they can help people learn more about different backgrounds and beliefs they are not regularly exposed to.

“Zakeiba’s program, and the other programs we have for that matter, are examples in which we try to better prepare students for differences that exists when they get into the workforce... or any university that they choose to go to,” said Cervantez.

“That’s why it’s important to this campus that the campus and the people who come to these events sees this as a learning opportunity to prepare themselves for values, opinions, beliefs, that are different than your own.”



Dr. Ramycia McGhee, of the LBCC English Department, details experiences and perspectives concerning female black identity and hair.



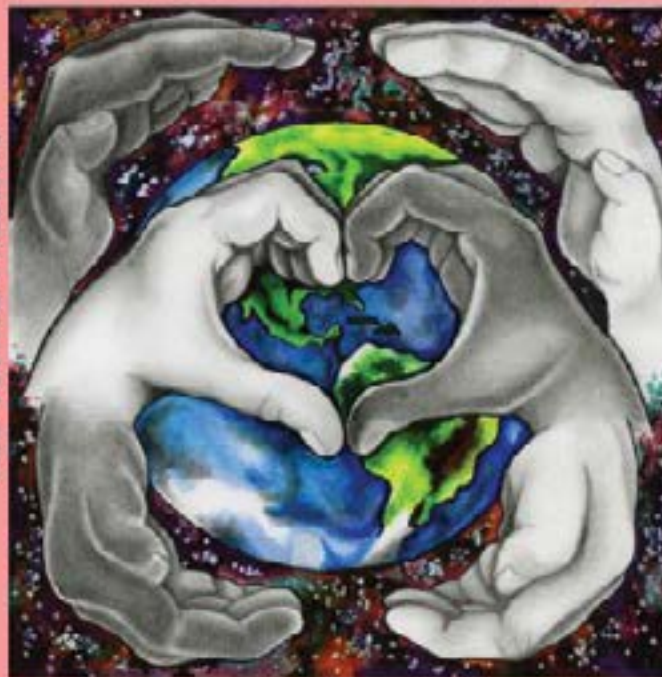
STORY BY
JOSHUA STICKROD
@STICKRODJOSH

PHOTOS: ANGELA SCOTT

Zakeiba Ofosu gave an in-depth presentation and led a discussion about the history, economy, maintenance and influence of African American hair.



UNITY | EQUITY | JUSTICE



Artist: Krystal Drexler

Program to Include:

Guest Lecturer, Frank Thompson, Former Superintendent of Oregon Department of Corrections & the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty



Poetry Performances by Members of the LBCC Poetry Club

Hors D'oeuvres Provided by LBCC's Culinary Program

Recognition of Award Nominees for the:

Analee Fuentes Unity Award: recognizes students, staff and faculty who have demonstrated a commitment to bringing awareness to and advancing diversity and social justice at LBCC.

Gary Westford Community Connection Award: recognizes individuals or community organizations whose work has demonstrated a connection with LBCC and helps the college and surrounding community advance diversity and social justice.

Join us and acknowledge individuals and organizations who work to establish unity, inclusion, and promote diversity and social justice at LBCC and in the community.

9th UNITY CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

LBCC Albany Campus: Fireside Room, CC 211

Request for Special Needs or Accommodations

Direct questions about or requests for special needs or accommodations to the LBCC Disability Coordinator, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone 541-917-4789 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Make sign language interpreting or real-time transcribing requests 2-4 weeks in advance. Make all other requests at least 72 hours prior to the event. LBCC will make every effort to honor requests. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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THIS SHOW DOESN'T SUCK



TV SERIES REVIEW:

Everything Sucks! (2018)

NETWORK: Available on Netflix

STARRING: Jahi Di'Allo Winston, Peyton Kennedy, Patch Darragh, Claudi Nako, Rio Mangini, Quinn Liebling, Sydney Sweeney, and Elijah Stevenson

CREATED BY: Ben York Jones and Michael Mohan

RATED: TV-14

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

Since Netflix began producing original content for digital streaming, there have been many shows that produce content for genre niches many conventional platforms don't even know exist. While there have been many series that cater to desires for offbeat comedy and nostalgia for the 1990s, one series in particular is emerging as a potential cult favorite that combines both elements: "Everything Sucks!"

Taking place in the small town of Boring, Oregon in 1996, the series follows the exploits of a group of high school students dealing with not only the changes their minds and bodies are going through, but also the ensuing hilarity of mishaps in the A/V club.

The result is a unique blend of comedy and drama that, while not perfect, presents a scenario that could help the series do for the 1990s what the cult classic "Freaks and Geeks" did for the 1980s. The episodes are rife with 1990s music and pop-culture references, painting a picture that blends earnesty and

cynicism that would make its title accurate to its tone; but thankfully not the quality of the series itself.

The period details of the series have a lot of effort put into them, with very few anachronisms. Notably, the first episode opens with "The Impression that I Get" by the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, which didn't chart until a year after the series is set. Characters routinely dress in outfits that may seem over-the-top to younger generations, but really do show how some high schoolers actually did model their looks on anyone from Kurt Cobain to Jubilee of the "X-men" franchise. The VHS home movies that the characters work on for the A/V club are easily the precursors to awkward videos on YouTube and other streaming sites.

One thing to know before watching this series: if you are easily weirded out by awkward situations, then it probably isn't for you. While the series thrives on nostalgia for the time it's set in, it also doesn't pull any punches in showing how the decade had its flaws.

It's not the over-optimism displayed by "The Wonder Years," but it definitely does a better job at realistically portraying the changes of high schoolers than "Big Mouth."

While it remains to be seen how the series will do in the long-term, it's clear that even with a title that suggests "Everything Sucks," the show thankfully does not. Even if it doesn't quite reach the same level of nostalgia and witty humor that defined "Freaks and Geeks," it's easily the antithesis to more conventional series such as "The Wonder Years" and is definitely worth watching. The era of videotape and dial-up modems may be long gone, but Netflix has produced a great way to relive it with "all that and a bag of chips."



STORY BY
STEVEN PRYOR
@STEVENPRR2PRYOR

40TH Annual
CAREER FAIR
Wednesday, March 7, 2018
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
LBCC Activities Center (Gym) • Albany Campus

Tips for attending:

- Dress to impress
- Bring copies of your resume

Linn-Benton
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Application: http://bit.ly/LBCC-ATI_CWE-Application

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Min. 2.0 GPA
- Legally able to work in United States
- One completed term of applicable college courses
- Registration in CWE program at LBCC
- Pass drug screen & background check
- Prefer a one-year or longer commitment

QUESTIONS???

Contact: Lena Carr at cwe@linnbenton.edu with questions
www.linnbenton.edu/cwe

ROADRUNNERS CLINCH PLAYOFFS

Men's team earns 20th win of the season; women's team falls in early game; sophomores honored

Roadrunner Basketball wrapped up its home schedule with Sophomore Night against Mt. Hood Community College on Saturday Feb. 24.

Sophomore night is the last chance for LBCC sophomores to suit up in LBCC uniforms in front of their home crowd. The men's team honored sophomores Trey Ecker, Carter Flora, Brady Ford, Cooper Getsfrid, Chris Morsa, and Jake Sundquist. The women's team honored sophomores Breanna Bronson, Courtney Landis, Kelsie Henry, Megan Schiavone, and Melissa Thielman.

In the men's game the Roadrunners were victorious, beating the Mt. Hood Saints 101-94 in a high scoring contest.

The first half saw LB lose a 15-8 lead over Mt. Hood midway through the period. The two teams traded baskets throughout until the Roadrunners were able to put together an 8-0 run with seven minutes left to go up 36-28. After a Mt. Hood timeout, the Saints responded with a 10-2 run of their own and closed out the half leading the Roadrunners 50-47.

The second half was similar to the first as both teams were unable to open up an extensive lead on one another. The Saints established a 76-69 lead midway through the half but the Roadrunners wouldn't go away as they continued to stay with Mt. Hood. The Roadrunners trailed by deficit 87-83 with five minutes left in the game and went on an 18-7 run in the final four minutes to grab the lead and close out the Saints 101-94.

The Roadrunners finished with four players in double digits with Getsfrid and Bailey Evers leading the team in points with 19, Ecker with 18 points, and Adam Harvey supplied 13 points off the bench. Ecker led the game in rebounds with 7 and Jensen led the team with 4 assists.



freepik.com

The win moves the Roadrunners to 20-8 on the season, the first 20 win season in 30 years, and they also clinched their second straight playoff appearance, the first time that has been done since the 1970s.

"It's a very unreal feeling to be in the playoffs," said Evers.

Coach Everett Hartman is proud of how the team has performed all season, clinching the Roadrunner's first top two finish in the South Region in program history.

"It has just been a historic run with a great team and coaching staff," said Hartman.

Sophomore Getsfrid reflected on his time in the LB basketball program.

"It was a learning experience with all the players and coaches. Developing good relationships with them has helped build my character as a person and player," said Getsfrid.

The women's game saw the Roadrunners fall to the Saints 60-51.

Mt. Hood entered the game third in defense in the region and they were also riding a four game winning

streak. LB looked undaunted starting the game off with an 8-0 run. Mt. Hood responded, but the Roadrunners were still able to close out the first quarter leading 19-12. Turnovers in the second quarter kept the game back and forth but Mt. Hood was able to cut into LB's lead. The Roadrunners would go into the half leading 33-29.

A back and forth third quarter saw Mt. Hood cut even further into the Roadrunner's lead with LB clinging to a 48-47 lead to end the third. The Roadrunners struggled shooting in the fourth quarter as the Saint's defense stiffened. Mt. Hood Closed out the game, outscoring LB 13-3 in the final quarter to take a 60-51 win.

Madeline Oakden led all scorers with 22 points, Henry finished with 12 points, and Kelsey Wells snagged 12 rebounds.

"It has been fun. The first year was hard not playing much, but meeting new people this year and playing more has really helped me grow," said Henry when asked about her two years at LBCC.

Both teams will conclude their regular seasons on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at Southwestern Oregon Community College.



STORY BY
JOSHUA STICKROD
@STICKRODJOSH

LBCC STUDENT ARRESTED

A Linn-Benton Community College student was arrested Tuesday evening in connection to violent threats made against Oregon State University on Social Media.

"Oregon State Police have in custody the individual believed to have made social media posts today," an email sent to OSU students read.

An earlier email sent to all OSU students said that police were investigating the threats made by "one

individual" against OSU's Corvallis Campus.

LBCC Students also received a message from the Public Safety office, confirming that the individual is an LBCC Student.

"We thank the LBCC students that came forward today in regard to the person believed to be associated with the OSU alert below," the email said, "We will continue to monitor the situation."

When asked for further comment, the Public Safety Office reaffirmed that the suspect is in custody and the threat is over.

The Commuter will update this story when more information becomes available.

STORY BY JEREMY DURAND



2/28 to 3/6

Wednesday 2/28: Beef Stew, Chicken Piccata, Stuffed Portobello* Soups: Creamy Chicken & Mushroom, Vegetable Minestone w/Rice*. Salads: Creole Shrimp, Chopped w/Chickpea.

Thursday 3/1: Chicken Massaman Curry w/ Steamed Rice*, Fish-n-Chips, Mac-n-Cheese. Soups: Chicken Tortilla*, Dilled Potato Chowder. Salads: Huli Huli Chicken OR Tempeh.

Monday 3/5: Chicken Paprikash, Roasted Turkey, Pumpkin Risotto*. Soups: French Onion*, Thai Curry Lentil & Sweet Potato*. Salads: Grilled Vietnamese Steak, Veggie.

Tuesday 3/6: Shredded Chicken Enchiladas*, Pork Schnitzel w/Apples and Bacon, Veggie Omelet*. Soups: Chicken & Wild Rice*, Broccoli Cheddar. Salads: Roast Chicken, Roasted Veggie & Barley.

Monday to Friday - 10 AM - 1:15 PM

* Gluten Free

Energy Bill Assistance

Do you need help paying your energy bill?

Community Services Consortium will be on LBCC Albany Campus to provide information and services for energy assistance. Please call 541-926-7163, or stop by the LBCC Student Life & Leadership office Forum 120 to sign up for an appointment.

Schedule List

- Wednesday, March 7, 2018 - 1 pm to 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 21, 2018 - 1 pm to 5:30 pm

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LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. For further information see Board Policy P1015 in our Board Policies and Administrative Rules. Title II, IX, & Section 504: Scott Rolan, CC-108, 541-917-4425; Lynne Cox, T-107B, 541-917-4806, LBCC, Albany, Oregon. To report: linnbenton-advocate.symphonicity.com/public_report



LB's LIVING LEGACY

PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

Bob Ross reflects on 50 years of teaching at LBCC

Ross looked right at home sitting comfortably at a table in a sunny hallway of the White Oak Hall science building, the brand new "BIOLOGY" mosaic behind him. His voice is bright as he speaks, taking thoughtful pauses meant for a listener to write or think.

LBCC's first full-time contracted employee and biology instructor, Ross shares a significant milestone in his career along with LBCC's 50th anniversary. One might even say the two grew up together.

"It doesn't feel like 50 years of teaching. It sneaks up on you because you're having a great time," said Ross. "I can't imagine a better life."

Ross remembers the earliest days and compares them to being a pioneer arriving in new, uncultivated land.

"There was so much excitement and creativity at that time. We were asking, 'What are the students asking for? What do they need?' We were listening. It was fun to hear the feedback," said Ross.

Over the next five decades, Ross taught at one time or another courses in biology, botany, natural history, foods and nutrition, zoology, vegetable garden ecology, reproductive strategies, Oregon ecology, wedding photography, and nature photography.

Ross's philosophy was all about teaching students how to be curious, to observe, and to make connections in their learning.

"Bob Ross is a true scientist and educator," said colleague Greg Mulder, LBCC physical science instructor. "As a scientist, he is always making observations of the universe around him and learns from what he sees. As an educator, Bob teaches not only what he knows, but also teaches how to go about observing for yourself."



Most days, observations were made in a classroom lab with four walls and tables and microscopes. Other times, the lab was outdoors, where Ross and other instructors brought students to explore and study plants and animals in Oregon wetlands, coasts, forests, streams, mountains, and fields. One class watched elk swimming in the ocean. Another fortunate group of students were among the few allowed to hike into the crater of Mt. St. Helens.

Meanwhile, years of observations and experiences made by students and Ross were caught on film by Ross, an avid photographer. In fact, nature photography became one of Ross' most popular classes.

Many of the photographs in Ross' enormous collection were used as teaching materials and in self-published student manuals for his classes. They also provided selections for a book he co-authored in 1988 with Henrietta Chambers, "Wildflowers of the Western Cascades." At one time, Ross had 40,000 nature slides, which he pared down to 2,000 when he digitized his

images.

Ross officially retired in 1998, but continued to work full-time, and donated his salary to the Peace and Justice Institute. A few years later, Ross began to work part-time. Ross said he is frequently honored to give slide shows and programs throughout Oregon to all kinds of organizations on topics related to nature, science, religion, and our future. Yet, he still believes his best work is helping students grow right here.

"College is about folks who blossom into the futures they envision for themselves. My greatest honor comes from LBCC that allows me to continue to share the wonders of life with students so that they can be more successful people," said Ross.

And, even after all this time, that original pioneer spirit promoting the LB ideal still rings clear.

"Our goal here at LBCC is to foster a civil community that is our sanctuary, our home, our environment that nurtures us, and we it," said Ross.

These days, Ross enjoys time with his wife of 54 years, Judy Ross, and their three children and three grandchildren. He also works out at the YMCA, and makes regular checks on his 30 research sites, from the Three Sisters to Mt. Jefferson. He continues to stay current in his field, especially as he teaches Oregon Ecology, scheduled for spring term.

One thing Ross doesn't do is slow down.

"I'm 75 now. At 70 and 71 it took three tries to hike up to 3,000 feet in one day and back home for supper. At 74, I did it on my first try."

"By the way, that was on snow shoes."

STORY BY **BECKY HOWELL**



PHOTO: BECKY HOWELL

**IT'S TIME TO VOTE FOR YOUR
STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
PRESIDENT!**



Marta Nunez

Shelby Pick

Look for the voting ballot in your LBCC email to vote!

Deadline is Thursday, March 1st, at 5 PM