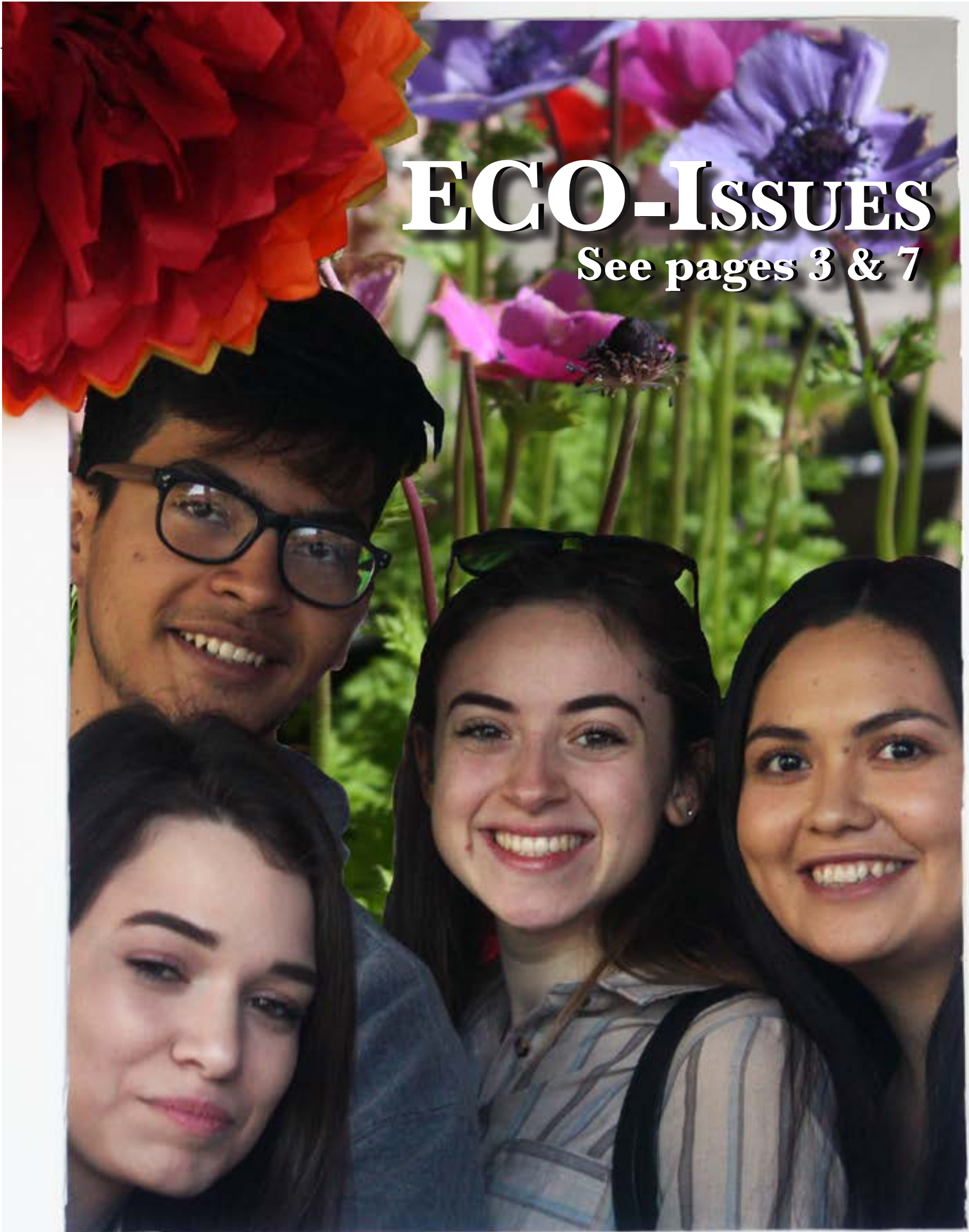


# COMMUNITER

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## ECO-ISSUES

See pages 3 & 7



THE LINN-BENTON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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.

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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# PRESIDENT HOLDS SPRING FORUM

LB's Greg Hamann talks budget, expansion of programs, and passing of Board Member Shelly Garrett



STORY BY  
KAREN CANAN

In a cool room on a hot day, about 35 staff and administration met in Forum room 104 for LBCC President Greg Hamann's Spring address on Thursday, April 17.

During the president's spring term address, Hamann brought up topics such as state budget talks, the administration's expansion and suspension of different programs, and the role of community colleges in educating students for middle-sector jobs.

He opened the floor to questions, comments, and discussion about each topic.

Hamann was positive about the administration's proposed budget, saying that it puts the college in a stable budget situation for the next two years.

Hamann talked about expansion as well as suspension of different programs at LBCC. The equine program just got approved for a 53-plus acre parcel on Looney Lane to expand their facility. The welding program also will have improved facilities, with a training

building that has traditional equipment at one end and brand-new computerized equipment at the other.

On the other hand, Hamann referenced the administration's suspension of the Horticulture program, saying, "We continue to have people who come talk to the board about Horticulture." Hamann said because of the state's level of support, the college faced an economic challenge.

According to Hamann, in the January board and budget discussion meeting the college's board of education saw a need to "fill in a projected \$2 million shortfall in the budget development model for the upcoming year."

The board directed the ending-fund balance to fill in one-third of this deficit, and the remainder of the savings to be solved "equally with tuition increase and reduction in costs," according to Hamann.

Hamann said the LBCC administration continues to lobby state legislators for a revenue package that will fully support the community college. "Businesses will lobby against the revenue package," said Hamann, but "PERS could be a bargaining agent with

business because they want to talk about PERS."

The Public Employee Retirement System costs "are projected to double over the next two bienniums," according to Hamann, though he also cautioned that "all problems aren't related to PERS."

The president then went on to speak about the importance of middle-sector jobs. "Ever since Sputnik, K-12 is college prep to the detriment of a whole sector of the economy," Hamann said, saying that now there is a "reawakening [of] the need for middle-sector jobs."

Hamann also paid tribute to Shelly Garrett, an LBCC Board member who recently passed away. Garrett represented Lebanon on the LBCC Board of Education for eight years. "She'd make deals. She was good at getting the right people into the room with each other."

Garrett's advocacy made possible the Advanced Transportation Technology Center and she also supported the Health Occupations Center. Garrett "made LBCC Lebanon's college," said Hamann.

"She promoted us in ways that are exceptional."

If you had a theme song, what would it be?



ASHLEY KLAMPE  
BIOLOGY

"DESPERADO BY RIHANNA"



RYAN HEWES  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

"BACK IN BLACK BY AC/DC"

SETH DUFFY  
COMPUTER SCIENCE

"I'M AWESOME BY  
SPOSE"



ANDREA CROFT  
PHLEBOTOMY

"AMERICA'S SWEETHEART BY ELLE KING"



RACHEL BATES  
SOCIOLOGY

"AFRICA BY TOTO"



STORY AND PHOTOS: ASHLEY OSBORNE

# REDUCE IMPACT AND REDUCE SPENDING

*Tips to lessen your impact on the environment on a college budget*



**COLUMN BY**  
SARAH MELCHER

It seems like everything is made out of plastic these days. It's on our groceries, on our cars, and even a lot of clothing fibers are derived from plastic or crude oil. It's been made literally impossible to avoid without drastic lifestyle changes like living "waste-free". Sometimes, these changes can come with a large price tag.

Not every way we can reduce our impact on the environment requires spending much money, if any at all, though. Here are some college-budget friendly ways to reduce your impact:

Think twice before you buy that vegan leather handbag or faux fur jacket. It may seem like an animal-friendly way to accessorize, but when those items wear out, they'll go into landfills where they may be hurting more animals than they were intended to help.

Other fabrics to avoid: Polyester, Lycra, Nylon, Rayon, Taffeta, Organza.

Shop secondhand: When you hit the thrift store, you're simultaneously keeping more items from being sent to the landfill and not supporting the sale of new items made from plastics and other harmful materials and processes. This means you're helping to reduce the number of new items being manufactured, which start out being made in factories that may not be environmentally responsible. It also is a lot easier on your wallet. It may just require you to clean your new-to-you items when you get home.

That brings me to our next item. What are you going to use to wash your new items? A lot of soaps contain chemicals that are harsh to the environment. They require complex processes to be removed at the water processing plant, and some end up in our waterways, hurting marine life.

Some chemicals to avoid include sodium laureth sulphate, methylisothiazolinone and triclosan, as well as various parabens, petrochemicals and ureas. Some more misleading ones that may not sound harmful are mineral oils and paraffin.

Some environmentally conscious cleaning supply brands that you should be able to find locally and

aren't hard on your wallet include Seventh Generation, Method, Ecos, Mrs. Meyers, Dr. Bronner.

Another thing to consider when buying soap is packaging. Soap bars are big in the "Waste-Free" community because they don't usually use plastic packaging that requires being recycled. Recycling means going through another manufacturing process that may be polluting the environment to make it into another usable product.

One small thing that makes a big impact on plastics going into the landfill is switching out your plastic toothbrush for a bamboo or wooden handled toothbrush. In my experience, you can buy them for about the same price as a plastic toothbrush - sometimes less!

The number one biggest way to help the environment is taking a look at your consumerist habits. Take a look at the things you're purchasing and ask yourself if there's a less harmful product you can use. Maybe there's an option that has paper packaging instead of plastic, or maybe the same item is available in the bulk section where you can use a reusable bag.

# COMPETING ON CANVAS

*LBCC artists submit their work before a reception that will honor contest winners on May 1.*

STORY BY **AUDRIC MACONE**

Visitors making their way up the stairs in the North Santiam Hall pass a life-like painting of a woman singing. Depicting a tenacious female, it catches their eyes immediately. She is a Colombian singer and songwriter named Kali Uchis.

The creator, Yasmeen Gonzalez, made this piece after seeing Uchis perform live. "I went, and I was front row, mid-center, right there in front of her. And it was an original picture I took of her," said Gonzalez.

"The assignment was monochrome, so it's just one color, that whole painting is of red color."

Gonzalez's LBCC art instructor was impressed by the piece and encouraged her to submit it to the Student Art Show that is held at the beginning of every Spring term.

The art show allows students at LBCC to enter a juried competition with the chance to show off their skills, receive feedback, and win awards. It also gives art students an opportunity to strengthen their resumes.

The exhibit takes place inside North Santiam Hall (NSH). Once artwork is submitted, a juror from outside of the college decides what pieces will go into the competition. The juror this year is Xuanyu Li, a civil engineering student at OSU, and a former student at



LBCC.

"It is a great pleasure, and a great responsibility being the juror this year," Li said.

When artwork is submitted, Li studies four different categories of criteria -- Topic: does it have depth and meaning? Technique: how is the message conveyed? Diversity: are their cultural and ethnic influences? Meaning: what is the story behind the piece?

The display of artwork is sure to stir the imagination of visitors due to the diverse assortment of pieces.

One of many examples is "The Unique Strut," created by Jesse Stark. The painting is located on the bottom floor NSH. It depicts three women in a contrasting order of physical features from slim, average, and fluffy. One may say it depicts beauty in every shape and size, others may say it's just an intriguing piece.

When asked what emotions are evoked when creating a piece, Stark responded: "When I am making art, it just makes me happy."

That is the beauty of art, it is a blank canvas and you apply what you want to see.

"The reason I paint is to express my mind and what I like," Gonzalez said.

Students and visitors can vote for pieces at the the Gallery Office located on the bottom floor of the NSH in Room 111.

There are a total of 47 pieces on display in NSH from 35 current or former students who have attended within the last two years. Each piece is created using a variety of techniques and mediums.

The exhibit officially opened on April 15. Jurors from local art communities and the college's own art department determine 15 winning pieces over the course of two weeks. A reception announcing the winners will be held on Wednesday, May 1 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the NSH Art Galleries.

A total of 15 awards will be given at the end of the Art Show that total up to \$1,000. The awards can vary from gift cards to cash, including some donated from local donors.

The exhibit will remain open until May 20.

## CALAPOOIA CENTER GALLERY

Featuring:

**Oil paintings by artist Subarna Talukder Bose**

An exhibit of ornately patterned figurative oil paintings by Subarna Talukder Bose will be on display through May 1 in the Calapooia Center Gallery at Linn-Benton Community College, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany.

An artist reception will be held in the Calapooia Center Gallery Thursday, April 18 from 3 to 4 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Bose describes her work using variation in pattern to depict the diversity that we all are part of, as the patterns fuse to express something larger. As humans, we are part of this system, taking a certain shape and form, but fundamentally representing a force or energy. For the patterns, Bose



draws inspiration from Mughal and Hindu architecture and Indian miniature paintings, which she grew up seeing and admiring.

Subarna Talukder Bose's paintings can be viewed on her website at [subarnatalbose.wixsite.com/subarna](http://subarnatalbose.wixsite.com/subarna) or on her instagram @Talboseshaw.

*LBCC art galleries are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.*

## B-Side of the Masters

An Educational Private Collection of Originals From Some of the Great Masters...



South Santiam Hall Gallery (SSH)

# HUMANS OF LB



## Isaac Savage

*Isaac Savage is a psychology major who was planning on going to OSU, however he took a somewhat different route. "I was accepted into OSU, but I heard about this dual partnership program which I could go into OSU, and LBCC at the same time. Also, I decided to take most of my classes at LBCC because they are a lot cheaper, plus I had the*

*Oregon promise, so most of my college tuition at LBCC was paid off. I also have loan money from LBCC, and I can use that to pay my tuition at OSU"... "What I do for fun though is, I like to workout, talk to my friends and see how they are doing. That's kind of why I'm majoring in psychology, so I can help out my friends."*

PHOTO AND STORY BY: JAMEEL MORTON



## Rhiannon Chuck

*Classes can be stressful, and taking time off isn't always a bad idea. Rhiannon is putting financial stability first this term. Taking a break from academic study, she has decided to spend this term working full time. Even if she's not currently enrolled in classes, Rhiannon is planning to major in a medical field. Her current goal is to study physical therapy. Originally from Newport, Rhiannon moved here to LBCC because it was far enough away from home for her to be independent, but still close enough to home to go back and visit. Her favorite thing about LBCC is the variety of students that pass through it. With such diversity, Rhiannon likes hearing about their unique stories.*

PHOTO AND STORY BY: EMILY MEYERS

## Sam Grove

*In my interview with Sam, I started by asking what his major was and the conversation just took off. He explained that he is majoring in child development planning to become a preschool teacher. I was surprised when he said he was able to start in a year or so. I further asked why he wanted to work in this field with this age group of kids. Sam said that he likes kids of that age because they are so creative and they don't care what others think. "They just do what they want," he explains. I thought this was a very interesting point I had not thought about. He then said he would like to be a nanny who travels to different places around the world and takes care of other children.*

PHOTO AND STORY BY: NICK SLOVER



## Brooke Hopfer

*Brooke grew up in Oregon with her parents and older sister on a ranch with lots of animals. She is now attending Linn-Benton as a sophomore and is working towards a degree in animal science, all the while running her own business. Her business is called Elite Club Lambs, and it places its focus on raising show lambs to market to youth. In her spare time, Brooke enjoys baking and spending time with her cats. When asked what the biggest hurdle of college has been for her, Brooke replied, "time management." The thing that keeps Brooke going through thick and thin is that she is "pursuing a career [she] is passionate about." In the fall, she plans to transfer to Purdue University in Indiana. With her degree, she intends to become a ruminant nutritionist "formulating rations (or diets) for ruminant animals."*

PHOTO AND STORY BY: NATALIE DUMFORD

# EDUCATION FOR THE SOUL

Oregon Poet Laureate visits LBCC during poetry month to meet with the community



STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CALEB BARBER

The Russell Tripp echoed with folk guitar, and the voice of Oregon Poet Laureate Kim Stafford filled the theater. Smiles filled the faces of those attending, the lyrics were a delicate balance of lighthearted, upbeat, and profound.

At the end of his song, Stafford set down his instrument and walked down the steps to mingle with the crowd. He had just given a short speech and Q&A regarding the teaching of poetry, and had completed the first part of his trip to LBCC.

Stafford attended a short luncheon alongside Regional Director Jeff Davis and current LBCC Poet Laureate Waldo French, as well as previous LBCC poet laureates and other faculty. The table conversation turned from casual quickly to a discussion of how academically applied poetry can be beneficial to the student body.

“I think some view poetry as an esoteric craft to be practiced by the few,” Stafford said. “But what I’m experiencing here is that it’s a fundamental opportunity for everyone to contribute to the thinking, the feeling, and the stories that we need.”

The casual lunchtime discussion soon evolved into an observation of how students and faculty can use poetry to their academic advantage. Topics of



Stafford closes his speech at the Russell Tripp Theater with an original song.



Students, faculty, and other community members take part in a writing exercise during Stafford’s poetry workshop.

discussion included incorporating social media, doing on campus projects, and giving incentives for students who are striving towards an education in writing and communication.

“Poetry is one of the oldest ways of connecting, but it is adaptable,” Stafford said, “Poetry is the perennial young person, that out of the blue just starts singing at a party.”

After the luncheon, tables and chairs were quickly rearranged to accommodate for the upcoming workshop. Students, faculty, and other community members flooded the room, and before long students were sitting on the ground or standing with backs pressed against the walls to get a glimpse of Stafford as he gave the workshop.

Zach Skalet is an OSU student who attended the workshop in hopes of improving his writing strategy. “I don’t have a process for writing, and it’s really difficult for me to just kick start something,” said Skalet. “Using the three titles technique or dividing my writing up into steps one, two, three, and four, I think I can implement that, and it can help my writing grow immensely.”

Stafford encouraged the room to seize their

memories and emotions and to distill them and categorize them into short journal entries. His untied shoelace and gesticulating hand motions betrayed organized chaos of the writer’s mind, and attending students watched and listened to him closely as he led them from one activity to the next.

“A lot of the time I’m paralyzed with the fear of the page,” said LBCC student John Sisul after the workshop. “I think what I took away from this was to just start writing whatever comes to mind, and worry about revision later.”

“I am overwhelmed by the immersive dimensions of poetry in this community,” Stafford said of his experience at LBCC. His hope for students to latch onto the medium of poetry emanated from him as he spoke, and several times he encouraged small groups of students to dig deep for those special words.

“The movement of a poet is from solitude to solidarity,” said Stafford as the workshop attendees dissipated. “Find others who are good listeners, who hope for the best for your words and path ahead, and find groups where you can encourage each other.”

**UNITY | EQUITY | JUSTICE**

Program to include:

- Guest Lecturer, Jesus Jaime Diaz, PhD in Language, Reading & Culture with a Minor in Mexican American Studies from the Department of Teaching, Learning & Sociocultural Studies, within The College of Education at The University of Arizona.
- Poetry Performances by Members of the LBCC Poetry Club
- African American History month essay contest readings
- Hors D'oeuvres Provided by LBCC's Culinary Program

Recognition of Award Nominees for the:

- Anolee 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.

10<sup>th</sup> UNITY CELEBRATION  
**Thursday, APRIL 25, 2019**  
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
LBCC Albany Campus: Fireside Room, CC 211

Request for Special Needs or Accommodations  
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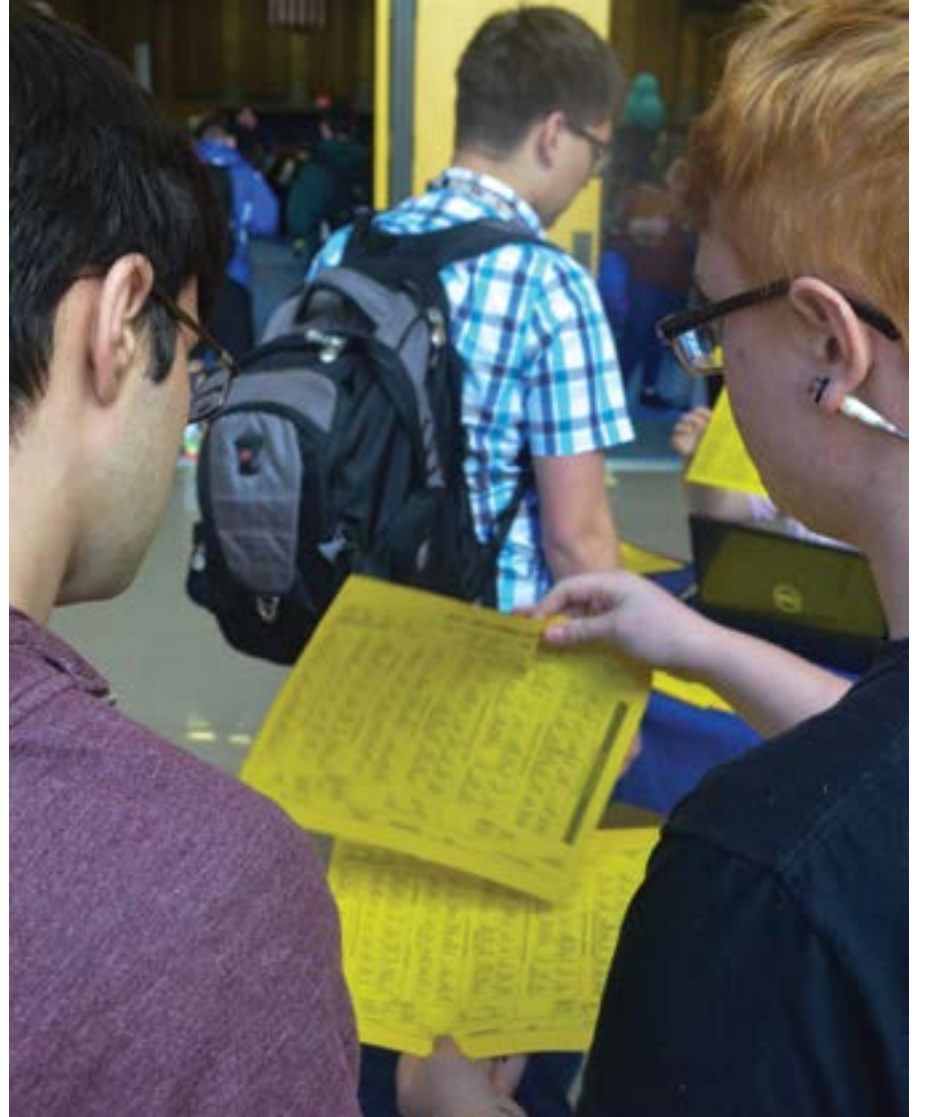


Zach Skalet fills his notebook with strategies and structures for writing poetry.

PHOTOS: CALEB BARBER

**Jake Erdman gives directions to a student on how to navigate the Career Fair.**

# CAREER FAIR 2019



**Sgt. Guillermo Mejia describes to students what it is like working in the U.S. Air Force.**



**Students from Lebanon High School came to the career fair looking for jobs in construction and distribution.**



**Chief Jessica Stager lists job opportunities awaiting students who decide to enlist in the U.S. Navy.**

**Dozens of employers from all over the state of Oregon filled the activity center on Wednesday, April 17.**

**BFF 🤗**

OMG... I think I'm pregnant! 🤔

Whoa. What can I do to help you?

IDK. What am I going to do?

Hey, look what I just found! Options Pregnancy Resource Center.

[optionspc.org](http://optionspc.org)

Monday 4:32 PM

They helped me figure out exactly what I want to do! 🤗

**options**  
Pregnancy Resource Centers

**Pregnant?  
We can help.**

1800 16th Ave SE, Albany, Oregon  
541.934.0160

Mobile Clinic - Corvallis & Philomath  
(Call for locations)

Follow Us on  
Facebook and Instagram!  
**@thepregcenter**



# PESTICIDE-FREE LBCC

College groundskeepers have been cultivating organic landscape management since 2012

STORY BY CAILEY MURRAY

When walking from the parking lot to your next class, or skipping (as we all do) along the quad, you may notice all of the beautiful flowers that adorn the campus.

What you may not notice though, or at the very least, not pay much attention to, is the bright yellow dandelions that lay among the tulips, or the green leafy plants that pop up in between cracks in the sidewalk.

At the start of 2012, LBCC began its transition into a fully organic landscape management campus. While this decision was the result of a state law commonly referred to as the Oregon IPM (Integrated Pest Management), LBCC kept the ball rolling by going above and beyond what the law required.

According to lead groundskeeper Sam Bruch, "This law greatly limits the type of chemical pesticides allowable for use on school grounds... the law also states that pesticides are not to be used for purely aesthetic reasons."

While they could have found loopholes in the law and kept using some chemicals, they decided to take the initiative and become a fully organically landscaped campus. While this decision didn't change much in the way of Bruch's day-to-day duties as a groundskeeper, he still mowed the lawn and pruned the trees, it did give him an opportunity to think creatively about how to deal



with common issues.

"Being creative generally involves looking for the source of an issue and addressing it, rather than addressing the signs or symptoms of the issue," said Bruch. "For example, rather than spraying the weeds growing in cracks in concrete, we'd figure out an effective way to seal those cracks."

The college's budget saw a minimal difference with this new initiative, and the use of organic solutions has more benefits than problems. Bruch explains that as of right now, they are still in the transition stages, and have not yet reached their goals of doing everything as

eco-friendly as possible. The team of groundskeeping employees at LBCC is constantly looking for and creating new and better ways to manage weeds, create a more natural habitat for native plants, and lessen their environmental footprint. Reducing water usage, as well as mowing are being looked at as ways to achieve a smaller footprint.

For students and staff, the status of a fully organic campus means great things.

"Being pesticide-free means eliminating a number of potential health risks from the environment. People can pick a flower, or eat their lunch on the lawn, knowing that they are not coming into contact with a herbicide, fungicide, or insecticide," said Bruch.

Beyond this, the biodiversity that is brought on by having an organic landscape -- plants, insects and wildlife -- have real and positive benefits.

"Conventionally managed landscapes are often sterile and uninspiring," said Bruch.

Next time you are walking or skipping along campus, take a moment to look at the flowers and relax in the lawn, knowing you are doing so in a completely pesticide-free campus.

PHOTO COURTESY: PIXABAY.COM

# EARTH DAY 2019



PHOTO: CALEB BARBER

**Srikar Valluri returns a serve during a game of table tennis in the courtyard.**



PHOTO: CALEB BARBER

**Members of the American Association for Women in Community College arrange flowers in the courtyard.**



PHOTO: ASHLEY OSBORNE

**The Civil Discourse Club displayed their whiteboard, and advocated for intelligent conversation.**

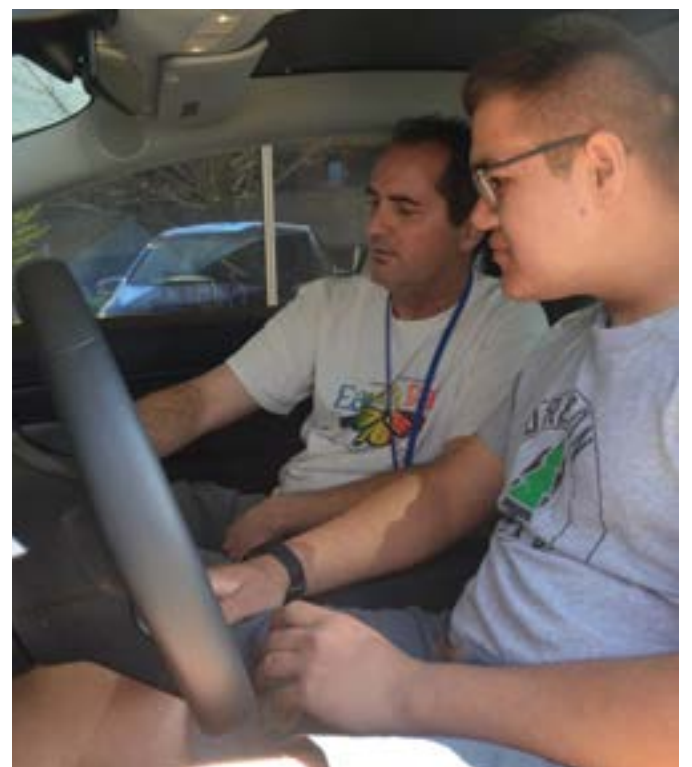


PHOTO: CALEB BARBER

**Business major Chris Garcia sits behind the wheel of a Tesla Model 3.**

*"Misfortunes of Living"*

*Among humans, among others.  
Always being, the other, never seeing  
Each other.*

*Perceptions boxing us in, caging us in a  
shape that chafes.*

*Doesn't fit, never will, and hurts too much  
to try.*

*Why should I, why should we, be?  
Them, because we're not, we're ourselves.*

*Though they're just facts, just facets, just  
singular parts.*

*Take them out of the whole or hide them,  
And that loss turns our hearts cold.*

*Evokes growls as well as whimpers.*

*Only the hurt, insecure, the vicious  
Try to cage that otherness,  
Inside and outside.*

*To move on, to evolve-  
Is to forgive, not forget, but see past  
Our shifting shells and dangerous damaging  
perceptions,  
And all more infernal differences.  
See the same, celebrate, what is not.*

*Feel the pain of the past and the present,  
But reject the poison it offers.*

*See each other as humans, with different  
facets foreign and fine.*

*Not reject it with anger hate fear, and  
otherness.*

*But see as a whole, a part of me is not a  
part of you,*

*The same goes for you, but my truth is to  
not hold tight that pain,*

*Not see it everywhere, eyes tinted with red.  
Instead, move forward not on. Til another  
song,*

*Is added to the fray, and I'll pray  
We fight better this time.*

BY KEL O'CALLAGHAN

*"DETRITUS VALENTINE" BY CALEB BARBER*

WRAPPED IN YOUR MUCUS, WE SINK  
TAKE A DEEP MOSSY BREATH, SWEET AND FALLOW  
MY DECAY BLOSSOMS AND WRIGGLES AT YOUR TOUCH

D RIP DOWNSTREAM WITH ME, FILL BOGS AND  
GULLETS

THE HEART'S CACOPHONY SWELLS  
AND THE DAMP WOOD SMELLS LIKE IT ALWAYS HAS

YOU HAVE SUCH ANCIENT WARMTH

*"DREAMS OF WINGS" BY REBECCA WINNETT*

SOMETIMES

ON THE HARDEST OF NIGHTS

I DREAM I HAVE WINGS

TO CARRY ME FAR FROM MY SORROWS

MY PAINS

AND MY FEARS

WINGS TO CARRY ME

STRONG AND FREE

NOTHING CAN CATCH ME

AS I FLY FREE

UP WITH THE BIRDS

I SO DESPERATELY WANT TO JOIN

I AM AT PEACE

I AM WHOLE

BUT THEN I AWAKE

AND I AM ONLY A GIRL

NO WINGS

NO FREEDOM

NO FORM OF ESCAPE

FROM THIS LIFE I LIVE NOW

ON THOSE MORNINGS IT ACHES

MY BACK

AS IF SOMETHING WERE MISSING

STOLEN AWAY FROM ME

IT HURTS DEEP INSIDE

BUT AS SOON AS IT CAME

IT IS GONE

THE ACHE OF THINGS LONG GONE

AS I GET READY FOR THE DAY

I QUICKLY FORGET

THE FREEDOM

MY HEART BURSTING WITH JOY

UNTAMED

UNCHAINED

COMPLETELY FREE

SOARING ON WINGS WITH THE BIRDS

BUT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN

THE PLACE THOSE WINGS WOULD BE

BEGINS TO ACHIE AGAIN

AS IF SOMETHING

A DEEP PART OF ME

WAS MISSING

AND I REMEMBER

THAT HEAVENLY DREAM

AND I SMILE SERENELY

AS I PRAY TO HAVE IT AGAIN

SO I CAN REMEMBER THE FEELING

OF FLYING ON WINGS

LONG SINCE GONE FROM MY LIFE

NO LONGER A PART OF ME

BUT GRACIOUSLY RETURNED

IN MY DREAMS OF WINGS

*"The Winter Bug"*

*I bumped along in the violent night 'til I blew  
sideways into a golden tree hollow  
That cold dark wind delivered me warm up there  
and almost orange*

*The cinnamon firebowl lit vibrating vein and  
vacuole*

*Great grinning bubbles churned in big hollow  
hearts*

*I felt my ears pop every couple of minutes at the  
pressure change  
Of this breathing room*

*That horrible storm sent whips of furious air  
That laughed and coughed past this opening  
Whose geometry produced such holy notes  
That curled sleeping dandelions in ecstasy*

*Swirling, steaming bodies cried and rumbled  
Crushing spices into the emulsified air  
Rushing jovial intent  
Echoed the mighty note*

*Feathered spirits blew cacophony  
Tiny stones gripped and pulled open this hollow  
ceiling*

*Revealing so mesmerizing a distant insect  
Who metabolized those frosted winds into such  
delectable warmth*

*Now back in this white desert  
I carry with me one of the oddities  
At the behest of the emboldened folk  
And at the comfort of my sternum*

*Frigid claws scratch at my face and hands, tie a  
rope to my spine  
Grasping at unstoppable vitality, unable to reach  
past  
This unnatural bastion of mandible and carapace  
It's legs pound rhythms of that unknowable  
merriment*

BY CALEB BARBER

*"Stoke the Fire"*

*The tarps have been withdrawn  
from our sopping piles of oak.  
We dredge through snow, with load in tow,  
to keep the fire stoked.*

*The mounting bite of Winter  
descends upon our faces  
It gnashes against the firmament  
of our lovely cordial spaces.*

*These chilled stone walls  
echo the tragedy of the past.  
We stack our logs up, one-by-one  
with a satisfying "clack!"*

*Now we stoke the fire.  
The woodstove's embers play  
with a renewed sustenance,  
In an incendiary display.*

*Just as this fire dances,  
and melts the ice away.  
our dutiful efforts,  
our callused hands,  
has defrosted our reservation.  
And, by this radiant warmth,  
With you,  
I feel the love today.*

BY DANIEL GLEN

*"RAIN" BY JAKE ERDMAN*

IT GETS YOU WET  
FRIZZES YOUR HAIR  
BUT I LOVE IT  
IT NOURISHES FLOWERS  
CREATES RIVERS AND LAKES  
IT'S BEAUTIFUL  
IT MAKES RAINBOWS TOO  
PEOPLE THINK IT'S UGLY BUT  
I LOVE THE SOUND IT MAKES  
IT CAN BE HARD AND LOUD  
OR SOFT, MISTY, AND QUIET  
NO MATTER HOW IT APPEARS  
I LOVE RAIN



*"kill the terf in your head"  
i'm at the point  
where i'm learning to be  
everything i've always been scared of  
being*

*the loud queer person  
the childish trans girl  
the one with unrefined poetry  
and newly-named oddities  
of some kind  
or another*

*we make facsimiles of these people  
to avoid being like them  
but that's just an excuse  
for casual bigotries  
and respectability  
to reflect back onto ourselves.*

*i've met so many of these people now  
and their earnestness:  
in the things they love  
in the feelings they have  
in the ways that they are  
Has never been anything but empowering.*

*Their help, their stories, their love  
just being out in the world  
has helped more than anything  
to slowly unravel the suffocating layers of doubt  
keeping us from being a real person  
and for the first time in years  
take a breath of air.*

*since when has shame given us  
even half of that?*  
BY FLORIA MITCHELL // BOUQUET

**"Forest"**

*White fog covers the ground,  
Soft, like a blanket*

*Birds sing their sweet melodies  
Unheard by the human ear*

*A river flows close by  
Swiftly cleaning the riverbank*

*Green trees spread their roots below  
As their leafy arms stretch to the sky*

*Deer lope through the forest  
Unseen by you and me*

RAIN MISTS THE AIR  
COATING EVERYTHING WITH A BEAUTIFUL SHEEN  
THE FOREST IS BARELY AWAKE  
AS THE FIRST RAYS OF SUN SHINE THEIR GOLDEN  
LIGHT  
BY JAKE ERDMAN

**Untitled**

SICK KICKS,  
ON THE LOW DOWN HIGH FLY  
HIT LIST,  
AS I ROLL BY THROUGH THE NIGHT  
WON'T MISS,  
GOT A NEW PAIR,  
BE JEALOUS,  
I KNOW I'M GOOD.  
  
BLACK, RED, TALL  
WON'T FALL  
SHOW IT ALL OFF EVERY DAY FOR YOU TO SEE  
ME  
STYLE ON THE CONTROVERSY  
THAT IS YOUR LACK OF FASHION SENSE IN THE  
FACE OF MY DIVERSITY  
THAT WILL SHAKE YOU TO THE VERY CORE AND  
REVEALATE YOUR BASIC NEEDS TO  
WITNESS, FOLLOW, AND TRUST MY LEAD  
TILL YOU TOO STAND FOR YOUR OWN FEET  
BY JON CLOUGH

**"Lily and Lotus Blossom"**

*A lone white lily  
Beautiful and pure  
Broken and scared  
And a small blue lotus blossom  
Fearful and hurting  
Yet lovely and calm  
The two wind together  
Keeping sweet company  
The lily and the lotus blossom  
Serene and calm  
Beneath the rolling  
Tumbling waves of moonlight  
Gently bathing the two  
In sweet silver rays  
Supported by the petals  
And leaves of each other  
Two fragile souls  
Broken  
Beaten down  
by the weight of the world  
Each beautiful  
In their own strange  
Unique way  
And each content in their solitude  
Able to stand alone  
And grow strong and tall  
But together  
They are so much more  
A perfect pair  
Wound together  
Never to part  
The lone white lily  
And the small blue lotus blossom  
BY REBECCA WINNETT*

*"If you never say your name out loud to  
anyone they can never ever call you by  
it"*

*Whether I'm noisy or spacey or too impolite  
There's something about me that seems not  
quite right.*

*I've learned to keep quiet, I've learned to be  
still  
I've learned to lean quietly on people's  
goodwill*

*I've worked hard to learn every rule that I can  
to mostly seem normal, if just a bit bland.*

*It's like building tolerance, I teach myself now  
So nobody will take me away to learn how*

*And maybe a little poison can make you  
immune  
But it makes you a little sick all the time too.*

*A little numb, a little dull, a little weak, a little  
sad  
But if it means being human, it can't be that  
bad*

*So we live half a life, maybe more if we try  
Wait- sorry, I'm sorry, I said 'we,' I meant 'I'*

*That's weird, am I weird? Tell the truth,  
please say no.*

*(Please say no, please say no, please say no,  
please say no.)*

*I'll do better, I'm better, there's no need to  
ask,  
If you know what's beneath, then what good  
is a mask?*

BY FLORIA MITCHELL // BOUQUET

**"Universe"**

Sky consumes my vision,  
Edges fall away,  
In dizziness,  
Knees buckled, balance fails.  
Sense of awe, of smallness.  
Gulping down clear air, and sights unseen...  
In my life, the universe lifts me up.  
Held in its grasp, I relax.  
Let its grandness overcome me,  
Petty problems become dust now,  
Too small and slight to notice, now.  
Light as a feather, engulfed by the blue.  
World falls from my feet, and I know that it's true.  
Being small is a comfort,  
I try to remember.  
That feeling.  
BY KEL O'CALLAGHAN

**Untitled**

*I've had a favourite name for quite a while now. But  
it's not the one given to me. It's a name I've known  
for quite some time but those that have heard it  
don't realize what it is. It's not like I wish it was  
mine or that the person I imagine it is something  
special. No, the name itself just makes me smile no  
matter the time or circumstance.*

*I've never met someone with this name, but if I did  
I'd smile all the same. Something about it within my  
mind just is pleasant to all my senses. It would be  
great if someone whispered it to me but they would  
have to know it first.*

*I've had a favourite name for quite a while now, and  
I think I'll give it to my first.*

BY JON CLOUGH



COURTESY: IMDB.COM

REDBOX REVIEW:

**Bumblebee**

**DIRECTOR:** Travis Knight (Based on Hasbro's Transformers Action Figures)  
**STARRING:** Hailee Steinfeld, John Cena, Jorge Lendeborg Jr., Pamela Adlon, Jason Drucker and Stephen Schneider with Peter Cullen, Dylan O'Brien, Justin Theroux, Angela Bassett and David Sobolov  
**RATED:** PG-13  
**OVERALL RATING:** ★★★★★



STORY BY  
 STEVEN PRYOR  
 @STEVENPRR2PRYOR

"Bumblebee" is a prequel and soft reboot to the live-action "Transformers" films, and the sixth film overall in the franchise. While the previous installments had no shortage of showy effects-driven action, this film marks a new direction for the movies that reinvigorates the series with a familiar but fresh tone that's a welcome change for the future.

The film sees the title character (voice of Dylan O'Brien) come to Earth in the year 1987, under the orders of Autobot Commander Optimus Prime (voice of Peter Cullen). Landing in a small town near San Francisco, California; Bumblebee clashes with the aggressive Decepticon "triple-changer" Blitzwing (voice of David Sobolov) as he tries to not only elude the Decepticon spies Dropkick (voice of Justin Theroux) and Shatter (voice of Angela Bassett); but also a group of Sector 7 agents led by the paranoid Jack Burns (John Cena). All of this takes place in a fantastic new live-action take on the franchise made for fans of 1980s Transformers by a fan of 1980s Transformers.

Though previous director Michael Bay still retains a role as one of the producers, this time



directing duties are given to Travis Knight ("Kubo of the Two Strings"). Rather than increasingly convoluted plots and bizarre MacGuffins that the previous five films depended on, the robot action ties into a coming of age story centered around a young woman named Charlie. Hailee Steinfeld (the Coen Brothers' 2010 version of "True Grit") delivers a performance that is more like an actual person coming into contact with an alien robot than previous films. Rather than mere eye candy, Charlie's story is driven by her eighteenth birthday as well as coming to terms with the death of her father prior to the film's events. In the vein of Brad Bird's gem "The Iron Giant," Knight directs a script

from Christina Hodson that is a 114-minute love letter to the original Transformers and to 1980s pop culture as a whole. Explosive action set pieces are combined with what's easily the best story and characterization the live-action films have ever seen.

On a \$100 million budget, the visual spectacle retains the "Bayhem" of the previous films while also infusing it with a new flair that would not be out of place in countless other 1980s blockbusters. The robot designs combine the style of the original cartoon and action figures with the live-action films, with flourishes from other modern "Transformers" TV series and the "War for Cybertron" video games. The action, story and characterization draw influence from the 1980s filmography of Steven Spielberg, George Lucas; Robert Zemeckis and John Hughes alike. The soundtrack is rife with '80s music including everything from the Smiths to "The Touch" by Stan Bush (recalling "The Transformers: The Movie" from 1986).

Overall, "Bumblebee" is a significant improvement over the previous live-action "Transformers" movies; and a strong film on its own merit. Whatever Hasbro and Paramount decide to do next for the series, it's clear that much like a banged-up old Volkswagen; there is more to this film than meets the eye.

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 Show your LBCC Student ID and get  
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North Corvallis: **29th & Grant**  
 South Corvallis: **1007 SE 3rd St.**  
 www.firstalt.coop Open daily 7am-10pm

LBCC Civil Discourse Club:  
 Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
 12 - 1 pm  
 Tadena-205

*Mind Your Media*

A discussion about social media's influence on mental health and interpersonal relationships



COURTESY: IMDB.COM

REDBOX REVIEW:  
**Super Troopers 2**

**DIRECTOR:** Jay Chandrasekhar (Based on characters created by Broken Lizard)  
**STARRING:** Jay Chandrasekhar, Paul Sofer, Steve Lemme, Eric Stolhanske, Kevin Heffernan and Brian Cox with Rob Lowe, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Tyler Labine, Will Sasso and Hayes MacArthur  
**RATED:** R  
**OVERALL RATING:** ★★★★★



STORY BY  
STEVEN PRYOR  
@STEVENPRR2PRYOR

Sixteen years after the cult classic “Broken Lizard’s Super Troopers” hit theaters, a sequel was released: “Super Troopers 2.” Much like the original 2002 film, this offbeat take on a squad of highway patrol officers in Vermont is a delightfully goofy comedy even if it does tread familiar roads.

The film sees the cast reunite in a story centered around trying to compete against a unit of Canadian mounties in order to stop the smuggling of drugs, illegal weapons and counterfeit cell phones. Hilarity ensues in many comedic setups over the course of the film’s 100-minute runtime; kicked off with the

mounties and highway patrol discovering their territory shares both US and Canadian soil.

Much like the 2002 film, the cast has a great amount of comedic timing and surprising chemistry; and the setting makes for plenty of gags that recall the original film as new ones tied to the setting. One scene has a character be amused by a local diner serving liters of cola, another has them narrowly avoid getting mauled by a bear. The offbeat tone of the film can also be “enhanced” under the right circumstances, and the supporting role played by Rob Lowe is a riot.

That said, the film definitely isn’t perfect. Much like the original film, not every joke lands the same; and some gags may be hard to stomach depending on your tolerance for grossout humor. Without giving too much away, one running gag involves something naughty with cherries and shaving cream.

Still, the film is an overall enjoyable romp. The comedic setups that work draw some of the biggest laughs of the film, and there are supporting roles from the likes of Jim Gaffigan, Damon Wayans and Seann William Scott. A credits scene with a self-parodying Fred Savage is a notable standout, and the band Eagles of Death Metal helps provide catchy music such as a cover of the classic rock tune “Blinded by the Light.”

While the film may not have been a critical darling, the film made back its modest \$13.5 million budget in its opening weekend alone; prompting a third film to be planned for the near future. Overall, “Super Troopers 2” is goofy fun in the vein of the original; well worth its weight in liters of cola.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Metrical rhythm
  - 6 Poetic contraction
  - 9 Choke
  - 12 Sp. chaperon
  - 13 Cheer
  - 14 First-rate
  - 15 Excess of solar year
  - 16 Bureau of Indian Affairs (abbr.)
  - 17 Container
  - 18 Fr. historical provinces
  - 20 Chemist’s pot
  - 22 Caster
  - 24 Romanian money
  - 27 Equal opportunity employer (abbr.)
  - 28 Toothed formation
  - 32 Arabian Sea gulf

- 34 One who is (suf.)
- 36 Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (abbr.)
- 37 Mount Sinai
- 39 Heir
- 41 Grab
- 42 Mex. president
- 44 Sleep
- 47 Kettledrum
- 52 Hardwood
- 53 Alabama (abbr.)
- 55 Ancient tribe of Britons
- 56 Monk
- 57 Abet
- 58 Extract of cork
- 59 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 60 Energy unit
- 61 Golf score

- DOWN**
- 1 Project

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	B	E	A	G	A	L	S	T	O	L
E	A	R	L	A	N	E	U	R	E	A
R	B	I	O	R	C	A	D	I	R	T
F	I	C	H	U	F	L	O	C		
	A	D	A	D	A	R	Y	A	N	
H	E	P	T	B	R	E	E	C	U	E
A	R	E	H	O	I	S	T	L	B	S
I	D	A	A	U	L	A	Z	E	E	S
R	A	C	E	R	L	U	M	P		
	E	N	T	O	O	G	H	A	M	
D	E	F	T	A	B	I	R	O	C	A
D	O	U	R	H	A	D	E	O	R	A
T	E	L	E	E	N	O	S	D	E	M

- 2 Copper (pref.)
- 3 Nipple
- 4 Uncanny (Scot.)
- 5 Irony
- 6 Sphere
- 7 Azores island
- 8 Gr. author
- 9 Worthless trifle
- 10 Field
- 11 General (abbr.)
- 19 Shortly
- 21 Fertilizer ingredient
- 23 Soft (Ger.)
- 24 Exclamation
- 25 Stir
- 26 Grandfather of Saul
- 29 Tenth of a sen
- 30 Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)
- 31 Asbestos (abbr.)
- 33 Verne’s captain
- 35 Watercock
- 38 Fair
- 40 Heed
- 43 Gr. quadrennial festival
- 44 Couch
- 45 Sleep (pref.)
- 46 Affirmative
- 48 Scientific name (suf.)
- 49 Ice mass
- 50 Indigo plant
- 51 Queue
- 54 Append

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
18				19		20		21			
				22		23					
24	25	26		27			28	29	30	31	
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37				38		39		40		41	
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44	45	46				47		48	49	50	51
52				53		54		55			
56				57				58			
59				60				61			

**THE COMMONS**  
\* CAFETERIA \*

4/24 to 4/30

**Wednesday 4/24:** Shredded Chicken Enchiladas, Pan Seared Salmon\*, Bucatini w/Spring Pesto. Soups: Fava Bean & Pasta w/Bacon, Moroccan Vegetable\*. Salads: Larb (Thai Chicken), Roasted Cauliflower Larb.

**Thursday 4/25:** Pot Roast\*, Spaghetti Carbonara, Sweet Potato Hash w/Fried Egg\*. Soups: Spring Minestrone w/Chicken Meatballs, Potato Leek\*. Salads: Smoked Salmon Caesar, Vegetarian Caesar with Avocado.

**Monday 4/29:** Chicken Pot Pie, Pan Seared Pork Chop\*, Black Bean Burrito. Soups: Lentil Bacon\*, Creamy Butternut. Salads: Creole Shrimp, Creole Sweet Potato Cake.

**Tuesday 4/30:** Poached Salmon, Grilled Steak\*, Roasted Vegetable Sandwich w/Pesto. Soups: Loaded Potato Chowder, Creamy Tomato. Salads: Moroccan Braised Chicken, Moroccan Spiced Falafel.

**Monday to Friday Lunch 11:15 AM - 1:15 PM**

\* Gluten Free

**SUDOKU**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit.

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



**The Roadrunners have just two series left in the regular season and have a chance to head into the postseason with heaps of momentum.**

# TAKING COMMAND

*Roadrunners maintain lead over south division after series draw with Mt. Hood*



STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CAM HANSON

After a tight series over the weekend, the Roadrunners split games with the Mt. Hood Saints 2-2. The series saw a lineup of well-played contests with LBCC's offense leading them to an 11-8 win in the first matchup. The Saints took the reigns immediately following the Roadrunner win and beat LBCC 6-0, handing them their first shutout loss of the season. Mt. Hood kept the momentum up and won a low-scoring game 5-2. LBCC didn't let the Saints get the best of them, however, bouncing back and winning the final game on the road 6-2. Mt. Hood sits right under LBCC's top-ranked position in the southern division after the series but the Roadrunners hold a five-game advantage over them.

Before the series with Mt. Hood, LBCC competed in two of the four make-up games against the Clark College Penguins, after the games were postponed due to rain. The Penguins started the series off with intensity, just barely missing the upset and losing the first contest 11-10. There were four Roadrunners in that contest who scored two runs and Coach Andy Peterson's depth was shown off yet again. The Roadrunners kept the momentum up at home and were able to secure the first two wins of the series.

LBCC returned against Clark on Monday,

April 22 and stole the final two games on the road, winning 9-3 and then 2-1. The Roadrunners now sit at an impressive 24-7 (14-2 in the south division) which is the second best record in the NWAC.

Utility player Dequan Dennis-Lee contributed on offense during the Clark series with seven total runs, and loves the energy the Roadrunners are demonstrating. "We feel really good about the success because we're able to see our work translate to wins. We rely on each other to accomplish our goals and do our jobs," said Dennis-Lee.

The Roadrunners are one of the best teams not only in the south, but in the entire NWAC. This is due to Coach Peterson's ability to assist team chemistry by creating a fun environment to play in. Success is important, but having fun is the value of the game, and Peterson's players do both.

"Petey [Peterson] does an amazing job of understanding his players and the game of baseball entirely. One way we've been able to build such great chemistry is all of the weather delays. With our games being rescheduled in a week with four double headers, we just get an opportunity to be around each other," said Dennis-Lee.

The competition in the south ramps up for the Roadrunners, as they face the Chemeketa Storm, who are an impressive 21-12-1 on the year, but sit just above .500 in the conference, at 8-7 (fourth in the south). The momentum has rolled like a snowball for the Beaks, and the eyes on the crown of the south are slowly becoming



**Coach Peterson is always seen warming his batters up before they step to the plate. His leadership has taken many forms throughout the season**

fixed, but it's still one game at a time for Peterson and his team.

"We're taking it one game, inning, at-bat, and pitch one at a time. We obviously want to win the south division, but we won't get ahead of ourselves. We gotta keep things simple and not do too much," said Dennis-Lee.

The first pitch of the series against the Storm will be thrown at 2 p.m. on Friday the 26th. Chemeketa took the victory at home 6-1 in the team's last meeting.

## LBCC Hosts COLLEGE JOURNALISTS

COURTESY OF **ROB PRIEWE**

Upwards of 100 college journalists and their advisers will travel to LBCC this Friday, April 26, to build their skills in reporting, writing and interviewing, along with honoring the top college journalists in Oregon.

LBCC will once again host the annual Collegiate Day journalism conference and awards program put on by the Oregon Newspapers Foundation.

Student journalists from around the state will gather for morning skills workshops, followed by the annual awards luncheon. All activities take place in the Calapooia Center.

This year's speakers include:

Tom Hallman Jr., a retired Oregonian reporter and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing.

Rachel Alexander, a reporter for the upstart Salem Reporter, an online investigative news service based at the capitol.

Lyndon Zaitz, publisher of the KeizerTimes newspaper.

After lunch, organizers will announce the winners of this year's Oregon Collegiate Newspaper Contest, which honors the state's student newspapers and websites, along with individual work in reporting and writing, photography, and design.

Last year, the Commuter staff earned nine awards, including first place for General Excellence.

