



THE COMMUTER

Linn-Benton Community College • Albany, Oregon

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English Instructor Chris Riseley in front of the anonymous letters writing project outside his office, NSH-211. Read more about the project on pg. 3.

Ted Holliday

Tejo Pack
Contributing Writer

Standing in front of a room of college students whose ages range from the 16 to 60, Chris Riseley uses his hands, arms, and facial gestures in hopes of inciting what he likes to call "engagement."

Projecting his booming voice and cupping his hands together to resemble links of a chain, Riseley invokes a spirit of critical thinking, which he has masterfully, over the past three of teaching here at LBCC, intertwined with the required curriculum.

When pressed about his dynamic teaching style, Riseley tells a story of a political science teacher he once had. "His name was Dave Killion, and he was bigger than that room," said Riseley. "It was then, I started to think, yeah this is the way to do this."

Riseley took that experience, mixed it in a blender filled with his own gifts, and created the "Riseley Smoothie."

"I'm a representative for education and I want to make it look attractive" he said.

"Chris is essential to the department because he's willing to, and loves, teaching our literature classes," said Karella Stetz-Waters, English department chair of the college. "If we didn't

have him we probably wouldn't be able to offer an English major because we wouldn't have the classes the students would need to graduate and move onto other colleges."

Though not all of Riseley's students will grasp the concept of a team effort, or adhere to his partially off the cuff style, what is evident is a man who is passionately dedicated to the prospect of helping people.

"I want people to have a passion for their lives that grows into a passion for helping others," said Riseley.

"Chris is incredibly passionate. I went to a lecture he gave a few years back at the 'Fooling Around With Words' conference and it was like watching an action film," said Stetz-Waters. "I was not bored for one second. In fact I was on the edge of my seat."

Examining his past in comparison to what he does now, it's evident that passion plays more than just a supporting role in Riseley's daily life. A man of diverse background, having dabbled in everything from screenplay, to novel writing, to working for Hollywood E!, Riseley is a man of many hats.

Though some of these talents still represent part of who Riseley is, he spends a majority of his time focusing on students and an undying devotion for his family.

When Riseley does have free time he shuffles it in-between writing his next book, editing his next screen play, and learning the guitar. Riseley has been learning his new trade through "Rocksmith," a video game on the Xbox 360 where you are taught basic to complex riffs on a real guitar.

"I feel kind of bad because it was a gift for my son," he said. "But yeah, I play twice a day."

The fact that Riseley would have an interest in playing a guitar comes as no surprise once you walk into his office.

The walls are lined with vinyl album covers that range from the Beatles and Led Zeppelin to PAYOLA\$ and Cheap Thrills, no doubt a wide variety in selection, but obviously a fan of guitar greats.

"I had a chance to see The Clash on the Combat Rock tour and met Mick Jones and Joe Strummer. It was pretty cool," said Riseley.

Obviously, since he's an English instructor, the room also contains a bookshelf. Though it's organized by style, the shelves are crammed so tightly with books it resembles a bodybuilder wearing a shirt three sizes too small. Upon viewing its contents, one can only wonder about the vast variety and extravagance of his shelves at home.

Large sections of textbooks and a small variety Future cartoonist can contact Markfiore.com

Where to find Chris Riseley
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Office Hours: Mon. / Wed. 9-10 a.m.
Tue. / Thur. 11 a.m.-noon

to check out his techniques and style. of novels are overshadowed by the vast quantity of Shakespeare, a Riseley favorite.

Shuffling your eyes towards his desk, you see a balanced array of current tasks. To the untrained eye, it would look like a failed attempt at paper Jenga. However, ordered chaos seems to be the sign of any good writer, at least that's what experience has taught.

Riseley's overall vision is one of focus. The goal of helping people in hopes that they may do the same, outweighs the need to spend precious time perfecting his desk.

It's an ordered chaos, but one that carries with it a sense of genius.

Whether Riseley works on editing his next screenplay, writing his next book, or infecting young minds, it's obvious he's engaged.

"I leave it on the field," he said.



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THE COMMUTER STAFF

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

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



The Commuter

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LBCC Commuter

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Library Changes Worth Checking Out

Shuo Xu

Contributing Writer

Many changes occurred at the LBCC library this term, including more services becoming available to students. According to librarian Richenda Hawkins, there were three major adjustments:

- Library hours shifted to 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and Friday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The student help desk moved to the library from the Learning Center.
- All math materials, formerly in the Learning Center, were moved to the library.

"We collaborate with both the media department and the Learning Center in order to be able to have more hours at our tech desk," said Hawkins. "The tech desk is now also the student help desk. We've always had the tech desk here where we help students with technical questions."

"Math textbooks, math DVDs and other supplemental materials for math, those are available in the reserved area," said Cheryl Dingman, the circulation coordinator of the library.

"Math textbooks are all the two-hour books, which means they can only be checked out for two hours each time and the students have to use them in the library or the Learning Center," said Dingman.

According to Hawkins, the overdue policy has also changed, as the following chart indicates:

	Two-hour Books	Two-day Books	Desk's Books
Overdue Fee (old)	\$2	\$2	\$.25
Overdue Fee (new)	\$5	\$2	\$.25

"Basically, we help students with [computer login and printing services issues]," said Bill Thomas, library computer specialist.

Thomas also said they help with all kinds of other technical questions. "We were doing so many of those kinds of questions, that we just decided to collaborate with media and so they don't have to do it over there anymore," he said.

Hawkins added, "This school year, we have a new library catalog and a new system which is called the integrated library system. It saves the college a lot of money. With the savings from that we purchased an e-database called 'eBrary.' It has almost 80,000 books in it."

"The new system is doing pretty well so far," said Hawkins. "It allows us to do e-mail notifications when things are going to be overdue or when you have been

billed for items."

When asked about how many staff work for the students at the library, Hawkins mentioned five contracted staff. Two of these staff are faculty and three are classified.

"We [also] have six work-study students, four part-time non-contracted staff and three people who work for us but are paid from other programs," Hawkins added. "We have quite a few people and also four people who come over from the media department; they are staffed to help us here."

On Display: Happy Birthday Mr. Governor

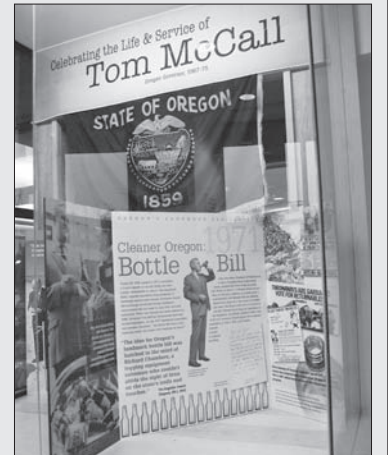
Mark Urista

LBCC

This month, the LBCC library will celebrate the 100th birthday of former Governor Tom McCall with a special display commemorating the man's service to Oregon.

During his governorship from 1967 to 1975, McCall helped shape the quality of life we enjoy today through a variety of bold and innovative actions. These include the Beach Bill, which protected our state's beaches from private development, the Bottle Bill which decreased litter and contributed the modern recycling movement, and Senate Bill 100 which curbed urban sprawl.

Above all, McCall was guided by his deep passion to enhance Oregon's livability through meaningful community service.



Dale Hummel

Tom McCall display in the library.

Learn More

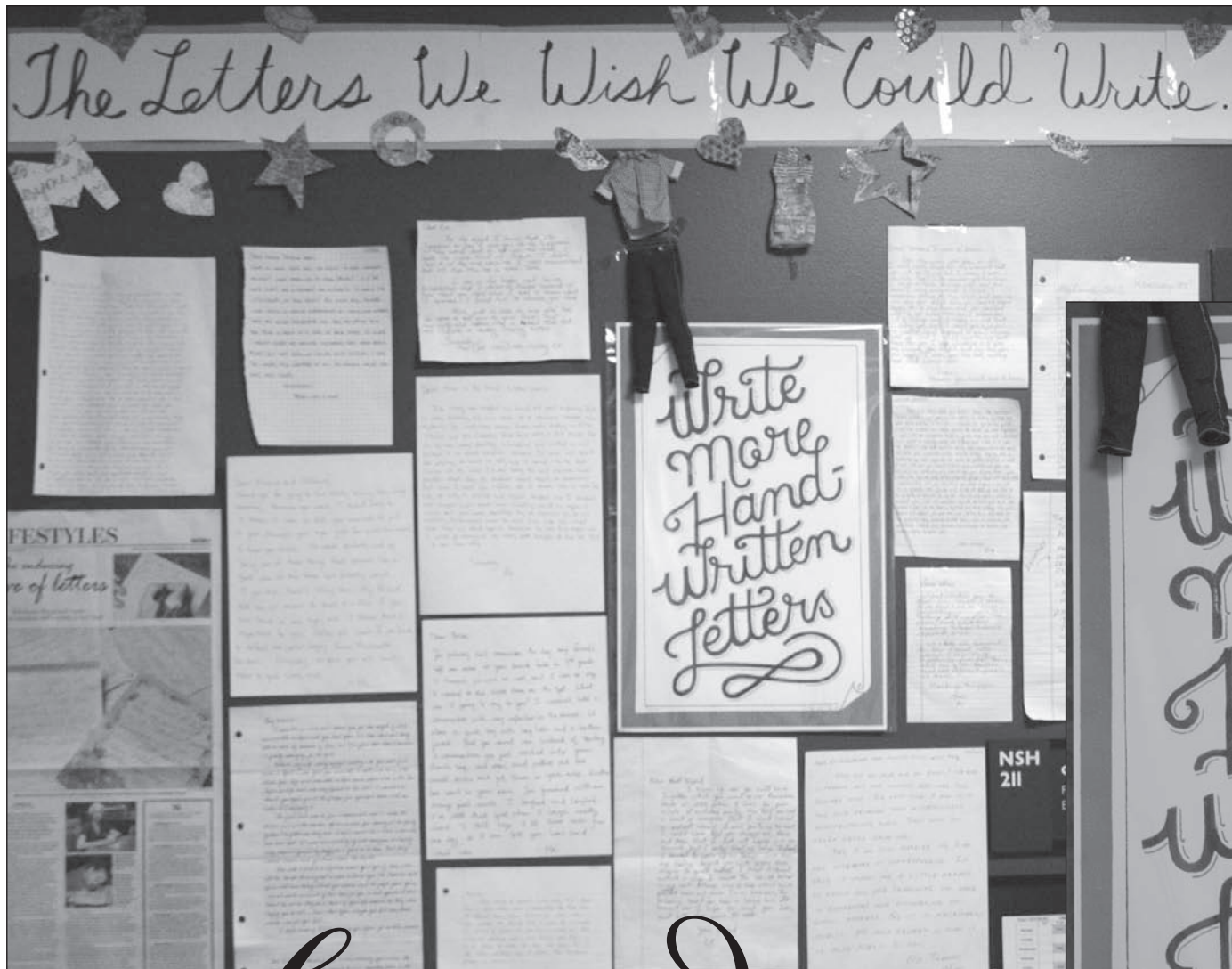
Don't miss an opportunity to learn more about Tom McCall on the OPB documentary "Tom McCall: An Oregon Experience."

Tuesday, March 19 - 8 p.m.
Wednesday, March 20 - 11 p.m.
Thursday, March 21 - 1 a.m.
Friday, March 22 - 4 a.m.

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Many anonymous hand-written letters fill the wall outside NSH-211, English instructor Chris Riseley's office in North Santiam Hall.

photos by Ted Holliday

Signed, Anonymous

Instructor Encourages Students to Get Away From the Keyboard and Put Pen to Paper

Ted Holliday
Copy Editor

Who has time to write a letter with homework, papers, and finals? Besides, it takes too long, considering we could just text someone our thoughts.

Our quest for faster communication through email, cell phones, text messages, Facebook updates, and Twitter have led to the decline, if not the near-death of letter writing. It takes a long time to sit, collect thoughts and actually use the coordination between thought and physical movement to create

a meaningful collaboration of words on a page. But, does a text message or a 140 character Tweet really convey our deepest thoughts?

Walking past LBCC writing instructor Chris Riseley's office in North Santiam Hall, students will notice a collection of letters assembled outside. All of the letters are anonymous, and all have

something to say.

According to Elizabeth Olson's article from the New York Times, "It is not far-fetched to predict that today's young people, after the low-tech summer-camp years are over, may never again in their lives put pen to paper to write a personal letter."

Riseley expresses his concern about the decline of letter writing. He says, "What's going to happen to interpersonal written communications? The

letter has been, for a long time, a big part and a useful tool to study academic history, literature, or writers. To study anything, it's in the handwritten letter."

Throughout the course of history, letters have given us an insight to what life was once like. Letters can be about anything, including our love for one another, scientific revelations ($E=MC$), and even the dissolution of political tying with another nation to create a newer free nation. It's a way for us to communicate our thoughts, feelings, wrongdoings, and achievements. All of this is done through written communication.

Riseley came up with an idea to engage his class to write letters to help them express their thoughts. He thought, "What about writing a letter to someone that they wish they could write, but not give it to them?" The catch? It has to be hand written and anonymous.

This allows students to express their feelings that they haven't been able to say, without hurting somebody's feelings. The letters posted are interesting because they are never intended to be sent to the recipient. They're able to say whatever they want without repercussions about the other person's opinion.

In one valentine letter to a "Dearest Love," it reads "Our passion burns and is often talked about." The author goes on to write about how they are still in love with their spouse and would marry them again.

In another letter to a ninth grade classmate, the author writes about her culinary experience: "You probably don't remember the day that my friends left me alone at your lunch table in the 9th grade." The letter continues on how the person made them feel that day. "You saved me. I'm still that girl when I laugh that hard."

In a letter to "Someone I used to know," the person writes, "I hope whatever it is you are missing you find it and one day you are happy."

One student, who wasn't happy with the original

version of their letter once it was posted, rewrote it and made a better version. Now, both letters are displayed.

One author eloquently sums up the letters: "As I sit here in the hall and I read each of these letters, I come to realize that the pain, love, and respect is shared by all. Both writer and reader have opened up to share the experience of this time."

Writing a letter has advantages. According to Shawndra Russell, contributing writer for eHow.com, "Letters are thoughtful and allow the writer to get out all of their thoughts and feelings without interruption." She also states how "letter writing forces the writer to carefully choose each word without a sense of rush or accidentally hitting the send button too soon."

"Anyone can do it and the most important thing is to just have fun with it," Riseley said. It doesn't matter what kind of handwriting that someone has; the important thing is to write. He has already planned on placing some of the letters on a Letters We Wish We Could Write blog.

Since these are "Letters We Wish We Could Write," none of them will go to the recipients. Anonymous letters can be placed under Riseley's door at NSH-211. He requests, if anyone who would like their letter scanned and added to the blog, please leave a note with the letter.

Put down the smart phone and step away from the computer. Go pick up a pen or pencil and a piece of paper, sit down somewhere quiet and forge a new (well, old) frontier articulating your thoughts into a physical document. Don't be afraid of making a mistake and just have fun.

Besides, 500 years from now when future LBCC students view these letters in a museum, they will stare at them with wonder and contemplate how we could live with such technology. Long live the letter!

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&
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OSU Hands Out Upset Heading into Tourney

Michael Rivera
Sports Editor

The Beavers look a little more unified as a team after this week. The Oregon State basketball team lost to Utah on Thursday, but pulled a sweet upset against Colorado Saturday night. This is great momentum for Oregon State, where they get to have a rematch with Colorado in the first round of the PAC-12 Tournament.

Oregon State kept up with Utah the first half, but weren't able to translate their play going into the next half of the game. The Beavers dropped the game 72-61. Guard Roberto Nelson lead with 18 points, Challe Barton had 15, and Joe Burton contributed 10 points.

Then there is the surprise against Colorado: The Beavers stayed with Colorado through the first half of play, 29-27 Buffalo lead. But Oregon State took the lead in the second and never let go. The Beavers finished off Colorado, 64-58. Colorado had just pulled a big upset against the Oregon Ducks on March 7.

Forward Eric Moreland lead Oregon State with a double-double of 17 points and 10 rebounds, followed by Nelson's 15 points and Burton's own double-double with 10 points and rebounds.

Oregon State has struggled greatly since PAC-12 play, after starting their season at 10-3. They looked very promising and built up a little bit of hype. Then, they fell apart after, finishing the season at 14-17.

"Last year we sort of did the same thing," said coach Craig Robinson after the win against Colorado. "I remember telling the guys in there that we started our win streak too early. Maybe they listened to me because we started a little later, so that we could win more games in the tournament."

This win was big for Oregon State, which is trying to build some momentum going in as a low seed in the PAC-12 Tournament. The Beavers tied for last against Washington State for the worst PAC-12 team, although they will have to forget going into the tournament.

WHERE ARE ROADRUNNERS AT?

What are you doing over Spring Break?

We'd love to hear from you!

Send us your pics and stories and you might see them in the first issue of spring term.

Email submissions to commuter@linnbenton.edu

A Mark of Excellence

Pulitzer Prize Winning
Cartoonist Addresses
Journalism Students

Nora Palmtag
News Editor

Mark Fioré, a satirical political cartoonist who won the first Pulitzer Prize for an online cartoon in 2010, was the keynote speaker at the Associated Collegiate Press Conference on Sunday, March 3.

The Pulitzer Prize committee, in a statement, said that "His biting wit, extensive research and ability to distill complex issues [on the website] set a high standard for an emerging form of commentary."

Fioré is not your typical cartoonist. There is no subject too taboo for him and he stands up for his principles. He tried the conventional route of working in an office, which he said was what he had worked so hard for, but it didn't suit him to be in an office and he went back to doing freelance work.

His non-conformity was shown when he tried to get his cartoon app, Newtoon, for the iPhone picked up by Apple. However, Apple declined his offer in 2010.

"One of the best parts of his talk was having his cartoons there with him to back up his point," said Arts and Entertainment Editor Ian Butcher. "I also really liked how he described his processes and how political cartoon satire is just another form of journalism. His story about his relationship with Apple was probably my favorite bit of his talk."

When Laura McGann of The Neiman Journalism Lab interviewed Fioré after he had won The Pulitzer, she posted her article, entitled "Mark Fiore can win a Pulitzer Prize, but he can't get his iPhone cartoon app past Apple's satire police."

Basically, Apple did not want to have anything to do with the cartoons because they make fun of political figures.

"In December, Apple rejected his iPhone app, NewsToons," said McGann. "As Apple put it, his satire 'ridicules public figures,' a violation of the iPhone Developer Program License Agreement, which bars any apps whose content in 'Apple's reasonable



William Allison

Political cartoonist Mark Fioré at the Associated Collegiate Press Conference in San Francisco March 3.

judgement may be found objectionable, for example, materials that may be considered obscene, pornographic, or defamatory."

Apple called Mark Fioré and asked him to resubmit his app for consideration. Fioré later found that Apple never called anyone. It took one conversation to get his app approved this time.

The cartoons made by Fioré are very insightful and on-point about political issues that are relevant, such as a new pope is needed, gun control, congress in action, or marriage, gay or straight, and what it means biblically.

Using an app which he has improved upon in many ways, Fioré explained how he is able to make the figures move in his cartoons, unlike conventional cartoonists.

Justeen Elliott, Managing Editor of The Commuter, also attended Fioré's presentation. "[Winning the Pulitzer] doesn't mean that he has an easier time to get things accomplished, such as he watches the news all day Monday,

picks his topic that night, then Tuesday he starts it, and finalizes it all by Wednesday," she said.

"Mark Fioré perfectly embodies why America needs a vigorous, free press: He uses his First Amendment right to bring attention to issues that deserve debate and examination," said journalism instructor Rob Priewe. "He isn't afraid to call people out, or shine a light where our leaders would prefer shadows."

"Being a freelancer, he is beholden to no one," Priewe continued. "It was interesting how he worked to get hired by one of the most respected news organizations in the country after years on his own. However, once he had 'arrived,' he found he preferred the freedom he had as a freelancer. With his animated editorial cartoons, Fioré is one of the more innovative and creative editorial voices out there. His Pulitzer Prize is well-deserved."

Future cartoonist can contact Markfiore.com to check out his techniques and style.

Oregon State Passes First-Year Experience

Austin Hogue
Contributing Writer

Oregon State University has passed new First-Year Experience requirements affecting all freshman OSU students.

Instead of the opportunity to live anywhere, it's now a graduation requirement for freshman students to live in the dorms for a full year, regardless of age. The only way to be released from this is by paying for an entire year in the dorms, breaking resident contracts, dropping all classes, and registering the following term.

Among those concerned, sorority/fraternity leaders have been constantly stressed out about this topic since everything began. The stress it creates is caused by the worry of money and the toll it will take on students and Greek houses. It's been projected that some co-ops and

Greek organizations will lose almost \$100,000 over the first year it is enforced.

Locals are concerned with how it will affect the community.

"I think it's a dangerous maneuver," said one Corvallis resident. "The freshmen that don't live in dorms generally appreciate nightlife more now they will continue their normal pattern, but instead of partying at their house they now will go tramp across people's lives on their way back to campus."

But what about students wanting to attend OSU? Will it make people change their minds because it decreases the amount of freedom you have at Oregon State?

Students seeking more information on the First-Year Experience program can also visit OSU's First-Year Experience website at oregonstate.edu/newstudents/first-year-experience-website.

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Unplanned pregnancy?

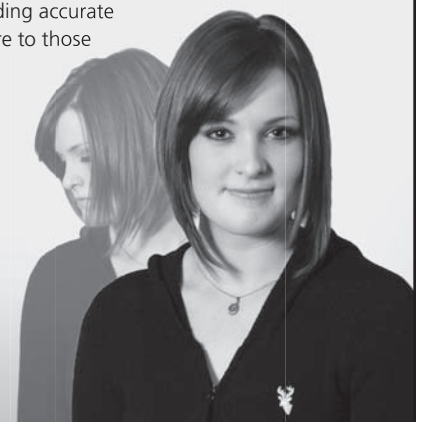
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Have a great Spring Break! -The Commuter

North by Northwest

Some Spring Vacation Destinations that are Close to Home

Elizabeth Mottner
Contributing Writer

If you're looking to relax after LBCC's Winter Term and spend time with your family, here are some ideas where to go for the upcoming 2013 Spring Break.

Depending on when your last final occurs, there are at least 11 days to seek a place to rest, relax and have some fun! The official last day of Winter Term falls on March 20 and Spring Term does not begin until April Fool's Day, April 1. So there is plenty of time to travel to the perfect destination, whether here in Oregon or Washington.

"I am likely staying within the state, maybe Portland or head up to Washington. I am mainly looking to relax and unwind," said Jacqueline Gomez, a student at LBCC.

There are all kinds of day trip locations to enjoy in Oregon or Washington. So take some much needed time to rest and relax, explore and unwind, or party and forget. It is up to you what to do with fast approaching days of Spring Break, 2013.

Some spring breakers will enjoy a relaxing time at home doing absolutely nothing, others will travel and have fun with friends and strangers alike. Is this a time to catch up with the family

and/or spend time with the children?

Below are some favorite destinations in the Pacific Northwest, inexpensive one day or two trips or a week.

"The mid-coast and ski resorts are the most popular local locations, then Portland," said Anne of AAA. She also added, "Watch the weather. Watch the news. They are the best source for road conditions."

Coastal towns like Newport and Lincoln City offer inexpensive options for couple and families. Trips can be tailored to personal needs. Just the opposite, spring breakers can head east to the mountains for skiing. Popular locations to travel to are Mt. Bachelor, Mt. Hood, Black Butte, Sun River, Inn of the Seventh Mountain or a hidden gem like Anthony Lakes in Baker City, Ore.

Depending on the weather, Oregon offers a myriad of natural vistas that are easy to enjoy. Traveling down to Eugene you can hike Mt. Pisgah or Spencer Butte, or head north and hike Silver Falls, Multnomah Falls or Wizards Falls.

If shopping is the way to relax then Bend, Sisters, Ashland, Lincoln City or Woodburn offer day excursion into retail therapy. Of course, Portland can't be passed over for shopping with its various malls, downtown shopping and Saturday Market!

Portland is another great destination that you can spend a day or a week exploring. There are some great options to escape the rain. The family will enjoy spending time at the Portland Zoo, OMSI or Powell's Book Store.



kiszka king/ flickr.com

Rainer Road in the Oregon mountains

Portland also has various Museums to spend the day in. Portland Art Museum offers free admission from 5-8 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the Month, and the Oregon History Museum has family day that offers free admission for up to two children with each adult admission on the third Saturday of the month. Also don't miss the Portland Contemporary Craft Museum, Portland's Children's Museum, or Oregon Rail Heritage Center.

If you want to enjoy the Portland's club, theater or music scenes in the evenings and the outdoors during the day, consider venturing in to Hoyt Arboretum and hike its 185 acres or wander through Portland's Rose Garden, The Grotto or the Japanese Garden.

Many of the Portland area breweries and distilleries offer free tours and complimentary tasting. Enjoy the local brewing of Bridgeport, Clear Creek Distillery, House Spirits Distillery, Rogue Ales Public House, and Widmer Brother Brewing. Geocaching is another fun way to spend a day or afternoon with friends or family, and can

be included into longer trips as a fun way to break up long road trips.

You will need a GPS unit or a smart phone with a GPS app on it, good hiking shoes, multi layers of clothing including rain gear, and numerous "gifts or treasures" to leave at the cache. Once you find the cache, you take a treasure and leave one behind. Geocaching has several good website to explore where explorers can print off location, GPS coordinates and hints.

Some locations that are perfect for a couple in the Pacific Northwest are scattered throughout Oregon and Washington. Maryhill, Washington is 100 miles east of Portland on the Gorge. It offers beautiful vistas, a castle atop the Columbia Gorge, gardens, an elegant art museum and a full size replica of Stonehenge.

Other romantic destinations for couple to enjoy are The Wild Iris, Salish Lodge and Spa, Tulalip Resort and Casino, Bonnaville Hot Springs Resort, and Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Spa and Casino.

Interested in learning how you can give back over spring break? Read more online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu

Albany Campus
Albany Learning Center & Library
Saturday & Sunday
March 16th & 17th
10am – 5pm

Benton Center
Saturday, March 16th
10am – 4pm

Access Learning Center resources!
Free food at the Hot Shot Coffee House!

FREE FOOD & DRINKS!

Spring Break Safety Tips

Heather Hutchman
Contributing Writer

Finals are almost here and spring break is just around the corner. Spring break brings vacations, long drives, and maybe some parties. We all want to have the most fun we can over spring break but it's important to remember to be safe, and there are a few tips you can follow to achieve this.

For starters, and this cannot be stressed enough, do not drink and drive. We have all heard this a hundred times but there is a reason for that. When you get behind the wheel of a car with even a drop of alcohol in your system you are not only endangering yourself but anyone else who might be on the road.

If you know you are going to be drinking make arrangements for a ride ahead of time. Plan to have a taxi pick you up, set up a time to have a friend or family member pick you up or make arrangements to sleep wherever you are drinking at. Don't forget, driving under the influence is not only dangerous it's illegal and if caught you will lose your license for a time and could even lose your financial aid if you receive it.

Traveling is popular activities over spring break and some have a farther drive than others. Just remember a few things while you travel especially if you are traveling alone. First, if you are really tired it's always better to pull over and rest for a few minutes then to continue and risk falling asleep at the wheel.

A few tips from the LBCC public safety website, include walking in groups, always have keys ready when approaching your vehicle, don't look like a victim, walk briskly and with confidence and always be aware of your surroundings.

Always being aware of what is around you, and who is around you is vital. If you notice someone watching you or following you to closely don't avoid them, look up and make direct eye contact, let them know you are aware that they are there. This will tell the person that you aren't afraid of them, and that you aren't going to be taken advantage of, make them think you will put up a fight. Predators are looking for an easy target.

If you decide to go to a party, go in a group, and leave in the same group. Try and always know where your friends are. Beware of accepting drinks from strangers, and always look out for each other.

Spring break is a wonderful time of year, to take a break and rest after what feels like a long winter term. Just remember to keep it safe, and enjoy your spring break.



anitasarkeesian/flickr.com

Anita Sarkeesian and *Damsels in Distress*

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

Anita Sarkeesian is a feminist video blogger who talks about how women are portrayed in media.

Just shy of a year ago, she opened a Kickstarter campaign to fund a series of videos about sexism in video games. This set off a vicious backlash of misogynist hatred from a certain sect of gamers who take it as some sort of personal attack when you say things like, "Y'know, it would be cool if there were a few women heroes in video games who were identifiably female and not dressed like prostitutes."

Despite (or more probably because of) all the bile and hatred, Sarkeesian's Kickstarter was ridiculously successful. She started out asking for \$6,000 for her video series and ended up with almost \$160,000. She expanded the scope of her series a few times to account for the windfall, and last week, the first video in her "Tropes vs. Women in Video Games" series came out.

I'd never heard of Sarkeesian before the backlash. I kept half an eye on the drama, but I didn't really get into it much because it was just so goddamn tedious. It was the same angry rhetoric from the same subset of angry men who spew vitriol and hate every time a woman has the audacity to say anything like, "It would be nice to have some good female characters in [insert nerdy and/or male-dominated pastime here]." Despite that, I decided to check the video out when it hit the web yesterday morning, just to see what all the fuss was about.

For inspiring all that drama and venom, this thing is underwhelming.

It's not like there isn't a lot to say on the subject on women's roles in video games. Until recently, the gaming industry was oblivious to the fact that women (and girls) like playing video games, so the games weren't made for or marketed to them. Women were portrayed as scantily-clad trophies.

Female heroes are rare in video games, and when they do turn up, they aren't much to speak of. They run into warzone situations in the genre equivalent of the chain mail bikini, and they're frequently hypersexualized. They have a tendency to be nothing but T&A with a weapon. And it's (probably) not because game designers hate women – it's because video games are made for men.

That doesn't make it okay. There's

a lot to be said for what this might be teaching us about what women are like. The stories we tell ourselves are important. They teach us about how the world works. And if we have an entire genre of stories that tell us women only exist to be won as prizes or to be just exactly like men, only bouncier up front, that's problematic.

From a literary criticism point of view there's a whole lot to talk about when it comes to storytelling and gender portrayal (both genders) in video games. Unfortunately, Sarkeesian doesn't really cover this.

Here's the problem with Sarkeesian: She's not very good at criticism. She's got nothing new, original, or particularly insightful to offer, in either this video or any of her other videos. She points out the obvious problems, says the obvious things, barely scratches at the surface of any given topic, and moves on as though she's actually accomplished something.

She also has a tendency to misunderstand the tropes she's discussing. For example – the Damsel in Distress is a component of the Hero's Journey, an archetypal story arc that has existed ... well, forever. Yes, the Hero's Journey – and the Damsel in Distress – tends to be male-centric, because in ancient societies only men were heroes. The problem isn't necessarily that the Damsel in Distress exists and is used, which is what Sarkeesian seems to be insinuating in her video, it's that in modern times, the trope doesn't get inverted often enough.

If it weren't for the drama that got stirred up around her, it wouldn't matter. There are tons of terrible critics on the web. Without the drama, she'd be just another semi-popular video blogger that no one really cared about.

But, she's become a flashpoint in an important conversation that we should be having, except she doesn't have anything useful to add. She's distracting from the conversation by drawing complaints, like "Who the hell needs six grand to make the exact same video she's been making for free, let alone \$160,000?" or "My, she certainly does seem to be leveraging that harassment into an awful lot of celebrity for herself, doesn't she?" So now we're all talking about her instead of discussing the actual issue.

I don't know what else Sarkeesian plans to talk about in her video series, but I hope she steps up her game. This is a topic that needs tackling, and it's going to be a damn shame if she's the best we can come up with to tackle it for us.



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The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, although we reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. Letters that raise libel, poor taste or privacy concerns will not be printed.

Conservative Corner

Behind the Tea Party Label

Dale Hummel
Staff Writer

When you think of the Tea Party movement, what comes to mind? Perhaps you have been told they are a bunch of rouge, far right-wing racist extremists secretly funded by the Republican Party, or maybe a group of patriotic people who love God, family and country.

Maybe you know nothing of the Tea Party Movement. Despite what the liberal/progressive media has reported about the movement, you may not know the grass-roots, conservative organization or what they really believe.

The Tea Party movement is fighting an uphill battle with their critics screaming out myths, half-truths, and bold-face lies from many sides. According to aatp.org, an anti-tea party, liberal group, the tea party movement shows "hatred, division, virulent, unpredictable anger, violent threats and posturing by the Tea-Baggers present a real danger to the lives of President Obama, his family, his administration, Congressional Democrats and liberal progressives of all stripes".

The website goes on to say "[The] Tea Party's lies, violence, racism, ignorance, intolerance, bigotry, and corporatist fascist efforts to subvert our democratic process" The deception and lies of the liberal media continues with the New York Times in a Dec. 26, 2012 article with the statement that the movement was "anti-government".

During the 2008 tax season, people from all over the country protested in Washington DC and at their state capitols to show their disapproval to the way the government was being run. This event was not covered by the cable TV news. If it was covered at all, it was done so in a very negative way.

It's true, there is a lot of negativity and trash-talking about the Tea Party. However, the truth is out there and it will shed some positive light on this conservative, social/

political, grass-roots activist group of American patriots.

The Tea Party movement has no founder or exact date of birth, but it does have inspiration. Many in the movement credit the original Boston Tea Party of 1773 as the driving force for its actions, as www.teaparty.org tell us.

According to www.infoplease.com, two people began the passion for the movement as we know it today. Rick Santelli stood on the floor on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and let loose on the famous rant that aired on CNBC and Keli Carender, a Seattle housewife, is known as "Liberty Belle". Her blog is credited for a great deal of the early action in the Tea Party movement.

According to teaparty.org, there are 15 main "Non-negotiable Core Beliefs", which include responsible and legal immigration, a strong national defense, support of the Second Amendment, limited government, an end to deficit spending, and others.

Many in the movement gather their strengths from a "holy trinity," if you will, which is God, family and country. They rely heavily on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights for their inspiration, and believe these two documents are the law of the land.

Even though there are few minorities in the Tea Party Movement, all are welcome despite race, creed or political ideals. It is believed that the negative coverage from the liberal media like CNN, MSNBC, Politico and others are to blame to the low minority numbers in the movement.

The Tea Party Movement is not about a bunch of white, racist, anti-immigrant, homophobic, old people who are board of their retirement. These are Americans of every walk of life who are trying to demand a fiscally responsible, constitutionally limited government, a free market system and a life free from government intrusion.

While you are enjoying your spring break this year, ask yourself this question: Is your country acting responsible? Are we, as a country, fiscally and socially responsible? Is America heading in the right direction in regards to spending, the deficit, taxes, unemployment, and corruption? If you don't think so, then rest a little easier.

The Tea Party Movement is hard at work fighting for the constitutionally guaranteed rights of "we the people" of these United States of America.

Have a great spring break.

Read more at dkhummel.blogspot.com

What Republicans Haven't Learned in the Last Six Years

William Tatum
Opinion Editor

Despite nearly four years of national fiscal policy being done by continuing resolution one would think that the obstructionists, would come up with compromise plan. House Republicans, who are constitutionally vested with the power of generating budget proposals, have failed to draft a proposal that could pass the Senate and garner a Presidential signature.

The Paul Ryan House submitted their budget proposal for fiscal year 2014 this past Tuesday in yet another salvo in the perpetual budget wars in Congress.

The Paul Ryan's Budget Proposal offers no new solutions, gives no ground, and dogmatically adheres to "Republican-base" principles. In short, this proposal is more of the same tired Republican tropes.

Just as with his previous budget proposals this newest iteration also fails to actually balance the budget. According to Michael Linden of the Center for American Progress, "Extrapolating to 2023 suggests that Rep. Ryan is missing about \$840 billion of revenue in 2023 alone, and approximately \$7 trillion over the entire 10-year period from 2014 through 2023."

The deficit this nation has is real, and needs to be addressed. But austerity programs and Ayn Rand style volunteerism schemes like those being proffered, yet again, by House Republicans have been shown to be ineffective and unsustainable.

One has but look at Greece, Italy, or Spain to see that drastic cuts to government spending are just as detrimental to the economy as an overly active government. Churches and charities are excellent supplements to government programs like Head Start and SNAP, catching those who fall through the cracks, but they are in no way capable of solving the logistical nightmare that is the modern day poverty trap.

When low income individuals become trapped by their circumstances and can't move up the economic ladder the broader economy suffers. The power and dynamism of the American economy has always been derived from the purchasing power of a large and fluid middle class. Historically vibrant middle classes have made possible by societies with progressive taxation, strong union membership, trust-busting, and reasonable regulation. The Paul Ryan plan seeks to undo the very things that built the middle class.

Read the complete article online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu



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“Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, 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. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.”

Albany Painters Featured in NSH Gallery

LBCC News Service

Members of the Albany Painting Enthusiasts will be exhibiting work in the North Santiam Hall Galleries at Linn-Benton Community College, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, from March 11 to April 19.

"Around Albany, Now and Then," features over 40 paintings by 11 local artists that focus on the historic and contemporary features of Albany, as well as the surrounding landscape.

A public opening reception will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. on Fri., March 15, in the North Santiam Hall second-floor atrium.

The Albany Painting Enthusiasts started out in 2006 as a loose confederation of plein aire painters who gathered monthly to paint at local gardens, nearby farms and nurseries, and various city landmarks. It has since grown into

a group of about 15 that has recently taken on the goal of promoting and facilitating art events in Albany.

Since 2010 the Enthusiasts have organized two "All Albany Artists" juried exhibits at the LaSells Center's Giustina Gallery on the Oregon State University Campus, and has been involved in the installation of a new artwork hanging system at the Albany City Hall.

The LBCC exhibit marks the first time since 2009 that the group has mounted an all-members show. Participating artists are Cheryl French, Katy Grant Hanson, Shirley Hilts, Gwenn Marchese, Billy Moore, Michael Moore, Molly Perry, Sharon Poppleton, Rob Robinson, Diane Widler-Wenzel and Irene Van Dusen.

The NSH Galleries are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Albany Behind the Scenes, a painting by Rob R. Robinson on display in NSH Gallery until April 19. provided photo

Campus Events

Wednesday 3/13

Veterans Club Meeting

Noon · RCH-116

Thursday 3/14

Choir Concert

7:30 p.m. · Russell Tripp Performance Center

Friday 3/15

Baseball Game

2 p.m. · Baseball Field
LBCC vs. Treasure Valley C.C.

WTF - Wild Thinkers Forum

3 p.m. · Fireside Room

Saturday 3/16

Study Jam

9 a.m.-5 p.m. · Albany Learning Center
Need to study for finals? Attend Study Jam by Student Leadership Council! Access Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help, textbook rentals and free food at the

Hot Shot Cafe.

Freedom of Information Day

1:30 p.m.

Study Jam

10 a.m.-4 p.m. · Benton Center

Come to the Benton Center to study and prepare for finals. Computers, textbooks, study areas and math help will be available. Snacks, drinks and pizza provided by Student Leadership Council.

Spring Books Available Online

2 p.m.

Sunday 3/17

Study Jam

9 a.m.-5 p.m. · Albany Learning Center
Need to study for finals? Attend Study Jam by Student Leadership Council! Access Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help, textbook rentals and free food at the Hot Shot Cafe.

Week Long 3/18-22

Book Buyback

Tuesday 3/19

Scholarship Workshop

5:30 p.m. · Fireside Room, CC-211

Free workshop where an LBCC Scholarship Coordinator from Financial Aid will walk you through the LBCC scholarship application process, give you tips on how to apply and answer your questions!

Wednesday 3/20

Veterans Club Meeting

Noon · RCH-116

Friday 3/22

Winter Term Ends

Rental Textbook Return Deadline

Baseball Game

Noon · Baseball Field
Men's Baseball vs. Clark College

Calling All Poets

Analee Fuentes

Instructor

Book-length manuscripts are now being accepted by Airlie through May 31! No reading fee. Ever!

Airlie Press's mission statement says, "We are a nonprofit publishing collective dedicated to cultivating and sustaining fine contemporary poetry. Our intent is to produce beautiful and compelling books by Willamette Valley poets; our mission is to offer writers working in our particular habitat a local, shared-work publishing alternative."

As Airlie Press grows, we want to continue giving new manuscripts the attentive read and thoughtful consideration that they deserve. Though the dates have changed, what we seek remains the same.

As advisory board member Dorianne Laux puts it, we are "a tribe of poets who ferret out new voices to add to the choir of sustaining voices we long to hear." If you want to hear some of those voices, take a look at our current titles where you can read sample work from our poets.

To be considered for publication in fall 2015, send full-length poetry collections (65-80 pages) to Airlie Press.

More information and full guidelines can be downloaded from airliepress.org/join-us.

Classifieds

Deadline: Ads accepted by 5 p.m. Friday will appear in the following Wednesday issue. Ads will appear only once per submission. If you wish a particular ad to appear in successive issues, you must resubmit it.

Cost: Ads that do not solicit for a private business are free to students, staff and faculty. All others are charged at a rate of 10 cents per word, payable when the ad is accepted.

Personals: Ads placed in the "Personals" category are limited to one ad per advertiser per week; no more than 50 words per ad.

Libel/Taste: The Commuter won't knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in unfairly. Any ad judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Help Wanted

Sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. After completing a simple Student Employment Profile form, you will have access to job postings, many of them are self-referrals. If you have questions, please email jobs@linnbenton.edu or call 541.917.4803.

Website Maintenance & Internet Marketing (#10175, Corvallis) Website development and improvement. Responsible for nation-wide and local marketing for Autism Music. Improve Search Engine presence. Monthly eBlasts. \$12/ hr; raises considered quarterly; closes 3/31/13

Office Assistant Internship (optional CWE) (#10190, Corvallis) Driven go-getter. We seek a dependable and diligent person to schedule shifts, do light bookkeeping, and enter data. We seek a self-motivated individual, who will excel in doing market research, presenting this data in team meetings. Unpaid; Closes 3/15/13

Maintenance Tech (#10187, Hillsboro) 8 openings for a Maintenance Technician in Hillsboro. You will learn the basics of the Semiconductor industry, and become intimately familiar with a clean room and sub-fab environment. \$15-\$18/ DOE; Closes 4/7/13

Cook (#9726, re-opened, Albany) Prepares foods according to menus while following policies & procedures & sanitary regulations. Assists in maintaining dept. in safe & sanitary manner, sanitizing work area & equipment. Attend in-service trainings, orientation & dietary meetings as required. Serve meals that are palatable & appetizing in appearance. Closes 3/31/13

Civil Engineering Technician (#9503 re-posted, Sweet Home). Engineering technician for the Santiam River Engineering Zone, includes Sweet Home and Detroit Ranger Districts. Responsible for the assessment and planning of that system. Closes 4/1/13

Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, 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.



Wednesday: Chef's Choice

Thursday: Chef's Choice

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Chef's Choice

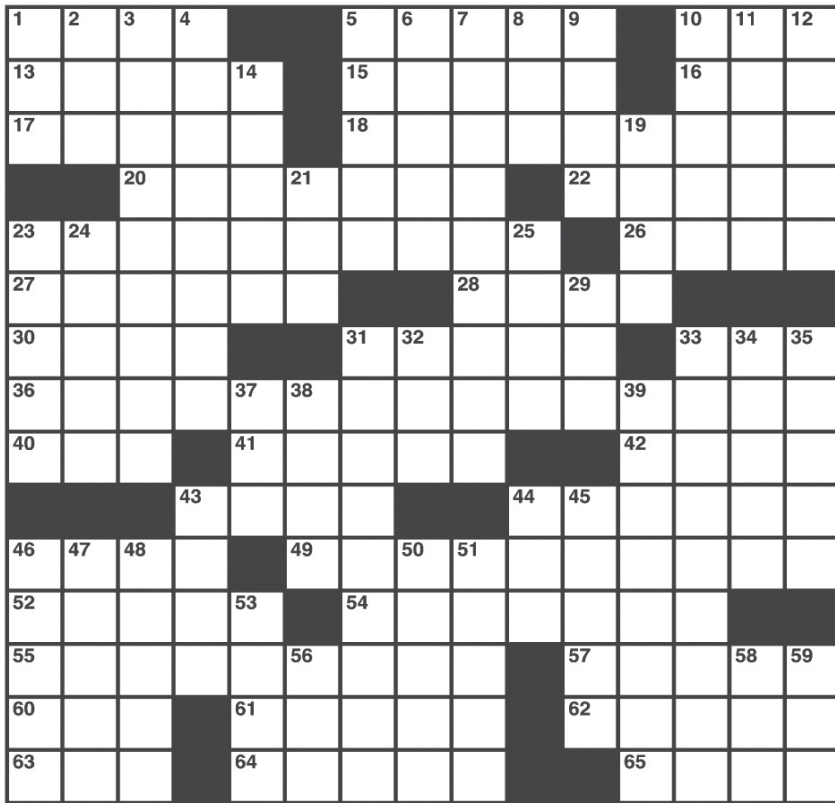
Tuesday: Chef's Choice

Wednesday: Chef's Choice

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Seawater component, to a chemist
 - Egypt's Mubarak
 - Adriatic Sea country: Abbr.
 - "In other words ..."
 - Decide to participate
 - "You stink!"
 - Oktoberfest dance
 - Seat for eating scaloppine?
 - Speaker's stand
 - Blue Cross competitor
 - Tool for a dueling snake?
 - Home of the witch who melted
 - Earth tones
 - Newspaper ad meas.
 - Sainted fifth-century pope
 - Playfully
 - Org. once headed by Heston
 - What Tarzan became after years of swinging?
 - Half and half
 - Madison's neat roomie
 - Bottom-line negative
 - Sykora of the NHL
 - "The Tempest" king
 - Facts and figures
 - Egotistical describer of laws of motion?
 - Month for fools?
 - Uranium-238, e.g.
 - Paleontologist's ski resort discoveries?
 - "Au contraire!"
 - Nest egg item, briefly
 - Cheri of "SNL"
 - Firestone Country Club city
 - Arch site: Abbr.
 - Passover meal
 - Home of the witch buried under a fallen house



By Dan Naddor

- DOWN**
- Chill in the air
 - Latin 101 verb
 - Texting device
 - View from Cleveland
 - Shack
 - "The Barber of Seville," e.g.
 - Represents
 - Zilch
 - Peruvian ancestor
 - Taper off
 - Tender beef cuts
 - Sacha Baron Cohen title character
 - Mother-of-pearl
 - Axed
 - Atlanta-based sta.
 - Saab competitor
 - Trap during a winter storm, maybe
 - Prefix with distant
 - 22-Acr. business
 - Deep-rooted
 - Miami-to-N.Y. dir.
 - Aquarium fish with an iridescent stripe

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- Rene of "Ransom"
- Burning desire?
- Stick in a parlor
- Airing in prime time, say
- Hardly a speed demon
- Tot's beach toy
- Bad picnic omen
- Hotelier Helmsley
- Lincoln's Confederate counterpart
- Separately
- Court case
- Grenoble's river
- Boot camp negative
- Debt-laden corp. takeovers
- Suffix with Capri
- Mariner's "Help!"
- Que. neighbor

Poetry Spotlight

Uncertainty by Will Tatum



My innocence lost
Not the innocence of youth
But the innocence of divine and certain truth

Connections abound to knowledge and facts
But the meaning of life and certainty of why is just beyond view
I struggle,
buffeted by the winds from the voices of those who certain of their view
shout into the night, This is the truth!

But just below the cacophony of fools I hear the sweetest of sounds,
I hear the echos of truth.
If only the voices of those so certain could stop for just a moment.

Uncertain of its source I search in blindness
for those that might stop and listen
and help me find it.

Submit your poems and artwork to commuter@linnbenton.edu

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

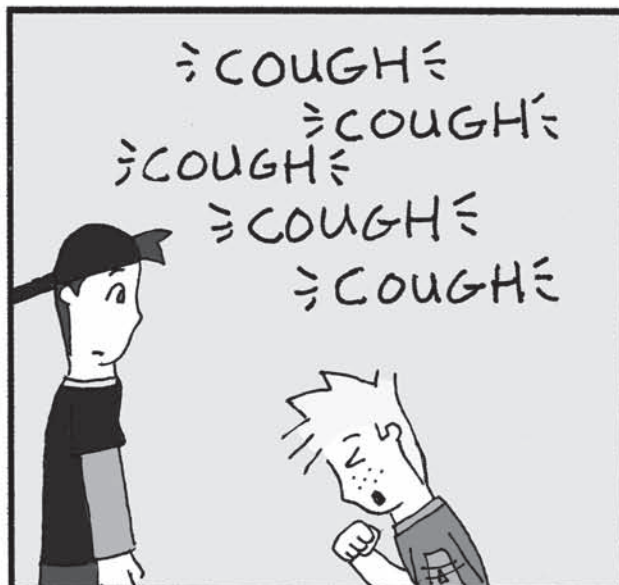
2	3	6	9	7	4	8	5	1
4	7	8	1	5	3	2	9	6
1	5	9	6	8	2	3	7	4
8	4	3	7	1	9	6	2	5
9	2	5	8	3	6	4	1	7
6	1	7	4	2	5	9	8	3
3	8	1	2	4	7	5	6	9
7	9	4	5	6	8	1	3	2
5	6	2	3	9	1	7	4	8

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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THERE'S A CROWD

By Jason Maddox
An LBCC student-generated comic





thelumineers.com

Illuminating Band Gains Popularity

Nora Palmtag
News Editor

“Ho hey, ho hey” by the Lumineers is an example of music that will have a musical longevity, even though they did not win the major awards from the music industry.

The Lumineers were nominated for the best new artist and best Americana album, but did not win the Grammy. The group is comprised of Wesley Schultz, Stelth Uvvang, Jeremiah Fraites, Neyla Pekarek, and Ben Wahamaki, the epitome of five nerds who don't follow the usual flashy, Hollywood looks or style of singers usually encountered.

In their YouTube video, the group is in this old empty apartment with lights strung along the wall and old pictures hanging down the hall in a rustic setting, and yet you do not mind the setting with the sounds of the band strumming and singing so well.

There is a timelessness and melodic continuity in this song which appeals to real music lovers. It does not have a genre, gender, or age appeal and will be used for many valentine dates, anniversaries, and any loving moments in the future. There is no gender specific theme in this song, so it can be sung by anyone.

They are giving their audience what they want: Good music sang by someone they can relate to. The words in the song which resonate are “I belong with you. You belong with me. You're my sweetheart.” This can even be sung as a lullaby, which represents true versatility.

In order to continue getting those royalties and being remembered by generations to come, more artists will have to come up with lyrics and melodies like this one: unforgettable and lyrical.

This group was started by Schultz and Fraites on the east coast and they decided to start over by moving to Denver, where they used Craigslist to find Pekarek, their celloist.

Using YouTube to advertise their talents, the group made another smart decision, which paid off when Onto Entertainment managers, Christen Greene and David Meinert, saw the video of this song and signed them. Social media has been the impetus of the success of this and other groups in this internet-savvy society.

After the Grammy Award loss, Schultz said, “We were nominated for two awards but didn't win. As we were walking in, Elton John stopped us and said he has been listening to our album and was a fan. Our drummer said, “There's no f--king way you are a fan!” Elton just slapped him in the face and put him straight. It was a special moment.”

There was one review posted by Melanie Haupt for The Austin Chronicle that said the band is “Uniquely American in all the best ways: Gritty, determined, soaked in sweat and love and drive. There's nothing precious or affected here, just three dedicated artists opening their hearts.”

When asked to explain the song's success by Sean Plummer, writer for MSN entertainment, Pekarek said, “I think it's kind of refreshing for people to see human beings playing instruments, as opposed to everything being so digital in music and just life in general.

Reviving this style of music, the ones that will last through time, is the way of the future, using social media to find your audience and support for your art is going to be the wave of the future.

A Song From the Clouds

Alex Porter
Staff Writer

Cloudburst

What: Winter Choir Concert
When: March 14, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Russell Tripp Theater
Cost: \$10 (general)
\$7 (students)
\$5 (under 18)

Sometimes when people walk around campus, there is the usual sound of pattering feet, students talking, the fountain trickling water in the distance, and the occasional bird chirping in the courtyard. However, once in awhile the entire campus rings out with a harmonious sound that fills the air and echos off the walls.

This would be the work of the choirs on campus.

Conducted by James Reddan, LBCC presents the 2013 Winter Choir Concert, titled “Cloudburst.”

The concert will feature choral pieces that celebrate different traditions and cultures. Many of the pieces will reflect nature in various times and places and will be performed by the Concert Choir, Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir, Women's Choir, and the a cappella groups Blue Light Special and The Sirens. Diana Hancock will accompany on piano.

Reddan said this was one of the biggest repertoires that he has ever given Concert Choir.

Jacob Birchard, a new member of the choir, said in the beginning it was difficult for everyone. “Difficult arrangements

mean hard and worthwhile work, and the choir sounds absolutely beautiful right now,” said Birchard.

This will be Birchard's first time singing with a group this big. “I'm really excited! It's normal to feel nervous, but it helps to know that I won't be the only one on stage.”

The concert has a wide range of language diversity, with pieces in English, Spanish, German, and Russian.

Elise Hermes, a member of Concert and Chamber Choir and second-year member involved with the women's a cappella group, talked about the pieces Chamber Choir is to perform.

“I'm really excited about Chamber! We are doing some songs that are about the same difficulty [as Concert Choir] and some that are harder,” said Hermes.

The a cappella ensembles will present a wide variety of popular favorites, including “Hall of Fame,” “The Lion Sleeps Tonight,” “Little Lion Man,” “Titanium,” and “As Long As You Love Me!”

Kyle Thrall, a member of the men's a cappella group, Blue Light Special, had joined in the fall.

“It's like being part of a group of guys who've known each other forever,” said Thrall. “Sometimes we have disagreements, but what kinds of friends don't?”

Additionally, this concert will celebrate all of the choirs as they prepare for their national festival competition in Hawaii during Spring Break!

The night will be full of music, culture, and great entertainment, so come support LBCC performing arts and enjoy the performances.

We're Off to See the Witches

Ted Holliday
Copy Editor

Disney brings back the magical land of Oz in the modern adaptation, “Oz, The Great and Powerful.”

This is a backstory about how a small carnival magician name Oscar “Oz” Diggs (James Franco) travels to Oz and becomes a “great and powerful wizard.”

He's a person that doesn't exhibit the type of behavior that we would expect from a great wizard. In the beginning, he's not so great and not so powerful. Mostly, he's a con artist. His journey allows him overcome his shortfalls and grow into the person audiences know from the classic film.

Along the way he has three witches that guide (or rather, force) him along his way: Theodora (Mila Kunis), Evanora (Rachel Weisz), and Glinda (Michelle Williams). Two other characters help him as well: Finley, a talking monkey that he saves from certain death (played by Zach Braff), and a China Girl (Joey King) that is the sole survivor of her village.

Each of the four main actors give a stellar performance. An actor should



bring alive the character that they are playing at the time. Each of them makes the audience believe in who they are on screen, avoiding other characters they have played in the past.

Director Sam Raimi pays tribute to the original film by giving us the beginning of the story in small screen ratio and black and white. Once we reach the land of Oz, the screen magically widens and color begins to fill in our imagination. Raimi does a great job tying in this movie's characters and scenery to the original movie. The visual effects are stunning and vibrant.

This is a family-friendly movie and really isn't difficult to follow. There are laughs and jokes along the way that are appropriate for all ages, so adults should enjoy this movie as well as kids.

However, a fair warning for younger viewers: The monkeys in this version are scarier than the original thanks to some cool CG effects.

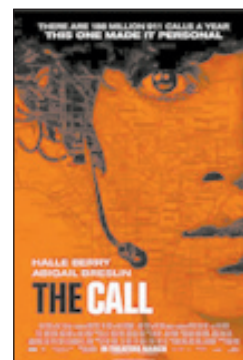
The story of Oz is weak and drags on in parts of the movie. It's somewhat predictable, because unless you have been hiding in a cave and have never seen the original movie, you already know that he transforms to a good person. This storyline doesn't capture the enduring spirit of the journey to self-awareness that the original film told so brilliantly.

There are subtle hints throughout the movie about our favorite characters. If it's been a long time since viewing “The Wizard of Oz,” some of these may be overlooked in the new movie. Keep your eyes peeled for other hints to our favorite original characters.

THIS WEEKEND AT THE MOVIES



The Incredible Burt Wonderstone
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Magical Comedy



The Call
Rated: R
Genre: Kidnapping

Source: IMDb

WEATHER

Wednesday (3/13)	Oregon	64°/46°	
Thursday (3/14)	Mostly Oregon	65°/45°	
Friday (3/15)	Wet Oregon	61°/44°	
Saturday (3/16)	Oregon Special	59°/37°	
Sunday (3/17)	More Oregon	54°/36°	
Monday (3/18)	Cloudy Oregon	54°/39°	
Tuesday (3/19)	Oregon Special II	52°/32°	

Source: accuweather.com