

THE COMPUTER

Wednesday
November 19, 2008

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 40 No. 9



Eve, age 17



Jon, age 25



Damon, Age 28



Loren, age 23



Max, age 23



Lydia, age 26



Greg, age 24



MaryAnne, age 22



Gary, age 25



Kristin, age 27



Amy, age 20



James, age 20

Wow.
That
sucks.



The Commuter

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Linking crime rates with returning vets

Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

There is an image that we all harbor in our minds. It is of a man, in his late 20s or early 30s wearing a faded and weather-worn BDU jacket. He either lives by himself in a small apartment, working a dead-end job, living on alcohol and cigarettes or he can be found sitting on the street, holding a sign, asking for your change. His hair has since grown long, his beard unkempt, thoroughly you feel pity for this person.

He is the Vietnam Veteran. Prescribed as losers, drug-addicts, alcoholics, chain smokers, bums, and general miscreants. Society would paint them eagerly with a wide brush as having been disheveled, fighting a war in a dense jungle, against an enemy they rarely saw with a high mortality rate, and coming home to a country that would never again accept them for the chevrons they wore so proudly on their sleeves.

The question presents itself formidably and begins to beg many answers such as what happened to civilian crime rates after the influx of veterans returned from the war? Will this happen again with the Afghanistan and Iraqi conflicts?

By training a generation of young men and women to be efficient killers and by sending them to small countries to wage war on theologically distinct populaces, what will we bring back?

PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome) emerged almost as a fad when it was accepted by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980. Suddenly, every problem a soldier had in war could be lumped into this disease. Even if it occurred years after the fact, as the name suggests. There were excuses to over medicate and force psychiatric evaluations on former soldiers. And in the end, what has it really wrought?

As the Iraqi conflict slowly draws to a close, the fighting forces we have supplied over there will begin to return home. And then it is only a matter of time before we see what the true after effects of the war will be.

According to the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study conducted in 1988, 15% of veterans still suffered heightened examples of PTSD more than a decade after the war ended. Fifty percent of the veterans with PTSD

had been arrested or jailed at least once, and 34.2% more than once. Eleven and a half percent had been convicted of felonies. Government studies conclude that veterans are more likely to commit violent crimes than non-veterans, and with one-fifth of the nation's inmates being Vietnam Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America created chapters in prisons.

It should be noted, however, that out of the 8,740,654 soldiers who served in Vietnam, only 1,000,000-1,600,000 fought in combat, provided support, or were regularly exposed to combat.

In 2006 the New York Times published an article debunking the 1988 study, which can be read here at <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/17/science/17cnd-psych.html>. Still, those are some terrible numbers for such brave people.

Unfortunately, the majority of the information seems to conflict and provide varying viewpoints. Some say Vietnam Veterans' crime rates were normal, because the majority were not on combat detail. Others say things are worse, and would have all veterans be potential killers and monsters, vampirically menacing our society by night. Unfortunately, the monster stereotype has taken hold.

A study done in the 1980s showed that Vietnam Veterans per capita had a higher annual income than their non-military peers in the same age brackets.

So what do the stats from our current conflicts look like so far? According to a New York Times article, there have been 121 cases of murder since we invaded Afghanistan- PTSD, alcoholism, and family discord all are cited as major problems. Half of the killings involved firearms, the rest were stabbings, beatings, strangulations, and bathtub drownings. Another 25 offenders faced murder, manslaughter, or homicide charges for fatal car wrecks resulting from drunken, reckless, or suicidal driving. Three-quarters of these veterans were still in the service at the time.

"Wow" you might say, "that's pretty terrible." But read the next paragraph carefully.

As of 2005, the homicide rate for young males aged 18-24 is 26 per 100,000. There are around 700,000 deployed U.S. military in Afghanistan/Iraq, depending on which source you look at; I chose this figure for the sake of

argument, as it was the low end of the spectrum; numbers range all the way up to 1,280,000 and I chose male statistics because they are still the majority in service. In 7 years from 700,000 military members, there were a total of 121 violent crimes and driving accidents. If you were to take the average crime rate for males age 18-24 and multiply it by 7 (100,00 X 7 to get 700,00, or the number of military members currently), you would get 182. Now multiply that by 7 again to get the number of years that these statistics have taken place in. You get 1,274. So according to U.S. government statistics, civilians are more likely to commit murder than returning veterans.

Why the disparity between Vietnam and Afghanistan/Iraq? Give it about 10 years after it truly ends for things to pan out; for the real pain and emotions to set in, after they've had years to calm down and reintegrate with civilian life.

Things will get worse, but I do not think they will ever get worse than civilian crime rates they'll merely remain a footnote, as Vietnam Veteran statistics have.

The fact of the matter is, The Times article feels more like sensationalism than anything. And yet they were the ones that debunked the 1988 study about Vietnam Veterans. I can't tell you anything for sure, except that the majority of veterans go on to live similarly successful and productive lives to their civilian counterparts. While a large percentage of Vietnam Veterans had problems, they were still a small part of the overall population, 8,740,654 vs. 213,853,928 American citizens in 1972. That's 4.09% of the population. And moreover, the percentages of Vietnam Veterans that are a danger to society are percentages of that percentage.

Smells like demonization to me. What I started out to explore when I began this column was just how much of a danger combat veterans are. It turns out they're even less of a danger than the people we live with on a day-to-day basis. I'd chalk it up to anti-war sentiment, human rights groups, and various other bile-spewers who only have one thing in common: they want to take someone who has been willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country and turn them into an object of fear and hatred. It's like I said in my last war column: give us a break, we've been through enough already.

November is Native American Heritage Month and the Native American Student Union is hosting events to celebrate.

- *Today*, November 19, 3:30 p.m.: A flute demonstration and workshop hosted by Rocky Gavin and the NASU will be held on the Albany campus, North Santiam Hall 107.
- November 20, 3 p.m.: "Skins," a video presentation and discussion hosted by Callie Palmer on the Albany campus, Forum 113.

For ticket and other information contact either Toni Klohk in the DAC at 541-917-4299, or Michele Wilson in SSH 204 at 541-917-4835. By e-mail Deanna Trask at trask@ml.linnbenton.edu or Jeana Wiser at rogersj@onid.orst.edu.

Campus Shorts...

Campus Shorts
 Nov. 19, 2008

Phone extension correction

The correct extension for the Educational Partnership department should be x4236.

Faculty art show closes

The faculty art show will be taken down this week. You can still view and purchase the art located in South Santiam Hall until Friday. Featured artists include Jay Widmer, Kurt Norlin, Rich Bergeman, Dori Litzer, Jeremy Covert, Gary Westford, and Analee Fuentes. It is also the last chance to add a note, poem, flower, candle, or whatever to the Multicultural Center memorial installation.

Blackboard basics workshop

A Blackboard basics workshop will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in room WH-110, and will be presented by Paul Tannahill, the eLearning Systems Administrator. It will be a hands-on, need-based workshop

designed to help you get started and understand using Blackboard, LBCC's course management system that is used for online and supplemental instruction. Space is only available for up to four participants and you must have a LBCC Blackboard logon ID and password, or Instructor or TA access to an LBCC Blackboard course. Please pre-register with Lori Rowton at 917-4643 or at rowtonl@linnbenton.edu in Media Services.

Christmas Sharing Tree

LBCC received sharing tree gift tags from the Linn Christmas Greeters again this year. Their goal is to provide Christmas to children and seniors in the local area. The tags include names of children who need help celebrating Christmas this year. Please bring the gifts to the President's office unwrapped in a bag by Dec. 10, 2008.

Turkey Trot

The Independent Association of College Employee's (IACE) and Wellness club will sponsor a "Turkey Trot" on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at noon on the second floor above the courtyard (Albany Campus). Staff, students and faculty are all welcome. Walk five laps and you will receive five raffle tickets, and enter

to win a turkey, pie or flowers.

Workshop for social networking: Facebook, MySpace and more.

A workshop for social networking will be offered on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the library computer classroom, with space up to 27 people. You will learn the basics about social networking sites, like Facebook and MySpace, including ways that you can use them to network with your colleagues and connect with students, friends, and family, and learn to create and/or improve your own Facebook account. The workshop is open to all faculty and staff without registration. Please contact Richenda Wilkinson 917-4641.

Upcoming Choir Concerts

James Reddan, the new LBCC music and choral director, will be directing the fall choral concert, "Poetic Peace: Ecstasy in Song", on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall. Tickets are \$6 for general admission seating.

Benton Center Acoustic Showcase

The next Benton Center Showcase will feature a local folk duo "Jon & Patti", on Friday, Nov. 21, at noon in the Benton Center Student Lounge.

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NEWS

Just news.

Oregon mother against Guard deployment arrested

MaryAnne Turner
The Commuter

On Saturday, Nov. 15, shortly after midnight, Michele Darr was arrested on the Oregon Capitol Building's steps. Darr, a mother of four small children, fasted on the steps of the Capitol Building for two weeks in hopes that by staying there she would bring attention to a proposed resolution to de-federalize the Oregon National Guard, and also to the Oregon National Guard deployment scheduled for April, said to be the biggest call up for deployment since WWII. This de-federalization would keep the Oregon National Guard soldiers in Oregon.

Darr was issued a citation for criminal trespass on Thursday, Nov. 13, and then told that she would be arrested if she stayed.

When then asked what she planned to do, her response was, "We are being told that our soldiers overseas are fighting for our freedoms—and this is my freedom."

Darr was arrested and brought to the Marion County Police Department where she was booked and released, while one officer stayed to make sure the rest of Camp Homebound was disassembled.

It was reported that Darr and the rest of Camp Homebound were planning to return to the Capitol early Saturday morning. Darr said, "This is a public forum. This is supposed to be our building. This is where we have access to our legislators and our governor who can make this change. I can't give up now."

You can find more information at <http://www.corvalliscodepink.org>.

It's a Team Sport

Mark Paul McIntyre
For the Commuter

I sit every Sunday and watch the American version of the world's most popular sport. Football is popular. Our version has its roots in rugby and futbol. When I look at sports, I see more than just a way to see great feats of human perseverance, but an example of a team in action, like the United States, itself.

In everything we do, we try to find at least one other person to help us out in accomplishing our goals. That is exactly why these times are important. I understand the worries that there are out there with the selection of the new president. Fourty-six percent of the voters voted for Senator McCain, and I can understand the many reasons why.

President-elect Obama is a polarizing figure, like so many of the world's most charismatic people. Some fear change, honestly, while others don't like his policies and the fact that he hasn't been on the national scene all too long. Yet others have a reason that is more hatred than sensibility. This presidential election brought out more people to vote than any other election before it, and I expected people to be upset.

I have spent my life in a quandary. I was born in Seattle in 1979. When I was young I was an active person; I played football and basketball in high school; I had friends of all nationalities, and got in arguments with people of all shapes and sizes. The one thing I couldn't shake was that of my nationalities, or as I call it, my mixed nature.

I find it funny that I live in a country where millions of people who, at one time, thought a mixed person was a disgrace to their race. I find it ironic being a man of Syrian, African American, Irish, and Native American descent; ironic that the first African American president opens things up for people like me to have huge dreams in a country where, only a few short years ago, many looked at me as an abomination. I have even started to put feelers out there to possibly run for political office in the future, something I dreamed of when I was a young adult while I was involved in student government.

It is not the time to celebrate anymore. We need to become a team, people. I have never had a problem hearing ideas about what needs to be changed, and views on who needs to be elected. I firmly believe Senator McCain would have made an excellent Commander-in-Chief, and I wish there was an equal flow of support towards President-elect Obama in the future. Everyone I have talked to agrees that both men would be better than the current president.

It's a team sport, people. That is the reason why we watch every Sunday. That is the reason we watched on Nov. 4. We are all Americans. I figure, it is the fourth quarter and we are down by five with 2 minutes to go. It's 90 yards to go to the end zone, and we have a new head coach at the helm. Either we can boo the executives (us) for choosing the head coach, or we can all get behind the new guy and support the team in this time of peril the best we can, until it becomes time for the next shareholder's meeting.

Iraq: security pact?

By Adam Ashton and Leila Fadel
 (MCT)

BAGHDAD – Iraq's cabinet on Sunday approved a security pact that sets a timetable for the nearly complete withdrawal of American forces within three years, but the agreement faces an uncertain outlook in Iraq's parliament.

The largest Sunni party in Iraq, the Iraqi Islamic Party, wants the agreement to go to a nationwide referendum. Its affiliated parties complain that their efforts to amend the plan to require the release of detainees and to provide compensation for war victims were ignored by lawmakers who shaped the pact.

Followers of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, meanwhile, view the agreement as an affirmation of the American occupation and oppose it outright.

Their dissent colors broad political momentum Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki built through the weekend after he reportedly gained new concessions from the American government. It won support from 27 of the 28 cabinet members. Nine members did not vote because they were traveling, a cabinet minister said.

Al-Maliki declared his support for the agreement Friday, and helped persuade Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to give it the green light on Saturday. Al-Sistani is Iraq's leading religious authority and does not share al-Sadr's view of the security agreement.

Representatives of al-Maliki's Dawaparty framed the deal as a means to end America's occupation of Iraq while phasing out the assistance coalition forces provide.

It strengthens Iraqi controls over U.S. forces by:

- Requiring the U.S. to get Iraqi consent before searching homes.

- Giving Iraqis authority over the international zone that houses the centers of American power in Baghdad.

- Enabling Iraqis to search U.S. cargo.

- Prohibiting Americans from conducting raids in other countries from Iraqi soil.

- Eliminating the judicial immunity that applies to foreign contractors and U.S. soldiers working in Iraq under the occupation's current mandate.

If it passes parliament, the agreement would replace a United Nations mandate that allows American forces to operate in Iraq. That mandate expires Dec. 31.

American officials have lobbied to pass the pact ahead of the UN deadline. They praised the cabinet vote.

"We welcome the cabinet's approval of the agreement today. This is an important and positive step," a U.S. embassy spokesperson said.

Several Iraqi officials said they were assured that President-elect Barack Obama would honor the agreement. During his campaign, Obama pledged to reduce the U.S. presence in Iraq over his first 16 months in office, removing them by the summer of 2010.

Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said it would take a year for either side to cancel the agreement because of the logistics of a withdrawal.

Al-Maliki's delegates stressed that the agreement leaves no room to extend the American presence in Iraq beyond Dec. 31, 2011. It calls on American units to pull out of Iraqi cities by June 2009.

"This timetable is final and fixed," al-Dabbagh said.

That timeline isn't fast enough for al-Sadr and his supporters.

In a statement read by his representative on Friday he called for splinter groups to rejoin "Promised Day Brigade," dedicated to fighting U.S. forces if the Iraqi government signs a security agreement with the United States.

"What the Iraqi government has done is a catastrophe because it's giving an authorization that we don't know when it will end," said al-Sadr

spokesman Salah al-Obeidi.

Despite the approval by the Iraqi cabinet, a battle awaits inside the 275-member parliament.

Hadi al-Ameri, a leading Shiite lawmaker, said the only way the agreement could pass was with consensus among the major political blocs.

But Iraqi Sunnis are divided on what to do.

Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi's party on Sunday was still calling to put the agreement before voters as a referendum. Nawal al-Sammaraie, a member of his party and a state minister for women's affairs, was the only cabinet minister who voted against the security pact.

"We are afraid that even if the agreement passes in parliament it could be (opposed) by Tariq al-Hashimi," al-Ameri said, speaking for a Shiite coalition called the United Iraqi Alliance. "The Americans put the ball in our field today. We gave it a strong kick and now the ball is in the field of the Americans and the Sunnis. We are waiting to see what they do."

The passage of the agreement by the cabinet with the approval of the Shiite alliance rebutted accusations that Shiite officials have caved to Iranian pressures by purposely stalling negotiations with the American government, he said. But without Sunni agreement they may go back to "square one."

"We don't love the Americans. This is not for love of the presence of the American soldiers, we want to get rid of the Americans today, not tomorrow," al-Ameri said. "But how to get rid of 150,000 American soldiers on this land? We believe this agreement is one of the ways to get rid of the Americans."

After nine months of intense negotiations, the focus turns to the Sunni Arabs who've largely remained in the background as Shiite officials criticized the proposed security agreement. The Iraqi Accordance Front, the Sunni bloc of parties, is splintered.

Rasheed al-Aazawy, a Sunni lawmaker, waved his hands in dismissal when asked if the law could pass the parliament by the end of the year. Al-Hashimi, the head of the Iraqi Islamic Party and the Sunni vice president, called for a referendum on the agreement this month. The party also unsuccessfully demanded a line within the agreement for compensation of Iraqi victims of the Iraq war, al-Aazawy said.

"What the members of the government cannot do members of parliament can because they have greater freedom," he said. "It will be a bitter struggle inside the parliament. I do not believe that it will pass this year."

Other politicians have concerns about the agreement's implementation, but they expect it to pass.

"It seemed the U.S. had its conditions and the Iraqis were not very united. So they got this, which is not the best deal, but it's the best they could get," said Mahmoud Othman, a Kurdish member of parliament.

"I support the spirit of the agreement to fix the timetable for the withdrawal of the American troops," said Saleh al-Mutlaq, a Sunni lawmaker who wants to see stronger language to provide reconciliation for Iraqis who have suffered during the war.

Elsewhere in Iraq, an election official in Basra confirmed that a group seeking to create a federalist state for the southern city had submitted enough petitions to put an initiative before voters that take power from Iraq's central government and give it to a regional one. An announcement is expected later this week to declare how the vote will take place.

A suicide bomber killed 15 people and injured 20 in an attack on a police checkpoint in Jalawla northeast of Baghdad in the Diyala province. Seven of the victims were police officers.

Three people were killed in a roadside bomb explosion in northeast Baghdad Sunday morning that targeted a Sunni group that has cooperated with the Iraqi government. Two of the people who died were members of the Sunni group.

THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

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

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Letters Welcome:

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less. The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter writers do not represent the views of The Commuter Staff or the College. Deliver letters to The Commuter Office, Forum 222 or at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

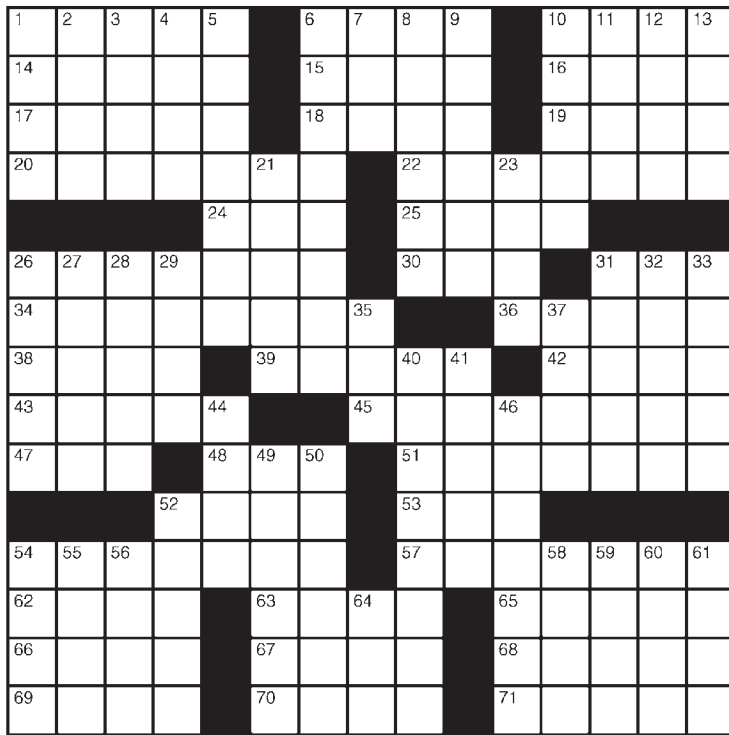
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SURREAL LIVING

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

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nebraska city
 - 6 Jaffe and Huff
 - 10 Used leeches
 - 14 Correct software
 - 15 Family chart
 - 16 "Damn Yankees" gal
 - 17 Greek letter
 - 18 Remainder
 - 19 Saudi man
 - 20 Deciphering stone
 - 22 Pollen carriers
 - 24 Duped
 - 25 Glamour rival
 - 26 Event official
 - 30 Aug. follower
 - 31 Distress signal
 - 34 Sprays
 - 36 Norman's nickname
 - 38 Just around the corner
 - 39 Razz
 - 42 German automaker
 - 43 Ivory items
 - 45 United firmly
 - 47 Uncouth clod
 - 48 JFK follower
 - 51 British enlisted soldiers
 - 52 Stead
 - 53 Ebullience
 - 54 Jason or Justine
 - 57 "Take Me Down" group
 - 62 Superior's inferior?
 - 63 Young adult
 - 65 Leafy course
 - 66 Cocoon fiber
 - 67 Bridge position
 - 68 Stop, look and look?
 - 69 Mineo and Maglie
 - 70 Worn grooves
 - 71 Twisty turns



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- DOWN**
- 1 Nose alert
 - 2 Brief note
 - 3 Fortas and Lincoln
 - 4 Overwhelming
 - 5 Christie and others
 - 6 Bestride
 - 7 "Chances ___" (Mathis hit)
 - 8 Army meals
 - 9 Sink to the bottom
 - 10 Point a finger at
 - 11 Traditional wisdom
 - 12 Zest
 - 13 Blots
 - 21 Fortune cards
 - 23 Austrian range
 - 26 ___ Cruz, CA
 - 27 Prepare to drive
 - 28 Wipe out
 - 29 Job to do
 - 31 Pan-fry
 - 32 Command
 - 33 Dangerous slides
 - 35 U.S. defense grp.
 - 37 Bundle of yarn
 - 40 Domestic
 - 41 Communication option
 - 44 Gracile
 - 46 As a group
 - 49 Jalopy
 - 50 Alaskan capital
 - 52 Onions' kin
 - 54 Armstrong or Myerson
 - 55 Operatic song
 - 56 Cash drawer
 - 58 Louisville Sluggers
 - 59 Lamer's cry
 - 60 Stable female
 - 61 Thirst quenchers
 - 64 Approx.

Solutions

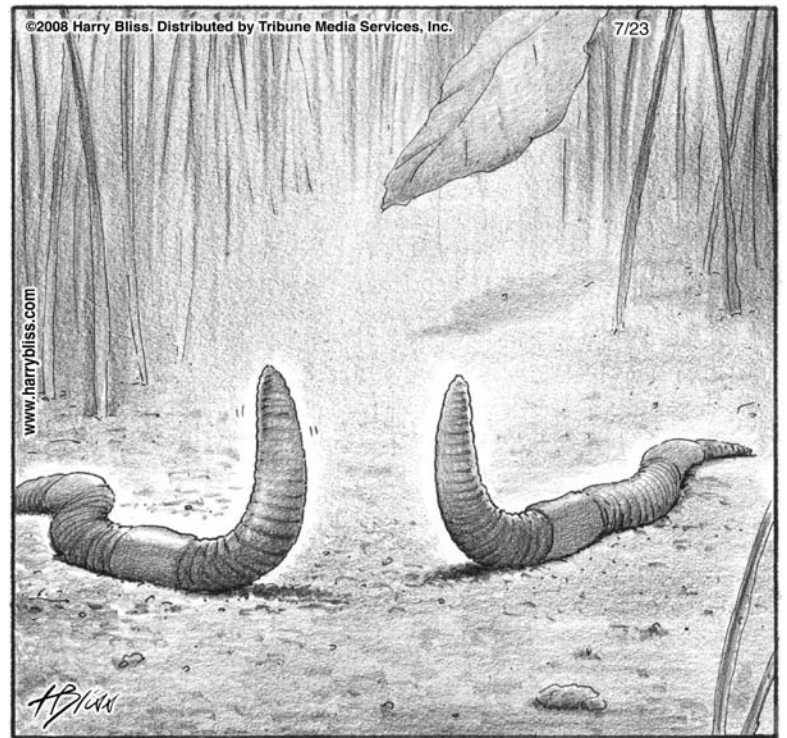


MoreOnTV

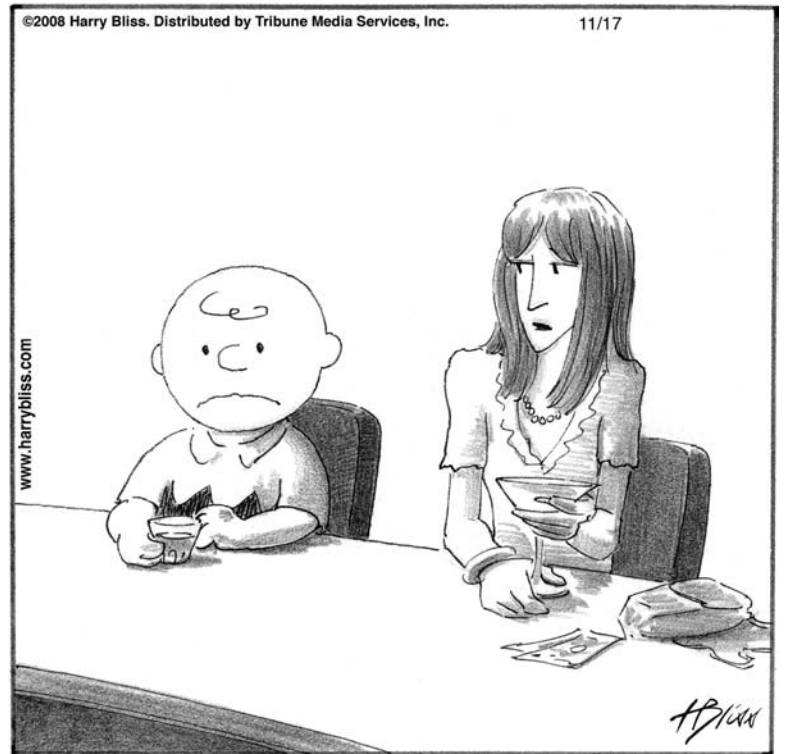
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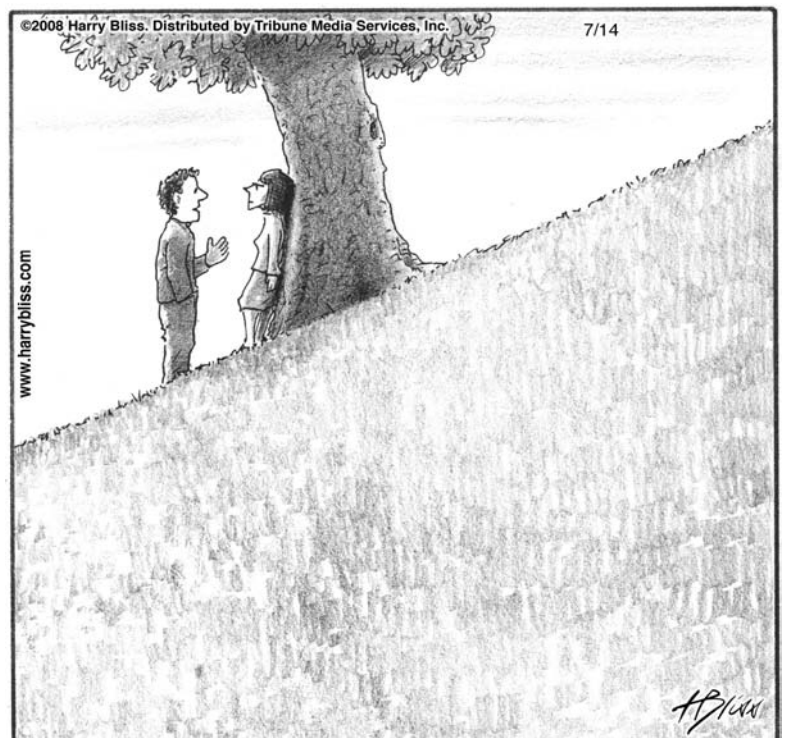
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"You look different — did you do something to your tubercula pubertatis?"



"I'm no shrink, but it sounds like you have some unresolved issues with Lucy."



"I think we've come to a point in our relationship where you need to be more intimate with 'SportsCenter.'"

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

“Bolt” to Bolt

Roger Moore
 (MCT)

Disney animation takes a tentative step out of the shadows of Pixar with “Bolt,” a winning 3D-animated action-comedy that marries the best Disney traditions with Pixar polish. Though this road comedy of a lost TV star dog doesn’t rival the classics from Disney’s computer-animation pioneer partners, it’s the first in-house Disney animation _ after the middling “Chicken Little,” “The Wild” and “Meet the Robinsons” _ to bear comparison to the Pixar gold standard.

In a dazzling 10-minute opening, we’re treated to a sort of “Bolt Supremacy,” the adventures of a teenage girl and her “genetically altered” super dog, a canine capable of leaping over black helicopters in a single bound, blowing up objects with his glower and flattening armies with his “super bark.”

Whenever Penny (voiced by Miley Cyrus) is in danger, Bolt is there to save her.

But Bolt (voiced by John Travolta) isn’t in on the gag. The effects go off around him and he thinks he did it. The bars on a prison cell bend, because they’re rubber, and he doesn’t know. It’s all to preserve Bolt’s delusional sense of urgency, the show’s director (James Lipton of “Inside the Actor’s Studio”) insists.

So Bolt is particularly ill-suited to be on his own. When he’s accidentally shipped to New York, he has to make his way back to Hollywood and Penny using not his vaunted super powers, but his wit, his slow realization that he’s not the dog he always thought he was.

“Normally, I’m a tad more indestruc-

tible,” he complains to the cat he kidnaps because he thinks cats are part of the vast feline conspiracy of “the green-eyed man,” the TV’ show’s villain. Mittens (Susie Essman) has the thankless job of bringing the super dog back to Earth, of explaining to him the ways of the world, of convincing him that no, Styrofoam packing peanuts aren’t what robbed him of his powers.

She has to because the other sidekick they pick up along the way is a fat, furry fanboy in hamster form _ Rhino. He travels in a hamster ball and just loves Bolt on the “magic box” (TV), and he’s just as delusional about their “mission” as the dog.

“I eat danger for breakfast!”

The 3D animation here is less gimmicky than is usual for movies that you have to watch through the funny glasses. It just makes the images sharper.

Bolt may be more verbal than your typical Disney ‘toon, but it’s a comedy with the patience to let a slow-burn gag pay off. A bit involving a flock of pigeons with Jersey accents, pigeons who can’t quite place the TV star, plays out in pigeon-time.

“Yo, take it easy.”

“I will not take it easy, pheasant!”

But it’s not just about the laughs. It’s a cartoon that goes to great pains to mimic and mock real dog behavior, much of which Mittens has to teach Bolt, who’s never had to beg with those puppy dog eyes. It’s about a girl who loves her dog and the dog who loves her back. And that heart makes “Bolt” the best Disney cartoon to not have the Pixar name on it since “Lilo & Stitch.”

Twilight is coming!

John Anderson
 (MCT)

The love-after-death movie “Twilight” is going to be so huge it would take a stake through the heart to stop it. And the reasons seem so obvious they make you say, “D’oh!”: A heavily computer-generated, blood-flecked, teenage soap opera set in the hormonal chaos of high school. A ready-made fan base of rabid Gothic/chick-lit readers cultivated by Stephenie Meyer’s four-book series. And a not-so-secret weapon named Kristen Stewart.

The actress, who is just old enough to have voted in the recent election, is no newcomer. “If that were the case,” she says, “I’d be tripping.” No, her filmography began when she was 11 (in “The Safety of Objects”), and her roles include playing Jodie Foster’s daughter in “Panic Room” (2002), making a big splash in the adventure “Catch That Kid” (2004) and being the best thing in several movies (including last year’s “The Messengers”).

But “Twilight” promises something new and presumably wonderful. Adapted from the Meyer books by Melissa Rosenberg _ rest assured, there will be sequels _ “Twilight” is set in the Pacific Northwest village where Bella Swan (Stewart) has come to stay with her police chief father (Billy Burke) and become re-acquainted with a town filled with people she hasn’t seen in years _ and others, the likes of which she’s never seen.

They are namely, the Cullens, an ad-hoc family of white-complected, crazy-eyed outsiders who are accepted, more or less, by the rest of the student body (sort of the way Michael Jackson might

be, should he re-enroll in high school).

From the moment they meet, Bella and Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) walk a razor’s edge between attraction and loathing, and experience a magnetism so strong it repels. Ultimately, in a process that develops more quickly than it does in the books, Bella is exposed to the Cullen family and their unorthodox dining habits.

Director Catherine Hardwicke (“Thirteen”) employs enough violence and gymnastics, both real and computer-generated, to keep boys interested (“It wasn’t until I was up in the air that I realized I was so uncoordinated,” said co-star Nikki Reed). And unlike most movie shoots, the absence of light was an asset. “The production was very weather-dependent,” said Peter Facinelli, who plays clan chief Dr. Carlisle Cullen. “As soon as we had clouds, we had to go.”

The undead, as we all know, abhor direct sunlight.

But the movie is a romance, one that serves as an exalted metaphor for the hysteria of adolescence.

“In my role, I’m a child,” said Stewart. “He’s not _ he’s 108 years old. But I’m playing a child who has never had to give as much as she’s giving to another person and sometimes that did feel entirely goofy.”

The full-blooded dialogue of “Twilight” does, at times, feel a bit engorged.

“Sometimes, I’d be like, ‘This is crap. This is the worst, most trite piece of crap I’ve ever done in my life,’” Stewart said, laughing. “I love the books, but trying to do it in real life, it doesn’t translate.”

New Bond Makes New Fans

Damon Solomos
The Commuter

The new James Bond film hit theaters last weekend. “Quantum of Solace” picks up right where the story of “Casino Royale” left off. A continuing storyline is new by Bond film standards, but I think it sits well with audiences that are craving better stories and continuity. My relationship with Bond films has been very hit and miss, leaning towards miss. Daniel Craig and his portrayal have made me a fan and follower of Ian Fleming’s works.

Daniel Craig is back in top form and his supporting cast is as fantastic as usual. The film works and it works well. Not as good as the first one, which I hail as the best Bond film to date, but Quantum comes close. What is new to the series is that Bond has a serious chip on his shoulder. It gives Bond a new edgy, dangerous feel. It keeps the movie tense and the audience on the edge of their seat. As audiences grow and start requesting better stories, the new Bond will be on the cutting edge of modern story telling, and I cannot wait for the next installment.

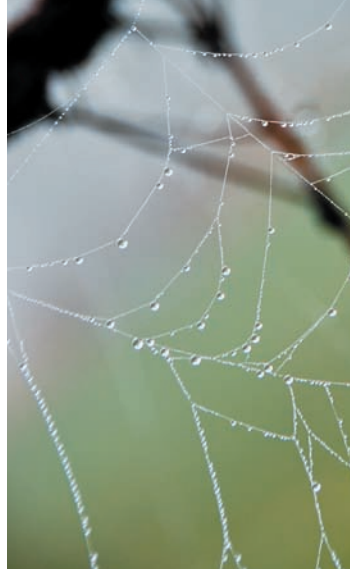
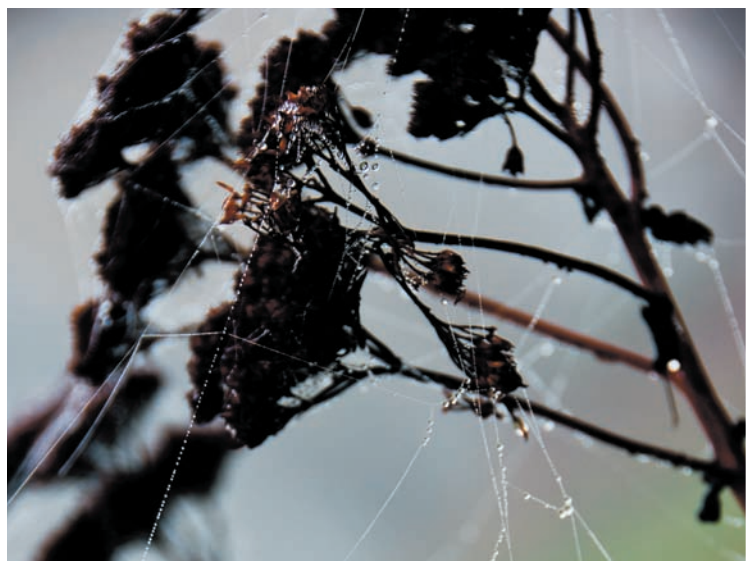


Photo from (MCT)

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

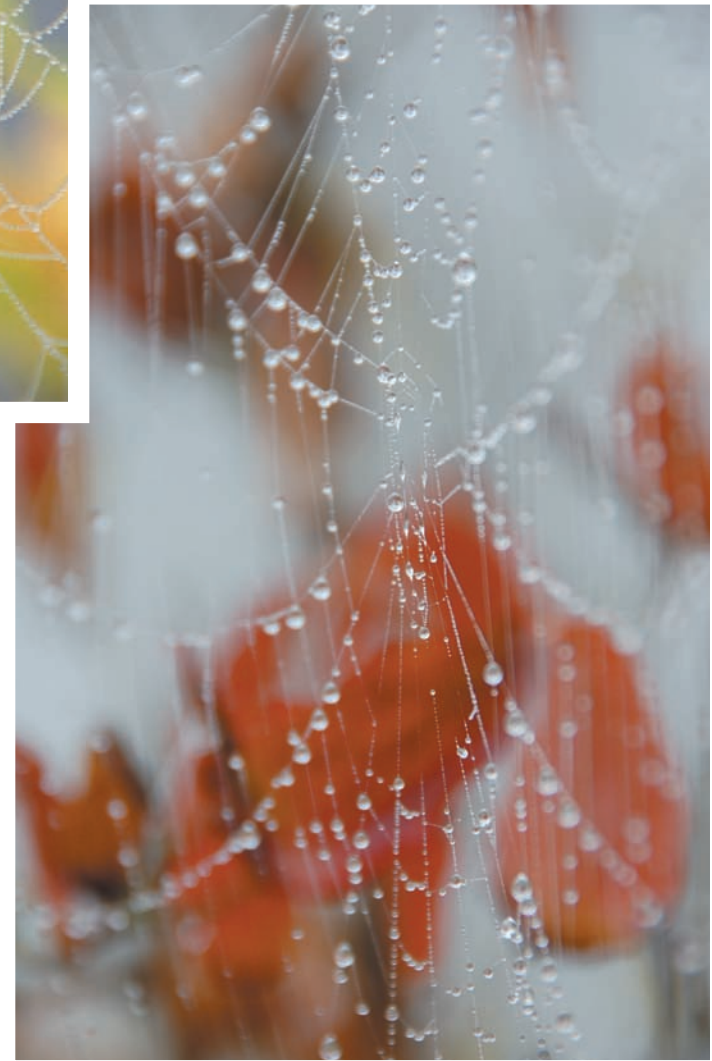
Reviews, upcoming events,
and the cure for weekend boredom.



Photos by Eve Bruntlett



There's a certain beauty that one can capture in nature at it's most inop-
portune moments. Early in the brisk
morning, while the world struggled
to stir to life, I found these images
of one of nature's most intricate
creations: the silkspiderweb. Laden
with dew and surrounded by the fog,
they exhibited a certain sense
of beauty and regality that could
not do anything but be captured.
Focusing my camera completely
manually on the center of the web,
I managed to lose the definition of
the background and even the outer
parts of the webs in places, mirroring
the reaction of human eyes on an
object hanging from a branch nearby.
It's this visual distopia that creates
the truthful and organic experience
of viewing spiderwebs as the rest of
the world goes out of focus.



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Livin', Lovin', Lich King

Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

A metal-bound icebreaker cruises softly through the calm waters in a deteriorating mist. The subtlety of icebergs present themselves, cropping up like diminutive mountains in the coastal sea. Then there is silence, all but for the hum of the stern-wheeler's engines, and the sloshing of water, the crack of ice striking the hull. An angular and stern face, that of a scout tower, is sighted over the bow! Heroes and warfighters rush to the prow of the ship to look on in angst: Northrend has just been sighted.

The ironclad erupts into a living state with a flurry of activity as players prepare to disembark at the dock. Chatter buzzes in the air, wafting to and fro in the mist as the ship leans to make it's final approach to the dock. A lurid few cannot wait (myself included) and leap headlong into the icy water, our magnanimously heavy armor weighing us down.

It is not enough to stop us. In one fashion or another, the treads of our boots kiss

the gravelly sand of Northrend. We are here, and level 80 isn't far off.

Spoiling everything would prove nothing, so I won't spoil much in this article except Dalaran. And I won't mince words, because this is taking away from my time playing World of Warcraft: The Wrath of the Lich King. WoW:WotLK is fucking amazing. That being said, I'll tell you a little about it. The quests are much more varied than in The Burning Crusade (BC), WoW's first expansion. You'll find yourself doing anything from assisting the red dragonflight to using a gryphon to pick up wounded civilians from a war zone with the Scourge. It keeps it interesting and takes the "grind" to 80 out of it. Very rarely does an NPC ask you to go out and kill 10 of "X" creature. And collection quests seem to be spiced up finding new ways to do the same old gag; whether it's collecting things off of randomly spawning corpses, or berries off hard to find bushes.

PvP vociferously turns out a new battleground involving a defense and attack siege mission to take the enemy team's artifact or

to protect it, flip-flopping roles as sides win. This carries into the new world PvP zone, Wintergrasp, in which a side takes the fortress of Wintergrasp and then defends it every two and a half hours. The side that has it then has to defend it again. Owing Wintergrasp gives you access to PvP vendors and quests otherwise not



My dwarf hunter of the server Scarlet Crusade, stands outside of New Hearthlgen in the Dragonflight, a stronghold of the Scarlet Crusade.

accessible in the game. It feels like Alterac Valley used to in it's epic days, before it turned into a short grind for battleground marks. Battles last forty minutes and are insanely fun. One of the siege engines requires two people: one to drive and one to man the gun at the back.

Instances thus far are shorter and have less "trash mobs" to grind through to get to the bosses. The instances seem to have easier to complete quests, better rewards, more voice acting and more story than in BC or classic WoW. I can't speak for the 25-player raids as I haven't done any yet.

One thing in WotLK really stands out above all the rest: the city of Dalaran. It picked up and moved from it's protective bubble nestled between the Alterac Mountains and Lordaeron into the Crystalsong Forest of Northrend. Huge purple spires rise up into sky of the floating city fortress only

accessible through flight, portal, summoning, battleground exit, or rune portal. It comes complete with a bar in it's sewers that includes all the arena NPCs, as well as the ability to climb one of the spires of the citadel and look down on the city. The streets are filled with a variety of shops selling all kind of wonderment, including a three-person mount, a toy train set, the Tier 6 and 7 vendors, and the general epic level 80 gear vendors. New are bind-on-account items that scale with levels, which you can trade between different characters on the same account. These show some familiar fare from classic WoW, such as the Ancient Bone Bow, the Heartseeker, the Headmaster's Staff, Herod's Shoulder, and many more!

I was most impressed in WotLK by the lore. The game seems to finally carry on the saga that was setup for a finale in Warcraft III: The Frozen Throne. No more space travel, aliens, or hordes or weird demons. It's time to take on the Lich King, formerly Arthas Menethil. The team that's doing the lore now seems particularly knowledgeable about it. They know stuff that, basically, I thought I was the only person to know. Stuff from Warcraft 1, books, graphic novels, Warcraft II and Beyond the Dark Portal, etc. Stuff that the average WoW player has little inkling of. There's been a shift in the lore and storytelling in WoW. Instead of the old mantra of "screw what we already made, make something new," they've turned it around and said "players like what we've already made and want to learn more about it and spend more time with; let's expand on that." And thank the Titans, I'm excited to see familiar faces and locales, and to explore Azeroth further, not some bizarre floating chunk in outer space that only holds credence in that the Orcs and Draenei were initially from it.

Between Dalaran and the lore I spent hours joggassing before I realized I needed to level. WotLK does most of the rest of it right, as if they've finally realized what makes a good MMO wasn't BC, but it was a mix of classic WoW and storytelling that keeps players wrapped up and involved. My only advice to is buy it, if you aren't playing it, you aren't living. At all.

The beautiful city of Dalaran, of which I, amongst a multitude of players, have a love affair with.



Hitchin' a ride on a red dragon; about to kick some blue dragon tail.



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10 questions for "10 Questions" director

Damon Solomos
The Commuter

I recently had the pleasure to screen the film "10 Questions for the Dali Lama", a documentary written, directed, and filmed by travel documentary filmmaker Rick Ray. The film was poignant, powerful, and a joy to watch. I had the further pleasure of interviewing the filmmaker after the film. Rick Ray is a man quick to laugh and with a sharp wit. I hope to see him back this way again. What follows is the interview.

What brought you up to LBCC?

They have a travel documentary series up here on Sundays. They have numerous films and I think my agent called the college and said I was going to be up here with another film; 'he's also got this Dali Lama film. Would you be interested in it?' They said 'yes we would love to have you', so it's become this double event.

What is the primary idea you want people to take away from your film?

I want them to understand who this man is. I did not make this film for hardcore Tibetan Buddhists. I did not make it for Tibetologists, or people who feel they know already, very deeply, who the Dali Lama is. I made it for people who have a notion who he is, but they want to learn more. They want to know who this figure is, who is on this earth right now, who is larger than life and who is an inspiration to millions. So that's my purpose, I want people to walk away from this saying, 'I didn't know this man, I didn't know the context of his compassion. Didn't know what was really going on. I feel like I know him now.' I think I have done that for a large number of people who would otherwise never see this film. People who see it on Netflix and go 'I heard something about that.' They write me emails and say 'I ain't never know nothing about that guy but man he's great.' That's important.

The film has a particularly poignant scene about the prayer flags of Tibet; did you leave one while you were in the last Tibetan province where the old ways are still practiced?

Ladoc. No, I didn't leave a prayer flag. It's not that common to string up prayer flags. They seem to already be there when you get there. I just sort of enjoyed them, that energy and the thought of the prayers that are written on there and the idea of the winds picking them up and carrying them.

Today I string prayer flags on the antennas and cables around my house. I have got prayer flags hanging all the way across to the street. I constantly have to replace them, but it's my way of remembering. I wanted to show in the film how the Tibetan people used to live. There are little pockets of that where it's still preserved in Northern India and other places. To contrast that with what's happening in China I thought

was worthwhile.

When you speak of the Dali Lama, you speak with such reverence. Did that come out of your conversation with him?

It started when I first heard him speak when I was a kid. My family wasn't particularly oriented towards Buddhism, or even towards international issues. They were rather conservative. I would see this man on TV, so humbly dressed, living on 10 dollars a day, and speaking the truth to humanity from his heart, from a heart of compassion. He spoke to the truth within me and I thought: 'who is he?' I never had any thought that I would meet him or make a film about him. I just realized I was drawn to him.

As I traveled I came to Buddhist places and I found them to be oases of peace and calm in chaotic countries. You can walk into a Buddhist temple and everyone would be sitting around, and no one would judge you. No one would try to convert you. They just kind of look, 'Oh here you are. Come on in. No restrictions, bring your camera, talk to people.' That was the kind of philosophical style in a religion that immediately resonated with me.

So it wasn't the meeting with him that triggered it. It was pre-existent for a long time. After meeting him it was magnified by his answers, his presence, his generosity, and his humor. He never fails to impress me.

Are you a practicing Buddhist?

I am not. I am not a practicing Buddhist; I am not a practicing anything. I am really very cynical about religions. As I say in the film, I feel it's kind of a draw as to what they have done in the world, especially fundamentalist religion or orthodoxy, where people take their religion so literally they would kill or die in the name of their god. I think sometimes the balance sheet doesn't work in favor of religion. Although though I don't practice it, I don't see Buddhism as a religion. I see it as a philosophy. There is no god. There is no god acting upon us. It is more of a philosophy from within. You work on your own perfection and your own development. What you give out into the world, that's what you get. For me, it's almost not a religion, it's philosophical.

If The President-elect came to you and said he is going to intervene on the Tibet issue and that he would follow your advice, what advice would you give him?

I would say first of all, negotiate with the Chinese to allow the Dali Lama to come back. The Dali Lama could be China's best friend if they would just trust enough to allow him to come back. You say 'why?' If he came back to China today, his people would not be restless at all. They would not be rioting in the streets for freedom or the preservation of their culture, because the Dali Lama has a calming influence everywhere he goes. His people look

at him as a god. They look at him with such reverence that if he said, 'you do not riot, do not commit acts of violence. Do not ask for independence from China, you retain Chinese citizenship but we have autonomy for our art, religion, and culture.' The Chinese would find they have it all, but they are, at this moment, too afraid to even consider it.

The International Campaign for Tibet has asked both Obama and McCain [about] their position on the issue. Both camps responded that China must engage the Dali Lama with the objective of allowing him to come back to his own, and to lead and inspire his people.

That's what I would advise. Is it achievable? That's a whole other story.

Which of your Ten Questions to The Dali Lama would you most like to ask to Obama?

Isn't it funny how Obama and Dali Lama rhyme? I think there is some kind of limerick. I would love to ask ten questions to Barack Obama, such an articulate and obviously deep, thoughtful man. I think he is our Dali Lama, totally under a different circumstance, but it's remarkable he is here with us and that he is our future leader; I hope for a long time. It's remarkable that in our democracy we can elect a man of his caliber. He restores my faith in the country to correct its course.

What would I ask him if I could ask him one of my ten questions? Well, I think I would ask him the same thing about when to use force. I think that he has been called out by the conservative movement; they feel like he is not a hawk. That he is someone that would negotiate without preconditions. I think they spun that a lot. The Dali Lama says in the movie that you need to sit down with your enemies, that you need to have more picnics. The Dali Lama says, 'I think more festivals. More picnics.' What he really means is less of these religious schools where you're indoctrinated with people just like you. That's common in the Middle East, especially Jerusalem.

Same Question, but what would you ask Gorge W. Bush?

That's very theoretical isn't it? His regime is highly protective. Journalists wouldn't be free to freely ask questions of him. He wouldn't make himself available to people that weren't hand picked ahead of time. But, in a theoretical world, my question for him would be, "if your philosophy is that government is worthless, it is bad, does that really mean you should go in and disassemble it completely and make it just a chaotic mess? Aren't there parts of government that are worthwhile to keep?"

Like the Dali Lama says, 'some traditions are worthwhile to keep, and others we must change. Others, were done.' What traditions should we keep, and what should we be done with? I guess, to narrow it down, that's what I would ask Bush.

I am sorry to say, but I think we

have been in a very dark time over the last eight years. Very dark. I am so delighted to see this emerge. Just as I fear for the Dali Lama's life, I fear for Barack Obama's. He is such an amazing figure and he is so astonishing; I hope security is very good around him.

What would the title of your autobiography be?

"Lonely Planet Moron: One Idiot's Journey into Trouble Around the World, and How to Get out of Trouble by Lying Constantly." No, I don't know. I have had an interesting life. I have put on a backpack and I have been traveling for twenty-five years, and experiencing other cultures up close. You meet wacky people, you meet great people, and you meet inspirational people. What you almost never meet is boring on the road.

You meet boredom at home amongst people who have failed to seek. I just get so excited every time I take to the road. I guess I would call it, "The Enigma of Arrival." That's what I would call my autobiography. Because every time you arrive in a new foreign place, there is a mystery to it that is ephemeral and only lasts a few weeks. Then you get used to that place, and that's the experience of travel. Then coming back with your stories and your experiences, to your own home country and trying to bring the jewel back to people who essentially have not had that experience. So The Enigma of Arrival and The Enema of Departure. That's Customs.

What film projects are you working on at the moment?

I am pretty well immersed in a film about a California law. Down in California back in 1996, we legalized medical marijuana. It was a vote that 66% of Californians legalized it, voted in favor of it. It was formerly established and legalized and today there are dispensaries all over California run by people and they are being raided by the DEA. There has been a huge crack down on them.

The story I am filming now, I have been doing it for years, and the story is this guy named Charlie Rich. He is a man who never had a traffic ticket, never broke a law, and he wanted to open a medical marijuana dispensary for people with AIDS and cancer and cancer pain. He did it all by the book, got the mayor, got the city, got the county, paid his taxes. A sheriff down in San Louis Obispo, who was running for re-election on a family platform, decided to make a campaign commercial by calling the feds on Charlie. He was busted and raided. He was put in a federal detention center. Put on trial, which I followed, and he is about to be convicted of up to thirty years in prison because federally, marijuana is absolutely a class one drug on the equivalency of heroin or PCP. He has been charged like he was selling it in back allies.

It's an astonishing story to watch: an ordinary man who you could admire if you knew him, preparing to pack up his life and say good by to his kids, family, and friends and go to federal prison over something like this.

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Chesha Cat: Not Just a rap artist

Kris Nelson
The Commuter

Chulo, Nuce, DJ Chill, Celly Cel, and Spice 1, those are just a few of the rap artists Chesha Cat mentioned during the interview I had with him. Chesha Cat is a rapper out of Albany, Oregon. I discussed with him many things about his time in the rap "game", helping to bring back hip-hop, and how he wants to bring concerts back to the Venetian Theatre on a regular basis, among other things.

Chesha Cat started rapping for fun; before that he was in rock bands in high school. He started playing the piano when he was a kid. As well as playing the trumpet, when he was in middle school.

He started out playing small rap shows and then went on to play larger shows outside of Albany in places like Canyonville and Bend. He has worked with and played shows with artists such as Nuce, Chulo, Dole Beats, T.H.C., Northwest Mulisha, and some others.

Chesha Cat's musical influences include older Snoop Dog, 2 Pac, Mac Dre, C-BO, Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, and Eric Clapton, to name a few. He also mentioned that he likes California artists such as Smoov-E, Too \$hort, and Brotha Lynch Hung.

One thing Chesha Cat told me is that he wants to get music coming back to Albany again like it was in the '90s. "The last good show was probably Floater back in 2002 at

the Venetian Theatre," he said. He wants to put on two shows next year with Floater. He presumes: "Friday night would be the first one and then on Saturday would be an acoustic show." The first ever acoustic Floater show in Albany.

In January he is planning on having a big rap show at the Venetian. He plans to get DJ Chill and Smoov-E to play at it. After the show, he wants to have an after party at Riley's Bar and Grill with DJ Wicked.

Eventually once everything gets going, he wants to put on shows out at the Linn County Fairgrounds. Chesha Cat would like to see artists like Andre Nickatina out there once all of this comes together.

Coming out soon is Chesha Cat's CD release of his album called "Ol' Memoriez New Daze" Chesha Cat is a producer, songwriter, music artist, and a composer. He recently played a show presented by another local rap artist Suganuts, the "When the Freaks Come Out at Night," show on November 13th. His next show listed is on December 13th in Bend at the Domino Room. The show features him, Nuce, T-Dub of Northwest Mulisha and lots of others. I will keep you posted on this and other related rap shows.

For more information go to Chesha Cat's myspace page at:

<http://myspace.com/cheshagenremuzik>

Once stuff gets going, he encourages people to send requests on artists they want to see play.

Local event listings calendar

All Ages Show at North Albany Grange Hall

There will be an all ages rap concert at the North Albany Grange Hall December 12 at 7 p.m. Artists there will be Paradox, Yung Royal, Markus Tha Great White, Pynt Syze, Soufside Ink, Contra & C Logic, Bird, Poverty's Posterboy, and Suganuts, featuring Lessin' Lyricist. Tickets will be \$5. With every ticket purchase you will be entered in a raffle for Blazers tickets. There will be beverages, CD's and merchandise for sale. For information on how to get tickets check the website for updates

Loyalty Entertainment and Bogey's Bar and Grill Present:

CEO's and Office Hoes Show presents Mr. Nate of Who's Next, KrossBreed, Bent Swoop, Mafmatix, The Highlife Crew on November 11 for a \$3 cover. ID required. Sponsered by The Pipeline, Loyalty Entertainment, and Rockstar Energy Drink. Specials, and giveaways, cash prizes and much more. Sexy attire highly preferred
 Bogey's Bar and Grill

129 1st St Downtown Albany
 541-926-8900

Old World Deli Punk show (All Ages)

Come to the Old World Deli on November 22nd and enjoy some good punk rock music. The show starts at 8pm and features 4 bands: Bad Terms, The Angries, The Wobblies, and a band called KTP. Hailing from Corvallis are the guys from the band Bad Terms. Their MySpace page states that "their music is a mixture of guitar, bass, drums, and yelling." The Angries are from Corvallis as well. Music from them sounds like a political/riot punk style. Coming out of the Portland/Corvallis are The Wobblies. "The music is passionate and unapologetic, anthemic and loud, simple and straight-forward," according to their myspace. We aren't in Kansas anymore! Also at the show is the Kansas band KTP. To me they sound like an 80s style of punk. The cost for this show is \$3 and there is beer available for purchase with ID. The Old World Deli is at 341 SW 2nd St Suite 4 Corvallis. Phone Number: 541-752-8549



Brandon Goldner
The Commuter

On Friday the 16th, LaSells Stewart Center got a dose of Saturday Night Live fever when Kevin Nealon performed for a rapt audience in honor of Dad's Weekend at Oregon State University.

The actor, who plays stoner-accountant Doug Wilson on Showtime's Weeds, touched on every topic imaginable, from near-death experiences for 101 year olds, to leaving the garbage disposal running as a deterrent for robbers.

The 54-year-old Nealon, much to the delight of the sell-out crowd, got away with material that some men would be crucified for. On the disaster in New Orleans, he wondered why hurricanes weren't given scarier names. "Hurricane Ethel? Nobody's afraid of hurricane Ethel. What about hurricane Biotch? Or... Oh, look out! Here comes hurricane Mo-fo!"

He also said he doesn't believe in racial discrimination. "I went out with this Chinese girl

once, in high school. I swear, I didn't even know she was Chinese! I just thought she was tired...and that maybe I could get to her place because she'd want to call it a night and go back to bed."

For those who don't believe in the pull a seasoned veteran has with a live audience: You really ought to get out more. It's no knock on him, but the comedian who opened for Nealon seemed uncomfortable, and the bulk of his material generated a few pity laughs from those who, by the sound of the honks and guffaws pouring forth, were either drunk or getting there.

Nealon may be known as an actor, but his skills as a comedian are as honed as his ability to give solid advice: Call the Department of Homeland Security and make up locations for where Osama Bin-Laden may be. Why? To try and cash in on the \$50 million reward they have in exchange for knowledge leading to his capture. As Nealon so aptly put it, "You can't win if you don't play."

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“Water Engine” rolls into Russell Tripp



Photos by Jesse Skoubo

Jesse Skoubo
For the Commuter

“The Water Engine” opens at LBCC’s Russell Trip Performance Center this week with showings Friday through Sunday, and the following Friday and Saturday. The play revolves around the struggles of a young inventor Lang, played by Kevin Christiansen, in Chicago 1934, as he tries to patent and manufacture his engine that runs on distilled water.

Left, Lang visualizes some adjustments to his machine. The cast sings “America the Beautiful” (upper left). The Announces (Aaron Kopperman) has something important to tell you (upper right). Below, Lang has a discussion with Gross (Phil Allen).



The Commuter
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opinion

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Drop in! Forum 222
Please sign letters, keep to 300 words or less

The woman in the laundry room: Part 1

Brandon Goldner
The Commuter

I went down the hall to put our clothes in the dryer, turned left, and almost ran into a woman sitting in a chair.

The room is old with high ceilings, a refrigerator for God knows what, and, this day, a woman sitting in one of the chairs that are usually pushed up against the wall.

She looked like your grandmother. There wasn't much of anything about her to indicate wealth, but there wasn't much to indicate poverty either, save for the bundle of tied-together plastic bags in her lap.

"Hello," I said, awkwardly.

I walked through the half-archway that separates the washer and dryer from the rest of the room. I was feeling kind of weird, so I was relieved when she said, "Do you mind if I sit in this chair? It's cold out."

"Of course not," I replied, glad to hear this woman wasn't a drunk or a nut. "I wouldn't throw somebody out like that."

As I moved my laundry from the washer to the dryer, she commented on the bikes along the wall, and how she never did care for riding because she was afraid of traffic. I agreed. "Yeah, it gets crazy when there are a ton of cars out there."

Closing the lid, I started wondering to myself what the situation could be. She should have social security or something. I didn't

understand how a perfectly sane, polite old lady could just be sleeping on the street. Still, I was a little uneasy to have a stranger hanging out in the building, but I bid her goodbye and walked back down the hall to our apartment without much of a second thought.

That morning, as I went to venture into the fog and brilliance of working on a Saturday, I noticed the door to the laundry room was almost completely shut. It was usually wide open. As I walked by I looked through the crack, where the hinged

enough. I figured if he didn't have a problem with it than neither did I, as he'd been in the building a lot longer than I had.

At about 9:40, my girlfriend and I went down to the Beanery, cups in hand, to get a hot chocolate and a coffee, respectively. Now the woman was on the stairs reading a weekly. When we got to the street, Corinne's heart nearly broke. She wanted to help the woman, to bring her some food. Now my defenses came up. "If we bring her food, she's just going to stay around longer," I argued. "No she won't," said Corinne. "What evidence do you have of that?"

We went back and forth all the way down, debated as we waited for our drinks - in

hushed voices out of respect for the harp player - and argued as we went back home. I didn't think we should do anything. Corinne though it would be heartless not to. I said it was nice that we weren't calling the police. She thought I was an asshole, but didn't use the words to say so. We were bunked.

When we got the base of the stairs we were whispering at each other like opossums, neither of us backing from our moral ground. We stopped and went up one flight, down the hall, up the second flight. She was still near the top of the stairs. We were silent. It was weird.

...to be continued next week

"She looked like your grandmother....there wasn't much to indicate poverty....save for the tied-together plastic bags..."

Brandon Goldner



side of the door meets the wall, and saw a figure lying in some blankets.

She hadn't left. Oh well, I gathered. She'll probably be on her way now. She had told me the night before she was only here because she didn't like some of the younger women in the mission in Albany. It sounded like she knew her way around.

When I came back at about 6 o'clock, many hours later, she was in the further part of the laundry room where the washer and dryer are, sitting in the chair.

I was still a little uneasy with it. I happened across my neighbor at the gym later that night and told him about the woman. He said it happened sometimes during the winter, but that they moved on soon

Winter Blows: A tale of desperation

Loren Newman
The Commuter

I don't know about you, but fall has always been my favorite time of year. Here in the Willamette Valley we get the most beautiful falls. Yeah it rains and gets darker sooner, but you have amazing colors, home football games, and everyone is willing to go out and do something besides study because no one has gotten their back grades yet.

But the world around me is conspiring against me to turn it to winter. It started on the first day of November. I went into a local retail establishment near my house to get a new inner tube for my bike, and to my chagrin fall was already over. You see in retail, Christmas starts when Halloween ends, as if Thanksgiving were a second-class holiday like Presidents Day or Boxing Day, whatever the heck that is. They didn't even have leftover Halloween candy at half-price, like I so desperately wanted. No, the displays were already filled with green and red snowflake-covered bags of holiday themed chocolatey goodness.

So after I bought my inner tube and green and red mini Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, I started to walk home and the horror that I saw still haunts me to this day. Up until the first, my street had a cornucopia of fall colors from the little trees in the front

yards of the low-cost, cookie-cutter homes.

But from the time I went to the store to the time I walked home, Easy Street became a colorless winter wasteland. As I neared my own home, I found the culprit of all this madness.

There was a man in my yard with a leaf blower and bright orange earmuffs, and he was blowing away the leaves from out of the tree! My neighborhood is a development owned by a property management company. And this property

"Christmas starts when Halloween ends, as if Thanksgiving were a second class holiday like President's Day."

Loren Newman



management company contracts out its landscaping and yard maintenance. And this contractor had come this day to take care of the yards. And instead of waiting for the leaves to fall and then pick them up, they decided to expedite the process and make sure all of the leaves were out of the trees so they could take care of it all at once. I just stood there, mouth agape, watching a two stroke Husqvarna backpack blower make it winter.

I have since accepted the inevitable, that winter is coming, and I look forward to it. I like the holiday season as much as anyone, but if you are singing Christmas songs before Thanksgiving, I might have to resort to physical violence.



Submit!

commuter@linnbenton.edu

http://www.lbcommuter.com/

Forum 222

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer. Contributors who wish to submit columns are asked to first contact the editor to arrange for space in the next issues.

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.

Opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter Staff or Linn Benton Community College.

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PHILOSOPH-OFF BABIES : KEEP 'EM OR CHUCK 'EM?

Rick Casillas
The Commuter

Babies have been wasting our resources and living off of our hard work for years. Recent statistics by the Federal Bureau of Baby affairs show that not only are baby unemployment rates into the high 90 percentile; but the dismal baby turn out in the last election indicates they have no interest in taking part in deciding the direction our country is going.

Baby inefficiency in our nation's workforce has become a growing trend for decades, and with measures fast in motion

to ensure more tot sized hand outs will be given by the government, it's one we're going to have to get used to.

Many wee workers are unable to perform the basic necessary tasks required of them in most daily jobs. Their tiny hands cannot reach to grip the steering wheel of a long haul truck, their little legs unsuitable for trekking the countless miles of a mailman, and their grasp of complex mathematical equations are rudimentary at best. Most require frequent naps in the middle of their shifts subsidized with animal crackers and juice boxes, a cost some employers are saying just isn't worth the levels of productivity they're getting from them. Arnold Eudum manager of a local baby gap, which employees hundreds of babies across the nation as hand models had this to say of his tiny employees. "It's always me me me with them,



"Baby inefficiency in our nation's workforce has become a growing trend for decades...it's one we're going to have to get used to."

Rick Casillas

what a bunch of poo-poo heads, they really have some growing up to do." In addition to lackluster work ethics, the proliferation of fraudulent worker's compensation scams involving false teething pangs and diaper rash have resulted in rising baby health care costs and restrictions on invasive baby plans.

Who bears the brunt of these diminutive deadbeats that live off the system, contributing nothing while abusing government programs intended for honest hard working American babies? Why, you do of course. Every day we see more and more smug little baby faces on baby welfare, fat from the bounty of your efforts, their tiny hands

plump from the nutrients of mashed peas paid for with your tax dollars. But what should be done with those babies unable to get a

job due to genuine disability, who picks up their tab? My opponent would have you believe I wish those babies sent back to whatever dying planet they rode a rocket ship into your corn field from, but it isn't true. The private sector has, and always will be, generous in giving their time and money to those with boo-boo's or ouchies that won't allow them to make use of their talents. Baby ingenuity has always been the hallmark of this Nation, entrusting our future to it will not only strengthen the resolve of our babies but give us the baby solidarity we so desperately need. As for the rest of them, if they don't like it they can GEEET OUUUUT. In conclusion, just say no to bad babies, future generations will thank us.

Brandon (Jon McCane) Goldner
The Commuter

My friends, we live in a time of peril. The oceans are rising, the terrorists are threatening world peace and democracy, and yet all we hear my opponent talk about is how much of our country's precious resources are spent on the production and upkeep of babies.

Well I want to bring something fundamentally different to the conversation. Instead of thinking of babies USING resources, I think it's time we start thinking about babies AS resources.

We've seen it from coast to coast. Teenage mothers and transients having children out

of wedlock, right under our noses. It's remarkable. Isn't it about time we do something to help? Isn't about it time that we go to Washington D.C. and demand the change in policies we so desperately need?

I believe so, my friends. I believe so. And as such, I'm proposing that in addition to wind, solar, nuclear, tide, natural gas, biofuels, and other forms of renewable energy, we should start using babies as a 21st century solution to our country's 21st century energy needs.

Senator Casillas recently stated that he believes babies are inefficient, but nothing can be further from the truth. With new technology that will allow us to break the babies' cell walls, we'll be able to turn unwanted mistakes

into badly needed fuel for the next generation of American automobiles.

Now it's often said that the unemployment rate in the 2 years and younger segment of the population is too high. So why don't we put them to work in our nation's blenders and turn them into a low cost, high-protein feed we can use to nourish those less fortunate than ourselves? Who knows? If we feed enough people with baby paste, maybe we can give them the courage and dignity to start their own business or buy that new car they've always dreamed of. A car, one day, will run not on petroleum, but on babies.



"...science can turn our youngest children into a syrup that holds 1.21 gigawatts of energy per tablespoon..."

Brandon Goldner

They're going to play a vital role for our country in the next century, and I'm saddened

that Senator Casillas apparently believes that we should become "redistributors" of America's most promising source of fuel that could finally break our addiction to foreign oil. But until we can, science can turn our youngest children into a syrup that holds 1.21 gigawatts of energy per tablespoon, we'll be woefully unequipped to meet the challenges of an ever-more dangerous world.

That's why I believe in funding baby-to-energy conversion technology, that's why I believe we should never flippantly give away what rightfully belongs to the American people, and that's why I've always put our Country First.

Don't drink and drive: A plea to rational people

Chris Brotherton
The Commuter

As the holiday season draws near, more people are having parties to celebrate. Some people like to just go out to the bar on the week-ends to celebrate the holidays. As there is nothing wrong with either of these things, inevitably there will be someone climbing behind the wheel who doesn't belong there, as your ability to make a rational decision is affected by alcohol. Although this person may be climbing behind the wheel of two thousand pounds of death, usually they are the ones that don't get injured.

For instance, about three years ago a friend of mine, Michael, was

walking home from the bar with his friends. He was ahead of them, listening to his portable CD player, as was his nature. In his hand was his favorite "after a night of drinking" food, a box of Rigoberto's Mexican. As his friends were walking along, they said a pickup sped past them. They could see the brake lights come on, thinking that the driver got a phone call, or a flat tire. After a couple minutes, the brake lights went off and the truck took off down the road. This was not an unusual thing to see out there, they lived in a house along Highway 34, just out of Corvallis.

By the time the group of friends had gotten home, there was no sign of Michael in the house. However, his bedroom door was closed so his

friends thought that he had just gone in there to pass out.

The next morning there was still no sign of Michael, so one of the friends started banging on his bedroom door. There was no answer and he started

getting a sick feeling in his stomach. He tried calling Michael's cell phone three or four times in a row. No answer. Finally he broke one of the rules of the house and just went walking into the room. There was no sign of Michael in there either, but he saw something through the window. Out on the highway, he could see flashing police lights.

He ran downstairs, already knowing

the answers to the questions in his head, but hoping that he was wrong. There in the ditch next to the highway and right next to his own driveway was Michael's body. They had walked right past the night before and hadn't seen him.

As the events of the day transpired, the driver of the pickup turned himself

in to the police, claiming that he didn't know he had hit anything, even though Michael was almost six feet tall and about 250 pounds. At the time he turned himself in, his Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) was still above the legal limit.

Through accident reconstruction,

"By the time the group had gotten home, there was no sign of Michael in the house."

Chris Brotherton

it was determined that the truck hit Michael on one side of his driveway and threw him to the other side. He had been hit so hard that it killed him instantly. Now there is a sign posted in his memory, asking people not to drink and drive. Michael was trying to do the responsible thing by walking home after spending a night out drinking. But, because someone else made a decision to get behind the wheel after a few too many, the responsible person is dead and the person who killed someone is free to live his life however he wants to.

So before you choose to climb behind the wheel this holiday season, think about what could happen, the possibility that you, or someone else, may not make it home to see their families because of your decision.

PERSPECTIVES: Turkey or To-furkey? Why?



Julia Tow
Agriculture

"I would pick turkey because it's fresh!"



Jacob Oaks
Nursing

"Turkey because it's the most highest source of protein and it helps me get a good rest."



Grant Magee
Graphic Design

"For the sake of everything good in this universe, god, no to-furkey!"



Kristin Kinch
Dental Assisting

"Definitely turkey, because it tastes way better!"



Tom Smith
New Student

"Turkey, because it makes you gain weight!"

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Yelling man creates a societal mirror not many look through

Rick Casillas
The Commuter

Last week I received a call from City Hall confirming my worst ballot-related fear: that I had, in a fit of illiteracy fueled rage, disregarded the large angry red print on my envelope and turned it in blank. I rushed downtown, thoughts filled with images of my dejected unsigned envelope, passed over and shoved into some file cabinet in the corner while his friends were gutted and tallied by the elderly. The hours I had spent pouring through my voter's pamphlet, drawing handlebar mustaches on incumbents and laser eyes on all the constitutionalists before stabbing furiously at my ballot, were they all to be for naught?! Through neglect I had forsaken my role in the electoral process, making me no better than those that voluntarily abstained from voting in the first place. Terror gripped me as I recalled my great-grandma's words whispered into my ear on her deathbed: "A vote for nothing is a vote for Satan's tyrannical hellfire rule." I had voted for Satan.

While crossing the street to the tall white building, I heard amid the beat of traffic a mechanical whine; distinguishable from the squeals of brakes and chutters of engines as belonging to a human voice. At first, it occurred to me that my ID had won, and I was insane. What a wonderful sense of freedom and

entitlement I had, insane at last! Never to be held to societies rules again, able to wander the streets in the middle of the night to my heart's content, screaming and knocking over stuff until I got tired and fell asleep. But the madness was not mine; I saw people glance about, confounded as to the source of the rhythmic terror, but their curiosity went no further than a turn of the head and a shrug of the shoulders. A few even ventured bravely with a "Shut the fuck up already!" But nobody rose to meet his cries, no one talked to the person responsible.

I found that my own interest was not so easily sated. No sir, I was no drudge of a lemming; I pressed on, eager to find the place of it's inception. After mere moments of wandering I traced the sound to a dilapidated building adjacent to that office I always see couples fighting in front of. And there, through the open mesh screen on a first story window I saw a perfectly sane looking young man sitting on a couch, eyes transfixed on nothingness while his mouth lay agape, spilling out his siren's call. His vision shifted at the appearance of my outline against the light that poured into his apartment; he turned with a smile and extended his hand.

"Oh hey, what's up man? Do you live in this apartment or were you just passing by?"

"Just passing." I replied cau-

tiously, head tilted, my free hand tensed in anticipation of his inevitable crazy-guy attack.

I began to mentally inventory my possessions, estimating their value as weapons. A pen would simply glance off of his tough hide, but if I possessed the physical prowess to pull off such a feat I could probably strangle him with my headphones... probably. I squinted my eyes, nodding in satisfaction as I wound the rubber coated cable around my hands. That's right crazy man, make your move, daddy's ready to play. But first to throw him off the scent.

"So...uh, what's with the yelling?" I inquired innocently.

"I'm just practicing for the elevator." He replied, in a vain attempt to infect me with his crazy voodoo madness; I resisted.

"No, seriously? This has to be some kind of social experiment or something." My hand went slack as I reached for a notebook instead to write our conversation down; I could probably paper cut the hell

out of him if necessary anyway.

"Well it didn't really start as one, but yeah I guess."

"What kind of reaction have you found people are having?"

"Most just ignore it, you're the first one to say anything."

He then introduced himself as Eric; after a brief exchange of numbers and a friendly goodbye, I returned to my aforementioned duty, mind now heavy with ponderous implications. Suddenly my perspective had changed. Eric seemed not to be the lunatic I once thought he was, but I began to question the sanity of those that went about their day, listening to him scream his head off while they pretended nothing was amiss. 'This would probably make some kind of sweet metaphor,' I thought, as I heard him begin to pick up tempo again behind me. And it does my friends, oh how it does.

How many of us have Eric's in our lives, yelling their little brains to mush while we mindfully ignore the problem, hoping it will just go

away? How long can we afford to wait until we address the wailing and actually do something about it; if we see a necessary change in our midst what prevents us from making it happen ourselves? So much emphasis lately has been put on politics and elected officials that promise to turn our world around, to make everything better and quietly usher those crazy guys yelling at us to a place where we cannot hear them any longer. But they still exist, and they still need to be taken care of. A politician will not give you a job, a politician cannot help you reconnect with a loved one or teach you how to apologize for a mistake, they cannot raise your children or instill in them the values you can. A politician will not improve your life, that is your responsibility and yours alone, and once you begin to master that truth you will find that the world is a much simpler, quiet place. Until then: keep on yelling Eric, maybe someday they'll hear you.

Classifieds

They just make cents. Place an ad today with The Commuter at commuterads@linnbenton.edu

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 will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner. Any advertisement judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Help Wanted:

Food Service Specialist-Baker(#6958, Corvallis) They are looking for an experienced full-time baker. Provides specialized assistance for district food service operations. \$9.62-10.62/hr.

Census Takers (#6951, our local area) We are coming up on a census year and the government is already hiring people for next year. Become a census taker by calling toll-free 1-866-861-2010! You have to call to be tested. Pay is \$14-18/hr DOE.

Entry-level Law Enforcement Professionals (#6969, U.S.) If you are graduating this year, it's not too soon to explore your career opportunities with the Dept. of Homeland Security.

Direct Care Provider (#6957, Albany) Part-time, Sat & Sun 10pm-6am working with developmentally disabled people. \$8.72-9.81/hr DOE. Good hours for a student.

Other Stuff:

Pregnant? Free pregnancy test. Information on options. Non-pressured. Confidential.

Options Pregnancy Resource Center.
 Corvallis 757-9645. Albany 924-0166.
www.possiblypregnant.org

For Sale:
 7 month Chocolate Lab/Pitbull mix puppy. Needs new home to grow up in. House getting too small! \$200 she is spayed and current on shots. Also includes large metal kennel. If you have room in your heart and home she is great. Call 541-928-8869

THE COMMONS FARE

11/19-11/25

Wednesday
 Dishes: Baked Stuffed Snapper, Braised Lamb, and Cheese and Fried Onion over Spaetzle
 Soups: Gazpacho and Cream of Broccoli

Thursday
 Dishes: Lemon Chicken with Steamed Rice, Pork Lyonnaise and Huevos Rancheros*
 Soups: Grilled Vegetable Beef * and Beer Cheese

Friday
 Chef's Choice

Monday
 Dishes: Chicken Fricassee, Fettuccine Bolognese and Portabella Mushrooms topped with Spinach, a Poached Egg, and Bernaise Sauce w/Rice*
 Soups: Italian Sausage and Curried Cream of Carrot *

Tuesday
 Dishes: Jamaican Jerk Chicken with Mango Chutney*
 Pork Knuckle Braised and Vegetable Lasagna with Marinara
 Soups: Paysanne Marmite and Vegetarian Tomato*

*Gluten-free

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Irresponsible Parents: Don't Take My Mr. Sparky

Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

So I'm at work on my lunch break, gorging myself on a fatty double cheeseburger with pepper jack and all the cheese sticks I could fit into the deep fryer, when I flip open The Oregonian. At first, I find little of interest: "oh boy, comics!" And what foul beast presents its head, but the sports section? Nay, I slayed that dragon and uttered an unremarkable "Ni" to the line cook who still thinks I'm insane because of all those times I talk about rolling around in pudding like a donkey on fire.

I always digress. There! On the page! A story leapt out at me with such fervor that out of the entire 4th page of worthless news, this tiny-headlined, foul-mouthed beast of the underworld was akin to a zombie. Them fast 'uns; not the slow buggers you can easily avoid if you've ever played Frogger.

Senator Ron Wyden has decided that there is a new threat to our livelihood. A new threat to

our very space-time continuum, one greater, more wondrous than any we have faced in the past: Lighters shaped like toys, or made with colorful prints. Yes, folks, he's spearheading an effort to have them banned nationwide.

Why? Because one kid back in 2000 played with one and killed himself while maiming his brother. Wait...one fatality in eight years? Those are actually pretty damn good odds. How many people have perished from smoking cigarettes since 2000? How many people have become vegetables from tuning into C-Span and finding a Republican debate? The numbers are staggering, I assure you.

So I'm left here thinking, eating my heart-attack on a plate I'll soon be washing, "This reeks of elderberries!"

And here's a lovely depiction of why: Parents just don't want to take responsibility. In fact, no one wants to take responsibility for anything period. If you found Da Vinci's sketchbook and showed it to him, he'd snatch it

from your hands, say it was one of his gay assistant's artbooks, and send you on your way. Of course, back then women wore much more bust-displaying garb. Ah, the renaissance. This entire paragraph was a story for another time, however.

The fact of the matter is, parents today suck. I don't know if it's MTV, or the fact that Cher-nobyl went off in the 80s when we were all in our formative years, but the level of parenting ability I see all around is surreptitiously low.

News flash: You're responsible for your child's safety and well-being. Now, what does this mean to you, Johnny and Sally, good parents that you are? Don't bring things into your home that can kill your child. But if you must: Lock them in cupboards, put them up high and contain them. Yes, thank you, hold your applause. The fact of the matter is toy-shaped lighters are not any more dangerous to children than any of the other plethora of death-devices a modern household har-

bors. Bleach, electric items in the bathroom, any number of choking hazards, cigarettes, alcohol, matches, plain ol' boring lighters, knives, C-Span, you name it.

Now, because so many things are dangerous to children, should we engender a nationwide ban on knives? Or household cleaners? Or Sex Toys?

Well, that would be downright ridiculous. And downright un-American, you commies. I KNOW YOU HAVE IN-LAWS IN THE FORMER EASTERN BLOC. (shifty eyes)

Parents just need to take responsibility. If you have young children who will be tempted to play with a pink dinosaur-shaped lighter, be an adult and don't buy one. Or if you do buy one, keep it somewhere safe. Many households all across America have far more dangerous items in them than theme-lighters (guns, drugs, republicans). And people seem to keep them under control (well, not the republicans, you elected Bush twice. I mean, seriously). There are isolated incidents. But if you

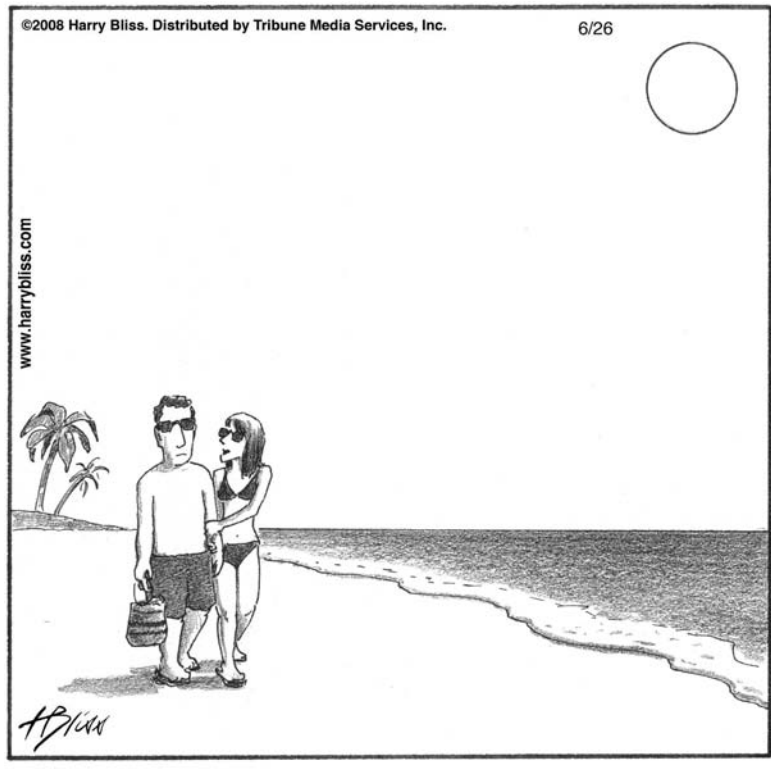
are so worried about these things, don't bring them into your house. Don't let other people bring them into your house. You have all the power and if anything goes wrong, it's on your head.

Certainly, we don't need the government to tell us that we can't have novelty items that spout fire (fireworks) because someone hurt themselves 8 years ago.

Man or Woman or It up. Irregardless. You're the parent. That little thing running around trying its best to become a part of Darwin's theory is your responsibility. So, take care of it. And please don't be so naive or weak-willed that you think the government will protect you. Or that it is the government's job to protect you and yours. It's all on you. So be a parent. And don't ruin it for me. (lights a fag on Mr. sparky, the red and white-speckled dalmatian lighter.)

You may all be so inept that you can take my freedom. BUT YOU WILL NEVER TAKE...MY MR. SPARKY!

Space Filler:
November 18, 1928:
Steamboat Willy
debuts.
Yesterday, Mickey
Mouse turned 80!



“Now isn't my resenting you here much better than back in Vermont?”

Wouldn't it be great if the things you really needed in life were free?

If you were to become unexpectedly pregnant today, finding the right help shouldn't come with a price tag.

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Measure 11: Mandatory sentencing, or how to waste money, lives, and create sex offenders

Cody Anderson
The Commuter

Five young men are playing cards while their friend has sex in the other room. What is wrong with that? What is wrong, is that the male having sex is of legal age while his girlfriend is not, at the age of seventeen. So what happens now? The five young men who were playing cards serve two months in jail and become sex offenders because they are an accessory to statutory rape. While the male, who was having sex, is charged with a Measure 11 sex crime, and is sentenced to 7 years in prison and he too becomes a sex offender. So what happens to the young woman in this scenario? If she was indeed raped, the right guy goes to jail and, hopefully, she gets some closure. If she was not raped and she did indeed consent to sex but claims she was raped, nothing happens.

The scenario I just layed out for you presents a problem. That problem is the way Measure 11 is prosecuted. If you are not familiar with Measure 11, the law mandates that mandatory minimum sentences be given for crimes committed from robbery to 1st degree murder, including 1st and 2nd degree rape. In Oregon, 6% of 8th grade females and 7% of 11th grade females have been physically forced to have sex, and how many of those were young women who consented to sex, but then because they got pregnant, or contracted

an STI (Sexual Transmitted Infection) screamed rape? If so, if the young lady was indeed raped, I have no problem with the measure, but if the young woman has lied about being raped, hasn't she indeed perjured herself, and in turn is that not also a felony charge. The male becomes a target in this case.

Now, I realize with my last statement, many of you will turn the page, read another article, call me a sexist, or say "what an idiot". I am sure there are many women in Oregon and the United States who consent to having sex and have no problem with it; on the other hand, if a young women consents to having sex, and is underage, she should also be held accountable for her actions; it takes two to tango.

Some individuals would like to see Measure 11 abolished; I don't think that is a good idea. Since Measure 11 was instated into Oregon law in 1994, rape cases in Oregon have declined thirty percent. This Measure is necessary and, no doubt, has the right idea in mind, to protect young women; but the Measure, as it stands, needs to take into account both parties, if both consent to sex and one reports a problem later both should suffer the consequences - the same mandatory minimum sentence.

Some teens may think they are ready to make the decision of having sex. If you want my take on it, avoid this mess for yourselves and just wait.

ASG President's Corner

Hannah Gzik
For the Commuter

As we approach the end of fall term many students have asked me, "What has the Associated Student Government been up to and what are they doing for students?" I felt like this is a great time to let everyone know what ASG has been doing for the last nine weeks. Before most students returned to Linn-Benton Community College, many of the ASG members were here planning for our voter registration drive. With the help of many faculty and staff members, we were able to register 607 students to vote for the Presidential election. We finished up voter registration on October 14th,

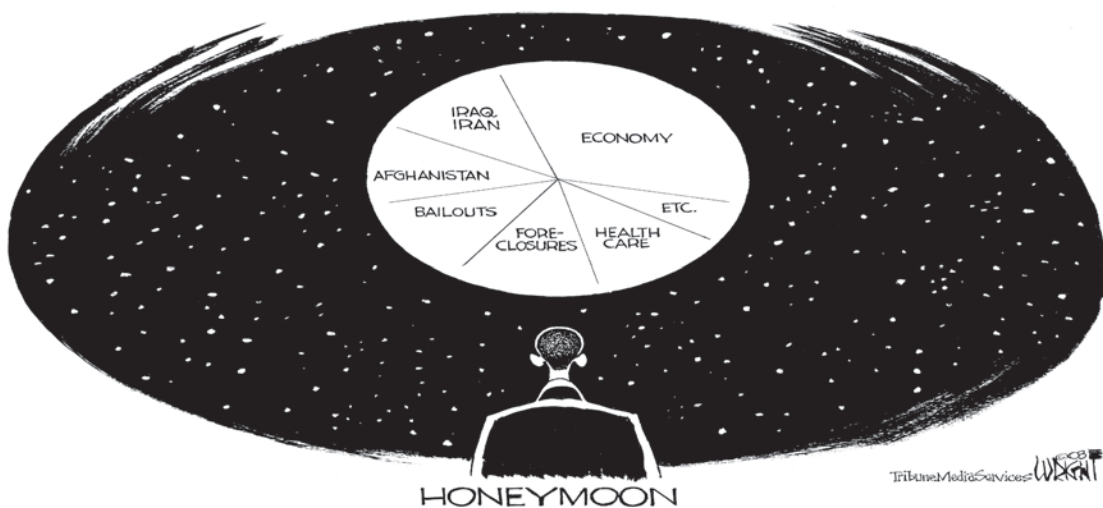
and immediately transitioned into voter education on October 15th, starting with ballot measure presentations. As the voter education part of our drive came to an end, it was time to remind students to get out and vote! As a team, the ASG was able to put on three different events that coordinated with voting. While all this was going on, we were also able to put on an amazing club fair with lots of help from many of the clubs on campus!

At the beginning of the year the ASG sat down and went over issues that we felt were very important to the students at LBCC. The two major issues that the ASG felt directly impacted students and would be our two main goals

to tackle this year are text book prices and sustainability. In weeks to come the ASG Vice President, Patric Pici, and Student Services and Education Representative, Kim McAloney, will be letting you know about our progress on each of these goals.

I, personally, feel that one of the most exciting projects we are working on this term is something we are calling "Study Jam," which will be held December 6th and 7th from 9AM to 9PM. To find out more about "Study Jam," be sure to read next week's ASG update!

Associated Student Government
President
Hannah Gzik



Christmas is upon us!

Rick Casillas
The Commuter

CHRISTMAS IS UPON US! Almost! Well not really, but I was watching television yesterday and I saw a Wal-Mart commercial where the cashiers were playing a holiday song with their lights. They looked so happy, I'll bet it totally made up for them earning minimum wage. At first I was excited - my first Christmas commercial! - then slowly over the course of the evening resentment overpowered the euphoria. Don't get me wrong, I'm not one of those dullards that gets depressed over the season, I just tend to think that if half of our year is holidays it kind of makes them less special. I would rather concentrate them into a few solid weeks of joy then have my big slab o' happiness spread over a few months.

At least the first half of the year has nothing to contribute, I mean seriously pick it up Spring. Easter is the best you can offer? I feel sorry for people that don't have birthdays around then to break up the monotony. Anyway, back to the topic: it's a scam ladies and gentlemen; they're trying to get you all worked up now so you'll go giraffeshit and buy a dozen tickle me Snuffleupagus' or whatever the hell them kids are into.

I implore you all, don't decorate yet. Stay indoors, if you see a caroler, just keep your door closed and shake your head shamefully, maybe give 'em the ole wag of a finger, shame on them for trying to steal your stockpile of holiday joy. If you see a quart of egg-nog at your mega mart, I'm not suggesting vandalism, per say, but accidents happen; test the quality of the shelves. You know those little porcelain hallmark figurines depicting children building snow forts or hugging each other with scarves on? You're a clumsy person; I'm sure you wouldn't be held liable if you lost your footing and knocked a display or three over. Create some anarchy, subtle anarchy, BUT ANARCHY and take your holidays back.

Vision Blurry?

LBCC Student Discount
at the
Walmart Vision Center
3290 S. Santiam Hwy
in Lebanon
541-258-7251

10% off all eye exams and any complete pair of glasses or year supply of contacts

*Offer not valid with insurance. Must present student ID card at appointment

Dr. Matt Knecht