

The Cake has and
always will be a lie.

THE

Wednesday,
October 29, 2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

COMPUTER

008

Volume 40 No. 6

!X



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The Commuter

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SPECIAL FEATURE

An interview with LBCC student
 and author of "Reform at Victory,"
 Michele Ulriksen

A year in fundamentalist hell

Lydia Elliott
The Commuter

"What is this place? A school, a jail, some weird cult place? I would soon find out that it is all those places, and more..." recounts Michele Ulriksen in her book, "Reform at Victory", an account of her year spent as "girl #56" in an all-girl fundamentalist Baptist lockdown school in Ramona, Calif.

Ulriksen's harrowing story brings to light the mentally and physically abusive treatment used in many fundamentalist reform schools, operating under the guise of Christian values and a rehabilitative environment. It is this type of treatment that Ulriksen hopes to inform others about.

After spending 10 years writing her account with the support of former reform school students, friends, and family, Ulriksen says she hopes her story will make an impact. A single mother of a thirteen-year-old



Author and LBCC student Michele Ulriksen.

daughter, LBCC student, and owner of West Hills Communication, located in Corvallis, Ulriksen has come a long way since her days in a reform school. Now she has the opportunity to share her story and inform parents before they make a misinformed choice.

According to Ulriksen, 38, "Parents are often so desperate to get help for their teen, that they just go ahead and believe what they are told and they don't think critically and question, and look logically about how an experience like this will affect their teenager. They don't think about it that way."

Ulriksen believes it is important to understand that "everyone who says they are Christian do not behave that way."

Her parents, like many others, trusted the administrators of Victory Christian Academy, and signed over custody of their daughter for one year to the school, unknowingly trapping her in what would become a year in fundamentalist Baptist "hell."

The author describes the day of her arrival at Victory as a deception planned by her family, who tricked her into believing they were visiting the zoo together. Upon her arrival she was dragged away from her parents by unknown people, stripped of her possessions, and forced into solitary confinement for hours. In her account, Ulriksen writes about her arrival, "Whatever this sick place is, I'm going in against my will. I don't know who or what is in there. I turn to look at my family. They won't make eye contact with me. With black mascara colored tears streaming down my cheeks, the faces around me are now only a blur."

So begins the year Ulriksen spent in reform "school." Forced to take unknown medications, given no privacy, and berated daily by the staff, Ulriksen and the other girls attending had to endure Biblical indoctrination and constant attacks on their self-worth meant to brainwash and break them into submission. Escape was impossible from the facility. A former FBI bunker, surrounded by a 12-foot electric fence a mile off the main road, Victory Christian Academy was completely isolated from the outside world. Ulriksen writes, "By the time we got to talk to our parents we were already brainwashed...into thinking that we would be left there longer if we told our parents."

According to the author, many girls who leave such facilities and report abuse are labeled "troubled teenagers" and "liars," and are often not believed because of their previous history.

"Authorities and social services won't go out there unless they received numerous reports. You have to go out of there with bruises, or evidence of sexual abuse, for them to do anything."

After the death of a young student the year following Ulriksen's departure, Victory Christian Academy was investigated and forced to close by California authorities. The facility was found to have numerous safety violations and deemed an "extreme fire hazard" by a San Diego fire marshal.

However, the program reopened in Jay, Florida under the same name, and is now operating under a different name with new owners.

Although Ulriksen's experience at Victory Christian Academy left her with emotional damage, low self-esteem, anxiety and depression, and caused her to attempt to take her own life twice, she recognizes that all private reform schools are not isolated and fundamentalist.

Ulriksen encourages parents to research the schools they are considering, check with the Better Business Bureau, and look for any complaints or lawsuits that were filed. She encourages parents to look beyond their religion and avoid any programs that do not let them speak to their children or, "that instills such a strong message of fundamentalist values, anti-choice, anti-female, old testament, hard core. These can be very damaging, and hurt a girl's self-esteem when she was already going through problems"

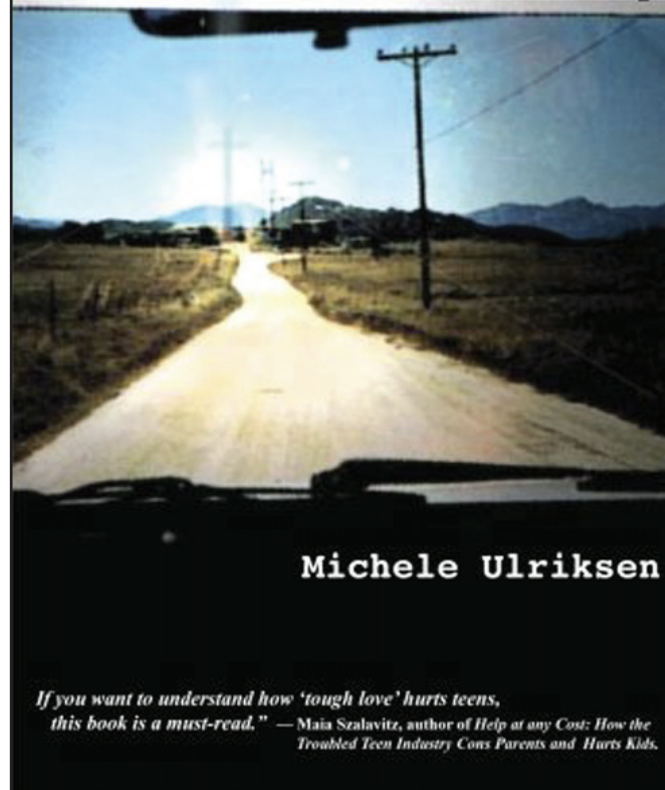
Instead, Ulriksen says to find a school that "teaches the love of Jesus and not the wrath of the Old Testament."

Shelby Earnshaw, Director of the International Survivor's Action Committee, says about the book, "Child abuse masquerading as religion is a very real and serious problem. Reform at Victory sheds light on an issue that is largely ignored by our society.

Although in the beginning writing "Reform at Victory" brought up bad memories, she says that she now "feels like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I have closure."

Reform at Victory

a survivor's story



Michele Ulriksen

If you want to understand how 'tough love' hurts teens, this book is a must-read. —Maia Szalavitz, author of *Help at any Cost: How the Troubled Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids*.

Author's upcoming events:

Sunday, Nov. 2nd 4p.m., Grassroots Bookstore, 227 SW 2nd Street, Corvallis

Wednesday, Nov. 5th 12p.m., LBCC campus, located in the Fireside Room (CC211).

Michele Ulriksen will be reading from her book, taking questions, and signing copies.

The book will be available for \$14 at both events.

Monday, Nov. 10th. Radio interview being aired on "Culture Shocks," a program that addresses social, political, and cultural issues. For those that do not have access to the program in Oregon, visit <http://www.cultureshocks.com> to hear the interview.

Looking for more information?

<http://www.reformatvictory.com>

International Survivor's Action Committee:

<http://www.isaccorp.org>

"Help at any Cost: How the Troubled-Teen Industry Cons Parents and Hurts Kids", written by Maia Szalavitz – <http://www.helpatanycost.com>

For a timeline of events from the opening of VCA in Ramona, California to its closure, go to <http://www.isaccorp.org/victorychristianacademy.asp>

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SPECIAL FEATURE

By Brandon Goldner

Presidential election

In the LBCC courtyard during Democracy In Action week, we got a chance to interview representatives for both Democratic Senator Barack Obama and Republican Senator John McCain. To each we posed this scenario: "I am an undecided voter. Tell me why I should vote for your candidate."

The following is an outline of an interview with RJ Friedman, President of College Republicans at Oregon State University.

- As the economy is the most pressing issue, voters should look at what's happened in history, what's worked and consider what roles Senator McCain has held during those times.
- Statistically speaking, when taxes are raised, revenue decreased. When taxes are lowered, revenue increases. Voters should consider Senator McCain due to his proposed tax policies.
- While President Bush may have persuaded some that Republicans support increases in spending, voters should consider that McCain wants to reign in wasteful spending and eliminate earmarks.
- Voters should consider that Senator McCain has been on the forefront of both the economy and the environment, and supported bills that may have put him in opposition to his own party.
- Senator McCain has a record of going against his party for what he believes in, and voters should consider that Senator McCain has been in service for his country (including not only his work in Congress, but his military service) longer than Senator Obama has been alive.



Photo by Eve Bruntlett

Students surround the tables in the LB courtyard for Democracy in Action week

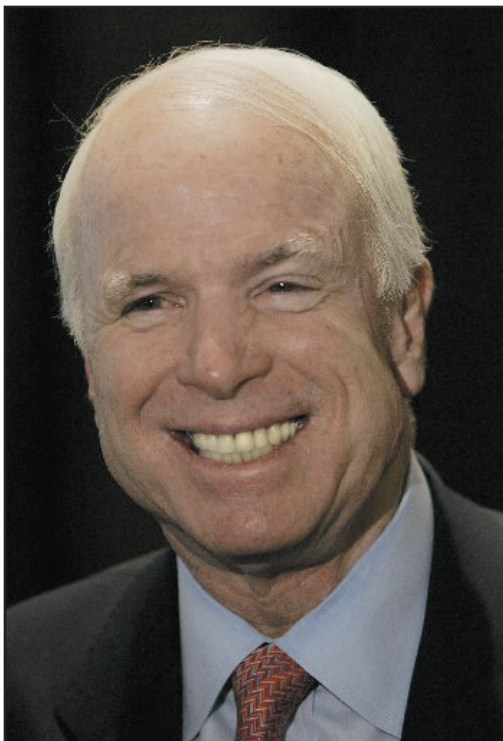
The following is an outline of an interview with Lloyd Henion, Chair of the Linn County Democratic Party.

- With rounded experience as a community organizer, professor, state senator and U.S. senator, voters should consider that Senator Obama has represented more people than the state of Alaska, and has the necessary experience to be President.
- Voters should consider that Senator Obama has the experience to engage in bipartisan ways, and that he can find solutions to problems without being confrontational.
- Top generals and admirals on stage at the Democratic National Convention said that Senator Obama has the judgment, temperament and analytical ability to be Commander-In-Chief, and voters should consider that in their decision.
- The best thing to do to fix the economic problems America is experiencing is to get the middle class back on solid ground, and voters should consider that Senator Obama wants to do just that.
- With an understanding of the economic crisis and how to find a solution for the long term, voters should consider that it couldn't be done through deregulation, something which Senator Obama has always opposed.



These next weeks will afford voters their last chances to vet both candidates and make an informed, sound decision. It's always wise to do research, listen to past speeches and look for inconsistencies, consider voting records, know where they're getting their money and question everything each candidate says.

**Don't be an apathetic voter.
 The world may depend on it.**



- John McCain



- Barack Obama

America is a great country. We're in a moment of national crisis that will determine our future. Will we continue to lead the world's economies, or will we be overtaken? Will the world become safer or more dangerous? Will our military remain the strongest in the world? Will our children and grandchildren's future be brighter than ours? My answer to you is, yes, yes we will lead, yes we will prosper, yes, we will be safer, yes, we will pass onto our children a better, stronger country.

We can overcome the broken policies and divided politics of the last eight years. Together, we can renew an economy that rewards work and rebuilds the middle class. Together, we can create millions of new jobs, and deliver on the promise of health care you can afford and education that helps your kids compete. We can do this if we come together; if we have confidence in ourselves and each other; if we look beyond the darkness of the day to the bright light of hope that lies ahead.

Contact Republicans-

Linn County - <http://www.linncountyrepublicanparty.org/>
 Benton County - <http://bentongop.blogspot.com>

Contact Democrats-

Linn County - <http://www.linncodems.net/>
 Benton County - <http://www.bcdems.net/>

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SURREAL LIVING

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

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Woody Allen movie
 - 6 Poking punches
 - 10 Medical picture
 - 14 Still in the game
 - 15 Border upon
 - 16 New Greek coin
 - 17 Twangy
 - 18 Stout's stout sleuth
 - 19 Narrow margin
 - 20 Send forth
 - 22 Countersign
 - 24 Definite article
 - 25 Long period
 - 26 Official investigation
 - 30 Sailor's org.
 - 31 Little barrel
 - 34 Grievers
 - 36 Steps over a fence
 - 38 Keen
 - 39 Has on
 - 42 Billfold bills
 - 43 On your feet!
 - 45 In a state of decline
 - 47 Ernie of golf
 - 48 Want ___
 - 51 Bernhard and Dee
 - 52 Blackthorn
 - 53 Refrain syllable
 - 54 Some hunting dogs
 - 57 Passenger-comfort feature
 - 62 Honolulu's island
 - 63 Out of danger
 - 65 Cuban dance
 - 66 Fiber source
 - 67 Ostrich kin
 - 68 Spanish goodbye
 - 69 Narrow cut
 - 70 Cravings
 - 71 Doles (out)

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10/29/08

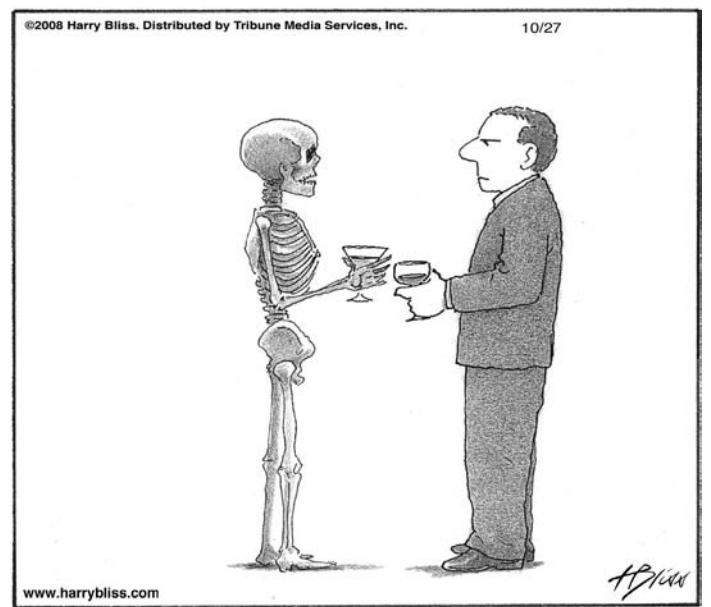
- DOWN**
- 1 Billy of "Titanic"
 - 2 NFL kicker Jason
 - 3 "Mona ___"
 - 4 Nobelist Pavlov
 - 5 Jiggly dessert
 - 6 Bronte novel
 - 7 Pres. Lincoln
 - 8 Part of the FBI
 - 9 Rocks
 - 10 Noble gas
 - 11 One with regrets
 - 12 Circle segments
 - 13 Oxen connector
 - 21 Tossed
 - 23 Adams and Rickles
 - 26 Reflection
 - 27 New
 - 28 Resigns
 - 29 Pakistani tongue
 - 31 Pirate slugger Ralph
 - 32 "Maria ___"
 - 33 Prose romances
 - 35 Down in the mouth
 - 37 "Sweeney ___"
 - 40 Never still
 - 41 Frighten
 - 44 Ashen
 - 46 Word puzzle
 - 49 Band-leader Tommy
 - 50 "___ Street"
 - 52 Daring feat
 - 54 Cries
 - 55 British noble
 - 56 Bangkok resident
 - 58 Uncouth
 - 59 Leave out
 - 60 Clarinet relative
 - 61 Large group
 - 64 Enjoyable

Solutions

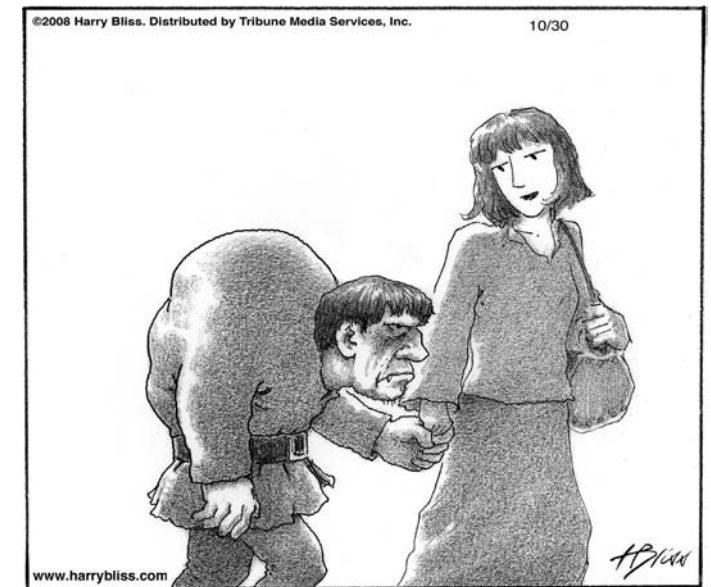
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"Well, guys ... this is me."



"Does my sternum make me look fat?"



"Mother is going to hate you."



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 brewrockit@yahoo.com

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

Campus Shorts...

International poster exhibit on honoring the dead hosted by the Benton Center

A poster exhibit will be featured by a group of ESOL students, this week on traditions in honoring the dead in the Benton Center lounge. The exhibit will begin at noon on Wed., Oct. 29 and will continue through Fri., Oct. 31. Students will share traditions, on honoring the dead, from Mexico, South Korea, Brazil, Bolivia, China, Vietnam, Spain, Colombia, Thailand, and many others.

"10 Questions for the Dalai Lama" public film screening and Meet the director.

The public film screening for "10 Questions for the Dalai Lama", will be held Wed., Nov. 5, from 5 pm to 8 pm on campus in Forum 104. The director Rick Ray will be present and allow time for questions after the viewing of his film. For more information about either the film or cinematographer/writer/director Rick Ray, please visit: <http://10questionsforthedalailama.com/>

LBCC Traffic Control Flagger Certification course

A Traffic Control Flagger Certification course will be held at LBCC in the Willamette Room located in the College Center, on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 8 am to 12:30 pm. The cost for the course is \$80 and includes all materials, and will certify you to flag traffic in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Washington. You

will learn basic visual flagging signals, appropriate two-way radio usage, and signing and sign regulations. You will minimize liability and driver inconvenience by making the worksite safe keeping traffic flowing.

Texas Chili in the courtyard

The Campus Student Ambassadors Christian Fellowship will hold a Texas Chili lunch in the courtyard, served over rice or beans, with cornbread, cookies, and choice of beverage, on Wed., Oct. 29, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. The cost will be \$3.50 for students, and \$4.50 for staff.

Free online productivity software workshop

This presentation by Bryan Miyagishima will teach you about the free graphic editor alternatives on the web. This workshop will be held on Wed., Oct. 29, at noon in the library classroom, and is available to all members of LBCC as a part of the Fall Academic Success Seminars Series.

Faculty Art Show

Carol Chapel, right, reads the tag on the back of her piece titled "Portable Art."

"Take it with you carry it around. Sit it on your table at the coffee shop and see who joins you. Take it through airport security. You are guaranteed to meet people you would have never met before. Or just appreciate it at home."

Photo by Eve Bruntlett

Alaskan fishing boat goes down

Tyler Caskey
 The Commuter

According to the Associated Press, four crew members of a fishing boat were plucked alive from a life raft in frigid, stormy seas Wednesday, hours after their vessel was reported in distress, a Coast Guard spokesman says. Five crew members died, and two remained missing.

A search continued for the remaining two crew members of the Katmai, a 93-foot fish processor based on Alaska's Kodiak Island, Coast Guard Petty Officer Levi Read said.

Read said two more deceased crew members was located Wednesday night by a fishing vessel assisting the Coast Guard in the search. Three bodies were recovered earlier.

The water was 43 degrees when rescuers hauled the survivors out of the raft, Read said. He couldn't speculate on how long they were in the raft because it was not known exactly when they abandoned their boat. Still, he said, several factors helped them survive.

From working in this environment this summer I am amazed that the survivors lasted as long as they did. Not only is the water virtually as cold as ice but the waves are some of the most devastating and happen without warning a lot of the time. One minute the seas are calm but in the next ten, things could turn, and I remember a few times when we had to head in early because it potentially could be fatal.

The Coast Guard received an electronic signal at 1 a.m. from the Katmai. A search helicopter and C-130 airplane were sent from Kodiak, a journey of about 4 1/2 hours. The plane crew spotted two strobe lights in the water and dropped two life rafts. But after sunup, the searchers had seen no sign of the Katmai or its crew, said Associated Press writer Steve Quinn.

The Katmai was carrying a load of cod and was heading toward Dutch Harbor on Unalaska Island, Read said. Dutch Harbor is 800 miles southwest of Anchorage and about 610 miles southwest of Kodiak but never made it.



The Hotshot Coffee House

located in the Student Union on Main Campus

Harry Potter Week October 27th-31st

Wednesday
Acting contest - whoever best acts out a scene from a magical book or movie (like Harry Potter) wins a prize

Thursday
Best magic trick contest

Friday
Prize for best Harry Potter costume
Prize for best other costume

All contests will be held at 12pm. Sign up at the HotShot prior to event. Co-Sponsored by The LBCC Bookstore.

The Hotshot Coffee House

We practice greener and healthier

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CAMPUS NEWS

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

New school year heralds new student resource

Lydia Elliott
The Commuter

The recent changes made to the former Multicultural Center have started a lot of conversations on campus this fall. The Diversity Achievement Center, as it is now called, looks and feels different from its old incarnation; but according to school employees, it is still very much the same.

According to Toni Klohk, the center's coordinator, the office had recently been repainted and many pieces of art still haven't found their way back onto the walls. Klohk also said that they were, "putting together a committee to help with the art."

However, the Chinese dragon that was prominently viewable through the window

last year will not be returning. Instead, the dragon, which belongs to Student Life and Leadership, will be on display around campus.

"This is a growing process for us," said Klohk, "but is still a student success center for those seeking help."

Part of the purpose of the Diversity Achievement Center is to host meetings for prospective students from Linn and Benton counties. Last week, the center hosted hundreds of prospective students entering the fields of agriculture science, horticulture, and



A display honors the lost MCC
Photo by Eve Bruntlett

many others. This change in purpose comes with the advent of hired staff to work in the center, instead of being student-run, as it was in the years prior.

Despite these changes, students will still find an open and inviting atmosphere to hang out or study in. Computers are available for students, as well as tables and open space for playing games and relaxing. With extra space on campus becoming expensive real estate, the Diversity Achievement Center finds a

balance between work and fun space for all students.

Klohk encourages students to come in and ask questions about the Center. "Judgments have been made [about the DAC] without people coming in and asking questions," she said. Klohk also went on to say that the center "will become what the people use it for. They will define the space."

So don't be surprised by the change in wall color or lack of décor, which is not intended to last long. Instead, take a look inside and see what the DAC has to offer you, or what new purpose you can offer the DAC. The important thing to remember is that students are still more than welcome.

PERSPECTIVES: What is your zombie apocalypse plan?



Staci Grove

"I would probably wait till it happens."



Joe Shellhart

"I would perch on top of a gun store and hit golf balls at them."



Brett Yoder

"I would most likely be dead."



Amy Davis

"I would grab a baseball bat and go at them with it."



Austin Stinson

"I would probably freak out."

Compiled by Eve Bruntlett. Photos by Eve Bruntlett. The views expressed in Perspectives do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter staff.



The LBCC Foundation, under the direction of Paulette Myers, organized "Bring your teddy bear to work day," a fundraiser to help support FISH, a non-profit located in Albany. Students and faculty brought stuffed animals to give to children staying with the organization.



THE COMMONS FARE 10/29-11/4

Wednesday

Dishes: Roasted Beer Brined Chicken with Pan Gravy, Tuscan Braised Pork with Creamy Polenta* and Gnocchi Bar
Soups: Cream of Broccoli and Won Ton

Thursday

Dishes: French Dip with Fries, Hazelnut-Arugula Pesto Pasta with Grilled Chicken and Thai Vegetarian Stir-Fry*
Soups: Cream Roasted Chicken and Garlic Soup with Tomato*

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Dishes: Grilled Pork Chop with Sauce Robert, Irish Lamb Stew* and Sweet and Sour Tempeh with Rice* (GF)
Soups: Chicken Noodle and Cream of Tomato

Tuesday

Dishes: Reuben Sandwich with Coleslaw, Chicken Gumbo with Creole Rice and Chicken Gumbo with Creole Rice
Soups: Shrimp Bisque* and Tomato Rice*

*Gluten-free

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POETRY NEWS

Your latest information on the fruits of local poetic genius.

Poetry in emotion

Rick Casillas
The Commuter

When I close my eyes and drift to that far away land I like to call my imagination I see many things. Robot overlords lashing their fleshy subordinates with licorice whips, chocolate ponies swaying listlessly beside platinum pools filled with greasy remains of candy wrappers. Most are food based, I'll admit. I'm hungry and there's not much that can be done about that. But cravings come in many forms, chief among them is a desire for creative outlets, and the Poetry Club is a veritable buffet of emotional outpouring. As Robin Havenick, Advisor for the LBCC Poetry Club, articulated to me, "There are so many people on campus that are poets. And so many poets live private lives, they want a place to share, and have a community." That isolation that feeds the creative process can also be its undoing: Many great artists are plagued with the stigma of neurosis the source of which could have simply been a lack of social contact, or a place of expression free of the harsh criticisms and conflicting egos we so often meet in our daily lives.

The format of the meetings are simple, you present a piece of work whether it comes in the form of a poem, a song, or just a passage from one of your favorite books; after it's read the group discusses the meaning and context of the work while giving positive feedback. The conglomeration of so many ideas and experiences proliferated with excited discussion after every presentation, form a wonderful cadence of measured response and careful questions. Never once did I see the detraction of the spotlight on any performer, never was the conversation turned to themselves when asking a question or making a comment. It was the perfect supportive structure, unmarred by

selfish desires for attention. The name of the Poetry Club in itself may be somewhat misleading, the variety of types of expression were numerous, and the reasons just as plentiful. "The reason I come here is to practice," said Keith Binder, who plays piano and sings in a band, before stepping over to his instrument of choice and playing a powerful ballad. One man named Darryl read a chapter of a book given to him by a dear friend called "The Prophet" which told the story of a man returning to a city he was fearful no longer loved him. Others, like Robin or Kaedence Eaton (president of the club), used the time to express frustrations through poetry over simple troubles like the passing of seasons, or the time we waste on frivolities. Everyone had a voice, and they were all heard. The contributions made by those that attended had a lasting impression on me, but I wondered how most students would see what relevance such a gathering would have to their lives.

Robin spoke to me afterwards about the importance of poetry to everyone, "When we go through important events in our life, whether positive or negative, we need poetry." She went on to give examples of how poems have played a vital role in the history of the world, both as reminders and memorials that litter the graveyards of our past. "We mark history with poetry," said Robin, and so poetry goes beyond the simple recording of things, taking on the far more difficult task of translating the meaning, so the reader, too, can share in the relationship of an event. Whether it's the stroke of a skyline or the powerful resonance of a political speech we are all tied together by these experiences, and through them, each other.

The LBCC Poetry Club meets in the music room on the second floor of the South Santiam Hall at 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Mondays.

POETRY CORNER

Undern

I.
 Once in the bright morning of my life,
 I could lose the hours without regret,
 Forsaking my studies to wander
 Amongst the newly washed tombs
 Or better still to seek out
 The wide white house on the hill.
 Again and again it was locked to me.
 But how I dreamed of it.
 Dreamed and dwelt in those rooms,
 More sweetly than in my own body.

II.
 There are no apples here any more

But the hollows are still green
 And the winter floods
 Roar beneath the boardwalks.

I hold to myself this book,
 The 'Mill on the Floss'
 It's crimson cover
 Is soft and sun warmed
 A fragile thing with it's own strength.

It is Maggie's heart, hidden in the
 Red Deeps

And its black words on the cream
 colored pages
 The dark Floss rushing
 Through my brightest dreams.

III.
 The morning ebbs. I grow restless
 Shall I save this moment
 Only to cling to it down into
 The cold depths of unknowing?

Or shall I go on into the Hours?
 Day calls to day, a distant bell
 beyond the years, and still,
 Undern hastens unto Nones
 Overnoon seeks Evensong.

I know that in life I can never
 Be separated from her.
 See how even now she dwells
 In the sunlit rooms of that far away
 house,
 Spirited away with my old books.
 The white mist lifts from the golden
 ground
 And I lie content in the fields of
 memory.

- Roy Lopez

*Because I could not stop for the sign
 The ticket cost me more than a
 dime*

I TOLD MYSELF I WOULDN'T
 DO IT THIS TIME
 But I'll be fine, the cop's a friend of
 mine
 With such luck in life what else
 could go wrong
 Maybe she won't know about the
 radio playing a way bad song
 I hope he doesn't see the bong
 He'll end up hanging out way
 too long

THE MORAL OF THE STORY, AS ODD
 AS IT IS

*If you do a small crime,
 expect to be put away for long*
 If measure 61 passes strong

- Written by Sigma Kappa Delta
 students

Credits to "Because I could not stop
 for death" by Emily Dickenson

*Shall we compare thee to an
 autumn tree?*

ALL OF YOUR BRANCHES
 HAVE LEAVES OF THREE.
 Your brittle twigs sway
 helplessly in the wind, like
 me.

Sharpen those shears and set
 me free.

As the sun hits your leaves
 the golds and reds shine.
*The corporations will
 ruin me, poison me with
 turpentine.*

**I can feel the chemicals seeping
 through me.**

Perhaps some day, nature
 will win, and people will see.

- Written by Sigma Kappa Delta
 members

Classifieds

They just make cents. Place an ad today with The Commuter at
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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.

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Tolerance & Culture

Thursday, November 6th, 3:00

— 4:30, in the Fireside Room, Callie Palmer, Jan Frazer-Hevlin, Alice Sperling, and Gary Ruppert will take you on an active journey learning the concept of Cultural Proficiency and trying to look at how that relates to our everyday at LBCC.

And yes, we are not above resorting to bribery - there will be snacks!!

This workshop is being sponsored with the cooperation of the Diversity and Civic Engagement Council and the Diversity Achievement Center.

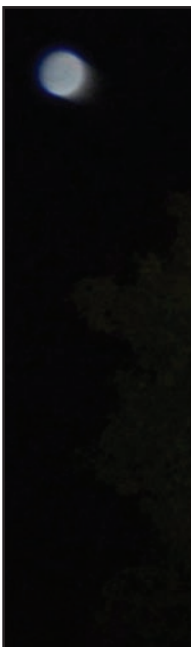
If you have any questions please feel free to contact Gary Ruppert 917-4534. gary.ruppert@linnbenton.edu



The Commuter
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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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



Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

It's a special kind of hell, that of skirting around the spirit world. It's a daunting task, even to begin with. I sat in my car with A&E editor, James Scales, at Del Taco munching a burrito as we "food-stormed" where the most haunted place would be last Sunday night; simultaneously listening to the All Hallow's Even edition of the Dr. Demento radio show.

We eventually ended up in downtown Albany, in the relative dark of Bryant Park. I didn't believe we'd find anything, but there was a sense of malaise and disalignment there; extremely disproportionate to what should theoretically be heralded as a happy place.

Orbs began to swirl around us and James sensed things on all sides. I couldn't shake the all-too-familiar feeling of absolute loathing for the living, so much so that I didn't even notice the spirits that flocked to James.

Often times I'd take a photograph that'd have orbs moving or of different colors and I'd shoot in the exact same place again and it would be pitch dark. And after a few minutes be perfectly light again.

We made our way through downtown photographing churches that felt like the absolute absence of energies and yet as we'd leave I'd always take one quick snap over my shoulder and catch something, to which successive shots would provide only darkness as whatever we disturbed would either occlude the camera or disappear.

One building in particular stands out, one I shall not name. It was impossible for me to photograph it. I felt nothing, and I got nothing, but no matter how I tried to photograph this building, the result was the same, a dark morass encapsulated the quaint little house and kept us at bay.

Our night ended with a long walk and more soul-searching, but we never did shake those eerie feelings and we never quite felt alone.

Spirit Orb Hunting
By Gregory Dewar and James Scales

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Photos by Eve Bruntlett



William L. Finley
National Wildlife Refuge

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Aqua of Corvallis, Pacific Rim Deliciousness

By James Scales & Damon Solomos
The Commuter

Head chef Adam, born in Oahu, Hawaii, graduated from Western Culinary Institute in 1998. Since then he has played a large role across several restaurants including his position as Executive Sous Chef of Aramark, in Denali National Park, Alaska, Executive Chef at the Saucebox Café and Bar in Portland, and Executive Sous Chef at Portland City Grill. He was voted one of Portland's Top Ten Chefs for two consecutive years. On top of that he is a friendly and gracious man, whose manner adds immensely to the warm feel of his restaurant.

Aqua is located in downtown Corvallis on 151 NW Monroe Ave. Opening six months ago it has grown to be one of the largest restaurants in town. Pacific Rim Fusion style cuisine is served with a good amount of choice to satisfy any of your seafood cravings.

We were lucky enough to go with a rather large group allowing us to sample everything on the menu and nothing disappointed.

From the seared Mahi Mahi to the Seafood Papardelle, the Beef Salads to the Crab Masubi, the Kumamoto Oysters to the Kung Pao Calamari, everything was fantastic.

The top dish for us was undoubtedly The Crab Masubi. The Crab Cakes are just so delicious, a perfect mixture of fresh crabmeat and a pepper beurre blanc, coated with breadcrumbs and a band of nori. The plate includes Aqua Smashed Potatoes and the wonderful Asian stir-fry that accompanies a few other dishes on the menu.

The Blackened Ahi was the dish of a dining companion and I was very disappointed that he talked me into letting him get that dish. Perfectly seared and blackened exterior and a wonderful rare center, the Ahi was cooked beautifully. A slightly sweet and salty sauce with a Chinese hot mustard spread across the fish made it delectable. Under, around, and about the plate with the Ahi is sticky rice and more of that tasty Asian Stir Fry.

The dish that I ordered was the seared Mahi Mahi, the fish

of course was cooked absolutely wonderfully, as by the end of tasting almost everything on their menu came to an end, I was expecting. A very sweet and somewhat thick citrus chili plum sauce covered the bottom of the plate and was possibly the only thing I thought brought down the experience. I tend to be slightly more critical of what I order but as I ate through the sauce it got quite sweet, but mixed all together with a bit of rice, stir fry, and Mahi Mahi, was still pretty good.

My favorite appetizer by far was "Da 6 Pack" Kumamoto Oysters on the half. Even if you don't like oysters I would recommend this dish. A chili sauce and some fresh vegetables topped with sake-shaved ice had all the flavors in order. This was truly mouthwatering, very, very hard to stop yourself from ordering another plate of these tasty shells.

As far as the price; do not let it intimidate you. If you like your seafood it is more than worth it. Dinner for two with an appetizer will probably run you about sixty dollars. If you throw on some

drinks or a bottle of wine you can reach eighty dollars or more. As I said before, it is worth every earned cent.

The service was knowledgeable and quick for such a large group and was on top of most things, even offering mocktails for the under 21 in our group.

Aqua of Corvallis is a wonderful seafood establishment with variations on traditional Southeast Asian and Hawaiian dishes. Definitely worth going to and trying at least once, if you do I know you will be back at least a couple more times.

Point-Counterpoint Aqua

Point	James (Under 21)	Damon (Over 21)
Wine and Drinks	The mocktails are actually good.	I love a good wine list.
Decor	Cool fish tanks!	Warm and friendly atmosphere.
Food	Blackened Ahi, eat it, love it.	Crab Musubi is the greatest food creation ever.
Wait Staff	Great service for my group size.	A little slow but friendly.
Price	Little bit spendy but certainly worth it to me.	Could be a lot more expensive for the quality.
Music	Nice quiet and inviting.	Typical fine dining music.
Rating	Four and a half tuna steaks.	Three and a half prawns.

This Year's Fall Salmon & Steelhead

Tyler Caskey
The Commuter

This is a prime time for catching salmon and steelhead in the western part of the state, including runs from some of Oregon's world-famous rivers, the Deschutes, Rogue, McKenzie, and Umpqua.

Fall steelhead tend to run from mid-August into February, whereas the chinook tend to run from August to December, according to Mike Gorman, OSU professor and Oregon fly-fishing guide. This year could be the first in five that the number of fish caught could increase.

This year as well as last year the number of fish coming into the state has been drastically lower than in years past. No one really knows for sure why this is but I think that it has to do with rising water temperature, and due to this a lot of the bait-fish the salmon and steelhead are eating are nowhere to be found.

A handful of salmon were caught last week in the Rogue according to Robbie Biles, a local fisherman.

The Umpqua River will be productive for winter steelhead when the level and water clarity return to fishable levels Gorman said. A fall chinook in excess of 30 pounds was caught near Elkton last week, according to www.nwfishing.com.

With each new day and as the rivers increase in volume, more

salmon and steelhead are making their way upriver. After living and guiding on Kodiak Island this summer, I think the best places to catch fish for the next couple of weeks would be the coastal and tidewaters. Fish are likely to be holding in deep holes, cut banks, eddies and behind debris (logs, rocks).

I know from experience, that all these fisheries will hold fall and winter fish, ranging as far south as the Rogue River and Gold Beach, all the way up through the Umpqua River at Reedsport and the Siletz River in Newport.

For more information on this year's salmon and steelhead runs contact Mike Gorman at 541.207.4000 or take look at www.nwfishing.com.

Submit!

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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Horoscopes

MYSTIC STARS weekly horoscope: Week of Oct. 27
By Lasha Seniuk (MCT)

October 27–November 1, 2008

ARIES (March 21–April 20) Family security and increased romantic intimacy are now an ongoing theme: beginning Tuesday, and lasting over the next 4 to 5 weeks, expect complex family or home issues to be steadily resolved. Pace your reactions according to the time schedule of loved ones: at present, others may be highly motivated to make productive home changes and fast romantic improvements. After Saturday rest and discuss long-term dreams and plans: loved ones will listen.

TAURUS (April 21–May 20) Romance and long-term friendship will now enter a phase of open discussion and newfound passion: after mid-week powerful physical attractions may become a prime influence in your life. Find new ways to explore sensuality and romantic commitments: relationships will now quickly evolve based on your subtle comments, guidance and direction. After Friday business plans or short-term financial ventures may be delayed. Be patient and watch for creative openings.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21) Workplace or financial demands will this week require a bold or expressive approach: Monday through Wednesday expect recent restrictions or failed discussions with authority figures to be slowly corrected. Late Thursday a 4 week period of business ambition and financial negotiations arrives. Don't be shy: new opportunities will soon be offered. After Friday watch for a close friend to organize a unique group event. Join in and expect tensions to fade: all will be supportive.

CANCER (June 22–July 22) Home relations and long-term romance will now enter a period of rapid actions or serious discussions. Speak your mind freely concerning recent disappointments or setbacks: over the next 5 weeks honest and sensitive confrontation will bring about positive emotional change and new growth in family security. Late Friday expect a close friend to provide unusual information about a mutual friend. Romantic triangles may be a rare concern: avoid unnecessary risk.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22) Early this week a mood of business and romantic restlessness will fade. Wait for attitudes to slowly change and expect an intensive phase of ambition or sensuality to then arrive.

Over the next 5 weeks close relationships will be less complicated by social rules or home pressures: set concrete goals and let others see your confidence. After Thursday your physical and social charisma will dramatically increase: stay focused and watch for rare last minute invitations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Over the next few days an old friend or long-forgotten emotional issue between lovers may resurface. Even though feelings of nostalgia are strong right now, this is not a good time to become overly focused on the past. Say your farewells to old patterns and move swiftly on: loved ones now need present day dedication. Late Friday marks the beginning of 5 weeks of joyful romance and renewed interest in family or social celebrations: stay open to new love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 23) Gather friends and trusted companions around this week: emotional strength can now be gained from sharing your ideas, plans and feelings with a receptive social group. Over the next few weeks many Librans will feel a powerful urge to establish a new network of friends or begin unique social activities. Unusual forms of study, educational plans or artistic pursuits will be highly appealing. Late Sunday rest and regain focus: family memories will soon fade.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) Intensive romantic change will now be difficult to resist: after Wednesday emotional security between lovers and conflicting business aspirations may be a central theme. Clarify long-term goals and show loved ones your dedication: all is well. Thursday through Sunday family relationships may also require clarification: someone close will now benefit from a strong statement of loyalty. A mildly draining week: stay alert to small hints and gestures.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23–Dec. 21) Quiet celebrations and gentle emotional encounters will bring romantic improvement over the next 8 days. Many Sagittarians are now ending several weeks of workplace or financial stress. Spend extra time with loved ones before Friday: long-term relationships will now offer increased intimacy and powerful moments of family sharing. After Saturday watch for a series of annoying phone calls from a nervous relative. Past social mistakes may be at issue: stay balanced.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 20) Over the next few days family and romantic relationships will intensify: watch for loved ones to create a

new level of intimacy within the home or ask for increased emotional support. Three months of misplaced priorities is now ending: show others your intentions and welcome positive growth in all key relationships. After Friday dreams, intuitions and social wisdom will be vivid. Pay close attention to fast hunches: someone close may now need public support.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21–Feb. 19) Business and romantic security is now on the rise: after Tuesday many Aquarians will begin 6 weeks of rapid business expansion and increasing romantic intensity. Be prepared to separate a key business project into several parts. Further development and new research methods will now bring surprising advancement: don't hold back. Thursday through Sunday romantic passion will be rewarding: remain open to new invitations and bold statements of affection.

PISCES (Feb. 20–March 20) Four weeks of business misinformation and disjointed work communications will fade over the next few days: watch for a new wave of business ambition to soon arrive. Listen to your initial instincts: at present, colleagues will greatly respect your ability to settle long-standing disputes. After Saturday a close friend may reveal unique family information. Relocation or a job change may be key issues: expect important decisions from friends or roommates in the coming weeks.

If your birthday is this week...long-term romantic commitments may soon experience a brief but intense period of decision. Areas most strongly affected are family traditions, home planning and public celebrations. Over the next 14 weeks expect key relationships to either become more firmly established or begin to fade. Stay focused and ask probing questions. After mid-February watch also for a sudden series of job promotions or new workplace assignments to arrive. In the coming months public reputation and group presentations may be an ongoing theme. Work hard to make sure your basic financial and employment needs are met: your image, insight and abilities will soon be affirmed.

For private consultation, please visit www.mysticstars.net.

—
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Unlikely in love: Why success-driven women fall for affable losers

By Jessica Yadegaran
Contra Costa Times (MCT)

In Katherine Heigl's new film, "Knocked Up," the "Grey's Anatomy" star and Botticelli beauty plays a successful career girl who has a one-night stand with an unemployed, slobbish slacker. When she becomes pregnant, the two reunite and eventually fall in love.

In pop culture, this isn't the first time the loser gets the girl. Think of John Cusack in "Say Anything," Jason Schwartzman in "Shop Girl" and almost every Adam Sandler comedy. For Type-A women at the top of their game, what's the allure?

"They're safe and fun," says Dana Ovidia of Walnut Creek, Calif. "You feel like you're still living in your youth when you're with a guy like that."

Ovidia, who heads to nursing school in the fall, says she has friends who justify dating losers, even if they're "terrible" boyfriends.

"I have friends who say, 'I'm not going to marry him or anything, I'm just having fun,'" she says.

In "Knocked Up," Allison Scott (Heigl) is a newly promoted, on-air correspondent for E! Entertainment Television, and a fox. Ben Stone (Seth Rogen) is a slovenly pothead who stays home watching movies with his fellow slacker roommates. Their goal in life is to launch a Web site listing when and where actresses appear nude in movies.

Ben is the first to admit that Allison is too good for him ("You're prettier than I am"), but he is also sweet, funny and honest. While their yin and yang makes for great comedic entertainment, experts say there is something to the pairing of underachieving men and overachieving women.

Part of it, says Lynda Phelps, a college and career adviser, stems from the fact that women are more successful and empowered than ever. They outnumber men in college, a statistical flip of the past 20 years, and they're raising children alone, buying homes and running businesses.

"Things have changed a lot," says Phelps. "Women have become extreme overachievers, and with that stress and pressure comes the need to relax. It

can be totally relaxing to be with someone who is carefree, adventurous and doesn't take themselves that seriously."

In some cases, Phelps says, that side of them has never been touched, and these men help them tap into that.

"Sometimes we're so programmed that we forget to have any fun," she says. "It makes me so sad for women today because you don't want to be so overachieving that you forget to smell the roses."

Lafayette, Calif., psychologist Suzanne Dudeck says there are endless reasons why high-achieving women choose laid-back men.

"These loser types make wonderful dates," she says. "They are charming. They will call. They'll say, 'I felt something.' They send the flowers. They ask your opinion. And the women love it."

Ditto from the guy's perspective.

"Successful women are sexy," says college student Reed Sutter, of Pleasant Hill, Calif. "They're in control and know what they want."

Women like it, too, says Dudeck, but it's a fairly new phenomenon.

"We girls of the 1960s didn't have strong role models," she says. "So we needed to prove that we could do it all. Go to college, become something like boys, be it lawyers or doctors, and cook and sew and garden and entertain and still be caretakers."

In proving that they can do a million tasks at once, Dudeck says, women get approval. She calls this a sociological and cultural shift, and a role reversal between men and women.

"We need what the men needed back then, approval and recognition," she says. "Instead of bragging about what their husbands do, which women still do, now they brag about us. They're impressed to be with us. The more there's acceptance for women in high-powered jobs, the more the men like to snag one of us."

Shannon Walpole doesn't feel right passing judgment on less-than-professional guys. After all, she says, you can't help who you fall in love with. Still, the Walnut Creek, Calif., lawyer does believe their unions with overachieving women are chal-

lenging.

"It's rare for those relationships to be successful, because your core values have to be the same," she says.

That was Leah Reeves' experience. Reeves, who works in medical sales, for five years dated a guy whom she defines as a loser.

"He was a bad boy, and all the girls wanted to date him," says Reeves, on business in Walnut Creek from Portland. "My family tried to be supportive, but they knew he was a loser."

Said bad boy dropped out of college, and, after a stint in the Army, settled into a graveyard shift job at an adult video store.

"It finally hit me then," Reeves says. "It wasn't going to work out for us."

LOVEABLE LOSERS

Pop culture is rife with losers we love. Here's a rundown from TV and film:

— **Sonny Koufax** (Adam Sandler), "Big Daddy" (1999)

Why he's a loser: He's lazy, unemployed and eats pizza all day.

But then again ... He adopts a kid.

— **Jeffrey Lebowski**, the Dude (Jeff Bridges), "The Big Lebowski" (1998)

Why he's a loser: He's always stoned and slovenly.

But then again ... His mild manner is welcome in a cast of mobsters and druggies.

— **Homer Simpson**, "The Simpsons" (1989–present)

Why he's a loser: He drinks too much, works too little and is always getting into mischief.

But then again ... He's devoted to Marge and the kids and holds down a steady job.

— **Randolph Dupree** (Owen Wilson), "You, Me and Dupree" (2006)

Why he's a loser: Best man moves in with newlyweds, sleeps naked on their leather couch and almost burns the house down.

But then again ... He's a charmer with those baby blues. Plus, the kids seem to like him.

— **Jeremy Kraft** (Jason Schwartzman), "Shopgirl" (2005)

Why he's a loser: He's jobless, clueless about women, and takes off on a road trip as a rock band's groupie.

But then again ... On the road trip, he listens to self-help tapes on relating to women.

— **Dewey Finn** (Jack Black), "School of Rock" (2003)

Why he's a loser: He's a slob and assumes his roommate's identity to get a job.

But then again ... He's passionate about music and teaching it to kids.

— **George Costanza** (Jason Alexander), "Seinfeld" (1990–1998)

Why he's a loser: He's cheap, selfish, a killjoy and lives with his parents.

But then again ... He's loyal to his friends (most of the time).

— **Andy Stitzer** (Steve Carell), "40-Year-Old Virgin" (2005)

Why he's a loser: He's 40 and a virgin.

But then again ... He's sincere, good with kids and looking for a commitment.

— **Lloyd Dobler** (John Cusack), "Say Anything" (1989)

Why he's a loser: All he thinks about is kickboxing.

But then again ... He holds a boombox blasting Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes" above his head to serenade a girl.

— **John Winger** (Bill Murray), "Stripes" (1981)

Why he's a loser: After his girlfriend leaves him, he's unemployed and joins the Army because of an ad on TV.

But then again ... He defeats the Communists.

—
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opinion

Submissions to The Commuter:
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu
Drop-in: Forum 222
Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.

Don't vote:

Why even pretend to care?

Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

I remember in 2004 seeing a bumper sticker that read: "Anyone but Bush" and now we've got our wish. Why would you want to vote? This is the best our country has to offer? A militant republican addled tool on the edge of death, and a privileged spoiled brat, who seems only to have promises and no grasp on reality.

These are the two choices that our country came up with to run it? Don't even get me started on their freaking running partners. It's a pathetic and disgraceful show on humanity's part.

Why not someone who's extremely intelligent like a physicist? Or someone we can rely on to be rational like a rodeo clown? Why not a champion of old-time Rock and Roll like Bob Seger, or someone who loves kittens, like Angelina Jolie.

The point I'm making in the above and ridiculous paragraph is that almost anyone, even some uneducated cretin from the underworld of America would be more fit to run our country than these empty bobble heads.

Obama reminds me of a wide-eyed wonder-filled child who just saw the ocean for the first time and thinks that the earth may just be infinite. And that if we all get together and use love and magic we can ride Unicorns over rainbows to the land of Elves and solve all of our problems with Elfin magic. Fun!

McCain offers absolutely no change and his running mate seems hell bent on discrediting politics for the entire world.

If I vote for Obama, I apparently stand for Freedom, and rights for others may be preserved, like abortions. Of course his tax plan is crack-headish and all of his change appears to be built upon the backs of the middle class, while not much really changes from our current Regime.

If I vote for McCain, I preserve my own gun rights, but jeopardize a lot of other peoples and stick with a similar tax plan to our current.

So I have to choose between my rights and the rights of people I will never meet. Meanwhile, taxation doesn't significantly change.

Fantastic choices, America. Considering that the candidates agree on almost everything just by mincing words. This is quite possibly the most pathetic election for a free country in world history.

America is nearing its death throes as our economy and our democracy collapse beneath us and we're all excited to ride this ship straight to the seabed.

So my question to you then becomes "Why Vote?" Why care? Why care anything about this democratic-tragedy we call an election?

This system only has power as long as you enable it. And we're a culture of enablers. We exist to enable the worst people to have the most power.

So don't vote, resign from the system, become a conscientious objector to absolute idiocy. Stand up for yourself, for reality, and for some god-damned common sense. The system only works if you believe in it.

If I haven't convinced you not to vote, then please, write-in someone who's actually competent enough to run this country as a figurehead.

The sooner we get a real democracy and actually have some sort of pass-gate system where people who are mentally handicapped (George Bush) can't stay in office for eight years, let alone get elected in the first place, the better off we'll be. Good Day.

Editor's note:

Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

This week we celebrate the 40th anniversary of The Commuter and Halloween (which is my birthday), so we've gone all-out. This cover's spread was photographed by myself and set up with A&E Editor James Scales. We took a light-hearted and goofy approach to Halloween. The 4 of the cake and the 0 on the pumpkin spell out that it is our 40th anniversary. The childlike handwriting was done in Adobe with InDesign's painting tool. Inside this issue you'll find a veritable smorgasbord of visual art and poetry to appeal to all your senses, as well as some downright funny humor. From all of us here at The Commuter, have a safe and happy All Hallow's Eve, regardless of whatever spirits you may find.

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Letters Welcome

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opinion

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My socialist self

Luke Ketter
 The Commuter

"Are you a democrat? Or republican," the lady asked me over the phone. Just one of a long line of queries she had about the upcoming presidential election.

"Neither," I replied, "I am a socialist." Listening to the confused, if not stunned, silence on the other end before continuing to the next question, I grinned thinking about how rare it must be to get such an answer. It won't be that way for long. Soon the socialist party will be the American Party; "I am American! Watch me share!"

True, I'm getting ahead of myself, but after making my brain bleed with hours of political rhetoric - both online and on TV - it is now evident that our country is stepping towards socialism. If you need more proof, just watch any recap of the last presidential debate between John McCain and Barack Obama, and the now infamous "Joe the Plumber" fiasco (which is almost not worth mentioning it's so damn embarrassing). Using good 'ol Joe as a medium, McCain illustrated how Obama wants to tax the rich to give to the poor, or to quote Obama himself, to "Spread the wealth around."

Such a shameful thing to say! Such a shameful thing to suggest that, in the world of capitalistic ideals, those with more should share. Sharing. A concept most of us learned in first grade, but of course, that usually applied to things like cupcakes and gum. As we get older we realize sharing is good, provided what you're sharing isn't money.

As a society we like giving. We love donating for breast cancer and prostate cancer awareness, we give at the food bank, and we pay local

"How dare we suggest that those with more should support the people with nothing! I mean, Obama's tax plan applies to those who make \$250,000 or more a year. \$250,000?!?! That's it?!? A person can barely feed their family with that kind of money!"

Luke Ketter

kids to wash our cars at the hardware store parking lot. When it comes to raising taxes though, look out Joe Six-Pack-The-Plumber, or whatever your name is. It's not just the fear of rising taxes; it's the fear that the taxes would go to those who have less. Whoa now, this is not the capitalistic view, this is not social Darwinism, this is borderline Marxism according to Fox News, Bill O'Reilly and the entire McCain-Palin campaign.

And rightly so. How dare we suggest that those with more should support the people with nothing! I mean, Obama's tax plan applies to those who make \$250,000 or more a year. \$250,000?!?! That's it?!? A person can barely feed their family with that kind of money! According to John McCain a person would have to make \$5 million a year or more to be "rich"... so keep workin' Joe, you'll only have to make 20 times what you make now to be "rich."

Underlying Obama's secret Pinko-Commie agenda is this: Our government has now bought out several insurance companies and banks meaning that they own these companies. And if the government owns the companies and the people own the government, then (technically) the people own the banks... which is the essence of socialism. Regardless who wins in January we will be "changing" our way to a socialist future. Of course if McCain wins we'll be socialist "mavericks," and if Obama wins, we'll just be succumbing to the poison pill of communism. Either way our election maps will just show red states, all red states.

As for me, I would never would have considered myself a socialist, but now I'm getting a head start by begging for money until I'm as rich as my next door neighbor, and then when I'm richer, giving it back to him.

If you need to find me for anything, check the library under "Marx."



Obama/Ayers: Pals?

Nick Lower
 The Commuter

Republican presidential nominee John McCain, and his running mate Sarah Palin, have made repeated and continued attempts to discredit Democrat Barack Obama for his association with former Weather Underground member Will Ayers. They have even once gone so far as to call Obama "someone who...pals around with terrorists who targeted their own country." Obama, in turn, has made attempts to minimize his connection with the one-time radical activist, in the last debate claiming that their association was limited to the time they spent serving on the board of the Chicago Annenberg Challenge.

So who's got the straight story? Well, as is often the case in politics, nobody.

The Weather Underground, which was originally called the Weathermen, was a group of anti-Vietnam War activists, of which Will Ayers was a founding member. Their purpose was to disrupt what they saw as an amoral conflict by bombing government buildings.

The majority of bombings that the group claimed responsibility for were non-fatal. The federal government filed charges against the group, and in the '70s Ayers went into hiding with his wife Bernardine Dohm, also a Weathermen co-founder. When the charges against them were dropped in the '80s, they resurfaced in Chicago, where Ayers became a professor at University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Obama campaign reports that he first met Ayers in 1995 when Obama was named as chair of the board of the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, a \$50 million fund to improve education in inner city Chicago. They also served together on the board of the Woods Fund of Chicago, another charity. The two have not served on either board together since 2002.

Later in 1995, incumbent state senator Alice Palmer announced that she would make a run for Congress. Obama decided to mount a campaign for her seat in the Illinois Senate, and to assist him in the Democratic primaries to succeed her, Palmer organized a few informal meetings so that Obama could get to know her supporters. One such meeting took place at Ayers home. It was neither a fundraiser, as some reports have said, nor the meeting that launched Obamas political career as a few critics have alleged.

Ayers has been quoted as saying, "I don't regret setting bombs. I feel we didn't do enough." In response, Ayers has said on his website that, "My memoir is from start to finish a condemnation of terrorism, of the indiscriminate murder of human beings, whether driven by fanaticism or official policy." Former Illinois state Republican Representative Diana Nelson, who has worked with both Obama and Ayers over the years, said, "It was never a concern by any of us in the Chicago school reform movement that he had led a fugitive life years earlier. It's ridiculous. There is no reason at all to smear Barack Obama with this association. It's nonsensical, and it just makes me crazy. It's so silly."



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BRAAAAAAINSSSSSS

HOW TO SURVIVE A ZOMBIE INVASION

Rick Casillas
 The Commuter

With Halloween fast approaching, being accosted at the hands and teeth of the undead goes from being an isolated incident to a prominent threat. We've all been there: you're outside the library at 2 a.m. enjoying a banana smoothie on a Saturday night when a chorus of inhuman moans breaks the revelry of the crickets. Next thing you know, a bloodied mob is rushing past you, helicopters are flying overhead, and a police officer with a mustache is firing shots wildly into a crowd of shuffling corpses. Suddenly you're swept into a ragtag group of survivors from all walks of life, connected by the common goal of survival.

But who among them can you trust? The ex-marine with a gruff demeanor and sordid past, the quiet little girl who in all likelihood is the carrier for the vicious virus, or the funny ethnic guy? Many books and articles cover combating the denizens of hell, such as "The Zombie Survival Guide" or "Day by Day Armageddon". But few provide applicable advice to survive the more pressing threat: your allies. Social dynamics in a zombie outbreak differ from our day-to-day interactions substantially: a friend of yesterday may be an enemy of today when faced with the perils of the extermination of the human race. So what's a flesh bag to do? I have assembled a list of easy-to-follow guidelines on how to keep a cool head and a living body; with these five simple steps, death via zombie attack will be a thing of the past.

1. SHUT UP FOR AWHILE. There's going to be a lot of shouting at first; it's easy to understand given the nature of the situation, but you must keep a level head. Timing at this phase of group development is crucial, as the moment you choose to speak will define your role in the merry band, so ensure it falls under

a job description you want. Wait for specific trigger phrases before throwing in your two cents, like "What are those things," or "Has anyone seen my shoe?!" As soon as you sense a swelling need for leadership speak up, find the guy's shoe, say something like "That doesn't matter right now, we need to get out of here." Then point at the scientist and ask him where the radio station is.

2. LISTEN TO INPUT, KINDA. Most people respond positively to a commanding presence when afraid, but you will have those that innately challenge your authority. Do not engage in open debate or denounce the credibility of these opponents; listen passively to their stupid idea then repeat your own suggestion in a firm careful manner that sends the message loud and clear that this is your taco party, and they either need to grab a tortilla or get the hell out of the fiesta room. If your social nemesis does not relent and continues to undermine your authority, ignore them. They're going to go through a door you told them not to and end up dead anyway, no skin off your wonderfully intact virus free back.

3. KEEP THE SITUATION TENSE. Zombies can sense lulls in story arcs and are happy to lend a rotting hand as a plot device. Avoid seemingly innocuous situations like standing next to a glass window and announcing that you're safe, or meandering down a hall you just heard screams coming from to ask if everything is all right. Rather than waiting for the ghouls to keep the pace, set your own, occasionally firing an accidental shot into the leg of one of your companions, or making up a revealing story from your childhood or failed marriage. The emotional narrative that follows such an encounter will further propel you towards a satisfying climax free of physical dismemberment or horrifying injury.

4. WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T CHECK IT OUT. It goes without saying that you never split the party. Division of your entourage may seem advantageous during exploration but do not become waylaid by such a common misconception. If the little girl of your group goes chasing after what she thinks is her already dead mother, chances are you're all going to die if you pursue. When confronted with danger or an objective that forces your hand, stay in a tight knit circle using what I like to call the Oregon Trail Method. Caulk all of your wagons together in a circular pattern, firing blindly into the dark areas of rooms until you reach your objective. If successful you will all emerge from the encounter alive and with more batteries and bison meat than you can carry.

5. DON'T GET TOO CLOSE. If you notice after an encounter with a few undead that one of your allies is nursing a shoulder wound, sweating, and growing unusually irritable, put some distance between yourself and them. If possible never check on their condition, or lean in to check their pulse. Instead use an alternative method to look for telling signs of the advancement of the virus that is currently ravaging their system, such as throwing raw steaks at them and waiting to see if they are consumed, or challenge them to a foot race across the room to see who is faster.

With just these five easy steps you will find that no zombie attack is too great to overcome, and no ally too stupid to manage. Just remember that teamwork and empathy are essential in any crisis; every person has their value and role, and knowing what it is and using it to the advantage of the group is key to making it out alive. Take care of one another, and do what little you can to keep each other alive because at the end of the day we're all human. Except for zombies: they're the opposite, but the rest of us I'm pretty sure are human.

According to LBCC instructor Margarita Casas, "El Día de los Muertos is probably one of the most important traditions in the Hispanic world." Through changes over time, it has evolved into a mixture of ancient beliefs and Catholic tradition. Although it is a day to remember and honor people who have died, it is not a day of mourning but a day to remember that death is a part of life.

El Día de los Muertos is celebrated every year on the first and second day of November. It is traditionally celebrated with ofrendas (altars), marigolds, and traditional foods.



Photo by Eve Bruntlett

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THE (ALMOST) BACK PAGE

Aleatory and Desultory

What horror movies are you going to watch this Halloween?

Kris Nelson
The Commuter

As Halloween creeps closer, it's time to get out those old scary movies. I'm not talking about those satire sequels. I mean the cult classics, brain hungry zombies, and those good old serial killers. Lately there haven't been any new horror films that have really caught my eye. I like to stick with old versions of horror movies and not the cheesy remakes. Most remakes change or take out the best parts. As you read on you will find some of what I think are some of the greatest horror movies.

At number five we have "The Sixth Sense." It was one of the scariest movies I saw when I was kid. Yet when I see it now, I still scream but I laugh at it. The Sixth Sense may not be the scariest movie, but in my opinion it's a modern day classic. The movie is about a boy who sees dead people. I mean what's not scary about that. His dead grandmother scares him, he sees dead people on the streets that walk up to him, and sees dead people that were hung in his school. This is a movie that if you haven't seen, I'd recommend for you to see.

Number four is "Child's play." This movie, from the 80's, is about a crazy killer doll named Chucky. Chucky, is purchased by the mom of Andy, who is the one of the main characters. Throughout the movie Chucky goes after people killing them. See, the spirit which is controlling the doll, is

a really serious murderer. When Chucky meets Andy they agree to be "Friends 'till the end," if you watch the movie you will find out this isn't how it turns out.

On the list for number three is, "Shaun of the Dead." Even though most people

you watch this one you will be laughing throughout the whole thing. There are a few scary parts, but overall it's a really funny movie.

For number two I chose the horror/suspense movie from 1976, The Omen.

This makes for a good movie, because first things first, when writing a scary movie you can't go wrong with making it about one of Satan's offspring. I would definitely recommend this one if you like all things 666 related.

Finally, the one top horror movie to beat out all other scary movies, at number one is a movie that will make you so scared that you might not want to go outside at night. I'm just kidding you'll still want to go outside, but if you hear a chainsaw you might have to run. That's right, for number one I have chosen for the list is the 1974 version of "Texas Chain Saw Massacre." It is a chilling classic about a group of five friends that search the back roads of Texas to find their grandfather's grave. They drive to the family house called the Hardesty Mansion. When they arrive at the house the group splits up to look for someone in the neighborhood to help them get gas for their car. Two of the characters search for somewhere to swim and they come across an old house. One of the main characters, Kirk, enters the house and is immediately killed by another character, Leatherface, with a sledgehammer. Then another one of the other minor characters, who was with Kirk, enters the house and is greeted by being hung by a meat hook. What a way to give the movie a good start. I don't want to give away too much else, but I will say if you like movies that involve killing people, this one is for you.



ALL ABOARD THE REMAKE TRAIN

Photo credit to Horrorhound Magazine, 2006

were laughing at this movie, I thought I'd throw it on the list. It is a movie worth watching, because it is probably the best comedy/zombie movie I've ever seen. "Shaun of the Dead," is very original and thinks of ways to kill zombies that haven't been put in movies before. When

Some of you may be aware of the 2006 remake, but I think the original is much better. This movie is about the childhood of Damien Thorn. He was switched at birth with another baby, but little did his family know that Damien was a child of Satan and would grow up to be an antichrist.

Dead Space: dead space?

Max Brown
The Commuter

Space, the final frontier, is a dark and scary place. Especially when you are trapped on a ship full of flesh eating monsters.

Dead Space is the recent survival horror game released by Electronic Arts (EA). You take on the role of Isaac Clarke, a engineer sent to fix what is thought to be minor issues with a deep space mining vessel. But of course it all goes to hell within seconds of reaching your destination.

You quickly end up trapped millions of light-years from home on a ship full of hungry creatures. Your only option is to fight your way through the hordes and find some sort of escape.

One of the game's biggest selling points is the environment. EA has done an amazing job of crafting a realistic and horribly frightening atmosphere. The ship really draws you in and feels like it could be a real and terrifying place. The small corridors with lots of access for hungry beasts will keep you on the edge of your seat the whole game, and you end up approaching everything with suspicion and fear.

Dead Space offers a few twists on your standard shooter game. With most zombie games you know to aim for the head, not in dead space. The object of most battles is to amputate your enemies to slow and destroy their weapons. This forces much more consideration when blowing away the advancing monsters. Add onto that the lack of

ammo and you really have to make your shots count.

This game comes with all the sounds we have become accustomed to with horror games. Clanging of random metal objects, whispering voices, blood curdling screams, ect... But it gets really good when you travel into the vacuum of space. The sound fades and all you can hear is Isaac's labored breathing as his oxygen tanks run dry. Of course while inside the ship listening to someone softly, and creepily, singing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" is almost equally freaky.

Another twist is the lack of a heads up display. Instead of having a normal health and ammo bar in the corners of your screen your health bar is along Isaac's spine and your ammo appears on the

weapons when aiming. This is a take on the heads up display that I quite enjoyed. It is unobtrusive and fancy looking.

Because Isaac is an engineer he can use workbenches spread throughout the game to upgrade his weapons and armor. The system offered here is fun and interesting and lets the game be more specialized toward your style. You use power cores, found throughout the levels, to upgrade your equipment with a grid system unique to each individual item.

Dead Space offers a wild and interesting story. You will always be guessing at what kind of twist the game will take next and you'll almost always be pleasantly surprised. A single play through on standard difficulty took around 12

to 13 hours, plus the game offers decent replay value thanks to the new game plus system.

The downsides to Dead Space are fairly limited. Boss fights almost always feel simple compared to most of the fights involving random monsters throughout the level. Usually it is a short fight where you have to hit a small section of the boss, then soon after it dies. But the game does still hold up its creepy design, as the bosses have extra points in the hideous factor that all monsters in this game share.

If you play other shooter games you will probably be annoyed at the look sensitivity of this game. At first I was quite annoyed with it, but then I noticed the real appeal of it. It kept you feeling boxed in and was another mechanic to keep you terrified of monsters coming from any direction. While adding to the claustrophobic feeling of the game it can get a little irritating.

In conclusion this game is a gripping science fiction horror that will have you on the edge of your seat until completion. The release date so close to Halloween was no mistake.

Dead Space was released on Oct. 14 for Xbox 360 and Playstation 3, Oct. 20 for PC. Retails for \$59.99 on console, and \$49.99 on PC.

Local Halloween Shenanigans

10/31/2008 Southtown Monster Mashup 6pm all ages costume contest, 8pm The Neon Gypsies w/ Mobius K perform, 11pm Fireworks DJ dance Party. All of this is happening at Fireworks Restaurant and bar in South Corvallis, Oregon

10/31/2008 6:00PM WOW HALL
 The Sugarbeets Early Show EUGENE
 \$8 Advance \$10 Door

10/31/2008 7:00PM IKE Box
 DRESS DISNEY: SORCERESS, PHANTOM!, PAPER BOATS, THE NAVY. Salem, Oregon \$5 door, \$3 advance.

10/31/2008 8:00PM MyndissentT
 Platinum Corvallis, Oregon Cost: ?

10/31/2008 8:00PM Citizen Cope (solo-acoustic) McDonald Theatre Eugene, Oregon \$22 adv. \$25 door
 10/31/2008 9:00PM Blind Rhino Merlins Bar & Grill Lebanon, Oregon Cost: ?

10/31/2008 11:00PM Reeble Jar w/ Eleven Eyes McDonald Theater Eugene, Oregon \$10

10/31/2008 10:00PM Angries, Wobblies, Blood on the Banjo, and Solid Gold Fox & Firkin Corvallis, Oregon \$5

Look for updates online at Kris Nelson's music corner: <http://www.lbcommuter.com/ae/?c=Kris-Nelson>