

The Commuter
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Opinion

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Drop-in: Forum 222

Dyin' on a prayer

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

If your baby granddaughter had a lethal and curable blood infection, what would you do? Would you take her to the hospital, or would you anoint her with "sacred oils" and chant Bible passages with some fellow churchgoers, asking for Jesus to heal her? Then less than a year later, when your 16-year-old son was bedridden with a deadly but perfectly curable urinary tract blockage, I ask the same question. Well, Jeff and Marci Beagley thought it was a no-brainer, and tried the faith healing rather than the medical option not once, but twice. Both of the children died as a result.

According to KMTR, the couple was put on trial for negligent manslaughter for the death of their daughter, but were acquitted. The fact that they were totally let off the hook for that is a crime in itself. They are now on trial for criminally negligent homicide for the death of their son. I pray that they are found guilty this time. The couple are members of the Followers of Christ Church, which prescribes faith over actual medical treatment.

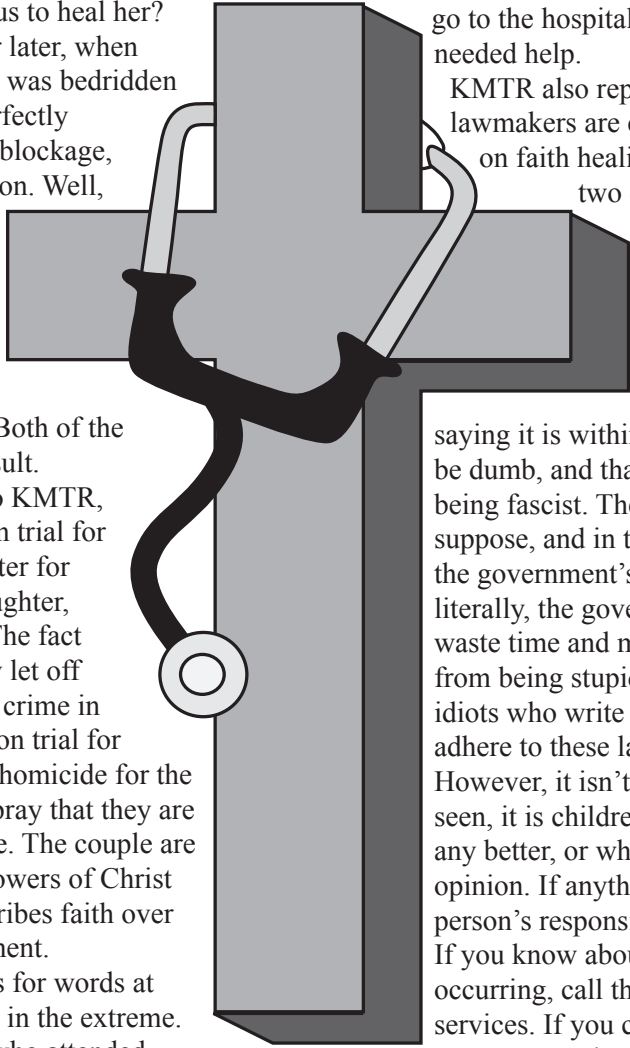
I am at a loss for words at this. This is stupidity in the extreme. All of the members who attended these "faith healings" that don't actually heal, as well as the moronic elders that wrote this rule, should all be on trial for murder in addition to having their children taken away from them. These two cases alone show that their

extremely poor choices are killing people, and not even the people who decide to follow this homicidal rule. It is the people under their care that are dying. Especially in the case of Ava Worthington. She was barely a year old, and was unable to even understand that she was not being helped due to some hazardous religious belief. She wasn't old enough to disobey and go to the hospital, or tell someone she needed help.

KMTR also reported that many lawmakers are calling for stronger laws on faith healings as a result of these two cases. This is a good step, and a necessary one. There is only so much the government legally can do. If they did more, inevitably people would protest,

saying it is within the FCC's right to be dumb, and that the government is being fascist. These are both true I suppose, and in the end, it isn't really the government's responsibility. Quite literally, the government is having to waste time and money to prevent people from being stupid. If it were only the idiots who write and then decide to adhere to these laws who suffered, fine. However, it isn't just them, as we've seen, it is children who either don't know any better, or who can't even speak their opinion. If anything, it is the average person's responsibility to do something. If you know about something like this occurring, call the police, or social services. If you care enough, put up signs or protests, whatever you can.

I imagine that praying for the members of the FCC to grow two brain cells would be about as effective as their "healings," but it wouldn't hurt to try.



Food for Thought: Frankenfood

Erika Kloppenburg
 The Commuter

Since the image of Frankenstein was created, the power to alter the fundamentals of physical existence has appealed to many. With modern technology, the Frankenstein question becomes: Is it ethical to modify human DNA, to change it or use it for our own purposes? Thus far the answer has largely been "no."

But where is the line? Just as controversial but much less talked about is the auxiliary question: Is it ethical then for human and animal DNA to be spliced into plants meant for human food? Genetic engineering is a revolutionary technology that has the power to break down genetic walls. Genes from plants, animals and even humans are randomly inserted into the chromosomes of plants, fish, and animals, much of which is intended for supermarket shelves.

By genetically modifying plants, they can grow larger, become pest-resistant, and produce larger yields. Yet according to many inside the scientific community and out, the whole business surrounding genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their distribution is sketchy at best.

While scientists originally assumed that the inserted genes would only add a particular desired trait to the crop, new evidence suggests that the host's normal natural genes can get switched off, turned on permanently, damaged or altered in the process.

GMOs have already proven to be capable of harm. In 1989, a genetically engineered brand of an essential amino acid being sold as a dietary supplement killed 37 people in the United States and permanently disabled thousands with a potentially fatal and painful blood disorder.

Monsanto, arguably the foremost agricultural bioengineering giant, produced a potato that absorbed less fat during frying. This led to the development of lower-fat french fries and chips.

In 1999, British scientist Dr. Arpad Pusztal shocked the public when he brought forth findings from his research on Monsanto

genetically engineered potatoes. These findings were based on research much more rigorous than required by the virtually non-existent regulations. The potatoes had been spliced with, among other things, Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMv), a viral promoter. Dr. Pusztal's findings indicated CaMv capable of damaging the stomach lining in mammals. Fun fact: CaMv is spliced into virtually all genetically engineered crops.

Unfortunately the research remains unfinished; government funding was cut off from the project and Dr. Pusztal was fired after releasing his findings to the media.

Wandering the grocery store aisles, I began wondering how to identify GMOs from other produce. Engineered products are not labeled as such. This is especially shocking because of the allergy concern; scientists can't tell before testing whether a protein sequence will be an allergy concern. But since pro-biotech governments and regulatory agencies maintain that genetically engineered foods and crops are "substantially equivalent" to conventional foods, neither mandatory labeling nor pre-market safety-testing is required.

Still, an allergy disaster was narrowly averted in 1996. Soybeans spliced with Brazil nuts had tested negative for allergies in animal tests. Despite this, the soybeans, an ingredient ubiquitous in the food market, did cause allergies in humans. Thankfully, scientists in Nebraska discovered the potential threat.

Unfortunately, the genetic engineering of produce may well prove necessary and crucial in the coming era of global over-population. With the United Nations estimating a population of 8.2 billion by the year 2025, the need for more efficient food production is fast becoming a bridge we can't avoid crossing.

Without use regulations, health study standards, or required labeling, this potentially and arguably necessary technique of genetic modification is too easily abused. If action isn't taken to put standards in place, perhaps soon our Frankenstein food experiments will prove to be as dangerous as any mad science.

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Advice from Weiss

Mark Weiss
 for The Commuter



Counselor Mark Weiss

Question: There's a major that I'm interested in, but I'm worried I might not be a good enough student. You've written that we should go to see our teachers for advising, but since I'm not the greatest at college, I don't know if they'd be interested.

Answer: Last week I wrote about the first of Don Miguel Ruiz's "Four Agreements." Four beliefs that he thinks all human beings would benefit from. The second of his "Agreements" is: Don't Make Assumptions.

There is a myth in our culture that most people think too highly of themselves. As though folks walk around thinking that they are better than they are. I've done advising and career counseling with hundreds of students in my time at LBCC, and I have to say that the opposite is true. In 21 years of working with students, I've maybe met three or four who thought too highly of themselves, and many, many, students who did not give themselves enough credit for the talents that they have.

The most common negative assumption that I hear is "I'm not good at math." I almost always hear that from students who are just about to begin college, but I also hear it from veteran students, even students who have taken math and passed it. Two weeks ago I met with a young man who was very scared of taking college level algebra. He'd been a student here for about a year, and when I looked up his record, he'd taken three math classes. His grades? Two B's and an A. But still his assumption is "I'm not good at math, so I probably won't pass the next class."

Last week I met with a woman who recently separated from a verbally abusive man. She said that he was always telling her how dumb she was. She had come in because she was panicking, thinking she couldn't handle going to school. She knew college was the best way to make a better life for herself and her children, but felt scared.

As our conversation went on, she mentioned that she had come to LB ten years before. When I looked up her record she had taken college level writing, science, philosophy, religion, psychology, and math, and had all A's and B's. This was no dummy; she qualifies for the Honor Society. But because of the words she had been listening to (and was now replaying over and over in her head), she believed that she lacked intelligence and wouldn't be successful at LBCC. The power of making assumptions was never so clear, and clearly destructive.

Please, my friends, do not make assumptions about your ability to succeed that are negative in nature. While it is true that we aren't, any of us, good at everything, most of us are far more talented than we allow ourselves to know. One ought to at least make the positive assumption until there is proof that

you need to do otherwise.

Another type of assumption I've found that students often make is about teachers. Students often believe that they aren't good enough for their teachers, don't deserve the teacher's individual attention, or that teachers are simply too busy to spend time with them. False, false, false.

Now I know that not all teachers are created equal. We've all had teachers that just weren't a good match for our

personalities and learning styles. But, really, there is only one reason why 95% of LBCC's faculty teach: Because they like students and want to help them succeed.

Not only are teachers interested in helping you in the classroom, they all keep "office hours." This is time when they make themselves available to meet with any student who comes in to talk. During this time they will talk to you about your classwork, advise you on your program, and even suggest classes you ought to take the next term. Teachers list their office hours on their websites and put them on the syllabus you receive for each class. Most also post the hours on the door of their office. So, teachers make themselves available to students. Why? Because they are interested. Because they do want to help.

With some teachers we have a natural "personality fit." We're immediately comfortable with them. Then there are those teachers whose personalities are fairly different from our own, and most of us make the assumption that these teachers will not be interested in helping us, or won't be nice about it. Please, don't make those assumptions. Some of the best instruction I've ever received was from teachers who had personalities, values, beliefs, and personal backgrounds different than my own. It was because their minds worked differently from mine, because they came from a different cultural or educational background, that they had so much to offer; and once I opened my mind to them, the learning was great. It was a stretch, but it was great.

So, Don Miguel Ruiz's second "Agreement," is don't make assumptions. Instead look for truths and realities that are not always immediately evident. This suggestion will help in relationships with teachers, lovers, friends, co-workers, and most importantly, with your understanding of yourself, your talents, your needs, and pathways to your personal success.

Mark Weiss has been a counselor and adviser at LBCC for 20 years. The purpose of this column is to answer students' questions about the college, academic advising, and how to be successful at LBCC. Please send your questions to mark.weiss@linnbenton.edu or stop by the Career and Counseling Center in Takena Hall.

Back in the day

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

This day in history...

Feb. 3, 1959: The Day the Music Died...

Rock and rollers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, J.P. Richardson, and their pilot Roger Peterson are killed in a plane crash. Don McLean's song "American Pie" is the first to refer to this event as "The Day the Music Died."

Feb. 4, 1957: Take that Nemo!

The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, logs its 60,000th nautical mile. This means it has traveled "20,000 leagues under the sea." That is the title of a Jules Verne novel about a submarine named the Nautilus, in case you didn't know.

Feb. 5, 1885: Belgium, really?

King Leopold II of Belgium establishes the Congo in Africa as his personal possession. The Belgians kidnap, beat, mutilate, rape, and kill thousands of Congolese in their effort to extract rubber from the country for export. In an age where many white people think Africans are still slightly less than human, the atrocities are so bad the Belgian Parliament eventually force Leopold II to give up his personal command of the Congo.

Feb. 6, 1820: No lack of irony...

Freed African American slaves are given money and sent to establish a new country for free blacks, named Liberia. Upon arriving, the African Americans more or less enslave the local Africans. As if this were not ironic enough, Liberia's history is a tale of almost constant human rights violations, bloody dictators, civil wars, and brutal repressions of indigenous peoples.

Feb. 7, 1991: Some good news?

Jean-Bertrand Aristide is sworn in as Haiti's first democratically-elected president. They've had decades of dictatorship, rampant poverty and crime, earthquakes, and the spite of morons like Pat Robertson. Poor Haiti. Donate blood or money.

Feb. 8, 1915: Cringe worthy...

The world premier of D.W. Griffith's film, "Birth of a Nation." The film is the highest grossing of its day, and highly controversial because it shows members of the KKK riding in like knights of yore and saving poor white people from rampaging black soldiers. Griffith is surprised that thousands of people are offended, protest, or riot. In Griffith's defense, he also made the first movie about interracial love, and a movie condemning intolerance throughout history.

Feb. 9, 1950: Modern witch hunt...

Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R, Wisc.) begins the "Second Red Scare" when he accuses the US State Department of being full of communists. Oh McCarthy, why did you suck so much?

Thought for the week:

"Whoever does not miss the Soviet Union has no heart. Whoever wants it back has no brain."

-Vladimir Putin

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SPORTS

News about local and national sports and activities.

Women chalk up first league win Panthers outdone by Roadrunners

Erik Bender
The Commuter

PCC (0-7) at LBCC (1-6)

The Women's team was victorious Wednesday when they beat PCC 74-58. The first half had left LB down 34-33. PCC had 12 of 33 field goals, 3 of 6 3-pointers, and 7 of 12 free throws, while LB had 9 of 28 field goals, 1 of 4 3-pointers, and 14 of 19 free throws.

LB's defense was drastically increased during the second half, shutting down PCC scoring threats and gaining 41 points in the second half to PCC's 24 points.

Guard Jamie Mayhew was the top scorer of the game with 27 points. Mayhew had 6 of 12 field goals and was 15 out of 17 on her free throws.

Guard Kalah Heacock scored 17 points with 5 of 10 field goals and 7 of 8 free throws.

After the game, Heacock said her team is getting better and team chemistry is starting to



Jamie Wilson looks to make a pass.

photo by Erik Bender

come together.

Head coach Teresa Guerra commented that their next couple of games should go even smoother with the return of starting point guard Sam Sanders, along with a few more new recruits added to the bench.

LB is now ranked seventh in league.

Next game:
Feb. 6 at Lane CC starting with the women at 4 p.m.

Erik Bender
The Commuter

PCC (1-6) at LBCC (5-2)

The men's basketball team won their fifth league game last Wednesday against Portland Community College with a final score of 86-73

The first half ended with LB down 34-37. PCC ended the half making 15 of 31 field goals, 4 of 11 3-point shots and 3 of 4 free throws. LB made 15 of 31 field goals, 0 of 5 3-pointers, and 4 of 8 free throws.

The lead changed a total of six times before the game's end, with LB at one time having the biggest lead with 14 points over PCC.

Guard Taylor Roos scored 25 points with 6 of 12 field goals, 1 of 4 3-pointers, and 12 of 14 free throws.

Freshman forward Xavier Watson achieved a personal best against PCC, scoring 23 points. Watson made



Jordan Highland takes a clear shot.

photo by Erik Bender

8 of 14 field goals and 7 of 8 free throws.

"Team chemistry is 100 percent there. Everybody knows their part and everybody is willing to go hard. Everything is there," said Watson

"We need to keep bringing that winning mentality to every game," said head coach Randy Falk.

"We didn't have the same defensive intensity like we did in the second half where we did a much better job of helping each other out with dribble penetration and anticipating passes," said Falk.

LB is now tied for second in the league, along with Mt. Hood and Chemeketa.

Classifieds

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

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

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

Libel/Taste: The Commuter 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

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. *For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

Census Takers (#7763, local area) Testing is going on now to hire 300-400 people to conduct the census 2010 from March-June mainly nights and weekends. Pay is usually \$15.25/hr plus mileage reimbursement. Get paid training, exercise, and a great employer on your resume! Call 1-866-861-2010 to schedule a test. See www.2010censusjobs.gov_for practice test.

Wastewater Maintenance Operator (#7778, Lakeside, Oregon) Preference is given for having the wastewater degree or if you have ability to obtain such within one year of hire. Full-time.

Natural Resources Specialist 4 (Fish Conservation Biologist) (#7783, Salem) If you have a bachelor's degree and experience in fisheries or wildlife or closely related degree, this might be for you. \$4286-5985/mo DOE

Customer Service Rep (#7782, Albany) Part-time and full-time jobs with benefits are available. Four weeks of training provided (classes are 8am-5pm or 11am-7pm, 40 hrs req'd, Tues-Sat.) Starting \$8.99/hr.

MARKETPLACE

Textbooks bought and sold, new & used, online buybacks. Buy, sell, rent at cheapbooks.com (260) 399-6111, Espanol (212) 380-1763, Urdu /Hindi/ Punjabi (713) 429-4981, see site for other support lines.

LBCC / OSU Degree Partnership Program Day



- Academic Advising
- Admissions & General Information
- Financial Aid Information
- LBCC & OSU Advisors
- Free Pizza

Wednesday, February 17
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
LBCC Commons Cafeteria

Also at the Benton Center
Wednesday Feb. 24, 4 – 6 p.m.

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

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Feature

Something a little different.

Celebrate Black History Month

Maya Lazaro
The Commuter

This February students will have plenty of opportunities to attend lectures, watch films and engage in dialogues regarding the history of black people in the U.S., as well as learn about issues facing African Americans today while celebrating Black History Month. Historian Carter G. Woodson designated February as a time for special recognition of African-American historical figures because it was the birth month of both Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, two men whose actions and legacy left a lasting impression on the lives of African Americans. LBCC and Oregon State University offer a variety of events for students to take part in during this month of remembrance.

LBCC
Rosa Parks Birthday Celebration
 February 4 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Diversity Achievement Center
There will be a film on the life of Rosa Parks followed by cake and refreshments.

Student Panel: Reflection of the Year with President Obama
 February 11 • 12-1 p.m.
 Diversity Achievement Center
Participate in a lively open debate over the success of the Obama administration.

Racial Segregation Then & Now: Have We Solved the Problem?
 February 18 • 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Diversity Achievement Center

Illumination Project: "Thinking About Racism"
 February 19 • 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.
 Forum Auditorium
Engage in an "interactive theater" experience with students from Portland Community College.

Panel: "The Language of Racism"
 February 25 • 3:30-5 p.m.
 Cascade View Room located in the Calapooia Center

Unity Celebration
 February 25 • 5-7 p.m.
 Cascade View Room located in the Calapooia Center
Enjoy dinner and wine and live jazz music in celebration of unity through diversity.

OSU
Dialogues on Race
 February 2 • 6-7 p.m.
 Black Cultural Center
Learn about issues facing African-Americans in this group discussion.

Discussion: "Our Family"
 February 3 • 6-8 p.m.
 Black Cultural Center

Discussion: "What is Black?"
 February 9 • 6-8 p.m.
 Black Cultural Center
Come and listen as students discuss issues involving cultural, racial and ethnic identity.

Discussion: "The Truth About Hip Hop"
 February 17 • 6-8 p.m.
 Black Cultural Center
Join in this discussion about hip hop music and its place in African-American culture.

"Portraits of Courage: African Americans You Wish You Had Known"
 February 18 • 6-7:30 p.m.
 LaSells Stewart Center
Come and enjoy this theatrical performance illuminating famous African Americans. The play will focus on figures such as journalist Ida B. Wells, inventor Lewis Latimer and lawyer Bass Reeves.

Film: "Negroes With Guns"
 February 25 • 12 p.m.
 Black Cultural Center
Watch and discuss a film detailing the life of civil rights activist Robert F. Williams.

Discussion: "Goodbye Uncle Tom" Part 1 & 2
 February 25-26 • 5-7 p.m.
 Black Cultural Center

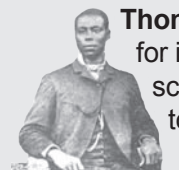
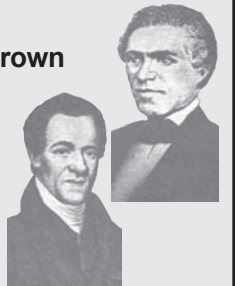
Introducing...

Considering that we spend so much time focusing on African Americans like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks during Black History Month, it's easy to forget to acknowledge the lesser-known figures in African-American history who have made some impressive contributions to our country.



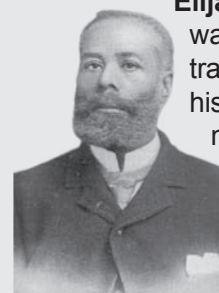
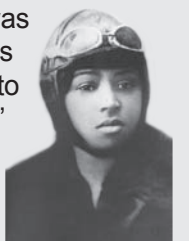
Sarah Breedlove, aka Madame CJ Walker (1867-1919), was the first African-American millionaire. She became wealthy after inventing a hair-straightening process designed for African Americans. She and her husband sold hair care products and opened a beautician school called the "Lelia College for Walker Hair Culturists."

Samuel Cornish (1795-1858) and John Brown Russwurm (1799-1851) published the first African-American owned and operated newspaper in the United States in 1827. The paper, "Freedom's Journal," decried slavery, lynching and racial discrimination and ran for two years until 1829.



Thomas L. Jennings (1791-1859) was responsible for inventing dry cleaning, known back then as "dry scouring", and became the first African American to be granted a patent for his invention in 1821.

Bessie Coleman (1892-1926) was the first American to hold an international pilot's license and the first African-American woman to hold a pilot's license. Known as "Queen Bess," she died in 1926 in a plane crash while preparing for an air show.



Elijah McCoy (1843-1929) was the inventor of an oil-dripping cup for trains. Several other inventors tried to steal his idea, but their versions of the cup could not compete with the original. In order to make sure that they were getting the Elijah McCoy's cup and not a knock-off, customers began asking for "the real McCoy," which is where the expression comes from.

Recipe: North African couscous

Maggie O'Reilly
The Commuter

Couscous is a staple of the North African diet, much like pasta in Italy or rice in Japan. Eaten daily in Morocco, Israel, Algeria and so on, it consists of granules of moistened semolina wheat coated in wheat flour. Originally, making couscous was an incredibly long process that could take all day. Luckily, today we have a prepared box form that only requires light cooking. Most supermarkets have it in the Asian goods aisle. The basic recipe is extremely easy!

Basic Couscous:

Ingredients:
 1 Box Plain Couscous
 3 Cups Water or Broth
 Salt

You simply boil your water or broth, then add your couscous and immediately cover and remove from heat. The couscous will steam in the pot and absorb all the water. After about 5 minutes, fluff with a fork and you're done!

Variation:

Ingredients:
 1 Box Plain Couscous
 Olive Oil
 Garlic - chopped
 Green Onions - diced
 Carrots - diced
 Jasmine tea, about 3 Cups
 Lemon or Lime - sliced
 Cilantro - chopped
 Salt and Pepper to taste

The above recipe is for if you want to make plain couscous. With this base recipe the possibilities are endless! In Africa, couscous is traditionally mixed with complex blends of aromatic spices, meats and vegetables. Here's what I like to do with my couscous:

First, make a strong pot of jasmine tea, and set it aside. Heat your olive oil in a pot on medium high. Add the chopped garlic and onions to the oil. This process flavors the oil so that the garlic and onion flavors coat the ingredients evenly. Stir a bit and wait for the garlic to become fragrant, or in other words, when the garlic starts smelling *really* good. Then add carrots and stir them for about 2-3 minutes. Watch the garlic carefully-if it looks like it's going to burn, turn down the heat. Add your tea, and bring all the contents to a boil. Add prepared couscous (see above recipe), cover, and remove from heat. Garnish with cilantro and lime.

NOTE: Remember, if any ingredients in this recipe isn't to your liking (say you don't like garlic)- don't use it! Add whatever your like, take out what you don't. Dress it up for a dinner party by topping it with lamb and chickpeas or eat it plain with apples for breakfast. It keeps well in the refrigerator and is much healthier than traditional college fare. Just because we're students doesn't mean we have to eat junk. Enjoy!



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Feature

Something a little different.

“JUSTICE TOO LONG DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED.”



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Have you read the
“Letter from a Birmingham Jail?”
Are you up for the challenge?

In a 500-word essay, examine the
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- What is King really calling for?

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+your picture and essay will be published in the March 3rd Commuter
- 2nd PLACE wins a \$50 book store gift card
- 3rd PLACE wins a \$25 book store gift card

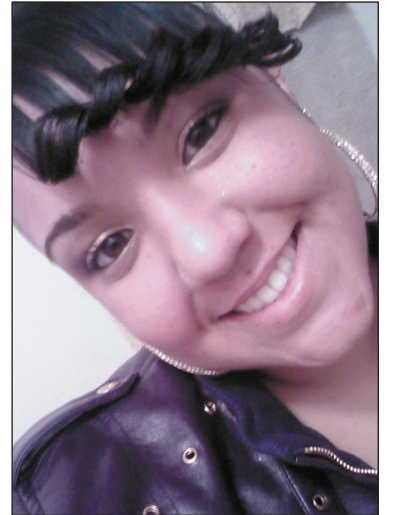
Find the full text of the letter at: www.bates.edu/admin/offices/dos/mlk/letter.html

Submit essays to the Student Life and Leadership office.
Deadline to submit is February 19.

“INJUSTICE ANYWHERE
IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.”

A word from your local SPB

On April 16, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested for participating in the Birmingham Campaign, which was a planned non-violent protest conducted by the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference against racial segregation by Birmingham’s city government and downtown retailers. While incarcerated, Dr. King wrote the “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.”



Jessica Calhoun

King wrote his letter in response to a statement made by eight white Alabama clergymen titled “A Call for Unity.” The clergymen agreed that social injustice existed but argued that the battle against racial segregation should be fought solely in the courts, not in the streets. King responded that without nonviolent forceful action, true civil rights could never be achieved. In his own words, “This ‘wait’ has almost always meant ‘never.’” He stressed that not only was civil disobedience justified in the face of unjust laws, but that “one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.”

Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man; he brought hope to many Americans. He brought hope to me. I feel strongly about his efforts to bring freedom and rights to African-Americans. My father is African-American and my mother is Caucasian. I often wonder what it would be like to be “high yellow” in the 1960s or even the 1860s in the United States. Would I be considered one race over the other? Where would I sit on the bus? Would I be enslaved? The one thing I know is that I would be right there beside Dr. King, fighting for human rights and equality. As Dr. King said, “Segregation is not only politically, economically and socially unsound, it is morally wrong and sinful.”

The “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” is a very powerful piece of literature by Dr. King that many are not familiar with. Dr. King addresses what people should do in times of conflict, while motivating others to act. From all the great accomplishments Dr. King has achieved, I can honestly say he is my hero; he has made this nation a better place. I am challenging you, the students of LBCC, to the “King Challenge.” In a 500-word essay, examine the “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” Ask yourself: What is the significance? How does this relate to our present day society and social system? Who is the intended audience? What is King really calling for? While reading, keep in mind the progress The United States has made; we elected and inaugurated our first black president. Change is among us, and it’s great!

Jessica Calhoun

Student Programing Board Specialist/ GoodWorks/ SIS Ambassador

Perspectives:

Do you think there’s still racism in the U.S?
Why or why not?



Lindsay Weingrt
Theatre

“Yeah I would definitely say so. I think the situation is kind of reversed ... anytime somebody who’s Caucasian would say something against a black person it’s automatically assumed it’s racist.”



Steven Perkins
AAOT

“Yes ... there’s still name calling and derogatory jokes.”



Johanna Akers
Zoology

“Yeah there’s still racism ... I think it’s becoming more obvious now because we have a black president and it’s not just racism against [African-Americans], it’s against Hispanics and Asians.”



Shay Henderson
Phlebotomy

“I do because I think as long as you are considering someone else black or white or Mexican it still sort of is (racist).”



Muna Hassan
Political Science

“I think there is informal racism ... [people] try not to show their racism, but it’s there, like sometimes [a minority] will get weird looks from across the street.”

The Commuter
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Managing Editor: Justin Bolger
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

Campus News

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



Through Feb. 26 (Fri)
 North Santiam Hall Gallery
Twist: Art on Exhibit
 Twist features the drawings of Jim Adams and the photography of Robin Bachtler Cushman.

Feb. 3 (Wed)
 Noon – 1 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center
Gender and Communication Video

This provocative and richly discussible video explores the impact that gender has on both verbal and nonverbal channels of communication. For more information, contact the DAC at 541-917-4326.

Feb. 5 (Fri)
 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. • Benton Center BC-107

Cholesterol and Glucose Screening

This is the second winter term blood draw for cholesterol and glucose screening. Cost for first timers will be \$8 and repeat customers will pay \$16. Remember to fast for 12 hours prior to your appointment.

Feb. 5 (Fri)
 2:30 p.m. • Music Room
Information for Summer Term Study in Germany and Australia

This summer, the music program will be offering MUS 199: Hands On Music Appreciation. This is a special studies course where students will focus on the music of Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart, and get to walk in their footsteps. For 11-days, students will get to relive the history of these renowned composers by traveling to Berlin, Wittenberg, and Munich Germany; then to Salzburg and Vienna Austria.

Feb. 6 (Sat)
 8 – 10 p.m. • The Beanery Café
Shioban's Dance/Music Showcase

Join the Haiti fundraising relief by enjoying this performance at the Second Street Beanery. Proceeds go to the American Red Cross.

Feb. 8 – 12 (Mon – Fri)
 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Valentine's Flower Sale

Help support LBCC Campus Clubs by purchasing carnations for some of your favorite people on campus. The price is \$2 each, or six for \$10, and includes a carnation wrapped with greenery and delivered to a specified room or office. For more information, contact Student Life and Leadership at 541-917-4456.

OSU SUMMER SESSION 2010

This summer....

- Choose from one, three, four, eight or 11-week sessions
- Stay on track for graduation
- Complete a prerequisite or bacc core requirement
- Finish a full three-course sequence in one summer
- Enjoy smaller class sizes
- Save! Everyone pays in-state tuition
- Need a flexible schedule? Explore the variety of courses offered online

Schedule of classes now available online!

Registration begins April 11

Classes start June 21

One-week Intersession classes run June 14-18

summer.oregonstate.edu

summer.session@oregonstate.edu | 541-737-1470



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Oregon State
 UNIVERSITY

Feb. 9 or Feb. 13 (Tue or Sat)
 2:30 – 4 p.m. or 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. • AC-120

Dance Club Auditions

Dance Club is holding group auditions for their Spring Dance. All styles and levels welcome. No need to prepare, just come ready for fun! For more information, contact Katherine Sanders at sanderk@linnbenton.edu

Feb. 10 (Wed)
 Noon – 1 p.m. • Fireside Room
Credit CARD Act Information
 What you need to know about the Credit CARD (Card Accountability

Responsibility and Disclosure) Act of 2009. The Credit CARD Act enacts comprehensive credit card reform legislation that aims to establish fair and transparent practices relating to credit card services. Join discussion of the new rules and how you may be affected.

Feb. 18 (Thu)
 3 p.m. • NSH-208
Valley Writers Reading

The Series is proud to announce a reading this term by our English faculty, Ruben Casas. He will be reading excerpts of papers and stories by and about undocumented youth. For more information,

contact Jane White at whitej@linnbenton.edu or Lucette Wood at woodl@linnbenton.edu

Feb. 20 (Sat)
 9 a.m. • Activities Center gym
Baseball Hitting Camp

This clinic is geared for ballplayers ages eight to 18. Camp includes three hours of instruction, a camp T-shirt and refreshments. Cost for the camp is \$40. For more information, contact Greg Hawk at 541-917-4242.

Feb. 21 and 27 (Sun and Sat)
 3 p.m. • Russell Tripp Performance Center

Children's Play "Cool Suit"
 This is a musical retelling of "The Emperor's New Clothes," a classic tale of the vain, clothes-horse Emperor rocks with music and comedy. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children under age 18.

If you have a Campus Short, please e-mail it to commuter@linnbenton.edu.

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THE COMMONS FARE 2/3-2/9

Wednesday

Dishes :Meatloaf, Fish & Chips and Vegetarian Chili
 Soups: Dill Potato Chowder and Chicken & Wild Rice

Thursday

Dishes: Pork Picatta, Chicken Mornay Gratinée and Tempeh Enchiladas
 Soup: Potage de Boeuf and Cream of Garlic

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Dishes: Turkey Cutlet w/ Brown Butter Sauce, Texas Chili con Carney y Frijoles
 Soup: Roasted Vegetable Chowder and Albondigas

Tuesday

Dishes: Shrimp Etouffée, Swedish Meatballs and Huevos Rancheros
 Soup: Egg Flower and French Lentil

Harvesting knowledge

Chris Foster
 The Commuter

Starting as early as spring term, instructors at Linn-Benton will have a new tool with which to teach students. The Bob Ross Garden, named after a long-time instructor at LBCC, is one of two new gardens that will be used as a hands-on learning environment by the biology, ecology and horticulture staff and students. Located between Madrone Hall and Red Cedar Hall, the garden is part of the same eco-friendly design that was used for Madrone Hall.

Bob Ross began teaching here soon after the college was built and has been described as an excellent teacher who gets his students to think in creative and imaginative ways. Although he is retired, Bob has continued to teach part-time at the college.

Designed by Charles Mangum, a landscape architect out of Salem, the garden was put together with the help of staff at Linn-Benton. The horticulture department provided him with a list of plants that they wanted to see in place, which included species native to the area. They plan to use the garden to teach students about plant identification and landscape planning. The department also gave Charles input on the design of the garden that will allow them to use sustainability and elements for learning.

Use of the garden is not limited to the horticulture department, however. When asked how he planned to use the garden that bears his name, Mr. Ross stated that he will be using the area in his Biology 103 class this spring. One possible plan was to use time-lapse photography to monitor the progression of growth in the garden. Ecology students will be able to use the garden to their advantage as well.

Although the new garden has several focal points and features, which will give



Kim Wilkinso looks out onto the Bob Ross garden.
 photos by Sherry Majeski

instructors plenty to work with, the most obvious is the leaf-shaped patio bench that will serve as a gathering place. Placed in the far corner are decomposing logs that were included at the suggestion of Bob Ross. Deciduous trees, small shrubs and ferns have been planted at various spots and a small stone- and pebble-lined stream runs through the garden, ending at a stone water storage. Hanging from the sky-bridge will be cables on which climbing vines will be able to grow.

Part of the eco-friendly system will be a green roof garden, which will help offset the carbon footprint of LBCC. Even though the Bob Ross Garden is near completion, the rooftop garden still has a ways to go, and will eventually include a rain cistern and rain garden. The cistern and garden were important because they are needed to get a silver certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). LEED is a green building rating system promoting sustainable site development, water savings and energy efficiency.

Hopefully, the Bob Ross Garden will put a whole new spin on the way some students learn. Studying the little shrubs and the happy trees while being out in the warm sun can lead to happy students and an enjoyable learning experience.



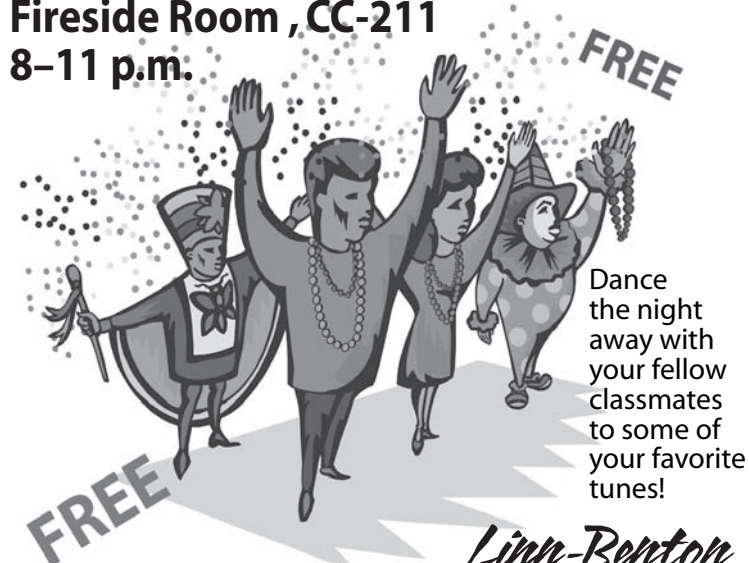
Mardi Gras Dance



Bring Your Mask & Your Mardi Gras Beads!

**Friday
February 12, 2010**

**Fireside Room, CC-211
8-11 p.m.**



Dance the night away with your fellow classmates to some of your favorite tunes!

Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sponsored by:
 Student Programming Board

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

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Surreal Living

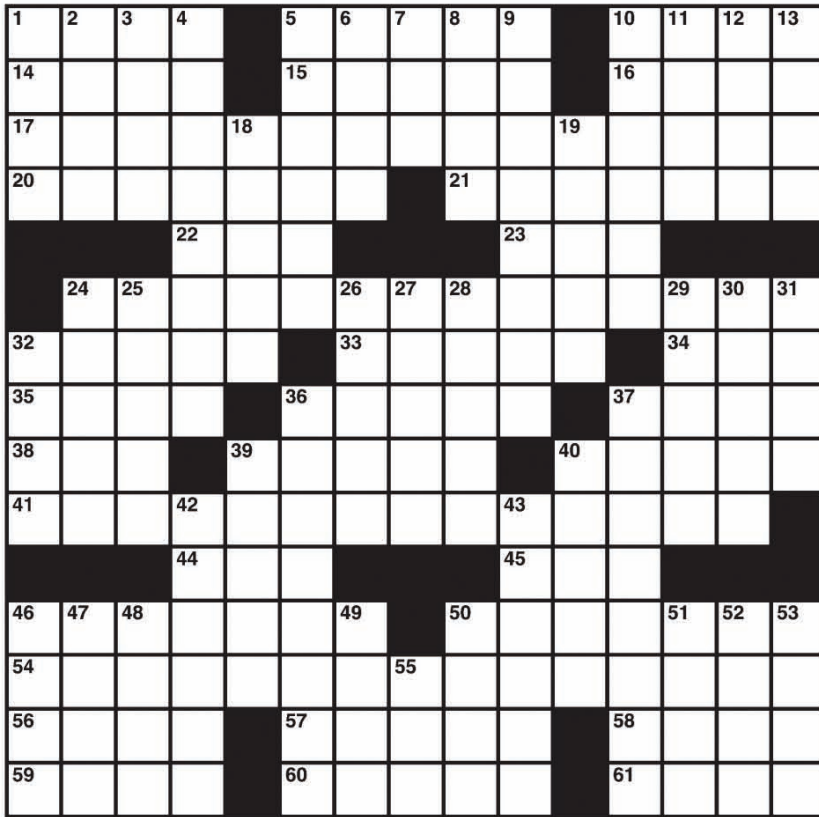
Crosswords, cartoons and some fun facts to brighten your day.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Droops
- 5 Benchwarmer
- 10 Dull
- 14 Spiritual guide
- 15 Pageant trophy
- 16 Tot's first word, often
- 17 Electrical worker's action
- 20 Stuff to capacity
- 21 Like the healthiest corned beef
- 22 White House advisory gp.
- 23 "Don't tase me, _!"
- 24 Discount retailer's action
- 32 Virginia, for one
- 33 Sits on the sill, as a pie
- 34 Absorb, with "up"
- 35 Exaggerated publicity
- 36 Type of servant or engineer
- 37 Ready for picking
- 38 "You ___ here": mall map words
- 39 Arrested
- 40 Parson's home
- 41 Feuder's action
- 44 In the past
- 45 Actress MacGraw
- 46 Traffic jam causes
- 50 Toronto skyline landmark
- 54 Accused speeder's action
- 56 On a single occasion
- 57 Two-time U.S. Open winner Fraser
- 58 Opposite of aweather
- 59 "The ___ the limit!"
- 60 Freezing cold
- 61 Bakery offerings



By Donna S. Levin

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

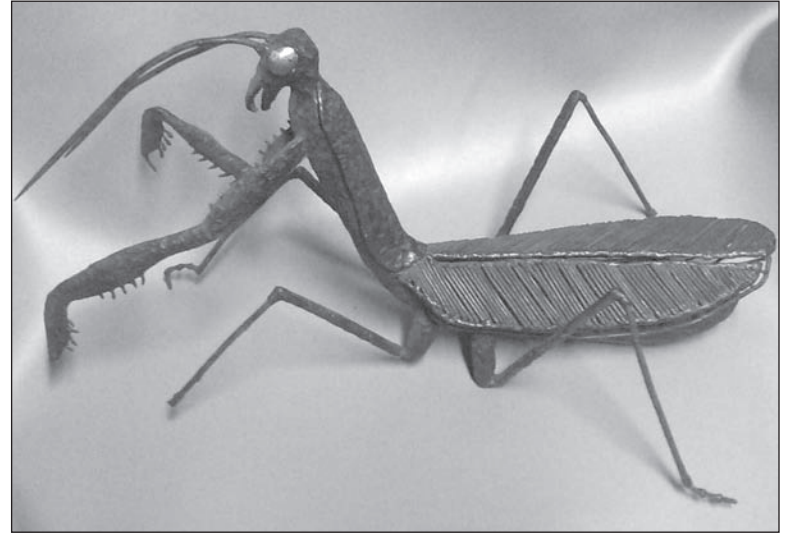
(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 5 Pain in the side
- 6 Movie
- 7 Tabloid
- 8 Russia's ___ Mountains
- 9 America's pastime
- 10 Key of Beethoven's Ninth
- 11 Distance divided by time
- 12 Gremlin and Pacer
- 13 Capital of Thailand?
- 18 Out of fashion
- 19 Time irregularities, in sci-fi
- 24 Prefix with foam
- 25 Boutonniere site
- 26 Cupcake topper
- 27 Spanish sweetheart
- 28 Continuing to operate
- 29 "Of Thee ___"
- 30 Thicket
- 31 Olympics sword
- 32 Peacock Throne occupant
- 36 Challenging the rapids, maybe

- 37 Police cruiser
- 39 On the money
- 40 Poly- equivalent
- 42 Sprints
- 43 Went on a tirade
- 46 Corp. money bigwigs
- 47 Place where the starts of this puzzle's four longest answers result in a penalty
- 48 Part of CIA: Abbr.
- 49 Dagger of yore
- 50 Colombian cartel city
- 51 How many employees are pd.
- 52 Hard-to-find shoe width
- 53 Numbered hwys.
- 55 Word before Friday or pal

Student-submitted art

e-mail your own artwork to commuter.submissions@gmail.com



by Tom Ryan
 Untitled sculpture

Poetry spotlight

Keeping Time

by Deena Palmtag

Silence!
 Just listen...
 The beat of our hearts,
 Perfectly in sync,
 They tick.
 The sound of our souls,
 Keeping time,
 As one.
 Like two clocks,
 Such steady cadence.
 In unison they...
 Tick tock.
 So swiftly they pulse.
 Silence; just...
 Listen.
 Do you hear them?



Did you know?

- NASA has discovered pulsars (leftover cores from exploded stars) that release energy pulses that can be used as "Galactic GPS."
- In Robert Heinlein's futuristic book "Starship Troopers," people only earn the right to vote by serving the government in some form of federal service.
- In Norse mythology, Odin, king of the gods, traded one of his eyes in exchange for eternal wisdom.
- The entire country of Liechtenstein is nine-tenths the size of Washington, D.C., and has a population of just under 35,000 people.

Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



The Commuter
 Editor-In-Chief: Max Brown
 A & E Editor: Joel DeVylde
 Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
 E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Academic Success Seminars

Boost Your COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE!

Sign up on SIS under Study Skills – or just drop in!

Get Organized

Wednesday	Feb. 3	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 3	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Feb. 3	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm

Active Learning Strategies

Tuesday	Feb. 9	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm

Accomplish Your Academic Goals

Tuesday	Feb. 16	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm

Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center. For more information and to sign up, visit SIS under Study Skills or call 917-4684.

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests 4 to 6 weeks before the event where possible. To call by TDD, call the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2900 & provide them with the number you wish to reach.

Always 50 minutes!
ALWAYS FREE!

Always helpful!



Ella Rhoades' mosaic sculpture "Her Spirit Remains Intact." photo by Maya Lazaro

Lunafest 2010

Maya Lazaro
 The Commuter

Students, teachers, and families turned out in droves at the LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University Saturday to attend Lunafest, an annual film festival that raises money for the Breast Cancer Fund and women's community organizations by showcasing a variety of short films dealing with issues facing women today.

The festival, established and sponsored by LUNA (a company that makes nutrition bars for women) is held in over 140 locations every year. They donate 100 percent of the proceeds to charitable organizations aimed at improving the lives of women, such as the Breast Cancer Fund. Other local organizations that benefited from the event included the Women's Cancer Coalition, which offers free mammograms to low-income women in Benton and Lincoln Counties who cannot afford to get tested, and the Arts Center ArtsCare Fund, which gives patients recovering from cancer treatment opportunities to express themselves through the arts.

This year's Lunafest featured 10 films written, directed and produced by women, each centered around a unique theme relating to women's lives, from surviving as a single parent to adopting a positive body image.

Some films brought back memories of the alienation and awkwardness that comes with puberty, such as "A Summer Rain," which told the story of a young Jewish girl on the brink of adolescence trying to adapt to her new life in the United States. Other films, like "Monday Before Thanksgiving," explored issues surrounding female independence and grief by telling the story of a woman who had recently lost her mother. Funnier shorts like "Kinda Sutra" poked fun at the mysteries surrounding childbirth by asking various celebrities where they thought babies came from when they were children, while films like "Omelette," which detailed the life of a single mother struggling to eat during a period of economic inflation, took on a more somber tone.

The festival also included booths providing information on mammograms, breast self-examinations and pap smears, as well as art created by women from the Corvallis Arts Center. One piece, "Her Spirit Remains Intact," was a mosaic sculpture of a human female torso made by local artist Ella Rhoades in honor of a friend who underwent a double-mastectomy due to breast cancer. The sculpture used an estimated 8,000 pieces of frosted pink beach glass, stained glass, beads, rose quartz, and dichroic fused glass tiles.

For students interested in learning more about Lunafest, go to <http://www.lunafest.org>

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"There are all kinds of choices we can make as community college students. I chose to go to OSU-Cascades and it's been great."

Fabian Clark
 Business Administration

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In partnership with University of Oregon and Central Oregon Community College.

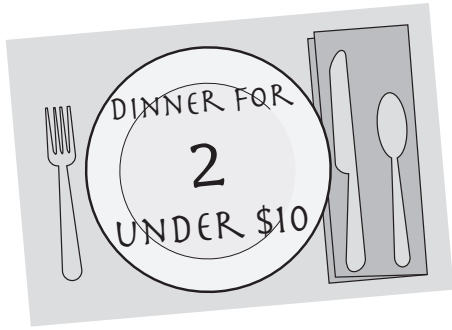
Oregon State UNIVERSITY | Cascades CAMPUS

2600 NW College Way Bend, Oregon 97701-5933

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Beef and broccoli

Jana West
 The Commuter

This week, to put a twist on the \$10 budget, I asked my friend to pick one mystery ingredient that had to be incorporated into the meal. He picked flank steak. Yikes! Flank steak is great, one of my favorite cuts, but a touch expensive when doing things on a budget. Good thing I like a challenge! I'll just have to be creative and use some things commonly found in the kitchen that don't add additional cost: to-go sauce packets! You know the kind - everyone has some lying around in a kitchen drawer.

Grocery list:	
1 lb. flank steak	\$5.99
3/4 lb. broccoli	\$.99
1 cup rice, basmati or jasmine	\$1.00
1 onion	\$.52
8 garlic cloves	\$.50
1 packet crushed red pepper (from any pizza place)	FREE
3 packets of honey (from any restaurant)	FREE
7 packets of soy sauce (from any Chinese place)	FREE
2 packets Chinese hot mustard (from any Chinese place)	FREE
GRAND TOTAL:	\$9.00

Directions:

For marinade: Combine four cloves of sliced garlic, crushed red peppers, four packets of soy sauce and one packet of honey, add to meat and marinade for at least two hours, or up to overnight.

In a heavy skillet (I use cast iron) on medium-high heat, cook flank steak so it gets a nice sear, about five to six minutes on each side. Let rest five minutes before slicing against the grain.

Sauté onions in 1/2 tablespoon of olive oil until translucent, add two cloves sliced garlic, three packets of soy sauce, two packets of honey, two packets of hot mustard and 2 tablespoons water. Cook until slightly thickened.

Drizzle the sauce over garlic-sautéed broccoli and sliced beef and serve over a bed of rice.



Beef and broccoli goodness. photo by Jana West

Needtohear "Needtobreathe"

Joel DeVylde
 The Commuter

"When the daylight breaks through the buildings of Chicago, I will stand alone in the valley of tomorrow." So goes the newest record from Southern Rock/Pop group Needtobreathe. They have a couple hits on Christian radio, but nothing much more to speak of, as popularity goes. This band is very underrated.

"The Outsiders," the album in question, improves on a style that seems to have been a long time coming for the band. Some of their earlier work had more of an alt-rock feel to it, but this newest batch has gone all poppy, with twinges of bluegrass and country (especially the swinging track called "Girl Named Tennessee"). Needtobreathe is a Southern band held down by two brothers, Bear and Bo Rineheart. Bear has a Kurt



Cobain thing going on, and Bo plays guitar while picking up some of the background vocals. They really pulled out the banjo for this album.

The songwriting is superb. I found the first nine tracks of this album heart-wrenching, fascinating, and beautifully original. The remaining tracks are still appreciable, if not as extraordinary. The record ends with "Let Us Love," a three-and-a-half minute hard-driving finish. If you listen to one Needtobreathe song (and you really should hear at least two),

choose this one. There are some incredibly deep things said in it.

Also notable lyrically were "Through Smoke," "Valley of Tomorrow," and the title track. In "Lay 'Em Down," the first single from the album, Bear cries, "We're all tied to the same old failing - finding shelter in things we know. We're all dirty like corrupted small towns. We'll bring our troubles ... [and] lay 'em down."

I found "The Outsiders" to be fresh, original, and intensely forthright. The issues addressed and the manners in which they are talked about were refreshingly new. This album will interest people who are looking for a new sound and a unique perspective on life.



All ages enjoy the ACT

Ashley Christie
 The Commuter

The Albany Civic Theater brings a tale as old as time to life with Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

The lights dim, the orchestra starts, the curtains part, and the audience is instantly transported to a small village in the French countryside. The ACT's rendition of the Disney musical is well performed, making for a fun and entertaining night for the whole family.

"Beauty and the Beast" is the story of a young prince who is transformed into a hideous beast by an enchantress disguised as an old beggar. Years later a beautiful young woman, Belle, stumbles into the Beast's castle and soon finds herself looking past his beastly façade and falling in love with the kind and gentle man within.

The ACT production stars Kayla Wilkens and Ryan Emry as the title characters. The two are a well-matched pair and play off each other well. Both give solid leading performances; Emry does a great job at layering the Beast to give him a harsh exterior that slowly melts away to reveal a warm heart and tender soul. Equally impressive is the performance of Dan Rayfield. As Gaston, he plays Belle's wannabe suitor as cocky and arrogant without making him unlikable. Rayfield's vocal talent is also extraordinary as showcased in the song "Gaston."

While the three main characters are all strong, it's the secondary characters that really steal the show. William Whitley as Gaston's smarmy sidekick LeFou, along with Timothy Kelley II and John Kish as the Beast's faithful



The Albany Civic Theater in downtown Albany. photo by Ashley Christie

At a glance:

What: Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"
Where: Albany Civic Theater
 111 W. 1st Avenue; Albany
When: now thru Feb. 13
Tickets: \$13 adults/ \$10 students & seniors.
Available at: Sid Steven's Jewelers, Albany (541-967-8140); Rice's Pharmacy, Corvallis (541-752-7760); and the ACT box office 45 min. before each show on a first-come, first-served basis.
More info at: www.albanycivic.org

servants Cogsworth and Lumiere, respectively, were just as entertaining as their cartoon counterparts and had the entire audience rolling in the aisles laughing.

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" is a classic love story about looking past outward appearances and finding that true beauty lies within. Its run at the ACT is an opportunity for a fun, wholesome night out that the entire family can enjoy. Kids, parents, and grandparents will all sing along with the familiar songs and leave the theater with a smile.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Coming attractions

Dear John

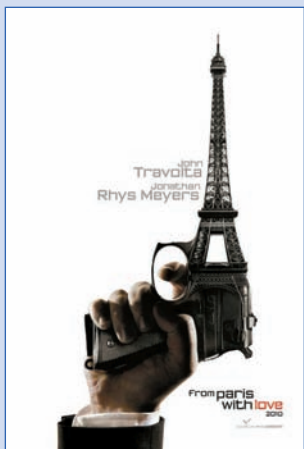
This drama features “Step Up’s” Channing Tatum as John, a young Army recruit, and Amanda Seyfried (of “Mama Mia!” fame) as the college girl he falls in love with. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, John re-enlists. But the physical distance puts strain on their relationship. Can they keep it together? Directed by Lasse Hallstrom.



Runtime: 105 minutes
Rating: PG-13

From Paris With Love

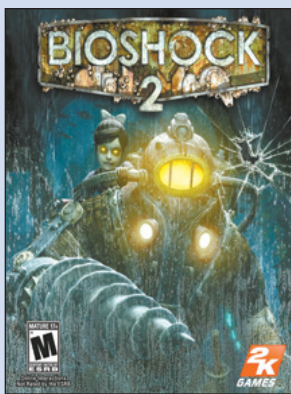
James Reece is an aide to the U.S. ambassador in France and a low-level CIA operative on the side. Once it's offered, he jumps at the opportunity of working higher up on an anti-terrorism assignment. His excitement fades when he meets his partner Charlie Wax (John Travolta), a shoot-'em-up kind of character who's sent to stop a terrorist attack on Paris.



Runtime: 95 minutes
Rating: R

Bioshock 2

The sequel to the wildly popular “Bioshock” is finally coming out. The story picks up 10 years after the events of “Bioshock,” but this time you play the role of the first Big Daddy, which were the fiercest enemies from the first game. Being a Big Daddy ramps up the combat and allows players the ability to explore new areas of the city. “Bioshock 2” also offers a multiplayer mode that takes place during the civil war that brought rapture to its current state.



Consoles: Xbox 360, PS3, PC
Rating: Mature

Sources: [Imdb](#), [Yahoo! Movies](#), [Fandango.com](#), [IGN.com](#)

“Mass Effect 2” has mass appeal

Max Brown
The Commuter

Commander Shepard is back in “Mass Effect 2,” leading a fresh crew on a new suicide mission. Imagine “Mass Effect,” easily the best game of 2007, without the terrible chunks strewn throughout. No more cumbersome inventory system, and no more driving across wasteland planets in that stupid van thing. It also has a vastly improved third-person shooter combat system over the bare-bones original.

The “Mass Effect” storyline was fascinating and quite epic. ME2 continues this legacy. Taking place two years after the ending of the last game, “Mass Effect 2” places you in the role of Shepard, who teams up with Cerberus in order to end the Reaper threat. Bonus points go to those who kept their old saved files, as you’ll see how most of your decisions from that game affect the universe in this one. From minor to major, you have shaped much of what has taken place. The player makes the story.

This game offers you a new crew of intriguing individuals you will lead into impossible situations. I won’t spoil who does, or doesn’t, come back from the first game, but I was pleased where they went with this. Each of your crew members does not join up “loyal” to you. To unlock this, you must do side missions later in the game which tell you more about the character’s back-story. I loved this because it added so much depth to most of these characters, and it unlocked a different outfit and new power for each person as well.

ME2 preserves all of the great storyline and dialog of the first game, while really amping up the amount of combat you get into. Not only is there more combat, but it’s far more interesting and fun. Increased strategy comes from the introduced need to re-supply ammo. You’ll find yourself rotating through guns and ammo types far more often than in the previous game. Luckily ammo is plentiful, but running out to find more mid-fight just adds to the excitement. Battles resemble those from the “Gears of War” series, with the focus on cover.

In the first game, if you were a biotic (a person with powers that are kind of similar to the Force from “Star Wars”), you could throw or lift just about anyone, so even if they were at full life you would just lift them in the

air and blow them away while they floated about aimlessly. Don’t get me wrong, I loved doing that, but in ME2 you have to first get their shields down before you can lift them and spin the guy with your bullets.

ME2 has the same classes from the first game, but all of them have been upgraded. Each of the classes get one special power that is unique to them. This is AWESOME. Having only played through the game on Vanguard, I cannot really say how cool all of the other abilities are, but a lot of them sound just as nifty.

The Vanguard gets a biotic charge, which lets you close major distances and go shotgun crazy on your enemies. I have to admit this looked so cool I completely ignored the major flaw, that I was now in the middle of all my enemies and being shot to smithereens. Needless to say this took a while for me to get used to, but now that I have, it adds a new dynamic to the battles that I love.

During the first game, you always had to have someone in your party with electronics and decryption so you could go loot crazy. In ME2, they got rid of those skills. I cannot express how happy that makes me. Instead, they have just given Shepard the ability to hack or bypass any systems he comes up against. This is nice because you can bring whomever you wish into your party.

Both mini-games are tolerable and make a lot more sense than the previous game. For hacking, you have to play a matching game with bits of code. Bypass is where you have to match multiple symbols on a circuit board.

ME2 is a great game. I did notice that if I had not played through the first game, this one may not have made as much sense, or been as epic, but I think new players will still love it.

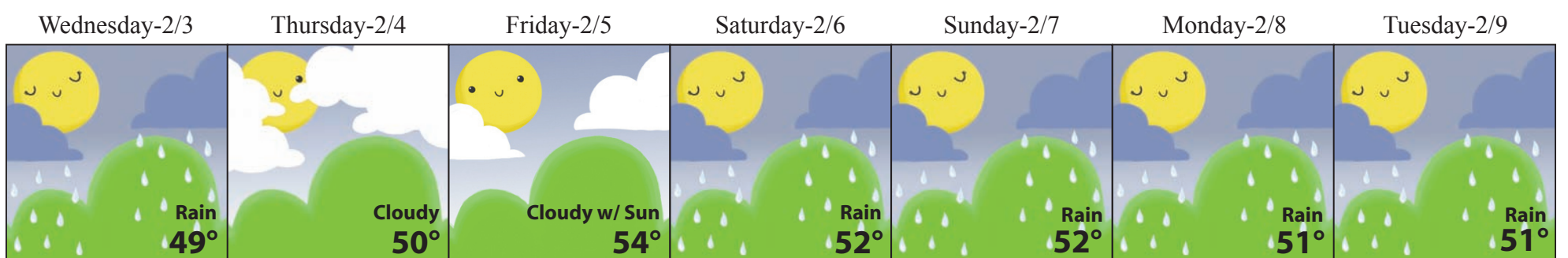
“... it’s the “Avatar” of video games — except it’s better written,” says Time.



Title: Mass Effect 2
Platforms: PC and Xbox 360
Rating: Mature

Developer: BioWare
Genre: Action RPG (space opera)
Cost: PC \$49.99/ Xbox 360 \$59.99

Weekly Weather Predictions



Warning: These are only predictions. For up-to-date forecasts, please look out your window. Source: [accuweather.com](#)