



La Catrina



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THE LINN-BENTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

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LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Letters Welcome

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

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LBCCommuter.com

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HISTORY OF LA CATRINA: A NOTE ON THE COVER ART



STORY BY
KATELYN BORING
@K8DOESTHINGS

As with many things, history has a funny way of twisting what art represents to us. A fantastic example of this is our cover art this edition, our wonderful graphic designer's rendition of La Calavera Catrina (or Catrina La Calavera Garbancera), an infamous zinc etching by Jose Guadalupe Posada, a respected lithographer and illustrator of the early 20th century. Today, La Catrina is a quintessential symbol of Día de los Muertos, but this was not Posada's intention.

When Posada created La Catrina, it was a satirical representation of the indigenous peoples who were jumping over the chance European invaders' aristocratic traditions, such as wearing lots of makeup to make their skin appear

whiter and hiding their own origins.

As popular as Posada's art was, however, the image did not truly take off in popularity or notoriety until it was picked up by world-renowned artist Diego Rivera in 1947.

Rivera's mural of La Catrina, titled Sueño de una Tarde Dominical en la Alameda Central, is the base of many La Catrina figures today. The mural represents around 400 years of Mexican art history, including paying tribute to the image's creator, Posada, as well as Rivera's wife, renowned artist Frida Kahlo. Unlike Posada's image of a female skeleton wearing nothing but an overly flamboyant hat, Rivera's take on La Catrina features her in an elegant dress, full of bright colors.

In addition to being a symbol of Día de los Muertos, La Catrina is a reminder to laugh in the face of death, and that in the hands of death, everyone

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS AT THE DAC

- Thursday, Nov. 1 at 10 a.m.
- Presentation, "Dead Bread" and hot cocoa, decorate a sugar skull

is equal. When times were particularly harsh or unkind, La Catrina also served as a representation of class division.

Regardless of her origins, La Catrina is infamous today, and her image is instantly associated with Día de los Muertos. Despite what some may think, she is a symbol of hope and happiness today, a reminder that while only death is truly promised to us, we will see our loved ones in the afterlife, and continue on our next adventure.

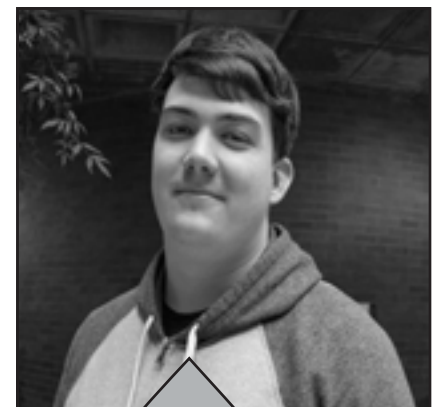
CAMPUS VOICE

Do you like horror movies? If so, what's your favorite horror movie and why?



TRAMAÏNE CARR
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

"I'M A BIG CHICKEN. I HATE HORROR MOVIES."



DEVIN OAR
MECHATRONICS

"NO, I HATE HORROR MOVIES."



KYLE LEWIS
FISH AND WILDLIFE

"MOST DEFINITELY, YES. I'M NOT SURE I COULD PICK JUST ONE. PROBABLY '28 DAYS LATER' BECAUSE THE MONSTERS OR THE ZOMBIES ACTUALLY RUN AT YOU INSTEAD OF THAT SLOW RUNNING CHASE."



QUETZAL PALMA
APPLIED SCIENCE

"NO, I DON'T LIKE HORROR MOVIES. I DON'T DO THEM."



APRIL CHILD
COMPUTER SCIENCE

"I REALLY LIKE THE MOVIE 'SINISTER' BECAUSE THE MUSIC IN IT'S REALLY COOL AND IT REALLY MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE IN A HORROR FEVER DREAM OR SOMETHING."

STORY AND PHOTOS: SARAH MELCHER

RED MOM, BLUE MOM

The Civil Discourse Club gears up to host speakers regarding opposing political views

STORY BY **CALEB BARBER**

On Nov. 15, LBCC will play host to Ted Talk speakers Caitlin Quattromani and Lauran Arledge. They have a unique relationship: they remain close friends despite disagreeing on most political arguments. Their speech will address the difficulties of making and sustaining these kinds of friendships, and why relationships like these are so important.

Liz Joyner, the primary orchestrator of this event, is the Executive Director of the Village Square, an organization working to promote interpersonal communication amongst local communities. In preparation for the event, she answered a few questions about what the Village Square, and the speakers, were working to accomplish, as well as what the bigger picture of this movement means for American communities.

Q: We tend to think of relationships like Caitlin and Lauran's to be anomalies, almost miraculous given the political climate of today. Are they alone, or have you seen other politically opposite relationships like theirs form?

A: Absolutely, they are not alone. In some ways the culture that we're in doesn't highlight relationships like that. One of the goals of our project is to highlight relationships like theirs that endure in this really toxic political climate. Interestingly enough, the bigger challenge to us in our project as we're trying to highlight pairs like them. When real relationships exist across difference of opinion, one of the things that happens quite naturally is that they end up moving towards each other. They understand better, and very often it actually closes the gap between them.

Q: A term you've spoken of in your own Ted Talk is 'tribalism', the human tendency to support our side wholeheartedly, despite whether our side is correct or not. How does this tribalism affect us when we try to talk to those at the other end of the political spectrum?

A: We've reached a boiling point where any outreach to talk [with a political other] is considered an act of tribal disloyalty. For humans to be described as tribal is very normal. It's not by definition a bad thing. We are naturally inclined towards gathering with people who are like us, share life experiences, and have some of the common goals that we have. That by itself is not a problem. You want to have bonding social capital: people like you in your tribe. But we also have to have bridging social capital, and that's where we have experiences with people who are not like us at all. Almost always, those are the opportunities for us to learn something new that we didn't know and experience things from a different perspective. Even if we are amazingly right about almost everything, people with different perspectives can show us where our weak points are, where the things we didn't completely understand lie. To me, our biggest challenge is the fact that we seem to no longer consider those kinds of bridging opportunities valuable. They aren't just valuable, they are the central organizing principle of American democracy.

Q: It can be difficult keeping a level head, especially when talking with someone who has morally disparate views from you. How have you seen participants keep an air of friendly communication, without the conversation turning heated?

A: It's about what kinds of people we bring in front of audiences. Lauren and Caitlin are incredibly good examples because of the fact that they have demonstrated vast generosity and respect towards each other, despite the fact that they still disagree fundamentally on basic political differences. We almost never bring people who have a stake in the continuation of the escalating division [in our country], and there are a lot of people who do. If you bring people who have some sense of humility and generosity towards people who don't see things your way, it's a completely different conversation

that we're having. It's a different conversation than what we're having online, where we're essentially just ready to lob the next grenade at the enemy.

Q: The Village Square has hosted events like the Longest Table in Tallahassee as well as speakers across the country to encourage shared perspective and dialogue. What is the long term goal of the Village Square, and how do you hope to see our national community change the way it communicates?

A: The interesting thing about [our nation's social and political issues] is that they're never going to be solved online. Ultimately, it is in communities of people, between neighbors, our fellow students, that this gets solved. It's when we turn to those around us who share a common destiny with us in our community; that's the only unit we've got that can face with each other. The internet is incredible in so many ways, it's let us find people whom we have common causes with. We can stretch out and reach people who have a lot in common with us. In some ways it is an unintended consequence that all that reaching out we're doing to people just like us is cementing our ideological tribes. And now they're overtaking the geographic neighborhood community tribe. What the Village Square does is act where the solution lies, and if ten years from now there's 350 communities that are engaged in efforts like ours, that's one of the only ways that this problem gets solved. In some ways, this is an easier problem to solve than we all think. We have to start spending more time with people who disagree with us. People in proximity, eyeball to eyeball with each other, behave differently than with these other formats. The very act of an ideologically diverse group of LBCC students gathering when Caitlin and Lauran come to speak will actively work to solve the problem.

U.S. REP. PETER DEFAZIO VISITS LBCC

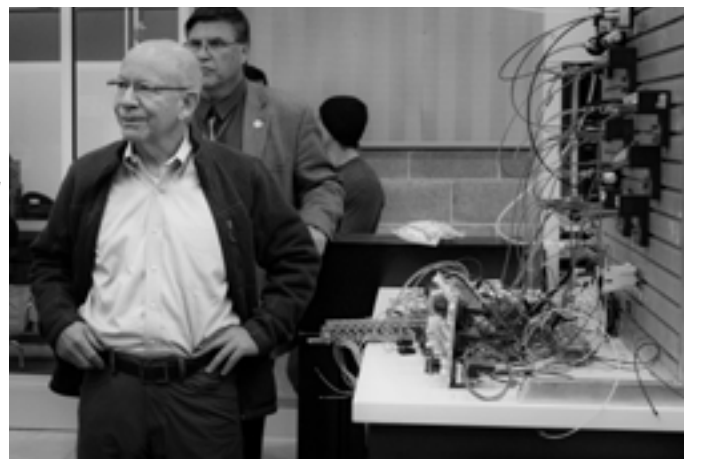
Up for re-election this November, Congressman Defazio, visits his constituents



Congressman Peter Defazio and LBCC President Greg Hamann listen to Dave Mack, mechatronics faculty, give a presentation on equipment that was programmed and set up in part by LBCC students.

PHOTOS: SARAH MELCHER

In 2014, voters approved a \$34 million general obligation bond measure that has helped develop projects on LBCC's campuses.



Funds from the General Obligation bond measure have gone into renovations in LBCC's CTE programs, and have helped upgrade programs such as Non-Destructive Testing, providing money for new equipment such as an immersion tank for ultrasonic testing (pictured).

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Do's and don'ts for Stress Intervention:

Do: Take a breath.

Don't: Hold your breath

Do: Acknowledge your stress, worries, fears.

Don't: "Dread ahead"

Do: Consider positive action.

Don't: "Should" yourself

Do: Talk with friends.

Don't: Gripe about the same thing 3 times without doing something differently.

Do: Laugh, dance play.

Don't: Always put the fun off until tomorrow.

Ways to exercise without getting up from your chair:

- Jumping to conclusions
- Running around in circles
- Stretching the truth

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE (24/7) 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Or text "HOME" to 741741 to text with a crisis counselor.

SOURCE: <https://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-By-the-Numbers>

- Beating around the bush
- Spinning your wheels
- Running your mouth off
- Doing a tailspin
- Throwing a fit
- Jumping out of your skin
- Flying by the seat of your pants
- Driving others wild
- Digging a hole for yourself

- Walking on eggshells
- Chipping away at your self-esteem
- Jogging your memory
- Walking on sunshine
- Spinning plates in the air
- Juggling responsibilities
- Running on empty
- Balancing work/school and home
- Throwing caution to the wind

Scare away the Stigma of Mental Illness. Know the facts.

- 1 in 5 adults in America experience a mental illness. One-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14, three-quarters by the age of 24.
- Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide.
- 18% of adults live with anxiety disorders.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for people aged 15-24. Each day an estimated 18-22 veterans die by suicide.

COURTESY OF: LISA HOOGESTEGER

WRITING CENTER TO HOST NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH EVENTS

Sad Halloween is over? Terrify yourself into writing with the 30-day challenge!

The Writing Center and the College Skills Zone are challenging you to beat a word count goal for the month of November. Any project and any goal is worthy!

Our challenge is sponsored by the LBCC Library and inspired by National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). NaNoWriMo is an international novel-writing marathon held during the month of November. To win NaNoWriMo, you have to write 50,000 words in 30 days--which is about 1,667 words per day. Whether or not you want to write a full-on novel, we want you to meet your word count goal this month.

During the month of November, the Writing Center and the College Skills Zone will host events related to writing goals. Our Write-ins will be hosted by official NaNoWriMo Municipal Liaisons, and they are open to all students who want to kick-start their writing

projects. Each Write-in is devoted to writing in silence with other writers and will include snacks, activities, and prompts to inspire your work.

If you beat our 30-Day Challenge by writing 100

words each day for 30 days, you will be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate. You can pick up instructions at the

COURTESY OF: WRITING CENTER

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- Thursday, Nov. 1 - 30 Day Challenge Kick-off Party - 9-10 a.m., College Skills Zone, WH-226
- Monday, Nov. 5 - NaNoWriMo Write-in - 6-8 p.m. in the Writing Center, WH-226
- Wednesday, Nov. 14 - Writingpalooza - 10 a.m. -12 p.m. - College Skills Zone, WH-226
- Monday, Nov. 19 - NaNoWriMo Write-in - 6-8 p.m. in the Writing Center, WH-226
- Monday, Nov. 26 - NaNoWriMo Write-in - 6-8 p.m. in the Writing Center, WH-226

Check out our NaNoWriMo Events page at linnbenton.edu/writing-center or drop by the Writing Center and the College Skills Zone for more details.

DISMANTLING TOXIC MASCULINITY:

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WITH

GERALD GUEVARRA

FOUNDER & CEO: TO BE DEFINED, LLC

www.to-be-defined.com



You're invited to explore the cultural ideas that influence how people answer:

- "What does it mean to be a man?"
- Understand how to give voice to the parts of ourselves that we deny or repress
- Learn about the wide diversity of masculinity

Tuesday, November 13

Linn-Benton Community College

Albany Campus: Calapooia Center 211 (Fireside Room)

2-3:30 PM Keynote Lecture

(4-5:00 PM Men's Talking Circle)

Department of Institutional Equity & Student Engagement

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TRANS VISIBILITY RALLY

Corvallis comes together in support of Transgender Rights



STORY BY
MILLICENT DURAND

The Trans Visibility Rally, organized Brandy Lea Fortson in addition to the Benton County Democratic Socialists of America, took place in downtown Corvallis on Oct. 30 in response to the Trump administration's recent memo planning on reversing several policies enacted by the Obama administration.

The rally saw a large turnout of transgender members of the Corvallis community and their allies.

Paige Kreisman, a candidate for Corvallis City Council, was one of the headline speakers at the rally. "I've seen cis people act shocked and surprised," said Kreisman. "We've been sounding alarm bells for years, but no one seemed to care."

According to Kreisman, the average life expectancy for transgender women in the United States is 30 years, and they are 1,500 percent more likely to be

a victim of a homicide.

"We need to stand and fight," Kreisman said. "We cannot count on the government."

Kreisman also called for transgender women to arm themselves.

"Community defense is self defense."

Ava Thresh, co-chair of the Benton County chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, also spoke at the rally, opening up with that she felt "really fucking scared right now."

"Our work is coming undone rapidly," said Thresh. "we are being erased by the state."

Thresh's concerns were echoed by other members of the community.

Brandy Lee Fortson, the organizer of the rally, is a non-binary person and a parent. Fortson also has children who are LGBTQ, and they are terrified for them.

"Now is the time for the community to step up," Fortson said. "We are everything they have"

Other members of the community spoke, including Silas Wyttdiersky, who wrote a very emotional poem about recent events.

"To tell you I'm not scared shitless...is like saying bigots are capable of unconditional love," Wyttdiersky said. "You can pry my queerness from my cold dead queer hands."

Also speaking was Anthonie Vote, who, among other things, was proud of their identity.

"I'm Jewish, I'm non-binary, I'm asexual, I'm panromantic. I'm not leaving," Vote said. "I am going to be as loud as possible... I'm still here, I'm still non binary, I'm still trans, and you can't take that away from me."

After the speakers were done, the several members of the crowd gathered along 4th St., where they held up signs to gain support from passing motorists.

Over all, the rally can be best summed up by Fortson's closing remarks. "The future expects each other to respect who we are."

LB's HARVEST FEST 2018

PHOTO:
ALISHA VAN
VLACK



Students of Linn-Benton Community College wait patiently for the winners of the costume contest to be announced at the 2018 Fall Festival.

PHOTO: DAVIS IHDE

Francesca Jacquez carved a Linn Benton themed pumpkin.



PHOTO: DAVIS IHDE

Pumpkins to be used in this years Harvest Party carving contest adorned the Albany campus courtyard, in which the winner would receive a Dutch Bros. gift card.



PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

Dumb Luck performed as The Misfits at Interzone on Saturday night Oct. 27.



TREATS BY DAY,

Albany hosts annual downtown trick-or-treating on Saturday, C

PHOTO: SARAH MELCHER

Beau rolled through downtown in the Hundred Acre Wood as Winnie-the-Pooh.



PHOTO: SARAH MELCHER

The Sanderson Sisters visited downtown A treating. They were recently a part of an e Owner Laura Ellis said they thought it would to have a visit from the sisters.

CORVALLIS-OSU
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 SEASON 113 | 2018-2019

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 MARLAN CARLSON, MUSIC DIRECTOR
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WWW.COSUSYMPHONY.ORG



Bernstein: Serenade
with Jessica Lambert, violin
Nielsen: Symphony No. 5

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\$27 advance, \$30 door (P-U)
\$32 advance, \$35 door (D-N)

Balcony:
\$22 advance, \$25 door (DD-GG)
\$27 advance, \$30 door (AA-CC)

To request accommodations relating to a disability, call 541-286-5580 one week in advance.

Up to three K-8 students accompanied by a ticketed adult, and all high school and college students with current ID, may be given free general admission tickets at the door starting one hour prior to the concert, subject to availability.

WHERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS
Online at cosusymphony.org or at the LaSells Stewart Center one hour before each performance.

CONTACT THE SYMPHONY
PO Box 1582
Corvallis OR 97339
541-286-5580
office@cosusymphony.org
cosusymphony.org
[facebook.com/cosusymphony](https://www.facebook.com/cosusymphony)



PHOTO: SARAH MELCHER

Jameson fought off sharks and the crowd in a shark cage while wearing his scuba diver costume.



PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

Deadly Discs per performances in

TRICKS BY NIGHT

Oct. 28. Local monster mash takes over Corvallis by night



Albany during the trick-or-treat event at Albany Art Studio. It should be fun for the community



PHOTO: SARAH MELCHER

Spearit Beads & Co. handed out bracelets and necklaces instead of candy.



PHOTO: SARAH MELCHER

Jill Garcia as fire, Nathan Power as a Cop, Harley as a monster, Sarai as SWAT, Maria as a fire dog, Kiara as a Firetruck, Delayne as Pooh, and Jenn Power as a Firefighter.

PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

Corvallis DIY put on their 3rd annual Halloween Cover Show Saturday night Oct. 27 at Interzone Coffee Shop. Local bands played 20-minute cover sets featuring performances by Dreamt, Sadgasm, Dumb Luck, Hyperreality, and The Shifts.



performed at Clown College on Sunday night Oct 28. Other experimental acts included Maureen Mooch and Megazillionaire.



PHOTO: SARAH MELCHER

Jim Johnson from Albany sported a steampunk costume he made himself out of miscellaneous and random stuff. He was accompanied by Nora and Aurora.

ROADRUNNERS DIG PINK IN 3-0 WIN

LBCC fought hard and took a convincing home win



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CAM HANSON

LBCC came home from a long trip on the road and beat the Clark Penguins 3-0 on Oct. 26, further separating them from the rest of the south division and making their presence felt in a big way.

The Roadrunners now stand at 26-10 overall, with a 10-1 record in the conference. Before the game, Clark (15-18 overall, 6-5 conference) was ranked second in the south division, but the loss to the Roadrunners has dropped them all the way to fourth, behind a three-way tie for second between Clackamas, Lane, and Chemeketa.

LBCC won 3-0, but they had to fight the entire match. Clark lost by a combined 10 points in the first two sets (25-20 both times), before the wheels came off in the third and final set, losing 25-12 to cap off a huge night for the Roadrunners. LBCC played clean and effective volleyball most of the night, which played a huge part in always staying ahead during the match. Clark had many

chances to take control, but self-inflicted mistakes held them back all match.

Statistical leaders on the night for the Roadrunners included Maddie Norris, who continued her great season with 23 assists, while also recording four kills. Her assists were spearheaded by Grace Phillips (10 kills) and Ally Tow (11 kills). By the third set, Clark had given the Roadrunners a lot to handle, but perseverance and hard work willed them to a exclamation-point victory.

This win is huge for a few reasons. Heading into today, Clark was behind LBCC in the division by just three games, but the convincing win has put the whole NWAC on watch. Now, LBCC is among lesser competition in the south, as the teams in a three-way tie for second are at a record of 7-4.

The goal at the start of the season was to make it to the NWAC's and compete for a conference title, and with only three more matches left, the Roadrunners may have just clinched that opportunity. Focus and execution, in a time where it matters the most, will be the keys to success going forward.



Grace Phillips (left) and Mitra Aflatooni get set on defense.



Maddie Norris provided some huge help to the Roadrunners putting up a total of 23 assists.



Jenaya Wright (10) celebrates after a score in Friday night's game.

Roadrunners warming up before the match.



LBCC's win over Clark sets them as clear favorites in south region with a three game advantage.

Porch Lights:

porch lights like little suns reflecting,
reflecting on wet pavement like little
nighttime sunsets, sunsets on an asphalt
river

And

cars driving, driving on a winding road like
motorboats wakeless, wakeless on a cement
street

And

me watching, watching through my
window out of touch out of my body

I am the porch lights I am the nighttime
sunsets I am the cars I am the wakeless
street

I am this moment like an hourglass
sandless, sandless

By: WALDO FRENCH

The Weather Is An Animal:

Wild Lightning
Striking, Flashing
Roaring Thunder
Colliding, Crashing
The Tempest Zoo
Unleashed And Thrashing

By: WALDO FRENCH

A Physical Description of Evil:

They always said to watch out for demons
Physical incarnations of the purest evil
Greed, Lust, and an insatiable thirst for blood
But tonight, I finally found one, truly
I caught a glimpse through the glass as I moved
Its hair was dull, brown, flat, unassuming
The clothes worn, but average and not eye-
catching

The figure average, not too fat or too thin
The eyes bland, mediocre, empty of emotion
The demon looked like any other soul I have
ever met

So how, then would I know to watch for them
in the future?

It was only as the next person passed, that I
learned

How to protect myself and others, how to
distinguish

For the glass I spied it through was a mirror

By: KATELYN BORING

Dreamcatcher:

Where is your face? It's in my face somewhere
It'll be carved out perhaps, a little here and there
chiseled away like everything else must be You
need my body, but it would hurt me I would
never be the same, and change like that is just
too much, too strange

I am your foundation I build you on top of me,
I create your architecture, I give you form

give you name
give you meaning

Before you came to me, before it came to this I
knew best What kind of dream is this? It didn't
catch like the rest

When I'm awake I dream of you I'm tired of you
Tired of what it takes to be you tired of what
it takes not to be you I thought you to life. If I
stop thinking you

you're gone forever You can't exist without me
I'm already real. You never were, may never be

By: WALDO FRENCH

The Labyrinth of Shadowood:

On dark and dreary Autumn days it walks
in woods with twisted trees along an ancient,
magick maze.

The shapes in shadows shift in ways that trick
the eyes and taunt and tease on dark and
dreary Autumn days.

A smell of smoke, and foggy haze adrift and
dreamy on the breeze along the ancient,
magick maze

distorts the eerie air and stays like ghosts and
ghouls who haunt the leas on dark and dreary
Autumn days.

Electric liquid swirls and sways but lonely
waters start to freeze along the ancient,
magick maze.

This riddle is the final phase: a lock or wdoor
without the keys on dark and dreary Autumn
days along the ancient magick maze.

By: WALDO FRENCH



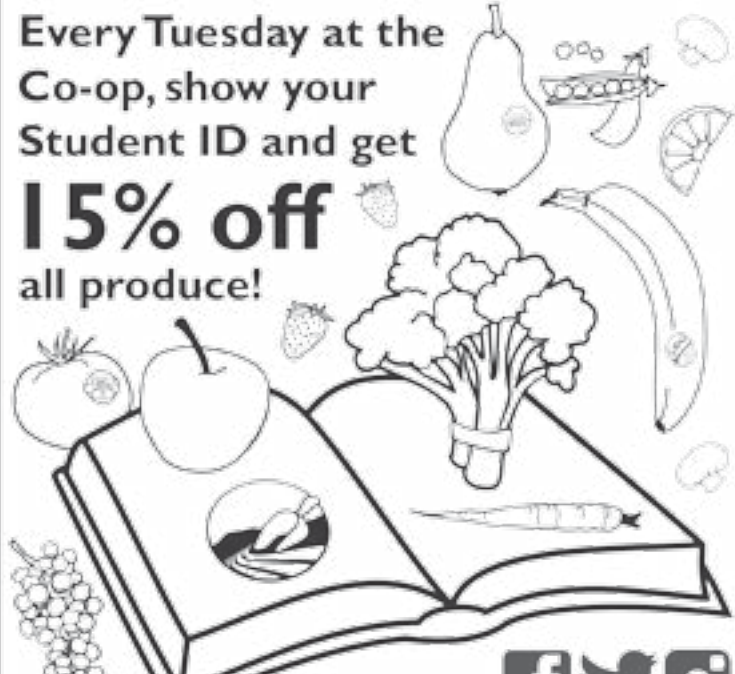
GET OUT NOW
CHALLENGE

Outdoor Adventure Club

- *Conquer new challenges and explore Oregon with people who love the outdoors
- *Find us on LB Live App under groups & club icon
- *Meetings are once a month in cafeteria commons
- *Leadership Contact:
rafael.olloqui.4199@mail.linnbenton.edu
- *Club Advisor: Leslie Hammond (WH 215)

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RED DEAD RIDES AGAIN



COURTESY: ROCKSTAR GAMES

VIDEO GAME FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Red Dead Redemption II

PUBLISHER: Rockstar Games
DEVELOPER: Rockstar Studios
PLATFORMS: Playstation 4 & Xbox One
ESRB RATING: M



REVIEW BY
 JOSHUA STICKROD
 @STICKRODJOSH

It's been eight years since the first Red Dead Redemption hit shelves and in those eight years I've played and replayed the game countless times. I put so much time into it and explored so much of its open world that I got to a point where I had seen all that there was to see in the game. So naturally when the sequel was announced in 2016, I was stoked to sink my teeth into more great western-inspired action.

Now that the sequel has finally come out and I've played it for a bit, I find it incredibly difficult to believe that I will see all that Red Dead Redemption II has to offer in only eight years. Not because it's a bad game, but because it is so expansive and massive that there is easily hundreds of hours of content packed into this \$60 game. I've played roughly 10 hours and I feel like I have barely even scratched the surface.

This is a big reason why outlets like IGN, Game Informer, The Telegraph, and The Guardian are showering it with praises and perfect scores. It's a game that redefines the open world genre as a whole, creating something completely unique from anything that has come before it— even its predecessor.

The game takes place in a fictional representation of the American West in the year 1899, when the "Wild West" began to become a whole lot less wild due to the rapid increase of technology and civilization. You play as outlaw Arthur Morgan, a senior member of the Van der Linde Gang, a notorious motley crew of idealistic desperados, as they grapple with this harsh reality of a changing world.

The game opens up with the Van Der Linde Gang fleeing from the law through blizzard covered mountains after a botched robbery forces them to leave their old camp behind. This section, which takes up the first few hours of the game, serves as a linear

tutorial that teaches the player the basic mechanics and introduces us to the central characters. After that the world completely opens up and you're free to explore it as you please.

And what a world it is. Rockstar, well known for their open world series Grand Theft Auto, have really outdone themselves with this one. It's both the most beautiful looking and most authentic feeling open world I have ever experienced. It contains vast landscapes packed with amazing vistas and teeming with realistic human and animal AI that makes the world feel truly lived in. There are also numerous side quests and activities you can participate in. You can help strangers, go hunting and fishing, track down bounties, take on rival gangs, or just ride around and cause mischief.

One thing that differentiates Red Dead Redemption II from its predecessor is its attention to detail. You have to eat and sleep regularly to keep your health and stamina up, you have to perform routine maintenance on your firearms to keep them working properly, you have to hunt to make sure your gang is well fed, and you have to bathe and groom to keep people in the world from making fun of you. These features sounded incredibly tedious when I first heard about them, but they really aren't that bad. They take a minimal amount of time and effort on the part of the player and I would argue that they add an element of immersion to the overall experience.

One thing that is tedious in this game however, is that there's no real means to freely fast travel all over the map like in the previous one. This means you'll be riding all over one of the largest maps in the history of video games for the majority of the campaign. It seems like the developers are trying to pad the run-time, but the world is so polished and amazing looking that it's forgivable.

I did run into a few glitches along the way. Some hilarious, like a cowboy riding in mid-air with no horse under him. And some frustrating, like trying to

talk to an NPC and having their cutscene refuse to show up, causing my character to awkwardly stand in place while I hopelessly mash 'X' until I give up and reboot the game. Thankfully these instances are few and far between and the game's autosave feature prevents you from losing a lot of progress.

The most frustrating part isn't a glitch at all, but a baffling decision on the developer's part to make the button used to interact with people in the world the same as the button used to aim your weapon. With AI that isn't too keen on getting their lives threatened, you're going to have a lot of unnecessary altercations if you press the button at the wrong time. But honestly, there isn't much wrong with the game and everything negative I've said feels like a callous nitpick.

The gameplay is as good as any Rockstar game out there, offering tight and satisfying gunplay that leaves you feeling like a real badass gunslinger. It feels similar to the original Red Dead Redemption, but it also adds more elements to contribute to the realism like realistic recoil, longer reload animations, and the ability to only carry a limited number of weapons at a time.

Great gameplay is important but what I really loved about the first Red Dead Redemption was its ability to tell a compelling story within the context of a wild west, open world, adventure game. It made the player look at important pieces of the human condition— acting as a commentary on our society at large.

It centered on themes like nature vs. nurture, the inherent exploitative nature of capitalism, and the importance of questioning authority. The game also addresses the view of the U.S. as the proverbial "land of opportunity" and "land of second chances;" asking the player: Are second chances even liberating or fulfilling within our society, or will our prior actions always haunt us, no matter what we do to escape them? It was incredibly moving, deeply complex, and a testament to what video games can do as a storytelling medium.

Needless to say I had big expectations for Red Dead Redemption II's story, and the plot seems promising so far. The majority of the second chapter focuses on further developing the characters of Arthur's gang. There are over 20 different members of this gang, each with differing personalities and characteristics (for better or worse). It's hard to see how well all of them will develop as the plot goes on, but as I mentioned before, I've only played a relatively small chunk of this game.

The pacing has been great, Arthur has served as an effective anchor thus far, and as long as the story remains centered on his struggle and conflicted motivations then it should be pretty good. I have faith in Rockstar's storytelling ability especially with Dan Houser, the lead writer for the original Red Dead Redemption, as the lead writer of this project.

So far, Red Dead Redemption II seems to be the masterpiece Rockstar set out to make. When it's all said and done, when this console generation has come to pass, and people create their lists of the best games of the era, don't be surprised to see Red Dead Redemption II at the top of most of them.



COURTESY: FLICKR.COM



MOVIE REVIEW:
Halloween (2018)

STARRING: Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Andi Matichak, Virginia Gardner, Will Patton and Nick Castle
DIRECTOR: David Gordon Green (Based on Characters created by John Carpenter and Debra Hill)
GENRE: Horror
RATED: R
OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

REVIEW BY
 STEVEN PRYOR
 @STEVENPRR2PRYOR

Forty years have passed since the original "Halloween" redefined the horror film genre. Now, after years of sequels and remakes that have varied wildly in quality, a new film bearing the namesake of the original 1978 classic has restored the long-running franchise to its initial glory and produced the best "Halloween" movie since the first.

The film is both a soft reboot of the franchise and a direct sequel to the original 1978 "Halloween"

that largely ignores the numerous sequels and the much-derided remakes by Rob Zombie. The resulting story makes the mystery of Michael Myers secondary to a frightening atmosphere that draws viewers into its world rather than trying to beat them over the head into submission.

David Gordon Green brings a unique directorial style that honors the lineage of the original while also putting a new spin on the long-running series. With his previous work on offbeat comedies such "Pineapple Express", the script (which Green co-wrote alongside actor Danny McBride and Jeff Fradley) injects a dark sense of humor even in some of the most gruesome moments of the film. On a modest \$10 million budget, CGI takes a backseat to kills being

done with makeup and practical special effects.

Still, the biggest draw of the film is the central conflict between Michael Myers and Laurie Strode. Hardened by her encounter in the original film's events, her desire for revenge makes for one of the best performances of Jamie Lee Curtis' career.

Under the guidance of producers Jason Blum and Malek Akkad (son of the late Moustapha Akkad, who the film is dedicated to the memory of); this latest "Halloween" film is easily the best entry since the original. With some the best critical and commercial results the series has seen in years, it's a great example of an often forgotten lesson in horror: sometimes, to get the best scares; less is more.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Reimbursed
 - 5 Free
 - 8 US dam
 - 12 Project
 - 13 Guido's note (2 words)
 - 14 Outer portion of Earth
 - 15 Sleep (pref.)
 - 16 Albania (abbr.)
 - 17 Design
 - 18 Arabian domain
 - 20 Shore
 - 21 Tumor (suf.)
 - 22 Three (pref.)
 - 23 Irish foot soldier
 - 26 Block
 - 27 Celsius (abbr.)
 - 30 Shoe size
 - 31 Fr. meat dish
 - 33 Have (Scot.)
 - 34 Plus
 - 35 Indo-Chin. people
 - 36 Voltaire play
 - 38 Computer chip
 - 39 Ounces (abbr.)
- DOWN**
- 1 Long
 - 2 "Cantique de Noel" composer
 - 3 Yesterday (Ital.)
 - 4 Silk substitute
 - 5 "Giant" ranch
 - 6 He (Lat.)
 - 7 Flounder
 - 8 Willow
 - 9 Love of Radames

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ELIA	TAT	WAKA
CONC	RAH	AGAG
HOCH	ALE	LAMA
OPHISM	TILLER	
	RAP	ADO
MIRACLE	OPTIC	
ACE	ELM	ACS
GAMMA	DADAIST	
	ABA	LAB
ASSESS	ELATER	
BEAN	ABB	TOCO
BALA	NAE	INCL
ARAD	ALE	SEEL

- 10 This one (Lat.)
- 11 King of Israel
- 19 Amer. Sign Language (abbr.)
- 20 Swim (2 words)
- 22 Hat
- 23 "The Jungle Book" python
- 24 Belonging to (suf.)
- 25 Energy unit
- 26 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)
- 27 Greek letter
- 28 Fruiting spike
- 29 Civil War commander
- 32 Air-to-air missile (abbr.)
- 37 Wild ginger
- 38 Polishing material
- 39 Watering hole
- 40 Hall (Ger.)
- 41 Mother of Brunhilde
- 42 Walk through
- 43 Para-aminobenzoic acid
- 44 Foreshadow
- 45 Hole
- 46 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 48 Science class

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THE COMMONS
* CAFETERIA *

10/31 to 11/6

Wednesday 10/31: Hungarian Goulash, Caprese Chicken*, Thai Tofu Yellow Curry w/Steamed Rice. Soups: Pazole*, Creamy Asparagus. Salads: Pesto Grilled Chicken/Portobello Caprese.

Thursday 11/1: Buffalo Mac & Cheese, Jerk Chicken*, Eggplant Parmesan. Soups: Navy Bean & Ham*, Butternut Spinach*. Salads: Smoked Salmon/Vegetarian w/Avocado Caesar.

Monday 11/5: Pork Carnitas Tacos*, Grilled Salmon w/Chorizo & Sweet Corn*, Black Bean Burger. Soups: Mexican Fiesta*, Creamy Cauliflower Cheddar*. Salads: Larb (Thai Chicken), Roasted Cauliflower.

Tuesday 11/6: Sweet Potato Hash w/Fried Egg, French Dip, Spinach Ricotta Lasagna Rolls. Soups: Loaded Baked Potato Chowder, Smoked Tomato*. Salads: Creole Shrimp/Spiced Sweet Potato Wedges.

Monday to Friday - 10 AM - 1:15 PM
* Gluten Free

SUDOKU

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