

# COMMUNITER

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## *Celebrating* **INTERNATIONAL CULTURE** *See pages 6-7*

PHOTO: ANGELA SCOTT

A member of María de Jesús González Laguna's team performs a traditional dance from Mexico during International Culture Night Talent Show on May 4.

THE LINN-BENTON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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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:

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**LBCC Photo Contest**

Open to all LBCC Students  
1<sup>st</sup>: \$50 Gift Card  
2<sup>nd</sup>: \$30 Gift Card

Contest Theme  
↓  
How do you see diversity @ LBCC ?

Photo Entry Deadline  
Friday, May 11th

You can submit your photos here  
<https://goo.gl/forms/vPDE8IF8oREtWUm93>

Winning photos will be displayed on LBCC's official home page and The Commuter

Each contestant may submit up to 3 photos for a chance to win.

Department of Institutional Equity & Student Engagement  
**Linn-Benton**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# CAMPUS VOICE

May 8 was Teacher Appreciation Day. What teacher would you want to thank and why?



**SKYLER SADOWSKY**

"I WOULD CHOOSE JAYME FRAZIER. I'VE HAD HER FOR MULTIPLE CLASSES. SHE IS A TEACHER THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO COME TO CLASS. SHE CLEARLY ISN'T JUST THERE FOR A CHECK, SHE IS THERE FOR THE STUDENTS"



**COURTNEY PULRANG  
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"MY FOURTH-GRADE TEACHER, MRS. KAYE-WAGGLE, WAS REALLY COOL. SHE WOULD STAY AFTER SCHOOL AND GAVE ME AN APPRECIATION FOR READING AND WRITING."



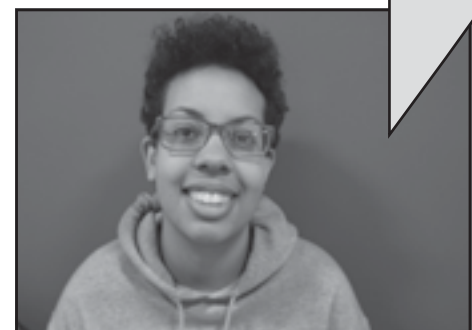
**EMILY CADE  
VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS**

"LEWIS FRANKLIN. HE IS REALLY GOOD AT TEACHING IN DEPTH AND GIVING A WIDE PERSPECTIVE. HE TEACHES GRAPHIC DESIGN AND HE IS REALLY GOOD AT INCORPORATING SKILLS USED 20 YEARS AGO AND SKILLS USED TODAY AND MAKING THEM BOTH USEFUL."



**JOHN ESSNER  
COMMUNICATIONS**

"CHRIS RISELEY, HE MAKES CLASSES INTERESTING AND HE IS A FUNNY GUY."



**ELSIE TUCKER  
SOCIOLOGY**

"I WOULD SAY THANK YOU TO MY HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHER, MR. MILLER. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS LOUD, HE WOULD TELL STORIES ABOUT HIS YOUNGER DAYS. HE MADE LEARNING FUN."

STORY AND PHOTOS: CAPRIAL LONG



# MERKLEY VISITS LBCC

PHOTOS: SARAH MELCHER

Senator Merkley hosts town hall in Russell Tripp Performance Center

STORY BY **ADEL FAKSH**

On Monday, April 30, Senator Jeff Merkley held his 344th town hall in the Russell Tripp Performance Center at LBCC, where he answered questions and touched on issues regarding climate change and net neutrality.

Albany Mayor Sharon Konopa emceed the town hall and David Solomon a representative from the American Legion Post, who was also a 9/11 first responder, gave an opening statement explaining how the post works with setting up a suicide hotline for veterans.

“Twenty-two veterans commit suicide every day, and if we can prevent one then we did something right,” Solomon said.

Sen. Merkley thanked the representative for his service and gave him a flag that once flew over the U.S. Capitol.

The senator spoke about net neutrality before beginning the question-and-answer session.

“100 to one of the phone calls I receive are in regards to net neutrality,” Merkley said.

He, along with 49 other U.S. senators, seeks to overrule the FCC’s repeal of net neutrality. The Senate will vote on the measure sometime in the middle of May, needing only one more senator to have the majority. He urged the audience to reach out to friends and family in other states to call their representatives to help gain the last vote to overturn the repeal.

The Q&A began with SLC President Shelby

Pick asking the first question. She asked about what is being done to combat the rise of tuition prices forcing many students to drop out?

In response, he talked about better K-12 prep, more funding for school, and more emphasis on shop classes for middle and high schools. He talked about the program, “Debt Free College” where the student pays depending on their family’s income and graduates college debt free.

“We really need more federal resources to support our colleges,” Merkley said.

A member from the LBCC civil discourse club also had a question: “how can we bring Democrats and Republicans in congress together to agree on policies?”

Senator Merkley encouraged two things: having more town halls and to encourage people to listen to both sides and seek out opinions and views that don’t align with their own.

“We have to remember that we are all Americans who, at our core, would like to see national policies that will provide a foundation for every family to thrive,” Merkley said.

“How will you hold universities responsible to transfer credits?” asked another LBCC student.

Senator Merkley stated this issue is better solved with the initiative of universities than legislators, but added the government could put together a board of experts in the academic field to deal with this issue.

He closed with his concern about the rate of burning fossil fuels and its impact on the environment.



He elaborated by saying that in the past decade, roughly 1,000,000,000 oysters on the Oregon coast have died due to the rise in the ocean’s acidity, and that in that time half of the coral reefs worldwide have died or experienced serious damage.

“If we look at the past 10 years versus three decades ago, much more negative impact has happened in the past decade to the environment than before.”



PHOTO: TARYN SUSTELLO

Students and staff enjoy walking around at the Health and Safety Fair on Wednesday, May 2.

# FUR-ST RESPONDERS

K9 Search and Rescue demonstrations during Health and Safety Fair

STORY BY **CAPRIAL LONG**

Wandering through the campus Health and Safety Fair on Wednesday, May 2, there was no doubt students were in the midst of community heroes and safety workers. Joining the booths this year were some furry first responders that not only charmed anyone they met but also save hundreds of lives every year.

The K9 Search and Rescue teams were ready to meet and greet, offer safety information and give demonstrations of their skill throughout the afternoon.



PHOTO: CAPRIAL LONG

**Gryffindor the crisis response dog.**

Serving both Benton and Polk sheriff departments, the teams, made of a handler and a dog, train long and hard every week to ensure optimal performance when an emergency is called in.

Sharpie is a seven-year-old Belgian Shepherd who has been in the program for over two years with his handler Dave Vesely. They enjoyed showing off their skills to the public all afternoon at the fair.

Vesely explained that there are several different certifications that a dog can have in the program. Sharpie is a trailing dog. Trailing dogs are given an article with the missing persons scent on it and then they can follow the scent to the owner. There are also area search dogs, where the dog winds back and forth over wilderness in a search without scent. There are many other specialties including human remains detection dogs, avalanche dogs and ones trained especially for water missions.

Vesely said that, "The certification takes 1-2 years and the participants are often herding, sporting and working breeds," and that, "Many perfectly good search and rescue dogs come from shelters."

Sharpie and Vasely used an onlooker to participate in their demonstration and had them wipe their neck with a cloth and go hide somewhere on campus. When offered a smell of the cloth, Sharpie immediately began to follow the scent across grass and roads, following several turns until his powerful nose led him right to the target.

Most of the incidences when the K9 team is called in are when hikers get lost and are without appropriate gear, Alzheimer patients who have lost their way and mushroom hunters.

Vasely explained that many people "don't know how to correctly read a map, and rely on their gps technology, which can often fail."

The K9 Search and Rescue booth also displayed signs with safety tips. These tips included: always tell someone where you are going and when you will return,



PHOTO: SARA FANGER

**Trust is a rescue dog with the Region 3 K9 Trainer Unit from the Marys Peak Search & Rescue Crew.**

never go out alone, be prepared to spend the night, take a compass and a map, and wear proper clothing and equipment.

The first priority when going on an outing is to stay safe and smart. However, It is reassuring to know that should an emergency situation arise, qualified and dedicated teams like Sharpie and Vasely are ready to take action and save lives.

Vasely expressed that, "There is nothing like when a family is missing a loved one and you are able to reunite them. There is nothing more rewarding."



PHOTO: CAPRIAL LONG

**Dave Vesely, volunteer for search and rescue, works with Sharpie the trailing dog to find student My Tran.**



PHOTO: TARYN SUSTELLO

**At the Youngevity booth, from left to right, Samuel, Ruban, Nathan, Becky, and Sheryl Franklin promote the health benefits of their products.**

PHOTO: MITCHELL BANKS

Team Oregon motorcycle instructor Michael Heinen and Declan O'Hara trade road trip stories and riding tips.



PHOTO: TARYN SUSTELLO

Joe Adamski (left) and Michael Heinen talk about Team Oregon's motorcycle safety program as well as the importance of inspection and maintenance of bikes.



PHOTO: CAPRIAL LONG

Sharpie the trailing dog finds My Tran.



PHOTO: TARYN SUSTELLO

Gryffindor the dog, from Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis Response, got special attention from Joyce Gympantasiri as trainer Ginger Nickel tells her about their mission.

Meet, talk, and hang out with students from around the world at

### GLOBAL CONNECTIONS HANGOUT

Location: RCH 203 ELCI Building  
 Wednesdays 12:00 - 12:50 pm

April 20 April 25  
 May 2 May 9  
 May 26 May 23

Chat, learn about other cultures, make new friends, play games, and have some snacks!

The ELCI is located on 1600 W. 17th near the tennis courts, across from the gymnasium. RCH 203 is on the second floor of 2nd Cedar Hall building where the International Programs is located.

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# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL CULTURE

LB celebrates cultural diversity with International Culture Night

*María de Jesús González Lauguna recruited members for her team to perform Jarabe Nayarit, from the state of Nayarit in Mexico. The men utilized intricate choreography and rhythmic sounds with their machetes.*



STORY BY M. NABIS

A beautiful Hispanic folkdancer twirled and pirouetted while balancing a brown jug on top of her head. This displayed her graceful skill. Her brightly colored, elaborately embroidered dress radiated the atmosphere of a spectacular evening.

There was so much joy on the LBCC Albany campus on Friday, May 4. During the International Culture Night, good food, friends and conversation filled Takena Hall and the Tripp Auditorium as many people discovered different interesting cultures of the world.

It felt like a celebration that only a strong family could create. Booths offered delicacies from many nations, and insightful visual aids promoted growth and learning. The echoes of laughter could be heard as the performers wowed the captivated audience.

"I can see different cultures and see people from different countries here. I like learning about culture around involvement, too," said Keisuke Marasawa of Japan, who dreams of being an English teacher in his country.

Visitors enjoyed the precision, excellence and refreshing energy of his large world map, decorated with push pins. Each person was invited to put a pin on the display indicating where they were from and what location they would like to visit in the world.

Booths of colorful displays offered a variety of tasty appetizers and desserts. Sushi, baklava and dolma (stuffed grape leaves) made tastebuds water. Participants were encouraged to enter their best guess for a drawing concerning how many countries there are in the world, a flag-naming challenge and how many languages are spoken throughout.

The next event of the evening began at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The first half was a "Talent Show Performance" with Celtic dances from Ireland and a traditional Mexican Dance Popurri from the María de Jesús González Laguna group of Mexico. Erika Iizuka of Japan and Lei Sun of China sang marvelous renditions of popular songs from their countries.

"The music was my favorite part, I liked being able to follow along with the



*Lei Sun represented Chinese music during her performance of 'Dan Yuan Ren Zhang Jiu.'*



## THE COLLEGE SKILLS ZONE

WH-225 in the Learning Center | Mon-Fri 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM



- Get Organized: Notebook Setup
- Get Organized: Weekly Study Plan
- Manage Time with Next Actions List
- LBCC Week-by-Week Guide
- Missed Class Protocol
- Navigate LBCC Resources
- Prepare for Tests
- Take Better Notes
- Learn the Power of a 30-Day Commitment
- Try Key Textbook Reading Strategies
- Understand Assignment Instructions
- Analyze Test-taking Errors
- Edit Run-ons, Fragments and Commas
- Computer Word Processing Basics

### What does the CSZ Offer?

The College Skills Zone (CSZ) offers an interactive study space where all students can drop in or make a 20-minute appointment to explore thinking, writing, and learning strategies that lead to:

- ★ College Success
- ★ Better Grades

Try Out New Strategies for Success!  
20-Minute Sessions

WH-225 in the Learning Center  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
Monday through Friday

Linn-Benton  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Drop by, or for an appointment go to  
Tutortrac.linnbenton.edu



*Safia Oulmane demonstrates traditional attire from Algeria during the fashion show.*

*Students and community members from Linn-Benton Community College welcomed into the*

# INTERNATIONAL CULTURE

English words/lyrics that they displayed on the screen,” said Travis Peterson of Albany.

Seth Shirazi from Iran brought the grand piano to life, and the applause from the crowd echoed their approval.

The mesmerizing act of magician Mounir El Jamal of Lebanon wowed the crowd. His ability to make astonishingly accurate guesses and change his shirt without anyone noticing until the end of his act was amazing. The four volunteers, who were randomly picked from the audience, will probably never forget his charm, wit, and clever magic show.

“We love to travel and see new cultures,” said Barbara Schnake, who came to enjoy the festivities with six other family members, one of whom is Norwegian.

“We have a little international connection with both of my daughters having lived abroad in Central America and Tanzania, Africa. I love it, I love it! It's all so close together, I love rubbing elbows with all the different flavors of humanity here at little old LBCC, it's great. The food is my favorite part, I just had the Novak's raspberry-filled

shortbread. And my grandson Daniel tried sushi for the first time. It was a real cultural experience.”

The evening came to a close with a stunning fashion show of traditional clothing from countries around the world, including Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, India, Saudi Arabia, China, Algeria and Mexico.

“Thank you, citizens of the world, for attending and supporting this event as we work together to build a global community,” The International Ambassadors said.

According to Ambassador My Tran of Vietnam, the International Culture Night was a fabulous success due to the involvement of the whole ambassador team and other hidden figures behind the scenes such as Kim Sullivan and Julia Larsen.

All tickets and programs were made of 100 percent recycled brown paper to promote better protection of our world.



PHOTOS: ANGELA SCOTT

Leena Mohammed (left) and Lana Ari demonstrate traditional clothing for Sudanese women at their booth.



Keisuke Murasawa helps people place pins in a map that demonstrates where they are from and where they would like to travel. The map also denoted how many students from around the world are at LB.



Connection to our Past • Moving to our Future!

**Celebrate With Us at Our Time Capsule Event, Wednesday, May 16, 3-5 p.m. in the courtyard**

A time capsule that was placed in the ground in May 1993 will be opened and a new time capsule will be placed in the courtyard, set to be opened in another 25 years. Cupcakes and refreshments start at 3 p.m., time capsule reveal program starts at 4 p.m.

Request for Special Needs or Accommodations: Direct questions about or requests for special needs or accommodations to the LBCC Disability Coordinator, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone 541-917-4789 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Make sign language interpreting or real-time transcribing requests 2-4 weeks in advance. Make all other requests at least 72 hours prior to the event. LBCC will make every effort to honor requests. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer. LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination: LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. For further information see Board Policy P1015 in our Board Policies and Administrative Rules. Title II, IX, & Section 504: Scott Rolten, CC-108, 541-917-4425; Lynne Cox, T-107B, 541-917-4806, LBCC, Albany, Oregon. To report: linnbenton-advocate.symplicity.com/public\_report

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# CAMPUS AMBASSADORS WELCOME

STORY BY **MAKAYLA HALSTEAD**

Stephanie Pace, a community volunteer here at LBCC, loves nothing more than to enjoy a chai tea latte while teaching and enriching the lives of others through scripture in the Hot Shot Cafe.

Luckily for Pace and Adviser David Becker, they are able to share their passion for scripture and Christianity with other community members at Linn-Benton Community College through a program named Campus Ambassadors. There are multiple different aspects of this program that you can join: the philosophy group "Circle of Reason," the prayer group, the Truth Project, or the Abide group.

The philosophy group meets at the Diversity Achievement Center on Thursdays from 3-5 p.m., which has the role of going over all aspects of Christianity, studying scripture and addressing the different views of religion. Circle of Reason is a Christian non-denominational group, and is full of members who want to grow closer to God.

"This group is very welcoming to all and any who want to learn more about Christianity and grow a better understanding of God," said Pace.

On Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., you can join a group responsible for exploring, "The Truth Project", where you will watch a video series exploring what truth is. This is located in IA 233 on the Albany campus.

"Truth project is a personal favorite for me," LBCC student Ashanti Joseph added.

"Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. in Forum 115 is where you can come to join in on our larger group discussion, where we cover all aspects of the bible and Christianity, we call this our Abide group" said Pace.

"You can also join us on Mondays noon to 1 p.m. on the first floor of the Calapooia building to join in on our prayer group. You can come to join our prayer or share something you'd like us to pray for, as always, all are welcome!"

"Campus Ambassadors is a program to join if you are looking for a place that is both welcoming

and warm, especially if you are searching for a place to allow your soul to grow," said LBCC student Emily Ludington, one of the group's members.

More than once Pace, Ludington and Joseph described the Campus Ambassadors at LBCC as "a very welcoming group."

"Campus Ambassadors is a steady growing group, and has been around for, oh goodness... well, before 2008," said Pace.

Pace went on to describe how fascinating it was to see how the group kept continuously growing. When asked how many members were a part of Campus Ambassadors, Pace said, "roughly 20-30 members, but we would always love to see more."

"I have been in this group for about two years now, and really enjoy it," Ludington said.

"I just joined this club last week, and I love it!" Joseph said.

"If anytime is the right time to grow in spirituality, then that time is right now, right here with your very own community," Pace said.

## REVIEW: "DISPATCHES FROM 1320"

REVIEW BY **ELIJAH MANG**

Tom Hallman Jr., a senior reporter for the Oregonian, won a Pulitzer prize for his feature story "Sam: The Boy Behind the Mask" in 2001. The story follows a facially disfigured boy who chooses to have life-threatening surgery to improve his appearance.

In Hallman's new collection of nonfiction profile stories, "Dispatches from 1320," he aims to give a voice to everyday people in Portland and illustrate the city in a never before seen perspective. It was originally published on November 17, 2015.

The body of text includes 52 profile narratives written by the author during his career at the Oregonian.

In "Dispatches from 1320," Hallman states "the stories written in this collection were written in a newsroom that does not exist." He is referring to the former Oregonian building that was located on 1320 S.W. Broadway st Portland, Oregon. This place holds significance to Hallman and this collection of stories.

"We moved to a building within walking distance of our old building. It was a nice place. We

have new furniture, state-of-the-art technology, and stunning views of Mount Hood and the Willamette River. If you've worked in a newsroom, you know what I mean. And if you haven't, well, you've missed something special." Hallman said.

The author gives us a look into the old Oregonian newsroom with absolute brilliance.

"A high-ranking editor used a squirt gun on people passing by his desk," said Hallman.

Hallman uses this anecdote to illustrate the playful vibe in the newsroom at the time. He reminisces on the newsroom feeling that seems nostalgic to him and exciting to others. These are all critical writing and storytelling elements that earned him the Pulitzer Prize.

The story called "Pioneer" in the book highlights the retirement of William A. Hilliard, a local journalist and the first African-American editor of the Oregonian. "Pioneer" showcases Tom Hallman Jr's writing excellence to its core. If you read carefully, you can even notice a piece of flashy alliteration in his work.

Hallman shares with the reader a brief summary

of his beginnings and how he achieved highly-ranked position at the Oregonian.

"When he was a child, Hilliard dreamed of being a journalist. It was a ridiculous goal because in the 1930s negroes were maids or waiters or redcaps. They cleaned toilets, carried luggage and cleared tables. That didn't deter Hilliard. When he was 10, he started a neighborhood paper in Southeast Portland," Hallman said.

Personally, the book was hard to put down because each story was rich with literary skill and effective writing. I would recommend this book to anybody that lives in or grew up in Portland, or anybody who likes to read a wholesome short story, for that matter. Hallman's short stories in "Dispatches from 1320" provide the necessary substance to hold its ground as a 500 page novel. However, the body of text is kept in a short story format on account of its simplicity.

"Dispatches from 1320" is available online and on Amazon.



### THE COMMONS

\* CAFETERIA \*

5/9 to 5/15

**Wednesday 5/9:** Milk Braised Pork\*, Caprese Chicken\*, Thai Tofu Curry w/steamed rice. *Soups:* Beef Barley, Summer Vegetable\*. *Salads:* Green Salad w/Huli Huli Chicken OR Tempeh.

**Thursday 5/10:** Shrimp & Grits\*, Curried Turkey Meatloaf, Eggplant Parmesan. *Soups:* Navy Bean & Ham\*, Butternut & Spinach\* *Salads:* Turkey OR Vegetarian Cobb.

**Monday 5/14:** Braised Chicken w/rice, Grilled Steak Chimichurri\*, White Bean Chili & Corn Bread. *Soups:* Shrimp Bisque, Creamy Cauliflower Cheddar\* *Salads:* Green Salad w/Chicken & Veggies OR w/Veggies & Barley.

**Tuesday 5/15:** Braised Lamb\*, Hazelnut Salmon\*, Spinach Ricotta Manicotti. *Soups:* White Bean & Chorizo\*, Smoked Tomato\* *Salads:* Green Salad w/Vietnamese Steak OR w/Veggie Tofu Spring Rolls

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

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COURTESY: PITCHFORK

**MUSIC REVIEW:**  
**The Weeknd**

**ALBUM:** My Dear Melancholy  
**RELEASED:** March 30, 2018  
**LABEL:** XO, Republic  
**PRODUCER:** Frank Dukes, The Weeknd, Cirkut, DaHeala, Gesaffelstein, Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, Marz, Mike Will, Made It, Skrillex  
**GENRE:** Alternative R&B, R&B, electronic pop

REVIEW BY **JOSEPHINE WALLACE**

It's new, it's unique, and you have to listen to it! Praised, increasingly popular, musical artist and pop-icon The Weeknd has released his first album in almost two years. The new album, titled "My Dear Melancholy," consists of only six songs full of The Weeknd's classic slow, hypnotic, R&B pop fusion.

It has been one and a half years since The Weeknd has released an album following his November 2016 hit album, "Starboy," and it is the topic of much excitement among fans and music lovers galore. "My Dear Melancholy" differs from the more pop-genre style of recent albums and listeners are anxious to dissect the regression back to the original R&B nature of his early music. This summer, The Weeknd is touring in various music festivals and excitement is building for the new life of his music: "My Dear Melancholy"

Canadian singer Abel Makkonen Tesfaye, who goes by the stage name The Weeknd, began anonymously uploading songs to YouTube in 2010, and eight years later a song of his plays every time you turn on the radio for an hour.

Tesfaye's hazy, drug-induced music has retained this nature from his earliest songs and throughout "My Dear Melancholy." It is "downcast, bleary-eyed pop," as Pitchfork magazine's review described it. Tesfaye came up with the stage name The Weeknd when crediting his high school dropout status, referencing the weekend he walked out of his home forever. What followed was a journey to musical fame, beginning with the moment he anonymously uploaded songs to Youtube that he produced with Music Producer Jeremy Rose. In 2011, Tesfaye released his debut album "House of Balloons,"

which was met with critical acclaim nearly immediately.

Following this were a few mix-tapes, which are now considered "The Balloons Trilogy." Tesfaye's music career took off from here, as he began performing at international music festivals, beginning with Coachella. In 2013, Tesfaye released his next album "Kiss Land" in collaboration with Canadian rapper Drake, among others. This quickly bumped Tesfaye up even higher on the popularity scale, topping number two in the U.S. Billboard 200.

Tesfaye continued to release singles for films, landing him on the U.S. Billboard 200 repeatedly. In 2015, Tesfaye released his next album, "Beauty Behind the Madness," followed by "Starboy" in 2016. With each album released, The Weeknd achieves greater success and earns even greater fame.

Tesfaye has won three Grammy Awards and nine Juno Awards.

Following the pattern of an album release every year or two years, on March 30, 2018, The Weeknd released "My Dear Melancholy."

"My Dear Melancholy" contains the classic, hypnotic, slow, pop and R&B influences that listeners return for. The songs on "My Dear Melancholy" continue to be dark in nature, and retain the hopeless romantic themes that Tesfaye's music continuously revolves around. The album's songs focus even more thoroughly on this nihilistic, romantic hopelessness. That said, the album is a calm backdrop to your homework or long drive to work. It is a fun fusion of electronica and R&B.

Pandora Radio describes the songs as having "modern r&b styling, electronic influences, and subtle

vocal harmonies."

A multitude of reviews and fans, ranging from rapper Travis Scott and Wikipedia to music magazine "Pitchfork" comment that "My Dear Melancholy" is a regression towards the original style that bordered more on R&B than on the trendy pop of Tesfaye's recent music.

Tesfaye produced a "docupoem" (a video that pairs primary source material with poetry reading) titled "He Was Never There," referencing the song in the album "I Was Never There." It follows his process of making the album. His anonymous musical collaborators talked throughout it, saying of Tesfaye, "It's the most vulnerable I think he's ever been on any record," and "I mean to me it's really like, kind of like, cultivating what's in Abel's head."

Upon paying attention to the lyrics, the listener realizes the album is a dark, emotional whirlwind spiraling around the demise of a relationship.

The album begins with the single "Call Out My Name," and has the other songs "Try Me," "Wasted Times," "I Was Never There," "Hurt You," and "Privilege."

"I said I didn't feel nothing baby, but I lied. / I almost cut a piece of myself for your life / Guess I was just another pit stop ... So call out my name (call out my name) / so call out my name ..." Tesfaye sings in "Call Out My Name."

The title "My Dear Melancholy" pretty much sums up the world of the album: a soft, R&B-style acknowledgment of Tesfaye's melancholia. It is a blend of emotion, calmness, and musical fun; a gentle, relaxing hum through your earbuds.



COURTESY: HIPHOP DX

**MUSIC REVIEW:**  
**J. Cole**

**ALBUM:** Forest Hill Drive  
**RELEASED:** November 16, 2014  
**LABEL:** Roc Nation, Dreamville, ByStorm, Columbia  
**PRODUCER:** J. Cole, Mark Pitts, Cardiak, CritaCal, Dré Charles, Illmind, Jproof, Nick Paradise, Phonix Beats, Pop Wansel, Ron Gilmore, Vinylz, Willie B  
**GENRE:** Hip hop, conscious hip hop

REVIEW BY **JULIA HAZELTON**

There are claims that J. Cole's "2014 Forest Hills Drive," will forever be his most influential album because of how melodically pleasing it is. But his fifth and most recent album "KOD" touches on extremely important and relevant issues regarding drugs, addiction, and the downfalls of our current social media obsession. It is J. Cole's most meaningful body of work so far, because drugs are killing more kids every year and J. Cole addresses that problem. His music, his album cover art and every song makes you think about how meaningless the message of a lot of rap music really is these days.

One of the tracks is "Kevin's Heart" about Kevin Hart's infidelity scandal. I know, I was shocked too.

Cole explains in a tweet one day before the album

was released that the three meanings of KOD are:

"Kids on drugs, King overdosed, Kill our demons"

After the release of his single "false prophets" in 2016, J. Cole is no stranger to stirring up conflict by pointing out the problems of the rap industry. In the track, "1985 - Intro to 'The Fall Off,'" J. Cole calls the new age "lil" rappers out. The track is more of an advice song than a diss-track though. He has been in the game for around 10 years now, and schools the new rappers on why riding the waves of what is popular right now will only bring them failure in the near future. One of the album meanings, "Kids on drugs," is arguably tied to all of the music that other top-tier rappers put out that

glorify and depict drugs in a way that influences people to associate them with being "hard" or cool.

The introduction song really gets you ready for the theme of the album, which is that we have the opportunity to choose how we deal with our demons and we should "choose wisely." He tried to create a full circle album that addresses the issue and suggests a solution, but if you sit and listen to the entire album trying to find his solution all you will find is a song about meditating. Don't get me wrong- there was a lot that went right about this album, but I don't think you can ignore the fact that J. Cole essentially claims in the track "FRIENDS" that instead of medicating we should just "meditate," and the war on drugs and addiction will graciously disappear.

# COBRA KAI KICKS OFF



COURTESY: IMDB

If you haven't used your free 30-day trial of YouTube Red, now is the time. May 2 saw the release of the first 10 episodes of the new YouTube Red Original, "Cobra Kai." The show follows Johnny Lawrence (William Zabka), 30 years after his defeat at the 1984 All-Valley Karate Championship. After some self-realization, Johnny re-opens the Cobra Kai dojo, which reignites the feud between himself and Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio).

The trailer gave the impression that this show seemingly made fun of "The Karate Kid" franchise, a series loved by many that grew up in the 1980's. After watching the initial release, it is easy to see that it is much more than recycled drivel riding the coattails of previous fame.

While the show does indeed have its funny

moments, it does take itself seriously when needed. This is a show about overcoming the odds, and self-reflection that leads to the discovery of one's self.

"Cobra Kai" is honestly much better than other reviewers thought it would be, and arguably, even better than the original films according to reviewers on IMDB. Many didn't expect such a high-quality show to come from a YouTube Original, myself included, but if this is the quality of programming that they plan on releasing, it just may be worth the \$9.99 monthly membership price.

Whether you are an original fan of the series or somebody just looking for an entertaining show with a lot of heart and some majorly dry humor, with over a 9 out of 10 rating on IMDB, "Cobra Kai" will fill those needs. The cinematography rivals most

## TV SERIES REVIEW:

### **Cobra Kai**

**DIRECTOR:** Jon Hurwitz, Hayden Schlossberg, Jennifer Celotta, Josh Heald, Steve Pink

**STARRING:** William Zabka, Ralph Macchio, Xolo Maridueña, Tanner Buchanan, Courtney Henggeler, Mary Mouser and Joe Seo

**WRITERS:** Josh Heald, Jon Hurwitz, Robert Mark Kamen, Hayden Schlossberg, Michael Jonathan Smith

**PRODUCERS:** Hurwitz & Schlossberg Productions, Overbrook Entertainment, Sony Pictures Television

**OVERALL RATING:** ★★★★★

REVIEW BY **LEE FRAZIER**

nationally syndicated shows on the major networks today, and the acting is certainly nothing to scoff at. Zabka plays the down on his luck Lawrence as if he is method acting from the experience of a hard-lived life. His performance is much more than passable; it comes across as real.

Macchio's performance as Daniel LaRusso is equally well executed. He makes you believe that Daniel-san grew up and actually made something of himself.

If they continue more seasons, it will definitely be interesting to see where this show can go. With the superb performances, great writing and directing, and top notch cinematography, Cobra Kai has the punch to entertain for many more episodes.



COURTESY: ANDROIDAUTHORITY

## GAME REVIEW:

### **Harry Potter- Hogwarts Mystery**

**PUBLISHER:** WB Interactive/Portkey Games

**DEVELOPER:** Jam City

**PLATFORM:** iOS/Android

**OVERALL RATING:** ★★★★★

REVIEW BY **STEVEN PRYOR**

"Harry Potter: Hogwarts Mystery" is a mobile game spinoff of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. While not without its flaws, the game is a solid experience and a fun adventure in the vein of other successful mobile games, such as "Pokémon Go."

The game takes place not long after an infant Harry Potter is saved from He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, and you play as a young Hogwarts student that you can customize to your liking. While your experience may vary depending on which house you're sorted into, the game is a point-and-click adventure that's simple enough to pick up and play, but tough to truly master. Over the course of the story, you play out your experience of seven years at Hogwarts and try to unravel a mystery that led to the expulsion of your player character's sibling, as well as many secrets inside

the fabled school of witchcraft and wizardry.

The tasks you complete as a student include learning to cast spells, ride broomsticks and brew potions. While some of the "quicktime events" are tricky, many lessons can get easier as you continue to play and raise your skill level. The graphics are nice for the mobile platforms it was released on, with the art style resembling a 3D version of the illustrations from the books.

Many returning characters from the books are also voiced by their actors from the film series, including Michael Gambon as Dumbledore, Robbie Coltrane as Hagrid and Maggie Smith as McGonagall.

One notable drawback to the game is a large amount of microtransactions involved in the gameplay.

Like any "freemium" game, the temptation to spend real-world money to progress further and faster is dreadful. Even so, the game is definitely a worthwhile experience and shows how there is potential for more games in this vein; which WB Interactive and their new label of Portkey Games are already making plans for.

Even though the game isn't perfect, "Harry Potter: Hogwarts Mystery" is definitely a solid mobile point-and-click experience that serves a good start to more planned mobile games set in the Wizarding World. It's the next best thing to being a young witch or wizard for those who never got their invitation at age 11, and the microtransactions don't stop the game from being more than worth its weight in galleons.



# EXCELLENCE IN ART

PHOTOS: ALEX GAUB

*Sin Melendez after receiving the President's Purchase Award for her mixed media piece "Virgo," which will go into the permanent collection here at LBCC.*

## Student artists honored at Juried Art Student Show

STORY BY **SARAH MELCHER**

"Whenever the spring semester rolls around, I get so excited. I get to see the fantastic work of student artists," said Anne Magratten, gallery mentor.

Art students, faculty, and guests gathered to partake in the Juried Art Student Show award ceremony on Friday, May 4. The gallery features art from current or recent LBCC students with a wide range of style, mediums, and content.

Local artists, art groups, school officials, and faculty awarded students with different types of prizes.

The President's Purchase Award is an award in which the president of LBCC chooses one piece to purchase and keep in LBCC's permanent collection, and is used for artistic resource. President Greg Hamann couldn't pick just one this year, so he chose two. Sin Melendez and Angela Scott were honored with the award this year.

"One of the things I find is I always learn something when I do this. It challenges my definition of art when choosing a piece. You enrich our lives," said Hamann.

People viewing the gallery during the weeks prior to the event had the opportunity to partake by voting on which piece they liked best for the People's Choice Award. This was awarded to Michael Bosch's Frat House painting, which featured bold, red, greek-style letters spelling out "RAPE" on a monochromatic Corvallis frat house.

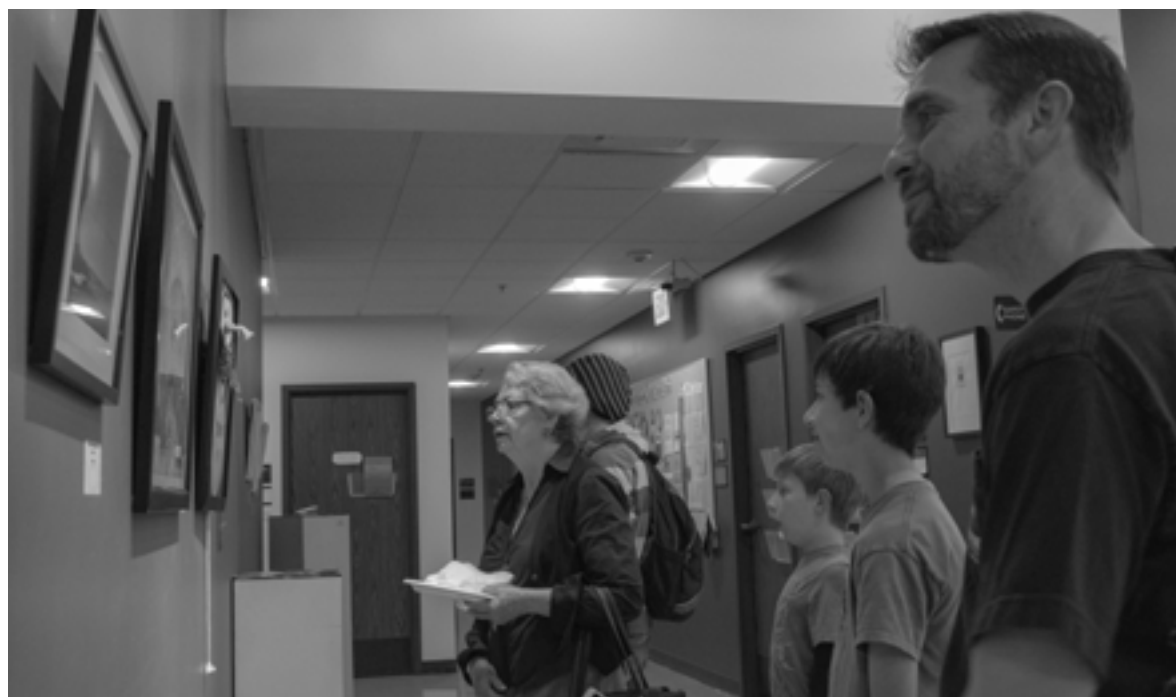
The event wrapped up with Magratten announcing the Student Gallery Coordinators for next year. Michael Bosch will be spending a second year as a Student Gallery Coordinator and James Harley Parr will be taking Sin Melendez's place to work alongside Bosch.



*Michael Bosch in front of his painting regarding rape culture at fraternities won the People's Choice Award.*



*Jen G. Pywell won several awards for her performance piece "Beach Church," including recognition from the Portland Museum of Art. (Left) Jon Pywell*



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# HUMANS OF LB: WOMEN IN WELDING

STORY AND PHOTOS BY **ALEX GAUB**



**Sarah Jones**  
 “Welding is fun and challenging, I knew getting into it that it would be hard, but it turns out it’s more fun than anything. At the beginning of the term I had minimal knowledge of tools and equipment. I’m coming up on the last term of the year and I now have the skills to go out in the field to be employed. I’m excited to be out in the shop, melting metal, and building shit.”



## Kortnee Walkur

“I always thought I’d be a chef or something. Then I went to Women in the Trades Day, and I fell in love with it [welding].”



## Bri Wisner

“My Dad is an electrician. He comes home from work all the time dirty and smells like hard work. I just didn’t want to work a 9-5 desk job. I [originally] wanted to be a makeup artist or a singer-songwriter, so I really jumped the ball on that one.”



## Kelsey Breshears

“I decided I didn’t want to go to school forever. My uncle welds, so I wanted to show him up. A lot of it also has to do with my creativity. I like to draw a lot. There are people who don’t understand what the trades are. I think high schools focus too much on four-year colleges.”

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