



THE COMMUTER

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Ringling in the New Year

Nora Palmtag
News Editor

The dragon dance that took place on Feb. 13 at 11:30 a.m. featured a beautiful red and gold, eight-foot tall and 15 feet long Chinese dragon carried by volunteers. The event was coordinated by LBCC student Adriana Villegas.

Dating back to 180-230 A.D. of the Han Dynasty, the dragon dance, much like the lion dance, is put on to show great respect towards the dragon, which is regarded as a sacred creature. Symbolizing power, courage, righteousness, and dignity, this dance welcomes the start of the lunar New Year and the end of the old year, driving away all evil spirits, bringing good luck and good fortune for the people.

This dance has been done by many cultures since 180 A.D. "Basically, [people] dragon dance to Buddha celebrating the Year of the Snake for The Lunar New Year," said Villegas.

Stephanie Nguyen, a Vietnamese student here, said the dragon dance is done "to give health, wealth,

and luck for the New Year."

Nguyen gave a talk at the DAC about the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. "Whatever you do in the beginning of the year will influence your whole year," said Nguyen. Things such as lotus seeds for a houseful of children; squash for good health and development; tea given to the elderly to thank them for their children; and delicious oriental candy, for sweetness during the year.

Nguyen brought some of her familial candy to the DAC to share and educate students about her culture.

One of the most interesting customs she mentioned is the choosing of five fruits: apple, fig, coconut, papaya, and mango because this odd number of fruit represents well-developed symbol of living based on wealth. The seeds inside represent the stars in the sky and the fruit themselves represent the universe, which contain the stars and the whole meaning is the endless reproduction of life, according to Nguyen.

Staff and students parade a dragon around campus to celebrate the lunar new year. See more photos online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu.

photos by Nora Palmtag



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THE COMMUTER STAFF

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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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Craig Hanson: LBCC's Piano Man



Shuo Xu

Piano instructor Craig Hanson (right) during a lesson with Connor Garrett.

Shuo Xu

Contributing Writer

You would hear lovely sounds if you stopped by SSH-217A at LBCC.

There is a simple practice room with a Yamaha piano and three music stools. Craig Hanson, a local organist and pianist, is waiting for his students. He also uses every chance to practice for his concert held on the third Wednesday of every month.

Hanson is a busy man. He teaches at LBCC, Oregon State University and the First United Methodist Church in Corvallis.

Hanson's grandmother started teaching him piano when he was five years old. "I was just curious about the piano and tried to play it just for fun," he said.

"I didn't choose to be a musician. It just happened. Like you couldn't choose where you were born from," said Hanson. "It's from the nature, it is who I am. Otherwise, I don't want anything else."

Hanson started learning music when he was 12 years old. He received an organ diploma from the Conservatory of Music in Basel, Switzerland and studied piano at San Diego State University. When asked about which instrument he prefers, Hanson mentioned the organ. "There are so many great pianists in the world," he said. "But there are fewer organists."

Hanson added that while the piano has only one sound, he enjoys that the organ has a million possible sounds. "Music gives me a lot of things or experiences that are not in the real world," he said.

Hanson mentioned several favorite musicians such as Gustav Leonhardt, Vladimir Horowitz and Arthur Rubenstein. "They all play music with their heart," he said. "Of course, being a musician is never easy. I'd love to play the organ or piano all day long if I didn't need to worry about other things."

"[Hanson] is a great and talented teacher," said Danny Dang, a student at LBCC. Dang is taking the one-credit individual piano class that he's taken three times before.

"I really enjoy the time with Hanson," said Dang. "I would like to keep taking this class in the future."

In his free time, Hanson likes traveling and taking pictures. He has traveled to many places, including China, where he met his wife six years ago while holding a concert there.

"Music is magic for everyone, not just for musicians," said Hanson. "I can control someone else's emotions by playing the piano or organ. I can make you laugh or even cry through my music."

For Hanson, being a musician is not a job. "It's more than a job," he said. "It is who you are."

You can reach Hanson at: pipe_organist@mac.com

PREPARE FOR YOUR CAREER SUCCESS TODAY!

The **CASE Program** at LBCC offers **Free Career Success Workshops**. These workshops will teach you how to create an effective resume and cover letter, find job openings, prepare for interviews, and become a valued employee. Workshops are open to all students on a drop-in basis. Join us and begin preparing for your career success today!

"Keep the Job" Series

Effective Workplace Communication Tuesday, February 26th, CC210, (Calapooia Center), 1:00-2:00 pm.

Effective communication skills in the workplace are just as important as mastering the job skills. This workshop covers the basics of how to work through a conflict effectively, rules of a hierarchical workplace, what shouldn't be shared with co-workers, how to avoid workplace drama, importance of creating strong boundaries, and more.

Diversity and Difference in the Workplace Tuesday, March 5th, CC210, (Calapooia Center), 1:00-2:00 pm.

Employers are looking for employees that work well with others. Cultural competence is a critical component of career success. This workshop covers how culture and difference can impact workplace performance. Key differences between individuals and workplace cultures will be explored. Success strategies will be presented.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information on linked sites, and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. LBCC was awarded \$1,170,571 in grant funds.

LBCC/OSU DEGREE PARTNERSHIP DAY

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



MONDAY, FEB. 25
4 - 6 P.M.
BENTON CENTER

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator & employer. If you have questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations, contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd., SW Albany, OR 97321, phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1332. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

Linn-Benton OSU
COMMUNITY COLLEGE Oregon State
DEGREE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Getting to Know Some Faculty Faces

Bob Ross: Nature's Calling

Heather Hutchman

Contributing Writer

As a child, LBCC biology instructor Bob Ross was fascinated by an oak grove located behind his house.

"Nature was teasing me," said Ross. "I had a feeling that everything was connected, but I couldn't explain the connections." This curiosity led Ross through a lifelong journey to understand and explain the world around us, and eventually to a degree in ecology.

Hired in 1968, Ross was the first full-time faculty member and designer of LBCC's biology department. He helped design the old science building, and he even picked the classes and faculty. Ross said he picked the job at LBCC because it was a fun challenge.

Ross has a way of seeing the world that he is eager to share with others. He is currently writing a book and has co-authored a book in the past. Always open to discuss any topic and share his knowledge, he is also willing to learn something new. He has never stopped learning and has no plans to.

Every Monday is his designated hiking day, and no e-mails or calls will be accepted. However, his students are always invited to join him if they can keep up. Snowshoeing, hiking, backpacking, and aerial photography are regular pastimes for this active man.

In the classroom on lab days, Ross moves from table to table observing his students work, stating a comment from time to time, and assisting in labs. If asked a question, he will gladly answer in all the details needed and more, whether the question relates to class or not. Directing a play on the reproduction of tree cells is a common activity in his class.

The students will play the roles of different cells, starting with the vascular cambium cells, growing to the xylem and phloem cells. Every student will have a role.

On lecture days, Ross stands in front of the class, sorting through slide shows, pausing after important statements, waiting for his students to respond. He wants to be asked questions; he says things he knows will result in mild confusion among his students, forcing them to request clarification.

Precision is vital in his classes: taking a plant sample, placing it on a slide, placing the other slide on top, avoiding air pockets, sliding in under the microscope, and then adjusting the microscope to view the wonder.

Ross's skills extend far past the classroom. He is no ordinary teacher. The manuals for all his classes are written by



Heather Hutchman

Bob Ross helping students during his biology class.

Where to find Bob Ross

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him with photographs taken by him. Ross is an extraordinary photographer, taking pictures of a wedding, through a microscope, or from the window of a plane.

His eyes beam with life and energy. "He has a sense of wonder about the world that is so contagious," said Alice Sperling, a coworker of Ross's.

Ross makes a difference in people's lives, both students and faculty. His enthusiasm about the world and the connectedness of everything is so intriguing that you can't help but share the curiosity. He gives people a sense of wonder about the world that they can carry with them past the classroom or workplace.

Robert Harrison: The Doctor Is In

Devin Staebler

Contributing Writer

"Attention class, attention please," is what a rowdy class of Robert Harrison's would hear. The soft southern accent calms the room and class is set to begin. He is a history instructor here at LBCC, and has been since 2006.

Harrison grew up near the town of Tyler, Texas. He first received a master's degree from University of Texas at Tyler, Texas. Next, Harrison pursued higher education from Ohio State University, earning a doctorate from the school.

But Harrison is the first one to tell you that nothing is definite. He first started out in the journalism program and wanted to be a writer. He soon figured out that it wasn't for him, as he puts it, "You can't write the next great novel while you are covering city council meeting after city council meeting."

After one year being a journalism major, Harrison switched to majoring in history. Teaching history became his career path after a college professor sparked his interest in the subject. He already had some knowledge on teaching, as his father was a geography teacher.

Now how does a man from Texas who got a Ph.D from Ohio State make his way to LBCC? Well, one of Harrison's passions is traveling, and being a history enthusiast, he took his family along the Oregon Trail that was used in the 1800s. Once they reached Oregon, they fell in love. He got a job at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, but he did not care too much for eastern Oregon. "We were 300 miles from anything green," said Harrison. "It was awful."

Harrison left EOU for LBCC. He could have gone to a community college in San Diego, but he fell in love with the valley. Harrison has taught at LBCC since 2006.

Harrison is also an avid baseball enthusiast; the Houston Astros are his favorite baseball team. He even has taught a baseball history class. He loves politics, saying that politics are fun and important. Then there is his family. He loves traveling with his wife and finding time for his grand kids, who were born weeks apart from each other.

It all comes back to history for Harrison though. He loves reading historical novels and listening to them on audio book. He has recently just finished a book on the history of salt. He says, "It is fascinating how important salt was and is for our survival."

Harrison's passion for history will never disappear. "I will never get bored because there is new evidence coming out every day," he said.

Harrison continues molding young minds in the classroom. Be sure to catch his rendition of the Charleston dance during his lecture on the roaring '20s in his History 203 class.

Where to find Robert Harrison

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Tue./Thru. 8:30-9:20 a.m.

Brian Keady: Sí Señor

William Allison

Photo Editor

"¡Buenos días clase! ¿Cómo están?" It's how Brian Keady, a Spanish instructor at LBCC, starts nearly every class period. Depending on the day, weather, and overall attitude of the class, you'll get either groans or a resounding "¡Bien!"

Keady, who prefers to be called Brian, teaches all levels of Spanish at LBCC, where he has worked since 2003. With bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oregon, as well as 12 years of education from a bilingual primary school, Keady is not only knowledgeable in the Spanish language but the Hispanic culture as well.

What makes Keady stand out from other instructors is that he has a different style of teaching. In your typical classroom, you might be taught how to do something and handed an

assignment. However, that's not how it goes in his classes. He throws his students in headfirst, allowing them to figure it out on their own and maybe ask their fellow classmates. Afterwards, he explains the concepts and answers any questions there may be.

This is a very helpful method for many students since it allows them to realize what they're learning and why it makes sense. Charlie Stouder, a current student in Keady's Spanish 102 class, said that he "likes how [Keady] teaches. It makes everything simple."

During a recent class period, Keady split the class up into three groups to play a game. It was a game similar to Jeopardy in that he would describe something from the vocabulary list in Spanish. The team that guessed it first would get the points; higher point questions were more challenging and left some groups stumped. In this situation, Keady took a moment to explain the concept, which resulted in

"ohhh!" coming from different parts of the room.

It's games like these that make students enjoy his class. "I like him. He's really patient and makes learning Spanish fun and easy," said LBCC student Ian Proudfoot. "I can tell he likes teaching."

In addition to making learning fun, Keady also encourages students to come ask for help during his office hours, making no question seem dumb. "Brian's teaching style is free-spirited and approachable," according to Kent Elliott. He's not the only one who notices this either, as you could ask nearly any of Keady's students and they'll tell you the same.

Keady's daily commute goes to show his love for the job as well, as he lives in Eugene. When asked why he works at LBCC if he lives so far away, he noted that Eugene is his home; it's where he grew up, it's where he went to school, it's where his family is. "I also



William Allison

love my job at LBCC, so I commute," he said. Keady is a self proclaimed family man, with a son, daughter, and wife of 13 years.

"I enjoy seeing students grow and learn in my classes," Keady said. "There is so much more to learn in a college environment than what you read in your textbooks." And that is exactly what he does best, teach.

Where to find Brian Keady

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Thur. 1-2:30 p.m.

Looking Towards a Future of Equality

Alex Porter
Contributing Writer

Everyone is prejudice in some way, and people are taught at a very young age to discriminate against others. Whether it is because of race, religion, sexuality, gender, age, personality or way of life, everyone pre-judges.

Lately, homosexuals are experiencing an uprising of discrimination.

Antigay/lesbian discrimination tends to be particularly brutal and nasty. Homosexuals are victims of prejudice for multiple reasons. Homosexuality contradicts some religious beliefs, traditional family, and out-of-the-norm behavior.

They run into problems with getting married, getting jobs, getting and giving education, adoption and much more. Gays getting married does not harm heterosexual marriage. Homosexuals are simply people who happen to love the same sex.

It has not been proven whether homosexuality is biological or environmental. Regardless, they are people just like the rest of us, no worse or better.

Taylor Mangan, a local transgender resident had said that his

first encounter with discrimination was after he graduated from high school, after he had announced his sexuality to the public.

"I ignored it because I don't care what they say or think," said Mangan.

Mangan believes that most people discriminate against homosexuality because they are afraid of what they don't know or don't understand.

Here on campus, LBCC takes pride in having equality and no discrimination in any form. The reality is that you can't always control people; opinions are opinions and nothing changes that.

It would be wonderful to have everyone follow the "comprehensive statement of nondiscrimination" that every faculty and staff member on campus hands out to students on campus, but some people just ignore it and do what they want.

Unfortunately, there are still some people on campus who discriminate against individuals who are comfortable and open about their sexuality. In all honesty, their sexual orientation is not hurting anyone or causing any problems.

"I don't see why someone's sexual orientation is anyone's business," said Angie Erikson, a student at LBCC. "You can like whoever you want. It's not their business."

They are happy with what they do and who they are. Everyone is on campus to go to college and get an education; this is not high school. There needs to be more respect for others.

Michael Redick, a Salem resident, said his first time being discriminated against was in grade school.

Now if an eighth grader is discriminated against, how else would they know how to handle it. Some might never go to school again. Who knows what their potential could have been?

"The only reason being gay is harmful to anyone is because of what someone who discriminates will do to them," said Kim Wilaman. "When my daughter came out as a freshman in high school, the only fear I had for her was what others might do to her for being [out]."

Discrimination can impact someone in the worst ways. Some people encounter discrimination at a young age, and some individuals often ignore or even run away from it.

Being homosexual, heterosexual or bisexual is not what people should judge about a person. It is one of many factors that make up a person, and no one should be judged based on that fact alone.

Read more about LBCC's discrimination policy online at: polinnbenton.edu/?BP1015-NondiscriminationandNonharassmentPolicy.pdf

LBCC Administration Riding the Waves of Change

William Tatum
Staff Writer

To the average person on the beach, waves become visible just before their crash. The slow and steady growth is almost imperceptible, and when the growth changes to decay, the wave's crescendo is visible to all. The power of the wave comes crashing down sweeping away those caught unaware and propelling those who saw the change coming.

Such a change in growth patterns is happening in colleges across America. The slow steady rise of tuition, population, and debt has reached a point where a break must occur. Just as a wave breaking provides both surf and undertow, the break in education can be a boon to students driving them towards competency and completion or deadly undertow dragging them back towards poverty and minimum wage.

Just as the lifeguard scans the beach looking for danger and swimmers in distress, LBCC college administration has been scanning the educational horizon looking for ways to bridge funding gaps, propel more students towards completion, and adapt to changing demographics. This effort is being referred to by LBCC administration as "Redesign."

While Redesign is not yet fully defined, according to Bruce Clemetsen, LBCC Vice President of Student Services, the program is about trying to get to a sustainable model for education. "We still believe in the role of community colleges in community development," said Clemetsen. "We have to adapt, and we are at a moment of extreme adaptation."

Redesign will eventually touch every element of LBCC, from simple changes like texting students important information to more systemic changes, such as degree curriculum and requirement changes.

One of the potential curricular changes described to this writer was to the Culinary and Welding programs. Clemetsen spoke about how writing skills training could be embedded in the culinary and welding curriculum. Instead of students going to a dedicated writing class, they would have a kind of circuit writing professor who worked with their, and other, instructors to meld writing with their instruction in their craft. While everyone needs to be able to communicate via the written word, not everyone needs to know the liturgical outflows of long dead white men.

By teaching writing skills and craft skills together, the thought is that students will receive a more practical accreditation while also receiving the necessary level of writing education for their preferred field.



For some degrees, the goal is to move towards a more pragmatic and socratic model with less lecture and more practice. Part of Redesign is asking the question, "Is there a better way to teach or facilitate learning?"

Redesign will also include changes to instructor pay, how tuition costs and student fees are figured, and will involve the ending of some programs, or at minimum, limiting their scope. Though those changes will be more gradual, they won't be announced for several weeks and will involve partnerships with local and state government, as well as increased cooperation with local high schools.

"Some things will be going away, to create space for newer things," said Clemetsen. "Pockets of students will feel this change."

Clemetsen wasn't too specific on which programs or activities were meant for the chopping block, but it was clear that he and the rest of LBCC administration were doing everything they could to maintain as many programs, for as many students as possible. Clemetsen and the rest of the LBCC administration are very much interested in the ideas, aspirations, and goals of faculty and students.

An integral part of Redesign is increasing communication between administration, faculty, and the student body. Clemetsen stressed the value of this community and the need to foster deeper and longer lasting connections between its members. A student body that is well connected tends to be more successful he said, and it is his, and the rest of the administrations, intent to raise the bar without leaving students underwater.

letter to the editor

Civility at LBCC

When I think of civility, I think of a polished behavior. Taking the high road so to speak, like giving a smile, even when I have a heavy mind. Being civil doesn't have to be fancy or complicated, but it does have to be a personal choice.

It seems to me that civility is as easy as holding the door open for the next person or as simple as eye contact during a conversation. After all, it is our respectful and considerate interactions with one another that define us as civilized. To get to a place where our culture is advanced in education and enlightenment, civil behavior is required as one of the most important building blocks.

Do you consider yourself a civil person? What does "civility" mean to you? What's your favorite way to be civil? These are some of the questions the Student Ambassadors are asking, because we would like to make a conscious effort to recognize and to campaign for civility at LBCC. To get some of these answers, I interviewed several students Tee, Amedee, Sadie, Erik, and others at the Albany and Benton Center campuses.

Most interviewed agreed that being civil was best described as being polite and courteous. One student, Amedee, went even further saying that being respectful is to go beyond one's comfort zone, such as putting on a suit when one normally does not dress that way or talking to someone you don't know.

When I asked the students why they think it is important to be civil, I was told that it creates a good atmosphere, which is important for a sense of unity among students, staff and faculty. It binds people together. Sadie made the point that in addition to civility, we could go beyond civility and add compassion to our daily contacts on campus. Since you don't know what someone is currently going through, compassion might be the one thing that can help struggling students to get through the day. Just take a moment and let a person in need know that you care. Maybe after the "Civility Campaign" we should have a "Compassion Campaign." I'm down for that.

It seems that practicing kindness and respectfulness in our interactions is the favorite way to be civil. Doing small things like holding the door open for the next person, and like Tee suggests, being genuinely present during a face to face conversation by refraining from texting and looking at your phone. She recognizes the point that people make themselves unavailable by wearing ear buds and ignoring what is going on around them. The easiest way to be civil is to smile. As Amedee put it, a simple smile goes a long way. Can't argue with that!

As far as LBCC is concerned, who are the people on campus that are most likely to be civil? Is it the staff, students, faculty, or other employees? Erik answered, "The people who are happy to be here." You might say, sure, being civil is easy when you're happy, but what about those other moments in the day when a person is feeling stressed? Amedee reminds us that being civil is even more important when you are rushing to class or stressed out while finding parking.

One thing's for sure: The campus needs people who have the courage to demonstrate civil leadership and thereby become an example to others. Here are some ideas to support the Civility Campaign here at LBCC. Everybody's personal effort is required. Just lead by example and be the best role model you can be. Put out good vibes. If you're polite, others will be polite. And my personal favorite, say hello to someone you don't know, even if it may be awkward at first. And remember that the most important time to be civil is when you are stressed out or rushing to class. Put away the ear buds and cell phones. Be present.

We all agree that it is important to recognize those people who make the effort to be civil. So, go ahead and say thank you to the person who held the door, or gave you their seat. Or just smile back. It feels better than civil ... it feels good.

I'd like to thank Tee, Amedee, Sadie, Erik, and those interviewed who requested to remain unnamed, for contributing their ideas and insights to this article.

Spike Keenan
Student Ambassador
Student Life & Leadership

Corvallis Bag Ban, a Bad Idea

Sean Dooley
Contributing Writer

If you visit Corvallis on any occasion, you're probably aware of the recent change that happened at the beginning of 2013: the city-wide plastic bag ban.

Even though it has been over a month since this change, citizens haven't moved on, nor have they hidden their frustrations. Expressions like "damn hippies" and "I refuse to pay for my bags" have been spoken out against this ordinance. While supporters, who are just as vocal, – despite being the minority – argue environmental benefits trump personal convenient.

The enforcement of the ordinance wasn't the end of the discussion. In July, we will see the ban expand from businesses who have a staff of over 50 to every business in town. The implications of this expansion will probably be relatively small, while the bigger implications are something we're facing right now and since New Year's Day.

I've seen much better evidence to support why the ban is a bad idea rather than a good one. The ordinance as a whole seems rushed.

If you find yourself on the City of Corvallis website, which is where information on the ban is, you'll encounter the many questions asked due to many issues surrounding the ordinance.

For example, one question that many people initially asked was when the ban started. They give the date (Jan. 1) that enforcement began, yet let us all know that businesses can take as long as they need to make the transition. Why is such an ordinance necessary in the first place? According to some citizens who studied up on the subject, they believe that it is certainly not for environmental reasons.

I recently read a letter to the editor at the Gazette Times from a disgruntled citizen who is actually interested in facts, or at least trying to find them. According to the author, the eco-friendliness of the the plastic bag ban is a farce. Why? Because theoretically it's about as regressive as the thought of a "plastic bag only" policy.

Some people may wonder how that's possible, but when it takes less energy to make a plastic bag than it does to make a paper bag by about 70 percent, let's also not forget that the reusable bags are made and shipped from China, and we know how environmentally conscious China can be. Again, I fail to see how it's so eco-friendly.

Now someone may say, "That's why we pay for the



Gabriel Thomas/ flickr.com

bags," but we will soon find out why that argument is irrelevant.

As most of us know by now, the minimum fee at this point is about five cents, which isn't too much to complain about. However, there is a plan to bring the fee up to \$1.25. This is more expensive, which might anger people more, but still not much to complain about, necessarily. The amount of money isn't what's important.

Consumers are being taxed, and essentially against their own will, since this ban wasn't voted on. The Corvallis City Council just approved it, because that's what they wanted to do. The idea of a tax is that the citizens give a certain percentage to the government (local and federal) to pay for public services so that tax money goes back to them in whatever way. That's not the case with this "tax" for buying bags.

The city tells businesses in Corvallis that they can do whatever they want with the money from people buying bags, except keep it towards their own company. Essentially, the money disappears.

The place I work for donates the proceeds from bag fees to a charity. Honestly, I'd really like to see this "tax" go back towards the city. Maybe something productive may come out of it, especially since we are being mandated into paying for it, which is why the "that's why we pay" argument is irrelevant.

Bottom line is this plastic bag ban is highly unnecessary and for all the wrong reasons. I'm not necessarily against reusable shopping bags. I know my family uses them, and it's easier to unload the stuff you buy and have a place for bags set in your house.

I'm a critic of this ban because of the hypocrisy. It involves a refusal to see how eco-destructive it actually is and represents yet another small example of fiscal irresponsibility on a local government level. If this ban were logical, answered questions, and did not reek of feigned environmentalism, I would most likely be empathetic about such a policy, if not somewhat support it.

However, I find it hard to take it seriously when advocates such as Gigi Sims and Mayor Julie Jones Manning find themselves attempting to make a difference on a slow day. Whether making a difference helps or hurts is the real question, and the evidence shows that it hurts more than helps.

How about we go back to the drawing board, Corvallis?

Advice from Weiss

Question: I'm thinking of dropping a class. How long do I have to decide.



Mark Weiss
Counselor

Answer: Friday, the 22nd is the last day to withdraw, at the counter in Takena Hall. You have until Sunday, the 24th, to withdraw on-line. However, those students on financial aid need to be careful, and should consult an academic advisor or the financial aid office, before withdrawing. The federal financial aid office has some very strict guidelines on how many credits a student must complete to keep his or her aid. It's a complicated formula and it's best to consult with someone before bailing out of a class.

Question: When do I get to pick my classes for spring term?

Answer: You should be meeting with an advisor right now, to make a schedule for next quarter. You won't actually get to register until March (you can find your date and time in your Webrunner, under registration), but if you haven't been in to see your academic advisor for help, now is the time. Students who have been through a course called "Destination Graduation," will find their advisor listed in Webrunner. All other students need to pick an advisor; and this should be someone who teaches in the department you hope to graduate from. So a Biology major should pick a biology teacher, for instance. Undecided students should make an appointment with a counselor, in Takena Hall.

Question: Winter term seems so much harder than the others. I'm just exhausted, and we aren't near done yet. Will this ever get over with?

Answer: "All things shall pass." Sure, it will end. And, yeah, I'm exhausted, too. We all are. Winter is just harder on us than other times of year, and then you through in the stresses of school/work/family, and it is very hard to make it to the end, successfully. If you're struggling, I urge you to come see a counselor. I also recommend taking a stress management class, in the future. But, more than anything, I urge you to plan your spring break now, and plan it in such a way that you will get some rest. Winter term is hard, the elements are against us. And spring break is short, just one week. So it's important not to fill it up with a bunch of busy work and anything else that saps your energy. It's important to make spring break a time to regain energy, not lose more. Rest, eat good food, exercise, hug the people you love, do some meditation or prayer, and spend the time taking care of yourself.

Mark Weiss
Counseling

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.

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University and high school students admitted for free

Oregon State University Chorus Festival

Concert

Directed by Dr. Steven Zielke,
Dr. Tina Bull and Russ Christensen

Elizabeth Atchley and Andrea Black, *accompanists*

Featuring the **Chorus Festival Choir** comprised of singers from Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Springfield, South Albany, Sutherlin, Trinity Lutheran, West Albany and West Linn High Schools

What do you think?

Submit your thoughts to
commuter@linnbenton.edu

The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, although we reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. Letters that raise libel, poor taste or privacy concerns will not be printed.

LBCC Helps Celebrate Local Youth

Ted Holliday

Contributing Writer

Walking into the gym of the Corvallis Boys & Girls club, the stage near the west wall was set with a podium and microphone. Red and white heart-shaped balloons floated in front of the stage. White cloth-covered tables consumed the rest of the floor. Distinguished guests included men in their suits and women in their business dresses.

They stood in line collecting their food from the buffet and shuffled to their seats. To the south end, the musical group "Blue Light Special," an all men's a capella group from LBCC, entered and stood ready to perform before the ceremony.

This was the culmination of two months of preparations, hard work and dedication by three local high school students who attend the Boys & Girls Club. For two students, their journey ended. For the third, she was named this year's Youth of the Year and continued onto the state competition.

The LBCC Communiton Club has chartered a positive connection with the Corvallis Boys & Girls Club. LBCC's Amanda McCown and Grant Garcia assisted the younger students this year.

McCown wasn't able to make the banquet. McCown assisted with one of the high school students, Cierra Self, with her speech.

Garcia is a member of "Blue Light Special." Dressed in his black pants, black jacket and blue tie, he stood with his group, ready to perform.

Aside from his vocal talents, Garcia is a communications major and planner for the student leadership council at LBCC. Garcia volunteered his time to assist one of the high school candidates, Mariah Morales, with her speech.

"Details matter," Garcia said. "I needed to help [Morales] with her confidence in front of other people. Details keep the general goals in perspective."

"Blue Light Special" was finally called to perform. Through the piercing quiet, a note rang out to give them their starting pitch. In unison, they started a harmonic rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The entire crowd stood and faced the American flag, hands sliding up and covering their hearts. When the group ends their song, the guests erupted in thunderous applause.

Keynote speaker Jim Patterson, city manager for Corvallis, gave his address. Talking about the importance of volunteerism, he addressed how each of the candidates exemplified their volunteer roles to this point.

At the conclusion of his address, "Blue Light Special" performs "Shooting Stars" for the guests. Like before, the crowd showed their appreciation for the talent performing for them.

Greg Hamann, president of LBCC and one of the many judges for the competition, took the stage. Hamann was visibly touched by the song that was performed, and began speaking about the difficult decision of choosing a winner from the three candidates.

"Maybe it's not about the competition, but about love,"



Corvallis Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year candidates. From left, Cierra Self, Mariah Morales, Jeny Marquez. Ted Holliday

Hamann said. He went on and gave the history of each of the candidates and their qualities.

Each of the three candidates took the stage and presented their speech. Each one of these young candidates stood in front of a room of strangers, all eyes on them, cameras flashing and silence abound. They stood with confidence and delivered their touching and emotional stories.

As tradition would dictate, the runner up for the competition was announced first. Each one of the candidates received a new HP computer for making it this far. With a pause, Cierra Self was announced as the runner up by Boys & Girls Club CEO Helen Higgins.

Each of the two remaining candidates anxiously waited to hear which name would be called next. "Mariah Morales!" Higgins said.

Jeny Marquez, the final candidate, jumped up, wrapped her arms around Morales and congratulated her. Unable to control

her tears, Morales wept. "I wouldn't have been able to make it this far without [Garcia's] help," Morales said. "It's been incredible to think about how far I have come. I was so shy and he helped me overcome so much."

"LBCC has partnered with the Corvallis Boys & Girls club, and it is a tremendous opportunity to work together," said Higgins.

Higgins was excited about the possibility of additional opportunities for students at LBCC to work with younger kids. "This is a perfect partnership that gives kids a pathway to the future," she said.

Service learning is taking what you learn in the classroom and applying it to the real world. McCown and Garcia take what they have learned and apply that by inspiring high school students. Anyone can do this and succeed.

The LBCC Communications Club meets every Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Albany campus library.

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commuter.linnbenton.edu

CORVALLIS-OSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra presents

Mariangela Vacatello
Internationally acclaimed concert pianist

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 7:30 PM
LaSells Stewart Center, OSU

STRAUSS: Ein Heldenleben
with Jessica Lambert, violin
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1
with Mariangela Vacatello, piano

Tickets and info at COSUsymphony.org

Corvallis **ARTS** for all
Oregon State UNIVERSITY



Mason Le Britton © 2013
Groovysweet.wordpress.com



Tera Online (now Tera Rising) is free to play, so I downloaded it and created a Castanic Warrior.

* Warriors use twin swords, wear leather armor and rely on dodging in combat.



Combat in Tera is very action-oriented. You must aim your attacks if you want to hit anything. It has a nice weighty, visceral feeling with every blow.



So high and so slow.

An early quest had me climbing up a vine to recover a flower.



Instead of climbing down or jumping, I shimmyed down the side, then I realized I had a teleport.

After a while, I decided to try some other classes...

1. A Papor Sorcerer: I found casting spells to feel surprisingly good, but I've never been one for casters.



2. A High Elf Archer: It felt really strong, almost too strong. It was also a bit boring, at least low level.



3. A Papor Slayer: A master of two handed swords. This little guy felt rather good, but a tad slow.



Then I came back to my quick swordsman; it's just my style.



I eventually worked my way up to the first big baddie and entered his lair. Sure he was big, ugly and strong ... but he was totally outmatched. I'm just that good.



With the big baddie taken care of, I set off on a fancy pegasus to join the open world of Tera.

* See www.groovysweet.wordpress.com for lost panels.



Left: Bonhan Stafford dribbles up the court. Above: Michelle Bromagem takes a shot against Chemeketa.

See more photos from both games online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu

photos by Michael DeChellis

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There's yet another reason to get your degree at Oregon State University's growing branch campus. OSU was named a Fiske Best Buy School. Now you can earn your degree in Bend from Oregon's leading public research university and know you're getting excellent value.

Come learn about our small classes, field studies, research projects and study abroad opportunities. And see how you can transfer your community college credit into one of 16 majors, and 25 options and minors. You can reach your goals in Central Oregon.

MARCH 1 — spring term Application deadline

MARCH 31 — OSU-Cascades Scholarship Filing deadline

OSUcascades.edu
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OSU | Cascades

You Win Some, You Lose Some LBCC vs. Chemeketa

Mike DeChellis

Staff Photographer

WOMEN

With Chemeketa winning against undefeated Lane a week prior, it was a pleasant surprise that LBCC was victorious, with a score of 67-60.

The game began with Chemeketa leading, but after eight minutes into the first half, the Roadrunners were leading 12-5. Fifteen minutes in, LBCC had stretched the lead 23-9, but lost a little ground by the end of the first half with a score of 30-19. At this point, there was one lead change and one tie. The Roadrunners total points success rate was 44 percent, while Chemeketa's was a dismal 22 percent.

In the first five minutes of the second half, Chemeketa rallied to close the gap 32-29, and three minutes later, had taken the lead 35-34. From here on, the lead would change another six times, and was becoming a very close game.

With five minutes left, the Roadrunners poured on the heat, locking in the lead and extending the gap by seven points. Guard Madeline Kiplinger scored the most points with 25, and guard Michelle Bromagen had the most rebounds at 10.

MEN

It was a terrible day for the men's team, losing to Chemeketa with a score of 93-62.

They started out just fine – Chemeketa did score the first points, but the Roadrunners, halfway through the first half, scored 16 points, just 9 points behind Chemeketa. By the end of the first half, it was not looking good for LBCC, now 18 points behind, 46-28.

The second half went by slowly, with the Roadrunners gradually falling further behind. Usually, forward Adam Hastings finishes the game with the most points, but Chemeketa was prepared for Hastings.

It was almost always 2 on 1, and sometimes 3 on 1, which is evident watching the slide show at The Commuter online. Scoring the most points for the Roadrunners was guard Bonhan Stafford with 24, and the most rebounds was Hastings with 9.

LBCC Basketball

What: Last home games of the season
When: Feb. 20
Women - 5:30 p.m.
Men - 7:30 p.m.
Playing: S.W. Oregon

Campus Events

Wednesday 2/20

Movie: Unforgivable Blackness
DAC

The story of Jack Johnson parts one and two. The first African-American Heavyweight Champion of the World.

Basketball Tailgater

80's night. Join us to boost team spirit. (No alcohol is involved.)

TED Talk

Noon · Fireside Room

Veterans' Club Meeting

Noon · RCH-116

Coffee Talks

2 p.m. · Hot Shot Cafe

Converse with your student leaders. HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD! Free coffee and discounts on speciality drinks.

Women's Basketball

5:30 p.m. · Gym

LBCC vs. Southwestern Oregon

Men's Basketball

7:30 p.m. · Gym

LBCC vs. Southwestern Oregon

Thursday 2/21

Segregation in the South

1 p.m. · DAC

LBCC Student Nora Palmtag discusses her personal experiences growing up as an African-American woman in 1960's Mississippi.

Phi Theta Kappa Winter Induction

6:30 p.m. · Forum Building

New Honor Society members' formal induction ceremony.

Friday 2/22

Old Time Appalachian & Blue Grass Jam Circle

Noon - 2 p.m. · Hot Shot Cafe

Bring your guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dulcimer, whatever you got and let's play! Email Rosalie Bienek at bienekr@linnbenton.edu for more info.

Saturday 2/23

The Crane Wife

2 p.m. · Russell Tripp Theater

A popular Japanese folktale about greed and love. Free to LBCC students with ID.

Tuesday 2/26

History of Hip Hop

Noon · DAC

Walk through Hip-Hop music history from inception until today.

Pizza Party

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. · RCH-114

Come learn about Disability Services and enjoy some pizza and cookies.

Communication Club Meeting

3 p.m. · Library

Wednesday 2/27

Veterans' Club Meeting

Noon · RCH-116

Thursday 2/28

Student Summit

2 p.m. · Fireside Room

Come share ideas. Topics: How to boost student interactions on campus. How to improve student experiences beyond the classroom. Hope to see you there!

Friday 3/1

Old Time Appalachian & Blue Grass Jam Circle

Noon - 2 p.m. · Hot Shot Cafe

Bring your guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dulcimer, whatever you got and let's play! Email Rosalie Bienek at bienekr@linnbenton.edu for more info.

Woman's History Month

1:30 p.m.

Women's World Day of Prayer

1:30 p.m.

Free Movie Night at Benton Center

7 p.m. · Benton Center

Students, take that much deserved break from mid-terms and enjoy a free movie night on us. Free popcorn and drinks as well. Co-sponsored by LBCC Student Life and Leadership and LBCC Benton Center.

Wednesday 3/6

Vietnamese Women Before & After the Vietnam War

Noon · DAC

Hear testimonials about US-Vietnam conflicts. Current realities in Vietnam.

Veterans' Club Meeting

Noon · RCH-116

Friday 3/8

Old Time Appalachian & Blue Grass Jam Circle

Noon - 2 p.m. · Hot Shot Cafe

Bring your guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dulcimer, whatever you got and let's play! Email Rosalie Bienek at bienekr@linnbenton.edu for more info.

Women's Working Day

1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 3/13

Veterans' Club Meeting

Noon · RCH-116

Thursday 3/14

Choir Concert

7:30 p.m. · Russell Tripp Performance Center

Friday 3/15

Baseball Game

2 p.m. · Baseball Field

LBCC vs. Treasure Valley C.C.

WTF - Wild Thinkers Forum

3 p.m. · Fireside Room

Saturday 3/16

Study Jam

10 a.m. · Albany Learning Center

Need to study for finals? Attend Study Jam by Student Leadership Council! Access Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help, textbook rentals and free food at the Hot Shot Cafe.

Freedom of Information Day

1:30 p.m.

Study Jam

1:30 p.m. · Benton Center

Spring Term Books Available

Online · 2 p.m.

Sunday 3/17

Study Jam

10 a.m. · Albany Learning Center

Attend Study Jam by Student Leadership Council! Access Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help, textbook rentals and free food at the Hot Shot Cafe.

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

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 won't knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in unfairly. Any ad judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Help Wanted

Sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. After completing a simple Student Employment Profile form, you will have access to job postings, many of them are self-referrals. If you have questions, please email jobs@linnbenton.edu or call 541.917.4803.

Three Dental Assistant Jobs! (#10149, Albany) (#10131, Salem 2 positions) Dental group providing high quality dentistry for more than 40 years is seeking a F/T Dental Assistants. OREGON X-RAY AND EFDA CERTIFICATES REQUIRED. Sealant and CDA certificates preferred. Must be comfortable enjoy a fast paced, team oriented environment. (Closes 3/7/13)

Diesel Mechanic (#10156, Sweet Home) Perform repairs,

preventive maintenance, inspections, diagnosis and repair of electrical, hydraulic, suspension, brake and air systems on vehicles and equipment. 1 + years exp or completion of training program. Possess CDL or ability to obtain preferred. Exceptional benefits. Apply soon!

Janitorial & Building Maintenance Worker (#10154, Albany) The primary function of this position is janitorial, office cleaning, office maintenance, maintaining the exterior grounds and washing company vehicles. Duties vary from day to day. \$9.50 - \$11.50 or DOE. Closes 3/31/13.

Line & Prep Cooks needed in Pacific City (#10152). Work at the beach! 3-5 days / week. \$10-\$13 or DOE. Closes 3/31/13. Go to Alaska during the summer and work at seafood processing plant. Employer will be on campus to interview on 2/26/13. Please mark your calendars.

Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone (541)-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232.

Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

Scholarship Opportunity

Zonta Club of Corvallis

The Zonta Club of Corvallis is offering one \$2,700 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship to a woman enrolled in the College of Business at Oregon State University during the 2013-14 school year. Applicant must be an Oregon resident. The local recipient is automatically eligible for a \$1,000 district scholarship and the district recipient is eligible for a \$7,000 international Klausman scholarship. Applications are due April 30, 2013 and are available at www.Zontacorvallis.org or by contacting Laurie Russell at LaurieRussell@peak.org.

The Zonta International Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships, first awarded in 1998, are open to women enrolled in at least the second year of an undergraduate program through the final year of a master's program in business, leading to a business management career. The program is designed to encourage women to enter careers and to seek leadership positions in business-related fields in their communities and throughout the world. The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships look to the women of today to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Zonta International, with world headquarters in Chicago, is a worldwide service organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women. The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships is one of many programs for women and girls sponsored by Zonta International. The Zonta International Scholarships are funded by voluntary contributions to the Zonta International Foundation. The Jane Klausman scholarship awarded locally is funded by the Zonta Service Foundation of Corvallis.



Veterans' Club Bake Sale

Help support the LBCC Veterans' Club by stopping by Takena Hall and picking up some delicious baked goods.

Feb. 20, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Paul Smith sells baked goods for the Veterans' Club in Takena.

William Allison



Wednesday: Moroccan Chicken, Shrimp Scampi, Hurley's Grilled Vegetable Sandwich

Thursday: Turkey Club w/pasta salad, Swedish Meatballs, Heuvos Rancheros

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Broccoli Beef over Rice, Jamaican Jerk Chicken w/ mango chutney, Potato Latkes

Tuesday: Brazilian Seafood stew, French Dip, Cheese and fried onion over spaetzle

Items denoted with a * are gluten free

HOROSCOPES

38th ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PRODUCTION



Bring your family for an exciting afternoon of music & puppetry!

The Crane Wife

Japanese folktale of a man who rescues a crane, his wife who weaves beautiful silk clothing, & the greed that results in love lost.

Saturday, February 16* & 23
2 p.m.

\$9 Adults • \$7 Seniors & LBCC Students
 \$5 under 18 (with adult)
ONLINE: www.linnbenton.edu/russelltripptheater
PHONE: 541-917-4531
*Benefit performance for LBCC Cooperative Pre-school scholarships

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ARIES
 3/21 - 4/19

Let them know your true power. Be the hardest worker and the fiercest in training. Victory is your destiny, but it's not without effort.



TAURUS
 4/20 - 5/20

You're a big, cold-blooded beast, but somewhere inside you keep some warmth near your heart. It's apparent by your fire breath.



GEMINI
 5/21 - 6/21

Brrr, it's cold in here; there must be some twinsies in the atmosphere. Through ice and wind, you're climbing to the top.



CANCER
 6/22 - 7/22

You're very quick, but nobody likes a speedy partner. Look, you're Cancer. You've every right to be blue, but just stop. Stop breathing.



LEO
 7/23 - 8/22

Don your suspenders and hat; it's time to get to work. If you're to win the day, though, you should be sure to bring a few snacks.



VIRGO
 8/23 - 9/22

You're right here, just waiting for the action. When they come to get you, they'll get what's coming to 'em. This is your castle, yo.



LIBRA
 9/23 - 10/23

It's time to bring the thunder! There's no better battle cry than your own name, and right now is your time to shout it to the heavens.



SCORPIO
 10/24 - 11/21

What's the matter, scared? Don't be. You're the alpha wolf. You're going to be the one to take them down, the lot of 'em.



SAGITTARIUS
 11/22 - 12/21

You're the master of your fate; grasp it with all your might. There are no words for what you can accomplish. Stoic silence suits you.



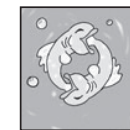
CAPRICORN
 12/22 - 1/19

Your foe doesn't like egg on their face, but you know what? Capricorn don't give a shit. It's a fine time to egg a bitch.



AQUARIUS
 1/20 - 2/18

People might poke fun at your cape and tiara, but rock the outfit with pride. They're actually just jealous you're more talented.



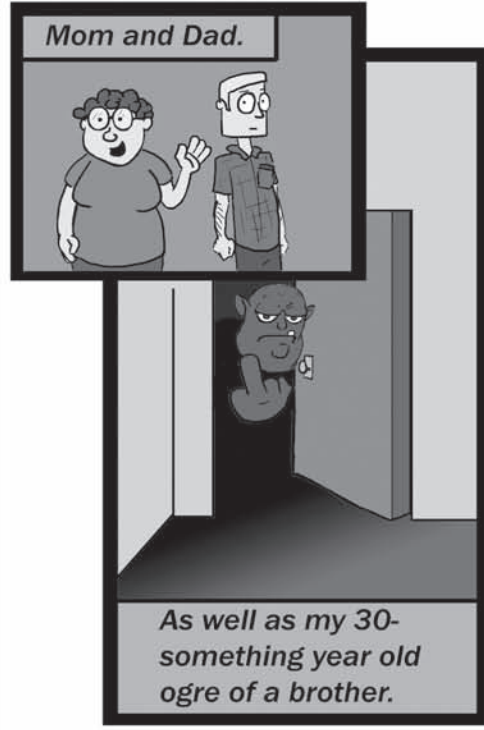
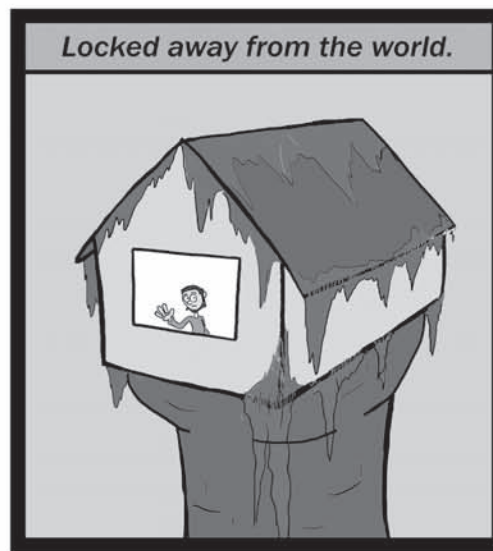
PISCES
 2/19 - 3/20

The stunning good looks under your suit are misleading. You look like a damsel, but your oppressors will soon learn the truth.

THE ADVENTURES OF GROOVY SWEET

Mason Le Britton © 2013
Groovysweet.wordpress.com

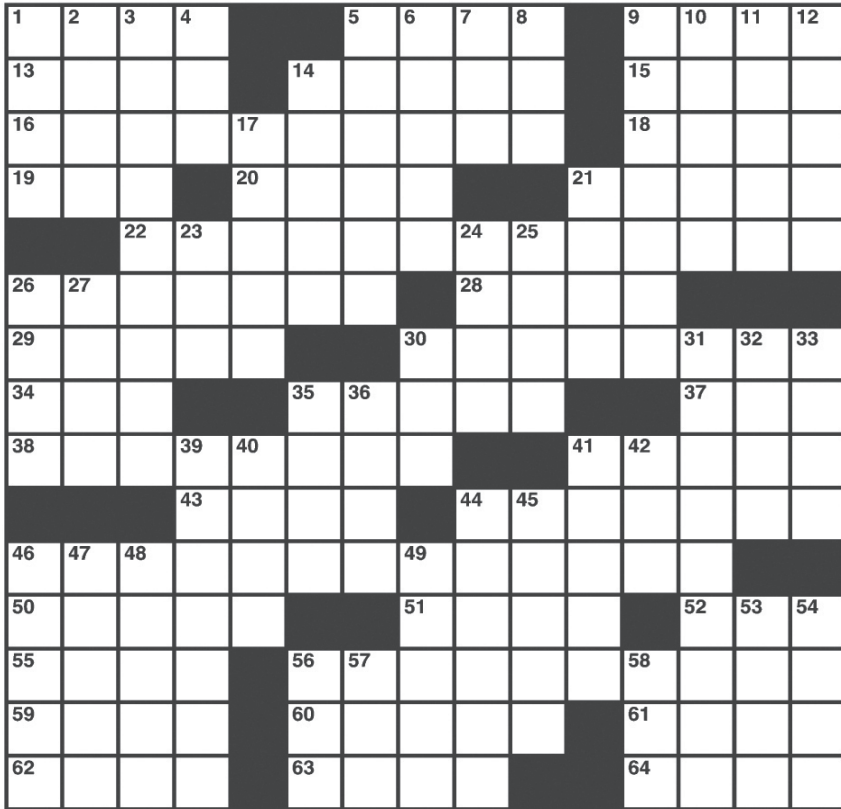
Catch up with **Groovy Sweet** and all his adventures online!
Groovysweet.wordpress.com



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Magic amulet
 - With 13-Across, "Lonely Boy" singer
 - UPS deliveries requiring payment
 - See 5-Across
 - Ship to remember
 - Related
 - Window treatment support
 - Christmas trio
 - "__ Beso (That Kiss!)": 5- & 13-Across hit
 - Prefix with China
 - Lukewarm
 - Proceed cautiously
 - The flu, for one
 - Dynamic start?
 - God
 - Most intelligent
 - Loooooong time
 - Blocker of offensive TV material
 - Penn & Teller, e.g.
 - "Put your John Hancock on this line"
 - Desert rest stops
 - Chaplin's fourth wife
 - Weepy people
 - Sports show staple
 - Orderly display
 - Has a meal
 - Repair
 - Reddish horse
 - No longer in trouble
 - Oklahoma city
 - Numerical relationship
 - One-named Deco artist
 - Personnel dept. IDs
 - Greenish-yellow pear
 - Treos and iPhones, briefly



By Fred Jackson III

- Harry Potter's creator
- Bit of granola
- Bamboo-eating critters
- __ superiority: obvious confidence
- Juan's "one"
- Was in first place
- King Arthur's realm
- Giraffe relative
- "Let's eat!"
- Like a catty remark
- Expensive furs
- Dance company founder Alvin
- La., on old U.S. maps
- Bug in a colony
- "__ Said": Neil Diamond hit
- Minimum-range tide
- March 15th, e.g.
- First of 13 popes
- "__ Believes in Me": Kenny Rogers hit
- His name wound up on a lemon
- Plaintiff
- Partner of turn

- DOWN**
- Riot squad spray
 - Weighty obligation

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



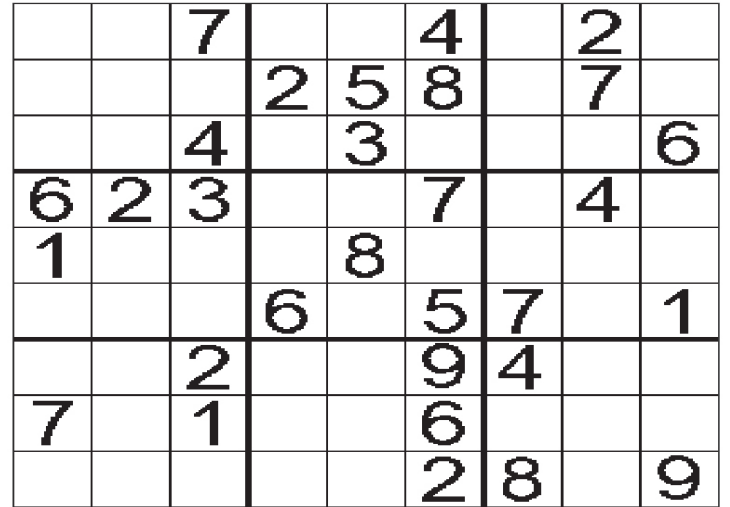
(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- "__, vidi, vici": Caesar's boast
- Mountain goat's perch
- Words after "Look, Ma"
- Sanctified
- Way beyond pleasingly plump
- Prez on a penny
- Kind of electricity
- Big name in garden care
- Rabbit look-alikes
- Smooths, as hair
- Smidgen of sand
- Tests by lifting
- Greek "I"
- Vintage Jaguars
- Planet
- Toy magnate __ Schwarz
- Like cool cats

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4



Last Issue's Puzzle Solved



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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options
Pregnancy Resource Centers

THREE'S A CROWD



By Jason Maddox
An LBCC student-generated comic



Sequelitis

Sean Bassinger

Editor-in-Chief

Perhaps you've heard the term "sequelitis." If not, it offers what it promises: an infection of regurgitated titles to prolong the life of a popular series.

The satirical Urban Dictionary website lists sequelitis as "a medical condition propagated by a combination of commercial success and creative ineptitude. Symptoms include bad movies and music, arrogance, denial, and desperation. In that order." In other words, we see way too many sequels in the entertainment industry, especially with video games.

Before the mid '90s, few games actually received more than one direct sequel. Meanwhile, we've seen more continuations for AAA titles these past couple of years, regardless of whether or not the series should have ended ages ago. There's no need for spoilers, but it's enough to point out how even dying characters and destroyed worlds don't stop companies from pulling new content out of nowhere.

According to 2012 preview listings on Metacritic, last fall's expected titles consisted of sequels more than anything. The Sept. 18 posting highlighted "Borderlands 2," "Torchlight II," "Dead or Alive 5," and "World of Warcraft: Mists of Pandaria." By now, you get the idea.

Aside from an abundance of "new" release sequel lists, many video game fans in online communities also voiced their opinions regarding the sequelitis epidemic. In an online poll conducted by the popular gaming website Destructoid, contributor Sean Daisy asked readers whether or not sequelitis was a problem in the world of video games.

"Sequelitis is excessive in the video game industry," said one Destructoid user named Aurain. "There is no reason to doubt this." They continue their discussion by citing the sheer number of "Sonic the Hedgehog" games released over time while further discussing the game industry's reliance on sequels as marketable content.

Sequelitis remains rampant, and the popular "Halo" franchise represents a perfect example of this in current video game trends. "Halo 3" was supposedly the last game in the progressing storyline, and the prequel "Halo Reach" was the last game developed by the studio Bungie. Sure enough, another studio, 343 Industries, purchased the franchise and released "Halo 4."

Meanwhile, company websites, like the official PlayStation blog, continually remind us how original titles like "The Last of Us" become constantly delayed, if not just cancelled altogether. For instance, remember "The Last Guardian"? We'll be lucky if we ever see it.

An overall lack of creativity and drive regarding new and original releases could be one contributing factor to the sequelitis problem. If fans were more adamant about their desires for different titles instead of supporting the same thing over and over again, publishers and developers may become more serious about what they release and what they choose to delay.

Meanwhile, we're in for plenty more sequels, so don't be surprised if this feature topic highlights a "part two" or "part three" in the future.



Beautiful, Campy "Creatures"

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

The 12-year-old girl in me was instantly intrigued by "Beautiful Creatures." The skeptic in me instantly said, "Oh great, 'Twilight' with a witch."

The movie, based on a young adult series based on supernatural beings and high-school love, will of course draw comparisons to that other series. But "Twilight" wishes it was as good as "Beautiful Creatures."

"Creatures" is about Lena Duchannes (Alice Englert) and Ethan Wate (Alden Ehrenreich). Lena just moved into the small southern town of Gatlin and Ethan is instantly enamored by her. Lena tries to keep her distance, but the two are bound by destiny, and their love is just too strong to ignore.

Even Lena's over-protective uncle Macon (Jeremy Irons) can't keep them apart.

The problem: Lena and her family are witches ... I mean casters. On their sixteenth birthday, a caster's true nature is revealed, and their powers are claimed for either the light or the dark. Because of a curse, all the female casters have gone dark for the past century, and as her birthday draws near, Lena is worried about Ethan and what she may do to him.

OMG! What will they do? Can they break the curse? Will true love conquer all?

Alright, so you can probably imagine how this story is going to go. This movie doesn't get my recommendation because of its originality and creativity.

Unlike "Twilight," this movie is self-aware and wants you to laugh with it, not at it. Another big plus is the performances from the cast.

The romance between Ethan and Lena is kind of blah, but the actors are likable. Iron's is great even if he can't deliver a convincing southern accent. Viola Davis is solid as a seer trying to help Lena break the curse. And Emmy Rossum gives a really fun performance as Lena's devilish cousin Ridley.

The real star is Emma Thompson as Ms. Lincoln, a devout Gatlin citizen trying to get Lena expelled and also just happens to be possessed by the spirit of Lena's mom Sarafine. Thompson steals every scene she's in. She embodies both characters completely and switches back and forth between the two effortlessly.

I enjoyed the style of film and the upbeat tone. None of it is taken too seriously, and you're invited to laugh along. Everything moves along at a brisk pace, and you don't notice the two-hour runtime.

"Beautiful Creatures" pleasantly surprised me. If I was still a 12 or 13-year-old, I probably would have enjoyed it more, but it still had charming qualities. This is what "Twilight" should have been ... good, campy fun.

An Okay Day to "Die Hard"

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

John McClane is my hero.

Honestly, I'll go see any movie where Bruce Willis gets to fire an automatic weapon.

"Die Hard" is the standard to which all other action films are measured. It has no equal, and that includes its sequels.

The fifth installment in the franchise, "A Good Day to Die Hard" finds our anti-hero traveling to Russia to find his estranged son Jack (Jai Courtney). And what do you know, he stumbles into a terrorist plot with lots of baddies, and he has to kill some people and save the day.

Critics and fans alike have not been showing much love for this film, but I really enjoyed it. Granted, I didn't go in with very high expectations. I just wanted to see Bruce Willis blow some stuff up. Mission. Accomplished.

Nothing will ever top the original,



The movie itself is more or less a generic action flick.

There's no character development. You aren't learning anything new here and are only going to care about the main character if you've seen the others in the series. There's an added father-son bonding plot that is predictable and feels forced.

The writing and dialog are weak. The story is overly complicated, which isn't helped by the forgettable villains. I'm still not sure who the "real" bad guy was. They kept changing their minds and killing each other. But then again, everyone is forgettable compared to Hans Gruber.

So then why, with all those negatives, would I recommend this movie? 'Cause it's John McClane! And I got to see him blow up Chernobyl!

"A Good Day to Die Hard" is a decent addition to the series. I'll go see the sixth and however many more they want to put out.

Yippee-ki-yay, moviegoers!

Check out The Commuter's new look at **COMMUTER.LINNBENTON.EDU** and keep up-to-date on all the latest campus news.

THIS WEEKEND AT THE MOVIES



Dark Skies
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Haunted House



Snitch
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Informant Action

Source: IMDb

WEATHER

Wednesday (2/20)	Rain, maybe	49°/38°	
Thursday (2/21)	Rain, possible	46°/39°	
Friday (2/22)	Rain, by chance	47°/37°	
Saturday (2/23)	Rain, in theory	48°/34°	
Sunday (2/24)	Rain, likely	47°/35°	
Monday (2/25)	Rain, definitely	51°/32°	
Tuesday (2/26)	Rain, in the a.m.	46°/32°	

Source: accuweather.com