

November 10, 2010

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

Vol. 42 No. 8

Campus Smoking Debate

pg. 8

Inside:

New Column: Dear Conscience pg. 4

Flyers Spark Discussion of Campus Tolerance pg. 6

Volleyball Team Gears Up for Playoffs pg. 11

A word from your local ASG

Associated Student Government (ASG) is a program that is operated by LBCC students. It is just one arena that students can participate in to develop or execute leadership skills. ASG is made up of students who serve in relevant positions such as ASG President, Vice President, PR Secretary, and Representatives; however, our bona fide duty is serving by volunteerism. Volunteering is a leadership position.

Volunteering is one of the biggest impacts we can make in our lives and community today. As leaders/volunteers, our view of leadership is that it is a multifaceted asset. It is definitely an asset that we will continue to benefit from and build upon throughout our lives. Although we cannot sum up its significance, there is one revelation we hope you share: that there will always be opportunities to demonstrate unique talents, skills, and interests. Not only do we broaden our interests as leaders/volunteers, but we gain a multitude of skills, and talents as well. While there are many more benefits that stem from leadership, success is one of the proven benefits linked to leadership roles. Again, these are just a few of leadership's disbursements.

ASG's mission and goal this year is to reach many students on campus and involve them in leadership to the best of our ability. ASG is focusing on leading by providing opportunities for students to succeed at LBCC and beyond. We want to benefit our peers. That is



Sheri Jones, ASG PR Secretary

why ASG leaders are looking for more students to join in "leading the way" while receiving an education at LBCC. Leadership is important to our community at LBCC, and hopefully the next few sentences will convince you that leadership at LBCC is the arena for you.

Most of us are busy enough to quickly dismiss committing any more of our time. That is why we are asking you to consider volunteering and leadership as investments into your future. For every day we serve as volunteers and leaders there will be a tomorrow that will

request unique talents and skills that are readily available

LBCC leaders are hoping by now you are asking, "How can I be involved in leadership along with all that I am doing now?" Here's the brilliant part about leadership at LBCC: just come visit leaders in the Student Union Building (right next to Hot Shot coffee shop) and ask what you can do, or more importantly, tell us what we can do for you! Like you, we are students with a full load of credits, so just in case you miss any of us, you can contact us by email too.

As a part of volunteering duties, ASG is continually looking for students who want to be more involved with their education process as well as advocating for student voice on campus. We need you! A few of the upcoming projects we are seeking your assistance, talents and skills are: Getting LBCC Student Stories, Lobby for Legislation, Study Jam, and Kids Jam.

There are also other leadership programs at LBCC waiting for your participation other than ASG. They are the Student Programming Board, the Student Ambassador program, and the DAC Student Leaders (Diversity Achievement Center). Although each program serves the community at LBCC uniquely, they all share the same goal: to create opportunity for all students to change, and impact the growth and development of community at LBCC for the betterment of the student. Check us out on the LBCC website!

P.S. Think of all you can do with your resume!

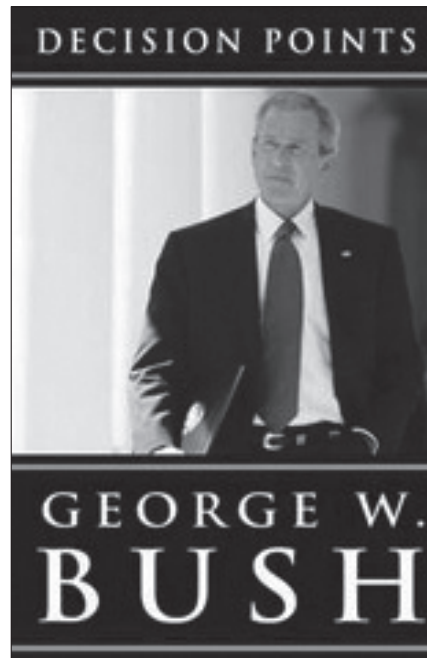
Sincerely,

Sheri Jones
ASG PR Secretary

The views of the ASG do not necessarily reflect those of The Commuter. Any questions or comments can be directed to the Student Life & Leadership office.

How Far Would You Go?

Jeb Oliver
Staff Writer



President Bush has recently admitted to okaying the waterboarding of accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. In the president's own words, "Yeah, we waterboarded Khalid Sheikh Mohammed ... I'd do it again to save lives."

Bush's admittance has sparked outrage across America with groups like Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, and many others. There are many who fear that the former president's actions are taking us down a slippery slope; they fear that we have lost our moral integrity and that we are failing to keep with international law.

According to an interview on Huffington Post, former Brigadier General David Irvine, who taught military interrogation for 20 years, doesn't agree with Bush and believes the United States will feel the global repercussions of his decisions for years to come.

"When he decided to do it the first time, he launched the nation down a disastrous road, and we will continue to pay dearly for the damage his decision has caused," Irvine said.

So what's the truth? Are we really going down a "dangerous course"? Can we afford to be moral during a time of war? Does morality really have a place in modern warfare? And who decides

it's the right action when lives may or may not be in jeopardy? I know it can be easy to judge President Bush as evil or a terrible person. Waterboarding isn't pleasant; it's horrible. It's torture, and no one in their right mind can argue with that. But I ask you, if you knew that there was just even a sliver of chance that torturing a man who master minded the killing of thousands of Americans may save lives, would you do it?

Would you take that responsibility? For the chance to save a life? Is it really that easy of a decision? Can you morally take the responsibility of saying "no" to waterboarding, failing to get the information we need and then watching tens of thousands of Americans die in another 9/11 attack? Is Khalid

Can we afford to be moral during a time of war? Does morality really have a place in modern warfare?

Sheikh Mohammed really worth more than the lives of our neighbors? Now I'm not saying I would choose to torture or waterboard anyone, all I'm saying is that Bush had a hard decision to make under intense pressure from Al Qaeda, the first group of people to attack America since the Japanese. Do you or I really have any right to judge this decision until we have walked in his shoes?

I know I would do anything I thought might save American lives - that's who I am. You may disagree with me, but I just can't imagine letting intelligence of this magnitude go to waste under these circumstances. I don't approve of torture, I just approve of protecting lives.

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Visit our games section at commuter.linnbenton.edu

THE COMMONS FARE
11/10-11/16

Wednesday
Dishes: Meat Load, Fish & Chips and Vegetarian Chili
Soup: Dill Potato Chowder and Chicken & Wild Rice

Thursday
Holiday

Friday
Chef's Choice

Monday
Dishes: Turkey Cutlet w/ Brown Butter Sauce, Texas Chili con Carne y Frijoles and Spinach Lasagna
Soups: Creamy Tomato and Albondingas

Tuesday
Dishes: Shrimp Etouffée, Swedish Meatballs and Huevos Rancheros
Soups: Egg Flower and Cheddar Cauliflower

Election Recap: Hope You're Happy

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

Let me recap the election for you real quick:

Republican message:
Repeal healthcare, stop wasteful government spending, derail immigration reform, prevent gay people from getting any of the same rights straight people have, filibuster everything, including unemployment benefits for people who are out of work, and pander to the Tea Party.

Democratic message: OMG, HIDE.

Seriously, Democrats? You had everything in the world to run on this year, and it seems like you tucked tail and ran. And I can't figure out why. As near as I can tell, Scott Brown won in Massachusetts and you guys lost your fool minds. "OH NOES! We lost Kennedy's state! We're doomed!"

Well, no, you lost Kennedy's state because you ran a loser against Scott Brown, not because people were so angry with Democrats.

You lost the midterms in the House, and only just barely squeaked out of them in the Senate, and that happened because you guys psyched yourself out, and convinced yourselves you were fated to lose. Two years ago, Americans loved you guys. You guys were hope and change and unicorns and puppies. Then, you let the Republicans get the narrative away from you. You were too busy kissing Republican ass and trying to "heal the divide" to storm the public opinion front and make sure people knew who exactly was responsible for what.



You lost because you didn't have the guts to stand up to Republicans, and those rare few Democrats who did have a set of stones – Grayson, Weiner, Franken – got tsked at, finger wagged, told to sit down, be quiet, play nice, and generally minimized. They weren't being civil. They weren't being polite.

So you're sitting around, a bunch of losers, and it's nobody's damn fault but your own. You spent two years pandering to Republicans and letting them vote down and water down important legislation until even the things you did manage to accomplish weren't particularly impressive to anyone. You let the small fraction of rich old white Republicans who make up the Tea Party intimidate you into thinking they were a majority. Then you quietly sat down and let those rich old white Republicans run roughshod over you, and it cost you an election you didn't have to lose.

You guys were hope and change and unicorns and puppies. Then, you let the Republicans get the narrative away from you. You were too busy kissing Republican ass ...

And now, we Americans are left staring down two more years of Republican obstructionism, frivolous investigations of Obama's birth certificate (because these guys are going to have to cater to the people who elected them), bad legislation, and assaults on the health care legislation Democrats did manage to pass.

Buckle up, folks. The next two years are going to be rough. On the upside, we did manage to make sure most of the really crazy candidates didn't get elected (Sharon Angle, Christine O'Donnell, Art Robinson, I'm looking at you, here), and if the Republicans pull their usual tactics when they're in charge, they're practically going to hand Obama a second term. So, there's that.

BACK *in the* DAY

Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

This day in history ...

Nov. 10, 1674: Why they changed it I can't say ...

After the Dutch finishing trashing the British and French during the third Anglo-Dutch War, the colony of New Netherlands is given to Britain, per the Treaty of Westminster. New Netherlands made up portions of modern-day New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. The capitol of the colony, New Amsterdam is renamed New York City. The Dutch Republic is paid two-million guilders as reparations.

Nov. 11, 1944: Wish he'd been on our side ...

Erich Göstl, a machine gunner in the 1st Waffen SS Division, is awarded a Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross, the second highest medal in all of Germany. He receives the award because he repelled an attack during the battle of Normandy despite the fact that he was completely alone and both his eyes, nose, and most of his face was shot off. Most of the battle he fought blind, shooting at whatever he could hear. He insists he was just doing his duty. After the war he went on to get a Doctorate Law Degree from the University of Vienna.

Nov. 12, 1927: Bad news ...

Leon Trotsky is expelled from the Soviet Union. This is bad news for pretty much everybody, as he is the only real opponent to the horrible oppression and tyranny of Joseph Stalin. Leon flees to Mexico where he is later assassinated. Poor Trotsky.

Nov. 13, 1947: Number one!

Development is finished on the AK-47, the world's most popular and widely used assault rifle. To date, over 75 million have been produced. About 70 nations still officially use it, and the flag of the nation Mozambique has one on it. Mikhail Kalashnikov, the inventor, claims he has never lost any sleep over the atrocities committed with his weapon.

Nov. 14, 1910: To boldly go ...

Eugene Ely becomes the first pilot to ever take off from a ship, the USS Birmingham. Detractors claim planes are an amusing distraction, but nothing more, and they will certainly never prove to be effective military tools. Ha. Ha. Ha.

Nov. 15, 1969: Bad luck to the max ...

The Soviet submarine K-19 accidentally collides with American submarine USS Gato. The K-19 is nicknamed "Hiroshima" by its sailors because it is viewed as being bad luck. Three men were killed while it was being built, the champagne bottle didn't break during its christening, it had a nuclear meltdown that killed numerous people, three fires that killed 28 men, another nuclear mishap, a collision with another submarine, another man was killed when a missile hatch broke, it nearly collided with its supply ship when a valve blew and it began to fill with water, another valve blew and it nearly sank, and it experienced an electrical short that killed another man. I wouldn't want to serve on that boat.

Nov. 16, 1849: Rough being a writer ...

The famous Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky is sentenced to death along with the rest of the Petrashevsky Circle, a group of liberal men that the Tsar worries may be spreading anti-government propaganda. The men are lead outside in front of a firing squad, and right as the squad is ordered to pull their triggers, the leader announces that they were all actually pardoned by the Tsar, but that they should remember this instance as what will happen if they continue their ways. Instead of being executed they are sentenced to hard labor in Siberia.

Thought for the week:

"Bureaucracy and social harmony are inversely proportional to each other."

-Leon Trotsky

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Sign up on SIS (sis.linnbenton.edu) under Study Skills – or just drop in!

Overcome Test Anxiety

Wednesday	Nov. 3	Albany	IA-201A	2:00 – 2:50 p.m.
Wednesday	Nov. 3	Lebanon	LC-205	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.

Accomplish Your Academic Goals: Tips to Overcome Procrastination

Tuesday	Nov. 9	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	Nov. 10	Albany	IA-201A	2:00 – 2:50 p.m.
Wednesday	Nov. 10	Lebanon	LC-205	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.

Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center. For more information and to sign up, visit SIS under 'Study Skills' or call 541-917-4684.

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer. 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, OR 97321, phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE





"The First Thanksgiving" by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris

Thanks ... for Nothing

Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

Thanksgiving is drawing close, and I still remember being taught in elementary school about the Pilgrims in their fancy black and white outfits, sitting down on the First Thanksgiving with a bunch of half-naked Indians to celebrate their sharing of food and mutual help. Nowadays though, we like to say "Native American," as it is more politically correct than "Indian." My question, then, is why is it still politically correct to depict the Thanksgiving myth in this way?

Every year on Thanksgiving Day since 1970, the 350th anniversary of Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock, the United American Indians of New England (UAIINE) has organized a Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Mass. They rightfully protest against the whitewashing of the story of the First Thanksgiving, and the racism and oppression their people still suffer to this day. They want everyone to know that the only thing true about the Thanksgiving myth is that the pilgrims would have all died without the support of the Wampanoag tribe, for which the generous Wampanoag people were rewarded with slavery and genocide.

The Pilgrims did not arrive on some unpopulated wilderness frontier, the American Indian tribes lived there, and every bit of land the Pilgrims acquired was effectively stolen (violently, more often than not) from those native tribes. UAIINE points out that in addition to genocide, these Pilgrims from Europe also brought with them racism, religious oppression, sexism, anti-gay/lesbian bigotry, prisons, a class system, and a mercantile attitude that valued money over people's lives. All of these, I would like to point out, are still issues we are facing almost 400 years later. Hell of a

legacy right there.

I suppose it isn't terribly surprising – we don't exactly like to remember the atrocities committed against the American Indian tribes by the United States government and its predecessors. We still celebrate Columbus Day, honoring a man who enslaved multiple indigenous populations and created the system of exploitation that was responsible for the deaths of about 300,000 natives on the island of Hispaniola alone.

Considering how much importance we put on "political correctness" and "justice," it is really incorrect and unjust that this myth of Thanksgiving should perpetuate. I would just like to remind folks that those early European explorers, all proclaimed Christians, proceeded to commit institutionalized genocide over all of North and South America. That's two entire continents full of people that were either entirely or almost wiped out. I'm not saying that we should depreciate the accomplishments or the history of all these Europeans and Americans, what I am saying is that we need to be aware that they had flaws and committed horrible deeds at the expense of millions of people. We need to remember this and strive to overcome the tragic consequences of these actions. We need to use this history as an example of what not to do, and how to make ourselves better in the future.

On a final note, even the traditional image of the Pilgrim is wrong. All the paintings made of the First Thanksgiving were made at a later date, and the references the artists used were of contemporary and urban Puritans in Europe. Those fancy black and white outfits, clunky shoes, and fluffy dresses all make for fine city-wear, but not if you are out in the wilderness doing hard work. Besides, those outfits look dumb anyway.

Dear Conscience,

Question: How do you deal with annoying people (the chatty gaggle) in class?

Ashley Christie
Shoulder Devil

So you have some annoying people in your classes. Really? That's too bad. What should you do about them you ask?

I know! Why don't you stop worrying about them and mind your own business??

Do you know where else annoying people are? EVERYWHERE! They're in class, at work, at home, on the phone, on Facebook, radio, TV ... there's no escaping them. The only thing you can do is live your life and ignore theirs because I don't see these irritating pests going away any time soon.

Life is full of annoyances, and if all you do is dwell on them, you'll drive yourself crazy. You'll be angry and bitter all the time, and then you'll be the one that everyone is annoyed by.

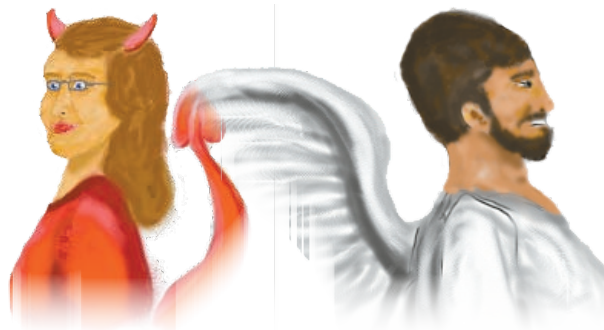
Do you know who the most annoying people are? The people who are in a perpetual bad mood and do nothing but complain about everyone else.

"I think they're so annoying." "I wish they'd just shut up." "I wonder if they realize how disruptive they're being." "I," "I," "I," is that all you ever think about?

Here are some "I" statements for you: *I feel* that you are wasting my time *when you* worry about these other people *because* in the long run, it doesn't matter. *I'd appreciate it if you would* get over it.

You think you're so much better than them, but you're not. Whiners and complainers make up a good chunk of the annoying people on this planet; don't be one of them.

You're going to be running into annoying people your entire life so stop complaining. Suck it up and get used to it.



Justin Bolger
Shoulder Angel

That poor, misguided chatty gaggle. And poor you! That must make class really hard! They probably have no idea they're

being disruptive, so remember to use those "I" statements.

These are always a good way to express your feelings and concerns without placing blame on the person you're trying to communicate with. We tend to accuse and attack each other when something bothers us, but that usually just leads to putting up defenses and retaliating. This doesn't help anyone and will only agitate the situation.

An "I" statement is pretty simple once you understand each piece. According to the blog Culture Change in Practice, there are four:

1. I feel ... (taking responsibility for your own feelings)
2. when you ... (stating the behavior that is a problem)
3. because ... (what it is about the behavior or its consequences that you object to)
4. I'd appreciate it if you would ... (offer a preferred alternative to the behavior)

Let's try an example together:

I feel frustrated when you talk during class because it makes it difficult for me to pay attention and I miss important information. I'd appreciate it if you would pause your conversation until after class.

With such a sincere expression of feelings to show them what trouble they've been causing, I'm sure they'll apologize and oblige. "I" statements can be a powerful tool. Use them well, and good luck out there!

Have questions? We have answers.

Dear Conscience is a new feature in the paper. We will be offering advice on ANY topic from two different points of view. Send your questions to: commuter@linnbenton.edu

Opinions Wanted: Stand on Your Soapbox

Editorial

Over the weekend, The Commuter asked our fans on Facebook what they like to see in the paper. People want to see a greater number of diverse opinions on controversial topics – that's the main thing.

When I mentioned the option of students and faculty writing letters to the editor, LBCC student Kara

Glenn informed me that readers probably don't realize the opportunity is there. I hadn't considered that.

So now I'm officially inviting all of you to do just that – tell us your opinions! Whether or not you agree with any of our writers, let us know. We want to hear what you think, and so do our readers!

You don't even need to limit yourself to the stuff

we write about. If you have a problem with something on campus, write about it! If you like the direction local voters went, tell us about it!

Just send your letters to our email at commuter@linnbenton.edu with your first and last name, or you can post them to the letters to the editor section of our website at <http://lbcommuter.com/contact-us>. Thanks a lot!

London Calling



Carli Gibson
Contributing Writer

On November 3, an informational meeting was given for students interested furthering their educational experience by travelling the world in LBCC's Study Abroad program.

The meeting mainly focused on this spring's London trip, but also touched on other opportunities available through the program such as a summer in Costa Rica or Mexico, or a fall term in Italy.

Everyone asked the same question: "How much?" The initial cost, based on an enrollment of about 15 participants, is \$6,475 per person, including airfare.

For some it may sound a bit pricey, but here's what is included with your three-month stay:

In London, Costa Rica, and Mexico, your accommodation includes a nice stay in a residential neighborhood with a traditional family. Breakfast will be provided five days a week. The London package also includes a membership to the University of London Union, a travel pass that will pay for unlimited transportation on buses and underground trains in London, 3

At a Glance

What: Study Abroad Opportunities
Where: London, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Italy
Cost: \$6,475
More Info: Kim Sullivan at (541)917-4847

theatre performances, a football match, and a walking tour of the city.

Each trip presents its own unique educational adventure.

Costa Rica offers students the opportunity to explore tropical forests using ecology and marine biology.

In Mexico, students will be able to visit museums and learn folklore, politics, history, and even salsa dancing!

Students participating in the Italy trip will room in an apartment with four other students and are also treated to opera and an Italian soccer match.

According to students who have gone to London in the past, the tours and performances were a great experience, and they would definitely do it again. Ann Helms and Katie Landgren went

last year. Helms plans on going back again this spring, simply because she "loved it!"

The educational portion of this trip is also a great thing to experience, "Sometimes you get really, really boring people and sometimes you get really, really cool people," said Landgren, while talking about professors at London University.

When you travel you are required to take twelve credits. The classes in London include courses in Drama, Literature, culture, economics and politics; according to Helms and Landgren, classes usually run Monday through Thursday, so you have three days free to enjoy your stay.

If the price is still out of your budget, relax. There are scholarships you can apply for that can pay for the entire trip. Scholarships for the 2011 spring trip are no longer available, but there is always next year!

If you're interested in traveling to any of these locations, pick up an application in the Admissions Office, and contact Kim Sullivan, study abroad coordinator. You can call her at 541-917-4847, email her at study.abroad@linnbenton.edu, or just stop by the admissions office. The deadline to apply for London is in December!

Come Ye Noble Lords and Ladies

Justin Bolger
Editor-in-Chief

Knights! There has been a call to arms!

LBCC students Holly and Tony Phillips are forming the Linn-Benton Renaissance (LBR) Club for knights and maidens alike, and they want you to be a part of it. They say this club is for those who appreciate honor and chivalry.

According to Tony, to fully be realized as an official club, they need at least eight total members. At the moment, there are two, the Phillips themselves. They already have an adviser, English and writing instructor Peter Jensen.

"It is hard to explain what the time period is, most people do not get what we mean by the renaissance time until we mention knights, kings and queens," says Holly in regards to the obstacles in starting the LBR Club thus far.

Ultimately, their goal is to take field trips to renaissance fairs in or around the Linn and Benton area, and hopefully participate in them, playing period roles like squires, merchants or knights.

Holly says, "I really think people will have a great time when they actually get to go camping for three days or so and see what we do at the renaissance fairs and how history comes to life. Be it talking and interacting with knights on horseback, seeing them battle, listening to shows, [etc]."

Holly and Tony are very much renaissance enthusiasts; they actually got married onstage three years ago at the Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire that takes place every year in Kings Valley. They are driven by a love of history, Shakespeare and the time period in general.

You can find the Phillips handing out their flyers around campus (I found them in the courtyard). They shouldn't be difficult to recognize, as they'll be in full garb. If they elude you, you can contact them via email at hollyannp79@gmail.com or hollystedybear090907@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can leave a message at 541-223-6577.



Justin Bolger
Tony and Holly Phillips outside the Courtyard dressed in renaissance garb.

Tuition Increase: Let Your Voice Be Heard

Lacey Jarrell
Managing Editor

LBCC's Board of Education is asking for your advice.

At the Nov. 17 school board meeting, administration will propose a \$7 per credit hour tuition increase that will go into effect winter 2011. The increase will raise tuition from \$77 to \$84.

To aid in the decision-making process, board members will want to know how the tuition increase will affect students personally, in contrast to having fewer programs and services available to students, said Jim Huckstein, vice president of finance and operations. Anyone is welcome to speak.

Administrators have been considering a possible tuition hike of anywhere from

\$5-\$10 over the past weeks in an effort to bridge the \$2.6 million budget deficit. The tuition increase would raise about \$1 million, or about 41 percent of the shortfall. Reduced compensation for employees and elimination of positions could make up the other 60 percent.

The comment section of the meeting will open at approximately 6:45 p.m. after a closed Executive Session. Board members will be in a separate room for the closed session, but students and community members who wish to speak are encouraged to enter the boardroom before the open session begins. The meeting will be in the Calapooia Center, CC 103.

For the meeting agenda, visit <http://po.linnbenton.edu/boardmeeting/>.

Silent No Longer

Flyers spark added dialog at screening

Carli Gibson
Contributing Writer

"Things seem to be changing ... slowly," said Jeff Davis, regional director at the Benton Center, as students drifted into the Diversity Achievement Center for the presentation of "Out in the Silence" last Friday.

The film, which has won several awards, including an Emmy, chronicles the effects of small-town homophobia.

Filmmaker Joe Wilson attended the LBCC screening of the video, then discussed making the film and answered questions for the two dozen students and staff who attended.

During the event, those gathered were made aware of a flyer that had been circulated that day around campus. The flyer, which targeted the DAC, declared "LBCC presents Jizzfest 2010. 'It's cumtastic!'" It included the campus e-mail address and phone number of DAC Coordinator Toni Klohk.

Attendees described the flyer as "appalling" and "hate-based." They spoke out against the message directed against lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender people and their allies.

Wilson called the incident an opportunity for the community to unite in support of the DAC and others on campus.

"It's a moment to find out who is the majority on this campus," he said.

Earlier, Wilson



Justin Bolger

Documentarian Joe Wilson discusses his Emmy-winning video "Out in the Silence" with the audience in the Diversity Achievement Center last Friday.

described the intolerance that he and his partner Dean Hamer faced after announcing their marriage in Wilson's hometown newspaper in Oil City, Pa. Furious readers sent letters to the newspaper complaining that gay marriage was not appropriate, that it was an outrage.

Both Wilson and Hamer went into the documentary not only as filmmakers, but as two people who knew they had to share their story to help others.

They are spreading the message of the real problems that are among us every day. In the words of Wilson, "The real question here is: If not us, who? And if not now, when?"

The documentary puts you in someone else's shoes and makes you see what it's like to be tormented for simply being who you are.

When Wilson returned to his hometown four years ago

to start filming, he met a young man named C.J. Bills.

Bills came out as being gay when he was 15. He says he went from being a jock and a "cool kid" to being a "queer." He described going to school as "eight hours of pure hell," and describes his walk through the halls: filled with taunting, teasing, tripping and shoving.

"No one cared. They gave a deaf ear and a blind eye," Bills says about the teachers and staff at his high school.

Wilson is on a nationwide tour in support of the video, which debuted about a year ago. The tour is sponsored by a variety of rights and advocacy groups, as well as religious congregations.

For more information, see outinthesilence.com.

Information for this story contributed by Commuter adviser Rob Priewe.

Letter to the Editor

Response to the Anti-DAC flyer

I am the Manager of the Diversity Achievement Center (DAC). I supervise Toni Klohk. Toni does an excellent job at exposing students to new ideas. Exposure to new ideas is an important concept in college. The DAC also hosts events sponsored by student clubs and organizations. Those events often raise new ideas to ponder. The fact that the college hosts an event or topic never implies which points of view we subscribe to; we subscribe to free exchange of ideas in a civil and safe environment.

The posters were posted without regard to LBCC posting policies. Per those policies, they were removed. The poster also gave the false impression that the DAC was sponsoring an event that it is not; the posters were in fact a lie and slanderous. LBCC has a policy of honesty and respect at all times toward all persons. (It is also my job to enforce that policy; as Associate Dean of Student Services, I enforce the LBCC code of conduct available at www.linnbenton.edu)

For many people diversity and culture awareness are not easy topics. When LBCC is doing a good job at encouraging people to think beyond their own cultural assumptions and exposing people to ideas beyond those they have adopted, people will be stretched, challenged, even agitated. It sometimes takes this for us to grow. Toni and the DAC are obviously challenging some people to grow.

It takes courage to do the work of the DAC. It takes courage to listen to ideas with which some of us disagree. It does not take courage to attack people who are doing important work. The person who posted these posters gave witness last week that many of us still have much to learn about respecting people with values and lifestyles unlike our own. The person also gave witness that he or she struggles with "opening his or

her mind to listen to ideas of others." When the person put those posters up, it was like he or she voted to endorse the DAC. By his/her action, he/she said, "Let me prove that we need to learn about how to respect one another."

LBCC is proud of the work of the DAC and the leadership of Toni Klohk. Toni and her team change lives for the better every day they come to work. Neither Toni nor LBCC

will be intimidated by hate speech. We will continue to encourage and support the work the DAC is doing for all students at LBCC. We hope every student will feel safe on our campus, and we will

continue to provide forums for sharing diverse views, values, and lifestyles. We hope college students develop critical thinking and the ability to listen to others, followed up with the ability to make wise choices for one's self.

Students who participated in our College Readiness Workshops Summer 2010 (CRW) know that LBCC encourages civil discourse. We encourage the engaging of one another around controversial topics in civil and respectful ways. We encourage free speech when offered within the guidelines the college provides.

LBCC also has a duty to prevent harassment, bullying, and hate speech. We take that duty seriously.

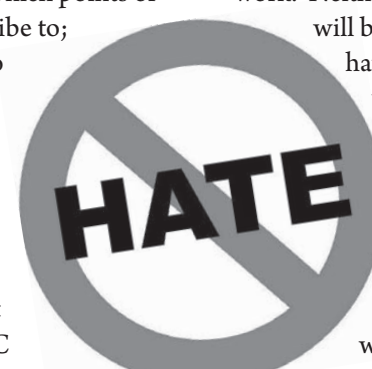
The posting matter will be handled by Security and my office, if the person is identified. If someone witnessed who posted the flyers they are asked to report it to my office, Lynne Cox, Takena 107.

Posting Policies available at Board of Education Administrative Rules (Paperless Office)

Thank you for making inquiry! Toni and her team have my full support. They are doing a great job, every day.

Lynne Cox

Lynne A. Cox, J.D., Associate Dean of Student Development



DAC Sheds Light on Hunger

Audrey Gomez
Copy Editor

Next week is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week. The Diversity Achievement Center team will be participating in conjunction with national campaigns to raise awareness, food and funds. The campaign at the Albany campus will take place Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 17 and 18, with "skip a meal day." Participants can sign up to skip a meal and donate money or food. Friday, Nov. 19 will be a full day of fasting.

The idea behind having three days of awareness is to allow opportunity for "people to give on multiple days and (to reach) students who may not be on campus every day of the week," says Ricky Zipp, one of the campaign's organizers.

Zipp and fellow DAC student worker Oz Galvez were inspired by Oxfam's "Skip a Meal Day" campaign. "We want to bring light to situations ...

around the world, but (recognize) that our area is not separated from the world hunger problem," Zipp says. Those who would like to be involved but cannot give a donation are encouraged to sign up to skip a meal or fast on Friday. The goal of this event is to raise awareness and empathy for those who do not have an option of whether or not to skip a meal.

All donations will be given to Linn Benton Food Share. According to its web site, Food Share feeds "over forty-six thousand individuals and families" annually. In its most recent newsletter, Director Mike Gibson stressed the importance of donations, citing that "in October alone ... member agencies distributed 3,687 food boxes that fed 12,353 persons in our two-county area."

While the theme of hunger resonates especially during the holidays, Zipp and Galvez plan to encourage awareness of this issue every term.

In preparation of next week's events, the DAC will be hosting a panel discussion on hunger and homelessness Friday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m.

Songs Celebrate Native American Heritage

Justin Bolger
Editor-in-Chief

Learn to play music that comes from what's inside, not from a piece of paper.

As part of the celebration of Native American Heritage Month, NASU (Native American Student Union) held workshop for anyone interested in learning how to play a flute or learn about the traditions behind this art form.

About 20 people attended the event held in the Diversity Achievement Center last Wednesday to learn about Native American flute playing from Rocky Gavin.

According to Gavin, this should be an intuitive art, one that comes from within. The music should take you on a personal journey. He never learned to read sheet music, but you'd never know from the way he plays.

Several variations of flutes were on display, ranging from basic flutes made from PVC pipes (Gavin's own creation to help introduce others to playing the traditional flute), to the more complicated Drone, essentially two flutes in one capable of dual sounds. There were also a number of classic, hand-carved flutes passed around the audience.

As a storyteller, Gavin told those in attendance the flute was originally a used as a means



Rocky Gavin plays a traditional flute in the DAC last Wednesday in honor of Native American Month.

for young men in a tribe to court the woman he desired.

The next event sponsored by NASU will be the flintknapping workshop held next week (see Campus Shorts).



Wednesday 11/10

Lebanon Learning Center Open House

4 - 6 p.m. • Lebanon Center
Visit the new Learning Center opening on the Lebanon campus. There will be food!

LBCC Women's Volleyball Home Game

7 - 9 p.m.
LBCC vs. Clackamas CC

Friday 11/12

Shakespeare Actors

10 - 10:50 a.m. and noon - 12:50 p.m. • F-104

Two actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, David Kelly and Terri MacMahon, will be doing scenes from "Julius Caesar" and "The History of Comedy."

This event is a wonderful theatrical opportunity funded by a grant from LBCC's student government. We hope to see you there!

Saturday 11/13

Contact Improvisation Dance Workshop

2 - 4:30 p.m.
A FREE workshop sponsored by the LBCC Dance Club. Come explore this fun and innovative dance class. All levels and LBCC students welcome! Space is limited. Send questions or registration requests to: sanderk@linnbenton.edu.

Monday 11/15

Civil War Red Cross Blood Drive

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Mountain Room
We are currently taking donation appointments online through the Red Cross website (givelife.org). Starting Oct. 25, we will be registering donors for the blood drive and recruiting volunteers for the blood drive to assist in the refreshment area and help escort donors from the donor area to the refreshment area. This is a great way to

serve your community as well as your school. This drive is being sponsored by the Student Programming Board of LBCC.

Flintknapping Workshop

4 - 6 p.m. • SSH-208
Join DJ Rogers to learn the art of flintknapping, the process of making arrowheads and spearheads. The session is limited to 15 people. You must bring safety goggles. Cost is \$5 for students and \$8 for everyone else. For more information and to sign up, call Michele Wilson at 541-917-4835.

Wednesday 11/17

Civil War Red Cross Blood Drive

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Cascade View Rooms
We are currently taking donation appointments online through the Red Cross website (givelife.org). Starting Oct. 25, we will be registering donors for the blood drive and recruiting volunteers for the blood drive to assist in the refreshment area and help escort donors from the donor area to the refreshment area. This is a great way to serve your community as well as your school. This drive is being sponsored by the Student Programming Board of LBCC.

Thursday 11/18

Flintknapping Workshop

4 - 6 p.m. • SSH-208
Join DJ Rogers to learn the art of flintknapping, the process of making arrowheads and spearheads. The session is limited to 15 people. You must bring safety goggles. Cost is \$5 for students and \$8 for everyone else. For more information and to sign up, call Michele Wilson at 541-917-4835.

Tuesday 11/23

Turkey Trot

Noon • Second Floor Above the Courtyard
Staff, students, and faculty can receive 5 raffle tickets for walking 5 laps. You may win a turkey, pie, or flowers. This event is sponsored by IACE and Wellness.

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

Come join the American Legion. We are the world's largest Veterans club, and Albany Post 10 is the largest in the state. The American Legion is the only private club established by Congress. This means when we go to bat for our veterans we get things accomplished, but we can't do it without you. Without the numbers our voice is mute. This is America and this is what we fought for. This is our country so let your voices be heard.

The American Legion not only helps active military, veterans, and their families, but we also help children and youth, boys and girls state, scholarships, National Emergency Relief Fund, the elderly, public schools, Boy Scouts of America, Little League, and many many more. There are many aspects to the Legion, a little something for every part of the family. The ladies Auxilliary and Junior Auxilliary, The Mothers, Sisters, Daughters and Wives of Veterans or active service personnel, The Sons of the American Legion, male descendants of any active or inactive Veteran who has served or is serving honorably. We encourage our veterans and their families to empower themselves and bring change for the better.

It is not all about business though. You have served your country well. So while we are about helping the community we also like to have a bit of fun. Every year the the American Legion has a picnic. We cook up some grub and have prizes and games for the kids and adults, this year we had a live band. During the holidays we cook up some excellent dinners for free and have parties for the kids and the adults. During the summer there are group camp outs and fishing trips for the whole family. Last year we rented all of Triangle Lake campground and charged \$10.00 for 3 days of camping. We had a live band and a big Pot-luck dinner with games, and a nice place to swim for the smaller kids. Adult beverages were present and a wholesome good time was had by all, the way it should be.

Recently our Post was ravaged by fire. An arsonist felt the need to burn our building down, so we will be without a building for about a year from July 4th 2010. (This is the day the arsonist decided to burn it down.) We are rebuilding. Our Post will be better than it ever was, and stronger for the tragedy. For this reason, we regret there will be no holiday parties and dinners for our families at the Post, but we are still needing membership. As a matter of fact we need membership now more than ever. Your membership dues will help pay for a new building so we can continue the mission of the the American Legion. Please help us, your community, and yourselves.

For information on how to help or to join please feel free to call: 541-990-2641 or 541-926-0127 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or go to www.post10.org or make any donation at any Umpqua Bank under the American Legion Post 10 "donations" account.

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Tony Brown

Lacey Jarrell
Managing Editor

Freedom of speech? Check. Freedom of religion? Check. Freedom to smoke? Huh?

The First Amendment guarantees freedoms that protect a citizen's right to exercise personal choice in both the public and the private sphere. These freedoms are considered vital to a successful democracy. Other freedoms are not considered vital to democracy, but they are considered just as vital in upholding an individual's rights.

"Smoking is just one example," said LBCC President Greg Hamann. "How do you balance issues of personal freedom and the impact that those freedoms have on each other?"

Based on complaints about smoking that the Associated Student Government (ASG) and other school entities have received this year, it's clear that this is a distinction LBCC is still struggling with.

Complaints from students and staff alike are prompting ASG to review LBCC's smoking policy, as well as the locations of designated smoking shelters.

Many concerns are being offered up by the campus community, but the primary concern is the locations of the shelters, which to many seem to be poorly situated right on main thoroughfares.

"If you look at where they positioned them, it doesn't make much sense," said Developmental Studies instructor Alyx Lyons.

Two of the main locations ASG has received complaints about are in front of Takena Hall. The areas are receiving negative attention because they are on main walkways to the entrance of the school and because of the litter and cigarette butts that are scattered around the area. Students are also often seen smoking outside of the designated area at these locations.

Another smoking area of concern is between

the Industrial buildings and North Santiam Hall. This existing area received an extra shelter, doubling the size of the area. It is also common for students to smoke outside this designated section. As a result, the smoke drifts into the buildings when the doors are opened.

The shelters were moved to their current locations over the summer to comply with amendments made to Oregon's Smoke-free Workplace Law in 2009 and after numerous complaints and an investigation by the Department of Human Services. The amendments furthered the original law that only prohibited smoking in indoor public spaces by additionally prohibiting smoking within 10 feet of entrances, windows and ventilation intakes.

Lyons acknowledges that smokers should have the right to smoke, but non-smokers should also have the right not to be part of that lifestyle choice. She is dismayed that even with the restructured smoking regulations, many of the shelters are still situated in areas that everyone uses.

"Sometimes it seems like it's more important to the school to support students who smoke than those who don't."

As laws and social mores change, the school's policies have changed with them. Many options regarding smoking have been on the table over the years, including going smoke-free.

Several community colleges in Oregon have gone smoke-free, including Lane Community College (LCC) in Eugene.

"For the most part, it's been a really positive experience," said Mario Parker-Milligan, LCC ASG president.

He explained that the school began electronically polling students about going smoke-free during the 2009-10 school year. A positive student response lead LCC to start advertising and preparing students to make the switch that was finalized in

September. The school now considers itself 99 percent smoke-free, leaving four designated smoking areas in the perimeter parking lots. The shelters are considered temporary until "they are no longer needed."

"We look at anything as an option to be considered, but we always have to weigh the costs and people's rights in that process," said Marcene Olsen, LBCC manager of safety and loss prevention.

"What we don't want to do though, is start treating them [smokers] like citizens that don't have rights."

Although the school recognizes a person's right to smoke, according to ASG President Tyler Spevacek, the issue has other, more straightforward consequences. Even though most of the areas have been moved to comply with the Workplace Law, if people are found smoking and/or leaving cigarette butts outside designated smoking areas, serious financial implications still face the school. Fines of \$500 per day, per infraction will imposed if the school is found in violation.

"I don't feel that banning smoking from LB is a step that we want to take, but I do want students to understand it's a privilege to smoke," said Spevacek. Part of that privilege is keeping the areas clean, and as cigarette butts and litter accumulate on the ground around the smoking areas (as is the case in front of Takena), it becomes harder to defend those privileges, he continued.


"Smokers do have a responsibility to keep the areas clean because we don't have the time or the resources to take care of it," said Bruce Clemetson, acting vice president of student services.

As of now, the school is not planning to change the locations of the shelters or further restrict smoking, but ASG is seeking solutions to the conflict. No action is planned until further information is gathered.

To comment or for more information, contact ASG President Tyler Spevacek at 541-917-4475.


PERSPECTIVES

Where should the smoking sections be on campus?




Terry Barton
AMA
ex-smoker

"I quit seven months ago, and now I realize how offensive it is to non-smokers. I would say somewhere out of the way."



Flint Yoder
General Engineering
non-smoker

"Anywhere that's not directly in the pathway to the door."




James Kemp
Chemistry Education
smoker

"By the door where it used to be. I have bad knees, and it's hard to get out [to the smoking shelters]."



Kayla Froman
General Science
non-smoker

"Further away from buildings. I have to walk through a section now just to get to my classes."



Bill Crunk
AMA
ex-smoker

"It really doesn't matter to me. I quit ten years ago, and it doesn't bug me at all."



madeleinehearn/flickr.com

How to Be a Considerate Smoker

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

I started smoking when I was twelve. I saved up my lunch money so I could sneak across the street from my junior high and buy smokes from the convenience store there. It was illegal, sure, but one of the lucky things about smoking is that it makes you look ten years older, so I got away with it – a lot.

I've been smoking for over half my life now. The tar in my lungs could probably be used to patch roofs and pave roads at this point, but I don't have much intention of quitting. I'll probably be one of those lunatic old ladies who sneaks out of the nursing home to smoke through their tracheotomy holes. Of course, I'll be senile by then, so I'll forget I don't have any cigarettes anymore and get lost in the bathroom on my way to the back door, but it's the thought that counts, right?

As a life-long smoker, one of the things I've had to learn is how to be considerate about my filthy, nasty habit. As it's become something of a controversy here at the school, I'd like to pass on my years of wisdom in this regard to you, the younger – and slightly less emphysemic – generation.

Stay Out of the Non-Smokers' Way

For some reason, non-smokers think it's rude if we smoke right in their way. It might have something to do with the cancer. I'm not really sure. At any rate, when you're smoking on school grounds, particularly at the poorly-placed smoking booths out in the front parking lot, try not to aggravate the situation by spilling over into the actual walkway, or perching on the retaining walls while you smoke.

Don't Litter

Smokers in Oregon are stunningly considerate about their cigarette butts anyway, but do try not to flick them everywhere. (Seriously, back home in Michigan, no one cares. We waded through smoke butts two feet deep everywhere we go, no lie. Okay, maybe a little lie.) Next to each smoking booth, there's an over-flowing ashtray for your use. Add to the pile, y'all. If you can't reach that high, stub the thing out on your shoe and stuff it in the trash. It's just polite. *

Wash Your Hands When You're Done

Stinky cigarette smoke actually does cling to our yellowed, nicotine-stained hands. I know, shocking, right? When you're done with your cigarette, stop off in the john and wash your hands. Failing that, keep one of those little bottles of hand sanitizers in your pocket. It works a treat for getting rid of the stink. Of course, the smell is going to cling to your clothes, too. You've got two options there: Either carry around a big spray bottle of Febreze – remember to soak your fellow smokers, too; they'll really appreciate your thoughtfulness – or, whenever someone complains about a cigarette smell, just make big innocent eyes and point the the guy next to you. You know, like you do when you fart. **

Smokers and non-smokers can learn to get along, as long as we smokers remember to be considerate. A little common courtesy goes a long way folks.

* You guys totally expected me to make a butt joke here, didn't you? Pfft. Too easy.

** Fart jokes are never "too easy."

Musical Director Reddan Readies for "Blood Brothers"

Whitney Bruce
Staff Writer

The play "Blood Brothers" is opening this week at LBCC. The shows will be Nov. 12, 13, 19, 20, and a matinee on Nov. 21. Before that happens, we're going to give you a little insight from behind the curtain. We interviewed James Reddan, musical director, and Cameron Graham, the 22-year-old sophomore who is playing Mickey, one of the title characters, to see how everything's been going.

Commuter: How have the rehearsals gone?

James Reddan: Rehearsals have gone very well. Compared to other shows I have done both as a musical director and an actor, rehearsals have been smooth and very professional. The cast has really worked hard as well the musicians, tech crew, and directors. Everything has been right on target!

C: Was it difficult to teach the actors the songs or did they catch on quickly?

JR: The actors caught on very quickly. Most of the actors (but not all) have some experience in musical theater. They knew at the beginning that we would be working at a very professional pace. Also, all of the students have a musical background of some kind (almost all of the cast is in at least one choir), which made the expectations very clear. They knew it was going to be quick, but they caught on fast and were actually off book from their music in 3 weeks!

C: Do you think the play is going well? Do you have any worries?

JR: I think the play is going fabulously! Going into the week the show opens, it is running extremely timely and smoothly. There is nothing I am particularly worried about (except maybe making sure I get enough rest!). It is going extremely well!

C: What has the experience been like? Has it taught you anything?

JR: The experience has been wonderful. The cast has been very professional, worked very hard, and been a joy to work with. Our director and technical directors have both been great to work with and I look forward to working with them more. I did appreciate



Alyssa Archer



Alyssa Archer

Above: Blood brothers Mickey (Cameron Graham, left) and Edward (Erik Henry) play around, while mother Mrs. Johnstone (Michelle Stephenson) looks on during a dress rehearsal of "Blood Brothers" Monday night.

Left: Mrs. Johnstone (Michelle Stephenson) performs a song while holding one of her children in "Blood Brothers."

suggestions with helping to find musicians, which we were able to find and contract within 3 days, thanks to a suggestion from our stage manager. The musicians have been wonderful to work with and it has all been a lot of fun. This experience has really confirmed what I have always believed: students and colleagues - regardless of what school they are at - can do anything they put their minds to!

C: What has your favorite part of this experience been?

Cameron Graham: My favorite part of the experience has been bonding with the cast. We only had six weeks to get all of this put together, so we spent a lot of time working on the show when we were not rehearsing: we all hung out in the cafe, or at one person's house; we really felt like a family.

C: Have you learned anything new?

CG: I have done over 40 plays in my life and I have learned that my acting is getting much better. I usually fall back on my singing when trying out for a musical, but this time I was picked for my acting. So I think I learned a new love and it's being different characters. It's so amazing to just let go of who you are every day, and getting up on stage and just being someone you're not!

C: How hard was it to learn all your lines, and the songs?

CG: Learning lines and songs was a little difficult because of the short time we had, but our cast didn't let that stop us. We plowed through everything!

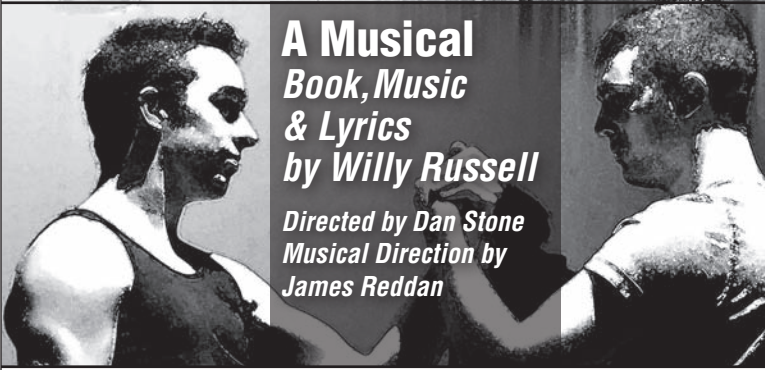
C: What is your favorite scene in the play and why?

CG: The very last scene in the show is mine cause it's very hard to do and it's very powerful lots of yelling, guns, and an amazing song!

The LBCC Performing Arts Department Presents:

BLOOD BROTHERS

Blood Brothers is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



A Musical Book, Music & Lyrics by Willy Russell
 Directed by Dan Stone
 Musical Direction by James Reddan

November, 12, 13, 18, 19 & 20 • 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 21 • Matinee 3 p.m.


The Russell Tripp Performance Center
 Takena Hall, Linn-Benton Community College,
 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany
 Admission: \$12 Adults • \$9 Seniors and Students

www.linnbenton.edu/go/theater
 LBCC box office: 541-917-4531

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RGH-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. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 Cascade Rooms A & B
November 17th
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sign up in Takena Hall (10/25 through 11/5) or online at www.givelife.org
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Enjoying the Great Outdoors

Paul Schlegelmann

Paul Schlegelmann
 Contributing Writer

Taking advantage of the gorgeous autumn weather on a cool October day, Marilyn Bunnell enjoyed a ride with her horse Cruiser on one of the many roads and trails in Peavy Arboretum.

Located about six miles north of Corvallis along Highway 99, the hidden world of Peavy is located on Arboretum Road and is tucked into the eastern edge of McDonald and Dunn Forests.

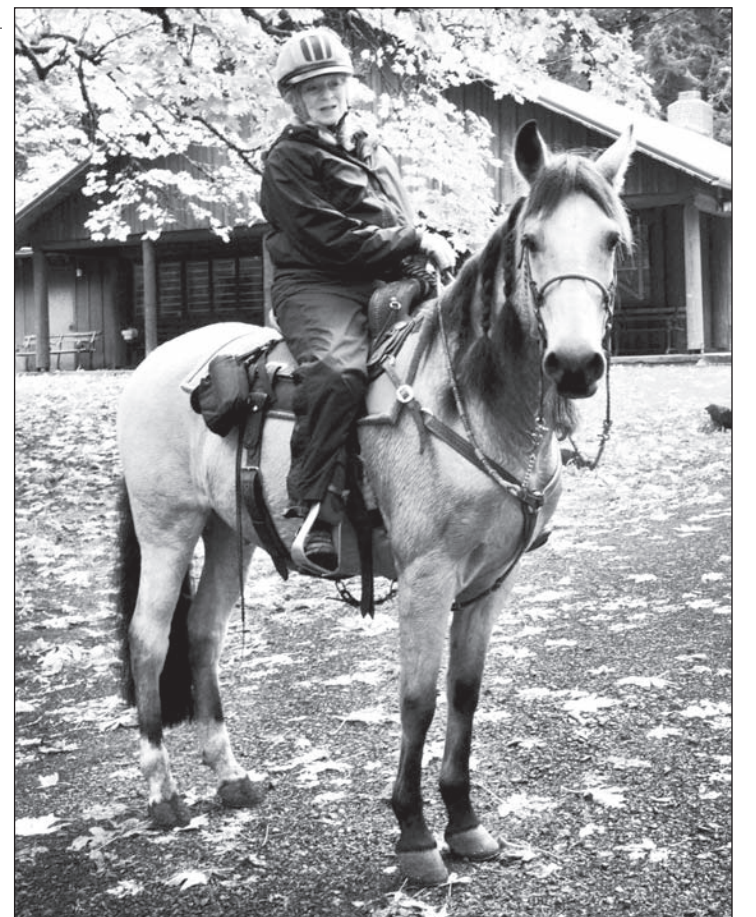
The largest of the eight college forests and comprising over 11,000 acres of managed forest land, these two forests are a combination of OSU forest laboratory and a recreational haven for local outdoor enthusiasts.

Named after Forestry Dean George Peavy, the arboretum was created in 1926 as “an outdoor laboratory in which experiments with various tree species and silvicultural practices could be conducted.” The Civilian Conservation Corps established a base camp there from 1933 to 1942 and built roads, planted trees, established trails, and created Cronemiller Lakes. In 1964, OSU’s College of Forestry took over management of the Arboretum.

Today, the primary goal of Peavy Arboretum and OSU’s College Forests is to provide diverse opportunities for learning, discovery, and dissemination of new knowledge. Faculty and students are encouraged to conduct research on sustainable forest management and ecosystem interactions. Carol Carlson is the Business Manager for OSU’s College Forests and has worked with the College of Forestry for over 13 years. “There used to be 11 staff members working in our offices here at the arboretum, but now it’s down to just four of us due to budget cuts,” Carlson said. “It is a very peaceful environment to work in, nestled in the trees.”

To locals, Peavy is known as a tranquil, sylvan retreat with wonderful trails. Many hikers, runners, mountain bikers, and horseback riders enjoy the trails on a regular basis. These trails are maintained by the OSU trail crew with help from volunteers within the community.

Two landmarks located in Peavy are the Forestry Club Cabin and “Big Wheels.” The cabin was first constructed in 1925 by student labor and the Forestry Club regularly met there. That structure burned to the ground after a fraternity



Paul Schlegelmann

Top: The Forestry Club Cabin with the “Big Wheels” used to haul logs and drawn by teams of oxen.

Above: On her horse Cruiser, Marilyn Bunnell is enjoying a peaceful autumn ride along the forested trails of the Arboretum.

Peavy Arboretum
 NW Peavy Arboretum Rd, Corvallis
 (541)737-6702

dance in 1949 and was quickly rebuilt on the same site and has been used regularly since.

Loggers used “Big Wheels,” such as the one located next to the cabin, to haul large logs using teams of oxen or horses to pull it. “Big Wheels” is over 23 feet long, almost 10 feet tall, and over nine feet wide – truly some big wheels!

If you’re looking for a way to reduce the stress from too much studying or work, stop by Peavy Arboretum for a relaxing stroll along one of the many forested trails. A map and tree species list are available at the arboretum’s web site www.cof.orst.edu/cf/forests/arboretum/



Sophomore Emily Buchheit studies for her classes while icing her shoulder.

Alyssa Archer

Long Days and Longer Nights

Balancing Sports, Classes, and a Social Life

Scott Landgren
Staff Writer

When you are an athlete at the collegiate level and it's your sports season, it's all about long days of class and practice, and sometimes even longer nights to study for that big history test tomorrow.

Student athletes have so much on their plate that it really makes you wonder how they have time to do everything they have to get done. Early morning classes, then practice for a few hours, some have a job or try to see their friends for a bit, then it's off to do homework and study.

"It is all about time management. During volleyball season I don't work and I also have no social life," said sophomore Emily Buchheit, who is a captain on the volleyball team at LBCC.

Being able to manage time is a skill every college student needs, but that goes double if you are a college athlete because of the added stuff you must get done.

Team members said they have to be done with classes by 1 p.m. so they can have time for practices or games. That got me thinking: each player takes full credits and they have to be done before 1 p.m., so that means a very early start time for classes, and classes that are back-to-back, which can be hard for anyone.

"I don't sit still during the season. My planner is my best friend during volleyball season," said sophomore Amy Trower.

Trower said she uses colors to keep track of what is what in her planner. Yellow is for volleyball, pink for tests and green for homework due dates.

One thing that everyone on the team does is called a "study table." Every Monday from 4-6



The volleyball team gathers in the library for a study session.

Alyssa Archer

p.m., the volleyball team has a room in the Learning Center where they can go and study and work without outside distractions. They can get help from an instructor there, but what really benefits the women is being able to help each other with the subjects that they are strong in.

"It really helps that two hours we can just focus on school and nothing else," said sophomore Kristina Crivello.

Each player had a different system for getting work done while on road trips. Some said they had to do it before the trip because of how tired they would be after the matches, while others said they could do it on the road trips.

Any way you look at it, college athletes have a lot on their plate. Balancing school work with practices, games, and long road trips keeps everyone on their toes. Some even add to that by working or trying to stay in touch with family and friends.

The women on the volleyball team want to do well in school just like the rest of us. But they have the added pressure of playing a sport and keeping their grades up which can make for some long days, and even longer nights.

Roadrunners Score Pair of Road Wins

Scott Landgren
Staff Writer

Last weekend the Linn-Benton volleyball team was on the road and they won a pair of Southern Region league matches. On Friday they won at Umpqua Community College and on Saturday the win was at Southwestern Oregon Community College.

Friday night, LBCC played one of the best matches of the season when they beat Umpqua. They played strong in every game and ended up claiming the match in three games. The scores of the games were: 25-15, 25-11 and 25-14.

"We had good passing and good hitting; we were really strong on the blocks," said freshmen outside hitter Lacy Wood.

LBCC was led by freshmen Julianna Evola who had 9 kills, while sophomore Kristina Crivello added 8 kills. Evola also led the team with 16 assists. Sophomore Amanda Berry had 13 kills.

On Saturday night the team traveled to Coos Bay to take on SWOCC. LBCC continued to play strong and ended up taking the match in four games. The scores of the game were: 25-19, 21-25, 25-22, and 25-17. The games were closer, but LBCC fought hard to pull it out in the end.

"The team really came together. We lost the second game then our team got together and came out strong the other two games," said sophomore Ellen Calderon.

In the match, Wood led the way with 12 kills, but Evola and Crivello were close behind with 11 kills to add to the team total of 51 kills. Evola also led the team in 26 assists and 10 digs.

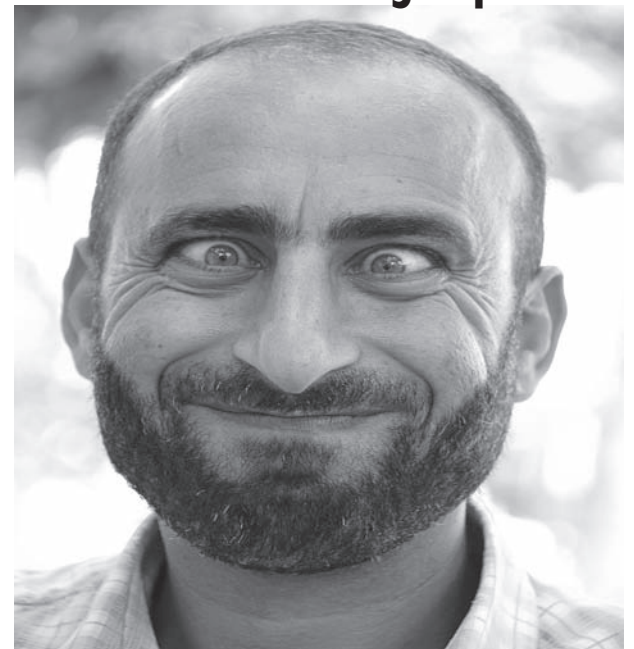
With the pair of wins, LBCC's record now stands at 24-14 overall, and they are currently in third place in the Southern Region with a record of 6-3.

LBCC will return home to host Clackamas Community College on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. That is the final regular season game of the season. If LBCC wins and Chemeketa loses to Mt. Hood, then LBCC would finish 2nd in the Southern Region. If not, LBCC would finish 3rd.

"We are right where we had hoped we would be, in position to get second in our region. We have to come out and bring our best on Wednesday night," said head coach Jayme Frazier.

Can't make it to the game? You can stream the game at: www.ustream.tv/channel/ballot-measure. That is the correct link; they could not change it to say volleyball. The stream of the game starts at 6:50 p.m.

The Commuter
Your Source for News and Events at LBCC
Advertising Department



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Bo-Mack's is BBQ Done Right

Maggie O'Reilly
Head Cartoonist

Barbecue is somewhat underrepresented in the Willamette Valley, and very few restaurants offer this decidedly southern delight, so when the Commuter team visited Bo-Mack's BBQ in Albany, the big question on everyone's mind was: Does Bo-Mack's deliver on their promise of "Once you Bo-Mack, you won't go back?" The answer is a tentative yes.

The dinner started off with a generous portion of cornbread, served with a whipped honeyed butter. The bread was sweet and moist, and the butter only enhanced the sweet flavor.

So what was for dinner? We had our choice of any meat on the menu for the sandwiches, and the juicy pulled pork became one of our favorites. Bo-Mack's also packed a punch with their brisket sandwich - a massive beef marvel complete with baked beans and garlic mashed potatoes.

Choices of sides include mac and cheese, hush puppies, fries, baked beans and the Oh-So-Southern sweet coleslaw. Speaking of Southern, Bo-Mack's features authentic Southern sweet tea, diabetics beware!



Pulled pork sandwich with BBQ sauce and a side of Mac 'n Cheese.

Ashley Christie

Healthy options are also available, including a "Lite Order" of the pulled pork for those not interested in a gut-busting fare, and even a tofu Caesar salad.

For dessert we tried the strawberry shortcake and a chocolate "Brownie Eruption." Both were mountainous servings of ice cream heaven.

The experience as a whole was bittersweet. Although the food was great, the building was almost empty when we sat down and the only music came

from a radio playing Christian rock that was pointed toward the kitchen, as if it was meant more for the staff than the customers.

Our waitress was very prompt and friendly, but had to apologize for the pesky flies that kept whooshing around our heads. It wasn't the most comfortable experience, but I suppose the question is, "How far are you willing to go for awesome BBQ?"

What's convenient is that you

Bo-Mack's BBQ
119 1st Ave, Albany
(541)791-7058
www.bo-mack.com

Hours:
Wednesday - Saturday
11 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Price Range:
\$7.50-\$14.50

don't even have to sit down to indulge in Bo-Mack's menu, they offer To-Go service, online orders, and even have a catering service.

Would I give Bo-Mack's another try? Definitely, and I recommend this restaurant to any true BBQ lovers pining for down home cooking in the Valley.

Friday, November 12, 2010

10-10:50 a.m.: Scenes from *Julius Caesar*.

Noon-12:50 p.m.: Scenes from Shakespeare and other authors.

Afternoon: Acting Workshop limited to 36 students.

Forum 104 on LBCC Campus: Two actors from OSF, Terri McMahon and David Kelly, will be performing two one hour presentations.

For more information: Peter Jensen, 541-917-4283 (NSH - 213)



ALL KINDS OF BOOKS CD'S AND DVD'S

BOOK SALE

Linn County Fairgrounds
Expo Ctr.
3700 Kover Drive Rd. E. in Albany
Friday November 12
9 am to 7 pm
Saturday November 13
9 am to 5 pm
Friends of the Library

by Michelle Strong

PURE Romance™
Call 541 990 9922

Holiday Bazaar:
Sunday, Nov 14th and Sunday, Dec 12th
Where: Koe Kuum of Beppens and Periwinkle Circle

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119 1st Ave Albany, OR 97321
www.michellestrong.com



“Due Date” Crashes and Burns

Ashley Christie
Page Designer

Todd Phillips is back with a new road trip comedy starring Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis. Along the way, the pair encounters all sorts of wackiness including car crashes, fist fights, a stolen federale car, and a rush to get back before the big day.

Sound familiar?

That’s probably because you saw it last summer when it was called “The Hangover,” and it was funny.

Peter Highman (Downey Jr.) is an uptight architect trying to get home to Los Angeles before his very pregnant wife goes into labor. At the airport, Peter has the misfortune of sitting next to aspiring actor Ethan Trembly (Galifianakis).

When the two get into a minor argument over whether or not Peter is a terrorist because he won’t turn off his cell phone the pair are kicked off the flight and put on the No Fly List.

At the car rental agency Peter realizes that he left his wallet, along with his credit cards and ID, on the plane. Peter is forced to accept an offer from Trembly to ride with him and his French Bulldog Sonny. Chaos ensues on the open road and the total opposites find themselves forming a friendship while experiencing some unimaginable and improbable situations.

On paper, this movie had everything going for it. First off, it’s a road movie, which are always fun. Then you have Todd Phillips directing, who has proven himself with previous hits “Old School,” “Starsky and Hutch,” and “The Hangover.” There’s Robert Downey



brilliant, as usual, and almost makes you forget you’re watching a total piece of crap. He has great comedic timing and gives his Type-A Peter heart so you don’t care that he’s a total jerk and spits in Sonny’s face. (Yes, he spits in the dogs face and I still love him.) Galifianakis is strong as a foil to Peter’s perfect life of structure and order. He’s zany and over-the-top, in a way that I’m not tired of quite yet.

All in all, “Due Date” has a couple of funny moments, but not enough. With its cast and credentials, this movie should have been a lot better. It should have been a lot funnier; it just wasn’t.

Jr. starring, who can do no wrong as far as I’m concerned, and Zach Galifianakis, who is always good for a few awkward moments and uncomfortable laughs. Plus, there are cameos from Jamie Foxx, Juliette Lewis, and Danny McBride.

I don’t know what went wrong. This is definitely a movie where the whole does not equal the sum of its parts.

Perhaps Phillips was trying too hard to recreate the absurd moments from “The Hangover.” The problem with that is that those implausible events, in the context of Las Vegas, seem entirely possible. They kidnapped a naked Chinese man and forgot they put him in the trunk of their car? Okay, I buy that, it’s Vegas Baby!

But here, they end up at a Mexican border crossing because they mistake the “Mexico” sign for a “Texaco” sign? Really? They’re on their way from Atlanta to LA and just left Dallas, how did they get to the border?

The cast does a terrific job with an unfunny, mediocre script. Downey Jr. is

10 Great Road Trip Movies

- Easy Rider (1969)
- National Lampoon’s Vacation (1983)
- Pee Wee’s Big Adventure (1985)
- Planes, Trains, and Automobiles (1987)
- Thelma & Louise (1991)
- Tommy Boy (1995)
- Almost Famous (2000)
- The Sweetest Thing (2002)
- Little Miss Sunshine (2006)
- Away We Go (2009)

redbox review

Toy Story 3 (Rated G, Runtime 103 min.)

Ashley Christie
Page Designer

We’ve all wondered what our toys do when we leave the room but never had an answer until Disney and Pixar teamed up and created the original “Toy Story” back in 1995. Can you believe it’s been 15 years since we first met Woody, Buzz, and the rest of the toy box?

Now, in “Toy Story 3,” Andy is all grown up and heading off to college. He packs up all his old toys for the attic, but it mistakenly gets dropped off at a daycare center instead.

At first, it seems like the happiest place on Earth. Rex, the Potato Heads, and everyone else haven’t been played with in years and they’re excited to be wanted again. But some toys just weren’t meant for the three and under crowd.

Their perfect utopia turns into a cruel dictatorship lead by the meanest toy of them all ... Lots-o-Huggin’ Bear, a pink, strawberry-scented teddy. The gang has to escape and get back to Andy, before he leaves for school.



“Toy Story 3” is everything you want it to be and more. The first one was brilliant and the animation was way ahead of its time. The sequel did something almost unheard of in the movie world, be better than the original. And this chapter doesn’t disappoint either.

All the characters you fell in love with before are back and all are voiced by the same actors that made them famous in the first

place. (With the exception of Slinky Dog, Jim Varney died in 2000 and Blake Clarke steps in seamlessly.)

As it is in all Pixar films, the animation is top-notch. I still don’t understand all this hoopla about 3-D when 2-D can look just as amazing. And be on the lookout for hidden Easter eggs throughout the film like “Cars” and “Finding Nemo” toys, Buy n Large batteries, the return of Sid as the garbage man, and many, MANY more.

The best thing about “Toy Story 3” is the story. It’s engaging, heartwarming, and has an ending so sweet and touching, the coldest bastard will shed a tear.



LAST CALL

BEER REVIEW

New Belgium Trippel

Jeb Oliver
Staff Writer

New Belgium makes some of my favorite beer, from 2° Below, found in last weeks article, to the Ranger I.P.A. I just love the beer they come out with. Its always high quality and tastes like heaven.

This week I found a new favorite the Trippel Belgium Style Ale. This beer taste just like the good beer I found on my adventure in Holland this past summer, and it is a true Belgium ale.

According to New Belgium’s website, the beer is brewed with three different hops: Saaz, Liberty, and Target. As well as three types of malt: Pale, Munich, and Victory. The beer also has one of the longest fermenting times of any one of the Belgium style ales. Since it is a tripel, this really brings out some great rich flavors. This is were the name “Trippel” comes from.

This beer has many complex tastes and is an ale by name, but since it is brewed with coriander and so many different hops and malts, it just is a run with the palette.

This beer tastes great after a nice long day of riding around on my Electra Amsterdam original bike, enjoying these last few nice November days. It brings back memories of Europe, and that is never a bad thing.

As I’ve said, New Belgium makes great beer and if you want something that goes well with poultry or just something to refresh yourself, this one is tops.

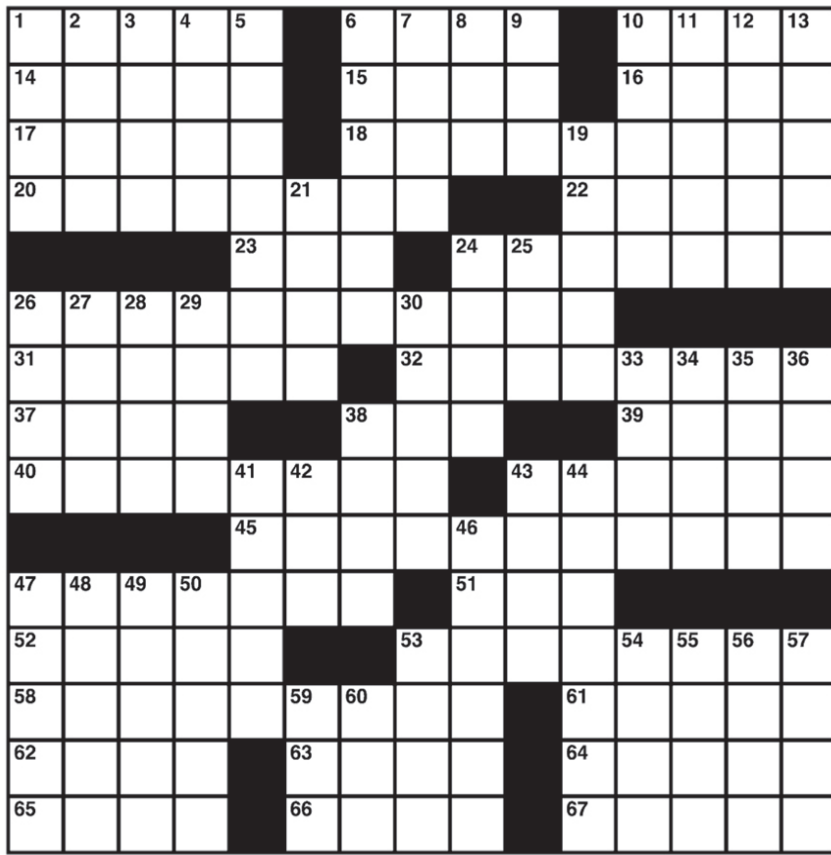
Now I’m usually a dark beer lover, but I would recommend this beer to anyone who shies away from the darker, thicker motor oil beers. Its still got rich, complex taste, a great floral note, and the taste one looks for in good ales. Enjoy people and drink responsibly.



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Sirs' counterparts
 - "Fernando" singers
 - Endure
 - Have ___ on one's shoulder
 - Defeat soundly
 - Sailor's patron saint
 - Another name for Farsi
 - *Undeveloped home site
 - Slangy "Don't lose any sleep over it"
 - Overdo it on stage
 - W. Hemisphere gp. formed to defend against communism
 - Made changes to
 - *1977 Triple Crown winner
 - Tell-all news story
 - One just hanging out
 - Antiquing substance
 - Heartache
 - Pouty expression
 - Evade
 - A ___: valid independent of experience, in logic
 - *2,240-pound unit
 - Handyman's nickname
 - Poetic dusk
 - Windy City airport
 - At risk
 - *Huck Finn conveyance
 - Neighbor of Florida's St. Petersburg
 - Shortly, to Shakespeare
 - Vaulted church part
 - Writer Nin
 - Wisdom of the elders
 - Cattle rancher's tool
 - The answer to each starred clue ends in a big one



By Bruce Venzke

- DOWN**
- Everystreet
 - Prefix with bat or phobia
 - Obsessed fictional whaler
 - Revealing skirt
 - Urn taps
 - Give counsel to
 - Highlands hillside
 - 61-Across NFLer
 - Lawyers' org.
 - "Here, I'll do that"
 - "It's ___ nothing!"
 - Hit, biblical-style
 - Schlepped
 - Meas. of a package's contents
 - It's not quite a hurricane
 - Medicinal plant
 - Luau memento
 - Aegean and Bering
 - Military vet
 - Imitated
 - Ripped
 - Hillside
 - Jannings of old films
 - Underlying cause
 - Continental currency

Last Week's Puzzle Solved



(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- Harness lead
- Cried
- Philly cager
- 1979 meltdown site, briefly
- Like the Piper's clothes
- Drank on credit
- Like many a tux
- Story's lesson
- Horned safari beast
- Party gift
- "I'll see you in my dreams" girl of song
- Should that be the case
- When repeated, Mork's sign-off
- FBI agent
- Grand in scope
- Impulsive
- Knock
- Month after Mar.

Classifieds

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

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

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

Libel/Taste: The Commuter will not knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfair manner. Any advertisement judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Help Wanted

See *Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101)* or see our website at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment. LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

Accounting Intern (#8552, Albany) If you are an accounting sophomore and going for a 4-year degree, this is the job for you! On-the-job experience and pay is \$12-15/hr DOE!

Web Designer (#8546, Albany) This 5-10 hrs/week job is a volunteer job, but could be good

experience and you are working on the Operation Homefront Oregon web page helping our soldiers.

Administrative Assistant (#8559, Corvallis) Do you have experience and office skills? This part-time job may be the perfect fit for you!

CNAs/Caregivers (#8562, Corvallis) There are various hours and lengths of shifts for those who want to provide quality assistance for our clients.

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.

Do you know where this picture was taken?



Tony Brown



Answers must be e-mailed to commuter@linnbenton.edu by 8 a.m. the following Monday. One winner will be drawn from correct entries each week and will win a prize.

Last Week's Answer: A sign post in the courtyard.

Last Week's Winner: Sorry, no winners this time.

Where on Campus Am I?

Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

1		3		8				2
	9							
5				2	7			3
3							1	6
	5		2	6			9	
9	7							
			3	7				1
							2	
6				9		3		5

Last Week's Puzzle Solved

2	5	7	1	9	3	6	4	8
8	6	1	4	7	5	9	2	3
4	9	3	6	8	2	7	5	1
6	4	5	7	2	1	8	3	9
1	3	2	8	6	9	4	7	5
9	7	8	3	5	4	2	1	6
3	1	6	9	4	7	5	8	2
5	8	4	2	1	6	3	9	7
7	2	9	5	3	8	1	6	4

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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HOROSCOPES

Your weekly guide to the Zodiac

ARIES

3/21-4/19

You're number one, mighty Aries - Never forget! When you wake up in the morning, tell that charmer in the mirror just how great they are. Don't forget the pistol-wink; that's important.

TAURUS

4/20-5/20

I'm not going to tell you what you may or may not be doing this week. It's just that you hate to be pushed around, so you just do whatever it is you're doing, okay?

GEMINI

5/21-6/21

If I ask you how your day is going, please don't rage on me about how I'm a jerk for assuming you need help. You looked so friendly only moments before!

CANCER

6/22-7/22

You'll fall in love with someone you pass on your way to class - again. You'll just happen to start hanging out in all the same places as them - again. There will be a restraining order - again.

LEO

7/23-8/22

You think you're soo great, don't you? You're just jealous that Aries is number one! I can read you like a book, Leo...

VIRGO

8/23-9/22

Ah, the lovely Virgo. We meet again. If the whole world was in a thunder storm, rays of sunlight would still follow your every move. You worry too much!

LIBRA

9/23-10/23

You try so hard to keep the balance, but sometimes that effort only agitates a situation. Take your hands off the wheel and enjoy the ride this week.

SCORPIO

10/24-11/21

You've a nice tail, but it can be so venomous! Just because your honey is talking to someone else, it doesn't mean they're cheating or in love.

SAGITTARIUS

11/22-12/21

It's rainy and cold, but all you want to do is get outside. Do it! Heck, get on a boat and go sailing - you are free!

CAPRICORN

12/22-1/19

You're as professional as they come, sharp and efficient. I'm so glad you're not an assassin!

AQUARIUS

1/20-2/18

It's time to step onto your soapbox and champion the cause that's been festering inside you! You're an idealist, so you'll feel you're best if you stand up and fight.

PISCES

2/19-3/20

Dim the lights and play some soulful music. Relax with some solo time to just ponder and smile. This is your zen week.

THE COMMUTER STAFF

The Commuter is the weekly student-run newspaper for LBCC, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty and Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors.

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

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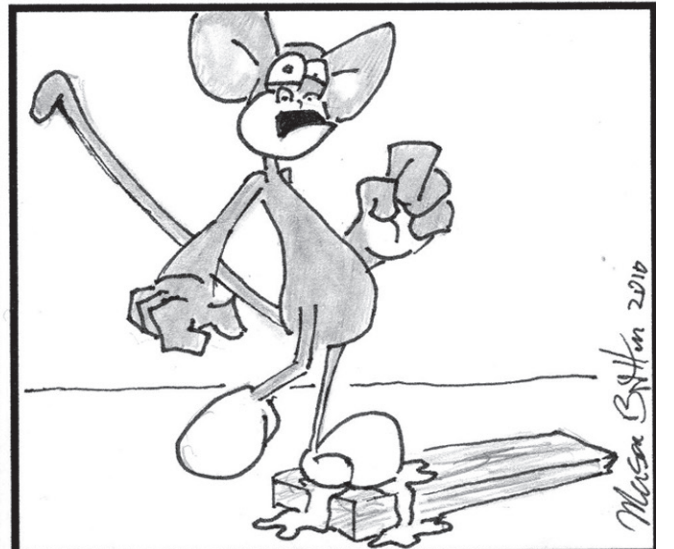
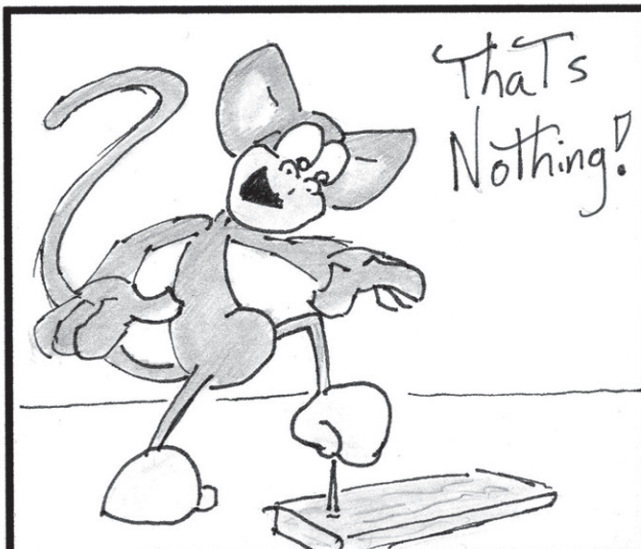
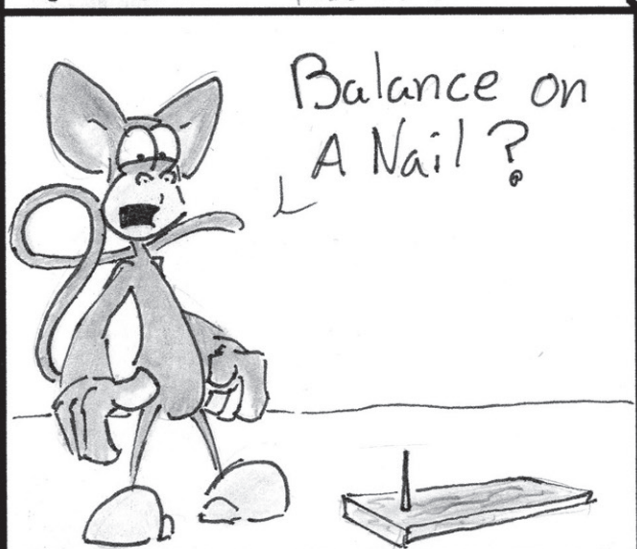
Fax: 541- 917-4454

Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd. Albany, OR 97321

Fried Bananas

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Mason Britton



Coming Attractions

Unstoppable

Denzel Washington and Chris Pine are stuck on a runaway train carrying enough combustible liquid and poisonous gases to wipe out the entire city. It's up to them, and Rosario Dawson, to stop the train and save the city.

Rated: PG-13

Runtime: 98 min.

Genre: Action Thriller



Morning Glory

Becky Fuller (Rachel McAdams) is young TV producer recently hired to save a struggling morning talk show with quarreling co-hosts (Harrison Ford and Diane Keaton). Also stars: Patrick Wilson, Jeff Goldblum, and 50 Cent.

Rated: PG-13

Runtime: 102 min.

Genre: Comedy

Skyline

One day, strange lights appear over Los Angeles and millions flock to the city to catch a glimpse of the phenomenon. But the lights are an extraterrestrial force that threatens to destroy the world. Starring Donald Faison and Eric Balfour.

Rated: PG-13

Runtime: 92 min.

Genre: Sci-Fi



Sources: [Imdb](http://imdb.com), [Yahoo! Movies](http://Yahoo!Movies.com), Fandango.com

“Megamind” is Mega Fun

Marci Sischo
 Webmaster

What happens when the bad guy wins? Awesomeness, that's what.

Will Ferrell plays Megamind, a supervillain with brains, style, and a massive budget, clinched in an epic good vs. evil battle with his super hero nemesis, Metro Man, voiced by Brad Pitt. Megamind seeks to conquer Metro City, and only Metro Man can stop him... Until one day, Megamind gets lucky, and wins.

Megamind is hilarious and smart, just as much fun for adults as it is for the kids. The plot, while not unpredictable, features some clever twists, and has a great time poking holes in all the standard comic book cliches. Both Megamind and Metro Man hail from alien planets, swallowed by the same black hole, and both characters were jettisoned from their planets, last surviving sons a la Superman. Both consume the attention of feisty news reporter Roxanne Ritchi – played to perfection by Tina Fey.

The movie slyly lampoons Superman tropes: Roxanne is bored to tears when she's kidnapped by Megamind for the umpteenth millionth time. Our Superman stand-in himself, Metro

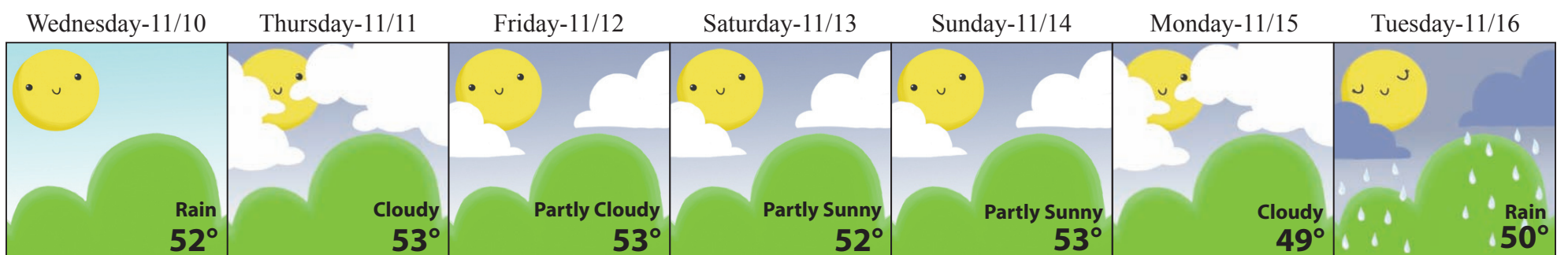
Man, works his adoring crowd of fans like a rockstar, borrowing more from Mystery Men's Captain Amazing than the Man of Steel.

But our villain? Our villain is all style. He has the best entrances since the Monarch, and seriously, if more villains lived life to a cheesy '80s rock soundtrack, complete with laser light shows, we'd all give up on the heroes. He also has the best henchmen: meet Minion, a gorilla robot with a talking fish for a head that rides an evil Segue. Voiced by David Cross, Minion puts all other Number One Henchmen – with the possible exceptions of 21 or Shogo – in the shade. Minion is backed up by squadrons of floating Brainbots, and if I can't have an evil Segue for Christmas, then I want some of those.

There's more than goofy cartoon violence and cliché-popping to Megamind, though. This movie sneaks some interesting questions about good and evil into its plot, tackling the gray areas of morality in a subtle and entertaining way you won't often find in a kids' movie. Load up the family this weekend and head down to your local cinema. This is one over-the-top actionfest you'll definitely want to see on a big screen!



Weekly Weather Predictions



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