

THE COMMUTER

Your Community Compass

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Get Your Study Jam On!

Amanda Hayden
Copy Editor

Why stay home to cram in that last piece of information that you know you won't remember for your stack of tests next week? Join the other students who need that last-minute refresher, and maybe everyone can benefit from each other.

LBCC's quarterly Study Jam is almost here, and all students are encouraged to "Come get your study on!"

Every term on the weekend before finals, students have this great opportunity. March 17-18, the main LBCC campus will be opening the Learning Center (only Saturday, for the Benton

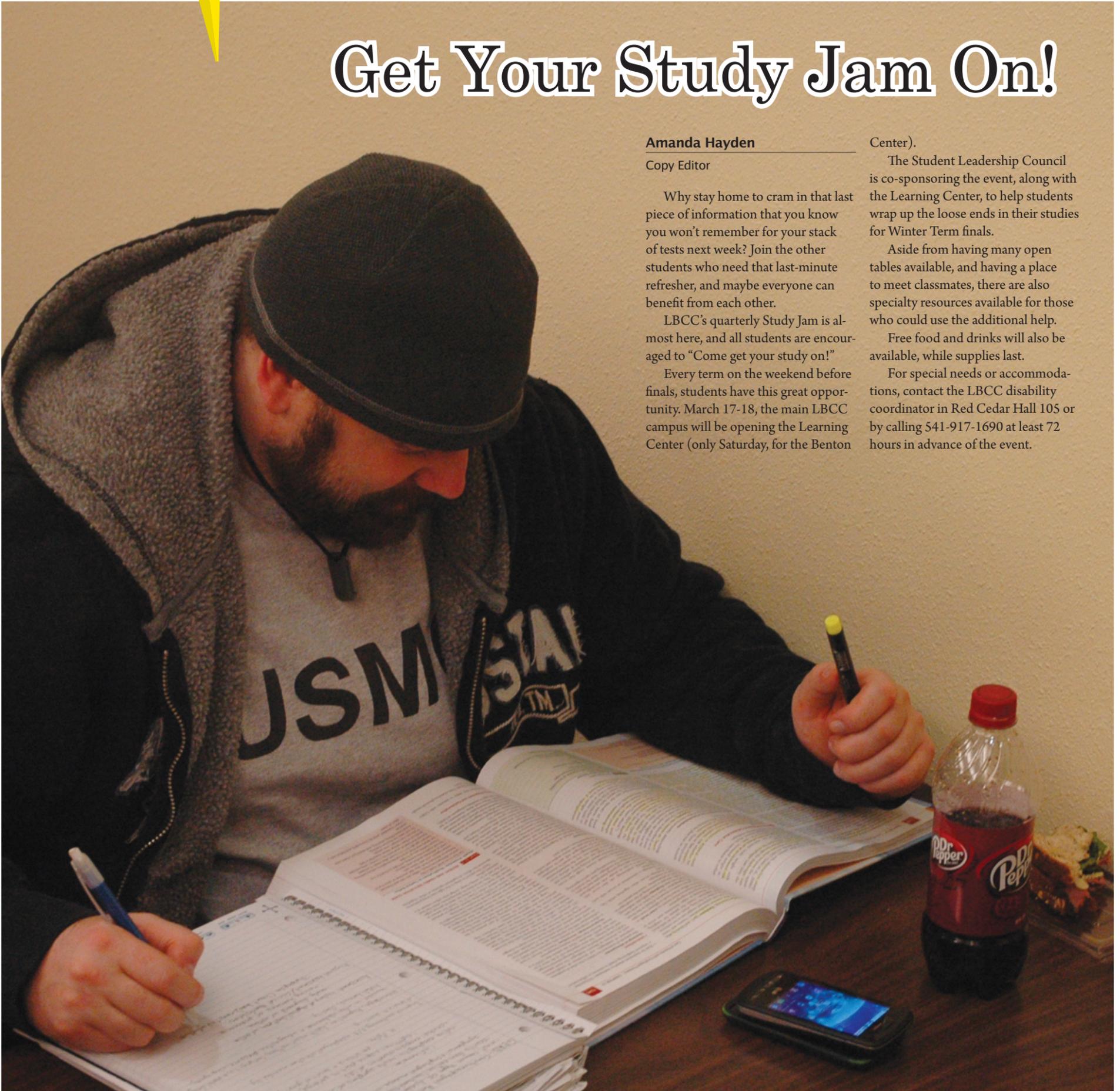
Center).

The Student Leadership Council is co-sponsoring the event, along with the Learning Center, to help students wrap up the loose ends in their studies for Winter Term finals.

Aside from having many open tables available, and having a place to meet classmates, there are also specialty resources available for those who could use the additional help.

Free food and drinks will also be available, while supplies last.

For special needs or accommodations, contact the LBCC disability coordinator in Red Cedar Hall 105 or by calling 541-917-1690 at least 72 hours in advance of the event.



 THE COMMUTER
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 LBCC COMMUTER

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Wednesday(3/14)



Precipitation
51°/43°

Thursday(3/15)



Rain
54°/42°

Friday(3/16)



Wind & Water
54°/40°

Saturday(3/17)



Showers
50°/35°

Sunday(3/18)



Clouds Crying
48°/33°

Monday(3/19)



Sun?
50°/36°

Tuesday(3/20)



Cloudage
55°/35°



WEATHER

Source: accuweather.com

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News Editor:
Justeen Elliott

Sports Editor:
Kyle Holland

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**Newspaper Distribution
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Cover by:
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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



The Commuter

@lbcommuter



LBCC Commuter

Web Address:
commuter.linnbenton.edu

Phone:
541-917-4451, 4452 or 4453

Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd.
Albany, OR 97321

Waste Audit Tests LBCC's Dedication to Recycling

Justeen Elliott
News Editor

The LBCC Green Club has just completed its second full term. To help support the recycling program, the bookstore has been selling merchandise, such as T-shirts, hoodies, water bottles and lanyards. Since September, they have sold \$2,915 in merchandise, with a profit of \$1,422.

"We are discussing right now, how we want to expand the merchandise selection, and maybe get a little more creative with the clothing designs as we build the brand and move towards second-generation merchandise," said Lawrence LaJoie, LBCC Bookstore manager. "The great thing right now is that the merchandise is simple yet unique, and universal to everyone."

Throughout the Albany campus, there are four recycling locations -- the Courtyard Cafe, the front and back of Takena, and the bookstore courtyard -- with plans for two more locations Spring Term. In order to run each station, the cost is \$300 for each term.

The recycling program has been successful the last two terms, according to LaJoie.

"We plan on continuing this program for the foreseeable future, to cover all campuses with stations, estimating we need a total of approximately 30 stations. After that, we'll focus on internal areas of campus as well, getting more concentrated in workspaces and classrooms."

The response from students and staff has been very supportive, and along with the bookstore's efforts,

they will be able to add more bins each year.

The blue recycle bins in the main building hallways are placed, and taken care of, by college facilities and janitorial staff. They are well marked for what goes in them.

The new set of recycle bins that the bookstore has purchased from sales of their "green" merchandise will look different than the hallway bins. They will serve the outside areas, such as the Courtyard, the bookstore atrium, and in front of Takena Hall. They will include a bin for composting food items, biodegradable food, and coffee drink containers from food services on campus.

"The issue has been education. Since we have new students coming in each term, we are always looking for ways to let new students know how to recycle and what can be recycled and composted on campus," said Lori Fluge-Brunker, master recycler and a member of the Sustainability

Committee.

"We do often find trash in the recycle bins, which can cause the recycling to be treated, in essence, as trash. So educating people about recycling is important."

To help bring awareness to recycling on campus, the Green Club hosted a "Know What You Throw" recycling table during fall term, to answer recycling questions.

Along with that event, the Green Club hosted a "waste audit," where they collected trash from around campus. They then sorted and weighed the trash, to see how much was actually garbage and how much could have been recycled or composted. This was held Tuesday, March 13, at 1 p.m. and made visible to students and staff in the courtyard.

The verdict? Most students and staff are interested in recycling (doing it right), it's just a matter of making it easy and clear for them to do.



Justeen Elliott

Anthropology major Jenna Sukle helps Kevin Lacey, associate director of facilities, sort through garbage in the courtyard on Tuesday, March 13, for the "waste audit," hosted by the LBCC Green Club.

LBCC Student Nominated for All-Oregon Academic Team

Justeen Elliott
News Editor

Albany resident Anthony Hewson, 41, has been nominated for the 2012 Oregon Community College Association All-Oregon Academic Team. Hewson will be representing LBCC.

Hewson will be honored, along with students nominated from Oregon's 16 other community colleges, at a luncheon with the governor in April. During the luncheon, Hewson will be honored with a plaque from the OCCA and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the university he plans to attend after graduating from LBCC.

The OCCA represents the 17 publicly chartered community colleges and their locally elected board members, as well as the interests of the faculty, staff, administration, and nearly 350,000 students in those colleges.

The OCCA was founded in 1962. OCCA is governed by a 34-member board of directors that includes each president and one board member from each of the 17 colleges. The board member representatives are chosen by their local boards and they, along with the presidents, elect the association's Executive Committee to provide OCCA leadership.

Phi Theta Kappa is in partnership with the OCCA and helps recognize outstanding students from Oregon's community colleges yearly. Phi Theta Kappa is the International Honor Society of two-year colleges and universities. Their chapter name is Alpha Tau Upsilon and inducts more than 150 members per year.

Commuter: How did you hear about

this award and how long did it take to hear back that you will be receiving this award?

Anthony Hewson: I heard about the award from Dave Becker, advisor for Phi Theta Kappa. It was a two-month wait. There was an application and transcript request with a following transcript request after Fall Term. In the end I received a notification e-mail from the office of the OCCA.

C: What did you have to do to be eligible for this award?

A.H.: The qualifications are really vague. I can tell you it was about a 15-page application, a grade-point average of 3.5 and some form of community service. I was a coach for Pop Warner Football, a former member of the Navy

C: How long have you been a member of Phi Theta Kappa?

A.H.: I have only been a member for a couple of months to Phi Theta Kappa. It was an honor to receive an invitation and even a greater honor to represent the school at the OCCA ceremonies.

C: How many terms do you have left at LBCC?

A.H.: This is my last term at LBCC. I am currently dual-enrolled and started taking courses at Oregon State this term.

C: What are you passionate about?
A.H.: My passions ... Academically I am very interested in network and Internet security. Socially I am into my family. I have a wife and four children.

THE COMMONS FARE

MENU FOR THE WEEK OF:
3/14 - 3/20

Wednesday: Chef's Choice

Thursday: Chef's Choice

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Chef's Choice

Tuesday: Chef's Choice

RoadRunners Baseball Up to Bat Spring Term

Alan Boone
Contributing Writer

Head coach Greg Hawk is leading a strong team for the 2012 season. With 14 returning sophomores and seven starters, Hawk says, "We have an enthusiastic, determined group of players."

Although winning is the primary objective, that's not always what it's about.

"Number one: Help the team grow as individuals, and help them learn lessons and disciplines that will allow them to strive on and off the field."

They would like to have a long-running season and make it to the playoffs this year. With the cooperation and interactions on the field during practices this last week, they should be able to

get there.

Third-year assistant coach Greg McCarthy, and second-year pitching coach Ryan Godfrey are also helping the team fine-tune their abilities, offensively and defensively.

"Designated hitter Shawn Curry was a big surprise in the first couple meets. He started batting ninth and moved up to fourth by the next game, hitting seven RBI's," said McCarthy.

Some challenging matchups this year will be against Mt. Hood, Portland, Vancouver, and the Metro area teams. Those teams carry big traditions and values, with a sizeable stadium to house all of their fans.

Mt. Hood was the 2011 Oregon state champion, with the majority of that team returning this year. The RoadRunners won the title in 2008,

and they aspire to meet that goal again.

Some key players to look out for are freshmen Garret Miller and Shawn Curry. "It was kind of ironic," Godfrey said about the game against Centralia. "We threw Miller out there, but he said he wasn't feeling that great. He was a bit nervous and feeling a little dizzy. We told him to relax, stay in control, and he ended up throwing a no-hitter!"

"We almost lost it in the ninth, but Logan Henry made an incredible diving catch to save the no-hitter, ending the game."

Please show your support this year and root for your RoadRunners! Stop by the Activities Center (AC) building and pick up a schedule. Go RoadRunners!!



"Pokémon" Hits Milestone 15th Season Jackpot

Steven Pryor
Contributing Writer

"Pokémon" has always been a favorite of mine. Even when there was that brief period where I stopped watching the anime (it is one of those fickle traits kids have); I stayed with the video games consistently. Even after 15 years, "Pokémon" is as popular as ever. I started watching the anime again and was overjoyed with it; having seen close to every episode.

Having logged over 120 hours into my DS cards of "Pokémon Black and White Versions," I was ecstatic to see the show return this past February with its milestone 15th season, "Pokémon BW Rival Destinies."

Continuing the "Best Wishes" adaptation; this new season follows the adventures of Ash (voice of Sarah Natochenny), Pikachu (voice of Ikue Ohtani), Iris (voice of Eileen Stevens) and Cilan (voice of Jason Griffiths) in the Unova region; which is based off New York and the surrounding areas.

Based on the first three episodes, my outlook for this season is positive. We have already featured a character development episode for side character Bianca, a gym battle with the beautiful leader Elesa; and a slow,



but enjoyable, episode involving a stamp collecting journey to fight the Battle Subway Masters, Ingo and Emmett.

The "clean slate" approach from the last season is still intact. The "Best Wishes" series is clearly invoking nostalgia for the original Indigo League season to bank on the older fanbase.

The animation is some of the best I have seen in a series of its type. Colors are all around, environments shimmer with a high-gloss sheen; and humans and Pokémon alike move the most fluidly ever in the 15 years this show has been on the air.

The Pokémon Company International voice actors have finally grown to fill the shoes left when 4Kids' license to the show lapsed. There are many personality types to enjoy in primary and secondary characters.

Overall, "Pokémon BW Rival Destinies" looks to build on the success "Pokémon Black and White" had for taking a new approach to the series. I recommend it with the utmost sincerity.

Strong Finish Puts OSU in Postseason

Kyle Holland
Sports Editor

The Oregon State men's basketball team salvaged an up and down season last week. They had a strong run in the Pacific Life Pacific-12 Conference Tournament in Los Angeles, earning the Beavers the right to play in some post-season basketball.

The Beavers came into the tournament as the No. 9 seed and faced Washington State, the No. 8 seed in the opening round.

Behind a game-high 19 points by Devon Collier, the Beavers were able to hold off the Cougars for a 69-64 victory. It was Collier's best shooting game of the year, making 7-of-8 field goal attempts to go with 5-of-9 free throw attempts.

Joe Burton added 15 points and Ahmad Starks had 13 points to help the Beavers to victory. Eric Moreland grabbed 12 rebounds to go along with his nine points setting the Oregon State freshman rebounding record with 205, passing Lonnie Shelton who

had 204 in 1973-74.

This victory set up a pivotal matchup against the No. 1 seed Washington Huskies.

No team that seeded ninth had ever knocked off a No. 1 seed in the history of the Pacific Life Pac-12 Tournament, and no Oregon State team had ever beat a No. 1 seed regardless of what they were seeded.

Until now.

The Beavers absolutely stunned the heavily favorite Huskies in an 86-84 thriller last Thursday in the quarterfinal matchup.

OSU Coach Craig Robinson said it was "the biggest victory of my basketball career!"

Devon Collier again led the way with 19 points, while Jared Cunningham and Joe Burton each had double-doubles. Cunningham had 18 points, a career high of 10 rebounds and eight assists. Burton was able to score 14 points and 10 rebounds for his fourth career double-double.

The Beavers went on to eventually lose in the semi-finals to the No. 4 seed

Arizona Wildcats, 72-61.

Oregon State led 34-27 at half time, but a 20-3 second half run by the Wildcats put the Beavers away for good ending an amazing tournament run by the Beavers.

The Colorado Buffaloes eventually beat the Wildcats in the final to earn their first ever Pacific Life Pac-12 Tournament title.

The strong end of season play, however, was good enough to earn the team an invite to the College Basketball Invitational presented by Zebra Pen. The Beavers won this tournament back in 2009.

The Beavers will host Western Illinois at 7 p.m. tonight in the opening round.

Student tickets will be free of charge with valid OSU student ID and can be picked up at Gill Coliseum beginning at 5:30 p.m. today. Ticket prices for non-students will be the same as regular season games, \$25 for chair back seats and \$15 for bench seats.

Create the PERFECT SCHEDULE!



Enter to **WIN** a ipod!



Entries accepted from Friday, March 9 at 7 a.m. to Sunday, April 1 at 11:59 p.m.

Use the Student Scheduler tool to create the perfect schedule!

Details at: www.linnbenton.edu/go/scheduler-prize-drawing

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Shawna Thilbert
Contributing Writer

When you witness a jolly man laughing, a real hearty laugh, hands on belly, red faced with tears in his eyes. It brings a smile to your face, or even a laugh, and you may not notice it at the time, but this smile has completely changed your outlook on life, atleast for a little while.

Maybe it made it so that the pile of homework awaiting you at home didn't seem so intimidating. Or, maybe it made you forget the unwanted day's work ahead of you. No matter the situation, the benefits of laughter are more than what meets the eye.

Laughter has many far-reaching benefits. It can improve all areas of your life; the physical, the mental, and the social areas of your life can all benefit from a healthy dose of humor.

"I believe that if people can get more laughter in their lives, they are a lot better off," says Steve Wilson, MA, CSP, a psychologist and laugh therapist. "They might be healthier too."

Laughter is great for the body, a good belly laugh relieves tension and stress from your muscles, leaving them relaxed for up to 45 minutes. It boosts your immune system by decreasing stress hormones and increasing infection-fighting antibodies. Laughter even protects your heart; it improves the function of your blood cells and blood flow, which can decrease your risk of a heart attack

Laughing makes you feel good! That feeling that you get after getting

your jollies off sticks with you. It gives you a different perspective so that you can look at situations more realistically, because humor creates a psychological distance between you and the situation making you feel less overwhelmed.

Humor melts away upsetting emotions. It's hard to feel angry, anxious, or sad when you have a genuine grin on your face.

Laughter is contagious, it's true! Just hearing other people laughing can bring a smile to your face; that's because we are naturally attracted to positive emotions. Group laughter is one of the best tools to strengthen relationships and build group, or one-on-one, bonding. And it can unite people in times of difficulty, after all, laughing with others is more powerful than laughing alone.

The gift of laughter is something that you are born with, it is an innate part of life. Babies begin smiling in the first month of life and are able to laugh out loud well within the first year. Even if you don't consider yourself a naturally funny person, it's not too late, you can learn to laugh at any stage of life.

The best way to learn how to laugh is to smile as often as possible; a smile is the beginning of laughter. Start by not taking yourself too seriously, laugh at the things in life that would ordinarily stress you out, then see how big of a deal they seem.

Some things in life are sad, and clearly no laughing matter, but truth is most events in life fall into a sort of gray zone that makes up your daily life-giving you the choice to laugh, or not.

Politics and Media: Strange Bedfellows

Dale Hummel
Contributing Writer

Strange bedfellows is an interesting term that does not apply to too many things. However, in politics and media, they seem to have a dysfunctional relationship. They seem to dislike each other, yet they can't live or be successful without the existence of the other.

Without politics, the media could be forced to write stories on the birthdays of 100-year-old senior citizens, lost dogs reunited with their owner, or other types of useless human-interest stories. Without the media, politics could not possibly work as it was designed to, as not all people would be heard.

Students and staff of LBCC had the pleasure of listening to Robert Sahr, Hasso Hering, and LBCC's Rob Prieue, on the issues of politics and media. Sahr is a political science instructor at OSU. Hering has been the Albany Democrat-Herald executive editor for over 30 years, and Prieue has been a journalism instructor and advisor to the LBCC Commuter newspaper for about five years.

Sahr said that even though Americans probably have just about the best form of government on Earth. The three things that really mess things up are: politics, special interests groups, and political parties. Sahr claimed that since Wallace in 1968, there have been three third-party candidates who have decided the election, or at least come close to it. Sahr also mentioned a group known as "No Label." This is a group of Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and anyone else who wants the government to improve.

Sahr showed the relationship between the electoral college vote and popular vote. Just because a candidate wins by popular vote, doesn't mean the election has been won. He also mentioned a website called www.americansselect.org, which virtually help Americans pick a president.

americansselect.org, which virtually help Americans pick a president.

Prieue claimed that during many times in our country's history, many people would say that if a particular candidate wasn't elected, then the United States might be doomed. He said it takes time for things to change in our country. Change comes slowly in America, and that slow change keeps the country from collapse.

Prieue credits social media and the use of the Internet, in Obama's defeat of McCain, in the 2008 presidential election. Obama boasted of being on Facebook and sending emails. McCain claimed that he didn't even know how to send e-mails.

The key to SuperPacs, as Prieue put it, is transparency. "Lobbying is legalized bribery," Prieue proclaimed. Having a lot of money is not the problem; not knowing where it comes from or what it is spent on. Debates give the media the chance to really vet the candidates and ask them tough questions.

Hering spoke of how close the politicians reflect the community in Oregon. He mentioned how some cities in Oregon, because of the residents, may not change political leadership for quite sometime. The larger cities seem to be more liberal or democrat. While the smaller towns and rural areas take on a conservative and republican way of thinking. Hering gave a brief biography of the current congressmen and senators from the area and even spoke of some that are no longer in the public eye.

According to Hering, one of the most important things a politician can do to keep constituents happy is to "be in tune with the district." He spoke of two different politicians who did two different things in office, yet remained popular with their district. While one would do exactly what the constituents wanted, the other would vote in a way that was how he felt was right. That gained support of the people who liked the idea.

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Autism and Aspergers in My Life

Nora Palmtag
Staff Writer

One day, while stew was cooking in the crock-pot, my grandson, William, who was 9 months old at the time, he stood on his chair and pulled the crock-pot down by its cord. Thank goodness his chair was there because he was only burned on his lower stomach and upper thigh. The burns were so severe he had to be rushed to Emanuel Hospital.

The doctors were surprised at how he could pull down something that heavy or why he was not in more pain, especially with such severe burns.

We later found out what was caused his bizarre lack of reaction, when we took William to Portland for testing six months later. It was determined he had autism, a disorder first described by a German doctor, Hans Asperger, in 1944. Research shows "Autism is a severe developmental disorder" and "most autistic children are perfectly normal in appearance, but spend their

time engaged in puzzling and disturbing behaviors."

"The condition is the result of a neurological disorder that has an effect on normal brain functions, affecting the development of the person's communication and social interaction skills." In addition, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is sometimes accompanied by Asperger Syndrome, which he currently shows signs of having.

"Because autism symptoms vary greatly, two children with the same diagnosis may act quite differently and have strikingly different skills. In most cases, though, severe autism is marked by a complete inability to communicate or interact with other people."

Despite these challenges, we are so grateful that William is a high functioning, funny, and super smart autistic person. He is teaching himself to read, count, and talk in three different languages.

Some of the older members of our family do not understand autism or

Asperger syndrome and think we are too soft on him and William just needs discipline.

"Having a conversation with a person with autism may feel very much like a one-way road. The person with ASD might give the impression that he is talking at people, rather than with or to them. However, there will be much less exchanging of ideas, thoughts, and feelings than there might be in a conversation with a person who does not have autism."

In William's case, he is an exception to many of the rules. A number of children with ASD do not like cuddling or being touched like other children do. Often it is a question of practice and anticipating that physical contact is going to happen. William on the other hand, must have a hug and kiss from anyone who leaves our home. A person with autism usually finds sudden loud noises unpleasant and quite shocking. William is very sensitive to smells and hears extraordinarily well.

The higher the severity of the autism is, the more it affects a person's speaking skills. People with autism will often repeat words or phrases they hear - an event called echolalia.

A person with autism likes predictability. Routine is his/her best friend. To others, these repetitive behaviors may seem like bizarre rites. People with autism often have obsessions.

The Cure?

Although, there is no cure, there is some hope, since many believe autistic individuals have "the potential to grow and improve. Contrary to what you may hear from outmoded professionals or read in outmoded books, autism is treatable."

For the families of an autistic child, this diagnosis can be heartbreaking and upsetting to their pre-conceived ideas for their child's life. What does it mean to the rest of the family? How will it affect the child's future?

Our family is continually learning how to cope with autism and Asperger

and hope that William be able to use his intelligence to improve his own life, with our help. Most of the time, he seems so normal that people are upset at him not being fully potty trained at four years of age.

"... questions need to be discussed with health professionals and use whatever resources are available to help with any improvements that can be made to have a better quality of life.

We are trying alternative natural vitamins to see if this will help with the symptoms of Asperger, a suggestion we learned from a fellow individual with an autistic 9-year-old son.

Since there is no cure for either of these disorders, it is imperative that the child be diagnosed and screened as soon as the symptoms appear for a better chance at normalcy or as close as a person with autism and Asperger's syndrome can get.

A Series of Tubes

Your Guide to the Interwebs

Kony 2012: Not All Viral Campaigns Are Created Equal

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

One of the coolest things about the Internet is its amazing power to rapidly disseminate information. Because of this power, activism movements are born in seconds and achieve results in days. For an example, look back to SOPA/PIPA or right at today's headlines and the advertising troubles of Rush Limbaugh.

There's an unfortunate downside to the rapid, viral dissemination of information on the Internet. Real, helpful information can spread like wildfire, but so can complete BS.

And on that note, let me introduce you to KONY 2012 and Invisible Children.

The Kony 2012 film went viral on Facebook (and across the Internet) on March 5. By March 8, it had gotten more than 32,000,000 views. As of March 10, that had more than doubled - on YouTube alone the film has more than 67,000,000 views. That would be amazing if the movie weren't a slickly produced and factually incorrect steaming pile of propaganda made by an organization with a shady financial history, who may have violated their 501(c)(3) status, might be in bed with other Ugandan military forces with their own histories of human rights abuses, and are straight up lying about the actual, current situation on the ground in Uganda.

The Telegraph has a short article detailing some of the problems with the KONY 2012 campaign. From the article:

"What that video says is totally wrong, and it can cause us more problems than help us," said Dr Beatrice Mpora, director of Kairos, a community health organisation in Gulu, a town that was once the centre of the rebels' activities.

"There has not been a single soul from the LRA here since 2006. Now we have peace, people are back in their homes, they are planting their fields, they are starting their businesses. That is what people should help us with."

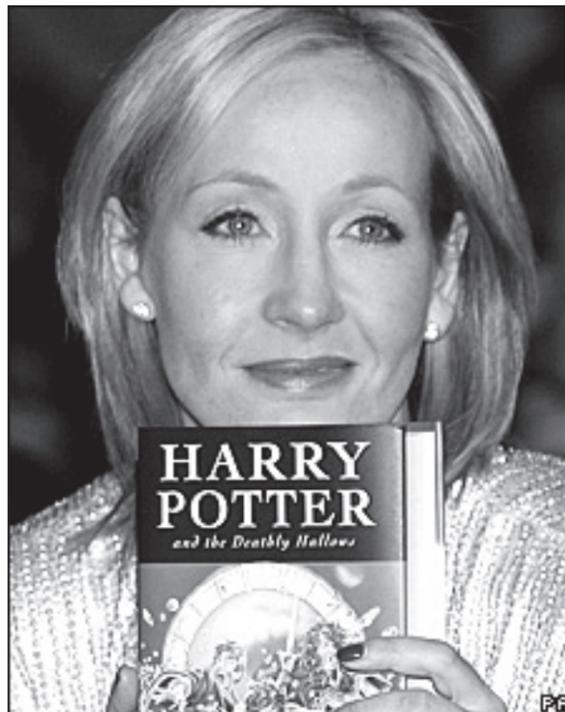
Invisible Children are at best an idealistic, but wildly off-base group of folks who are not particularly good at running a 501(c)(3), and at worst talented marketers scamming you for cash, while keeping up appearances of helping the less fortunate.

There is a long list of pros when it comes to an ability to spread information as fast as lightning and as far as the eye can see. One of the cons is that information comes at you so fast that it's often difficult to slow down and think about what you're reading and see it in a critical manner. With the advent of social media, critically thinking about the information you receive becomes even more difficult. When Mom or Dad or your best friend shares an article on Facebook, you're tempted to take it as gospel. After all, your Mom wouldn't share lies and garbage, right?

Well, probably not on purpose, but when slickly packaged propaganda is avalanching down your newsfeed, shared by the people you trust most in the world, it becomes all too easy to simply take those people at their word and spread the propaganda further yourself. And when information is coming this fast and furiously, and no one else is telling you any different, it becomes your responsibility to fact-check and debunk the garbage.

Some of the articles I've referred to in this column are from a few years ago. One of them is from 2006. A bit of Google-Fu is all it took to find these resources and realize that Invisible Children are a whole lot fishier than their pretty video would have you believe. Hundreds of thousands of people didn't take that time. They just hit the "share" button and went on their merry way, and as a result, Invisible Children are making bank. That's an awful lot of money that probably isn't going to do anyone any actual good.

The next time the hot new thing is burning up your newsfeed, remember Invisible Children and take the extra ten minutes to do some basic fact-checking. It might end up saving you some grief at the hands of marketers and scammers.



Cory Warren
Contributing Writer

July 2007 was a bittersweet time for many readers.

The release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" signaled the end of an era that saw children's literature transformed from a novelty of publishing, to serious business for bookstores and publishers alike.

Now, nearly five years later, J.K. Rowling is finally stepping back into the literary spotlight.

Her career began with the prophetic words "Every child in our world will know his name," but now Rowling, author of the phenomenally successful Harry Potter series, faces a new test as she releases her first novel, since the fateful conclusion of the tale that made her a household name. However, will it sink or swim in the shadow of "the Boy Who Lived"?

When news of the as of yet untitled book's existence broke, it only took minutes for it to spread over the Internet, a far cry from the near silence that encompassed the release of the first book, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," in June 1997 (the American version, re-christened "Sorcerer's Stone," appeared in summer 1998).

Back then, children's literature — outside of R.L. Stine and classics such as the books of Ronald Dahl — was nothing more than a side market to the more successful writers for adults such as King, Grisham, and Steele. Rowling, against all odds, broke the mold, and proved how powerful children's literature can be.

Rowling Has Audiences in Suspense Over Upcoming Novel

In many ways, the question "Where were you when you met the boy wizard?" took on a power similar to "Where were you when President Kennedy was shot?" By the release of the third book in the series, Harry Potter had established himself as a phenomenon the likes of which the world had not seen.

For me, the story of the respected boy wizard came in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Shortly after the attacks, I had first gone to college three hours away from my parents, and failed so hard that I lasted only a month before breaking down, defeated by stress and anxiety.

My mom, a librarian, had the first four Potter books, and after seeing an ad for the first film, I followed her advice, and grabbed the first book off the shelf.

By the next night, I had finished it, and for a moment, all of my troubles seemed less challenging in the face of the trials Harry had encountered. From that point on, Harry Potter was a part of my life.

Now, as Rowling prepares to release her first post-Harry Potter book, the question is whether it live up to the story that took her from obscurity, and made her the first billionaire writer.

LBCC student Sarah McClanahan, who discovered the series in the last few years, spoke of how she felt about the news of a new book from Rowling:

"I am looking forward to reading more of her writing. I know that she wrote amazing children's literature that was more than just another

'happily-ever-after' ending. She really went the extra mile to make sure that it was raw and real, like life."

When asked what she thought the new book might be about, she echoed the opinion of crime novelist Ian Rankin.

"I actually feel like she could write a really great murder mystery."

The excitement was not lost on others, such as student Randy Chilcote: "I think it's going to be really interesting," he said. "Her later Harry Potter books got really dark ... and it will be interesting to see what she does with a book for adults."

Whatever she writes, it is bound to be a success for booksellers, who lamented the end of the series along with the fans in 2007.

Always tight-lipped about her plots, Rowling has proven herself once more to be a master marketer. Even her announcement, as lacking in detail as it is possible to be, already has fans salivating at the prospect of her new work.

"Although I've enjoyed writing it just as much, my next novel will be very different from the Harry Potter series," she wrote in a handwritten note posted to her soon to be updated new website, jkrowling.com.

I wish I could say what I think her new book is going to be about, but from the woman who gave us "Horcruxes" and "Hallows," I think it is safe to say it is anyone's guess.

I just know that when it hits shelves, I will be in line to get it the moment it goes on sale.

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At a Glance

J.K. Rowling's first Harry Potter novel published (Britain, 1997; America 1998).

The series has sold over 450 million copies.

Film adaptation earned \$7.7 billion.

Her novels have been translated into 67 languages.

For more information, including inside information on the Harry Potter series, her other literary project, Pottermore.com, is set to open to the public sometime this April, along with the official release of the Harry Potter eBooks.

Dear Conscience,



What should you do in a catastrophic event?

Ashley Christie

Shoulder Devil

What kind of catastrophic event are we talking about here?

Hurricane, tornado, end-of-days flood, zombie apocalypse? All of those just sound like a good show to me. I say sit back and enjoy!

There's a good chance I caused this catastrophe. You see, I get bored easily, so on Saturday night I can either watch "Armageddon" or cause it!

You know what I love most about disasters? The widespread panic! All the people running and screaming. Oh, and the looting, I almost forgot. It's a glorious time for all. No? Just me?

Let's say there is an asteroid hurtling towards Earth. This is the perfect time to plan a family vacation.

There are no lines at DisneyWorld when everyone is running for their life. (You know it'll still be open cause there's no way Disney would release their slaves ... I mean cast members ... when there's money to be made.)

Chances are you're going to die anyway, might as well enjoy your last few moments. You can scream in fear, or scream in fun!

Or, you've just crashed into an iceberg and the ship's going down. This is the perfect opportunity for you to show off your breaststroke. You've always wanted to swim with the dolphins anyway, haven't you?

The world is going to end. Worrying about it isn't going to change that fact. If stressing isn't going to help the situation, don't waste the energy. Enjoy life as it comes ... and ends.

Jennifer M. Hartsock

Shoulder Angel

A catastrophic event? That sounds horrible! The amount of responsibility that comes with these kinds of things is never an easy one, but is needed in order to save as many humans from panic and (gulp) death, as possible.

If the Devil is behind this action, we're going to need to pray. Hard. After that, you'll have to scan your surroundings and evaluate the damage.

How many women will you need to round up to collect babies and pile them at higher ground?

Are there young kids who can squeeze into tiny crawlspaces and rescue trapped pets?

And finally, are there enough strong men who can move rubble and search and rescue.

When everyone is safe and taken care of (food, water, shelter, warmth), it's time to begin the most important work of all: spreading hope and putting a stop to crime, such as looting.

If abandoned stores are being broken into, kindly ward off these hooligans with a respectful, yet forceful stern looks. If this doesn't work, threaten the status of their eternal life.

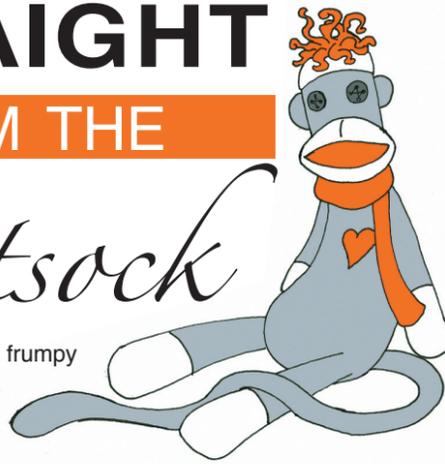
The main point is that a catastrophic event is not the end, so remain composed. Sure, this might be the most terrifying few minutes, hours, or days of your life, but how you act still impacts what comes after it's all gone - and it's just about time to put your true self to the test!

Start preparing your large-scale emergency kit now, since everyone is going to depend on you soon!

STRAIGHT FROM THE

Hartsock

Brain stuffing from the frumpy sock monkey



Jennifer M. Hartsock

Opinion Editor

We live in a world where science and religion are both separate, yet blended. Certain theories are derived from different scientific fields, and different deities are followed by different religions. Those who stand in-between may dabble in both, or none at all. No matter what has driven you to believe, or disbelieve puts you at opposition of someone else. Can we coherently dispute either science or religion if we're arguing different definitions for one term?

We all know the question: "When a tree falls in a lonely forest, and no animal is near by to hear it, does it make a sound?" This may come off as one of those unimportant riddles; on the contrary, the answer depends on

how the terms are defined. According to a physiologist, the answer is no - a sound is the ear's reaction, or the interpretation, of a mechanical wave. In order for a lonely falling tree to make a sound, there must be a nearby creature to sense and translate these vibrations.

For a physicist, the answer is yes - a sound is the mechanical wave, itself. If a tree falls in a lonely forest, the resulting vibrations is a sound, no matter if anything or anyone is around to hear it.

The age-old question "Is there a God" is just as versatile. The answer depends on the definition of God. The devout Christian is a theist to the Christian God, but is he an atheist to the Native American gods? Does the devout Hindu believe in the Sikhism God, or the Buddhist in the 330

million deities of Hinduism? Do all religious people believe the same way, or is there a varying interpretation of God's Will, His intentions, and even of the afterlife?

Are we arguing the same thing, or a variation?

Theodore M. Drange, a philosopher of religion, once said: "Since the word 'God' has many different meanings, it is possible for the sentence 'God exists' to express many different propositions. What we need to do is to focus on each proposition separately ... For each different sense of the term 'God,' there will be theists, atheists, and agnostics relative to that concept of God."

In a world that often feels divided between science and religion, we find an unlikely parallel between the two: the subject must have an exclusive definition in order to discuss it. This becomes more difficult as our society moves from being a common culture to embracing individuality. This is not to say that diversity should be avoided; a physiologist can define 'sound' differently than a physicist. We can believe in different deities. We should not allow ourselves to argue, form boundaries, and feel inferior to others because we're speaking in relative terms or separate interpretations; we must first agree upon the definition of the variables, such as a coherent definition, before discussing it.

Customer Service? Beware of Zombies!

Lacey Smith

Contributing Writer

The zombie apocalypse is upon us. Every day, beings who used to be people aimlessly shamble to and fro, seemingly incapable of abstract thought. Their goal is basic ... moonneeeeyyy.

According to the US Bureau of Labor in 2011, the 10 largest occupations accounted for more than 20 percent of total employment in May 2010. In addition to retail salespersons and cashiers, the largest occupations included general office clerks; combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food; registered nurses; and waiters and waitresses."

Basically, the vast majority of employed people in this country work solely as the middle-man between consumers and their goods. More than that, the only skills each dedicated employee in the service industry has the ability to repeat key phrases like a pull-string toy; "How's it going?" "What can I get for ya?" "Is that everything?" "There's a snake in my boot!"

I've spent the entirety of my working years in customer service, and as a result, have become one of the irreparably chipper zombies lurking behind every cash register, taking every order,

and carrying each tray of food. It's become a reflex I can't turn off, and is the most ridiculously unnecessary skill possible. There is no reason to thank strangers for asking me for directions, or pretend to care about the most recent doctor's appointment a customer decides to regal me with.

It's terrible to think that this is what our society has become.

In 1900, the Census showed 38% of Americans worked on farms. Where hard day's work meant getting done, then standing back and seeing what you'd accomplished. A field plowed, hay baled, 20 chickens plucked, every action was integral to survival. Now, nearly every action in the workforce is integral to put-on politeness. This isn't even niceness for niceness' sake, it's being marshmallow puff sweet in order to trick people into buying more unnecessary things.

The fine art of making people feel good about themselves so they give you money has been honed in the last 60 or so years. People actually study that ridiculousness. Rick A. Conlow is one of those people. He's the CEO of WCW, a company that advises other companies on "how to deliver moments of magic to your customers," otherwise known as "how to smile so brightly that poor saps will be dazzled into giving you money." His pearls of wisdom make it seem like handing

someone a cup of coffee is training for Spartan 'Friendly-off' Battle.

"Visualize yourself giving sensational service with customers, verbalize it to yourself (I am the best; I give superstar customer service to all of my accounts!) and vitalize it by acting with an upbeat approach with every one."

Wow, so that's a thing.

First and foremost, no one should seriously use the word "superstar" as an adjective for anything other than an actual superstar. Secondly, if you need this much of a pep talk just to swipe credit cards all day, you must need to get out of this industry more than I do.

The basic principle of customer service is not necessarily a bad one. We should all be decent human beings to each other, but the problem lies in the falseness and superfluousness of it.

Wouldn't it be nice to know your barista was actually happy to see you, instead of smiling ear to ear then repeatedly cursing you while whipping up your 20 oz "half decaf, twice the chocolate, not too hot, soy caramel mocha"? If you're paid to be facetious for five hours a day, and that's the only skill you have, it doesn't bode well for personal success, or for society as a whole.

Have questions? We have answers.

We offer advice on ANY topic from two different points of view. Send your questions to: commuter@linnbenton.edu

"Dear Conscience" does not necessarily reflect the views of any of The Commuter staff.



Tired of not knowing what's going on at The Commuter?

Jennifer M. Hartsock is posting weekly video updates on what to expect from Dear Conscience and Straight from the Hartsock.

Check it out at jennifermhartsock.wordpress.com

How to Survive... Finals Week

Ian Butcher
A&L Staff Writer

It's the best part of the term and the worst part of the term all rolled up into about a week of hell: finals week, and all the preparation that goes into it. Sure, there's that light at the end of the tunnel we call spring break. However, you have to plow through all those annoying finals to get to that period of Valhalla.

Yes, we all know that you don't want to do finals. Sadly, you're just going to have to suck it up soldier and march on through; that's what I'm here for. Rather than spend hours (or five minutes before class) blankly looking at your notes, you can actually do this really cool thing called studying. And yes, I'll give some helpful tips that will make the next week far less painful and far more productive.

Don't Panic

It seems like a simple command. That's because it is. If you haven't looked at any of your notes before finals weekend then don't worry, it's not the end of the world. Take a deep breath or two, make a checklist of what you need to study, and get to it. I find that when the academic panic attacks set in, it's best just to take a step back, relax, and figure out everything I need to do. Once the urge to throw yourself out a window has subsided, it's time to

get down in the trenches and study the weekend away.

Study in Chunks

For the love of God, take breaks. The last thing we need is students having their brains explode due to sheer overload. I find that the best course of action is study for a good hour or so, then take a 10-15 minute break. Surf the web, play with your kids, imagine yourself playing with kids. The point is, make time to decompress every so often before resuming studying.

Commit Yourself

Get rid of all those distractions that might preclude you from studying. Put your social life on hold, turn off the TV, wait to watch those new arrivals from Netflix. You need to make a contract with yourself that you will make studying your life for the next couple of days. Nothing else matters, but soaking in all that extra material like a sponge so that when test day comes, all that knowledge can be squeezed out onto the test paper. Just be careful not to get the paper too dirty, because teachers aren't usually fans of that.

Study

I know this might seem a little obvious, but really, don't just stare at the book. Engage yourself in the material. Don't just become an educational zombie (the worst kind), staring at the



Kimberly Martinez

Students study for finals in the Learning Center on the Albany campus during deadweek.

page with no brain energy excreted. Find some way to make the material interesting, and just make sure that you're actually learning it. It turns out that this really helps with pre-finals jitters.

Hopefully enough good advice has been endowed to you so this weekend will end up being a little less painful. And if you follow my advice and still bomb your finals, please don't come to The Commuter office gun in hand. Or at least not when I'm there.

Chicken Soup for the Student Soul

Amanda Hayden

Copy Editor

The anticipation of finals week is upon LBCC, and everyone is feeling it.

Below are a few common mistakes, and ways to minimize the stress of studying, in this build-up to testing week. LBCC's website offers specific study tools, and there are additional ways to reduce this stress.

Avoid consumption of excess sodium. Many students rely on convenience food, especially at the end of each term. Some of the top offenders: pizza, cheeseburgers and fries, soda pop, and even boxed meals.

The National Institute of Health and the American Heart Association both recommend daily sodium consumption levels under 2,300 milligrams (The NIH actually recommends under 1,500mg consumption), which is easily surpassed with just one fast-food meal. A quick and easy solution is to use fruits and vegetables as a first-choice snack.

Avoid alcohol, plain and simple. It may seem tempting to "take a break" and use alcohol as a relaxant, but waste time that could be used for beneficial stress-relievers. Instead, drink lots more water!

Exercise at least 30 minutes a day. Don't skip an exercise routine to make more time for studies. Whether it's intense cardio, yoga (also with mental/meditation benefits), or even resistance training, using up physical energy can actually help students settle back into their studies. There are so many benefits in taking a break for exercise, and

Twice Winter Term finals week, and after all they wrote, The students were studying, with heads in their notes; The piles of dirty laundry lined the floor, In hopes they would not spill out the door; The neighbors were all sleeping sound in their beds, With dreams of anything but finals dancing in their heads.

it can be a welcome distraction in a mentally stressful time.

Take a lighter load next term. Maybe if the credit load is too heavy in this last week of classes, it's time to choose lighter, or reduce outside responsibilities for next term.

For most students, 18 credits and a full time job are just not a wise combination of choices. Each student has to realistically determine their maximum load of responsibility without feeling the need to be a superhero.

High stress and high blood pressure are also directly related, so why not try to make some better decisions for your health? According to the American Heart Association, up to 28 percent of Americans have high blood pressure and don't even know it.

Making a regular habit of the above choices will reduce your long-term risk of leg cramps, dizziness, insomnia, heart attack, stroke, aneurysms, kidney failure, and diminished brain function. Avoid these risks, and make sure you're around for next term.

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HOROSCOPES Poetry Spotlight

ARIES
3/21-4/19



You may be fool hardy, but you have a heart of gold.

TAURUS
4/20-5/20



Foolishly running head long into an obstacle may not be the wisest choice.

GEMINI
5/21-6/21



Twice as foolish, but twice as lucky. Time to roll the dice.

CANCER
6/22-7/22



Don't challenge a fool at his own game; they will just make a fool of you.

LEO
7/23-8/22



Sometimes you have to know when to give up foolish dreams, other times you have to dream harder.

VIRGO
8/23-9/22



You will have a love sick fool to deal with. Hopefully they won't be icky sick.

LIBRA
9/23-10/23



The life of a fool is a hard one. For some reason people just don't take you seriously.

SCORPIO
10/24-11/21



Feeling like a fool is okay. Looking like a fool, on the other hand, may turn some heads.

SAGITTARIUS
11/22-12/21



Life is tough. It is about time you took the foolish approach.

CAPRICORN
12/22-1/19



You may find yourself surrounded by fools, but fools make for good company.

AQUARIUS
1/20-2/18



Let loose, act a fool and have some fun. Just don't do anything foolish.

PISCES
2/19-3/20



"Who's the more foolish? The fool or the fool who follows him?" - Obi-wan Kenobi

Almost a Friend
by Rick Casillas

You in bloom, in soft red turn.
Green I think, greener than I would have thought.
I like the clock behind me, you look in it's direction of-ten.
And I think, in moments past, that maybe it was me you wanted and not the time.

And I hear you, once or twice a day.
In clatter and song, your voice rises in my seeking.
Worthy, proud, flutters of motion adrift in flight.
There are Others, they have longer necks, and louder voices that do not rise.
Crude manicured hands that shape mirrors to waste in.

But your bird has willow thick petals for eyes,
and the curve of its neck, trembles and thrums in sweet soulful ache.
Your melody is lullaby and seed, drifting, absent of effort towards me in falter blue plume.
And it's cheek, soft as you, pink as you, but less shy.
I tell it you're beautiful, and I like your tattoos.

But for all the kindness I would rather not know you,
this glad mildness will suffice,
Because I know you want the time, and have not seen me instead.



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Re-Choired Element
Women's Choir
Blue Light Special
The Sirens

James M. Reddan,
Conductor

Diana Hancock,
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BACK in the DAY

This day in history ...

March 14, 1879 - Eureka

Albert Einstein is born in Germany. Just thought you all would like to know that.

March 15, 44 B.C. - Beware the Ides of March

Julius Caesar is murdered. Word of advice, stay far away from large groups of people dressed in togas.

March 16, 1802 - School, sorta

The U.S. military academy is established. I've always wondered if they have home economics at West Point.

March 17, 461 - Kiss me I'm Irish

Saint Patrick dies in Ireland. Anyway, back to the drinking.

March 18, 1852 - The Doc's alive!

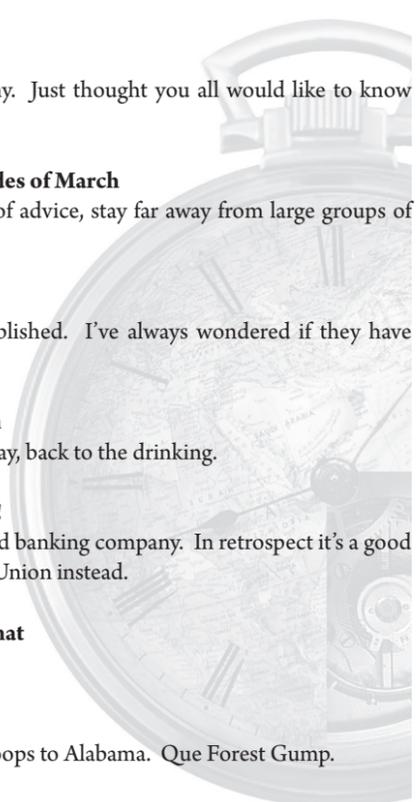
Wells and Fargo start a shipping and banking company. In retrospect it's a good thing Doc Brown choose Western Union instead.

March 19, 2005 - I did not plan that

John Delorean died today.

March 20, 1965 - Crossover

President Johnson sends federal troops to Alabama. Que Forest Gump.



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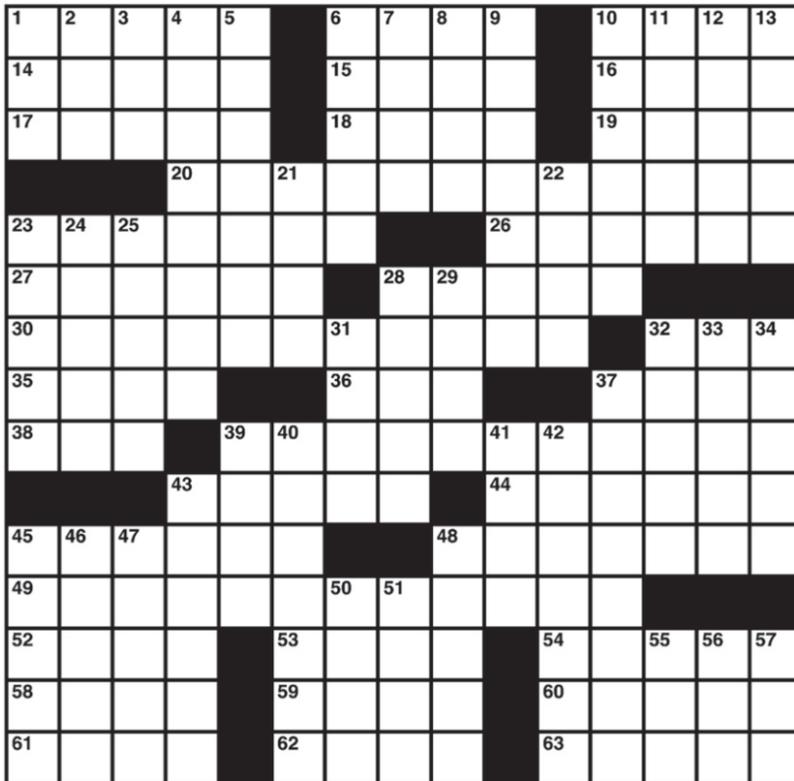
options
Pregnancy Resource Centers

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Choir member
- 6 Quite
- 10 Ending with slug or gab
- 14 Make amends
- 15 Faulkner's "As ___ Dying"
- 16 Pearl Harbor site
- 17 Blazed furiously
- 18 Common nickname for a doter
- 19 66 and others: Abbr.
- 20 Weightlifting event
- 23 Ben-Gurion, e.g.
- 26 "It's ___ business"
- 27 Kind of biological network
- 28 Sea
- 30 Golf course pest
- 32 Corp. money manager
- 35 Fighting
- 36 Gallery hanging
- 37 Hang onto
- 38 ID with hyphens
- 39 Spinning toy manipulated with sticks
- 43 River in Lyons
- 44 Belfast's province
- 45 Early Ford success
- 48 Actors, often
- 49 Honest info
- 52 Road sign silhouette
- 53 Debt indicators
- 54 Ticked off
- 58 Like some vaccines
- 59 Dresden's river
- 60 Landlocked African country
- 61 A handful of
- 62 Navy commando
- 63 Gothic house feature



By Jack McInturff

- 6 Source of the Law
- 7 ___ Bator, Mongolia
- 8 Where Jesus turned water to wine
- 9 Cape Cod site of a JFK museum
- 10 How some jump?
- 11 Corroded
- 12 Sex researcher Hite
- 13 Mammoth features
- 21 Contemporary of Dizzy and Billie
- 22 Finished
- 23 Early Peruvians
- 24 Senate posts
- 25 Confrontation
- 28 Carried
- 29 Classroom drilling
- 31 Come out ahead
- 32 British actor Robert, the original Colonel Pickering in "My Fair Lady"
- 33 Candidate's handout
- 34 Trash emanations

Last Week's Puzzle Solved



(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 37 Common crowd reaction in monster films
- 39 Colombian city
- 40 Some heroes
- 41 Sport for 300-pounders
- 42 Like lovers skipping church?
- 43 Pharmaceutical giant that developed Celebrex
- 45 Windows predecessor
- 46 Alamogordo's county
- 47 Nightmare, e.g.
- 48 Ill-fated Ford
- 50 Putter's target
- 51 Very big wind
- 55 Soviet spy org.
- 56 Snakelike fish
- 57 Hip-hop Dr.

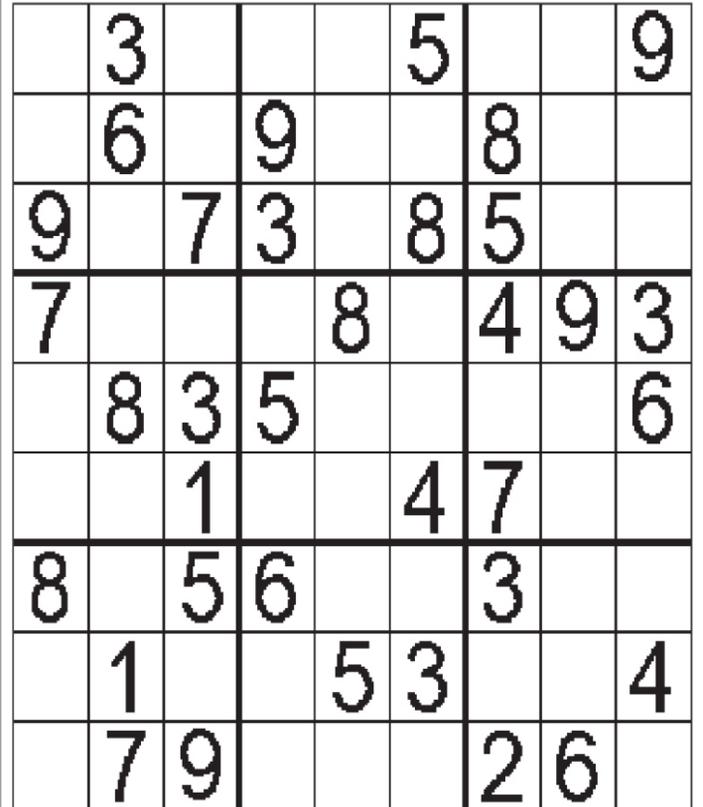
DOWN

- 1 La Brea goo
- 2 Seventh Greek letter
- 3 Christmas quaff
- 4 200 milligrams, to a jeweler
- 5 Original primer used to paint the Golden Gate Bridge

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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An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton



Mason Le Britton © 2012

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

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/

StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs.

*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena First Stop Center).

2012 LBCC Career Fair (AC Gym, Albany Campus)

Where can you find employers in one room who paid to talk to you and maybe hire you? www.linnbenton.edu, click on the Career Fair Banner to see the participating employers and to get career fair tips.

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.

CWE Business Systems Analyst (#9570, Albany) Is your major in computer science or business management? Here is a great job to get paid AND get experience! Pay is \$9-10.40/hr DOE.

Youth Summer Day Camp Leader (#9558, Corvallis) Do you like working with children? Here is a summer job for you! Work 32-40 hrs/week for the summer, pay \$8.98-9.81/hr DOE.

Youth Parks Corps Crew Leader (#9559, Corvallis) This summer job requires physical skills and a good driving record. The season is June 25-Sept. 14. Pay is \$9.66-11.74/hr DOE.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 3/15

7:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Singer-Songwriters William Fitzsimons with Denison Witmer perform. Tickets are \$15 in advance and at the door.

7:30 p.m. Russel Tripp performance Center

LBCC choirs perform their winter concert "Singing the Songs of Innocence"

Tickets are \$10 general admission, and \$7 for students and seniors.

Friday 3/16

8 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Rock performance by Floater with Slow Children

Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$15 at door.

Saturday 3/17

8:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Rock performance by Robert Schwartzman (of Rooney) with The Relationship feat. Brian Bell (of Weezer).

Tickets are \$8 in advance; \$10 at door.

8 p.m. Calapooia Brewing Company The McG's perform!

Sunday 3/18

7:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Afrobeat performance by Seun Kuti & the Egypt 80 with AfroMassive.

Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20 at door.

If you have an Upcoming Events, please e-mail them to commuter@linnbenton.edu.

In the News:

Local:

Portland: A verdict was handed down Friday afternoon in a "wrongful birth" lawsuit against Legacy Health System. In a unanimous decision, a jury awarded the Levy family nearly \$3 million in damages. The lawsuit stemmed from the couple's daughter being born with Down syndrome, after a prenatal test indicated that nothing was amiss. Based on the prenatal test, which turned out to be faulty, the plaintiffs chose to continue the pregnancy, according to court documents. The family sued for the lifetime cost of their daughter's medical, therapeutic and educational needs. Legacy Health issued a statement expressing disappointment in the verdict and its intent to explore other options.

source: KPTV

Salem: Salem police are investigating stabbings that left three people injured Friday morning. Officers say a fight broke out just before 3 a.m. in the 2400 block of Maple Avenue Northeast. Michael Wheeler, 30, and his friend Paul Bennett, 35, were outside the home calling to Wheeler's puppy when two men walked by, police say. There was apparently some confusion about what had been yelled and insults were exchanged, according to officers. A fight broke out and Wheeler and Bennett were stabbed, authorities say, and then they attacked a 51-year-old suspect whose name is being withheld by police. A fourth man ran away from the scene before police arrived. His involvement

Nation:

isn't clear. The injuries were described as non-life-threatening.

source: KPTV

Washington: The United States added 227,000 jobs in February, the latest indication of the economic recovery. The unemployment rate remains at 8.3 percent. The Labor Department, in its monthly jobs report, said December and January, two of the best months for jobs since the recession, were even stronger than first estimated. January job growth was revised higher by 41,000 to 284,000. December job growth was raised by 20,000 to 223,000. The overall job growth for February of 227,000 beat economists' estimate of 210,000.

source: AP

Vancouver, Wash: Eden Wormer, 14, from a Vancouver middle school was remembered Thursday at a vigil outside of her school. Her family believes she was pushed to the point of ending her own life after continuous bullying at Cascade Middle School. Wormer killed herself on Wednesday. Administrators with Evergreen Public Schools say they are currently investigating whether Eden was bullied. They are interviewing students and searching through files to see if Eden ever reported any physical or emotional abuse. So far, administrators cannot confirm if Eden was bullied. Vancouver police say they have found no evidence that any crime was committed.

source: KPTV

World:

Yemen: Suspected al-Qaeda fighters in southern Yemen have been targeted in air strikes, reports say. Between 18 and 45 militants are said to have been killed in raids late on Friday and on Saturday. The strikes hit positions west of Bayda and near the rebel-controlled town of Jaar, officials said. Local sources claimed the attacks in the Bayda area were carried out by U.S. drones or warplanes, but there has been no independent confirmation. Local officials said Yemen air force planes carried out strikes on Saturday near Jaar.

source: BBC News

England: A single tweet started a campaign to save the work of a man who helped to develop the world's first modern computer. Rare mathematical papers written by Alan Turing are now part of a new display at the World War II codebreaking centre at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. Turing, who took his own life in 1954, helped to create the Bombe machine, which was used to crack the Enigma code at Bletchley Park and later created one of the first designs for a stored-program computer. During his life he only published 18 papers and gave offprints of 15 to his friend professor Max Newman. After Newman's death, they changed hands a number of times and could have been lost to a private collector had it not been for the actions of the Bletchley Park staff.

source: BBC News

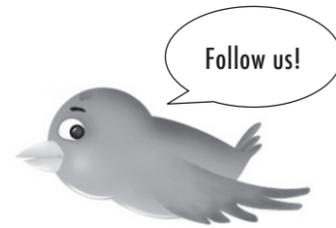
Weird:

Peterborough, London: Mark Grist, an English teacher, has quit school for a hip-hop career after defeating one of his students in a rap battle. A clip of Grist's victory over 17-year-old MC Blizzard has been watched by more than 1.5 million people on YouTube. He started using rap in class to try to get his pupils interested in poetry. Grist is now in a group called Dead Poets, which fuses rap music with poetry and performs at venues nationwide. He still works as a teacher when not on tour.

source: Bizarre News

Dakota City, Neb.: A Nebraska woman has sold a three-year-old McDonald's Chicken McNugget that resembles President George Washington for \$8,100 on eBay. The Sioux City Journal in Iowa says bidding ended just after 11:30 a.m. Monday. Rebekah Speight of Dakota City sold the McNugget for a drive to raise \$15,000 and send 50 children to summer church camp in Sioux City. Speight says her children didn't eat the chicken during a McDonald's visit three years ago. She was about to toss it, then spotted Washington's resemblance. Speight stashed the McNugget in her freezer. eBay had temporarily taken down the auction last month because it violated rules regulating expired food. She later received an e-mail saying the site was "willing to make exceptions to help your cause."

source: AP



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Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors by somebody I do not know - John Keats

Audiences Hunger for "Games"

Lacey Smith
Contributing Writer

It seems like every week there's a new young adult fantasy series driving teens and adults alike crazy. The latest is "The Hunger Games," a novel by Suzanne Collins and set in a dystopian future.

The book (and soon-to-be movie) recounts Katniss Everdeen's trial as a sacrifice to the gods of entertainment in a post-apocalyptic America. Society is rife with poverty, starvation, and overall ickyness for everyone outside the glamorous Capitol, the center of totalitarian government and funny-colored hair.

The novel concept of teen gladiatorial combat aside, "The Hunger Games" has been popping up everywhere lately. The Facebook buzz is testament enough, with 588,250 'likes' for the book alone.

No matter how you slice it, that's a lot of chatter about something that boils down to more young adult fiction. There has to be something separating this book from the sea of white

noise in the genre currently.

For Heather McLean, an English teacher at Sprague High School, part of the popularity is due to how "Suzanne Collins relies on the tried and true formal of easy vocabulary, short chapters, and cliffhangers. These factors bring in the reluctant readers, who then share with their friends, who also probably don't like to read, so Collins reaches a wider audience."

This can be said about many of the young adult series out there today, but one aspect "The Hunger Games" has that books like "Twilight" are conspicuously missing is a feminist-friendly character.

"Katniss is such a physically and mentally strong character - it is great to have both of these qualities in a female hero," explains McLean. "Much like Greek heroes of the past who demonstrate these characteristics, Katniss also shows her emotions like Odysseus and Achilles. The reader understands she is a human who is strong, but also laughs, cries, and loves."

Amanda Yancey, the largest

propagator of HG related links, stats, and movie countdown numbers in my news feed, agrees wholeheartedly: "Before this book came into existence, the young adult bookshelves were flooded with paranormal romances, mostly dealing with vampires and weak, helpless, boy-crazed female protagonists who always need saving thanks to Stephenie Meyer's ridiculously successful 'Twilight' saga. We weren't seeing a lot of kick-butt heroines that young female readers could look up to or could be proud of, but then along came Miss Katniss Everdeen."

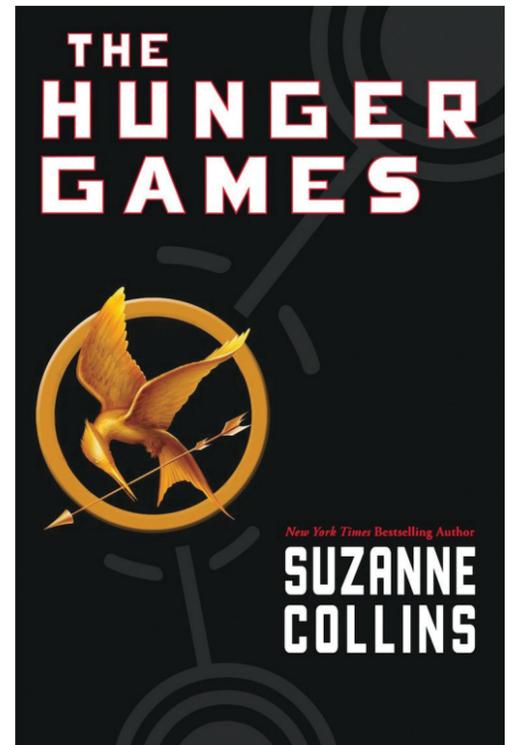
While the characters and plot are both held in high regard, for Brittney Brown of the Seattle PI, the youth-gear prose leaves something to be desired: "This book was written in present tense, which I found annoying, but that's more of a personal preference than a stylistic fault. It was also edited somewhat poorly, but that rarely distracted from the plot. For example, the author often spoke in sentence fragments to describe how Katniss felt, which might have been an attempt to reflect on her thought, but I

found it disorienting to read a lot of really short sentences all together. It would have been better to vary the sentence length on occasion, but the story was still [coherent]."

Now, as the March 23 film date draws near, the movie is beginning to eclipse the book.

According to Fandango Vice President Rick Butler, "[The company] saw the biggest first-day advance-ticketing sales in our company's nearly 12-year history - which is especially impressive for a March release and a non-sequel."

Carrying the torch in the style of "Harry Potter" and "The Twilight Saga," "The Hunger Games" seems destined to leave a noticeable mark in popular culture, but in contrast to



those, far fewer haters going to hate, and more people are eagerly climbing on the Collins bandwagon every day.

Panera Combines Great Food with Classy Atmosphere

Brad Bodon
Contributing Writer

The true symbol of warmth and welcome is Panera Bread. The days with empty Hollywood Video parking lots are over. Sitting on the corner of Northwest 4th Street and Northwest Harrison Boulevard in downtown Corvallis, Panera Bread has moved in.

Panera Bread was established in St. Louis, MO in 1981. The company prospered in cities along the East coast of the U.S. and internationally before moving west. The bakery-café chain, which has been well received

in the west, recently set up shop in Corvallis.

"The town is amazing. We felt very invited and I feel like this is going to be a good fit," said General Manager, Jake Dutoit.

When you walk through the front doors, you won't want to leave. It is beautiful on the inside and out. The restaurant seats about 100 people, and seating is separated into three sections. The front of the café gives off a cozy coffee shop feeling with a fireplace and warm lighting. The middle section gives the café a restaurant feel with booth style seating and brighter lights. At the back of the café is more dim lighting and smaller tables for the casual customer.

The comforting blue and tan colors give the establishment an inviting, neighborhood feel. The cultured marble and shiny laminate tabletops add to the individual vibe of each section of the café.

Panera Bread's art speaks the loudest, representing the establishment and the community: bakers preparing bread with neighbors purchasing bread, or riding away with it on their bikes. The story is about the relationship between business and community and how we form a neighborhood on stretched canvas.

"If you don't want to dine in, but you still want quality food, in a quality

environment; this is the place," Dutoit remarked.

The bakery-café's motto is "a loaf of bread in every arm." However, Panera Bread sells much more than bread. Some of the main items also include soups, salads, and sandwiches.

Panera Bread freshly bakes bread each day than any bakery-café concept in the country. The bakery-café uses the art and craft of bread making to help the customers appreciate and enjoy a great loaf of bread. Panera Bread understands that good bread makes for better tasting meals.

Panera Bread is more than willing to accommodate your needs. The fast and friendly staff gives the customer the choice of vegan, gluten-free and low-fat menu items. Panera Bread is also MSG-free, except for their Greek Salad Dressing.

"It is a very comfortable and welcoming environment. The food is healthy and also delicious," customer, Hailey Brant said.

The menu is huge with hundreds of options to choose from. Every Panera Bread menu item is created using fresh, high-quality meats, cheeses and vegetables. Panera Bread offers free Wi-Fi, a seated area next to a fireplace, and a clean establishment. The service is friendly and amazingly fast. Prices are fair for the quality of the food. Become a part of the neighborhood; visit Panera Bread.

"We are neighbors, we are friends, we are family."



Brad Bodon

Panera Bread
355 NW 4th St, Corvallis
(541) 738-8277

Harrison Ave

3rd St 4th St

Hours:
Monday - Friday
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Price Range:
\$5.00-\$9.00

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Casa de mi Padre
Rated: R
Genre: Subtitled

21 Jump Street
Rated: R
Genre: TV Translation

Sources: IMDb, Yahoo! Movies, Fandango.com