

March 9, 2011

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

Vol. 42 No. 20

HOLLYWOOD

**The Commuter
Travels to the Stars
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We've upgraded our student email system to Google Apps for Education!

The new system, which is free to you and to the college, features more than 7GB of storage and gives you the ability to send and receive 20mb attachments with world-class spam and virus protection. It also gives you access to popular communication tools in Google Apps for Education.

RoadRunner Mail has all the features and tools of Gmail in an ad-free environment. All credit and non-credit students who have taken classes at LBCC in the 2010 calendar year, as well as current and future students, will be provided an email account.

www.linnbenton.edu/go/roadrunner-mail

Study Jam: Get Your Study On

Michaela Wasson

Contributing Writer

If you haven't begun studying for finals yet, the time is now!

Actually, it's gone. But so many of us still need to catch up. That is expected. That's what Study Jam is for.

On the weekend before finals, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, the Learning Center (LC) will be open. Vikki Maurer said why: "We're here to help."

Everything you need to help you study will be available. The LC has been hosting Study Jam since fall of 2008 and they know what to do. Empty white boards with markers, scratch paper and table space, library books and friends to study with will all be there. You will be able to use computers in the LC and the library.

Sometimes teachers will also drop in to work with students.

Tests, for some of us, are so easy to put off. That's why during Study Jam, the testing center will be open until 5 p.m. on both days.

Destaney Jefferson, a student in her first term, knows exactly what the scariest part about finals is. "Math," she said, and added, "if I fail, I'll lose my financial aid."

Luckily for students, the Math Angle will be open. The Angle provides study space just for

this subject and a chance to ask all the questions you need, and to have them answered.

The Math Angle is only for students in MTH 95 and below. For those who aren't signed in at the Angle, the Math Help desk will also be staffed from noon to 4 p.m. on both days.

And while you're studying (if you sign up soon enough), you can send your children to a Kid's Jam at the Periwinkle center at no cost.

Most of all, Study Jam provides a helpful, encouraging atmosphere for the stress right before finals.

And, you might be interested to know, you pay for it.

Eric Fleming, a Student Government representative, explained how the ASG, who helps host Study Jam, is given part of every tuition dollar to provide services students want. "We've always had a very good turnout," he said, but added that if students don't come, they will have to cut Study Jam back.

Part of any extra money goes to a big drawing at the end of the weekend. Up to 20 people are awarded prizes.

ASG, as a good host, brings food. Free breakfast fruit and muffins, vegetables and pizza are provided.

Fleming said, "We know we have a good turnout when the food disappears."

Let's make it disappear this time.



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Career Fair Caters to Students of All Ages

Kacey Dowers
Contributing Writer

College isn't just for the teenagers anymore. With the tanking U.S. economy, it seems that many people who have attended college are now attending again.

Jobs are scarce, and it seems that the only way to even make a living these days is to go back to school and get a degree.

It isn't easy to start over and go to school. Many students have children and work. Some just don't have the money. Financial aid is available, but to many it is scary to think about paying off student loans for a school from which they may not even graduate.

Colleges around the country are experiencing a rise in the number of middle-aged men and women attending their schools.

Annual Career Fair	For more information
Where: Activities Center When: Thur., April 14 From: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Contact: Carla Raymond Phone: (541) 917-4788 Email: carla.raymond@linnbenton.edu

Robin McAllister of Alpine, Tex., is a student going to Sul Ross State University. Her mother is also one of the students taking online classes and working a part-time job to make a better living for her family.

"I never thought my mother and I would be taking classes at the same time," said McAllister, "but I guess that is what a tough economy does to people."

Around the LBCC campus, there are students that also have been to school when they were younger. Linda Milligan of Albany has a family and works at Benton Habitat For Humanity. She attends school full-time and plans to transfer to Oregon State University.

"It's tough, but it's life," said Milligan. The Career Counseling Office at LBCC helps students to find jobs on and near campus.

Carla Raymond from the LBCC career office has seen many times what the recession and state of the economy has done to students that are trying to find jobs.

She tells students to attend career fairs. There is a lot of information out there that can help students follow their dreams. Career counselors and employment specialists can critique your resume and help you succeed in finding a job.

"Be persistent," said Raymond. "We are in a recession. One of the best things you can do is to join organizations to get to know employers."

Everyone can make a difference in their communities and better their own lives. Don't let an economy of doom stop you in your tracks. There are options.

Corvallis Group Seeks to Save Witham Oaks

Shayne Morgan
Contributing Writer

The Friends of Witham Oaks, who are spearheading the campaign to preserve 96 acres of pristine land in Corvallis, have received an offer from an anonymous donor to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 in donations received by March 31.

They hope to raise enough money to purchase the property from US Bank and donate it back to the community. As of Tuesday afternoon, the group had tallied \$180,000 in donations toward its \$1 million goal.

The group envisions a management plan that, through

partnerships, will protect and restore the property's valuable natural resources while providing public access to open space and trails, as well as opportunities for education and research.

The 90 acres on the Witham Oaks property offers a variety of rare habitats, a threatened oak savanna, 23 acres of wetlands, and potential habitats for a variety of threatened species.

The benefits of the project would offer easy access to hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing, while maintaining open space within the Corvallis city limits.

Supporters include the Audubon Society of Corvallis,

Greenbelt Land Trust, and the Native Plant Society of Oregon, Corvallis chapter.

The Institute for Applied Ecology wrote: "Witham Oaks has important potential habitat for Kincaid's lupine, a threatened species. This lupine occurs in upland prairie and oak savanna, and Benton County is one of the local hotspots for this species. Kincaid's lupine is also the primary host plant for Fender's blue, an endangered butterfly that lives only in the Willamette Valley and could occur at Witham Oaks if the habitat was restored and the lupine reintroduced. Because of the strategic location of Witham

Oaks, it could provide important future habitat for the recovery of both of these exceptional species."

Nelson's checker mallow is a threatened species. The wetland habitats at Witham Oaks are prime potential habitat for this colorful rare plant as well, they said. In fact, a small population still remains in wetlands on adjacent properties owned and managed by Oregon State University.

Once much more abundant in the Willamette Valley, Nelson's checker mallow is now rare due to habitat loss. Benton County is one of the remaining population centers for this species, and protection

of Witham Oaks can provide significant habitat for this species and improve population connectivity in the region, sponsors said.

The Friends of Witham Oaks have a website with a PayPal account for immediate donations. Log on to www.withamoaks.org/Witham_Oaks/Donate.html. Click on the PayPal tab. Remember to donate prior to March 31 to benefit from donation matching.

You can also find them on Facebook. Search for Friends of Witham Oaks and become a fan.

For more information, call 541-740-1497 or e-mail withamoaks@comcast.net.

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Oregon State UNIVERSITY

Wounded Budget Leads to Reduction

Lacey Jarrell
Managing Editor

Facing a \$2.6 million budget shortfall in the current biennium and bracing for a projected \$5.2 million budget shortfall in the 2011-2012 biennium, LBCC administrators have been working diligently to come up with some not-so-easy solutions to financial issues facing the college.

On Feb. 18, LBCC President Greg Hamann sent an e-mail to staff members outlining a portion of the college's proposal for dealing with the foreseen deficit, including "involuntary reductions for some faculty and classified staff."

Hamann noted that 8.3 contracted faculty positions will be reduced or left vacant next year, and numerous non-contract (adjunct/part-time) faculty positions will be eliminated. The combination of involuntary staff reductions, program modifications, and eliminations will occur at the end of the 2010-

11 school year and will save the college and estimated \$367,000, according to Jim Huckestein, vice president of finance and operations.

Throughout November and December, classified staff, administrators, and full-time faculty held meetings regarding how each respective group would bear their "proportional" share of the shortfall. Classified staff agreed to concede 3.16 percent of their salaries for 18 months, while administrators agreed to drop a 6 percent PERS (Public Employee Retirement System) pickup.

However, full-time faculty only agreed to a 3.5 percent reduction in pay to last through April 30. Unlike classified staff and administrators, the full-time faculty concessions do not continue into the next biennium, therefore some staff positions could be conceded.

The Mathematics and Counseling departments will each see one involuntary reduction.

"We hope the changes we are making are going to have

the least destructive impact on students," said Huckestein, who noted the decisions were based on the "least bad choices."

Counselor Dael Dickson believes a reduction in counseling services at this time *will* have a significant impact on students. After the position is terminated, the counseling center will have only four full-time and one part-time counselor to work with students in services ranging from class scheduling to crisis counseling, including suicide prevention. Dickson noted that the number of students considering suicide has grown significantly over the years.

"Having those services now is more important than ever," she said.

In an e-mail, Dickson also noted the overall loss of funds for the counseling center. Due to a reduction in available monetary resources, "Instead of 4.5 people here during the week, it could be two or three a day now, and has been that for the last year."

The entire Periwinkle Childcare Development Center is also set to be eliminated. PCDC was originally designed as a self-supporting enterprise; however, the college ends up subsidizing the facility about \$125,000 a year. Huckestein noted many options were explored, such as raising the fee per child, prior to the decision to dismantle the program.

"But, the revenue [per student] is never as high as the expenditures," Huckestein said. He added that the facility is limited in what it can charge per child because if the center surpasses the industry standard, parents will likely seek other, more affordable childcare.

Since hearing of the proposed elimination of the program, students have rallied to reach a compromise with the college. Hamann met with a group of parents who participate in the center's co-op program last week, and at their request, visited the center last Thursday. The students will present a model for a partnership program to an

administrative committee on March 15 in hopes of maintaining PCDC's services.

"We still have a lot of work to do, but we are hopeful," said student and organizer Mel Hite.

Another program being eliminated after spring term is the Emergency Medical Technician program. The program serves approximately 26 full-time students and costs the college \$50,000 annually. Some instructors will be absorbed into other parts of the school rather than losing positions. A factor in choosing the EMT program is that nearby colleges such as Chemeketa Community College offer similar programs, so it would not be hard for students to continue their studies.

Wastewater Management and Business Technology are not being eliminated but will see some changes in the program, as well as changes in the number of staff members, which is also expected to be reduced.

Countdown to Summer!

04 weeks until Summer Session registration begins.

Planning Guide is Here!

The official Summer Session Planning Guide is now available on the Web.



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Where on Campus?



Do you know where this picture was taken?

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 donated by the campus bookstore. Winners may only win once per term.

Tony Brown



Last Week's Answer: A basketball net in the gym.

Last Week's Winner: Congratulations Brian Ozarowicz! Please stop by The Commuter office (F-222) and see Tony to claim your prize.

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.

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.

Event Coordinator (#8791, Sweet Home) Work at the Oregon Jamboree this summer assisting with site layout and photographing the campground, and interfacing with vendors and production Staff. This is nonpaid, but this could be a CWE job for someone in a related major.

Event Marketing & Promotion (#8789, Sweet Home) If you like

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.

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.

marketing and interfacing with people, this nonpaid intern position could make for a fun and interesting summer working at the largest Country Music event in Oregon.

Event Accounting Intern (#8790, Sweet Home) Great job for an accounting student who wants to get more experience and maybe CWE credits while working with all phases of a the Oregon Jamboree.

CWE Student Clerical Assistant (#8795, Albany) Are you in an office major and looking to get experience and get paid at the same time? Here is your opportunity!!

PCDC Is Getting Cut

What's Being Done?

Audrey Gomez
Copy Editor

LBCC President Greg Hamann visited the Periwinkle Childcare Development Center Thursday at the request of parents who are trying to save the program.

Mel Hite, LBCC student and organizer in the effort to save the PCDC, said the visit went well.

"The kids and Dr. Hamann are the ones that educated me. I stood back and looked from a different point of view. I didn't have to do a lot of explaining, it was obvious how the classes worked as a system," Hite said.

Co-op members value the education they receive through mandatory parenting classes as well as the care their children receive at the PCDC.

LBCC education students value the program too.

Education students benefit from being able to conveniently fulfill their practicum requirement. "For me its really helpful because I don't have a car. It allows me to do my practicum on campus," said Ricky Zipp, an education major at LBCC.

On-campus practicum also creates an invaluable connection between parents and education students. "I've had classes with their parents. Parents come in and help. It's more of a personal experience," Zipp said.

The students hoping to maintain PCDC services will be meeting with administration again on March 15.

Students and alumni - If you have a story about how the PCDC program has helped you, please send a comment to The Commuter at commuter@linnbenton.edu or comment on this article on the website: commuter.linnbenton.edu

What Will Happen?

Drew Wilson-McGrath
Staff Writer

Come fall term 2011 at LBCC, the Periwinkle Child Development Center will exist no more, one of the many victims of LBCC's recent mandatory budgets cuts.

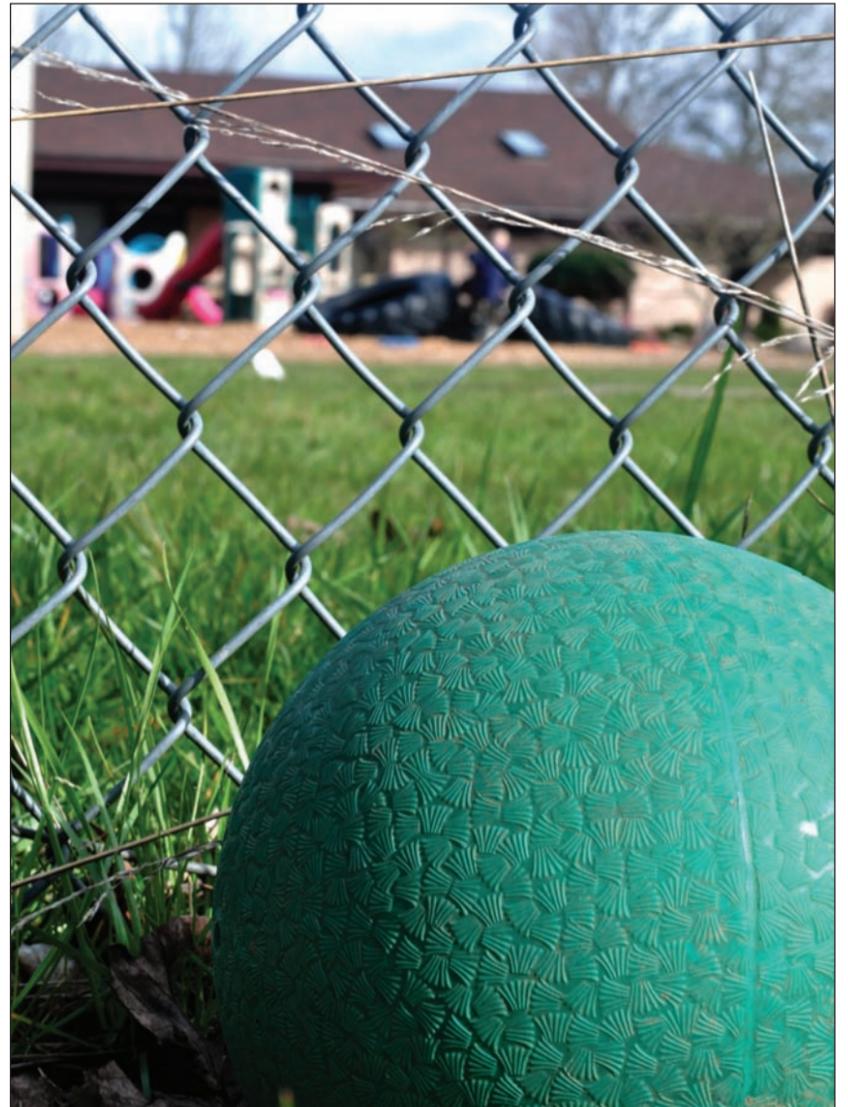
What does the discontinuation mean for the children? Many of these children have certainly developed an attachment to some of the caregivers at the facility, and benefit from these relationships while their parents attend class or work, and sometimes both.

"While the Education/Child and Family Studies program will remain, LBCC's operation of the Child Development Center will be discontinued. We have approached Head Start with the idea of moving their services onto our campus and believe they may be interested in doing so, thereby providing similar childcare services for the children of our students and also continuing to provide the workplace experience component for our Child and Family Studies students," LBCC President Greg Hamann wrote in an e-mail to staff Feb. 18.

Head Start is a government-sponsored program that provides a comprehensive early childhood agenda that enhances child development and supports qualified families.

But what does the loss of the program mean for those that relied on PCDC in order to care for their children while still managing to attend classes?

In other words, will Head



Looking back on the Periwinkle Childcare Development Center.

Alyssa Archer

Starts' potential involvement at LBCC be just as good if not better than the care and consideration offered by the current operations of the PCDC?

"LBCC students who qualify [there are some parents who won't] will continue to receive quality childcare, just fewer hours," Susan Knapp, practicum instructor and PCDC coordinator, said. "The ages we serve are 2 1/2 - 6 years old. We currently

have 20 children who are in the 2 1/2 - 3 year old room; 20 children in the 4 year old room and 14 children in the kindergarten room (5-6 years old)."

Many parents are disgruntled by the harsh realities in store for the program. Yet the budget cuts are necessary to the further operation of LBCC on a level that benefits everyone as much as possible - students and staff alike.

Community Colleges Historically Short-Changed

Carli Gibson
Staff Writer

Over time, funding for community colleges has been decreasing, and with the way the economy is, it doesn't seem like a raise for funding will happen anytime soon.

For a school, not having the money to provide for its students is somewhat embarrassing. However, it's not the school's fault the economy isn't at its best.

The LBCC Foundation is a group that was formed in 1972 to provide students with "student scholarships, grants and loans; enhancing the College library and expanding technology; bringing visiting scholars, artists, and cultural/educational programs to the campus; replacing instructional equipment and funding major new campus facilities,"

according to their web page.

However, that was in the '70s, when enrollment was on the rise, which meant funding was also on the rise. Now that enrollment period is over and funding has gone down.

According to John McArdle, director of Development and Government Relations at LBCC, "Due to the budget cuts, the LBCC Foundation has received a request from the college president to focus our fundraising efforts on providing program and educational equipment support." McArdle also pointed out that they will try their best to help anyone establish a scholarship, but their objective is mostly securing funds for classes that meet the educational needs of the students.

Shouldn't our college, and others, get more funding? Without colleges, we cannot further our education.

Get Involved

Contact: Paulette Myers
myersp@linnbenton.edu

Without a higher education, we don't have the skills we need to perform future jobs; we'll all be stuck working at McDonalds.

However, can we really blame the government for this? No. The government is filling the gap that the community doesn't. After researching a variety sites on this topic, I've found that community colleges used to be almost completely funded by local property taxes. Mainly because community colleges used to be considered part of the local public school system.

Now community colleges are not considered to be part of the public school system. Therefore, the college doesn't get the funding it once had. By 1999,

community college funding from the community dropped to 18 percent, after starting out with 94 percent in 1918.

That's when the state stepped in: they helped fill the void.

Since the 1900s, there have been countless acts to get the Federal Government involved with funding (Readjustment Act of 1944, Higher Education Act of 1987, Perkins act of 1991). From all the 'acts' that were created, the one that stands out the most is the Vocational Education Act of 1963, which gave community college students an improved quality in their classes.

There you have it. Our school, like many other community colleges, is lacking in funds. You shouldn't be surprised.

There are ways to help! You can always donate money to the LBCC Foundation.

First Alternative
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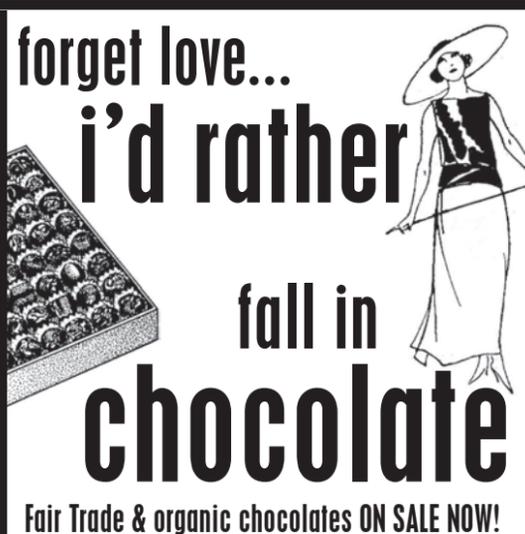
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Need a free place to bring your kids while you attend Study Jam?

KIDS JAM!

Saturday, March 12, 2011
10 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Periwinkle Child Development Center
For potty-trained children aged 2 1/2 ~ 10 years old

Sign up soon ~ only 30 spots available!
Sign up in the Student Life & Leadership Office
or the Periwinkle Child Development Center

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Playoffs: LBCC Men Eliminated

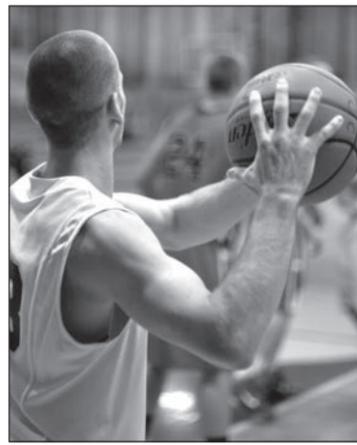
Scott Landgren
Sports Editor

KENNEWICK, Wash. – This past weekend the LBCC men's basketball team ended its season at the NWAACC basketball tournament.

The Roadrunners played three games over the weekend and ended with a 1-2 record. They lost to Pierce Community College on Saturday 56-55, bounced back Sunday to defeat Walla Walla Community College 76-69, then lost Monday to Whatcom Community College 77-65.

On Saturday, LB sophomore Taylor Roos had a team high of 14 points. Many of the stats between the two teams were close; both teams shot 37 percent overall and had about the same number of points from turnovers.

The game was tied at 29



Tony Brown
Kyle Wolf looks for a team mate to pass the ball to.

at the half, and LB was outscored by one point in the second half. It was a good effort for LB, but with the loss they fell into the loser's bracket.

Sunday, LB beat Walla Walla to stay alive in the loser's bracket. Roos again had a team high of 21 points in the win. Fellow sophomore Mike Kruesi had 14 points, joining Roos as the only LB players in double

figures. LB shot 41 percent overall for the game and held Walla Walla to only 34 percent.

With the win Sunday, LB stayed alive and played Whatcom for a chance to play one last game for sixth place. LB came up short in the game, losing by 12 points. Roos had a team high of 22 points in the loss. Freshman Josh Garlington had 12 points for the Roadrunners.

LB shot 39 percent overall for the game and committed 14 turnovers. LB was down by 11 at half time. They played better, but were outscored by one point in the second half.

Roos earned South Region First-Team honors. Kruesi and Garlington earned Honorable Mention. Garlington also earned All-Defensive Team honors. LB finished the season at 8-6 in the South Region, a third-place finish, and had a record of 12-15 overall.

Running Wild

Confessions of a runner

Michaela Wasson
Contributing Writer

Let's say you have this friend. He's actually a pretty nice guy. Smart. Cool truck. Then something happens. He takes up running. And your relationship is never quite the same.

Most of us have known a "runner" at some time or another. On the whole, they seem like normal people. But I've had a sneaking suspicion for a long time that runners are really fanatics. When you realize they are, you know you have a problem.

How do you deal with a fanatic?

There has to be something wrong with them. They run in the rain. Some of them run in the sleet. They run and they run and they run.

They must be insane.

Ray Charbonneau, in "Chasing the Runner's High," tells of his ultra runs. "Ultra" does not mean 10 miles, or 26. It's 50 or 100. As if that weren't enough, runners seem to attempt to find the worst places to run their crazy races. There is a 100K and a marathon, all for the mentally insane, being held at the South Pole.

Runners are wild. Nothing is beyond them.

James Fixx, in "The Complete Book of Running," shares the story of a man named Bob Glover who ran 50 miles in a circle on a quarter-mile track. That's 200 rounds of physical and psychological agony.

In Oregon, Ray Wold, a marathon runner in his 70s, admits to 103 marathons and more than 35 years of running. "They used to say I was addicted to it," he said.

Elite runners aren't the only ones who can become "addicted." Runners, elite or not, boast of their single-mindedness. They talk like they enjoy losing toenails from miles of running, as if hail and hills are their best friends. It might be alright for them to run and run, but they like it so much they talk about it, too. Often. And you have to listen.

They have to be crazy.

LBCC student Margo Herrling said, "People who are fanatical about running must have really addictive personalities." That sounds about right. They're fanatical addicts.

And addicts need help.

I hope some of these tips for those of you who know a runner are helpful for controlling their compulsive behavior.

- Monitor the phone. Runners sometimes have a large network of like-minded friends that should be actively discouraged.
- Watch for race fliers on bulletin boards, in junk mail, on the web, etc. This is very important. You could try to hide their running shoes. But keep in mind that they have been known to keep a pair in the car.
- You could give them lists of all the potential pains that marathon runners experience (if they are already a marathon runner, this probably won't work).
- Runners have been known to be quite skinny and always hungry. If it is necessary to resort to drastic measures, such as when a race date conflicts with your own schedule of free time, then controlling a runner's food supply has been quite effective.
- Hide the energy drinks.
- If possible, make friends with the local sport-shop owner. He could be helpful in tracking your friend's movements.

Or, if all else fails, try what Wold's wife did. Wold said he had no conflicts with her over running "because she ran at the same time I did."

But, that might be considered encouraging the behavior. It might be more helpful to make your friend start the successful procedure used by Alcoholics Anonymous. The first step is to say, "I admit I am an alcoholic."

So I begin. "I, Michaela Wasson, admit I am a run-aholic."

Runners Anonymous, here I come.

The Commuter Is Made of Win

The Commuter took fifth place in a national contest!

Last weekend, LBCC's student newspaper sent 13 members of its staff to the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) National College Journalism Convention in Hollywood, Calif.

LBCC stood tall among the Best in Show for two-year college newspapers on a national level, earning the fifth-place award. This was the first time LBCC entered the ACP competition.

With that boost in drive and confidence, The Commuter is now gearing up to compete in the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association competition for college newspapers. Awards will be announced May 6 at the annual conference, which will return to LBCC this year.

Last year, under Editor-in-Chief Max Brown, The Commuter took home 15 awards among the 21 categories, including three first-place and eight second-place wins.



New Multimedia Tools to Play With

Marci Sischo

Webmaster

By 2013, most of us are going to be checking the Internet on our smartphones. According to CNN, people are already buying more smartphones than PCs. I'll admit, it's not what I was hoping for. I expected to be surfing the 'Net via my wireless uplink skull implant by now, but I suppose there's something to be said for not having a steady stream of LOLcats and porn downloaded directly to my brain.

The way we view and use the Internet is changing, as is what we expect out of a website. We're way past the point of enjoying plain-text BBS boards, and these days, we expect our websites to be full of as many nifty interactive bells and whistles as one poor programmer can cram in there. We expect a mobile version of a site that offers special, mobile-only content. We expect a site to have an app for that, whatever "that" may be, and it had

better not be annoying us with constant updates or draining our phone battery. There better be some specialized content for that app, too.

These are the lessons I learned at the ACP Conference in Hollywood this weekend.

Sonya Quick, of the Orange County Register, spoke about the mobile revolution, warning that any media website that doesn't have a mobile phone app has already fallen behind the times. Lauren Rabaino told a whole room of college journalists that we were "breaking her heart" if we weren't thinking digital first. Holly Heyser offered some great tips on jazzing up our online content, extolling the virtues of interactive multimedia, like the kinds used by her students' newspaper, the State Hornet. Along with Anthony Pesce and Brady Teufel, Heyser gave us some of the multimedia tools to add those bells and whistles to the Commuter in their seminars on Friday and Saturday.

From interactive maps to clickable timelines, audio and video, livestreaming events, and audio slideshows, nearly anything a reader can imagine can be added to a website these days. Most of those things can be added almost effortlessly, simply by visiting a website and adding a free embeddable code to your online article or blog post. For a reasonable fee, you can buy software to add even more great extras to articles. And for anyone lucky enough to know a bit of programming, the sky is the limit.

With so many free and cheap tools available to journalists these days, one thing is for sure – the way we consume media is about to change drastically. Those wireless skull implants might not be quite ready yet, but the next best thing has certainly arrived, and it's happening on your smartphone. It's changing everything we thought we knew about journalism.

I Hate Your [type]Face

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

Leading. Kerning. Serif. Ligature.

These words mean little to the general public, but to font geeks like me, they mean the world. I could continue and tell you about how a good even-weight, proportionally-spaced sans serif sends me into a tizzy. But I'll spare you those details.

As page designer (a.k.a. paginator, graphics facilitator, or my personal favorite, page prettifier) for The Commuter, at the Hollywood conference I was naturally drawn to the design workshops. I've been in a bit of a design rut recently and had hopes that I'd learn better ways to deliver news to our readers visually.

I thought that no one could love type as much as I do. But after the first speaker I saw joked about his past Futura phase, and the rest of the audience knew exactly what it's like to be obsessed with a single font, I knew I was not alone. I had finally found my people.

After the first session Friday morning, I walked out ready to do a

complete redesign of our paper. I told our editor-in-chief, Justin Bolger, that's exactly what we'd be doing over spring break. I was completely inspired. I could barely write down my ideas fast enough, and by the end of the conference Sunday, couldn't wait to get back to the office to start implementing everything I learned.

When you get back for spring term, be ready for a new and improved printed edition of The Commuter. We'll be doing everything we can to get the information to you better, prettier.

We'll be:

- Using more space to spotlight stories
- Eliminating clutter by adding more break-out boxes
- Bigger photos and more of them

I know our webmaster, Marci Sischo, was equally inspired by the website design sessions and has already started using what she learned on our site. If you haven't seen it yet, visit commuter.linnbenton.edu the next time you're online and check it out.

Robert Redford Press Conference



Tony Brown

The staff of The Commuter was able to view an early screening of Robert Redford's latest movie, "The Conspirator," at the ACP National College Journalism Conference in Hollywood on March 4, and participated in a question-and-answer session with Redford on March 5. Go online to see an excerpt from the press conference at commuter.linnbenton.edu.



A view of the Los Angeles skyline.

Chris Brotherton



Key Note Speaker Larry Grobel.

Tony Brown



Staff members discuss the conference over lunch.

Alyssa Archer



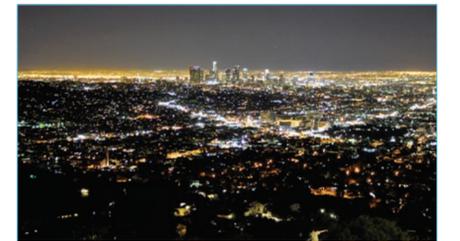
The Commuter staff in front of the Kodak Theater.

Tony Brown



Street Performers along Hollywood Boulevard.

Tony Brown

Ashley Christie
Grauman's Chinese Theater

A view of the Los Angeles skyline at night.

Tony Brown

The Commuter Takes California

Conferences: A Lesson and an Experience

Adam LaMascus

Opinion Editor

The journalism conference in Los Angeles was an amazing experience. The concept alone is impressive: hundreds of people from all over the United States gathering to exchange ideas and help each other develop their craft. Getting to attend a Q&A session with actor/director Robert Redford also was pretty darn cool.

Redford said a lot of very interesting and profound things, though there was one comment that particularly stuck with me, a comment on the concept of journalists. He pointed out that journalists are people who, in principle, are trying to discover the "truth" (a nebulous term and goal in itself) and share this information with as many people as possible. With such a unique goal, journalists are a necessary part of a free and well-informed society. Redford also said he feels that good journalists are more important than ever "to help cut through the increasing amounts of bullshit in our society."

It was also a great experience to meet so many people from all over the country and speak to them. One of my favorite encounters was when talking to a girl named Amanda from New Jersey. She asked if I watch "Jersey Shore," and when I replied that I do not she said, "Thank you so much."

Being exposed to other people and ideas is vital, especially in this digital age that seems to move at the speed of light. I know that a number of attendees felt that Hollywood and Los Angeles in general are hellholes, but I'm still glad that the conference was there.

I remember standing on the roof of Griffith Park Observatory at 9:30 p.m. with another Commuter staff member, Cameron Vasseur. He is a Willamette local and has spent most of his life in Salem, Lebanon, Sweet Home, and Corvallis. As we stood there looking at an ocean of lights going on as far as we could see in almost every direction, he said, "And I thought Portland was big." Important occasions like these help remind us and emphasize how large our world is.

In addition to the mind-expanding and eye-opening experiences of simply encountering all of these people and places, there were the panels at the conference. These were also incredible as many of the speakers had decades of professional journalistic experience and knowledge. Being allowed to freely pick their brains and listen to them was really informative.

My favorite panel was hosted by Chris Lesinski, a professional online audience builder. Most recently he worked on creating from nothing and building the blog for the show "Tosh.0" on Comedy Central. The various tips and tricks he taught us were great, as was the information provided by all the other panel speakers.

The wealth of knowledge was mind blowing, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity, along with everybody else who attended the conference.

Interview Like a Professional

Jill Mahler

Staff Writer

Sweaty hands, dry throat, mind swarming with thoughts -- just as an interview is about to occur, a journalist's nightmare.

This predicament can happen to journalists, usually when they are in the early stages. The truth is that during the beginning of their education, every journalist learns what material they need to cover for their story through interviews, but little attention is actually paid to how to properly interview someone.

Journalism professor Barbara Kingsley-Wilson of California State University discussed what it takes to go beyond the questions during a workshop -- "Getting the Story from Anyone: Interviewing in Depth" -- at last weekend's Associated Collegiate Press conference in Hollywood, Calif.

Kingsley-Wilson teaches at the California State University in Long Beach. She began the workshop by playing a recorded interview of someone who had survived a gunshot wound to the head during a plane hijacking. The reporter did a spectacular job by following a few key methods.

First, the reporter allowed the subject to talk instead of competing with the subject. He listened to the answers rather than missing what was being said by concentrating on his next question or other reporting tasks.

It was evident the reporter had done his homework, incorporating crucial information into the interview. There were no harsh transitions during his questioning or insertion of his own emotions or biases; he only interjected when facts needed to be added.

The interview had the feel of a conversation rather than an interrogation. By noticing what the reporter had done correctly in his interview, the attendees of the workshop discovered what tactics are most effective.

Then Kingsley-Wilson introduced the "Seven Deadly Sins of Interviewing" by interview expert John Sawatsky. These serve as guidelines of what not to do during an interview.

Seven Deadly Sins of Interviewing by John Sawatsky

1. Asking a question with no query
2. Asking two questions at a time
3. Overloaded questions
4. Adding a statement to the question
5. Using loaded or "trigger" words
6. Hyperbole
7. Close-ended questions

The guidelines seemed simple enough, but if overlooked they were mistakes that could sink any journalist's interview.

Finally, she ended the discussion by informing the audience that the "best questions are like clean windows." Transparency should be the aim for every media outlet.

And just in case the interview sprung a leak and began to capsize, she recommended using the Goal, Obstacle, Solution and Start (GOSS) strategy. Every subject has a GOSS, so there is always a direction for the interview to go.

The subject's Goal is their quest, the point of what they are aiming to achieve. The Obstacle is the challenges they face. The Solution is how they will or did overcome their obstacles. And the Start is their story, how they arrived to this point in their life.

Members of the audience agreed the workshop was effective and informative. For some, it was the first in-depth lessons they had learned on the interviewing process.

As Kingsley-Wilson pointed out, interviewing is an art and questions are the instruments.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Tony Brown

Photo Editor

Hollywood is just a small portion of the sprawling metropolis of Los Angeles, but it is a name known worldwide as the film capital.

"And that's what dreams are made of," said Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) in the film "The Maltese Falcon."

These words ring through the ears of those that are seeking fame and fortune, hoping for their big break or standing at the arched gates of Paramount Pictures gazing upon the famous Hollywood sign ready for their close-up.

Hollywood is alive during the daylight hours with people and cars moving and bumping into each other like the blood cells coursing through their arteries.

Tourists from all walks of life, carrying cameras, filter in and out of shops and museums, taking pictures of the star-studded walkways and the wannabes who work the sidewalks of fame, hoping to get a glimpse at stardom.

There are currently 2,434 stars on the walk of fame, with director Zuben Mehta being the most recent, added in February. Near the grand staircase in the Kodak Theatre, mounted on the wall, is the star of Mohammed Ali, the only star that does not rest on the sidewalks.

"I heard that he didn't want his star to get walked on," said Ana Martinez, vice president of media relations and the producer of the star ceremonies.

"His star was the only one not created onsite, but at the factory and presented to Ali on an easel."

At night the city morphs into a different animal, like a werewolf searching for prey. Sounds from night clubs that were once hidden away in light come alive with music that flows out into the streets. Well-dressed people now line the walkways, waiting for their turn to be granted access into the clubs. The select few are given passage by the gate keepers that guard the entrances.

The men are sharply dressed, wearing mostly black clothing, standing with women wearing tight black outfits and are constantly pulling up and down on their clothes to cover their barely-hidden womanhood.

In the early morning hours the air grows still. The heartbeat slows down and allows for a resurgence of vital nutrients that supplies the people with energy. Television and film production trucks move through the quiet city street to locations unknown.

There's a calming in the morning air while the city sleeps. "The morning hours are like the breath before the plunge," said Jacob Ontiveros, an employee at the Hollywood and Highland complex.

The shops are empty, but the work remains as street cleaners work to clean the city before the giant awakens. People are asleep in their homes and beds, even those that have found a place in the recesses of a building or the ground, who huddle in their sleeping bags or layers of clothing.

Tinseltown is the place where dreams can come true and is also the place where shattered hopes and despair fill the air like the smell of wet moldy clothes, discarded cigarettes and deteriorating cardboard.

Beyond the glimmer and glamour, there is life that struggles every day to survive with continued hopes that one day, they too will make it in the place called Hollywood.

Long, Strange Nights in Hollywood

Chris Brotherton

Staff Writer

When most people hear the name Hollywood, visions of movie stars and magic come to their minds. However, after spending the weekend in this magical place, I have discovered that there is much more to it than magic.

This past weekend, the journalism department of LBCC attended the Associated Collegiate Press journalism conference in Hollywood, Calif. During the day, most of us were inside the protective confines of the hotel conference center, not really interacting with the outside world.

Half of my group arrived early, so we decided to do some touristy stuff. Our hotel was on the same block as Grauman's Chinese Theatre, a famous Hollywood attraction. After snapping some shots of famous people's hand and foot prints, we started walking back to the hotel. Suddenly a guy asked if we would be interested in seeing a taping of "Jimmy Kimmel Live." So began a trip into the nuts and bolts of Hollywood.

After getting into the building, Gary Brittsan and I waited in line with everyone else. During this time, the audience was instructed on how to act. We were warned that there was sensitive sound equipment, so if a cell phone went off, or you talked during the show, you would be escorted out. For these people, this was their life.

Once inside the studio, it was nothing but business. The business of being funny. By the time the whole show was over, Gary and I both had sore hands from clapping and sore throats from hollering and laughing.

After such a wonderful time in the studio, it was time for dinner. Gary and I hit up the local In-N-Out for some animal-style burgers. There was no place to sit, and there seemed to not be a place opening up soon, so we headed back to the hotel to eat.

Friday, after the conference, I decided to strike out on my own. I headed down to La Brea Avenue to see if the tar pits were within walking distance. They weren't, but I was able to find the Jim Henson Company, with a giant Kermit the Frog perched up on the top of the building. Originally the Charlie Chaplin studio, his signature can be found in a cement step near the front gate.

A little further on I found Sunset Boulevard. I thought that I should find something interesting down there, as I always hear about Sunset and the action there. This section of Sunset was dead. I headed back to Hollywood Blvd. to see what kind of action was going on there.

While waiting in a crosswalk, I ran into a filming crew from HBO, out filming for a new series called "Nightlife." Their job was to go out and interview drunk people to see what kinds of strange things they had seen while in Hollywood. Although the premise for the show wasn't an Emmy-winning one, it was entertaining and a great opportunity to watch journalism at work.

The guy who was in charge of interviewing was very skilled at the art of interacting with people. He could play around a little bit, making small talk and getting them to realize that he was just a normal guy. Then once he got them to say yes to being on camera, he was all business.

After two hours with the HBO crew, I decided that it was time to head back up for some rest before filling my head with more journalistic knowledge at the conference in the morning. Even though the side of Hollywood I saw was nowhere near the glitz and glamour everyone expects it to be, I would still go back and do it all over again.

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Ongoing

Women's History Month

Diversity Achievement Center

All month long, come and visit the DAC! Kick off Women's History Month with the Poetry Club! Come in and join us for cookies, coffee and punch while students and staff read poems written by, for and about women. Visit the photo display celebrating Women's History Month. Weekly videos pertaining to women's issues. Other activities to be announced. Look for dates and times TBA during the month of March! Sponsored by the Non-Traditional Career Program and the DAC Student Leaders.

Thursday 3/10

Eyes on the Prize Film Series

4-6 p.m. • diversity Achievement Center

Sponsored by the DAC Student Leaders.

Say It With a Song: Live, Love, Laugh, Sing!

7:30 - 9 p.m. • Russell Tripp Performance Center

The LBCC Choirs in concert. Choirs include Concert Choir, Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir, Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble, Blue Light Special, and The Sirens. Conducted by James Reddan and Jason Caffarella. Accompanist Diana Hancock. General Admission \$7. Students and Seniors \$5.

Saturday 3/12

Study Jam

10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. • Learning Center

Do you need a place to study by yourself or with a group? Come to the Study Jam, sponsored by your Associated Student Government! Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help. Textbook rentals and free food will be available!

Kids Jam

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. • PCDC

Need help with the kids while you attend the Study Jam? Sign up in the Student Life and Leadership Office one week before kids Jam!

Sunday 3/13

Study Jam - Benton Center

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Come sharpen your skills for finals and get math, writing, reading and study skills help.

Food and drink provided by LBCC Student Government.

Study Jam

10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • Learning Center

Do you need a place to study by yourself or with a group? Come to the Study Jam, sponsored by your Associated Student Government! Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help.

Textbook rentals and free food will be available!

Order Spring Term books online

Mon-Thu 3/14-17

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Mon-Fri 3/14-18

Book Buyback

Monday 3/21

Spring Textbooks on Sale

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

CHALK TALK

Sorry about the absence of the chalk talk everyone.

This is going to be a very short chalk talk this week. I am asking for help with an upcoming event. The Veterans Club is planning on having a Memorial Day Visual on May 25 between 1100-1300. They are planning on having little American flags and POW/MIA flags to represent fallen and POW/MIA American fighting men and women from the 1900s to the present. Also there will be a Soldier's Cross put up for the two hours to honor the fallen. They are looking for volunteers to help with the set-up and gathering of materials for the Visual. This will be the first time a Memorial Visual

has event has ever been held here at LBCC campus. There will be more information about the event at the weekly meetings of the Veterans Club this Thursday at 1630. If you are interested in any way, please come to the meeting.

Again I am very sorry about my absence.

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

George S. Patton

David Mayotte

Study Jam

A warm place to study the weekend before finals!

Learning Center,
Albany Campus
Saturday, March 12
10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Math Help Desk: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Computer Lab: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Math Angle: 12-4 p.m.
Testing: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
(must start test by 4 p.m.)
Library: 12-4 p.m.
Free food!

Learning Center,
Albany Campus
Sunday, March 13
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Math Help Desk: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Computer Lab: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Math Angle: 12-4 p.m.
Testing: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
(must start test by 4 p.m.)
Free food!

Benton Center
Saturday, March 12
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Math Help: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Testing: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
(must start test by 3 p.m.)
Reading/Writing/Study Skills:
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Drawings every hour
Computer lab available
with printing
Textbook checkout
Free food!

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Also: Kids Jam, Saturday, March 12,
10 a.m.-3 p.m. at PCDC
Hosted by the LBCC Associated Student Government

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 LBCC, 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.

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Wagner: Götterdämmerung, Highlights from Act III

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Two-Year-Old Smoker Makes You Think

Jennifer Hartsock

Contributing Writer

I've never been very prompt about quitting something that's bad for me when I love it so much. I'm very patient, persistent, and forgiving in regard to unbeneficial friends, hobbies, or people I have feelings for. Nonetheless, when enough reasoning and examples become a pile too large to swat away, that is when I'm able to finally let go.

Cigarettes included.

I've had a lot of grief giving up smoking, and it's because I love smoking. Just like anything else, I had to wait for the one final reason before I could stop altogether – with no more cheating, and no more “special occasion” smoking.

What finally did it was the fact that a two-year-old Indonesian boy was reportedly smoking two packs a day without knowing the consequences.

It is unjust to take away someone's right to choose. I can never smoke again, or see other's smoking, without this notion: a child was killing himself without the slightest concept of it happening.

How dare I, or you, choose to kill myself or yourself when this child can't choose to live.

My choice to smoke or not to smoke means more than a personal choice affecting my own health. Now that I'm aware of a two-year-old boy who can't understand that smoking will kill him, due to his age and quantity of cigarettes per day, my choice to smoke means that I acknowledge this ill-treatment, and choose to selfishly ignore it. It is, without a doubt, a choice of undervaluing my freedom, as well as being unresponsive to his abuse. My choice not to smoke means that this boy's situation is wrong, and that I won't overlook it, or take for granted my ability to say “I want to live,” when he can't.

If you choose to smoke or talk about smoking in my presence, don't be surprised when I become angry with you.

Please Do Not Call/Text While Driving

Paula Buck

Contributing Writer

I recently was the victim of a car accident I believe was caused by a man on his cell phone.

I was behind another vehicle turning right at a red light, waiting for a pedestrian to cross. I had been at a complete stop for at least 20-30 seconds, when I looked up in my rear-view mirror and saw a vehicle coming straight at me at about 40 mph. The driver was not looking at me or the road, but down at his lap.

At that moment, I wanted to move out of his way, but there was a car in front of me. The only thing I could do was watch and brace.

As I watched him, he did not look up until right before impact.

My head slammed against the headrest of my car, and I was jarred suddenly. My car was pushed into the car in front of me.

It took me a few seconds to realize what had happened - I was hit!

I was extremely upset because I loved my car very much.

I jumped out of my car to inspect the damage and check on the man behind me. My car was totaled! The driver who hit me was pushing the airbag from his face. When I approached his car, he looked at me, stunned.

Since I saw he was not seriously injured, I began screaming at him as he continued texting as he stood on the side of the road.

He had a small cut above his eye; I had a sprained neck and severe muscle cramping, pain and tension for weeks afterward. The emotional effects, however, have lasted much longer. I feel violated, disposable, and distracted from my life.

Fortunately, my four-year-old was not in the car at the time, but I often get visions of what might have happened if she had been. It would have been a worse accident than it was, so I was lucky. I tear up just thinking about how one person's carelessness can easily cost another's safety, well-being, or life – not to mention the monetary costs in property damage and the time from work or school that is lost.

The driver was not looking at me or the road, but down at his lap.

These are some statistics provided by Edgar, Snyder and Associates Law Firm:

- 48 percent of young Americans from 12-17 say they've been in a car while the driver was texting.
- Each year, 21 percent of fatal car crashes involving teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 were the result of cell phone usage. This result has been expected to grow as much as 4 percent every year.
- Of all cell-phone-related tasks – including talking, dialing, or reaching for the phone – texting while driving is the most dangerous.
- A car driver dialing a cell phone is 2.8 times more likely to get into a crash than a non-distracted driver.
- Talking on a cell phone causes nearly 25 percent of car accidents.
- One-fifth of experienced adult drivers in the United States send text messages while driving.
- In 2002, the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis calculated that 2,600 people die each year as a result of using cell phones while driving. They estimated that another 330,000 are injured.
- Studies have found that texting while driving causes a 400 percent increase in time spent with eyes off the road.
- 4 out of every 5 accidents are attributed to distracted drivers. In contrast, drunk drivers account for roughly 1 out of 3 of all accidents nationally.

The numbers will continue to grow unless we start considering, for ourselves and one another, the promotion of driver awareness.

Please remember how dangerous texting while driving is, and the possible consequences of your actions if you ignore that – and the law. Please care enough to at least pull over, away from the road. If you don't care about your own life, consider someone else's.

PERSPECTIVES

Where is the most exciting place that you've been?



Carina Chambers,
Exercise
and Sport
Science

“Maui. It's the only island that I've ever been to.”



CJ Nugent,
EMT

“Germany. I like the culture. And the food. Definitely the food.”



Lara Keaton,
English

“Enchanted Forest. Especially the rabbit hole.”



Austin Warren,
Radiology

“Hawaii's Big Island. I liked seeing the culture. And turtles.”



Hailey Klient,
Nursing

“Disneyland. I ran around like I was a little kid again.”

Letter to the Editor: **Are We There Yet?**

It has been two months since many photographs were taken of the Tucson shootings. Have we moved so fast as to forget these images so soon? Are we at the point where the lessons learned have already been forgotten? Are we there yet?

At 10:10 on the morning of Jan. 8 Jared Laughner shot U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in the head at point blank range and then proceeded to open fire on the crowd, wounding or killing 18 others.

This occurred at a non-violent political meet-and-greet for Giffords outside a Safeway in Tucson. Many people angered by this shooting blame politics. Ignorance and political bigotry have contributed significantly to how divided our nation has become and this tragic event serves as the illustration that brings light to our nation's division. Have we become so divided, so wrapped up in our own hatred of others that we fail to recognize our own errors?

The implications of our actions toward each other reach far beyond politics and policy. Maybe a lack of tolerance when discussing religion, hurtful gestures toward a stranger, slanderous language, violent

actions, or an ignorant attitude. The list goes on. It only takes one person to take too far a single negative thought or action.

All it takes is one person to ruin the life of another. All it takes is one person to hurt your feelings and the feelings of many. All it takes is one person to fertilize the seeds of hatred and bigotry. All it takes is one person to unite a nation through hours of sadness and despair. All it takes is one person to change the world. But what if?

What if all it takes is one person to save a life? All it takes is one person to make you and others happy? All it takes is one person to nurture and embody the values of hope and love? All it takes is one person to bring a nation together through an act of charity and compassion? What if? All it takes is one person to change the world?

It takes much to learn from our own mistakes, but to learn from those mistakes will be the greatest way we can honor the victims of the Tucson shootings. The process starts with us, individually. Replacing words in our vocabulary like arrogance, corruption, and greed with acceptance, compassion, and generosity. We have the

ability to substitute the words of war, hatred, segregation, and contempt with peace, love, unity, and respect. We can alter our everyday actions and treat others with kindness and humility. Despite what recent events and actions have shown us about ourselves there is still hope that we can emerge from some of our darkest hours and accept others for their differences.

Why does it take our darkest hour to bring us so close together? Death only leads to despair. Despair, however, is the mother of hope. Without the first we cannot have the second. Can we not birth hope from acts of compassion and integrity rather than deeds of hatred and ignorance?

So I ask you: Are we there yet? Have we already forgotten the lessons learned that day? From this atrocity have we come to better understand each other and reach a political armistice? Or have we drawn even closer to becoming our own enemy? The question is there for each of us to ask ourselves. Are we there yet?

Eric Noll

Dear Conscience,

Most couples fight. This is not only seen as a method of growing closer, but a necessity for a healthy relationship. But what of those couples who don't fight? Is there hope?

Ashley Christie
Shoulder Devil

Fight. Don't fight. Who cares? We all end up alone anyway.

I don't understand why people spend so much of their lives devoted to another person. Especially when that person will just end up leaving you for a skinnier, younger apprentice devil in a shorter red skirt. (What? Don't act like that's never happened to you.)

We come into this world alone and we'll leave it alone. Why should we spend the majority of our lives trying to fool ourselves into believing that there's anything more? Life is about one thing: you. Only you.

When you plan your life around the hopes and dreams of another, all you get is burned. You work to build a life for yourself and then just one day decide to uproot everything and move from Purgatory to Hell because he gets a promotion and thinks the change of scenery will do you good. (I'm totally over it.)

Once you realize how meaningless and trivial everybody else is, with their new perfect girlfriend and new perfect car and house and life and ... whatever, I'm not bitter. Anyway, you realize how much better your life can be.

(For example, I don't have to worry about melting because half my body isn't made of plastic.)
Is there hope? Not in my world.

Justin Bolger
Shoulder Angel

There's always hope!

Two benefits come from being a couple with talent in verbal sparring: passion and lessons in how to be with each other.

I promise that both you and your lovely are attracted to passion. Whether you're expressing your love, standing up to the office bully, or running a marathon, passion looks good on ya! For some couples, fighting is the outlet. For others, there's a world of options that fill the same niche.

Be romantic! A spontaneous bouquet of their favorite flowers works magic! And I know I can sure fall in love with a delicious picnic buffet. It's not just for storybooks, ladies and gentlemen.

Adventure together! Do something new every couple of weeks and be active with one another. It relieves tension, excites and makes for some darn good stories. You can share the tales with the family or hold them close as cutesy inside jokes!

Fighting also lets you know how someone wants to be loved. Trust me, they'll always tell you – one way or another. If you don't fight, I bet you have other means to communicate these ideas. It takes courage to bring up ways to grow; it takes an open mind to discuss changes you could make.

Yes, there is hope for you to be just as great as other couples and even to excel. Well done, reader!



BACK *in the* DAY

Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

This day in history ...

March 9, 1765: Justice achieved ...

After a vigorous campaign by Voltaire, French courts overturn the decision of an extremely biased jury and declare that Jean Calas is not guilty of murdering his son, and that his son had actually committed suicide. The only trouble is that Calas had already been tortured to death on March 10, 1762 for murdering his son.

March 10, 241 BC: Senatus Populusque Romanus!

Eight years after having their entire fleet destroyed, the new Roman fleet, entirely built and paid for by the Roman aristocracy, engage a Carthaginian fleet at the Aegates Islands off the west coast of Sicily during the First Punic War. The Roman fleet of 200 ships, under the command of Gaius Lutatius Catulus, scores a decisive victory over the 250-ship fleet under Hanno the Great of Carthage. The Romans lose 30 ships, while destroying 50 and capturing 70 of the Carthaginian fleet. This triumph more or less single-handedly ends the war and saves Rome, which is about to collapse after 20 years of fighting a losing war against Carthage.

March 11, 1931: For the Motherland!

The Soviet Union introduces a universal physical fitness program known as "Ready for Labour and Defense of the USSR," (Gotov k trudu i oborone SSSR) abbreviated "GTO." By 1976, over 220 million people have passed the 21 tests to earn their GTO badges.

March 12, 1938: Ein Volk, ein Reich ...

Austria is officially annexed by Nazi Germany in an act known as Anschluss. Germany claims that in a recent referendum, 99.73 percent of Austrians voted to unify with Germany. What they do not mention is that this number is likely forged and the victory is largely due to a terror campaign and coup acted out by Austrian Nazis. With this annexation, Hitler fulfilled a major goal of his to unite all ethnic Germans: "one People, one Rule."

March 13, 1954: A sign of times to come ...

A Viet Minh force of about 48,000 soldiers begins attacking a French stronghold of 10,800 at the village of Dien Bien Phu in northern Vietnam. The French plan is to force the Viet Minh into a pitched battle and grind them down on the stronghold's well-prepared defenses. The French, however, do not realize that the Viet Minh possess heavy artillery and anti-aircraft guns. After almost two months of extremely brutal fighting and constant air drops to reinforce the garrison, Dien Bien Phu falls on May 7.

March 14, 1489: Money talks ...

Queen Catherine Cornaro of Cyprus is forced to abdicate and sell her kingdom to Venice. Cyprus had been experiencing extreme poverty and was largely bought by wealthy Venetian merchants, who used their power to force the regime change.

March 15, 1990: Sic Semper Tyrannis ...

British journalist Farzad Bazoft is executed on orders of Saddam Hussein. After being beaten and tortured, Bazoft is hanged for spying for Israel. In 2003, the Iraqi colonel in charge of the interrogation admits that he knew Bazoft was innocent. Appropriately, Hussein is later also executed by hanging.

Thought for the week:

"The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him."

-Niccolo Machiavelli

**Have questions?
We have answers.**

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

HOROSCOPES YOUR GUIDE TO THE ZODIAC



ARIES
3/21-4/19

It's time to shake things up a bit. Okay, a lot, 'cause you don't do anything half way. Lead the charge, team!



TAURUS
4/20-5/20

Lately, you've had this total negative vibe around you. You seem to disapprove of everything. Try saying "yes" once in a while. You might like it.



GEMINI
5/21-6/21

Do you know what the best thing about being a twin is? You're never lonely. There is always someone to talk to - they might even be interested in what you're saying.



CANCER
6/22-7/22

Your life kind of sucks right now. You should look into that and fix it.



LEO
7/23-8/22

Finally, you've found a routine and are starting to find some stability in the midst of chaos. Now your struggle is to not get too bored with the monotony of everyday life.



VIRGO
8/23-9/22

Life can get overcomplicated at times, but don't let it get you down. You're too awesome, and that's why you're my favorite.



LIBRA
9/23-10/23

A recent event has sparked your creativity. Now you're overflowing with new ideas. Try to stay objective and remember to edit, because they aren't all good ones.



SCORPIO
10/24-11/21

When one door closes, another one opens. If that one doesn't work, find an open window. It's not breaking and entering, it's about exploring all your options.



SAGITTARIUS
11/22-12/21

This week, mix it up by taking a page from Gemini's book and create an alter-ego for yourself. You've got way too much personality for just one identity.



CAPRICORN
12/22-1/19

It's time for a much-needed vacation. Unfortunately, you're you, so you'll spend the entire thing creating work to do. Why do you hate yourself?



AQUARIUS
1/20-2/18

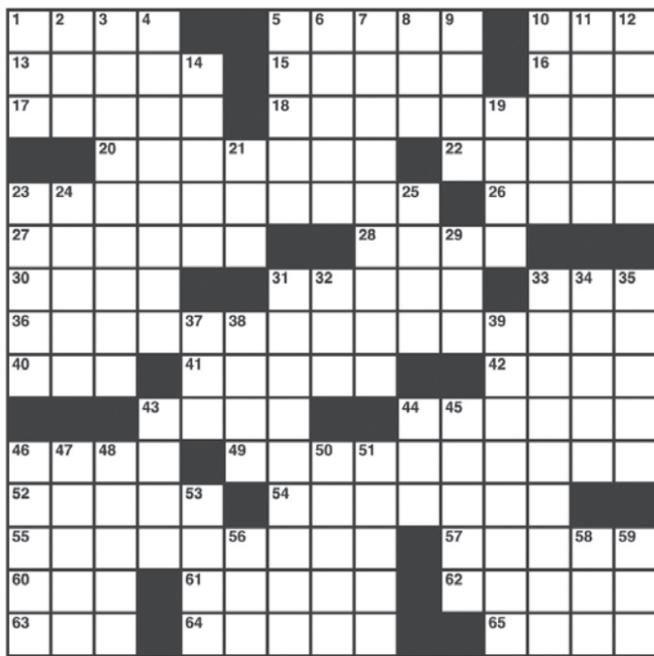
You have a fountain of ideas, but remember that timing is everything. Speak up before it's too late.



PISCES
2/19-3/20

You're used to being a big fish in a small pond, but you're looking to make the jump and become a small fish in a big ocean. Go fish!

- ACROSS**
- Seawater component, to a chemist
 - Egypt's Mubarak
 - Adriatic Sea country: Abbr.
 - "In other words ..."
 - Decide to participate
 - "You stink!"
 - Oktoberfest dance
 - Seat for eating scaloppine?
 - Speaker's stand
 - Blue Cross competitor
 - Tool for a dueling snake?
 - Home of the witch who melted
 - Earth tones
 - Newspaper ad meas.
 - Sainted fifth-century pope
 - Playfully
 - Org. once headed by Heston
 - What Tarzan became after years of swinging?
 - Half and half
 - Madison's neat roomie
 - Bottom-line negative
 - Sykora of the NHL
 - "The Tempest" king
 - Facts and figures
 - Egotistical describer of laws of motion?
 - Month for fools?
 - Uranium-238, e.g.
 - Paleontologist's ski resort discoveries?
 - "Au contraire!"
 - Nest egg item, briefly
 - Cheri of "SNL"
 - Firestone Country Club city
 - Arch site: Abbr.
 - Passover meal
 - Home of the witch buried under a fallen house



By Dan Naddor

- DOWN**
- Chill in the air
 - Latin 101 verb
 - Texting device
 - View from Cleveland
 - Shack
 - "The Barber of Seville," e.g.
 - Represents
 - Zilch
 - Peruvian ancestor
 - Taper off
 - Tender beef cuts
 - Sacha Baron Cohen title character
 - Mother-of-pearl
 - Axed
 - Atlanta-based ski resort
 - Saab competitor
 - Trap during a winter storm, maybe
 - Prefix with distant
 - 22-Acr. business
 - Deep-rooted
 - Miami-to-N.Y. dir.
 - Aquarium fish with an iridescent stripe



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- Rene of "Ransom"
- Burning desire?
- Stick in a parlor
- Airing in prime time, say
- Hardly a speed demon
- Tot's beach toy
- Bad picnic omen
- Hotelier Helmsley
- Lincoln's Confederate counterpart
- Separately
- Court case
- Grenoble's river
- Boot camp negative
- Debt-laden corp. takeovers
- Suffix with Capri
- Mariner's "Help!"
- Que. neighbor

Add/Drop

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Maggie O'Reilly



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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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

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

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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Poetry

by John Hadden

Emotions so great, burning passions withheld. No escape.
Attempting in vain, try, explain. To open our souls, agape.
To write what one feels, senses, loves. Impossible
Words, with no meaning. Myself fully expressed? Dreaming.
Poetry

An outlet, spirits breathing. Easy? Absurd, demeaning.
I sit and I write. Pure gold? Ehh, worthless. No purpose, meaning.
To write what one feels, senses, loves. Improbable
Minds, simple third parties translating. Souls free? Ha! Still waiting.
Poetry

Poets are weird, strange, looney bin. From society, divided, Berlin.
No, I disagree, poets live among the ranks, mothers, warriors, Akin.
To write what one feels, senses, loves. Impossible? No, I refuse to give in.
Us who try, fruitlessly, to send our souls from our depths, apprehend.
Poetry

Beauty, we do not create. Release it from confines, we elate.
Lurking in all of us, a poet. Find him! Too masculine? Oh Ego. Deflate.
To write what one feels, senses, loves. Impossible still? No, Articulate.
Within your heart, sleeps ample love. But your soul's in chains. Rise above.
Poetry



Poetry Spotlight

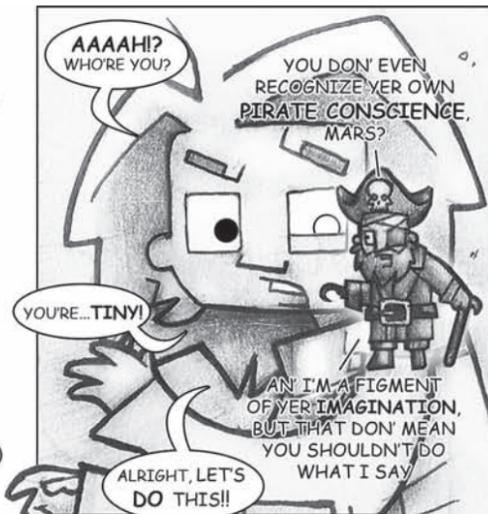
The LBCC Poetry Club meets every Tuesday from 3-4 p.m. in the Hotshot Cafe. For more Poetry Club info visit their website at: insidetheheartswalls.blogspot.com

Where is "Where on Campus?"
Try page 4.

MINUS GRAVITY

An LBCC student-generated comic

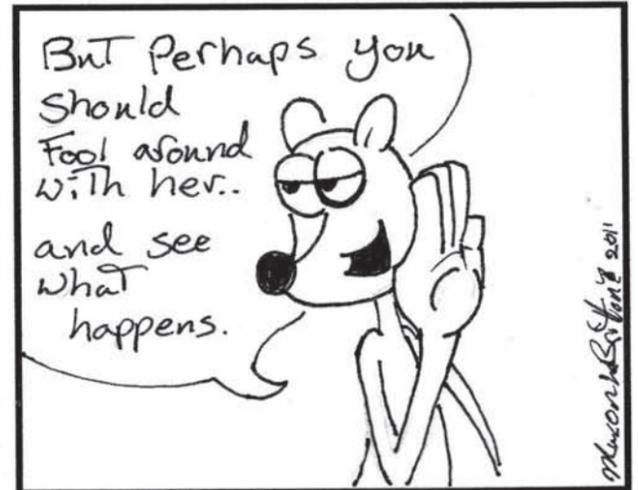
By Ben Carson



Fried Bananas

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton



COMING ATTRACTIONS

March 11

Battle: Los Angeles

Starring: Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Sci-Fi

Red Riding Hood

Starring: Amanda Seyfried, Gary Oldman
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Fairy Tale w/Fangs

Mars Needs Moms

Starring: Joan Cusack, Seth Green.
Rated: PG
Genre: Animated Aliens

Jane Eyre

Starring: Mia Wakikowska, Judi Dench
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Based on a Book

March 18

Limitless

Starring: Bradley Cooper, Robert DeNiro
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Sci-Fi Thriller

Paul

Starring: Simon Pegg, Seth Rogen
Rated: R
Genre: Alien Roadtrip

The Lincoln Lawyer

Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Ryan Phillippe
Rated: R
Genre: McConaughey w/ Shirt

March 25

Sucker Punch

Starring: Emily Browning, Jena Malone
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Badass Chicks

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

2: Rodrick Rules

Starring: Zachary Gordon, Steve Zahn
Rated: PG
Genre: Family

Sources: [Imdb](#), [Yahoo! Movies](#), [Moviefone](#)

"The Adjustment Bureau" Underwhelms

Sarah McClanahan
 Editorial Assistant

When you think about your life, you think you've got it all pretty much under control – most of the time. You wake up, the day begins, and you get to make your own decisions and choices. That's what we all grow up believing. That concept holds true for David Norris (Matt Damon) in the movie "The Adjustment Bureau."

The movie opens with David, who is campaigning to be the next New York state senator. He is leading in the polls until someone digs up "dirt" on him from his past and puts it in The Post.

David meets a young woman named Elise (Emily Blunt), and they have an instant connection. But the moment is fleeting, and it seems that he may never see her again.

All the while, he has no clue that there is a mysterious group of men known as The Adjustment Bureau watching and creating different plans for both David and Elise.

Through twists and turns and some confusing moments here and there, David and Elise try to escape the bureau's plans so they can be together forever.

This movie is definitely part sci-fi psychological thriller and part romance.

"The Adjustment Bureau" is filled



with some intense moments where I was wondering about the mysterious guys, what they were up to, and what it was they were to accomplish by keeping David and Elise apart.

I was very aware of subtle nods this film gave to other sci-fi/romance/mystery movies, like "Gattaca" and "Inception." I enjoyed those particular ideas being woven into this movie's plot. However, I think the most interesting thing is that it never outright tells or hints at how it would end. It

plays with your heart and your mind, and in that, I find it a rewarding film.

The acting was fine. The musical score was original material and added to the ambiance of each scene.

For me, it's one of those movies you want to see again to really grasp where everything is going. It is a bit drawn out in parts, but overall it is a very good movie. While I don't think it will be a blockbuster, it is entertaining, and the special effects are pretty sweet.

What Would PANDORA Play? Solo Projects



Jordan Tunstill
 A&E Editor

Jon Foreman: As the frontman for Switchfoot, Foreman has headed up numerous projects for the band. While he hasn't quit leading Switchfoot, he did take a break to record four EPs, entitled "Fall," "Winter," "Spring," and "Summer." These albums are meant to capture the feel of their respective times of the year, and they do that very well. Jon Foreman once again delivers a real treat to his fans.

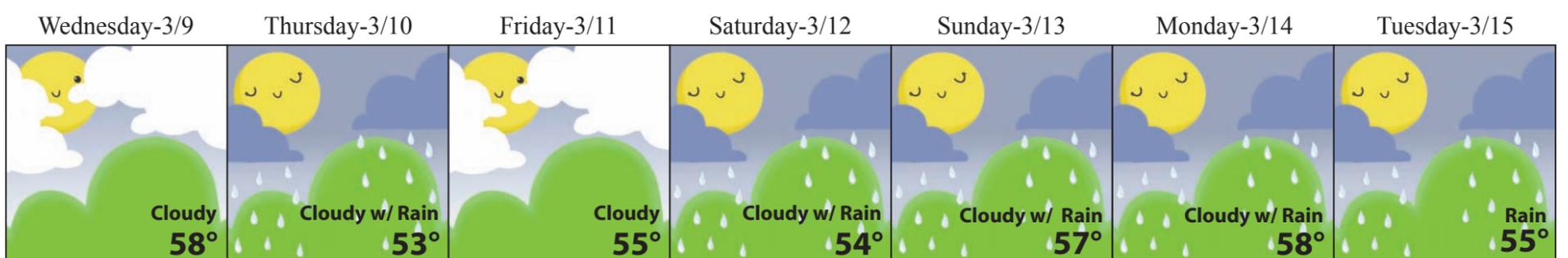


Brandon Flowers: The Killers have been called the most underrated band of the decade, and I would say the same thing about Flowers' side project. Flowers, the lead vocalist for The Killers, decided to do some extra work on the side, and I am very glad he did. His solo album is titled "Flamingo." The difference between the solo work and the band's regular content is intensity. The solo project is a lot more focused on lyrical content than the normal music, which tends to place more emphasis on the intensity of the songs.



The Postal Service: Ben Gibbard from Death Cab for Cutie and Jimmy Tamborello, from multiple techno projects, took breaks from their respective groups to write and produce The Postal Service's only CD to date: "Give Up." The craziest part about this side project? They never actually met together to record anything, but instead sent music back and forth through the mail, thus the name The Postal Service. It is soothing, while it also holds a feeling of tension just beneath the surface. I highly recommend looking into The Postal Service.

Weekly Weather Predictions



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