

THE COMMUTER

Wednesday
March 11, 2009

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

Volume 40 No. 20

ASG Elections may be null and void.

The ASG's own bylaws may have been violated by the election committee and some of the elected candidates. Check out all the facts online at <http://commuter.linnbenton.edu>

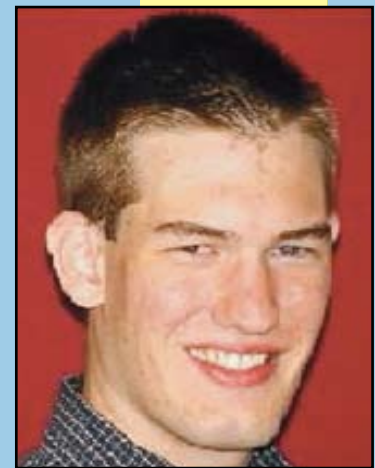
ASG ELECTION RESULTS



NIC BOWMAN
PRESIDENT



ANISSA TESLOW-CHEEK
VICE-PRESIDENT



CALEB DONNER
SCIENCE & INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE



KATELYN GURR
LIBERAL ARTS REPRESENTATIVE



ALEX JAMES
PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY



STEPHANIE LARRISON
STUDENT SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

The Facts:

Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

The Associated Student Government (ASG) elections were closed Monday morning at 7:28 a.m. Voter turnout this year increased by almost 275% over last year: a total of 61 votes were tallied for all positions; whereas this year 167 votes were tallied for all positions. These elections decided the officers for the '09-'10 school year at LBCC. The new officers will take office in May.

Nic Bowman won the office of president with 80 votes, while candidate Kim McAloney came in with 66 votes. Anissa Teslow-Cheek won the office of Vice-President with 84 votes while Kevin Van Bronkhorst came in second place with 46 votes.

Alex James won the office of Public Relations Secretary with 120 votes; Christopher Walken came in with a single vote. Caleb Donner won the office of Science and Industry Representative with 79 votes; Elizabeth Pollock came in second place with 32 votes. Student Services Representative was won by Stephanie Larrison with 79 votes; Kaylee Littlefield came in second place with 38 votes. Liberal Arts Representative was won by Katelyn Gurr; "Anyone Else" came in with a single vote.

The offices of Business Representative and Health Occupations Representative had no official candidates and failed to receive a write-in with 40% of the vote. Frank Warren received 19% of the Business Representative vote. Daniel Elliott received 19.5% of the Health Occupations Representative vote. These numbers come from the total

number of applicants, not the number that The Commuter knows is eligible. In the bylaws it states that you need 40% of all eligible votes. With more information, these numbers may be higher.

According to a representative from the ASG, after the new officers are in office, they will open applications for the positions, but no date has been set to start accepting applications.

While voting, students were asked if this was their first time to vote for ASG officials, 119 voted yes, 27 voted no and 21 voted N/A.

The ASG holds open meetings (open to the student body) in the ASG office in the student union next to the Hot Shot coffee shop Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

WTF: ASG?

Gregory Dewar
The Commuter

Make no mistake: this is an editorial.

I thought maybe this year's Associated Student Government election would be different and that Will Parker's angry rampage across the opinion section of The Commuter last year would've had some effect. But it appears, at least from an outside view, that the ASG is up to its old tricks.

We publicized the hell out of this election and a few of the candidates actually tried (and the results showed) by putting up posters, some even put their faces around campus, most notably Katelyn Gurr in the men's bathrooms and Stephanie Larrison at the smoke pits.

What is most disheartening are the offices of Business Representative and Health Occupations representative. A candidate for each position clearly got the majority popular vote, but by some obscure loophole in the system, since they did not get 40% of the overall votes for their positions, they are denied.

At some to-be-announced date the ASG will hire for those positions like a normal job. To put a pointed hat on it, the applications won't be between the candidates who ran or even the ones who got the most votes. Candidates who the people elected may not even have a shot at the positions.

It all reeks of the general skulduggery we've come to know and expect from our Associated Student Government. Having secretive, questionable elections, and then hiring their friends into office. It's a veritable boot camp for real politics, seemingly complete with conspiracies and cover-ups.

Last year the election wasn't even publicized. The Commuter didn't even know that it was happening until after the fact. It felt like it was essentially set up to hire who they wanted by abusing the student constitution. It felt like less of a campus election and more of a Bush administration "good ol' boys" affair.

This year the elections were prolonged a week and then extended on the second week. In a government you can't trust, this brings up some valid points and questions: were the elections not going the way they wanted?

The reason they gave for their problems was automatic updates of computer system software. That doesn't even make sense to me, assuming that they're using a Microsoft Windows operating system and it automatically updated. What bearing would that have on a web application? I've heard of no system-destroying updates being distributed by Microsoft recently.

Assuming that they're using the Apache server program or something similar, even if it were updated, why would that cause it to stop tallying votes, for candidates to disappear, and for everything to go to hell in a hand basket? The IT staff at LBCC is much smarter than that.

The result of it all is that we have an election we cannot trust, with decent candidates being denied and an ASG that isn't talking to The Commuter.

Going down there, one can get a sense of fear, that something is wrong. When pressed for answers, representatives of the ASG clam up, defer you, or act like nothing's wrong.

Going down there, one gets the sense that the asshattery of the Bush administration has had a profound effect on the future leaders of tomorrow. We may just be a community college, but that's no reason not to do your best, and no reason to make us weep for the species.

The old advisor to the ASG is gone and Dean Lynne Cox is now running the show. My plea to you, Dean, is to fix this and provide fair and accurate elections. We're seeing a startling trend that no one is standing up to. Considering the large amount of funding that the ASG receives, including the amount they make from the Hot Shot coffee shop, we should be seeing more effort and more results, but time and again when The Commuter polls students, they don't even know who the ASG are.

Elections aren't just about who the current government wants to win, it's about who the best candidate is, and who can drum up the most support. ASG leaders should campaign out in the courtyard or the Commons cafeteria and let the students decide, not other members of the ASG. It's hard enough to get the student body interested in voting without them knowing their opinions and votes don't even count.



Will Parker's inflammatory posters that were taken down.

Illustration by Will Parker

Elections: why are they really postponed?

MaryAnne Turner
The Commuter

Last year the elections were inadequately advertised, resulting in three people who registered to run, and 61 votes being cast. The result was that write-in Hannah Gzik won the election for ASG president. When the ASG held a meeting three weeks after Gzik took office they finished in one minute. The ASG then elected their own friends into positions without much help from the student body.

This year, the staff at The Commuter has helped get the word out to get people to vote. The only problem is that people are voting and writing names that the ASG had not planned for. The elections have been postponed due to website issues... twice!

The real question is: is it the website that keeps screwing up, or do they just hate the outcome because they aren't getting what they want?

Do we have a "Bush" in our own government who can't handle losing? The first time that elections were

postponed, there were signs and banners in a few places. The second time, I didn't even find out until I received a forwarded e-mail about it.

Two positions are still open, but only because the write-in winners didn't receive 40% of the votes. As of now, voting is closed, but they are still taking applications, with no date for another voting session for these positions. The new officers will take office in May, but these positions that are still open won't be decided on until then, supposedly.

Meetings are on Wednesdays in Student Life and Leadership, and are open to anyone. New officers are not required to attend until May when they take office.

So, my question for ASG: how do you plan to fill these empty spots, without just picking your friends? I demand another voting opportunity to fill these spots!

I find it ironic that after last year's escapade, you still managed to screw up the elections this year... again!



Will Parker: crusading against the ASG.

Illustration by Will Parker

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton
 Community College, including
 the Sweet Home, Lebanon,
 and Benton Centers.

ASG Corner

Over the summer the Multicultural Center, located in the Student Union, was changed to the Diversity Achievement Center to better help students here at LB. Since then, diversity in general has been a topic of discussion and criticism within the student body and faculty. We on ASG want to know YOUR thoughts about diversity here on our campus.

Do you feel that there is enough dialogue about it? What tells you that our campus does or does not embrace diversity? Are there enough events celebrating diversity? Do we need more on the curriculum concerning diversity? If you have positive and/or

negative comments or concerns please stop by the Student Life and Leadership office and let us know (located next to Hot Shot) or e-mail asgrep@linnbenton.edu with "diversity" in the subject line.

We want to hear your voice so that we can pass your messages along and help make our campus a welcoming, diverse, and educational place for everyone!

Arts & Humanities Representative
 Anissa Teslow Cheek

The 2nd annual BCSA art/music benefit

Colin Walsh
 The Commuter

The BCSA (Benton County Skate Alliance) is an Oregon non-profit corporation raising money to build a pool-style skate bowl along with other improvements through multiple phases in Corvallis.

The BCSA believes that creating a professional skateboarding pool in Corvallis will have very positive benefits to the community and the local economy. Many skaters, young and old, will soon be making the trek to Corvallis's new bowl to skate. The BCSA has incorporated the City of Corvallis and the Parks and Recreation Department to achieve their goals.

The 2nd Annual BCSA Art and Music Benefit will be held on March 14, at the Odd Fellows hall (223 SW 2nd St.) in Corvallis,

Oregon. Proceeds from this event will go toward the new skate pool.

Tickets for this all age's event can be purchased for \$5.00 at Peak Sports Board Shop (129 NW 2nd St., Corvallis), Happy Trails Records (100 SW 3rd St., Corvallis) Grass Roots Bookstore (227 SW 2nd St., Corvallis) and at the event. The show starts at 6:00 p.m. There will be an art show with a silent art auction, raffle and door prizes.

Music includes; Michael Balok, Dustin Herron, The Jesus Candy, Substitute (The Who tribute), Project 431, Hypenosis, Left Ovaries, and Richard Heddars and will transition from acoustic and rock to a punk rock show after 9:30 p.m.

For more information contact: www.bc-skateboardingalliance.org or send an e-mail at bcskateboardingalliance@gmail.com.

A view from stage: LBCC performing arts calls for auditions

Mark McIntyre
 The Commuter

LBCC Performing Arts is calling for actors to audition for its production of "A View from the Bridge" by Arthur Miller, the legendary author of "Death of a Salesman," "The Crucible," "All My Sons," "After the Fall," "The Price" and many other plays.

This classic American drama concerns Eddie Carbone, a simple, hard-working guy. In his crowded Brooklyn neighborhood, it's common to harbor relatives entering America illegally. When Eddie opens his door to his wife's Sicilian cousins, trouble slips through, too - under the radar. Eddie is confronted by feelings he fiercely denies, precipitating a shocking act of community betrayal. Arthur Miller's timely play probes the rules of love and loyalty against a backdrop of American immigration.

There are excellent roles for 12-15 men and women, of varying ages, in this play. Actors at all levels of development are encouraged to audition.

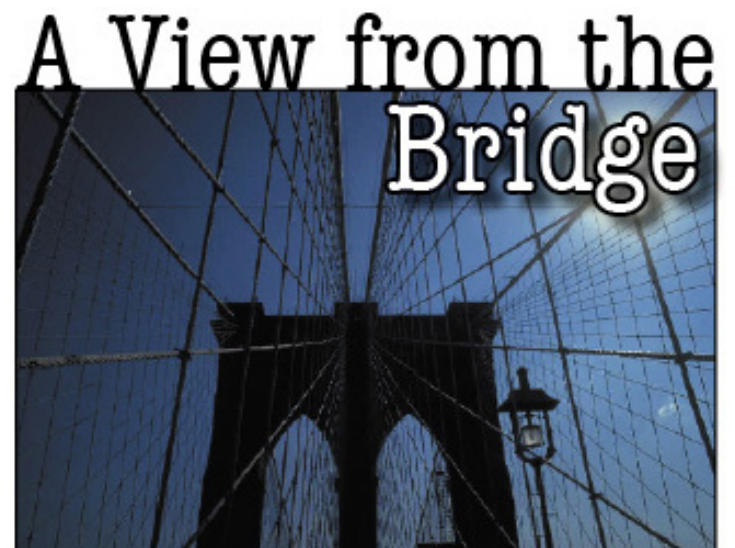
Initial auditions will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, March 15 or Monday, March

16 (choose one day) in the Russell Tripp Performance Center. Auditionees can prepare a brief monologue, under two minutes, of their choice, or read from the script. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, March 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. Alternate audition arrangements, if necessary, may be made by contacting the theater director, Brian Newberg. Rehearsals will start later in March, after casting is complete.

Auditions are open to the community, LBCC students and staff. Audition appointments can be arranged by contacting the LBCC theater box office at 541-917-4531. Further information is available on our Web site at www.linnbenton.edu/go/theater, or through the LBCC Performing Arts' Facebook page.

Performances of "A View from the Bridge" will be on May 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m., and May 31 at 3:00 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Performance Center.

Scripts are available on reserve in the LBCC library and at the LBCC box office in Takena Hall. Theater box office hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.



by Arthur Miller

Courtesy of Brian Newberg

B C S A ' S 2 N D A N N U A L

A R T & M U S I C

B E N E F I T

M A R C H 1 4

6-MIDNITE

9 ODD FELLOW'S HALL

\$5 MUSIC

RICHARD HEDDERS
DUSTIN HERRON
PROJECT 431
SUBSTITUTE
THE JESUS CANDY
HYPENOSIS
LEFT OVARIES
MICHAEL BALOK

POSTER BY DIEGO BANUELOS

THE COMMUTER'S 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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Letters Welcome

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. Letters should be limited to 300 words or less. The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter writers do not represent the views of The Commuter Staff or the College. Deliver letters to The Commuter Office, Forum 222 or at commuter@ml.linnbenton.edu

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

The Weekly Budget Crisis:

Gregory Dewar
 The Commuter

More changes are being made due to budgetary concerns at LBCC, according to a campus-wide e-mail sent from the college's administration last Friday.

One of the changes is a proposed tuition hike to \$74 a credit for the 2009-10 school year. On March 10 at noon, March 11 at 1 p.m., and March 13 at noon meetings are set for the Hot Shot Café giving students a chance to voice their opinions on the subject.

In all the savings come to about \$910,203. Other changes noted in the memo distributed by Marlene Propst, director of College Advancement, include:

Kim Sullivan transferred from the financial aid office to admissions on Monday, March 9.

Mary Chuinard transferred from admissions to the financial aid office.

Patti Ball will be transferring from the financial aid office to a newly created specialist position, where she will help to welcome new students to LBCC.

19 board scholarships typically given to new high school students that amount to about 45 credits per student have been rested for the time being. Estimated savings: \$63,270.

Current second-year recipients of the \$1,500 scholarship from the LBCC Foundation will still be awarded for the 2009-10 school year.

Annual transfers to the maintenance and technology funds for the 2009-10 school year have been postponed. Maintenance would have received \$250,000 which would have been used for general building maintenance and the improvement of campus lands including parking lots, sidewalks,

lighting, and electrical power.

Technology would have received \$585,000 for the replacement of computers in our four-year upgrade cycle (\$342,000 a year), annual equipment decision packages, and network infrastructure. By spending only \$18,000 to upgrade the memory of computers around campus and combined with what they've cut from maintenance they will save an estimated \$835,000.

The e-mail stated: "This week the budget team reviewed the recommendations for faculty and program reductions. Rita and Carol will meet with Faculty Association representatives today [March 6] to review the recommendations. Rita will make the final decisions over the weekend and meet with Carol on Monday morning [March 9]. Affected faculty will be informed of the decisions by their deans next week. Classified Association leaders will be notified in advance of any instructional decisions affecting classified staff."

The Mechatronics program has been saved by Denis Green not teaching the one-year RHVC class because of overlap between Mechatronics and RHVC. The two programs are strengthening their connections. Dave Mack will teach Mechatronics to second-year students. RHVC and Mechatronics will be offered online in the future due to the work of both instructors. Students who want to take RHVC for one year will have to wait at least a year; there are no savings, but the program has been expanded with no additional costs.

The part-time faculty awards will be a reception this year and not a dinner. Estimated savings: \$3,000.

Membership to Campus Compact being temporarily suspended. Estimated savings: \$3,939.

Banner conference funding reduced to nil. Because of lack of attendance, unless a formal professional development request to send an employee is made, no funding will be allocated for attendance. Staff now communicate and learn what they need to with peer schools over the internet. Estimated savings: \$4,994.

The article closed with this statement:


"Suggestions: Why don't we downsize commencement this year? The decision has been made that this year's graduates will have the same celebration as in previous years. This is an important event for our students and their friends and families. Commencement has always been a real morale booster for faculty and staff who participate - it helps us remember our purpose and celebrate our successes."

Scholarships cut:	\$63,270
Maintenance cut:	\$250,000
Technology cut:	\$585,000
Faculty Reception cut:	\$3,000
Memberships cut:	\$3,939
Banner Conferences cut:	\$4,994
Total saved:	\$910,203

The LBCC Performing Arts Department Presents:

We Have Had Singing

Performed by the LBCC Concert Choir & Re-Choired Element, & presenting a sneak preview from the new Men's Ensemble
James Reddan, Conductor



Thursday, March 12, 2009 ~ 7:30 p.m.
 Russell Tripp Performance Center

All tickets \$6. Online tickets at www.linnbenton.edu/go/tickets
 Box Office Open: Tues.-Fri., 9 a.m. - noon, 1 - 2 p.m., and one hour before concert.
 Phone: (541) 917-4531 • Fax: (541) 917-4833

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests 4 to 6 weeks before the event. To call by TDD, call the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service, 1-800-735-2900 and give them the number.


Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 6500 Pacific Blvd SW, Albany

OSU-Cascades Campus

Centered in Oregon. Centered on Students.

Join us in Bend!
Campus Preview Day
 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 18

Meet professors, current students and admissions/financial aid staff. Call to reserve your spot.



Yes, you can complete your degree.

And the place to make it happen is OSU-Cascades, with small classes, personal attention and your choice of more than 20 accredited degree programs from OSU and UO.

- Art
- Business
- General science
- General social science
- Human development and family sciences
- International studies
- Liberal studies
- Mathematics
- Natural resources
- Psychology
- Tourism and outdoor leadership

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

MARCH 31 -- Scholarship priority deadline
MAY 1 -- Transfer student admission application priority deadline
SEPT. 1 - Fall term application final deadline

541-322-3100
OSUcascades.edu

In partnership with University of Oregon and Central Oregon Community College.

Oregon State University | **Cascades**
 UNIVERSITY | C A M P U S

2600 NW College Way Bend, Oregon 97701-5933

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Men's basketball team goes to Playoffs

Rick Casillas
 The Commuter

The LBCC men's basketball team secured a spot for themselves in the NWAACC Championship last Thursday with their victory over Southwestern Community College. After a tight race between the two teams the Roadrunners came back from a 6-point SWCC lead in the last 5 minutes coming out on top 85-76. Freshman forward Jordan Highland helped cement their victory, scoring 20 points and recovering the ball 9 times on rebounds.

March 5: After earning their ticket to Pasco, the Roadrunners fought fourth-ranked Bellvue for the chance to represent the Southern Division. Unfor-

tunately the Bulldogs pulled ahead of the Roadrunners after a heated back-and-forth in the first period, demolishing their chances after a 76-53 victory. LBCC forward Tyson Christie had a strong showing with 21 points and 7 rebounds.

March 6: The Roadrunners faced Clark in the consolation bracket once again, fighting a hard first half to maintain a lead. Unfortunately the Clark Penguins gained the lead for the remainder of the game with the Roadrunners unable to close the gap. The game ended at a 65-59 Clark victory, ending the Roadrunner's season at 12-16. Tyson Christie once again showed his prowess on the court scoring 17 points inside the line while stealing the ball 4 times to boot.



LBCC men's basketball team

Photo courtesy of LBCC Athletics Dept.

Campus Shorts...

Forklift Safety Training

Safety training courses for Forklift driving are being offered through the Business and Employer Services. Classes begin April 4 from 8 a.m. -5 p.m. at the LBCC Albany Campus, IC-106.

Training will provide four hours of classroom training and four hours of practice on the forklift. Forklift safety, handling and moving loads, principles of lifting, stacking and un-stacking loads and driving with a load are the topics that will be covered.

Please register at the LBCC Business and Employer Services department. Cost for the course is \$149 and includes all materials. Forklift training classes are held once every month. Call 541-917-4923 for more information.

Relay For Life Fundraiser

On March 3, Relay for Life held a fundraiser at Red Robin in Albany for "Cancer Fighters of America". With the help of the community, Red Robin did \$3200 in sales between 5-8 p.m., which gave "Cancer Fighters of America" \$430 dollars.

Wild land Firefighting

The National Wildfire Suppression Association is offering three sets of Wildland Firefighting Training sessions starting in April on the main Linn-Benton Campus in Albany. This course is designed for entry-level firefighters needing field skills. Participants must be 18 years or older, in good physical condition and have two forms of government issued ID.

The training days are April 24-26, May 1-3, and June 22-27 and last from 8 a.m. -5 p.m. Cost for the non-credit course \$275 and includes materials. Please register the LBCC Business and Employer Services department. Call 541-917-4923 for more

information.

Power of Words

Join a celebration of the power of words to create space for sustenance. The event takes place in the Reading Room in the LBCC Albany Campus on Wednesday March 11 from 1-2 p.m. Poetry, stories, songs or other mediums are appreciated. Feel free to contribute or ask questions via email by contacting Kaedence Eaton at LBpoetry@gmail.com

National Women's History Month

Monday March 9 the Diversity Achievement Center showed a video titled "There's No Such Thing As Woman's Work" about the changing of women's lives and their participation in the labor force.

Thursday March 12 from 12-1 p.m. in the Alsea/Calapooia Room- The American Association of Women in Community Colleges invites you to join them for an International Working Women's Day Tea.

Monday March 16 at 12:00 p.m. the Diversity Achievement Center will host another movie titled "Women in American Life" and is the last installment in a 5-part series.

Albany Learning Center Hours

Study Jams are taking place on March 14 and 15 from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. in the Learning Center.

Learning Center Hours for finals week:

March 16- Open 7:30 a.m. -9:00 p.m.
 March 17- Open 7:30 a.m. -9:00 p.m.
 March 18- Open 7:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m.
 March 19-20: CLOSED

Math Help Desk: Testing from 9:00 a.m.

-5:00 p.m.

College Skills Zone: 10:30 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

Writing Center: CLOSED

OWL Service: CLOSED

Tutoring: CLOSED

Science help desk: CLOSED

Tests will NOT be issued after 4:00 p.m.

From Gazette Times

A rose is extended from the Gazette Times to LBCC for a loss of the photography program and management jobs.

Tuition Hearing Dates:

Held in the Hot Shot Coffee House with someone from ASG presiding.

March 10: Noon

March 11: 1:00 p.m.

March 13: Noon

Nominations for 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award

The award seeks to honor alumni who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in their profession or through community service. Nominees need at least 36 credits at LBCC. Deadline is March 31- for more information visit www.linnbenton.edu/alumni or call 541-917-4784

Emotional Intelligence Seminar:

A free work/life seminar on emotional Intelligence will be offered March 18 at noon in the Siletz Room CC-213. Free soup and bread roll will be offered.

-What is your emotional intelligence?

-How to use it to persuade and work with others.

"We Have Had Singing"

A choir concert is being held March 12 at 7:30 p.m. presented by the LBCC Concert Choir, Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir and the LBCC Men's Ensemble. The evening's performance will include an eclectic mix of songs. Tickets are available Online or at the Box Office for \$6- General admission.

Majestic Theater

Friday March 13 the Majestic Theater will hold a dinner at the Corvallis Country Club featuring offerings from MTM Youth productions- High School Musical, Robin Hood, Alice in Wonderland and a sneak peek at James and the Giant Peach as well as Chicago.

The dinner will include four courses: Appetizer: Bacon wrapped scallop and roasted corn cake, chive coulis, paprika oil. Salad: Grilled romaine heart with Fuji apples, toasted hazelnuts, Gorgonzola cheese, and champagne vinaigrette.

Entrée: Beef Tournedo with Gruyere potato round, Creole hollandaise with Dungeness crab.

Dessert: Chocolate Beignet, banana Mous-

seline, and praline caramel.

Chicago, the Musical is set to open March 20, 2009. For Tickets call the Majestic Theatre box office at 541-738-7469.

LBCC Student Life and Leadership Hosts Recycled Art Awards

An awards ceremony for artists who entered work in the LBCC Student Life and Leadership Recycled Art contest will be held on Friday, March 13 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in LBCC's South Santiam Hall Gallery.

LBCC Student Art Exhibition Call for Entries

The LBCC Art Department is calling for student artists to submit work for the 2009 LBCC Juried Student Art Exhibition to be held April 27 through June 5. Deadline to submit artwork is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22. Artwork may be dropped off with Jeremy Covert April 20 through April 22 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in NSH 111

New Date for Workshop

The Improving your Communication Skills workshop scheduled for Wednesday, March 11 has been canceled. The class will be held on Monday, March 16 in the Siletz Room from 12:00-1 p.m.

Study Jam this weekend

This weekend, Saturday and Sunday, the ASG will be holding another Study Jam like they had last term. The Learning Center will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., the library from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the Hot Shot Café from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. As last time, the ASG will be offering free food and drinks, massages and homework help. Testing will also be available Saturday and Sunday.

The Other Side of Mexico

Filmmaker Fran Reidelberger is presenting "The Other Side of Mexico" Sunday March 29 at 2 p.m. Reidelberger will take you on a journey through Mexico City, Taxco, Sierra Gorda, Guanajuato, Colima, Guadalajara, Laek Chapala and Capula. Purchase tickets online at www.linnbenton.edu or at the box office for \$7, or \$6 for students and seniors. Travel at the Tripp series are Sundays at 2 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Performance Center.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews, upcoming events,
and the cure for weekend boredom.

Upcoming music events:

Block 15 Restaurant and Brewery
300 SW Jefferson Ave. Corvallis
(541) 758-2077
www.block15.com

Every Monday, 7 p.m.
Acoustic Folk Jam
For more info, contact Sam Holmes at
sameldon@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.
Three Fingred Jack

Friday, March 14, 9:30 p.m.
Dustin Herron
Lead singer of Poitín and Stout goes solo

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m./10 p.m.
St. Patty's Day celebration
Mill About Smartly at 7 p.m.
Poitín and Stout 10 p.m.
Acoustic punk rock inspired by the tradi-
tional folk music of Ireland.

Bombs Away Café
2527 NW Monroe Ave. Corvallis
(541) 757-7221
www.bombsawaycafe.com

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.
Dan Bregar
Local singer/songwriter

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.
Rhythm in Green

Friday, March 13, 10 p.m.
Audiophilia with Forever Growing
\$5 cover

Saturday, March 14, 10 p.m.
Bon Ton Roulet
\$5 cover

Tuesday, March 17th, 10 p.m.
The Badfish Band
\$5 cover

Calapooia Brewing Co.
140 Hill St. Albany
(541) 928-1931
www.calapooiabrewing.com

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.
Wild Hog in the Woods

Saturday, March 14, 8 p.m.
The Flow
\$2 cover

Sunday, March 15, 4 p.m.
Blues Jam

Cloud 9 & The Downward Dog
126 & 130 SW 1st St. Corvallis
(541) 753-9900
www.dinecloud9.com & www.drinkthe-
dog.com

Friday, March 13, 9 p.m.
Rick and Lavina Ross
Delta Blues

Saturday, March 14, 10
p.m.
XENAT-RA
They Won't Stay Dead
@ Cloud 9
The Turntable Enabler

@ Downward Dog

Fireworks Bar and Grill
1115 SW 3rd St. Corvallis
(541) 754-6958
www.fireworksvenue.com

Friday, March 13, 8 p.m.
Adam Scramstad
Blues guitar & vocals

Saturday, March 14, 8 p.m.
The Neon Gypsies with Marty Baggen
Folk rock/pop

Sunday, March 15, 7 p.m.
The Cloud Mountain Ramblers
Olde time string band

Monday, March 16, 8:30 p.m.
Southtown Open Mic Talent Search with
CASH PRIZE for Top 3 Acts!
For more info call (541)754-6958.

Tuesday, March 17, 6-9 p.m.
St. Patrick's Day Party with Poitín and
Stout

Peacock Bar and Grill
125 SW 2nd St. Corvallis
(754-8522)

www.myspace.com/peacockbargrill
The Top of the Peacock is back in action!

Tuesday, March 10, 9 p.m.
Finals for Corvallis Idol
The event is a benefit for the Heartland
Humane Society. Admission is free with a
\$5 suggested donation to compete and
anyone is welcome. There are prizes to
be awarded to the winners.

Saturday, March 14, 9 p.m.
Shades of Grey and Bad Gass

Tuesday, March 17
St. Patty's Day Party
Chance to win \$500 with the Lock & Key
Cash Box

Johnny Dark and the Wondertones on
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Karaoke on the Top on Sundays, Mon-
days and Tuesdays.

Open mic on the Top on Wednesdays.

DJ Race Runner (Mike May) on the Top on
Thursdays and Fridays.



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2/18-2/24

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Monday
Chef's Choice

Tuesday
Chef's Choice

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Classifieds

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commuterads@linnbenton.edu**

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

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

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

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

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Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews, upcoming events,
and the cure for weekend boredom.

Who watches the "Watchmen"?

Rick Casillas
The Commuter

I do. Because I'm creepy.

It takes a special kind of a person to enjoy a movie like "Watchmen." Fan-worshiped and critically endorsed, "Watchmen" has long been a household name in graphic novel reading. Written in 1986-87 by Alan Moore, author of "V for Vendetta" and "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," "Watchmen" is a gritty, cerebral, honest morality morass that reeks of influences ranging from Raymond Chandler to Bryan Talbot.

It's important to note that "Watchmen" is not based off of a comic book but, rather, its bloodier grown-up cousin the graphic novel. You will not find a traditional hero, be he super or spider, in this film; this is a world where heroes die and the unthinkable takes place. This is the world of Rorschach and The Comedian, where little girls get eaten by dogs and internal organs stick to ceilings.

Set in an alternate version of the mid '80s, with our nation still caught in the throes of the Cold War, the United States has emerged unquestionably victorious in Vietnam due to the timely intervention of its masked champions. But once the war is over, the heroes find themselves obsolete and unwanted by the

public who force them into retirement, vigilantism, or accepting government positions. Things seem to be quieting down until one of their own, The Comedian, is murdered at the hands of an unknown assailant. This puts a burr in the boot of Rorschach, who tries to rally allies against this invisible hand and pull their attention away from the sky, where all wait for the ominous nuclear forecast to come true.

The question, when going into a movie based off of one of your favorite books, comics, or novels, is never "how good will it be?" but "will they screw this up?" And in this case they didn't; at least not completely. Granted if you're looking for a reason to hate "Watchmen" you'll find it; it has its flaws.

At times, the violence crosses into the threshold of unnecessary gratuity, some of the rich background subplots, like the interaction between a newspaper-stand owner and a kid, or Rorschach's psychiatrist and his wife, are marginalized to create space for the elephantine narrative that makes up the main story, and blue penis (I say no more!). But every decision I saw running through filmmaker Zack Snyder (of 300 fame) I agreed with.

Deviation from source material was minimal; if anything Snyder can be accused of embellishment, adding fight scenes and violent upswings to presumably maintain

the interest of those mistakenly seeking an action film.

At certain points though, the only thought that crossed my mind was "it was the best we could hope for." Deep in my heart-of-nerd hearts, I wish every great piece of literature could be transformed into a "Lord of the Rings"-type trilogy, but I understand the restraints placed upon the adapters and, for what it's worth, Snyder made the transition to big screen as painless and honest as he could.

Nowhere was the dedication to source material more apparent than Jackie Earle Haley's depiction of Rorschach, the smallest badass this side of John McClane. Just imagine a five-foot nothing, ugly as sin, red-headed Dirty Harry and you get the idea. When he wasn't occupied with throwing deep frying oil on inmates and growling some of the best lines I've ever heard uttered ("None of you understand. I'm not locked up in here with you, you're locked up in here with me!"), Rorschach provided the beat of the city through his Phillip Marlowe-like narrative, spouting hardened phrases and his simplified view of the world: that extremes require equal force to contain them.

All of the characters in "Watchmen" are pillars to aspects of moral relativism, giving you an equal opportunity to find an identity in one of them. The Comedian (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) sees people as animals, so he decides

to be the biggest and the meanest dog in the yard. After thinking of Morgan as that Ghost from "Grey's Anatomy" that my sisters seem to love, I was surprised he was able to pull off the brutality and reckless abandon of the role, but he

Dr. Manhattan's only connection to the world seems to be Silk Spectre, a character of introspective reflection and sadness in the novel. I was disappointed to see him relegated to a role of heavy machinery that simply moved the plot along as needed. Ozymandias (Matthew Goode) also seemed to not carry the same level of gravitas he possessed in print. Written as an altruistic wealthy playboy fashioned in the image of Alexander the Great, he too seemed to fall short of expectation, shown instead as a cold, distant environmentalist.

"Watchmen" is a visual feast, akin to the styling of artist Dave Gibbons' original drawings. The characters pop against the gray dullness of the world. Costumes of the heroes are fashioned ironically after muscle suits and spandex you would come to expect from comic book characters, which serves only in further compounding the sense of surrealism that surrounds the film.

With a few glitches, the soundtrack was well arranged and carried you into each storyboard with the appropriate level of tension and dismay. Although I was delighted by the opening collage set to Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'," some of the selections seemed awkward and ill-placed. Most notably was Leonard Cohen's Hollywood-saturated classic "Hallelujah" set to a love scene, which may sound idyllic but set the wrong tone.

All in all, while "Watchmen" fell short of becoming the epic it deservedly should be, it still retains enough thoughtful pause and unique personality to warrant a viewing. At the very least I hope it prompts those who have not thumbed through the source material to give it a shot and reveal in the texture and grime of its predecessor. So who will watch the "Watchmen"? Well I hope you do, dear reader, and if you attend with an open mind I think you'll find something worth seeing. I give the Watchmen 4 blue penises out of 5.

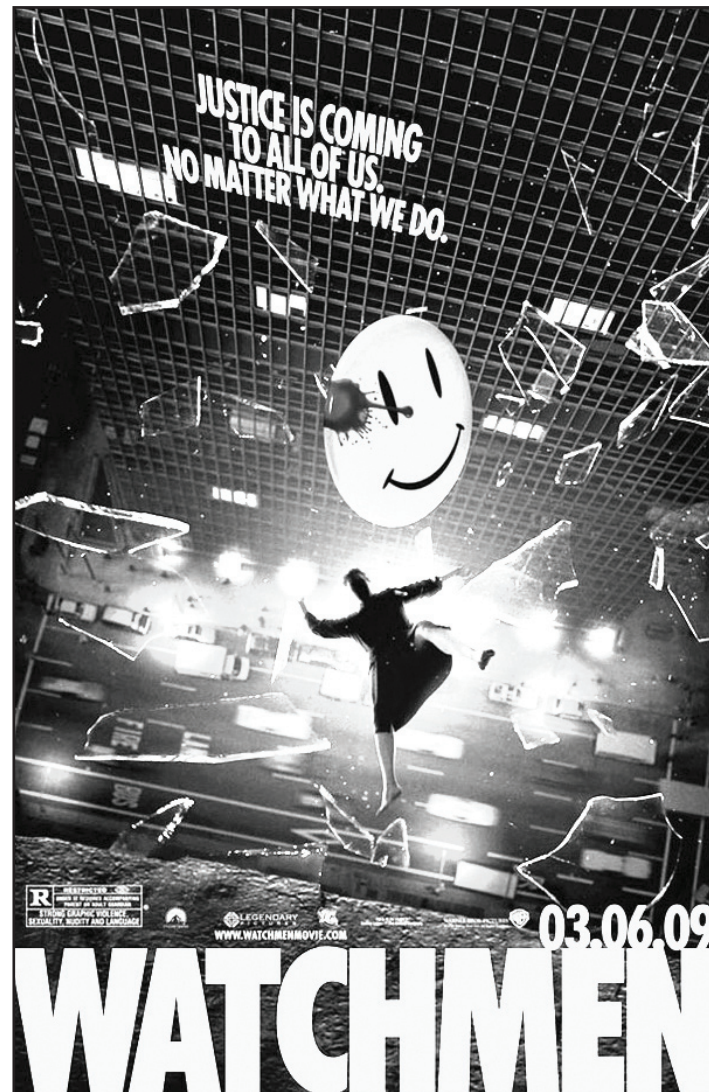


Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.



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April 29 & 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Takena Hall

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June 3, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
June 4, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Takena Hall



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews, upcoming events,
 and the cure for weekend boredom.

Hank Williams with ASSJACK

Colin Walsh
 The Commuter

On March 3, I was lucky enough to see the best musical performance of my life. The show was at the Roseland Theater in Portland and it featured Hank (Williams) the III and ASSJACK.

I have seen many different bands perform, including Raffi, Wilson Phillips (my mom made me go), The Who, and Slayer. But none can compare to the show that Hank the III and ASSJACK put on.

The first part of the show was dedicated to country music and was very long and awesome. They played many classics from Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash and George Jones. Once the country music was done, Hank's ponytail came undone and the pissed-off, hell-raising, rebel-punk show was on.

ASSJACK is a fast-paced Hell-billy band that is led by Hank the III and features Gary Lindsey on vocals and Joe Buck on stand-up bass. This band is not for the faint of heart and the vocals could offend some people, but hey, they are just words.

Hank Williams the III is the best show I have ever seen and I would highly recommend it to anyone that likes to have fun, scream and sweat out enough moisture to fill a small kiddie pool.

The Weekly Burger: Chicken Fried Burger

James Scales
 The Commuter

There are few breakfast foods that I love more than gravy. What's not to like, especially when it smothers a chicken fried steak? Toss a couple eggs with that and you have yourself one of my favorite breakfasts. Of course being as tragically obsessed as I am with burgers, I couldn't help but combine the two. So straight from my fryer: the Chicken Fried Burger.

Chicken Fried Burger
 Makes three burgers in about 30 minutes.

Ingredients:

- 1 Pound ground beef separated into ¼ and ¾ chunks
- 2 Cups, approximately, Panko bread crumbs
- 1 Egg
- 2 Slices of bacon cut into little strips
- Buns for your burgers
- Flour for frying and for gravy
- 2 Cups, approximately, milk
- Oil for frying
- Salt and Pepper

Equipment:

The equipment required for this is a pan that can hold enough oil to fry your breaded burger patty, and cook your gravy. Three bowls for breading will make your life a lot easier. I don't know how you would do this without them. That's fairly simple on the equipment run of things.

Instructions:

Preheat the pan you are going to use for the gravy. Once it is hot enough, add the bacon you cut into strips and let this cook. I highly recommend letting it cook until it is very nice and crispy, if you don't finish cooking it to the crispiness you like for bacon before adding the ground beef it will never get there. Once the bacon is done leave it in the pan. Just add the ground beef, and cook the bacon-beef mixture until it's fully cooked, season. Depending on the fat percentage of your beef, you may need to drain a little fat. A little hint, if the meat is covered by fat, there is too much. The extra lean variety worked well for me (7%). Add enough flour to soak up all fat and let that cook a bit, shouldn't take very long

before you start to see the flour-mixture's color start to change, don't let it fully brown but let it develop some color.

Add your milk, and let the pre-gravy mix cook over medium heat stirring occasionally. While that is cooking, set up for your fried patties. Get three bowls out, put two eggs and a little milk or water in one and mix but don't whip, put about three quarters cup of flour in another, and your Panko breadcrumbs in the last. Heat up your pan with the oil for frying. Make your patties. Take your ¾ remaining ground beef and shape into three, quarter pound patties. Flatten them so they are fairly thin and have a large amount of surface area, salt and pepper to taste.

Run your patties through the flour, making sure to get the entire thing covered. Shake off the excess and move to the egg bowl. Move the burger from the eggs, removing any extra egg and stick in the last bowl with the Panko. Evenly coat both sides and move it to your hot oil, about 350 degrees should be good depending on how thin you got your burger. Fry your patties one at a time; it shouldn't take long at all, approximately two minutes a side if you are using a shallow pan of oil, if you are deep-frying then it should still take about four minutes total. It all will depend on how hot your oil was, how thin your patty is, and hopefully you get your patty fully cooked without burning your breading.

Hopefully your gravy doesn't taste like flour, it really shouldn't take more than half an hour tops for your gravy to be perfect. This burger goes great on a toasted bun with two eggs over easy. Enjoy!



The delicious chicken fried burger!

Photo By James Scales

In defense of a slumdog

Ryan Henson
 For The Commuter

When the lights fade up, Jamal (Dev Patel) is in the hot seat of India's version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire." He has made it through round after round of questions - a feat so improbable for an uneducated boy from the slums that disbelieving police tortured him between shows, demanding to know how he cheated. Now, he sits and waits for his chance to win it all. "So are you ready for the final question for 20 million rupees?" asks the show's host Prem Kumar (Anil Kapoor). "No, but maybe it's written, no?" Jamal replies, referencing just how fateful his presence on that stage is.

The general premise behind director Danny Boyle's ("Trainspotting") epic saga "Slumdog Millionaire," an adaptation of the novel "Q&A" by Vikas Swarup, is the improbable destiny of an underdog - a poverty-stricken orphan - and his chance at glory. The movie, which almost

didn't get a theatre release (its original distributor, Warner Independent, folded last year) and was shot entirely in India with unknown actors, recently won eight academy awards- including best picture, best director, and best cinematography. So, with that said, is it safe to say the movie has somewhat paralleled the path of its protagonist, or am I reaching? Well reaching or not reaching, the movie's dominance in the award sector can be attributed to its heart-racing pulse, dynamic soundtrack, and the cinematic journey moviegoers take around the tin-roof shacks and garbage-strewn alleys of Mumbai.

The narrative fuses flashbacks with shots of the game show, shedding light on the long, cruel, and sometimes amusing paths of Jamal, his brother Salim (Madhur Mittal), and the love of his life Latika (Freida Pinto), and the instances in his life where he learns the answers to the questions that have brought him so far on the show.

The scenes are colorful, larger than life, and sometimes heartrending-as they focus on the dramatic nature of absolute poverty and the struggles the characters face. In one scene, Jamal swims through the excrement of a public toilet in order to get an autograph from his Bollywood hero. In another, Salim and Jamal nearly fall from the rooftop of a moving passenger train.

The graphic images of the squalor depicted in "Slumdog Millionaire" have the movie being praised by some as an act of righteous social commentary and denounced by others as capitalistic exploitation (London Times columnist Alice Miles called the movie "poverty porn"). To all of this, both praise and criticism, I say lighten up.

"Slumdog Millionaire" is a touching modern day fairy tale - both buoyant and magical - and inspires hope while capturing the imagination. We need not dissect what's on the big screen in order to get the bigger picture.

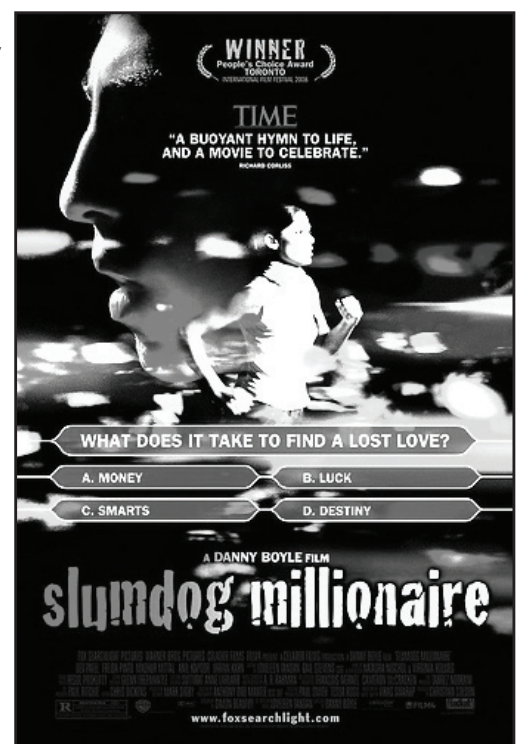


Photo courtesy of FOX

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

Metal ablaze at LBCC

Frank Warren
The Commuter

For over twenty years, Linn-Benton Community College has sponsored the Industrial Skills contest with several competitors from several schools. This year, 227 high school students from 16 schools from all across the state came to the event with high hopes of getting the first place prize: a

from industry and usually receives a pretty good response.

Drafting Contest: 2D & 3D. 2D has 1st, 2nd, & 3rd; 3D had a 1st & 2nd place. Prizes were graphic software programs donated by industry.

Machine Tool Contests: Milling & Turning, 1st, 2nd & 3rd place for each of the 2 contests. First prize – LBCC hooded sweat shirts; second prize – LBCC stainless mugs w/



Students gathering before contest judges on Thursday.

the overseer's of the main event (which covered a wide spectrum of welding) said, "I am glad to be helping out and watching these

high schoolers going through the contest". Many of these students, no doubt, will be part of his class someday.

For more on this event and winners check out our website at commuter.linnbenton.edu.

College students watch on from the sidelines.

three-credit scholarship at LBCC. Some of the other prizes are as follows:

Welding Contests: General Welding (all around), GMAW, GTAW, Novice GMAW, Oxy-Acetylene, SMAW – each of the 6 contests has a 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winner. The welding program solicits prizes

candy; 3rd prize – LBCC bendable figure clocks.

Several faculty members and several dozen students helped watch and organize students for the events. David Whinnery, an instructor at LBCC for two years who received an associate's degree at this college and one of



Students compete for the win.

Photos by Frank Warren

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CAMPUS NEWS

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

It's an employers market

Lori Tingle
 for The Commuter

Last Thursday LBCC hosted its 31st Annual Job Fair, and as expected it was jam-packed. Over 1600 potential employees elbowed their way through a sea of opportunity in hopes of finding employment. Unfortunately, the number of job seekers greatly outnumbered the amount of jobs available. Fair organizer and Career and Employment Specialist Marcie

Johnston said this year only 59 businesses participated, which is a drastic cut from last year where 80 businesses turned out. And 40 of the 59 were simply recruiting and currently had no positions available. Another change from other years' fairs was the surplus of people in their 40s and 50s looking for employment. Especially concerned are job seekers like Joe Vandiver, a 60-year-old Vietnam veteran, who recently lost his job to downsizing. Vandiver admits he lacks the education

most employers are looking for.

"Experience is all I have, and it seems with the huge layoffs from local companies the job market has gotten too competitive for a guy like me to be successful." It seems to be more of an employer's market. Businesses now have the opportunity to be more selective in their hiring process and have become picky about who they interview. Education seems to be more sought after than experience now.

Some of the participating businesses that attended were Wah-Chang, Samaritan Health Services, and the Oregon State Police. As always the U.S. military is actively recruiting, but they have changed too. Army Sgt. Mike explains that although things haven't slowed down, things are getting tighter. Previously the Army would accept recruits with a GED and low ASFAB scores, but now they are turning these people away. This rule also applies to the Air Force and Marines. Things are only getting worse for the Navy, who are actually trying to downsize. Despite all the bad news, healthcare always seems to be in constant need. Samaritan Health Services representative Rob Mullins said, "We are trying to protect our current employees from layoffs but are still hiring and have 200 positions available."

Many businesses seem to only have part-time or seasonal positions available. Art Mota

of the LBCC short-term training program said that this year classes have filled up. Something new this year was workshops to help teach people how to write up a resume and practice their interview skills. Janeen Phillips, a career and employment specialist for LBCC, organized the workshops and felt that this was a definite need this year. Many of these people are coming out of jobs they have worked at for over 20 years. Some have never written a resume or been on a job interview for 10 to 20 years. The job market has changed drastically over the last few decades, and a good resume is often the only thing that gets your foot in the door.

Businesses quickly ran out of fliers and business cards, and most employers had thick stacks of resumes in their hands. Everyone is feeling the effects of the economic crisis, and unemployment rates in Oregon are one of the nation's highest at 9.9%. Manufacturing is at an all-time low and more layoffs are expected.

Our economy is in the can and experts say that things are only getting worse. Our country is now in a painful recession and if things don't change quickly we are in danger of going into a deep depression.



The career fair in full swing.



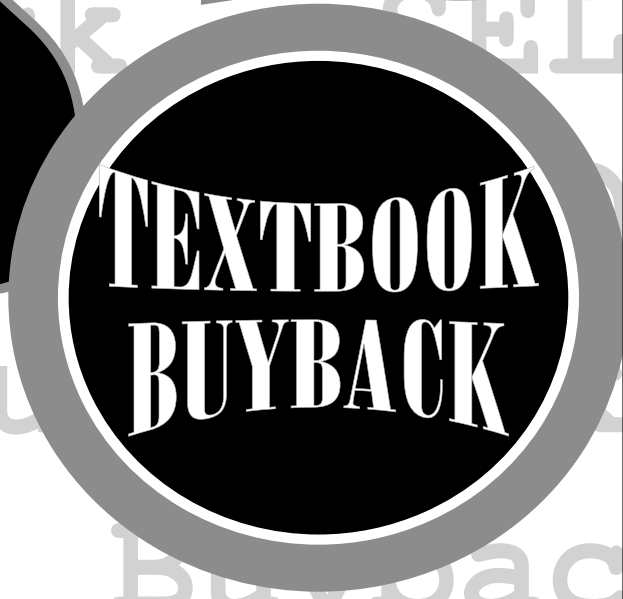
Angie Nateneier filling out applications at the applications table.



The Good Samaritan Hospitals booth at the career fair.

Photos by Eve Bruntlett

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Wednesday
9 am to 6 pm

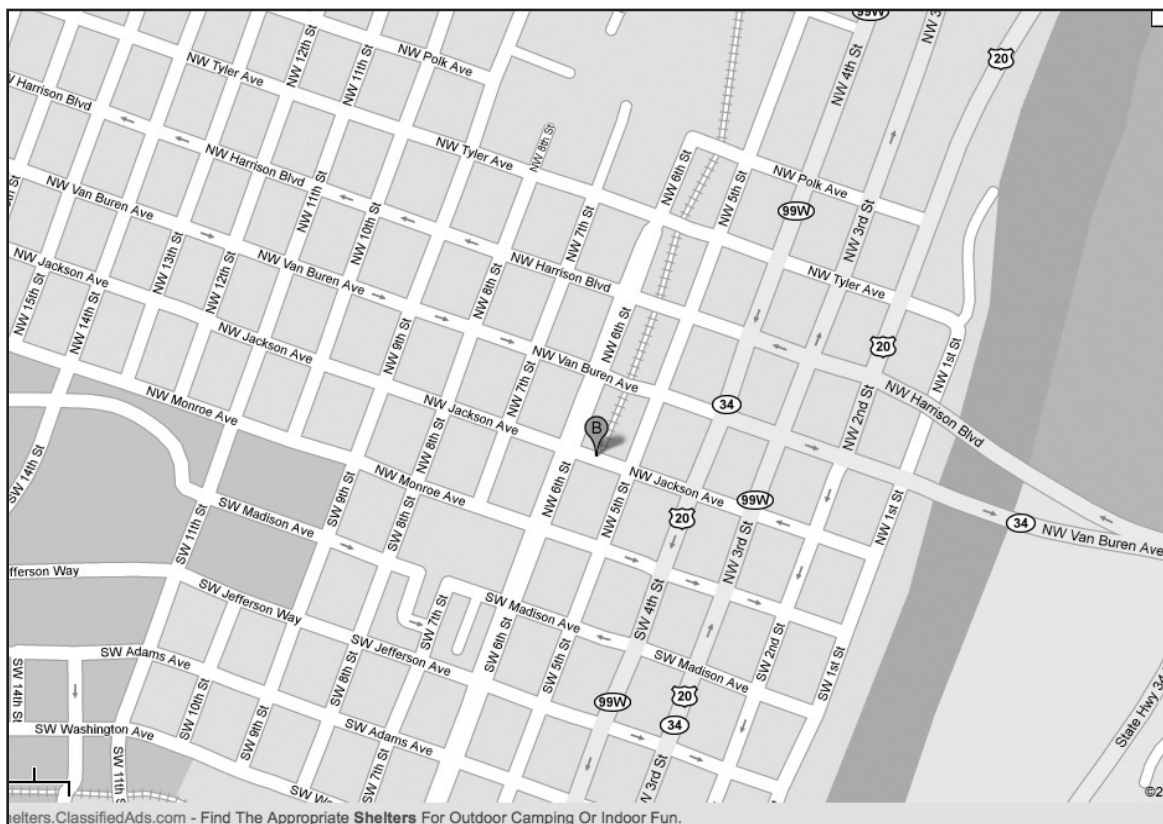


L.B.C.C. Bookstore

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opinion

Submissions to The Commuter:
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu
Drop-in: Forum 222
 Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.



A map of Corvallis, Oregon. The "B" is the Jackson St. youth Shelter. Courtesy of Google Maps

Letter from a concerned student:

Concerned Student
 For The Commuter

I'd like to know how there are so many different versions of this story about elections. We have heard that there was an update and an upgrade and that they wanted more people to vote. What is really going on here? An update should not have changed anything. I guess I could see about an upgrade, but aren't there measures that could have been taken to prevent anything like this from happening by computer staff?? Elsewhere we see they wanted more students to vote.... did they think not enough students voted? Is this a ploy to not be embarrassed at the number of voters as they were last year? Or was it they wanted certain candidates to win so they postponed the elections hoping to gain more votes for those certain students.... I'd like to know the true story of what happened. I think it is unfortunate that the first "glitch" happened and it seemed many candidates were unable to continue their campaign after and now to have another hang up?

In my opinion this is uncalled for! Candidates were not even informed about the second mishap and were at a loss at what to tell fellow students when asked about the problem. Way to keep people informed and in the know. If you wanted more students to understand, candidates should have been informed and better, more consistent explanations should have been given. Where is the accountability? If I were a candidate, I would be irate! As a student, I am extremely disappointed!!

Thank you, OSU

Halee Fisher
 For The Commuter

Homework deadlines and increasing GPA pressure make the inevitably approaching finals week stressful enough for students. But what if the only internet access you had available wouldn't allow you to use their college resources for "soon to be due" homework?

Due to the current economy crisis, my family, like many others, had to shut off the internet completely, resulting in higher stress for students. With the Benton Center closed on weekends and the public library only allowing an hour's time on the computer, the pressure of deadlines are high, so I decided to go to the Oregon State Valley Library.

Expecting to get done in a few hours, I sat at the computer ready to do some homework. I complained at the front desk that the Microsoft Word wasn't working and she (refusing to give me her full name) rudely replied, "Only those who are OSU students have the privilege to use that resource, you'll need to find it somewhere else."

Irritated and shocked, I sat and thought about exactly what she had just told me. Many other students I and are going to LBCC in order to transfer to OSU, but how do they expect us students to get good grades when were not even allowed access to any resources we that we need?

"We cannot let anyone other than student or staffs have access to Microsoft due to political reasons," said Sherry Thomas, and employer of Oregon State University.

Political reasons? I thought, "don't political leaders state regularly that education is one of the nation's top priorities?" I did some investigating and found nothing of the sort of politics refusing access to the public of needed resources.

Although what I did find was a statement from the core of our political standing saying "our higher education system is very accessible and helps students succeed once they get there," quoted the U.S. Department of Education website.

As you can see, politics have nothing to do with why OSU won't let any "non-students" use common resources that anywhere else (if were open) would gladly allow. My interpretation of the whole situation is nothing to smile about.

Thank you Oregon State, you helped oh so much.

Building our community

Eve Bruntlett
 The Commuter

On campus and around our local areas more and more jobs, careers, and opportunities are disappearing. This includes LBCC's rapidly deteriorating art department and the closing of the well-loved Corvallis pub The Fox and Firkin. When the economy turns sour it isn't the big box stores that go first. It is the small family-owned shop down the corner that is forced to close its doors. This is why it is important to focus on our community. Support the place you live in. Help each other to make it through these rough times.

Helping each other out doesn't mean giving all your spare money to the poor or volunteering 40 hours a week. It means trying to find ways to keep our money being spent in our town and given to our towns' people, not to the head of Wal-Mart who is probably still swimming in money.

Shopping locally can be more expensive, but it is also worth it. Instead of buying your vegetables at Safeway, go to you local farmers market. When you need that bolt to fix your toilet, don't go to Home Depot. Go to the small hardware store downtown, and you will probably find what you need faster in a much more enjoyable environment.

As I look around town I also see people losing their homes because they can't pay the bank. Many of them will have places to go after losing their homes, but some won't. Whenever we have clothing that we don't want any more we take it to Goodwill. Why don't we take it to our local homeless shelter and put it right in the hands of the people who really need it. Often people don't really think about how much they have until they have to live without it. Imagine living without a bed at night or a coat in the winter. It is not just in developing countries that people are going without these necessities.

The Jackson Street Youth Shelter gives food, clothing, and a place to stay to homeless youth in Corvallis and from other areas around the state. They also offer to these teens people to talk to and help getting back together with their families or into a more stable living environment. To provide these services they need donations. All of the clothing, blankets, and food come from people donating.

Everybody is in need of money these days, but to make it through we have to come together as a community. Even without a lot of money we can still get by and keep our "shops around the corner" open and running.

Don't believe the hype!

Frank Warren
 The Commuter

With talk of Obama stimulating the economy via stimulus checks, and all the talk about money pouring out of the government with you in mind, beware of scammers that pose to give you money in advance.

The Oregon Department of Justice as put out a bulletin about people sending out fraudulent e-mails and websites claiming to pay out money in advance for your stimulus rebate check. The e-mails ask you for your bank account number and for you to download programs that will verify

that you are eligible to receive funds. These programs and e-mails intend to find information about you that will allow them to drain your bank account and steal your identity. The websites are just as ridiculous, intending that if you pay a certain amount; they can tell you about stimulus grants and funds that are available to you.

If you get any e-mails that correspond with the above agenda, please contact the Department of Justice at www.doj.state.or.us. Or call 1-877-877-9392 for the Attorney General's consumer's hotline.

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Opinion Editor: Brandon Goldner
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451

opinion

Submissions to The Commuter:
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu
Drop-in: Forum 222
Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.

Web Responses

Brandon Goldner
The Commuter

We at The Commuter are lucky to have a website, which you can view at www.linnbenton.edu/commuter. The advantage to having a web product that compliments our print edition is the capacity not only to include more content, but to connect with our readers in a way that wouldn't otherwise be possible. Different from a letter to the editor, web comments allow you to sound off on what's posted, and allow your thoughts to be published immediately.

In order to highlight our web comments, we bring you a selected few that were left for some recent stories.

In response to "Iraq Veteran Against the War," by Ryan Henson

www.lbcommuter.com/opinion/478/iraqi-veteran-against-the-war

1:46 p.m. March 9

Courage to Resist? Last I checked we had an all-volunteer military.... no one twisted this marine's arm to sign a contract... and he did sign a contract... what is courageous about this action? There is a process called conscientious objector status... why not go through this process instead of being a coward?

- Jamison Lee

8:37 p.m. March 9

I have several points of disagreement with you. As a general rule the recruiters misrepresent what the recruit is signing and never tell them that everything the military agreed to in the contract can be unilaterally changed, nothing can be changed by the recruit. (It's in the fine print).

In the past, the Ready Reserve never got recalled, leading and enlistee to believe s/he was signing for four years or whatever. It's a new policy because they were unable to make their enlistment quotas. As people found out that the government lied about the reasons for attacking Iraq, less people were signing up and thousands of soldiers were going AWOL. Many of these men and women had been to Iraq and/or Afghanistan multiple times. As they became educated about

the illegal war and occupation, they courageously chose to not participate.

The reality of the conscientious objector route is filled with many roadblocks. Harsh peer pressure, chain of command harassment and delayed approval until after the unit deploys force the soldier to go AWOL. The application is dropped and the new legal problem becomes desertion.

An 18 or 19 year old hasn't figured out all their beliefs when they sign up. Holding a dead baby you just killed will congeal those ideas quickly.

These soldiers face up to five years in prison for making a legal and moral decision about war. They also face separation from their families and friends. The word "coward" doesn't fit my picture of these soldiers. I would question the courage of the ones who knew it was wrong, but were afraid to stand up for what they believed.

-Russell Brown
Vietnam Veteran with the Marine Corps

In response to "What about the good things Hitler did?" by Amy Dewar

www.lbcommuter.com/opinion/513/what-about-all-the-good-things-hitler-did

11:12 a.m. Feb. 27

When someone does something as terrible as Hitler did, it overshadows anything good he may have done. The fact that some good things came out of WWII should not be attributed to Hitler; he doesn't deserve credit for the existence of the U.N., for example.

- Miranda

2:33 p.m. March 8

Hitler had a direct hand in starting WWII (We all agree on that one, right?) The U.N. is, in part, a reaction against Hitler's policies and a byproduct of WWII. Just because he didn't have a specific hand in its formation doesn't mean he wasn't in some way responsible. I don't believe he deserves "credit" for its existence, but I believe it's important to acknowledge that he played a very critical role in nudging along the system of international law that was developed post-WWII.

- Amy Dewar



Wouldn't it be great if the things you really needed in life were free?

If you were to become unexpectedly pregnant today, finding the right help shouldn't come with a price tag.

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- Learn more about all available options

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Forum 222

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not express the views of The Commuter, its staff, Linn-Benton Community College, Dexter Morgan, or Santa Claus.

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The struggle to survive: human vs. mountain

Brandon Goldner
The Commuter

It was a typical Sunday at the slopes. Conditions were prime for what was my first time snowboarding; everything I did resulted in a fall, and luckily the mountain-goers were cognizant enough to give me a wide path.

And at least on packed snow you're able to pick yourself up.

My brother and I headed out on the top of ridge run. Shaky, I glided as long as I could before the board vibrated like an old car, when I would force myself to skid to a slower speed and avoid a more painful dismount.

Glide... and skid. Glide... and skid.

Keeping focused on not smashing my face on the ice, one would think I'd be glad to land in a pile of soft, fresh powder near the edge of the trail. I laughed. I dabbled in it for a moment before putting my hands down to push myself up. They went straight through the snow, which offered as little resistance as water. I tried to roll on to my back, but my entire body sunk about a foot into the snow.

Hm. 'This is odd,' I thought.

Coiling my back, I prepared to flip my weight onto the board and glide out. But the board just sunk further into the powder. Irritated, I looked at a nearby tree, whose branches came right down to the snow, and thought to pull myself up like a ladder. I got a few branches up, but when I really started pulling, the branches snapped like firewood. With my board closer to the tree than my body, I forced myself to shimmy my way close enough to actually grab the trunk, but I quickly realized it was too big and my gloves were not grippy enough to get any leverage. Unfortunately, the board was now caught in the lower branches at an odd angle.

I jerked. I twisted. I was whipping like a snake, but it did nothing to loosen me. I was still close to the trail, but it was dusk, and it wasn't lit. I was seeing less and less people skate by. 'Well,' thought I, 'maybe releasing the bindings would have been a smart move.' But at this point, I was so far sunk in the snow and my board caught at such an odd pitch that I couldn't reach them.

I was trapped.

Should I panic? I thought of how it would look to yell for help, and from someone to find me caught in a tree, three feet into a powder drift. I thought about how embarrassing it would be to explain.

Then I thought about freezing to death

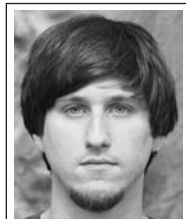
out of pride.

Realizing I could free my board if I dropped my body lower, I intentionally went further down, yanked the board free, and was able to push off and up from the trunk and roll myself back to near-surface level. I was out of breath, partly from the effort and partly from fear. And I was cold; through all the wriggling, the seals between my skin and the elements had come loose, and I had ice in my helmet and a good pants worth full of snow. But I was able to release my bindings, and I jerked my feet out.

*tink

I had forgotten to unclip the emergency leash holding my boot to the board, and it snapped. But I didn't care. Plunging three feet with every step, I made my way downhill a ways after attempting to crawl back up to the trail. I hiked for a few minutes. Each step took all of my energy. Lifting my foot high enough to clear the powder, my other foot sunk a few more inches in, forcing me to step even higher. I felt like the worlds least-efficient human being, as every meter felt like I had traveled a mile.

Not thinking about anything but getting the heck out of there, I strapped in and made off, my legs severely weakened by the struggle to survive the quick-snow. I floated down a hundred or so feet to another tree line, following the tracks, and I saw the edge of a hill and two red flags. "Caution" they



Brandon Goldner

read with all the passion of a shirt label. I figured it was to direct you around one of those above-ground streams that you can skate around if you're careful, so I tentatively skidded up.

I was soaked in snow and sweat. My legs felt as though they had been hit repeatedly with a hammer, shocked with a car battery, and then crushed by a bus. I flopped over and reached to release my binding, my stomach muscles so weak that I was shaking.

Carrying the board, I began to walk back the other way, noticing that the ridge I had faced seemed to flatten out a few hundred feet the other way. Every step was agony. I stopped every other stride to catch my breath before noticing the tracks of some other poor soul who had



Skiing and snowboarding at Snoqualmie

Jeff Croft - Flickr

obviously done the same thing I had but days earlier, the tracks little more than shallow divots on the surface. But beneath the new powder, they were firmer and easier to walk on, and I made my way up until I saw a trail.

The sun had set; the lights from the other runs shone brightly. The trail looked beautiful, like a desert's glass of water, and I let myself fall to the snow. I strapped in again. I stood up, but my knees didn't hold and I fell over face-first. I pushed off and was able to teeter on the brink of balance, thinking it was going to happen again, before I gained my feet.

I was free. I could ride!

So I swiveled the board to face the trail and leaned. Nothing. I was on a bubble about 30 feet from where the trail began to descend, a wall on one side and another, smaller cliff on the other. I hopped once, and immediately fell down. I was too tired. Not wanting to undo the bindings yet again (I could barely reach them now anyway), I weighed my options. There was a slight opening down the shallow cliff that I could slide. It looked okay.

I positioned myself at the edge, looking at the wider, comforting trail below that pitched down at a same angle. But the cliff itself, while navigable, looked a lot steeper at its edge than it did from a few feet out. Despite that, my feet were over the side, dangling like undercooked pasta noodles.

There was no turning back.

Thinking back to my childhood, I began to slide on my rear, which would have been fine had I not forgotten about






the board, whose edge caught a piece of the cliff and lifted me up, threatening to dump me face first 30 feet down the hill. In an instant, I used all my strength to throw my weight back, and I landed against the edge with a thud. Or was that my heart?

The little boy laughed, his parents looking on not without a hint of concern. I waved them off, and began cautiously making my way down little by little, testing to see how I could get the board to work with me instead of against me. I finally made it all the way down and landed in a goofy-footed stance, which I had yet to master. This trail was much wider, but there was yet another cliff about 20 feet out, which I was headed right toward. Throwing my hands up in defeat, I leaned back, landed in the snow and lay there, trying to breath while ignoring the creeping feeling that, if I stayed too long, I wouldn't be able to pick myself back up.

I rolled - away from the cliff - to where I was facing down, and got to my knees. Looking at the snow, packed and so unlike what had gotten me into this mess in the first place, I smiled. Maybe there is something to be said for high-traffic areas after all. I got to my feet and started down, feeling the wind and trying to shake the snow from my gloves, but being mindful of my speed, not wanting to go too fast. I wondered if my brother was worrying where I was as the lights made twinkling shadows between the trees.

Glide... and skid. Glide... and skid.

PERSPECTIVES: How do you feel about elections being postponed and then extended?

 <p>Caleb Bose Fermentation Science</p> <p>"Don't know much about it."</p>	 <p>Aaron Scott Psychology</p> <p>"Disheartening that students aren't getting involved."</p>	 <p>Shawn Daniel Criminal Justice</p> <p>"Get people into it, I don't even know the people in it."</p>	 <p>Alex Turenne GED</p> <p>"Wow, it's kind of stupid."</p>	 <p>Rebecca Reese Business Admin.</p> <p>"I don't know much about the ASG."</p>
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Compiled by Becca Martino. Photos by Becca Martino. The views expressed in Perspectives do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter staff.

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SURREAL LIVING

Crosswords, cartoons and some fun facts to brighten your day.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Speech impediments
 - 6 Curvy letters
 - 11 Use a Singer
 - 14 Complete
 - 15 Chuckle
 - 16 West of "My Little Chickadee"
 - 17 As a result of
 - 18 Repetitious
 - 20 Messy quarters
 - 22 Revised
 - 23 Reverberate
 - 25 Deborah and John
 - 27 Loch of legend
 - 28 Chic
 - 30 "NFL PrimeTime" channel
 - 32 Ely or Howard
 - 33 Bottle parts
 - 36 Geneva's lake
 - 40 New York city
 - 42 ___ Grande
 - 43 Fred's first dancing partner
 - 44 Bookcase level
 - 45 Arboreal lemur
 - 47 And also not
 - 48 Diving birds
 - 50 Off the boat
 - 52 Pond coating
 - 55 Isolated
 - 58 Periods
 - 59 Birchbark boats
 - 61 Tasty seed
 - 63 Goddess of love
 - 65 Play over
 - 68 Med. procedure
 - 69 Nostril
 - 70 Potato-filled turnover
 - 71 Dickens hero
 - 72 Marching drum
 - 73 Commit theft

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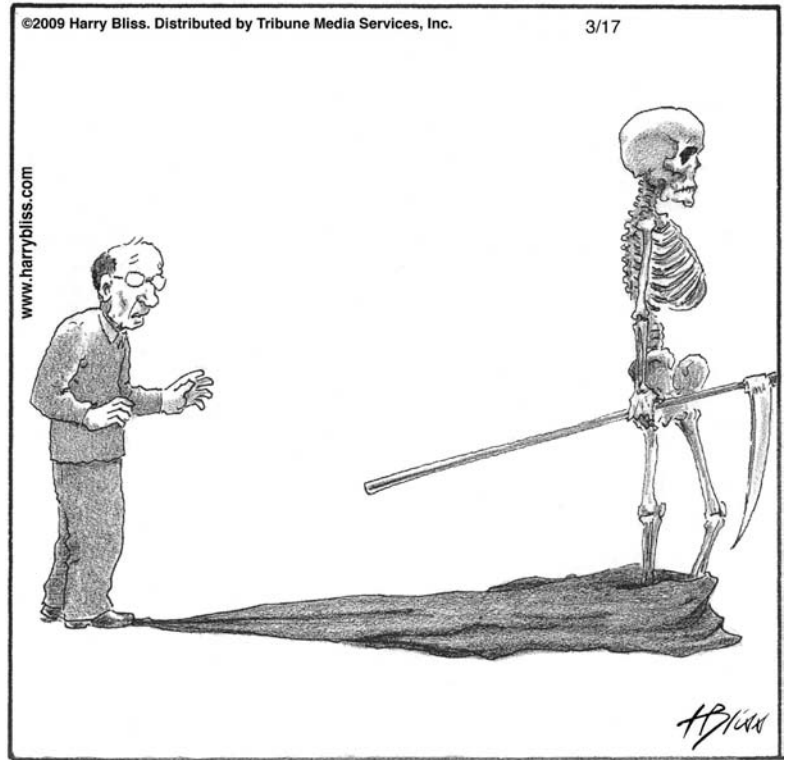
- DOWN**
- 1 Brit Co.
 - 2 Valuable note
 - 3 Actress Zimbalist
 - 4 Cookout settings
 - 5 Plod
 - 6 Creme de la creme
 - 7 Butterfly with eyespots

- 8 Grafton of mysteries
- 9 Way out
- 10 Herring's kin
- 11 Inflict a heavy blow
- 12 Roof overhang
- 13 Unwanted plants
- 19 In a can in England
- 21 Terrier type
- 23 Beige shades
- 24 Man of the ___
- 26 Put down new grass
- 29 Foul up
- 31 No-frills
- 34 Brittle
- 35 Family
- 37 Diverse group
- 38 Without support
- 39 Social misfits
- 41 Hubbub
- 46 Molders
- 49 "The Accidental Tourist" director
- 51 Grieve loudly

Solutions

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- 52 Mischievous rogue
- 53 Italian isle
- 54 Lacking coolth?
- 56 On the move
- 57 Pee Wee of baseball
- 60 Units of geologic time
- 62 Torah holders
- 64 Author Levin
- 66 Cold War letters
- 67 Org. of Flames



"Whoopsie."



"Well, right now I'm feeling a little uncomfortable ..."



THE BOUNCED RENT CHECK I WAS GOING TO SEND IS GOING TO BE LATE.

