

<http://commuter.linnbenton.edu>

Wednesday,  
October 8, 2008

# THE COMMUTER

A Weekly Student Publication

Volume 40 No. 3

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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MAKE THE GRADE? PAGE 5***



**The Commuter**

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**Newsroom Desk:** 917-4451  
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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## Campus Security? More like campus "everythingity"

Rick Casillas  
**The Commuter**

So you see a guy wrapped in toilet paper waving a high-powered rifle about his head and screaming obscenities, what's your first move? If you answered anything but call security you're wrong my friend...dead wrong. But campus security is more than just a dumping ground for the deleterious nary do wells floating around on campus, they provide a bevy of services available to you, the naive and easily confused first year student to take full advantage of. I sat down to speak to Bruce Thompson, security manager of LBCC and verbose linguist. After regaling me with stories of his misspent youth, Mr. Thompson honed in on those

things he felt most important first time students know about the role security plays in their lives while on campus.

"Safety is paramount," said Mr. Thompson in earnest, "Every extra pair of eyes we get, the happier we are." So don't feel shy calling in that funny smelling guy from math that's always offering to teach you to make pipe bombs, even seemingly irrelevant information can play a substantial role in keeping everyone on campus safe and sound, and if he finds out you called him in you're recovered! Escorts with security personnel are available anytime during school hours to walk you to your car. Security also offers vehicle registration, with forms available in their office. Once your vehicle

is registered campus security is able to quickly notify you of any accidents, flat tires, or imminent gerbil attacks on your car saving the school's valuable resources and manpower from locating you through the DMV. "It's free, it's voluntary and it's a huge help," says Thompson. Other equipment like jumper cables, or coat hangers to presumably pick your own door in case you lock your keys in are also available through security, though Thompson stresses that officers themselves cannot assist you directly with any of those issues.

But we're not cars, we're human beings for "Zues' sake. What can security do for my more pressing corporeal wound related issues you may be asking yourself, as you bleed

slowly to death while enjoying this fantastic paper. Fear not citizen, all security officers are trained in CPR, First Aid, and AED. The office facilitates a medical station, featuring cotton swabs and that squeaky wax paper you sit on that kids love, and the staff is more than willing to make calls for you in the case of a medical emergency, or keep you company until the eternal numbing takes you. If immediate attention is required all calls made through LAN lines to emergency numbers on the campus also notify security for quick response time. As for your animals, leave them at home, unless a certified service animal or they possess the uncanny ability to find children in wells. Thompson warns that every year they find animals tied in the

flatbed of trucks or locked in cars, terrified, confused, and ravenous for human flesh, "This is inexcusable, if I do feel an animal is in danger I will notify the authorities, and they will come," warns Thompson.

So here you were, on top of the world thinking you knew the inner workings of campus security and it turns out you were wrong, feeling foolish? You should be, but ignorance is no excuse, redeem yourself and learn more through the magic of the Internet by going to the LBCC website or stop by their office in the Health Occupations Building for further information. And remember, if you see a guy covered in toilet paper without a rifle, leave me alone, I'm trying to sleep.

## Democracy In Action events and speakers

Rick Casillas  
**The Commuter**

Democracy In Action, a club focused on the bipartisan appreciation of American politics, is planning to host a myriad of events in the coming months based around local politics and the eventual road to the white house.

Wednesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> from 11 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. in the Fireside Room, an open forum will be held in to discuss the potential of policies and promises made on the campaign trail, which ones are feasible, and

how their implementation will affect us.

Thursday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 P.M. in the library, there will be a meeting to discuss the upcoming 4 day tour of Washington D.C. The club is seeking more faculty, students, and staff to attend, as well as seeking local businesses and fundraising to help alleviate the cost of the trip. The trip costs \$1,500 per person with a deadline to pay set at Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. in the Courtyard, "Democracy in Action Days" will feature food,

guest speakers, and games. Representatives from local chapters of Republican, Democrat, Libertarians, ACLU and other organizations will be present.

Some of the speakers featured will include Sharon Konopa and Dan Bedore, both candidates for the upcoming election for Mayor of Albany; and Dan Thackaberry, Democratic candidate for State House District #17 along with others.

The speakers will introduce themselves and their policies to students on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> starting at noon.

### Let's create a creative name

Amy Dewar  
**The Commuter**

It's that time of year again! Natalie Daley is preparing to commence work on the '09 edition of LBCC's Arts e-zine, starting with possibly the most important aspect: its name. The task of naming this year's e-zine is up to you, the reader, and is decided through a contest open to all.

The annual contest begins at the date of this publication and ends on Oct. 22, 2008, with results to follow in the Oct. 29 issue of The Commuter. For their efforts, the winner of the contest will receive a \$25 gift certificate to the LBCC Bookstore.

The e-zine is the cumulative effort of students taking WR247: Evaluation and Editing and WR246: Graphic Design for Writers, both taught by Natalie Daley. The e-zine is open to submissions from all members of Linn and Benton Counties, not just students and faculty of LBCC, and is not limited to traditional media. Previous issues feature music and video in addition to other types of submissions. Its completely digital nature makes the e-zine open to all types of media. Examples of submissions from previous issues can be found at: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/ezine>.

For more information and to submit your contest entry, email: [ezine@linnbenton.edu](mailto:ezine@linnbenton.edu)

### All-Campus Picnic



Oct. 8, 2008  
 11:30 AM-1 PM  
 Courtyard

Food & fun for all!

Students - \$3.50  
 Staff - \$4.50

Sponsored by the Student Programming Board. LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. **Linn-Benton** COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cover Art by Colin Walsh.

Skater Kevin Soloman comes down from a 50/50 grind at the skatepark in Lincoln City Oregon. It was taken on black and white 35MM film on one of the only dry parts of the park on a rainy day earlier this month.

### It's time for what's for lunch in the Commons 10/8-14/08

#### Wednesday

Dishes: Pork Schnitzel, Beggars Chicken with Steamed Rice, Vegetarian Carey Pocket  
 Soups: Beef Consomme and Corn Chower

#### Thursday

Dishes: Coconut Braised Short Ribs, Cassoulet (French bean stew with sausage and chicken, Tempura Vegetables  
 Soups: Spanish Chicken and Split Pea

#### Friday

Chef's Choice

#### Monday

Dishes: Roast Pork Jus Lie (GF)\*, Shrimp Fried Rice, Macaroni & Cheese  
 Soups: Chicken Noodle and Cream of Broccoli

#### Tuesday

Dishes: Chicken Chasseur, Cajun Fish Sandwich, Spinach, Mushrooms and Cheese Omlet (GF)  
 Soups: Tomato Florentine and Lentil (GF)

\*Gluten-free

### EXPERIENCE YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED GROCERY!



### GET THE RIGHT FUEL FOR BACK TO SCHOOL!

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 753-3115  
 Open 9-9 Daily

North Store  
 NW 29th & Grant  
 452-3115  
 Open 7-9 Daily

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# CAMPUS NEWS

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

## Faculty gets a chance to show off their artistic abilities

MaryAnne Turner  
**The Commuter**

In the illuminated room of the South Santiam Hall Gallery (AHSS-100) you can find the talent of the teachers that teach the art students here at LBCC. There are many different mediums to view, and most art is for sale.

The teachers are Analee Fuentes, Gary Westfjord, Dori Bartholomew Litzer, Kurt Norlin, Jeremy Covert, and Rich Bergman the photography teacher.

In this gallery you will find an array of oil and

acrylic paintings, from still life to abstract, Charcoal drawings of beautiful native culture, photography, acrylic, and giclee prints. The prices range from \$200 to \$1200.

The gallery provides a chance to leave comments and feedback with the comments binder by the door just on the right as you walk in. The gallery also provides a nice quiet, comfy, warm, and well-lit study area when you need it.

So while wondering between classes, take a minute to stop in and have a look, and leave some feedback.



Analee Fuentes's "Ozoma Hi meets his match" - oil on Canvas.

## Campus Shorts



**Dr. Bill Lunch to speak on Elections**

On Tuesday, Oct. 14 at noon, OSU Political Science Department Chair, Bill Lunch, will speak on "Reading the Small Print in the 2008 Elections: Less Prominent Doesn't Mean Less Significant," and will be held at the Corvallis Benton County Public Library, 645 NW Monroe Ave., Corvallis. The main focus will be on Oregon issues, including time at the end for discussion of other issues.

such as paintings, photography, sculptures, and dolls.

**eLearning Audio Basics Workshop Cancelled**

The eLearning Audio Basics Workshop on Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 10 am to noon has been cancelled.

**"Better Notes + Better Tests= Better Grades" workshop**

The free workshop "Better Notes + Better Tests= Better Grades" will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 22, from noon to 12:30 pm, in WH 225, in the College Skills Zone in the Learning Center. Space is limited to 25 spots. To reserve a spot call the Career and Counseling Center at (541) 917-4782, or drop in to reserve your seat.

**LBCC Fall Invitational Art Show**

The annual LBCC Fall Invitational Art Show: A Cornucopia of Local Art will be held in the North Santiam Hall Gallery on display through December 5. The display will show local artists Greta Ashworth, Carol Chapel, Shelley Curtis, Kristina Daniels, Brooke Oberson, and Terry Weiss, all from Philomath, Corvallis, and Albany. The show will include mediums

### 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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**APPLY NOW**

# LBCC SCHOLARSHIPS!



Scholarships Available for Fall Term Application!

Scholarship criteria & application online at  
[www.linnbenton.edu/go/scholarships](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/scholarships)

**Application Deadline for the following scholarships is October 24, 2008:**

Anthony J. Moreira Jr. Memorial Scholarship • Corvallis Clinic/James A. Riley Health Occupations Scholarship • Corvallis Morning Rotary - Vocational Scholarship • Dr. Robert Hyland Memorial Scholarship Endowment • Eric Mann Memorial Scholarship Endowment • Glenda Sasser Tepper Scholarship • Gordon & Bea Decker Scholarship Endowment • Heavy Equipment Mechanics/Diesel Scholarship • Herb & Helen Hammond Scholarship • International Student Scholarship • John & Betty Gray Early Childhood Scholarship • Linn Benton Employers Council Career Scholarship • Michael F. Klopping Memorial Scholarship • Oregon Association Chiefs of Police • Oregon State Sheriff's Association • OSU Federal Community Service Scholarship • Peter DeFazio Scholarship • Printing Services Graphic Arts Scholarship • Robert Dale Schmidt Memorial Scholarship Endowment

**Applications for the LBCC Foundation's Merit & Merit/Need Scholarships must be received by November 21, 2008.**



LBCC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

## Help Rebuild The Gulf Coast

Learn About LBCC's 2009 Alternative Spring Break



**October 23 • 12 – 1 p.m.**

**Alesa/Calapooia Room, CC-203 (2nd floor, College Center)**

Participants in last year's cultural excursion to New Orleans & Biloxi, Mississippi, will show slides & share their experiences. **Free lunch.**

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789 four to six weeks in advance.

**Linn-Benton**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sponsored by the Student Programming Board. For information, call Ben at 917-4457.

**The Commuter**  
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# SURREAL LIVING

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

## Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Freon or neon
  - 4 Ponselle and Parks
  - 9 Hooded reptile
  - 14 Before, to a poet
  - 15 Corpulent
  - 16 Zodiac sign
  - 17 Madre's sister
  - 18 Japanese port
  - 19 Bothersome ones
  - 20 Counter person
  - 23 Writer Grafton
  - 24 Comic Johnson
  - 25 Inhabitants
  - 28 Indulgent
  - 31 Formal arguments
  - 32 Frozen dessert
  - 34 HRE part
  - 35 Coifs
  - 36 Cranberry patch
  - 38 Quantity of gum
  - 41 "My Gal \_\_\_"
  - 44 Possible pathogens
  - 48 Got hold of
  - 52 Straw hats
  - 53 Inspects
  - 55 Takes off
  - 56 \$
  - 57 AC generator
  - 61 Rand McNally book
  - 64 Fortune cards
  - 65 Stretch the truth
  - 66 Sister's daughter
  - 67 Remark to the audience
  - 68 South African golfer Ernie
  - 69 Spiral pin
  - 70 Nearly perpendicular
  - 71 Mach topper

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18					19				
20			21					22		23		
		24				25		26	27			
28	29				30		31					
32						33		34				
35					36		37			38	39	40
			41	42	43		44		45	46	47	
48	49	50				51		52				
53							54		55			
56					57			58			59	60
61			62	63		64				65		
66							67			68		
69						70				71		

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10/11/08

- DOWN**
- 1 Acquires
  - 2 Opera song
  - 3 Ocean corridors
  - 4 Henhouse male
  - 5 Indecent
  - 6 Navy commando
  - 7 Inquired
  - 8 Scorched
  - 9 Baseball hat
  - 10 Bauxite or galena
  - 11 Jacqueline of "Bullitt"
  - 12 Make piano corrections
  - 13 Set taxes on
  - 21 Writer Ambler
  - 22 Leg joint
  - 26 Big Blue
  - 27 Nuke
  - 28 Upper limit
  - 29 "The Name of the Rose" novelist
  - 30 Diner's bill
  - 33 Rabble
  - 37 Chew the fat
  - 38 Grapples
  - 39 Part of AFB
  - 40 German article
  - 41 Full amount
  - 42 "Exodus" hero
  - 43 Olin or Horne
  - 45 Impair steadily
  - 46 Provoker
  - 47 Sicilian volcano
  - 48 Family cars
  - 49 Strikingly strange
  - 50 One of two on the phone
  - 51 River ends, often
  - 54 Cache of cash
  - 58 New York state canal
  - 59 Lubricates
  - 60 Break
  - 62 Top shot
  - 63 Stitch

## Solutions

T	S	S	R	E	H	S	W	R	C	S		
S	E	L	S	A	S	A	C	E	I	N		
L	E	T	A	R	O	T	A	S	A	T	L	A
O	R	A	N	T	E	R	A	L	T	O	L	D
		S	N	S	R	U	N	E	S	A	M	X
S			B	O	A	T	E	R	S	E	C	U
A	V	A		B	A	C	T	E	R	I	A	
D	W	A		B	O	G	B		S	O	D	
		P	E	M	P	E	A	M	C	R	E	A
S			D	E	B	A	T	E	N	I	E	N
S	N	S		Z	N	I	Z	E	N	A	R	T
S			S	C	L	E	R	K	S	A	L	E
S			P	E	S	T	S	A	K	A	O	S
S			A	R	I	E	S	E	O	B	E	S
R	A		C	O	B	R	A	S	A	S	R	O



"We'll always have Facebook."



"From way up here they look like really stupid ants."



"I think I see Mom and Dad ... and the Coast Guard."

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# Arts & Entertainment

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

## Block 15 does pub grub right

James Scales & Damon Solomos  
**The Commuter**

Block 15 is pub food at its finest in Corvallis. Located in downtown Corvallis, close to the riverfront, the restaurant's atmosphere is busy and fun. Burgers and sandwiches dominated the menu, but we were surprised to see more than a few dishes that would not normally be at home with a pub menu. We had the pleasure of eating at Block 15 on their Oktoberfest night.

Two of the burgers on the menu are the BBQ Cheese Burger and the Smoked Pork Chili Cheese Burger. Both burgers were cooked to a perfect medium doneness. The BBQ Cheese Burger sported a sweeter sauce than normal for BBQ Cheese Burgers, but the taste worked well. The Chili Cheese Burger was good but heavy on the onions. The smoked pork in the chili was wonderful, but the great smoky flavor was drowned in the chili. Both burgers were good and we would

recommend either to a burger lover.

The next item was the BMT, the Bacon Mozzarella and Tomato sandwich on grilled sourdough bread. It sported an excellent hazelnut pesto. The hazelnuts, as well as a lot of items in their dishes, are locally grown. The bacon was a little too tough to go with the soft foods in the sandwich, but the flavor was quite nice.

We also had the pleasure of tasting a pulled pork sandwich. Not normally a dish you would see on a

pub menu, it was a very well done. The pork, which was true pulled pork, had a wonderful smoked taste to it. The meat was topped with tangy coleslaw that made for a pulled pork sandwich to die for.

For dessert, in honor of Oktoberfest, we ordered Warm German Apple Cake. It was the highlight of the meal. Vanilla ice cream dusted with cinnamon, striped with caramel, served over a delicious warm apple cake, it was heavenly. The taste all went together, the crust was

crispy and moist at the same time.

Overall our review is good. Friendly wait staff, good pub food, and the great booze factor. Add in locally grown ingredients, very good prices, and chalkboard tables and you have a very fun place to spend time. We would rate Block 15 three and a half out of five, but the dessert here was so fantastic it gave this restaurant a bump; final rating 4 stars.

Block 15 is located in Corvallis at 300 SW Jefferson. Their phone number is (541) 758-2077.

## Classifieds

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

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

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

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

### Help Wanted:

You can sign up at [www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment) to look at student & graduate jobs. \*For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).

ESOL Orientation Specialist (#6874, LBCC) Conduct orientations part-time (6:30-9:30pm- about 55 hrs/term). Able to communicate well with speakers of other languages. Reliable transportation - 3 sites. Must be well organized, detail-oriented and prompt. Pay is \$12.92/hr.

CWE Student Laboratory Tech (#6808, Albany) Sophomore or more senior standing is required, as is one year of high school or college chemistry. Must be willing to work weekends, holidays and weekday swing shift hours or any combination of those, but flexible with your schedule. \$10-15/hr

Volunteer Site Coordinator for SMART (#6864, Benton & Linn counties) Part-time positions. Great chance to get experience with recruiting and supervising volunteers. Possible CWE job?

Screen Printer (#6868, Philomath) Full-time or can be 2 part-time jobs (one in the morning and one in the afternoons. We'll train you. Need to pay attention to detail and be reliable. \$8-11/hr DOE.

### Other Stuff:

Pregnant? Free pregnancy test. Information on options.

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Options Pregnancy Resource Center.

Corvallis 757-9645. Albany 924-0166.

[www.possiblypregnant.org](http://www.possiblypregnant.org)

**Classifieds. They just make cents.**

**Place an ad today with The Commuter at [commuterads@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuterads@linnbenton.edu)**

## Point-Counterpoint Block 15

Point	James (Under 21)	Damon (Over 21)
The Bar Factor	Being 20 sucks	Here are my car keys, James
Chalk Board Tables	Fun even when you're not drunk	Fun when you are drunk
Beer Battered Fries	Love 'em	Hate 'em
Wait Staff	Knowledgeable but a touch on the slow side	Recommended the pulled pork and it was a great call
Food	Good Meat, prepared well	Great for pub fare
Music	Fun but LOUD	Polka versions of modern songs, I love, love, love it
Rating	3 and a half beers out of the 6 pack	More booze please

## SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP

LEARN HOW TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP!

Oct. 15 • Alsea Room, CC-203

Oct. 16 • Willamette Room, CC-210

12 - 1 p.m.



**\$215,000**  
 LBCC scholarships  
 paid last term!

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Questions? Call Susan Silva at 917-4467.

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

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# Arts & Entertainment

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## Spore is a bore or “sporing”

Greg Dewar  
The Commuter

Spore is boring, or as I've dubbed it “sporing” for the unique level of disinterest that Spore engenders within the end-user. I'm loathe to call any Spore player a “gamer” at this junction, simply because Spore isn't really a game. It's an amazing dress-up funhouse, save for the fact that it's not really that customizable. You can make a slew of goofy-looking biological lifeforms, but all of them seem to encompass the same basic tenets of life as we know it, not necessarily as one would imagine life on the other side of the galaxy to exist. Regardless of what you make, most things look similar enough that after a half hour or so nothing looks interesting or shocking anymore.

It's also after about a half hour that the creature creator becomes boring. You really can't just make whatever you want, it always ends up looking like something that the game's mastermind, Will Wright, would make.

The game progresses through five distinct stages: cell, creature, tribal, civilization, and space.

The cell stage lasts about 10 minutes unless somehow you aren't capable of successfully controlling a single-celled organism through the evolutionary chain of due process. While it's pretty, it's somehow less interesting and advanced than minesweeper.

As you arrive on land, you enter the creature stage. You can do two things, make friends or make war. You play a matching game of copying whatever the other creature does to befriend them, or

you bite, claw, and spit to kill them. You can sprint and fly, though neither seems to have any tactical advantage and only provide a few minutes of fun before you evolve into something a little more useful. You can also get up to four creatures to follow you, who will fight or befriend along side you: varying in skill and social intensity. Both of which only have a few abilities and get about as repetitive as grinding in an MMO. This stage may last you around 20 minutes unless you stop to “smell the roses.” But in a bland, still-forming planet, after your hundredth tree and who knows how many similar-looking creatures, there's just no motivation.

During the tribal stage it plays like an extremely watered down RTS that only lets you control a maximum of 12 units. You essentially befriend or “zerg” the other tribes until you're the last tribe.

Then you advance to the civilization stage. Which is by far the most boring, while it hints at the makings of a real-time strategy game, it plays almost like the tribal stage. You build up your city, and conquer others either religiously, economically, or tactically. You make land, sea, and air units, and economy plays almost no role as you always have an excess of funds. This stage can be beat in about a half-hour leading you into the Space stage.

The space stage is the non-end to the game. There are a couple thousand planets in the Milky Way galaxy to colonize. Unfortunately, to do anything at any of your planets, including picking up spice to trade, you must manually have your singular spaceship there and manually transport your spice to another planet to trade, and it can take forever to find a planet with a

good price. Colonization and terraforming are highly expensive and it's easier to conquer star system after star system than terraform all the planets in a system close to your home planet. After your 50<sup>th</sup> star system is conquered either through trade, domination, or terraforming, it gets a little dry. There is a main quest to reach the center of the galaxy. Though the enemy resistance is heinously vast, you can do it fairly easily without really trying. Like most things in Spore, there's little challenge or gameplay and you can beat anything without really trying.

At the end of every stage all the creature parts you acquired one way or another become up for grabs and the creature you evolved to survive a harsh environment can then be turned into anything without any penalties, just because. There's really no continuity or sense of accomplishment from one stage to the next in any sense of the word. All vehicle parts are available from the start. And the spaceship that you create has no real stats or anything from the parts you use—they come from purchases later on, so it really doesn't matter why or how you build your ship. Wow, way to take everything out of evolution.

If you cut your way into the enemy empire at the center doing suicide missions by destroying one or two colonies per death and every 10 planets or so building another colony to respawn from, in a few hours of mindless action you can be at the center of the galaxy (as opposed to spending 20 or more hours colonizing and fighting your way to the center). Once there, a small ship rewards with an exciting ability. The ability to terraform 50 planets instantly. WOW! What a steal! Excitement!

At this juncture I only had one task left, I discovered the Sol star system and colonized earth. Then I blew up the earth, which also took out the moon. I plopped a colony on mars and wondered why I was still playing. Why would I want to own a couple thousand planets when this mode of gameplay is neither challenging nor exciting? It just feels like work, somehow worse than grinding in an MMO because it doesn't get you anything or pay off. There are a few badges to earn, but that doesn't really seem to matter unless you're an overachiever. Go get Team Fortress 2 achievements on Steam if you're really that desperate.

In the end, Spore is just another waste \$50 coaster, with DRMs (Digital Rights Management) that only let you install the game on five computers. With one deauthorization, after a few installs it will literally be a \$50 coaster. Everyone upgrades their computer eventually. Who does this anti-piracy software hurt? The honest gamers that pay for it, two weeks before Spore launched there were full versions of the game in pirated copies floating around the internet that don't install DRM software that supercedes the administrative account and forces you to reformat to get rid of it.

Spore initially started out as a beautiful game that would follow the evolutionary process faithfully and provide both a challenge to evolve to be the best possible life form, but also one you could love personally. They robbed Will Wright of that, unless he went insane and forgot how to make games. Way to go, EA! Crappy games, crappy DRMs that feel more like a virus, and you've completely destroyed my respect for Will Wright.



**Caker-Ducks:** supreme leader of the honorable race of Caker-ducks who value trade, diplomacy, and technology over religion and war. Imagine this goofy-looking thing taking over your space empire. The roleplaying is here, now if only I had a game to play it in. Whatever I may have created in my mind to make this character more interesting is almost impossible to live out in the game. I'm all “spored” out.

## David Sedaris Comes to Portland

Rick Casillas  
The Commuter

Friday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008: Literary Arts, a statewide non-profit organization, will be hosting a benefit featuring David Sedaris. Sedaris is the author of bestsellers “Naked,” “Holiday on Ice,” “Me Talk Pretty One Day,” and regular contributor to “This American Life.”

Tickets will be available through the Portland Center for Performing Arts box office or Ticketmaster, prices ranging from \$30-\$60. The event will take place at 7:30 P.M. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, located on 1037 SW Broadway in Portland.

**The Commuter**  
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# Arts & Entertainment

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



## Kumoricon 2008

*Wave your freak flag high!*

Amy Dewar  
**The Commuter**

For the weirdoes, the geeks and the social “outcasts,” geek conventions are small pockets of time where everyone can be embraced for all their oddities; the more obscure the reference to the Internet video, the better. This is an event where you know everyone will understand your quirks, you will get no sleep whatsoever, and the more mainstream members of society are referred to as “The Normals”. Kumoricon, an annual Japanese culture and anime convention held in Portland, Oregon, is no exception.

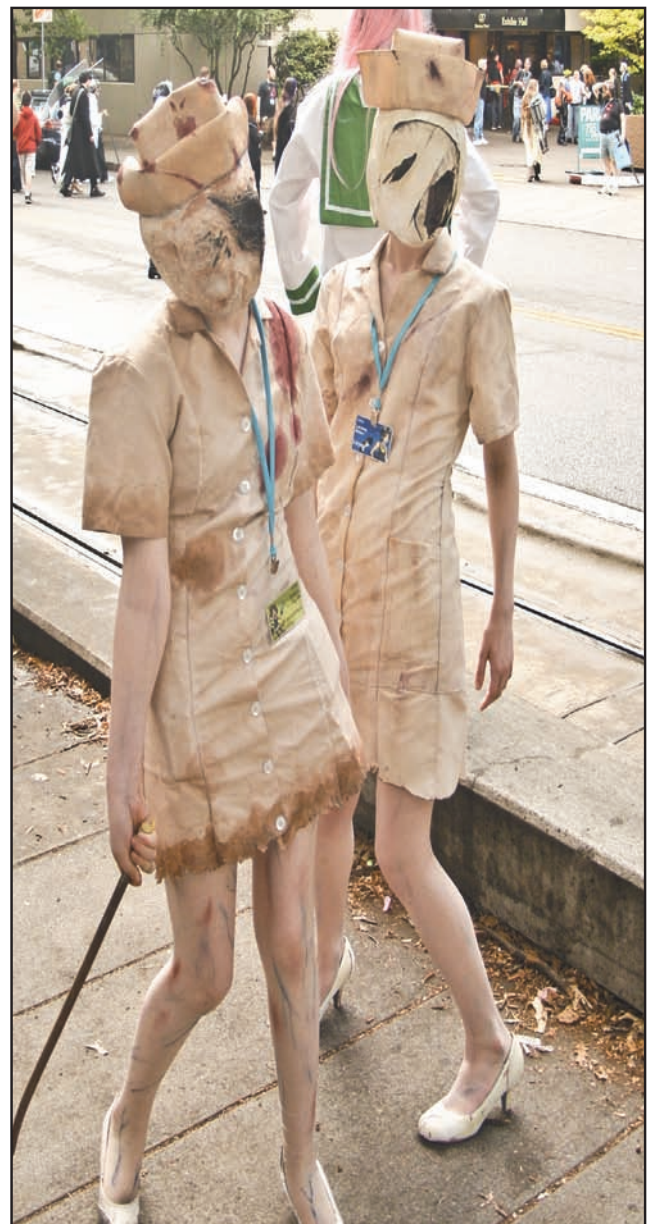
Of all the things I attend conventions for, cosplay ranks highest on my list by far. Short for “costume play,” it involves picking characters from your favorite movies, anime, video games, or even stupid Internet videos, and dressing up as them. Some people spend months working on new cosplays to debut, while others (read: lazy people like me) commission sellers on eBay to make the costumes for them. In general, however, the more intricate the cosplay, the better, and there’s nothing quite like the pride of having made it yourself.

In addition to the veritable sea of eye candy that is cosplay, Kumoricon hosts showings of new anime, a game room with video game contests, cosplay contests, masquerade balls, techno dances, an exhibitor’s hall, and a dealer’s room where otaku (anime geeks) can purchase swag from their favorite show, Japanese or not. This year, one booth in the dealer’s room had stocked up on merchandise from Doctor Who, a British science fiction series that clearly has nothing to do with Japan. Unfortunately by the time I got to the booth, everything containing the show’s main character, the Doctor had already been snatched up by fan-girls more eager than I. At the end of the weekend, the convention holds a closing ceremony which heralds a fond farewell and the return to normal life, and most importantly their beds to catch up on all the sleep they lost over the past few days. Or for suckers like me, it’s back to work to write articles like this one ^\_~.



Photos by Amy Dewar

clockwise from left: Jack Skellington, Master Shake, Hellsing’s Alucard and “Police Girl”, a Valkyrie, whose costume is her own design, and a pair of zombie nurses from Silent Hill.





**The Commuter**

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# Arts & Entertainment

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## Tasty Tours Through Pike's Place

Damon Solomos  
The Commuter

This summer I had the unique pleasure of playing tourist throughout the Pike Place Market in Seattle, Washington. I tasted the best of the market and saw all the sites thanks to a truly great company. Savor Seattle is a company that specializes in offering tours to the public that feature some great food stops in Seattle. They guided me through the market giving us samples of the best foods, and telling us the history, lore, and stories that make Pike Place Market the wonderful place it is today. Out of respect for the wonderful job the tour guide did I will refrain from repeating his story's and anecdotes here, I will however relate the places I was taken and the food I had the pleasure of sampling.

Our first stop was a tiny little stand in the middle of a hallway. I might have missed it if not for the line of about a hundred people that were all waiting for what the booth served. The place is called Daily Dozen Doughnuts. In the booth you can see a machine that is automatically pumping out mini doughnuts and frying them to a crispy perfection. People line up for hours just to get a dozen of these mini doughnuts dusted with sugar and other flavors. They are served in a paper bag that is very quickly soaked through with oil. The taste is excellent, crispy, and my favorite is the cinnamon sugar.

Our next stop is a small shop called Market Spice. This place is a chef's dream, as the shop boasts over two thousand different kinds of bulked and packaged spices, tea, coffee, and brewing supplies. We sample many savory cracker spreads. What stood out the most was a simple spiced tea with the flavor of orange. It was wonderful and I bought a pound right then.

The hits just kept on coming. Pike's Place Fish Market threw fish over our heads from their front cases to their man behind

the counter, the whole time yelling fish at the top of their lungs. Produce tasting at Frank's Quality Produce. Frank's brings in produce from all over the world, but the

Award. The chowder, which was exquisitely rich, was truly the best I had ever tasted.

Chukar Cherries handed us cherries, almonds, and dried fruit. Each item was

away to store it for my long trip, I would have bought a pound. No worries they mail order.

Piroshky-Piroshky is a Russian Pastry Bakery. They specialize in the savory piroshky pasty, which is a favorite of mine. You can't get within a block of this place without smelling the fresh items coming out of the oven at a pace that just barley keeps up with the line of people snaked out into the street. Here I have the best item I taste the whole tour, a smoked salmon pate piroshky. It was nothing short of decadent. Buttery pastry, salty salmon pate, and a fine cheese melted on top for good measure.

We ended the tour with a signature dessert of Etta's Seafood, Triple Coconut Cream Pie. Every Seattle magazine has named it the best dessert in Seattle. If you love coconut, it does not disappoint. The tour ends with me feeling very full and totally satisfied. The tour was early enough that walking around Pike's Place Market your self afterwards can still take up a full afternoon. Which is good because I earned a lot of calories on the tour.

Savor Seattle's Pike Place Food and Drinking Tour was a very worth wild experience. At a mere \$55, you walk away with a lot of knowledge about the market and its history, and feeling like you have eaten the best Seattle has to offer. The tour guides are fun, friendly, and very good at what they do. If you plan to do a lot of shopping in the market, the discount privileges a tour membership gives you can more than pay for your admission. All in all the tour impressed me so much, I plan on going all the way back to Seattle just to do their new Downtown Food And Wine Tour. All considered, a very worthwhile experience.

Savor Seattle food tours can be contacted at [www.savorseattletours.com](http://www.savorseattletours.com) or their phone number (206) 898-4418.



A welcoming sign to Pike's Place Market (MCT)

real treat was the heaps of locally grown fruits and vegetables. We then tasted the best New England Clam Chowder in the country, or so the sign said. Pike's Place Chowder has won chowder cook-offs on both coasts and the coveted Nations Best

served up three times. Each time dipped in a different type of chocolate. My favorite was the milk chocolate. We then tasted The Flagship Reserve Cheese at Beecher's Hand Made Cheese. Nutty, full flavors coupled with a wonderful firm dried texture, if I had

## Eve 6 at the OSU Quad

Kris Nelson  
The Commuter

Eve Six is a band like no other. Their members include Max Collins on bass and vocals, and Tony Fagenson on drums and vocals, touring members are Matt Blair (guitar, backing vocals). The history of the band is short, so I will include the facts.

Unbeknownst to most fans, but the band has had a few name changes and replaced two drummers. All of this happened prior to their success or starting with the name Eve Six.

Max Collins and former member Jon Siebels, along with drummer Tony Fagenson as freshmen in high school started a group called Yakoo in 1994, in La Crascenta, CA. Within about two years the precursor to Eve Six was going by Eleventeen. They also added a full-time drummer named Nick Meyers. The band was playing the scene around the area and was looked at by RCA talent scouts. Before they recorded a debut CD, which was available on both CD and 45 playing status. When this was all happening Tony F. recommended changing the name to Eve Six. He thought up the idea due to the fact that he is an

eager X-Files fan. There was an episode called "Eve" and on this episode there were "Eves". "Eves were characters that were created using genetics. They got the name, Eve Six from a character, Eve #6 and there was Eve 6."

It was a little too late to change the name from Eleventeen before the CD release. So they stuck with Eleventeen until it was released. As a whole, Eve Six would go on after the release with the new name. After that they started and finished their full-length album in 1998. It was released early in the year. The band's single "Inside Out" was and still is one of their top hits. It finished at #1 on the rocks charts. That same year they got the opportunity to open for Third Eye Blind. In August 1998, the touring helped them to go platinum.

The band took a break in 2004 and reunited in 2007. They are touring the college campus circuit and working on putting together a full tour and recording a new album. For those of you who would like more information visit [www.eve6.com](http://www.eve6.com).

# Welcome Back Pizza Socials

**Sweet Home Center**  
October 15 • 5:00–7:00 P.M.

**Benton Center**  
October 8 • 3:30–5:30 P.M.

Enjoy pizza & a soda  
while you learn about LBCC!

*Linn-Benton*  
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For disability accommodations, call 917-4789.  
Please submit requests 4 to 6 weeks before the event.

Sponsored by the  
Student Programming Board.  
For information, call 917-4472.



Photo by Loren Newman

Peter Mell riding a 23' winter swell at Nelscott Reef , Lincoln City, Oregon

## Winter Surfing

Loren Newman  
The Commuter

For most, the end of summer and beginning of fall is signaled by school starting, the changing of the leaves, or even the first home football game. But for a small group of dedicated people like myself, the changing of the season is signaled by what happened last Saturday: the Pacific Northwest was hit with its first winter swell, a twenty-three foot nail in the coffin for the carefree times of summer for an Oregon surfer.

From here on out, it's only going to get colder and scarier in the Pacific Ocean. For some, that means a change from surfing to snow boarding, or just staying out of the water. But for a dedicated few, it means road trips and camping on the beach with friends are replaced with pointless hours in front of a computer screen checking the swell reports for that tiny twelve hour window between storms, where the swell is still large but the wind isn't blowing the chimneys of the neighboring houses. It means increasingly thick wet suits that leave nothing exposed to the water but your face. It means a brain freeze every time your head goes under water.


This time of the year is looked to with a small amount of trepidation, as well as anticipation. The cold is offset with larger waves and smaller crowds. The long wait between surfs is overshadowed by the sheer beauty that can be The Pacific during a storm.

Fall and winter are the realm of the crusty old timers and the adventurous few. The cold brings fewer people to the beach, but those who gather are among the burliest men and women that Oregon has to offer. They don't whine over the cold. They embrace it. That is what makes them true Oregon surfers.

# Last Day to Return Your Textbooks for a Full Refund is

# 13

## Monday October 2008



LBCC Bookstore

**STORE HOURS:**  
Monday thru Friday  
8am to 4:30pm

The Commuter  
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Opinion Editor: Brandon Goldner  
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451

# OPINION

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Please sign and keep to 300 words or less.

## Big Brother

Brandon Goldner  
The Commuter

My oldest brother. His face was less troubled than I'd ever seen, his eyes held less aggression. I wondered why he'd called me over: Being eight years older than me and six years older than Alex, Justin had never been the role model we needed. As if he were upset that his place between our parents had been disrupted when we came along. I guess six years old is an impressionable age; maybe it had just hit him the wrong way.

Or maybe it was his nature.

But this day, in a place I can't recall, the person viewing me as equal had replaced the ever-dominant egotist I'd come to accept. Fully grown at 6'1", I was a good five inches and 50 pounds his senior. Now, only age made him my 'big' brother.

Then he spoke:

"Brandon. I'm sorry for being an a-hole. I know I treated you... I know I wasn't good to you. But know it wasn't your fault. It's because I was unhappy. And I want that to change. I was hoping that we could be friends."

Nothing could have prepared me. All this time, he'd never admitted to being wrong about anything. Now he was accepting not only responsibility for his actions, but the feelings behind them?

I searched for a lie on his face and found none. I thought of ulterior motives, of how he could be trying to use this to his advantage. After being away and out of contact for almost 10 years, I couldn't think of any.

He was just sorry.

Alex and I used to talk about ganging up on Justin, about taking him down once and for all. I was always too scared. One time they had gotten into a fight, and all I could do was stand in the hall and listen, watching as Justin threw Alex out of our bedroom and against the wall, shattering the thermostat, breaking his nose. I saw the blood, saw Alex, and watched Justin storm up as if inviting me to try.

Now he was asking me to forgive.

And I did.

I shook his hand, smiled. I

gave him a hug, which I had done only four or five times before, always at our parents' request. It felt good. It felt like closure.

Then I heard a truck. I felt a draft of wind, cold air moving over my skin. The image of my brother faded, and I felt my eyes go black. I opened them again to see my bed, my ceiling, my room.

The dream had ended: Justin was still dead, killed by his own hand nearly 10 years ago.

## Submit!

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer. Contributors who wish to submit columns are asked to first contact the editor to arrange for space in the next issues.

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

Opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter Staff or Linn-Benton Community College.

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Visit in real life!  
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www.lbcommuter.com

## Demand hangout space!

Brandon Goldner  
The Commuter

LBC doesn't have too many places to hang out. The courtyard can be a great place to relax, but as wintertime approaches it becomes difficult to walk between classes, let alone hang out.

You have the Commons Cafeteria, and there's the second floor landing in Takena hall... and while I've seen students catching naps, the way their bodies had to bend in order to meet the contours of the molded plastic benches didn't look comfortable.

The best bet is the coffee house, and while the chairs, couches and ambiance is great, it's hard to cram too many people into just a few hundred square feet.

Until recently, the second floor of Forum had the Multi-Cultural Center, and while its tables and chairs are still open for students to play games and relax, gone are the couches of yesteryear.

So where else is there to go on a 40 degree, rainy day with an hour between classes and all the usual spots filled to capacity?

To find out, we sat down with ASG President Hannah Gzik.

She acknowledged the lack of common areas on campus, while pointing to efforts made to alleviate the problem.

"We've added a table in student life and leadership," said Gzik, "this round table over here that students can come do homework, sit down and chill."

But with the 1000 plus students every term that

may be looking for a dry nook come November, adding just a table isn't enough, and Gzik agreed. She said the ASG is fully behind an effort to fund and make space for another common area, but it's up to the students to ask.

"What we really wanted to do is see the students really voice their opinions... so that it's not just 5 members of student government [making the decision], but actually have this mass of students with a voice ... and then we actually are advocating for the students."

I was told there is a petition sheet in the ASG office (on the first floor of forum, facing the courtyard) that students can sign if they want to push for a new hangout spot. But 250 signatures are needed, and even students asking about increased common space have been hesitant to sign.

"They just don't want to sign the sheet... For some reason, people don't feel okay with writing their name, and I'm not quite sure why. Maybe it's the whole thing about having to write your name down, 'what are they gonna expect from me.'"

While Gzik didn't have a spot picked out to someday convert to leisure area, it's clear that the ASG, and many students on campus, are all for having more places to hang out. The best way to get it done is by gathering those 250 signatures, so go tell your friends.

Attending the forum on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> is another way to get involved. All the information can be found in the box accompanying the story.

## Here's how to demand it!

**- Get a sheet of paper that states there needs to be more places to hang out. Then drop it off at the Student Life and Leadership office on the first floor of Forum, facing the courtyard. Ask them to keep the sheet there so students have a place to go sign. Then tell your friends about it!**

**- On MONDAY, OCT. 13 at 3 p.m. in F-104, the big lecture hall, you can attend a forum that will discuss why the Multi-cultural center underwent a change. Dr. Bill Thallemer will share information and answer questions about the new Diversity Achievement Center, which replaces the Multi-Cultural Center.**


## What We Did Wrong Last Issue:

Last week's Perspectives were written, photographed and compiled by Brandon Goldner.

This week's Perspectives:  
Compiled by Loren Newman, Nick Lower, and James Scales  
Photos taken by Gregory Dewar

## PERSPECTIVES:

How do you feel about the fact that we do not have student union?



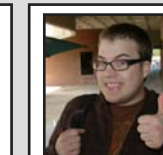
**Kevin Brown**  
- Waste Water Mgmt. -

"I didn't know there was one, I just thought it was a coffee shop."




**Sam Waxman**  
- Journalism -

"I would say that the whole multi cultural center needs more of a way of expressing their position for the students ... because I haven't heard anything about a student union."




**Brian Jeffryes**  
- Math -

"I don't know anything about it, I don't know what roll its supposed to fill."



**Anissa Teslow-Cheak**  
- ASG Humanities Rep. -

I feel the student union for the current student employees, the current volunteers, that we have is sufficient for the student body. Of course there are improvements that can be made, but currently I think its doing fine."



**Heidi Leonard**  
- Undeclared -

"It's a good thing, I don't really know much about it."

**The Commuter**  
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# OPINION

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## Terrorism in order to repress

Brandon Goldner  
 The Commuter

Over the last decade, America has associated terrorism with Middle-Eastern radicals who want to see harm befall our western civilization. In the past, it's been Caucasian men within our own borders who want to incite widespread panic or target certain individuals or agencies.

But we should start fresh. Rather than parrot talking points and repeat rallying cries, we should be able to find our own definition of these words that hold relevance and meaning for our daily lives.

According a copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, terrorism is defined as "the use of terrorizing methods," and "the state of fear and submission so produced." There's also a mention of using government as a vehicle for terrorism, but for our purposes we should stick to the first two.

Now let's define terror. By the same dictionary, "terror" can be "intense, sharp, overmastering fear," and "a feeling, instance, or cause of intense fear."

Already we've done ourselves a service by removing some overlying qualifiers, such as religion and the use of violence, which we normally use to define terrorism. By doing so, we've built more stable and factual parameters around which "terrorism" is framed.

Free of racist and theistic implications, terrorism is all around us. It pervades our televisions, oozes

along radio waves, works its way into the spaces between words in our newspapers. Contrary to what we've been told, there's a simple truism that makes identifying

fearful manipulation clearer: Terrorism works best from the top down, not the bottom up. It's much easier to manipulate a large number of people when you have the bodies and the resources to do it.

For our current administration and their close allies, terrorism has been a valuable tool in a vast trunk of weapons used in the assault

against the will of the people. Like a crowbar wedged between floorboards, phrases and accusations have been repeated, targeted on social sore spots until the supporting fibers of resistance crack and splinter, creating a void to be filled with whatever policies they see fit. And to them, it's no matter if what they say has any truth, or if the facts behind the words are so twisted that it casts a shade of gray

over an area which is clearly black or white.

One example of this, which is being exposed more clearly every day, is the rationale behind the invasion of Iraq.

"Rather than parrot talking points and repeat rallying cries, we should be able to find our own definition of these words that hold relevance and meaning for our daily lives."

Brandon Goldner

Exactly one year and one day after 9/11, President Bush stood in front of the UN and made his case for war. Bush said Iraq was a "grave and gathering threat," and that "The first time we can be completely certain that [Hussein] has a nuclear weapon is when... he uses one."

This would be fine, except history has

proven these accusations to be false.

What's debatable is that the President, in his addresses to the UN and to America, told outright lies. What's not debatable is that he stretched facts and omitted information that didn't strengthen his case.

The result was a nation in intense fear of being attacked, and using this fear the administration began an illegal occupation of a sovereign nation with little to no public resistance.

Today, we hear the politics of fear on the campaign trail. Sarah Palin recently accused Barack Obama of "paling around" with terrorists. What Palin didn't mention was that Obama and this man had met a few times, many years after his terrorist actions, which occurred when Obama was a child. They were never friends or pals.

Using a person's acquaintance as an excuse to stir up intense quasi-racist, fearful emotions in those susceptible to such tactics isn't being a "maverick." Using unfounded fear as a way to manipulate people into garnering their support isn't being "tough." It's engaging in terrorism.

## Politics: Does prejudice impede critical debate?

Rick Casillas  
 The Commuter

I have always held true to the self-constructed idiom that you can tell you've won an argument when someone stops addressing your points and starts insulting your haircut. Despite my difference in opinion, I understand that an opposing view helps maintain the equilibrium through which reasonable compromise emerges, giving us laws and rules that we can for the most part agree on. Murder is bad, George Lucas cannot write believable dialogue, these things we agree on leaving us free to squabble about the details of how we deal with those that murder, or how to convince Lucas to hire ghost writers for future projects.

As a kid I was told from every conceivable medium of entertainment to follow my heart and it would show me the way, the ghost of Mufasa preached to me from atop a Sahara cloud that I need only look within and the answers I seek will be found. Danny Tanner, after finding a dead baby seal

in his living room, sat the girls down for a heart to heart, letting them know that they knew what was right, simply by following their heart. But as I grew older I learned that my heart often wants things it should not have, and just wanting something to be true is not enough to make it so.

I also learned that much like the division of science and religion in ancient Greece, politics have become an alternative to God to those less apt to dedicate their zealous attentions to other pursuits. Who needs a golden calf when you have global warming? Why waste your time on an impractical effigy or slaughtering millions in a holy crusade when you can make a sign and stand in front of government buildings all day?

Such religious fervor is admirable in many ways, to believe in a cause is to know that something bigger than you exists, and giving yourself to it, if it's just, can give your life meaning. But the downside of such passion is it becomes a part of you. No longer is a simple disagreement over abortion a parting of opinions, it's an attack on you.

Making objective debate an obsolete practice in favor of the raw satisfaction of receiving your pound of flesh, of knowing you're right. And the more I try to engage in conversation the more I learn that having ideas and exchanging them are two entirely different languages, and not enough people speak the latter.

With Presidential elections drawing near the lesson that letting go of preconceived notions and opening your mind to new ideas regardless of the source is never more significant. We as a culture cannot be intellectually honest with ourselves readily dismissing the opinions of others simply because they do not share our faith, background, or political party.

So I encourage you all to engage in healthy debate with one another, listen as much as you talk, read as much as you write, go ten minutes into a discussion without calling someone a hippie or hick and see what happens. I hope you all find yourselves with a changed perspective and a deeper understanding of those around you.

## Pickens swaps swift boats for windmills

Lydia Elliott  
 The Commuter

\$700 billion dollars is a lot of money. It's the amount of money that caused such an uproar on Wall Street last week, influencing the Presidential debates, leading headlines across news mediums worldwide, and causing all of us to sit up and cringe. At a cost of \$2,300 per American citizen, the \$700 billion dollar bail out is at the forefront of one of our greatest economic crises. What few of us realize is that \$700 billion dollars is the same amount that we send foreign countries to import our oil--every year.

T. Boone Pickens, millionaire oil investor and founder, chairman, and CEO of BP Capital, TBP Investments, and Mesa Petroleum, has created the "Pickens Plan," a one-time investment in creating renewable energy with wind farms and natural gas production. According to Pickens, our addiction to foreign oil "Threatens our economy, our environment and our national security. It touches every part of our daily lives and ties our hands as a nation and a people."

The Pickens Plan proposes to build wind

farms across the Great Plains states, a place he calls the "Saudi Arabia of wind." This one time investment in wind power would bring thousands of manufacturing and production jobs to middle America, as well as additional revenue for farmers, whose land would be used to host the turbines. Farmers hosting wind turbines would see no change in the current agricultural capacities, nor would they interfere with existing economies.

These wind farms would create 20% of our country's electricity, allowing us to power our homes, furnaces, and businesses with wind power, and thereby diverting our natural gas reserves to power our vehicles. These steps would reduce our dependence on foreign oil by more than one-third.

Natural gas and bio-fuels are the only domestic energy sources used for transportation. According to the California Greenhouse Commission, natural gas releases 23 percent less emissions than diesel, and 30 percent less than gasoline.

Car manufacturing plants across the Mid-west have already begun creating clean-running vehicles designed for natural gas, and the Honda Civic GX is rated as the cleanest

production vehicle in the world.

Pickens understands that every person in America cannot afford to buy a new car that



*"According to Pickens, our addiction to foreign oil 'Threatens our economy, our environment and our national security.'"*

Lydia Elliott

runs on natural gas. Fortunately, personal vehicles are not where our largest foreign oil consumption comes from. Instead, fleet vehicles used by large companies such as FedEx, USPS, and many more will be the first to be converted. UPS, one of the largest fleets in the world, along with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, have already started to make the transition to alternative fuels.

This plan actually makes sense. I was skeptical at first because T. Boone Pickens is a life-long oil-man, he even says so himself. It sounded likely that this was another bid for oil drilling hidden in a pretty green package, but after careful review, this is not the case.

At 80 years of age, Pickens states that

he already has all the money he could ever spend, and has even given more than \$700 million to charitable organizations, started

the T. Boone Pickens Foundation, and is listed by the Chronicle of Philanthropy as one of America's greatest philanthropists. Pickens is even now using his own funds to fuel the campaign for energy change, and is investing in the production of wind turbines across

America.

Finally, someone with the power, money, intelligence, and will to see change happen in this country is taking action.

The Pickens Plan depends on everyday citizens to join in and demand that we do something to end our dependence on foreign oil. On his website, [www.Pickensplan.com](http://www.Pickensplan.com), a fully detailed plan can be found, as well as action steps we can all take to help solve this problem. There you can pledge your support, contact your state representatives, find out which of your elected officials support the plan, and make the first step in changing our energy future.