

January 5, 2010

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

Vol. 42 No. 11

Pull Yourself Together,
It's a New Year
pg. 6



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My New Year's Resolution, Don't Get Sick

Happy New Year! What's your resolution, Congress? To take our limited healthcare system away from thousands of people? How Christian of you!

That's right, the new Republicans in Congress have vowed to repeal the so-called "Obamacare." They have socialized healthcare provided to them as part of



Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

their jobs in Congress, but they won't let the average American have it, because, you know, it's "socialist" and therefore evil.

Never mind that literally every other modern industrialized nation on Earth has some sort of universal healthcare system; we won't stand for it here!

I suppose, though, I shouldn't be that surprised to see this. For a nation that has "all men are created equal" as one of our core beliefs, we really tend to lag behind in ideas that actualize that belief. We were (and in many cases still are) behind on the abolition of slavery, womens' rights, civil rights, gay rights, and now healthcare.

Yes, we have the best healthcare in the world, but only if you can afford it, and therein lies the problem.

I recently spoke with a friend of mine in Britain about the issue, and he said this is a prime example of why the rest of

the world thinks Americans are stupid. We claim to be a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people, but we deprive millions of our citizens healthcare. In numerous cases, this results in death or lifelong debt. Because some of the folks in charge would lose money on the deal, they brand it as "socialist" – then the American public freaks out.

The rest of the modern world gets that universal healthcare is a good idea. Just look at Britain.

The conservative party took over their government from the Labour Party (who are actually closer to socialists, unlike the Democratic party here) and proceeded to slash the national budget by 15 percent, reducing the spending of the entire government.

That's mind blowing when you think about it.

Anyhow, these conservatives cut damn near everything, including hacking apart the military budget. Many nationalists were furious at this because it is pretty much a public admission that Great Britain is no longer an empire and such. What is really amazing, though, is that they didn't lay a finger on the British healthcare system, which Republicans pretty much deem as being socialist Satan incarnate.

That's right, the British nationalist/conservative party acknowledges that universal healthcare

is vitally important to the nation. But not here.

It is infuriating in the extreme and just depressing. People value private property over the lives of human beings. I really think the issue is largely one of propaganda and perception.

I also spoke with a teacher who talked about how the majority of his class argued against the evils of socialism, spouting off common arguments and phrases. Yet, when he asked them what socialism is, none of them actually knew. I ask you four questions this teacher asked: Do you think that "socialism" is bad? Are you a student at LBCC? Do you have financial aid? Do you have food stamps?

If you answered "yes" to the first question, you should have answered "no" to all the others, because all the other ideas are socialist.

Tax funded, government regulated, and given on basis of need, that's what all of those are, socialist to the max. I would also add that the healthcare we provide to our politicians and military personnel is socialist. So is the military, the police force and the fire department.

They are all institutions paid for by taxes, regulated by the government, and not for profit. Guys like Blackwater are examples of a capitalist military force, and I think the fiascos and massacres of unarmed civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan, and New Orleans (you didn't know Blackwater mercenaries were deployed during Katrina and allegedly fired on civilians?) all demonstrate we don't want people like that in charge of our police, fire department, and military.

I'm not arguing in favor of socialism on a total scale; history shows it doesn't really work. What I am saying is that most of the world has figured out that integrating portions of socialistic programs and ideals into a capitalist society works for the better.

I would just ask that people put a little less emphasis on greed, and realize that many politicians (on both sides of the aisle) are full of crap and don't know what they are talking about. Please don't immediately listen to what they and corporate news try to tell you.

Also, we need to keep working on getting a real universal healthcare program.

... most of the world has figured out that integrating portions of socialistic programs and ideals into a capitalist society works for the better.



Ongoing Gallery Features Eugene Photographer

South Santiam Hall Gallery
Portraits of farmers, families and colorful individuals by Eugene photographer Susie Morrill are on exhibit at Linn-Benton Community College's South Santiam Gallery until Jan. 28.

Sunday 1/9

Travel at the Tripp
2 – 4 p.m. • Russell Tripp
Performance Center
Filmmakers Mary Lee & Sid Nolan present "Wine Regions of Australia & New Zealand." AAA Travel will answer questions and provide prizes. SafeHaven Humane Society will sell home baked goodies at intermission.

Monday 1/10

Punch-Out Hunger and Start a Food Drive
Hot Shot Coffee House
This is a food drive for the Linn-Benton Lunch-Box (LBLB) for

the month of January. We will be offering an extra "stamp" for each customer who donates a can of food or equivalent food donation. "Limit one extra punch per transaction."

Math Success Seminar: Lebanon
1:30 – 2:20 p.m. • LC-220
So much math, so little time!
Also, it's free.
Tuesday 1/11

Pizza Social: Lebanon
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. • Lebanon Center
This event will provide free pizza to students to show appreciation for our distance education students. Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Math Success Seminar: Benton Center
5 – 5:50 p.m. • BC-232
So much math, so little time!
Also, it's free.
Wednesday 1/12

Pizza Social: Benton Center
3:30 – 6:30 p.m. • Benton Center
This event will provide free pizza to students to show appreciation for our distance education students. Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Math Success Seminar
3 – 3:50 p.m. • WH-225

So much math, so little time!
Also, it's free.
Thursday 1/13

Pizza Social: Sweet Home Center
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. • Sweet Home Center
This event will provide free pizza to students to show appreciation for our distance education students. Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership.

Public Reception and Gallery Talk
7 – 9 p.m. • South Santiam Hall Gallery
Join photographer Susie Morrill of Eugene as she discusses her work.

Friday 1/14

Quick Solutions for School Stress
Noon – 1 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center
Join a discussion about causes of stress for college students and some ideas on how what to do to relieve the stress so many of us feel.

Deadline to add/drop a full term class with refund in person
Tuition due date in person
Last day to charge books to Financial Aid.

Saturday 1/15

LBCC Women's and Men's Basketball Games
4 – 8 p.m.
Vs. Mt. Hood C.C. Women play at 4:00 p.m. Men play at 6:00 p.m. Free admission for LBCC students & staff. General admission \$2.00

Sunday 1/16

Deadline to add/drop a full term class with refund via SIS/Webrunner.
Tuition due date via SIS/Webrunner.

Monday 1/17

Campus Closed
It's Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so enjoy the day!

Tuesday 1/18

Last day to return winter books for a refund.

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

Do the Surreal Living pages leave you hungry for more games?

We have more crosswords and sudoku puzzles online. Plus, more fun time-wasters in our arcade.

Visit our games section at linnbenton.edu

Financial Aid Shopping Spree

Only a crazy person gets up at 5 a.m. to sit in line at the campus bookstore. Yet there I sat with a handful of other crazies, waiting three hours for the store to open, just to gain the advantage of being first in line. What would you think motivates people like us to do such a thing? I can say that I saved around \$150 by getting used textbooks instead of new ones, but I also became very upset with myself over it the next day when I saw the same healthy stack of used books sitting on the shelf.

Will I stand in line early again next term? More than likely because I am just anal that way. The whole experience made me wonder though, what motivated some of those other folks as well? I spoke to the people in line around me (really for three hours what else are you going to do?), and I found some interesting responses to my question. Most of the others said they were there for textbooks too, but one particular response disturbed me: "It's Christmas, and I don't have the cash to spend on my kids."

Whoa, wait a minute. What does that have to do with education, textbooks, or supplies? I had to delve deeper. I began researching this story on the WebRunner to see if there were any restrictions that specifically prohibit this type of financial aid spending. There were none. What the site says is simply this:

"The LBCC Financial Aid office establishes yearly standard student budgets as a basis for awarding financial aid funds. Standard student budgets reflect modest expense patterns. Your actual expenses may vary according to your lifestyle and level of enrollment. The cost of attendance listed below should assist you in planning your own budget."

Keep in mind that if you don't attend summer school, it is on you to find a part time job or something to keep your revenue flowing. Otherwise, the average full-time student is allotted around \$14,000 a year which is expected to cover average expenses. All of this differs from case to case, depending upon hours of attendance and

financial need.

Note that \$1,290 is allotted to Personal & Miscellaneous, which leaves a wide interpretation of what we spend it on. Even though there are no specific rules for how we use our funds, it is expected that each student will budget wisely and save accordingly for unforeseen expenses.

Bookstore Manager Lawrence Lajoie has put some serious effort into researching solutions to this situation without infringing upon student's rights. He has met with Bruce Clemetsen, dean of Student Services, in order to discuss ways to ensure students spend their aid wisely. They have determined through their research that 2-4 percent of financial aid students spend over \$1,000 on electronics within a term.

"Keep in mind that a laptop could cost \$700 - and then with a jump drive, Microsoft programs, and laptop sleeve. etc., that cost rises," Lajoie said. "We're monitoring this percentage every term, but the necessity of computers in the educational arena is dramatically rising."

While this is true, that really should not include gaming systems and extras that would be considered entertainment, or personal and miscellaneous if you rather. That is why there is a limit on electronic purchases per term. "We let students purchase one laptop only, and waver from that policy on an exception-only basis made by management solely. We allow only one game system to be purchased during a term, with no exceptions," Lajoie explained.

This is exactly what gave me cause for alarm during opening day at the bookstore when I heard people talking about buying an Xbox, PS3, and a Wii for Christmas. What they found out when they got to the checkout may have been different, but I think that making those kinds of statements leaves little doubt where their educational priorities were that day. It is a huge benefit for us as students to receive bookstore credit. Smart students budget their purchases wisely and use the remainder of their aid to pay rent, utilities, and so forth.

In the grip of these hard economic times, it may be understandable why some people would want to take advantage of their credit just before Christmas, but is it right?



Lisa Singleton
Staff Writer

BACK *in the* DAY

Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

This day in history ...

January 5, 1918: Most misleading name ever ...

The Free Committee for a German Workers Peace is founded. This group later became the Nazi Party, which was not a committee, free, nor peaceful. I think the "Democratic Republic of the Congo" holds a close second place for the most BS name.

January 6, 1931: Total bastard ...

Thomas Edison submits his last patent application before dying in October. Thomas Edison is one of our most celebrated figures, and he is often quoted as saying "Genius is 1% inspiration, 99% perspiration." That's funny, coming from a man who routinely stole other people's ideas, bullied inventors into giving him their ideas, and ran some of the greatest smear campaigns in history to "prove" that his (sometimes inferior) ideas were better than other people's. His constant battles with Nikolai Tesla come to mind. Edison is totally overrated.

January 7, 1980: Everything old is new again ...

President Jimmy Carter authorizes a \$1.5 billion loan for Chrysler to bail it out. Hmm, American car companies needing massive bailouts because they make inferior products ... Where have we heard this before?

January 8, 871: Fear the Vikings!

Four days after losing a battle to the invading Viking army at Reading, England, King Ethelred of Wessex defeats the same army at Ashdown. Both sides suffer heavy casualties, and the Vikings retreat back to their fort at Reading. Unfortunately for Ethelred, his army is crippled by this victory. However, it allows the Vikings to win numerous battles once they receive reinforcements. Ethelred dies in April, and is succeeded by Alfred, who spends most of his 28 years on the throne battling the Viking invasion.

January 9, 1857: A lone star goes out ...

Anson Jones, former president of the Republic of Texas, commits suicide after receiving no votes in his bid for becoming a U.S. Senator. He is already furious after losing his previous bid for the senate to the Texan war hero Sam Houston, and this final insult proves too much for Anson to handle.

January 10, 1941: How times change ...

The Lend-Lease Law is introduced in Congress. Under this law, the U.S. began selling weapons and supplies to the Soviet Union and Britain to help fight the Germans, all the while insisting that we were still neutral and not getting involved in the war in Europe. The U.S. had done something similar in WWI, and the Germans hadn't been fooled then, nor were they fooled this time. Of course, about five years later we were enlisting the Germans (including many former Nazis) to help us fight the Soviets.

January 11, 1964: Up in smoke ...

Dr. Luther Leonidas Terry (best name ever), the United States Surgeon General, publishes a report which states that smoking may be hazardous to people's health. Forty-seven years later, smoking-related health issues remain the single most preventable form of death in the country (reducing lifespan by an average of 14 years) and costs us about \$92 billion annually.

Thought for the week:

"Lighthouses are more useful than churches."
-Benjamin Franklin (disputed)

What do you think?

Both letters to the editor
and guest columns are
welcome.

Submit your thoughts to
commuter@linnbenton.edu



Experience Alternative Medicine

Maggie O'Reilly
Cartoonist

Like many people in the US, I understood very little about traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). I grew up on Robitussin and booster shots like everyone else I know. Recently, however, I took a leap into this new field of medicine for the very first time.

I say 'new' with hesitation. While TCM was new to me, and is new to most Americans, it's been practiced throughout Asia for over 2,000 years.

From the TCM perspective, the older and more practiced a treatment is, the better (in contrast to Western medicine, where the newest and most experimental drugs are often touted as the best).

The appointment started out like any other visit to the doctor. I sat with acupuncturist Jennifer Buys in her office at Mystic Mountain Center for the Healing Arts in Corvallis. I was there for the same reason many people seek acupuncture: stress.

Stress and anxiety are two of the most common reasons people in the U.S. seek treatment – up there with chronic back pain and the effects of chemotherapy.

We sat and talked about my symptoms, but the conversation was much more in depth than I had expected. I was asked what exactly caused all the stress, why I thought it affected me so much, and what about the situation bothered me the most.

After that, she checked my pulse and tongue, then explained all the different things she would like to try. My entire treatment would include acupuncture, cupping (glass cups that suction the skin), and herbal medicine.



The first needles were a bit intimidating, but my fears quickly dissipated. What I felt was a sensation very much like plucking out a fine hair, only in reverse. Once the needles were in place, I couldn't feel them at all. In fact, I couldn't tell where they were until she gently stimulated them.

The cupping was a bit more intense for me. Small glass cups were placed on my back. The air was suctioned out, pulling the tissue into the cup, leaving what looked like the aftermath of a fight with a giant octopus. The purpose was to trigger the release of toxins.

It stung the outer layer of the skin at first, but after a while all the tension was gone. Only a hot feeling remained. All together, I had needles in my hands, feet,

arms, lower legs, lower abdomen, ears, the top of my head, and my forehead.

Amazingly, I felt extremely relaxed, and even euphoric.

The entire treatment lasted about 25 minutes. I didn't feel the needles as she removed them. Although every point was swabbed carefully, there was no blood. I was surprised that there was no soreness in my back from the cupping, either.

The herbal medicine I was given is a powder to be taken in warm water 3 times a day. It contained 13 different herbs, all with Chinese names. After researching these herbs, I found nothing terrifying like Rhino horn or the genitals of nearly extinct animals.

They were all roots, barks, and dried plants whose taste was less than delicious.

The particular mixture made for me tasted like a combination of cinnamon and dirt. Surprisingly, after only a few doses, I began to enjoy it and even looked forward to it. Overall, it induced a calm, dreamy state without any feelings of lethargy.

So, at the end of the day, how did I feel?

Very peaceful. There was an overall sense that pressure had been released, like taking a tea kettle off the burner. From the experience, I would definitely continue using traditional Chinese medicine. It was effective without feeling invasive or extreme.

I hope that both Western and Chinese methods become used in tandem more often. Both have their strengths and weaknesses. For me, the ancient art was a breath of fresh air, and I absolutely recommend trying TCM for preventive care and chronic conditions.

Commons Cafeteria

Located on the 2nd floor of the Calapooia Center just above the Bookstore

Featuring:

- Fresh soups and bakery breads
- Build your own sandwich and salad bar
- Wood burning oven offering pizza by the slice
- Entrée salads
- Hot entrees featuring vegetarian and gluten free options
- Desserts and pastries
- Large assortment of hot and cold beverages



All of the food served in the Commons Cafeteria is prepared by LBCC culinary arts students. We are open during the school year Monday-Friday from 10:00am-1:30pm. The lunch menu changes daily and is available from 11:15am-1:15pm.

Office Hours: Q&A with Sharon Rodecap

Lacey Jarrell
Managing Editor

Commuter: How long have you been at LBCC and what courses do you teach?

Sharon Rodecap: I have been at LBCC over 30 years and teach mathematics.

C: Where did you earn your degree?

SR: I got my bachelor's degree from Idaho State University and my master's from OSU.

C: Where are you originally from and how did you end up at LBCC?

SR: I am from Idaho, although I moved all over the west while growing up. When I was not sure what to do with a math degree, my professors at Idaho State suggested graduate school. I ended up at Oregon State where I got a teaching assistantship while going to grad school. As often still happens, the LBCC math department contacted OSU to see if they had any grad students who wanted to teach part-time, got my name, and then contacted me. I taught part-time at first, finished my master's degree, and then taught full time at LBCC before cutting back to part-time to raise my family. I went back to teaching full-time about 10 years ago.

C: What drew you to the math field?

SR: I like the connections between the parts of math and the connections with the real world. I really enjoy the problem solving. It seems like a big puzzle that is fun to work out.

C: What math concept, if any, did you struggle with as a student? Any advice for working with it?

SR: Math usually came easily for me, but when I had trouble with it, it was often because I did not do the homework or did not pay attention to the details and connections. I would try to learn each piece on its own without trying to see how the parts connected. My advice to students is to continually work at connecting the new math they are learning to the math they already know. That makes it much easier to remember it for the long term.

C: For all of the people out there who think advanced math isn't relevant to their lives, what is one thing you would tell them?

SR: For many people, the most important thing they will get from a math class is the logical approach to problem solving. There is something about mathematics that helps one approach problems differently. I think that is a reason that many companies like their employees to have a good math background. In addition, algebraic processing pops up in spreadsheets and many students will use a spreadsheet later in their jobs. There is actually one more important result students get from a math class, and that is the sense of satisfaction and confidence when they can do something they once considered hard.

C: Do you have any plans for the future?

SR: I plan to teach full time a few more years, but will continue to teach part-time even after I retire.



Math instructor Sharon Rodecap

Lacey Jarrell

Where to find Sharon Rodecap

Office: White Oak Hall - 101
Phone: 541-917-4757
E-mail: Sharon.Rodecap@linnbenton.edu
Office Hours: Mon./Wed. 11 a.m. - noon

I really enjoy teaching. Every single class has a different personality, so even when I teach the same things, the class feels different. I like getting to know students from all different backgrounds.

I hope to travel more in the future - I'm going to Iceland this summer. I would love to travel to more places like Africa and Asia and South America, as well as more of the United States.

C: Iceland sounds fascinating, how long will you be there and what will you be doing? Strictly vacation?

SR: I've actually been to Iceland once before when one son was living in England. This is a return trip to a fascinating place. They call it the "Land of Fire and Ice" and it really is. There are hot springs, geysers and waterfalls, icebergs, and volcanoes. When we went before we stayed in one place and traveled back and forth from there. This time we hope to take the "Ring Road" which goes all the way around the island. We'll sight see and hike and take lots of pictures in the week and a half that we will be there. It's strictly for vacation.

C: What are your other interests? Is there anything you feel passionate about?

SR: I really enjoy photography and have pictures up in my office that I have taken. I'm not a great photographer, but I take so many pictures that some of them do come out well. I take pictures of people, animals, insects, scenery, etc. My children call me the paparazzi for all the pictures I take of my grandchildren.

As you can probably tell from my earlier answers, I am passionate about teaching. Getting an education helps students change their lives for the better and it's gratifying to be a part of that.



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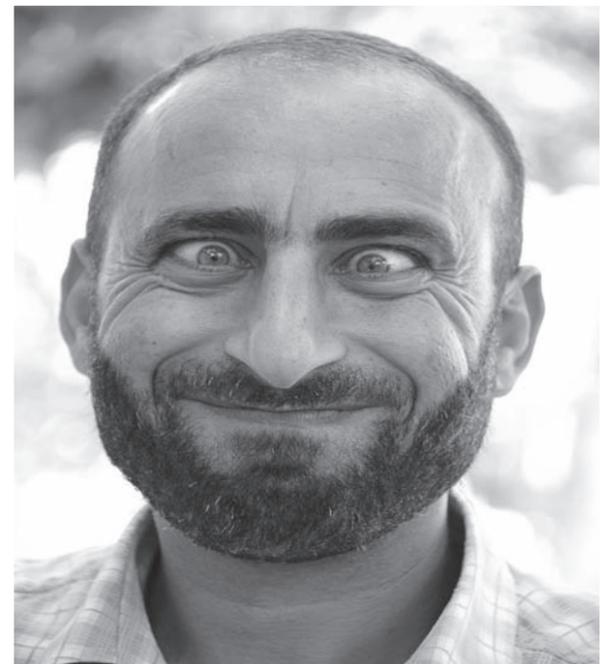
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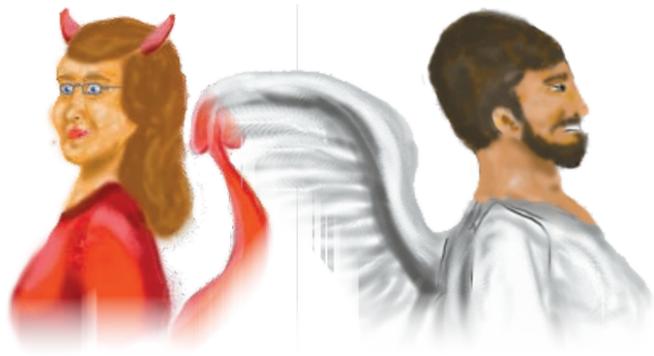
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Next week's Office Hours ...

Is there a faculty or staff member that you think the campus should get to know? Who would you like us to interview next? We need your help. Send your suggestions to commuter@linnbenton.edu.

Dear Conscience,

Question: How do I keep my New Year's resolution?



Ashley Christie
Shoulder Devil

Justin Bolger
Shoulder Angel

New Year's resolution, huh? I have to admit that I am unfamiliar with this concept – seeing as I've never made one. Apparently, New Year's is a time when people try to "better" themselves by quitting their vices and reforming their "bad habits."

Why would you want to do that?

Life can be incredibly harsh at times. If the only way you can handle it is by enjoying an extra piece of cake, I say, "Eat up my friend, and don't scrimp on the whipped cream."

Eating ... drinking ... smoking: these aren't vices, they're how to have a good time. Why deny yourself happiness?

Now, I'm sure my friend, Mr. Goody-Two-Shoes over there, is going to tell you that by showing some self-control now you'll have a better life in the long run. But screw the long run.

Life is short, and tomorrow is promised to no one. That is future-you's problem; enjoy the now. And right now, you want to satisfy that nicotine craving.

In the immortal words of Nike, "Just do it."

Besides, from my understanding of this tradition, no one keeps their New Year's resolutions anyway. Why set yourself up for failure? Your life must already be a disappointment if you're making a resolution in the first place. Do you really want to make it worse by adding to your long list of "things I should have done better?"

Right now, that bottle of Corona is sitting on the table looking all delicious and thirst quenching. Go ahead. Eat, drink, and be merry.

What a fantastic opportunity the New Year brings us.

Ever since I was just a wee one, I've always looked forward to the chance to better myself and encourage others to do the same! Vices are just so darn binding! They make it hard to breathe.

I like to pull out my golden note pad to make a whole list of resolutions!

I love life and living it up, so I take such delight in losing all that extra burden of materialistic and vicey things.

Fast food hurts animals, shopping sprees oppress children in third-world countries, and smoking poisons those around you. Oh, I think I'm going to cry!

How can a person feel happy with all that guilt? Think of the children!

One year, I gave everything I had to the Should Devil – right down to my last penny. She had important things to do, so she didn't have time to say thanks, but I knew it meant a lot. Spreading your virtues rocks!

My point is this: If you want to truly be happy, you have to make those around you happy. To do that, you have to shed cumbersome vices.

In the immortal words of Nike, "Just do it."

When dealing in resolutions, you get to show off your resolve. If all goes well, (which I'm sure it will), your resolve will inspire others to stay just as strong!

I understand resolutions can be tough, but I know we can do it if we help each other out!

Remember this when going into the new year: You are a champion; you just need to show the world what you can do!

The Reverse Psychologist's Top Ten 2011 Resolutions

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

The new year is upon us, and that means it's that time again. You know what I mean. It's time to whip out that special list of crap you are never going to do in the upcoming year. Oh, I know, we call them "resolutions." We make them with the high-minded intention of bettering ourselves. But seriously, you and I know we're never going to get any of this stuff done.

We're so good at making (and breaking) the same resolutions over and over again, that there are actually dozens of "top ten" lists of regular resolutions people make out there on the 'net. At this point in the game, wouldn't it be smarter to take advantage of the fact that we know we aren't going to keep our New Year's resolutions? In fact, we'll probably do even worse at those goals, just to spite our good intentions!

With that in mind, I present the Reverse Psychologist's 2011 Resolutions List:

10. The Standard Resolution: Helping Others, Giving to Charity, Being a Better Person

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

This year's goal? Miserly, rotten hatred of the entire human race. I'm going to steal candy from babies, kick puppies, and randomly slap people on the streets. I'm going to pick a church to go to just so I can cuss there on Sunday mornings. I'm going to litter and put recyclables in the regular trash. You just watch me.

9. The Standard Resolution: Devote Quality Time to Friends, Family, and Loved Ones

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

I will disappear so thoroughly my folks will think I'm in the Witness Protection Program. Mother's Day? Ain't calling. My boyfriend can cook his own dinner. The dog wants to play fetch? Throw that stick yourself, mutt. I've got better things to do. And Facebook Chat? Permanently off.

8. The Standard Resolution: Become Better at Managing My Money

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

I'll pick up some expensive, obsessive hobbies. Maybe scrapbooking. My house will be adrift in cute, over-priced stickers, scraps of brightly colored paper, and bits of leftover felt. This reverse resolution actually goes along pretty well with #6, because I'll never find anything in my house ever again, and #5 will give me something else to fritter my money away on.

7. The Standard Resolution: Learn New Things, Get More/Better Education, Learn to Appreciate Art, etc.

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

I will actively attempt to unlearn how to read. (That's why I had to write this before New Year's Day.) I'm going to develop a fondness for velvet Elvises and pictures of dogs playing poker. I will listen only to Miley Cyrus. I'm going to drop out of college and try to receive at least one debilitating head injury. I will watch only FOX News, and I might even vote Republican.

6. The Standard Resolution: Get Organized

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

I'm giving up my nifty smartphone with the Google calendar app and to-do list. I'll take notes on my hands, and then wash up immediately afterward. I'll write important things down on scrap paper, and instantly lose the scraps at the bottom of a voluminous and over-stuffed purse I'll purchase and fill with empty organizer notebooks for just this reason. I'll rely on memory for critical phone numbers.

5. The Standard Resolution: Give Up Drinking, Drugs

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

Folks, I'm drunk right now. I probably can't afford any drugs, though, what with all the scrapbooking up in here. On the upside, think of the adorable photo albums I can make from pictures of myself at the bar!

4. The Standard Resolution: Enjoy Life More, Live Life to the Fullest, Do Everything on My Bucket List, etc

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

I think I'll join a repressive fundamentalist cult, which dovetails nicely with finding that church to cuss in.

Crap. Is that organized? (See? I'm failing at my resolutions already!)

3. The Standard Resolution: Lose Weight

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

For breakfast every morning, I'm having six jelly donuts. Lunch? Fried lard. Dinner? Rocky Road covered in crushed Cheetos. By this time next year, I plan to weigh at least six hundred pounds. I will personally raise McDonald's stock prices by \$10, or die trying! Taco Bell will put in a special red carpet and devote a full-time counter person just to me. Burger King will break out in confetti celebrations when they see my car pull in.

2. The Standard Resolution: Get Fit, Start an Exercise Regime, Join a Yoga Class, etc

The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

Who am I trying to kid here? My couch cushions are already butt shaped. Seriously, I get out of breath going up the stairs to the second floor of my apartment. I have to stop in the middle for a break when I'm crossing the street. I tried to walk a mile in health class this summer and nearly died. I am winning so hard at this resolution, someone should give me a frickin' medal.

1. The Standard Resolution: Stop Smoking

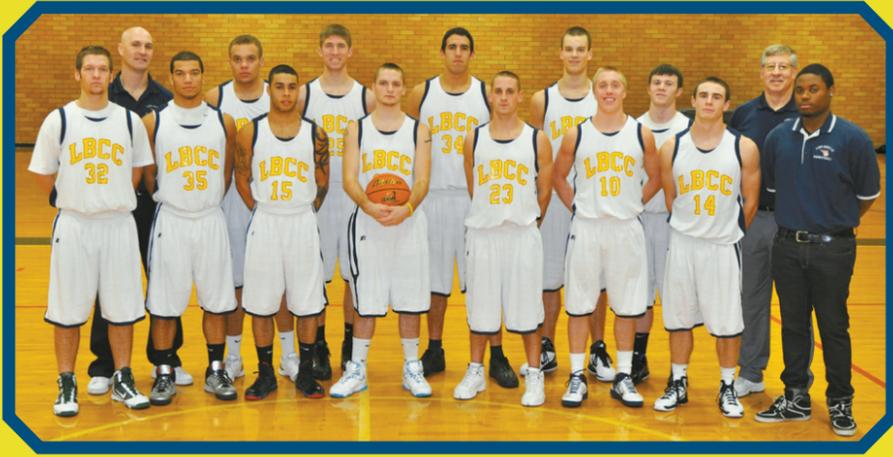
The Reverse Psychology Resolution:

Have a Cuban, folks. Heck, have three. At the same time.

With these kinds of resolutions to fail spectacularly, you're sure to be a better person by the end of March, maybe even earlier. And if not ... well, I'm sure the scrapbooks will be lovely.

Have questions? We have answers.

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



Men's Basketball 2010-11 Schedule

Sat	Jan. 8	Lane C.C.	Eugene, OR	6 p.m.
Fri	Jan. 14	Portland C.C.	Portland, OR	7:30 p.m.
Sat	Jan. 15	Mt. Hood C.C.	LBCC	6 p.m.
Wed	Jan. 19	S.W.O.C.C.	LBCC	7:30 p.m.
Sat	Jan. 22	Umpqua C.C.	Roseburg, OR	6 p.m.
Fri	Jan. 28	Clackamas C.C.	Oregon City, OR	7:30 p.m.
Sat	Jan. 29	Chemeketa C.C.	LBCC	6 p.m.
Sat	Feb. 5	Lane C.C.	LBCC	6 p.m.
Fri	Feb. 11	Mt. Hood C.C.	Gresham, OR	7:30 p.m.
Sat	Feb. 12	Portland C.C.	LBCC	6 p.m.
Wed	Feb. 16	Umpqua C.C.	LBCC	7:30 p.m.
Sat	Feb. 19	S.W.O.C.C.	Coos Bay, OR	6 p.m.
Fri	Feb. 25	Chemeketa C.C.	Salem, OR	7:30 p.m.
Sat	Feb. 26	Clackamas C.C.	LBCC	6:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball 2010-11 Schedule

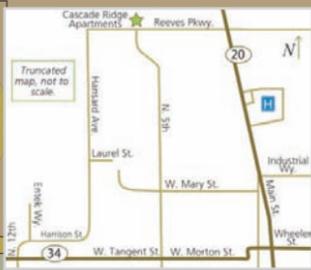
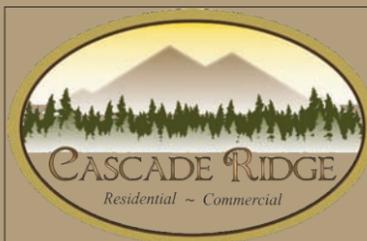
Sat	Jan. 8	Lane C.C.	Eugene, OR	4 p.m.
Fri	Jan. 14	Portland C.C.	Portland, OR	5:30 p.m.
Sat	Jan. 15	Mt. Hood C.C.	LBCC	4 p.m.
Wed	Jan. 19	S.W.O.C.C.	LBCC	5:30 p.m.
Sat	Jan. 22	Umpqua C.C.	Roseburg, OR	4 p.m.
Fri	Jan. 28	Clackamas C.C.	Oregon City, OR	5:30 p.m.
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Sat	Feb. 19	S.W.O.C.C.	Coos Bay, OR	4 p.m.
Fri	Feb. 25	Chemeketa C.C.	Salem, OR	5:30 p.m.
Sat	Feb. 26	Clackamas C.C.	LBCC	4:00 p.m.



To see the full schedule a visit ; <http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/athletics>

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The Commuter

Crusin' the Benton County Back Roads

Chris Brotherton
Staff Writer

Benton County is a great place to go motorcycling because of all the back roads leading in many directions. One road in particular is a very short ride, but it also has all the elements to make it a good one, including mountains, curves, and a touch of history.

Starting north of Corvallis, turn left off of Highway 99 onto Lewisburg Ave. As the Coast Range looms in the distance, you pass farm homes and rolling countryside. Then, there is a fork in the road; a right turn will shoot you onto Sulphur Springs Road, heading toward the mountains.

Almost as soon as you turn onto Sulphur Springs Road, the road in front of you starts curving and climbing. Sweeping corners; left, right, left, right, as you gain elevation, with a constant cover of trees above you. The temperature drops a few degrees as you climb, but during summer months it is not enough to require a wardrobe change. Then the top – The Lewisburg Saddle, as it is called. The speed limit up there is only 25 m.p.h., as hikers and equestrians are



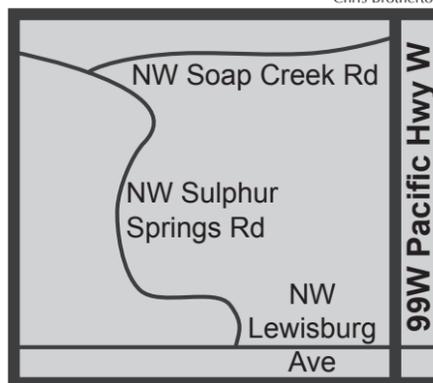
The Soap Creek School is one of the hidden gems you'll find on a tour of Benton County back roads.

Chris Brotherton

constantly crossing the road. Then it is time to head down.

The downhill side is just as curvy as the uphill side, but quite a bit shorter. Just before the "dead end" sign is a right hand turn on to Soap Creek Road. This road, although not really curvy, is narrow and lined with forest. Sometimes there are spots that don't see the sunlight and can remain slick in cooler weather.

While rolling along Soap Creek Road, suddenly there is a one room schoolhouse on the right. The



Soap Creek School was built for Soap Creek, a close-knit community of mill workers, farmers and lumber workers. The current building was finished just in

time for the 1932-33 school year and was originally painted white.

Currently the Soap Creek School is only open once a year for an open house. However, it is available for events such as weddings, and they have an annual yard sale inside the building. All proceeds from the yard sale go to the Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation. The best time to go there, however, is when nobody else is around. The peace and serenity of being in that hidden valley is a great break from the harsh reality that waits on the other side of the mountain.

One thing to be warned of though: parking in the Soap Creek School lot is all on gravel. Kickstands have a way of finding their way through the gravel, sinking and pulling your bike along with them.

For the trip back home, you have the choice of heading back the way you came, or going farther along Soap Creek Road. If you take this second option, the road will continue on fairly flat terrain, with some pretty good curves, until it dumps you back out onto Highway 99 for the five-mile journey back to Corvallis.

Academic Success Seminars

Boost Your COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE!

Just drop in, or sign up in Webrunner (formerly SIS) under "Study Skills."

www.linnbenton.edu/go/webrunner

So Much Math, So Little Time

Monday	January 10	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.
Tuesday	January 11	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 12	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.

Better Notes = Better Grades

Tuesday	January 18	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 19	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 19	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Prepare for Tests

Tuesday	January 25	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 26	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 26	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Get Organized

Tuesday	February 1	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 2	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 2	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Active Learning Strategies

Tuesday	February 8	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 9	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 9	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Accomplish Your Academic Goals

Tuesday	February 15	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 16	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 16	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Always 50 minutes!

ALWAYS FREE!

Always helpful!



Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center.

For more information and to sign up, visit SIS under 'Study Skills' or call 541-917-4684.

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

Last Week's Puzzle Solved

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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HOROSCOPES

Your weekly guide to the Zodiac

ARIES

3/21-4/19

Will this year be better than the last? Of course it will, because you make everything better just by being you.

TAURUS

4/20-5/20

Everyone deserves a fresh start; don't screw it up by holding on to past grudges. It's time to forgive and forget.

GEMINI

5/21-6/21

In the Nintendo game "Megaman 3," Gemini Man shoots laser beams that bounce off the walls. Can you shoot laser beams? 'Cause that would be really cool.

CANCER

6/22-7/22

They say that if you love something you should let it go, but why let it go when you can hold on to it forever and ever?

LEO

7/23-8/22

It's a new year and a chance for a new you. But wait ... you're perfect. Why would you ever want to change? How silly of me to suggest such a thing.

VIRGO

8/23-9/22

You want everything to be perfect. Remember that sometimes it's the imperfections that make something great, so chill out.

LIBRA

9/23-10/23

What's your New Year's resolution? Can't decide? I have one for you: resolve to make a decision for once in your life and stick to it.

SCORPIO

10/24-11/21

You don't control the world ... yet. Don't give up hope. If you keep at it, your plans for world domination will soon take shape.

SAGITTARIUS

11/22-12/21

I know the sun is shining and you want to go run outside and play but it's like 5 degrees out so at least put on a coat. You freezing to death won't be on my conscience.

CAPRICORN

12/22-1/19

Happy Birthday! I'd tell you to take the day off but I know you won't. If your birthday happens to be on Tuesday the 11th, you're awesomer than most. Way to go!

AQUARIUS

1/20-2/18

You're feeling bored and restless. Break out of your routine by trying something new. Try learning Swahili or maybe take a belly dancing class.

PISCES

2/19-3/20

Don't get bogged down worrying about the future. Enjoy today, it will be over before you know it.

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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

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Letters Welcome

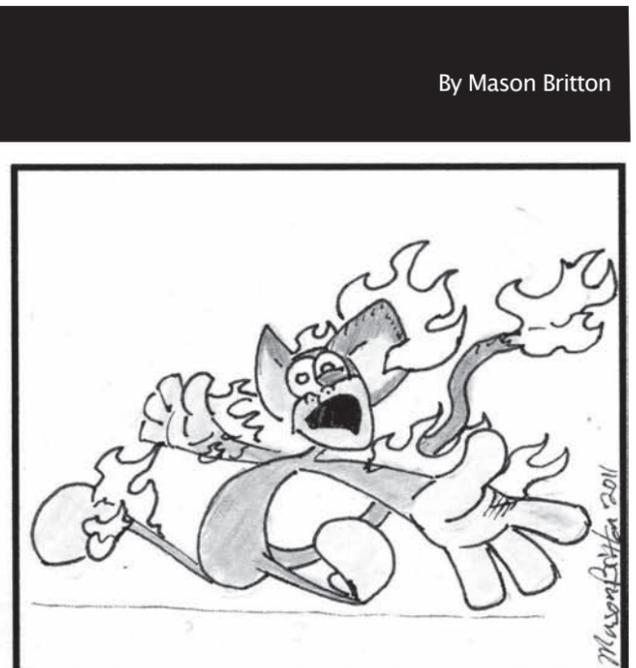
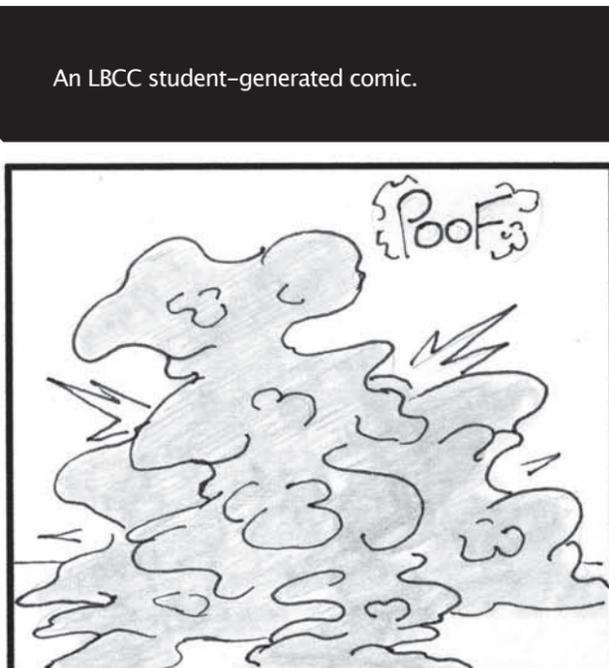
The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. The Commuter attempts to print all submissions received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter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

Web Address:
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Phone: 541- 917-4451, 4452 or 4453

Fax: 541- 917-4454

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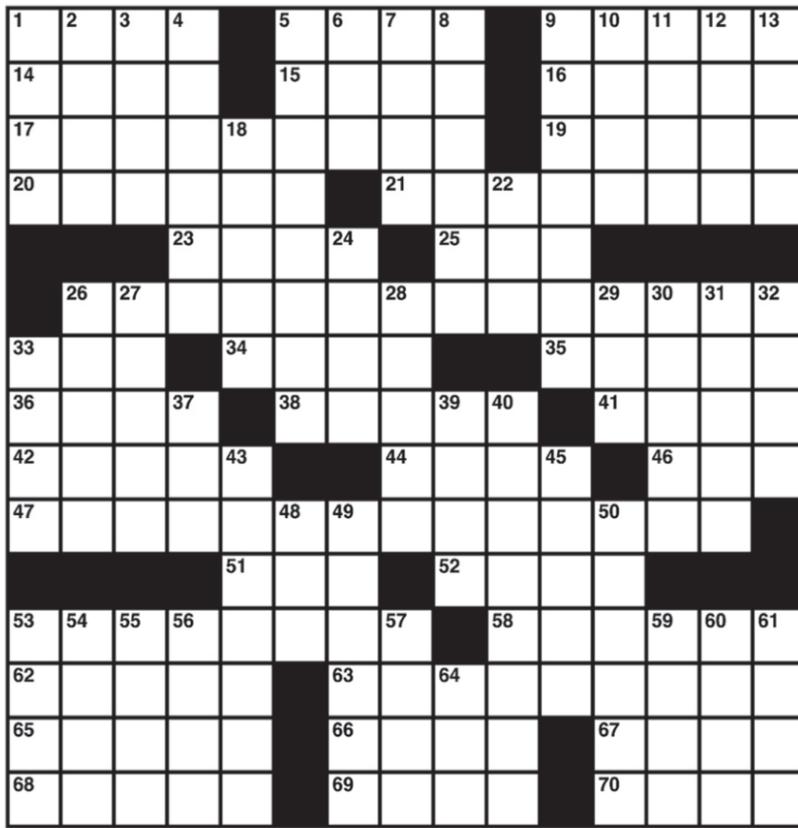
An LBCC student-generated comic.

By Mason Britton

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Symbol of gentleness
 - 5 Torahs' homes
 - 9 ___ Ababa
 - 14 Fridge problem
 - 15 R-rating reason, perhaps
 - 16 Longship sailors
 - 17 Maximum tolerance for a stand-up comic's jokes?
 - 19 AT&T Park player
 - 20 Start of a memorable 1961 admonition
 - 21 Force
 - 23 Gripe
 - 25 Slippery swimmer
 - 26 "All Trotsky, all the time" channel?
 - 33 In favor of
 - 34 Flight-related
 - 35 Clichéd
 - 36 It's often left in the copier: Abbr.
 - 38 Wolf (down)
 - 41 Mountain ride
 - 42 Marine threats
 - 44 Edible seaweed used for sushi
 - 46 Clear
 - 47 When dogs can't run loose?
 - 51 Estuary
 - 52 Senior golfer Aoki
 - 53 Lover's sweet talk?
 - 58 Precipitated
 - 62 Cuban boy in 2000 news
 - 63 Nuts about Danish toys?
 - 65 Confuse—or what to do to four common phrases to form this puzzle's theme answers
 - 66 Plus-size supermodel
 - 67 To be, in Brest
 - 68 Hull damagers
 - 69 Signs of nervousness
 - 70 Interpret, as tea leaves



By Michael Blake

- DOWN**
- 1 1970 hit by the Kinks
 - 2 Summer coolers
 - 3 Religious ascetic
 - 4 You can count on a lot of bucks from one
 - 5 Stirs up trouble
 - 6 CD follower?
 - 7 Songwriter Kristofferson
 - 8 Den piece
 - 9 Saintly
 - 10 Knock off
 - 11 Big bore
 - 12 "___ that special!"
 - 13 Clockmaker Thomas
 - 18 Doone in Exmoor
 - 22 Relig. title
 - 24 Capital northwest of Rome
 - 26 He played Ugarte in "Casablanca"
 - 27 "All My Children" vixen
 - 28 "___ behold!"
 - 29 Sad sound
 - 30 Skater Slutskaya
 - 31 Best way to sing
 - 32 Veto from Lenin

Last Week's Puzzle Solved

T	E	N	O	R	S	U	C	H	F	E	S	T				
A	T	O	N	E	I	L	A	Y	O	A	H	U				
R	A	G	E	D	N	A	N	A	R	T	E	S				
			C	L	E	A	N	A	N	D	J	E	R	K		
I	S	R	A	E	L	I			N	O	O	N	E	S		
N	E	U	R	A	L		B	R	I	N	Y					
C	A	N	A	D	A	G	O	O	S	E		C	F	O		
A	T	I	T			A	R	T			H	O	L	D		
S	S	N			C	H	I	N	E	S	E	Y	O	Y	O	
				S	A	O	N	E			U	L	S	T	E	R
M	O	D	E	L	A				E	M	O	T	E	R	S	
S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T		D	O	P	E				
D	E	E	R			I	O	U	S		I	R	K	E	D	
O	R	A	L			E	L	B	E		N	I	G	E	R	
S	O	M	E			S	E	A	L		G	A	B	L	E	

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- 33 Mislead
- 37 Great time, slangily
- 39 Rice-A-___
- 40 Sistine Chapel features
- 43 Sacred sites
- 45 "I, Robot" author Asimov
- 48 Come out on top
- 49 Aerie newborn
- 50 More morose
- 53 Adjacent
- 54 Quaint retail adjective
- 55 Sand castle's undoing
- 56 Even share, perhaps
- 57 Huge hauler
- 59 Fill
- 60 Biblical reformer
- 61 Like blue hair
- 64 Tracker maker

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.

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

Management Trainee

(#8633, Oregon) If you are wanting to get training in bank management and employees often move up through the organization, this is the opportunity for you!!

Part-time Teller/Customer Service Rep (#8635, Corvallis)

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Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

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

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

Teller positions are a great way to get your foot in the door. About 20-30 hours/week.

Front Desk Clerk/Sales/Opener (#8634, Albany) If you have 4:30-10am available to work part-time for fitness center, than this is a job for you!

Conservation Biology Paid Internships (#8639, Corvallis) Here is a possibility to get some field experience in plant identification, research, and rare habitat surveys.

Do you know where this picture was taken?



Photo by Tony Brown

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

Congratulations to all of fall terms winners.

Check back next week to see if you're a winner.

Good Luck!

Add/Drop

An LBCC student-generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



Atlantic Power
THIS IS A BILL
Total amount due: \$195.99

This amount is due **immediately**. Failure to pay due amount will result in a disconnection of your power. Further failure to pay the due amounts will result in your name and address being handed over to the authorities who will then confiscate all your belongings, your children, and any adorable pets you may or may not own. Further failure to pay will result in the immediate burning and pillaging of your residence, witnessed by all your neighbors and coworkers for maximum embarrassment. Do not underestimate the power of the electric company. We here at Atlantic Power have ways of making you more compliant. We strongly suggest you pay the above total in full and in a timely manner. Have a nice day! :)



Tech Review: CR-48 Has Potential

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

On a lark, I signed up for the pilot program for Google's spiffy new Chrome Operating System (OS) netbook. Then, with no fanfare or notice whatsoever, my CR-48 turned up in the mail. I didn't even get a "You've been accepted to our program!" email. I didn't have to sign anything, or agree to provide regular reports. I don't even have to send in bug reports if I don't want to! They just gave me an expensive new machine.

If I wasn't a giant Google fangirl before...

I nearly tossed the machine over my shoulder by accident lifting it out of the box. It's that light. I've never used a netbook before, so I can't say how it compares to other netbooks on the market, but a quick peek at the Dell website shows us that Dell's netbooks claim to weigh less than three pounds. The CR-48 weighs in at 3.6 pounds, according to Google. After lugging my Dell laptop all around campus for three terms, I have to say, this thing feels like a feather in my hands.

The CR-48 is a prototype machine, so talking about the look of the thing is practically a moot point. It's sure to change before it hits the market. Still, for completeness' sake, it is a pretty netbook. It's matte black with a slightly rubberized finish, and has no logos or branding whatsoever, giving it a very sleek and elegant look. A few reviewers are complaining that it looks too plain, but if you're really desperate for something more colorful, it's not exactly difficult to slap a sticker on the thing.

It has a 12-inch screen, and although some are whining that the graphics are bad, it looks just fine to me. Every site I've visited so far has looked crisp and clean. Text is easy to read, too. The onboard sound isn't half bad, either. It's at least as good as my laptop, and it gets louder than my laptop does, so I'm pretty pleased with that too.

Oh, and every piece of hardware you can attach is plug and play. No downloading drivers and installing them, no waiting for the netbook to detect a new mouse or memory stick and format for it, nothing. You just plug something in and go. Of course, there isn't much you can plug into this thing.

It's got a chicklet-style keyboard, like a Mac, which I'm enjoying. Speaking of, the keyboard is nice and wide too. I've been a bit concerned about that with netbooks in general. They're so small that I was afraid I'd feel cramped, but I'm not having any problems here. The mousepad, on the other hand, is just awful. The cursor is floaty, and the tracking is way off. I'd have serious problems if I didn't have a mouse plugged in.

Also worth noting, Google has made some adjustments to the keyboard. It's still a QWERTY keyboard, but the F keys you might expect on a laptop or netbook are gone, replaced by Chrome-specific hotkeys. Gone, too, is the capslock, replaced by a "quick search" key that opens a new start tab in the browser. (Yes. Google killed the CAPSLOCK OF FURY. I approve.) You can turn that quick search back into a capslock if you really must, but you have to go in and fiddle with the settings to do it.

So, it looks good, it has decent sound, and the display is nice. That's all well and good. But what we really want to know is, how does this sucker work?

For one thing, starting up and waking the netbook up from sleep mode are blazingly fast. Actual web browsing doesn't

seem to be much faster than any other system I've used, but wow. That start-up speed is something else.

Cloud computing, the idea Chrome OS is based on, is a whole different computing experience than you're used to. There is no hard drive, disk drive, or onboard storage, save a slot for an SD card. (I believe it'll take up to a 16 gig SD card.) Everything, and I do mean everything, happens online with Chrome OS, and that does take some getting used to. It also means that if you don't have Internet, you don't have a working computer. I'll admit to being a teeny bit leery of this idea.

The CR-48 comes with wireless, as well as 3G access through Verizon, so getting and staying online isn't too difficult. You're allowed up to 100 MB a month free from Verizon, by the way, which isn't much, but it'll work in a pinch. Just don't get pinched too often, or you'll be paying for access.

So, if you've used the Chrome web browser, you've pretty much used the Chrome OS.

Fortunately for me, I switched to Chrome a few months ago, so I had an easy

time getting used to the new OS. The OS literally

consists of surfing the web, and using online sites and

applications to replace the software you're used to using on your Mac or PC. This proves a bit tricky.

I've hunted down some decent replacements for my Office Suite, but it did take three different sites and/or applications to get that accomplished. (A combination of Google Docs, Scriptito.com, and the Write Space app got the job done.)

I'm using Grooveshark and Pandora for music, which isn't bad, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't miss my media player and music library. There is apparently a way to upload my music to Box.net (an online file storage site) and play it from there, but I haven't investigated that yet.

One of the bigger downsides is a lack of decent advanced photo and graphic editing software. I've found a few good sites for basic photo editing, but for advanced graphics work, the kind of thing you'd break out Photoshop or Gimp for, there's no apparent replacement. I test drove a couple of online sites that claim to do the work of Photoshop, and was deeply disappointed with their performance. (Aviary, in particular, was just awful. It didn't work at all, and I'm not positive if it's just a crappy site, or if Chrome OS hates it for some reason.)

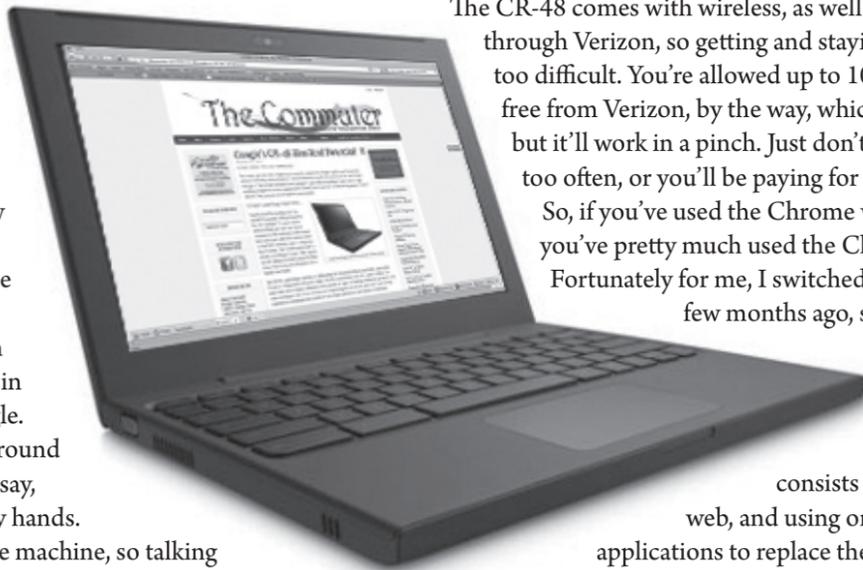
Another downside: Netflix doesn't work with Chrome OS yet. Youtube seems to work just fine, and a quick peek shows Hulu is doing it's job, too, so that's something. Still, I'd miss my Netflix if I didn't have another machine.

Chrome OS also comes with access to the Chrome App Marketplace, which works like the Android marketplace. You can get themes, extensions, and apps for Chrome OS there. The pickings are pretty slim at the moment, but that's sure to improve with time, so I'm not going to complain about that.

I will point out that Chrome OS is glitchy. It loves to crash Flash-based apps, for one, and last night I got Chrome OS's version of the Blue Screen of Death when I tried to upload a picture at a site I use for work, but hey, we're in beta here. Glitches and crashes are only to be expected, and will work themselves out in due time, I'm sure.

Overall? I'm quite pleased. I couldn't see using this as my sole machine, or Chrome OS as my only operating system, but as a portable back-up to a good laptop, Macbook, or tower running Windows or the Mac OS or something similar? Definitely. To that end, Google is working on a remote solution that will allow you to use your Chrome netbook to remotely run programs stored on your desktop or laptop, by the way. That definitely has my interest.

As time goes on and the cloud computing situation evolves to keep up with Google's expansive vision, Chrome OS just might start giving other operating systems a definite run for their money.



What Would PANDORA Play?



Bruno Mars



Jordan Tunstall
A&E Editor

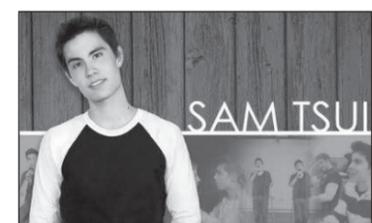
Do you like Bruno Mars? If you do, you are in the majority. Most people enjoy his sentimental lyrics and catchy voice. Here are some artists who sound a lot like him:



Abandon: Hailing from Texas, these punk rockers are breaking into the music scene with their debut CD "Searchlights." It sounds like a combination of The Killers, Bruno Mars, and Anberlin. In particular, I recommend the song "Here Waiting." It showcases frontman Josh Engler's vocal prowess, the band's deep lyrics, and well-formed song structure. Overall, this band is hit-or-miss. It really depends on personal preference.



The Killers: When I first heard the new song by Bruno Mars, "Grenade," it reminded me of another song, but I couldn't quite remember which one. I eventually realized that it was "Mr. Brightside," which is by my favorite punk band, The Killers. Both these bands tend to be overemotional at times, which is something I enjoy in my music. Also, The Killers have an amazing drummer. Seriously, I could listen to just the drums. So grab a CD. Enjoy!



Sam Tsui: This musician is currently unsigned, but he is becoming wildly popular on Youtube. He covers songs by most of today's famous artists. He even covers a few of Bruno Mars' songs. My favorite song that he does is "Just A Dream" by Nelly. It is a great rendition of a very popular song. It is definitely worth your time to look him up on Youtube. And it takes what, 3 minutes? Heck, you can even save some time and check your Facebook while you listen.

The Movies of 2010: The Most Entertaining and Most Disappointing

Ashley Christie
 Page Designer

Everyone has an opinion about the best and worst films of the year and here's mine. These aren't necessarily the most well-made movies of the year, but they're my favorite. These are the ones that I can watch over and over and over again.

The Most Entertaining

Honorable Mention:

Repo Men- I usually don't go for lots of blood and guts, but seeing a man get a typewriter to the head is just awesome.

10. Piranha 3D- This movie was awful. I mean really, truly terrible. It's an unapologetic B-movie from the '70s exploitation era. It may be the most offensive movie of the year; it may also be the funniest.

9. Iron Man 2- I adore everything Robert Downey, Jr. This sequel was just greatness. I'm already counting down the days until "The Avengers" hits theaters in 2012.

8. The A-Team- A lot of people were disappointed by this one, but it's cast perfectly and has some really funny lines. It's a remake of a show that originally starred Mr. T ... what were you expecting?

7. Date Night- I always thought that Michael Scott and Liz Lemon would make a cute couple. "Date Night" is a cute film with a lot of heart that will make

you laugh.

6. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1- It's Harry Potter people. Do I really need to defend this one? The only reason it's not higher is because it's only half a film.

5. Black Swan- Natalie Portman is everywhere lately, and with good reason. She's fantastic. This film, about a beautiful ballerina's total mental breakdown, is dark and creepy and thrilling and really, really good.

4. Social Network- I expected this to be a good movie but it turned out to be a great one.

The script was great, the cast was wonderful, plus it had Justin Timberlake which makes the 12-year-old in me squeal.

3. Toy Story 3- I'm a Disney kid, and there is a special place in my heart for the "Toy Story" franchise. This one was the best yet. And yes, the ending did make me cry.

2. Scott Pilgrim vs. the World- The fact that this movie did so poorly in theaters is a travesty. It was original, funny, and had a lot of heart. Scott Pilgrim can save my world any day.

1. Easy A- Having to decide between this and "Scott Pilgrim" was really hard, "Sophie's Choice" hard, but in the end Emma Stone won out. Mainly because I'm a sucker for John Hughes and this movie was a fresh twist on all my '80s faves.

The Most Disappointing

Again, these aren't the worst movies, just the ones I expected more from. I'm not mad ... just disappointed.

Dishonorable Mention:

It's Kind of a Funny Story

10. The Kids are All Right
9. Despicable Me
8. Death at a Funeral
7. How Do You Know
6. Shrek Forever After
5. Remember Me
4. The Other Guys
3. Get Him to the Greek
2. Alice in Wonderland
1. Due Date



COMING ATTRACTIONS

Season of the Witch
 Two medieval knights (Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman) are tasked with escorting an accused witch to a far away monastery where the monks will attempt to banish the evil spirits from the young woman.
Rated: PG-13 • **Runtime:** 98 min. • **Genre:** Thriller



Country Strong
 Gwyneth Paltrow shows off her vocal chops as fresh-out-of-rehab country star Kelly Canter. Sparks fly and punches are thrown when she goes on a comeback tour with her manager/ husband (Tim McGraw) and two aspiring musicians.
Rated: PG-13 • **Runtime:** 112 min. • **Genre:** Drama



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

redbox review

Knight and Day (Rated PG-13, Runtime 109 min.)

Ashley Christie
 Page Designer

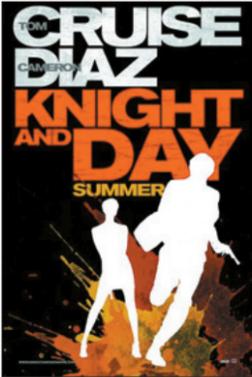
Stop me if you've seen this one before.

A handsome, charming super spy crosses paths with a naive, innocent, beautiful woman. The girl creates a few speed bumps in the super spy's plans but ultimately (*SPOILER ALERT*) the super spy wins, the two fall in love, and they live happily ever after.

"Knight and Day" doesn't stray too far from this outline. Tom Cruise is our super spy, Roy Miller, and Cameron Diaz is the girl, June Havens. Miller is on a mission to protect a genius whiz kid and his new invention which, in the wrong hands, could make a lot of people very dead.

Roy bumps into June at the Wichita airport, and they coincidentally happen to be on the same plane to Boston. After the other passengers on the plane try to kill Roy, the plane crashes, and the two have to work together to defeat the bad guys.

They travel to beautiful, exotic locales, Diaz gets drugged several times, Cruise goes shirtless way too often for an almost-50-year-



old man, and ultimately (*SPOILER ALERT*) the super spy wins, the two fall in love, and they live happily ever after.

I didn't rent "Knight and Day" expecting a great piece of cinema and can't say I'm too disappointed with the outcome. I had a decent time and enjoyed a few laughs.

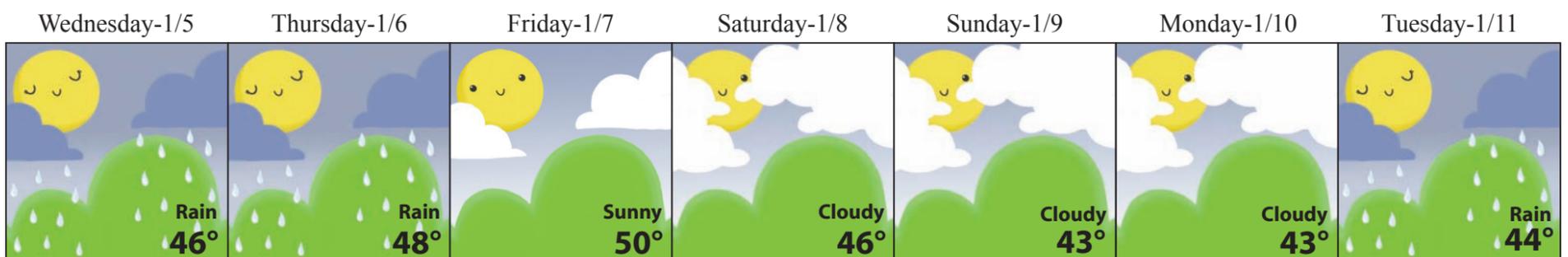
I really enjoyed Diaz. She's cute, bubbly, and incredibly likable. Diaz is always dependable for a solid comedic performance.

Tom Cruise was, well, Tom Cruise. While the media-hyped real-life Tom Cruise may be certifiably insane, the movie star Tom Cruise is decent. And though he's not exactly in "Mission: Impossible" form anymore, there was an action sequence or two that reminded me of the old Cruise.

Vic Holterman of Screenrant.com agrees, "This is the sort of role he plays so well: Cocky, devil-may-care and supremely able to handle any situation that comes his way. He's what we want an action hero to be."

"Knight and Day" is incredibly average. It has some problems, but it has some good points, too. There may be stronger action-comedies out there, but it's fun and worth a redbox.

Weekly Weather Predictions



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