

Percentages by state as of
8:45 p.m. 11/4/08

Alabama	59	40
Alaska	N/A	N/A
Arizona	54	44
Arkansas	57	41
California	40	58
Colorado	44	54
Connecticut	38	60
Delaware	49	50
Florida	49	51
Georgia	59	41
Hawaii	49	51
Idaho	75	23
Illinois	38	61
Indiana	49	50
Iowa	44	55
Kansas	43	56
Kentucky	57	41
Louisiana	61	37
Maine	38	60
Maryland	39	60
Massachusetts	38	62
Michigan	42	57
Minnesota	44	54
Mississippi	57	42
Missouri	48	51
Montana	45	53
Nebraska	55	44
Nevada	38	60
New Hampshire	44	55
New Jersey	57	42
New Mexico	45	54
New York	37	62
North Carolina	49	50
North Dakota	55	42
Ohio	48	51
Oklahoma	63	37
Oregon	29	70
Pennsylvania	43	56
Rhode Island	35	63
South Carolina	55	44
South Dakota	54	44
Tennessee	68	31
Texas	55	45
Utah	52	45
Vermont	32	66
Virginia	48	51
Washington	57	40
West Virginia	55	43
Wisconsin	44	55
Wyoming	63	35

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THE COMMUTER

Wednesday
November 5, 2008

Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon



The Commuter

Editor-In-Chief: Gregory Dewar
Managing Editor: MaryAnne Turner
Newsroom Desk: 917-4451
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LOCAL NEWS

Community news about the mid-Willamette Valley, including Albany, Lebanon, and Corvallis.

Chris and Tom's excellent adventure

Chris Brotherton
The Commuter

I got the call from my wife on September 17, asking me if I would be willing to do her a favor. She works for Home Life, a company that serves people with disabilities, and she asked me if I would be willing to take one of the clients, Tom, for a ride on my motorcycle for his 27th birthday.

Of course I said yes, and I told her that as long as it could be cleared through all of the management then I was in, because I believe that everyone should experience the freedom of the motorcycle. Luckily, everyone who was involved with the decision process thought that it was a good idea, so it didn't take long to get it approved.

I checked the weather for the following week and Friday looked like the day. That morning, I had my wife take my spare helmet with her into work to get it adjusted for him. Desiree, my wife, and the support staff member, Hal, worked with Tom during the day to explain to him how to safely ride on the back of a motorcycle. They explained that he needed to hang

on to the driver at all times, lean the same direction as the driver and not squirm around very much.

When I arrived on my 1982 Yamaha Turbo Seca, he was more than ready to go. As I came around the corner, he threw the helmet on before I could even make it into the parking lot. Before we could take off, though, I wanted to make sure that I got a picture for him as a reminder. Hal grabbed a quick picture of Tom and me standing in front of my bike, and even with the helmet on, you can see the smile on his face. After a quick reminder of what to do while on the back of the bike, we took off.

Tom hung onto the sides of my jacket as I carefully took off from the parking lot. I could feel the tension in his grip, but by the time we had made it three blocks away, it had ebbed. We got to Harrison Boulevard, took a right and headed towards 53rd Street. While we were at a stop light, I asked Tom if he would like to go fast. I heard, "Yeah!" from behind me, so I kept going.

Once we hit 53rd, I headed north into the 55 mph zone. I could feel Tom grip a little tighter, but it wasn't a grip to convey

to me that he was scared. We followed 53rd north, going around the corner where it turns into Walnut Boulevard, and then continued past a shopping center and residential neighborhoods. At Highland Drive we went right, heading through more residential areas toward downtown Corvallis.

As we arrived at the north end of downtown, I realized that it may not have been such a great idea. It was almost 5p.m. on a Friday afternoon: rush hour. Although Corvallis is only a town of about 50,000 people, the rush hour traffic can still be a huge pain, especially if riding on a motorcycle. Even through all the starting and stopping, Tom held on without wiggling around. We made it through downtown, over the bridge, and into south Corvallis.

A couple of blocks past the bridge there is the turn off for Avery Park. We had to travel slowly through this area, because there are huge speed bumps along the way. This road comes out right across the highway from the OSU campus.

I took some surface streets through campus, making my way back to Tom's house. Before I knew it, though, we were

heading down his street, quickly approaching his house. After we pulled into the parking lot, we both headed inside. Tom announced to everyone that he was back and others asked him if he had had fun. I assured Hal that Tom did a great job of leaning with me through the turns, and told him about the route that we had taken.

In the end, I felt good because I had brought a huge smile to someone's face, and I hoped that Tom would talk about that ride for a long time to come. As they were ordering the pizza for Tom's birthday dinner, I headed back home having enjoyed this ride more than any I had taken by myself.

Tom Brittsan (right), about to take a motorcycle ride with Chris Brotherton. Tom is a client of Home Life Inc., a program that helps provide housing to adults with developmental disabilities in Corvallis and the surrounding community.



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CAMPUS NEWS

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



Native American Heritage Month events calendar:

November is Native American Heritage Month and the Native American Student Union is hosting events to celebrate.

- **TOMORROW!** November 5th; 3 p.m., "Usual and Accustomed Places," A video presentation and discussion hosted by Callie Palmer at the Albany campus, Forum 113.
- November 12th; 3 p.m., "Native American Mascots." A presentation and discussion hosted by Michele Wilson at the Albany campus, Forum 113.
- November 13th; 6 p.m., a traditionally prepared northwest meal will be served along with guest speakers, music, and a Native American Drum Circle. Held at the Albany Campus, in the commons. Ticket prices are \$5 for students and \$8 otherwise.
- November 19th; 3:30 p.m., A flute demonstration and workshop hosted by Rocky Gavin and the NASU. Held on the Albany campus, North Santiam Hall 107.
- November 20th; 3 p.m., "Skins," a video presentation and discussion hosted by Callie Palmer on the Albany campus, Forum 113.
- For ticket and other information contact either Toni Klohk in the DAC at 541-917-4299, or Michele Wilson in SSH 204 at 541-917-4835. By e-mail Deanna Trask at trask@ml.linnbenton.edu or Jeana Wiser at rogersj@onid.orst.edu.

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Dr. Matt Knecht

THE COMMONS FARE 11/5-11/11

Wednesday

Dishes: Pot Roast, Paella* and 3 Cheese Stuffed Shells
 Soups: French Onion* and Corn Chowder

Thursday

Dishes: Liver with Bacon and Onions*, Chicken Cordon Bleu and Vegetables in Green Curry with Steamed Rice*
 Soups: Ginger Chicken & Coconut (tom Kha Gai)* and Wild Rice

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Dishes: Glazed Ham*, Beef Goulash with Spaetzle and Vegetable Calzone
 Soups: Split Pea* and Manhattan Clam Chowder*

Tuesday

Dishes: Chicken and Biscuit, Jambalaya* and Vegetable Strudel
 Soups: Cheddar Cheese and Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls

*Gluten-free



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

News from around the world.

Dalai Lama says talks a failure, Tibet 'now dying'

By Tim Johnson
 (MCT)

TOKYO – Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, said Monday that talks with Beijing to win greater autonomy for his Himalayan homeland had been a failure and that Tibet was "now dying" under China's firm grip.

He said that six years of direct talks between his personal envoys and Beijing had brought no substantial achievements.

"Inside Tibet, the situation (has) become much worse. Sometimes I describe Tibet as passing through almost like a death sentence. This old nation, with ancient culture, heritage, (is) now dying," he said.

Appearing fit a month after his sudden hospitalization for the removal of gallstones, the exiled 73-year-old leader said talks with China had dragged on too long without success. He said a meeting that Tibetan exiles would hold in India later this month would be a turning point in determining how Tibetans should press for greater self-rule.

"My trust in the Chinese government (is) now thinner, thinner, thinner," he said, adding moments later: "Things are not going well. I cannot pretend that something (is) OK. No, I have to accept failure."

The Dalai Lama is on a weeklong visit to Japan, where he has a large following among fellow Buddhists. He spoke Monday to an audience of several hundred people at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

Political discussions among the estimated 120,000 Tibetans living in exile, largely in India and Nepal, have grown heated since protests erupted in Tibet last March and spilled into other regions of China. The disturbances marked the worst ethnic unrest in China in nearly two decades.

The Dalai Lama acknowledged that his "middle way" strategy, which calls for negotiating with China and accepting its sovereignty over Tibet, has frustrated some followers, who still seek independence.

"Among Tibetans in recent years, they sense that our approach failed to bring some positive change inside Tibet. So the criticism (is) also increasing," he said.

The Dalai Lama said that a six-day convocation of key Tibetan exile leaders starting Nov. 17 in Dharamsala, India, would allow exiles to air grievances and search for new ways to improve the situation for Tibetans. He declined to outline what proposals might emerge, saying he'd "remain silent" to ensure that exiles don't await cues from him to follow "out of devotion."

"Their mind should (be) open to explore all different sorts of options," he said.

Most exiles, and many of the 6 million Tibetans living in China, revere the Dalai Lama and hesitate to take action unless it's from his lead, an attitude that frustrates him.

"Sometimes the people call me God-king. Some people call (me) living Buddha. These are nonsense," the Dalai Lama said. "I'm just a human being."

One scholar of contemporary Tibet said the remarks signaled that the Tibetan leader was warning China that it must offer concessions to keep talks alive but was aware that some policymakers in Beijing saw benefit in inciting exiles toward more radical positions to justify a crackdown on the Tibetan Plateau.

"Some strategists have been pushing all the time for the exiles to take a harder line," said Robert Barnett of Columbia University. "It will prove them right when they say these people are violent and are terrorists."

Barnett said the Dalai Lama also was forcing the hand of his critics among the exiles.

"The critics of the Dalai Lama have never produced a strategy that we know of. And they are being challenged to come up with one," Barnett said.

The upcoming closed-door conclave of exiles in Dharamsala, the seat of the government in exile, is the first such mass meeting of its type in more than a decade and is expected to draw several hundred leaders of social organizations, monasteries and youth groups.

Neither China nor the Dalai Lama's camp has indicated whether an eighth round of negotiations, which began last Thursday in Beijing, has made progress. A seventh round in July came amid pre-Olympic international tension over China's treatment of Tibetans and ended with no declared confidence-building gestures or movement.

Beijing won a key symbolic and legal

battle last week when Britain ended a century of ambiguity and formally recognized China's sovereignty over Tibet, undercutting legal arguments by Tibetans that they're exceptional among China's minorities and must be allowed greater autonomy.

Reiterating a common theme from recent months, the Dalai Lama urged his followers to assume a greater role in debating Tibet's future, leaving him to focus on spiritual matters.

"I'm looking forward to complete retirement. Some people express to me or tell me it is impossible (for) the Dalai Lama to retire. And I responded, my retirement is also my human right!" the Nobel Peace laureate said, letting out a chuckle. "Since (I was) 16 years old, I carry this responsibility, (amid) difficult circumstances, (in the) darkest period of Tibetan history ... Now, there should be a limit."



The Dalai Lama waves goodbye to the audience after speaking at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Wednesday, July 16, 2008. (Jessica Griffin/Philadelphia Daily News/MCT)

Amidst Iraq's violence, a radio station gives people hope

By Corinne Reilly
 (MCT)

BAGHDAD – Inside a spacious studio with purple and yellow walls, Hana Abdulkadhim, a well-known Iraqi radio host, is preparing to take her first call of the day. A few minutes into Good Afternoon with Hana, the switchboard is already flooded with listeners eager to chime in on the day's topic.

"This afternoon we're talking about circumstances in your life that caused you to lose something or someone you love," Hana says. "Were you able to overcome the situation, or were you defeated?"

A woman named Samma is on the line. "I lost my closest friend when she left our neighborhood," Samma says.

Hana asks if her friend was forced to flee.

Samma says yes. "Before, we had lots of time together; but now it's too far to reach her. We talk on the phone but it's not the same," she explains. "The circumstances defeated us."

Hana tells her caller not to give up on the friendship. "I'm going to play a song for you, sweetheart," she says.

This is Sumer FM, Iraq's most popular independent radio station. It broadcasts from a state-of-the-art, brightly decorated studio in Baghdad's Karrada neighborhood,

and its signal reaches every corner of the country.

"It doesn't look like Iraq in here, does it?" the station's manager, Ammar Naji, says with a smile.

In a city overwhelmed by the complexities and uncertainties of war, Sumer FM is one thing listeners can count on. Launched by a Lebanese businessman in November 2004, the station has stayed on the air every day since, even through Baghdad's most violent months.

A year ago, it was so dangerous here that many Iraqis were afraid to even leave their homes, and the cost of living in Baghdad has skyrocketed since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. But staying in and listening to the radio has remained safe and cheap.

Even when the electricity is out, as it still is for large portions of the day here, the radios stay on.

"No matter what's going on, we can give people something to enjoy, something to take their minds off everything else," says Jaffar al-Zubaidi, Sumer's program director. "And we don't take money from any parties. We are for all Iraqis," regardless of politics, ethnicity, religion or sect.

Named for one of the earliest known civilizations in the world, Sumer employs 14 people, half of them on-air talent. All of its revenue comes from advertisement sales.

About half the time the station plays popular Arab and Iraqi music. The rest of its programming is filled with news, variety shows and talk.

Most of the station's discussion topics come from listeners. The goal is to give Iraqis a venue to vent their frustrations, al-Zubaidi says. The U.S. occupation, the constant power outages, the violence, the traffic jams and the long lines at security checkpoints are among the topics that draw the most callers, he says.

"We let people talk about their suffering so they don't feel like they are the only ones," al-Zubaidi says. "And we try to stop the suffering, too, by exposing the issues."

Recently a listener called to complain about how the government suddenly stopped paying his pension.

"We heard that same problem from many callers, so we made it the topic one day," al-Zubaidi explains. "And we invited (an official from) the pension directory to come on the show and hear the suffering."

Hani Haroon, a 29-year-old unemployed Baghdad resident, started listening to Sumer FM three years ago. "It is different from other stations," Haroon says. "They talk about the real issues that Iraqis care about. We need that. It gives people hope."

Haroon calls the station often, but gets through only once in a while. "It's hard because so many people want to be heard," he said. Sumer takes about 11,000 listener phone calls each month.

Though the station has continued to operate in spite of the violence, it hasn't been immune to it. In 2006 one of Sumer's employees was shot and killed by a sniper as he drove home from work. Another was kidnapped the year before.

Sumer's sister television station, Sumaria TV, has also lost several employees. The contemporary office complex they share is surrounded by tall metal gates and blast walls. It's guarded by men with assault rifles.

"Yes, we worry about violence," says Naji, the station manager.

"But that doesn't mean life stops."

Even at the height of violence, Sumer was expanding. A little over a year ago, the station began broadcasting on satellite radio.

"I think Iraqis love our station because it is so close to the people," says Abdulwahd Mohsen, who hosts two shows on Sumer, a talk program called Talk of the Night and a music program called Immortal Tunes, which features classic Arabic songs.

"There is no divide between the station and the listeners," Mohsen says. "They know we are truly here for them, and that is rare here."

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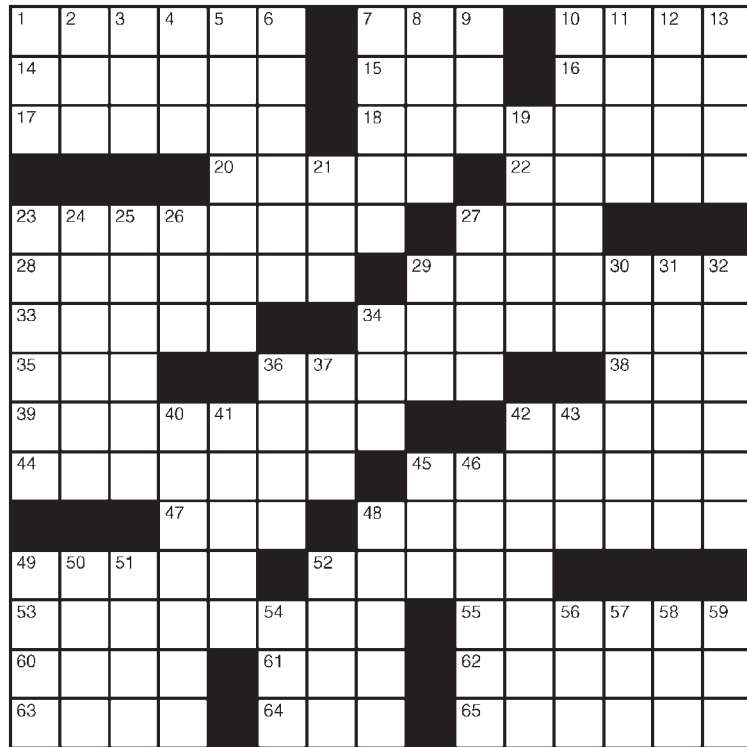
SURREAL LIVING

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

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Clan emblems
 - 7 3 on a phone
 - 10 Smelter's residue
 - 14 Up and about
 - 15 JFK info
 - 16 What cons do
 - 17 Gradual
 - 18 Product purchaser
 - 20 Hammerin' Hank
 - 22 Beef entree
 - 23 Datebook
 - 27 Goopy mass
 - 28 Eliminate
 - 29 Ocean passage
 - 33 Hangman's loop
 - 34 Was crucial
 - 35 Want ___
 - 36 Smith and West
 - 38 Obvious toupee
 - 39 Became more intense
 - 42 Madonna role
 - 44 Actor Armand
 - 45 Dead body
 - 47 6-pointers
 - 48 Seattle nine
 - 49 Declare
 - 52 Lisa of "Angel Heart"
 - 53 Sank the putt
 - 55 Affected slightly
 - 60 Smell
 - 61 Blast letters
 - 62 Like some skirts
 - 63 Bucks' mates
 - 64 Bout-stopping letters
 - 65 Chronological records

- DOWN**
- 1 Chasing game
 - 2 Mine find
 - 3 Can in London
 - 4 Approx.
 - 5 Actress Griffith
 - 6 J.C. and Sammy
 - 7 Room scheme
 - 8 Harrow rival
 - 9 Constant viewer
 - 10 Razor's target
 - 11 Stretch vehicle
 - 12 ___ to that!
 - 13 Richard of "Chicago"



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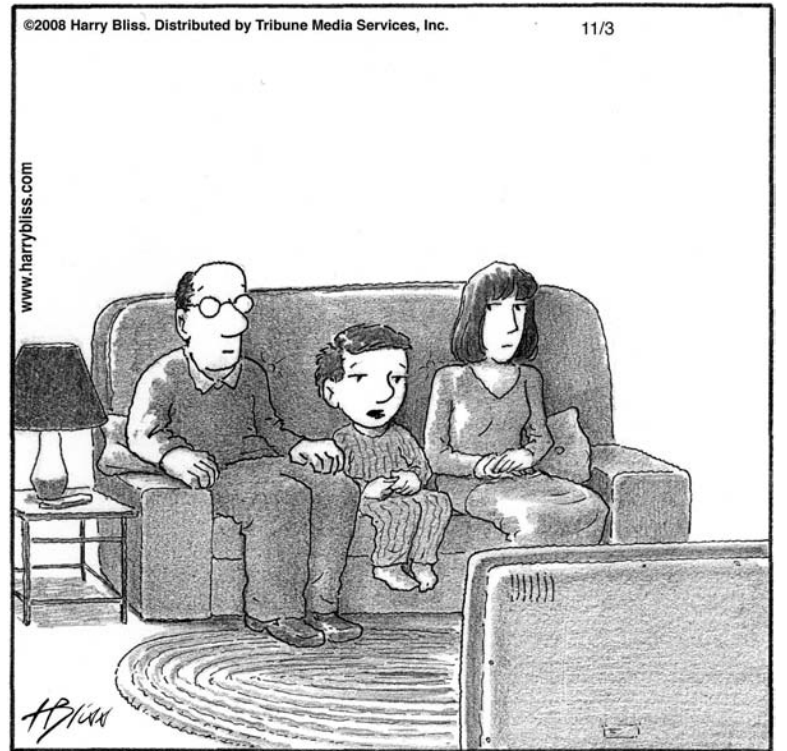
11/5/08

Solutions

- 19 Ermine in summer
- 21 Collegiate cheer
- 23 Seven Years' War location
- 24 Homes
- 25 Sets free
- 26 Ernie of golf
- 27 Acquires
- 29 Waterston or Donaldson
- 30 Make it big
- 31 Sexless
- 32 Mystery writers' awards
- 34 Crazy
- 36 Diligent insects
- 37 Aberdeen's river
- 40 Utters glibly
- 41 Brought to a conclusion
- 42 Single copy
- 43 Delivery vehicle
- 45 Is able to
- 46 "Respect"-ful name?
- 48 Saying



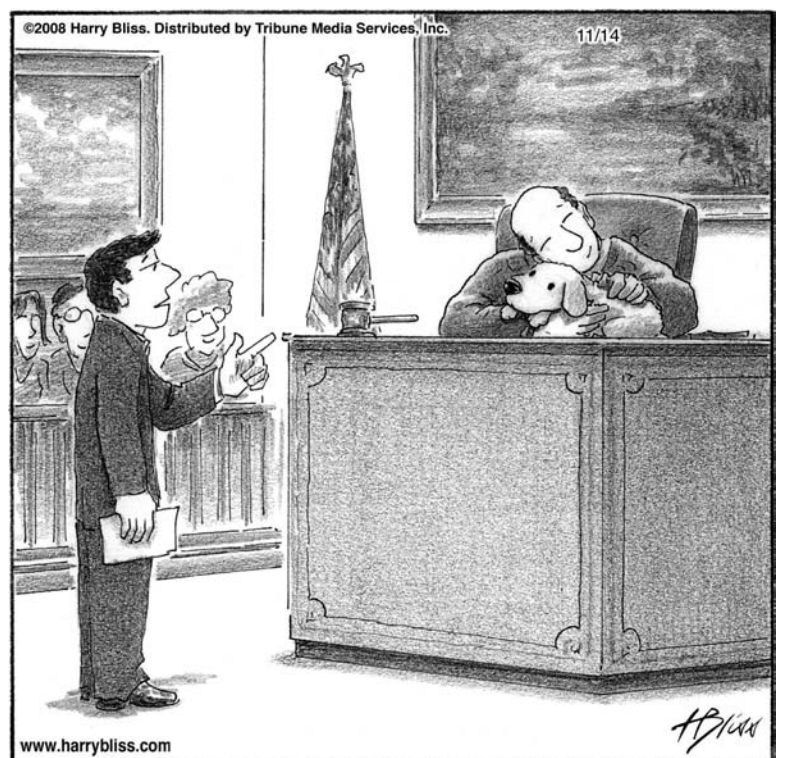
- 49 Like horses' hooves
- 50 Kind of list
- 51 Burn soother
- 52 Sailor's bed
- 54 Mel of the Giants
- 56 ___ sequitur
- 57 College student's letters
- 58 Sushi fish
- 59 Degree with teeth



"Mom, does the Russian borscht you made for dinner give me foreign-policy experience?"



"Forget it, Larry. We're not bringing it home."



"If it pleases the court, the prosecution would like to pet the defendant, too."

THE CANDIDATES **SUM UP** THEIR **POSITIONS** ON THE **ISSUES** OF PRESSING CONCERN TO AMERICANS....



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Fallout 3

Amy Dewar

The Commuter

It was with a bizarre mixture of fear and excitement that I anticipated the release of Fallout 3. As any of my friends know, I am a die-hard fan of the Fallout game series. I could rattle on at length about the fascinating nuances of the games. I even have a tattoo of the Weapons Handling perk from Fallout 2. (Go ahead and laugh. I don't mind. We'll see who's laughing when I'm the one who has +3 to strength on all weapons checks during the zombie apocalypse.)

I've been waiting for Fallout 3 for years now. Yet the newest incarnation of my favorite game had, in my mind, little to do with the originals. The real Fallout 3 was cut short just months before completion due to financial troubles involving the publisher, Interplay Entertainment. They sold the rights to Fallout 3 to Bethesda Softworks, a fact I did not find comforting. I was haunted by visions of Morrowind gone post-apocalyptic, and if that was the case, I would be bored to tears. I have never enjoyed a game by Bethesda. Ever.

Despite myself, I pre-ordered the \$120 collector's edition: the Exclusive Survival Edition, complete with Pipboy 3000 alarm clock, Vault-Tec bobblehead and my very own Vault-Tec lunch box. How could I not? This was the closest thing I'd ever get to the game I'd been waiting on for years.

Even as doubt shadowed me, I could hardly contain my excitement the day the game arrived. As I opened and examined each piece from my collector's edition, I only became more eager to play the game itself. And quite honestly, I loved it. I have enjoyed almost every second, (barring the times when Corinthia, my character, got fragged by super mutants).

To say Fallout 3 is like the other Fallout



V.A.T.S. off to ya, puppy!

games would be a lie. However, I never expected it to be. All of the same elements from previous games are there, but they've been put together in a completely different way. It definitely gives enough nods to the old series, while putting a new twist on the franchise. Considering what an excellent job they've done with it, I feel that this can only mean good things for the future of the series. Purists might argue against the newest work to bear the Fallout name, saying that it doesn't accurately represent the legacy of previous

titles. Yet I feel if nothing new is added, and no changes are made, Fallout would be doomed to stagnate and die.

The game is located in the ruins of Washington, D.C., also known as the "Capital Wasteland." (An interesting side note is that it is repeatedly spelled "Capital Wasteland" instead of "Capitol Wasteland." Oops, Bethesda!) The protagonist, a resident of Vault 101, is forced out into the Wasteland to search for his/her father after a complicated series of events implicating their involvement in a larger

conspiracy with dear old Dad. Left to wander aimlessly, the main character eventually comes across the town of Megaton, a small haven of civilization, or at least what passes for it in the Wasteland. Without revealing too much of the storyline, this is where the epic quest to find his/her father begins.

By far and large, my favorite aspect of Fallout 3 is the clever way that Bethesda incorporated the traditional turn-based combat system from the previous games into a workable, real-time compromise. Known as V.A.T.S. (Vault-Tec Assisted Targeting System) the device on the player's Pipboy allows them to "pause time" for a moment in order to strategically analyze the situation, take careful aim, and fire! Of course, the player can't use this system indefinitely. How many times they can perform the designated action is defined by how many Action Points (AP) it costs out of how many AP the player currently has. If the player runs out of AP before their opponent is dead, they'd better have an accurate trigger finger, or a firm understanding of the better part of valor. At least until they regenerate enough AP to once again enter the V.A.T.S. combat system for more targeted shooting. In addition, each action is played out in cinematic slow motion and, sometimes excruciating detail in the case of critical hits. (Can you say "Mutant head go splody-boom!?"?)

I have yet to play through the entire game, but as it stands, I highly recommend it. So if you're looking for a good action-RPG to supplement your selection of the new games coming out this fall, or even if you're a long time fan of the series having doubts, give Fallout 3 a try. It might be good for you. God knows, I've been nothing but addicted for the past week.



One of the many macabre scenes found outside the safety of the Vault.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Burning Truth Tribe

The Burning Truth Tribe from the Newport Gypsy Firedance Theatre performed at FireWorks in Southtown Corvallis on Saturday, Nov. 1, for the Celtic new year, Samhain.

They performed a dance/acoustic showcase that told a story of the changing seasons, and different spirits that represent the seasons, in honor of Samhain.

MaryAnne Turner



Photos by MaryAnne Turner



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Paradox Productionz

Kris Nelson
The Commuter

Friends Klutch and Phonix started recording and making music in high school. Little did they know that it would turn into something called Paradox Productionz.

I recently sat down with Phonix and some of the other artists at Paradox Productionz. I talked with them about the history of the group of artists, influences, upcoming CDs, and a concert that's coming up in December.

Currently, Klutch and Phonix run Paradox Productionz, which is a local group of rap artists who are trying to bring "real" hip-hop back. Klutch makes beats and Phonix does recording and engineering. Paradox Productionz is home to artists Klutch and Phonix, who make up the group Paradox. Also, on the label are Yung Royal, E.R.,

Markus Tha Great White, and Pynt Syze.

Phonix started editing music when he was 13. Klutch started making beats when he met Phonix in high school. E.R. and Markus Tha Great White each started rapping in their freshman year of high school. Pynt Syze has been rapping since age nine; now he's 12. Yung Royal began rapping in his freshman year of high school. Now, besides Pynt Syze, the artists are all at least in their early 20's. Most of the artists on Paradox Productionz live here in Albany, except E.R., who lives in Corvallis.

I asked the artists what inspired them to rap and about their musical inspirations. "Like most white rappers I liked Eminem," Phonix said. "We were just hip-hop fans that wanted to bring real hip-hop back," Markus Tha Great White added. Some of the artists said

their influence was 2pac. Phonix said, previously, he didn't like Tech N9ne, but now he listens to his music.

When I asked about how they would describe their sound, E.R. said, "I think I can speak for Klutch



The artist from Paradox Productionz

when I say, his sound ranges from East Coast rap to Bay area sound." Phonix said the sound of Paradox is what he called rock-hop (rock and hip hop mixed). They all agreed that their sounds varies from song to song; one song could

be a slow song, the next could be something really fast.

On Nov. 12 Yung Royal is releasing his "Out Tha Shadows Mixtape" CD. Paradox's new album, "Verse-a-tility," is coming soon. Markus tha Great White told me to expect his CD out sometime in March of '09. E.R. wants his to come out in the first quarter of 2009.

Paradox Productionz plans to put on a show at the North Albany Grange hall in December. They are hoping that it will be a big show. Phonix told me that there are seven or eight artists on the bill, including Sukanuts. With every paid admission, they will be giving out raffle tickets to win tickets to a Portland Blazers game. Six tickets will be given out.

If you want to hear some of the songs from the artists, visit these links:

Paradox: <http://www.myspace.com/ParadoxProductionz>
 Yung Royal: <http://www.myspace.com/imyungroyal>
 E.R.: <http://www.myspace.com/youcantbeater>
 Pynt Syze: <http://www.myspace.com/PyntSyze>
 Markus Tha Great White: <http://www.myspace.com/MarkusThaGreatWhite>

Concert Listings

- 11/6/2008 – 7:00 p.m. Break As We Fall @ Bombs Away Cafe (Jazz Night), Corvallis, FREE
- 11/7/2008 – 6:00 p.m. David Samuel @ Albany Wine Depot, Albany, FREE
- 11/7/2008 – 6:00 p.m. Break As We Fall @ KBVR Locals Live OSU Campus, Corvallis, FREE
- 11/7/2008 – 10:00 p.m. Angries w/ Latch-Hook Robot and Solid Gold @ Fox & Firkin, Corvallis, \$3 cover

Check back often for updates

Rosenguard: a band that is worth listening to

Kris Nelson
The Commuter

Rosenguard, a black metal/progressive band from Chicago, Ill., was recently on tour with DevilDriver and a couple other bands. They made a stop in Portland, Ore. on October 17th.

I recently got the chance to talk to Rosenguard lead vocalist Nick Rogers over the phone. We talked about their influences, a little about their background, and their first time playing in Oregon.

Their tour was along the West Coast, which included a stop in Portland and ended in Santa Barbara, Calif. Some of the stops on the tour were in Seattle, Boise, and Salt Lake City. Rosenguard is currently being played and requested on more than 100 radio stations nationwide. In February 2008 they were featured in Indie Noise, a section of <http://blogofsound.wordpress.com>. They had this to say: It seems that just about every band coming up through the MySpace music scene is a metal band of some sort. There are good bands, decent bands, terrible bands, and then there are bands like Rosenguard. Fortunately for Rosenguard, they're in an elite group playing with very few worthwhile peers. They have also been reviewed by the Illinois Entertainer, Moraine Valley College, and the heavy metal news website <http://www.thegauntlet.com>.

The band's influences vary between members. Two of the members, lead guitarist Tomak Spirala and bass player Nened Lazic, are European, so they have a power/melodic metal influence. The drummer, Garret Scanlan from Chicago, has been playing in death metal bands for a long time.

The vocalist/rhythm guitarist Nick Rogers is from the heart of Florida and has played a lot of death metal as well.

Some of the bands influences are Iron Maiden, Slayer, and Dimmu Borgir. Their influences are all over the place but that's what vocalist Rogers said gives them their unique personality as a band.

They really formed as a band in 2006, adding members Rogers and Scanlan. Spirala is from Poland and Lazic is originally from Serbia. In June of 2008 they found and added keyboardist Dustin Dowhower.

In 2007 they released a CD entitled iRequiem for the Innocent. I personally enjoyed the title track, iRequiem for the Innocent. It has a long intro, but it is well worth the wait. It sounds like a combination of classic European metal and hardcore metal with some 80s power metal thrown in. Another song people should check out is iWorld's Away. Their songs are about human emotion and experience from their perspective.

As I said in the beginning, Rosenguard is a black metal/progressive band. For those of you who don't know what it is, it's a genre of music similar to other kinds of metal but with an edge. But black metal can vary from band to band. Some are just low-toned singing and loud music. With Rosenguard they are more interchangeable and can go from hardcore metal in one part of a song, to something a little more calm and melodic in the next part. When you listen to some of their songs, it's like you get two or three mini songs in one. I think their music is like a good book: it's something you always want to come back to.

Now that the fall tour with DevilDriver is over, they want to tour the rest of the United States, covering other parts of the country where their music is enjoyed. Some of their fans are hoping they go to the East Coast and fans that recently saw them are hoping they

come back to their home states.

This show in Portland was their first time playing in Oregon. They actually drove in from Chicago to Eugene. I asked if they liked it in Oregon, and if they would come back and play again. If people are into what we're doing, then we'll

always come back, Rogers said.

Their official website is currently under construction, but if you want to find out about more about Rosenguard go to <http://www.myspace.com/rosenguard> for tour dates, songs and various news about the band.

Classifieds

They just make cents. Place an ad today with The Commuter at commuterads@linnbenton.edu

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

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

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

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

Help Wanted:

Treatment Aides (#6956, Corvallis)
 Various shifts are available part-time for people to assist in an adolescent drug and alcohol recovery center.
 \$9/hr

CWE Environmental Tech (#6901, Albany) Cooperative Work Experience
 is a great way to get paid for getting experience if your major is in engineering or science. They are looking for students going from LBCC to OSU. Part-time during school and full-time in the summer. \$10.85/hr

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 Options Pregnancy Resource Center.
 Corvallis 757-9645. Albany 924-0166.
www.possiblypregnant.org

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 We are coming up on a census year and the government is already hiring people for next year. Become a census taker by calling toll-free 1-866-861-2010! You have to call to be tested. Pay is \$14-18/hr DOE.

Direct Care Provider (#6957, Albany)
 Part-time, Sat & Sun 10pm-6am working with developmentally disabled people.
 \$8.72-9.81/hr DOE. Good hours for a student.

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Drop in! Forum 222
Please sign letters, keep to 300 words or less



Anthony King
Former mortgage broker

The Economic Crisis

I have spoken to so many people who do not have a complete grasp of the economic situation we are in and how it has gotten to this point.

People are angry and looking to blame someone for the decline in their financial standing and goals (be it savings, investments, or house value).

In such times we need to understand what has led to the turmoil in our markets (nationally and globally), so I thought I would share my thoughts on how this unfolding crisis started:

When we speak of this economic crisis we think of its cause in terms of blame. We tend to want to blame people who purchased homes they could not afford and we want to blame people and/or companies who made those loans.

the blame they are not the sole cause of the magnitude of this crisis.

The mortgages at the heart of this crisis are the mortgages brought into existence by companies whose loan officers and brokers found a way to make quick and large commissions.

Prior to the day when oversized mortgages were the norm, the majority of lenders had strict guidelines on who and how people could qualify for mortgages. These guidelines were engraved into the computer systems which analyzed the consolidation of the investment vehicles.

profit. Since anyone with a job could qualify without providing documentation (called "no doc loans"), more people qualified for larger loans, and so more people bought and sold homes which fueled the housing market boom.

This simple process in the mortgage industry affected

the real estate industry, the housing development industry and the financial industry through their CDOs and CMOs (collateralized debt obligations and collateralized mortgage obligations).

Along the way, companies saw that with CDO/CMOs these highly risky mortgages (no docs) they were taking on could be taken off their books by packaging more, if not all of them, into these CDO/CMOs.

If anyone is to blame I would argue it was the companies that knew that these highly risky mortgages were included in the CDO/CMOs they purchased from the companies, whose loan officers and brokers specialized in such

loans because they purchased these investment vehicles fully aware of what type of risky loans they contained, but saw it as just another way to earn a larger profit.

"...loan officers and brokers found a way to make quick and large commissions." Anthony King

companies that sold the CDO/CMOs to these institutional and individual investors did not provide accurate analysis of the projected risk of these investment vehicles to the institutional and individual investors.

Institutional and individual investors in the U.S. and around the world trusted the large brand name companies (Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch) who were believed to be under the constant scrutiny of our governmental regulatory agencies.

returns.

This completed the supply and demand cycle, but the demand never seemed to end until the owners of these houses found out they had taken on too much debt and began to default on their payments.

buying these investment vehicles and in fact began to sell their stakes in them. This left all these lenders, including the brand named investment companies mentioned earlier, with CDO/CMO vehicles they could not sell (causing these now illiquid assets to remain on their accounting books which, for years, they had claimed as assets).

We are now seeing that these "assets" are worthless because all the institutional and individual investors they once sold these risky investments no longer wanted them. Now the lenders are forced to mark down the value of these once extremely valuable investments as nothing more than bad debt.

With that, I pray I have been able to clarify some of the misconceptions or at least shed some light on this issue for those looking for a basic understanding of our economic woes. May love and peace be yours always. Amen.

Submit!

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome. Letters should be limited to 250 words, but columns can be longer.

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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By the time you read this...

Brandon Goldner
The Commuter

...someone will have been elected president. Or at least we hope so. There's always the outside (and painful) chance that there will be a drawn-out legal battle, that a few states will have ruined it for the

rest of us (Florida, you know who we're talking about.)

But hopefully this year will be different. While it would be great to elect the person who you believe will be the most able and sensible commander in chief, I would almost argue that it would be better to elect "the other guy" than to spend a month and half on a back and forth between

election officials, party leaders and the state or federal judiciary. It's damaging to the country, and creates more divisiveness when what we would desperately need is closure and an acceptance that, after all, we're one country, and all of us have troubles and worries we hope to see alleviated.

If all goes as planned (and by planned,

I mean http://www.fivethirtyeight.com's giving Obama a 96% of winning), President-elect Obama will have given a speech or two by now, congratulating Senator McCain on his hard work, saying he's a war hero, etc. But regardless of who you were pulling for, hopefully the end will be swift, uncomplicated, and decisive.

PERSPECTIVES: Who do you think is going to win the election? Why?
Alaina Ward: "Obama, he seems to be more popular with everybody."
Lena Meyers: "I think Obama is going to win because every one of my friends is voting for him."
Eric Knight: "I think that Mickey Mouse should win."
Alice Davis: "I think Obama is going to win because he is ahead."
Kelsey Thayer: "Obama, because I love him."

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SOCIALISM: THIS TIME IT WILL WORK

Rick Casillas
The Commuter

I've seen a lot of dissuasive commentary about socialism lately. I hear it from the news, from the lips of fellow students, and of course read of it in papers not much different from the one in your hands right now. Proponents cite the many pluses of a socialist Utopia only an Obama vote away: Free health care, tax breaks for the middle class, and free candy for everyone! And what means must we be subjected to for such an end? A painless process of taking money from those big bad cigar smoking millionaires that sit in their studies and laugh at the misfortune of us, the common folk, while they roll around in piles of hundred dollar bills; then placing their wondrous monies into the hands of those less fortunate beings not privileged to have a silver spoon shoved in every orifice upon birth.

And what's wrong with that, dagnabbit? Sharing is caring. Levar Burton taught me that, if I have a candy bar, why not give my buddy half? That's what socialism is right? Eh, not quite, that's altruism, something practiced in droves by the private sector that, once forced, seems to lose some of its luster. If we're playing the socialism game then that would mean some guy shows up, takes the candy bar out of your hand then throws half of it into the crowded street. Hell, somebody gets it, and that's what matters right? You weren't that hungry anyway. Socialism is not sharing. Socialism is taking against your will what you have earned and giving it to someone else.

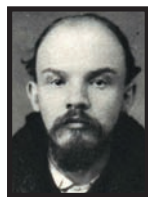
I don't demonize those that support socialism, I just think that much of that support comes from a misunderstanding of what socialism is, and as with many things, perception will be our key to understanding it, so let's go over some of the basics.

Socialism is defined as a set of economic ideals that spreads power and wealth evenly among its practitioners. It's a fine theoretical structure that has simply been shown deeply flawed in practice. What it fails to address is the human factor of its implementation. In any society there will be a bottom 10%, and much of the distaste of capitalism emanates from this truth, as some have difficulty acknowledging that with success there will be failure. What socialism seeks to do is eliminate that bottom percentile by

detracting from the top, in concept making us all equal.

The unfortunate troubles, however, come from the execution of policies that promote socialism. The sudden distribution of that wealth into the hands of the government leads to the eventual propagation of corruption and mediocrity in its citizenry who lack motivation to pursue success. This is where we see the power of words and perceptions come into play, for where some see equality others see the only opportunity afforded to them is to be unexceptional.

To be able to distribute funds into socialist



"Liberty is precious; so precious that it must be carefully rationed."

Vladimir Lenin

programs requires a larger government to manage its operation. We have seen examples in the past from countries like Russia and China; where once the economic power is given absolutely to the overseeing of the government, civil liberties and seizing of personal assets follows close behind.

Now you may be thinking 'those countries weren't socialist, they were communist,' but socialism, according to Karl Marx in the Communist Manifesto, serves as a transitional economic module to communism and the further the United States tip toes that line, the closer we come to falling into the same cycles that those countries have found themselves in.

So how do you convince a group of people to go along with the idea of giving up financial freedom? In the past the answer has always been through the manipulation of class warfare, a battle that has been raging in our own country for years. Socialism grows from the roots of such dissension. The sweet irony of socialism is that it postulates itself to the people as a revolution against an oppressive grouped power structure, and what is the solution of socialism in dealing with such a group? Why to replace it with a larger, more centralized government that makes your decisions for you, what doctors you should go to, where you should live, how much money is "too much" money.

And that is where the beast rears its ugly head. Socialism operates under the idea that you, the individual, are too stupid to make your own decisions and need a large powerful government to make them for you.

In politics, perception and the manipulation of words plays a huge role. The left likes to paint conservatives as greedy and insensitive, while the right depicts liberals as pie in the sky naive hand wringers; but we all share one common quality in being American, and there is something wholly un-American about not striving to be the best at what we do. Yet over the years we have in fact become a country with socialistic elements much to the delight of the flower children that traded in their tie-dye shirts for corporate suits these last few decades.

America was once a country of excellence that strove for success and dominated the world stage with the industrial proficiency of our work force. Now we slowly fall by the wayside, surpassed by India and China as they implement capitalistic values into their markets, relying on entrepreneurship and the private sector for their needs where the Government cannot provide. While capitalism endorses self-reliance, individualism, and the pursuit of a better life, socialism denotes such qualities by promoting entitlement, sameness, and letting others decide what quality of life you should have.

Am I being an alarmist? Please don't make me say the phrase "slippery slope." America is a country of extremes: Countless times we have brought ourselves to the brink always to pull back at the last minute, and I think the gradual move to communism will elicit the same response. I would like to skip the painful transition but as it is our mode of operation I will ring my bell and wait for you all to see the precipice. Change is a gradual thing, purporting itself as sideways glances. It inches ever forward, taking ground where allowances are made. Similarly socialism is not the obvious monstrosity sardonically tempered at the hands of those who would have you believe otherwise. It does not wait for you beside the road to swallow you in one gulp, rather it is the malignant disease of mediocrity punishing success and divisively subverting our American society, inching us all slowly down the same path.

Watching the election made me fat

Brandon Goldner
The Commuter

It wasn't always like this. I used to be able to fit into my pants. Now, I can't.

I used to be able to go on a run without my thighs scraping together. And there was a day when I could go to the door, turn the knob, and walk outside without getting stuck. Nowadays I have to lube up all the doorways with goose

grease so I can slide out and prevent the term 'Howard Taft's bathtub' from re-entering the public conversation.

I used to be thin! What happened?

The election, that's who! That smart-alecky smooth-tongue, Barack Obama, and the fuddering angry old man, John McCain, have taken away my figure.

It started innocently enough. I would check the polls at New

York Time's website or maybe sneak a peek at NPR's electoral map. That was in August.

Then came the running mates.



"I used to be thin! What happened? The election, that's who!"

Brandon Goldner

The moment that Sarah Palin became a household name, I began to feel the pull. 'Could people really be falling for this?' I would ask aloud. The polls had become part of my routine.

Then came the debates, each less telling than the last. Up they came, 1,2,3, and down they went in a swirl of rhetorical flourish ("This is the final verdict on eight years of failed economic policies..."), poorly-masked anger ("...nailing down Sen. Obama's various tax proposals is like nailing Jell-O to the wall."), and simple ridiculousness ("I'll get Osama bin Laden, my friends. I'll get him. I know how to get him. I'll

get him no matter what and I know how to do it.").

I became engrossed. I would check the polls ever few hours.

He's up by 11... But this latest one said he's only up 5. Now he's up by 6 points. 12 points. 3 points! 5 points! 4 points! AGHHH!!!! WHO'S RIGHT?

There were three different polls on gallup.com, and they all moved around independently of each other like the cookie monster's eyes.

I had to get all sides of this angle! I had to check all of them to see what the consensus was, had to read every article from every spectrum of the debate to get a clear picture! I'd go to cnn.com, nytimes.com, politico.com, npr.org, nro.com, gallup.com, teamsarah.org, realclearpolitics.

com, washingtonpost.com, fivethirtyeight.com, and latimes.com while simultaneously checking the Rasmussen polls, the Fox News polls, Gallup polls, Reuters polls, Zogby polls, Battleground polls, ABC, Marist, Ipsos/McClatchy, Pew Research... Were some of these names made up? Good God!

All the while, I was spending so much time online that my life began falling apart. My wife left me. My dog died - I didn't really have time to feed it on account of the polls. But worst of all, I gained weight.

Now I'm stricken. I don't know what to do now, but I won't know what to do when the election is over. I'm really in a bind. And if they end up tying, or there's some long, drawn-out legal battle? *Shudder. But let's hope for the best. Maybe one of them will win, or maybe they can power share. Hey... That's not such a bad idea! Second place gets Vice President! I wonder if anyone would buy into that... Maybe they'll come out with a poll to find out.



Before: Acceptable



After: Worthless

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The Commuter staff speaks out



Rick Casillas
 Editorial Assistant

I can't wait for the political fervor to die down, so people will be semi-normal for three more years until we go back to beating our chests and arguing with each other. I win with either candidate. Obama gets it and I get the satisfaction of seeing him screw up, McCain wins and screws up only slightly worse, or secret third option Obama wins, isn't Jimmy Carter 2.0, and I retire to a remote island far from the heckling of liberal friends. Free to wander the white beaches in seclusion, surrounded by all the golden sweet starfish I can eat, thousands of them all for me!



Lydia Elliot
 Photo Editor

I went to bed early last night so that today would arrive sooner, that's how excited I am about the election. I am also sick of the rhetoric, the ads, and the pundits on TV acting like they know everything. I can't wait for this to all be over. If I hear the words "maverick" or "Joe the Plumber" one more time, I swear I might tear my hair out. Tonight's the night. I'll be watching every moment in the Commuter office, full of excitement, and ready to wake up tomorrow morning with a brighter future for America.



Gregory Dewar
 Editor-In-Chief

I can see how important this election is to everyone. From a historical vantage point, it's extremely clear that this is a landmark election, that's why we stayed so late Tuesday night to get as much of the last minute coverage as we could. We made two covers, trying to be fair and impartial to whatever candidate was the victor. As you can see ___ clearly won. Will this herald a new era? Will anything change? Write in and let us know.



Amy Dewar
 Copy Editor

Like other members of The Commuter staff, I'm disheartened at this year's presidential candidates. I'm not ashamed to say that I voted for Clinton during the primaries. The one person I was willing to support lost out, and as it stands I have a choice between the King of Lollipops and Unicorns (Obama) or the Crazy Redneck Maverick (McCain). My, my, however will I discern which one is the better candidate? Don't get me wrong, I definitely voted, but either way this election turns out, I'm going to be disappointed.



Loren Newman
 Contributing Editor

As one of the few Republicans on The Commuter staff, this has been a strange election process. I'm surprised how little the people I ask actually know about the political process, and what each candidate actually stands for. A large percentage of people I talked to were truly confused on the economic and international relations policies of the candidates. I found people making voting choices on broad, inaccurate assumptions or on popularity. To tell you the truth, it felt like a high school student body election.



James Scales
 A & E Editor

So, the presidential election, what about it? Who cares? As far as I am concerned this election sucks for everyone involved, and that happens to be the entire world. From the start of primaries I wanted to do nothing more than to go out into the woods, blow a cave out of the best looking mountain, and hide from all things having anything to do with politics. I would say that I'd be glad when it's over, but that isn't even true. No matter what, everyone loses this year.



MaryAnne Turner
 Managing Editor

My hope for the future of this country is that Obama will not be another fraud like the presidents past. I hope that this change he promises is good. I also am thankful to be a part of the history that was made this week, and the history about to be made. I believe that these next four years could go either way. I just hope that way is up.

Chris Brotherton
 Contributing Editor

Here we are, another four years has passed and we are once again faced with the task of choosing our nation's leader, a daunting task at best. Most people don't take advantage of this opportunity to make a change in history. I used to be one of those people; thinking that there was no way that my "one vote" could actually make a difference. However, after the last eight years, I feel that we need a breath of fresh air in the White House. I feel that I have a specific responsibility this time around as I didn't do anything about it the last time. Today I vote!

Eve Bruntlett
 Photo Assistant

The election is here. It is actually, finally here. I can't vote yet. My birthday isn't until February, so I won't be 18 in time. Having a new president will be amazing. I have great hopes that whoever wins can turn around the economy. That is the most pressing issue for America and the world at this moment, yet either way the election is over. This is the time that we start talking about normal things and stop arguing different opinions. Now just to wait four more years so I can have a go at this voting thing.



Brandon Goldner
 Opinion Editor

I voted for Barack Obama. Americans have always been proud of our country. But over the last generation, more of us have held Americans in high regard while thumbing our noses at people of other countries. I believe Barack Obama will begin an American era where everyone can feel their country is truly a force for good. Part of that comes from showing respect for our neighbors' sovereignty and cultural differences.

Wheeled menace Death to the rolling backpacks!

Lydia Elliott
 The Commuter

Any time I hear "click-click-click-click-click" around campus these days, I think to myself, "Oh God, here comes another one." I'm talking about backpacks with wheels, of course. The outrageous prevalence of these wheeled menaces has recently made the LBCC campus feel more like a terminal at PDX. At least at an airport there are flat walkways, escalators, and a general acceptance of people dragging 4-foot appendages behind them. Here at LBCC, there is a little more to contend with, and much less purpose for dragging suitcases. Here we have stairs, elevators to share, and small classrooms with narrow aisles. Backpacks with wheels serve no purpose. They don't make their users better students, and the geniuses hauling them around probably haven't stopped to think that the extra weight of the wheels and gears makes them heavier than a traditional backpack. In fact, backpacks with wheels can actually contribute to injuries, not prevent them as some users claim. According to the Science Institute, "Students using wheeled backpacks were found to be 14 times more likely to carry heavy loads than those who used backpacks with no wheels." In other words, your precious wheels make you assume you can carry more...but you can't. Thus you are more likely to hurt yourself as you click-thunk click-thunk click-thunk your way up the many stairs on campus. Which brings me to the noise problem. As if the aforementioned click-click-click and click-thunk-click weren't annoying enough, you have the fast-paced thunk-thunk-thunk-thunk as users attempt to maneuver down the same stairs they click-thunked their way up the first time. That is, if the stupid thing doesn't manage to wobble and flip itself over onto the unsuspecting soon-to-be-bruised legs of another poor student. Then there is the inevitable broken-wheeled backpack, which, like a shopping cart, creates that lovely "CURRRR" sound up and down the hallways. I know there is nothing better than sitting in my 8 a.m. math class and having to hear some student CURRRR their way past my class as I try to maintain my focus and sanity. Is carrying your books, either in your arms or in a bag, worse than annoying the crap out of everyone around you, risking injury to yourself and others, constantly collapsing and extending the handles, and otherwise looking like a complete idiot? It's about time to put an end to the menace on wheels here at LBCC. Unless you have to drag your belongings behind you because of a medical condition or injury, stop forcing others to anticipate your presence around every turn and doorway and leap to safety as you thunk-thunk your way down the stairs. Go to Target, get a backpack, and carry your books like everyone else.

Fall Blood Drive

LBCC and the Red Cross are teaming up for the Statewide Civil War Blood drive. Extend the gift of life and become eligible to win two tickets to the 2008 Civil War Football game.

CIVIL WAR BLOOD DRIVE 2008

Please join us on Wednesday, November 19th and 20th, 2008 from 9:00am-2:00pm in the Alsea/Calapooia room. Refreshments will be provided. To reserve your donation time come to the sign-up table located in Tadena Hall Monday, the entire week of November 3rd from 8:00am-2:00pm, or go online to www.givelife.org use sponsor code LBCC, you can also call 1-800-GiveLife.

Have some time and want to volunteer? Volunteers are needed for escorts and canteen on the day of the blood drive For more information contact the Student Programming Board Health and Recreational Specialist at 541-917-4472.

Visit www.civilwarblooddrive.com for more information