

# Commuter



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poetry month  
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**The Commuter**  
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# Campus News

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

## Opportunity knocks at LB career fair

Lacey Jarrell  
 The Commuter

When was the last time you thought your future was so bright you had to wear shades?

Students and community members interested in pursuing new and exciting career opportunities are encouraged to attend LBCC's 32nd Annual Career Fair, April 29th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Activity Center Gym.

Last year, over 50 prospective employers from all over the state joined forces with LBCC to initially screen and recruit new hires to fill a wide variety of positions. Again this year LBCC is expecting a large turnout of recruiters, ranging in fields from education to the automotive industry.

Career and Employment Specialist Carla Raymond advises that although an average of 10 to 40 students are hired every year at the fair, even students not seeking immediate employment should attend.

She says, "It is important to attend even if you're not looking for a

job because the fair is a good place to network with potential employers."

Raymond also adds that just visiting with an employer offers a great opportunity to learn and practice interview skills. Students who are near graduation or are looking for summer work in the future can benefit greatly by attending because there is always a chance that a position may open up unexpectedly.

There are also instances when employers who are not immediately hiring will attend the fair seeking qualified contacts to fill future positions such as summer and seasonal work. Employers such as Wah Chang have been long time participants of the Career Fair, looking to make contact with students interested in future cooperative work experience.

The Career Center's "Ten Tips for Student Success," advises students to be prepared as if they are going to a job interview. Student Mike Smith attended a fall-term career fair with a few employers in mind, but said that he actually found many others he was

### LBCC's 32nd Annual Career Fair

**When:** Thursday, April 29, 2010, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Where:** Activity Center Gym, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW

#### To Learn More Contact:

- Carla Raymond, LBCC Career and Employment Specialist at carla.raymond@linnbenton.edu
- The Career Center at 541-917-4782
- Visit <http://cf.linnbenton.edu/careerfair>

interested in.

Smith points out, "It was a good opportunity to break the ice and get them talking. You never know, you could be talking to your next boss."

The Career Center website states that to be "career fair ready," students should have an advanced plan of action, dress appropriately, and bring a polished resume. Don't have a polished resume? No problem. The Career Center offers resume critiquing and interview advice, including sample interview questions. Students can also drop in at the Writing Center where faculty and tutors can help develop a resume from scratch or aid in fleshing

out an old one.

Meeting new people and making a good first impression is often the first step to landing a job. LBCC's career fair offers opportunities to students that your average job search does not. In an age where most job searches are online and resumes are faceless, the career fair gives you the invaluable opportunity of making a good first impression with out even having your foot in the proverbial door.

Do your research, be prepared and gear yourself for success and you may be hearing the four words that so many college students are longing to hear these days, "When can you start?"

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### THE COMMONS FARE

4/14 - 4/20

**Wednesday**  
 Dishes: Roasted Chicken, Tuscan Braised Pork and Gnocchi Bar  
 Soup: Cream of Broccoli and Won Ton

**Thursday**  
 Inservice Day/ No School

**Friday**  
 Chef's Choice

**Monday**  
 Dishes: Grilled Pork Chops w/ Sauce Robert, Chicken Gumbo and Portabella Sandwich  
 Soups: Chicken Noodle and Cream of Tomato

**Tuesday**  
 Dishes: Reuben Sandwich, Irish Lamb Stew and 3 Cheese Stuffed Shells  
 Soups: Shrimp Bisque and Tomato & Rice

## Academic Success Seminars

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Better Notes = Better Grades					
Wednesday	April 14	Albany	IA-207	2:00 – 2:50pm	
Wednesday	April 14	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm	
Wednesday	April 14	Lebanon	LC-153	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Prepare for Tests					
Tuesday	April 20	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Wednesday	April 21	Albany	IA-207	2:00 – 2:50pm	
Wednesday	April 21	Lebanon	LC-153	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Wednesday	April 21	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm	
Get Organized					
Tuesday	April 27	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Wednesday	April 28	Albany	IA-207	2:00 – 2:50pm	
Wednesday	April 28	Lebanon	LC-153	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Wednesday	April 28	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm	
Active Learning Strategies					
Tuesday	May 4	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Wednesday	May 5	Albany	IA-207	2:00 – 2:50pm	
Wednesday	May 5	Lebanon	LC-153	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Wednesday	May 5	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm	
Tips to Overcome Procrastination					
Tuesday	May 11	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Wednesday	May 12	Albany	IA-207	2:00 – 2:50pm	
Wednesday	May 12	Lebanon	LC-153	5:00 – 5:50pm	
Wednesday	May 12	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm	

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

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer. For disability accommodations, call 541-917-4789. Submit requests 4 to 6 weeks before the event where possible. To call by TDD, call the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900 and give them the number you wish to reach.

**Linn-Benton**  
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## LB students dance the night away

Alx George  
 The Commuter

LBCC is dancing the night away, and then some.

Dance instructor Katherine Sanders has created a dance club open to any LBCC student with an interest in dance. Sanders explains, "I think everybody can dance." Both genders and people of all levels (from no experience to professional) are highly encouraged to check out this new club that meets on the Albany campus and sometimes at the Benton Center.

Liz Pearce, one of Sanders' students and an LBCC staff choreographer, says, "It's great to have this opportunity on the Albany campus. There's never been anything like this."

Sanders began this club during fall term with the ambitious intention of having a dance organization originating out of LBCC and performing for the community. She felt that there was a desire and need. Forty students rose to the call.

Mia Sanchez, the student representative of the club, was "all over the idea." As a dancer and one of the six student choreographers, she is very optimistic about this new club.

"I'm having a great time... it is a little frustrating when you go over it [the same dance] over and over and you have somebody else's vision



Dance Club members have a laugh while practicing.

Photo by Alx George

you're trying to fulfill ... but it's a lot of fun."

Sanders says that all types of dance are welcome in the club, but right now student interest mainly lies in hip hop and modern dance. Students choreograph most of the dances practiced.

Daniel Rasberry, one of the student choreographers and dance club members, says, "I love hip hop. I love the feel of it. I talked to Katherine and loved what she believed in and what she represents with her dancing. It fits me and my personality and the way I am."

Right now, members of the dance club are rushing rehearsals for the upcoming dance concert on May 7 and 8. The group is really enthused about the concert.

Chante Marvin, one of the dancers, says, "I'm looking forward to the performance. I'm really excited to see the other pieces people have come up with."

Sanders is a strong advocate for the arts, but her main passion is dance. She hopes this concert and the club will artistically inspire people, particularly other students. Her goals are to provide a creative learning experience for students outside of the classroom and to touch the community at large.

Sanders concludes, "We're really putting on a show that takes a lot of people from the community to make it happen."

### "Inspirations" dance concert

**When:** May 7, 7:30 p.m. & May 8, 2 p.m.

**Where:** Russell Tripp Performance Center

**Cost:** \$5 adult, \$2 children 5-12 years, free for children under 4 years.

**Contact:** Box Office 541-917-4531



### Wednesday 4/14

#### Spring Term Blood Draw

6:30 - 9 a.m. • AC 122

This blood draw will be for cholesterol and glucose screening. Cost for first time customers from LBCC will be \$10, repeat customers will cost \$20, and PSA tests for males will cost \$22. For more information, call 541-917-4344.

#### Penny Polls

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. DOT the courtyard

Vote for your national priorities by placing ten coins into different tax categories representing where you would like to see your tax dollars going.

### Thursday 4/15

#### Inservice Day

LBCC

All LBCC campuses will be

closed to the public all day.

Normal operations will resume on Friday, April 16.

### Friday 4/16

#### "Strings of Delight"

Noon - 1 p.m. • BC Student Lounge

Benton Center Acoustic Showcase will be presenting "Strings of Delight" performing a sampler of Celtic flavored tunes from a blending of harps, hammered dulcimer, flute and keyboard. For more information, call 541-917-4690.

#### Ceramics Slide Show and Lecture

7 - 8 p.m. • BC 204

LBCC Benton Center and Willamette Ceramics Guild present special guest, Nobu Kosai, visiting artist and potter from Japan, who will lecture on how he makes pots and fires in his wood-fired Shigaraki style kiln. This is a free event. For more information, contact the Benton Center at 541-757-8944.

### Saturday 4/17

#### Artistic Travel Journaling Class

10 a.m. - 4:50 p.m. • BC 107

Enhance your travel experience by learning to draw your experiences while traveling

using simple sketching and painting techniques. No drawing or painting skills are needed to succeed. Cost for the class is \$39 plus a \$5 lab fee. For more information or to register, call 541-757-8944.

### Saturday 4/17

#### Auditions for LBCC Theatre Arts Club Spring One Act

7 p.m. • Russell Tripp Performance Center

Auditions are for "Soap Opera" by David Ives. No prepared monologue is necessary, just come to read from the script and play some games. Eight roles are available. For more information, email the director at lbcctheatreartsclub@gmail.com.

### Wednesday 4/21

#### Gender and Communication

Noon - 1 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center

Join Dana Emerson and Valerie Zeigler for "Gender and Communication Part 2, Taking it to the Classroom." They will discuss gender myths that are commonly played out in the classroom as well as examine and identify strategies that will help to create a more equitable classroom.

## Writing Center gets an upgrade

Lisa Bauman  
 for The Commuter

Good news for night owls! The LBCC Writing Center has recently expanded its usefulness, accessibility and ability to connect with students.

Located above the library, the Writing Center now offers an up-to-date webpage designed to meet student needs with 24 hour accessibility. The webpage includes answers to common writing questions, links to educational websites and personalized writing help through the Online Writing Lab (OWL).

The Writing Center's website also has a brand-new database that contains all the handouts available in the physical center and offers direct links to websites that explain writing principles. More student resources are offered on-site for student involvement, such as displays and other interactive mediums.

According to Victoria Fridley, the Writing Center facilitator, the upgrades have resulted from extensive research and a collaboration of creativity from students and staff. This year, a main focus was to "implement other writing centers and resources" for students online.

The biggest change was the creation of the online database. The development of this resource allows students access to top-notch information gathered from other writing centers and scholarly materials.

Students pressed for time can take advantage of OWL, since the program allows submission of writing projects 24 hours a day. A writing assistant then helps with organizing, developing, and revising the work within three working days. "Basically it allows you to copy and paste an assignment and send it to us," said Fridley. There is room in the margins for comments to be made.

Fridley also said they assist with "writing for in class writing assignments ... but we also work with students with needs outside classes — scholarships, resumes, and creative writing. Our goal is to make the student a more confident, joyful writer." Fridley notes that students seem very comfortable working with the trained assistants in the center because they have taken the same classes the students are experiencing.

In addition to the web improvements, several new interactive opportunities are available in the Writing Center. Free workshops are offered on a variety of writing topics in the College Skills Zone Classroom, WH-225. The presentations last 30 minutes, and 15 minutes are allotted for a question and answer period afterward. They are available between 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. on scheduled days. Fridley noted "Some instructors offer credit when a student attends."

Another interactive element offered is the Writing Wall. "I'm really excited about the Writer's Wall that we developed this year. It's a simple display that allows students, staff and faculty to share their writing with each other," said Fridley. After a month on display, the works are placed into a binder that is available on site for students and faculty to enjoy.

The writing center also has a large whiteboard that is used for sharing poems, quotation and ideals. "The more exploring of thoughts, ideas and feelings in the writing center," said Fridley, "the better work we do, and the more warmth and sharing we have in this center — and I really love that."

### Writing Center Workshops

3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

College Skills Classroom  
 WH-225

**April 19:** Bringing Words to Life: Descriptive Writing

**April 26:** To Quote or Not to Quote: Understanding How to Use Quotations

### Writing Center Hours

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday through Friday  
 Learning Center, WH-200

### Get more info online at:

www.linnbenton.edu/go/  
 learning-center/writing-help

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

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Sandra Shinkle presents at the DAC. Photo by Alethea Skinner

## Culture clash: Poverty vs. professionalism

**Alethea Skinner**  
The Commuter

“Culture” is a word we most often think of in connection with the word “discrimination” just as we do ethnicity and racial heritage or social “refinement.” We have laws to prohibit discrimination based upon either one of these factors. After attending and participating in the discussion during this presentation, however, I wondered how many people, unknowingly, have been guilty of engaging in this particular type of discrimination - cultural discrimination based on poverty or professionalism.

On Wednesday, April 7, Sandra Shinkle, director of TRIO Student Support Services and the Diversity Achievement Center, presented a very enlightening seminar addressing these two cultures, which are generally not thought of such; and therefore, they tend to clash when they encounter each other.

Shinkle presented several ways the cultures differ from each other. Two of the most common are time and a quality she called “bank.” She explained how people in the culture of poverty function outside of the realm of time while those in the culture of professionalism function within it, i.e., people in the culture of poverty do things whenever it is convenient for them, while those in the professional culture do things at set times. People in the culture of professionalism often become impatient with those in the culture of poverty because they think lack of punctuality is a sign of lack of care about the job or its specific duties.

According to Shinkle, the problem is that what is the cultural norm for one culture is not the norm for the other which causes cultural clashes. “It is not because they are bad people. When people do not know what the expectations are, they have difficulties adapting,” Shinkle said. She suggested that patience and understanding were keys to successful resolution to the problems.

It is important for those in the culture of poverty to recognize that there is a lot of value in learning the characteristics of the culture of professionalism if they are going to be successful. Shinkle said, “You must learn to move through the vocabulary of that culture, asking if it is the vocabulary of slang or the vocabulary of proper English.”

The seminar was important for everyone, and I wish I had had the information years ago. I would have been a more compassionate supervisor. Also, while we might be a member of the culture of professionalism today, we could suddenly find ourselves in the culture of poverty tomorrow; just like so many that find themselves navigating between the two because of the recent economic downturn.

Approximately 20 members of the LBCC faculty, staff and student body discussed the relevance of gaining this understanding in order to minimize or eliminate the resentment that can occur as individuals move from one culture to the other and how to help them successfully make the transitions or how to make the transitions ourselves, if necessary.

## LBCC throws pottery presentation

**Lacey Jarrell**  
The Commuter

This month LBCC invites students and community members to participate in the spring ceramic workshop at the Benton Center hosted by Japanese artist Nobu Kousai.

During the April 17 workshop, Kousai will style ceramic pots and vases in the school studio while demonstrating his personal techniques of forming and texturing clay.

The workshop also includes a lecture on firing and developing color in Kousai’s own wood-fired Shigaraki-style kiln.

“I am interested in learning everything, all the wood-fire procedure. It’s totally different than gas or electric,” said ceramic student Donna Beckstead.

Instructor Jay Widmer adds, “Shigaraki-style kilns offer a unique spectrum of color because they contain a lot of naturally occurring feldspar.”

Unlike pottery fired in modern kilns, pieces that are fired in a wood kiln are not glazed.



Bonnie Starr throws on the potter’s wheel. Photo by Lacey Jarrell

### Ceramics workshop

**When:** April 17, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Where:** LBCC Benton Center  
**Cost:** \$35.00

**For more info or to register, contact:**  
 Jay Widmer at 541-757-8944 ext. 5106  
 Lin Olson at 541-757-8944 ext. 5114

Natural occurring elements from the wood and ash adhere to the clay during the firing process, giving each piece a unique spectrum of color and dimension.

Kousai is a member of the Hokkaido Pottery Society from Sapporo, Japan. He has been working with clay for many years and has won numerous awards for his work. In 2008, Kousai participated in an exhibit at the Portland Japanese Garden in a special gallery showcase collaborated by Oregon Potter’s Association and the Hokkaido Pottery Society.

According to a news release issued by LBCC, in addition to the demonstration and lecture on Saturday, Kousai will also hold a free slide show and lecture on Friday, April 16, from 7 - 8 p.m. Students

and community members are encouraged to attend.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$35. Students and community members may pre-register at the Benton Center or register in the ceramics studio the day of the event.

## Help find a cure: Meet “The Office”

**Max Brown**  
The Commuter

One dollar could win you a trip to meet the stars of “The Office.”



meet the cast and might have a photo opportunity.

He said he would love to show the winners around Hollywood if they are interested. He wants to make the winner’s stay as

Spinal Cord Injury Research Advancement, an organization devoted to finding a cure for spinal cord injuries, is holding a raffle that would allow the winner a chance to meet the cast of the show. The prize includes two round-trip airline tickets, two-night hotel stay, and transportation to the set to watch a taping of the show. The winner will be chosen on Oct. 23, 2010.

Proceeds go to SCI Research Advancement in an effort to raise \$3 million so they can start working on clinical trials of stem-cell research to find a cure for spinal cord injuries.

Marcus York, a wheelchair-bound actor who has a recurring role on The Office as Billy Merchant, said one of the producers of “The Office” was chatting with him one day and offered to let them raffle a set visit.

The raffle costs \$1 per ticket and individuals can enter as often as they would like to increase their odds of winning. According to the SCI Research Advancement website, the trip is valued at \$4,000. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.SCIcure.org/trip.htm](http://www.SCIcure.org/trip.htm).

York feels this is a great opportunity. He will meet the winner and join them on their trip to the set. York said that the winner will visit the set and watch a taping of the show from the green room. After the taping is done, the winner will

fun as possible.

York is the Southern California representative for SCI Research Advancement and has been working with the organization for some time now. He says the work they do could lead to a cure for spinal cord injuries and other health issues.

“This research could help millions more — people with Parkinson’s, brain injuries, and Alzheimer’s,” York told People magazine.

The organization is attempting to use non-embryonic stem cells to help cure these injuries. SCI Research Advancement claims that the U.S. spends around \$20 billion on SCI care, but less than one percent goes toward research of a cure.

York suffered a spinal cord injury 22 years ago in a car accident and became a paraplegic. He has worked for some time with SCI Research Advancement and has gone to Washington, D.C., to speak about the importance of finding a cure.

He hopes to get James Cameron to offer a similar kind of raffle involving “Avatar 2”. He said he has been working to pitch the idea of a walk-on role in the movie.

For more information on SCI Research Advancement or the contest, visit [www.scicure.org](http://www.scicure.org).

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## The smoke starts to clear

**Max Brown**  
The Commuter

Smoking shelters will soon be on the move at LBCC. LBCC recently had some issues with smoking on campus and violations of the smoke-free workplace laws in Oregon. In response, administrators have started to take steps to correct these issues.

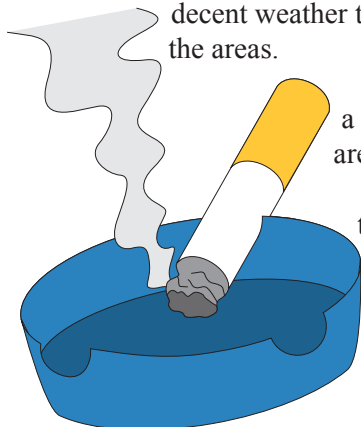
Their plan was to survey students and staff at LBCC and then make changes that would help to encourage compliance with Oregon state laws, while still keeping as many people on campus happy as possible. The problem is smokers leave the smoking shelters and enter non-smoking areas, leaving cigarette butts scattered across the grounds.

According to Marcene Olson, manager of safety and loss prevention at LBCC, the main plan consists of moving certain problem smoking areas to different locations. Some of these include the shelters in front of Takena Hall, Industrial B, and behind McKenzie Hall.

They also plan to move less-commonly used smoking areas to areas that are more popular, so that the new smoking areas will be larger than before.

The area behind McKenzie Hall will be moved east, where it will join a pre-existing smoking area that is located by one of the parking lots. The McKenzie Hall shelter is one of the more popular areas.

Scott Krambuhl, director of facilities, said they have not started to set a timeline for moving the shelters, but he thinks they will start sometime this month. He said they were waiting for information about the surveys and now they just need some decent weather to start digging holes and preparing the areas.



He feels these changes will have a positive effect in the high-impact areas, and other problem spots.

“We’re optimistic that it’s going to make a difference at Takena Hall, because we really want to move everything out and away from the entry area ... So there’s a real clear distinction of where you can do it, and where you can’t,” Krambuhl said.

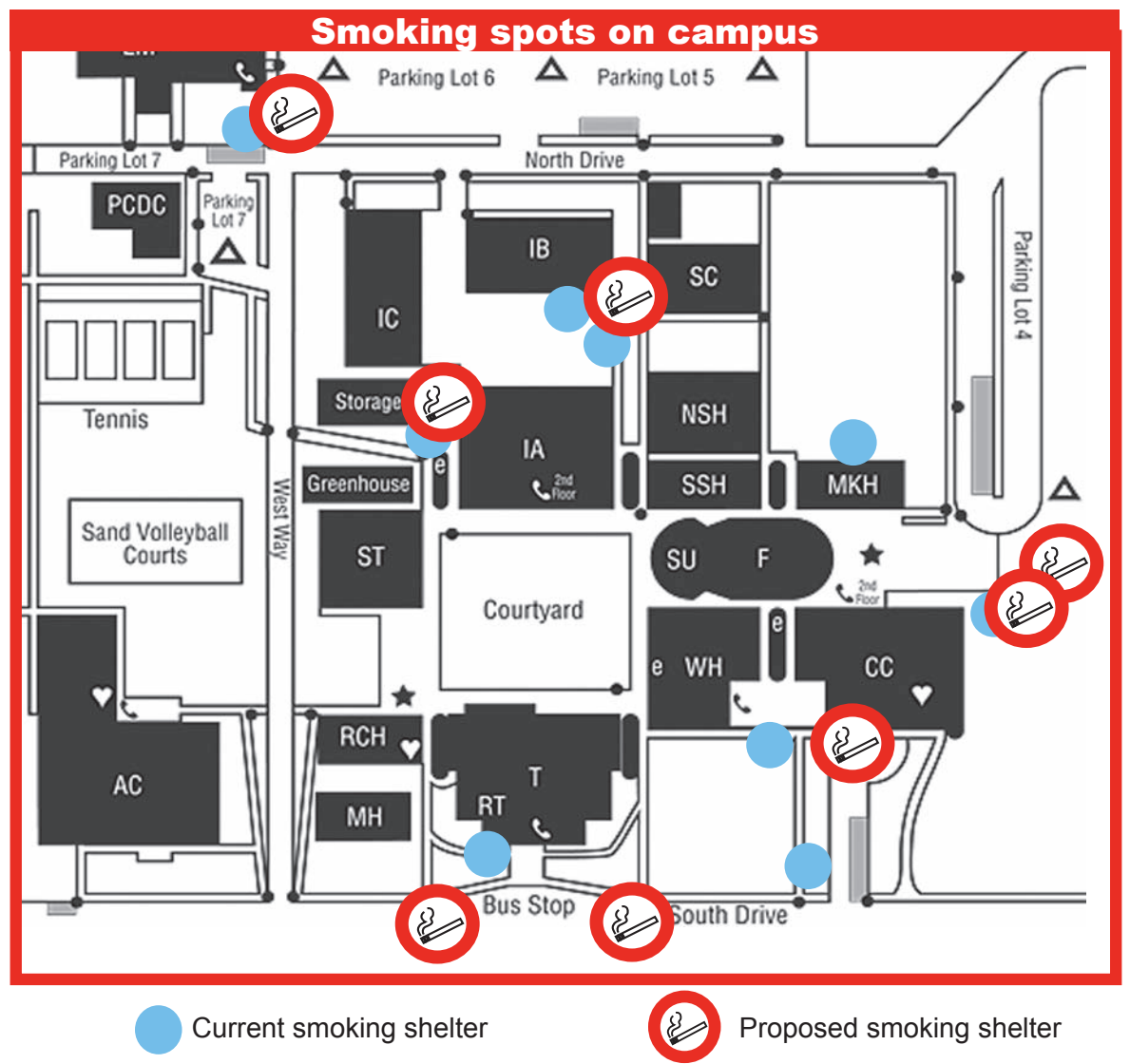
Olson said the survey showed many people were fine with moving the shelters further out, if they were maintained a little better. The major complaint received from the survey had to do with maintenance of the shelters, such as leaky roofs or lack of cigarette butt clean-up.

As the school moves around the shelters, they plan to look into other cigarette butt disposals, which would help with how often maintenance is needed to empty cigarette disposals. Olson suggests if someone finds a issue with the shelters they should report it to facilities.

Krambuhl said the survey gave a wide range of responses, and he feels it gathered enough information. He said they really want to work with the people using the smoking areas so they can keep as many people happy as possible.

If these changes don’t succeed at getting people to comply with the smoking regulations, the administration intends to revisit the issue and come up with new plans. Olson said they could cite people for disobeying the rules if needed; the cited students could then be referred to student affairs.

“We want to keep it as positive as possible. We don’t want to start making this a punitive thing ... Hopefully everyone sees it as a social responsibility to adhere to the smoke-free workplace law and LBCC’s policies,” Olson said.



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**Oregon State**  
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Opinion

Submissions to The Commuter:
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu
Drop-in: Forum 222

A word from your local ASG

I wanted to start this article with a congratulatory statement addressed to last week's survey drawing winner; however, after the dismal turnout for survey participation, I am currently seeing what can be done to reward each of those who did take the survey with a share of the prize or another compromise of sorts.



Nic Bowman

The survey was only open for three days and asked three questions of its takers - how often do they read the ASG article, if they've ever directly benefitted from the information in the article, and what they would want to read about in articles to come. Each participant was entered into a drawing for a \$50 Food Service Coupon Book. In total, two surveys were taken. The results of the survey have prompted more questions than they have answered. Does anyone read our article? Was the incentive enticing enough? Did students have enough time to take the survey?

This week I would like to use this space to tell readers about how the ASG and SPB are teaming up for another survey. As we near the end of our time in office, this year's team would like to gather and pass on any information that could help next year's officers be successful in serving the students they represent. Some readers may be wondering why, especially after the low turnout of the last survey, we would choose to issue another survey. We must not abandon attempts to gather valuable information from students about students. The needs and wants of a student body can be the blanket that covers us all in unity. (OK, that last line was a little cheesy, but you get the picture. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!) This time though, Commuter readers will not be our only target, nor will the Commuter be our only attempt to gather this information.

This survey will run from April 14 - April 27 and will offer participants yet another chance to share their thoughts, and possibly win some great stuff too. Please return this survey to the SL&L office (located next to the Hot Shot Cafe) or stop in for another copy.

The views of the ASG do not necessarily reflect those of The Commuter. Any questions or comments can be directed to the Student Life & Leadership office.

ASG/ SPB Survey

- 1.) Have you ever attended a SPB event?
[ ]Yes [ ]No
If yes, which event?
2.) What events would you be most interested in attending?
[ ]Dances [ ]Concerts [ ]Sporting events
[ ]Tournaments (3 on 3 basketball, flag football...)
[ ]Resource Fairs [ ]Educational Speakers
[ ]Community Service Projects [ ] Blood drives
[ ]Study Jam [ ]Events for the whole family
[ ]Other

- 3.) How do you find out about events and activities on campus?
[ ]The Commuter [ ]Bulletin Boards [ ]Flyers
[ ]Word of mouth [ ]Instructors [ ]LBCC Website
[ ]Posters [ ]I don't pay attention/other
4.) What makes attending school difficult for you?
[ ]Cost [ ]Child care [ ]Difficulty of courses
[ ]Nothing [ ]Other

- 5.) Why are you attending college?
[ ]I want to make more money [ ]I was bored
[ ]I am a displaced worker seeking new skills
[ ]Continued job training [ ]It's what my parents told me to do after high school
[ ]Other
6.) If you could change one thing about LBCC what would it be?

Adam LaMascus
The Commuter

In 1939, the Soviet Union helped Nazi Germany invade Poland. In 1940 the Soviets decided to take extra steps to keep the eastern portion of Poland under their control. They took 22,000 Polish officers and intellectuals, the best and the brightest of the country, into the Katyn Forest and killed them. Russia has never officially apologized for this action. On Saturday, April 10, a plane transporting a large delegation containing most of the top members of the Polish government crashed at the Smolensk airport, near the Katyn Forest, killing all 97 people on board. They were flying to the site of the massacre to mark its 70th anniversary.

With this devastating loss, Poland has lost a tremendous amount of history and talent. On board the plane were President Lech Kaczynski and his wife, Maria, a humanitarian dedicated to helping the unfortunate. Some of the other people killed were: Ryszard Kaczorowski, former president of the Polish government-in-exile during the Nazi occupation; Anna Walentynowicz, who helped spark a series of protests that helped end the communist regime in Poland; Wojciech Seweryn, a sculptor who

lived in Chicago; Slawomir Skrzypek, head of the Polish National Bank, whose leadership made Poland the only European country not to be hit by the recession; Janusz Kochanowski, civil rights commissioner; and Janusz Kurtyka, a historian in charge of the National Remembrance Institute, an organization that releases Nazi and Soviet era documents to help raise awareness. Many family members of the Katyn victims were also aboard.

In addition to the huge cultural blow struck to the nation, there was a massive political blow as well. Numerous advisers, head of the presidential office, chief of the National Security Office, army chief of staff, navy vice admiral, chief general of the air force, chief general of the ground forces, deputy foreign minister, chief army chaplain, deputy parliament speaker, Polish Olympic Committee head, two presidential aides and three chief lawmakers were among those killed in the tragedy.

Initial reports indicate the pilot crashed due to heavy fog, and possibly mechanical problems. They were flying in a Tupolev Tu-154, an aging Soviet-era aircraft with a dangerous safety record that was the workhorse of the USSR and its republics during the 1970s and 1980s. Russia has

stopped using them and Poland has been discussing replacing them for years, but decided that they lacked the funds to do so.

Understanding the delicacy of the situation, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin immediately flew to the site of the disaster and pledged to personally lead the investigation. However, theories of conspiracy are already beginning to appear, especially because the Polish president was a lifelong critic of Russia and many of the politicians next in the line of succession are members of the opposing political party.

According to the Telegraph, a British news source, the Russian investigators believe the crash was largely caused by "VIP Passenger Syndrome;" in this case the pilot attempted to land because the president urged him to. The Russian delegation cited an example in 2008 where President Kaczynski tried to fire his pilot after the man refused to land at a Georgian airport due to concerns of a nearby battle. The Polish delegation says that there is no evidence that the president put any undue stress on Arkadiusz Protasiuk, the pilot.

Poland is now in the process of preparing to hold elections and promoting officials to fill the rather sizeable gaps left by this devastating loss.

Perspectives:

What do you think of kilts?



Kaveh Negahbani
Graphic Design

"I don't really know. I haven't put much thought to it. I've kind of wondered what they wear underneath them though."



Scott Landergren
Journalism

"They're not for me, but I suppose if that's the culture you were in I'm all for it. You gotta embrace where you're from."



Rebekah Cray
Art

"I think they were good in their own era. If you're not going to wear underwear then I wouldn't go for it."



William Scott Stanley, of the Clan Sinclair
Criminal Justice

"They are the best thing in the world."



Mike Wilbur
Biology

"I think anyone can wear a kilt as long as they wear something under it."

**The Commuter**  
**Editor-In-Chief:** Max Brown  
**Opinion Editor:** Adam LaMascus  
**Newsroom Desk:** 541-917-4451  
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# Opinion

**Submissions to The Commuter:**  
**E-mail:** commuter@linnbenton.edu  
**Drop-in:** Forum 222

## Mutually assured stupidity

**Jeb Oliver**  
 The Commuter

In the news recently, we have seen the political banter between President Obama and former governor Sarah Palin over the current administration's change in America's stance on the use of nuclear weapons.

Palin's comment toward Obama in which she said, "You're like a kid who says, 'Punch me in the face, and I'm not going to retaliate,'" popped up on Yahoo News. Obama's response to her statement was simple and sweet: "I really have no response. Because last I checked, Sarah Palin's not much of an expert on nuclear issues." Beyond all this political mud-slinging, what is really going on with this? What has changed? Is America really less able to defend itself?

With the little research I have done, I have found that America has decided not to use nuclear weapons against anyone who has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. And because of this, both Iran and North Korea remain on the nuclear hit list.

So what's the issue? In my mind it's simple: the nuclear bomb is a useful military tool, and while I abhor the use of such a destructive weapon, I must admit that the bomb itself is a huge deterrent to nations everywhere

who would otherwise have ambitions to flex their muscles and start a conflict. The fact that this bomb is on the table, as you might say, is to remind everyone that we are prepared to defend ourselves, our allies, and our interests with everything in our inventory. It shows that our resolve is steady and we are able and willing, under certain circumstances, to use nuclear weapons to prevent conflict in the world.

Sadly, this is necessary in the world in which we live. If we take a look at the Cold War, we can see that no one ended up nuking each other. Why? Well, this is left to debate, but I'm assuming that MAD (mutually assured destruction) had something to do with it. Do I agree with President Obama? Well, not really, though at least we are still willing to use them, if need be, against rogue states. Do I think Palin knows what she is saying? Obviously she is mudslinging and avoiding the fact that we are willing to defend ourselves.

Now, do I wish we lived in a world without weapons of mass destruction? Yes. What sane person wouldn't? But the reality is far different, and as long as any political enemy has the ability or will to use weapons of mass destruction, we must be ready to show that we are willing to use ours as well.

## Newsflash: The Cold War is over

**Adam LaMascus**  
 The Commuter

The United States, and particularly Russia, don't seem to understand that the Cold War ended about 20 years ago. Last weekend, I read a report by Time Magazine which discussed the recent revolution in Kyrgyzstan that seems to have ousted the pro-U.S. President Bakiyev. According to the report, members of the revolutionary government stated that Russia "played a role" in inciting the revolution. Also, Vladimir Putin, Russia's prime minister, called the new president to offer her government money, support, and a "special relationship" with the Kremlin, in addition to pushing her to close the U.S. Military base in Kyrgyzstan, which we use as a major staging point for our actions in Afghanistan. She hasn't ended the contract, but she more than tripled the rent to keep the base open from \$17 million annually to \$63 million.

Another report released last year by the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs stated that just before Obama was elected, U.S./Russian relations were at their lowest point since the Cold War. I can understand some of their discomfort, as we have been doing our fair share of things to make them uncomfortable. Putting anti-missile batteries in Poland, supposedly to defend Poland and Western Europe from Iran's missiles, was not a good step. Iran lacks missiles with that type of range, and they don't really seem to care about Poland, since Israel, the U.S., and the U.K. are their usual targets of hate. Also, our continued expansion of NATO, an alliance originally created to counter the U.S.S.R., has made Russia antsy.

However, our actions and Russia's

responses are totally disproportionate. We announce plans to install anti-missile batteries, they announce we are starting a second Cuban Missile Crisis (there is a big difference between installing anti-missile batteries and installing Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles) and that they will target their nuclear missiles on any country that works militarily with us. We announce Georgia is going to join NATO, so they invade Georgia and trash it, supposedly to protect the rights of the people of South Ossetia. We criticize their ruthless repression of the solidarity movement in Chechnya and their increasingly authoritarian control of their own country, they help Kyrgyzstan overthrow its pro-U.S. government, and complain we are encroaching on their "sphere of influence." "Sphere of influence?" What is this, the early 20th century, when we "superior" Europeans used our wealth to "civilize" those heathens in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East that fell under our "sphere of influence?"

Russia, the Cold War is over. You are no longer a global empire that makes the world quake in fear. Get over it. Move into the 21st century and actually try to make the world a better place.

One last thing: I particularly enjoyed reading a report from the European Union Institute for Security Studies which discussed how when George Bush met Putin, he said he looked him in the eyes and "got the sense of his soul." In reply, John McCain said that when he looked into Putin's eyes, he saw the letters "KGB." (Putin was a fairly high ranking officer in the KGB, the national security, intelligence, and secret police agency of the Soviet Union.) I think McCain hit the nail on the head with that comment.

## Back in the day

**Adam LaMascus**  
 The Commuter

**This week in history...**

**April 14, 1912: The movie was terrible ...**

The RMS Titanic hits an iceberg and sinks, killing 1,517 people. They said the Titanic was unsinkable, which pretty much guaranteed it was going to be sunk. Also, the movie didn't deserve all those Academy Awards.

**April 15, 1865: The Great Emancipator ...**

President Abraham Lincoln dies after having been shot in the head the previous night by John Wilkes Booth. He was one tough guy to hold on that long with a .44 caliber lead ball in his brain. He is rightfully considered by many historians to be one of our greatest presidents.

**April 16, 1912: Bad timing ...**

Harriet Quimby becomes the first woman to fly over the English Channel. Unfortunately, because it happened only two days after the Titanic sunk, the event received practically no media attention. Harriet was tragically killed two months later when her plane crashed during the Third Annual Boston Aviation Meet. She was the first woman in the U.S. to acquire an aviation license. 1912 seems like a bad year.

**April 17, 1961: CIA = Arrogance ...**

The Bay of Pigs invasion is launched, and fails. Somebody thought that 1,300 Cuban exiles and two CIA agents would be able to overthrow the Cuban government and the 225,000 soldiers on the island. Amazingly enough, it took three days for the Cubans to defeat the exiles.

**April 18, 1942: Doolittle does much ...**

The U.S. launches the "Doolittle Raid." Lt. Col. James "Jimmy" Doolittle takes 80 men and 16 B-25 medium bombers, and flies from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet to bomb the Japanese home island of Honshu. Fifteen planes crash and 11 men are killed, but the mission is a success, demonstrating Japan is vulnerable, and providing a morale boost for the U.S. An excellent first-hand account is the book "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo," by Capt. Ted W. Lawson.

**April 19, 1987: D'oh!!!**

"The Simpsons" airs for the first time on "The Tracey Ullman Show." Originally it was a short cartoon. Where would the world be without you, Homer? Mmmm ... donuts ...

**April 20, 1926: Silence isn't golden ...**

Warner Bros. announces the Vitaphone, a new invention and process by which movies have sound! Hundreds of actors and actresses have their careers fail when suddenly they are expected to do more than make dramatic faces. These early films are known as "Talkies." I'm pretty sure "Ahnuld" Schwarzenegger's voice single-handedly made this revolutionary leap to sound worth it.

**Thought for the Week:**

"Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves..."

-Abraham Lincoln

**The Commuter**

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# Feature

Something a little different.

**Spiderweb**

by Kay Ryan

From other angles the fibers look fragile, but not from the spider's, always hauling coarse ropes, hitching lines to the best posts possible. It's heavy work everywhere, fighting sag, winching up give. It isn't ever delicate to live.



Robin Havenick is sending a Kay Ryan poem-a-week in honor of poetry month and future visit from the U.S. Poet Laureate. This is a poem from her most recently published collection.



Above: The Poetry Tree, located in the main campus library, gives an opportunity for students to hang their poetry. Later this term, the tree will be planted outside to offer students a place for quiet contemplation.

Right: David Bailey, civil engineering major, explores the "Words and Letters" exhibit in the SSH Gallery, where poetry and calligraphy students collaborated to create an artistic display.

Photos by Justin Bolger

## Poetry takes root on campus

Justin Bolger  
The Commuter

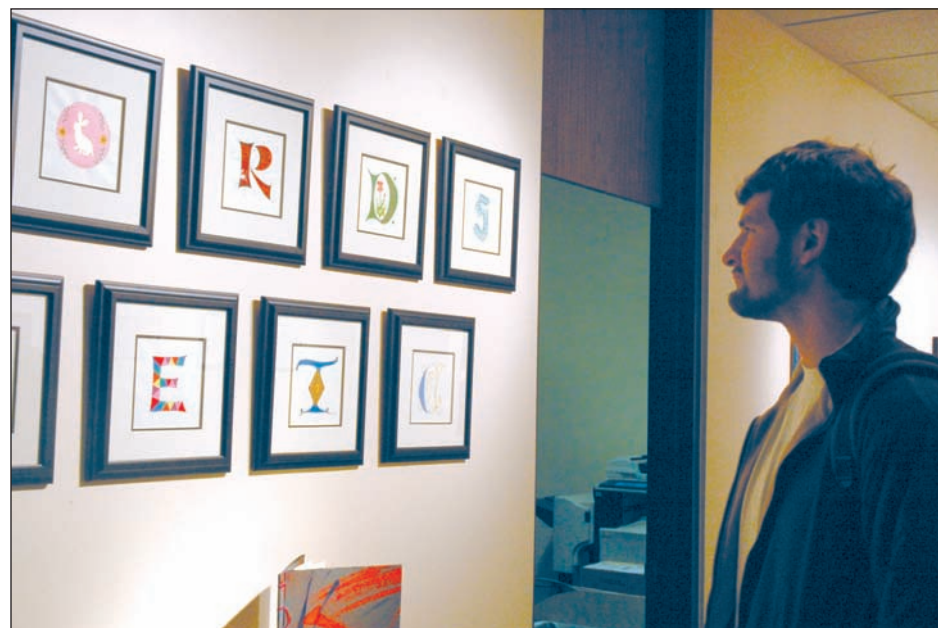
There are several poetry displays cropping up all around campus in celebration of Poetry Month. This week The Commuter is featuring both the Poetry Tree and the "Words and Letters" exhibit.

The Poetry Tree, located in the main campus library, offers an opportunity for students to hang their poetry for all the campus to see. Currently, it acts as a lure to the display of finalists in U.S. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan's national community college poetry contest. According to Robin Havenick, poetry club advisor and LBCC literature instructor, the tree will eventually be

moved to the outside, acting as a place for students to relax and contemplate.

"Words and Letters" shows off the collaboration between 17 LBCC poets and nine calligraphy students of Yuki Tanaka, a calligraphy instructor at LBCC. The display is located in the South Santiam Hall Gallery, and will be there until April 30.

A reception for the exhibit will be held on April 14 from noon - 1 p.m., tying in directly with the neighboring silent auction, which will serve as a benefit for the Valley Writers Series. The auction features about 20 works by local artists including LBCC faculty and former faculty according an email from gallery coordinator Rich Bergeman.



## Office Hours: Q&A with Robin Havenick

Justin Bolger  
The Commuter

**The Commuter:** What classes do you teach at LBCC?

**Robin Havenick:** American Literature, African American Literature, Minority American Literature - it's all connected! and writing classes.

**C:** How long have you been with LBCC?

**RH:** Ten years full time.

**C:** What other teaching experience do you have?

**RH:** Hmm, aside from community college teaching, I taught writing classes at the University of Florida as a graduate student. I also volunteered as a writing teacher in my kids' schools (grade school, middle school, high school) as they were growing up.

**C:** Could you tell me about

your family?

**RH:** My husband, who has a day job as a pathologist, plays sax in a local band: RoughJazz. My daughter is studying literature and the philosophy of environmental sustainability at OSU, and my son is studying acting in Chicago at Northwestern University.

**C:** What sparked your interest in poetry and writing in general?

**RH:** It's been there from the beginning, so it's impossible to locate the "spark" really. I do remember the thrill of hearing poetry read aloud - amazed by the magic of words. Then trying to write it myself and finding my own ways towards that same thrill.

**C:** Who is your favorite poet / What is your favorite poem?

**RH:** If you ask my students, they'll tell you that my favorite



Robin Havenick

Photo by LBCC

poet is Walt Whitman: "I loafe and invite my soul," but these days we're reading the moderns in American Lit and Robert Frost has taken center stage: "Poetry is a way of remembering what it would impoverish us to forget." My children would say Mary Oliver: "Happiness / when it is done right / is a kind of holiness / palpable

and redemptive." My husband would say Kay Ryan. I'm reading her poetry to him these days as I get ready to meet her and I guess she's become my current fave.

**C:** What other hobbies / interests do you have?

**RH:** Listening to music. And then all the usuals for a northwesterner: running,

### Where to find Robin Havenick

Office: NSH - 214

Phone: 541-917-4574

E-mail:

robin.havenick@linnbenton.edu

Office Hours:

Monday / Wednesday  
1 - 2 p.m.Tuesday  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.In the Writing Center:  
Monday 2 - 3 p.m.

hiking, summer swimming in high mountain lakes.

**C:** How would you describe your teaching philosophy?

**RH:** Trust my students, share my reverence for the material, enjoy the connections. I love the community that is our college, the community created in my classrooms. I feel honored every day.



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# Feature

Something a little different.

## LB hosts U.S. poet laureate

Brady Shields  
 for The Commuter

How often does LBCC host a nationally known writer? Kay Ryan, our nation's 16th Poet Laureate, is coming to campus this May. Ryan will give a poetry reading (free and open to the public) on Wednesday, May 12, at 4 p.m. in the Tripp Theater.

She'll follow the reading with a Q&A session, and then participate in a book signing. On Thursday, May 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the Library Reading Room, she will have an informal Q&A with students.

Not familiar with Ryan's work? Robin Havenick, writing instructor and Poetry Club advisor, suggested trying her most recent publication, "The Best of It."

"I like this one especially because it's a selection of her previous collections as well as new poems."

The LBCC bookstore and Grass Roots Books and Music in Corvallis will be carrying Ryan's works:

- **The Best of It: New and Selected Poems** (Grove Press, 2010) Includes selections from her last five books, adding 23 new poems and one from 1965.
- **The Niagara River** (Grove Press, 2005)
- **Say Uncle** (Grove Press, 2000)
- **Elephant Rocks** (Grove Press, 1996)
- **Flamingo Watching** (Copper Beech Press, 1994)
- **Strangely Marked Metal** (Copper Beech Press, 1985)
- **Dragon Acts to Dragon Ends** (1983) (out of print)

Armed with one of these poetry tomes, you'll be ready to discuss and study Ryan's work and style with the Poetry Club, and you're invited.

"We'll get together every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in the Library Reading Room. Won't you join us?" invites a smiling Havenick.

### Poetry reading

May 12, 4 p.m. Tripp Theater

### Q&A and book signing

May 13, 9:30 a.m. Library reading room

# Prepare to lead with poetry

Justin Bolger  
 The Commuter

Will you be LBCC's next Student Poet Laureate?

Later this term, the Poetry Advisory Committee will release the application forms for next year's poet laureate. All students who are interested should start planning their submissions now.

Application submissions will require a selection of the candidate's poetry, a number of references, and an essay focused on the student's "vision of poetry advocacy" according to Robin Havenick, the Poetry Club advisor and LBCC literature instructor. The 2009 poet laureate submission form asked for six examples of poetry, one faculty recommendation, and a three page essay.

According to the 2009 submission form, the duties include working with the Poetry Club advisor, which is currently Havenick, taking an active role in the enhancement of poetry at college events and among students, as well as writing a poem of commemoration for major campus events.

"The position doesn't come with specific requirements," said Havenick, "One creates their vision and then works to make it come true."

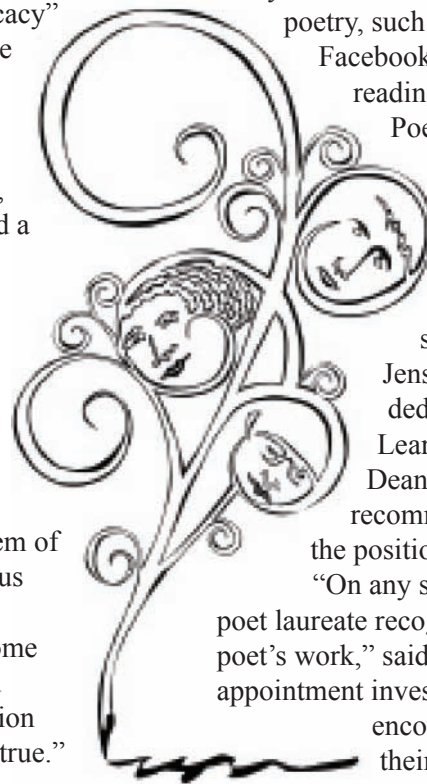
LBCC's second poet laureate, Amy Earls, has been "extraordinarily productive" according to Havenick. She has written poetry to honor our previous president, Rita Cavin, the dedication of Madrone Hall, and the U.S. Poet Laureate, Kay Ryan. Her other endeavors include leading the Poetry Club, representing the "power of poetry" by speaking at community events and writing a poem-a-week to share with the campus.

Our first Student Poet Laureate, Kaedence Eaton, put her energy into creating many outlets for students to share their own poetry, such as starting LBCC's Poetry Facebook page and organizing student readings according to the LBCC Poetry History and Vision.

She was given LBCC's Outstanding Student of the Year award.

Havenick says that the position was originally suggested by Cavin after Peter Jensen read his own poem at the dedication of the Library and Learning Center. Gary Ruppert, Dean of Instruction, and Havenick recommended that a student holds the position.

"On any stage, the appointment of a poet laureate recognizes and encourages the poet's work," said Havenick, "Equally, the appointment invests in the poet's promise to encourage and promote poetry in their community's lives."



## Keepers of tradition: 21st annual Scottish Heritage Festival

Maggie O'Reilly  
 The Commuter

On April 10, the Linn County Fair and Expo Center hosted the 2010 Scottish Heritage Festival. This festival is put on every year by the Oregon Scottish Society. They hold monthly events in hopes of celebrating and educating the community about Scottish-American culture, as well as it's history.

The festival included vendors selling custom tartan kilts, imported goods from Scotland, and information about over 20 local clans such as Gordon, McRae, Cian and Sinclair just to name a few. Traditional Scottish fare was served such as Shepard's pie, "bangers" (pork sausage) and blackberry cobbler. The Scottish Heritage Festival

featured the musical talent of Peter Willis, Rebecca Lomnicky and David Brewer. Also performing was "Kitchen Ceilidh," a Scottish women's a capella group, as well as several talented bagpipers. In addition, the Portland branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was invited to perform several classical dance numbers.

If you missed this year's festival, you can log on to the Oregon Scottish Society website at [www.oregonscottishsociety.com](http://www.oregonscottishsociety.com), to stay posted about next year. If you're interested in more Scottish festivals, the Portland Highland Games will be July 16 - 17 at Mt. Hood Community College, information about it can be found at <http://www.phga.org>.



Top Left: Chris Stenerson poses in his Scottish garb.

Top Right: Rebecca Lomnicky, Peter Willis, & David Brewer play for the crowd.

Photos by Maggie O'Reilly

Left: Dancers from the Royal Scottish Dance Society entertain the audience with a Scottish jig.

Photo by Ashley Christie

**The Commuter**  
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# Campus News

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

## Deadline looms for LBCC scholarships

**Audrey Gomez**  
for The Commuter

Thousands of dollars in scholarship money is now available through LBCC's Financial Aid Office.

Currently, 43 scholarships worth more than \$55,000 are listed in the scholarship database for the 2010-11 school year. Scholarships may be combined with federal and state grants, and student loans to cover tuition, books, child care and living expenses.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on April 23.

The Financial Aid Department regularly runs workshops to help students with the application process. A Scholarship Workshop is scheduled on campus this week at the Diversity Achievement Center today from noon to 1 p.m.

The Writing Center, located upstairs in Willamette Hall, is also available to help with scholarship essays and applications. In addition to helping students with assignments, Writing Center Coordinator Victoria Fridley stresses that the Center provides "help with writing outside of classes – resumes, cover letters, scholarship essays, and creative writing that is not part of a class."

The Writing Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Scholarship information and LBCC's scholarship application are located online at [www.linnbenton.edu/go/scholarships](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/scholarships).

"Every year many scholarships go unawarded due to a lack of qualified applicants," noted LBCC's online scholarship page.

### Scholarship Submission Deadline

**Spring Deadline:**  
April 23, 5 p.m.

**Where:**  
Submit applications to the Financial Aid Office (TH - 117)

### Scholarship Workshops

**When:** April 14, noon - 1 p.m.  
**Where:** Diversity Achievement Center (F-220)

### More Information:

**LBCC Financial Aid** - [www.linnbenton.edu/go/scholarships](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/scholarships)  
**FAFSA** - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
**Writing Center** - [www.linnbenton.edu/go/learning-center/writing-help](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/learning-center/writing-help)

## Financial Aid Schedule

Day	Financial Aid Hours	Telephones	Limited Service
Monday	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Counter Only
Tuesday	1 - 5 p.m.	1 - 5 p.m.	Drop-Ins/ Counter
Wednesday	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Drop-Ins/ Counter
Thursday	Awarding	Use SIS	Use SIS
Friday	Awarding	Use SIS	Use SIS

Limited Service will be available to all financial aid customers according to financial aid office handouts. However, due to the increase in financial aid applications, the office will need to alter their counter hours to award files.

Financial Aid advisors will be available to meet with drop-in customers on the posted drop-in days. The Financial Aid staff strongly encourages students to use the Student Info System (SIS) for updates on your pending financial aid. We ask that you refrain from calling other staff or departments to answer any of your financial aid questions. Please leave messages at 541-917-4850. Telephone calls will be returned within 48 hours.

## Classifieds

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

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

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

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

### Help Wanted

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

### Wildland Firefighting

(#7929, Oregon) The dispatch location is out of Philomath, but you can be sent just about anywhere. Another exciting summer job! They will also be at the LBCC Career Fair.

### LBCC Career & Community Resource Fair

(LBCC) Employers want to talk to YOU about your career field and 43 are even recruiting! Go to [www.linnbenton.edu/go/careerfair](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/careerfair), "Job Seeker Links" to see "Sample Questions", "Career Fair Tips" to prepare for this wonderful opportunity to visit with them. "Participating Employers" tells you who is coming.

### Management Trainee (#7907)

This full-time position is an opportunity to get experience. You must be able to work an irregular schedule and be able to relocate if need be. Must be 21 or older.

### Marketplace

**Rebecca's Cleaning Service:** Clean houses, apartments, offices. Regular housecleaning (weekly, biweekly & monthly). New house construction cleaning & special event cleaning. Call Rebecca at (541)760-8791 or email me at [rebecaalmazan@msn.com](mailto:rebecaalmazan@msn.com).

### Alaska Seafood Processor

(#7917, Alaska) Now is the time to get your summer job. Why not throw in some adventure on your days off? When you don't have to pay for room & board, it's like a big wage increase.

## Veterans Office Schedule

Day	Veterans Office Hours	Telephones
Monday	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday	1 - 5 p.m.	1 - 5 p.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Thursday	8:30 a.m. - noon	8:30 a.m. - noon
Friday	8:30 a.m. - noon	8:30 a.m. - noon

Limited Service will be available to all Veterans, effective April 19 - September 17, 2010. Please leave your messages at 541-917-4858. Telephone calls will be returned within 48 hours.

## THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

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

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### Letters Welcome

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. 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](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu)

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**The Commuter**  
**Editor-In-Chief:** Max Brown  
**Sports Editor:** Erik Bender  
**Newsroom Desk:** 541-917-4451  
**E-mail:** commuter@linnbenton.edu

# SPORTS

News about local and national sports and activities.

## Storm takes down LB

**Erik Bender**  
 The Commuter

The weather finally opened up and allowed LBCC to play a doubleheader Saturday against the Chemeketa Storm. Unfortunately for the Roadrunners (0-4), both games went in favor of Chemeketa (4-2), 8-5 and 2-1.

The pace of the first game started slow with both teams not able to bring in a runner until the bottom of the fourth. That's when Roadrunners' first baseman Mason Brause hit the only home run of the game, bringing the score to 1-0.

Chemeketa quickly answered, using their fifth inning to catch and pass LBCC with Kyle Willet, Ryan Bell and Grant Mascolo all getting RBIs, putting LBCC down by four and tiring out LBCC pitcher Cameron Dixon, who started the game strong with four strikeouts.

"We battled back to tighten it up and threaten, but just had too many downs to really make a comeback and win that ball game," said Head Coach Greg Hawk.

LBCC came back to score four more runs with Carl Beckert tallying an RBI and scoring a run of his own, bringing the Roadrunners within two runs. But it wasn't enough to stop the Storm.

"We made some poor decisions and mental mistakes, but we are improving," said first baseman Reese Miller who went 3 of 4. "We need to hit the ball a lot better; [Chemeketa] is very disciplined at the plate and



Reese Miller gets Chemeketa's Michael Lowe out.

Photo by Erik Bender

they're going to be tough to beat in the future but I think we can take care of them."

The Storm hit a double then a run in the first inning of the second game, and wouldn't score another run until the fourth, when Mascolo got an RBI, putting Chemeketa up by two.

At the bottom of the sixth, LBCC's Jake Likewise hit a fly ball leading to miscommunication by the Storm's outfielders, and allowing the Roadrunners score a run and bring the game to within one until the game's end.

"It was a heartbreaking loss," said Coach Hawk. "I felt they were very patient. We got our run on a mishandled ball but I give them credit. Their pitcher threw well in the second game."

LBCC's next home game is April 15 at 1 p.m. against Southwestern Community College.

## Baseball team builds for future

**Chris Foster**  
 The Commuter

Crash of the bat, smell of the field, cheer of the fans. It must be time for baseball.

This season, the head coach of Linn Benton's men's baseball team, Greg Hawk, will be leading a new group of players on the path to the NWAACC championships. With a team full of freshmen and four losses already on this season's record, the players have their work cut out for them.

This year's roster only has seven returning players from last year. The other 24 players are new to the Roadrunners' line-up.

So far, this season has had a "slow start," according to Coach Hawk. With numerous injuries and bad weather this spring, the players have not had the time to practice as a team.

LBCC has the means

to play a great season. Starting in September, potential players are trained for the upcoming spring season. In November, the regimen turns to weight training. Paired with the training are classes that teach playing skills, techniques and ethics of the sport. Hawk says that the game teaches players skills that can be used as life applications.

The roster is made up of players that have been "scouted" from high schools and other teams. Walk-ons and tryouts are rare, if even possible. So, the team does have the talent. It's just a matter of getting everything together.

Past players have gone on to play in higher level programs, such as the Corvallis Knights. Pitchers Liam Baron out of Gonzaga University and Trevor Smith from University of Oregon played for LBCC before moving on.

Before official league games started, LBCC's team played 14 preseason games. The first game was played March 6 this year. For the remaining 30 games, Coach Hawk and Associate Coach Harvey Miller hope to get the roster playing together as a unit.

The season plays out till May 20 with games at 1 p.m. With seven home dates left, students and fans can take the opportunity to cheer on the Roadrunners as they set their sights on the championship in Longview, Wash. The NWAACC playoffs start on May 27.

No matter how this season turns out, Hawk believes that next season will be even stronger. If this season turns out well, there is no telling how far the experienced returning players will take LBCC's baseball team next season.

**Sunday**

**4/18**

### 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

1 p.m. • Activities Center

The first annual LBCC 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will feature Men's, Women's and Coed Divisions. Entry forms can be picked up in AC102 and must be turned in by April 14. There is a \$20 entry fee per team. For more information, contact Teresa Guerra at 541-917-4239.

## The Student Programming Board Needs YOU!



**Apply to be an SPB Specialist!**

**Applications accepted noon April 7 through noon April 27.**

*Pick up your application form at Student Life & Leadership.*

**Tuition grants awarded for winter & spring terms!**

*Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE*

*LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.*

**Questions? Contact Allison at 541-917-4463**

## It's a SOCCER Tailgate Party!

**Saturday, April 17**

**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. • LBCC west field**

**LBCC Runners vs. W.O.U.**



**Come cheer on THE RUNNERS at their last game of the season!**



**Questions? Contact Allison at 541-917-4963 spbteam@linnbenton.edu.**

*Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## Epic adventures at game con

**Max Brown**  
 The Commuter

I spent my weekend avoiding homework and playing a ridiculous amount of nerdy games. It was awesome!

This was Just a Game Con at the Benton County Fairgrounds. The event lasted from Saturday at 10 a.m. until Sunday at 6 p.m. I didn't spend the full 32 hours at the con, but I did show up for both days.

Most of the games I played were either card games or other board games. Around midnight on Saturday I played an extremely silly and fun game of Toon, a table top pen and paper role-playing game.

For the game of Toon, which is an older game, you make a very simple cartoon character by rolling a few dice for stats and then deciding what you look like. I ended up going with Admiral Akbar as a Jedi Knight named Itssa



Tarp, a play off the Internet meme (viral Internet content) quoting Akbar in "Return of the Jedi" and his famous line "IT'S A TRAP!"

Well, what started out as a Jedi Knight ended up being Sith because of other members of the party. Needless to say, the game was extremely ridiculous. Dominion was probably my favorite game I played at Game Con. Matt Ashland, owner of Matt's

Cavalcade of Comics, mentioned the game to me months ago, but I never had a chance to play it until this weekend. I wish I would have picked it up the day he told me about it.

Unlike a number of nerdy card games where you build your deck, then play, the whole purpose of Dominion is to build a deck as you play. The game consists of players taking turns using their decks to obtain more cards, which they shuffle into their decks and use in their following turns.

To be honest, when I first heard of this game I thought it seemed a little conceptually bland, but I was wrong. The game ends up being exciting, fun and fast. Most of the time when I played it, the game didn't last more than 30 minutes or so.

I barely checked out the TV room, which had anime available to watch and some gaming systems to play. They had a projector hooked up to one system, which usually had Street Fighter going. The TV room typically shares space with the LAN (Local Area Network) computers but I don't think anyone brought computers this year.

This year was one of my favorite years at Just a Game Con, for sure. The games were a ton of fun and I got to meet a lot of new people while playing games, which is always a good time. Although now I feel the need to spend a copious amount of money on some new games. Come on, financial aid!

## Ooodles of noodles

**Krista Goeke**  
 The Commuter

Albany's new authentic Thai restaurant offers curries, soups, stir-fries and, of course, noodles. House of Noodles' flavors of Thailand come through with a variety of choices for different tastes.

The orange and peachy stucco décor leave a faint glimpse of the previous restaurant's influence, but the food is definitely pure Thai flavor.

I know what I want even before entering the shop. The Pad Thai tells all. These rice noodles in their sauce bring a perfect peanut-y flavor and are mixed with green onions and tofu, chicken or shrimp. To me, good Pad Thai equals good Thai food.

Before I hand over my menu, though, I ask the server what her favorites are. She quickly points to a curry and an appetizer of deep fried wantons. I'm confused. Not the Pad Thai? Now, I'm sure that both of those are very delicious (anything deep fried tends to be), but why has she not made mention of the stupendous Pad Thai?

I order my craved dish even without a recommendation. First comes a tasty vegetable tofu soup. It was warm and sweet. Just what I needed to prepare my stomach for the main course. Then comes my sought after meal.

I'm not disappointed. House of Noodles' Pad Thai noodles are gooey but not drenched in sauce. They have the perfect sweetness. Not too much, but just enough to keep me coming back for more. My favorite part of the dish: the crushed peanuts piled high on the side.

For those who don't like peanuts, this may be too much, but I'm satisfied.

**House of Noodles**  
 2025 Santiam Hwy SE; Albany  
 (541)928-0707

Open Monday-Saturday  
 Lunch hours: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m./Dinner hours: 5-9:30 p.m.

**Try:** The Pad Thai with chicken. This dish is a good sized portion of soft rice noodles mixed in the traditional peanut sauce and sprinkled with peanuts. Also comes with a side of rice and a bowl of soup for \$6.95 at lunch or \$9.50 for a dinner portion.

**Server Favorites:** Westside Wonton (\$5.95) and Yellow Curry Chicken (\$9.25). The Westside Wonton is stuffed with chicken and shrimp before being deep fried in its warm crispy shell. The Yellow Curry adds spice to lunchtime. The coconut milk base is combined with chicken, potatoes, carrots and some rich yellow curry.

**Pricing:** Lunch specials start at \$6.75 and go to \$9.75. Dinner items start at about \$6.95 for soups and run up to \$15.95.

Perhaps next time I'll take the waitress's recommendation. That sounded good too. For now, I'm happy with my House of Noodles' Pad Thai.

## Upcoming music events

Thursday	4/15	Friday	4/16	Saturday	4/17
<b>Rick Ross</b> Calapooia Brewing Co. 140 Southeast Hill, Albany 7:30 p.m. • 21 & over • Free calapooiabrewing.com		<b>Bingo (Americana)</b> Hotel Oregon 310 NE Evans St, McMinnville 7 p.m. • 21 & over • Free mcmenamins.com		<b>London Flush (Yardbirds Tribute)</b> Calapooia Brewing Co. 140 Southeast Hill, Albany 8 p.m. • 21 & over • Free calapooiabrewing.com	
<b>Gil Reynolds (Blues Rock)</b> Boon's Treasury (McMenamins) 888 Liberty St. NE, Salem 8 p.m. • 21 & over • Free mcmenamins.com		<b>Gumbo</b> Calapooia Brewing Co. 140 Southeast Hill, Albany 8 p.m. • 21 & over • Free calapooiabrewing.com		<b>Jack McMahan (Folk)</b> Boon's Treasury (McMenamin's) 888 Liberty St. NE, Salem 9 p.m. • 21 & over • Free mcmenamins.com	
<b>Curtis (Raggae)</b> Bombs Away Cafe 2527 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis 8 p.m. • All ages • Free bombsawaycafe.com		<b>High Tone, Matty, Top Shelf, and Boogie4Briz (Hip Hop)</b> The Space 1132 NE Broadway, Salem 9 p.m. • 21 & over • \$5 thespaceistheplace.com		<b>Alice DiMichele (Acoustic Folk)</b> Bombs Away Cafe 2527 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis 9 p.m. • All ages • \$10 bombsawaycafe.com	
<b>Jimmy Bivens (Rockabilly)</b> Hotel Oregon 310 NE Evans St, McMinnville 7 p.m. • 21 & over • Free mcmenamins.com		<b>11 Eyes (Funk/ Jazz)</b> Bombs Away Cafe 2527 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis 10 p.m. • All ages • \$5 bombsawaycafe.com		<b>The Ed Forman Show (Comedy)</b> The Space 1132 NE Broadway, Salem 21 & over • Free thespaceistheplace.com	

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## No love for "Love"

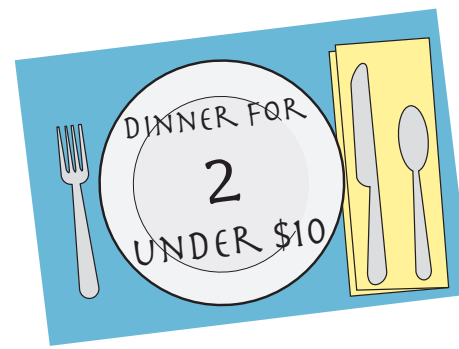
**Joel DeVylidere**  
 The Commuter

Angels and Airwaves are back. Now with more post-punk power! The late-model side project headed up by time-tested rockstar Tom DeLonge (of blink-182 fame) released their third studio album this February.

"LOVE," the 11-track follow-up to 2007's I-Empire, finds the band electing to backtrack on a lot of ground they've already covered. This electronically-fueled alternative rock record features loops and sounds that are a bit too familiar for a third release. To add to the lightness, the lyricism isn't quite that brilliant, losing more of its shine as DeLonge's writing becomes more self-indulgent.

That being said, the album is not a complete waste of time. Some tracks are worth the download, as they would mix well into playlists. This album is available for free download directly from the band at [www.modlife.com/angelsandairwaves](http://www.modlife.com/angelsandairwaves).

On the other hand, maybe eccentrically emotional concept albums are your thing; if you do take the time to download and listen to "LOVE," then make sure to check out "The Flight of Apollo" (track 2) and "Letters to God, Part II" (track 10). You also might want to check out "LOVE," the film that accompanies the album, slated for release later this year.



## Tasty tortilla casserole

**Jana West**  
 The Commuter

This dish easily feeds four and most of the ingredients I keep on hand, so it is an easy dish to throw together if you have friends stopping by for dinner and might be running behind. I commute to school via train and often get delayed, so while the dish is baking I can clean up or make appetizers or cocktails. Recently, I was making margaritas for friends, so this dish fit great with theme.

### Grocery list:

1 lb. ground beef	\$1.99
1 can diced green chiles	\$1.25
1 cup corn, drained	\$ .69
1 can black beans	\$ .80
1 bunch green onions, sliced	\$ .79
1 can enchilada sauce	\$1.25
1/2 package corn tortillas	\$1.50
2 cups cheddar cheese, grated	\$1.49

**GRAND TOTAL: \$9.76**

1. Start by browning the beef, season with salt and pepper, (Cumin or chili powder would be a great addition), drain any fat and set aside.
2. Cover the bottom of a casserole dish with a little of the enchilada sauce.
3. Add a layer of tortillas, then top with 1/3 of the meat and the can of corn.
4. Sprinkle with some of the chopped onions and a handful of cheese.
5. Add another layer of tortillas, followed by more sauce and another portion of meat followed by the can of black beans. (Do not drain the beans or the casserole will be too dry.)
6. Top with a handful of cheese and another layer of tortilla shells.
7. Add the final layer of meat and can of chilies.
8. Top with more of the onions, a final layer of tortilla shells, and the remaining sauce.
9. Top with cheese, cover and bake at 400 for about an hour.

*Optional: This dish is great with a dollop of sour cream or guacamole. Other garnishes like, sliced black olives or fresh cilantro, would be great too.*



Tortilla casserole makes me happy.

Photo by Jana West

## redbox review

### Fame (Rated PG, Runtime 107 min.)

**Ashley Christie**  
 The Commuter

The latest trend in Hollywood seems to be taking good movies and remaking them so that they're really bad. "Fame," directed by choreographer Kevin Tancharoen, is the latest example of this ever-growing fad.

"Fame" is about a group of students at a performing arts high school in New York City as they pursue their dreams of stardom. While this film borrowed scenes, dialog and Debbie Allen from the 1980 original, it failed to capture its spirit and grittiness. The new class has the same shiny veneer as the "High School Musical" crowd, but without the likeability.

The new cast, featuring Kay Panabaker and Asher Book, is uninteresting. The lives of these students are boring and have no sense of drama that would make you root for them. You don't care what happens to them or their careers, in fact, you kind of hope they fail. For example, there is one student (I don't remember her name, but it's not important) whose parents think she is training



to be a classical pianist while she is secretly performing as a hip hop artist. When her father finds out, he is mighty upset but then (spoiler alert), five seconds later, sees her passion for hip hop and everything turns out fine.

There are three positive things about this film: Megan Mullally, Kelsey Grammer, and Bebe Neuwirth as the teachers. They have a combined screen time of roughly ten-minuets and they are the best ten-minutes of the movie.

Why couldn't it have been about them? These are the characters you care about; they're the ones that you want to know more about. Maybe it's because they're trying to act in a real movie, not the 2-hour music video that "Fame" ends up being.

"Fame" (1980) had captivating storylines, character development and, most importantly, heart. "Fame" (2009) has none of these things. I'm just left wondering why Hollywood insists on ruining good movies when it could be remaking the bad ones? Why not try improving on an idea and not just creating a poor carbon copy? Next time, why not remake "Battlefield Earth," or "Dude, Where's my Car?" perhaps. Dude. Sweet.

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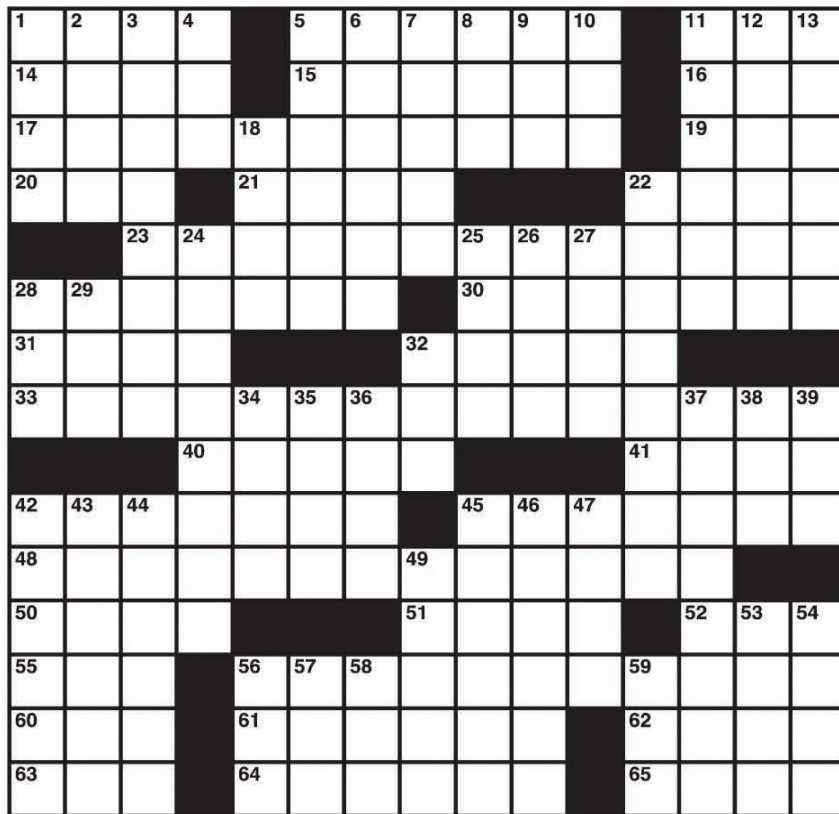
# Surreal Living

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

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tubular chocolate snack
  - 5 Like secret rituals
  - 11 Tube top
  - 14 Support, in a criminal way
  - 15 Headgear on some runways
  - 16 Actor Vigoda
  - 17 Drones losing their pep?
  - 19 a.k.a., in corporate-speak
  - 20 Kenan's comedy partner
  - 21 Baltic capital
  - 22 \_\_\_-Z: high-performance Camaro
  - 23 Train former senator Dole to do without?
  - 28 More than fortunate
  - 30 Grandeur
  - 31 Brand of bubbly
  - 32 Open a \_\_\_ worms
  - 33 The first indication that I had one too many last night?
  - 40 Tongue and liver
  - 41 Genetic molecules
  - 42 As you like it
  - 45 Lydian king known for his wealth
  - 48 Earp in a stage show?
  - 50 Man or Mull
  - 51 Small batteries
  - 52 Shad delicacy
  - 55 Pontiac muscle car
  - 56 Skater Katarina enjoying a Camel?
  - 60 Grant, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 61 Do the Wright thing?
  - 62 Swedish furniture chain
  - 63 Sentence units: Abbr.
  - 64 Approached
  - 65 One with a list



By Dan Naddor

- 3 College hazing period
- 4 1940s Giants manager Mel
- 5 When many shops open
- 6 Fixed
- 7 Conspiracy
- 8 Exist
- 9 Dundee denial
- 10 Slalom curve
- 11 Elite training squads
- 12 "Who's on First?" straight man
- 13 "Great!"
- 18 Nest egg components, for short
- 22 Start of a rule that keeps you from spelling weirdly?
- 24 Ballpark figure
- 25 Mosque VIP
- 26 Madcap
- 27 "This is \_\_\_ for Superman!"
- 28 Mercedes rival
- 29 Mauna \_\_\_
- 32 Brain and spinal cord: Abbr.
- 34 Bird house
- 35 Cat, south of the border

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

E	O	S		M	O	C	H	A		C	A	U	S	E
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O	H	A	R	E		A	D	I	E	U		D	H	S
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- 36 Santa Monica-to-Jacksonville rte.
- 37 Picketing
- 38 19th Greek letter
- 39 Frying sound
- 42 Aptly named mod model
- 43 Pearl harborer
- 44 Raptor's grabbers
- 45 Pure
- 46 Chewed (out)
- 47 \_\_\_ buco
- 49 Golden Horde member
- 53 Military service designation
- 54 New York cardinal
- 56 Pale
- 57 "\_\_\_ seen enough!"
- 58 Actress Carrere
- 59 Tease

- DOWN**
- 1 Peddle
  - 2 Theater award

## Student-submitted art

e-mail your own artwork to commuter.submissions@gmail.com



by Adam LaMascus  
Sammy the Scotsman

## FOOD NOT BOMBS PRESENTATION



As more people become homeless and hungry, our environment is farther threatened, and more people are faced with injustice.

Food Not Bombs shares free vegan and vegetarian meals with the hungry and homeless in over 1,000 cities around the world every week to protest war, poverty and the destruction of the environment.

Food Not Bombs Co-founder KEITH MCHENRY Speaks About His Life Changing Movement

Wednesday  
April 21, 2010

FREE & EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

3:30 p.m.  
Diversity Achievement Center  
F-220

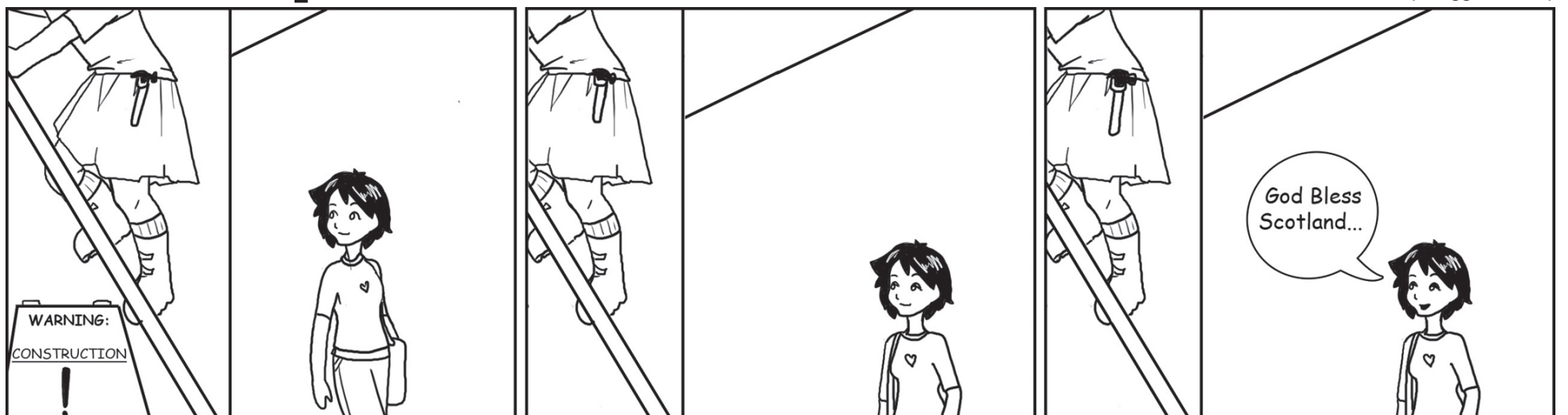
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## Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



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# Surreal Living

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## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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## Did you know?

- Scotland is believed to have been the largest persecutor of witches during the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe. Over 4,000 witches were executed in the span of 200 years.
- NASA has recently discovered a planet that has approximately five times the mass of Jupiter. What makes the planet even more strange is that it is only one million years old, where as typically a planet of that size would be multiple billions of years old.
- Polish Hussars, a cavalry with giant wings on their armor, saved Austria from an invasion by the Ottoman Empire in 1863.
- The cannons used by the United States Army and Confederate Army during the civil war were named after Emperor Napoleon III of France (not Bonaparte).

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# LINFIELD

CONNECTING LEARNING, LIFE, AND COMMUNITY

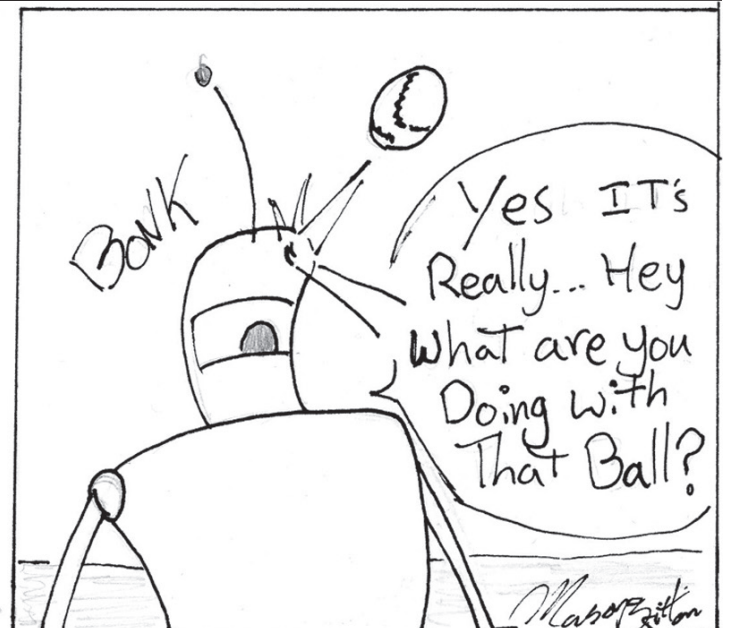
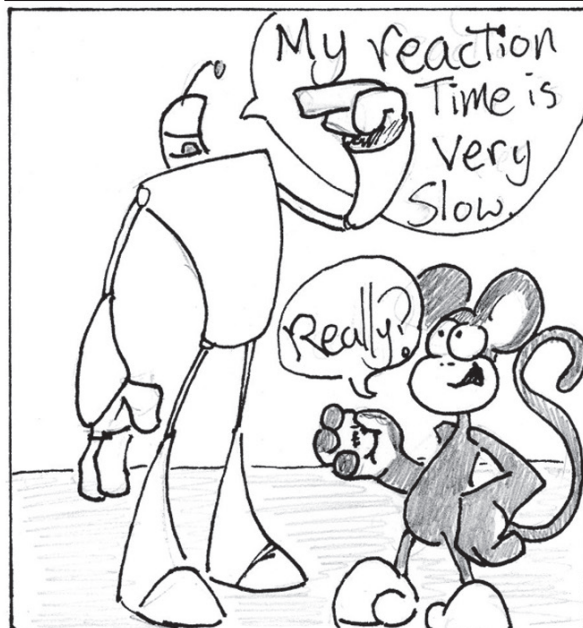
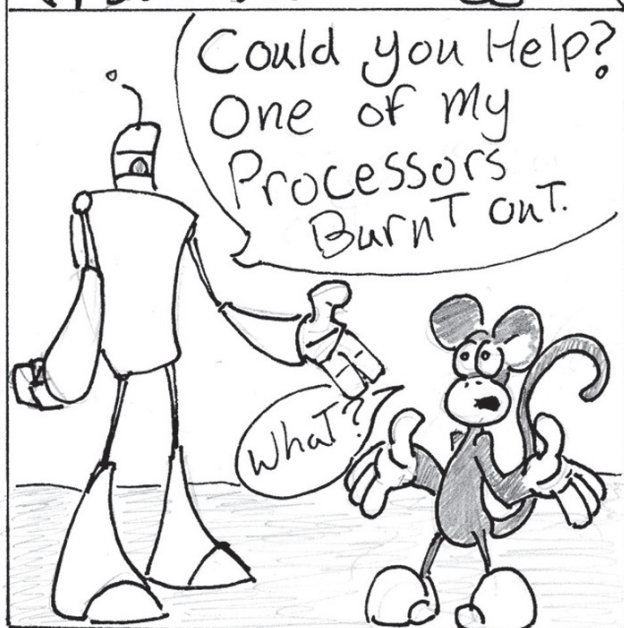
[LINFIELD.EDU/DCE](http://LINFIELD.EDU/DCE)

McMINNVILLE · PORTLAND · ONLINE

## Fried Bananas

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Mason Britton



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## Coming attractions

### Death at a Funeral

In this American re-make of the British comedy smash of the same name, a family re-unites to bury their dearly departed patriarch in peace. Blackmail, a missing corpse, and a boyfriend who's accidentally dosed and spends the movie tripping out, all stand in the way of an easygoing ceremony. Is someone really going to die at this funeral?



Runtime: 90 minutes • Rating: R

### Kick-Ass

Daniel (Aaron Johnson) lives alone with his father, spending his time obsessing over comic books and super heroes. His life is pretty simple until one day, lacking powers and training, Daniel decides to become a superhero with the moniker "Kick-Ass." He meets up with a couple of crazed and obsessed travelers, and embarks on a journey to find more awkward and backward situations so he can deliver some laughable lingo and perform a little slapstick.



Runtime: 117 minutes • Rating: R

### The Perfect Game

Nine boys living in an impoverished neighborhood in Monterey, Mexico band together under a coach named Cesar (Clifton Collins Jr.). The players overcome almost insurmountable odds to participate in Little League games, which they begin winning. Their streak of successes eventually leads them to the Little League World Series.



Runtime: 100 minutes • Rating: PG

Sources: [Imdb](#), [Yahoo! Movies](#), [Fandango.com](#)

# Make reservations with Carell and Fey

Ashley Christie  
The Commuter

Have you ever watched "The Office" and "30 Rock" and wondered what would happen if Michael Scott and Liz Lemon hooked up?

"Date Night" is the story of Phil and Claire Foster (Steve Carell and Tina Fey), a suburban New Jersey couple whose love life has gone stale. Between their jobs, book clubs, and taking care of their two young children, their lives have become routine and monotonous.

They're both looking for a little bit of excitement to rekindle their romance, or see if it's still there at all.

When their usual date night rolls around, instead of going to the same restaurant, with the same waiter and same order, they decide to shake things up a bit and head into Manhattan for a nice evening. When they can't get a reservation at a swanky upscale restaurant they lie about their names and steal the reservation of a couple of no-shows, the Tripplehornes.

What they don't know is that the Tripplehornes are in the middle of a blackmailing scheme that involves a couple of dirty cops, a very dastardly mob boss played by Ray Liotta, and some files stored on a flash drive, or as Claire calls it, a "computer stick thingy."

It is up to the Fosters to track down the real Tripplehornes (James Franco and Mila Kunis) and catch the bad guys. And with a little help from a former client of Claire's, intelligence expert Holbrooke Grant (a very shirtless Mark Wahlberg), they just might

enjoy their evening out on the town.

Is "Date Night" formulaic? Yes. Do you know exactly how it's going to end? Yes. But sometimes it's not about the destination, it's about the journey. Director Shawn Levy ("Cheaper by the Dozen," "Night at the Museum") doesn't take you anywhere new or unexpected in this action-comedy, but you really don't care because you had fun getting there.

This success is entirely because of the casting of the two leads. If you don't like this couple in the first five minutes then

you won't care what happens to them in the following 83. Luckily, it is impossible not to fall in love with the Fosters. You root for them and just want the bad men to go away so they can have a nice evening out.

Carell and Fey deliver in every scene. They are a match made in comedy heaven. Both have excellent comedic timing and great improvisational skills (as seen in the blooper reel during the end credits). The two have a chemistry on screen that makes them feel like a real couple you'd meet off-screen.

The events in "Date Night" are completely absurd.

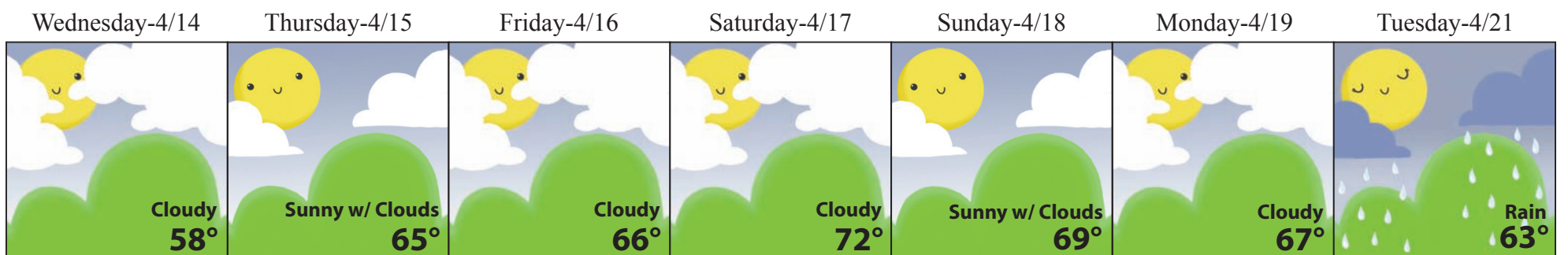
As you're watching you know that they could never happen, yet at the same time believe that they could happen to *this* couple. Carell and Fey aren't action heroes. They aren't toned and muscley; they look like average people, which keeps the story grounded and relatable.

"Date Night" is a story you've seen before, but Carell, Fey and the rest of the all-star cast bring a new life to an old plot. The action scenes are fun and the jokes are funny. A night out with the Fosters is definitely a good date.



Runtime: 88 minutes • Rating: PG-13  
Score: 4 out of 5 computer stick thingys

## Weekly Weather Predictions



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