

The Commuter

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Spirit of Malcolm X Lives on at LBCC

Rachel Runyon

Contributing Writer

For the anniversary of Malcolm X's birthday on Thursday, May 19, seats in the Diversity Achievement Center (DAC) of Linn-Benton Community College filled quickly. Students of varied backgrounds and ages chatted, and some waited patiently. An outspoken young man wearing a t-shirt adorned with the strong face of Malcolm X gave an introduction, and played a video short titled "Separate But Equal: Civil Rights Movement's Greatest Hits."

Malcolm X, a fierce advocate for the rights of African-Americans, was born on May 19, 1925, and was assassinated in 1965. Phillip Arterbury was one of those Malcolm X stood for. He and Arterbury shared the same birthday, and he happened to be someone Arterbury identified with.

Arterbury, by the age of 19, had been drafted into service for the Vietnam War to fight on the front lines. He was shot three times. He was awarded three purple hearts, a bronze and a silver star. In 2005, he passed away. He would have been 65 years old this year.

Arterbury's sister is LBCC's very own Jeanette Emerson, who works in the DAC. If you have visited the DAC on campus, chances are that it was Emerson who welcomed you as you signed in.

During the Vietnam War, a war often touted as a war without merit, Emerson's brother dealt with the heat of gunfire and ignorant belittling by racist fellow soldiers. Additionally, he saw many African-American men lose their lives on the battlefield.

Emerson herself, at age 17 during the summer of 1965, was a witness to the military tanks rolling down her neighborhood street towards the Watts Riots that occurred not too far from her own Los Angeles neighborhood. Growing up in California, Emerson and her brother weren't told which school to attend or what kids to play with because of the shade of their skin. In the Southern states of America, however, this was not the case. Though racial



Rachel Runyon

Malcolm X display in the DAC.

segregation in schools was illegal, many states and areas in the south refused to comply.

Emerson, who shared her experience with those in the room, said, "Everyone was saying the same thing: 'We're tired and we want our rights!' ... I lived through that. I'm glad I did because I can see what it brought through to you."

Ricky Zipp is the ambitious young student in the Malcolm X t-shirt who introduced Malcolm X Day in the DAC. Zipp is involved in Student Life and Leadership, as well as the DAC at LBCC.

Photos and article clippings, displayed in an exhibit created by Zipp, began with Brown Vs. Board of Education of 1954, and culminated with the Vietnam War. Also displayed were some of Arterbury's letters sent from Vietnam to his mother during his nearly four years of service.

Zipp, who aspires to be a high school history teacher, said he was inspired by what he learned about Malcolm X.

"He was someone who was constantly evolving his thought; he was constantly evolving his behavior."

Zipp made Malcolm X Day at the DAC come to life, because he felt that Malcolm X was a figure who wasn't as celebrated in comparison to Martin Luther King, Jr., or Rosa Parks. Malcolm X had a "By Any Means Necessary" approach, while King had a "peaceful protest" strategy.

Zipp said of his experience with education about the Civil Rights Movement, "There was no acknowledgement of the negative - only of the positive."

In part, Zipp's message to the approximately 40 persons in attendance was, "It's a representation of society - not just the Civil Rights Movement. ... It's all about individual motivation ... If you do not get active in your education, you are not going to get a proper education ... Malcolm X Day is an example in itself of active education."

Towards the end of the presentation, Earlean Wilson Huey, who works for Oregon State University in the Ujima Education Office, presented a clip from "All Power to the People," a documentary about The Black Panthers.

After the video, a discussion was held on the differences in attitudes of activists at the time. Huey said, "Really, everyone is working towards community."

Alethea Skinner, who attended Zipp's presentation with the African-American Literature class, spoke up and talked about living through the 1960s. She spoke of the importance of being aware of what is happening around us, as many today think of the fight for civil rights as a time in our past, but one never knows when the call to take a stand on a personal issue may come again.

As Malcolm X said, "If you do not stand for something, you will fall for anything."

Our Diversity Vision Statement:

Linn-Benton Community College is empowered by diversity!

The Diversity and Civic Engagement Council is exploring how a diversity center will contribute to making that a vision.....

What will a diversity center do to create a campus climate where individuals feel valued, supported and successful?

How will a diversity center help individuals challenge and expand their perspectives?

What will a diversity center contribute to student learning?



If you have answers to any of these questions feel free to stop by the DAC and let your voice be heard!

Need a free place to bring your kids while you attend Study Jam?



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Sign up in the Student Life & Leadership Office in the Student Union or the PCDC

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Call Student Life & Leadership for information.

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Too Drunk for Jail: Albany Man Raises Concerns

Dineen Charest
Staff Writer

Too inebriated to be booked into jail: Nice policy.

While walking my dog around Timberland Park, I noticed a man in tattered blue jeans and a grey sweatshirt stumbling along the sidewalk across from the Albany Fair and Expo Center. He looked drunk, so I crossed over to the other side of the road, not wanting to be near him, and started jogging. In the meantime, cars are zooming around the curves driving north on Dogwood. Every time a car comes close, the man jumps out in front of them waving his arms. Stopping and observing, I notice he does this seven more times. Immediately, I dial the non-emergency phone number for the Albany Police Department.

I am still in shock about the conversation I had with the dispatcher. A male voice came on the line. "Dispatch. May I help you?"

I explained that I was walking my dog and saw a man who looked drunk jumping out in front of traffic, and then proceeded to give him my location. The dispatcher asked if I could describe him. "He is wearing a grey sweatshirt with blue jeans, is slender and with long scruffy hair," I said.

"Oh, we have already had several calls on him today and we sent an officer out, but we will see if we can do something, but we are very busy," said the dispatcher. I then replied, "Too busy to stop a tragic accident from happening?" The dispatcher told me they were looking into it, but there was not much they could do about it and hung up.

Not satisfied, I immediately went home. I jumped in my SUV armed with my camera and tape recorder, and this time, my second cell phone – if I called to the police again, I didn't want them to think it was the same person.

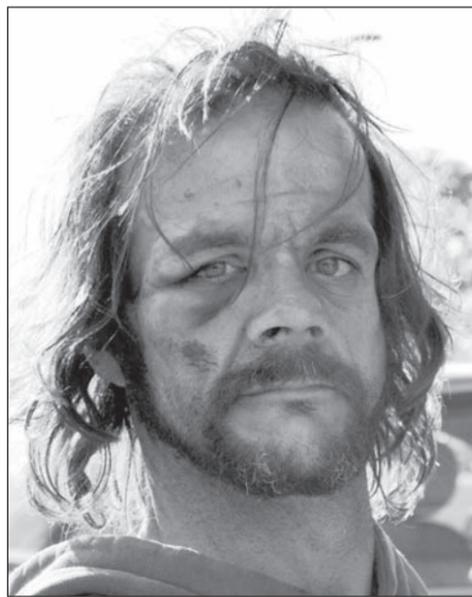
I drove down Dogwood but didn't see him, and then I drove down Timber Lane and still didn't see him until he jumped in

front of my truck. I missed hitting him by a couple of inches. I said out loud, "This is ridiculous." I watched him as he stumbled into the National Guard parking lot, then into the building on Knox Butte Road. Ten minutes later, he was escorted out. Stumbling again, the man went over to the Cascade Grill. Of course, I followed.

Meanwhile, I called dispatch again. "Yes, I would like to report a drunken individual jumping in front of cars. As a matter of fact, I almost hit him," I said. This time the dispatch said, in a very "matter of fact" voice, "We are aware of the situation." I then said, "I don't think you are aware of the seriousness of the situation." The dispatch cut me off and said, "Look, we already arrested him once today and took him to the jail, but the jail said he was too inebriated to keep. So we had an officer drop him off at Timberland Park."

What? I said, "I thought it was illegal to be drunk in public? And what do you mean you dropped him off at Timberland Park? What about the poor soul who ends up running this guy over and then gets sued? That is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard ... you mean to tell me if an individual is drunk in public and is brought to the jail, they won't keep him there?" This time elevating my tone to let them know I was serious. "What about all the kids playing sports at the park right now, why did they drop him off there?" I wanted to know because my teenage daughter walks to Timberland with her friends all the time; the thought of the police dropping off drunken individuals there made me none too happy.

"There is nothing we can do about it; that's the jail's policy," replied the dispatcher with an annoyed tone. The dispatcher said, "Besides, that's where they all hang out." "That is the stupidest thing I have ever heard," I said with disgust in my voice. "Well, don't be surprised if you see a story in the paper about this tomorrow because I am calling the newspaper!" So, I hung up and called the Democrat-Herald. I had the news



Above: Officer Kloss takes McElroy off the streets.

Left: Albany man, McElroy, after he "hurt himself with the pavement."

Photos by Dineen Charest

line put me through to AnneMarie Knepper, a reporter for the Herald. I said, "I have an interesting story to tell." I explained to her what had happened and that I was still following the man. She told me she was going to also call to the department and see what was up.

I informed her that I was going to try to get a picture of him and talk to him. By the time I pulled into the Cascade Grill, out came our drunken friend being ushered out by the manager.

I approached him and said, "Are you okay? Where are you going? What is your name?" He said his name is McElroy. I asked him if he could spell it; he just gazed at me with an empty look. "How about your first name?" Still a blank stare. "Where are you going?" I repeated. He shrugged his shoulders and pointed south on Knox Butte Rd. I said, "Look, you can't go jumping in front of cars; you are going to be killed."

I felt the need to ask him more questions:

"Have you been arrested today?"

He nodded his head and said, "Yes."

"How come you are not in jail?"

"I don't know. They dropped me off over there," pointing to the direction of the park.

"At the park?"

He nodded, this time almost falling over.

"Who dropped you off?"

"The police."

"What happened to your face?"

His face was swollen on one side; he had two black eyes and scratches on his right arm. "I hurt it with the pavement," he said in a raspy, slurred tone.

He went on to say the police took him to the hospital yesterday, but they released him. He got drunk again and was arrested today, but then they took him to the park.

I told him I was a journalism student and asked if he would mind if I took a picture of him. He nodded his head, and I snapped the picture. He started leaving, this time limping and dragging one leg. I yelled out, "Be

careful! Don't cross that street," as I pointed to Knox Butte. No sooner than I said it, he walked right out in front of traffic, causing the sound of brakes screeching. McElroy, oblivious to what was going on, just kept on walking.

I again followed. By the time I got to him, he was sitting on a curb talking to a policeman in the parking lot of the Dragon's Brew drive through coffee hut on Knox Butte. Pulling up behind it, I waited for the officer to notice me. He walked up to my vehicle, and I told him the story.

The officer said "Yeah, this is the third or fourth time we have dealt with him today." I said "I don't understand. Why is he not in jail?" The officer, Dan Kloss, shrugged his shoulders and said, "I will keep my thoughts to myself." I could tell he was just as concerned as I was and was not going to let him walk off. I told the officer I never heard they wouldn't book someone into jail because he was too inebriated. Kloss said, "That happens a lot lately."

I reiterated, someone is going to hit him. At Timberland he jumped in front of seven cars, and here he crossed the street twice, and cars had to screech to a halt to miss him. Kloss's cell phone rang, and talking to someone on the other line said, "He's cleared, and if he's medically cleared, then they have to." He then hung up.

Kloss said, "Plan B: We are going to take him to the hospital and get him medically cleared, then take him to the jail."

He added, "What I am going to do is have you sign the back of a form, so if he goes in front of a judge, you can be a witness." I said, "That's fine. Let's just get him off the street."

I signed the form, gave Kloss my information, and he put McElroy in handcuffs. I felt relieved. I thanked Kloss and left. As I left, I snapped a picture of the two and thought, "This story needs to be told."

I would like to thank officer Dan Kloss for pushing the issue and preventing what could have been a tragedy.

NWAACC Hall of Fame Inductees

Kiger Plews
Staff Writer

This past week Linn-Benton Community College announced the induction of the 1971 Men's Baseball team into the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Hall of Fame. The NWAACC will also recognize LBCC staff member Teresa Thomas and former staff member Edwin Watson by awarding them the Outstanding Service Awards for their contributions to the Linn-Benton athletic department.

The year 1971 marked the first year that the Roadrunners had a baseball team compete intercollegiately. The team was led by former staff member Dick McClain and consisted of just 17 players. LB went on to rack up more than 30 wins on their way to claiming the Southern Division Oregon Community Athletic Association League Championship title. They join the 1980-81 Women's Basketball team as the only LBCC teams to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Current baseball coach Greg Hawk said of the 1971 team's induction, "We have a very rich baseball tradition



here at Linn-Benton. Dick McClain started the athletic programs here at LBCC, and he coached the baseball team from 1971-76. I'm very proud of the history of our school and for what

has played out during my years here at LBCC. Dick McClain is an outstanding gentleman and an awesome coach."

Teresa Thomas was hired at Linn-Benton in 1980 by, ironically, Dick McClain, and has played a major role in athletics at LBCC for the past 30 years. She has served as LB's Women's Athletic Commissioner, participated in fundraising activities, and has done a stand-up job promoting Roadrunner's athletics throughout the community. During the time the NWAACC was housed on campus at Linn-Benton, Thomas served as its secretary as well. Watson retired in 2006 after

educating for more than 36 years, including working as LBCC vice president of Academic Affairs. Watson has been involved with Linn-Benton since 1993. He has served as dean of the Liberal Arts and Human Performance Athletics Division. He also directed and led the Roadrunner Athletic program for more than 13 years.

The 24th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet will be held June 2 in Vancouver, Washington. The event will honor the Hall of Fame inductees, as well as the recipients of Outstanding Service Awards.

Success after School: The Snappy Life of Jesse Skoubo

Dineen Charest

Staff Writer

In 8th grade he was allowed to miss school for a whole day in order to take photos of a track meet. He thought, "Hey, this is cool. Not only is it cool, but people get paid to do this." From that point on, Jesse Skoubo knew he wanted to be a photographer.

Skoubo, 28, is a full-time photojournalist for the Gazette-Times and Democrat-Herald. He works Friday through Tuesday, 20 hours a week for each newspaper. His job is unique because he is the only photographer employed by both newspapers.

Skoubo's coworkers enjoy working with him - there is never a shortage of compliments about him.

"Jesse is very nice, friendly, cooperative, and also an excellent photographer. He will take on assignments that others won't, plus he is one of those guys who is easy to work with," said Steve Lundeberg, associate editor of the Democrat-Herald.

Skoubo also visits LBCC as a guest speaker and talks to students about photography, and even allows them to "job shadow" him to see what is like to be a newspaper photographer.

His free time is spent with his wife of one year, Erin; visiting his mom who lives two doors down from him; or hand-painting the tiny figurines used in the game Dungeons and Dragons. The figures are so detailed that it takes four to twelve hours to finish one, and it takes a fine-bristled brush to paint the intricate details.

Skoubo started playing Dungeons and Dragons in middle school and still continues today, playing once a week with friends. Dungeons and Dragons is an imaginary game that has a one player who takes on the role of storyteller. The other players are characters in the story. These characters embark upon imaginary adventures within a fantasy setting.

When Skoubo talks about the game, his wife rolls her eyes. She does not play. She says, "I would rather be playing board games



Dineen Charest

Photojournalist Jesse Skoubo reviews photos on his camera.

like Backgammon or Trouble. My husband is a nerd - who does not dress like a nerd - so you wouldn't know he was one."

Even though Skoubo works every Sunday, he always takes time to pick up bagels at Noah's Bagels on SW Madison Ave. in Corvallis, then stops to get strawberry milk to take home for breakfast that morning. "It is our ritual: every Sunday I get Erin her favorite bagels, and then I get my favorite strawberry milk. I don't think it's that bad for you, is it?"

Skoubo struck me as a person who likes the simple things in life and who is family oriented. His attire of jeans, tennis shoes, and a black microfibre jacket allows him to move unnoticed in any event he is photographing. He is very good at making small talk with the subjects he is going to take photos of. He mingles and blends into the scene of the event, his laid-back nature putting his subjects at ease, allowing him to get the information he needs for his photo captions. One can tell he is

comfortable with his work and life in general.

Q & A with Skoubo

Commuter: What did you do before going to college?

Jesse Skoubo: I graduated from high school in 2001 and joined the Navy in September of 2001. I was in boot camp September 16, which was only five days after the September 11 attacks. I was fortunate to have been in boot camp during the months after 9/11, because I didn't get much media exposure about the events going on and the declaration of the war on terror. It did, however, affect my training, and I was trained as a Technological Cryptology Technician, which is a fancy name for Battle Group Security. When I left, my rank was "Petty Officer 3rd Class."

C: What did you do after coming out of the Navy?

JS: I decided to go to LBCC. In my second

Where to Find Jesse Skoubo

Web: democratherald.com
gazettetimes.com
Email: jesse.skoubo@lee.net
Phone: 541-926-2211

year at LBCC, I became the photo editor of the Commuter, partly due to the influence of Karl Maasdam who is a great photographer and journalist and very good mentor. I graduated from LBCC and received a paid internship at the Democrat-Herald for one summer, then got hired part-time as a photographer. I worked part-time and continued in school full-time at OSU. In 2009, when the previous photo editor of The Gazette-Times left, I got rotated into that schedule. So now I work 20 hours a week for both newspapers.

C: Seems to me you have a busy schedule. Do you plan on having any children, and if you do, how many?

JS: Yes, my wife wants a certain number and I want a certain number, so we met in the middle and decided on four. [His wife chimes in and says she wants seven. Skoubo rolls his eyes.] How can I afford seven kids? [She says, laughing, "Easy, just become a famous photographer, like for National Geographic."]

Okay, name one photographer that is famous that worked for National Geographic. [She is silent.] See, easier said than done.

C: If you had a legacy to leave, what would it be?

JS: That is a tough question. First, I love being a photographer. It's hard to imagine doing anything else. I want the people I take pictures of to have great memories to fall back on. The other thing that is important to me is assisting at the Commuter, and hopefully I can help guide the next group of photographers through life. On a personal level, I would like to be remembered as a laid-back individual who was easy to get to know.

Commuter Names New Editor-in-Chief

The Commuter

The next editor-in-chief of The Commuter will be Jill Mahler. Mahler, a staff writer for the LBCC student newspaper, was appointed Wednesday by the Student Publications Committee to lead the newspaper staff during the 2011-12 school year.

Mahler is from Sweet Home, where she served as editor on her high school paper. This year at The Commuter she has written a variety of stories, primarily news and feature stories.

Mahler will succeed Justin Bolger, who will conclude his term as editor-in-chief with publication of the last issue of the school year on June 1.

Mahler is working toward earning her transfer degree at



Tony Brown

The Commuter's new editor-in-chief, Jill Mahler

LBCC before enrolling in the School of Journalism and Communication at the University of Oregon.

Child Care Co-op Looking for Members

Audrey Gomez

Copy Editor

LBCC student and parent Mel Hite wants to save one room of the PCDC, which will be operated by Head Start in the fall, for a parent co-op.

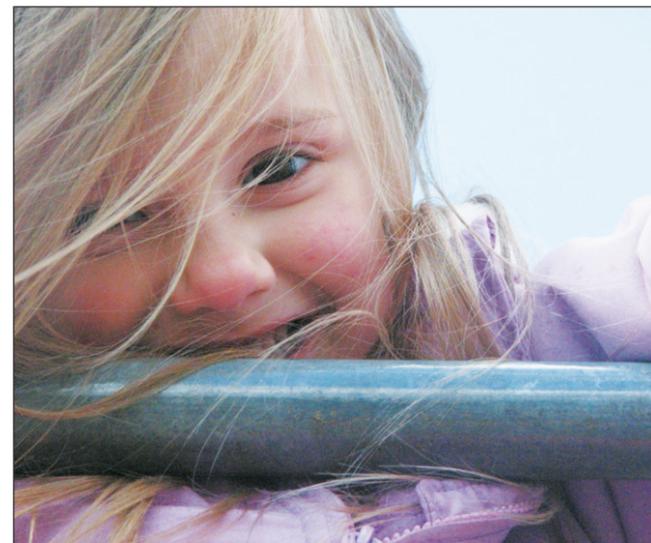
"We need a commitment from 20 people who will definitely participate," Hite said. The fee is yet to be decided, but the expectation is that it will cover the salary for a lead teacher.

The group is also looking to sign a contract with a local college for interns or student teachers.

If you are interested in participating in the co-op, now is the time to sign up.

Hite is leading a meeting for interested parties on Friday, June 27 from 6 - 8 p.m. in room 105 at the PCDC.

Check the Commuter website at commuter.linnbenton.edu later in the week for undated PCDC information.



Kyle Holland

Ava Hite loves hanging in the sunshine at the Periwinkle Child Development Center at LBCC.

Co-op Meeting

When: Friday, June 27
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Where: PCDC, room 105
More Info: pcdcfriends.wordpress.com

Dear Conscience, It's not wrong to investigate your friend's boyfriend by logging into her Facebook or using her phone to text him, is it? That's just good looking out, right?

Ashley Christie
Shoulder Devil

Posing as someone else on Facebook? There's nothing wrong with that at all. But why waste all that power trying to help someone?

There's a reason identity theft is so feared – you can cause some major damage. It's a lot of fun!

Change their relationship status to "it's complicated." Go on a rant about how their boss smells like moldy cheese. Better yet, make them "like" Rebecca Black!

It's just some harmless fun. Harmless for you anyways, and that's all that matters.

It doesn't matter what their boyfriend or boss thinks of them after your little game of pretend. Not to mention how quickly all her co-workers, friends, and family "unfriend" her after your status update declaring your friend's devotion to Harold Camping.

So what if you cause an irreparable tear in all of your "friend's" relationships? You don't have to stick around and deal with the repercussions. Nope, not your problem; as long as you got a good laugh, all is well.

Serves them right for leaving themselves logged in ... on their own computer ... in their own room ... while they get up to make you a sandwich. Right?

I recently had my Facebook page hacked. But when you're the Devil, it takes a bit more than telling everyone "I'm awesome and everyone should be my slave" to ruin my life. Actually, I got a pretty sweet minion army out of the ordeal, so things worked out okay for me.

I'm all for you imitating your friend via text, Facebook, or whatever, but if you're going to do it, go big! You have to think larger than deceiving her boyfriend, 'cause in the long run, that's small potatoes compared to the real damage you could inflict. Just think of all the possibilities!



Justin Bolger
Shoulder Angel

Not only have you violated the sacred rules of life, but you are nothing more than a wolf donning sheep's clothing!

Alright, here's an example: The villain of the late '90s

movie "The Craft" casts a spell on herself to look like the heroine. She uses this ability to get extra chummy with the love interest. Evil, yes?

How is what you did any different?

The fact that you're messing with love makes this just that much more vile. When two people are in a relationship, they have a lot of power and a lot of responsibility over each other's emotions. If you steal your friend's voice, you're not only messing with the boyfriend's emotions, but his very trust in the one he loves; therefore, you screw over your friend, as well. So much damage control will have to be done!

You need to trust their trust. Are you just doubting him because you've been wronged in the past? I can't imagine what's happened to you that would lead you to believe so strongly in lying and cheating to get your way.

No good will ever come from deception. There is no justice, no virtue in any of this. Look, I appreciate that you're trying to look out for a friend, but you're taking the coward's approach.

If you want to know about the guy, ask him. Do it in person, or call him up if you can't summon the courage. Whatever you do, be real about it.

Remember this guideline of life: If you can't do it honestly and proudly, you're doing it wrong.

Sex AND THE Campus

Does size really matter?

This is the holy icon of questions, the answer to which will affect how many men see themselves.

It often seems like a very trivial question, just something that men compete over, but masculinity is important to men. His sex drive and feeling adequate in bed can often help a man feel like a man in his own world.

Sex can define us more than we would wish, and the male sex organ is often used in many cultures as a description of power.

In Turkey, for example, there is a small sculpture sold in bazaars all over the country. This statue, of a small man with a very elongated penis, is a symbol of fertility and is often given to young couples as a wedding gift.

In our own society, we see men in their personal arguments over whose is bigger. The winner is determined the better of the two men, but we all know how the size of one's penis has nothing to do with



Jeb Oliver
Staff Writer

the content of one's character or whether he is the better man.

Society has prescribed this as a measure, but it doesn't matter as much as you would think.

One thing I learned in human sexuality is the vagina has very few actual nerve endings deep within.

Think about it: Would it make sense for a woman to have much feeling there? It would make the already-painful experience of having a child worse.

But instead, most of a woman's sensitivity comes from the vulva and the first two inches of the vagina. Most men, if not all, can bring to bear at least this amount of loving.

Another fact to think on is that

sometimes big can be too big! If the penis hits the cervix during sex, it can be very painful for a woman, so length can be too long, boys.

Just remember, it is harder on the body to be the receiver than to be the giver. Try to remember this, and maybe you can hope to be a little bit more of a tender lover.

Another thing to take into account is what women say.

According to Dan Savage, women who were interviewed and had long-term lovers with below-average-sized members were reported to be more satisfied than those who reported their man's penis as large.

Just some food for thought to you guys and girls.

So I would say be happy with what God gave you. If you're big, good for you. If you're small, well, remember you can still give someone orgasms all night long.

It's about finding a partner who respects you for you and is excited to just have you the way you are. There is someone out there for every size and shape.

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The Commuter

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2011



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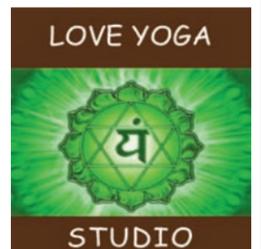
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"The Corporation" Is Technically a Psychopath

Movie Sparks Debate about
Corporate America

Dick Gentry

Contributing Writer

I recently saw a movie called "The Corporation." This clever documentary is the winner of 26 international awards including a Sundance, and while it's a few years old the film is still quite relevant.

It starts with a simple question; "What is a corporation?"

After some history explaining where the modern corporation came from, we learn that in the eyes of the law corporations are seen as private persons, with all the rights and liberties that you and I are entitled to, as well as some we aren't.

Not only are they people, they're people who enjoy more rights and pay fewer taxes than you or I and who can, in theory at least, live forever. Furthermore, the underlying and legally mandated goal of a corporation is to produce a profit for its share holders above all other interests.

Continue reading the full article online at:
commuter.linnbenton.edu

Striving for Imperfection

Theresa Griffith

Contributing Writer

One of the highest compliments I continually receive, is that I am real. The reason this is especially meaningful to me is that in my teenage years I was obsessed with perfectionism, and as a result was so uptight I couldn't relax and enjoy who I was. I have no idea how I became this way, since both parents are easygoing, Type-B personalities. My preoccupation with doing things right was so excessive that I had a checklist of my flaws and would go over it every night and give myself a 1-10 rating based on how I had "performed" during the day.

As you can imagine, I was not a happy teen, in fact, I often suffered from depression. As a young, budding flutist - (by the way, the National Flute Association says we don't have to say flutist anymore, thank God), my body was so rigid

when I practiced and played, that my entire back felt like an immovable rock! I was frustrated that I could not move my fingers as fast as I wanted to, and didn't know why, since I hammered away, faithfully, at my scales and pounded my exercises like a drill sergeant, every day, and sometimes multiple times a day. I was always held back from my goals and could not reach the elusive target I had set for myself. Little by little, I found the keys to unlock the cage I had built for myself. One such truth was an old Chinese Proverb that I read in a fortune cookie. It said simply this, "To go fast, row slowly."

Another principle came from my brother-in-law, who was studying to be a pastor. He said, "Theresa, love is the sum total of life. You don't have to concentrate on doing everything right to be "right," you just need to love - love yourself and everyone else and you will find peace." That one nugget of truth was so freeing for me, it transformed my life

immediately! All of a sudden, I just "let go!" My body relaxed and my fingers FLEW across the keys of my instrument! I began to close my eyes when I practiced, and think of peaceful words like - easy, light, floating, and so on.

My newfound philosophy translated into all areas of my life. My singing became fluid and smooth. I gained another whole octave to my vocal range and could reach the high notes with ease. As I rose up higher and higher in the scale, I would picture it floating outward, as opposed to an uphill climb - which immediately makes the throat tighten.

My relationships also changed for the better. My personality came alive and became laid-back, even comical. Now I enjoy being with people, and they enjoy being with me. I am no longer critical with them, because I was no longer critical with myself.

When I bought my five foot long, Walking Flute a few years

ago, I found it very difficult to play. Because the keys were so spread out, it forced me to cramp my thumb. In this unnatural position, it was hard to keep the holes covered, which meant the tone would be disrupted and thin, or nonexistent. I gave up on it, thinking it just wasn't going to work, but one day as I was lying on the couch, I picked it up and thought I'd just lie there and fool around with it - key words, key ideas here- why didn't I think of it sooner?! I gave up, I didn't try hard and it worked! The harder I tried - the worse it was, the more I relaxed in it and sought just to enjoy it - it worked. Ah! Sweet success.

I still have times, rare moments, when I try too hard, especially when it comes to deadlines, but I've learned the best way to conquer a problem is to face it, so instead of dreading deadlines and voicing my inability to deal with them, I row slowly, let go, give up, go limp, play, dance, celebrate the task and enjoy the journey.

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Jason Caffarella, conductor

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Melting Pot Continues to Boil

Dick Gentry
Contributing Writer

Recently, President Obama announced a new push for immigration reform. The argument of immigration reform is not so much an argument of whether or not we should proceed with reform, but an argument over how to best go about reforming the failed policies in question.

Within this debate there are countless numbers of interests in contention, from those concerned with the humanitarian implications of our policies, to those concerned with how this argument will affect the power relationship between the state and national governments. The far-reaching consequences of how this country deals with immigration draws in an overwhelming number of interests.

I was raised to think this nation was founded on a set of ideals - ideals that held in belief that every human is created equal and thus subject to the same set of inalienable human rights. I took those ideals to be the essence of liberty. Ideals that recognized the inherent inequality caused by monarchies and aristocratic ruling classes, and said, "No more." I thought these ideals were a large part of America's identity and supposed moral superiority throughout the years.

So why then, in the name of any number of interests, are we now throwing aside this once-cherished tenet of American philosophy? When it comes to many of the current and proposed policies dealing with the immigration issue, they often produce little in the way of results and serve to further a debasement of our civil liberties and rights.

When dealing with immigrants, authorities act with little regard for the rights or dignity demanded by those ideals of equality. More and more we see laws like Arizona's SB1070, which infringe upon our protection against unreasonable search and seizure. We see the dehumanizing and tragic loss of life along the southern border, where people have

been put in jail for giving water to those dying of dehydration.

I recently found an op-ed by author Ross Douhat titled "Islam and the two Americas". It deals with this issue. The first paragraph speaks to the America I'm most familiar with. It's as follows:

There's an America where it doesn't matter what language you speak, what god you worship, or how deep your New-World roots run. An America where

I was raised to think this nation was founded on a set of ideals - ideals that held in belief that every human is created equal and thus subject to the same set of inalienable human rights.

all the xenophobic rhetoric of late, be it directed at Muslims, Mexicans, homosexual, or whoever else can be made the bogeyman, I think the first America Douhat speaks of is getting further and further marginalized.

While many of these laws and actions are directed at those not lucky or patient enough to be American citizens, the rights derived from these ideals are intended for all peoples. Once anyone arrives here, legitimately or not, we must give them the same human rights as everyone else. For if we don't, the once-cherished belief in equality and the morale righteousness it lends to the American identity will be lost, and so, too, will we.

allegiance to the Constitution trumps ethnic differences, language barriers and religious divides. An America where the newest arrival to our shores is no less American than the ever-so-great granddaughter of the Pilgrims.

But there's another America as well ...

It goes on from there. With

BACK *in the* DAY

Adam LaMascus

Opinion Editor

This day in history ...

May 25, 1738: Never heard of this?

A treaty organized by King George II ends the Conojocular War between the British colonies of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The cause of the war, a border dispute, isn't actually solved until the establishment of the Mason-Dixon line in 1767.

May 26, 17: Ave! True to Caesar!

Germanicus Julius Caesar returns to Rome as a triumphant hero, beginning many days of celebration. Germanicus has just returned from a successful campaign to crush the Cherusci, Chatti, and various other Germanic tribes west of the Elbe river.

May 27, 1703: Glory to the Tsar!

Tsar Peter the Great founds the city of St. Petersburg, making it the new capitol of the Russian Empire. In 1914, it is renamed Petrograd, and in 1918, the capitol is moved back to Moscow. Then in 1924, it is renamed Leningrad, and in 1991, its name is changed back to St. Petersburg. Make up your mind, Russians! On a side note, St. Petersburg houses the largest art museum in the world.

May 28, 585 BC: Science takes a back seat ...

Alyattes II of Lydia leads his army to attack Cyaxares of the Medes near the river Halys in modern Turkey. In the middle of the battle, a total solar eclipse occurs. Both armies cease fighting immediately believing it is an omen from the gods, and the kings sign a truce ending the five-year war. The brilliant scientist Thales had correctly predicted the eclipse without modern technology, and hoped it would advance science and astronomy over superstition and astrology, but he is ignored by the Mediterranean community.

May 29, 1913: Oh the French ...

The ballet "The Rite of Spring," by Russian playwright Igor Stravinsky, premieres in Paris. The ballet is radically unlike anything ever seen, with unusual music, abnormally violent choreography, and "obscene" subject matter (fertility rituals in pagan Russia.) Within minutes, fist fights break out in the aisles between supporters and opponents of the ballet, and by intermission, armed police are in a raging battle with the audience. The best part? The ballet is finished while all of this is going on. Order is not restored until after the ballet ends.

May 30, 1871: Resistance is futile ...

The Paris Commune, a revolutionary government of anarchists, Marxists, and feminists which had taken over Paris, is brutally put down by the French army. Approximately 30,000 people are killed, up to 50,000 are executed shortly afterward, and around 7,000 are exiled. This is one of the more dramatic and important proletariat uprisings during the industrial revolution.

May 31, 1962: Justice is served ...

Adolf Eichmann, one of the major orchestrators of the Holocaust, is executed by hanging in Israel. After the end of WWII, Eichmann had fled to Argentina, where he lived under a false name. He was captured by Israeli Mossad agents and taken to Israel. Interestingly, he declined a final meal, instead only asking for a bottle of Carmel, a fine red Israeli wine. His body is cremated (appropriate) and thrown into the Mediterranean in international waters. He remains the only person executed by a civilian court in Israel. Political theorist Hannah Arendt describes Eichmann as embodying the "Banality of Evil." He joined the SS and helped create the Holocaust not because he hated the Jews or agreed with the Nazis, but because at the time it was a solid career choice and he had a good mind for organization.

Thought for the week:

"He who fights with monsters should look to it that he himself does not become a monster. And when you gaze long into an abyss the abyss also gazes into you."

-Friedrich Nietzsche

Common Knowledge | OR AT LEAST IT SHOULD BE

Common Knowledge:
Gift-Giving Protocol



Gaby Scottaline
Contributing Writer

Ah, gifts. We all enjoy receiving them, most of us love giving them, and some of us even enjoy shopping for them. They are just all-around wonderful and exciting, right? Well, sometimes. Now, even though the subject of gift giving makes me uncomfortable (because unlike most people, I do not always enjoy receiving gifts), the amusement that various presents bring is far too priceless for me to pass up.

A friend of mine once entertained me with a story about the time her aunt gave her acne cream for her birthday. As she ranted about how rude, inconsiderate and completely

thoughtless this gift was, I had to agree, "What was this lady thinking?" Didn't she realize that gifts like these put the recipient in an awkward position? Maybe she was trying to be helpful, but like advice, this type of gift should only be given when specifically requested.

This situation reminds me of the many times when you receive "smell good" gifts from acquaintances.

This is OK when you are little and the kit contains bubble bath and soap sponges. But, once you get past the age of twelve you start to grow suspicious. You wonder self-consciously, "What if these people are

trying to tell me something?" I like to believe that these particular gift givers are just playing it safe, which rests much easier with most people than feeling like you've subtly been asked to shower.

There are also the "green" gift givers. These folks pride themselves in re-gifting. And while there is no real "harm" in this economical choice, there is a certain art to it that needs to be learned. A few rules of re-gifting include: 1 - Only re-gift like-new merchandise, 2 - Never leave the previous name card on the recycled gift and finally, 3 - Make sure your gift is appropriate to the recipient.

Remember reader, gift giving is a special thing. It not only brings people together, but it also makes others happy! However, you must be thoughtful about what you give. Do not present your overweight cousin with a "Losing Weight For Dummies" book, and just because you think your neighbor needs to improve her style doesn't mean you should give her a season of "What Not to Wear." These gifts may be funny, well-intentioned, and even necessary, but they are offensive. So, as in every aspect of life, think before you act and you could be spared the annoyance of hearing about parties second hand.

Apocalypse Averted

Well, I must say that was the lamest apocalypse ever. No zombies, aliens, meteors, or demonic forces battling angels. For me though, the real question is: What are all the believers doing now that the world still exists? According to NPR, a lot of justifying. Many of the most vocal doomsayers are now conspicuously silent, and those that did speak refused to do so on the record.



Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

Three answers given to NPR callers were: That the Rapture actually did occur, that there just weren't any people good enough, and now the world will actually end on October 21.

God heard the terrified pleas of the world and postponed the Rapture so more could be saved. (I'm pretty sure that was laughter, not desperate prayer.)

Harold Camping just made (another) math error, and that the world will end any day now.

Why? Why are so many people rationalizing what so many other people see as stupidity or fraud on the part of Camping? According to many experts--human nature. Elliot Aronson, a psychologist and author, told NPR, "It's very hard for us to say, 'Boy, was I stupid!' The more committed a person is to their prophecy, the more likely they are to justify that action, and to try to convince people that their belief was in some way right or good."

I also remember discussing the so-called "cult mentality" in my psychology class, and this circumstance reminds me of that. One of the main draws of cults is that they promise what other groups and ideologies lack, and then hold it in a sort of elitist package. "Join us! Only we know the truth, and you can be one of those lucky few!" Also, humans are social creatures; we are pack animals and love to join things: clubs, teams, political parties, gangs, fraternities, sororities, book clubs, social groups, online clans, etc. What better group to join than one that promises to save your soul?

Also, frankly, it seems to me that people, such as Camping need something to believe in. If it wasn't Camping and his stupidity, it would be something else. The best example I can think of is my step-grandmother. She goes for everything. Fox says that there are terrorists lurking amongst us, she freaks and asks my stepdad to go buy her a full NBC (Nuclear/Biological/Chemical) survival suit or at least a gas mask. Some wacko on the TV says the U.S. government is behind 9-11, she starts looking for the hidden security cameras in her apartment. Some charlatan says the world will end on May 21, she calls up my stepdad to say he needs to take my mom and hide in the basement and pray because there will be earthquakes, volcanoes, and the Apocalypse. While our family gets a chuckle out of it, it's actually really sad when you think about it.

I suspect fear mongering played a part in this, as well. As the media has aptly demonstrated over the past ... forever, one of the best ways to get people to do what you want is to scare them. Telling people they have mere weeks before all Hell literally breaks loose and that they need to frantically prepare or join the billions of people condemned to burn in brimstone and agony for all eternity is some pretty heavy fear mongering.

The fact is that there always have and always will be people predicting the end of the world, and there will always be people who believe them for whatever reason. Biologically, we are programmed to join them and stick to our guns. Whatever, it's their prerogative to do so. At least they will always be a source of amusement.

By Maggie O'Reilly
An LBCC student-generated comic
Add/Drop



No Rapture, No Excuse

The rapture didn't happen as Harold Camping predicted, but this does not change the fact that numerous Christians quit their jobs, donated all their money, forfeited their children's college savings, and traveled the United States to preach the word.

One Christian named Keith Bauer took his family to California, over 3,000 miles away from his home, to witness the rapture. You can read more about his adventure on MercuryNews.com.

He said, "I had some skepticism, but I was trying to push the skepticism away because I believe in God. I was hoping for it because I think heaven would be a lot better than this earth."

This is where I step in and offer my strong opinion on the matter.

I grew up as a Catholic, but denounced my faith during high school when I started questioning the Christian religion, as well as every other religion - western or eastern.

This allowed my mind to venture. This allowed me to seek truth, and in doing so, I researched and educated myself on many different cultures, beliefs, and knowledge.

I'm not asking, nor do I suggest that anyone lose their faith. I only ask that you educate yourselves on other beliefs in the world so that



Jennifer Hartsock
Contributing Writer

you may have an understanding of their views. This is true even if you believe that your religion is the only way to God. Informing yourself of different religions does not mean you have to accept it as your own.

I personally realized that God has a universal meaning. God is love, and that compassion is the path to God.

It is disheartening to me that many Christians were happy to leave this earth and be with God on Saturday, May 21.

This is not because I don't believe in heaven, or that heaven is profoundly and unfathomably wonderful, but people were so eager to leave this earth, instead of being eager to make earth become as close to being like heaven as we humanly can. I've always believed that one of our duties as conscious beings is to leave a positive mark on this planet, to strive to become a better global community.

As Keith Bauer said, "I was hoping for [the Rapture] because I think heaven would be a lot better than this earth."

It probably is, but being desperate to abandon humanity can also hinder your ability to change humanity for the better.

The pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Oakland, Gregory Chisholm (also found on MercuryNews.com), said, "... [If] one were really trying to help people prepare for the end times, one would counsel people to minister to the sick and feed the hungry and visit those who are in prison, because that's exactly what the Lord says to do."

With or without end times, this is what everyone should be doing for the sole sake of doing the right thing. With due respect, I believe that religion is a great thing. I also believe that being a good person should come from your innermost desire to love, to give, and to help - because people deserve it.

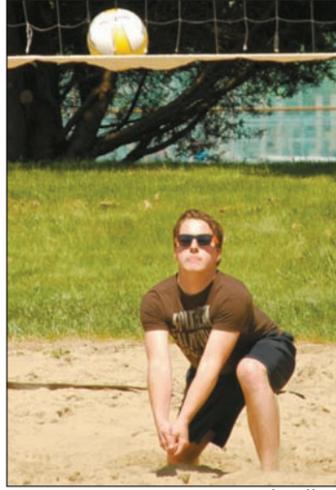
Do your part in making the world a better place, and you've done your duty as a fellow human being, religious or not. Make your consciousness count.

On March 23, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama tweeted: "Every individual is responsible to help guide our global family in the right direction."

Read more by Jennifer on her blog at:
jennifermhartsock.wordpress.com



Ben Davis
Anika Kilian works on her forehand in Rick Campbell's tennis class.



Nicole Allen
Levi Comerford concentrates on the ball during his volleyball class on one of LBCC's sand volleyball courts.



Ryan Zeigler
A.J. Burke has second thoughts about agreeing to a quick game of "balls" in between Tuesday's double header.



Dineen Charest
Dimitri Menkiena, 5, of Corvallis, chooses a Mother's Day flower at the LBCC plant sale on May 6.



Kyle Holland
Alexis Kitzmiller gets nose-to-nose with this giant lizard during the reptile show at the PCDC.



Kody Kinsella
Diana Guitron enjoys the sun while working on a study of her foot in the courtyard.



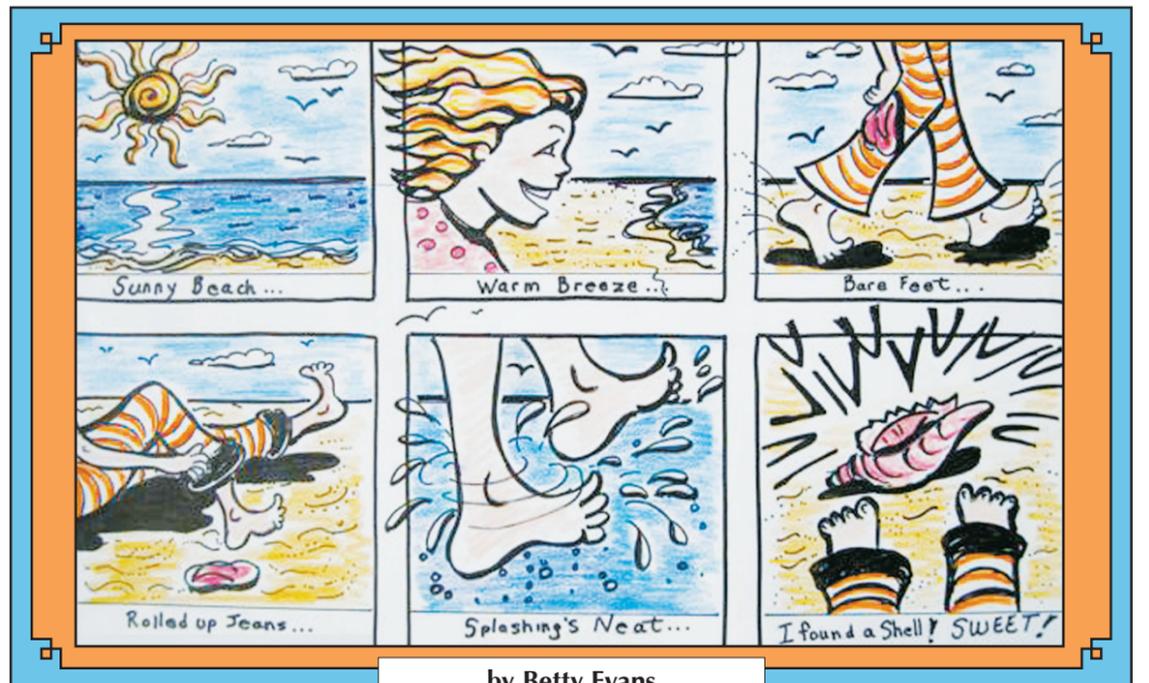
Alyssa Archer
Chloie and John Parsons soak up some culture at the Portland Art Museum with their son, JT, during a field trip arranged by LBCC's art department on Friday, May 20. A total of 18 students, friends, and family members, along with two instructors, made the trip.

See more photos online at commuter.linnbenton.edu.

Snapshots Around Campus

Student-Submitted Art

email your own artwork to commuter@linnbenton.edu



by Betty Evans
Comic Strip

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 won't knowingly publish material that treats individuals or groups in an unfairly. Any ad judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Help Wanted

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

Gas Station Attendant/Cashier (#9015, I-5 & Hwy 34) This is part-time flexible job. Pays \$8.50/hr. Need transportation.

CNAs/Caregivers (#8562, Corvallis) \$1000 sign on bonus. Work for an in-home care employer for Corvallis/Albany area.

Americorps VISTA (#8989, Charleston, OR) Work in the rugged southern Oregon coast for a one-year assignment to develop a new Work Experience Program to recruit and train volunteers to gain real-world job skills in a variety of career paths.

Project Assistant (#9016, Albany) Full-time job for office student graduating in June. Pay is \$12/hr.

Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone (541)-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232.

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

Campus Events

Ongoing

Juried Student Art Exhibit
North Santiam Hall Galleries
Sixty works by 42 student artists are on view at the annual Juried Art Student Exhibit. The exhibit was open to students who have taken art classes at the college during the 2010-11 academic year. The media on exhibit include paintings in oil, watercolor, and acrylic; drawings in pencil, ink, and pastel; photography; glass; ceramics and mixed-media sculpture. The exhibit runs through June 3.

Wednesday 5/25

Memorial Day Vigil
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. • The Courtyard
Soldier's Cross and Memorial Day presentation by the LBCC Veteran's Club with guest speakers.

Courtyard Lunch: BBQ or Buffalo Hot Wings

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. • The Courtyard
Head out to the courtyard for some finger-licking wings and support LBCC Clubs and Organizations! Lunch will include potato salad, chips, cookie, and a beverage of your choice. The cost is \$3.50 for students, \$4.50 for college employees. This event is made possible through a collaborative effort between Student Life & Leadership and Food Services. Your support today will benefit the Linn-Benton Renaissance Club.

Thursday 5/26

Third Annual Albany Sings!
7 p.m. • 2817 Santiam Highway, Albany
Approximately 300 singers from the Calapooia, Memorial, and North Albany Middle Schools, West and South Albany High Schools, and the LBCC choirs will perform a plethora of choral works. This performance is free and open to the public, no tickets required. Come on out and celebrate music, singing, and the many award-winning Albany choral programs, and show your support for choral music education and the many students whose lives these programs impact.

Friday 5/27

Priority Registration for Fall Term Begins

Monday 5/30

Memorial Day
College closed.

Thursday 6/2

Music Down In My Soul!
7:30 - 9 p.m. • Russell Tripp Performance Center
The LBCC choirs perform a concert in the Russell Tripp Performance Center. Choirs include: The Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir, The Concert Choir, The Men's Ensemble, The Women's Ensemble, Blue Light Special, and The Sirens. Conducted by James Reddan and Jason Caffarella.

Saturday 6/4

Kids Jam
Need help with the kids while you attend Study Jam? Sign up in the Student Life and Leadership Office one week before Kids Jam! Sponsor: Associated Student Government.

Sat.-Sun. 6/4-5

Study Jam
The Learning Center
Do you need a place to study by yourself or with a group? Come to Study Jam, sponsored by your Associated Student Government! Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help, test book rentals and free food will be available!

Mon.-Fri. 6/6-10

Book Buyback

Thursday 6/9

Commencement

Friday 6/10

End of Spring Term

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

THE COMMONS FARE

5/25-5/31

Wednesday

Dishes: Chicken and Waffle, Root beer Pulled Pork Sandwich and Mac & Cheese
Soup: New Year's Soup and Oyster

Thursday

Dishes: Beef Tamles, Oyster Po Boy, and Eggplant Parmesan
Soup: Muligtawny and Vegetarian Tortilla Soup

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

No School

Tuesday

Dishes: Salmon Florentine, Hurley's BBQ Chicken and Huevos Rancheros
Soups: Cuban Black Bean and Cream of Mushroom

LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Albany, Oregon

Volume 1 Issue # 2

EXTRA EXTRA !!

LBCC Holds 2nd Juneteenth Celebration

Inside this issue:

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Special Points of Interest:

- Guest Speakers
- Exhibits
- Sample & enjoy the tasty foods honoring this historic celebration
- A rich and rewarding educational experience

The Emancipation Proclamation, signed on January 1, 1863, was not delivered to Texan slaves until June 19, 1865;

two and a half years later...



Join the Juneteenth Celebration

when: **Friday, June 3rd 2011**

where: **Diversity Achievement Center (DAC)**

time : **11:30 am—1:30 pm**

Space is limited so mark your calendars and plan to attend this educational and historical event!



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Leavin' Blues

by Ruth Krueger

I'm leavin' this town and I won't be comin' back.
I'm leavin' this town and I won't be comin' back.
Takin' all that I can in this lil' ol' sack.

Don't know if I'll see my babies no more.
Don't know I'll see those babies no more.
I hear them blues in the sound of that slammin' door.

Blues, cause now I got no home.
Blues, cause now I got no home.
I done left and I'm goin' all alone.

My hearts a-breakin', but I ain't got tears to cry.
Lord, it's a-breakin' but I ain't got tears to cry.
Done used all those tears up to say goodbye.

Gotta' take me freedom while the takin's good.
Gotta take my freedom while the takin's good.
Can't stay no longer like grandma says I should.

Blues like rain come pourin' down.
Blues like rain come pourin' down.
My hearts a-breakin' and I'm leavin' this ol' town.

Study Jam

A great place to study the weekend before finals!

Learning Center, Albany Campus Saturday, June 4 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Math Help Desk: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Computer Lab: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Testing: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (latest to start a test is 4 p.m.) Library: 12 - 4 p.m. Free food!	Learning Center, Albany Campus Sunday, June 5 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Math Help Desk: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Computer Lab: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Testing: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (latest to start a test is 4 p.m.) Free food!	Benton Center Saturday, June 4 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Math Help: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Testing: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (latest to start a test is 3 p.m.) Reading/Writing/Study Skills: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Drawings every hour Computer lab available w/ printing Textbook checkout Free food!
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Also: Kids Jam, Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at PCDC

Presented through the cooperation of the Learning Center Staff and the Associated Student Government

**Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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The Blues

The blues are the soul's song. They come from the heart that is breaking. They sing out the pain of life. They call to an audience to hear their complaint-- and respond. They seek out understanding and sympathy.

It seems that there is something powerful in the cry of the blues--a release of our struggles, a shedding of our tears that brings relief. In this experience we may not find answers. We don't come away from a blues session with a pro's and con's list or a two-year plan. We may not even know how we will make it through today, but just the same, our souls feel lighter. Emotion, and especially grief, is not meant to be neatly packaged and brought out at appropriate times in constrained fashion. Neither is emotion meant to be shared at a cost of \$150 an hour (or so). How can we give a hand up if we never know someone is down? Emotion is meant to be shared, spoken, written, sung: the blues.

Blues music, especially instrumental call and response, is perhaps one of the most beautiful sounds that exist. It says to us, "I hear your pain. I have mine too. We're in this thing together, and I don't know how, but somehow we're going to be all right." It stirs an ache in the soul like nothing else can, and it's a good ache. A deep ache. A knowing ache. Both happy and sad. Alone and comforted. Weak and strong. All mixed up inside of us, and coming out in such a way that we can barely stand its beauty.

One of the aspects of the blues that make them so powerful is honesty. No hiding. No masks. No hypocrisy. It's an acknowledging that sometimes life is hell. And yes, we are sure that heaven exists, and we are not without hope of brighter days, but today, right now, we need to understand our hell. We need the world to understand with us. The blues do not attempt to fix it all, only to say it all. The beauty of the blues is this: in the sayin', there's some fixin' goin' on!

Black Beauty

by Rochelle Hentze

"What you hidin' from?" my momma says,
"What you hidin' from?"
"I se Black Momma,
I se Black."
"You is beautiful in your skin, Girl,
You is beautiful in your skin.
Come out that room and show your beauty, Girl,
Your beautiful black beauty.
Don't you be hidin' Girl,
Don't you be hidin'."
"I se Black, Momma,
I se Black."
"You is beautiful, Girl
You is Beautiful.
Come on out and show your beauty, Girl,
Your Beautiful Black Beauty.
What you hidin' from?" my momma says,
"What you hidin' from?"

The blues, singing in the tradition, sharing the stories, the history-- the blues communicate a simple yet overpowering message. Singing of the deep strength of the human condition, all the betrayal, all the pain; heartache, loss, melancholy, raw passion, bursting with personality, singing in the vernacular, the common language.

The blues, what an expression of life! Just writing about it puts that deep, deep ache in the seat of my soul. The ache that comes from feeling the pain, the kind of soul pain that wraps around the heart, engulfs it, and tries to squeeze the breath out of it. Some of us go through life and never have to feel pain, and some have to feel it so deeply that it changes who we are.

Lack of power in your life puts the words in the blues. Not knowing where your love is going to come from, will there be love? Will I survive to see another day? When will my baby come home? Oh despair! Oh heartache!

The blues-- they give us a chance to share our journey with the community. Music brings people together, puts them on the same page. When I listen to the blues I get pulled into the life of the singer, and it touches me down to the very core of my being. It's another one of those things that you can't just put mere words to, you need to live it, to feel it. There needs to be an understanding of the pain, a window into the lives of those who have lived the pain.

I can't stand the pain!

"Go To Class" Poster Contest

\$\$\$ Cash Prizes \$\$\$

First Place \$300
Second Place \$200
Third through Fifth Place \$100
Staff \$25

"Go to Class" Poster Rules:

- Design a poster to promote attending class; every class.
- You must create your own slogan and art.
 - Can be hand done in any art medium.
 - Must be converted to an electronic file.
 - May include your name on poster (not required).
- Size should be 8.5 x 11 or 11x 17
- Submission deadline is May 27

How to Apply:

- Submit to ambassador@linnbenton.edu

Heading should say: "Poster for Contest; Legal Rights Transferred to LBCC"

- Include this information in your submission:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Phone number
 - Mailing Address

See Student Life and Leadership for more information.

Run and Gun on the "Brink" of Greatness

Mason Le Britton

Cartoonist

Remember the first time you saw "The Matrix" and thought, "I wish I could do that?" Well, in "Brink" you can!

"Brink" is a team-based first-person shooter that can be played online or solo offline. The story within the game is that a floating man-made city known as the Ark has become the last refuge for mankind. After fleeing a world-scale flood and finding safety upon the Ark, the refugees become maintenance workers to keep the city afloat. As the refugees become second-class citizens, they form the Resistance to fight the Ark government and reach out to the outside world. The once-standard security force for the Ark has been transformed into a heavily-armed police force to keep the peace on the Ark.

While the story of the game may be fairly simple, its purpose is to give the two factions a clear motivation to slide tackle each other. Each map is set up with various objectives for both sides to complete, such as defending points, hacking terminals, and escorting wounded men. There are four classes the player can choose from: Solider, Engineer, Medic, and The Operative. Many of the objectives require a specific class to complete. For example, it takes a solider to blow a hole in the enemy's defense. Luckily, if your team is lacking a specific class, you can return to a command post and quickly switch roles. There are several command posts located throughout the levels, which can be captured and give your entire team a buff. Not only can you switch which class you play mid-fight, but you can switch weapons at the command posts, as well.



The customization in "Brink" is extensive, from body type, clothing, weapons, and even skills. A lot of the customization options have to be unlocked and bought with skill points earned from leveling up. One of the most interesting options for character customization comes in the form of skills. As you level, you can purchase skills, some that affect your character at all times, such as increased health points. There are also class-specific skills, such as the engineer's turret-placement skill or enhanced class buffs.

The customization allows for unique characters, ranging between a skinny well-dressed cop to a massive solider with tires strapped over his shoulders. The one awkward thing about the

customization that extends to the overall game is the lack of females. Having yet to see or hear mention of a female on the Ark makes me side with the Resistance in the hope of reaching the outside world.

The one thing that sets this game apart from other shooters is the S.M.A.R.T. system. S.M.A.R.T. stands for Smooth Movement Across Random Terrain. While holding the S.M.A.R.T. button, the game will automatically sense what you want to do: climb a wall, jump to the next platform, or slide under a pipe. Although if you're not paying enough attention, you could inadvertently throw yourself over your cover and into the line of fire. This innovative control system allows for a greater immersion into the game world and some incredibly fun moments.

The S.M.A.R.T. system also allows players to preform slide tackles, which will knock down your enemy, hopefully catching them off-guard long enough to score a kill.

Overall, "Brink" is intensely fun and enjoyable. While you can play the storyline solo, online is far more interesting. It's obvious that online play is where this game excels. The game feels reminiscent to games such as "Unreal Tournament 3" and "Star Wars Battlefront." On the other hand, "Brink" brings a little more involvement to game levels with its use of command points and objectives. The one disappointing part of "Brink" is that you cannot play co-op with a friend offline, which would add to the long-term enjoyment of this game.

Just remember the number one rule of "Brink": Move more than you shoot.

Genre: Shooter • Rating: T • Platforms: PC, PS3, Xbox 360



Here Comes the ... Trouble

Jill Mahler

Staff Writer

Weddings are a stressful time; it helps to be surrounded by people who make matters go smoothly. Unfortunately, this isn't always the case.

In the movie "Bridesmaids," Annie (Kristen Wiig) is chosen to be her best friend Lillian's (Maya Rudolph) maid of honor. Despite her own relationship troubles, Annie embarks on a mission to make Lillian's big day a memorable one. However, there are numerous glitches along the way, including a rag-tag group of bridesmaids and food poisoning.

Maybe it is just the season, but there are a lot of bridal-themed movies to please any nuptial-minded gal, or just those looking for a good laugh. "Bridesmaids" is chock-full of hilarious moments to break up the predictability attached to every rom-com.

Wiig, who co-wrote the film, polished her comedic style with her roles on "Saturday Night Live," along with Rudolph, a fellow SNL star, which translated into some of the improvisation that occurred in the film.

"Bridesmaids" is directed by Paul Feig, also known for his film "Knocked Up." The hilarious moments helped to break up the lengthy runtime. "Bridesmaids" proves that it can play well along side the male-dominated comedies, such as "The Hangover" and "Wedding Crashers," delivering similar raunchy scenes.

Of course, the ending follows that of a typical chick-flick, but overall "Bridesmaids" is worth watching.

"Bridesmaids"

Rated: R • Runtime: 125 min.

Starring: Kristin Wiig, Maya Rudolph



"Pirates" Sail on Familiar Tides

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

Remember when "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" came out eight years ago, and you thought, "Wow, Disney must be really scrapping the bottom of the barrel if they're turning 50-year-old amusement park rides into major motion pictures?"

Then remember how totally awesome it was? And how you hope that every subsequent sequel will recapture that awesomeness, but it never does?

The fourth "Pirates" installment, "On Stranger Tides," covers a lot of familiar ground. Jack, excuse me, Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) is conscripted by his former flame and possible daughter of Blackbeard (Ian McShane), Angelica (Penelope Cruz), to lead an expedition to the Fountain of Youth.

Blackbeard's ship has magical powers and is run by zombies. (Huh, a ship run by a crew of the dead, where have I seen this before?) Jack has to stay one step ahead of Blackbeard while trying to get to the fountain before Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) – who's now a peg-legged, wig-wearing privateer for King George – and the

Spanish armada. (Multiple ships all searching for the same treasure, that sounds a little familiar.)

If you've seen one "Pirates," you've pretty much seen them all. This time around there's no Orlando Bloom or Keira Knightley, but I'm okay with that. Their storyline ran its course in the first one, and they were unnecessary in the second and third films. To fill the young lover void this go around, we have a cleric who falls in love with a mermaid (more about them later), but again, that storyline is unnecessary.

Depp and Rush have always been the real stars of the movie, and again they steal the show. They have a wonderful chemistry with each other; my favorite scenes are watching them battle each other, whether it be with swords or witty banter.

The newcomers to the cast do a fine job. I would have liked a little more backstory on the Jack-Angelica relationship, but it would probably just get lost in the already-crowded exposition.

Like the mermaids. I told you I'd get back to them. Apparently, the water from the Fountain of Youth only works if it's mixed with the tear of a mermaid. Who knew?

So the pirates have to catch a



mermaid and make her cry. But these mermaids aren't your average Ariel. They're mean, vicious, horrible creatures. They use their beauty to lure sailors into the water where their vampire-like fangs materialize and they devour the men. They sully the good name of mermaids everywhere!

You don't go to "Pirates" for CGI creatures, or unexplainable hocus pocus, or expendable love story.

You go for Captain Jack Sparrow. You go for Johnny Depp's crazy fantastic performance. You go for the one-liners, clever innuendos that go above younger viewer's heads, and extravagant escape plans that he concocts.

For those reasons, you won't be disappointed. The opening getaway, with Jack escaping King George, is particularly entertaining, and includes a cameo from Judi Dench that's a lot of fun.

Is it as good as the first one? No, but I doubt any of them will be. (Yes, there will be more.) But it was as good as I expected it to be. And besides, it could always be worse, the next theme-park-attraction-turned-summer-blockbuster could be "It's a Small World."

"Pirates of the Caribbean:
On Stranger Tides"

Rated: PG-13 • Runtime: 137 min.

Starring: Johnny Depp, Geoffrey Rush,
Penelope Cruz, Ian McShane



Jon Franke (left), Ellen Demarest, and Tom Demarest perform at the Benton Center on May 21.

Ben Davis

Demarests Dazzle with Delightful Ditties

Marci Sischo

Webmaster

Twice a term, the Benton Center features local musicians in their Acoustic Showcase. Friday, May 21, was the second and last showcase for this term, and Tom and Ellen Demarest, along with bassist Jon Franke, gave a fantastic performance.

Tom and Ellen have been performing together since 1978. In 1984, they were joined by Jon Franke of Franke Violin Studios in Monroe, Oregon. They play folk music on a variety of stringed instruments, including a giant upright bass Franke made himself.

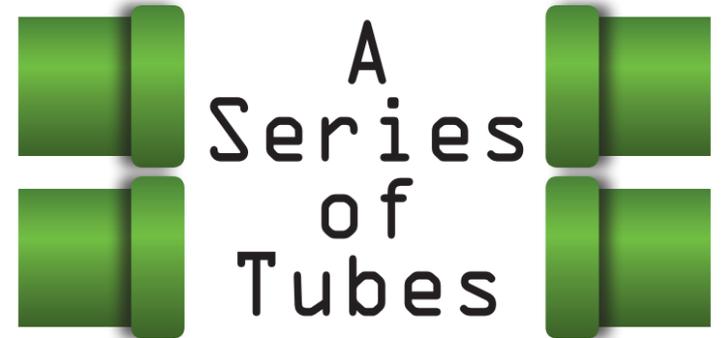
Friday's show was excellent, an hour that went by too fast. It was full of laughter, friendly banter, great music, and Ellen Demarest's unbelievable voice. As well-loved as this trio is locally, you've probably already heard them play. If you haven't, put them right at the top of your "Must-Do" list immediately. They can be found at Fireworks on the second Friday of every month, and they appear regularly in Corvallis and Albany. Watch the Gazette-Times' Music

Lineup to find them.

Tom Demarest, guitar and ABE/GED instructor at the Benton Center, began the Acoustic Showcase in 2006 after performing in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Benton Center's remodel. "The way it came about, back in 2006 we were having the big gala opening ceremony for the Center," Demarest explained. "We were supposed to be outside. The weather was supposed to be nice, but it looked like rain, so we moved inside. We were surprised by the acoustics in there, and we were talking about it after the show, so I presented the proposal to Penny York [the Benton Center's director at the time], and she accepted."

Tom is also the man to contact if local musicians are interested in appearing in the Acoustic Showcase. He looks for local musicians, who can adapt their music to acoustic sets, as amps aren't allowed. Demarest said the Fall term Showcases were already booked, but the Winter term is still open.

See more photos and video from the concert at:
commuter.linnbenton.edu



Your Guide to the Interwebs

Let Me Google That for You

Marci Sischo

Webmaster

This week, we're talking about search engines. For a lot of you, using a search engine may seem pretty basic. You may be thinking, "Everyone knows how to use a search engine," but there's a whole subset of the population out there who think the only thing on the Internet is Facebook. And once they leave Facebook, those folks are bogged.

There's nothing wrong with that. Everyone has to be new to something once in a while, so don't sweat it. If you're ready to venture beyond your Internet comfort zone, whatever it may be, a search engine will help you do it.

You probably know the Big Three already, but just in case, here they are: Google.com, Yahoo.com, and Bing.com*. I prefer Google exclusively. Yahoo and Bing will get you results, but Google will do it better. Also, Yahoo and Bing have a bad habit of copying everything Google does, only, y'know, not as well. So if you're using Yahoo or Bing as your default search engine, stop that. You're a big kid now. You can use the big kids' search engine.

Doing a Google search is just about as easy as you could ask anything to be, as long as you keep a few tips in mind:

- Follow the KISS rule: Keep It Simple, Silly. Pare what you're looking for down into the simplest phrase you can think of. For example, if you want to know the gross national product of India, type "gross national product India" into your search bar. Typing something like "What is the gross national product of India?" will net you a ton of useless results, for a couple of reasons:
 1. Almost every word you type into the search bar counts. Search engines generally disregard common words and articles (and, but, the, an, for), but everything else you add to the search bar is just more stuff your search engine will be trying to find. Carve your question down to the basics to get the best results.
 2. Search engines don't think like people do, so throwing cluttered search queries at them will confuse them. Try thinking of a search engine like an elderly, slightly senile, and hard-of-hearing librarian. Tell it simply and specifically what you want for the best results.
- Think about how the answer you want is likely to be written. If you're researching a term paper, or looking for an authoritative, expert type of answer to a query, then you'll want to use more scholarly search terms. Don't type "stop butt itches" if you're actually looking for "hemorrhoid treatments."
- Search engines are not English majors. They aren't case sensitive and save for a couple of special exceptions, couldn't care less about punctuation. To a search engine, "Washington, D.C." and "washington dc" are the exact same query.

Following these basic tips will improve your search results immensely, but to really work your Google-Fu, you'll also want to bone up on advanced search techniques. You'll want to know how and when to use quotation marks in your search queries, how to search a specific website, what the plus and minus signs and the asterisk will do for you, what an OR operator does, and stuff like that.

I could tell you, but hey, you know how to use a search engine now. Go find out!**

* Ask.com has been dead to me since they retired Jeeves.

** Or just go here: [http://bit.ly/jOC3qI](http://bit.ly/jOC3qI;) ;)

redbox review

Holy Rollers (Rated R, Runtime 89 min.)

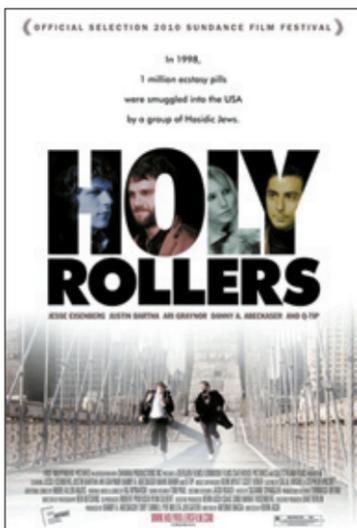
Carli Gibson

Staff Writer

Religion and drugs, anyone? What if I made it sound nicer? How about Jewish men selling medicine to the rich? That's what Sam Gold (Jesse Eisenberg) was told when he first got into the "medicine" selling business. He was just trying to make a few extra bucks, but Gold got himself stuck into a situation he couldn't get out of.

"Holy Rollers" is based on a true story about a young Jewish man who gets involved with an Israeli ecstasy-drug cartel. Gold finds himself getting into the business a little more each day, until one day he gets in too deep.

In the beginning, Gold is a very strict Jewish man, following his religion and how he was raised very closely. There was only one problem his father saw in him: he cared too much about money. So when he's offered a side job by his neighbor Yosef (Justin Bartha) with promises of good pay, what's a boy to do?



sketchily dramatized. We never get to the place where the two parts of Sam's personality meet - the devoted son and sharp-dealing criminal." He's right, there needs to be more clarification and emotion to that relationship. Also, the beginning was a little slow, but still, it wasn't bad and it doesn't stay dull.

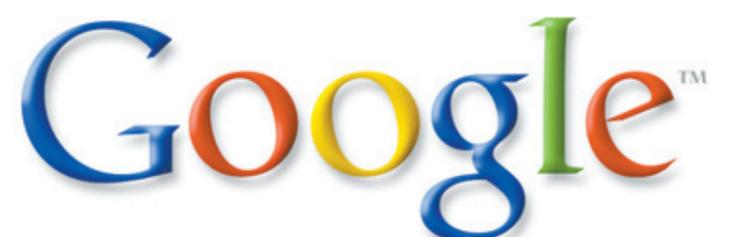
Eisenberg did a good job with this movie; he played kind of a jerk like he did in "The Social Network" (except he wasn't as much of a jerk in this film). His co-actors, Justin Bartha, Danny A. Abeckaser, Ari Graynor, and Jason Fuchs, also gave good performances.

And believe it or not, this movie isn't rated R for violence, or blood, or nudity like I would have expected from a drug movie. In fact, the only reason this was rated R was most likely from selling drugs and the language. It was the cleanest drug movie I have ever watched.

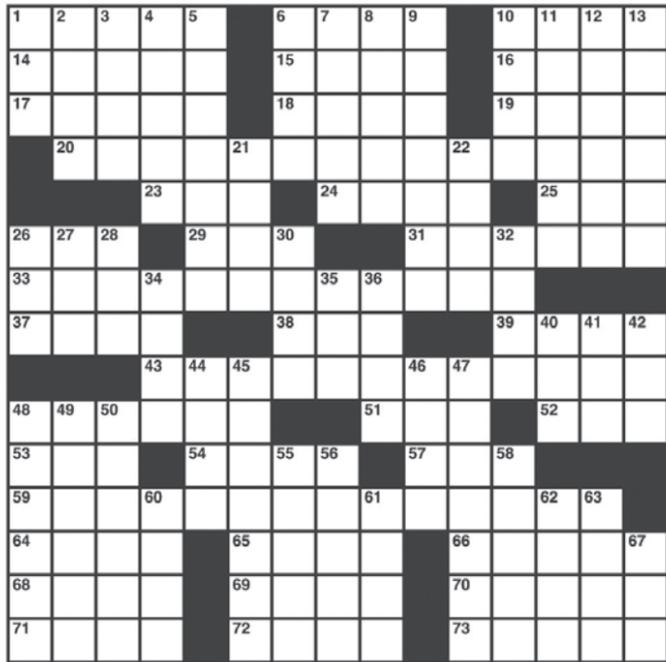
Overall, this movie was pretty good. I probably wouldn't watch it a second time, but it was a good watch the first time around.

I won't give away any more of the plot, but I will tell you that this movie was pretty good. I half expected it to be corny or just plain stupid, but I figured since Jesse Eisenberg was in it, it couldn't be too bad.

I will admit, there were a few times I was confused, in the words of Liam Lacey from Globe and Mail, "The scenes of family conflict are



- ACROSS**
- One-person boat
 - College athlete
 - Mouse catcher
 - China's Zhou ___
 - Clickable symbol
 - Compete in a meet
 - Ghostly noises
 - "Let It ___": Everly Brothers hit
 - Peruvian empire builder
 - Furthermore
 - Barbary ape's cont.
 - Necklace clasp resting place
 - Baton Rouge sch.
 - Implore
 - Coastal inlet
 - Take to the clink
 - 1961 Tony-winning musical inspired by Elvis being drafted
 - Rig on the road
 - John, to Ringo?
 - Trivial, as chatter
 - 7/4/1976 celebration
 - Debonair
 - Dr.'s group, maybe
 - Adobe file format
 - Cockney's main Web page?
 - Bears or Cubs
 - Suffix with Israel
 - Retail store financing come-on
 - Rick's love in "Casablanca"
 - Mayberry moppet
 - Con game
 - Nuremberg no
 - Elbow-joint bone
 - Embodiment of perfection
 - RR stops
 - Ball-bearing gadgets?
 - Short-winded



By Fred Jackson III

- "Now ___ me down ..."
- Classic orange soda
- Seafood cookout
- Triangular sails
- Blue part of a map
- Cause for a pause
- Patella protector
- The Dixie Chicks, e.g.
- Fester in one's mind
- Way to get in
- Planters logo Mr. ___
- Buffalo-to-Albany canal
- Actress Garr
- Air rifle ammo
- Needle feature
- Precious stone
- Proficient
- Coachman's control
- Netanyahu of Israel, familiarly
- Particle with a charge
- Philip who wrote the Zuckerman novels

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



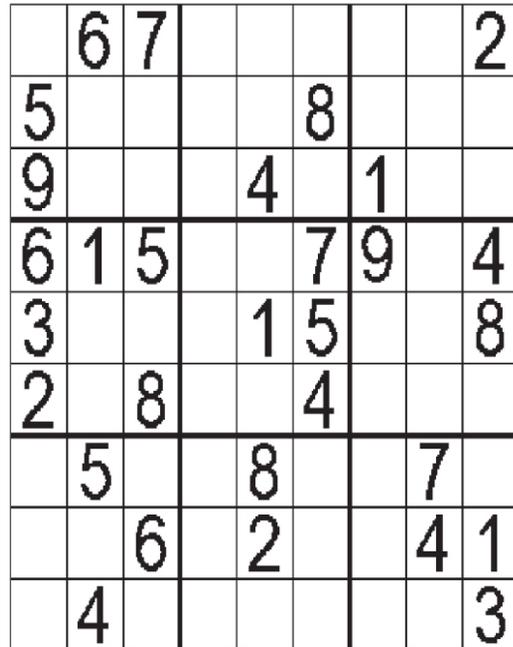
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- Chip go-with
- Young man
- Christmas helper
- Analogy words
- Give a tongue-lashing
- Runner Zátopez
- Cooperative response to "Do you mind?"
- Spring chirpers
- Lucky charm
- Enters, as data
- William Tell's target
- Largest New England state
- Piano exercise
- Indian breads
- Supporting votes
- Cabinet dept. with a lightning bolt on its seal
- Some HDTVs
- Corrida shout

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4



Last Issue's Puzzle Solved



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

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HOROSCOPES YOUR GUIDE TO THE ZODIAC



ARIES
3/21-4/19

Bring on the energy drinks and snacks. It's time to put your nose to the grindstone ...



TAURUS
4/20-5/20

Appeal to their sense of humanity, and you will go far – just puppy-eyes this thing!



GEMINI
5/21-6/21

You're stepping into a grand new role; show them you can rock your predecessor!



CANCER
6/22-7/22

Seriously, it's just going to be another week for you.



LEO
7/23-8/22

You can taste freedom already! Let that grin shine bright.



VIRGO
8/23-9/22

It's adventure time: There will be self-discovery and happiness a-plenty!



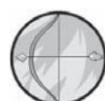
LIBRA
9/23-10/23

You are a master of the art, but even you could brush up on your time management skills.



SCORPIO
10/24-11/21

This will be a week of peace for you. That is all. Move along.



SAGITTARIUS
11/22-12/21

The time has come to gain some extra durability – you're going to need it.



CAPRICORN
12/22-1/19

A super shiny light is about to enter your life, so you should have no fear!



AQUARIUS
1/20-2/18

This isn't your time to socialize. It won't be bad, just awkward.



PISCES
2/19-3/20

You've become shrouded in mystery as of late. We wish you the best!

Poetry Spotlight

Untitled
by javanna

What is life if we must die
to live
to pray
to cry
to sigh
What is life if I must die

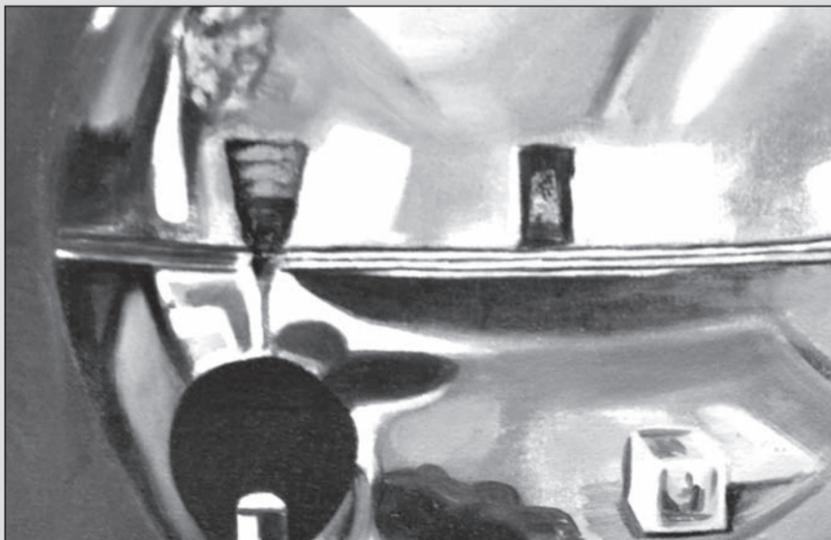


The LBCC Poetry Club meets every Tuesday from 3-4 p.m. in the Hotshot Cafe. For more Poetry Club info visit their website at: insidetheheartwalls.blogspot.com

Where on Campus?

Do you know where this picture was taken?

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



Tony Brown



Last Issue's Answer: The rhododendron bushes in the courtyard
Last Issue's Winner: Congratulations Eric Neiman! Please stop by The Commuter office (F-222) and see Tony to claim your prize.

Student-Submitted Art

email your own artwork to commuter@linnbenton.edu



by Lisa Bauman
Roadrunner Comic

MINUS GRAVITY

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Ben Carson



An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton

THE COMMUTER STAFF



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

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Scott Landgren

Advertising Assistant:
Lisa Bauman

Photo Assistant:
Alyssa Archer

Staff Writers:
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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

Managing Editor:
Alethea Skinner

Webmaster:
Marci Sischo

Cartoonists:
Mason Britton, Ben Carson, Maggie O'Reilly

Adviser:
Rob Prieue

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Lucky Strangers Meet at Cloud 9

Ben Davis

Staff Writer

The Lucky Strangers, a rock band comprised of LB students Noel Flanagan (vocals, guitar), Johnny Flanery (drums), and Dick Gentry (bass) will play at Cloud 9 in Corvallis on Saturday, May 28.

They will perform as a trio without their fourth member, Erin Danielle (vocals, guitar), who recently hitchhiked to Disneyland and is now traveling near Mt. Shasta, California. The show will kick off around 9 p.m., with the Lucky Strangers opening for local bands My Music Atlas and Lost Tortoise.

Guitarist Noel Flanagan, a 25-year-old music major, is also a prolific poet running for the Poet Laureate position at LB. His main influences are Pink Floyd and Bob Dylan. Together with Danielle, he has composed over 20 original songs.

With comparisons to Beck and Modest Mouse, the Lucky Strangers consider themselves "soul music that holds hands with rock-and-roll and folk," as described by Flanagan.

"It's hard to define them, genres are so mixed up these days," said Josh VandeGriend, OSU student and fan. "I don't know, they're just the Lucky Strangers."

Drummer Johnny Flanery is a 24-year-old music business major at LB, who hopes to make



Lucky Strangers/facebook

LBCB students' band, the Lucky Stangers, rehearse. (from left) Noel Flanagan, Dick Gentry, Emily Danielle, and Johnny Flanery

his "education and hobby converge," into a career in the music industry. His influences include Neil Young and "everyone else in The Last Waltz," the classic Scorsese concert documentary.

I caught up with Flanery and Flanagan at their band house in Corvallis, near OSU campus for some Q&A ...

Have you ever had any awkward or embarrassing moments at a show?

Johnny Flanery: Yeah, we had a friend open for us once. After an incident onstage, he ended up being dragged outside by the bouncers, kicking and screaming; then he freaked out and ripped a plant out of the ground. We had to disassociate ourselves. Luckily, we've cultivated a loyal following of friends who stuck around.

How do you feel about the music industry nowadays?

Upcoming Show

Who: Lucky Strangers, opening for My Music Atlas and Lost Tortoise
Where: Cloud 9
126 First St., Corvallis
When: May 28, 9 p.m.
Cost: \$3 Cover

JF: It sucks. But I think there's a growing paradigm shift, because people know it sucks, so it's changing. It's becoming easier for do-it-yourselfers to be successful, and people are getting tired of radio's bullsh*t.

Who are your favorite local bands and who would you like to tour with?

JF: The Wobblies. They're more punk rock, but they're an awesome local band.

Noel Flanagan: Old Age – they're one of my favorite bands in general, they just happen to be local. Also Inebriated Species, Tirade, Lost Tortoise, My Music Atlas, and plenty more.

JF: Yeah, Corvallis has grown an incredible local music scene. There's some great bands around and everybody helps each other get better.

Learn more about the Lucky Strangers on their Facebook page

COMING ATTRACTIONS

The Hangover Part II
The Wolf Pack is back and this time they're in Thailand for Stu's (Ed Helms) wedding. They enjoy an innocent drink one night and wake-up with no memory of the night before. Did you see the first "Hangover"? Well it's that, but with a monkey.
Rated: R
Runtime: 102 min.
Genre: Raunchy Bromance

Kung Fu Panda 2
Po (Jack Black) and the gang put their training to the test when they have to stop a pack of wolves from destroying Kung Fu. Starring the voices of Angelina Jolie, Seth Rogen, Jackie Chan, Lucy Liu, and Dustin Hoffman.
Rated: PG
Runtime: 90 min.
Genre: Animated Sequel

Sources: IMDb, Yahoo! Movies, Fandango.com

The Commuter Fashionista

Summer Sandals

Maya Sharuma

Staff Writer

Ladies! It seems like the season of pleasant breezy days is almost here. Yes, by which I mean the time for summer sandals is on its way!

For those who were yearning for the rapture, hang tight. Who would want to miss the touch of the sun on their skin, unless perhaps, they are allergic to the sun? Besides, wouldn't sandals simply be an amenity just to ornament your feet? So snap out of the past, and let's look forward.

Do you remember when gladiator sandals were the sensation a few summers ago? After popping up in wardrobes in the late 1960s, gladiator sandals were revived back in 2008. Despite my personal expectation that this trend would die off soon, they are still in style. So, if you have a pair, don't hesitate to stomp in them. Gladiator sandals are still rocking!

Typical gladiator sandals are flat and have several strips across the front of the foot. Other types of gladiator sandals feature heels, a zippered closure, a braided strip that goes up to the knee (even makes you feel like a Roman goddess), and multiple adjustable straps.

Be aware gentlemen! You guys are not left out at all. There are gladiator sandals for men too, so don't be disappointed. One of the best known British fashion designers, Alexander McQueen, produced gladiator sandals for men. The definition of a gladiator is a male combatant during



Tony Brown

the days of the Roman Empire, so why not design them for men, as well?

The most popular summer sandals, I believe, are flip-flops; although, I suppose they are not a seasonal item since I see people wearing them no matter which season it is.

Sure, flip-flops are simply easy to put on, but how about dressing up your style with flip-flop-like thong flat sandals for this summer?

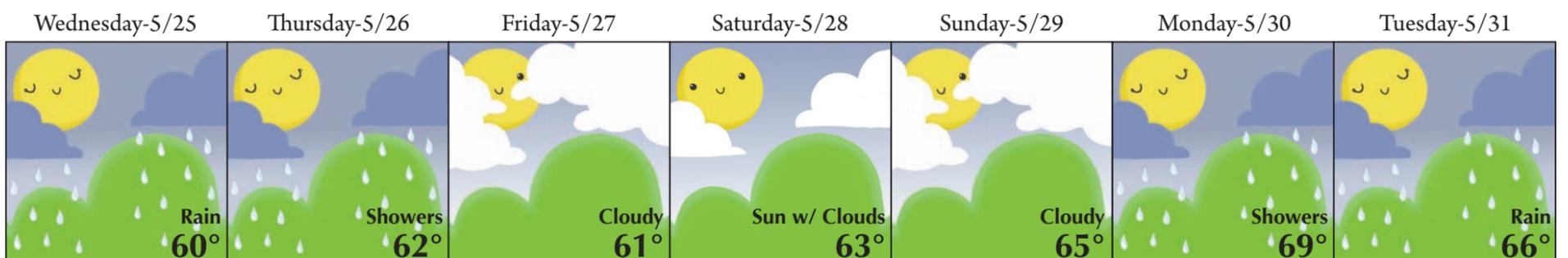
A round open toe with rhinestones is also fashionable to upgrade the entire look. Considering your toes will be visible, paint your nails with whatever color you like. A simple work-like pedicure can make the difference in your fashion.

If that's not enough, try on ankle wrap sandals to take your style to the next level. Though some sandals can be spendy, choose ones that involve beads, shimmering stones or a floral motif on the front. As long as the outfit is plain, like a one-piece dress in a single color, your style won't appear too gaudy.

If you are a fan of vibrant colors like shocking pink, neon-yellow or brilliant green for your feet, I suggest choosing upper garments in black or white.

Those who longed for refreshing days, buckle up your feet in your favorite sandals. Summer is near!

Weekly Weather Predictions



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