



THE COMMUTER

Linn-Benton Community College • Albany, Oregon

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Sheriff Sends Washington a Message

Linn County Sheriff Tim Mueller Writes Letter to Vice President Biden about Gun Control and Constitutional Rights

Justeen Elliott & William Allison
Managing Editor & Photo Editor

“We didn’t think it’d get this kind of reaction...” But it did. “Is it too late to stop it?” Linn-County Sheriff Mueller asked detective and computer forensics investigator Mike Smith, shortly after uploading his now nationally shared letter.

“Yeah, it’s way too late. It’s out,” said Smith. On Jan. 14, 2013, Mueller wrote a letter to Vice President Joe Biden telling him that he was not going to enforce President Barack Obama’s executive order “offending” the American people’s constitutional rights.

Mueller decided to write his letter to Biden, who was appointed by Obama to head the Gun Violence Task Force, as there would be a bigger chance of the letter getting read because Biden doesn’t get as much mail as the president. However, it’s not just Mueller that has voiced this opinion to both the president and vice president of America. About 380 sheriffs around the country, several of whom reside in Oregon, have decided to speak up and take a stand on this matter.

Mueller and Smith uploaded the letter onto Linn County Sheriff Office’s Facebook. They had a feeling that it would be popular in Linn County, where he is receiving much praise. However, what was not expected was for the entire country, even some of the world, to agree with Mueller’s words. Before he knew what was happening, calls came in from all over the country at all hours of the day from people wanting interview after interview. “It was like watching the national debt ticker,” said Mueller.

Prior to the letter being uploaded, the LCSO Facebook page had 324 likes; it now stands just shy of 14,000. The letter itself has racked up nearly 60,000 shares and well over 50,000 likes from people all around the globe. Mueller’s main goal was for Linn County residents to see where he and his deputies stand, and considering that many Linn County residents have now seen the letter, Mueller has reached this goal.



William Allison

Linn County Sheriff Tim Mueller

However, not everyone agrees with Mueller’s decision to “ignore” Obama’s executive order. In fact, Benton County Sheriff Diana Simpson has been quoted as saying, “It isn’t up to sheriffs to choose what laws of the land they enforce.” Though Simpson felt Mueller did what he thought he had to given his constituency, it wasn’t something she felt the need to do herself.

While Yamhill County Sheriff Jack Crabtree did not write a letter to Biden, he did write one to his citizens, encouraging them to “exercise your right to communicate with all your county, state,

and federal elected officials.”

“The Oregon State Sheriff’s Association tries to get all of the sheriffs on the same sheet of music. Well, that’s like herding cats,” joked Mueller. “My office is not going to make honest citizens into criminals; this is a civil problem, and we’re going to handle it with a civil process.”

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Victory for Open Access

William Tatum

Staff Writer

An important victory was won for Open Access advocates last week with an announcement from the Office of Science and Technology Policy, who directed, "each Federal agency with over \$100 million in annual conduct of research and development expenditures to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of research funded by the Federal Government."

In plain English, all major research arms of the United States, including the NSF, NIH, USDA, DOE, and more, will make all data and peer reviewed publications that were financed with your tax dollars available online.

Rights activists, including the late Aaron Swartz, have been fighting for years to "liberate" research from publishers archives and to stimulate academic discussion in broader society. This announcement from the OSTP, in response to their actions and the "We the People" petition signed by 65,000 people, is the first major victory in the battle to make publically-funded research available to the public.

Citing the value of freely accessible weather data and genomics research, the OSTP affirmed what rights activists have been saying all along: "Open Access will create innovative economic markets for services related to curation, preservation, analysis, and visualization." It will also "accelerate scientific breakthroughs and innovation, promote entrepreneurship, and enhance economic growth and job creation."

While this is a victory in the battle for Open Access, it is far from over. This memo still allows for an artificial 12 month embargo on Open access in a nod to publishers that, "provide valuable services, including the coordination of peer review, that are essential for ensuring the high quality and integrity of many scholarly publications." It also fails to adequately deal with the potential copyright shenanigans that for-profit publishing companies may engage in to mitigate their potential losses from this policy.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation was quick to point this out and noted that, "because a future administration could just as easily change its policy away from open-access, a legislative solution is necessary for ensuring a future of innovation and access to knowledge."

The battle ended, but the war continues. While it's important to be mindful of editorial costs to journals, publicly financed research need not necessarily be monetized by third-party rent-seeking entities. Peer review can be, and is, coordinated by groups like plosone.org and arxiv.org.

Preparing for the Flu Season

Nora Palmtag

News Editor

Stand anywhere on campus for a minute and you will hear someone coughing loudly. Don't strike an alarm.

According to online medical journals, a person is most contagious between the second and third days after infection, and this can last around ten days. Many students are staying home for at least three days, their most contagious period. This is the best decision and is appreciated by teachers, staff and other students.

Marcene Olson, Safety and Loss Prevention Manager, put out the following instructions for students who may be sick:

- Get vaccinated now if you haven't already. It's not too late.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Carry an alcohol-based hand gel to use when you can't wash.
- Cover your cough. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your upper sleeve instead of your hands. If you do use your hands, wash them as soon as you can.
- Avoid touching your face. Flu viruses can spread by touching something or someone that is contaminated and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Keep surfaces clean. Countertops, telephones, toys, cups, sinks, and other items that sick children or adults come in contact with because they may become contaminated.

The FDA recommends mixing one teaspoon of bleach with one quart of water or using a household sanitizer to help keep surfaces clean. Disinfect sponges frequently by running them through the dishwasher or washing machine or by soaking them in a bleach and water solution."

Due to the continuing frequency and more virulent strains of flu being produced, schools and businesses need to consider some alternative solutions to help the people affected so that they will stay home and avoid spreading the disease. This will become very important if influenza keeps transforming into the virulent types we are witnessing this year and transform into something really dangerous.

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Sheriff Sends Washington a Message, cont.

Sheriff: continued from Cover

Even though not everyone agrees with Mueller's decision, each county sheriff represents their own constituency, which means that the county residents elected the sheriff of that county as their sheriff. According to the Supreme Court, if the government forces an unconstitutional regulation, the sheriffs are operating outside of the constitutional oath.

Mueller does not believe that assault rifles should be banned, which he defines as a weapon capable of selective fire; a semiautomatic or fully automatic gun. One example of an assault rifle would be the one used in the Dec. 11, 2012 Clackamas Town Center shooting, where gunman Jacob Roberts used an AR-15 to gun down three victims. What was not overly publicized by media outlets was the concealed handgun holder, Nick Meli of Portland, who had his gun's sights set on Roberts. Some believe that without Meli confronting Roberts, the massacre would have continued and more lives would have been lost.

In order to carry a concealed weapon in Oregon you have to have a concealed handgun license, which requires that you show that you've had safety training. It doesn't matter how old the safety training certificate is, just as long as you can prove that you've had safety training of some kind.

Some people feel that teachers should be allowed to carry a gun of some kind in their classes, just in case something like the situation in Newtown, Conn. were to happen again, they would be able to protect their students.

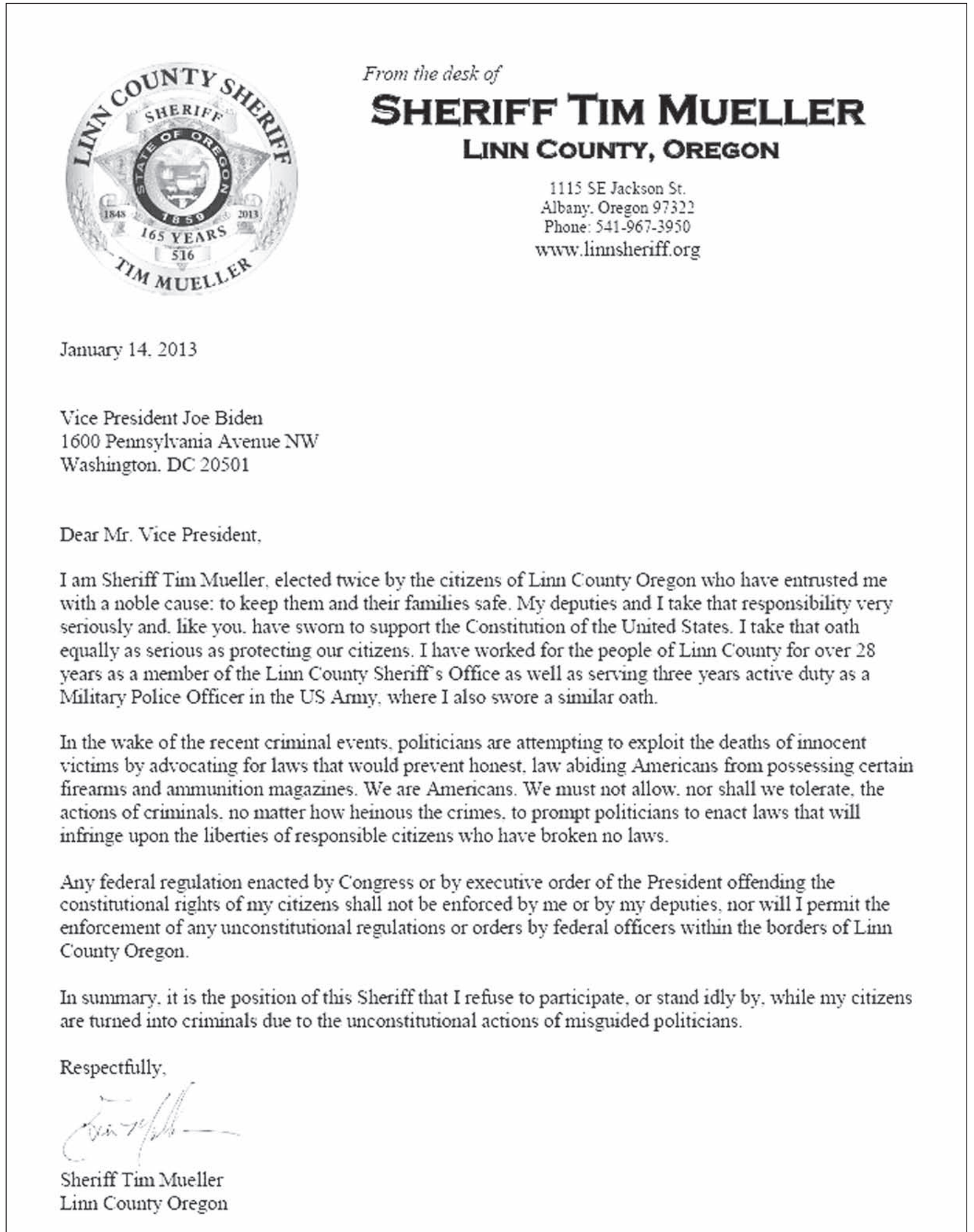
Mueller believes that it all depends if said teacher is capable of pulling the trigger. He thinks that just because a person has a gun doesn't necessarily make them the right person to have it. Opposed to it, Simpson said, "If this were to occur, I would expect teachers to receive the same use of force and tactical gun training that law enforcement has."

If teachers were allowed to carry guns in class, and something did happen, then the police don't know who the "real shooter" is.

Additionally, many people think that they will be able to take someone's life, but until it comes down to that very moment, no one knows for sure if they can or cannot. If they are unable to pull the trigger, there will then be another firearm that could potentially be used against them and the others in the environment.

There are some schools in the state, such as those in Sweet Home, Ore., that don't prevent teachers from having handguns in the classroom. Mueller doesn't disagree with that, but he thinks that there should be serious training that the teachers have to take in case something were to happen.

Mueller has said that he is 100



A copy of the letter Sheriff Tim Mueller sent to Vice President Joe Biden.

percent behind Obama's 23 Executive Orders; the only one that he said he has a problem with is doing background checks on private sales. He, like many others, doesn't see how they will be capable to enforce such a thing because they will not be able to track every single private sale.

Even if the private gun sales do run background checks, there is a part on the form that asks if you

have any mental health problems. Simpson felt strongly about this. "[There should be] more extensive background checks and strict limitations on people with a history of mental illness," she said. Regardless, just because they run a background check doesn't mean they will be able to find every little thing that is wrong with the buyer. Mueller also feels that there is a serious issue with mental health in America and

the people that need the help the most aren't capable of receiving it due to uncertain reasons.

When these people don't receive the help they need, horrible things can come from it, like the recent events at Sandy Hook Elementary School and Clackamas Town Center, as well as many other similar tragedies. "We limit the number of available chambers for shotguns and rifles for wildlife hunting, yet we do

not put the same value on human life," said Simpson.

While Congress does not always, Mueller does agree that they should be the ones to decide what is necessary and why it isn't.

"The president did the right thing. He issued his executive orders and he put the other piece of it, back on Congress and that's the way it should be," said Mueller.

Sex AND THE Campus

Pet Parents

Luis Martinez
Contributing Writer

A lot of couples like the idea of kids, getting married, settling down in a cozy log cabin with a bear family carved out of wood out front.

Well, not all would like the wooden bears or cabin, but you get the picture.

You've been dating for quite some time, even years, and are unsure of what steps to take to continue your journey together. I have a few ideas to throw at you that I see as the most popular for couples of varying ages who might not be ready to completely change their lives around. There are many options to get around this and learn the skills of working together while making sure neither half is irked about the outcomes.

A trend I have noticed with a lot of couples is a step-by-step process. First, they move into some apartment or house together, then they decide to get the closest thing to a child they can: a dog or cat.

The act of adopting or getting a pet together strengthens the bond between two folks who feel as if they're not only pet owners but parents also. You each will have different parenting tactics and ways you interact with your pet, just as you would with your children.

No, I am not saying these are the concrete steps that lead to childcare and marriage, just that this seems to be the route a lot of relationships take. Taking care of Spot or Whiskey-Whiskers could eventually prepare you to take care of Reginald or Lucy.

You will be able to work together and learn how each of your strengths and weaknesses will cooperate. While doing this, you also learn time management and habit skills to top it off. No one needs a routine more than a child, yet no one's routine is more spontaneous than a child. That is why a dog or cat will prepare you well since you never know what they might do next.

Moving out with your guy or gal is also a big step for couples to take. It's when you think you are prepared but don't really know what to expect. Some couples are so confident that they'll succeed, but it could possibly go both ways. After all, you're spending every moment with this person. Some find the things they learn to be good, bad, or both. Learning to live in harmony and working with the pros and cons are all part of the relationship world though.

With any big commitment or plan, just take it slow and enjoy working through it. Perspective is key, and having a good outlook can turn a nasty pee on the couch into a funny memory of Spot and your lives at that time.

Finally, never name a cat Whiskey-Whiskers or a child Reginald. Cats do not drink whiskey and we are not in England.

If you have any feedback or questions, feel free to write back to us or stop by The Commuter office at F-222.



tequilamike/ flickr.com

OPINION

What a Journalist Sees

William Allison
Photo Editor

Journalists see it all, and usually not by choice. Car accidents, fires, shootings, riots, or even just city meetings. They see these things first hand so you don't have to.

Most people see and approach the variety of scenarios in life differently, and journalists are no exception. Whether it be a reporter, photographer, or videographer, they all seek out different things in the multitude of situations they encounter on a daily basis.

While I'm not a journalist working for a major paper, I still have seen my share of things that I didn't wish to see. The looks of fear coming from onlookers as a car is swept away by rushing water, the sheer horror on the faces of those watching their house burn down, the witnesses' concern for a pedestrian hit by a car; these are some of the more unsettling things I've seen and dealt with, but somebody has to do it.

I've been asked quite a few times how I can see these horrific events

and still be okay at the end of the day. Honestly, there is no true answer, but my camera plays a big part of it. It seems to act like a filter for me.

When I approach different situations, no matter what it is, there are a few main things that I focus on when taking photos: the overall scene first (including witnesses), victims and first responders second, and then everyone standing around watching.

Kay Roth, editor-in-chief of the Scio Tribune, said she does different things depending on whether she's writing or taking photos. When she's writing, she too makes note of the reactions of the first responders and persons involved, as initial reactions are often the most effective ones.

"It's not always easy, but seeing an incident from an impartial point of view is so important," Roth said. "As for photos, I just point and click until I see something that catches my eye. Thank goodness for digital!"

Not only does taking photos of nearly everything you see come in handy, it can also save you some trouble when trying to remember details later.

Jesse Skoubo, a photographer for the Mid-Valley Newspapers, gets the most time-sensitive or important things first, then he gets the details. "If a semi jackknifed on I-5, I'd try to get a shot of the wreck and the insanely long line of cars behind it."

There is one thing that should be kept in mind when photographing or getting information at the scene of an emotional or frightening incident. Sometimes, it's best to not be seen. As journalists, it's our job to report the news to the public, yet sometimes, that gives us a bad reputation.

People want to know what is going on, yet criticize those who report it. For example, during any of the recent shootings, the public demanded to know what happened, but when the name of the shooter was released, people got upset, because it was giving the shooter publicity.

At the end of the day, though, you can't please everyone. What you can do is put the things you've dealt with that day in the back of your mind and rest assured that you've done your job, and you've done it right.

Advice from Weiss

Question: For mid-terms I studied hard. Stayed up every night doing homework and didn't do very well. I really thought I knew everything and was ready, but I bombed a couple of tests. On one of them I just blanked out altogether. Couldn't remember the answers even though I knew that I knew them. So finals have me scared because I don't see how I can spend even more time.



Mark Weiss
Counselor

Answer: Maybe it's not a question of "more time." Maybe what you need to do is spend "different time." If you're bombing tests you feel prepared for, even though you've been staying up late studying, maybe it's the staying up late that's the problem. Sleep deprivation is the most common cause of "blanking out," during an exam or any other time.

The folks at our Learning Center have a maxim they often tell students: "Don't take your homework home." And I think this is great advice. If at all possible, go to the Learning Center, or the Library (or any space that works for you) and try to get your homework done on campus. That way, when you go home you can just be home and relax a little. As the old saying goes, our memory can play tricks on us, but that often happens because we're studying at the wrong time or in the wrong place. Change things

up and see what happens. And for goodness sake, do your brain a favor and sleep when it's time to sleep. That alone is bound to make a difference.

Question: I was thinking of dropping a class but I'm not sure how long I have to do that.

Answer: The deadline to Withdraw from classes was last Sunday. If you are having problems with a class, at this point, I would talk to the instructor. Maybe go and visit him or her during office hours (all faculty have office hours available so students can just drop in to ask questions or get help with a problem)... Once we get past the deadline to withdraw the only thing you can do is try to do your best and hope for the best. However, a teacher can often give you a good idea of how to re-focus your efforts and direct you on what you need to focus on, in order to be more successful... Don't give up, get in touch. If you ask some good questions you may get some good answers.

Mark Weiss
Counseling

Mark Weiss has been a counselor and adviser at LBCC for 20 years. The purpose of this column is to answer students' questions about the college, academic advising, and how to be successful at LBCC. Please send your questions to mark.weiss@linnbenton.edu or stop by the Career and Counseling Center in Takena Hall.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

Submit your thoughts to commuter@linnbenton.edu



Coming to America: An International Student's Story

Shuo Xu
Contributing Writer

I had never left China before I came to United States. I grew up in the same city that I was born in and went to a nearby city to attend a university.

It wasn't easy leaving behind my beloved parents, friends, and the culture that I grew up around to come here and pursue my dreams. The period of time before leaving was heart-wrenching for me.

It was difficult getting a relatively cheap last-minute international flight. I was sitting before my laptop, eyes locked on my screen and trying to get any tickets I could find. When a ticket to Portland became available, I clicked it without even blinking.

I settled the very last thing that I need to worry about, or at least I thought so.

Right after that, I focused on spending quality time with my family and friends. I went shopping for all the things that I possibly needed in the U.S.

After trying to stuff all the things I bought into my suitcases, I was sitting on the floor and suddenly

realized, "This is finally happening to me. I am leaving this place, and leaving behind everyone important in my life to a completely strange place with no one that I know."

My mom came and said, "Sweetie, you are leaving tomorrow. You should check your ticket again to make sure that everything is fine."

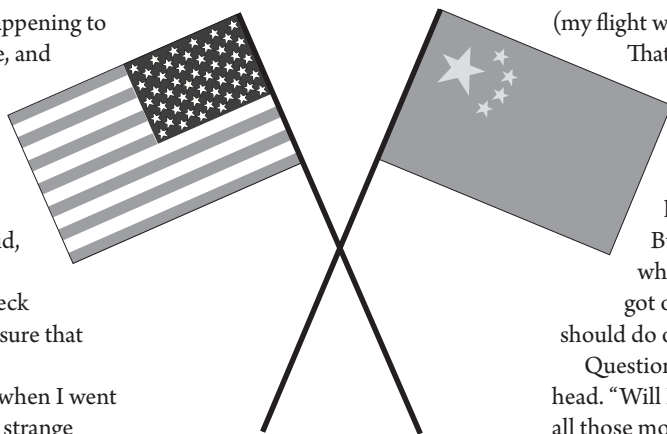
I joked with my mom when I went online to check. "This is a strange flight. Why would it change flight in Detroit? Wouldn't it detour to get to Detroit first and then to the West Coast?"

Then something suddenly hit me. "Dammit! This is a flight to Portland, Maine!"

How stupid could I be? There are two Portlands in the U.S. and I booked a flight to the wrong one!

I just sat there and my mind went blank for a moment. I guess I looked pretty pale, because my mom came up really worried and asked, "What's up, sweetie? Something wrong?"

I told myself to play it cool so I smiled and said, "Everything is perfect, mom. I just feel sad and it



makes me dizzy."

God knows there was turmoil in my mind. What should I do, what the hell did I do to myself? The flight was tomorrow, and there was nothing I could do at that moment, or at least nothing that I could think of. That was the first time I was leaving the country, not to mention I was all by myself. I wouldn't want my parents to freak out. I preferred to keep this to myself.

Late that night, my dad drove me to the airport, and my whole family came to see me off and say goodbye

(my flight was at 4 in the morning).

That whole trip to the airport,

I sat there in the car without saying even a word. They all thought

I was pretty sad about leaving. Somewhat, yes.

But I was mainly worried what would happen once I got on the plane and what I should do once I got there.

Questions circled around in my head. "Will I be okay? Will there be all those mobs in Detroit like I always saw on American TV dramas? Will I be able to get to Oregon safely?"

After saying goodbye, I walked ahead without looking back. I was afraid that if I did, I wouldn't be able to leave with my head held high.

It was a 17-hour flight, the longest that I had ever been on. But as I was sitting on the plane, I was actually secretly hoping time would stop and I could stay there forever. I was exhausted, but I couldn't sleep for a single second on the plane. I sat there, praying to God that everything would be fine.

The plane finally landed in Detroit. I followed the crowd, moving forward like I was dead inside. There I was,

finally standing on the soil of the U.S., but I couldn't feel a single ounce of joy. My English back then was not that good. I was kind of embarrassed to ask for anyone's help. I sat in the airport for about 30 minutes and finally decided to take charge. I dragged my huge luggage and used my somewhat awkward English to explain to the people from Delta about what happened.

Then my angel showed. The whole thing happened so fast that I felt like it was just a dream. The people there said, "No problem. We could change your flight to Portland, Ore."

I waited there for 10 minutes and went away with the right ticket. I was relieved.

In the end, I boarded the right flight and finally arrived in Portland Ore. And now, here I am dual-enrolled at LBCC.

Looking back at that special and memorable experience, I felt it was the most amazing and funny thing.

Whenever I feel sorry for myself or feel like crying, I would think about this whole experience. I told myself, "If I could handle that situation in a brand new county, I could handle everything that comes in my way."

Conservative Corner

Looking Through American Eyes

If you have ever thought about what an "American" looks like, we all know that looking like an American has nothing to do with the color of our skin. As Martin Luther King Jr. pointed out in his historic address, the content of one's character is the most important thing. Unfortunately, racism is still a problem. Even with a black man as the leader of the free world, we still have a problem with how we view each other.

There was a very ugly time in our past when people were persecuted for a number of different reasons, including color of skin, shape of face, color and length of hair, and ways of speaking. We all are guilty of things we probably aren't proud of. Some of us learn from our mistakes, some of us never do, and some of us never see the sin in ourselves that makes us ugly.

Many people, mainly those who are liberal or progressive-thinking, believe conservatives and the Tea Party movement are racist due to the lack of minorities in their ranks. True, there aren't many minorities who consider themselves conservatives; however, conservatives welcome all Americans with open arms. There is still an ugly side of America, a side we must be wary of. These are the groups and individuals who still have racist and anti-American opinions.

We all know of the hate group, the Ku Klux Klan. However, hate goes beyond a bunch of ignorant, arrogant jerks wearing their wives' best linens on their heads. There is hate on all sides. The New Black Panther Party and other groups have shown signs of racial issues. Unfortunately, it seems as though the liberal and progressive movements in America have jumped on the "conservatives are racists" bandwagon. The media has proven that.

To say that there are no minorities in the Tea Party is like saying there are no union members at a progressive gathering. I have seen every walk of life at Tea Party gatherings, despite what the media shows and what some



Dale Hummel
Staff Writer

of the black democrats have said. Someone who says there are only "angry, old, white men" at any conservative gathering need only to ask people like Herman Cain, Clarence Thomas, Thomas Sowell, Alfonzo Rachel, and Elmer Williams. If you are not familiar with Rachel or Williams, look them up online. Both men are black and offer a wealth of information on what they find wrong in the country today, and they fight for the conservative battle in America.

I don't blame the American public for the distorted view of the Tea Party and conservatives. I do, however, blame the liberal media, poorly informed liberals, progressives and so-called "civil rights" leaders who only seem to see things in a positive light if it agrees with their own mindset for the negative information.

These double standards are also in Hollywood. During Obama's first term in office, Janeane Garofalo blasted conservatives and Tea Party people by calling them "a bunch of tea-bagging rednecks."

"This is about hating a black man in the White House. This is racism straight-up," she added. Garofalo did not suffer any backlash to her career for her statement. However, talk show host Don Imus nearly lost his career for letting his staff call the Rutgers University women's basketball team a bunch of "nappy-headed hos."

I am not saying that white people and other ethnicities are not judgmental and have a difficult time with those who are different, but it seems today that people who are not black are more afraid of making comments about black people (despite the content) for fear of retaliation from powerful groups who have a clear bias.

We seem to have lost the will to love and care for each other as Americans and patriots. It seems we only look at each other with a kind eye and a full heart when something bad happens, like a natural disaster or a terrorist attack. I hope someday the citizens of America will cast aside their differences and see each other in this country as they actually are: not as Republicans or Democrats, not as liberals or conservatives, and most definitely not as black, white or any other color, but as Americans.

Looking Through American Eyes A Rebuttal

Thinking Tea Party members and Conservatives are exactly the same is like comparing grapefruits and oranges. Conservatives and the Republican Party are more about economics and conservative social mores, while the Tea Party is ultra-conservative, mostly about their so-called rights.

I don't consider the Tea Party as racist so much as a group of unbendable people who do not respect or acknowledge others' right to their own opinions.

"There are very few occasions [when] prominent Tea Party and conservative leaders speak out about the bigotry that media points out," added Javier Cervantes, LBCC's director of diversity.

Where is there any evidence of someone saying there are no minorities in the Tea Party? There are people of all races, who have a right to their indignant, ignorant and biased opinions, and I acknowledge this.

Also, please do not confuse the Black Panther Party, founded by Huey P. Newton in California in 1966, with the New Black Panther Party, chaired by Khalid Abdul Muhammad, in Texas. The original Black Panther Party was a non-violent group who wanted the same rights as other citizens, including the right to carry arms as long as they are visible and not pointed at anyone.

The New Black Panther Party, while racist and anti-Semitic, did not sanction the two individuals who went to Philadelphia, but they are a small-minded group of thugs who are not reflective of the black community.

We need to be better informed and check the information for ourselves from other sources and make our own decisions. Free speech rights are protected in OUR constitution.

Comparing what Don Imus, a talk show host, said to what Janeane Garofalo, a comedienne, said is not in the same genre or occupation. Garofalo can say the sky is red, and I would laugh. However, if Imus said the same statement, I would question why he said this because of his occupation. The seriousness of the two situations must be considered in the context of their positions in society.

If you do not have racist thoughts, and this was demonstrated at the Academy Awards recently, then you can say so-called racist comments and be funny and not be censored by any groups. There are some situations and groups, like children, who should not be subjected to statements like Imus made. Maybe you don't understand the stigma behind the words he uttered, but believe me - they were hateful and not meant to be funny.

I, too, hope that one day we can look around and not think about the color of someone's skin but the content of the character of the individual. So basically, we are on the same path but from different poles.



Nora Palmtag
News Editor

Tuition Equity Bill Passes in House

Tejo Pack

Contributing Writer

Undocumented students statewide breathed a sigh of relief on Friday, Feb. 22 when newly amended House Bill 2787 (previously Senate Bill 742) on tuition equity passed with a 38-18-4 vote.

This bill, which began its road out of Woodburn High School 10 years ago, finally gained a step after it was previously denied from passing in the House on two occasions.

On Feb. 13, prior to the bills passing, members of the House and the more than 300 people who filled four overflow rooms listened to emotional testimony given about the bill's possible positive change. Karla Castaneda was just one of multiple people who gave testimony that day, but her story had a major impact on those present.

Eric Noll, legislative affairs director for the Student Leadership Council here at LBCC described the moments following Castaneda's testimony. "It brought all of us to tears when [Castaneda] gave her testimony," said Noll. "You could hear she was choked-up when she was telling her story."

After a full day of testimonies, amendments to the bill were passed in the House committee the following Friday, Feb. 15. "It was at this point that the bill looked like it may stall" Noll said. "Then, an email was sent out that day around 2 p.m. informing the students in leadership to call their representatives and people of the House committee to really expedite this bill through."

"The calls came in from all over the state. In fact, so many people called in that the offices receiving the calls weren't even able to call out; we think it made a huge difference," Noll said.

By the following Monday the bill was passed through the committee to the House floor by a 7-2 vote.

From there it was just a matter of votes. According to Yuxing Zheng of The Oregonian, "Five Republicans supported tuition equity on Friday: Reps. Cliff Bentz, Ontario; Vicki Berger, Salem; John Huffman, The Dalles; Mark Johnson, Hood River; and Julie Parrish, West Linn." This, with the combined votes of the Democrats, gave the bill what it needed to pass.

The bill will now move to the Senate Education Committee floor where testimony will be heard and the bill will again have the possibility for amendment. The date of this hearing is still unknown, but Noll feels it will be sometime in mid March.

"Once it passes from there, and we think it will, it moves to the Senate floor who will hopefully vote on it in late March, early April and then it goes to the governor's desk for signature" Noll says excitedly.

Once signed by the governor, according to Section 5 of the bill, it would take effect July 1, 2013. This means that undocumented students who qualify under the bill's criteria would be able to start attending college as early as next fall.

The future looks to be an exciting time, not just for undocumented students, but for our communities as a whole. The people have obviously spoken and education seems to be the wave of this generation.

Rodeo Queen Reigns on Campus

Emily Smucker

Contributing Writer

The room is filled with people in cowboy hats and giant belt buckles. They mill around, chatting with each other, eating appetizers, and looking over the assortment of bird houses, and wine-bottle-cork wreaths in the silent auction. Alyssa Chart stands at the front of the room in a sage green leather gown, greeting them all with a smile, a handshake, and sometimes a hug. She is the 2013 Benton County Fair and Rodeo Queen, and this is her coronation.

Chart grew up in Benton County, and graduated from high school in 2011. Eager to stay in the area to finish her education, she is currently dual-enrolled at LBCC and Oregon State University.

The same love of her home area drove her to try out for the position of Benton County Fair and Rodeo Queen. "I'm eager to represent and promote this county," Chart said.

Chart's official coronation is part ceremony-part fundraiser. Many of Chart's friends, members of her church, and other rodeo queens from around Oregon have come to support her both emotionally and financially.

Christy Schrock, one of the queen coordinators and Chart's former 4H club leader is convinced that Chart will make a great queen because of her warm and inviting personality. "You can teach them to ride better, you can teach them to be better speakers, but you can't teach them to have a great personality," said Schrock.

Several people from Chart's church, including her pastor and her godmother, congregate at one of the tables scattered throughout the room. It's easy to see that they think the world of Chart.



provided photo

Alyssa Chart, this year's Benton County Fair and Rodeo Queen.

"There's nothing derogatory about her at all," said Dana Wells, Chart's godmother. "She's the sweetest, and she loves animals."

Chart, who describes herself as a "total animal person," has been working with and training horses and dogs her whole life. According to her grandfather, before Chart was even old enough to enter junior dog shows, she trained a Portuguese Water Dog and showed it at dog shows all over the state, competing against adults and doing an outstanding job.

Even though she loves dogs, Chart's passion is horses. Unsurprisingly, most of the classes she's taken at LBCC have

been Animal Science courses. Her ultimate career goal is to own a boarding stable for horses. To that end, she is still undecided about whether she wants to get an Animal Science degree or a Business degree. Still, in the year ahead Chart's main focus will be on her Rodeo Queen duties.

Chart is excited for when she can be with her horse again and no longer has to ask for money. As Rodeo Queen, her job is to attend community events, mingle with people and get them interested in coming to fair and rodeo events. Chart, with her passion for animals and her love of her home area, is tailor-made for this position.

Come Together for DAC Unity Celebration

Sean Bassinger

Editor-in-Chief

LBCC's Diversity Achievement Center will host a Unity Celebration with artistic presentations and awards today, Feb. 27, between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The DAC's Unity Celebration is an effort to recognize students, faculty and staff working around issues involving social justice while also enjoying various forms of art, poetry and music. Students and faculty will also receive a special Unity Award in the name of LBCC instructor Analee Fuentes.

Dana Emerson, a communications instructor at the college describes how this will be the first event of its kind at LBCC.

"It's the only event asking people to come together despite our differences," said Emerson.

Emerson also highlighted how, unlike past events and clubs that divide separate groups based on interests and activities, the Unity Celebration unites everyone for the sake of coming together and celebrating diversity.

In a public e-mail outlining the gathering, LBCC director of diversity Javier Cervantes mentioned some of the key events and speakers presenting at the celebration.

"We look forward to seeing you if you can make it," Cervantes wrote. "Come by and relax and enjoy!"

Among performances will be LBCC's own Poetry Club and adviser Robin Havenick, LBCC instructor Gary Westford and tri-lingual poet Octaviano Mercias.

Though events will commence around a two-hour period, folks are encouraged to stick around if they wish to further engage with participants and other attendees. All students who can are encouraged to attend this celebration.

Unity Celebration

When: Feb. 27
4 -6:30 p.m.
Where: DAC

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Ted Holliday

LBCC student Amelia Hentze and her horse Pablo.

Horse Play

LBCC Student Feels at Home at the Stables

Ted Holliday
Contributing Writer

Amelia Hentze loves riding her horse in the sandy arena. Even under the gray, windy skies, or any day for that matter, this is where she loves to be. Dressed in her black riding helmet, tan chaps and boots, Hentze and her horse ride in unison. Relaxed, smiling and confident, it's clear that this is her comfort zone.

When not attending classes at LBCC, Hentze works and trains horses with kids at the Wild Ones Youth Ranch, a non-profit Christian organization, in Junction City, Ore. The organization is designed to give kids a positive experience with horses.

However, she didn't know how much her comfort zone was going to be tested until she stepped into the arena in Las Vegas on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Prior to leaving for Las Vegas, sitting in the Commons at LBCC, quietly and with timidness, she shares her story.

Hentze's journey with horses started when she was 12 years old. That's when she got her first horse. "I was bucked off a lot," said Hentze. However, this is where her love for training horses started.

She entered LBCC under the education program but was quickly drawn into the horse management program. It was a natural fit that included her love for horses. Jenny Strouband, the horse program director said, "She was really shy and really quiet when she first started the program. She is super sweet and well-liked among her peers and has never done anything but impress me."

While in the program, Hentze watched the documentary about Dan "Buck" Brannerman.

Brannerman is the inspiration for the character Tom Booker in the book and film

"The Horse Whisperer." From that movie, she learned about a national scholarship through Legacy of Legends. Narrowly making the deadline, Hentze said, "I found out about a week before the deadline and mailed the application the day of the deadline."

In disbelief, she won the scholarship. In 2012 she earned the opportunity to travel to Utah to work with Jim Hicks of Sage Creek Equestrian. Hentze worked with Hicks for a month. "I have never left home or out of state since I was four years old with my mom. That was the last time I flew," she said.

While at the ranch, her horsemanship skills grew. She describes her experience. "It gave me a lot of confidence. There were some things that I was hammering into the horse that I really didn't need to," she said.

"That may actually, in the long run, have hurt my progress rather than helping," Hentze continued. "I was really timid, and the way he does things is a lot quicker. A lot of what we did was similar to what Ray Hunt did. It helped

me be more patient and staying more relaxed with the horses." Passing away in 2009, Hunt was a master communicator between people and horses. Both Hicks and Brannerman

continue to teach his horsemanship style.

According to Hentze, it wasn't an easy process. "The biggest thing is it teaches you about pride and how it can get you in trouble," said Hentze. "My pride got in the way a few times." People that she didn't know were trying to communicate how to handle a horse. This was in conflict to what she had already been taught.

"Working through the process, I start thinking about what they were telling me. I started

to relax, and I got off my high horse," Hentze said. "I could hear more of his feedback."

She returned home and back to her comfort zone with her new found confidence. Strouband noticed a difference too, "She came back much more confident. It's a national scholarship, and it's very selective. Every time you start a horse you learn something, so just having the experience of starting several more horses and getting another perspective. Anytime you get that opportunity, it's just a huge advantage."

Then she got the call! Her invitation to Las Vegas and work with the "Horse Whisperer" himself, Brannerman.

With her newfound confidence and skills, she prepared herself for a rare learning opportunity. However, her nervousness kept wanting to creep in. Feeling the eyes of 500 people staring upon her in the dusty indoor arena, her feelings overwhelmed her.

Describing what happened next, Hentze said, "With the jet lag, by the time I got in the arena on Friday, I was so nervous that I really couldn't function."

She was able to get through first day of the Colt starting. But, for the best interest of the Colt, she wasn't able to continue on Saturday or Sunday. "I didn't have anything go wrong, but I didn't want to see anything go wrong either. I just couldn't handle myself in the crowd. I was just so wrecked, and I couldn't relax," Hentze said.

By the end of the day, there was so much dirt, along with cigarette smoke of the casino and combined with the long hours, she wasn't able to move her head without it hurting.

"Five hundred people! I didn't realize how bad it would affect me," Hentze said. She was completely taken back about how she reacted to the crowd. "I shed a lot of tears. I had another horsemanship that I was riding in with another organization. I had no nerves with that one, and I was as cool as can be."

Everyone was trying to turn her emotions around. "[Brannerman] was very nice and encouraging. Everyone was trying to encourage

me, and everyone was very nice about the situation. He always had a line to say, like 'if the excrement hits the rotating blades.'"

Her decision to step away, allowed a 13-year-old young man to step into her place, which, at the end of the event, his dad surprised him by purchasing the colt in the auction.

Taking every opportunity and learning from her experience in Las Vegas, she gained more knowledge about herself, saying, "Knowing when to not let your ego rule your life: What was best for the horse, was for me to walk away."

This experience has taught her a lot about horsemanship, and this experience will help her further her riding abilities, which, in turn, will further the WOYR barn. She said, "The better our horses are, the more we can get support from other people."

Hentze is going to stay at WOYR. She enjoys the job, and when she graduates, WOYR is going to make her more full time. That means that in addition to working with kids, she will be training horses more. She said, "We would like to get me involved in the TIP program, which is the training incentive program where you get a mustang to train."

Today, the sun has broken through the gray skies, countering the effects of the cold wind. Hentze carefully observes her students with more of an experienced eye.

As one of her interns was trying to bridal (place the bit in the horses mouth), Hoosah, the horse, refused the intern to do it. Hentze walked around and told the intern, "Sometimes you just have to tell the horse what you want to do." After the fifth attempt, Hentze was able to put it on without any further objections.

Later, as Hentze was trotting her horse around with her student in tow, she tells her intern, "You're overthinking it. Just do it."

"After this experience, she has really come into her own," said Jeanie Langley, co-founder of WOYR. "She has grown so much. It's exciting to see her continue to grow."

Adam Hastings: LBCC Captain Continues on the Path to Success

Maria Weinstein
Contributing Writer

Adam Hastings has many friends who attend LBCC. It is close to home, and he enjoys the size of the classes, because it allows him to build a relationship with his instructor, which he feels makes it easier to do well in his classes. Having a basketball scholarship also helps direct him and keep him on the path for success.

Hastings represents No. 21 for LBCC's men's basketball team. Born and raised in Corvallis, he graduated from Crescent Valley High School in 2010. For many reasons, Hastings chose LBCC to start off his college career.

Hastings has played basketball since he was four years old. Growing up, his parents encouraged an interest in sports by watching games on the television and living an active lifestyle. His mother enjoys tennis and swimming as sports. His grandfather has also been another inspiration, because he played for what was then the Chicago Cardinals in the NFL.

Hastings' role models are his parents and grandparents, because he values family significantly and they are always there for him. Aspiring to graduate with a degree in exercise and sports science, he hopes 10 years from now he will obtain a job as a physical education instructor who coaches basketball, is married and has a family.

Twenty years young, he is currently a sophomore and team captain.



Baylor Falk

This is his second year playing as a Roadrunner, due to a rule that only allows players two years to play, this will be his last year playing as a Roadrunner. Mostly playing post and wing, he holds the highest point lead with 16 points per a game.

When thinking back on highlights from his college basketball career, Hastings said his proudest moment was his first game. "It made it a reality that I was playing college sports," he said. Playing college basketball for LBCC has given him school pride. Hastings plays for friends and the community alike.

While enjoying his time here at LBCC, there are some downsides. In terms of playing basketball, Hastings acknowledges how there aren't too many major fans. "There is not really a big market here, and on top of that, the players pay for their gear," said

Hastings.

Being part of the team requires a lot from the students players. Being committed, a team player, respectful, working hard, and also passing 12 credits a term are required in order to play for LBCC.

Since Hastings is team captain, he also has the responsibility to keep the team motivated, working hard and preventing foul play. At one point, he had to physically separate his players from the opposing team's fans who were taunting in a rude manner; this has given him the opportunity to show his leadership skills. Humble with his new skills acquired while attending LBCC, he plans to finish his college education at Western Oregon College and continue playing college basketball.

On the off season, you can catch Hastings out at Trysting Tree, a golf course located just over the bridge outside of Corvallis. He enjoys hanging out with friends, mountain biking, fishing, and playing video games that involve shooting. Although he tried soccer, football and track while in high school, Hastings enjoys basketball and golf the most.

If you catch him before games, he listens to hip-hop and rap. Lately, he has Lil Wayne bumping through his headphones as a pregame pump-up. Hastings has been a dedicated and strong player for the Roadrunners, and he thanks everyone for the support he receives. He hopes to finish out the season strong and with pride.

OSU Drops Last Home Games

Michael Rivera
Sports Editor

It has been a rough second half of the season for the Oregon State Men's Basketball team. A season that started very promising, yet thwarted by injury and close losses.

In their two final home games at Gill Coliseum, the Beavers were unable to stop the fast-paced Stanford and lost a close one to Cal.

Oregon State kept the game pretty close in the first half of play against Stanford, the score 35-34 Oregon State. But as soon as the second half came, Stanford scored 48 points as opposed to Oregon State's 37, a struggle similar to what the Beavers faced in the past.

Junior guard Roberto Nelson lead the charge with 28 points and two assists. Senior Joe Burton ended up with 16 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Forward Eric Moreland got the start and ended up with a double-double, 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Not only does the team's morale look shallow, but fan morale has decreased as well. With Gill Coliseum's capacity being over 9,600, only 4,649 fans came out. This is a big change from the beginning of the season to now. Some players take it as a matter of fact, where others aren't concerned with the turnout.

"You can't blame them, we've got to win some more games. That's what it really comes down to," said Nelson after the Stanford game. "You can't lose and expect the same amount of fans to be there; that's just not what happens in sports. You win games,

more people come. You lose games, you lose fans, that's how it goes."

"I love the fans. The people who come and stay for the whole game, I love them," said Burton. "That's life. There's bigger priorities than a basketball game, if there's family issues you've got to take care of that. If the fan's are there, they're there, if not, they're not."

In the Beaver's last home game against Cal, the turnout for the game was better with 6,034 fans attending. With it being his last game in Gill Coliseum, Burton and the Beaver squad played tough ball. They were down 29-20 at the end of the first half of play, but came to outscore Cal in the second half, 39-31. The Beavers have struggled this season to continue outscoring opponents in the second half. Even so, with five seconds left the game came down to a missed three point shot by junior guard Ahmad Starks.

This was Burton's last home game at Oregon State. He has been a player describes as easy-going and a teammate that everyone loves.

"I am going to miss the team and playing basketball with these guys," said Burton. "I have been playing basketball with [Nelson] for six or seven years and it is just done like that. I just gave everything to Oregon State and I am so glad that so many supporters came out to watch. It is just great to have my dad there to see that. I really didn't know him growing up. I only saw him a couple times. He came to my high school graduation and he came to this game, so it is just a big deal."



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LBCC Students Named to Academic Team

LBCC News Service

Governor John Kitzhaber and the Oregon Community College Association will honor two students from Linn-Benton Community College in April as part of the OCCA All-Oregon Academic Team.

Charly Hemphill, a networking and systems administration major from Sweet Home and Jeff Lehn, an accounting technology major from Albany, will be honored at a luncheon with the Governor, where each will receive a plaque from the OCCA and a \$1,000 scholarship from the university they plan to attend after

graduating from LBCC.

Hemphill is a member of the LBCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and serves on the LBCC's Student Life and Leadership Council. He plans to transfer to Oregon State University to complete his bachelor's degree.

Lehn currently serves as senior vice president of LBCC's Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Tau Upsilon chapter, and plans to transfer to OSU to complete his bachelor's degree.

The Oregon Community College Association, in partnership with Phi Theta Kappa, recognizes outstanding students from Oregon's community colleges yearly.



provided photos
Charly Hemphill (top) and Jeff Lehn

Valley Writers Series Hosts Eric Dickey

LBCC News Service

Corvallis author Eric Dickey will hold a poetry reading as part of the Valley Writers Series at LBCC's Benton Center Wednesday, March 6 from 7 to 8 p.m. in room BC-244, 757 NW Polk Ave., Corvallis.

Dickey has a Master's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Oregon State University. He has written two chapbooks: *The Hardy Boy Poems* from Beard of Bees Press released this month, and *Forgive Me, Tiny Robots* from The Argotist Online Press released in April. He also has entered a daily tweet of exactly 140 characters, Monday through Friday, since June 2009 at twitter.com/MePoet.

His poems and translations have appeared in *Rhino*, *Manzanita Quarterly*, *West Wind Review*, *International Poetry Review*, and the *Suisun Valley Review*, among others. Online, Dickey's poems can be found at talkingwriting.com, blazevox.org, and toegoodpoetry.com, among other sites.

The Valley Writers Series is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the LBCC English Department. The series exists to connect beginning writers with professional writers and to stimulate creative writing among area students, to enhance literary awareness in our community and to encourage Oregon writers.

For questions about this event or suggestions for future



provided photo
Eric Dickey, a Corvallis author

events, contact Jane White at whitej@linnbenton.edu. For special needs and accommodations, contact the LBCC Office of Disability Services at Phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 at least 72 hours in advance of this event.

Campus Events

Wednesday 2/27

Veterans Club Meeting
noon · RCH-116

Unity Celebration
4 p.m. · DAC

Join us for our Unity Celebration and the close of African American History Month. This year we are honoring Analee Fuentes and naming our Unity Award given to one Student and one Faculty/Staff. Also, poetry readings, a jazz tribute, and refreshments.

Thursday 2/28

Book Launch Celebration
1:30 p.m. · North Santiam Hall Atrium
Come Celebrate Karelia Stetz-Water's new book!

Student Summit

2 p.m. · Fireside Room
Come share ideas. Topics: How to boost student interactions on campus. How to improve student experiences beyond the classroom. Hope to see you there!

Vocal Recital

7:30 p.m. · SSH-213
Music Major Serena Lodes will perform works by a number of composers. This event is free and open to the public.

Friday 3/1

Old Time Appalachian & Blue Grass Jam Circle
Noon - 2 p.m. · Hot Shot Cafe
Bring your guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dulcimer, whatever you got and let's play! Email Rosalie Bienek at bienekr@linnbenton.edu for more info.

Woman's History Month

1:30 p.m.

Women's World Day of Prayer

1:30 p.m.

Free Movie Night at Benton Center

7 p.m. · Benton Center
Students, take that much deserved

break from mid-terms and enjoy a free movie night on us. Free popcorn and drinks as well. Co-sponsored by LBCC Student Life and Leadership and LBCC Benton Center.

Wednesday 3/6

Vietnamese Women Before & After the Vietnam War
Noon · DAC
Hear testimonials about US-Vietnam conflicts. Current realities in Vietnam.

Veterans Club Meeting

noon · RCH-116

Valley Writers Series

7 p.m. · BC-244
Join Corvallis author Eric Dickey for a poetry reading at the Benton Center.

Friday 3/8

Old Time Appalachian & Blue Grass Jam Circle
Noon - 2 p.m. · Hot Shot Cafe
Bring your guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dulcimer, whatever you got and let's play! Email Rosalie Bienek at bienekr@linnbenton.edu for more info.

Women's Working Day

1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 3/13

Veterans Club Meeting
noon · RCH-116

Thursday 3/14

Choir Concert
7:30 p.m. · Russell Tripp Performance Center

Friday 3/15

Baseball Game
2 p.m. · Baseball Field
LBCC vs. Treasure Valley C.C.

WTF - Wild Thinkers Forum

3 p.m. · Fireside Room

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

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 unfairly. Any ad judged libelous or in poor taste by the newspaper editorial staff will be rejected.

Help Wanted

Sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs. After completing a simple Student Employment Profile form, you will have access to job postings, many of them are self-referrals. If you have questions, please email jobs@linnbenton.edu or call 541.917.4803.

Two "count em" Water Treatment openings! (#10166, Corvallis & #10153, Salem) Operate City Water Treatment Reclamation Plants in a competent and cost effective manner, consistent with all local, State, and Federal regulations.

Family Services/Site Coordinator (10150, Albany) Long term position with benefits including PERS! 5% Bilingual differential for Spanish language. Responsible for a variety of complex admin and clerical operation duties. Initiative and independent judgment required. Manage multiple priorities and maintain excellent customer ser-

vice. \$13.12 Closes 9/27/13

Managerial Positions - count em' FIVE! Inventory Control (#10072, Corvallis), Project Development (#10162, Portland), Property Asst. Manager (#9844 reposted, Albany), Property Mgr. (#10173, Albany), Concessions Op. Mgr. (#10163, Portland). Find out more about these opportunities online at Student Employment.

Community Relations & Development Assistant (#10167, Albany) Fund raising, marketing, newsletter and office. Associates degree in journalism, graphic arts or marketing or 1-2 years experience equivalent or combination of experiences. \$13.12/hr Closes 4/24/13.

Go to Alaska during the summer and work at seafood processing plant. Employer will be on campus to interview on 2/26/13. Please mark your calendars.

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.

THE COMMONS FARE

MENU FOR THE WEEK OF:
2/27-3/5

Wednesday: Chef's Choice Pork Chop, Chef's Choice Chicken, Spanish Tortilla*. Soups: Chicken and Wild Rice*, Minestrone.

Thursday: Coulibiac, Braised Lamb Shanks, Butternut Squash Curry*. Soups: Smoked Salmon Chowder, Borscht*.

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Pork or Turkey Saltimbocca, Coconut Shrimp Curry*, Vegetarian Crepes. Soups: Lentil and Bacon*, Roasted Vegetable Chowder.

Tuesday: Chef's Choice Chicken, Sheppard's Pie, Fried Polenta with Ratatouille*. Soups: Italian Sausage, Corn Bisque*

Items denoted with a * are gluten free

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ARIES
 3/21 - 4/19

Fantasy – Go on, believe in magic. Day-dreaming is the best part of the day. The force is with you.



TAURUS
 4/20 - 5/20

Mystery – A detective came to your door. Good news, you have a great alibi. Lucky you, you know how to tell tales.



GEMINI
 5/21 - 6/21

Musical – Double the speech, triple the music; you just had to decide to sing and act today. Joy.



CANCER
 6/22 - 7/22

Silent – You're stuck with no speaking and the stunt role. You make people laugh. Cue piano.



LEO
 7/23 - 8/22

Classic – Good news, you get the Corvette. Bad news, you're stuck with the tapes. Yeah, no DVDs for you.



VIRGO
 8/23 - 9/22

Action – Car chases are perfect for you. All the action you'll ever need. Just watch out for those assassins.



LIBRA
 9/23 - 10/23

Horror – You're a great fight, good for you. Now all you have to do is remember to look behind you.



SCORPIO
 10/24 - 11/21

Tragedy – Car crashes, those people holding pitch forks ... you got stuck with another sad ending. Poor you.



SAGITTARIUS
 11/22 - 12/21

Documentary – Stuck with another voice in your head, huh? Stick to Facebook, those voices tell you to plant fake farms.



CAPRICORN
 12/22 - 1/19

Sci-Fi – Aliens, giant crazed spiders, sonic screwdrivers ... It looks like you're going to be busy this week.



AQUARIUS
 1/20 - 2/18

Romance – Look! Another paper heart with your name on it. You have tons of admirers, but so little time.



PISCES
 2/19 - 3/20

Foreign – Impressive accent, and you know English ... figures. You end up being a spy. Good luck to you.

PREPARE FOR YOUR CAREER SUCCESS TODAY!

The **CASE Program** at LBCC offers **Free Career Success Workshops**. These workshops will teach you how to create an effective resume and cover letter, find job openings, prepare for interviews, and become a valued employee. Workshops are open to all students on a drop-in basis. Join us and begin preparing for your career success today!

"Keep the Job" Series

Diversity and Difference in the Workplace Tuesday, March 5th, CC210, (Calapooia Center), 1:00-2:00 pm.

Employers are looking for employees that work well with others. Cultural competence is a critical component of career success. This workshop covers how culture and difference can impact workplace performance. Key differences between individuals and workplace cultures will be explored. Success strategies will be presented.

Using Feedback to Become a Top Performer Tuesday March 12th, CC210, (Calapooia Center), 1:00-2:00 pm.

Many businesses use an annual performance evaluation to provide feedback to their employees. Supervisors will generally evaluate employees on their ability to complete job tasks, communicate well with co-workers and customers, and overall performance. Evaluations are an opportunity to grow in your job and become a valued employee. This workshop will show you how to use a performance evaluation tool to enhance your career.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information on linked sites, and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. LBCC was awarded \$1,170,571 in grant funds.

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Have you taken any spectacular pictures, written any poetry, or created any type of artwork you'd like to share?

Send us your best with a little information about it to commuter@linnbenton.edu and it could be published in an upcoming issue of The Commuter.

Please note: Photos must be taken by you and cannot be someone else's work.

THE ADVENTURES OF GROOVY SWEET

By Mason Le Britton
 An LBCC student-generated comic



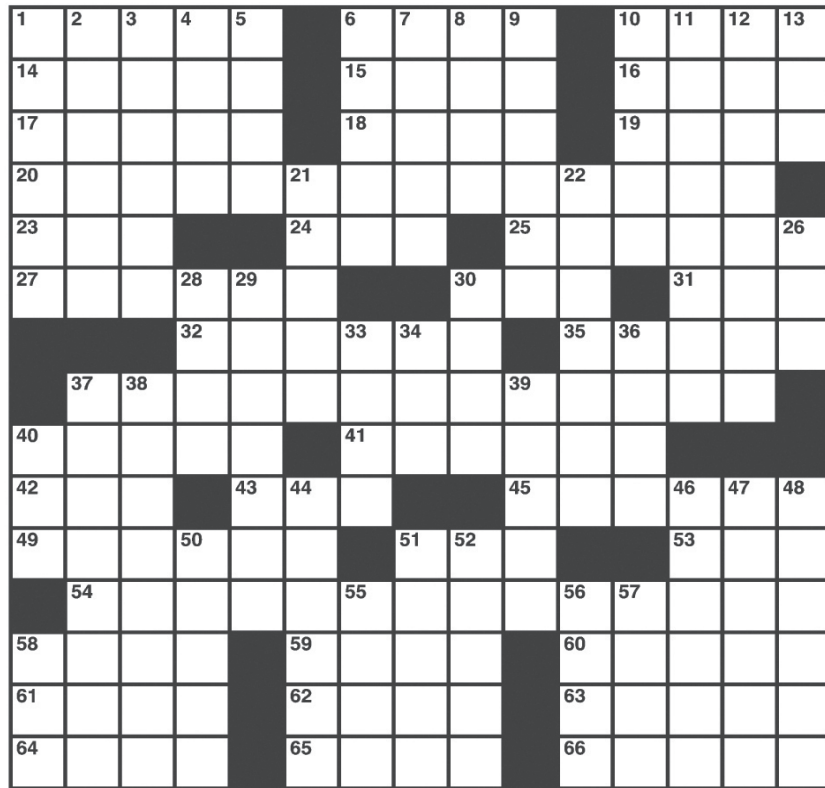
Mason Le Britton © 2013 Groovysweet.wordpress.com

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Made a disapproving sound
- 6 Witticism
- 10 Highlander
- 14 Cop ___: bargain in court
- 15 Healing plant
- 16 Oregon Treaty president
- 17 Trembling
- 18 Having all one's marbles
- 19 Word processing reversal
- 20 Big Southwestern trombones?
- 23 Ending for "ranch"
- 24 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
- 25 Thing
- 27 Madame, in Madrid
- 30 Wide shoe size
- 31 Geese flight pattern
- 32 Actress Greer who received five consecutive Oscar nominations
- 35 At the ready
- 37 Refined trombones?
- 40 Made on a loom
- 41 Imitation
- 42 Med or law lead-in
- 43 Command ctrs.
- 45 Musical beat
- 49 Wells's "The Island of Dr. ___"
- 51 Fill with wonder
- 53 Jr.'s son
- 54 Continuously-playing trombones?
- 58 Clenched weapon
- 59 Mechanical memorization
- 60 Remark to the audience
- 61 To ___: perfectly
- 62 Sporty sunroof
- 63 Baseball card brand
- 64 Wall St.'s "Big Board"



By Charles Barasch

DOWN

- 1 Samples a bit of
- 2 Ball
- 3 Loud auto honker of yore
- 4 "___ mouse!"
- 5 Weekly septet
- 6 Argonauts' leader
- 7 Large antelope
- 8 Tune
- 9 Dainty laugh
- 10 Sudden gushing
- 11 Conspires (with)
- 12 Octogenarians, e.g.
- 13 Boxing ref's decision
- 21 Whopper creators
- 22 Lord's Prayer words following "Thy will be done"
- 26 Thus far
- 28 Eye unsubtly
- 29 Drizzly day chapeau
- 30 Some pass catchers
- 33 Women

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



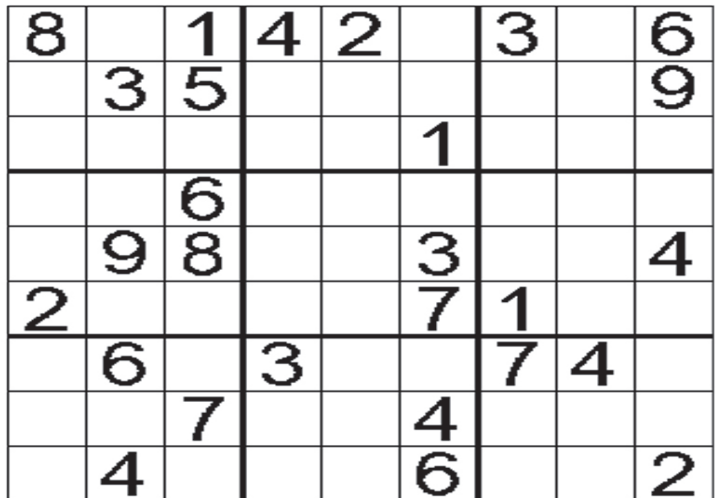
(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 34 Above, in poems
- 36 Slow-moving, as a river
- 37 Penetrable quality of skin
- 38 Makes a cliché of, say
- 39 Exposed
- 40 Typist's stat.
- 44 Crystalline mineral
- 46 More petite
- 47 Like eggs in an Easter hunt
- 48 Skinflints
- 50 Big name in perfumery
- 51 Dramatist Chekhov
- 52 Tearful
- 55 Letter after theta
- 56 Drift, as an aroma
- 57 Shipwreck site
- 58 Air mover

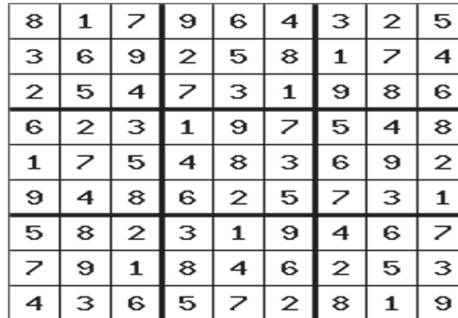
SUDOKU

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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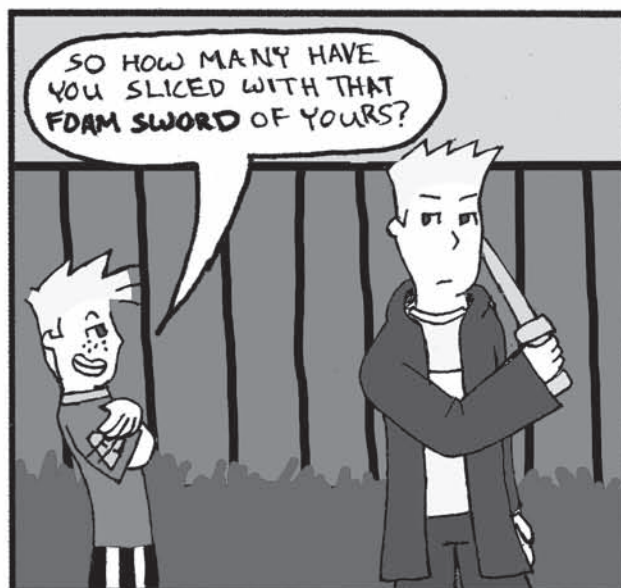
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possiblypregnant.org

options
Pregnancy Resource Centers

By Jason Maddox
An LBCC student-generated comic





Not "Safe" for Audiences

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

Why do Nicholas Sparks movies keep getting made?

They aren't good. The story and characters are always batshit crazy. (Not in a good way.) They're sappy, over-dramatized, cliché-filled, poor excuses for romance that people flock too. I don't get it.

The latest, "Safe Haven," is no exception.

Julianne Hough is Katie, a young woman running away from something or someone in Boston. She hops on a bus and heads down south to North Carolina. She meets Alex (Josh Duhamel) and they fall in love. But Katie has a secret and can't outrun her past for long and blah blah blah.

Everything you expect to see in a Nicholas Sparks movie is there: impossibly attractive couple, coastal town, kissing in a rainstorm, love against all odds, a not that surprising twist, and a death. Not necessarily in that order.

Hidden under the surface love story is an almost decent mystery-thriller plot about the cop (David Lyons) trying to find Katie. That was actually okay, but felt like a different movie entirely. It was exciting and compelling. It just didn't belong.

A good romance movie should make you believe that anything is possible. All I want to do at a Nicholas Sparks movie is scream, "That would NEVER happen!"

I would love to really rant about how ludicrous the plot "twist" and ending is, but can't without giving spoilers.

Hough and Duhamel are alright as the leads. Their chemistry is decent, but it's not that hard to look cute and stare into each other's eyes. Neither one digs too deep. It's not entirely their fault though, it's the writing. Their character's are static and as shallow as the rest of the story.

Oh, and Cobie Smulders, an actress I love and was excited to see branching out of the small screen, had absolutely nothing to do. I wasn't entirely sure why her character even existed most of the time.

My favorite part of the film was Mimi Kirkland as Alex's precocious daughter. This little girl is adorable. She was the only one on screen with any sort of spark and likability.

In the Nicholas Sparks repertoire, "Safe Haven" is nowhere near the worst. Compared to "A Walk to Remember" it's brilliant. This movie is cheesy, predictable, and boring. I demand more from my chick-flicks.

"Dark Skies" Disappoints Despite Cast

Ted Holliday

Contributing Writer

If you have seen the trailer for "Dark Skies," then you may have an idea of what the film is about. It was suspicious that it took the trailer two and a half minutes to try and convince an audience to see this movie.

And to top it off, the movie starts out with a quote from Sir Arthur C. Clarke of what you're about to watch, not much suspense in that.

Dark Skies has the feel of a rushed "Paranormal Activity" cookie cutter sci-fi movie. We meet the Barrett's, a middle class family, struggling to keep together. The dad, Daniel (Josh Hamilton) gets laid off. The mom, Lacy, (Keri Russell) is trying to succeed in real estate sales.

The oldest son Jesse (Dakota Goyo) is a teenager trying to find his identity. Then, unexplained things begin happening. A malevolent force, described as the "Sandman" by the youngest son Sam (Kadan Rockett) starts visiting the family at night. As the movie progresses, the events become more intense and physical, taking an ordinary family and putting them into an extraordinary situation.

Producer Jason Blum, who produced "Paranormal Activity" and "Insidious," didn't give that moment of creepy crawlies under the skin effect; or the need for me to dig my fingers into the chair in front me. Using sound and quick camera edits, he gives the audience brief and startling moments. He uses the cliché policeman who doesn't believe the families story when things begin to happen.

He also uses video surveillance cameras, set up by the dad to try to discover what's going on. The mom uses the internet to find what could be plausible causes of what's going on. In the mom's search, she finds a non-emotional expert that could help. Living in the "city" and his walls plastered with newspaper articles he offers advice of how to protect the family. And an alarm system, that apparently malfunctions when the Sandman visits. Blum doesn't give us any real unexpected twists that would make you step back and go "man, I didn't see that coming."

Russell and Hamilton give realistic performances. We get a good feel of



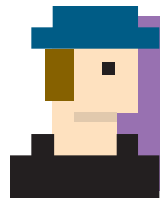
their general confusion and denial of something that the audience can see happening. They realistically portray the concerned parents that want the best for their kids.

Goyo's performance of a young teenager reflects the images of common teen struggles today. He is convincing in this role. I'm certain that the young girls will be swooning over him and his trendy haircut.

Rockett is the youngest of the group. He has the ability, with the help of some carefully crafted special effects, to go from cute and cuddly to something like the evil black-eyed child.

There are some inconsistencies that require cleaning up. For instance, throughout the movie the Sandman enters the house in mysterious ways, but decides to enter through the door during the movie's climax. Also, what happened to the dog?

The decent acting is what saves this movie, I give the movie 2.5 stars out of 5.



Bits & Pieces

Console Wars

Sean Bassinger

Editor-in-Chief

We all have preferences and disagreements. For instance, some of us want hot dogs while others desire hamburgers. Sometimes, however, these disagreements evolve into greater conflicts that disrupt everything in between.

In the world of video games, the greatest conflict of all remains known as the "console wars."

Effectively the result of miscellaneous advertising campaigns and market competition over the years, these verbal firefights often pin fans of one company against another as time progresses.

Usually consumers argue over which console has superior graphics, or which system houses the best exclusive releases. Nobody truly "wins" the console war unless everyone from each side simply shuts the hell up (spoiler alert: not happening).

It's amazing how simple product rivalries evolve

into fan wars on each side. With Nintendo's Wii U released around last Christmas, rumors of Microsoft's new console announcement coming in April, and the recent presentations of Sony's PlayStation 4, we already find ourselves preparing for next generation's great battles.

Even in the early '90s, console companies fought one another through ads for market domination, which pinned console against console and fan against fan in a metaphorical arms race. Granted, some of us were simply happy to hear that the other kid owned a console we didn't have. After all, what's better than playing games for a console you can't afford? There's no way in hell mom and dad would have bought both.

Near the beginning, companies like Atari, Coleco and Mattel competed for the privilege of becoming a household name. As time progressed, maybe one kid thought their hip new Coleco Vision was way better than their friend's lame Atari 2600. Parents bought into it too since their best reference involved whichever console name their kid decided to scream aloud before Christmas arrived. Overall, it only got

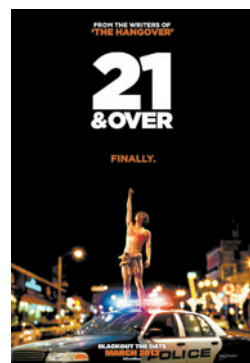
worse as time progressed.

In today's arena, it's all about Microsoft, Nintendo, or Sony. It sometimes gets to the point where some people can't even carry on conversations without looking for ways to insult the other. There's really no end to certain ridiculous taunts, and the internet age hasn't made it any easier. In many ways these arguments suck enjoyment right out of the hobby.

The best course of action is to remain objective and realizing how each system offers consumers a different perspective. Nintendo strives for innovation and traditional ties from previous consoles, while Microsoft and Sony focus more on core gaming experiences such as addictive first-person shooters and action RPGs. And when it comes to exclusivity, each system simply has a different selection based on developers. Some folks prefer certain titles over others, but again, each game offers a different experience.

The most important thing you can do is enjoy what you enjoy and not preach to others. If someone else isn't fond of your preferences, don't fret over it. You could even think of it as their loss.

THIS WEEKEND AT THE MOVIES



21 & Over
Rated: R
Genre: Drunk Kids



Phantom
Rated: R
Genre: Secret Submarine



Jack the Giant Slayer
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Tall Tale

sources: IMDb

WEATHER

Wednesday (2/27)	Mostly Cloudy	53°/34°	
Thursday (2/28)	Drizzly	53°/41°	
Friday (3/1)	Pleasant	63°/42°	
Saturday (3/2)	Rathery Cloudy	62°/43°	
Sunday (3/3)	Still Cloudy	55°/33°	
Monday (3/4)	Sun?	57°/35°	
Tuesday (3/5)	Shower	65°/41°	

source: accuweather.com