

THE COMMUTER

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Farmers' Market A Community Event

Michelle Strachan
Contributing Writer

A few morning clouds didn't stop anyone from heading downtown for the Corvallis Farmers' Market on Saturday.

The delicious aroma of potatoes and eggs sizzling on the grill at Zia Southwest Cuisine, competed with the sweet scent of freshly cut flowers at the booth next door.

Dogs on leashes rushed to greet each other, as their owners laughed and made conversation. Birds were chirping and smiles were ubiquitous, as the sun decided to join in.

The Farmers' Market in Corvallis isn't just a place to pick up fresh produce and support your local farmers. It's a place where people of all ages can bring their children to play, take a walk, and enjoy a fresh breathe of Oregon air. But more

than that, it's a free event that brings the community together.

Street musicians Marsha and "Too Slim" Tom sat in the heart of the market, at 1st and Jackson Street, singing old time favorites like "Fishin' Blues" and "I'm Satisfied With You" as listeners tapped their toes and smiled.

Even the young man offering "romantic strolls" to couples on his bicycle driven carriage, called a Pedicab, stopped to take a listen. Everyone within earshot offered a warm applause at the songs' end, to which Tom jokingly replied, "If we knew you were listenin', we woulda done better."

There were several musicians that came down to entertain, including a banjo and guitar playing duo called Rusty Hinges, a group called Marysville Disaster, and an eight year old boy that wooed the crowd with his violin.

Amidst the musical talents, the carefree spirits, and the worry-free nature of the day, there were many reminders that we can all do our part in making a difference. Receptacles for recycling were set up next to trash cans, and positive messages were delivered in creative ways.

Debra Higbee-Sudyka wore a suit made up of 500 plastic bags, demonstrating how many plastic bags are used by the average shopper in one year. She represented the organization Bag Monster, which is fighting to ban plastic bags. For more information, visit www.bagmonster.com.

Norton Creek Farm sold duck and chicken eggs, displaying information and photos on free range chickens, with a sign that said, "Let Free Range Ring."

Tables were set up in the shade by Art Outloud for children to take a break and do some

painting. The organization works on donations to "create a culture of creativity" for children.

Local farms and gardens offered their freshest produce, plants, flowers, and meat with over fifty local businesses participating. Everything you could hope to find at a farmers' market was there, and much more.

Farmers Market: continued on Pg. 2

Clockwise from top left:
The Rumbana Salsa Group.

A family at the Corvallis Farmer's Market.

Musicians Marsha and "Too Slim" Tom.

Radishes from Denison Farms.

Photos by Michelle Strachan

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Wednesday(5/2) Cloud > Sun 60°/43°	Thursday(5/3) Periodic Rains 59°/45°	Friday(5/4) Dim Wet, Kinda 57°/41°	Saturday(5/5) Sun, Maybe Rain 60°/40°	Sunday(5/6) Sunny Parts 63°/42°	Monday(5/7) Parts of Sun 67°/44°	Tuesday(5/8) Sun on Clouds 65°/45°
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Linn-Benton Community College's Weekly Student Publication



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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The Commuter

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Green Party Activist Calls Out Corporations

Jim Baumgartner

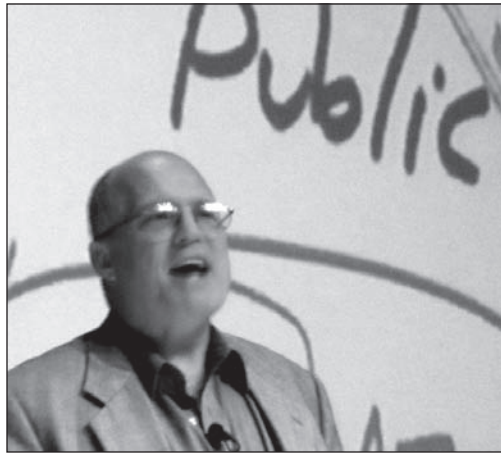
Contributing Writer

Everybody knows that corporations have significant political power. David Cobb, progressive activist and spokesperson for Move To Amend, doesn't think corporations should have the same rights as people. He has a plan to do something about it.

A former Green Party presidential candidate, Cobb was the keynote speaker at the 29 annual Ava Helen and Linus Pauling Lectureship for World Peace. In his speech, he denounced the concept of corporate personhood. "Corporations are literally ruling us. They are making the fundamental policy decisions that affect all of our lives."

In his presentation at LaSells Center, Cobb made the case that transnational corporations are a centuries old legal construct designed to oppress humans. Attempts to regulate the power of corporations with new laws have failed and he believes only a new constitutional amendment can restore America's democratic republic. Such a significant change is needed because of the Supreme Court ruling *Citizen's United vs. FEC*. This decision reaffirmed previous court rulings establishing rights of corporations and that money is the same thing as speech. Attempts to pass laws regulating money in politics or corporate influence in government would likely be overturned due to this ruling.

Members from the local Move To Amend affiliate, Corvallis Area Move To Amend (CAMTA) were in attendance promoting a non-binding advisory question for the November ballot in Corvallis.



Jim Baumgartner

Former Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb says, "Corporations literally rule us."

"Corporations were never in the Constitution," remarked Pamela Tenny as she passed out leaflets summarizing CAMTA's efforts to urge elected representatives to support a constitutional amendment denying personhood to artificial entities and reject money as speech.

Amending the U.S. Constitution requires support from a supermajority. Cobb explained there is widespread support for the issue and is confident a new amendment can be passed within a decade. Move To Amend, a tax-deductible organization, seeks to incubate and support local grassroots affiliates that have demonstrated a commitment to liberal causes

and have pledged to adhere to six values, including a "commitment to anti-oppression within ourselves, communities, work places, policies, and representation."

Approximately 120 people arrived for the presentation. It was an older crowd. About a dozen attendees were under age 50. In the second row center, a white-haired Linus Pauling Jr. was present to represent his family. Also in attendance, LBCC's own Bob Ross, Faculty emeritus and co-founder of the LBCC Institute for Peace and Justice. He regularly attends the Pauling Memorial Lecture and looked forward to keeping an open mind to the new ideas presented. Always optimistic, Ross reminded me of a lesson he has tried to impart to many students, "Nature has the answers."

Cobb's black boots and speech peppered with "y'all" reminded the audience that this is a Texan. He likes to think big. He says 500 years is a blink of an eye in the greater scheme of things, so getting a constitutional amendment passed within the next decade is only the first part of his plan to create a worldwide democracy.

The crowd was friendly and welcoming to the proud progressive. Cobb announced that "taxes are a good thing," that we don't have budget problems, but we have "allocation problems." The crowd cheered and chanted "tax the rich."

In the lobby, there were petitions to be signed and CAMTA volunteers actively spread their message of how to help. They meet the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis.

Salvation Army Needs New Roof

Nora Palmtag

Staff Writer

The Salvation Army needs funds to install a new roof. "The roof will be a part of a major overhaul of the entire building," said Lt. Maureen Lawliss, Albany Corps officer.

"This is the first step in making a new facility for [the Salvation Army]," said the Democratic Herald.

Funds for the roof are coming from a local foundation, the Salvation Army's territorial headquarters, and from donor in Linn and Benton counties.

The entire remodel will be approximately \$1.4 million and only \$300,000 has been raised so far. New windows, doors, roof, and a complete overhaul of the kitchen/food storage areas, which is used to keep food for food boxes that are given to families in Linn and Benton counties, will be included in this remodel.

Major Don Gilger, divisional secretary for the Salvation Army's Cascade Division, said "What we need is someone to step up and make a planned gift through an annuity or through their estate or simply make a large donation of money or stock, and then we could make this happen for those who are less fortunate in Linn and Benton counties."

Major Gilger's Cascade Division oversees the work of the Salvation Army in Albany and about 30 other communities in Oregon and Southern Idaho.

Donations can be sent to the Salvation Army at 345 Columbus St. SE, Albany, Ore. 97321.



Farmer's Market

continued from Cover

Available for purchase at some of the booths were Worm Tea (for riding plants of white flies and aphids), organic honey lemonade, homemade dog biscuits, Ukrainian jewelry, knitted purses, and spicy cherry habanero jelly.

And don't be surprised if you see a large group of people dancing to Cuban music. Rumbanana Salsa Group cranked up the tunes and danced their hearts out right in the middle of the street. If that doesn't surprise you, maybe you will enjoy the fact that among the dancers were two of LBCC's very own faculty members: Cyrel Gable, coordinator of parenting education program, and Mark Peterson, librarian.

As if music, great food, and beautiful scenery wasn't enough to make the day an adventure, there were surprises

lurking around every corner.

People stopped in their tracks and cheered when they looked down the road and saw "da Vinci's Wild Ride" approaching. "da Vinci's Wild Ride," a human-powered kinetic sculpture, is a part of da Vinci Days, every July in Corvallis.

It participates in races and parades, but this was its first appearance at the Farmers' Market. Nicole Dodson, Executive Director of da Vinci Days, said they came down to celebrate Leo's (Leonardo da Vinci) birthday, which was April 15.

The weather may be unpredictable and the merchandise may change a little from week to week, but one thing's for certain, you're sure to have fun at the farmers' market.

For more information on Corvallis and Albany Farmers' Markets, please visit: www.locallygrown.org.

see more photos online at:

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Community College Students Underrepresented in Polls

William Tatum
Contributing Writer

"You can't measure what you can't see" best sums up the government's view on community college graduation rates and is at the core of the report and action plan released two weeks ago.

According to the report, about 37 percent of full-time, first-time students receive a degree or certificate within four years of beginning their studies. "Not all students take a linear path in their pursuit of higher education," said Education Secretary Arne Duncan. "Many students work full-time and are balancing family obligations, while also attending school. These new outcome measures will accurately demonstrate how post-secondary schools are preparing students for success in different ways."

These changes to reporting may increase the bureaucratic requirements of institutions like Linn-Benton Community College, but they may also open up additional avenues for funding and will give accrediting and ratings agencies a better idea of how well a given institution is performing.

LBCC is already collecting some of this information for in-house policy analysis. The Department of Institutional Research has information on gainful employment, follow-ups with recent graduates, and studies on debt to employment ratios. Up to this point the Department of Education (DOE) only required information on first-time, full-time students.

According to Bruce Clemetsen, the vice president of student services here at LBCC, roughly 50 percent of the students at LBCC are full time, but many of those students are here because of the relationship with OSU

and are not counted for LB's official graduation statistics.

Under the old rules, almost half of LBCC students were not counted, regardless of whether or not they graduated. In fact, students who start at LBCC but then transferred to a four-year institution or another community college were not counted in the statistics for LBCC. All of this leads to a very fragmented and incomplete picture being sent back to the DOE.

These changes in reporting will enable LBCC and other community colleges to show off their community programs that are invaluable to locals but have up to this point not counted in the official statistics.

One such program here at LBCC is the waste water treatment program. After speaking with the industry, LBCC learned, according to Clemetsen, that water treatment plants tend to be public utilities and that the industry needed more workers who have education in not just water treatment, but also public works.

As a consequence, next year the waste water treatment program will be rolled into an entry level public works degree with waste water treatment as a certification within the overall degree plan. This adds flexibility to the degree program, while meeting an industry and community need.

Through LBCC connections with local industry, this program has morphed into a much more successful and adaptive degree. This program, and others like it, represent the kinds of innovations that community colleges can bring to the educational marketplace. By listening to not just the students, but to industry, colleges can provide a better service for students and also for the larger community.

But if the DOE isn't looking, it

won't know it, which is what makes these rules changes so important. By looking at non-traditional students, non-full time students, and students who didn't start at the "beginning of the year," the DOE will be able to see the value that community colleges are bringing not just to their communities, but to the nation as a whole by providing the skills and training necessary to fulfill the demands of an ever-changing marketplace.

These changes to rules may also have the unintended beneficial consequence of facilitating additional relationships like the one that LBCC has with Chemeketa Community College and will help to prevent overlap and redundancy in the educational market. Due to budget cuts, certain programs have had to either be curtailed or cut back, in order to ensure that the community's needs were met.

LBCC reached out to Chemeketa and convinced them to offer EMT training in this area, and in return LBCC sold them their existing equipment and made the arrangements to have Chemeketa teach the programs here as well. This way resources are freed up for LBCC to teach other valuable programs, while also ensuring that the community's need were still met.

Like with all things, there is a tension between spending money on committees and research groups to parse the schools data and the need to spend that money on actual education.

Hopefully, these changes in reporting will strike a balance that benefits all parties involved, while fostering an environment that will facilitate the education of tomorrow's leaders and community organizers.

LBCC and the Completion Agenda

Adam Malosh
Contributing Writer



Surprisingly, only 11 percent of Linn-Benton Community College full time students will graduate within three years of starting school. This is a staggeringly poor number considering enrollment for the 2010-2011 year was 5,410 full time students, which is only 595 graduates.

The Completion Agenda is a national and state-wide initiative that focuses on improving the graduation rate. Greg Hamann, president of LBCC, discussed that under the new Completion Agenda, LBCC is hoping to improve their completion rate by 50 percent, which means moving from approximately 900 graduates per year to approximately 1,350 per year.

The American Association of Community Colleges published a report recently that aligns with LBCC's goal and states that the national goal for completion is also a 50 percent increase.

The reason for the focus on increased completion, stated by Hamann, "Is to increase the quality of life for the student after they graduate." It is shown that students that earn any type of certificate or degree have a higher quality of life as opposed to students who do not.

LBCC receives state funding based on enrollment, however that will change and funding will soon be based on the completion rate. Hamann stated that he is on a committee that is working on a formula for the new funding plan.

Jack Stone, faculty and department chair for the business management department, shared that when students take and retake courses the information the students should be learning gets diluted. This means that the student will not learn as much and will be less likely to complete the course and degree.

Current students will not be significantly impacted by the new focus on completion because if even if curricular changes are made, student who have already enrolled will be using current academic standards.

In the News:

Local:

Tigard, Ore.: Brian Bement could face capital punishment for the murder of a Tigard doctor. A jury found him guilty of killing Dr. David Greenspan in March 2010. Greenspan's body was found inside a car at a cemetery near Cornelius, and police believe he may have been selling drugs leading up to his death. Bement was found guilty of aggravated murder, robbery and felon in possession of a firearm. The jury is still deliberating his sentence, which could include the death penalty because of the murder conviction.

source: KPTV

Nation:

Washington: Heavy drinking and bringing foreign nationals back to hotel rooms on trips abroad is now banned by the U.S. Secret Service in the wake of a growing scandal over allegations that agents consorted with prostitutes in Colombia this month. The new rules of conduct issued on Friday also ban visits to "non-reputable establishments," presumably including strip clubs, and say staff must obey U.S. laws even while abroad. A copy was provided to Reuters by the Secret Service, and a spokesman said they were effective immediately. The new rules were issued two weeks after the scandal erupted over allegations that Secret Service agents and military personnel brought prostitutes to their hotels during a night of drinking and carousing in the Colombian city of Cartagena, just before President Barack Obama arrived for a summit.

source: Yahoo

World:

Australia: Koalas are expected to be listed as a threatened species across parts of Australia from Monday, and some environment groups claim the

government has excluded the marsupial from protection in certain areas due to mining interests. Research conducted near Gunnedah, which is promoted as the "koala capital of the world," show numbers for the animal there have declined by 75 percent since 1993, yet koalas in the area are not expected to be granted extra protection. The new ruling will be published next week but, based on current data, is likely to list koalas in south-east Queensland as "endangered", and animals east of the Great Dividing Range in NSW as "vulnerable."

source: Port Stephens Examiner

Weird:

San Diego: A public art controversy is blooming in San Diego thanks to a mysterious man, who has turned 100 stop signs into flowers using yarn and wire. Back in March, the computer programmer who only identifies himself as "Bryan" started a "yarn bombing" project in which he and a dozen others knitted and crocheted green stems and leaves onto 100 stop signs in his neighborhood. Recently, San Diego City official Bill Harris contacted Bryan through his website and told him to stop turning signs into trees.

source: Huffington Post

U.S.: There is soon to be a new bra, the JoeyBra, designed to hold the iPhone. The bra is the brainchild of two University of Washington juniors, Mariah Gentry and Kyle Bartlow. They added the JoeyBra to Kickstarter, a crowdsourcing fundraising site, to get the bra made. A pledge of \$30 gets you one JoeyBra, including shipping in the U.S. They are busy working on a sports version of the JoeyBra that will let the wearer hold small items while working out and a "waterproof pocket."

source: MSNBC

Chamber's Re-Choired Event

Nora Palmtag
Staff Writer

LBCC's Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir, directed by James Reddan, will be traveling across the pond to London to sing in an international mass choir and give a separate solo concert as part of the 2012 Olympic Games.

In addition to singing as part of the Olympic's festivities, there will be a solo performance in another venue, in addition to singing some of the Olympic features at the Olympic stadium.

Reddan has promised that a schedule of the performances

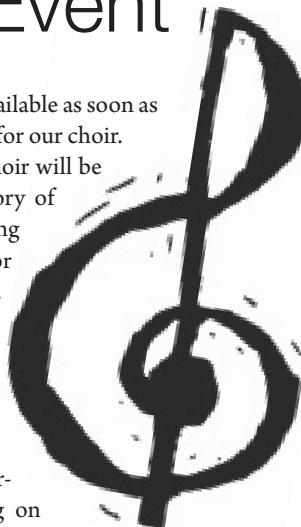
in London will be made available as soon as he can so that we can root for our choir.

The members of the choir will be viewing some of the history of England, including visiting the Tower of London for the changing of the guards.

The Re-Choired Element choir is currently rehearsing during class time and on Saturdays until they depart for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. They are working on pieces including Orff's "Carmina Burana," Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9," "You are the Light," "Call of the Champions," Bernstein's "Olympic Hymn," and others, including 12 additional pieces for their solo concert.

Serena Lodes, a member of the chamber choir, said, "this trip is an amazing opportunity to witness cultural differences between the U.S. and other countries, both in music and otherwise. It's really a chance to experience performing on a world stage." Lodes said she is very excited to take part in this fantastic opportunity.

When asked about working with Reddan, concert choir member Laura Blackwell responded that "choir is so much fun! James knows what he is doing and he has already taught me so much."



Fundraising Events

Where: Papa's Pizza
(flyer required)
1030 SW 3rd St., Corvallis

When: Wednesday, May 16
5 p.m.

Where: Lebanon Bowling Alley
(tickets \$15)
2250 S. Main St., Lebanon

When: Saturday, May 19
4-6 p.m.

Dear Conscience,



What do you do if your friend's eyebrows are taking over their face?

Jill Mahler

Shoulder Devil

Unkempt eyebrows, huh? I've heard there are worse things like in-laws, root canals, or the tube socks your grandma gives you for Christmas, but I can understand your dilemma.

Honestly, they are being selfish here, since they do not have to look at them all day. The least they could do is entertain you, by training them to do tricks like the worm.

There are simple ways to fix — I mean help — your friend. Obviously, they do not believe in plucking or waxing, so it's your responsibility to be proactive.

When they are asleep, shave their eyebrows. Don't worry about using shaving cream or a new, sharp razor either; they won't feel a thing. Then, with a sharpie, create a new set of eyebrows. You have a blank canvas, so be artistic.

There should be more people like you. You are providing a public service. Not to mention, you are saving them time, money, and the pain they would have had from hot wax or the tweezers pulling clumps out of their head.

How do you know if you are in need of this public service? First, look in the mirror. (Yeah, that thing that you've been trying to avoid, as you should be.)

- The general rule of thumb is there should be two of them.
- They should not represent a permanent emotion.
- If you are tempted to name them because they resemble a pet.
- If you can't see the mirror, because you have a chinchilla covering your eyes.

Jennifer M. Hartsock

Shoulder Angel

That darn Devil never gives good advice, does she? Unkempt eyebrows are the least important aspect of a person! It's not like their innermost being is expressed in their eyebrows!

It is not a person's eyebrows, but a person's eyes that are the window to the soul. Look under the hairy mess (or, on the opposite end, penciled-in lines) and see into their hearts. It is more important to make sure your personality is equally balanced, not your eyebrows! Gosh!

Look at the practical side of things: They protect your eyes from dust and the sun, and you know what else — they tickle people when you rub your face on them! But make sure it's done so modestly.

They also form friendships. When that mean ol' devil shaves off your friend's eyebrows, you can be there to glue them back together!

Like I said, your eyebrows are not YOU, but if you choose, your eyeberows can be an extension OF you to express your uniqueness. Be an individual! How boring would it be if we all walked around with identical eyebrows. Sheesh!

Are we really discussing this? There are much more important things in the world. People are starving and dying and stuff. How superficial can you get?

Is your life SO empty that the only thing you're thinking about is your friend's face? Maybe you should turn the focus inward. Worry about your own face, you dummy-head!

I apologize. That was wrong of me to lash out.

Have questions? We have answers.

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

"Dear Conscience" does not necessarily reflect the views of any of The Commuter staff.

World Events

Knowing Where You Stand (or Don't Stand)

Sean Bassinger

Staff Writer

Let's discuss how everyone's reacting to this whole "Kony 2012" mess. An infamous viral video started it all, and Internet users spread the heroic word by shouting it everywhere they could.

"Get the message out there, Joseph Kony is real and he must be stopped," said the masses as they shared the documentary on their favorite social networking platform. That was all swell, until something else happened — other individuals, coming from a more critical background, started discussing how the Invisible Children campaign was, well ... for a lack of better words, bullshit.

That's the Kony guy! I know who he is! So ... now what?

It was up to Invisible Children and their founder, Jason Russell, to clear their reputation. The organization promised many counter arguments to keep the discussion going and prove their worth. Unfortunately, before any highly valid statements could be made, Russell completely lost it.

As a result, this caused yet another subcategory of individuals — the "See, he's crazy, so his points were invalid all along" demographic — to rise up. These folks didn't even know about the entire "Kony 2012" debate until they saw the "Crazy Advocate Caught Nearly Naked in Traffic" headlines on their favorite news site.

Let's take a moment to summarize this: The first group of people simply believed what they thought after watching a video, and without looking up any additional information. The second group, who were the most civilized, actually did their research and outlined why the Invisible Children campaign was probably a scam, providing both reasoning and financial figures to back up their claims. The third group (my least favorite) pretty much saw the video on TMZ, and used it as a way to pretend that they agreed with the second group by adding, "Yeah, I saw the underwear video. Total scam."

And finally, we have the most lost of all individuals: Those from Category One who never stopped to consider Category Two's argument. Yes, they heard it — they're just not agreeing with it. Worst of all, some of them won't admit to why they disagree with debates against Invisible



Joseph Kony

Children. They're still going strong, posting flyers and writing on telephone polls all across town simply because they want to support something. Many of them think with Nike's "Just do it" attitude without considering the alternatives. Take a statement from Kari Livingston of the Mail Tribune as an example:

"I've been paying attention to the Kony campaign for the past six months or so, and I'm really interested in things that will get young people up off their butts to go get involved."

This is probably her best reason for supporting the Kony campaign. Sure, it's highly admirable to want younger generations involved with a cause, though it can't be healthy to simply say, "I'm doing this since Uncle Jason and his adorable son say it's correct," without researching the subject. After all, maybe you are promoting a shady organization when you could be taking action in more helpful ways.

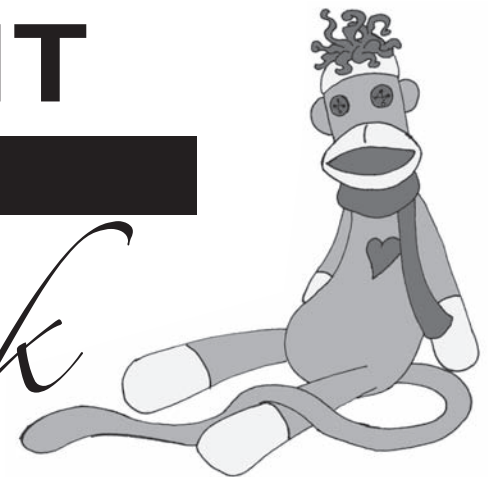
We must understand the messages we discover and check their facts. Get up, go out, and support a cause. But make sure you actually know what you're supporting and why you're passionate about it. Don't just hop on the nearest bandwagon because you're eager to "get involved" without even realizing the significance of the issue. Otherwise, the only "cause" you'll support is another mass media mishap.

STRAIGHT

FROM THE

Hartsock

Brain stuffing from the frumpy sock monkey



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Jennifer M. Hartsock

Opinion Editor

Relationships are unique in ways that general advice can't cover. What works for one couple is completely wrong for another. When we go through a rough patch, seeking advice from others is helpful, but comparing one relationship to another is never a good idea. Should the lovey-dovey couple tell an independent couple to spend more time together? Should a dramatic couple tell a mellow couple to have more excitement?

When one thing works for them, but not for us, how do we fix our problems?

Above love, above communication, and above trust, there must be respect.

If you love each other, but don't respect each other, there is room for selfish words, harmful actions, and a toxic relationship. Love does not always entail good love.

It is almost, if not entirely, impossible not to have productive communication without respect. Conversations run in circles, and the problems at hand are not confronted, nor dealt with in a constructive manner. Pride blocks the ability to value their perspective, as well as reach a mutually comfortable conclusion.

This is true for trust: Mutual trust

entails mutual respect. One may trust his or her significant other, but this does not mean one respects him or her. This is when manipulation and ill treatment finds itself in the relationship. This also means that the person being taken advantage of should not trust his or her partner, whether he or she's aware of this, or not.

Without respect, love is not good love. Without respect, you cannot have constructive communication. Without respect, trust can be misused.

When you respect someone, you want the greatest possibilities for them, and any hindrances falls to the wayside, or are dealt with fruitfully.

Marijuana: Health, Crime, and Legality

Michael Rivera
Staff Videographer

When it comes to the current state of marijuana, there is a strong force working for and against reforming its legalization. Some automatically judge against it and condemn those who use it, even if they know nothing about it. Some believe when compared to alcohol and tobacco, marijuana has much greater health benefit potential, without as many addictive characteristics.

According to Norml.com, in 1998, 55 percent of Oregon voted in favor of Measure 67 (the Medical Marijuana Act) under the guidelines of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) in order to treat "cachexia; cancer; chronic pain; epilepsy and other disorders characterized by seizures; glaucoma; HIV or AIDS; multiple sclerosis and other disorders characterized by muscle spasticity; and nausea."

Many patients prefer medical marijuana over synthetically created prescriptions because of the effect of THC (the active chemical in marijuana). It helps stimulate an appetite, especially for cancer patients. Some prescription medications have many harmful side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite. Marijuana has minimal side effects, in comparison, such as sleepiness and hunger.

Fiscally, treatment for these diseases can be extremely strenuous for those who cannot afford health insurance. Medical marijuana offers OMMP patients a cheaper option.

Even so, people are under the assumption that the toxins inhaled when smoking are bad for us, no matter what. However, according to Anahad O'Connor, writer for the New York Times, a new government study shows that moderate smoking over several years does not make a significant difference to someone's health.

"The researchers followed more than 5,000 people over two decades and found that regularly smoking marijuana – the equivalent of up to a joint a day over seven years – did not impair performance on a lung function test," says O'Connor.

The study did find that after 10 years of daily smoking, lung function was compromised.

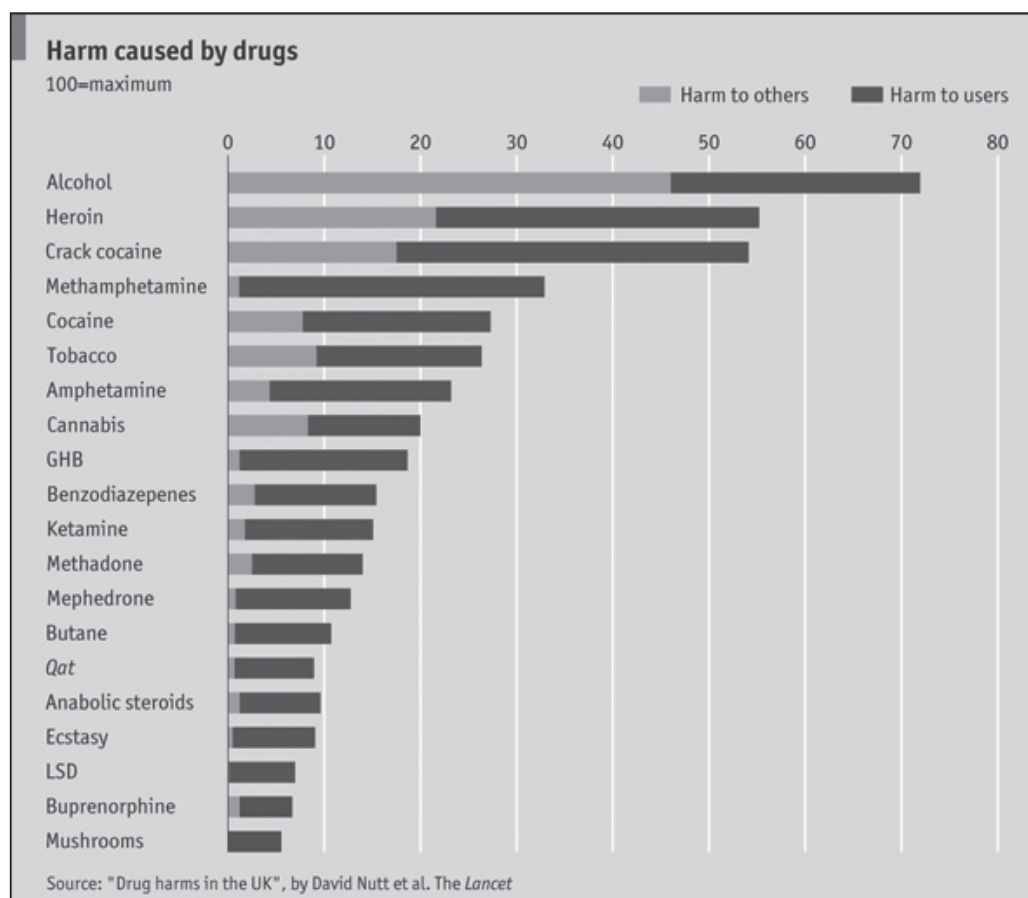
According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, "It was estimated that marijuana users have a 4.8-fold increase in the risk of heart attack in the first hour after smoking the drug. This may be due to increased heart rate, as well as the effects of marijuana on heart rhythms, causing palpitations and arrhythmia."

Even O'Connor says that "smoking marijuana irritates the airways and can cause coughing, and public health advocates stress that it causes impairment that reduces attention, lowers motivation and heightens the risk of accidents."

This is why many medical marijuana users prefer edible-marijuana foods to smoking it. Food that has been made with extracted THC is processed by the liver (that processes the toxins) prior to entering the bloodstream. This also produces a body high, instead of a mental one.

It is true that the abuse of marijuana can have adverse effects on your health, but when used responsibly and in moderation, there are few harmful effects, unlike tobacco.

Tobacco and nicotine are legal drugs found in cigarettes, which are known to cause lung cancer, wrinkles, and heart disease. They also contain other



"Drug harms in the UK: a multi-criteria decision analysis", by David Nutt, Leslie King and Lawrence Phillips, on behalf of the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs. *The Lancet*.

harmful toxins, such as tar and rat poison.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are about 5 million deaths related to cigarette use annually world-wide. "In the United States, tobacco use is responsible for about one in five deaths annually (i.e., about 443,000 deaths per year, and an estimated 49,000 of these smoking-related deaths are the result of secondhand smoke exposure)."

For example, the use of alcohol versus marijuana has adverse statistics. In a CDC report, it says that the United States, from 2001-2005, had 43,731 alcohol-related deaths. In Oregon, we experienced 523 of those alcohol-related deaths, yet there is no information on marijuana-related deaths.

If alcohol and tobacco are more harmful and more addictive than marijuana, why are they legal?

Some people fear that the legalization of medical marijuana will increase the chances of underage use and DUIs. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) claims: "A study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse surveyed 6,000 teenage drivers. It studied those who drove more than six times a month after using marijuana. The study found that they were about two and-a-half times more likely to be involved in a traffic accident than those who didn't smoke before driving."

Impaired driving is wrong and shouldn't be condoned. Though marijuana may benefit patients when used in moderation, one must not be ignorant to the harm that is associated with its abuse. With any substance, correct doses and responsibility is key.

The DEA says any illegal drug made legal will increase crimes – the cost of controlling legalized

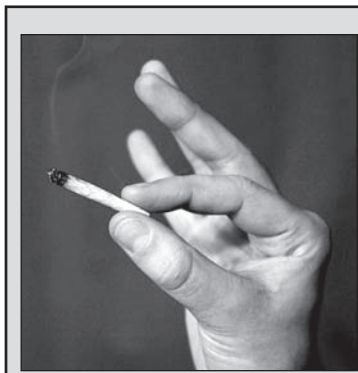
marijuana would increase tax dollar spending by youth prevention programs and addiction recovery. The DEA claims that in 2002, "federal drug control spending is minimal ... the amount of money spent by the federal government on drug control was less than \$19 billion in its entirety." This money is said to be "used for treatment, education and prevention, as well as enforcement."

"If the number of drug abusers doubled or tripled, the social costs would be enormous," stated the DEA.

There is a thin line for marijuana's legality. There is concern that if legalized, people could abuse it by going to their doctor and requesting a medical card for minor, or false issues. Permits for medical marijuana cards are state issued; if the state has decided that this patient needs a medical marijuana card, which are pre-approved by primary physicians.

This does not guarantee anything. Even though it's legal to use medical marijuana with a card, it doesn't mean you are free from trouble with the federal law. According to the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, OMMP will protect the cardholder in the state of Oregon, however you may not be protected from the federal government. This should bring concern to patients applying for their medical marijuana cards.

No matter the side you stand on, it is hard to understand something when it has been considered a "horrible drug" and dismissed quickly. The best way to find your own opinion is to do your own research. If we don't look at the pros and cons of this issue, there is no way to fully understand either side.



Student Opinions

How is marijuana perceived in the college culture?

Kara Lester
"I feel like it's a more laid-back drug. No one really cares about marijuana."

Harrison Winter
"I feel like it's taken as a relaxing drug; it's easily attainable in college."

Janet Bernardo
"I think it should be legalized and not be such a big deal."

Tazzi Joyner
"My brother has Crohn's Disease and smokes for medical reasons. It's way cheaper than any prescriptions and it takes away his pain. It helps him eat, so I see the good things it does."

Carolyn Nowak
"I hear more about its use in universities, not community colleges."

Josh Liskey
"Most people abuse it the way they use it."

Alexandra Ross
"We have this 'Legalize it, it's all good' mentality. I do agree that we should legalize it, because it will cut down on the excitement portion of people who do it."

Lindsay Pehrson
"It seems more people are open to its use, now-a-days."

What do you think?



Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

Submit your thoughts to
commuter@linnbenton.edu

The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, although we reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. Letters that raise libel, poor taste or privacy concerns will not be printed.

Horticulture Club Introduces Flash Weeding

Alan Boone
Contributing Writer

The Horticulture Club would like to invite you to come join them as they help maintain the organic garden here on campus. If you eat some the food prepared in the Café or the Common's Cafeteria, the ingredients they use come from this garden! So why not help grow the food you eat?

Although that is the main goal, that isn't limited to what the club does. They like to help keep the campus free of unwanted weeds with a project called "Flash Weeding." Similar to a flash mob, the club goes out to find an area with an abundant amount of weeds and pluck them from the ground as fast as they can for about 15 minutes. It's a great way to get out and enjoy the campus, while helping keep LBCC neat and presentable.

The club President Liz Shinn and Vice President Joseph Schmidt are very friendly and would be happy to accommodate anyone into the club. They often look for opportunities in the area that would influence sustainability and

help educate people on being a botanist. A great project they are starting is attracting more mason bees to the area. Mason bees don't produce honey like other bees do, but are great for pollinating nearby plants. How the club plans to do this is build wooden clusters with holes drilled in them, so that the female can lay eggs in the holes. Wherever the females are, the males will follow.

Another great event that is coming up is "Community Action Day" held by the City of Albany. Help the city become more presentable by picking up litter and planting a variety flowers. This event will take place on May 19, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Registration will be 8:30 a.m. If you have more questions about this awesome event please contact Heather Slocum at 541-791-0058 or email her at heather.slocum@cityofalbany.net.

The Horticulture Club always have something neat and interesting going on. The club is open to anyone, so please stop by the greenhouse on campus during their weekly meetings, which are every Tuesday from noon until 1 p.m. Pizza provided!



Alan Boone

Horticulture Club Meetings

Where: Greenhouse
When: Every Tuesday
Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Members of LBCC's Horticulture Club weeding outside of the Greenhouse.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

SPRING FLING

WEDNESDAY

05//09//12

11:30AM - 1:30PM

WHERE:

COURTYARD

With the theme of Health and Safety this event will present how different departments on campus tackle this idea. The event will be held during a courtyard lunch and will be a great opportunity to see different areas across the LBCC campus and outside agencies. Enjoy a lunch of meat or vegetarian burgers with sautéed onions and mushrooms, cheese, chips, cookie and a beverage. The cost is \$4.00 for students and \$5.00 for employees. Sponsored by Student Life & Leadership, Food Services, and Safety & Loss Prevention

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Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cherry Blossoms in Bloom at the DAC

Johanna Lundahl
Contributing Writer

*Staying in my mind
A hope lost, long left behind
Yet still, here you are*

This is the winning haiku by Leanna Rivas, from the haiku poetry contest held at the Cherry Blossom Festival in the Diversity Achievement Center Tuesday, April 24. The poem perfectly fits the main idea of the festival, which is a celebration of all things that are short lived. The festival was based around the Japanese concept of mono no aware, literally meaning "the path of things." The word describes awareness of temporal things, and then the gentle sadness at their passing. Cherry blossoms are a perfect symbol of this as they only bloom for one week in Japan, and then are gone.

Jeanette Emerson, Chelsea Baker, and Megan Rivas organized the festival. It celebrated Japanese culture, displaying student art, and a collection of student poetry compiled from a school wide haiku contest. They also offered traditional Japanese food, such as vegetable yakisoba noodles, cabbage lettuce salad, and ginger green tea ice cream for dessert.

Is green tea ice cream a traditional food? "Not traditionally," Admitted Megan Rivas, a student member of the DAC, "but they've [the Japanese] been getting as green tea crazy as we are."

Jennifer Hagle was the student artist for the event, and she used cherry blossoms as her theme. She displayed her artwork among the haikus, three delicate drawings of cherry blossoms using pink, grey, white, and black. "Many times people acknowledge them for beauty, but they don't really observe it," said Hagle.

Then, halfway through the event everyone was invited to the forum to witness a performance of the Shinwa Taiko Drummers, a seven women, ensemble-drumming group who came up from Eugene for the occasion. The women were dressed in traditional costumes with red headbands and colorful vests. After their pre-show huddle, they started out beating the drums slowly in unison, then gaining speed, becoming like a wave of sound, until they finished in a grand finale. Around 60 people attended the event.

The DAC had been decorated with paper cranes left over from the event held last year, and people were greeted by paper cranes by the hundreds strung

up on strings and hanging around the office. There were also posters up about the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan on March 11, 2011, a tsunami and consecutive earthquakes that left 13,145 people missing, and 14,117 people dead. The first poster made last year, showed the recent aftermath of the disaster. The other was about the massive rebuilding going on over a year later.

This is the second year of the Cherry Blossom Festivals at LBCC. The first, on April 29, 2011, was a Cherry Blossom Picnic organized by Megan Rivas. It started as an awareness event and fundraiser for the recent disaster in Japan. Those at the DAC wanted to do something to help, so to raise awareness and celebrate Japanese culture, they made 1,000 cranes for the Japanese people. They also had a haiku contest, showed video clips from the earthquake and flooding, had someone from the Red Cross come and speak to the crowd about the disaster, and collected monetary donations to go to the Japanese Relief Fund.

"We hope to start another cherry blossom event, similar to Cinco De Mayo, and it will probably become an annual tradition," Chelsea Baker said.

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 The Commuter

Hearing "Heavens" Blows Away Audience

Kendal Waters
Contributing Writer

The only problem that arose at Aria Minu-Sepehr's reading last Friday, was that the Valley Library Rotunda was far too small to fit all the attendees. Every chair was filled, every balcony crowded, and the adjoining hallways were packed with eager listeners.

Minu-Sepehr was introduced by Alison Ruch at 7:30 p.m. on April 27, and he was welcomed to the podium by boisterous applause. He was at the Valley Library to read from his memoir "We Heard the Heavens Then." Within the pages of his book, Minu-Sepehr recounts his childhood living in Iran. In 1979, at the age of 10, the Iranian Revolution broke and flipped his life upside down.

The Iranian Revolution was a difficult time in many lives, but those that only heard of it through the media did not get the whole picture, and the only picture they got was skewed and untrue. Even today, the view of Iran and it's people is completely lost in the images and stories the media chooses to show.

"One of my hopes is that the reader comes away from this book with a view of Iran that is a lot more complex than it is in the news these days," Minu-Sepehr said. "It's a very complex place with a lot of color, ten different ethnic groups, and a dozen different languages spoken there. Sure, you have traditionalists, but you have as many modernists."



Aria Minu-Sepehr reads to a packed house at the Valley Library Rotunda (above) and later signs books for fans.

photos by Kendal Waters

Without any other solution in his mind, Aria took it upon himself to protect the house. With only a pellet gun in his arsenal, he tried to guard the house against the train of automobiles, before his plans were swiftly crushed by his mother taking away his weapon. She threatened him with telling his father, and followed through soon after. To his surprise, his father was not angry, but instead, encouraged him to use the shotgun next time.

He recounts this harrowing tale with a comedic voice, turning the most terrifying scenes into comedies. The book does not touch on easy topics – some scenes depict close family friends' deaths, some tell of fear-filled nights of wondering if his father would make it home alive – but he recounts the events with humor, and makes

them easier to hear about. "I think the humor might have been partly for himself," said his wife, Karen Holmberg. "Partly because he had a very funny family, the whole family is full of comic spirits. But then also that levity, that lightness, was absolutely necessary for him to be able to remember the funny, and the good, and the charming, and the hilarious parts, as well as the frightening and the disorienting parts."

Frightening as the events were, Minu-Sepehr was able to make it out safe and sane. Even though he made it through these events, reliving them is difficult. Holmberg told of her intimate witness to him writing the occurrences down, recalling times where transcribing the events became too much to handle. Minu-Sepehr said that getting all the memories out was a liberating experience. He also tells of his experiences in his book without skewing the events with bias.

"In the process of writing this book, I did a lot of research and had to abandon the disposition I had taken as a member of an elite class then," he said. "Because most of that elite class, now, holds onto the idea that that was the best time, that there were no problems with the faults of the regime. In fact, they're in denial to some extent."

Events in Iran went from bad to worse, but luckily became peaceful again after a period of chaos. Amir Azarbakht was born four years after the revolution, and bore witness to the

changes in the country that occurred soon after Minu-Sepehr's family departed.

"A year after [his family] left, in 1980, a war broke out. Iraq invaded Iran, and the war lingered on for the next eight years, so that was another crisis for the life of ordinary people," Azarbakht said. "Then there was this period of building the country, and then, about fifteen or twenty years ago, life started to become more normal, more event-less, compared to the time of the revolution or the time of the war. Actually, I had my teenage years, my youth, and then adulthood in a peaceful time, so I don't actually relate to the time of war or revolution that much."

Having moved to Corvallis just this past September, Azarbakht has seen what most American citizens have not, the truth of what it is actually like in Iran.

"People are living their lives, and having fun, and working, and everything else. Not living as portrayed in the media," Amir stated.

"We Heard the Heavens Then" tells the tale of a not-so-foreign land, in a not-so-foreign state of crisis. It bridges the gap between what we think we know and what we should learn. The content of the book is extremely insightful and relatable, and the reading was a very captivating experience.

The wisdom that Minu-Sepehr shared only whetted appetites for knowledge and sent minds racing towards new thoughts.

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SCIENCE WEEK

APRIL 30TH - MAY 4TH
12PM - 1PM

MONDAY APRIL 30th BIOLOGY COURTYARD	TUESDAY MAY 1st PHYSICS COURTYARD	WEDNESDAY MAY 2nd GEOLOGY FORUM 104 THEN PARKING LOT	THURSDAY MAY 3rd ROV TEAM MH 113	FRIDAY MAY 4th CHEMISTRY FORUM 104
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at OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) in Newport.

- Introduction to Marine Biology (BI 150)**
June 25 - Aug. 17, eight weeks online plus two days on-site
- Biology and Conservation of Marine Mammals (BI/FW 302)**
June 25 - July 20, taught at HMSC
- Ecology of Marine and Estuarine Birds (FW 499)**
June 25 - July 20, taught at HMSC
- Lab: Field Techniques for Marine Mammal Conservation (FW 499)**
July 20 - 22, three days on-site. This is the lab for BI/FW 302.

Register today!
summer.oregonstate.edu/hmsc

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Oregon State UNIVERSITY



Photos by Mike Rivera

Globetrotters at Gill

Michael Rivera

Videographer

As the song "Sweet Georgia Brown" played through basketball arena, the sounds of leather and hardwood, thousands of people cheered and laughed at the world famous Harlem Globetrotters as they put on another great show on their road trip.

The Harlem Globetrotters came out with an unorthodox, fancy style of basketball at Gill Coliseum on Thursday, April 27, to a welcoming crowd of 6,000-6,500 that reaches capacity at 10,000 people, said event staff. The Globetrotters booked the gym and ran, mostly on their own staff.

The show started at little after 7:00 p.m. with "Globey," the Globetrotters Mascot, getting the crowd to with interesting dance and tricks. From getting four guys to sit without chairs and getting a little girl to spinning a basketball on her finger for the first time, the Globetrotters really impressed a crowd, especially the first-time viewers.

The Globetrotters are making history for themselves this

season, as rookie TNT becomes the first woman Globetrotter in 20 years, says the Globetrotter organization. Also, they have the shortest player in their history at 5'3". This goes to show everyone that their hard work has paid off.

Lindsay Hedding took her son, Chris, for both their first times and describe with excitement and laughter.

"It's hilarious and so funny. We missed seeing them for their Portland show, so we were glad to see them in Corvallis," said Lindsay.

"It's so cool. My favorite part had to be when they pants people," says Chris with a smile.

According to the Globetrotter staff, their current U.S. tour began on Christmas day in Auburn Hills, MI as they tour for four months in the states before the start their international tour. All-in-all, the Globetrotters play an average of 300 plus games a year. Under Globetrotter policy, the staff are not allowed to do formal interviews.

The Globetrotters were fun of amazing basketball moves, dribbles, dunks, and jokes. One player, Bull periodically climbed onto

the basketball hoop to spite the ref or kick an incoming shot. The referees had a run for their money as the Globetrotters provoked them all night. From mimicking them to arguing semantics, the crowd was left to laugh and cheer as the comedy came and went.

Big Easy ran the show, setting up all the Globetrotters basketball plays and being the team leader for the night. Players like Bull, TNT, Stretch, Scooter, and Hop all contributed with precise and well-practiced ball handling, passing and alley-oops style dunks. "We're having a great time. I haven't seen them since the '70s, so it's nice to see them now," said Marty Fitzpatrick, a father taking his son Barron for his first time.

Vandon Haugen said "They are pretty amazing. I always think it's funny when they mess with the refs."

If you are interested in looking for more Globetrotter information, such as players or schedules, you can refer to their website, www.harlemglobetrotters.com.

more photos online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu



Annual Juried Art Student Exhibit

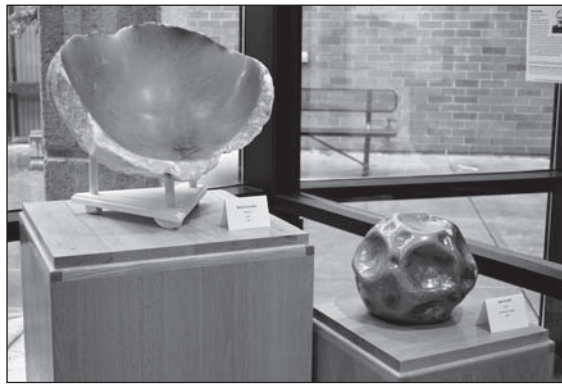
Press Release

More than 60 works by nearly 40 student artists are on view at the annual Juried Art Student Exhibit in the North Santiam Hall Galleries at Linn-Benton Community College, 6500 SW Pacific Blvd.

A reception and awards ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9 from noon to 1 p.m. in the NSH second floor atrium, with over \$2,000 in cash prizes from donors and gift certificates from area merchants will be announced.

Jurors for the show were artists and educators Diane Tarter of Adair and Becca McCannell. Both are professors of art at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

The exhibit was open to students who have taken art classes at the college during the 2011-12 academic year. The media on exhibit include paintings in oil, watercolor and acrylic; drawings in pencil, ink, charcoal and pastel; photography; ceramics and mixed-media sculpture.



Mason Britton

Two of the pieces on display in North Santiam Hall for the Annual Juried Art Student Show. More photos online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu.

The exhibit runs through June 8. The North Santiam Hall Galleries are open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Science Week at LBCC

Sean Bassinger

Staff Writer

LBCC's science department is currently hosting "Science Week," a feature of demonstrations and displays highlighting what the college offers in the way of programs and courses.

Hosted by various instructors from each department, the biology and physics events already took place in LBCC's courtyard. Monday's setup featured various critters (including Lester the bearded dragon), bones, and bugs to showcase the world of biology. On Tuesday, multiple individuals had the privilege of getting cinder blocks crushed on them as they lay on a bed of nails. Many onlookers watched the demonstrations as instructors explained why the subjects survived.

The next three sessions will occur between 12-1 p.m. on today, Thursday and Friday. LBCC's geology department will start in Forum 104 today, the ROV team in MH-113 on Thursday, and the chemistry department in Forum 104 on Friday.



Physics demo on Tuesday (left) and a display table set-up during the week (below).

More photos online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu

photos by Sean Bassinger



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

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

CWE Jobs (#9660, 9659, 9658, Albany) If you are a current LBCC student in a related field, you will find these are wonderful opportunities to get experience, get paid and have a job through graduation from OSU—CWE Student Lab Tech #9660, CWE Computer Cleaner #9659, CWE Environmental Tech #9658.

Legal Assistant (#9661, Corvallis) This full-time job is looking for someone with experience in probate, trust administration and estate planning along with customer service and computer skills.

IT Assistant (#9652, Albany) This part-time, entry-level technical support position could possibly give you some CWE credits also? Hours are 1-5pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and pay is \$10/hr.

Tech Support/Sales (#9663, Corvallis) Are you looking to get some work experience to go with your computer skills and basic knowledge of hardware and Windows repair and troubleshooting. This job offers variable hours for 4-5 days/week.

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.

First AIDs Awareness Walk this Sunday

Ari Nunez

Staff Photographer

Starting at 10 a.m. on May 6, get ready to break in those tennis shoes of yours. The Valley Aids Information Network (VAIN) is hosting Corvallis' first AIDs Awareness Walk, with the starting line at 2nd and Western.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. with the actual walk running from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Co-sponsored by local organizations, the purpose of this walk is to raise awareness and support for community members, who have to live with AIDS/HIV. The festivities waiting for participants include motivational speakers and a rally.

VAIN's area of operation covers the Benton, Linn, and Marion counties of Oregon. Any funds collected will go to running outreaches to the underserved community members and furthering their AIDS/HIV awareness program.

Upcoming Events

Friday 5/4

7 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Curtis Salgado & His Big Band CD release concert! Tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at door.

8 p.m. Bombs Away Cafe

Takilma performs!

8-10 p.m. The Beanery, located in Corvallis on second street.

Ian Priestman, LBCC faculty member for business management will be performing. Music is based upon audience requests. Free admission.

Saturday 5/5

6:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Oregon Country Fair Spring Fling with Medium Troy performing Bohemian Dub. Admission is free for Oregon Country Fair Family.

Sunday 5/6

7:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Tommy & the High Pilots with A B & The Sea. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$12 at door.

Tuesday 5/8

8 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Curren\$, The Jets, Smoke DZA, Fiend 4 Da Money, Corner Boy P, Trademark, Young Roddy, and Styles P perform. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20 at door.

Wednesday 5/9

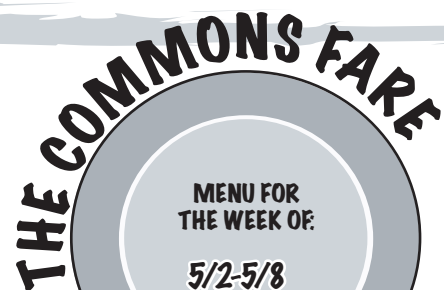
7 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Augustana with Graylag. Tickets are \$16 in advance; \$18 at door.

Noon- 1 p.m. NSH Second floor atrium

Art reception and awards ceremony! Over \$2,000 in cash prizes from donors and gift certificates from area merchants will be announced.

If you have an Upcoming Events, please e-mail them to commuter@linnbenton.edu.



Wednesday: Chicken Gumbo w/ Creole Rice, Hazelnut-Crusted Salmon w/ Frangelico Peurre Blanc*, Cheese and Mushroom Crepes. Soups: Chicken, Bacon and Potato, and Roasted Celery Root, Apple and Fennel*.

Thursday: English-Style Fish and Chips, Braised Lamb*, BBQ Tofu w/ Onion Rings. Soups: Beer Cheese and Miso Soup w/ Tofu

Friday: Chef's Choice
Monday: Pork Picatta, Tarragon Braised Chicken over Mushroom Pilaf, Fried Polenta w/ Ratatouille*. Soups: Chicken Noodle and Billy Bi

Tuesday: Baked Stuffed Snapper, Meatloaf and Mushroom Gravy, Cauliflower and Potato Curry w/ Basmati Rice*. Soups: Tomato Basil*, Mulligatawny

Items denoted with a * are gluten free

HOROSCOPES



ARIES
3/21-4/19
You will look to the world, and find yourself humbled and amazed.



TAURUS
4/20-5/20
A compliment will happen by your way. It won't be in kindness, but in thanks.



GEMINI
5/21-6/21
Much like a child, but tempered by maturity, you will find true joy.



CANCER
6/22-7/22
To one of apathy, all colors are paled, all sounds are dampened.



LEO
7/23-8/22
Hug people as if to say, "I am truly grateful. Here is some love from me to you."



VIRGO
8/23-9/22
Everyone you meet must fall in love with you. Look to them in respect.



LIBRA
9/23-10/23
Use ambiguous words with a definite tone. Your ideas will be most accepted.



SCORPIO
10/24-11/21
Learn to relax, and return the embrace of those around you.



SAGITTARIUS
11/22-12/21
Don't be too afraid to seek your ideal with the fear that your fantasy will fade.



CAPRICORN
12/22-1/19
Realize the simple things are perfection. In this moment: everything.



AQUARIUS
1/20-2/18
You've the sort of smile the makes hearts drop, and sometimes, knees as well.



PISCES
2/19-3/20
When you speak of love, speak not of the romantic kind, but of the real, lifelong love.

BACK *in the* DAY

This day in history ...

May 2, 1933- Nessie!!
The Loch Ness Monster is first sighted. Thus spawning an infinite number of internet conspiracy sites.

May 3, 1933-Two of these in the same year.
James Brown is born. As is an entire sub genre of music.

May 4, 1865-Into the ground.
President Lincoln is buried in Springfield, Illinois. To help him get into character for the upcoming "Lincoln" film, Daniel Day Lewis will be burying himself alive to help get into character.

May 5, 1961-Thank God we beat the ruskies.
The first American is successfully sent into space. Phase two: PIGS IN SPACE!

May 6, 1994-Is it helicopter proof?
The chunnel is opened underneath the English Channel. Not if Tom Cruise has anything to say about it.

May 7, 1789-Ghost on the Dance Floor.
George Washington attends the first inaugural ball and promptly tears up the dance floor.

March 8, 1945-Win win.
V-E day is celebrated. That's all I've got.

1st Annual Corvallis
AIDS 5.6.12
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WALK
2ND & WESTERN
REGISTRATION 10AM
WALK 11AM
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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

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

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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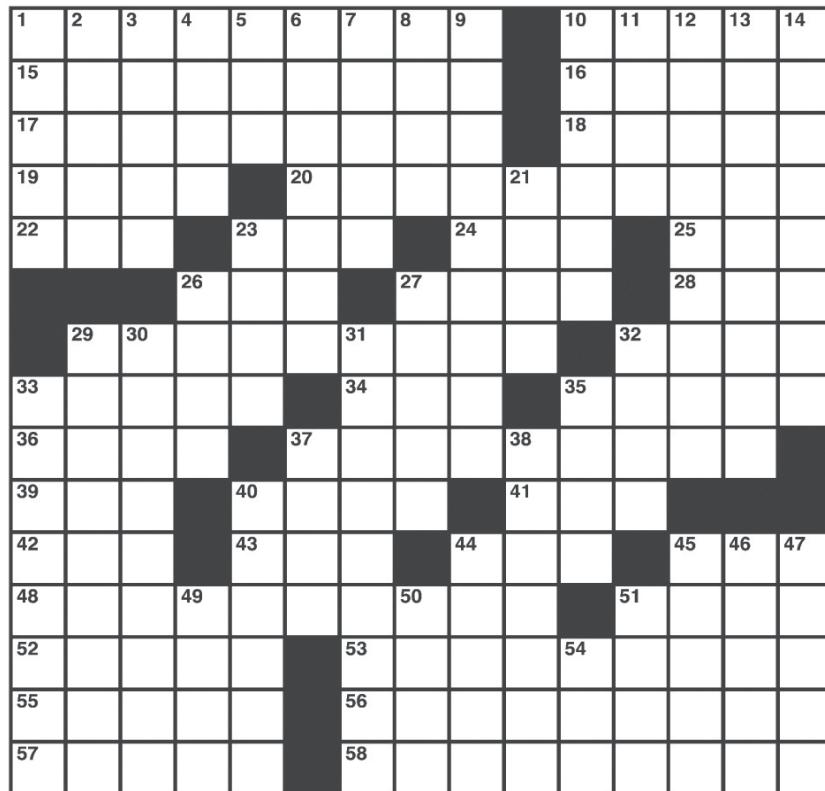


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Pretax sums, e.g.
- 10 Hero at the Battle of Cabra, 1079
- 15 Blackmailer in "David Copperfield"
- 16 Actress Téa
- 17 They reach very large audiences
- 18 Agreements
- 19 Yucatán years
- 20 Wall Street down time?
- 22 Jailbird
- 23 Trains overhead
- 24 Prof's aides
- 25 Memorable period
- 26 "Love Don't Cost a Thing" singer, familiarly
- 27 City south of Fort Worth
- 28 Former Ger. currency
- 29 Football boot that takes unexpected bounces
- 32 Newsman Huntley
- 33 Grinch creator
- 34 Bird Down Under
- 35 Poke fun at
- 36 Fail to mention
- 37 Foliage-eating pest
- 39 Lush's sound
- 40 Chatters
- 41 Western alliance: Abbr.
- 42 Luther opponent Johann ___
- 43 NASDAQ debut
- 44 Shooter
- 45 Closest pal, in texting shorthand
- 48 Product sold below cost to attract customers
- 51 Jezebel's deity
- 52 Flannel shirt pattern
- 53 Booming voice quality
- 55 ___ Carlo
- 56 "Cogito ergo sum" philosopher
- 57 Came to a close



By Brad Wilber

- 58 Shrub with fluffy grayish flower clusters

DOWN

- 1 "Poison" plant
- 2 Seventh planeta
- 3 Plains bovine
- 4 Soviet news agency
- 5 Resistance unit
- 6 Amoebalike movie alien
- 7 Dreaded mosquito
- 8 Darth's daughter
- 9 Title gladiator played by Kirk Douglas
- 10 West Texas city
- 11 Goneril's father
- 12 Old military topper with a turned-up brim
- 13 Fit together
- 14 Repugnance
- 21 Big truck name
- 23 Yale Bowl cheerers
- 26 Equitable
- 27 Timid types
- 29 Long-sentence punctuation
- 30 Marsh hazard

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	L	D		I	D	L	E		C	O	S	I			
O	L	I	O		S	E	A	L		T	A	C	E	T		
C	A	V	E	M	A	N	G	O		O	P	E	L	S		
O	V	E	R	R	A	N				S	P	R	A	I	N	
					R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	B	I	N	G	O
R	E	P						S	L	I	E	R				
I	N	T	O	W	N			A	N	N	A	R	B	O	R	
S	O	U	T	H	E	A	S	T	A	S	I	A	G	O		
E	L	I	T	I	S	T	S		T	S	G	A	R	P		
					S	T	A	I	N			L	E	E		
E	S	C	A	P	E	D	C	O	N	G	O					
L	O	A	N	E	R				T	E	A	R	G	A	S	
V	A	P	O	R				M	A	Y	A	L	I	N	G	O
I	P	O	D	S				A	B	E	T		E	U	R	O
S	Y	N	E					V	E	T	O		L	S	A	T

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- 31 Rows on pianos
- 32 CNBC interviewees
- 33 "... on my honor"
- 35 Fed who tracks down money launderers
- 37 Rubberneck
- 38 Exuberant modern compliment
- 40 Word before Age or cage
- 44 Gypsum painting surface
- 45 African language group
- 46 Looks toward
- 47 It's pressed on the campaign trail, with "the"
- 49 Place to build
- 50 Consider
- 51 Cutting remark
- 54 Highland refusal

Linn-Benton Community College Performing Arts Department presents

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An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton

Fried Bananas
 Groovysweet.wordpress.com

Mason Le Britton © 2012

Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors by somebody I do not know - John Keats

Left at the Altar

“Five-Year Engagement,” another mediocre romcom

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

Romcom, as a genre, has some problems. The majority of the films aren't very good. They're cliché, predictable, and completely unrealistic. They're poorly written for big-name stars that phone in performances because they can. It's their name and good looks that sell tickets, not the story. “The Five-Year Engagement” is another movie that can be added to the mediocre romcom library.

“Engagement” stars Jason Segel and Emily Blunt as Tom and Violet, a happy San Franciscan couple, who put their engagement on hold after Blunt accepts a job at the University of Michigan. As the altar gets farther and farther away, the wait takes its toll on the once-happy couple.

Gee whiz, I wonder what will happen? What about the attractive professor hitting on Violet? What about Tom's not-so-secret resentment for giving up his career as a chef and moving to Michigan? Oh no, they're fighting, how will it all end?

Co-written by Segel and directed by Nick Stoller, I had high hopes going into this film. Not only because of my love for Segel, but because the last Segel/Stoller project was 2008's “Forgetting Sarah Marshall,” which was a fantastic example of what a romcom can be. “Engagement” falls short and fails to match the energy and humor of “Marshall.”

The leads of the film do a decent job. Segel is watchable and enjoyable, but my opinion may be biased because as I said before, I love him. And Blunt is charming as his intended bride, although it's hard not to be charming when you have an accent.

The supporting cast also does a perfectly adequate job. Rhys Ifans is fine as Violet's smarmy boss and Alison Brie (“Community”) has a very believable fake accent as Violet's sister. Chris Pratt, as Tom's best friend, was surprisingly likable and provided most of the laughs.

The plot is predictable, but that was to be expected. I just wanted it to be better. It wasn't funny. That's not true, there were some funny moments, but sadly they were all in the trailer. It's a



harmless movie that will leave you bored. Even a die-hard Jason Segel fan like myself (I'm serious, since the first episode of “Freaks and Geeks” I was hooked) can't fully recommend this film.

It is possible to make a good romcom. I've seen them. I've seen these same people make them. “The Five-Year Engagement” just isn't one of them.

Cute Chimps in Moving Documentary

Kay M Roth

Staff Writer

Disney has done it again. “Chimpanzee,” the latest Earth Day special from DisneyNature, is a visually spectacular movie that tells the story of a cute little chimp named Oscar. Narrated by Tim Allen, the film, which runs one hour 18 minutes, follows the adventures, tragedies, and misadventures of little Oscar. While it is a film for all ages, very young children should be prepared for the death of Oscar's mother.

Set in jungles of the Ivory Coast and Uganda, “Chimpanzee” is set against the stunning jungles that stretch for miles and are home to a wide variety of wild animals, including Oscar, his mother Isha, other mothers with young chimps and Freddy, the elder male. The group lives together and searches for food daily in order to survive. They must fend off other animals, including another group of chimpanzees set on overtaking their territory.

The jungle is a playground for young Oscar and the other chimp



youths as they learn how to climb trees, play, and grow. As Oscar grows, he learns life lessons that will serve him throughout his life – how to forage for food, how to build a bed high in the trees, and how to escape from attacks by the other chimps. Another lesson, one Disney seems to utilize often, is the death of his mother.

When Isha is killed by the rival chimps, little Oscar is left to fend for himself. He tries to get some of the

other mothers to take him under her wings, but none are willing. As Oscar slowly weakens, it appears his days are numbered. Freddy steps in and becomes a surrogate parent to the young chimp, so, as is also common in Disney movies, the ending of the movie is upbeat and positive.

Tim Allen's narration is a combination between knowledge and some of the corniness we came to know when he portrayed Tim the Tool Man Taylor. In my opinion, this adds to the film by giving movie goers emotions that they might not otherwise get from just seeing the chimpanzees on the screen.

“Chimpanzee” is the fourth release for DisneyNature, the first major film label Disney has created in over 60 years. In this film, DisneyNature joined forces with the Jane Goodall Institute, giving a donation for every ticket sold through May 3.

As a documentary, “Chimpanzee” is rated G, but might be a bit much for very young children unless parents prepare them for Isha's death. I found it very well made, visually pleasing, and, thanks to Allen's storytelling, very entertaining.

Open Mic Mondays at FireWorks in Corvallis

Dustin Nash

Contributing Writer

Let's face it, Mondays are the arch-nemesis of the everyone. Stressful, usually devoid of fun. FireWorks Restaurant & Bar has the cure with live music, great food, and delicious brews.

LBCC's own Ben Maxon, who plays under the stage name, Ellipsis, says, “I love it. I play here all the time.”

Every Monday from 9-11 p.m., FireWorks holds an open mic event, where its patrons act as judges for local acoustic musicians.

The top three performing artists receive cash prizes, as well as a spot in the Acoustic Showdown for the first place winner. The winner of the Acoustic Showdown receives a five-hour recording session at Chameleon Creations Studio.

With the coming of warmer weather, the outdoor seating area is being used, so returning fans of the event will have something to look forward to. “It's nice sitting outside,” comments Saber Gilbert, a repeat attendee.

So anyone looking for fun on a Monday night, or any aspiring musicians looking to earn some recognition, would do well to check out FireWorks Restaurant & Bar in Corvallis.



FireWorks Restaurant

Where: 1115 SE 3rd St
Corvallis
Phone: (541)754-6958
Web: fireworkscorvallis.com

“Three Stooges”: Why Soitainly!

Kay M Roth

Staff Writer

Having grown up watching “The Three Stooges” on television – yes, I am that old – I was a bit leery about going to see the new “Stooges” movie. When all was said and the laughing was done, I was glad I did see it. I haven't laughed that much in a very long time.

The movie's format is just like the old black and white version – individual episodes with a title to give you an idea of what you would be seeing. In the case of the movie, all of these episodes fit together and are tied together at the end.

Sean Hayes (Larry), Will Sasso (Curly), and Chris Diamantopoulos (Moe) obviously must have studied the old film of three of the funniest guys of the early- to mid-20th century. Filled with the same slapstick comedy, the same friendship, and the same zaniness, “The Three Stooges” is a fresh release from the troubles of our time. It was fun to just get lost in the movie for 92 minutes.

Hayes has worked in Hollywood, since the late 1990s, with perhaps his biggest role being that of Jack McFarland



in “Will & Grace.” Sasso has spent time as a writer for “MadTV” and played several roles on “Family Guy.” Diamantopoulos began his career in 2000 and portrayed Rob Weiss in the television series “24.”

Having been left on the doorsteps of the Sisters of Mercy Orphanage, Larry, Moe and Curly are instantly a trio to be reckoned with. They are also easily identifiable even as babies, with their trademark hairstyles. Flash forward and the adult stooges head for the big city to try to raise money to save their childhood home from closing.

The crazy trio stumbles into a murder for hire scheme, find an old friend, and end up on a reality television show. All the while, the slapstick keeps coming, the jokes keep popping up, and somehow the trio keeps succeeding despite themselves.

If you're looking for a funny movie, “The Three Stooges” is for you. If you like slapstick, you will appreciate the physical comedy. And, if you remember seeing the original stooges, you will roar at this new trio as they recreate to perfection the antics that kept earlier generations in stitches.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Geriatric Comedy

The Avengers
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Superhero Awesomeness

Sources: IMDb, Yahoo! Movies, Fandango.com