

The

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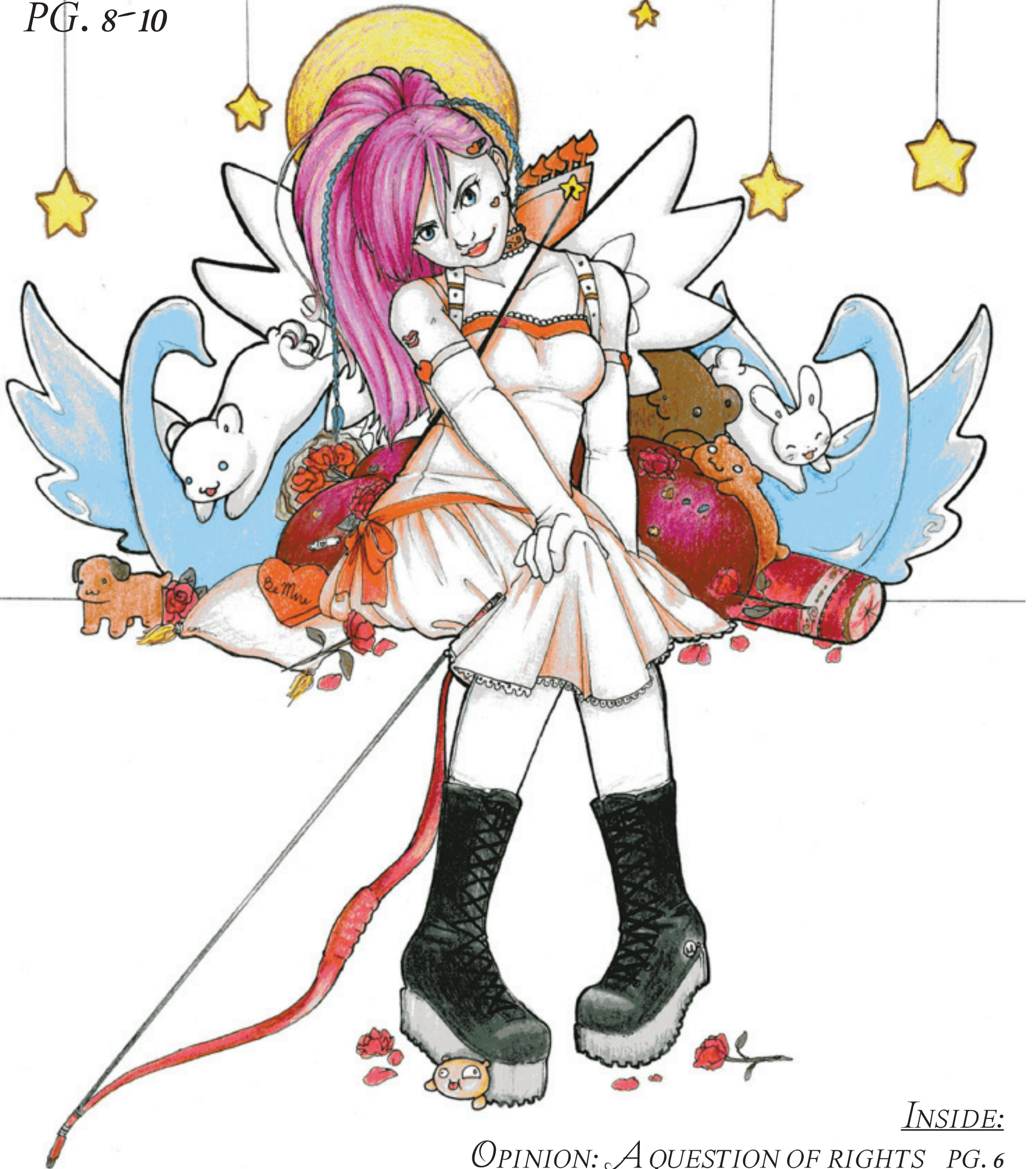
A Weekly Student Publication

February 10, 2010

Comm[♥]muter

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

PG. 8-10



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The Commuter
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Campus News

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

Non-traditional students get recognition

Max Brown
The Commuter

Each term, the Non-Traditional Career Student of the Term is chosen. These students get recognized for their hard work and determination and are awarded with a certificate and a small gift.

This is part of a program funded by the state to recognize students in fields that are dominated by the opposite gender. The program has been happening for three years now.

When the program was first started, Valerie Zeigler, outreach and retention specialist for LBCC and coordinator for this program, wanted to do one student a month, but decided to cut it back to one a term.

Zeigler says this “encourages, supports, and provides resources to students who choose a non-traditional program of study by gender.”

The program is geared toward providing the students with networking resources. She also wants to start a mentoring program with professionals in the area. The mentors will not only be able to work with students, but show them that they can be successful in their field of study.

For the current selection process, Zeigler picks a program of study and asks for instructor nominations. After she receives the nominations, she interviews the students and then picks the student that she feels showed the best qualities.

She would like the choice to become more student driven, so that nominations are submitted by other students. She is starting a new club, called TNT (Think Non-Traditional), that she hopes will become

part of this process. Instead of just interviewing the nominees herself, maybe students will as well, and then it will be a group decision for the non-traditional student of the term.

“Being a minority, you do face challenges different from the norm, and that’s why this program is important,” Zeigler said.

Any non-traditional student that has any questions or wants to talk with Zeigler is encouraged to stop by her office in the DAC.

Non-traditional student of fall term

Andrew Decker was the pick for fall term 2009. He is enrolled in the legal administration assistant program, which at this time has only two males.

Right now, Decker is working as a clerk of the court. Previously employed at a firm in Phoenix, Ariz. that worked litigation against pharmaceutical companies, he dealt with setting up offices to help more clients, researching or gathering files for the lawyers in the firm, or writing letters for the lawyers.

Eventually he stopped working at the law firm to start his own business. He said he learned



Andrew Decker
Photo by Max Brown

a few lessons, but it didn’t work out. After that he decided to move to Oregon to raise his family.

Once in Oregon, he decided that he needed to finish college. He started to think about what he wanted to do, and he realized that he was happiest while working at that law firm.

“I was pretty much helping our clients, these injured people, get the money they needed to go have medical procedures to save their life in some cases,” Decker said.

Mary Ann Lammers nominated Decker for the student of the term during fall term. She has known him for over a year now and enjoys his opinions and point of view in her classes.

“He had a lot to offer to the class, and he wasn’t afraid to speak up ... I’d always have to hear what Andrew had to say, because it was always helpful information,” she said. She noted that he is always eager to be there and it is very nice to have a male influence in the class.

Decker is also heavily involved in Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges. This is one thing that stood out to Lammers. She said that Decker and a number of the other students in her class have shown a real presence in the society, and put a lot of effort into it.

She feels it is not enough to join those societies just to mention them on your resume, and encourages students to become really involved with them, like she feels Decker has done.

Zeigler chose Decker because of “his involvement. His leadership skills really stood out to me. He is juggling being a full-time student, a full-time dad, and working.”



Through Feb. 12 (Mon – Fri)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Valentine’s Flower Sale

Help support LBCC Campus Clubs by purchasing carnations for some of your favorite people on campus. The price is \$2 each, or six for \$10, and includes a carnation wrapped with greenery and delivered to a specified room or office. For more information, contact Student Life and Leadership at 541-917-4456.

Through Feb. 26 (Fri)
South Santiam Hall Gallery
Promised Gifts: Art from Non-Western Cultures

The exhibit will feature authentic art works from many countries including China, Mexico, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, India, and Africa. These objects include African masks,

a head-dress, and ceremonial bowls, examples of Chinese calligraphy, a painting from India, a Japanese wood-block print, and many other beautiful objects.

Through Feb. 26 (Fri)
North Santiam Hall Gallery

Twist: Art on Exhibit

Twist features the drawings of Jim Adams and the photography of Robin Bachtler Cushman.

Feb. 10 (Wed)
10 – 11:30 a.m. and 7 – 8 p.m.
• Benton Center

ESOL Showcase

Students from the English for Speakers of Other Languages classes will share food, music, cultural artifacts and essays and poems from their countries of origin.

Feb. 10 (Wed)
Noon – 1 p.m. • Fireside Room

Credit CARD Act Information

What you need to know about the Credit CARD (Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure) Act of 2009.

The Credit CARD Act enacts comprehensive credit card reform legislation that aims to establish fair and transparent practices relating to credit card services. Join discussion of the new rules and how you may be affected.

Feb. 13 (Sat)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. • AC-120

Dance Club Auditions

Dance Club is holding group auditions for their Spring Dance. All styles and levels welcome. No need to prepare, just come ready for fun! For more information, contact Katherine Sanders at sanderk@linnbenton.edu

Feb. 18 (Thu)
3 p.m. • NSH-208

Valley Writers Reading

The Series is proud to announce a reading this term by our English faculty, Ruben Casas. He will be reading excerpts of papers and stories by and about undocumented youth. For more information, contact Jane White at whitej@linnbenton.edu or Lucette Wood at woodl@linnbenton.edu.

Feb. 19 (Fri)
Noon – 1 p.m. • Benton Center Student Lounge

Acoustic Showcase: Wild Hog in the Woods

This local stringband plays a wild mix of old-time, swing, ragtime, blues and tin-pan alley tunes with honest verve and gusto. Their motto is, “Nobody leaves without a grin.” For more information, contact the LBCC Benton Center at 541-757-8944.

Feb. 19 (Fri)
7 – 8 p.m. • Benton Center, BC-204

Ceramics Lecture

Dennis Meiners will hold a free slide show and lecture. For more information or to register, contact the LBCC Benton Center at 541-757-8944.

Feb. 20 (Sat)
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. • Benton Center

Ceramics Workshop

The LBCC Benton Center will host a workshop with award winning ceramic artist Dennis Meiners. Cost for the Saturday workshop is \$40. For more

information or to register, contact the LBCC Benton Center at 541-757-8944.

Feb. 20 (Sat)
9 a.m. • Activities Center gym

Baseball Hitting Camp

This clinic is geared for ballplayers ages eight to 18. Camp includes three hours of instruction, a camp T-shirt and refreshments. Cost for the camp is \$40. For more information, contact Greg Hawk at 541-917-4242.

Feb. 21 and 27 (Sun and Sat)
3 p.m. • Russell Tripp Performance Center

Children’s Play “Cool Suit”

This is a musical retelling of “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” a classic tale of the vain, clothes-horse Emperor rocks with music and comedy. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children under age 18.

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

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Oregon, shut up and drive!

Amanda Sunseri
 The Commuter

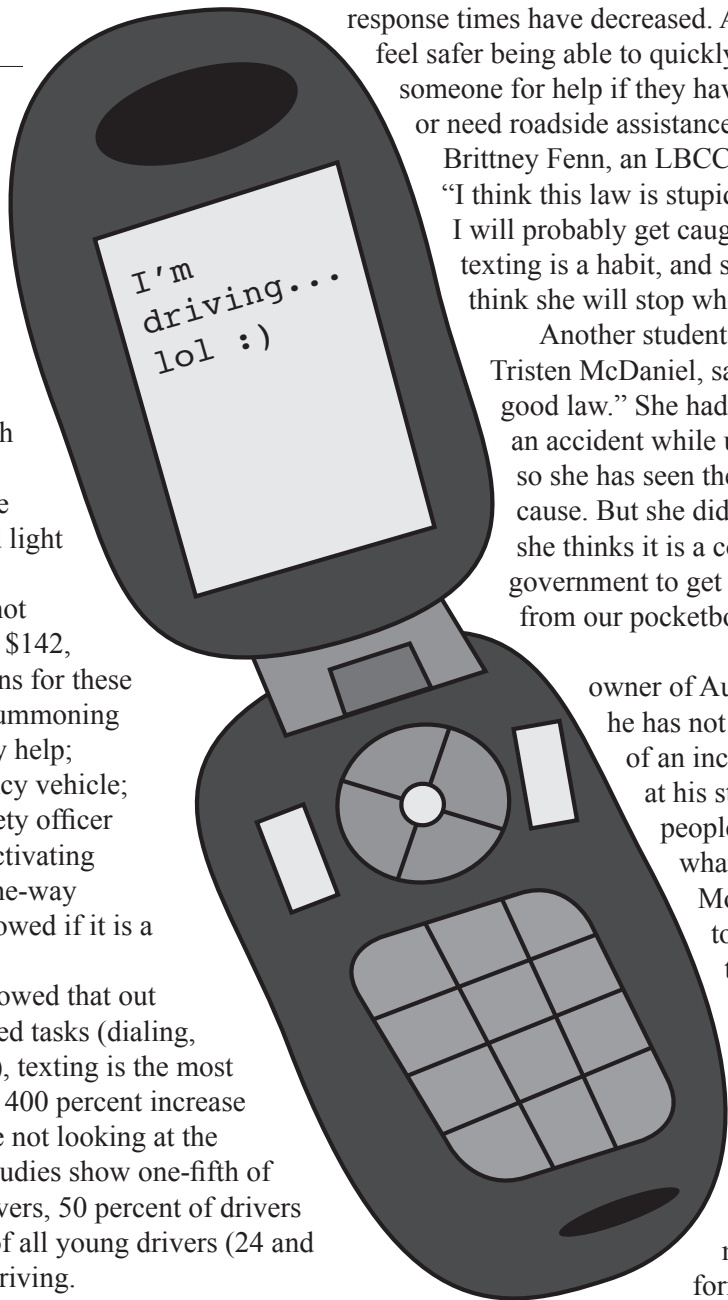
Recently, Oregon passed a new law prohibiting drivers from using a cell phone without a hands-free device. Effective Jan. 1, drivers cannot talk on the phone without going hands-free, such as with a Bluetooth device, even while the car is stopped at a red light or stuck in traffic.

The fine for not abiding by this law is \$142, but there are provisions for these situations: a person summoning medical or emergency help; operating an emergency vehicle; acting as a public safety officer and activating or deactivating hands-free device. One-way communication is allowed if it is a part of employment.

One study showed that out of all cell phone related tasks (dialing, reaching, talking, etc), texting is the most dangerous. There is a 400 percent increase in the time drivers are not looking at the road while texting. Studies show one-fifth of experienced adult drivers, 50 percent of drivers 18-24 and one-third of all young drivers (24 and younger) text while driving.

Although talking may be less dangerous than texting, it is still a distraction. A driver is 2.8 times more likely while dialing and 1.3 times more likely while talking to get in an accident. According to distraction.gov, a driver using a cell phone (hand-held or hands-free) has reactions that are delayed just as much as having a blood alcohol level of .08.

There are good reasons for cell phones to be accessible while on the road. Drivers are able to contact authorities about accidents, road hazards and problem drivers, and emergency



response times have decreased. Also, drivers feel safer being able to quickly reach someone for help if they have any problems or need roadside assistance.

Brittney Fenn, an LBCC student, says, "I think this law is stupid. With my luck I will probably get caught." She thinks texting is a habit, and she doesn't think she will stop when driving.

Another student at LBCC, Tristen McDaniel, says, "It is a good law." She had a friend get in an accident while using her cell, so she has seen the damage it can cause. But she did express that she thinks it is a conspiracy of the government to get more money from our pocketbooks.

Sean Clay, owner of Audio-Fx, says he has not seen much of an increase of sales at his store. He feels people don't realize what Bluetooth is.

Most people seem to think it is the thing you put in your ear, but Bluetooth is a wireless connection between two devices and comes in many different forms. Clay

says it can be very accessible and easy. They can install it in your stereo so that to answer a call, all you have to do is push a button on the radio. You can also clip a small, similar device on your visor. For more information about Audio-Fx you can go to www.audio-fx.com. Any nearby Radio Shack or audio store can also answer questions.

Clay echoed earlier thoughts about the law: "I think this new law is irrelevant, people will do what they want whether it is safe or not. This is just a way to generate money."

Ovations build for LB choir program

Alethea Skinner
 The Commuter

South Santiam Hall is hiding a treasure.

While the work of individuals with a variety of artistic talents is clearly displayed in several parts of the building, tucked away out of the view of the campus in general another group of artists perfect their craft.

Walk through SSH between 11 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and you will soon discover LBCC's hidden treasure, closely guarded by James Reddan.

If you opened the doors to room 213, the harmonies of the 20-voice LBCC's chamber choir, Re-Choired Element, would flow over the campus. In fact, if you walk past those doors around that time most days of the week, you will hear music from the 75-voice Concert Choir, 15-voice Men's Choir or 15-voice Women's Choir.

After representing LBCC in the Heritage Music Festivals on the West Coast last year (along with the Concert and Men's Choirs), Re-Choired Element won the Oregon Small Ensemble Festival to become the top community college choir in the state and the only one to receive a superior rating. They also won the American Choral Directors Association's Gold Award.

The road to victory

LBCC's choir is probably the most active of all of Oregon's community college music programs. Reddan says, "LBCC is fortunate to have one of the state's thriving choir, music, theater and dance programs. Most were cut back or totally deleted due to economic budgetary constraints. We are fortunate that LB's program is thriving and growing."

Each year, choir festivals are held all across the country. Most recently, LBCC chose to perform at the Heritage Music Festivals held in Seattle and San Francisco.

According to Reddan, "At the festival, competing choirs are evaluated by all

they have done over the course of the year - not just their performances during the festival. Each choir must attend and perform at an on-stage clinic adjudicated by one of the appointed adjudicators. Depending on that rating, the choir is invited to the "Festival of Gold."

The choir also receives a CD of the performance and a plaque displaying their final rating as Gold, Silver, Bronze or Festival.

Both four-year and two-year colleges compete for the title. "While there are 17 community college programs in the state, only three competed this past year," Reddan says.

Because the festivals are sanctioned Oregon ACDA events, the participating ensembles are eligible for the Oregon ACDA Gold Award Recognition and can choose a location for the upcoming year.

The Festival of Gold location choices for this year were Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City. Reddan says he chose NYC for the LBCC choir program because of the city's thriving arts culture.

About the director

Prior to teaching at LBCC, Reddan taught in high school and middle school programs in Las Vegas, Nev. When he joined the LBCC music program, Reddan's plans were to get the choirs growing - not just to increase in size, but to grow musically - and to have good, high-quality musical experiences. He has toured and directed both domestically and internationally, and says he is looking forward to the possibility of taking the Re-Choired Element on an international tour at some point. The choir went on its first performing tour all over the West Coast last year.

LBCC hosts festival

According to a recent LBCC newsletter, the 2010 Oregon ACDA Small Ensemble Festival will take place on Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Performance Center.



LBCC / OSU Degree Partnership Program Day

- Academic Advising
- Admissions & General Information
- Financial Aid Information
- LBCC & OSU Advisors
- Free Pizza

Wednesday, February 17
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
LBCC Commons Cafeteria

Also at the Benton Center
Wednesday Feb. 24, 4 – 6 p.m.

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Office Hours: Q&A with Kimberly Burdon

Alx George
 The Commuter

Commuter: Being a speech teacher, obviously you're pretty comfortable standing up in front of people and talking for awhile. Were you always like that?

Kimberly Burdon: Oh gosh. No, I don't think so. I think that when I started out as a student I wasn't sure if this was really what I wanted to do but I was involved in speech and debate forensics (in high school and at Mt. Hood). We'd travel all around the state and that gave me a lot of confidence ... so that helped. And I decided that this was what I really wanted to do.

C: Is it really called forensics?

KB: It really is. You're thinking medical forensics. And forensics also means kind of an auditorium or forum-type setting in terms of speaking.

C: Why did you join the forensics speaking team?

KB: I was kind of a klutz so dance team and cheerleading didn't work out for me [laughs]. And I did theater so a natural extension was speech and debate.

C: Why did you decide to teach interpersonal communication?

KB: Interpersonal is so fun. I wanted to teach interpersonal because I like the fact that students learn a lot about themselves, their relationships, and it's one of my more fun classes to teach in some respects because you can immediately apply the concepts in your everyday

life. And public speaking is really fun for me because most students think they will never need it. But they're surprised about how they're able to overcome their fears.

C: In addition to teaching, what else are you working on these days?

KB: Right now I'm working on a project with poverty. I'm working with a woman who is fourth-generation poverty. She's come up through Mt. Hood's Women in Transition program. Her company is called Communications Across Barriers, so I'm offering an undergrad/grad course with Portland State University and Communications Across Barriers. It's really been interesting. I'm teaching to people who interact with others in poverty. They want to make sure they are addressing the needs of people in poverty. I'm teaching people like yourself (for example): What are some of the barriers people in poverty go through? What are some of the stereotypes that make them invisible? It's really been eye-opening. It's been really fascinating to me to take a step back and realize how easy things are for me.

C: You're teaching that one at Portland State. Where else do you teach?

KB: I'm teaching that one online. But I also teach at Chemeketa and here.

C: And you used to teach at Mt. Hood as well?

KB: Just the three. Yeah it did used to be Mt. Hood. As a part-timer I teach between six



Speech instructor Kimberly Burdon.

Photo by Alx George

Where to find Kimberly Burdon:

Office: SSH - 210

Phone: 541-917-4836

E-mail: burdonk@linnbenton.edu

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11-11:50 a.m.

and seven classes a quarter.

C: Besides interpersonal communication and public speaking, what else do you teach? Do you do fundamentals as well?

KB: Yes. In fact Pam (Folts) and myself were the two that developed it for LBCC. I also teach persuasive speaking, argumentation and critical discourse, small group communication, and gender and communication. So basically any class that we offer I have had a chance to teach here or at Chemeketa.

C: When was fundamentals introduced?

KB: Probably around 2006. It doesn't have the same status as the other two classes. It transfers, but as an elective, not a required class. It doesn't fit the AAOT, I believe. Unless

you're a speech major. Then it might.

C: How long have you been teaching here?

KB: I have been teaching here since 2002.

C: Did you start out teaching at Mt. Hood?

KB: I did. I just had my bachelor's degree and I was teaching at Mt. Hood. It was very nice. That was another situation where I had forensics as kind of my "in" or my opportunity. Someone quit at the last moment and so the coach contacted me and said, "Hey, we really need somebody to step into this class. It's going to be tomorrow, can you do it?" And I'm like, "Uuhhh sure!" So even before I had my master's I had an opportunity to teach.

C: And what made you decide to come to LBCC?

KB: Well I decided to get my master's at Oregon State and as I was finishing up grad school. I interviewed here and Chemeketa trying to pull some part-time hours and that's how I ended up here.

C: If you weren't an instructor here, what would you be doing?

KB: I would imagine I'd be involved in the community in some way. At one point I thought about going into law and becoming the debate "piece" of that. I thought about becoming a civil rights lawyer. So perhaps if I wasn't teaching I would've gone in that direction. I like the whole concept of social justice.

C: So if you could study any culture, their language in particular, what would it be and why?

KB: I have taken French, Japanese, Arabic and some Hebrew. And I'm not a linguist. My most wonderful French teacher said, "Mademoiselle Burdon, your talents lie in other areas." And I agreed with her.

C: What's your favorite thing about teaching communication classes?

KB: My favorite thing is that I'm always learning. I'm in a job that I love and I learn with people and from people. I love what I do.

C: And what's your least favorite thing?

KB: Grading! And always being behind.

Culinary student embarks on second career

Jordan Johnson
 for The Commuter

After 27 years as an engineering technician for the American corporation Hewlett-Packard, Jeff Bullis's job was shipped overseas to Argentina. After losing his job, Bullis enrolled in the culinary program at Linn-Benton Community College.

"I have always loved cooking and decided years ago that when I retired I would attend culinary school to become a chef," Bullis said.

"His true passion for cooking drives him to do so well," Bullis's fiance Lori Davis said.

When asked how attending LBCC's culinary program has enhanced his skills, he said, "The program at LBCC has prepared me for a culinary profession. It has taught me cooking methodology.

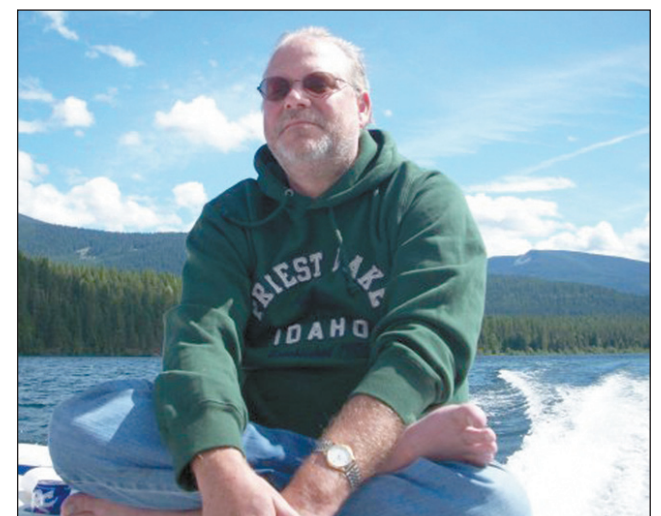
It has greatly expanded my knowledge of industry practices and standards, and has been responsible for creating in me a deep desire to produce quality food products."

Bullis's son, Jeremy Bullis said, "Dad is always practicing different kinds of foods. Our house always stinks of weird things he is trying out."

Bullis will graduate in June and is purchasing a pizzeria chain, called Nick 'n' Willys, to start his career and put his degree to use.

"Well, originally I thought I was buying myself a job. Further education has taught me that I'm actually creating a new business. I'm excited about the pizza industry and what I can create with that business."

Bullis offered up advice for people who are considering going into the culinary field.



Jeff Bullis

contributed photo

"Don't bother if you don't have true passion for food and providing for your customer the experience that they will never forget."

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Opinion

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Drop-in: Forum 222

A word from your local **ASG**

In response to a student leadership conference attended by several members of the SL&L office on January 29-31 at the Hilton Executive Tower in Portland, OR. The 20 Annual NWSLC was attended by over 500 student leaders from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska.

While attending the Northwest Student Leadership Conference I decided to base my weekend on diversifying my experiences and expanding my understanding of the difficulties faced by LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) students on campus.

My first session that I attended was Trans 101, which was a crash course in basic vocabulary and difficulties faced by students who identified as Trans or did not identify on either side of the gender spectrum. Our first goal was to set down some basic vocabulary and clarify the meaning of certain politically charged or buzz-words. Some of the more important vocabulary was...

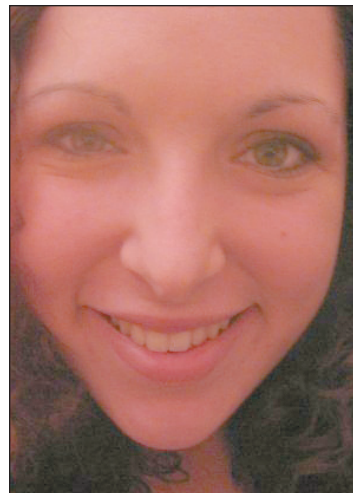
- **Transgender:** an umbrella term that refers to people who live differently than the gender presentation and roles expected of them by society.
- **Intersex:** people that have physical characteristics that do not match the typical understandings of male or female; previously called hermaphrodites.
- **FTM/MTF:** abbreviations used by female-to-male transgendered persons (or transmen) or male-to-female transgendered persons (or transwomen).
- **Sexual orientation:** which is who people fall in love with or are sexually attracted to.
- **Gender identity:** describes how people perceive their own internal sense of maleness or femaleness.
- **Cisgender:** non-gender specific pronoun used in place of male/female. Where the root Trans means to move, Cis means to be stable.
- **Queer:** a politically charged word that means you are attracted to and accepting of the whole gender spectrum variations include gender-queer.

Now that we all had a basic set of vocabulary that we could build from, we discussed the concept of gender. As a society we typically look at gender as male or female with no in-between; however, it is not as straightforward as that. Our gender is more like a continuum and all of us express our gender in varying ways. Our gender is

comprised of assigned sex (sex you are assigned at birth), gender identity (sex you feel you are), gender expression (the maleness or femaleness of our traits and manner of dress) and sexual orientation (the gender you are attracted to). The purpose of this exercise was to show that all of us are not predominantly female or male. This relates back to campus because we are often put in situations that force us to choose male or female and given no other option. Examples of these are FAFSA, financial aid, sports, bathrooms, locker rooms, and any other form/application that you are required to fill out. Our collegiate system is built on principles that maintain a sense of transphobia or fear of someone who does not identify on either side of the gender spectrum or is currently a gender that differs from that of their assigned gender. Ways to change this are to remove gender boxes or replace them with a line that allows people to write in whatever they choose to identify with. Another way is to include gender-neutral or trans-inclusive spaces on campus. This includes making single occupancy bathrooms into gender-neutral bathrooms so that the sign does not read male/female but simply reads bathroom.

That session set up a basic knowledge that I built on throughout the entire conference. I attended other workshops that expanded my knowledge and formed a framework that I can use to be an effective ally to students of the LGBTQ community, through something as simple as standing up when racially- or gender-charged comments are made, or not checking the gender boxes on forms. We can all contribute to make a positive and supportive campus environment that is inclusive to all students.

Meghann Fenn
 Associated Student Government Vice-President
 Linn-Benton Community College



Meghann Fenn

FOOD 4 THOUGHT

How to trick your friends into eating vegan brownies

Erika Kloppenburg
 The Commuter

The phrase “vegan baking” can be enough to send an experienced chef into fits of nervous giggles. How can a cookie possibly be made without butter? Or a cake without eggs? The answer can be found in the science of baking. This science is simple enough, and the basics learned through any recipe. Let’s try it with my recipe for (Are they really Vegan?) Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Brownies.

Though it is at the end of the recipe, flour is the first thing to learn about. Flour is at the core of baking, providing the structure of any baked good. When water is added to flour to hydrate the ingredients, the proteins in flour are drawn to each other and bond to form what is called gluten. Gluten networks support the baked good. While dough rises, existing gluten threads touch and create more links. Later, inside the oven, the proteins and starches in the flour transform into the sturdy webbing inside a loaf of bread.

To begin these brownies, stir together 2 cups of sugar, 1/2 cup peanut butter, 1/2 cup apple sauce and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. The peanut butter is providing the oil, or fat, for the brownies, keeping the texture light. In this way, the peanut butter is a substitute for butter or vegetable oil in other recipes. The applesauce helps sweeten the brownies while keeping the peanut butter from making the batter too thick.

Sugar does more than make your brownies sweet. “If you think of baked goods without sugar, it’s bread, because it’s not tender,” says pastry chef Mani Niall. The sugar prevents gluten from forming, breaking down the structure created by the flour. This makes the brownies deliciously gooey.

Add 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder to make these chocolate brownies. With this add 1 teaspoon baking soda. Baking

soda works by chemically reacting with the acidic cocoa to produce bubbles of carbon dioxide. These expand in the heat of the oven and make baked goods rise. As a side-note, baking powder is merely baking soda with an acidifying agent (cream of tartar) already in it.

A pinch of salt is next. Salt is an ingredient in any baked good that has a leavening agent, such as baking soda. Salt slows the production of CO₂, keeping the bubbles from getting too big. If there is too much leavening in a recipe the bubbles will rise to the top and pop, causing the brownies to fall flat.

Next comes 1 1/2 cups flour. Flour is added late in the process so that the dough isn’t “worked” for too long, so as to keep the gluten complexes small. Pastries demand a more tender crumb than that of regular bread. Corriher explains that the lower protein content in pastry, cake, and all-purpose flour creates a less rigid gluten network and a finer crumb.

Beware when using All-Purpose Flour. “The problem with all-purpose flour is that it is all over the place in protein content,” Shirley Corriher, popular cooking author says. High protein flour will “suck in water like crazy” and form a dough. Less protein-rich flour won’t come together with as much water. For this recipe, add 1/3 cup water. From here, add small amounts of flour and/or water until the desired texture is attained. Up to 1/2 cup of flour can be added before the rest of the ingredients need to be adjusted.

Last, add mini-chocolate chips or chopped peanuts. Bake at 350 degrees in a greased 9X13 pan for about 30 minutes. You’ve made amazing brownies! Serve to your non-vegan friends. When they ask how you baked such an unorthodox delicious desert, proudly answer, “With the power of science!”

Associated Student Government meeting schedule

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Public welcome

Feb. 17 – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

March 10 – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

March 3 – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

March 17 – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

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

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A step forward

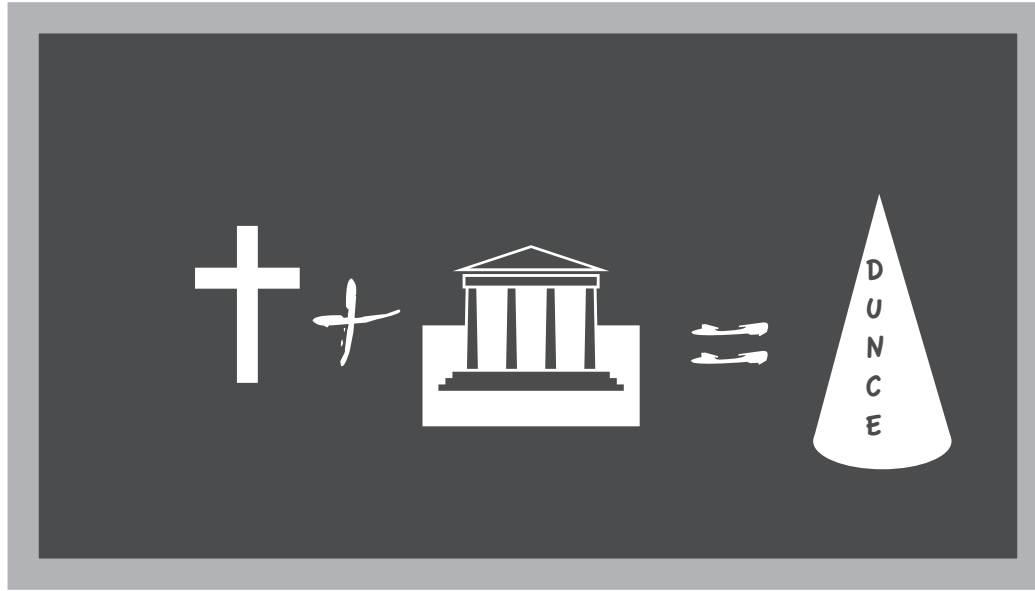
Lifting ban on religious garb would recognize First Amendment rights

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

A recent report by the Register-Guard states that Oregon is on the verge of overturning an 87-year old law that bans teachers from wearing any kind of religious garb, whether they are crucifixes, headscarves, or yarmulkes. The Oregon House received Bill 3686, which would allow teachers to wear religious garb. The bill also contains a provision that gives each individual school district the right to maintain the ban.

People in favor of overturning the ban say that not only does it violate their First Amendment rights, but also the law is biased in itself. According to House Speaker David Hunt, when the ban was first made in 1923, House Speaker Kaspar K. Kubli, who was un-ironically a member of the Ku Klux Klan, wrote it. Hunt went on to explain that many members of the House were KKK supporters at the time and the ban was designed to prevent nuns from teaching, due to the anti-Catholic sentiments that held sway in the Oregon branch of the Klan.

Opponents to the bill say it blurs the lines of separation of church and state



(because swearing in politicians on religious books and frequent religious rhetoric by politicians isn't violating that). Steven Griffith, a former Portland School Board chairman, claimed that it would force a "captive audience of youngsters" to be submitted to messages, such as "Jesus is our savior" by a crucifix, or "Muhammad is the Prophet" by a headscarf.

I really don't care if they overturn the ban. Honestly, with all the failures of separating church and state, letting teachers wear certain clothes is hardly the worst. Besides, it is a fact that people are going to be exposed to religion regardless of whether

or not their teachers wear an article of clothing professing some kind of faith. Every class I have ever been in since third grade had at least one student who wore a crucifix. It didn't radically change my way of thinking. Seeing a headscarf doesn't warp my view of the world to favor using Islamic theology to run the country, nor does seeing a crucifix make me want to turn America into a Christian Theocracy. Seeing a yarmulke won't turn me into radical Zionist. Opponents of this bill are treating Americans like we don't have the intelligence

to handle exposure to religion in a mature way. I'd almost like to see this bill passed just because it is one less way the government can swaddle us like babies.

As long as the teachers don't go spouting sermons, who cares what they wear? Taghrid Elmelgui, an Egyptian high school teacher in Portland, said that whenever her students ask her why she wears a headscarf, or if she celebrates Christmas, she tells them "it's personal" and she can't discuss it with them. This is a completely reasonable way to handle this. I hope that they overturn the ban and let America grow up a little.

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Opinion

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Drop-in: Forum 222

Advice from Weiss

Mark Weiss
 for The Commuter

Question: I tend to take things people say to heart. So I was really let down by a teacher that I kind of count on to lift me up. She's always been so positive, but then was pretty harsh about a paper I wrote, and this was right after someone I really like had let me down. So I really needed a boost, not a lot of judgment.



Counselor Mark Weiss

any way. It's just letting you know where you can improve, so that you will improve. Your teacher still cares about you just as much as s/he did before. This paper hasn't changed anything for him or her, and it shouldn't change anything for you.

The same goes for friends, lovers, and potential friends and lovers. Their reactions to our overtures almost always have more to do with them than us. A

person's reactions usually depend on how THEY are feeling and what's going on in THEIR lives, as opposed to being a judgment about how acceptable or attractive you are to them. One way of thinking about people is that we are all living out our own dramatic novel, and guess who the main character is? It's them, not you. So if they are insensitive, even hurtful, that is also about them, not you. It's hard, but you'll be happier if you don't take anything personally, and instead take everything as useful feedback.

Answer: I seem to be doing a little series here, relating these columns to Don Miguel Ruiz's "Four Agreements" (for a better life). Certainly this question relates to Agreement number three: "Don't take anything personally."

First off, it's important to remember that teachers are just people. They have lives, they have feelings, they catch colds and they have responsibilities outside of work that can add stress to their lives. No one can be upbeat and cheerful all the time.

Teachers also have a responsibility to be honest with students about their work. It sounds like your teacher strives to be an uplifting, encouraging person, but if s/he doesn't give you feedback on your work, how will you improve? College is about learning and feedback is JUST feedback. It's not a judgment on you as a person in

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.

Back in the day

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

On this day in history...

Feb. 10, 1906: It's a long way to Tipperary...

The British Royal Navy launches the HMS Dreadnought, a ship that overnight makes nearly every other warship on the planet obsolete. With huge guns, thick armor, and a fast speed, she also begins an arms race with the German navy that culminated with WWI. During the Great War, the only thing the Dreadnought did was ram and sink a submarine. Nice to know all that power was so useful.

Feb. 11, 1979: Reagan didn't care...

The Islamic Revolution in Iran is victorious. Ayatollah Khomeini declares Feb. 11 a day of national celebration. Great, another country whose official policy states that the West is evil.

Feb. 12, 1894: The first modern terrorist?

Emile Henry, a French anarchist, hurls a bomb through a window in a Paris cafe, killing one and wounding 20. He is considered by many to be the first modern terrorist. Ironically enough, the cafe is named "Cafe Terminus."

Feb. 13, 1503: French arrogance...

Thirteen French knights encounter 13 Italian knights near Barletta, in Italy. The French call the Italians cowards. The Italians demand a tournament to justify this insult. The Italians defeat the French in the tourney. This event is known as the "Challenge of Barletta." Once again, the French prove their arrogance is bigger than their skill.

Feb. 14, 1859: Alis volat propriis...

The Oregon Territory is admitted as the 33rd state to the US. Go Beaver state!

Feb. 15, 1898: Spoiling for a fight...

The USS Maine explodes and sinks in the harbor at Havana, Cuba, killing 260. A report shows that the explosion is most likely caused by an accident on board the ship. Even so, the US accuses Spain of sabotage, and declares war on Spain, beginning the Spanish-American War.

Feb. 16, 1923: Funky Tut...

Howard Carter opens Pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb. The tomb is amazing because in the 3000 -plus years since it was sealed it has never been looted. Steve Martin makes a satirical song about the occasion much later.

Thought for the week:

"War is a continuation of politics by other means."
Carl von Clausewitz

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The Commuter

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Feature

Something a little different.

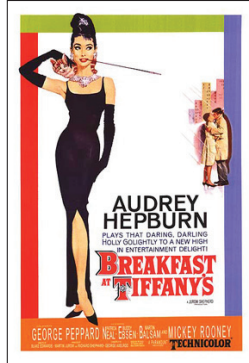
Movies you'll love to love

Ashley Christie
 The Commuter

It's Valentine's Day and love is in the air ... and on the screen. Here are some films for you and your sweetheart to cuddle up and enjoy together.

Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)

To the commitment-phobic out there, I give you Holly Golightly (Audrey Hepburn), a woman who can't even commit to a name for her cat. The only thing she knows for sure is that she's going to marry a rich man and spend the rest of her life surrounded by shiny things in little blue boxes. But when she meets a struggling writer that can barely afford a bagel while he's window-shopping, everything Holly knows goes out the window (just like her cat).

**Grease (1978)**

Whether you are a greaser, a pink lady or a beauty school dropout, "Grease" is the word. This musical, set in the 50's, features John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John as lovebirds searching for a little romance while trying to survive high school. By the end you'll be singing, dancing, and hand jiving along with the entire cast.

The Princess Bride (1987)

A list of great Valentine's Day movies without "The Princess Bride?" Inconceivable! That would be one of the world's classic blunders. This movie is not some sappy, romantic chick flick. It's Rob Reiner's masterpiece about pirates, giants, albinos, swordfights, true love, the search for a six-fingered man, and Billy Crystal as some sort of sarcastic, magical miracle-worker. It's kind of awesome.

**10 Things I Hate About You (1999)**

10 Things to love about this movie: 1. Heath Ledger and 2. Julia Stiles as the leading duo. 3. It's based on Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." 4. Letters to Cleo's cover of Cheap Trick's "I Want You to Want Me." 5. An intelligent debate about the varying degrees of whelmedness. 6. Allison Janney as a school counselor with questionable guidance. 7. A pink tutu prom dress. 8. Paintball in Seattle's Gas Works Park. 9. The value of misdirection. 10. Ledger sacrificing himself on the altar of dignity with a brilliant performance of "I Can't Take My Eyes Off of You."

Shrek (2001)

Imagine every fairy tale you've ever been told. Now picture the characters running for their lives from an ugly green ogre with a Scottish accent. Shrek, voiced by Mike Myers, is not your typical storybook prince and Fiona (Cameron Diaz) is no damsel in distress. Throw in Eddie Murphy as a fast-talking donkey and you've got a new kind of fairy tale romance.



How to survive Valentine's Day ... single

Maya Lazaro
 The Commuter

Valentine's Day: a time of love, romance and increased chocolate sales. For couples, the giving of mushy cards and floral bouquets provides a way to celebrate their relationship, make up after a big fight or feel superior to their single friends. For those single friends, however, the big "V" is a nightmare, a cruel reminder of those lonely Saturday evenings spent in isolation, during which that elf from your favorite video game started to look like your sole love interest. When you're companion-less, it's hard to remain oblivious to the red-washing of local convenience stores, endless jewelry commercials and your mother constantly asking why you're still single.

For those who find themselves single this Valentine's Day, below are five ways to get you through a day pinker than Barbie's closet.

Option one: Find a date. Scan through the classifieds for anyone who doesn't seem like a potential murderer (people who list "cats" under things they enjoy should also be avoided). Craigslist is an option for those who prefer their dates shady and unreliable. Remember that one creepy classmate with the goofy haircut who stalked you in high school? Now would be a good time to put all that behind you and catch up for a romantic reunion. If at the last minute you realize your efforts to find love are futile, move on to option two.

Option two: Stay home and cry deeply. This option is a simple, yet effective, way to ease the pain of single-dom when all your coupled friends are out doing couple-y things like arguing over whether the walls should be painted periwinkle blue or eggshell white. To effectively feel sorry for yourself, you will need: One or more tubs of the Ben and Jerry's ice cream of your choice; television access; and a couch. Step 1: Sit on couch. Step 2: Turn on television and surf channels until you find one showing romantic comedies (the Hallmark channel is a good bet). Step 3: Commence crying, preferably between scoops of ice cream. Step 4: Repeat as necessary until body has cleansed itself of all self-pity.

Option three: Make Valentine's Day miserable for everyone else. Instead of telling your coupled friends how cute they are together while secretly wishing cupid's arrows were more lethal, be more open with your contempt and remind them of the country's 50% divorce rate. Brag about the perks of being single: no incessant nagging from significant others; no breaking the bank for gifts; no shivering



at two in the morning because your partner is hogging the blanket. If you're miserable, then why shouldn't your amorous oppressors be? Be forewarned, though; eventually the handholding, kissy faces and girlish giggles will overpower your spite and you'll be forced to move back to option two.

Option four: Take yourself out for a date. Ask yourself out on a date and use it as an excuse to treat yourself to a night of romance. No one will be the wiser when you tell your friends you have a hot date, as long as you don't reveal that that date is your reflection. Go out to dinner and enjoy some intimate one-on-none conversation. Who cares if everyone stares and your waiter calls the police? At least you gave your date a good time. If the date turns sour (say you get a little too fresh with yourself and you don't like it), dump yourself and revert to option two.

Option five: Deny that the entire month of February exists. This option is harder than it looks, because it requires diligence and a break from reality. Rip the page from your calendar and send it to the trashcan, along with your television, computer, and anything else that could possibly remind you that you're spending Valentine's Day alone. If at any point you snap out of your trance-like state and realize that Valentine's Day is indeed upon you, then accept defeat and try out option two.



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Feature

Something a little different.

Local chocolate melts hearts

Krista Goeke
 The Commuter

The thought of it quickly brings to mind images of pink hearts and red roses. The sound of classic love songs radiates through every gift shop, and restaurant owners celebrate customer bookings. Yes, Feb. 14 is an exciting day for sweethearts.

That is, unless you forgot. What? You forgot!

If this is you, don't worry (okay, maybe you should worry a little bit). You aren't the only one who will rush to the grocery store on the 13th day of this month, desperate for a last-minute gift. After wandering the store for 45 minutes, that stuffed blue cow tied around a box of lime green jellybeans and packaged in a dented pink box doesn't look so bad.

Perhaps you just need some help, both professional and local. There are several local businesses that make their own chocolate in the area, and it's good. Really good. Check them out!

Don't settle on the strangled stuffed animal.

Burst's

Burst's Candy in downtown Corvallis is ready for Valentine's Day with a broad assortment of chocolate treats and a whole wall of empty red and pink heart-shaped boxes just waiting to be filled.

They offer a huge array



Candy counter at Burst's Candy.



Chocolate box from the Chocolate Boutique in Albany.

of sweet stuff such as dark, milk and sugar-free chocolate, and many specialty candies, including truffles and Velvet Hearts. Seasonal sweets for Valentine's Day include peanut butter or Velvet Hearts in dark and milk chocolate. Lollipop-style hearts on a stick also come in different shapes and sizes. Burst's has built up a steady base of regulars with their excellent product.

Try: The Velvet Hearts. You can't go wrong with these babies.

The Peddler's Boot & Chocolate Boutique

This vintage-style gift shop shares its space with hundreds of handmade chocolates, created in the back of this historic home and displayed in a glass case after they've been whipped up by hand. Chocolate cherubs, candy bars, and boxes containing a dozen chocolate roses are a few of the Valentine's Day-themed sweets the Chocolate Boutique is displaying, but anything can be boxed or bagged for the holiday.

Owner Nancy Klahn prides herself on using Belgian chocolate, saying, "It's important to me to have that taste." Best of all is the sample plate offered to every guest as proof that it does taste as good as it looks.

Try: Rocky Road Pecan Clusters. This is (understandably) a customer favorite at the Chocolate Boutique.



Gift box from the Victorian Chocolate Company.

Photos by Krista Goeke

Victorian Chocolate Company

The Victorian Chocolate Company has a huge selection of Valentine's Day confections and they are located in a bright purple Victorian house that's hard to miss. Rocky Road, Marshmallow and Fudge Hearts, as well as chocolate suckers and Chocolate Dreams, are a few of the specialties made this time of year.

Kelly Reetz, owner and expert chocolatier, has been making chocolates since 1988 and this shop has been open for about four years. "My version of 'Turtles,'" he says, are his selection of "Dragon Claws." Normally, Turtles are chocolate covered pecans with caramel in the middle, but Reetz' Dragon Claws come in dark, white and milk chocolate, and are made with different types of nuts.

Try: The Apple Dumpling Chocolates with the creamy, whipped apple and cinnamon filling. Also, the Dragon Claws, especially the cashew; the one I purchased didn't even make it home.

Hazelnut Hill

Hazelnut Hill is a farm, but it is also an ice cream shop, a museum, a coffee shop, a gift store, and home to chocolate-covered goodies. Owners Rob and Sally decided to start their own business when the timber crisis hit in the early 1980s, and pictures of Hazelnut Hill throughout the years decorate the hallway inside the entrance.

Working together, they now dry about 40,000 lbs of nuts at a time. These chocolate covered nuts don't have the elegance of a large lace-covered box of truffles, but still scored high on my point system. Why? First of all, they are freshly made.

Everything is done at the farm, from the growing of the nuts to the dipping and the packing. Second, the chocolate isn't an afterthought. In 1995, a chocolatier with experience in Switzerland was hired to give Rob and Sally the knowledge they needed to make outstanding chocolate delights.

They now sell milk and dark chocolates, brittle, butters and dried fruit in addition to their flavorful nuts. Although a little less formal than the usual heart-shaped boxes, these bags of nuts and candies make great gifts and can be combined and boxed to order right at the shop

Try: The Chocolate Hazelnut Toffee. The 4-ounce bag costs \$3.75 and 8-ounce bags are \$6.25.



Chocolate-covered razzcherries at Hazelnut Hills.

Burst's

www.burstschocolates.com
Address: 353 SW Madison Ave. Corvallis, OR 97333.
Contact: 541-753-2864
Hours: Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Price: One-half pound boxes are \$12.00 and one pound boxes are \$24.00. Truffles are \$2.00.

The Peddler's Boot & Chocolate Boutique

www.thepeddlersboot.com
Address: 320 6th Ave. SW Albany, OR 97321
Contact: 541-924-8866
Hours: Thursday: 4 - 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: noon - 5:30 p.m.; Sunday: Noon - 4 p.m. (There will be extended hours for Valentine's Day weekend.)
Price: \$18.00 a pound for chocolates.

Victorian Chocolate Company

www.victorian-chocolate.com
Address: 959 Grove St. Lebanon, OR 97355
Contact: 541-401-3765
Price: Chocolates are \$18.00 a pound.

Hazelnut Hill

www.hazelnuthill.com
Address: Located at milepost 95 between Corvallis and Monroe on Highway 99
Contact: 541-754-5657
Hours: Thursday - Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Price: About \$3.25 for 4 ounce bags and about \$5.00 for 8 ounce bags, depending on the items.

Perspectives:

What was your most memorable Valentine's Day?



Cheryl Osborn
 Criminal Justice

"One year the boys surprised me with Valentine's Day. My children said, 'Mommy, it's a great day. This day is for you!'"



Jamison Anderson
 Education

"I did a treasure hunt one time. There was a card with rhyming. She got a gift for every part."



Emma Barry
 Mortuary Science

"I used to throw singles awareness day parties, but now that I actually date people, I don't know what to do for Valentine's Day."



James Varnes
 Diesel Mechanics

"1943 Vietnam."



Tiffany Morton
 Nursing

"I'm a man-hater. Last year my kids got me a ring. My baby boy is my world. I don't have relationships. I have kids."

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Feature

Something a little different.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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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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Valentine's Day poem

The Question
by Alethea Skinner

Will you still dance with me,
when I'm old?

When I wear sweaters
cause I'm cold

When I no longer can the
past unfold

Will you still dance with me,
when I'm old?

When I wear Depends to
catch my leaks

When I'm so old that my
body squeaks

And my soft curves are just
angles and peaks

Will you still dance with me,
when I'm old?

When I'm no longer supple
or strong

When things I attempt all
turn out wrong

When I can't recall our
favorite song

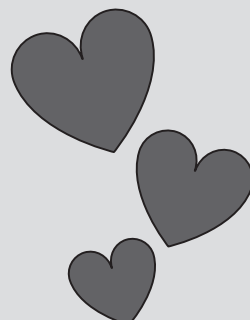
Will you still dance with me,
when I'm old?

When there's no longer a
familiar place

When I don't recall your
precious face

Will you remember my
warm embrace

And still dance with me,
when I'm old?



The story of Saint Valentine

Justin Bolger
The Commuter

Yes, there was once one man that started this day of love. This is his story: Once upon a time, there was an evil emperor called Claudius the Cruel. He sought to make his army the largest the world had ever known, but the men of Rome refused his demand.

They professed love! Love for their wives and families. "Of all things, why love," exclaimed Claudius. He knew just what he had to do, for he was a reasonable man. Under his rule, all marriage was banned!

A plague of sadness swept the land. Men and women alike fell into despair. It was Bishop Valentine who answered this hero's call, and began to marry loving couples in secret. The people rejoiced! Claudius the Cruel did not. Furious, he sent his men to capture this man called Valentine, the one stealing away his army. The men swooped down upon him and

took the hero away! Once again, the people were sad.

While he was imprisoned, letters of praise and thanks were sent to their defender of love. Only one letter passed through the hands of Valentine. This letter was, unfortunately, the one labeled "outgoing."

The legend says it was a dove that carried it back to his homeland; the letter was his last farewell. His letter was signed "your Valentine." Bishop Valentine was murdered on Feb. 14 at the age of 80.

Sources: beliefnet.com and youtube.com/user/zionstudio



Fun Valentine facts

- ♥ In Medieval times, girls ate bizarre foods on St. Valentine's Day to dream of their future spouse.
- ♥ The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love. Since red stands for strong feelings, red rose is a flower of love.
- ♥ In Wales, wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on Valentine's Day. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite Valentine decorations on the wooden spoons that meant, "You unlock my heart!"
- ♥ Many believe the X symbol became synonymous with the kiss in medieval times. People who couldn't write their names signed in front of a witness with an X. The X was then kissed to show their sincerity.
- ♥ In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone to see. This was the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve."
- ♥ Casanova, well known as "The World's Greatest Lover," ate chocolate to make him virile.
- ♥ The most fantastic gift of love is the Taj Mahal in India. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife.

DRAW FOR
The
COMMUTER
YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO, BABY! :D

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:or: submit a photo,
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Letters

Letters to the editor. These do not reflect the views of the Commuter staff.

The Axiom of Four

The purpose of my axiom is to define its four principle aspects and prove the illusion that knowledge is power. A person can believe that knowledge is power, but this concept doesn't necessarily work. A person can have knowledge, but that doesn't mean that the individual has power. If a person doesn't have any ideas, perseverance or ideals, nothing can really be done. This is my axiom of four. My principles are defined as knowledge, ideas, ideals, and perseverance. The individual has to have all four for a plan to work.

Knowledge is my first tenet. A person must have knowledge to back an idea.

Ideas are my second tenet. A person must have an idea that is also backed by knowledge. With not enough knowledge, there will be no foundation to back the idea.

Ideals are my third tenet. What are the ideals of the idea? Are they used for good or evil?

Perseverance is my fourth and final tenet. Does the individual have the will to put the plan into motion? Without perseverance nothing will happen.

I further deduce this model as a knight. The knowledge is the shield, and it is used to defend your ideas. The helmet is the ideas and where ideals are derived from. The sword is the ideals and how those ideals will be used. The last tenet is perseverance, and is represented by the boots, and represents the perseverance

used to put a plan into work.

Case in point: Bernie Maddoff had all four tenets. He used this axiom for evil reasons; he stole over 40 billion dollars. He had the knowledge to create a Ponzi scheme. He had the idea and the knowledge to back it up. He also had perseverance to deceive his investors, but his ideals were for evil. If he was missing one or more of these tenets, nothing would have happened.

Bill Gates, on the other hand, used his tenets for good. He was a savvy businessman and founded Microsoft. In his philanthropic work he has done much good for the world. He used his ideals for the betterment of mankind. Bill Gates had the idea of setting up the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. His foundation was backed up by his knowledge, and he had the perseverance to create his foundation. With his axioms Bill Gates has donated billions of dollars to charitable foundations and has helped millions of people in the world with computers, vaccines and medical treatments.

In conclusion, these events would have never happened if only knowledge was used. By understanding the four basic tenets of knowledge, ideas, ideals, and perseverance, a foundation can be implemented in a logical and responsible manner.

Ivan F. Watts

Volunteer for census 2010

Hey Commuter! I'm writing just to remind everyone that the 2010 census is coming up really soon. As we all know, the census is done every 10 years to help count the population, as mandated in the U.S. Constitution. What you might not know is that the census helps to do so much more than just decide how many seats each state needs in Congress. The census provides valuable information for huge government grants for education, the homeless, and other expenditures. There are actually over 300 billion dollars a year

over the next 10 years at stake, which is a whopping 3 trillion dollars over 10 years for state funding, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. So please, when you see that census form come in the mail in March, take the 10 minutes to fill out those 10 questions. A lot is at stake here. If we get to enough people in Oregon, we might get another representative in Congress, and who wouldn't want more say in government?

Jebe S. Oliver
 Volunteer for Census 2010

Classifieds

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

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

8am-5pm or 11am-7pm, 40 hrs req'd, Tues-Sat.) Starting \$8.99/hr.

CWE Engineering Assistant

(#7800, Albany) If you are a LBCC student in the mechanical, industrial or electrical engineering field, this is your job! Work here through OSU graduation. Pay is \$10.45-16.90/hr DOE, part-time during school and full-time during summer.

GIS Technician

(#7799, Albany) They want a good working knowledge of AutoCAD and one year experience working with GIS or AutoCAD projects. Full-time.

MARKETPLACE

Textbooks bought and sold, new & used, online buybacks. Buy, sell, rent at cheapbooks.com (260) 399-6111, Espanol (212) 380-1763, Urdu /Hindi/ Punjabi (713) 429-4981, see site for other support lines.

Census Takers

(#7763, local area) Testing is going on now to hire 300-400 people to conduct the census 2010 from March-June **mainly nights and weekends**. Pay is usually \$15.25/hr plus mileage reimbursement. Get paid training, exercise, and a great employer on your resume! Call 1-866-861-2010 to schedule a test. See www.2010censusjobs.gov for practice test.

Customer Service Rep

(#7782, Albany) Part-time and full-time jobs with benefits are available. Four weeks of training provided (classes are

Academic Success Seminars

Boost Your COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE!

Sign up on SIS under Study Skills – or just drop in!

Active Learning Strategies				
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm
Accomplish Your Academic Goals				
Tuesday	Feb. 16	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm

Always 50 minutes! ALWAYS FREE! Always helpful!

Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center. For more information and to sign up, visit SIS under Study Skills or call 917-4684.

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789. Submit requests 4 to 6 weeks before the event where possible. To call by TDD, call the Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2900 & provide them with the number you wish to reach.

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Max Brown
A & E Editor: Joel DeVylde
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Local music guide

Friday, February 12th

Soul Serene & Find Your Smile (Rock)

The Space • 7 p.m.
1132 NE Broadway, Salem
thespaceistheplace.com
Free

Jake Payne & Dixie Creek (Country and Rock)

Calapooia Brewing Company • 8 p.m.
140 Southeast Hill St., Albany
calapooiabrewing.com
Cost: \$2

Jack Martin Trio

Boon's Treasury
McMenamin's • 9 p.m.
888 Liberty St. NE, Salem
mcmenamins.com
Free (21 and over)

Kindrids

Bombs Away Cafe • 10 p.m.
2527 NW Monroe Ave,
Corvallis
bombsawaycafe.com
Free

Saturday, February 13th

Ordinance (Celtic)

Fireworks Bar & Grill • 8 p.m.
1115 SE 3rd St., Corvallis
fireworksvenue.com

On the Rocks & Divisi

(UO's Acapella Groups)
The Grand Theater • 7:30 p.m.
187 NE High St., Salem
grandballroom.info

Improv Comedy Theater

Cloud 9/ The Downward Dog
130 SW 1st St., Corvallis
drinkthedog.com

3 Pickin' Chicks

(Blues and Swing)
Troubadour Music Center • 8 p.m.
521 SW 2nd St., Corvallis
troubadourmusiccenter.com
Cost: \$10

Alex Hargreaves Trio

Sunnyside Up Cafe
116 NW 3rd St., Corvallis
sunnyside-up-cafe.com
Cost: \$5 donation suggested.
Benefit for Haiti. All Donations go to Partners in Health.

Love for Valeri Lopez

Joel DeVylde
The Commuter

Before you get into this article, I think that you, the reader, should know that I am one of Valeri Lopez's biggest fans. I met her at a church one night, when she told me to check out her MySpace and modified a little jingle so I would remember how to spell her name. Upon looking her up, I discovered a musical flavor that I have become quite fond of. I call it "indie love" music.

True, Valeri has strong vocals and sweet songwriting, but she also has some killer banjo skills to match. You can often find her playing and singing at the downtown Beanery in Corvallis, but she has also been known to play venues in Portland and her native Los Angeles as well. On top of all that, her music was recently featured in an indie film.

Valeri's songs are love-centered and honest sounding. They go into things like the terrifying moments of truth when you make a commitment to someone ("Stay") and the heartbreak of losing love for various reasons



("Song for Johnny Cash"). The most diverse track is "Skylight Blue," a bluesy track that shows some real maturity developing in the music.

There are some elements of Johnny Cash that shine through in her music, including his clear and simplistic rendering of emotions and happenings. She also has a sound a bit like Colbie Caillat, with a voice that simply glows, even during the

sad songs. If you feel inclined to hear her for yourself, you'll find that she has some material on MySpace, and some surprisingly high-quality recordings on Youtube.

I'm giving Valeri five stars, because although she is just developing as an artist, she already has that spark that makes you want to add her to your playlist, then put her on repeat. There's just something about the songs crafted by Valeri Lopez that sets the mind at ease while she sings it up about hope and heartbreak.



Mardi Gras Dance

Bring Your Mask & Your Mardi Gras Beads!

Friday February 12, 2010

Fireside Room, CC-211
8-11 p.m.

Dance the night away with your fellow classmates to some of your favorite tunes!

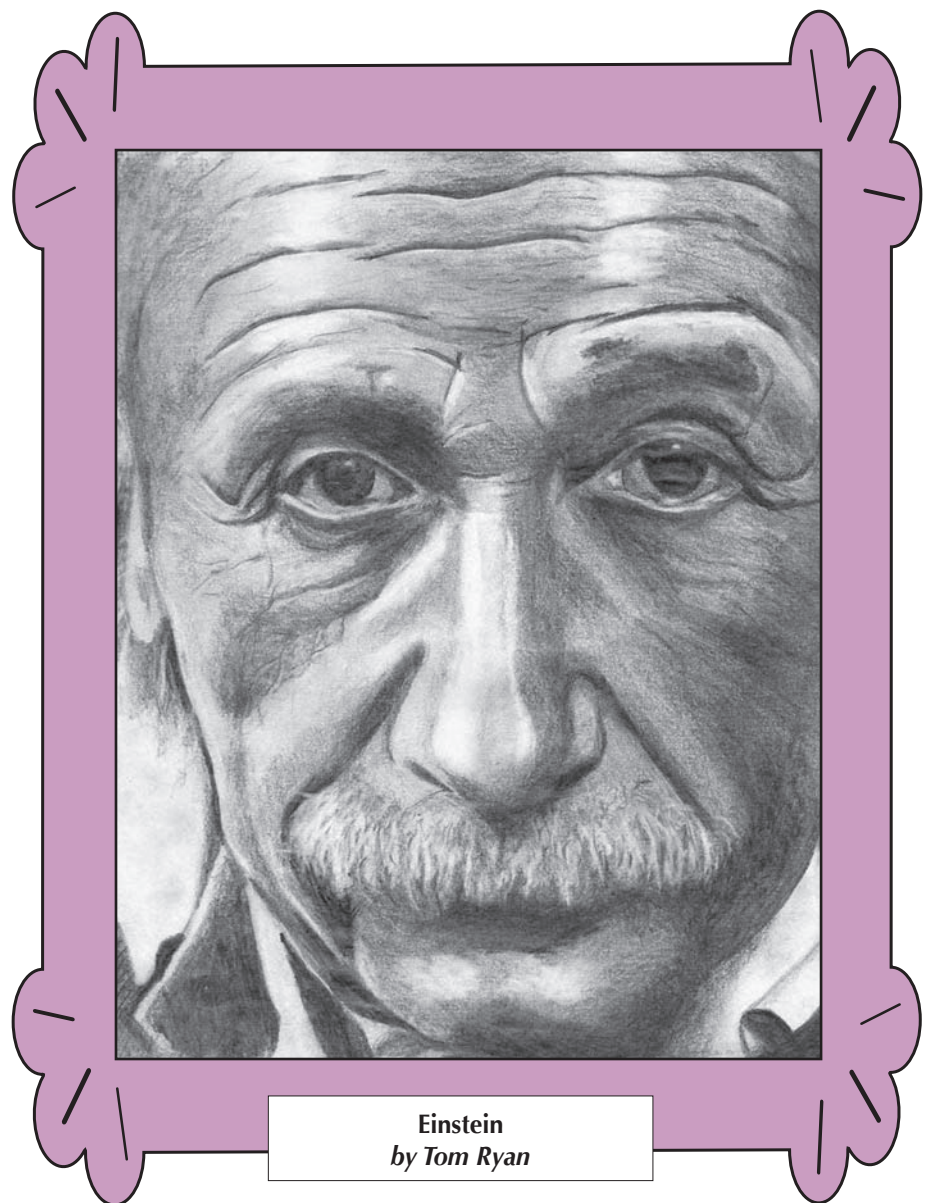
FREE

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student-submitted art

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



Einstein
by Tom Ryan

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

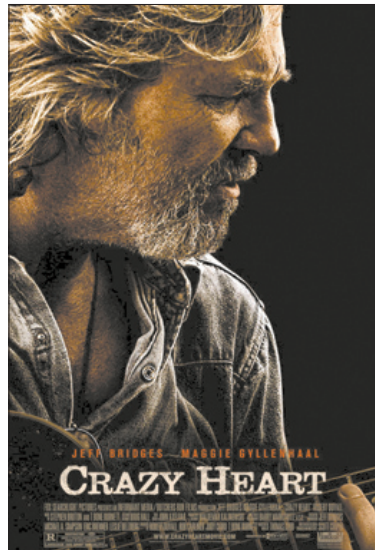
Reviews, upcoming events, and the cure for weekend boredom.

Crazy for “Crazy Heart”

Ashley Christie
 The Commuter

“Crazy Heart” is the simple yet powerful film about Bad Blake (Jeff Bridges), a washed-up, hard-living, hard-drinking country music singer on the verge of obscurity. While traveling around hole-in-the-wall venues across the Southwest, he meets a local reporter (Maggie Gyllenhaal) who sees past the gruff exterior and helps Blake rediscover the artist within.

The story line may sound a little familiar, but what sets “Crazy Heart” apart are the characters and the performances. All the characters in the film are fully developed and have a depth that allows them to make choices that you don’t expect. Gyllenhaal is exceptional as a young single mother with a history of bad decisions in the dating department and conflicting feelings for Blake. Colin Farrell also pops up



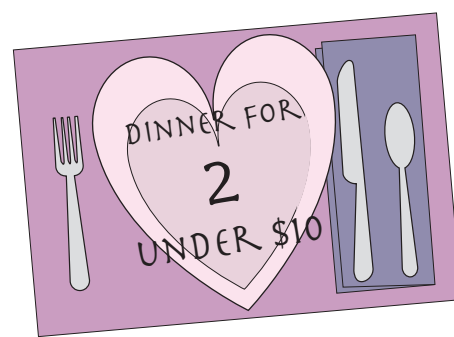
with an unexpectedly great performance as Blake’s protégé Tommy Sweet, who has found major success since his days in Blake’s band as one of “Bad’s Boys.”

While Gyllenhaal and Farrell are equally wonderful, it is clearly Bridges’ movie, and he steals the show. If you are expecting a reincarnation of Jeffrey “The Dude” Lebowski, you will be sorely disappointed. Bridges’ Blake is hard and

rough, yet sweet and vulnerable. He is a multi-faceted wreck of a man and is the heart and soul of the film; he’s the one that makes you laugh, cry, wince and worry. This Oscar-nominated performance is one of the best in Bridges’ long career.

Another important aspect of the film is the score. Bridges and Farrell do all their own singing and are surprisingly good. The majority of the songs on the soundtrack were written specifically for the movie by T-Bone Burnett and Ryan Bingham, and capture the mood of the film and the characters with genuine lyrics.

“Crazy Heart” will not be for everyone. It moves at a slower pace than many films, and if you utterly detest country music it might not be for you. However, anyone who is a fan of a good story and great acting should seek out this movie. It is currently playing in Salem and should be expanding to more theaters soon.



Parmesan chicken

Jana West
 The Commuter

Grocery list:

2 Chicken breasts	\$2.69
1 package linguine noodles	\$1.69
1 can stewed tomatoes (Italian style with basil & oregano)	\$1.00
1 medium onion, chopped	\$.42
1 medium zucchini, chopped	\$.37
2 heads of garlic, roasted	\$1.00
1 egg, beaten	\$.20
1 loaf of French bread	\$1.59
3 packets of Parmesan (from any pizza place)	FREE
5 packets of saltine crackers (from any restaurant)	FREE
GRAND TOTAL:	\$8.96

Directions:

To roast garlic, wrap in tin foil and bake in a 350 F. oven for 15-20 minutes until cloves are soft.

In a food processor grind the crackers so they are fine crumbs, mix with Parmesan in a shallow plate and set aside.

Pound chicken breasts so they are even and flat. Dip in beaten egg, making sure to shake off excess. Then coat breast in cracker mixture so evenly covered.

Cook breasts on medium high heat in a pan with 1/2 tablespoon of olive oil, about four minutes on each side.

Sauté onions until translucent, then add zucchini, continue to cook for about five minutes until zucchini is slightly cooked, add tomatoes and one head of roasted garlic.

Use a hand blender to blend sauce until veggies are incorporated but slightly chunky. Salt and pepper to taste.

Serve over cooked linguine noodles with sauce.

Butter the French bread on each side, then take remaining head of roasted garlic and spread on buttered bread.

Enjoy.



Cheese + chicken = true love.

Photo by Jana West

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- BS Natural Resources
- BA/BS Political Science
- BA/BS Women Studies
- ...and 14 minors

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Surreal Living

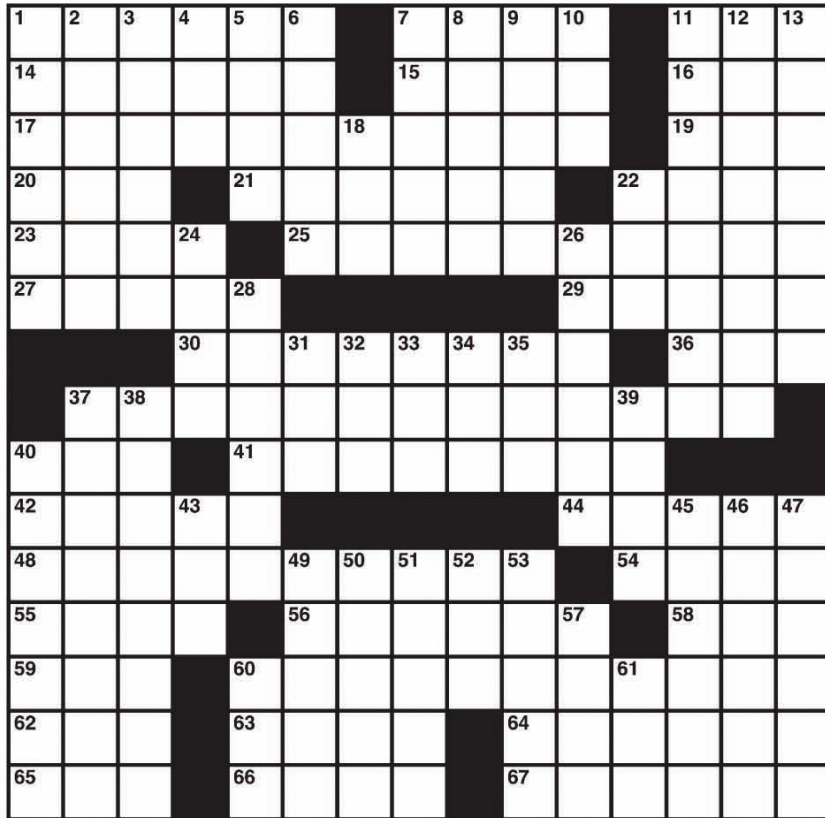
Crosswords, cartoons and some fun facts to brighten your day.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Sweet Spanish wine
- 7 In that case
- 11 Inst. that turns out lieutenants
- 14 Moves on all fours
- 15 Cause of a worldwide 19th century fever
- 16 Old school dance
- 17 Lost it
- 19 Victoria's Secret offering
- 20 Bonanza find
- 21 In copious amounts
- 22 Ivy in Philly
- 23 Ivy in New Haven
- 25 Dismissed out of hand
- 27 Pizazz
- 29 Trumpet sound
- 30 Party list
- 36 Bug
- 37 Like Starbucks coffee, every 30 minutes
- 40 Bard's "before"
- 41 Software customers
- 42 Three-time world champion alpine skier Hermann
- 44 Feast where the Haggadah is read
- 48 "That's too bad, man"
- 54 Brazilian soccer legend
- 55 Prime Cuts in Gravy brand
- 56 Crude fleet
- 58 Busy co. on Valentine's Day
- 59 ___ Speedwagon
- 60 "I don't feel like cooking" option
- 62 Enlistees, briefly
- 63 Slurpee relative
- 64 Capital on the Missouri River
- 65 Wee hour
- 66 High degrees: Abbr.
- 67 Aftershock



By Dan Naddor

DOWN

- 1 Real people?
- 2 Biblical debarkation point
- 3 How bad excuses are given
- 4 Bowl over
- 5 Guzzling sound
- 6 "Piece of cake!"
- 7 Inuit home
- 8 Club for country kids
- 9 Shuteye
- 10 Anomalous
- 11 Austin Powers catchphrase
- 12 Trapped
- 13 Stretchy fabric
- 18 Day-__: pigment brand
- 22 D.C. deal maker
- 24 Nobelist Wiesel
- 26 Preoccupy
- 28 Make certain
- 31 Videotape type
- 32 Land in la mer
- 33 Norse god of single combat
- 34 Diminish
- 35 Pitching stat
- 37 German miss

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 38 Put back in force, as an expired tax
- 39 Blubber
- 40 Economic warfare tactic
- 43 Funnyman Philips
- 45 Mar the beauty of
- 46 Corrida snorter
- 47 More rare, as steak
- 49 Raid target
- 50 Protected by levees
- 51 "___ Gold": Peter Fonda film
- 52 ___ volente: God willing
- 53 Spew lava
- 57 Show signs of life
- 60 Service reward
- 61 Service charge

Poetry spotlight

The Hippie Speaks of Forests

Based on the framework of Langston Hughes' "The Negro Speaks of the Rivers"
 by Jake Dontavion

I've known Forests:

I've known forests ancient compared to the technology of the blades that cut them down.

My soul has rooted within these forests.

I bathed in the soil when the forest was young.
 I built my camp under the trees that set my dreams adrift.
 I look upon the canopy and raise questions from the destruction.

I heard the songs of the forest and the life within,
 and I've followed the sound of engines, and I've seen its metallic yellow paint turn brown with mud.

I've known forests:

Dark and ancient forests.

My soul has rooted within these forests.



Did you know?

- The People's Republic of China had a ban on Aristotle, Shakespeare, and Charles Dickens until 1978.
- The coolest star ever discovered is named SDSS1416+13B and burns at only 400 degrees F.
- Though Niccolo Machiavelli is most famous for his book "The Prince," it wasn't published until after his death. The only book he published was "The Art of War."
- The vampire Dracula was based on a prince named Vlad "the Impaler" Draculea. He acquired that moniker due to the fact his preferred method of executing people was impaling them on tall wooden spikes.

Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



The Commuter
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Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
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SPORTS

News about local and national sports and activities.

Men dominate down the Lane

Erik Bender
 The Commuter

LBCC (6-2) at Lane (2-6)

The men's basketball team added to their win list with another victory against Lane Saturday at Lane Community College. The final score was 94-85.

The first half ended with LB ahead of Lane 44-35. However the second half resulted in both teams scoring 50 points.

Top scorer for LB was freshmen guard

Michael Kruesi. Kruesi was 8 of 7 for his free throws and 7 of 8 for 3-pointers, for a total 23 points.

Forward Andrew Carter scored 18 points with 8 of 14 field goals and 2 of 4 3-pointers.

Top scorer of the game was Lane's guard Dominique Watson who scored 11 of 18 field goals, 2 for 2 3-pointers, 13 of 15 free throws for 37 points.

LBCC's next game will be Feb. 10, at SW Oregon Community College at 7:30 p.m.

Titans steal women's thunder

Erik Bender
 The Commuter

LBCC (1-7) at Lane (8-0)

Women's basketball at Lane ended with a loss for LB Saturday, with the final score 82-51.

First half finished with Lane ahead 48-12. LB had 6 of 27 field goals to Lanes 17 of 27 field goals. Lane also scored 5 of 8 3-pointers and 17 of 23 free throws.

The second half ended with LB scoring 39 points to Lanes 34.

Returning point guard Sam Sanders who had 17 points with 6 of 13 field goals and 5 of 10 3-pointers. Sanders returned from sitting out several previous games due to an ankle sprain. Sanders was top scorer for LB and the game.

LBCC's next game will be Feb. 10, at SW Oregon Community College at 5:30 p.m.

New president meet-and-greet



There is a new president at LBCC, Greg Hamann. He was officially welcomed during a staff reception last Wednesday evening where he got a chance to meet everyone and, of course, learn all of their names. The company was good, as were the cookies.

Photo by Chris Foster

THE COMMONS FARE 2/10-2/16

Wednesday

Dishes: Baked Stuffed Snapper, Braised Lamb and Cheese & Fried Onion over Spaetzel
 Soups: Gazpacho and Cream of Broccoli

Thursday

Dishes: Beer-Battered Fish Sandwich, Cider-brined Pork Chops and Cheese & Mushroom Crepes
 Soup: Grilled Vegetable Beef and Beer Cheese

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

No School: President's Day

Tuesday

Dishes: Prime Rib, Coquilles Saint Jacques à la Parisienne and Portabella Mushrooms w/ Spinach, a poached egg, and Bearnaise with rice
 Soup: Paysanne Marmite and Tomato

THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

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

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Letters Welcome

The Commuter encourages readers to use its "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, regional and national issues. The Commuter attempts to print all submissions received, but reserves the right to edit for grammar, length, libel, privacy concerns and taste. Opinions expressed by letter submitters do not represent the views of the Commuter staff or the College. Deliver letters to The Commuter Office, Forum 222 or at commuter@linnbenton.edu

Web Address: <http://commuter.linnbenton.edu>
 Phone: 541-917-4451, 4452 or 4453 Fax: 541-917-4454
 Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd. Albany, OR 97321

Valentine's Day Flower Sale

Show your appreciation & affection!
 Flowers will be delivered on the Albany campus only
 February 12 between 9 a.m. & 3 p.m.



Order flowers
 in Tadena Hall
 February 8 - 11
 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

\$2 for one flower
 or \$10 for six

Flowers also may be purchased
 (subject to availability)
 in the Student Life &
 Leadership Office
 February 12,
 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the LBCC Student
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 cuisine

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 (Vietnamese Rice Noodle Soup)

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 A 10% Discount!

Present student I.D. card
 when ordering

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Coming attractions

Valentine's Day

This aptly-timed romantic comedy follows the lives of several Los Angelenos, both taken and single, during the highs and lows they experience on Valentine's Day. Who will find, keep or maintain romantic relationships by the end of the day? With Jennifer Garner, Jamie Foxx, Jessica Biel, Jessica Alba, Ashton Kutcher and Topher Grace.

Runtime: 117 minutes
Rating: PG-13



Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief



After seeing the Greek gods in his mythology texts come to life, teenager Percy Jackson finds out that he is Poseidon's son. To top that off, Zeus' lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy's mother has gone missing.

This calls for a special effects-driven blockbuster!

Runtime: 120 minutes
Rating: PG

The Wolfman

Benicio Del Toro stars in this supernatural thriller as Lawrence Talbot, who is estranged from his family. Lawrence returns to help his brother's fiancé find his brother (who has mysteriously disappeared) and becomes determined to find out what ferocious creature is killing the local villagers. Directed by Joe Johnston (October Sky, Hidalgo).

Runtime: 125 minutes
Rating: R



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

Nearly Normal's: No meat, no problem

Chris Brotherton
The Commuter

If you are looking for a place to eat that is out of the ordinary but isn't a heart attack on a plate, Nearly Normal's Gonzo Cuisine should definitely go on your list. With hearty, vegetarian food that fills you up and flavors that tease the taste buds, this place has filled a niche that few have been able to fill in Corvallis.

The cool, creamy avocado compliments the spice of the chipotle sauce on their vegetarian taco, creating an explosion of flavor that covers the Arizona tempeh (a soy product that is similar to tofu). The crispiness of the lightly toasted white corn tortillas mixing with the crunch of the shredded cabbage and carrots as you bite into the taco gives this meal a firm texture that belies its "missing" ingredient.

The only thing that could be considered missing from this beautiful Mexican concoction is meat, but even as a raging meat lover I couldn't tell.

Hiding behind the Circle K on Monroe in Corvallis, Nearly Normal's is a restaurant specializing in "Gonzo Cuisine." Nearly Normal's has been serving up this specialty of original recipes, including fresh and organic (if available) ingredients since 1979. Although they started off with a limited number of items on the menu, and even more limited eating space, over the years the menu and dining area have expanded.

Jamie Winter, a student at LBCC, highly recommends Nearly Normal's. One of the cooks was her roommate for a while. "She surprised me a lot with her delicious leftovers."



Mmm ... vegetarian tacos.

Photo by Chris Brotherton

Winter says that her favorite was the chipotle tacos.

If "meat-aterians" give it a chance, they can find something to enjoy at Nearly Normal's. The food is hearty and filling, with real flavor. Winter says, "I think if you are a lover of food at all, you should definitely try it out! It's a fun new experience and, no doubt about it, it's the best vegetarian cuisine I have ever had."

Nearly Normal's
109 NW 15th St., Corvallis
www.nearlynormals.com

Mon-Wed 8 a.m.-8 p.m. / Thur-Fri 8 a.m.-9 p.m. / Sat 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

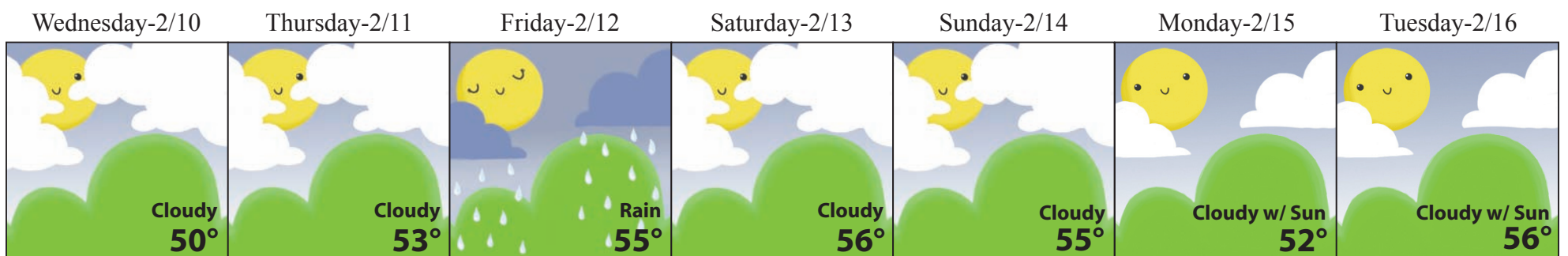
Student-submitted art

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



Art 117 class
Untitled photo

Weekly Weather Predictions



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