



THE COMMUTER

Linn-Benton Community College • Albany, Oregon

Volume 44 | Issue 8



Veterans Day

A Solider's Cross in the LBCC Courtyard during a memorial vigil.

photo by Alyssa Archer

Post-9/11 GI Bill Poses Problems for Veteran Students

Justeen Elliott
Managing Editor

Veterans can't catch a break. Lately, they are either getting kicked out of the military for unspecified reasons, they can't find jobs because what they did in the military isn't "official" because they don't have an associate's or a bachelor's, even though they did a certain job for two plus years and are more than qualified. The list just goes on and on.

Their most recent problem? Not being able to use their Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is supposed to provide financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least

90 days of aggregate service after Sept. 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days.

Participants must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally benefits are payable for 15 years following your release from active duty.

The problem that many veterans face with their Post-9/11 GI Bill is that 250,000 student veterans are forced to pay \$10,000 for tuition during each academic year, due to many colleges misclassifying their residency status. This is often happening for the schools'

own financial gain, according to a Student Veteran's Organization.

Last year Congress changed the GI Bill. This change stripped tuition benefits for veterans who attend public schools and who are categorized as out-of-state students. In-state-student veterans that are enrolled in public institutions still remain eligible for full tuition coverage under federal law.

The financial fallout of residency is affecting student veterans in 38 states, some of which include Florida, North Carolina, and California, according to the Student Veteran's Advocacy Group (SVAG).

Many of the students being affected are lifelong residents of these states,

most of them are now enrolled, and even own homes, but their schools are still declaring them as out-of-state residents. These colleges are declaring them "out-of-state" residents due to the fact that they were temporarily transferred to different military bases, or were deployed overseas.

"Many veterans are having to quit school because they can't afford \$5,000 per semester they have to now pay out of pocket," said Jason Thigpen, founder and president of SVAG.

If a public college agrees with a student's assertion that he or she is an in-state resident and, consequently, is allowed to attend school tuition-free on the Post-9/11 GI bill, the federal

government then directly sends the school their tuition. However, if the school holds fast to its ruling that a student veteran should be classified as an out-of-state enrollee; the student must then pay the school out of pocket for tuition.

If you, or someone that you know, is having any issues with the Post-9/11 GI Bill, contact your nearest SVAG, or talk to the Veteran's Club on the Albany LBCC campus. The Veteran's Club is here to help military personnel of all kind.

Read about the Veteran's Club
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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 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



The Commuter

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Do You Bleed Orange or Green?

*Civil War Blood Drive season
kicks-off; win tickets to the
Civil War game!*

Rob Camp

SLC Vice President

LBCC will be taking part in the annual Oregon State University and the University of Oregon Alumni Associations' "Rivals for Life" Civil War Blood Drive.

This is part of the statewide blood drive campaign will run at LBCC on Nov. 13 and 14 and is sponsored by the LBCC Student Leadership Council, Oregon State University and University of Oregon Alumni Associations, OregonLive.com, American Red Cross, and Lane Blood Center. This is your chance to help save a life.

Every presenting donor will have the chance to win one of several pairs of tickets to see the Civil War game at Reser Stadium in Corvallis on Saturday, Nov. 24.

To enter, be sure to sign a "Civil War Blood Drive Ballot" when you come in to donate at any



participating blood drive across the state of Oregon. Your ballot will enter you in drawings for one of several pairs of 2012 game tickets and count as a vote for your favorite team to win the Civil War trophy.

Both university football coaches understand the need for blood donors and support the annual campaign. UO Head Football Coach Chip Kelly said, "Certainly this is a cause of greater importance than the game of football and one I hope all fans within the state of Oregon will support."

OSU Head Football Coach Mike Riley noted, "One of the best things about our Civil War rivalry with the Ducks is that, every year, the Civil War

Blood Drive prompts loyal fans of both programs to turn out and give. Although I always want the Beavers to win at everything, this is one competition in which I'd like to see Beavers and Ducks alike break records this year."

During its history, fans, students, and alumni have seen nearly 66,500 presenting blood and platelet donors (6,586 in 2011) helping hospital patients. The campaign helps ensure that medical conditions requiring blood products can be met during the winter months.

It is imperative to keep our blood supply ready and available, when and where it is needed. Unfortunately, illnesses and injuries requiring blood transfusion do not take a break for the holiday season.

Please schedule a donation on behalf of either the Ducks or the Beavers by calling 1-800-RED CROSS, or search for blood drives at www.CivilWarBloodDrive.com. The LBCC drive is taking place Nov. 13 and 14 and appointments can be made at www.redcrossblood.org sponsor code LBCC or by calling (503) 779-1266.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help out with this event please contact Rob Camp Student Leadership Vice President at slcvp1@linnbenton.edu.



William Allison

DID YOU MISS THE
HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES
ON CAMPUS?

CHECK OUT THE PHOTO GALLERY
ONLINE AT
COMMUTER.LINNBENTON.EDU

Linn-Benton Community College Music Department
2012-2013 Faculty Recitals Series Presents

Autumn Splendor

An Eclectic Musical Tribute to the Season

- Jason Caffarella, Tenor
- Patty Gerig, Soprano
- Diane Hawkins, Flute & Piano
- James Reddan, Tenor



**Thursday, Nov, 8
7:30 p.m.**

South Santiam Hall, SSH-213
LBCC, Albany Campus

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

541-917-4531

**TICKETS AVAILABLE
AT THE DOOR!**

\$5 general admission
\$3 students/seniors

**Proceeds support student
scholarships and the
LBCC music program!**

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. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

**The CASE Program at LBCC supports your
college, job search, and career success!**



Effective Workplace Communication

November 13th RCH 116, 1:00-1:50

Effective communication skills in the workplace are just as important as mastering the job skills. This workshop covers the basics of how to work through a conflict effectively, rules of a hierarchical workplace, what shouldn't be shared share with co-workers, how to avoid workplace drama, importance of creating strong boundaries, and more.



Diversity and Difference in the Workplace

November 28th RCH 116, 1:00-1:50

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

Dan Carlin Comes to Campus

Sean Dooley
Contributing Writer

What if Constitution creator James Madison had the internet?

This great question that became the main theme of Dan Carlin's presentation when he dropped by LBCC on Oct. 30.

Carlin, who hosts two podcasts, Common Sense and Hardcore History, discussed the two aspects that can affect the political climate of our country: idealism and pragmatism.

According to his definitions, idealism is a utopia worldview, while pragmatism has a more cynical worldview. Our political culture is out of balance towards the cynical, according to Carlin who uses the phrase "vampire mice" to describe the U.S. government's need for new blood in the system, because the system we're stuck in isn't working.

What does that mean for us? Is our generation the new blood?

According to Carlin, the answer is yes.

He believes that the power we have is atypical from any generation that precedes us. With radio, YouTube, podcasting and smart phones, our generation has multiple formats to reach millions of people in seconds.

Carlin posed this question towards the end of his visit: "What do you think would happen if James Madison, the founding fathers, or the rest of that idealist group had a podcast or the tools and resources our generation has?"

However, Carlin warned that even though we have these formats, we need to be careful.

"Violations of the Constitution start small then expand," said Carlin. Nudging in laws that would never pass without something causing fear because "fear is exploitive" is slowly

chipping away at our First Amendment rights.

According to Carlin, large movements have yet to happen because they don't directly affect the individual yet, so we don't care or we have no idea.

Eventually, Carlin meshes the idea of political red herrings, the current political climate, and the political machine into the issues of our culture.

Carlin asked, "On the road to totalitarianism, who will care about gay marriage, abortion, legalization of marijuana, etc. if we live under a fascist government?"

As an amateur historian, he has indirectly seen it before. But people seem to forget that, as he explains.

Without a generation's sense of justice and willingness to speak up, we might see the government begin to push the exceptions in the Constitutional laws; that's Dan Carlin's message with his visit and his podcasts, and he is prepared to lead the charge.

Democracy Club in Action

Caitlyn May
Contributing Writer

Democracy is alive and well at LBCC.

Ten students, guided by advisor Robert Harrison, converge every Tuesday at noon with one goal: digesting information to become a better informed electorate. They call themselves the Democracy in Action Club.

"In 2008, we had 12-14 students. There was a lot of enthusiasm with the presidential election. This year we have about eight students," Harrison said. While current participation in the club is limited, Harrison attributes it in part to the time of year. "Usually in the spring it picks up."

With a passionate electoral spectrum and serious, divisive issues this political season, Harrison says the Democracy Club is focused more on education. "We want to educate students, inform them," he said. "We're non-partisan and we want to get students involved."

One way the club members get involved is by helping Student Life with a voter registration drive. The club has also organized the Liberty Tree Fair, an event that gathers political interest groups and non-profits to speak to students on important issues.

"Aside from the Liberty Tree Fair, we have speakers come in. We have Dan Carlin coming up," Harrison said. "He is a radio host from Eugene, and he'll be talking about the upcoming election."

Everyone, no matter their political affiliation, is invited to attend a Democracy Club meeting. "We welcome everyone; we're non partisan. We really want to inform and get involved in the political process," said Harrison.

Wanna join?

The Democracy Club meets Tuesdays at noon in the Library.

LB Celebrates Day of the Dead

Nora Palmtag
News Editor

In America, for approximately 200 years, the death of a person is mourned. But in Mexico for over 3,000 years, there are three days of celebration and prayer for the souls of passed beloved relatives.

Analee Fuentes, 2-D Studio Foundations instructor at LBCC since 1998, did a presentation on El Dia de los Muertos to a crowd of 20 in the DAC on Oct. 31, 2012 at noon. The presentation really enlightened the crowd about the celebration and not the mourning of the dead. People were invited to color posters for the altar in the DAC to celebrate a loved one's life.

El Dia de los Muertos has become a ritual passed down from the indigenous tribes of the Americas del Sur (South America). In these countries, the celebrations last a full month, but today, most celebrations last from Oct. 31 through Nov. 2. These celebrations were originally dedicated to the goddess Catrina or Mictecacihuatl, known as the "Lady of the Dead."

Oct. 31 is El Dia de los Muertos with altars built to celebrate the lives of the dead. Not only do people wear wooden skulls called calacas but also make sugar skulls with the deceased name on the forehead to be eaten in tribute. These skulls denote death and rebirth, while many thought the dead returned during these celebrations to visit.

Nov. 1 is El Dia de Muertos Chiquitos, The Day of the Little Dead, also known as All Saints Day for any children who are deceased. Nov. 2 is known as El Dia de los Muertos, All Souls Day, for any adults who are deceased.

Therefore, the altars will usually have items the deceased loved, food that they ate and many times items worn by the deceased. Death is not considered the end of life, but the continuation of life; it is embraced for this reason.

Many have tried destroying this ritual, but it has survived and is growing as the population spreads throughout the Americas. Fuentes said there has been a demographic shift, in Oregon of 11 percent Hispanic population over the last 29 years. This has given her a greater audience to express her heritage and help others understand the ritual of El Dia de los Muertos.

In Mexico, the loved ones graves are visited and decorated with marigolds and candles, with toys for the dead children and bottles of tequila for the adults, with Pan de Muertos, or Bread of the Dead. Families, also, have picnics next to the gravesites and celebrate with the deceased ones' favorite foods. Later, there are dances and parades going to the gravesites.

Building altars in their homes is done in both the United States and Mexico's larger cities. From the art, you can see the vibrant, colorful and exaggerated picture of the life the people who have died. Loving the ornate, excessive, and overdone, Fuentes states she looks at fish or water and has the same visual experience as she has looking at a 17th century Mexican church, an almost mystical experience for her.

Stowell Spearheads Projects to Help Students

D Mary Mahoney
Contributing Writer

According to a recent survey, people really like LBCC; they just don't know why.

In an Oct. 24 press conference, Dale Stowell, LBCC's executive director of institutional advancement, spoke to journalism students about two of the exciting projects that his department currently has pegged for completion during the upcoming year: a new website and a new alternative fuel training center.

Stowell has only worked at LBCC for eight months, but he is not new to LBCC; he confessed that he was a journalism student at the college back in the 1970s. "I was there where you are right now, I know how it feels ... this program really changed my life," he said.

During the meeting, he discussed the progress of one project currently underway: the redesigning of LBCC's website.

The reason for the change is mainly due to complaints about finding items on the home page.

Interestingly, it was discovered during the project that there is a general consensus amongst those surveyed that they like LBCC. "[LBCC] has a positive image, but nobody can say why," said Stowell.

In the meantime, Interact Communications, a company specializing in community college website development, will try to find out why that is.

Interact Communications has been researching LBCC's current website to find ways to make it easier to navigate in, as they figure out "navigational preferences" for users.

They are collecting that information by conducting audits and interviews with various groups of people, such as students, local businesses, alumni and individuals.

The Interact web redesign/college messaging project will cost \$50,700 for the web research and web redesign (including the coded templates) and \$37,700 for the college messaging research and design templates to apply them to our printed materials. The total cost will be \$88,400.

The new version of the website will ask the user who they are and then redirect them to a page of links that would be geared to what their group type would be looking for. The new site is expected to launch in the summer of 2013, when usage will be low and working out bugs will be less invasive.

During the conference, the director also discussed details about another project currently in development: the building of an education center for training students to



provided photo

Dale Stowell, LBCC's Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

work in the alternative fuel vehicles industry. The cost for the project is reportedly expected to be \$6.8 million. Currently, the college has acquired \$4.3 million from various donors.

The director told the students that the money saved by converting to natural gas would cut fuel costs in half, a result especially attractive to businesses operating with fleets of vehicles used for traveling. He also reported that the technology is already out there, but it can't be utilized locally at this time due to the fact that there isn't any maintenance available if needed.

Stowell was asked why there has not been any federal funding allocated for this project and his answer was that nobody at the college had asked for any. As a solution, he has slotted a position at the school for a grant writer who will assist in requesting grants for future projects.

Receiving the Oregon Economic Development Grant (only one is awarded each year) could mean an additional \$1.5 million towards the goal. The planned date of completion for the transportation education center is the end of 2013.

LBCC's Veteran's Club

Justeen Elliott

Managing Editor

Who on campus thinks that the Veteran's Club is just a club? Well, it is not. The Veteran's Club is more than that.

The Veteran's Club is a collaboration of students from active duty, reserve, National Guard and separated veterans, who help volunteer their time to promote camaraderie and support of the veteran student body at LBCC.

Goals attempted by the Veteran's Club include:

- Enable veterans to successfully complete their education goals through awareness of resources available to them (grants, scholarships, VA programs, disability services, etc.).
- Provide a foundation of support among veteran students that aid in the transition of returning to school after service.
- Increase awareness to veteran's of the issues and concerns regarding VA education programs and LBCC programs.
- Provide a point of contact between the veteran student body and the LBCC faculty to improve the quality of service provided by the college.

The Veteran's Club is not just meant for military personnel, but for any student wishing to join. They always appreciate any support offered, regardless if the student has served or not.

If anyone has anything they need help with, whether it is military related or not, the Veteran's Club now has a school provided gmail account: veteransclub@linnbenton.edu.

Veterinary Assistant Info Sessions

LBCC News Service

Two free Veterinary Assistant Program information sessions will be held at LBCC for those interested in training to become a Veterinary Assistant.

These pre-application sessions will be held Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to noon, and Thursday, Nov. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the LBCC Albany campus, Calapooia Center, room CC-212. No preregistration needed to attend. Attendance at the information session is mandatory in order to take the program.

The 16-week Veterinary Assistant Program starts Jan. 7 and runs through April 26. Skill areas covered include basic education and experience in common disease states, commonly used medical and surgical techniques, and an introduction to hospital management, business procedures and radiation safety.

Cost for the program is \$4,000. The program is eligible for financial aid. Check the LBCC web site for program prerequisites at www.linnbenton.edu/go/forms. For more information, contact LBCC Business, Healthcare and Workforce Division at 541-917-4923.



On The Trail

provided photo

Alsie Campbell, left, and Mary Campbell are all smiles Aug. 28 after arriving at Bridge of the Gods at Cascade Locks, their final destination after hiking for two months on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Math instructor Mary Campbell spends summer hiking the Pacific Crest Trail with her mother-in-law

Michelle Strachan

Copy Editor

On July 8, LBCC Math Instructor Mary Campbell and her 80-year-old mother-in-law Alsie Campbell set out for a two month hike on the Pacific Crest Trail. It was an adventure they would never forget, creating plenty of entertaining stories for them to share when it was all over.

They presented a slideshow to a packed house at the Benton Center on Thursday, Nov. 1 with over 60 people in attendance. Babs Sether, a friend of Mary's who works in administration at the Benton Center, had heard about all the beautiful views and what all they experienced through Mary's husband, who kept friends and family updated during their trip. Sether was one of many who were looking forward to finally seeing the photos.

Alsie, nicknamed "Greenbelt Granny," removed the green belt she was wearing to demonstrate the many uses she had found for it on her trip. The scarf/bandana/belt and more was a gift from old hiking buddies and had a map printed on it as well. "Don't carry anything you can't use in three different ways," she said.

The Campbells started training in January by doing lots of walking and adding more and more weight to their packs as time went on, helping them to prepare for the heavy gear they'd be carrying on their hike. During their trip, Mary's backpack weighed 35-37 pounds, and Alsie's was 32-34 pounds, depending on how much water was in them.

Alsie has been a longtime supporter and member of Greenbelt Land Trust, a local non-profit that protects natural areas. She shared with them her plans for hiking the Oregon section of the PCT and they worked together on a fundraiser, with supporters pledging per mile that Alsie walked or simply giving donations to support her.

Over 100 people gave in Alsie's name raising over \$6,400 for the Greenbelt Land Trust trails fund, to help restore and rebuild trails. "So many people were inspired because of her age, to get out, get active, and get on trails. And that's really what Greenbelt is all about," said Jessica McDonald, Greenbelt Land Trust's development director.

The Oregon section of the PCT begins South of Mt. Ashland and ends 465 miles later at The Bridge of the Gods. Mary and Alsie Campbell started their journey at Siskiyou Summit and hiked between 10-12 miles a day. They were ready for anything that came their way. Often times water was eight miles apart, and at two points it was 20 miles apart. They were very grateful for the "snow angels" who left water on the trails where there's no water for long periods.

Their cell phones only worked from time to time at the tops of ridges. However, they did carry a SPOT, a satellite transmitter, which sends messages via email including your GPS location and messages including: We're okay, need assistance or stopping to rest.

The photos they shared included views of the beautiful scenery around them and quiet times around camp where they rested and ate before their next long haul. Marilyn Bervin, who had taken a pencil drawing class with Mary, said she just loved all the wildflower photos.

The audience marveled at the beautiful wildflowers like the Orange Honeysuckle, White-stemmed Frasieria, Queen Cup and Phantom Orchid.

One of the photos they shared showed them at Skylake's Wilderness, just south of Devil's Peak, where they used walking sticks to cross a rocky, snow-covered, steep mountain. At one point, they went home for five days and waited for the snow to pass.

Other times, they camped between snow piles. It would freeze at night, and they'd have to wait a couple hours for the snow to thaw before they could head out.

Most of the time when it rained, they were at camp in their tents, trying to keep warm and dry, despite two leaky tents, which they had to replace. Friends and family members would bring them

Second Chance Showing

Did you miss your opportunity to see the slideshow? There will be another presentation on the Albany campus for all.

When: Nov. 8 at noon

Where: Vineyard Mountain Room
CC-213

supplies when needed and also shared in their journey by hiking with them for short periods along the way.

Any time they camped at a lake, they tried to do laundry, although as Alsie pointed out, they didn't have any soap. "We didn't smell very good, but we didn't care," said Mary. They tried to eat five times a day, consuming around 2,500 calories. Alsie went through three pairs of shoes, but they had a safe trip, never having to break into their first-aid kit.

They put tarps up for shade on hot days, which were at times up in the 90s. They "bear-bagged" their food (rigged to store up high away from animals) and rested when they needed to. "Any flat spots after walking 10 miles looked good to us," said Mary.

Their photos told a story for all to enjoy and admire.

"It's very inspiring and hopeful that as you age, you can do something like that," said Gretchen Dursch, who takes an exercise class at the Benton Center. Mary Ann Matzke, another attendee, said she really liked the pictures of the trails. "You could see how they were living day to day."

At the end of their slideshow, they laughed about whether they plan to make the trip again in the future. They may not be ready yet, but they experienced an amazing adventure full of challenges and rewards. "Some of the hardest parts were so gorgeous, you didn't mind," said Mary.

For more information on Greenbelt Land Trust and to view Alsie's journal and photos from the trip, visit www.greenbeltlandtrust.org.

Human Enhancement How Far is too Far?

William Tatum
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of human history, our species has augmented its natural ability through the use of technology. As ages pass, our technology has increased in not only complexity but also in sheer power.

In the modern era, because of the scourge of Eugenics, fear of losing our humanity and arguments against playing God, augmentation for the explicit purposes of enhancement has been shunned by all but hobbyists, the disabled and groups like DARPA. This ban extends to research into pharmaceuticals for the purposes of enhancement as well.

Compounding this legal problem is the social problem that individuals who do augment themselves, even to overcome a disability, as in the case of the Paralympian who was prevented from using his best leg in the 2012 Olympics time trials because it was considered to give him an unfair advantage, are stigmatized or mocked by civil society.

Another such example is found in an incident in Paris with Steven Mann. Mann is an individual who exemplifies the term "early adopter," and has taken the plunge; he wears permanently attached augmented reality glasses everywhere. They correct his vision, give him the ability to record, and even enhance it beyond normal human levels. While eating out, he was accosted by McDonald's staff who tried to physically remove the glasses from his head, despite his protests that they were surgically attached.

The arguments against enhancement fundamentally boil down to arguments of degree. Most humans already chemically enhance their lives. They imbibe caffeine, nicotine and other pharmacological agents for the purposes of inducing focus and alertness or for reducing stress and anxiety. Are we not enhancing ourselves by ingesting these substances? If we are willing to accept a little boost from a substance, why not accept a longer lasting, more profound substance?

On college campuses across the nation, students take drugs like Adderall or Modafinil, off label, to increase focus and enhance their cognition. Some consider this to be cheating and have advocated for banning the use of these kinds of substances like they were steroids. Yet their grades can be better, and they often more quickly assimilate the knowledge; the only difference is that they are chemically enhancing their ability to acquire and retain the information.

Is this not good for humanity? If side-effects are few and the prices are kept reasonable, does not the benefit of a smarter society outweigh the risks? Given these drugs already exist for "enhancing" the disabled to the point of ableness, why not take those who are able and make them more able?

Beyond pills making us smarter, there may soon be genetic treatments available, hence the fear of Eugenics, that will make possible things like extreme longevity, increased survivability in hazardous environments, and rapid healing. These treatments won't just heal - they will necessarily enhance.

Most humans already use physical technology to enhance their natural abilities. Cell phones, for example, despite texting, do enhance our abilities to communicate with each other, especially over large distances. The difference between a cell phone and a neural implant that connected you to the web seems to be one, again, of degree. Motorized transport is yet another example where we are physically, albeit temporarily, augmenting ourselves to increase our ability to move. Why stop at temporarily used tools, when the technology to revolutionize the human form exists?

Given the rapid accelerations occurring in information technology and the knock on effects in other fields, it is simply unethical to not begin augmenting ourselves for the purposes of enhancement. For what other reason did we evolve big brains other than to use them to better ourselves? The problems that need solving today require smarter, more intuitive individuals; part of that ought to come from enhancement.

Advice from Weiss

Question: I'm new this year. I've got my classes for fall, but when should I see my advisor?

Answer: Now! Seeing an advisor early, and often, is a key to success at college. Plus, the winter term schedule of classes is online and you and your advisor could make a schedule. Registration will be the very end of November and early December, but it's always a good idea to figure things out early and get ahead of the game.



Mark Weiss
Counselor

Question: I lost my financial aid and need to do an appeal. I found the form online but when should I do this?

Answer: Financial aid appeals will be judged in early December, but there's nothing wrong with getting it turned in now. A financial aid appeal has two questions, and then asks what classes you intend to take in Winter and Spring term. You can make the course plan with your advisor, but the two questions are for you to answer. The first question is, basically, "what went wrong?" The second question is, in simple terms, "What is the solution for what went wrong?" For each problem you list in question number one you need to have an answer in question number two.

Question: How do I find my advisor? Other people seem to have one.

Answer: New students who took the course "Destination Graduation" all have an advisor assigned to them. They just need to look at their Webrunner account to find out who it is. All other students have to pick an advisor. This would typically be a teacher in the department you hope to get a degree from, or a counselor if you are undecided about your major. Those who need to pick an advisor can look at the back of any schedule of classes to see who their choices are, or they can inquire at the First Stop Center in the middle of Takena Hall. This is an important step to take.

Mark Weiss

Mark Weiss has been a counselor and adviser at LBCC for 20 years. Please send your questions to mark.weiss@linnbenton.edu or stop by the Career and Counseling Center in Takena Hall.



Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
**LBCC Student
Programming
Board**

The Statewide **Civil War Blood Drive** is celebrating its eleventh-year and we want you to be a part of our healthy competition! In this game, the real winners are hospital patients who need blood. Score points for your team by donating blood during the **November 13th and 14th** campaign. If you are not eligible to donate blood, please consider recruiting someone to give in your place. Every vote counts!

Join us for an **American Red Cross Blood Drive**
at **Linn Benton Community College**
Sponsored by the Student Leadership Council

Tuesday, November 13th, 9AM - 3 PM
Cascade View Rooms (Calapooia Center)

Wednesday, November 14th, 9AM - 3PM
Vineyard Mountain Room
(Calapooia Center)

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Sex AND THE Campus

The Friend Zone

Ian Butcher

A&E Editor

We all know what this is.

That dreaded moment when you've finally built up the courage to ask out that girl who you've had feelings for. You finally lay it all out on the table only for her to give you the line "I think we should just stay friends." Encounters with this girl tend to get a little awkward afterwards.

You, sir, have just been banished to the "friend zone."

No one wants to be stuck in that phantom zone we call the friend zone. Because as soon as you get stuck in the friend zone, chances are you're not getting out. So the key is to stop yourself from ever getting close to this romantic purgatory.

It all comes down to making your intentions known. When you're first getting to know a girl that you're taking a liking to, don't play the friend card. Remember what I talked about last week? Live with no regrets. Make it clear that you don't want to just be friends.

Case and point, if the two of you hit it off, make it crystal clear that you're interested in being more than friends. Don't say "Hey, do you want to get some coffee some time or maybe hang out or something?"

While you might think in your head that this is a date, that doesn't mean she will. In fact, she will probably see this more as hanging out with a friend than anything potentially romantic. You actually need to use the word date somewhere in your proposition. By doing this, you avoid any mixed messages and awkward situations down the line.

We've all fallen into the friend zone with someone at some point in our lives. Yes, it sucks. However, it's a lot easier to avoid falling into it rather than climbing out of it. So next time you're with someone who you're really into, just make your intentions known, lest you risk getting friend-zoned.

Letter to the Editor

Txt u l8r

L8R. Three characters that sparked so many emotional outbursts from my peers that I wanted to run screaming from the room. I'm taking Interpersonal Communications at LBCC, and my teacher decided to bring up "text speak." Ironically enough, for my purposes, he chose to discuss political correctness on the same day.

On the overhead projector was a cartoon character of a boy at a spelling bee, asked to spell the word later. In the bubble over his head were the three offensive characters. As soon as that cartoon lit up the screen, I heard muffled screams of disgust and saw hands fly up into the air in anger.

My classmates described the slang as "uneducated" at best, and the insults hurled towards the person using the slang escalated from there. The room was charged with a tense, mob-like energy as each student fervently denied having ever used anything but the full, properly spelled english word for their communications.

"People who use text language are idiots," "If I received slang in an email, I would respond with 'what the fuck' and tell them to try again in English," "Some people make me want to punch a baby" and other responses were shouted out of turn because people had so much rage towards users of text speak.

Topics that bring up that much emotion need to be talked about. I fully understand why the topic was brought up. What I don't understand and want to understand is why so many people feel so strongly about the spelling of words that it can provoke death threats.

This isn't the first time I've seen hatred toward users of text speak. Forums on the internet seem to be divided into people who think that because they can put together an argument that is well written, with

proper grammar and spelling, that they have better ideas and more relevant thoughts than those who have less perfected writing skills or a completely different written dialect. Also, people who, when faced with that much hatred, cling to their spelling and grammar as who they are, because that's the way that other people have labeled them.

That environment is not conducive to learning.

Here at community college, we have a campus mixed with people of varying degrees of formal education. Especially here, we need to have a greater social tolerance of people who are still learning to write in language acceptable for essays. Labeling those people as "stupid" is not going to encourage them to seek help learning to write or better themselves. It's going to make people feel like crap. Anything that makes a person feel worthless in any way is not acceptable on a public forum, in my opinion.

"Younger Millennials," as my teacher so elegantly put it, are more prone to using text speak in places where it isn't appropriate. That is the language that many of them have grown up learning to communicate in. That is a fact. We should celebrate the writing that they know, and then expand upon it and teach them the etiquette and beauty of a communication written in proper English.

Hatred towards anyone is more distasteful than a few mixed up characters.

Anonymous

Letters to the editor are always welcome and can be sent to commuter@linnbenton.edu.

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10 Ways to Avoid Being a Hated Coworker

Michael Rivera
Video/Sports Editor

I worked on a piece last year called "10 Ways to Avoid Being a College Asshole." Recently, it has come to my attention that hated or "dick" coworkers are a real issue in the workplace. Mind you, I might not be the most humble at times, yet I find ways to get along with people at work. The problem I have with these people is that they seem to incite actual hate from me, which is really hard to do.

Here are some tips to help avoid being despised in the workplace.

10. Don't Criticize People's Personal Lives

There is a vast amount of people with different lifestyles; it just so happens that we have to share space with each other at work. You'd be surprised on how critical we can be of people.

For example, girls are SO there for each other, ready to unleash their claws of fashion upon the lone gazelle who happened to be having a bad hair day.

There is constructive and destructive criticism. Constructive is great in the workplace. It makes for efficiency and helps you get better at your job. Destructive criticism can only bring about resentment and have the opposite effect on the person's ability at work.

9. Hold Your End of the Job

The beautiful thing about work is when everyone contributes to an end goal that you can be proud of. It really sucks when someone can't pull their weight around the job, making it harder for other people to do the work.

Let's face it: The second you can't pull your weight around a job is the second you set yourself up for unemployment. If your coworkers end up having to do your work on a routine basis, don't expect to gain their respect.

8. Stop Bitching About Work

For the most part, people dislike their jobs. There are the few who actually do what they love to do, but most of us are stuck with something we aren't leaping for joy over.

This is especially the case in college; we take the jobs that we can get because it pays the bills. What makes work even worse is that person who repeatedly talks about how they

hate their job, don't get paid enough, hate working too many hours, don't get enough hours, blah blah blah ...

I understand it might not be the most kosher job, but please, do us all a big favor and shut the hell up. Being a "Negative Nancy" accomplishes nothing. Why not try and be cheerful, help people around you stay positive?

7. Be Accountable

Look, no one is perfect; we all make mistakes. Regardless of their scale, we all need to own up to our errors. At times, you will take heat for them, but it's better to take the licks than to avoid them.

Running from the problem or pawing it off on someone else just drags out the inevitable; you will get caught. If you are accountable for your actions, you then are able to move on from them.

6. Don't Try Being a Self-appointed Boss

I hate that person who feels they are in charge of everyone. They routinely kiss your boss's ass, talk in a condescending tone and try to assert dominance in every way possible (well, officewise at least).

I wouldn't worry too much about these people; their bark is way worse than their bite. Just enjoy being another peon without taking on responsibilities that aren't yours. Enjoy doing your job and getting rewarded for it rather than looking like a complete tool.

5. Don't Be a Tattle-tale

We're not in grade school anymore. If someone is still taking your lunch at this point of life, you've got issues that I'll leave for a column in the future. If you have a problem with someone at work or a type of behavior, confront them first.

Most things should be manageable between you and that person. Wait until it's a big enough issue where you need to involve outside sources.

4. Avoid Discrimination

I worked with a guy a couple years ago who used to make derogatory comments about men and women based on gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity. I remember him always inviting people to his house or to hang out after work. The funny thing was that no one EVER took him up on his offers.

If they ever did, no one ever

mentioned it. The day he quit, I remember a more harmonious workplace. The perfect way to be hated around the office is to be that person who holds prejudices against people. You wouldn't think that would be a big issue nowadays, but it is still around.

3. Avoid Cutthroat Politics

Now, I'm not talking about American politics, but office politics. Don't be the person who will consistently screw anybody over in order to move ahead. You will find that it is better to build bridges and maintain them, rather than to decimate them.

Occasionally, we have to compete for an in-office job and, sure, you're going to make yourself look like the best candidate for the job. It is possible to do this in a manner that allows two parties to maintain a professional relationship.

2. Keep Out of People's Business

It's annoying when people take it upon themselves to spread gossip around like a Twitter feed. It's those people who always want to hear the dirt and then have to make sure everybody knows. They are relentless and despised.

I've learned over the years to keep a polite distance between people I work with. Why? In order to work more efficiently with them.

This is just because there are some people you want to be friends with and others you have to put up with. Sad, yes, but those are facts of life.

1. You're not Always Right

There are certain people that you work with who (regardless of whether you are speaking factually) will not cease to let go of any issues until they are either proven right or you give up. These types of people are generally closed-minded and prejudice to the core.

I happened to work with one of these individuals, who arrogantly waves his opinion like it is the banner. The lingering asshole who will argue semantics in order to gain a molehill.

Eventually, it dawned on me that I would never like this person, plain and simple. Coming to this realization, I find that this most of my other coworkers shared the same feeling.

What am I trying to say here? To the guy who always needs to be right: Do yourself a favor; just shut the fuck up!

Dear Conscience,



I hate my coworker. What do I do?

Ashley Christie

Shoulder Devil

People are the worst and should be avoided at all costs!

You're just trying to sit there and do your work, but they're always there, with their stupid faces and insist on talking and saying things.

You don't like them. Why can't they understand that?

There's really only one thing you can do ... kill them.

Now, just how should you go about this? Well, you have several options.

Poison is probably the cleanest way to go. Just slip a little (or a lot) into some cookies you leave conveniently on their desk.

A gunshot to the head can be very gratifying but is terribly messy. Plus, it's much easier to be traced back to you, and if you're trying to be stealthy, that can be a problem.

A dagger to the heart is the preferred method for destroying the truly evil. And, if you want to talk about a satisfying death, that's your best option.

My personal favorite is fire. All you need is some gasoline and a match. The best part is that while you're watching them burn, you get to make s'mores. It's like dinner and a show!

What's most important is your happiness. When someone gets in the way of that, you have to get rid of them. It's not that complicated.

Justin Bolger

Shoulder Angel

People are sometimes oblivious and should be helped at all costs!

If a coworker has a few qualities that just get your goat, those poor souls are probably just unaware of the trouble they're stirring up. Give 'em a simple heads-up!

Calmly and kindly bring their actions to their attention, and let them know what consequences those actions have in the workplace. Just remember to be gentle; they know not what they do.

For you and the other coworkers, this might have been building up for sometime, but for this one person, it's likely the first they've heard of the issue. You need to be understanding of that as you approach them for your one-on-one.

This should never be done in the company of anyone else. They'll be shaken and defensive if they believe everyone is suddenly ganging up on them, which is exactly how they'll feel if you make your simple heads-up into a full-blown intervention party.

If the behavior continues after this bit of friendly advice, you should address it with your supervisor. You've been left with no choice but to let that tactic run its own course. You are bound by the laws of the office after all.

Just remember to be respectful, patient, and subtle in how you handle this delicate situation.

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

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OSU Men and Women on the Basketball Court

High Hopes for Women's Hoops after Exhibition Game

MJ Kelly
Staff Photographer

The Oregon State Women's Basketball team has high hopes for their season after a strong win in their exhibition game against Seattle Pacific at Gill on Saturday. The Beavers were ranked fifth in the conference in last week's 2012 Pre-Season Coach's Poll, a program high.

Portland native, Junior Alyssa Martin, had a game high of 16 points. She added 4 boards and 3 assists. Ali Gibson also shined on the court with 12 points, 6 assists and 3 steals. Freshman Khadidja Toure showed an impressive focus on both sides of the court with 9 points, 3 rebounds, 5 assists and 3 stolen balls.

The Beavers have eight players over six feet tall. The team had more success on defense with 30 rebounds. They only had 8 on their side of the court. They are going to have to even that out if they want to improve their points per game. In that category, they were ranked 116th in the nation going into the game.

Alternatively, the women demonstrated an amazing ability to anticipate shots being taken. They were ranked 14th in the nation in blocked shots. They had 12 smackdowns compared to Seattle Pacific's 1.

Head Coach Scott Rueck is feeling the love in the PAC-12. Oregon State Athletic Director Bob De Carolis awarded the coach a two-year contract extension that will bring him through the end of the 2017-2018 season. He also was voted by the media the PAC-12 Coach of the Year.

"I am humbled to receive this show of support from Bob De Carolis and the administration at Oregon State," said Rueck in a statement released by OSU.

"Corvallis is a wonderful place to live and work, and Kerry and I are thrilled to be a part of the community and raise our family here. We are excited about the progress we have made and the direction we are headed as we continue to build a program the university and



OSU Freshman Ruth Hamblin goes up for a basket against Seattle Pacific.

community will be proud of. This level of commitment allows us the stability necessary to pursue our ultimate goals."

The first game that matters is against Western Washington, at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis, on Saturday, Nov. 10. Going forward, if they play as well as they have over the last few years, Beaver fans can expect some competition of their own - for their seats!

Beaver Men Breeze by Lewis & Clark

Michael Rivera
Video/Sports Editor

Basketball season has finally started, as the Oregon State Beavers take on the Lewis & Clark Pioneers. Oregon State took a while to get warm, but once they did there was no stopping them as they rolled over the Pioneers, 83-58.

Starting for the Beavers was Ahmad Starks, Eric Moreland, Roberto Nelson, Angus Brandt, and Joe Burton. In the first half of play, Oregon State forward Devon Collier looked hot coming off the bench.

Collier finished with 12 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 blocks and 3 steals in just 14 minutes of play. Starks showed why he is this team's leader, putting up 14 points, going 4-5 for 3-pointers, and adding 4 assists.

The Pioneers were showing some resistance to Oregon State in beginning of the first half of play. The Pioneers outrebounded Oregon State 22 to 18, but Oregon State recorded 5 steals and 3 blocks. The Pioneers were shooting 33% field goals, 18.8% for 3 pointers and a staggering 50% from the free-throw line. Oregon State made 48.3% of field goals, a measly 20% for 3-pointers, but 83.3% at the free-throw line.

In the second half, Oregon State dominated in scoring and defense against a very tired-looking Lewis & Clark team. Starks finished with 14 points as the Beavers finished off the Pioneers 83-58.

Oregon State will be gearing up for the start of the regular season with two games against Niagara Nov. 9 and New Mexico State on Nov. 11.

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Corvallis Rugby Pub Crawl for Veterans

Michael Rivera
Video/Sports Editor

Veteran's Day is a day when we celebrate sacrifices few Americans made for us; it's a day to show our gratitude to the men and women who sacrificed years of their life and life-long injuries. Now, you have a chance to help in a fun fashion.

Nov. 10, the Corvallis Rugby Club will be hosting their "Brewer Fall Crawl 2012." In honor of Veteran's Day, 50 percent of their funds will be going to the Semper Fi Fund, a non-profit based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. that helps cover financial needs of injured soldiers. The other 50 percent will go to help the Corvallis Rugby Club.

According to their website, The non-profit grant was established in 2003, when injured soldier's coming from Operation Iraqi Freedom returned in waves. Registered nurse and wife of a active-duty Marine, Karen Guenthers, realized that many military families were struggling financially and needed help.

Semper Fi provides immediate care for families struggling to pay bills and afford a decent living situation. In 2004, the Semper Fi Fund started disbursing funds to veterans in need. They reportedly have distributed \$66 million in assistance to over 8,300 service members.

The Corvallis Rugby Club is a non-profit organization for both men and women that competes in the Pacific Northwest Rugby Football Union Division III.

The pub crawl is sponsored by Jack O'koles, Flat Tail Brewing, Corvallis Custom, Cloud & Kelly's, The Downward Dog, Timberhill Athletic Club, and Harrison's Bar & Grill.

For more information on how to get involved with the pub crawl, visit their website at www.corvallisrugby.com/pubcrawl. For more information on what the Semper Fi Fund is and how to get involved, visit their website at semperfi-fund.org/about.



Pubcrawl

What: Fundraiser for Semper Fi and Corvallis Rugby Club

When: Nov. 10

Sign-Up: Cloud 9 between 5:30 and 6 p.m.

Cost: \$11

More Info: corvallisrugby.com/pubcrawl

Meet LBCC's Women's Basketball Team

Meet the 2012-13 RoadRunners. Be sure to come out and support your LBCC Basketball teams at their next home games!

Women's

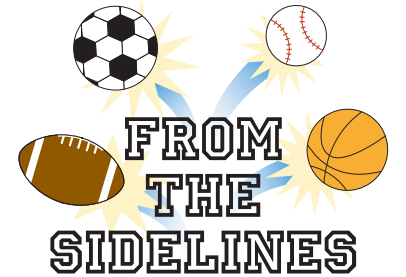
Sat. Nov. 10 at 4p.m.
vs Umpqua

Men's

Fri. Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.
vs Linfield JV



Michael Dechellis



Upcoming Games

LBCC

- Volleyball
Nov. 7 vs. Clackamas
6 p.m. @ Home
- Men's Basketball
Nov. 7 @ George Fox - 7 p.m.
- Women's Basketball
Nov. 8 @ Reed - 5 p.m.

Oregon State

- Volleyball
Nov. 8 vs. Arizona State
6 p.m. @ Home
Nov. 9 vs. Arizona
8:30 p.m. @ Home
- Men's Basketball
Nov. 9 vs. Niagara
6 p.m. @ Home
Nov. 11 vs. New Mexico State
6:30 p.m. @ Home
- Women's Basketball
Nov. 10 vs. Western Washington
2 p.m. @ Home
Nov. 12 vs. Cal Poly
7 p.m. @ Home

Beavers Win Against Sun Devils, Stay Put in Rankings

Michael Rivera
Video/ Sports Editor

After a tough defeat at Washington a week ago, Oregon State was looking for victory and spoils as the Arizona State (ASU) Sun Devils came into town. Being the very eventful Dad's Weekend in Corvallis, the Beavers came to show why they are a top contender in the PAC-12 as Oregon State goes on to win 36-26.

For the first half of play, the Beavers struggled to stop ASU from scoring. In the second half, the Beavers put the pressure on ASU quarterback Taylor Kelly. Kelly finished with 22-41 for 153 yards and a TD and interception. ASU was able to rack up 150 rushing yards on Oregon State, matching them in the stats column.

Oregon State and ASU were basically similar in the stats columns in many aspects. Both had 19 first downs until the Oregon State offensive line buckled down and set Vaz up for huge gains for scores. Oregon State total offensive yards were 424 to ASU's 303. Lot of this also has to deal with Oregon State being very successful on Special Teams.

Oregon State got its running game sparked when running back Terron Ward ignited, as starter Storm Woods is sat out the game, nursing a bruised knee. The Beavers were without lockdown cornerback and all-around star Jordan Poyer as well. Ward finished the game with 19 carries for 146 yards and a touchdown. Ward (5'7" 198 lbs.), a sophomore out of Antioch, Calif., gives the Beavers a similar look of Jacquizz Rodgers (5'6" 196 lbs.).

Ward not only showed that he has great eye for open lanes & breakaway speed, but his ability to stop-n-go behind blockers and runs tough. Multiple times through the game, Ward put his put a Sun Devil on his back or when he sidestepped his way past a defender to break out his 53 yard touchdown run. As far as I can see, Ward looks to be a real good option with



MJ Kelly

Final Score: 36-26
Next Game: Nov. 10 @ Stanford - Noon

Woods still questionable.

Oregon State got to the a rough start and showed little answer to a severe pass rush by ASU. Oregon State quarterback Cody Vaz was sacked 6 times in the game, along with a couple hits after pass (one which was call roughing the passer). Vaz, how has taken over the starting role as Sean Mannion continues to heal his knee, may have shown the Beavers that he is the

Oregon State Beavers face off against the Arizona State Sun Devils on the line of scrimmage. See more photos online at commuter.linnbenton.edu

right quarterback for the team, right now.

Vaz has shown solid performances throughout all the games he's played at qb. It's hard to say right now if you should put a healthy Sean Mannion back in for the season. After he faced his 1st quarter woes, Vaz came out and owned the football field. After what seemed to be struggle with protection up front, Vaz was able to get lots of time in the pocket, buying time for his receivers to get open.

That's a key factor to Vaz's game; the wisdom and the curse: he will hold onto the ball as long as possible to make that throw. This can be detrimental to his health, though, with Mannion still recovering. Vaz getting sacked so many

times has to make the team and fans cringe.

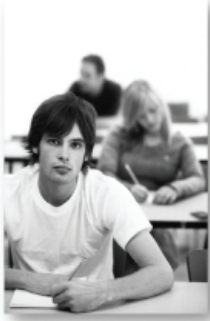
Yet, this is a great indicator of why Vaz has only one interception and has one touchdown less than Mannion in less starts. Brandin Cooks and Markus Wheaton were able to get in sync with Vaz, who ended up 14 completions on 33 attempts, 267 yards, 3 TDs and threw his first career interception.

Oregon State, now ranked No. 11 in the BCS, gets ready this week as they face Cal this weekend, for what should be an easy win right before they travel to play the very tough Stanford team, who is ranked No. 14.

See the full game recap online at:
commuter.linnbenton.edu

Poverty and Cultural Difference in Higher Education

November 15th Noon – 1 p.m.
Diversity Achievement Center



Students that have experienced generational poverty sometimes come to college with a set of invisible barriers that can undermine academic success. Some of these barriers can be attributed to cultural differences. This workshop will identify 6 key areas of cultural difference. Success strategies will be presented.

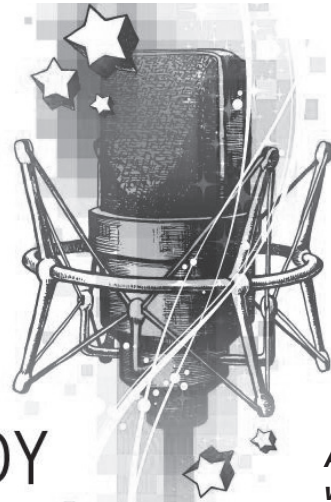
All staff and students are welcome to attend.

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Free Diabetes Symposium

LBCC News Service

A free Diabetes Symposium will be held at LBCC Saturday, Nov. 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Commons cafeteria, second floor Calapooia Center, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW., Albany.

Diabetes experts will present information on self-management, and a product fair will feature diabetes equipment, services and free healthy snacks.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Sarah Swarts with Samaritan Internal Medicine; Jay Hewitt, an athlete who became the first person with diabetes to qualify for the U.S. National Triathlon team; and Monica Whipple, certified Arthritis Foundation instructor.

The symposium is free and open to the public and is co-sponsored by LBCC Albany Community Education and Samaritan Health Services. Pre-registration is encouraged. Space is limited.

For more information or to register, contact LBCC Albany Community Education at 541-917-4840.



**Happy Veterans Day
from
The Commuter**



THE COMMONS FARE
MENU FOR THE WEEK OF
11/7-11/14

Wednesday: Turkey Cutlet w/ Browned Butter Sauce, Beef Goulash* with Spaetzel, Tofu and Broccoli Stir Fry over Rice. Soups: Billy Bi or African Sweet Potato*

Thursday: Roasted Beer-Brined Chicken w/ Pan Gravy, Rubeen w/ Coleslaw, Vegetarian Risotto*. Soups: Chicken Avgolemeno and Vegetarian Vegetable*

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: HOLIDAY

Tuesday: Baked Stuffed Snapper, Tuscan Braised Pork over Creamy Polenta*, Vegetarian Pad Thai. Soups: Tom Kha Gai* and Split Pea*

Items denoted with a * are gluten free

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A word from your local



Hey LBCC, this is just a quick reminder of what's happening on campus this week.

Tonight at 6 p.m. in the gym, the Women's Volleyball team will play Clackamas Community College to round out an exciting and successful season. It's sophomore night so please come by and support our LBCC players for their final game. Go RoadRunners!

Veteran's day is just around the corner! On Saturday, Nov. 10, our very own Veteran's Club will be walking in the parade held in downtown Albany at 11 a.m. Please show your support for those in your community who have served our country by coming to the parade.

In last week's win over Colorado, it took De' Anthony Thomas, one of the fastest players in college football, about 14 seconds to return a punt for a touchdown. Every ten seconds, someone in America needs blood. LBCC has a great opportunity to help save lives in our annual Civil War Blood Drive. Whether you are a Duck or a Beaver,

on Tuesday, Nov. 13, and Wednesday Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., you can make a difference in the lives of others by donating blood in the Cascade View and Vineyard Mountain rooms. The Beavers are off to great start in a record-breaking season, and the Ducks are once again in contention for a national title. Let's follow their lead and support our teams by giving blood!

You can make an appointment today by going to redcrossblood.org and entering the sponsor code: LBCC or by calling 1-503-779-1266.

If you have any questions or want to get involved with some of the amazing events going on around campus, please feel free to stop by the Student Life and Leadership Office, located next to the Hot Shot Café.

Have a Happy Week 7!
Grant Garcia

Campus Events

Wednesday 11/7
Women's Volleyball Home Game
Activities Center · 6 to 8 p.m.
LBCC VS Clackamas Community College

Thursday 11/8
Veterans Club Meeting
SSH Conference Room · 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Friday 11/9
The History of Veterans Day
DAC · 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Learn the history of why the United States honors its veterans with a special holiday.

Monday 11/12
LBCC Closed (Holiday)

Thursday 11/15
Veterans Club Meeting
SSH Conference Room · 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Friday 11/16
Active Minds Meeting
NSH 207 · Noon
Come and bring your creativity and help us create a campus community that cares.

Benton Center Acoustic Showcase
BC Student Lounge · Noon to 1 p.m.
Mike McLaren will take you down to the midnight crossroads.

WTF - Wild Thinkers Forum
Albany Board Room · 3 to 5 p.m.

Men's Basketball Home Game
Activities Center · 7 to 9 p.m.
LBCC VS Linfield JV

Ceramics Slide Lecture with Stephen Mickey
BC 244 · 7 to 8 p.m.

Former Mt. Hood ceramics instructor, Stephen Mickey, will share his work and firing experience in a slide lecture open to the public at no cost.

Movie Night: "Finding Joe"
BC 204 · 7 p.m.
Students, take a break from the mid-term push and join us for "Finding Joe," an inspiring film based on the work Joseph Campbell about how to live a fully realized life through The Hero's Journey. Popcorn and drinks provided by LBCC Student Life & Leadership.

Saturday 11/17
Ceramics Workshop
BC 140 · 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Stephen Mickey will demonstrate his clay techniques in a day-long workshop that includes a no-host potluck.

Monday 11/19
Annual Turkey Trot
Courtyard · Noon
Albany Campus Turkey Trot with raffle tickets for every five laps completed. Open to students, staff, and faculty. Cosponsored by the IACE and Wellness. (Rain Location: Upstairs)

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

Classifieds

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

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

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

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

Help Wanted

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

Administrative Assistant (# 10031 Eugene) Format, type, edit and finalize reports and correspondence from rough drafts. Prepare reports, form letters and other correspondence. Manage computerized records and case tracking system records. Operate local/state law enforcement tracking system. Perform data entry, receptionist duties, receive and prioritize all incoming materials. \$31,009 - \$50,462 / salary Closing date: Nov. 13

Loan Assistant (#10025 Tangent) Assists the Farm Loan Manager in administering farm loan programs in a USDA Service Center serving one or more Counties. Major responsibilities include: Preparing, servicing, and

supervising loans; Providing technical advice, guidance, and credit counseling to loan applicants and borrowers. \$31,315 - \$50,431/per year. Closes: Nov. 16

Loan Specialist (#10026 Tangent) Assists the Farm Loan Manager in administering farm loan programs in a USDA Service Center serving one or more Counties. Requires advanced degree or one year of specialized experience equivalent in difficulty and responsibility to the GS-7 level in the Federal service. Experience that demonstrates competence in agricultural loans. \$47,448 - \$61,678/per year. Closing date: Nov. 16

Store Marketing Representatives (#10028 Albany) In-Store Marketing Representatives promote our Home Improvement products and set appointments with customers to receive a free in-home design consultation and estimate. Lucrative bonus in addition to an hourly wage. Flexible hours (up to 29) hours per week (part-time). Some Benefits Available

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

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

The Arts on Campus

Upcoming Events Offer Something for Everyone

LBCC News Service

Nov. 8 - Music Department Presents Faculty Recital Series

The LBCC Music Department presents a recital featuring LBCC music faculty Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in South Santiam Hall, room SSH-213, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany.

The recital "Autumn Splendor," features music faculty Diane Hawkins on piano and flute, tenors Jason Caffarella and James Reddan, and soprano Patty Gerig performing works celebrating the magnificence of the autumn season.

Tickets are \$5 at the door, \$3 for students and seniors, \$1 for children 12 and under. All proceeds benefit the LBCC Music Department to support future guest artists and provide student scholarships.

The Faculty Recital Series will feature one recital fall and spring term, with performances to be held in SSH-213. The spring term recital, "Musical Mayhem," will be held in May 2013.

For more information, contact LBCC music faculty James Reddan at 541-917-4550. For special needs and accommodations, contact the LBCC Office of Disability Services at Phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 at least 72 hours in advance of this event.

Nov. 14 - Poetry Presentation by former President Rita Cavin

A presentation of original poetry and watercolors by Rita Cavin, former LBCC president, will be held Wednesday, Nov. 14, at 4 p.m. in the college Library Reading Room, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany.

Using poetry and watercolor, Cavin, a Corvallis resident, creates travel journals of the places and people she visits. The program highlights journals she created while in Morocco, India, Baja California, Ireland and Spain.

Cavin was the sixth president of LBCC, retiring in 2010. Since retiring, she has served on community college boards, and as interim president at Umpqua Community College from November 2010 to May 2011.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Robin Havenick at 541-917-4574. For disability accommodations, call 541-917-4789 or TDD 1-800-735-2900.

Nov. 16 and 17 - Benton Center Ceramic Lecture, Workshop

Ceramic artist Stephen Mickey will hold a lecture and workshop at the LBCC Benton Center, 757 Polk Ave. NW, Corvallis Nov. 16 and 17.

Mickey, a former Mt. Hood Community College ceramics instructor and creator of the Soulgama wood-fire kiln, will give a free slide show lecture of his work Friday, Nov. 16 from 7 to 8 p.m. in room BC-244.



Ceramic pieces by artist Stephen Mickey.

provided photo

On Saturday, Nov. 17, Mickey will demonstrate his clay techniques in a workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Benton Center ceramics studio, room BC-140. The workshop includes a no-host potluck at noon. Cost for the workshop is \$35.

Register for the workshop at www.linnbenton.edu or in person the day of the workshop. For more information, contact the Benton Center at 541-757-8944.

Available Now - Music Department Release "Ear Candy" CD

The LBCC Music Department released their internationally-ranked choir's second CD, "Ear Candy," a compilation of a cappella music from classical to pop.

"Ear Candy" features the voices of the LBCC Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir, men's a cappella ensemble Blue Light Special, and the women's a cappella ensemble The Sirens.

The CD features an eclectic collection of works performed by the ensembles from Whitacre's Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine; Clausen's Prayer; Shank's When David Heard; to Price Tag, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Somebody I Used to Know, Apologize, and more.

CD's are \$20, with proceeds benefiting the LBCC Music Department. Purchase online at www.linnbenton.edu/go/tickets, at Gracewinds Music in Corvallis, or at the LBCC Bookstore, Albany campus.

For more information, contact LBCC music faculty James Reddan at 541-917-4550.



"Wreck-It Ralph" Is Wonderful

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

Not into arcades? Don't know anything about gaming? Been living under a rock for the past 30 years? It's okay ... you're still gonna love "Wreck-It Ralph"!

I've been eagerly anticipating the release of this animated feature since I saw the first trailer back in May. Typically, that would mean I'd keep building it up in my mind so that when it finally came time to see it, it'd fall short of the awesomeness I wanted it to be. Leave it to Disney to exceed my high expectations.

The movie is about the world inside video games and what happens when the arcade closes at night. Ralph (voiced by John C. Reilly), is the villain of "Fix-It Felix;" he wrecks things so Felix (Jack McBrayer) can fix them. But, just because Ralph is the "bad guy," it doesn't mean he is a bad guy. He finds his job unfulfilling and just wants to be the hero for once. Is that really so much to ask?

Ralph does a little game jumping and earns himself a medal, but loses it when he crash lands in "Sugar Rush," a candy themed Mario-Kart-esque racing game. He reluctantly teams up with an ostracized racer named Vanellope (Sarah Silverman) to try and get his medal back. But, if he doesn't get back to his own game in time, "Fix-It Felix" may be unplugged forever.

How fantastic was this movie!? I loved every second of it. It has a completely original concept, a really good story, funny characters, terrific casting, amazing art, and enough pop culture references to keep you going back to make sure you catch them all. And you gotta catch 'em all!

From the first trailer I saw with Ralph at a "bad guy" support group surrounded by classic villains like Bowser ("Super Mario Bros."), Clyde ("Pac-Man"), Zangief ("Street Fighter"), Doctor Eggman ("Sonic the Hedgehog") and Zombie (any zombie game), I knew this was going to be an

original movie. This idea that once the arcade closes these characters have lives outside their games is a lot of fun to imagine.

All the games connect to a central station (a power strip) where they can visit other games. For instance, several characters like to frequent "Tapper" for a frosty root beer or the support group I mentioned earlier, which is in "Pac-Man." Walking through the central station, you'll see a plethora of characters and references to other games. It's almost sensory overload at times.

What impressed me most about "Wreck-It Ralph" was the art. "Fix-It Felix" is older, so it has 8-bit graphics. You go from watching these pixelated characters on the arcade game screen to crossing into their world where they're three-dimensional. But still the characters from older games don't look as real and high-def as more modern games like "Hero's Duty." The townspeople of "Fix-It Felix" move very jerky and staccato, which is a bit much to watch, but it's a very minor problem.

The animation is beautiful, and there's an attention to detail that makes little things stand-out. For instance, in one scene, Ralph accidentally smashes a cake, and it splatters everywhere. But the splatter is pixelated.

There are a lot of easter eggs for gamers, but it's really easy to fall in love with this movie, even if you've never stepped into an arcade. The story is about being happy with who you are and realizing that you are not what you do.

The script is really funny, and the voice actors do a lot to bring these characters to life. The four main actors all have great comedic timing and know how to deliver a laugh. Plus, they're surrounded by other strong comedians, like Alan Tudyk, Mindy Kaling, and Adam Carolla.

I can't say enough good things about this movie. There's one tiny plot glitch towards the end, but I didn't really care; this film is freakishly good. Young or old, gamer or not, "Wreck-It Ralph" appeals to the good guy in all of us.

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ASSASSIN'S CREEED III

Mason Le Britton © 2012
Groovysweet.wordpress.com



While inside the Animus, Assassin's Creed 3 takes place during the time of the American Revolution. Starting off as the main protagonist's father, Haytham Kenway.



While on an early mission, I was attacked by a few wolves. I was ready for a quick-time event, or rather thought I was. After I restarted the mission, I decided to just shoot them first.



I got into a bar fight. I was not stealthy, but was pleasantly surprised as I tossed a man into a support beam and knocked him out cold.



Once I had control of Connor, I took him for a run through the woods. Wilderness parkour, it's a beautiful thing.



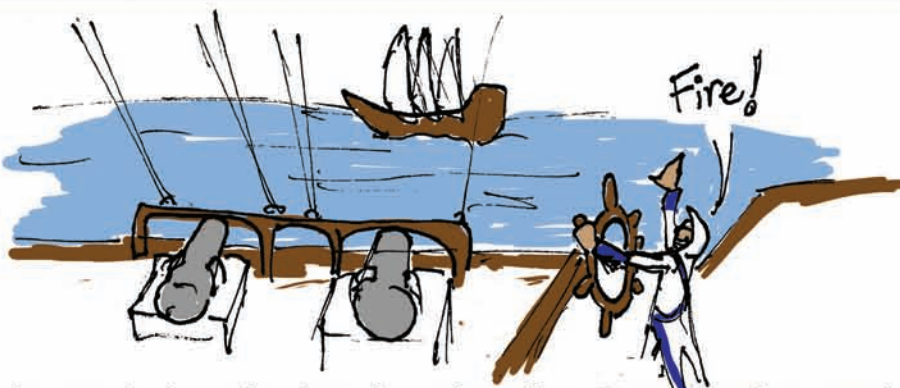
Okay, just take these two down and I'm clear...
oh, dear.
Walking the streets of Boston can be fun, but I tend to get distracted.



The hiding places seem to be a little harder to find on the run than in previous games. I am fine with this though, adds a bit more excitement.



The economic play has been changed to colonizing and upgrading your homestead. Looks promising.



We also see the introduction of naval warfare. You are acting captain: It is up to you to steer, call for the sails, and give the orders to fire the cannons. Don't forget to keep an eye on the direction of the wind. What I'm saying is it's intense but incredibly fun.



With the end of the world looming, Desmond is finally sent on a real mission outside of the Animus. It may have just been a snatch and grab, but I'm looking forward to the chance of more.

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ARIES
 3/21 - 4/19

You have to prove you're a leader in the workplace time and time again. Your higher-ups disagree with your methods, but your coworkers are always at your back. Good looking out.



TAURUS
 4/20 - 5/20

You're pleasant enough company, but darn it, you're distracting as all get-out. You'll either choose to let people get to work (yourself included) or you can be the life of the party.



GEMINI
 5/21 - 6/21

When it comes to recent obligations, you've been somewhat MIA. Your crew misses you, so you should put some effort into making the occasional appearance.



CANCER
 6/22 - 7/22

You can be a little, um, intense for some people. Let's call this intensity "spirited" or "energetic." For a certain someone, you might be just what the doctor ordered.



LEO
 7/23 - 8/22

You're smug. That's the whole story as of late. Do you deserve all that confidence? Well, that's irrelevant. The point is that everyone around you should think you're great.



VIRGO
 8/23 - 9/22

There's too much baggage to be a simple carry-on. It's about time to clean out the ol' closet and start things anew. Find your light load and carry on.



LIBRA
 9/23 - 10/23

There's a chance you're mulling over a silly choice. You've come so far, so why don't you just finish up really quick? Finances have you down, yeah? Screw money, buddy.



SCORPIO
 10/24 - 11/21

Advice from you is always bold and blunt. There's at least one person in your life who could use that kick in the pants. Feel free to do your mentor thing exactly the way to want.



SAGITTARIUS
 11/22 - 12/21

You are an all-star. Everyone saw it in you from the very beginning, but you now have more than enough merit badges to prove it to even those who don't know you yet.



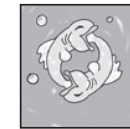
CAPRICORN
 12/22 - 1/19

Everyone knows you work hard, but they have no idea just how hard. You tend to keep most of what you do under wraps, all modest-like. You're a beast.



AQUARIUS
 1/20 - 2/18

You've been trudging valiantly through the tedium of your chosen tasks. No one wants to do what you do, but you work hard at it and take great pride in everything you do.



PISCES
 2/19 - 3/20

Rejecting the beaten path, you forged your own. You've accomplished so much in such a short amount of time. You're an inspiration in all those left in your wake.

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By Jason Maddox
 An LBCC student-generated comic



Poetry Spotlight

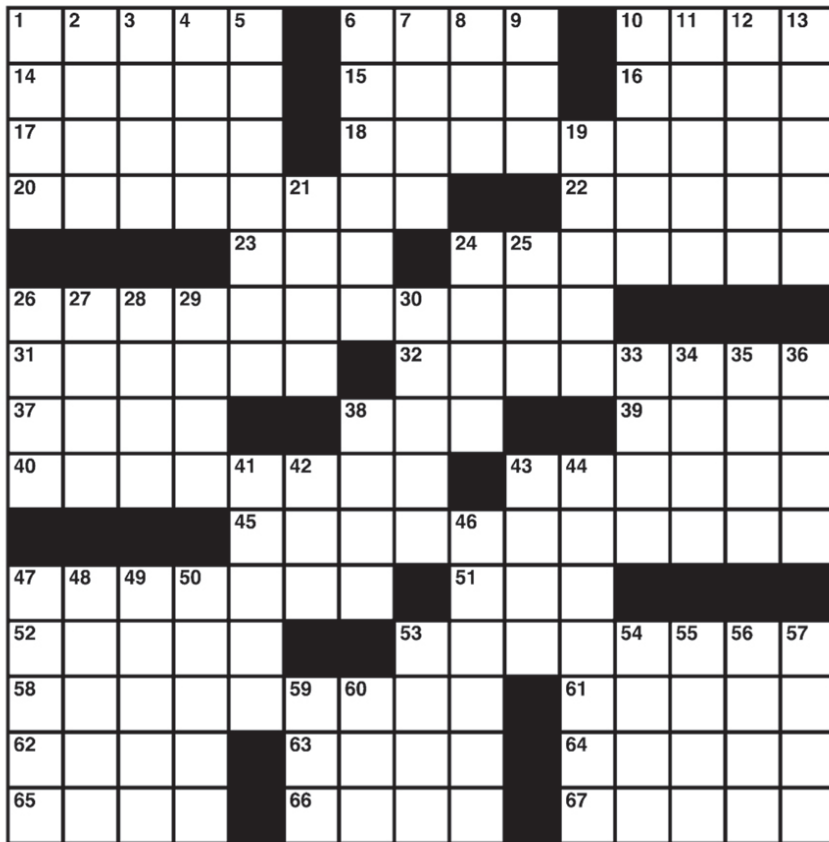
My Dream
by Mekayla Howard

I have a dream,
Deep within my heart,
That in all that I do,
I will never fall apart.
I have a dream,
To find a love so profound,
That will keep me moving
And spin my world around.
I have a dream,
That my stories will be heard,
I will touch someone's heart,
And they will find a connection within each and every word.



Submit your poems and artwork to commuter@linnbenton.edu

- ACROSS**
- Sirs' counterparts
 - "Fernando" singers
 - Endure
 - Have ___ on one's shoulder
 - Defeat soundly
 - Sailor's patron saint
 - Another name for Farsi
 - *Undeveloped home site
 - Slangy "Don't lose any sleep over it"
 - Overdo it on stage
 - W. Hemisphere gp. formed to defend against communism
 - Made changes to
 - *1977 Triple Crown winner
 - Tell-all news story
 - One just hanging out
 - Antiquing substance
 - Heartache
 - Pouty expression
 - Evade
 - A ___: valid independent of experience, in logic
 - *2,240-pound unit
 - Handyman's nickname
 - Poetic dusk
 - Windy City airport
 - At risk
 - *Huck Finn conveyance
 - Neighbor of Florida's St. Petersburg
 - Shortly, to Shakespeare
 - Vaulted church part
 - Writer Nin
 - Wisdom of the elders
 - Cattle rancher's tool
 - The answer to each starred clue ends in a big one



By Bruce Venzke

- DOWN**
- Everystreet
 - Prefix with bat or phobia
 - Obsessed fictional whaler
 - Revealing skirt
 - Urn taps
 - Give counsel to
 - Highlands hillside
 - 61-Across NFLer
 - Lawyers' org.
 - "Here, I'll do that"
 - "It's ___ nothing!"
 - Hit, biblical-style
 - Schlepped
 - Meas. of a package's contents
 - It's not quite a hurricane
 - Medicinal plant
 - Luau memento
 - Aegean and Bering
 - Military vet
 - Imitated
 - Ripped
 - Hillside
 - Jannings of old films
 - Underlying cause
 - Continental currency

Last Week's Puzzle Solved



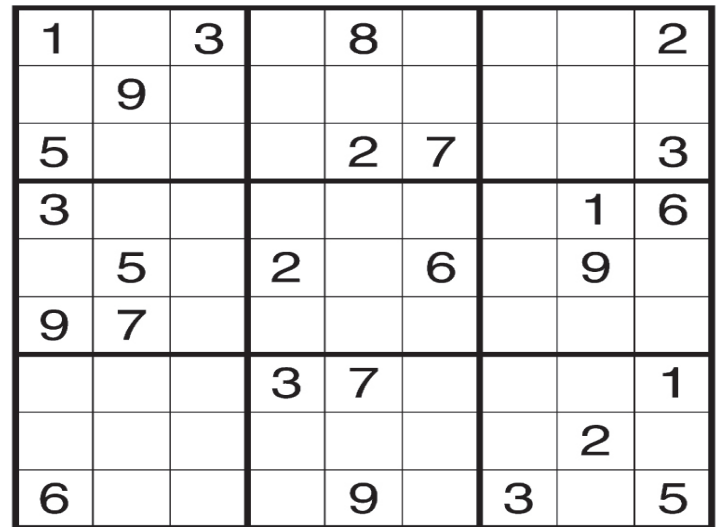
(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- Harness lead
- Cried
- Philly cager
- 1979 meltdown site, briefly
- Like the Piper's clothes
- Drank on credit
- Like many a tux
- Story's lesson
- Horned safari beast
- Party gift
- "I'll see you in my dreams" girl of song
- Should that be the case
- When repeated, Mork's sign-off
- FBI agent
- Grand in scope
- Impulsive
- Knock
- Month after Mar.

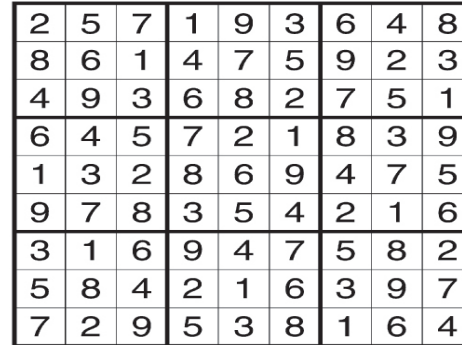
SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level: 1 2 3 4



Last Week's Puzzle Solved



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

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Groovysweet.wordpress.com

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton

Meet Some Choir Kids: Alita Stauber and Erik Henry

Tiffany Curran
Staff Writer

Have you ever been to a music concert and wished you could really get to know the performers? LBCC's music department would like to introduce some of its students and show the diversity and talent amongst the group.

Alita Stauber

Alita Stauber, 18, is a new member of LBCC's Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir. She is from Philomath High School and has been attending LBCC going on three years now, funded through her high school.

When asked about her experience as a new chamber choir member, Stauber said "Chamber Choir is definitely more intense than I was expecting, but it's been so great! All the music classes I've taken have been phenomenal, and I've learned so much. I highly recommend all the music classes LB has to offer."

Stauber is undecided in her degree, but is seriously considering psychology. "I find it really, really fascinating," she said. In addition to psychology, Stauber is extremely interested and quite talented in music. For her senior project in high school, she chose to write a five-song album with her mentor and local country artist, Jackson Michelson, who she says helped her in every aspect to make the album possible.

Michelson played guitar and sang on the album. He was very involved in the recording process as well. Her project was recorded in Vancouver, Wash., and should be released in the next



provided photos

Two LBCC choir students: Alita Stauber (left) and Erik Henry.

couple of months under her stage name 'Alita Rai.'

The introspective singer loves all music, but country music in particular holds a special place in her heart. She often walks around the house singing whatever random song is in her head, which amusingly has been Elmo's theme song lately.

Her own music, however, has been likened to a mash-up between Taylor Swift and Colbie Caillat. Stauber's smoky yet silvery voice flows perfectly with her upbeat, polished, and radio-friendly country-pop songs.

Stauber's advice to new students includes connecting with an advisor as soon as possible, making a plan together, and checking in regularly. She always makes sure to find classes that interest her, even if they aren't in her particular

field of study.

"Going to class is so important," says Stauber. "That may seem obvious, but making it to as many classes as possible is highly beneficial. There are so many things professors cover in class that you won't get just by reading the text or borrowing someone's notes."

Whether she goes into psychology or primarily focuses on music, Stauber is going places. The music department is lucky to have her.

Erik Henry

Have you ever met a police officer who loved to sing? Erik Henry would love to be just that.

Aspiring to join the FBI, Erik Henry is double majoring in music and communications. His plan is to join the police academy after finishing at LBCC and eventually join the FBI with

a psychology degree to investigate crime scenes and potentially solve murders.

Henry, 20, is also in his third year as a member of the chamber choir and loves choral music. After graduating from South Medford High, Henry came to LBCC at the recommendation of Steven Zielke, the head of choral studies at OSU.

Even though Henry loves choral music and singing, he really wants to have a career in law enforcement and eventually work his way into politics. He is demonstrating his career aspirations already by joining LBCC's Student Leadership Council. Henry is executive assistant, which places him second in the chain of power to the president, Amanda McCowen.

He says SLC helped teach him important workplace skills and he's made some of his best friends on the team. Making the students on campus happy through organizing events has been a pleasure for Henry.

Henry's advice to new students is simple: get involved. "Find a club, start a club. Just do something you enjoy, because that'll be what makes your experience the best it can be," he said. What helped Henry be successful so far in college was finding people who share similar goals and drive, and also finding instructors that he can really connect with.

Henry has an exciting career ahead of him and a strong head on his shoulders. He will certainly help make the world a better place with his brave heart. Whatever he ends up doing, it will be something that impacts people's lives in a positive way.

Call for Photogs: LBCC Hosts 33rd Bob Ross Nature Photography Show

LBCC News Service

The 33rd Annual Bob Ross Open Invitational Nature Photography Show will be held at LBCC on Friday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. in F-104.

This is a free, non-juried show and is open to anyone to attend, weather you are showing photographs or just want to see what others are doing in the field.

This year's theme is "Interspecies Interactions, or Evidence of Animals." Nature for this purpose is defined as plants, animals, landscapes, rocks, clouds, water, or anything else that one finds in nature and that lacks any evidence of humans. No architecture, vehicles, hot air balloons, or backpackers, etc.

Nature photographers from throughout the Willamette Valley gather each year on this occasion to celebrate nature and share their experiences, techniques, favorite places, and things to see.

Please limit your photographs to no more than 15 digital images. No major manipulation of the photos is allowed. A slight adjustment to brightness, contrast, or balance is acceptable.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Bob Ross at 541-928-3711 or email at rosspix@comcast.net.

Hanks' Epic Doesn't Disappoint

Will Tatum
Staff Writer

If you haven't heard about it yet, "Cloud Atlas" is one of the most diverse and broad films I have ever seen. There are few movies that moved me in the way that "Cloud Atlas" did: From the symphonic score to the awe-inspiring cinematography and special effects.

"Cloud Atlas" hits all the right notes and doesn't overdo the special effects from a production standpoint. On top of the amazing production is a top-notch story that blends together the cerebral with the emotional. "Cloud Atlas" will leave you not just thinking, but feeling.

The film is a collection of several different narratives spanning over several thousand years. The characters are bound together through space and time by love, tragedy, and a steadfast refusal to accept oppression. The directors accomplish this by using the same actors in most of the narratives and by using different aspects of the Cloud Atlas Sextet, which was composed by director Tom Tykwer.

To say that "Cloud Atlas" has "a musical component" would be an understatement. As much of the story is told through music as it is through dialogue and special effects.



Each narrative has a different portion of the sextet, the piece builds throughout the movie, climaxing just as the movie reaches its apex. The score accompanying "Cloud Atlas" rivals the musicality of the "Moulin Rouge."

Beyond just production and composing, the acting on display by Halle Berry, Tom Hanks, Hugo Weaving, and Jim Broadbent will likely be award-

winning. While the Wachowski brothers brought their unique and excellent stage production to the film, Tom Tykwer really knocked it out of the park in terms of the plot development and making the characters "real" for the viewer.

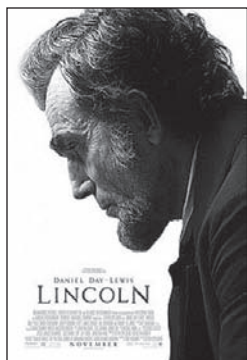
I laughed out loud during a scene where one of the characters, in an attempt at escape from a facility, shouts to the other inmates, "Soylent Green is people!" only to be apprehended by the staff and dragged back inside.

What really sold me on this film, though, was its blending of philosophy with narrative. Stories evolved as a means of exchanging cultural knowledge between generations and peoples. Of late, most of the films on display in Hollywood have been vapid, violent, or generally menial.

"Cloud Atlas" rises above, delivering solid acting that conveys important philosophical truths related to humanity and our place in the universe. This is encapsulated by one line that is repeated a few times throughout the movie, "Our lives are not our own. From womb to tomb, we are bound to others, past and present, and by each crime and every kindness, we birth our future."

I won't lie, "Cloud Atlas" is a long movie, but you will not be disappointed. Do yourself a favor: go watch "Cloud Atlas."

THIS WEEKEND AT THE MOVIES



Lincoln
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Bio



Skyfall
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Bond

Sources: IMDb, Yahoo! Movies, Fandango.com

WEATHER

Wednesday (11/7)	Cloudy	56°/37°	
Thursday (11/8)	Wet	48°/34°	
Friday (11/9)	Showery	48°/32°	
Saturday (11/10)	Sunny	49°/33°	
Sunday (11/11)	Chilly	48°/40°	
Monday (11/12)	Lite Rain	52°/41°	
Tuesday (11/13)	Party Sunny	52°/37°	

Source: accuweather.com