

The

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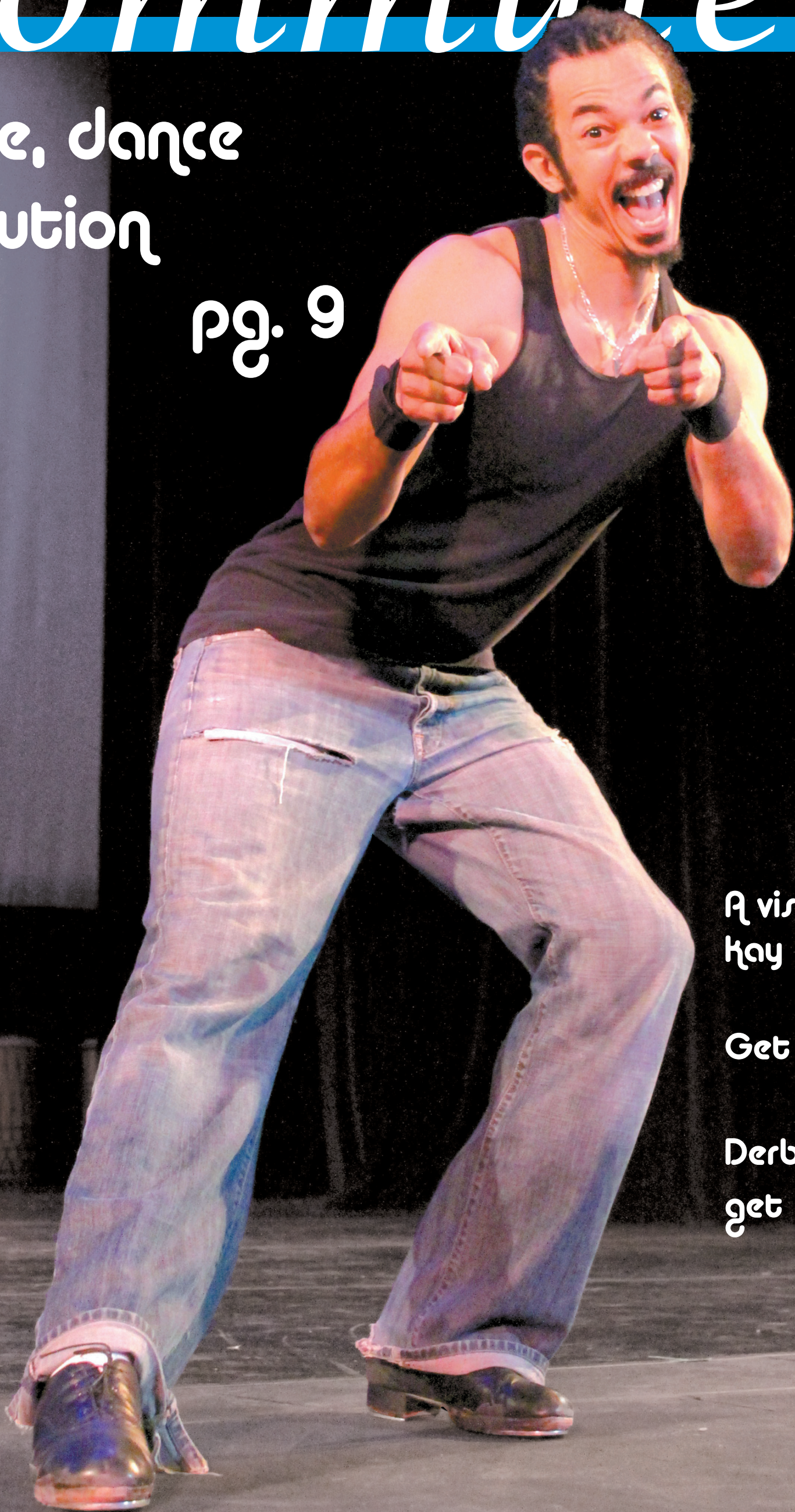
A Weekly Student Publication

May 19, 2010

Commuter

Dance, dance
revolution

pg. 9



Inside:

A visit from
Kay Ryan

pg. 5

Get abducted

pg. 8

Derby dames
get rolled

pg. 10

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Max Brown
Managing Editor: Justin Bolger
Newsroom Desk: 541-917-4451
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu

Campus News

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

Office Hours: Q&A with Karelia Stetz-Waters

Alx George
 Staff Writer

Commuter: What got you involved with poetry and teaching?

Karelia Stetz-Waters: I have two degrees in literature so that encompasses a lot of poetry. My specialty is actually technical and business writing, but in this department everyone teaches some literature and some composition. Intro to Poetry is definitely the literature class I feel most comfortable teaching. I've always loved poetry. I like to write it, like to read it. This term I get to teach two sections of poetry which is a rare pleasure.



Karelia Stetz-Waters

Photo by
 Alx George

C: What do you like about it?

KSW: I like the fact that it's an easy entrance into literature. Every once in a while I'll ask students, "Why did you take poetry?" and some will say, "Because poems are short," and I'll say, "Yeah, I like that too," because it's hard for an Introduction to Literature student if they're not already into literature to be presented with a 50-page essay or a 50-page short story or a 500-page book. It's daunting, whereas poetry can be as short as three lines. So for me, as a teacher, there are a lot of opportunities to get people into it, excited about it, and a lot of ways that we can cover something that's interesting to everyone.

C: How did you learn about Kay Ryan and what do you like about her work?

KSW:

My mother is in a poetry reading group that's been going on for 34 years. I believe she was the one who got me into Kay Ryan because they were reading Kay Ryan for one of their discussion groups. I love that her poems do not wear their heart on their sleeve. The emotions expressed are very powerful and very controlled, especially her more recent poems that she wrote while her partner of many years was dying. I am really moved by that control.

C: Why did you decide to take up writing poetry?

KSW: I wrote a lot of poetry in high school and loved it. My parents love poetry and would read poetry in the

evening to each other, would quote poetry, would share poetry just as part of their day-to-day life ... so I grew up really with all the great American and British poets already in my mind. I imagine it's like a language from church. It's familiar and they know the stories and they know the prayers and the songs, and I have that same affinity with poetry.

C: Are you looking to be published?

KSW: I am. I enjoyed Kay Ryan's presentation. She said it had taken her about 20 years of rejection to finally get published or get a lot of acclaim. So I'm about 10 years in to my rejection. I have written a memoir that was represented by a very prestigious agent. She also represents Barack Obama, so it was a great honor to get her, but she couldn't sell my book, so then it became a dubious honor. Now New York's best agent couldn't sell my book. She said it was hard to sell memoirs from unknown people and that I should give it a little bit of time.

C: What is the most important piece of advice you would give to students?

KSW: It's so clichéd but anyone can succeed if they put in enough hours. The reason I see students not succeed is pretty much never lack of innate intelligence or even lack of good heart. It's lack of putting in the time. And that's not always people's fault. They've got a lot of other responsibilities. But if there is a student out there who is thinking, "I don't

Where to find

Karelia Stetz-Waters

Office: NSH - 212

Phone: 541-917-4556

E-mail: stetzwk@linnbenton.edu

Website: kareliastetzwaters.com

Office Hours: Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday 11-noon, 2-3 p.m.

Bibliography:

(more details on website)

"Suburban Love Stories"

(memoir): "I wanted to write a book that really celebrated the many people who support gay and lesbian children or teenagers without getting much acclaim."

"The Best Days of Cigarette City and More" (novel): Romantic story of four people trying to make it in Portland.

"Luce" (work in progress): "It's going to be a supernatural thriller so it'll be full of sex and violence which is really out of character for me."

Turn to page 14 to read Stetz-Waters' favorite poem, "Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver

know if I'm smart enough for college. I don't have a mind for math or English." I would tell that person, "Yes you do." And it is just a matter of putting in the hours. If you look at someone and they just seem to get it, it's because they put in the hours earlier. I have seen students succeed who have overcome huge obstacles. And it's always because they've been willing and able to put in the time. It's like Woody Allen's quote: "90 percent of life is just showing up."

Albany Sings!

LBCC Performing Arts
 Department presents

Featuring choirs from
 Linn-Benton Community College,
 Albany High Schools and
 Albany Middle Schools

Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.

First Assembly of God Church

2817 Santiam Hwy. SE, Albany

Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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.

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The history of LBCC

Cameron Vasseur
 Staff Writer

Try for a moment to imagine LBCC not being here. Hard to imagine that world, isn't it?

These days, "people would think you were crazy if you asked them if they wanted to remove the community college," said Rosemary Bennett, author of "The History of Linn-Benton Community College."

In 1966, when the only planned community colleges to serve Linn and Benton counties were Chemeketa and Lane, local men and women petitioned the state to create another community college district centered in Albany.

The creation of LBCC was met with heavy scrutiny and outright opposition for a large portion of its first years. People were concerned about having to pay for the building and its funding because the project was not supported by the state.

"So many times the budget failed and it looked like we weren't going to open in the fall," said Bennett.

A graduate of University of Oregon and Oregon State University, Bennett came to work at LBCC in 1977. In her time at LBCC she held several jobs before finally becoming a counselor for 32 years.

"The idea hit me in 2003," she said regarding her book.

The president of LB at that time, John Carnahan, wanted to do something special for the school's 40th anniversary in 2007. She began interviewing people who worked for the Albany Democrat-Herald and The Commuter during LBCC's founding.

"I went off of my own memories as well," Bennett said.

But the problem with such a large project was getting it right. In the 1980s, when the job market began to shift away from the timber industry, the public opinion of LB changed because many people had to come back to school to be retrained. The school began to flourish after almost 20 years of being put down in the public eye.

Though the first draft of her book was finished in 2007, she had trouble finding someone who would publish her work; in 2008 she found a self-publishing company called Xilbrus. The editing was done in late 2009. Helping Bennett with the project was Marleen Propst, Jane White and Bob Talbot, all of whom contributed research and corrections for the project.

The book has been out a month and is currently available in the LBCC Bookstore, the Foundation Office and on www.amazon.com.

"I just want to stress how indebted [I am] to both The Commuter and LBCC staff that got the story, both comprehensive as well as anecdotal," said Bennett.



Albany Kali

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- ▶ Single Knife
- ▶ Dos Manos

www.albanykali.com

Summer is about service!

Building Bridges program is now recruiting a select few AmeriCorps*VISTA members for six summer positions. Perform volunteer service across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties from June 21 to August 20, 2010. Benefits include an \$850 monthly living allowance and a \$1132 education award for completion of service.

Contact Jeannie Ramsey by June 1, 2010 at jramsey@communityservices.us

Another year for the Festival of Hope

Chris Foster
 Staff Writer

Looking for a way to give back to the community and those in need? Check out the Festival of Hope here at Linn-Benton's Albany campus May 22.

For the second year, local business and organizations are coming together to help those in need. The Festival of Hope was formed to raise money for underfunded agencies around Albany who supply help to those struggling with life challenges.

For years, money has been raised for organizations such as Albany Helping Hands, CASA of Linn County and FISH of Albany through community wide auctions.

This proved to be unsuccessful. With different organizations holding auctions, competition prevented any real development for those needing funds.

That's when LB instructor Bob Ross had an idea. Instead of the companies spreading the opportunity for funds so thin, the FoH was

formed last year. The event brought together various community businesses to raise money. Despite being a two-day event, 2009's FoH was a "poor" success according to Ross. Held during graduation week, the attendees were very few.

This year, Ross included some changes. The festival runs for just one day. More events have been planned, including more kid-friendly opportunities.

The entire event will be on Albany's campus. Over thirty food vendors will be at the event. Around thirteen arts and crafts vendors are going to be on campus.

Starting at 10 a.m., a 5k and 2k run/walk and a 500m kids dash will be held. Six bands will be performing throughout the day of varying genres, including a band featuring LB's own

Mark Weiss.

Headlining the music portion will be Misty River Band, a quartet of women who call the Pacific Northwest home, playing their own material and award-winning original songs.

While the event is free

to the public, some activities have a small fee. The Misty River Band portion is \$18 for general seating and \$25 for center front seating that includes a backstage pass.

Benefiting agencies included are Linn-Benton Mediation Services, Pastoral Counseling Center and Volunteer Caregivers. The festival is being sponsored this year by Western University of Health Sciences, Knife River, Kiwanis and local businesses like National Frozen Foods, Oberto Beef Jerky, Allan Bros. Coffee and Coldwell Banker Brokers.

Originating sponsors include the Albany Mennoite Church, First Christian Church and LBCC's Institute of Peace and Justice (a faculty member group promoting peace and justice locally and internationally).

The goal this year is to raise \$20,000. Originator Bob Ross stated it provides community awareness, and Linn-Benton is a part of that community.

The entire FoH runs from 10 a.m. till the evening show with Misty River starting at 7:30 p.m. The concert goes until 10 p.m. For more information, check out www.AlbanyFestivalofHope.net.

To learn more or to donate contact:
Albany Helping hands: albanyhh.org
CASA: linncasa.org
FISH: (541)928-4460
LinnBenton Mediation: linnbentonmediation.qwestoffice.net
Pastoral Counseling: pccmidvalley.org
Volunteer Cargivers: (541)928-2173

Free Forum on DIVERSITY



May 24, 2010

12-1p.m. • LBCC Courtyard*

**Move to Forum Building F-104, in case of rain.*

A panel of LBCC staff & students will discuss the results of the recent Diversity Survey. Includes time for Q & A. Moderated by Lynn Cox, Associate Dean of Student Services.

Sponsored by LBCC's Diversity Achievement Center For details, contact Art Mota at 541-9174467 or art.mota@linnbenton.edu

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THE COMMONS FARE

5/19-5/25

Wednesday

Dishes: Cassoulet, Pork Schnitzel and Carey Pocket
 Soup: Beef Consommé and Corn Chowder

Thursday

Dishes: Braised Pork Shanks, Casserole-Poached Chicken and Tempura Vegetables
 Soups: Spanish Chicken and Split Pea

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Dishes: Garlic Sticky Chicken, Spaghetti and Meatballs and Tofu Phad Thai
 Soup: Salmon Chowder and Wild Rice

Tuesday

Dishes: Chicken Parmesan Sandwich, Garlic Shrimp Tacos and Sweet & Sour Tempheh
 Soups: Chicken Noodle and Cream of Asparagus

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Wednesday 5/19
Courtyard Lunch: Jamaican Hamburgers
 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. • Courtyard
 Head out to the courtyard for some mouthwatering Jamaican

Hamburgers and support LBCC Clubs & Organizations! Lunch will include hamburger or vegetarian option, all the fixings, chips, cookie and soda. Cost is \$3.50 for students and \$4.50 for staff.

Dare to Repair Your Car!
 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. • Courtyard
 Dare to Repair is back! Only this time we are putting a different twist and we'll be tackling basic car care & safety. Come to the courtyard & join some of our female students from the Automotive Technology Program! This event is sponsored

by the Non-Traditional Careers Program.

Thursday 5/20
Math Awareness Day

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Courtyard
 MAW is an annual event held by LBCC mathematics department. Come and enjoy math games, ice cream and root beer floats. T-shirts designed by Cathy Lovingier are for sale in the Learning Center; they are \$10 each.

Friday 5/21
Benton Center Acoustic Showcase

Noon – 1 p.m. • Benton Center

Student Lounge

Three Fingered Jack graces the stage for the next Benton Center Acoustic Showcase. Corvallis-based Three Fingered Jack taps into the deep roots of the Celtic world. They are known for driving Scottish reels and lilting Irish jigs punctuated by proud and dear traditional ballads, tightly harmonized waltzes, and the occasional drinking song. With fiddle, guitar, bouzouki, cello, whistle, bodhran, and vocals, theirs is a powerful and layered sound.

Saturday 5/22

Festival of Hope

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. • Albany Campus
 The Albany festival is a day long, family oriented fundraising event sponsored by an alliance of local businesses and institutions dedicated to assisting people in Albany who struggle with various life challenges. Events include a 2K or 5K walk or run, a 500-meter kid's dash, arts and crafts booths, food vendors, music contests and demonstrations, kids activities such as face painting, cakewalk, obstacle course, and more. For more information or to register for the walk, run, or kid's dash, visit online at www.albanyfestivalofhope.net. Sponsored by Albany Mennonite Church, First Christian Church, and LBCC Institute for Peace and Justice.

Wednesday 5/26

Diversity Day

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Courtyard
 Student Life & Leadership and the Diversity Achievement Center would like to invite you to our first annual Diversity Day celebration! This event will highlight some of the ways we explore and experience diversity at LBCC. Events for the day will include music, a fashion show, the Clothesline Project and so much more! Hope to see you there!

Courtyard Lunch: Curry Chicken

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. • Courtyard
 Fill your tummy with delicious curry chicken and support LBCC Clubs & Organizations! Lunch will include curry chicken or vegetarian option, vegetables, chips, cookie and a soda. Cost is \$3.50 for students and \$4.50 for staff.

The Valley Writer's Series: Ted Cox

Noon • F-115
 His book, "Murray Loop," is an absorbing five-generation story of a family who in desperation leave Scotland in 1841 seeking a better life on the American continent. Since 1977, Ted has owned and operated the Old World Deli in downtown Corvallis, Oregon. You won't want to miss this! For more information, contact the Valley Writers Series Co-coordinators Jane White (whitej@linnbenton.edu) or Lucette Wood (woodl@linnbenton.edu).

Rosemary Bennett Book Signing

3 p.m. • Library
 Retired LBCC counselor Rosemary Bennett will hold a book signing for her new book titled "The History of Linn-Benton Community College." Bennett's book will be available for purchase at the book signing, through the LBCC Foundation and at the LBCC Bookstore, or online at Xlibris, Amazon, Borders, and Barnes and Noble.

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

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New garden to grow community

Lacey Jarrell
 Staff Writer

Ever yearn to produce your own produce?

You may have the opportunity to harvest your own organic vegetables this spring if you participate in the new Linn-Benton Community Garden.

Spearheaded by LBCC Horticulture Club members Jonas Hoffman and Gabriella Coughlin, the new community garden will feature 8 - 12' by 12' plots available to students, staff and community members. The plots will be located on campus behind the Periwinkle Daycare Center and can be purchased for the spring-summer growing season for \$30 and for a full spring-fall growing season for \$50.

"We're really excited to get people interested in gardening," said Hoffman.

To many producing food is the primary benefit of community gardens, however, communal gardens offer more than just chow.

Hoffman says that the garden plays an important role in educating ourselves in how our food is processed.

"There is a big difference between what you grow yourself and what you can get in the store," said Hoffman.

According to the American Community Gardening Association, "A community garden plot can be the first step toward self-sufficiency," allowing families who are otherwise unable to grow produce the opportunity to do so.

Albany resident Glenda Fleming has already begun working in her plot at the Linn-Benton community garden.

Lack of sun at her residence pushed her out of her home garden, and distance has kept her from community gardens in neighboring cities. Fleming says she is glad the garden is finally here. "Not only is the garden at LBCC a great addition to the community," said Fleming, "but it also has many unseen benefits."

Not only are nutritional benefits a major inspiration for growing your own produce, but promoting healthy soil is also important.

"Without organic matter,



LB President Greg Hamann works in the school's garden.

Photo by Cameron Vasseur

5 benefits of community gardens

1. Stimulates social interaction
2. Reduces family food budgets
3. Encourages self-reliance
4. Produces nutritious food
5. Promotes neighborhood and community development

source: www.communitygarden.org

soil gets depleted, it becomes less absorbent and is more susceptible to wind erosion," said Fleming.

Growers will also have the option of consulting with a garden manager who will be on hand to advise growers in soil fertility, crop rotation and organic pest management throughout the season.

"Because we've been through horticulture classes like pest control and organic gardening, we've been given a good base to show people everything we've learned in a very user friendly way," said Coughlin.

Given that the garden is aimed at growing organic fruits, vegetables, and flowers only, gardeners will be asked not to use pesticides or synthetic fertilizers.

Gardeners will be encouraged to utilize resources such as the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). According to website www.omri.org, OMRI is a non-profit organization that independently reviews organic products for use in certified organic production, handling and processing.

The horticulture club is currently seeking to fill the position of garden manager. Requirements of the position include duties such as providing information on garden related topics and overseeing proper utilization of the garden space. The position may be used as CWE or practicum for those interested.

Selena Gwin
 Copy Editor

It's not every day that a U.S. Poet Laureate hangs out at LBCC. But last week, that's just what happened.

Kay Ryan, the current U.S. Library of Congress poet laureate, held a standing room-only poetry reading on Wednesday in the Russell Tripp Performance Center. It was followed by a question-and-answer session with students and staff in the LBCC Library Reading Room on Thursday morning.

Ryan, who was appointed poet laureate in 2008, has published several books and is the recipient of numerous awards, including a National Endowments for the Arts fellowship in 2001. On Thursday, more than 70 students peeked over bookcases, sat on the floor and leaned against walls as she described her work, her life and her inspirations.

"Amusement is a big source of my works," Ryan responded when asked about her influences. "I think silly is very important."

It shows. With her dark-rimmed glasses and scholarly blazer, Kay Ryan looks serious, but from the very beginning she was warm and engaging.

"I didn't expect her to be laugh-out-loud funny," said LBCC instructor Karelia Stetz-Waters.

But for the hard work of LB instructor Robin Havenick, Ryan wouldn't have stopped by here at all.

"I want everybody in the world to know that poetry is alive and well," Havenick said.

While promoting poetry at LB, she attempted to contact Ryan, but had no luck until

discovering that Ryan was to read in Eugene this month. She was able to get Ryan's number, and sent an e-mail with the hope of getting Ryan to come here as well.

"I'll never forget the e-mail I got from the agent. The subject line is 'Kay accepts.' (It was such a beautiful day," said Havenick.

Amy Earls, LBCC's poet laureate, started off the Thursday session by introducing Ryan and her work. Then Earls read a poem she wrote about Ryan, titled "Then There Was You."

Ryan, who lives in Marin, Calif., spent over 20 years teaching remedial English at the local community college. Although the position of poet laureate comes with an office in the Library of Congress, she said she doesn't spend time there.

"I don't do well with responsibility, so I don't take much," Ryan said.

She even joked about her position, saying it doesn't leave her much spare time and that they give the award "so writers will stop writing!"

Ryan first became interested in poetry as a college student when one of her professors refused to teach Emily Dickenson because it was too important. To Ryan, that forbidden fruit was irresistible.

Even after hundreds of rejections, poetry is "still the most exciting game in town" for Ryan. She describes it as "self-nourishing," even when she was "profoundly frustrated."

As the poet laureate, however, Ryan doesn't feel compelled to write about the world's problems. Instead, she writes about what interests her.

"I do it hoping it will interest others," Ryan said. She spoke of her poems as being "like



pieces of some picture I'll never finish making."

Using a yellow pad and a pen, she starts by writing the title of the poem first, a sort of literary question that she then has to answer.

When asked about the length of her works, Ryan jokingly called her poems "size-challenged." For her, short poems and lines are more natural, and she likes to make the "lines bounce around in amusing ways."

But not too much fun. Ryan said students who are serious about writing need to set aside time. When she started writing, she had to make it important to her, so it would be important to others.

"If you want to do something, you have to develop a discipline to do it."

She also encouraged students to submit their work to a "stranger's eyes."

"Writing with an audience makes you clean it up," noted Ryan, who compared writing poetry to tending a garden, a delicate process that requires boundaries and protection.

Even though she enjoys the honor of being the U.S. poet laureate, discipline is something that Ryan is looking forward to letting go of. When her tenure is over, she is looking forward to more bike riding, living a civilian life, and "failing on a regular basis."

Kay Ryan: A triumphant visit

Seeking LB's new Poet Laureate

Chris Foster
 Staff Writer

Roses are red, violets are blue. Do you have a passion for poetry and think you can do better? You could be LB's new poet laureate.

The poet laureate should desire to promote poetry. They take an active role in the enhancement of poetry for the school and the students and write poetry for campus events such as building dedications.

The poet laureate will receive \$250 per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring). A continued stipend based on active involvement in promoting poetry is available as well.

To apply, students must submit an

application, a letter of recommendation from an LB faculty member, six examples of their own poetry, an essay showing their passion for poetry and how they will promote the poetry experience for LB.

All applications must be turned in to the Library Reference Counter no later than May 24. On Friday, May 28, interviews and selections will be made. Those selected will do a final interview with the Selection Committee, read a poem of their own and answer questions about their plans for poetry at LB.

For more information or an application, contact Robin Havenick at robin.havenick@linnbenton.edu or 541-917-4574. Contact LB's current poet laureate Amy Earls at amyears14@gmail.com.

For more information, contact:

Jonas Hoffman at jhoff014@hotmail.com
 Gabriella Coughlin at coughlg@ml.linnbenton.edu

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Chapman helps students reach for the stars

Lacey Jarrell
 Staff Writer

If you asked her what her favorite planet was, Esther Lynn Chapman would tell you it was Venus. She would also quickly point out that it was in third grade that her love affair with astronomy began, and that Mars was her first crush.

Chapman has been working in LBCC's tutoring center since Sept. 2009, and is creating quite a stir. She began tutoring individual students, and less than a year later, she was privately tutoring groups at the request of students. The 24-year-old Cornell University graduate tutors about 50 students a week in all levels of math, chemistry and physics.

Chapman professes she doesn't have a favorite subject to tutor.

"I love all of them for different reasons."

Dividing her time between the Math Help Desk, private tutoring and assisting in Math 20, Chapman uses a variety of techniques to illustrate key concepts to students with different learning styles.

Just ask couple Bill and Alice Todd who have been working with Chapman for two terms now.

"She'll explain something to you and use the [white] board. If you still don't understand, she will try something different. Sometimes she gets really animated," said Alice.

Alice, 47, recalled a tutoring session in which Chapman was explaining how photons are absorbed, and to further illustrate the point, actually walked into a wall.

"She has such a unique way of explaining things, how to get you to where you need to be. She will just keep trying different techniques until you understand," Alice said.

Bill, 60, explained that after having been out of school for some time, it was hard to remember all the concepts for his classes. With the help of Chapman, he and his wife were able to get good grades and become members of the honor societies Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta.



Esther Lynn Chapman helps students with a math problem in the Learning Center.

Photo by Lacey Jarrell

Due to her immense passion for science, Chapman has studied physics and chemistry throughout her educational career, graduating with a Bachelor's of Physics from Cornell University. While tutoring physics, she uses her personal experience as an astrophysicist research student to help students learn. During the summer position, she was able to use infrared to study what role polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons play in the formation of stars.

Although she no longer owns a telescope, Chapman says astronomy will always be a hobby.

Born in Colorado Springs, Colo., Chapman ended up in Oregon on a bet. During her freshman year in college, Chapman found herself debating with a fellow classmate about which state was better: Oregon or Colorado. The students decided the best way to decide was to take a road trip. After visiting Colorado, the students spent four days in Oregon visiting the Columbia Gorge, crabbing and seeing the ocean for the first time. Who won the rivalry?

"Needless to say, Oregon won and that's why I'm here."

Diversity on LBCC campus

If LBCC had a strong diversity program now, what will the college look like in five years?

This is the question that the Diversity Achievement Center (DAC) and the Diversity and Civic Engagement Council (DCE) is asking students, faculty and staff at the Diversity Forum on May 24 at noon in the Courtyard (Forum 104 in case of bad weather).

The forum is being held to discuss the results of

the recent staff and student diversity survey. Generally the survey results were positive, however, the results clearly show that we have work to do as a community in order to improve our campus climate. The Forum is an opportunity to make comments and offer input and suggestions for where efforts might be taken to enhance the campus climate towards diversity.

Additional feedback will be collected during Diversity Day on May 26th.

The DCE will also use information from the forum and additional outreach to shape a strategic plan and action steps to enhance the climate of the campus. The DAC will be using the forum and other additional outreach efforts to develop student efforts. For more information or to get a copy of the survey results contact Toni Klohk in the DAC F220.

Toni Klohk

Tutors get tutored

Lacey Jarrell
 Staff Writer

This Friday, May 21, college tutors from all over the northwest will descend upon LBCC for the 2010 Northwest Tutoring Center Conference. The annual rotating college conference is aimed at furthering the professional development of administration staff and academic tutors, and increase regional networking. The "mission" of the conference this year is "Student Success and Retention."

The conference is scheduled to start at 8:15 a.m. and will run through a series of concurrent training sessions until 3:30 p.m. Each of the four hour-long sessions will include seminars such as "Peer Tutors as Learning Leaders" and "Steps to Success."

The seminar "Tutoring: Reaching Students Beyond Your Center" will explore the techniques and challenges of eTutoring, an online tutoring model recently explored by Chemeketa Community College.

Tutor coordinator Barb Horn is organizing this year's conference, which will be held in the Calapooia Center. She says that although the tutors can attend any seminars they wish, the main focus for LBCC this year is student retention.

"The goal of the tutoring center is to help students complete coursework, but we also try to foster independent learning. Completing college can be a life-changing experience," said Horn.

According to Horn,

approximately 80-85 percent of the students seeking assistance at the tutoring center are math students.

"Teachers are so limited with office hours, it's nice to have access to help during the middle of the week," said student Deborah Hanneman, who has received tutoring for Math 65. "It's also nice to have the one on one," she added.

LBCC is expecting a turnout of 100-125 people to attend the conference, some coming from as far as Tacoma, Wash. Twenty staff members from LBCC are expected to attend.

"One of the good things about the seminars is that you get to learn how to get information across in different ways," said LBCC math tutor Sandra Hobbs.

LBCC Vice-President Carol Schaafsma will be giving the morning keynote address, where she will briefly discuss the importance of tutoring and how the work tutors do can help students be successful in class.

According to Schaafsma, oftentimes "tutors don't realize they aren't just helping a student learn a difficult subject or skill; tutors help students become better learners."

Private instruction is available at LBCC's tutoring center for free. The center currently offers instruction in 29 subject areas, including but not restricted to math, biology, chemistry, music, medical training and animal sciences.

The tutoring center will be closed the day of the conference.

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Campus News

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

Pendulum not in full-swing

Colleen Hamilton
 Contributing Writer

Walk into White Oak Hall and you will notice a pendulum on a crate with no explanation. No marker is posted yet to tell what this pendulum represents, or why it is not in motion.

The pendulum, in an atrium of LBCC's new science and math center, was made possible through a donation of \$35,000 by an anonymous donor.

The Mark 2 Foucault Pendulum, designed by Cary Ponthione, owner of Academy Pendulum Sales, was designed to blend art and science while representing the Earth's rotation.

The pendulum is not yet in motion due to a fear of people getting smashed between the 235-pound brass, mirror-polished ball and the adjacent stairwell.

The pendulum will not be put in motion until a railing, designed by Don Johnson, the architect of White Oak Hall, is put up around it.

The design that will go around the cement base will be put up soon. The base will explain the significance of the pendulum and its motion.



The pendulum before it was crated.
 Photo by Colleen Hamilton

"It is supposed to represent a swinging time circle of the Earth's rotation," explained Fred Haynes, dean of Instructional Facilities Planning.

A magnetic current pulses through the ceiling, from where the pendulum hangs, giving the pendulum its back-and-forth motion.

The pendulum is in sync with the Earth's rotation, which gives it the circular movement.

Ponthione is one of the few people who design these pendulums, according

to LBCC Vice President of Finance and Operations Jim Huckestien.

"The original concept of the pendulum is to give an artistic view of math and science," said Dan Lara, dean of the math and science departments.

According to Lara there has been a concern with people touching the pendulum and a safety issue of someone being injured if walking on the platform between the pendulum and stairwell.

Huckestien said, "Don Johnson is looking at ways to design a safety rail that will have a stylish look for the pendulum."

As Lara mentioned, "LBCC's pendulum and new science buildings are designed to create student diverse gatherings and moments to blend ideas."

LBCC wanted to create a place within the school to give the student body a "home away from home."

White Oak Hall will have couches and stylish sitting areas where all those on campus can gather.

According to Huckestien, construction on White Oak Hall is expected to be completed in May 2011.

Classifieds

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

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

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

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

Help Wanted

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

PD & Application Technician

(#8033, Springfield) If you are getting your associate's degree in Science or Chemistry, this job might be a good starting point for you?

Training & Events

Coordinator (#8041, Albany)

This person trains and demonstrates our products and services to clients and potential customers. Train staff on preparation of company products. May work into full-time.

Engineering Equipment

Operator (#8031, Sweet Home) This gov't job

operates graders, tractors, backhoes, trench diggers, front-end loaders, etc.

Service Tech Trainee (#8045,

Albany) Do you have good customer service skills & a mechanical aptitude? This full-time job troubleshoots & repair/maintains coffee & related equipment in Oregon and Washington.

"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.

TRIO offers help to students

Viyanna Langager
 Contributing Writer

There is a family located in Red Cedar Hall, Room 116. Walk in and you hear talk of children, homework, tests, friends and money problems.

Sound like the talk around the table at home? That is the feel that TRIO gives when one sits there for more than a few minutes, a sense of camaraderie and family.

Each term 160 LBCC students are aided by the Federal Government's TRIO program which is geared toward helping students whose parents have not obtained a college degree.

Sandra Shinkle, program director at LBCC, said that funding is given each five years and that this July the program will be notified as to their status for the next five years.

Students are anxiously waiting to find out if they will still receive tutoring, book lending, personal counseling and the many other services TRIO offers.

Shinkle, who has been a counselor for 30 years, said, TRIO is required to submit annual performance reports with objectives including data on individual student success as well as program success."

This year's \$238,574 budget seems well spent. According to Shinkle, TRIO students

have higher graduation rates, GPA's and retention rates than the general population.

Fox McCallister, a TRIO student, said, "TRIO offers the most peaceful place on campus to study, a lot of counseling, books and supplies in general."

Without the support of TRIO, Fox said it would have been difficult to reach his goals as the "environment that TRIO offers and the drive they all have that keeps you motivated makes TRIO worth joining."

Carmon Thomas, a TRIO student, also works for the program. She said she has gained an opportunity to graduate on time. TRIO keeps her on track to reach her goals and offers her a friendly face.

When asked what part of TRIO she likes best, Thomas said, "All services. The ability to have a personal success plan. The workshops they ask us to attend help us to see parts of campus you'd never see otherwise."

Kellie Anderson, who is both a student and works for the TRIO program said she was "horrified to come to school" but TRIO gave her a safe haven and a place to feel comfortable with the sense of community that they offer.

"TRIO is my home away from home," said Anderson, with a smile on her face.

To find out if you qualify for TRIO this fall, call (541) 917-4993 or stop by RCH-116.

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Local News

Community news about the mid-Willamette Valley, including Albany, Lebanon, and Corvallis.



McMinnville gets invaded

Cameron Vasseur
Staff Writer

Oregon... an intergalactic meeting place? Yes that's right, the 11th annual UFO Festival took place in McMinnville on May 14 - 15 and attracted quite a crowd of attendees. Everyone came to Earth those two days for their own reasons, some just to stop and hang out with us Oregonians.

There were Purple People Eaters, the odd alien Troubadour, and even Darth Vader with a retinue of Storm Troopers stopped in to see if we had the droids they were looking for. Many Jedi were also there, probably as a deterrent to make sure the Dark Side didn't take a strong hold. Even the Na'vi of Pandora came to visit and show off their skills in the alien parade.

Among the crowd of humans and extraterrestrials there were some less recognizable, though highly extravagant and flamboyantly dressed, beings who stuck out, possibly promoting tourism to their home systems.

The second largest alien festival in the country after the one held in Roswell, N.M., McMinnville's UFO festival has been held annually since 1999 in honor of the Trent Sightings. The event was a quick one, as are most UFO sightings. While out feeding her rabbits in May of 1950, Mrs. Trent saw some strange objects and called her husband out with their camera to photograph the things. Several photos were taken, all from about the same position, and were later heavily scrutinized by William K. Hartmann, an astronomer from the University of Arizona.

To this day, those photos are some of the most highly debated. They could not be denied as evidence of UFOs, but no one was willing to admit that something had visited this small Oregon town before zooming off into the morning sky, either. Since then, people have gone back and forth, with skeptics calling them frauds and crying hoax, while

pro-E.T. enthusiasts have been examining the photos, attempting to prove through lighting, size, and distance scales that the images are genuine.

Whether the photos are fact or fiction, hundreds of people showed up in McMinnville to celebrate the sighting. An android called 28, along with his friend Myriad, who was an eccentric being with two heads, traveled together from The Four Dip and have been exploring the universe for some time. They had been out so long they had trouble remembering where they were from. The two stopped on Earth to get their spaceship repaired and were on their way to Lafayette, which apparently has an excellent repair service for vehicles used in space travel.

There was also a couple from our very own planet wandering the crowd, looking for abductees to interview for a video project they called "Abduction Stories For Youtube."

"I have known about aliens since I was five years old," said Bill Koonts. "We're trying to get this into the mainstream and let people know that UFOs are real." Koonts and his wife Tracy have been long-time enthusiasts of the alien phenomenon and have



Photos of the parade during the UFO festival in McMinnville. Photos by Cameron Vasseur



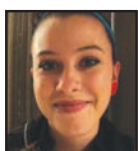
come to the UFO festival for the last three years to compile sightings and experiences.

All in all, the UFO festival was well worth the trip. The parade, followed by the Alien Pet Show, was fantastic and amusing; it was a lot of fun to see so many people dressed up for the event. Both evenings featured guest speakers who are experts in the field. This year, James Clarkson, Colin Andrews, and Travis Walton spoke on government involvement in the UFO cover-ups and crop circles, and their frequency in both the United States and the United Kingdom. The final event, an Alien Costume Ball, took place on Saturday. The McMinnville UFO Festival is a fun must-see event for all ages.



Perspectives:

How would you react to the first alien encounter?



Aloha Elam
Medical Transcription

"Grab my camera and take lots of pictures."



Micah Reese
Computer Science

"I would say 'awesome.' Well, if they're friendly."



Amanda DeWolfe
Art

"I would definitely be interested in going and seeing it for myself because that's definitely something I'd like to see. I'd probably be shocked, curious, interested."



Brittany Wade
Culinary Arts

"I would shelter [the alien] from the scientists and let [it] live among us."



Dayna Bolin
Undecided

"Teach [the alien] how to fish, that way [it] can actually live in our world if [it] came to it."

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Feature

Something a little different.

Think you can dance?

Alethea Skinner
 Staff Writer

A basketball silently bounced under the hand of a player strolling across the dimly lit stage of Russell Tripp Theater. Actually, Darryl Thomas dribbled a human basketball, bounced it through his legs, and then picked it up and threw it over his shoulder.

An almost-unanimous “Whoa!” rippled through the audience as Rainbow Dance Theater exploded onto the stage and captivated most of the audience from that moment until the final bow.

Thomas and his wife, Valerie Bergman, also an internationally acclaimed choreographer, showcased the artistic athleticism of their eight-member ensemble May 11 during an afternoon show at LBCC. Thomas traced the origins of today’s Hip Hop and other dance types while teaching West African rhythms.

The audience sat on the edge of their seats and watched the break-dance moves, the spins and the handstands. The strength and agility of the teams that opened the show were awesome.

Were these contortionists or what?

Their raw strength was evident when Thomas linked arms with dancer Carl Massey, and dancers Jessica Evans and Kailee McMurrin caught a passing elbow. Cameras clicked on the front row as the women rose two to three feet into the air as they were swung around as if on a merry-go-round.

Suddenly Thomas and Massey formed a “table” and McMurrin leapt to the middle of their stomachs and posed. For the next several moments, Thomas became the teacher/commentator as he demonstrated dance moves involving hand movements and then described the ensemble’s demonstration of the stylized posing incorporated in “Vogue,” the 1930s dance born in Harlem that was originally called “performance.”

Thomas continued to keep the audience engaged by involving them in learning songs and dances, including “The Electric Slide.”

He taught about the language of the drums in West African culture, including the reasons it was banned in the American colonies during slavery.

He also shared the history of the “Ham Bone,” by demonstrating a song combined with hand, leg and chest-slapping rhythm that told the story of the way a single ham bone fed a community. The African traditions of “call and response” (one person making a noise or singing a line of a song and the audience

imitating it) was demonstrated by the audience participating in the clapped imitation of Massey’s tap-danced rhythms.

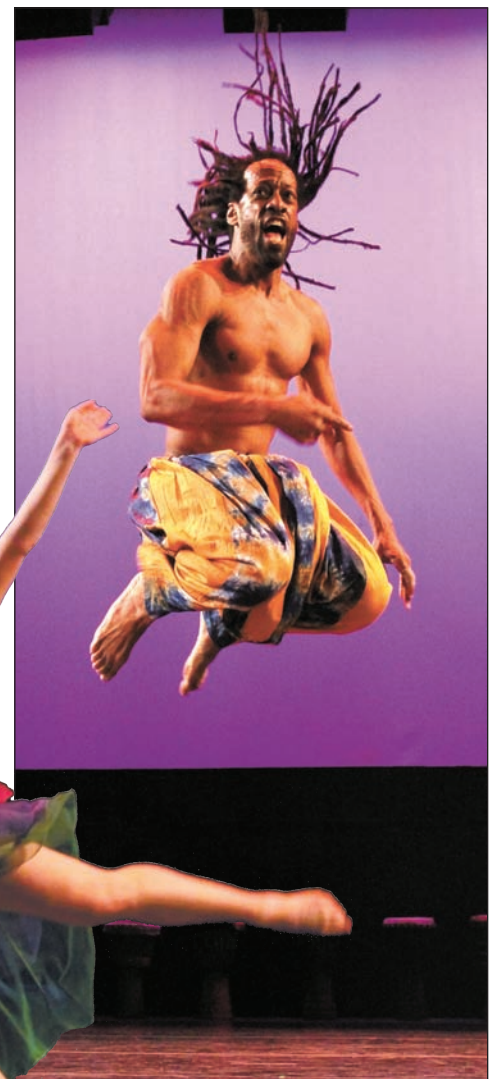
Thomas said, “It is the custom for West African men to have up to three wives,” and introduced and performed in the intense marriage dance — with three possible wifely “contenders!”

Rainbow Dance Theater is a cultural fusion and the words high-energy, fast-paced and visually stimulating only begin to describe their free performance of “The Roots of Hip Hop.”

The group was founded in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1991 by Thomas and Bergman. Its name reflects its origin in the “land of rainbows”

as well as its diversity. It has been based in Monmouth since 1998. It has performed in Mexico, Europe, Asia and the United States and represented Oregon at the World Expo in Seville, Spain, in 1992 and appeared at the 2005 World Expo in Nagoya, Japan.

According to the ensemble’s website, Bergman’s “background in dance bridges many cultural styles” and includes Hula, West African and Afro-Haitian. She has taught ballet and modern dance at many dance studios and has taught at the university level in Hawaii, Iowa and Western Oregon



Darryl Thomas leaps in the air during a West African Wedding Dance.



Kailee McMurrin, Darryl Thomas, Jessica Evans and Valerie Bergman (left to right) dance near the conclusion of their LBCC performance.

Photos by Tony Brown

Kailee McMurrin performs during the final number at LBCC.

University. She has taught ballet and modern technique along with body conditioning for dancers, Hip Hop, improvisation and composition, according to the website.

Thomas earned his master of fine arts degree in performance and choreography and has toured throughout the world as dancer and artistic collaborator. He currently works as a professor of dance at Western Oregon University. His classes, the website said, focus on composition, partnering, Hip Hop, Hawaiian, Salsa, West African and Modern Dance.

Rainbow Dance Theatre spreads the light

Adam LaMascus
 Opinion Editor

Last Thursday LBCC was graced by the skills of the Rainbow Dance Theatre, based out of Monmouth.

I came in about 10 minutes late after I got out of a class, so I missed the introduction. As I walked in, Darryl Thomas was sitting on a stool explaining the history of a style of music and dance, talking about how it was a blend of traditional West African dance that had been morphed by the circumstances and necessities of living as slaves in the New World.

This segued into “hamboning,” a style of drumming using your chest, thighs and hands. This became popular after slave owners made it illegal to own drums because slaves had used drums as a means of communication during an uprising.

This show was more than just a dance, it was also a call for tolerance and appreciation. Their last dance, “One Village, Many Tribes,” was especially poignant.

I’ve never really been a person who has appreciated dancing all that much, but this show was really amazing. Their colorful costumes were eye-catching, and their energetic, physical style of dance was truly impressive.

I found myself tired just by watching. What’s more, after looking at their webpage and reading more, it became apparent that their show was an extremely trimmed down version of what they normally do. The gallery has images of insanely complex costumes and dances with people launching themselves in the air. I’d be really interested to see a full-scale production.

As it stood though, the more intimate, interactive scale of this performance was better

suited to LBCC. Thomas called people up on the stage to dance, and regularly used the audience as a sort of sounding board, getting them involved with clapping and making noises. At one point, when they made a noise, they asked the audience to respond with a sort of high-pitched “yiyiyiyiyiyi!” sound. It was definitely an amusing moment, and a startlingly hard sound to make, I might add.

It amused me too, as the sort of “tribal” dance and music they played had traditionally been mocked by “civilized” people with their much more rigid and conservative modes of movement and dress. I enjoyed seeing the enthusiasm and reading about the increasing interest in this style of dance.

It’s nice that people are realizing that it is by no means inferior, it’s just different, and in my opinion much more entertaining.

Check the RDT’s website, and if you have the opportunity, go see a show.

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SPORTS

News about local and national sports and activities.



The Roadrunners celebrate their win.

Photo by Erik Bender

Roadrunners take and give a win

Erik Bender
 Sports Editor

The Chemeketa Storm came to Linn-Benton Saturday to take on the Roadrunners. The Roadrunners were able to take down the number one team with a come-from-behind victory in game one with a final score of 5-4, but Chemeketa was able to pull the win out in the second with an 8-1 score.

Linn-Benton got out to a one-run lead at the bottom of the second; however, the lead didn't last long and Chemeketa scored two runs in the fifth inning, followed by single runs in the seventh and eighth innings.

The bottom of the ninth had the Roadrunners down by four, but Linn-Benton's James Mastroianni, Carl Beckert and Jordan Keeker were able to load second and third bases. With Mason Brause at bat, he sacrificed a pop fly to bring in his teammates, tying up the score in the final inning.

Jake Likewise was able to hit a single after Brause's sacrifice and was brought home by a sacrifice from Sheldon Austria. The final score of the game: 5-4.

Mackie Unruh started the first game pitching and showed he could hang with the best, striking out the first three batters in the first inning, followed by numerous more before pulling out in the eighth and leaving the end of the game for Bobby Ragasa, who struck out two before the game's end.

Game two was not like the first. Storm pitcher Grady Wood out-pitched AJ Burke with six more strikeouts for a total of eight.

Chemeketa's Michael Lowe scored the Storms' first run in the first and set the stage for rest of game.

Chemeketa was able to get 11 hits to Linn-Benton's four. Roadrunners lost game two 8-1.

The Roadrunners play again at Lane Community College May 20 at 1 p.m.

Lilac City paves over Sick Town

Maya Lazaro
 Features Editor

This past Saturday at the Linn County Fairgrounds, Corvallis/Albany roller derby team Sick Town Derby Dames played a close game (or bout, as they're known in derby) against the Lilac City Rollergirls, a team based out of Spokane, Wash. Although the Dames stayed ahead for most of the bout, the Rollergirls pulled ahead in the final quarter, scoring a total of 159 points to the Dames's 146.

Each bout consists of two thirty-minute halves, and each half consists of several "jams," in which "jammers" from each team must lap members of the other team while skating around the track. Each player from the opposite team that a jammer laps is a point. "Blockers" from each team use their bodies to stop the opposing jammer from passing, either by getting in their way, knocking them down or nudging them off the track. When a player fouls by doing an illegal move, they are sent to the "box," where they must wait for a period of time before they are allowed back onto the track. The lead jammer (the jammer who is leading the pack) has the ability to end the jam at any time.

The first jam of the first half started off badly for the Dames. The team's lead jammer, Stitches n' Bones, was knocked to the ground with a bloody nose by a blocker from the other team, cutting the jam short. However, Jala-Pain-Yo was able to push past the other players as lead jammer during the 10th jam, putting the score at 10-9 with the Dames in the lead. After much falling (at one point, two players from opposite teams collided, skating off the track and knocking a referee into the crowd), the Dames were ahead by 11 points with a score of 70 to the All Stars' 59.

During the halftime show, the American Taekwondo Association's Karate for Kids program put on a 15-minute demonstration that featured karate and self-defense moves. Spectators could meet the Derby Dame's gothic nurse mascot, and "Bambi on Skates," a man dressed in a deer costume who was also the bout's official score keeper. They could also buy raffle tickets for a gift basket raffle. All of the raffle's proceeds went to Give 2 the Troops, a non-profit organization that sends care packages to military troops stationed in the Middle East and elsewhere.



Lilac City's pivoter Baby Snakes (right) attempts to knock out Sick Town's jammer Wetback Attack.

Photo by Ashley Christie

The second half continued to look good for the Derby Dames, who scored in the triple digits by the seventh jam at 115 points, while the All Stars were lagging behind at 95 points. Several fouls sent many players from both teams to the penalty box, including Dames player Hot Boxxx, whose derby name reflected her tendency to be sent to the box by the refs. During the 16th jam, the referees ejected Hot Boxxx from the game for misconduct, and the All Stars scrambled into the lead with a score of 139. Although the Dames were close behind, they could not catch up, and by the 18th jam, the Rollergirls came away with a score of 159 to the Dames' score of 146.

Dames jammer Brick Wallace was disappointed by the loss, but was pleased by the team's cooperation during the game.

"We're working hard on teamwork and it really showed."

To prepare for their next game, she wants the team to work on "keeping [their] head in the game."

WHERE TO SEE THE DAMES:

To find out more information about the Sick Town Derby Dames and upcoming events, visit their website at www.sicktownderbydames.com.

THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

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

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Letters Welcome

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

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Opinion

Submissions to The Commuter:
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A word from your local **ASG**



Tyler Spevacek

As (2009-2010) last years members of the Associated Student Government (ASG) leave office there is renewed excitement for the upcoming year. The new ASG members that have been elected are biting at the bit to begin next year.

We sat down together a few days ago and started to brain storm how we want to better Linn-Benton Community College. One of our main concerns for this upcoming year are vacancies in some of our positions.

We have had a few members that have schedules that are not allowing ASG into their schedule. We will continue to look for new members for these positions as this year ends and also next fall. I am incredibly excited to begin looking for these new members of our team because we have a lot of go getters.

This year the ASG and SPB (student programming board) are looking to team up and accomplish a lot of things together. Both teams have great staffs and even though ASG is young there is a lot of experience on SPB and with that we will work together to gain experience.

We are learning a lot this spring before we begin our journey in the fall. One of the big goals that ASG has for next year is to increase student involvement. The group has really been brain storming on this subject and has some great ideas. We would like to see more students enjoying the events like Cinco de Mayo, blood drives and so much more. With all these things on our plate we have a lot of things to work on to get fully ready for next year.

Tyler Spevacek
 ASG president

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

Advice from Weiss

Question: I have the feeling I should be registering soon, but don't know what to take. How can I get help with that?



Counselor
 Mark Weiss

Answer: Every department on campus has advisors, and some have Academic Planners. Either can help you. Advisors are listed in the summer schedule of classes, on page A24. There are advisors for every major.

If you are still undecided and haven't chosen a major yet, you should get your academic advising from Counseling and Career Services. We are located in Takena Hall, on the Albany Campus, but we have advising and counseling available at our centers in Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Corvallis, as well.

This week is "priority registration week," for summer term. All admitted students have a day and time, this week, that they can register for summer quarter. Check you Student Information Account (SIS) to find your day and time.

Priority Registration for fall term is May 28 through June 4. All students should try to take advantage of this opportunity. We expect a very large enrollment (again) for fall term, so classes will fill.

Mark Weiss
 LBCC Counselor

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

Back in the day

Adam LaMascus
 Opinion Editor

This day in history ...

May 19, 1919: You've never heard of this?

The Turkish War of Independence begins as Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (the former colonel and future president of Turkey) lands his forces at the city of Samsun. The date is also marked in Greece as a memorial for the several hundred thousand victims of the Greek genocide perpetrated by Turkish forces during the war. For the record, the Turks commit genocide against the Greeks and the Armenians while simultaneously trying to exterminate Christian minorities -- all of this during WWI or the immediate aftermath. How come we give Germany so much flak, but we almost never mention these atrocities?

May 20, 325: Cause of division ...

The First Ecumenical Council of Nicea is formed under the orders of Emperor Constantine I of the Roman Empire. The Council results in the creation of Catholicism. Additionally, it helps morph Christianity from "just" a religion to a method of running the state. Even though a massive portion of Christians are women and/or from the Middle East/North Africa, not a single woman or non-European priest is invited. With one council, many say a long-standing trend of racism, sexism, and corruption amongst the ruling class was created.

May 21, 1871: The Proletariat revolts!

A mere 11 days after losing badly to the Germans during the Franco-Prussian war, French soldiers invade Paris to battle the Paris Commune, a revolutionary council of Marxist, anarchist and feminist workers that has been ruling the city since March 18. Vicious street fighting ensues in what has come to be called "The Bloody Week". Over 20,000 "communards" are killed or executed, with an additional 38,000 arrested. Many civilians, in addition to the rebels, are murdered or summarily executed by the Army. French soldiers demonstrate that they are terrifying fighters when battling poorly armed civilians.

May 22, 1980: Waga waga waga ...

Pac-Man is released by Namco, and is instantly successful. Young people all over America are given nightmares of Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde. That game is surprisingly difficult. While the game technically has no ending, the 265th level has a bug that prevents the level from being fully loaded. How somebody managed to play Pac-Man for 265 levels is beyond me.

May 23, 1934: Live by the sword, die by the sword ...

The infamous outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow are killed in Louisiana by a police ambush. Six police officers open fire on Bonnie and Clyde's car with Browning Automatic Rifles loaded with armor piercing bullets, and after running out of ammo, resume firing on the car with shotguns. At this point, the car bursts into flame and plows into a ditch. The police, out of ammo for the shotguns, pull out their pistols and continue to fire into the car until they run out of ammo for those guns too. Overkill much?

May 24, 1941: We're going to find the Bismark ...

The pride of the British Royal Navy, battlecruiser HMS Hood, engages the German battleship Bismark and its escort the Prinz Eugen. After about 11 minutes of long-range firing, the Hood is struck in the forward magazine by a salvo fired from the Bismark, about 18 kilometers away. The shot ignites the ammunition and causes a massive explosion that rips the Hood in half. The ship sinks in three minutes. Of the 1,418 crewmen, only three survive. A report given to the German High Command stated that upon seeing the huge explosion, many of the sailors aboard the Bismark took off their hats and began crying.

May 25, 1787: We the People ...

A Constitutional Convention begins in Philadelphia to begin writing the new Constitution. George Washington presides over the convention. "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Thought for the week:

"The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him."

-Niccolo Machiavelli

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews, upcoming events and the cure for weekend boredom.

Dear Juliet, let's just be friends



Jessica Kearns
Staff Writer

Grab your tissues and chocolates! Amanda Seyfried is back with yet another chick flick.

"Letters To Juliet" opened in the number three box-office spot this weekend with a tale of love lost, and then found. Mix a dash of "Under the Tuscan Sun," and a pinch of "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" with heartwarming performances by Vanessa Redgrave and Amanda Seyfried, and you have a romantic comedy sure to give you the warm fuzzies.

Seyfried plays Sophie, an aspiring writer who is engaged to Viktor (Gael Garcia Bernal), a restaurant entrepreneur. During a pre-honeymoon trip to Italy, things don't work out as Sophie hopes and eventually she and Viktor are spending more time apart than together.

While traveling the city solo, Sophie comes across the house where Shakespeare's Juliet Capulet supposedly lived. She notices that numerous people have written letters to Juliet with questions and stories about their loves, then posted them to the wall just below Juliet's window in hopes of a response. Feeling curiously inspired, Sophie watches the people while writing in her own journal.

Wanting to see what happens with the letters, Sophie follows a young woman who has collected the letters and discovers a group of women who call themselves "Juliet's Secretaries," who answer these letters and give love advice. Sophie is so enthralled with the pure romance and hope of it all that she begins helping the women.

A letter that has been lost in the wall for 50 years deeply touches Sophie, and she begins a journey to help a woman named Claire (Vanessa Redgrave) and her grandson Charlie, search for Claire's long lost love, Lorenzo Bartolini. They start searching in Siena Italy, since Claire remembers Lorenzo speaking fondly of the area. The three meet with many possible matches by name, but none of them seem to be the right Lorenzo. As the journey continues, romance blooms in unexpected places.

This movie delivers in the way you would expect. Light hearted and good-natured, it's designed with the hopeless romantic in mind, complete with the touching moments that could bring a tear to the eye. The Italian scenery and soundtrack help set the movie's romantic tone.

Though the plot is predictable, the performances of Seyfried and Redgrave draw you to the characters, allowing you to fall into the story. For all those soft-hearted guys and gals out there, this film is definitely one to cozy up to and set your inner romantic free.

Two decibals WAY UP: Hermit rocks Harrison's

Maggie O'Reilly
Head Cartoonist

Last Thursday the punk band Hermit played at Harrison's Bar and Grill in Corvallis. The punk scene is a unique experience, both exhilarating and definitely not for everyone.

There are two things punks have never heard of: volume control and personal space. As the band started playing, a small but devoted few pushed their way forward to scream, full volume, in the face of the lead vocalist Blair McMackin. This would be a bizarre sight until one remembers they're at a punk show.

Hermit fan Harley Monroe praised the band, saying, "These guys are awesome. I would come and see them any time." He was then interrupted by a friend shoving a drink in his face. "Drink this and tell me what it is." It was apparently a Red-headed Slut.

"I enjoy how they play with beats and rhythms," remarked a



Hermit plays to the crowd in Corvallis.

Photo by Maggie O'Reilly

woman simply named 'Ali.'

Not everyone was loving the intensity of the band, however. "They're loud, that's all I have to say," said Stewart Hogue, "even my deaf friend says they're loud." Another patron calling himself Jim agreed about the volume.

"For this environment, they're way too loud," he shouted in my ear after pulling me right into his face.

Regardless, the band was able to work the crowd into an astounding fervor, and everyone I met

that night was extremely friendly.

After speaking to Hogue briefly about his thoughts on the band, I was attempting to get another comment from the owner when Hogue launched himself at me in an exuberant hug, "You're awesome, I want you to know that!"

I would definitely recommend going to see Hermit. The music is fun, and the punks are a rambunctious and lively bunch, ready to mosh at a moment's notice.

Music

Commuter Playlist >

Photos

Extras

Settings

Shuffle Songs

MENU

Joel DeVylde
A&E Editor

Spring is here! Actually, it's been here for a while. It's about time you spring-cleaned all that emo crud out of your iTunes, and started working on a spring playlist. Don't know where to start? Try working with some fresh, clean and smile-inducing tracks, and then work your way down from there. Featured below is my "Spring Playlist of Mirth!" Feel free to borrow from it and modify it however you like. Happy listening!

- ♪ March (A Prelude to Spring) – Jon Foreman
- ♪ Chicago – Sufjan Stevens
- ♪ Your Love is a Song – Switchfoot
- ♪ Sunny Days – Jars of Clay
- ♪ Strawberry Swing – Coldplay
- ♪ Folding Chair – Regina Spektor
- ♪ Upside Down – Jack Johnson
- ♪ I Feel It All – Leslie Feist
- ♪ Loser Like Me – Sixpence None the Richer
- ♪ Born – Over the Rhine
- ♪ Waiting on the World to Change – John Mayer
- ♪ Some Crap About the Furniture – Playradioplay!
- ♪ We Could Run Away – Needtobreathe

If you have an idea for a playlist, or if you would like one of your finished mixes to be featured in the paper, email us at commuter@linnbenton.edu.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews, upcoming events and the cure for weekend boredom.

Rich in action, poor in story

J.E.B. Oliver
 Staff Writer

Russell Crowe and Ridley Scott are together again in the same spirit as "Gladiator." This movie is a resurrection of the old Robin Hood story being told in a somewhat new way. The movie starts with action right off the bat, showing an attack on a castle. This scene also choppy explains the origins of our hero, a returning veteran from the Crusades who makes the mistake of telling King Richard the Lionheart that his crusaders aren't behaving like the good Christians Richard thinks they are. He is thrown in the pillory for his truthfulness.

They try to do too much with this movie, with things changing quite a bit and very quickly in the storyline. Whether it is evil Frenchmen who scheme to take over England, or Prince John, the whiney little brother of Richard, making the worst of mistakes, we see a very complex plot. Unfortunately, the storyline jumps to different

locations a lot. This often makes things overly complicated and hard to follow. Things come together too quickly near the end of the film and it finishes with the standard climatic battle

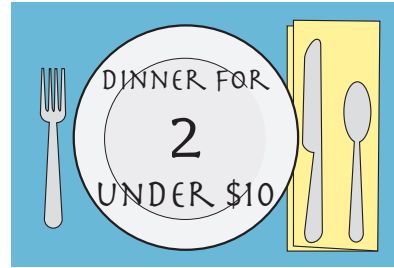
between the forces of good (England) and evil (France). The movie also has a love interest for Robin Hood (played by Russell Crowe) in the form of the Lady Marian (played by Cate Blanchett), who is the widow of one of King Richard's knights.

I thought the movie was pretty good overall, but the story jumped around too much, and it was poorly put together. It wasn't that it was hard to follow, but rather that it seemed like the writers wanted to go in every direction at the same time. Also, it is very obvious at the end that they are planning to making a sequel. Despite these faults, I



definitely recommend seeing the movie. It was very action-packed, the scenes are filled with arrow shooting, and lots of whacking and chopping of the French, who as we all know, really need to be whacked and chopped as much as possible.

It was also competently acted. I really loved Marian in particular. She was played very well and practically stole the show. Both Marian and the action by themselves make the movie worth seeing. I give this movie three-and-a-half stars, mostly because of the failure of the filmmakers to make the storyline come together.



Jana West
 Staff Writer

Triple jalapeno burger with sweet potato fries

Sometimes hot just isn't hot enough! This burger cranks up the heat, and if you're a fan of spicy food like I am, this burger is sure to satisfy.

I bake my fries, but frying is also an option. If you don't like sweet potatoes you can use your favorite potato variety. I like using the bagels as buns because I can buy them individually - I never need an 8-pack of burger buns. Everything bagels are also great, but I was going for the extra heat.

Grocery list:

1 large sweet potato	\$.81
1 small tomato	\$.68
1 small red onion	\$.52
1 jalapeno	\$.10
1 avocado	\$.78
1 lime	\$.33
3/4 pound ground beef	\$1.72
2 slices pepper jack cheese	\$.50
small handful spring mix lettuce	\$.70
10-14 sliced, pickled jalapenos	\$.50
2 jalapeno cheese bagels	\$1.18
GRAND TOTAL:	\$9.40

You will also need:

Salt & Pepper
 1 Tbs. olive oil

1. Peel sweet potato and cut into strips. I like mine a little crispy, so I cut them thinner, rather than thick strips. Toss in 1 tablespoon of olive oil, a pinch of salt and freshly ground pepper. Bake at 400 for about 25-30 minutes or until crispy. (I use a little garlic powder, too, but don't use fresh garlic because it will burn and turn bitter.)
2. While the fries are baking, slice a few pieces of the tomato for the burger and dice the rest for the guacamole, about 2 tablespoons. Slice onions, about two slices for burger, and then finely chop 1/2 tablespoon for the guacamole. Finely chop jalapeno and add 1/2 teaspoon to ground beef and reserve 1/2 teaspoon for the guacamole.
3. Mix avocado, diced tomato, chopped onion and diced jalapeno with juice from the lime.
4. Mix ground beef, 1/2 teaspoon of jalapeno, pinch of salt and pepper and divide to form two patties. Grill or pan fry burger to desired doneness, top with pepper jack cheese, and let rest for a few minutes.
5. To assemble burger, I make a little well in the bottom portion of the bagel by tearing out a little of the bread and then squeezing the guacamole into the well. Top with burger, pickled jalapenos, sliced tomato, sliced onion and lettuce.



Hot, hot, hot.

Photo by Jana West

redbox review

Legion (Rated R, Runtime 100 min.)

Jessica Kearns
 Staff Writer

What happens when God gets tired of mankind's flaws? We get our punishment in the form of the movie "Legion," an apocalyptic fantasy-horror film brought to us by director Scott Stewart. In this film we are provided the typical end-of-the-world scenario, with a slight twist. A group of random people is held up in the small Paradise Falls Diner in the middle of the desert while all hell, or rather heaven, breaks loose.

God has become disappointed in the human race, and has sent angels to rid the world of mankind. With a cast of random stars, including Dennis Quaid, Tyrese Gibson, and Paul Bettany as the Archangel Michael, we follow along as Michael fights beside the humans against a legion of angels that act and look more like demons, bent on killing the unborn baby of the pregnant waitress Charlie, played by Adrienne Palicki (Friday Night Lights), and ultimately ending mankind.

When the diner loses all forms of communication on the quiet morning of December 23, the speculation amongst the group begins with theories including earthquakes and terrorists, but the truth is far more horrifying. With the arrival of a little



old lady, the carnage begins, and this group of people are thrown into the middle of a war that they stand slim chances of winning.

Amongst a fair amount of violence and mayhem brought to us by humans possessed by angels — that's right, angels — we get the sobby back-stories of the people trapped. Though they covered all the major scenarios of hopelessness — estranged father and son, the broken family trying to find a new life, the guy in the wrong place at the wrong time, and of course, the unwed pregnant woman who resents her state — it is something that has been seen too many times before. Unfortunately, despite efforts to help the viewer relate on a heart to heart level with the characters, they end up just coming across as preachy and whiney, and lack the involvement needed for the audience to care about their well-being.

With awkward moments in the dialog and a plot that is mediocre and so full of holes it looks like a wedge of Swiss cheese, this film failed to live up to the potential it held. Even the special effects during what was considered the climactic battle royal between Archangels Gabriel and Michael were deprived of the "ooh" and "ahh" factor that is common with this genre, and lasted far too long.

Overall, this movie was lacking in several areas, leaving much to be desired. Even though it's only a buck to rent, you'd be better off waiting for a rerun of "Supernatural" to air on cable. At least then you can change channels during the commercials.

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Surreal Living

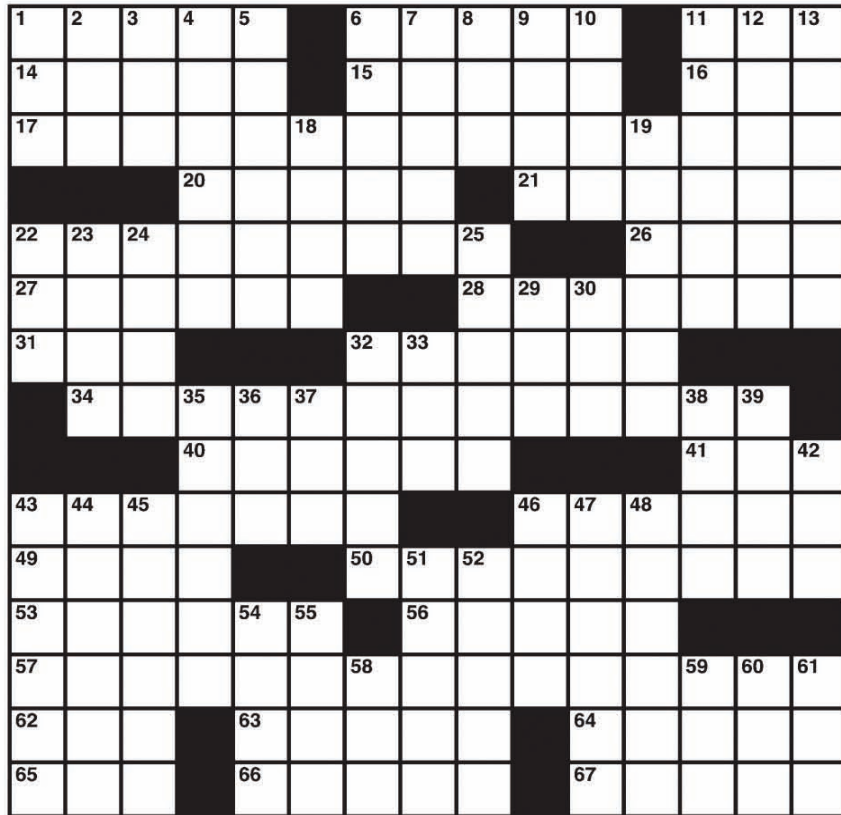
Crosswords, cartoons and some fun facts to brighten your day.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Thumper's buddy
6 La Scala production
11 Cap seen on a brae
14 Render weaponless
15 Ad target
16 "If you ask me," in chat room shorthand
17 Non-speaking line?
20 "... at 'em!"
21 Spill the beans
22 Non-speaking line?
26 Word after pig or pony
27 State of rest
28 Little women
31 Aurora's Greek counterpart
32 Romantic hopeful
34 Non-speaking line?
40 Vital anatomical passage
41 George Gershwin's brother
43 Blankety-blank type
46 Jaime Sommers, TV's "... Woman"
49 The Phantom of the Opera
50 Non-speaking line?
53 Magnetic inductivity units
56 Soda size
57 Apt adage for this puzzle
62 Summer drink
63 Too trusting
64 Prefix with surgery
65 Smidgen
66 "Li" guy
67 Bygone anesthetic



By Xan Vongsathorn

- 6 President with a Grammy
7 Not as diluted
8 Look over
9 Remaining part
10 .17 square miles, for Vatican City
11 Attack à la Don Quixote
12 2001 French film starring Audrey Tautou
13 Cover girls, e.g.
18 Hook's right hand
19 Worn things
22 Fury
23 Cat call
24 Lhasa ...: Tibetan dog
25 Like much Thai cuisine
29 Greek "H"
30 High point
32 Attach, as a patch
33 Country where Häagen-Dazs H.Q. is
35 Continue to irritate
36 Accomplished
37 Some coll. students

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



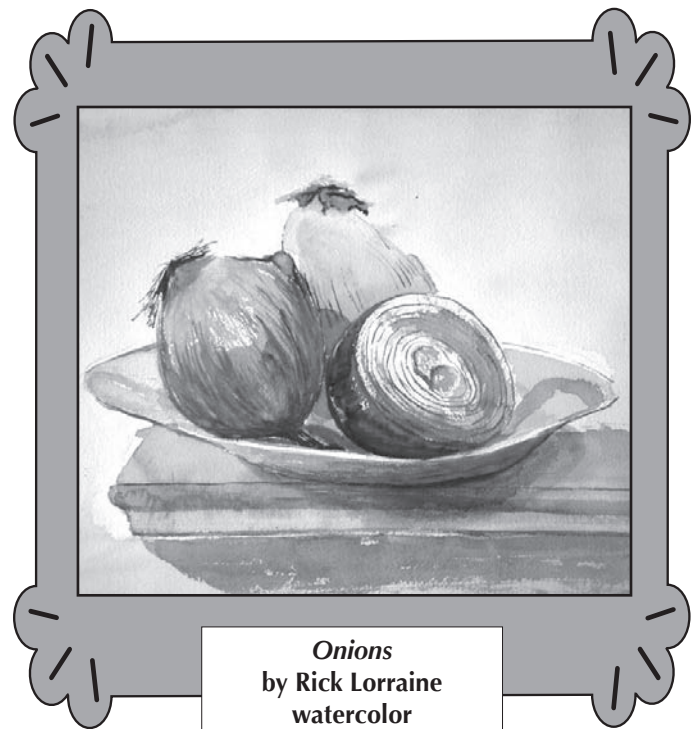
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- 38 Diamond source
39 Celtic land
42 Behave
43 Goes after
44 Tater Tots maker
45 Like theaters
46 Five-time Wimbledon champ
47 "Later, bro"
48 Brunch staple
51 Source of edible oil
52 Crime planner
54 "Happy tune" whistler of Broadway
55 Picketer's bane
58 "Ich bin ... Berliner!"
59 "How could I miss that?!"
60 Before, before
61 Negative conjunction

DOWN

- 1 Moch, as a ride
2 "... questions?"
3 Start to practice?
4 Under-the-sink brand
5 Gets moving

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



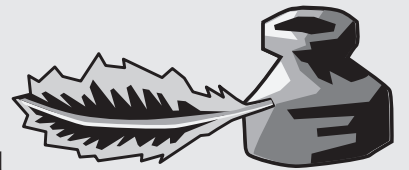
Onions by Rick Lorraine watercolor

Poetry spotlight

Karelia Stetz-Waters: (see full office hours on pg. 2)

Who is your favorite poet & what is your favorite poem?

It's a tough question and I would probably give a different answer every time someone asks me. Mary Oliver would definitely be one of my favorites, and her poem Wild Geese (like Kay Ryan, she has the same quality of control). Her poems are more full of natural imagery, but again she talks about a heron or a fish or a sunset instead of talking about things like love and death and grief and power.



Wild Geese

by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

from Dream Work by Mary Oliver
published by Atlantic Monthly Press
© Mary Oliver

Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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

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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Did you know?

- The longest English word in a dictionary is Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis. It means "a lung disease caused by the inhalation of very fine silica dust, causing inflammation in the lungs."
- Dr. Pepper is technically a "pepper flavored drink" and not a "cola."
- "Harry Potter" recently surpassed "James Bond" as the most successful movie series of all time.
- The original "Star Trek" series premiered in 1966, and the U.S. space shuttle "Enterprise" was named after the ship from the show. The show also had the first interracial kiss broadcast on American television.
- When describing a coat-of-arms, there is a special language that is supposed to be used: archaic French.

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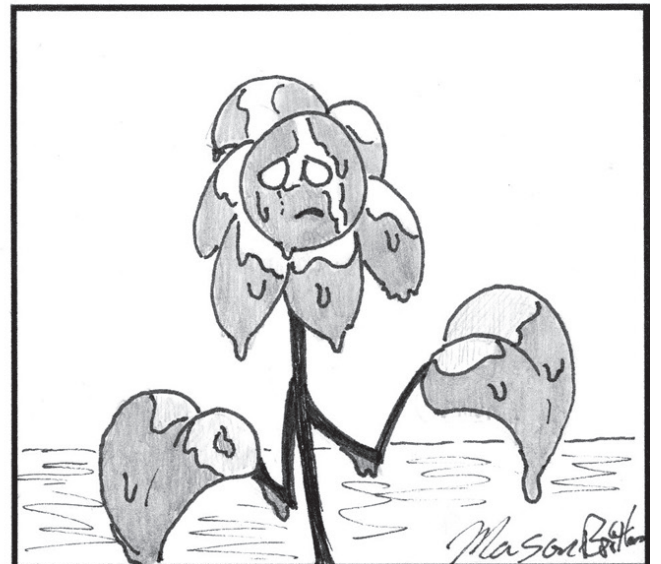
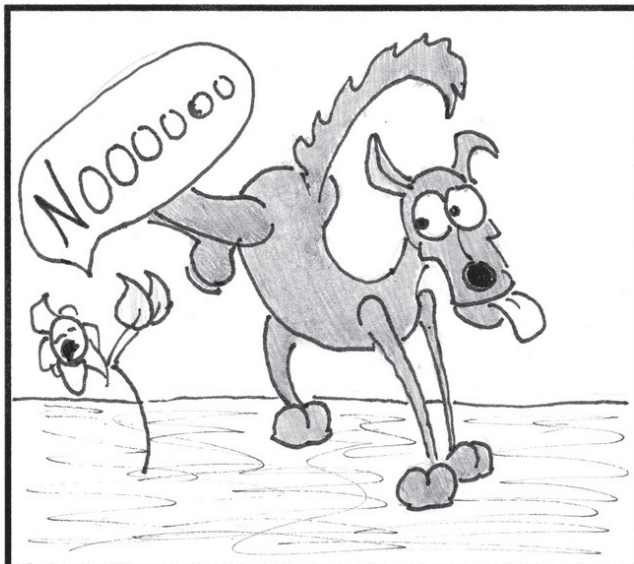
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Fried Bananas

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Mason Britton



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

Coming attractions

Shrek Forever After

In the fourth installment of the Shrek series, we find Shrek reluctantly attempting to settle down and act normal. Constrained by the trappings of his has-been celebrity life, Shrek strikes a deal with the shifty Rumpelstiltskin to restore his ogre-tastic lifestyle. The deal inevitably goes bad, and it falls to Shrek to bring everything back to normal.

Runtime: 93 minutes • Rating: PG



MacGruber

This big-screen adaptation of an SNL skit stars Will Forte as MacGruber, a man devoted to a life of fighting crime with his bare hands. Day after day, he upholds the vindictive oath that he made after his fiancé was killed 10 years ago. That is, until the government enlists him to stop his sworn enemy (Val Kilmer) who has stolen a nuclear warhead.

MacGruber leaps into action, assembling a team that includes Lt. Dixon Pepper (Ryan Phillippe) and Vicki St. Elmo (Kristin Wiig). Can he stop the bad guy in time?

Runtime: 99 minutes • Rating: R

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

I wish I could take it with me

Justin Bolger
Managing Editor

Explosions, kittens, laughs and love! Last weekend, OSU students gave several performances of the comedic play "You Can't Take it With You," written by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. The run will continue through this weekend as well. Marion O. Rossi is the director of the 19-member cast.

The play is about a quirky family full of loveable characters that just live life to be happy. According to Robert Leff, the play's dramaturg (researcher of the play and its historic context), the authors focused first on creating the characters.

"Each one was given a unique personality and hobby. Here is a family that is loving, deeply contented and, most important, tolerant of each other and everyone else."

When you throw in the daughter, Alice Sycamore (Jordyn Patton), the man she hopes to marry, Tony Kirby (Rowan Russell), and his straight-laced, Wall Street family, antics and adversity ensue.

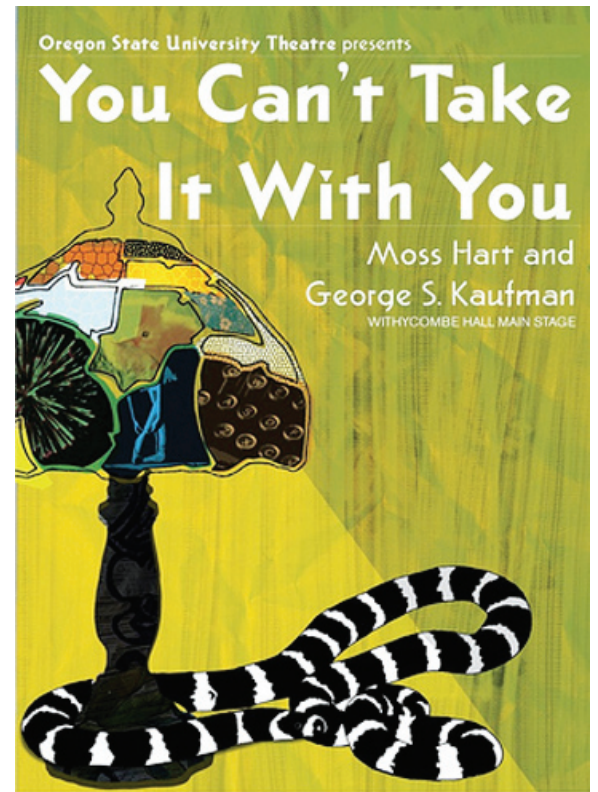
The script lends itself to making each cast member a star. Everyone has a sweet slate of witty one-liners and their share of thought-provoking moments. Each actor fills the shoes of their character beautifully, pushing their lines to the comedic limit. There wasn't a single character that didn't make me laugh out loud on opening night.

"My favorite part about the play is how inclusive it is of the entire cast, and each character gets its time to shine," said Russell.

However, Grandpa (Robert Iltis) is certainly the guiding light of the play. His lines earn frequent laughs while simultaneously offering the greatest dose of wisdom. As a thoughtful undertone, you can see how the rest of the family stems from his influence. It's Grandpa who really drives the moral home.

"The play's message is about having fun in life. Everyone should have this philosophy about life, it just makes people happier," says John Broc, who plays Agent.

The cast and crew had a relatively short time to prepare for the show. Russell



Oregon State University Theatre presents
You Can't Take It With You
Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman
WITHYCOMBE HALL MAIN STAGE

Tickets: May 13-15 at 7:30 p.m.
General \$12
Senior \$10
Student/Youth \$8
OSU Student \$5
May 20-22 at 7:30 p.m.
Sign language interpreted performance Friday, May 21.

Oregon State University
College of Liberal Arts

Cost: \$5 for OSU/LBCC students, \$8 youth/student, \$10 seniors, \$12 adults
Show times: 7:30 p.m., May 20-22 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
Location: Withycombe Main Stage at 30th and Campus Way in Corvallis
More information: OSU Theatre box office at 541-737-2784



LAST CALL

BEER REVIEW

Ginseng Porter

J.E.B. Oliver
Staff Writer

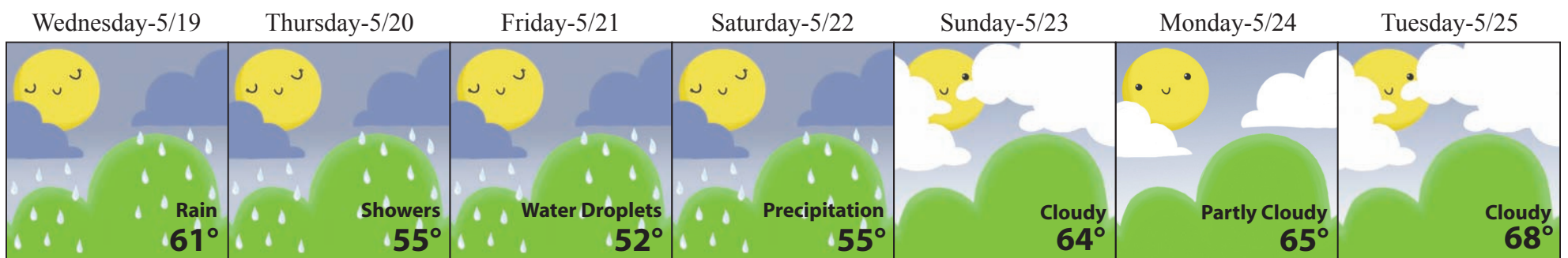
I recently went out to dinner at Fireworks restaurant in South Corvallis and enjoyed some delicious lamb. They had a great selection of beer from Block 15 and Oregon Trail Brewery, both out of Corvallis, so I decided to get something a bit local. I looked on the list of beers and went for the one I hadn't ever tried, the Ginseng Porter from Oregon Trail Brewery.

It was really a very enjoyable beer with a unique taste and the dark rich flavor that porters are supposed to have. The beer had a delicious, thick hops flavor and was poured expertly by my waitress. The ginseng was more of an

aftertaste, but it made the beer really tasty and I loved the flavor notes of that added zing. It was very sweet in a way. I just kept having more and more, I just couldn't stop drinking it. Each sip was like a little heavenly cloud of goodness and I noticed that I wasn't the only one going for it. I realized that almost every man in the room had one in his hand and we seemed almost like a club of excellent beer drinkers.

I am going to give this beer a four out of five because of how great it was. It didn't quite reach the five mark because of the unique Asian-like flavor which I don't know if most beer drinkers would like. But please head on down there and get yourself some.

Weekly Weather Predictions



Warning: These are only predictions. For up-to-date forecasts, please look out your window. Source: [weather.com](#)

says that it was an adventure getting such a high-energy show up in six weeks. Theatre students thrive on the grind.

"Rehearsals were fun, and with such a large cast, it was important for us to feel like one big family," says Bryan Bernart, who plays Ed.

"Marion Rossi is an amazing director," says Broc. "The cast includes some of the funniest and most talented people I have ever met. These are the people that make theatre an enjoyable thing to get into."

After a fantastic first weekend, the cast looks forward to putting on an even better finale.

Bernart says, "I feel good about the run so far, but as everyone finds their groove, we expect that our second weekend of shows will go even better."