

March 2, 2011

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

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*Sick Days &
Snow Days*

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Two-way Street

Racism - not for whites only

"I am white, and I have experienced racism," a student said to his instructor during a discussion on racism.

"No, you haven't! You are white," the instructor replied.

Is this correct? Does color determine who can or cannot experience racism? Is racism only experienced by non-white "minority" people and only practiced by white "majority" people?

No, racism is a two-way street.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary says racism is "a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race."

What was the white student talking about? Had he, indeed, experienced racism, or had he just felt bad because someone who didn't look like him didn't like him very much, or didn't treat him very nicely?

The student says when he visited Hawaii he was called a "Haole" many times, a derogatory term and sometimes racial slur, usually intended for white foreigners. He says he was followed in every store, and every bill he offered in payment was scrutinized - except the \$1 bills.

As Larry Keller explained in the Fall 2009 issue of "Intelligence Report" Southern Poverty Law Center's magazine, the racism problem plaguing Hawaii is downplayed because of the tourism industry. He gives this example of the level of racism some experience: The last day of school is unofficially known as "Kill the Haole Day." He reports some students are attacked, told to take their "white asses back to the mainland," and that some have even been severely injured.

Keller also says "Anti-white sentiments ... have been more than 200 years in the making. The pivotal event occurred when American and European businessmen, backed by U.S. military forces, overthrew Hawaii's monarch in 1893 and placed her under house arrest two years later."

Resentment over that incident still festers, causing a continued backlash against some white foreigners.

However, the belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority, as Webster said, is NOT unique to Hawaii, neither is it the sole possession of the white community in the United States or anywhere else in the world.

Racism is a two-way street.

When talking amongst themselves, citizens of many of the non-white areas of the world make it clear - they are the inherently superior people. Even



Alethea Skinner
News Editor

where whites are in the majority and claim controlling interest in the welfare of a nation, indigenous people tend to believe their ethnic heritage is the primary factor that makes their own race superior to all others.

Is that belief wrong? Are they not racist, too?

Yes they are because racism is a

two-way street.

In the United States, calls are made continually for discussions to raise awareness about racism and how to eradicate it.

With the election of Barack Obama, however, some have said his election indicates racism no longer exists. The blogosphere is filled with such comments. "You guys have a black president, so how can you still consider this word or act racist (whatever the word or act might be)."

Did the Obama election automatically extinguish long-held feelings that meet Merriam-Webster's definition?

No, not on either side. People want to talk, but who can open a meaningful dialog about a subject no one wants to own, or one they believe only belongs to others?

The burden of guilt is placed on the shoulders of the entire community of descendants of white slave owners. And too much of the community struggles to carry the weight of that guilt while wanting to eliminate it. But how can they work to eliminate it, as long they believe or are allowed to believe they are the only people who can be racists?

Meanwhile, non-white community members (some of whom are descendants of NON-WHITE slave holders) are free to make derogatory statements and are allowed to behave in ways they would not accept if the tables were turned.

Although sociology classes might teach racism as a burden to be borne only by the white community - the majority population - because it has the power to oppress, that philosophy tends to strengthen notions within every other population that they are without culpability.

As long as non-white people are willing to and are allowed to deny their own superior "better than" beliefs, attitudes and words as racist, and are allowed to deny it even exists within their culture, how can all sides enter into the discussion and work toward the goal of erasing it?

They can't. Racism is a two-way street. Anyone who functions within the confines of Webster's definition is living on "that" street and needs to acknowledge it. The ugliness of racism cannot be eradicated unless it is fully exposed at every level and carefully excised from every facet of life.

Denial is not the answer.

Racism is not a burden to be carried by one group or dismissed by another. Each must carry a portion of the load. We must choose between divided lines of the past or walking free in the present - and into the future.

Racism is not a burden to be carried by one group or dismissed by another. Each must carry a portion of the load.



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Fearless vs. Courageous

"I've no fear of pain nor death. Nor will I ever understand the meaning of love."

- Anonymous

The absence of fear is not courage; that's fearlessness, which is far less admirable. To be fearless is to be apathetic, detached from what it means to be human. There should be no pride in that.

I've known many fearless people. They're riddled with depression, unable to care, living without any sign of spirited ambition. I've known fearless types of all walks - potheads, white collars, neighbors.

A great many more are ruled by anger, which serves as both a mask and window to a person's insecurity. Anger tends to blind people to every other emotion, reason, and danger.



Justin Bolger
Editor-in-Chief

Some call it being a man; they see it as a call for respect. Why? I leave anger to the children and the cowards.

The mad can never know true courage.

There's a clarity in the courageous. They do exactly what needs to be done with complete respect and understanding for the risk involved. It's the quality of heroes.

We've always learned of heroes through our stories. Every people has their history, every religion has its myths, and every land has its legends; moreover, we have people. I mean the ones who show us it's possible to reach an ideal.

Though somewhat

few and far between, they're all around us, living their day-to-day. These can be our teachers and our friends, our mentors and our family. They would dare to enter a burning building. They might give their last dollar so that we may eat. They may lend you a ride and an ear at three in the morning.

Regardless of who they are for each of us, they share a common virtue. All heroes have a means to inspire courage in those around them, and they gladly do it at a sacrifice.

Courage means that in spite of all your doubt, in spite of the quivering in your bones, you press on. You take what should be weakness, and you make it your strength.

Courage is my creed. Let it be yours.

Every people has their history, every religion has its myths, and every land has its legends ...

Compliments Can Be Kind

People often spend a lot of time making themselves look good. Why then, is it "creepy" to give anything more than the most generic compliment for all of their hard work? Even a basic comment may be unacceptable.

Depending on the person, telling them

"you look nice" may or may not be taken as a creepy stalker-ish comment. However, if you actually take the time to give a well-thought-out and personalized compliment, then as my friend perfectly put it: "Thoughtful is translated as creepy for taking so much time to observe the outfit and formulate a more complex compliment."

It seems like our common mindset is if you ever compliment somebody, especially a member of the opposite sex, then you MUST be trying to follow up and get sex. Also, if you looked at somebody long enough to formulate a compliment, you CLEARLY had been sitting there lustily eyeballing them and mentally undressing them.

Obviously, neither of these is the case. Of course, some people might be being creepy, as there are always exceptions to the rule.

I know many men and women who spend over an hour getting ready and prettifying themselves every day. It just seems to me, if I spent that much time trying to make myself look good, I'd be offended if somebody didn't compliment me.

It also seems odd to me that this would be the case. It isn't okay to compliment somebody because it indicated you may have



Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

been checking them out and want to sleep with them. Yet it's perfectly okay, for example, to go to parties while scantily clad - when you know for certain people are checking you out and want to sleep with you.

Also, to be perfectly blunt, it seems kind of ridiculous when people who wear extremely tight and/or revealing clothing get creeped out when somebody notices. No offense, but if you don't want people to look at your chest, don't wear a shirt with a neckline that goes to your belly-button.

All of this being said, of course people can legitimately be very creepy when complimenting people. In my experience though, those people tend to give their compliments anyway, regardless of how "weird" it may be socially. Therefore, it seems to me that we are mostly missing out on the legitimately non-weird compliments.

I understand that it can be somewhat startling and weird when people compliment you out of nowhere, but that is only because it isn't common.

I was surprised yesterday at work when a girl I didn't know walked up and told me my Scottish tartan tie and gryphon necklace looked good. Once I got over the initial "huh?" it was very nice.

People should compliment each other more often in their daily lives - as thoughtfully and non-creepily as possible. Tell people their jackets/hair styles/shoes/etc. look nice, tell them politely and in a friendly manner, and if you are complimented, don't automatically assume the person is a stalker trying to get in your pants.



BACK in the DAY

Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

This day in history ...

March 2, 1127: No good deed unpunished ...

Charles I "the Good," Count of Flanders, is hacked to death while praying by a group of knights loyal to the Erembald family. Fr. Erembald orders the assassination. Charles is known as "the Good" because he is extremely kind and works at feeding the poor. He also breaks up a ring of nobles led by the Erembald family who are hoarding grain then selling it to peasants at extortionate prices during a famine. Charles goes so far as to lower the Erembald family to the status of serfs. It is due to this insult that Charles is assassinated. Immediately after his death he is locally considered a Saint. He is beatified in 1884 and March 2 is his feast day.

March 3, 1986: Obey your master!

Metallica releases its new album, "Master of Puppets." It is the first album of theirs to sell over 1 million copies. It is considered by many experts to be one of the most influential heavy metal albums. On a side note, a band called Van Canto does a rather amusing capella cover of the song "Master of Puppets." I recommend looking it up on Youtube.

March 4, 1152: Good choice ...

Frederick I is elected King of Germany. He is soon crowned King of Italy, King of Burgundy, and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Frederick I is given the extremely famous nickname "Barbarossa" which means "red beard," by the Italians, who both fear and respect him. Barbarossa is an amazing king and man, his deeds, skills, charisma, and stature result in almost mythical status immediately. He is considered practically superhuman by many of his peers. He dies in 1190 while on crusade. However, a common German legend states that Barbarossa did not actually die, he just went to sleep. He now rests in the mountains, and will ride forth to save Germany in her hour of darkest need.

March 5, 1940: Poland will endure!

The Soviet government finalizes an order to murder almost 26,000 Polish civilians and POWs captured when the Soviets helped Nazi Germany invade Poland. The location of this mass execution is the Katyn forest.

March 6, 1857: Boo!

The U.S. Supreme Court puts forth its ruling in the case of Dredd Scott v. Sandford. The Court rules that slaves and their descendents are not protected by the Constitution, the federal government cannot prohibit slavery in territories, and that slaves cannot sue as they have no legal rights. The Court hopes this will settle the slavery issue once and for all. Bastards.

March 7, 1950: Spy vs. Spy ...

The Soviet Union officially denies that German-born, American/British citizen, physicist Klaus Emil Julius Fuchs (Fox) was a spy while he worked on the Manhattan Project and subsequent atomic weapons research. Klaus is sentenced to 14 years in prison, the maximum sentence for providing military secrets to a friendly nation, since the USSR is still classified as an ally at this time.

March 8, 1983: Good vs. evil?

Ronald Reagan refers to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire" for the first time. It marks an escalation in the ideological aspect of the Cold War. Obviously, it also seriously pisses off the entire Eastern Bloc and causes a massive increase in tensions.

Thought for the week:

"Computers are like Old Testament gods; lots of rules and no mercy."
-Joseph Campbell

Dear Conscience,

Question: Do people actually send in these questions, or do you just make them up every week?

Ashley Christie
Shoulder Devil



Justin Bolger
Shoulder Angel

Could we just make up all these questions week after week?

Um ... yeah.

And do you know why?

Because all of your lives are so perfect you don't need our advice. Your lives are all happy-happy-joy-joy, with kittens and rainbows and unicorns. It makes me sick.

Do you know who gives good advice? Me. I'm awesome at it. Angel Boy over there ain't bad either if you're looking for that "shucks, gee, golly" sweet and wholesome garbage.

I know you all have problems because the world sucks. But, instead of taking two minutes to send us an email, or just stopping by our office (which you probably walk by ten times a day), you would rather ask two random strangers for advice. Which means you then go about the rest of your day complaining to everyone else about your crappy life and how no one understands you.

That leaves us to invent our own self-serving questions, like this one.

Seriously, we'll answer any question you have. ANY question. From the appeal of Justin Bieber to wardrobe choices to relationship quandaries, no topic is off limits. And I, at least, will give you an honest and straight-forward answer.

Maybe that's the problem. Am I too real for you? You're scared of what the big bad devil's going to say?

Well, too bad!

It's called tough love. I don't sugarcoat, and neither does the rest of the world. (With the exception of my angelic friend next door.) It's time to nut up people.

Nope! We make 'em up!

I'm an honest little angel, of course, so I won't beat around the bush. It would be absolutely fantastic if we could give advice on some real questions from our readers, but we need your help to do that!

As much as I love writing about clichéd dilemmas, stuff that relates to other articles, and, you know, Justin Bieber, I'd much rather see some good old-fashioned audience participation! It's a pretty simple process:

1. Observe a moral quarrel (or anything debatable) in either your life, or one of your friends.
2. Sum up the situation and the question in just a sentence or three.
3. Email it to us at commuter@linnbenton.edu with the subject "Dear Conscience."

How cool would it be to see the Shoulder Devil and me chat about your life? It's tempting, I know. What about this: How heart-warming would it be to see your torn-up friend restored to full happiness because of our advice on their situation? It would be a wonderfully touching event that you made happen – give yourself a pat on the back!

Honestly, other people may have problems similar to your own, but some of them are just too darn bashful to ask someone else for advice. You can let others learn from your (anonymous) requests for aid!

You could be helping your friend AND the whole campus community! Gee, how inspiring is that?



Keep 'em Crossed Ladies

Nebraska and Georgia Introduce "Justifiable Homicide" Bill

Nebraska's "Justifiable Homicide" Bill — "Last week, South Dakota's legislature shelved a bill, introduced by Republican state Rep. Phil Jensen, which would have allowed the use of the 'justifiable homicide' defense for killings intended to prevent harm to a fetus.



Marci Sischo
Webmaster

Now a nearly identical bill is being considered in neighboring Nebraska, where on Wednesday the state legislature held a hearing on the measure."

This bill was introduced by state Sen. Mark Christensen, an anti-abortion megaChristian. Now, South Dakota's bill would have allowed a pregnant woman, her husband, parents, or kids to use the "justifiable homicide" defense if they popped a cap in somebody they thought was threatening the fetus. I'm not exactly sure when a situation like this would happen, really. I'd guess it would cover situations like a hubby beating his pregnant wife, so her dad or kids kill the husband, or maybe if the husband or someone similar kills some mugger or home intruder or something like that? (Except I think that one might already be covered for justifiable homicide, preggers or no.)

Nebraska's bill would let any third party use the defense if they thought a fetus was in danger. So, long story short, don't be an abortion provider in Nebraska, because your ass is going to get shot.

The South Dakota bill is one thing, but this Nebraska bill all but legalizes killing doctors who do abortions. I guess I'm not sure where to start with this, because to me, this is so obviously and clearly wrong that if you don't already agree with me, I'd have no idea what to say to you. If you can't see this is wrong, then you're not rational enough for me to have a conversation with, really. In short, if you think this is a good bill, you are crazy.

Georgia state Rep. Bobby Franklin wants to

make miscarriages punishable by death. — "Today comes word that Georgia state Rep. Bobby Franklin is shopping a bill that wouldn't just make abortion illegal in Georgia, it would criminalize miscarriages to boot."

This Bobby Franklin is the same ass that wanted to legally mandate that stalking, domestic violence, and rape victims be called "accusers" instead of victims. Now he's introduced a bill that makes abortion illegal and calls for investigations into miscarriages. Jen Phillips at Mother Jones says, "Both miscarriages and abortions would be potentially punishable by death: any 'prenatal murder' (in the words of the bill), including 'human involvement' in a miscarriage, would be a felony and carry a penalty of life in prison or death."

Seriously, people, what the hell is "human involvement?" Isn't the mother human? Isn't she involved? I think the real story here is that Bobby Franklin just accidentally tipped his hand. He apparently doesn't think women are human. Either that or he's so damn stupid he thinks Georgian woman are running around all helter-skelter inducing miscarriages every month. I mean, whichever way you want to take that, it isn't very flattering to Bobby.

Also, does this guy not know how common miscarriages are? I think it's something like a quarter

So, long story short, don't be an abortion provider in Nebraska, because your ass is going to get shot.

of all pregnancies terminate in miscarriage, frequently so early on that the woman doesn't even realize she was pregnant. So, this guy wants Georgia to pay to investigate all those miscarriages? Isn't that going to cost a frickin' fortune? Don't they have better things to spend money on there, like, maybe, a basic biology

education that might help prevent this sort of foolishness?

For extra lulz, check out Bobby's Facebook page. The top post on his wall, with the photos, has 200+ comments blasting him for this stupid bill.

Have questions? We have answers.

Send your questions to: commuter@linnbenton.edu

PERSPECTIVES

What would you ask Dear Conscience?



Noemi Corona,
Psychology

"Should I tell my parents where I am going for spring break?"



Ricky Zipp,
Elementary Education

"What is an appropriate time to 'party' or have fun while in school?"



Stephanie Hilpert
Accounting

"Why are people different when they are texting or on Facebook than they are in real life?"



Josiah Olson,
Undecided

"How do you balance sports and school?"



Turi Eidness,
Nursing

"What is a good stress reliever after finals?"

Just Stay Home if You're Sick

Okay sickies, we need to have a chat. In the past two weeks, you have surrounded me. You and your contagious [insert sickness here]-filled bodies. This needs to end. I need to get better. YOU need to get better.

It's not hard either – just listen to your body. Funny enough, it needs rest. So if you haven't been home before 3 a.m. every night, and wake up before noon, you NEED more rest.



Katey Whiteman
Contributing Writer

Stop coming to school if you have a fever, or feel that you should not (that doesn't mean don't want to) attend a public place. Nobody else wants your cooties.

I get that some workplaces require that you come to work at all times, and if you can't get your shift covered, you still come to work. These places are honestly a pain. I understand because I work in one of these places. However, if you can get into your local Urgent Care Center

and get not only a diagnosis, but also a doctor's note to give to your loving boss, then you're covered. Cheese and rice people, take care of yourself. We are almost done with the term, no need to be missing school now.

Let's make a list. Follow along so I don't have to have this conversation with you again next month. Next month is going to be a great month, and I'm NOT going to spend it at home with a snotty nose and Spanish soap operas trying to make my \$100 calculator work right.

1. If you feel like you have a fever (you have chills, sweats, someone touches your forehead and says, "Oh, man! You're on fire!"), take your temperature and assume that you are contagious.
2. Upon realizing that you are contagious, try to be courteous to your fellow human beings. Go buy cold medicine, or better yet, go see a doctor. Don't wait two weeks trying to balance work and school while sick – you won't make it very far. Try to catch whatever little monster is trying to take over your body early on. If money/insurance is an issue, go to the Benton or Linn County Health Clinic. While it is not a free clinic, nobody is turned away because of inability to pay. They determine your bill based on your monthly income and family size. Now, I get that that sounds like a lot of work, but it is worth it.
3. If you still refuse to go to the doctor, at least stay home. E-mail your teachers and explain the situation. You need to take care of yourself and get better. Drink lots of fluids, sleep for about 18 hours, then evaluate. But please, avoid contact with the community. I'm sick of being sick.



I think that's all I have to rant about for now. I hope you all feel better soon and make it through this nasty, infectious time. Drink up that OJ, get a few extra hours of sleep, and let's finish this term with a "BAM!"



Snow day? LBCC thinks not. On Thursday and Friday this past week, I awoke to three inches of snow on my car and a mix of snow and ice on the road. Naturally, I expected that LBCC would close their doors to ensure the safety of students, such as myself, who commute from Lebanon and surrounding areas.



Jordan Tunstill
A&E Editor

However, when I went online to see if I had a snow day ahead, LBCC's web page displayed the message, "Operating as normal."

What? Thursday had a low of 23 degrees! I could hardly get down my hill due to snow and ice. Not to mention, all Albany and Lebanon schools were closed on Friday except for LBCC. I talked to some school faculty about why the school remained open, and the general response was that if conditions near campus were decent, and outlying areas were not too terribly bad, then school would commence as scheduled.

Now, that makes some sense in theory, but the conditions were not good at all during those

days, especially in outlying areas such as Lebanon and Corvallis, or even as close as Jefferson.

The consensus of most of my peers was if you can't make it to school or you just don't feel safe attempting to drive, then you should just skip.

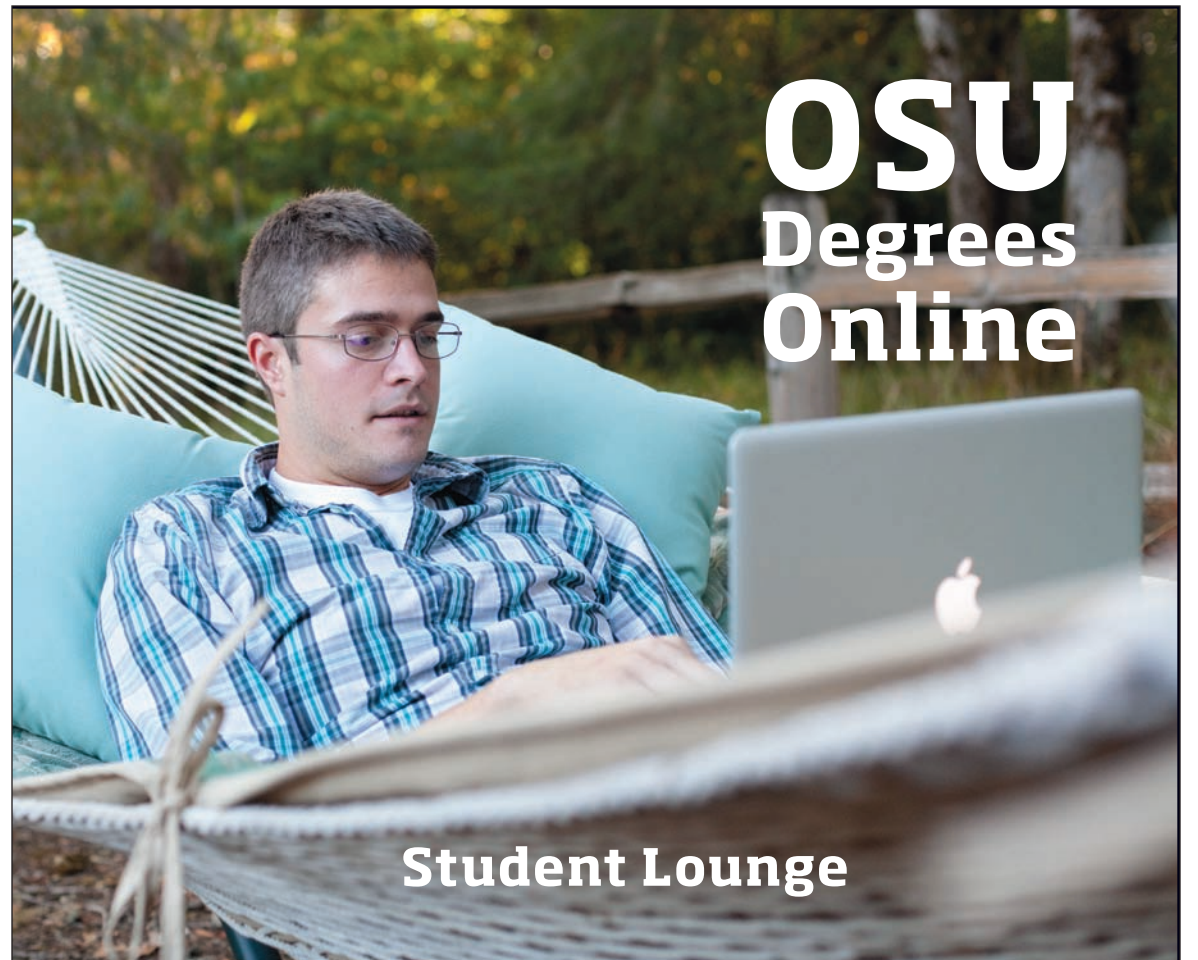
And that's fine, for students who are just trying to get a passing grade. But for A students like myself, skipping even one class is hard to make myself do. So I braved the ice, and I made it to school without crashing, although there was one instance where I briefly lost traction due to black ice.

The point I am trying to make is this: Safety is much more important than a day of school – if students feel pressured to attend class while conditions are hazardous, LBCC is unnecessarily putting their students in harm's way.

I propose LBCC implement a system that allows students to make up tests and/or meet deadlines, and have absences due to weather stricken from the record.

Guarantees like that would help keep students from making bad driving decisions while keeping their grades up.

"Safety doesn't happen by accident."
~Author Unknown



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LBCC Men Advance to Playoffs

Scott Landgren

Sports Editor

This past week was a very exciting one for LBCC men's basketball team. The team went 2-0 this weekend and will advance to the NWAACC tournament as the three seed from the south division.

On Friday night, LB was on the road and beat Chemeketa Community College 94-69. Then, on sophomore night, LB returned home and beat league-leading Clackamas Community College 69-67.

With the two wins LB will advance to play Pierce Community College, a team that beat LB early in the preseason by a score of 89-66. The game will be played this Saturday at 10 p.m. in Kennewick, WA. Pierce finished the year with a record of 20-6 overall and 13-3 in the West Division.

"We are all ready to go and hungry for LB's first championship," said sophomore Taylor Roos.

The game Friday night was just the kind of game LB needed, a blowout victory.

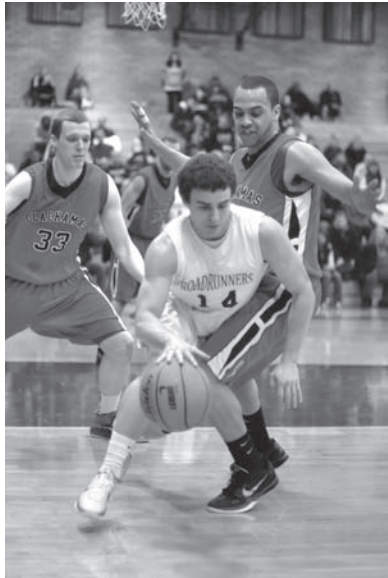
Leading the way in points for LB was Taylor Roos who had 19, but not far behind were sophomore Mike Kruesi and freshman Josh Garlington with 16 points. LBCC only had 10 turnovers in the game and forced 18 turnovers from Chemeketa, getting 23 points off of them. The big stat on the night was shooting percentage, LB finished at an amazing 60 percent overall while Chemeketa was only at 42.4 percent.

Saturday night was a big night for the sophomores on the team. It will be the last time any of them play a home game at LB. The sophomores are, Taylor Roos, Mike Kruesi, Kyle Wolf and Micheal Kirkwood. It was a very exciting game that came down to a layup with only six seconds left from Josh Garlington to help get the win for LB over Clackamas.

Taylor Roos had a team high 20 points while Kruesi had 13 and Garlington had 12 points on the night. LBCC only had 12 turnovers on the night and forced 18, the other big number was three pointers, LB made 8 of 16 on the night.

"We are hot right now and are playing our best basketball and we are not backing down," said Roos.

LB finished the regular season with an overall record of 11-13 overall and 8-6 in the South Division and will look to continue their strong end to the season this weekend at the NWAACC tournament in Washington.



Tony Brown
Mike Kruesi takes a hit as he controls the ball.

Scott Landgren

Sports Editor

Imagine what it is like to be part of triplets growing up. Spending all sorts of time with your siblings and doing everything together. That was what it was like for LB basketball player Taylor Roos.

What would it be like to play against your brother after all those years of playing together? Taylor has to deal with that every time he plays against his brother Trent, who plays basketball at Chemeketa Community College. Ashlyn, their sister, plays basketball at Corban.

Taylor is part of triplets.

This season Taylor and has played Trent twice. In their first meeting at LB, Taylor scored 25 points while Trent scored 23 points, but Chemeketa won the game 73-70. In the second meeting at Chemeketa, Taylor had 19 points and Trent had only 8. The biggest change was in the final score; LB got a little payback and won 94-69.

"Playing against my brother is definitely surreal. It's hard not to get in a one on one battle with him when we play each other. It is also hard not get in a fight with him out on the court," said Taylor.

Before they split up and went to different colleges, the Roos brothers played together at Sprague High School. They were quite the dynamic duo in high school and played well together.

"My brother and I played well together; especially when we were both on the court



Tony Brown
The Roos brothers, Taylor (left) and Trent, face-off on the basketball court.

at the same time, we both have a feel for where each other is on the court and it made it a lot of fun," said Trent Roos.

After they played high school ball together, the Roos brothers went different ways to continue their basketball careers. Taylor ended up at LB and it just so happened that Trent ended up at Chemeketa, and they would be able to play against each other twice a year which can set up some interesting matchups. Trent said, "Playing against my brother brings back memories of when we used to play one on one growing up and the competitive

drive we both had to win."

While Taylor scored more points in each win this season, LB was only 1-1 in games versus Chemeketa. During the game at LB this season, the Roos mom had on a shirt that had Taylor and his number on one side and Trent and his number on the other side. That might be the hardest thing for a parent to deal with, having two kids playing against each other.

"It is really fun to have them play against each other, makes for a really competitive matchup, said LB Head Coach Randy Falk.

Everyone's Welcome!!

Student Programing Board Presents:

MARCH MADNESS BASKETBALL

When: March 5th from 10 am - 8 pm

Where: Activity Center Gym

What: 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Single elimination bracket set up with prizes for the top three teams!

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator & employer. If you have questions about or requests for special needs & accommodations, contact the Disability Coordinator at LBCC, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, OR 97321, phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.






Write. Snap. Edit. Print.

The Commuter is looking for reporters, photographers, cartoonists, columnists, and copy editors to join the staff.

Applications available in The Commuter office (F-222).
Call (541) 917-4451 for more info.

LBCC Women End Season with Tough Losses

Kiger Plews
Staff Writer

The Linn-Benton Women's basketball team finished the 2010-2011 season with losses to Chemeketa and Clackamas last week. The Roadrunners fell at Chemeketa Community College on Friday 73-63 to the Storm. The following night they dropped their season finale at home to the division-leading Clackamas Cougars 83-63 in a hard fought battle.

On Friday the Roadrunners traveled up I-5 to visit Chemeketa with just seven players able to suit up. Freshman Heidi Halemeier led LB with 28 points and 10 rebounds, and Lacey Wood, another freshman, shot 6 for 6 from the field and finished with 12 points and 6 rebounds. Linn-Benton played the Storm even for most of the game and the statistics show that. Both teams had similar rebounding, assist, turnover, and shooting stats. The one big difference in the outcome of the game was the lack of bench production by the Roadrunners. Chemeketa's bench outscored the LB bench 13-4 and those 9 points could have had a huge impact especially in a close game like it was. Chemeketa was led by the inside presence of Erin Stephens who dominated the paint, scoring 18 points, grabbing 17 boards and blocking 3 LB shots.

Coach Teresa Guerra said of the loss, "We played hard tonight. They just hit some key buckets



Tony Brown
Dorian Perkey takes a shot from the top of the key.

and we just couldn't hit anything the last few minutes of the game."

The following night LB returned home for the season-finale to play host to the division's top team, Clackamas. Sophomore Whitney Hughes paced LB with 16 points and 12 rebounds in her final game as a Roadrunner. Sophomore Sam Sanders chipped in 17 points and sophomore Carrie Garrison added 9 assists in their final game as well. The score of the game does not tell the whole story, as the Roadrunners and Cougars had almost identical rebounding, assist, turnover, and shooting percentage numbers. Much like the night earlier it was small things that led to the loss. Clackamas made 5 more

field goals, 6 more free-throws, and 4 more three-pointers than LB. Sam McCloud led the way for Clackamas with 22 points, 11 rebounds, 5 assists, and 6 steals.

"Whitney (Hughes) had a huge game for us defensively as well as offensively for us. They are the number one team in the division and I was pleased with how we battled," Guerra said.

The two losses eliminated the Roadrunners from playoff contention and dropped LB into a tie for sixth in the division at 4-10, and a 6-18 record overall to finish out the season. They say that football is a game of inches, well it is obvious that this is true of basketball too because LB played two very solid games to finish the season but just couldn't pull out the wins.

MOTO MAN RIDES AGAIN

What Bike is Best for Me?

Chris Brotherton
Staff Writer

Spring is begrudgingly waking up and rubbing the sleep from its eyes, and with it, riding is fast approaching. Many motorcyclists are just now starting to dust off their rides and get things ready for warmer weather and higher gas prices that are on the way.

However, there are many motorcyclists out there that are currently bikeless. Whether it is because they had to sell their bike in order to upgrade, or they have never owned a bike before, now is the time to shop. The nicer the weather gets, the higher the prices are going to go.

The first thing you need to look at is your experience level. If you have never even thrown a leg over a bike, then your first one probably shouldn't be a 600cc repli-racer. There is a really good chance that you will kill yourself. Also, buying a brand

new bike isn't a great idea. If you drop a bike that already has a few "beauty marks" then you are less likely to be as upset.

Next, you should consider what type of riding you are going to be doing. Are you interested in exploring backwoods? Are you ready to take off across the country, or are you more interested in just cruising around town?

If you are looking for a bike that will get you around town, down the highway and around the backwoods, then a dual sport is what you are looking for. One of the most famous examples of this is the Kawasaki KLR 650. This bike isn't the greatest at tight trails, but it will explore fire roads in comfort and keep up with freeway traffic while still getting over 40 miles per gallon.

If your goal is to pack up and take off on a cross country tour tomorrow, then a full dress touring bike like a Honda Goldwing should be on your shopping list. With

amenities such as a radio, cruise control and adjustable air shocks, you can ride in comfort while the spacious hard luggage compartment holds your clothes and supplies in waterproof protection.

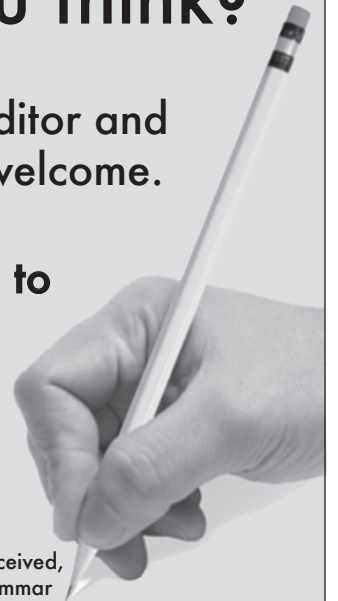
For most however, commuting is going to be the name of the game for their bikes. The cruiser or standard style is great for this. These bikes can run in displacement from 250cc all the way over 2000cc. They have a foot forward seating position and can be fitted with all manner of accessories, such as bags and windshields, to help make your commute easier on you.

The most important thing is to not rush out and buy a bike just because you think it looks cool. Take your time and shop around a little bit. Throw your leg over a couple of bikes before choosing one. The more comfortable you are, the safer your ride is going to be, and the more likely you are to ride your new gas saver.

What do you think?

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

Submit your thoughts to
commuter
@linnbenton.edu



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



The Corvallis-OSU Symphony Society presents

An evening with Chris Botti

and the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra

Friday, April 1, 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm

LaSells Stewart Center, OSU

Tickets \$30, \$45, \$60, \$75

TicketsOregon.com (503) 432-9477

Visit COSUSymphony.org

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

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commuter.linnbenton.edu





Craigslist: Forum for Rants and Raves

Tim Smith

Contributing Writer

Are you a Craigslist user? Craigslist has taken over many facets of printed newspaper classified ads. Everyone can post ads for items for sale, help wanted, personal notices, and real estate for free. Commercial user may incur a fee, but if you are an average person wanting to get your message out, then Craigslist might be for you.

One of the more active parts of Craigslist is the Rants and Raves section, located in the personals area. Rants and Raves is organized by location, as is all of Craigslist. After selecting your area, you enter the forum, and are immediately exposed to the opinions of anyone in your area choosing to post on Craigslist.

The Corvallis/Albany Rants and Raves section has a very lively discussion most of the time. Most of the posts are negative against something someone is unhappy with. For example, the current discussion, as I write this, involves the Oregon Trail card. The Oregon Trail card is the way in which food stamp money is distributed, instead of paper coupons.

A poster started the thread by saying, "Stopped at a convenience store for a snack and an overweight lady in front of me is buying food, a bottle of Mountain Dew and a 44-ounce fountain drink, which she then proceeds to pay for using an Oregon Trail card - but then pulls out cash to buy 3 or 4 scratch-off tickets. I'll be pissed if she wins. At least, if she loses on all of them, the state will get back some of their money."

The poster is upset because they observed, what they thought was a waste of their money, or taxpayer's money since food assistance is paid for by taxes. The follow-up posts range from someone saying they don't want another thread on Oregon Trail cards, to not blaming the poor lady using the cards because she is influenced by the "food lobby." The point of all of this is that everyone has an opinion. Whether they are right or wrong, Craigslist Rants and Raves is there for people to share them.

The general theme is one of negativity, but once in a while a rave does pop up.

A poster may be happy with the dinner they had the night before or some service they received and open a thread about it. One recent rave was about a person who was happy with their car service and posted the name of the business with a positive message attached.

The bulk of postings, by far, are politically charged rants about any subject from the president to the local city council.

Another favorite subject is the Corvallis Police Department. Craigslist is an anonymous forum and people take advantage of that. They let loose and tell it like they see it, where they may not do that if they had to put a name on their opinions.

The political rants seem to go to the absolute extreme on either side. And, usually, it does not take long for someone to be offended and the post disappears after being "flagged."

If enough of the Craigslist population does not agree with or like one of the posts, a process is in place to remove the offending post. (A post may be "flagged" by clicking on a link in the upper right hand corner of the page.) Once enough people "flag" the offending post, it is deleted from the site. This provides a check against posts that may be offensive or contain information that is objectionable to the Craigslist community without Craigslist having to have someone to police the posts. Flagging is also abused to get rid of a post that someone simply does not like or agree with.

Craigslist is a valuable resource to the community. It provides an easy, cheap alternative to posting a classified ad in the newspaper. It also provides a forum to anonymously discuss issues.

PCDC Slated to be Eliminated

Audrey Gomez

Copy Editor

Last week LBCC president Greg Hamann announced that more faculty and staff positions are being cut to help balance the college's budget. In that process, the Periwinkle Child Development Center (PCDC) is also being eliminated.

When LBCC student Mel Hite learned of the decision to close PCDC, she wrote a letter to the mayor of Albany about her concerns.

Hite and a handful of other students and community members who use the PCDC for childcare are on a mission to reverse the decision to discontinue the program.

"We were under the impression that a teacher might get cut. We didn't think the program was going to be cut."

None of the current faculty and staff will remain after the spring term.

As it stands, the school is in talks with HeadStart to take over childcare. Families will need to qualify for HeadStart in order to use the program. Education students, who use PCDC as their practicum, may also need to go off-campus to fulfill the requirement, after the closure.

Caila Williams, a dual-enrolled student who is in her last term at LBCC said, "This (PCDC) is the only reason I've been able to come to school. If I don't find affordable quality childcare, I'm in trouble." She submitted a letter to the Democrat-Herald about the way the program has benefited her family.

It isn't only about LBCC students - it's also about their children.

"I don't want them having to struggle because I can't get an education in order to get a better job," said Hanna Smith. She has two children attending PCDC and is two terms away from finishing her AAOT degree. After graduation she



Audrey Gomez
Parents (from left) Mel Hite, Reiner Bohlen, Melissa Bledsoe, and Cary Carson-Rieke, go over their notes before a meeting with LB President Hamann.

hopes to go into diagnostic imaging.

While a majority of the participants are students, community members who are not LBCC students may also enroll their children at PCDC. Reiner Bohlen, a local business owner who uses the co-op for childcare, said one of the things he and his wife enjoy about the program is that it is not just daycare, it's a preschool.

Bohlen said, "It is hard to imagine people who are more invested in childcare than parents and education students."

Hite, Bohlen, and fellow PCDC co-op members Melissa Bledsoe, and Cary Carson-Rieke, met with Hamann Monday afternoon.

"We just want a chance," Hite said.

In the hour-long meeting, the group asked what they could do at this point to keep PCDC open. Bohlen asked Hamann for specifics about the "hurdles" they need to overcome and for a deadline. Hamann, who said he was "never absolutely closed to anything," agreed to get back to the group with the answers to their questions by the end of the week.

At Hite's request, Hamann will be visiting the PCDC Thursday morning.

Eclectic Fennell Teaches Biology

Scott Landgren

Sports Editor

You might find him taking pictures at weddings, hiking up a mountain or traveling to places around the West. But the place you will most likely find him is in a science classroom at LBCC. Who is the mystery man who likes photography, hiking and science? It's biology instructor, Jeff Fennell.

There is a lot to the man behind the biology instructor; Fennell is a man of many titles and many interests. On weekdays he is an energetic teacher who gets students excited about biology, but in his free time he has many interests beyond the classroom.

In 2006 Fennell and his family moved to Oregon when he took a job at LBCC. He teaches three basic biology classes at LBCC, Bio 101, 102 and 103. Anyone who says that Jeff is not qualified for the job have not talked to him and learned that he has spent 10 years of his life in some schooling.

Fennell started his schooling while he was in the Air Force. After four years of active



provided by LBCC
Biology instructor Jeff Fennell

duty, he moved to the University of Washington where he got his undergrad degree in Biology. His next stop was Montana State where he got his masters in Fish and Wildlife management.

"I think he is a great instructor because he has so much experience in the field already," said student Manny Ortiz.

Teaching is not always what Fennell wanted to do in life; he said he sort of fell back onto teaching. "I always loved learning about animals and the behaviors of different animals," said Fennell. He wanted to go into wildlife management but there is not enough demand for that position so he fell into teaching and has taught at many

different community colleges in Washington and Oregon.

"The best part of my job is the students, I enjoy interacting with them and helping them learn about biology. It's a fun job," said Fennell.

While he said he does enjoy teaching, he said there are parts of it that he does not like so much - like grading papers. Like any good teacher, Fennell loves doing things outside of school. One of his hobbies is photography, he has a business taking pictures at weddings and doing some portraits.

If you can't find him taking pictures somewhere, there is a good chance you could find him traveling or hiking somewhere. He has been to every state west of Texas and Oklahoma.

Fennell has so much experience in the field of biology that when you are in his class you are bound to hear a great story you can relate the information to. From getting shot at while doing his grad-school project or just some of his experiences hiking and traveling, Fennell always has a great story to tell and really enjoys talking to his students.

Office Hours: Q&A with Melissa Hinzman

Sarah McClanahan
Editorial Assistant

Melissa Hinzman is a Writing 115 and 121 instructor at LBCC who believes the best way to get students interested in learning about writing is to make it fun and relatable. Read on to find out more about her.

Commuter : What brought you to teach at LBCC?

Melissa Hinzman: When I was living in Scotland, getting my master's [degree], I was trying to find a job when I moved home. It was an instructor pool at LBCC, and I applied not thinking that I would be hired and probably a month and a half after I got home, they called me for an interview, and I've been working here ever since.

C: Is there a certain person that inspired you to get into teaching and writing?

MH: I actually didn't intend to get into teaching, I wanted to do literature, but it's a harder field to get into. But I guess it would probably be Kit Andrews at Western Oregon University. He was one of the best instructors I ever had. I took his class for Holocaust literature as well as both British literature and Peter Kent novels. He is the one who got me into liking to write and enjoying it. He just really got me into literature – mainly European literature.

C: Is there anywhere else in the states or abroad that you would want to teach?

MH: I would love to go back and teach in Europe. I did teach English for a year in a German-speaking country, which was an eye-opening experience and extremely rewarding. It's actually what got me into enjoying teaching English. That experience was phenomenal!

C: Are there any other classes you would want to teach on campus?

MH: I would love to teach more English classes. I got my first opportunity to teach an English class this term and it was awesome! Poetry, and I would also love to teach German classes. Obviously, I don't have my master's in that, so I can't teach it, but if I was able to, I would teach introductory German classes.

C: What are some hobbies/activities that you enjoy doing outside of campus?

MH: Well, obviously I love to read anything and everything. I really enjoy music. Concerts are a big thing. I enjoy crafting, which makes me sound older than I actually am. I love to knit. I enjoy going to the beach. I enjoy camping a lot, and I haven't been able to do it because I've been working so much. Traveling – I really enjoy traveling, and I miss not being able to do it as often as I have in the past.

C: What is one country you would like to travel to that you haven't visited yet?

MH: Russia! I really want to go to Russia. Russia is probably the number one on my list. Then it will be China. I really want to enjoy Asia.

C: If you could meet one celebrity, who would it be?

MH: Can I choose two? For a literary figure I would choose Paul Celan, who is my all-time favorite poet and Holocaust survivor. He died in 1971, and he was just brilliant! For a living person, I would probably chose Jesse Lacey from Brand New. He is an amazing lyricist and I just love everything he does. I think it would be interesting to talk to him, because he hates touring and I would I want to ask him about that. I think it would be interesting to pick his brain. Then I would have him play an acoustic ensemble of his entire album collection.

C: If you had a chance to sit down with J.K Rowling, what's one question you would ask her?

MH: I would ask her, "How do you come up with a story



Melissa Hinzman

Photo by Sarah McClanahan

Where to find Melissa Hinzman

Office: NSH-113
Phone: 541-917-4525
Email: Melissa.Hinzman@linnbenton.edu
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10-11 a.m. and by appt.

that spans that much time and that many different angles and not get lost in it?" It baffles my mind. I would love to sit down with her and ask her how she did it. She is amazingly brilliant!

C: Is there anything else you would want students to know about you?

MH: Aside from what most of them figure out on their own being in classes with me, I am a very laid-back person. I am lenient as well. I understand situations that they come from and am willing to work with them on problems that are in their lives, which has occurred. Life hands us things at random times that they have to deal with, and understanding that it interferes with their school work – it's something we have to be aware of.

Bohmker: The Activity Center's Man Behind the Scenes

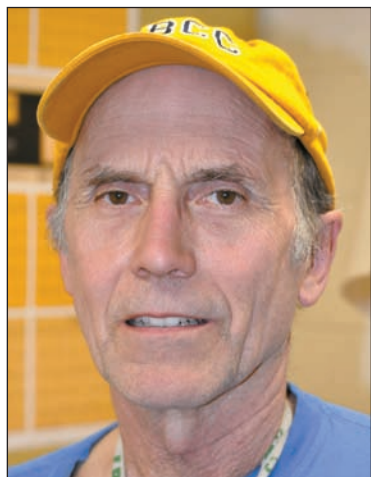
Michaela Wasson
Contributing Writer

Tom Bohmker thought he was dying. At 60 years old he had been struck with paralysis and was flat in his bed. He thought a lot about leaving. Sometimes he even wanted to. But there was one thing that worried him very much about the idea: his wife's dream house. He hadn't finished it yet.

Bohmker is the equipment coordinator at LBCC's Activity Center. The whole place needs his work to keep things running smoothly. But now he was sick.

Seven years ago James Bell hired him for the post of athletic equipment coordinator. He said he was the most qualified man that applied. "He had the skills to fix things, the positive attitude ... and the desire to help the teaching/learning done in the AC."

Tom does even more than that. All we see when we walk by his office is Tom pattering around the roaring washing machines. We recognize the perpetual jean shirt with the



LB Activity Center equipment coordinator Tom Bohmker.

Tony Brown

stains washed into it, the smile that stretches his bony brown face as he tries to remember your name. But we can't see around the corner to where the hidden office is.

The little room floats in the smell of cleaning solutions; it's tidy, with labels on the cabinets of supplies. Some jokester put up a picture of "Tom's dream commuter pickup," a huge dump truck. A two-volume history of Stonewall Jackson is propped up on a shelf. And on one of the closets, slightly crooked, there hangs a picture of a woman and her two girls. She

was a former work-study student. Her daughter is very sick. Bohmker is worried about her.

He also tells the story about Tim. He's very proud of Tim.

Tim was a student that no one else would have been proud of. Out of high school he had dragged his feet playing video games before signing up to do work-study at LBCC. Tom said he tried. But Tim's work wasn't quite good enough. He had to stop. Still Bohmker said with pride that Tim had made "A start on life." He is now in the Navy as a successful chef.

He said that the "pleasure of his job is to serve students."

Bell said that Bohmker has "a heart of gold, he's not mean." The students who work under him agree. Susan Erwin, who's on her second term as a work-study student said that "there is nothing I'd change" about Bohmker. Kecia Speck, also in work-study said the same thing. "I love working with him ... he genuinely cares about the people working here."

Bohmker had to think

a long time to decide what he didn't like about his job. Finally he decided it was the "domino effect," when so many things piled up at once. The roof is leaking, and a teacher has come in for a tool, but over at the gym the basketball holder is broken while a student is asking for help opening her locker and the baseball field needs to be cleaned up...

We know in that paralysis attack, Bohmker didn't die. He recovered, even though he had to spend some time in a nursing home - not a very cheerful place, but he said, "We pretended we were at a very distinguished country club."

He's been given more time. The dream house is almost done.

Bohmker was brought up in San Francisco in what he called a "functional" family. His mother didn't work. His father was a Navy man. He taught them to call right starboard, left port, and to keep at a hard job until they finished it.

After earning a degree in aircraft technology, Bohmker moved to Oregon at 21 years old.

It's here that he met his wife. "We're very compatible," said Rosie Bohmker.

Of course there was that time when they had only been married five years. Tom Bohmker wanted to buy a Station Wagon for more room. She objected, strongly. It was dark green and a Dodge. "I was young," she said laughing, "and it looked too much like a hearse." Besides, Bohmker was going to sell her loved powder-blue car to help find the money. When they went to the bank for the cash, she drove off on him. Left him stranded.

"He called his mother," she said. "I understand his reasons now." Bohmker bought her a teapot full of flowers to make it up.

Now he's here, busy fixing things and finding lost watches. He pans gold and writes what he said are "technical publications" about his hobby. Just recently he sold a story to the "Prospecting and Mining Journal." Sometimes he daydreams about his projects, but sweeps the floor at the same time.

Because, as he said, "Somebody has to do it."



Ongoing

Gallery Features Theatre Art
South Santiam Gallery
Instructors Dan Stone and Leslie Hammond present hand-molded masks, hand-sewn costumes, and photographs of past set designs used in past theatre productions. They will be on display through Mar. 4.

Women's History Month
Diversity Achievement Center
Kick off Women's History Month with the Poetry Club! Come in and join us for cookies, coffee and punch while students and staff read poems written by, for and about women. Visit the photo display celebrating Women's History Month. Weekly videos pertaining to women's issues. Other activities to be announced during the month of March! Sponsored by the Non-Traditional Career Program and the DAC Student Leaders.

Thursday 3/3
Eyes on the Prize Film Series
4 - 6 p.m. • *Diversity Achievement Center*
Sponsored by the DAC Student Leaders.

Friday 3/4
Priority Registration Begins!
Check webrunner for time slots

A Year in Hungary Slide Lecture
3 - 4 p.m. • *BC 244*
LBCC math instructor Judy de Szoek and her husband Poland spent the 2009-10 school year in Hungary, teaching English and living in the culture of Central Europe. In this slide lecture, Judy will share their experiences in Budapest, at their school, and travels throughout Hungary and Transylvania.

Saturday 3/5
March Madness Basketball
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • *AC (Gym)*
Come join us for March Madness! We will be holding a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. We will have a single elimination bracket set up with prizes for the top 3 teams. Everyone welcome! Sponsored by the Student Programming Board.

Sunday 3/6
Travel at the Tripp
2 - 4 p.m. • *Russell Tripp Performance Center*
Filmmaker Gray Warriner presents "South by West." AAA Travel will answer questions and provide prizes. Safe Haven Humane Society will sell home baked goodies at intermission.

Thursday 3/10
Eyes on the Prize Film Series
4 - 6 p.m. • *Diversity Achievement Center*
Sponsored by DAC Student Leaders.

Say It With a Song: Live, Love, Laugh, Sing!
7:30 - 9 p.m. • *Russell Tripp Performance Center*
Gen. Admission \$7 Students and Seniors \$5

The LBCC Choirs in concert. With The Concert Choir, The Re-Choired Element, Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble, The Blue Light Specials, and The Sirens. Conducted by James Reddan and Jason Caffarella. Accompanist Diana Hancock.

Saturday 3/12
Study Jam
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. • *Learning Center*
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • *Benton Center*
Do you need a place to study by yourself or with a group? Come to the Study Jam, sponsored by your Associated Student Government! Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help, text book rentals and free food will be available!

Kids Jam
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. • *Periwinkle Child Development Center*
Need help with the kids while you attend the Study Jam? Sign up in the Student Life and Leadership Office one week before kids Jam!

Sunday 3/13
Study Jam
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. • *Learning Center*
Do you need a place to study by yourself or with a group? Come to the Study Jam, sponsored by your Associated Student Government! Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help, text book rentals and free food will be available!

Order Spring Term books online
Daylight Savings Time begins!

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.

Help Wanted
See Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101) or see our website at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment. LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

Buyer (#8776, Albany) Part-time for someone with 5 years experience purchasing food, beverage, etc. Work is in a fast-paced environment.

Spring Internships (#8775, Corvallis) If you would like experience in a non-profit organization working with plants and eating healthy. Get

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.

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.

your CWE credits here!

Part-time Teller (#8769, Albany) Great hours for a student! Mon-Thurs: 1:15-5:15pm and Fri 1:15-6:15pm, and Saturdays as need. \$10-13/hr DOE

Receptionist (#8776, Albany) Part-time job in a vet hospital; also a fast-paced office.

Thank You
To whoever left the note on the Jeep about the front tire about to blow, Thanks!

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

Study Jam

A warm place to study the weekend before finals!

Learning Center, Albany Campus
Saturday, March 12
10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Math Help Desk: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Computer Lab: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Math Angle: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Testing: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
(must start test by 4 p.m.)
Library: 12-4 p.m.
Free food!

Learning Center, Albany Campus
Sunday, March 13
10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Math Help Desk: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Computer Lab: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Math Angle: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Testing: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
(must start test by 4 p.m.)
Free food!

Benton Center
Saturday, March 12
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Math Help: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Testing: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
(must start test by 3 p.m.)
Reading/Writing/Study Skills: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Drawings every hour
Computer lab available with printing
Textbook checkout
Free food!

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Also: Kids Jam, Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at PCDC
Hosted by the LBCC Associated Student Government

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at LBCC, 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.

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SPONSORED BY PTK

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fall in
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Hidden Dangers Lurk on Beaches

Shayne Morgan
Contributing Writer

With spring break right around the corner, we grow anxious for parties, fun and days at the beach. But pleasure brings a companion - complacency.

The latest beach tragedy sweeping headlines is the recent loss of two young men from Eugene, 18-year-old Connor Gregory and 17-year-old Jack Harnsongkram, who both perished on Feb. 5 when a sneaker wave sucked them into the ocean near the small coastal town of Yachats. They call them sneaker waves because they appear without warning, often surging high up onto the beach with deadly force, and are impossible to predict. Sneaker waves also carry a large amount of sand and debris that can saturate your clothes, weighing you down and making escape difficult, if not impossible. It always seems to take a horrific tragedy to show us how fast

Mother Nature can end a life. Vacations can and do attack.

We've lost too many people this year on Oregon's oceans. They can change in a moments notice. Here are some beach safety tips provided by Oregon Parks and Recreation.

Beware the sneaker wave!

How to play it safe: Never turn your back on the ocean.

Watch those logs!

The ocean is strong enough to pick up even the biggest log and plop it down on top of you. Some logs may look small, but even the tiny ones can be waterlogged and weigh tons.

How to play it safe: If you see a log in the surf or on wet sand, stay off it.

Rip currents

Rip currents are strong currents of water that rush out to sea. They are stronger than even the best swimmer. These currents



provided by Rick Beasley
The U.S. Coast Guard pulls a swimmer from the water.

can swiftly sweep unwary beachcombers and waders off their feet and out to sea. Rip currents may appear as dark, choppy water. Any time you see debris and foam floating out to sea, chances are you have found a rip current. Avoid the area.

How to play it safe: Parents keep your kids close when playing in the ocean. If caught in a rip current, don't panic. Swim parallel to the beach until you are out of the current, then

head for the beach.

High waves can reach you

Tides and waves can sweep over rocks, jetties and headlands, knocking you off and carrying you out to sea.

How to play it safe: Assume nothing is "high enough" and avoid exposed rocks, jetties and headlands during strong wave action (like during and after storms).

Know the tides

Incoming tides isolate rocks from headlands and the shore. Avoid the temptation of strolling out to an interesting rock without knowing when the tide rolls back in. Free tide tables are readily available at state park offices, information centers and many shops and motels.

How to play it safe: Stay off rocks and small, enclosed beaches. Know when the tide is coming in by logging

on to <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html> at the Hatfield Marine Science Center.

For more information on beach safety go to http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/beach_tips.shtml. See you at the beach!



provided by Rick Beasley



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Big Bird Forced to Leave the Nest?



Kay M Roth
Contributing Writer

Say goodbye to Big Bird, nature programs and Antiques Roadshow. It's possible. If the federal government goes through with their plans to cut funding to NPR and PBS, those are just some of the shows that might end up on the cutting room floor.

If lawmakers in Washington, D.C. have their way, the tried-and-true programming that has entertained and informed the public for generations might be a thing of the past.

Maybe.

Approximately \$400 million is allocated to NPR and PBS each year. For NPR, their share equals about five percent of their overall budget. In Oregon, \$2.5 million in federal dollars goes to Oregon Public Broadcasting each year. That amount is roughly 10 percent of their entire budget.

How many people actually listen to NPR or watch PBS on a regular basis? According to an article by Ben Robins, at least 27 million people listen to one show or more per day. NPR creates and distributes 25 shows each week. Approximately 89 million people watch their local PBS station each week.

"I listen to NPR every morning and evening," said Kevin Kirk, who worked in local radio. He also noted that he likes the programming and would hate to see it not be available.

Melissa Mills has similar thoughts about PBS. The managing editor of "Mom Magazine" has three school-aged children at home who watch the station's educational cartoons every afternoon. "We love PBS." However, they are not the only PBS fans in the house. "I love some of their cooking and travel shows," said Mills. She is worried about the possible defunding. "I would be really sad to see the funding disappear."

Countdown to Summer!

05 weeks until Summer Session registration begins.

Start planning your summer at OSU!

Look for the official Summer Session Planning Guide in *The Barometer* next Wednesday, March 9.

OSU Summer Session offers more than 1,000 courses to help you jump ahead or catch up in your degree program.

The full schedule of classes is available online!

Registration begins April 10. Classes start June 20.

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Clearwire Wireless Isn't a Clear Winner

Clearwire announces that "Clear is the first network to provide a true seamless Internet experience wherever you go. We're committed to giving you a fast, reliable Internet experience with customer service that puts you first."

Is this really what you'll get from Clear, or is this just an empty promise?

If you live outside of the 4G range, the only equipment that will work is a 4G/3G mobile Wi-Fi unit. The only way it could be sent to me was if I used my work address, which is in a 4G area.

I talked to a representative at the Lancaster Mall in Salem and got

some information about the service plans and costs. Once I was satisfied with the information I received, I did some research on the service they provide, which led me to believe that this service would be what I was looking for.

I pulled up the Clear website and followed the prompts to call the sales department to order. After placing my order I was then told that if I was not satisfied I could return the Wi-Fi unit within seven days and only have to pay for restocking.

This is the most absurd thing I have ever heard!



Tony Brown
Photo Editor

I read in Clearwire's agreement that I could return the unit and cancel within 14 days if not satisfied without paying a restocking fee or any penalties.

I'm sure that all the customers will agree with me when I say that Clear has the worst website of any service provider. The site is set up for sales and is not user-friendly to account holders.

I followed the directions to find my account information just as spelled out in the FAQ and from the online help but to no avail. It wasn't until I clicked on support instead of choosing the drop down menu did I find the option for accounts. Even then I had to select it once more before I could see my information.

Is this really good for customer service?

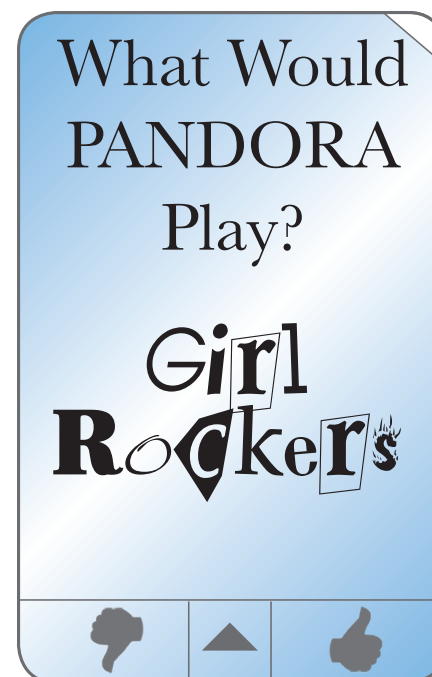
I found that many of Clearwire's customers are not happy with their service. "Everyone should stay as far away from Clearwire as they possibly can," said Scott, a customer from Nevada.

The Better Business Bureau gives Clearwire an A+ rating even after having 1537 complaints filed against the business.

I discovered that a class action law suit has been filed against Clear for data throttling. I also found that Clearwire's 3G service is provided by Sprint.

Buyer beware! Clearwire is not clear.

clearwire®
wireless broadband



Jordan Tunstall
A&E Editor

Paramore

These folks are from Tennessee, and they are doing incredibly well for themselves in the music industry. Headed by frontwoman Hayley Williams, Paramore packs a punch with passionate and intense singing. "Well you built up a world of magic. Because your real life is tragic," sings Williams in the song "Brick by Boring Brick."



Quality lyrics along with an incredible rock sound set Paramore apart from the crowd. I like to think of their sound as what a really good pop group would sound like if they actually tried to be original for a change. I highly recommend looking them up.

Flyleaf

After one look at Lacey Mosley, I pegged her as the type of singer who sings sappy love songs. But as soon as she began to sing, I realized how misplaced my judgment of her really was. She has a voice that sends chills running down my spine. She is pretty short; in fact she is small all around size-wise, but she sings so deeply and powerfully that it frequently makes my jaw drop.



Especially when she screams. Yes, you read that right. She can scream. And quite well, actually. This is coming from a guy who doesn't usually like scream-o music, so don't be afraid that all of Flyleaf's music is screaming. Actually, only a few of her songs would be classified as hardcore, even though she screams in bits and pieces of many of her songs. Flyleaf is also a good band to investigate, just be ready for loud music.

Fireflight

Alright, so I know this band's name may make you think of "Firefly," but sadly they aren't affiliated. The lead woman in this rock group is named Dawn Michele, and she is a humble musician who is beginning to turn heads with her music.



Fireflight is four albums into their career, and they show no sign of slowing down with their new album entitled "For Those Who Wait," attracting some major attention. The single from the album is also called "For Those Who Wait," and it was nominated for Best Rock or Rap Gospel Album at the Grammys. Although they are a Christian band, their music doesn't sound preachy, just heartfelt.

redbox review

Dinner for Schmucks (Rated PG-13, Runtime 114 min.)

Carli Gibson
Staff Writer

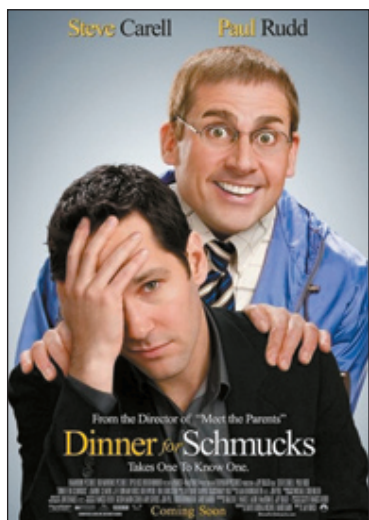
Stuffing dead mice and decorating them to look similar to human beings has never been my cup of tea. However, for Barry (Steve Carell), one of the main characters in "Dinner for Schmucks," it's a hobby.

When first starting this movie, I'll admit I was a bit over-excited because the movie previews made it look hilarious; needless to say, I was disappointed.

It's not that it wasn't a "good movie," it just wasn't very funny. It was more of a movie that pulled on my heart strings. I found myself always feeling bad for one character or the other.

Even rottentomatoes.com (which I have found to be an excellent movie review site) didn't give it very high reviews. It got a 43 percent rating from the site, and only 50 percent of this site's audience liked it.

After the movie opens, we're brought to one of the main characters, Tim, played by Paul



Rudd. Tim runs into Barry (in a more literal term than you may think), and thus a friendship of some sort is born.

Of course the friendship is only born because Tim, determined to get a promotion at work, needs an idiot to take to his boss' dinner for schmucks, hence the title. Each guest invited to the dinner has to bring the weirdest person they know with them.

Unfortunately, Tim doesn't know what he gets himself into by inviting Barry to the dinner. It's one of those

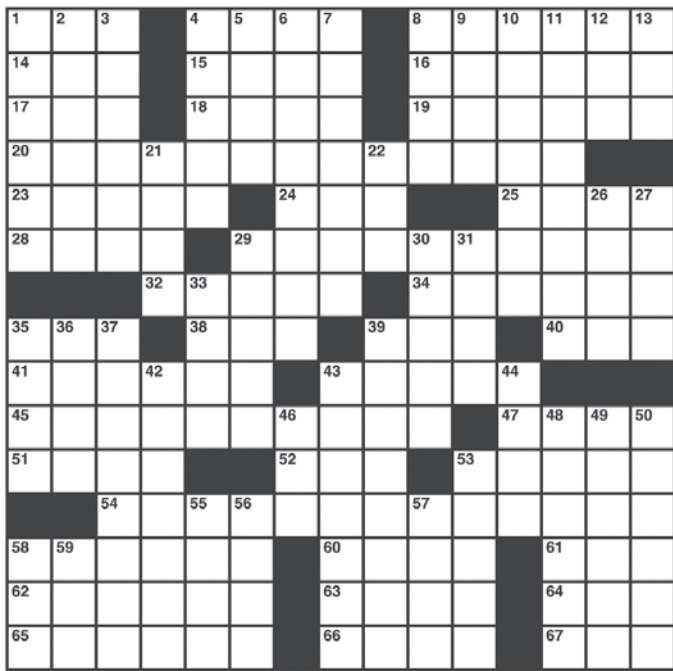
predictable "anything that can go wrong, does go wrong" types of films.

Throughout the movie, I found myself smirking here and there and feeling bad for Tim for all the mayhem Barry causes. Once I got to know Barry's character, I felt even worse for him - he's lived a sad life.

When it's finally time for the dinner, Barry finds himself mingling and fitting in with everyone perfectly, even with the woman who talks to her lobster dinner, and the man who brought his puppet wife (Jeff Dunham). Then his enemy shows up - Therman (Zach Galifianakis). Therman is Barry's co-worker and has always found a way of getting under his skin and making Barry feel even more miserable.

Although Carell has been hilarious and entertaining in other movies and he gave a good performance, this definitely wasn't his best movie. I would give it two stars out of five.

- ACROSS**
- Premium movie station
 - Hammer-wielding Norse god
 - First voice of Mickey Mouse
 - "This instant!"
 - Will Rogers prop
 - Rallying cry
 - ISP with chat rooms
 - Took advantage of
 - Scrubs, as pots
 - *Bakery fare named for their shape
 - Actress Holmes
 - Mothers' month
 - Kid's building block
 - Part of CBS: Abbr.
 - *Quixotic reveries
 - 1953 Western hero to whom Joey cried "Come back!"
 - Vacation home, maybe
 - Stately tree
 - "Wait, there's more ..."
 - Half-__: coffee order
 - Prefix with friendly
 - Sunday dinners
 - Certain Sri Lankan
 - *Playground fixture
 - Immortal racehorse Man __
 - Opie's dad
 - Coffee dispenser
 - Eagle's nest
 - *Beat poet who wrote "Howl"
 - Ohio city north of Columbus
 - Pre-holiday times
 - Pester
 - Really digs
 - Domesticated
 - MMX ÷ X
 - Basic doctrines
 - One-armed bandit
 - "__ Haw"



By Todd Gross

- DOWN**
- Chips and nuts
 - "Way to go!"
 - Little barn fliers
 - Cease-fire
 - Leggs product
 - Good thing to keep when hearing opposing views
 - Bureaucratic waste
 - "Take care of it"
 - "Batt. not __"
 - Puffed up, as a sprain
 - Make queasy
 - Throw wide of the mark, say
 - NFL gains
 - Rests one's feet
 - Ham holder
 - Detroit-based financial org.
 - Capital on a fjord
 - Various colored flower
 - Small weight units
 - One way to lower an APR
 - Detest
 - Funny Bombeck
 - Minnesota's state bird



(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- Official spoken language of China
- Traveling show
- Toronto's includes the CN Tower
- Quotas
- Leopold's co-defendant
- Hot dog holder
- A type of one begins the answers to starred clues
- Snoopy's flying persona, e.g.
- Baseball's Jackson, a.k.a. "Mr. October"
- It's a good thing
- Ex-senator Trent
- Genesis grandson
- Pixar clownfish
- Sch. near Harvard
- Enzyme suffix



SEUSSIFIED HOROSCOPES

YOUR GUIDE TO THE ZODIAC

This week, in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, the horoscopes are seussisms by the late great Teddy Geisel himself.



ARIES
3/21-4/19

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself, any direction you choose.



TAURUS
4/20-5/20

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind.



GEMINI
5/21-6/21

From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere!



CANCER
6/22-7/22

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.



LEO
7/23-8/22

Young cat, if you keep your eyes open enough, oh, the stuff you would learn!



VIRGO
8/23-9/22

Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you.



LIBRA
9/23-10/23

Step with care and great tact and remember that life's a great balancing act.



SCORPIO
10/24-11/21

Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple.



SAGITTARIUS
11/22-12/21

If you never did, you should. These things are fun, and fun is good.



CAPRICORN
12/22-1/19

You do not like them, so you say. Try them, try them, and you may. Try them and you may I say.



AQUARIUS
1/20-2/18

Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!



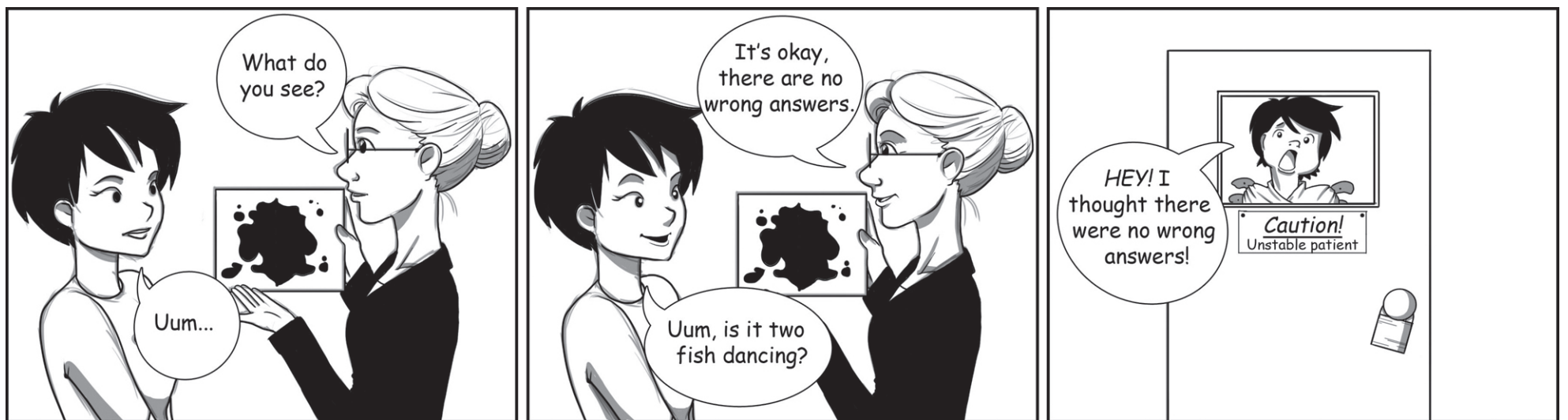
PISCES
2/19-3/20

And will you succeed? Yes indeed, yes indeed! Ninety-eight and three-quarters percent guaranteed.

Add/Drop

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Maggie O'Reilly



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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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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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

Last Week's Puzzle Solved

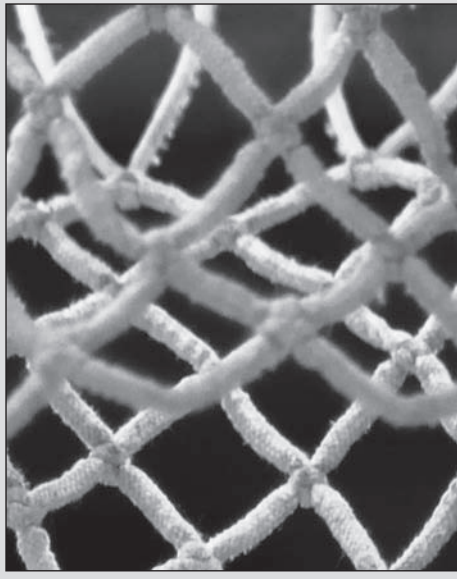
8	7	1	4	2	9	3	5	6
4	3	5	6	7	8	2	1	9
6	2	9	5	3	1	4	8	7
3	1	6	8	4	2	9	7	5
7	9	8	1	5	3	6	2	4
2	5	4	9	6	7	1	3	8
9	6	2	3	8	5	7	4	1
1	8	7	2	9	4	5	6	3
5	4	3	7	1	6	8	9	2

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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Where on Campus?

Do you know where this picture was taken?



Answers must be e-mailed to commuter@linnbenton.edu by 8 a.m. the following Monday. One winner will be drawn from correct entries each week and will win a prize donated by the campus bookstore.

Last Week's Answer: The periodic picnic table behind Madrone Hall.

Last Week's Winner: Congratulations Brandy Fultz! Please stop by The Commuter office (F-222) and see Tony to claim your prize.



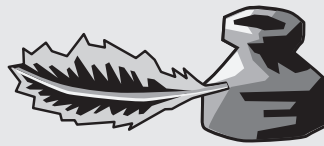
Tony Brown

Poetry Spotlight

No Cigar

A Thanksgiving meditation on highway cycling
by Tav Knight

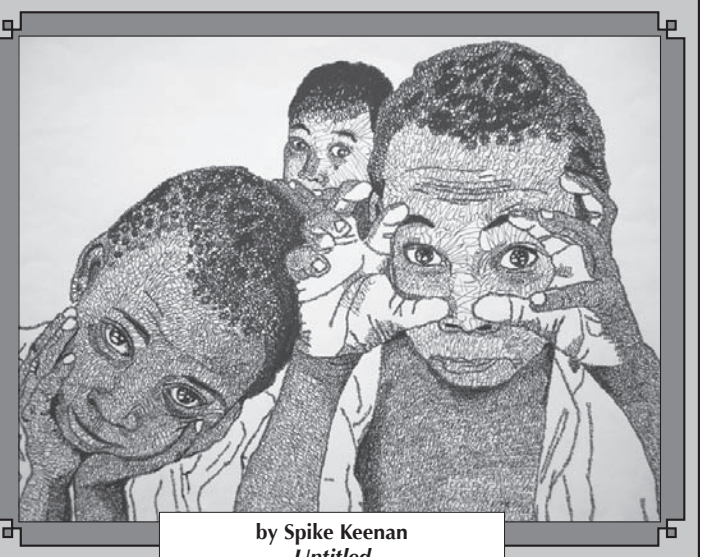
Such a thankful word is 'close'
Injected with a potent dose
Of beaming joy and giddy cheer
Churned within from passing near
The zooming car or thund'ring truck
How great it feels to not be struck!



The LBCC Poetry Club meets Tuesdays to share poems they've written about a given prompt.

Student-Submitted Art

e-mail your own artwork to commuter@linnbenton.edu



by Spike Keenan
Untitled
assignment: Text and Words
medium: Ink on Paper

MINUS GRAVITY

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Ben Carson



Fried Bananas

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton



COMING ATTRACTIONS



The Adjustment Bureau

The Adjustment Bureau's purpose is to keep everybody on their predetermined course. When Matt Damon falls in love with a beautiful ballerina (Emily Blunt) he was never supposed to meet, he has to outrun the bureau and create a new destiny for both of them.

Rated: PG-13 • **Runtime:** 99 min.
Genre: Sci-Fi Action Romance

Rango

Rango (Johnny Depp) is a chameleon with an identity crisis, until he stumbles into a little western town that's looking for a hero to believe in.



Rated: PG • **Runtime:** 107 min. • **Genre:** CG Animation



Beastly

A modern day "Beauty and the Beast" with Alex Pettyfer as the pretty-boy turned tattooed monster and Vanessa Hudgens as the girl who can see past his outward appearance. Plus Neil Patrick Harris as Lumiere/Cogsworth.

Rated: PG-13 • **Runtime:** 95 min.
Genre: Fairy Tale Retelling

Take Me Home Tonight

It's Labor Day weekend 1988 and Topher Grace is home from college for the biggest party of the summer. How far will he go to impress the girl of his high school dreams?



Rated: R • **Runtime:** 114 min. • **Genre:** 80's Comedy

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



Cage Makes Road Rage Fun

Ashley Christie
Page Designer

There are three different types of movies: movies that are good, movies that are bad, and movies that are so bad they're good.

Which of these category's do you think Nicolas Cage's latest "Drive Angry" falls into?

I didn't want to like this movie, the title alone made me cringe. But within the first five minutes, after Cage shoots off a guys hand and it comes flying at you in 3-D, I was hooked.

"Drive Angry" is about Milton (Cage), a man with a troubled past. Through flashbacks we learn that his daughter belonged to some kind of Satan worshipping cult and when she tried to get out, its leader, Jonah King ("Twilight's" Billy Burke), kills her and takes her baby. Milton has to get his grandchild back before Jonah can offer the child as a human sacrifice to Satan.

He enlists the help of Piper (Amber Heard), a tough-talking, hard-hitting, don't-take-no-crap-from-nobody waitress, and her '69 Dodge Charger to get him from Colorado to Louisiana in time. The only thing standing in Milton's way is a mysterious guy (William Fichtner) known only as "The Accountant" who is looking for Milton so he can take him back to Hell.

Oh, did I forget to mention that part? My bad.

Milton is dead and escaped Hell to rescue his granddaughter. "The Accountant" is Satan's accountant, he accounts for the souls in Hell. And the funny part is that Milton is trying to save the baby from a bunch of crazies that want to sacrifice her to Satan. Awesome, right?

This movie is an unapologetic grindhouse flick. It is all about the gore and violence in an over-the-top cheesy and campy way. It even comes complete with lines like, "I'll have a beer ... when I can drink it from Jonah King's skull." It was utterly crap-tastic.

In a review for the Chicago Sun-Times,

Roger Ebert described it best as "an exercise in deliberate vulgarity, gross excess, and the pornography of violence, not to forget garden variety pornography." And he means that in a good way.

"Drive Angry" was great for lots of reasons. Besides the ridiculously great storyline, another reason is casting. Nicolas Cage has become a walking punchline recently, with his incessant need to accept every single role he's offered without bothering to do something as mundane as ... oh, I don't know ... reading the script.

Here you get the sense that he's in on the joke. Cage is well aware of what kind of movie this is and is just going with it. You feel like you're laughing with him, not at him.

The rest of the cast was surprisingly fun to watch too. Amber Heard is really engaging as Cage's sidekick. Unlike most women in exploitation films, she's strong, independent, and given a chance to kick some serious ass. And I didn't expect Billy Burke to be so good at being so evil.

Plus, William Fichtner is in it. You probably don't recognize the name, but he's one of those great character actors that when you see him you go, "Oh yeah, that guy." With his dry delivery, Fichtner steals every scene he's in with minimal effort.

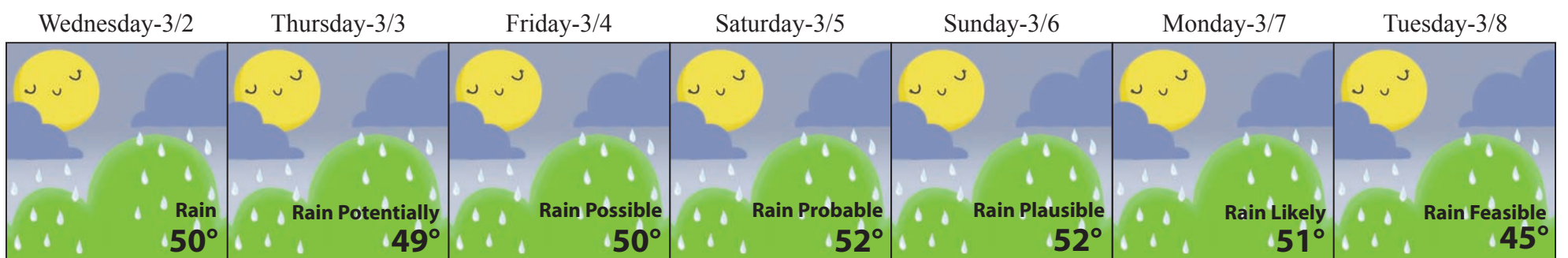
With all its gratuitous violence and bloodshed I was an instant fan. To be honest, one look at Cage's long peroxidized locks sent me rolling in the aisles. There are cartoonish special effects and fights unnecessarily shot in slo-mo so you don't miss one second of the carnage.

I haven't laughed so hard at a movie since I saw "Piranha" last summer.

"Drive Angry" is a guilty pleasure that you know you shouldn't find as enjoyable as you do. It's one of those movies that you hate yourself for liking so much. Elizabeth Weitzman of the NY Daily News called it "[a film] so committed to its own junkiness that it is, in its way, a pleasure to behold."

You can call it trashy, and vulgar, and crass, (because it is) but you can't say it isn't fun.

Weekly Weather Predictions



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