

THE COMMUTER

Your Community Compass

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9 x 9 Exhibit A Perfect 10

Kendal Waters
Contributing Writer

Poetry is a way of painting with words. Art is a way of visually expressing ideas. When you combine the two, the result is both stunning and magical.

The exhibit that currently resides on the walls of the South Santiam Hall Gallery, titled "Nine by Nine," is both profound and beautiful. The poems produced by nine members of the Poetry Club are on the walls next to the pieces of magnificent art produced by nine Advanced Illustration students. Each piece of art was created in response to the poems written by the Poetry Club and visually expresses the thoughts and feelings behind the words.

This exhibit will be on display from now through June 8, and is open to the public 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. It features poems by Eliot Kurfman, Alison Ruch, Chris Riseley, J.D. Mackenzie, Neil Davidson, Patrick Misiti, Dan Simmons, student poet laureate Ruth Krueger, and the adviser for the Poetry Club, Robin Havenick.

The illustrations featured were produced by Morgan Gregory, John Kruskamp, Jerral Murphey, Keith Folsom, Rosanna Russell, Daniel Quirk, Joanna Rosinska, Laura Mege-danz, and Adam Elveback, all of whom are second year Graphic Design students taught by John Aikman, the Graphic Arts Department Chair.

Artists: continued on Pg. 3

Jerral Murphy Jr.'s chalk pastel piece entitled "Also, in..." that accompanies Alison Ruch's poem "Sounding in Fathoms."



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Wednesday(5/30) Parts Sunny 76°/48°	Thursday(5/31) Soooo Bright 78°/52°	Friday(6/1) Gray Skies 76°/53°	Saturday(6/2) Shower? 64°/43°	Sunday(6/3) Sun's Back 65°/42°	Monday(6/4) Maybe Sun 70°/47°	Tuesday(6/5) Wetness 68°/45°
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Source: accuweather.com

THE
COMMUTER
STAFF

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



The Commuter

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Albany Sings - LOUD

William Allison

Contributing Writer

This year's Albany Sings, held May 24, was an amazing evening. It featured choirs from all of Albany's middle and high schools, including Timber Ridge, a new addition this year. Linn-Benton Community College's concert choir and London-bound chamber choir, Re-Choired Element, also participated, wowing the audience during their penultimate performance.

Over 300 students participated, making this the biggest Albany Sings so far. Not only were there more participants, but the audience was so large that every seat was taken, leaving standing room only.

Each of the seven school choirs sang two songs, and the final song, "Hand in Hand," was sung by a mass choir made up from all the Albany choirs. They received a well-deserved standing ovation.

When asked about this year's



William Allison

Students from several Albany schools came together to form a Mass Choir lead by LBCC's James Reddan.

Albany Sings, LBCC's Choir Director James Reddan said, "This is the only opportunity for all the schools in the Albany public school district to sing and make music together. It is a great opportunity both for sharing music and learning from each other. I am very pleased with the outcome."

See more photos of the LBCC Choir online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu

Upcoming Concert

Another way that students and staff can help support the choir is by attending the final choir concert of the year.

When: June 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall

Cost: \$10 general | \$7 students | \$5 children

Tickets on sale now in the box office

OFFICE HOURS with *Brittney Humphrey*

Michelle Strachan

Contributing Writer

As if being a college instructor isn't impressive enough, Brittany Humphrey is also a full-time student and the proud mother of a 6-year-old boy. She teaches Math 20 and Math 60 at two different campuses, four days a week. She's also enrolled in the Master of Arts & Teaching program at Western Oregon University, with only four terms remaining before she earns her master's degree in teaching.

Sitting in her classroom, she doesn't give the impression of being overloaded, overwhelmed, or even preoccupied. She has a smile on her face from start to finish, and takes the time to make sure everyone understands and participates.

"I really appreciate that she'll stay after class and help us when we need it," says Corina Cummings, a student enrolled in her Math 60 class at the Benton Center. "She's nice and very patient."

Wayne Bricco, a fellow math instructor at LBCC, chimes in with a smile and says to Humphrey, "I like your priorities." He enjoys working with her, calling her a "happy camper" and strongly agreeing that prioritizing is very important. "Before you start anything, you want to set priorities, like when this comes up, this is first. If this comes up, this is second, and so on. Like when she has a son's birthday, but she has a paper due; her son's birthday gets first choice, then you do the best you can on the rest of it."

I caught up with Brittney after class to find out how she does it.

Commuter: You have a lot on your plate being a teacher, a tutor, a mother, and a student. How do you keep up on homework with such a busy schedule?

Humphrey: Some times are harder than others. A lot of times I have to take my homework with me to my son's tee-ball practice. I take my reading and read my textbook while he practices. I also work at the help desks at Albany and at Benton Center, so I get some reading done and some of my homework



Michelle Strachan

LBCC math instructor Brittney Humphrey

done there, so that helps.

C: Have you always wanted to teach math?

H: Originally, I was an elementary education major. I started tutoring math and actually taught math for my elementary ed. class. I was even tutoring some of my mom's co-worker's kids. At that point, I decided to start taking more math and see if that's where I wanted to go. I decided it was and then switched majors. So it took me a little longer to get my bachelor's than I had planned.

C: Where do you see yourself in five years, professionally?

H: Hopefully done with two master's. Right now I can only teach Math 20-95 and I'm part time. If I have my master's, I can get hired as a full-time faculty

Where to find Brittney Humphrey

Office: WOH 103 (Albany)

BC-101 (Benton Center)

Phone: 541-757-8944 ext. 5113

Email: brittney.humphrey@linnbenton.edu

Office Hours: Mon. 10-11 a.m. (Albany)

Wed. 3-4 p.m. (Benton Center)

and I can teach up through calculus. And I want to teach at a community college. I'll teach high school if I can't, but I would prefer to be at a community college.

C: What's your idea of a perfect day off, or do you even get days off?

H: (Laughs) Well, you know... just being able to spend it with my son. If I can spend the majority of the day without doing homework or grading and just spend time with my son, then that to me is a good day off.

C: Do you have any advice for students trying to find balance with going to school and working while also raising children?

H: Prioritize. I've had to sacrifice a grade level on an assignment just because I couldn't get there that day. You have to understand that those things will happen. And sometimes full-time isn't the way to go. I spent some time going part-time just because I had other responsibilities. It may take you a little longer, but you can still do it. Even if I was part-time, I just kept going. I made sure I always had some time for my son, and if it meant doing my homework at ten at night, then that's what I did. But to me, my son is my highest priority.

So what's next for Humphrey? The fall term after earning her master's degree at Western, she plans to enroll in the Masters in Math program at Oregon State. They say "nothing good comes easy," and I'm sure Humphrey would agree.

Artists Collaborate on 9 x 9

continued from COVER

Creating the pieces of art for the exhibit was about a three week process, with the artists and poets working together to create the best possible visual representation of the poem.

Alison Ruch, a contributing poet, said "It was really magical. We got to walk in and select work by any artist that appealed to us. We didn't know who was who. We picked one off the way, and the artist stood up and said 'that's mine' and we started working together. It was just a fantastic experience and we really connected artistically."

Each duo worked differently. Some poets were very involved in the process, like Krueger, whose artist asked many questions and wanted as much input as possible. Some poets were not involved at all, and left it up to the artist to create the work.

"It was kind of hard because I didn't have any input from my poet ... That's what makes us different from an artist is we usually have input from someone," Morgan Gregory said. Gregory's piece depicts a dream-like event, and is extremely creative and portrays "one reality and then you're looking through a person to another reality" in a gorgeous array of colors.

All of the pieces of art are beautiful and interpret the words they represent in a unique way. They bring life and a new dimension to the poems.

The project was started because the graphic arts department planned to skip their normally annual graphic design show; they typically display during this month, and have for 31 years. John Aikman and Robin Havenick thought up the project during one of their many idea-bouncing conversations, and both liked the idea enough to follow through.

"It was really good for both the poets and the illustrators," Aikman said, "so I can see us doing this year after year."

Each year, Havenick comes up with some way to intertwine poetry and art, and works with the art department to create some new hybrid project. Last year they worked with photographers, but in the opposite way. The photographers took pictures and



The Nine by Nine exhibit in South Santiam Hall Gallery.

Photos by Kody Kinsella

9 x 9 Exhibit

When: Now - June 8
Where: South Santiam Hall Gallery
Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

gave them to the poets to write about the picture, and most years it is a similar process. This project is the first in many years where the process was flipped and the artist interpreted the poem.

"It's really fun to be on this side of the collaboration. It's wonderful to do collaborative work with all the artists," Havenick said. "This year we got to be the ones who said 'Here's my poem. Let me see what you do with it.' It's just really magical to have somebody visually interpret ink on a page."

"Magical" is exactly what it is. Normally, when reading a poem, you are left to your own devices and are left to stew on the words and interpret them as you wish. But when the poem is accompanied by an original piece of art, the words take on a completely new meaning.

The exhibit was christened by an opening reception on Tuesday, May 22, and it was the first time some had seen the final product of the artwork.

Krueger was one of the lucky few who were able to experience the wonder of seeing it with fresh eyes like the rest of us.

"To come in today and see it and walk in the door and know which one was mine by what I spotted across the room and to see how she understood what I was saying in my poem was really meaningful," Krueger said.

Every artist and poet is from the Valley area. It's surprising and wonderful how the community that surrounds us is so full of talented people, and each new art installment leaves one with an insatiable urge to see more and more art, and some to even produce it.

So come by South Santiam Hall, the lower level, and get inspired. See what those around you can create, and get the itch to create alongside them.

See more photos online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu

Rain Puts Damper on Democracy

Dale Hummel

Contributing Writer

The original plan for the Liberty Tree Fair was to be in the court yard on a sunny day, complete with Old Glory and our own "Liberty Tree." Perhaps that was part of the problem on Thursday, when the weather did not cooperate and just a few organizations appeared in Takena Hall.

The original Liberty Tree is where the patriots of the American Revolution met to plan their strategy for dealing with the British tyranny. The LBCC democracy club, Democracy in Action, hosted the fair in the spirit of the Liberty Tree. This is the third year for the club.

The Democracy Club invited any political, civil and community parties and groups in the area to make an appearance and spread the word of their views and ideologies to students and the general public. Exercising our First Amendment right to freedom of speech is the key to our democratic republic.

Among groups making an appearance was Hannah DeVylde with Oregon2012.org. They were collecting signatures for a ballot measure to make it illegal to use public money for abortions. DeVylde noticed how even people who are pro-choice signed the petition with the understanding that not everyone is for abortions, and the public shouldn't have to pay for it.

Jim Clausen, a representative from Americans for Prosperity, was also present. He explained how the group is non-partisan with conservative values. Clausen suggested visiting www.AmericansforProsperity.org for more information.

The Republican and Democratic Parties sat nearly across from each other, and seemed to be "fishing" as potential supporters walked by. Josh Carper of the Linn County Democrats provided some lively and challenging debates.

A couple of representatives from the Occupy movement had positioned themselves at the event. Unfortunately, they didn't seem to be in much of a mood to debate or discuss their views when confronted by people with opposing views and opinions.

At the north end of Takena Hall was a table with a prize wheel. An individual would spin the wheel and answer a question about our rights and the Amendments to the Constitution. Anyone who spun the wheel, correct answer or not, won a small prize. A correct answer would earn a pen or key chain. Three correct answers would earn a t-shirt.

Even though the third Annual Liberty Tree Fair at Takena Hall wasn't quite the success it was meant to be, it was successful nonetheless.

For more on Democracy in Action, the LBCC democracy club, please contact Dr. Robert Harrison by email at harrisr@linnbenton.edu, and don't forget to exercise your 1st Amendment rights.

LBC Fine & Performing Arts Department Proudly Presents

The Olympic Journey: Going Places!

Thursday, June 7 • 7:30 p.m.

LBC, Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall, Albany

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Oregon State University Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Band 1 Ryan Biesack, director
Jazz Band 2 Neal Grandstaff, director

WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2012 7:30 PM

\$10 at the door
OSU students free with ID

LaSells Stewart Center
875 SW 26th St. Corvallis

SNAP participants with an Oregon Trail Card may purchase up to two \$5 tickets at the door while seats last.

Corvallis Arts & Culture Commission
A Program of the Corvallis Arts & Culture Commission

Oregon State UNIVERSITY

Accommodations for disabilities may be made by calling 541-737-5592

Dear Conscience,



Why do we procrastinate?

Jill Mahler

Shoulder Devil

Why do we plot our coworkers demise or drink heavily during the holidays? Because it feels good.

Procrastinating is one of our oldest forms of entertainment, ever since the caveman said, "I'll hunt tomorrow." There is no reason to be running around, making plans when you know you will never keep them.

I used to plan tomorrow, until I realized I wasn't living today. Now, I sit back and let success come to me.

We procrastinate because we are in denial. We say we will do our work later, but in reality, we have no plan to at all, otherwise we would have completed it already.

When you think about where the meaning of "deadline" comes from, it's easy to see why no one wants to rush to work. "The expression comes from American Civil War prisoners, who were kept within crude makeshift boundaries, often just a line scratched in the dirt or an easily breached rail fence.

They were told, "If you cross this line, you are dead," and soon the guards and prisoners simply called it what it was: a deadline." Deadlines are for masochists. There will always be another deadline, so why stress?

Why cause yourself more sleepless nights, gray hairs and bags under the eyes? No one wants to see that.

Your body sends signals of what it needs, so when you crave another hour of TV, you probably need it. Who says you can't learn from TV anyway? Hello, PBS.

Jennifer M. Hartsock

Shoulder Angel

The only reason for procrastinating is never a good one! If you can't keep your commitments, lighten your load. If you can't follow through on something, don't pretend to be committed.

Life should not be this difficult. If you have a busy schedule that leaves goals, chores, and obligations to fall to the way side, you need to reevaluate your priorities. Create a list of tasks that need to be accomplished, and just do them already! Once you get used to how success feels, then you can add tasks to your list.

People who procrastinate bug everyone. If you have a job to do, but have three other jobs to do, your commitment to each will suffer. You'll look like a fool, probably act a fool, and make people roll their eyes when you give us tasks to do. Maybe we'll get to them, maybe we won't. Thanks for the great work ethic, leader.

It's understandable that life gets hectic sometimes, but the things you're procrastinating on are the things you really don't care about. This might be homework assignments, calling your mother, or something like becoming a better person. If these things keep falling off your list of Things-To-Do, chop them off the list completely.

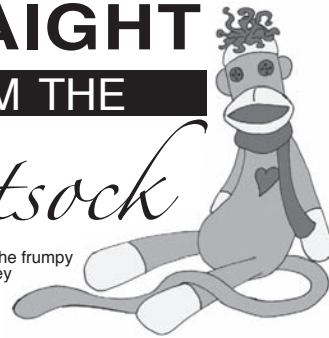
You don't have to be good at everything. The point is: You can be a good person, but it's hard to tell when you're constantly letting yourself and other people down.

OPINION

STRAIGHT FROM THE

Hartsock

Brain stuffing from the frumpy sock monkey



Responsible Drug Use?

Jennifer M. Hartsock

Opinion Editor

D.A.R.E. has been a part of our upbringing since grade school, encouraging us to remain abstinent from drugs and alcohol. From the get-go, legal drugs such as caffeine, prescription drugs, and alcohol are acceptable, whereas illegal drugs such as marijuana, mushrooms, and LSD are not. Even people who partake of these drugs come with general characteristics and stereotypes.

"Drugs will make you lazy."

"Drugs will make you crazy."

"People who do drugs are lazy, crazy, or just stupid."

When I was in middle school and high school, I was the straight-laced kid in the group. My days consisted of writing, spending time with friends, and being compelled to help people who were going through a hard time. I began to notice a pattern: grades would slip, people became less ambitious, they began skipping classes to get high, sold their hats, wallets, or other things for drug money, and even dropped out of school the more often they did drugs.

Up until this last year, I knew for a fact that drugs were harming the people I cared about most in my life. Drugs were ruining their lives. Drugs were the cause of their destruction.

Then I met someone who completely turned this opinion on its head.

She (we'll call her Lydia) admitted to occasionally smoking marijuana. She's also dabbled in using mushrooms (once every two or three years). She is also a 4.0 student who's passed courses in engineering, advanced biology, and chemistry. Her reason for using drugs? Creativity, alternate perspectives, and recreational purposes.

My automatic reaction to Lydia was negative, and fearful. I was going to lose her to drug use, just like everyone else, and there was nothing I could do about it. Underneath all her accomplishments, good nature, and future success, drugs would ruin her.

She encouraged me not to dismiss her because of her support of drugs. It took a few months, but I finally agreed to look into the effects and harms of all drugs – both legal and illegal. The results were surprising, and not what I'd been told by D.A.R.E. Marijuana, mushrooms, LSD, and ecstasy are less harmful to users and others than tobacco and alcohol. If I was against illegal drugs because they're more harmful and addictive than legal drugs, I was wrong.

Sex AND THE Campus

Jill Mahler

Editor-in-Chief

With the warm air and colorful flowers blooming, it's easy to be swept away in the new season. It's also easy to find couples nearby that have no problem displaying their affection.

For example, a couple days ago I went to the Portland Zoo for the day. After observing bears and penguins, I ventured over to the lion exhibit. The zoo was packed with visitors, especially children.

Due to the amount of people there, finding a spot to see the animals

PDA: the Virus is Spreading

was not an easy feat, and taking up prime viewing space was a couple displaying their affection. Now, I have no problem with a couple that hug or kiss occasionally in public, even lingering together, but she wasn't even looking at the lions.

With her back to the exhibit, she was more interested in the origins of his tonsils. There is a difference between a kiss and their competition to devour each other's faces. They also saw fit to use their hands. In front of children, really? I paid equal admission as everyone else, but apparently this show was a freebie.

I also do not understand why this

exhibit with strangers able to watch them and on either side, strollers zooming by.

Do lions set the mood?

Not to mention, in order to see the lion, I was forced to look in their direction. Children want to learn about lions, not how to dry hump.

Zoo etiquette means you observe and then move aside for the next person not remain stationary and perform a dental visit. In addition, if you have heard someone say, "Get a room" you are part of the problem.

In my opinion, there is a time and a place. If your only place is at a zoo, something is horribly wrong.

Have questions? We have answers.

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

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

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.

Letters to the Editor

Response to "The Good, the Bad, and the Feminist"

This letter is in response to the article written by Justin Bolger. His article "The Good, the Bad, and the Feminist," points out his dislike or disregard for the Feminist Movement. His view of the Feminist Movement lacks in facts but more emphasizes the media portrayal of the Feminist Movement.

The stereotypes he discusses in his article are just the negative labels placed on women who are fighting for equality. His misconception of Feminists as having vendettas against men is completely false.

As far as "our goals," they are NOT to hit men back based on their gender alone. Men do have an ascribed power, authority and status in society. This is demonstrated by the government and in the workplace. To this day, for every \$1 a man makes a woman earns 77cents. Why?

This is simply because she is a woman. My goal as a woman is to be treated as an equal in all aspects of life. There needs to be an equal distribution of opportunities and resources for both genders. There shouldn't be a different set of rules or expectations for women than there are for men. The expectations should be the same across the board.

Sarah Struikma

I am writing you in response to your article "The Good, the Bad, and the Feminist" in the May 23, 2012 issue of the Commuter. When I saw the headline I thought it was awesome that a man was writing about feminism. Then sadly I read your first line, "I hate feminism." That is a very powerful statement. One that is very powerful and one that keeps inequality between men and women in America.

I feel that you have stereotyped feminists, with exception of Anita Sarkeesian, from maybe what you have heard about a few radical women who happen to be feminists. The thing is, feminists aren't fighting for more rights than men, we are fighting for equal rights. I don't think all men are oppressors on purpose, I just think men, yourself included, need to be more educated on this matter.

When I first took my women's studies class I was not very thrilled about learning about women's rights, because I thought it was a bunch of bull. Then, after the first class my view had completely changed on the matter. Women are without a doubt treated unfairly. It is harder for us to get a job. If we do get a job it is less likely that we will get a full-time job, and we will definitely make less money.

I know there have been some feminists that have given feminism a bad name, but honestly they have a fantastic reason to be annoyed. This is an article (<http://bit.ly/w5eIsJ>) I really liked and helped open my eyes. If you choose to read it you might enjoy it as well.

Thank you,
Michelle Anderson
Student at LBCC

I found this article to be very derogatory. Just because you're a feminist, doesn't mean that you're a bad person.

There have been amazing feminists in our past that have done a lot for women, and instead of demolishing them, you should respect them. From a woman's standpoint, it's not our goal to make huge deals about everything because of our hormones. And why shouldn't women be equal to men?

What makes women so different, that we shouldn't be treated with the same respect as men? Oh right, it's our hormones, isn't it? And it's not a feminist's job to socially punish every man, because that is not fair to men today.

Did you know that compared to men, women make 77 cents on every man's dollar? I bet you didn't know that. Women have been standing up for what they believe in, and so have men. So my advice to you is not to think that every feminist is the same, because they're not.

And maybe you should think about taking a women's studies class, before you demolish all feminists. Sounds like you need to broaden your horizons and get out of your box.

Sincerely
Janelle Ortwine

I appreciate any and all feedback I receive as both a journalist and a student, so thank you for sharing your concerns with my article.

However, I believe the spirit of my article has been misinterpreted. I encourage you to read my article and the comments on The Commuter's website (commuter.linnbenton.edu).

I feel they will give you a better idea of my intentions, especially if you read my responses.

If you wish to continue a discussion, please feel free to comment. I will be sure to respond.

Thank you,
Justin Bolger

Defining Feminism for Myself

Ashley Chrisie
Page Designer

I am a woman. I've been one as long as I can remember. Growing up, it never occurred to me that I couldn't do anything a man could do. I never once thought, "Gee, I don't have a penis, so I guess I can't do that." (Except maybe once when I was camping and I was thinking about the ease of outdoor urination.)

It wasn't until my freshman year of college when I passed a group of female students protesting gender inequalities that I even thought about it. They told me how outraged I was, or should be at least, at the differences between how men and women were treated. They told me about the duty I had to my gender and how I owed it to "us" to support "the cause."

That's funny, no man had ever told me how I had to act, and I don't really need any woman to tell me how I am supposed to react.

I enter every situation with the assumption that I am judged on my abilities and not my genitalia; I've never been treated any different.

Saying I need to "fight for my rights" is saying that I didn't have them in the first place.

I'm told that the media and this patriarchal society of ours, with its examples of women in subservient roles, is meant to keep women oppressed. Everywhere we look in our culture, video games and movies, billboards and Barbie dolls, portray unrealistic feminine characters who are objectified.

Really?

Personally, seeing a woman in a skin-tight leather cat suit fight evil in a video game doesn't offend me. Why? 'Cause it's a cartoon! I'm more offended by SpongeBob. Not as someone with breasts, but as someone with a brain. I don't know why a woman can't be strong while wearing a see-through negligee; Chris Evans can save the world without his shirt.

Whatever divide there is between men and women, it's not bridged by women drawing a line in the sand and saying you're either with us or against us. I know that that's the extreme end of feminism and that not all feminists are like that.

Each feminist is different, just as each woman is different, just as each man is different. No two people think the same way and it's unreasonable to think they will. Everyone should find their own definition of the term because it's a very broad term.

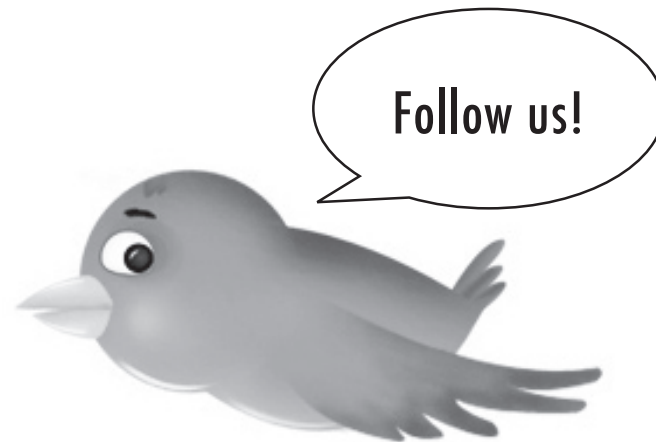
I don't want to fight. I don't want to be the voice of my gender, and I don't want any other woman speaking for me. I'm not trying to represent the feminist movement, I'm just trying to represent myself and make sense of it all.

I believe in equal rights, but I believe how I'm treated is a reflection of how I act. Just me, all by myself, my actions and mine alone. That's all the responsibility I want.

Is that selfish? Am I turning my back on my gender? Maybe, but I don't care. They don't have to live my life.

My day-to-day decisions and actions are based on what I need and want. I've never hesitated to do something because I'm a woman. What kind of feminism is that? My kind.

I define my gender, it does not define me.



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May 30-June 1

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Get a **FREE** Popcorn Cup with your **BOGO** purchase.
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LBCC Bookstore

Facebook Flops

Justeen Elliott
News Editor

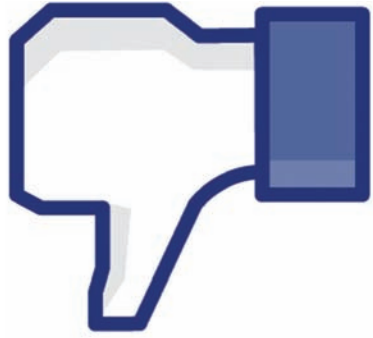
It's a good thing that Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg is worth well over \$17.5 billion dollars, because his newest Facebook scheme isn't panning out quite how he thought. The new Facebook initial public offering (IPO) was created and made public on May 17.

The Facebook IPO has been called many things, and a success is not one of the words used to describe it. In fact, it has been called the "Gigli" of IPOs (meaning that it is a huge flop).

Why didn't Facebook do as well as they originally thought?

One of the main reasons that ruined the IPO is the price. It was priced way too high, at around \$42 per share. Since the first day of the IPO being made public, shares have dropped to about \$31 per share, with an initial loss of \$17.16 billion. Originally investors were told that the initial value was around \$104 billion.

Apparently, the company is only worth about \$7.50 per share, according



to moneymorning.com. Revenue is already slowing and the company does not and cannot possibly dominate the mobile markets that are becoming the preferred channel for millions of people.

Not only is Facebook getting hit hard with the IPO debacle, but companies have started pulling their advertisements. Companies like General Motors (GM) are deciding not to renew their advertising. This is going to hit Facebook to the tune of \$10 million a year for the loss of GM alone.

That's not all that is going on with Facebook. They're also being sued over their IPO.

According to techradar.com,

Facebook is being sued by their shareholders over inconsistent IPO forecasts.

The shareholders are claiming that Facebook, along with the company's key underwriters, misled investors about the company's growth forecasts.

The lawsuit addresses the fact that just before Facebook went public, the principal underwriters reduced their estimates for the company's second quarter growth without telling some investors about new key information. The lack of that information, the suit claims, inflated Facebook's IPO price and caused losses from investors not "preferred" by Facebook.

The lawsuit specifically targets Facebook and their principal underwriter Morgan Stanley, as well as underwriters Barclays Capital, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, and Merrill Lynch.

Zuckerberg doesn't seem too concerned over these allegations, as he has been seen out and about in his normal jeans, flip-flops, and his hoodie.

In fact, a Facebook spokesperson has been quoted as saying "We believe the lawsuit is without merit and we'll defend ourselves vigorously."



Civil War Re-enactment

Dale Hummel
Contributing Writer



Top: The Union artillery burst puts a hole in a Confederate line.

Above: The Union line fires off a volley at more Rebs.

Photos by Dale Hummel

To honor the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, several re-enactment groups, including instructor Robert Harrison's, "fought it out" on May 19 and 20 at Cheadle Lake in Lebanon.

Among the groups in battle were the 116th Pennsylvania reenactment group, the 19th Indiana volunteer infantry, the Texas 4th, and numerous others from Virginia, Maryland, and New York.

If you would like to participate in reenactments like these, no matter what side you want to be on, please visit www.nwcwc.org.

See more photos online at: commuter.linnbenton.edu

in accordance with a proclamation from the executive of the United States, all slaves are free...

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JUNE WHAT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHY IS IT CELEBRATED?

WED. JUNE 6TH 11:00-1:30 in the D.A.C. (F220)

WED., JUNE 6, 11 AM in the DAC- LBCC

- come experience a rich and rewarding historical & educational event
- enjoy the tasty traditional foods honoring this festive celebration (free BBQ!)
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- exhibits
- door prizes
- games

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A word from your local SLC

Dear Students of the Benton, Lebanon, and Sweet Home Centers:

On behalf of your Student Leadership Council (SLC) at LBCC, I would like to introduce myself and tell you about a new position created for you.

My name is Joshua Robertson; I am the centers coordinator of the SLC. My position was designed and recently implemented for the sole purpose of providing you, the students of the Benton, Lebanon and Sweet Home Centers, with representation on the SLC.

I am very excited to take on the responsibility and privilege of representing you. In the past, your SLC has been there to serve, but without a member in contact with your local administration, faculty, and staff, the service was less complete than was preferred.

My position was created to make that a thing of the past. I am here to serve you as fully as I can. I will represent your needs and concerns on the SLC to the best of my ability and help provide solutions to those needs.

Do not think lightly of the resource I can be to you. You and I share similar circumstances and issues as we face the challenges of college, and more specifically, being students at LBCC, as well as members of the community. I will provide input that is student-focused from the perspective of a student.

I have already been in collaboration with the staff and administration at the Benton Center in preparation for the upcoming Study Jam on June 9. Also, I have met with Jeff Davis (director of the Benton Center) to share ideas about events for the upcoming year that will get you involved in our community and help you to realize the full potential your educational experience has to offer at LBCC.

Student involvement is the key to a better experience for all. Without useful feedback, things that could be improved will progress either very slowly or not at all.

I am very excited about the upcoming year and what it holds for the students at LBCC. The path you are on has been trodden before, and there will be others behind you. LBCC is a wonderful place to begin your journey, regardless of if you are headed to a university or the workforce.

Let us make this time at LBCC the best it can be for us and for those to come. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I would be happy to meet with you and look forward to getting to know you over the next year.

Sincerely,

Joshua Robertson
Centers Coordinator

Student Leadership Council Email: SLCCENTERS@linnbenton.edu



The LBCC Concert Choir rehearses for the spring concert.

Nora Palmtag

LBCC Spring Choir Concert “The Olympic Journey: Going Places”

Press Release

The Linn-Benton Community College choirs will perform their spring concert “The Olympic Journey: Going Places” on Thursday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall.

James Reddan, LBCC director of choral activities, will conduct the performances of the Concert Choir, Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir, Women’s Ensemble, Blue Light Special, and the Sirens. Diana Hancock will accompany on piano.

The concert will feature songs from across the choral repertoire performed by LBCC’s award-winning choirs, including: “Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine” (Eric Whitacre); “Doluri” (Alexi Matchavariani), “It Takes A Village” (Joan Szymko); “Ride on King Jesus” (Moses Hogan); “Je le Vous Dirai” (Pierre Certon); and many more!

The concert will also feature the first student conductors LBCC has seen in years, conducting “Follow the Golden Sun” (Ruth Elaine Schram) and “Long Time Ago” (Aaron Copland). Please join us as we celebrate the Olympic journey and the ability of music to bring all of us together.

Performance tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 for students and seniors, and \$5 for under 18 with an adult admission. Tickets can be purchased for no fee online at www.linnbenton.edu/go/tickets, at the Russell Tripp Performance Center Box Office, by phone at 541-917-4531, or two hours prior to the performance. Box Office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 8 to 10 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Upcoming Events

Friday 6/1
8 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts
Andre Nickatina with Cool Nutz performs. Tickets \$22 in advance; \$25 at door.

Saturday 6/2
All day Spirit Espresso, Albany
Southern Belles and Gent are having their first car wash!
All washes are by donation only.

2-6 p.m. LaSells-Stewart Center, OSU
Heart of the Valley Children’s Choir performance!

Tickets \$8 for adults; \$5 for students.
4:30 p.m. Flat Tail Music Festival
Summer Soundtrack performs.

7:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts
Ray Wylie Hubbard with Walker T performs. Tickets \$12 in advance; \$15 at door.

Sunday 6/3
10 a.m. Cloverland Park
Corvallis Spring Roll -- Corvallis’ first bike, trike and cycle fair. All ages up to 12 are welcome!

\$12 per child or \$25 family rate.

6:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts
Emily Wells with 1939 Ensemble
Tickets \$12 in advance; \$15 at door.

Tuesday 6/5
2 - 3 p.m. CH2M Hill Alumni Center
Corvallis Climate Change Modeling
Community Seminar series #10.
Admission is free!

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

THE COMMONS FARE

MENU FOR THE WEEK OF:
5/30 - 6/5

Wednesday: “Flavors of the Persian Empire”- a theme day put on the by the Quantity Kitchen Students. “Joojeh Kabob” - Chicken Kabob* with Condiments, “Koresht Esfenaj e Nan” -Lamb Stew with Fruit and Grilled Bread, “Kashkeh Kookoo-yeh” -Eggplant, Onion and Herb Omelet, “Kouftch Tabrizi”- Beef and Rice Meatball. Soups: “Ashe-e-jow” -Onion and Barley Soup, “Ashe-e Kashteh” -Beef Soup with Noodles.

Thursday: Chef’s Choice Chicken, Beef Stroganoff over Buttered Noodles, Huevos Rancheros*. Soups: Split Pea with Ham*, Pozole. Special: Assorted Sushi

Friday: Chef’s Choice

Monday: Chef’s Choice Salmon, Chicken Enchiladas*, Sweet and Sour Tempeh over Rice*. Soups: Corn Bisque and Sausage, Potato, Kale*.

Tuesday: Quiche Lorraine, Pork Vindaloo over Steamed Rice*, German Bread Dumplings with Mushroom Gravy. Soups: Cream of Broccoli, and Tortilla Chicken*

Items denoted with a * are gluten free

Classifieds

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

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

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

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

Help Wanted

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

Teller I or II (#9774 & 9772, Albany) If you have basic math and organization skills, the level I is for you. These full-time jobs are in Albany and pay \$8.80-11.59/hr DOE. Great way to get your foot in the door.

Accounts Receivable/Collections (#9775, Corvallis) Are you proficient in Excel and have the ability to learn

industry software, have excellent customer relations and accounting coursework or experience, then this might be your job!!

VISTA/AmeriCorps jobs (#9778, 9777, Oregon campuses) These jobs require a one-year commitment, but you get the benefits of AmeriCorps and get some experience in helping to find solutions to poverty or improving retention in college.

Patrol Deputies & Corrections Deputies(#9781 & 9782, McMinnville) They are looking for a few good ones with no criminal history. Deadline is June 5th for these full-time jobs.

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

Bridges of Linn County

Kay M Roth
Staff Writer

There are ten covered bridges in Linn County, five of which are within a few miles of Scio. All of these spans from the past feature the Howe truss type design, a relatively rare design patented in 1840 by William Howe.

A total of 50 covered bridges are located throughout the state, giving Oregon one of the largest number of covered bridges in the United States. In Howe's design, diagonal beams supply compression to keep the bridge stable, while vertical beams supply the tension.

This unique design, and the fact that no federal tax dollars are used for their upkeep, are just two things that make the Linn County bridges special. The other factor is their beauty.

All of the bridges in the Scio area were built around a place of commerce, or to provide easier access to area residents wishing to go into town for supplies. Today, the covered bridges have become more than that. They draw tourists from throughout the world to view the beauty and splendor that makes these bridges so special.

While all were built using the Howe truss, each has their own personal flavor. For example, Shimanek Bridge, just a couple of miles east of Scio on Highway 226, is the only one painted red, while the rest are white. Shimanek Bridge was rebuilt for the last time in 1966, but a covered bridge has stood in that location since the mid 1860s.

Larwood Bridge, approximately seven miles from Scio, is probably the most notable because of the wayside where summer visitors swim and barbecue. It was originally built in 1939 and has served the area well over the years.

Other covered bridges in the area include Gilkey Bridge, which was almost destroyed several years ago when it was heavily damaged by a truck. A train bridge crosses Thomas Creek right next to Gilkey Bridge. Hoffman Bridge, located on Hungry Hill Road, was actually built on the site in 1936 and has



Above: Gilkey Bridge, two miles from Scio, has a train bridge that runs beside it as they cross Thomas Creek. The Gilkey family farm was located nearby.



Left: Larwood covered bridge, located within seven miles of Scio, is one of ten covered bridges in Linn County.

Photos by Kay M Roth

Gothic style window opening.

People who want to visit these historical bridges will have an easy time finding and accessing them thanks to the Covered Bridges tour signs located

near each bridge. The covered bridges of Linn County are not only beautiful, they are also a very strong connection with the county's past and the people who settled here.

Drink, Draw, Be Merry

Dustin Nash
Contributing Writer

Low priced drinks will grease your creative wheels as you draw, paint, fold, laugh, and share your way through Makers' Space Drink and Draw in Corvallis.

Every first Tuesday of the month all are welcome to come to the Majestic Theatre and explore their artistic side with fellow artists or art enthusiasts.

Makers' Space program director Josephine Zarkovich organized the first Corvallis Drink and Draw in January 2012. It started with a bang, the night's hosts scrambling to set up additional seating to accommodate the unexpected number of attendees.

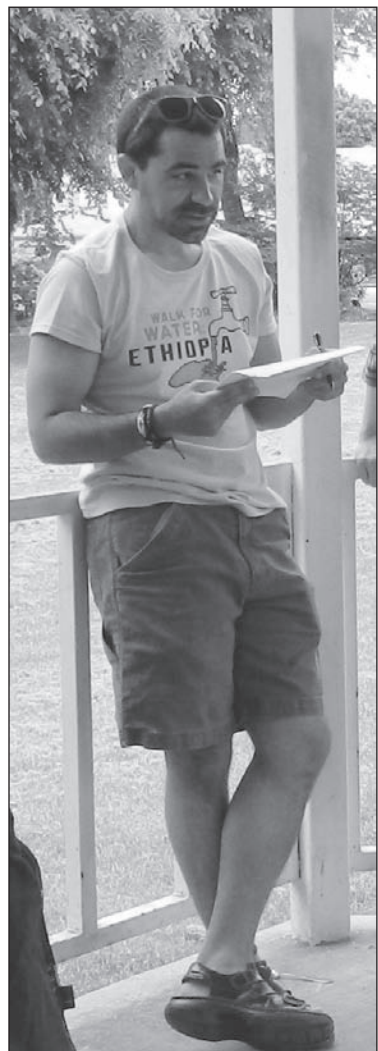
"It was crazy, we had over 70 people on the first day," explains Zarkovich.

Craft supplies are provided if you don't have your own, and those that bring their own supplies from home seem more than happy to share with whomever is interested.

The sense of camaraderie among patrons is somewhat daunting at first, but for many it's a refreshing alternative to loud bars or sweaty clubs. Somewhere instead where you can sit, create, and have a conversation with friends new and old.

Drink and Draw

Who: Open to all ages
When: First Tues. of each month
Time: 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Where: Majestic Theatre
115 SW 2nd St, Corvallis
More Info: www.majestic.org
(541)758-7829



William Tatum

Eric Coker, a member of the Occupy Corvallis movement.

Eric Coker: Profile of an Occupier

William Tatum
Contributing Writer

We've seen them on the nightly news, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook: the amorphous but vocal Occupy movement that formed in 2011 in Zuccotti Park. The movement is still active globally, and Occupiers of all colors and nationalities can be found everywhere from Spain to right here in Corvallis. But who exactly are these occupiers? What do they want and why are they here?

I sat down with one such occupier, Eric Coker, at the local Interzone campus coffee shop to see exactly what it was that motivated him to join the Occupation over other social justice movements or political movements.

An educated and articulate man, Coker isn't the picture of the Occupation most of us are used to seeing on our screens. Absent are the dreadlocks, protest language, and gauged earrings. The passion for social justice, social equality, and pragmatism remains.

When asked about almost any social or economic issue, Coker had a ready and articulate answer. When asked about how some have pointed out that many of the occupiers are from a privileged class and that protesting economic inequality from one's iPad was inherently hypocritical, Coker strongly disagreed.

"We are all part of the privileged class and being a part of the privileged class does not prevent one from commenting on social inequalities," he said.

He felt that the Occupy movement recognized

the privilege of race, gender, and economic status by virtue of birth, and that other groups by not recognizing these things could never solve the problems that are besetting our nation.

He also stressed that being part of the privileged class does not preclude one from pointing out the inherent social injustice of the society in which one lives. If anything, he felt that it was the civic responsibility of the privileged classes to come to the aid of the less fortunate by birth or due to the baked-in inequality of the current consumption-based economic system.

Unlike what has been primarily distributed over the web Coker was quick to emphasize the need for cooperation and bridge building between faith groups, political groups, and social justice groups versus the need for more protesting.

"While it might get me in trouble, I do recognize that there is certain amount of overlap between the Tea Party and Occupy," Coker pointed out, however, that the Occupy chapter in Salem tried to have a group meeting with the Tea Party, but that it broke down because of the wide differences of opinion on basic terms and on social wedge issues.

Wedge issues and social rights issues were the primary reason Coker became involved with the Occupy movement. While both movements are populist in rhetoric, they differ widely on the social issues from women's rights and homosexuality, to the death penalty and other social rights issues. The one thing Coker was vehement about was how he and the Occupy movement were not bound to any

one party or ideology.

"I support whatever works. It's not about ideology. It's about practicality," he said.

While he and the greater Occupy movement do see political protest as a viable means of civic engagement, it clearly isn't the only methodology they are following.

At a recent city council meeting, they gave a presentation on why the city of Corvallis should move their money from their current bank. Instead of playing the Code Pink obstruction game of distraction and disturbance, the occupiers waited their turns and gave articulate speeches when called on. Only during a natural lull in the meeting did they quickly chant, "Move our money" and link arms with "duct tape" chains.

Aside from actions against the banking industry Occupy and occupiers like Coker are interested in social justice and social equality.

One of the main drivers of Coker and Occupy is a passion for social justice, and this is something that is not just rhetorical. Occupy Corvallis is actively working to try and improve the living conditions of the homeless by helping to bridge communication gaps between City Hall and main street and by networking with existing social justice groups. One such action is a planned meeting with the chief of police and the mayor, where suggestions will be made to help discourage police from abusing and profiling the homeless. They also plan to offer solutions to help in transitioning homeless individuals back into productive society.

HOROSCOPES

BACK *in the* DAY



ARIES
 3/21-4/19
 Contra
 Keep running and gunning. Best defense is a strong offense.



TAURUS
 4/20-5/20
 Asteroids
 If you put your mind to it, you can blow them away!



GEMINI
 5/21-6/21
 Super Mario Bros
 No love for your own sibling, huh?



CANCER
 6/22-7/22
 Donkey Kong
 Kidnap the princess, throw a few barrels. All in a day's work.



LEO
 7/23-8/22
 Space Invaders
 You're our last line of defense, Lord help us.



VIRGO
 8/23-9/22
 Legend of Zelda
 So you're mistaken for a girl; at least you have a hat and a sword!



LIBRA
 9/23-10/23
 Tetris
 Balance, arranging pieces, it just seemed to fit. Don't drop that there!



SCORPIO
 10/24-11/21
 Pitfall
 I won't complain if you don't make the jump.



SAGITTARIUS
 11/22-12/21
 Duck Hunt
 One duck, two duck? Yeah, you got this.



CAPRICORN
 12/22-1/19
 Pong
 Up, down, and back up again. You show-off.



AQUARIUS
 1/20-2/18
 Mega Man
 Battle on, grow stronger, and learn from every challenge.



PISCES
 2/19-3/20
 Pac-man
 Waka Waka Waka
 Nom Nom Nom

This day in history ...

May 30, 1431-And how
 Joan of Arc is martyred. Spoilers for real life.

May 31, 1859-The fifth of November
 Big Ben is completed and goes into operation. Soon to be destroyed by V.

June 1, 1980-Thank you Mufasa
 CNN is launched. As a journalist, I'm obligated to put this one down.

June 2, 1935-The end of an era
 Babe Ruth retires and goes to Valhalla, where he will slumber and feast.

June 3, 1800-A new capital
 President Adams becomes the first president to reside in Washington, D.C. Today Washington, tomorrow the world!

June 4, 1942-The turning point
 The Battle of Midway begins. Pray that Michael Bay doesn't touch this one either.

June 5, 1933-Gold, gold, and even more gold
 FDR takes the nation off of the gold standard. I've got no comment on this one.



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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

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

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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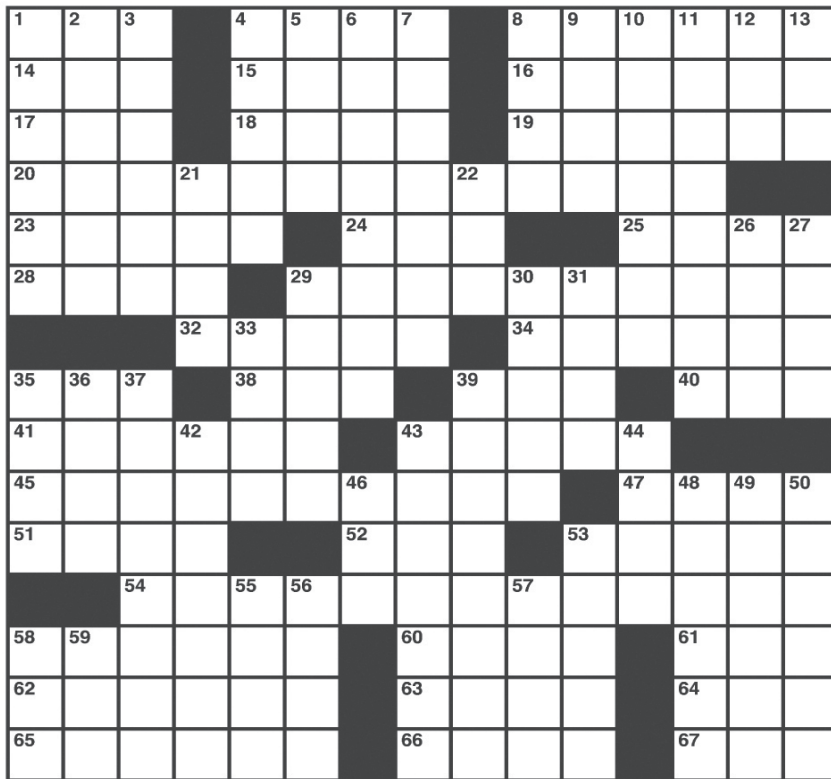
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Premium movie station
 - 4 Hammer-wielding Norse god
 - 8 First voice of Mickey Mouse
 - 14 "This instant!"
 - 15 Will Rogers prop
 - 16 Rallying cry
 - 17 ISP with chat rooms
 - 18 Took advantage of
 - 19 Scrubs, as pots
 - 20 *Bakery fare named for their shape
 - 23 Actress Holmes
 - 24 Mothers' month
 - 25 Kid's building block
 - 28 Part of CBS: Abbr.
 - 29 *Quixotic reveries
 - 32 1953 Western hero to whom Joey cried "Come back!"
 - 34 Vacation home, maybe
 - 35 Stately tree
 - 38 "Wait, there's more ..."
 - 39 Half-__: coffee order
 - 40 Prefix with friendly
 - 41 Sunday dinners
 - 43 Certain Sri Lankan
 - 45 *Playground fixture
 - 47 Immortal racehorse Man __
 - 51 Opie's dad
 - 52 Coffee dispenser
 - 53 Eagle's nest
 - 54 *Beat poet who wrote "Howl"
 - 58 Ohio city north of Columbus
 - 60 Pre-holiday times
 - 61 Pester
 - 62 Really digs
 - 63 Domesticated
 - 64 MMX ÷ X
 - 65 Basic doctrines
 - 66 One-armed bandit
 - 67 "___ Haw"



By Todd Gross

- DOWN**
- 1 Chips and nuts
 - 2 "Way to go!"
 - 3 Little barn fliers
 - 4 Cease-fire
 - 5 L'eggs product
 - 6 Good thing to keep when hearing opposing views
 - 7 Bureaucratic waste
 - 8 "Take care of it"
 - 9 "Batt. not ___"
 - 10 Puffed up, as a sprain
 - 11 Make queasy
 - 12 Throw wide of the mark, say
 - 13 NFL gains
 - 21 Rests one's feet
 - 22 Ham holder
 - 26 Detroit-based financial org.
 - 27 Capital on a fjord
 - 29 Variously colored flower
 - 30 Small weight units
 - 31 One way to lower an APR
 - 33 Detest
 - 35 Funny Bombeck
 - 36 Minnesota's state bird

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 37 Official spoken language of China
- 39 Traveling show
- 42 Toronto's includes the CN Tower
- 43 Quotas
- 44 Leopold's co-defendant
- 46 Hot dog holder
- 48 A type of one begins the answers to starred clues
- 49 Snoopy's flying persona, e.g.
- 50 Baseball's Jackson, a.k.a. "Mr. October"
- 53 It's a good thing
- 55 Ex-senator Trent
- 56 Genesis grandson
- 57 Pixar clownfish
- 58 Sch. near Harvard
- 59 Enzyme suffix

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An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton



Latest Horror Film Truly Terrifying

Carli Gibson

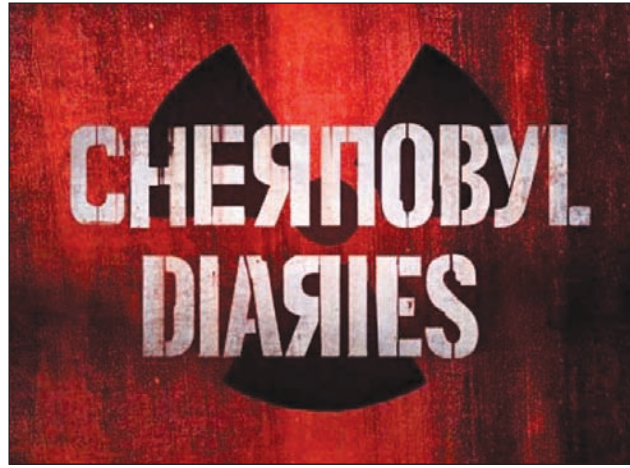
A&L Editor

"Chernobyl Diaries" was frightening, but not entirely entertaining.

It is the story about what happens to six tourists when they decide to tour the Chernobyl disaster area in Ukraine while on vacation. After the tour guide sneaks them into the site without anyone knowing, they tour the grounds. When the sun begins to set, they decide to call it a day, then—surprise, surprise!—the car doesn't start! And one more big surprise, they soon discover they're not the only ones on site.

This movie was full of good scares, but there were some parts where it was predictable. Once the first person is killed, you pretty much know how it's going to end. What kept the suspense in this movie were the creatures and countless encounters.

The camera never gave a good focus—or maybe I was just watching too much of it through my hands—of what the things attacking them were. What I got out of it was that they were some sort of mutated, flesh-eating, awkward-looking people.



In the beginning there were a couple stupid scares like animals making rustling noises, which led me to believe this movie wasn't going to meet any good expectations I had for it, but it got better. It just took some time.

Writer, Oren Peli is most famously known for producing the

"Paranormal Activity" series, along with the TV series "The River," which were all frightening in their own way. "Chernobyl Diaries" is probably one of his best as far as scare tactics go.

Even if you don't end up liking this movie, you have to give him some credit; this was a completely original piece. What made the originality of this piece so great was that the Chernobyl nuclear explosion really did happen, which gives this movie that possibility-of-being-realistic effect.

The actors in this movie did a great job of bringing the fear to life, especially when Natalie (Olivia Dudley) was hiding just feet away from the creatures. Or when the big muscle man tour guide, Uri (Dimitri Diatchenko) looks scared. (You know when the big scary guy is scared, shit's about to go down.)

Although there was the pointless touch of romance between Chris (Jesse McCartney) and Amanda (Devin Kelley), they both portrayed the feeling of pain and being completely and utterly scared.

This movie had its ups and its downs, but one thing's for sure: This movie is the scariest movie since last year's "Insidious."



Healthy World

Seasonal Allergies

Amanda Hayden

Copy Editor

A few weeks ago, I was in the middle of my microeconomics midterm. All of a sudden, I had the distinct realization that many of my classmates were sniffing. It seemed to get louder, like a crescendo, as more people joined in. I doubt that they were crying about the contents of the test, chopping onions, or all suffering from the same cold. As distracting as it was, I found myself joining in chorus. Not only that, but I forgot my Kleenex.

If you're like me (and 20 percent of all Americans), you suffer from some type of allergy. No wonder so many of us sounded like a bunch of bawling babies during that test.

Allergies aren't a communicable disease, but an immune response to environmental substances. White blood cells typically serve to protect the body from diseases, and in the case of allergens, they produce antigens called immunoglobulin E (IgE). IgE encourages release of histamine and other mediators, which cause the actual allergic reactions we know and love (not!).

Now that you've had your physiology lesson for the day, let's talk about what that looks like in the real world and how to deal with it.

Aside from the annoying sniffles, you might have allergy symptoms in the form of: itchy eyes, sneezing, nasal congestion, wheezing, rash, itchy skin, hives, and sometimes, a general tired feeling.

There are some helpful ways to prevent and treat the symptoms of seasonal allergies, and I speak from years of experience. The first line of defense is to stay inside with air conditioning 24 hours a day. Since you probably can't do that, try avoiding excessive exposure to pollen between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m., when pollen counts are at their height for the day. Also watch pollen counts for days when the count is particularly high. It is even better if you can get tested for your allergies, so you know which specific pollens to track.

There are skin tests, which expose sections of skin to various possible allergens, determining which is the offending pollen. Blood tests can also identify these triggers by comparing results of IgE antibodies and specific antigens.

Standard treatment can include a daily dose of antihistamine, decongestants, steroid sprays, and sometimes regular immunotherapy treatments. Another effective treatment of allergy-related sinus symptoms is use of a neti pot or similar device. This temporarily solves some coughing, sneezing, and helps prevent infections as a result of long-term sinus congestion. Not only that, but the neti pot uses saline solution, which can be used by anyone and has no drug interactions.

Oh, and if you are a fellow allergy sufferer, do everyone a favor during your next test: Bring some tissues (to wipe instead of sniff), some water (to loosen the offending mucus), and maybe even some cough drops (to ward off the throat tickle that just won't go away).

Smith Is Back in Black

Arielle Nunez

Staff Photographer

Oh, Will Smith, how we've missed you.

"Men In Black III" debuted this weekend in the number one slot, and you could say for good reason. The movie wasn't perfect, but it was definitely way better than "MIB II," which was just downright horrible.

The story begins with Boris the Animal, an old foe of Agent K, escaping from prison on the moon. Out for revenge against the agent, he time travels back to 1969 in order to kill Agent K and change the course of history. The elder Agent K disappears from 2012, and the world is now under attack. Agent J (Will Smith) follows Boris into the past in order to save Agent K and all mankind. If you watch the movie, you'll understand just how important the awesome Tommy Lee Jones (Agent K) really is to this world.

Suggestion: Glean what information you can from the first five minutes, but for the love of juju beans try to ignore everything else. Those minutes alone are creepily disturbing, but thankfully they do not reflect the rest of the film.

Again, we've missed Smith, haven't we? You better say yes, because this movie is classic Smith. Hilarious one-liners, facial expressions, and plot lines galore. Tommy Lee Jones wasn't bad either, of course, but he only appears for about a quarter of the movie.



Last but not least was Josh Brolin's brilliant portrayal of the young Agent K. He had the hair and the eyebrows, the voice, the facial expressions—everything Tommy Lee. If an actor can so beautifully impersonate another person to the point of being completely believable, then they deserve a round of applause. Behind these three main actors was a well-built supporting cast that personified their characters quite well.

As with its predecessors, "MIB III" is not exactly VFX gold. I think that was my only real problem with this movie, but that may be due to the fact that it's one of those laugh-forever kind of movies. If you're looking for a good time, then go see "MIB III."

COMING ATTRACTIONS



Snow White & the Huntsman
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Fairy Tale Re-telling



Piranha 3DD
Rated: R
Genre: 3D T&A

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