



You have a new annoying game invitation.



## Facebook: Are you game? pg. 6

Accept

Ignore



You have a new useless gift waiting.



## Opinions on 66 & 67 pg. 4-5

Accept

Ignore



A friend of a friend of a friend wants to be your friend.



## Ahoy Trader Joe's pg. 7

Accept

Ignore

**The Commuter**  
**Editor-In-Chief:** Max Brown  
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# Campus News

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

## Office Hours: Q&A with Vicki DeTal

Justin Bolger  
 The Commuter

### C: Have you taught elsewhere? What sort of classes?

VD: I've taught this Technical Writing class at Washington State, many sections of Writing 121 at OSU, I used to teach English as a Second Language, and I teach Fiction and Creative Writing at Linfield College.

### C: When teaching English as a Second Language, do you have to pick a particular first language to teach from?

VD: No. I worked for the American Language Institute at San Diego State, and I had students from all kinds of places in the same class. It depends on the level. If they're really beginners, you have to start with flash cards and pictures. Obviously, the better they speak, the easier it is. What was interesting is that I lived in Mexico for a while, and I taught English to Japanese corporate members of NEC [a Japanese multinational IT company], but the only way we could communicate was in Spanish. So I'm teaching them English, but we had to communicate in Spanish.

### C: What sparked your passion for writing and teaching?

VD: Oh gosh, when I was a kid, what I wanted to do when I grew up was to be the person that read all the novels and wrote the little blurbs for those books, because that meant that I would get paid to read. I just loved literature and creative writing. I don't live to teach the other things, but I enjoy teaching them because they're all writing. My passion is fiction, creative writing and literature.

### C: How did you end up with the technical writing focus?

VD: Now that's a good question. When you get a

degree in English, you have to figure out what to do with it. Writing is a great skill in any business, and I happened to fall into a job with a consulting company as their documentation specialist. Then I went through all sorts of companies; I wrote for Nike, AT&T and all kinds of businesses. I sort of fumbled my way through and learned the lingo. When it came time to teach, I had lots of experience.

### C: If you weren't teaching, what would you be doing instead?

VD: Obviously I'd be writing if I could get paid. I mean, I'd be writing fiction. I wrote freelance for a long time, but nothing interesting; so if I had my choice I would be paid to write fiction. I just got my most recent graduate degree as an MFA in fiction writing, and my thesis is a collection of linked short stories. Now I'm trying to send them out individually and putting them together in a book.

### C: Outside of teaching and writing, what are some hobbies?

VD: My hobbies? You'd be surprised by how much time I spend reading and writing. I'm big on restaurants. I live in Portland so I have lots of choices.

### C: What's your favorite kind of restaurant?

VD: My favorite kind? That's tough. It's really more of favorite restaurants: Three Doors Down, this sushi place that I really like and just anything that's really well made. I'm a total food snob [laughs]. So eating, yeah, that's my hobby.

### C: Anything else you'd be interested in telling us about yourself?

VD: Well, I have two sons that are also amazing writers. My younger son is just 15 so he's in high school. My older son is in the MFA fiction-writing program at OSU right now.



Vicki DeTal

Photo by Justin Bolger

### At a glance

**Classes taught at LBCC:**  
 Writing 121 and Technical Writing

**How long she's been at LBCC:**  
 This is her second term

**An interesting lesson:**  
 She taught English to Japanese corporate members of an IT company via Spanish.

**A neat employer:**  
 She wrote for Nike

**Dream job:**  
 Writing fiction

**Hobby:**  
 Gourmet dining

**Pets:**  
 An 11-year-old, 130-pound English mastiff named Sophie

### Where to find Vicki DeTal

**Office:** F - 112

**Phone:** 541-917-4564

**E-mail:** detalv@linnbenton.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesday/ Thursday  
 12:25 - 1:25 p.m.



### Jan. 11 (Mon)

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Fireside Room  
**Winter Term Blood Drive**  
 Join LBCC and the Red Cross in their efforts to save lives. Sign-up now in Takena Hall or online at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org). The blood drive will be held on Jan. 27 and 28.

### Jan. 11 (Mon)

5 p.m. • Student Life and Leadership Office  
**Winter Coat and Blanket Drive**  
 The drive will continue through the end of the month. Drop off any new or used coats, jackets, scarves, gloves and/or blankets to supply local outreach centers in need.

### Jan. 13 (Wed)

Noon • F-113  
**Discovering Outstanding Careers**  
 George Swanson, Senior Student

Relations Representative from OSU, will discuss career choices and how to make them wisely. Explore the elements to look for while selecting your field and look at some sure-fire career killers.

### Jan. 13 & 14 (Wed & Thu)

Noon - 1 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center  
**Scholarship Workshop**  
 Join a Financial Aid representative to learn more about the available scholarships and the application process.

### Jan. 13 (Wed)

2 - 2:50 p.m. • CC-210  
**So Much Math, So Little Time**  
 Get a jumpstart on successful approaches to learning strategically in math classes. For more information, contact Chareane Wimbley-Gouveia at 541-917-4691.

### Jan. 15 (Fri)

5 p.m. • Takena Hall  
**Add/Drop and Tuition Deadline (in person)**  
 This is the last chance for students to add/drop any classes and pay your tuition in person.

### Jan. 17 (Sun)

11:59 p.m. • online  
**Add/Drop and Tuition Deadline (via SIS)**  
 This is the last chance for students to add/drop any classes and pay your tuition via SIS.

### Jan. 19 (Tue)

3:30 - 5 p.m. • Lobby  
**Sweet Home Center Winter Social**  
 There's no better way to bring in a new term than with free hot chocolate and muffins. Come and enjoy some free refreshments and meet your fellow classmates.

### Jan. 19 (Tue)

4:30 p.m. • LBCC Bookstore  
**Last Day to Return Winter Books**  
 This is the last chance for students to return the books they don't need.

### Jan. 20 (Wed)

3:30 - 5 p.m. • Lobby  
**Benton Center Winter Social**  
 There's no better way to bring in a new term than with free hot chocolate and muffins. Come and enjoy some free refreshments and meet your fellow classmates.

### Jan. 21 (Thu)

3 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center  
**Summer Study Abroad Information**  
 Information will be given on the summer programs for Costa Rica and Mexico and of course, Study Abroad in general. For more information, contact Kim Sullivan at 541-917-4847.

### Jan. 21 (Thu)

3:30 - 5 p.m. • Lobby  
**Lebanon Center Winter Social**  
 There's no better way to bring in a new term than with free hot chocolate and muffins. Come and enjoy some free refreshments and meet your fellow classmates.

### Jan. 21 (Thu)

7:30 - 9 p.m. • South Santiam Hall Gallery  
**Gallery Reception for Photographer Kurt Norlin**  
 Albany photographer, Kurt Norlin, will discuss the history and current popularity of panorama photography. He will also talk about his own panorama work, which is on exhibit at the SSH Gallery through Jan. 29.

If you have a  
**Campus Short,**  
 please e-mail them  
 to [commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu).

**Sam City**  
 Fusion Restaurant  
 Multi-Cultural  
 cuisine

**LBCC Student ID  
 Gets YOU  
 A 10% Discount!**

Present student I.D. card  
 when ordering

**Some Restrictions Apply**

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## Scholarship workshop can mean "free money"

**Sherry Majeski**  
 The Commuter

A scholarship workshop, sponsored by the LBCC Student Ambassadors, will be held on Jan. 20 and 21 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Diversity Achievement Center (DAC). Sharon Wall, the school's financial aid processor, will present the workshop and introduce the tools you need to qualify for free money.

In exchange for an hour of your time, you will learn that you can harvest financing for your education as Wall guides you through the application process. Wall said that the main reason students don't get scholarships is because they don't apply. She also mentioned that there are a lot of scholarships available based on need, not just grades.

Two workshops are scheduled for greater availability to students. Attendance could mean free money in your pocket, which is especially important in this depressed economy. A pen and pad is all you need to bring to learn the application process. Maria Ballard, a

25-year-old psychology major, applied for her first scholarship last fall. She applied for two and won one, the \$1,200 Peter DeFazio Scholarship for dislocated workers or veterans. Ballard served two years of active duty in the Army at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, where she repaired multiple-launch rocket systems.



*"It is so easy, you just gotta try it."*

Maria Ballard

"It is so easy, you just gotta try it," said Ballard. "The hardest part of the application process was remembering to turn in my voter registration." She also said she was a runner-up for a second scholarship.

Ballard said the application process took her less than one hour; she also wrote a one-page essay on her career goals explaining that she was attending LBCC and was transferring to OSU to study psychology. Then she went to the Writing Desk where English/Writing instructor Victoria Fridley went over her essay with her

to ensure accuracy before she turned it in.

Ballard said that she will go through every scholarship on LBCC's website and apply for each one she qualifies for.

Lynne Cox, associate dean of Student Services, said that students have told

her that it wasn't worth the time to apply for scholarships. She said she penciled out the math, and showed them that if they spend four hours on the application process, and win a \$500 dollar award, that equals \$125 an hour. The process takes approximately three to four hours. The first scholarship you apply for takes the most time; it gives you a template to work off of for subsequent applications. After that, it gets easier.

## \$5,000 scholarship opportunity from Oregon State University

**NSF Grant:** Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. (S-STEM).

**Duration:** Apr. 1, 2010 to Mar. 31, 2015

**Objective:** The Transition to University and Careers Program aims to enhance successful transition for qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students from any of the 17 partner community colleges in Oregon to the University Honors College at Oregon State University. Scholars will participate in a program to ease the transition to University life.

**Application:** Online applications are available at oregonstate.edu/dept/honors/future/scholarships/S-STEM

**Eligibility Requirements:**

Applicants MUST

- Currently be enrolled at one of the 17 community colleges in Oregon (Degree Partnership students are welcome. LBCC is included.)
- Have a cumulative college GPA of at least 3.25
- Have unmet financial need as documented by FAFSA
- Transfer to OSU with a declared major in one of the STEM disciplines.
- Apply to the University Honors College by Feb. 1
- Be a U.S. citizen

**For more information:**

University Honors College, visit oregonstate.edu/dept/honors/ or contact Gildha Cummings at 541-737-6400 or gildha.cummings@oregonstate.edu.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Transition to University Careers Program, contact Dan Arp at 541-737-6400 or by email at dan.j.arp@oregonstate.edu.

## Academic Success Seminars

**Boost Your COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE!**

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

Always 50 minutes! **ALWAYS FREE!**

**So Much Math, So Little Time**

Wednesday	Jan. 13	Albany	CC-210	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Jan. 13	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm

**Better Notes = Better Grades**

Tuesday	Jan. 19	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm
Wednesday	Jan. 20	Albany	CC-210	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Jan. 20	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Jan. 20	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm

**Prepare for Tests**

Tuesday	Jan. 26	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm
Wednesday	Jan. 27	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Jan. 27	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Jan. 27	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm

**Get Organized**

Tuesday	Feb. 2	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 3	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 3	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Feb. 3	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm

**Active Learning Strategies**

Tuesday	Feb. 9	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm

**Accomplish Your Academic Goals**

Tuesday	Feb. 16	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Albany	WH-225	2:00 – 2:50pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Lebanon	LC-153	4:30 – 5:20pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	Sweet Home	SHC-102	4:30 – 5:20pm



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

### 2010 LBCC open house

Educate yourself about financing your college education. It is easier than you think. Come to the Commons Cafeteria on the second floor of the Calapooia Center on Feb. 8 between 5:30 and 8 p.m. to:

- Learn how to earn college credits while in high school.
- Learn how to finance a college education.
- Discover the LBCC/OSU Degree Partnership Program.
- Explore career options.

Free pizza and beverages will be served between 5:30 and 6 p.m.

Register online at [www.linnbenton.edu/go/openhouse](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/openhouse) or call 541-917-4490.

### Attend College Goal Oregon for college money

College Goal Oregon offers free one-on-one help for applying for financial aid (FAFSA), and teaches students how to get scholarships and tuition help. Drop in Saturday, Jan. 30 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the second floor of McKenzie Hall. Parents are welcome. Bring with you:

- Most recent completed federal tax return. An estimate will suffice if you haven't filled out your returns yet
- Current value of assets, including cash, checking, savings, investments, and value of business/farm, if any
- Social Security numbers of students and parents
- Driver's license
- Alien registration card for non-U.S. citizens

**For more information:**

Call the LBCC Financial Aid Office at (541) 917-4850

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

**Linn-Benton**  
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# Opinion

**Submissions to The Commuter:**  
**E-mail:** commuter@linnbenton.edu  
**Drop-in:** Forum 222

## A word from your local ASG

The start of a new term brings excitement and opportunity. It can also bring frustration and limited parking, but that is an article for another time. For now, I want to focus on the positive and take a moment to shed light on some activities that are up and coming around the campus this term.

The Associated Student Government is looking for officers for next year's team. This is a great chance to serve your fellow students and college while improving social and office skills. Other benefits of being on the ASG include tuition grants and leadership training. And, in all fairness, let's not forget that this sort of stuff looks pretty good on a résumé. Applications for candidacy are available in the Student Life & Leadership office. Elections will be held during the eighth week of this term (the week of Feb. 22-26).

Also occurring this term, the ASG will be hosting a round of informational forums for students and members of the community on Jan. 20 in the Forum Auditorium. These forums will be a chance for individuals to educate themselves on ballot measures 66 and 67 through a non-partisan, informational presentation. There is to be information and presenters in the auditorium from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. All are welcome.

(This is the part of being president that I really enjoy: when I get to use my position to express a personal opinion on a platform that I might not usually have access to. And if you are opposed to or offended by this, to you I say: Fight the power! Voting is an important part of being an active and responsible citizen. I will never speak ill of someone who votes against me, so long as they vote.)

For more information about events on campus and around the community, stop by the Student Life & Leadership office for a copy of the student activity calendar. Also, be sure to check out the online version on the LBCC homepage.

Nic Bowman  
 ASG President



Nic Bowman

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

### Associated Student Government meeting schedule 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**Public welcome**

**January 13** – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

**January 27** – Benton Center, Room BC-236

**February 3** – Lebanon Center, Room LC-218

**February 17** – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

**March 3** – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

**March 10** – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

**March 17** – Takena Hall, Main Entrance

## 66 & 67: Partial cure for revenue blues

Adam LaMascus  
 The Commuter

Many of Oregon's public services, including education, health care, and public safety, are already dangerously under-funded, and in light of the current economy, are running the risk of suffering even more budget cuts. So in response, the Oregon Legislature's House Revenue Committee introduced Measures 66 and 67. What are these measures, and what do they mean for us?

Rep. Phil Barnhart, who chaired the Revenue Committee, says that Oregon's tax system is unfair. According to him, low-income Oregonians have to pull most of the state's weight. People who fall in the low-income bracket pay an average of 8.7 percent, middle-income bracket 7.9 percent, and the high-income bracket only pay 6.1 percent.

Barnhart also states that while the high-income bracket starts at \$410,000, the average person in that bracket makes over \$1 million annually. Measure 66 aims to increase the taxes for people in that upper bracket. However, even with the increase, they will still pay a smaller percentage than either of the other two groups.

The measure also temporarily reduces the taxes on people collecting unemployment benefits, in an effort to help those who are out of work. Barnhart says that 97.5 percent of Oregonians will not be affected by the new taxes. You only need to worry about them if you are single and make at least \$125,000 or are married and make \$250,000 between the two of you. What's more, it isn't a huge increase in taxes for all of your income. It is an additional 1.8 percent, but only on the money that exceeds that \$125,000 benchmark. Barnhart would also like to point out that this jump is not permanent. In 2012, the tax increase will drop again, this time to 0.9 percent. Measure 66 is designed to give Oregon a quick boost, like an economic defibrillator, and then just provide a little more in the future.

Measure 67 is aimed at corporate taxes. As it stands, corporations in Oregon only have to pay \$10 annually towards schools, health care, transportation, public safety and other vital institutions. This has been the required amount since 1931. Measure 67 will increase the minimum to \$150 annually.

Barnhart says that while this sounds like a huge jump, it will still be the second lowest corporate minimum tax in the country. He also says that it was mathematically formulated to account for inflation, and that \$150 today has the same purchasing power as \$10 in 1931, so it isn't really much of an increase.

A recent study by the Oregon Center for

Public Policy showed that there are currently 31 corporations in Oregon that made over \$1 million annually, but only paid \$10 in taxes. That's less than a "standard" family on minimum wage has to pay. What's more, 63% of all corporations in Oregon only paid \$10. Much like Measure 66, 67 is also designed to be a bit of a jump-start. The taxes will decrease over the next few years, resulting in an only slightly increased tax after 2012.

It's an unfortunate fact of life: the government needs taxes to function. Nobody likes to pay taxes, but everybody does it. Oregon needs more income for the state, and in my opinion, taxing the richer people is not a bad way to do it. Most of us will not be affected negatively, but we will all benefit from the positives. Not to sound rude, but it is ridiculous that the richer members of society have to contribute less than the rest of us do. I'm sorry they would have to pay more, but the fact is, they have more to pay with. I support Measure 66.

Measure 67 I am admittedly a little iffy about. It is ludicrous that people who make so much money have to pay so little, so I definitely agree that large corporations need to pull their own weight instead of just using, abusing, and exploiting the middle and lower class. However, I have been unable to find good information about how this measure will affect smaller companies and more family-sized businesses. Also, neither side seems to be keen on giving a good explanation. Opponents proclaim that it will kill jobs and destroy Oregon, while Barnhart said, "The nonsense you're hearing about how this is going to cost jobs is simply not true." Yet neither side really offered any evidence that I could find. I feel like both sides are trying to pull the wool over our eyes and conceal something they don't like, but whatever it is, they obviously aren't telling.

In the end, ignore the sensationalist slogans, and read more about the bills yourself, preferably from a more neutral source. I have seen signs that say "Save Oregon's small businesses and vote yes on 66 and 67," and then ten feet away a sign that is identical except it says "vote no," both plastered across the windows of local shops. As voting day draws near, we find ourselves standing at an unfortunate, difficult, and increasingly misleading crossroads.

Supporters of these measures seem to conjure images of an Oregon devoid of public services, a statewide ghetto, while opponents paint a picture of a state abandoned by industry fleeing the higher taxes, leaving us nothing but bones to pick over. Neither image is good, and I hope that both sides are wrong.

### Ballot titles

#### Measure 66:

Raises tax on household income at and above \$250,000 (and \$125,000 for individual filers). Reduces income taxes on unemployment benefits in 2009. Provides funds currently budgeted for education, health care, public safety, and other services.

#### Measure 67:

Raises \$10 corporate minimum tax, business minimum tax, and corporate profits tax. Provides revenue currently budgeted for education, health care, public safety, and other services.

Source: ballotpedia.org

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## 66 & 67 don't measure up

**Joel DeVyldere**  
 The Commuter

### Measure 66:

Increasing the state's tax on the richest of the rich sounds like a good idea, right? We would have an increase in tax revenues that would be able to fund education, transportation, law enforcement and all the rest of Oregon's struggling extensions of government. The only people affected would be those making \$125,000 and couples making \$250,000 a year. That includes essentially no students, so we are the short-term beneficiaries of this prospective law change.

But these tax hikes are massive, increasing the tax rate a minimum of 1.8% of a person's income to a grand total of 11%. Eleven percent! That's more than a tenth of their salaries and earnings from investments.

But let's pose a question: why are these people so filthy rich in the first place? They are business owners and/or investors in enterprise. If the government skims their income before they

have a chance to invest it, then we will have a capitol shortage and Oregon businesses will be at a sharp disadvantage, unable to compete with foreign-owned companies that offer the same goods and services. I hope you're ready for more Walmarts! Vote no on Measure 66, and save our local businesses.

### Measure 67:

Here's why you should vote against Measure 67: The voters in this state have been presented time and time again with the opportunity to increase our taxes by strapping down our in-state businesses with more taxes. Our record says that, in spite of the short-sighted efforts of our state legislature (who introduced this bill in the first place), we the voters have been flat-out unwilling to let those kinds of taxes go through.

Why? If we increase taxes on businesses in Oregon, many will simply shut down. Others will leave the state in search of a more advantageous

economic climate. Still more will have no choice but to raise their prices to make up for the outrageous taxes being charged to them. Ultimately, what we will end up with is fewer local businesses and in-state jobs, and higher priced products from the locally operated businesses that remain (e.g. dairies, bakeries and other local manufacturers of necessities).

This bill is an economic suicide pill with Oregon's name on it. It increases our state's minimum tax for businesses by fifteen times. The taxes are also retroactive to 2009, which means that, if 67 passes, each business will have to pay out-of-pocket increases on last year's taxes. Lastly, this bill will base the rate of taxes collected from each company on their in-state revenue, not on their profits. This means that a business could lose money for the year and still have to pay more taxes to the state. If this bill passes, we will all pay for it through higher prices and the lack of jobs. Do yourself a favor and vote no on Measure 67.

## Back in the day

**Adam LaMascus**  
 The Commuter

### This day in history...

#### Jan. 13, 1992: Maybe if we ignore it long enough...

Japan finally acknowledges and apologizes for kidnapping an estimated 200,000 women and forcing them into sexual slavery during WWII. Even so, many Japanese scholars claim they were volunteers and there were "only" 10,000 or so. Japan has a history of trying to ignore history, like when they recently tried to take the Rape of Nanking out of their history books.

#### Jan. 14, 1784: America 1, Britain 0...

The Treaty of Paris is finally ratified, officially ending the American Revolutionary War. The war is a historical precedent for a number of reasons too large for this section. Total Revolutionary casualties are about 50,000. Oddly enough, there are no accurate statistics for British casualties during the war.

#### Jan 15, 1949: The end is nigh...

Communist forces capture the city of Tianjin from the Nationalists during the Chinese Civil War. The war rages for about 23 years, briefly being interrupted by the Japanese invasion during WWII. A year later, Communist forces under Mao Zedong defeat Republicans being led by Gen. Chiang Kai-shek. The Nationalists flee to Taiwan, where they remain. The People's Republic of China is born. I love how brutal Communist dictatorships always give themselves friendly democratic names.

#### Jan. 16, 1547: Not a friendly guy...

Ivan IV Vasilyevich "The Terrible" is made czar of Russia. Ivan is highly controversial, both extremely popular and hated. Rumors surrounding his possible homicidal tendencies, insanity, and outbursts of uncontrollable rage abound. It is believed he is assassinated by two of his advisors after he tried to rape one of their wives.

#### Jan. 17, 1966: Oops, our bad...

A U.S. Air Force B-52 collides with a KC-135 tanker during a mid-air refueling over Spain, killing all four people on the KC-135, and three of the seven B-52 crew members. As if this isn't bad enough, the four Mk28 hydrogen bombs in the B-52 fell into Spain. One was found in the ocean, the other three exploded (non-nuclear explosions), spewing plutonium, resulting in the contamination of two square kilometers near the town of Palomares. This is known as the "Palomares Incident."

#### Jan. 18, 1943: True heroism...

Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland stage a massive uprising against the Nazi German invaders, killing or wounding over 100 German soldiers. Germany responds with overwhelming force, sending in numerous SS units. The Jews last almost a month before being defeated (the entire country of France was conquered in almost the same amount of time). The final German report states that over 13,000 "Jewish subhumans" were killed. The Warsaw ghetto is burned to the ground, and the Warsaw extermination camp is built in its place.

#### Jan. 19, 1983: Lisa?

Apple Inc. announces the Apple Lisa, the first personal use computer to have a graphical user interface and a mouse. It costs \$9,995, has a 5 MHz CPU, and 2 megabytes of RAM. Oh boy?

#### Thought for the week:

"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do little."  
 -Sydney Smith

## Advice from Weiss

**Mark Weiss**  
 for The Commuter



Counselor Mark Weiss

writing skills just aren't strong enough yet for you to express yourself well and get credit for all that you know.

But there are always places where the feedback is strong. Where the grades should be blinking in red, saying, "This is it! This is it!"

I remember a student who was so sharp in math and science that she went on to get an engineering degree at an Ivy League college, and tutored calculus while she was there. But she lived in fear of writing a paper for her

English classes. Another who was a really good writer and a natural with the social sciences thought he wasn't smart because the men in his family had all become scientists, and he struggled mightily with science courses. I would have thought that straight "A's" in sociology, anthropology and human development would mean something to anyone, but it took him awhile to understand where his gifts were, and that they were great gifts. When he did, he also went on to a university and is in graduate school today.

So, I say to you, "There is no such thing as failure. Just experiments with varied results, requiring varying types of action." If the major you originally picked isn't working for you, get some help from the Learning Center, Advising, Counseling, Tutoring, or Disability Services. But it's also alright to evaluate and make another choice. We all have gifts; it's really just a matter of knowing what they are. And that's why there is feedback, not failure, in the real world.

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

In the past few weeks I have been writing a series on "Student Success," in response to a question I received from a student. Today, I thought I'd conclude the series by writing about the opposite: Failure!

The reality is that there is NO SUCH THING AS FAILURE. Not in the concrete, judgmental way we think of it. Failure is a concept. It's not like a wall or an ocean, or a kiss. It only exists in our minds.

Now I know, after a dozen or more years at school, we all believe in failure as a concrete part of life. Many of us have spent a fair amount of our existence trying to avoid getting an "F for failure" at school. We've even seen it written on transcripts and grade reports. But I assure you it does not really exist.

What really exists is feedback. So, the first teacher to create tests, back in the age of the Greeks, did it so that he would know if his teaching was effective. He wanted to know if he was communicating well to his students (or at least that's the story I was told when I was in college). For many, this is still the best use of testing in the classroom.

The same is true for grades. Grades are just feedback. That's all. If you're getting poor grades in Anatomy and Physiology maybe you shouldn't be majoring in nursing or medicine. Or maybe you just need some extra tutoring and everything will be fine. But something needs to change... The same would be true for any field. Struggling in communications and psychology classes? Then maybe becoming a therapist isn't in the cards, or, again, maybe you just need some help. Maybe your

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Feature

Something a little different.

Graduation deadline The games we play ... on Facebook

Max Brown
The Commuter

The deadline to apply for spring term graduation is Jan. 29. Students hoping to graduate must have all appropriate paperwork filled out and turned in by then.

Usually the only two forms a student needs to fill out are the graduation application and a graduation worksheet. Some students may also need to turn in transcripts from other schools where they have earned credits.

Both forms can be found online at http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/forms, or in Takena Hall.

"It's really a pretty easy process," said Marilyn Hill, one of Linn-Benton Community College's transcript/degree evaluators.

The graduation application requires information about what type of degree the student is applying for and general information about that student.

The worksheet tells students which classes are required for the degree they are applying for. The student must show that they have taken all the classes and list any substitutions. When LB is checking the worksheet they will

be comparing it to the student's transcript to make sure they have taken all of the correct classes.

Tammi Drury, a transcript/degree evaluator, said, "It's very important to work with your adviser all the way through the process, because some students are going to have classes substituted, and that has to be clearly noted on the worksheet."

If a student has substitutions they will also need the dean's signature, which their adviser will be able to help obtain.

Students hoping to apply transfer credits to their degree must make sure LBCC has an official transcript of those classes.

Drury says that sometimes transfer classes are not accepted, so her advice is "the sooner you get those evaluated, the better off you are."

It should also be noted that students can only apply 66 transfer credits to their LBCC degree.

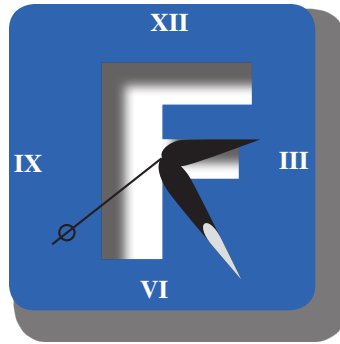
Deadlines have changed this year. Hill says this gives them more time to inform students if they are missing any classes, so they can schedule to take them during their final term.

Matt Deboodt
The Commuter

"Attention: A rare and elusive turtle has appeared on your friend's island, hurry to be the first to adopt this cute little guy!"

You have probably seen this message, or at least something like it. Maybe it was a lonely pink cow that had lost its way, or it could have been an invite to join the mob. Regardless, if you have a Facebook account, you are aware of the games.

A survey of 50 individuals with Facebook accounts revealed that all had tried at least one Facebook game. Thirty of them had well-established "farms," and 20 had achieved at least a "125k Medal" in the game Bejeweled Blitz.



So what? Most people enjoy playing games. One might argue that it is part of human nature. The

problem comes when games become more important than real-life responsibilities. Take the popular game "Farmville," for instance.

"Procrastination through cultivation," is the term used to describe the obsession my friends have with this game. Of the 30 individuals who said they had a "well-established farm," 25 admitted to playing the game in lieu of doing homework. Ten of those said that maintaining their "farms" had at least once resulted in a negative real world consequence.

"I use my computer to write papers and do homework. The Internet is always there and it isn't uncommon for me to put off the responsibilities of school in order to harvest my crops," Stephanie Samuels said.

Forty-eight of those interviewed cited avoidance of homework or to-do list items as a reason they play online. "It is so easy to do, if you have a connection [to the Internet] you're set," said Ashley Nosam. "Who wouldn't play?"



Happy Aquarium screenshot

Good question. From the evidence of many casual conversations, as well as my own research for this article, I am forced to admit that most people do play. Like many of you, one of the things I do every morning is log on to my Facebook account. I maintain several pages, and, to be fair, Facebook is a great way to get information that may be important to my day ahead. For the most part, I find the services and features of the site to be helpful and entertaining.

Do I play any Facebook games? I have tried a few, but they are not my cup of tea. Do I think Facebook games are wrong? No. Do I think they can be a waste of time? Most definitely!

Play for entertainment.
Play to defrag from a stressful day.
Just don't let your real life be negatively affected.
By these games we play.



Farmville screenshot

THE COMMONS FARE
1/13-1/19
Wednesday
Dishes: Beef Stew; Lavender, Fennel, Garlic & Cracked Pepper Pork Chops and Kolokopita
Soups: Red Lentil and Chicken & Rice
Thursday
Dishes: Turkey Club, Chili Verde and Tofu Thai Green Curry
Soup: Turkey Vegetable and Split Pea
Friday
Chef's Choice
Monday
No School: Martin Luther King Day
Tuesday
Dishes: Beef Stroganoff, Fish à la Florentine, Sweet & Sour Tempeh w/ Rice
Soup: Mulligatawny and Vegetarian Vegetable

Perspectives: How many games do you play on Facebook and how often do you play them?
Yessy Alvarado (Nursing): "I don't play any ... I don't even know how to play."
Jarred Berger (Undecided): "I play about two (Farmville and Fishville) ... about two-three times a week."
Tim Powell (Social Science): "One (Mafia Wars) and I play it once or twice a week ... My girlfriend plays Farmville three-four times a day!"
Whitney Traynor (Undecided): "I'm not a big Facebooker ... and I hate Farmville."
Josh Higgins (Engineering Transfer): "Uh ... two ... Castleage and Cafeworld and I don't really play Cafeworld all that much (laughs) but I'm at a point where I'm making over \$55 million an hour on Castleage."

Photos by Chris Brotherton. Compiled by Alex George. The views expressed in Perspectives do not necessarily represent the views of The Commuter staff.

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# Local News

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

## Trader Joe's docks ship in Corvallis



Site of new Trader Joe's in Corvallis.

Photo by Chris Brotherton

**Maya Lazaro**  
 The Commuter

Trader Joe's, a nautical-themed grocery store chain made famous along the west coast for its cheap gourmet food and customer-friendly service policies, is opening up a new location in Corvallis on Feb. 19. Before the arrival of the Corvallis store, the nearest Trader Joe's has been located in Eugene, where it is often packed wall-to-wall with grocery shoppers searching for unique food finds and exotic cuisine. The new store has been highly anticipated not only by those looking for hard-to-find specialty foods, but also by those looking for new employment opportunities.

Trader Joe's, or "TJ's" as called by loyal customers, prides itself on being a "neighborhood grocery store" chain, and to keep it in the "neighborhood" means hiring those who live in the community surrounding a store location. TJ's is unique in that it offers health insurance to those who work 20 hours or more a week, as well as a company-paid retirement plan, paid time off, disability insurance, and employee review periods every three to six months in which workers can receive raises of up to one dollar. Many LBCC students, aware of the generous benefits the company gives its employees, have applied for a position as a "Crew Member." Says Corvallis store Captain Jason Martin, who is currently in the process of interviewing applicants, "Working at Trader Joe's also allows me to be active and we are heavily involved in the community, which allows me to mix up my schedule and keep busy, my day is different every day, every hour and I love that. I'm looking forward to serving our neighbors in our upcoming Corvallis location."

The first Trader

Joe's opened up in Pasadena, California in 1967, where it began developing its trademark tropical atmosphere and reputation for being a store that was both consumer and employee friendly. It wasn't until 1993 that Trader Joe's began opening new store locations within California, and another two years later when it expanded its chain into the Pacific Northwest.

Those who are new to Trader Joe's can expect to find both local products and exotic imported foods on the shelves, as well as Trader Joe's brand foods, which all contain no trans fats, MSG or genetically modified ingredients and are labeled with simple symbols to guide those with special dietary concerns. There is a high turn-around rate for products that don't sell well; TJ's swaps out the bottom ten products with ten new employee-tested products every week, so there is always something new in the aisles. The store works to keep its prices affordable (on its web site Trader Joe's claims to be sale-free because the store will "cut out the middleman whenever possible and pass [their] savings on to [the consumer] in the form of terrific everyday prices.") and shoppers can take advantage of the chain's hassle-free return policy if any product is not to their liking.

Every store is unique in its layout, décor, and staff, mainly because Trader Joe's is so committed to hiring people from all walks of life, from artists to musicians to "everyday Joe's", to stock shelves, create signs, and work the floor. Judging by the store's popularity, TJ's has made every employee and shopper feel welcome. A recent craigslist ad submitted by the Trader Joe's company looking for sign artists to work at the Corvallis store describes the Trader Joe's attitude best: "We can't wait to meet you."

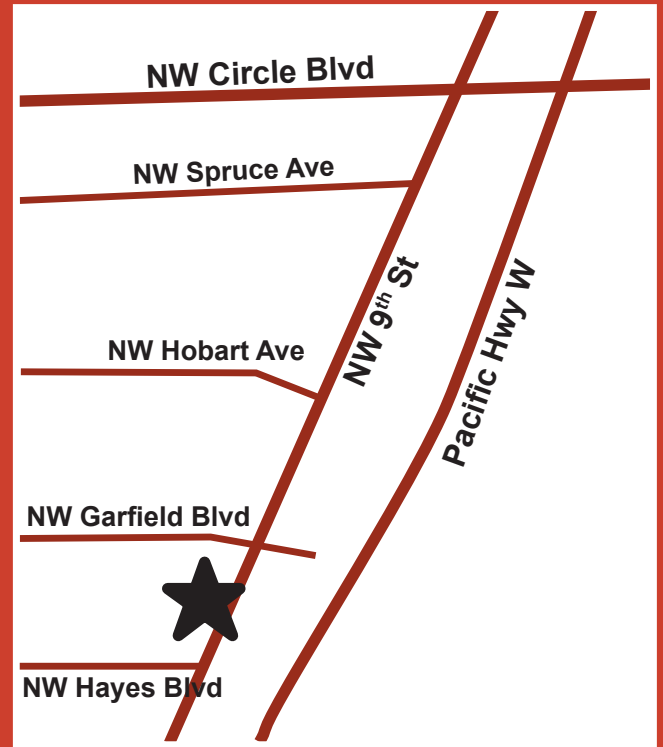
### Understanding the Trader Joe's Bell System

Trader Joe's does not use a PA system to communicate within the store. Instead, Crew Members, First Mates (assistant managers) and Captains (managers) use maritime bells. Here's a guide from the Trader Joe's company website on deciphering those dings when you're at the checkout line.

- One bell tells Crew Members to open up another register
- Two bells signifies that additional questions need to be answered at checkout
- Three bells means that a Crew Member needs managerial assistance

### TRADER JOE'S

1550 NW 9<sup>th</sup> St; Corvallis  
 Open 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
[www.traderjoes.com](http://www.traderjoes.com)



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**Fabian Clark**  
 Business Administration

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Textbooks Is**

**19**

**Tuesday  
January 2010**

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Thursday!**

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only at your



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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](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu)



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# Letters

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

## Credit where credit is due

Here at LBCC we offer a wonderfully wide selection of foreign languages, ranging from Spanish and French to Latin, Chinese, and American Sign Language. What is unfortunate is that students planning to enroll for next term will find that they will only receive college credit for just one out of the 11 different languages offered: Spanish. Last year, the administration chose to drop the credits available for French from three to zero. This winter term, students will be able to receive credits for classes on Improvisation and Floral Design, but not French, a language spoken by over 170 million people and the national language of 28 separate countries.

One might argue that the classes are still available, but for many, zero credit classes are out of the question. We have more students than ever receiving Financial Aid and for some, it is the only way they have been able to continue their education. This service requires a minimum amount of credits attempted each term. For students balancing their class load with a full or part time job, or who have small children or elderly relatives, classes that won't count toward Financial Aid may be offered, but they are still out of reach. Those who need a language are forced to take Spanish regardless of whether they have any interest or if it's beneficial to their degree. Spanish is helpful here in the United States, but those whose major takes them abroad to Europe, the Middle East, or Africa would greatly benefit from learning French or German, and gain little from learning Spanish.

After speaking with Gary Ruppert, a speech and music instructor, he explained that French was dropped last year due to cuts in the budget. I'm fully aware that LBCC, as well as other community colleges, have struggled

with the economic downturn, and I sympathize greatly. However, I would like to point out that United States as a whole has also struggled with a terrible stigma. We are known for being exceedingly ethnocentric. As one of the richest and most educated nations on Earth, we are largely unilingual. As quoted in The Seattle Times, President Obama himself has urged us to take foreign language education more seriously for the sake of international relations. "When we as a society do a really bad job teaching foreign languages – it is costing us when it comes to being competitive in a global marketplace."

I believe the money to reinstate the credits for French can be found in the budget. I understand that many classes have lost their credits due to necessary cuts to the school budget. But in times of scarcity we shouldn't compromise our core values. The Peace Studies class organized by Doug Clark here at LBCC has been able to send students abroad to the International Symposium on Education for Peace, Justice, and Human Rights in Berlin, England, Lithuania, Norway and many other countries since 1988 on fundraising alone – students have never had to pay their way. This is an excellent example of how dedication to a subject can prevail over financial hardship. If fundraising is necessary, then let us raise funds. But I encourage LBCC administrators to let us try. Continuing credits for French is a small step, and I hope that one day, when pastures are greener, we may be able to afford credits for all the foreign language classes, because no one language or culture is more or less important than another.

Magdalen O'Reilly  
 LBCC student

## The Student Programming Board Needs YOU!



### Apply for the 2010-11 SPB Leadership Team:

- **Team Coordinator** (1 position)
- **Publicity Coordinator** (1 position)
- **SPB Specialist** (6 positions)

**APPLY BY NOON ON JAN. 29**

Applications will be available at the Student Life & Leadership office starting at noon on Jan. 8. They must be returned by noon on Jan. 29. For job descriptions, go to [www.linnbenton.edu/go/spb](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/spb)

Questions?  
 Call Allison at 917-4963.

**TUITION GRANTS AWARDED FOR ALL POSITIONS!**

**Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
 LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

## Classifieds

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

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

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

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

### Help Wanted

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

### Apprenticeship Opportunities

(LBCC) Establishes a pool of eligible people in the Willamette Valley for limited energy technicians (Class A & B). Apply in person to: Room IA202 at LBCC by appointment only- call 541-917-4636 for appointment.

### Youth Sports Coordinator

(#7706, Albany) Gather volunteer coaches, organize teams/leagues,

order equipment, train and oversee coaches and staff. Part-time, 15-25 hrs/week, \$8.40-10.25/hr

**Pharmacy Technician** (#7740, Albany) Are you certified as a Pharmacy Technician? The part-time hours are Wed & Fri 9am-7pm and this is located in north Albany.

**Volunteer Red Cross Disaster Services/Disaster Action Team Member** (#7721, Albany)

There are six part-time openings available to assist victims in disasters such as residential fires. Work as a trainee for one year and after taking classes, you may become a DAT leader.

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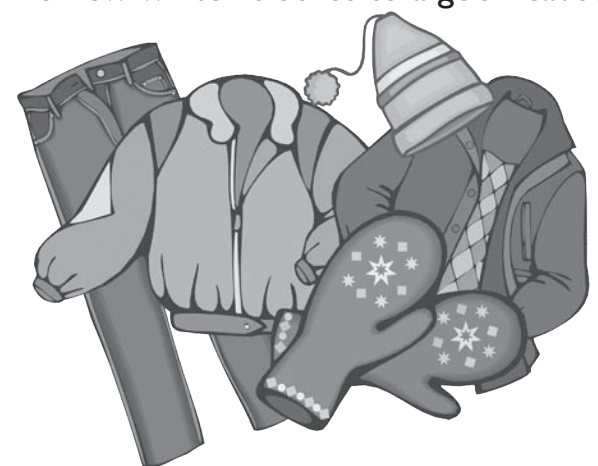
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## Clothing Drive

### Help your community stay warm this winter!

Clean out your closets and donate like-new winter clothes to a good cause.



**January 11 – 29**

Collection bins are all around campus.

### Questions?

Call Abel Soriano at Student Life & Leadership, 917-4463

**Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Sponsored by: LBCC Student Programming Board

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodations, call 917-4789.

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Surreal Living

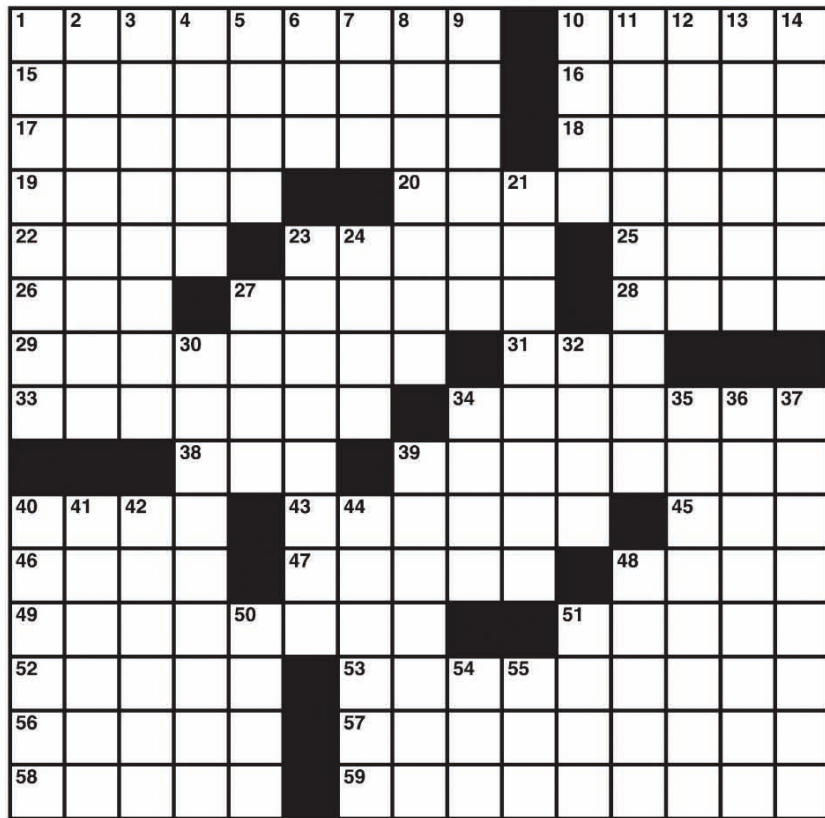
Crosswords, cartoons and some fun facts to brighten your day.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Spears on the table
10 Joplin at Woodstock
15 Basin that can result from a seismic landslide
16 Uncooperative words
17 Without equal
18 1980s attorney general
19 "Macbeth" (1962) Emmy winner Maurice
20 European ruler for 72 years
22 "I claim that!"
23 Metal-beating hammer parts
25 It ebbs and flows
26 GI show gp.
27 Cotton Bowl site
28 AAA suggestions
29 Give way
31 Spartans' sch.
33 Apprentice
34 Home Depot kitchen department array
38 Remote
39 It creates an adjustable loop
40 It may be cracked by a spy
43 Essayist Francis et al.
45 Movie set VIP
46 "Concord Sonata" composer
47 In \_: seething
48 Notes after fa
49 Alter, perhaps by using unethical techniques
51 Tehran language
52 Nuts
53 When business is slow
56 Iron-rich meat
57 Everly Brothers hit that begins "I bless the day I found you"
58 Musical exercise
59 Spoke to



By Barry C. Silk

DOWN

- 1 Water conduit
2 Driver's glare blocker
3 Certain conic section, in math
4 1935 Pulitzer-winning playwright Zoë
5 Speeds (up)
6 Miss. neighbor
7 Milk purchase: Abbr.
8 Guitar relative: Var.
9 Spiritual Arizona resort
10 Hendrix at Woodstock
11 Blown away
12 1944 Sartre play
13 Where most stay when it rains
14 Martin and Allen
21 Ship in 1898 news
23 Lunchbox alternative
24 Other than that
27 Comic Carvey
30 Like wax
museum figures

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 32 Has dinner
34 Beat with a stick
35 Signs on the back
36 Arduous
37 Tense, as relations
39 Gobbled (down)
40 Oater wagon formation
41 Past the pain of breaking up, say
42 "Been there, done that" feeling
44 Biological ring of color
48 Swedish autos
50 "Did \_ and gimble in the wabe": "Jabberwocky"
51 Fancy party
54 Florist letters
55 Churchill's title



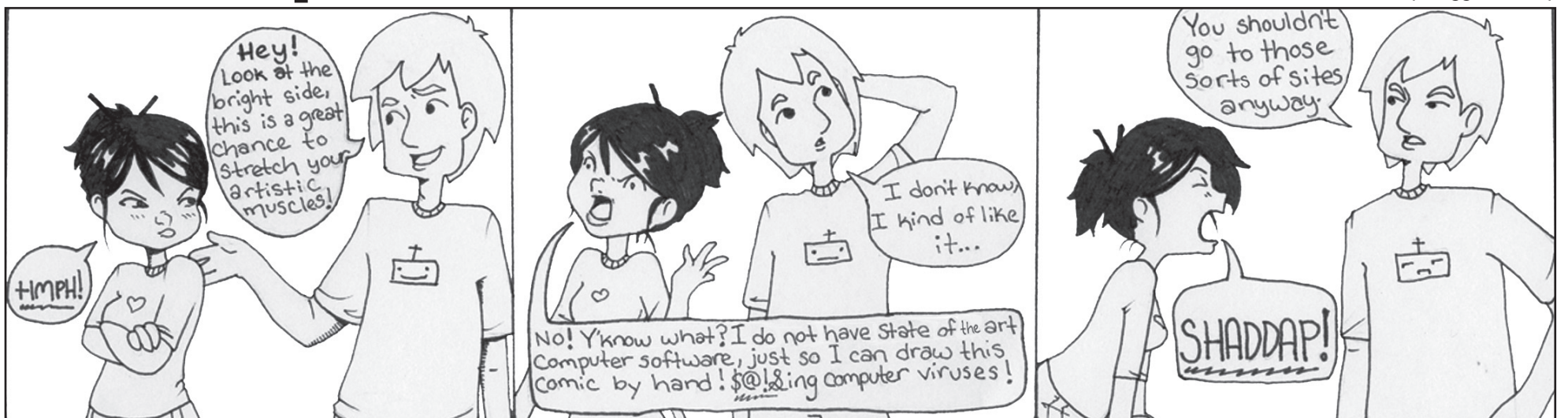
Did you know?

Napoleon Bonaparte was 5' 7" tall, about average height for the time he lived. The common myth that Napoleon was short was created by a British newspaper to mock him.
The velociraptor from "Jurassic Park" is actually deinonychus, a larger (though not as large as the movie portrays) North American cousin.
The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the global population to be 6.8 billion. Annual birth rate is approximately 134 million a year, while annual death rate is about 57 million. If the current population trend continues, we will hit 9 billion in about 2040.

Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## redbox review

### Gotta love a basterd

**Bonnie Starr**  
 The Commuter

Another term, another review. I am always pleased when I make a movie choice that is better than expected, and this week “Inglourious Basterds” fits the bill.

I remember hearing a lot of people tell me that it was a great movie. When asked “Why was it so great?” I often got a response consisting of hums and haws, and an eventual declaration saying they didn’t really know but I should see it anyway. So I did.

Quentin Tarantino remade a 1978 film about a U.S. commando unit set loose in Nazi-occupied France, but that is about where the resemblance ends. This version of the film is stylistically very similar to most of Tarantino’s other work, but seems to be more refined than his previous works. The film is cut into five chapters, each with its own amusing and descriptive title to go with the following action.

The movie begins in Nazi-occupied France. Nazis search for a hidden Jewish family in a rural farm and eventually find them. They quickly kill the entire Jewish family except for one teenage girl who gets away. The opening is a touch on the slow side, but as with any of his movies, Tarantino does a great job with the dialogue and keeps up just a touch of suspense.

The rest of the movie pans out after we meet the title group of characters: the Inglourious Basterds, a team of commandos from the United States. Lead by Lt. Aldo Raine (Brad Pitt), this group of eight Jewish-Americans is charged with the mission of disrupting Nazi plans and putting the fear of the Basterds into them. We watch as they accomplish these objectives by blending in, scalping Nazis and even letting one go home alive to report to Hitler with a swastika carved into his forehead.

Other vignettes take place as we watch the poor Jewish girl who got away in the beginning plot her revenge, the Basterds plan and execute some risky meetings, and all these characters come together at the end of the movie for a grand finale.

The movie was great ... and I can’t explain why exactly. The dialogue was interesting, the scenery was gorgeous, and the acting was very convincing. Perhaps it is simply that the sum of all the parts came together to create a fun and enjoyable movie with a very satisfying “What if?” scenario.

And what happens to Hitler? Historically, he committed suicide before Berlin fell to the Soviets. For the movie, however, you should just rent it and find out. This is a highly recommended film.



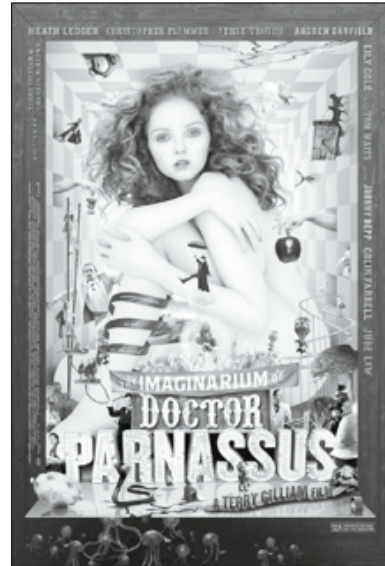
## Pass on “Parnassus”

**Ashley Christie**  
 The Commuter

It has been almost two years since Heath Ledger’s death, and his final film has at last made its way into theaters. “The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus” stars Christopher Plummer as the title character who travels around London with his sideshow, “The Imaginarium.” Parnassus can guide people’s minds and gives his audience members the chance to visit fantastical worlds dreamed up by their wildest imaginations. One night Parnassus and his band of traveling performers stumble upon Tony (Ledger), who has lost his memory.

We soon find out that thousands of years ago, Parnassus made a deal with the devil. Parnassus promised his daughter’s soul to the devil when she turned 16 and in return was given immortality. As his daughter’s birthday gets closer, Parnassus enlists Tony to help break the pact and save his daughter.

When the movie starts, we are thrown right into the story without first finding out who these characters are or, more importantly, why we should care. The next part of the film – the best part – is mostly spent inside the Imaginarium. These scenes are visually stunning and the most fun for the audience. The ending of the movie is another problem – the exposition that’s missing in the first half is now thrown at us all at once and feels like a muddled mess where you aren’t really sure what is going



on or who anyone really is. “Dr. Parnassus” was only half way through filming when Ledger died; production stopped, and after some clever rewrites three other actors (Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Collin Farrell) were hired to play Tony. This is explained by allowing Tony to change appearance when he enters the Imaginarium. Inside other people’s imaginations he can look like whoever they want him to. This part fits seamlessly and is arguably the most believable aspect of the film.

In order to enjoy “Dr. Parnassus,” the audience first has to forget about silly things like logic and reality. The problem with that is that the majority of the movie is set in the very real world of present-day England. It is hard to believe that Dr. Parnassus is thousands of years old and passes the time by making bets with the devil. The best parts of the film are when we get to go inside the Imaginarium. The world inside of it is truly fantastical, where you believe that anything can happen.

“The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus” is aesthetically interesting, but too confusing and poorly developed to recommend. About one-fourth of the film is kind of entertaining, but overall you can definitely skip this movie.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## Coming attractions

### The Book of Eli

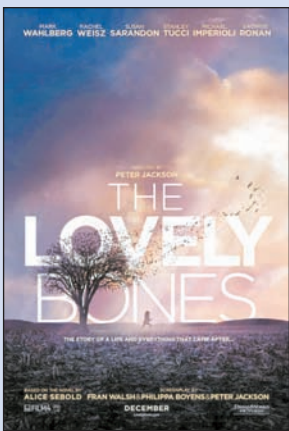
In this post-apocalyptic action flick, Eli (Denzel Washington) traverses the country alone after the United States has been reduced to a gang-infested and uncivilized wasteland. His mission: to protect a book that contains the means for saving mankind. Meanwhile, a twisted self-appointed king named Carnegie (Gary Oldman) seems to be the only one who understands what Eli has, and he will do anything to get his hands on it.



**Runtime: 118 minutes**  
**Rating: R**

### The Lovely Bones

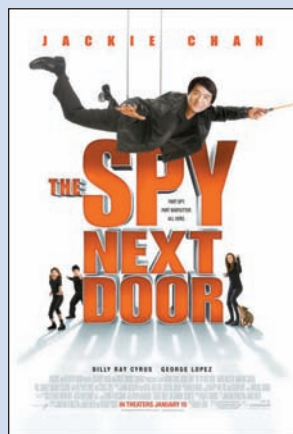
Fourteen-year-old Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan) is murdered by her neighbor, and now watches from Heaven as her parents (Mark Wahlberg and Rachel Weisz) respond to her death. While she attempts to lead her family to her killer, she begins to measure her desire for vengeance against her family's need to heal. Directed by Peter Jackson.



**Runtime: 135 minutes**  
**Rating: PG-13**

### The Spy Next Door

Bob Ho (Jackie Chan) is a super-secret government spy who dreams of retiring and settling down with his girlfriend Gillian (Amber Valletta). To do so, Bob must earn the trust of Gillian's three adopted children. When she leaves town, he has the perfect opportunity to gain a good rep with the kids. But when one of them accidentally downloads a secret formula on his computer, Bob and the kids find themselves in the middle of a conflict that only Bob's fine-tuned espionage skills and fledgling parenting abilities can save them from.



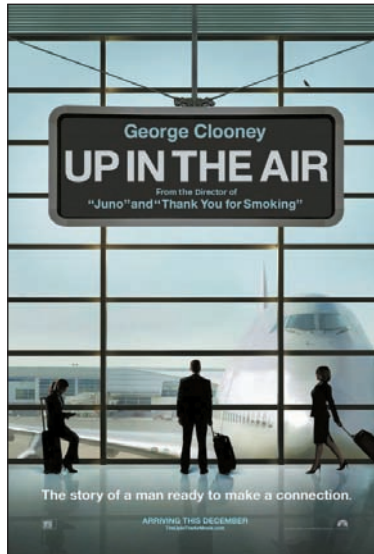
**Runtime: 92 minutes**  
**Rating: PG**

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

## Two thumbs 'Up in the Air'

Alx George  
The Commuter

Jason Reitman (director of "Juno") has us laughing again with his newest release, "Up in the Air." The film is a gender-neutral, light-hearted, only slightly romantic comedy, and its creative plot glides through the turbulence that Ryan (George Clooney) and Natalie (Anna Kendrick) experience on the job as downsizing experts. To complement thought-provoking insights, Reitman incorporates well-placed comic scenes and subtle recurring jokes.



coworker), who has the nerve and ambition to revamp the corporation by "letting people go" via webcam. Ryan feels it's his duty to help Natalie see "the light": there are some things that just shouldn't be done over a phone or a computer. While Ryan metaphorically beats Natalie's head against a computer screen, Natalie protests Ryan's chosen isolated lifestyle and Alex attempts to seduce Ryan from the sidelines.

This movie was definitely worth watching - if not in theaters, then at least on DVD. There are some interesting twists, quite a few laughs, not to mention plenty of I-told-you-so moments.



The movie lifts off by introducing us to Ryan, head of a downsizing corporation, who almost immediately meets Alex (Vera Farminga), an attractive frequent flyer like himself. After discovering how much they have in common, the two catch different planes and Ryan meets Natalie (his not-so-lovely

## Mozart-inspired Phoenix drops bombshell

Joel DeVylde  
The Commuter

Musically speaking, "Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix," from the band Phoenix, is the most surprising album of 2009. It's just ridiculously strange! A French indie act from Versailles, Phoenix is making a splash with smash tracks like "1901" and "Lisztomania," because these songs have no equivalent on the modern charts. Near as I can tell, there's no one else who is currently doing songs the way that Phoenix does them, and to me that's exciting.



he's saying. In some ways, Mars' voice functions as more of an additional instrument, jiving all crazy-like with the prominently eccentric drums and funky synthesizer. This, however, also presents one of the few flaws of the album - on some tracks it is confusing to have a vocalist going off like that while the music is taking a different turn. It is occasionally hard to stomach the dissonance.

The album is aptly named after 18th century composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Franz Liszt, a composer and pianist of the 19th century referenced in this first track. Liszt, who was a wild and unconventional pianist, had crowd-maddening performances. Thus the term "Lisztomania" was coined

long before the advent of Beatlemania in the 1960s. Apparently, women would go crazy at Liszt's performances in a similar manner. Phoenix is drawing on both styles for this album - the brilliant and steady Mozart and the carefree and ridiculous Liszt. And it pulls it off well.

Phillipe Zdar, who produces all manner of strange combinations, mixed this record. The drums lead for much of the album, though mid-track they will trade their dominating role with the synthesizer or keyboards. The sound is an unheard-of blend that makes you want to snap your fingers while you work, play or study. It's most definitely worth the buy.

What makes this quasi-concept album so special? Two things: mixing and vocals. Lead singer Thomas Mars fits the words of each song into the music in such an obscure fashion that you will have a hard time trying to understand what



## Weekly Weather Predictions

Wednesday-11/13	Thursday-1/14	Friday-1/15	Saturday-1/16	Sunday-1/17	Monday-1/18	Tuesday-1/19
Rain 50°	Cloudy w/ Sun 50°	Cloudy 50°	Rain 48°	Rain 51°	Cloudy 48°	Cloudy 44°

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