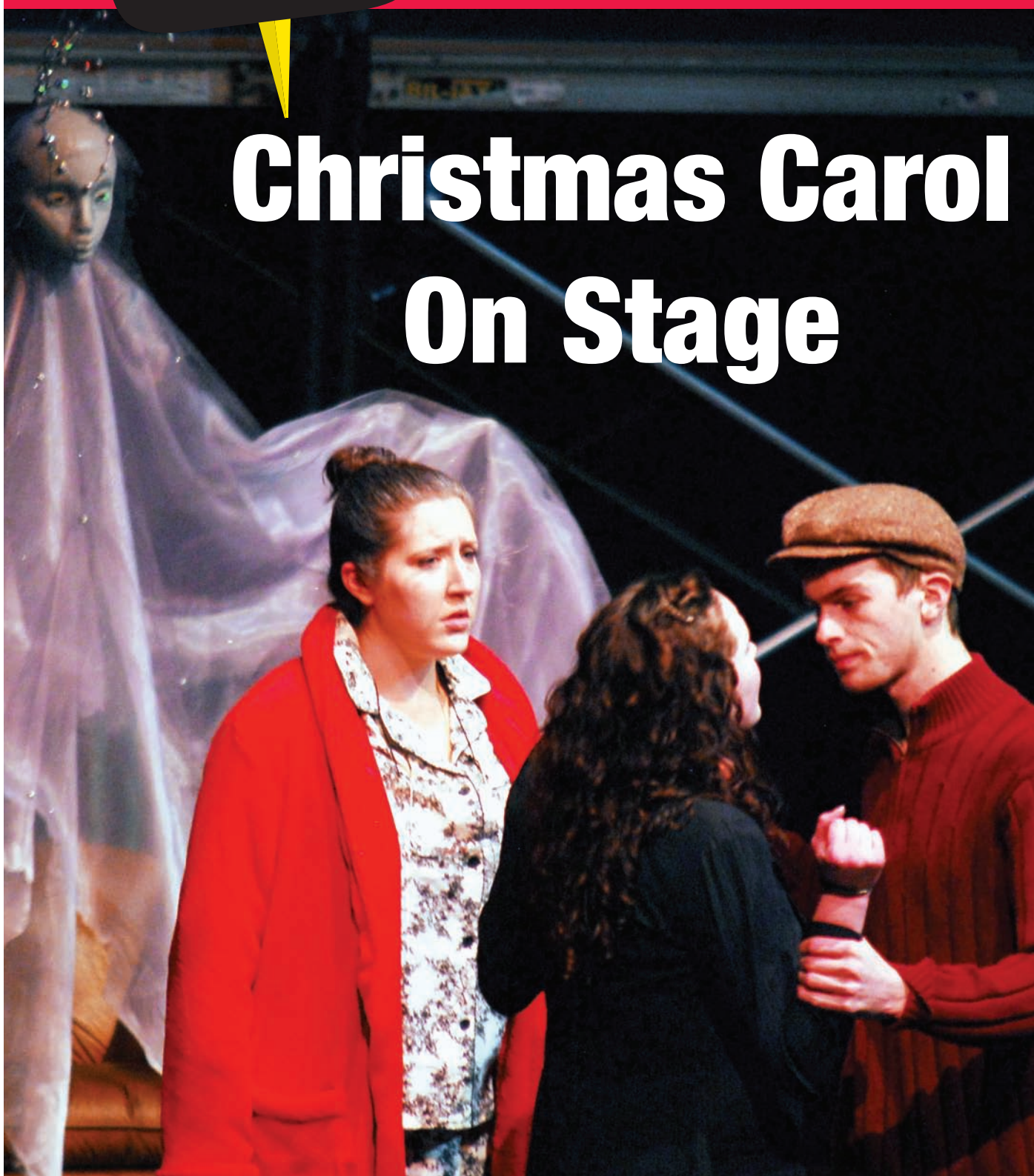


THE COMMUTER

Your Community Compass

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Christmas Carol On Stage

Nora Palmtag

Contributing Writer

Can you sing, dance, play music, act, build things, draw, or design clothes? Want to learn how?

Do you feel out of sync within your life or within school? If you ever wanted to fit in or gain a new family of friends, then try out for a part or join the crew in a production at the theater with Dan Stone, director extraordinaire.

Watching the rehearsal of "A Christmas Carol" written by Charles Dickens, adapted by John Mortimer and directed by Dan Stone with stage manager, Katrina DiFonzo, I walked into the theater without introducing myself to anyone and Dan Stone was not present at the time. I was overcome immediately with a sense of acceptance, friendship, and camaraderie, which is usually accomplished after months of working together. Coming from different backgrounds, the actors were working like a well-oiled machine, even though there were no lighting or technical staff on site.

Stone incorporated different forms of theater methods from Greek chorus, along with the use of masks, to Kabuki color schemes and Bunraku puppetry to produce this most interesting version of "A Christmas Carol." (A preview of the puppets from the play can be seen on the LBCC website just below the Roadrunner mail site.)

From the beginning of the production, the cast from Mrs. Scrooge to Tiny Tim are a very professional team, imparting with the correct actions, moods, and spirit of Christmas.

The puppet, starting with the grisly and gruesome Jacob Marley, is very effective in displaying the hopelessness of Mrs. Scrooge's former happy past. The next puppet is an unexpected surprise of beauty and ingenuity of Christmas past, showing the consequences of Mrs. Scrooge's past actions. Finally, the vision of the third specter of the Ghost of Christmas future, which helps to change the mood to one of hope for Mrs. Scrooge's future.

Don't miss this great production! Come out December 1, at 7:30 p.m. opening night for only \$5, with all the proceeds going to the Theater Club.

December 2 is the official opening night with hors d'oeuvres and drinks in the lobby at the end of the play to meet the cast at the Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall at Linn-Benton Community College.

Spotlight on Scrooge: on Pg. 9



THE COMMUTER
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Wednesday(11/30)	Thursday(12/1)	Friday(12/2)	Saturday(12/3)	Sunday(12/4)	Monday(12/5)	Tuesday(12/6)
Passing Wetness 48°/29°	Sunny Face 47°/26°	Almost All Sun 47°/28°	Fog with Sun 47°/27°	Day o' Sun 49°/26°	Clouds and Sun 48°/29°	Sun ... Mostly 47°/39°



WEATHER

Source: accuweather.com

CONTACT US AT: COMMUTER@LINNBENTON.EDU

Linn-Benton Community College's Weekly Student Publication

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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

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



The Commuter

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Choir Shines in the "Light"

Carter Patton

Contributing Writer

With lines out the door at the Russell Tripp Performance Center, people were ready for music!

All five of the choirs LBCC has to offer were prepared to sing for a sold-out show on Tuesday, Nov. 22. James Reddan, LBCC music instructor and the conductor of the choirs, was hustling around the theatre finalizing details for the show.

The show for the night was called "Light: The Sun, Moon & Stars." Many of the songs were not performed in English, but the sounds and emotions from the songs portrayed a perfect image of the title of the show.

Songs were done in languages from Hebrew to Latin, which shows how talented and serious Reddan is about his work. He loves music.

Reddan said, "The most important part of this night is the synchronization with choirs and staff for the event."

Reddan has many coveted achievements in his career. One of the most honorable that he spoke of was the announcement that his Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir of 30 students would be performing in London for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

With Concert Choir, Re-Choired Element Chamber Choir, Women's Ensemble, Blue Light Special, and The Sirens, he had his hands full.

The audience for the performance was eager for the



Read more about LBCC's Concert Choir in a profile by Emily Smucker on The Commuter website at: wp.me/p14GZu-4HA

show to start, some people showing up almost an hour and a half before the doors opened to get the best seats in the house. Although tickets cost seven dollars for students in advance and at the door, it is general seating at the Russell Tripp Performance Center, first come first served.

For people who were not able to attend the performance, there are DVDs of the concert for sale at \$15. All orders received by Dec. 9 will be processed and mailed in time for Christmas.

During the intermission after the Women's Ensemble performed, people were able to indulge in refreshments provided by the Red Apron Catering Co., as well as visit with Reddan, who loves to hear

feedback of the choirs' performance.

One of the show-stoppers of the night was Blue Light Special, an all-male a capella group. They used vocal percussion, or beat-boxing, to keep on pace with each other and put on a great performance.

Ricky Banales, an attendee of the concert, said, "The way they stay on beat with each other and harmonize is truly amazing."

Even if Blue Light Special was a crowd favorite, each choir brought something unique and different to the audience. The Performing Arts Department loves providing amazing experiences for the audience and is always in the process of making their next magical performance.

"A Christmas Carol" is next up on the list for the department, which Patti Ball says "should be an awesome show - we would love to have everyone come back."

Ball is the Program Coordinator for LBCC and does a huge part in putting on the performances and making sure everything runs smoothly. She is a behind-the-scenes person, and many of the things she does go unnoticed by audiences.

Ball said, "The hardest part of organizing the shows starts an hour before doors open: set up as well as getting staff prepped and in place. Other than that, it's tons of fun!"

Hard work from students and staff goes into this night, but the smiles and satisfaction that everyone receives far outweighs the hours put into it.

Executive Order Expedites Student Loan Law

Melvin Dietz

Contributing Writer

Students across the country have been protesting their colleges and universities. The reason for these protests, besides the national Occupy Wall Street movement, is about student debt. More specifically, these students are protesting because of tuition hikes, and the expensiveness of student loans and how these loans are unfair.

At several universities in California, these demonstrations have been increasingly grabbing the attention of the news because of excessive police force. Police warned the protesters

to vacate the area, threatening to use chemical agents if they did not comply with demands, at which point the student protesters formed a large sit-in circle. This resulted in police officers using police strength pepper spray on the sitting individuals.

Also, students were protesting in a building, and police forced them out of the building. The students later wanted back in to the building, but were met by police at the front door. Students then became increasingly angry, which led to shattering a glass door. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, four students were arrested and one police officer had to go to the

hospital.

The protests have become more active because the board of trustees decided to increase tuition by nine percent. This will be the second time this year that trustees have raised tuition.

With student debt on the rise, President Obama has drafted a program that lowers the annual amount due from 15 percent of annual income to 10 percent, making the total amount owed less than what was borrowed. He will also have a forgiveness plan that will make any amount still owed after 20 years nullified if the person has been up to date on their payments.

These bills were already passed in congress last year, but the new bill states that it will go in to effect in 2012 instead of 2014. Only those who borrow after the bill is in effect will be eligible to qualify for the benefits. To give you a better idea of how big of a problem student debt is, the total amount owed by all students is larger than the amount owed by all credit card debt. Some people are calling this the student loan bubble, much like the housing bubble that crippled the world economy, and are afraid that if we don't do something about it, it will cause much more economic disparity on top of the crisis we are in now.

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11/30-12/06

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Chef's Choice-Special

Thursday:
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Soups: Spanish Chicken and Beer Cheese

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Chef's Choice

Tuesday: Chef's Choice

The Diversity Achievement Center Welcomes YOU!

**Do you have questions?
Do you just need a freindly face and smile?
Not sure where to go on campus?**

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- Watch a Movie, or Read a Book
- Search Scholarship Listings
- Use a Computer
- Find College and Community Resources
- Help with Career Exploration
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- Learn about Non-Traditional Career Programs
- Attend an Activity or Event

Diversity is not about how we differ.
Diversity is about embracing
one another's uniqueness!

**Located on the 2nd floor of the
Forum building: Room 220
Open Monday-Friday 9am to 3pm**

Everyone is Welcome!

Turbocharged Writing

Cory Warren
Contributing Writer

The room is filled with the din of keyboards, the ding of a defiant typewriter coming to the end of its line, and the occasional burst of laughter as someone leans in to read a line. To the casual observer, the conference room at the Salem Public Library would look like nothing more than a bunch of writers working away on their laptops, or scribbling away with pen on paper. However, this group is different.

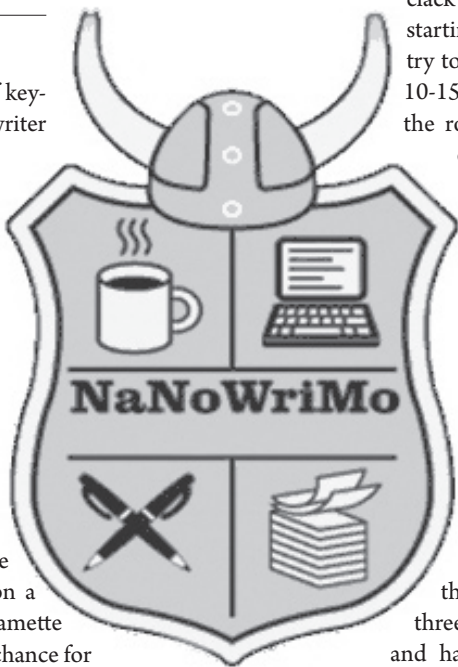
It's November, and for over 200,000 writers worldwide, it is National Novel-Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), where daring writers take the month to write 50,000 words on a novel. For members of the mid-Willamette valley, meetings such as these offer a chance for NaNo'ers, as they are called, to gather, share their stories, goof off, and get some much-needed time into their word counts.

NaNoWriMo first started in July of 1999, when a group of 21 writers in the San Francisco Bay area decided to try something new, and set out to challenge themselves to write a short novel quickly, allowing the rush of trying to meet a seemingly impossible deadline to help the ideas flow freely and without censorship. The next year, the group came together, choosing to move the event to its new home of November, and opened a website. From that day forward, the number of participants have steady grown into a worldwide phenomenon, with over 2.8 billion words written during the 2010 event alone.

Moreover, as the event has grown, so too have the yearly meetings with the Salem NaNo region. What once was only ten people sitting at a table in a room at Chemeketa Community College, the growing popularity of the event means the Salem Region, once only one of a handful in Oregon, now boasts nearly 900 members, with hundreds coming to the many write-ins hosted throughout the month of November.

On Saturday, November 5, after a quick introduction by Jamie King, the Salem area municipal liaison (a volunteer who organizes a region's events), and a few games to break the ice and get the silliness flowing, the writers were off. Each was quickly lost in their own stories as they worked to catch up to the daily word count goal (1,667 being the average daily word count one must write to stay on target.)

Periodically, King would stand up and shout over the



clack of keyboards that they would be starting a word war, where the writers try to out-type each other in a burst of 10-15 minutes of writing. The mood in the room changed immediately as everyone took a quick break to let their hands have a rest before the sprint. It did not take long into the first word war to realize how seriously the gathered writers were. Everyone fell silent and was focused solely on beating others, or at least beating their own record. By the end of it, when people slumped back in their chairs massaging their wrists (especially those who wrote by hand during the challenge), many walked away with a sizeable portion of their daily word count finished, and three (one each for laptops, typewriter, and handwritten) walked away with a prize.

However, why would someone want to put themselves through such a grueling challenge as NaNoWriMo?

King summed it up as such: "I was very interested in the idea of being able to write without the constraints of having to worry about editing and the consistency and quality."

To the average student who is so intent on getting a good grade on their papers, this approach to writing may seem foreign. The idea of rushing an idea out and working on the number of words over the quality of what they are saying can seem like a scary thought when you are used to being graded on the content, and not simply the length. However, even our professors here at LBCC see the benefit of throwing caution to the wind and setting ideas down on paper without censorship.

Writing instructor Karelia Stetz-Waters, who is doing her first NaNoWriMo this year, spoke of how stepping away from her usual rigidly-structured plans for a story and just jumping in with abandonment was in some ways freeing. "It allows me to explore the ideas and solutions that would occur to me on the spot that I may have discovered later in the process, but could now weave into my story as I write it, and see what interesting new paths they opened as I continued to write."

Now, as November continues to wind down, the last push to reach the coveted 50,000 words kicks into high gear.

Continue reading about NaNoWriMo and see the 50,000 word stats online at: wp.me/p14GZu-4I0

OFFICE HOURS with Paul Hawkwood

Anna Grace
Contributing Writer

If there is one thing you take from his class, it's Plato's allegory of the cave. It's the one thing most students never forget.

Paul Hawkwood, a writing instructor at LBCC, is great about spreading the philosophy of the famous writer and Greek philosopher Plato in his work to help understand the need to learn. Even in writing, Plato's cave can come in handy, making you think outside of the box.

You may have heard his name before; Paul Hawkwood proceeded to help with finding a new online course system other than Blackboard. He helped test Angel and Moodle. He is one of the many we can thank for the change.

Hawkwood has worked for LBCC for 27 years. He teaches an abundance of writing classes. The one he loves the most is English 104. He says "it's a lot of fun, because people can relate to it the most."

Hawkwood also teaches Writing 121, 122, English 207, Asian literature, African literature, and non-fiction essay writing. As you can see, he is a busy instructor.

If you have never heard of Plato's allegory of the cave, take one of Hawkwood's classes. You will not only learn new ways to write, but you will also learn things that you can apply to everyday life.

Read the complete Q&A online at: <http://wp.me/p14GZu-4I1>

Where to find Paul Hawkwood

Office: NSH-210
Phone: 541-917-4570
Email: paul.hawkwood.4496@mail.linnbenton.edu
Office Hours: Mon./Wed./Fri. 1-2 p.m.



provided by Paul Hawkwood
English instructor Paul Hawkwood

Earthquake Readiness

Erika Subhadra

Contributing Writer

On November 21, northeast India was struck with a magnitude 5.9 earthquake. For those of us living on fault-lines the world over, perhaps now is finally the time to think about what we will do when a big quake hits our region next. So what do we do?

Find out by reading the full article online at: <http://wp.me/p14GZu-4rw>

In the News:

Local:

Salem, Ore. – Oregon's governor John Kitzhaber has said that he is going to issue a reprieve to twice-convicted murderer Gary Haugen, who was set to be killed in two weeks. Kitzhaber's reprieve will last until the end of his term, which ends in January 2015. Kitzhaber believes that it is morally wrong and doesn't want to participate while he is still in office. Oregon has executed two men since voters reinstated the death penalty in 1984. Voters have outlawed it twice and legalized it twice, and the state Supreme Court struck it down once. Voters most recently legalized the death penalty in a 56-44 vote in 1984.

source: Associated Press

Portland, Ore. – Kyron Sloan, a special needs sixth-grader, was pulled out of class and forced to mow the school lawn as punishment for falling asleep.

Sloan has ADD, Asperger's, and a medical condition that makes him sleepy. Sloan said that the counselor at Alice Ott Middle School came up with the idea of having him push a mower.

source: Associated Press

Nation:

Los Angeles – A woman suspected of pepper spraying a crowd of people during "Black Friday" has been released. The woman is suspected of firing pepper spray into a crowd in order to clear a path to a crate of Xbox video game players that were being unwrapped late Thanksgiving night at a Walmart. Ten people suffered minor injuries from the spray and 10 others sustained cuts and bruises in the ensuing chaos. The woman got away in the confusion.

source: Associated Press

Boston – Grant Smith, 47, was arrested after he was caught viewing child

pornography on a Delta airline flight from Salt Lake City to Boston. Smith was sitting in first class. A fellow passenger saw what he was watching and flagged down a flight attendant. When the plane landed at Boston Logan International Airport, troopers interviewed Smith and subsequently arrested him. He has been charged with possession of child pornography, and police say additional charges could follow. His bail is set at \$15,000. He is scheduled to be arraigned Monday.

source: Associated Press

World:

Cairo, Egypt – The three American students arrested during a protest in Cairo have all been released and are now safely back in the United States. The young men were arrested on the roof of a university building near Cairo's iconic Tahrir Square last Sunday, after officials accused them of

throwing firebombs at security forces fighting with protesters. All three students were studying at the American University in Cairo. Protests have been going on near Cairo's central Tahrir Square since Nov. 19, against the landmark parliamentary elections held on Monday.

source: Huffington Post

Mexico – The "undead" marched in Mexico's Zombie Walk to raise money for food banks, celebrate human rights, and diversity. They set out to break the zombie world record and managed to do it this year. There were more than 9,800 people this year, more than doubling last year 4,093 people.

source: ABC

Weird:

Chestertown, MD – A man wearing a Frosty the Snowman costume was arrested during the Chestertown

Christmas Parade on charges that he scuffled with a cop and kicked a police canine. Kevin Michael Walsh, 52, said that he has been dressing up as Frosty for the past ten years and that he was harassed by the police after he made a remark about the dog being present.

source: Associated Press

Springfield, Ohio – Ohio Troopers that were making a routine traffic stop say that they found a pot present: 25 individually-wrapped packages of pot that were disguised as presents. According to state officials, the marijuana packages totaled to more than \$63,000. Robert Gomez, 35, of Bremerton, Wash., has been charged with trafficking and possession of marijuana and possession of criminal tools, both felonies, and a misdemeanor count of driving under suspension, and is being held in the Clark County jail.

source: Associated Press

Occupy Movement Comes to Corvallis

Sean Bassinger

Staff Writer

On most Monday and Thursday nights, the Red Orchard Community hall fills with dozens to discuss Occupy Corvallis, another formation of individuals seeking to take charge of their community's financial well-being.

The General Assembly — or GA for short — puts the democratic process to work for Occupy Corvallis, discussing the organization and finances behind demonstrations. Anyone can make proposals, highlight events involving direct action, and help craft solutions. Simply put, voices are heard and plans are carried out.

Thursday's meeting began with Lisa Gonzales, facilitator of the evening's events, prompting everyone to introduce themselves and make proposals if they had them. Proposals were then discussed near the end of the meeting.

Assembly meetings are regulated with the help of a co-facilitator, who keeps track of the order in which individuals raise their hand to offer input. Both the facilitator and co-facilitator change positions often, and give others an opportunity to moderate assemblies. Decisions are voted on through a series of additional hand signals representing agreement, disagreement, off-topic discussions and proposal blocks.

Thursday's agenda began with discussions on the GA's involvement with local businesses, and lead off into debates regarding the assembly's finance committee. Members of the finance committee rotate often for the sake of regulating diversity and maintaining

equal views.

GA member Eric Coker described events that took place earlier in the afternoon, including a march dubbed "Funeral of the American Dream." Nearly 80-120 individuals joined up as four mock coffins labeled "American Dream," "Democracy," "Living Wage" and "Middle Class" were carried during the procession.

Chants such as "The banks got bailed out, we got sold out," and "We... are... the 99 percent" echoed through downtown Corvallis as marches progressed.

Events started at the Gazebo in Central park, and moved on to proceed through U.S. Bank, the county courthouse, city hall, and Bank of America. GA member Dylan Schwartz was heard reciting the eulogy at U.S. Bank.

"We, the 99 percent, hope to later rest these growing economic injustices with America and the world," said Schwartz. "Rest in Peace, the American dream."

Managers at the Bank of America locked their doors, and selectively chose who was allowed to enter the building for routine transactions.

Aside from organizing events in their own communities, members of the movement also aim to personally keep in touch. Occupy Salem supporter and GA member David Kay popped into the meeting to announce updates in Oregon's capital. Kay explained why mock coffins were not used after noticing Occupy Salem's banners read "Save the American dream."

"We decided it was inappropriate to carry the coffins in the Salem march," he said. "It just didn't feel right."

The evening concluded with



Kody Kinsella

Students discuss the Occupy movement at "Talkupy" in the DAC. Read Sean Bassinger's report of that event online at: <http://wp.me/p14GZu-4FN>

announcements and outlined proposals. One new suggestion called for future Occupy Corvallis poetry readings, which would increase the movement's overall artistic development.

Occupy Corvallis continues to receive excellent support from local institutions, including the Corvallis Police Department and Public Library. During a march, police were contacted by bank officials in an attempt to remove demonstrators from the area. Unlike other cities, the officers refused and claimed marchers were not harming anyone.

"When they start throwing things or hurting people, give us a call," one

officer said.

The CPD was not contacted again. In order to express gratitude for the department's more civil reaction, a "thank you" card was passed around and signed by all present GA members.

The Corvallis Public Library has also been supportive. The Library allows for demonstrators to have sit-in meditation sessions with signs, but has also requested Occupy Corvallis members bring their own seats to keep others open for additional patrons.

Tony Vogt was among many GA members who sympathized with the Library's requests.

"It's a public space and people love their library," Vogt said. "We need to do this in a way that's welcoming."

Aside from Saturday meditation sessions, GA member Todd Jones can be seen outside of the library with his daughter most mornings, as he passes out flyers outlining the time and location of GA meetings.

GA meetings take place at the Red Orchard Community Center at the corner of 35th and Jackson on Monday and Thursday nights between 5:30-7:30 p.m. Up-to-date information on the Occupy Corvallis movement can be found on the Occupy Corvallis Facebook page.

Letter to the Editor: Declaration of the 99%

When in the course of corporate events, it becomes necessary for a people to dissolve their political bands with the banks and corporations, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that require this separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal. That they are endowed in their existence with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That organizations created by individuals are not to be granted or extended these rights as they are by definition not people.

In writing this declaration I must humbly refer to another, written over 200 years ago by a patriot named Thomas Jefferson, with the assistance of Benjamin Franklin among others. He found that the differences between himself and others in his colony and those colonies surrounding him so starkly different to the ruler of those colonies that they should declare themselves different and separate. The colonies declared that all governments should be ruled by the very people they govern. The colonies also decided that if at any time the government wasn't functioning in the people's best interest that it should be altered or abolished by the people. King George of England was the ruler or government that had done nothing for these colonies, and had perpetrated multiple transgressions against them. He had enacted laws that were not in the colonies'

best interest and had made it nearly impossible for them to repudiate them. He left the colonies defenseless from attack, both from without and from within. King George obstructed in the administration of justice and made judges completely dependent on his will for salary and appointment. He allowed foreign powers to enact "pretend legislation" that was alien to the British constitution. King George had even taken away the colonial charters and abolished their most valued laws, fundamentally altering their form of government. The only way the inhabitants of the colonies found to define him was as a "Tyrant." Therefore the colonies declared themselves "Free and Independent States," "Absolved of all allegiance to the British Crown."

Like Thomas Jefferson, we too have found some fundamental differences. Unlike him however our differences are not between ourselves and our governments, but rather the vast majority or 99 percent of the Good People of the Earth, and the banks and corporations, or one percenters, that "enact pretend legislation" in our stead. We find the legislation and acts they perpetrate to be wholly unconscionable.

Chief among these acts is unbridled greed. To enable this greed the one percenters have bought politicians and enacted legislation that is not in the best interest of the people being governed. They have done this thru both political contributions and lobbying laws. Then, utilizing this system, the one percenters have systematically eliminated our ability to enact legislation beneficial to the people being governed. Some, but not

all, of these violations are:

- They have enacted tax codes and laws that favor banks and corporations at the expense of the people.
- They have "out sourced jobs" for their own greed rather than the benefit of humanity.
- They have placed Health Care out of reach of a significant portion of the population.
- They have both promoted and assisted in the wholesale destruction of our natural resources.
- They have instigated Wars with foreign powers, wholly for financial gain, and with a cavalier disregard for the people.
- They have reduced or eliminated the ability of the people to obtain an education.

In committing these acts the one percenters have fundamentally altered our form of government. As a conscionable people we are forced to declare these and other violations against the very nature of a decent and progressive society. We find that these failures have been thrust upon us, the Good People of the Earth, for nearly a century, and can no longer suffer its failings. For too long we, the 99 percenters have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms. These petitions have been answered only with further injury, not only to our sensibilities, but to our very bodies. They have actively excited divisions within our ranks to benefit their own greed. They have on multiple occasions artificially, and deliberately, created economic issues with the intention of keeping us subdued and subordinate.

Any individual or organization, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is by definition unfit to represent the free, lucid and Good People of the Earth.

We, the 99 percent, have warned the one percent from time to time of their attempts to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have appealed to their sense of justice and decency and have attempted to conjure kindred ties and disavow these usurpations. These would inevitably disrupt our correspondence leaving them deaf to the voice of justice. We must, therefore acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them in violation of human rights.

We therefore, the representatives of the 99 percent of the Good Peoples of the Earth, in full view of all assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions do solemnly declare that the Good People of the Earth free of the tyranny and suffering they perpetrate upon us. We further absolve ourselves from any and all allegiance to them. That any connections we may find in future encounters are completely absolved and no alliance shall remain.

We, the undersigned, do hereby declare our support of this declaration, with our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Gerald Thomas

Words in Italic from the Declaration of Independence, words not Italicized alter the original document.



The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of the Occupy Movement

Jill Mahler
Editor-in-Chief

Lately, it seems all the chatter is about the Occupy Movement. With news of destruction and police intervention, it may be hard for some to see where the line has been drawn and what is causing it to become blurred. The following are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the movement.

Head-less monster

Although the movement has the potential to create change and make a difference, their pleas seem to be silenced among the countless other demands and misdirection within the crowd. The multiple demands makes me wonder if they will be able to be met.

There are several demands being voiced by the movement. Bucknell University Professor David Kristjanson-Gural outlined eleven of the "demands": "1) campaign finance reform, 2) media democratization: 'that media companies be owned and managed by their staff,' 3) the creation of 'citizen boards' to influence corporate regulation and deter regulatory capture, 4) 'expropriation of the health insurance industry,' 5) 'immediate review' of the constitutionality of the Patriot Act, 6) immediate student loan reform and 'gradual implementation of a publicly funded ... education system,' 7) 'restoration of the social safety net,' 8) 'an end to imperialistic wars' 9) 'employee ownership plans' be required of private corporations, 10) investigation of crimes of the existing financial industry and replacement of that industry by 'publicly owned, worked-managed' institutions, and 11) a truly democratic 'economy and political system that works for the 99 percent.'"

The great divide

Chris Tilly, a UCLA professor of Urban Planning and Sociology and director of the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, notes in the UCLA Engaged Social Sciences blog some of the issues paralleling the movement.

Age does seem to divide the group into separate identities. "Young people come up with a tactic that is dramatic, disruptive even when relatively small numbers take part, and easily replicated in numerous locations. Older, more experienced activists, in some cases after initial hesitation, lend support and try to capture the energy of the movement," said Tilly. Tilly has visited Occupy Wall Street, Occupy LA, Occupy Chicago, and Occupy Cape Town.

He notes the sit-ins on February 1, 1960, where four African American college students refused to be segregated at the Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. Several more individuals joined the next day and caused sit-ins to "spread across the Jim Crow South, involving more than 70,000 students by August 1961 and desegregating public facilities all over the region." This protest was successful because it

remained non-violent, persistent and organized.

Strength in numbers

From the start of the Occupy movement on September 17, 2011, thousands of people have joined the movement. According to the Wikipedia Meetup page, an "online social networking portal," for "members to find and join groups unified by a common interest." "Occupy Together" is currently listed as having 2,668 Occupy communities worldwide.

Something to believe in

With economic and social inequality, the slogan of "We are the 99 percent" isn't hard to see why so many are becoming vocal and active. Although, occupiers have received support from individuals and companies, sometimes in the form of donating supplies, but is that enough? When you boil it down, will the occupiers have a winnable case or do they have too many demands and problems within the movement?

It's all in the approach

Currently, the methods of the group have been straight forward. Sit-ins, camps and marches have become their weapon of choice. Despite violent occurrences, such as riots and Molotov Cocktails, protesters as a whole have tried to remain peaceful. Some approaches within movements can be effective. Take groups such as Move Your Money. They were a force for four million people to switch their bank accounts from big banks to credit unions after banks tried to charge members fees to use their debit cards. Without better restrictions to rein companies, such as banks in check, people have to be their own watchdogs. Movements are a powerful tool, especially when the ideas are those people can stand behind.

What is in it for me?

With the movement raging on, some may be asking what the protests are costing us. According to a survey by The Associated Press, "the first two months of the Occupy protests cost taxpayers at least \$13 million in police overtime and other municipal services." They go onto to say "the heaviest financial burden has fallen upon law enforcement agencies tasked with monitoring marches and evicting protesters from outdoor camps. And the steepest costs by far piled up in New York City and Oakland, Calif., where police clashed with protesters on several occasions." The cost of vandalism and repair is not easy on cities or tax payers. However, I believe the movement's demands would be ignored if some strain wasn't inflicted.

What's next?

With the colder temperatures and structural limits, protesters will need to find a place indoors to occupy. The movement is only a few months old now, with several obstacles and decisions left to be made. It is hard to say at this moment how much longer the movement will continue or if they will reach any success. However, the numbers are not dwindling and the issues occupiers are protesting for will not be swept under the carpet.

Advice from Weiss

Question: I came to college because I lost my job. I was never good at school, I hated it, really, and I was afraid to come to college, but I started in the middle of last year because I needed to try and do something, and though it's been really hard, I've pulled decent grades... I don't like how hard I have to work to pass my classes, and I really don't like being a broke student, but I've gotten through everything so far.



Mark Weiss
Counselor

So now, the company I used to work for offered me a job. Not my old job. Not as good a job. But it would pay the bills and I might get my old job back some day.

I've never wanted to be any big hero or star of anything. I never thought I needed to get a college degree. I just want a life. And I could get one just by quitting school and going back. But now there's a part of me that thinks about doing something new, something better, too. What do you think I should do?

Answer: First I'm going to say what I know I should say, and what most of the people who read this paper know I should say... And then I'll speak personally.

I think you have to do what's best for you. You can weigh the pros and cons, you can turn to advisers, teachers, counselors, ministers, family, or anyone else to help you think it through. But in the long run, it will always come down to you figuring out what's best for you.

That's some of the most common, and solid, advice ever given. We've all heard it before, in movies, in books, and from family and friends. We all give each other the "you have to do what's best for you" pitch, because it is, in fact good advice.

From my personal experience, however, there is a twist to this line of thinking. The twist, it seems to me, is in knowing what "best" really means, and knowing who "you" are.

You said you've "never wanted to be a hero," for instance. And yet from what you just described, you are acting heroically every day. Every day for almost a year you have been coming to LB and doing something that's hard for you. You have done it because it was the right thing to do. And you've done whatever it took to make it work. That's a good definition of a hero.

An action is only heroic if it's difficult, or frightening, or both. A knight in shining armor is only heroic by facing the dragon. Batman only becomes a hero when he takes on the Joker, even though the Joker could kill him and destroy all of Gotham.

It's doing the hard thing that makes a hero, and by your own testimony that is just what you have done. So before making this decision, I think you need to "re-frame" your idea of who "you" are. If you don't take into account all of who you are, you increase the odds of making the wrong choice.

Finally, there is "best." What does that really mean in your life? In the history of your life? Is this a time when you have to have a "best" that is immediate? Then maybe you go back to work. Is this a time when you can invest in the future of your life, the future history of your life? Than maybe it's "best" to stick it out at college, continue to face the dragons of doing school work that's hard for you, and struggling financially; because there is something worth working for in your future.

That's about as far as I can go in a column like this, and without meeting you and really talking things through. But as I said before, you have many people in your life that you can consult with. I encourage you to pick the two or three people that know the real you, and talk with them. Really talk. Then consider the pros and cons, and do what's best for you.

Mark Weiss



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.

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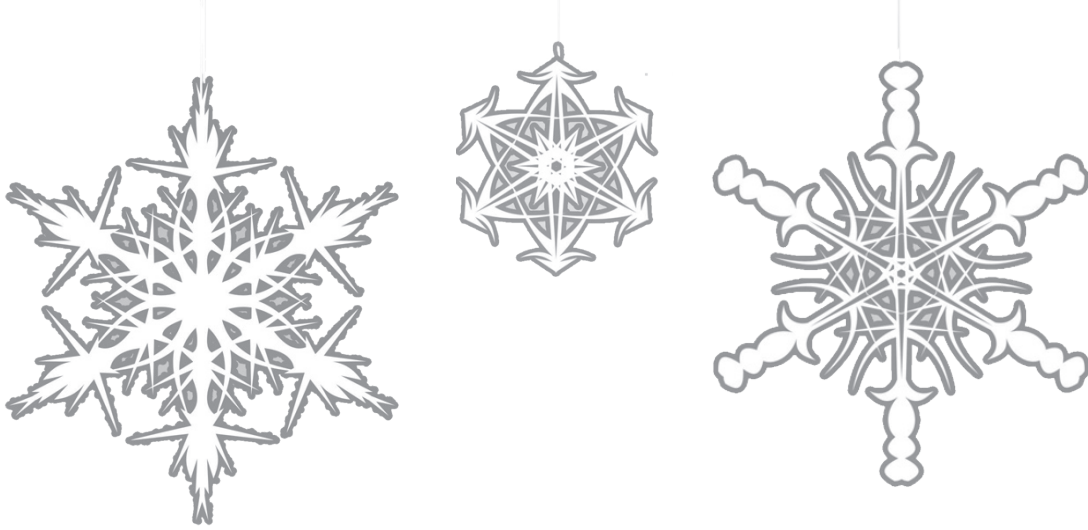


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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

SPECIAL SECTION



Keep Busy Over Break

Carli Gibson

A&L Editor

If you're like me, you're counting down the days until winter break. Unfortunately, if you're also like me, then once winter break hits you're going to have no idea how to spend your time besides sleeping. So, from your friendly A&L editor, here are some tips on how you can spend your winter break!

One of my favorites, and possibly one of the cheapest ideas, is a movie night! Get together with your friends and family, make some hot chocolate, pop some popcorn, and watch a movie! During this time of year, my suggestion is the "Polar Express." It's one of my favorite Christmas movies!

However, if you're not in the mood, or you don't celebrate Christmas, I recommend plugging in "Super 8."

If you're not in the mood for a

movie, invite some friends over and play some games! I'm not necessarily speaking of video games – like the new Skyrim everyone seems to be so obsessed with – but some classic games. Charades is always fun, or some board games, perhaps.

But if you decide to go in the direction of technology, then I recommend playing Just Dance. And, if you don't feel like dancing, it's always enjoyable to watch your friends look like weirdos, record it, and put it on Facebook! But be careful if you do – most people enjoy getting revenge.

If you're feeling reclusive or just lazy, an enjoyable way to spend the day is curled up with a blanket, a warm drink, and a good book. In fact, Stephen King just released a new book entitled "11/23/63." It tells the story of a time traveler who tries to prevent Kennedy's assassination.

If you don't feel like staying home, take a trip to the mountains and play in the snow! 'Cause we all

know Albany is getting very little, if any. Grab some friends and go throw some snowballs at each other! Or you could be less feisty and just build a snowman, or go sledding! Either way, play in the snow and have some fun!

Another way to spend the break, in honor of the holidays, is to take a trip and visit family and friends. Holidays are all about bringing the family and loved ones together. Visit some family, bake treats that you did when you were a kid, reminisce about old memories, party, have a little too much eggnog – do whatever you do to celebrate with your family.

One of the best ways to spend this break, again in honor of the holidays, is to volunteer and help those in need; whether it's at an animal shelter or at the soup kitchen. Giving back and helping others out is always a great way to spend any day!

Whatever you decide to do this break, have fun and be safe!

Sex AND THE Campus Winter Blues

Jill Mahler

Editor-in-Chief

We have begun our yearly ritual where we exchange bikinis for sweaters. However, it seems that the weather isn't the only thing that is changing. Some relationships may be experiencing a change in how they interact and spend time with one another. I have to wonder: Why is it harder to be in a relationship in the winter?

In the cold months, bears among other species enter a hibernating stage. Do couples have this in common? It seems to be a natural reaction when the temperatures drop to bunker down and wait it out with each other? However, it is possible we are just in a dating hibernation? Is this lethargic state due to a lack of resources, or is it because we are just being lazy?

I discovered the change in our mood and relationships may be beyond our control. According to Clinical Psychologist Seth Meyers, "Our energy levels are lower during the cold weather, and we tend to be moodier. Both

factors make maintaining a relationship difficult."

In my own relationship, I have found that we have entered a new phase of our own. After a long day at the office, instead of spending the last moments of the day together as we did in the warmer months, we part ways and enjoy our own dens. With this separate but together state, I have to wonder if it is just the weather that causes these lows.

Couples Therapist Barton Goldsmith, author of "Emotional Fitness for Intimacy," attributes our change in mood to a lack of sunlight, since in the summer, most people enjoy up to 15 hours of sunlight a day. I began to wonder if the women I see at the gym, baking away in the tanning beds, were on to something. Did they feel a change in their relationships when the cold came or did they find a way to break the cycle?

Goldsmith suggests spending your free time outside. The sunlight is believed to raise serotonin and vitamin D levels.

Although our depressed state is normal, there are ways to reconnect with your other half. Challenge yourself to spend this time, perhaps once a week, participating in a new activity together. Thankfully, there are several seasonal opportunities to brighten any mood. You may decide to visit a light show or just spend some romantic time by the fire. Also consider, if you find yourself exhausted and unwilling to participate with your lover in the latter of the day, you may benefit from rearranging your priorities and your activities for earlier.

However you decide to spend your winter, if you concentrate on your mate's desires, your bond should remain intact.

Dear Conscience,

With the holiday season right around the corner, what should I do if I get a gift I really don't like?



Ashley Christie

Shoulder Devil

First things first, how specific were you on your wish list?

Did you just put down "sweater" or "azure cotton knit cardigan on the third rack from the left, closest to door's at Kohl's." This is important – the more specific you are the less chance of a crappy present.

People shouldn't have to guess what you want. And you shouldn't have to be surprised when you open up that gift box.

Now, should you still get something less than desirable, say your grandma hand-knitting you that sweater and customizing it with an "adorable" kitten with rhinestone eyes, you have a few options:

1. Honesty is the best policy. Yes, you read that right. Simply look them in the eye, calmly tell them you hate it, and ask for the gift receipt.

2. Trick your younger sibling into trading with you. Given they got something better of course, though it's hard to beat a bedazzled kitten sweater.

3. Throw a fit and demand something better ... RIGHT NOW! Those toddlers know what they're doing; tantrums work. Only when you're older you get to throw in more profanities and can really make a dull family gathering entertaining.

Now there are some people that may tell you that the season isn't about presents, but about being with loved ones and blah, blah, blah. That's crap. The only way people will know how much you care is by how expensive your gift is.

Next year, simplify the process and just ask for cash.

Justin Bolger

Shoulder Angel

Well, I just hope you weren't too specific on that wish list of yours!

See, if you tell them exactly what you want, you won't get anything from the heart, and that's what really matters, right? Right!

Which brings me to your question ... I don't understand what you mean by a gift you don't really like. Every gift is beautiful! Someone in your life took time and effort out of their day-to-day just to try to see your smile.

Beautiful, I tell ya!

Hey, you should probably do the same, so they can feel just as positive. If they tell you to get something foolishly specific, just nod, smile, and get something from the heart instead! That's how spreading love and joy is done.

Here are a few ways to make sure your gift comes from the heart:

1. Ponder over all your fondest memories involving you and your loved one. Get something that represents your adventure together.

2. Better yet – make new adventures! Build an even better bond with your besties.

3. Also, get crafty at home! A homemade gift is the purest and most wholesome of all gifts, and one that is sure to win some smiles and hugs. This is your most powerful weapon!

Remember the golden rule of gift giving: It's not the gift, but the thought that counts! Hurrah!



Have questions? We have answers.

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

STRAIGHT
FROM THE
Hartsock

Brain stuffing from the frumpy
sock monkey



Holiday Slum to Christmas Joy

Jennifer Hartsock

Opinion Editor

Does the holiday season seem more cheery than usual? Maybe it's just me, but now that our bellies are full from turkey and mashed potatoes, and the Christmas music is playing and sparkling lights are adorning the tree, I'm just a bit happier than I've been since past Christmases.

When I was a child, my parents threw Christmas parties. On Christmas Eve, most of my extended families drove out to our house, we ate good food, played games, and when the kids were sent to bed, we heard the grown-ups talking and laughing in the living room. Eventually, all went quiet, Santa came, and we spent the day unwrapping presents, sticking bows on our uncles' heads, and eating more, delicious food. It was jolly. It was special.

And then I became a teenager, and things began to change. Santa wasn't coming this year, just Mom and Dad. And sure, the tags still said "From Santa," but I knew better. And when high school rolled around, we stopped hosting Christmas parties. My parents stopped decorating the house. The four of us spent Christmas Eve opening family gifts at my grandma's, and spent Christmas morning digging through stockings and opening "Santa's" gifts.

As I grew up, Christmas seemed to become less special. For a while, I was not a happy monkey around the holiday season. Something was missing, but I never understood what.

It was my childhood joy when decorating the house in lights, Santa hats, snowmen, and snow villages. It was the excitement for Santa to come, and to wake up early and see the pile of presents under the tree. It was having a lot of people gathered around, coffee or hot cocoa in hand, laughing and having a good time.

As I grew up, my parents figured I wasn't interested in all that "kid's stuff." As I grew up, I realized I really was.

For the holiday season this year, my monkey-boyfriend and I hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for our closest friends. And, next week, we're going to a Christmas party where we'll drink hot apple cider, stuff stockings, and enjoy the company of good friends and good food. We're also hosting a family Christmas party, and have decorated our place head to toe in Christmas splendor.

The point is: if you've gone through a few tough Christmases, remember what brought you joy. Remember that all you need is love, and sometimes that means making the holiday extra special by including your family, friends, silly lights, and lots and lots of goofy decorations.

Do whatever makes you the happiest.

Opinion

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Emily Smucker

Contributing Writer

It is the holiday season, and the world is full of paper snowflakes stuck to storefront windows and creepy songs about snowmen coming to life. Some people thrive at this time of year, merrily sticking bunches of mistletoe in doorways and anticipating gift baskets full of fancy cheese and summer sausages. Others are stressed, trying to find the perfect present for everyone on their list, worried that they'll miss someone. Others are cold, hungry, and expecting no presents whatsoever this Christmas.

Besides being a time for silly songs and eggnog, the holidays are an opportune time to spread holiday cheer by giving time, money, or possessions to people who need them. After all, the true worth of Christmas does not lie in receiving gifts, but in giving them.

One way to give back this holiday season is to help out at a homeless shelter, such as Fish of Albany, on Geary Street. Fish doesn't usually allow the public to volunteer in the shelter because of safety reasons, but there are many other ways to help out the homeless in our community through Fish.

Fish is in need of donations of food. They accept most foods, and protein-filled foods such as peanut butter, tuna, and chili are especially useful. In addition, Fish is usually in need of diapers, baby formula, and clean clothing. Volunteers are welcome to come to Fish and help sort donated clothing.

Other homeless shelters in the area needing help this holiday season are Albany Helping Hands in Albany, ChristWalk Supportive Transitional Housing in Lebanon, and Community Outreach Inc. in Corvallis. It is recommended to contact the homeless shelter nearest you, and ask what they specifically need.

Another way to spread holiday cheer and to help out the community is to become a Salvation Army bell ringer. If standing in the cold and ringing a bell for several hours doesn't sound appealing to you, think about this: the money that is collected in your kettle goes to provide food for people who are hungry this Christmas. No one should go hungry for Christmas, and if ringing a bell for a while can help someone get the food they need, why not?

If ringing bells and sorting clothes aren't your thing, there are numerous other nonprofit agencies that need

volunteers this season. United Way of Linn County has a list of partner agencies that can use your help. They can be found at United Way of Linn County.

If you are stressed out this holiday season, maybe you should treat yourself to a little furry friend. Many cats and dogs have only three options for spending the holiday season: in a shelter, in the cold wet streets, or in a warm, loving home. Although we are limited to what we can do for homeless people this year, almost anyone can adopt a homeless pet and give it a loving home.

Finally, if you don't have the time to do major volunteer projects or adopt stray pets, there are many small ways to spread cheer this holiday season. Sing in a community, or church choir. Bake a plateful of sugar cookies for the delivery man, the lady who changes the oil in your car, or the clerk at your local grocery store. Go Christmas caroling. Buy some candy for the children in line behind you at Walmart.

There are many opportunities, if you only look for them. Do your research. Get creative. Reach out this holiday season, and spread holiday cheer wherever you can.



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Meet Scrooge: Blackwell Makes Splash in Theater

Kay M Roth
Contributing Writer

Don't be surprised if someday you see Laura Blackwell's name in lights. "I'd love to be in New York," said the Linn-Benton student last week. She sees herself working on Broadway, but knows she has a long way to go to make that dream come true. For now, she is plying her theater passions on the LB stage and at downtown's Albany Civic Theater.

The 2007 Crescent Valley High School graduate has been acting for much of her life. "I've been doing theater since I was seven." She was in an original production called "The Lonely Troll," a sequel to the old tale "Billy Goat's Gruff," written by her second grade teacher. "I played the biggest billy goat gruff," she said noting she was tall even as a youngster.

She took a rather long break during her high school years, landing in the community theater scene several years later. Rebecca Douglas, an area director, ran into Blackwell and convinced her to audition for a show at Albany Civic Theater. While she didn't get cast, she did get her foot in the door by working backstage.

Since then, Blackwell has appeared in "The Producers," "Alice in Wonderland," "Steel Magnolias" and as Annie Sullivan in "The Miracle Worker."

She also played four roles in "Nick Tickle," last year's children's show at Linn-Benton. Currently, she is preparing for her role as Scrooge in LB's production of "A Christmas Carol," giving her the opportunity to work closely with Dan Stone. "Dan had mentioned changing up the story and making Scrooge a woman." She jumped at the chance to once again work with Stone, noting she appreciates his "professional advice."

While appearing on stage is very rewarding for Blackwell, she also enjoys working behind the scenes. She has been part of several stage crews, worked as a production assistant, ran props and is now assistant director for ACT's "Over the River and Through the Woods." Regarding working the tech side of theater, Blackwell says it "helps me become a more well-rounded theater person."

Regarding portraying the iconic Annie Sullivan, Blackwell felt very blessed to have been cast in her first lead role in years. She noted that portraying a real person was a bit different than playing a fictional one, calling the role a challenging one. "It pushed me to be a better actress."

There are three people in Blackwell's theater world whom she sees as her mentors.

Christi Sears, her director for "Steel Magnolias" is what Blackwell calls a "fabulous director." Blackwell portrayed Shelby in last summer's hit. "She really challenged me."

Stone is another mentor. "I appreciate his advice and how willing he is to help me succeed."



Kody Kinsella

Laura Blackwell stars as Scrooge in LBCC's production of "A Christmas Carol."

The third person Blackwell says inspires her is John Kish, a friend who graduated from Philomath and is now attending a prestigious theater school in New York. "He constantly motivates me."

Blackwell encourages everyone to give theater a try. "Audition, learn how to run the box office, take classes, talk to Dan." If you travel through Takena Hall, you will see the "ushers needed" notice for "A Christmas Carol." Stop in and sign up!

She calls her theater experiences invaluable. "They give me confidence and make me push and challenge myself."

Schedule

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Who's Your Santa

A List of the Greatest Cinematical Santas

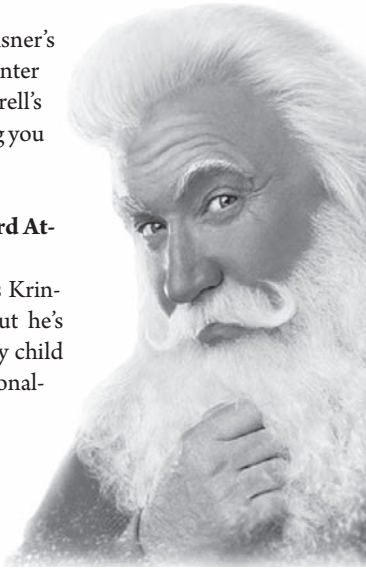
Ashley Christie

Page Designer

'Tis the season for my favorite of movie genres, the Christmas movie. A staple of the Christmas movie is Santa. Now, he's been portrayed by many over the years, but few have truly captured the essence of the real man in red. Here are the ones that make the top of the list, both the naughty and the nice.

Elf (2003) - Ed Asner

This may be Will Ferrell's movie, but Asner's Santa is the perfect surly old man to counter the youthful optimism and naivety of Ferrell's Buddy. He's gruff, but lovable. Everything you want in an old St. Nick.



Miracle on 34th Street (1994) - Richard Attenborough

Some may argue Edmund Gwenn's Kris Kringle from the 1947 original is better, but he's not. Attenborough's Kringle is how every child imagines him: looks, mannerisms, personality, dialog, he's it.

The Santa Clause (1994) - Tim Allen

Allen is perfectly cast as an ordinary man who falls into the gift-giving profession after Santa falls off his roof. Though reluctant at first, he masters the job the only way Allen knows how - with sarcasm and witty quips.

The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) - voice by Chris Sarandon

Unconventional? Yes, but Jack Skellington's heart is in the right place when he wanders into Christmas Town and decides to give up his throne as king of Halloween town to try his hand at being Santa.

Bad Santa (2003) - Billy Bob Thornton

Who in their right mind would hire an alcoholic conman as a mall Santa? More importantly, who would let their kids sit on his lap? Thornton is a cantankerous old curmudgeon, and that's why he's great. This Santa is not for children.

A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (2011) - Richard Riehle

Though not a prominent character in this latest "Harold & Kumar" installment, he is a key player. In true Santa fashion he swoops in and saves the day. Although it is after Harold, or maybe Kumar, shoots him in the head and he falls out of his sleigh.

Santa Clause Conquers the Martians (1964) - John Call

The title of this movie is "Santa Clause Conquers the Martians." Do you really need more explanation than that?

Bubl  Perfects the Christmas Sound

Carli Gibson

A&L Editor

Christmas songs with a new, updated, jazzy beat and a silky smooth voice; no one does it better than Michael Bubl . With his first full-length Christmas CD, Bubl  duets with country star Shania Twain, "swing-punk" trio The Puppini Sisters, and Mexican singer Thalia, making Bubl 's album "Christmas" his third number-one album, beating Justin Bieber's Christmas album by three spots.

Sources from Billboard.biz believe it will be the best-selling album every week through this holiday season. And who can blame them? With his smooth jazzy voice, Bubl  brings the old Christmas classics back to life, including his original Christmas song "Cold December Night," a romantic upbeat song with the chorus, "Kiss me on this cold December night." It's obvious that Bubl  took his time to perfect each song, for each Christmas melody collides perfectly with his own harmony. In songs such as, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "White Christmas," "Silent Night," "Cold December Night," and a few others, the beat is matched perfectly by Bubl 's voice.

There are more upbeat songs, and one song I found to have some slight humor to it. Bubl  got creative when singing "Santa Baby," referring to Santa as "Santa Buddy," and at one point calling him "dude," Bubl  still somehow finds perfection in this song. He also makes fangirls jealous within the line, "Think of all the hotties that I haven't kissed." And no, he does not ask Santa for a ring; instead he asks for a little "chaching," and he doesn't mean it as a loan.

It's hard determining a favorite on this album, but one of the most enjoyable songs is "All I want for Christmas is You." Using Mariah Carrey's lyrics, Bubl  re-creates a Christmas favorite that is sure to swoon

any fan. As far as duets go, who would have guessed that Shania Twain and Bubl  could create such wonderful harmony in "White Christmas"? With her soft country voice, and his smooth jazzy tone, these two perfect the classic.

Turn up the volume, and have yourself a very Bubl  Christmas.



Common Knowledge OR AT LEAST IT SHOULD BE

Reading vs. Watching



Gabriela Scottaline

Contributing Writer

The other day I was momentarily stumped. I was wondering why so many people (including myself) think reading is better than watching a show or movie?

Both forms of entertainment have a story with a beginning, middle and end. There are interesting characters, a moving plot, and you most likely come away from both with something to think about. So why is reading more commonly asserted as being "better" for you?

Well, it's simple really. Whatever requires more discipline, concentration and brain power will inevitably be considered the more productive passtime.

Now, I'm not dissing Hollywood entertainment. I enjoy a good TV show or movie as much as the next gal, but I believe there is an experience in reading that can never be matched by a major motion picture.

The reading vs. watching debate applies especially to fiction. How is

a fictional book better than "vegging out" on the couch to a riveting fiction movie, you ask? The way I see it, a movie is the lazy way out. The thinking is basically done for you. When reading a book you can cast your own actors and actresses, and make up your own background music. You don't have to be manipulated by Hollywood, you can let your imagination run free! That is, if digital entertainment hasn't already

"Reading a book is like re-writing it for yourself. You bring to a novel anything you read, all your experience of the world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms."

Angela Carter

demolished it.

Take the "Hunger Games" trilogy, for example. These books have revolutionized the way I judge good teen fiction. They have every aspect of a mesmerizing page-turner, without the disappointment of it being too short nor too drawn out. However, I just

know that the movie is not going to do the book justice.

The movie creators and directors will dictate what we should be feeling with every scene, melody and facial expression of the characters. They will have graphics that won't be able to hold a candle to your imagination, and they will most likely change the story to fit into the approximate hour and thirty minute timeline.

Granted, I will go see it and it will probably entertain me, but it will definitely lack a certain personal touch that only a reader has the power to add.

Ultimately, reading takes more time and effort than watching. It requires a little more motivation and a little more concentration, but I believe the rewards are worth it. We have not only learned

that in order to be entertained we must keep our thinking and doing to a minimum, but we have been provided the resources for doing so.

Today we have the technology to indulge our lazy side, and feel good about it. With all the distractions from these new gadgets, we've forgotten to teach our kids how to read! According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "It is estimated that more than \$2 billion is spent each year on students who repeat a grade because they have reading problems."

So the next time you are feeling lethargic and in need of some quality time

with your TV, maybe you should cue up your imaginative powers, take advantage of the knowledge you've been given, and curl up with a book instead.

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."

Groucho Marx

Gift Idea:

“The Girl’s Guide to Homelessness: A Memoir”

Emily Smucker

Contributing Writer

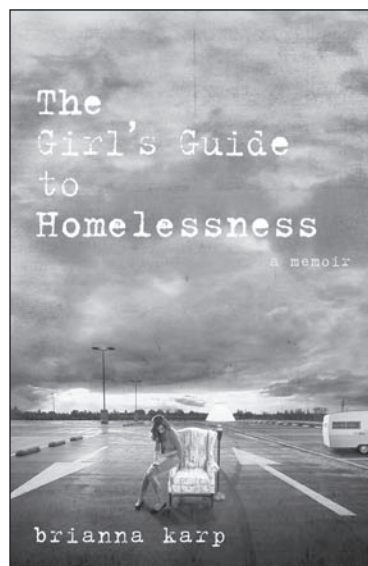
The point of “The Girl’s Guide to Homelessness: A Memoir” by Brianna Karp is to explore the idea that there is more to homelessness than the man you see in a dirty flannel shirt begging for money via a cardboard sign. From the back cover only, I could see that this was a story of a normal girl who, through no fault of her own, became homeless. A story of how she stayed clean, and sane, and went on with her life. Doesn’t that sound fascinating? It was why I picked up the book at Fred Meyers in the first place.

The first couple of chapters weren’t about her homeless life; they were about her traumatic childhood. The stories of abuse and mental illness were sickening. However, Karp became a strong, hard worker as a result of her difficult life, and eventually landed a well-paying job at Kelly Blue Book.

When Karp was laid off, a new dilemma arose. Karp found herself with no place to go, and very little money. Due to her dysfunctional upbringing, she didn’t have much in the way of friends and family to turn to. She had recently inherited a trailer from her deceased father and so began living in a Walmart parking lot.

How she coped was fascinating. Karp found a really cheap fitness gym, and started a membership, just so that she could shower. She spent her days in Starbucks, searching for jobs via the free internet. And when she did land a job, the people she worked for had no idea that she was homeless, since she came to work clean.

Karp, unlike the usual stereotypical homeless person, had a cell phone, laptop, trailer to live in, and eventually even a job. She admits freely that she had way more advantages than a lot of homeless people. She is the modern day homeless person, driven to



a parking lot due to reduced circumstances, trying to get back on their feet and eventually have their own white picket fence American dream.

I wish the book were all about

her homeless adventures. I wish she would have told more stories about other homeless people she met in the parking lot where she lived. There was one man, for instance, who called himself the mayor of the lot, and owned seven tuxedos from when he was a limo driver. I found him fascinating and wished she would have told more stories about him.

Instead, we got stories about Matt.

Matt was a guy she met on the internet, via a website for homeless people. Although Karp and Matt were completely in love and made for each other and yadda yadda yadda, I was still uncomfortable with the fact that they had met and fallen in love online. Talking of marriage when you have never met face to face? To me, that seemed dangerous.

Furthermore, once Karp started making money from her job, she spent it on plane tickets for Matt to fly to Orange County to see her. Did I

mention that he lived in Scotland? Far too much of the book was dedicated to her strange romance, and not enough to interesting things that happened as a direct result of being homeless.

The book climaxed into a mind-blowing, off-topic, shocking end. I ended the book not really sure what to think.

Stripped of the strange romance, the book is a fascinating and eye-opening account of a “privileged” homeless person. Because of the way the economy is, this is a topic that people should be more aware of. There are all types of homeless people out there and it is silly to try and paint them all with the same brush.

The book cost me \$9.53 at Fred Meyer, slightly cheaper than the Amazon price of \$10.87. Used on Amazon for \$0.86, with an added \$3.99 for shipping. The Kindle edition goes for \$7.19.

Gift Idea:

“The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword”

Sean Bassinger

Staff Writer

If you’re a Wii owner who’s lost faith in your console’s entertainment value, this game will make you waggle with pride one last time.

25 years later, with the release of “The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword,” the classic adventure series still delivers fresh, worthwhile experiences, all while retaining a level of nostalgia diehard fans will adore. There are quests to complete, princesses to track down, and powerful villains

to ... well, you’ll understand when you see the guy.

Like “Ocarina of Time” and other three-dimensional “Legend of Zelda” adventures, “Skyward Sword” begins in a calm village setting. You play as Link (or whatever you decide to name him), a slightly misunderstood knight-in-training whose life is relatively careless. Your home is the floating mass of land known as Skyloft, protected by flying knights riding colorful birds dubbed Loftwings. Everyone is happy, and everything is peaceful. Existence in your world is just grand.

However, the surface below – supposedly tainted after a great Goddess banishes terrible monsters from ages ago – remains a mystery. But of course, it’s not long before our main protagonist discovers he and Zelda, the daughter of Skyloft’s Headmaster, are part of a prophecy involving adventures into the unknown. What begins as a pleasant afternoon flight becomes Zelda’s unfortunate descent below the clouds, and it’s your job to recover her while containing the sudden chaos.

“Skyward Sword” features some of the better graphics witnessed on the Wii. The world is vibrant in every way, and distant objects have a blended “stained glass” effect, making them more visually appealing and less of a flickery mess. Sure, it’s nothing compared to HD games like “Skyrim,” but charming nonetheless.

The best part about “Skyward Sword” is wielding your blade for the first time. You’ll find yourself

chopping random trees and bushes instead of searching for Zelda or accomplishing other tasks. Princess gone missing? Who cares, you’re twirling the mystical Goddess Sword on the same console your grandma uses as a virtual gym. Responsive Wii Motion Plus controls make each swing more lifelike than the last, which truly adds to the immersion of this classic adventure.

Characters and races – like those in previous “Legend of Zelda” titles – are unforgettable in both good and bad ways. For instance, the primary antagonist is a powerful adversary, though his

creepy appearance makes it hard to take him seriously. First encounters with races like the

Kikwi tribe, a plump band of camouflage beings in woodland areas, will either have you squealing with joy or reaching for the ibuprofen. I personally giggled like a little school girl each time I saw one.

Another key character in “Skyward Sword” is Fi, an ethereal servant of the great Goddess channeled from your sword. Unlike former “Legend of Zelda” assistants like Navi from “Ocarina of Time,” Fi offers relatively helpful advice with the click of a button, and won’t make a habit of pestering players with nonsense like “Press ‘A’ to open this door.” Fi is also your personal questing guide, who leads you in search of key characters like Zelda via the “dowsing” process. Zelda is a girl, who apparently loves wandering, so your chances of finding the real deal are always unknown.

My only complaint with this game is the sensitivity involved with flying; it’s easy to screw up and have your Loftwing crash into floating islands. Just make sure your Wii Motion Plus sensor remains properly calibrated, otherwise you’ll continually collide with magical rocks. Thankfully, repetition helps, but those issues are certainly not enough to spoil the action.

With highly responsive sword controls and a classic charm even newcomers will appreciate, “The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword” is an essential title for any Nintendo Wii owner’s library. Hours of classic RPG questing and blade-slashing make this a must-have holiday purchase – perhaps even for grandma.



Gift Idea:

“Skyrim”

Dustin Nash

Contributing Writer

It appears Bethesda has truly outdone themselves yet again with their fifth “Elder Scrolls” game: “Skyrim.” If you’re not familiar with the “Elder Scrolls” universe, it’s a well-developed fantasy setting across numerous continents with a rich backstory. Every game seems to add new depth and lore to the franchise, which has been building since “Arena,” released in 1994. The game world has many new and old creatures plucked from the lore of many fables and legends. Trolls, elves, giants, orcs, dragons, and a whole menacing army of undead incarnations await whatever adventurer you choose to tackle the game with.

I’ve already lost count of the hours running through the beautiful Scandinavian-esque countryside. I’ve climbed frozen peaks to learn from an ancient order of monks. I’ve trekked across howling fjords for coin and glory, and fought towering giants, as well as their woolly mammoth herds on the wide open fields of Skyrim. I still feel as though I have but scratched the surface of this towering giant of a game, with more side quests than you can shake a finger at, and an engrossing, cinematic main story arc that really grips you and makes you feel like quite the hero of legend. Freedom of choice has always been the calling card of Bethesda’s long-running series. You play exactly who you want to play, and exactly how you want to.

I started the game as a nimble Wood Elf named Skailus. Perhaps I should have delved right into the storyline, or immediately started one of the many side quests being offered to me. But I ran into the wilderness with a longbow and about 25 arrows I had taken off of some rather unfriendly guards instead. The next two or three hours were spent hunting foxes, elk, bears, and one really mean saber-toothed tiger. I promptly collected all the hides and venison I could get my hands on, as well as gathering herbs, mushrooms, and flowers along the way. I returned to the small Nord village, which had taken me in to make use of my bounty. A leatherworking tool and blacksmithing apparatus’ allowed me to turn all of my hides into leather, and leather strips, which I could then craft into boots, gloves, armor, and helmets. This is but one example of the crafting systems implemented into Skyrim; you may also cook found ingredients into useful food, or mine several different ores, which can then be smelted and worked into weapons and armor. There are also systems for enchanting items and brewing potions or poisons. None of which are important to the storyline, but add immensely to the game world.

Once I had earned a fair amount of gold, and made for myself some decent new armor, I set out to the town of Whiterun, which looks eerily similar to Rohan from “The Lord of the Rings.” By the time I had progressed to the next quest goal, I had picked at least thirty people’s pockets, sneaked into seven houses, and picked 15 or so locks. My thief skills were leveling quite nicely at this point, as had my archery skills from the hunting trip I took earlier.

I’m going to go out on a limb here and say that I would gladly pay twice the asking price for this game and still feel as though I had gotten a great deal. It’s certainly saved me money, as I have no ambition to buy another video game after Skyrim. Solid game, good gameplay, fun controls, and too much adventuring (if there is such a thing).

Volleyball's Amazing Season

Kyle Holland
Sports Editor

The Linn-Benton women's volleyball team ended another successful season last weekend, coming just short in the NWAACC championship tournament.

The team finished in first place in the Southern Region and spent nearly four weeks ranked number one in the polls with an overall record of 39-11 and 9-1 in division play. This accomplished one of the two team pre-season goals, the other was to finish in the top two of the NWAACC tournament.

The tournament started out tough for the Roadrunners after falling to Walla Walla early in the winner's bracket, the team had to battle through the loser's bracket in order to make it through. The task was nearly accomplished before losing an emotional battle to Spokane in a tie-breaker set ending the season for the Lady Roadrunners.

"That match was filled with heart. They never gave up and fought to the very end, it all has to come to an end and I was glad we went down fighting!" Coach Jayme Frazier said on the team's final match.

Read the full write-up online at: <http://wp.me/p14GZu-4J1>

Men's Basketball's Winning Ways

Kyle Holland
Sports Editor

The Linn-Benton men's basketball team is coming off its third straight year of making the NWAACC playoffs and this year's team looks to continue their winning ways.

The team finished tied for second in the south division last year and 20th year Coach Randy Faulk believes this year's team can do even better. The team returns five sophomores and has three transfer students coming in to build a strong team.

"I'm most excited about our team chemistry and willingness to work hard in practice" Coach Faulk said.

The team's recent success has created excitement in the program and the students around it. "After three years in a row going to NWAACC, we expect to go again. We are beginning to develop consistency for the long run and develop a long term tradition at LB."

The team has some big shoes to fill from last year's leading scorer Taylor Roos, who averaged 18.5 points and 3.5 assists a game. Roos has since received a scholarship to play at Southern Oregon University after his outstanding season last year.

Attempting to do so will be Sophomore Josh Garlington, a South Region honorable mention and ALL-Defensive team last year.

The team kicked off its season at the Pierce Thanksgiving Tournament in Lakewood Washington over the weekend. LB lost in the fourth place game to Pierce College in a tough fought battle 57-55 on Sunday.

Garlington scored in double digits in two of the three games, averaging 11 points a game for the tournament. Garlington was also a force in the paint, averaging 10.6 rebounds a game over the weekend.

The Roadrunners got a big chunk of offense from Kelly Christensen and Brady Brent over the



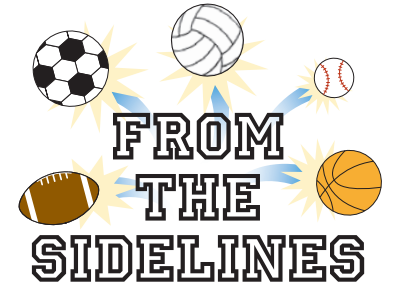
Aurelia Christensen

Josh Garlington attempts to block the opposing team's player from passing the ball.

weekend. Both players averaged double digits for the tournament with Christensen averaging 10.6 and Brent with 11.

The team has four local boys rounding out the roster in sophomores Kyle Kruesi (East Linn Christian Academy) and Joe Challe (Corvallis), while freshmen Colton Evans (West Albany) and Logan Bertram (Lebanon) are getting their first glimpse of what college basketball is all about.

The team has two more tournaments to get ready for the regular season in January.



LBCC
Men's Basketball
Nov. 25-27

71 | 87
LBCC | Bellevue

69 | 58
LBCC | Columbia Basin

55 | 57
LBCC | Pierce
Next: Nov. 30 vs. Linfield JV

Women's Basketball
Nov. 18-20

69 | 41
LBCC | Tacoma

68 | 63
LBCC | Everett

51 | 49
LBCC | Belevue
Next: Dec. 12 at Walla Walla

With big expectations they look to be busy during the winter break, preparing for another successful season and that elusive first ever NWAACC title.

Crafts!
Holiday Rooms!
Take your picture with
Santa Claus
Hot Chocolate and Apple Cider
Holiday Movies
Peace Dance
And much more!

December 3rd
1 to 4 pm
at the Linn-Benton Community College Commons
Contact Student Life and Leadership For more information

Donations for clean winter clothing greatly appreciated!

With Special Guest **Santa!**

CHILDREN'S Winter Fest 2011
Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321. Phone (541)-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Give me books, fruit, French wine and fine weather and a little music out of doors by somebody I do not know - John Keats



“Green Lantern” Burns Brighter Animated

Steven Pryor
Contributing Writer

I will be the first to admit it: I was not a fan of this past summer’s movie adaptation of “Green Lantern.” It was Warner Bros.’ first attempt to make a major comic book superhero movie outside of Batman or Superman. A massive marketing campaign ensued to raise awareness of the character to people other than nerds like myself; but the film ultimately did not connect with mainstream audiences.

The film cost a reported \$200 million, but only made \$116 million; and critics despised the movie (it scored just 27 percent on Rotten Tomatoes). A clichéd plot, dull performances from both Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively, amateurish visual effects, and poor use of 3D left the public with a bad impression of a good comic book character. Not as bad as Aquaman, but it angered fans of the comic and prevented a crossover with new ones.

I never actually read the Green Lantern comic, but was impressed with the character in shows of the DC Animated Universe. Namely, “Justice League” and its sequel series, “Justice League Unlimited” introduced me to the Green Lantern universe. Now, Warner and DC have opted to give the character his own show.

Created by Bruce Timm (co-creator of the DCAU) and Giancarlo Volpe (notable for directing several episodes of “Avatar: The Last Airbender”), “Green Lantern” is a CGI-animated series. It opts to tell how Hal Jordan (voice of Josh Keaton) became a Green Lantern and

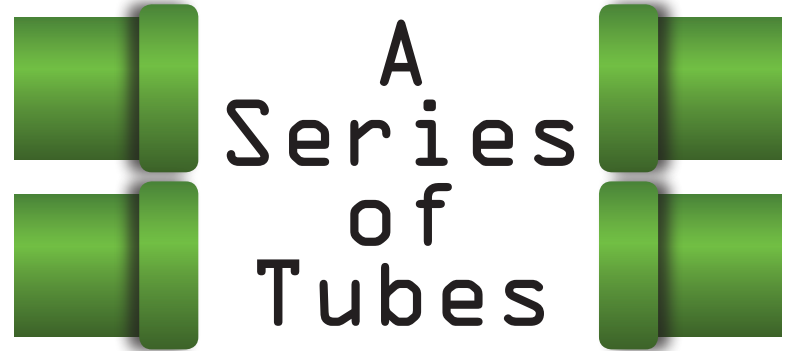
how he uses his new-found power. It takes a different approach from the film.

In the one hour pilot, Hal and Kilowog (voice of Kevin Michael Richardson) go into space to investigate the death of one of their own, and find that the Red Lanterns seek to eliminate the Green Lanterns. Razer (voice of Jason Spisak) and Zilius Zox (voice of Tom Kenny) are commanded by Atrocitus (voice of Jonathan Adams) to stop the Green Lanterns, and Hal thinks there is more to their intentions.

From a technical standpoint, the animation is solid, as it is clear that Timm and Volpe want to try things that can’t necessarily be done with traditional animation. From an artistic standpoint, though, it feels rather off. The sequences in space and on Oa are the more pleasing to the eye, as they contain vast environments and sharp colors. The “powers of will” of the Green Lantern’s rings create some impressive fight sequences. The earthbound sequences are less appealing, with human characters and lighting schemes that could very well have come from a mid-2000s video game. If they had gone with a more realistic look, like “Transformers Prime;” this gaffe could have been avoided.

Overall, “Green Lantern” got off to a decent start as an animated series, but has a while to go until it reaches the magnitude of Cartoon Network’s relaunch of “Thundercats.” I give it a cautiously optimistic recommendation.

Green Lantern airs Fridays at 7 p.m. on Cartoon Network



Time Magazine Drama

Marci Sischo

Webmaster

One of the things the Internet is famous for is drama. No matter what the topic, you can almost always find a side and kindle a good flame war, and/or stir up a big, juicy scandal.

This weekend saw some drama of the “big juicy scandal” variety. While the rest of us were busy stuffing our faces full of turkey and ham and spending the rest of the weekend in a tryptophan-induced coma, the fine folks of Reddit were combing the online archives of Time Magazine to discover this travesty:



December 5, 2011 Time Magazine covers for US and international markets

Above are the different covers Time Magazine used on their print editions for various markets. Different covers for different markets is standard practice. The purpose of the cover of any magazine is to get you to pick it up off the stand and buy it, obviously, so you want to put a striking image on the front. Using different covers for overseas markets is not particularly scandalous because the kind of cover that might appeal to an American audience might not appeal to a European or Asian audience. (Shocking, I know. Oddly enough, America is not the center of the universe.)

Despite the covers, the articles inside are the same. The drama here stems from the disparity of the article getting front-cover pimpage on the various editions. The rest of the world gets the ongoing revolution in Egypt. We get “Why Anxiety is Good for You.” As one Redditor, “Lyme,” said, “I know someone else said this is because America can’t handle the world outside the US, which may be part of it... but is anyone else really disturbed that the message to people in the US, who have been struggling economically for the past 4 years or so is ‘anxiety is good for you?’ I feel like the people in the US who are starting to become really dissatisfied and disillusioned with the ‘American Dream’ are being told STFU GET BACK TO WORK ALL THIS STRESS IS GOOD FOR YOU MOVE ALONG NOTHING TO SEE HERE.”

Read more about the “Times” cover drama on the Commuter website at: wp.me/p14GZu-4GI

Fantastic Food at Los Tequilas

Kay M Roth
Contributing Writer

When I offered to do a restaurant review for The Commuter, I knew where I didn’t want to go — places I’d already tried and liked, or didn’t like. So, I turned to my Albany area friends on Facebook for suggestions. They poured in! I had been to some of the restaurants before, some I hadn’t. One of my classmates — thanks Misti — suggested Los Tequilas. She said the food was as good — if not better — than a Mexican restaurant down the street, and that the prices were reasonable. What she failed to mention was the great service, the family friendly environment, and the warm atmosphere.

Los Tequilas has it all.

It was a typical Oregon evening — cold and rainy — when my husband and I visited Los Tequilas, located across from Fred Meyers on Santiam Highway. Our first indication that dinner was going to be enjoyable was the warmth that greeted us when we opened the door. We had barely stepped inside before a staff member welcomed us. He quickly seated us in a very comfortable booth, leaving us to check out the menu.

From appetizers to complete meals, there



were plenty of items to choose from. I am a huge chile relleno fan, so that was the first item I looked for. Quickly, I spotted three different dinners that included the cheese stuffed chile that I’d come to love from my summers in New Mexico.

A member of the staff returned with chips and salsa, glasses of water, and a very friendly smile.

Los Tequilas
2525 Santiam Hwy, Albany
(541)791-3966

Hours:
Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

I ordered the number four — an enchilada, with pork, and a chile relleno. My husband chose a larger meal, opting for the Number 22, which included both of the items I ordered, as well as a tostada. Ten minutes later, our plates were delivered and we were ready to dig in.

While my husband was happy with his dinner,

I was thrilled with mine! Not only was the enchilada extremely tasty, but the pork was perfectly cooked so that it almost fell apart. And, the chile relleno? One of the best I’ve had outside the state of New Mexico. One of the things I really appreciated was the fact that the stem of the chile was removed before cooking. Most places don’t do this and often leave the chile seeds inside, which can give the chile relleno a bit too much kick even for me.

Many items on the menu are less than \$10, with even the usually spendy fajitas selling for only \$14 or \$27 for two, or even three people. Los Tequilas sells Pepsi products, which made my husband happy, and also offer very good iced tea, which made me happy. You only get one refill, but the glasses are big so you still get plenty to drink. There is a bar on the premises and, from the looks of the drinks as we passed other tables, the drinks are big and looked delicious. Their American food menu is limited to cheeseburgers and hamburgers, but they do offer a children’s menu, salads and soups.

We spent a total of \$24 for two, including our beverages, and left completely full and vowing to return again.

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).

5 Intern positions (#9373-9377)

These non-paid internships would give you hands-on experience working with the community and a non-profit. You can help with event planning, promoting foods for the school district, data management, marketing, and community outreach.

CWE Environmental Technician (#9369, Albany)

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

to get experience, get references, have a job until you graduate from OSU and they work with your school schedule. \$10.85/hr

Part-time After School Assistant (#9366, Corvallis)

If you have one year experience in a certified child care center or one year of college level training, First Aid, CPR & valid Food Handler's Card, this job is for you!! \$10/hr, 3 hrs/day and 5 days/week.

Marketer/Waver (#9367, Corvallis)

Wear the statue of liberty costume outside waving at the traffic passing by. Attract public attention by using signs, arrows, dancing, smiling and waving! \$9/hr

Interviews for Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Under Way

Sean Bassinger

Staff Writer

The last of three day-long interviews for LBCC's new executive director of Institutional Advancement takes place today. Student leaders will meet with the third candidate from 12:30 to 1:10 p.m. in the Vineyard Mountain Room, which is west of the Commons and next to the Fireside Room.

The executive director of Institutional Advancement works closely with the college's presidential team in order to build leadership, establish strong public support, and serve as the public information officer who communicates with surrounding communities.

The last two meetings occurred on Nov. 16 and 17, when the other two job finalists, Judy Corwin and Richard Jackson, visited campus.

According to the general job description, the executive director of Institutional Advancement is required to establish long-term fundraising projects, and develop clear strategies for using electronic and print media involving the college. In other words, this individual's actions affect how information flows through our media publications, including The Commuter.

We will have more information regarding the third candidate after the next meeting takes place. Additional information regarding the position can be found at LBCC's website: po.linnbenton.edu/map/facts/.

Campus Events

Ongoing

WOU Art Faculty Exhibit

NSH Galleries

A wide-ranging exhibit of artwork by a dozen Western Oregon University Art Faculty is on view at LBCC. This is the second of annual shows at LBCC featuring art faculty from Oregon's six state universities. The gallery is on display until Dec. 2.

Gallery Show "Mutual Appreciation"

SSH Gallery

The show features paintings, drawings and printmaking works from eight Oregon State University students and recent graduates, three of which are former LBCC art students. The show runs through Dec. 2. South Santiam Hall Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Thursday 12/1 LBCC Budget Update

NSH-208 • 1 - 2 p.m.

With President Greg Hamann and Vice President Jim Huckstein.

Friday 12/2 Priority Registration for Winter Term Begins

Active Minds Meeting

NSH-109 • Noon

Come help us change the dialog about

mental health at LBCC. Bring your creativity. Everyone is welcome.

Veterans Club Meetings

CC 213 • 12 p.m.

Saturday 12/3 First Day to Order Books Online

Study Jam at the Benton Center

Benton Center Student Lounge • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Do you need a place to study by yourself or with a group? Come to Study Jam, sponsored by your Student Leadership Council!

Study Jam

Learning Center • 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Do you need a place to study by yourself or with a group? Come to Study Jam, sponsored by your Student Leadership Council! Learning Center resources, math, writing and study skills help, textbook rentals and free food will all be available!

Children's Winter Festival

Commons Cafeteria • 1 - 4 p.m.

Make it a festive holiday this year by joining us for the 41st annual Children's Winter Festival. We will have a variety of activities. It's a free event for all so bring your friends and family. We will be accepting canned food donations to help support the Linn Benton

Lunch Box program. If you would like more information, please contact Barb Horn, Student Activities Coordinator, at 541-917-4459.

Sunday 12/4

Study Jam

Learning Center • 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Mon.-Fri. 12/5-9

Book Buyback

Veterans Club Meetings- (Friday)

CC 213 • 12 p.m.

Monday 12/5

LBCC Budget Update

Fireside Room • 3 - 4 p.m.

With President Greg Hamann and Vice President Jim Huckstein

Thursday 12/8

Safety Committee Meeting

Mt Jefferson/Willamette Room CC-210 • 2 - 3 p.m.

Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. If interested, please contact Mindy McCall (x4309).

Friday 12/9

Fall Term Ends

Veterans Club Meetings

CC 213 • 12 p.m.

Saturday 12/10

Open Registration Online for Winter Term

Monday 12/12

Books Go on Sale



BUY 10 GET ONE FREE!

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Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STUDY JAM!

...come get your study on!

DECEMBER 3rd & 4th

Math Help Desk:
10am to 8pm

Computer access:
10am to 8pm

Math Angle:
12pm to 4pm

Testing:
10am to 5pm
(no tests issued after 4pm)

ALBANY CAMPUS

FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED!

Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone (541)-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Poetry Spotlight

Her Soul's Dance Floor by Seth Slater

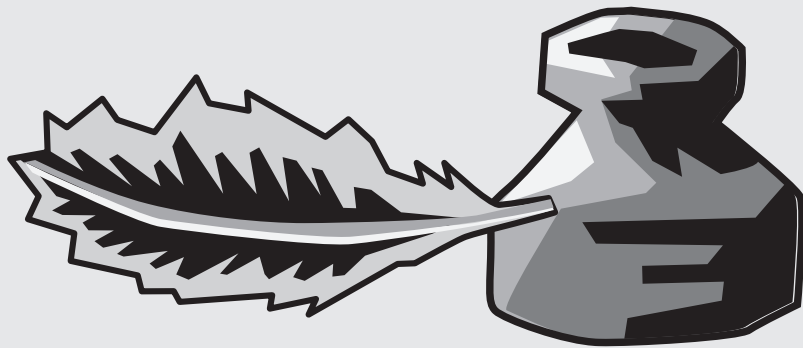
I can't wait for the girl in the white-dress,
To dance with me under purple sunsets
And upon my heart impress, that love is progress.
Beauty - such finesse, causes my heart to beat in unrest.
I will fail to express the wonder of her lip's caress.
I'm waiting for her to knock on my heart's door,
Lead me to her soul's dance floor,
And through love, make me so much, so much more.

Construction Site by Micah Schmidt

A grassy knoll
Destroyed for no cause.
We are all blind.

Untitled by Kacey Shepard

As you wilt before me
I realize I'm beginning to lose you
And wonder where I went wrong



BACK in the DAY

This day in history ...

Nov. 30, 1985 - What's in a name?

Samuel Clemens is born and grows up to be one of the most celebrated American writers of the twentieth century. Luckily for Samuel, his agents thought the name Mark Twain was a bit catchier.

Dec. 1, 1955 - It's okay, don't get up

Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Ala. bus. Sometimes you have to take a seat to make a stand.

Dec. 2, 1994 - Big pimpin'

"Hollywood Madam" Heidi Fleiss is convicted on three counts of facilitating prostitution. Luckily she kept very thorough records in a little black book to help out her case.

Dec. 3, 1966 - Last train to Clarksville

The first Monkees concert is held in Honolulu. Little known fact: The Monkees were the inspiration for that British rip-off version, The Beatles. Wait, I may have that backwards.

Dec. 4, 1961 - Which way's up?

The Museum of Modern Art in NY hangs Matisse's "Le Bateau" upside down for 47 days. But it's not the museum's fault, the arrow was written in French.

Dec. 5, 1933 - Cheers!

Prohibition ends and college students across the country rejoice.

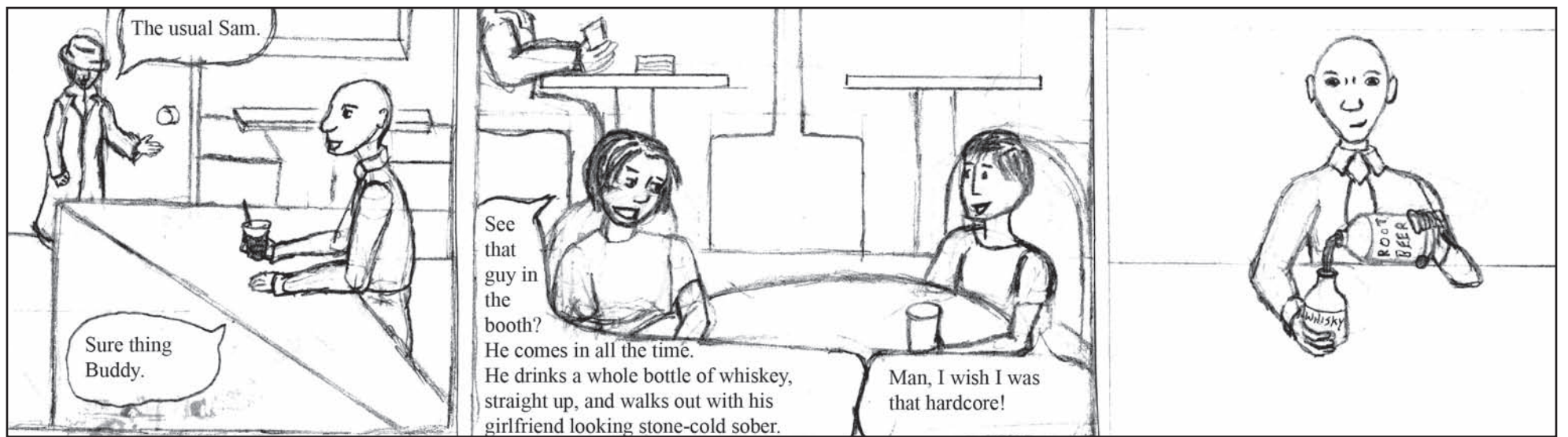
Dec. 6, 1973 - Who voted for this guy?

Gerald Ford is sworn in as Nixon's vice-president after Spiro Agnew resigned. He'd later become president after Nixon is forced to resign and be the only president America never voted for.

Noir Du Jour

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Lizzy Mehringer



Fried Bananas

Groovysweet.wordpress.com

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton

