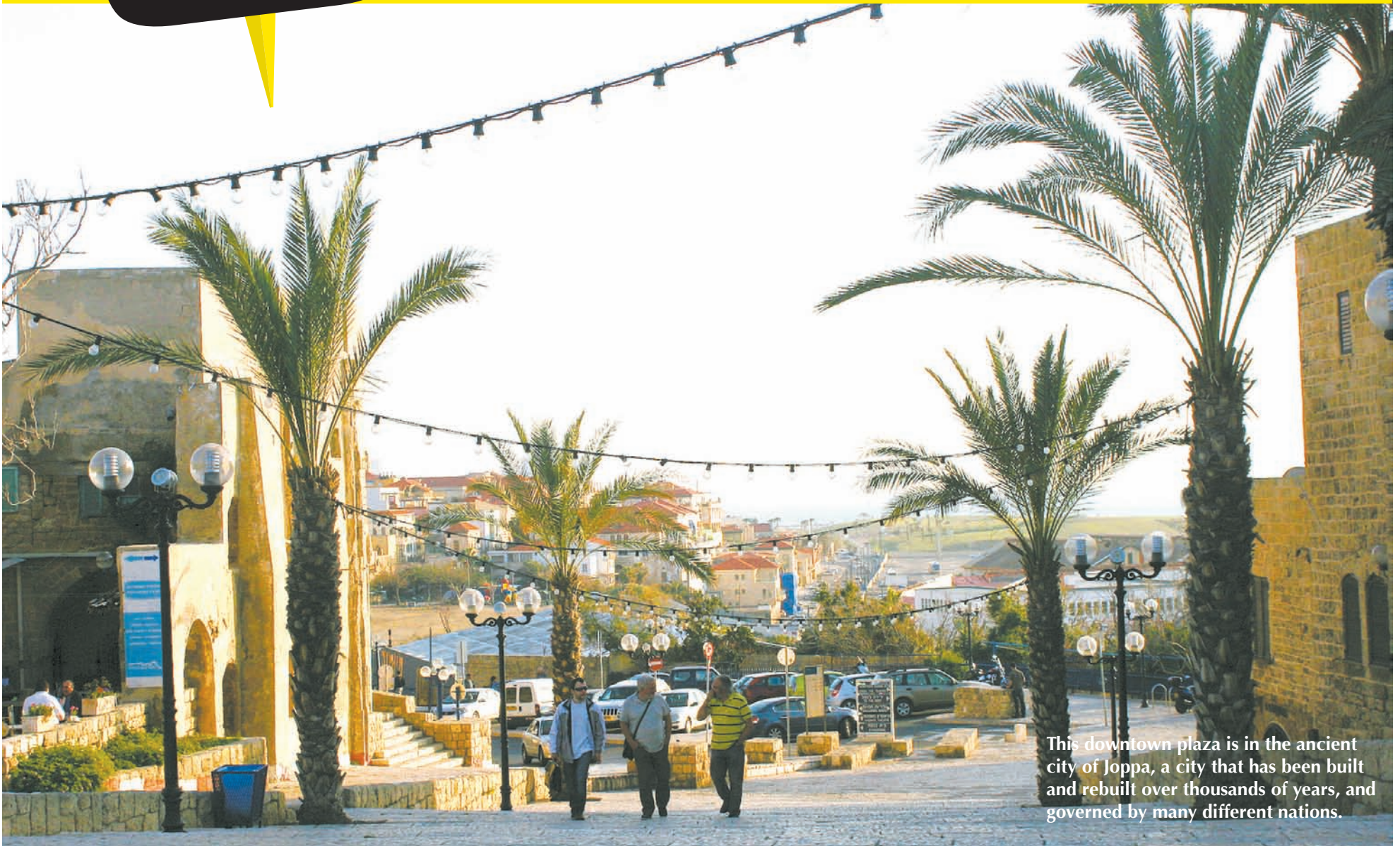


THE COMMUTER

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This downtown plaza is in the ancient city of Joppa, a city that has been built and rebuilt over thousands of years, and governed by many different nations.

Israel: One Student's Journey

Arielle Nunez
Staff Photographer

What's in a name?

Well, contrary to Romeo and Juliet's thoughts, quite a lot. The art of naming children has lost its meaning over the years, but sometimes God has a sense of humor. For those of you who know me, you probably know that I am a Christian – a God follower who has faith and a relationship with God rather than just stale religion.

When I was born, my parents were not Christians and coincidentally named me Arielle. What does this name mean, and why does it matter?

Arielle means "Lioness of God" in Hebrew. Fast forward 19 years and Arielle was in the Promised Land of the Bible. Irony? I think not. God often works in ways that we do not understand until much later.

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Wednesday(5/23)  Rains 61°/42°	Thursday(5/24)  Tidbit Wet 62°/42°	Friday(5/25)  Shower? 69°/44°	Saturday(5/26)  Some Suns 72°/47°	Sunday(5/27)  Bright Thing 72°/46°	Monday(5/28)  Peek-a-Boo Sun 70°/46°	Tuesday(5/29)  Lotsa Clouds 64°/53°
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WEATHER
Source: accuweather.com

THE
COMMUTER
STAFF

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Justeen Elliott

Opinion Editor:
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Justin Bolger, Gary Brittsan,
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Staff Writers:
Sean Bassinger, Ian Butcher,
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@lbccommuter



LBCC Commuter

Web Address:
commuter.linnbenton.edu

Phone:
541-917-4451, 4452 or 4453

Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd.
Albany, OR 97321

Out of This World Interview: NASA Astronaut Greg Chamitoff

William Allison

Contributing Writer

"Hey, Greg! Guess what! We're in space!"

Can you imagine waking up to that every day? That's how Commander Mike Fincke awoke NASA Astronaut Greg Chamitoff every day on the International Space Station. Chamitoff, who is a husband, father of two, an engineer and was on the Space Shuttle Endeavour's final mission. He talked about this and many other experiences Thursday, May 17 in the Linus Pauling Science Center on the OSU Campus.

During the hour-and-a-half presentation, Chamitoff, who was selected to be an astronaut in 1998, shared many pictures and videos that were taken from aboard the space shuttle and the International Space Station, as well as several funny stories from the 198 days that he has spent in space.

After the multimedia presentation, he answered questions from curious audience members, including the common question, "What does space food taste like?" Surprisingly, he answered, "Actually, the food is really good on the space station. I miss some of it actually. I can't get it down here; you have to be up there to get it."

Before the meet-and-greet reception, the final event of the evening, The Commuter was able to get a quick one-on-one interview with Chamitoff.

Commuter: When did you decide that you wanted to be an astronaut?

Greg Chamitoff: I was actually six years old at the time. My family was on a trip to Florida for a family vacation, and we saw the launch of Apollo 11 – sort of by chance. That was a pretty amazing thing to see. I was only seven at the time, and I told my family, "This is what I want to do." I didn't necessarily know how I was going to do it at that time, but many years later, when I saw the shuttle fly for the first time, I was in college. I called NASA and said, "How do I get to do that?" And they gave me some advice.

C: After Challenger and Columbia (Shuttle disasters), what was your greatest fear or worry on your first flight?

GC: You know, the thing you think about most during a mission is your family. You're away from your family, and you worry about your family, and you know they worry about you, so I wasn't too particularly worried about myself. I was just worried about everyone else having to deal with me being away. Bottom line is you're either going to make it to space or not. It's a dream come true, so you focus on the dream come true, and you hope that things work out.

C: Were you happy to be selected for Endeavour's



William Allison

NASA Astronaut Greg Chamitoff presents at OSU.

final mission?

GC: Absolutely. Actually, when I left the space station in 2008 after six months, it was very hard to leave. I loved it up there. Every day you do something that's very meaningful – whether it's a science experiment or talking to a classroom full of kids. When it came time to leave, it was very sad. Of course, I was looking forward to seeing my family, but it was hard to leave.

But a really neat thing happened just before I left. The last shuttle flights were lining up, and our boss called us while we were on the space station and asked, "By the way, are you guys interested on being on one of the last shuttle flights?" It was a really great thing. I was able to leave the space station with the promise of coming back.

C: What was it like to wake up every morning on the ISS, look out the window, and see Earth?

GC: You know, there were times I went three days in a row and didn't get a chance to look out the window. We were working pretty hard. Other times, I'd stop by the window to look out, and I'd stay there for two hours before going to bed. It's amazing to see the whole Earth, surrounded by space, floating in the middle of nowhere. It's amazing to see it with your own eyes.

C: What was it like to be out on an EVA (space walk)?

GC: That has got to be the most incredible thing I've done in my whole life. It's something I really wanted to do for a long time. I kind of think of it as the ultimate SCUBA dive in a way. When you're diving, you've got this endless ocean – you can't see how far the bottom is, and in this one direction, you have endless ocean.

It's kind of like that feeling. The other thing is the visor wraps around your head. From inside the space station, you're looking through a flat window, but with the helmet on, it's glass most directions, so the view that you have of the Earth and the space station, it's like you're in a planetarium.

C: On a different note, it's said that you're related to a famous bagel chain in Canada. What's your favorite kind of bagel?

GC: That's true. That would have to be the everything bagel. Yea, the first ever bagel bakery in Canada is through my family on my father's side, and he used to work in that bakery. Actually, I brought bagels with me on my first mission.

They asked me if I had any favorite foods I wanted to bring, so I said, "Yea, I'll bring some bagels." We do training in Montreal at the Canadian Space Agency, and everybody there knows this place. The bagels are really good. So every time I show up there, if I walk into the space agency without bagels, they won't even let me in.

Jefferson Bridge Falling Down

Kay Roth

Staff Writer

The Conser Bridge that leads to Jefferson was closed just after noon on Friday, May 18 when damage was discovered on the west end of the concrete structure. According to ODOT officials, a local resident reported a sharp bump in the westbound lane.

The bridge was then closed to all except pedestrians, motorcycles and bicycles. Once ODOT began their survey of the damage, the bridge was closed to all traffic.

Built in 1933, the bridge has served

Jefferson and the surrounding areas as the quickest route to Albany and to Interstate 5.

A piece of rebar inside one of the stringers that holds the overhead arch in place broke, causing the beam underneath the bridge to begin to sag.

Hamilton Bridge Construction was contacted to jack the beam up in an attempt to stabilize the concrete structure.

While closed, traffic was rerouted either north toward the Talbot Road interchange or to the North Jefferson exit to I-5 or through Scio.

Jim Squire, ODOT's District 4

Maintenance and Operations Manager, said ODOT will work closely with the communities affected by the closure. He also said ODOT will inspect the bridge completely to make sure it is structurally sound.

As of May 20, ODOT officials, along with personnel from Hamilton Bridge Construction of Springfield, shored up the sagging bridge deck of the Jacob Conser Bridge that spans the North Santiam River in Jefferson to allow limited access. According to an ODOT update, Oregon Highway 164 is now open to vehicles under 45,000 pounds.



Kay Roth

This stringer that helps hold up the concrete arches was partially broken before ODOT workers arrived. These pieces were secure on the bridge platform. One piece was corroded, while the other one snapped.



Israel

continued from COVER

I decided to go on a trip to Israel with a group from my church, based on the encouragement of others and the prodding I felt within my heart. My Israel team was mostly comprised of college students from OSU, LBCC, and WOU.

My faith did not need Israel to believe, but the prospect of being able to read my Bible and know that I had seen the things described and walked where Jesus walked was an opportunity I did not want to pass up.

However, I went into it being apprehensive. I mean, I only really knew a handful of the people on this trip – how am I going to gain anything from this fellowship with these fellow believers if I am too afraid to say hello to a kid from school in the supermarket? Thankfully, God blessed me more than I could imagine in company and in heart.

When I left Oregon, I was planning on a degree in theatre, and nothing was going to stop me. I had just been cast in LBCC's adaptation of "Agamemnon" and was ecstatic about the work that would await me at the start of the term.

Whether you believe in God or not, I know for myself He is real. As a free-willed human being, I thought for sure that God's plan for me lined up with my own. In Israel, I realized just how wrong I was.

To make a long story short, I wasn't supposed to be an actor, but a business major, so I could serve others. God is wiser than I am and sees the bigger picture much better than I ever will, and upon this revelation, that wisdom was really apparent.

On my journey through Israel, I traveled from Joppa and Tel Aviv to places like Caesarea Maritima, Mt. Carmel, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, and much more. I developed friendships with my travel buddies and experienced God in a much bigger way than I had planned.

I traveled through Israel bearing a Hebrew name, one I pray I can live up to. I don't want to be afraid of sharing my faith or being mocked for it. I don't want to be afraid to share the Word of God or my experiences in Israel. I want to be a Lioness of God. It might sound crazy, but hey – to quote Pastor Adam Poole, "Faith is spelled R-I-S-K."



Top: A view of Jerusalem's Eastern gate from the Mount of Olives.

Above: A beautiful bride prays at the Wailing Wall on the women's side of the Temple Mount.

Bottom Left: Students from OSU, LBCC, and WOU dancing to local music while riding "the King David" across the Sea of Galilee.

Bottom Right: A view from the Valley of the Doves with Cliffs of Arbel in the background.

Photos by Arielle Nunez



Blaze

and the Corvallis Homeless Community

Kendal Waters

Contributing Writer

The park is beautiful. The trees are shedding small white petals, and they swirl in the breeze, shifting from light to shadow in a gorgeous dance.

Blaze sits on the bench with me, to my right. His button-down shirt and Dickie's shorts fit the warm weather. It's his birthday today, and I came to celebrate it with him.

When I walked up to Blaze, he was sitting at a table, surrounded by his friends. All of them looked like your average, everyday individuals. A couple had dreadlocks, and they fit the person well. All were homeless.

I regarded them with a hello and a peace sign, asking how their days were. Each face bore a smile and talked of happiness. I walked up to Blaze and wished him a happy birthday. He thanked me, and I offered to go on a walk away from the crowd. He agreed, and so we set off through beautiful flowers and lovely sunshine that make up his everyday.

His black dog, Heidi, walked beside him. They are a duo that hasn't separated successfully since the dog was born. I remember once having to hold the dog outside of an establishment, and the dog paced and barked anxiously the whole time. Upon his return, the dog ran and jumped in joy. The reunion was gloriously happy, even though the separation had been brief.

As we sat on the bench, we started to talk. I didn't start off with any profound questions, but when you have good conversation with someone, the story just pours out.

He talked about his many travels, which reached to the far ends of Alaska. He recounted his many good deeds, and talked about how he reaps the rewards. This week, he will have a well paying job painting houses, which he acquired by being an honest worker.

"I heard that other guy say that he would paint it for \$17,000," Blaze said, "and that the paint would cost them \$1,200, and I told them that I could get a much better deal. I went to the paint store and got an estimate for \$700 on the paint. I saved them money and said I would do it for \$10,000, and they gave me the job."

With so much money coming in so soon, Blaze was ecstatic and talked of being able to afford getting a place for a week. Unfortunately, most of the money would have to go toward his prescriptions. He said seizure medication costs him about a thousand a month, so any money he gets goes there.

We discussed how life has been, and he did not mind. He loves Corvallis.

"The people here are so laid back. Everybody gets along with each other," Blaze said. "The cops are cool. They're not super cool or anything, but if you're nice to them, they'll be nice to you. If you're (omitted) to them, they'll (omitted) you. I mean look at me. I've been living in Corvallis, homeless, on the streets, and they haven't been (omitted) to me the whole time ... I'm good to them and people around me, and they're good to me."

"We're not all bad out here; we just live an alternate lifestyle," Blaze said with zeal. "Everybody (omitted) up once in their life. People need to chill out about it, not be so hard on people."

There's an entire community of people that live this lifestyle, and they clique together as friends and allies. They are all more pleasant to each other than people that have homes. The housed walk through life without letting themselves make eye contact with one another, turning a blind eye when they see a smile thrown their way.

It seems that having fewer possessions makes people more apt to friendship.

We discussed life, the beautiful weather, the flowers, and the wonderful sunshine. We agreed how life is good, beautiful, and best to those who are kind.

When we parted, we did it with kind words and gestures. I left him to celebrate the rest of his birthday with his friends.

If you want to help support the growing homeless community, you can support the Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition and give them a place to stay to get them back on their feet. Visit www.corvalliscoalition.org to learn more.



take the COMMUTER with you



Dear Conscience,



What do you do if your significant other wants to have plastic surgery?

Jill Mahler

Shoulder Devil

Good for your significant other. Gravity is no one's friend.

One day, you're getting looks from left and right, and then the next, those looks are more like those you give towards accidents on the side of the highway.

Here is what you do: be honest. That's right, I said it. You have to tell them what you would like to see done. Being in a relationship is like owning a car. After about 10 years, it starts to break down and be more pain than it's worth, so what do you do?

Either trade it in for a newer model or take it to a mechanic and fix it up.

What other opportunity are you going to have to fix what you don't like? Granted, personality is out of the question, at least for the time being.

With sagging, wrinkles, rolls; it's hard to know where to start, but that's what plastic surgeons are for. Most of the time, they get it right. Michael Jackson never looked better. A little nip here, snip there and presto – good as new. Those scalpels are pretty sharp. What is a little pain when you get a lot of gain?

Sure, they might come out and be covered in wraps for a while, and yes, you might be paying off those medical bills, but that's what credit cards are for.

All you have to do is be supportive. You don't want to stand in the way of their happiness or your own for that matter, unless that happiness comes from purchasing pajama pants, then I say hide the credit cards.

Jennifer M. Hartsock

Shoulder Angel

Support them! There's nothing wrong with altering your looks as long as you don't alter the person inside! Women cake on fake looks with makeup all the time! And men, they shave, trim side burns, get hair transplants. These alter physical features; plastic surgery just proves you're serious.

Life is too short to not experiment. Like a vest with flare or jeans with drawings on them, your body should be a representation of you, but it doesn't have to directly symbolize all of who you are!

Change the portrait, dabble in modification, and enjoy the canvas that belongs only to you.

What is aggravating is how people base your personality off of your body. People with tattoos and crazy hair are taken less seriously than clean-cut Barbie dolls in suits. Professionalism seems safe; art looks intimidating. Can't we be understanding to individuals who look beyond the 00 gauged tongue ring or people without fashion sense, and embrace the soul?

Tinted glasses, colored contacts, extended eyelashes, shaved eyebrows, and laser surgery don't change anything.

Whatever happened to eyes being windows to the soul? It isn't often that people shield those from view, so acknowledge (or ignore) the outside junk, and look into their eyes.

The Good, the Bad, and the Feminist

Justin Bolger

Copy Editor

I hate feminism. I don't mean the well-reasoned, equalist feminism. That stuff is awesome. I mean that radical bull aiming to create laws that support women having more rights than men. I mean the feminists who hope to resolve some vendetta against men by charging them more for a community event in some misguided attempt to highlight the pay disparity.

Is the goal to hit us back based on gender alone? We're not all oppressors – I promise. And when did two wrongs start making a right? My bad, I must have missed that memo.

These must be the same women who use their feminine wiles to manipulate and control the weaker-willed among us, or evade a traffic ticket by rocking the water works. Weird how we're sensitive to that, huh? Damn you, hormones and empathy!

That said, there is a whole world of feminists who are doing it right, such as Anita Sarkeesian, the woman behind FeministFrequency.com. You'll find no torches or pitchforks here, ladies and gentleman. She is well researched, reasonable, and levelheaded. She's an educator first and foremost.

Addressing topics across the spectrum from literature to pop-culture to Legos, Sarkeesian discusses how these things affect our growing culture both subtly and overtly in regards to sexism.

I first heard about her when I happened across her Kickstarter project to fund a series called "Tropes vs. Women in Video Games." Now, bear in mind I'm a huge gaming fanboy. I went in ready for battle, but as I watched her video introduction of what she hopes to accomplish,

my reactions progressed as such:

- I will fight you!
- But, but ...
- Well, that might be true.
- I hear you. Please, go on.
- Heck yes! You go girl! (I mean woman.)

Then I donated some money and watched a bunch of her videos. Oh, and I'm writing this. Am I a traitor to the wonderful world of gaming? No, not at all. I'm actually supporting an idea that will bring awareness to the slanted tendency of society, and possibly aiding in the artistic evolution of my favorite medium, attracting more respect toward each of these.

That's the power of feminism done right. I was swayed to her point-of-view by diplomacy and reason – swayed "against" something I will always side with.

I put the word "against" in quotes there because she is not fighting with, or trying to bash on video games. It's more of an effort to enhance the whole of things – for everyone. That should be how feminists work in general.

Don't politically or socially punch every man in the face just for being male. They might be on your side. Don't rage-out about it either. This only proves you and your cause to be venomous.

I encourage you to YouTube the video "Feminism in Focus – Anita Sarkeesian" for more on what Sarkeesian's working toward and how she goes about it.



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Submit your thoughts to commuter@linnbenton.edu

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white pen, ready to write.

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

Four icons in rounded squares: a pencil, a camera with a flower on top, a lowercase letter 'e' with horizontal lines below it, and a printer.

Write. Snap. Edit. Print.

The Commuter is looking for reporters, photographers, cartoonists, columnists, and copy editors to join next year's staff.

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

DIABLO

How DRM Hurts Gaming

Sean Bassinger
Staff Writer

Before the west coast clock hit midnight on May 15, gamers across the globe flooded social networks in excitement over the launch of "Diablo III." Many years and numerous teaser trailers later, this was the grand experience many of us had waited for. And when the moment finally arrived: silence... followed by another social media flood cursing Blizzard's name.

Who could blame everyone? It's pretty ridiculous when you're attempting to start a single-player session and you can't even create a character because you're stuck at the login screen. Sadly, this was (and still is) just one of the problems experienced by players.

The digital-rights management (DRM) of "Diablo III" comes in the form of a required persistent Internet connection, and the first few

hours with the game featured some of the worst DRM encounters ever faced. It might not say much, but it's still interesting how Metacritic user ratings involve negative feedback because of these login errors. So not only are we unable to play one of the most anticipated games of the year, but we're offered samples of many potential errors that we'll see in the future.

As for the actual game, well ... it was pretty hard to rank when players couldn't even start the damn thing. This is exactly why DRM harms the entertainment industry more than it helps.

But really, we knew this was coming. In the world of video games, one of the biggest DRM backlashes occurred when PC users expressed discontent over the game "Assassin's Creed 2" requiring a constant Internet connection like "Diablo III." The fact that it was a single-player game (and with no multiplayer option) requiring

users to remain online was enough to detract from the PC version's popularity. What's scary is how most big-name titles still require Internet connections and special accounts, with some restrictions being much worse than Ubisoft's back in 2010.

Although consumers are given an option to vote with their dollar, it seems like most are ignoring the privilege. After all, these games are damn good, and we absolutely need them even if we can't play them.

Not enough publishers realize it yet, but heavily-enforced DRM implementations will cost them greater amounts of money over time. If they thought quarterly loss reports were frightening before, just wait until they discover that their pirate-hindering plans were actually thwarting innocent consumers. After all, gamers will only put up with so much.



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STRAIGHT FROM THE

Hartsock

Brain stuffing from the frumpy
sock monkey



Gay Marriage, Part 2

Jennifer M. Hartsock
Opinion Editor

Last week, I discussed how religion affects the legalization of gay marriage. This week, I'm attempting to tackle the social aspects: "Homosexuality is not natural," "gay couples raise gay children," "it undermines the institution of marriage," "gay people can't reproduce," and "well-rounded children need a mother and a father figure."

"Being gay is unnatural" – Hank and John Green from Nerdfighters.com made some profound points on this issue: the lines of sexual orientation and personal identity are not simple, and never have been straightforward. Gay, straight, bisexual, hermaphrodite, transgender, or transvestite all prove that human beings are complex. A person's identity is based both on nature (DNA) and in nurture (experiences). Everything in us and around us contributes to who we are. A person with a gay gene is no less "natural" than a person who has a genetic disease like diabetes.

"Gay couples raise gay children" – This can be argued because of how influential parents are to a child's development. Just as narrow-minded straight parents may never speak about homosexual retaliations, it can be argued that narrow-minded homosexual couples may never speak about heterosexual couples – thus limiting a child to a selective view of what love means. This can be said for religious views, gender and household roles, and any other moral or opinion. Whatever the sexual orientation of the couple, restrictions to outer beliefs can negatively influence a child.

"Gay marriage undermines the institution of marriage" – Again, Hank and John Green said it best: People think that gay marriages are less meaningful, but have never tested their hypothesis and confirmed that it's true. People believe that their opinion is truth, when in reality there isn't solid, consistent evidence that makes it a true claim. Failed legal marriages can attest that heterosexual marriages undermine the sanctity of marriage, but it is ungrounded to say that all heterosexual marriages make marriage less meaningful.

"Gay people can't reproduce" – Neither can interfile people, but they still have the right to get married.

"For children to be well rounded, they need both a mother and a father figure" – It has been proven that a set of parents builds a well-established household as opposed to a single parent, but the same foundation can be filled by two women or two men as long as both parents are loving, supportive, and ethical. Not all heterosexual couples raise well-adjusted children. Not all single parents raise poorly-adjusted children. Again, personalities, relationships, and parenting skills are all in a gray zone. Loving your kids and parenting your best aren't characteristics of sexual orientation, but of the individual.

A collective judgment toward a grouping of people is unjust. Lumping all Muslims into a group of "terrorists," African-Americans into a group of "thugs," women into a group of "hormonal," or children into a group of "annoying brats" is unreasonable. Boxing people into categories instead of observing is an attempt to make everything in life simple.

Humanity is not simple. Feelings are not simple. Love is not simple. To believe otherwise leads to oppressing certain groups of people instead of creating laws that give everyone equal rights.



Check out The Commuter's new look at
COMMUTER.LINNBENTON.EDU
and keep up-to-date on all the latest
campus news.



Works by various artists were auctioned to raise money to buy new display cases at the Benton Center.

Photos by Nora Palmtag



Fundraiser a Success

Nora Palmtag

Staff Writer

LBCC's Benton Center hosted a silent auction May 18, selling beautiful ceramic pieces to build showcases to display student and community ceramic art from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. This special fundraiser celebrated Clay Hands and Heart and was sponsored by LBCC and the Willamette Ceramics Guild.

Approximately 50 people came out to celebrate the healing art of clay. Art was bought and funds were donated to build the showcases.

The ceramic items were tastefully displayed on tables and in art showcases with an artistic eye to draw in the buyers.

Tables were set up with a wide assortment of food, including prosciutto, different olives, fruits, vegetables and drinks (from water to wine) with music provided by a young quartet with a violin, viola, cello, and bass violin.

The artists contributing artwork are Dale Donovan, Wally Schwab, Dennis Staats, Christine Federighi, Pat Webber, John Dix, Cynthia Spencer, Nobu Kousai, Nils Lou, Dave Shaner, Frank Boyden, and Lillian Pitt.

After the silent auction, there was a joyful competition of contributions with one contributor giving \$5,000. Others asked audience members to match their contributions from \$100 to \$1,000 and nearly \$10,000 was successfully achieved with true giving from the heart.

When talking with Jeff Davis, regional director of the Benton Center, shared how important it is to have more cases for the artwork, which is produced by students and members of the community and is on sale from \$10 to hundreds of dollars.

Davis was very encouraging about students taking the classes at the Benton Center, especially the ceramics class taught by Cynthia Spencer, who is not only an instructor, but also owns a studio where her work is displayed at 1105 NW 30th St. in Corvallis.

Civility in the Classroom

Johanna Lundahl

Contributing Writer

In an email survey that went out to all instructors, the teachers at LBCC shared their feelings on student incivility in the classroom. The survey asked teachers what they thought of certain classroom behaviors and whether those behaviors were acceptable.

Marcene Olsen, manager of the Safety and Loss Prevention Office, highlighted the most looked down upon behaviors pointed out by teachers. Doing unrelated activities in class, such as reading a newspaper, doing homework for other classes, or checking Facebook was sometimes or often an issue for 64 percent of the teachers who took the survey.

Behaviors that caused students to not pay attention during class included chatting in class, which 74 percent found a concern, and texting, which 64 percent found a problem. 79 percent said that arriving late or leaving class early was an issue, but comments indicated that arriving late and disrupting the classroom was a much bigger issue than having to leave early.

Eighty-four percent said that being unprepared for class was sometimes or often a problem, while 78 percent also said that they considered it unacceptable. 50 percent said that students dominating the class discussion was an issue.

Some of the most often mentioned negative behaviors from the teachers were gossiping, inappropriate use of technology in class, interrupting others, loud talking, or divisive/negative speech. Also mentioned in the survey by teachers was selfishness, inflexibility, a lack of respect, and a lack of empathy.

"Some bad behaviors are seen as very disruptive when they're seen, but they're rarely seen. So you have to balance that type of behavior with the impact on the class," said Olsen.

Every so often, large outbursts from students happen around campus. The kind of class disruptions where campus security needs to get involved have a much larger negative impact on the classroom environment.

Last term there was an incident where a student stood up in class and threatened a female student who had told him to be quiet. The teacher asked him to leave, saying that there was no place for that kind of behavior, and even had security come to class the next day in case the student came back. Gender or racially based conflicts/harassment like that cause the most impact on classroom environments when they happen, instructors agreed.

It's the instructor's responsibility to manage their classroom, but different teachers have vastly different levels of tolerance when handling student behavior.

"Some are just not good at it," said Alice Sperling, coordinator for the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence at LBCC.

For teaching college, Sperling explained, teachers don't need to have taken any courses in preparation for teaching.

"They need to be highly educated about their subject, and we try to hire teachers that are experienced, but that doesn't mean that they know anything [about teaching]. ... Some teachers come into the classroom thinking they need an iron control over the students."

When a conflict occurs and reaches a point where the student needs to be excluded from the classroom, that student or students go and see Sandra Shinkle, the associate dean of Student Services.

Shinkle works with the students who've violated the Student Code of Conduct. She receives a complaint from an instructor or member of the staff and has to have a meeting with the student who's having/creating a problem in the classroom. Usually it's communication gone sideways, but the excluded student must meet with her before being allowed to rejoin the class.

She rarely meets a student who doesn't wish to go back. After that, she brings the conflicting parties together, and with a conversation, they reach common ground.

LBCC had a civility forum on May 10 to discuss student levels of politeness and civility on campus. Anyone was invited to come to the Diversity Achievement Center to discuss their reactions to a civility survey that went out to all LBCC students over email.

The forum went through each question of the survey and had a discussion with students on what things the campus should be focusing on to improve civility on campus.

When interviewed about the student body's level of civility, several instructors answered favorably.

English instructor Peter Jensen explained that his students were mostly polite and even that he'd prefer for them to express themselves more in class. "I like to talk a little rough in class sometimes, so I don't mind if they do too."

Instructor Karelia Stetz-Waters, also from the English department, said, "There are a few who need to work on it, but students tend to be civil."

Kelly Ferrell, a biology instructor, said that a lot of the students are great and respectful, "but it's always the small few who make up the dynamics of the class."

Dan Stone, the theatre instructor, said LBCC students are generally civil, but one of the biggest problems that he sees is attendance.

"It all comes down to the fact that you are shelling out money for your classes. So come and get everything you can out of them."

Sean Bassinger Named Next Commuter Editor-in-Chief

Rob Priewe

Commuter Adviser

Sean Bassinger will be the next editor-in-chief of The Commuter, LBCC's student newspaper.

Bassinger was appointed Wednesday, May 16 by the college's Student Publications Committee, which includes LBCC students, staff and faculty. Bassinger will succeed Jill Mahler, who will wrap up her year-long stint as editor with the last edition of Spring Term.

"I'm honored to serve as next year's editor-in-chief at The Commuter," Bassinger said. "We have an excellent staff and outstanding incoming contributors, so next year will be exciting for both student journalists and readers alike."

Over the past year, Bassinger has served The Commuter primarily as a contributing writer and copy editor. He has reported on a

variety of campus issues, from changes in campus leadership and tuition to activities, such as Day of Silence and Science Week. He also has written commentaries on video gaming and proposed changes in laws concerning internet piracy and privacy.

In his application to become editor-in-chief, Bassinger wrote, "The Commuter must offer readers relevant, up-to-date content for our college and local community. It's essential for writers and editors to focus on topics they're passionate about, but we also have a responsibility to provide honest and accurate news on current events."

Bassinger also noted that he and the other members of the newspaper staff have a responsibility to serve as mentors to other students, giving them "the tools they need to succeed as journalists."

Bassinger, who lives in Corvallis, has been a contributing writer for IGXPRO.net along

with editing for gaming sites Press Pause Radio and Crush! Frag! Destroy! After LBCC, he plans to enroll in the New Media Communications program at Oregon State University.

His term as editor-in-chief at The Commuter runs through the 2012-13 academic year. The duties of editor-in-chief include:

- Appointing and managing the newspaper's staff of editors, reporters and photographers.
- Coordinating the work of the staff, including assigning and editing stories and photos.
- Leading staff meetings and other newspaper activities.
- Representing the newspaper in the college community.

Bassinger is currently accepting applications to fill next year's Commuter staff. Applications are available in the Commuter Office, F-222.





Above: The pack skates together, trying to keep the jammer from getting through.

Right: The Sick Town jammer tries to catch up to the pack to earn points.

Below: The pack waits to block the jammer as she skates up from behind.



Photos by Nora Palmtag



Derby Time

Nora Palmtag

Staff Writer

The crowd of colorful characters, from three to 80 years of age, gathered at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center on Saturday, May 19, for a rousing roller derby bout to watch Albany's Sick Town Derby Dames skate against the Rainier City Roller Dolls.

For those who don't know the game, skaters proceed in a circle with a pivot, three blockers, and a jammer from each team. The jams/sessions last up to two minutes but can be stopped at any time by the lead jammer, designated by a referee, who follows that jammer until play is cut off or time expires.

First whistle blast: The pack takes off. Second whistle: The jammers take off. The goal is to become the lead jammer, who is the only one who can score by lapping the pack, coming from the rear of the skaters.

There are many rules to the game, including no hands, elbows, forearms or heads can be used during play. No tripping, fighting, cutting across the track to better position or blocking out of bounds is allowed.

Kim Links (Obsessive Kimpulsive), with 3 year old daughter Lucy, said, "Being a stay-at-home mom of five daughters, I wanted something to call mine. I wanted something my girls would be proud of. I have always loved to skate, and I've always been one tough woman. Derby saved my soul."

At this bout, 50 percent of the proceeds from a raffle held for free passes to the game went to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

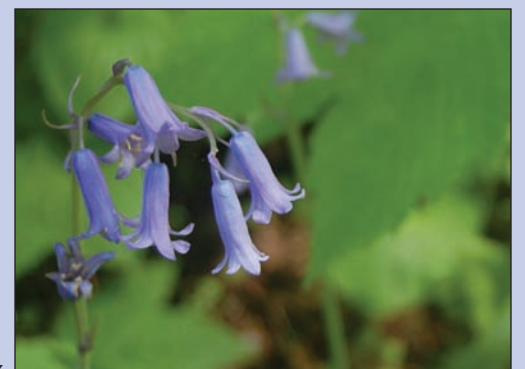
The Sick Town Derby Dames were able to successfully defeat the Rainier City Roller Dolls 118 to 106 with a display of teamwork and respect, which other sports should try to emulate.

Natural Beauty



At McDowell Creek Falls, a little way past Lebanon by Waterloo, you can find Majestic Falls (far left) and beautiful flowers like the bluebells (right).

Or you can stop at the Fitton Green Natural Area between Philomath and Corvallis for some nice hiking and biking trails. You'll also find colorful wildflowers like the Calypso Orchid (left).



Photos by Luis Martinez

HOROSCOPES

As the year winds down, here are some songs to help keep you motivated.



ARIES
3/21-4/19

Survivor
Eye of the Tiger

It was good enough for Rocky, and it's good enough for you.



TAURUS
4/20-5/20

Twisted Sister - We're Not Gonna Take It

Because you're just not gonna take it anymore.



GEMINI
5/21-6/21

Europe

The Final Countdown

The year is winding down, and you can see the light at the end of the tunnel.



CANCER
6/22-7/22

Kenny Loggins
Danger Zone

Don't know why, but the thought of sweaty men playing volleyball makes me think of you.



LEO
7/23-8/22

Guns 'N Roses
Welcome to the Jungle

You're a lion; lions live in the jungle. See my thought process here?



VIRGO
8/23-9/22

Journey

Don't Stop Believing
Whether you're a small town girl, or a city boy, or a singer in a smoky room, you never stop believing.



LIBRA
9/23-10/23

Joe Esposito
You're the Best

Because you're the best around. Nothing's gonna ever keep you down!



SCORPIO
10/24-11/21

Scorpions - Rock You Like a Hurricane

They're the Scorpions. These matches aren't exactly rocket science.



SAGITTARIUS
11/22-12/21

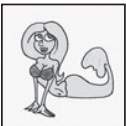
Bon Jovi - Shot Through the Heart

So, you're the one to blame. You're the one who gave love a bad name.



CAPRICORN
12/22-1/19

AC/DC - Back in Black
Because AC/DC is totally badass, just like you!



AQUARIUS
1/20-2/18

Ozzy Osbourne
Crazy Train

You're just flat-out crazy, but that's how it goes.



PISCES
2/19-3/20

Rush - Tom Sawyer
As a modern day warrior, you're today's Tom Sawyer. You ride out the day's events down the river.

Poetry Spotlight

Untitled
by Krista Ruck

Not plugged into this,
nothing electric.
Don't blame the toaster,
never even opened the box.
A gift from a puddle person,
negativity.
I don't like toast.



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The Commuter is EVERYWHERE!

Keep up to date on all the latest news.

The Commuter

@lbcommuter

LBCC Commuter

BACK *in the* DAY

This day in history ...

May 23, 1934-Spoilers
Outlaws Bonnie and Clyde are killed by police. Spoiler alert for real life.

May 24, 1883-Just use some duct tape
After 27 deaths in the 14 years of construction, the Brooklyn Bridge is officially opened. That is all.

May 25, 1977-A long time ago...
"Star Wars" opens today. This creates an entire generation of geeks (including this writer).

May 26, 1897-No Keanu, no
Dracula is first released in London. And now we go to Budapest.

May 27, 1937-We had to bring that up
The Golden Gate Bridge is officially opened. This sets in motion Magneto's grudge against bridges.

May 28, 1961-Sooo...
Appeal for Amnesty launches. I know what you're thinking, "What?"

May 29, 1953-A slow news week
Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay become the first people to reach the peak of Mount Everest. Yup, that's all I got, and the rest is down hill.

Gifts for Grads!

Grad Ads

Congrats to Grads!

Tell your family and friends how proud you are of them during graduation season!

\$5 for up to 25 words
\$5 extra for image

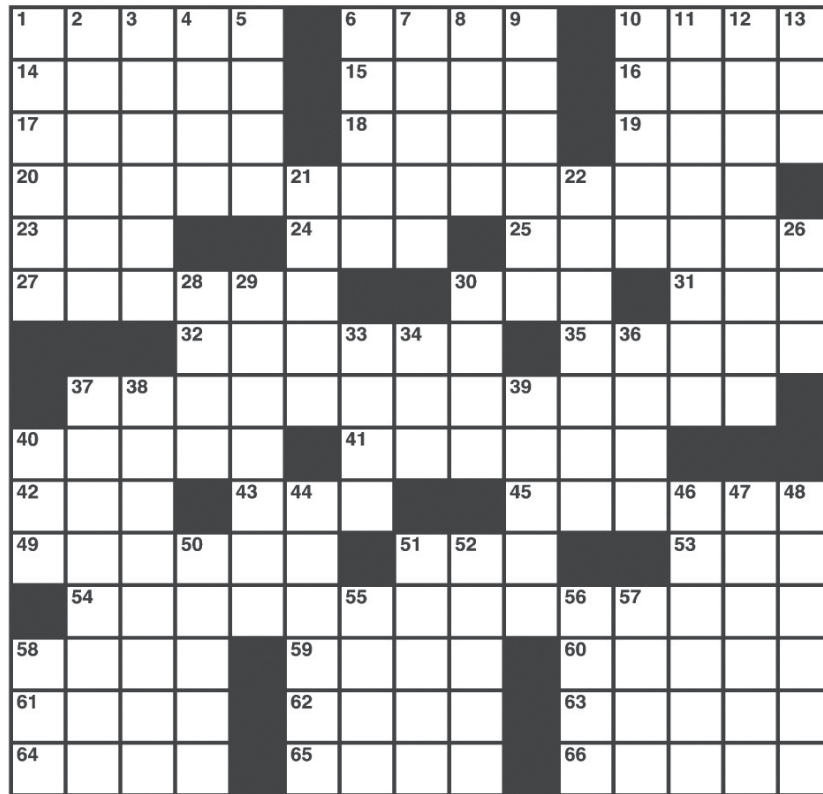
Contact:
The Commuter Ad Department
541-917-4452
commuterads@linnbenton.edu

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Made a disapproving sound
- 6 Witticism
- 10 Highlander
- 14 Cop ___: bargain in court
- 15 Healing plant
- 16 Oregon Treaty president
- 17 Trembling
- 18 Having all one's marbles
- 19 Word processing reversal
- 20 Big Southwestern trombones?
- 23 Ending for "ranch"
- 24 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
- 25 Thing
- 27 Madame, in Madrid
- 30 Wide shoe size
- 31 Geese flight pattern
- 32 Actress Greer who received five consecutive Oscar nominations
- 35 At the ready
- 37 Refined trombones?
- 40 Made on a loom
- 41 Imitation
- 42 Med or law lead-in
- 43 Command ctrs.
- 45 Musical beat
- 49 Wells's "The Island of Dr. ___"
- 51 Fill with wonder
- 53 Jr.'s son
- 54 Continuously-playing trombones?
- 58 Clenched weapon
- 59 Mechanical memorization
- 60 Remark to the audience
- 61 To ___: perfectly
- 62 Sporty sunroof
- 63 Baseball card brand
- 64 Wall St.'s "Big Board"



By Charles Barasch

- 65 Clownish
- 66 Shore birds

DOWN

- 1 Samples a bit of
- 2 Ball
- 3 Loud auto honker of yore
- 4 "___ mouse!"
- 5 Weekly septet
- 6 Argonauts' leader
- 7 Large antelope
- 8 Tune
- 9 Dainty laugh
- 10 Sudden gushing
- 11 Conspires (with)
- 12 Octogenarians, e.g.
- 13 Boxing ref's decision
- 21 Whopper creators
- 22 Lord's Prayer words following "Thy will be done"
- 26 Thus far
- 28 Eye unsubtly
- 29 Drizzly day chapeau
- 30 Some pass catchers
- 33 Women

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	J	O			P	A	U	L			C	O	D	S		
A	N	K	A			M	A	I	N	E		A	K	I	N		
C	U	R	T	A	I	N	R	O	D			M	A	G	I		
E	S	O		I	N	D	O					T	E	P	I	D	
				W	A	L	K	A	F	I	N	E	L	I	N	E	
I	L	L	N	E	S			A	E	R	O						
D	E	I	T	Y				S	M	A	R	T	E	S	T		
E	O	N				V	C	H	I	P					D	U	O
S	I	G	N	H	E	R	E					O	A	S	E	S	
				O	O	N	A			S	O	B	B	E	R	S	
H	I	G	H	L	I	G	H	T	R	E	E	L					
A	R	R	A	Y				E	A	T	S			F	I	X	
R	O	A	N			O	F	F	T	H	E	H	O	O	K		
E	N	I	D			R	A	T	I	O			E	R	T	E	
S	S	N	S			B	O	S	C			P	D	A	S		

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- 34 Above, in poems
- 36 Slow-moving, as a river
- 37 Penetrable quality of skin
- 38 Makes a cliché of, say
- 39 Exposed
- 40 Typist's stat.
- 44 Crystalline mineral
- 46 More petite
- 47 Like eggs in an Easter hunt
- 48 Skinflints
- 50 Big name in perfumery
- 51 Dramatist Chekhov
- 52 Tearful
- 55 Letter after theta
- 56 Drift, as an aroma
- 57 Shipwreck site
- 58 Air mover

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

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

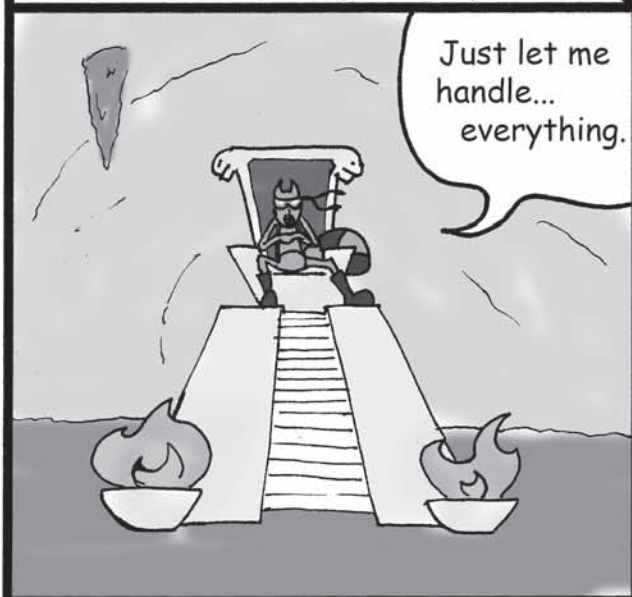
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton



Mason Le Britton © 2012

A word from your local SLC

Are you thinking about finals yet?

The SLC is, and we have been working diligently to prepare for Study Jam. This is an event that the SLC provides to the students the weekend before finals week, which provides a place to study individually, gather study groups, or use the services the Learning Centers offer, such as the Math Help Desk. The SLC will be providing food and drinks while supplies last.

Study Jam this term will be taking place at the Albany Campus, Benton Center, and Lebanon Campus during the weekend of June 8-10. Check your campus for times and specific services offered.

Also, the SLC would like to remind all students that there is currently an open Student Leadership Council position. Applications for this position can be found at www.linnbenton.edu/go/student-life-and-leadership/student-leadership-council. Applications for this position are due by May 25 at 4 p.m. in the Student Life & Leadership Office, Forum building, Student Union.

Sincerely,
Your SLC

Upcoming Events

Friday 5/25

8:30 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts

Rock performances by The Blimp, My Autumn's Done Come, and Lucas Gunn. Tickets are \$5 in advance; \$8 at door.

6 p.m. OSU KBVR Studio A
Summer Soundtrack performs!

9 p.m. Calapooia Brewing Company
The Peculiar Pretzelmens perform!
Entry is \$5. Ages 21+

Saturday 5/26

9 p.m. Community Center for the Performing Arts
Second DJ Dance: May We Dance 2.
Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$15 at door.

8 p.m. Calapooia Brewing Company
Leif James performs!

Sunday 5/27

All Day. Community Center for the Performing Arts
KWVA Birthday Bash.

Wednesday 5/30

12-1:30 p.m. Calapooia Center Fireside Room
First Diversity Fireside chat entitled, "Symbols, Free Speech, and College Campuses" will take place. Discussions on legal, cultural, and historical implications on free speech.

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

Liberty Tree Begins the World Over Again

Amanda Hayden

Copy Editor

We are in an election year. Soon enough, televisions across the nation will be infiltrated by political ads. Really, who knows how slanted the ads are going to be? LBCC students have the unique occasion to get involved and learn what fits each individual politically and socially, in a direct setting.

In the LBCC courtyard, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, you'll hear music and see a decorated tree and several tables, all showing support for various organizations.

The Liberty Tree Fair has been organized by the LBCC Democracy Club to encourage citizen participation. It is meant to encourage involvement on all levels and a sense of "people like us." It's the perfect opportunity to learn how others are participating in the community.

Social science and history majors will each deliver a five minute speech between 11 a.m. and noon on the topic of "We have in our power to begin the world over again" from Thomas Paine's "Common Sense." The speeches are meant to encourage thought on how Paine's statement applies to the problems of today. Two scholarships will be awarded – from a speech category and an essay category.

You might ask, "What's with the decorated maple tree?" The original Liberty Tree was actually an elm in Boston, which was a rallying location for American colonists. They would meet at the tree to resist oppression and discuss their



need for independence. In other words, they saw a need to get involved and take action.

In the same spirit of democracy and citizenship, students will be encouraged to vote, educate themselves, volunteer, attend meetings, petition the city council, and simply get involved whenever possible.

Not only will political groups be present, but also service groups. Robert Harrison, faculty advisor to the Democracy Club, said he hopes to have environmental groups, possibly Habitat For Humanity and Helping Hands, alongside the various political parties.

Young people can have an impact on democracy, instead of assuming everyone else will vote in their best interest. Harrison said, "If the rest of us sit back, we'll have lost our voice."

LBCC SSH Gallery Exhibit "Nine by Nine: Designing Words"

Press Release

"Nine by Nine: Designing Words," a collaborative exhibit by student designers and poets at Linn-Benton Community College, is on view in the college's South Santiam Hall Gallery May 21 through June 8.

The exhibit showcases the illustrations of nine graphic design students who created their work in response to nine original poems written by student and faculty poets. The show pairs

the illustrations with the poems that inspired each of them, and the poetry itself has been lettered for display by the design students.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to combine our word craft with the fine work of the graphic design students," said Ruth Krueger, LBCC's student poet laureate. "We hope the combined art stirs within the audience a desire to search for meaning, to find life."

Krueger, a resident of Lebanon, is one of the nine poets participating in the show. The others are Chris

Riseley, Alison Ruch, Eliot Kurfman and J.D. Mackenzie, all of Corvallis; Neil Davidson and Robin Havenick of Albany; Patrick Misiti of Wren; and Dan Simmons of Lebanon.

The graphic designers, all students of instructor John Aikman, are Adam Elveback, Laura Magedanz, Daniel Quirk and Joanna Rosinska, all of Corvallis; Keith Folsom and Rosanna Russell of Albany; Morgan Gregory of Shedd; John Kruskamp of Philomath; and Jerral Murphy of Lebanon.

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 (Takana First Stop Center).

CWE Jobs (#9660, 9659, 9658, Albany) If you are a current LBCC student in a related field, you will find these are wonderful opportunities to get experience, get paid and have a job through graduation from OSU—CWE Student Lab Tech #9660, CWE Computer Cleaner #9659, CWE Environmental Tech #9658.

Legal Assistant (#9661, Corvallis) This full-time job is looking for someone with experience in probate, trust administration and estate planning along with customer service and computer skills.

IT Assistant (#9652, Albany) This part-time, entry-level technical support position could possibly give you some CWE credits also? Hours are 1-5pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and pay is \$10/hr.

Tech Support/Sales (#9663, Corvallis) Are you looking to get some work experience to go with your computer skills and basic knowledge of hardware and Windows repair and troubleshooting. This job offers variable hours for 4-5 days/week.

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.

THE COMMONS FARE

MENU FOR THE WEEK OF:
5/23 - 5/29

Wednesday: Pork Schnitzel, Chicken Tamales*, Tofu and Broccoli Stir Fry. Soups: Chicken Avgolemeno and Potato Leek*

Thursday: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Coulibiac, Vegetarian Risotto*. Soups: Beer Cheese and Minestrone

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: HOLIDAY

Tuesday: Chef's Choice

Items denoted with a * are gluten free

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

“The Dictator” Invades Comedy

Carli Gibson
A&L Editor

“The Dictator” – Uhhmm... what the heck did I just watch? Through this confusion, somehow I still found this movie to be hilarious.

I suppose I shouldn't have been so surprised at the vulgar humor in this film. I mean, it's a Sacha Baron Cohen film, a man most famously known as Borat and Brüno. Although this film had a lot less nudity in it compared to these other two movies, it still had the same humor you hate yourself for laughing at in the end.

“The Dictator” is about, well, a dictator named Aladeen (Cohen) who travels to America to prevent democracy from reigning in on his beloved dictatorship in Wadiya. During his stay, he is de-bearded and has to find a way to convince the big-wigs that he is Aladeen to save the day (or at least his day).

In order to enjoy yourself while watching this movie, you really have to learn to not take offense and just laugh. Sure, half the time you'll be thinking, “This is terrible. Why am I laughing?” But in the end, everyone else is laughing too, so you feel a little less terrible.

I think what made the movie so funny was Cohen completely being himself and not caring how terrible people are going to find his sense of humor – he's going for it anyway.

Many critics are comparing it to “Borat,” and although there are similarities between it, I found “The Dictator” to be much more humorous. At least in this one, nobody's running around a hotel naked.

From mocking political standpoints to making fun of women's rights, “The Dictator” was hysterical.



Benton Museum Cherishes History

Kay M Roth
Staff Writer

The Benton County Historical Museum cherishes history. Located on Main Street in Philomath, the Benton County Historical Museum features rotating exhibits, special art shows and since 2005, the curator of the Horner Collection.

Founded in 1951 to preserve historical artifacts, photographs and manuscripts related to Philomath and Benton County, the museum had amassed over 66,000 items. The number includes some 44,000 photographs. With the addition of the Horner Collection, the museum is now home to over 100,000 items.

In 2007, the museum broke ground for its new collection center, where the bulk of the Horner Collection was slated to find a home. Once located in the basement of Gill Coliseum, the collection includes vehicles, collegiate memorabilia, furniture, photographs, toys, rocks, and taxidermied animals.

Bruce the Moose proved to be one of the hardest pieces to transport from Corvallis to Philomath. Due to its size, the moose had to be delivered in the back of a pick-up truck. Also, because of his size, Bruce cannot be displayed inside the museum.

The Moreland Auditorium, located on the second floor of the museum, is often home to displays, including the Annual Willamette Valley Scholastic Art Awards and the annual Open Studios tour. The auditorium has also hosted a variety of events including town hall meetings, the Benton Lecture Series and special events for children.

The museum is also a local gathering place where the community kicks off the holiday season with the lighting of the town's Christmas tree. When road construction forced the town's traditional tree to be cut down, a group of citizens banded together to insure another tree would take its place.

Thanks to the hard work by many, a redwood tree now stands on the museum's front lawn. Each December, a tree lighting ceremony is held with the community gathering to bring in the holiday season.



provided photo

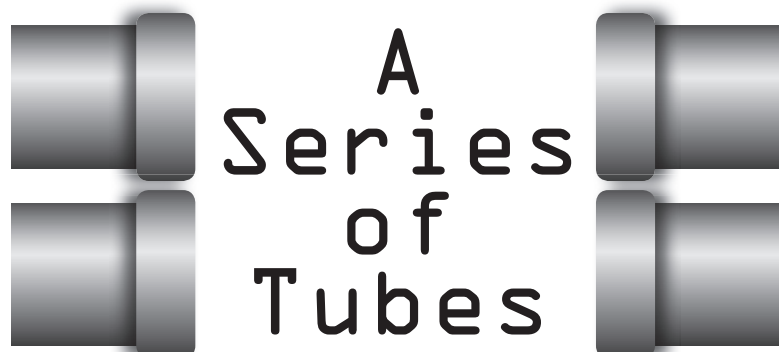
Philomath is home to the Benton County Historical Museum, which, along with some wonderful historical displays, also plays host to a variety of art events.

Benton County Historical Museum

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Where: 1101 Main Street, Philomath
Cost: No admission fee
More Info: (541) 929-6230
bentoncountymuseum.org

The museum's website offers up a variety of information on the museum and current and past exhibits. One page is dedicated to online exhibits, including everything from “Amusements,” “Oregon's Botanical Landscape,” “Can You Hear me Now,” and “They Call it Swamp Adair.”

Another part of the museum complex is the Benton County Historical Society's research room. It is open to the public by appointment only and features a comprehensive collection of resource materials. Scholars, students, genealogists and the curious often visit to search through the priceless archives the society's members have so painstakingly preserved.



Your Guide to the Interwebs

Browser Extensions

Marci Sischo
Webmaster

A person's choice of Internet browser is pretty personal. Some folks fire up Internet Explorer every time they want to surf the web because that's what was installed on their computer when they took it out of the box. Other people only ever use Internet Explorer to navigate to the download section of a different browser's website.

I belong to the second group. Internet Explorer is used solely for downloading a better web browser, in my opinion, and my current favorite browser is Google's Chrome. I used to be a hardcore Firefox advocate, but the last few iterations have been slow, bloated, and crashtacular in my experience.

“But wait,” you say. “What's this ‘Chrome’ you speak of? Firefox? What now?”

Okay, back to basics, then. A web browser is a program on your computer that you use to access the Internet. There are several different browsers to choose from. If you use a PC, it came installed with Internet Explorer, Microsoft's proprietary web browser. If you use a Mac, you got Safari. Those aren't your only two choices, though.

There's the aforementioned Firefox and Chrome, Opera, and a couple dozen more. The three most popular web browsers are Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Chrome.

Pick your favorite browser and give it a workout. Get comfortable using it. Then ask yourself, “What more could this browser be doing for me?” That's where browser extensions come in.

Browser extensions are additional bits of code that you can add to your browser to make them do more and/or better things. They're super-easy to install – generally, it's a one-click process. Depending on your browser or the extension you picked, you may have to close and reopen your browser, too. Something that simple can add a wealth of new features and solve a ton of Internet annoyances – for free!

Let's take a look at some of the features you can add to your browser:

- **AdBlock Plus (bit.ly/KZ5u3R)** is a personal favorite of mine. With this extension, available for Chrome and Firefox, you can stop all those heinously annoying web ads. It's stunning how much one simple extension can improve your Internet experience. Of course, it's worth bearing in mind that some of your favorite sites may be counting on their ad revenue to keep their site up and

running. No worries – Adblock comes with a feature that allows you to enable ads for sites you love and want to support.

- **Facebook Purity (bit.ly/KZ5xfV)**, compatible with most major browsers, is another fantastic extension. It acts as a spam-blocker on Facebook and allows you to almost completely customize your Facebook experience. You can do everything from filter out specific kinds of annoying updates, like game updates, to remove the Timeline view, and more.
- **Greasemonkey (bit.ly/KZ5y3x)** is a Firefox must-have. This one doesn't do much in and of itself, but it does allow you to install and run hundreds of very powerful programs called userscripts on Firefox, which can do anything from add already-familiar extensions to Firefox, to adding enhanced features to browser-based Internet games, to stripping garbage out of Tumblr, to tweaking Google+, to adding productivity tools to your browser ... The options are limitless with Greasemonkey.
- **Web of Trust (bit.ly/KZ5AbC)** adds ratings to your search results to let you know if the website you're about to visit is safe or not.
- **PriceBlink (bit.ly/KZ5CQO)** is the Internet shopper's best friend for Chrome, IE, Firefox, and Safari. As you shop online, it will alert you where to go to purchase a product for the best price.
- **YouTube Options (bit.ly/KZ5Eie)** is Chrome-only, but it's handy enough to make a person think hard about switching to Chrome. This extension lets you tweak your settings so videos don't auto-play on page load, strips ads and those annoying pop-up notes people are compelled to stick all over their videos, let's you pre-load flash videos, and more.

This list doesn't even scratch the surface of all the tweaks you can make and features you can add to your browser. There are extensions that help you manage your social media accounts, automatically shorten URLs, fix websites so they work better, add productivity features like organizers and to-do lists to your browsers, send web articles automatically to your Kindle or eReader of choice for later reading, keep you safer while you browse, anonymize your browsing, safeguard your passwords, and a thousand other things. It's not all puppies and rainbows in the world of browser extensions, though.

Along with all those awesome new features and tricks, it's easy to accidentally install a malicious userscript or extension. It's also easy to overload your browser with extensions, bloating it and slowing it down. Extensions can also conflict with each other, causing websites to work improperly or not at all.

Malicious extensions generally don't last long in official extension repositories like Firefox's add-ons or the Chrome webstore, but it pays to be cautious and check the user reviews before installing a new extension. It also pays to keep a weather eye on your browser's performance to see if it begins to slow down or crash more after an extension is added. This could be a sign that you're running too many extensions, or that one of them is conflicting with another. At that point, you may need to uninstall them one at a time until you find the extension that's causing the problems or weed out a few you don't use as often. I've also had to remove extensions after discovering that they were conflicting with a website itself, causing it to work improperly. With a little care and a dose of good sense, though, finding extensions that make your Internet life easier is simple.

Well, what are you waiting for? Get out there and try on some new browser add-ons!

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



Spencer's Ceramic Showcase

Nora Palmtag
Staff Writer

Cynthia Spencer, Corvallis ceramic artist and LBCC instructor presented her works in a slide show on Friday, May 18 at the LBCC Benton Center. Approximately 20 people attended the presentation of her ceramic works from as early as 1989 to present. She showed slides from her trip to London and other cities.

Starting her work with clay in the late 1970s, Spencer states that for approximately 15 years she had a good run marketing her work through galleries, fairs and trade shows all over the U.S. Using press releases and photos from older posts, Spencer uses every outlet she can to promote and sell her work, especially the galleries where she has had successful past sales experiences in consignments.

Spencer reminisced about her first showing at the Oregon Potters Association Ceramic Showcase, where she made \$500, but she credits Showcase with a lot of her success and experience. Workshops are being offered by Spencer to show new and old artist how to produce and sell the products.

All her work is hand-built, cut from slabs of clay or pinch-coiled into shape by hand and then high-fired in her kiln for durability and longer usage. Firing the pieces in a kiln after using Styrofoam peanuts to make the holes in some of her ceramic pieces as shown above, Spencer shows her ingenious talent.

Happy Child is a collection of "personality-filled" sculptures. Having made 75 - 80, some with carved hearts or commemorative inscriptions, costing from \$350-\$500 each depending on size.

In the Willamette Ceramics Guild website, Spencer states "As Director of Corvallis Fall Festival I have a pulpit for preaching the benefits of art in our daily lives. Plus, I'm totally into helping potters know how to better market their work and making Corvallis an art destination."



Nora Palmtag

Ceramicist and instructor Cynthia Spencer

Future Show

What: 19th Annual Art in the Garden
Where: 1105 NW 30th St Corvallis
When: Saturday, June 2 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Learn more at Spencer's

website (spencerworkinclay.com) and blog (vaseoftheweek.blogspot.com).

"Expect" a Good Chick-Flick

Arielle Nunez
Staff Photographer

"What to Expect When Expecting" may not be Oscars gold, but it sure was interesting.

Marco (Chace Crawford) and Rosie (Anna Kendrick) are the food truck frenemies who become something more, only to be hit with the painfully unexpected.

Evan (Matthew Morrison) and Jules (Cameron Diaz) are the result of a predictable union between dance partners on a "Dancing with the Stars" mock up. Diaz plays her normal psycho-controlling character, while Morrison delivers the unoriginal Jewish jokes.

Gary (Ben Falcone) and Wendy (Elizabeth Banks) make up the loveable couple who have been trying to have children for two years and finally conceive when they stop trying. Then there's the sad competition with Gary's non-eyebags father, Ramsey.

Ramsey (Dennis Quaid) and Skyler (Brooklyn Decker) - The seemingly typical gold-digger relationship that actually turns out pretty well. However, they were the most "UGHGHHHHH!" couple of the movie. I mean, Decker was great - her character was multidimensional.

Alex (Rodrigo Santoro) and Holly (Jennifer Lopez)



- The couple who has resorted to adoption. One's ready for kids, one's not. Can you guess who?

Oh, and there's the AWESOME Dudes Group that you witnessed in the trailer. If you want nothing else from this movie, but comedy gold, then watch "Expecting" for these guys alone. If you're a fan of crude side of humor, you're definitely going to get it, considering how director Kirk Jones cast Rebel Wilson as Wendy's horrifyingly hilarious sidekick. You'd probably remember her as the twin from "Bridesmaids." Insert shiver session here.

While "Expecting" wasn't perfect, it did a great job of showing the joyful ups and painful downs of pregnancy and what could happen. The real stars of this movie were Banks, Falcone, and Kendrick, hands down - Kendrick surprisingly so. I enjoyed watching her in a film where her character actually had substance, because her gifts as an actress really shone through.

If you're looking for a good time perfectly balanced in humor and sincerity, then "Expecting" is a good chick-flick choice for you.

Just ignore the preposterous ... you know, like Decker's character popping a kid out because she sneezed. Yeah, because that's not going to happen.









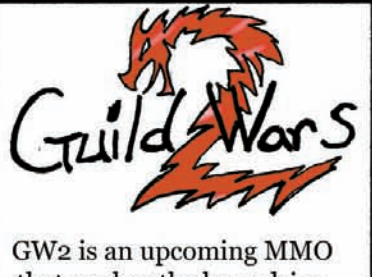

COMING ATTRACTIONS

 Chernobyl Diaries Rated: R Genre: Scary	 Moonrise Kingdom Rated: PG-13 Genre: Quirky	 Men in Black 3 Rated: PG-13 Genre: Alien
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Sources: IMDb, Yahoo! Movies, Fandango.com

Gamer's Log: Guild Wars 2

Mason Le Britton © 2012
Groovysweet.wordpress.com

 GW2 is an upcoming MMO that pushes the boundaries of conventional MMOs. Plus it has no subscription fee.	 By pre-purchasing the game, I gained access to the beta weekend events.	 My friend and I started off testing out several of the eight professions.	 Leave The hay Alone! We traveled around the human starting area, protecting farms and fighting off centaurs.
 We fought in WvWvW, a war-zone with three servers, each having 100s of players fighting across four huge maps.	 Splitting from the herd, we went after smaller targets: the enemy supply camps.	 Move Faster Please Our group of four managed to take the supply camp, cutting off their supplies and claiming them for ourselves.	 This is going To hurt With 3 hours left in the beta weekend event, we tried our luck in a zone above our level.
 Healing boob Power Activate Eventually, I settled on Guardian, while my friend carried on with Thief.		 MUST Play MORE! GW2 smashed my expectations, but there are two downsides to the game: It makes all other games dull in comparison, also it's not out yet.	