



PHOTO: LBCC SPACE EXPLORATION CLUB  
The club launches a 300 gr test balloon on Jan. 14. The balloon they will use for the eclipse will be much larger, at 1400 gr.

# ROADRUNNERS TAKE FLIGHT

LBCC Space Club will capture rare footage of upcoming eclipse

The Linn-Benton Community College Space Exploration Club is taking part in a historic project.

Students of the LBCC Space Exploration Club are currently working on a high altitude balloon project for the upcoming solar eclipse that will occur later this year on Aug. 21. This eclipse will be the first total solar eclipse in the continental United States since 1979.

The club is one of 54 teams across the nation that is working with the NASA Space Grant Network to conduct balloon flights from one of 15-20 locations across the eclipse's path as it passes over the country. The 54 teams will launch video payloads aboard high

altitude balloons that will take near-space footage of the eclipse. The video images will then be sent live to the NASA website, where it will be livestreamed and viewed by people around the world. Near-space footage of a total solar eclipse has only been taken once in history, and has never been livestreamed before.

"How often can community college students say they worked on something seen by tens of millions of people?" said Levi Willmeth, student manager of the project.

The LBCC Space Exploration Club hopes to collaborate with Oregon State University engineers and launch their balloon aboard one of Oregon State's research ships off the coast of Oregon. The group is hard at work perfecting the launch process and the technology involved with the video payload. They hope to be ready for the dry run of the final project that will occur later this year in June.



PHOTO: LBCC SPACE EXPLORATION CLUB  
The club at the Jan. 14 launch.

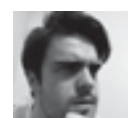
This project is just the latest in a line of ambitious endeavors the club has worked on in recent years. The group built and programmed a scientific payload that flew on board a NASA research rocket at the Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia in 2015. Just last year, the club worked on another rocket borne payload known as a gamma ray polarimeter, which is designed to measure polarized radiation from gamma rays in space.

"This can be a real gateway for a career in aerospace," said Parker Swanson, club adviser and LBCC instructor of computer programming, networks and operating systems.



PHOTO: LBCC SPACE EXPLORATION CLUB  
An aerial view of LBCC from the clubs launch.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the Space Exploration Club and this once-in-a-lifetime project is encouraged to contact Swanson or Willmeth. You can also visit one of the club's meetings, which are held on Saturdays at 10 a.m. in IA 215. Email: [parker.swanson@linnbenton.edu](mailto:parker.swanson@linnbenton.edu)



STORY BY  
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## Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers

"The wall I worry about is not the wall on our southern border, the walls I worry about are the walls between our communities that is building silence between each other," said Sami Al-AbdRabbuh.

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## Patriot Skip Day

Standing up  
Trump?

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THE LINN-BENTON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUTER

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 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:

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# WEEKLY TRUMP WATCH

A quick review of President Trump's actions over the last week

**Feb. 7:**

- The Department of Defense inquired about renting space at Trump Tower to "better protect Trump and his family."

**Feb. 8:**

- Melania Trump filed a lawsuit against the Daily Mail for publishing articles labeling her as an "elite escort" in the "sex business," thereby damaging her brand name and reputation as first lady.

**Feb. 9:**

- The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals refused to remove the temporary restraining order blocking the Trump administration's "Muslim ban." The vote was unanimous, at 3-0.

**Feb. 10:**

- The Trump administration directed federal agents to commence raids on the homes and workplaces of suspected undocumented immigrants, in the hopes of detaining them. A total of at least 680 individuals have been arrested since last week.

- In an impromptu meeting with reporters on Air Force One, Trump claimed he would pass another executive order if the current travel ban doesn't succeed as he hopes.

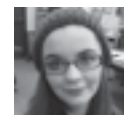
**Feb. 12:**

- Trump officials refused to defend Michael Flynn, Trump's National Security Advisor, after it was revealed that Flynn had discussed American sanctions on Russia

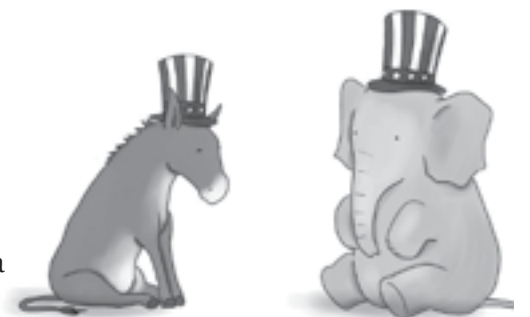
with Russian officials prior to Trump's inauguration, after he had claimed not to.

**Feb. 13:**

- Michael Flynn, Trump's National Security Advisor, resigns due to his involvement with the Russians prior to Trump's inauguration.



STORY BY  
KATELYN BORING  
@K8DOESTHINGS



## CAMPUS VOICE

If you could rule the world for one day, what is the one thing you would ban?

**CHRISTOPHER MIKKELSON**  
**EDUCATION**

"IF I COULD BE THE SUPREME RULER OF THE PLANET EARTH FOR ONE DAY I WOULD BAN PEOPLE INTERRUPTING EACH OTHER, BECAUSE PEOPLE SHOULD BE LISTENING AND NOT ASSUMING THAT THEY KNOW THE NEXT WORDS THAT ARE GONNA COME OUT OF SOMEBODY'S MOUTH."

**DALEY HESS**  
**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

"I WOULD DEFINITELY BAN DISCRIMINATION, BECAUSE IT CREATES CRIME AND HATE."

**MACKENZIE FOOTE**  
**NURSING**

"I DON'T LIKE THE PEOPLE THAT HATE EACH OTHER OR PEOPLE THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST EACH OTHER, SO I WOULD BAN HATE, AND MAKE EVERYBODY LOVE EACH OTHER."

**SHAUNA MILLER**  
**CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES**  
"IF I COULD RULE THE WORLD FOR ONE DAY I WOULD BAN RACISM, BECAUSE I THINK EVERYONE DESERVES RESPECT NO MATTER WHAT."

**JUSTEN NOLL**  
**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

"SO IF I COULD IMPOSE A BAN, I WOULD BAN PARTY ALLIANCES, BECAUSE I THINK PARTY ALLIANCES ARE VERY DIVISIVE, AND IS WHAT IS STOPPING US FROM GETTING STUFF DONE."



STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SAUL BARAJAS





PHOTO: ELLIOT POND  
Students For Life in the LBCC courtyard on Feb. 10.

# AGAINST PLANNED PARENTHOOD

*Pro-life club hosts table event for student options*

The Students For Life club of Linn-Benton Community College hosted a table event in the courtyard of the Albany campus Feb. 10.

“So this is basically about comparing and contrasting Planned Parenthood with [Federally Qualified Health Centers],” said Steven Bowser, former president of the Pro-life Club. “As you know, in the news, Planned Parenthood could lose funding from the government. So if that happens where would women get health care? This is what FQHC’s offer, they offer a lot of stuff, minus abortion, but they offer a lot of comprehensive healthcare which is cool.”

The set up had several posters with facts pertaining to Planned Parenthood, as well as another chain of

health facilities known as Community Health Center FQHC’s.

According to the posters, they claim that based on a study from 2009 by the National Association Community Health Center, if \$548.4 million dollars were reallocated to FQHC’s rather than Planned Parenthood, it would create 47,290 jobs and create \$5 billion in economic benefits. These estimates could not be verified.

The content also stated that Planned Parenthood serves 2.7 million patients to FQHC’s 22.8 million patients, as well as stating that Planned Parenthood performs only one-third of the nation’s abortions.

The table itself had two coin jars with a pile of cardboard coins. The purpose

for the coin system was for students to vote whether their tax dollars went to FQHC’s or Planned Parenthood. They also provided information cards, summarizing and asking questions such as “Should we be giving money to Planned Parenthood or to Federally Qualified Health Centers?”

“We want to inform our community about the options that women have and especially women in a crisis pregnancy situation, where they can go, and to put people’s mind at ease about what happens if Planned Parenthood gets defunded, so we want to say there are places people can go,” said Bowser.

In response to the table event on Feb. 10, Planned Parenthood volunteers handed out cookies and condoms in the

courtyard of the Albany Campus on Feb. 14, to educate students on the services Planned Parenthood provides.

“Part of the reason why we are here is because we are concerned about the attack on Planned Parenthood,” said Loren Ford, psychology professor. “We are here to support women’s rights and the women’s movement.”

The Students For Life club also had a booth on Feb. 14, where they encouraged students to learn about the club, and options for pregnant women.



STORY BY  
HANNAH BUFFINGTON  
@JOURNALISMBUFF

# THE FINAL MOMENT

*LB women’s basketball falls in hard-fought game*

Linn-Benton’s Activity Center was the site of a hard-fought battle for a run towards playoff contention in the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) on Saturday Feb. 11.

Linn-Benton Roadrunners played the Portland Panthers in a game that proved both these teams are deserving of a playoff spot. The score was 31-28 in favor of the Panthers at halftime, where both teams only scored 15 points in the second quarter.

Starting the third quarter, the crowd was getting into the game. The Panthers were able to extend the halftime deficit by six going into the fourth quarter outscoring the Roadrunners 12-6, en route to a 43-34 lead. Freshman Sara Henderson lead LBCC at the foul line, hitting six of her 13 attempts and finishing with eight points and five rebounds.

“I really struggled this game especially at the free throw line,” said Henderson.

They also got a healthy amount of production from Freshman Kasey

Anderson who had six points as well as eight rebounds as they entered the fourth quarter. Roadrunners went on a 7-2 run to trim the lead down to 45-41 before Portland called a timeout with about five minutes left in the game. After the timeout Portland extended their lead back up to six after hitting a clutch shot with two minutes to go left in the game.

“The team has been working on camaraderie as the season starts to end, and we push for the playoffs,” said Henderson.

LBCC then called a timeout, and were able to make two three-point field goals to tie it up at 47-47. With one minute to go Portland was able to hit a clutch field goal, and the foul shot to give them the lead 50-47. The team struggled in the closing moments at the free throw line missing four attempts in the span of 20 seconds.

In response, Portland hit a three pointer to extend the lead six with 15 seconds left to go. LBCC called another timeout, and Courtney Landis hit a three pointer to

trim the lead to three with eight seconds left. In the final moments of the game LBCC went for a steal and couldn’t come up with it, leaving a final score of 53-50 in a Panthers win.

“The game was tight the whole time we just fell short at the end,” said Anderson.

The team has an important game coming up against Southwestern Oregon at home on Feb.15 at 5:30 pm. Then they travel out to Clackamas on Feb. 18 to continue their race for a spot in the NWAC playoffs.



STORY AND PHOTO BY  
JOSHUA KNIGHT  
@JBKNIGHT5





# LIFE OF A POET LAUREATE

LBCC's very own encourages students to use their voice

His smile is contagious, broadcasting warmth throughout the empty spaces in between the DAC's comfy couches and each of the relaxed club members. LBCC's Poet Laureate Christopher Mikkelson, 26, welcomes the Poetry Club members with radiance and familiarity as they enter the Diversity Achievement Center for their Tuesday afternoon club meeting.

"He's got a little bit of magic and I like that, I'm drawn to that," said Robin Havenick, LBCC's Poetry Club advisor.

Mikkelson, who's only been attending LBCC for about a year and a half, took on the role as poet laureate in the fall term of 2016. With a new term and new students always ahead, the poet laureate organizes and leads campus poetry events, hosting the weekly club meetings, and being the face and advocate of the club.

Mikkelson's role as poet laureate isn't just about organizing events.

"At the national level," Mikkelson said, "it is an honor for a fantastic artist in the form and that comes with the responsibility of being a supporter and a patron of that art form and encouraging its growth, encouraging people to enter into that art form confidently and to continue to develop themselves as well as to continue developing yourself as an artist well in it."

"At the LBCC level, I take it exactly the same way."

He is the center of a no-judgment space and takes pride in showing support and encouragement to anyone who steps in -- and out -- of Poetry Club.

"He is thoroughly engaged in the student body and that is extraordinary," said Havenick. "That makes me feel strong and proud for the students on this campus. Whether they know him or not, he's standing up for them. It's important for him that our students have a voice, and that makes me proud."

When asked if being the poet laureate is a big responsibility, Mikkelson's gentle smile embraced all uncertainty that may come along with the title.

"Art is big and art is small. It can make a large difference, even at the smallest amount in many people. So yeah, it's something to be taken seriously, but not too seriously. I mean, it's also just fun. Poetry is finding your own voice, and finding things to say with it is always going to be enjoyable," said Mikkelson.

"And if it's not, for goodness sakes, find a different art form," he said with a laugh.

Taking on a structured leadership role -- and rocking it -- isn't the only thing Mikkelson has had the chance to embrace. He has also made some really good friends along the way.

Ceph Poklemba, a member of the Poetry Club and now a good friend, met him at one of the club meetings sometime last year. Poklemba said Mikkelson's tenacious personality is one of the things that he admires about his friend.

"He is very perseverant and he doesn't tend to get that overwhelmed a lot of the time. He tends to handle himself very well," said Poklemba. "I tend to challenge

## At a Glance

Chris's tips for aspiring poets:

"Trying out a new form is a great way to get around writer's block, but the form should never block a poem from being written. Save and savor every draft; editing does not sacrifice authenticity."

Want to know more about the club and upcoming events?

- The LBCC Poetry Club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3 p.m. in the DAC

- The next on-campus event Mikkelson is hosting is a slam-inspired reading and open mic called "Word Mob," on Friday, Mar. 17, 7 p.m., in the Benton Center

- Stay tuned for a possible LBCC poetry podcast in the works, "bringing poems to the air -- and the internet."

myself sometimes when I'm emulating him when I'm writing poetry to broaden my vocabulary or use words that I wouldn't usually use... [Mikkelson] has a very eloquent sense of wording."

Poklemba isn't the only one that Mikkelson's tenacious attitude has attracted. Lina Demorais, another member of the Poetry Club, said she admires Mikkelson's "ability to engage multiple people and make them feel comfortable enough to engage in difficult topics."

Throughout organizing and keeping up with poetry events, writing workshops, and club meetings, Mikkelson said the most rewarding part of being the poet laureate so far is "being able to see the community grow and the way that people are listening to each other and making that Poetry Club space a safe space and an accepting one."



STORY AND PHOTO BY SAMANTHA GUY @SAMGZWRITE

## THE COMMONS Cafeteria

\*\*\* MENU \*\*\*  
2/15 - 2/21

**Wednesday: 2/15** Beef Stroganoff over Buttered Noodles, Pan Fried Pork Cutlet with Apples Bacon and Celery, Stuffed Portabello\*. Soups: Mulligatawny, and Potato Cheddar\*

**Thursday: 2/16** Braised Lamb, Hazelnut Crusted Salmon with Frangelico Beurre Blanc\*, Macaroni and Cheese. Soups: Italian Sausage, and Vegetarian Lentil\*.

**Monday: 2/16** Holiday

**Tuesday: 2/14** Poached Salmon with Saffron Hollandaise\* over Couscous, Meatloaf with Mushroom-Shallot Cream Sauce, Layered Ratatouille. Soups: Egg Flower\*, and Split Pea\*.

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-1:15 p.m.



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**“The only connection we have is the human connection.”**

- Al-AbdRabbuh

# BUILDING BRIDGES, BREAKING BARRIERS

*Corvallis School Board member and educator encourages human connection*

Sami Al-AbdRabbuh emerged from a long hallway with an apologetic smile on his face.

“I’m sorry, I have an urgent meeting, I hope it will be done in 20 or 25 minutes,” said Al-AbdRabbuh.

Al-AbdRabbuh is the Interim Care and Conduct Coordinator and Arabic Cultural and Language Adviser at INTO OSU in the International Living-Learning Center, a building designed to promote a sense of community amongst international students. He’s also an engineer, former (and potential future) political candidate, Corvallis School Board member, educator and Peer Leadership Adviser at OSU, host of “Chariots of Curiosity” on KBVR, and PhD candidate. He is currently writing a book, as well.

“If you see my calendar, it will be overwhelming and colorful, but I do work a lot. As long as I’m not sleeping, I’m either working or I have scheduled fun-time,” said Al-AbdRabbuh. “Sometimes I work 60 [hours], sometimes 80, even.”

While he said he’s been accused of spreading himself too thin, he takes inspiration from Leonardo Da Vinci in his ability to handle so many endeavors simultaneously saying that he’s driven by “passion and curiosity and media and invention.”

In a short walk on the OSU campus, at least five people approached Al-AbdRabbuh, in addition to several phone calls, each receiving an enthusiastic response; it was clear that he’s passionate about people.

“Finding the highest or deepest value I can give to the community... Everyday I’m waking up, I think what is the deepest and highest value that I can use my time in,” he said.

Although Al-AbdRabbuh was born in Tuscon, Ariz., his mother is a Syrian refugee and his father is Saudi. He spent most of his childhood outside of the U.S., including Bahrain, which he left after witnessing government repression of protests.

His mother’s experience as a refugee contributed to Al-AbdRabbuh’s motivation to be an advocate for others.

“I feel very fortunate I had someone there, many people around her helping her out, and she’s safe now... I can only imagine someone here feeling vulnerable,” said

Al-AbdRabbuh. “We are one family, and I believe in the idea that borders are superficial. The only connection we have is the human connection. So when I see someone vulnerable and I see them without the power or the rights that I have, there is only one moral duty, it is to make sure they get access to what they need and have honorable living.”

Al-AbdRabbuh’s knowledge of history and his experience in Bahrain informed his current positions as solemn, yet proactive.

“I read history, I saw the uprising in Bahrain, I saw how it impacted the community, so I see it only necessary to really rise up and speak up whenever it’s needed,” he said.

Even with all of his self-proclaimed privilege as an educated U.S. citizen, Al-AbdRabbuh has still experienced and witnessed oppression in his time here.

“I am Muslim in America and it’s not really quite beautiful. If I tell you about some concepts, very honorable concepts, they have been whitewashed for 30 years now, where you’ll say ‘woah, that’s a concept that I think is un-American,’ just because how the media is presenting you what you know about us.”

Echoing what many people involved with underrepresented communities say, Al-AbdRabbuh has felt unable to speak about his culture at times.

“It’s unfortunate. Sometimes I can’t speak up about my heritage, about my faith, about the ideals that I live by, because they’ve been whitewashed. Or they’ve been, in the words of one of the students: ‘there have been propaganda that did not allow us to connect with each other.’ I either can be silent, or be respectful and gentle but still vocal. I chose the latter,” said Al-AbdRabbuh.

Al-AbdRabbuh had a message for people who feel threatened or unsafe in the current climate.

“This is your home. If it takes me to my last breath to make you feel this is your home, this is your home... Even if you’re visiting here and you’re coming here for your degree, or if you’re a son or a daughter of an immigrant, or if you’re an immigrant yourself, if you have documentation or not, I want you to speak up,” said Al-AbdRabbuh. “And maybe speaking up is a

danger or is a risk, that’s true, but find someone who you can trust. Find a community that could listen to you. Not necessarily a community that looks like you only, maybe you can start with that.”

Although Al-AbdRabbuh stressed the importance of remaining safe, he expressed the belief that people can benefit from reaching beyond their typical comfort zone, relating this to his own experiences. He added that he feels it is the responsibility of people with rights and power to reach out to those who do not have the same access.

“If you’re not speaking to anyone else other than yourself, then you’re not in the community that you need to be at. I’ve made that call sometimes, too... change my friend group, change the community I live in because I felt like that. And now I feel I belong because I can connect with everyone,” said Al-AbdRabbuh. “Trump supporters who have all the ideals-- or some of the ideals that contradict with my beliefs, some of the preconceptions about Muslims or Arabs that’s totally different from what I believe, but I try to find something that I can connect with them where they can trust me and I can trust them in our encounters.”

Al-AbdRabbuh is committed to building communication and connections between communities.

“If you’re a Latina, or you’re a Muslim, or if you’re Transgender, and something is going on for you, don’t only speak with those who you feel at ease with, maybe push your boundaries a little bit beyond with people who you could still feel safe with, but they might listen you to. They might empathize with you. Right now, we’re building huge silence. The wall I worry about is not the wall on our southern border, the walls I worry about are the walls between our communities that is building silence between each other,” said Al-AbdRabbuh.

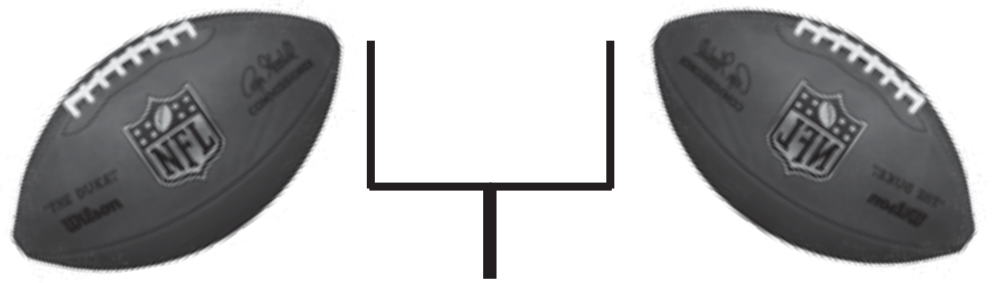


STORY AND PHOTO BY  
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# PATRIOT SKIP DAY

Six Patriots players will not attend White House visit



Winning the Super Bowl; it's one of the highest achievements in all of American sports. This year's game, Super Bowl 51, pitted the New England Patriots against the Atlanta Falcons. The Patriots ended up winning in spectacular fashion, coming back from 25 points down to win in overtime. The overtime period was a first in Super Bowl history, and the Patriots won by a score of 34-28.

One of the perks that always comes from winning the Super Bowl is the annual White House Visit. The players and staff from the winning organization visit the president and present him with a jersey of the team, usually with the jersey number correlating to the number of the presidency. However, six players from the Patriots have already stated that they will not be in attendance at the meeting later in the year. The players are tight end Martellus Bennett, defensive back Devin McCourty, defensive tackle Alan Branch, defensive end Chris Long, running back LeGarrette Blount, and linebacker Dont'a Hightower.

This hasn't exactly come as a surprise. Both Bennett and McCourty were seen at the beginning of the year holding their fists in the air during the National Anthem as a symbol of protest following Colin Kaepernick's protest. These protests came as a result of the police brutality incidents last year, and the players believe that there is still racism in America today.

In an interview after the Super Bowl Bennett said, "I

haven't thought about it. I am not going to go." He also mentioned that people know how he feels, and that he could elaborate later on in life.

McCourty apparently broke the news via text message to TIME magazine saying:

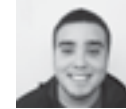
"I'm not going to the White House. Basic reason for me is I don't feel accepted in the White House. With the president having so many strong opinions and prejudices I believe certain people might feel accepted there while others won't."

Branch stated that he is going to "hang out with the family instead." Hightower, who actually skipped the meeting in 2015, said he's been there and done that. Long claimed on Twitter to have already planned on skipping but hadn't yet been asked about it. Lastly, Blount said he didn't feel welcome in the White House, similar to McCourty. It's also worth noting that Long is the only one of the six players who isn't African-American.

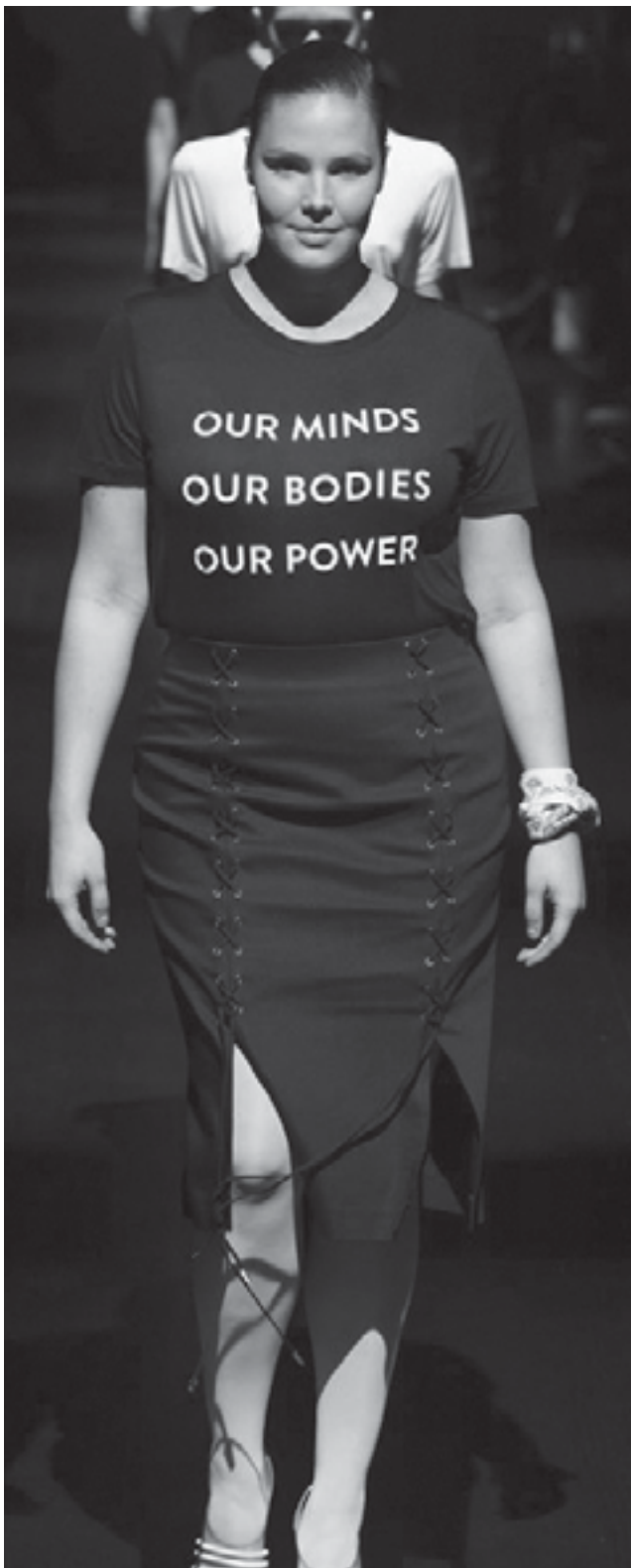
What's so interesting about this is that this will be the first White House visit from a professional team during Trump's presidency. Also, while there has certainly been some backlash already, some have forgotten that Tom Brady actually skipped the White House visit in 2015 after the Patriots victory in Super Bowl 49. Brady claimed he had a "family commitment" but was actually seen working out on April 23, the day of the visit. The main speculation was due to a White House comment in which they made a joke about "Deflategate;" the

controversy in the 2015 NFL in which the Patriots were accused of purposely under-inflating footballs in the AFC Championship Game against the Indianapolis Colts. Brady was however in attendance at the previous three White House visits in 2001, 2003, and 2004, all while George Bush was still in office. Other professional athletes who skipped the meeting during Obama's presidency include Tim Thomas, of the NHL's Boston Bruins, and Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk of the NFL. Thomas claimed to skip because he wasn't a fan of President Obama, and Birk's reason was because Obama praised Planned Parenthood.

Another interesting thing to look forward to from this is what will happen at future White House visits from professional teams in the NBA, MLB, MLS, and NHL. All of America's professional sports feature a wide variety of races amongst their players, with a 2015 report stating that 74.4 percent of NBA players were African American, according to Richard Lapchick. Whether you support President Trump or not, he has clearly rubbed a lot of people the wrong way with past and present comments, it will be riveting to see how athletes will interact with him during his four year presidency.



COLUMN BY  
NICK FIELDS  
@NICKYY\_ROZAYY



Candice Huffine is perhaps one of the first curvy girls to walk down a prominent designer's runway. This photo taken of the Prabal Gurung runway is courtesy of Business of Fashion.

## CURVY GIRLS LOVE FASHION, TOO

*Fashion often skips its most important customer, and it's time that changes.*

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:** Tim Gunn, fashion guru and that guy from Project Runway, wants to get rid of the term "plus-sized." I do too.

Although we are increasingly being more inclusive to women who are larger than a size 12, there's still a lot of work to be done.

For example: I'm a size 10, which definitely feels like an "inbetween size." Larges at Forever 21, for example, look way too small, but when I pop over into their curvy sizes department, I feel weird. I awkwardly smile at the curvy girl scanning the racks, and continue looking around regardless of my semi self-conscious feeling only to find nothing in an XL. My \$25 gift card gets spent on hangers instead, a much better investment in the long run.

Likewise, the super popular curvy girl store Torrid also sells to the size 10 individual. I scan the comments section of their Facebook post that informs their customers of this: one girl claims that she feels that's unfair to curvy girls, who rely on Torrid to find cute clothes in their size. For me, it's a simple blessing that they understand the struggle.

Curvy girls should never have to go through the stigma of having their clothes be called "plus size." The average size for adult women is now a 16-18. This is not my place to tell the fashion world that they're being non-inclusive; I could (and should) write an entire article about how they've been the most progressive industries of history with their acceptance of gay fashion designers and the legacy of Coco Chanel and the like. Rather, this is more of an insight as to how popular plus-sized retailers have kept their success up.

Modcloth.com has been a favorite of mine for a solid five years. Their unique, vintage-inspired clothing from countless designers (from Betsey Johnson to the footwear brand Irregular Choice) is not the sole factor of what makes Modcloth so successful. On their About Us page, they explain that success can also be attributed to their extensive size selection "because we believe fashion is for everybody" and their outstanding customer service.

Kellie Brown of the blog "And I Get Dressed" discussed with the Man Repeller team in the website's Round Table discussion on Plus Sized Women in Fashion about the trials of trying to find cute clothes in your size. She states right off the back that retailers often don't regard the plus-sized girl as having her own personality, and therefore don't give her clothes to boot. While straight-sized women can be whatever

they want to be (Retro! Sporty! Edgy! Minimalistic!), curvy girls are often denied this opportunity. But despite the setbacks, Brown has done a beautiful job of flaunting every last part of her figure with pride.

Meanwhile, Man Repeller's curvaceous graphic designer Emily Zirimis is tired of curvy clothes being on the third floor, tucked behind the children's clothes, something that's a depressingly common trend.

"What message is that sending me as the buyer?" she asks. "Why are we hiding the plus sizes? Why not integrate all of the sizes into one clothing rack. Why not [sell] a size 2 to 28 in the same style?"

Tim Gunn explains in his pro-curve video that the designers he's talked with are simply not willing to take up the challenge, and this has some devastating consequences. For an industry that's seems to be made up of a series of feminists and equal rights supporters, it doesn't take the time to reach out to what could potentially be its most important customer.

In a world full of great fast fashion, curvy girls are denied the luxury of getting to be part of their trends. Again, in a two-story Forever 21, straight-sized fashions are ever prominent while the curvy girl get's an eighth of the store for her clothing needs.

Would it be too much to ask popular retailers and high-end designers to be a little more curve-conscious? I don't think so.



COLUMN BY  
MORGAN CONNELLY  
@MADEINOREGON97







## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb. 15**  
 Culture Tables  
 • DAC at noon  
 Women's basketball game (HOME)  
 • 5:30 p.m. Albany LBCC campus  
 Men's basketball game (HOME)  
 • 7:30 p.m. Albany LBCC campus

**Feb. 16**  
 CTE Signing Day  
 • Dave Turin from the TV show Gold Rush will be in the in the Forum on LBCC's main campus from 2 to 3 p.m.  
 Arun Gandhi speaks at Lane Community College  
 • "Gandhi and Nonviolence: Relevance for the 21st Century" at the LCC Main Campus Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Feb. 18**  
 2017 Corvallis Polar Plunge  
 • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Crystal Lake Sports Fields, Fischer Ln, Corvallis, 97333

**Feb. 19**  
 Willamette Sportsman Show  
 • 9 a.m. Linn County Fairgrounds, 3700 Knox Butte Rd E, Albany, 97322.  
 Willamette Valley Symphony  
 • 4 p.m. Ashbrook Independent School, 4045 SW Research Way, Corvallis, 97333.

**Feb. 20**  
 College Closed

**Feb. 22**  
 Culture Tables  
 • ELCI (English Language & Culture Institute)

### LBCC Chess Club

Gathers weekly in the Commons Cafeteria  
 Mondays: 12pm-3pm  
 Tuesdays: 10am-1pm  
**Beginners Welcome!**



**DID YOU KNOW?**

If you somehow found a way to extract all of the gold from the bubbling core of our lovely little planet, you would be able to cover all of the land in a layer of gold up to your knees.

LBCC Performing Arts presents

# Winnie the Pooh

February 4, 11, 18 at 2pm

[linnbenton.edu/tickets](http://linnbenton.edu/tickets)

## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

**Level:**  
1 2  
3 4

SOLUTION TO LAST EDITION'S PUZZLE

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

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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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





COURTESY: FX

In this day and age, the comic book TV series has become every bit as prevalent and well-made as the comic book movie, and FX has continued that level of quality with the series "Legion." While adapting this Marvel series is a lot to live up to based on the comic's legacy, Noah Hawley has crafted one of the best series on FX since his adaptation of the Coen brothers' classic "Fargo."

The series follows David Haller (Stevens) as he is being contained in the Clockworks Psychiatric Hospital. While many believe Haller has been schizophrenic since childhood, his experiences while committed instead show the awakenings of his mutant powers. With the help of fellow patients Sydney "Syd" Barrett (Keller)

and Lenny "Cornflakes" Busker (Plaza), Haller escapes from the compound and goes on a journey to master his growing powers in a dark and mind-bending experience that makes it one of the best shows on FX right now.

Although the comic book of the same name by Chris Claremont and Bill Sienkiewicz is one of the more cultish spinoffs of the "X-Men" universe, Hawley's approach to the material captures the feeling of dealing with mental illness far better than many other works of fiction that are explicitly about these conditions.

The series also boasts a highly distinct visual style that compliments Haller's role as an "unreliable narrator." The production design combines elements of period styles from the 1960s with modern flourishes. "Syd"

## TV SERIES REVIEW:

### Legion

**NETWORK:** FX

**Airs:** Wednesdays at 10pm

**STARRING:** Dan Stevens, Rachel Keller, Aubrey Plaza, and Jeremie Harris

**PRODUCTION:** 20th Century Fox Television, 26 Keys Productions, FX Productions, Marvel television and Walt Disney Television.

**GENRE:** Action, Drama, Sci-Fi

**RATED:** TV-MA-LV

**OVERALL RATING:** ★★★★★

REVIEW BY **STEVEN PRYOR**

Barrett is named for the late guitarist of Pink Floyd, and the facility at Clockworks has a new HDTV despite the patients all being dressed in '60s-style clothing and hairstyles. Haller's journey is also shown in a haunting opening from infancy to adulthood set to "Happy Jack" by The Who.

While the series could go in any direction from the pilot, "Legion" has already established itself as one of the most promising shows of 2017 from the word go. Be sure to keep an eye on where the journey goes over the course of this year, since Hawley has easily done the lineage of the comic justice with this series.



COURTESY: PARAMOUNT PICTURES

"Rings" lacks everything a horror film should have. It's boring, it's obvious, and there's nothing unique or special about it. Disappointment is an understatement.

"Rings" follows roughly the same formula as the last two films; the characters and setting revolve around a mysterious video that kills you seven days after you watch it. Now, it should be noted that, in the trailer, a scene is featured in which the video starts playing on every screen aboard a passenger jet, causing chaos. Judging from the way this scene is presented, you would logically assume it takes place during the climax. Nope, it's the cold open. The delivery is nonsensical and, despite resulting in a plane crash, this event is only mentioned once in passing during the rest of the film. It's a completely unnecessary and ineffective scene. And this is just the first of this film's many problems.

The actual story revolves around Julia (Lutz) and the search for her missing boyfriend Holt (Roe), who recently left for college. This leads her to discover Holt secretly working with Gabriel (Galecki), a professor at the college, who is trying to study the video and its effects on people. What follows is roughly the same plot as the original "Ring" film; a quest to discover the origins of the video and the deadly ghost girl who appears at the end of your seven days. Something that should be mentioned is the absurd behavior of certain secondary characters. In the films universe, you can pass the curse on to someone else by making a copy of the video for them to watch. One girl panics when she realizes her seven days are up and she forgot to pass it on. Really? She forgot to save her own life for seven days?

In addition to such inconsistencies, the story deliberately tries to be complex when it is simple, which just comes off as confusing and lame. Not to mention the

line delivery is so poor that in some scenes it feels like they only did one take and called it good. Plus, there is nothing visually exciting about the film, and it is more likely to put you to sleep than keep you on the edge of your seat. To give you an idea of how ridiculous it can get, there's a scene where the video starts playing on someone's smart phone, and you wouldn't be faulted for assuming a tiny version of the ghost girl was going to come out of that screen. Unfortunately, this doesn't happen, but things get so ludicrous at times that anyone would expect it.

Arguably the biggest sin this film committed is the ending. Now, if you go in knowing absolutely nothing about this film, you might be pleasantly surprised by the ending, and how it gives an eerie but sensible twist that leaves the door open for another film. However, if you've watched the trailer, you might be a little angry. The film's "twist" ending is right there in the trailer. And the film ends in such a smug way like "They'll never see this coming!" But you can. Without even seeing the full film. Either the people who edited and distributed the trailer are extremely incompetent, or they assumed that their audience would be too stupid to notice. And that is reason enough not to give them your money. If you're interested in this whole concept, and haven't seen the original "Ring," go ahead and do that. The scares may not have held up so great over the years, but at least the original feels like an actual film where people paid attention to what they were doing.

## MOVIE REVIEW:

### Rings

**STARRING:** Matilda Lutz, Alex Roe, Johnny Galecki

**WRITTEN BY:** David Loucka, Jacob Estes

**DIRECTED BY:** F. Javier Guitierrez

**GENRE:** Horror, Drama

**RATED:** PG-13

**OVERALL RATING:** ★☆☆☆☆

REVIEW BY **TRUMAN TEMPLETON**



**NETFLIX**  
RECOMMENDATION

### "Big Bad Wolves"

Heralded by Quentin Tarantino as the best film of 2013, this Israeli crime thriller features excellent acting, superb special effects, and a chilling and tense atmosphere that will leave you guessing until the very end.