

The Commuter



FEBRUARY 10, 2016

COMMUTER

Cover Credit:
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On the cover:
Melissa Chandler - Front
Truman Templeton - Back

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.

Letters always welcome.

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LOOKING FOR A HOME?

Benton Habitat For Humanity Seeking Families with Housing Need Corvallis, February 2, 2016: The application process for Benton Habitat for Humanity's next Partner Family Selection is now open. The upcoming meetings (below) will outline the home that will be coming available and the necessary qualifications of a Habitat Partner Family:

Monday, Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church at 2650 NW Highland Drive, Corvallis

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church at 2540 Applegate St., Philomath

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church at 114 SW 8th St., Corvallis

Families are considered for the housing

program based on the following criteria:

- **Have a need for adequate shelter.**
- **Have financial stability to pay mortgage.**
- **Be willing to partner with Habitat & provide "sweat equity."**
- **Are currently a resident of Benton County.**
- **Be able to verify citizenship or permanent residency.**

Benton Habitat for Humanity observes fair housing laws and therefore does not base family selection on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual preference, handicap, or national origin. Habitat homes may be built handicap accessible as necessary to accommodate the family's needs. Questions? Contact the administrative office at (541) 752-3354 or email admin@bentonhabitat.org

Founded in 1991, Benton Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We are a community based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working in Benton County, Oregon. Benton Habitat for Humanity's mission is to bring people together to make decent homes achievable for everyone in our community. The organization is celebrating its 25th year of building hope and homes in Benton County, and will be breaking ground on its 36th house this spring.

COURTESY OF
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

CAMPUS VOICE

Question:
What does Valentine's Day mean to you?



Lola Naiman
Animal Science

"Valentine's day is a day where you can show someone how much you care about them."



Jordyn Callowa
Psychology

"I don't know. I don't think I've ever celebrated Valentine's Day."



Macayla Crandall
Environmental Science

"It's just a Hallmark holiday. It's a good excuse to do something with friends or family. This year I'm having an anti-Valentine's Day party."



Austin Clark
Associate of Oregon Transfer

"Time to mostly spend with people you care about, but for me it's my pets."



Justice Johnson
English

"Bottle of wine and bon bons to myself."

Next Week's Topic:
Black History Month.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
MELISSA CHANDLER
@MJEFFERS

BATTLE FOR BLOOD

FDA policies conflict with SLC's



KIM BUCKNER & ANGEL MONTES

Blood beats through everyone's veins, providing the body with vital oxygen, nutrients and energy. When the human body loses more than 40 percent of this essential life-force, it dies.

A vast and never-ending need for donated blood exists in the effort to heal the sick and injured. Organizations like the American Red Cross do their best to quell this need, but it is a never-ending battle.

"We are always challenged to meet the need. We estimate that about 38 percent of the population is eligible to donate blood. About five percent of the population actively donates," said Kim Buckner, a district manager for the biomedical division of the Red Cross.

Organized through the SLC, the Red Cross holds annual blood drives on the LBCC Albany campus. The blood drives yield about 300 units, or donations, of blood. The blood is then divided into three components.

"Through your efforts you are enhancing the lives of some 900 people throughout this community and the greater U.S.," said Buckner.

This population ranges from elderly to infants.

The blood drives aren't improving the lives of everyone in the community. Kamran Mirza, co-president of the GSA voiced serious concerns about discriminatory policies of the blood drives.

"Realizing there is harmful impacts to the stigma surrounding HIV in the queer community, it came to the attention of myself and some other students this year that maybe we didn't

feel comfortable having the blood drives on campus because of the policies for blood donations being based subjectively on someone's previous sex habits or their sexual orientation," said Mirza.

Due to the medicinal and perishable nature of blood, the FDA regulates all blood drives. Much of the population is ineligible to donate, including men who have sex with men (MSM). Current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data from 2010 shows that MSM account for 63 percent of new HIV cases in the U.S.

"Unfortunately the FDA does put us in a situation where we are held accountable to them. In the end it really is the safety of the blood supply and the safety of the people who are going to use it," said Angel Montes, Red Cross district manager.

Montes, a gay man, has worked with the Red Cross for 15 years.

"When I first got hired, the first question was 'What would be the biggest obstacle that you would face working for the Red Cross?' And I said the fact that I can't donate blood," said Montes. "So I am completely on your (Mirza's) court."

For his entire career Montes helped the Red Cross and the American Association of Blood Centers petition the FDA for a change in their exclusive policy.

The repeated petitions may have found success. A recent change in policy has allowed a one-year deferral instead of a lifetime ban, giving MSM a chance to donate if they have been abstinent for one year prior to donation.

But for Mirza and others this policy change still equates to discrimination.

Transgendered students suffer from the policies which mis-identify their gender. Trans women trying to donate are often classified instead as MSM.

"There is a heavy impact to HIV stigma," said Mirza. "You face micro-aggressions all the time or full-blown discrimination, regardless of whether you're queer or trans. When you are queer or trans those are only magnified. There is ostracizing or other-izing in the MSM community, specifically as epidemiological catalysts for HIV."

Hosting three Red Cross representatives at an executive meeting held Monday Feb. 2, the SLC searched for a way to navigate the tricky situation.

According to the SLC constitution and bylaws, student fees can only be used to fund all-inclusive events.

"We have a mission to our students in which we state that we will adhere to a policy of inclusivity if we are using their student fees," said Lina DeMorais, legislative affairs director of the SLC.

The SLC president agrees that their continued support of blood drives on campus is a clear breach of the constitution.

"Although we still might be able to help with volunteers, other than that any other services we provide for the blood drives directly would be a violation of student-fee autonomy," said SLC President Candalyann Johnson.

The SLC still has some tricks up it's sleeves.

"Clubs have autonomy of freedom of speech that we as student government do not. Therefore, they can receive funding," said DeMorais. "The funding would be

provided through the Council of Clubs, while technically through student fees, due to certain policies is allowable."

Jordan Hagle, former president of GSA and former SLC member voiced concerns that a club vying for funding for a blood drive could be denied at the discretion of Council of Club members.

"It is absurd that this is being brought up; we have funded this for over a decade," said Hagle.

A club willing to tackle the cause of the Red Cross could raise their own funding for the event, and host them on campus as a private contractor.

Mirza seemed open to this compromise.

"We want to find a common ground of how we move forward and how we maintain the safe space of a university or college campus while still maintaining social-justice-oriented events like a blood drive," said Mirza. "I feel like it's important to point out that the GSA is in solidarity with the blood drive movement."

Though the issue is divided, the SLC realizes a need for the safety and inclusion of all students in public events and the life-saving benefits of blood-drives. It remains unclear what their next step will be.



STORY AND PHOTO BY
EMILY GOODYKOONTZ
@SHARKASAURUSX

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QUILT OF MANY COLORS

Former teacher presents quilt to DAC

Barbara Bessey, former director of Linn-Benton Community College's Small Business Department, may have retired last July, but that doesn't mean she hasn't been busy.

For months Bessey has been carefully planning the perfect farewell gift to present to the Diversity Achievement Center (DAC) and Director Javier Cervantes, as a token of her appreciation for all that the DAC stands for.

On Tuesday Feb. 9, dozens of colors spilled across the DAC floor while Bessey unrolled her gift: a handmade quilt, featuring a flag from each nation across the globe.

Moving her finger in a circle around the quilt, she said, "We all share this one place."

The entire room fell silent.

"It doesn't matter where we call home, or who we call God. We are all Earthlings and we all know what goodness is. We want the same things -- to be happy, to be healthy, to be safe. We have more things in common than not. I wanted this gift to be a reminder of that."

Cervantes could hardly contain his excitement as a group of students cleared a space on the wall to showcase his new prized possession.

"I can't wait to share this with everyone," He said. "I am so elated and touched that she would give this to us."

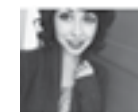
As they hung the quilt, Bessey told the students

about her project.

"I learned so much from making this quilt," she said, pointing to a red flag in one corner. "This one here, for Nepal, it's the only flag that isn't a rectangle, and that one, there, it's from Saudi Arabia. I had to be careful because I couldn't tell which side was up."

Though the construction of the quilt took only a matter of weeks, the planning process was much more strenuous. A one-of-a-kind project has a one-of-a-kind procedure that cannot be googled. From scouring old Atlases and researching online, she developed a plan, and sewed a piece of her heart into every stitch.

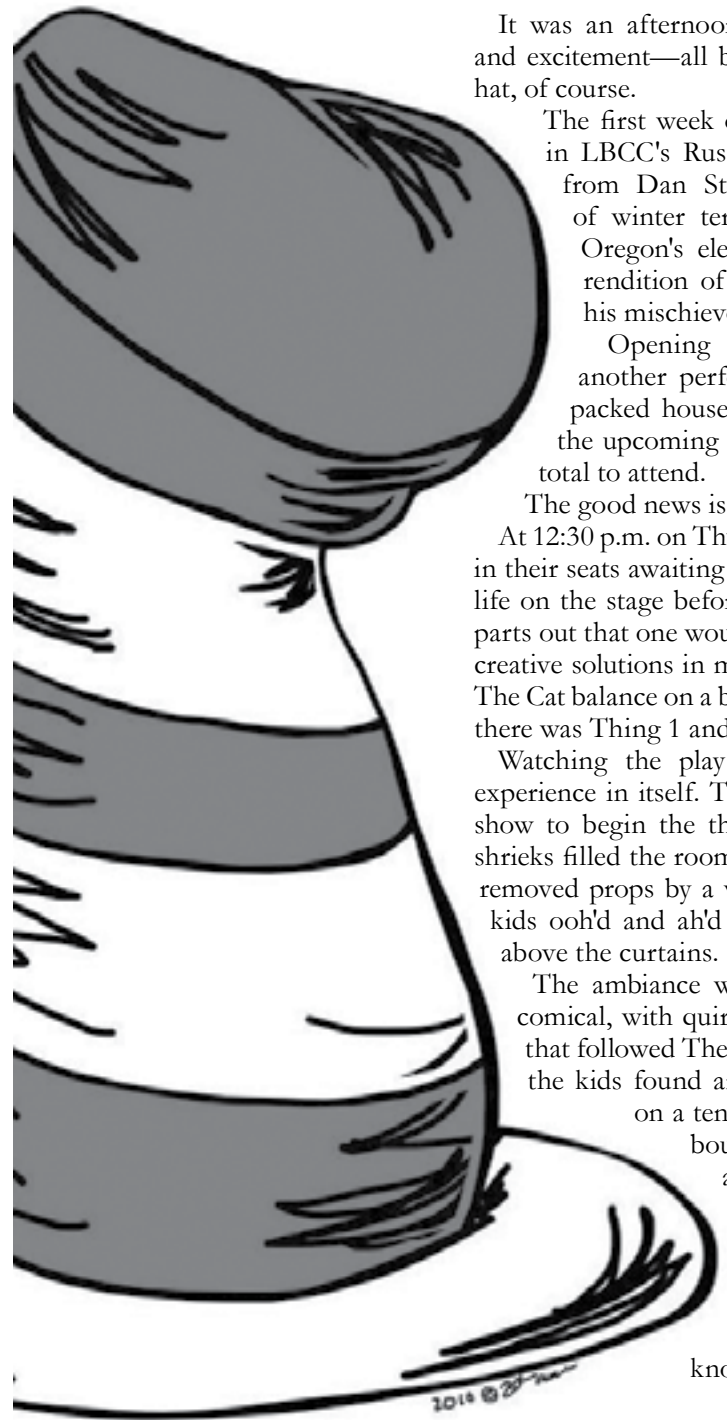
"I wanted to give back to the school," She said. "I am so thankful for the wonderful people I have been able to work with and the memories made."



STORY BY
KATHERINE MILES
@KATEMARIEMILES

CAT IN THE HAT

Student-performers succeed in bringing *The Cat* to life



It was an afternoon of madness, destruction, shenanigans, and excitement—all because of a black cat in a red and white hat, of course.

The first week of Dr. Seuss' *Cat in the Hat* wrapped up in LBCC's Russell Tripp Performance Center. Students from Dan Stone's theater class spent the first half of winter term preparing to entertain thousands of Oregon's elementary schoolers with their 45-minute rendition of the iconic story about the mad cat and his mischievous friends.

Opening day was Tuesday, Feb. 2, followed by another performance on Thursday. Both days had a packed house of children from surrounding areas. In the upcoming weeks, Stone expects about 5,000 kids in total to attend.

The good news is, they should enjoy themselves. At 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4, an anxious crowd squirmed in their seats awaiting to see the book they had all read come to life on the stage before them. The production left none of the parts out that one would expect to see. The cast and crew found creative solutions in making the picker-upper machine, making *The Cat* balance on a ball holding his many items, and, of course, there was Thing 1 and Thing 2.

Watching the play with hundreds of youngsters was an experience in itself. The moment the lights went down for the show to begin the theater became dark, and a cacophony of shrieks filled the room. In the next few minutes the stagehands removed props by a wire pulley system to the ceiling and the kids ooh'd and ah'd in amazement as the props disappeared above the curtains.

The ambiance was fun and playful. Sound effects were comical, with quirky audible accents for all the commotion that followed *The Cat* on stage. His meow was a roar, which the kids found amusing. He had a humorous guitar solo, on a tennis racket, of course, as Sally and Conrad bounced around him. He followed it up with a flute solo on an umbrella.

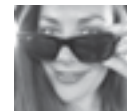
Thing 1 and Thing 2, with their blue fro'd hair and red jumpsuits, succeeded in bringing the crazy to the house party. After they managed to coax the kids into pouring milk on the ground, knocking pictures off the wall, and putting



lampshades on each other's heads, the Things retreated back to the box from which they came to the tune of TAPS. The adults in the crowd chuckled at the song choice.

As the show came to a close, and all the houseguests had dispersed, Sally and Conrad wondered if they should tell their mom about the frenzy in which they partook. They walked to the edge of the stage and asked the young crowd, "Should we tell her the things that went on today?" The crowd responded by shouting "Yes!" and "No!" as row by row eagerly joined in on the debate.

The production appeared flawless, and the student-actors seemed prepared. They were confident in their roles, had expressive body language, and their theater-style overacting was entertaining. They successfully created many moments followed up by snickers and smiles, a good time was had. And as *The Cat* would say, "It's fun to have fun, but you have to know how!"



STORY AND PHOTO BY ALLISON LAMPLUGH @LUCYLAFFLOURE

COST OF COLLEGE

SLC leads Textbook Affordability Rally

College is expensive and textbooks only add to the financial frustration of having to pay for it.

That is precisely why the SLC held their first ever Textbook Affordability Rally Thursday Feb. 4. Held directly outside of the main campus library it featured tables stacked with textbooks, and offered students and staff an opportunity to understand the cost behind them.

Representatives from the library and SLC were on hand to answer questions and interview students about the cost of textbooks.

"Education costs a lot of money," said SLC Event Coordinator Christy McDaniels. "Anything we can do for students that's what we're here for."

A special invitation was issued by the SLC to instructors in an effort to help them understand the cost students incur. Participants guessed the cost of textbooks with answers varying anywhere from \$50 to \$250.

The highlight of the rally was Vice-President of the SLC Eric Slyter doing on camera interviews of students. Students stood in front of an LBCC background giving it a red carpet feel. They answered the following questions; how much did you spend on books this term; most expensive book purchased to date; was it worth the price; what should be the average price per book; and overall experience selling books at the bookstore compared to students?

"I usually sell my books to other students,"

said LBCC student Jordan Schmitt.

Out of the 30 plus students interviewed, Slyter reported students average price per term for books was between \$200 and \$500, with the average cost per book coming in at \$150 to \$250.

Overall, students reported having a negative experience selling books back to the bookstore and thought the cost per textbook should be between \$25 and \$60.

The SLC plans on holding future Textbook Affordability Rallies.


"It definitely exceeded my expectations, said Slyter. "[Students] were more than enthusiastic."



STORY BY RICHARD STEEVES @RSTEEVES84

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BAND-AIDS FOR STAB WOUNDS

Like many other students, I am tired of the discrimination that I experience on campus. I am tired of being looked at differently because of my complexion. I am tired of the slow progress that institutions, such as LBCC, make in order to make students of color feel included. Ultimately, I am tired of the systemic oppression that the American system subjugates me to. The voices of students of color are extremely important, and should not be dismissed. Issues of race, gender, inclusiveness, and, in general, oppression should be tackled head-on.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, LBCC President Greg Hamann sat down and talked to students of color to hear their concerns. Students of color were asked to express their personal experiences to a predominately white audience.

Students expressed discomfort with the situation they were in, while others expressed no concern. Due to the sensitive nature of this subject, some names were left out to protect the privacy of those who were brave enough to speak.

An African-American student said, "I feel like I am being singled out." Another student expressed a similar concern when they said, "I feel alienated."

On the other hand, some students thought that it was necessary for white students and white professionals to hear their concerns.

Personally, I'm torn between the two. As a student of color, I want to have a safe space to voice my concerns without feeling alienated, or feeling "like I was something to be analyzed," as Alyssa Campbell wrote in her piece "Uncomfortably Numb."

I also want white students and professionals to know about the challenges students of color face. However, it doesn't need to be black and white. Perhaps a better alternative can be offered. LBCC could learn from programs like Racial Aikido offered by Oregon State University. The program features a weekend-long retreat where students engage in meaningful discussions about white-privilege, internalized oppression, race, and racism.

In closing, President Hamann asked, "What can I do to make LBCC a better environment for students of color?"

I didn't know what to say. I thought, "How can we possibly fix hundreds of years of systemic oppression?" How could he possibly come up with a logical answer on such short notice?

Unsurprisingly, very few students of color proposed ideas. Somebody proposed that students should take a mandatory ethnic studies course. Another student proposed that more faculty of color should be hired. These were great propositions, but, does it truly tackle the root of racism? I don't think so.

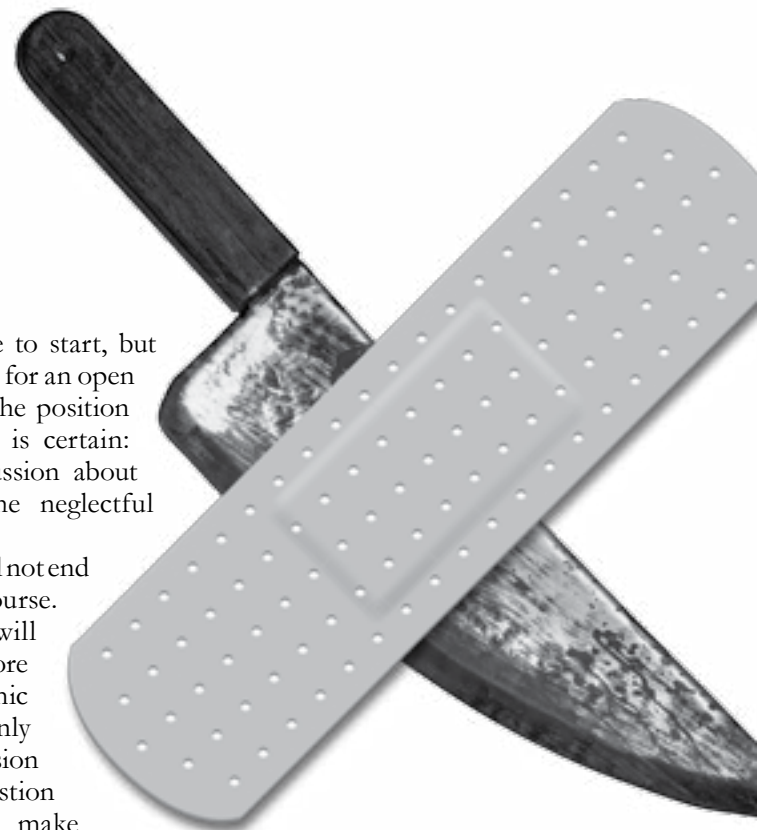
These are a great place to start, but they only offer Band-Aids for an open stab wound. No matter the position students take, one thing is certain: the necessity for a discussion about race is indicative of the neglectful position LBCC is in.

Systemic oppression will not end with an ethnic studies course. Systemic oppression will also not end by hiring more faculty of color. Systemic oppression will certainly not end with one discussion about racism. So, the question arises: How can LBCC make this discussion into something sustainable that will ultimately challenge systemic oppression?

The answer to the question is complex, and rightfully so. LBCC will have to assume praxis that are inclusive, dynamic, and sustainable. Moreover, this isn't a task that should be solely left to people of color; it is a task that should include white allies. These issues can't be fixed overnight. These issues take years of collective hard work and dedication to solve.


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COLUMN BY OSBALDO ARELLANO @XICANODUDE



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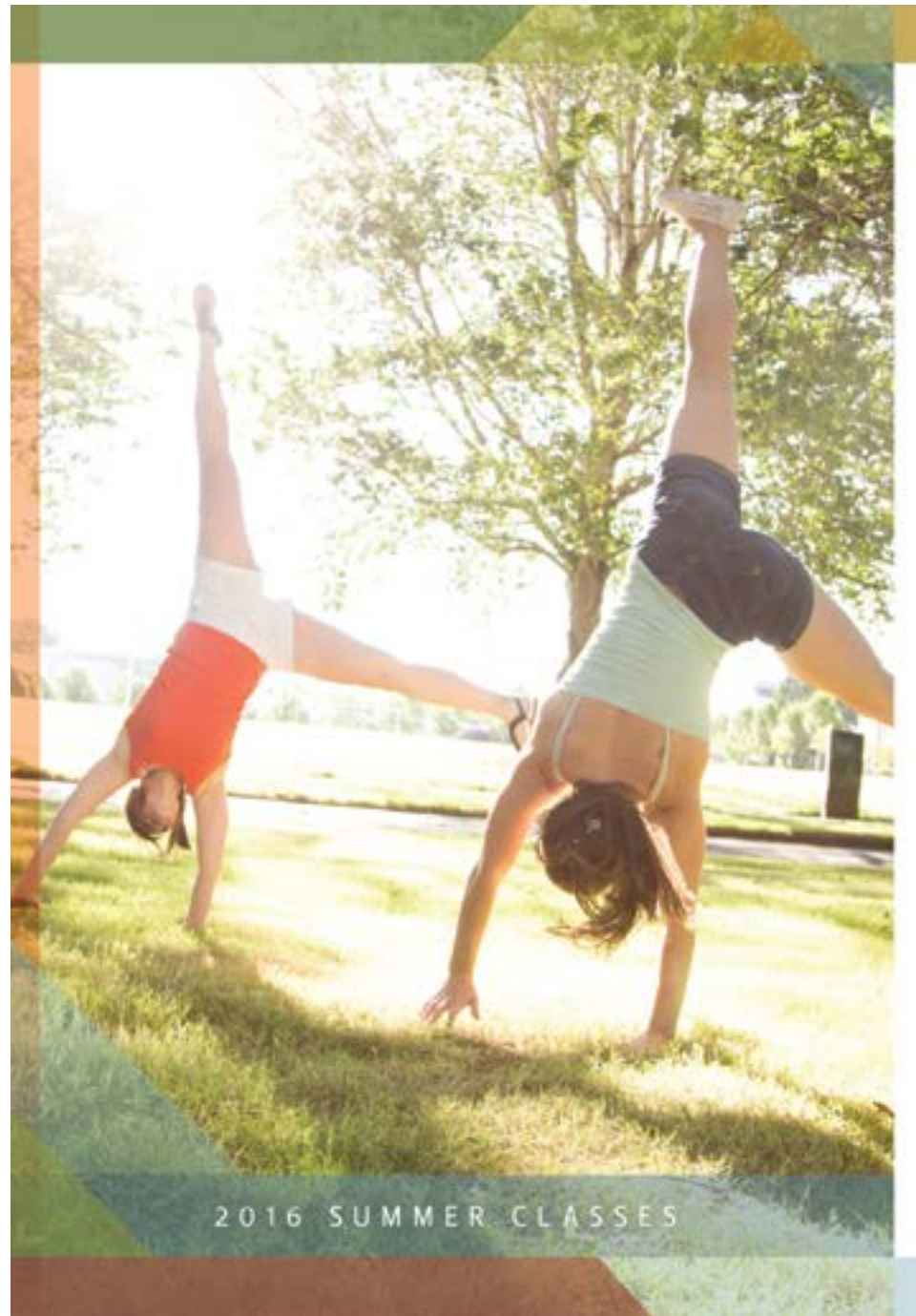
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2016 SUMMER CLASSES

BODY IMAGE

Positive body image is hard to foster in a world of perfection

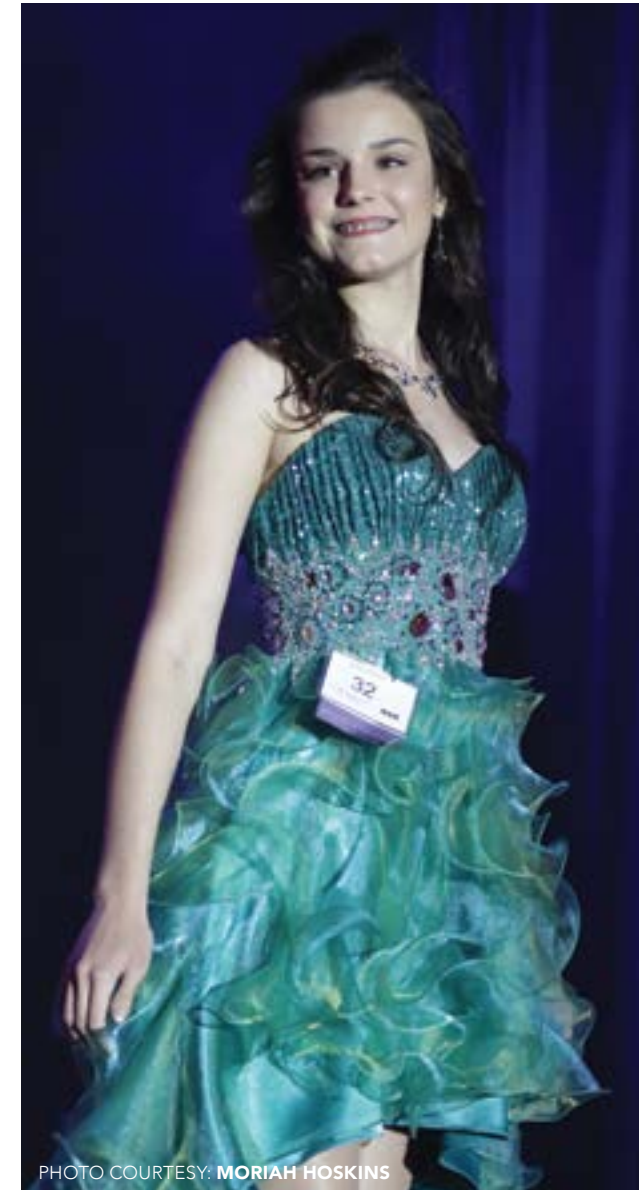
Body image is something that seems to be present in every aspect of life. From worrying if your belly is too chubby for that swimsuit, to people hurting themselves and sinking into depression over their physical form, it's no wonder that body image is a hot issue.

The world is so toxic in its idea that we must become something we are not, that I felt I was not good enough, and I would never be good enough. Nobody is good enough for these standards, not even the models that pose in the pictures we plaster on our walls. The images we see of models aren't real. That photo is of no one. No one fills our television screens, our magazines, and our minds with the idea that we must be them, even though they aren't real. We aspire to become a work of fiction, because we are told it is the only thing that will make society love us. Satisfying the world with the way you look isn't the way to be, because the world will never be satisfied unless Photoshop rolls out a real life version.

As a young adult in this world it is hard enough, but from the day we are born, we are judged. Most everyone remembers being a kid, and often they remember people telling their mother how cute they are, as if our appearance were somehow a merit badge for mothers to put between the patches for "Learning to Breastfeed" and "Keeping A Child Alive to Age 5." These encounters add up over time. According to a CNN article by Kelly Wallace, "Kids as young as five are concerned about body image." Even the way a mother talks about her own body can affect a child's idea of themselves, according to the article.

Imagine how it feels to see tiny girls swarm around hotel halls in puffy dresses getting ready to go onstage in a pageant. I've been there. I was one of the eldest there at only 16, balancing carefully in my heels, face painted, dress sewn carefully as to not tear when the corset was drawn tight over my mid-section. Even before I really knew anything about how body image worked, or how damaging a pageant can be, my heart sank when I saw those tiny girls. Each one with just enough makeup to look like they had naturally red lips and rosy cheeks, soaking up what they saw.

Here's my problem. National American Miss (NAM) organizes pageant events for girls 4 to 18 years of age. Their message consistently seems to be one of building speaking skills and confidence, and yet, 30 percent of your final score is on "Poise and Appearance." Another 30 percent is in your "Personal Introduction" where you stand and



say a few things about yourself that nobody really listens to while wearing a pageant suit and makeup, that everyone judges. The finale, when scores are announced and the queen crowned, contestants dance as a group in front of the crowd in booty shorts and a tight tee shirt. NAM states in its Frequently Asked Questions on their website that nobody should feel they have to be "beautiful, thin, or perfect in some other way," yet over 60 percent of the scores are based on looks.

I have found that NAM is not some strange isolated planet where they say beauty doesn't count, when it does. The real world presses down on people over this.

In The Huffington Post article "Benefits Of Attractiveness: Where Pretty Gets You On The Job" states that conventionally attractive workers on average earn about 10-15 percent more than their counterparts. Even makeup can give you an edge in the world, as stated in the New York Times' article "Up The Career Ladder, Lipstick in Hand" by Catherine Saint Louis. "The participants [in the study] judged women made up in varying intensities of luminance contrast (fancy words for how much eyes and lips stand out compared with skin) as more competent than barefaced women, whether they had a quick glance or a longer inspection," Saint Louis wrote.

I think the same could be said for school. High school is, for many, not the best of times. It certainly wasn't for me. Before that pageant, all I saw in the mirror were my flaws, and after getting picked apart by judges it was even worse. That, along with my mother oh-so-lovingly naming the fat stored on my belly "the chublet," dashed my confidence. I began to eat less food, and food I did eat lacked substance. My mother egged me on to get thinner and thinner, into what she saw as beautiful. I started getting compliments, people saying I looked good, even though, when I was a senior, I was 5'6 and I weighed 111 pounds. I was solidly "underweight" on the BMI chart.

One day, I sat in a salon getting ready for an eyebrow wax, and I noticed something. My face was so sharp in the mirror. My bones were protruding through my skin. I was happy getting colds and the flu over and over from being so underweight, it made it easier to not eat. One time, I passed out in my prom dress from lack of eating over the worry that my belly might stick out. I had a realization, lying on the living room floor in my red, sparkly dress that I was not healthy at all.

Gaining weight was hard, but now, looking back at pictures of me is harder. When I see that body that people praised me for having the "discipline" to have, all I can see is my hipbones jutting out of my dress, and my elbows looking sharp enough to stab someone.

Being healthy should be the new "thin." Being happy and confident should be the new "good-looking," and simply allowing people to be people in their given bodies should be the norm. I know we can do it. Changing perception is hard, but I did it. So all of us can.



STORY BY MORIAH HOSKINS @MORIAH_HOSKINS

BARBIE EVOLVES



Barbra Millicent Rogers has been captivating the hearts of young girls for decades. Outside of Disney princesses and their signature ballgowns, she's the source of what we epitomize as beauty. But Barbie is far more than her pretty exterior. When she was created nearly six decades ago by her creator Ruth Handler, many predicted Barbie's business to be unsuccessful. Despite her odds, the following year Handler managed to sell 300,000 dolls with Barbie's debut at the New York toy fair. Today, Barbie's success earns her nearly \$1 billion annually.

"My whole philosophy of Barbie was that, through the doll, the little girl could be anything she wanted to be. Barbie always represented the fact that a woman has choices," said Handler.

Since Handler's passing in 2002, the Barbie brand has been extended to include online games, movies, TV series and books. The Mattel brand is one of

the toy industry's biggest names. Barbie is pegged as a timeless success. But that was before 2014.

In Nov. 2014, Mattel had a series of Barbie picture books in which Barbie told readers about different careers available for girls. When "I Can Be A Computer Engineer" was published, feminists critiqued the book as being sexist for its portrayal of Barbie relying on her guy friends to help her finish her robotics program.

2014 was also the year two of the biggest family films were released. "Frozen" became the new favorite, as Elsa dolls overtook Barbies as the number one doll. LEGO overtook Mattel as the top toy brand with their new girls' collection and critically-acclaimed "The LEGO Movie." Barbie lacked her luster, and it was time for a change. So a two-year project called Project Dawn was now underway to get people buying Barbies again.

Barbie's design team was asked by head designer Kim Culmone, "If you could start the brand over today and you didn't have any rules, you could do whatever you wanted, what would you do?"

Their imaginations went wild as design pencils danced across sketchpads, interpreting what a modern-day version of the doll would look like. Barbie needed diversity. On Jan. 28, the consumer got what they paid for.

Barbie has always been a reflection of what's stylish and cool at any given time. And now she comes in four body types, seven skin tones, 22 eye colors and 24 unique hairstyles like long cobalt locks and a red afro. Every girl from every walk of life can see a little bit of themselves, their family and their friends in these dolls.

Some critics insist that Barbie should have been left alone. Society disagrees. Handler herself said that Barbie

represents the lives and futures of young girls. And in a world where Millennial Generation mothers are becoming more and more vocal about how their child observes the world, a curvy Barbie or African-American doll allows kids of all ages to see themselves, their friends, and their futures in these dolls.

Barbra Millicent Rogers is no longer limited to the blonde-haired bombshell everyone knows and loves. She now represents a whole new range of fans who are celebrating Barbie's new definitions of beauty. And with an optimistic future ahead of her, Barbie is sure to be back on top as one of the world's favorite toys.



STORY BY MORGAN CONNELLY @MADEINOREGON97



COURTESY: NEW REGENCY PICTURES

MOVIE REVIEW: THE REVENANT

DIRECTOR: Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu
STARRING: Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, and Will Poulter
PRODUCTION: New Regency Pictures, Anonymous Content, Appian Way, Monarch Enterprises S.a.r.l., RatPac Entertainment, Soho VFX
GENRES: Adventure, Drama, Thriller, Western
RATED: R
OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

REVIEW BY KYLE BRAUN-SHIRLEY

The word “revenant” is defined by dictionary.com as “a person who returns as a spirit after death; ghost.” The new film is about one such person who is left for dead, only to survive and seek revenge on those who abandoned him.

“The Revenant” was released on Jan. 8, 2016. Directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, the film is nominated for 12 awards at the 88th Academy Awards. With some of the most beautiful cinematography ever put to film, this bleak movie about vengeance is something to behold, despite the fact that it puts character development on the backburner.

The film was inspired by the story of early 1800s frontiersmen and fur trapper Hugh Glass, who following a bear attack was left for dead in the wilderness by his companions with no food or supplies. Similar to films like “Kill Bill: Vol. 1” and “Blue Ruin,” “The Revenant”

is a about cold blooded revenge.

If there is one scene that people are going to be talking about for years to come it’s the bear attack. In a film comprised of memorable moments and sequences, the bear attack stands head and shoulders above the rest in terms of its beauty and brutality.

The best thing about this movie is the cinematography by Emmanuel Lubezki. “The Revenant” was filmed using only natural lighting, which is mind boggling. It would likely be difficult to create most of the shots in this movie using studio lights, so when you factor in that only natural light was used, it’s hard to comprehend how this movie was made. Even if studio lights had been used, this would still be one of the most gorgeous movies of all time.

The major drawback of this film is the way it prioritizes artistry and beauty over character development. If the

movie was as concerned with characters and story as it is with cinematography, “The Revenant” might be one of the all-time greats. The characters don’t show any signs of evolution throughout the movie, and the film suffers for it.

Another issue with the movie is its running time. “The Revenant” is 156 minutes long, which makes it the kind of movie people check the time while watching it. At times, the filmmakers are so caught up in the grandeur of the movie that they don’t realize it’s dragging on.

Gorgeous and magnificent are words that accurately describe “The Revenant,” but it gets so involved with the beauty that it forgets about the characters. That probably won’t stop it from winning plenty of awards at the Oscars. And despite its shortcomings, it deserves the accolades.

CONCERT REVIEW: BLACK SABBATH

GENRE: HEAVY METAL
RATED: AWESOME
OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

REVIEW BY ALYSSA CAMPBELL



COURTESY: BLACK SABBATH

While great music will always live on, all good things must come to an end.

Legendary metal band Black Sabbath resumed “The End” tour on Saturday Feb. 6, at the Tacoma Dome in Tacoma Wash. after having to postpone multiple shows in Canada, due to lead singer Ozzy Osbourne coming down with sinusitis and bronchitis.

It was breathtaking seeing fans from all different generations gathered together for one reason, to see what many hail as the greatest metal band of all time.

Due to the band’s dark and sinister lyrics, the concert attracted protesters who stood on the side with signs that read “Repent to Jesus” and yelling “Turn away from the darkness, it isn’t too late.”

Original members Osbourne, guitarist Tony Iommi and bassist Geezer Butler reunited for what Black Sabbath announced would be their final tour.

Tommy Clufetos filled in as drummer for original member Bill Ward, who will not be joining the band for the tour.

The show started with visuals of Satan bursting out of a bloody cocoon setting the world on fire.

The words “BLACK SABBATH” appeared in flames

on the backdrop, fans cheered and yelled ecstatically, then the backdrop collapsed.

Blue and purple lights radiated through the room, “Black Sabbath” was the song that kicked off the night. Followed by “Fairies Wear Boots,” a combination of fuchsia, red, lime green and yellow psychedelic visuals were projected on the screens.

The band didn’t perform songs from their latest album “13,” instead they performed 13 classic hits back to back including: “Black Sabbath,” “Fairies Wear Boots,” “After Forever,” “Into The Void,” “Snowblind,” “War Pigs,” “Behind The Wall Of Sleep,” “N.I.B.,” “Hand Of Doom,” “Rat Salad,” “Iron Man,” “Dirty Woman” and “Children Of The Grave.”

Clufetos’ drum solo was unforgettable, leaving the crowd clapping, yelling, howling and whistling.

Headbanging, singing song after song and at times running back and forth across the stage, you would never have known Osbourne had just been seriously ill.

One of the highlights of the night was when the band performed “War Pigs.”

Smoke shot up from the stage, beams of red, white and yellow lights danced across the room. Osbourne

swayed side to side urging to see everyone’s hands, as loud sirens blared through the speakers.

But it was Butler’s signature bass and Iommi’s legendary dark riffs that set the tone.

The crowd sang in sync with Osbourne, fist pumping, as visuals of explosions wiping out buildings, homes and palm trees were shown on the screens.

A combination of the band’s stage presence, classic, heavy, moody sound, mind-bending, doomsday visuals and multicolored lights helped make this night unforgettable.

Concluding the show, the band performed the encore “Paranoid.” Confetti filled the air and “The End” appeared on the screens.

The band will continue the first leg of the North American tour followed by Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Then they will be heading back for the second leg of the North American tour for summer dates starting mid August.

LIFE HACKS: VALENTINES

Valentine's Day in and around the area

So why exactly is there a holiday centered around love and all things romantic? A popular theory is that in the third century, while Roman men were forbidden by law to be married during wartime, Bishop Valentine would perform secret weddings. He was eventually arrested, but was jailed long enough prior to execution to fall in love with the jailer’s daughter. He famously wrote a note to her one day, signing it “from your Valentine.”

A legend of romance led to a legacy of celebrated love. Today, as Valentine’s Day approaches in one of the most hectic times in the college term, the pressures of this holiday can feel like more of a burden than a celebration -- But it doesn’t have to be.

Fear not. This week’s Life Hacks is here to show that this Valentine’s Day weekend is hopping with food, drinks, and fun for you and your Valentine.

Keeping it simple:

Heart-Shaped Everything

Pour your pancake mix into a metal heart-shaped cookie cutter to make heart-shaped pancakes. You can also use a cookie cutter for sandwiches or steaks. Not into cooking? Papa Murphys has a heart-shaped pizza that can be customized with all your favorite toppings!

An Evening Picnic

The weather may not be perfect in February, but that doesn’t mean an afternoon hike and picnic can’t be done. Even an indoor candlelight option would do! Regardless of where you have the picnic, it’s a classic date idea that can go over well no matter what you serve and when you serve it.

Save on the Steak

If you’re going to a fancy steak dinner, check Costco or Sam’s Club for gift certificates.

Get Nifty

The Vintage Roost is hosting a Valentine Open House filled with gifts by 30 local crafters as well as Antiques, Collectibles, Fresh Baked Goods, and more.

Grab a cup of Joe

One dollar for every drink purchased on Sunday will go to buy 7 lbs of food for Linn Benton Food share as part of its annual Dutch Luv day.

Get Out and About:

Sweet Home Sweetheart Run

Do something good for your heart on Valentine’s Day — join the second annual Sweet Home Sweetheart Run. Participants are encouraged to wear their hearts on their sleeves, socks, tutus, onesies and collars to compete for best dressed awards. Enjoy either a 5K or 10K chip-timed course.

Good Eats:

Novak’s

The five-course Sweetheart Special at Novak’s Hungarian is available all weekend, and includes traditional Hungarian delicacies you won’t find anywhere else such as a non-alcoholic raspberry beverage called Malna. \$59.99 per couple or \$69.99 with wine.

Reservations strongly encouraged.

Sybaris Bistro

Celebrate Valentine’s Day at Sybaris Bistro with a meal by James Beard honoree, Matt Bennett. Indulge in his Valentine’s Menu at 5 p.m. or 7:30. Four courses; \$50 per person or \$75 per person with wine.

Vault 244

Chef Kyle Kish has been prepping a four-course menu of love at The Vault for Sunday, Feb. 14. Reservations strongly recommended.

Frankie’s

Chef Cody Utzman is planning for specials for all Valentine’s Day weekend. Best part? It’s a surprise!

Good Drinks:

A Toast to Love

Zwickelmania’s event has over 120 breweries opening their doors, both big and small, to participate in meet-the-brewer events, beer tastings and beer and chocolate pairings.

Feb. 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spindrift Cellars Chocolate and Wine

Iced wine and port paired with desserts from Jillicious Desserts makes for a perfect, romantic night.

Feb. 13 from 1-5 p.m.

Catch a Show:

For the Family

Take the whole family to see Linn-Benton Community Theater’s performance featuring Dr. Seuss’s “The Cat in the Hat.”

Tickets are \$8, or \$5 for groups of five or more Feb. 13 at 2 p.m.

Albany Civic Theater: Murder On The Nile. Take your sweetheart to see an Agatha Christie classic, directed by Rick Hammel at the Albany Civic Theater. \$12 General Admission , \$9 Senior/Junior. Feb. 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Majestic Theatre -- Love In Unexpected Places. The Majestic Playwrights present an ooey-goey play perfect for Valentine’s Day. Feb. 14 at 2:30 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis. 2016 Crossroads 10th Annual International Film Festival

Whether you have a significant other or not, this event is a great place to spend your afternoon. The Film Festival committee carefully chooses the films, which are shown on Sundays in February.

Admission is \$6 per film, discounted festival Passports are available for \$25.

Feb. 14 1:30 p.m. at Darkside Cinema in Corvallis

For more information on local events here or there, check out <http://albanyvisitors.com>, and <http://visitcorvallis.com/calendar-of-events/>.

STORY BY HANNAH BUFFINGTON & KATHERINE MILES

BOOK RECCOMENDATIONS

Memoir/Non-Fiction:

- “The Light of the World” by Elizabeth Alexander
- “Truth and Beauty: A Friendship” by Ann Patchett
- “Love” by Leo Buscaglia

Fiction:

- “A Man Called Ove: A Novel” by Fredrik Backman
- “Frances and Bernard” by Carlene Bauer
- “History of Love” by Nicole Krauss
- “The Marriage Plot” by Jeffrey Eugenides
- “The Princess Bride” by William Goldman
- “The Golem and the Jinni” by Helene Wecker
- “What We Talk About When We Talk About Love” by Raymond Carver (short story collection)

Poetry:

- “The Captain’s Verses” by Pablo Neruda
- “Love: Selected Poems” by e.e. cummings
- “Felicity” by Mary Oliver
- “Rumi: The Book of Love: Poems of Ecstasy and Longing,” edited by Coleman Barks

Plays:

- “Cyrano de Bergerac” by Edmond Rostand (translated by Anthony Burgess)

Children’s Books:

- “Dragons Love Tacos” by Adam Rubin, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
- “The Velveteen Rabbit” by Margery Williams
- “Guess How Much I Love You” by Sam McBratney, illustrated by Anita Jeram
- “Snuggle Puppy” by Sandra Boynton
- “Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch!” by Eileen Spinelli and Paul Yalowitz
- “Miss Rumphius” by Barbara Cooney
- “Runaway Bunny” by Margaret Wise Brown
- “I Carry Your Heart With Me” by E.E. Cummings
- “I Love You Forever” by Robert Munsch

Recommendations courtesy of writing center staff.

VALENTINES DATE RECOMMENDATION



Not into roses or teddy bears the size of a golden retriever? Me either. So ditch the flowers and treat your partner to a movie and a burger.

DEADPOOL stars Ryan Reynolds as Wade Wilson, a guy diagnosed with cancer...the terminal kind. No one likes dying, so Wilson falls for a rogue alteration process that gives him accelerated healing powers. That’s all fine and dandy...until he nearly loses the love of his life to the folks who made him invincible.

Following the film consider trying First Burger (210 1st Ave., downtown Albany). Their food is all natural and freshly made, and you can definitely taste it. With most meals priced under \$10 and an extensive selection of beer and wine, there’s definitely a little something for everyone.



STORY BY MORGAN CONNELLY @MADEINOREGON97

THE END OF EVERYTHING

Nathan Tav Knight

The McChoco Potato
Chocolate sauce on french fries
That's the end of everything.

Moral decay eats away the foundations of society
Unchecked, it will inevitably destroy this great country
The enemy within; is it today's youth culture?

The doomsday clock is three minutes from midnight
Midnight means global nuclear annihilation...or climate change.
Three minutes isn't very much time.

Planet X is coming, the Mayan calendar is ending
Dinosaur killers lurk in near-Earth orbits
Time and Space have it in for us, apparently.

Angels with trumpets will herald the return
The second coming of our savior is expected
any time now. Every year. Always.

The Population Bomb and The Oil We Eat
Exponential growth and finite resources
New technology always saves the day, until it doesn't.

Fascination with anticipation of apocalypses will be the death of me.
We only have so much time left.
Why am I spending mine on this?

LIBERATION IN REALITY

Alyssa Campbell

In the soul, melancholy is
the path between reality
and the sky of heaven--
To perceive a beautiful brain
re-examine all attachment,
master patience and sight.
Your flesh is the residence
of Poetic Light.
Your beautiful blood,
an unflinching poem of fluency--

PHOTO COURTESY: MARWAH ALZABIDI

SHYNESS

Nathan Tav Knight

Reflections visit now and then
Come to haunt me once again
Loves and hopes I used to share
Crushed my heart when no-one cared
Love and hope to shame and fear
Now I don't want you too near
Sealed in shyness

Crowded streets walk we alone
Heads inside our telephones
Fervid texting without speaking
Fevered tweeting without thinking
Earbuds grant to each alone
Buoyant charms in solo zones
Wreathed in shyness

Child I was I did not know
Shyness like a lichen grows
Negative self-talk had forged
Anxious lies on which I gorged
Doubts within now all but reigned
Constantly my heart is drained
Set in shyness

Now people all bow and pray
To the handheld screens we crave
Yet that's just the new excuse
For ancient trends to be reclusive
Dunbar's number is just too small
In this world it dooms us all
Bounded by shyness

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Roasting bird
- Kennel racket
- Doze, with "out"
- How writers often work
- NATO alphabet ender
- Ancient Andean
- Lift
- Bar sing-along
- Quasi-convertible option
- Rock gp. with winds and strings
- Mil. training site
- Pizzeria attractions
- Nervous giggle
- "Cure Ignorance" online reader
- Glamorous Gardner
- Windy-day window noise
- Strummed strings
- Lift
- Linen fiber source
- Newspaper space measurement
- So last week
- Take in the wrong way?
- Split with the band
- Pet shelter mission
- Apt name for a cook?
- Put the cuffs on
- Does one's part?
- Elves, at times
- Lift
- Curved entrance adornment
- Drop
- Nautical table listing
- "Okay, granted"
- "Bossypants" memoirist Fey
- Mail-order-only company until 1925

DOWN

- Small jewelry box
- Acid neutralizer
- "Little grey cells" detective
- Draft category
- "Quo Vadis" emperor
- Tenochtitlán native
- Play about automatons
- Like much desert
- Acquisition on a blanket, perhaps
- Brand with a flame over the "i" in its logo
- Artist Yoko
- Big name in bar code scanners
- Dennings of "2 Broke Girls"
- Hybrid tennis attire
- Ticked off
- Besmiches
- Powerful shark
- Say with certainty
- Carrier to Oslo
- Cereal "for kids"
- Work on a course
- Many a "Hunger Games" fan
- Bluffer's giveaway
- Colorado natives
- Little grey cells detective
- Cobalt
- "Aw, shucks!"
- 50 Dominate the thoughts of
- 48 New York lake near Utica
- 49 Pantry
- 61 New Year's party handout
- 62 Clearance rack abbr.
- 63 Fort Worth sch.
- 64 Many holiday guests

By Bruce Venzke and Gail Grabowski 2/10/16



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"Across the Universe"

A love story set against a backdrop of Beatles music. It's a good movie in its own right, but it's even better on Valentine's Day.



DID YOU KNOW?

Thirty percent of women in relationships consider Valentine's Day overrated.

THE COMMONS Cafeteria

*** MENU ***
2/10 - 2/16

Wednesday: Red Wine Braised Beef*, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Root Vegetable Hash with Poached Eggs and Hollandaise*. Soups: Tortilla Chicken*, and Loaded Potato Chowder.

Thursday: Poached Salmon with Saffron Hollandaise*, Grilled pork Chops with Apples and Bacon*, Layered Ratatouille with Goat Cheese. Soups: Lentil Bacon*, and Cream of Onion*.

Friday: Chef's Choice

Monday: Holiday

Tuesday: Shrimp en Papillote*, Chef's Choice Meatloaf, Vegetarian Risotto*, soups: Tom Kha Gai*, and Creamy Pumpkin.

Items denoted with a * are gluten-free

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



With **Love**



VOLUME 47 • EDITION 18