

January 19, 2011

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

Vol. 42 No. 13

All Ages
Welcome
at LBCC

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What do you think?

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

Submit your thoughts to
commuter@linnbenton.edu



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.

THE COMMONS FARE 1/20-1/26

Wednesday

Dishes: Roasted Chicken, Pork Vindahlho and Gnocchi Bar
 Soup: Navy Bean and Won Ton

Thursday

Dishes: French Dip, Chicken Ballontine and Sweet & Sour Tempeh
 Soup: Dill Potato Chowder and Garlic Tomato

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Dishes: Grilled Pork Chops w/ Sauce Robert, Rogan Josh and Portbella
 Soups: Shrimp Bisque and Cream of Broccoli

Tuesday

Dishes: Reuben Sandwich, Chicken Gumbo and Three Cheese Stuffed Shells
 Dishes: Creamy Chicken Mushroom and Tomato & Rice

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Drug War in Afghanistan

Our war in Afghanistan is constantly in the headlines. It is something that affects us all constantly, whether we have family members deployed there or working in-country. If you just pay taxes, this war is affecting you, even if you don't know it. That being said, the questions remain: What is going on in Afghanistan, are we winning the war there or do we want to exit with nothing more than defeat with honor? Can we win the war?



Jeb Oliver
 Staff Writer

I have the pleasure of knowing a member of, project coordinator and consultant for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Afghanistan. Maj. (ret) Anthony W. Oliver has been working in Afghanistan for the UNODC since 2006 and has been deployed there and to 53 other countries during his 25 years in the Army. Oliver is known as "the drug guy" to those who work in Afghanistan, and he has been trying to get the people who matter to see the huge elephant in the room, i.e. the drug traffic.

According to the UNODC, 90 percent of all the world's opium and heroin comes from Afghanistan. Of that 90 percent, 70 percent travels across the Afghan border into Iran, on its way to Europe with the constant help of corrupt officials in the Afghan government. This, according to Oliver, accounts for most – if not all – of the narcotics issues in Europe.

This also has a huge hit on our tax dollars. The US, according to Oliver, spent \$700-900 million on the enforcement of narcotics in Afghanistan.

Now think of this: if we are spending \$900 million on drug enforcement in Afghanistan, how much of an impact are we having on an industry that makes over \$1 billion annually on the traffic of narcotics out of Afghanistan. The figures don't add up to much success in our favor when the bad guys make more money than we do. According to the UNODC and Oliver, the terrorists associated with the narcotics (i.e. the Taliban) are gleaned upwards of 70 percent of the revenue off of the trafficking of drugs. That means that a few hundred million dollars is battling a multi-billion dollar industry. Simple math: bad guys win.

Let's look at how much the average Afghan national military soldier gets paid. This soldier luckily just got a raise from \$100 a month to \$200. Woohoo! Compare that to the average \$300 a month a Taliban fighter gets paid, then ask yourself, "If I live in a nation with upwards of 70 percent unemployment and that's poverty stricken, who would I work for?"

This is just part of the problem in Afghanistan – the fact is, it will be impossible to fight the Taliban if we can't match them. We will simply see (as we have seen) the vast amounts of corruption of the government, police and military of Afghanistan. Not to mention the well-documented fact that Karzai, our puppet, has his hands

in the narco cookie jar. How are we going to win? Even with an organization like the UNODC, other European nations' counter-narco forces and the rest of the international community able to give \$20-30 million to the fight; it still doesn't amount to a drop in the bucket.

Even the US military, up until the last two years (and mind you, the war's been going on since 2001) hasn't paid attention to the drugs. According to Oliver, the Taliban has been involved since at least 2002. So, even though the American military is aware and putting forth some effort, the truth is it is lackluster at best. Even though, according to Oliver, the American military has untold success in the war in Afghanistan, we failed to stop the Taliban from being defeated because we refused to fight the elements of support – the drug factor.

To this day, the southwest corner of Nimroz province is the primary route for narcotics leaving Afghanistan's Helmand River Valley (the primary drug-growing region of Afghanistan). This region has limited, if any, military forces of either the coalition or Afghan national army. The Afghan border security forces

protect less than 25 percent of the border, thus leaving a gaping hole to allow the outflow of drugs. The military and law enforcement have been aware of this gap since 2002 and have done nothing. Why?

What is going on in Afghanistan, are we winning the war there or do we want to exit with nothing more than defeat with honor?

PERSPECTIVES

What do you think about the LBCC employees' 3-5 percent pay cut?



Tinna Dove,
 Accounting Technology

"If we stopped babysitting the rest of the world, then we wouldn't have to make these cuts."



Brie Wood,
 Part-time Math Instructor

"I think it is a good thing."



Micky Pahosky,
 Nursing

"Tuition went up right? Why are they getting their pay cut?"



Benji Taylor,
 Undecided

"It's probably a bad thing for teachers, but it's good for students."



Ester Chapman,
 Math Instructor

"We all knew it was coming, so I'm not surprised. We all got 3 percent raises recently, so this wasn't surprising."

Freedom of Religion Is Not Freedom to Hate

Katey Whiteman
Contributing Writer



Katey Whiteman
Contributing Writer

The Westboro Baptist Church is notorious for slamming gays and hating on soldiers. The WBC pickets military funerals with horrific signs that prove how outrageous they are. The website is literally "godhatesfags.com"

Their latest scandal is by far the most nonsensical piece of news I've heard in a while. For those who don't know, there was a horrendous shooting in Tucson, Ariz., on Jan. 8.

Six of the 19 people shot died.

Among the dead was Christina Green, a 9-year-old born on Sept. 11, 2001. She also was interested in the government.

Another was U.S. District Judge John M. Roll, well known for trying to control border violence.

Dorwan Stoddard, 76, was shopping with his wife, Mavy, when the shooting started. He tried to block Mavy from the shooter but was wounded, leaving her to comfort him for the last 10

minutes of his life.

Mavy explained to the press that they were elementary school sweethearts who reunited after retiring and had been wildly in love ever since.

The shooter, 22-year-old Jared Loughner, is being charged with one count of attempted assassination of a member of congress, two counts of attempting to kill a federal employee, and two counts of killing a federal employee, with more charges heading his way.

Now back to the Westboro Baptist Church. They take their children out on the streets to learn their irrational ways. These children firmly believe that gays go to hell and soldiers are dying for our sins. Four-year-olds are walking along their parents crying, "God hates fags!"

In response to the Arizona shootings, the WBC thought that protesting funerals of the victims would be a logical idea. Clearly these people are insane.

Who in their right mind decides that it is a good idea to

protest a 9-year-old girl's funeral, preaching that the shooter was sent from God and praying for more "dead carcasses" to pile up?

Fortunately, an emergency bill was passed to keep protesters at least 300 feet from the mourners during the funerals.

Several hundred people lined the street dressed in either white T-shirts or "angel wings" made of sheets to block the funeral from any picketers. It was an amazing display of community pride and love.

However, no protesters appeared; they agreed to back off as long as they received airtime on national radio shows.

If they want the attention, they should create a reality TV show about their senseless cult lifestyle of brainwashing their children into closed minded bigots.

The church will get airtime on two national radio shows. While the community is upset about the church receiving publicity, radio hosts stand by their decision to broadcast. They feel that the airtime being used is worth the time mourners deserve to say goodbye to their loved ones. I have to agree.

Advice from Weiss

Question: Why do I have to take classes like math and cultural diversity (whatever that is)? These things don't have anything to do with what I'm going for, or the job I want when I'm done.



Counselor Mark Weiss

Answer: Without knowing the program you're in, I can't comment too directly on how math and cultural diversity will help you. But let me tell you how they just helped me.

My wife has cancer. She's going to live, but she had to have surgery, stay in the hospital awhile, and then get chemotherapy, along with a drug called Hercepton. Of all these things, the chemotherapy is what freaked her out the most. She's far more afraid of it than the surgery, or even the cancer itself.

So, she worked herself up to being ready for chemo and then her oncologist threw in a wild card, at the last moment, a trip to a cardiologist to see if her heart is strong enough for the Hercepton she will get with the chemo. This made her distraught. She had worked herself up psychologically and now there was another hurdle. She said that if chemo didn't start right away, she didn't think she could get herself geared up for it again.

The day of the meeting with the cardiologist she had a minor surgical procedure first. While she was under the knife, I charged over to the oncologists office and said, "even if the cardiologist decides against the hercepton, why can't the chemo begin on time, since that's the part my wife is saying she's so upset about, and doesn't want to delay?"

After a brief pause, the oncologist said, "Sure, we can do that. No reason why we can't." So now things were going to keep moving forward and I gave my wife the good news.

What made me think of this plan, that saved my wife psychologically. Well it had nothing to do with being a counselor. It had to do with math. The equation that hit me was this: one minus one does not make zero, it still leaves you with one. Just because the one drug therapy was in doubt, didn't mean that the other had to be eliminated, that's just what everyone, including the doctors assumed. So, thank God for subtraction, I say.

Later that day, the cardiologist used some math of his own. He realized that my wife had no symptoms of a heart issue, no family history of heart disease, and the chemo drugs were not the kind likely to react with the Hercepton. So, in his mind zero plus zero plus zero equaled zero reasons to stop my wife's treatment. Thank God for addition.

And that's my personal reason for suggesting that math is important. It is part of what creates logic in our thinking and can, therefore, prove valuable in our lives and at our work, in ways that we might never guess.

Next week I'll tackle the question of Cultural Diversity... And keep those questions coming in.

Mark Weiss

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

BACK in the DAY

Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

This day in history ...

Jan. 19, 1983: Worst kind of Barbie ...

The infamous Klaus Barbie is arrested in Bolivia to be extradited to France for war crimes. During WWII, Barbie is the head of the Gestapo in Lyons, France, where he earns the nickname "Butcher of Lyons" for personally torturing dozens of prisoners and having over 4,000 people killed. After the war he works with the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps before fleeing to Argentina, where he works with local drug lords and dictators. He also boasts that he helped the CIA find and kill Che Guevara. After being extradited to France, he is able to beat most of his charges, and is sent to prison. He dies four years later of leukemia, age 77.

Jan. 20, 1990: For the people?

Under the cover of night, 26,000 Soviet soldiers attack Baku, Azerbaijan, killing 137 civilians and injuring 800 more. The previous week, the city begins rioting and the Azerbaijanis begin murdering ethnic Armenians living in Baku. The Soviets do nothing. The Azerbaijanis then begin calling for independence from the Soviet Union. Suddenly the Red Army is there to "protect the people."

Jan. 21, 1908: Also for the people?

New York City enacts the Sullivan Ordinance, making it illegal for women to smoke in public. Two days later a woman named Katie Mulcahey is arrested for violating the law. The law is overturned by NYC mayor George Brinton McClellan Jr. two weeks later.

Jan. 22, 1905: Definitely not for the people ...

Protesters, 300,000 in number, peacefully gather outside of the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, home of Tsar Nicholas II. Upon arriving at the palace, Imperial Guard soldiers open fire into the crowd. Official records report 96 dead and 333 wounded. Anti-government reports indicate over 4,000 dead. Independent and non-biased reports claim about 1,000 killed and wounded. This incident helps spark the failed 1905 Russian revolution. The famous author Leo Tolstoy was hugely affected by the event.

Jan. 23, 1964: A bit more equal ...

The 24th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified. The Amendment declares "poll taxes" unconstitutional, as they are locally imposed taxes preventing people from voting in a federal election. This Amendment is important because, since the end of the Civil War, poll taxes had been used as a method of preventing non-white people from voting.

Jan. 24, 41: Nicer than we think?

Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus aka Caligula, is assassinated by disgruntled members of the Praetorian Guard and the Senate. In response, his extremely loyal bodyguards go on a grief-stricken rampage in the Senate, attacking the conspirators along with innocent bystanders. Caligula is known for being a completely insane, perverted, psychopathic monster. However, recent historians have questioned this, pointing out that in Rome, accusations of sexual perversion and insanity were common amongst unpopular rulers. I'd just like to say maybe that's why they were unpopular.

Jan. 25, 1890: Speedy Nellie!

Nellie Bly (the pen name of Elizabeth Jane Cochran) completes a trip circumnavigating the world in 72 days. She came up with the idea for the trip, attempting- to beat the record in Jules Verne's novel "Around the World in 80 Days." She actually meets with Verne during the trip. Bly is also famous for an exposé where she pretends to be insane, is committed to a women's mental institute, and then writes a book exposing how it was almost as bad as a medieval dungeon. An amazing woman, to be sure.

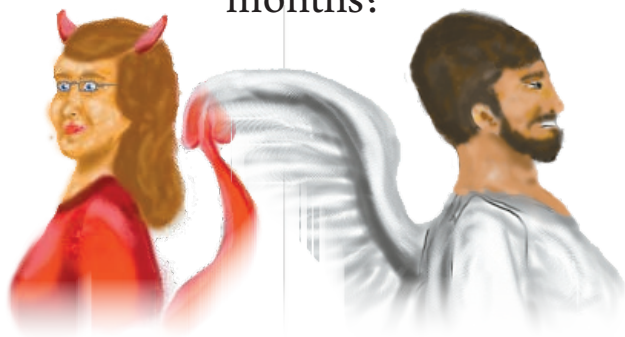
Thought for the week:

"A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote."

-Bill Vaughn

Dear Conscience,

Question: Should I be comfortable with my girlfriend studying abroad for four months?



Ashley Christie
Shoulder Devil

Justin Bolger
Shoulder Angel

You can't ask her to stay ... you have to tell her.

Demand that she give up this once in a lifetime opportunity, for you. In fact, forbid her from leaving. There is nothing a woman loves more than being told what she can and can't do by her significant other.

She wants to have life experiences? That's great. Why can't she have them with you?

Shouldn't she want to stay with you? If you two had any sort of connection she wouldn't be skipping of to another country the first chance she got. Doesn't she love you at all?

I can't believe you're actually considering this. You're going to let her go to some super far away and exotic country like Canada or something? Without you?! You know what's going to happen don't you?

She's going to meet some big, rugged lumberjack or Mountie or whatever who plays hockey and has other manly hobbies and speaks Canadian. She's going to fall madly in love with him because he's all foreign and mysterious.

I know she promises that you'll talk everyday and she'll never forget you and you're the only one for her and blah, blah, blah but she can't know that. It's not like she's psychic.

Going to another country is like going to Vegas, all bets are off. What happens there, stays there.

She may resent you for holding her back but that's better than the paranoia you'll endure while she's away. And let's be honest, you're feelings are much more important than hers, aren't they?

What is life but experience? What is left when you take experience away?

People should be allowed to spread their wings and soar, especially by those who love them most. I'm sure the mere thought of adventure sets her heart a-flutterin'! You don't want to take that away from her, do you?

When there's an adventure you have your heart set on, she will be just as understanding!

What she needs is encouragement and trust on your part. There is a certain measure of destiny in travel. With that comes some degree of fear. Help her by giving her faith in your love for each other and hope for a wonderful welcome home!

I do understand how difficult it is to be apart from one's soulmate, however. Just keep in mind that while it can be painful at times, it will also be a bonding experience and so worth it when all is said and done.

Keep in touch with letters, emails, and even Skype if you can! It's all very romantic actually. It's just incredible that two people can have a face-to-face conversation from opposite ends of the planet! Use this power well, friend.

I'll speak on trust one more time (as some things bear worth enough to be twice mentioned). Without trust, there is nothing but a burning time limit on your relationship. With trust, be confident that you two lovebirds are certainly going to last.



OPINION

Screw You, Roger Ebert

"Video games can never be art."

- Roger Ebert

Why not? The Museum of Modern Art in New York City has a 15-foot-high rectangle that is solid blue, and it is considered art. The old Soviet propaganda film "Battleship Potempkin" is considered art and is one of the most referenced movies in American cinema, even though most modern Americans have never even heard of it. Paintings, books, and movies can all be art, so why not video games? A good game is like an interactive movie/novel, so I don't see why Mr. Ebert and so many other people deride video games as being inferior and not art. (Another journalist for an Australian paper said games aren't art because they are competitive.)

As an avid gamer, I would say that most games are not art. However, saying they can never be art, or are not art because they are competitive, is preposterous. I think that this concept of video games can be traced to one single thing: storyline. Everything else can be justified in some way or another, but not story. Don't complain about graphics being a requirement for art, some of the earliest art is barely "chicken scratch" on a cave wall.

I don't want to hear "art isn't competitive and video games are." Look at games like "Flower" or "Braid," where you cannot die and there are no other people you are competing against. Likewise, much of the greatest art was competing in a social medium. "Battleship Potempkin" was competing with communism against capitalism. If you look at the Dutch masters, they were competing in an ideological battle of Dutch Protestant ideas and lifestyles vs. Catholic Spanish and French ideas.

Like I said, it all comes down to story, and to some degree definition, but I won't worry about definition because there are literally dozens of different descriptions of what art is. I will just say that the reason so much art is considered to be so is because it has had a lasting impact, often on the way we look at the world, and what better way to do that than story?

I can't help but feel like people look at games like "Grand Theft Auto," "Halo," and "Call of Duty" and just instantly write off video games as shallow entertainment where you frag anything that moves. Look at other games, such as "BioShock," "Dragon Age," and my personal favorite, "Mass Effect 2." These games all have excellent, deep, and three-dimensional stories that get you involved in a topic and make you care. Then they proceed to discuss complex issues such as morality, necessity, loyalty, mercy, perception, religion, and the "greater good." What makes this so potent is that while they are certainly not the first mediums to discuss these topics, they allow a level of interaction



Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

previously unavailable. Which is more potent, watching/reading about a guy who says "shucks, we have a problem, I have to sacrifice something for the greater good to fix it," or actually having to choose and deal with the consequences of such an action yourself? To me, the answer is obvious. The problem is that games like "BioShock" and "Mass Effect" are the exceptions rather than the rule, but this is always the case. For each piece of art there are a dozen pieces of trash. "Mass Effect 2"/"Dynasty Warriors 7." "The Lord of the Rings"/"Twilight." "The Fall"/"Battlefield Earth." Beethoven/Milli Vanilli.

Games are like literature in this regard. We don't often read the pulp from ten years ago, but we still value and read works like "Beowulf" and "Gilgamesh," stories that are hundreds, sometimes even thousands of years old. Why do we do this? The story. A good story is timeless, and will make us see some truth in the human condition. This is true of books, movies, poems, paintings, and video games. Kellee Santiago, a video game designer, spoke of a "scale of art," from the aforementioned "chicken scratch" on cave walls on one end with the Sistine Chapel on the other. She said that video games definitely fall closer to the cave paintings end of the spectrum, and I do agree. That being said, video games can still be art, and often are, regardless of what numerous critics have said. What's more, they are still a very new medium, and that they have come so far in so little time is a testament to their potency.

"Criticism is easy, and art is difficult."

-Phillipe V. Destouches



Have questions? We have answers.

We will be offering advice on ANY topic from two points of view. Send your questions to: commuter@linnbenton.edu

Roadrunner Basketball: Could this be the Year?

Scott Landgren
Sports Editor

There is something about opening the doors to the gym for the first time at the start of a new LBCC basketball season. Many challenges come with it, and after the doors are open, three things come to the mind of any coach:

1. Reviewing last season trying to find out what went wrong.
2. Reviewing returning players and deciding what positions new players will fill.
3. Looking ahead and planning goals for the season - this could be the season we win it all!

Head Coach Randy Falk's first thing to do was to look back at last season and try to pick out what happened and how to improve on that. Last season LB was one of the top four in the South to qualify for the NWAACCs.

"Last season we made the NWAACC tournament, which we were very excited about," said Falk.

This year's team is a very young one. With only four returning sophomores, the door is open for freshmen to step up and contribute to this team. The team is really going to stress game plan and have to use different ways to win games and not rely so much on experience.

"The team is smaller this year but more athletic - we also have a lot of speed," said returning sophomore Michael Kirkwood.

While looking at goals for this season, Falk discussed the need to have good chemistry on the team, and how much different LBCC is because it is only a two-year college. Most colleges have players for three or four years and they have enough depth to find the right combination of players that works. At LB you only get players for one or two years and it is so important to have players they have great chemistry and fit well together to produce a great team.

"We really want the players to be good students because there is no greater sign of being a better person. We also would love to make it back to the NWAACCs and advance deeper into the tournament," said Falk.

LB finished up the non-conference part of the season with a record of 3-7 and won their first three Southern league games. With the wins, LB starts league play off with a 3-0 record and an overall record of 6-7. The Roadrunners have played tough teams so far this season and everyone is pleased with their progress.

"It was a slow start to the season because we played so many great teams, but our chemistry is really coming around and we are playing better," said returning sophomore Taylor Roos.



Tony Brown
Michael Kirkwood takes a block.

Dancers Vie for Spring Show

Whitney Bruce
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, Jan. 15, the Dance Club had auditions for the 2011 spring performance. There was a fairly good turnout despite only being the second year the club has been active on the LBCC campus.

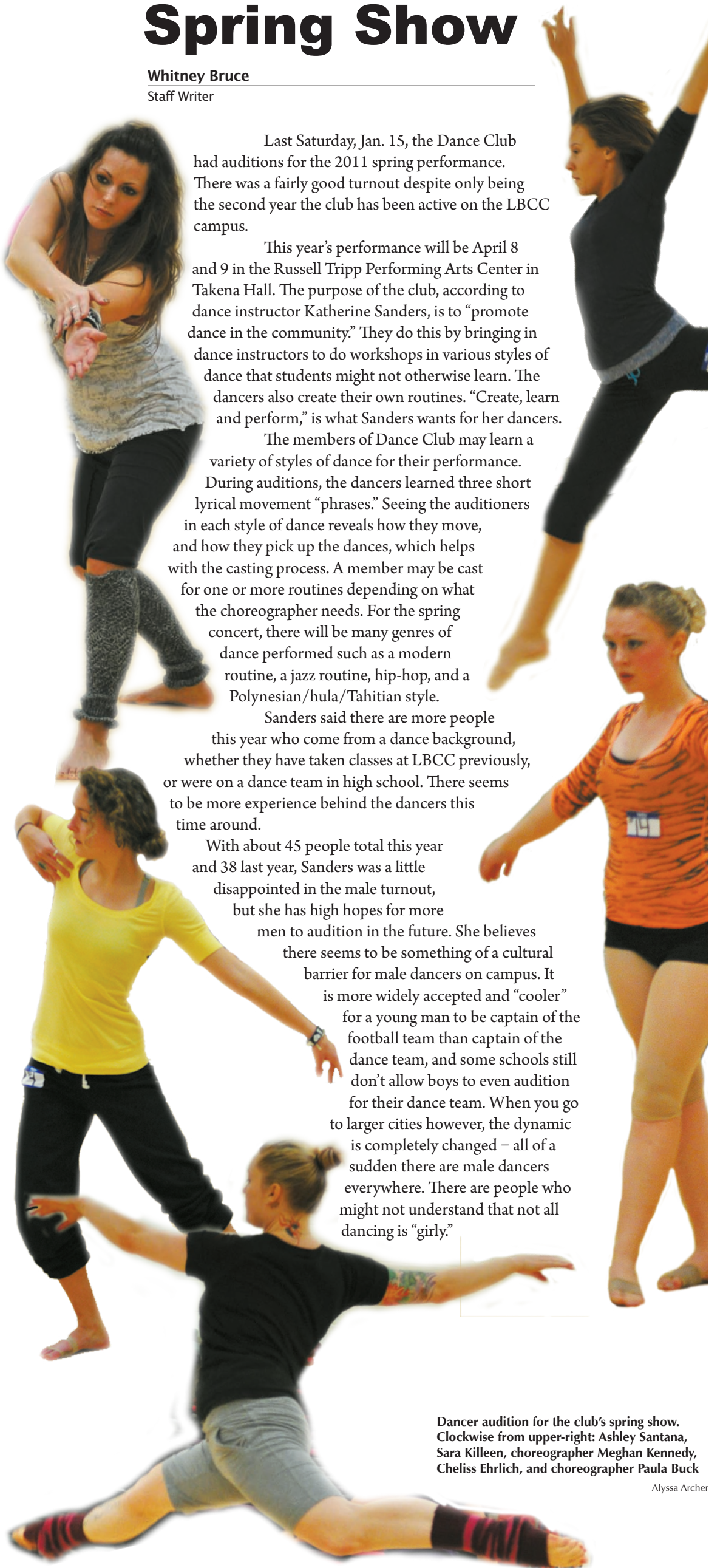
This year's performance will be April 8 and 9 in the Russell Tripp Performing Arts Center in Takena Hall. The purpose of the club, according to dance instructor Katherine Sanders, is to "promote dance in the community." They do this by bringing in dance instructors to do workshops in various styles of dance that students might not otherwise learn. The dancers also create their own routines. "Create, learn and perform," is what Sanders wants for her dancers.

The members of Dance Club may learn a variety of styles of dance for their performance. During auditions, the dancers learned three short lyrical movement "phrases." Seeing the auditioners in each style of dance reveals how they move, and how they pick up the dances, which helps with the casting process. A member may be cast for one or more routines depending on what the choreographer needs. For the spring concert, there will be many genres of dance performed such as a modern routine, a jazz routine, hip-hop, and a Polynesian/hula/Tahitian style.

Sanders said there are more people this year who come from a dance background, whether they have taken classes at LBCC previously, or were on a dance team in high school. There seems to be more experience behind the dancers this time around.

With about 45 people total this year and 38 last year, Sanders was a little disappointed in the male turnout, but she has high hopes for more

men to audition in the future. She believes there seems to be something of a cultural barrier for male dancers on campus. It is more widely accepted and "cooler" for a young man to be captain of the football team than captain of the dance team, and some schools still don't allow boys to even audition for their dance team. When you go to larger cities however, the dynamic is completely changed - all of a sudden there are male dancers everywhere. There are people who might not understand that not all dancing is "girly."



Dancer audition for the club's spring show. Clockwise from upper-right: Ashley Santana, Sara Killeen, choreographer Meghan Kennedy, Cheliss Ehrlich, and choreographer Paula Buck

Alyssa Archer

LBCC Men's Basketball

Next Home Game:
Wed. 1/19
at 7:30 p.m.
vs.
SWOCC



See more photos online at commuter.linnbenton.edu

The Year of the Sports Fan

Drew Wilson-McGrath
Contributing Writer

The 2010 year in sports was one of the most compelling and exciting in recent memory. In baseball, the San Francisco Giants won the 106th World Series, with a stunning display of skill and passion that led them to a 4-1 series victory over the favored Texas Rangers.

The Giants were hardly considered a possible contender for the playoffs until midway through the season, and when talk of the Big Show came up in bar room conversation, it was merely hushed and hopeful.

The route they delivered to the Texas Rangers was certainly a result of hard training and harder game play; yet it would be cruel to overlook the raucous and intense San Francisco Giants fan base that rallied for their beloved team, whether at the game, or at home with their families sporting the black and faded orange letters "S" and "F" on their ball caps.

In international football (soccer to most Americans) the 2010 World Cup was full of surprises. In a stunning overtime battle against three-time World

Cup finalists the Netherlands, Spain clinched its first World Cup title.

The first World Cup contest was held in 1930, and since its inauguration has been steadily finding its place in the hearts of millions ranging from Los Angeles to the most fur hat-infested reaches of Eastern Russia.

However, if we have a sports radar with a dial set closer to home, this football season has been one of the most colorful and unbelievable to date. For some, it has been a season of surprises and joy.

Others, however, are assuredly stuck in a dark place; an abyss full of nothing but tears, broken hearts, shattered beer bottles, and a dismal Fantasy Football tally.

Michael Vick returned to the NFL, sporting not the red and black of his former Atlanta Falcons but a new look, one of green and silver, courtesy of the

Philadelphia Eagles.

Many of the initial prospects for the playoffs took tumbles in a direction that led them far away from the coveted playoff births they were expected to receive. The Dallas Cowboys, a strong defensive team originally

expected to reach at least the second round of the NFL playoffs, with leaders such as Demarcus Ware and Terrence Newman, had a rather dismal season, with a final record of 6-10.

The Arizona Cardinals, last year a standout team with a crushing offense that included

Pro Bowlers Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin, rested at a low 5-11 record, well below their Super Bowl caliber season of the year before.

And as of Sunday, the playoff pundits and prophets have been further shamed, with the expected Super Bowl victor New England Patriots falling to the New York Jets in a fast-paced and

emotional game that left the Jets sitting pretty with a final score of 28-21.

The Seattle Seahawks, a fan favorite among many of those hailing from the Northwest, pulled out a gripping victory over the defending champion New Orleans Saints, only to fall Sunday at The Frozen Soldier (Soldier Field, which was blanketed by thick sheets of snow during the second half) against the well prepared Chicago Bears.

Looking ahead, we have the strong but certainly unexpected Green Bay Packers facing the Chicago Bears in the NFC championship game, and the underdog New York Jets taking on the number-two ranked Pittsburgh Steelers hoping to wrangle their first AFC title in years.

Needless to say, the next three weeks are bound to shock the sports community in one way or another, with the football nation on tenterhooks in anticipation of the outcome of the Super Bowl Feb. 6.

This season is the host to many frazzled minds and fatigued beer guts, as well as a ton of luck and wishful thinking on behalf of fans and players alike.



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Roadrunners Ready to Run

Michaela Wasson
Contributing Writer

They're on the Wellness Trail. That's where you'll find Jayme Frazier and her LBCC running class. And it's more than just a cinder track that starts behind the Activity Center. It includes the foggy winter weather, chatting with friends, and the simple act of running that one of her students says he just "loves."

But mostly they're just following the Wellness Trail because running can improve your health. Here at LBCC, you can start a running club, jog/walk with a class, take your own way on trails across campus, or run around the gym on rainy days. And it's all on the Trail.

Frazier, the jogging teacher, glows with vigor. Lean and fit, she said that running "keeps her in tune." Then dryly she listed all the physical issues that don't bother her, "probably because I run." She took up the sport after college as a way to keep healthy. It's been 20 years, and she's teaching jogging because, "I know what it gives me. I want to help people stay on track." So, she thinks running can keep college students mentally and physically strong through these hard years?

"Absolutely."

Runners seem a mentally strong group. They speak of dreary acts of will, like marathons, with grins and excited eyes. Frazier is hoping to qualify for one of the top races in the nation, the Boston marathon.

Cole Newman, a student, was registered in a marathon as a birthday present. Brad Carman, a former track coach, has a "couple" marathons to his credit.

On a much larger scale, Dean Karnazes is somewhat of a running hero. He's raced in 50 marathons in 50 days and in super races across the world like those covered on timesonline.co.uk.

Yes, said, Kristi Murphey, PE teacher and runner, mental toughness is "huge." Eagerly, she praises her sport. "It teaches me to do more than you think you can."

But runners across campus think that it isn't just about dealing with pain, it relaxes.

Student Lori Murphie, is 44 and getting back to jogging. Murphie thinks it is "enormous," not just for the mind but for the body. "It's a must for health ... everything."

The health question sets runners' heads nodding. Kristi Murphey had a friend who lost 100 pounds with running. Carman has seen people take up running to fix bad hearts or diabetes.

Runner Frank Warren, who wants



rjs1322@flickr.com

to start a jogging club on campus, was inspired by the story of John Bingham in *The Courage to Start*. Bingham began running when he "looked like a penguin." And the story is... he doesn't look like one anymore.

There is still a question among experts of whether chronic running can hurt your heart. But the experts are beginning to agree with the runners. But Frazier says, "Walking is for everybody."

Behind the Activity Center, in a smooth green field, the Wellness Trail starts. Maybe we should pull on our running shoes and get moving – thud, thud, thud...

Five Steps to Running

1. Get a good pair of running shoes
2. Start by walking
3. Exercise at least three times a week
4. For the first two months, don't run for two days in a row
5. Determine exercise length by time, not distance

source: time-to-run.com

Academic Success Seminars

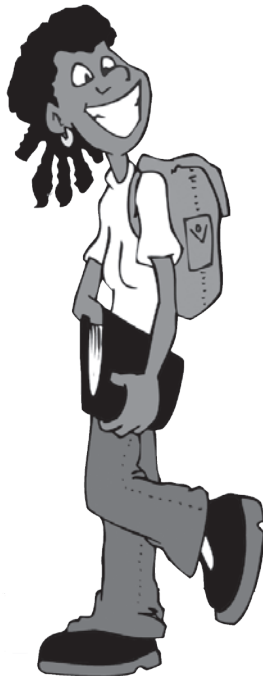
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Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

So Much Math, So Little Time

Wednesday January 12 Albany WH-225 3:00 – 3:50 p.m.

Better Notes = Better Grades

Tuesday	January 18	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 19	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 19	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Prepare for Tests

Tuesday	January 25	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 26	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 26	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Get Organized

Tuesday	February 1	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 2	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 2	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Active Learning Strategies

Tuesday	February 8	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 9	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 9	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Accomplish Your Academic Goals

Tuesday	February 15	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 16	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 16	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center. For more information, visit WebRunner under "Study Skills" or call 541-917-4684.

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer. 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, OR 97321, phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.



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Education Has No Age Limit

High Schoolers Among Us

Carli Gibson
Contributing Writer

Students from 12 different Oregon high schools have the opportunity to attend LBCC with hopes of gaining a head start in life.

The program originally started as a GED program 15 years ago. Students with bad grades were being released from high school due to a lack of funding. Once the students were released, they were not tracked to ensure they went to get their GED until LBCC stepped in and started tracking them.

Within a matter of years, the program today known as College Now, grew into a program no longer just for students getting their GED's. It included students who wanted to accelerate towards a brighter future.

When students from high school needed higher placements in areas of study (such as math or English), LBCC began allowing students to take the next level of study at the college.

"The program grew from 35 students, 15 years ago to 300 students now," says Kathy Chafin, who is in charge of the underage enrollment program at LBCC and who has been a part of the program since the beginning.

One of the 300 students involved with the underage-enrollment program is Katey Spitz, a senior at South Albany High School. This is her first term at LBCC.

Spitz, who plans to become an X-ray technician, decided to dual enroll, "to get all the 'junk classes' [prerequisites] out of the way," and to work her way through college sooner.

Although Spitz has her ups and downs with college, she cannot wait to be a full-time college student. She enjoys the atmosphere of college. "You're treated like an adult instead of a kid. You're not slapped on the hand for every little thing you do." Spitz also adds, "College is more independent; I like being independent."

Kyle Dickason also participated in the program last year, and is now a full-time theatre major. Despite the fact that Dickason misses his friends from high school, he's glad to be done and on to bigger and better things. Dickason's biggest adjustment was finding his way around. "The new campus was really big, and I kept getting lost," he admits.

Spitz's least favorite part of college is waiting in line for books and parking!

"Someone's always after my parking spot," Spitz says irritably and explains, "I have to hurry up and get into my car just so someone can take my spot. The parking is ridiculous!"

For these students, LBCC is just the beginning. After receiving his Associates degree from LBCC, Dickason hopes to transfer to Oregon State University to continue majoring in theatre. Spitz intends to get her prerequisites out of the way and then transfer to Oregon Institute of Technology.

Chafin says the only difference between the high school students enrolled in College Now and college students is the progress reports high school students must turn in each term in order to make sure they don't need tutoring or extra help.

"Except for that, everything is the same," says Chafin. They are "just in a more supportive environment."

Is Age Just a Number?

Dineen Charest
Contributing Writer

It is no surprise that on Jan. 5 there were 28,343 students enrolled in LBCC. What is surprising, however, is the amount of registered students that are middle age and above.

Currently, there are 11,898 students over the age of 40 attending LBCC, according to Jean Nicoletti, manager of the office of Institutional Research at LBCC.

Why are so many middle-age people going back to school? How difficult is it to attend classes when many of their fellow students could be considered their children or grandchildren?

At 43, Dan Alire is obtaining a two-year degree in Business Management Supervision. He was a manager with Hewlett Packard for 12 years but never had a college degree.

When Hewlett Packard started shipping operations overseas, Alire's position was eliminated. Unable to find a job without a management degree, Alire was offered the opportunity to take advantage of the Federal Trade Act Assistance Program. With this program, the government would pay Alire two years of unemployment as well as pay for his classes.

In order to qualify, Alire was required to take a personality test which paired him with occupations that not only fit his profile but also had the greatest employment availability. Alire hopes to obtain his degree in two years; however, there is a catch. After the two years are finished, he cannot re-apply for unemployment and his school benefits will end.

Alire remembers attending his very first day. He said, "I felt like a loser because here I am, over 40, with 20 years in the workforce. I have always been able to work and support my family, but now, looking around the classroom, I saw so many kids – and I was starting over. I felt old. I felt like a failure."

Alire discussed the two weeks leading up to the start of school and how he experienced nightmares and panic attacks. It actually took him at least mid-way through the first term to

become comfortable with his surroundings. He revealed his largest worry: finding a well-paying management job with a reputable company in this area after graduation. "I am not able to relocate my family; my house is here. My family, my whole life is here!"

Another student Debbie Ohling, 46, is a single mother of a six-year-old son. She was working as a heavy equipment operator when she became injured. Unable to continue to work, her choices were few – either go on permanent disability or go back to school.

Ohling enrolled in LBCC three years ago to obtain a degree in Child and Family Studies.

Ohling shared her impression of walking into a classroom for the first time in 20 years. "I looked around, noticed the young faces. I was afraid I would not survive this class, never mind lasting until graduation! But I survived – mostly due to necessity and the Disability office at LBCC. They were incredible. They helped me through the most difficult times!"

After graduation this spring, Ohling is not sure if she will continue to a four year college or move to Alaska. She discovered the pay is higher in Alaska, and she believes there is less competition in finding a job. Since she has no family here, and she does not want to find herself swamped with student loans at the age of 46, Alaska may be her best choice for supporting her son.

Alire and Ohling are like many of the middle-age students who are starting over. Our crumbling economy is forcing many people back to college because they now find themselves without the necessary skills or degrees to succeed in today's workforce, especially when employers are more likely to hire from a much younger group of applicants who have degrees.

For the student over 40, gone are the days of wondering what outfit is fashionable for school, does my back-end look fat in these jeans, or what parties are happening this weekend.

No, for those students the questions are: Will I be able to support my family when I graduate? Will I be hired over younger students because of my life experiences? At this stage in life, will I be able to succeed? Unlike most younger students, the middle-aged do not have the luxury of time. It is a question of survival with failure absolutely not being an option.

College Resources for Any Age

College Now:
Kathy Chafin
541-917-
kathy.chafin@linnbenton.edu
www.linnbenton.edu/go/college-now

LBCC Registration:
541-917-4811
www.linnbenton.edu/go/future

FAFSA:
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Scholarships:
www.fastweb.com

Disability Services:
www.linbenton.edu/go/disability-services

Linn-Benton Loop
541-917-7667
www.cityofalbany.net/publicworks/ats

LB Employees Share the Burden of Budget Cuts

Lacey Jarrell
Managing Editor

As part of what president Greg Hamann calls a “proportionally shared solution,” LBCC staff members took a voluntary pay cut that went into effect Jan. 1.

The concessions are in the wake of a string of maneuvers LBCC is using to fill a \$2.6 million gap in the college’s budget, including a \$7 per credit tuition increase for students, and campus-wide expense reductions.

Full-time faculty agreed to a 3.5 percent salary reduction that will last through April 30. The cut is expected to save the college \$195,000.

Classified staff conceded 3.16 percent that will last through the rest of the year and continue through the 2011-12 fiscal year, for a total of 18 months, with an estimated savings of \$373,000.

Combined, the cuts could potentially save the school \$568,000. This is in addition to 10 work days classified staff gave up last year.

Administrators agreed to drop a 6 percent Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) pickup that subsidized administration retirement accounts. State employees, including community college faculty, are required by

law to pay into a retirement fund, which means the employees cannot opt out or delay deposits. The payments will now have to be paid out of pocket.

“The loss doesn’t affect salary, but definitely impacts earnings,” said Benton Center director Jeff Davis.

Leading by example, Hamann also presented a self-imposed 5 percent salary reduction to the Board of Education in September. The Board accepted Hamann’s proposal and reduced his salary, causing it to dip below his original hiring wage of \$162,000, which was increased 2.5 percent in July as per contract agreements.

“I felt that it was important for me to take the ‘first step’ in addressing our shortfall, but am gratified that after only a few months we are now taking this step together,” Hamann wrote in a letter to LBCC staff.

While the moves satisfy the financial needs of the college, many employees affected by the cuts share mixed feeling about the complicated issue.

“No one wants to take a pay cut, but I really didn’t want anyone to lose their job,” said

classified employee Lin Olsen, marketing, facilities and ceramics coordinator.

Olsen, who voted in favor of the concession, pointed out that many classified employees have already taken on extra responsibilities due to added enrollment – and once a position is gone, it’s hard to work it back into the budget.

“It’s also hard to be effective when you are constantly in fear of losing your job,” she added.

Negotiation teams, representing full-time faculty and classified employee associations, met with the Board of Education several times throughout November and December until a plausible solution was met and brought to a vote.

“Our goal throughout the negotiations was to continue to look forward and try to tackle both problems [current and foreseen shortfalls] with the same solution,” said Jim Huckestein, vice president of finance and operations, who expects a deficit in the future.

One option administration is exploring is reducing faculty in-service work days next year. One faculty in-service day costs the school \$81,000. In

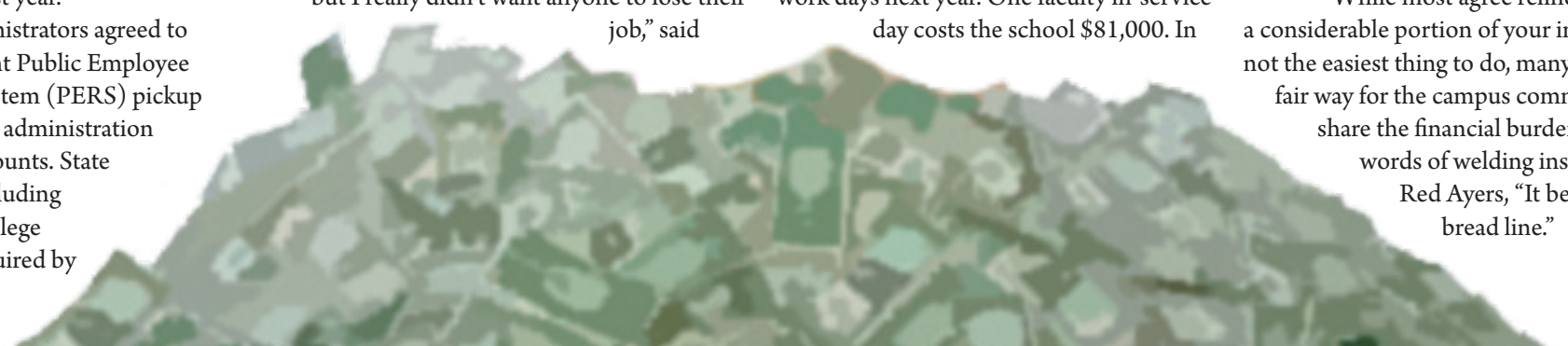
response to a shortfall in 2009, four in-service days were cut, saving the school \$324,000.

English instructor Terrance Millet said the salary he is losing over the three month period is the equivalent of a mortgage payment. Millet, who has been at LBCC 10 years, said the cut is “absolutely” a hardship, but admits not everyone will be affected by the cuts equally.

His concerns surround new employees and those at the bottom of the pay scale, including new instructors and classified employees. He pointed out the discrepancy of lost wages and money being used differently at different stages in life. Younger instructors, he notes, presumably have new mortgages and children to take care of, among other things.

“We all want to do this to save jobs and make it work,” he said. “But it’s important to remember that some people could lose their homes from this,” said Millet.

While most agree relinquishing a considerable portion of your income is not the easiest thing to do, many feel it is a fair way for the campus community to share the financial burden. In the words of welding instructor Red Ayers, “It beats the bread line.”



Active Minds Taking First Step Forward

Jill Mahler
Contributing Writer

Due to numerous students who expressed interest, LBCC is forming a chapter of Active Minds, an organization aimed at targeting suicide prevention. The organization’s website, www.Activeminds.org, states that Active Minds is a “national non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of mental health issues amongst teens and young adults.” According to the National Safety Council, suicide is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

The leader for the LBCC chapter of Active Minds is Sharon Sielschott, a second-year psychology major. Sielschott said she first heard of the organization after reading about an Active Minds speaker at Oregon State University – a person who had attempted suicide.

Sielschott could immediately see, “Active Minds is an organization people are passionate about.”

In order to form the chapter at LBCC, the club must be student-run and have an adviser/sponsor.



Psychology instructor Greg Jones became the adviser for the LBCC chapter.

Sielschott says, “The goal of our chapter is to promote awareness, understanding, and remove stigmas associated with mental health issues; bring attention and respect to the conversation, hopefully empowering other young leaders to become advocates and educate.”

Although Active Minds is new to LBCC, it has touched numerous colleges and people.

“We’re the 304th chapter of Active Minds to be formed.”

Active Minds was originally started in 2001 by Alison Malmon, a junior at the University of Pennsylvania.

Malmon lost her older brother, Brian, in 2000 after he committed suicide. After searching for existing groups that worked against issues such as suicide, she found none that she could bring to her campus. As a result, Alison created her own example: Open Minds. Open Minds became so popular it expanded to other campuses and was renamed Active Minds in 2003.

According to the Active Minds website, it is the “only organization working to utilize the student voice to change the conversation about mental health on college campuses.”

Jones said the club will benefit students by allowing them to have “a fluid transition between students and resources.” He believes, “Students should know exactly what resources are in their neighborhoods.”

Or, as Sielschott puts it, “Someone with a heart problem isn’t afraid to talk about it, so why are we ashamed to talk about mental health issues? It’s time to get the conversation going.”

Active Minds’ first meeting will be held in North Santiam Hall, Room 110, at noon on Friday, Jan. 21.

LBCC E-mail Overhauled

Jordan Tunstill
A&E Editor

LBCC is preparing to switch all of the email accounts associated with the school to an ad-free, Google service. The new e-mail accounts are supposed to be easier to operate than the old ones, and they will work smoothly with other Google programs.

The change from the current e-mail system to the new one will be happening sometime before the end of spring term. Students will receive an e-mail prompting them to make the switch, and if they don’t, eventually their account will be automatically switched over for them.

Ann Adams is one of the people in charge of making the switch between the two e-mail services simple and painless. She is a part of the committee that decided that Google was the best option for a new e-mail plan for the college. She said that the change was needed because, “The current e-mail was at the end of its license. We had to change it to something.”

Ann was pleased with the final choice for the e-mail provider. She said that, “Google has been great to work with. You can’t beat free.”

LBCC's 34th Annual FAMILY FUN DAY!

January 22
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Food & drinks
- Used book & toy sale
- Activities for kids ages 1-6
- Activity tickets 25¢ each

Call 541-917-4897 for information.
LBCC Activities Center,
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon



LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer. For disability accommodations, call 541-917-4789. Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at LBCC, 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.

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- ▶ **Taking the Mystery Out of Thesis Statements**
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- ▶ **Writing Effective Conclusions**
Monday, January 31
- ▶ **Navigating Challenging Website Citations**
Monday, February 7

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Fun Day for the Whole Family

Cameron Vasseur
Staff Writer

Family, kids, fun, play-dough! Yes, that's right, play-dough.

On Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. LBCC will host the 34th Annual Family Fun Day. Parents and children alike will come from Albany and its surrounding areas to not only spend some time with one another in a fun and safe environment, but they will also come together to learn and support parenting classes taught at LBCC.

Essentially a fundraiser in disguise, Family Fun Day is put together by the nearly 30 parenting classes at the community college. Together they come up with activities and games to be played during the day. All the games provided are age-appropriate for children ages 1 through 6 and cost a certain number of tickets to be played. The nice part about the ticket system is that each ticket only costs \$0.25. "For five dollars a kid can have a pretty darn good time," said Jerri Wolfe, one of the day's organizers.

The price of the tickets may seem insignificant to be of any importance to a fundraiser, but with over 500 families that are in attendance every year, that small amount quickly adds up. Plus with other parts of the fair, specifically concessions and the used book and toy sales which are all a part of the ticket currency system, the money raised becomes substantial.

"But what is the money raised for?" you might wonder. Why, for the parenting classes of course! All the money raised during the Fun Day is put back into tuition programs for the parent education classes taught at LBCC, giving parents every possible chance to come and learn effective

ways of communication while learning together with their child.

Periwinkle Child Development Center (PCDC), LBCC's child care and preschool through kindergarten center, is also getting involved this year as its first year back after five years of not participating. Though PCDC also hosts parent classes, they receive separate funding by financial aid. "We are still involved, although we don't benefit directly, but we benefit by being a part of it," said Martha Foster, PCDC's coordinator for their involvement in the Fun Day.

Regardless of who benefits financially, the ways in which these classes impact their students can be seen in the games and activities that are created by them. Each of the different games or activities are made appropriate for their intended age group and are made to pass along subtle lessons such as the importance of sharing, while others are made to challenge a child, to promote cognitive development, and to help refine motor skills.

After being held at the Benton Center for 28 years the day was moved to LBCC's Activities Center in the gym. This helped to not only expand the range of people who were aware of the Fun Day, but also to give a larger amount of room that could accommodate the increased crowd. If however you want to avoid a larger crowd and still have plenty of fun with your child for the day, then come later into the event. "The last hour is quieter," Wolfe said. She also went on to add that if you have a child who is easily over-stimulated, this would be the ideal time for you to come as everything is winding down.

So if this sounds like something that would be fun for you and your kids, head down to LBCC and make your way to the gym and help raise money for the parent education classes.



Ongoing

Gallery Features Eugene Photographer

South Santiam Hall Gallery
Portraits of farmers, families and colorful individuals by Eugene photographer Susie Morrill are on exhibit at LBCC's South Santiam Gallery until Jan. 28.

Gallery Features Northwest Artists

North Santiam Hall Gallery
Salem artists Carol Hausser and Cynthia Herron share the walls with Eugene artist Beverly Soasey, who works in mixed-media sculpture and assemblages. The display goes through Feb. 25.

Wednesday 1/19

Note-taking Success Seminar: Lebanon

1:30 - 2:20 p.m. • LC-202
Better notes = better grades. It's free!

Note-taking Success Seminar

3 - 3:50 p.m. • WH-225
Better notes = better grades. It's free!

Men's and Women's Basketball Tailgate

4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. • Activities Center (Gym)

Come and join the Student Programming Board in supporting our LBCC basketball teams. There will be free, delicious food and drinks.

LBCC Women's and Men's Basketball Games

5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Vs. SWOCC. Women play at 5:30 p.m. Men play at 7:30 p.m. Free admission to LBCC students and staff. General admission \$2.

Thursday 1/20

Disability Awareness for All: Movement Impairment

10 - 11 a.m. and Noon - 1 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center
Learn how others experience campus with movement impairments. Explore access.

Friday 1/21

Disability Awareness for All: Hearing Impairment

10 - 11 a.m. and Noon - 1 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center
Learn how others experience

college with hearing impairments. Learn about deaf culture and accommodations.

Acoustic Showcase: Benton Center

Noon - 1 p.m. • Benton Center Student Lounge
Featuring southern-rooted "Marquette Gumbo," known for their lively Corvallis Market riffs. Sid Beam and Joe Casprowiak, musical brothers for over 40 years, comprise the base for the band.

Tuesday 1/25

Introduction to the Rally to Save ERDC

Noon - 1 p.m. • CC-103
Speaker Lisa Bauman will introduce the budget cuts in Employment Related Daycare and how this affects students. For more information, contact saveerdc@gmail.com

When Life Hurts

Noon - 1 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center
Let's face it: College can be overwhelming! Some stress is natural. It is important to know warning signs of serious depression. Learn how/when to get help for yourself or a friend you're worried about.




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LBCC Helps to Ensure a Green Future

John Rosales
Contributing Writer

LBCC continued to show its commitment to sustainability and green technology as solar panels recently were added to what will eventually be a gazebo in the courtyard. This was just one of the many advancements made in the past couple of years that illustrates the schools' sustainability practices.

Madrone Hall is the newest building on campus and its design and construction reflect the college's dedication to sustainability. A portion of the building was constructed from recycled materials; the building reused about 10 percent of building waste in order to help in its construction. The building also sports a set of solar-paneled windows on the south-facing wall. These windows produce around nine kilowatt hours of energy, which, in comparison to the 19,000 kilowatt hours the school consumes, doesn't seem to be a very effective addition. However, it does show the use of alternative energy in a functional way.

Madrone Hall also has incorporated a water cistern that is used to collect rainwater from the roof. The water travels down a water slough and is

filtered and dispersed into the ground. This helps to relieve the amount of water that goes into the sewer drains and benefits the school and the community.

Dan Lara, dean of science and technology, expressed what the school hoped to accomplish by focusing so largely on sustainability in their projects: "It allows the college to communicate to the external community what went into its building practices; ...it's a way for the college to say these are the values we hold."

Construction is still being completed on the White Oak Hall building (the former home of the science and technology program), which is located next to Madrone Hall. One of the more creative and interesting features of this newly remodeled building will be the "green" roof featuring a roof-top garden. The roof will be covered with four inches of soil and will be home to over 7,500 different plant species. It will also help reduce thermal energy costs by creating natural insulation for the roof. The roof, scheduled for completion in April, will also be used as a teaching tool for some of the classes on campus.

Construction of a solar gazebo in the courtyard will provide much-needed shade for students, and

also help offset power consumption of the school. These projects helped the school gain certification in the LEED program, a program designed to acknowledge efforts towards sustainability in new buildings.

Instructors in the Mechatronic and Industrial Maintenance program are also working on projects and teaching students to create renewable energy they can bring into the community.

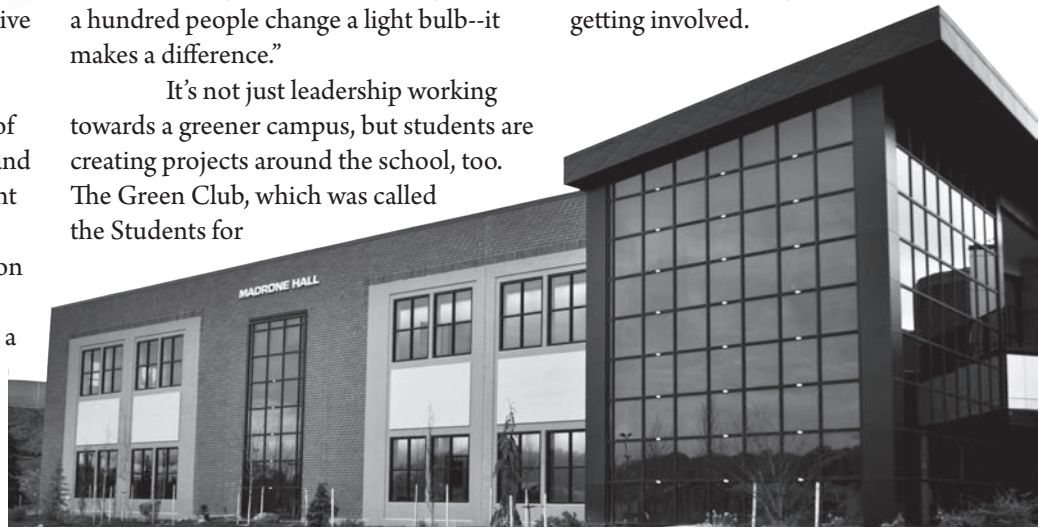
Denis Green, program advisor, explained why thinking about sustainability is so important: "The cleanest, cheapest energy is the energy you save. People think if I change a light bulb it won't make any difference. But if you and a hundred people change a light bulb--it makes a difference."

It's not just leadership working towards a greener campus, but students are creating projects around the school, too. The Green Club, which was called the Students for

Sustainability Club, is a student-run organization that is hoping to help educate students and the local community about the benefits of a greener life.

"We're hoping to be really educational ... bringing that element of education to the campus community," said Lori Fluge-Brunker, Green Club advisor.

One of the club's future projects is an Earth Day fair to educate students on the need for sustainable living. The club hopes to include speakers from TED, an organization dedicated to spreading innovative ideas. The club is currently seeking new members and invites you to visit their website if you're interested in getting involved.



Alyssa Archer



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UNIVERSITY

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Construction at LB Nears Completion

Kay M Roth
Contributing Writer

The fences on the northwest corner of the quad block off an area normally traveled by students and staff members getting to and from classes. When winter term began, students were scrambling to find their classrooms even more than usual. Men with hardhats moved in and out of the building. Staff worked from relocated offices. And, those fences remained in place. When is it all going to end?

Over two years after it began, construction at LBCC is nearing completion. White Oak Hall, formerly known as the Science and Technology building, is almost ready to open.

According to Kevin Nicholson, the project manager, White Oak Hall is in its final stages of being ready for occupancy. "We're close to being done," he said recently.

By Nicholson's estimation, all of the work will be complete early next month.

Gary Ruppert, the Dean of Instruction, is the person who schedules classes and assigns rooms. "We will have classes in there next term," he said this week.

This is the final phase of a two-phase project that began over two years ago with groundbreaking for Madrone Hall. Once classes resume in White Oak Hall, the quad will be completely reopened. Nicholson said no further construction projects are expected in the near future.

The total cost of both phases is estimated at \$10 million. According to information on the LBCC website, funding came from a variety of sources. The college Foundation raised almost half (\$4 million) through private donations. The college spent \$2.75 million, with an additional \$3.73 million coming from state capital construction funding. A federal appropriation of just over \$515,000 was used to purchase lab equipment.

Despite the relocation of classes, the closures have been taken in stride. "We've had no complaints from students," Nicholson said.

He believes students and staff will be pleased with the changes. "It's an all new layout," he said of the way White Oak Hall will look. "It was totally gutted and remodeled." A seismic upgrade was also done, preparing the building to withstand the shocks of earthquakes. Classroom sizes will remain basically the same.

In addition to the remodel, a section that used to be open space is now part of Red Cedar Hall. A wide staircase with a pendulum at the center takes up a large space in Red Cedar. "It was just open space," Nicholson said.

As far as the name changes, Nicholson explained that Rita Cavin, former LBCC president, instigated the switch from subject specific names, such as Science and Technology, to what are considered subject neutral names - White Oak Hall.

Green leaves adorning trees, students relaxing at the many picnic tables in the quad and, oh yes, the opening of White Oak Hall - just some great things to look forward to this spring.



Alyssa Archer

Construction around campus, including the solar sculpture in the courtyard, should be finished soon.

Getting from Point A to LB

Shuttles Prove Efficient

Jill Mahler
Contributing Writer

Monday morning, the Linn Shuttle is cramped with people the Linn Shuttle and as it nears its next stop, another trimester at LBCC begins. Condensation lingers on the windows as the mixture of smells circulates the shuttle. More people climb into the crowded bus, finding handles to hold and empty seats to fill. Although considered a bit stuffy, and sometimes lack space, shuttles have become increasingly popular as a mode of transportation for students and commuters.

One of the many riders relying on the shuttle system is Carrie Wilson, in her fourth term as a Medical Assistant. She says she rides for the obvious reasons, "To save gas, it's convenient, and free to students."

There are many options for students to find alternative transportation to and from college. Shuttles and buses offering routes to LBCC and OSU include the Linn Shuttle, Linn-Benton Loop Bus and Albany Transit. Thanks to LBCC and OSU, students can take advantage of riding the Linn Shuttle, Linn-Benton Loop Bus and the Albany Transit for free with a student ID card. The cards only cost \$10 and with these cards students have made their money back just after a day or two. This pass program is made possible for students from funding between partners from local government agencies including Linn and Benton Counties, LBCC, OSU, Hewlett-Packard as well as state and federal funds.

However, the shuttles and buses are not the only modes of transportation available to students. There is also the option of carpooling.

An option called "AlterNetRides" allows students to utilize a secure system that connects drivers and riders. Carpooling is made easier with this system, and there is no charge to the user. Students can designate preferences like "no smoking" or "no radio" to further advance their search.

According to Barry Hoffman, Albany transit program supervisor, the last three years have seen a substantial spike in shuttle ridership. The Linn-Benton Loop, which has 11 runs between Albany and Corvallis, provides transportation to LBCC and OSU for students. The Loop provides services to 105,843 commuters. Ridership has increased by 16,671 from 2007 to 2009. Of those riders, 46,738 commuters ride on LBCC passes and 28,040 commuters ride on OSU passes.

Transportation At a Glance

What: Linn Shuttle
Linn-Benton Loop
Albany Transit System

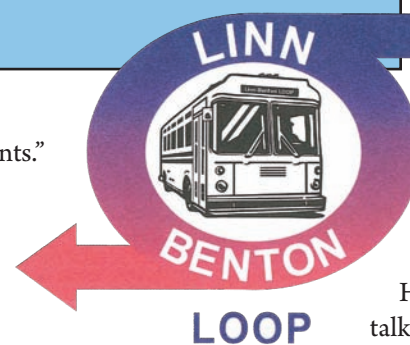
Services: Albany
Corvallis
Sweet Home
Lebanon

Cost: Free with Student ID
ID's are available at the
Registration Office in
Takena Hall for \$10

More Info: Linn Shuttle
541-367-4775
www.linnshuttle.com

Albany Transit
541-917-7667
[www.cityofalbany.net/
publicworks/ats/](http://www.cityofalbany.net/publicworks/ats/)

Carpooling Options
[www.linnbenton.edu/
go/transportation](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/transportation)



The Albany Transit buses are no different, having gained 27,525 riders since 2007. Part of the reason for the increase is "more people are choosing to use the service due to personal economic situations." Hoffman said some causes for this increase circle around the decline of the economy, the rise in college enrollment, and gas prices.

The increase in commuters has had profound effects on the order of the shuttles and the number of routes. An example of this is the Albany Transit System that added an additional bus to the morning and afternoon commute from LBCC to downtown Corvallis in order to handle the increase in demand.

The increase in student enrollment and demand has posed a dilemma for shuttle and bus managers with routes being far from perfect. Ken Bronson, manager of the Sweet Home Senior Center, which operates the Linn Shuttle, met this dilemma after taking over his position in April 2010.

He said he rode the shuttle and talked with other riders about what they would like to see improve. Not

only did he add new morning and afternoon route, he delved deeper into how the shuttle could improve. When ridership decreased in the summer, he used the time to analyze Sweet Home and Lebanon partners, as well as LBCC services to find when the highest usage was.

"We revamped the routes and reshuffled everything to fit best for the fall term."

Bruce Clemetsen agrees with the adjustments made to better facilitate students and commuters. "Shuttles have become an integral part in students being able to achieve education and have taken pressure off parking resources."

However, there seems to not be enough shuttles and buses. "We continue to look for ways to expand transportation from federal and state grants."

As gas climbs and more structures are being built, like the Samaritan Health Sciences Center in Lebanon, the need will only increase. However, with the overwhelming cost to own, operate and maintain shuttles and buses, there are no immediate additions to expect for the time being.

For more information on shuttle services, visit www.linnbenton.edu/go/transportation. For more information on AlterNetRides, visit www.linnbenton.edu/go/transportation. Both links can be found under "Student Life and Leadership" on the LBCC home page.

“Witch” Burns in her Last Moments

Cameron Vasseur
Staff Writer

In “Season of the Witch,” the newest film starring Nicholas Cage, we find him portraying a 14th-century crusader named Behmen who has grown tired of killing innocents--those whose

only crime is simply not being born Christian.

He is accompanied by his friend and fellow crusader Felson, portrayed by Ron Perlman. Together they leave the army and make their way back home through lands ravaged by the Black Plague.

When a simple resupply stop makes them prisoners for desertion, they are introduced to a choice: stay in prison and await the execution befitting of deserters, or take a girl--who has confessed to being a witch--to an abbey in the mountains to rid her of her powers. Because of her confession, she bears the responsibility for the Plague that has come over the land; therefore, they must ultimately kill her to

end the sickness.

Choosing the latter, the duo is paired with a priest, a soldier of the city guard, an altar boy who dreams of knighthood and an imprisoned swindler who has been chosen to be their guide to the abbey. After a six-day journey filled with many perils, the party at last reaches their destination.

Though it was nothing new or groundbreaking, the movie was an enjoyable one and was even pretty accurate to the year in which it was set. Overall, I would probably give it a 6 out of 10.

Choosing Nicholas Cage as the star role of the film was a little iffy, in my opinion, since this was not a time period he had often played in before, and ultimately his performance fell a little flat for me. Overall, he did nothing to disrupt the narrative; together he and Ron Perlman made a very believable pair of knights.

I was thankful for one thing with this movie: for once, in this film set in Eastern Europe far from the British Isles, there was not a single British accent to be found among the populace, as so many actors are wont to do. Since it happens in so many American movies, I had expected to find all of the Eastern European citizens had come from the Isles. Although there was almost a total lack of accents to be had, I was able to breathe a small sigh of relief.

Despite the fact that this movie was well done and no one had come too far from home, the ending of the movie brought a sudden and screeching halt to everything I had enjoyed and almost made me forget the parts that had been good, entirely. In addition to this, I had minor problems with the climax of the movie which became a large CG fest, much like the last three Star Wars movies. But, if you don't mind a bad ending to a good movie and enjoy a good medieval romp, then check out “Season of the Witch.”



redbox review

Inception (Rated PG-13, Runtime 148 min.)

Jordan Tunstill
A&E Editor

To quote NBC's “The Office,” “I saw “Inception,” or at least I dreamed I did.”

Truly one of the best movies of 2010, “Inception” arrived in redbox quite recently, and naturally I felt inclined to drop a dollar on it. I mean, I saw it twice in theaters, so one more time can't hurt, right?

“Inception” is the kind of movie you can watch over and over again, and every time you will notice a plot point you missed the time before. Cinema like it is few and far between. I mean, just look at the cast. A movie with Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ellen Page, and Michael Caine is almost guaranteed to be good, even if it had a plot as shallow as “The Expendables,” (Which, incidentally, did quite well in the box office, though I suspect that is due to the fact that it is chock full of famous action stars).

My only qualm with the casting was



the pathetically small amount of screen time Caine got. He is possibly the best actor in the movie, and he is reduced to a character all too similar to Batman's faithful butler, Arthur, who is played by Caine in the two Batman films directed by Christopher Nolan. But beside that, the casting was well thought out and tasteful.

What set “Inception” apart from all of the high-budget action movies of 2010 was the plot. The screenplay was written by Christopher Nolan, who also directed the movie. Even watching on my tiny TV at

home, my heart started to race at the more intense moments, and the ending messed with my head once again.

If you somehow missed seeing “Inception” in theaters, or you just feel like watching a good movie to de-stress, I encourage you to go pick it up. It's definitely worth a trip to the nearest redbox--and a wallet that is a dollar lighter.



LAST CALL BEER REVIEW

Tullamore Dew Irish Whiskey

Jeb Oliver
Staff Writer

Lately, my roommate and I have been doing everything we can, spending as much extra change possible, in an attempt to join the Downward Dog Whiskey Club and to earn our coveted T-shirt.

Now, I've talked about Downward Dog before, and it's an awesome place to grab a drink and just relax with some friends. The bartenders are always welcoming, friendly, and willing to answer your questions.

My friend and I have been going through the list of whiskey at Downward Dog, and we finally got the chance to enjoy the sweet and delicious Tullamore Dew Irish Whiskey.

The whiskey's history goes all the way back to 1829 when the company was founded by Daniele E. Williams, according to Tullamore Dews website. The “dew” part of their name comes from their founders initials.

Tullamore Dew is as smooth and sweet as they come; it is a seriously dangerous combination--which I just absolutely love. It is a great drink for those who are starting out in the whiskey world. The taste is delightful, and there is no burn that people often find with cheaper whiskeys, like Jack Daniels or Wild Turkey.

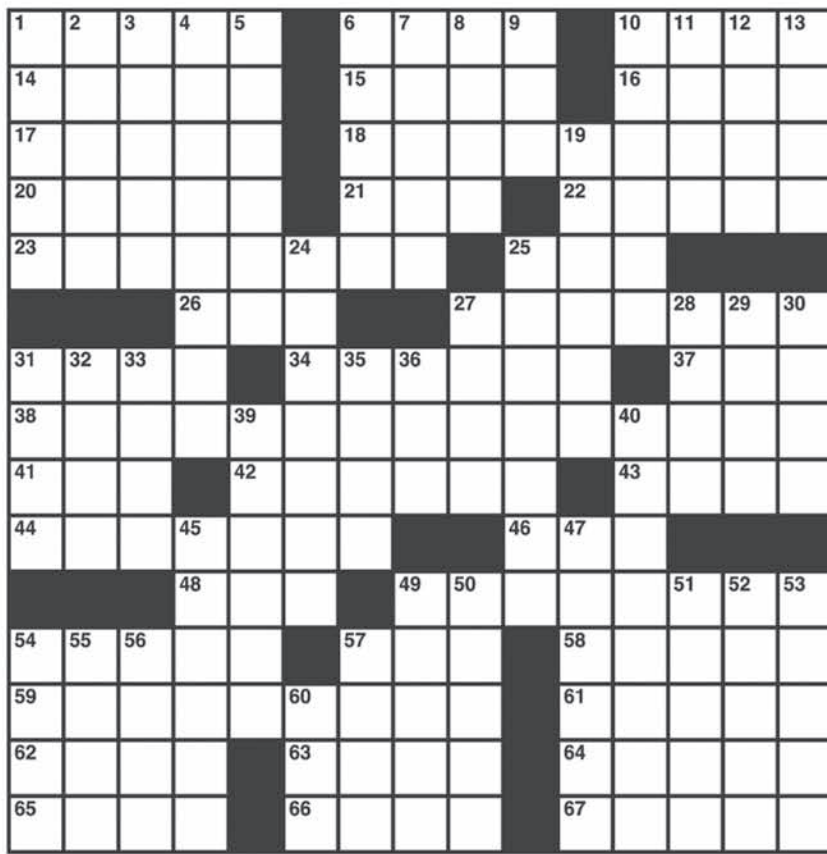
I would recommend this drink to anyone. It is in the finest traditions of Irish whiskey and truly tastes like sweet honey, the dew of angels.



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Athenian with harsh laws
 - "Star Wars" princess
 - Hip-hop mogul who married Beyoncé
 - Grapevine traveler
 - Srs.' lobbying gp.
 - "Dies ___": hymn
 - Get hitched quick
 - Jam on the brakes
 - Stick-on design
 - Go astray
 - Press conf. format
 - Soft court stroke
 - Wallowing place
 - Pasture
 - Colorfully patterned fabric
 - Songstress Adams
 - RCA Victor pooch
 - Altar consent
 - Small family businesses
 - Driver's lic. et al.
 - Lend a hand
 - Fast time
 - Gander
 - Embarrassed
 - World Series mo.
 - Stir-fried dish
 - Weird Al Yankovic parody of a Michael Jackson hit
 - It's pumped in gyms
 - PC program
 - Holy wars
 - Elvis ___ Presley
 - Swing set site
 - Epsilon follower
 - Water gun stream
 - Desk phone unit
 - Orchestra leader
 - Third afterthought, in a ltr.
 - Old Italian money
 - Paradise
 - Eddie of the '40s-'50s Senators
 - German artist Nolde
 - Dimwit
 - "___ Excited": Pointer Sisters hit
- DOWN**
- "Judge ___": Stallone film
 - School tool
 - Big name in gas



By Donna S. Levin

- Admit one's guilt to serve less time
- Threat-ending words
- Rodeo rope
- Weird Al Yankovic parody of a Michael Jackson hit
- It's pumped in gyms
- PC program
- Holy wars
- Elvis ___ Presley
- Swing set site
- Epsilon follower
- Water gun stream
- Desk phone unit
- Orchestra leader
- Third afterthought, in a ltr.
- Old Italian money
- Paradise
- Eddie of the '40s-'50s Senators
- German artist Nolde
- Dimwit
- "___ Excited": Pointer Sisters hit

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



- ___ dixit: assertion without proof
- Luau fare
- Sprint Cup org.
- It may take years to settle one
- Seoul man
- Lyric poems
- Playful prank
- Brazen minx
- "Star Trek" communications officer
- Grain disease
- Like some simple questions
- West Point, e.g.: Abbr.
- Apple center
- Eye part containing the iris
- He bit Miss Gulch in a 1939 film
- Pull hard

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.

Help Wanted

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

Administrative Services Staff (#8654, Albany) Are you a numbers person and want to work part-time? This could even be a CWE accounting job. Pay \$9-10/hr DOE.

Division Assistant III (#8643, Eugene) Three years combo experience/education in administrative tasks could land you this job. Hours are 10am-2pm.

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

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

Support Group Youth Leader & Advocate (#8663, Corvallis) Support youth going through transitions such as juvenile justice, education and child welfare systems and mental health issues. Work part-time (about 10 hrs/month) for \$10/hour.

Jobs at the Mall (#8648, 8649, 8650, Albany) Need a part-time job? How about selling home appliances or electronics or as a tire & battery installer?

Wanted

Woman looking for room to rent near Corvallis campus call 206-218-2053

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.

Where on Campus Am I?

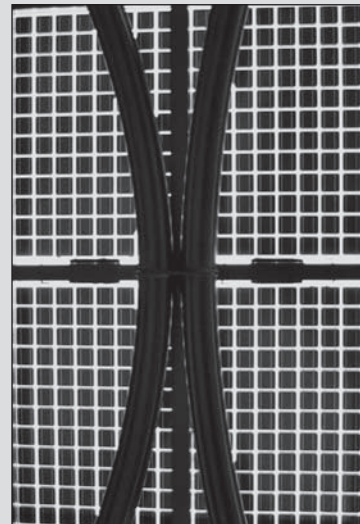


Photo by Tony Brown

Do you know where this picture was taken?

Answers must be e-mailed to commuter@linnbenton.edu by 8 a.m. the following Monday. One winner will be drawn from correct entries each week and will win a prize donated by the campus bookstore.

Last Week's Answer:
The water fountain in Commons Courtyard

Last Week's Winner:
Congratulations to Blake Roberts! Please stop by The Commuter office (F-222) and see Tony to claim your prize.

Add/Drop

An LBCC student-generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

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

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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HOROSCOPES

Your weekly guide to the Zodiac

ARIES

3/21-4/19

You're always so intelligent, articulate, creative, dependable, kind, attractive, wise, benevolent, and just plain awesome. This week will be no different.

TAURUS

4/20-5/20

For such a stubborn, powerful beast, you sure can be perky and bubbly at times. This is, oddly, a flower-power sort of week for you. Think pink!

GEMINI

5/21-6/21

I hear you have a duel nature, so I suppose it's a good guess that you'll have an altercation that will lead to fisticuffs or some scrapping, if you will.

CANCER

6/22-7/22

You know what, Cancer? Get a hold of yourself! Shake off all that negative energy you pincer over the holidays by having some fun or something. Get out and socialize!

LEO

7/23-8/22

You've been such an action hero lately! It's time you just sit back and read about some other people taking care of business. Grab a cup of hot cocoa while you're at it.

VIRGO

8/23-9/22

It's about time for you to get some art time in your life; soothe that soul of yours. Maybe you should go create some yourself, or better yet, become a piece of art you model, you.

LIBRA

9/23-10/23

Out of balance, it's time for you to go out and lay down the judgement! Yeah, it's time. You've got the power and the opinions. Are you on the side of right? Does it matter?

SCORPIO

10/24-11/21

That chitinous armor of yours is growing to be somewhat cumbersome. Shed the layer for a bit and open up to those around you! If for no other reason, risk will let you breathe.

SAGITTARIUS

11/22-12/21

Fly straight and true, stay focused on the goals in front of you. Only tireless pursuit will bring you what you need in life this week. You got this!

CAPRICORN

12/22-1/19

Working on your birthday, I see. I guess you would! It seems that you enjoy it like a crazy person, but that's cool, I guess. You do your thing, Capricorn. I don't understand.

AQUARIUS

1/20-2/18

Fluidity is your greatest strength, and you may need it this week. You have a couple rough-and-tumble boulders rolling your way; the best option is just to bob and weave.

PISCES

2/19-3/20

You're swimming upstream like a champion! It's a tough path, but that's what you do, right? Persevere and inspire! You are the beast of the sea!

THE COMMUTER STAFF

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

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

Web Address:
<http://commuter.linnbenton.edu>

Phone: 541-917-4451, 4452 or 4453

Fax: 541-917-4454

Address: 6500 SW Pacific Blvd. Albany, OR 97321

Prised Bananas

An LBCC student-generated comic.

By Mason Britton



Mason Britton 2011

COMING ATTRACTIONS

No Strings Attached

Ashton Kutcher and Natalie Portman star as lifelong friends Adam and Emma. They try to find out if there is such a thing as “just sex” as they attempt to keep their friends-with-benefits relationship strictly physical. But it’s not long before messy things like emotions and feelings form and screw up everything.



Rated: R • Runtime: 108 min. • Genre: RomCom



The Company Men

Three business executives (Ben Affleck, Chris Cooper, Tommy Lee Jones) are forced to reexamine and redefine their lives when they’re laid off from their company. Also stars Kevin Costner, Craig T. Nelson, and Maria Bello

Rated: R • Runtime: 109 min. • Genre: Drama

Dead Space 2

Isaac Clarke returns in this intense, gun-toting video game sequel. Clarke will battle through the beastly Necromorphs and a bloodthirsty government after waking up from a coma as the lone survivor of an alien infestation. Meanwhile, he’s dealing with a rare form of dementia and visions of his dead lover.



Rated: M • Platforms: PS3, X360, PC • Genre: Shooter

Sources: [Imdb](http://imdb.com), [Yahoo! Movies](http://Yahoo!Movies.com), Fandango.com

“Green Hornet” Is a Go

David Mayotte

Contributing Writer

It is a story about the son of a rich, well-to-do newspaper owner in Los Angeles. As any good superhero plot goes, the father dies before the son can make him proud, leaving his entire fortune to his one and only heir, Britt Reid (Seth Rogen). Britt naturally decides to take over his father’s business while also becoming a well-dressed, masked vigilante, with the aid his father’s mechanic and coffee maker as his martial-arts expert sidekick, Kato (Jay Chou). These two take it upon themselves to clean up their city with their technologically advanced car, the Black Beauty, a 1966 Chrysler Imperial.

The comedic timing of star Rogen, along with the shoot-em-up action, was just perfect. The ‘80s style one-liners go along very well with the old TV series. The Green Hornet would get himself into situations, having to rely on his silver tongue to keep the bad guy busy until Kato could devise a way to use his gadgets and amazing martial-arts skills to help vanquish the evil whoever of the week.

They even paid respect to the original Kato, Bruce Lee, in the movie. The new Kato has a book of sketches; as he is flipping through, you see a sketch of the “Enter the Dragon” movie poster, which I felt was a very fitting thing to do, considering that Bruce Lee was hand picked for the original TV series.

The movie starts out very slow and sad, setting

up the plot for character development for the entire movie. All the unexpected laughs and action scenes helped keep the flow of the movie rolling along at a pace that was pleasant and easy to follow. Driving the momentum were a surprising number of well-known actors.

I do need to warn anyone looking for realistic battle scenes in this movie: you will need to take a chill pill before watching. Remember everyone, there are real world physics and movie world physics. I must bring to attention the strangely constructed Double Barrel Desert Eagle that the mega villain, Chudnofsky (Christoph Waltz), carried on his person. He gave off a creepy, old-guy-at-a-high-school-dance vibe – not really scary up front, but he had a “Ted Bundy-ness” about him. With that said, there are a lot of good special effects throughout the entire movie, mainly concerning the front-wheel-drive Black Beauty.

This is a great guy’s night out or first date movie. It has a lot of action and comedy with an underlying romance with Cameron Diaz’s character, Lenore Case. This movie brings an old icon back to life for an eager, younger generation to take it and run with it where they will.

Until this movie, I had never understood what the whole 3-D craze was about. It made some of the special effects a little more effective. In the end, I think that this is a very well put together movie.

I would recommend that people go and see “The Green Hornet,” now playing in a theater near you.



Weekly Weather Predictions

Wednesday-1/19	Thursday-1/20	Friday-1/21	Saturday-1/22	Sunday-1/23	Monday-1/24	Tuesday-1/25
Partly Sunny 45°	Partly Cloudy 47°	Chance of Rain 51°	Partly Sunny 49°	Partly Cloudy 50°	What is this bright round ball in the sky? 51°	It was good while it lasted. 50°

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