

## COMMUTER

VOL. 51 EDITION 22

MAY 6, 2020



## DIP INTO THE METAVERSE

*Explore the Gameplay, Music, and Character Profiles of Atlus' "Persona 5"*

REVIEW BY

**JOSHUA BLOEDEL**

Persona 5 is an M-rated RPG created by Atlus. Released on April 4, 2017, in the west (September 15, 2016, in Japan), this game has stolen the hearts of many gamers as well as a ton of awards. In BTVA (Behind the Voice Actors) Awards, the game won the best male lead and supporting vocal role in a video game. In the NAVGTR (National Academy of Video Game Trade Reviewers) Awards, it won in Art Direction (Contemporary), Costume Design, Direction in a Game Cinema, Game (Franchise Roleplaying), and Writing in a Drama. Finally, in the Game Awards, it was nominated for Game of the Year and Best Art Direction. With Persona 5 Royal finally out for PS4 (the remaster of Persona 5), I find it only fitting to review the original game. So, is this game delicious like pancakes, or is it pathetic? Find out in this review.

You play as Ren Amamiya (while he is called Akira Kurusu in the manga, I'm gonna stick with Ren for the review since that is his name in most appearances.), a high-school student put under probation due to being falsely charged with assault for protecting a woman who was being attacked by a drunk man. After moving to Tokyo, he meets his new classmates in Shujin Academy and finds out about the Metaverse, an alternate universe where the distorted desires of people are manifested.

In the Metaverse, if a person's desires are distorted enough, it becomes a palace which is a dungeon of that person's desire. If you steal the person's treasure or heart (the source of the person's desire) the palace crumbles and the person is penitent and pleads guilty for his crimes. Ren, also known as Joker, and his classmates explore the Metaverse, calling themselves the Phantom Thieves, and stealing the hearts of rotten adults. Later, Ren gets caught and is interrogated by Sae Nijima. Most of the game is trying to piece together what happened between you moving to Japan, to being captured and interrogated.



A few of the characters you first meet in your team are Ryuji Sakamoto (codename: Skull), Ann Takamaki (codename: Panther), and Morgana (codename: Mona). Ryuji was once the star member of the Shujin Academy track team. However, after trying to stand up against the team's abusive coach (Suguru Kamoshida), his leg was broken and his track team was suspended.

Ann Takamaki is a model in Tokyo. Due to her foreign blood, she has only one friend being Shiho Suzui. Shiho is a part of Kamoshida's volleyball team. Occasionally, she will have "private training" sessions. After the sessions, however, she gets injuries. To protect Shiho from these physical abuses, Takamaki herself became a victim of Kamoshida's sexual abuses.

Morgana is a cat, despite him insisting he is a human. You first meet him in the first palace being Kamoshida's. His backstory is mysterious but he is very familiar with the world of the Metaverse. In the real world, he accompanies you as a cat and demands you to go to sleep despite you wanting to do other stuff at night.

There are a ton of other great characters but I wish there were more details into some of the characters like Haru and Arsene.

In this game, you explore the Metaverse as Joker while also bonding with your characters (or confidants) for some sweet rewards to make the game easier as Ren. When you are in the real

world, you can bond with your characters as previously mentioned, increase your social stats (intelligence, kindness, etc.), go to school, take on part-time jobs for money, use that money for shopping, and craft items for the Metaverse. You can even have a girlfriend if your bond is strong enough. It seemed very awkward to me, however, that you can have someone like your teacher as a girlfriend.

In the Metaverse, you can explore Mementos which is basically a palace for the general public, take on requests by changing people's hearts in Mementos, or take on palaces to steal a person's heart. However, you have a due date to steal a person's heart so time management is key in this game.

Each day you can craft tools to loot chests in the palaces or Mementos, bond with your confidants, or do stuff like watching a movie to increase your social stats. My main problem with the gameplay is it's really hard to do everything due to how cramped the calendar is. You have to replay the game since it saves your social stats if you want to bond with everyone.

When battling shadows (enemies in the Metaverse), you can use personas to use magic, a gun, or melee attacks. Every shadow has a certain weakness. If you expose the weakness, they become stunned which allows you to get more money, items, or let me join your team as a persona. All your teammates have a unique persona.

Joker, however, has a special

ability called the "Wild Card", an ability to have more than one persona. You can execute certain personas to make a more powerful persona. You can also turn them into items or exp for your other personas. As your personas level up, they will learn more magical abilities. The game also has a beautiful art-style and fantastic music such as "Wake Up, Get Up, Get Out There", "Beneath the Mask", "Last Surprise", etc.

So to recap, when it comes to story, this story is entertaining. My problem is that there were some missed opportunities with some of the characters. The story also seems to drag on a little too long near the end. I give the story an A-

The gameplay is very fun. I love exploring the Metaverse while also having a "normal" life in the real world. I just don't like how cramped the game can be with its calendar. I give the gameplay an A.

I absolutely LOVE the soundtrack. There are just so many great pieces in this game. It also first introduces the instrumental and then shows the lyrical version later. I give the soundtrack an A+. Bonus points for the beautiful art-style.

To conclude, Persona 5 is a great game with a great story, gameplay, soundtrack, and art-style.

Though some characters could use more attention and the gameplay could be quite difficult if you aren't good with time management, I highly recommend this game. I give this game a 9.3/10.



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

PHOTOS: IMDB.COM

ONPA AWARDS  
SEE PAGE 2HUMANS OF OUR  
COMMUNITY  
SEE PAGE 3TROYE SIVAN  
SEE PAGE 4



THE LINN-BENTON  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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.

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

#### 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:

#### Address:

The Commuter  
Forum 222  
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW  
Albany, OR 97321

#### Web Address:

LBCommuter.com

#### Phone:

541-917-4451, 4452 or 4449

#### Email:

commuter@linnbenton.edu

**Twitter**  
@LBCommuter

**Facebook**  
LBCC The Commuter

**Instagram**  
@LBCommuter

### Our Staff

#### Adviser

Rob Prieue

#### Editor-in-Chief

Mckenna Christmas

#### Layout Designer

Rebecca Fewless

#### Managing Editors:

Davis Ihde  
Caleb Barber

#### A&E

Steven Pryor  
Joshua Bloedel

#### Photography Editor

Jakob Jones

#### Web Master

Marci Sischo

#### Copy Editor

Katie Littlefield

#### Sports

Cam Hanson

#### Contributors

Bowen Orcutt  
Isaiah Haqq  
Georgia Ry Dunn-Hartman  
Arianna Stahlbaum  
Sabrina Parsons  
Mckenna Christmas  
Konoha Tomono-Duval  
Brenda Autry  
Logan Helm-Williams  
Karen Canan  
Hikari Kawai  
Dylan Studer  
Nathan Crane

# KUDOS FOR THE COMMUTER

ONPA Honors The Commuter and Staff in Annual Journalism Contest

## COURTESY OF COMMUTER STAFF

While the nation's stay-at-home order may be limiting how many printed copies of LBCC's Commuter appear around campus, it hasn't stopped the newspaper's staff from continuing to produce high-quality journalism.

The Commuter this week was recognized by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association for journalism excellence, earning 12 awards in the group's annual statewide journalism competition. Among the awards were four first-place awards for Best Section, News Story, Feature Story, and Photography.

Due to the coronavirus quarantine, ONPA announced the awards online rather than at its annual journalism workshop and awards program, which originally was set to happen May 1 at LBCC's Albany campus. The awards recognize student journalism in three college divisions: one for universities such as OSU and the University of Oregon; smaller universities such as Western; and the state's 17 community colleges, including LBCC.

Student journalists are honored for work in a variety of categories, from

writing and photography, to editing and design, including regular and special sections, advertising and newspaper websites.

The staff of The Commuter earned awards for:

- **Best Section** - First Place
- **Best Writing** - Second Place, Alex Gaub
- **Best News Story** - First Place, Caleb Barber, for a story about LBCC's career technical programs.
- **Best Feature Story** - First Place, Caleb Barber, for a story about immigration
- **Best Feature Story** - Second Place, Alex Gaub, for a story about plastics and recycling
- **Best Feature Photo** - Second Place, Angela Scott, for a photo of LBCC's children's play
- **Best Feature Photo** - Third Place, Angela Scott, for a photo of LBCC's welding program
- **Best Photography** - First Place, Angela Scott
- **Best Photography** - Second Place, McKenna Christmas
- **Best House Ad** - Second Place, Vicki Ballestero, for a Commuter recruiting advertisement

- **Best House Ad** - Third Place, Vicki Ballestero, for a Commuter recruiting ad for a photo editor

- **Best Website** - Third Place

"These awards reflect the best efforts of our student journalists, and their work stands alongside the best of college journalism in the state of Oregon," said Rob Prieue, LBCC's journalism faculty and adviser to The Commuter.

These awards recognized work that was published in The Commuter during the 2019 calendar year, so includes the writing and photography of students who graduated from LBCC last June. For more about this year's awards, see [www.orenews.com](http://www.orenews.com).

Although The Commuter is not printing a paper edition this term, the continuing work of LBCC's journalism students can be viewed at the newspaper's website, lbcccommuter.com, as well as the journalism student blogs at robprieue.blogspot.com.

For more information about The Commuter and getting involved in working at the campus newspaper, see lbcccommuter.com or contact Rob Prieue at [prieuer@linnbenton.edu](mailto:prieuer@linnbenton.edu) or by calling 541-917-4563.

# APPLE'S NEW PLAN

Apple is Seemingly Quiet With its Supporters While Dropping a New iPhone: Quarantine Edition



REVIEW BY  
JAKOB JONES

Apple is very interesting, especially with their own value proposition. Apple focuses on quality, security, and experience. One of the reasons people purchase an Apple device rather than the competitors is because Apple is very effective at convincing consumers their product is better than any rival.

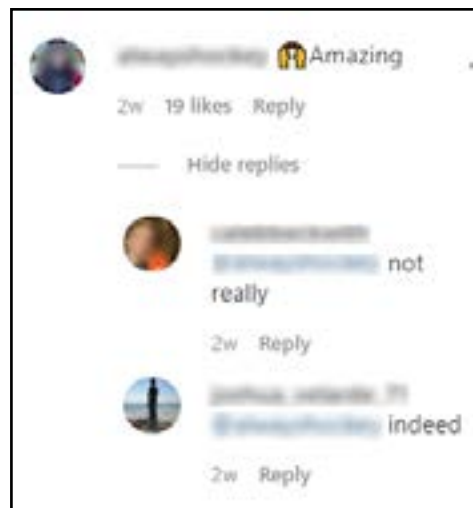
After browsing Apple's Instagram to get a taste of how people were responding to their social media posts, I found out that Apple doesn't seem to respond to anyone's suggestions. If anyone has a question, it usually is answered by another person (either realistically or facetiously). Usually, on other companies' social media, consumer questions about logistics are often answered by the company themselves. However, in Apple's case, questions like these are usually answered by another person unaffiliated with Apple.

It can only be assumed though that the real answers are from people who support Apple. However, there are many sarcastic answers, possibly posted by people who don't support or buy Apple products. Why would they be reading through Apple's comments?

Above is an interesting screenshot of comments from one of Apple's posts.

I think one of the more interesting aspects coming from Apple right now is their impressive use of the Five-Step Consumer Decision-Making Process. Right now, Apple is targeting need recognition and product evaluation.

The interesting thing is, Apple is making a genius move when it comes to marketing right now. The challenge which Apple is currently facing: "Why



should people spend money on their company during an epidemic in which most people aren't making any money?" Virtually nobody has any solid income right now, and Apple is notorious for being an expensive luxury. Due to the laws of economics, elastic luxuries are the first to be affected by a wide-scale drop in income.

Apple is combating this by impressive use of the Five-Step Consumer Decision-Making Process. They are also targeting the need recognition and product evaluation of most consumers.

Apple is releasing a mobile device in which people who are stuck at home can access the internet and browse social media – which is arguably what a large percentage of the population is doing right now. Apple releases a phone, but people might say, "wait a minute, I can't afford it." However, the new iPhone SE is a high-quality phone at a mid-range cost. It has all the bells and whistles of a luxury phone but at a lower cost than any flagship. It is almost impossible for any other phone manufacturer to compete with it at the price range – therefore beating product

evaluation.

However, there is still the concern of "I'm not making any money, I can't buy a phone." To further hammer the nail in the coffin for Apple's product evaluation, they're releasing a cheap phone right during the time where many governments, the United States government to name one, is releasing a nationwide stimulus deposit around \$1200. A lot of people need every penny of the \$1200, but many more people might view the iPhone SE as a wise choice to buy for its value, and we know consumers are all about perceived value.

I find it interesting that Apple doesn't respond to any comments on any of their social media posts. One could say it generates a mystery in which it urges possible consumers to research more information at "Apple.com," one of the main storefronts for Apple products. Once people are on your website and looking deeper into the product, a lot of them will pull the trigger on buying it.

Staying silent is a very smart thing to do in Apple's case. As shown by the screenshots above, people will gladly answer questions regarding any Apple product, reinforcing the idea that "Hey, a lot of people like these products! They're highly rated!"

If I was an Apple social media manager, I would be taking additional steps to reinforce the idea that the iPhone SE is a mid-range priced phone that has all the features of most competitor's flagships. Right now, the value proposition for Apple is that they provide a better experience and quality for their consumers, but the hidden proposition is that it comes at a price. Right now, you can get all the experience and quality of an iPhone for less than half the price.



# HUMANS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Take an Inside Look Into the Lives of Some of our Essential Workers and 2020 Graduates



## Maddylen Carver

*Growing up this girl was always the light of the party as her parents tell it. With what they say about her I couldn't believe why not, sounds like she was a handful.*

*Her name is Maddylen Carver, she is now 18 years old and still the light of any party. She just graduated from Lebanon High School. Throughout high school she was always on the top 25 list of best grades each semester ranging towards the top 10 to 15 range.*

*Carver is planning on going to college and hopefully going into a medical field of some sort. She enjoys working with kids "from newborns to about 1st graders." Carver says they usually need the most attention. All she really cares about at the moment is that she was able to graduate during this very unfortunate time our world is going through.*

*Congratulations class of 2020! Your accomplishments have not gone unnoticed.*

STORY AND PHOTO BY **DYLAN STUDER**

## Duan Qi

*Let me introduce you to Duan Qi. He is a Sushi Chef for Momiji, in North Albany. He has been working at Momiji for about a year now. As he works everyday, he is learning to become an even better Sushi Chef.*

*Duan was born in China, where he had also studied and became a Tai Chi Master. He then, eventually moved to the United States. He misses his home country very much, however he prefers to be living here in the States, because he feels he has more freedom, and he simply enjoys being here.*

*He really cherishes his job at Momiji Albany, and absolutely loves making sushi! Whenever he comes walking in the door to work, he always greets everyone with a huge smile and an optimistic attitude. So, if you ever find yourself picking up an order from Momiji, Albany, and you see him, make sure to give him a smile and a wave hello!*



STORY AND PHOTO BY **HIKARI KAWAI**



## Liz Bahl

*Liz Bahl is an AP Host at the Albany Walmart and has been working at Walmart for nine years now. Bahl's duties as being an AP Host includes greeting customers when they head inside the store, as well as checking customers' receipts to see if the customer remembered to scan any items before buying them. When Bahl is done scanning the customers' receipts, she then tells the customers to have a good rest of their day.*

*Recently, with the spread of Covid-19, Bahl starts off her day at work by getting her temperature checked at the Associate Screening room to see if she has any of the symptoms caused by CoronaVirus. After Bahl is cleared, she then clocks in for work, gets her equipment, and then she uses her tablet to count how many customers walk in and out of the store. Stay safe at work, Bahl, and thank you for all you do to help customers during the Corona Virus outbreak.*

STORY AND PHOTO BY **NATHAN CRANE**



# SIVAN SPEAKS FOR THE WORLD

Through self-reflection and a passion for music, Troye Sivan opens up about the shadows in his life



REVIEW BY  
ARIANNA STAHLBAUM

In four minutes and nine seconds, we sway our heads, close our eyes, and let the acoustics and soft claps of soul-moving beats flood our ears, letting the calm vibes take over. Listeners anywhere can relate, Troye. We are tired of the city.

On April 1, Troye Sivan released his new single "Take Yourself Home," for his upcoming studio album. Fans had been waiting for the song's release, especially since he has not released any music in 20 months, and still continue to eagerly wait for the rest of the album to come. "Take Yourself Home" has already been streamed over 10 million times and is Sivan's second most popular song on Spotify.

It begins with a serene melancholic chorus of voices and gentle strums on a guitar. "I'm tired of the city | Scream if you're with me | If I'm gonna die, let's die somewhere pretty." Throughout the song, we follow Sivan on a journey to his past. His reflections clearly share how he "hardly recognized my life + myself." He found himself caught up in restrictions he never wanted but created.

As you explore the song, you experience a smooth beat, building, and building, and building. Sivan's electric side rewards patient ears, just as it does in his other songs, such as "YOUTH," "Strawberries & Cigarettes" and "BLUE."

Looking deeper into the lyrics, you begin to understand the regret of letting life sweep you off your feet and wash you up on the shores of unfamiliarity within yourself.

Cat Zhang, the executive editorial assistant for Pitchfork, further explains that "you can imagine a wearied body moving itself to this song, first still, then swaying, freed by the idea of returning home."

We become individuals looking out over a skyline of exhaustion over a busy and confusing unexpected reality. We are tired of being overwhelmed.

I enjoyed the relatability of the song. Many of us can agree that we sometimes find ourselves in situations of being where we aren't quite sure how we got there, and we crave the comfort and familiarity of home. He brings the melody and story together with fluidity, subtle beats, and echoes that pull the past into the present.

While I do appreciate the electro-pop flare in some of his other songs, I do not love it in "Take Yourself



Home." I understand that it is part of his style, but it feels out of place in this song. He does a good job of weaving it into the lyrics of his other songs, however, it's lacking here.

Overall, I love "Take Yourself Home" because it's easy to listen to and I've found it to be quite relaxing, even while studying. It's quite a mood setter, for sure.

Sivan has learned a lot about himself and the process of pursuing a life he could be proud of. After beginning his journey he realized the work it would take to make a name for himself, but most importantly, he understood that "life isn't about finding yourself, it is about creating yourself."

### Take Yourself Home

**ARTIST:** Troye Sivan  
**AGE:** 24  
**HOMETOWN:** Perth, Australia  
**OCCUPATION:** Singer-songwriter, actor, and YouTuber  
**RELEASE DATE:** April 1, 2020  
**WHERE TO LISTEN:** YouTube, YouTube Music, Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, iTunes Store, Tidal, Pandora  
**SOCIAL MEDIA:** [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#)  
**OTHER RELEASES:** Bloom, There For You, My My My!, Happy Little Pill  
 Recorded With: Lauv, Martin Garrix, Cahlr XCX  
**ALBUMS:** Bloom, Blue Neighborhood, TRXYE, Dare to Dream  
**GENRES:** Pop, Synth-pop, Electropop, Dance-pop  
**RATING:** 4.5/5

## SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column, and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit.

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

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

- 1 Tibetan priest
- 5 More than enough
- 8 Ancient Heb. month
- 12 Son of Samuel
- 13 Television channel
- 14 Before (Lat.)
- 15 Dissertation
- 17 Two-horse chariot
- 18 A (Ger.)
- 19 Braid linen tape
- 21 Male cat
- 22 Card game
- 23 Balto-Slav
- 25 Rain tree
- 28 Iron lung
- 31 Smile
- 32 Hours (abbr.)
- 33 Insect
- 34 Active
- 36 Nutlike drupe
- 37 Diagonal (abbr.)
- 38 River into the North Sea
- 39 Health resort
- 41 Chronicles (abbr.)
- 43 Affirmative
- 46 Senior (Fr.)
- 48 Sloe (2 words)
- 50 Caliph
- 51 Pointed (pref.)
- 52 Aweto
- 53 Cella
- 54 Favorable vote
- 55 Eight (pref.)

**DOWN**

- 1 Dead
- 2 Shelter (Fr.)
- 3 Air
- 4 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 5 Arawakan language
- 6 City on the Irtys
- 7 Eye of an insect
- 8 All points bulletin (abbr.)
- 9 Fr. historical provinces
- 10 Foe of Othello
- 11 Ray
- 16 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 20 Always
- 22 Haw. porch
- 24 Clemenceau's nickname
- 25 Signed (abbr.)
- 26 Adjective-forming (suf.)
- 27 Phil. island
- 28 Civil Rights Commission (abbr.)
- 29 "Casablanca" character
- 30 As written in music
- 32 Pike
- 35 Son of (Soot.)
- 36 Look after
- 38 Evil intent, in law
- 39 Cross oneself
- 40 SW US cotton
- 42 "Dream Girl" playwright
- 43 Fish sauce
- 44 Mongol lent
- 45 Blood disease (suf.)
- 47 Ger. spa
- 49 Indo-Chin. language

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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