

November 3, 2010

# The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication  
Vol. 42 No. 7

Zombies Dance the  
Night Away

pg. 6

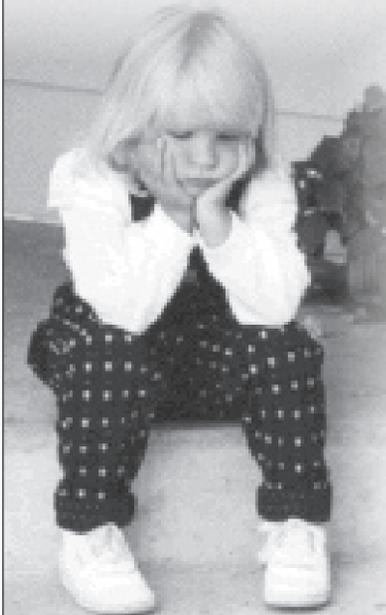


Inside:

Stewart and Colbert go to Washington pg. 2  
Spotlight: Diversity Achievement Center pg. 8  
What Happens in Vegas ... pg. 12

## Will you be our friend?

Follow *The Commuter* on Facebook & Twitter



Tell us what you're thinking and keep up-to-date on the latest news. Plus, check our website for more stories, pictures, videos, and blogs at **commuter.linnbenton.edu**.

## The Commuter

Your Source for News and Events at LBCC

### Advertising Department



**"Cross Marketing! I love it!"**

Contact the Commuter at 541-917-4452  
[commuterads@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuterads@linnbenton.edu)

# Sanity Restored; Thanks Jon!

Adam LaMascus  
 Opinion Editor

Sanity has been restored, hopefully. On Saturday Oct. 30, the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear was held at the Washington Mall in Washington D.C. An estimated 250,000 people were at the event, though Comedy Central, which sponsored the event jokingly said that "30 or 40 million" people were in attendance, and Stephen Colbert Twittered that his estimate was around 6 billion attendees. Both comments are in reference to Glenn Beck's rally, where Republican pundits made wildly varying, outlandish and absurdly high estimates of how many people were present. Organizers were surprised though, and stated they had only planned for about 60,000 people.

As the New York Times pointed out, this rally was really interesting largely because it was a huge political rally and yet not a single politician was present. Unsurprisingly, FOX News pretty much ignored the entire event.

It's really awesome that so many people turned out, and even though the event was kind of odd, in regards to how it was run, it was clear that the people attending were serious, even if the hosts were being satirical for most of it. It's a little depressing that we've reached the point where it takes comedians to rally people more than politicians, but I definitely feel like this was a step in the right direction.

Numerous pundits predict that this rally will change nothing, which is unsurprising, as they were one of Stewart's biggest targets. He summed



it up rather nicely when he said, "the country's 24-hour political pundit perpetual panic conflictinator did not cause our problems. But its existence makes solving them that much harder. The press could hold its magnifying glass up to our problems, bringing them into focus, illuminating issues heretofore unseen. Or they can use that magnifying glass to light

ants on fire. And then perhaps host a week of shows on the sudden, unexpected, dangerous flaming ant epidemic."

The fact that about a quarter of a million people arrived is really telling and I hope signifies that the American people are going to start trying to take back the news and other such institutions from crazies. Jon's final summary of the rally was amazing and really inspiring; in particular:

"We live now in hard times, not end times."

"If we amplify everything, we hear nothing."

"We hear every damn day about how fragile our country is ... and why don't we just work together to get things done? The truth is what we do - we work together to get things done every single day. The only place we don't is here [Congress] or on cable TV. But America doesn't live here or on cable TV."

On a final note, The Guardian, a British news source, cataloged some of their favorite signs that were spotted at the rally. Some of them were great: "Jon 3:16" (a play on John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son") "Strange mama grizzlies distributing endorsements to constitutionally challenged witches is no basis for a system of government," (Monty Python joke right there) and "Thou shalt not be douchebags."

Jon Stewart, you rock, and the world needs more reasonable people such as yourself. Keep it up buddy.

**Cover Credit:**

Anthony Ginder and Jeanette Fabero were crowned Prom King and Queen at the Zombie Prom.

Photo by Lacey Jarrell and Photo Illustration by Ashley Christie

## Perspectives:

What do you think of the parking situation at LB?



Marlene McWilliams  
 Medical Assistant

"Certain times it's still hard to find parking. You see the same cars driving around, up and down the rows, looking for a spot."



Kody Kinsella  
 Chiropractic Transfer

"Ridiculous! They should have a 3-story parking garage or just more parking. But, I don't really care because I park out in the boonies."



Hannah Kessi  
 English

"All last year I had to park by the 7-Eleven and walk to school."



Jesse Rzonca  
 Engineering Transfer

"I received a ticket for parking in a motorcycle space, but the lines had faded and were not clearly marked."



Lena Yakovleva  
 Psychology

"There was no parking so I had to park across the street and walk in the rain. I was soaking wet down to my socks!"

# The Inevitable Five: People You'll See in Every Class

**Maggie O'Reilly**  
Head Cartoonist

Every classroom will have a rich diversity of personalities, but there are five inevitable traits that will crop up no matter what subject you take. These quirks range from endearing to infuriating, but all add their own personal charm to a student body.

## The Autobiographer

They're a good-natured, jovial sort of student who can be quickly identified because they're all over the age of 50. They take precise notes and are always willing to help if you've missed a class. Generally benign, except for an uncanny ability to hijack a lecture with long, bewildering stories about how the French Revolution reminds them of their time in Korea. These monologues can go on for as long as the professor's patience holds out. Perhaps it's due to the generation gap and we've all lost the art of conversation, but who knows? Maybe the Pythagorean theorem really did help them weather the Dust Bowl.



## The Contrarian

A fresh-faced youth with a heart of gold and head full of opinions. The Contrarian's telltale trait is in the name: they must always be contrary to whatever the professor is teaching. One must not mistake this for true originality; it's more like a universal tactic for getting attention. Sometimes they insist they have a better way to solve an equation, or there isn't enough evidence to prove global warming – but they're always in a constant state of trying to one-up the teacher. You can spot them usually in the back of the class, arms crossed in defiance and eyes rolling. Their head will be cocked to one side, as this is the best proven method of seeing through the ever-present Contrarian hair helmet.



## The Megaphone

You'll have no trouble identifying this type of student. It's missing them that's really difficult – unless you're deaf. What's the deal with them? Simple. They have absolutely



no volume control. Wherever you are on campus – in class, in the cafeteria, on the bus – the Megaphone is the loudest person for miles. On the plus side, they're usually very friendly and they'll happily tell you – and everyone else in the room – all about themselves, whether you want them to or not. These people will regularly test the patience of their captive audience. Perhaps their parents never talked to them about "indoor voices," but it's clear that since then no one has had the nerve to bestow a mighty smackdown.

## The Mom

These sweet ladies are completely benign, neither a force for good nor evil. The Mom sports the power to turn any class topic into an anecdote about their kids. It's more puzzling than annoying. I have no idea what Custer's Last Stand has to do with Suzie eating an entire box of crayons, or why photosynthesis reminds them of little Brayden's first day of school. It's a bizarre time sink, but they bring muffins to class and always have extra pencils, so we're cool.



## The Chatty Gagger

This is by far the most annoying type of student to endure. Every class I have attended has been plagued by a small group of usually three girls who will talk straight through the lecture. This group – this oblivious Trifecta of stupid – have no regard for the instructor or what he or she is saying. The teacher could be riding a unicycle buck-naked while flipping them all a righteous finger, and not one of them would notice. I don't care that they're not listening, only that they're being so rude about it. It's hard to get up in front of a class and lecture, especially a subject you know may be boring. But when you have to contend with Brittany's adventure of losing her phone in the Peacock bathroom, or Tanya's opinion on who won America's Next Top Model last night, you know the next hour is going to be rough. In fact, my favorite days are when a teacher finally snaps and loses it on one of these Chatty Cathys. There's nothing more hilarious than seeing faculty shout, "Either shut the hell up or get out of my class!" A threat not used often enough, in my humble opinion.



The LBCC Performing Arts Department Presents:

# BLOOD BROTHERS

*Blood Brothers is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.*

**A Musical Book, Music & Lyrics by Willy Russell**  
*Directed by Dan Stone*  
*Musical Direction by James Reddan*

**November, 12, 13, 18, 19 & 20 • 7:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, November 21 • Matinee 3 p.m.**

**The Russell Tripp Performance Center**  
Takena Hall, Linn-Benton Community College,  
6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany  
Admission: \$12 Adults • \$9 Seniors and Students

[www.linnbenton.edu/go/theater](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/theater)  
LBCC box office: 541-917-4531

**Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

**RASTA TAN**  
1155 Santiam Rd. SE Albany, OR 97321 541-917-0009 rastatanor.com

**10% Discount For Students**

The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.

**American Red Cross**

**Linn Benton Community College BLOOD DRIVE**  
Mountain Room  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Cascade Rooms A & B  
**November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sign up in Takena Hall (10/25 through 11/5) or online at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) sponsor code LBCC

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)

**Out of The Closet**

New & Used Clothing  
Baby Wear  
Jewelry  
Unique Gifts  
Collectibles  
and more!

734 SW Queen Ave., Albany  
(541) 401-2993  
[outofthecloset\\_734@yahoo.com](mailto:outofthecloset_734@yahoo.com)

**PURE Romance™**  
by Michelle Strange

**\$10 Off WITH THIS AD**

Home: 541-928-0206  
Cell: 541-990-9952

[michellestrange@pureromance.com](mailto:michellestrange@pureromance.com)  
[www.michellestrange.pureromance.com](http://www.michellestrange.pureromance.com)

**Do the Surreal Living pages leave you hungry for more games?**

**We have more crosswords and sudoku puzzles online, plus more fun time-wasters in our arcade.**

**Visit our games section at [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu)**

**Crossroads Deli**  
1.7 Miles South on 99E at the Wilco  
Open at 5 a.m.

Breakfast Burritos, Biscuits and Gravy, Sandwiches, Pizza, Soup and much more

**Featuring Monster Energy Drinks**

16oz.	3 for \$5	
Mega Monster	2 for \$5	

**First Alternative**  
NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

**BUY 10 GET ONE FREE!**

**NORTH CORVALLIS**  
29th & Grant  
(541)452-3115  
Open 7-9 Daily

**SOUTH CORVALLIS**  
1007 SE 3rd  
(541)753-3115  
Open 7-9 Daily

**NEW! Frequent Buyer cards for coffee, muffins & scones, and oatmeal...**

**Saves you time and money!**

[www.firstalt.coop](http://www.firstalt.coop)

**THE COMMONS FARE**  
11/3-11/9

**Wednesday**  
Dishes: Beef Pot Roast, Hazelnut-Arugula Pesto Penne w/ Grilled Chicken and Grilled Vegetable Sandwich  
Soup: Tom Kha Gai and Corn Chowder

**Thursday**  
Dishes: Liver w/ Bacon and Onions, Chicken Cordon Bleu and Cauliflower & Potato Curry  
Soup: Loaded Potato Chowder and French Onion

**Friday**  
Chef's Choice

**Monday**  
Dishes: Glazed Ham, Beef Goulash w/ Spaetzel and Vegetable Strudel  
Soups: Vegetarian Vegetable and Puree of Potato & Leek

**Tuesday**  
Dishes: Chicken & A Biscuit, Fish Tacos and Spicy Lemongrass Tofu Bowl  
Soups: Corn Chowder and Chicken Soup w/ Matzo Balls

## How Comfortable is Your Back Seat?

Homeless? Down on your luck? Don't want to pay for a motel room? Never fear, Linn County is here to help, with thousand dollar base fines for anyone sleeping in their car.

John Edward Nordman was found sleeping in his car and given a \$1000 ticket on October 5th. However, the judge graciously reduced his fine to \$141, of which he was still only able to pay \$50. The rest was to be disbursed on a payment schedule.

This brings up an interesting question: What would be the easiest way for a homeless, jobless man to make \$91? It wouldn't be by selling drugs would it? No, the rational officials

who made the law would surely have thought that through.

Police said that they had received complaints about people sleeping in their cars in the area prior to October 5th. Naturally, the complaints came from those who assumed that a sleeping person is dangerous and that their motive for sleeping would be to mug them whilst unaware.

There is a bigger issue here. A skeptic might see this as victimless crime, because one would expect sleeping in an illegally parked vehicle to be an illegal parking violation. In that case, the skeptic would assume that sleeping in a legally parked vehicle would cause little harm to anyone not in the motel industry.

That's where they would be wrong.

Over time, legally parked vehicles would accumulate to become illegally parked. Imagine: Parked vehicles choking the streets, public urination (because what car has a bathroom?), eventually the people in the cars would form social units and become gypsy bands; all this is pure anarchy to say the least.

Thus, the right decision was made in creating and enforcing this law, and all rational citizens recognize this forfeiture of the tiniest freedom as wise.

*Obie Slavens*

## Advice from Weiss

**Question:** I'm burning out. I was doing great when school started. Now it feels like one thing after another is going wrong, from extra school work to my car having trouble, etc. All of a sudden I've just had too much and feel crazy. What can I do?



Counselor Mark Weiss

**Answer:** Without knowing you, and the details of what's going on for you, I'll have to give a fairly general answer, but I encourage you to come into the Counseling and Career Center and get some help sorting things out from a counselor. This is just the type of thing we help with; and I suppose that's my first piece of advice. Come in and get help.

I'll start my more general advice by saying IT'S MID-TERMS! I'm always taken aback by just how big an impact mid-terms make on our lives. There's added pressure and added work, and then if anything else goes wrong (with family, with cars, with money, with romance), all of a sudden, we feel like the world is caving in. Certainly, the counseling office gets flooded with folks at this time of every term. More than finals, more than starting a new year or a new school, mid-terms knock students for a loop. So, part of my advice is just to be aware that you are dealing with the toughest part of school right now, and it won't last.

So, how does one stay alive in this particular kind of pressure cooker? Here are a few suggestions:

- Get some sleep and eat well. You need your body to be strong right now.

- Get some homework done before you leave school and go home to all the problems.

- Get some help. Don't be too proud to ask a friend, a spouse or partner, or a family member to take something off your plate, so you have time to do that extra bit of homework or get that missing hour

of rest. When asked for help, some will say "no," and that stings, but some folks will say "yes," and it makes all the difference.

- Talk to someone and ask them to help you prioritize your life for the next two weeks. Could be a friend, a counselor, maybe someone in the Learning Center, the Disability Services lab, or the Diversity Achievement Center. You may need someone to help you decide what

really needs doing and what can wait until the stress of mid-terms is over. And it usually makes us feel better to tell someone our troubles and release them, verbally.

- Prioritizing your life may mean that you have to do less than you are trying to do now. That is not a sign of failure. It's just you being smart, and facing the reality that the quickest way to stop feeling overwhelmed is to let go of one of the things that's bothering you. No one can do it all, all the time. No one.

- Do something that nourishes you. That makes you feel good to be alive. Even if it's just for ten minutes, it'll make a difference.

There are a lot more possible answers to mid-term stress. To get them, come on into the counseling office, or write to me at the e-mail below. To quote a favorite Canadian TV show, "Remember, we're all in this together, and I'm pulling for you."

*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](mailto:mark.weiss@linnbenton.edu) or stop by the Career and Counseling Center in Takena Hall.



## Floats for Votes



Yesterday was the last day to vote! Student Ambassador Spike Keenan (left) and Frank Warren, advertisement manager for The Commuter, brought in the last of the stragglers with Student Life and Leadership's Floats for Votes campaign in the Library atrium. Anyone who voted at this event received a complimentary rootbeer float in return.

Photo by Justin Bolger

# BACK *in the* DAY

Adam LaMascus

Opinion Editor

### This day in history ...

#### Nov. 3, 1957: In Soviet Russia ...

The Soviet Union launches the spacecraft Sputnik 2. Onboard the capsule is the first living animal to go into space, an adorable part-terrier called "Kudryavka" (Little Curly) by the Soviet scientists, but commonly known as "Laika" to the rest of the world. U.S. Newspapers dub her "Muttik." The entire Sputnik 2 capsule is designed and built in four weeks, in order to be launched on the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. Laika dies of heat stroke when part of the temperature regulating equipment fails. NASA named a rock formation on Mars after her. R.I.P.

#### Nov. 4, 1952: For your protection ...

The National Security Agency is established. Their job is to monitor communications of foreign nations, perform cryptology, and gather intelligence. Their job is also apparently to periodically conduct unconstitutional wire-taps on American citizens.

#### Nov. 5, 1757: Called that for a reason ...

King Frederick the Great of Prussia is attacked by a combined French and Austrian army near the town of Rossbach. Despite being outnumbered more than 2-to-1 (20,000 vs. 42,000) Frederick wins a masterful victory, killing or capturing about 10,000 enemies while losing only 139 men. Frederick the Great is known as one of the greatest military geniuses for a reason.

#### Nov. 6, 1632: Pyrrhic victory ...

Sweden and its Protestant German allies engage the Holy Roman Empire and Catholic League armies at Leutzen in modern-day Germany, during the Thirty Years War. The Swedes are outnumbered by 3,000 men, but are led by their militarily brilliant king, Gustavus Adolphus. The battle is a strategic victory for the Swedes, as they force the Catholics to withdraw. However, King Adolphus is killed in the battle, and both armies lose about 6,000 men. The loss of their king results in the Swedish campaign faltering and the Catholics regaining many of the territories they had lost to Adolphus.

#### Nov. 7, 1908: Conspiracy ahoy!

After a shootout with police, two American robbers are killed in San Vicente, Bolivia. It is reported that the two men were the infamous robbers Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. However, as Bolivian officials carelessly and quickly toss them into an unmarked grave, no evidence is ever seen by American police. As such, rumors abound that the pair really survived and went on to live quiet lives in the U.S.

#### Nov. 8, 1895: Seeing through walls ...

German scientist Wilhelm Roentgen accidentally discovers X-rays while conducting experiments involving electricity. He names them "X-rays" as a temporary placeholder name. However, many countries name the rays "Roentgen Rays," which embarrasses Wilhelm, who never wanted the new type of radiation named after him.

#### Nov. 9, 1938: Not the best plan ...

Nazi diplomat Ernst vom Rath dies after being shot in the Paris embassy by a young Jew from Poland named Herschel Grynszpan. The Nazis use it as an excuse to launch Kristallnacht, a massive antisemitic pogrom. The Nazi propaganda bureau begins working on plans to turn the assassination into an act proving that the Jews are trying to kill the Germans. However, it then turns out that vom Rath was possibly homosexual, and so the Nazis quietly cancel the propaganda campaign.

### Thought for the week:

"I sit on a man's back, choking him, and making him carry me, and yet assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by any means possible, except getting off his back."

-Leo Tolstoy

Come join the American Legion. We are the world's largest Veterans club, and Albany Post 10 is the largest in the state. The American Legion is the only private club established by Congress. This means when we go to bat for our veterans we get things accomplished, but we can't do it without you. Without the numbers our voice is mute. This is America and this is what we fought for. This is our country so let your voices be heard.

The American Legion not only helps active military, veterans, and their families, but we also help children and youth, boys and girls state, scholarships, National Emergency Relief Fund, the elderly, public schools, Boy Scouts of America, Little League, and many many more. There are many aspects to the Legion, a little something for every part of the family. The ladies Auxiliary and Junior Auxiliary, The Mothers, Sisters, Daughters and Wives of Veterans or active service personnel, The Sons of the American Legion, male descendants of any active or inactive Veteran who has served or is serving honorably. We encourage our veterans and their families to empower themselves and bring change for the better.

It is not all about business though. You have served your country well. So while we are about helping the community we also like to have a bit of fun. Every year the the American Legion has a picnic. We cook up some grub and have prizes and games for the kids and adults, this year we had a live band. During the holidays we cook up some excellent dinners for free and have parties for the kids and the adults. During the summer there are group camp outs and fishing trips for the whole family. Last year we rented all of Triangle Lake campground and charged \$10.00 for 3 days of camping. We had a live band and a big Pot-luck dinner with games, and a nice place to swim for the smaller kids. Adult beverages were present and a wholesome good time was had by all, the way it should be.

Recently our Post was ravaged by fire. An arsonist felt the need to burn our building down, so we will be without a building for about a year from July 4th 2010. (This is the day the arsonist decided to burn it down.) We are rebuilding. Our Post will be better than it ever was, and stronger for the tragedy. For this reason, we regret there will be no holiday parties and dinners for our families at the Post, but we are still needing membership. As a matter of fact we need membership now more than ever. Your membership dues will help pay for a new building so we can continue the mission of the the American Legion. Please help us, your community, and yourselves.

For information on how to help or to join please feel free to call: 541-990-2641 or 541-926-0127 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or go to [www.post10.org](http://www.post10.org) or make any donation at any Umpqua Bank under the American Legion Post 10 "donations" account.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
yours truly: THE AMERICAN LEGION

"We're not just a club, we're a community"





An aerial photo of the South parking lot. Photo by Tim Downin

## Parking Lot Continues to Frustrate

Tim Downin  
Contributing Writer

“That’s the fourth time I was almost hit!” exclaimed student Raul Laurence as he explains his frustration over the number of large trucks speeding through the parking lot, oblivious to the speed reduction bumps.

Since the beginning of the fall term there have been 66 traffic citations written by security in the parking lots on campus. That’s a 600% increase from the total amount of 11 written in the entirety of the previous spring term.

I spoke with Marcene Olson, the head of Safety and Loss Prevention, trying to get a sense for what is going on with the parking lots on campus. Initially I thought confusion resulting from the summer term expansions that were made in front of Takena Hall might account for a large part of the issue. According to Olson, it seems a lack of respect and common courtesy, coupled with careless driving and inattentive behavior, seem to be the main culprit.

There has been a work order in place since the beginning of the term to have a lane division with directional arrows painted into the new one-way exits. This should mitigate some of the traffic backing up when leaving the parking lot. The office of Safety and Loss Prevention has also been stepping up additional efforts to make educational materials more visible to the student body. They stress the importance of students taking the initiative to be courteous to one another and slow down, to make the campus safer for everyone.

To report an incident or to voice additional concerns, please contact Marcene Olson in the office of Safety and Loss Prevention at 541-917-4309.

# AHHH, BRAAAIINS ... ZOMBIES INVADE LBCC COMMONS

Lacey Jarrell  
Managing Editor

Saturday became zombie apocalypse ground zero as zombies of all shapes and sizes descended upon the Calapooia Center for LBCC’s first ever Zombie Prom.

Risen straight from the dead, students and staff showed up with cut throats, bloodied lips and bruised eyes to mingle and mash. Meshed in spooky cobwebs and surrounded by cemetery fog, the small but festive crowd had fun dancing to songs such as “Thriller” and “Monster Mash” throughout the night.

Best costume of the event went to Anthony Amaral. He came smartly dressed as a woman in a purple sequined skirt suit. He topped the ensemble with a long flowing blonde wig. Amaral said there wasn’t a particular woman who inspired the outfit, “It just sounded like something fun to do.”

The coronation ceremony celebrated the zombie king and queen of the evening. The awards went to couple Jeanette Fabero and Anthony Ginder. Inspired by the survival horror game “Resident Evil,” Fabero’s character, a virus-infected pharmacy technician, looked spooktacular with visible veins and oozing sores. Infected task force agent Ginder crept even the spiders out with two black voids where his eyes should have been.

Other costume highlights included instructor Callie Palmer who came wearing a black ski mask with pink and white rabbit ears as the rabbit from “The Incredible Mr. Fox,” and zombie Nicole Vigna who sparkled in her gold and silver sequined flapper dress.

Student Kayla Vigna said aside from the prom, she had a great time just getting dressed up like a zombie. She said she knew that if she went out



From left: Kayla Vigna, Sarah Beyea, Nicole Vigna, Travis Watters, Stephanie Dooley and Brandi Jackson at LBCC’s Halloween Zombie Prom.

Photo by Lacey Jarrell

dressed as she was any other time of the year, she would probably get some pretty strange looks. Part of the fun of Halloween, she said, is, “You can go really far out with your makeup and it’s okay.”

The dance was a fundraiser for students traveling to Egypt over spring break with the Democracy Club. Along with club advisor Robert Harrison, students pitched in time and materials to make the dance a success. Approximately 25 people attended the event and students were able to raise about \$250 that will be split evenly among club members who helped put the dance together.

The Democracy Club is also planning to hold a silent auction and a Christmas tree sale to raise money for the Egypt trip. For more information contact Robert Harrison at [harrisr@linnbenton.edu](mailto:harrisr@linnbenton.edu).

**Go online to see more photos from the Zombie Prom at [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu)**

**Follow The Commuter on Twitter**

Tell us what you’re thinking and keep up-to-date on the latest news. Plus, check our website for more stories, pictures, videos, and blogs at **commuter.linnbenton.edu**

## Editorial: It’s a Parking Lot, SLOW DOWN

Jordan Tunstill  
Staff Writer

It’s pretty simple. When you pull into a parking lot, you slow way down and carefully and safely make your way into a free parking spot. If only everyone understood this simple concept.

Sadly, many people seem to be either too busy to slow down, too rushed to bother with the fact that people are walking in and out of the crosswalks, or they think they are just above the rules that govern society. Just looking at the stats alone, there is an obvious problem. Already this term, there have been:

- Two car-to-car collisions.
- One pedestrian hit by a car.
- One case of menacing.
- One instance of vandalism.
- One car break-in.

Marcene Olson, manager of safety and loss prevention, said there have been roughly three speeding warnings issued every day since the term began - and those are just the reported incidents. Undoubtedly, there are many other driving infractions that go unseen.

Personally, I have been almost hit twice in the past month. One time, I was walking through the crosswalk and out of the corner of my eye I saw a car speeding toward me. I jumped back to avoid being run down. Additionally, I was driving in the front parking lot and looking for a spot, when a car came blazing down the parking lot the wrong direction. Luckily, we avoided a collision.

So please take driving seriously. I know some people may enjoy driving fast, but keep that out of the parking lot. I honestly cannot think of a worse place to speed. There are just too many things that can go wrong. It should not be so important to get that good parking spot that you put someone else’s life in jeopardy.

## Benton Center Throws Down in Ceramics Studio

Paul Schlegelmann  
Contributing Writer

Tucked into a corner of LBCC's Benton Center in Corvallis is a state-of-the-art Ceramics Studio, O. Robert Adams Ceramics Studio, BC140. The ceramics program at the Benton Center offers students an opportunity to learn a wide range of clay skills and techniques with different methods of firing. A sampling of ceramics classes includes Ceramics I & II taught by expert Jay Widmer, Clay Exploration taught by K. Moses and T. Ernst, and classes on Tile & Raku and Salt Glaze.

On a busy October day, ceramics student Ron Wetz was taking advantage of some open-studio time to work on one of his projects. With muddy, experienced hands, Ron was engrossed in transforming a lump of clay into a work of art. "Ceramics gives me a break from my other 'more technical' classes and gives me a chance to channel the right-side of my brain into more artistic output," he said.

The ceramics studio is fully outfitted with a wide array of equipment and tools including:

- Two stoneware kilns
- A raku area
- Two electric kilns for bisque
- A salt kiln
- Motorized and kick wheels



Ron Wetz takes advantage of the ceramics studio at LBCC's Benton Center in Corvallis.

Photo by Paul Schlegelmann

Also busy taking advantage of the open studio hours, student Beth Norris was continuing work on her long term project showcasing endangered animals. Sea turtles arise from lumps of clay under her skilled hands as she crafts shells, legs, and heads of the animals. Using simple tools including toothpicks, Norris added patterns to the shells and other details to the turtles bodies. Norris' ceramics are carefully and lovingly hand-shaped to reflect her passion for these creatures. Having previously created pandas

and other endangered species, Beth sells her work at various venues.

Any student signed up for a ceramics class may also use the studio as a drop-in student during open hours on a space-available basis. Clay, including recycled clay, can be purchased on site at the Benton Center.

Next time you are in the Benton Center, stop by the ceramics studio and watch the fascinating process of ceramics creation by talented student artists.

purchased in advance through the LBCC Culinary Arts Department located in the Calapooia Center, second floor, room CC-214, or by phone at 541-917-4391. All proceeds support the LBCC Culinary Arts program. For more information, contact LBCC Culinary Arts at 541-917-4391.

Please join us for a fundraiser for the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV). 50% of food purchases will be donated to CARDV.

**Rob Lewis China Experience**  
12:10 - 1 p.m. • Corvallis-Benton County Public Library  
Rob Lewis, LBCC math instructor, shares his adventures and experiences as an English teacher in China.

**Pizza Social**  
3 - 5 p.m. • Sweet Home Center  
Meet with the Student Programming Board specialists to discuss ideas you would like to see and warm up your stomach with some piping hot pizza!

**Wednesday 11/10**  
**Lebanon Learning Center Open House**  
4 - 6 p.m. • Lebanon Center  
Visit the new Learning Center opening on the Lebanon campus. There will be food!

If you have a Campus Short, please e-mail them to [commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu).

## Office Hours: Q&A with June Satak

McKenzie Christie  
Contributing Writer

June Satak, a history instructor at the Lebanon and Benton campuses, recently sat down with The Commuter to talk double-duty teaching responsibilities and the wonderful world of history.

**Commuter: How long have you been teaching at Linn Benton?**  
**June Satak:** About three years.

**C: What classes do you teach?**  
**JS:** History 101-103 (Western Civ) and History 201-203 (U.S.)

**C: What other teaching experience do you have?**

**JS:** I have been teaching at West Albany High School for the past 11 years. English, newspaper and history are just some of the subjects. I also am a coach of the cross country team.

**C: What is the biggest difference in teaching high school students compared to college students?**

**JS:** The creativity of the excuses remains the same! But my LBCC students are generally a mature bunch and interested in history.

**C: Why did you become a teacher?**

**JS:** My little sister and I used to pretend we were teachers in elementary school. I couldn't imagine any other career. I love learning and sharing interesting information.

**C: Do you have a teaching philosophy?**

**JS:** Yes, a teacher must keep learning. I have also learned to be more flexible about more important things that actually relate to learning.

**C: Do you have a favorite part of history? A favorite era or event?**

**JS:** All of it! But, I particularly enjoy The Renaissance and also post-war Europe. As for U.S. history, I love the Progressive era. I love the idea of people pushing for reform.

**C: What are your other interests/ hobbies?**

**JS:** RUNNING! Rain or shine, it is the best way to relax. Speaking Italian with anyone who will listen and traveling.

**C: Where have your travels taken you lately?**

**JS:** Recently, Morocco and Russia. I'm excited to be going back to Russia this summer!

**C: What's the best way for students to contact you?**

**JS:** I don't really have an office but, a half hour before class you can usually find me drinking coffee and grading papers in the lobby. Or, you can email me at [june\\_satak@comcast.net](mailto:june_satak@comcast.net)



June Satak  
Photo by McKenzie Christie



**Thursday 11/4**

**Pizza Social**  
3 - 5 p.m. • Lebanon Center  
Meet with the Student Programming Board specialists to discuss ideas you would like to see and warm up your stomach with some piping hot pizza!

**Día de los Muertos Celebration**  
6 - 8 p.m. • Corvallis Art Center  
There will be a Mexican textile display and a community altar building. Admission is free.

**Friday 11/5**

**Autumn Harvest Banquet**  
6:30 p.m. • The Commons  
Guests will enjoy prime rib dinner with all the trimmings, prepared and served by LBCC culinary students. Vegetarian options are available upon advance request. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be

**Saturday 11/6**

**Wilderness Survival Class**  
9 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.  
If you are a backpacker, hiker, hunter, snowmobiler or if you travel in the back country, Wilderness Survival will make your experience more enjoyable and will allow you to be fully prepared in the unpredictable outdoors. Class will review the basics of equipment, clothing selection and the skills needed to prepare for travel and emergency situations. Learn the basic planning elements to consider in advance of your wilderness journey. Cost for the class is \$39. For more information or to register, contact LBCC Albany Community Education at 541-917-4840.

**Tuesday 11/9**

**CARDV Fundraiser**  
11 a.m. - Midnight • Papa's Pizza in Corvallis

### New year. New look.

Check out The Commuter's new look at  
[commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu)  
and keep up-to-date on all the latest  
campus news.

## Toni Klohk Leads Diversity

**Kay M. Roth**  
Contributing Writer



Diversity Achievement Center Coordinator  
Toni Klohk

Photo by Jordan Tunstill

### Diversity Achievement Center

**Where:** Forum - 220  
**Phone:** 541-917-4461  
**Email:** [dac@linnbenton.edu](mailto:dac@linnbenton.edu)  
**Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

At Linn-Benton's Diversity Achievement Center (DAC), it's not about being different. "People are people," said Toni Klohk, the center's coordinator.

According to Klohk, the mission and goal of the DAC is to promote understanding, acceptance and to give people the opportunity to experience cultures other than their own. Everyone, she explained, has a culture they identify with.

DAC is the place where everyone can be themselves and openly discuss their differences. "We agree to disagree," said Klohk. The center, which sponsors a number of diversity events including those during National Heritage months, is open to all students.

"We want to open students' minds."

Recent events featured by the DAC include the Gay-Straight Alliance's forum on bullying and a showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Upcoming events in the DAC include Rocky Gavin's talk on flutes, hosted by the Native American Student Union on Nov. 3 at 3 p.m. Klohk noted this is a hands-on workshop and is limited to 25 people.

"It's a joy to interact with students," said Klohk. She said that student participation, whether planning or participating in events, is very important. The DAC provides a place for

students to be diversity role models with no fear of repercussions. "It's a very safe place for open and honest dialogue."

When asked which diversity issue was most important to her personally, Klohk was hard pressed to decide on just one. "I'm passionate about them all."

Klohk's own past has worked in her favor when it comes to diversity. Having grown up in the Albany area, she later joined the military, eventually becoming part of Desert Storm. "The Army was good for me." She gained a lot of experience that is now helping her in her chosen profession. As a female of short stature, she felt she had two strikes against her. She felt oppressed and, at times, was sexually harassed. "I had to prove myself every day."

She began her own college career at LBCC before transitioning to Linfield's distance education program, receiving a bachelor's degree in social and behavioral sciences. "I kind of fell into the job," she said of how she became the DAC coordinator. "I love my job. I get more passionate about it every day."

The center has games, computers, and couches, giving students a place to relax, socialize and even eat lunch. "There's something for everyone."

## DAC Offers Grants to Student Groups

**Audrey Gomez**  
Copy Editor

"We're really trying to reach out to students to get them involved in this diversity work," says Diversity Achievement Center Coordinator Toni Klohk. She stresses the importance of having "student-driven programming" because students have the best understanding of what challenges need to be addressed on campus.

This academic year, the DAC is offering \$2,000 in grants for diversity-themed programs.

Ten grants of up to \$200 each are available to college-recognized student groups (defined as co-curricular programs, clubs, or classes). Proposed programs must be student driven and have a staff sponsor. The application must include an educational objective. Applications should be submitted to the DAC a minimum of four weeks before the proposed program date.

More information and a pdf application are available online at [linnbenton.edu/go/diversity-achievement-center](http://linnbenton.edu/go/diversity-achievement-center).

## Students to Take Control of Campus Events

**Audrey Gomez**  
Copy Editor

There is a shift in leadership this year in the Diversity Achievement Center. Toni Klohk has been the DAC coordinator for two years. During that time, student workers have provided support to the programming she developed. This fall, she is guiding six student leaders in taking over that enterprise. "Their primary responsibility now is programming," said Klohk.

Over the summer, Klohk created an unofficial curriculum that emphasizes diversity. It is a "step by step strategy to start integrating the student (workers) into student life and leadership and teaching

them how to do events." The six students are included in leadership training and are "working together with student government and the student programming board," Klohk says. Each student works six hours a week in the DAC. That time includes a weekly one hour meeting as a group. They focus on diversity-related material such as articles, movies, and may take field trips.

The group is devoting fall term to preparing events they will host during the winter and spring terms. Each student worker will complete three projects - one major project and two minor.

While the projects for next term are still in development, students Ricky Zipp and Oz Galvez are already working together to plan a "Hungry 4 Those Starving" campaign this term.

## Academic Success Seminars

Sign up on SIS ([sis.linnbenton.edu](http://sis.linnbenton.edu)) under Study Skills – or just drop in!

### Overcome Test Anxiety

Wednesday	Nov. 3	Albany	IA-201A	2:00 – 2:50 p.m.
Wednesday	Nov. 3	Lebanon	LC-205	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.

### Accomplish Your Academic Goals: Tips to Overcome Procrastination

Tuesday	Nov. 9	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	Nov. 10	Albany	IA-201A	2:00 – 2:50 p.m.
Wednesday	Nov. 10	Lebanon	LC-205	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.

Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center. For more information and to sign up, visit SIS 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.

Linn-Benton  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Boost Your COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE!

Always 50 minutes!

ALWAYS FREE!

Always helpful!



[southpacificautosales.com](http://southpacificautosales.com)  
Call Kelly Kisling  
(541)-990-3909

**\*EASY\***  
**\*FINANCING\***

Get ready for winter in this Jeep!

Hardtop  
Soft-top  
4.0L 6 cylinder  
69K miles  
CD/ AC/ & More!



**\*Only 13,995\***

**2001 Jeep Wrangler Sport 4x4**

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

### Last Week's Puzzle Solved

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

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

© 2010 The Mephram Group. Distributed by Tribune Media Services. All rights reserved.

# HOROSCOPES

Your weekly guide to the Zodiac

## ARIES

3/21-4/19  
Baaaa. Ram. Ewe.

## TAURUS

4/20-5/20  
Once upon a time in Spain there was a little bull and his name was Ferdinand. The End.

## GEMINI

5/21-6/21  
Something, something, evil twin.

## CANCER

6/22-7/22  
Maryland consumes more crabs than any other state. I'd avoid Maryland if I were you, but mmm mmm are their crab cakes delish.

## LEO

7/23-8/22  
As King of the Jungle you have every right to order people around. Just don't expect anyone to listen.

## VIRGO

8/23-9/22  
You're perfect and beautiful in every way. Don't ever change. Stay golden, Ponyboy.

## LIBRA

9/23-10/23  
Can't decide? Magic 8-ball to the rescue ... "Reply hazy, ask again later."

## SCORPIO

10/24-11/21  
Happy Birthday! Remember, it's your party and you can cry if you want to.

## SAGITTARIUS

11/22-12/21  
"Shot through the heart ... and you're to blame ... you give love ... a bad name."

## CAPRICORN

12/22-1/19  
Did you know that some goats don't sleep? They're too busy working and fixing other animal's screw-ups. That's a fact.

## AQUARIUS

1/20-2/18  
Look deep inside yourself to summon the courage and allow the truth to set you free. Be free.

## PISCES

2/19-3/20  
Each year salmon beat themselves bloody traveling upstream with one goal in mind ... sex.

## 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.

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Justin Bolger

**Managing Editor:**  
Lacey Jarrell

**News Editor:**  
Alethea Skinner

**Opinion Editor:**  
Adam LaMascus

**Features Editor:**  
Whitney Bruce

**Advertising Manager:**  
Frank Warren

**Page Designer:**  
Ashley Christie

**Head Cartoonist:**  
Maggie O'Reilly

**Cartoonist:**  
Mason Britton

**Photo Editor:**  
Tony Brown

**Adviser:**  
Rob Priewe

**Webmaster:**  
Marci Sisco

**Copy Editors:**  
Gary Brittsan, Audrey Gomez

**Staff Writers:**  
Jesus Alcaras, Scott Landgren, J.E.B. Oliver, Laura Soto, Jordan Tunstill

**Cover Design by:**  
Lacey Jarrell & Ashley Christie

### 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](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu)

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

**Phone:** 541- 917-4451, 4452 or 4453

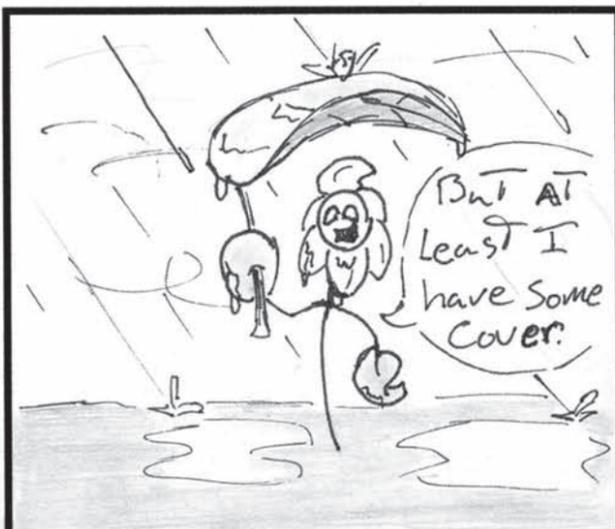
**Fax:** 541- 917-4454

**Address:** 6500 SW Pacific Blvd. Albany, OR 97321

Grilled Bananas

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Mason Britton



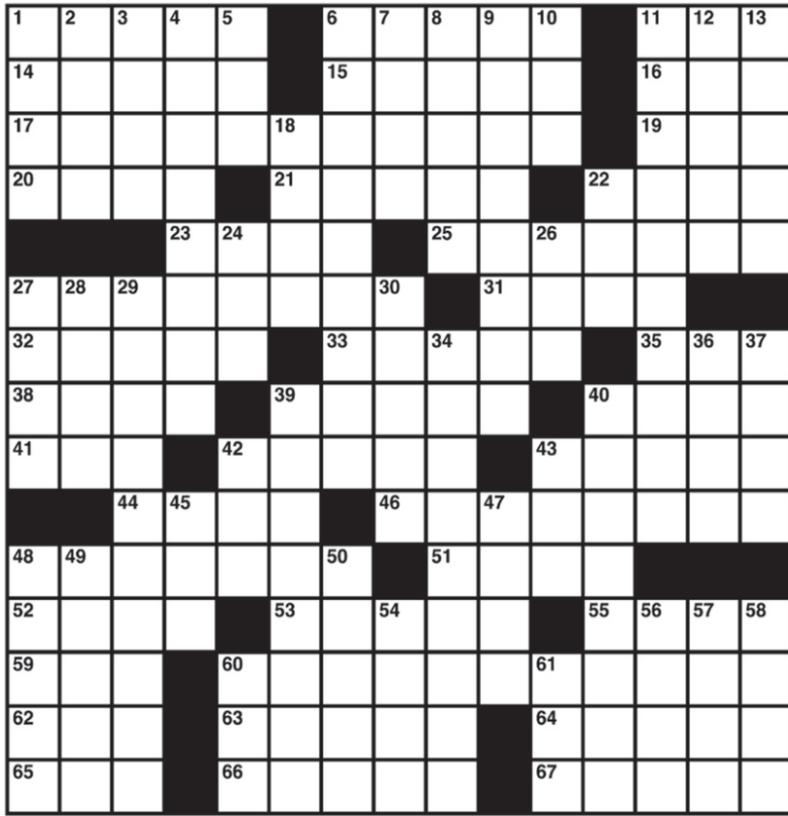
Mason Britton 2010

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

### ACROSS

- 1 Heats a bit
- 6 Movie music
- 11 Cigar residue
- 14 Like loud crowds
- 15 "Family Matters" nerd Steve
- 16 "I like \_\_\_": '50s campaign slogan
- 17 Striding self-confidently
- 19 Blender setting
- 20 Having sufficient skill
- 21 No-brainer college course
- 22 Lamp-to-plug link
- 23 God of thunder
- 25 Short races
- 27 It's a virtue, so they say
- 31 iTunes download
- 32 Midterms, e.g.
- 33 Emitted a delighted sigh
- 35 Beaver or boater
- 38 Tick off
- 39 Paid to play
- 40 Hepcat's jargon
- 41 Condensing cluck
- 42 Climbing tool for frozen surfaces
- 43 TV host Philbin
- 44 About, in a memo
- 46 Words while delivering a blow
- 48 Team supporters, collectively
- 51 Hobbling gait
- 52 Tiny pond plant
- 53 Aired, as a TV show
- 55 Wolf's shelter
- 59 Dry gently, as tears
- 60 Enjoying an extravagant existence
- 62 Brit. record co.
- 63 "Maria \_\_\_": 1940s song
- 64 Kitchen tearjerker
- 65 Pooch
- 66 '50s Ford flop
- 67 Part of a Santa costume



By Nancy Salomon

### DOWN

- 1 Muted trumpet sound
- 2 Mideast native
- 3 Dice throw
- 4 Provide a schedule slot (for)
- 5 Indian title
- 6 Crop yielding a common sweetener
- 7 PC monitors
- 8 Gives the nod to
- 9 Went off the wagon, e.g.
- 10 Right-angled pipe
- 11 Shooting for the stars
- 12 Mini, midi or maxi
- 13 Whammies
- 18 Casino sign gas
- 22 Finish in front
- 24 "For \_\_\_ a jolly ..."
- 26 Towel holder
- 27 Saucy
- 28 Graph's x or y
- 29 Carrying on conceitedly
- 30 Bother big-time
- 34 Six-sided
- 36 Nike competitor

### Last Week's Puzzle Solved



(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 37 Try out
- 39 Game in which "bullets" can be whatever card you decide
- 40 747, for one
- 42 Nest egg component, for short
- 43 Sleep lab acronym
- 45 Org. with dribblers
- 47 Crowned checker
- 48 Washed-out mission
- 50 Gutter sites
- 54 Trig function
- 56 La Scala solo
- 57 Operatic prince
- 58 Tear apart
- 60 Filmmaker Spike
- 61 Soft toss

## 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

See *Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101)* or see our website at [www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment). LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.

### Accounting Intern (#8552,

Albany) If you are an accounting sophomore and going for a 4-year degree, this is the job for you! On-the-job experience and pay is \$12-15/hr DOE!

### Web Designer (#8546, Albany)

This 5-10 hrs/week job is a volunteer job, but could be good experience and you are working

**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.

on the Operation Homefront Oregon web page helping our soldiers.

### Network Maintenance

**Technician 4** (#8544, Salem, Portland, Tigard & Beaverton openings) These full-time openings generally require seven years experience with power supplies, repairs to cable service, troubleshooting, etc.

### Sales Reps (#8550, Beaverton)

Full-time with base-guaranteed wage working for a family-owned company in business more than 40 years.

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](mailto: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.

**Last Week's Answer:** The Gallery Atrium in NSH.

**Last Week's Winner:** Congratulations to Max Brown for submitting the correct answer.

## Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



# Swift Speaks Up on "Speak Now"

**Ashley Christie**  
Page Designer

It's near impossible to hate Taylor Swift; that's like hating puppies and rainbows and unicorns.

As with her first two albums, Swift's latest, "Speak Now," is filled with bouncy pop songs about boys, first loves, and revenge that you can't help singing along to.

Each song reads like the page of a diary, which is exactly why her demographic of squealing high school girls adore her.

"Speak Now," written entirely by the 20-year-old songstress, musically shows some maturity without growing up too fast and alienating the superstar's tween fan base.

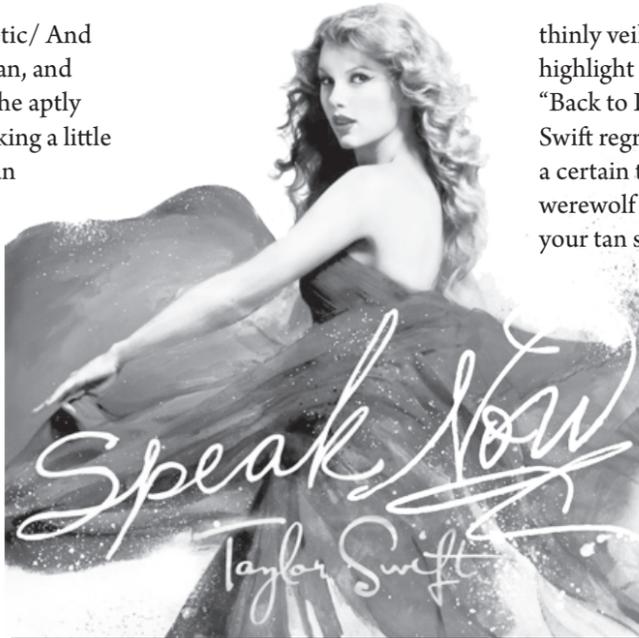
While boys and broken hearts are Swift's bread-and-butter, she isn't above getting back at all the haters out there with good revenge songs and lyrics, like "All you are is mean/

And a liar/ And pathetic/ And alone in life/ And mean, and mean, and mean," in the aptly titled "Mean." Or seeking a little payback in "Better than Revenge," with its chorus of "She's not a saint/ And she's not what you think/ She's an actress/ But she's better known for the things that she does on the mattress."

As verbally ferocious as those songs are, an angry Taylor Swift is like an angry kitten: it's too adorable to take seriously.

It's her songs about lost love where she really shines.

Both "Haunted" and "Last Kiss" tell stories of relationships that ended too quickly. And while Swift never explicitly name names, each song about failed romances starts



thinly veiled than others. A highlight on the album is "Back to December," where Swift regrets her break-up with a certain topless "Twilight" werewolf (allegedly), "I miss your tan skin/ Your sweet smile/

So good to me/ So right."

And in one of the best songs on the album, the ballad "Dear John," reminiscent of Carly Simon's "You're So Vain," Swift sings about perpetual player and all-around tool John Mayer (allegedly). Her lyrics about an older man who plays with a young girl's heart are backed by bluesy guitar riffs that are obviously mimicking

Mayer's style.

Overall, "Speak Now" brings us the same Taylor we've all come to know and love. Her

cross-over from a cute country crooner to an unstoppable pop superstar was effortless. And unlike other teen singing sensations, she didn't have to perform in bondage gear to do it.

In a review for "Rolling Stone Magazine," Rob Sheffield wrote, "In a mere four years, the 20-year-old Nashville firecracker has put her name on three dozen or so of the smartest songs released by anyone in pop, rock or country." Swift knows what she's doing, and with "Speak Now" demonstrates that she is clearly a talented songwriter and has a bright future ahead of her.

And to all those out there who roll their eyes at the mere mention of her name, I say "Stop hatin'." Though they aren't the most meaningful of songs, Taylor Swift is cute, bubbly, and fun. The high-school girl in me will continue to bop her head and sing along with the pop princess as long as she continues to make bad dating decisions and write about them.

### Fast Tracks

**Can't miss:**

"Speak Now"  
"Dear John"  
"The Story of Us"

**Can skip:**

"Never Grow Up"  
"Innocent"  
"Long Live"

fans on a guessing game and wondering who's who and why she is still singing about that one JoBro.

Some songs are more

## redbox review

### Open House (Rated R, Runtime 88 min.)

**Carli Gibson**  
Contributing Writer

Have you ever walked with a realtor into a house that's for sale and thought, "Hmm, I wonder if there's a dead body downstairs ..." No? Then you should really broaden your thoughts when buying a home.

I suppose it's fair, considering the realtor may never have realized that the "perfect day" to sell a house could be someone else's "perfect day" to murder a realtor trying to sell them a home.

At a first glance, "Open House" seems like a fairly good redbox movie. I mean, it was directed by Andrew Paquin, who produced "New in Town," which was a pretty good movie. However, once the movie begins you remain at the state when you're waiting and waiting to be sucked in, and somehow you just can't look away.

Perhaps it's the psychotic characteristic of the main character Alice, played by Rachel Blanchard. Or it could be the good looking, seemingly less-psychotic henchman David, played by Brian Geraghty. For me, it was the fact that there's a woman (Anna Paquin) locked in a storage room in the basement, and that woman happens to be the owner of the house.

This woman, Alice, comes out of nowhere in the beginning of the movie. That doesn't matter. What does



matter is that she thinks the owner of the house, Jennie, is dead, and that she, Alice, killed the owner's ex-husband with her seductive ways.

When Alice appears out of nowhere, so does David. David knows what Alice doesn't: Jennie is alive and hidden. As an audience, what we don't know is why. Why in the world did he keep this woman alive while this other crazy woman is killing everyone that has any relation to the house or the owner? All the possible answers in your head are enough to drive you crazy.

Although this movie wasn't the greatest thriller I have ever watched, I would still give it a thumbs up. The ending gave a good mysterious thrill that could possibly lead to a sequel.



## LAST CALL

BEER REVIEW

### Winter Ales: Abbey Ale & 2° Below

**J.E.B. Oliver**  
Staff Writer

I've decided to write a dual review this weekend since I didn't spend much time out. I went out and picked up some brews at our new Market of Choice on 9th street in Corvallis.

They have a great choice of beer with tons of different varieties to choose from. I decided to go with some seasonal selections.

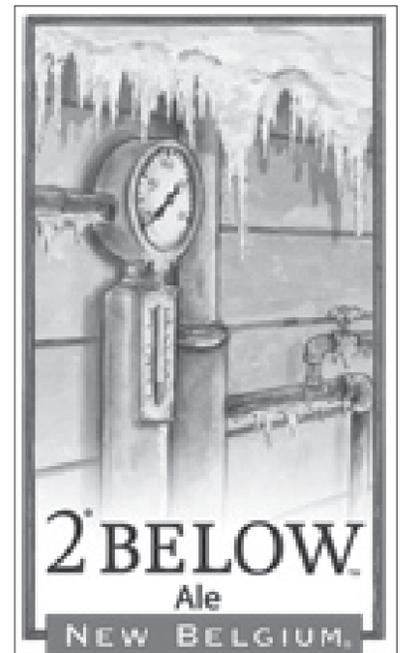
My first choice was Blue Moon's Winter Abby Ale. It is a delicious beer with a roasted caramel malt taste that still has that hoppy flavor that I enjoy, but with many sweet hints in the flavor.

According to the package, it is made with Belgian sugar, which explains the sweetness, and where much of the caramel taste comes from. This is a wheat beer that goes down smooth. It is an excellent beer to have with a slice of pumpkin pie.

My other choice for this article was 2° Below by New Belgium. I have always been a huge fan of this brewery; Fat Tire, 1554, and many others that are common in my fridge.

I think 2° below is excellent for a winter beer. It has that toasted malt flavor which helps to cheer you up on cold fall and winter days. It has a delicious citrus flavor which inspires a bit of refreshment to warm your soul in these months and doesn't have any of those over-the-top sugar tones that the Blue Moon Winter Abbey Ale has.

2° Below by far the one I would go with if given a choice, and I would recommend it to all my friends. As my roommate said, "It's a great beer to go with a burger."



## Coming Attractions

### Megamind

The world's most brilliant, yet unsuccessful, supervillain Megamind (Will Ferrell) tries to outwit Metro City's resident superhero Metro Man (Brad Pitt). When he finally succeeds, Megamind finds out that getting what he always wanted is the worst thing that could have happened.

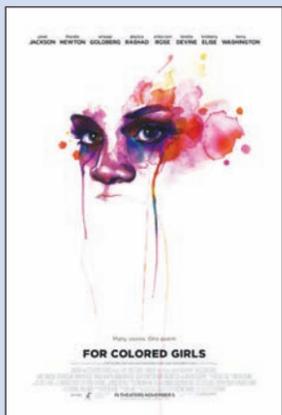
**Rated:** PG  
**Runtime:** 96 min.  
**Genre:** Family



### For Colored Girls

Based on Ntozake Shange's award-winning play about the struggles and hardships of colored women. Tyler Perry rounds up an all-star cast including Janet Jackson, Thandie Newton, Anika Noni Rose, Whoopi Goldberg, Phylicia Rashad, and Macy Gray.

**Rated:** R  
**Runtime:** 134 min.  
**Genre:** Drama



### Due Date

"Hangover" director Todd Phillips promises us new laughs in this odd-couple road trip comedy. It stars Robert Downey Jr. as a father-to-be trying to make it cross-country for his child's delivery by hitching a ride with aspiring thespian Zach Galifianakis.

**Rated:** R  
**Runtime:** 100 min.  
**Genre:** Comedy



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

# Place Your Bets On "New Vegas"

Adam LaMascus  
 Opinion Editor

War never changes. Finally, after much anticipation, we have the release of "Fallout: New Vegas." The game, in many ways, is the real "Fallout 3," as the setting and humor are much more akin to the first two "Fallout" games. Gone is the Capitol Wasteland, replaced by the West. You play as a courier in the Mojave Wasteland along the California/Nevada border, betrayed and left for dead on a job gone awry. When you awake, your task is to find the people who tried to kill you.

The backdrop to this is the power struggle between the New California Republic (NCR) and Caesar's Legion. The NCR is a bloated, inefficient, democratic government founded on the principles of the old American government, while the Legion is founded on the principles of ancient Rome; they are efficient, bloodthirsty, militaristic, expansive, and use burning to death and crucifixion as common means of execution.

"New Vegas" seems like a huge expansion for "Fallout 3," which if you loved as I did, you won't mind. I will say it right up front: If you thought the third game was terrible, you will not like "New Vegas." It pretty much runs like "Fallout 3," but better.

Anything you could do in the previous game you can do here, but often with more options and more fun. "Fallout: New Vegas" is a first/third person shooter/role-playing game. You explore the wasteland (which is huge), collect loot, complete missions, and kill whatever you damn well please.

The VATS combat system returns, an option where you pretty much pause the game and select as many targets as your Action Points will allow, then watch in cinematic-o-vision as the computer number crunches to determine how successful you were in exploding that Supermutant's head. While visually the most entertaining, there are often moments where I forgo VATS because I'm a better shot than my character, so while it's a simple matter to drop a bad guy with a head shot from 100 yards away, VATS gives me a 6 percent chance of hitting.

The game has a wicked sense of humor, and I often found myself laughing out loud. Amongst other things, the game has a number of random occurrences that are just hilarious. So far I've found references to "Indiana Jones" and "Star Wars."

While I joke that "New Vegas" is an expansion to "Fallout 3," I am serious that it is more like the "real" "Fallout 3." A ton of options from the first and second game that were not in the third game have fortunately made a comeback. A feature that has thankfully returned is the ability to modify



### "Fallout: New Vegas"

**Developer:** Obsidian Entertainment  
**Publisher:** Bethesda Softworks  
**Rating:** M for Mature  
**Platforms:** PS3, Xbox 360, and PC

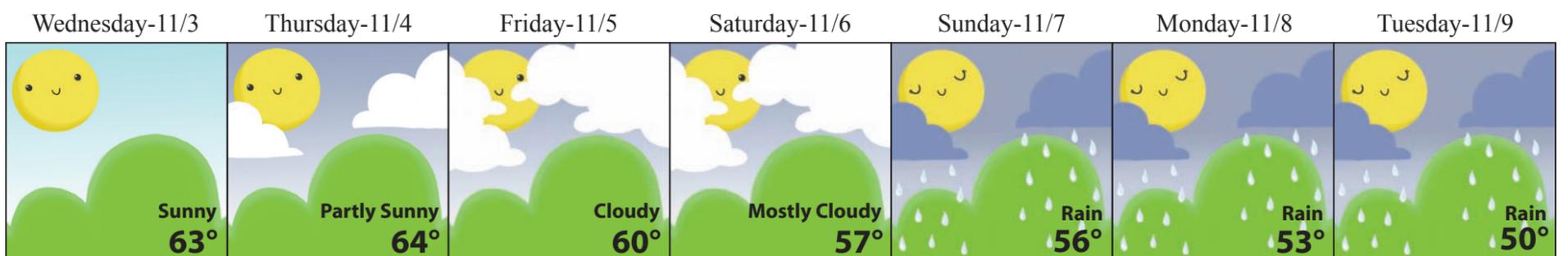
your weapons, such as tacking a scope onto your rifle, and they have brought back different kinds of ammo. Hollowpoints deal better damage, while Surplus ammo is cheaper and causes your gun to break down faster.

Something else that is really cool about this game is how you don't really need to kill everything that moves. Black Isle, the studio that produced "Fallout 1" and "Fallout 2," believed that you should be able to get through a game without having to fire a shot, though it wouldn't be easy. In "Fallout 1," you could literally beat the boss by convincing him to commit suicide. You can tell that the guys working on "New Vegas" took that philosophy to heart. You can generally talk your way through almost every problem, though it won't always be easy, and sometimes it seems like just shooting the person would've been less trouble.

While "New Vegas" seems to have taken all of the good things from its predecessors, it also seems to have carried along some of the bad genes too. It can be pretty buggy in some cases, though in my experience they are rarely fatal errors that cause the game to crash. The most common incident I've seen is enemies getting stuck waist deep in the ground or in rocks as they wiggle about trying to reach you. Another issue that I've only seen once was when I blew up a guy with a stick of dynamite, and as the chunks flew away, the game couldn't decide which chunk to make the bulk of the body attach to. As a result, the body stretched out to be pencil thin (15 feet long) and flew through the air, zigzagging about from one chunk of gore to the other. It was pretty entertaining.

Though it has its flaws, "Fallout: New Vegas" is a blast, and as Ferris Bueller once said: "If you have the means, I highly recommend it."

## Weekly Weather Predictions



Warning: These are only predictions. For up-to-date forecasts, please look out your window. Source: [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com)