

February 23, 2011

# The Commuter

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Yo ho ho and  
a Gigabyte of  
RAM

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# Doomed to Repeat It

A friend of mine recently forwarded me a study from edexcellencemedia.net entitled "The State of State U.S. History Standards 2011," which discussed and rated public school classes through the nation, from elementary throughout high school. In this report, Oregon's U.S. History courses received a measly 2/10. The overview sums up the report pretty well: "Oregon's U.S. history standards are vague to the point of absurdity. The content – assigned to grade bands, not individual grades – is scanty, gap-ridden, and hopelessly general, not even approaching a usable historical outline. And what little content there is, focuses heavily on the mistreatment of minorities, all but ignoring other aspects of the nation's past."



I wasn't terribly surprised to read this. No offense intended, I've noticed many conversations in my classes here, whether Math, History, or English, wound up talking about how women and minorities are repressed here, even when the original conversation had absolutely nothing to do with that.

The report delved deeper into the institutional failings of the Oregon U.S. History curriculum, but the main thing that remained with me was the last sentence of the overview, "And what little content there is focuses heavily on the mistreatment of minorities, all but ignoring other aspects of the nation's past."

I understand that we are in the Age of Political Correctness, but it seems we can't get our history right.

When taking history classes in Oregon, it almost seems like all the U.S. has been doing is

repressing non-white people and women, while in history classes in other places, we have the exact opposite problem.

I went to school in California, and in my experience we largely ignored injustice, racism, sexism, xenophobia, and homophobia. Instead, we talked about freedom and democracy, the glory of our triumphs, mentioning nothing about effectively committing genocide on an indigenous people and enslaving multiple others.

My high school World History teacher, Mr. McNulty, summed it up pretty well when he said, "When we say 'world history,' we mean 'history after white people showed up.' Let's face it guys, we could probably rename this class 'Whitey's Big Adventure' and it would be accurate."

While that was a World History class and not a U.S. History class, it still sums up the problem pretty well.

The obvious solution is to find a healthy medium, and I don't know why we have such a hard time doing it.

The Founding Fathers didn't write, "We the People of the United States, in order to be more proficient at mistreating brown people ..." That being said, clearly repression and mistreatment are a major part of our history, and not only would we be doing an extreme injustice to those people by glossing over their suffering, we would also be leaving huge gaps in our understanding of many modern issues that stemmed from prior injustice.

So, let's always remember and discuss our country's massive failures to live up to its creed that "all men are created equal," and also not let those failings completely overshadow the progress and good that the United States has done in remedying this problem and other issues.

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A row of food carts in Portland.

JMazzolaa/flickr.com

## Food Cart Vendors Have to Eat Too

Recently, we've had this local debate about food carts in Corvallis, or rather, allowing them licenses for more than 45 days at a time. I've been following this on the Food Cart Alliance Facebook page as well as the Gazette Times.



If my memory serves me right, a couple years ago people were up in arms because of TJ Maxx, Trader Joe's and Michaels coming in on 9th street. They hailed it as the death of the downtown local businesses and all that jazz. And now it looks like the same people are freaking out about these smaller businesses coming in.

Folks, you can't have it both ways. You can't blast

big corporations while also complaining about little local food stands, too. Or you can, but at least admit you're being a total hypocrite.

Those commenting on the Gazette Times article use Portland as an example for both arguments. Some say the food cart population is a booming economy, while others call it a slum.

Ahem!

Allow me to freak out for a second.

A slum? Really? I don't think you know what a slum is – not really.

For the sake of argument, let's say it *does* look like slum. In that case, it's not the food carts, it's probably the enormous population of homeless people. And smell that? It's not BBQ pork, it's urine.

Brandon Dale, owner of

Broken Yolk, has been outspoken about his aversion to food carts, or as he affectionately calls them, "Taco Trucks." (A tad racist if you ask me.) He mostly seems to be arguing that they'll take away his business.

Well, Mr. Dale, if you are worried about your business, maybe you shouldn't charge 10 bucks for an omelet! Anyone ever do the math on that? Sheesh.

The way I see it, running a food cart is a perfectly legitimate way to make a living. Especially in Corvallis, where property rates are so high it's almost impossible to start a business unless you're already rich. No one should be denied the ability to make a living 320 days of the year.

If the food is good, clean, and the service comes with a smile, then suck it up and accept the competition.

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## BACK *in the* DAY

Adam LaMascus  
Opinion Editor

### This day in history ...

#### Feb. 23, 1945: V for Victory!

Joe Rosenthal takes a photograph of five Marines (Franklin Sousley, Harlon Block, Michael Strank, Rene Gagnon, Ira Hayes) and a Navy Corpsman (John Bradley) raising a US flag on the summit of Mt. Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima. The photograph becomes the only photo to win a Pulitzer Prize the same year it is published. According to the Associated Press, the picture may be the most reproduced of all time.

#### Feb. 24, 1989: The pen is mightier ...

Ten days after declaring that all good Muslims should attempt to kill Salman Rushdie (the British-Indian author of "The Satanic Verses"), Ayatollah Khomeini puts up a \$3 million bounty on Rushdie's head. During the next few years, the Japanese translator of the book is stabbed to death, the Italian translator is stabbed but survives, the Turkish translator escapes when a radical mob burns down the hotel he is in (killing 37). Additionally, the Norwegian publisher is shot but survives, and two floors of a London hotel are destroyed when a believed Hezbollah member accidentally blows himself up while preparing a bomb to attack Rushdie with. Rushdie, who is knighted by the Queen of England, has to spend nine years in hiding because of this, and to this day Iran refuses to revoke the order, as technically only Khomeini can do that, and he died in 1989.

#### Feb. 25, 1968: Too many massacres ...

135 women, children, and elderly are murdered by South Korean marines in the village of Ha My in South Vietnam. A memorial is established in 2000 for the victims.

#### Feb. 26, 1993: Wish it had been the last one ...

The World Trade Center is the target of a terrorist attack. A car-bomb is detonated in the parking structure. Six people and an unborn child are killed, and over 1,000 people are injured. After the attacks, security and evacuation procedures are revamped and improved, which ends up saving many lives eight years later.

#### Feb. 27, 1864: "Is this Hell?"

The first group of Union prisoners arrive at the Confederate prisoner-of-war camp near Andersonville, Ga. Approximately 45,000 prisoners are held in Andersonville over the course of the Civil War, and in that time period, almost 13,000 of them die. After the war, the commandant of the camp, Henry Wirz, is convicted of war crimes and hanged. He is the only Confederate to be found guilty of war crimes. The camp is almost constantly short of food, many prisoners tell tales of beatings and deliberate cruelty, and much of the camp is taken up by a swamp that is used as a toilet, which helps spread diseases unbelievably fast. If you look up photos of the survivors of the camp, they look like Holocaust survivors. They are literally walking skeletons.

#### Feb. 28, 1947: Freedom and democracy?

The Taiwanese government cracks down on anti-government protesters and security forces go on a three-day rampage of looting and murder. During the three days, somewhere between 10,000 and 30,000 civilians are killed. The event is remembered in Taiwan as the "228 Incident," because the massacres began on 2-28.

#### Mar 1, 1781: "the Union shall be perpetual."

The Articles of Confederation are adopted by the Second Continental Congress. The Articles are replaced in 1787 because the federal government is so weak that almost nothing gets done.

### Thought for the week:

"Unless a nation's life faces peril, war is murder."

-Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

## Video Games: The New Drug of Choice

John Rosales  
Contributing Writer

It's sent people to the poor house, ended relationships, and even caused people to lose their friends. It's an addiction that seems to be growing more prevalent every year. It's an addiction that most people don't even see coming.

Video games have become the newest drug. It may seem a stretch for some people to believe that something as harmless as a video game can be the cause of such a serious addiction, but each day we're seeing it become more of a problem. It's become such a problem that there are help groups specially dedicated to assisting people recover from this addiction.

Most of us have grown up with video games, playing them since our childhood. We've waited in anticipation for that Christmas or birthday gift that would send us packing to our bedrooms for hours on end, but most of us come out of it just fine. So what's caused this shift from simple pastime to hardcore addiction?

One contributing factor is the ever-expanding content for games. It used to be that you would play a video game until you beat it, and then it would go on the shelf to collect dust. Video games now offer continually expanding content to games. Add-on packs and new levels are added all of the time, so much that a game doesn't have to end for years after its initial release.

Another contributing factor to game addiction is the massively multiplayer online role-playing game, or MMORPG. Games like World of Warcraft (WoW) never really end; there is no ultimate endpoint or finale to the game. The game encourages the addiction, with gamers constantly

seeking perks and benefits in the game that will make them "elite" players. Hours spent in the game garner the player not only gear, but bragging rights; a new weapon or a new set of armor is something that shows the player's dedication to the game. It also enables a certain superiority over other less dedicated players.

The internet is full of stories from players who have tried to quit or know someone who is addicted. Rebeltim shared his experience on the website Digg:

"3 years ago my wife missed New Years with me and our four kids because while we were doing the count down, she was playing WoW ... What started as just a couple nights a week turned into every day, every free moment and late into the evenings (early mornings)." There are countless stories remarkably similar to this on almost every post.

Groups of people can spend months trying to earn a new set of armor or a special weapon and when this is accomplished there is always another piece of armor or another weapon waiting in yet another dungeon. It's this constant search for the newest and best gear that keeps gamers playing over and over again every day.

These are the extreme cases. Most of us can handle these games; we can continue to function in society. The reasons for addiction are different for each person; some are social, some enjoy the sense of accomplishment for being one of the best, and for others it's just an escape. The problem is, it's becoming ever more evident that these games don't just become pastimes but take over people's lives. People begin to work their lives around playing the video game instead of playing the video game around their lives.

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# Dear Conscience, \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** I know that internet pirating (books, music, movies, etc ...) is illegal, but is it really that bad?



**Ashley Christie**  
Shoulder Devil

**Justin Bolger**  
Shoulder Angel

**T**hat bad? THAT BAD? It's awful!  
Forget the legality of file sharing, in my opinion nothing is illegal until you get caught. This is an issue of quality. Most pirated downloads are crap.

How long have you had to wait for a download? How many computers have you crashed? And for what? Is that bootleg copy of "Showgirls" really worth it?

Your time is valuable and you deserve better. A real pirate wouldn't stand for the second-rate garbage that gets passed around these days.

Someone put a lot of time and effort into that book you're downloading. They poured their heart and soul into every word. (Not me, of course, because I have neither a heart nor a soul.) Did they do it for the love of writing? No, they did it for the money.

You don't sling slurpees at 7-Eleven because you have a passion for slush that turns your tongue blue. It's not any different.

Sean Parker thought he'd create a harmless little site where music lovers could go and share and no one would get hurt, right?

Wrong!

He ruined the music industry. Mediocre talent doesn't need a record deal to become famous, they throw some tracks up online and voila ... instant fame. Just ask Justin Bieber.

So you tell me, is it really that bad.

**S**haring is caring!  
This has been one of the first rules of being one of the good guys for a very, very long time. Share and share alike; that's what I always say!

Besides, artists do their thing for the love of the arts anyway. All they want is to reach more eyes and ears around the world. They want to spread their hearts and souls to enlighten and inspire others' day to day lives.

Kindly Robin Hood types take precious hours out of their chivalric lives to make sure all art is available to everyone seeking it out, helping out all those charitable artists. Honestly, I think these folk should get more credit for all the hard work they do for the good of mankind.

That's what I call virtue.

It's also a nifty excuse to dress like a total stud – just like that Captain Jack Sparrow guy!

Don't worry about how the artists make money. The funding they live off of is preordained, so whether or not they make a bajillion dollars off of a hobby, they'll earn whatever they're meant to.

If you think about it, the ones making the real fortune are those evil middleman corporations. Pirating frees up money that could potentially go to good-hearted non-profit organizations. Otherwise, it would all be lost to an evil CEO!

So get out there and join the divinity of sharing!

# Thar Be Books Ahead!

**A**h, good old Internet piracy. I remember once bragging to a friend — with great pride, mind you — that I didn't have a single piece of legal software on my computer, up to and including the OS. Those were the days, folks. Sailing the high seas of the Internet, bringing your torrent client of choice along side a likely-looking target, unleashing a healthy barrage of P2P sharing, and plundering the Man for all his over-priced, DRMed booty. Yarr!



**Marci Sischo**  
Webmaster

These days, I can have any song I want for a buck from Amazon in a few seconds. Amazon, Netflix, and Hulu provide me all the movies and TV I can stand, for free or a reasonable price, and almost always on-demand. The software moguls are still playing some dirty DRM tricks on their customers, but there are a lot of free, open-source solutions to most of those problems out there. Getting your content is cheap and easy these days, and if it is DRMed to death, there's likely a crack available online. Plus, nobody is going to sue me for thousands of dollars and take away my Internet if I'm getting my content legally.

The fact that this stuff is all available cheap and easy has put exactly *no stop* to people who hoist the colors, shout "Ahoy, matey!" and take to the Internet. Let me explain why: The entertainment and software industries *asked for it*.

With their DRM making it impossible to use the product you bought legally how you wanted to use it, and their outrageous prices, and their suing single moms and twelve-year-olds for thousands, and so on and so forth, these companies gave themselves a terrible reputation. It became a case of the little guy Robin-Hooding it out against the big evil industry. It was us against the Man, man!

That's the cultural attitude that's become ingrained in the Internet community's mind. Even after these industries changed their practices, people still stole music, because that's the culture these industries allowed to rise. And slowly but surely, the Internet is turning that attitude to a new industry: ebooks. I want you to keep that Robin Hood attitude in mind for a second, while you read these quotes:

PDX-Tech: "The prices of ebooks are outrageous. There is zero production cost, zero transportation, zero inventory and yet they charge the same as a print copy."

Anonymous: "In a roundabout way publishers are encouraging pirated ebooks by restricting the distribution of ebooks by: a)

restricting the world rights so customers in some countries can't buy and download ebooks that are available in other countries; b) restricting the ebook format, eg publishing in the UK only via mobi and not epub or even Kindle; c) not making an ebook available immediately upon publication of a new novel; d) high cost – out of principle I resent paying almost the same amount for an ebook as a printed book unless the printed book is out of print."

When a content provider starts sticking its customers with huge prices, making it inconvenient for their customers to get their hands on the product they want, and then making rules about how, when, and where a legally purchased product can be used, they're pretty much asking to get their content pirated. That's what happened to the entertainment and software industries. They screwed their customers, so their customers started screwing them.

Publishers have been able to watch the entertainment and software industries make their mistakes and pay for it for at least ten years now.

So what do publishers do? Turn around and make the same damn mistakes. They make their content proprietary.

They make it hard for their customers to get a hold of it. They over-price it. And then they wail about it when their customers flip them the bird and turn to BitTorrent.

And who pays for that attitude? Not the publishers. Oh no, they get their pound of flesh one way or another. It's the authors who pay.

Or how about Jeaniene Frost, who's books are also available on torrent sites? "My publisher decides to continue my contract based on only one thing – sales. Illegal downloads don't count toward sales and there is no 'You were pirated the most out of our authors, so you win another book contract!' award."

Ebook piracy is still in its infancy. There's still time for the publishing industry to get efriendly, and avoid the piracy backlash that staggered the music industry, and that's *still* hurting the software industry. Use cross-compatible formats. Make your product easily available everywhere. Keep the prices down to something reasonable.

Internet piracy is not going to stop, and regardless of what the publishers do, there will always be some ebook piracy. But if they get on the ball right now, they can stem the tide, and come out ahead of the game.

Go online at [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu) for the full article.

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## PERSPECTIVES

### What are your feelings on Internet piracy?



"It's the wrong thing to do. I don't do it."

**Eva Hellesto,**  
Unknown




"It's easy to do and it's pretty available. There is no way to really stop it."

**Vuthy Pen,**  
Engineering



"It's not a good thing to do. It's wrong."

**Michelle Anderson,**  
Pre-nursing



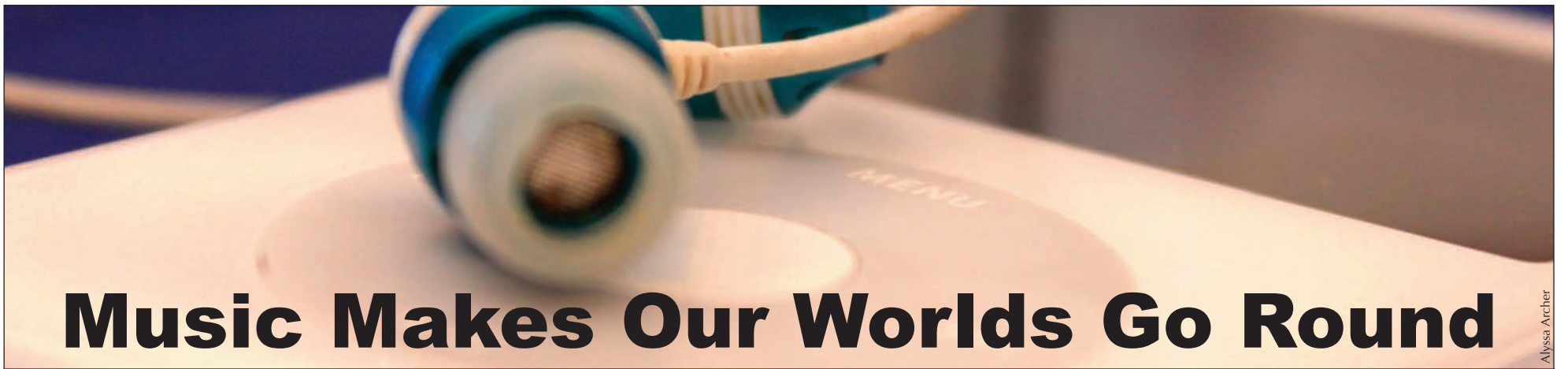
"I used to do it, but I don't anymore. I value things so much more when I pay for them."

**Neil Davidson,**  
Creative Writing



"I think it's wonderful. I do it all the time."

**Emily Rist,**  
Architecture



# Music Makes Our Worlds Go Round

## Just Me and My iPod

Drew Wilson-McGrath  
Staff Writer

*Music has evolved immensely since the introduction of the first phonographs (1870s) and flat disk records (1888 - Emile Berliner).*

*In the 1920s Lee DeForest, along with many other contributing inventors, helped introduce the first commercial radio broadcast, shortly followed by the first live broadcasts of music over the air.*

*Radio and vinyl recording swept across America like lightning, generating a huge craze and thirst for information via radio communication and ever-more sophisticated phonographs that lasted until the early 1980s. During this time, family and friends would congregate around a single device, obtaining valuable news and entertainment.*

*In 1964, the first Stereo 8 (8-track) tape was created, aiding the spread of musical talent and other messages. It remained one of the primary forms of mobile entertainment in America (accompanied by radio) until the birth of the portable CD player in 1984 (Sony).*

**Flash to the present day, February 2011, 11:30 a.m.**

I am sitting in a coffee shop, computer flipped open, iPod headphones screwed into my ears in order to drown out the white noise of pleasant conversation and normalcy surrounding me. The end table I am situated at runs two feet by two feet, leaving me just enough room to squeeze my mug of coffee onto the farthest left-hand corner.

I am completely oblivious to the world around me – other than brief glances at passersby and the cute blonde girl replenishing my caffeine at the front counter.

I have noticed this type of behavior is becoming far more commonplace among my particular demographic (college student, aspiring to do something constructive). This routine is very beneficial for coffee companies, Apple, and HP; maybe even for the aforementioned cute blonde chick.

With the advent of the iPod came a new way of listening to music and controlling it, as well as an ability to download and choose exactly what artist and style of music one wanted, and have it electronically transferred to a small black and silver device with white earphones which could be taken practically anywhere.

This invention put years and years of technological innovation and engineering at our fingertips in one device. A masterpiece of modern thinking and musical distribution, to be sure.

I have a hard time starting my day without music, and my 160 gigabyte iPod is my trusty sidekick in all endeavors.

Is it really benefiting me though? Is it good to be completely tuned out to the world around me, my iPod and computer assisting in making me a zombie



Alyssa Archer  
Kaitlyn Braun studies while listening to her headphones.

through coffee, insomnia, too much homework, and shift-eyed blonde baristas?

“Music is a tool for learning, and it tells us a lot about each culture or subculture making that brand of music. It is also a means of political and social transformation,” said Arfa Aflatooni, a sociology instructor at LBCC.

So doesn't the way in which we obtain, absorb, and personify our musical choices affect us as individuals, too? Is it not possible that the ability to download, sort, and carry around thousands of songs is starting to make us less social, less inclined to ask someone “Hey, what are you listening to?”

“When I was younger, Pink Floyd changed my life; my views on marriage, money,

conversation, everything. It made me think about myself. Some music doesn't achieve that anymore. Music is more readily accessible and created with more ease, but it doesn't always carry the right type of message,” Aflatooni said.

Who the hell cares what I'm listening to, though?

I certainly have made little effort in the last year or so to actually start a conversation with someone on the bus or on the street. My “I-pod” headphones seem to throw up an invisible wall blocking out communication with those around me. I feel as if the ease with which we can obtain music, and the availability of it, has forced music to lose some of its value to us as the next generation of professionals, artists, and parents. It is no longer integral to us as a means of letting loose, communicating, or personal discovery through song; it's too easy.

We don't have to go out of our way to discover music anymore because our “I-pods” often keep us tuned out – not just from the noises and people around us, but from a wealth of life experiences. We could be finding this music in other ways, instead of downloading it off of a website. We could be gathering at concerts or going to small shows in coffee shops. We could be living the music we love.

People are starting not to care about other people, and it is certainly due, in part, to the music we consume today in our popular culture. But it's not JUST the music we listen to. It is how we listen to it.

We don't share anymore as a society. We individualize everything and walk around with our “I-pod” headphones in for fear that the person sitting next to us on the bus may burst our personal bubble.

Therefore, we are systematically being turned into zombies by our own hand – with our own technology.

## The Importance of Music Education

Kay Roth  
Contributing Writer

Music, music, music. We hear it everywhere – in elevators, in doctors' offices, on our car radios. It links us to the past and the present. Music plays a big part in setting the mood for movies, provides a way to move the story along in musical theater, and even helps young children learn their ABCs.

Children start learning music in preschool and those who are lucky enough to have a strong program in middle and high school get opportunities to continue their music education.

But for how long?

Sadly, when budget cuts are considered, the arts are usually the first subjects on the chopping block. Considering how the arts influence so much of who we are, losing classes in theater and music can mean the end of life as we know it.

Music is more than just “for the soul,” “to soothe the savage beast,” or a way to relax. It is about history, math, science, reading, writing – in other words, it's about life.

Brad Townsend, director of athletic bands at Oregon State University, loves music. It is more than his job; it is his passion. While he stays extremely busy providing music at OSU sporting events, Townsend takes time to utilize his training and his passion at local community theaters such as Corvallis Community Theatre and Albany Civic Theater, performing most recently as Max in “The Producers.” He is also part of “Puttin' on the Bitz,” a cabaret group he founded.

“I love musical theater. It gives me the opportunity to sing and act, both of which I really enjoy,” he said.

Like Townsend, I have a passion for music. That passion was instilled in me when I was in middle and high school.

“My middle school music teacher inspired me to do more than just learn to play an instrument. She inspired me to teach,” said Townsend.

What a shame it would be if the youth of today were unable to experience that same passion that, in my case and especially in Townsend's, has lasted a lifetime.

Townsend notes the added importance of feeling the emotions of the music. “It is obvious in the quality, the way the music flows, and the overall movement when a piece is played with emotion.”

Sometimes that emotion stems from real-life disasters such as the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. Frank Ticheli wrote “An American Elegy” specifically to honor those whose lives were cut short and those who survived. It is the passion and emotion musicians feel that makes compositions like that even more meaningful.

“I use this piece very carefully and in guarded years, because it is very draining,” said Dan Johnson, who teaches music at Philomath High School.

He asks his students to think about the music and what it means to them. “This piece has grown to mean more to my ensembles with each major man-created disaster.”

Youth of today might not get the chance to experience music as we have over the years. Instead of cutting music, school boards must find a way to save this valuable subject from extinction. If not for the sake of simply learning to enjoy music, then for the positive things it brings to young people that they carry with them to adulthood.

# Looking Ahead to Election 2012

Kacey Dowers

Contributing Writers

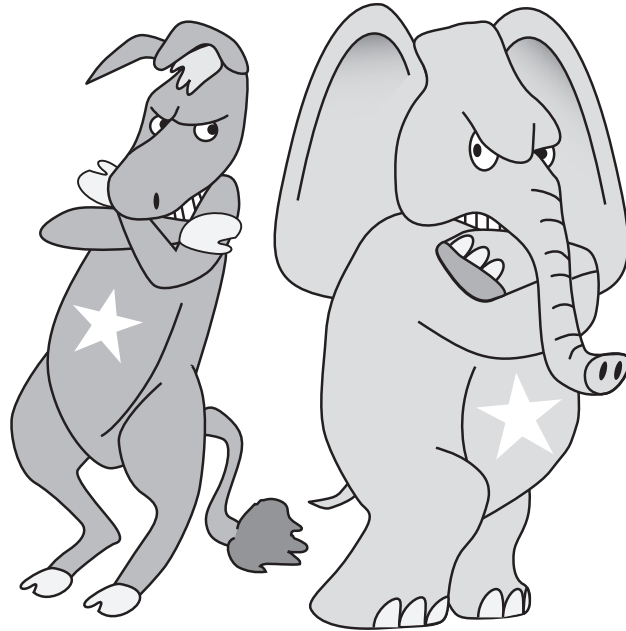
Democrat. Republican. Liberal. Conservative. Left. Right. Yep that's right, presidential elections are here once again, and they are getting heated up for the big battle of who is going to be the next leader of the free world.

After the 2010 election we have seen firsthand what the people are capable of. We watched Democrat senators and congressmen be kicked to the curb by Republicans that were voted in by us the people of America. We also saw some of the Democratic leaders keep their seats and defeat the odds of what people thought was going to happen. The question is: What does this next election have in store for us?

These past two years have stirred up controversy. Many people have been upset with the government and want change. There seems to be a split of what the people want -- some people love the Obama administration and others hate it.

There are already many candidates that have entered the race. Even some celebrities that want to show their side, such as Roseanne Barr and Donald Trump. There are even some candidates that we have seen once before in 2008, such as Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, the ever-possible candidate, Sarah Palin. Will they be able to triumph over Barack Obama if he decides to run again?

Although colleges across the country have



become a huge campaign area for candidates to focus on, many college students remain undecided when it comes to elections. To be able to persuade young crowds is a huge accomplishment, but it is also harder for Republican candidates since students tend to lean towards the liberal Democratic side.

LBCC student Ryan Murray gave his thoughts on the upcoming presidential election. He believes the next two years are going to be rough.

"I sure hope that Sarah Palin doesn't even run. We don't need a woman that thinks Africa is a country,

but then again Obama isn't really what we need either. He hasn't followed through with anything he promised in the last elections," said Murray.

Kiesha Joslyn, a first-year student who is new to voting commented, "When it's time to vote I'm just going to vote for whoever I think is going to make the best president. That is if I even decide to vote. I don't believe what the government is doing is right."

Over the years it seems that the mudslinging and trash talk have only gotten worse. LBCC instructor Robert Harrison said the candidates are not getting worse, but that there are more media sources and ways to put lies onto the air, and into newspapers.

There are still many opinions as to what the outcomes for the 2012 election are going to be.

Harrison said, "Its going to be hard to beat the incumbents, it takes some pretty harsh conditions for an incumbent to be defeated. I would bet on Obama."

"I believe the Republicans will take back the White House," Murray said. "Let's bring back George Bush.

"The billboard asking 'Do you miss me yet?' Heck yes, I do!" he added.

So as we enter the 2012 election season, let the annoyance of bad-mouthing politics roll. Let's hear more about what is never going to be done and what the future has in store for Americans. Let's get used to being overtaxed and being trillions of dollars in debt.

2012 election -- Bring it on.

LBCC Performing Arts Department Presents its  
**36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
CHILDREN'S PLAY PRODUCTION**

*Nick Tickle,  
Fairytale  
Detective*

A Comedy  
from author of the popular  
Once Upon A Wolf,  
**STEPH DEFERIE**  
Directed by Dan Stone

**Saturday  
February 26\*  
2011 • 3 p.m.**

\*ASL Interpreted performance and proceeds of this performance benefit the Performing Arts Foundation Scholarships.

**6500 Pacific Blvd. SW., Albany  
The Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall  
\$9 Adults, \$7 Children under 18  
541-917-4531**

**www.linnbenton.edu/go/tickets**

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## Life lessons Influence LB Instructor's Teaching

Jeremy Smith

Contributing Writer

Standing in line at the admissions office just days before the fall semester was scheduled to begin I recall looking, as I'm sure many of you have, at the awkwardly placed windowed office that sits in the middle of the Takena Hall.

As it turns out, the little room wasn't originally intended to be just a privacy-free office -- it was to be the DJ booth for LBCC's own campus radio station.

This was one of many projects that Doug Clark, political science instructor at LBCC and OSU, has assisted in creating over his professional career at LBCC. He is perhaps better known for being the director of the Peace Studies program, which includes the biennial International Peace Conference and several internship opportunities available for students.

Interestingly enough, he also offers counter-recruitment (or alternatives to military service) advising despite his previous enrollment in the Marines. It wasn't until after he completed the Platoon Leaders Class that he was faced with the growing counter-culture movement that developed largely in response to the Vietnam conflict.

It seemed fairly certain that he would be required to serve considering that the common response to dropping out of the PLC was a draft



Jordan Tunstill

LBCC political science instructor Doug Clark

### Where to find Doug Clark

Office: SSH-206  
Phone: 541-917-4237  
Email: doug.clark@linnbenton.edu

notice -- but with a baby on the way he was eventually granted a student deferment which he still reflects back on with what can only be described as a sigh of relief.

It was during this time, specifically his second year of graduate school at the University of Oregon, that he decided he wanted to become a teacher:

"It was mostly the discussion groups that inspired me to become a teacher... I'd always be the group leader and structure the discussion."

As he progressed as a graduate student he began to grow more and more passionate about instructing and less infatuated with research. "I wasn't as interested in the research portion, what I cared about was teaching."

More specifically he began to grow away from what he calls the "fountain of wisdom" approach that generally focused the lesson around large, non-participatory lectures leaving the student without a voice. He instead focused on an approach that embraced the student as a partner and frequently asks students to prepare briefings for discussion in class.

This passion for teaching after graduate school quickly landed him a position at LBCC where he has been teaching since.

"I found [LBCC] a place that empowered."

## What do you think?

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

Submit your thoughts to  
[commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto: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.

## Office Hours: Q&A with Brian Keady

**Sarah McClanahan**  
Editorial Assistant

Recently, I caught up with foreign language instructor Brian Keady, who teaches Spanish at the Albany campus and at the Benton Center in Corvallis.

**Commuter: What brought you to teach at LBCC?**

**Brian Keady:** I graduated from the U of O in 2003 with my teaching degree and I was just looking for jobs. I wanted to stay in the Eugene area because that's where my family is from. I just found this by virtue of looking around for jobs.

**C: You teach Spanish classes, but is there another language you have studied and would like to teach?**

**BK:** I haven't studied any other languages and I would be a long way from teaching them because I'd have to study them for awhile, but I would like that opportunity to maybe study Italian or some French. It would be fun to get that perspective of a first-time language learner, definitely.

**C: What is one thing you hope to see in your students with their learning and personal growth within the classroom?**

**BK:** First of all I try to keep the class fun; I like and enjoy it if people are having fun with the language and then I like to definitely see improvement and retention. So, it really shows me if the student is improving and remembers things from class to class, if they are putting the time in it. I like to see effort. I'm big on effort in class. I think that's really key to progressing as far as language learning goes.

**C: Do you have a teaching philosophy or a motto that you live by?**

**BK:** Communication. I do communicative language teaching and so I use it for communication. I try not to do things that



Brian Keady

Sarah McClanahan

### Where to find Brian Keady

**Phone:** 541-917-4579

**Email:** keadyb@linnbenton.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 11-11:50 a.m. NSH-115

Monday and Wednesday 11-11:50 a.m. and 3-3:50 p.m. BC-102

are going to be frivolous for students or teaching them stuff they're not going to use in their daily lives. So, I hope to bring that to focus.

**C: Do you have any other previous teaching experiences other than at LBCC?**

**BK:** I started out in 2001 at U of O as a GTF, so I taught first- and second-year Spanish there and I also taught, during that time, not-for-credit classes at Lane Community College. And then when I was starting out here, (I taught) at both Lane and at LB for awhile.

**C: Do you want to teach anywhere else in Oregon, say with a university or just stay with LBCC?**

**BK:** Universities are really focused on research and I like to teach, so that's what I like a lot about LB. I can focus pretty much

on teaching and there's lots of freedom in what we do at LB through our department. Ever since I've been here, we've had this philosophy of bring yourself to the class and really do what you like in the classroom within certain parameters, and when I taught at Lane and U of O it was very strict, very, you know, guided as if I was a cog in their system. So, I prefer a lot more to have my own creativity. And I'm pretty happy here. I've been here for 7 or 8 years now and I enjoy it a lot. I enjoy the students. I guess the long answer for that is what I just told you and the short answer is no, I don't foresee myself anywhere else.

**C: Would you ever consider teaching abroad?**

**BK:** Yeah, that would be fun and that's kind of on the list of things to do someday. I would love to take my family when my kids are a little older. There are some sites

in Mexico that I would like to go to. I'd like to be in some of the more central cities.

**C: What are some hobbies/activities you like to do and enjoy outside of teaching and being here on campus?**

**BK:** I'm a family man. I have two kids, Cole is 10 and Katelyn's 4, and I spend a lot of time with my kids when I'm not at work. They are very smart. They play together well and they fight together well. It's good. We go hiking and play basketball. I'm a big runner too; I do lots of road races in the Eugene area. So, that's my other kind of hobby, to stay fit.

**C: And just for fun, I know you teach Spanish, so have you ever been to Mexico or any other Spanish-speaking countries?**

**BK:** Yeah. I've been to Peru and to Mexico and Costa Rica, and I grew up in a bilingual school, the first one in Oregon, actually in Eugene. I started at five or six whenever I started first grade and went all the way through, so my teachers were from different Spanish-speaking countries -- Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Bolivia. They really brought the culture to the classroom and that really inspired me. I traveled every day just down my street to school, where they brought that culture to me.

**C: Is there anything else you would like your students, current and future, to know about you?**

**BK:** Probably not, but the one thing that the students come to class with is they maybe are nervous about learning a language or had bad experiences with language learning in the past and I just want to let them know that by and large, people are successful in our classes and we try to approach it in a way that is fun and easy to learn. So, students shouldn't be apprehensive about that process.

## Instructor/Writer Alison Ruch Shares Insights on Fiction

**Jordan Tunstill**  
A&E Editor

Alison Ruch wears multiple hats at LBCC.

In addition to teaching many different writing classes, she is also a prolific novelist. As a part-time teacher, she won an award at LBCC for being one of the college's outstanding part-time faculty members.

Ruch has a master's degree in fine arts and a bachelor's degree in English literature. She has published stories in multiple publications, including the "Oregon Literary Review." She is working on a collection of short stories entitled "Human Error" and hopes to publish the stories once the collection is complete.

On Feb. 16, Ruch read her

short story "Safe" to students and faculty on campus. The story was pungent, as real as could be, filled with emotion that you could feel when Ruch read aloud.

Her story featured a man named Harvey, who was dealing head-on with the pain of confronting an old flame. The plot of the story was that Harvey and his girlfriend Peg were driving to his ex's house to take care of some family business. Ruch spoke with a kind of fondness, like she had deep feelings for her characters.

As the story progressed, it became apparent that this was not going to be a happy story. Ruch omitted no detail for decency's sake, but presented all the pain and joy and bluntness that is human expression. That makes the story feel tangible and real.

The relationship portrayed between Harvey and his ex-wife is sad. There is no other way to put it. Awkward questions, hurtful remarks, and bitter memories provide brief glances into what was certainly a happier time.

When asked how she got inspiration for her story, Ruch said that she grew up in the countryside of Wisconsin, so the scenery is kind of inspired by her home. As far as the characters go, none of them are based off of real people, although sometimes Ruch feels like the characters are handling situations that way that she would under the same circumstances.

Ruch loves all her characters. In her words, "In order to write about a character, I have to like him or her... I really like all of my characters. So sometimes I get gushy over them."



Jordan Tunstill

Alison Ruch reads her short story on campus Feb. 16.

## Art 2.0: Turning Old Parts into Art



**Lacey Jarrell**  
Managing Editor

Motherboards, speakers, coiled wires and old brass bells were just a few of the items that could be found scattered about last Wednesday night as students and staff gave new meaning to old items.

LBCC's Recycle Art Workshop drew about 15 participants for the three hour clinic. Ken Herrin, Fine Art instructor, and Rinee Merritt, LBCC staff member and student, hosted the workshop and parts were donated by Oregon's JOBS program.

Pliers, epoxy, and hot glue were supplied to the participants to work the recycled pieces. Earring pieces and pin backs were also supplied for students interested in making jewelry.

"There's just something wonderful about giving an item new life," said Herrin, who used a computer chip and colorful wiring to make a brooch for his wife before the workshop.

Drawing inspiration

from different sources, participants created new and unique mixed-media art with purpose.

Student Michelle Evans sought to create a piece for the upcoming juried art show at LBCC, while student Jessica Bonnett crafted a picture frame made up of computer chips, disk parts and watch pieces (among other things) as a personalized birthday gift for her father who is an engineer.

Alex Krupkin, a flameworking instructor at OSU, also attended. Krupkin has worked with "found objects" in the past such as driftwood and copper wire, but noted using plastics was new for him. Krupkin brought some pre-made art including a piece entitled "Shield of Reconstruction," a triangular shield adorned with glass beads and pieces from a Mac motherboard.

Merritt said she was satisfied with the turn out and was happy that "lovely pieces normally just laying around" had found renewed meaning.

*View the slideshow at [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu).*



From Top Left:

A necklace made by Alex Krupkin.

Ken Herrin, Fine Art instructor, helps a student with her project.

Michelle Evans creates a piece she hopes to enter in the upcoming juried art show.

Ricky Zipp works on his recycled art creation.

Jessica Bonnett shows off the frame she made as a birthday gift for her father.

Photos by Lacey Jarrell





# Traveling Troupe Illuminates Minds at LBCC

**Justin Bolger**  
Editor-in-Chief

Enlighten your perspective on racism!

Toni Klohk, coordinator of the Diversity Achievement Center, invited the Illumination Project from Portland Community College to perform for a second year at LBCC. The project is a series of plays geared toward teaching the audience how to deal with racist situations they might encounter in real life. There were two performances on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

"Racism is a huge topic. We'd have to write more than 200 plays to cover all of it. We made three," said Jeannie LaFrance, project coordinator of the Illumination Project.

LaFrance hopes the project answers a lot of questions on how to deal with racism, but also leads to more questioning of possibly racist acts.

After the first run-through of the student written and performed play, "Other Compounds and Equilibriums," they gave repeat performance so the audience could intervene. Audience members were encouraged to yell, "Stop!" when they saw a moment of racism where they could make a difference as one of the characters. At that time, they would take on the role of one of the characters.

First up was physics major Aaron Kratzer. He wanted to respond to one character, Delilah, about calling her Native American friend "Pocahantas." Kratzer



Top: The Illumination Project troupe applauds the audience after the show. Photos by Justin Bolger

Above: Actresses Clarice Jordan and Angelica Lim are joined on stage by physics major Aaron Kratzer.



Left: Ethnic studies major Emmanuel Bernal joins actress Kasey Thornton on stage.

## The Rules of Engagement

- Become a character you could see yourself as
- No taking the place of the person causing the problem
- No using stereotypes as your character
- No doing anything that could physically harm yourself or the actors

draw a parallel between calling someone "Pocahantas" in college and calling someone "Poopy-head" in grade school, citing it as insulting and juvenile.

Between each intervention, the student and the performers were asked what their feelings were on what happened. LaFrance asked the audience

how it could have been handled better or if there were any alternative tactics that could be used.

Another student, Nicholas Alden, chose to step in to a situation where a Filipino woman was generalized as Asian and stereotyped as being automatically good at math and science.

"Intelligence and stupidity do not belong to one culture," said Alden.

He went on to explain how it pigeon-holes an entire continent of people and takes away from the individual's accomplishments.

"I work hard to learn this stuff," said Angelica Lim in character.

One of the final volunteers, journalism and mass communications major Jordan Hunt, took the most diplomatic route, making sure to touch a number of bases. He made sure to state that he understood where the oppressor was coming from, but how from the outside perspective it would sound racist. Hunt also made sure that the person causing the situation knew he wasn't trying to put her out and they were still all friends.

Sometimes people just need to be made aware of what they're actually doing.

LaFrance said, "I enjoy coming here every year. People are very involved and thoughtful in their interventions."

The Illumination Project will continue their tour of Oregon colleges through March 3, and plan to return to LBCC next year.



instrumentalists.... Everything from Pop, Rock, Musical Theater, A capella, Dancing... You name it, it's all here! Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door.

**Friday 2/25**

**Racism Then and Now**

11 a.m.-12 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center

Documentary "Prom Night in Mississippi" with discussion to follow. Sponsored by the DAC Student Leaders. Free.

**Saturday 2/26**

**LBCC Women's & Men's Basketball Games**

4 p.m.- 8 p.m. • AC gymnasium Gen. Admission \$2; Free admission for LBCC staff and students.

LBCC vs. Clackamas Community College. Women play @ 4 p.m. Men play @ 6 p.m.

**Children's play "Nick Tickle Fairy Tale"**

3 - 4 p.m. • Russell Tripp Performance Center

Granny can't tell her favorite fairy tales because someone really cruel and evil is stealing all the props! Bread crumbs, magic beans, a basket of goodies, a glass slipper - all missing! The future of fairy tales is at stake and it's up to the title character to set things right. With detective reasoning, his connections to the fairytale underworld, plus some dumb luck, Nick Tickle sets out to locate the mysterious figure who's been pilfering all the props! He may require some help from the audience, (in some

clever audience participation), but Nick Tickle is out to solve his toughest case ever! In the Russell Tripp Performance Center. \$9 for adults and \$7 for children under 18.

**Monday 2/28**

**Racism Then and Now**

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center

Documentary "Prom Night in Mississippi" with discussion to follow. Sponsored by the DAC Student Leaders. Free.

**March Ongoing**

**Women's History Month**

Diversity Achievement Center All month long, come and visit the DAC! Kick off Women's History Month with the Poetry Club! Come in and join us for cookies, coffee and punch while students and staff read poems written by, for and about women. Visit the photo display celebrating Women's History Month. Weekly videos pertain to women's issues. Other activities to be announced. Look for dates and times TBA during the month of March! Sponsored by the Non-Traditional Career Program and the DAC Student Leaders.

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

**Ongoing**

**Gallery Features Theatre Art**

South Santiam Gallery

Instructors Dan Stone and Leslie Hammond present hand-molded masks, hand-sewn costumes, and photographs of set designs used in past theatre productions. They will be on display through March 4.

**Wed.-Thu. 2/23-24**

**Recycled Art Show**

Garbage is garbage, and recycling is recycling, right? Wrong! In this recycled art show, you will find a mix of the two, as students put their creative minds and love for the earth into these more-than-just-interesting pieces of artwork. So, either come and get involved in this amazing show of creative perspective and ecologically conscientious art, or come to enjoy and browse the R3 Art gallery in Madrone Hall.

**Thursday 2/24**

**Life is a Cabaret**

7 p.m. • South Santiam Hall-213 It's not just your typical music revue! Performances are given by LBCC students and feature a little bit of - everything! Vocalists,

## 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.

**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.

**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.

**CWE Student Laboratory Technician (#8762, Albany)**

Want to get credit, experience and paid at the same time? This is an entry-level tech job in a chemical laboratory. Science majors?

**CWE Computer Support**

(#8755, Albany) Computer majors? Finally a CWE job for you to work for a big name company, get experience and paid. You can work until you graduate from OSU!!

**CWE Student Technical**

**Writer (#8754, Albany)** If you are an administrative professional, English or communication student, here is your opportunity to get experience, CWE credit and make some money!

**CWE Student Clerical**

**Assistant (#8756, Albany)** Need CWE credit to graduate in an Administrative Professional, English or Communication degree? Work for a great company, get your CWE credits, get a reference and make money also!!

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.

A BENEFIT FOR THE ORANGE & BLACK CHORAL AND VOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

## Sing Out!

Bella Voce  
OSU Meistersingers  
OSU Chamber Choir



**SUNDAY**

**FEB. 27**

**3:00 P.M.**

First United Methodist Church  
1165 NW Monroe, Corvallis

**\$15 & \$25**

Tickets available at [TicketsOregon.com](http://TicketsOregon.com), Gracewinds Music, Beard's Framing and at the door.



**Oregon State UNIVERSITY**

[oregonstate.edu/cla/music/chorus](http://oregonstate.edu/cla/music/chorus)

Accommodations for disabilities may be made by calling 541-737-5592

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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)

The Corvallis-OSU Symphony Society presents  
**An evening with Chris Botti**  
and the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra

**Friday, April 1, 7:30 pm**  
**Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm**  
LaSells Stewart Center, OSU  
Tickets \$30, \$45, \$60, \$75  
[TicketsOregon.com](http://TicketsOregon.com) (503) 432-9477  
Visit [COSUSymphony.org](http://COSUSymphony.org)

**Oregon State UNIVERSITY**

## Women Roadrunners Upended by Riverhawks, Lakers

**Kiger Plews**  
Staff Writer

The LBCC women's basketball team had a tough couple games this past week, losing at home to Umpqua Community College and on the road against Southwestern Oregon Community College.

In their first game last week, the women took on the Riverhawks from Umpqua. Freshman Heidi Halemeier led the Roadrunners with 19 points and 9 rebounds while freshman Lacey Wood chipped in with 12 points and 9 rebounds of her own. Both players fell just short of a double-double, but it wasn't enough as LB shot just 31 percent from the field and 8 percent from three point range.

At halftime, LB found themselves down just 8 points, but couldn't find a way to overtake UCC as the Riverhawks stretched the lead in the second half, downing LB 67-53. Umpqua wasn't able to find much more luck shooting the ball than LB, shooting just 36 percent from the floor and 16 percent from three. Both teams were even in the rebounding category, and turnovers were also close, LB committed 20 while UCC committed 19. The two major advantages that the Riverhawks had in the game were outscoring the Roadrunners 19-8 off the bench, and 19-4 at the free-throw line. Freshman Dorian Perkey came close to a triple-double in the game scoring 9 points, grabbing 9 boards, and dishing out 6 assists for LB.

Coach Teresa Guerra said, "The girls played really hard tonight and we really focused on better defense. I was happy with the progress that we are making in boxing out. We just didn't shoot very well tonight."

On Friday the Roadrunners were back in action against Southwestern Oregon Lakers, losing 91-67 in a shootout. Heidi Halemeier had another solid game recording 22 points and 7 rebounds and sophomore point guard Sam Sanders stuffed the stat sheet with 19 points, 7 rebounds, and 5 assists. The Roadrunners were even with the Lakers in total rebounding, grabbing 40 compared to their 41 and both teams shot evenly from the field for the game. SOCC finished the game 50 percent from the field and 43 percent from three, while LB finished 40



Lacey Wood goes to the floor to control the ball.

Tony Brown

percent from the floor and 46 percent from three. The most noticeable differences in the game would have to be the fact that SOCC's bench outscored the LBCC bench 24-2 and won the battle of points off turnovers as well, 28-6. Another game breaker was the play of Nicole Brzeczek of the Lakers who scored 31 points and hit 9 three-pointers. Sophomore Carrie Garrison was in the starting lineup for LB and also had a strong game scoring 6 points and pulling in 7 rebounds before fouling out. "We started off slow tonight but played a lot better as the game went on. Sam Sanders found her shot in the second half and ended on a high note and Carrie had a strong game defensively for us," said Guerra after the loss.

The Roadrunners are back on the court at Chemeketa Feb. 25 at 5:30 p.m. They will return home for the season finale against Clackamas on Feb. 26 at 4:00 p.m.

## A Win and a Loss for Men's Basketball

**Scott Landgren**  
Sports Editor

This past week the LBCC men's basketball split games. LBCC beat Umpqua Community college at home on Wednesday night by a score of 68-64. On Saturday night the roadrunners fell on the road 83-68 to Southwestern Oregon Community College.

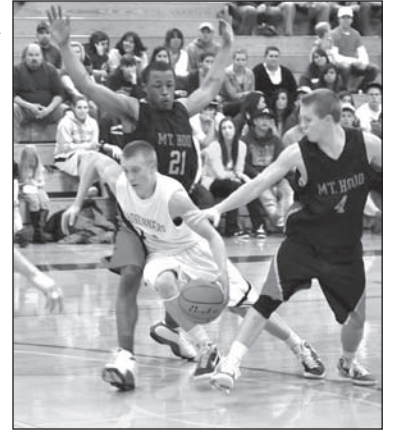
The game on Wednesday night really came down to bench play. LBCC's bench really helped get the win that night by outscoring the Umpqua bench 44-20. Freshman Josh Garlington had a team high 16 points. Sophomores Taylor Roos and Mike Kruesi came off the bench to score 14 each. Sophomore Michael Kirkwood added 13 points as those were the four LB players in double figures.

The next big area of that game was turnovers. LBCC had 28 points off of 26 Umpqua turnovers while LBCC only turned the ball over 16 times and Umpqua had 12 points off them. Umpqua had more rebounds than roadrunners 34-30 and shot overall 48% to only 41% for LB. Turnovers and the bench play by LBCC really helped win that game for them.

On Saturday night LBCC traveled to SWOCC and lost a tough one. It was a role reversal from Wednesday night because SWOCC had a huge advantage on bench points 54-14 they outscored LBCC in that category. LBCC turned the ball over 19 times and SWOCC got 21 points off them, while LB only got 11 points off of 11 SWOCC turnovers.

Sophomore Taylor Roos was the team leader with 16 points, sophomore Mike Kruesi and freshman Josh Garlington each added 13 points. Sophomore Michael Kirkwood had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

With the split this past week LBCC now has a 9-13 overall record and are 6-6 in the South Division and sit in fifth place. LB will play this Friday at Chemeketa Community College at 7:30 p.m., and then return home on Saturday to close out the regular season against Clackamas Community College at 6 p.m.



Taylor Roos charges forward.

Tony Brown

**Everyone's Welcome!!**

**Student Programming Board Presents:**  
**MARCH MADNESS BASKETBALL**

**When: March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 8 pm**  
**Where: Activity Center Gym**  
**What: 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament**

**Single elimination bracket set up with prizes for the top three teams!**

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**Need a free place to bring your kids while you attend Study Jam?**

**KIDS JAM!**

**Saturday, March 12, 2011**  
**10 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.**  
**Periwinkle Child Development Center**  
**For potty-trained children aged 2 1/2 ~ 10 years old**  
**Sign up soon ~ only 30 spots available!**  
**Sign up in the Student Life & Leadership Office or the Periwinkle Child Development Center**  
**• • • Volunteers Also Needed! • • •**

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# Only a Few in the Stands

**Scott Landgren**  
Sports Editor

Anyone who has been to a division one college athletic event is part of something special. The people filling the stands at those events pay to watch great sports and have a fun experience.

The stadiums are full! Now compare that to athletics at LBCC and you see a big difference.

If you went to any athletic event at LBCC you would not find the stands full of people cheering and supporting the team. Instead you would see a small select group of fans that come to support the Roadrunner teams.

That fact begs the question of why there are not more people who support LBCC athletics, which leads to more questions.

The first question being why would you not come to the games?

If you are a student, attendance is free. If you're not, it is still inexpensive to see some good competitive games and some good teams play night in and night out.

LBCC is a community college, so you know they might not have the same athletic talent as other division one schools, but the athletes at LBCC are

still some of the best from around the area.

This past season, the LBCC women's volleyball team finished in second place in the South Division and made it into the NWAACC tournament, which is a great accomplishment. Right now the men's basketball team is in fifth place, but has been competitive in almost every game so far this season.

As I sat in the stands for the men's basketball game last weekend, I wondered how the players felt about all this. The crowd at games can play a key role in the outcome. If your team is up and the crowd is making lots of noise, it could be hard for the other team to make shots. If your team is on a comeback, they need fan support to help them fight back into the game. After I thought about it, I knew that it must be hard to play every night in front of only a couple hundred fans and try to give it your all, but that's what all the teams do at

LBCC.

It is not that no one shows up, but there are not as many as there could be. Most of the people who show up are parents of the athletes and/or a couple of their friends. There are only a few students.

I wonder if people don't go to games because they don't know when they are.

LBCC athletics are not advertised much around here. It is not like the games are on the radio, so people might find it hard to find out when the games are.

Perhaps if LBCC put an ad somewhere, inviting students to go support the teams, or if we could broadcast the games over the Internet or radio to gain more interest, then more people might come.

Until that happens, I must salute all the fans who do take time to support LBCC sports teams, and lucky for them, they get to see some great athletics in the process.



LBCC could use more fans like these!

Tony Brown

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

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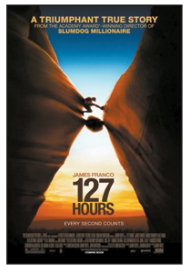
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## Academy Award Cliff Notes

Ashley Christie  
Page Designer

This Sunday, Feb. 27, is Hollywood's be-all-end-all of award shows: It's the Oscars!

Don't know anything about the Oscars (a.k.a. the Academy Awards)? Don't even know what films are nominated? Well here's a handy-dandy rundown of the 10 films fighting for Best Picture of the Year.



**127 Hours** (Nominations: 6)  
**Stars:** James Franco  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** Based on the true story of a mountain climber who gets himself stuck between a rock and a hard place (literally) while scaling a canyon in Utah.

**Why it could win:** It's directed by Danny Boyle, who's film "Slumdog Millionaire" took home the top prize in 2009. The Academy loves to repeat itself.

**Why it won't win:** Nobody saw it. For smaller films like this, the nomination is the win and everyone knows it.



**Black Swan** (Nominations: 5)  
**Stars:** Natalie Portman  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** Ballerina gets the role of a lifetime and fights everyone, including herself, to keep it.  
**Why it could win:** Many felt that Darren Aronofsky's last film, "The Wrestler," was snubbed two years ago and even more than repeating itself, the Academy loves to right past wrongs.

**Why it might not win:** Most of the "Black Swan" attention goes to its star Natalie Portman, not the movie as a whole.



**The Fighter** (Nominations: 7)  
**Stars:** Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale, Melissa Leo  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** Based on the true story of a Boston boxer's last chance at success.  
**Why it could win:** Anything with Christian Bale has a chance.

**Why it probably won't win:** It's a sports drama and the only time a sports drama can win is when it's also a historical drama, like "Gladiator" historical. (Or directed by Clint Eastwood.)



**Inception** (Nominations: 8)  
**Stars:** Leonardo DiCaprio  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** There's this guy who ... okay, so he and his team ... and they go into a dream ... and ... I have no idea.  
**Why it could win:** It made a lot of money, and when blockbusters get nominated ratings go way up.

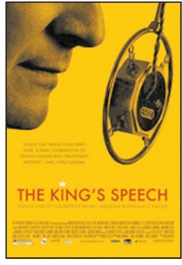
**Why it most likely won't win:** It's an effects-driven movie and requires multiple viewings to fully comprehend.



**The Kids Are All Right** (Nominations: 4)  
**Stars:** Annette Bening, Mark Ruffalo  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** Teenage siblings conceived through artificial insemination contact their donor dad without telling their moms.

**Why it could win:** It's a quirky indie film with a top-notch cast.

**Why it won't win:** It's a quirky indie film.



**The King's Speech** (Nominations: 12)  
**Stars:** Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter, Geoffrey Rush  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** Based on the true story of how King George VI fought to overcome his stuttering problem and become his

country's leader.

**Why it could win:** This movie has been cleaning up all awards season. It's historical, it's based on a true story, and the people talk with accents; this film has Best Picture written all over it.

**Why there's a tiny chance it won't win:** "The Social Network" wins.



**The Social Network** (Nominations: 8)  
**Stars:** Jesse Eisenberg  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** Based on the true story of a super-smart jerk who gets dumped and revolutionizes how we retaliate against our exes.

**Why it could win:** This was the best-reviewed movie of the year and was all-around excellent.

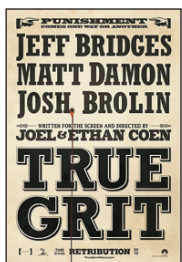
**Why it might not win:** It's about Facebook and most Academy voters are really old.



**Toy Story 3** (Nominations: 5)  
**Stars:** Woody, Buzz Lightyear  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** Our favorite toys are donated to a day care center and stage a coup to overthrow the evil dictator of a stuffed bear that runs the place.

**Why it could win:** This will win – in the Animated Feature category.

**Why it won't win:** This will win in the Animated Feature category.



**True Grit** (Nominations: 10)  
**Stars:** Jeff Bridges, Hailee Steinfeld  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** A U.S. Marshall helps a young girl catch her father's murderer.  
**Why it could win:** It's the Coen Brothers.

**Why it might not win:** Westerns don't have a great track record at the Oscars. Plus, this is a remake of a western.



**Winter's Bone** (Nominations: 4)  
**Stars:** Jennifer Lawrence, John Hawkes  
**1-Sentence-Synopsis:** A teenage girl searches the Ozarks for her drug-dealer dad to save her family.

**Why it could win:** A strong performance from the star gave the film a lot of positive buzz.

**Why it won't win:** Like "127 Hours," no one saw this and it's an honor just to be nominated.

### What are your Predictions?

Go online to [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu) to find a printable ballot. Then, watch the winners get announced Sunday, Feb. 27, at 5 p.m. on ABC, hosted by James Franco and Anne Hathaway.

## redbox review

### Paranormal Activity 2

(Rated R, Runtime 91 min.)

Carli Gibson  
Staff Writer

Not going to lie, I love the first "Paranormal Activity." However, my hopes were let down when I watched "Paranormal Activity 2."

After watching the first one in theatres and not being able to sleep, I decided it would be best to watch the sequel in the comfort of my own home, so that when I got scared I could hide behind a blanket; the blanket was not necessary.

I did jump here and there throughout the beginning, but after a few of those "almost scary" parts, I got more antsy expecting to jump and want to hide. That never happened.

The only parts of the movie that were "scary" were the points when there was a loud noise or when something unexpectedly moved. It's sort of like, "Oh, a pot fell. Well, now what?"

I will, however, admit that the ending and story line of it was pretty good. The movie is based on a time before/during the first movie. It's more like seeing the other side of the movie from the main character's, Katie (Katie Featherston), sister's perspective.

The actors in this movie (Featherston, Micah Sloat, Brian Boland, Molly Ephraim, and Sprague Grayden) are not known for any other movies.

The ending also did a fantastic job of tying in the first movie; I'll admit I think it was the best part of the film.

According to IMDb.com, the budget used for the first movie was only \$15,000, and the second movie's budget was \$2,750,000; funny how the one with the least amount of money used did a better job at scaring me.

One of the issues here is probably that there was a different director for each movie. Oren Peli directed the first movie ("Paranormal Activity" is the first and, so far, the only movie he has directed). Peli was quoted saying, "I didn't know if it was going to be good or going to be crap. Just on the chance it turned out good I went for the extra expense and got a high-def camera."

The director for the second movie was Tod Williams. Williams has done three other movies: A documentary called "Wings Over The Rockies," and two other movies called "The Door in the Floor" and "The Adventures of Sebastian Cole." (I've never heard of any of these; the reviews tell me why).

Lesson learned: Although some movies may have good sequels, the scary ones usually do not (especially this one).



## Will you be our friend?

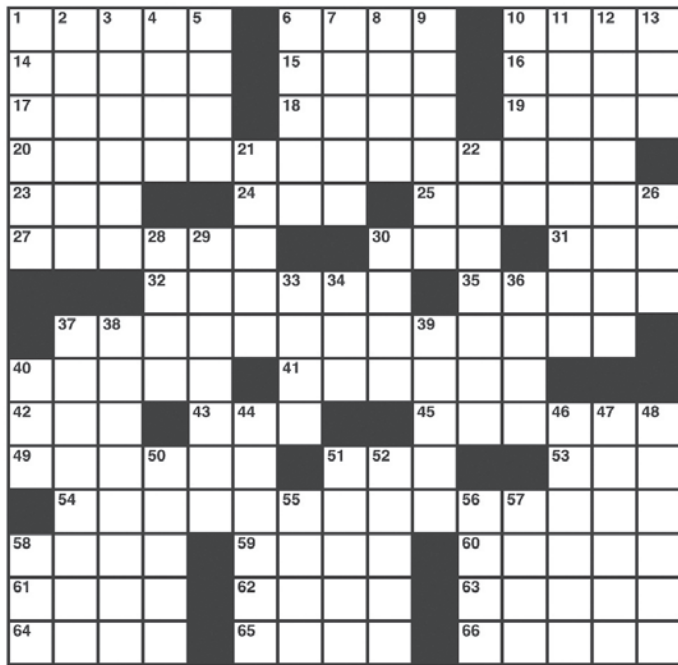
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Tell us what you're thinking and keep up-to-date on the latest news. Plus, check our website for more stories, pictures, videos, and blogs at [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu).

## HOROSCOPES YOUR GUIDE TO THE ZODIAC

- ACROSS**
- Made a disapproving sound
  - Witticism
  - Highlander
  - Cop \_\_: bargain in court
  - Healing plant
  - Oregon Treaty president
  - Trembling
  - Having all one's marbles
  - Word processing reversal
  - Big Southwestern trombones?
  - Ending for "ranch"
  - Neither Rep. nor Dem.
  - Thing
  - Madame, in Madrid
  - Wide shoe size
  - Geese flight pattern
  - Actress Greer who received five consecutive Oscar nominations
  - At the ready
  - Refined trombones?
  - Made on a loom
  - Imitation
  - Med or law lead-in
  - Command ctrs.
  - Musical beat
  - Wells's "The Island of Dr. \_\_\_"
  - Fill with wonder
  - Jr.'s son
  - Continuously-playing trombones?
  - Clenched weapon
  - Mechanical memorization
  - Remark to the audience
  - To \_\_: perfectly
  - Sporty sunroof
  - Baseball card brand
  - Wall St.'s "Big Board"



By Charles Barasch

- 65 Clownish  
66 Shore birds

- DOWN**
- Samples a bit of
  - Ball
  - Loud auto honker of yore
  - "\_\_ mouse!"
  - Weekly septet
  - Argonauts' leader
  - Large antelope
  - Tune
  - Dainty laugh
  - Sudden gushing
  - Conspires (with)
  - Octogenarians, e.g.
  - Boxing ref's decision
  - Whopper creators
  - Lord's Prayer words following "Thy will be done"
  - Thus far
  - Eye unsbtly
  - Drizzly day chapeau
  - Some pass catchers
  - Women



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- Above, in poems
- Slow-moving, as a river
- Penetrable quality of skin
- Makes a cliché of, say
- Exposed
- Typist's stat.
- Crystalline mineral
- More petite
- Like eggs in an Easter hunt
- Skinflints
- Big name in perfumery
- Dramatist Chekhov
- Tearful
- Letter after theta
- Drift, as an aroma
- Shipwreck site
- Air mover



**ARIES**  
3/21-4/19

That world is hitting you from every angle, so remember this temporary Aries motto: Grant me burden, and I'll show you how I soar!



**TAURUS**  
4/20-5/20

It needs to be shown to be seen as possible; let it show in you. You're tough enough and stubborn enough to make it happen!



**GEMINI**  
5/21-6/21

I realize that sometimes you forget there's an audience in life, but that's okay. You just have to remember to own the things you do; that makes them cool.



**CANCER**  
6/22-7/22

You can have all the idols you want, but seriously, you should just work toward making yourself the person you can respect most.



**LEO**  
7/23-8/22

Don't let that feeling of stagnation get to you. Even if you have no stories as of yet, you're still a person of verses. Look at you all living like a poem!



**VIRGO**  
8/23-9/22

People seem so grumpy lately, good thing you're around to brighten up the day. You're like a red sock in a load of whites, everything's just rosier when you're around.



**LIBRA**  
9/23-10/23

We're all different - like perfect little puzzles pieces. Life is just about finding where we belong. It's tough, but trust me, you'll get there.



**SCORPIO**  
10/24-11/21

Most things are defined by words, but an individual is defined by his or her own actions. How have you defined yourself lately?



**SAGITTARIUS**  
11/22-12/21

You understand the secret to outliving your own mortality, leaving a legacy. Go out now and write the next great American novel.



**CAPRICORN**  
12/22-1/19

All ends well. If it's not well, then it's not the end. You're not ready for the end anyway - What would you do with all that free time on your hands?



**AQUARIUS**  
1/20-2/18

So far in life you have a zero percent chance of death, which makes you scientifically invincible. Immortal till the day you die - Woo!



**PISCES**  
2/19-3/20

Worrying just makes the memories shorter, and just think - they're all you have left in the end. Risk and live, team! Enjoy!

## Add/Drop

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Maggie O'Reilly



## 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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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)

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## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level: 1 2 3 **4**

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

### Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

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

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)

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## Where on Campus?

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 donated by the campus bookstore.

Tony Brown



**Last Week's Answer:** A sea urchin from a fish tank in Madrone Hall.

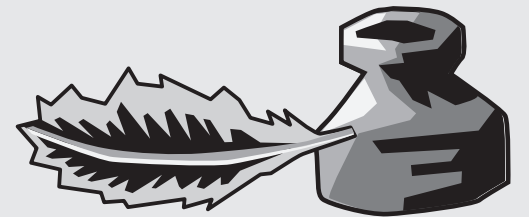
**Last Week's Winner:** Congratulations Nick Woods! Please stop by The Commuter office (F-222) and see Tony to claim your prize.

## Poetry Spotlight

### Kristen

By Ruth Krueger

You lived so much of your life without telling anyone, until one day when you couldn't keep it in any longer, and then your world turned upside down. Oh well. Right side up is highly over-rated.



The LBCC Poetry Club meets Tuesdays to share poems they've written about a given prompt.

## MINUS GRAVITY

An LBCC student-generated comic

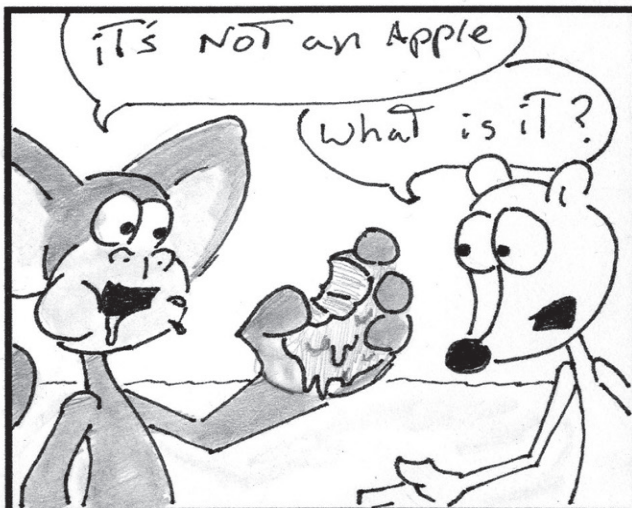
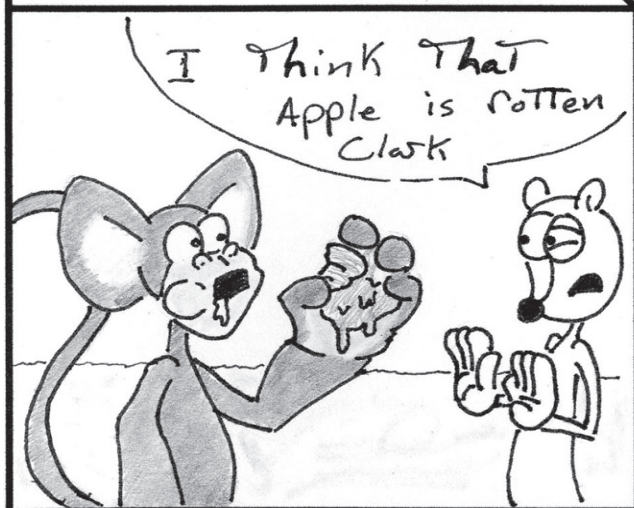
By Ben Carson



## Fried Bananas

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### Drive Angry

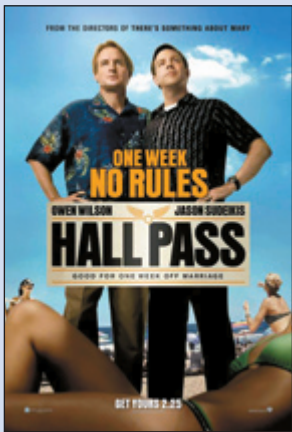
A group of baddies kidnap his daughter so now Nicolas Cage is in a car ... driving ... and he's angry.



**Rated:** R • **Runtime:** 104 min.  
**Genre:** Cage Can't Say No

### Hall Pass

The Farrelly Brothers bring you the story of two married men (Owen Wilson, Jason Sudeikis) who believe that they're still attractive to younger women. To prove them wrong, their wives (Jenna Fischer, Christina Applegate) give them one week off of marriage.



**Rated:** R • **Runtime:** 105 min.  
**Genre:** Bromantic Comedy

### Shelter

Julianne Moore is a psychologist who tries to help a patient with multiple personalities (Jonathan Rhys Meyers). The catch, all of his personalities are already deceased murder victims.



**Rated:** R • **Runtime:** 112 min.  
**Genre:** Psychological Thriller

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

## Baguette Reopens in Corvallis

Maggie O'Reilly  
 Cartoonist

The popular Corvallis Vietnamese sandwich shop, Baguette, has reopened at its new location 121 SW Third Street.

Beloved by many in the downtown area, Baguette serves traditional bánh mì on baguettes baked on site. Bánh mì is a type of sandwich usually consisting of a meat, pickled carrots, cucumbers, cilantro, and pâté.

Confused? Baguettes and pâté seem a bit... not Vietnamese?

The French colonized Vietnam in the late 19th century, making it a part of French Indochina. With colonization came culture, including French cuisine. Vietnam eventually won its independence, but the country's food was forever blended with the famously artisan style of the French. French bread, as well as French cooking methods are still very popular there.

The restaurant was formerly on Second Street and Washington, but opted to move because the new Third Street location has a much larger seating area, allowing for many more customers.

And it's a good thing too.

"It's delicious! I've never had anything like it," said customer Jessica Parker, while enjoying a bánh mì made of thinly sliced beef in a mild curry sauce. Baguette also serves steamed pork buns, vegetarian and shrimp salad rolls, and Thai iced tea.

Adventurous foodies can also indulge in many imported snacks and drinks.

Baguette serves Yeo Chrysanthemum tea as well as sweet potato chips and other eclectic treats. Lastly, a hearty 8-inch sandwich with a drink comes in under \$10, a good price for a relatively healthy meal.

So, is it as good as people say?



A traditional bánh mì sandwich.

Autumn Sweater/ flickr.com

### Baguette

**Where:** 121 SW Third St., Corvallis  
**Phone:** 541-752-9960  
**Serving:** Vietnamese Sandwiches

I had the traditional bánh mì on wheat, shrimp salad rolls and a Thai iced tea.

A Thai iced tea is an amazing concoction: oolong tea, honey, and condensed milk. The salad rolls were very good, shrimp wrapped with lettuce, cucumber, mint and noodles in a clear rice wrapper. It also comes with its own peanut sauce. (There also is a vegetarian version made with tofu.)

The sandwich is truly delicious. The bread is soft because it's so fresh, and the vegetables are crisp and lovely. The restaurant itself is clean. The family that owns it is friendly and quick to remember repeat customers.

I highly recommend Baguette. I will definitely be back. I think many people will love these sandwiches, that is if they can get to them before I do.

In fact, I fear the possibilities. The new location is right around the corner from me, and I can't tell myself that it's too expensive or too unhealthy because it's neither.

## Middle Eastern Eatery Enchants

Jeb Oliver  
 Staff Writer

I recently had the delightful experience of eating at Al Jebal in south town Corvallis. The food is great, the service is awesome, what more is there to say?

I have been there about eight times since I discovered this culinary gem two weeks ago. The food is very well prepared, but the restaurant's ambiance is a bit lacking. They tried hard, but it still falls short.

But who cares? The food freaking rocks.

The kebabs taste just like they did when I was overseas and the lamb shank fall right off the bone. The food makes it worth it plus there is a neat little store in the front of the restaurant which offers a



Lamb kebabs with rice.

### Al Jebal

**Where:** 2240 SW Third St., Corvallis  
**Phone:** 541-207-3478  
**Hours:** 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily  
**Serving:** Traditional Middle Eastern Cuisine

lot of unique foods from the Middle East.

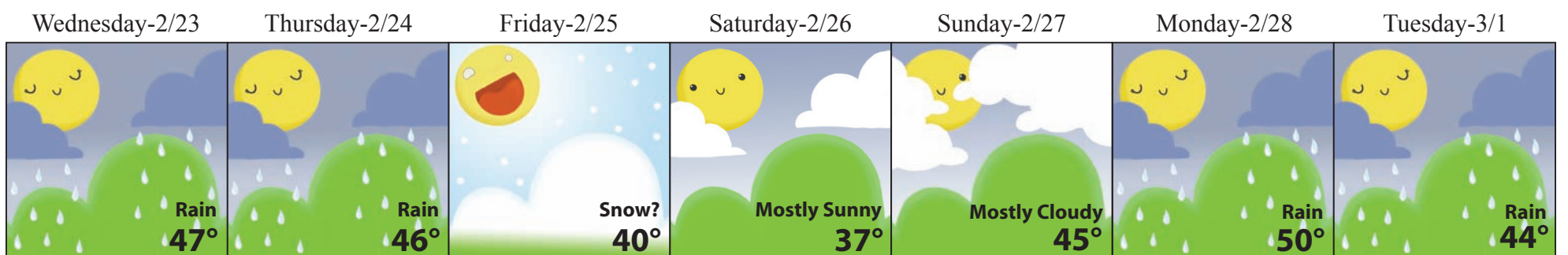
They have great thick Turkish coffee, and delicious teas.

The people are very friendly and personable - one older woman even came out of the restaurant to make sure I wasn't going to drink and drive. It's like having a mother from the Middle East.

I love this place and I can't wait to enjoy it again. If you don't believe me, here is a menu description from one of my favorite dishes: "We start by choosing a young sheep from our farm in Dayton, Oregon. The lamb is then cut into small pieces and marinated over night with our special mix of spices. Baked to perfection, just the story-tale ending for any sheep."

They are very passionate about the food they serve and that's why it's one of my new favorites in Corvallis. So please go and enjoy the fairy tale food at Al Jebal - you won't be disappointed.

## Weekly Weather Predictions



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