

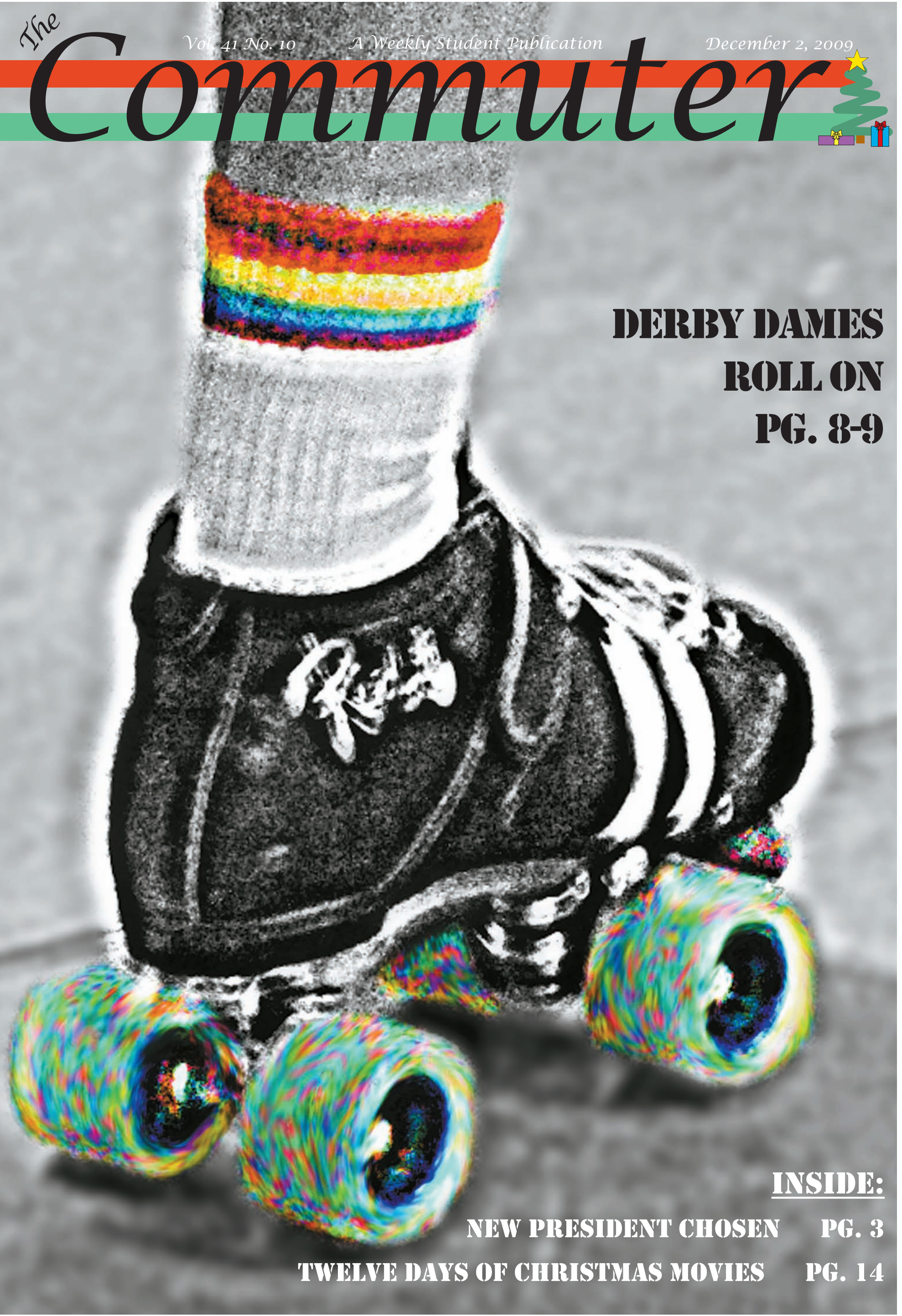
The

Vol. 41 No. 10

A Weekly Student Publication

December 2, 2009

Commuter



**DERBY DAMES
ROLL ON
PG. 8-9**

INSIDE:

NEW PRESIDENT CHOSEN PG. 3

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS MOVIES PG. 14

The Commuter
Editor-In-Chief: Ryan Henson
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Campus News

News about Linn-Benton Community College, including the Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Benton Centers.

Office Hours: Q&A with Rob Prieue

Justin Bolger
 The Commuter

Commuter: What do you teach at LBCC?

Rob Prieue: I'm the media instructor, so I teach primarily journalism, which includes news reporting, feature reporting, photojournalism, Media and Society. I also advise the student media, primarily The Commuter and its online site.

C: Why did you pursue journalism?

RP: I got the bug for journalism when I was in college. I didn't know what major I wanted to be in and, like a lot of people, I got the paper daily at home. I enjoyed reading it immensely, and I thought, "Hmm, this looks like it would be kind of fun and I get to meet interesting people, get to go to interesting places, get to go to events that otherwise I might not have access to." So, I got immersed in the journalism program at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Once I was immersed in the program, I was hooked. I worked at the college newspaper for four years as I earned my undergraduate degree in journalism.

C: What's the best story from working at a newspaper?

RP: I think the best thing I can share from the newspaper was in 20 years of working at the Gazette-Times. I looked forward to coming to work every day, because every day held the promise

of a big story; something exciting was going to happen; interesting things were going to cross our paths; we were going to take spectacular photos. It was always interesting and engaging, and that's what I still love about the media.

C: You make it sound like a dream.

RP: It is a dream! [laughs]

C: Why did you leave that for teaching?

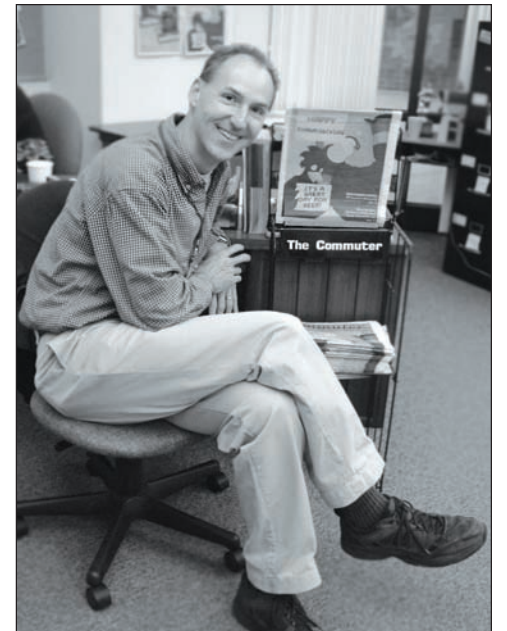
RP: This is my third year here at Linn-Benton, and I love what I'm doing here. I'm engaging young people the same way that I was engaged in the process when I was in college. I see it in several of you. The way that you pick up on it—like when you went to the conference this past weekend and you got totally energized about journalism. That's the feeling that I have and the passion that I bring to this job every day. I think it's reflected in the lessons we do in my classes, in the class discussions we have going, and the work we do here at The Commuter. I think the students are developing their own passion for the media and how they cover news and events and gather information and disseminate it to the world. It's really exciting when we have new mediums such as the online site and the Facebook fan-page and Twitter and all these things that make it so we're not just a weekly newspaper. We're a news service that functions 24/7, and that's really exciting.

C: Would you say that passion and excitement would be your favorite part about teaching?

RP: Absolutely! I'd like to think that when the students come to my class every day, they can look forward to doing something that engages them. I try to mix it up between writing exercises, their photography, doing things online, doing group discussions ... anything that good teachers do. I'm still learning because this is just my third year at LB, but I find that if I'm having fun and I'm engaged, then the students are having fun and they're learning something, and that's what matters.

C: What do you do away from LB?

RP: My passions outside of LB ... right now I'm finishing earning my master's degree from Willamette University. I'm getting an MBA primarily focused in marketing, but when I'm not doing homework, I spend a lot of time with my children. I have three kids. They range from college age down to grade school. I'm very involved in fitness activities like running and playing



Rob Prieue Photo by Eve Bruntlett

basketball. We just did the "Hood to Coast Relay," so staying in shape and training for events like that is really very fun. I look forward to having more free time to devote to fitness, sports activities, and other things, like going to the movies, reading, and studying the media -- things that I miss because I've been so focused on earning my MBA.

Where to find Rob Prieue

Office: NSH - 114

Phone: 541-917-4563

E-mail: rob.prieue@linnbenton.edu

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10-11 a.m.
 Tuesday & Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon

Extreme Makeover: Campus Edition

Alex George
 The Commuter

As construction progresses on LBCC's new science building, Madrone Hall, students can look forward to an eco-friendly space for their studies.

Fred Haynes, dean of Instructional Facilities Planning and co-dean of Science, Engineering & Technology, explains that with the roof and ceiling up and the electricity running, the building's interior is now being painted and textured. The overall finish date is tentatively expected to be in December.

"Hopefully it will be ready for student occupancy in January [when winter term begins]," said Haynes.

However, that's just phase one of this project. The second phase involves the existing Science and Technology building. Haynes explains that the plans are to "gut" the interior (to remove asbestos) and then make it earthquake safe. The projected start date for this phase is February 2010.

According to Haynes, one of the aims of this project is upgrading the science labs, which were originally built



James Tennis (left) and Ryan Penning work on the new science building.

Photo by Eve Bruntlett

in the 1970s. The other aim is to provide more study and work space for students, which includes adding more classrooms.

"It also increases LBCC's ability to reach out to more students in math and science," Haynes said.

As for going green, Haynes explained that they will add some things like energy efficient windows and a roof garden.

"This will help LBCC lessen its carbon footprint, which are carbon emissions that contribute to global warming," Haynes said.

Linn-Benton Community College presents

39th Annual Children's WINTER FESTIVAL



"A White Christmas"

Free Activities and Gifts for Children Ages 0-12
Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 • 1-4 p.m.

Linn-Benton Community College
 Calapooia Center Building, 2nd Floor

- Crafts
- Magician
- Cookie Decorating
- Dragon Dancers
- Chinese Activities
- Hanukkah Activities
- Kwanzaa Activities
- Photo Opportunity with Santa Claus & Father Claus

FREE

Please bring two canned food items that will be passed on to a local food bank.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Contact Student Life & Leadership at 917-4457 for more information.

Linn-Benton
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Linn-Benton Community College is an equal opportunity institution.

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LB Students rise above the herd

Jordan Johnson
 for The Commuter

The LBCC Livestock Judging Team are national champions, earning the title on Nov. 18 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

It was only the second time in 34 years that a west coast team has won the competition, which is like the “Super Bowl of livestock events,” according to coach Rick Klampe.

The team of six won by a two-point margin, with a total team score of 4,215 points. It was followed closely by Black Hawk East Community College from Illinois, and Butler Community College from Kansas in second and third place respectively.

“We were surprised when we placed higher than schools from the Midwest because they have such an advantage; they are literally surrounded by livestock,” said Jordan Baumgartner, an LBCC sophomore from Albany.

The team flew into Louisville on Nov. 14, and the competition began on the following Wednesday morning. Twelve officials were judging 26 teams from all over the United States, with more than 120 individuals being tested on their knowledge of cattle, sheep and swine.

LBCC team members were happy with their win but worried that less consistency in their judging might bring down their total score.

“We all have an ability to speak really well and score high, but sometimes our nerves get the best of us and we make simple mistakes,” said team member Madi McGuire, a sophomore from Dallas.

The Roadrunners won the overall judging competition, placing second overall in Sheep, third in Swine and fourth in Beef.

One of the keys to proficiency is knowing and recognizing different breeds of animals. Each member of the team has grown up around livestock and animals.

“To be successful you need five solid competitors. It’s not a one-person activity at all. Each of us were especially consistent with our individual scores,” said team member Hannah DelCurto.

Other members of the championship team were David Baglien, Ivory Duyn and John Gladman. The team is coached by Klampe and Clay Weber.

The team hopes that the freshman team members will be prepared to participate in many of the upcoming events next season. They travel all over the United States to compete.



LBCC’s livestock judging team: (back row, from left) Contest Superintendent Larry Wilson, Rick Klampe, Madi McGuire, Assistant Contest Superintendent Tom Stoutenborough (front row, from left) David Baglien, Jordan Baumgartner, Hannah DelCurto, Ivory Duyn and John Gladman.

Contributed photo

How to get involved:

Contact coaches Clay Weber (weberc@linnbenton.edu) or Rick Klampe (klamper@linnbenton.edu).

New president chosen

Justin Bolger
 The Commuter

At the Nov. 18 Board of Education meeting, Gregory Hamaan was announced as the next president of LBCC. He will be LBCC’s seventh president.

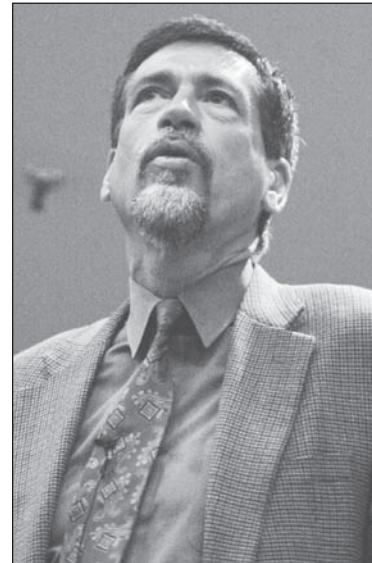
Although the Board was in agreement that they had “two wonderful candidates” to choose from, the decision was unanimously in favor of Hamaan.

“We have found an excellent president,” said Board Member Hal Brayton.

Following the official vote, Chairperson Dick Running called Hamaan on speakerphone to give him the news. Running told him it was a close vote.

“I hope you’re joking about the close vote,” said Hamaan, “This is absolutely wonderful news. I can’t tell you how excited we are.”

Rita Cavin, president of LBCC, shared a story of announcing her retirement in which she cited an email from Hamaan. According to Cavin, the email said something to the effect of, “Oh my gosh, this is my chance!” It seems that Hamaan has had a desire to



Gregory Hamaan Photo by Eve Bruntlett

work at LBCC for a number of years.

Hamaan will be leaving his position as the president of Clatsop Community College in Astoria. His responsibilities included providing leadership and guidance to the college, securing state and federal funding, developing new or enhanced academic and career/technical programs, and developing community partnerships.

Hamaan has a doctorate in educational leadership from Gonzaga University and a master’s in counseling psychology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He also served as dean of administration at Northwest College, and at Whitworth College he served as director of administrative services, director of human resources, and as associate dean of students.

While the Board is very excited about ushering in a new president, Cavin will be remembered for her excellent service and positive influence.

“Rita has done a magnificent job,” Brayton said.

Cavin reflects on time at LB

Alethea Skinner
 The Commuter

Rita Cavin expects to join the ranks of forgotten former presidents when she retires Jan. 31.

At least that’s what she says, with her typical grin, “No one remembers past presidents.”

However, a leader who worked hard to build connections between LBCC and the community, led multimillion-dollar fund-raising campaigns that stimulated campus development, and who touched lives in personal, unseen ways will be hard to forget.

Some people on campus say they never knew her, rarely saw her or met her once or twice. She was a rather unseen president.

“Every president has his or her own management style,” said Lori Fluge-Brunker of LBCC’s marketing office. “Some govern by walking around and talking with people on campus, but that was not her way. (Cavin) seemed to be more involved in community relations and legislation – getting projects completed.”

She accomplished her four major projects – to make campus governance more participatory, for everyone to know how the budget goes together, for women to have more opportunities/responsibility, and to improve the facilities.

One of Cavin’s greatest

concerns, however, was about students – that they would be exposed to a broader world than the Willamette Valley.

“The international experience is the biggest gap for students,” Cavin said.

It was the reason she “worked so hard on ‘the international part.’” Because “many families have been in this area for 150 years, and students have never left this county – never been to Salem.”

Cavin was concerned that they were missing the diversity she’d seen students experience on other campuses. She believes a broader world is vital to education, which is why she worked so hard on the international project.

As a result of her efforts, the first faculty member (Rob Lewis) will go to China in the spring as part of an exchange program, and the first Chinese students will arrive to take classes at LBCC this summer. Cavin will not be on campus when the exchange programs begin, but people will remember they began with her.

While she has had many successes, Cavin spoke with a tone of regret about enlarging Takena Hall. “I feel bad,” she said. “Takena was the next scheduled project when I came.” Enlarging Takena Hall will again be the next project on the schedule.

The exchange program, a health education building in Lebanon and Takena Hall are

projects Cavin leaves for her successor.

Others will remember Cavin not just for fund-raising and legislation, but for more personal reasons.

Early in her presidency, Cavin learned of the death of Roxie Putman’s husband.

“What stands out in my mind,” Putman says, “is I was invited to her office for a private lunch. She just wanted to see how I was doing and to make sure my needs were being met in full. It was a kind and loving thing to do as a human being – not just as the president. It spoke volumes about her character, and it touched me very much.”

To Carla Raymond, Cavin was like “another loving grandma” who sent flowers and shared Raymond’s grief over the loss of her grandson three years ago.

Cavin’s assistant, Renee Windsor-White, will remember her as “the best boss ever!” An engraved paver bearing that sentiment will remain as her tribute.

Now, Cavin says, “It is time for traveling and enjoying a healthy lifestyle.”

Of all the things she accomplished, one thing that makes her particularly happy is “knowing that people finally stopped asking, ‘What is it like to be a woman president?’”

She leaves as “just Rita, the sixth president of LBCC.”

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Food for thought: Study Jam offers free pizza

Quality help available all day

Max Brown
The Commuter

Since Fall of 2008, Study Jams have happened every term. This year's Associated Student Government is expanding the event.

The Study Jam will take place Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the learning center at the Albany campus and will be extended to the Learning Center at the Benton Center on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Study Jam is a cooperative event between the Learning Center and ASG. The Learning Center extends their hours of operation during that weekend and also expands the amount of help on hand.

"The weekend before finals is a really good time to put some extra resources into student success," said Caleb Doner, ASG Science and Industry representative and a tutor in the Learning Center.

The ASG provides snacks all day, and pizza will be served at noon and at 6 p.m. At the Benton Center, due to the shorter hours, there

will only be one delivery of pizza.

The ASG will be handing out food and making sure everything runs smoothly.

This is the fourth Study Jam and the Learning Center is working to improve the help they can provide to students.

"We are really focusing our resources on the most used services," said Vikki Maurer, faculty and Learning Center co-coordinator.

They are trying to have helpful study tools available for check out, such as calculators and the most popular textbooks. Also, they try to have math help throughout the day, because Maurer says that in the past they have seen students start to clear out once the math help is gone.

The ASG has gone to some department meetings to ask teachers if they are interested in showing up to the event and volunteering help.

"The students absolutely love it when their instructors shows up," Maurer said.

Even if the event does not have help listed for your particular classes, Maurer feels it's still a good idea to show up with a study group.

Tots welcome too

Max Brown
The Commuter

This year's Study Jam has a childcare component called Kids Jam, and it will be offered on Saturday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Students looking to take advantage of Kids Jam should sign up at the Student Life and Leadership office, next to the Hot Shot Cafe.

According to Stephanie Larrison, Associated Student Government Student Service and Education representative, this is the first term they will be offering Kids Jam, so they are keeping the number of kids low, at around 30.

Volunteers will be at the Kids Jam to watch and play with the children. Some of the lead volunteers will be from the Periwinkle Child Development Center. Other volunteers will be honor roll students from local high schools.

According to Larrison, lunch will be provided for the children. However, she suggests that if your child has any food allergies, that you should pack a lunch for them and bring it to a volunteer's attention.

During the last hour of Kids Jam, a volunteer from

the Albany Public Library will present a puppet show to the children.

Larrison says that children need to be potty trained, and can be no older than 10 years of age. Other than these requirements, space is the only limiting factor. Kids Jam is already a third full.

"I think the Kid Jam is going to be really popular," said Vikki Maurer, Learning Center co-coordinator, "I have extra math help in that time frame."

Kids Jam was added to the Study Jam because of student request. At the end of the Study Jam, students fill out a comment card on what can be improved. In the past, students have asked for the addition of some kind of childcare. The ASG took notice.

"We want this to be a service for students that lack those resources, that could use this facility for their children while they're in Study Jam," said Larrison.

Sign-up sheets with detailed information on the provided lunch and more are available in the Student Life and Leadership Office.

STUDY JAM • DEC. 5 & 6



STUDY JAM SCHEDULE:

Learning Center Open Hours.....	Sat., Dec. 5.....	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Sun., Dec. 6.....	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Computers, Textbook/Calculator Checkout, Open Study.....	Sat., Dec. 5.....	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Sun., Dec. 6.....	9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Physical Science Help (Chemistry).....	Sat., Dec. 5.....	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Physical Science Help (Physics).....	Sun., Dec. 6.....	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Testing (No tests issued after 4 p.m.).....	Sat., Dec. 5.....	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	Sun., Dec. 6.....	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Math Help.....	Sat., Dec. 5.....	10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	Sun., Dec. 6.....	10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Biology Help.....	Sat., Dec. 5.....	10 a.m. to noon
	Sun., Dec. 6.....	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make Study Jam possible!

Kids Jam • Saturday, Dec. 5

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. • LBCC Activities Center

FREE Study Jam child care at the LBCC Activities Center!

Includes lunch. Space is limited.

Sign up at Student Life & Leadership.



Sponsored by your
Associated Student
Government.

LBCC is an equal opportunity institution.
For disability accommodations, call 917-4789.

Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE COMMONS FARE 12/2-12/9

Wednesday

Dishes: Roasted Beer Brined Chicken w/ Pan Gravy,
Tuscan Braised Pork w/ Creamy Polenta and Gnocchi
Soups: Cream of Broccoli and Won Ton

Thursday

Dishes: French Dip, Chicken Ballontine and Thai
Vegetarian Stir-Fry
Soup: Creamy Roasted Chicken and Garlic Soup w/
Tomato

Friday

Chef's Choice

Monday

Dishes: Grilled Pork Chop w/ Sauce Robert, Chicken
Gumbo w/ Creole Rice and Portabella Sandwich
Soups: Chicken Noodle and Cream of Tomato

Tuesday

Dishes: Reuben Sandwich w/ Coleslaw, Irish Lamb Stew
and Cheese Stuffed Shells
Soup: Shrimp Bisque and Tomato Rice

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Feature

Something a little different.

No-Shave November

Matt Conrad
 for The Commuter

A lot of interesting things happen in the month of November: The weather gets brisk in preparation of winter, our veterans are celebrated and our thanks is given.

But something else is happening to people. Companies such as Gillette and Barbasol are losing money because a few brave men decided that November was going to introduce a whole new tradition.

No-Shave November is exactly what it sounds like; during the month of November, you don't shave.

But just like any other strange tradition, why do

people do it?

After doing some research, no one person has been credited with starting No-Shave November. Instead, it's an annual tradition that is growing each year.

When you walk around a college campus around this time of year, you sense that something is a little different. Not only are people bundled up in their jackets, but also their chins are bundled up under a more natural coat.

There are several reasons people participate: Some for charities, some to test their beard-growing abilities and most for sheer bragging rights.

I asked an avid No-Shave November contender,

James Templeton, the reason for his partaking in the ritual.

"Well, first off I'm lazy," laughed Templeton. "It's nice not having to shave every day. And one time this girl told me I looked sexy and manly with a beard, so that pretty much sold me."

Obviously something like not shaving for a month will attract more of a male demographic. It comes down to men wanting to test the capabilities of their ruggedness.

But, as with every experiment, you need a control.

Michayla Lynn, a member of the Oregon State University dance team, said, "I think that it would be funny if guys tried to keep their beards

all month, but most of the time they'll get self-conscious and chicken out. But for the most part I really don't like when guys do it."

Those who are daring might explore something like No-Shave November, but let me tell you it's no easy task. I decided to participate this year, and it's agonizing to say the least.

I can't find any other reason that people would do this besides bragging rights. But it's a tradition that many others and I will continue to associate ourselves with.

For now, the day I most look forward to is the day I'm able to shave this curse I've bestowed upon myself.

Alpha Tau Upsilon Honor Society needs your help!

"Operation Homefront" Holiday Drive:

has started already. Boxes are around campus (marked). There will be flyers posted around campus with more information. Also, if possible, check out the Commuter's website for full details.

The END DATE is December 10th. All donations will be delivered to "Operation Homefront" on December 11th.



The winning number for the DAC's survey raffle is 6006671. Pick up your fifty-dollar gift certificate for LBCC's bookstore.

A holiday choir concert is being held this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Russell Tripp Performance Center, Takena Hall. Tickets are available for \$6 at the box office or online.

"Bring Your Spirit To Work" will have its second conversation of the term this Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 a.m. in the Siletz Room. Bring a personal story, a reading, a poem, or anything else that will provide a chance to go a little

more deeply. There will be free coffee.

The 39th Annual Children's Winter Festival will be held on the second floor of the Calapooia Center on Dec. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. This year's event will feature magicians, a Kwanzaa celebration, Hanukkah activities, cookie decorating, crafts and pictures with Santa. The event is free and open to the public.

The first ever Study Jam at the Benton Center will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Learning and Career Center. Staff will include Math, Reading, Writing, and Study Skills experts. There will be food and beverage provided by the Associated Student Government.

Go bowling with the Gay Straight Alliance. The GSA invites students and community members to Lakeshore Lanes on Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. Carpooling will be available. For more information, contact Jennifer at jcrb1025@hotmail.com.

The LBCC Foundation Annual Fund Drive is now accepting pledges and donations. For more information, call 541-917-4209.

If you have a Campus Short, please e-mail them to commuter@linnbenton.edu.

Volunteers Needed! For the 39th Annual Winterfest

Volunteer positions:

Game Room Supervisor

Photo Opportunity w/Santa

Cookie Decorating

Supervising the Kwanzaa Activities in the Kwanzaa Room

Supervising the UAE Activities in the UAE Room

Supervising the Hanukkah Activities in the Hanukkah Room

Setup and Cleanup

Saturday, Dec. 5
Volunteers need to show up at 9 a.m.
Second floor of the Calapooia Center

If you have any questions call Jessica Calhoun at 541-917-4469 or email her at worksg@linnbenton.edu

Free pizza party at noon and LB t-shirt for volunteers for their help!

THE COMMUTER'S STAFF

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

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Letters Welcome

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

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Opinion

Submissions to The Commuter:
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu
Drop-in: Forum 222

A word from your local ASG

Over the past weekend I attended the Oregon Students of Color Coalition (OSCC) conference. Over 400 students attended this conference from colleges across Oregon and Southern Washington. During this weekend conference students of all different backgrounds came together with one common goal: to advocate for the rights of students in underrepresented communities. I attended this conference as an advocate with the intention of learning what I could do to be helpful and supportive to students from different backgrounds.

One of the seminars I attended talked about the importance of being an advocate and how to go about it. An advocate is a student who supports and stands up for the needs of students with backgrounds different from their own. Being an advocate can be something that each of us incorporates into our everyday lives. For example, all of us at one point have been in a situation where someone has started to tell a racially or sexually charged joke or pun. You laugh politely, but wonder whether you should have said something to the jokester. In these situations you can politely explain to them that the joke makes you uncomfortable and why. Often people will tell these jokes without thinking, and sometimes they do not realize that they could be offensive to the people around them.

Other day-to-day situations include the use of the terms "that's gay," "that's retarded," or "that's ghetto." If you hear someone using these terms you can again politely inform him or her that they make you uncomfortable and explain why. The intent of talking to these people should never be to stir up trouble or start an argument. You should always go into these situations calmly and with a positive attitude. Your intent should always be to educate them and to help them be more culturally sensitive and aware. Being an advocate is not always easy, but it is important to stand up for others even when it is difficult to do so. When situations like this occur within your family and close friends it can be hard to stand up to them and tell them what they are doing offends you. However, it might be more detrimental if you allow them to continue behaving in a way that is offensive. One of the other key points I took away from this weekend is to know yourself and your cultural background. If you have a better understanding of your background you will gain perspective on the world around you.

Our society is changing at a rapid pace. We have a great deal of diversity right here at LBCC, and if we work together we can enrich each other's knowledge and experiences. Never be afraid to ask questions, and be open with others and willing to share your opinions and experiences.

Meghann Fenn
ASG Vice-President

The views of the ASG do not necessarily reflect those of The Commuter. Any questions or comments can be directed to the Student Life & Leadership office.

Hold the line

Adam LaMascus
The Commuter

The German Bundeswehr (Federal Armed Forces) currently has 4,300 soldiers in Afghanistan, which is the largest deployment of German combat troops since World War II. They also are the third largest number of allied troops there, behind the United States and Britain.

They may be leaving.

The war in Afghanistan is even less popular in Germany than it is in America and Britain, and this was compounded, according to a recent article by Time Magazine, due to a government cover-up by former Defence Minister* Franz Jung.

On Sept. 4, two tanker trucks were hijacked by Taliban forces near a German position. Colonel Georg Klein called in an airstrike, which was executed by two U.S. jets. The strike killed over 142 people. It has recently come out that over 40 of them were civilians, and that the German Defence Department was aware of this and concealed it from not only the public, but Prime Minister Angela Merkel and the current defense minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg. Jung and two other members of the defense department have already resigned.

The Bundestag (German Parliament) is looking at withdrawing their troops more seriously now than they had before. Guttenberg recently gave a speech to the Bundestag saying that they needed to start "thinking the Afghanistan mission from its end," and insisting that "there is a need for more clarity on how, and under which circumstances, the mission can end."

This all comes at a time when President Obama is looking to step up the war in Afghanistan and is asking our allies to do the same. In fact, the general secretary of NATO was in Germany at the time attempting to get more support.

We need to do our best to convince Germany of the importance of the Afghanistan war. The Taliban is a breeder of terrorists, who want to destroy Western civilization, whether American, British, German, French, Swiss,

Italian, or any other nation. These psychopaths want to instate a global empire ruled in their extremist, totally hypocritical and corrupted form of Islam. I strongly recommend that everyone go read "Held by the Taliban," an article written by New York Times reporter David Rohde who was kidnapped by the Taliban for close to a year. This intimate view shows us what we are up against, and how important it is that we do not let these people gain an entire country to control.

The Bundeswehr forces in Afghanistan are largely involved in reconstruction rather than combat, though this example shows quite clearly that they are not exempt from danger. It is imperative that we can convince the Germans (along with our other wavering allies) that they should stay, and that we must not fail in preventing these extremists from establishing a stranglehold in the region.

Another recent Times article discussed the history of the Taliban in Pakistan and the Pakistani military's response, basically concluding it is debatable whether they can stop the Taliban from taking over the country. With Pakistan wavering and the ability of their army to prevent the Taliban from conquering the country uncertain, the last thing we need is for them to have a reliable base from which to train terrorists and attack their neighbors. Many Americans don't even seem to realize Pakistan is teetering on the brink of collapse and has only recently gotten semi-serious about its own defense. We really should care though. Pakistan has a small nuclear arsenal.

This war isn't like the war in Iraq (which I have opposed since the beginning). The threat is much more serious, much more real, and has huge implications not only for the region, but the entire globe. We and our allies must remain resolute and steadfast in this time. It isn't easy, and there has been great sacrifice by so many already, but if we leave now, and a few years later, using Afghanistan as a base, the Taliban destabilizes Pakistan and acquires their nukes, it will all have been for nothing.

*"Defence" is the proper spelling in Germany.

Associated Student Government meeting schedule 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

December 2 – Board Room, Room CC-103; Public welcome.

December 9 – Siletz Room, Room CC-213; Public welcome.

Perspectives:

What's the worst Christmas gift you've ever given or received?



Dale Debolt
Criminal Justice

"A cheap screw driver set for seven years in a row from the same person."



Katherine Lee
Undecided

"My aunt likes to give me these strange purses ... and I don't really know what to do with them sometimes"



Greg Ellis
Undecided

"They're all good as long as they come from the heart."



Nick Woods
AAOT

"I gave him [points to twin brother] the stomach flu."



Jon Statman
Foreign Language/
Pre-med

"When I was five I got New Kids on the Block slippers."

The Commuter
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Opinion

Submissions to The Commuter:
E-mail: commuter@linnbenton.edu
Drop-in: Forum 222

Back in the day

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

This day in history...

Dec. 2, 1804: It's good to be the king...
 Napoleon Bonaparte crowns himself Emperor of France at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. This makes him the first French emperor in over 1,000 years.

Dec. 3, 1976: Every little thing, is gonna be alright...
 Two days before a concert designed to promote peace, Bob Marley is shot twice by unknown gunmen. Marley performs at the concert anyway. When asked why, he replies: "The people who are trying to make this world worse aren't taking a day off. How can I?"

Dec. 4, 1881: Black and white and read all over...
 The first edition of the "Los Angeles Times" is published.

Dec. 5, 1484: Nobody expects the German inquisition...
 Pope Innocent VIII issues the papal bull "Summis desiderantes," which makes Heinrich Kramer and James Sprenger the two main inquisitors in Germany, and orders them to end witchcraft in the region. What follows is one of the most corrupt and oppressive witch hunts in history.

Dec. 6, 1865: All men are created a little more equally now...
 The 13th Amendment is ratified, henceforth banning slavery. I find it depressing that it took a country whose founding principles were freedom and the idea that "all men are created equal" almost 100 years to decide that owning people was wrong.

Dec. 7, 1941: A date which will live in infamy...
 Air and naval forces of the Empire of Japan attack the Hawaiian islands, most notably the naval base at Pearl Harbor; 2,402 soldiers and civilians are killed. This attack cripples the U.S. Pacific Fleet; however, the fact that no aircraft carriers are present at the time of the attack prove a disaster for the Japanese.

Dec. 8, 1980: Imagine all the people...
 John Lennon is shot and killed in front of his apartment in New York City.

Thought for the week:
 "Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind."
 -John F. Kennedy

Advice from Weiss

Mark Weiss
 for The Commuter

College Success Part Three: Staying Alive

Last week I wrote about the importance of "perseverance," the ability to keep on trying, where college success is concerned. My examples had to do with college work and getting help with college work.

But there is a second kind of perseverance that many students need to find. A second thing that many need to work hard for, and sometimes ask for help in order to maintain; Life.

At any given time, one in two college students is experiencing depression. One in ten has thoughts of suicide. And since there is no way to create success without being alive, any discussion of student success has to include a discussion of the importance of choosing life.

When I was 20 I was already a college drop-out. I walked out just hours before they would have kicked me out (literally). I was depressed. Hadn't been to class in weeks. For the next year or so I had fantasies of suicide and I remember occasionally saying that those close to me might be better off without me bringing them down. I remember thinking that since I didn't have anything to offer the world, the world might just be better off without me.

Fortunately for me, I had a friend who talked to me about seeing a therapist. A mutual friend had gone to see a psychologist and the guy had helped him a great deal. I decided it was worth a try.

Though fascinating, therapy wasn't always easy. Confronting feelings of worthlessness never is. I remember walking on the beach one day (after a particularly serious session) and thinking that I could just shut everything off if I wanted to. I didn't have to let anyone reach me; and I had an image in my head of a hand on a water faucet. I had complete control of that faucet. I could turn it on or off. There was an almost euphoric feeling of power that came with this fantasy. Power to shut everyone out. And then, just seconds later, there was just as much power in the fantasy of turning the faucet the other way. There was just as much power in turning it on, in letting people in. In that moment of revelation my life changed forever. Not that everything became blissful and joyful. We don't any of us get that kind of life. But slowly, day by day, my commitment to life became stronger, and my openness to others, and the joy and good they bring, became larger.

That was 39 years ago. I am still grateful to the friends and the therapist who saved my life. It was a life worth saving, as is every life. Everyone deserves to live through the down times, the dark times, so that they might live to experience the good times that come in the future. Everyone!

At the time I was down, feeling worthless and unlovable, I could never have

imagined that just six years later I would meet my dear Terry and gain a lifetime of love and affection. I had no idea that not only would I go back to college, but go on to graduate school and eventually find myself in a wonderful job at (of all places) a college. And I could never have imagined the sweetest joy of all, the many friends that are now in my life, helping me, as I help them, make it through the difficult times

in life, and celebrating the good times. There was so much I couldn't imagine, and wouldn't have believed had anyone told me, and yet, this is what my life has become. I'm so glad I didn't miss it.

So, I ask you now, if you are depressed, or if you are the friend of someone who is depressed, please take action. Reach out. LBCC has a counseling center in Takena Hall, on the Albany campus. We also have counselors at Benton Center, Sweet Home Center, and

Lebanon Center. If you feel down, come talk to us. If you are worried about a friend, consult with us. Or reach out to a teacher, or anyone else you trust.

In addition to LBCC's services I want you to know about some other resources. You can call 1-800-273-TALK. You can call 1-800-SUICIDE. There's a hotline in Linn County that you can call, (541) 967-3866. The hotline for Benton County is 1-541-766-6835. There are experienced, caring people at each of these numbers who can talk to you about what you are experiencing.

There are also a couple of websites worth going to. One of these, www.halfopus.com, has real people, many famous, discussing their struggles with depression. Another excellent site is www.metnoia.com. Please visit them.

We humans see some things so clearly, and have others so clouded. If we break an arm or a leg, we know to go get help. We know this pain can be dealt with. But when it comes to internal pain, from a broken heart to a broken sense of self, we often hold the pain within ourselves, even as it grows and grows. Please, if you are feeling down, don't let the emotional clouds fog up your decision making. Reach out to any of the resources I've given you. And please, if you know someone who is in great emotional pain, get them help, or use these same resources to find someone you can consult with in getting help for your friend.

Remember, we're all in this together. I'm pulling for you.



Counselor Mark Weiss

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

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Something a little different.

Feature

Whpssshhh ... whip it good

Ashley Christie
 The Commuter

All little girls dream of growing up to be body slammed into railings and crashing onto skating rink floors. Don't they?

"Whip It" is the coming-of-age story of Bliss Cavendar (Ellen Page) an average, shy teenager in the small town of Bodine, Texas. She is an outcast at school, hates her waitressing job at the Oink Joint, and spends her weekends being shoved into beauty pageants by her mother (Marcia Gay Harden). One day Bliss grabs a flyer for an Austin roller derby league



and, after convincing her friend Pash (Alia Shawkat) to drive her, tells her parents she's taking a SAT class and lies about her age so she can try out for the team. She impresses the coach, Razor (Andrew Wilson), and becomes Babe Ruthless, newest member of the Hurl Scouts roller derby team.

When Bliss finds roller derby, she finds independence, self-confidence and someplace she finally belongs. She struggles to find balance between her home life, where she is trying to make her mother happy, and her derby life, where she is finally happy. Eventually, it all comes crashing down when the truth about her age and her "SAT class" comes out. Bliss has to ask herself what is most important to her and follow her heart.

"Whip It" may not do anything new or revolutionary with the coming-of-age genre, but it is a lot of fun; you want to be there with the characters racing around the track

slamming and crashing into each other. It's fast-paced, quirky, and has some surprisingly heartfelt and genuine moments. Besides the strong performances of Page and Harden, the film also has an amazing supporting cast, including Kristen Wiig as Maggie Mayhem, captain of the team and Bliss' mentor; Juliette Lewis as Iron Maven, a rival roller diva; and Drew Barrymore as Smashley Simpson, a fellow Hurl Scout with a small anger management problem. Daniel Stern and Jimmy Fallon also star to round out this roller derby world.

Another reason to see "Whip It" is the soundtrack. Barrymore, who makes her directorial debut with the film, puts together an album that she calls in the liner notes "a mix tape for you!" It's a rock/punk/pop mix that reflects the movie's characters

and keeps the hard-hitting derby spirit in mind. It includes a variety of artists like: The Ramones, Tilly and the Wall, Dolly Parton, and Landon Pigg (who also gives acting a try as Bliss's boyfriend).

There are a few clichéd moments, but overall "Whip It" is definitely worth your time. It is an upbeat film with a positive girl-power message. Bliss learns how to stand up for herself by lacing up her skates and falling on her face. She, as the movie tagline says, becomes her own hero. And, as one character puts it, if that isn't enough of a reason for you, go for the "hot girls in fishnets beating the crap out of each other."

Available on DVD and Blu-ray Jan. 26. Soundtrack in stores now.

Derby Dames roll on

Maya Lazaro
 The Commuter

To friends and family she's known as Meghan Kylo. By her teammates she's known as CosMo Pain.

When not studying to get into the diagnostic imaging program at LBCC, she spends her free time knocking women to the ground in spandex and lace-up skates.

This is the world of roller derby – a sport dominated by women in knee-high socks and ruffled skirts, unafraid to show aggression in the rink.

The Albany/Corvallis team, named the "Sick Town Derby Dames" by founder and president "Brick" La Rae Wallace, was formed in July 2007, when Wallace got involved with a team down in Eugene and wanted to bring the derby experience to her area.

The team began small, with only eight women coming to practice each week. Through recruiting and fundraising, however, the team now boasts a "travel" team of 14 players, as well as 20 new recruits who are in the process of being groomed for games, or "bouts," as they are known in derby jargon.

A bout consists of two 30-minute sessions, each session containing several two-minute races around the track called "jams." A "jammer" from each team must successfully lap the pack of "blockers" and "pivots" in order to score enough points for their team to win the bout. Jammers are awarded with one point for each player of the opposite team that they pass.

Blockers use their shoulders, butt, torso, and hips (hands and legs are off-limits) to stop jammers from lapping them, while pivots set the pace of the jam and alert fellow teammates when another team's jammer is approaching.

Each woman chooses a unique nickname that she uses during bouts, practices, and get-togethers. The name is then checked against a national register of derby names to ensure that there are no doubles.

Nicknames usually have some sort of personal meaning to the player, but some are just a clever play on words. For instance, Lil Pwny enjoys video games, while Stitches 'n' Bones is both an archeologist and an avid knitter.

CosMo Pain named herself after her favorite drink. Other handles include Smack Dapuss, Vicious Circle, and Face Kontrol. The names seem to serve as a manifestation of the plucky personas players adopt in the rink.

Giving it a try

As the women put on their gear at the Linn County Fairgrounds, Brick sees me standing awkwardly with a camera



Above: The Sick Town Derby Dames

Below: (from left) Face Kontrol (Mica Hubarand), Queen Bee Yotch (Jill Welch) and Wrath of Kant (Denise Cerruti) practice their blocking.

Photos by Maya Lazaro



and invites me to skate. I politely decline, too afraid to ditch my warm winter boots, but after snapping photos of the girls practicing blocks, falls, and jumps, I begin to feel inspired. They all make it look so easy.

When I return on Wednesday for another practice, Brick looks at me again and raises an eyebrow - a silent dare. This time I nod. I'm ready.

I'm paired with the new recruits. Stitches 'n' Bones glides over to us in an emerald-green skirt with the grace of a ballerina. She begins a two-and-a-half-hour practice with a lesson in posture. We're instructed to "sit" in our skates, a basic derby position in which your knees are bent at a 90-degree angle.

On top of this, you must lean forward and keep your elbows in, effectively ruining any sense of balance. After 30 seconds of merely standing in this position, my calves are shaking and my back is burning.

"Don't slouch," Bones warns us, eyeing my rounded torso. "Keep your back straight."

Then comes endurance training. The recruits groan in protest, and I begin to sweat. Bones starts her stopwatch and we do a series of sprints, each followed by a recovery period. All this time we are told to stay as low as possible, remaining in basic position in order to increase our

With proper technique, players can avoid injury by absorbing hits or falling like pros, but for inexperienced players injury is more common.

Why derby?

I'm fascinated as to why these women dedicate themselves to such an inherently violent sport.

"I've been skating since I was nine years old," says Marisol "Jala Pain Yo" Rodriguez, a paralegal student at LB with whom I spoke by phone. "It was a great opportunity to get on skates again."

Players who skated as children refer to themselves as rink rats and value the chance derby gives them to recapture that experience. But for most team members, it's more than just the chance to skate that draws them derby.

"It's rough, fun, aggressive, and girly. We get to wear skirts and fishnets." Brick indicates towards her skull-adorned skirt. "It's a full-contact sport, but we're still able to look like girls."

The "looking like girls" aspect of the sport has also contributed to the ever-pervasive stereotype that derby isn't a real sport like football or hockey, but rather a campy game women play to lose weight when they aren't cleaning house or cooking dinner.

Roller derby receives no funding beyond what teams make during fundraising, efforts that include everything from car washing to garage sales. Players must buy their own gear and pay monthly dues to their teams or leagues, and they rarely, if ever, get paid to play.

The aggressiveness that drives Brick and her teammates doesn't limit their lives outside of derby to brutish endeavors, though. Outside the rink Rice Crackr manages a restaurant, Toxic Spill is a math professor at OSU, Saint Nick teaches art to children, and Queen Bee Yotch works at a retirement home in Albany.

Brick's day job is spent doing research for OSU, and the team includes a slew of nurses. Many of these women are married and have families. Shannon "Tits 'n' Tofu" Pfnstgen can often be seen skating alongside her husband Ian, a ref who occasionally must "Thorough'er Out." Even refs are allowed derby names.

CosMo Pain is now recovering from her scrimmage. She and fellow teammate Jala Pain Yo are jammers, a position that requires speed and agility, and the practice has left her catching her breath. She's back to laughing and smiling though when the travel team begins cool-down stretches.

"Derby draws women together," she tells me when I ask about what motivates her to play. "They're like family."

Derby Dame Tip: Blocking



Correct

CosMo Pain and Brick Wallace demonstrates the correct (left) and incorrect (right) ways to block.

Players can: use their shoulders, hips, and torsos to knock other players off the track or prevent them from passing.

Players can not: use elbows, hands, legs or feet. It is illegal and get the offending player sent to the penalty box.



Incorrect

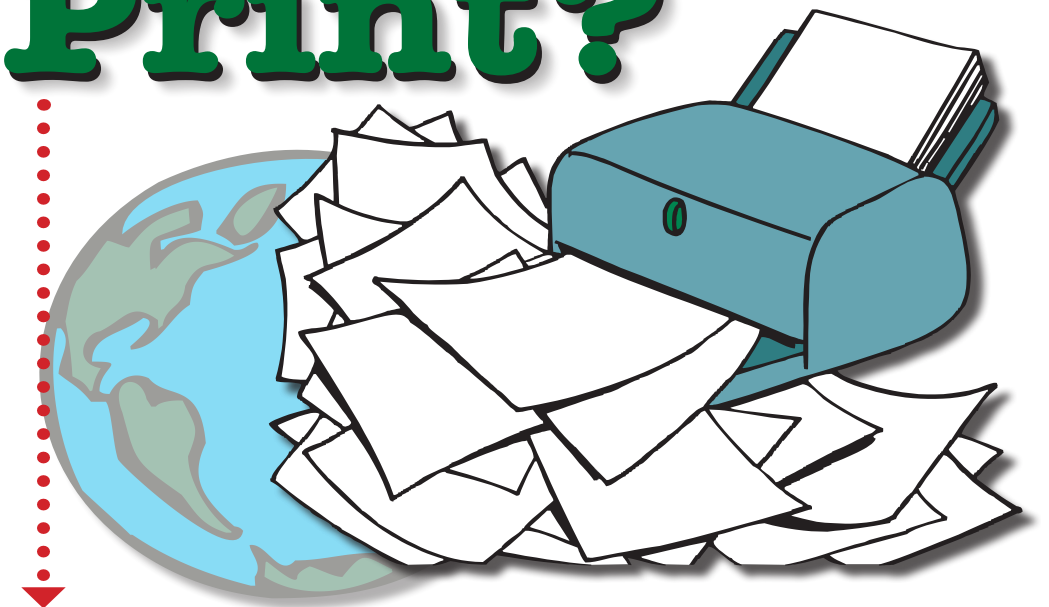
How You Can Join

Show up to any Derby Dames' practice and they'll provide you with skates and gear. Practices are Monday and Wednesday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Linn County Fairgrounds Expo Center.

You can e-mail Brick at sicktownderbydames@gmail.com. More information can be found at www.sicktownderbydames.com.

Players must be 21 years or older to join. Returning members are expected to pay monthly dues.

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The Commuter

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Letters

Letters to the editor. These do not reflect the views of the Commuter staff.

Re: November 18 letters, "I disagree"

Dear Readers,

In response to letters published in the November 18th edition, I have to say I most certainly disagree with both authors. I am compelled to write and share my opinions with you.

Regarding Laura Soto's disappointment with the Linn-Benton Loop, I wonder where does she get her information that the primary purpose of the Loop is to serve LBCC students? What about students at OSU, or employees of Hewlett-Packard or Samaritan Health? In reality, the primary purpose of the Loop is to provide the public with a transportation alternative between Albany and Corvallis, the county seats and economic centers of Linn and Benton Counties, hence the name Linn-Benton Loop.

Additionally, it is unfortunate that she has been witness to what has been judged as rudeness on the part of the driver. Do you perceive rudeness

as well in the actions of a rider who believes they are above the expectations to be prepared to board at the time listed in the schedule, which is published in both hard copy, available in numerous locations in our communities, on board every Albany Transit and Linn-Benton Loop bus, as well as available online? What about my rights to depart on schedule and board in a timely manner, not having to wait for one who (knowing they are to provide a pass, ticket, or fare) is seemingly caught unaware when it comes time to board? Is this not rudeness to both driver and fellow passenger?

Quite contrary to Laura's perception, I have found the drivers to be professional, courteous and kind, though at times I have witnessed their aggravation or frustration with a rider who does not behave in a responsible and courteous manner.

Next I will address the issues Michele Wilson has with the quote from

Benjamin Brumbaugh in the previous week's issue. My question for Michele is as follows: To whom does your ethic of diversity not apply?

There seems to be contradiction. Does not Mr. Brumbaugh deserve the same right to expression as any other student? Doesn't Benjamin have an inherent right to remain Benjamin, not having to conform to an arbitrary judgment of right and wrong?

It is not as though he were staging a protest of Karelia Stetz-Water's sexual orientation. The facts are that he attended the activity, found value therein, and value in Stetz-Water's contribution to the community. He simply stated that he possesses his own interests and values and is likely to pursue those values and interests in the literature he reads. Far from demonstrating a campus culture of prejudice, racism and homophobia, I find the inclusion of his quote to illustrate the diversity of

our community and the open forum we enjoy for views which may diverge from our own, however immature and egocentric those views may be.

In order for us to achieve true diversity, we must protect each individual's right to freedom of expression, so long as the exercise of one's liberty does not squelch or tread upon another's rights.

What frightens me, Dear Reader, is the logic behind her argument. It appears to me a classic case of "othering." She has identified a characteristic of Mr. Brumbaugh's (his opinion) as wrong (deficient), she extrapolated that judgment across a population ("they" are all alike), judged her individual divergent characteristic as superior ("we" are better), and proclaimed that all characteristics differing from her own must be changed or bent to the will of those possessing characteristics analogous

to her own. This is not diversity, this is the logic that has led to exploitation and oppression of peoples throughout time.

An honestly multicultural partnership ethic (an ethic of diversity) by definition requires diverse inputs. A homogeneous culture is by definition not diverse. In order that we might achieve diversity we must accept and protect those characteristics that differentiate us, (even opinions that we find frustrating, annoying or even angering) finding instead what we have in common so we may move forward together in partnership.

I applaud The Commuter for the strategic inclusion of Mr. Brumbaugh's controversial quote and thank them for the opportunity to present views of my own.

Sincerely,
Steve Anderson

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

You can sign up at www.linnbenton.edu/go/StudentEmployment to look at student & graduate jobs.

**For more info about the opportunities listed below, please see Carla in Student Employment in the Career Center (Takena 101).*

Entry-level Operator and/or Operator (#7675, Kelso, WA) This can be one of 3 levels of Wastewater Operator depending on your certifications. Deadline is Dec. 11!!

CWE AST/TiWW Wastewater & Compliance Tech

(#7682, Albany) Are you a LBCC student in engineering or science field? Work with collecting environmental samples and monitoring the environment. \$10.45/hr to start. Great CWE experience!

CWE Engineering Assistant (#7633, Albany) Are you an LBCC engineering student wanting on-the-job experience and a job? Here is that perfect job! \$10.45-16.90/hr. DOE.

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(#7678, Corvallis area) Assist with the management of our Youth Commission working directly with high school age youth developing leadership skills.

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Local News

Community news about the mid-Willamette Valley, including Albany, Lebanon, and Corvallis.

Spreading Christmas (tree) cheer

Krista Goeke
 for The Commuter

There are more than 12 days of Christmas for Dale Donovan, owner of Donovan's Christmas Tree Farm in Corvallis. His farm is already open and sending happy customers home with the perfect Christmas tree.

The farm did not always grow trees. It used to be an orchard. He bought the land from his father in 1973 and, after getting tired of using harmful chemicals, he began to plant Christmas trees. "We try to use as little as we possibly can," he says in reference to the chemicals.

Donovan's Christmas Tree Farm has been in business for about 30 years, and Donovan continues to stretch out in many ventures. He is a ceramic artist, he rents out guest houses on the property, he officiates at weddings and is always trying new things.

This year, he has begun to sell potted Christmas trees, and a photographer will be at the farm to snap

pictures of proud families bringing their tree home. These photos can then be ordered as Christmas cards. "We're going to have a computer there so they can view them (the photos)," said photographer Jim Carroll.

Hay rides are also a big part of the fun, and hot cocoa is always ready for customers. Donovan laughs, remembering when a hay wagon got stuck in the mud. Just as Donovan was coming down the hill to "save the day," the front horses broke off from the wagon and charged up the hill at him. Donovan admits that of all the things to do at the farm, he enjoys meeting and conversing with the people who come through. His hope is that everyone who comes will go home with a tree.

"The best part is the people," said Donovan.



This way to Donovan's tree farm.

Photo by Krista Goeke

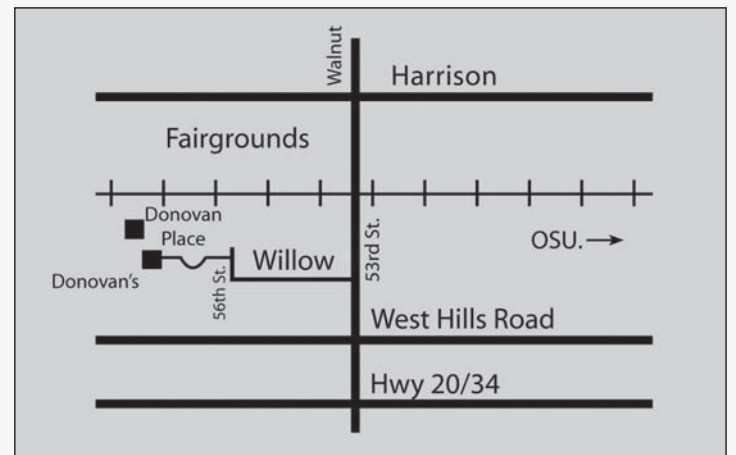
Employee Steven Nelson agrees. "I get to sell Christmas trees to happy families!" The worst part according to Donovan: "You have to dress really warm. You got to be tough."

Donovan says his neighbors love his tree farm. "They all beg me to keep doing what I'm doing," Donovan said.

At a glance:

What: Donovan's Christmas Tree Farm
Where: 5720 SW Donovan Place, Corvallis
When: Now through Dec. 24,
Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Weekends 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
More Info: Contact Donovan's at (541)758-6237 or visit www.donovanplace.com

How to get there



Cross off your holiday shopping list at the...

2009 Town & Country Christmas Bazaar



FRIDAY,
 December 4th,
 5PM - 9PM

SATURDAY,
 December 5th,
 10AM - 6PM

SUNDAY,
 December 6th,
 10AM - 5PM

- ★ over 200 booths
- ★ free parking
- ★ admission only \$1.00

Seattle Cycle Show

Chris Brotherton
 The Commuter

As you enter the room, the shine from the chrome and fresh paint is enough to almost blind you. Have you gone to motorcycle heaven? Well, you have gotten as close as you can with the Cycle World's International Motorcycle Show -- an opportunity for manufacturers to present their newest products to the public.

The show will make a hard run through 11 cities during its 29th year of touring the nation. Expect to see about 500 new bikes,

both street and off road, along with the latest gear, accessories and information.

Friday is Ladies Night Out, meaning that women will get in for half the adult price with a printable online coupon. Sunday is Family Day, so you can bring the kids, 11 years old and under, and they will get in free with a paid adult admission. The show will be held at the Qwest Field Event Center, on Occidental Avenue in Seattle. Parking for bikes will be free, but if you bring your cage (car) it will cost you \$10 to park for the day.

Quick info:

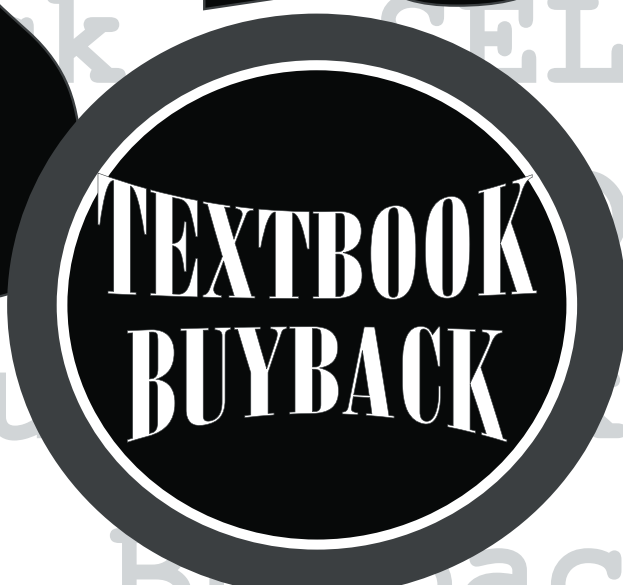
Show Hours: Dec. 11, 4 to 9 pm/ Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m./ Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ticket Prices: Adults, \$12 advance, \$13.50 online, \$15 at the door.

More info at www.motorcycleshows.com/Seattle

Linn County Fair & Expo Center
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www.lcfairexpo.com
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Dec. 7-11

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GET YOUR
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1-Term of **FREE Coffee**
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1- \$25 Bookstore Gift Card
first 30 receive
small House Coffee

.....> **Benton Center**
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9am to 4pm



LBCB Bookstore

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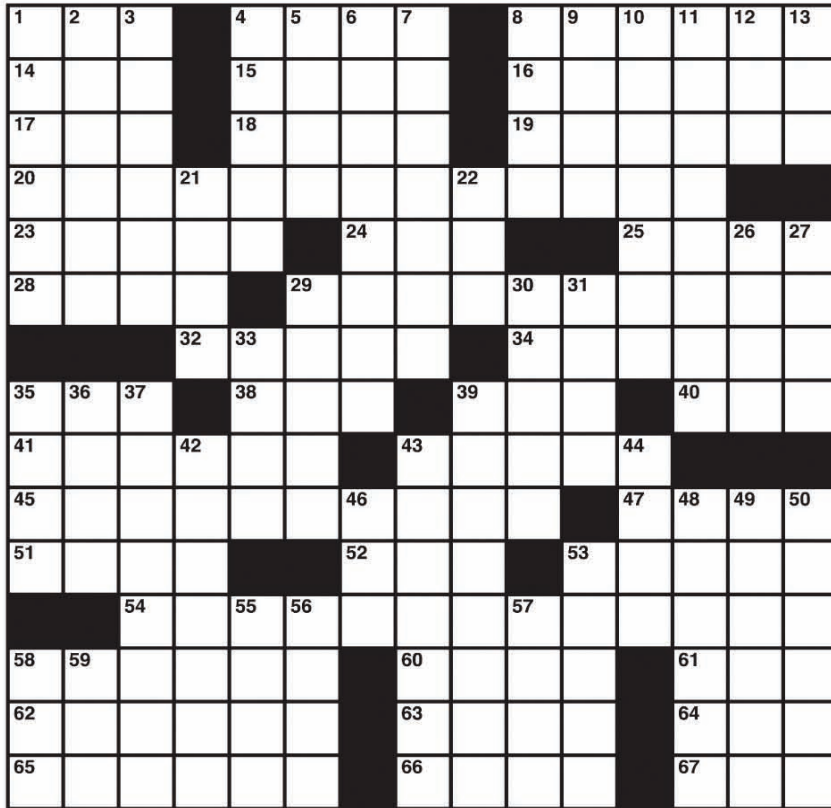
Surreal Living

Crosswords, cartoons and some fun facts to brighten your day.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Premium movie station
 - 4 Hammer-wielding Norse god
 - 8 First voice of Mickey Mouse
 - 14 "This instant!"
 - 15 Will Rogers prop
 - 16 Rallying cry
 - 17 ISP with chat rooms
 - 18 Took advantage of
 - 19 Scrubs, as pots
 - 20 *Bakery fare named for their shape
 - 23 Actress Holmes
 - 24 Mothers' month
 - 25 Kid's building block
 - 28 Part of CBS: Abbr.
 - 29 *Quixotic reveries
 - 32 1953 Western hero to whom Joey cried "Come back!"
 - 34 Vacation home, maybe
 - 35 Stately tree
 - 38 "Wait, there's more ..."
 - 39 Half-__: coffee order
 - 40 Prefix with friendly
 - 41 Sunday dinners
 - 43 Certain Sri Lankan
 - 45 *Playground fixture
 - 47 Immortal racehorse Man __
 - 51 Opie's dad
 - 52 Coffee dispenser
 - 53 Eagle's nest
 - 54 *Beat poet who wrote "Howl"
 - 58 Ohio city north of Columbus
 - 60 Pre-holiday times
 - 61 Pester
 - 62 Really digs
 - 63 Domesticated
 - 64 MMX ÷ X
 - 65 Basic doctrines
 - 66 One-armed bandit
 - 67 " __ Haw"



By Todd Gross

- DOWN**
- 1 Chips and nuts
 - 2 "Way to go!"
 - 3 Little barn fliers
 - 4 Cease-fire
 - 5 L'eggs product
 - 6 Good thing to keep when hearing opposing views
 - 7 Bureaucratic waste
 - 8 "Take care of it"
 - 9 "Batt. not __"
 - 10 Puffed up, as a sprain
 - 11 Make queasy
 - 12 Throw wide of the mark, say
 - 13 NFL gains
 - 21 Rests one's feet
 - 22 Ham holder
 - 26 Detroit-based financial org.
 - 27 Capital on a fjord
 - 29 Variously colored flower
 - 30 Small weight units
 - 31 One way to lower an APR
 - 33 Detest
 - 35 Funny Bombeck
 - 36 Minnesota's state bird

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 37 Official spoken language of China
- 39 Traveling show
- 42 Toronto's includes the CN Tower
- 43 Quotas
- 44 Leopold's co-defendant
- 46 Hot dog holder
- 48 A type of one begins the answers to starred clues
- 49 Snoopy's flying persona, e.g.
- 50 Baseball's Jackson, a.k.a. "Mr. October"
- 53 It's a good thing
- 55 Ex-senator Trent
- 56 Genesis grandson
- 57 Pixar clownfish
- 58 Sch. near Harvard
- 59 Enzyme suffix



"Where are all your Santa Claus books - fiction or nonfiction?"



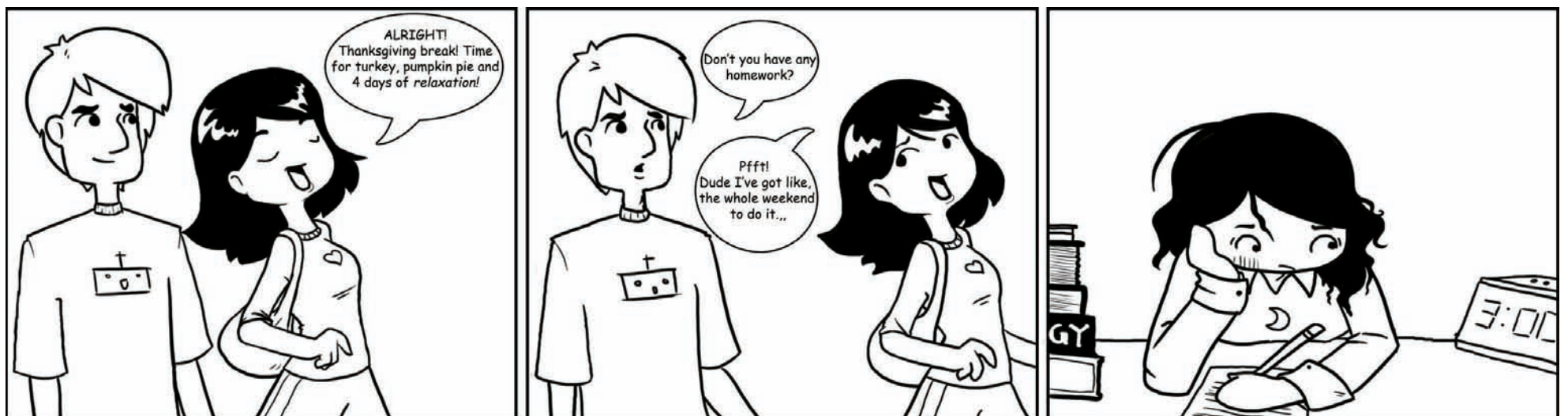
Did you know?

- NASA's new Ares V rocket is 380 feet tall. That's 20 feet taller than a football field.
- In 1934, Nikolai Tesla claimed to have invented an energy gun, which the media dubbed a "death ray," the first time this term was ever used.
- As of 2008, the Star Wars series has made \$4.3 billion. The only movies to have made more are the James Bond films followed by the Harry Potter movies.
- Germanic, Norse, Celtic, Finnish, and Anglo-Saxon mythology (Beowulf in particular), were some of the main inspirations for The Lord of the Rings.

Add/Drop

An LBCC student generated comic.

By Maggie O'Reilly



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reviews, upcoming events, and the cure for weekend boredom.

Twelve days of Christmas movies

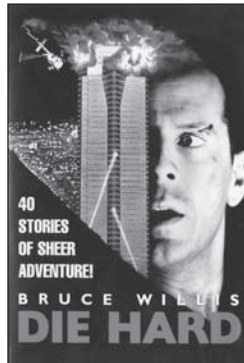
Ashley Christie
 The Commuter

We all know that it's a wonderful life and that there was some kind of miracle over on 34th street, but there are lots of other movies out there that celebrate the yuletide season, albeit in maybe a less obvious way. For those of you looking to make your holidays a bit more ... colorful, sing along as we count down the 12 days of Christmas movies.

On the 12th day of Christmas my true love made me watch:

12 terrorists stealing ...

Die Hard (1988)
 Leave it to John McClane (Bruce Willis) to save us from another boring company Christmas party. He even brings gifts: The gift of sweet death to Hans Gruber (Alan Rickman) and the rest of the bad guys. He's just like Santa, except for the suit, sleigh, reindeer and elves. And I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight: Happy Christmas to all, and to all a yippee-ki-yay mother ... you know the rest.



11 puppets singing ...

A Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)
 There are approximately 20 gazillion versions of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." What makes this one worth watching? The Muppets, of course. Michael Caine, as the crotchety Ebenezer Scrooge, does some of his finest work along side Kermit and the rest of the gang.



10 criminals evading ...

Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang (2005)
 Note to self: The next time I'm trying to outrun the cops because I broke into a toy store on Christmas Eve, just claim to be an actor doing research for a role. That is exactly what happens to Harry Lockhart (Robert Downey Jr.) in this hilarious neo-noir holiday gem.



9 elaborate booby traps trapping ...

Home Alone (1990)
 Nothing says Christmas like child abandonment. When his family leaves for vacation without him, 8-year-old Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) must fend for himself and fight off two inept burglars (Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern). "Home Alone" asks life's tough questions, like: Is seeing a guy get hit in the crotch ever not funny?



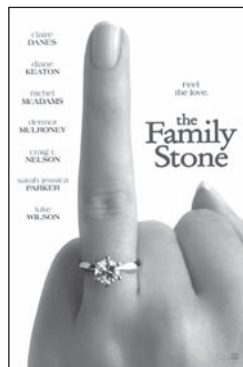
8 storylines intersecting ...

Love Actually (2003)
 Aurélia is in love with Jamie, who's friends with Sarah, who works with Mia, who's having an affair with Harry, who's cheating on his wife Karen, whose brother is the Prime Minister, who's in love with Natalie, whose neighbor is Mark, who's in love with Juliet, who's married to Peter, whose neighbor is Daniel, whose son is Sam, who's in love with Joanna. Did you follow all that? "Love Actually" is sweet, funny, and just makes you feel all warm and fuzzy inside.



7 family members fighting ...

The Family Stone (2005)
 Diane Keaton, as matriarch of the Stone family, leads an all-star cast, including: Rachel McAdams, Claire Danes, Craig T. Nelson, Sarah Jessica Parker and Luke Wilson. "The Family Stone" is a charming holiday comedy about a dysfunctional family coming together to celebrate the season.



6 foot tall guy elfing ...

Elf (2003)
 Will Ferrell, love him or hate him, is friggin' awesome as Buddy, a human raised by elves who is searching for his real family in NYC. Watch it, if for nothing else than to see Peter Dinklage, aka Angry Elf, kicking the crap out of Ferrell in one of the movies' best scenes.



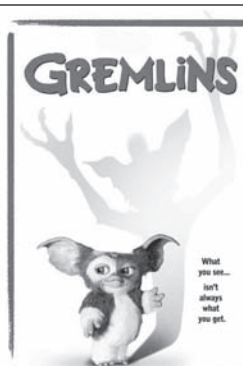
5 acts of stupidity ...

Ernest Saves Christmas (1988)
 I know it's dumb. I know it's a terrible movie. I know I should be embarrassed by my love of Ernest. I don't care. Christmas just isn't Christmas until Ernest saves it.



4 creepy critters ...

Gremlins (1984)
 What is the worst Christmas present you've ever received? When Billy gives his new pet a midnight snack he inadvertently creates an army of ugly green monsters that specialize in wreaking havoc. And you thought Furbies were bad.

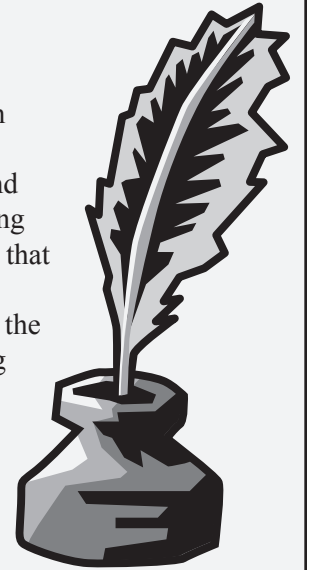


Poetry spotlight

Avarice
 by Rick Casillas

Avarice, whose arms go on for great lengths: White doors, hinges unclasped and reaching...rending...wailing for me to come in. Fingers that rake, tips that smolder. And I wonder, who sits on the sill of your mind, changing colors with the passing wind. Whose eyes steeped iris high in wonder touch your own, I know you're aware of the slenderness of your arms; the delicate ponder some hand heavy claws that rest at your side. Those tender worldly taps that stutter and halt to the beating of my heart.

But can you understand how you look? How foolish they think you are. Avarice I see you, avarice I know you, gentle as you were. I am much the same, but I hide my hands.



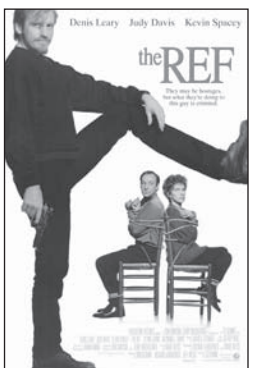
3 hundred profanities ...

Bad Santa (2003)
 Ever wondered what that mall Santa was really like? Billy Bob Thornton stars as a lying, cheating, stealing, drinking, swearing Santa Clause - who is trying to get through the season with as few kids throwing up on him as possible. If you had to sit and listen to spoiled little brats whine about their wants all day long, you'd be a little bitter too.



2 suburban hostages ...

The Ref (1994)
 It's Christmas Eve, you're on the verge of divorce, your son was just expelled from military school (again), your in-laws (who hate you) are due any minute and, to top it all off, Denis Leary just kidnapped you and your husband. At least it can't get any worse, can it?



And a fat guy in a red suit.

The Santa Clause (1994)
 What says lighthearted Christmas comedy more than mythical holiday figure homicide? When Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) accidentally kills Santa, he steals his suit, his sleigh and his job. He becomes the new St. Nick and, along with his son Charlie, unknowingly steps into a world he stopped believing in long ago.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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A taste of New York

Lauren Naone
 for The Commuter

What better person and place to get a hot dog from than a true New Yorker selling hot dogs in a street stand identical to what you would see in the big city?

"If you want a little taste of New York you can find it in downtown Corvallis between Starbucks and Noah's Bagels every Tuesday through Saturday," said owner Willy McKnight. From about 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. you can receive your very own tasty New York style Sabrett hot dog at Willy's Hot Dog Stand near the corner of 4th and Madison.

With 35 years of cooking experience and no place to work, McKnight decided to open a business of his own. "I found myself unemployed last May," McKnight said. "At age 50 I had a hard time competing with 19- or 20-something-year-olds going to school." Thinking the people of Corvallis could use a good hot dog, he decided to do something about the now-common situation of unemployment, and introduce the New York delicacy to Corvallis.

The large metal stand in front of the Madison Plaza is "exactly what you'd find all over the streets of New York," said McKnight. At Willy's Hot Dog Stand, you can find a traditional, and gluten-free, Sabrett hot dog with ketchup and/or mustard for just \$3, along with an assortment of delicious toppings to spice up your dog for an additional 25 cents.

"The sweet pickled relish was delicious," said customer Rebecca Rathack. Along with the relish are toppings like chili, and homemade barbecue onions made by McKnight himself. "I thought they were really good because you get more dog than bun," Rathack said.

"It felt authentic," said Kyle Polensky, "but don't ask me what authentic tastes like. I really liked it."

If you are in the mood for something sweet, Willy's has something for you too. He is now making homemade simple sweet crepes. Gluten-free, and dairy-free without the butter or whipped cream, these crepes with preserves are an excellent sweet treat for any time of the day.

Also being sold at Willy's Hot Dog Stand are chips for 75 cents, cans of soda for 75 cents, and frozen candy bars for \$1.

"I feel like I'm right on track," said McKnight on the progress of the newly opened stand, "So far I've had great reception from the good people of Corvallis." Receiving lots of support from friends and landlord Hugh White, as well as recognition from people walking by, McKnight has had a great start to his new business.

Animation ups Anderson's appeal

Ryan Henson
 The Commuter

I've heard others label director Wes Anderson as a one trick pony, and on some levels I agree with them. There are definitely characteristics that can be used to spot an Anderson film -- the exaggerated characters, dry humor, exotic color palettes, intricate sets, and slow motion sequences. But, no matter how many times I see or hear it all, the trick doesn't get old.

And the thing that is so appealing about his latest film, "Fantastic Mr. Fox," is that in stop-animation, it's even better than previous films ("The Royal Tenenbaums," "The Darjeeling Limited") at showcasing his motif and flaunting his surreal sensibilities. Stealing the adjective from the title, this movie is fantastic -- an instantaneous classic.

The plot, which is adapted from a children's novel by Roald Dahl and written for screen by Anderson and Noah Baumbach ("The Squid and the Whale"), follows chicken-thief-turned-newspaper-columnist Mr. Fox as he attempts to live the straight life. One last big score at the farms of Boggis, Bunce and Bean, however, puts him, his family and the entire local animal population in danger.

With CG and Pixar all the rage, it's refreshing and perfectly fitting for Anderson to utilize the retro qualities of stop-motion. The jerky animation adds to the magic of the movie, and the extensive details in the puppets and scenery, which were designed by Anderson and built by Mackinnon & Saunders, the company that worked on "Chicken

Run" and "Corpse Bride," are extraordinary. There are so many sight gags that I guarantee one viewing isn't enough to catch them all.

George Clooney and Meryl Streep are cast, respectively, as the debonair Mr. Fox and his principled wife Felicity. For the other roles, Anderson brings to his cast some familiar faces, or should I say voices, from the past, including Jason Schwartzman, Willem Dafoe, Owen Wilson, and Bill Murray. According to the production notes

on the movie, Anderson took main cast members to a farm in Connecticut and had them act out the scenes like they were in a "radio play." This move definitely pays off, because the voices sound organic and not vacuumed like in other animated films. They also did a lot of spot recording -- when the characters are in a tunnel, they sound like they are in a tunnel, when the characters are outside, they sound like they are outside.

Those familiar with Anderson's work know that early rock and folk music songs are an essential element in his movies and this one is no different, including numbers by The Beach

Boys and the Rolling Stones. However, It's Jarvis Cocker's bluegrass song "Fantastic Mr. Fox aka Petey's Song" that is the most memorable.

As in any Wes Anderson film, the dialogue is smart and full of tongue-in-cheek humor. This, along with a cigarette smoking farmer, some alcohol consumption and some other adult themes, may make this "family" movie a little more for adults than kids. But, with that said, the movie is rated PG and there is enough slapstick humor and animals in clothing to have the little ones loving it.

Final verdict: five bandit masks out of five.



Medley of goodness: Borderlands review

Adam LaMascus
 The Commuter

I'm convinced that, one day, somebody played "Fallout 3" and said, "Wow, this game is cool but too slow." "Borderlands" was born.

I'm not exaggerating either. Take "Fallout 3," remove the deep, complex, storyline, add more guns, add more enemies, simplify the role-playing game aspects, add some adrenaline, and you've got "Borderlands."

This isn't necessarily a bad thing.

The storyline is shallow at best. You are on the post-apocalyptic world of Pandora hunting for the Vault, a fabled cache of advanced technology. Along the way, as you depopulate the planet, you are guided by a Cortana-esque

girl who tells you what to do, with no explanation of who she is, but you trust her and go along with it anyway, for some reason.

The game starts you off picking one of four unique and colorful characters: Mordecai "the Hunter," Lilith "the Siren," Roland "the Soldier," or Brick "as himself." Each of these characters has a unique ability you acquire upon reaching level five, which dictates how you play through the game. As you level up, your health increases, and you gain a skill point which you can use to upgrade your abilities and your skill. Roland, for example, deploys a machine gun turret as his skill. He can then upgrade the turret to either do more damage or dispense health and ammo when you stand next to

it. Brick has a berserker rage where he drops his gun and literally pummels to death just about anything in his way.

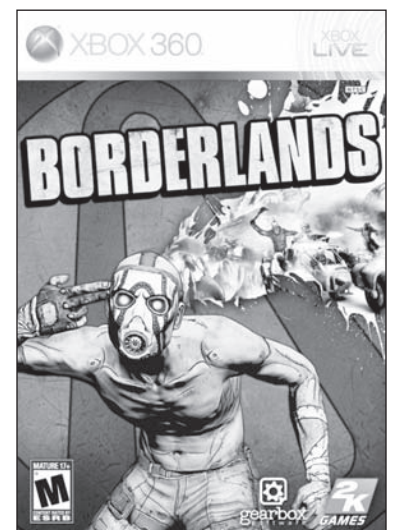
The gunplay is a blast as you find boat-loads of firearms that are all fairly unique. You then use these said guns to frag everything that moves and collect their loot. The loot is better guns, money, ammo and shields. If the equipment you find isn't better, you sell it to buy guns and shields that are better. It isn't complicated at all, and hasn't been new for a long time, but it's a lot of fun.

Another element of roleplaying-games that infiltrates "Borderlands" is the quest. It feels like the designers also play "World of Warcraft" a lot, because the quests are pretty similar. "Go here, kill everything that

moves, grab item, bring it back." The quests are literally that simple.

The real gem of this game is the co-op mode. The more friends you have running through the game with you, the more enemies there are and the more (and better) loot there is. You can tell that the game was designed for more players from the fact that the different characters compliment each other. For example, the jeep/tank only reaches its full potential when you have a pilot and a gunner.

One last point is the atmosphere. While Pandora is pretty standard, the almost cartoon art style, memorable characters (the saw/axe wielding Doc Zed being my favorite) and rampant gallows humor gives it a definite charm and helps it stand out amongst



the legion of first-person shooters out there.

"Borderlands" is a guilty pleasure of a game. When you sit and think about it, you realize there is nothing it does that hasn't been done before, and in a lot of ways it is very shallow. However, when you are playing it, you forget the faults and have a blast, literally. I recommend this game.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

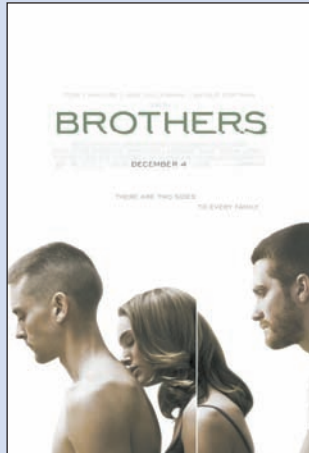
Reviews, upcoming events, and the cure for weekend boredom.

Coming attractions

Brothers

Opens December 4
When Sam Cahill (Tobey Maguire) returns home from an Afghanistan prisoner-of-war camp, he finds that his younger brother Tommy (Jake Gyllenhaal) has stepped in to help support his wife (Natalie Portman) and kids who thought Sam was dead.

Rating: R
Runtime: 110 minutes



The Princess and the Frog

Opens December 11
The newest Disney fairy tale about a young New Orleans princess named Tiana. When she kisses a talking frog claiming to be a cursed prince, things don't quite work out as planned.

Rating: G
Runtime: 95 minutes

Avatar

Opens December 18
James Cameron directs this highly anticipated sci-fi film about a paralyzed marine (Sam Worthington) who volunteers for the military's Avatar program on the planet Pandora. When he makes friends with the planets natives, he finds himself at odds with the military.

Rating: PG-13
Runtime: 189 minutes



Source: moviefone.com, imdb.com



Switchfoot surfs in all indie style with "Hello Hurricane"

Joel DeVylde
The Commuter

San Diego band Switchfoot has gone indie (at last!) with their latest release "Hello Hurricane," which is the first of four self-recorded and -produced albums. While the other three CD's await release, the band can safely revel in this one's success. I say this because they have a set of killer songs and some pretty great promotion (they're featured on MSN and "Jimmy Kimmel Live," for example).

This is the first Switchfoot CD since 2006's "Oh! Gravity," but to many fans it hasn't felt like it's been that long. Lead-singer Jon Foreman has been busy – four acclaimed solo EPs and a side project with Nickel Creek's Sean Watkins have all improved his cred as an independent songwriter. He's emerged as a musician that just won't stop reinventing himself. And this album is no exception. "Hello Hurricane" definitely shows some of the changes that Foreman, as well as the rest of the band, has been going through.

It opens with "Needle and Haystack Life," a U2-style rock number reminiscent of the band's 2005 release "Nothing Is Sound." Soon following is the lead single "Mess of Me," a punchy progressive rock tune that talks about entropy and the determination to change. "There ain't no drug that they can sell..." Foreman sings, "the sickness is myself.... I've made a mess of me. I want to spend the rest of my life alive."

Later songs delve into topics such as purpose ("Bullet Soul"), desperation ("Free"), and the search for God ("Yet"). "The Sound (John M. Perkins' Blues)" comes off like the lament of a revolutionary who has dedicated his life to loving others through implementing social change. "This is the sound of a heartbeat, this

is the sound of the discontented mouths of a haunted nation. We are the voice of breaking down," Foreman croons. Its a compelling message, one that echoes throughout the rest of this record: this nation has not found hope in ordinary things.

"Your Love is a Song" talks about God's love like it's a blatant reality that employs everything to create a musical message to the world. "I hear you breathing in, another day begins... Oh, your love is a symphony all around me, running to me." In this song, Jon Foreman is presenting a concept that isn't very often explored or thought of. His imagery has anti-theological ramifications that are simultaneously mind-blowingly refreshing and subversively thought provoking!

Virtually the only negative "Hello Hurricane" confronts the listener with is that Switchfoot's lyrics seem to have lost some of their variety and complexity. While the three preceding Switchfoot albums have had more of a polished sound and lyrics that were seamlessly conceived, this one features a collection of songs that are a bit more off-balance, with lyrics a little less shoe-shiney and a slight bit more repetitive.

Nonetheless, I really enjoy the new Switchfoot sound. It's catchy, but there's also depth. It's easy listening, but it also makes you think. The guitars make you want to mosh, the vocals make you want to stop and listen, and the lyrics inspire you to keep on the look-out for hope in a world of entropy. "Hello Hurricane" definitely deserves a stormy four out of five stars.



Weekly Weather Predictions

Wednesday-12/2	Thursday-12/3	Friday-12/4	Saturday-12/5	Sunday-12/6	Monday-12/7	Tuesday-12/8
Cloudy w/ Sun 50°	Sunny & Breezy 50°	Cloudy w/ Sun 48°	Sunny 45°	Sunny & Breezy 40°	Cloudy w/ Sun 41°	Sunny 37°

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