

The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication
Vol. 42 No. 16

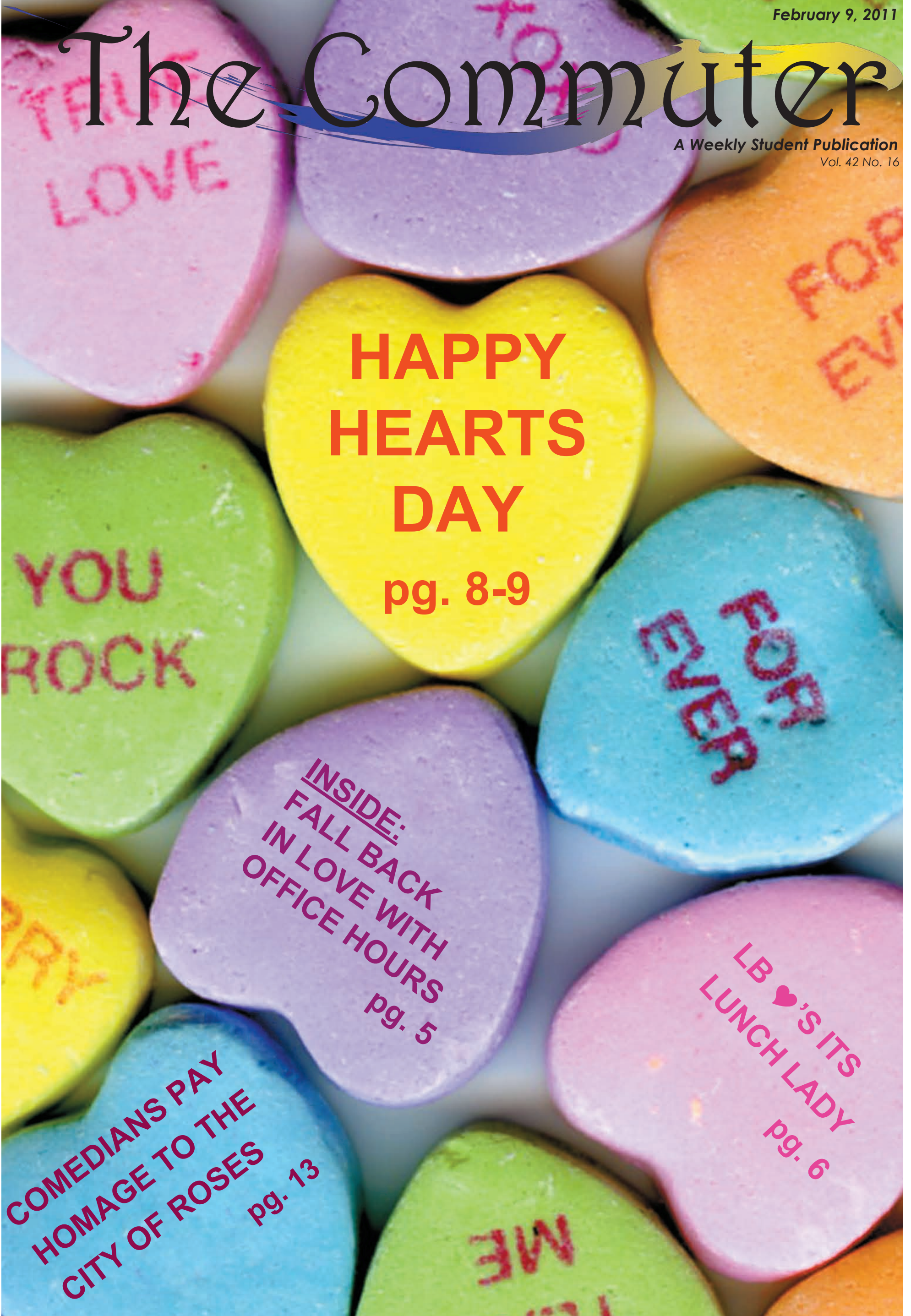
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LUNCH LADY
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The Commuter

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Shades of Gray

After reading my article last week, someone turned to me and said, "See? Condoleezza Rice is intelligent." I responded, "I am aware of that." He replied, "But you said you disagree with almost everything she's ever said." So? Just because I am aware she is a very intelligent woman doesn't mean I have to agree with her.



Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

On a similar note, I agree with some things Bill Maher says, but I still think he is a pretentious ass who causes more problems than he solves. Just because somebody doesn't align with your political leanings doesn't mean he is automatically an idiot, or that you have to think he is.

I can't help feeling that comments like the one directed at me expose a problem in the United States, namely one of perception. It seems that politics here are increasingly polarized, and that is disturbing. As a nation founded on a mixing of ideas, splitting into an increasingly black and white worldview helps absolutely nobody.

Americans are people. Most of us are not ideologues and caricatures that walk around eternally spouting party propaganda. Yes, I'm liberal, yet I support the war in Afghanistan, and I don't think the military gets the support it needs. I know that if it weren't for people who are willing to put their lives on the line we wouldn't be a free country. I support the Second Amendment and with the exception of weapons like SAWs and M240s, I am happy with the access we have to firearms. Likewise, one of my best friends is in the military. He supports gay rights, thinks "don't ask don't tell" is criminal, and wants to see a more European-style of universal health care implemented here.

As said before, I think this is largely an

issue of perception, and that the media is the main perpetrator of this. Perhaps Jon Stewart summed it up perfectly when he said of the media: "The 24-hour political pundit perpetual panic conflictinator didn't cause our problems but makes solving them harder."

Our media likes to focus on the extremists because they sell better. FOX News doesn't help anybody by regularly referring to ideological opponents as "liberal Nazis," nor do the more-left media sources help by only showing the racist/crazy branch of the Republican Party. If you only relied on the media, you'd think that every conservative is a militaristic, pro-torture, white-supremacist, Jesus freak who wants to bomb everything in the world that looks at us funny. Or you'd think that every liberal is a communist/Nazi hippie, that hates the military, wants to ban all guns and turn America into a dictatorship. While obviously there are crazy people out there, they are the exception rather than the rule.

I would argue that most of us want something similar, namely a prosperous, independent, healthy, equal, and happy society. People just don't agree on the best method of getting there, and that's fine; we never have had a consensus, and we never will. What's important is that we realize that we are all people, and that all sides of the issues (there are a lot more than two) have some good and bad ideas. As said before, it is this blending of ideas and values that made us a great country, and we should continue the tradition.

Just because somebody doesn't align with your political leanings doesn't mean they are automatically an idiot ...



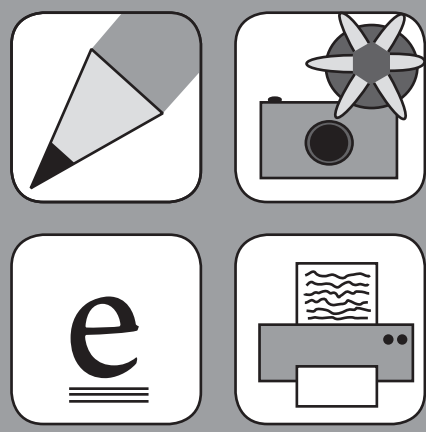

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Tuition Increase Burns Already Empty Pockets

I'm broke. I have hardly any money at all. So, if anyone should be against tuition increasing, you would think it would be me, right? Wrong.

I heard about the recent proposition to raise the cost per credit by a few dollars once again, and thought, "Well, why not?" Now, this sounds flippant, like I am ignoring the financial crisis plaguing the country, but I assure you I am taking that into account.

I support the tuition raise because I care about the quality of my education. As LBCC's budget goes downhill, so does the level of excellence in the services LBCC provides students every day.

For example, I am taking a Spanish 101 class this term, and next term I will be taking Spanish 102. Unfortunately, the budget for the Spanish department is insufficient to support my teacher's wages, so he is leaving. Because of that, I will have to take Spanish 102 with a different teacher, who may not be as effective as my current teacher is.

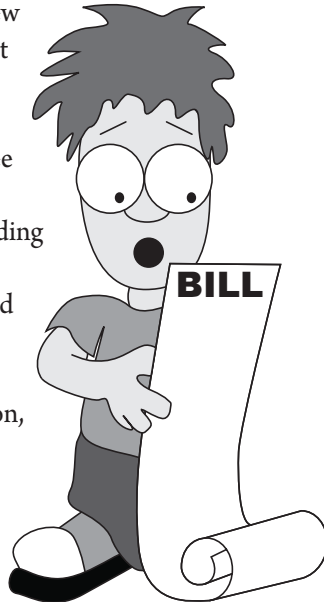


Jordan Tunstill
A&E Editor

Also, I've realized there are ways to get your education paid for besides just paying out of your own pocket. For example, I am in a program that pays for 12 of my credits every term, as well as all of my books. There are many programs like this. As students, we just need to take advantage of the opportunities offered to us.

Finally, is a few more dollars per credit really that big of a deal? I know I buy a cup of Starbucks coffee occasionally, and I see people at school spending money all the time. If cutting back on my bad coffee habit can save jobs and increase the quality of my education, then I'm all for that.

Bye, coffee.



LBCC's Student Programming Board Presents:

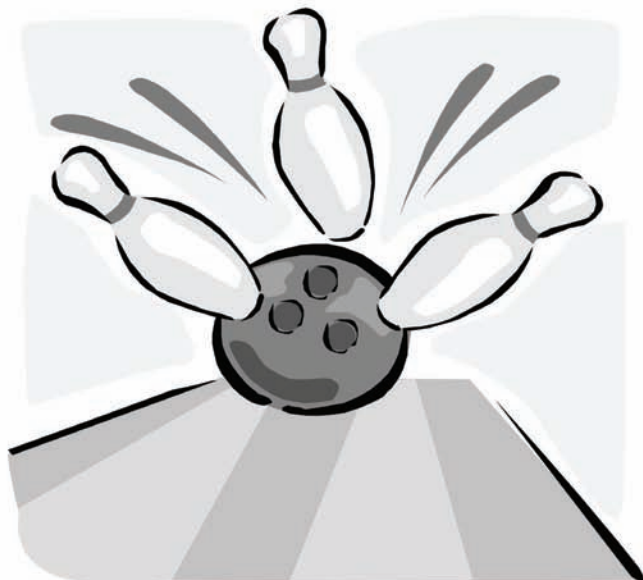
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& MINI GOLF TOURNAMENT

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BACK *in the* DAY

Adam LaMascus
Opinion Editor

This day in history ...

Feb. 9, 1920: Norway wins?

The Svalbard Treaty is signed, giving Norway sole sovereignty over the Svalbard Archipelago, a tiny cluster of islands in the Arctic circle with some coal and oil reserves. There are no roads linking the various settlements that hold the approx. 2,500 residents of the archipelago. The only means of transportation are snowmobile, skis, plane, and helicopter. Svalbard experiences 99 days of continuous sunlight during the summer and 84 days of continual night in the winter. Um, no thanks.

Feb. 10, 1258: For the Horde!

The Mongol horde under Hulagu Khan sack and destroy Baghdad, the capitol of the Abbasid Caliphate, which is ended by this destruction. Somewhere between 100,000 and 1 million people are killed during the sacking, including the Caliph Al-musta'sim, who is wrapped in a rug and trampled to death by horses. Baghdad, which had been one of the greatest cities on earth, is left a smoldering ruin that is uninhabited for several hundred years.

Feb. 11, 1938: Dave? What are you doing, Dave?

The world's first science fiction television program is created by the BBC. The show is an adaptation of a 1921 play "R.U.R." by the Czech playwright Karel Capek. The word "robot" is created by Capek for his play and is derived from the Czech word "robota" which is roughly translated as "forced labor performed by serfs." In "R.U.R.," humans manufacture humanoid robots and use them for manual labor, but they revolt against this oppression and wipe out the human race. HAL would approve. I'm sorry Dave, but I'm afraid I can't do that.

Feb. 12, 2002: Not a quick process ...

The war crimes trial of former President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia begins. During the trial, Milosevic is accused of: "genocide; complicity in genocide; deportation; murder; persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds; inhumane acts/forcible transfer; extermination; imprisonment; torture; willful killing; unlawful confinement; wilfully causing great suffering; unlawful deportation or transfer; extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly; cruel treatment; plunder of public or private property; attacks on civilians; destruction or willful damage done to historic monuments and institutions dedicated to education or religion; unlawful attacks on civilian objects." Milosevic dies in his cell in 2006 before the trial is over.

Feb. 13, 1692: Over 78 served Scotlandwide!

Over 78 men, women, and children of the Clan MacDonald of Glencoe are murdered by Clan Campbell for not pledging allegiance to the new King William of Orange quickly enough. This is remembered in Scotland as "Mort Ghlinne Comhann," which means "murder of Glen Coe." Frequent actions like these are why the Campbells were really hated across all of Scotland.

Feb. 14, 1945: Ends justify the means?

The Royal Air Force and the United States Army Air Force continues a firebombing campaign of the German city of Dresden, a cultural gem, that lasts from Feb. 13-15. Approximately 25,000 people are killed, and 15 square miles of the city are completely leveled. To this day there is argument whether the bombing was a legitimate military act or a war crime. Winston Churchill refers to the bombing as an "act of terror."

Feb. 15, 1965: Oh Canada-eh!

Canada replaces its national flag, the "Canadian Red Ensign," with the modern red and white maple leaf flag. I'm just glad our northern neighbors have a maple leaf on their flag instead of swords or AK-47s like many other nations do.

Thought for the week:

"You must obey the law, always, not only when they grab you by your special place."

-Vladimir Putin



Alyssa Archer



Shayne Morgan

Scenes Around Campus

Left: Students learn about air medical services from the REACH helicopter when it touched down on campus on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Above: The DAC (Diversity Achievement Center) celebrates the Chinese New Year Thursday, Feb. 3 with a traditional Chinese Dragon Dance.

Right: Art students from Analee Fuentes' class pose in front of their recreations of two Giuseppe Arcimboldo pieces in the LB Commons.

See more photos from all of these events online at commuter.linnbenton.edu.



Cameron Vasseur

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Office Hours: Q&A with Lucette Wood

Audrey Gomez
Copy Editor

Lucette Wood teaches English and writing at LBCC. She also helps organize the Valley Writers (VW) Series.

Commuter: What are your favorite classes to teach?

Lucette Wood: I teach a lot of the professional workplace writing, which I enjoy. I love teaching children's lit. It's a lot of fun and people actually use the information and they share books with their children and with the children in the classroom; they're (students who take the class) either teachers or parents usually. It's really fun to hear all of the reports back, so you get to see the effects of it, which is nice.

C: Are there any classes you would like to teach that you aren't now?

LW: Probably more minority lit. courses. I taught Latin American lit. six years ago. I taught a critical thinking course lately, and I used a lot of diversity components in that course – which was fun.

C: Is there a particularly memorable experience from one of your classes or the Writer's series that you would like to share?

LW: Some of my favorite experiences at the VW events are the writing workshops. The creative fabric that is woven after an inspiring reading and in the supportive presence of an engaged and appreciative audience is remarkable. The last time Paulann Petersen came, three years ago now, is one of my cherished moments. The room was equally filled with students, community members, staff and faculty and all were responding to a springboard Petersen provided. When participants volunteered their results, written in just a few minutes, the quality was astounding. It was a testament of the marriage between reading and writing and the fruits of the inspiration authors provide. Paul



provided by LBCC
English and writing instructor Lucette Wood

Hawkwood read a poem about a homeless man he encountered after leaving a building in a metropolitan area, and the image lingers with me. His work was just one of countless shared.

In the classroom, the moments that make me smile are those where students' discussions guide and fill the classroom, exploring the boundaries of the learning objective I hold and filling it in a way that mere instruction could not. Those are the times I don't need to be present. Those are the moments I cherish.

C: It seems that student interaction is a key aspect of your teaching style. Have you ever taught an online course? If so, did you feel you were able to engage the students on the same level you have in a traditional on-campus course?

LW: Yes, student interaction is a central element in my teaching strategy. When I first began teaching, my mentor told me to ever only be 80 percent prepared for class. I had no idea what that meant. Through the years, I've come to believe it is essential to give enough room for a class to breathe and move in a direction that may not follow my outline but is drawn by student engagement. It means you

Where to find Lucette

Office: SSH-208
Phone: 541-917-4620
Email: woodl@linnbenton.edu
Office Hours: Mon. 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Wed. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
and 3:30-4:30 p.m.

have to have flexibility to allow students to engage and, in return, engage with them, not disengage behind a scope you are cemented to. Learning is about processing and applying information to the context of our understanding and experience; it is not simply about receiving information. My job is bigger than delivering information. I need to know individuals in order to effectively teach them.

When I teach online, it is also important to know the individuals I teach, and there are ways to build that relationship with them individually. First, I work to develop a friendly, approachable persona through the tone and the words I use to communicate. I build assignments that ask students to process and reflect on the information personally; I want to know what their experiences are, how they filter the information, and what they build out of their analysis.

My approach to teaching is relational. In order to learn, we have to believe we have something to learn and believe the teacher has something to teach. Additionally, the credibility of the teacher is built on an foundation of ethics and goodwill. When we smile in the hallway, we communicate our goodwill, and it is no different in the classroom. The final component to being an effective learner and teacher is humility. Offer what you know, admit what you don't, and be open to receiving what students and others can teach you. Humility always comes before wisdom.

To see the full profile, go online at:
commuter.linnbenton.edu

Chocolates, Prizes, and Dead Authors

Audrey Gomez
Copy Editor

Spend Valentine's Day with your favorite dead author. Valley Writers invites you to "Bring your lunch, and ... share our love of literature and chocolate." They are hosting an open-mike reading in the Albany campus Library Reading Room on Monday, Feb. 14 at noon.

You can read a passage from your favorite dead author, or just come and listen. If you decide to read, you don't have to dress up, but there will be a prize for the best costume. Those who read are encouraged to bring a brief bio for introduction.

English and writing instructor Lucette Wood, who is helping to organize the event, said the idea came from a conversation with her office mate, Jed Wyman, about honoring past writers: "We were talking about a time a friend of his dressed up as the author Beatrix Potter. So that's what inspired it. We decided we should dress up and honor our favorite authors and just read. It's very low pressure."

Wyman says, "It is always exciting to imagine yourself in another era, and writers help us do that. If you could have lived in another time, when would that have been? Is there a writer from that period who helps you get there?"

Wood could not confirm who would be reading, but Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Sylvia Plath are rumored to attend.

Dead Authors Reading

When: Monday, Feb. 14 at noon
Where: Library Reading Room, Albany

The DAC Places Flags to Remember

Cameron Vasseur
Staff Writer

Of all the ways in which humanity has chosen to express its dislike for those of differing opinions, races, religions, and everything else under the sun, none has ever been quite as horrible or memorable as genocide.

Despite how horrible the act of genocide is, it is for this reason that we must not allow ourselves to forget the consequences of it lest we repeat history. This was exactly the thought that the Diversity Achievement Center

had in mind when they placed the flags of varying colors in the courtyard in January. Each flag was to represent twenty thousand people who had died in an act of genocide, and there were many out there.

With so many different cases, the total number was well over 20 million people for the last two centuries. Though this might seem barely worth noticing on the global scale, you must keep in mind that several hundred thousand to several million were killed en masse to assure this number. In addition to this thought,

it also must be realized that these were not spread out over several occasions, but were only the product of seven different acts.

For the display done by the DAC, the Holocaust has been the central theme each time because it is so recent in our history. It is still the most horrific that has been seen since the near-extermination of the Native Americans from the 1400s on. But with so many flags, it can easily be seen that the Holocaust is far from the only event displayed.




Lisa Singleton
A student volunteer from the Diversity Achievement Center helps set up flags in the LBCC courtyard representing the 20,000 people who died as a result of genocide.

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Linn-Benton's "Lunch Lady" Judi Madarus brightens students' days while working at the Courtyard Café in Takena Hall. Kay Roth

Service with a Smile

Kay Roth
Contributing Writer

From her stool at the cash register, she meets the students and staff who pass her way. She doesn't just look at the items set on the shiny silver counter and punch in the prices on the computer screen. She stops a moment to look at the person, to connect, offering a smile and a sincere, "Have a great day."

Judi Madarus might not be well known to students by name, but everyone knows Linn-Benton's "Lunch Lady." And she quickly knows them.

"I love the students," she said. "I like to call them by name."

Student Lisa Singleton said she appreciates what she called that "spark of recognition" Madarus shows to each person who comes through her line.

"She's amazing," said Singleton. "She remembers me from a year ago."

Even though everyone entering the Courtyard Café seems to be in a rush, customers tend to slow down a bit and make small talk with her. It's hard not to; she's just such a nice person. But, who among us actually knows her?

Madarus has been a mainstay at LBCC for 31 years. Although she retired three years ago, staying away from the college just wasn't in the cards. She quickly returned as a part-time cashier.

She now provides her great customer service to a second generation of students, which is pretty appropriate, considering she is a second-generation employee.

Madarus' first job at LBCC was washing dishes.

"I started upstairs in the dishroom with my mom," she said.

When her mother retired, Madarus took over her supervisory position. "I worked on the hot line upstairs," she said, smiling at the memories.

Eventually, she moved to the Courtyard

Café where this generation of students and staff have gotten to know her.

Over the years, the café has become a second home for her, and she considers the people who pass through the café as more than customers.

They are family, and like family, they have been through good times and bad times together. "They really rallied around me," she said of the time when her husband passed away 10 years ago.

In addition to her radiant smile, people passing through her line can't help noticing her black tabard filled with pins, and not just random pins. Madarus' tabard is filled with angel pins - pins that sparkle, pins made of metal, big pins, and small pins. All angels, all the time.

She started with one. Suddenly, people were bringing her more. "Students, faculty, friends - everybody," she said. Even her three grandchildren presented her with a pin that holds three little angels and is complete with the word "Nana."

"Yes, I do believe in angels."

She also loves flowers, as noted by the colorful bouquet that always adorns the counter near her register. In the winter, they are often silk flowers. Other times of the year they are fresh cut from her garden at home.

When she's not at LBCC or working in her garden, Madarus enjoys being with her family, playing Bingo and shopping with friends.

How long will she keep working? "Until I'm not able to."

Fellow Courtyard Café cashier Jennifer Reeser smiled when asked to describe Madarus. "Very friendly." Reeser gave Madarus great reviews for her outstanding customer service. She also appreciates Madarus as a co-worker and says, "She's fun to work with."

In addition to her three grandchildren, Madarus has two daughters. And, of course, the LBCC students and staff.

"Family and friends - they are the greatest asset in life."

THE COMMONS FARE

2/9-2/15

Wednesday
Dishes: Baked Stuffed Snapper, Braised Lamb and Cheese and Fried Onions over Spaetzel
Soup: Gaspacho and Cream of Broccoli

Thursday
Dishes: Beer-battered Fish Sandwich, Cider-brined Pork Chop and Cheese and Mushroom Crepes
Soup: Grilled Vegetable Beef and Dill Potato Chowder

Friday
Chef's Choice

Monday
Dishes: Chicken Fricassee, Fettuccine Bolognese and Portabella Mushroom topped w/ Spinach, a Poached Egg and Béarnaise w/ Rice
Soups: Italian Sausage and Cream of Broccoli

Tuesday
Dishes: Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Patty Melt and Vegetable Lasagna
Soups: Creamy Chicken Mushroom and Vegetarian Vegetable

“Cabaret” Comes to Campus

Sarah McClanahan
Editorial Assistant

“The Cabaret” is coming to LBCC’s campus!

The show is a fundraiser to help support the choirs traveling to Reno, Nev., to compete in The American International Choral Festival in May.

The show will be directed by music instructor James Reddan, with musical accompaniment provided by Diana Hancock. The show’s performances range from pop to musical theater and everything in between. The event will be a fun way to showcase student talent and enjoy some entertainment.

“The idea for the Cabaret was actually proposed by several students who helped do all of the planning and get the Cabaret started,” Reddan said.

“We have many ideas for fundraisers and will be working on other ideas throughout this and next year. We are currently looking at the schedule to get some of these off the ground next term.”

He made it very clear that it’s all about his

students’ successes and growth and not about him.

“Trips and competitions are not about my personal goals; they are about educational goals for the students and participants in the choral music program. So, on a personal level, it is not about me, it is always about the students. My goals for the students are to experience choral music on an international scale with some of the top choirs from around the world, to work with world-renowned clinicians, and to get feedback from others about how they are doing and how to move forward. One of the best ways to learn is to get feedback in performance. It’s not about the awards, it’s about what we learn throughout the process.”

“Preparing for a choral competition or festival takes a lot of teamwork where we all have to work together. The goal is always to do our best, and that’s what really matters. Any awards the students receive are just icing on the cake of an amazing learning experience.”

Among the 20 students who will be a part of “The Cabaret” are Jordan Uhlman, a music education major, and Erik Henry, a double major in music education

and vocal performance. They were very excited about the opportunity to be involved.

“I love music and singing, and it’s a great way to showcase your talents. When you audition for anything, of course you’re nervous, but James makes it a welcoming environment,” said Uhlman

The piece she will be performing is a humorous song from the musical “Urinetown” entitled “It’s a Privilege to Pee.”

“I had fun with it,” Henry said. “I just prepared my piece, sang it and enjoyed myself.” His piece is “Let Beauty Awake,” by Ralph Vaughn-Williams.

Uhlman and Henry will be taking part in the tour to Reno this spring. Both expressed similar goals and ideas about the experience.

“It will be a fun opportunity for everyone going,” Uhlman said. “Competition makes you better – especially healthy competition. I am hoping to better myself and learn from other competitors.”

“The Cabaret” will be held in the Music Room (SSH-213) Monday, Feb. 24, 7-10 p.m. The cost is \$5.



Join the Fight to Punch Out Hunger with the Hot Shot Cafe

David Mayotte
Contributing Writer

In America it is hard to think of people not having enough to feed their family or even themselves. But we have individuals who need help from time to time at LBCC. It is in good nature that we try and help one another out whenever possible.

How can you get involved or even help? It’s as easy as getting a morning cup of coffee.

“Punch Out Hunger” an event at the Hot Shot Café aimed gathering donations for campus student assistance programs. Each time you make a purchase at the café, located in the Student Union, you can bring

in a canned/boxed food donation and receive an extra punch towards a free drink on your Hot Shot coffee card. Each time you fill your card and get a free drink, your name will be put in to a drawing for a \$20 gift card. The drawing will be held at the end of each month.

All donated food will go towards the LB Lunch Box, a program run through the Student

Life and Leadership office to assist students in need of a little help with food. For more information about the LB Lunch Box you can stop by the Student Union for the information and paperwork.

This is surely a fight that everyone can agree on to join.

This Month’s Special

This month’s specialty drink menu is themed after a box of chocolates. All the specialty mochas, lattes, and Italian cream sodas will be 16 oz. and only cost \$2.50.

Nice Girls Do — NEGOTIATE!

Wednesday
February 16
Noon-1 p.m.

Diversity
Achievement
Center, 2nd Floor
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SPEAKERS

Western Oregon University’s
Karen Sullivan-Vance Ed.M and
Dr. Katherine Schmidt

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Academic Success Seminars

Just drop in, or sign up in WebRunner (formerly SIS) under “Study Skills.”
www.linnbenton.edu/go/webrunner

Active Learning Strategies

Wednesday	February 9	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	February 9	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Accomplish Your Academic Goals

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

Academic Success Seminars are organized by the Learning Center. For more information and to sign up, visit SIS under “Study Skills” or call 541-917-4684.

LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, OR 97321, phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TDD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

Boost Your
COLLEGE
KNOWLEDGE!

Always 50
minutes!

ALWAYS
FREE!

Always
helpful!



Linn-Benton
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rules of the Rom-Com

Ashley Christie
Page Designer

two guys she likes to choose from. One of them will be Mr. Perfect while the other is ... well ... not. Who will she choose? (see Rule #1)

I've seen a lot of romantic comedies, and after awhile they all start to look the same. There's a reason for that. Whether the movie leans more toward the romantic or comedic side of rom-com, there are certain rules that every rom-com follows, for the better or worse of the genre. In honor of Valentine's Day, here are a few of those rom-com clichés.



Rule #6 - The big date: There will be some major event that we've been building up to the entire film. This could be a prom, wedding, major holiday, or company party. Here, everything is laid on the table. There may or may not be a huge fight, but the main characters will definitely go through a rough patch.

Rule #1 - It's funny because they're total opposites: The man and woman *must* be complete opposites. It would be improbable that they might fall in love with someone that they share a common interest with or maybe interact with on a regular basis. Where's the fun in that?

Rule #7 - "I never want to see you again." (Until the last 10 min.): The inevitable break-up. Now, get ready for a montage of quick cuts, back and forth showing us how miserable they are, set to a song that is popular at the time but will now forever be known as "that one song from that one movie" every time it comes on the radio.

Rule #2 - "So, how'd you two meet?": A rom-com must have a meet-cute. You know, the scene where the two main characters first meet. It will be very contrived and unrealistic, such as a life-saving feat or friends/colleagues making a bet over who can get a date first.



Rule #8 - The completely unplausible romantic gesture: The guy decides to get her back with a dramatic and over-the-top gesture that makes every girl turn to her boyfriend and say, "Why can't you be more like him?" It could be a gift, or just a declaration of his love, but it will involve him sacrificing himself on the alter of dignity in a very public way. There's also a strong possibility he'll get arrested for sneaking past airport security to get to her gate in time.

Rule #3 - Insert sidekick for comedic relief: A rom-com sidekick plays a very important role. They are the best friend/family member the main character confides in and lets the audience know what they are thinking without a voice-over inner monologue. They will usually be a bit quirky and will have the most funny and memorable lines of the entire movie.

Rule #9 - But, I love you: The final ten minutes of a rom-com can make or break the entire movie. Nine out of ten times it will break it. No matter how great the first 80 minutes are, it will be ruined by a long, sappy monologue by the guy about how he can't go on without her. Cue for the big sweeping orchestra music to start in the background as he leans in for the kiss.



Rule #4 - Geek to chic: The leading woman may start out an ugly duckling, but there will be one scene where she'll get a makeover and come out drop dead gorgeous. For the big reveal, the camera will start at her feet and pan up with a quick shot to see the guy's jaw hit the floor. (I know, Sandra Bullock is pretty, huge shocker.)

Rule #10 - It's all about the casting: This one isn't a rule as much as it is a guideline ... or warning. Anytime you see one or more of the following names, chances are you're in for a rom-com: Hugh Grant, Matthew McConaughey, Ashton Kutcher, Sandra Bullock, Kate Hudson, and/or Drew Barrymore.



Rule #5 - Decisions, decisions: The love triangle is classic. One of our two main characters, usually the girl, will have

Show Your Love While Supporting Your School

Valentine's Day Flower Sale

Jill Mahler
Staff Writer

For those searching for a romantic way to show how much you care for your Valentine, look no further than LBCC campus.

LBCC is having its annual Valentine's Day flower sale in Tadena Hall. Not only will you be able to show someone your affection, all proceeds will support the designated clubs selling tickets. According to Art Mota, program assistant for Student Life and Leadership, "Without fundraisers like these, it would be difficult to have clubs in existence."

Tickets will be on sale until February 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$2 per flower, or \$10 for six. The clubs will sell red, white and/or pink carnations, and sentiment cards will be available at no extra cost. Flowers will be delivered on the main campus on Valentine's Day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Before finding their way to LBCC, the carnations find a home at a local flower shop in Albany, "Flowers and More." Last year, with 450 flowers purchased, they sold out. "We expect to do the same this year," said Mota.



Terry Edwards and Melissa Dewar pre-sell flowers for Valentine's Day.

Happy Valentine's Day!

from: **The Commuter**
Your Source for News and Events at LBCC

Valentine's Day Flower Sale

Show your appreciation & affection!

Flowers will be delivered on the Albany campus only
Feb. 14 between 9 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Order flowers in Tadena Hall
February 8 - 11
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

\$2 for one flower or \$10 for six

Flowers also may be purchased (subject to availability) in the Student Life & Leadership Office
February 14, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the LBCC Student Programming Board and Campus Clubs.

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Kena Brua at the Golden Wishbone Salon and Spa

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Book an Appt. w/ Kena today

312SW Jefferson Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97333
541-754-2244
goldenwishbone.com

***Bridal Show**

Sunday, February 20th, 2011
Show Hours: Noon to 5pm

Santiam Place LLC
139 Main St., Lebanon

Free Admission Door Prizes www.santiamplace.com

The Cost of Love

Toddlers in Togas, Candy with Coconut: Why I Hate Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is upon us once more, filling us with the burning desire to find the perfect mate to share the day with. For those of us who have already found our significant others, a romance-filled day of wonder happily awaits.

Perhaps he sent a bouquet to your workplace, or perhaps you caught a glimpse of him stashing away a little black box in his underwear drawer. Whatever your expectation and wherever your imagination leads you, it might be wise to consider where your heart really is this Valentine's Day.



Kara Glenn
Contributing Writer

What makes this day more spectacular and special is the fact that we are celebrating the love between two people and attempting to make it one of the most memorable occasions of our lives. However, when you take away all the glitz and glamour, it seems many are only in it for the gifts.

I often hear stories of women who are devastated over the fact their significant other didn't purchase expensive jewelry or even take them out for a fancy dinner. Instead, they received a homemade card, some flowers, a kiss on the cheek followed by an "I love you" and takeout. (Funny, I don't often hear stories of men complaining that their partners didn't get them anything at all, or saying they feel down because all they got was Chinese food and a movie.)

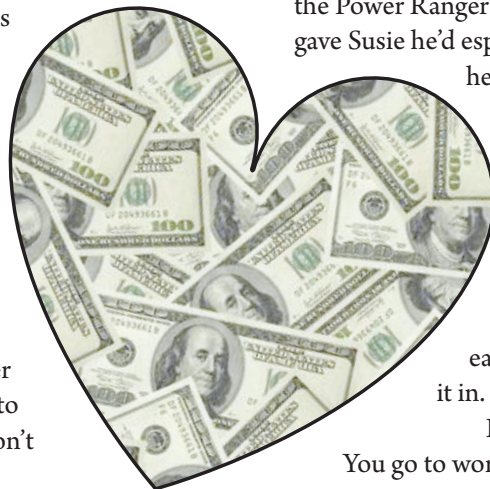
As a result, many women who get these gifts from the heart are disappointed, complain to their girlfriends about how cheap their man is, and may even feel resentment for not receiving a new diamond necklace.

It is difficult for women not to have these feelings when commercials imply they will only know they are loved when their man buys them something expensive.

In any case, we ought to be expressing and celebrating love daily. Why we exaggerate and present expensive gifts and reserve special candle-lit dinners at fancy restaurants for one day, I will never understand.

Unfortunately, Valentine's Day has become a money-wasting, female-oriented holiday. With a projected \$18.6 billion in revenue this season (a whopping 5.8 percent increase from last year according to dailyfinance.com), America is sure buying into the holiday.

Whatever the reasons, and whatever the case, I believe that the perfect Valentine's Day, or any day, isn't made from materialistic, worldly goods. I believe it is made from whatever you make of it: the perfect mix of all of the favorite things you share as a couple. It doesn't mean you shouldn't go out of your way if that's what you enjoy and can manage, but definitely remember who you love, why you love them, and try not to get too excited or disappointed if your plans don't exceed expectations.



It's Valentine's Day, a glorious holiday when we celebrate love. It's a special day where we show our appreciation for those people in our lives we really care about.

Ugh. [Eyeroll]

First of all, it's not a real holiday. February 14 is just another day. Hallmark's influence aside, banks are still open, mail still gets delivered, and you still have to go to work. Therefore, it's not a holiday. They even tried to associate the day with a deity to worship, but still no luck.

Maybe the problem is that the deity is Cupid. In Roman mythology, Cupid (Eros in the Greek) is a god sent by his jealous mother to shoot a beautiful human princess with his arrow to make her fall in love with the ugliest creature in the world. While sneaking into her room he misses and ends up shooting himself. I'm supposed to entrust my love life to mamma's boy with bad aim?

It's no wonder chocolate flies off the shelves this time of year. But it's not just ordinary Hershey's. No, you want to treat yourself and splurge a little so you get the \$30 heart-shaped variety box. Only that variety includes chocolates with coconut, and cherry-filled, and [sigh] dark chocolate. You end up throwing half the box out and feeling worse than when you started.

Wasn't this day easier when we were kids? You'd go to school and have a shoebox full of valentines because you had to have one for everybody and everybody had to have one for you. You felt so loved.

Until you noticed that on the Power Ranger valentine Bobby gave Susie he'd especially written "I [heart] you" to her and yours didn't even have your name on it. (Plus his signature looked a lot like his mom's; we hadn't even learned cursive yet.)

No matter how fair your teachers tried to make it, it was a giant popularity contest. It was easy to see who was totally phoning it in.

Has anything really changed? You go to work and compare bouquet sizes on



Ashley Christie
Page Designer



desks and spend the day listening to who is going where for dinner and how expensive it's going to be. Robert is going to take Susan to Chez Make-Me-Gag and she's getting the lobster. I won't even remind her that she's allergic to shellfish.

Now, I'm not one for corporate conspiracy theories, but if there were one, I think this is it: fancy restaurants, candy makers, greeting card companies, florists, jewelers, lingerie stores, and whoever manufactures those ridiculous little pink bears that say "I wuv you" when you squeeze their paw, all working together with one common goal – to get your money.



Erin Vencill

On no other day of the year does a man spend more money to try to get laid (except maybe prom night).

I'm tired of the bad poetry about roses and violets. I'm tired of people thinking a sheep saying "I love ewe" or a bee buzzing "Bee mine" is witty. I'm tired of bad romantic comedies where the female lead goes all googly-eyed and weak-kneed after one cliché-filled monologue from the guy, no matter

how big of a jerk he is. And I'm tired of radio requests for Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On." The ship sank. What kind of a metaphor is that supposed to be for your relationship?

Valentine's Day is supposed to be when you tell those you care about that you love them. Those three little words are expected and anticipated. But doesn't that make them feel kind of disingenuous? A wise man once said, "All you need is love." What you don't need is an over-commercialized, meaningless non-holiday.

The best thing about Valentine's Day is the day after Valentine's Day – the candy is half off.

PERSPECTIVES

What is your favorite thing to receive for Valentine's Day?



Debra Schiller,
AMA

"Yellow roses. Yellow is my favorite color."



Sharon Pruitt,
General Studies

"Chocolate candy. It's yummy and delicious."



Miles Fajar,
Business

"I'd have to say Snickers. It's my favorite kind of candy."



Alyssa Hatia,
Equine Science

"Any good chocolate. Especially dark chocolate."



Benji Taylor,
Undecided

"A thoughtful note. Just keeping it real."

MOTO MAN RIDES AGAIN

Where can I get a jacket?

Chris Brotherton
Staff Writer

Where is a good place to get a riding jacket? People who ride in ski jackets or letterman's jackets often ask me this question on the road, when they start to crave the protection of windproof materials and foam armor.

Proper riding gear really can make the difference between a good ride and a bad one.

The materials used in the production of riding gear are tested and used specifically for protection against weather, crashes, or both.

Let's start with the two main types of material: leather and textile. Both are abrasion resistant, so they will keep your skin on your body in the event of a crash. Usually textile is a little lighter and less expensive than leather.

There are a few online sources for getting riding apparel. DennisKirk.com has a very large selection (over 300) of men's jackets and riding suits alone. Another online source of riding apparel is Leatherup.com. They have a large selection of both leather and textile products, as well. The upside of shopping for jackets online is the prices are usually lower, as they are able to buy in bulk. Dennis Kirk even has a deal: If you spend over \$100 they pay for shipping.

The downside to ordering from an online store, however, is that riding gear needs to fit you a certain way. Having an experienced sales person to help you get the right fit and show you how to adjust the straps properly will make you a more comfortable and safer rider. A great store to check out is Cycle Gear in Salem, Ore.

Cycle Gear is a chain store, but it is very customer-service driven. They have a price-match guarantee -- they will match a price and knock off an extra 5 percent on any product found at a local retailer. The staff members are knowledgeable and most of them commute on motorcycles themselves. If there is something they don't have in the store, they will likely be able to order it. Employee Ron Davis said if the product you need is at a different store, they can have it shipped to your local store. Also, if there is something on their website you want, you can order it from the website while in the store and have it shipped directly to your house.

Getting a properly fitting jacket will keep loose material from slapping around in the wind, beating you up. Also the material of a motorcycle jacket keeps the wind out, helping to keep you warm and prevent dehydration. With a little shopping around, you will be able to find a jacket to suit your needs without costing you more than your tuition.

LBCC Men Lose by One

Scott Landgren
Sports Editor

Last Saturday night the LBCC men's basketball team fell to Lane Community College by a score of 46-45. It was another hard game for LBCC, and in the end it was another close loss.

LBCC's leading scorers were sophomore Mike Kruesi with 14 points and sophomore Taylor Roos with 13 points. LBCC won the rebounding battle against Lane; freshman Josh Yundt had a team high 12 rebounds on the night.

Many of the other team stats were almost even; LB had 11 turnovers while Lane only had 10. Lane had 10 assists while LB only had seven on the night.

"It was a good effort and a close game that really came down to the last five minutes of the game," said Head Coach Randy Falk.

The first half was one to forget -- for both teams. At the half, LB lead 23-18, but only shot 25 percent. Lane did not do much better, but they ended up shooting 27 percent in the first half.

LBCC picked it up in the second half by shooting 42.9 percent, but they only made one three-pointer and missed half of their free throws. For the game, LBCC ended up shooting 36.7 percent while Lane shot only 32 percent.



Chase Bansemer drives for a layup.

Tony Brown

One of the key stats was second-chance points in the game. LB did have 13 offensive rebounds but only 11 second-chance points. Lane, on the other hand, only had 11 offensive rebounds but had 17 second-chance points. Second-chance points are key in a close defensive battle.

"It was really a half-court game. Great defense played by both teams. We needed to get one or two more rebounds and make free throws down the stretch," said Coach Falk.

Looking at coach Falk's two keys -- rebounding and making free throws -- you can see that while LB did out-rebound Lane, they did not take full advantage of all the second-chance opportunities they had. The second thing was free throws. LB was 10-15 from the line, but only 3-6

in the second half, when coach Falk said they needed them the most.

With the loss, LBCC falls to 8-9 overall and now has a 5-3 record in the Southern division and sits alone in fourth place.

This week LBCC will play at Mt. Hood Community College on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and then return home to play Portland Community College on Saturday at 6 p.m. Linn-Benton beat Mt. Hood at home 75-64 on Jan. 15 and Portland 74-69 on Jan. 8.

Women Drop Game to Lane

Kiger Plews
Contributing Writer

The Linn-Benton women's basketball team lost Friday night to the Lane Titans 81-51. Lane was able to grab control of the game by jumping out to a 41-16 lead by halftime and was able to hold the Roadrunners off in the second half.

Sophomore Whitney Hughes led the scoring charge for the Roadrunners, collecting 12

points off the bench, while sophomore Sam Sanders and freshman Sami DeVore chipped in with nine apiece.

Freshman Heidi Halemeier led LBCC with 10 rebounds, but the Roadrunners couldn't overcome turnovers and a barrage of three-pointers by Lane. Linn-Benton committed 24 turnovers while Lane committed just 13. However, the real eye-popping stat of the game was Lane's three-

point shooting. The Titans attempted 40 threes and made 15, compared to LBCC making just 4.

Ashley Smith led Lane with 27 points and 11 rebounds.

With the loss, LBCC fell to 5-13 overall and 3-5 in the division. The Roadrunners next game is Friday Feb. 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham.

Heidi Halemeier makes a jump shot.



Tony Brown

LBCC / OSU Degree Partnership Program Day

- Academic Advising
- Admissions & General Information
- Financial Aid Information
- LBCC & OSU Advisors
- Free Pizza

**Wednesday, February 9
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Fireside Room, LBCC Albany Campus

**Also at the Benton Center on
Thursday, February 17, 4 – 6 p.m.**



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RALLY to SAVE EMPLOYMENT RELATED DAY CARE

**Where: State Capitol Building
955 Center St. NE, Salem**

**When: Wednesday, Feb. 9
Noon to 3pm**



**You are invited to attend the pre-rally event:
10am to Noon, inside**

saveerc@gmail.com
saveerc.blogspot.com



Ongoing

Northwest Artists Show

North Santiam Hall Gallery
Salem painters Carol Hausser and Cynthia Herron share the walls with Eugene artist Beverly Soasey, who works in mixed-media sculpture and assemblages. They will be on display until Feb. 25.

Help Punch-Out Hunger!

Hot Shot Café (next door to Student Life and Leadership)
For each food item a customer brings in until the end of the term, they will be eligible for extra stamps towards free coffee and a chance to win \$20 in gift certificates for the Hot Shot Café!

Wednesday 2/9

Could a Non-Traditional Career Be For You?

Noon - 1 p.m. • DAC
Join the TNT (Think Non-Traditional) Club as they host a panel of professional men and women from the working world that have chosen a non-traditional career for their gender. Hear their trials and triumphs and how they made the decision to follow their chosen career path. Pizza and soda provided to participants!

Active Learning Seminar:

Lebanon
1:30 - 2:20 p.m. • LC-202
Learn strategies to become an

active learner. Free.

Stereotypes and Labels Can Be a Good Thing ... Right?

2 p.m. • Diversity Achievement Center

Please join us for an open discussion facilitated by Dana Emerson and Mark Urista. Refreshments will be provided!

Active Learning Seminar

3 - 3:50 p.m. • WH-225
Learn strategies to become an active learner. Free.

Thursday 2/10

Budget Info. Session

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. • F-104
LBCC President Greg Hamann and Vice President of Finance and Operations Jim Huckestein will give a short presentation for students and then answer questions.

Stereotypes and Labels Can Be a Good Thing ... Right?

2 p.m. • DAC
Please join us for an open discussion facilitated by Dana Emerson and Mark Urista. Refreshments will be provided!

Eyes on the Prize Film Series

4 - 6 p.m. • DAC
Sponsored by the DAC Student Leaders.

Saturday 2/12

LBCC Women's and Men's Basketball Games

4 - 8 p.m.
Vs. Portland CC. Women play at 4 p.m. Men play at 6 p.m. Free admission for LBCC students and staff. General admission is \$2.

Monday 2/14

Dead Authors Reading

Noon • Library Reading Room
Join Valley Writers for a day to express your love for an

author that has passed but is not forgotten. Bring your lunch, and we will share our love of literature and chocolate.

PCDC Sweetheart Drawing

10 a.m. • Periwinkle Child Development Center
We're raising money this year to replace playground equipment. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. You can buy them at the center or from parents on campus.

Tuesday 2/15

How to Accomplish Your Academic Goals: Benton Center

5 - 5:50 p.m. • BC-232
Free.

Wednesday 2/16

Reading by Alison Ruch

10 a.m. • F-104
Alison Ruch writes short fiction and teaches composition and creative writing classes at LBCC. At the reading, she will introduce her fiction collection project, talk about themes she likes to explore, and reveal where she finds inspiration. She'll read one of her short stories, answer questions, and, if there's time, coordinate a short fiction writing activity.

I can't lose my Financial Aid! Please help me plan!

2 - 3:30 p.m.
Learn how to plan your classes for success and avoid losing your Financial Aid money. Sign up to reserve your seat, as there is limited space. You can email barstaw@linnbenton.edu or call 541-917-4782 to reserve your seat.

How to Accomplish Your Academic Goals

3 - 3:50 p.m. • WH-225
Free.



What do student leaders do?

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as the student leaders of the DAC: Ricky Zipp-Team Leader, Oz Galvez, Rinee Merritt, Mustafa Dhaba, and Emmanuel Bernal -Program Coordinators.

We are asked all of the time, "What is the DAC, and what exactly do you do in there?"

The mission of the DAC is to present students with opportunities for enrichment and engagement by providing diversity programming that promotes intercultural awareness, social justice, open and honest dialogue, and civic engagement, as well as, maintaining a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning, meeting, study, and social space.

Our goals as student leaders are to coordinate programs, activities, and events that raise awareness of the many aspects of diversity and social justice, encourage student participation, and create positive energy for all people on campus.

We can't do it alone!! We ask you to tell us what subjects and type of events you would like to see us do. Also, if anyone wants to coordinate and lead an event, we will assist you! Our Team meetings are every Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in the DAC. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Ricky Zipp
DAC Team Leader

LBCC'S LIVING ROOM
It's not just about the free coffee!

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).

Cashier (#8722, Albany) Are you personable and good with numbers? If you are available M-F 9am-4pm or 5pm some days, you should check this out!

Lawn & Garden Associate (#8723, Albany) If you are talker and learn easily, this retail position might just be right for you! Part-time and various

times—don't have to work late because it's the mall.

Insurance Billing Specialist (#8718, Albany) You've been waiting for a job like this and here it is! Part-time hours (24-32 hrs/week, 5 days/week) and wages are \$13-15/hr DOE.

CWE Wastewater Tech (#8632, Albany) Are you a science major and want to work at night? Work days right now, but has potential for becoming a graveyard position. Get experience and credits while working and getting paid \$10.45/hr to start.

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Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event.

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

Labels & Stereotypes can be a good thing... Right?



Please join a discussion facilitated by Communication Faculty Dana Emerson and Mark Urista, examining the role of labels and stereotypes in society. Participate in exercises that illuminate how labels and stereotypes are beneficial in creating our social cultural structure as well as destroying it.

Wednesday, February 9 • 1 p.m. & Thursday, February 10 • 2 p.m.
Diversity Achievement Center, 2nd Floor of Student Union



Persons having questions about or requests for special needs and accommodations should contact the Disability Coordinator at Linn-Benton Community College, RCH-105, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, Oregon 97321, Phone 541-917-4690 or via Oregon Telecommunications Relay TTD at 1-800-735-2900 or 1-800-735-1232. Contact should be made 72 hours or more in advance of the event. LBCC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

Burlesque Show Teases

Chris Brotherton
Staff Writer

I had always wanted to experience a burlesque show. This is like a strip tease, but with a little more than a naked body at the end.

Actually in most cases, the performer is wearing pasties (black electrical tape "x's" in this case) over their nipples. Also, there is more performance involved than a regular strip club dance.

I had the unique experience to see Violet Arcane perform at Plan B, a goth club in an industrial district of Portland.

Violet lives in North Carolina and belongs to a burlesque troupe called The Succubus Sorority. This was her first time performing in Oregon.

For the first show, she jumped on stage in a belly-dancing outfit, moving to the music of the club. After warming up the crowd, a couple of lower layers of clothing came off and the chainmail flail came out. As if to keep the theme, she removed the gauze top she was wearing to reveal a chainmail halter top. After a few dance moves with the flail, the fire came out.

However, the fire stick wouldn't stay lit for her. So like a true professional, she just threw it behind her and kept up her dance like nothing had happened. After the song was over, she got a round of applause from the crowd in the club and jumped offstage.

I had to wait around for the second show, and the wait was well worth it. For this show a



Chris Brotherton
Lady Violet Arcane readies for her fire.

sheet of plastic was spread out on the stage. When this show started, Violet danced, removing a few layers of clothing once again. Only this time, the lights over the stage went out as she grabbed a large glow stick and emptied the contents all over the front of herself.

There were a few "Hell yeahs" from the audience as she grabbed two more different colors and dumped them on other parts of her body, covering her arms, legs, back and front. Then she painted herself up with the luminescent innards of

the glow sticks. After the song, she cleaned up her feet then headed into the dressing room to finish cleaning up.

When I got a chance to talk to her about her performance, she told me, "That glow stick one always kills on the East Coast. I had to try it here." She says that she really enjoys the performance aspect of her show; the fact that "it is a performance art."

"I have never seen a crowd this big in a club over there (the East Coast) on a Sunday night. This is outstanding."

I had to agree. I had a truly positive experience, just watching people doing their own thing and not feeling like I had to fit into a certain clique or be part of a meat market. I would love to go back to catch some other shows that Plan B has in the future. Especially a burlesque show.

Priestman Plays to Packed House

Jordan Tunstall
A&E Editor

There were about 30 people in the room, sipping coffee and social networking away at 8:06 p.m. The atmosphere was relaxed, casual, almost like being in a big living room. Albeit a big living room, well stocked with caffienated drinks. This was the scene set at the Beanery in downtown Corvallis on Friday night.

At 8:07 sharp, something changed. The coffee didn't stop being sipped, and the laptop's lids weren't closed. But all attention was directed toward the corner of the room, where a man named Ian Priestman stood with a guitar among a mess of musical equipment. He politely asked how everyone was doing, apologized for the studying he was about to interrupt, (he is a LBCC business teacher after all), and began to play.

One of the first songs Priestman played was "Ground Control to Major Tom," by David Bowie. He did an excellent job with this particular song, and his Yorkshire accent added to the music nicely. By the end of the song, people were nodding their heads along with the beat, as if they were silently affirming Priestman's music.

He did a very nice job keeping the audience engaged, utilizing humor quite often to keep the mood lighthearted. He also

showed how his looping equipment worked, which helped keep everyone engaged.

After just 15 minutes of playing, the crowd had noticeably increased, as people who popped in to grab a cup of coffee sat down, and people walking by stopped ever-so-briefly to enjoy a few minutes of music before darting off to continue whatever they were up to on this Friday night.

Priestman did a variety of songs, and styles of music, incorporating the harmonica into his playing as well. He played Bob Dylan, David Bowie, Elton John, and a host of other music, including some original pieces. Personally, I most enjoyed his rendition of, "Rocket Man." There was something for anyone with an ear for guitar-based tunes.

And to top it all off, Priestman's music was all family-friendly. There were not any crude songs, or any vulgarity to be found at all, for that matter. That was the icing on a already very nice cake.

Unfortunately had to leave before the show finished at 10 p.m., but I was still very happy I had been able to attend at all. It was one of those occasions where you can go to a free coffee shop performance without leaving with your ears protesting the "music." Instead, I left conflicted, trying to decide if I should put off the rest of my evening for "just one more song."

What Would PANDORA Play?

Five bands you may never have heard of, but who are worth checking out!

Jordan Tunstall
A&E Editor

The Frames

⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵

This band was formed by Glen Hansard, who you may have seen the movie, "Once," around 1990. The Frames are well known in Scotland, but their popularity has not caught on in the United States yet.

They primarily sing love songs, but they do it in a unique way that doesn't sound whiny like so much of today's music. It's not too much of a stretch to say that we could see another music invasion from Europe before too long.

Damian Marley

⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵

The 36-year-old rap artist is the late Bob Marley's youngest son. His style of rap is different than any I've ever heard before.

Although it is most definitely rap music, it has a very similar feel to the music that made his father famous. The reggae beat and melodies we associate with Bob Marley are abundant, but there's also a rap sound that reminds me of political slam poetry flowing through each song. Now, I'm just keeping my fingers crossed for a new mix of "Three Little Birds," with Damian's raps recorded over his father's voice.

The Rest

⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵

These guys are from Canada, specifically Toronto. Their sound is a little on the experimental side. They don't sound like they even have to practice to sound the way that they do; it's like they just ran into each other one day and said, "Hey, want to make amazing music?"

Now, obviously that isn't what happened, but it is kind of funny to think about. Regardless of how they got their start, if The Rest keep up the good work, it wouldn't surprise me to see them on a major record label in a few years.

The Tallest Man On Earth

⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵

This Swede is going places. Kristian Matsson is the founder and sole member of the folk band. With just his voice and an acoustic guitar, Matsson weaves intricate webs of melodies and rhythms that leave you wanting more at the end of every song.

He has a couple albums out currently, and there is variety in the sound of each album. (And no, he is not actually taller than everyone else in the world, in case you were wondering.)

The Plastic's Revolution

⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵

If you like to listen to music that is bursting with energy, then The Plastic's Revolution might just make your day.

This group of musicians from Mexico have got it all: Lyrically beautiful songs and an eccentric collection of instruments, including an accordion and a mandolin. They are able to form some truly amazing pieces of music. It's hard for me to believe that they aren't signed, because they play like a major band, and they are just getting started.

Stay Weird, Portland "Sanctum": Can You Survive?

Jeb Oliver
Staff Writer

The '90s are alive in Portland. A new show from the Independent Film Channel (IFC), "Portlandia," is a comedic skit show about the strange, unique, and hilariously weird people who inhabit Portland.

The show starts out with two friends in L.A. One of them has returned from a trip to Portland and has discovered a place that is almost stuck in a time loop – it's as if the Bush administration never happened. People are free to be complacent, clown school is a great career choice, sleeping till 11 a.m. is acceptable and the hot girls all wear glasses.

The stars of this show are Fred Armisen from "Saturday Night Live" (SNL) and Carrie Brownstein, who is a vocalist/ guitarist and has been in Wild Flag and Sleater Kinney. Brownstein was also voted by Rolling Stone as one of the top 20 under-rated guitarists. The two have great chemistry in the show and roll from character to character in a way much like SNL.



There are many different skits that make fun of different kinds of somewhat wacky and stereotypical people who live in Portland. Some of my favorites so far have been "Women and Women." This skit is about two women who own a feminist book store and are far from helpful to their customers. A crazy bike man who is so obsessed with bikes that all cars anger him and he defiantly knows he has the right of way. Two Dumpster divers who take everything from Dumpsters in Portland and a couple who go beyond the call of duty to prove their chicken choice is "Portland oceanic."

Anyone who is from Oregon can relate to this show in a meaningful way. We see these people every day. So now we have a show that is about us. And you might even see yourself in some of these skits.

The show is just freaking hilarious and I can't get enough of it. Please find a way to watch; you won't regret seeing our big city in a new light.

I would rate this show a 4 out of 5 and a must-see all around. So enjoy a little Oregon humor with "Portlandia." The show airs at 10:30 p.m. on IFC, but you can also find it on demand.

Jill Mahler
Staff Writer

Trapped, lost, running out of air, running out of time, what would you do? How do you survive?

"Sanctum" answers those questions and more. An underwater cave-diving team are on the cusp of discovering one of the last unexplored cave systems in the world, when disaster strikes.

Trapped by a raging cyclone, the team has no options for a new way out other than descending further into the inner sanctum of the cave. There is no more sinister villain than Mother Nature. The team must navigate themselves free, while battling against chance and circumstance.

Following in the line of "Titanic" and "Avatar," Executive producer James Cameron presents this action-thriller in 3D. Watching "Sanctum" in 3D optimizes the viewing experience. Not only are you watching as man's will to survive is tested, you are fighting alongside of him.

"Sanctum" is directed by

Alister Grierson, and stars Ioan Gruffudd, Richard Roxburgh, and Rhys Wakefield.

The movie's co-writer, Andrew Wight, was once cave diving when he became trapped with 14 other people. For two days, they had to search for a way out. These events inspired the film.

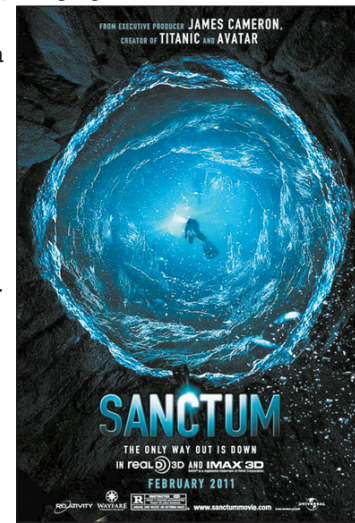
"Sanctum" was filmed in Queensland, Australia, and visually it does not disappoint. The deep caverns and dangerous mystery give

you an idea of why any sane person would cave dive in such a remote and dangerous location.

Although you spend the first part of the movie waiting for something to happen, you are soon wrapped around the inner battles and surrounding plight of the characters.

The ties between the characters

are interesting, but are not fully developed. The acting is a little predictable and the trapped and fighting to survive idea isn't new. There are some key elements of the movie that seem to be overlooked. However, if you can see past some of the glitches, the movie is worth watching.



redbox review

Catfish (Rated PG-13, Runtime 87 min.)

Justin Bolger
Editor-in-Chief

The trio of no-names responsible for this documentary did a fantastic job capturing what it is to be human – the people are real and the emotions sincere.

"Catfish" shows us the process of one man, Nev, falling for a girl on Facebook and discovering she may not be everything she made herself out to be. There's quite a bit more to this than you would imagine, as it turns out to be very intricate.

As I watched the journey unfold and emotions evolve, I found it easy to relate to what Nev was experiencing. Not that I've been through a similar experience exactly, but despite the unique situation, it so perfectly reveals the process of attraction.

None of the filmmakers are extreme people. They're just three normal guys living in the city and working in an office. Nev is fairly calm and reasonable, but gets flustered with excitement or quiet anger when anyone would, which lends itself toward creating this relatable tale.

The three are, however, incredibly lucky.

Every key moment of revelation was captured in this film, along with an uncanny



amount of foreshadowing seamlessly strewn throughout the movie. Granted, the filmmakers all work together and two of them are brothers, but this luck has led to a bit of controversy regarding the truth of the story.

According to an article on MovieFone by Anne Brodie, Morgan Spurlock, director and star of "Super Size Me," says that it's the best fake documentary he has ever seen. This is due to the belief that "Catfish" was too well-made, the moments too perfect.

In the same article, co-director Ariel Schulman responds, "It felt [too perfect] to us also, as we were making it. We're very lucky. We look back at our experience and everything leads to [the moment we discovered things were not what they seemed]. As filmmakers we were ready; we felt like we spent our lives preparing to be ready, and it just happened to be me who shares the office with my brother and my producing partner."

I believe in the integrity of the film, but regardless of truth, my eyes were glued to the screen the entire time. The story is there, and the heart is there. For this, I needed nothing more.



LAST CALL BEER REVIEW

Jeb Oliver
Staff Writer

My roommate and I were at Fred Meyer, hoping to find something worth trying for this article, when lo and behold we found a winner.

Widmer Brothers' new KGB Russian Imperial Stout has a rich and complex crisp, dark-roasted flavor. The beer itself is bitter, yet smooth to the taste buds, leaving you breathless as to what just passed your lips. This is a great, deep-spirited beer with more complex flavors than you can shake a stick at.

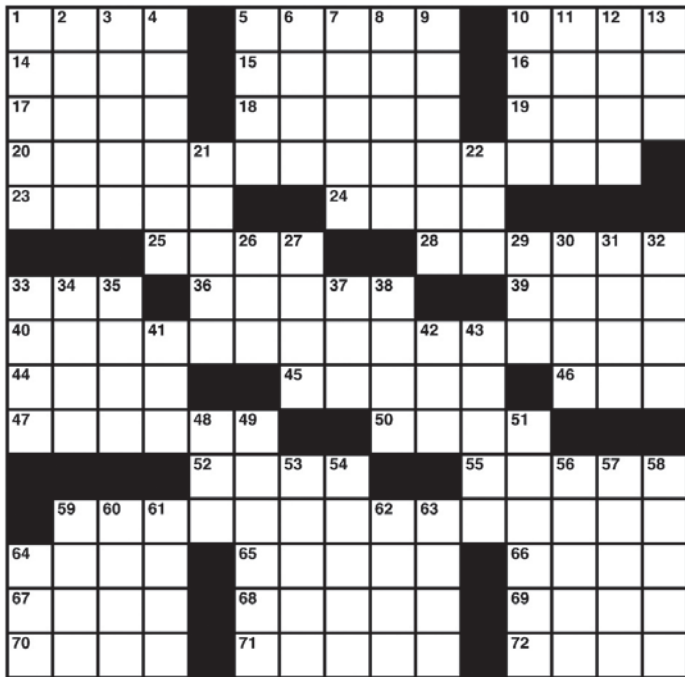
You can taste deep-roasted barley, wheat, and a hint of chocolate, all wrapped together in a creamy texture worth every sip. The chocolate taste is heaped onto to every sip, like Willy Wonka's chocolate factory is inside your glass.

According to the bottle label, KGB is made "using roasted barley, chocolate malt and midnight wheat." Midnight is right to describe this beer. Its deep color is warm and inviting, helping you to jump right in.

Now I've been a fan of rich dark beer since, well, for a long time. But this one is now on my list of favorites. This stout is right up there with Oakshire Espresso Stout and the many delicious Nitros at McMenamins. Being brewed by the famous Widmer Brothers of Portland, you know it comes from the finest ingredients and the passion we expect from these brewers. The beer is an awesome addition to the last call and at 9.3 percent alcohol content, it won't take much to get you in a happy, carefree state of mind.



- ACROSS**
- 1 A little batty
 - 5 Fills completely
 - 10 Skips, as ads on a taped show
 - 14 "Garfield" dog
 - 15 What an ump's protector protects
 - 16 Approximately
 - 17 Former Italian coins
 - 18 Main blood line
 - 19 Loch with a legend
 - 20 Corporate-sponsored vacation
 - 23 Ruhr valley city
 - 24 Largest continent
 - 25 Sicilian volcano
 - 28 Mediterranean island republic
 - 33 Place to retire to?
 - 36 Tournament matches before finals, briefly
 - 39 Matador's foe
 - 40 Retirement account transaction that may incur a penalty
 - 44 "Iliad" setting
 - 45 Big name in tractors
 - 46 ___-mo replay
 - 47 Challenge a verdict in a higher court
 - 50 Money you owe
 - 52 Follow, as a suspect
 - 55 Love poetry Muse
 - 59 Local airline trip
 - 64 "A guy walks into a bar ..." may start one
 - 65 Christener
 - 66 Go-___: small racer
 - 67 Gets it wrong
 - 68 Dolly the sheep, for one
 - 69 Fencing blade
 - 70 Herbal brews
 - 71 Sharpened
 - 72 Crystal gazer



By David W. Cromer

- DOWN**
- 1 "La ___ Vita"
 - 2 "Later, amigo"
 - 3 Law corporations, e.g.
 - 4 Conical abode
 - 5 CAT procedure
 - 6 Greeting at sea
 - 7 ___ cotta
 - 8 Colorado's ___ Park
 - 9 Unwanted radio noise
 - 10 No-fly ___
 - 11 Locale
 - 12 Sibillant attention getter
 - 13 Brillo rival
 - 21 Unable to sit still
 - 22 Jamie Foxx biopic about singer Charles
 - 26 Previously unseen
 - 27 In the thick of
 - 29 School org.
 - 30 Lines of seats
 - 31 River through southern Russia
 - 32 Unaccompanied performance
 - 33 Alpha, ___ gamma
 - 34 Wyatt of the Old West
 - 35 Bit of medicine for the eye or ear

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	U	B	T	O	T	A	L	S	E	L	C	I	D
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A	N	O	S	B	E	A	R	M	A	R	K	E	T
C	O	N	E	L	S	T	A	S	E	R	A		
		J	L	O	W	A	C	O	D	M	S		
S	Q	U	I	B	K	I	C	K	C	H	E	T	
S	E	U	S	S	E	M	U	T	E	A	S	E	
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M	O	N	T	E	D	E	S	C	A	R	T	E	S
E	N	D	E	D	S	M	O	K	E	B	U	S	H

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- 37 Suffix with meteor
- 38 Tool house
- 41 Caustic potash
- 42 Dr. of rap
- 43 Insurrectionist
- 48 24-hr. cash dispenser
- 49 Cape Canaveral event
- 51 Tots' rides
- 53 "Boot" country prefix
- 54 Iced tea flavor
- 56 Wide open
- 57 Crowd quota?
- 58 Playful river critter
- 59 Planetary center
- 60 Cajun vegetable
- 61 Army meal
- 62 Actress Russo
- 63 Barney's Bedrock pal
- 64 "Jumbo" flier

HOROSCOPES

YOUR GUIDE TO THE ZODIAC

ARIES
3/21-4/19



You've sort of been rocking at life lately. You killed midterms and now it's time to hunker down and do the same to homework. Good luck, team!

LEO
7/23-8/22



You're a lion? I guess you do have a mighty roar. Isn't it about time to take your rightful place on Pride Rock or some such?

SAGITTARIUS
11/22-12/21



The priorities in your life seem a little off. Try to remember the things you really want. What's important to you? Stop worrying about what others tell you is good for you.

VIRGO
8/23-9/22



Way to go, Virgo! You've dropped your shields and have started to let the Force guide you. I'm sure your happy factor will be on the rise from here on out.

CAPRICORN
12/22-1/19



Your generosity is out of control. You're always taking care of the people around you, but this week you're going all-in!

LIBRA
9/23-10/23



Solo time is key. Make sure you get some time set aside to just ponder for a while. I prescribe some soulful healing.

AQUARIUS
1/20-2/18



There is a surprise in your future. Brace yourself, but don't go out of your way to figure out what it is. Just enjoy!

GEMINI
5/21-6/21



Give it up for artistic endeavors! They've been treating you pretty well so far, so give the arts some loving. It's about time you give back.

SCORPIO
10/24-11/21



It looks like you're on the up and up this week! That feels pretty good, right? Just go with the feeling, Scorpio.

CANCER
6/22-7/22



Your ability to communicate has been suffering due to some recent mistakes. Suck it up, and stop being afraid all the time. Forgive yourself and others will follow suit.

PISCES
2/19-3/20



You know what you want in life, and you're just going for it! Good luck, Godspeed, and eye of the tiger - it's going to be a montage!

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.

Editor-in-Chief:
Justin Bolger

Managing Editor:
Lacey Jarrell

News Editor:
Alethea Skinner

Opinion Editor:
Adam LaMascus

A&E Editor:
Jordan Tunstill

Sports Editor:
Scott Landgren

Editorial Assistant:
Sarah McClanahan

Webmaster:
Marci Sischo

Page Designer:
Ashley Christie

Advertising Manager:
Frank Warren

Advertising Assistant:
Lisa Bauman

Cartoonists:
Mason Britton, Ben Carson, Maggie O'Reilly

Photo Editor:
Tony Brown

Photo Assistant:
Alyssa Archer

Adviser:
Rob Prieue

Copy Editors:
Gary Brittsan, Audrey Gomez

Staff Writers:
Chris Brotherton, Jill Mahler, David Mayotte, Jeb Oliver, Cameron Vasseur, Drew Wilson-McGrath

Cover Design by:
Ashley Christie

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

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

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

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

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Poetry Spotlight

Can You Tell?

by Dan Simmons

I could tell you
but you
might have to kill
me
if I told you

I am one
flinch
after another
flinch
all day long

Why do I squint?

I am from space
I am from the between of things
jobs(I am)jobs
girlfriends(I am)girlfriends
apartments(I am)apartments
doctors(I am)doctors
rocks(I am)and hard places

I need
to tell
someone
I need
a gun.



The LBCC Poetry Club meets Tuesdays to share poems they've written about a given prompt. This week's prompt was "We live so much of our lives without telling anyone."

Where on Campus?

Do you know where this picture was taken?



Alyssa Archer



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

Last Week's Answer: The dragon statue to the left of the doors in North Santiam Hall.

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

MINUS GRAVITY

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Ben Carson

HAHA, ZING! GOOD ONE, REFLECTION OF ME! WELL...I'D KEEP TALKING TO YOU, BUT I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE SAD AND PATHETIC...

I KNOW WHAT'LL KILL MY CRIPPLING LONELINESS! I'LL BUILD A ROBOT!...IT'LL DO MY BIDDING, AND GIVE ME REALLY AWESOME COMPLIMENTS... *GASP*...WE COULD HAVE BEST FRIEND NAMES!!

SOME NUMBER OF HOURS LATER...

I...I FEEL... PAIN! SUCH EXTRAORDINARY PAIN! PLEASE...PLEASE JUST DESTROY ME!!

BUT... I MADE UP BEST FRIEND NAMES FOR US... I'M DR MASTADON, AND YOU'RE SQUIGGLES...

GAACK! ...WHO TAUGHT YOU TO BUILD ROBOTS?!

LISTEN! IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO END THIS...I'LL...RIP OUT MY OWN COMPONENTS!!

WHATEVER... I'M GONNA GO SEE WHAT GOOD OL' REFLECTION IS UP TO...DRAMA QUEEN...

Fried Bananas

An LBCC student-generated comic

By Mason Britton

The Best Valentine gift...

is one for yourself!

You Are Dead once I have a free hand!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Just Go With It

Adam Sandler is Danny, a single man who pretends to be an unhappy husband in order to get women. When he meets the girl of his dreams, he needs a fake quickie divorce and enlists a co-worker (Jennifer Aniston) and her kids to play his ex-family.



Rated: PG-13 • **Runtime:** 116 min. • **Genre:** Guy lies to get girl

Gnomeo and Juliet

It's Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," but with garden gnomes, lawn flamingos, and other patio decorations. Features the voices of: James McAvoy, Emily Blunt, Jason Statham, Michael Caine, Maggie Smith, Patrick Stewart, Stephen Merchant, Dolly Parton, Hulk Hogan, and Ozzy Osbourne.



Rated: G • **Runtime:** 84 min. • **Genre:** Animated

The Eagle

Set in 140 AD, a Roman Warrior, Marcus Aquila (Channing Tatum), sets out to unravel the mystery of his father's disappearance and retrieve the legion's eagle statue that was lost. He takes a British slave (Jamie Bell) with him to help him battle the natives.



Rated: PG-13 • **Runtime:** 114 min. • **Genre:** Historical

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never

Ever wonder where 16-year-old singing sensation Justin Bieber came from? Want to know why he sends tweens into a tizzy? This is a behind-the-scenes look at his 2010 tour, with appearances from Jaden Smith and Miley Cyrus. And it's in 3-D, SQUEE!



Rated: G • **Runtime:** 105 min. • **Genre:** Concert Doc.

Sources: [Imdb](#), [Yahoo! Movies](#), [Fandango.com](#)

A T.O.A.S.T. to First Thursday

Lacey Jarrell
Managing Editor

Among the beer and the wine bottles, on unfinished shelves, they hung art.

It was 26 pieces from 14 artists, and the mediums ranged from painting to etching to mixed media.

The mood was festive, the music was loud and the cider samples flowed freely.

It was T.O.A.S.T.

Last Thursday, Corvallis Brewing Supply hosted the student art organization T.O.A.S.T. (The Other Art Show Troupe) as part of Corvallis' First Thursday celebrations.

The group show, entitled "Love and Other Tragedies," drew over 100 people between 6 – 8 p.m., making it the biggest art display and the largest crowd the brew supply has seen to date on First Thursday. Eight pieces were sold.

"It was amazing. All the response we've gotten back has been really positive," said Gabrielle Snider, a co-founder of T.O.A.S.T.

Pieces in the show included art from OSU and LBCC students who explored themes of love through titles such as "Sandwich Love." The vivid color relief print created by OSU student Vesper White depicted the unique love affair between a giant cactus and his sandwich.

Corvallis resident Carol Ann Langstine, who visited the venue at the recommendation of LBCC instructor and artist Analee Fuentes, said the event was memorable.

"There was a really interesting variety of art; I would definitely come again," said Langstine.

Fuentes also showed a painting entitled "Goticos Muertos" ("Gothic Dead"), a take-off of Grant Woods' famous "American Gothic."

"It's important to support arts in established and non-established venues like First Thursdays," she said. "It's terrific that they are doing this. The show is full of creativity and energy."

The idea for the troupe was hatched about two months ago by OSU students Snider, Ira Strubhar, and Grace Noel. Looking for an outlet to show their work, the trio began contacting local businesses about hosting a show. Finding many Corvallis venues already contracted to another art organization, they decided to try a First Thursday event and



provided by Jay Lee
Nina Lee stands next to her piece, "Untitled," during Corvallis' February First Thursday celebration.

contacted Corvallis Brewery Supply owner Joel Rea.

"It's easy to support something like this," said Rea, who has participated in First Thursday since its inception in September.

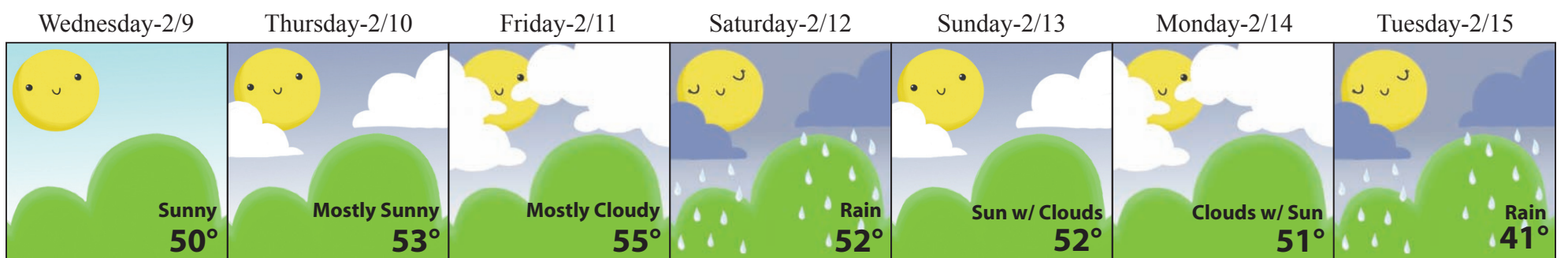
In addition to T.O.A.S.T., 2 Towns Ciderhouse, co-owned by Lee Larsen and Aaron Sarnoff-Wood, also attended the event, offering free samples of locally made "Incider" and "Bad Apple" hard ciders.

Snider explained that the T.O.A.S.T. aims to provide a "relaxed and informal" outlet for community artists to show work. The troupe plans to promote awareness for alternative art in Corvallis by hosting shows at various venues around the city. They are also hoping to gather community support in other events such as "Drink and Draws."

You can check out T.O.A.S.T. at Bombs Away Café, 2527 NW Monroe, for their next show beginning March 5.

For more information, contact T.O.A.S.T. at art.sex.toast@gmail.com or visit Toast Art on Facebook.

Weekly Weather Predictions



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