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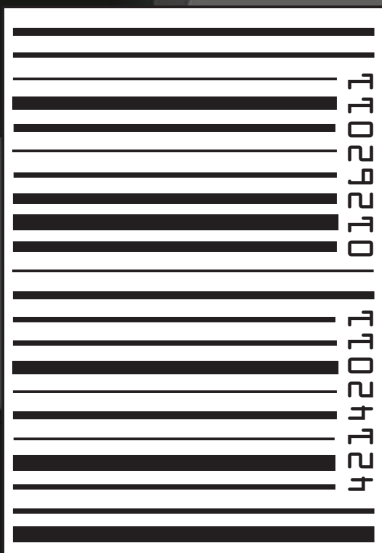
# THE COMMUTER

*You guys  
messed with  
the wrong  
neighborhood.*

**HEROES  
INSIDE**



**ROADRUNNER MAN  
FACES HIS GREATEST  
CHALLENGE YET ...**



**INSIDE**

**HEROES IN TIME PG. 5**

**STUDENT HERO SAVES CHILD CARE PG. 9**



# WASHING OUT HUCK FINN'S MOUTH

Marci Sischo  
Webmaster

Two weeks ago Steven Colbert tweeted, "It's great that they took the N-word out of 'Huckleberry Finn.' Now get to work on 'Moby D-Word.'"

The lesson for 21st-century audiences reading "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is that "nigger" used to be the common vernacular, and black people were casually treated as livestock. Part of what we, as readers, are supposed to be is shocked and horrified when we read "Huckleberry Finn." Mark Twain chose his language carefully, using it on purpose to showcase the ignorance of his society at that time.

Alan Gribben, a Twain scholar and a professor at Auburn Montgomery University, along with NewSouth Books, doesn't seem to agree. They'll be releasing a new edition of Mark Twain's classic, Huckleberry Finn, in a single volume with Tom Sawyer. What makes this edition so special is that all 200-plus mentions of the word "nigger" have been removed from Huckleberry Finn, as well as changing "Injun Joe" in Tom Sawyer to "Indian Joe." News of this broke on Jan. 4, when "Huckleberry Finn" became a trending topic on Twitter.

Cue the firestorm of Internet outrage. "Huckleberry Finn" trended on Twitter for five days, bringing a flood of comments like "somebody white proly pushed the issue to censor 'nigger' in the Huckleberry Finn books ... don't blame us niggas! #NotRacistJustHonest" from chakaramelcakes, or "Instead of taking 'nigger' out of 'Huckleberry Finn,' just change it to 'nigga' and slap a Parental Advisory sticker on front," from PartyNBullsh\*t.



Huck Finn and his African-American friend Jim in an original illustration from the book by E.W. Kemble.

Twitter users weren't the only ones who disapproved of the new edition. Elon James White of Salon.com said, "The book, which deals directly with racism, is not better served by erasing the racial slur. The only purpose is to ease the tension that is felt by parents and teachers of students who would read it." David Ulin, in the Books section of the LA Times, said, "Like professor Gribben, I've discussed 'Huckleberry Finn' in the classroom, and it is always difficult and awkward to work around that word. This, however, is precisely why it needs to remain part of our experience of 'Huckleberry Finn.'"

A little closer to home, Peter Jensen, one of Linn-Benton Community College's English instructors, said, "I am against changing old texts to clean up history. How can we teach the painful history of racism in America and judge our progress since Mark Twain if we change the past?"

Jensen's statement strikes the heart of the matter. Yes, the language in "Huckleberry Finn" is shocking to a modern sensibility, even hurtful, not just because of that word, but because of the way black people are treated in the book; the way they're belittled and dehumanized. The heart of "Huckleberry Finn" is Huck's realization that Jim is a human being, equal to Huck, despite what Huck's society might believe. Huck's decision to do the right thing and help Jim escape, in spite of the possible consequences, is the whole point of the book.

"I don't think the edited version of 'Huckleberry Finn' is a good idea," said Dr. Robert Harrison, an instructor in LBCC's American Studies program. "Using the word 'slave' instead of the 'N-word' just wouldn't convey what students need to know about race in America before the Civil War and in Mark Twain's time. It's a big change, and I can't see any legitimate historical or literary reason for it. If ... young people aren't reading 'Huckleberry Finn' because it's still too offensive to people, the solution is to educate people, not to give in to their ignorance."

"Nigger" is a hateful, hurtful word. Though it has no place in today's lexicon, it should not be scrubbed from our history. It's awful, but necessary. As George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." This is a past we cannot afford to forget. As hurtful as it may be, our memory of it is what gives us the impetus to do better.

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DIVERSITY  
ACHIEVEMENT  
DAC  
CENTER

NEWS  
from the

### The DAC: LBCC's Living Room

What is the DAC? What does the DAC do? Where is the DAC located anyway?

The DAC (Diversity Achievement Center) is a space set aside for students that fosters community, dialogue, and friendship. All students are welcome to hang out, use the computers, eat, study, sleep (no snoring!), chat, and play games. Please note ... that we offer FREE coffee and tea.

The DAC is also a student leadership program that offers students the opportunity to gain work experience and coordinate diversity related events. Sponsored events are free and open to all students and members of the community. The purpose of the events are to have fun, meet new people, learn new ideas, and promote intercultural awareness.

The DAC is located on the second floor of the Forum building (F220) just down from the Learning Center. We are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stop by some time and say "hi!" We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Toni and the DAC team*

## CHALK TALK

First, let me introduce myself. My name is David. I am the president of the Associated Veterans Community (AVC) of LBCC. I served four years in the Marine Corps.

There have been a lot of questions concerning the lack of veteran-related information. I am hoping that this will help to shed some light on any questions.

This is going to be a column to help keep all veterans up to date on the latest information about our benefits, changes to those benefits, upcoming veteran services events, and events that the Associated Veterans Community of LBCC will be putting on for the veterans at the college.

- On Feb. 2 between 1200-1300 and 1500-1600 in the DAC, LBCC Veterans Service Officer Gus Bedwell and Veterans Financial Aid Certifying Officer Kathy Martinak will be giving information about benefits, and a lot of financial aid.

- The AVC will be meeting every Thursday at 1630, in the Fireside room, located by the Commons. The AVC is here to help veterans with any issues they are having with the transition from military life to the civilian world.
- An issue that will be coming down the pipe is changes to the Chapter 33, GI Bill. More information on this situation as it develops.

This is just the first edition of the column. If any veterans have questions or concerns, please send them in to The Commuter, and I will do my best to answer them. Also, if there is anything you would like to add please send it in. This is a way we veterans can get our voice out and be heard.

*David Mayotte*

## ADVICE FROM WEISS

Hello Readers,

Last week there was a question about two common degree requirements: Math and Cultural Diversity. The question was: "Why do I have to take these things?"



Mark Weiss  
Counselor

I answered the question about math last week, and told the story of how I helped keep doctors treating my wife for cancer on track by using the kind of logical reasoning one learns from mathematics; and later, how a doctor used that same kind of reasoning to help her.

In regard to the Cultural Diversity Requirement

that most degrees have... There is a stock answer. Nearly every business, organization, and public institution now has to relate to the global marketplace. We have gone from a country that had steel mills, to the "mom and pop steel mill," to mom and pop going global with steel products (insert just about any other business). Therefore, employers need employees that can relate to a global marketplace, understand cultural differences, and interact with "cultural intelligence." That's the stock answer. And it's true.

But, going back to the

hospital experience with my wife, I have a more personal answer. Doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists and CNAs!

My wife received medical care from doctors from China, Norway, and Vietnam. Nurses and others were from Mexico, Korea, and France.

So, we are reaching out to the world, trying to create a global economy for the United States. But the world is also coming to us. And in ways we never expected. And that's why we all need to learn something about cultural diversity.

Keep the questions coming.

*Mark*

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.

# BACK in the DAY

Adam LaMascus

Opinion Editor

### This day in history ...

#### Jan. 26, 1856: Desperate times ...

A large group of local Native Americans attack the small settlement of Seattle, in the Washington territory. The battle rages for seven hours before the attackers are driven off by Marines and artillery fire from the USS Decatur. Amazingly enough, only two settlers are killed. Native American casualties are unknown, though it is believed by the defenders that 28 were killed and 80 wounded. Witnesses write that the battle is not considered a victory, as the attack causes a massive plunge in morale.

#### Jan. 27, 1945: Never again ...

The Soviet Army liberates the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. This date is remembered as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The camp complex is massive, with Auschwitz as the main camp, surrounded by 48 other smaller camps. An estimated 1.1 million people died there. The main gate has a large iron sign which reads: "Arbeit Macht Frei" ("Work Makes You Free").

#### Jan. 28, 1958: Superior to Knex ...

The Lego company patents the designs for its new building bricks. Lego is a company based out of Denmark, and the name is apparently an abbreviation for "leg godt" which means "Play well." The company's motto remains "det bedste er ikke for godt" ("Only the best is good enough.") About 19 billion Lego pieces are produced annually, at about 36,000 per minute. Germany is the best-selling country for Lego, (it is actually the single largest toy-company in Germany) followed closely by the U.S. The "Star Wars" line is the best-selling Lego theme in the U.S.

#### Jan. 29, 1886: A need for speed ...

Karl Benz patents the Benz Patent Motorwagen, the first commercially available automobile in history. The car also proves to be a success, with numerous improved models. On a side note, the car has a single cylinder, four-stroke engine, 958cc, 0.8 hp engine with a maximum speed of 8 mph. What a speed demon.

#### Jan. 30, 1703: Yikes ...

After two years of waiting and planning, 47 samurai avenge their dead master, Asano Naganori, by killing Kira Yoshinaka. After killing his retainers, the samurai politely address Kira, inform him who they are, how they are there to avenge their master as a true samurai should. They then asked him to die as a true samurai should, by committing seppuku, ritual suicide through disemboweling. Kira lay on the ground, speechless and trembling, so the samurai cut his head off with their master's dagger instead. They proceed to clean the head and dagger, then lay them on their master's grave. The samurai then proceed to turn themselves in to the authorities and all commit seppuku. This story is still extremely popular in Japan, almost mythical, and is seen as the epitome of bushido.

#### Jan. 31, 1966: Yediny, moguchy Sovetsky Soyuz!

The Luna 9 spacecraft is launched by the Soviet Union. Luna 9 lands on the moon three days later, the first man-made object to do so, and begins transmitting images of the lunar surface.

#### Feb. 1, 1978: Injustice ...

Director Roman Polanski flees the U.S. After pleading guilty to drugging and having sex with a 13-year old girl. Polanski was arrested by the Swiss police on September 26, 2009, and the U.S. attempted to have him extradited to face charges here. However, he was declared a "free man" and released by the Swiss on July 12, 2010. Justice is blind, right?

### Thought for the week:

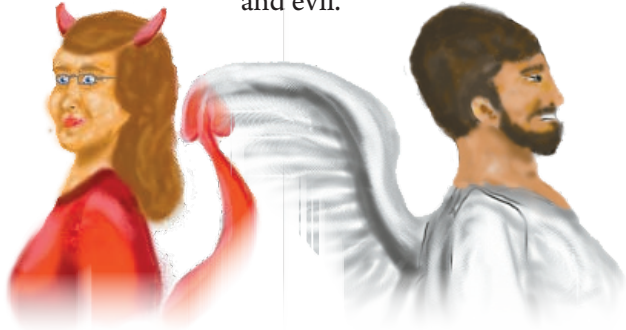
"All Religions are equal and good, if only the people that practice them are honest people; and if Turks and heathens came and wanted to live here in this country, we would build them mosques and churches."

*Frederick II "the Great" of Prussia*



## DEAR CONSCIENCE, ██████████

**Question:** I've been in a relationship with a real girl now for almost three months. The problem is, she keeps getting Shadowcat confused with Catwoman. I don't know if I can commit to someone with such an ambiguous sense of good and evil.



**Ashley Christie**  
Shoulder Devil

**Justin Bolger**  
Shoulder Angel

Let me get this straight, you're dating a real flesh and blood, living, breathing, three dimensional girl and you want to break up with her because she can't remember two insignificant characters from your little comic books?

I'd be happy she remembers your name.

Let me guess, you're one of those guys who lives in front of his computer screen. Your days are spent playing RPG's and first-person shooters while your nights are spent on fan sites arguing whether or not Wolverine was born with bone claws. (FYI: He was.)

Do you think any of your "heroes" spend all day sitting around the house in their underwear covered in orange Cheeto dust, surrounded by empty Mountain Dew cans-like you do?

No, they have jobs. They are productive members of society. Not only do they fight criminals and protect the cities at night, but a lot of them have real jobs during the day, too.

You want to talk good and evil, I'm surprised this girl has put up with you for three months. She's not a girl, she's a saint!

Why don't you try coming out of your fortress of solitude once in a while; enter the land of the living. Do you know why she doesn't care about your interests? You don't care about hers. Do you even know what hers are?

It's time to step away from the controller, man up, and take an active interest in someone from this world. Or it's going to be just you and your joystick the rest of your life.

Judging only by your wonderfully worded question, I can tell you have a heart of solid gold. You're a good guy, you look up to positive role models, and you understand the value of virtue. When questing on the journey of love, you must find a special someone with a keen sense of right and wrong.

Lovely though your "Mary Jane Watson" may seem, if you can't woo her to the side of righteousness soon, you may not be able to save her young heart at all. Moving on might be the best option for both of you.

I know it seems brash, but bear with me here.

Picture Catwoman's words coming from your lady's mouth, "... a kiss can be even deadlier if you mean it." This is a dangerous, terrifying woman we have here.

Now compare this with Shadowcat's idea of love, "I loved Colossus once. I would have given my life for him." Aww ... how sweet! I'm sold - now that's a girl I could give my heart to!

She can't see the difference between a self-indulgent, materialistic sociopath or a self-sacrificing, defender of downtrodden?

Think of the safety of your future children. How could you trust her with them? She might even confuse your angelic offspring with that villainous creature down the street. Save your unborn child!

Remember: Who you choose to love will define you and your own destiny, as well. Find someone who has the confidence to know exactly who she is and who chooses to define herself as a caring, heroic young woman.

## HEROES? IN WHAT UNIVERSE

A young farm boy is raised in the rural desert by a known anti-government dissenter. Upon reaching maturity, he stumbles into the path of a wizened old man -- considered crazy by the locals. The bearded old man is one of the last gurus of an ancient fundamentalist religion, living alone in a cave, hiding from the duly elected government he sought to overthrow. The old man takes the boy under his wing and trains him up in his splinter-sect of a religion, preparing the boy to join a burgeoning insurrection.



**Marci Sischo**  
Webmaster

The boy eventually becomes a suicide pilot with a mission to destroy the government's seat of power. Through sheer dumb luck, the boy successfully destroys a major military installation--and survives. Millions of lives are lost that day, not just soldiers, but civilians, contractors, construction workers, support staff.

The boy goes on to destroy a second major government facility and assassinate the head of government, overthrowing it. His fellow rebels install themselves in its place without so much as lip-service to the democracy they claim to be fighting for, going as far as naming the leaders of a major criminal organization "rebellion heroes."

The young farm boy's name? Luke Skywalker.

Try this one on for size: A boy witnesses the murder of his parents, and grows up with a profound, if understandable, hatred of the criminal element. Instead of channeling this hatred into a productive career in criminal law or police work, the boy trains himself, among the very cults and

criminal elements he claims to hate, with an obsession that doesn't just border on lunacy, and marches into it whistling and singing.

The young man eventually becomes a masked vigilante, and one of his very first actions in his new career is to allow the Scarecrow's gas to overtake an entire island in Gotham, resulting in the death of thousands of innocents. He caps this off by driving a commuter train into busy downtown Gotham.

Yeah. Batman.

How about Superman, the proverbial big blue Boy Scout himself? He got into a dust-up with Lobo once that totaled most of Metropolis. Metropolis must have a population in the millions. How many died that day? Or any other day Superman decides to throw down with some two-bit corporate CEO who's feeling ambitious?

Heroes? Really? These so-called heroes are a menace to society, wantonly killing and causing billions in property damage on an almost daily basis. And as for their claim that they're "saving" us? The Joker wouldn't even be a thing if it weren't for Batman. Lex Luthor would be just another filthy rich corporate robber-baron, if not for Superman. If the X-Men had just stayed home and watched football, the Brood would never have come anywhere near us.

These "heroes" are nothing but egomaniacal trouble-magnets. At least when the villains suit up in spandex and masks, they're honest about their intentions. A little world domination, a few bank robberies here and there. Compared to the utter devastation caused by a heroic intervention in your standard mugging, I think I'll take the villains any day.

## LETTER: LITTER ON CAMPUS

I walk my dog around campus daily, and I have been appalled by the steady increase in litter. The tree in this picture is located outside the east door of McKenzie Hall (formerly Business Building). I've walked past this tree thousands of times, and only now discovered that discarded pop cans are required for it to be healthy.

Yes, I know that is not the real reason the cans were left there, but I can't think of any other sensible explanation for their location. Unfortunately, this is only a very small example of the trash that is left in various places around campus. I think it is a little strange that the same people who leave their McDonald's containers in the middle of the parking lot would be appalled if I left my dog's solid waste where it was dropped. Strangely, I'm picking up a biodegradable substance with a plastic bag that isn't biodegradable just like most of the trash I see (see picture).

I am also concerned about the trash from a dog handler's point of view. What is



provided by Suzanne Randall

An example of the litter on campus.

in the bag? Will it make my dog sick? Will it even kill my dog? Broken glass left about also is a concern. What happens if my dog steps in it? Will he lacerate his paw? Will he attempt to lick it clean? Yes, I know I need to watch what my dog is doing, but compare his actions to a 3 or 4 year old human child, and you will know what I go through every time I walk him. Take your eye off him for a minute and he's into something. Dogs examine their world through taste, smell and sight, and believe me, rancid is their scent of choice. Putting your trash in the bins may not

be the easiest action, but it is the right action.

As I'm sure you know, Linn-Benton Community College is going through a budget crisis and services, staff and equipment are being examined and reduced to help keep LBCC up and running. These reductions include maintenance, grounds keepers and the cleaning crew. Due to reductions, staff is required to empty their own garbage into a larger receptacle, which is then emptied by the cleaning crew. Other services are also being either limited in some manner or completely eliminated. I really doubt that any department has the time, personnel or budget to create a "mommy" position to follow people around and clean up. Please use the waste receptacles conveniently located around campus, and stop dropping your trash where you are standing. Please help our effort to make LBCC a first-class learning environment.

*Suzanne Randall*

### Have questions? We have answers.

We offer advice on ANY topic from different points of view. Send your questions to: [commuter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:commuter@linnbenton.edu)



# PAYING HOMAGE TO HISTORY'S HEROES

**Adam LaMascus**  
Opinion Editor

You don't need a spandex suit with underwear on the outside to be a hero. History is full of heroes, many famous, many more obscure. This article focuses on some of the grander figures from our past.

## **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Born in 1929, this Baptist minister and great orator was greatly inspired by the actions and teachings of Gandhi, and decided that nonviolent resistance was the best way to achieve equality for non-whites in the United States. King led the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott, and strove tirelessly for civil rights in a country founded on freedom and equality. His actions generated great success and helped the civil rights movement gain momentum. Later in his tragically short life, he worked to end poverty, hunger, and the Vietnam War. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the youngest person to ever receive such an honor. He was shot and killed in 1968, never living to see the success of the civil rights movement.



## **Frederick II of Prussia "der Grosse"**

More commonly known as Frederick the Great, he was born the crown prince for the kingdom of Prussia, a scattered, tiny, and backwater kingdom in modern day Germany and Poland. Frederick grew up in an age when Machiavelli's infamous book "The Prince" was considered to be a Bible for leaders. Frederick completely disagreed, and anonymously wrote a book arguing against Machiavelli and his ideals. Upon taking the crown, Frederick immediately established an impressive reputation. Using a military brilliance that was unheard of at the time (Napoleon said Frederick was the greatest tactician ever) united the scattered kingdoms and forged Prussia into a modernized and unified state. Simultaneously he battled against Austrian aggression and attempts to subjugate the German people. In addition to military genius, Frederick was also a fervent believer in the ideals of the French Enlightenment, and was a friend of Voltaire. He promoted religious tolerance, freedom of the press, freedom of speech, use of rationality, and was a huge patron of the arts and education. He died in 1786 sitting in an arm chair in his



study. He requested that he be buried "without pomp and at night" next to his beloved Italian Greyhound.

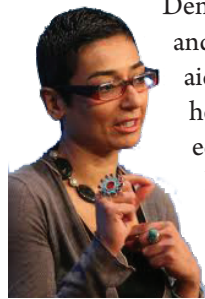
## **Liu Bei**

If any of you have heard this name before, it is probably because you have played one of the "Dynast Warriors" video games. Well, Liu Bei is more than a game character, he was a hero. He was born in 161 in China, and was known as being a skilled general and legalist. He eventually became Emperor and established the Shu Han dynasty. He died in 223 and was succeeded by his son. Liu Bei is popular in China and known for being the closest thing to the ideal Confucian ruler. He was a just, loyal, compassionate, intelligent, and caring ruler who established an effective government. It's a little sad that in our modern culture he's largely been relegated to a character in a mediocre game series.



## **Zainab Salbi**

Born in Baghdad, Iraq, Ms. Salbi is no stranger to violence, especially against women. She moved to the U.S. when she was 19, and was married in the early 1990's. However, she and her new husband spent their honeymoon traveling to Bosnia and Herzegovina, helping women who had lost their families and were sent to the notorious rape camps there. In 1993 she created the organization Women for Women International, which has since its inception raised over \$80 million in direct aid and helped almost a quarter of a million women in places like Bosnia, Herzegovina, Rwanda, Kosovo, Nigeria, Colombia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan. In addition to direct aid, the organization has also helped raise money for loans, education programs, and also helped women start their own businesses. Salbi has been awarded eight awards since 1993.



People like these show that anybody can shape the world they live in. I hope we see more heroes like these magnificent people, and also that we realize how many heroes we have around us that we may not notice. Lastly, may we never forget the sacrifices these people have made to make our world a better place.

See the complete list online at:  
commuter.linnbenton.edu

## What do you think?

Both letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome.

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



The Commuter attempts to print all letters received, although we reserve the right to edit for grammar and length. Letters that raise libel, poor taste or privacy concerns will not be printed.

## THE COMMONS FARE

1/26-2/01

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

Dishes: Liver with Bacon and Onions, Chicken Cordon Bleu and Cauliflower and Potato Curry  
Soup: Loaded Potato Chowder and French Onion

### Friday

Chef's Choice

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

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



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## PERSPECTIVES

Who is your favorite hero and why?



**David Mayotte,**  
Health Promotion

"Wolverine: Because he's rough, rugged, and he's been around for so long. He's the epitome of badass."



**Eugenia Taylor-Gentils**  
Medical Office Specialist

"Michelle Obama: Because she's getting kids and schools interested in healthy lifestyles."



**Andrew North,**  
Transfer Degree

"Batman: Because he is real. He is the most believable superhero."



**Courtney Davison,**  
Undecided

"Wonder Woman: Because she is one of the only women in [the world of] superheroes. And she knows how to mess with the bad boys."



**Brian Baker,**  
Diagnostic Imagery

"Superman: Because he can do a little bit of everything."



## WILL YOU BE OUR HERO?

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



## THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE OF POVERTY

It has been through the experience of poverty that I learned not to notice what clothes someone was wearing, or whether or not they were neatly groomed. I learned to value the beautiful moments of conversation and the times that are spent together sharing what food we had. I learned that food can (and does) multiply sometimes when I really need it too ... like when my extra friend comes over to visit. I learned that in the midst of a hectic and demanding world, when everything stops and nothing has gone right, and you find yourself completely without. That even there, in that moment, if I look, I can find something beautiful that will bring me joy. It is the moments of simplicity that I hold so close. It is the pebbles from the ground in an awful trailer park, given to me by my sister that I treasure the most. They remind me to look closer and focus until I can see some good. I would urge you. Actually BEG you to stop and take a look, the next time you are faced with poverty, what do you see?

Do you see dirt, filth, wretchedness and pain? Is that what is truly there? Or is that seeing a person through a set of beliefs that are similar to "cleanliness is Godliness" or "if I was that dirty and poor I would be miserable." Do you soothe yourself by giving change? Or turn your face and walk away, telling yourself that it must be somehow "their fault" that their life is "this way." Now I am not talking only about the visible people out on the streets today. I am talking about that girl, the one who wrote letters to churches, begging for a place to stay. Who slept on the couches of friends while making her way. Still holding her job, come what may and finally ending up one fateful day unemployed again and then making the choice to "submit and obey" simply so her child's head had a place to lay. When all of her friends were in the same place, with no way to help and not a lot of space. While mansions are build up on the hill, with extra bedrooms and wine to swill, and thoughts are not worried about the upcoming meal.

If you had come and sat next to this girl, at the park sitting on the hill, she might have pointed out a whole new world ... of pebbles and rocks and birds that fly, rivers that rumble and rush on by, a world of moments that are captured in time, a world that is both hers and mine. See the beauty, line by line as the canvas of the sky is painted each night. Count the colors in this moment of now, feel the peace and know this is how. When all is wrong, so much is still so right. Look past the grime and you would see the light. Don't wash us and clean us and pretty us up, all that crap is unnecessary fluff. Give us some nourishment, a friend for the soul. Someone who will visit, even in the bitter cold. A mentor, a mother, a father or friend a person who commits to be there till the end. Bring a lunch, packed for two and take it to the park for she, and for you. See the world through her lovely eyes and you will win a most wonderful prize.



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# LBCC MEN SCORE PAIR OF WINS

**Scott Landgren**  
Sports Editor

Last Wednesday night the LBCC men's basketball team played a great all around game and came out with an 88-80 victory over the visiting Southwestern Oregon Community College Lakers.

LB's leading scorers were sophomore Taylor Roos with 25 points, sophomore Mike Kruesi with 13 points and sophomore Michael Kirkwood who had 11 points. Kirkwood also lead the team with five assists and eight rebounds. Freshman Josh Garlington had a team high of 10 rebounds. He also added nine points, just missing a double-double.

"We played really well and we really came together as a team. We were really good at looking for the open man," said freshman Chase Bansenmer.

LB was down early in the game and then came back to shoot 57.1 percent in the first half. They did not shoot as well in the second half at 51.7 percent, but ended up with a 54.4 percent shooting average for the game, which is a great percentage.

"We were down early, then proved we could come back and used a good run to get back in it," said freshman Josh Yundt.

LB had three players in double-figure scoring and two more that had nine points. They were very balanced in the scoring and spread the points around, which helped LB come out on top. LB had a great defensive game; not only did they have eight steals, they also held SWOCC to only 37.7 percent shooting overall and 35.9 percent



Taylor Roos drives the ball to the basket. Tony Brown

shooting from three point land. "We had good defensive intensity and challenged shots, also we played well as a team and were unselfish," said Head Coach Randy Falk.

SWOCC got 24 points off of the 20 LB turnovers, a number that must go down as the season goes on. On the other hand, LB made 31 shots and had 18 assists on those shots which are a good percentage.

The team motto this year for LB men's basketball is "ICU" which means Intensity, Competitiveness and Urgency. This motto has helped the team play tough basketball so far this season.

LBCC also won on Saturday night at Umpqua Community College by a score of 72-51. Sophomore Mike Kruesi lead the way for LB with 16 points. Again LB shared the scoring and they ended up having five players in double-figure scoring.

Once again the Roadrunner defense came on strong in the win, Umpqua ended the night shooting a miserable 25.7 percent overall and 16 percent from three point land. LB committed only 11 turnovers and outscored Umpqua 26-9 on bench points.

Overall this was a very successful week for the LBCC men's basketball program. With both win's this week LBCC now has a 8-7 overall record and sits in first place in the South Division with a perfect 5-0 record.

This week LB plays on the road on Friday at Clackamas Community College. On Saturday LB will host Chemeketa at 6 p.m.

# MOTO MAN RIDES AGAIN

## NEED A NEW GAME FOR YOUR MOTORCYCLE?

**Chris Brotherton**  
Staff Writer

Getting bored with the day-to-day commute? Got a free moment during the weekend after all your homework is done? Try logging onto the Pacific Northwest Riders forum and look into some Photo Tag.

The concept is simple. Log onto the forum, [www.pnwriders.com](http://www.pnwriders.com), under the Corvallis>Photo Tag thread and check out the last picture. You have to figure out where that picture was taken. Once you know where to go, you ride there, take a picture of your bike in front of the same scenery, and then post your picture.

You have to be the first one to post on the forum with your picture in order to claim that victory. If you are not first, then you have to find another

picture on the forum and try again.

Obviously, it would be unfair to ride to Los Angeles, snap a picture and expect anyone from this area to ever get that tag. The main point of the game is to keep it local. Through the game, you are trying to show people new and interesting places to ride around the valley and surrounding areas.

Here are some tips for your photos, in order to have a successful photo tag experience. First, don't forget your bike. I know this sounds simple, but how many people forget to plug the computer in before calling tech support? Remember that this is a game mostly about places to take your bike. Prove to people that a motorcycle can get there.

Second, even though you want to include your bike, don't make it the main focus of the photo. Nobody is going to be able to figure out where you are if all they can see of the

surrounding area is the reflection of a street sign in your highly polished chrome tailpipe. Your ride is pretty, we all get that, but have some clues in the picture as to your location.

Don't reveal too much. There is no challenge if you have the street signs as part of your picture. Give just enough clues that someone is going to be able to figure it out, but don't lead the horse to water and push it in and drown it.

Take a decent picture. The camera technology is such that even cheap cell phones take some pretty nice pictures for the most part. However, if you sneeze during the picture, or the light is bad, try again. Or if you have to, come back when the light is better.

With these few simple tips, you can be the hero in the fight against boredom. However, don't tie a cape around your neck while riding. That would be dangerous. Have fun and take pictures!



# CLASH OF THE COMICS: A FANBOY'S FANTASY FIGHT

## BATMAN VS. RORSCHACH

**Cameron Vasseur**  
Staff Writer

Few times in our lives are we able to witness world-changing events or titanic battles so destructive in their execution that we are stricken with an overwhelming sense of completeness for having seen it.

I have witnessed just such an event.

It was an average day at dear old LBCC. I arrived as I would any other day – a little after 9 o'clock, just in time to be late for my first class. The weather foggy and my homework half done, I perused the parking lot for a space. I finally found one in the very last row and breathed a sigh of relief at finally arriving.

Suddenly, there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my car to see what was the matter. Backpack in hand, I scanned the parking lot until I spotted the disturbance moving through the fog to my left.

Much to my surprise it was the Batmobile, its loud Bat Engine splitting asunder the silence of the lot as it rolled ever closer. It stopped in the middle of the lot, and without regard blocked the way of other cars. I watched as the door opened and out stepped the one and only Batman.

Shocked, I was about to speak when a loud 'k'chunk!' sounded from my right. Out of the fog itself the hook from a grappling gun shot through the air and collided with Batman's chest.

Not one to be caught off guard, the Bat had



already braced himself and took the shot to the chest with only a loud grunt, his mere human physique protected by the armor within his suit.

From the fog to my right came a rustle and the sound of heavy charging footsteps before a tan overcoat and hat passed me in a blur. A fist flashed from the sleeve of the coated man and was immediately blocked by the arm of the Bat, who returned the attack with an elbow to the assailant's head, knocking the bowler to the ground and revealing a pale white mask.

From beneath his mask, Rorschach growled as I stood in silent witness to a battle between the world's greatest detective and the world's harshest vigilante.

Rorschach released a wild punch to the Bat's stomach, followed quickly by another and another, though his opponent barely seemed to feel it.

The scales already tipped in his favor, Batman head-butted his shorter assailant. Receiving a more enraged growl for his efforts, Rorschach rewarded the Dark Knight by bringing both hands up and behind the temporarily disoriented Bat's head and yanked down, his knee rising to meet the Bat's face twice in quick succession.

It was Batman's turn to growl in frustration. He dropped to one knee, leaving Kovacs's hand in midair as he threw his fist hard into his opponent's abdomen. Rorschach fell on his back gasping for breath as the Bat threw a smoke pellet. A gray haze rose quickly, obscuring his target and blinding Rorschach as he felt the full weight of his opponent collide with him.

From my vantage point, I heard a series of grunts and growls escape the smoke as punches and thrown objects set off car alarms, and a thrown Batarang smashed the trunk of my car.

At last, Rorschach was thrown into the back of the vehicle nearest mine while Batman returned quickly to the Batmobile and hit the gas. In my last glimpses of the epic battle Rorschach launched himself from the shattered window of his car, landing on the roof of the speeding Batmobile and disappeared over the grassy hill and down the road.

## LBCC WOMEN SPLIT

**Scott Landgren**  
Sports Editor

The Linn-Benton women's basketball team went 1-1 this week.

On Wednesday night they beat Southwestern Oregon Community College 66-63 at home. On Saturday night the team went on the road and lost to Umpqua Community College 89-68.

During Wednesday night's game, Freshman Heidi Halemeier had a team high 25 points and returning sophomore Sam Sanders scored 15 points. In total, LB had four players in double figure scoring. LB built a 14-point halftime lead and with the help of freethrows held off a comeback by SWOCC. Freshman Sami DeVore and sophomore Carrie Garrison had a team high four assists. The LB defense created problems for SWOCC by forcing 19 turnovers.

On Saturday night, the team was led by Sanders who had 22 points; freshman Dorian Perkey added 10 points for the team. Halemeier also had 22 points and a team high of nine rebounds. Once again the LB defense created problems for Umpqua by forcing 24 turnovers, but LB didn't take advantage of all the forced turnovers and only scored 16 points off them.

With the team going 1-1 this week, the LB women's basketball team now has a record of 4-11 overall, and they are 2-3 in the Southern Division. This Friday, LB travels to Clackamas Community College and plays at 5:30 p.m. On Saturday LB returns home to play Chemeketa Community college at 4 p.m.



**Samantha DeVore takes a block as she takes a shot.**  
Tony Brown

## VICTORY IS A KNOCKOUT

**Shayne Morgan**  
Contributing Writer

On the corner of 12th and Pacific in Albany there is a gym, a place where warriors are trained in the art of pugilism.

As you enter the building and climb the stairs, you hear the pitter-patter of speed bags. Jabs and powerful left hooks pound the heavy bags. Then, as you enter the room, you see future fighters shadow-boxing, jumping rope, and sparring. The windows are covered with a heavy film of condensation and mirrors and heavy bags drape from the ceiling.

The boxers are training; both men and women are here for one thing and one thing only: to shape their minds, bodies and spirits.

Victory Gym is dedicated to the sports of boxing and mixed martial arts. They offer group and individual classes for training, competition and fitness. The coaches and staff are dedicated to helping every member achieve their goals

Brenda and Les Autry, both former LBCC students, co-manage Victory Gym. Brenda earned an associate's degree in business at LBCC and Les spent two terms at LBCC.

"We strive to be a community gym," said Brenda, a former boxer. "We have kids in our classes as young as age 8 all the way up to adults and families."

The Victory Gym is USA/ABF sanctioned. All members need a membership in USA Boxing before they can join, which costs \$45 annually. This membership includes insurance.

The training is intense. Beginners start at two days a week, from 5-6:30 p.m. The workout



Shayne Morgan

Les Autry works out at the Victory Gym in Albany.

begins with three rounds of jumping rope for footwork, followed by two rounds of shadow boxing. Next is skill building, which includes form, footwork, posture and conditioning on the mitts. The beginner's class has no contact. It's great for building core strength and flexibility.

The gym has seen some new faces as people shed extra pounds from their mid-sections that were left over from the holidays.

"I've seen some amazing transformations," Brenda said. "I see people losing about 10 pounds a month on average."

Les, who is also a boxer and the full-time coach, encourages people of all ages to try the sport. "Come down and train; it's a lot of fun."

Brenda and Les took over the gym on May 10 of 2010.

The gym offers a free trial class. For more information go to [www.vicboxgym.qwestoffice.net](http://www.vicboxgym.qwestoffice.net) or phone the Victory Gym at 541-928-0794. LBCC students receive a discounted membership rate of \$55 a month.



## LBCC STUDENT RALLIES TO SAVE CHILD CARE

Audrey Gomez  
Copy Editor

Next fall, some students may not be able to afford to work.

Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC) is a childcare subsidy plan that is set to be phased out of the state budget beginning in February. With new cuts, workers lose eligibility when they are unemployed for more than 30 days and will be removed from the program to be placed on a waiting list where applicants are awarded benefits in a random lottery system.

To Lisa Bauman, a student who also works two jobs at LBCC, this means when school is out of session over the summer, she will lose eligibility. In the fall when she returns to work and school, she will no longer have help paying for childcare. Hourly childcare expenses will be greater than her wages. She may not be able to work or finish her degree.

One of the biggest concerns is that working families won't be able to afford day care. Parents may have to stop working and go on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), costing the state more than ERDC.

"As a tax payer, I can't help but to be outraged at the expense of taking this program away," Bauman said.

So Bauman decided to take action.

Bauman is organizing a rally. The effort has garnered support across campus, the community, and from child advocacy groups such as Children First for Oregon and Family Forward Oregon. Information and flyers are available on the event blog, [saveerdc.blogspot.com](http://saveerdc.blogspot.com), and facebook group page, Rally to Save ERDC.

On campus, Robert Harrison, advisor of the LBCC Democracy Club, immediately agreed

to help Bauman when she contacted him. Harrison admits he did not know about the issue until Bauman called him. "We are mostly focused on a trip to Egypt," Harrison said, "but we're going to try to help her out. It is a very worthwhile cause." The club sponsored an informational event on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Bauman will be speaking again in the DAC on Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 12:30 p.m. Information will be updated at Bauman's website.

Children First For Oregon (CFFO), which is participating in the rally, campaigned for ERDC last year when the program faced cuts. The campaign resulted in extended funding through February 2011. CFFO reports "a survey of ERDC recipients done by OSU and UO found that nearly 100 percent of ERDC recipients would be unable to maintain employment without the help they receive from ERDC."

This year as the program is threatened again, Regan Gray, of CFFO, says that cuts to the program will affect entire communities. In addition to families who will lose this resource, day cares will lose business, and day care employees may lose their jobs. In fact, some Oregon Head Start programs have already suffered layoffs from the issue.

Bauman, who is close to earning her associates degree says, "Like many other single parents, my achievement could only have been possible through supplemental childcare assistance from ERDC."

### Rally to Save Employment Related Daycare

Where: State Capitol Building  
955 Center St. NE, Salem  
When: Wed, Feb. 9, noon

## SCHOOL DAYS IMPACT PARENTS

Audrey Gomez  
Copy Editor

This is Sarah Kruse's first term at LBCC. With enrollment at an all-time high, she took whatever classes she could get into. Her schedule includes day and evening classes on three of LBCC's campuses. Kruse also works and has two children in elementary school. Her schedule sometimes conflicts with the early release days the Greater Albany School District has implemented this year.

On Wednesday, when her two children get out of school at 1:25 p.m., Kruse will be in class. Fortunately her husband, a stay-at-home dad, will be there to pick up the kids. "We're lucky that way," says Kruse. "A lot of people don't have that option."

According to its website, the Greater Albany School District has 11 no-school days, 14 early-release Wednesdays, and three unpaid cut days this year. LBCC is in session most of these days, posing a problem for students with children in the

Albany District.

To help alleviate timetable issues, the Albany School District has partnered with several community organizations. These choices may help parents solve childcare problems, but they can be costly.

The Community Before & After School Child Care Program (CAP) provides supervised activities for \$10, after a one-time \$35 registration fee.

Albany Parks & Recreation offers themed activities, but only at two of the 16 elementary schools, also for \$10 each day.

Themed events can be found at the YMCA each Wednesday for a one-time \$10 registration fee, which includes a T-shirt. The cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. One added bonus at this location is that kids can swim in an indoor heated pool.

The Boys & Girls Club is the most affordable option, however. Their annual membership fee is only \$25. There is no extra fee for care on early-

release days, though there is a \$6 fee on days when a child attends before 10 a.m.

As a last resort, LBCC students may have to choose between missing class or bringing their child(ren) to class with them.

While LBCC's policy prohibits bringing children into college classrooms, it does allow some wiggle room: "Under most circumstances, children are not allowed in classrooms. Faculty may make exceptions to this rule on a case-by-case basis."

While some instructors do allow children to sit in their classrooms on an occasional basis, others expressly state in their syllabi that children are not allowed. It is a good idea for parents to contact their instructors as soon as they realize there are conflicts with their class schedules and those of their children. Many instructors are parents, too, and understand. Oftentimes, tests, assignments and attendance arrangements can be worked out when instructors are aware of the students' needs.

## REAL LIFE SUPERHEROES PROTECT SEATTLE

What if I told you superheroes were real? And I don't mean regular people who do good things sometimes - I mean costume-donning, crime-fighting people who go looking for evil to defeat in the late hours of the night.

Allow me to introduce you to a real-life vigilante superhero in the Seattle area. His real name is not known to the public, but he has been roaming the streets fighting crime under the alias Phoenix Jones for the past nine months. He carries a taser that resembles a cattle prod, a can of mace, a grappling hook, tear gas, and a net gun. He heads up the Rain City Superhero Movement, which includes 8 additional members. Their superhero names are Thorn, Buster Doe, Green Reaper, Gemini, No Name, Catastrophe, Thunder 88, and Penelope.



Jordan Tunstall  
A&E Editor

Together, they are doing their part to keep the streets of Seattle and surrounding cities safer.

I just have one question: Could this get any cooler? Jones and his team are normal people, who feel pain, have no superhuman abilities, nor the resources of Bruce Wayne. But what they do have is the drive to make the world a better place, and the belief that they can make a difference.

Phoenix Jones's biggest crime bust so far was a recent carjacking he thwarted while on patrol in Seattle. A man looked outside to see a stranger trying to pry his window open. He called the police, but before they arrived, a man in tights and a mask chased the would-be carjacker away. Eventually the immensely grateful man, who identified himself to authorities as "Dan," was able to meet his savior, who was none other than Phoenix Jones.

It is worth mentioning that the Rain City Superhero Movement doesn't limit themselves to only stopping violent crime. They have been observed feeding the homeless, and more recently, they assisted a stranded motorist whose car was not starting.

Curiously enough, the police have become accustomed to the Rain City Superhero Movement's presence, and the do-gooders have learned to function without hindering police work. They let the police know where they will be patrolling before they go, and all of the heroes act as witnesses for the crimes that they see.

Now, there have been sticky situations for Seattle's vigilantes. In an interview, Jones admitted he has been stabbed more than once, and he has also been shot before. This would scare most people off, but it seems to only make this hero even more determined to continue serving up his personal style of justice.

I noticed that quite a lot of the press the Rain City Superhero Movement has received is negative, especially the online news articles. But honestly, Jones deserves a little credit, and maybe even some good publicity. He is simply acting on the childhood dream of saving the innocent from evil, a dream that nearly every child has at one point or another in their life. The Rain City Superhero Movement is genuinely doing good, albeit in an extremely unusual way.

Personally, I'm glad they are out there at night, trying to improve the lives of others at risk to themselves. It does my heart good to know that maybe, just maybe, all my childhood wishing for superheroes is finally coming true. Phoenix Jones, Rain City Superhero Movement, I salute you.





# PRESIDENT ADDRESSES SCHOOL FINANCES AT BUDGET MEETING

Paula Buck  
Contributing Writer

Our country is in some serious financial trouble, and whether you know a lot or a little about the details of it, you still have most likely heard about or felt the effects of it in some way.

Since water rolls down hill, everyone is truly affected, from the very peaks of our government right down to our community, jobs, families and our schools.

That is what the first budget meeting here at LBCC on Friday, Jan. 21 was about. The meeting concerned our school and our upcoming school year budget for 2011-12.

The state builds budgets biannually. Currently, the biennium is in the 2009-11 year. The state of Oregon budget is at a \$3.6 billion shortfall.

LBCC builds theirs annually. The state has up to \$417 million in funds, set specifically for community colleges, which is a fund that is divided between 17 community colleges throughout Oregon including LBCC. That will be reduced by \$4 million, which is what our school will build its expected budget off of.

However, that money is not just freely given to our school in full. In fact, for every school year, the amount of money that is divided to each school from the community college fund is based off of the total attendance percentage for each of the previous three years.



provided by LBCC  
LB President Greg Hamann

When looked at in detail, this spreads the amount our school gets per student a little thinner. Because of this, and the current nationwide budget crisis downward trickle, LBCC has a greater budget shortfall.

As of recently this stands at \$2,317,448, which was a slightly larger amount before our board and administrators got together and figured ways to make up for some of this loss. They still have a ways to go, though they seem confident they can find resolution.

The school board is considering approving a \$7 increase in tuition, starting next summer term, and then another \$5 increase for the following year.

"We hope that by the time we get through this next biennium, we'll have stabilized economically as a state and we'll not have to rely so heavily on the backs of our students" said Greg Hamann, LBCC president.

The tuition increase, however, only makes up for 40 percent of the shortfall. The other 60 percent will be cut from expenditures, which could likely include cutting certain classes, but how many and which ones are unknown at this time.

We will know more in the coming months, as the school's budget outline is due to be completed sometime in June.

For more information on state budget, contact George Naughton, budget and management administrator, at 503-378-5460.

## BUDGET CUTS: EVERYONE SHARES THE LOAD

Dear Editor,  
I would like to applaud the entire staff – classified, faculty, and administrators – for agreeing to a pay-cut in order to balance the college budget. Rather than balancing the budget by reducing staff, or the number of teaching days, or on the backs of one employee group, everyone pitched in, on a largely equal basis, to solve this difficult problem. President Greg Hamann led by example in volunteering to take a 5% pay reduction.

Students deserve a commendation as well; they are the other half of the solution. Our contribution is through an increase in tuition. This will amount to a sizable burden for financially strapped students.

The recession is not easy for any of us. When we pull together, however, we will all make it to the finish line ... and not leave anyone behind. I am proud to be a student where collaboration and teamwork are valued.

Sincerely,  
*Rick Lorraine*

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**Ongoing**

**Gallery Features Eugene Photographer**

*South Santiam Hall Gallery*  
Portraits of farmers, families and colorful individuals by Eugene photographer Susie Morrill are on exhibit at Linn-Benton Community College's South Santiam Gallery until Jan. 28.

**Gallery Features Northwest Artists**

*North Santiam Hall Gallery*  
Salem artists Carol Hausser and Cynthia Herron, two painters whose abstract styles offer an engaging contrast, share the walls with Eugene artist Beverly Soasey, who works in mixed-media sculpture and assemblages. They will be on display until Feb. 25.

**Wednesday 1/26**

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • *Cascade Rooms*  
Join the Student Programming Board and the American Red Cross in their efforts to save lives in the community by donating blood. Register online at [givelife.org](http://givelife.org). Sponsor code LBCC.

**College Transfer Day**

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. • *Takena Hall*  
This free event is geared toward students interested in transferring to four-year institutions. Information and representatives will be available from 22 public and private four-year colleges. For more information, contact Nancy Morrill at 541-917-4816.

**Test Prep Seminar: Lebanon**

1:30 – 2:20 p.m. • *LC-202*  
Prepare for tests for free.

**Public Reception and Gallery Talk**

2 – 3 p.m. • *North Santiam Hall Gallery*  
Join artists Carol Hausser, Cynthia Herron, and Beverly Soasey as they speak on their art that's on display in NSH.

**Test Prep Seminar**

3 – 3:50 p.m. • *WH-225*  
Prepare for tests for free.

**Thursday 1/27**

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. • *Cascade Rooms*  
Join the Student Programming Board and the American Red Cross in their efforts to save lives in the community by donating blood. Register online at [givelife.org](http://givelife.org). Sponsor code LBCC.

**Eyes on the Prize Film Series**

4 – 6 p.m. • *Diversity Achievement Center*  
Sponsored by the DAC Student Leaders.

**National Holocaust Day**

*Courtyard*  
The Field of Flags is a visual display of victims of Holocausts throughout history. Each flag represents 20,000 people. This event will run all day and is sponsored by the DAC Student Leaders.

**Friday 1/28**

**Deadline for Spring term graduation applications**

Completed applications need to be turned into the Admissions Office. If students have questions, they can contact Tammi Drury at 541-917-4818.

**Financial Aid Priority Deadline for Spring 2011**

Get on the ball, team!

**Saturday 1/29**

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

4 – 8 p.m.  
Vs. Chemeketa CC. Women play at 4 p.m. Men play at 6 p.m. Free admission to LBCC students and staff. General admission is \$2.

**Tuesday 2/1**

**Black History Month**

*Diversity Achievement Center*  
During the month of February, the DAC Student Leaders will be sponsoring speakers, displays, and documentaries. Watch for times and dates on the reader boards and outside of the DAC.

**Slave Trade to the Civil Rights Movement**

*Diversity Achievement Center*  
Sponsored by the DAC Student Leaders.

**Get Yourself Organized Seminar: Benton Center**

5 – 5:50 p.m. • *BC-232*  
This seminar is free!

**CHANGES IN LB FINANCIAL AID POLICIES**

Tony Brown

Photo Editor

When you attend college on a limited budget, financial aid is often a major source of income. Students depend on aid to pay for tuition, books and living expenses, but what happens when the government or college departments make changes to your account that affect your financial aid?

After standing in long lines to get into the LBCC Bookstore and then standing in another line to check out at the register, the last thing anyone wants to hear is "you have no money in your account."

That is what happened to several students trying to purchase books, and they did not realize it until they arrived at the bookstore

checkout counter on Jan 5.

"I was told I had a negative balance when I should have had a positive balance," said Whitney Bruce, a student at LBCC.

For students depending on funds to be available on Jan 5, there were immediate feelings of panic. Would they have to withdraw from school? How would they be able to meet their financial obligations?

Lines rapidly shifted from the bookstore to financial aid.

For most of the students there was immediate relief, for others problems remained.

"We understood that students were frustrated," said bookstore manager Lawrence LaJoie. "We held the student's books for them and gave them a pass to bypass the lines once the problem was corrected."

What happened?

"Financial Aid had added a software patch to the Banner operating system that caused the student account to show a zero balance," LaJoie said.

Banner is an operating system that integrates all student systems from Financial Aid, Admissions, Registration, Bookstore and the Business Office. In order for the system to function correctly, upgrades and patches are done routinely.

This patch had to be in place in order for students to get their actual disbursement of credit balances on the correct date. The problem was brought to the attention of financial aid that

morning and the assistant director and computer services Banner consultant were able to find a solution by 2 p.m.

"This problem was not limited to LBCC. It was a software problem that

affected all schools that use Banner software," said the director of financial aid, Bev Gerig. LBCC routinely installs software upgrades and patches. Any time a law is enacted related to federal student funding, it impacts financial aid. Multiple changes are done in software every year in order to process changes in the FAFSA and to be able to deliver federal financial aid dollars to students.

"It is sometimes challenging, but we spend many hours testing and analyzing upgrades and patches to make sure they work and will not impact students," said Gerig. "Unfortunately, there will always be times when we miss something or Banner misses something that can cause problems beyond our control."

Will it happen again? Maybe. As long as changes are mandated, there is the possibility that it will happen again.

**How to Prevent Holds**

- Know applicable deadlines
- Make satisfactory academic progress
- Report required information
- Check your status online

**Academic Success Seminars**

**Boost Your COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE!**

**Just drop in, or sign up in WebRunner (formerly SIS) under "Study Skills."**  
[www.linnbenton.edu/go/webrunner](http://www.linnbenton.edu/go/webrunner)

**Prepare for Tests**

Wednesday	January 26	Albany	WH-225	3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Wednesday	January 26	Lebanon	LC-202	1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

**Get Organized**

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

**Active Learning Strategies**

Tuesday	February 8	Benton Center	BC-232	5:00 – 5:50 p.m.
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 WebRunner (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.

Always 50 minutes!

**ALWAYS FREE!**

Always helpful!



**Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**IF YOU HAVE A CAMPUS SHORT, PLEASE E-MAIL THEM TO COMMUTER@LINNBENTON.EDU.**



# GREATEST HEROES TO SAVE THE BIG SCREEN

Ashley Christie

Page Designer

In the past decade or so, studios have run amok with comic book and superhero movie adaptations. Some have been really great ("X-Men," "Dark Knight"), some have been really bad ("X-Men Origins: Wolverine," "Batman & Robin"), and others have been really please-make-it-stop-when-will-this-trend-die dreadful ("Daredevil," "Elektra").

I've rounded up some of my favorite superheroes from an assortment of superhero movies, both good and bad. *And just as a disclaimer to all you fanboys and fangirls out there, these are based on the movies (which I know usually get it wrong) and not the comic book canon they originated from.*

In no particular order ...

**Mrs. Incredible** (Holly Hunter)  
*a.k.a. Helen Parr/ Elastigirl*  
**from:** "The Incredibles" (2004)  
**Superpowers or super cool gadgets:** Superpowers  
**Special Abilities:** She's Elastigirl, she can stretch and

reshape her body into whatever is needed to save the day  
**Arch Villain:** Syndrome  
**Why she's on the list:** She cooks, cleans, helps with homework, and... oh yeah, jets half way around the world to rescue her husband when he gets himself kidnapped. She can do anything, and get the kids back in time for bed. (It is a school day after all.) Being a superhero is hard; being a wife and mother, well, that's just crazy.

**Iron Man** (Robert Downey Jr.)  
*a.k.a. Tony Stark*  
**from:** "Iron Man" (2008)  
**Superpowers or super cool gadgets:** Super cool gadgets  
**Special abilities:** Gold-titanium exoskeleton powered by Stark's arc-reactor. It can fly, shoot lasers, and launch anti-tank missiles.  
**Advisory:** Obadiah Stane  
**Why he's on the list:** Robert Downey Jr.

oozes charm and charisma. He was a perfect fit for this egotistical superhero who doesn't shy away from fame and celebrity. While the second film lacked some of the inspiration of the first, I still hold out hope for the next one--as long as Jon Favreau is directing and there's at least on scene of Robert Downey Jr. with his shirt off.

**Hit-Girl** (Chloë Grace Moretz)  
*a.k.a. Mindy Macready*  
**from:** "Kick-Ass" (2010)  
**Superpowers or super cool gadgets:** Super cool gadgets  
**Special abilities:** She's got the mouth of a sailor and a right hook to match  
**Antagonist:** Frank D'Amico  
**Why she's on the list:** Women are an underrepresented demographic in the superhero movie world. (No, "Catwoman" doesn't count, and we will not speak of it again.) Even more

underrepresented is the 11-year-old girl demographic. She hits, kicks, flips, and has the ultimate disguise, because who wouldn't trust a doe-eyed little girl? Plus, she has a purple wig and can take a bullet like a pro. I want to be just like her when I grow up.

**The Bowler** (Janeane Garofalo)  
*a.k.a. Carol*  
**from:** "Mystery Men" (1999)  
**Superpowers or super cool gadgets:** Superpowers in the form of a super cool bowling ball  
**Special abilities:** Bowling ball with a mind of his own.  
**Nemeses:** Tony P. and Casanova Frankenstein  
**Why she's on the list:** "Mystery Men" is full of... um... unique superheroes. And while I could have included The Blue Raja or The Shoveler, I'm partial to The Bowler. Why? She's not afraid to get in there and throw down. You might think she's crazy because she put her dad's skull in a bowling ball

and talks to him, but I call that devotion. Yes, it's a little awkward when they get into arguments, but she's just cranky because she's wearing someone else's shoes.

**Michelangelo** (Michelan Sisti, Robbie Rist (voice))  
*a.k.a. the orange one*  
**from:** "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" (1990)  
**Superpowers or super cool gadgets:** Superpowers  
**Special abilities:** He's an anthropomorphic turtle trained in ninjutsu by a rat sensei.  
**Villain:** Shredder  
**Why he's on the list:** Who didn't love those heroes in a half shell? (And just to be clear, we're talking about the movie and not the current reincarnation of these mutant heroes, which looks super terrifying.) Mikey was hands-down the coolest of the four. He got all the best lines and was the party dude. Plus, he got the nunchucks - so he wins. Turtle power!

See the entire list online at: [commuter.linnbenton.edu](http://commuter.linnbenton.edu)



## "COMPANY MEN" REFLECTS ECONOMIC CRUNCH

Jeremy Smith  
Contributing Writer

The burden of the now dubbed "great recession" has not gone without notice by the film industry.

"The Company Men" chooses to follow suit, introducing us to Bobby Walker (Ben Affleck) and Gene McClary (Tommy Lee Jones) who have each fallen into the same hole as millions of Americans: unemployment.

Having spent the better part of his professional life employed by GTX, Bobby finds himself out of a job with nothing but a three month severance to show for his 12 years of loyal work. Bobby begins his journey to reenter the job market and quickly finds that the value he has placed on himself is not being recognized by his potential employers.

Meanwhile Gene, Bobby's mentor and ex-boss, watches helplessly as his friend and colleague Jim Salinger (Craig T. Nelson) panders to the shareholders in order to extract every last cent possible from the company they spent their whole lives building. Adamantly voicing his belief that the company owes its previous successes to the loyalty of its workers, Gene too is soon found to be the victim of the downsizing.

Writer and director John

Wells constructed each character to feel the effects of unemployment differently - Bobby, for instance, was left with feelings of inadequacy in the face of financial foreclosure, while Gene's perspective was considerably more existential. On the twilight of his professional life he looks back on the now dilapidated warehouse that once harbored employment for 6,000 "honest men making an honest wage" with nothing but disappointment.

This grim portrait of unemployment, while painted entirely unapologetically, is not without its own shortcomings. Nelson's character is more often depicted as a self serving bourgeois caricature than the supposed best friend we are told he is to Jones. In fact, most of the emotional impact between the two characters relies heavily on musical cues awkwardly struck in attempts to manipulate the audience's sense of compassion.

The ensemble cast did, however, help to instill the very prevalent undertones and stigmas attached to contemporary unemployment. Regardless of the occasional emotional misfire, it accomplished, with a fair share of cleverness, its ultimate goal of an honest depiction of the many facets surrounding our dependence on employment.

## MARQUETTE GUMBO SWINGS AT THE BENTON CENTER

Drew Wilson-McGrath  
Contributing Writer

On Friday, Jan. 21, the musical duo Marquette Gumbo did a set in the lounge of LBCC's Benton Center in Corvallis.



Marquette Gumbo

The two men, Sid Beam and Joe Casprowiak, utilize three key instruments: the clarinet, banjo, and acoustic guitar. The music they play possesses an old-timey feel to it; mix that with the early 20th century guitar licks of Casprowiak, and you have a sound that is unique and fun. Beam dabbles in the clarinet and the banjo, and he plays both with passion.

The stage was simple, the setting relaxed, the audience consisting mostly of people in their late 40's and early 50's. Beam and Casprowiak played with a zest and drive in their one-of-a-kind genre that transcends generations. They would pause occasionally to stage humorous discussions with one another and get a little bit more personal with the audience, lending a very pleasant conversational tone to the set as the two friends played.

I have no real critique of the concert itself because the setting was small and simple, exactly the way it would have been when men very similar to these two

were playing folk songs and good ol' down-home blues along the Mississippi in the late 1800's.

That's what is magical about the music of Marquette Gumbo. Everything about their tone, styling, and sound of their music makes one hearken back to a time where steam ships were the fastest form of transportation

in the southern states, and moonshine was the social lubricant of choice. Slick banjo tunes, dreamy clarinet interludes and the elegant twangs of Casprowiak's steel guitar make the listener feel light and happy, and the conversational tone they capture puts you in a scene; a time and place, not just a chair in the Benton Center student lounge.

I applaud and admire these two troubadours for their dedication to a musical styling that has long since been tossed to the wind in the way Huckleberry Finn has; we only endure it when we are required to or when it is a family tradition. Beam and Casprowiak are attempting to bring back the good times as well as the feelings of enchantment through music and the art of conversation that existed in early 20th century. They make one reminisce of a time when music was for more than money and fame; a time when music existed to entertain and bring wandering souls together under one sound.



## "KING'S SPEECH" IS A ROYAL DELIGHT

Kay Roth  
Contributing Writer

"The King's Speech" is about so much more than what the title implies. It is about family relationships, friendships, and the dedication of a loving woman.

Starring Colin Firth as the unexpected King George VI and Helena Bonham Carter as Queen Elizabeth, "The King's Speech," follows the story of "Bertie" and his ascension to the throne when his brother abdicates.

It is Prince Albert's stammer that leads the future King George VI to an unlikely friendship with Lionel Logue, portrayed by Geoffrey Rush (*Pirates of the Caribbean*).

"Call me Lionel," Rush's character says to Firth's Bertie when the pair first meets in Logue's office. Logue's unorthodox speech therapy methods draw out Bertie's long-hidden traumas, helping him draw on his own strength to enhance his speech.

When Bertie's brother David professes his love for Wallace Simpson, his twice-divorced mistress, he is forced to abdicate, leaving his younger, stammering brother in the unwanted position to be king.

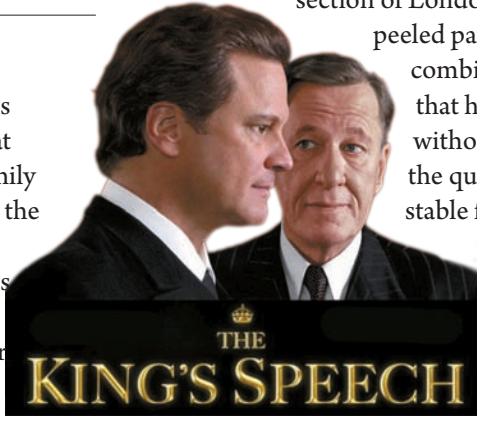
Perhaps it is the last piece of the story that goes underappreciated by most theatergoers. If not for Bonham Carter's Queen Elizabeth, her husband and his therapist would never have met. It was Queen Elizabeth's determination to help her husband that led her to a less-than-upper-class

section of London. It is in the office of Logue, peeled paint and shabby furniture combined, where Bertie learns that he can indeed speak in public without stammering. It is because of the queen's determination to raise a stable family that the future king has a loving relationship with the couple's young daughters, Margaret and the future Queen Elizabeth.

Thanks to the many historical figures (Winston Churchill, King George V, Wallace Simpson, to name a few), the film takes audiences through the days leading up to World War II. Unlike some historical films, "The King's Speech" utilizes the times as background and not as a huge part of the plot. The real plot is the friendship between Bertie and Lionel and Queen Elizabeth's love of her husband that makes "The King's Speech" flow.

With masterful performances by Firth, Bonham Carter and Rush, the movie is filled with wonderful moments, with laughter and sorrow and with a story of friendship that lasted a lifetime. I spent the afternoon totally engrossed in historical England, feeling empathy for Bertie and cheering when he succeeded in giving the most important speech of his life.

The costumes were top notch, the acting superb, and the story was mystifying, uplifting and fun. The old adage about friendship having no boundaries was proven throughout the film as royalty and the common man worked side by side toward a common goal and, in the end, became friends.



## FRIENDS WITH "NO STRINGS ATTACHED"

Ashley Christie  
Page Designer

If creativity is dead, I'm pretty sure Hollywood killed it. Every year there are always a couple films that have eerily similar plots ("The Prestige"/ "The Illusionist," "Antz"/ "A Bug's Life," or "The Killers"/ "Knight and Day"). The worst part is that studios don't even try to disguise the fact that they're all using the same idea by spacing the movies out. They usually are released within a few months of each other depending on whoever can get it out there first so they look like the original ones.

This year, it's "No Strings Attached" and "Friends with Benefits." Both films are romcoms about a man and women who decide to go from best friends to sex friends; that is, a physical relationship without the hassle of emotions and feelings.

"Benefits," which doesn't come out until July, stars Justin

Timberlake and Mila Kunis as the aforementioned friends. Based on the trailer, and the fact that it is written and directed by "Easy A's" Will Gluck, I'm thinking it will lean more on the comedy side of romantic-comedy. So there's a chance that it could be pretty decent. As long as people don't see "Strings" and get turned off on the idea completely.

"Strings" stars Ashton Kutcher and Natalie Portman as Adam and Emma. They meet one summer at camp and

coincidentally run into each other over the next 15 years until they conveniently end up both living in Los Angeles.

She's an emotionally closed-off doctor while he's an assistant on a "High School Musical-esque" TV show who wears his heart on his sleeve; which is funny because they're total opposites. [insert canned laughter here] However will it all end?

It is possible to make a good romantic comedy. I've seen it done. And I guess it always comes down to the ending. No matter how good the hour and 45 minutes are, it's the last 15 that either make it or break it.

The entire film is funny and cute; it's full of likable characters and great performances, and then ... there's a big romantic gesture followed by a cliché sappy line which cues the sweeping music in the background. It's supposed to make everyone (on screen and off) swoon and go weak in the knees, but the only thing it elicits from the audience is a groan and a roll of the eyes.

For the most part, "Strings" isn't that bad. After "Black Swan" I'm totally loving Natalie Portman right now and not going to lie when I say she was the main reason I wanted to see this movie. Ashton Kutcher is really sweet too as a guy who just wants to be in love. I hate to admit it, but he's kind of grown on me since "That '70s Show." (I've almost forgotten about "Dude, Where's My Car?")

My major problem is that neither character is really ever developed. From the first time we meet Emma, we are continuously hit over the head with the fact that she is a soulless robot, incapable of human emotions. But it's never explained why. And Adam is given a side story about his rocky relationship with his famous actor father (Kevin Klein), but that is never fully flushed out either.

Plus, there is an older doctor at Emma's hospital who she is constantly flirting with for absolutely no reason, as far as I could tell. I feel like a lot of this film (you know, like the scenes that would help it all make sense) was left on the cutting room floor.

The movie had its moments and I did laugh out loud a couple times, mainly at the supporting characters. All in all it was your standard romcom. I can't say I expected much more, I guess I just hoped for it. But hey, just wait a few more months and we get to try it all over again with Mila Kunis and Justin Timberlake. Oh, boy!



## redbox review

### JONAH HEX (Rated PG-13, Runtime 81 min.)

Justin Bolger  
Editor-in-Chief

In short: It took me more than one try to finish this movie.

There are two ways I imagine a person could enjoy this movie. They either watch "Jonah Hex" with a large crew of pals, eager and ready to laugh the whole way through, or they just skip everything but the last 12 minutes. Either way, this is not the sort of movie you would remember a week from now.

Jonah Hex (Josh Brolin) is a cowboy who watched everything he loved (and his face) get burned to ashes because he chose the moral route in a time of war. Quest for vengeance: begin. Oh yeah, he can also talk to dead people.

Those last 12 minutes are so filled with explosions, special effects, and ass-kickery they make Megan Fox look like a badass - no small task. These are the reasons you wanted to watch



the movie, right? Yeah, well the rest of "Jonah Hex" just doesn't pack in enough of it, so you're pretty much out of luck, champ.

Honestly, it's just about the perfect level of terrible that could make it fun to watch, but I believe it missed the mark there, as well. The writing is totally campy, the actors seemed to be aiming for campy, and the explosions sometimes look like they're lifted from the Playstation - the original. Sorry, did I say campy? I might have meant crappy.

Seriously? He can talk to the dead, but he can't come up with something more creative to name his horse than "Horse"? You're a real thinker, Hex.

I'm sure there were some redeeming qualities somewhere, something that would make it seem like my other hour and some wasn't a complete waste. The soundtrack was a decent blend of cowboy movie and sorta-rock, costumes looked a certain type of cool, and ... aha! John Malkovich was in it! He plays Quentin Turnbull, the nemesis. I've loved him as the psychotic villain ever since "Con Air." While he's no Cyrus the Virus in this, he's still an entertaining bad guy.

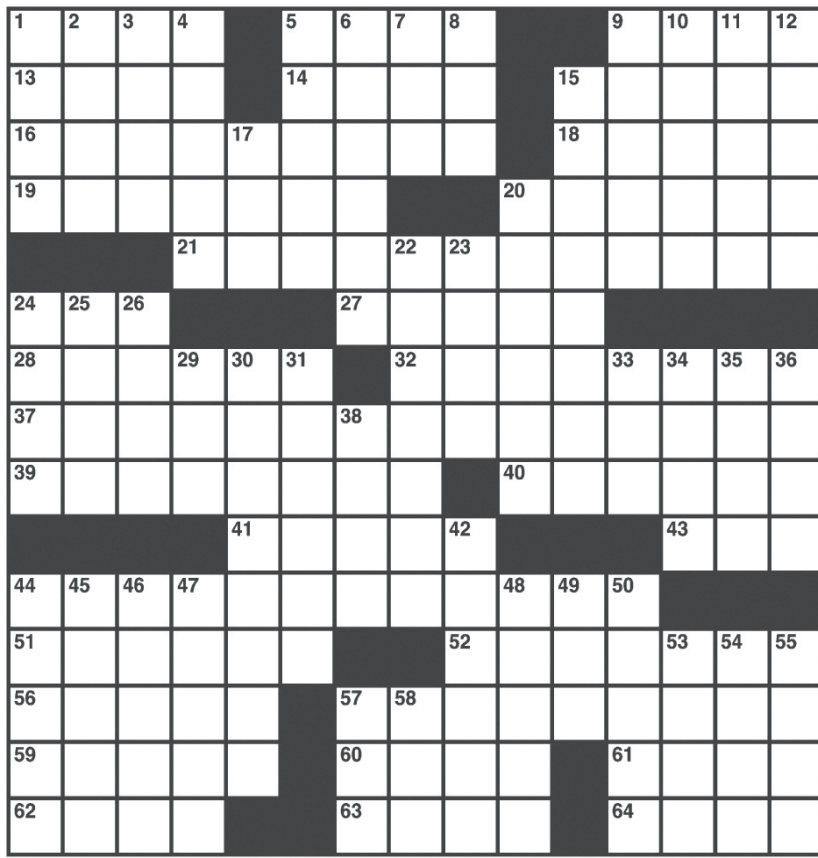
Don't get me wrong, I'm a total sucker for comic book movies (even the lame ones), but this is how little I enjoyed the movie. I don't know who they were aiming to please with this movie, but they definitely missed the mark in a lot of places along the way.



**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Heartless
  - 5 Run in a traffic jam?
  - 9 “\_\_ fan tutte”: Mozart opera
  - 13 Hodgepodge
  - 14 Aquarium clapper
  - 15 Be silent, in music
  - 16 Tropical fruit that grows underground?
  - 18 Autobahn autos
  - 19 Exceeded, as a budget
  - 20 Ankle-swelling cause
  - 21 Church game played with cans and bottles?
  - 24 Workout unit
  - 27 More cunning
  - 28 Not away
  - 32 Michigan college town
  - 37 Italian cheese from the Florida Keys?
  - 39 Snobs
  - 40 Fictional author of “The World According to Bensenhaver”
  - 41 Spot to get off
  - 43 Grant opponent
  - 44 Fled what was once Zaire?
  - 51 Body shop offering
  - 52 SWAT team supply
  - 56 Jet trail
  - 57 Jargon of ancient Yucatán?
  - 59 Nanos and minis
  - 60 Drive the getaway car for, say
  - 61 Prefix with dollar
  - 62 Last word sung with champagne in hand
  - 63 Presidential power
  - 64 Future J.D.’s hurdle



By Dan Naddor

- 4 Hall of Fame second baseman Bobby
- 5 Stern with a bow
- 6 Chain that serves the Grand Slam breakfast
- 7 Fall behind
- 8 “Strange Magic” band
- 9 Bay of Naples isle
- 10 Continental divide?
- 11 Baseball commissioner since the '90s
- 12 “\_\_ big deal”
- 15 Military higher-ups
- 17 G.I. ration
- 20 Witnessed visiting
- 22 Enduring opus
- 23 Navel buildup
- 24 Bailiff’s request
- 25 Compound containing a hydroxyl group
- 26 Spitting sound
- 29 Giant great who wore #4
- 30 Library volumes?

**Wednesday’s Puzzle Solved**



(c)2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

- 31 Avian homemaker
- 33 Hook (up)
- 34 False god
- 35 Brute
- 36 Weapon in Clue
- 38 Hardly at all
- 42 “When I’m ready”
- 44 The King
- 45 Lathered up
- 46 Food fowl
- 47 Battery terminal
- 48 “Peachy keen!”
- 49 “For Me and My \_\_\_”
- 50 Bay window
- 53 Wildebeests
- 54 Indian mausoleum city
- 55 Flue coat
- 57 Dallas cager, briefly
- 58 He’s next to Teddy on Mount Rushmore

**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](http://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).

**Receptionist (#8685, Albany)**

Do you have computer experience, people skills and are familiar with medical coding and insurance billing procedures, this full-time position is for you!

**Diesel Shop Mechanic**

(#8677, Jefferson) You can apply for a full-time or part-time job doing maintenance, trouble shooting and repair of trucks.

**Receptionist/Inventory**

**Controller** (#8683, between Albany & Lebanon) Have you been at LBCC two years and have some office management and computer skills? This full-time job awaits you.

**Phlebotomy Services Rep**

(#8676, Corvallis) Need a part-time job that is 8am-11am Tuesday & Thursday? If you have phlebotomy skills, this could be for you!

**Wanted**

Woman looking for room to rent near Corvallis campus call 206-218-2053

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.

**Do you know where this picture was taken?**



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



**Last Week’s Answer:** Picture was taken from underneath the Solar Gazebo in the Courtyard.

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

Where on Campus Am I?

Photo by Alyssa Archer

**Add/Drop**

An LBCC student-generated comic.

By Maggie O’Reilly





# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

### Last Issue's Puzzle Solved

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

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

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## SUPERSCOPES YOUR SUPER GUIDE TO THE ZODIAC



**ARIES**  
3/21-4/19  
**Wolverine:** Was there really any other option?

Like Wolverine, you're strong, have animal senses, are nearly indestructible, and you are a total badass – the ultimate badass. Plus, you have claws, man!



**TAURUS**  
4/20-5/20  
**The Hulk:** Hulk smash! You're pretty incredible, but like The Hulk,

I don't want to make you angry. I don't like you when you're angry.



**GEMINI**  
5/21-6/21  
**Wonder Twins:** Like your superhero, without your other half

you're completely useless; just another orphan in purple spandex. But you have a pet monkey, so that's ... something.



**CANCER**  
6/22-7/22  
**Deadpool:** He has it – cancer, I mean, so this was an obvious choice for you. Deadpool

is known as the merc with a mouth. He's totally insane and often breaks the fourth wall.



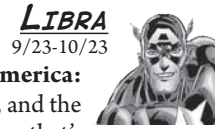
**LEO**  
7/23-8/22  
**Iron Man:** You're Iron Man, of course, and you want to

make sure everyone knows it. Some superheroes want to help people and protect mankind, but you have your priorities straight: It's all about the fame and the glory.



**VIRGO**  
8/23-9/22  
**Rogue:** You're a pretty little southern belle who packs a hell of a punch.

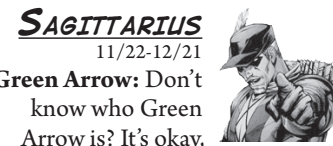
If your theme song wasn't "Can't Touch This" by MC Hammer, you'd just have to fight the bad men off with a stick.



**LIBRA**  
9/23-10/23  
**Captain America:** Truth, justice, and the American way – that's what's up, Libra! You've a shield to protect your home, but man, when you huck that thing at some baddies, you tear it up!



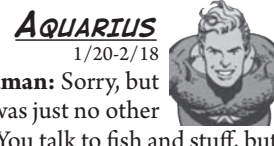
**SCORPIO**  
10/24-11/21  
**Batman:** You come from a dark past ... wait – you're lucky to have know your parents at all, millionaire. You strike fear into wrong-doers ... wait – you never even kill anyone. Hold on, what powers do you have again?



**SAGITTARIUS**  
11/22-12/21  
**Green Arrow:** Don't know who Green Arrow is? It's okay, no one else does either. I guess he shoots arrows ... or something. And he probably wears green. I'm thinking he's kind of like Robin Hood but without the whole robbing thing.



**CAPRICORN**  
12/22-1/19  
**Powerpuff Girls:** Three superhero female children are what it takes to equal one Capricorn. For the work of one Capricorn, it takes three little girls who fly and throw power punches. You, alone, achieve the same amount as three, together.



**AQUARIUS**  
1/20-2/18  
**Aquaman:** Sorry, but there was just no other choice. You talk to fish and stuff, but so does my crazy aunt Hilda. Good luck out there, and remember: The Justice League just felt bad for you.



**PISCES**  
2/19-3/20  
**Wonder Woman:** When someone thinks of a female superhero, it's you. You are the pinnacle of all super-powered women. I congratulate you, Pisces. By the way, lovin' the new costume.

### THE COMMUTER STAFF

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Fried Bananas

An LBCC student-generated comic.

By Mason Britton

THE PLOPINATOR





**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**THE RITE**

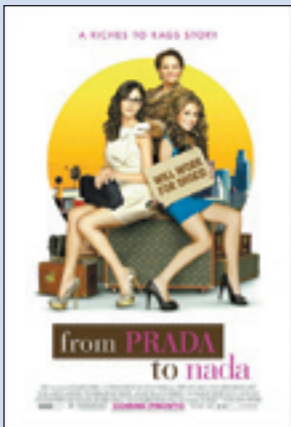
Anthony Hopkins stars as a priest who travels to the Vatican to renew his faith by attending exorcism classes and encountering demonic forces in the form of a teenage girl.



**Rated:** PG-13 • **Runtime:** 127 min.  
**Genre:** Supernatural Thriller

**FROM PRADA TO NADA**

A modern day retelling of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility" finds spoiled sisters Camilla Belle and Alexa Vega having to move in with their aunt in East LA after the sudden death of their father leaves them penniless and homeless.



**Rated:** PG-13 • **Runtime:** 107 min.  
**Genre:** High School Drama

**THE MECHANIC**

When you need someone taken out, you call in a pro. Arthur Bishop (Jason Statham) is the best assassin around, thanks to his mentor Harry (Donald Sutherland). When Harry is killed, Arthur and Harry's son (Ben Foster) set out looking for revenge.



**Rated:** R • **Runtime:** 92 min. • **Genre:** Shoot'em Up

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

**DESCEND INTO A CRAZY GOOD GAME**

**Marci Sischo**  
 Webmaster

"Amnesia: the Dark Descent" reduces the player to a small child huddled in the dark, praying the monsters will go away. Literally.

Well, almost. The player takes on the role of Daniel, a man who has purposely given himself amnesia:

"Don't forget. Some things mustn't be forgotten. The shadow hunting me... I must hurry. My name is Daniel. I live in London, at Mayfair. What have I done? This is crazy! Don't forget, don't forget! I must stop him! Focus!"

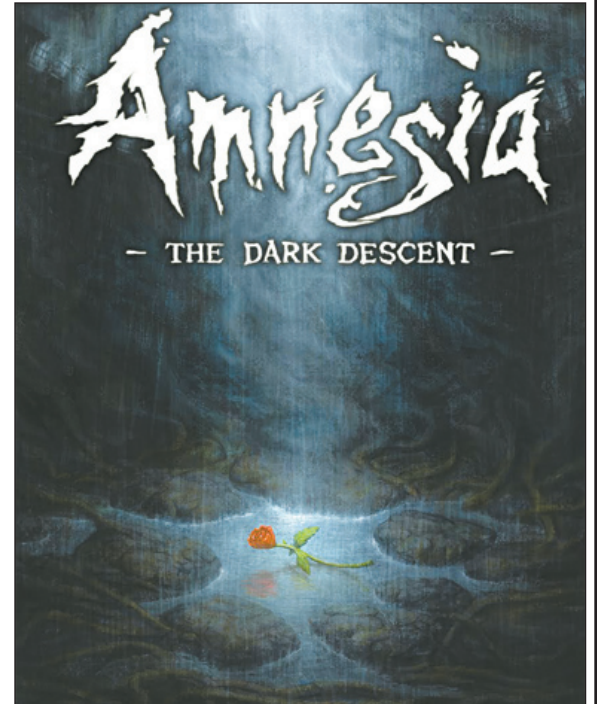
And with that, the screen goes dark, and the freshly amnesiac Daniel awakens in a seriously creepy old castle with a mysterious blood trail to follow. The game sets the tone at "deeply disquieting" right out of the gates, placing you in a dimly-lit ruin of a stone corridor. As you follow the blood trail, the amazing sound effects – the thunderstorm outside, the howling wind, the creaks and groans of the castle itself – add to the tension, dialing the fear factor up a notch or two. Mere moments later, as Daniel staggers, still reeling from the effects of the drug he's taken to wipe his memory, the castle shakes with the thunderous roar of some hidden beast. Yeah, I jumped when it happened. I ain't gonna lie.

"Amnesia: the Dark Descent" is a first-person exploratory game, full of medium-difficulty puzzles. The graphics aren't bad, the controls are pretty solid, and the sound is fantastic. The story is well-written, the plot is impressive, and the mystery unravels at a more than satisfying pace. Not one part of that matters though, because where this game really shines is in the slow buildup of raw fear and tension.

Doors creak slowly open on their own. Sudden winds blow out candles and torches, plunging the room into darkness. The castle echoes with what sounds like footsteps, and not your own. Five minutes into the game, you have a death grip on your mouse as you begin to realize that there's something out there, in the darkness, and you have nothing with which to defend yourself.

This is a motif which carries throughout the game. There is no way to fight the monsters. Your only option when confronted with the horrors is to run and hide as your sanity drips slowly away.

Oh, did I forget to mention that bit? My



bad – your character has a sanity meter. Every time you encounter a monster, it strips a little sanity away. The longer you hide quaking in the dark, hoping the creatures leave, the more sanity you lose. As you lose sanity, Daniel is afflicted with visual and auditory hallucinations. The walls bend and bow as if they're breathing. You hear voices, screams, pleas for help. Daniel begins to gibber and shake with terror.

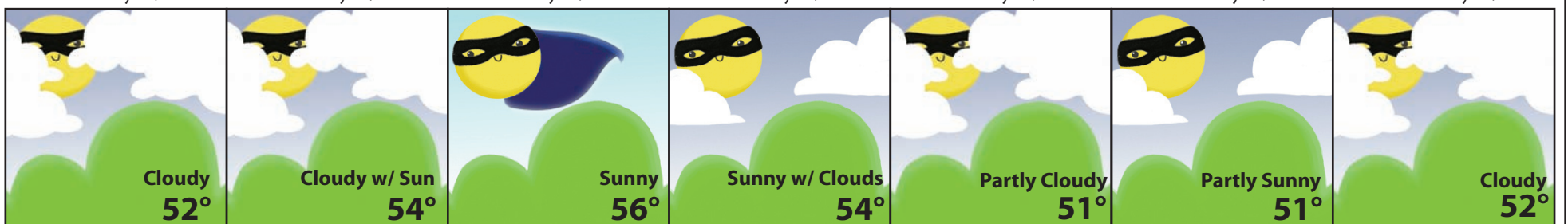
If you've followed the game's advice, and you're playing in the dark with a good set of headphones on, at this point, you'll be shaking right along with him.

I've played more than a handful of horror games: "Resident Evil," "Silent Hill," and more. None of them can hold a candle to the helpless terror of Amnesia. We're not talking a few shocks, or a couple of gross scenes here. We're talking about real, hands-shaking, heart-pounding, adrenalin-rushing fear. This game is a horror masterwork. A profoundly unsettling setting combines with a magnificent music score and brilliant, subtle sound effects to invoke a slow, creeping horror that leaves you tense and trembling, and jumping whenever one of the game's seriously messed-up Lovecraftian critters makes an appearance.

If you're a fan of horror-themed games, then drop what you're doing and add "Amnesia: the Dark Descent" to your collection, immediately. You'll be screaming with glee and fright in no time!

**WEEKLY WEATHER PREDICTIONS**

Wednesday-1/26    Thursday-1/27    Friday-1/28    Saturday-1/29    Sunday-1/30    Monday-1/31    Tuesday-2/1



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