LC-State students, staff, faculty, and community members, should be proud of their mens and womens basketball teams. Not only did these groups both make deep playoff runs, they continue to make LC Basketball a household name.

The men’s team ended their regular season on a five game winning streak, and won their first playoff game versus Eastern Oregon 74-69. The 2 seed-Warriors were seeking much more than a playoff appearance; they wanted the gold. Their next opponent would be the Oregon Tech Owls, whom the men had beaten twice earlier in the season. However, defeating them once more would not be easy, as the Owls were known for their offensive efficiency, leading the CCC in overall field goal percentage.

The Warriors would win the jump ball and get on the scoreboard first. After an early back and forth, the Owls would jump out to a seven point lead midway through the first half. The Owls offensive scheme seemed to be working to perfection, as they found open shots and got into the paint with relative ease. With just over four minutes remaining in the half, they lead by 20 points, with a score of 23-43. The final minutes of the half was a contested back and forth between both teams. The Warriors would enter the half with a large mountain to climb if they wished to have a chance at reaching the Championship round. The second half began with the Warriors needing to close a 19 point gap.

LC came onto the court with more intensity and energy in the second half. An early back and forth quickly turned into the same story beats of the first half; Oregon hitting every possible three, no matter how contested. Sam Stockton led the charge for the comeback, hitting back-to-back threes, adding a pair of free throws, and capping off his electric run with a dunk. With the score now sitting at 50-62, the comeback was within reach. The Warriors would go on a 7-0 run, leading to an Oregon timeout with just under 8 minutes left in the game.

Coming out of the timeout, the Warriors looked to continue their offensive run. After cutting the score down even closer, 62-66, the LC Student section began erupting in cheer. Their energy was passionate, and contagious, as the men’s team seemed to feed off their energy.

Now that the comeback was near, Oregon would have to kick things up a notch. Though the lead was still out of reach, another LC player, Davian Brown, would provide a much needed offensive spark. After hitting on his own pair of threes, including one from near half court, the Warriors were within a single point, 75-75. In the final few seconds, the Owls would take the lead once more, at 78-80. The Warriors would respond with a basket of their own, tying the contest with just 15 seconds left to play. However, Oregon would score once more to regain a two-point lead, and left a mere 0.4 seconds on the clock. Despite the great offensive effort in
the second half, the Warriors would fall short by just two points, 80-82. After going 3-9 from three in the first half, LC would bounce back to hit 8-11. However, it just wasn’t quite enough to earn them a victory.

The LC women’s team made it to the Cascade Collegiate Conference title game, and would face off against the Southern Oregon Hawks. Despite the Hawks landing on the scoreboard first, the Warriors quickly regained the lead at 5-2. These quick points to take the lead seemed to be the only offensive burst LC could muster in the first quarter. However, senior Callie Stevens was efficient from the three-point line, hitting two of three, helping the Warriors stay within reach of the lead. LC would struggle to get consistent shots for the remaining time, and ended the quarter down 10-15.

The second quarter showcased the women’s best offensive output of the game, scoring 17 points despite hitting on just one three-point attempt. This allowed them to end Southern Oregon’s temporary lead, tying the contest at 23-23. Within the final two minutes, the Hawks were able to cash in on an open three, to which LC answered with a layup by Mataya Green; the Warriors trailed by just one point heading into the half.

The Hawks came out in the second half with a second wind of intensity. Despite going 2-8 from three, they were able to get into the paint and to the free-throw line. They were efficient from the floor and scored a game high 21 points in the third quarter. Their defense also turned it up a notch, holding the Warriors to just 11 points. LC had five turnovers in the third, coupled with zero three point baskets and hitting just one of six free-throw attempts.

Despite the lead, the Warriors were not going down easy. LC was able to turn the tables on Southern Oregon, increasing their offensive output and defensive intensity. While holding the Hawks to just 10 points in the final quarter, the Warriors hit 4-9 threes, and shot 100% from the free throw line. The women would come up just short of retaking the lead, and would lose the contest 59-53. Although the playoffs did not lead to the championship hardware both teams had hoped for, it is without a doubt that both the mens and womens teams for LC-State showed up, and showed out. Each player should hold their head high, as they have established themselves as fierce competitors with championship potential. Teams will be fearful of the Warriors next season, as both the mens’ and womens team will be playing with chips on their shoulders. The trophies did not come this year, but beware, because they might be coming in the near future.

One last highlight, Callie Stevens was selected as the Cascade Conference Player of the Year for the third year in a row! She is the first player in Cascade Conference history to accomplish such a feat. Stevens, along with senior Maddie Holm and junior Ellie Sander, were also elected to the All-Cascade Conference team.
By Felix Dever
of The Pathfinder

On March 2nd, the Gaming Club held their annual Gamefest event at the WCC and drew in a large crowd from 9 am to 9 pm to enjoy many games and win great prizes. After successful fundraising back in December from Panda Express sales, the club was able to afford both the prizes given away such as card games, squishmallows, and even a full console to the winner of the Mario Kart tournament.

As well as prizes, there were plenty of amenities as well as a circle of switch setups to enjoy the event's games of Smash Brothers Doubles and Singles, Mario Party, Wii Sports, and Mario Kart 8. Many students and guests showed up to give their best effort to have a great time and try to win against all the different players fighting for the top prizes. In addition to the video games, there were games of Magic the Gathering, Cornhole, Chess, Trivia, and Dungeons and Dragons for the guests to enjoy who didn't want to join in with the tournaments.

Considered a roaring success, Gamefest 2024 was a fun time for members and gamers alike, with lots of fun to be had from start to finish for anyone who attended. If you're also interested in joining the festivities but missed the date, consider joining the Gaming Club for the next year's event and to keep up with their smaller gatherings as well!
Movie Review: “Drag Me to Hell”

By Shaunasy Pashby
of The Pathfinder

“Drag Me to Hell” (2009) was hands down the most predictable and funny horror movie I have ever seen. I haven’t watched a ton of horror movies, but I have seen a few. This movie certainly had an ick factor that got me off guard and uncomfortable at every opportunity, but the plot and “twists” were surprisingly foreseeable. I felt that every jump scare or plot point could be seen coming minutes away. I am not super huge in horror movies and so coming into this movie I was a little nervous. However, the scariest thing in this movie? Is by far the ick factor. There are a lot of gross events that happen in the movie including some bugs, embalming fluid, and the Sam Raimi flying eyeball special. Though the movie is certainly kind of nasty it was just as funny as scary.

For the film fanatics out there, this movie is a fun twist with some amazing allusions to other works. Sam Raimi, also the director of “Evil Dead” (1981), “Poltergeist” (2015), and “Boogeyman” (2005) is infamous for his motif. In each of his movies, his 1973 Oldsmobile Delta makes an appearance, and he certainly tries to have someone’s eyeball going flying once in a while. His film has allusions to the first Dracula movie, to Hitchcock films, and of course to some of his other works and more.

This film plays heavily off a clock and the impending doom that will happen when three days pass. It keeps the audience on their toes as the clock counts down to zero and characters race to appease the evil that haunts them. There are a few scenes in the movie that have you gagging, and heart throbbing, and at least one that has you angry and scolding the characters for being stupid. By the end of the movie and the final scene, the audience is left both relieved and frustrated all the same. Overall, it is a laughable horror film perfect for a lazy day on the couch or watching with friends. It is a horror movie that is not too scary, new enough to not seem “dated” but old enough to not be all CGI. It is kind of the best of all worlds in a way.
The Beach Boys, while mostly remembered for their non-surfer hit songs like “I Get Around,” “Help Me Rhonda,” “Good Vibrations,” and so many others, would not have written and performed such content without starting with developing the “California Sound.” A sound defined by influences from doo-wop mixed with fast, upbeat tempos from 1950s rock n’ roll. After being a band for over a year, the Beach Boys released their debut album, *Surfin’ Safari*, on October 1, 1962. It opened the eyes of audiences who sought to find some direction for music amid “the Lost Years of Music” era. This era had finally surpassed the worst of these years between 1959 and 1962, which were filled successfully by the Everly Brothers and a few other acts. *Surfin’ Safari* couldn’t have come at a better time, as the Everly Brothers’ US following was declining, and only Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons were left to fill in the void. *Surfin’ Safari* began to see American music regain some sort of direction with the “California Sound.”

Unfortunately, the positives of the Beach Boys’ debut album, *Surfin’ Safari*, are very few. However, the positives that come from this album are most notably how listeners hear what the Beach Boys sound like without any backing bands or musicians. After the first couple or so albums, the Beach Boys started having fill-in musicians due to conflicting interests or scheduling miscalculations later on. However, this is not the case with *Surfin’ Safari*, as all five starting members are the only ones recording and practicing the tracks for this album. In terms of musicality, the music is well-performed and written for a freshman album. The best songs are “Surfin’ Safari,” “Chug-A-Lug,” “Little Girl (My Miss America),” and “Surfin.” These five songs are mostly upbeat and establish Mike Love as the lead vocalist, except “Little Girl (My Miss America),” featuring Dennis Wilson as the lead vocalist. The profound cover song of Eddie Cochran’s “Summertime Blues” is one of the only tracks to feature David Marks, and a more mediocre song, “Cuckoo Clock,” features Brian Wilson on lead vocals. *Surfin’ Safari* does a good job of keeping the tempo upbeat. It becomes the establishing album for the next eight albums (not including the Christmas Album or cover song album Summer Days). The negatives of *Surfin’ Safari* are too many to count, even for a freshman album by a band as talented as the Beach Boys. The main problem is the monotonous tempo for eight of the 11 tracks, which is upbeat, but all sounds the same. In addition, most of...
Album Review: Surfin’ Safari - The Beach Boys

the songs are sung at a low register, and the lyrics are hard to hear, making the songs less catchy. In addition, the themes are all over the place and have nothing to do with surfing other than “Surfin’” and “Surfin’ Safari.” From “County Fair” and “Ten Little Indians” to other somewhat embarrassing topics to sing about, the album leaves listeners confused and feeling like something is missing. While the instrumentals are well-written for Brian Wilson’s first music set, diversification is needed for future releases if they survive the remaining “Lost Years of Music” era. The negatives aren’t entirely the Beach Boys’ fault, as it is their first album, and luckily, they will release much stronger content, especially between 1964 and 1966. Still, for a group that would even rival the Beatles, this Surfin’ Safari is a far cry from Pet Sounds or The Beach Boys Today! The problem also stems from Nick Venet co-producing the album with Brian and Murry Wilson rather than just Brian Wilson. Surfin’ Safari is a difficult listen for 24 minutes, and listeners should listen to the individual tracks “Surfin’ Safari” and “Surfin” along with “409,” which was re-released three more times, or one of their last two surfer albums Surfin’ U.S.A. or Surfer Girl.

My overall assessment of Surfin’ Safari is that it is not a bad album. Still, it was mediocre compared to the material the Beach Boys would later release, even the remaining surfer hits. It was not entirely the Beach Boys’ fault, as songwriter Gary Usher, who wrote “County Fair,” felt surfer music was a fad that would disappear after a few months when, in reality, surfer music existed in its mainstream form until between 1963 and 1965. This is why songwriter Gary Usher wrote and promoted other non-surfer songs. Nonetheless, Surfin’ Safari does kickstart the surfer craze with early surfer songs like “Surfin’” and the track with the album’s same name, “Surfin’ Safari.” The “California Sound” helps pave the way for other surfer acts like The Rivieras, Jan & Dean, and other vocal hot rod groups. Nonetheless, this is among the worst of the surfer genre material the Beach Boys would release, as their last two surfer albums would prove much more successful as they matured as individuals and musicians.
Album Review: The ‘Chirping’ Crickets

By Matthew Stolley
of The Pathfinder

The 1957 album, The ‘Chirping’ Crickets, primarily written and released by Buddy Holly & The Crickets, was the first and only album Buddy Holly was featured on, with The Crickets. The album was not Buddy Holly’s only album he would collaborate with The Crickets on; instead, it acted as a stepping stone for him to release two more albums before his untimely death. The ‘Chirping’ Crickets has gained mostly positive reception from music enthusiasts and historians alike; however, from a musician’s standpoint, there is a fair share of positives and negatives with this quintessential album as well as many details to divulge this debut album for both Buddy Holly and The Crickets alike.

There are many positives with The ‘Chirping’ Crickets, as it exemplifies the energy and innocence of 1950s rock ‘n roll, something that would disappear with Buddy Holly’s death and throughout the 1960s. However, The ‘Chirping’ Crickets also demonstrates musical inspirations in songs like “Oh Boy” and “Not Fade Away,” which come from Bo Diddley, in particular, especially with the offbeats like from the eponymous song “Bo Diddley.” In addition, the guitar solos in both songs, “Oh Boy” and “Not Fade Away,” are some of the most simplistic yet ingenious. The biggest hit song of The ‘Chirping’ Crickets, “That’ll Be The Day,” was Buddy Holly and The Crickets’ only No. 1 chart release. Other hit songs include More toned-down swing-like songs like “You’ve Got Love,” which illustrate the expert songwriting talents of a young Roy Orbison. Plus, the songwriting of Norman Petty and Crickets members Joe Mauldin and Jerry Allison, alongside Buddy Holly, who wrote a few songs independently, was quite prolific. Another positive about this album is the vocals and having The Pickering as well as Buddy Holly himself, who, under Norman Petty’s creative musical nature, not only allows but encourages Buddy Holly to utilize his talent for vocal hiccuping and tongue-clicking. This was a hidden talent Holly was not allowed to do under Rob Nealy a year earlier. Another area was the few 1950s slow ballads, which were well-arranged covers, like Chuck Willis’ “It’s Too Late” and Little Richard’s “Send Me Some Lovin’,” show the adaptability of Buddy Holly & The Crickets, something Holly won’t do as well on his two solo albums a year later. Lastly, the last track, “Rock Me My Baby,” became an inspirational song for British Merseybeat.
Album Review: The ‘Chirping’ Crickets

bands like The Searchers and Gerry & The Pacemakers. Buddy Holly would not release another Merseybeat-sounding song until early 1959, with “Peggy Sue Got Married.”

There are very few negatives from The ‘Chirping’ Crickets, with most of the weaknesses coming from outside influences rather than the musicality. Despite Norman Petty’s creativity, Buddy Holly & The Crickets began questioning his bookkeeping, which strained future releases. They ultimately led to the eventual split between Holly and The Crickets, although both Holly and Crickets members Joe Mauldin and drummer Jerry Allison split into good terms. Holly could depart from Petty, while The Crickets could not afford to do so. The most prominent musical weakness of The ‘Chirping’ Crickets is the lack of balance between upbeat and slow ballads. Only “Last Night” is an original ballad by Buddy Holly alongside Crickets bassist Joe Mauldin; the rest are covers initially written by Chuck Willis and Little Richard. The other original ballad composition, “An Empty Cup (And a Broken Date),” is somewhat subpar compared to the other 11 tracks, as Buddy Holly doesn’t even sing the chorus, and the ballad is placed in a position where it drains the previous energy from the last seven tracks.

My conclusion and overall assessment of The ‘Chirping’ Crickets is that it is a quintessential album for all music lovers to listen to and learn the fundamentals of classic rock n’ roll. It is also a blueprint for how Buddy Holly nuances rockabilly, something no other artist from the 1950s and even the British rockers of the 1960s couldn’t accomplish. The musicality is the best of any album written by Buddy Holly or The Crickets; it is also either’s best album of original compositions they’ll ever release. The ‘Chirping’ Crickets is the best album Buddy Holly released and contributed to in his short lifespan and music career. The weaknesses in this album are so minute it is barely worth mentioning again, and I hope everyone who reads my album reviews will listen to The ‘Chirping’ Crickets at some point in their lives.

The cover artwork is thought to have been created by photographers and coordinators from Brunswick Records, despite Norman Petty being Buddy Holly & The Crickets’ producer for Clovis Records in Clovis, New Mexico.
Life as a Cactus

Whoever said “no rain, no flowers”
Has never lived like a cactus
See, a cactus needs to grow up strong to survive weeks or even months without rain
They grow sharp needles to protect themselves
They conserve any water that comes their way
Some may think a cactus is selfish in the ways it keeps water to itself
A prick, if you will
Without needles and thick skin, a cactus would never survive
A cactus does what it needs to live and thrive
No one understands what a cactus must feel to live with no rain
Only living on what it has received: scorching sun, blistering heat, and lonely nights as a tumbleweed passes by
A cactus doesn’t need much
Yet, it finds a way to blossom beautifully.

Finding Home

A home and a house are two very different things
They couldn’t be more unrelated
A home is where you feel safe
You feel loved, unconditionally
And you feel at peace
A house is simply a structure in which a home could exist
A physical place, one where love or hate can harbor
Finding home is difficult when you grew up in a house
One day, you realize,
You find home in people, adventures, and memories
You find home in those you trust, who love without conditions, who you can laugh with until you can’t breathe
Home is not one place
Home is where the heart beats with purpose.
ACROSS

5. Which vault is known as the “vault of death” in gymnastics?

6. What is the only team in the NFL to neither host nor play in the Super Bowl?

7. What team owns the longest winning streak in NBA history?

8. What do you call it when a bowler makes three strikes in a row?

9. What material was first used to cover baseballs?

DOWN

1. In which month is FIS Snowboard World Championships traditionally organized?

2. What is the only country to have played in every single soccer World Cup?

3. How many gold medals does Serena Williams have?

4. In Ice Hockey, where are The Avalanche located?
From the Editors

I hope everyone has been doing good on their finals! It is almost time for spring break and I know I am ready to finally get at least a short break from school. We will see you guys for the last half of the semester!

- MadDawg

Word on the Street
By Madison Shriver
of The Pathfinder

“Who is your favorite Disney character?”

“Dash from The Incredibles.”
- Rayce Miller

“Reuben from Stitch because that man is my soul embodiment for real. Munching all those sandwiches and stuff.”
- Daytona Jordan

“I think I am going to say Flynn Rider.”
- Lilli Vrieling

“Tiana.”
- Melia Wiebusch

“My favorite character is Doug the talking dog from Up. He’s my favorite because he’s a good boy and has golden retriever energy.”
- Alexis Ceron