

# Scalper strikes out swinging for the cheap seats

A pair of \$20 bills were pulsating in my pocket as a young man demanded his money back.

The 20-something guy was a ticket scalper outside Turner Field in Atlanta — and I had just played him.

My frustration with scalpers had been brewing within. A longtime baseball fan, I was looking forward to attending the 1998 All-Star Game in Denver. However, due to the antics of ticket scalpers, my husband

and I couldn't get decent-priced tickets. Evidently, that disappointment gave me the resolve to put one over on the unsuspecting Atlanta scalper a few years later.

Scalpers obtain tickets — or even make counterfeit ones — with the purpose of making a profit by selling them for ridiculous prices. At the time, they tried not to draw attention to themselves because Georgia

state law made it illegal to sell tickets for more than face value. They often held signs that said, "Need tickets."

Part of the perk of purchasing reserved tickets on the official Atlanta Braves website was receiving a couple of cheap seat tickets for any game. They had no cash value printed on them, but I later figured they were worth maybe \$5 each.

I told the dude I had

tickets, good for any game. He obviously didn't listen, glanced at them and offered me \$20 each. We never stopped walking — the conversation and transaction was on the fly as John and I continued toward the stadium.

I shoved the \$40 into my pocket and the guy turned back the other way. Then half a block later I could faintly hear, "Hey lady." I kept walking — there were lots of ladies on the sidewalk. Then louder, "Hey lady, I don't

want these tickets."

Soon, the guy caught up to us and said he wanted his money back. He said the tickets weren't for that day's game. I reminded him I said upfront they were good for any game and he made the deal.

He quietly protested and continued to follow us. Little did this guy know, I wasn't easily intimidated. Back in the day, I wouldn't give up my Pepsi and Pizza Rolls to a knife-wielding dude outside a 7-Eleven in north Portland — but

that's a story for another column.

Holding my hand, John quickened our pace and we soon disappeared into the crowd at the stadium — leaving the guy in our dust.

I had just scammed a scalper — and I didn't feel bad about it.

*Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539.*



**Tammy Malgesini**  
INSIDE MY SHOES

# Festival highlights world culture and fine arts

By JENNIFER COLTON

Staff Writer

Blue Mountain Community College's 18th annual Arts and Culture Festival highlights world culture and the fine arts.

Free and open to community members, the event began Monday and runs through Thursday in Pendleton and Hermiston. This year's theme focuses on "Here and There," an understanding of culture from both the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

"Here" events focus on the culture of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation through a free salmon dinner and powwow Wednesday in

Pendleton, as well as presentations on the Oregon Humanities Conservation Project and the recent standoff in Malheur County over federal land rights.

International "there" features include a presentation by Selena Hutchins, a Bosnian refugee who will share her experiences, and Dr. Sascha McKeon, who will discuss the Zika virus.

The festival also includes banned books readings, poetry and music collaborations and a reader's theater presentation on an original screenplay about spying and conspiracy theories.

During the festival, the Betty Feves Memori-

al Gallery is extending its Wednesday hours from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The current exhibit is "Shadows of the West."

For more information, visit [www.bluecc.edu/AandC](http://www.bluecc.edu/AandC).

## Schedule of Events:

### HERMISTON

•All presentations in Room 134, Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center, unless otherwise noted.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20**  
10 a.m. - Dr. Fred Brown, Animals & Urban Landscapes

11 a.m. - Karen Nicksich, children's author "The Time of My Life" on grieving for lost pets. Also present, Maddie the Therapy Dog 12 p.m.-Food&Entertainment 1 p.m. - Wendy Willis, "A World without Secrets: Privacy and Expectations in the United States"

2 p.m. - Smoke & Mirrors Literary Group, banned books readings

### THURSDAY, APRIL 21

9 a.m. - Devin McKeon, Code: The Secret Language of Machines 10 a.m. - Lisa Naas Cook, "To Busy to Rest: Boundaries and Balance in a Nonstop World" 10 a.m. - Russ Burtner, presents on Visual Analytics

11 a.m. - Dr. Sascha McKeon, Zika Virus 12 p.m. - Food & Music with Dr. Margaret Mayer & Friends 1 p.m. - Selena Hutchins, Big Fish video producer from Seattle 2 p.m. - Patrick Weatherly, poetry & music collaboration

### PENDLETON

•All presentations in the Bob Clapp Theatre unless otherwise noted:

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

9 a.m. - Selena Hutchins, a Bosnian refugee 10 a.m. - Dr. Sascha McKeon, Zika Virus

11 a.m. - Wendy Willis, "A World without Secrets: Privacy and Expectations in the United States" 12 p.m. - Lisa Naas Cook, "To Busy to Rest: Boundaries and Balance in a Nonstop World" 1 p.m. - Anna King, NPR journalist on Malheur-The Standoff 4-6 p.m. - Free salmon dinner at the Student Union.

6-8 p.m. Powwow at the McCrae Activity Center (MAC).

### THURSDAY, APRIL 21

7 p.m. - A College Community Theatre reader's theatre presentation of original screenplay by Joshua King, "No One Knows Nothing"

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