

Tracy Gann roto-hammers into a brick to be removed near the Longhouse. It will be replaced with one with a sponsor's name carved on it.

STORY BY ALANDO BALLANTYNE • PHOTO BY EUGENE JOHNSON

Despite his age, leathery skin and white beard there's much hidden strength in his wiry physique. It's early in the morning at LCC, only a little past 8 a.m., and Tracy Gann's been working long enough to turn over the soil and plant an entire bed of shrubs.

The college campus is awakening to a thick fog, and Gann chats casually with a fellow gardener as they work, their hands and knees covered with soil stains and bits of dirt. A garden hose lies in a corner of the planter, little pools of mud forming from its slow drip.

You'd think that 37 years in prison over the course of Gann's life would be enough to kill his spirit, but spending time with him paints a portrait of a character alive with enthusiasm, sentiment and honesty.

Following in the footsteps of his three older brothers, Gann got involved with crime and a life on the edge at a young age. The four of them worked together in armed robbery, forgery and check fraud.

Gann spent his freshman year of high school transferring between five different schools, including one juvenile corrections facility in California. By the end of the year he was doing time in an Oregon

prison. From then on, most of his life was spent inside prison walls or in between sentences, with his longest stretch being the 19 years he served for armed bank robbery.

As Gann tries to answer questions regarding some of his past exploits it's obvious he's nervous and uncomfortable. He pauses frequently as he speaks. His gaze is focused on the toes of his boots. His shoulders are stiff and his arms are thrust almost forcefully into his pockets.

For most, stories of armed bank robbery and check scams are exciting, a vicarious adrenaline rush. But to Gann, talking about these things is difficult. They reflect a past life that weighs heavily on his conscience.

Initially, crime appealed to Gann because of its excitement and rush. Over time, the sinister influence

SEE GANN » 8

ON CAMPUS

Mountain lion spotted near Schafer Drive

■ Public Safety officials say two to three cougar sightings are reported every year

By BRETT STANLEY • News Editor

A stray kitty was seen prowling around the campus over winter break.

The cat, however, was not the cuddly type. Instead, it was of the larger predatory variety known as the mountain lion.

According to Public Safety officials, the son of a staff member working over break spotted the cat and the staff member alerted the department. Public Safety declined to release the name of the staff member, citing privacy concerns.

"She informed us her adult son had just delivered something to her on campus, and informed her as he was rounding the corner above the Public Safety office on Eldon Schafer Drive, he observed a female cougar cross directly in front of his vehicle, and walk slowly up the hill southbound toward the radio repeater tower," Jace Smith, LCC's new Public Safety manager said.

Sightings of mountain lions are not uncommon on the college campus, with about two to three sightings occurring each year. The sightings occur mostly at night when the campus is empty, according to Public Safety officer Jim

SEE COUGAR » 8

Creation of new board almost certain

LCC board's concerns about new board mostly alleviated

By BRETT STANLEY • News Editor

The Oregon state legislature is expected to approve a higher education governance proposal that was once opposed by LCC's Board of Education.

The board, officially known as the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, will be created under legislation known as LC 2861. The bill will replace both the Oregon Student Assistance Commission and Office of Degree Authorization and transfers all their functions and powers to the HECC.

The LCC Board's primary contention with the original proposal for the HECC was that it would take over funding decisions and other aspects of the college's self-governance.

Not so anymore.

Those concerns were addressed in subsequent legislative sessions following the Board's Nov. 17 meeting.

The HECC will consist of 15 members appointed by Oregon Governor-elect John Kitzhaber and will be confirmed by the state senate. Two of those members will be students, one from an Oregon university and the other

SEE BOARD » 8

MUSIC

2011's
anticipated
albums

By EDER CAMPUZANO • Editor

Saves the Day – “Daybreak”

Even though frontman Chris Conley is the only member from the original lineup to record for the follow up to 2007's “Under the Boards,” the few tracks available from “Daybreak” prove it'll still be Saves The Day through and through. Conley has said the new album will feature a decidedly more upbeat tone than the group's previous two albums. As the finale of the “Sound The Alarm” trilogy, “Daybreak” wraps up a story of sacrifice and self-discovery that is partly influenced by Conley's experiences after recording “In Reverie” in 2003.

Foo Fighters – Untitled

Former Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl has steadily been mellowing out since striking out on his own and forming the Foo Fighters more than a decade and a half ago. The band's 2007 effort, “Echoes, Silence, Patience and Grace” featured a few tunes with a decidedly more laid-back ambiance than previous Foo fare. Grohl has gone on the record to say that he's been aching to add some country flavor to the band's next album and the two original tracks on the group's greatest hits album, “Wheels” and “Word Forward,” prove that the Foo's latest album may be quite a hit in Nashville. The new album may not have a title yet, but the band has wrapped up recording, as Grohl reported via Twitter in December.

The Decemberists – “The King is Dead”

Colin Meloy and The Decemberists are infamous for concept albums, and they're not about to mess with a winning formula. Just over a year after the band's 2009 album, “The Hazards of Love,” Meloy and the gang have hit the studio again. Early leaks have been said to have a similar sound to R.E.M., Bruce Springsteen and The Smiths. Quite an eclectic palette, no?

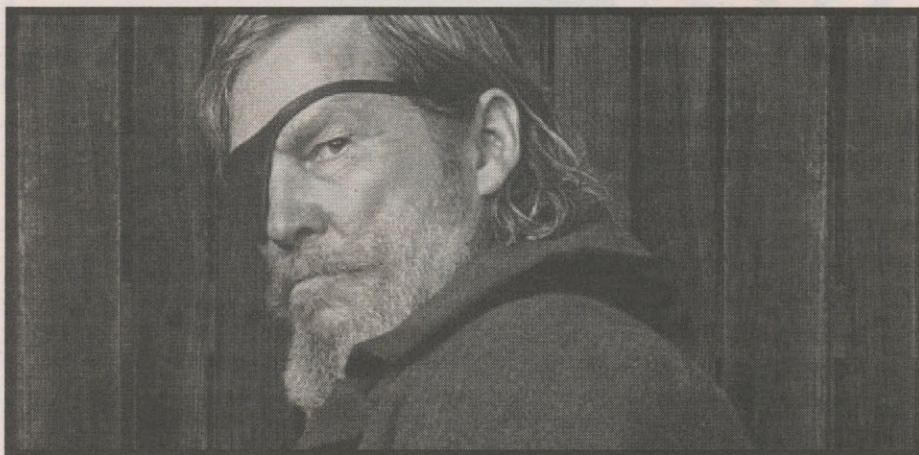
Patrick Stump – “Soul Punk”

Fall Out Boy's lead guitarist makes his solo debut this year and one quick listen to any of the remixes Patrick Stump has released for the band will give you a good idea of what to expect. After all, Stump composed nearly every song released by Fall Out Boy, from “Take This To Your Grave” to “Folie De Deux.” He's experimented with a myriad of instruments throughout his career and fans of his former band would do well to expect something out of left field when “Soul Punk” drops.

Death Cab For Cutie – “Codes and Keys”

Never content to stay the same, Death Cab frontman Benjamin Gibbard and lead guitarist Chris Walla have promised that the band's 2011 album will be as much a departure from what you'd consider “classic” DCFC as 2008's “Narrow Stairs.” The guys say they've fallen in love with vintage keyboards and really “fallen into that palette.” The only promise the two have made concerning the album's sound is that there will “definitely be guitars,” just fewer of them than before. Whatever that means, you can't help but be excited.

REVIEW

FROM THE DUKE
TO THE DUDE

CONTRIBUTED

Jeff Bridges plays the gritty Rooster Cogburn in the Coen Brothers “True Grit.”

By LISA BALL • Reporter

The first image that really floored me in the Coen brothers' rendition of “True Grit” is at the beginning of the film when the train pulls into town, and the tracks end.

They just end.

The train simply changes direction after its passengers depart. The town is Fort Smith, Ark., and beyond the end of the rail is the much-feared Choctaw Nation, where most of the story unfolds. It's a great reminder of how the West truly was wild.

The 1969 original starred John Wayne as Rooster Cogburn, which nabbed the legendary actor an Academy Award for his performance. To remake this film is nearly sacrilegious to some.

Then we add to the mix the amazing Coen Brothers, whose take on most subjects would be best described as intense (No Country for Old Men), kooky (Raising Arizona) and full of characters (Fargo). Their choice to remake “True Grit” is odd and enticing.

What would the Coen creative machine do with this 1968 novel by Charles Portis? They brought the Dude in for the Duke.

We get Jeff Bridges as the imitable and eye-patched Cogburn, the subtle fire of Josh Brolin as the killer Tom Chaney, and an amazing unknown 14-year-old, Hailee Steinfeld, in the role of Mattie Ross. At once surprising in its normalcy and brilliant yet flawed in its creation, “True Grit” is back, and it's worth seeing – even several times.

The movie tells the story of 14-year old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld) who is saddened and infuriated when her father, Frank Ross, is gunned down by the family's tenant, Tom Chaney (Brolin).

Angry because her family took Chaney in out of kindness, and believing he deserves nothing less than death by hanging for his horrendous crime, Mattie searches for help in her quest by enlisting the man with “True Grit” – striking a deal with the rarely sober Cogburn.

Mattie is smart, persistent, and has a vocabulary larger than most adults. She rolls her will over most everyone with these traits quite convincingly.

Cogburn is offered \$50 to go after Chaney, who was now likely in Indian Territory, dead or alive. Another man, Texas Ranger Laboeuf (Matt Damon), is also after Chaney who is wanted for killing a Texas senator. Cogburn and Laboeuf strike a deal to split the reward and ride out without the girl.

Not to be outsmarted, Mattie rides off to the river to find Cogburn and Laboeuf on the other side. When we see Mattie fording a fast river on horseback, her head and the pony's both struggling to keep above water, we begin to see that the Grit may be in her, too.

The Coens' masterful strokes paint their characters with dialogue, affectation and shocking introductions. When we meet Rooster this time, it is in near

silhouette, his gangly legs and long coat stretched out in the courtroom, where all listen intently to his growly testimony.

The Coens' surprised me by seeming to create an un-Coen-like film, a respectful sort of homage to the earlier version, and of Westerns as a genre. Then, they let it loose aurally and visually during Cogburn's climactic night ride to save Mattie, and the landscape takes a hallucinatory beauty of black silhouettes against starry horizons.

With the help of their usual technical collaborators (cinematographer Roger Deakins, musical composer Carter Burwell), the Coens have again demonstrated their impeccable talent for putting on a hell of a show.

I watch with amazement the work of Bridges, who surprises over and again with his genius – “The Fisher King,” “Starman” and last year's “Crazy Heart,” for which he finally was handed an Oscar statuette. He was brave to tackle the iconic role that gave us Wayne's most human and powerful performance.

Again, the word is out that the Coen brothers' team, a tight-knit group known for simply getting along really well – not always the case on a movie set – has snuck up on us with their odd sensibilities and popped out of the shadows to be recognized as the top team making movies in America today.

This movie stayed with me longer, in a more profound way, than any in recent memory.

True Grit

MPAA Rating: PG-13

Running Time: 110

Starring: Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and Hailee Steinfeld

Directors: Joel and Ethan Coen

Now Playing: Regal Cinemas and Cinemark

CHANGING LANES



ANDY ROSSBACK

Some terms
never change

Each term greets me with a stark newness but also a strange familiarity.

New classrooms. New professors. New students.

“Here we go again,” I think.

Classes are always packed – but I love it. Professors always say “This class is completely full.”

You can always tell who partied too hard over break. The drool on their lip foreshadows an imminent drop from the class.

Does it really have to be this way?

Hawk-like stragglers hang around the classroom cursing ExpressLane (myLane, excuse me) and hoping to land a seat.

Couldn't you take advantage of advance registration?

By the second week, an entirely different room is before you – the hawks have landed and the droolers have escaped with their refunds.

Others just stop coming, but don't forget them – they'll be back in Week 8 wondering where their A is.

Before you know it, your class is whittled down to 10 students. Correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems to be a trend.

Where do the rest go? What happens to their dreams?

They seem to disappear from the face of the planet.

Life happens, I know.

Daycare is closed, I know.

Missed the bus, I know.

It got me thinking about the bigger picture: How many students are actually completing degrees or transferring on?

According to Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning, an LCC department that compiles statistics about students, not very many.

In 2007-08, only about 18 percent of LCC students seeking associates degrees recieved them.

In 2008-09, just beyond 10 percent of students at LCC transferred to a university in Oregon – and only 80 percent of them made it into their second year at a university.

Explore the statistics at www.lanecc.edu/research/ir/.

Those numbers jolt my heart.

When you are reviewing your New Year's resolutions, consider adding “be more realistic” to your goals.

Be careful not to bite off more than you can chew. College costs money – yes, you have to repay the loans.

Droolers, hawks and others stricken with apathy, I challenge you to work harder in this new year.

Go on, show us what you got.

Managing Editor Andy Rossback is at 541-463-5109 or a.rossback@gmail.com.

NEWS BRIEFLY

LTD bus pass stickers will be available at the Titan Store return window and the Downtown Center starting Monday, Jan. 10, at 8 a.m. For more information, contact Jennifer Hayward at 541-463-5594.

ASLCC is looking for nominations for the 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Award. Any individual or community organization is eligible. The accolade recognizes social and civic excellence in the community. Nomination letters should be submitted to Eric Richardson in Building 1, Room 210 by Monday, Jan. 10. For more information, contact Richardson at richardson@lanec.edu.

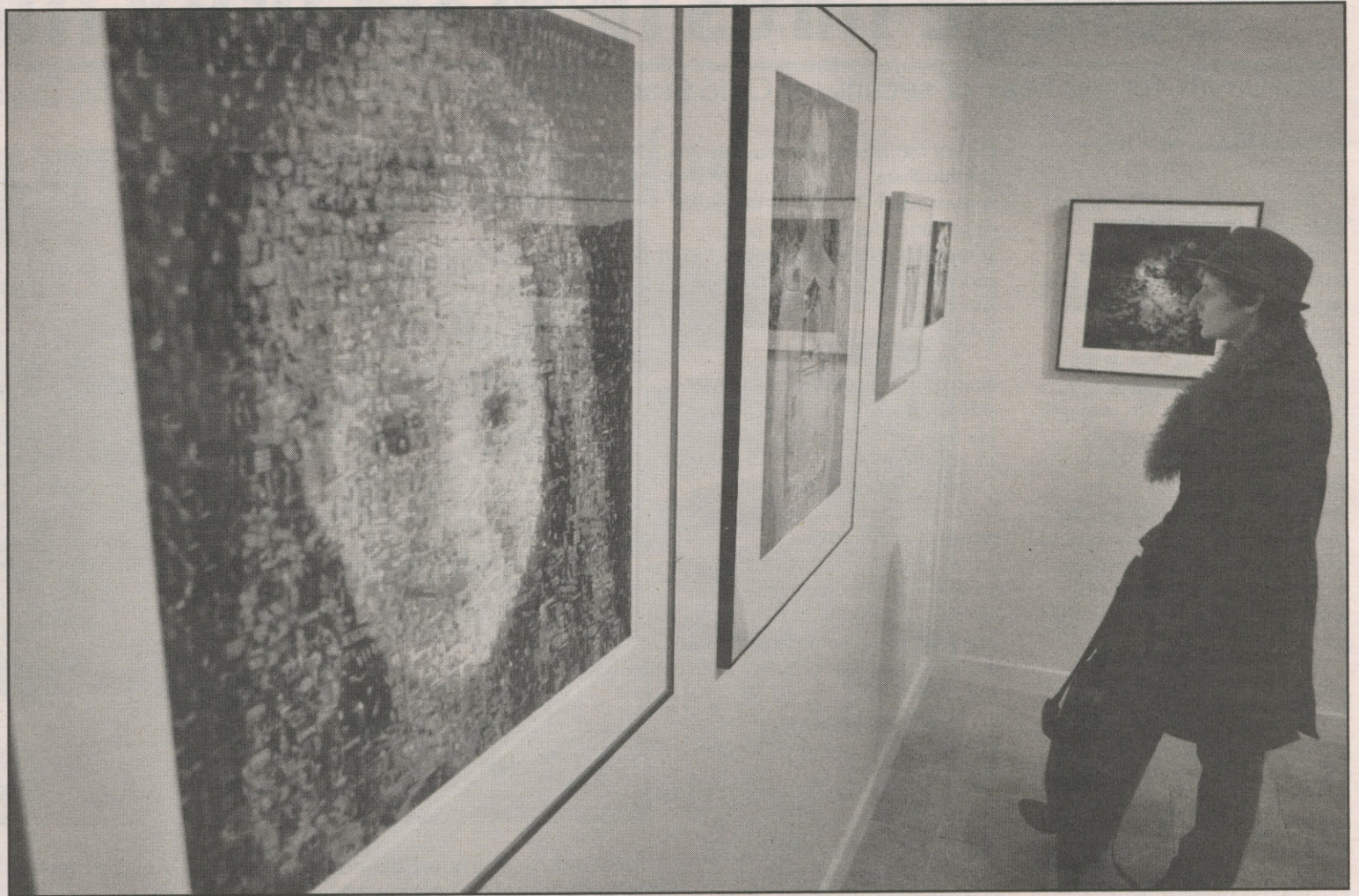
The college's annual "How to Pay For College ... In One Day!" event is scheduled for Jan. 22 and registration for the workshop is already open. The course focuses on the scholarship application process. Participants will meet with financial aid advisers to complete 2011 FAFSAs and online applications. The CRN is 32713. A Spanish scholarship workshop is also available.

The International program is looking for volunteers to lead conversation tables. A conversation table leader orientation will be held on either Jan. 12 or 13 from 3-5 p.m. for those interested. For more information, contact Jennifer Hare at 541-463-3409.

A benefit concert for the college's "Women in Transition" program will be Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ragozzino Performance Hall. The event will feature Soromundi and the Lesbian Chorus of Eugene. General admission is \$10 and \$8 for students and seniors. An all day choral workshop will also be earlier that day. \$25 registration fee. The deadline to register is Jan. 11. For more information, contact Barbara Delansky at 541-463-5667.

FAFSA workshop will be Friday, Jan. 7 in Building 5, Room 215 from 2-6 p.m.

ON CAMPUS



PHOTOS BY EUGENE JOHNSON / THE TORCH

Art student Krislyn Dillard admires the new art on display in Building 11. "Exploitation" by David Joyce is at left.

Gallery celebrates 40th year

Newest exhibit features work from former college instructors

By VICTORIA STEPHENS • Web Editor

The LCC Art Gallery is entering its 40th year and it's showing no signs of slowing down.

The newest exhibit, featuring artwork from several current and former college instructors, opened Jan. 3. A public reception will occur Jan. 18, the week before the exhibit closes.

According to Gallery Director Jennifer Salzman, invitations were sent to former instructors with "a pretty good return on the invites."

Twenty-four instructors contributed art for the event. Salzman and the gallery board decided to include past faculty in the exhibit because they are the ones that helped launch the gallery.

This show kicks off the launching of a three-year project endowment effort to make the gallery self-sustaining.

"We are using the show as a backdrop to our endowing our gallery," Salzman said. "We are using it to bring awareness to the public that the LCC gallery has been part of the community for 40 years. There is no secured funding to maintain the gallery. This is not a sustainable future."

Until now gallery expenses have been covered by fundraising events, such as the



This porcelaine stoneware created by Tom Rohr is untitled.

Harvest Dinner, private donations and corporate sponsorships.

"It is very unusual for a gallery to remain open as long as we have," said Salzman, who also teaches three art classes per term in addition to overseeing the gallery.

Even though contributing artists are not paid and cover their own shipping costs, the minimal annual cost to support the space, promote events, sponsor the lectures series and offer small stipends to cover the travelling expenses of out-of-area artists is about \$5,000.

The gallery's budget is about a third of that for similar venues, according to Salzman. Despite this the LCC gallery hosts 10 shows

per year, compared to the average four to six per year at other institutions.

The estate of James E. Ulrich is sponsoring the current exhibition. Ulrich taught art classes at the college before his death nine years ago. His wife, Kathleen Caprario Ulrich, has been a part time art instructor since 1995 and currently teaches Studio Arts and Foundations classes.

"I know that James would be pleased by the varied and beautiful pieces on display by so many talented practitioners, many whom he considered friends," she said. "It is also my way of expressing gratitude to the art department for the opportunities extended to me to teach and develop myself as art instructor."

"The gallery is an integral part of our curriculum here," Salzman said, pointing out that many students don't have other opportunities to experience contemporary art outside of the gallery.

"We're a teaching gallery," she said explaining that the artists they select support the curriculum so that their works can be used as examples for instructors to support what is done in the classrooms.

The anniversary exhibition reception and endowment launch celebration will be Jan. 18 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The Torch

The Torch strives to make people think, laugh and do better through balanced and engaging content. It's a training ground for student journalists and a public forum for the community.

Up to two copies per person per issue of The Torch are free; each additional copy is \$2.

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College hires new security manager

Jace Smith, former head of security at Ohio State, joins LCC. He brings many plans for the Public Safety department.

By ALANDO BALLANTYNE • Reporter

There's a new sheriff in town. Well, sort of.

Public Safety Manager Jace Smith started his first term at LCC on Jan. 3. He is replacing former manager Katherine Vos, who is now working full time as the college's housekeeping manager. Prior to Smith's hire, Vos managed both departments.

"I think Mr. Smith ... has some pretty good goals for the department," Public Safety officer Jake Ryker said. "He appreciates and wants to improve officer training, thereby increasing performance of the officers and helping out the general public."

Smith holds a bachelors in political science from Ohio State University and a masters in public policy from the University of Minnesota. While working on his masters Smith earned a certificate in law enforcement from Metropolitan State University in Minnesota.

"We're very fortunate to have him because he brings both industrial community policing and higher education experience to the position. A very rare combination of the two," said Greg Morgan, Chief Financial Officer.

To say Smith has experience in the field would be putting it lightly.

He ran the security department at Ohio State — a campus of approximately 11,000 — taught community development courses at the University of Wisconsin and has written a book on college and university security and law enforcement programs.

"I've had a lot of positions in security operations, law enforcement and crime prevention. My total experience is more than 15 years," Smith said.

Smith's book is about running law enforcement and campus security operations and is geared towards folks who lack a background in security. While he has a tentative publisher, the 180-page book isn't complete and needs one more round of editing. That, and a title.

"It's sort of a guide book for people who are non-professionals," Smith said.

Smith says a few of his objectives for the future of Public Safety are creating a monthly newsletter about the department that will be e-mailed to staff and faculty and made available in hard copy form for students, forming a security advisory group composed of students and staff that will provide feedback to Public Safety on procedures and policy and constructing a community watch



JAVIER MAGALLANES / THE TORCH

Jace Smith is the new Public Safety manager. For the first few weeks of the term he will be in his office working on new initiatives.

type program where students can eventually report suspicious activity to officers via text messages.

"The whole idea is to look with thousands of eyes. It's much more effective in terms of protecting property where students feel free to

report things that don't look right. It's an expansion of what used to be called community watch," Morgan said. "We want to make sure we're open and responsive to what students observe."

In the long run, Smith says he

hopes to form an internship that would complement the college's crime and forensics program.

"I think it's really important for folks to develop a relationship with their Public Safety department," Smith said.

Spilde, others participate in talent show

By VICTORIA STEPHENS • Web Editor

They say "Lane's Got Talent," and one month ago, performances by students, staff and faculty raised \$500 in scholarship money for the LCC Foundation. The proceeds benefitted a fund hosted by the American Association for Women in Community Colleges.

Songs, monologues, comedy, magic, piano performances and a poetry reading by LCC President Mary Spilde, which was translated into Spanish by Elizabeth Andrade, were on the agenda for the event, which occurred Dec. 2.

Siv Serene Barnum, a degree and transcript analyst with Enrollment and Student Financial Services sang a piece from the opera "LaBoheme." She is also the president of the LCC chapter of AAWCC.

"There was a variety of talent, starting with a blues number from someone that works in the library," Barnum said.

Lori Kramer, who works in Enrollment and Student Financial Services did a stand-up comedy routine that she penned herself.

Kramer said that the talent show "was a blast, it was a lot of fun." Kramer also performs her routine at the Downtown Lounge and for the "Laff Off," an annual fundraiser for Greenhill Humane Society.

Elizabeth Andrade, who works in the president's office accompanied Spilde during her performance.

"It was a fun event, it gave us a taste of the camaraderie that can be developed among co-workers and an opportunity to get to know the other side of us," Andrade said. "Even though the amount of staff who participated was very small I was pretty amazed to see some of the talents we have here at Lane."

There was also a tap dance performance during the event and Ty Voltage, the college's new mascot, even made an appearance. Barnum acted as emcee for the event amid the hustle and bustle. She said that 44 tickets were sold at \$10 apiece.

Additional donations provided extra funding. This was the first talent show to benefit AAWCC. The scholarship will be used to sponsor a selected woman at LCC with three terms of funding at \$500 a term. Scholarship winners are selected based on their written statements. The scholarship committee looks for a student with leadership qualities who gives back to the community.

Barnum said the AAWCC hopes to do another talent show again next year in the spring or fall.

"It was great fun," said Barnum, "the talent was phenomenal." There was also one more perk for the event: the venue was free. "We didn't have to pay for the Blue Door," Barnum said.

TITAN STORE

Long lines



EUGENE JOHNSON / THE TORCH

Backpacks line the front of the Titan Store as hundreds of students lined up on the first day of the term to purchase books before class. Some students purchased more than \$500 worth of books.

As usual, parking spots and advisers, both for financial aid and academics, were in short supply as both parking lots and Building 1 were full consistently for the first couple days of the term.

College President Mary Spilde notified staff of the potential shortage of parking spaces in The Weekly, the college's employee newsletter.

Garrett named president of registrar group

By WARREN HOLLINSHEAD • Reporter

According to Helen Garrett, the world of the college registrar is "actually, really significantly changing."

And not for the better.

Fortunately, Garrett, has just been elected as president of the Pacific Association of College Registrars, an organization with governance over colleges and universities in 12 western states and four Canadian provinces. The organization is designed to assist registrars in each region.

So Garrett might have some say in how the world of the college registrar changes.

Although she's no longer a registrar for LCC — Garrett is currently the college's Executive Dean of Student Affairs — she's looking forward to her new responsibilities. In fact, she considers the role of college registrar a "sacred" profession.

Due to technological advances, electronic submission has become the new way to accomplish grade transfers. This has slowly been eliminating the absolute need for registrars, which is upsetting for Garrett. She grew up with the rare desire to be a registrar.

Garrett says she'll take the opportunity to use technology as a means to help college registrars thrive. Within the first day of her presidency, Garrett introduced a Facebook page for PACRAO.

She instantly began to update the outdated world of the registrars.

"Helen has a sincere desire to assist other professionals in reaching their full potential by promoting development opportunities and expanding those opportunities through the use of technology within the organization," former PACRAO President and California Institute of Technology Registrar Mary Neary Morley said.

The president of the PACRAO is a position rarely held at the community college level. Proudly, Garrett states, "What I am very proud of and what is significant is that I am a community college president," Garrett said.

Titan men fall to Eagles



PHOTOS BY JAVIER MAGALLANES / THE TORCH

Freshman Point Guard Darrell Breazell attempts a layup during the Titans 81-65 loss at home Jan. 3 against College of the Siskiyous.



Head coach Bruce Chavka could only watch as the Titan men watch a halftime lead slip away against College of the Siskiyous.



Kyle Warner scored 12 points as the Titans lose their sixth game of the season.

LCC only scores 22 second half points

By ALAN K. FOX • Sports Editor

The Titans played host to the College of the Siskiyous on Jan. 3 after a long vacation during the winter break. The men came out with a lot on energy in the first half, but came up short in the second half to lose the game 81-65.

There was a lot of back and forth in the first half of the game. LCC was able to hold on to a one-point lead at halftime, 43-42.

Freshman point guard Matt Juillerat, who finished the half with 13 points and sophomore forward Kyle Warner, who added 10 points and five rebounds, led the Titans in the first half.

The second half was dominated by the speed, defense and athleticism of the Eagles (6-11). They forced 12 turnovers in the half.

The Titans were held to scoring 22 points in the second half, four of which were Juillerat's.

"With all the adversity losing players this season, I tried to put more of the scoring burden on myself and I was able to get some good looks early against Siskiyous," Juillerat said.

The Titans return to the court on Jan. 8 to Linn-Benton. The game is scheduled for a 6 p.m. tip-off.

THE FOX TROT



ALAN K. FOX

2010 had rare events

The year 2010 was an interesting one in the sports world.

There were many accomplishments that we may never see again in our lifetimes, interesting turns in athletes' careers and the Ducks are close to bringing Eugene its first national championship in football.

Obviously the two most relative stories to our area would be the Oregon football season and the performance of sophomore running back LaMichael James.

The fact that the Ducks have a chance to do something that has never been done in the team's 118 year history is mind blowing, and LaMichael James seems to be rewriting the team's record books every time he touches the ball.

Former Duck LeGarette Blount's performance in the NFL is another story worth noting.

When Blount wasn't drafted by the NFL, right off the bat people began to wonder what would happen to him. Hours after the draft, the San Francisco 49ers asked him to try out for the team. Blount ended up heading to Tennessee to try out for the Titans. After a fight with a teammate he was cut, but was signed by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as the fourth string running back shortly thereafter. He has worked his way to the starting lineup since then.

Another impressive accomplishment from 2010 was Jimmy Johnson's fifth-straight NASCAR championship.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not a NASCAR fan by any means, but being named champ five years in a row in anything is impressive.

The most impressive feat to be accomplished in my eyes was the fact that the University of Connecticut basketball team was able to beat UCLA's record for most consecutive wins. UConn has surpassed UCLA's 88-game streak. As for players' careers in 2010, we saw Tiger Woods fall from being an unstoppable force on the links, to becoming an unstoppable force in the tabloids and the bedroom.

Then there was the NBA's biggest decision of 2010, when LeBron James announced where he was going to play basketball for the next few years.

I was hoping that he would sign with the New York Knicks, but had a feeling he would end up in South Beach.

Now that we are starting 2011, let's hope that we can have the same excitement.

Sports Editor Alan K. Fox can be reached at 541-463-5657 or at alanfoxjr@gmail.com

TITANS OF THE WEEK

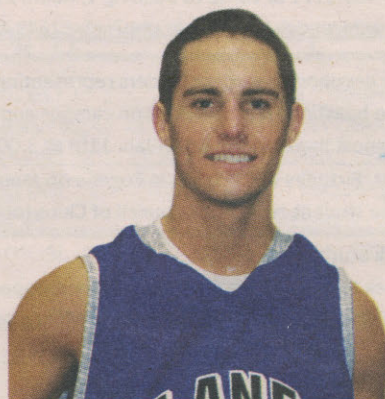


Ashley Smith
Women's Basketball

Smith was selected as Female Titan Athlete of the Week due to her performance at the Chemeketa Holiday Classic tournament. As the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's leading scorer, Smith averaged 29 points per game during the tournament.

Matt Juillerat
Men's Basketball

Juillerat was selected as Male Titan Athlete of the Week based on his performance against the College of the Siskiyous. In the game, he led the Titans in scoring with 15 points, 13 of which he scored in the first half.



Lady Titans come up short at Holiday Tournament

By **ALAN K. FOX** • Sports Editor

The Lady Titans traveled to Salem to play in the Chemeketa Holiday Classic on Dec. 28-30. The team lost in the first round to Yakima Valley by 22 points but was able to bounce back and win the following two games.

Sophomore forward Ashley Smith led the way for the Lady Titans throughout the tournament and had a double-double in all three games. Smith is also the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges' leading scorer.

"Ashley Smith had a very solid tournament as she scored 87 points over the three games, and increased her NWAACC leading scoring average 24 points a game for the season," head coach Greg Sheley said.

In the opening game, the Lady Titans (10-2) fell behind 10 points and only shot 26 percent from the field going into halftime.

LCC was able to improve its shooting percentage in the second half and was able to close the lead to 10 points with 12 minutes remaining in the game. Yakima then went on an 8-0 run, closing any hope for a comeback for the Titans. LCC lost to the Yaks 87-65.

"I feel like we weren't too ready for the first game. We knew what to expect but didn't know how to handle it," Smith said. "I feel like we learned a lot as a team from that game."

Ashley Smith scored 28 points and added 12 rebounds against Yakima.

"We were definitely disappointed with starting off the tournament with a bad loss to Yakima," sophomore point guard Susan Smith said. "We didn't come out ready to play, but luckily we turned that around and played much better against Lower Columbia."

In the second game of the tournament, LCC was matched up with Lower Columbia (5-4). The Lady Titans bounced back from their second loss of the season by beating the Red Devils, 97-80.

The Lady Titans scored 61 points in the first half and played a great defensive strategy. LCC entered halftime up 61-28.

Sophomore guard Brittany May had six of the team's eight three-pointers in the first half.



EUGENE JOHNSON / THE TORCH

Jordan Brunetti (bottom) and the Lady Titans train in the LCC weight room in preparation for another season.

The second half was much of the same with LCC clinching a 97-80 victory over Lower Columbia.

The Lady Titans finished with five players scoring in double figures, including Ashley Smith who finished with a game-high 31 points.

Susan Smith, who went out in the second half with an ankle injury, had 14 assists and eight rebounds.

Sophomore forward Andrea Anderson also left the game with an ankle injury in the second half.

In the third and final consolation game of the Holiday Classic, LCC was matched-up

with Highline (4-6) and the Titans earned their 10th victory of the season, 71-67.

The Lady Titans entered the game with only seven healthy players.

The game remained a back-and-forth before the Lady Titans were able to earn a 13-point lead in the second half. The Thunderbirds were able to tie the game back up in the last three minutes of the game. Ashley Smith converted a three-point play to put LCC ahead for good. She also scored 28 points and added another 12 rebounds in the game.

"The Chemeketa tourney didn't go as we planned," Sheley said. "We were hoping for

a better finish and ended up surviving the tourney with only seven healthy players."

The players remained positive and upbeat after losing their second game of the season.

"We are one of the top teams in the Northwest. We just need to figure out how to play like it," Anderson said. "The Chemeketa tournament was a pretty bold-faced example of all the things we need to improve on when we face teams that are as good as we are."

The Lady Titans return to the court on Jan. 8 when they play their first home game of the season and host Linn-Benton. The Titans have a record 80-game winning streak riding on the game. Tip-off will be at 4 p.m.



**Associated Students of
Lane Community College**

**Logo
Contest!**

Lane Community College Student Groups

ASLCC Student Government	Weekly, Monday 3:30-5:30	Bldg. 3, Room 216
Council of Clubs Jan. 11	Every Other Tuesday 3:00-5:00	Bldg. 1, Room 206
BSU – Black Student Union	Weekly, Wednesday 1:00-2:00	Bldg. 1, Room 201
LSU – Latino Student Union	Tuesday 11:30 & Friday 1:00	Bldg. 1, Room 201
NASA – Native American Student Assn.	Weekly, Friday 3:00-4:00	Bldg. 1, Room 201
LASA – Lane Arts Student Association	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday 1:30-2:30	Bldg. 11, Alcove
SPA – Student Productions Association	Every other Thurs. @ 4:15	Bldg. 6, Blue Door
Geology Club	Weekly, Monday 1:00-2:00	Bldg. 16, SRC
Jazz Club	Weekly, Wednesday 3:15-4:15	Bldg. 6, Band Room
Table Tennis Club	Weekly, Thursday 6:30-9:00 PM	Cafeteria (South wall)
LCC XYZ (formerly QSA)	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday 4:00-5:30	Bldg. 1, Room 212
LCC Dance Club (LCCDC)	Every Other Thurs 3:00-4:00	Bldg. 1, Room 206
Learning Garden Club	Time/Day TBA	In the Garden
Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Zeta Chapter	Weekly, Time/Day TBA	TBA
ADDA (American Design & Draft Assn.)	Weekly, Friday 11:00	Bldg. 18, Room 206
Lanestock Annual Celebration Club	Weekly, Time/Day TBA	Bldg. 1, Room 206
APISU (Asian - Pacific Island Student Union)	Weekly, Wednesday 11:30	Multicultural Center
LCC Smokers Club (Clean-up Crew)	TBA	Cafeteria
Veterans Club of LCC	Weekly, Tuesday 12:00-1:00	Bldg. 19, Room 241
OSPIRG	Weekly, Wednesday 12:00	Basement, Center

Attention Graphic/Arts Students: ASLCC Logo Contest!

Contact the Student Government office at 541-463-3171 or come to Building 1, Room 210.

Visit the Facebook page and click events <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=326433213529>

The Council of Clubs thanks you for your time and devotion as student leaders representing your organizations, clubs, groups, and unions. We are boasting 18 active clubs on campus and we hope to add more to our family winter term! The next meeting will be on Jan. 11th @ 3:00 pm.

ASLCC will be entering the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration in Eugene on January 17th. Organizers are seeking suggestions from the student body. Visit Council of Clubs for info.

Welcome Back Students!

Remember to attend all classes in the first week to avoid being administratively dropped!

The deadline to drop a class for a full refund is January 9th @ 11:59 PM.



FORWARD THINKING TRANSIT

Service to Gateway! Opens Sunday, January 9

Great Connections

Enjoy a one-seat ride to:

- Off-campus housing
- Grocery stores
- Retail shops
- Theaters
- Restaurants and bars
- And more!

Use your LCC Bus Pass to
ride EmX for free!

Downtown
Eugene

University
of Oregon

Gateway
Mall

Sacred Heart
at RiverBend

Downtown
Springfield

Great Service: Fast, Reliable, Frequent

Every 10 minutes

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Service before 7 a.m. is less frequent.

Every 15-30 minutes

Weekday evenings and weekends

For more information call 541-687-5555 (7-1-1 TTY).



The Best
Way to
Connect



Our view

College smart to drop class taught by openly anti-Muslim instructor.

Who?

The editorial board consists of Editor Eder Campuzano, Managing Editor Andy Rossback and News Editor Brett Stanley.

Write us

Keep it short and civil. Under 350 words. Send to torch@lanecc.edu. Attach your name, address and phone number.

EDITORIAL

College decision to cut class a smart one

While students completed final exams last term, administrators contemplated a controversial non-credit class called "What is Islam?"

The class, slated to begin Winter term, was to be taught by Eugene resident Barry Sommer, who has given talks at the Pacifica Forum and posted anti-Muslim sentiments on his personal blog.

"When it got on our radar, given the recent events in Portland and Corvallis, we said, 'Wait a minute, we need to be very careful and really consider how Lane engages

learning experiences in this environment,'" LCC President Mary Spilde told The Register-Guard in December.

She was referring to an alleged bombing attempt by a Muslim man in Portland and arson at a mosque in Corvallis shortly after.

The administration made the right decision to pull the class. Luckily, nobody had signed up for the class anyway. Allowing Sommer to teach the class about something he has a history of publicly bashing is out of order in many senses.

Additionally, Sommer

acknowledges that he does not have academic credentials to teach such a class.

Arsalan Bukhari, executive director of the Washington state chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations said it best in a letter to Spilde:

"Unless the goal of this course is to promote anti-Muslim bigotry, Lane Community College should replace Mr. Sommer with someone who will offer students a balanced and objective analysis of the subject matter."

A story in The Register-

Guard revealed that the college's process for checking up on non-credit instructors is less comprehensive than the process for-credit classes.

Administrators should certainly pay closer attention to noncredit instructors in the future to avoid a class such as this — it could have caused bigger problems than it did.

In conclusion, let's offer kudos to an efficient administration that discovered this problem, took action in a timely manner and prevented the spread of uninformed commentary.

COMMENTARY

New year, same war

8 years. 4,287 American lives. 400 journalists. \$218,000,000 Eugene tax dollars. The Iraq war — when does it really end?

"So it goes."

Few have said it better than Kurt Vonnegut, a decorated soldier and influential American writer. As our nation approaches its eighth year occupying Iraq, the cost of occupation has reached 4,287 US soldiers killed in combat.

This number is still rising.

The latest fatality occurred Jan. 2, according to Antiwar.com, a website devoted to opposing aggressive war and imperialism.

Estimates show that between 99,324 to 108,439 civilians have been killed as a result of conflict. An additional 150,726 civilian and combatant deaths have also occurred, according to Iraqbodycount.org, a worldwide update on civilians killed in the Iraq war and occupation.

Nearly 400 journalists have been killed as well.

What do these numbers mean? We see them echoed in newspapers, online media and television. We are familiar with terms such as "IEDs," suicide attacks, vehicle bombs and drones.

We have incorporated the language of war into our everyday use — we see it mirrored in video games and other media outlets.

We drive the vehicles of war to the supermarket. The military's four-wheel drive High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, or "Humvee," has been re-mastered into a luxury vehicle — the Hummer.

Growing up in a nation suspended in perpetual war has left our generation, and those that have followed, jaded.

Numbers are just numbers. We feel no connection to a "1," much less a "1" followed by five other numbers. How can we attach an entire life, much less 108,439 separate lives and families and stories, to six numbers?

Or even three numbers?

It is hard to grasp the concept of mass deaths. We have become so accustomed to reading about the death and destruction that the Iraq war has wreaked, that we are dulled to the slaughter of individuals.

We forget that each statistic, figure or graph encases a life. The Iraq war has become a constant in our lives, melting into the background like a low-frequency buzz omitted by a radio.

Sure, the war affects us. The cost of the Iraq war is tremendous — our nation is saddled with a

huge, multi-trillion dollar debt.

Financing comes directly from us, whether we support the war or not.

More than \$218,000,000 alone has come from Eugene, according to Costofwar.com.

This number continues to tick upwards. By the end of this sentence an additional \$100 has been added.

However, our debt is too staggering, too large to grasp. It is the same as the war's casualties.

Vonnegut perhaps wrote best on the jading affects of war in his 1969 novel on World War II, "Slaughterhouse Five." The novel documents the massacre and bombing of Dresden, a German city. Vonnegut exemplifies the numbness that is acquired during war: "So it goes," the famous phrase, is evoked after every single death.

A cathedral filled to entirety with the rotting victims of war, a single death — in war, they're the same: a number.

This is a call to remember the victims of war, both civilians and soldiers, as not just numbers but as lives.

A life in its entirety is a hard concept to grasp. War eliminates the value of a single life, detaches us from death.

Though President Obama declared the Iraq War officially over on Aug. 31 of last year, our troops still occupy the country.

"On the last day of the official U.S. combat mission in Iraq, there was no dancing in the streets, no celebratory gunfire and no sense that a milestone had been reached," the Washington Post reported.

"Let me say this as plainly as I can: By Aug. 31, 2010, our combat mission in Iraq will end," Obama said in a speech at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

However, former president George W. Bush had remarkably similar words in 2003.

"My fellow Americans: Major combat operations in Iraq have ended," Bush said on the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln during his "Mission Accomplished" speech.

Fewer than 50,000 troops will remain in Iraq according to Obama, and they will be withdrawn gradually until all U.S. forces are out of Iraq by Dec. 31 of this year.

The war is far from over — though combat troops have been withdrawn, there is still violence.

As long as there are victims of war, it has not ended.

And they are not solely numbers.

Waking up early



How long have you had to wait to get your books from the Titan Store this term? When did you get out there? If it was any time before 9 a.m., chances are your wait time was zero to four

minutes once you got all your books. Yes, for some of us it's impossible to get out here before the crack of noon, what with children, jobs and other obligations. But if your mornings are free, get your stuff done then. It really is less infuriating.

One year left for humanity

You ever see that John Cusack movie about 2012? We think it was called "Mr. Cusack and the Exploding Planet."

Anyways, according to that hit blockbuster film, we've only got about a year left on this Earth. In fact, it seems the apocalypse is already upon us. Floods are taking a toll on Los Angeles and Australia and Justin Bieber is at large. Let's make the most of the time we have left on this planet. Who wants to start a Bocce ball league?



Art gallery turns 40



The Building 11 art gallery stands as a testament to the college's dedication to the artistic expression as it celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. It's

a great chance to check out works by instructors who worked hard to establish the gallery and keep it running. Check it out on the first floor of Building 11 now through the end of the month. A reception will be held Jan. 18. Did we mention there'd be refreshments? Yes, there will be refreshments.



Hannah Hynes-Petty
Reporter

THINK ABOUT IT

“What is your New Year’s resolution?”



“To get what I want.”

Alejandro Esperanza, music major



“I don’t believe in setting resolutions. Life is unpredictable.”

Andrea Smith, early childhood education major



“To have a straight ‘A’ GPA, get in better shape and have more confidence in school.”

Landon Crume, undecided



“To do the best I can and prove myself.”

Vince Bovino, undecided



“To have more of a social life. An actual life besides studying.”

Patric KinKade, music



“To meditate every day.”

Ashley Allegro, art major



“To break some personal bad habits ... I’d like to get better grades and set more time aside for school.”

Alix Richardson, undecided



“To be an all around better person and be closer with my family.”

Lila Marroquin, dental hygiene



“Exercise more.”

Tristan Rosenan, anthropology

Interviews by Javier Magallanes & Carmen Vigil • Photos by Eugene Johnson

GANN

From Page 1

of drugs made it more of a means to an end. But even with the influence of hard drug use, Gann eventually stopped scamming or robbing individuals and small businesses.

He went after larger corporate entities that would be less affected.

“As I got older, my guilty conscience...I stopped stealing from people and switched to bigger institutions that were insured like super markets and banks,” Gann said.

He takes longer and longer to answer questions, and eventually is completely silent.

“So you want to hear about what I do now?” Gann said. It’s easy to hear the excitement in his voice, even more so to see it in his posture and tempo. His hands are out of his pockets and he’s swinging a hand shovel around as he asks me this.

Three and a half years ago Gann came to Eugene from Portland to attend a drug treatment program after he failed a urine test. About the same time as he finished the six-month program, staff from the University of Oregon, Judge Anne Aiken, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and a few others decided to build and maintain a garden behind the Eugene Courthouse. It was to be a joint effort between university students and the city government.

Gann was a partner in the project. “He’s been a tremendous success,” Aiken said. “It’s been an incredible collaborative effort.”

That experience changed the world for Gann. Through working in the garden, Gann says that he started to give back to the community, a sharp contrast, he says, to his previous life of taking.

“I didn’t know him that well, but as we started moving on with the class in the spring he kept coming back,” UO garden adjunct professor Lori Nelson said. “He was one of the guys who was helping out whenever he could.”

“I met a lot of people. People who I never would have associated with before ... community minded people,” Gann said. “Once I got a chance to do good, I realized how much I liked it.”

While working at the community garden,

Gann discussed a class he took while in prison called ‘Victims Assessment.’ During the course, video interviews with people describing their experiences as victims of a crime were played. Gann said that he had no idea of the emotional struggles that many of the people who’d been robbed went through or how traumatic these scenarios were for victims.

“It’s not a profitable lifestyle and the trauma that you cause even if you don’t harm anybody, that trauma lasts a lifetime,” he said.

Outside of gardening, Gann doesn’t have anything specific planned for the future.

“I just need to make enough to feed myself and pay the rent. I don’t need much,” Gann said. He says he’s considering trying to get a landscaping business started at some point, but he’s not totally committed to the idea yet.

“I don’t know if I have personally been around someone so eager to give back,” said Diane Hochstein, president of SOI systems, a company that provides individuals such as Gann with intellectual assessments and comprehensive learning programs. “He is able to open up his life to anyone, to let them know that he’s not going to fail.”

Gann’s wiping the soil off his hands as he gets ready to move on to the next project. Left unnoticed by the gardeners, a small patch of weeds growing in the corner of the bed. Gann and his coworker are loading their equipment onto the back of a small truck. How could they have missed this tiny imperfection? The clouds have lifted and the school is starting to wake up with the bustle of students arriving for class.

The little motor is noisy as the small truck pulls away, heading to the next project somewhere across campus. Overlooked by the groundskeepers, the foreign greenery in this planter has a few buds, some beginning to open into small, colorful blossoms.

This bed of plants is only one of many scattered around campus. Under the expert supervision and care of gardeners such as Gann, blemishes are a rarity, and each bed contributes to the overall mood and beauty of the college.

However, even the occasional weeds, when given the right soil and care, bloom into flowers.

COUGAR

From Page 1

Harris.

“It seems like [they’re seen] every three to four months, two to three times a year, usually in the evening or at night,” Harris said.

The large cats typically just wander through the campus on a “hunting route” and are rarely seen again.

“What I’ve been told, anecdotally, is that once you see a cougar, you won’t see it the next day,” Smith said.

Though there have been no recorded attacks by mountain lions on campus, students, staff and faculty should immediately notify Public Safety if they spot a mountain lion or other dangerous animal.

Also, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, if one does encounter a mountain lion, be sure to maintain eye contact.

•Do not run as it triggers a chase instinct in the animal and may lead to an attack.

•Back away slowly.

•Pick up children, but do so without bending down or turning your back on the cougar.

•Leave the mountain lion a way to escape. Cougars will often retreat if given a chance.

•Stay calm and stand your ground. If a cougar seems aggressive, clap your hands and raise your arms and try to make yourself look bigger.

•If a mountain lion does attack, fight back by any available means (rocks, sticks, etc.)

Any sightings of cougars or other wild animals on the college campus should be reported to Public Safety at 541-463-5558.

BOARD

From Page 1

from an Oregon community college.

Each board member will serve a term of four years, with each student representative serving two years.

Amongst a slew of other changes to Oregon’s higher education system, the new board will also determine state goals for college education and funding.

The board will also determine tuition rate limits and will allot funding for financial aid.

In its current form, LC 2861 addresses some of the concerns of the college’s board of education expressed at their Nov. 17 board meeting as previously reported by The Torch.

Prior to the Dec. 15 draft of LC 2861, several competing legislative concepts and proposals would have stripped Oregon’s community colleges of their ability to govern and regulate themselves and would have created a state agency that would have had broad regulatory power over all of Oregon’s colleges.

In their Nov. 17 board meeting, the college’s board of education vehemently opposed the new law with college president Mary Spilde calling it “nothing less than insane.”

According to Spilde, the older concepts would have had a “devastating impact” on the way community colleges were allocated funding.

The bill is expected to undergo more changes leading up to a vote in Oregon’s upcoming legislative session.