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LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S  
INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 17

# THE Torch

MEN END SEASON WITH WIN / 7

## a LEAP BACK to WINTER



PHOTO BY EUGENE JOHNSON FOR THE TORCH

Sean Brennecke (left) and Sam Moullet commemorate a Leap Day storm by building a snowman in front of the Center for Meeting and Learning before class.

### Student in coma after shooting incident Methamphetamine found on his person.

BY KINZLEY PHILLIPS  
Editor-in-Chief

LCC student Mark Jones was shot by Eugene police officer Ryan Molony on Feb. 6, but the critical wound, which leaves him in a comatose state, was self-inflicted, according to Elijah Chambers, an Oregon State Police detective who worked on the interagency investigation.

According to the LCC Public Safety department, Jones has no campus offenses on record.

Residents of Briarwood Mobile Home Park called the Eugene Police Department on Feb. 6 to report an armed man who was high on drugs and threatening them.

"He did not live at the mobile home park. He was visiting someone," Chambers said.

When Molony arrived on scene and asked Jones to raise his arms, Chambers said Jones pointed his gun towards the officer instead.

Jones fired a shot at Molony immediately before the officer shot back, although Molony didn't remember this initially, Chambers said.

"The bullet fragment has not been

found, but there was a hole in the tree behind him," Chambers said.

Molony fired six shots at Jones, two of which hit him in his right arm and armpit. Jones then fell behind the shed and delivered a final shot from his .40-caliber handgun into his own head.

The man then had to be stripped down and sent to the hospital, where he remains.

"They found methamphetamine on his person," Chambers said.

Though the report has not officially been sent to the district attorney's office, Chambers said if Jones survives, there would be charges brought against him.

Molony, a six-year veteran of the EPD, is on paid leave until the investigation is complete, but Chambers said the incident was found to be a justified officer-involved shooting.

According to The Register-Guard, Jones has a record of arrests in Lane and Jackson counties and has been convicted of charges including first-degree burglary, menacing, resisting arrest, attempting to elude police and methamphetamine possession.



Mark Richard Jones

### Student pleads not guilty to theft Suspect faces five felony charges.

BY TURNER MAXWELL  
Assistant Photo Editor

An LCC student who police said faked a cancer diagnosis to fraudulently earn donations pled not guilty on Feb. 28, a Eugene radio station has reported.

KVAL reported that LCC student Charles Embleton, 28, pled not guilty to five felony counts of Theft I.

With the assistance of Public Safety, Springfield Police arrested Embleton on campus Feb. 21.

Police said Embleton led people to believe he was diagnosed with a terminal pancreatic cancer. In October, the Springfield Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints organized a fundraiser to benefit Embleton.

Papa's Pizza general manager Willie Sprag said Papa's Pizza served as a venue for the church-sponsored fundraiser.

Sprag said Embleton received approximately \$1,700 from the fundraiser. Embleton also re-

ceived various donations from people attending the church.

"He had warrants for his arrest. He had a warrant for five felony counts of Theft I and one mis-

deemeanor count of Theft II, and that stemmed down from a grand jury indictment over the original theft by deception," said Springfield Police detective Jeff Murkin.

The Springfield Police Department coordinated with LCC Public Safety to



Charles Embleton

See THEFT on Page 3

### Bikelane hopes to aid commuters

The program will loan  
bicycles to 10 students.

BY MAYGAN BECKERS  
Reporter

Beginning in spring term, LCC will have a new bicycle loan program.

David Willis, the director of LCC's facilities management plan, had the idea for Bikelane.

LCC students pay a \$27 transportation fee, which the college uses to maintain parking lots, bus stations and roads.

Bikelane's organizers tapped the transportation budget for \$4,500: \$4,000 for the bicycles and \$500 to promote the service.

"We took a very small amount of that money and bought ten commuter-style bicycles. We're going to loan those to ten students because the idea is that the students are already paying the transportation fee, which is supplying the bicycles," said Mike Sims, Bikelane's main coordinator.

"If we loan the bikes out instead of renting them, we're hoping to get more involvement from the students," Sims said.

All participants have to sign a liability waiver, taking responsibility for the loaned bicycles. If a bicycle is stolen, students are charged \$400.

Sims said he wants the bikes returned at the end of each term.

"We're trying to encourage more sustainable, eco-friendly ways of transportation. A lot of people drive alone in a car, and that's kind of the worst possible way for the environment. Even though it's difficult, and a lot of people wouldn't be able to ride their bike here, some people can," sustainability coordinator Jennifer Hayward said.

"They can also ride their bike halfway and then get on the bus when it gets to be too much of a hill," she said.

The first 10 participants who apply, take the online survey, and complete a required maintenance and safety lesson will be accepted into the program.

Participants will be responsible for routine maintenance and minor repairs, such as flat tires and worn brake pads. However Bikelane will pay for repairs to major components, such as the chain, bottom brackets, headsets or peddles.

For some students, climbing 30th Avenue might be a little too much, and Bikelane has taken that into consideration.

"We're not requiring or asking people to ride their bike up the hill. It's a challenging ride up, and some people think it's really dangerous. We're hoping the people who live far from the bus station will hop on their bike and ride down to Amazon Station (or Eugene Station), put the bike on bus and come to school," Sims said.

All 10 participants will get a bicycle during the first week of spring term and keep it through the last day of finals week.

When participants return their bicycles, Bikelane will evaluate the bicycles' condi-

See BICYCLE on Page 3



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

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## Workshop on teaching students with disabilities highlights need for empathy

On March 6, faculty and staff have the opportunity to further their understanding of autism. What the college is calling a workshop on learning how to work with students with disabilities, *The Torch* is calling an opportunity for understanding and empathy.

Kathryn Marxen worked with Dr. Temple Grandin during her studies in livestock handling at Colorado State University and will be sharing her experiences from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Center for Meeting and Learning, Room 104.

Autism is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a disability affecting social, communication and behavior development. Asperger syndrome is considered to be a milder form of autism by the CDC, affecting social development but not necessar-

ily language or intellectual development. Those with Asperger syndrome might have unusual behaviors and interests.

For too long, autism and Asperger syndrome has been clouded in mystery and a lack of understanding regarding the symptoms and causes. Students with autism are often misunderstood, and sometimes bullied by their peers, regardless of their age.

Faculty and staff have the opportunity to engage in an empathetic understanding of others who see the world from a different perspective.

And the timing couldn't be more perfect.

The American Psychiatric Association is proposing including Asperger syndrome in the broad spectrum of autism for the forthcoming fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. While the pro-

posed revision claims this will improve clarity in the diagnosis criteria for Asperger syndrome, and allow them to research the disorder further, others fear that it will diminish resources and lead to incorrect diagnoses.

According to the CDC, one in 110 children have autism. There are thousands of students at LCC. While those with autism should not feel compelled to reveal their disorder, they deserve understanding and respect and shouldn't feel ashamed to admit it.

Whether you know someone with autism or Asperger syndrome, or have been diagnosed yourself, it is important to understand the point of view of those who share this intimidating, uncertain and often volatile world with us. Come and listen to the words of Marxen for an opportunity to learn.



## Child pornography not top of slippery slope for popular website

The Internet turns 43 this year, and popular website Reddit has hit the ground running.

Reddit is a social news aggregate created and owned by libertarians Steve Huffman and Alexis Ohanian, who — like me — can't help but get political at every opportunity.

On Jan. 11, Reddit turned its servers off for 12 hours to protest the Stop Online Piracy Act, which would have given government officials the power to block Americans' access to any website it deemed detrimental to a well-functioning, harmonious, Orwellian society.

By Feb. 11, Ohanian was using the slippery-slope argument to defend the proliferation of child pornography through Reddit's servers, which might explain why Internet-censorship bills like SOPA gain so much traction among congressional leaders who think the Internet is Gomorrah for anarchists, terrorists and pedophiles.

And on Feb. 13, after two days of bickering among Reddit's userbase — pitting those who believe Americans have a Constitutional right to sexualize children, and yell "FIRE!" in a crowded theater against those who think the First Amendment doesn't protect child pornography — Ohanian released a statement, in which he announced that forums devoted to "preteen\_girls," "preteen\_boys" and "JailbaitVideos," among others, would be closed.

Phew, right? Wrong. The problem runs much deeper than this.

In the statement, Ohanian wrote,

"We understand that this might make some of you worried about the slippery slope from banning one specific type of content, to banning other types of content. We're concerned about that too, and do not make this policy change lightly or without careful deliberation."

Essentially, he is placating the segment of Reddit's userbase that is concerned the banning of child pornography will lead to the banning of, say, images of dead children, or fan fiction about beating women and minorities, all of which Reddit still allows.

Furthermore, while the statement rightfully decries child pornography as "toxic," it neglects to cast light on how popular the offending forums were, or how long they operated.

The main page of Reddit did not directly link to any of these subforums, but "jailbait" was the third most popular Reddit subforum, with 30,000 daily visitors publicly posting links to images stolen from teenagers' Facebook profiles, among others, and privately exchanging hardcore child pornography via Reddit's internal messaging system.

Ohanian allowed these forums to operate for six years, even after Reddit went corporate in 2006. Ohanian

## THE FAD DIET



BY SEAN HANSON  
Production Manager

of information.

As such, his declaration that child pornography is toxic seems hollow. Ohanian was finally bowing to internal and external pressures instead of taking an actual stand on the issue.

Even though the offending forums are closed, a history of hosting links to child pornography presents a peculiar problem for Reddit and for those of us who advocate a neutral Internet free of government censorship: Until Huffman, Ohanian and the whole Reddit userbase bow out of the fight against bills like SOPA, the fight for net neutrality is undermined by Reddit's history with child pornography.

To escape government censorship, sites like Reddit must engage in self-governance. When its third-largest subforum had a "Jailbait Gone Wild" contest, Ohanian should have intervened, lest that blighted minority of Internet users be confused with the innocuous majority by politicians, who know next to nothing about the Internet.

closed "jailbait" in September 2011, after a report by CNN's Anderson Cooper publicized the contents of that particular forum, but the others remained open.

Why? Because Ohanian holds a die-hard belief in the free exchange

Those of us who have seen that a neutral Internet is a key battleground in the fight against corruption — during the Arab Spring, for example, when protesters used Twitter and Facebook to sway popular opinion against oppressive governments — protest bills like SOPA because free speech and free press keeps America free, not to keep the Internet a safe haven for psychopaths and pedophiles.

And it reflects poorly on the rest of us when one of the most vocal opponents of these pro-censorship measures, Reddit, begrudgingly ends a six-year commitment to providing pedophiles the freedom to sexualize children.

Removing child pornography from its servers is not the tippy-top of a slippery slope, as Ohanian would like to believe, in keeping with his misinterpretation of libertarian philosophy.

Instead, a real libertarian would argue that one's actions should not infringe on another's natural right to freedom. The satisfaction of a mentally ill adult's fetish cannot come at the expense of a child's exploitation. Pedophilia is possibly the only fetish that cannot be satisfied by two consenting adults.

Ohanian reflects poorly on Reddit, the fight for net neutrality and the Internet at large. Lucky for us, Reddit is driven by per-visit advertising revenue.

By boycotting Reddit until its corporate sponsors relieve Ohanian of his duties, we can send a clear message:

The Internet need not be censored, and we can police ourselves.



## BICYCLES: Success expected

*Continued from Page 1*

tion and usage. Participants will be asked to complete a survey so Bikelane can gauge the effectiveness of the program.

"We're expecting the program to be pretty popular. If it is as popular as we're hoping, we're hoping to expand the program by about 10 or 20 more bikes for the fall. We're also trying to put a fleet of 20 bikes at our downtown center," said Sims.

He said Bikelane would provide some bicycles to the LCC students living in the student housing units downtown.

"I think it's a good idea because it helps the economy and people would use a lot less gas," said first-year early childhood education major Christine Wood.

Math major Ben Pistorius said the program would be somewhat effective.

"I'm sure that they'll be able to loan out the bikes and it'll help, but it'll need a lot of advertising because there are already people who take the bus," Pistorius said.

"It sounds like a good idea if you don't want to buy a bike for yourself. I sold my car last year and I don't regret a bit of it," said automotive major Allen Hansen, who rides his bicycle to LCC.

"If they find people that are willing to sign up for a program like that, then I believe it would be successful. We live in a city where you don't need a car," Hansen said.

## THEFT: LCC assists Springfield

*Continued from Page 1*

arrest Embleton on the LCC campus.

"He's been going from house to house and he knew we were looking for him. We knew he was a student at LCC so we tracked him down there," Murkin said. Murkin arrested Embleton in the Public Safety office.

"Springfield Police asked us for assistance in locating the individual," said Public Safety Cpl. Jacob Ryker.

At approximately 9 a.m., Public Safety found Embleton in a classroom in the Center Building.

"Public Safety went and got him. They had him come to the Public Safety office," Murkin said. "They said, 'Sorry, you need to come to jail,'" said Ryker. "And he went to jail."

Murkin said Embleton knew police were looking for him. "I've left messages for him to contact me, and he never did, so it didn't leave us much choice. We knew one place that he would be, so we went there and arrested him," Murkin said. Embleton was jailed at the Lane County Adult Corrections facility for a few days before being released. "He was locked in the jail, but he's out. He got out fairly quickly because of the jail's inability to hold anybody because of overcrowding," said Murkin. "He's out, and I really don't know where he's at right now."

## INSTRUCTOR WORKS WOOD *into* ART



PHOTO BY TURNER MAXWELL FOR THE TORCH

LCC art student Christiane Paige sizes up one of LCC instructor Lee Imonen's pieces on display in Building 11.

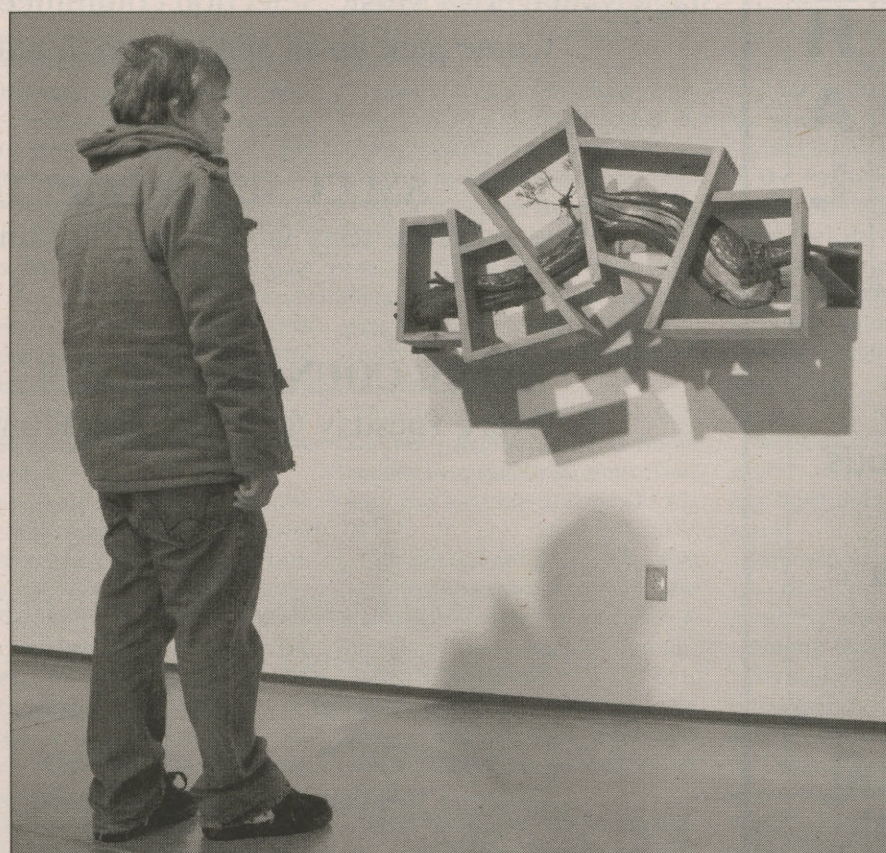


PHOTO BY REBEKAH SAPP FOR THE TORCH

Student Derek Machen admires the wall-mounted piece "Contained," made from juniper and oak. "His work is amazing. We are lucky to have his work here," Machen said.

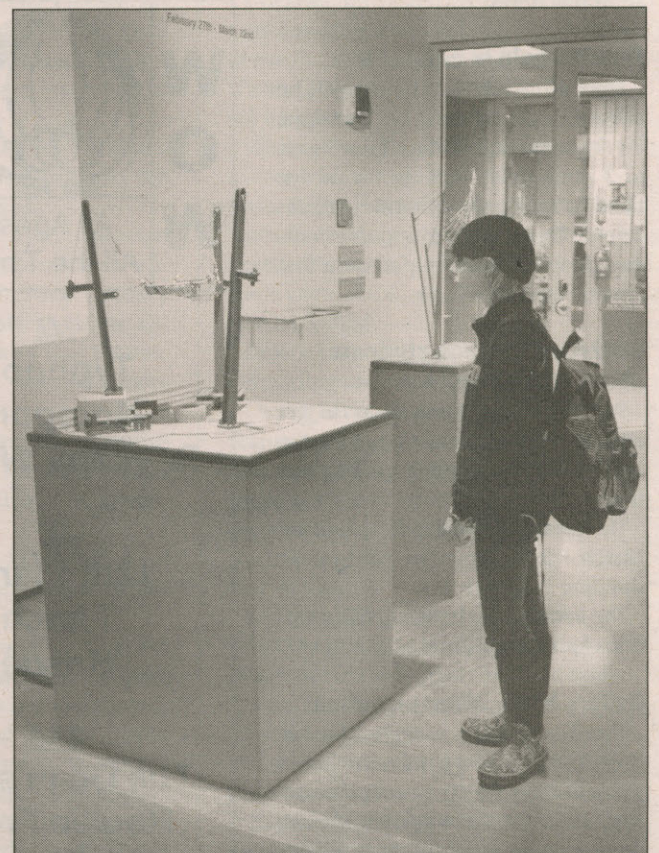


PHOTO BY REBEKAH SAPP FOR THE TORCH

Caitlin Cunningham, an LCC sophomore, checks out some of Imonen's suspended art replicas.



COUNCIL OF CLUBS

Two funds requests approved

ISC, Disc Golf Club receive \$315.

BY KYLE CHASE  
Reporter

At its Feb. 28 meeting, the Council of Clubs approved \$315 in funds requests that will allow the International Students Club to purchase food and the Disc Golf Club to buy uniforms.

Council of Clubs approved \$200 for the ISC to buy food for the upcoming International Food Day, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 8 in the cafeteria. The club will be selling chicken satay skewers and bubble tea to raise funds.

The LCC Disc Golf Club competed with the UO and OSU, but club members need new polo shirts to compete on the national circuit. According to club president Warren Hollinshed,

the Disc Golf Club will pay for half of the cost out of pocket, and the Council of Clubs will pay the remaining \$115 towards the new uniforms.

OSPIRG is holding its annual Hunger Cleanup on April 14.

“The goal is to organize groups on campus to raise money for food,” OSPIRG Organizer Trever Hutchinson said.

Food barrels will be distributed around town, and all food will be donated to Food for Lane County, along with monetary donations. Hutchinson said the short-term goal is to raise \$2,000, and the national goal is \$80,000.

Those who want to help can register at <http://www.hungercleanup.org>, create a group and ask for donations.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Disorderly conduct

On Feb. 17, a student was disruptive in class in the Center Building at 1:57 p.m.

Code of Conduct violation

On Feb. 18 at 11 a.m., a student was found to have been drinking in his vehicle and was issued an order to appear.

Criminal mischief

On Feb. 21 at 7 p.m., an intoxicated male kicked the front door of the Downtown Campus. Eugene Police arrested the male on an outstanding

warrant and for trespassing on LCC property.

Assault

A student punched another student in the face on Feb. 22 at 11:50 a.m. in Building 6. The perpetrator was issued an order to appear and cited in lieu of being taken in to custody.

Possession of marijuana

On Feb. 22 at 3:30 p.m., a student was cited with an order to appear for possessing marijuana in the Center Building.

NEWS BRIEFS

ASLCC asks for student support for rally:

ASLCC is planning a rally to picket the closed-door meeting of the college council’s finance and budget development subcommittee on March 9. The committee will be discussing tuition increases in the boardroom in Building 3. According to ASLCC, no students will be present at the meeting and were not told the meeting would be held, “so we the students are rallying outside with signs to show our views.”

Free tax help in cafeteria

Through April 17, tax help will be offered in the cafeteria on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those seeking tax advice need to bring all tax forms and receipts. There are no appointments and people will be helped on a first come, first served basis.

Workshop to teach students about grading options

Students have opportunity to get advice when it comes to making the best decision regarding grading options.

The workshop will take place on March 1 from 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. in Building 19, Room 234.

The last day to change grading options for winter term is March 2.

Gallery hosts Warm reception

There will be a reception today from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the David Joyce Gallery for its new showcase, *Red, Red, the Color of Warm*, with refreshments provided by Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management students.

First Friday CCN to meet in Longhouse

On March 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. the First Friday Communities of Color Networking will meet in LCC’s Longhouse. Everyone is welcome to attend. The CCN was started by local community members of color supporting one another. For more information, contact Donna Koechig in the diversity office at [koechigd@lanecc.edu](mailto:koechigd@lanecc.edu) or 5307.

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3/2

Typhoon

Motopony

Ravenna Woods

3/3

12th Planet

Flinch

Kastle

2/19

The Dean's List

Rookie Fresh

8th & Lincoln - 687 2746

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ASLCC

Senate welcomes two new members

MEChA, PTK requests approved.

BY RYAN KOSTECKA  
Senior Reporter

The ASLCC approved \$18,342 worth of funds requests for two clubs, ratified two new Senators and appointed a new campus events director at its Feb. 29 meeting.

Sophomore psychology major Lauren Appell is the Senate’s new campus events director after being interviewed by the ASLCC hiring committee.

“I love planning events because I feel like it gives students a voice and allows people to demonstrate what they believe in,” Appell said. “I’ve had a lot of experience planning events and I really want to use my experience to help others do the same.”

Appell is from Los Angeles and graduated from El Camino Real High School in 2010. After attending UO for one year, Appell transferred to LCC.

“Oregon really appealed to me along with the atmosphere here ... I transferred to Lane because it was more affordable,” Appell said.

Third-year student Michael Friedman was unanimously ratified by the Senate and appointed as ASLCC senator

“I wanted to get involved and help out as much more than just a stu-

dent,” Freidman said. “The best way I see myself getting involved for the greater good of this school was student government.”

Friedman attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz., where he received his bachelor’s degree in anthropology. He hopes to go into osteopathic medicine once he leaves LCC.

“Some things in my immediate future (as a Senator) are working on the Student Finance Board, and making sure that the \$47 every student pays is being used fairly, and as best as possible,” Friedman said.

Education major Blake Phetteplace was also unanimously ratified, and appointed to the Senate.

Phetteplace graduated from Network Charter School in Eugene. He has attended LCC for four years.

“I’m ecstatic. I have been waiting a while and it’s very rewarding to finally be on (the Senate),” Phetteplace said.

In other news, ASLCC approved funds requests from MEChA and Phi Theta Kappa.

MEChA was unanimously awarded \$9,852 for its annual car show to be held later in the year.

According to MEChA member Himer Oregon, thousands of people are expected to be in attendance and admission is free.

“LCC and the high schools are going to be receiving the most benefits from this car show because they’ll see and understand how strong MEChA is on this campus,” Oregon said. “It’ll be a recruiting tool to get high school students to come here.”

Over half of the requested funds are going to the travel and lodging of Mexican rap-star MC Magic. Magic will be the main performer at the event, but other entertainers, including DJ Aztecos, will also perform.

Phi Theta Kappa was unanimously awarded its funds request of \$8,490 by the Senate.

Phi Theta Kappa asked for the funding to travel to international and regional conventions.

Three-fourths of the funds request will be going to the international convention held in Nashville, Tenn., while the last quarter will be funding the regional convention held in Orem, Utah.

Mike Simms of the Bikelane Program presented a short presentation on the goals, the highlights and the future of the new bicycle loan program, aimed at increasing commuting options for students.

ASLCC also updated the budget for a forthcoming trip to the 43rd Annual Grassroots Legislative Conference & National Student Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. The 12-member trip is expected to cost \$19,477.28.

The Associated Students of Lane Community College

VOTE SUMMIT!!!

Come and learn how and why it’s important to VOTE!!

8am-6pm LCC LongHouse

Registration forms are in Building 1/Room 210

Registration forms are due March 7th!!!

2012 LANESTOCK

Interested in participating?

Applications are available for the following:

-Stage Manager -Music Selection committee -Volunteer Coordinator

Come pick up an application in bldg 1/Rm 206!!

ASLCC SENATE MEETINGS

Every Wednesday @ 3:30pm Building 3/ Boardroom

ASLCC COUNCIL OF CLUBS MEETINGS

Every Tuesday @ 2:30pm Building 1/R00m 206

ASLCC Offices | Biulding 1 | Room 210

ASLCC President’s Office | Building 1 | Room 210A

OSA Office | Building 1 | Room 206A

Multicultural Center | Building 1 | Room 201

Student Resource Center | Building 1 | Room 206



## Q&amp;A

## Student looks back to look forward

BY CHELSEA VAN BAALEN  
A&E Editor

After three years in LCC's theater arts department, Clay Johnson has acted his way through several Shakespeare Showcases and taken a backstage role to aid productions like *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Dog Sees God*.

Earlier this year, Johnson was awarded the \$1,000 Ray Winters Acting Shakespeare Scholarship and recently landed the role of Malvolio in this spring's production of *Twelfth Night*.

Here are some thoughts from Johnson about his experiences at LCC.

**Q: What drew you to acting?**

A: I started acting when I was in Klamath Falls. It was kind of a spur-of-the-moment, on-a-whim type thing. I off-the-cuff auditioned for a show in high school and everyone kept saying I was really good, so I auditioned again and got a lead role. I just kept sticking with it.

**Q: What was the first show?**

A: The first show I ever did for on stage was *The First Human Impalement Act in These Here Parts*, and that is the entire title.

**Q: What was that like?**

A: That was very, very interesting because I was 17 at the time. I had shoulder length hair, if you can imagine that, which I had pulled back the entire time. I had to play a cultural anthropologist in 1990 ... Through the course of the play I had to, on stage, strip down to blue spandex shorts, put on an empathy belly, and then

run backstage and get painted head-to-toe with red acrylic paint. That was my costume for pretty much the rest of the show ... that kind of threw modesty out the window, and in a hurry.

**Q: What was the first Shakespeare play you read, and what did you like about it?**

A: The first I read while I was here was *Macbeth*. What I really like about it was that it was really dark, very mysterious. It took place in Scotland and I'm one-fourth Scottish, so it was a very interesting cultural connection.

**Q: What's your favorite Shakespearean play?**

A: That's a tough one ... I would probably say *Titus Andronicus*. It's a really intense story. It's Shakespeare's "goth" play, for lack of a better term. It's very, very dark — very brutal.

**Q: How do you understand Shakespearean language? How do you break it down for an audience?**

A: The thing I do when I first grab a monologue or a piece is I look through it and see where the sentences stop. The way verse is written, the end of a sentence might not be the end of a line. The thought might not stop at a comma. You might have a parenthetical thought in there. You have to look for the end of what you're saying, and then when you find that, you can go back through the sentence and find what it is you're saying. And that's always the most important part of Shakespeare: knowing what you're saying, down to every use

of every word.

**Q: How would you describe Shakespearean language?**

A: A wide vocabulary, a lot of interesting uses of words. A lot of it is very sing-songy. It's kind of faux-poetic, because it's using poetic devices to tell long, extended stories. The most interesting thing about it, in my opinion, is using different words in different ways they're not usually used.

**Q: How do you prepare for your different roles?**

A: It's best to read the play through, so you know what's going on and you know where you're going with what you're doing. Then, trying to figure out where that person is at that time — a lot of basic acting stuff: figuring out what your character's doing, why they're feeling that way. And also, to really start figuring out the language and how everything breaks down ... The thing about Shakespeare is that it has to be word for word, otherwise it's very easy to lose ... The main goal with any play is to make it seem like it's actually happening.

**Q: What do you like about working backstage?**

A: It's a way to be involved in the production. It's very interesting because rather than running around onstage and trying to find your marks, it's taking that same energy but taking it backstage and making the show go off without a hitch. Because the biggest motto of tech is, "If we're doing our job right, they don't know we're there."

**Q: What have you learned from**



Clay Johnson  
Theater Major

**LCC so far?**

A: Different people are always around you. No one is going to be the same as anyone else. You can't make assumptions about anyone. Even if you just look at them and you think you know them by their appearance, or think you have an idea, you can have that idea but don't act on it at all ... Be nice to everybody.

**Q: What are your plans after LCC?**

A: I'm planning on going to (UO), really for lack of better options because I don't have the resources to move anywhere at this point. After that, I'm thinking of getting my ... Master of Fine Arts there. I haven't decided if I want to go somewhere else for my master's yet.

**Q: Do you plan on pursuing acting later?**

A: Yes, just acting, production — anything that keeps me out of a cubicle or a lab.

## OUTSIDE THE BOX



BY CHELSEA VAN BAALEN  
A&E Editor

## Read before you watch

Few things in entertainment divide people more than the statement: "The (book or movie) was better." Book lovers crave the depth and explanations hundreds of pages can provide, while moviegoers appreciate the cinematic details and acting that bring a story to life.

People tend to miss the point when it comes to this line of work. Adapted pictures have had their place in film almost as long as the medium itself. It's not really a question of which was better, but why people need to experience both the raw source and the film.

Trust me, it's worth it. What's even more worth it? Reading the book first.

It's never easy. Finding the time to read a book between classes, parenting, work, papers and getting (a little) sleep is difficult, to say the least.

In my experience, films leave more out of the book than they put in. I call it the *Harry Potter Syndrome* — or HPS.

J.K. Rowling wrote seven books, rich in detail and characters in their own universe. However, each book's length exceeded 300 pages, with the fifth book, *Order of the Phoenix*, clocking in at 896 pages.

Try turning that into a movie no more than three hours in length. The final installment was released in November 2011, and people are still discussing what the non-readers missed.

While not every book has the length of *Harry Potter*, try finding a film that doesn't suffer from some degree of HPS.

I must warn that HPS is often terminal. It's rare that deleted scenes or extended features will cure the illness. The only way to prevent HPS is to read the book first.

The point isn't to know what happens before your friends do, or to say "I have the book whose cover wasn't spoiled by the film poster." It's to make you a truly comprehensive viewer. Your understanding of the film is enhanced beyond what it would be had you not read the book. It's like studying for the final exam.

## Adaptations Hall of Shame:

Did the production team of *The Scarlet Letter* even read Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel before making the 1995 atrocity?

The film touches on penance in Puritan New England, but with an eye that comes across as unintentionally sarcastic and overwhelmingly comedic.

While the film has the otherwise impeccable Gary Oldman, it is clear that the screenwriter Douglas Day Stewart needs to retake a few literature courses.

The film is by far one of the worst adaptations in recent memory. Is it possible to unsee a movie? I hope so.

## OUR FAVORITE THINGS

The Torch reviews a few of the things that excited us in recent months.

Best Game: *Gears of War 3*

*Gears of War 3* is the final chapter of Epic Games' action trilogy, exclusive to the Xbox 360. Fans of the *Gears of War* franchise will not be disappointed by the smoothed-out gameplay and nearly endless hours of Locust-slaying to be done. The campaign plunges deeper into the Cog army by bringing in new and old characters, all the while meshing in-your-face gore and up-close shotgun battles with a touching story. The single-player campaign, which will take players eight to 10 hours to complete, is sure to keep your attention until you have mastered all the active reloads and defeated the Locust Queen in your final battle.

With all of the new additions, the campaign wraps up the series nicely. If this is the last we see of the series, I could muster the strength to move on — but only if I have to. —Kyle Webb, Reporter

Best Book-to-Movie Adaptation: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*

It's never easy to turn a book into a film and please a generation, but Steve Kloves did just that with *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*. The final installment of the epic series (and epic is an understatement) was one of the most faithful adaptations of 2011. Combining everything readers loved while improving on or adding others (the kiss between Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger) kept audiences glued to the screen.

Unlike previous film adaptations of the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* includes all the critical information from the book that the preceding adaptation didn't get. It was the perfect way to end the perfect series. —Chelsea Van Baalen, A&E Editor

Best Movie: *Bellflower*

Few would consider *Bellflower* the best film of 2011, but because the filmmakers stretched their budget to make a movie that stands as a prime example of independent ingenuity, it's easily my favorite.

Writer/director Evan Glodell made this ultraviolent homage to post-apocalyptic action flicks for \$17,000. To put this in perspective, that's \$6,000 less than the budget of *Clerks* — but *Bellflower* never looks cheap.

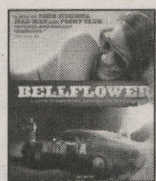
In some corners, *Bellflower* gets criticized for being misogynistic — it focuses on two men who build a war machine while painting the only significant female character as a nutjob who uses sex as a tool for manipulation — but they're missing the point: Like *Fight Club*, *Bellflower* snidely satirizes hypermasculinity and the "manic pixie dream girl" trope (see: Zooey Deschanel) in one fell swoop.

In this broken economy, it's inspiring to see a filmmaker do so much with so little. —Sean Hanson, Production Manager

Best TV Show: *Homeland*

Showtime got it right when it decided to air the action-packed *Homeland*. No show in recent memory has combined interesting character studies with brilliant storytelling as well as *Homeland* did in its first season. You're left at the edge of your seat through 12 hours of nonstop action that makes you squirm. You never know who to believe or what to expect.

I can't recommend the series enough, particularly for the amazing performances by Claire Danes and Damian Lewis. Danes plays Carrie Mathison, a CIA operations officer assigned to



the counterterrorism center, while Lewis is appropriately creepy as Nicholas Brody, a U.S. Marine platoon sergeant who was kidnapped by al-Qaeda and held as a prisoner of war for eight years.

The series has received critical acclaim and won the 2011 Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series: Drama. Production for the second season picks up this spring. —Jon Fuccillo, Sports and Features Editor

Best Album: fun.'s *Some Nights*

*Some Nights* is the second record from indie-pop group fun. With it, fun. embarks on an exciting and experimental revival of '80s pop elements, like synthesizers and distorted drum beats, while still meeting fans' expectations with ever-eccentric musical arrangements, euphoric vocal harmonies, and deliberately intense and uplifting lyrics.

Lead singer Nate Ruess retains his heartfelt, artistic spirit for multi-instrument collaboration and varied vocals in this release. Regrettably, Ruess agreed to an atrocious amount of Auto-Tuning on his already-angelic voice. I'd pay triple for a version without Auto-Tune, but I suppose it's "All Alright" as is.

The single "We Are Young," featured on commercials and Conan, has guest vocals by Janelle Monáe and a children's choir, youthful and inspiring lyrics, and an incredible musical ensemble.

However, "Carry On" is clearly the best track on the album, capable of eradicating even the most melancholy of emotions in place of certain inner strength. Its brief but beautiful guitar riff blew me away. "It Gets Better" proves the record really has more fun as it goes on. Poppy and eclectic, its obscurity is endearing. "All Alone" and "All Alright" are also worth a sequential listen, even if it's just for the fun. of the throwback melodies. —Kinzley Phillips, Editor-in-Chief





# LETTING THEIR VOICES RING

LCC's choirs prepare for their end-of-term performance.

BY TURNER MAXWELL AND KYLE WEBB

At LCC, it's common for a choir instructor to simultaneously listen to the pitch and note of the singers, conduct, play the piano, and teach.

Students can showcase and build their pipes in concert, gospel, vocal jazz and chamber choirs at LCC.

"It is a gift from God to sing," said Paul Fleck, an LCC student who sings in both the concert and gospel choirs.

Fleck hopes to transfer to and sing at New Hope Christian College, where he would major in pastoral studies and music.

When he is singing in gospel choir, Fleck enthusiastically dances and moves to the music.

"I grew up with gospel as a churchgoer. I love this (choir) the best," Fleck said.

Zena Kramer, a music and vocal performance major, is in the concert choir, but after some debate and encouragement, she is looking to expand her vocal repertoire by joining the gospel choir.

"Everyone told me it was a nice class. It was big and it was worth it. I'm here now and it's really good. I love it a lot, but I think I'm going to join gospel choir too," Kramer said.

Joey Parker, who has been a part of gospel, recently became involved with singing in concert choir as a way to experience what he describes as "the different feel" of being in a larger group of people singing together.

LCC instructor Vicki Brabham teaches both gospel choir and Spectrum, the vocal jazz choir.

Many of Brabham's students speak highly

of her teaching abilities and her artistry as well.

"Vicki is very talented and universally adored," Fleck said.

Along with teaching, Brabham is involved with other choirs and community musical projects, including the Women's Choral Society, the Emerald City Jazz Kings, and South Eugene High School's theater department. Brabham also acts as a staff musician at a local church.

"I think the choir program at LCC is phenomenal," Brabham said.

"We've got as much or more going for us than many university programs, and every teacher is qualified, inspired, and a perfect fit for the choirs they instruct," Brabham said.

Brabham began as a freelance musician in Lane County, working in numerous musical venues for approximately 20 years. She has been an LCC instructor for seven years.

"I deeply enjoy jazz and gospel music, and my desire to teach is in sync with my desire to express myself musically," Brabham said. "I was gifted with a natural musical ability, and I want to share it and make music with others."

Brabham advocated reviving the dormant gospel choir curriculum two years ago.

"LCC had not had a gospel choir for about 16 years, and I saw the enthusiasm and success of the program at the UO, so I wanted to offer a similar experience to students at LCC," she said.

Brabham said she wants students to know all the choirs at LCC "are both a training ground for those who plan to pursue music professionally, and an artistic environment

within which one can express oneself and be respected and honored for their contribution."

LCC student Conor Giles has been singing since he was two years old. Throughout high school he sang in an a cappella group. Now, Giles sings in Spectrum and the gospel choir.

Giles said he lives by a quote by philosopher William James: "I don't sing because I'm happy; I'm happy because I sing."

Brooke Larson, an LCC student who sings in Spectrum, said she has always enjoyed music and musical theater, "but I like jazz because it's sultry."

Larson said she doesn't have a major but she wants to pursue a degree in musical therapy in Portland.

Music major Kevin Peet has been a part of chamber choir for the past eight terms and Spectrum for the past five terms.

Peet said he has always enjoyed music. In addition to singing, he played in the brass section in middle and high school bands.

The next choral concert will include all of the choirs in the department, with Spectrum performing an original song titled "A Perfect Place for Me."

Local songwriter Anne Leong composed the song.

"It is one of three of Leong's originals that I have arranged and plan to market commercially," Brabham said. "For the gospel choir, I have arranged a choral version of the Black Eyed Peas song 'Where Is the Love.'"

The choirs will perform March 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ragozzino Performance Hall. Tickets are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for students, staff members and seniors.



PHOTO BY TURNER MAXWELL FOR THE TORCH

LCC instructor Deborah Noel directs her concert choir as it practices for its March 8 performance, which will feature all four of LCC's choirs.



## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Titans' bitter end brightened by big win

Titans decraw Panthers in 88-30 blowout.

BY RYAN KOSTECKA  
Senior Reporter

What a way to end it!

Head coach Bruce Chavka said Lane's men's basketball team accomplished two big things in its season-ending 88-30 victory on Saturday, Feb. 25 against the Portland Panthers.

"It was great to send out the sophomores on a good note. They're great people and we are going to miss them," Chavka said. "We also got some good momentum now going into the offseason."

Sophomores Darrell Breazell, Daniel Ketchum and Nick Lindsey played their last game in Titan uniforms and it couldn't have gone any better.

"It was a lot of fun out there and it felt good to win my last game," Breazell said. "We definitely provided some entertainment, and were all laughing and having fun."

Breazell, getting the start in his final game, led the Titans with 11 points, five assists and three steals in a season-high 24 minutes.

Lane started out the game on fire and never cooled off. After taking an 8-4 lead just 2:30 into the game, the Titans went on a 15-0 run to take a commanding 23-4 lead at the 11-minute mark.

Breazell and freshman Tyler Coleman led the way for the Titans, each accounting for 6 points in the opening nine minutes of play.

After two completed free throws by Portland's DeAndre Brown, who was the game's leading scorer with 16 points and 10 rebounds, the Titans went on another 10-0 run to take its largest lead of the half at 33-6 with five minutes left in the first half.

Freshman Tyree Newman, who finished with 9 points and seven rebounds, highlighted the run when Breazell cut across the lane and threw a no-look, between-the-legs pass to a cutting Newman, who laid it up for a basket and ignited the crowd.

"I just said a quick prayer that I made a good pass and he (Newman) finished it off," Breazell said.

The two teams would trade baskets the rest of the half and the Titans would lead 41-14 at the break.

Once Breazell hit a three-point basket to start the second half, the Titans were off and running again.

After a basket by Portland, Lane went on a 25-3 run to take a decimating 69-19 lead with 11 minutes left in the game.

The highlight of the night came with just under 10 minutes left in the game, when freshman Alec Breazeale threw an alley-oop pass to the soaring Newman, who caught the ball and dunked it two-handed.

"I didn't think the guard was going to let me (jump) so I thought I was going to have to jump over him," Newman said. "When I got around him though, I was thinking 'green light' ... it was pretty good."

"That was nice, real nice," Chavka said. "Glad we were able to end (the season) on a good note with that."

The Titans continued their pounding of the Panthers for the rest of the game, with their biggest lead coming at 86-25, with 3:30 left in the game.

Freshman Derek Cornell went on to score 6 of the remaining 8 points for the Titans to get the final score at 88-30.

The Titans outplayed the Panthers in every facet of the game. They out-rebounded Portland 47-27 and outscored them in points off the bench, 51-3. The most staggering difference came in turnovers. The Titans scored 33 points off 25 Portland turnovers while yielding just 5 points themselves off turnovers.

With the final season victory, the Titans finish the season 11-15 overall and 5-9 in the Southern Region.

Lane will return 11 players who saw action this season and one redshirt.

Among those returning will be leading scorer Tyler Coleman and leading rebounder Levi Strandberg.

Also returning will be Alex Coleman, who came on strong in the second half of the season, Breazeale and Archie Garrett, all of whom started at different points during the season.

"I'm fired up for the future," Chavka said.



PHOTOS BY EUGENE JOHNSON FOR THE TORCH

Titans freshman Tyree Newman dunks during the second half of a game against the Portland Panthers on Feb. 25.

## MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

## Coleman conquers Southern Region

BY RYAN KOSTECKA  
Senior Reporter

For Tyler Coleman, playing basketball at the collegiate level was a dream come true.

Not only has Coleman made that dream a reality, he might make it into a career once his time at Lane has run out and fulfill another dream of his.

"Ultimate dream of mine is to play overseas. It's always been one (a dream) of mine growing up," Coleman said. "A lot of people think about going to the NBA and, yeah, that was cool, but to go overseas and experience the culture as well as playing professionally — something I've always been interested in."

Coleman is the first freshman to lead the Titans in both scoring, assists and steals in the past five years.

Because of his prowess on the basketball court, The Torch has selected Coleman as the MVP of the men's basketball team.

"I'm excited for his future, I know he is too after leading our team in so many categories," Titans head coach Bruce Chavka said. "He's chomping at the bit to get things rolling again, especially to come out and do better next year."

Coleman was among the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges leaders in points, assists and steals. He ranked 18th in points (16.8), 19th in assists (3.4) and tied for seventh in steals with 64 on the season.

The NWAACC consists of 33 teams divided into four regions (North, South, West and East) spread across Oregon and Washington.

As a part of the Southern Region, Coleman was the top freshman in points and steals per game, leading the Titans to an 11-15 overall record and 5-9 in Southern Region play.

"He's very deserving of the MVP" Chavka said. "He was All-Southern Region second team and that speaks for itself. He was our leader by example and just an overall mature and good guy."

Coleman shot 51 percent from the field, 35 percent from three-point range, and averaged a team-high 26:37 minutes per game. He posted career highs in points (28) and minutes (35:51) in an 86-73 loss to the Mt. Hood Saints.

Coleman had his best game of the year when the Titans lost to Linn Benton, 86-78, on Jan. 11. Coleman had 21 points, seven assists, six rebounds and five steals for the game, which eventually set the tone for the Titans to reel in four wins in its next five games.

Because he's a freshman, the future looks bright for both Coleman and the Titans.

"The expectations are pretty big — pretty big, that's for sure. They're high to start, especially because our main one is getting to that NWAACC tournament at the end of the year," Coleman said. "NWAACCs or bust" is our scenario now and it'll be good to have that added pressure because we all have the same expectations for next year."



PHOTO BY TURNER MAXWELL FOR THE TORCH

Titans freshman Tyler Coleman ranked No. 1 in points and steals among all freshman in the Southern Region.

## Q&amp;A | TYLER COLEMAN

**Who has been your biggest supporter when it comes to playing basketball?**

I don't know really. I have a great core support group. I got my mom — she's always been there for me, always been that calm shoulder to lean on. My dad, of course — he was the one who brought sports into my life. And then my brothers — just being able to compete with them in sports has definitely had a lasting impact.

**What was your favorite part of the season? Your best memory?**

So many of them. Maybe that big victory at SWOCC because that was huge for us. Going up there, in that atmosphere with that rowdy of a crowd, it was nice to get a win there. Especially with the way our players interacted with them at the end of the game and then how their fans traveled here when they played us at home. It was nice and a lot of fun.

**What is your ultimate goal in life?**

I want to be a real humble individual. I don't really have huge likes. I just like to be well-rounded in everything. Growing up, my dad always talked about three aspects of life: sports, social and education. You need all of them working together to make a well-rounded individual and that's three core virtues (and) values that I live by.





PHOTO BY EUGENE JOHNSON FOR THE TORCH

Freshman Felicia Rodriguez scores a basket for the Titans on Feb. 25 while being defended by Katie Pagh of the Panthers.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Streak continues

Titans beat Panthers, 97-57, for 11th at-home win.

BY LINDSEY KIDWELL  
Reporter

The Titans won their 11th straight game, 97-57, against the Portland Community College Panthers (4-21, 0-14 in the Southern Region) on Feb. 25. This gives the women a confident outlook as they head into the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges tournament this coming weekend.

Shooting 49 percent from the field and 39 percent from behind the arc, the Titans dominated the floor Saturday night, taking out the Panthers for the second time this season.

Lane lacked competition, especially in the area of turnovers. The Titans ended the game with just seven turnovers, while the Panthers ended the game with 25. Though the Titans worked well together offensively, the game came down to the Titans' much stronger defense.

The Titans' Head Coach Greg Sheley was able to sit back and relax during this game, taking into consideration their previous 101-47 win over the Panthers on Jan. 28. Also, the Titans had already clinched their playoff spot and the No. 1 seed in the Southern Region.

"I was confident against Portland because we beat them by 50 in our last meeting," said Sheley. "I was relaxed because the team had already wrapped up the title."

The whole team worked well together, while honoring its only sophomore, Reed Levings, as she played her final home game as a Titan. Levings went out with a bang, ending the game with 10 points, nine rebounds, three steals and five assists.

Levings swooshed an exciting three-point buzzer-beater at the end of the first half, leaving the Titans up 50-24 to start the second half.

Levings hopes her play in Southern Region carries over to the tournament.

ment.

"My biggest goal for the tournament is definitely just taking home that trophy and working as a team and having everybody play well," said Levings.

Levings is a key player on the team this season, and has contributed to the growth and strength of the Titans.

"Reed has been able to step up and play the big sister of the team," said freshman Brandy Blackburn. "She contributes and shares her knowledge of past experience."

The whole team looks to Levings for leadership and experience, including coach Sheley.

"Reed has contributed hard work, dedication and leadership over the past two years that has helped us win a lot of games. I would like to see Reed continue playing basketball somewhere next year as she pursues her degree," said Sheley.

Unsure of what will happen after her career as a Titan, Levings keeps an open mind.

"Coach has been looking at quite a few D-II schools in California and Alaska, so I'm just keeping my options open," said Levings.

"Reed was the inspirational leader and she got along with all of us. She always brought us together and got us to focus during big games," said freshman Megan Shields. "She was our big sister. She is so funny and I will miss just seeing her every day, as will everyone else."

It's now time for the Titans to bear down and get serious in their last week together as a team.

Coming off 11 straight wins, the Titans are ready to show everyone the kind of damage that a team consisting of mainly freshman can do. This weekend the team goes to the playoffs, March 3 to 6 at the NWAACC tournament in Kennewick, Wash., in hopes of bringing home a first-place trophy.

## MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

## Levings spearheads Lane's drive to NWAACCs

BY RYAN KOSTECKA  
Senior Reporter

Titans' Head Coach Greg Sheley said if the Lane women's basketball team was going to be successful this season, they were going to have to rely heavily on their lone returning sophomore star, Reed Levings.

"She was the main reason we were successful ... Most of it had to do with her understanding of her role and helping the incoming class grow and progress," Sheley said. "There's no way — absolutely no way — we'd be in the position we are in right now with any other player."

Based on the success of the Titans this year, a Southern Region Championship and the No. 2 overall seed in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Championship Tournament, it is safe to say that Levings has shined as a star.

The Torch has selected Levings as the MVP of the women's basketball team because of everything Levings has done for the Titans this year.

"I took on the leadership role quite well I think, really helping the freshmen understand what Lane basketball is all about," Levings said.

Levings averages 9 points, seven rebounds, four steals and three assists per game for the team, the only person ranked in the top three in each statistical category.

Besides doing a little bit of everything on the court, Levings leads the entire NWAACCs in minutes played this year, posting 941 minutes in 27 games, an average of 34 minutes per game.

"The good thing about her is that she doesn't ever appear to get tired," Sheley said. "She's durable. She's

strong. She keeps her body in shape, and she's mentally tough."

Levings has posted season highs of 21 points, against Chemeketa on Feb. 11 in an 80-71 win, and 13 rebounds, against Clackamas on Jan. 21 in a 71-68 win.

It's safe to say that Levings has saved her best for last, really coming on strong in the end of the year.

"Once the Chemeketa game hit, I realized I didn't have very many games left," Levings said. "I needed to do all I can do ... just step up and help us start winning again."

She saved her best game of the season for what was the biggest game of the season to date.

On Feb. 18, Levings posted 15 points, 10 rebounds and four steals while playing the full 40 minutes of the game in leading the Titans to a 65-58 victory over Clackamas, the No. 3-ranked team in the NWAACC's.

"That game, more than any, her contributions were more noted and more recognized," Sheley said. "That game was for the region title, and she came through huge for us."

The season isn't over yet for Levings and her teammates.

The team travels to Kennewick, Wash., on March 2 to participate in the NWAACC tournament that begins on March 3. Their first round game is scheduled for 4 p.m. at the Toyota Center against Peninsula Community College, the No. 4 seed from the Northern Region.

"We want to sweep NWAACCs, simple as that," Levings said. "Just kick everybody's butts and win that championship ... continue the winning streak."



PHOTO BY TURNER MAXWELL FOR THE TORCH  
Sophomore Reed Levings was the only returning Titan and led the team to victory.

## Q&amp;A | REED LEVINGS

**Who has been your biggest supporter when it comes to playing basketball?**

My family for sure. Every game I have both my parents there, my brother, my sister and my grandparents. My parents definitely though, because they were the ones who took me to every game growing up. They've been to every game I've ever played.

**What has been your favorite part of the season? Your best memory?**

Probably the Chemeketa game when we played at their court. We went into that game knowing they'd beaten us and ended our streak so to beat them at their court was awesome. They played really well in the first half and then in the second half we came out alive and dominated. The whole atmosphere of having their parents being speechless and our parents just living it up and loving it.

**What is your ultimate goal in life?**

I want to be married with kids, living in my own house and having a job that I can fully support my family and myself. But I want all this to happen in the next 10 to 15 years, not beforehand. My parents might get a little upset. (Laugh.)



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Titans prepare for NWACC tourney

After 11 straight wins, women go to playoffs as No. 2 seed.

BY JON FUCCILLO  
Sports Editor

The Titans have captured the Southern Region title, but can they add another first place banner to Titan Court?

The table is set for the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges championship tournament in Kennewick, Wash., from March 3 to 6.

Southern Region coaches predict the Titans will make some noise in this year's tournament as they enter the field of competition as the No. 2 team in the most recent NWAACC poll.

Southern Region's No. 4 seeded Umpqua Riverhawks, who fell victim to the Titans twice this season, see the Titans having a good shot at winning the 16-team tournament.

"What makes Lane so difficult to play against is that even though they are not great (at) any one aspect of the game, they are really, really good at several things," said Umpqua head coach Dave Stricklin.

He said the Titans have plenty of weapons in their arsenal.

"If you are successful in taking part of their offense away from them, then they just attack you in a different way," Stricklin said. "They have won making a lot of threes and they have won with making hardly any threes. (Lane

head coach Greg Sheley's) players all seem comfortable in their roles on the team. Nobody tries to do too much, yet everyone does the job their supposed to be doing."

Stricklin gave credit to the Titans defense too.

"I also think their defense is much better than a lot of people realize," Stricklin said. "While Lane may not have the best individual players in the region, they certainly have the best team in the region right now."

The Chemeketa Storm head coach Jesse Ailstock said the Titans are the hottest team in the Southern Region.

The Storm ranks No. 2 in the Southern Region.

The Titans split the two-game series with the Storm during the regular season.

"They've got good players and a good coach," Ailstock said. "They're really talented. Reed Levings is playing real well. Greg is a fantastic coach. But we like our squad too."

"Lane is playing the best at the right time. They've been on a roll," Ailstock said.

Clackamas Cougars head coach Jim Martineau, whose team is the No. 3 seed from the Southern Region, said the Titans have a combination of talents that make them dangerous.

"The one thing that makes Lane hard to guard is that late in the

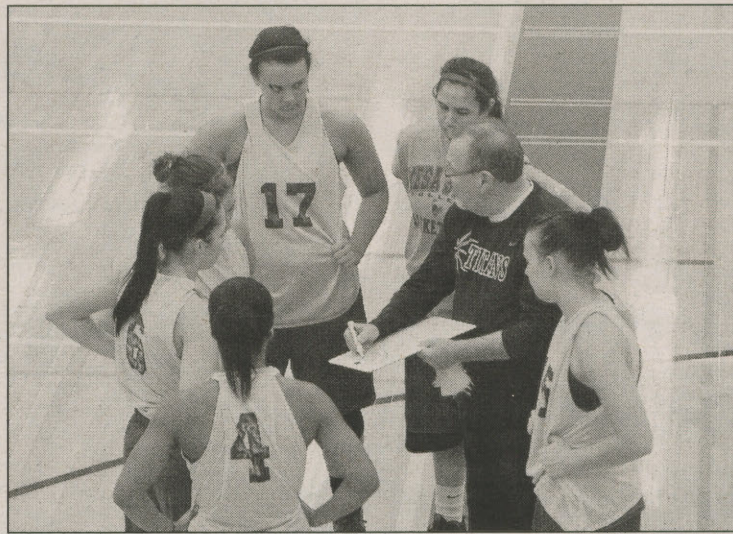


PHOTO BY TURNER MAXWELL FOR THE TORCH

The Titans' assistant coach Jeff Wingate discusses a play with the team during practice in preparation for the upcoming NWAACC tournament on March 3.

season ... they started to knock down three-point shots," Martineau said. "Earlier in the year, they weren't shooting it as well. Now they are shooting it better. Combine that with their ability to get to the free throw line. (That) makes them a very difficult team to defend."

Sheley said his team is ready for the challenge. He feels his team is riding on good momentum with an 11-game winning streak entering the tournament.

However, Sheley doesn't know if the Titans have a target on their backs.

"I am not sure we are considered dangerous as we head into the NWAACC tourney," Sheley said. "But we have been finding a way to win over the past month. Our

youth has helped us in the sense they don't know that it is supposed to be tough to win road games in the Southern Region. They are a great group and are playing with confidence right now."

Stricklin predicts that anything less than a championship would be considered a failure for Sheley & Co.

"As the No. 2-ranked team in the NWAACC, they should make it to the finals," Stricklin said. "My guess is that they would (and) should be disappointed with anything less than that."

"Lane has as good (of a) chance as anyone. I would say there are seven or eight teams with a legitimate chance to win four straight games and win the championship," Martineau said.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Titans poised to bounce back next winter

Men learn from growing pains after 11-15 season.

BY RYAN KOSTECKA  
Senior Reporter

It was a disappointing season for the Lane Titans, who had high expectations coming into this season.

Although the team didn't make the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges championship tournament at the end of the year, the Titans aren't letting the season go to waste.

"We learned the importance of playing down the stretch. It was tough ... but learning how to be successful in different scenarios is what we learned the most," freshman Tyler Coleman said.

The Titans ended up with an 11-15 record and finished 5-9 in the Southern Region, two games out of the final playoff spot given to the region.

"It stinks, it really does. We obviously were hoping to be one of the top four teams and get to the tournament," Titans head coach Bruce Chavka said. "We knew it was going to be a challenge with 11 freshmen though."

The season started off rough for the Titans, losing two of its first three games. Its only win came on opening night when they beat the junior varsity team from Concordia University 78-47.

The Titans then played in three tournaments over the next three weeks, as things got steadily bet-

ter for the team.

They first traveled south to Eureka, Calif., to play in the Redwoods Classic on Dec. 2 to 3. The Titans went 1-1 in the tournament and were led by freshman Levi Strandberg and sophomore Darrell Breazell.

Lane returned home the following week to host the Dale J. Bates Invitational. After winning their first two games of the tournament over Linfield JV and SWOCC, the Titans lost to Spokane Community College in the championship game 76-66.

"At the time it was fun to play in the championship game, it would've been cool to win it, but we'll win one here real soon," Chavka said. "We were playing really well and it was one of the better times for us on the season."

The Titans returned to action in the Wenatchee Valley Crossover in Wenatchee, Wash., from Dec. 16 to 18. After suffering an opening round loss to Clark Community College, Lane won their next two games to take home fourth-place honors.

Tyler Coleman was selected to the first-team all-tournament team, averaging 20 points, five rebounds and five assists.

After a final tuneup against College of the Redwoods, the Titans began Southern Region play.

It was a rough start as the men

lost the first four games by an average of 13 points per game. Three of the four teams the Titans lost to are representing the Southern Region in the NWAACC tournament.

"This was a weird time for us because Tyler, our leading scorer, got hurt and had to sit out for the next couple games after the Wenatchee Tourney," Chavka said. "His injury messed with us a lot going into conference ... we definitely lost our mojo."

According to freshman Alex Coleman, the Titans needed to change their mentality in order to turn the season around.

"As a team we decided to get our stuff together and compete to make a run at this tournament," Alex said. "We buckled down in practice, the classroom and everything ... just started working a little bit harder."

The Titans opened up its fifth Southern Region game at home against Umpqua Community College and beat the Riverhawks 85-77.

"We got our swag back after this win (in Umpqua). We played the lower-level teams in our conference that got us back on the upswing," Chavka said.

The Titans went on to win three of the next four games and climbed right back into the playoff picture.

With five games left in the season, trailing the last playoff spot by a game, the Titans were poised and ready to roll.

"Our highs were real high and

our lows were real low at this point in the year. We weren't being real consistent and that cost us the last playoff spot," Chavka said. "The inconsistency throughout the year always kept creeping back, and that's to be expected with 11 freshmen."

The Titans ended up losing four straight games and dropping out of playoff contention.

The team's one last chance for redemption was when they played host to Portland Community College for pride in the last game of the year.

Lane issued an 88-30 beatdown to the Panthers and finished the season on a high note.

For the season, Tyler Coleman was selected as second-team all-Southern Region, Nick Lindsey received honorable mention all-Southern Region and Levi Strandberg made the all-newcomers team.

The team is losing three sophomores — Darrell Breazell, Daniel Ketchum and Lindsey — to graduation.

Lane will return 11 players, 10 of who saw significant action on the court this year.

Among those 11 returning are Tyler and Alex Coleman, top-post Strandberg, and returning starters Alec Breazeale and Archie Garrett.

"I'm really excited for the future of the team. We have a lot of guys coming back who all got big-time experience," Chavka said. "Tyler, Alex and Archie will definitely be the heartbeat of our team next year."

## HATS OFF



BY JON FUCCILLO  
Sports Editor

## For God's sake, honor all religions

There's a place for organized religion in today's sporting events.

With such high-profile athletes as the Bronco's starting quarterback Tim Tebow, it has been nearly impossible to ignore the hype in the media that surrounds Christian athletes.

Even at Lane, we have a star player who adheres to strong Christian values: freshman basketball player Tyler Coleman. The Titans' star guard said he is driven not just by a competitive nature, but also by a strong bond with his Christian faith and his relationship with God.

It's important to remember, though, that not all athletes are Christian.

According to a Feb. 29 report by The New York Times, the Robert M. Beren Academy in Houston — an Orthodox Jewish school — forfeited its playoff berth because the game would break the Sabbath.

I join Houston Mayor Annise Parker and former Houston Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy in their criticism of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools's decision to schedule games on the Jewish Sabbath when they avoid scheduling games on Sunday to honor the Christian day of rest.

I hope that TAPPS makes an exception to make this game playable for the Orthodox Jewish school. No team or individual should be penalized for its religious preference, especially since it often drives the very integrity of the team itself.

While growing up, I was blessed with great parenting and an amazing support system. Nothing was ever forced upon me. I made decisions for myself.

But it hasn't always been easy for me to identify myself as Catholic. Outsiders — even people within my circle of friends — have questioned my values.

People don't understand how and why I put so much faith into something I couldn't see: God. I always say there are two types of people in life: Those who believe to see and those who see to believe.

I've always invested my time and energy into faith. I've used prayer as a form of meditation. I walk and talk with God. It's one of the most soothing activities in my everyday life.

While growing up, I competed in soccer, track and field, baseball and basketball. I went on to play baseball and basketball in high school at Southeast Portland's Central Catholic. I even played three years of Catholic Youth Organization basketball.

Before each CYO game, the two teams competing said a prayer together.

During my sophomore year, my CYO team won the city championship game. The win itself was a great accomplishment, but the fact that we played the game in the name of God, adhering to the values of the organization, meant the world to me.

When I made the leap from public school to private school, I saw a huge difference in my demeanor. Once again, it wasn't an easy transition for me. I was 15 years old and questioning just about everything in my life, including my faith, for the first time.

Thankfully, I was able to answer those questions with daily prayer. I also used athletics as an escape. Once I stepped onto the hardwood or diamond, it was just me in the zone and the competition.





PHOTO BY EUGENE JOHNSON FOR THE TORCH

After more than a decade of drug use, 'Paul' received help at this Serenity Lane treatment center in Eugene. Now, Paul is a sponsor for recovering addicts.

## Moving forward

After drugs and dark times, LCC student gives back.

BY JON FUCCILLO  
Features Editor

The thought of selling, buying and using drugs was a thrill that tortured Paul for most of his young life. But eventually, the nightmare became too real to handle.

Paul — who agreed to share his story on the condition that we not identify him by his real name — is an LCC business major who offers a first-hand account of how a life can be destroyed by drugs and what it takes to rebuild it.

Paul put his life back together after completing a rehabilitation program at Serenity Lane, a Eugene drug and alcohol treatment center. According to a 2011 Lane County report, about 15 percent of Lane County adults need alcohol and drug treatment. LCC offers free services through the Recovery Center, a drop-in center available to all students, staff, faculty and employees of LCC and their families. It offers information, referrals, counseling and support groups.

Paul, 25, used anything and everything that fell into his lap until two years ago, when he says he was busted.

Paul was left with two options: Leave the state of Virginia in a week or receive treatment for his addiction.

"I told (police) I would go to treatment," Paul said. "I was selling drugs and getting drugs through the mail. They caught me with thousands of pills."

Paul says he was buying and selling Xanax, Valium, steroids, Suboxone, OxyContin and amphetamine pills.

"What's crazy, I was so fucked up and strung out ... I asked (federal agents) to leave me some (drugs). I thought I was going to have a seizure."

As predicted, Paul had a seizure the night before leaving Virginia for a treatment center back in Portland.

Paul's mother took action when he finally arrived in Portland. She had seen enough.

"I don't know all what happened," said Carolyn Smyth, Paul's mother. "He called me to tell me he had missed his plane. He wasn't coherent. I knew something was really wrong and knew he was really high."

Smyth knew it was critical to get Paul help, and looked to local treatment agencies for assistance.

"They ended up putting me in Serenity Lane," Paul says. "My mom said, 'You need treatment right now.' I was in such a bad state."

Serenity Lane is a treatment center near UO in Eugene. The center offers inpatient, residential and outpatient services to adults only. Serenity Lane has 10 facilities throughout Oregon and Washington.

Prior to entering Serenity Lane, Paul had been receiving treatment from a methadone clinic for three years.

"I was addicted to heroin, strong painkillers and benzodiazepines," Paul said. "I was also on methadone at the time. Methadone is a legal way to not get withdrawals."

Smyth didn't know the seriousness of her son's addiction.

A few days after Paul turned himself into rehab, a package showed up at Smyth's house. She opened the package and found "a box of over 300 pills. It was like 31 flavors."

"Within days of receiving that package, a U.S. Postal inspector called and was looking for Paul," Smyth said. "I went to bed thinking, if I returned this call, I was going to be sending my son to prison. As a mom, here I am. I am going to turn him in!"

### Troubled youth

Paul says he smoked marijuana for the first time when he was 12 years old. He was fascinated with the euphoric state it put him in.

Paul moved to the Portland metropolitan area and enrolled at a new high school. He sold weed for acceptance.

"It was a way to fit in," Paul said.

From there, his addiction took a turn for the worse.

**"I couldn't do it alone. They say one day at a time. That's how it really is. Had to completely changed my way of thinking."**

'Paul'

LCC student on his rehabilitation

"I tried heroin when I was 17," Paul said. "It got real bad when I was about 19."

Paul looked up to his dad like any young boy, but his relationship with his father was off and on due to his dad's troublesome past with the law. Paul's father spent time in jail, and is currently serving time in a Virginia jail.

### The grind of a dealer

Paul was a fearless dealer. He could and would sell just about anything. He considered himself a business-

man. Now, Paul would tell you otherwise.

"It was to pay for my drugs and live how I wanted," Paul said. "It created a nice front for people to think I was doing well."

When Paul was 19 years old, he turned himself in for treatment at Hooper Detoxification Center in Portland.

The treatment didn't stop Paul for long.

"The day I got out, I got high on heroin," Paul says.

### College life

Paul decided he wanted a fresh start. When he was 21, he decided to make a big move. So he enrolled at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas — not the smartest place to escape drug use.

He started falling into the same habits.

"I lasted about a week, until I got heroin," Paul says. "Really started getting really bad. I was using IV coke and heroin."

Things hit an all-time low when he started robbing people.

"I robbed a gal outside of a gas station for \$3.50," Paul says.

### Road to recovery

June 19, 2010, is a date Paul holds dear. This was the day he started his road to recovery.

He said it hasn't always been easy.

Paul spent three months and 21 days in treatment.

"It's been an experience," Paul says. "Didn't sleep well for about 30 days."

It took Paul about five weeks to find happiness in sobriety.

"I couldn't get happy," Paul says. "I wasn't depressed — I was just really numb."

He'll take numb over his old habits

of using. Today, he sees the clearer picture in life. He is content and loves learning new ways of getting over his addiction.

He sees the bright light at the end of the tunnel.

"I couldn't do it alone. They say one day at a time, that's really how it is. Had to completely change my way of thinking," Paul says.

Today, he serves as a sponsor, and he has spoken at Serenity Lane and another treatment facility.

"I'm trying to give back," he says. "After a year sober, I started sponsoring kids. It has been really, really cool. Helps me as much as it helps them."

For the last five months Paul has been a sponsor for James, 26, from Southwest Portland. James asked that The Torch use his first name only because he's in recovery.

"(He's) a good person that I can bounce things off of," James says. "Even stuff at work and relationships. He's super secure in his recovery."

### Today

Paul has been sober for 20 months now. He lives life to the fullest and decided to give school a second chance — this time sober and in control of his destiny.

In fall term at LCC, Paul managed to walk away with a 4.1 GPA. He is two terms away from receiving his transfer degree, and is studying business.

"I enjoy being back at school," he says. "I still have this sense of peace of mind."

Paul just wants to blend in like any other student trying to make it in life.

"He's a different person," Smyth says. "I feel like I'm getting my son back. Every time we see him, we see a little bit more of him back. The old (Paul) is coming back."



## CLASS OF THE WEEK

# Landscape Plants cultivates interest in horticulture

BY JENNIFER HERNANDEZ  
Reporter

LCC students can blossom into expert plant identifiers in Sherry Wellborn's Landscape Plants 2 class, becoming able to "spot a sequoia three miles away," said student Amy Friscia.

"A lot of students think we learn how to actually landscape plants but we focus more on plant identification. We actually start off with a list of about 150 names of plants on it. Students are expected to memorize and identify them all," Wellborn said.

"I thought it would be more industrialized-based, and going to a nursery everyday," said LCC student Corey Hill, who is currently studying science and interested in taxidermy and entomology.

"The beginning of the term, I hit them hard with 20-minute lectures and readings, but no fill-in-the-blank worksheets. I want you to use your brain," Wellborn said, describing her "eclectic" teaching style.

While Monday and Wednesday classes are dedicated to learning new material and engaging in labs inside the class, Fridays serve as field days for students, where they can walk outside and put their identification skills to the test.

"(This class) has made walking around more entertaining," Hill said.

Culinary art majors Friscia and Annie Sinnett have both enjoyed the class, and plan to continue the series in the spring and fall as the change in seasons cultivates different curricula.

"I don't have any super experience, but I like plants," said Sinnett. "(Wellborn) knows a crazy amount of information. You can pick her brain for days."

"They come in knowing nothing," said Wellborn, also acknowledging that only two students in her class have taken an actual science class beforehand.

"The class is a conversation. It has to be. We start with the basics like what is a leaf and what is its shape," Wellborn said.

Landscape Plants 2 is an elective credit class for construction under the vocation field at LCC and transfers to Oregon State University as a plant identification class.

Although the number of landscape students has nearly doubled from the original nine students, the instructor would like to see more people who are pursuing a career in fields like sustainability take this course.

"People think they can't know it. You can know it. You just have to own it," Wellborn said.

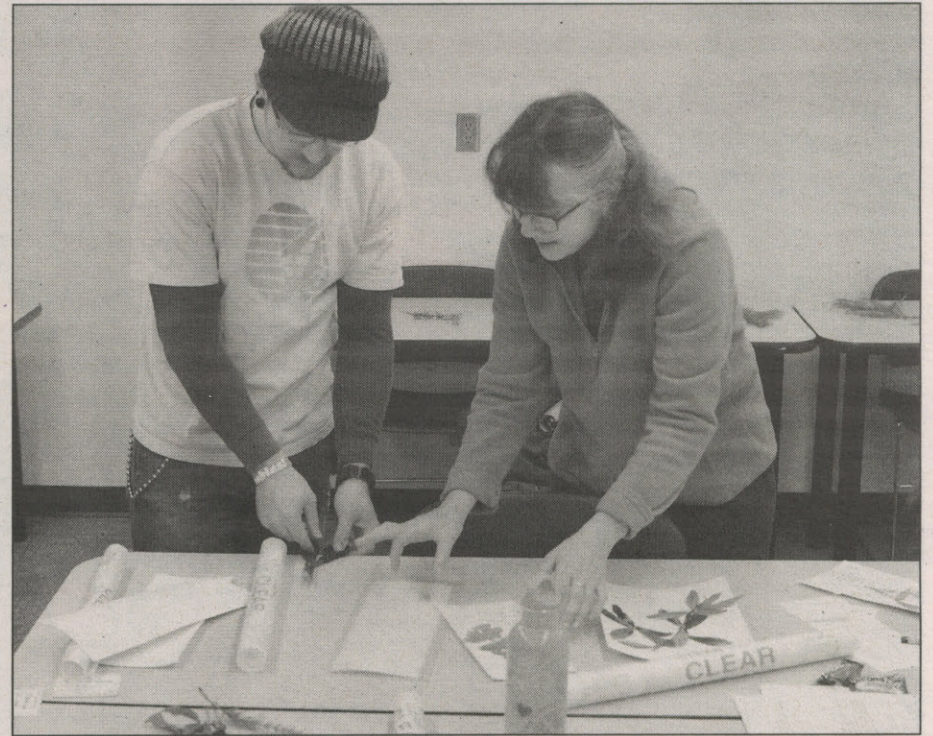


PHOTO BY EUGENE JOHNSON FOR THE TORCH

LCC student Josh Boyd works with instructor Sherry Wellborn, learning how to mount impressions of plants for preservation purposes.

## Veterans pop smoke

Club inactive after getting new lounge.

BY JOE HANNAN  
AND MATT MACARI

ASLCC ratified the LCC Veterans Club at its Nov. 30 meeting, but club adviser Michael Samano said the club has yet to schedule meeting times.

Samano said it's up to club members to decide when the Veterans Club will meet.

Veteran-certifying official Ellen Jones said a new Veteran Resource Center in Room 233, Building 19, would be available for student veteran use once it has computers and furniture.

The resource center will offer printing and computer services, resources linked with employers, colleges, and advising within LCC and the community.

Jones did not say when the center would be open, but she said that furniture and computers had been ordered.

When asked about the club's activities, Jones would not comment.

"As far as we know they are a club, but I have not heard from them in a while," said ASLCC Multicultural Program Director Tajo Ouermi.

There are 25 members in the Veterans Club, but there are between 600 and 800 student veterans attending LCC. Samano said the number fluctuates based on the number of veterans who are certified to use their G.I. Bills and the number of veterans who attend as students, their statuses as veterans undeclared.

With the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and afar, institutions of higher education expect an influx of students.

"It would be nice to know their meeting times so ... we could record them," ASLCC Legal Secretary Betty Doris said. "It takes a student to generate interest in it."

Dorris said there is funding in the club's account.

ASLCC Treasurer Tracy Weimer estimated the Veterans Club received \$24,000.

When asked if she had heard of the Veterans Club, veteran and LCC student Niki Curry said, "There is no



PHOTO BY TURNER MAXWELL FOR THE TORCH  
The Veteran Services lounge is closed and locked, contrary to the sign.

club that I have heard of."

"I would take full advantage of it. I take pride in the military, and it's tough when (the Veterans Club) don't do their part," Curry said.

In 2009, LCC was one of 20 institutions of higher learning to receive a \$100,000 grant called Success for Veterans Award Grant from the American Council on Education and the Wal-Mart Foundation. The grant's funds were used to expand Lane Integration of Vets in Education program that includes learning communities, advising and counseling for student veterans, and integration resources.

Samano is the project director of LIVE and he teaches a series of "College Success" classes designed for the reintegration of veterans back into civilian life.

"I was driving down I-5 and a thought popped in my head," said Samano, regarding the conceptualization of the three-course curriculums.

The classes are Understanding Military to College Systems, Navigating Life Transitions, and College and Veteran Resources. Samano teaches students about transitions between civilian and military life, exploring resources available on campus and off, and how to maximize the usefulness out of their acquired skills from military service. All classes are taught each term and open to all LCC students.

## Q&amp;A

## Veteran shares experience, views

BY MATT MACARI  
Reporter

*LCC student Misti Zurdin is an Army veteran and a member of the LCC Veterans Club.*

**Q: Why did you choose the military?**

A: It's kind of a dramatic, personal choice. Essentially, I ran away from home and I didn't have anywhere to go, so I joined the Army.

**Q: How was the transition to civilian life?**

A: When I was in the military, I was getting an associate's (degree) online. When I got out of the military, I actually already had an associate's (degree) but it was in technology ... The transition to civilian life was pretty difficult on a social level. I didn't really know how to respond to people who hadn't been in the military.

**Q: What was the most physically challenging part of the military?**

A: As a female, they don't have a lot of exercise based around the way females are built. Most of the exercise you're doing — running and pushups — they're based around the male physique. Some people just aren't capable of withstanding that type of physical strain and end up getting broken. I actually left the military disabled because of it, and now have a bad case of scoliosis.

**Q: What was the most emotionally challenging part of the military?**

A: I joined right before 9/11 happened, August 2001. I think just the emotional strain of knowing that everything you were doing impacted how we were responding to another country, that's a lot of pressure to think about.

**Q: Did you gain any valuable relationships that are continued today?**

A: My best friend. We were stationed together in the same section. She's a Chinese linguist (so) we kind of liaised our jobs together and kind of came up with new things to do. I've been best friends with her ever since. (All) the re-

lationships that you make in the military are forever. Even if you haven't spoken to them in 10 years and you see them across the street or they find you online, it's like you never stopped speaking. You can go back to all of the things you had in common and then just kind of build from there and just start a whole new relationship. My roommate is someone I was stationed with and have known for about 8 years. I was stationed with my best friend and her husband, so I stay in close contact with quite a few of people I was stationed with. And I can honestly say that I don't think that I would — not to sound dramatic — be alive with out them. Because a lot of the emotional issues that you have ... and because of them and that support structure I made it through.

**Q: When you came home, why did you choose LCC?**

A: Lane was a precursor to get into Oregon State University. I am studying to be a marine biologist and they had some science classes that were cheaper here. Plus my family lived here, so I thought it would be a good transition to come back to somewhere I knew with people that I knew.

**Q: How do you feel the veterans' center could be helpful for yourself and other veterans on campus?**

A: It's hard for me to take advantage of things like the vet center because I feel kind of bitter about the military, so I try really hard to stay away from structures that are still based around that. I do think it's a good program and that they are trying to help veterans and that's great. In general, I stay really far away from them. I have been there — they just felt really unstable. Coming from the military, I like stable environments ... was frustrating to say the least.

**Q: Is the funding sufficient?**

A: No. Last year, they decided that if you are not actively in school they aren't funding housing. It started out that you got a specific stipend per month based



Misti Zurdin  
LCC Student and Veteran

on how many credits you were taking opposed to how many weeks you were in school. If you're in school for the whole month you get the normal housing stipend and your classes are paid for, but if you have a two-week break, you only get paid for the two weeks you were in school and the other two weeks you kind of just have to fend for yourself.

**Q: Are you taking or would you be interested in taking the courses offered for veterans?**

A: They deal with issues like transitioning back to civilian life and let you know what types of things are available around the community. As far as getting back into the community and being social, I think that those specifically are very important programs, because it is hard to put yourself in a place where you're OK with just meeting normal people. I don't necessarily think I would take them, but I do think that they have worth.

**Q: How do you feel about the Veterans Club?**

I'm part of it. I have only been to one meeting ... It feels like the point of a club is more or less to just bring people together who have the same issues, as opposed to 'let's make it like it used to be.' I have met some veterans that go to the club that I have become friends with, and I think for that purpose alone — meeting people who are in the same situation as you — is fantastic.





PHOTO BY EUGENE JOHNSON FOR THE TORCH

UO student Kevin Wilbur is on schedule to graduate in June. Wilbur was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome but has learned to adapt to fast-paced student life.

## ‘New ways of looking at the old reality’

Those with Asperger’s syndrome strive for understanding, recognition of disability.

BY LEAH AVERETT  
Assistant Features Editor

Although Asperger syndrome has recently gained recognition by psychologists, teachers and the general public, questions remain about the disorder. LCC’s Disability Resources is offering a presentation for faculty and staff March 6 at 3 p.m. providing strategies for dealing with autism from a student’s perspective.

The American Psychiatric Association has proposed revisions in diagnostic criteria in the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, due May 2013, eliminating Asperger syndrome by folding it into the broad category of autism.

“Now with so many years of Asperger’s research and clinical experience, Asperger’s children are gaining ‘respect.’ They are now thought of as intelligent children with great potentials due to their memory and factual abilities ... this psychologist has grave concerns about eliminating the term Asperger’s syndrome,” wrote Child Psychologist Gary M. Eisenberg, Ph.D., in a statement published on the Internet Special Education Resources website.

This manual, published by the APA, is important for insurance reimbursement and to public health authorities, because it contains descriptions, symptoms and other criteria for diagnosing mental disorders. The proposed changes are still under review.

In 1994 the APA first recognized Asperger syndrome in the DSM-IV. Many individuals and families floundering to understand and manage the unusual behaviors that manifest with the disorder were relieved to

have a diagnosis and subsequent interventions.

Dania Jekel, the executive director of the Asperger’s Association of New England, said she has seen how “an accurate Asperger’s diagnostic label can transform lives.”

In her letter to the community on the AANE website, she wrote that people were incorrectly diagnosed with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and oppositional defiant disorder for years.

**“Just because we don’t appear to be social, or we seem awkward, doesn’t mean we can’t learn. Everyone has some weaknesses.”**

Kevin Wilbur  
UO student

Patricia Wigney, the executive director at Bridgeway House in Eugene, which is a school for children with autism, is the parent of Zsofika, 15, who is enrolled in a local public high school. She said without the Individualized Education Plan the Asperger diagnosis offers, her daughter’s grades would plummet. An IEP-specified aide who keeps her organized and punctual minimizes behavioral outbursts.

“She can write beautiful papers but has trouble tying her own shoes,” Wigney said.

With photographic-like precision, Zsofika can recite details from her fascination with natural disasters she remembers from when she was 6 years old.

Zsofika can recall books in their entirety.

Due to verbal tics such as throat sounds, pacing the floor with periodic little lunges and hand flapping, kids her age stay back and “think she’s weird,” admits Wigney.

Wigney said Zsofika recognizes she is different.

“She will say, ‘I don’t just think out of the box. I am out of the box,’” Wigney said.

The cause of Asperger syndrome is

drive fulfilling relationships. Monotone speech, trouble expressing and interpreting emotions, and the tendency to dominate conversations with personal interests may be misinterpreted as being insensitive or mentally challenged.

UO senior Kevin Wilbur said his difficulty with grasping social cues, and his narrowly focused interests hamper friendships, and peers have insulted him in response to his personality differences.

“I struggle with back-and-forth conversation. That’s where the whole body language-reading thing is difficult. It’s a huge disadvantage. I got called the R-word a lot. I don’t understand why — maybe it’s my speech. I think I sound fine, but I can’t really hear myself,” Wilbur said.

“It is analogous to someone who does not have access to the rule book. Imagine trying to play a game when you don’t know the rules,” said Barbara Roberson, an LCC instructor who has had students with Asperger syndrome.

Wigney said people with Asperger syndrome are sensitive and want to belong, but they doesn’t understand how to engage with others successfully. They have a perspective that is very literate, but they see in black and white without any shades of gray.

“You always know exactly where you stand with my daughter — no niceties. There are no ‘would you, could you,’ which can seem raw and crude,” Wigney said. “If you are standing too close she will tell you bluntly to step back.”

LCC staff and faculty took part in a teleconference hosted by Dr. Brian Van Brunt entitled “Working with a Student with Asperger’s.”

In the teleconference, Van Brunt

### HOW TO WORK WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

**When:** March 6 from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Who’s speaking:** Kathryn Marxen, former teaching assistant to Dr. Temple Grandin.

**Who’s invited:** Faculty and staff.

said those with Asperger syndrome will often talk at great length, and in great detail, about one particular subject, not realizing their fascination is not shared, and others are tired of listening. Appreciating this quality can be a struggle for students and teachers, but is valued if seen from a different perspective.

“I am always delighted when someone with Asperger’s is a student in our program. These folks bring new ways of looking at the old reality. The biggest challenge for me is helping other students accept someone who is different, so that the classroom is a place where every person is free to learn and develop,” said Roberson.

Wigley said parents have to give 200 percent because schools can’t do it all.

“Parents need to be a strong advocate and teach their children to be also. They need to do it without yelling — to be the voice of reason,” she said.

Wilbur said people with Asperger syndrome really do care about others and they are intelligent.

“If we don’t react or seem to be uncaring, we just can’t pick up on (social cues) that fast. Just because we don’t appear to be social, or we seem awkward doesn’t mean we can’t learn. Everyone has some weaknesses,” Wilbur said.