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TUITION INCREASE/p. 3

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'COMPANY'
REHEARSALS/p. 12

# TORCH

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

LCCTORCH.COM

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## Lane still has time to turn Titan Court around

One term after the opening of Titan Court, the \$20 million complex sits at 51 percent occupancy. Extrapolating from the comments on the housing complex's Facebook page written since Oct. 1, 2011, only 50 percent of its residents are enthusiastic about living there.

Though the idea is sound, the implementation of housing for Lane students has been lacking. So lacking, Lane is now pitching Titan Court to UO and Northwest Christian University students.

Considering the delicate economy, recent limits on educational grants and the ever-rising cost of tuition, most Lane students can't afford Titan Court, where beds in shared units fetch between \$540 and \$620 per month. Students could easily afford to live elsewhere.

If you want your own room, you'll have to pay more — almost \$900, which is enough to rent two bedrooms at any number of local apartment complexes.

Currently, Riverview Apartments in Springfield is leasing studios at \$450, Patterson Towers near UO is listing two-bedroom units for \$757 and there are several listings on *craigslist.com* for houses in the \$900 to \$1,500 range.

While rent at Titan Court includes the cost of utilities, rent in the Eugene area is low enough that one could easily pay for a one- or two-bedroom apartment, utilities and still save money — especially if one takes on roommates.

No matter the price, each bedroom is also furnished with only a twin bed — which rules out the significant other from staying the night, unless they want to relive their summer-camp fumblings.

The location is also a problem. Titan Court stands in an area that is riddled with crime. In 2011, there were 41 cases of sex offenses and seven rapes within a few blocks of Titan Court. There were 32 instances of robbery, 49 aggravated assaults, 178 simple assaults and 545 thefts, including 100 stolen bicycles and 118 thefts

from public buildings. There were also 171 instances of vandalism.

When it comes to drugs, the downtown area had 542 drug offenses, 431 of which were marijuana-related, although there were 42 offenses involving narcotics and 60 in which "other dangerous drugs" were involved.

Despite the problems, the downtown complex has potential to be a beacon for improvement in the community. A shiny new building in the heart of Eugene has seemingly sent the city on its way towards a projected better economy, less crime and a revitalized look.

There are, however, some much-needed changes that need to be made as quickly as possible.

First, the rent at Titan Court needs to be lowered to make the living situations more palatable to prospective residents as well as current residents and make the rent more competitive with local apartments. Even remodeling the apartments to allow residents their own room, while expensive, would help.

Second, there needs to be something done about crime. Whether that responsibility falls on the city or the school remains to be seen, although the city could easily help solve this problem with new construction incentives and tighter policing. Despite Public Safety and the Eugene Police's admirable efforts to nestle Titan Court in a bubble of safety, the interlopers are bleeding through.

If any downtown investment is to succeed, there needs to be a greater investment in law enforcement and crime prevention, including increased spending on mental health and drug and alcohol abuse programs in the community.

As an educational enterprise, Titan Court has taught us a lot about economics and much less about civics. In the years to come, Lane still has the opportunity to teach us about compromise, lest this venture turn into a mishap.

# ASLCC resists potential tuition increase

Average tuition increase per year, 2000-2011

SOURCE: LANE INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH AND PLANNING

Average consumer price index increase per year, 2000-2011

SOURCE: INFLATIONDATA.COM

Average Lane FTE (full-time or equivalent students) increase per year, 2000-2011

SOURCE: LANE INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH AND PLANNING

By Taya Alami Media Manager

For the 11th time in as many years, the LCC Board of Education is deciding on a potential increase in student tuition and asking the ASLCC to weigh in.

Tuition to attend Lane has nearly tripled since 2001. Any increase would take effect July 1 of this year.

ASLCC must reach a collective opinion in the coming weeks regarding the potential tuition hike, as their stance will be considered by the Board of Education on an advisory basis.

During the Jan. 9 ASLCC meeting, President Merriam Weatherhead encouraged ASLCC members to "take a harsh stance of no tuition increases."

When asked how the tuition increase would be spent, Weatherhead said she didn't know for sure, a detail that irked some ASLCC staffers.

"There's no way I could agree for a tuition increase if I can't see what the benefit would be for students," Senator Adam Brown said.

ASLCC campaign director Paul Zito said he can't agree on a tuition increase after the Board approved a tuition increase last year.

"I think in times past, when they've raised tuition, all we hear from teachers is that they still get paid less," he said. "They have a smaller (increase) this year and say that it will improve something, but all it does is make it harder for me to go to school and our teachers still say they don't get paid

enough and we have more part-time staff."

Weatherhead said last year's tuition increase wasn't about teacher salaries, but she's also concerned that a tuition increase could potentially make it more difficult for students to attend school.

"Students on campus cannot take another tuition increase," she said.

Members of ASLCC said they hope to reach a consensus as soon as possible.

Regardless of ASLCC's opinion, Lane may still be forced to adopt a tuition increase. The college is obligated to contribute more money to the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System this year, which may factor in the issue.

ASLCC advisor Barb Delansky said the Oregon PERS contribution increase will leave the college with a \$3.5 million gap to fill.

Lane's current deal with the Public Employee Retirement System will expire June 30, with the net contribution rates the college pays into the system increasing July 1 to 2015.

Under Lane's current annual rates for net employer contribution to PERS, the college pays 6.65 percent first-and second-tier payroll, 4.99 percent Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan general service payroll and 7.70 percent in Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan police and fire payroll. Beginning July 1, the college's contribution rates will nearly double, rising to 12.20 percent, 10.30 percent and 13.03 percent respectively.

"It's the cost of doing business," Delansky said.

8.3 berten







Kate Barry, interim executive dean of academic and student affairs, addresses the board at its Jan. 9 meeting in Building 3.

# Board talks new program

By MOHAMMED ALKHADHER

Reporter

The Lane Board of Education met Jan. 9 for its first regular session of 2013.

Small Business Development Center director Jim Lindly updated the Board on the center's move to Downtown Eugene. The center offers personalized and formal programs for small-business owners, as well as employer training, Lindly said.

Last August, Lane was presented with awards from Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber for the center's services.

Lane's Science Department and the Energy Management Program announced the addition of a controls technician program to the curriculum.

Science Dean Sarah Ulerick said the new program is a strong employment option for graduates because of increased demand for heat, ventilation and air-condition technicians in the labor market.

Lane President Dr. Mary Spilde said she is confident in Lane's ability to raise the remainder of the funds needed for the three-year, \$35 million upgrade to the Center Building and courtyard.

The Board will meet Feb. 6 for its next regular session.

# ATM still down after winter break incident

By JEFF KNEBEL News Editor

With financial aid disbursements scheduled for Thursday and one ATM crippled after an attempted burglary that occurred over winter break, Lane issued a campuswide statement warning students of "long lines and a high likelihood that the machine will run out of cash."

The incident occurred Dec. 15, but the crime was not discovered until the following day, Public Safety Chief Jace Smith said, and the case was diverted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Everyone handled the situation appropriately," he said.

It's unclear if the Center Building was broken into during the attempted burglary, Smith said.

No financial loss resulted from the incident, according to the FBI.

Smith said Public Safety is not actively investigating the incident, but that the department remains involved



BRETT STANLEY / THE TORCH

The ATM and vending machine alcove in the cafeteria Dec. 16 2012. The alcove was cordoned off by law enforcement due to attempted theft. Though no money was stolen, the Higher One machine will need to be replaced. and is in contact with the FBI.

FBI spokesperson Beth Ann Hughes said in a telephone interview Monday the case is not a priority for the agency "because of limited resources" and because no cash was taken from the ATM.

"But if anyone has any information about the incident, we would like to hear about it," she said.

Since the incident, Smith said the college has added security measures in the Center Building, including cameras, to prevent future incidents.

Those with information regarding the incident can contact the Portland division of the FBI at (503) 224-4181.

According to Lane's statement, Higher One will reimburse students up to \$5 per day for cash withdrawal fees if the remaining ATM funds are depleted during the disbursement rush.

The statement also provides instructions for students who want their funds deposited to a different account. The full statement is available at lanecc.edu/ finaid/higher-one-atm.

# JBLIC SAFET

Jan. 2 at 1:57 p.m.: Multiple agencies responded to a false fire alarm in the Center Building Titan Store.

Jan. 2 at 3:47 p.m.: Public Safety issued a citation and an order to appear before the dean to a suspicious person with a sharp object in the Center Building Titan

Jan. 2 at 5:48 p.m.: Public Safety documented damage to the northwest alley wall behind Titan Court.

Jan. 3 at 3:05 p.m.: Public Safety issued a citation to a suspicious person at the Main Campus Lane Transit District station.

Jan. 4 at 9:25 a.m.: Public Safety found racially insensitive graffiti in a Center Building men's restroom.

Jan. 4 at 11:43 a.m.: A man allegedly became aggressive with a Public Safety officer who issued him a warning for parking in a vendor-only parking area

near the Center Building. After the man left the scene, Public Safety discovered he didn't have a driver's

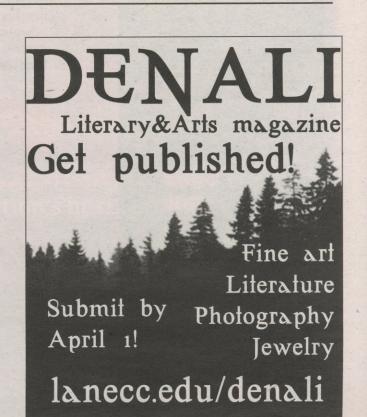
Jan. 5 at 4:50 a.m.: Public Safety discovered graffiti on the north exit doors of the Downtown Center.

Jan. 6 between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m.: The north end of the Downtown Center was tagged four separate times.

Jan. 7 at 12:10 p.m.: A woman fell outside of the Center Building, hitting her head and shoulder on the ground, and she was taken to the Health Clinic.

Jan. 7 at 4:45 p.m.: A student tripped on the curb in Lot L and twisted an ankle. The student was taken to the Health Clinic.

Jan. 7 at 7:15 p.m.: Public Safety found two children left unattended in a Titan Court hallway while a parent was in class.





# TITAN COURT

Residents differ on quality of housing By Kyle Webb









EUGENE JOHNSON / THE TORCH

From top: Titan Court overlooks 10th Avenue. between Charnelton and Olive streets. Lane student Matt Edwards enjoys the views from his sixth-floor corner apartment. "I love it here. The only issues I have are with the water and heating," Edwards said. A student makes his way to the downtown Titan Store. Lane student Christian McCully walks through the academic building's revolving door on his way to catch a bus to school after getting his bus pass at the downtown Titan Store Jan. 15.

(Previous page/top) Edwards is studying his first year of exercise and movement. (Previous page/bottom) A view of the northwest corner of Titan Court shows two of the many security cameras installed throughout the Downtown Campus.

Lane's downtown student housing complex, Isabella Peck and Natalie Haney said the odds they will renew their leases are slim to none.

"There is no way I'm renewing this lease unless there is a lot going on here," Haney said.

Peck, a Portland native, and Haney, from Boise, Idaho, signed their leases before Titan Court's grand opening. The Lane students each pay \$620 for space in a fully furnished four-bedroom unit, which they share with a third roommate, leaving one room vacant.

The average studio apartment rent in the area around Titan Court is \$480, according to apartment-rent.nuwireinvestor.com. Titan Court offers a studio apartment at \$875.

Their dissatisfaction is not universal among the complex's 130 residents - a fellow resident, sophomore Jeff Fields, said it's "a great place to live," citing its in-house Titan Store, proximity to public transportation and the quality of residents as Titan Court's strengths.

"There's a wide spread of races all under the same roof," Fields said. "We all get along."

But Haney and Peck's frustrations hint at the issues the \$20 million complex is facing in its freshman year.

Residents say the furniture is uncomfortable, and the water-based paint is easy to scrub away - not something they expected when paying \$620 for a room. Interaction between residents and management has gone from minimal to none. Four months after opening, Titan Court has already changed property management firms, and is now managed by Campus Advantage.

"You can't even move the furniture out and get new ones because there is nowhere to store the old stuff,"

"A comfy couch would make all the difference," Haney said.

While many comments on Titan Court's Facebook page are positive, an equal number of negative comments since Oct. 1, 2011, illustrate many of the complaints that other residents are experiencing, with lack of hot water and bad Internet connections among the most often-repeated.

"Can anyone even breathe in the garbage rooms?" one resident wrote on Titan Court's page Jan. 10. Titan Court responded with a promise of air fresheners.

"I encourage all residents who are fed up with living here to speak up!" another wrote Dec. 13.

Later that day, Titan Court responded: "We're so sorry that Titan Court hasn't been a positive experience for you. Please let the leasing office/your (community advisers) know. We want to work with you to fix this!"

Jenette Kane, who oversees Lane's Downtown Campus and directs Continuing Education, said Lane is happy with Campus Advantage and the way the company is handling resident complaints.

"I saw a complaint at 12 a.m. on Titan Court's Facebook and a response by management by 12:09 a.m.," Kane said.

to person, safety has mass appeal.

"My parents had concerns before I did about transients and hobos in this area," Haney said. "I make sure I have a guy with me when I walk around town after seeing some of the people around here."

According to city-data.com and Oregon's sex offenders inquiry system, 13 of Eugene's 35 registered sex offenders who are actively compliant with registration requirements live within a mile of Titan Court. The 13 sex offenders are considered predatory.

In 2011, almost 14 percent of the city's violent crimes occurred within six blocks of where construction crews broke ground at 975 Charnelton St., an area now jointly patrolled by Lane Public Safety and Eugene Police

The neighborhood around Titan Court has the city's highest property and behavior crime rates, which includes offenses such as driving under the influence and liquor violations. With 17 percent of the property, person and behavior crime in Eugene, the area has the highest crime rate of any of Eugene's 23 neighborhoods, according to the city's official 2011 crime statistics.

During winter break, Lane Public Safety logged 28 incidents downtown, ranging from graffiti to suspected drug buys to malfunctioning doors, lights and fire alarms. On Dec. 15, an unidentified man was reportedly brandishing a syringe "like a knife" and threatening passersby.

Along with Public Safety's presence around Titan Court, Eugene Police have a substation in the rear of the building with officers coming and going throughout the day.

"We have seen a noticeable improvement in crime in the area since providing a 24-hour presence," Lane Public Safety Chief Jace Smith said. Development to the neighborhood surrounding Titan Court, Kane said, brings more business, restaurants, food carts and overall more people into the area, creating activity that discourages crime.

Despite the elevated crime rates and their hesitance to wander aimlessly downtown, Haney and Peck said they felt safe when they were taking a direct route to school, nearby shops and cafes, or the Titan Store on the complex's first floor.

Fields praised the complex's security measures, including key cards to open doors and elevators, and said women in the complex didn't feel particularly unsafe.

"We get together and chill sometimes as a group," he

wrote, "but I don't think it's for safety." Fields's positive outlook reflects that of the college.

"We think (Titan Court) is doing good," Kane said. "We are over 50 percent capacity, which is great, considering we started a leasing cycle in the middle of a term." "Yes, there are issues, and we are trying to fix them,"

(Sports Editor Ryan Kostecka contributed to this report.)

# TITAN COURT



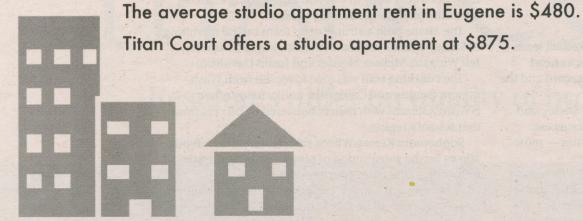
# 51% occupancy

# CRIME

The area has the highest 2011 property, person and behavior crime rate of Eugene's 23 neighborhoods at 17%.



# RENT



# Complaints

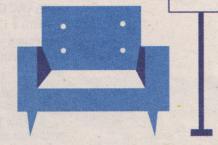
on Facebook





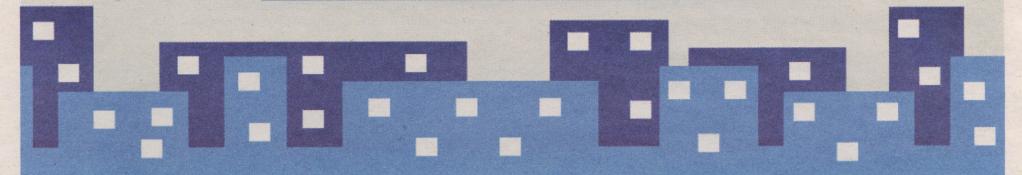


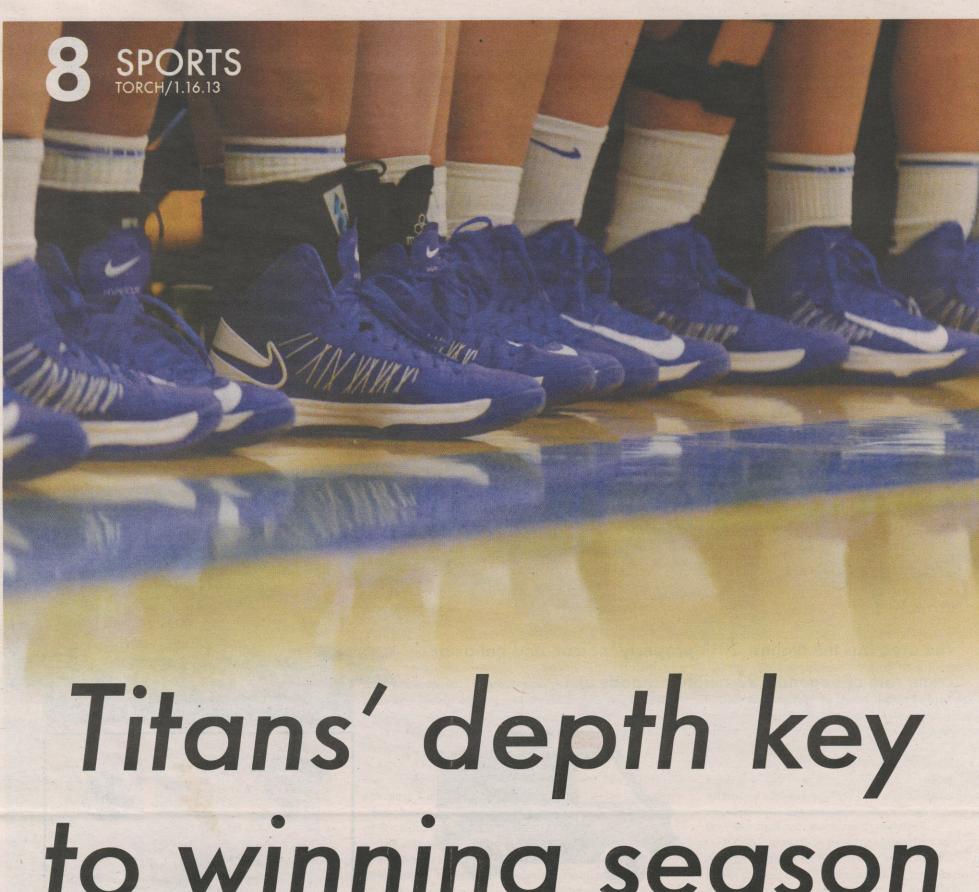
- High or unclear costs
- Website outages
- Spotty Wi-Fi hotspots
- False fire alarms
- · Lack of hot water
- Smoke smell
- Garbage room odors



"Yes, there are issues, and we are trying to fix them."

Jenette Kane





# to winning season

By Ryan Kostecka Sports Editor

The 2005-06 Lane Titans women's basketball team was the most successful in college history, as head coach Greg Sheley led the team to a 33-1 record and the NWAACC Championship.

With a 17-0 record to start this season, Sheley said this year's team is on the path to repeated success.

The teams share some striking similarities — most notably depth, Sheley said.

"I would have to say the 2006 team was a little more deep because we were able to play all 12 girls," Sheley said. "This year's team is extremely deep and we have girls who can do a little bit of everything for us."

The Titans have eight women averaging at least seven points per game, with freshman Simone Thompson and sophomore Megan Shields averaging 13.75 and 13.31 points per game, respectively.

All five starters — Thompson, Shields, sophomore Kersey Wilcox, and freshmen Renee Lucero and Nicole Hannifan — combine for a total of 54 points per game. As a team, Lane averages 89 points per game, which means the starters combine for 59 percent of the team's total points.

Freshman Tori Mahaffie and sophomores Jordan Wilcox and Danielle Schmidt lead the Titans in scoring off the bench. Mahaffie averages eight points while Schmidt and Wilcox put up seven points each.

"Jordan has had a great preseason for us, providing consistent scoring off the bench and picking us up when we need it," Sheley said. "Danielle is coming back from her injury early in the year and is going to be big for us the later we get into the season."

The Titans built a strong, deep team on the recruiting of Sheley and his assistant coaches, Kevin Grumbley, Jeff Wingate, Melissa Montes and Justin Davidson.

The coaching staff was able to recruit from Washington, Oregon and California, unlike many other NWAACC teams with rosters bolstered by players from that school's region.

Sophomore Kersey Wilcox said the talent and depth allows for the substitution of players without a marked reduction in the team's performance.

"Anything can happen in a game, whether it's injury, an off-night or foul trouble," she said. "Having the depth allows us to get away with problems that might hurt other teams."

The depth of the team has also been a huge help in practice and with pushing each individual player to their maximum potential. Knowing there is someone on the team who can do their job, each player is more focused to make sure that they aren't replaced by someone else.

'Having a deep team like we do makes us all work a little bit harder than we normally would," Shields said. "You don't want to lose your starting spot or spot in rotation so practices are very competitive."

There can be a downside to having so many players competing for time on the court. In some cases, athletes may not be happy with their reduced playing time and could transfer to another school.

'We sometimes get competitive about how much time we are playing and when people are in the game but we don't let it affect us as a whole," Shields said.

**DEPTH** continued on page 11

# SPORTS 9

# TEAM STATS

(PER-GAME AVERAGES)

Scoring: 88.71

(1st in NWAACC)

Field Goal completion: 43%

(2nd in NWAACC)

Three-Point completion: 32%

(4th in NWAACC)

Free-Throw completion: 72%

(3rd in NWAACC)

Assists: 18.76

(1st in NWAACC)

Rebounds: 50.00

(4th in NWAACC)

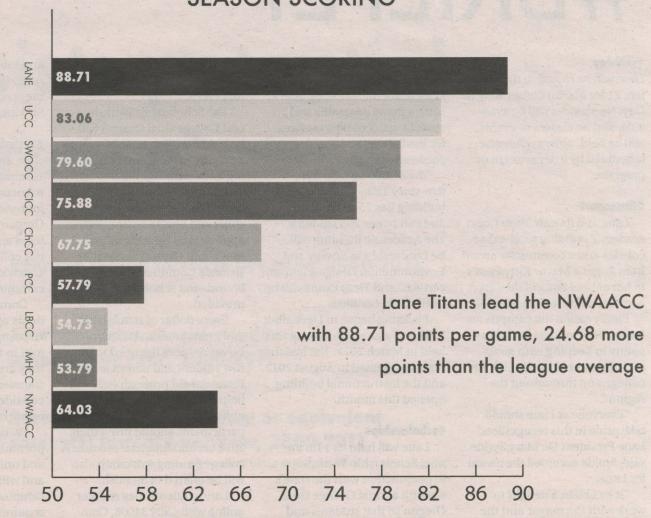
**Steals: 15.82** 

(2nd in NWAACC)

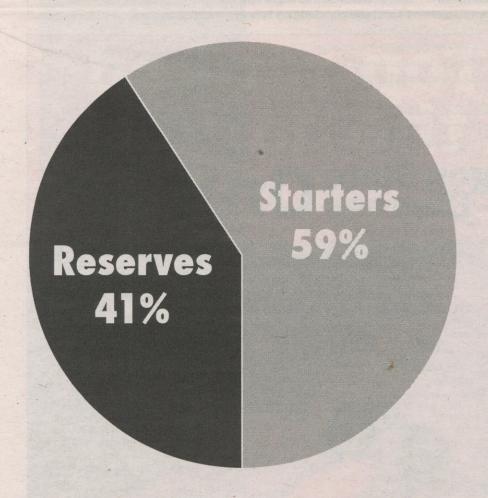
Blocks: 5.76

(1st in NWAACC)

# SOUTHERN REGION SEASON SCORING



### BREAKDOWN OF TITANS' TEAM SCORING



### **RESERVES:**

Tori Mahaffie, Fr. – 8.20 points per game, 4.93 rebounds per game

Jordan Wilcox, So. – 6.88 points per game, 3.00 rebounds per game

Danielle Schmidt, So. – 7.18 points per game, 3.73 rebounds per game

Madison Moore, So. – 4.00 points per game, 1.50 assists per game

Courtney Walchli, So. – 5.43 points per game, 3.71 rebounds per game

Felicia Rodriguez, So. – 3.24 points per game, 3.18 rebounds per game

Halley Winter, Fr. – 2.20 points per game, .70 rebounds per game

Madeline Henshaw, Fr. – 4.00 points per game, 3.30 rebounds per game

## **STARTERS:**



Simone Thompson, #11, Fr. – 13.71 points per game, 2.24 steals per game



Megan Shields, #24, So. – 13.35 points per game, 8.12 rebounds per game, 2.94 blocks per game



**Kersey Wilcox**, #12, So. – 10.71 points per game, 4.88 assists per game, 3.18 steals per game



Renee Lucero, #3, Fr. – 8.18 points per game, 2.94 assists per game



Nicole Hannifan, #21, Fr. – 7.71 points per game, 5.59 rebounds per game

# #BRIEFLY

#### #mlkday

Lane will be closed to the public Jan. 21 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No services will be available, and no classes or events will be held, unless otherwise scheduled by a department or program.

#### #titancourt

Lane and its new Titan Court academic building received accolades and a community award from Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy in her annual State of the City address, delivered Jan. 9.

Piercy called the campus an "exemplary model of sustainability in keeping with goals and values held by the city, the college and throughout the region."

"Everyone at Lane should take pride in this recognition," Lane President Dr. Mary Spilde said. Spilde accepted the award for Lane.

"It has been a delight to work with the mayor and the city throughout this comprehensive and rewarding project," she said.

The academic building was cited as the catalyst for downtown revitalization. The project is credited with sparking \$120 million in projects. The 90,000-square-foot, four-story academic building offers instructional programs and student services plus services for businesses and meeting and conference space.

The 87,000-square-foot, five-story Titan Court housing building has 75 apartments and can house 255 students. The Academic Building will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum certified and Titan Court will be LEED Gold certified.

Planning began in December 2009 and a groundbreaking was held in March 2011. The housing building opened in August 2012 and the instructional building opened this month.

#### #scholarships

Lane will hold its 14th annual Scholarship Workshops in conjunction with the state's seventh annual College Goal Oregon so that students and parents can, in one day and one location, complete the federal financial aid application process and access college scholarship resources.

In past years, more than 400 parents, high school students,

college students and community members have attended this event.

The Scholarship Workshops and College Goal Oregon will be held Jan. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Center for Meeting and Learning.

Participants will learn how to find and compete for scholarships and how to write effective applications. Specific information about Oregon Student Assistance Commission and Lane Foundation scholarships will be provided.

Every dollar of scholarship and grant funds a student receives reduces the need to borrow student and parent loans. Financial aid professionals will help participants complete the online FAFSA application, so participants should bring their 2012 tax and financial records. A college funding workshop also will be offered in Spanish.

Lane students may register online with CRN 34008. Community members may register by calling Continuing Education at (541) 463-6100.

Event sponsors are Roehl & Yi Investment Advisors, Higher One, the Lane Foundation, College Goal Sunday, Lane's Career and Employment Services department, and Lane's Enrollment and Student Financial Services department.

#### #transferdays

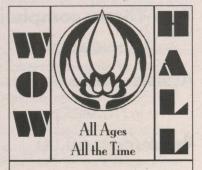
In an effort to assist Oregon community college students to successfully transition to a four-year college or university, Oregon's community colleges and four-year universities collaborate each year on a statewide tour of all 17 Oregon community colleges.

Community college students across the state are welcomed and encouraged to join in these events, whether they are actively planning to transfer, or just beginning to consider their four-year degree opportunities.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with college and university representatives, and will learn more about each campus's offerings, admissions requirements, choosing courses wisely, navigating college costs and financial aid, and tools to make their transition as seamless as possible.

The Oregon Transfer Days tour is scheduled to begin Jan. 14 and will conclude on Feb. 21, with most events between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on community college campuses.

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## Saturday, 01/19

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# Shields leads Titans in minutes played



DEPTH continued from page 8

Also, having so many players play in a game can be troubling when your best players are required to play a whole game but might not be in the proper shape to do so. With a lot of players shuffling in and out of the game, it might be hard for each individual to find the flow of the game and really contribute.

Eleven of Lane's 13 players play an average of more than 10 minutes per game. Shields averages 25 minutes a game while Kersey Wilcox, the reigning Southern Region player of the year, averages 24 minutes per game, down from last year, when she averaged 35 minutes per game.

By comparison, Walla Walla and Clackamas Community College, the second- and third-ranked teams in the NWAACC respectively, have only nine players averaging 10 minutes per game.

"They're a tough team and a very talented team, that's for sure," Clackamas women's basketball coach Kayla Steen said. "The best way to compete with them is to fight fire with fire and have as much depth as they

Six different players — Thompson, Shields, Hannifan, Mahaffie, Lucero and Kersey Wilcox — have led the team in scoring during a game this year. Twelve players have scored in double digits at some point. Thompson and Kersey Wilcox have scored a seasonhigh 27 and 26 points in a game respectively.

EUGENE JOHNSON / THE TORCH

Lane freshman guard Halley Winter (left) and sophomore post Felicia Rodriguez (right) work together to steal the ball from Mt. Hood Community College sophomore guard Sadie Jenks Jan. 5 in Eugene.

"The best way to compete with (the Titans) is to fight fire with fire and have as much depth as they do."

Kayla Steen

head woman's basketball coach **Clackamas Community College** 

# 12 CULTURE TORCH/1.16.13

# Students make good Company

By Kyle Webb Features Editor

Anticipating a Jan. 31 opening night, actors are rehearsing community director Michael Watkins's interpretation of *Company*.

Company is a 1970s musical comedy that follows Robert, a single man who is unable to commit to a steady relationship – let alone marriage.

Watkins said directing the show allows him to put his own stamp on it by interpreting ideas differently than originally intended.

"It's like putting a puzzle together," Watkins said.

As the director, Watkins said the hardest part is creating an interesting show out of "a show with no real plot," and to "make it flow and the audience understand it."

For the actors, the choreography and singing is testing their mettle.

"The music is sadistically hard," Lane student Jillian Tardiff said. Tardiff plays Robert's ex-girlfriend, Kathy.

Renowned composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, who composed *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, wrote *Company's* score.

"Sondheim has notoriously hard music," Lane student Cristina Hernandez said. Hernandez plays Amy, a woman who gets cold feet and leaves her groom at the altar.

Despite the difficulty of Sondheim's music, many of the actors are enjoying working on their first musical.

"The camaraderie and getting used to each other on stage in the big numbers is really fun," Tardiff said.

One of the biggest numbers in the show calls for all 14 actors to simultaneously sing and dance — quite a feat, considering the show takes place in Building 6's Blue Door Theater, which is much smaller than the average playhouse.

Stage manager Sarah Etherton is impressed so far by the rehearsal process.

"They are passionate about their work," Etherton said. "All bets are off now — I get goosebumps watching them."

Cast of Company

Robert - Trevor Eichhorn
Sarah - Ruth Langstraat
Harry - Jordon Nowotny
Susan - Leela Gouveia
Peter - Austin Vanderplaat
Jenny - Shannon Coltrane
David - Benjamyn Buchanan
Amy - Cristina Hernandez
Paul - Damian Bunner
Joanne - Sue White
Larry - Hank Wilson
Marta - Mollie Clevidence
April - Traci Hash
Kathy - Jillian Tardiff

Stage Manager - Sarah Etherton Assistant Stage Manager - Radhika Stein

Director Michael Watkins explains the evening's rehearsal plans to the actors Jan. 10 inside the Building 6 Blue Door Theater. Show begins Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

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