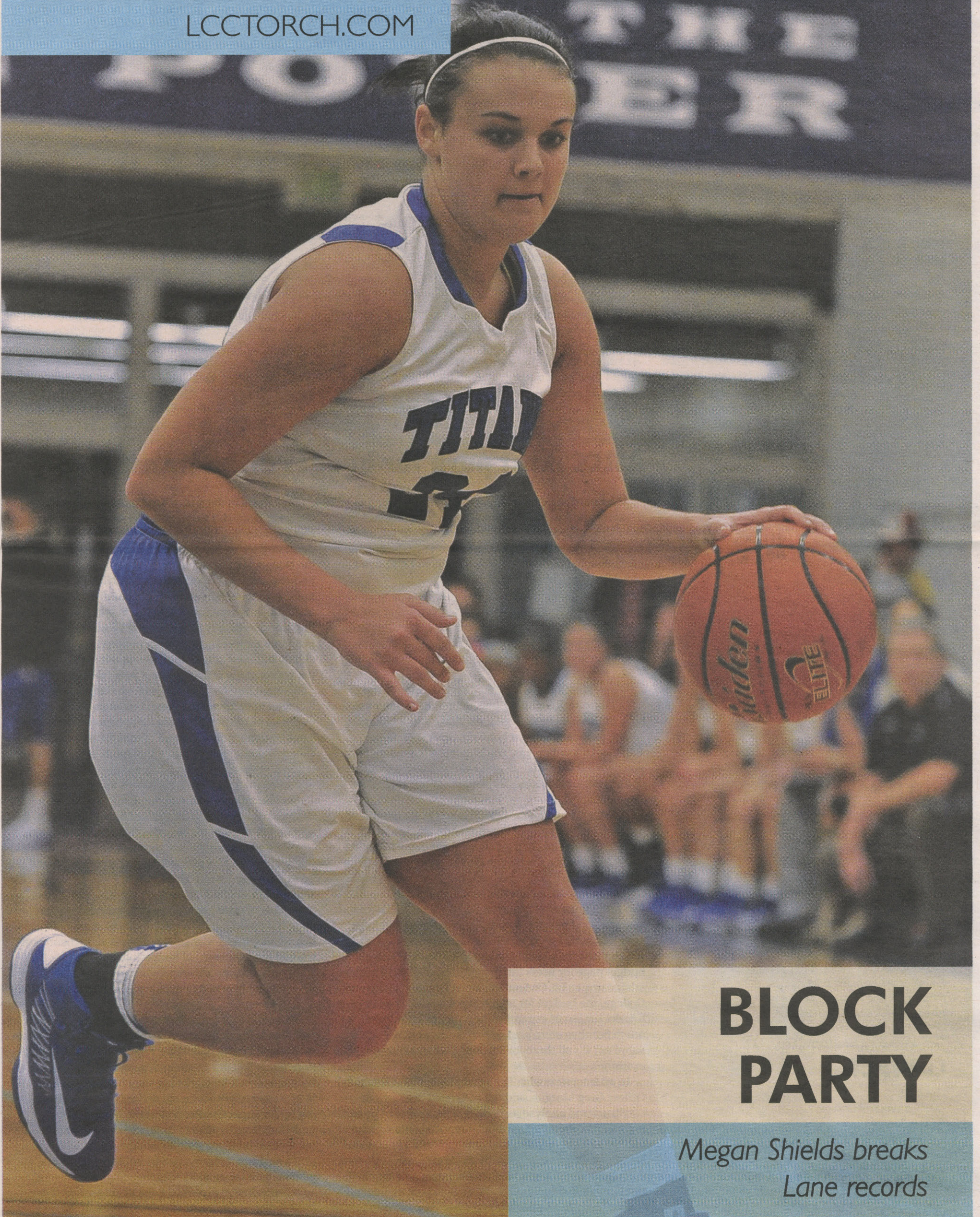


THE TORCH

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

LCCTORCH.COM



BLOCK PARTY

*Megan Shields breaks
Lane records*

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THE TORCH

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

LCCTORCH.COM

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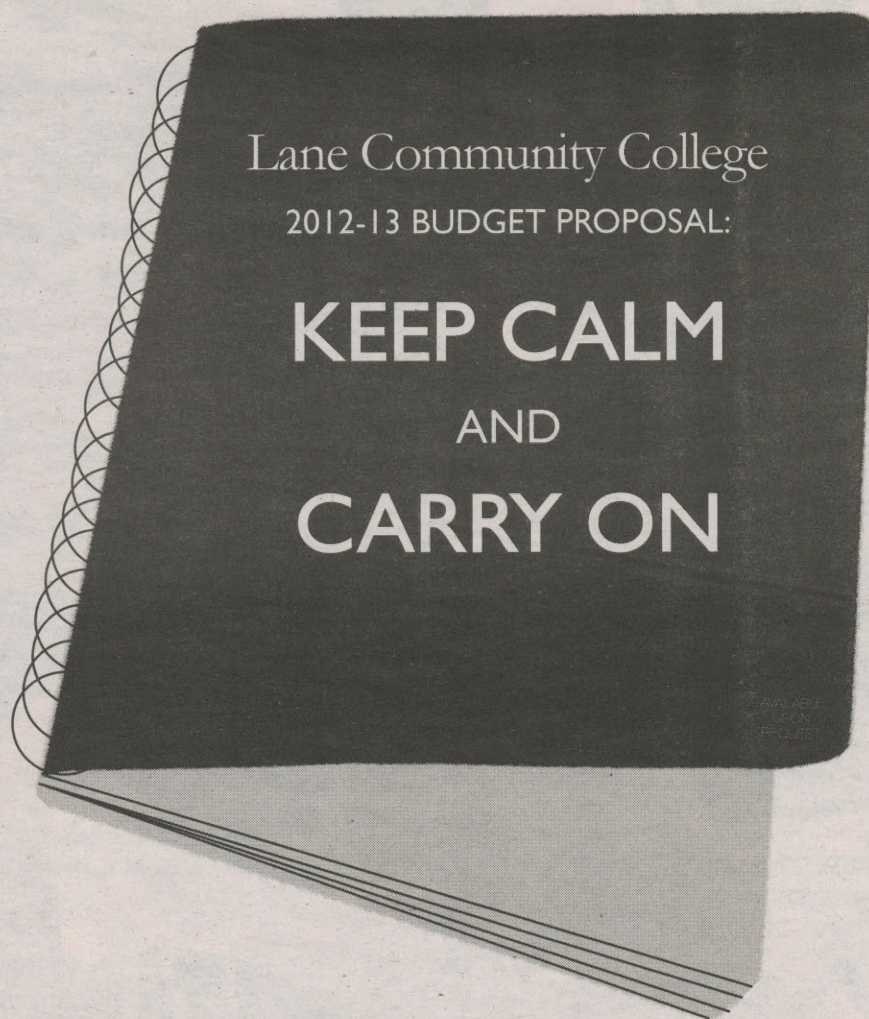
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COVER PHOTO

Lane sophomore post Megan Shields drives to the net for a layup in a Nov. 29 game against Clark College. The Titans defeated Clark 91-49.

EUGENE JOHNSON/THE TORCH



ASLCC must push for budget office transparency

The Board of Education is likely to approve an inflationary tuition increase at its Feb. 6 meeting and the Board has asked ASLCC for its opinion. Administrators say this increase scales with an increase in the Higher Education Price Index, a measure of how colleges and universities are affected by inflation.

ASLCC President Merriam Weatherhead is promoting a strategy whereby the student government would support a \$2 per-credit tuition increase, demonstrating the ASLCC's ability to think practically, to bolster its credibility should it resist a future tuition increase in June.

While Weatherhead's strategy is reasonable, the ASLCC should give its support with one caveat: as tuition increases, the college must make some changes.

The proposed budget Lane provides is certainly thick, but it's difficult for the layperson to understand precisely how the dollars and cents fall into or out of the coffers. Somehow, it manages to lack both simplicity and depth.

Furthermore, Lane's website is so poorly organized, a search for "budget" in the most prominent search box yields one link, to the financial aid department's breakdown of the student cost of attendance. A search for "budget" in the smaller search box produces more results, and if you follow the second link and then follow two more links after that, you will arrive at a PDF of the same printed budget — complex, shallow, unhelpful.

Contrast this with Mt. Hood Community College, which provided a helpful, clearly written FAQ on its budget page for users interested in how its 2010 budget crisis came to be. Or Southwestern Oregon Community College, the budget for which is presented as an exhaustive document of expenditures. Want to know how much Southwestern's art department spent on office supplies? It's all there for students — for taxpayers — to examine.

In an interview with The Torch, Lane Chief Financial Officer Greg Morgan said the software Lane uses to construct and analyze its budget is incapable of providing such thorough expenditures reports, although he offered to furnish individual departments' reports and said the college might provide students access to a tool that gauges each department's revenues and expenditures.

In a freely available pamphlet from the Oregon Department of Revenue's budgeting department, the process for budgeting is prescribed as follows: "Under local budget law the budget must follow a basic format. Expenditures generally are broken down first by fund, then by organizational unit or program, and then, more specifically, by object classification and object. Revenues are broken down by fund, at the least."

Elsewhere in the pamphlet, which is written for the layperson who may not understand the intricacies of budgeting laws, the ideal budgeting process is described as "a joint effort between people affected by the budget" (e.g. students and taxpayers) and "the appointed and elected officials responsible for providing the services. ... If the patrons in your district are active and involved, you may find citizens asking for information not specifically required under local budget law. It is up to your local government to prepare a budget that clearly outlines its fiscal policies and is satisfactory to the voters of the district."

Morgan said Lane complies with Oregon law. When it comes to delineating revenue sources, that's true, but in its published budgets, Lane counts its expenditures by department instead of explaining what those expenditures are. Why can't The Torch — let alone any student or taxpayer — obtain a comprehensive budget, in accordance with Oregon records and budget laws?

For that matter, why doesn't the college provide to students a by-dollar analysis of how their tuition is spent as the cost of higher education continues to rise?

While Morgan helpfully provided some documents that weren't readily accessible on the college's website, he said no one would be interested in the comprehensive budget, and the college's budgeting software is incapable of even generating such an exhaustive report. Even if it could, Morgan said, such information would be meaningless — dangerous even — to someone untrained in the science of budgeting.

"Transparency is useless without context. It can be very damaging when people jump to incorrect conclusions," he said.

Thanks, but as taxpayers and journalists, the value of this data is for us to decide. We have a right to this information. At the very least, we've purchased a subscription to it at \$90 per credit and, as we foot the college's bills to account for declining state funding, we deserve to know precisely how each dollar is spent without signing up for supervised access at the budget office.

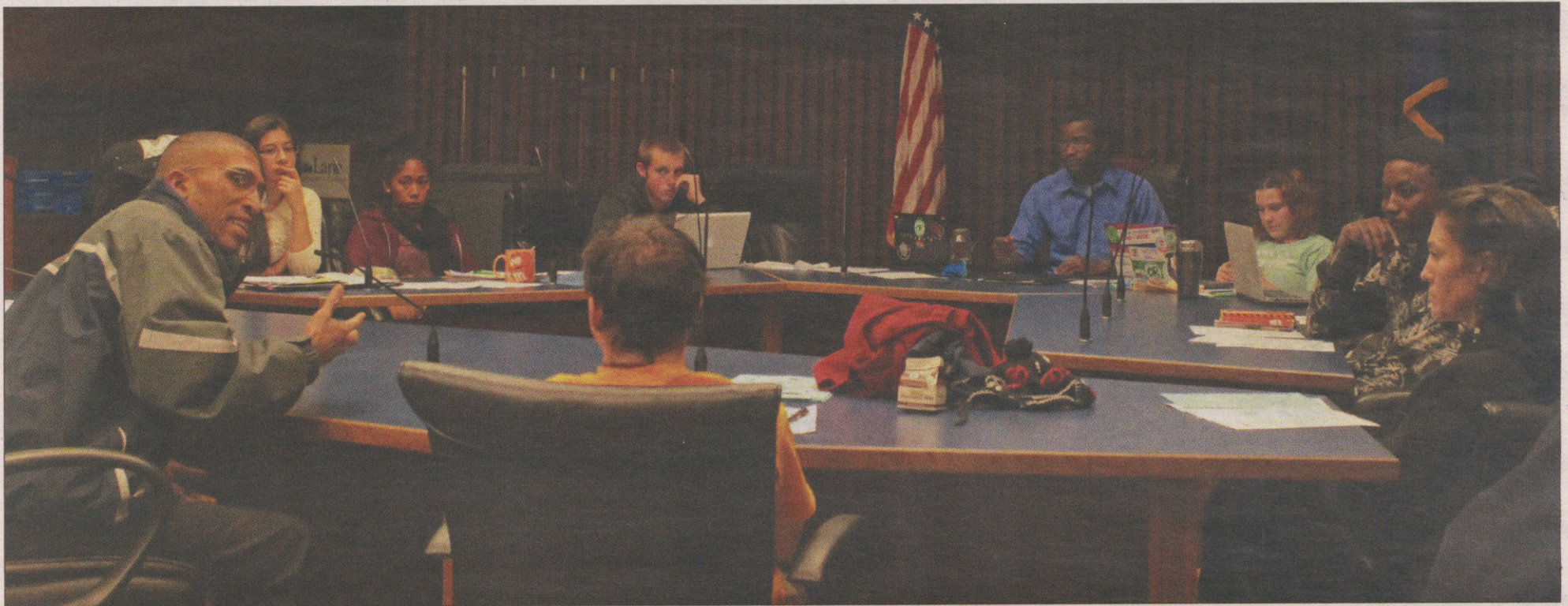
Before it supports any tuition increase, the ASLCC must demand three things from the Board's budgeting process: transparency, user-friendliness and full compliance with the law.

If the software prohibits Lane's budgeting office from full compliance, find new software. If the website inhibits the layperson's ability to access or comprehend the budget, design a new website, rich with educational supplements to help the commoners understand what all those numbers mean.

After all, Lane should be quick to embrace the "teachable moment" while we're so far from feeling any kind of power at all.

Student government cuts \$500 check for MLK march

Funds request includes plans outlining how student government and NAACP will work together in the future



JONATHAN KLIMOSKI / THE TORCH

Eric Richardson (far left) discusses Martin Luther King Jr. Day with ASLCC members.

BY TAYA ALAMI
Media Manager

ASLCC approved \$500 of a \$1,000 funds request for the Lane County NAACP for a Jan. 21 march to honor Martin Luther King Jr., following a debate between senators and the leader of the local chapter of the NAACP over whether the amount showed enough of a commitment to the slain civil rights leader's legacy.

ASLCC had earmarked \$4,000 for an event on Martin Luther King Jr. Day before learning of a \$77,000 budget shortfall earlier this school year, ASLCC President Merriam Weatherhead said. The NAACP originally requested \$1,000 for the march.

Lane student Eric Richardson, who was recently elected president of the local chapter of the NAACP, said he was displeased with the \$108 funds request the ASLCC approved for a separate organized event put on by Lane County.

"I don't know how much you've given out this year to the Lane County Martin Luther King Jr. Committee," Richardson said. "But what's the Lane County budget? You're giving money to the Lane County event. I just want to make that clear, that you rather give money to them than the National Association of Colored People — I just want to make sure we know what we're talking about."

ASLCC Senator Matthew Yook told the group, "I'd love to spend \$1,000, but it does sound kind of sketchy."

ASLCC Multicultural Coordinator Anayeli Jiminez said she was against funding the NAACP in any capacity, partly because of what she calls her "current relationship with them right now," namely her breakdown in communication with Lane County NAACP

Vice President Rachel Parra.

Jiminez also cited the logistics of approving a funds request five days before the event.

"They're coming in late in the game, and we just don't have the money right now," she said.

The funds request was put before ASLCC during its Jan. 9 meeting but was tabled due to senate policy regarding funds requests exceeding \$500.

Richardson said what he was trying to accomplish wasn't about the money at all.

"The money is not important for me," he said. "I want to clarify this here for next year, so when we have a Martin Luther King Jr. event, I want you to be involved with your heart. It's about social justice. This event isn't just about Dr. King, but it's about what he stood for and his legacy."

"I want you all to participate in the march, money or no money, because it's showing your dedication to your purposes," Richardson said.

Richardson said participants in the event were going to rally at the Science Factory, where actor Danny Glover and R&B singer Ray J would be speaking. After the speeches, participants marched to The Shedd Institute in downtown Eugene, where there was live music.

ASLCC Senator Amanda Saeed said a funds request for a lesser amount, like \$500, would be more reasonable.

"I don't feel like we can give the full \$1,000 because this money is for all the clubs here at Lane," she said.

Richardson said he greatly respected Saeed and Jiminez, and that he believed their opinions weren't incorrect.

"I'm defending working together, trying to work together, trying to build coalitions," Richardson said, "even if it's hard."

Senator Madaleine Galo assured Richardson that regardless of how much the ASLCC decided for his funds request, the student government was committed to support the NAACP's event any way possible.

"Most of the people in this room will be attending," Galo said.

Weatherhead closed the discussion by reiterating that the ASLCC is committed to social justice.

ASLCC members agreed and eventually settled on a motion and passed a funds request for \$500, with statutes outlining how the ASLCC and NAACP will work together in the future.

Jiminez and Saeed were the only two votes in opposition to the request, while Galo abstained from the vote.

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 - Get advised by UO academic advisors (by appointment or drop-in)
 - Learn about UO student resources

Meet Ty the Titan and the UO Duck at 3:45 P.M., and enter drawing to win door prizes.

Event is hosted by the UO with assistance from the LCC Counseling and Advising Department. For questions, contact LCC Counseling and Advising Department at (541) 463-3200.

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BLOCKING WITH SHIELDS

Sophomore owns every record at Lane

BY RYAN KOSTECKA

Sports Editor

Two years ago, Megan Shields had no plans to play college hoops. Now, she's setting records on the hardwood.

Upon her 2011 graduation from Sherwood High School, Shields, 19, had decided to give up playing basketball and volleyball at the collegiate level and focus on education at UO.

"I've been playing sports year-round since the eighth grade so I felt like I didn't want to keep going and decided that I would go to UO and just play intramurals if I wanted," Shields said.

Fast forward to the present. Not only did Shields decide to take her talents to Lane, she currently holds every Lane block record possible.

"I think coming to Lane and playing basketball was one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life," Shields said.

Shields decided to enroll at Lane rather than UO during the summer of 2011, when she attended open gym sessions with current and incoming athletes. It was during those sessions that she realized how much she would miss the game and began to develop friendships with the other women on the team.

"My parents were pushing hard for me to play sports because they knew I'd struggle not playing. That helped some in my decisionmaking," Shields said.

Shields' parents, Stacy and John, are both former athletes. Stacy played basketball at Portland State while John played football at Portland State before moving on to a professional career in the National Football League.

"It kills me to say it, but they were right," Shields said.

The combination of Shields' athletic ability and her "never-too-serious" personality makes her unlike any basketball player Titans head coach Greg Sheley has ever coached.

"I've used the term 'freakishly' — as in freakishly athletic — when describing her because people look at her and they just see a tall girl in the post," Sheley said. "But when she gets on the court, it's a whole other story for her with her lateral quickness and impressive jumping ability."

Sheley also describes Shields as a "game-changer who's amazingly talented."

"Megan is the best at keeping her composure when it's a close game or when Sheley gets frustrated with us," sophomore teammate Madison Moore said.

Admitting he's a hard-nosed coach who expects the best from each player, Sheley said Shields is the complete opposite of him, always having fun and never letting anything with the game get too serious, which has allowed him to be a better coach and better understand his players.

"It's funny when he gets mad because I start laughing and soon enough the other girls on the team start laughing, so we always keep it fun," Shields added.

This season, Shields has 53 blocks, an average of 2.79 per game, and still has nine games left in the regular season plus a guaranteed two games in the NWAACC tournament.

If Shields stays with her current pace, she will end up with a total of 84 blocks for the season, beating the record she set last year.

Although she is uncertain where she will be attending school next year, Shields said she wants to continue with her basketball career, something she never thought possible two years ago.

"Her potential is unlimited, and Megan will only be as good as Megan wants to be," Sheley said. "I look forward to watching her develop her game and making a four-year basketball program very happy in the future."

Lane sophomore Megan Shields blocks Southwestern Oregon Community College's Kyla Siri in a Jan. 16 game. The Titans defeated the Lakers 106-78.

EUGENE JOHNSON / THE TORCH



Megan Shields - Sophomore

Hometown: Sherwood, Ore.
High School: Sherwood High School

Points: 13.37 pg
Rebounds: 7.89 pg
Blocks: 2.78 pg
Steals: 1.84 pg
Field Goal Percentage: 49%
Free Throw Percentage: 69%

Season Highs: 19 Points on 12/29 vs. Columbia Basin CC - 15 rebounds on 1/5 vs. Mt. Hood CC - 11 blocks on 12/29 vs. Columbia Basin CC

Accolades: MVP of Pierce CC Tournament
MVP of NWAACC Crossover Tournament
All-Tournament Team of Chemeketa CC Tournament

School Records:
Blocks in a game (12/29/12): 11
Blocks in a season (2011-12): 78
Blocks in a career (2011 - present): 127



To connect dots, Janssen-Belitz first rips them apart

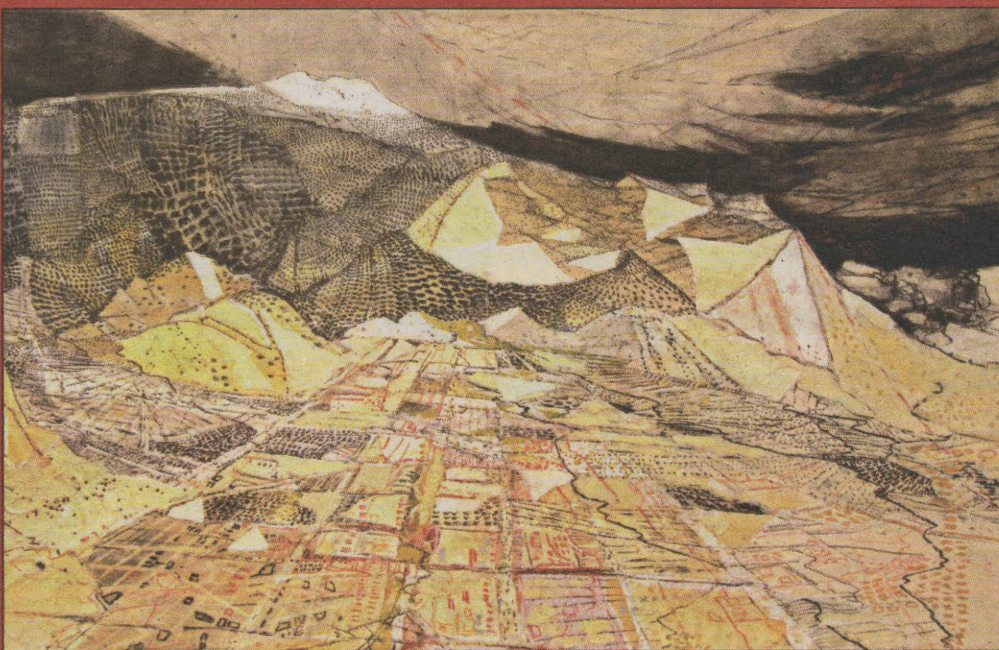
Former instructor returns as artist

By Kyle Webb



BRETT STANLEY / THE TORCH

Artist Monique Janssen-Belitz and Rick Williams chat in front of her work "Purple Sun," after her lecture during her Building 11 art gallery reception Jan. 17. Janssen-Belitz's work will be on display and for sale until Feb. 7.



BRETT STANLEY / THE TORCH

Monique Janssen-Belitz's "Looming Winds."

Using simple dots to represent everything from trails, people, buffalo or birds, mixed-media artist Monique Janssen-Belitz packs many layers into each of her pieces — both literally and metaphorically.

"Never underestimate the power of dots," she said.

In the Building 11 art gallery, Janssen-Belitz gave a Jan. 17 lecture describing her life and work as an artist.

In *Unfolding Dreams*, the current exhibit, Janssen-Belitz showcases her interest in the art and history of Albuquerque, N.M. The exhibit illustrates her unique fixation with dots, her dissection of the Albuquerque landscape and the unique practice of tearing her art apart to reshape it.

"I tear the paper up and glue it in another way," she said. "It is an enormous freedom, and I surprise myself."

Janssen-Belitz earned a masters degree in drawing and painting from the University of New Mexico. She is an assistant professor at Doane College in Nebraska, where she teaches studio art and art history. From 2002 to 2007 she was an art instructor at Lane.

At her lecture, Janssen-Belitz said she sometimes uses her art to represent environmental issues that tear apart the land and other times she tears off a section of her work to redesign just a portion.

Janssen-Belitz frequently draws on history and current events in the same piece to illustrate an idea. Her piece "Flight" depicts the conquistadors who settled Albuquerque, abandoning barren lands during a meteor shower because the area has become uninhabitable. She parallels this with contemporary wildfires and climate changes in Albuquerque.

"What will happen to Albuquerque?" is a driving theme in Janssen-Belitz's work, and it's a question that followed her to Nebraska.

While she is working on other pieces, she also told the audience some of the works on display are not quite finished yet.

In her next project, which she works on when stressed from teaching, Janssen-Belitz is considering how Nebraska might be affected by the controversial Keystone XL Pipeline, "which will be placed almost directly in my backyard," she said.

Balanced against the environmental issues facing Nebraska is the state's rich natural history and beauty, Janssen-Belitz said, which she's also seeking to capture.

Janssen-Belitz's exhibit will be in Building 11 through Feb. 7. The art gallery is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. Admission is free. For more information, call Lane's Art and Applied Design Department at (541) 463-5409.

#BRIEFLY

#askcc

ASLCC will meet for its regular session Jan. 23 at 4 p.m. in the Building 3 board room.

#collegecouncil

The Lane College Council will meet Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. in the Building 3 board room. The meeting is open to the public.

#bsuscholarship

The Lane Black Student Union is seeking donations for its annual scholarship. The scholarship was announced at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Celebration, an event originally founded by Lane students.

#jazzfestival

Award-winning trumpeter Ingrid Jensen will headline the 2013 Oregon Jazz Festival in a performance Jan. 26 at the Ragazzino Performance Concert Hall on Lane's main campus.

Jensen will perform with noted Northwest jazz artists Randy Porter on piano, Dave Captein on bass and Gary Hobbs on drums. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for general admission and

\$12 for students and seniors. Tickets are available online at lanecc.edu/tickets, or at the door the night of the show.

#self-defensetraining

A basic self-defense training course will be held Jan. 24 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in Building 5, Room 125.

The two-hour class is open to the college community and will be led by Public Safety corporals Jake Ryker and Lisa Rupp. Participants will be instructed on proper methods to perform a variety of strikes and escape techniques.

In addition to hands-on exercises, participants will learn about personal safety in the parking lots, including situational awareness, Public Safety plans to offer future self-defense courses at least once per term. For more information, call (541) 463-5558.

#microbrewfestival

The Lane Events Center will host the KLCC Microbrew Festival Feb. 8 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Feb. 9 from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.

All proceeds benefit public

radio station KLCC 89.7 FM. Admission is \$12 in advance, sold at klcc.org, and \$15 at the door. Admission includes three beer tastings and a souvenir glass. Additional tastings are \$1 each. Guests must be 21 and over.

The event will feature 57 breweries from Oregon, California, Washington, Colorado, Alaska, Illinois, Hawaii, Vermont and Delaware.

The Microbrew Festival is KLCC's largest fundraising event of the year. KLCC is a public radio station licensed to Lane Community College, broadcasting NPR News and a variety of music programs to Western and Central Oregon. For additional information: www.klcc.org or (541) 463-6000.

#titansbasketball

The Lane Titans basketball teams will square off against Umpqua Community College Jan. 23 and Portland Community College Jan. 26.

The Titans will travel to Umpqua for the first matches, with a 5:30 p.m. tipoff for the women's game and a 7:30 p.m. tipoff for the men.

They return home to battle Portland, with a 2 p.m. tipoff for the women and a 4 p.m. tipoff for the men.

#davidjoycegallery

The David Joyce Gallery, in the second floor of the Center for Meeting and Learning, is accepting art proposals for its spring-summer exhibit, Taste and Flavor: Sweet.

Proposal submissions are due Feb. 19 at 5 p.m. For proposal inquiries, contact Julie Fether at fetherj@lanecc.edu or (541) 463-3518.

#perfectionnomore

The Lane Titans women's basketball team suffered its first loss of the season at the hands of the Clackamas Cougars 77-64 at a Jan. 19 match in Oregon City.

The Titans now drop to 18-1 overall and 4-1 in Southern Region play.

#soccersignings

Nine incoming soccer verbal commitments for the Titans will be signing their national letters of intent on Jan. 26. The signing ceremony will take place in Building 5 at 10 a.m.

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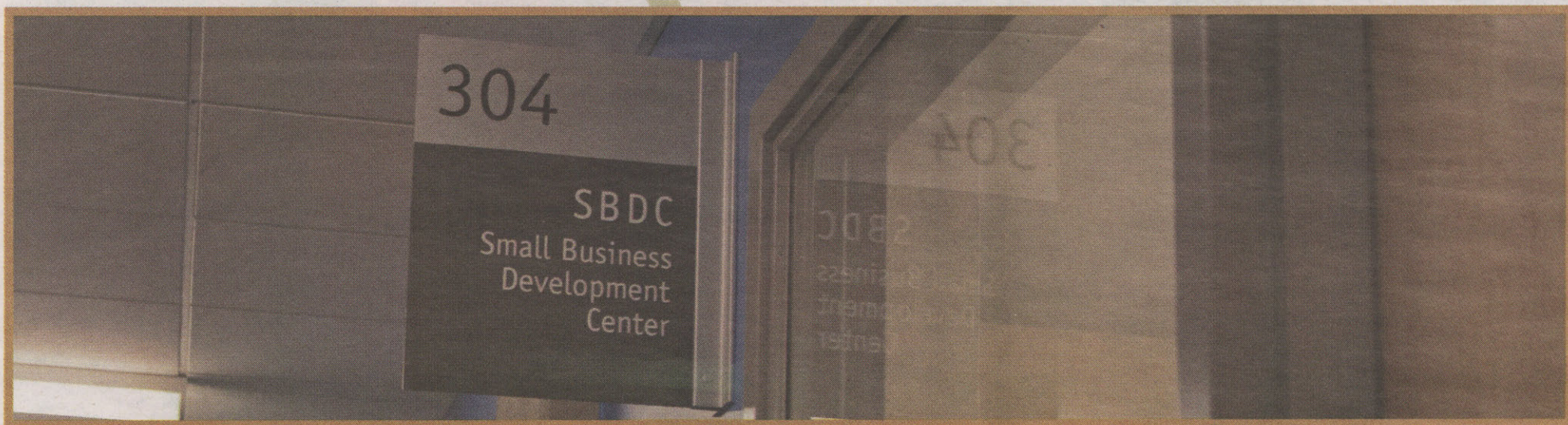
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PROGRAM GROWS ENTREPRENEURS



JONATHAN KLIMOSKI / THE TORCH

The Small Business Development Center was relocated to the Titan Court academic complex over winter break.

BY MOHAMMED ALKHADHER
Reporter

Lane established its Small Business Development Center in 1982 to assist local entrepreneurs in achieving their dreams of business ownership.

"What we try to do here is give people kind of a broad brush of the business basics," James Lindly, program coordinator for the Small Business Development Center, said. "We have our programs and classes, but we also have our employer training services."

Those are expanding, Lindly added, with the move from the Wildish Building near the Downtown center

to the new Titan Court academic wing over winter break. The Center has more classroom space than it had at Wildish and is equipped for technological advances, including the ability to host distance learning programs.

"While the private sector was in the throes of the recession, we had to go back to the public sector," Lindly said. The center placed greater emphasis on health care services training and state agencies.

In his Jan. 5 column, New York Times small-business blogger Jay Goltz wrote that small businesses primarily fail due to lack of demand and economies of scale.

"What we don't want to have happen to someone is they wake up three years down the road and they're \$150,000 to \$200,000 in debt and they still haven't made a dime in their business," Lindly said.

Avenue Tattoo owner Kim Powell said the small-business management program helped her gain "a better perspective on being a small-business owner, better ways to market my business, as well as better ways to expand my customer base."

In turn, Lindly believes "things are beginning to pick up in the private sector," and hopes the new building and location will help lure more business to Lane County.

Middle: Mona Hardisty, an administrative assistant in the Small Business Development Center, helps answer questions over the phone with a student.

Left and right: In its new location, the Center occupies new facilities, offices and classrooms.

JONATHAN KLIMOSKI / THE TORCH



Board asks ASLCC for input on tuition

President: Early support may pay off in later negotiations

BY TAYA ALAMI
Media Manager

With Lane's Board of Education voting on separate tuition increases in February and June, ASLCC President Merriam Weatherhead is backing a strategy to begrudgingly support a \$2 per-credit inflationary increase, a stance she hopes will better position student government to deny a general tuition increase later on.

The Board of Education will vote on a \$2 per-credit inflationary increase during its February 6 meeting, with their vote on a tuition increase coming in June.

Colleges and universities, including Lane, use the Higher Education Price Index as a scale to measure inflation costs. Increasing tuition in line with this price index would be for the sole purpose of staying current with the depreciating value of the dollar and would be separate from another potential general tuition increase in June, which could address Lane's other obligations such as the Oregon Public Employee Retirement System.

While sharing a letter that outlines her strategy with ASLCC, Weatherhead explained, "As a student, I'm not happy about this. As a low-income student, I'm not happy to be presenting this to y'all. That being said, I'm 99.5 percent sure the Board of Ed will pass the HEPI."

Weatherhead argued that because the Board of Education frequently passes an inflationary increase, it's very likely the board would pass it next month regardless of the ASLCC's opinion. Conceding to a small increase for inflation costs could show the Board of Education that ASLCC is able to see economics realistically, she said, a perception that could potentially give the student government more credibility going into discussions about general tuition increases in June.

Not everyone agreed. ASLCC Campaign Director Paul Zito said that by accepting an inflationary increase, ASLCC would be participating in failed economics, which he said was absurd.

"Why don't we take a stance for students rather than worry about our reputation with the Board of Ed?" Zito asked.



BRETT STANLEY / THE TORCH

Mathew McElwain, 9, about to make an attempt around the obstacle course in the auxillary parking lot on the main campus as part of the Oregon Offroad Rider's Association's certification course, Jan. 21, as instructor David Beede looks on. McElwain's brother Maddox is behind, awaiting his turn.

Off the road again

Club teaches riders young and old

By KYLE WEBB
Features Editor

Lane's auxillary parking lot turned into a dirt track for off-road riders practicing for their Oregon Off-Highway certification on Jan. 19. OHV riders, ranging from 7 to 15 years old, were certified to ride on public lands in accordance with Oregon guidelines.

Riding enthusiast David Beede heads the Oregon Off-Road Riders Association with help from his son William, 10, as the demo rider.

The class is taught in the lower gravel parking lot near the Southeast corner of 30th Avenue and Eldon Schafer Drive. Beede, along with parent-volunteers, use the existing parking curbs and cones to map a course for the riders to navigate.

"The little kids — we take them straight through the course, but with the older ones, we mess with them," Beede joked.

Beede wrote the state curriculum for training at all three levels of certification. He also keeps his classes the cheapest in the area.

"We ask \$15. Everybody else charges \$60," Beede said. The low cost is attributed to parent volunteers and Beede's indifference towards turning a profit from the training.

Tracie McCord and her son Tyler, 15, were in attendance Jan. 19. Tyler, a seven-year riding veteran, was certified on a Honda CRF250 dirtbike.

"I've been riding since I was 8 years old," Tyler said.

Tracie's concern was not for her son's ability to handle the dirtbike, but rather to be certified in accordance with Oregon law.

Oregon OHV laws require riders between the ages of 7 and 15 to be certified to ride on public land.

"I believe the ticket you get is counted as child endangerment — I don't want that," Ryan McElwain said. McElwain had both his sons certified.

"Riding keeps the family together and the kids love it," McElwain said. McElwain's father also attended to see his grandsons earn certification.

The goal of certification with OORRA is to bring riders up to a minimum standard, Beede said. Riders must understand not only how to physically ride but also how to ride smart, how to ride safely and how to ride without disturbing the land.

The next certification session at Lane will be Feb. 19 at 10 a.m. For more information on OORRA certification, visit oregonoffroadriders.org.



(Left) Instructor David Beede, foreground, instructs Michayla Garcia, 13, before she takes her turn around the obstacle course.



BRETT STANLEY / THE TORCH

(Right) Tyler McCord, 15, slaloms through cones at the Oregon Off-Road Riders Association's Jan. 21 certification class. Riders who take the course gain a basic level of understanding, the minimum the law requires of motorcycle and ATV drivers.