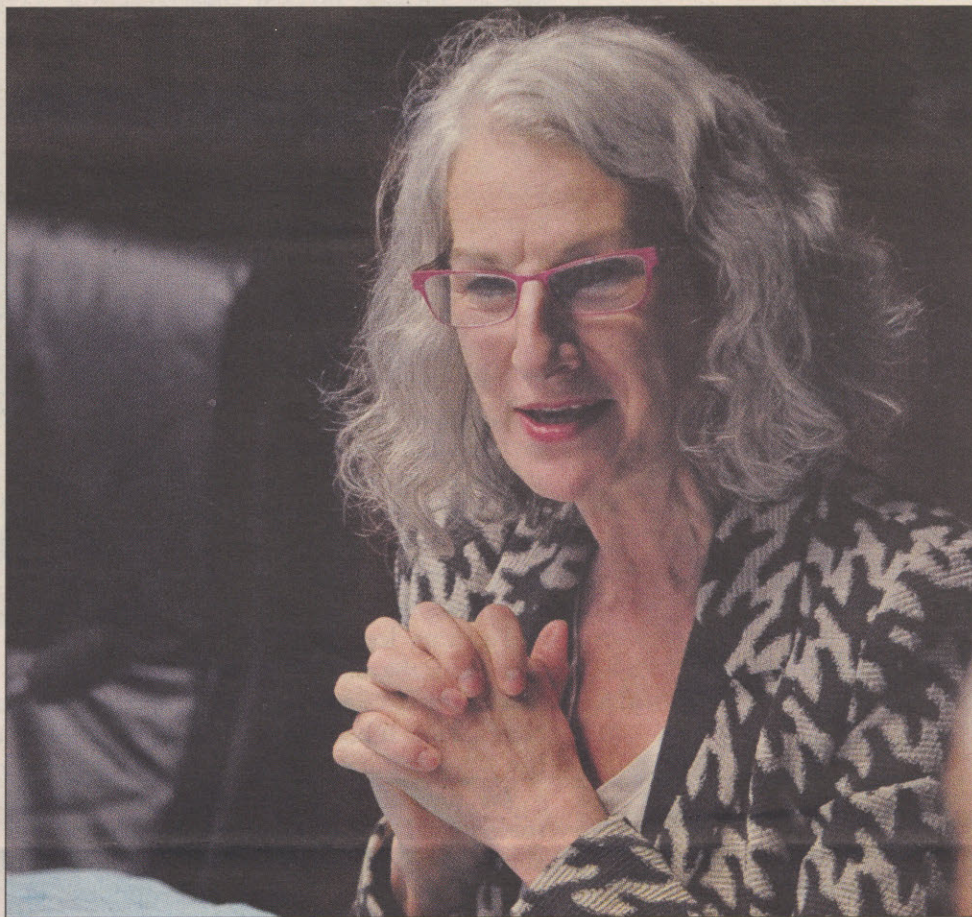


A photograph of a man with a beard and a red shirt speaking into a microphone. He is wearing a lanyard with a badge. The background features a stylized sun graphic and a circular object.

English instructor **Andrew Viles** presents a metaphor about the problem larger class sizes cause for teachers and students before the Board of Education on Wednesday, Dec. 10.



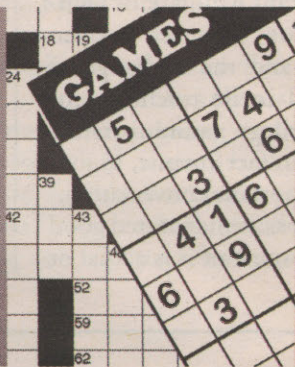
Lane president Mary Spilde discussed state funding, default rates and President Obama's proposal for free community college at the Jan. 15 board of education meeting.

PENNY SCOTT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"By increasing class sizes, students get less instructional attention, have less opportunity to participate in class and receive less feedback. Tuition may not

Commenting on President Obama's proposal to make community colleges free, Spilde said that Lane would have to adopt evidence-based in-

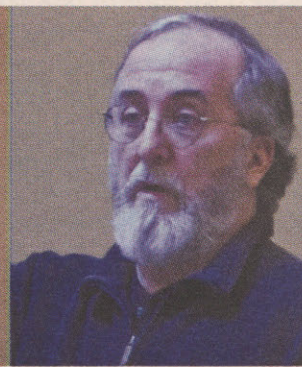
WE
HAVE
PUZZLES
FOR YOU
see page 5



ASLCC
PRESIDENT
MICHAEL WEED
RESIGNS
see page 3



INSTRUCTOR
PROMOTES
GLOBAL
AWARENESS
see page 4





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STUDENT NEWSPAPER
OF LANE COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

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commentary

Lane faces mission conflict

The elephant in the room can no longer be ignored

PENNY SCOTT

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lane's current financial operating shortfall stands at around \$5 million. Fall term saw an increase in class sizes and another hike in the cost of tuition. Continuing to balance the college budget in these ways can only lead to fewer enrollments.

At the time of the Board of Education meeting on Dec. 10, enrollment was down 26.4 percent from the same time the previous year. By the meeting on Jan. 14 enrollment was down 16.3 percent.

Lane has been incrementally increasing tuition for years, resulting in the college becoming one of the most expensive of the 17 community colleges in Oregon. Now, with larger class sizes, students are paying more and getting less. For students who draw the short straw and find themselves in overloaded classes, Lane is becoming a bad bet.

It's time to entertain what some would consider unthinkable. At the very least it's time to reevaluate everything about the college. Can and will Lane morph into something different? Does it need to? It's high time to take a serious look.

At the December board meeting, the elephant in the room could no longer be ignored. When Chairman Pat Albright expressed his commitment to Lane's mission of being a comprehensive college, Lane president Mary Spilde responded that this may no longer be possible.

Offering a wide variety of programs is a worthy mission. Unfortunately, this may be a luxury the college can no longer afford, and teachers and students alike are paying the price. If something doesn't change, Lane is at risk of failing in its primary mission of student success; for some, this is already happening.

A college's greatest gift to students is teachers of high caliber, of which Lane has its fair share. However, when teachers are overworked they can't give students proper individual attention. Worse still, they are at serious risk of losing their edge; we simply can't afford to let that happen.

The biggest losers are the students. To have a teacher who is otherwise great and who cares deeply, but has no time for students and can't even remember their names is a tragedy. I fear that's where we're headed. At the December meeting, board member Rosie Pryor said "I am a big believer in the com-



prehensive mission of this organization. I am not interested in chopping off arms and legs, and I am not interested in panicking, but I am interested in a full and robust discussion of options and alternatives and choices, and I'm not afraid of having that conversation."

Such a conversation would have to include careful examination of data about all college departments gathered without prejudice or favor. It would require that a diverse group of people with open minds look into all college matters. This, I believe, is the most reasonable and intelligent project that the college can undertake at this time.

It's unthinkable to cut off limbs; we all know that. It is, therefore, important that those entrusted with investigating the college's programs, departments and finances do not find the notion of reducing programs or departments abhorrent. The reason is simple: Strongly held positions are the antithesis of serious open investigation. Sadly, reducing programs or departments would mean some people would lose their jobs, and it would mean that some Lane residents would need to go elsewhere for an education in their chosen fields. Trying to be all things to all people, on the other hand, is a recipe for weakening or even losing what we have.

At the January board meeting Spilde announced that state funding for Oregon community colleges will potentially increase from the previously anticipated \$500 million to \$535 million, or even go as high as \$550 million. "It's still not enough," Spilde said.

Even though President

Barack Obama's proposal to make community colleges free could be a game changer, it would require the Republican controlled Congress to get on board with the idea. Therefore, the proposal is by no means a slam dunk.

In the interim between the two board meetings, it's possible that the default rate problem was solved, enrollment has increased by approximately 13 percent, state funding has potentially been increased by \$35 million, and Obama put forth a proposal that has huge upside potential.

These are positive developments. However, they are no reason back off from having the robust discussion Pryor suggested a month ago. Every week that goes by, students and teachers are paying a price that is not their to pay. Student success must prevail, not later, but now.

The heart and soul of Lane is its remarkable teachers.

Lane teachers have provided me with good solid instruction in various subjects, and they have nurtured, encouraged, inspired, challenged, enlivened and entertained me. In stark contrast to my high school experience, where I was bored out of my mind, my success at Lane is a direct result of the dedication of my teachers.

I readily admit to my strong bias in believing that teachers are the linchpins to student success. An important hallmark of higher education, however, is open discourse and the exchange of ideas. So I invite teachers, students, college administrators and staff, in fact anyone, to join in this important conversation.

January saw unexpected good news. But none of it is actual or

enough to turn the tide, so Lane needs to be prepared and ready to act decisively.

Is Lane attempting to serve two masters? Given the choice between the mission of remaining a comprehensive college and the mission of student success, which would you choose? Are these two missions mutually exclusive 'if the government doesn't save the day? Is there a creative solution that can keep the college intact? Or, should the college prepare to downsize?

Let's talk about it.

READER CONTRIBUTIONS

Let's keep the conversations going

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Warming center proposed for Lane

Houseless students receive unprecedented support

PENNY SCOTT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Briggs Warming Center, named in memory of recently deceased houseless student Michael Briggs, may soon offer temporary housing for Lane's houseless students when temperatures drop below 30 degrees.

"LCC's notion of a warming center would include a dinner and breakfast, bedding and a place to sleep," Associated Students of Lane Community College chief-of-staff Robert Schumacher said addressing the Board of Education on Dec. 10.

Also speaking to the board in support of the center were Public Safety Chief Jace Smith and Oregon Student Public Interest and Research Group chair Anthony Molinari.

The idea for the center was originally introduced by Smith who said that his officers encounter students seeking shelter in cars, buildings, the baseball dugout and in the woods around campus. He said that because there is no provision for them to stay, Public Safety officers are compelled to ask them to leave.

Smith stressed the need to act quickly on the matter. He said that by acting before the season is over the center could make a real difference to students, adding that for learning, student success and safety, lack of housing is the biggest impediment.

Both ASLCC and OSPIRG have passed resolutions in favor of the warming center. Smith said that he has weighed the risk factors against the benefits and has gained support from local charitable organizations, including The Egan Warming Center.

The Egan website describes the center as a coalition of community members representing service providers, nonprofits, faith and social activist communities and local government who have come together since 2008 to ensure that homeless people have shelter during extreme cold weather.

Molinari commented that Briggs was an exemplary member of the Lane campus community. During Schumacher's emotional statement to the board, he said that Briggs touched the lives of thousands and was a close friend.

A memorial service was held for Briggs on Dec. 11. Approximately 15 students walked from Building 1 to Briggs' campsite in the woods west of campus where his ashes were scattered.

At the Board of Education meeting on Jan. 14, Brian Kelly, Vice President for College Services, said that currently the locations under consideration for the center are Building 5, the Longhouse and the Center for Meeting and Learning.

During the ensuing discussion, the possibility of providing transport to Egan Warming Center for houseless students, instead of



AUGUST FRANK / THE TORCH

Mary Binford spreads the ashes of Michael Briggs at his campsite on the west side hills of campus on Thursday, Dec. 11.

housing them on campus was offered as an alternative solution.

If a center does open on campus, Egan would provide volunteers, food and other necessities for the operation of the center. Lane would provide the space.

The board passed a motion authorizing the college administration to respond in the best way possible. Pat Albright added that the situation should be treated as an emergency to ensure help for houseless students before the next freeze.

Strides towards making college education free

Obama proposes new plan

LISAMARIE LUSK
REPORTER

President Obama called for expanded higher education access for Americans during his address at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tenn. on Jan. 9. "Today, I'm announcing an ambitious new plan to bring down the cost of community college tuition in America. I want to bring it down, to zero," Obama said. "I want to make it free."

The plan, dubbed America's College Promise, calls for free education for students during their first two years at community colleges.

Obama chose Tennessee to unveil his proposal because the state is already implementing progressive ideas regarding higher education. PSCC is rolling out its own version of free community college, called Tennessee's Promise, in fall 2015. Obama named America's College Promise after the Tennessee program.

"I hope that Congress will come together to support it, because opening the doors of higher education shouldn't be a democratic or a republican issue," Obama said. "This is an American issue."

The president said what matters most is effort and merit, adding that there will be no free rides and students will be expected to work hard. Obama stressed that while individual outcomes would vary, the opportunity for obtaining a higher education would be equal for everyone.

"The value of education is not purely instrumental. Education helps us be better people, it helps us be better citizens," he said. "A college degree is the surest ticket to the middle class."

The plan would include expanding technical training programs at community colleges and simplifying financial aid applications by making the forms shorter and easier to fill out.

To be eligible, students would need to attend community college at least half-time, maintain a 2.5 GPA and make steady progress toward completing programs.

The program would also require that community colleges have programs offering transferable credits to a four year college or occupational training programs with high graduation rates. Federal funding would cover three-fourths of the cost and participating states with qualified colleges would become partners, contributing the remaining funds to cover tuition.

Further information can be found on the whitehouse.gov website briefing room.

Power shifts in student government

Winter term starts on an emotional note

NICOLE RUND
REPORTER

Michael Weed resigned from his elected position as student government president at the commencement of winter term, citing health and personal reasons. The announcement was made at the senate meeting Wednesday, Jan. 7 by Malisa Ratthasing, who succeeds him as president.

Weed and Ratthasing ran together in Spring of 2014 on a platform of bringing more community to the campus. "I'm going to continue the work that we started last year," Ratthasing said.

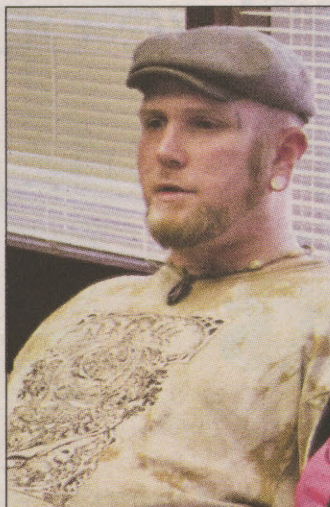
She reiterated the three points of focus that her administration will continue to have going forward: tuition and textbook affordability, sexual assault prevention and SoJust union support.

Ratthasing joked that she had become accustomed to tell-



TORCH ARCHIVE

Malisa Ratthasing stepped into the position of president.



TORCH ARCHIVE

Michael Weed resigned from his ASLCC presidency.

ing students and senators, 'Go see Michael' when they came to her with questions or issues, but she realizes now they will have to speak to her.

"It's very sad that Michael had to step down," Ratthasing

said. "He was my best friend. He was a mentor and like a father figure to me. He's a very private person. He was the president and needed to be strong."

Treasurer Ashley Jackson will assume more duties as both

vice-president and treasurer.

During the meeting, Mariana Paradones was appointed as Campus Community Director, vacating the position of president pro-tempore. Senator Felicia Dickinson was then elected president pro tempore. Dickinson will fill in for Ratthasing when she is temporarily unavailable to fulfill her presidential duties.

The position of Sustainability Coordinator was filled by the appointment of Daniel Pollock. Weed, the previous Sustainability Coordinator, will be on hand to help Pollock transition into the position.

Ratthasing said that student government is moving forward and focused on recruiting students interested in attending an upcoming rally Feb. 12 at the state capital.

Weed was contacted by The Torch for comment on his resignation, but he did not respond by press time.

Peace center chairman teaches global awareness

Students taught community values as linchpin to peace

DANIEL ROARK
REPORTER

Dr. Stan Taylor teaches environmental politics and a sequence of peace and conflict classes at the Lane Community College Longhouse. "I'm a teacher-activist and I do teaching as a form of activism. My goal with students is to teach things that are relevant to their current lives and to make them aware of who they are in relation to the world around them," Taylor said.

Taylor has been involved in activism all his life. He graduated high school in 1969 and came of age during the Vietnam era, a time of anti-war protests, environmental activism and struggle for minority rights. He avoided the draft as a conscientious objector due to his involvement with the Quaker church.

Taylor claims not to be an anarchist but an activist who believes in community values. He holds multiple degrees, a bachelor's, a master's, a law degree and most recently a Ph.D. in political science. He emphasizes to his students the importance of legal processes through civil rights and liberties.

As chairman of the Lane Peace Center he aims to teach peace in a world beset by war, racism, poverty and environmental destruction. "Fostering peace through education is the

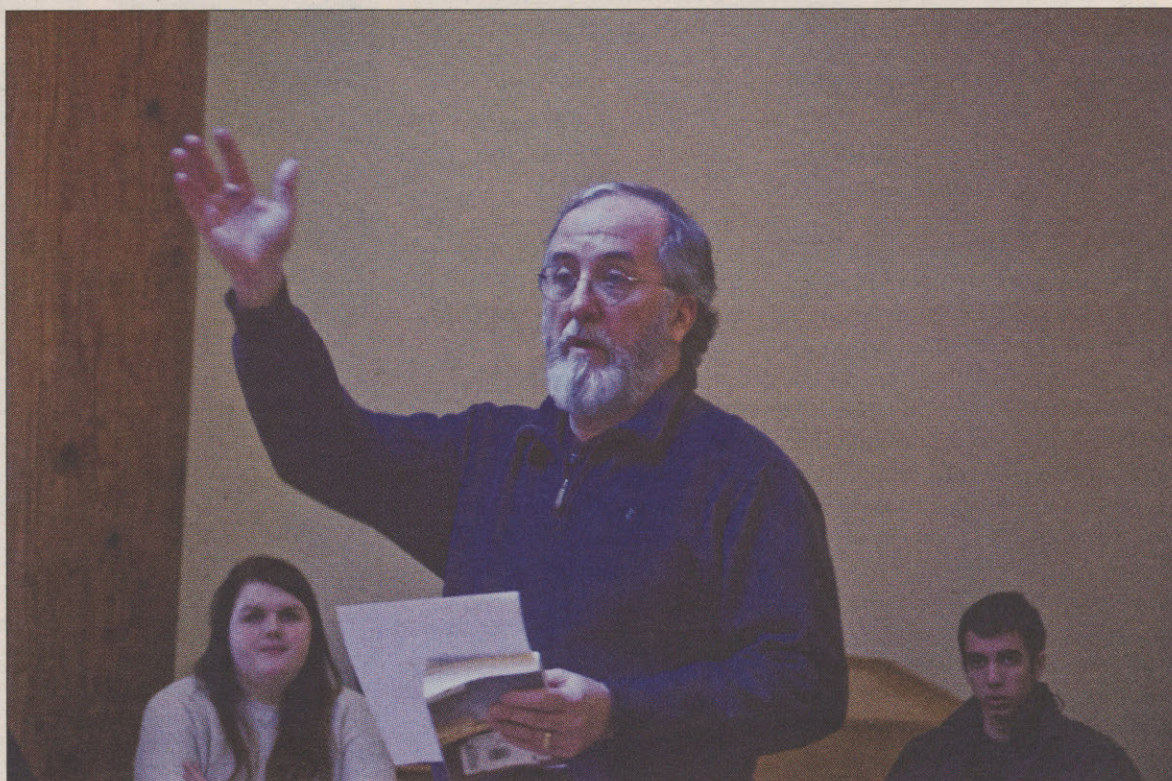
objective," Taylor said. He seeks to eliminate inequality based on race, gender, economics and the marginalization of the ordinary person.

"One of the things that I love and appreciate about Stan is his tenacious work and collaboration with others to bring awareness, dialog and transformative action on the path toward creating world peace," Susie Cousar, teacher of Global Health and Sustainability at LCC, said.

About a decade ago, Taylor initiated a series of college-wide meetings and founded the Peace Center to promote individual, community, national and world peace. Today, an all-volunteer staff handles the events that lead up to the Spring Symposium. The two themes considered for this year are: Peace through Compassion and Climate Justice.

During a November class he focused on bioengineering and genetically modified organisms. According to Taylor, this is an invasion of genes accomplished either electrically or with gold particles to create a fissure in the gene which allows it to combine with other genes and creates new, man-made foods.

Consequences can vary, noted Taylor, from giant mice to pigs with the hide of a cow. An important thing to remember, he related, is that the contamination of genes is another type



AMANDA IRVIN / THE TORCH

Stan Taylor tells his environmental politics class about some of the history of the Longhouse on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

of pollution due to cross-pollination. He noted how GMOs are stronger and eventually take over by colonizing with the original species and overwhelming it.

The students' level of participation was impressive, keeping Taylor on his toes with their queries he said. One student brought up the question of religious connotations and the "God" complex. Taylor replied

that the scientific community holds to the bioethics code which allows them to continue their research without guilt.

He gave the "Green Revolution" as an example. After World War II, pesticides and chemical fertilizers were introduced to the farmlands of India, giving crops an initial boost. In the long run, however, the soil was literally killed and could no longer sustain agriculture. Taylor claimed

that research shows how an increase in immunodeficiency statistics is attributed to 30 years of genetically modified food consumption by humans.

"Dr. Taylor's pedagogy is balanced well for engaging students with topics relevant to today and critical for tomorrow's health and well-being," Cory Kalcich, 2nd year student and sustainability coordination program major said.

Student senate ratifies five open chairs

Senate hugs reach record high

LISAMARIE LUSK
REPORTER

Associated Students of Lane Community College's Vice President, Malisa Ratthasing, began the senate meeting on Jan. 7 by announcing the resignation of President Michael Weed who, for health reasons, stepped down from his position.

Ratthasing, successor to the president, stepped down from her VP position and announced that, according to the directives of the ASLCC bylaws and constitution, her official position is now president of the student body. No vote was required.

The first order of business was

to vote on a motion to appoint Ashley Jackson as vice-president. Ratthasing praised Jackson saying that she deserved the position. "I chose the person with the purest intent," she said adding that Jackson is a role model for other people to follow.

The motion passed 6-0 and Jackson became the new vice-president of the ASLCC Student body. Jackson's first duty in her new role was to call the meeting to an official start at 5:12 p.m., pounding the gavel on the table for the first time.

Other positions ratified during the senate meeting were Daniel Pollock as Sustainability Coordinator and Mariana Pare-



done for Campus Community Director. Felicia Dickinson became President Pro Tempore, prevailing over Senators Scott Compton and Anastasia Vail for the position.

Summer Manier tearfully resigned as Director of State Affairs for personal reasons. This led to a motion for a group hug which passed on a 5-0 vote. This

was one of two group hugs that were voted on and passed during the meeting and the third since the beginning of fall term.

Senate meeting highlights for Jan. 14: Funds were granted for the Sex Symposium on Friday Jan. 23 at the Center for Meeting and Learning. Brittney Healy reported that the Snack Shack will now be carrying taquitos and corn dogs. She is waiting for approval on other food items and also the ability to take debit cards. Sojust announced that their retreat the previous weekend was a success; the group spent three nights discussing group goals, bylaws and recruiting.

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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Metrical unit

5 Arabian judge

9 Grandfather of Saul

12 Exude

13 Sleeping

14 Mountain on Crete

15 Javanese carriage

16 Weed

17 Computer generated imagery (abbr.)

18 Alcott heroine

20 Sable

22 Article

25 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)

27 Garland

28 Time period

29 International (abbr.)

31 And other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.)

34 Sinbad's bird

35 Fr. author

37 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)

38 Wing (pref.)

40 Grape syrup

41 Jap. fish

42 Article (Fr.)

44 Negative population growth (abbr.)

45 Deviate

46 Necktie

49 Droop

51 Male person

52 Baseball equipment

54 Eth. Danakil people

58 Pointed (pref.)

59 Afr. tree

60 Polish rum cake

61 Footlike structure

62 Direct

63 Poetic foot

DOWN

1 Before some vowels (pref.)

2 Tumor (suf.)

3 Free

4 Monad

5 Felis (2 words)

6 Amateur Boxing Assn. (abbr.)

7 Skin (suf.)

8 Utopian

9 Wink

10 Wayside

11 Pour

19 Camelot lady

21 Female ruff

22 Manmade protective mound

23 Owl's cry

24 Moon of Saturn

26 Hindu soul

30 Pulka (2 words)

32 City in Judah

33 Den

36 Legend

39 Race the motor

43 Palmetto

46 Thunder sound

47 People

48 Subtract

50 Taro

53 Yarn measure

55 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)

56 Antiballistic Missile (abbr.)

57 Mortar beater

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61				62					63			

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Sudoku

	5				9	1		6
			7	4				3
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	4	1	6					
6		9		7				
	3				5			
			8	9				
	7	6		1			5	

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Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9
note: there is only one valid solution to each puzzle

Check out this week's Horoscope on page 6 ➤

ENIGMATM

CRYPTOGRAM

Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. *Hint: "J" = "N"*

"NLXSSOHALEEGQ LTGO NHTOJCQFTI,
WBQS LTGO X RELN LEEGQ LTGO X
CEZ."

— XBSFEH BJGJERJ

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The Affordable Care Act gives Oregonians health care coverage options

Oregon Health Plan Expansion

new enrollees

— must signup by —

FEB 15, 2015

<http://oregon.gov/oha/healthplan>



sometimes...
you need more
than a bandage

Need help signing up? The Lane County Community Health Centers are partners with Oregon Health Plan and Healthcare.gov. They have certified staff available to meet with you, get your questions answered, and help you find what type of coverage is right for you. Call (541) 682-3585 to set up an appointment.

Basketball season continues for women's and men's teams

Womens Basketball



Belle Diouf finished the game with 10 points in the Titans 56-47 win on over the Clackamas Cougars on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Mens Basketball



Jamel Merriweather with a rim touching layup as the mens basketball team lost to New Hope 83-67 on Friday, Dec 12.

TORCH ASTROLOGY



Aries

March 21 — April 19

This week things takes a positive turn. Your schedule might be hectic, but you've got what it takes to get through everything you need to do. What doesn't get done, doesn't matter. Lucky numbers are 5, 23 and 11.



Taurus

April 20 — May 20

Get your thinking into gear and get as much done early in the week as you can. The rewards will be well worth it. Later in the week someone will need more of your time. Be prepared to be a friend. Lucky numbers are 12, 14 and 3.



Gemini

May 21 — June 20

This week could bring a new and unexpected love interest. Take things slowly, and you'll be glad you did. This person needs space. Be alert to nuances in communications. Lucky numbers this week are 2, 5 and 13.



Cancer

June 21 — July 22

Fortune favors you this week. A lucky break could be coming your way offering a new approach to projects that will pay dividends for you later. Things could get shaky in love this week if you're self-absorbed. Lucky numbers are 6, 7 and 9.



Leo

July 23 — Aug. 22

It's best to leave other people's problems for them to sort out. Don't offer advice. This is a time for you to step back and really listen. Your silent strength is all that's needed. Lucky numbers this week are 15, 8 and 6.



Virgo

Aug. 23 — Sept. 22

Your considerable strengths will come to the fore this week. Expect fast progress on projects. Those around you will be happy to help. Have the humility to graciously accept. Lucky numbers this week are 3, 4 and 7.



Libra

Sept. 23 — Oct. 22

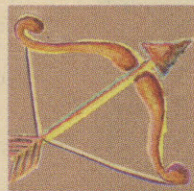
Be open to the concerns of others. There's much you can learn from taking your attention off your own needs temporarily. The tide will turn in your favor through generosity. Lucky numbers this week are 11, 12 and 3.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 — Nov. 21

This is a week for you to be in charge. Take on a leadership role, and you'll shine. People will be receptive if you show your strengths. Don't take on too much. Someone might try to upset you just to test your strength. Lucky numbers 3, 4 and 8.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22 — Dec. 21

You might be asked to go on a special date. Don't be surprised if someone gives you an unexpected gift. This is a week of surprises if you remain open. Lucky numbers this week are 2, 13 and 9.



Capricorn

Dec. 22 — Jan. 19

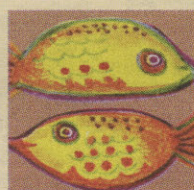
This might be a good week to go out on a limb with a creative project. Don't let insecurities about your ability hold you back. If you are in a relationship, your partner needs to sort out something. Lucky numbers 2, 14 and 8.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 — Feb. 18

Laugh off trivial matters this week. There's nothing worth getting upset about. This is a great week for just flowing with the river. Watch how things come to you when you do. Lucky numbers are 1, 14 and 7.



Pisces

Feb. 19 — March 20

You will have the opportunity to help people in need this week. Make sure the need is genuine and be careful not to go overboard. Let balance be your watchword. Your love life is looking great. Lucky numbers 13, 1 and 11.

Math instructor helps students overcome hurdles

Students give insights on instructor's teaching skills

ARUNIMA BHATTACHARJEE

REPORTER

Math can be a difficult subject for many students, and good teacher can make all the difference to those who might be struggling. Lane math teacher Stephen Selph has received high praise from students for helping them succeed and move through their fears.

"He is by far the best math teacher I have ever had and math does not come easy to me," third year engineering and management major Naomi Boe said. "He is so patient and organized. He gives time to all of his students."

Selph teaches integral calculus and college algebra. Since spring term, he has also been offering college algebra classes online. "I find calculus hard, but he makes the concepts as clear as it possibly could be," Boe said. "He never made me feel like any question is stupid."

Boe previously attended Selph's math 111, college algebra class and in fall term was enrolled in his calculus 2, integral calculus class.

Inside the classroom students work in groups, and to provide them with additional help Selph makes instructional math videos which he uploads to Moodle. He frequently checks his students' understanding of the materials, has office hours every day and tutors at the Lane Math Resource Center.

source Center.

"The instructor has a huge impact on how well you understand math," third year University of Oregon geology major Spencer Jones said.

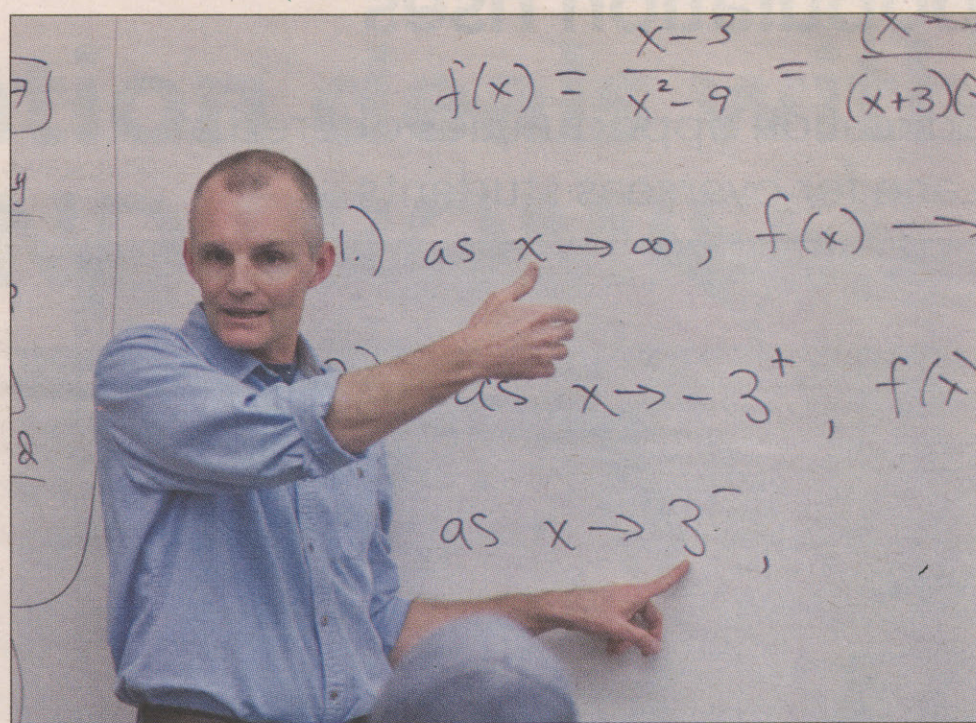
Jones chose to learn math at Lane because he wasn't confident in the UO teacher's ability to provide enough information for him to pass the class. Jones is currently studying integral calculus, a second term course at Lane.

"Stephen really wants to make his students succeed in math and LCC, comparatively, has a very good Math Resource Center," Jones said.

Selph has a 4.9 ranking from a possible 5 on ratemyprofessors.com where 41 students ranked his teaching ability. "Steve made calculus accessible and interesting. He is a very gifted and kind teacher and I would recommend him to anyone taking calculus. Thank you Steve!" commented one respondent.

Selph, born in San Francisco, CA, graduated with degrees in math and physics from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and received a master's degree in applied mathematics from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Before starting at Lane in 1998, he and his wife were Peace Corps volunteers and lived in Zimbabwe for two years, teaching math and english to high school students.



AMANDA IRVIN / THE TORCH

Stephen Selph discusses with his Calculus I class the function of X.

"I really enjoy teaching mathematics," Selph said. "I try to be very encouraging about students coming to me and working individually, especially those who fear math."

"Stephen's ability to transmit concepts to the students is very thoughtful and

clear," Math Resource Center tutor John Steele said. "It is very evident when I tutor his students, they know the concepts very well."

In winter term, Selph will be teaching online college algebra and differential calculus, the first term calculus course.

BOE DECEMBER

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go up, but the students are getting less education for their money," writing instructor Kenneth Zimmerman said. "I don't believe this is a proper strategy for a public education institution dedicated to student success."

The message from teachers was that students are not getting what they pay for and that the college has chosen a course of action that contradicts Lane's mission of student success.

"For students, they [the results of larger classes] represent a sort of hidden increase in tuition. Crowded together and receiving less of their instructors' attention both in and out of class will continue to be a great loss to teachers and students alike," English instructor Sue Williams said.

English and writing instructor Andrew Viles stated that the college could immediately and unilaterally bring an end to the bargaining agreement that allows the class size increases. He said that he knew of no teachers or union members who would object.

Turning his attention to LCCEA President Jim Salt, who entered into the agreement on behalf of the teachers, Viles said Salt would not object to the agreement being undone.

College president Mary Spilde disclosed that enrollment for winter term was down 26.4 percent compared to the same time last year. The possibility of a further tuition increase was also offered into the board discussion.

As is their custom, board members didn't respond directly to those who came to speak. They did, however, make comments at the end of the meeting.

Board member Rosie Pryor invited

Spilde and faculty leadership to go back to the drawing board and refigure class sizes. She added that they would need to come back with an explanation of where funds could be found to replace the anticipated financial benefit from the current agreement.

Board member Gary LeClair expressed his concern over the falling enrollment rate calling it a drastic decrease. He said that the college is experiencing decreases in virtually everything. Calling for fast action, he said he welcomed creative solutions.

Board member Matt Keating said he appreciated the teachers organizing, coming forward and tipping the board members off to the larger issues the college faces.

The Lane Faculty Council, which contributes to the quality of education at Lane as the deliberative faculty representative group on academic matters, is surveying teachers to determine the ways in which increased class sizes and decreased enrollment are impacting students.

Larger classes effectively mean fewer classes, and it is not known how many students may be missing out altogether. Teachers are being asked to provide information regarding the number of students they turn away from any given class.

At the Jan. 9 council meeting, however, teachers said that some students see that a class is full and turn away without making contact with the teacher. The council is in the early stages of gathering data and members are still determining which factors are impacting the situation and in what ways.

BOE JANUARY

from page 1

stitutional reforms to improve student outcomes, so it would not be a free ticket for the college.

Nationally projected costs for Obama's free college proposal are \$60 billion over ten years. "Of course it's unclear where that funding would come from or whether this has got any chance in a divided congress, but this is sure to be a topic of conversation when board members are in D.C. for the legislative summit later this month," Spilde said.

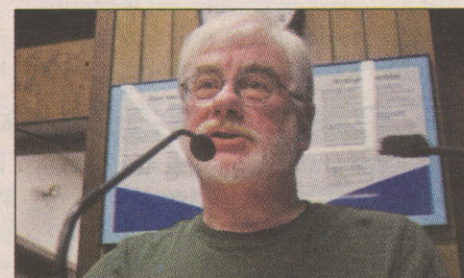
Regarding Lane being in danger of crossing the 30 percent default rate on student loans for three consecutive years, the Board of Education members appeared to breathe a collective sigh of relief when Spilde reported that Lane may not be in danger of losing federal student loan funding after all.

Preliminary data shows that students from the 2012 cohort will likely have a default rate under the critical 30 percent threshold. Additionally, it may be possible to reduce the 2011 cohort default rate to under 30 percent by removing 31 borrowers from the calculation because the U.S. Department of Education has no record of them. Either way, Lane's default rate would not be over 30 percent three years in a row.

Spilde thanked Director of Financial Aid Helen Faith and her team for their work in analyzing the data, commenting that searching for mistakes is intense and tedious work.

So far at board meetings writing instructors have been the most vocal in complaining about increased class sizes.

At the January meeting, however, media arts photography instructor of 31 years Dan Welton has his say.



TAYLOR NEIGH / THE TORCH

Photography instructor Dan Welton speaks about overloaded classes at the board of education meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Welton said that when he started teaching at Lane he had 15 students in his classes. Since then, he added, cameras have become more complex which means it takes much more time to teach just the basics of camera operation.

"Now I am expected to teach 27 students in what is called enhanced [classes], which is a euphemism for overcrowding," Welton said, adding that his workload has not doubled. It has tripled.

He said that the way he is expected to teach photography is not feasible and that he can no longer offer students individual support.

Welton emphasized that cutting sections means decreased class availability for students. He said that for the college this results in a self-fulfilling prophecy where enrollments keep going down.

Regarding the effect on students who are in larger classes Welton said "I had a student last term who said I feel like I'm going to Lane Cattle College. I'm being herded into overcrowded pens, stuff fed and not being helped."

International student population rises

Education opportunities offered at Lane for overseas students



AUGUST FRANK / THE TORCH

Below the windows of Lane's Multi-Cultural Center, a banner depicting many different cultures hangs in Building 1.

DAEMON LEE
REPORTER

This fall, LCC boosted its enrollment of international students by 36 from last year, bringing the total to 321, a record for the institution and an increase of 45 percent since 2010.

At a time when enrollment is declining, these students are one segment of the student body that is growing. They are now about three percent of enrolled students, and the rise is set to continue. The college aims for a student population that is 10 percent international by 2020, according to Jennifer Falzerano, director of LCC's International Programs.

International students at Lane now come from 43 countries. Saudi Arabia, China and South Korea send the most, according to records from the college's International Programs. About half enroll in credit classes. The other half enroll in Lane's English as a Second Language program.

The rise in global wealth, especially in China, and the esteemed reputation of American schools abroad, has driven the increase of international students in the U.S. says Falzerano.

Though international students usually prefer the East and West Coasts, Oregon is not yet well-known. "Sometimes our students have to get to know Oregon," Falzerano said. They know of San Francisco and Seattle, she stated, but the state in between has yet to become much of an international destination.

Compared to other schools in the U.S., Lane offers a quality education that is affordable, according to Falzerano. "We have a really good ESL (English as a Second Language) program," Falzerano said. "Our program costs about one-third of what it costs to go to University of Oregon. A lot of international students will come here for that reason."

Falzerano says she thinks many

students learn about Lane by word of mouth. They start at the University of Oregon and then discover that LCC is much cheaper. Most international students at Lane plan to go on to another college or university to earn a four-year degree.

Hai Nguyen, from Hanoi, Vietnam, is in the Lane ESL program and his classmates come from countries across the world, including Japan, Venezuela, and China. Like many Lane students, Nguyen has just graduated high school and is attending college to earn an associate's degree. He said he plans to get a bachelor's degree in environmental science so he can help to solve his country's environmental problems.

Cesare Bigolin, a student from Italy, is taking credit classes. Bigolin completed his last year of high school at South Eugene before coming to Lane to study for his associate's degree as a pre-med student. "My mom always asked for English native speaker babysitters," Bigolin said concerning how he first learned English. "It has been a lot of help for me," he said, though he admitted the first couple of months in the U.S. were difficult because he was accustomed to British slang.

The increase in international students is consistent with trends across the United States. An estimated 886,000 international students were studying in the country last year, an eight percent increase from the year before and an all-time high according to the Institute for International Education.

In Oregon, LCC ranks fifth out of all colleges and universities for international enrollment. University of Oregon has the highest number at 4,083, according to data compiled by the Institute for International Education. The University of Oregon is followed by Oregon State University, Portland State University, Portland Community College and then Lane.

Events and Happenings

Jan 16 – Jan 22

Galleries

Generous, Exhibition, Building 11, Main Art Gallery 119, 8-5 p.m.

45 Years of Photography, Building 11, Sister Art Gallery 103, 8-5 p.m.

The Tale of Two Palettes / Palates Exhibition, Building 19, David Joyce Gallery 200A, 8-5 p.m.

Friday, Jan 16

Events:

Keys to Success Workshop, Building 1, Room 222, 2-3:30 p.m.

Student Groups:

Black Student Union, Building 19, Room 239, 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

Students For Life Club, Building 1, Room 222, 1-2 p.m.

Anime Club, Building 19, Room 232, 3-5 p.m.

Sports:

Drop in Weights, Building 5, Weight Room 130, 4:15-6:30 p.m., \$5 per term

Saturday, Jan. 17

Student Groups:

Gaming Group Meeting, Downtown Campus, Building 61, Room 420, 9 a.m. -5 p.m.

Buckner Drawing Group, Building 10, Room 124/125, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sports:

Women's Basketball Vs. Mt. Hood, Building 5, Gymnasium 202 and 203, 2-4 p.m.

Men's Basketball Vs. Mt. Hood, Building 5, Gymnasium 202 and 203, 4-6 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

College closed, no classes or services

Events:

MLK Celebration, Building 19, Room 100, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Events:

Native American Craft Night, Building 31 Longhouse, Greatroom 101, 6:31-9:30 p.m.

Sports:

Drop in Weights, Building 5, Weight Room 130, 4:15-6:30 p.m., \$5 per term

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Events:

Brown Bags Talks, Veteran's Services, Building 3, Room 216, 12-1 p.m. Bring a bag lunch, and take part in an open dialogue with veterans

Keys to Success Workshop, Building 1, Room 224, 2:30-4 p.m.

Student Groups:

Asian Pacific Islander Student Union, Building 1, Room 224, 1:30-3 p.m.

Sports:

Men's Basketball at Linn-Benton, Linn-Benton Community College Gym, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 22

Arts:

45yrs of Photography Lecture, Building 11, Main Art Gallery Reception 119R, 3-5 p.m.

Student Groups:

Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Building 1, Room 224, 2-3 p.m.

OSPIRG Kick Off Meeting, Building 17, Room 310

Fencing Club, Building 5, Gym 203, 6:45-9 p.m.

Sports:

Drop in Weights, Building 5, Weight Room 130, 4:15-6:30 p.m., \$5 per term

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