



PHOTOS BY PENNY SCOTT / THE TORCH

Above left: An estimated crowd of 300 people gathered in Springfield Town Hall on Thursday, April 23 for the Oregon State Legislature Ways and Means hearing. Above right: Senators Edwards and Devlin and house representatives Buckley and Nathanson listened to comments by community members.

BUDGET DECISIONS LOOMING

Oregon's underprivileged groups seek more money

PENNY SCOTT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

An estimated 300 people packed the Springfield City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, April 23 for a public hearing with members of the Oregon Legislature Joint Ways and Means Committee.

More than 50 people signed up to speak to the committee chairs about funding for their areas of concern. Represented were speakers for the disabled, the elderly, the deaf and blind, the prison system, legal aid, adult foster care, K-12 and higher education and more.

A few speakers complained about the "kicker" law, which results in tax rebates for taxpayers when Oregon state tax collections exceed expectations by two percent. This year Oregonians stand to receive \$350 million in "kicker" rebates, or an average \$150 state tax liability reduction per taxpayer, after the two-year budget cycle ends in July.

Those who spoke about the "kicker" want the money to go instead to public organizations.

Speakers for education

Several education administrators and students asked for \$755 million for universities and \$550 million for community colleges. Currently, the committee co-chairs have allocated \$535 million for Oregon's 17 community colleges. The increase could mean \$830,000 more annually for Lane Community College, said Lane president Mary Spilde.

In a tearful plea, LCC student body president Malisa Ratthasing spoke of "... horror stories that other students face just to navigate their higher education."

"I have heard of a student who donates plasma regularly to pay for school," she said, adding that countless students can't afford money for food or laundry.

"I have my own mother wanting to take her own life, so that I can get through school debt-free," she said. "Seeing her every morning is a constant reminder that it is a privilege to see her, and I don't know if I will see her tonight, tomorrow or in two years when I graduate."

Ratthasing shared that she, like so many other students at Lane, struggle to stay in college and stay afloat financially. "I don't know how much more I have to give up, how much more other students have to share their own narratives, how much more they have to sacrifice, how much more they have to share to prove



TORCH ARCHIVE

ASLCC President Malisa Ratthasing

that we are worth it."

Bethel school district superintendent, Colt Gill said students aren't getting what they deserve. "I went to school in Oregon, and it's not the same system we had then," he said. "It's not what Oregon taxpayers or our parents and grandparents did for us. We had strong schools. We were the envy of other states at one time."

Oregon students have the second highest class sizes in the nation and one of the shortest school years according to Gill. "Our kids receive a full year's less education for first to twelfth grade than the national average," he said.

"During my time as an education advocate, I've seen our school years get shorter and our class sizes become enormous," said Beth Gerot, Eugene school district 4J board member. She went on to say that schools have seen an increase in special needs and student diversity.

Higher expectations are being placed on teachers and administrators to meet state and federal mandates she said, adding that principals work as bus monitors.

Board chair for Fern Ridge school district and University of Oregon faculty member Andrea Larson

said "We've got to fix this. We've got to do something about the kicker." Larson called for educating citizens about public finance "... so that they understand why it is so important to give up a few hundred dollars in their pockets for the good of our state."

Other speakers

Nina Johnston, mother of seven and assistant manager for an Oregon supported living program facility, said she has to work 60 to 80 hours a week to barely scrape by. "My husband stays home with the five year old twins that we have because it's cheaper for him not to have an income than it is to pay for daycare for them," she said.

Johnston spoke of her responsibilities as a disability services provider, saying that wages are too low. She called for a significant wage increase so that she, and others like her, can continue to provide quality care to residents.

Shannon Taggart, representing the American Cancer Society, asked for increased funding for preventing tobacco use and for screening women for breast and cervical cancer.

Eugene resident James Jacobson asked the committee chairs to focus on increasing revenues. "The people of Oregon are counting on you to find ways of being creative, courageous and imaginative about revenue," he said, adding that Oregon has the lowest corporate tax rate in the nation.

He asked the committee to get the department of revenue to collect \$200 million in taxes that are owed. Jacobson then called for an increase in tobacco tax from \$275 million to \$325 million and asked for reform to the "kicker."

Roxanne Hazen, senior living community provider in Cottage Grove, said she keeps seniors out of hospitals and the ER, which, she said, saves Oregon a lot of money "... but the price of operating an adult foster home keeps going up," she said. "In the past three years my utilities [bills] alone have doubled. My salary has not."

Hazen said that she has been operating in the red for the past three years, while working full time doing three shifts herself. "We need to pay providers fairly for the work they do, or we won't be able to provide our most vulnerable with the loving and healthy care they deserve," she said.

The meeting went overtime, so not all who signed up to speak got the chance.

STUDENTS AND
ALUMNI PREPARE
TO GET DOWN

see page 4



WE
HAVE
PUZZLES
FOR YOU

see page 6



ASLCC
VOTING!

see page 4

Mutual respect and understanding a must

E.J. OLSON
WEB EDITOR

WHY can't we all just get along? Obviously, this idealistic concept can never be a reality. People have fought, robbed and murdered each other since man's inception. Sometimes, though, a particular event will incite an especially vigorous shaking of my head, and I think to myself, "Why can't we all just get along?"

In January 2013, a lesbian couple commissioned a wedding cake at a bakery in Gresham, Oregon, only to be refused service because of their sexual orientation. A co-owner reportedly told the couple that their marriage was "an abomination unto the lord" before turning them away.

That's bold, to say the least, even hateful, to throw in the face of two perfectly willing customers. The couple filed a discrimination complaint with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries who, in February, announced they were ruling against the bakery; the couple could potentially be awarded up to \$150,000 in damages by the owners of the anti-gay establishment.

Discrimination under the guise of free speech or freedom of religion is unacceptable.

I grew up in a Christian environment and have witnessed this first hand. I understand that, because of certain beliefs, there are those who may not agree with someone's lifestyle. Though homosexuality is no more a choice than heterosexuality, everyone has a right to believe what they choose and live his or her life in a manner they see fit, provided doing so doesn't encroach on the rights of anyone else.

Those rights, however, do *not* make it okay to openly defy state law and discriminate against two innocent human beings by spewing whatever vitriol they grew up being told to believe.



HELENA RICHARDSON / THE TORCH

Imagine if these owners had refused to serve an African-American couple, saying they didn't serve their kind, that they were an abomination. How would the public have responded? Would there be such an outcry? Would anyone be arguing for and defending the bakery and the owners' right to refuse service? No.

The Bible is very clear about how Christians should treat people: the way Jesus did, with love and compassion. Jesus, the friend of sinners, would not have turned this couple away.

Instead he'd probably have baked the cake and wished the couple well, not condemned them for being different. That's what the

Bible teaches, and the Bible is what these bakery owners claim to have built their worldview around.

I'm not denouncing anyone for their beliefs. I'm pointing out the absurdity of their actions, yes, but not telling anyone what they should do or how to live their lives. I'm just asking the question, why can't we all just get along?

The gay couple left the bakery and promptly received their share of publicity, making the rounds to various news stations and soaking up their fifteen minutes of fame. Another bakery even made their wedding cake for free. What was supposed to be a happy time for the women became a petty game of pointing fingers and arguing through the media.

Instead of moving on with their lives and allowing the bakery owners to do the same after having to shut their doors due to the negative exposure, they've pursued the situation in a malicious attempt to ruin the livelihood of those who had wronged them.

My first response to this whole situation was that of vindication. Discrimination in any form is wrong and, as I saw it, the bad guys lost this battle. But as I continued seeing the reactions of others around me, as I argued in favor of the couple, I had a realization: some people really don't know any differently. These belief systems were established long before we were all born.

While I may not agree with someone's worldview, I must acknowledge that many factors go into shaping people's outlooks. It's equally harmful to make a ruckus, to point the finger right back and be outrageous or inflammatory.

Until people can open their minds and attempt to understand others, no matter how different their beliefs may be, this cycle of malice and hate will only continue. Life is short. We should celebrate our differences, respect one another and, as the cliché goes, live and let live.

Why can't we all just get along?

theTORCH

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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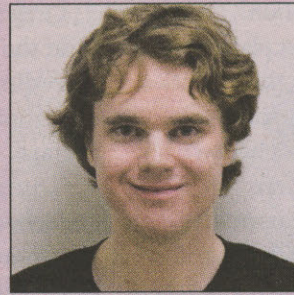
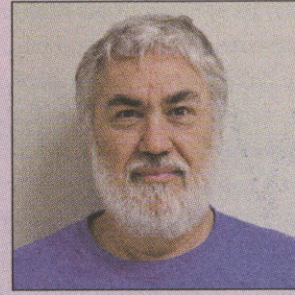


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- Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words.
- Guest commentaries should be limited to 600 words.
- Please include the author's name, phone number and address (for verification purposes only).
- The Torch reserves the right to edit letters and commentary for length, grammar, spelling, libel, invasion of privacy and appropriate language.

CORRECTIONS

VOLUME 50, EDITION 20

Ratification Sparks Discussion (Page 5)

- Senate voted 4-1-0, not 5-0-0, to suspend ASLCC bylaws to allow senator to be ratified.

POLICY

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SUBMITTED BY:

Michael S. Smith, volunteer math tutor

Math opens doors that are otherwise closed

IT'S unfortunate that "The Suze Orman Show" is now off the air, for Ms. Orman embodied the importance of math in finance and life. Those who sought help from her did not fully understand the importance of Math, as the "Can I Afford It?" or "How am I Doing?" segments showed.

My student who wanted to be a stockbroker thought learning logarithms had no relevance, until I showed him how to determine the doubling time of money with five calculator strokes (72 divided by the interest rate in percent equals number of years); it is a two line proof.

He was amazed. Another was thrilled to discover that by knowing the volume of a cylinder, he could determine cubic inch displacement of an engine. Math is important, can easily be made relevant, and — yes — even fun.

I grew up in an era where people did the same job their entire life. The world is rapidly changing; multiple careers during one's lifetime are now the norm. At 66, I have had three. We can't imagine what jobs will be needed 10 years from now, let alone 50.

The winners in this new world will be those who can

adapt; math is the single most important subject I know that increases one's adaptability. I taught adults in their 30s who suddenly discovered they needed an MBA to advance in their company.

When faced with linear regression in a business model, knowing the slope of a line becomes relevant, as does probability, servicing debt, survey design and measuring quality, to name only a few. Without math, the glass ceiling becomes cement; what seems so certain when one is young is no longer so with age.

I have heard students complain, like Ms. Scott, that they wouldn't use math. I could easily fill this paper with counterexamples, and my primary career was as a neurologist. I didn't start my third career, statistics, until I was 49, and I had to review calculus taken 32 years earlier in order to get accepted.

Math, like learning music, chemistry, or Spanish, takes work and practice. If Ms. Scott thinks that math is stressful and makes people tired, I can assure her that I survived the stress and fatigue of reviewing calculus and two years of graduate school, 300 miles commuting each way.

I have long felt we need parallel educational paths with varying math requirements; I agree that a community college should not be a high school finishing institution, but until elementary, junior, and high schools teach students how to add and subtract, learn the multiplication tables and know when a calculator result doesn't make sense, allowing remedial math to be the choice of a Lane student is saying math doesn't matter at all, countering Ms. Scott's own claim.

Offering math-free diplomas to increase graduation numbers is a bad idea. Our society needs proof of agreed-upon minimum math competence before a student graduates from high school. Until then, Lane students must deal with the "stress" of learning math. Life is tough.

In the meantime, I hope Ms. Scott understands that teaching compound interest to become financially literate requires algebra: Stating 'I=prt' doesn't allow one to understand continuous compounding any more than showing me middle C on a keyboard means I can find D major. I volunteer at Lane twice weekly by choice to help students. That is how important I think math is; those eight hours weekly are a sacred calling. Yes, sacred, not scared.

GUEST VIEWPOINTS

SUBMITTED BY:

Samuel Alemayhu, second year Lane business major

Why Facebook might be making you lonely

Part 3 of 3

WE compare the numbers of "likes" on our photos and statuses in order to validate our spots on the hierarchical ladder that makes up our network. If a certain selfie doesn't reach a number of "likes" it is thought to be "not that special." This obsession with constant validation from our peers in the form of "likes" and "retweets" has made users dependent on sites such as Twitter and Facebook.

Instead of unifying one another, these sites may act as a tool for members to validate their popularity. In a 2008 survey published by a team of researchers at the University of Denver, 35,000 American respondents were asked if they had ever had certain symptoms of narcissistic personal-

ity disorder (NPD). Among people older than 65, three percent reported symptoms. Among people in their 20s, the proportion was nearly 10 percent.

Across all age groups, one in 16 Americans has experienced some symptoms of NPD. Loneliness and narcissism are intimately connected. A longitudinal study of Swedish women demonstrated a strong link between levels of narcissism in youth and levels of loneliness in old age. I believe that this rise in narcissism may be directly correlated to the rise in loneliness. The connection is fundamental. Narcissism is the flip side of loneliness and either condition is a fighting retreat from the messy reality of other people.

With the connectivity that social media brings to friends and family, people feel that

it may act as a surrogate and only make up for the absence of the real thing. Author Sherry Turkle believes that this reveals how human beings function, when she claims "What Facebook has revealed about human nature is that a connection is not the same thing as a bond, and that instant and total connection is no salvation, no ticket to a happier, better world or a more liberated version of humanity."

She insists that our online presence has nearly become more important than our presence in real life. The constant use of social media tampers with our generation's ability to properly communicate with one another, which pushes us even further into the recesses of our social media personas. This social awkwardness will only continue with the excessive use of sites like Facebook

and Twitter.

It is important to remember that Twitter and Facebook are not to blame for this surge in loneliness — we are doing it to ourselves. Social networking sites are merely vehicles to connect with one another which, if used properly, can be a healthy way to solidify and strengthen one's own personal network.

Although ideal in theory, it is often abused. Author Stephen Marche states that "casting technology as some vague, impersonal spirit of history forcing our actions is a weak excuse." He believes that before things begin to change, we must hold ourselves accountable for this social epidemic. It is up to the individual to find his or her balance between the pixelated world and the one made up of flesh and bone.

ASLCC to sponsor tornado damage fundraiser

VERNON SCOTT
COPY EDITOR

Tornado compensation, bylaw changes and tuition hikes were topics of discussion at the Associated Students of Lane Community College meeting on Wednesday, April 29.

First item of business was a tornado relief funds request for \$250. The money would be used to conduct a two-day fundraiser to benefit students whose cars were damaged by the April 14 tornado at Lane. Senate voted 4-0-0 to approve the request.

The tornado relief fundraiser, featuring lunch and ice cream will be held on the main campus Monday, May 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No student government campaigning will be allowed at the event.

Next was a motion to fund an upcoming Oregon Student Equal Rights Alliance

Symposium. Because the requested funding is more than \$250, this was limited to a first reading and a vote cannot be taken until next week.

A discussion on bylaw changes to the six credit eligibility requirement for student government positions followed. Elections committee chair Robert Schumacher reported that since the six credit requirement is specified in the ASLCC constitution, it could only be changed via a student body vote. "The only thing we can really do here is provide recommendations for next year's administration for any adjustments for qualifications for office," Schumacher said.

Schumacher reported that the requirement is mirrored in work-study requirements and the standard for satisfactory academic progress, adding that in working group discussions, some thought the

requirement fair, but some expressed concern that it may not be fair, since not all who pay the mandatory student activity fee are eligible for office.

President Malisa Ratthasing reported that ASLCC is looking at the college budget and will consider alternative recommendations to the Board of Education that would not include a tuition increase. She also warned student government members not to participate in campaigning.

ASLCC faculty advisor Barbara Delansky spoke in response to Ratthasing's report. "There's really some difficult decisions coming ahead," she said. "Everyone's pre-committed to no tuition [increase] but I honestly don't know how we do both no tuition [increase] and no cuts without having some identifiable long-term solutions to the revenue side."

In her staff report, Campus Community Director Mariana Paredones announced that Carl Knoch has been ratified as the Council of Clubs vice-chair, adding that he had named transparency on campus as a high priority.

Vote for student government

Tues May 5 - Fri May 8



ASLCC Elections for 2015-16

There are two presidential tickets, each comprised of one presidential candidate and one vice presidential candidate.

Mariana Sofia Paredones, Presidential Candidate; Heath Oltman, Vice Presidential Candidate.

Ashley Jackson, Presidential Candidate; Jazzmen Vega, Vice Presidential Candidate.

There are eleven candidates for senator and only 10 will be elected.

Belen Ordonez
Cristian Martinez
Sora Boyd
Christine Ibeabuchi
Natasha Briquet-Walden
Evelyn Sanders
James Wessgert
Robert Kirkpatrick
Ebenezer Yemoh
Anna Sablan
Button Will

Ballot measure:

There is one ballot measure for the student fee referendum to increase the current student activity fee from \$54.30 to \$56.00, which requires a yes or no vote.

Shall the Student Activity fee be increased \$1.70 to provide funding for the ASLCC operating budget, food pantry, and to expand travel and training opportunities for students at large?

"Yes" Vote means:

The Student Activity Fee will increase from \$54.30 to \$56.00. This funding will be utilized by the ASLCC to increase supplies to the Rainy Day Pantry when needed, to pay for additional travel and conference costs for students to attend leadership development conferences.

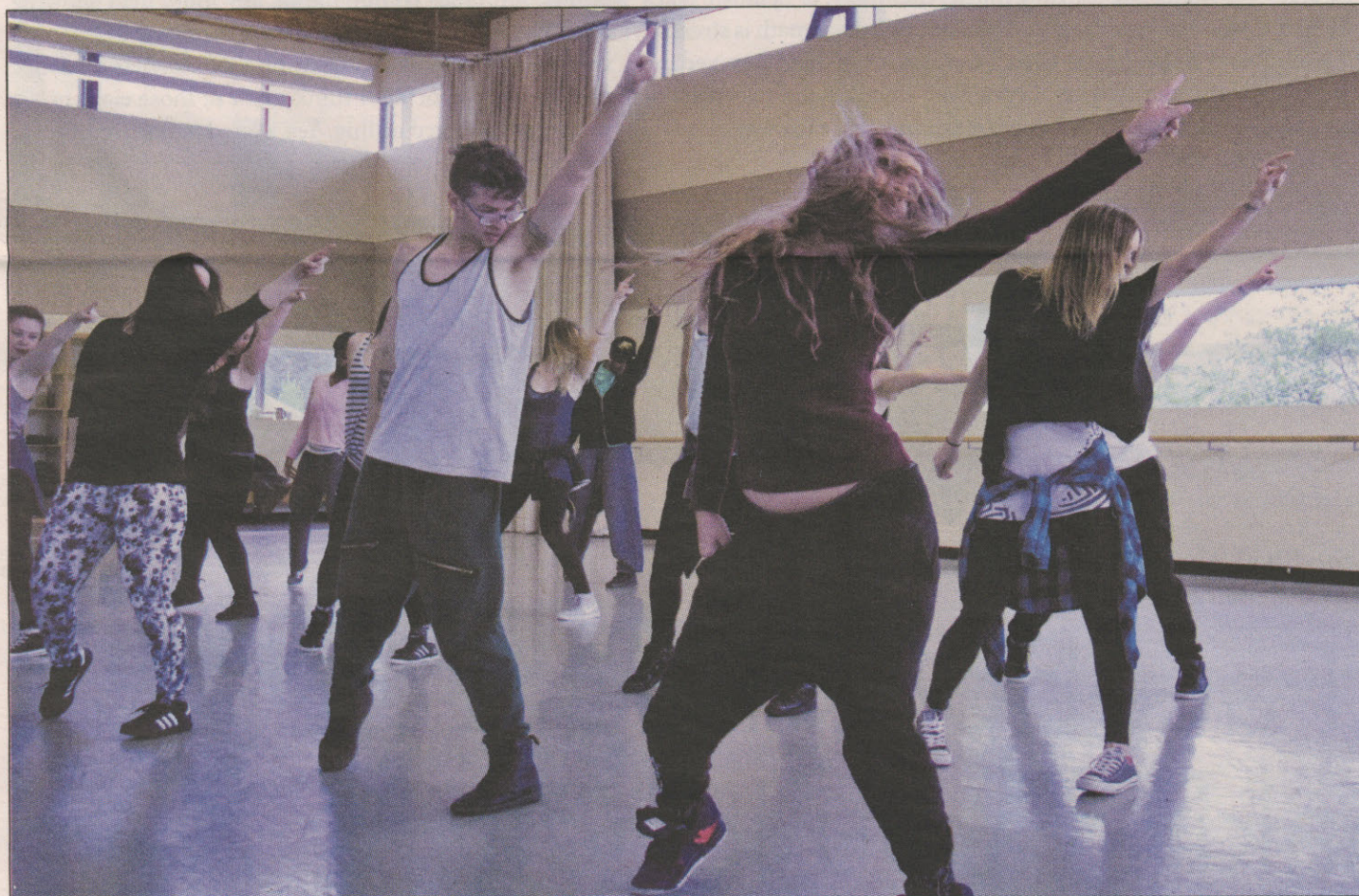
"No" Vote means:

The Student Activity Fee will not change.

Voting is online at OrgSync.

Complete election information is available at: <https://orgsync.com/69835/files/776796/show>

DANCE



AUGUST FRANK / THE TORCH

Current and former Lane students practice for the dancing event "Down 4 It" in Building 4 being organized by Lane Instructor Anita Stanford and Dance Northwest as well as 14 other dance companies.

Students and alumni prepare to get down

Anniversary brings back dancers and dances

AUGUST FRANK
PHOTO EDITOR

Dance styles such as dubstep, hip hop, jazz and more will be included in the tenth annual "Down 4 It" show being held on main campus. Dancers from 14 different dance companies will be performing.

Anita Sanford, Lane instructor and founder of Dance Northwest, has been working on the show with students and

alumni all year. She seeks to provide dancers with the opportunity to express themselves. She hopes that they, and all support staff, will have a positive and enriching experience.

Mindy Schmidling, who graduated in 2004, is coming back to Lane to participate in the show. "I love being able to see the new faces coming in and be able to teach them, and give them the experience that I had," Schmidling said.

For Tamarra White, who graduated in 2005, the sense of community and family sharing in the excitement together is what makes "Down 4 It" important to her.

Included is a section from Janet Jackson's "All For You" and Kate Bush's "This Woman's Work." Sanford has dedicated "This Woman's Work" to her mother who passed away ten years ago. "It was definitely inspired by her and how she influenced me to be the woman I wanted to be, the woman I could be," she said.

The piece goes deeper for Sanford. "Each individual dancer is putting their own story into it of the women they hope to be, or who inspired them and who continues to inspire them," she said.

In the past the show has been a benefit concert. Profits have been donated to orga-

nizations like "Women's Space" and "Food for Lane County." However this year, for the first time, money will be put back into Dance Northwest.

Performance and tickets:

Lane Ragazzino Performance Hall
Saturday, May 9. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
The show is for all ages, however parental discretion is advised due to some language and material that may not be suitable for all ages. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1437938>

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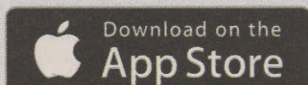
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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Son of Abijah
4 Portion
8 Female
12 Own (Scot.)
13 Hindu stringed instrument
14 Toward shelter
15 Sheep disease
16 Sprit (2 words)
18 Camelot lady
20 Varnish ingredient
21 Straw braid
25 Confusion
29 Occasional
32 Counsel
33 Rocket fuel
34 Friend of Pythias
36 Turk. title
37 Galatea's beloved
39 Redo
41 Pleasant-smelling bean
43 Tooth pulp
44 Mountain on

Crete

- 46 Spoken
49 Aura
55 Tumor (suf.)
56 Lank
57 Very (Ger.)
58 Pronoun contraction
59 Consecrated
60 Door part
61 Indo-Chin. people

DOWN

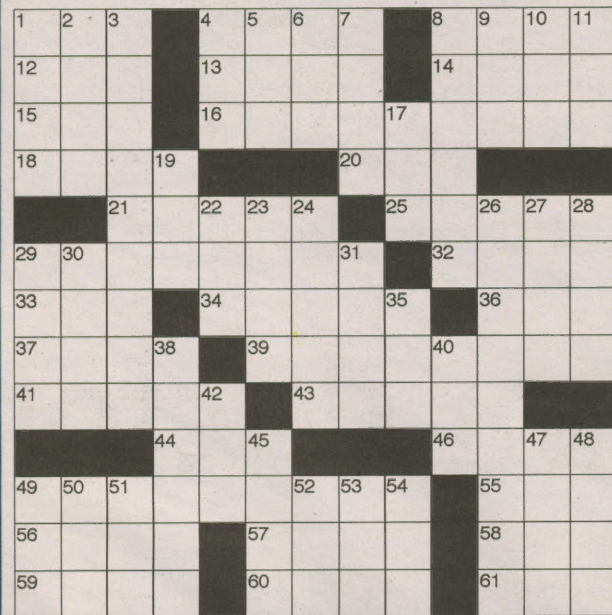
- 1 Rhine tributary
2 Condition (suf.)
3 Serum
4 Television channel
5 Objective
6 Genetic letters
7 Lofty
8 Chilean volcano
9 Peak
10 Body of water
11 Serum (pref.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

B	A	C	K	A	G	O	W	R	A	P
O	P	E	A	L	E	A	I	A	M	B
N	I	B	K	I	T	H	D	I	B	S
N	A	U	R	U	E	D	E	N		
			U	R	G	E	U	N	C	A
W	I	S	E	R	A	F	F	O	C	A
R	P	M	C	O	V	E	Y	A	T	A
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			L	A	L	O	L	A	M	I
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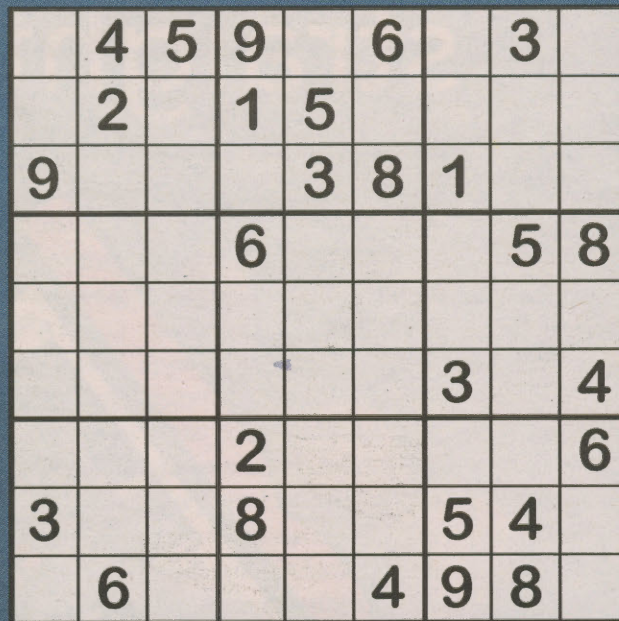
- 17 Science class
19 Daughters of the American Revolution (abbr.)
22 Son of Zilpah
23 "Cantique de Noel" composer

- 24 Marsh
26 Castor (2 words)
27 Restive
28 Shak. king
29 Lath
30 Little: music
31 Industrial fuel
35 Grandfather of Saul
38 Gaunt
40 Egg (pref.)
42 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
45 Sweetsop
47 E. Indian tanning tree
48 New sugarcane shoot
49 Number (suf.)
50 Electric unit
51 Trouble
52 Amazon tributary
53 Exclamations of delight
54 Ultimate degree



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Sudoku



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

Answer to Sudoku

1	7	2	4	9	3	6	5	8
8	5	3	1	7	6	4	9	2
4	9	6	2	8	5	7	3	1
3	6	9	7	2	1	5	8	4
7	1	5	6	4	8	9	2	3
2	8	4	3	5	9	1	6	7
9	3	1	8	6	7	2	4	5
6	4	7	5	3	2	8	1	9
5	2	8	9	1	4	3	7	6

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ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

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

"GQQN DYSR CQQU YE UVQ JRYSEW
LEW DYSR UVYSJVUF LU MYCUD
VQPJVUF."

— NQLBQ NPMJRPA

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Broad-mindedness is the result of flattening high-mindedness out." — George Santayana

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Events and Happenings

MAY 1 – MAY 7

Art Galleries (ongoing)

"L O C U S" By Laura Ahola-Young, 8-9am,
Bldg 11 Sister Art Gallery 103

Figures & Forms By Stehle and Wiltshire,
8-9am, Bldg 11 Main Art Gallery 119

A Tale of Two: Palettes/Palates, M-F, 8am-5pm,
Bldg 19 David Joyce Gallery 200A

Friday, May 1

College Closure: No classes or services

Arts & Entertainment:

Angels In America-Millennium Approaches,
7-9pm, Bldg 6 Ragozzino Performance Hall,
Main Stage

Sports:

Baseball at home vs. Linfield, 2-6:30pm, Main
campus baseball diamond

Women's Soccer at home vs. Oregon Club,
7-9pm, Main campus soccer field

Saturday, May 2

Arts & Entertainment:

Angels In America-Millennium Approaches,
7-9pm, Bldg 6 Ragozzino Performance Hall
Main Stage

Student Groups:

LCC RPG Group Meeting, 9am-5pm,
Downtown Campus Bldg 61 Conf. Rm. 420

Sports:

Baseball at Linfield, 2-6:30pm, Linfield
College Field

Sunday, May 3

Arts & Entertainment:

Angels In America-Peristroika, 2-4pm, Bldg 6
Ragozzino Performance Hall Main Stage

Monday, May 4

Arts & Entertainment:

Disability History Exhibit, 8am-5pm, Bldg 10
Art Project Area 105

Sports:

Track Hosting NWAC Multinationals, 9:30am-
5pm, Track and Field Bowl - Running Lanes

Student Groups:

Students For Life Meeting, 12-1pm, Bldg 1
Conference Room 212

National Society Of Leadership & Success,
6-8pm, Bldg 16 Group Study Room 229

Asian Pacific Islanders Student Union (APISU)
Meeting, 1-2:30pm, Bldg 31 Longhouse
Meeting Room 114

Tuesday, May 5

Events:

Council of Clubs Meeting, 4-6 pm, Bldg 19,
Room 243

Native American Craft Night, 6-9:30pm, Bldg
31 Longhouse Great Room 101

Workshops:

In-Person Keys to Success Workshop,
12-1:30pm, Bldg 19 Classroom 119

Student Groups:

Associated Students of LCC (ASLCC) Election,
www.lanecc.edu/aslcc/elections

Fencing Club Practice, 6:45-9:15pm, Bldg 5
Gym 203

Gender And Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
Meeting, 2-3pm, Bldg 4 Classroom 254

Sustainability Committee Meeting, 2-3pm,
Bldg 16 Geology Lab 1 142

Wednesday, May 6

Student Groups:

Associated Students of LCC (ASLCC) Senate
Meeting, 4-6pm, Bldg 3 Boardroom 216

Associated Students of LCC (ASLCC) Election,
www.lanecc.edu/aslcc/elections

OSPIRG Meeting, 3:30-5pm, Bldg 17
Classroom 310

LCC Film Club, 4-6pm, Bldg 17 Classroom 307

Phi Theta Kappa Meeting, 2-3:30pm, Bldg 16
Classroom 161

Thursday, May 7

Events:

Lane Peace Center Symposium, 7pm-9:30pm,
Bldg 19 Center for Meeting and Learning 100
(Tate) and 103-104 (Konnice)

Arts & Entertainment:

Angels In America-Peristroika, 7-9pm, Bldg 6
Ragozzino Performance Hall Main Stage

Student Groups:

Associated Students of LCC (ASLCC) Election,
www.lanecc.edu/aslcc/elections

Gender And Sexuality Alliance (GSA)
Meeting, 2-3pm, Bldg 4 Room 254

Fencing Club Practice, 6:45-9:15pm, Bldg 5
Gymnasium 203

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán
(MEChA) Meeting, 3-4:30pm, Bldg 5
Classroom 240

Asian Pacific Islanders Student Union (APISU)
and RoP Meeting, 5-8:30pm, Bldg 31
Longhouse Great Room 101

BOOK REVIEW



KARLA CONTRERAS / THE TORCH

Heavenly encounter for doctor

The memoir headed for hollywood

PENNY SCOTT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Proof of Heaven" is a memoir written by neurosurgeon Eben Alexander, M.D. who, while in a coma for a week, was far from unconscious — Alexander was in Heaven. There are two things that make this particular near death experience account remarkable and different from others I've read.

Spoiler alert: I give away the whole story.

The first is that the author is a neurosurgeon and, as such, is a member of an elite group. Members of this group commonly consider themselves in possession of superior knowledge and, therefore, know that NDE accounts are pure fantasy. The second remarkable feature is that the book is well-written and reads like a page-turning novel.

Alexander says that he felt compelled to write "Proof of Heaven" because of the message of love and hope that it offers humanity. Further, he admits to have been willfully ignorant of NDEs previously and, aware of the credibility that his professional standing affords, felt a sense of duty and obligation to share his experience.

This memoir is an interesting and very readable story, containing a back-story which brings a surprise toward the end. Alexander was adopted. His birth-sister, whom he had never met, had died years before. Fast-forward to his heavenly experience. Accompanying him on his excursion through Heaven was a woman he did not know. She acted as his guide and Alexander comments that the depth of love he felt from her was unlike anything he had experienced on earth.

Later, when he had recovered from his illness, a birth-family member sent him a picture of his deceased sister. Alexander, at

first haunted by the picture, slowly realizes that the woman he met in Heaven was his long, lost deceased sister.

This memoir is a thought-provoking story offering hope and comfort to those who fear death; it is also a heart-warming story about love, reunion and healing.

I liked "Proof of Heaven" because the subject matter is of great interest to me. Relatively few people pass through death's doorway and return to shed light on the mystery of death for the rest of us. So, in the arena of memoir, descriptions of NDEs offer something that is both unusual and relevant to us all. In my view the book has a ring of authenticity and, at the same time, presents cause for skepticism.

The authenticity lies in the author's description of Heaven which is not at all far-fetched compared to other accounts I have read. Also, Alexander's profession as a neurosurgeon lends credibility to his story: he offers insights that are both scientifically sound and also run counter to his training as a doctor.

He states that his entire training and belief system was turned upside down by the experience. He discovered that consciousness is possible without a brain.

Experience has taught me that the path to truth requires absolute willingness to be wrong, again and again.

This is a book about truth; it's not just a story of one man's experiences.

The near perfect story that wraps around the facts leaves me unsure about the author's motives. "Proof of Heaven" has best-seller and Hollywood written all over it. The book reads like a novel, and the seemingly irrelevant back-story about the author's adoption, which sets the reader up for a surprise towards the end, has me shaking my head in doubt.

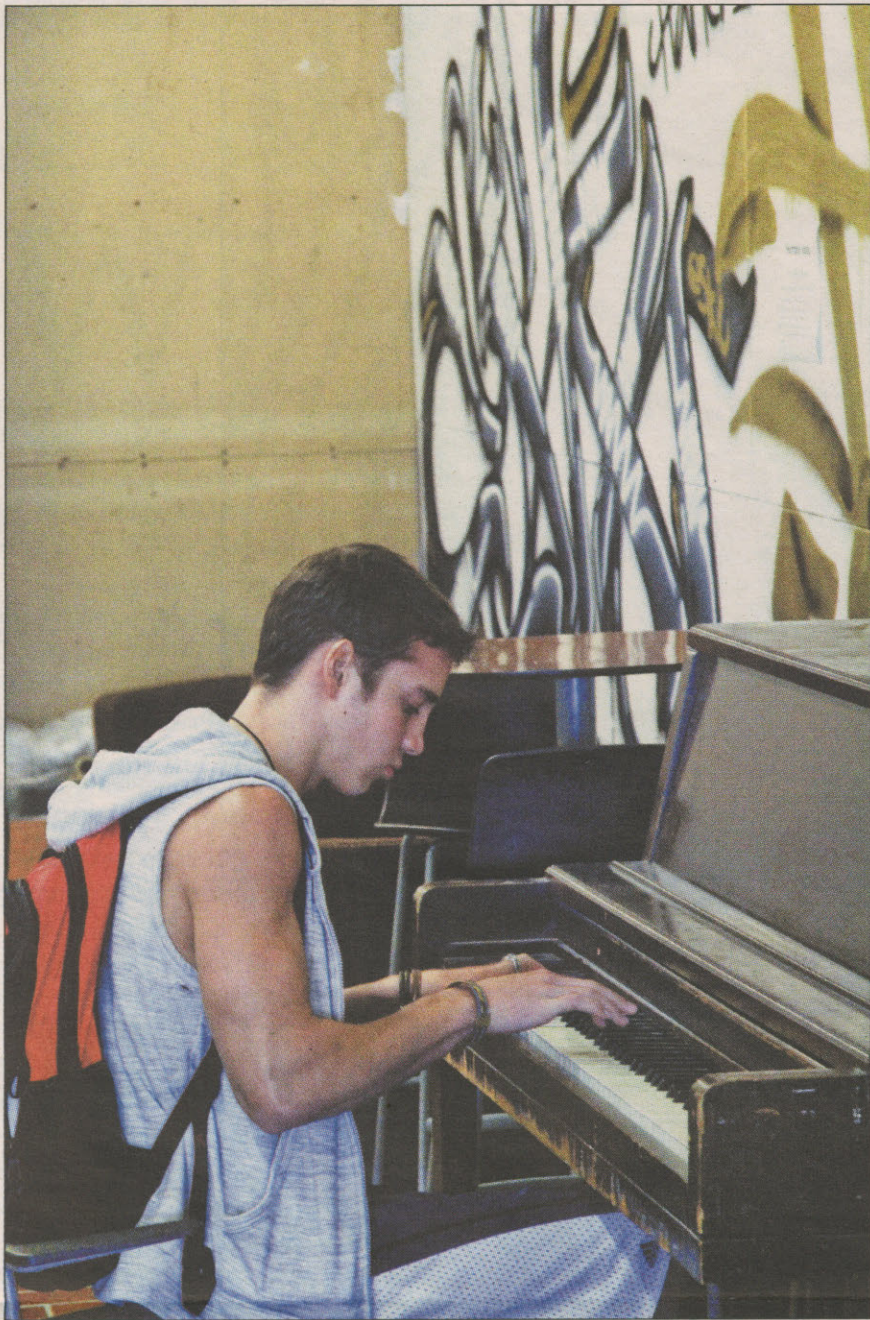
Also, the author holds the reader's attention and adds to the drama by shifting back and forth between his experience in Heaven and the experiences of his family and the medical personnel caring for his body in his absence. Of course there's nothing inherently wrong with this writing device; it just adds to my skepticism that Eben Alexander was seeking something other than truth.

It appears that in writing the book he may have been seeking fame and a movie contract and there isn't anything wrong with that either. It just strikes a skeptical chord in me that I cannot ignore. Lastly, and at the crux of my concern, I find the book very reminiscent of the 1998 movie, "What Dreams May Come" starring Robin Williams.

I do not doubt that Alexander's NDE was real, and I welcome any NDE account that sheds light on the nature of death and lessens fear in people. But is it okay that embellishments bring more attention to the book and potentially lessen more people's fears?

My answer is no regarding works that claim to be factual. Truth cannot be reached through lies and distortions. Misleading people erodes trust, which is always counterproductive. I think it wise to remember the popular creed of many-a-storyteller, "don't allow the truth to get in the way of a good story."

Everything in his book could be completely true, making it a totally amazing memoir. Alexander admits to wanting to reach as many people as possible, and there are few better ways of doing that than through a Hollywood movie. In the final analysis, I support this book as one worth reading and as a movie worth making. I'd go see it.



AUGUST FRANK / THE TORCH

Above: Bridger Grannis (left) and Ian Johnson (right) discuss different fencing swords at the LCC club tabling event on Monday, Mar. 30. Left: Freshman Samuel Hendrickson treats students in the cafeteria to music on March 3.

BREAK INTO PRINT

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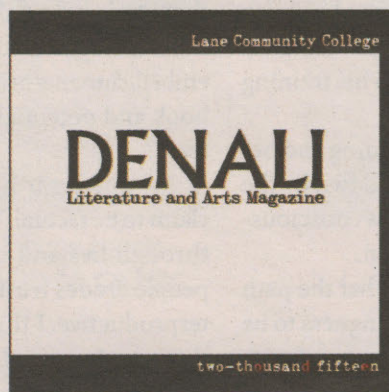
Applications for 2015-2016 *Torch* and *Denali* editors will be available online
Wednesday, May 6, at lcctorch.com

Applications are due Friday, May 23, at noon.

Return applications to Center Building Room 008
or the Languages Literature and Communication office, Center Building Room 457.

Denali Editor

The Denali editor selects and manages the 2015-2016 student staff, organizes a production schedule and has the final word on all matters concerning the magazine. He or she must have a concrete understanding of, or the commitment to learn, the technical skills of the production process of a magazine. He or she can expect to work an average of 20 hours per week. A background in literature and art is recommended. Knowledge of InDesign and Photoshop is extremely helpful. The editor must be an officially registered Lane student and must maintain a 2.00 GPA or higher. The Denali editor will be paid a stipend per term and will serve, fall, winter and spring terms of the 2015-2016 academic year.



Torch Editor

The Torch editor is responsible for directing newsgathering and the publication process, and has control of the news and editorial content of the paper. The editor should have journalistic, management and organizational abilities, training and/or experience. He or she should also have previous service on a newspaper staff, and have gained an adequate understanding of the operation of a newspaper.

The applicants must have completed at least six credits at Lane within the last 12 months and be registered for three credits per term at Lane while editor. The editor must maintain a 2.00 GPA or higher, can expect to work 30-40 hours per week, and will receive a monthly stipend of \$800 per month for 12 months. The editor will serve fall, winter, and spring terms of the 2015-2016 academic year.

