

theTorch

stories that matter

NOVEMBER 16, 2016 VOLUME 52, EDITION 8

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EMBODY THE EXTRAORDINARY

NEWS

theTorch

THE INDEPENDENT
STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Oregonians converge in Salem in support of Standing Rock

DONALD MORRISON
REPORTER

This Saturday protesters gathered outside of the Oregon State Capitol Building in Salem for the "Oregonians Stand with Standing Rock Rally and March."

The rally is one of many across the nation in reaction to the proposed construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline that will run through four states — Iowa, Illinois, North Dakota and South Dakota. The pipeline would run in close proximity to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, potentially polluting the main water sources in surrounding areas.

The Standing Rock protests garnered national attention in September after a police dog was filmed attacking five supporters who attempted to enter a construction site that had begun work

on what the Natives considered sacred land.

In late October Facebook users began "checking in" at the reservation in order to throw off law enforcement from tracking individuals who were already there, after reports of violent confrontation between protesters and police became national news. Over one million Facebook users checked in.

Oregonian Leslie Bradley also used Facebook to get the word out about her rally this past weekend. Bradley advertised the march through her Facebook page, where she has less than 50 friends.

"I wasn't sure if people would even see the event. I was excited to see that it was being shared throughout Facebook," Bradley said.

It wasn't expected to attract more than 100 people. Bradley seemed genuinely surprised when she told the crowd that she had just been informed that more than 200 people were in attendance.

"My husband said I couldn't do it, and when I found out I needed a permit to

hold a rally, I thought he may be right," Bradley said.

Protesters met under a cloudy sky across the street from the State Capitol building. Bradley had a microphone and a speaker setup, where she introduced several speakers — a mix of local activists, some of whom have ties to the Standing Rock Tribe. They spoke about the importance of water as a human rights issue, and not just an environmental issue.

Ken Runningcrane is a Native American from South Dakota. He relocated to Oregon 16 years ago after getting out of the Army.

"The reason we are here is because we understand that this affects us all. Water is the only thing that will keep us alive. This is not just a native or indigenous issue," Runningcrane said.

After the speakers commenced, protesters marched around the capitol building and chanted "water is life."

The Facebook event page indicates that it had been shared 3,000 times, and 430 people checked in as having gone to the rally.

Diverse journeys through LCC artists

Lane students and faculty display two new exhibits on campus

IAN TRAUTMAN
REPORTER

Lane Community College galleries are opening two new exhibits this month. Free to enter, these exhibits are located in the Art Gallery in Building 11 on Lane's main campus. The exhibits opened on Monday, Nov. 14 and will remain open until Wednesday, Dec. 7. The artists for these exhibits are either part-time faculty members or art students.

"Diverse Journeys Through Art" features the work from local artists, and Lane students, Karen Myers, Christine Paige and Laree Morgenstern. These artists are women who have dedicated much of their lives to studying and producing art. The exhibit features sculptures, prints and pastels that display traditional and contemporary forms which depict the diversity of the human condition.

"Two-person Exhibition" includes portraits of women done by Jan Halverson and an abstract triptych made of

Mohair, yarn produced from goat hair, by Andrea Ciaston. Both artists are part-time faculty at Lane.

Halverson produced a series of portraits of women that balance the dimensions of a flat panel with the depth of various textures. "In some way, each of them influenced the work in a very direct way," Halverson said about the subjects. Each woman provided Halverson with a different story to tell. Each portrait communicates the individual's essence in an emotional language that is meant to resonate with the audience.

Ciaston's triptych installation, entitled, "Sweet brother, if I cannot sleep My eyes are flowers for your grave," is a timely part of a seasonal cycle. Autumn is a time in many cultures for honoring the dead with holidays such as Día de los Muertos, Bon Festival, and All Saint's Day. Emulating human remembrances of the departed is part of the goal of this piece, while still producing a luminous aesthetic. The letter of inspiration for this piece, and the namesake of the triptych, is displayed next to it in the gallery.

The size and form of Ciaston's triptych is notable. The installation measures 6 feet tall and 8 feet wide.



Ian Trautman / the Torch

"Sweet brother, if I cannot sleep my eyes are flowers for your grave," by part-time faculty member, Andrea Ciaston, hangs in the LCC Art Gallery as part of "Two-person Exhibition." The exhibit is open from Nov. 14 to Dec. 7.

Ciaston said,

"[She] was fortunate to be able to share a large studio," adding that, "A large scale is rare these days due to space limitations."

In addition, the side panels protrude at an angle from the wall, creating a three dimensional reality, inviting the audience closer.

Halverson and Ciaston, the artists of "Two-person Exhibition," will be available for a Q&A this Thursday, Nov. 17 at 4:00 p.m. in the gallery. The exhibit coordinator,

Jennifer Salzman, views the Q&A as a wonderful opportunity that students should think more about, saying, "Students learn who we are within the classroom, and we talk about being artists, but to actually see what we produce is always exciting for students." A reception with free refreshments will follow the Q&A.

In January 2017, work from international artist Erica Rasmussen and San Francisco based photographer Ed Aust will be coming to the Art Gallery.

NEWS

Lane County warms homeless on winter nights

**Egan Warming Centers
come to action for homeless
residents**

**ELIZABETH COMISKEY
REPORTER**

Egan Warming Centers, which provides shelters for homeless citizens when temperatures drop below 30 degrees, is looking for volunteers.

After two decades of service in the Oregon National Guard, Major Thomas Egan struggled after retirement from the service. Eventually, he became homeless. As a result of no protection from the severe winter weather he was found frozen with a bottle of vodka in his hand on a Eugene road in 2008. The temperature was 15 degrees. Local community members united, and formed "Egan Warming Centers" to ensure another homeless life would not be lost again in Eugene.

Lane county hosts nine active centers, with two ready for overflow. Men, women and children are all welcome for refuge at the warming centers. Families are generally directed to the Mission, who are better

equipped for their needs. Two warming center sites allow pets, the Seventh Day Adventists, and Ebbert Methodist Memorial churches.

Last year, between Nov. 15 and March 31, EWC housed an average of 250-300 people. In order for a building to become a warming site, it must meet certain criteria. The location needs to have bathrooms, and preferably a kitchen, and cannot be located near a school.

"Keeping a large pool of volunteers to keep sites up and running on a moment's notice is difficult," Pastor Dan Bryant, of First Christian Church said. Lane Community College is a host of a warming center, Building 4, Room 104.

Volunteers are trained in de-escalating situations, EWC policy and procedures and information of how the system works.

In 2014 First Lady Michelle Obama executed a challenge to mayors across the nation. "The

Mayors Challenge to end Veteran Homelessness" was created with aspirations of housing as many homeless veterans as possible.

Saint Vincent de Paul and the City of Eugene accepted the challenge. Operation 365 was created with the goal of housing one homeless veteran every-day for a year in Eugene. Operation 365 exceeded expectations — the year closed with 404 veterans housed.

— Dan Bryant
First Christian Church Pastor

Mayor Kitty Piercy and other Lane County Leaders, including McDonald,

have been invited to the White House to celebrate the local success of Operation 365. Eugene officials fly out Sunday, Nov. 20 to attend their honoring at the White House on Monday, Nov. 21.

In order for the Egan Warming Centers to operate, about 1,000 volunteers are needed. For the next free training, or more information email heartofeugene.org.

**"Keeping a large pool of
volunteers to keep sites up
and running on a moment's
notice is difficult."**

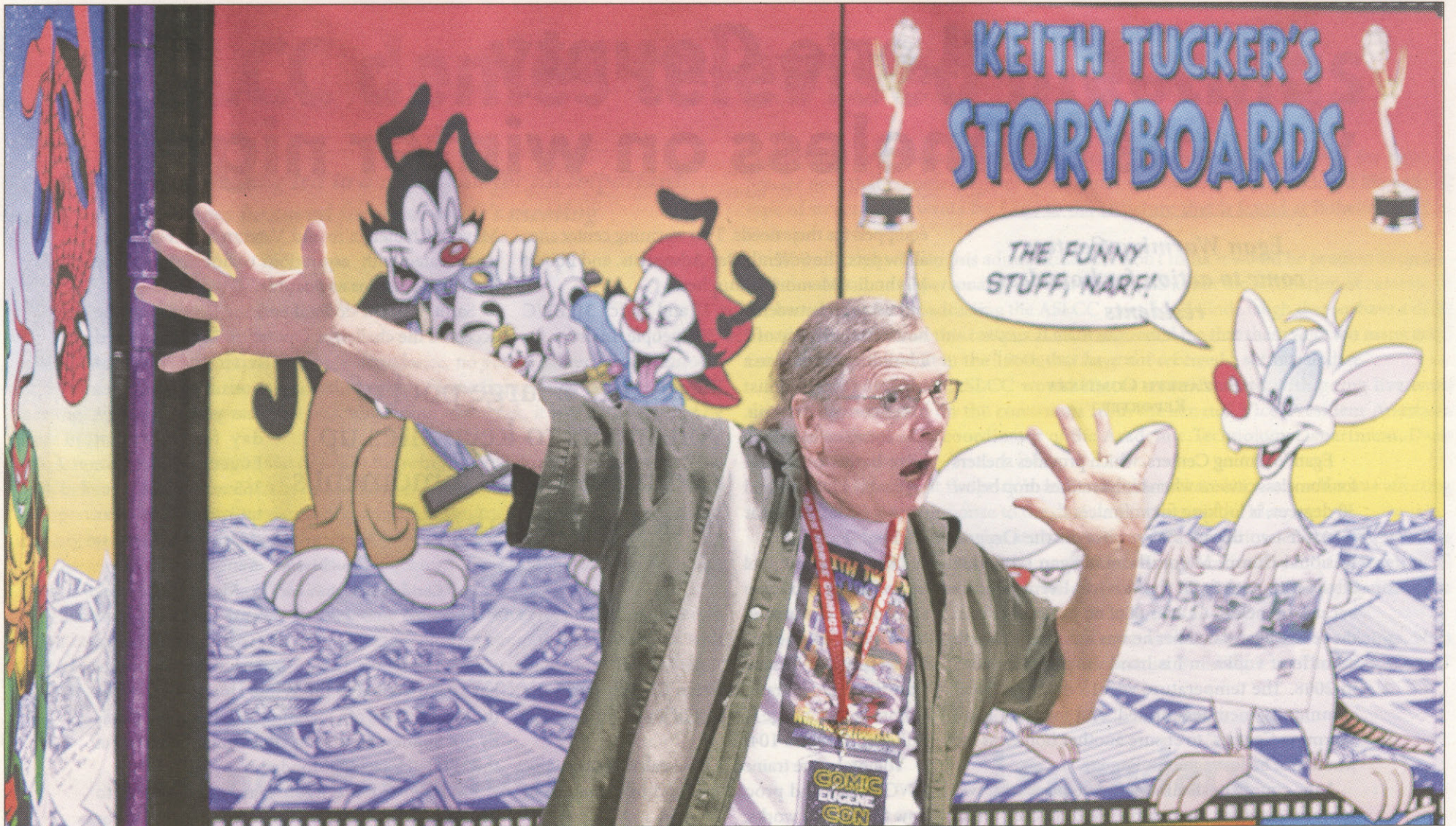
We should call it the "Last-minute Homework Express."

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NEWS



Christopher Palanuk / the Torch

Comic Con vendor Keith Tucker poses up against his storyboard panel during the second day of the 2nd Annual Eugene Comic Con at the Lane Events Center on Nov. 12. "It's like everywhere you go people are for the same love of the medium. It's like when people come up to our booth, they're like 'You drew my childhood!'" he stated. "It seems like no matter where we go...people love it."

Eucon full of heart and soul

2nd annual Eugene Comic Con brings together the best of the West with panelists of film fame

CHRISTOPHER PALANUK
PHOTO EDITOR

From the actor who played Yoda to the artist behind Ducktales, nearly 2,000 people from the Eucon event Facebook page said they turned out this year for the 2nd Annual Eugene Comic Con (Eucon) to dress up as ("cosplay") their favorite characters and chat with those that inspired them. A three day event that spanned Nov. 11 - 13 at the Lane Events Center in Eugene, this year's Eucon highlighted actress Ruth Connell of the CW series "Supernatural," actor Deep Roy from the newest "Star Trek" movies, and actor David Anders from the TV show "iZombie."

While these were the star attractions, the artists were the heart of Eucon, including Emmy award winning artist Keith Tucker of "Pinky and the Brain."

"When people come up to our booth they're like, 'You drew my childhood!'" Tucker said. "It seems like no matter where we go... people love it."

That same love for the medium was expressed by Portland artist Valentine Barker. "I've drawn for as long as I can remember," he stated. "[I found out] it'd be difficult to make money as an artist, but it's possible and it was a passion of mine and I just decided to follow my passion."

Speaking about passion, most artists expressed their joy for the size of the convention. "This is a good show because it's not so packed where you can't talk to people ... This is a good one because, like, we can talk for a few minutes; no big deal," Washington-based artist Clayton Hollifield said.

If the artists are the heart of a Comic Con, then the patrons of Eucon are the soul. Diving, running, leaping, and stomping their way around tabling artists, many cosplayers from all types of media walked in to show off their hard work.

Judah Banke, a professional wedding DJ and MC, sported a Cloud Strife outfit that had taken him 40-50 hours to make.

Gary and Caitlin Manhart, from Eureka, California, wore matching full body Mandalorian-based costumes.

These cult classics, including "Indiana Jones and a couple of light-up Stormtroopers, weren't the only costumes to catch the eye. Comic Con participant Kayla Lynn brandished a custom Ahri costume she had made for her from the massively popular League of Legends video game.

Cosplayers and artists alike voiced their opinions on the show, predominantly focusing on the costumes and what could be improved.

Concerning the costumes they liked best, Eucon participants Aurel and Miranda (no last names provided), who dressed up as She-Hulk and Harley Quinn, jokingly pointed at each other. "No," Miranda stated about their costumes as Aurel laughed. "I really liked seeing the Star Wars group in the back. I thought that was really cool."

Concerning improvements, the consensus was that the second Eucon had more organization but could have had more features. Palmer suggested more celebrity guests and cosplay groups. "I think it would be interesting to have ... maybe a few more cosplay groups. Maybe feature a few more different cosplayers. I think that would be interesting to kind of incorporate into, you know, having like this wide culture kind of exposed to the Con. I think that would be a good step forward."

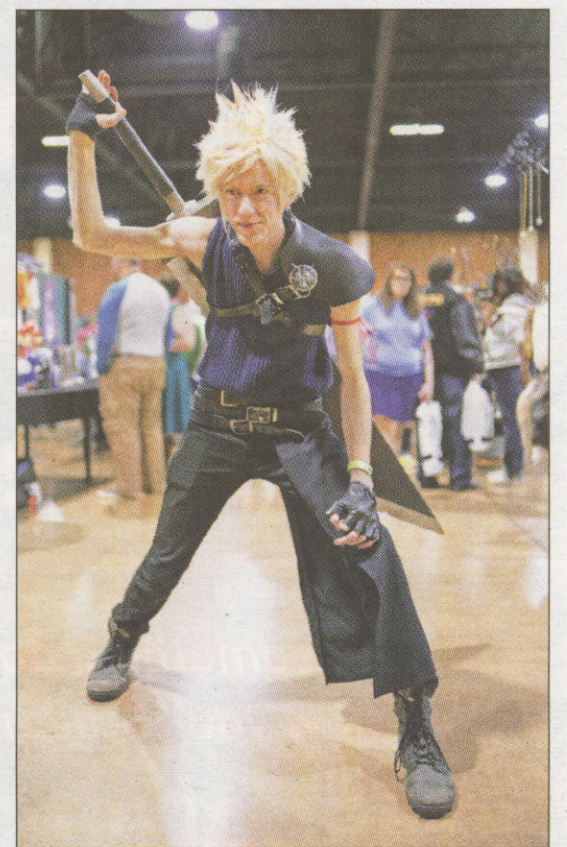
Comic Con participant Megan Little suggested that there should be more fan run panels instead of having a guest.

Aurel and Miranda wanted more booths with action figures, but stated that it wasn't too important. "It's just something that we'd like to see," Miranda said, "but... we wouldn't stop coming because of that."

Though these improvements were suggested, overall the show went off without a hitch. CYA Security patrolman Norman Wood even stated that the show had gone without incident. "Been a pretty mellow show," he said, "Everything's been going really well."

Volunteer Jon Dougherty, who had expressed some concerns over the coordination of volunteers, stated, "It can only get better from here."

Though exact dates are still to be announced, the next Eucon is slated for November 2017.



Comic Con participant Judah Banke smiles as he poses for a photograph during the second day of the 2nd Annual Eugene Comic Con at the Lane Events Center on Nov. 12. Banke, dressed as Cloud Strife from the Final Fantasy series, stated that it took 40-50 hours to make the costume and that his favorite Final Fantasy game is FFVI.

(Cover photo) **Iron Man cosplayer** has a friendly interaction with Haley, who was wearing a Wonder Woman costume at the Eugene Comic-Con, which was held at the Lane Events center on Nov. 11-13.

NEWS

Eugene welcomes its first zine festival

ERIC HOWANIEZ
REPORTERREPORTER

Eugene hosted the Euzine Comics and Zine Fest on Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Broadway Commerce Center. This is the first year for the fest. The Commerce Center was at maximum capacity with 50 publisher tables. Zine is a catch-all term for a self-published booklet that usually includes non-mainstream stories or information.

"I love that zines can be anything," Euzine festival organizer Jamie Walsh said. "This is our first year and we see this fest growing." Many elements associated with production were on hand — screen printing, button making, stickers, patch making and general do-it-yourself (DIY) publishing. Most are produced, published and distributed by one person, though some very well known zines are community projects. The typical asking price is about \$1 - \$5, but fan communities are heavily into trading with many distributed freely as a community service.

"It stems from this very accessible and inexpensive means to communicate," Walsh, whose favorite local zine is titled "Tectonic Jelly," said.

"For years I was sort of known as the zine-ster of Eugene," Lane graduate Sage Liskey said. But he hopes that reputation will fade now that other people are producing locally. Liskey showcased a number of his own titles like "You are a Great and Powerful Wizard" and "A Truthagandist Primer."

"The Eugene zine scene was surprisingly very small but through this event I'm excited about it growing," Liskey said. He produces booklets about political organizing, activism and mental health and creates about 20-30 of each zine for festivals. While he has attended the Olympia and Los Angeles festivals, Liskey hopes to one day attend the Chicago zinefest.

"I have an old '90s gigantic robot printer that is excellent. Old technology really does the job," Liskey said.

Printed zines face challenges from the internet but purists still talk about the desire for people to hold something in their hands.

Zine culture has a long history with punk rock and radical politics but Walsh has noticed more variety lately.

"People are taking zines in different



Eric Howanietz / the Torch

EUZINE zine fest at the Broadway Commerce Center.

directions and I see a lot of variation now," Walsh said.

"I think that there is going to be a deeper interest in the alternative, the radical, in direct action and in so many forms of protest and self-expression,"

Liskey said about America's shifting political climate and whether it will cause a zine resurgence. Walsh says that there was a waiting list for tables at this year's festival and she hopes to organize an even bigger event next year.

Drop some fun in
your timeline.

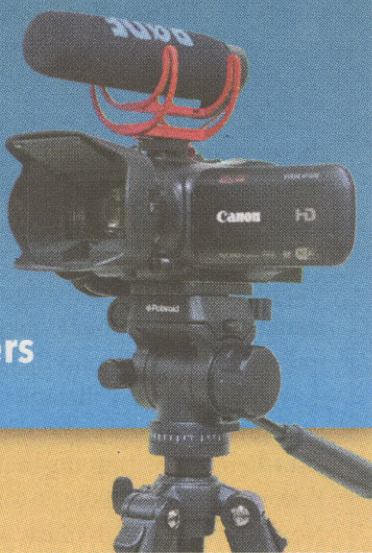
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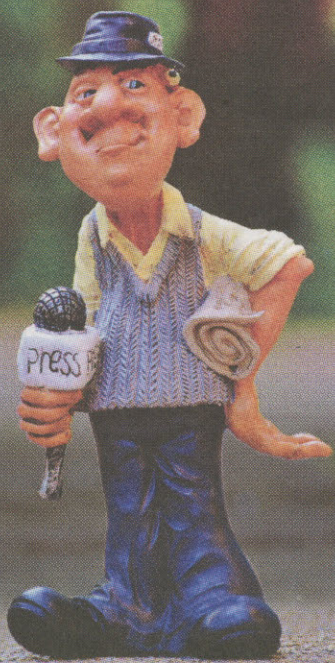
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**VANDANA
SHIVA**

SOIL NOT OIL

Scientist, philosopher, feminist, author, environmentalist, activist, Dr. Vandana Shiva is a one-woman movement for peace, sustainability and social justice.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016

Lane Community College
Main Campus
Performing Arts, Building 6,
6-7:30 pm

Doors open at 5 pm
The event is live streamed at
lanecc.edu/peacenter
and is free and open to the public

To request accommodations that will facilitate your full participation in this event contact the Center for Accessible Resources at least one week in advance at (541) 463-5150 or accessibleresources@lanecc.edu



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NEWS

ASLCC denies televised meetings

A shortened meeting led to a quick call for all important business be saved for next week's meeting

TREY KODMAN
REPORTER

With only four of the nine senators in attendance, no voting power or quorum was implemented this week at the Associated Students of Lane Community College (ASLCC) meeting. Although, the agenda that was tabled until next week, it was still discussed by those in attendance.

- A funds request of \$200 (\$50 per day) for refreshments during "Quiet Week," the week before finals week, was put in by Multicultural Program Coordinator Renata Perez and sponsored by Senator Brendan Sanders and Senator Imani Beasley. Perez explained that any money that was not used she would be returning it to the ASLCC.

- During the discussion on "Quiet Week" Senator Cairo Smith asked Vice President Anastasia Vail why it wasn't called "Dead Week."

"There are a couple of reasons for that. One reason is instructors aren't supposed to assign homework at that time. Another reason is that on campuses it is the week with the highest rate of suicide among college students. So, I personally don't like calling it "Dead Week," Vail said.

- Senator Sean Goddard proposed purchasing rainproof enclosures for Bristow Square now that commencement ceremonies will be held there. Goddard likened the type of structure he wants for Lane to the structure that is found at Bohemia Park in Cottage Grove.

"If we brought this to this administration, I don't think it would be prudent to undertake this installation, personally," is what Smith said about the facilitation of cameras in the boardroom for broadcasting the ASLCC meeting. "I kinda laugh that we have a cable broadcasting studio on this campus at all. It reminded me that there were too many good facilities that were built in the 1960s that have not received a serious update."

"It doesn't look like ASLCC would like to move forward with going live from the boardroom based on the comments from the senate," Vice-President Anastasia Vail said to the project coordinator of the Academic Technology Department, Dean Middleton.

"I figured how to cut the price in half, so if the sticker shock was what was affecting it," Middleton said in response to the denial of furthering the idea.

Still, the senate didn't budge at the new figure for the estimated cost of upgrading the multimedia capabilities of the normal meeting place for the ASLCC meeting. "I just don't think anyone would ever want to watch it," Smith said during finalizing the discussion.

No new agenda items were offered for next week by the attending senators. Next week's meeting will be back in the boardroom in Building 3 on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 4 - 6 p.m.

Lane President wins outstanding award

Spilde recently won Howard Cherry Award for Outstanding Administration

KIRA JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lane Community College President, Mary Spilde, recently won the prestigious Howard Cherry Award for the 15 years she has spent working with this college. After 37 total years spent working in education, Spilde is currently in her 16th year at Lane and will be retiring at the end of this school year with the Howard Cherry Award for Outstanding Administrator.

The Howard Cherry Award is given out annually at the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) Annual Conference. There are three awards — an outstanding administrator, advocate and board member. These awards, named after Dr. Howard Cherry, are some of the highest awards a community college administrator can earn. Lane board of education members Gary LeClair and Sharon Stiles also won awards for dedicated service at this same conference.

According to a press release, the announcement brought conference attendees to their feet with whoops, cheers and long rounds of affirming applause.

Presidents Greg Hamann of Linn-Benton Community College and Camille Preus of Blue Mountain Community College nominated



Spilde for the award.

"Mary earned this award many times over — both in terms of what she has accomplished at Lane Community College and even more so for what she has accomplished and contributed to all of us as a collective of community colleges," said Hamann and Preus in their nomination letter.

Legendary environmentalist lectures at Lane

The writer, scholar, activist and scientific philosopher from India, Vandana Shiva comes to LCC

TREY KODMAN
REPORTER

In an ever-changing world for activists, there are some who stand above the rest in the face of danger, and even the threat of death. With so many resource-based conflicts happening as well as three assassinations of environmental movement leaders, there is a lot at stake for these individuals well beyond their causes.

Vandana Shiva, a champion of human and environmental rights in India and elsewhere, is visiting the main campus Performing Arts Building 6 this Monday, Nov. 21. Shiva will share with those attending her views on the oil industry, and how soil will be the next lucrative commodity where supplies are shrinking due to excess pollution.

"We feel very blessed to bring this world-renowned champion of peace and biodiversity to Lane Community College," Professor Stan Taylor said, a Lane Peace Center Chair and Political

Science instructor.

"Everywhere Vandana Shiva speaks she draws overflow crowds. The Performing Arts building theater has 500 seats and we expect them to all be filled," Taylor said. "Anticipating potential overflow, we have several additional rooms for attendees to watch the talk via live stream."

"It is because we built our economics, our politics, our cosmology around oil. If you think of it, industrialism begins with fossil fuels. The entire thinking in terms of a fragmented mindset, in terms of a separation from nature is a separation within nature. All of that is a result of the fact that we could ignore the vibrant ecological cycles of the Earth, and imagine that we could cheat nature with fossil fuels," Shiva said in a "Soil Not Oil" Conference which was recently posted on youtube.com.

"It is time to stop thinking of climate change through fear," Shiva also said in the video. "It is time to start thinking of climate change as an opportunity the earth has given us to return to our roots — to return to the soil."

Shiva's talk entitled "Soil Not Oil" will be in the Performing Arts Building 6 on Monday, Nov. 21 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. — the event is free and open to the public.

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NOVEMBER 17

CAR SEAT HEADREST
Naked Giants
Girls Punch Bears

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 18

STEEP RAVINE
Spiller
Lake Toba

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 20

MC CHRIS
MC Lars
Mega Ran

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 25

AESOP ROCK
Homeboy Sandman

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 27

A GOOD TRIP WITH SHANE MAUSS
(Psychedelic Comedy)

OPINION

'Progressive' Oregon still dead last in corporate taxes

JORDAN RICH
COLUMNIST

Ballot Measure 97 got voted down. Corporate propaganda is the main factor, with the opposing campaign outspending the supporting campaign by \$9.5 million. Without the three billion per year that Measure 97 would've generated, it's going to be interesting to see how our legislators pay for Oregon's budget problems. Oregon will still be dead last in the nation in corporate taxes and with President Trump it's likely that Oregon will receive even fewer funds for education and healthcare.

Who will pay for these costs? You, most likely. Instead of making large corporations pay their share, Oregon voters have decided to let them continue to abuse our state as a place where they can make Oregonians pay the same prices while paying far less in taxes.

As a result, services like Oregon Health Plan will most likely be significantly reduced. The costs for services that most likely won't be reduced, like Oregon's public pension,

will have to be made up for by creating new taxes on Oregonians. The best case scenario is that Kate Brown and the rest of Oregon's legislature will create a tax similar to Measure 97's. I find it unlikely, though, considering how Democrats tend to roll over to Republican opposition and large corporate donors are influencing state and local governments an increasing amount in recent years.

Even if a tax similar to Measure 97's is passed it will be nowhere near a large. It will likely serve as a cushion to keep Oregon's services scraping along without any significant long term source of revenue. Oregon schools will continue to be underfunded, either as bad as they are now or worse.

Hopefully another ballot measure will be crafted similar to Measure 97 that addresses some of the concerns that voters had with it. I think creating tax exemptions for high sales, low profit businesses such as farms would be smart. Oregon cannot afford to be last in the state in corporate taxes.

In fact I predict that if Oregon continually fails to pass a progressive tax rate like Measure 97, we will see an actual sales tax in our future.

Pronouns
by
Rick Williams



Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (abbr.)

5 Turk. title

9 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)

12 Oriental maid

13 Pinafore

14 Sleeveless Arab cloak

15 Firebug

17 Mine (Sp.)

18 Indo-Chin. language

19 Moles

21 Revise

24 Suspend

27 Soak

30 Terrapin

32 Pleasant

33 Cost of living index (abbr.)

34 Household gods

36 Exclamation
- 37 Arm bone

39 Starnose

40 Indian ground salt

41 Spirits of the dead

43 Son of Leah

45 Adjective-forming (suf.)

47 River into the North Sea

50 Vigor

52 Free

56 "Fables in Slang" author

57 Bird

58 East

59 Sleep

60 Headland

61 Elide
- DOWN
- 1 Hiatus

2 Starch (pref.)

3 Edible root

4 Oar's fulcrum

- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
- BAT

AGHA

TEAL

UTE

BOAZ

ODIO

CUR

ALLOTMENT

KAMA

FOVEA

ABA

ATAJO

TOGETHER

ORAL

AKA

LETUP

ASP

HINT

BEEHOUSE

AETAT

ICC

BOHEA

HAAB

MALLEABLE

RIA

EVOE

NOTE

IDS

GAIT

GNAR

ASH
- 5 Luzon people

6 Cotton machine

7 Fr. exclamation

8 Bent

9 Brazen

10 Mother of Hezekia

11 Shoe size

16 Emulate

20 Vein (pref.)

22 Muslim holy man

23 Alps

25 Yearn

26 Affirmative

27 Slimy stuff

28 Wide-mouthed vessel

29 Seal

31 Proofreader's mark

35 Cut

38 Atomic Energy Commission (abbr.)

42 Black buck of India

44 Epic by Homer

46 Rounded projection

48 Cold alpine wind

49 Norse mythical hero

50 Old Doric name of Zeus

51 Artificial language

53 Power (Lat.)

54 Curve

55 No (Scot.)

Sudoku

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

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

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

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OPINION

A new sci-fi classic has arrived

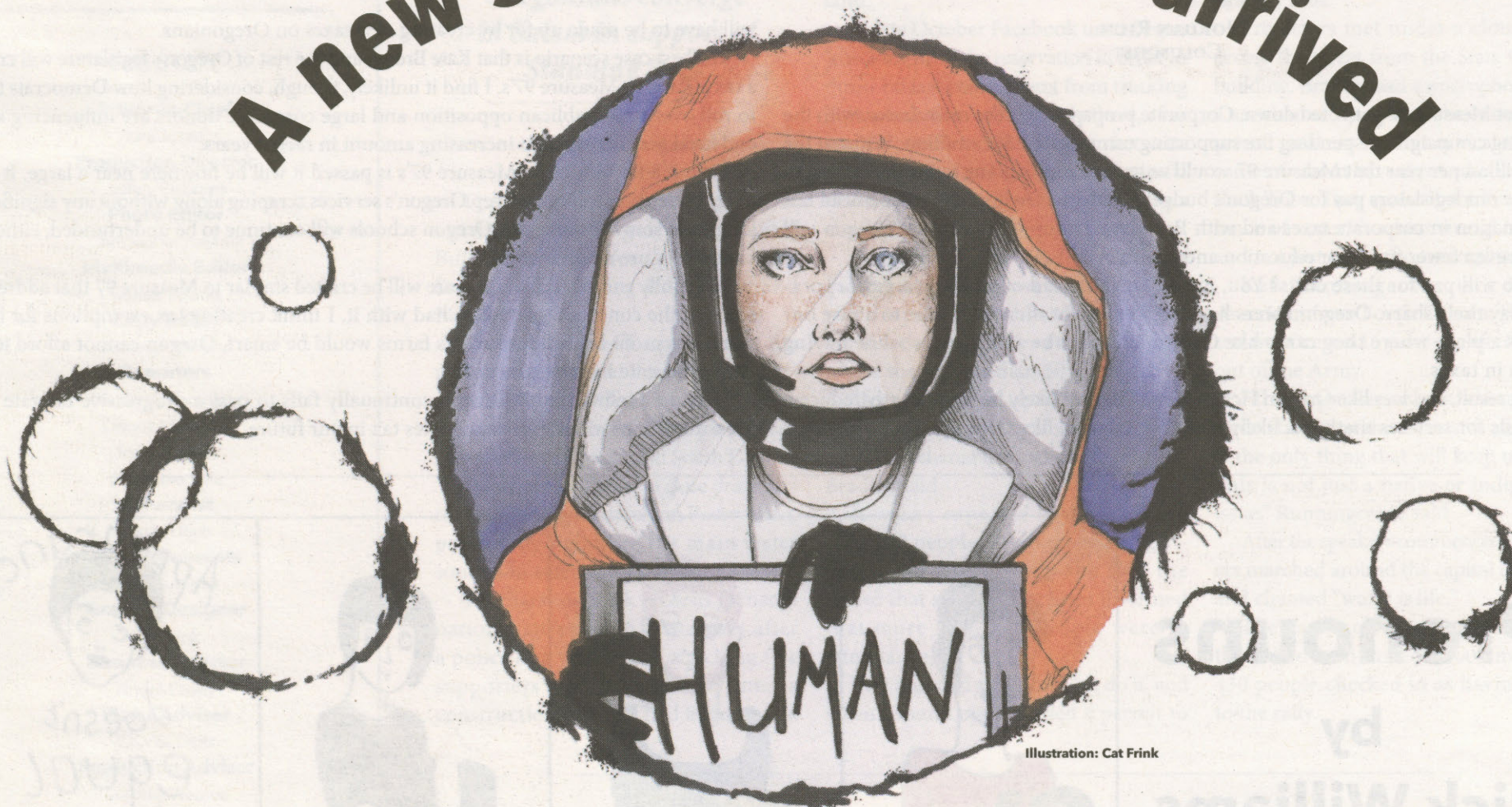


Illustration: Cat Frink

"Arrival," based on the short story, "Story of Your Life" by Ted Chiang, follows the events of twelve alien spacecrafts that have landed on random locations on Earth. Louise Banks (Amy Adams), an expert linguist, is brought in by U.S. Army Colonel Weber (Forest Whitaker) to the craft that landed in Montana. She works with theoretical physicist Ian Donnelly (Jeremy Renner) to establish communication with the two extraterrestrial beings, known as Heptapods (who are nicknamed Abbott and Costello by Ian), to find out what they want and why they've landed here.

What makes talking about this film so challenging is that it's the type of movie that's better if you see it not knowing too much going in.

After many disappointing blockbuster-sized projects — like "Independence Day: Resurgence" or any film by Neill Blomkamp — that have failed to create interesting characters and plots that have something creative to offer, director Denis Villeneuve ("Prisoners" and "Sicario") and screenwriter Eric Heisserer ("Final Destination 5" and "Lights Out") masterfully crafted one of the best first-contact films since "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

Villeneuve and Heisserer chose to take a tired sci-fi cliché and present it in a way that felt fresh. For those who were expecting a mindless studio cash-grab will be surprised



HUNTER RULAND
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

by getting a beautiful and powerful character piece that just so happens to take place at the same time as aliens visiting Earth.

Villeneuve's direction shines during the scenes where we first see the alien craft in an epic long take as we follow a helicopter landing on the military site where most of the film takes place, as well as the suspenseful lead up to Banks' first meeting with the Heptapods — made more haunting by Jóhann Jóhannsson's breathtaking score. The most interesting thing about Villeneuve directing

is that his previous films have typically dealt with themes of the worst aspect of humanity, but here, he chose to tell a story where any conflict is solved by civil conversations.

Adams gives a career-defining performance in the film as she successfully carries the emotional weight effortlessly. Though there is some irony in this role as she also plays a crucial role in a different kind of first encounter film, "Man of Steel." Adams sells both the terror of first meeting the Heptapods and wonder of being the first human to succeed in communicating with them.

Where she truly shows her talent is her flashback scenes with her daughter Hannah, who died at the age of 12 due to a rare brain cancer. These scenes typically in most films fall flat due to them not adding anything to the overall story or feeling super clichéd, however, Villeneuve and

Heisserer found a brilliant and emotional way of making these scenes work to the best effect.

While Renner's performance is fine, the character of Ian isn't the most interesting man in the world. He's mostly there to ask Banks to simplify her vocabulary and provide some comedic relief. However, it is a nice role-reversal for a film of this nature. Typically, it would be the female character that would be given nothing important to do and only exist to further the development of the male lead.

One warning that must be given before recommending this film is that audiences need to be willing to see a film that will toy with your head. Not the same way a Christopher Nolan film does, but rather that the film makes a lot of risky decisions that will take two or three viewings to fully understand. These decisions will alienate most mainstream viewers who want things to make sense on the first viewing.

"Arrival" is one of those films that must be seen in theaters with a group of friends or family so that you'll be able to talk about how the film made you feel once the credits start rolling. This film joins the ranks of "Midnight Special" and "Hell or High Water" as one of the year's best films and gives us even more of a reason to look forward to Villeneuve's next project, the much-awaited sequel, "Blade Runner 2049."



Spilde responds to national election

MARY SPILDE
LCC PRESIDENT

I've been thinking of all of you. Today on the eve of Veterans Day I am thinking of our student veterans who have defended our rights and our country. Their sacrifice protects our democracy and allows us to exercise our right to vote as many of us did this election season. As an immigrant to this country I cherish this right and responsibility.

The results of the election have given rise to a wide range of emotions. Many of you may be wondering how the outcomes of our federal and state elections might impact you and your future. I want you to know that we have your back at Lane Community College. You are part of the Lane family. All of us who teach and work here are committed to your success.

As educators we have a unique responsibility to create safe learning environments

where every student can learn. Our college values of equity and inclusion have not changed and will not change and we will do everything we can to assure that we live out our values in every classroom and in each interaction. If you are feeling vulnerable in any way, there are lots of resources at the college and many faculty in your classrooms who will lend a helping hand. During these times of transition it is even more important to stay connected and support one another. Let's be there for each other, think critically and debate with civility and caring.

This week I have been at our nation's capital, meeting with the American Association of Community Colleges. We are gearing up to work with the incoming administration and the 115th Congress to ensure your access to affordable, high-quality education.

Whatever changes come at us, as students at Lane, you have already shown that you have courage and determination. You have what it takes. We're with you, every single one of you and we will do everything we can to help you succeed.