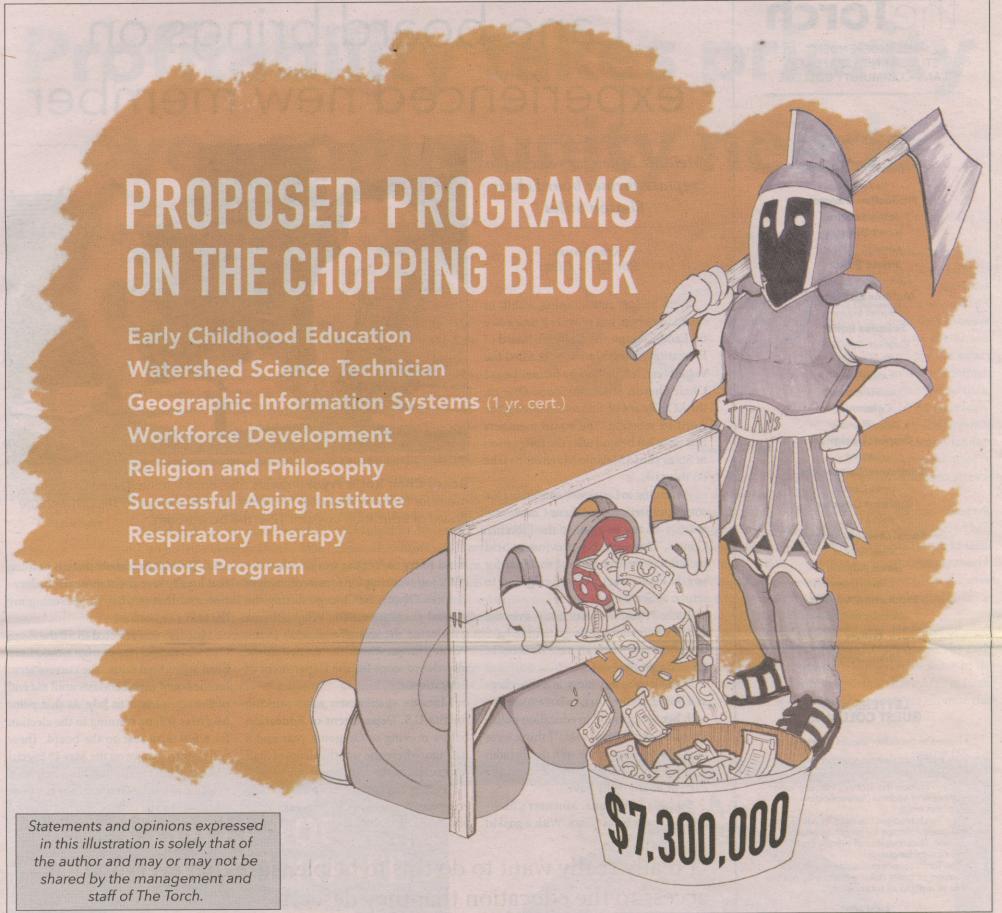


New board member / page 2
Fencing club at qualifiers / page 4
Google Suite add-ons / page 6



## Budget proposal cuts deep

First proposal for balancing budget in 2018 released

KIRA JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lane Community College's budget committee recently released the first budget proposal for the 2018 fiscal year, with more to come. The goal is to balance the \$10,683,300 budget deficit that the college has currently accrued, however, reaching this goal involves \$7,322,300 in reductions.

In the category of reductions there are the following sections: materials and services, travel, part-time classified, part-time faculty, capital outlay, vacancies, reorganization, transfers and program and service reductions. This means that all of these line items will have funding either withheld temporarily, reduced or removed entirely. The biggest cut of all comes from program and service reductions with \$1,630,700 possibly being eliminated.

According to the budget document provided at the April 12 Board of Education meeting, the following programs and services have been selected to take the hit — the majority of which are due to low enrollment.

Counseling: Reduce two faculty counselor positions Early Childhood Education: Eliminate program Geographic Information Systems: Eliminate one-year certificate program

- Grants: Eliminate management position
- Honors Program: Eliminate program
- Religion and Philosophy: Eliminate disciplines
- Respiratory Therapy: Eliminate program
- Successful Aging Institute: Close program
- Watershed Science Technician: Eliminate program
  Workforce: Eliminate workforce development program

These proposed cuts will not only affect the students in these programs but will affect nine faculty members, four classified staff members and two manager positions. In response to these proposed cuts Lane's Student Body

President Robert Kirkpatrick spoke out.

"The student body has not given up on this campus,"

Kirkpatrick said. "I am urging you and I will say please don't give up yet on finding alternatives and find other ways to not take more money away from these students who are giving all they have."

· Kirkpatrick was not the only student to speak out at the April board meeting. Many students as well as college employees came up to the podium during the audience statement portion of the meeting to express to the board their concerns for the proposed cuts.

On Wednesday, April 19 there will be another board meeting to specifically address budget cuts and allow students and staff to state their opinions.

When speaking about the time and location of this meeting, board chair Rosie Pryor offered her voice.

"Whoever comes next week, we will endeavor to hear you, so if you chose to fill the room you do and we will work hard to hear everyone that wishes to be heard," Pryor said.

The next meeting will be held in Building 19 Room 104 at 4:30 p.m. The agenda for this meeting as well as the current budget proposal can be found on Lane's web site.

## NAWS

## theTorch

THE INDEPENDENT
STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF
LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### THE STAFF

**Editor-in-Chief** 

Kira Jones

**Production Director** 

Jeffery Osborns

**News Director** 

Ashleigh Martins

Photo Editor Christopher Palanuk

**Multimedia Editor** 

Hunter Ruland

Features Editor

Elizabeth Comiskey
Reporters

Alec Ebert

Alec Ebert

Columnist

Dylan Plummer

**Graphic Designer** 

Cat Frink

Illustrators/Cartoonists

Cynta Camilia

Business Director

André Casey

Social Media Manager

Misty Holmes

**News Adviser** 

Charlie Deitz

Production Adviser

Dorothy Wearne

Printer

Oregon Web Press Albany, Oregon

#### LETTERS AND GUEST COLUMNS

- Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words.
- Guest columns should be limited to 700
- Please include the author's name, phone number and address (for verification numbers only)
- purposes only).
   The Torch reserves the right to edit letters and guest columns for length, grammar, spelling, libel, invasion of privacy and
- The Torch cannot guarantee publication of letters or guest columns, and may not be able to reply to all submissions.

#### POLICY

- The Torch is editorially independent and reserves the right to publish at its discretion.
   All web and print content is the property of the Torch and cannot be republished without editorial permission.
- Up to two copies per issue, per person of the Torch are free; each additional copy is \$2.

#### CONTACT

theTorch

Lane Community College 4000 E. 30th Ave. Eugene, OR 97405 (541) 463-5655



@lcctorch



facebook.com/LCCTheTorch

Emails:

editor@lcctorch.com letters@lcctorch.com advertising@lcctorch.com tips@lcctorch.com

Do you have something to say about a story published in The Torch?
Write a letter to the editor. Keep it to 300 words or fewer.

## Lane board brings on experienced new member

Melanie Muenzer selected to replace former board chair Sharon Stiles

KIRA JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With budget cuts looming, a shift in board members will provide a new voice on Lane Community College's Board of Education. A unanimous vote filled the vacant seat, left behind by former Board Chair Sharon Stiles, for Zone One on the LCC Board of Education during the April 12 meeting. The board members that were left behind after the resignation of Stiles chose Melanie Muenzer to take on this task.

According to Lane's web site, Zone One covers primarily western Lane County and reaches all the way out to the Florence Center. This seat was previously held by Stiles, who was a board member for nearly eight years before resigning to return to Seattle.

Rosie Pryor, who has taken over the Board Chair position, is grateful to have someone with such an extensive background join the board.

"I think we're very lucky, and the college as a board of directors, to have someone with her background in education policy join the board," Pryor said. "I think we're blessed to have someone with that breadth of experience, which none of us on the current board really have."

Starting in Indiana, Muenzer's background spans many years. With a goal in



Photos by Kira Jones / Editor-in-Chie

**Board Chair Rosie Pryor** answers questions that new Zone One board member Melanie Muenzer had after her first executive session with the Board of Education on April 12 in the boardroom.

mind to try to "fix the world," Muenzer got a job working for former President Barrack Obama in Chicago during the general election in 2008. When Obama got elected she was offered a job in the White House, which she turned down in order to work for the Department of Education.

Muenzer spent seven years working for the U.S. Department of Education before moving to Oregon a year and a half ago, where she was the Chief of Staff for Provost at the University of Oregon.

"I really really want to do this to help ensure that everyone has access to the education that they deserve," Muenzer said. "Besides my family there is nothing that I really care about more than education and that is what I'm devoting my life to."

Muenzer was selected to fill the Zone One seat for the rest of what would have been Stiles' final term. The current term for the board members lasts until the end of the school year in July. At that point Muenzer will be running in the election for a full term seat on the board. There will be three names on the May 16 Special Election ballot including Muenzer, Sally Wantz and Jeffrey Gratreak. She has been endorsed by the college and has deemed her campaign slogan, "I want to help."

"I really really want to do this to help ensure that everyone has access to the education that they deserve."

- Melanie Muenzer

Newly appointed LCC board member representing Zone One



#### NEWS

# Program makes strides

A successful and organized health career choice specializing in recovery

ALEC EBERT REPORTER

Physical therapy helps many people who have suffered an immobilizing injury to use that part of their body again. It can help professional athletes get back to playing their sport but also help elderly people recover after they've suffered a fall.

Like all doctors physical therapists have assistants that help provide more hands on care for patients. These are known as Physical Therapy Assistants.

Lane's PTA program is only one of two in the state, the other is at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham. Lane focuses on PTA certification only, and the high student success rate speaks for itself. This is also partially due to Lane's extensive network of clinics throughout the state that take on the program's graduates and interns.

"We have a 100 percent employment rate and a 95 percent examination passing rate. Our students also go through clinical internships as well before they are certified as PTAs," Christina Howard, currently the coordinator of

the PTA program of study at Lane said.

Lane's PTA program is small, only admitting about seven percent of students who apply each year. Howard is of the opinion, however, that this number could go up if the school provided the program with more faculty.

"By increasing enrollment and serving more students, students are clearly interested. We just need the faculty resource to increase the number of students who can succeed in these careers," Howard said.

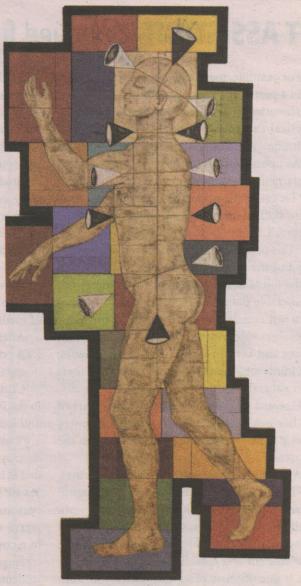
Howard also expressed the importance of the connections the program has made with practicing clinics.

"We really rely on these clinics to take our students on as interns," Howard said. "In order for us to do that we actually have a full time faculty member whose primary role is to develop that program and place students into those clinical sites."

Since Howard and other faculty members have worked for some time to create those relationships, the clinics who take Lane students on for their internships provide steady and clear feedback to the college on what sort of developments in physical therapy are being made.

"We were the first program in the college to complete the new review process," Howard said. "In that process we identified that there were some areas in the curriculum that we needed to enhance based on feedback from employers."

See PT Assistant on page 4



Ceramic artist Betsy Wolfson's piece, "Life Force," hangs in the Health and Wellness Department in Building 30. It is made of stoneware clay, glaze, and 22kt gold leaf. This art installation was made possible by a gift from The Rosaria P. Haugland Foundation.

## WANTED

## DONALL SOUTOR

The Denali editor selects and manages the 2017-2018 student staff, organizes a production schedule and has the final word on all matters concerning the magazine.

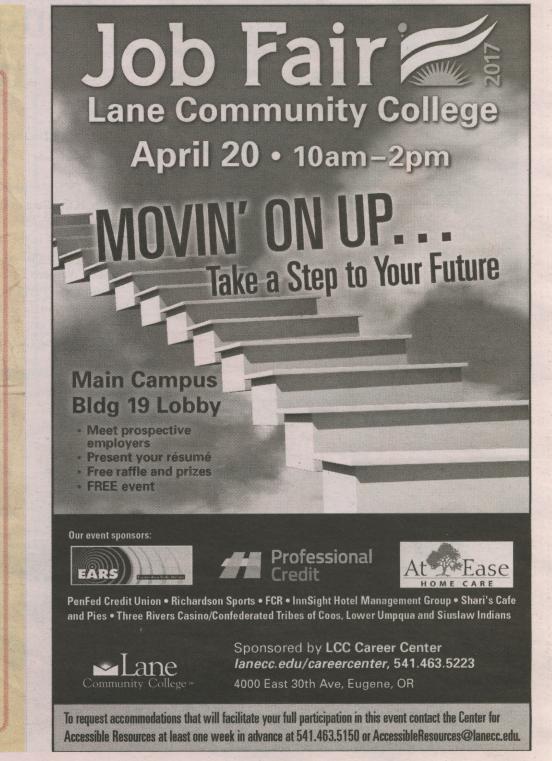
They must have a concrete understanding of, or the commitment to learn, the technical skills of the production process of a magazine. They can expect to work an average of 20 hours per week.

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 2017-2018 academic year.

Applications for 2017-2018 are available online

Due Monday, May 5 at midnight





www.lanecc.edu/llc/denali/denali-editor-application

theTorch // www.lcctorch.com

#### PT ASSISTANT continued from page 3

For example, manual therapy has not always been a part of the PTA curriculum.

Historically, a skilled practice only done by physical therapists, manual therapy is now a technique most established clinics need from PTAs upon walking in the door. Howard also explained that this is not required to receive a PTA creditation, but it's important to have these skills if one has just graduated from the program.

"This particular technique is actually touching and manipulating the soft tissues as well as the joints. Joints tend to move in somewhat predictable patterns," Howard said. "It's more than just exercise. You have to physically move the joints in certain directions with certain forces and certain durations before allowing the joints and muscles to move freely in their own natural way."

PT has not been taught in the past for entry level PTAs at Lane, but now it's critical to the curriculum.

A few first year students offer their perspectives. "I'd like to work with perhaps neurological issues or perhaps orthotics, so that I can work with veterans who have missing limbs and things like that," said Sativa Braddock, a first year student and disabled veteran. "However, this is one of those programs where you learn as you go so I'm leaving it open to decide what direction I want to take."

Braddock also shed light on how rigorous the program can be.

"Basically, if you fail one course you have to start over. You really have to give it 100 percent all of the time," Braddock said. "You're allowed to come back next fall."

Braddock added that one of things she's taken away from the program is how underrated physical therapy is.

"There's so many good things that can come out of physical therapy. People don't really realize it until they attend a few sessions. You start to see how much better it is to teach your body how to heal itself rather than just pump it full of medication," Braddock said.

After graduating, Braddock is hoping to fill a PTA position at the new Eugene Veteran Affairs hospital on Chad Drive in Eugene.

Christianne Paquing-Navarte, another student Howard added that this particular part of in the PTA program, shared similar inspirations and feelings.

> "I feel like I've learned so much about physical therapy in such a short amount of time and I see that as incredibly valuable," Paquing-Navarte said. "As a PTA you're really able to develop more of a personal relationship with the patients because you're with them all the time on their journey to recovery."

> Paquing-Navarte and Braddock are first year students who will be graduating next June, along with about a dozen other classmates with Physical Therapy Assistant certification.

## Breaking with tradition

Resources for women aspiring toward non-traditional jobs

> JULIANNA RATHSACK REPORTER

The Women's Program at Lane Community College was one of 20 programs which participated in the Hands-On Career Exploration Day on April 14 by holding an informational session about women in nontraditional careers. A non-traditional career is one which one gender makes up less than 25 percent of the individuals in that career.

Pat McMurray, a specialist with the Career and Technical Education program, talked about her experience being a woman working as a quality control member in a factory and teaching computer classes in Texas. She now works with the Career and Technical Education program which offers a variety of resources for students. Throughout the session each student had to find a non-traditional career that they would not want to work in, one they would like to work in and a non-traditional career that they had never thought of before. Students were provided with computers for searching the internet and were also allowed to utilize their smartphones.

For more information on the Women's Program at Lane or the CTE program, visit the Women's Center in Building 1, Room 202.

Torch Archive / 2015 / Jeffery Osborns

Titan's Fencing Club President Tim Bruno competed in the Division 2 Senior Men's Foil event at the Oregon Division National Qualifiers in Salem on April 15.

## Fencing Club thrusts into national qualifiers

JULIANNA RATHSACK REPORTER

Two Titans represented Lane Community College at the Oregon Division National Qualifiers in Salem on Saturday. Tim Bruno, the club's president, competed in the Division 2 Senior Men's Foil event and Melinda Parks competed in the Division 2 Senior Women's Foil event.

Bruno and Parks both qualified for the USA Fencing Nationals and will be representing the Titans in Salt Lake City, Utah this summer.

Lane's Fencing Club was started by three students it to Nationals.

in 2012 and was officially recognized by the Council of Clubs the following year. The club, which has four active members this year, purchased their first set of equipment in 2014.

Fencers compete with a weapon known as a foil, a lightweight piece of metal with a small hand guard, which is used to thrust toward the torso of the opponent. A valid touch is made from the tip of the blade to any point on the torso. The fencers wear a metallic vest called a lamé which registers a touch from the foil.

There are a couple of members who have fenced in various tournaments each year and have made



## FEATURES

## May I have 'Your Name'?

#### A highly successful anime with strings attached that doesn't leave the box

CHRISTOPHER PALANUK PHOTO EDITOR

"Your Name," the fifth film for director Matoko Shinkai, is about two high school students who suddenly begin to switch bodies. Based on a book Shinkai had completed a month before the film's premiere in Japan, the simple concept breathes new life into an almost cliched genre of Japan's animated film form. So far the film has made more than \$328 million in the box office; making it the highest grossing anime movie worldwide since Hayao Miyazaki's 'Spirited Away."

What makes it work is how Shinkai handles the plot with a unique blend of supernatural events, romance, mystery and comedy. The beginning of the film sets up the initial mystery, then immediately supplements it with comedy as the audience realizes which body the boy occupies. This repeated scene, and the bubbly meddling the characters have with each other's lives, helps clarify both personalities in the first act and keep to the childlike wonder that was initially advertised.

By the middle of the film, the comedy dims and the suspense rises to keep you asking the ever present question: "Will they ever meet?" Unfortunately, the second act is also the film's lower point as it strikes out rather far with the concept. The simple romantic mystery suddenly becomes convoluted in supernatural drama. Creating too

43 Central nervous

system (abbr.) 44 Enamel (Fr.)

48 Abstract being

55 Brown

57 Norse epic

56 Card

51 Lamia (2 words)

58 Vanity 59 Circular motion

60 Thoroughfare

many strings to hold on to, the beauty starts to fade as the viewer is prone to pull away from the original nuance. It's not necessarily a bad act, but one less thread may have made the pace more even.

Thankfully, Shinkai graciously returns the pacing to that of the first act. As the plot descends back into the tedium of the everyday, the third act shows the best trait of the film the viewer can still yearn for these characters to be united. From the common commotion to the quiet quintessence, the audience can still pine for them to be together because the anticipation never leaves the heart.

For those who like beautiful visuals, "Your Name" is hard pressed to beat. The animation will adhere the painterly backgrounds to the mind well after leaving the theater. The audio, which perfectly complements the story's gorgeous visions, is as much of a treat as it is fresh. Listening to the sound of the whispering wind with eyes closed is as much to enjoy as feeling like floating among the clouds with eyes wide open. All of this, including the fantastic chemistry between the two characters, echoes the devotion put into this neatly packaged film.

In a word, it's mesmerizing, but isn't altogether perfect. The film never breaks any new ground for the genre, holds to a predictable ending and keeps the relationship onedimensional. The director's own reservations upon his success sum it up well.

"For me, it's incomplete, unbalanced," Shinkai told The Japan Times last year. "The plot is fine but the film is not at all perfect. Two years was not enough."

Whether you agree with this conclusion or not, one thing is for sure: this is one movie you can't miss.



#### Crossword

#### **ACROSS**

- Greek letter Eastern
- bishop's title
- Indian music
- 12 Handle
- 13 City on the
- 14 Stench 15 Camel hair
- cloth
- 16 Trave
- 18 Olive color 20 Ger. dive
- bomber
- Witless chatter
- 23 Boys' author
- 27 Elide (2 words) 32 Killer whale
- 33 Buddhist
- column 34 Nape
- 36 Atl. Coast
- Conference
- 37 Anatomy (abbr.) 39 Channel islands 41 Bless: Yidd.

12

15

18

33

37

41

56 59 28

- DOWN Interpret Jap. pit viper Monkey Amer. Kennel
- Club (abbr.) Round Table
- Stigma

13

16

20

29

60

- 8 Tropical fish
- Korean apricot 9 "Fables in Slang" author

30 31

40

48

58

61

#### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE A B I B PRAE TOO AMC TREATISE BIGA EININKLETOM LOO LETT SAMANCURIASS GRIN HRS GNAT DYNAMICTRYMA DIAG DEE SPACHRON WILDPLUM INE IMAM WERI ACU YES NAOS OCTA

- 10 Port. colony in India
- 11 Limb 17 Jamaican
- dance music 22 Kidney bean
- 30 Medieval shield 35 Amer. Red 24 Culm (2 words) 38 Sleeping 25 Lo (Lat.) 40 Compass 42 Her Majesty's 17 45 Mime 46 lodine (pref.) 47 Wife of 49 Farinaceous 25
  - food 50 Enough (Scot.) 51 Cask 52 Noun-forming (suf.) 53 Aura 54 Angry

28 Bowling alley

riulally unit

Cross (abbr.)

sickness fly

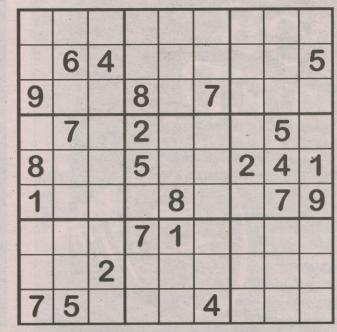
Ship (abbr.)

**Tyndareus** 

direction

29 Geode

#### 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	5	8	3	4	2	9	6
	6	2	4	1	9	5	8	7	3
	3	9	8	7	2	6	4	5	1
100	2	4	6	5	7	3	1	8	9
	8	1	9	6	4	2	7	3	5
	5	3	7	9	8	1	6	2	4
	9	6	1	2	5	7	3	4	8
5	4	8	2	3	1	9	5	6	7
	7	5	3	4	6	8	9	1	2



©2016 Satori Publishing

44

A55

49 50

## G Suite's potential realized

Utilizing add-ons can help boost student success

> ASHLEIGH MARTINS NEWS DIRECTOR

Lane Community College recently partnered up with Google to provide .edu email addresses for students. The accompanying "G Suite" package includes things like Docs, Sheets and Slides, which are roughly equivalent to Microsoft's Word, Excel and PowerPoint software.

Though similar in concept and functionality, I would argue that Google's G Suite is nimbler and more user-friendly than Microsoft's hearty package. While G Suite's programs are not as robust as Microsoft's out of the box, they have virtually endless potential thanks to a feature called "add-ons."

This is where G Suite's nimbleness comes into play.

Microsoft keeps a pretty tight lock on their software which they manage by making users pay for the latest editions and jump through various hoops to even access a watered-down browser-based version that seems to mimic Google's G Suite. Without renewing, the user loses access to almost all of the features and functions of the software and documents essentially become read-only.

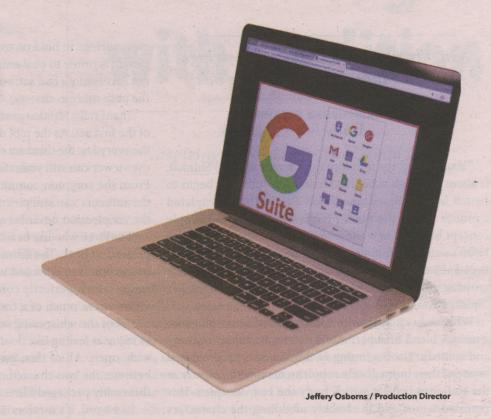
In contrast, Google offers their email and

suite services free, up-front to the consumer, including several add-ons. Though it could be debated as to whether anything on the web is actually free, especially as tuitionpaying students, we won't delve into that nuanced discussion here.

Add-ons are available in the menu bar of Google Docs. Once you click on the dropdown menu, you can go to "Get add-ons..." and select what are essentially after-market goodies that allow the user to customize their experience. You can narrow your search down by field, like business or education, and search for keywords or terms.

There are add-ons for seemingly everything — creating bibliographies, speech-totext features, using new fonts, setting up a debate platform, checking formulas, daily Bible verse readings — truly the list is endless because add-ons are created regularly by developers in an open-source setup.

One solid add-on is called "Pro-Writing Aid," which boasts over 12 functions from "grammar check" to "plagiarism check" and more. An especially helpful feature of the Pro-Writing Aid add-on is that it provides a summary report which is free even though most of the other features require the user to "pay to play," meaning you must pay a subscription fee for the full version. The summary report breaks down your mostused words, most unique words and even uses algorithms to determine how your



similar papers.

In The Torch's last edition I wrote about the importance of avoiding repetition. Using this tool could help with that. As could a thesaurus, also an add-on.

There are a lot of choices out there but do check the ratings for each add-on before selecting it to make sure it meets

writing style compares in quality to other, your needs and that it's free from malware that could compromise your device and

> Overall these add-ons seem to be a great tool for busy and hard-working students. With products like this at our digital fingertips, how could a student go wrong? On second thought, we won't delve into





## **OPINION**

# Profitability takes priority over community needs

Proposed budget reflects growing disdain for social sciences

DYLAN PLUMMER
COLUMNIST



Dylan Plummer Columnist

Lane Community College's budget for 2018 proposes draconian cuts to the social sciences, including the full termination of the early childhood education program, while adding huge sums to more "profitable" fields such as nursing, aviation maintenance and flight technology.

At last week's budget meeting, board member Gary LeClair declared that the school needed to be "run like a business." This

statement is fundamentally wrong. A national network of community colleges was created by the federal government in the 1960s to offer the opportunity for all American citizens to pursue an education in a field of their choosing, to provide an affordable and balanced alternative to private universities.

Community colleges are funded by the government to be able to provide courses in a wide variety of subjects, and are designed to be responsive to the needs of the community. What could be more important to our community than the study of social problems, and competent child care providers? This is just to name a few of the many services provided by these disciplines.

The social sciences, and, in particular, childcare programs, are vulnerable to cuts like these because, first of all, the benefits they provide the community cannot be

easily quantified in terms of monetary value, and secondly because they are female dominated, according to a study published by Statistics Canada. Is it really surprising that when the school needs money the first things to go are the programs run by women, centered around childcare? At this point, it shouldn't be.

The continued discrimination against women in the United States is well documented. According to the AAUW, (American Association of University Women) women in the U.S. make a wage of about 80 percent of that of men working in the same field. In a 2009 study published in the Oxford Academic Journal, it is proven that the number of females in a profession can actually lower pay, "owing to

devaluation of work done by women."

These statistics show that not only is sexism still prevalent in our society, it is so prevalent that the influx of women into a field can lower the pay within said field across the board. Take for example the salary of janitors, an overwhelmingly male dominated job, to those of maids and house cleaners, which is on the opposite side of the spectrum. Janitors make about 22 percent more on average than maids do, accord-

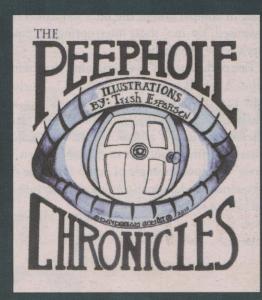
ing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Illustration by Cynta Camilia

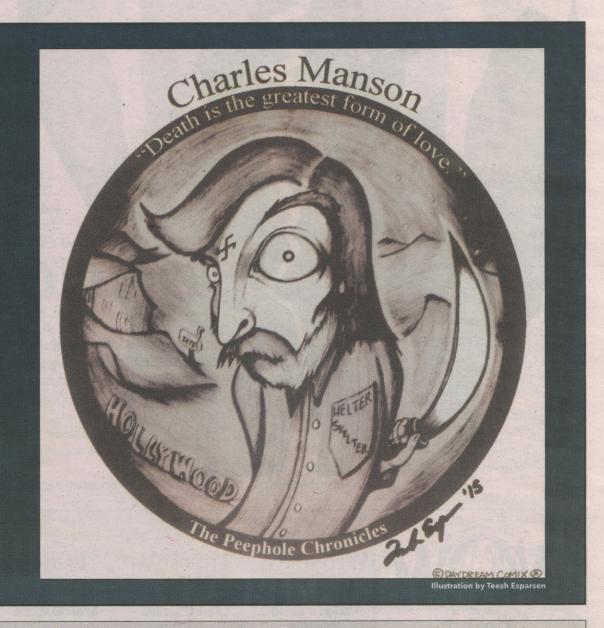
Considering this data, when we see programs like early childhood education being completely terminated to help "pay for the deficit," while simultaneously the flight technology and aviation maintenance department are receiving additional funding equal to nearly two times the costs required to maintain the ECE program, we have to question the logic, and bias of this budget.

We need to reevaluate the board's definition of profit to encompass more than just monetary gains. The early childhood education program is filled with some of the most passionate students and staff we have here at Lane. To suggest that this department is merely an expense that

## PEOPLE YOU NEVER WANT TO SEE



AT YOUR FRONT DOOR



# Ridiculous 'Furious' franchise shifts gears

'Fate of the Furious' gains traction despite the loss of Paul Walkergains traction despite the loss of Paul Walker

> HUNTER RULAND MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

After eight films, you know whether or not you're a fan of the "Fast & Furious" franchise. These films are obviously not high art, but offer a ton of amusement to those who can enjoy the absurd nature of the films. "The Fate of the Furious" — directed by F. Gary Gray ("Straight Outta Compton") — gives fans exactly what they've come to expect.

Part of the fun with the "Fast & Furious" films is that they know what they are. They're cheesy popcorn flicks with over-the-top action scenes and ridiculous storylines. These films never try to hide these goofy tropes, but rather they embrace and have fun with them.

The chemistry between the actors is given an interesting evolution as Dom (Vin Diesel) is forced into turning on his group of friends. This action has an impact on the team and leads to scenes where Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) has to convince herself that there's still good in Dom. A welcome addition to this film, that will hopefully carry over into future entries, is the rivalry between Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) and Deckard (Jason Statham). The two characters start off hating each other (given their interactions in "Furious 7") and throw insulting one liners at each other, but end up making amends and working together. The weakest cast member was Scott Eastwood. His

and working together. The weakest cast member was Scott Eastwood. His performance was bland and his character only existed to be mocked by Roman (Tyrese Gibson)

The action scenes are, for the most part, cheesy in the best way. The highlight is in the second act, where the antagonist. Cipher (Charlize

highlight is in the second act, where the antagonist, Cipher (Charlize Theron), hacks into the autonomous cars of New York City's population to chase the Russian Minister of Defense. There's even a moment where a handful of self-driving cars are hacked and forced to drive off of parking garages raining onto the minister's escorts in an effort to slow them down. It's hilarious to watch an army of empty cars chase this one car, and the filmmakers know it.

Another memorable sequence is where Deckard has to plow through Cipher's henchmen, while protecting a baby. Statham has a few great moments where he humorously checks to see if the baby is alright.

However, the final set piece, where the team has to stop a hacked nuclear submarine, felt stale in comparison to the final sequences in "Fast Five" and "Furious 7." Gary overused "slo-mo" shots interrupting the flow of the sequence and pushing the viewer's sense of disbelief.

Despite the fact that "Fate of the Furious" is entertaining, the absence of Paul Walker cast a shadow over the film. After his tragic passing in 2013, "Furious 7" had to add an emotional weight in order to give Walker and his character, Brian, a proper send-off. Could the franchise move forward without him? While the creative team did stay true to the emotional weight presented in "Furious 7" and provided a solid reason why Brian isn't involved, it would've been smarter for the producers to stop after seven.

All in all, "Fate of the Furious" is a good example of dumb fun done right. It has a nice balance of overblown action sequences and dramatic moments to create an engaging film, something Michael Bay should take notes on.



Illustration by Cat Frink



WWW.WOWHALL.ORG

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19

CHERRY POPPIN'
DADDIES

Zoot Suit Riot 40th Anniversary THURSDAY APRIL 20

LAS CAFETERAS

FRIDAY APRIL 21

SPAWNBREEZIE

SATURDAY APRIL 22

STÖÖKI SOUND Joker Bedroom Trax WEDNESDAY APRIL 26

THE EXPENDABLES

RDGLDGRN

Tribal Theory

SUNDAY MAY 7

Clark
Roland Tings